IN SPORTS: Friday night football is back in tri-county area **B1**

the Sumter ITEM

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 27-29, 2025 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894 **$2.50**

Sumter County Fair will swing on, committee says; Post 15 appeals its charter revocation

Event is American Legion Post 15's largest fundraiser

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com



The American Legion Post 15 building's sign is seen in Sumter on Aug. 16.

ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

The 106th Sumter County Fair will go on as scheduled Sept. 9-14, despite American Legion Post 15's charter being revoked.

The post's fair committee sat down with *The Sumter Item* on Thursday, Aug. 21, to confirm the happening of the annual family-friendly event, explain its significance to the community and the post's operations and share its next steps, which include an appeal to the American Legion Department of South Carolina to reverse its charter revocation from Aug. 14.

With nearly two weeks until the

SEE **FAIR,** PAGE A11

Wilbanks is new CCTC president

Horry-Georgetown leader has 22 years of experience in higher education

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com



WILBANKS

The Central Carolina Technical College Area Commission has selected Jennifer Wilbanks as the college's new president, according to a college news release on Tuesday.

A veteran of higher education with more than 22 years of experience, Wilbanks currently serves as executive vice president for academics and workforce development at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, based in Conway. She will begin her tenure at CCTC in mid-October.

"I am honored to be selected as the next president of Central Carolina Technical College," Wilbanks said. "This is an exciting time for the college, and I look forward to working alongside our faculty, staff, students and community partners to build on the college's strong foundation and advance its mission

SEE **WILBANKS,** PAGE A11

Bobby Richardson's 90 years celebrated



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

City of Sumter Mayor David Merchant, left, and former Sumter High, Clemson and NFL star Dexter Davis, right, applaud Bobby Richardson on Saturday. City of Sumter helped to celebrate the 90th birthday of its greatest son on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Dr. C. Leslie Carpenter Auditorium in the Nettles Building at USC Sumter, and everyone was welcome to attend. The festivities featured a screening of "Graceball: The Story of Bobby Richardson," and fans were able to meet and talk with him. Richardson starred for the New York Yankees in the 1950s and '60s and won three titles with the Bronx Bombers but made his name in a losing effort, as he is the only World Series MVP to play for the losing side, a feat he accomplished in 1960. Richardson won five straight Gold Gloves for his defense at second base and was an eight-time All-Star. After his playing days, he led the South Carolina Gamecocks to their first College World Series in 1975. See more photos from the celebration on A10.

Item wins Best of Show at PALMYs

Among 9 awards for S.C. Press Association's advertising contest

STAFF REPORT

The Sumter Item's graphics and advertising departments won nine PALMY awards in the South Carolina Press Association's annual contest recognizing advertising and sponsored content that provides critical funding for newspaper operations and builds community by showcasing local businesses and campaigns.

Recognitions span a variety of types of ads the team built for clients last year, from outdoors and recreation, automotive and home and garden to innovation, video and sponsored content. SCPA contests are peer judged by member papers from other states.

One project brought home a Best of Show honor, the top overall designation given by division, which is determined by circulation size. Designer Janel Przybyla, *The Item*'s creative director and community coordinator, and sales representative Mark Pekuri designed the winning Best of Sumter ad for Shaw Lumber Company, which also took first place in the home and garden category.

The duo earned two other awards this year — second place in automotive

SEE **PALMYS,** PAGE A11

Sumter United Ministries seeing record need by numbers, degree

Annual Summer of Caring helped offset lull in volunteers, donations

BY KEVIN HOWELL
Sumter United Ministries

The kids have returned to school, dorm move-ins are complete, and vacation season is drawing to a close. The unofficial exit of summer takes place after Monday.

It's a great time to quickly look behind and ahead to all that is happening in our community beneath the surface.

Our Construction Ministry has had an amazing year repairing homes via roof replacements and other critical repairs … a record number of homes, in

SEE **CARING,** PAGE A6

YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

$0 Anonymous	**$49,346** Total since 2014
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DEATHS, B6

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Victor Baker Sr.
Michael Wright
Sandy Ann Geddie
Marilyn F. McDowell
Mack L. James
Kenneth Witherspoon
Thomas Spencer
Beatrice Knox
Mattie Mae Primes McKnight

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the Sumter ITEM

SECOND FRONT

E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

United Ministries to have open house, prayer dedication for new shelter options on Friday

For the 1st time, agency will have all operations on site

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

It has been five years in the making, but Sumter United Ministries has its new emergency shelter and small temporary housing units for displaced Sumterites on site at its Artillery Drive location.

The shelter for the homeless and five transitional housing units for single mothers with small children will open Friday for use, and United Ministries will kick things off with an open house for the community and prayer dedication earlier that day, according to agency Executive Director Mark Champagne.

The total price tag for the entire construction project was about $1.2 million and funding was mostly through local donations, he added.

The new emergency shelter for the homeless has a maximum capacity of 40 people and is significantly larger than the ministry's shelter on North Wise Drive that it is replacing, Champagne said. United Ministries' emergency shelter is the only one in Sumter County.

Shelter requirements include that individuals must be from Sumter. If there is space available, the shelter will accept people who are not from Sumter for a few days before transitioning them someplace else, he added.

Shelter hours will be from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m., and if homeless individuals are willing to work on a specific improvement plan designed for them, they can stay much longer at the facility than people who refuse to take steps forward, Champagne said.

Restrictions include no pets, alcohol, drugs or weapons.

The transitional housing units for single moms with up to three small children are designed for longer-term stays, and it is the first time the agency has offered this type of housing accommodation for the homeless, Champagne said.

The temporary units are 240 square feet, and mothers with kids will initially go through the emergency shelter before being placed into one. The unit includes an open room with a bunk bed where the beds are full-size, mini-fridge, microwave, TV and bathroom.

He expects there will be much demand for the transitional units, and requirements for placement will be stringent because United Ministries wants the mothers to do things that will help them long term. Requirements will include parenting and financial classes, and the goal is for moms to reach a sustainable wage level for raising their kids.

At times, that may require seeking additional training via a certification, he added.

Overall, Champagne said, having the homeless facilities on site is the realization of a dream.

"I am so excited, I can't even tell you," he added. "We will have all that stuff in one place, and this facility is specifically designed to be a shelter. All those things are just going to be a gamechanger. We will be able to assist people in better ways.

"It will bring some headaches to us because we don't want people hanging around here either; so, you will have to move on after 8 a.m. in the morning. But, other than that, it will be so much better."

The open house will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the prayer dedication at 11:30 a.m.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Sumter United Ministries' new emergency shelter for the homeless will open Friday afternoon at its Artillery Drive location. An open house for the community will occur from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day.



Five small temporary housing units for single mothers with up to three small children will also serve as shelter options beginning Friday at Sumter United Ministries.

Join Sumter Community Concert Band for its 1st rehearsal on Aug. 28

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Sumter Community Concert Band is gearing up for its 2025-26 season and encourages the community to join in.

The local band will begin rehearsals on Thursday, Aug. 28, at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St., from 7 to 9 p.m.

Entering into its 44th year, SCCB has graced many local stages, making its debut on the "old" Sumter Opera House stage on Nov. 14, 1982. Since those days, the band has performed at various schools and venues throughout the county and beyond.

The band welcomes musicians from Sumter, Shaw Air Force Base and surrounding counties who vary in background — from teachers, lawyers, farmers and pilots to homemakers, physicians, college students and retirees — and musical experience but share a common link of love for band music and a desire to share that love with the public.

There is no audition to join the band; however, one must have prior experience of having played in a school or college band and be committed to participate with band rehearsals and concerts.

The band is led by conductor Sean Hackett, who joined the band in 2010 and has been a dedicated member since. He was named conductor in 2023 after longtime conductor Randy Oswalt chose to step back from conducting to focus more on playing. Oswalt now serves as assistant conductor.

Now that Patriot Hall's renovations are completed, the band will return to its stage for this season to present four free concerts:

— Oct. 5 at 3 p.m.
— Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.
— March 3, 2026, at 3 p.m.
— May 3, 2026, at 3 p.m.

All who are interested in joining the band are asked to arrive at Patriot Hall by 6:30 p.m. to complete registration. Practice will begin at 7 p.m. The band room entrance is located on Mood Avenue; look for the "SCCB Band Rehearsal Room" sign on the door.

For more information, contact SCCB Publicity Chairman Rick Mitchum at (803) 983-6370.

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SUMTER TODAY

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

The City of Sumter celebrated the 90th birthday of Sumter native and baseball legend Bobby Richardson this weekend at Dr. C. Leslie Carpenter Auditorium in the Nettles Building at USC Sumter. Aug. 19 will now be recognized as Bobby Richardson Day in the City of Sumter.



UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina SUMTER

Sign of the times



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Signage for BJ's Wholesale Club was put up recently at the wholesale club under construction in Sumter at 1475 Alice Drive. Construction continues on the 109,000-square-feet facility that is scheduled to open this winter, according to Ashley Collazo of Rhode Island-based Duffy and Shanley that handles BJ's public relations. The retailer will be Sumter's first chain wholesale store, and BJ's is similar to Sam's or Costco. The membership-based warehouse club offers discounted bulk prices on numerous products, such as groceries, household products, TVs and electronics and patio and garden supplies. BJ's will be across the street from Walmart on Alice Drive, and the area at the intersection of Alice and Broad Street continues to be the commercial center of Sumter.

Farmers Home Furniture shows its patriotism with 2 flags



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Sumter's Home Chapter DAR Flag Committee presented Farmers Home Furniture's store manager, Andy Nesbitt, with a flag certificate for showing extra patriotism by flying not one but two flags in front of their store.



Palmetto Adult Medicine welcomes Dr. Kristen Herring

SUBMITTED BY MCLEOD HEALTH

MANNING — McLeod Health and McLeod Physician Associates welcomes Kristen Herring, MD, to medical staff. Herring joins Dr. Harry Jordan, Dr. Andrew Reynolds, Dr. Hugh Stoddard and Advanced Practice Providers Katherine Coffey, PA-C, Racheal Posey, APRN, and Emily Miller, PA-C, at Palmetto Adult Medicine.



HERRING

Herring, a family medicine physician, provides comprehensive care for adult patients in the Sumter and Clarendon communities. A South Carolina native, she was born in Latta and grew up nearby, developing a deep-rooted passion for caring for her community through rural primary care. She knew from the age of four that she wanted to be a doctor, a dream inspired by her early health experiences and the compassionate care she received.

She completed her undergraduate studies at Clemson University and went on to earn her medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston and is a graduate of the McLeod Health Rural Residency Program at McLeod Health Clarendon.

Herring is passionate about lifestyle medicine and has completed advanced training to be certified in this growing specialty, which focuses on using evidence-based lifestyle changes to prevent and treat chronic conditions.

She enjoys spending time on the lake, boating and taking sunset walks on the dam at Lake Marion. She also enjoys traveling, most recently returning from a multi-country trip through Europe that included Paris, Rome and the Greek Isles.

Her goal is to ensure every patient feels heard and cared for, with a thoughtful plan to address their health needs. "If I can't solve the issue myself," she says, "I'll help connect you to someone who can." Her approach blends clinical excellence with compassion, empowering patients to live their healthiest lives.

Herring is accepting new patients in her office at 1295 Wilson Hall Road, Sumter. Same or next-day appointments are available. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (803) 905-6800.

Cracker Barrel says it 'could've done a better job' with release of new logo that angered some fans

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

Cracker Barrel is sticking with its new logo but apologizing to fans who were angered when the change was announced last week.

"If the last few days have shown us anything, it's how deeply people care about Cracker Barrel. We're truly grateful for your heartfelt voices," the company said Monday in a statement on its website. "You've also shown us that we could have done a better job sharing who we are and who we'll always be."

Cracker Barrel took heat last week when it announced a simplified logo featuring only the chain's name. Gone was the picture of an older man in overalls leaning against a barrel. The words "Old Country Store" were also removed.

The change was part of a wider rebrand, which has seen Cracker Barrel update its cluttered, antique-filled restaurants with lighter paint and modern furniture.

Many on social media, including Donald Trump Jr., criticized the new logo, with some threatening to boycott unless it was changed back. Sensing an opening, the rival chain Steak n' Shake called the new logo "a cheap effort to gain the approval of trend seekers."

"Heritage is what got Cracker Barrel this far, and now the CEO wants to just scrape it all away," Steak n' Shake said in a statement on X.

Cracker Barrel shares have dropped more than 10% since the new logo was introduced on Aug. 18.

On Monday, the Lebanon, Tennessee-based company emphasized that many things about Cracker Barrel won't change, including the rocking chairs on its front porches and vintage Americana and antiques scattered throughout its restaurants.

Cracker Barrel also said it will continue to honor Uncle Herschel — the older man in the former logo, who represents the uncle of Cracker Barrel's founder — on its menu and on items sold in its stores.

But Cracker Barrel said it also wants to make sure that the business stays fresh and attracts a new generation of customers.

"That means showing up on new platforms and in new ways, but always with our heritage at the heart," the company said in a statement.

The company said it will also keep testing, learning and listening to its employees and customers.

CHURCH NEWS

One Step Christian Ministries will host a Men's Gathering with the theme "Adam, where are you?" on Saturday, Aug. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MM Levy Park, 40 E. Church St., Bishopville. Host pastor will be Pastor Sheila Neal. There will be food, fellowship, free male hygiene products and praise and worship. Deacon Ennis Bryant Sr. will speak on fatherhood, Elder Keishan Scott will speak on servanthood, the Rev. Hendryx McCoy will speak on brotherhood, and Bishop Harold Bennett will speak on priesthood. Please bring lawn chairs. For more information, call (803) 586-9924

LaGree AME Church, 2920 Kolb Road, announces:

— Pastor's Appreciation will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31. The Rev. Tina R. Gogo will be the speaker. Music will be provided by LaGree choirs and visiting choirs.

— Holy Communion Sunday will be held Sunday, Sept. 7. Church school will begin at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:15 a.m.

First Baptist Missionary Church, 219 S. Washington St., will have a Food Pantry Giveaway on Friday, Sept. 12, starting at 1 p.m. while supplies last.

Hearts United, meeting at Bethesda Church of God, 2730 Broad St., will hold Living Beyond Limits from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 13. Come and join us as we welcome speaker, author and mentor Kelly Master. From correctional facilities to conferences, Kelly's powerful voice carries hope, healing and Holy Spirit fire. Once bound by addiction and shame, she now ministers across the U.S. and internationally as a speaker, author and mentor, carrying God into prisons, recovery homes, street and platforms.

Sumter First Church of the Nazarene, 3700 Patriot Parkway, will hold the 2025 Market on the Parkway Vendor Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13. Artisans, crafters, food trucks, Teen White Elephant and Bake Sale, Saving Sumter Strays and Lucky Paws Rescue will be on site.

Allen Chapel AME Church, 471 Lynam Road, will hold revival on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 2:30 p.m. The Rev. Lorenzo Dinkins, pastor of Pine Hill AME Church, will be the messenger. All are invited to attend.

The rapture question is not if, but when?

When discussing the rapture happening before the second coming of Christ, I and II Thessalonians are familiar letters that find their way into the conversation. The word "rapture" itself is not in the English Bible, however; it comes from the Latin Vulgate's translation of the Greek verb "harpazô" found in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and commonly taught as a time when God will secretly rescue His people from the great tribulation.

II Thessalonians chapter 2 begins with an encouragement to not be upset that the day of the Lord is at hand; however, in this event, every eye will see Him and know that He is God.

When these books were written, the new followers of Jesus were expecting Him to return in His divine authority to conquer Rome and establish His kingdom forever. They accepted the Day of the Lord was when the trumpet would sound and Christ would appear on a white horse with the armies of heaven following Him to establish His kingdom. But we notice that Paul does not mention a rescue before this event. If the writer believed Christians would be removed from the earth years before the Day of the Lord, surely this event would have been mentioned.



Billy Holland

Within the entire books of I and II Thessalonians, where is a pre- or mid- tribulation rapture? The context of both books is generally about believers living in a way that is pleasing to God and making sure they are ready for His glorious coming.

This is not to say there is no such thing as the saints being transported up to meet Him, but only the one coming is mentioned. I Thessalonians 4:16-18 is a clear explanation of when all saints living and dead will be caught up.

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, the living will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will forever be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words."

Unlike when Jesus was born, his return will be a universally witnessed occurrence establishing divine authority and judgment.

"For as the lightning comes out of the east and shines to the west: so shall also the coming of the Son of man be," Matthew 24:27.

In I Thessalonians chapter 5, Paul continues the narrative about the end times and reminds us how the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. This is an analogy describing that we must be constantly focused on Jesus, to be sober, and not distracted, as difficult times are coming for all true Christians.

This includes praying without ceasing, wearing the whole armor of God. Matthew chapter 24 also reminds us to warn everyone about intense persecution. The writer mentions in verse 12 about how sin will increase and the love of many will wax cold. For many, the enthusiasm of walking with God will fade and be replaced with lukewarm religious attitudes and carnality. We can definitely see it now. Verse 14 says when the gospel is preached in all the nations, the end will come. Is this not happening today? Verse 15 begins the description of the antiChrist and continues warning the saints to prepare for the great tribulation.

Verse 29 says that immediately after the tribulation, the sun and moon will become dark, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heaven will be shaken. Then all the earth will see the Son of man coming in the clouds with infinite authority and glory. Verse 31, "And God shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

In the next verse, Jesus talks about how we know summer is near when a fig tree develops leaves, and in the same way when we see the specific signs, we can discern the end is near. I Corinthians chapter 15, and verses 51-52, is listed as another example of a secret rapture, but again within the context of the chapter this is talking about the second coming or Day of the Lord.

The question is not about the reality of a resurrection and a catching away of saints but when on the timetable it will happen.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com.

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Sunday 11:00 am, in person
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Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm on Zoom
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for more information or call the church
Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am to
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Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church
609 Manning Ave. • 803.775.4032
Marion H. Newton
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am
Wednesday Bible Study - Online YouTube

Salem Missionary Baptist Church
320 West Fulton Street
803-775-8054
Reverend Dr. Cartrell Woods, Jr. Pastor
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Praise Worship 9:55 am
Worship 10:00 am

Catholic - Roman

Saint Anne and Saint Jude Roman Catholic Church
1855 Beckwood Rd
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803-773-9244
Mass times:
Saturday: Vigil Mass 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am, 1200pm
(Spanish) 5:00pm

Church of Christ

Plaza Church of Christ
1402 Camden Hwy. • 905-3163
Sunday School: 10 am
Sunday Worship: 11 am & 6 pm
Wed. Bible Class: 7 pm

Episcopal

Church of the Good Shepherd
401 Dingle Street
Sunday Worship: First and Third Sunday
9:30am

Interdenominational

Love Covenant Church
245 Oswego Hwy, Sumter
803-775-7605
Tommy and Angela Frederick, Pastors
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www.lovecovenantchurch.com

Spiritual Life Christian Center
4710 Broad Street * 968-5771
Randolph & Minerva Paige, Pastors
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Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
www.spirituallifechristiancenter.com

Lutheran - ELCA

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

Non-Denominational

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Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 am
Wed. Mid Week Service - 7:30 pm

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Worship 11:00 am
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Sumter Bible Church
420 South Pike West, Sumter
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Sunday School 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am & 6:30 pm
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 pm

Pentecostal

First United Pentecostal Church
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Pastor Theron Smith
Sunday Service: 10:00 am & 6:30 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 pm

Sumter First Pentecostal Holiness Church
2609 McCray's Mill Rd. • 481-8870.
Brett Gardner, Pastor
Sunday School: 10:00 am
Sunday Worship: 10:45 am
Wed. Bible Study/Youth Group: 6:30 p.m.

Presbyterian - ARP

Mayesville Presbyterian Church
109 W. Sumter St, Mayesville
803-453-5759 / www.mayesvillepres.org.
Rev. Brian C. Peake, Pastor
Worship Service 11:00 am
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Presbyterian USA

First Presbyterian Church of Sumter
9 W Calhoun St (at Main St.)
(803) 773-3814 • info@fpcsumter.org
"Classes for all ages" 9:30 am
Hospitality & Fellowship
(Fellowship Hall) 10:10 a.m.
Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 a.m.



SCDNR to conduct courtesy boat inspections during Labor Day weekend on Saturday, Sunday, Monday

BY SCDNR

In an effort to keep people and waterways safe during the Labor Day weekend, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division will be conducting courtesy boat inspections at public boat landings across the state.

The Labor Day weekend is one of the busiest boating times of the year for South Carolina lakes and waterways, along with being the traditional wrap-up for the summer boating season, and officers want to do everything possible to keep everyone's weekend fun and safe.

SCDNR boating safety and enforcement officers will perform quick but thorough inspections for required safety equipment and proper boat and motor registrations. Those who are not in compliance with safety regulations or registration requirements will not be ticketed during the complimentary inspections. Instead, they will be given an opportunity to correct the problem before they launch their boat. SCDNR officers will also be available to answer questions and give boaters tips on how to stay safe on the water. The boating inspections will be conducted Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Aug. 30, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

To report boating violations such as reckless operation or an intoxicated boat operator, call the SCDNR toll-free, 24-hour hotline at 1-800-922-5431 or dial #DNR on your cellular phone.

For a copy of South Carolina's boating regulations, to find out about local boating safety courses or to obtain a free float plan form, contact the SCDNR boating safety office at 1-800-277-4301 or visit *www.dnr.sc.gov/education/boated.html*.

Labor Day weekend boat inspection locations (all inspections are from 9 to 11 a.m.):

Saturday, Aug. 30
- Berkeley County: Dennis Landing
- Charleston County: Limehouse Landing
- Darlington County: Society Hill
- Greenwood County: River Fork, Lake Greenwood
- Horry County: Little River
- Lexington County: Lake Murray Dam
- Oconee County: Fall Creek, Lake Keowee
- York County: Ebenezer Park, Lake Wylie

Sunday, Aug. 31
- Anderson County: Seneca Creek, Lake Hartwell
- Beaufort County: Battery Creek Boat Landing, Paris Island
- Charleston County: Buck Hall Boat Landing
- **Clarendon County: Santee State Park, Lake Marion**
- Georgetown County: Carroll Campbell
- Kershaw County: Clearwater Cove, Lake Wateree
- Spartanburg County: Lake Bowen

Monday, Sept. 1 (Labor Day)
- Beaufort County: Lemon Island Landing
- Charleston County: Wappoo Cut
- Chesterfield County: Lake Robinson
- Dorchester County: Herbert Jessen Landing
- Lexington County: Dreher Island
- McCormick County: Scotts Ferry, Clarks Hill/Thurmond
- Oconee County: Twin Lakes, Lake Hartwell
- York County: Ebenezer Park, Lake Wylie

District's students 'travel' across North America and see donations from police, Duke Energy



PHOTOS PROVIDED

ABOVE: Last week, Mr. Norton's eighth-grade S.C. History students worked in teams to tackle challenge questions on a giant North America map. They practiced using latitude and longitude while identifying important places across North America to build map skills.
BELOW: The district also thanked Duke Energy and Sumter Police Department for their donation of $1,000 worth of school supplies to support students across Sumter School District this year.



CCTC awarded $1.4M federal grant to continue Student Support Services program

SUBMITTED BY CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Central Carolina Technical College has received a federal grant in excess of $1 million to continue its TRIO Student Support Services program from 2025 to 2030. The program will serve 165 students from Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw and Sumter counties at a cost of $286,109 per year.

This is the fifth time that CCTC has been approved to receive federal funding for the TRIO program.

TRIO is a federally funded post-secondary education program designed to provide academic assistance and support to Central Carolina Technical College students who meet the eligibility requirements. Federal guidelines direct the free program toward students who are from low-income families, first-generation college students and students with documented disabilities. Students must also demonstrate an academic need for the program.

"We are honored to continue providing this life-changing support to our students," said Patricia Magyar, director of TRIO Programs at Central Carolina Technical College. "This funding allows us to invest directly in the potential of our students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. The TRIO program doesn't just help students succeed in college; it helps them thrive."

TRIO gives students access to one-on-one tutoring, allows them to develop networking skills, helps with transfer assistance, provides opportunities to attend cultural events and offers counseling. Leadership opportunities include the TRIO Leadership and Professional Development Council, TRIO SSS Ambassadors Training and conference participation. Initiatives through 2025 include increasing peer and alumni mentoring, additional college visits, relevant financial literacy and non-cognitive skills training and enhanced career planning.

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Expect health insurance prices to rise next year, brokers and experts say

BY TOM MURPHY
AP Health Writer

Pricey prescriptions and nagging medical costs are swamping some insurers and employers now. Patients may start paying for it next year.

Health insurance will grow more expensive in many corners of the market in 2026, and coverage may shrink. That could leave patients paying more for doctor visits and dealing with prescription coverage changes.

Price increases could be especially stark in individual coverage marketplaces, where insurers also are predicting the federal government will end some support that helps people buy coverage.

"We're in a period of uncertainty in every health insurance market right now, which is something we haven't seen in a very long time," said Larry Levitt, an executive vice president at the nonprofit KFF, which studies health care.

WHAT'S HITTING INSURERS

In conference calls to discuss recent earnings reports, insurers ticked off a list of rising costs: More people are receiving care. Visits to expensive emergency rooms are rising, as are claims for mental health treatments.

Insurers also say more healthy customers are dropping coverage in the individual market. That leaves a higher concentration of sicker patients who generate claims.

Enrollment in the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces swelled the past few years. But a crackdown on fraud and a tightening of eligibility verifications that were loosened during the COVID-19 pandemic makes it harder for some to stay covered, Jefferies analyst David Windley noted.

People who use little care "are disappearing," he said.

Prescription drugs pose another challenge, especially popular and expensive diabetes and obesity treatments sometimes called GLP-1 drugs. Those include Ozempic, Mounjaro, Wegovy and Zepbound.

"Pharmacy just gives me a headache, no pun intended," said Vinnie Daboul, Boston-based managing director of the employee benefits consultant RT Consulting.

THERE ARE MORE SUPER EXPENSIVE DRUGS

New gene therapies that can come with a one-time cost of more than $2 million also are having an impact, insurance brokers say. Those drugs, which target rare diseases, and some newer cancer treatments are part of the reason Sun Life Financial covered 47 claims last year that cost over $3 million.

The financial services company covers high-cost claims for employers that pay their own medical bills. Sun Life probably had no claims that expensive a decade ago and maybe "a handful at best" five years ago, said Jen Collier, president of health and risk solutions.

Some of these drugs are rarely used, but they cause overall costs to rise. That raises insurance premiums.

"It's adding to medical (cost growth) in a way that we haven't seen in the past," Collier said.

MARKETPLACE PAIN IS IN THE FORECAST

Price hikes will be most apparent on the Affordable Care Act's individual coverage marketplaces. Insurers there are raising premiums around 20% in 2026, according to KFF, which has been analyzing state regulatory filings.

But the actual hike consumers see may be much bigger. Enhanced tax credits that help people buy coverage could expire at the end of the year, unless Congress renews them.

If those go away, customer coverage costs could soar 75% or more, according to KFF.

Business owner Shirley Modlin worries about marketplace price hikes. She can't afford to provide coverage for the roughly 20 employees at 3D Design and Manufacturing in Powhatan, Virginia, so she reimburses them $350 a month for coverage they buy.

Modlin knows her reimbursement only covers a slice of what her workers pay. She worries another price hike might push some to look for work at a bigger company that offers benefits.

"My employee may not want to go to work for a large corporation, but when they consider how they have to pay their bills, sometimes they have to make sacrifices," she said.

EMPLOYERS MAY SHIFT COSTS

Costs also have been growing in the bigger market for employer-sponsored coverage, the benefits consultant Mercer says. Employees may not feel that as much because companies generally pay most of the premium.

But they may notice coverage changes.

About half the large employers Mercer surveyed earlier this year said they are likely or very likely to shift more costs to their employees. That may mean higher deductibles or that people have to pay more before they reach the out-of-pocket maximum on their coverage.

DRUG COVERAGE CHANGES ARE POSSIBLE

For prescriptions, patients may see caps on those expensive obesity treatments or limits on who can take them.

Some plans also may start using separate deductibles for their pharmaceutical and medical benefits or having patients pay more for their prescriptions, Daboul said.

Coverage changes could vary around the country, noted Emily Bremer, president of a St. Louis-based independent insurance agency, The Bremer Group.

Employers aren't eager to cut benefits, she said, so people may not see dramatic prescription coverage changes next year. But that may not last.

"If something doesn't give with pharmacy costs, it's going to be coming sooner than we'd like to think," Bremer said.

A U.S. tariff exemption for small orders ends Friday. It's a big deal to some shoppers and businesses

NEW YORK (AP) — Low-value imports are losing their duty-free status in the United States this week as part of President Donald Trump's agenda for making the nation less dependent on foreign goods and resetting global trade with tariffs.

An executive order signed last month eliminates a widely used customs exemption for international shipments worth $800 or less starting Friday, nearly two years earlier than the deadline set in the tax cuts and spending bill approved by Congress.

Although the president previously ended the "de minimis" rule for inexpensive items sent from China and Hong Kong, having to pay import taxes on small parcels from everywhere else likely will be a big change for some small businesses and online shoppers.

Purchases that previously entered the U.S. without needing to clear customs will require vetting and be subject to their origin country's applicable tariff rate, which can range from 10% to 50%. For the next six months, carriers handling orders sent through the global mail network also can choose a flat duty of $80 to $200 per package instead of the value-based rate.

In response, the national postal services of more than a dozen countries said they would temporarily suspend sending some or most U.S.-bound packages due to confusion over processing and payment requirements. Japan and Switzerland on Monday joined Australia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Thailand, the U.K. and New Zealand in saying they would pause shipments.

The Trump administration says the exemption has become a loophole that foreign businesses exploit to evade tariffs and criminals use to get drugs, counterfeit products and other contraband into the U.S. Former President Joe Biden and members of Congress also discussed the issue.

Other countries have similar exemptions, but the threshold is usually lower. For example, 150 euros ($129) is the value limit in the 20 European Union countries that use the euro as their official currency. The U.K. allows foreign businesses to send parcels worth up to 135 pounds ($182) without incurring tariff charges.

In the U.S., the "de minimis" — Latin for lacking significance or importance — exemption started in 1938 as a way to save the federal government the time and expense of collecting duties on imported goods with a retail value of $1 or less. U.S. lawmakers eventually increased the eligibility cutoff to $5 in 1990, to $200 in 1993 and to $800 in 2015, according to the Congressional Research Service.

Since then, the number of shipments claiming de minimis treatment has exploded. A total of 1.36 billion packages with a combined value of $64.6 billion reached the U.S. last year, compared to 134 million packages sent under the exemption in 2015, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency reported.

CARING FROM PAGE A1

fact! The long-term benefit for these clients is substantial in both safety and energy efficiency. Our Medical Ministry continues to provide free primary medical care to working individuals and other circumstances that demonstrate great need. Proper medical diagnosis and treatment prevents issues from having a longer-term impact.

When it comes to basic necessities and needs, the number of clients needing help has held steady all summer and does not indicate a slowdown. We set a record for families that were assisted with food last month, a significant indicator of the needs in the community. The balances that are overdue on electric bills are larger and more frequent than we have seen at any previous time in our existence. Last week, nearly every client who came for assistance had an eviction notice. Rent requests have always been a big part of what we see but never at the numbers we are seeing them.

The needs are surging, both in numbers of clients and the degree of assistance needed.

For those needing housing, the calls to the Shelter Ministry are a constant each day. Rarely does our shelter have an opening, as no sooner than a client departs do we have five more requests to fill their spot. So many people do not have options with family or friends to care for them, and our shelter is the only respite.

Yet, the summer also brings a lull in volunteer support and donations, making ministry difficult from two angles. Summer of Caring, then, has been crucial to communicating the message of how our neighbors are really faring, how much they long for someone to listen to them and how much we depend upon your donations. To all who have given thus far to the Summer of Caring campaign, we are grateful!

As seasons change and you trade strawberry lemonades for pumpkin spice lattes, the needs in our community will continue. In my first exposure to Sumter United Ministries over 20 years ago, I heard a volunteer stand up in a meeting, and he said only these words, quoting Jesus in Matthew 26:11: "The poor you will have with you always."

You can donate this year by using this QR code. Hover your phone's camera over the code to donate.

The needs will never end, nor will the need for your involvement.

Consider how you may close out this campaign with a gift. We welcome you to reach out to us for more info of how God is caring for people in need and how this ministry plays a part. Thank you!

Kevin Howell is director of the Crisis Relief Ministry at Sumter United Ministries.

New donations as of Aug. 26: None

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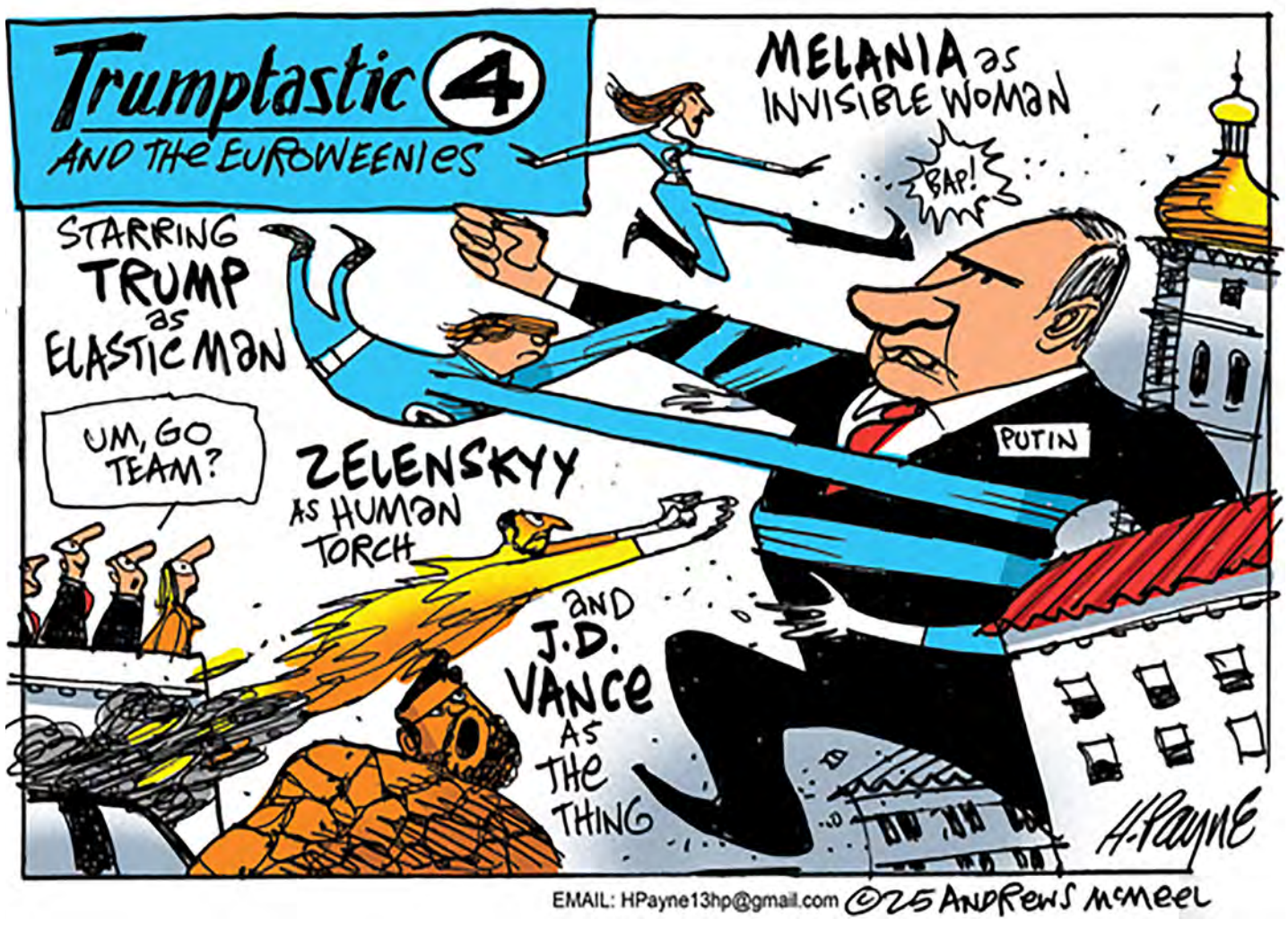
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COMMENTARY

Will Trump help Ukraine stop Russia's westward drive?





Michael Barone

The extraordinary pair of meetings in the past week — the Trump-Putin summit in Anchorage, Alaska, on Friday and Donald Trump's hosting of the leaders of Ukraine, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Finland, as well as the NATO alliance and the European Commission — were prompted by the latest iteration of a continuing source of instability over hundreds of years.

That instability is Russia's westward expansion across the great northern European plains, bereft of natural boundaries, from the principality of Muscovy in the early 1500s to the Soviet empire and satellites ruled by Stalin and his predecessors for nearly half a century after 1945.

Russia's vast armies, fueled by seemingly limitless manpower, freed much of Europe from the rule of Napoleon in 1815 and Hitler in 1945. However, the Russian proclivity to autocracy and brutal suppression of dissent has been abhorrent to the developing Western traditions of accountable government and ordered liberty.

Readers of Richard Pipes' magisterial histories of Russia over the years will not need reminding that Russia's impulse to geographical expansion and autocratic governance has survived the transitions from the tsardom to communism to what is now, theoretically, a democratic republic.

In the 18th century, under Catherine II (originally a German princess), Russia expanded south to Crimea and the Black Sea and westward in the partition of Poland. During World War I, the Kaiser's Germany pared back its border in March 1918, and Western powers, including the United States, joined Russia's White Army in trying to oust the communists from 1918 to 1920.

But desultory leadership from the stroke-disabled Woodrow Wilson enabled Lenin and his comrades to cling to power, and communist expansion was stopped for a generation by the new Polish Republic's Jozef Pilsudski on the Vistula, as documented by Adam Zamoyski's "Warsaw 1920."

After signing the Hitler-Stalin pact in August 1939, Stalin proceeded to take over the three Baltic republics (a step the U.S. never legally recognized), eastern Poland, Romania and Finland. He was about to lunge westward against Hitler, according to Sean McMeekin's "Stalin's War," when Hitler beat him to the punch and sent 3 million men over the line on June 22, 1941.

Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt immediately began providing material aid, free of cost, to Stalin's forces, clearly on the theory that their primary goal of destroying Hitler and his regime could be achieved only with the aid of the Red Army and its brutal tactics (shooting any retreating soldier, starving prisoners of war) unavailable to any democratic nation.

From their different viewpoints, "Stalin's War" and Tim Bouverie's "Allies at War" conclude that Churchill's and Roosevelt's broken promises to Stalin of a second front in northern Europe in 1942 and '43 meant conceding control of much of the continent to Soviet enslavement. Prising a continent from the combined (in 1939 to 1941) forces of Hitler and Stalin required making and following through on tragic choices.

The U.S. continued to make such choices after 1945. It accepted Soviet control where the Red Army was in place but saved Italy from a Czechoslovakia-type takeover in elections in 1948, extended the nuclear umbrella over western Europe with NATO in 1949, and opposed, with varying results, communist expansion in Korea and Indochina. Steadfastness brought victory in the Cold War, and NATO expansion afterward ended half a century of Russian control of eastern Europe up to and including the Baltics — but not Ukraine.

So, how has Trump fit into this picture? Like Roosevelt, Churchill and presidents from Harry S. Truman through Ronald Reagan, he has a horror of Americans fighting the Russian army; unlike Roosevelt and Richard Nixon, he sees a greater threat in East Asia than from Russia. Like other presidents, Trump has called for Europe to do more in its own defense. But with his much greater emphasis, and because of Vladimir Putin's threats, he has gotten results. Most NATO allies are spending more than the pledged 2% gap on defense, and some, led as in 1920 by Poland, are spending much more than that.

Events seem to have moved Trump away, at least temporarily, from the view of some among his supporters (including the vice president?) of Putin's Russia as a Christian bulwark against woke heresy. His appropriate horror at the brutality of Russian warfare may be overshadowing his appreciation of Putin as a strong leader. He may even be developing an admiration for the resistance against Russian tyranny of the Ukrainian people, perhaps even of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The extraordinary spectacle of six European heads of government traveling en masse to the White House could turn out to be a key step in the handover of primary responsibility for maintaining Ukraine's independence to Europe from an America willing to be a backstop but not to take the lead role. Or not. Trump's inconstancy and avidity for unstinting praise, Putin's continued determination to inflict destruction on a nation of hearts and minds he has lost, the European governments' habit of undermining brave declarations with flaccid inaction and the always unpredictable tides of battle could fail to end the horrifying carnage and spell disaster for the brave and resourceful Ukrainians determined to resist Russian ukase. But for now, there is some reason for optimism on Russia's often fluctuating western border.

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. His new book, "Mental Maps of the Founders: How Geographic Imagination Guided America's Revolutionary Leaders," is now available.

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COMMENTARY

Enjoying what's now in our lives versus what's next

The advancements in technology that have taken place in the past 40 years are nothing short of astounding. What once required the space of an entire building has been reduced to fit inside a phone stuffed into your pants pocket. Although this is extraordinary, our expectation of what's accessible has changed along with it. We're no longer thankful for what we have; we're constantly looking forward to what's next, creating a societal planned obsolescence of all things.

In the mid-1980s, my uncle bought a Nissan Maxima for my aunt. I remember sitting in the backseat, marveling at the digital display on the dashboard and center console. Unlike the American cars I was used to, with their clunky buttons and subpar stereos, this car was loaded with high-end technology of the day. It looked like a fighter jet or something out of a science fiction movie. My younger self could hardly absorb the sensory experience that took place every time I stepped foot inside the car.

Overloading our senses can be compared to a drug. Rather than delaying our gratification we can be instantly entertained, providing the hit of dopamine we're craving but may not even realize. Waiting for our favorite song to play on the radio or fast forwarding through a cassette to hear the song we want has been replaced by YouTube and Pandora. Our tolerance for a scratched record or skipping compact disc is no longer required. An entire generation has no idea what I mean by even mentioning music that isn't perfectly clear each time it's played.



Patrick Byrne

On a recent trip, my daughter and I were watching TV in the hotel room. She wanted to watch Disney but had no idea how to access the channel without using the Disney App. Her experience is vastly different from mine. Her ability to watch what she wants, when she wants to is essentially instantaneous. There are no commercials with very little delay between her desire to watch and the show downloaded before her eyes. Watching the Disney channel on YouTube TV was comparable to torture. What's normal for me is very abnormal for her.

Don't get me wrong, advancements in technology are certainly not a bad thing. The fact I don't have to spend hundreds of dollars on cassettes or compact discs to access my favorite music is definitely a plus. You also won't hear me complaining about TVs costing hundreds rather than thousands of dollars. Our ability to access what we want, when we want it, has never been faster or easier. So, what's the problem?

Similar to the 0-to-60-second time for a car, we're always wanting more. It's human nature to view the world from a lens of "what's next" rather than enjoying "what's now." If the iPhone has taught us anything, a few upgrades each year can drive a wave of demand for the newest model. The phone you have may work perfectly fine, but it's not the latest version and is therefore on the fast track to being made obsolete. While you're at it, you may want to purchase the latest iWatch as well. Before you know it, you're spending thousands of dollars on upgraded models of the items you already own.

The answer is not to hole yourself in the basement with a "Goonies" T-shirt on while you pop an "Indiana Jones" tape into the VCR. Nostalgia aside, burying your head in the sand to technology will only make it harder to function in society.

The key is to survey the landscape in order to determine whether it makes sense to buy the latest and greatest of anything. Will what you have work for the long term, or will it no longer function due to outdated software or updates? Do you need a TV built into your refrigerator, or will the one you have keep your food cold for the time being without it?

Don't fall behind, but stop falling forward for things that aren't necessary if what you have works just fine.

You may want to consider a new "Goonies" T-shirt, though. That size small is looking a bit snug.

Patrick lives in Tega Cay with his wife and two daughters. After 25 years working for a Big 4 bank where he held multiple marketing/communication roles, he retired from the corporate world to pursue his passion for writing. An opportunity to develop a local paper proved too enticing to turn down. Patrick is a graduate of Winthrop University where he majored in Communications. Patrick can be reached at patrickbyrne@tegacaysun.com and patrickbyrnecreative.com.

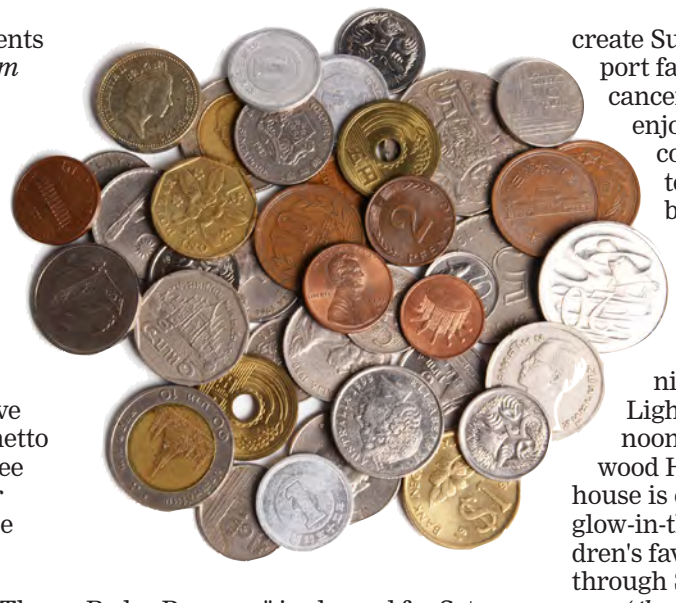
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Sumter's first two-day coin show is coming up in September, along with SPCA yard sale and fundraising burger cookoff

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

SUMTER COUNTY

As we turn the page to fall, there is just one band left on the schedule for the **Fourth Fridays Concert Series** in downtown Sumter this summer, with Sole Purpose performing on Sept. 26. Concert attendance is free, and there will be plenty of food and drink available for sale. Sertoma will have plenty of cold brews for sale, Palmetto Optimist Club will be back with free books for the kids and popcorn for sale. Downtown restaurants will be open for dine-in and take-out.



The first show on Sumter Little Theatre's 2025-26 season schedule is **"Chicken & Biscuits"**, which will be performed at various times through Sunday, Aug. 31. This play written by Douglas Lyons revolves around the Jenkins family who gathers to celebrate the life of their father during his funeral. As the story unfolds, the family secrets emerge, highlighting the contrasting dynamics between sisters Baneatta and Beverly, who represent different life choices and values. The funeral serves as a backdrop for comic confrontations and reconciliations that all lead back to moral lessons about family and unity. Buy tickets at *https://tinyurl.com/3w6zckun*.

The **Sumter Gun Show** will be held on Aug. 30-31 at American Legion Post 15, hosted by Palmetto Gun Shows. All federal and local firearm laws and ordinances must be obeyed. That Saturday, the show will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; on Sunday, it will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission is $10, and children 12 and under enter for free with paying adult. There are 120 exhibitors expected to attend. The venue is at 30 S. Artillery Drive. For more information, contact Stanley Davis with Palmetto Gun Shows at (803) 422-9888 and *stan@palmettogunshows.com*.

Sumter Coin Club will host its first two-day coin show on Sept. 5-6 this year, the **Sumter Annual Coin and Currency Show**, at Saint Mark Banquet and Conference Center at 2320 Four Bridges Road, Sumter. The show will include a U.S. Gold Coin raffle (1/10th ounce $5 Eagle) plus 13 hourly free (simply for registering) raffled door prizes. The show will be open Friday, Sept 5, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free. A Scouting "Merit Badge Program" is planned for Saturday at 10 a.m. sponsored by the South Carolina Numismatic Association. This show will feature 23 dealers from South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina with 49 tables scheduled. U.S./world coins; U.S./world/obsolete paper money; ancient/Biblical-era coins, tokens, medals, bullion, jewelry and a great assortment of hobby supplies will all be available. A security presence will be on hand for the entire event. For further information, email *sumtercoinclub@gmail.com* or visit on Facebook at "Sumter Coin Club."

Get some unwanted items out of the house and help animals at the same time. The Sumter SPCA is hosting a **yard sale** on Saturday, Sept. 6, with all proceeds benefiting the shelter. The SPCA is accepting donation items but does not need any more clothing donations. They may be dropped off at My Buddy Pup Shop right beside the SPCA. Drop off is Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. If you have questions, call (803) 774-1055. The sale on Sept. 6 starts at 8 a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m.

Like a unique burger? Keep the afternoon and evening of Saturday, Sept. 13, cleared for the **Savor Sumter Gourmet Burger Cookoff,** hosted by Palmetto Optimist Club. Local chefs and grilling enthusiasts will compete to create Sumter's Best Burger to support families of children battling cancer. Try great burgers and enjoy live entertainment at this community fundraiser. Enter a team to compete, learn how to become a vendor and find more information at *https://tinyurl.com/bpaetdh9*.



The Sumter Opera House is bringing the award-winning show **"Dino-Light"** by the Lightwire Theater at 10 a.m. and noon Monday, Nov. 3, to Lakewood High School since the opera house is closed for renovations. The glow-in-the-dark adventure is a children's favorite. Tickets are on sale through Sept. 29 at *https://tinyurl.com/4kzstzyz* or call (803) 436-2616.

CLARENDON COUNTY

Got Labor Day off? The **Labor Day Festival (Reggae & R&B Edition)** will be happening at Silver Race Track, 8497 Silver Road, Manning, on Saturday, Aug. 30, at 2 p.m., continuing on Sunday, Aug. 31. Get ready for a day filled with groovy tunes, delicious food and good vibes. There will be car, truck and bike show/grudge matches. Vendors, ATVs, coolers, tents and golf carts are welcome. Get tickets at *https://tinyurl.com/7z76pv4r*.

COLUMBIA

The creations of more than 150 crafters and vendors from across the Midlands will be showcased at the **Midlands Fall Arts and Crafts Market** from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14, at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds, 3483 Charleston Highway. To learn more, visit *https://midlandcrafters.wixsite.com/mcacraft-shows/fall-market*.

Dirty Dancing in Concert is coming to the Koger Center, 1051 Greene St., Columbia, on Feb. 11, 2026. The production by Lionsgate and GEA Live brings the beloved classic based on the iconic Academy Award-winning film, which was released 38 years ago today. Tickets are on sale now and can be bought at the Koger Center Box Office in person, online at *KogerCenterForTheArts.com*, through the official Koger Center for the Arts mobile app, and their ticketing charge line at (803) 251-2222. "Shows will feature a screening of the digitally remastered movie while a live band and vocalists perform the hit songs in sync with a full-size screen on stage. The show continues on with an incredible after-party, where the audience is encouraged to sing and dance to their favorite songs from the feature film and relive their best movie memories."

World-renowned gospel group **Blind Boys of Alabama** will perform at Koger Center for the Arts, 1051 Greene St., Columbia, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2. The concert is sponsored by the University of South Carolina School of Music and the Brookland Foundation. Tickets go on sale to the public on June 13. Honored by The National Endowment for the Arts and The Recording Academy/GRAMMYs with Lifetime Achievement Awards, inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and winners of six GRAMMY Awards, Blind Boys have attained the highest levels of achievement in a career that spans more than 70 years. Tickets can be purchased online at *www.kogercenterforthearts.com*, in person at the Koger Center Box Office, over the phone by calling (803) 251-2222 or through the Koger Center mobile app.

LAKE CITY

Moore Farms Botanical Garden Beer Fest is returning with a '90s theme from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the garden, 100 New Zion Road, Lake City, and tickets are on sale now at *https://tinyurl.com/2u93ss3f*. Pull out those windbreakers, slap bracelets and neon shades and party like it's 1999 in the 65-acre gardens while enjoying unlimited samples from over 20 local and national brewers, live '90s hits from Atlanta band 90210 Radio, food trucks, unique vendors and pop-ups, classic games and full access to explore 65 acres of gardens. Free Sober Ride Shuttle Service will run between the festival and The Inn at the Crossroads all day. Ages 21+ only.

LEE COUNTY

Fall Fest is coming to Bishopville! Save the date for Oct. 17-18 and get your family to downtown Main Street for this Unity in the Community event. There will be live entertainment, vendors, a parade and food trucks at this community festival. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, with Live After Five, and on Saturday, the festival runs through 6 p.m. and includes the parade and festival.





CHEYENNE COHEN VIA AP

Celebrate Labor Day with Corn and Potato Salad

BY KATIE WORKMAN
Associated Press

We are almost face to face with Labor Day, but there's still a sliver of summer left. And we should not waste these last days telling each other how quickly the season has flown by.

Let's spend the rest of summer and early fall eating all of the ripe, rainbow-hued produce that is spilling over at the farmer's markets and (if we're lucky) in our gardens. Tomatoes, eggplants, zucchini, herbs, string beans and — to some folks' minds — the pick of the season: fresh sweet corn.

Do you have an avid corn lover in your world? The kind of person who will eat three ears of corn without blinking? A friend who will call you up in the fall, sounding panicked, to share the news that the corn stand has closed and the season is over?

I have several such people in my life. And I made this potato salad for them.

This corn and potato salad is at once comfortingly creamy and bracingly bright. Tender chunks of potato mingle with sweet corn (at other times of year, you can think about using frozen or canned corn, but not just yet), crispy bacon and a tangy lemon-buttermilk dressing. It's the kind of crowd-pleasing summer side dish that works for cookouts, backyard gatherings and that Labor Day party menu.

You can prep this salad ahead and serve it at room temperature. If you love corn, add as much as you like. You could even make it into a corn salad punctuated with potatoes if you're so inclined.

A COUPLE TIPS

If you are a regular potato-salad maker, you know that potatoes can absorb dressing pretty significantly. This might seem like quite a bit of dressing at first, but the salad will thicken up on standing. And if you refrigerate it, even more.

If you are thinking of bringing this corn and potato salad to a picnic or other potluck event, remember to pack the extra crumbled bacon in a separate baggie or container and sprinkle it on at the end to preserve the crunchiness. But if you don't remember? Eh. You brought potato salad … you're awesome.

Double or triple this recipe at will.

CORN AND POTATO SALAD

Serves 6

1 1/2 pounds Yukon Gold or waxy potatoes, peeled
Kosher or coarse salt to taste
2 cups fresh corn kernels
1/2 onion, finely minced
1/3 cup plain Greek yogurt
1/3 cup buttermilk
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
Freshly ground pepper to taste
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil leaves
1/2 cup crumbled cooked bacon

Cut the potatoes into 1/2-inch dice. Bring a medium pot of salted water to a boil over high heat, add the potatoes, partially cover the pot and simmer for about 10 minutes until the potatoes are almost fork-tender. Add the corn and simmer for another 2 minutes, until the potatoes are tender and the corn kernels crisp and just cooked through. Drain the potatoes and the corn; let them cool for about 10 minutes in the colander.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, mix together the onion, yogurt, buttermilk, lemon juice, lemon zest, mustard, and salt and pepper.

Place the warm potatoes and corn, basil and half the bacon in a large bowl. Pour the dressing over it and toss to mix well. Turn into a serving bowl and top with the remainder of the crumbled bacon.

Katie Workman writes regularly about food for The Associated Press. She has written two cookbooks focused on family-friendly cooking, "Dinner Solved!" and "The Mom 100 Cookbook." She blogs at https://themom100.com/. She can be reached at Katie@themom100.com.

Wife's view of herself shrinks after discovery

DEAR ABBY: About eight months ago, I stumbled on my husband watching online porn. He admitted to habitual use but said it was just a stress reliever and he would stop viewing it. Meanwhile, I am plagued by feelings of not being enough for him, mainly before or during sex but also at random times of the day and night.

I am a small-breasted woman, and I can't stop thinking that he has seen beautiful bodies that are much more of a turn-on than mine. I am ashamed of how I look and no longer want him to see me naked. This was never a problem before, but now it's a constant feeling of inadequacy. I'm also not sure he has stopped, but I realize there's no way for me to know that, so I'm struggling with trust. Is there anything I can do to stop thinking about this and build back some self-confidence?

CAN'T COMPARE IN THE SOUTH



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR CAN'T COMPARE: You need to understand something. Men are turned on by the visual. Millions of them watch porn for pleasure. This is a fact. Your husband's viewing doesn't mean there is anything wrong with you. You are the woman he married, and until you "stumbled upon him" watching porn, everything was fine.

As I reread your letter, I was struck by your lack of self-esteem. The surest way to stop obsessing about this and rebuild your self-confidence would be to ask your doctor to refer you to a psychologist who can help you regain your perspective.

DEAR ABBY: After a recent gathering for my granddaughter's graduation, I am feeling depressed and upset. Unflattering pictures of me were taken during the event and later posted on social media. I wasn't asked, and I think it was done maliciously by the grandmother on the other side. She posted no candid pictures of herself, only ones that were planned and staged.

I don't feel I can ask that they be taken down without causing a rift. I did post a suggestion on the site about privacy and pictures. That grandma has read my message but hasn't taken the hint to remove them. This has led to unpleasant memories of an otherwise memorable and happy event. Why don't people realize that no-longer-young individuals don't want terrible pictures splashed all over the internet?

EMBARRASSED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Your granddaughter's graduation was all about her and her accomplishment. It wasn't a "Mirror, mirror on the wall" contest of which grandmother is the fairer. Try to focus more closely on the spirit of the occasion and less on any unfortunate picture that was posted later. If you do, you may see the humor in this. You wrote that older people don't want terrible pictures splashed all over the internet. News flash: Younger people like it even less. Laugh and the world laughs with you. And toss the sour grapes into the garbage.

Are you a survivor?
or do you know someone who fought breast cancer?

The Sumter Item is asking for names of these brave people to appear in our special publication, Health Matters 2025, on October 11th, 2025.

Deadline: October 1, 2025

Submitted By_____ Phone _____
Address _____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____
Survivors Name_____
Number of years cancer free_____
*Please provide a contact number for any surviving honorees for verification



Contact
Karen Cave
karen@theitem.com
the Sumter ITEM

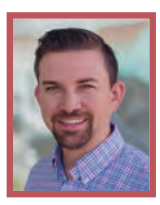
2025 HEALTH MATTERS



Celebrating Breast Cancer Survivors

Connect with readers who are focused on health and wellness, as well as a special focus on Breast Cancer Awareness in our annual Health Matters section. Distributed in our newspaper and online, as well to our social media users and email subscribers, this section will reach well over 100,000 people in and around the Sumter region.


KAREN CAVE
(803) 774-1242
karen@theitem.com

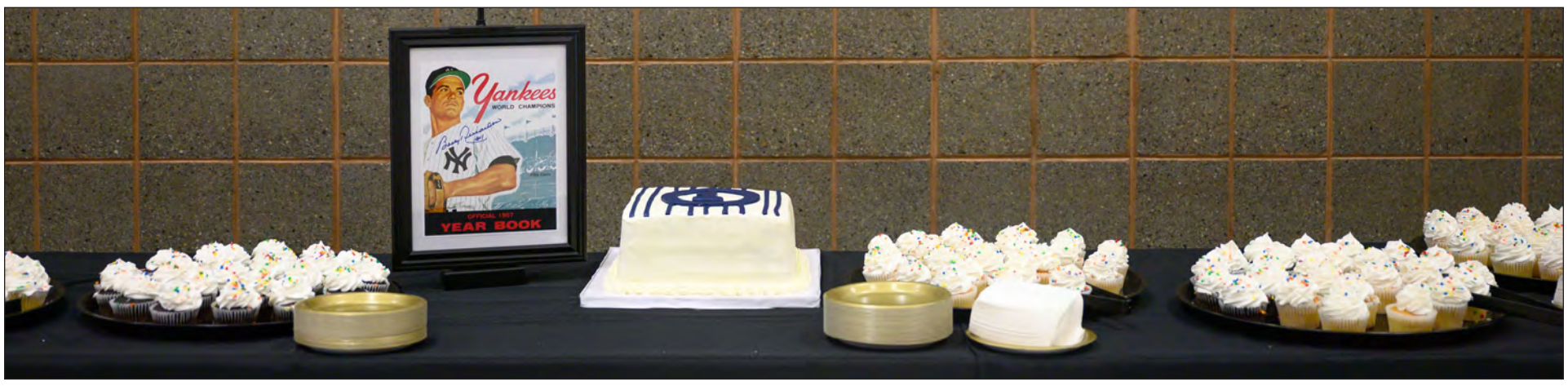

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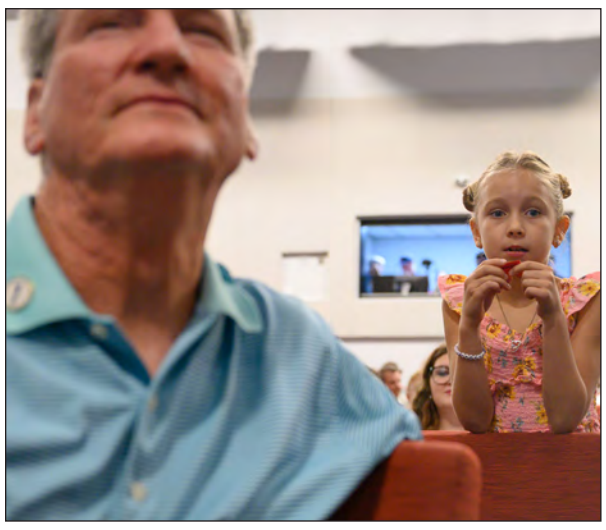


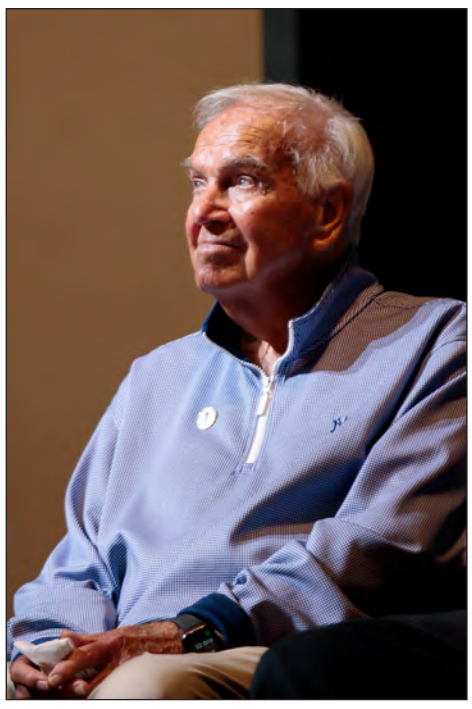
City of Sumter honors Bobby Richardson





PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM







Local baseball legend Bobby Richardson signs memorabilia for fans during his 90th birthday on Saturday, Aug. 23.



Members of the Sumter community gather to watch "Graceball" in honor of Bobby Richardson's 90th birthday.





Bobby Richardson and his wife, Betsy, watch "Graceball," a documentary about his life, at USC Sumter on Saturday.



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FAIR
FROM PAGE A1

fair's opening day, the committee plans to hold the event at the same scale as previous years. Fair Chairwoman Nicole Custer said after the conclusion of the 2024 fair, the committee began planning for this year, putting them ahead of the chaos that could come from such a late start.

The committee will also stay in compliance with the Aug. 4 letter from American Legion Department of South Carolina that conditioned security to be provided by Sumter County Sheriff's Office and keys to be turned over to Post Commander Dorian Brunson at the conclusion of the event.

The post will continue to rent its two facilities and host the farmers market, which will resume after this year's fair concludes.

The driving force behind the fair committee's decision to host the annual event was to not further upset the community after the revocation of the post charter and not breach contracts with its performers and vendors.

"We were shocked by the events on Aug. 15," acting First Vice Commander Larry Gamble said. "We're more than just a veterans organization. We're community service."

"This post started in 1919, and it's been a place for families to be able to come together with those types of activities and for veterans to find camaraderie in the local community. We were pleased with the shift in their stance that the building rentals and such could continue. That's why we're continuing to work on making sure that we're putting on the Sumter Legion fair as planned."

The post has started the appeal process for its charter, with confirmation from the state department that its three letters — addressed to the state's commander, executive director and adjutant — were received. Post 15 also looped in the national American Legion. It is awaiting a response.

'People want to say, 'Oh well, I didn't like the fair anyways.' What people don't realize is it's just part of the circle of life here that keeps everything going.'

NICOLE CUSTER

Sumter County Fair chairwoman

The Item reached out to state Legion Commander James Rabon, who informed members of the charter revocation on Friday, Aug. 15, for clarification on how programs can continue at Post 15 without a charter and what the steps are to getting the Post 15 charter reinstated but has not heard back. The investigation is ongoing, Cleo Klopfleisch told *The Item* in an email.

ABOUT MORE THAN THE FAIR

When *The Item* first learned of the post's internal woes, highlighted by who has access to bank accounts, keys and other organizational and operational necessities, as well as who serves in what role, the fair was the only program in jeopardy. Once the charter was revoked — only hours before the newspaper's first article on the topic was published — the scope widened on what was at stake and how it could impact the community.

It was on that Friday that longtime fair vendors learned of what was unfolding — not only from local news, but also from their family, friends and neighbors. There was only one word committee members said they could use to describe the state of callers throughout that day: confused.

"This is something we've done forever, and the fact that we weren't calling them — it all happened so quickly," Custer said.

Many vendors and visitors depend on the fair to showcase their businesses, shop for holiday gifts, stock up on specialty goods and enter their quilted creations and other artistic expressions in hopes of earning a satin ribbon, in between enjoying rides, sharing laughs and making memories. That's why when the committee made phone calls on Thursday, Aug. 21, sharing the news the fair would commence as planned, the responses were filled with relief and support.

"All of them have been very grateful for the opportunity to press forward. There are a lot of people in this community that really depend on the fair for one reason or another," Custer said. "Whatever the need is there, there's a lot of it."

The fair is the post's largest fundraiser. Its sole existence, according to Custer, is to ensure Post 15 can continue to organize, operate and open its doors to house various programs, including:

• Rental of Post 15 facilities – This includes both the American Legion Post 15 Home Building and The American Legion Fair Memorial Building on South Auxiliary Drive. The post also rents its fairgrounds for various events.

• American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 – Though separate in operations from Post 15, Unit 15 uses Post 15 facilities for meetings, programs, etc. This unit consists of spouses (female and male), grandmothers, mothers, sisters and direct and adopted female descendants of members of American Legion, with some being veterans themselves.

• Palmetto Boys State and Palmetto Girls State – In 2024, Post 15 sent 30 rising high school male seniors to Boys State, a program that offers participants the opportunity to understand the American government and politics by engaging in a mock governmental system. Auxiliary Unit 15 sent 14 rising high school female seniors to the one-week leadership and citizenship training program created to educate students about state and local government and citizenship.

• Cub Scouts, Troop 339 – One of the oldest troops in Sumter

• Jr. and Sr. P-15's – First established in 1929 by two Legion members, the local summertime baseball program has the second-oldest program in continuous operation.

• Sumter P-15 Lady Legends – The fastpitch softball team began its inaugural season in June 2021.

• Farmers market – One of 137 local community-based farmers markets in the state, offers a variety of homegrown produce, homemade food and baked goods as well as other items sold by vendors.

• Veterans assistance – Whether helping veterans who come directly to Post 15 or assisting them through other organizations in town, the post has helped with payments, housing, VA guidance and more.

• American Legion Riders – Legion veterans who help raise money for Gold Star families that have lost loved ones and send their children to school via scholarships as well as supporting the Children's Hope Foundation to fulfill needs.

• Nathan M Wolfe Law Cadet Academy – Post 15 has sent numerous students to the academy for high school students who are interested in a future career in law enforcement.

"Without the post existing, none of these things move forward," Custer said. "People want to say, 'Oh well, I didn't like the fair anyways.' What people don't realize is it's just part of the circle of life here that keeps everything going."

GETTING BACK TO THEIR ROOTS?

The fair has taken substantial financial hits in previous years, namely during the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Hugo. It has also weathered early-fall rainstorms that forced low attendance numbers and continues to battle against negative narratives swirling in the age of technology, said Shawn Custer, Nicole's husband and fair manager.

Outside of funding operations, he said, the fair's continuation is not, and has never been, about proving a point.

"This is more about history. Why we refuse to let it pass is because we know veterans before us did all this. My greatest memories growing up was spending time at a fair. The kids may have technology now, but these memories that they get from this place — if we're putting on the fair that we hope to — they'll have forever," Shawn said. "Those video games they may forget, but this is something we're hoping the whole family never forgets."

That includes the event's agricultural roots. Categorized as an agricultural fair, the event has lost some of its green thumb over time. But the committee hopes to get back to the good old days of showing off tractors, hosting petting zoos and giving youth an intimate look at Sumter's farming culture.

Chris Sumpter is looking to help with that.

"I grew up in 4H and FFA [Future Farmers of America] and have been showing cows since I was 8 years old, right there in those barns," he said, pointing to the sheds. "I could remember it like it was yesterday. Considering those experiences and what we all have encountered, I know what it's like. I know what it has been. I know what it takes to get where it needs to be. We just need the community's support to move forward."

As work for the fair begins and they await word on the status of the charter, Gamble, first vice commander, said he hopes this setback will serve as the start of a new era for the post.

"We hope we can recover from this revocation letter and hope that it's just a step in the process of being able to revitalize our post and continue the good work that we've been doing," he said, "because this is our hometown."

WILBANKS
FROM PAGE A1

of serving our region."

Central Carolina serves the four-county region of Sumter, Clarendon, Lee and Kershaw counties and has a current full-time enrollment this semester of 2,920 students.

Before joining Horry-Georgetown, Wilbanks held multiple leadership positions at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, including assistant vice president for academics, dean of county campuses, interim dean for engineering and industrial technology, director of dual enrollment, instructor, outreach counselor and career transition specialist, the release added.

A South Carolina native, Wilbanks earned a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina, a master's degree in education with an emphasis in counseling and a doctorate in educational leadership, higher education, from Clemson University.

The college interviewed four finalists for the leadership post last week.

MORE ON NEW PRESIDENT AND CCTC

Wilbanks is also a graduate of the Future Presidents Institute through the American Association of Community Colleges and the South Carolina Technical College System Leadership Academy.

Throughout her career, Wilbanks has earned experience in accreditation by serving on several Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges accreditation committees, according to the release. Additionally, she is active in her community, serving on the McLeod Loris Seacoast Hospital Board, the Horry County Schools Business Cabinet and the Commission on Higher Education's dual enrollment subcommittee.

Wilbanks was the 2024-25 chair of the statewide Chief Academic Officers and was named Educator of the Year in the administrative category by the South Carolina Technical Education Association in 2023, the release added.

On Aug. 5, Central Carolina unveiled its new Academic Student Services Building on the main campus on Guignard Drive in Sumter. The facility is 58,000 square feet and three stories and cost $39 million to complete.

The college's last president was Kevin Pollock, who officially retired on June 30.



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

***Item* sales representative Mark Pekuri; *Item* Next Generation editor and writer Alaysha Maple; designer, *Item* creative director and community coordinator Janel Przybyla; *Item, Bluffton Sun* and *Lexington County Chronicle* ad and print designer Cary Howard; and *Item* sales representative Karen Cave stand with the PALMY awards they won in South Carolina Press Association's annual contest.**



Przybyla and Pekuri designed the winning Best of Sumter ad for Shaw Lumber Company, which also took first place in the home and garden category.

PALMYS
FROM PAGE A1

for client Santee Auto and another second for client Brunson's Septic Tanks for use of imagery.

Przybyla and sales rep Karen Cave earned third place in outdoors and recreation for an ad built for Meares Marine, and Przybyla took home a solo third for her newspaper promotion of Alaysha Maple's arts and entertainment beat coverage, a statewide category.

On the multimedia side of *The Item*'s advertising services, Sumter's Next Generation was awarded first place in innovation, a divisional category, and first in sponsored content, a statewide contest.

"A standout entry with beautiful video and print content to showcase these exceptional students and deliver ROI for sponsors," a judge's comment reads.

Next Gen, sponsored by Sumter Economic Development and TheLINK, is produced by Maple, the project's editor and writer, Zac Hooks, videographer, and Cary Howard, ad and print design. Photographer Abigail Pittman joined the series this year.

Hooks earned second place in video, a statewide category, for the Next Gen episode featuring Sumter High's Miyah LaGrant, a dancer.

The Item's two sister papers in the state also were awarded for their work with Howard leading design services at *The Bluffton Sun* and *Lexington County Chronicle*. She won a first-place at Lexington and a second-place at Bluffton, which also took home a first- and second-place staff award and first-place award for their sales representative.

PUBLIC AGENDA

SUMTER CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 3 p.m., fourth floor, Sumter Opera House, Council Chambers

SUMTER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7:45 a.m., 10 E. Liberty St.

LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thursday, Aug. 28, at 6:30 p.m., District Administration Complex Quadplex, 310 Roland St., Bishopville

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 1 p.m., in Council Chambers on the fourth floor of Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St. (enter through the back parking lot entrance and take elevator to fourth floor)

BISHOPVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 5:30 p.m., Colclough Building, 109 E. Council St., Bishopville

CLARENDON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 6 p.m., 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, Sept. 8, 6 p.m., 1345 Wilson Hall Road

CLARENDON COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m., Administration Building, Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

CITY OF MANNING PLANNING COMMISSION

Monday, Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 29 W. Boyce St., Manning

AROUND TOWN

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

Habitat for Humanity Homeownership Program Fall 2025 Cycle is open through Sept. 19 at 5 p.m. Senior cottages (single-person or couple, 55 plus) and single-family homes are included. Instructions are available at *HabitatSumter.org/Homeownership*. Have questions, call (803) 775-5767 Ext. 106 or email *admin@habitatsumter.org*.

Dalzell 5-year-old Logan Moseley is on hospice care after being diagnosed with a rare cancer, and he hopes the Sumter community will **donate toys for other children receiving care** at Prisma Health Children's Hospital-Midlands. If you'd like to help Logan's vision be a reality, there are several ways you can send donations. If a business would like to be involved, email *megmo827@gmail.com* to reach the family directly. For individuals who want to help, you can:

– Send a toy through the Moseleys' personal Amazon wishlist, which includes a range of price points from $3 to $150, *https://tinyurl.com/3aejfs9r*

– Send a toy through a Walmart wishlist. Please have the items sent to the family, as they are unable to do store pickups, *https://tinyurl.com/m3nz5dbk*

– Donate directly to the hospital through its wishlist, *https://tinyurl.com/2rvw4dmy*

For the Moseleys' personal Amazon and Walmart lists, the shipping address will autopopulate during checkout and remains hidden for privacy.

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 County. Volunteers advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children who are involved in Family Court legal proceedings through the Department of Social Services. The training will be held on Sept. 2, 2025. 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. Visit *gal.sc.gov* for more information and to download an application. Follow @Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program on Facebook, or contact *communications@childadvocate.sc.gov* to be added to the newsletter for updates and local events in your area. Contact Brandi Johnson, regional recruiter and trainer for the GAL program, at (843) 731-7622 or *brandi.johnson@childadvocate.sc.gov* for more information.

Sumter S.C. Combat Veterans Group supports veterans and their families through various initiatives. Members have a chance to contribute to causes that directly impact veterans' lives, join in on community events, network with fellow vets and supporters and help shape the future of veteran support in the Sumter area, according to the group's website. Members have the chance to give back, stay connected and make a difference in the lives of those who served our country. Anyone interested in joining can attend one of the regular group meetings on the third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at 529 N. Wise Drive. The application at *https://sumtercombatveterans.org/membership* can be downloaded, printed and completed beforehand.

The City of Sumter invites everyone again this year to pitch in to clean up their community through **volunteer litter cleanup days**. The remaining days this year are Oct. 18 and Dec. 13. Spend a couple hours in the morning making a difference where you live. Anyone who would like to volunteer can sign up at the city's website, *https://tinyurl.com/mryzpu5n*.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2025

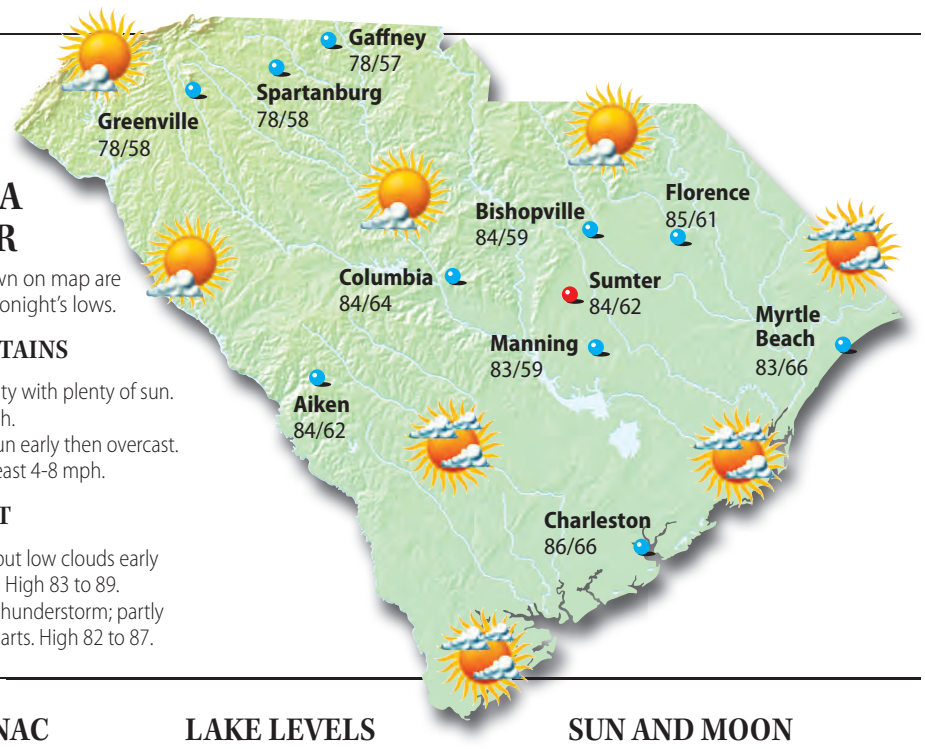
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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Clouds giving way to some sun	Partly cloudy	Turning cloudy	Cloudy with a few showers	A few showers	Heavy showers in the afternoon
84°	62°	84° / 66°	81° / 64°	83° / 65°	85° / 62°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 15%	Chance of rain: 85%	Chance of rain: 60%	Chance of rain: 95%
NNE 6-12 mph	NNE 3-6 mph	ESE 4-8 mph	SE 4-8 mph	E 3-6 mph	NE 7-14 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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



IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Low humidity with plenty of sun. Winds east 6-12 mph.
Thursday: Some sun early then overcast. Winds south-southeast 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Some sun, but low clouds early then clearing south. High 83 to 89.
Thursday: A stray thunderstorm; partly sunny in southern parts. High 82 to 87.

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER MONDAY

Temperature

High	92°
Low	72°
Normal high	88°
Normal low	68°
Record high	99° in 1975
Record low	56° in 1992

Precipitation

Monday	0.00"
Month to date	5.61"
Normal month to date	4.13"
Year to date	25.13"
Last year to date	28.33"
Normal year to date	33.03"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	358.03	-0.04
Marion	76.8	75.87	-0.03
Moultrie	75.5	75.38	+0.02
Wateree	100	97.14	+0.07

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	6.74	-0.22
Congaree River	19	5.90	+1.54
Lynches River	14	4.04	-0.34
Saluda River	14	4.60	-0.55
Up. Santee River	80	N.A.	N.A.
Wateree River	24	9.86	-0.77

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:52 a.m.	Sunset	7:54 p.m.
Moonrise	10:59 a.m.	Moonset	10:01 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Aug. 31	Sep. 7	Sep. 14	Sep. 21

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	12:07 a.m.	3.0	6:58 a.m.	0.6
	12:45 p.m.	3.1	7:29 p.m.	0.9
Thu.	12:45 a.m.	2.9	7:32 a.m.	0.7
	1:26 p.m.	3.0	8:14 p.m.	1.1

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	82/64/s	81/66/pc
Chicago	77/62/pc	72/55/t
Dallas	92/77/pc	99/78/pc
Detroit	75/56/pc	69/51/t
Houston	93/77/t	94/78/t
Los Angeles	88/67/pc	88/69/pc
New Orleans	91/76/pc	90/74/t
New York	75/62/pc	79/65/s
Orlando	89/74/t	91/73/t
Philadelphia	77/60/s	81/63/pc
Phoenix	99/84/pc	103/83/s
San Francisco	73/58/pc	72/57/pc
Wash., DC	79/62/s	81/64/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	75/54/s	73/53/c
Athens	82/59/s	80/62/c
Augusta	85/61/pc	84/68/pc
Beaufort	89/70/pc	87/72/pc
Cape Hatteras	81/66/c	80/68/pc
Charleston	86/66/pc	86/70/t
Charlotte	80/61/s	80/63/c
Clemson	81/59/s	79/62/c
Columbia	84/64/pc	85/66/c
Darlington	85/59/s	83/65/c
Elizabeth City	80/58/sh	82/62/pc
Elizabethtown	84/60/pc	82/66/c
Fayetteville	84/60/s	81/67/c
Florence	85/61/pc	85/68/pc
Gainesville	92/71/pc	90/71/t
Gastonia	78/56/s	78/59/c
Goldsboro	84/59/s	82/63/pc
Goose Creek	86/64/pc	84/68/t
Greensboro	77/58/s	77/60/c
Greenville	78/58/s	79/60/c
Hickory	77/58/s	77/59/c
Hilton Head	84/70/pc	83/70/t
Jacksonville, FL	88/72/s	88/72/pc
La Grange	83/61/s	82/67/s
Macon	86/62/pc	85/67/pc
Marietta	82/61/s	79/64/pc
Marion	76/54/s	73/55/c
Mt. Pleasant	85/69/pc	83/70/t
Myrtle Beach	83/66/pc	82/69/t
Orangeburg	86/65/pc	84/67/c
Port Royal	87/70/pc	84/70/pc
Raleigh	80/59/s	82/63/c
Rock Hill	80/58/s	78/59/c
Rockingham	83/57/s	82/61/c
Savannah	88/68/pc	85/70/pc
Spartanburg	78/58/s	78/59/c
Summerville	85/63/pc	85/68/t
Wilmington	85/63/pc	82/66/pc
Winston-Salem	78/59/s	79/60/c

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

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SUMTER SPCA PETS OF THE WEEK



ABOVE: Ollie is a 5-year-old, male American shorthair cat looking for a new home. He was turned in because his previous owner was allergic. He's super sweet and great with other cats. He is available for adoption at the Sumter SPCA.



BELOW: Meet Millie, a 5-month-old boxer/pit mix. She is super sweet and available for adoption at the Sumter SPCA.

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

SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL PETS OF THE WEEK



ABOVE: Meet this adorable pup, Conrad! He is 5 to 6 months old, 23 pounds and full of puppy fun. This cutie is bursting with puppy energy, wagging tail and plenty of love to share. He adores playing outside, running around with his doggy friends and soaking up every moment of fun. Sadly, this sweet boy has never had a home of his own. Conrad is looking for a family with patience and love to help him learn the ropes of living indoors. In return, he promises endless joy, tail wags and unconditional love.



BELOW: Meet Curtis! He is 27 pounds, 6 to 8 months old and very handsome and playful. Curtis is an adorable puppy who steals hearts everywhere. He is full of joy, puppy energy and love. Everyone he meets instantly becomes his new best friend. This sweet boy is as handsome as he is playful, and he'll fit right in with any family ready to welcome a puppy. Like all young pups, he may need some gentle training and patience as he learns, but Curtis is truly a gem waiting to shine in a home of his own.

If you're interested in meeting one of these pets at Sumter Animal Control, 1240 Winkles Road, call (803) 774-3232 or email sumterstrays@gmail.com. As with all of our adoptable pets, a spay or neuter agreement is required, and it is strictly enforced. Proof of spay/neuter after adoption will be required. Visit Sumter Animal Control online at *www.savingsumterstrays.com* or find them on Facebook.

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

SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL NEEDS YOUR HELP. We are looking for people to walk dogs, foster or help with transport. We desperately need 9 a.m. Monday – Friday walkers. Message us if interested. Must be at least 18 years old. Don't have extra time to be a volunteer? We gladly accept donations of the following: newspapers, puppy pads, canned and dry puppy food, paper towels, Clorox wipes and heavy duty slip leashes. You can also donate from our Amazon Wishlist under Saving Sumter's Strays at *https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/ wishlist/10Q422KA0MI19*. All donations go toward helping Sumter County dogs. Our all-volunteer organization is making a big difference in the lives of so many homeless pets. Please help us continue to save animals.

the Sumter ITEM

SPORTS

Call: (803) 774-1221 | **E-mail:** sports@theitem.com

SECTION B

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 27-29, 2025

FOOTBALL IS BACK



TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Crestwood head coach Roosevelt Nelson, center, is doused in water as the Knights celebrate their first win at their new stadium on Friday.

Crestwood christens new stadium with blowout win over Manning

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Friday night was a long time coming for the Crestwood football team.

For decades, the program has made the weekly drive over to Hillcrest for their home football games.

That ended Friday night, as the Knights hosted Manning for their first football game on campus in the school's history. With a gorgeous turf field under their feet, the Knights put their new scoreboard to good use, piling up touchdown after touchdown in a 48-14 romp of the Monarchs. Crestwood doused head coach Roosevelt Nelson in water as they celebrated the first win in their new stadium.

"It felt tremendous, man," Nelson said of the victory. "Not having that commute, it definitely feels amazing. It was a

SEE **BLOWOUT,** PAGE B5



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilson Hall's Harris Naylor intercepted a pass in the Barons' season-opening win against Orangeburg Prep on Friday.

Wilson Hall cruises to 42-14 win over Orangeburg Prep in opener

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Wilson Hall football team didn't waste much time finding the end zone in their season opener against Orangeburg Prep. Just over a minute into the game, they held a 6-0 lead and never slowed down. The Barons led 35-0 at the half on their way to a comfortable 42-14 win.

"It was a good night," head coach Adam Jarecki said. "Everybody got to play, and that's huge early. We had a lot of people do some really good things. I'm just very proud of them."

Shep Vincent got the ball rolling with a long kickoff return to open the game, and Milling Galloway followed that up with a six-yard touchdown run to take the early lead. Cameron Wilsey followed with another six-yard score a few minutes later before Ford Wilder punched in a one-yard score in the final seconds of the first quarter to push the lead to 20-0. Galloway scored his second touchdown of the night midway through the second quarter before Ben McLaurin finished the opening half with a two-yard score.

With a running clock in the second half, the Barons rotated through backups after the break. The defense allowed two touchdowns, but Nolan Gooch was able to score his first varsity touchdown on a sneak to finish off the scoring for Wilson Hall.

SEE **CRUISING,** PAGE B2

Sumter High opens season with county win over Lakewood

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The football season in Sumter County kicked off on Friday with the first rivalry matchup between Sumter High and Lakewood at the Swamp. Lakewood got the first punch in, nearly returning the opening kickoff for a touchdown before punching in a quick score, but it was all Gamecocks after that as SHS ran away with a 41-13 win.

"Obviously, you want to win the first one, but we didn't start out very well," Sumter High head coach Mark Barnes said. "You've got to give Lakewood credit, they took advantage of a couple mistakes we made early. We only had one scrimmage, and that was by design, so we're still a little rough on the edges, and we haven't finetuned everything yet. It was a good win against a county rival. It was good to get that one behind us and continue to improve each week."

While Lakewood head coach Willie Offord loved what he saw early on Friday, he wishes his team followed through on the early success. The Gators were hampered by a few injuries at the line of scrimmage, but Offord said the collection of penalties and miscommunication was their biggest issue in the loss.

"We had some positives. We're a lot better than we were at this time last year," Offord said. "Hats off to them; they're a good club, but we beat ourselves in a lot of areas with a lot of mental errors. But, for the most part, I thought the kids fought, and I think we can build on a lot of that stuff."



PHOTOS BY NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR

Sumter High's Cayon Gordon (11) carries the ball against Lakewood on Friday.

After the slow start, Sumter High dominated on the ground to control the pace of the game. The Gamecocks piled up 351 yards on the ground, 100 of which came from quarterback Franklin Richardson. He scored one touchdown, while Reggie Shannon and Cayon Gordon each punched in a pair of scores. Shannon finished with 76 yards on eight carries, Gordon had 42 on nine touches, while Cleveland Pinkney III finished with 78 yards.

"Obviously that was a question mark coming into the season because we had Kam Fortune and John Peeples for so long. For three years, they've been in the backfield, so seeing all four of those guys play well was good," Barnes said. "We had some returning linemen. Three of those five were back, so that was good. We did not have a great night throwing the football. Frank didn't have one of his better nights, but he made plays with his legs and made a couple of really good throws."

Richardson didn't have as much luck through the air. On wet grass after a rainy afternoon, the Gamecocks struggled to keep their hands

SEE **SHS,** PAGE B5





LEFT: Sumter High's Ari Rendell (10) celebrates after recovering a fumble against Lakewood on Friday.

RIGHT: Lakewood quarterback Kaden Brown (3) passes against Sumter High on Friday.

CRUISING FROM PAGE B1

The Barons used both of their quarterbacks throughout the night, splitting time between Wilder and Gooch. Both signal callers will see the field regularly this season, with Wilder splitting out to receiver when Gooch is under center. Neither of them really needed to throw much with the comfortable lead, as the Barons attempted just three passes.

"Ford started out, had a great night, and Gooch came in and did a good job," Jarecki said. "Both did a nice job reading it; both did a nice job running it. It was a real good night all the way around."

Galloway finished with 67 yards on seven carries to lead the team, cashing in two touchdowns. John Land added 58 yards on four carries, while McLaurin chipped in 10 carries for 52 yards, a touchdown and two conversions. Wilder had 39 yards on four carries, and Gooch added nine yards on two carries. Wilson Hall had 214 yards on the ground by halftime and finished with 330 in total.

Jarecki also liked what he saw out of his defense, as a slew of Barons contributed. Harris Naylor had an interception, while Nehemiah Dinkins and Harris Huffman led the defense in tackles. Reese Wilson had a sack and recovered a fumble.

Wilson Hall gets an early start at region play as they face Northside Christian next week.

"That's a conference game; that's the one that counts, so we needed to have a good start to get our feet wet," Jarecki said. "We've got some things we have to work on, we always do, but it was a good night to find those things out and still handle everything."

LMA blasts John Paul II for 1st win under Noonan

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com



JANEL PRZYBYLA / THE SUMTER ITEM

From left, Laurence Manning's Shawn Moore, head coach Jimmy Noonan, Kib Newman and the Swampcats earned their first victory of the season on Friday over John Paul II.

The Laurence Manning football team didn't wait long to get their first win under new head coach Jimmy Noonan.

The Swampcats welcomed John Paul II on Friday for their season opener and ran into little resistance on their way to a 37-0 victory.

"Getting off on the right foot is the goal of every program and every coach. It's even more important when you have a coaching change, a new way of doing things," Noonan said. "Just the time of getting to know each other and the expectations, coming out with a victory in a pretty one-sided game is important because it justifies the hard work."

The LMA offense was on fire all night long. Grainger Powell threw just three incomplete passes, going 12-15 for 309 yards and three scores. Scoop Dennis caught two of those touchdowns, finishing the night with four catches for 121 yards. Rob Briggs added two catches for 92 yards, including a 78-yard TD. Six ballcarriers also split 23 carries for a total of 156 yards. Zy Dennis found the endzone on a touchdown run of 50 yards for the longest scamper of the night.

"It starts with the quarterback; it starts with the guys up front," Noonan said of his offense. "They've been the focus the last few weeks. We've been mixing and matching some guys to give some guys an opportunity to earn playing time. I'm really happy and proud of all of those guys up front. Tristan White has been solid all year up front, and of course our center, Kib Newman. Grainger Powell had a great night and, of course, he's distributing the ball to a lot of different folks. The Dennis brothers had a great night."

While the offense put up plenty of points, they also hurt themselves with penalties throughout the night.

"There's still an awful lot to work on," Noonan said. "We had over 100 yards of penalties, so when you take away the lost yards and points off the board, it really comes across as a sloppy night, offensively."

The defense got in on the scoring fun, too. Scoop Dennis' third touchdown came in the secondary, where he intercepted a pass and housed it for six. Jordan Hicks also picked off a pass for the 'Cats. Briggs led the defense with a sack and two tackles for a loss, while Pierson Gamble had a team-high 6.5 total tackles. Asher Sanders added four tackles and three tackles for a loss.

"Coming away with a goose egg is important for those guys, especially with a new defensive coordinator," Noonan said. "It's really by committee, and it has been since Day 1. The leader of the secondary is Shawn Moore; he's solid back there. Up front, we had a great night. The outside linebackers did a great job playing the quarterback; that's Rob Briggs and Asher Sanders. They both had great nights."

The Swampcats will next face off against a Heathwood Hall squad that managed to take down SCHSL school Hannah-Pamplico 14-0 on Friday.



the Sumter ITEM SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL · FRIDAY, DEC. 6

SUMTER HIGH	41	@	LAKEWOOD	13
MANNING	14	@	CRESTWOOD	48
SB EAGLES	0	@	E. CLARENDON	39
WILSON HALL	42	@	O-BURG PREP	14
JOHN PAUL II	0	@	LMA 'CATS	37
TIMBERLAND	27	@	LEE CENTRAL	12
WILLIAMSBURG	34	@	TSA GENERALS	7
SPART. CHRIST.	27	@	CH SAINTS	12



Lee Central runs out of gas as game slips away against Timberland

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Lee Central football team put itself in great position to topple Timberland in their season opener on Friday. At least, they did for three-and-a-half quarters.

Points were hard to come by all night, but a late punt return for a touchdown pushed Timberland ahead late, and the Stallions couldn't find a late stampede in a 27-12 loss.

"We felt pretty good walking away from the football game, knowing we had our chances to be in it. Our kids' heads are up walking out of that one, but we also learned that, when you play tough people, you not only need to play tough from the start, but when those teams decide to fight back, you have to continue to fight," LCHS head coach Justin Danner said. "I thought that Timberland, and they're a well-coached football team, fought very hard. They're a prideful program and they fought very hard to try to win the football game. Later in the football game, we had some guys begin to wilt a little bit and give in a little bit.

"That's a part of the growing process and we're hopeful that we can continue to grow and be in a better spot to finish football games as the season continues."

The Stallions had a relatively quiet night offensively as they worked with two young quarterbacks, Tyquez Adams and Jaylen Williams. Lee Centra focused on their ground game, finishing with 151 yards, while Adams completed two of his four attempts for six yards. Lee Central's first points came on special teams. After Timberland struck first with a touchdown midway through the second quarter, freshman Nysjay Smith took the ensuing kickoff back for a touchdown to tie the game at 6-6 with the first touch of his varsity career. The Stallions eventually jumped ahead 12-6 when Nycer Henry took a handoff 40 yards to paydirt in the third quarter. Henry would finish with a team-high 80 yards on the ground, while Xavier Reed added 61. LCHS maintained that lead into the final seconds of the third quarter, when Timberland punched in another touchdown to tie things at 12-12.



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM
Lee Central's Ezekiel Blake led the Stallions with 7.5 tackles and a tackle for a loss in their season opener against Timberland on Friday.

As the fourth quarter wore on, the Stallions ran out of gas. A punt return touchdown midway through the fourth quarter gave Timberland a lead they would not surrender. They would go on to add one more score to put the game away.

"We were playing well all night and we didn't cover the field like we needed to and their kid made a play," Danner said.

Despite Timberland breaking away late, Danner was proud of his defense for slowing down an offense with two big name recruits. Offensive lineman Desmond Green committed to Florida over the summer, and Jordan Gorham is the top-rated receiver in the state according to 247Sports.

"My kids fought," Danner said. "We had some great individual efforts up front with Ezekiel Blake and Savion (Williams) and Jacob Montgomery, those guys played pretty stout on the defensive line. We were worried about the kid they had at wideout, but I thought our DBs did a pretty good job of keeping him contained."

Jayden Burton made the first big defensive play of the night, intercepting a pass on Timberland's opening drive to stop the Wolves in their tracks. Ezekiel Blake led the team with 7.5 tackles and a tackle for a loss, while Jordan Rufus had 6.5 tackles and Reggie Epps had 5.5. J. Williams, who saw more reps at safety than quarterback, had 1.5 tackles and broke up two passes.

While the final score was disappointing, Danner thought his team was able to learn some important lessons in their opener as they prepare for one of the toughest regions in SCHSL 1A.

"As a coach, you want to find that right combination of tough people to play to try to get your team ready. Playing somebody like Timberland High School in Game 1 is definitely going to have you prepared," Danner said. "We know our conference is tough, so we want to grow up before we get there."

AREA ROUNDUP

Thomas Sumter, Laurence Manning, Lakewood, Clarendon Hall run in Battle of Camden

STAFF REPORT

The cross country teams from Thomas Sumter, Laurence Manning, Lakewood and Clarendon Hall all took part in the Battle of Camden on Saturday, coming away with some impressive results.

The Generals were the only local squad with enough runners to earn a team score, placing seventh in both the boys and the girls races. Skylar Spilker led the way for TSA, finishing eighth in the girls race with her time of 21:20.90. Keira Anderson and Annie Boss finished 40th and 41st, respectively, with times of 23:26.80 and 23:30.42. Risden Dunlap finished 64th, while Alexis Wiegel and Sophie Bell finished 71st and 77th.

On the boys side, Ty Fisher finished 15th for Thomas Sumter, crossing with a time of 18:08.23. Ashton and Aiden Pierce followed in 24th and 37th, respectively, with times of 18:33.40 and 19:07.18. Henry Sturkey finished 49th, and Samuel Peckham finished 87th.

While Laurence Manning didn't have enough runners for a team finish, they had the top local finish. Drew Beard finished seventh in the boys race with a time of 17:08.84. Ben Clegg finished 52nd with a time of 20:05.49, and Kole Squires finished 131st. On the girls side, Meredith Coffey placed 26th with a time of 22:47.15. Morgan Conklin finished 53rd with a time of 24:45.07.

Clarendon Hall sent just one runner, Willson Epps, who finished 122nd with a time of 26:44.

Lakewood only sent JV runners. They were led by Kaylon Wise, who took 70th with a time of 24:45.65. Jaziel Morales and Ethan Nichols finished 118th and 119th with times of 31:55.34 and 32:18.84. Leo Queen was close behind in 122nd.

VOLLEYBALL

SUMTER HIGH SWEEPS CRESTWOOD

The Sumter High volleyball team opened its season 1-0 on Monday with a sweep of county rival Crestwood.

The Lady Gamecocks took care of business 25-17, 25-16, 25-15 on the road. Laila Stanton led the offense with 15 kills, adding four digs, an assist, a block and a reception. Zila Berry dished out 20 assists to go with four aces and three digs. Bailey Ardis had 14 digs, seven receptions and a kill. Remy Shauf added six receptions, two aces and two digs. Ariail Lowder had 12 receptions, five digs and two aces. Mia Amore chipped in with five kills, four aces, a block and three digs.

Savannah Lindsay and Ronia Sanders each had four kills, while Kemoni Davis added three kills and six blocks. Taylor Johnson had seven digs, while Lindsay ad Zaire Ransom each added five. Lauren Temoney had four assists, while Lindsay added three more.

Crestwood won the JV match 2-1. Sumter won the opening set 25-22 before Crestwood took the next two 25-17, 15-6.

Lauren Gristwood led SHS with five kills.

WILSON HALL GOING 3-1 IN MINI TOURNEY

The Wilson Hall volleyball team hosted a mini tournament on Saturday, going 3-1 on the day.

They faced off with Williamsburg twice, winning both matches by 2-0 sweeps. They split with Carolina Forest on the day.

McKinley Bath led the offensive push with 30 kills and nine aces. Beaty Zeigler added 16 kills and a team-high four blocks. Natalie Hawkey dished out 54 assists. Savannah Wells had 27 digs, while Addie Griffin had 21. Kira Stelle had seven aces and three blocks.

LAKEWOOD DROPS OPENER WITH LAKE CITY

The Lakewood volleyball team opened its season against Lake City on Monday, falling 3-1.

The Lady Gators won the opening set 25-14 before falling 24-16 in the second. The final two sets came down to the wire, with Lakewood falling 25-20, 25-22.

Liberty Stevens led Lakewood with five aces and five kills. Aurora Mullins added three aces and two kills. Camori Glen had two aces and two kills. Ze'leya Leonard had two aces, while Zaylin Rose had a kill and an ace.

JV TENNIS

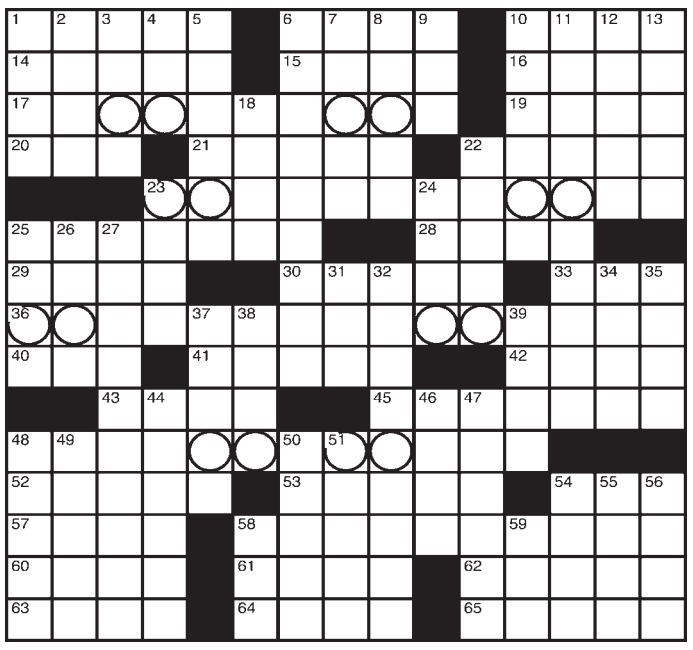
WILSON HALL BEATS CA

The Wilson Hall JV volleyball team defeated Carolina Academy on Monday 6-3.

Carson Giddens won at No. 2 8-3 over Macey Gamble, while Marit Deakin beat Emily Lyerly at No. 5 by the same score. Sophia Levi won 8-6 at No. 4, while Mina Hunt won 8-4 at No. 6. Addison Hines fell at No. 1 8-4, while Lauren Kohl fell at No. 3 by the same score.

Hines and Giddens won 8-4 at No. 1 doubles, while Deakin and Hunt won 8-6 at No. 3. Kol and Levi fell 8-6 at No. 2.

CROSSWORD



Across
1 Tropical flora
6 Site with handcrafted inventory
10 Lhasa __
14 Word after solar or lens
15 Copy, informally
16 Vague reply to an ETA request
17 Traditional social group
19 "__ it ironic?"
20 About 5 mL
21 Prima __: at first sight
22 1:1, for one
23 Historic hockey game at Lake Placid
25 "Love is __, love is kind ... "
28 CEO's aide
29 Couple
30 What Diaper Genie filters trap
33 Long of "The Best Man Holiday"
36 Dress blues, e.g.
40 Took a lunch break
41 Genesis
42 Overlying
43 Deer dad
45 Decreases
48 Setting for amateur hour
52 Drop out unexpectedly
53 Starr on the skins
54 Distracted driving awareness TV spot, e.g.
57 Plunge
58 Zoned climate control options, and what this puzzle's circled letters form
60 Towel finisher
61 Dark skies, perhaps
62 Alternative to a fidget spinner
63 Encouraging cries
64 Maritime hazard
65 Calendario starter

Down
1 Incredulous sound
2 "Pity, really"
3 Prop in "Aladdin"
4 3D diagnostic tool
5 Pic taken at arm's length
6 Those responsible for class actions?
7 Viking garment
8 Sales pitch
9 To this point
10 "Crazy Rich __": Jon M. Chu rom-com
11 Tacky method of communication?
12 Video game character who attacks by rolling into a ball
13 How many ballerinas perform
18 Michaels purchase, perhaps
22 "Scandal" actress Portia de __
23 "Bosch" actress Rogers
24 Take home, as pay
25 Soft, strong cotton
26 Still going
27 Option for long-distance medical consultations
31 Easter purchase for 46-Down
32 Summarizing
34 Element that makes blood red
35 Fires (up)
37 "The Christmas Song" composer Mel
38 Body prefix
39 Like Formula One cars
44 Places for spats
46 Easter basket items
47 "Ye Olde" boutique
48 Many a promotional email
49 Silver, in Spanish
50 Focus of forensics shows
51 Brock Purdy, for one
54 Half-__: skate park element
55 Use a spoon to homogenize
56 Concerning
58 Group of meerkats
59 Chaney of old films

JUMBLE

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

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

LUVTA

PGHRA

NIEOLN

ESDLTE

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

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS



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

Jumbles: VAULT GRAPH ONLINE ELDEST
Answer: When they completed the jigsaw puzzle, they were — ALL TOGETHER



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

East Clarendon head coach Larry Cornelius talks to freshman running back Skylar Cornelius (2) on Friday.



East Clarendon's Shamar Graham (9) pokes the ball loose from Scott's Branch junior Jaden Dixon (3) on Friday.



Scott's Branch junior Nyren Bowman (6) carries the ball against East Clarendon.

East Clarendon has roller coaster opener as injury overshadows dominant victory over Scott's Branch

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The East Clarendon football team experienced the entire roller coaster of emotions when they hosted county rival Scott's Branch on Friday night.

All night long, the scoreboard looked perfect to the Wolverines. EC pitched a shutout on their way to a comfortable 39-0 win, but tragedy struck just before halftime.

Takoda Cornelius, the Wolverines' do-it-all offensive weapon and starting safety, went to lay down a block when a teammate clipped his leg. The senior immediately went down and eventually needed to have an ambulance called. In an instant, his final year of high school football ended with a series of lower-body injuries. It left what should've been a perfect start to the season for EC feeling a little hollow, especially for his head coach and father.

"Takoda got hurt with two minutes left, which (stinks) because I was pulling him at halftime," head coach Larry Cornelius said. "He was feeling good; he was going to finish that drive. We were more than likely going to run it out. He was just doing what he was supposed to do, and it's what every one of our receivers on the team need to do on the play. It was a run play, and he was trying to cut off the outside backer, worked and got inside leverage on the kid and just got rolled up on by a running back. He had a heck of a block."



East Clarendon's Takoda Cornelius, center, throws a touchdown pass against Scott's Branch on Friday.



East Clarendon's Crosby Timmons (26) celebrates a touchdown with Shamar Graham (9) on Friday.



Scott's Branch quarterback Jaiven Conyers rolls out to pass on Friday.

On the other side of the field, it was a tough day at the office for the Eagles. Scott's Branch head coach Pat Fleming was disappointed by his team's performance as they look to build on their playoff appearance from a year ago.

"East Clarendon is a well-coached team. Our guys came in and, like we tell them all the time, we can't make plays for them," Fleming said. "We were in position; we just didn't execute. It was poor effort all around, starting with the coaches.

"It starts up front. Those guys were fatigued, we got some penalties early, they got frustrated, and it was just an avalanche effect."

Before the injury, T. Cornelius found the end zone on his only passing play of the night, a short-yardage triple-option play where he connected with Crosby Timmons. He also caught two passes for 36 yards. Jordan Green opened the scoring with a receiving touchdown from Gavin White. The two connected on another score later in the game. Skylar Cornelius and Blease Hardy each had rushing scores with the youngest Cornelius adding two conversions. East Clarendon finished with 127 rushing yards, split between the two touchdown rushers and Tyquan Wilson. White threw for 178 yards, 77 of which went to Green. Barnes McConnell added a 40-yard reception.

"It was great; all three quarterbacks got in the scoring," Coach Cornelius said of his eldest son, White and Hardy. "Gavin took most of the snaps, but we put Blease in there a little bit, kinda shuffling between running back and quarterback."

The fun wrinkle in the point total came on a 29-yard field goal from Diego Sanchez, a rarity for the Wolverine program.

"I don't know the last time East Clarendon kicked a field goal," the EC head coach said. "He put it through the uprights, so that was a great moment."

Defensively, East Clarendon held Scott's Branch to 103 total yards, 89 of which came through the air. Jesse Floyd, Jamori Green, Matthew Boyd and Thomas Fitts each recorded a sack. Fitts also added a forced fumble, Braylon Brown broke up two passes and had three tackles, while S. Cornelius had three tackles and recovered a fumble. Jaylon Barron had two tackles for a loss.

"I thought our DBs had a hell of a game. They had one long catch on us, which was great effort on their part. I think we had one PI (pass interference) called against us. I wouldn't say it was flawless on defense but a great effort," Coach Cornelius said. "One of our goals was, after we dressed our 42 guys, to get all of those guys in, and we were able to achieve that, get all the backups and young guys in, so it was nice to see that."

For Scott's Branch, the Eagles hope that this can be a wakeup call for a group that built a lot of confidence during the past 12 months. They're already down one non-region game because Hemingway elected to cancel its season, so they only have next week's game against Manning and a matchup with Lake City to gear up for region play.

"I'm highly disappointed," Fleming said. "I expect to be in every ballgame."

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BLOWOUT

FROM PAGE B1

great atmosphere, and the kids played their tails off tonight. This game was dedicated to all of the former players, coaches and staff for being a part of it, as far as getting it from Point A to Point B. We wanted to put on a show for them."

Marek Yates and Jayden Martin will be a trivia answer for years to come for Crestwood, as the sophomore quarterback and wide receiver connected for the first touchdown in the history of the field. The pair would team up for a total of three touchdowns in just the first half on their way to a dominant victory.

"They (Manning players) were talking to me before the game, saying I wasn't going to do nothing the whole game, but we had to show those boys. 48-14 on the scoreboard in the first game here to make history," Martin said. "It feels good because a lot of people are saying we don't deserve the field. We came out here and showed them we deserved the field, and we're going to do something with the field."

It was a rough night overall for Manning. Tackling was an issue for both sides for most of the night, but Crestwood was able to stack up explosive plays in the win. The Monarchs were playing without their biggest star, Jontavious Canty. The linebacker and



PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Crestwood's Jayden Martin (4) celebrates with Kameron Edwards after scoring a touchdown against Manning on Friday.

running back injured his hip during their first scrimmage and won't be available for at least non-region play. His replacement at running back, Lavon Stevenson, had a few solid runs before being ejected for some extracurricular activities after a sack, which led to an eventual second-and-72 for the Monarchs after a pile of flags hit the turf.

"We had to move him from tight end to tailback, and this was his first time at tailback under the lights. He got out to a pretty good start, and then he had a little mental breakdown there," head coach Reggie Kennedy said. "We've got to get him through it and coach him through it and learn from it."

Despite the lopsided final score, Kennedy tried to find some positives on a tough opening night.

"We're not going to see a defensive front like the one we saw tonight. That front seven for them was really good. The linebackers can run, they were strong, hit the point of attack real well, had some big bodies on the line. We did a pretty good job of controlling the line of scrimmage for most of the night, though," Kennedy said. "I feel real good, believe it or not. There's a lot of positives for the first time out.

"It's a good measuring stick for us as a staff and a good measuring stick for our team. That's one thing about playing these guys. It's a local rivalry. It gets a little chippy sometimes, but overall, Coach Nelson, I have a lot of respect for them, and they have a lot of respect for me."

The young stars came to play for Crestwood all night long. While Yates and Martin were hitting explosives through the air — which turned into touchdowns of 29 yards, 69 yards and 10 yards, respectively — freshman Brayden Boults and junior Calvin Wofford were dominating the ground game. Boults made his varsity debut count, running wild for a 42-yard touchdown for his first score of the night before punching in a nine-yard score in the second half. Wofford used his mix of speed and power to punch in a short score in the third quarter, which ended the night for the CHS starters.



Manning quarterback Lovell Stevenson throws a pass on Friday.

The reserves got in on the fun when Jordone Gadson scored the game's final touchdown with 1:24 to play.

In total, Yates finished 9-13 for 181 yards and three touchdowns. Martin finished with five catches for 117 yards and three scores. Boults had 10 carries for 106 yards and two touchdowns, while Wofford had 11 carries for 78 yards and a touchdown.

"It's a good thing that all of those kids, none of them are seniors. They're still young players, and they play bigger than their age group," Nelson said. "I think Marek Yates is an individual that hasn't been talked about a lot but does a great job as the point guard, facilitating."

The bright spot for Manning offensively, outside of a few gashes on the ground, was the connection between quarterback Lovell Stevenson and receiver CJ Robinson. The duo linked up for two long touchdowns on the night.

"They kinda add to the offense," Kennedy said of their expanded passing game this season. "We want to try to be balanced, 70-30 run-pass, and I felt like we did a pretty good job of that tonight."



ABOVE: Lakewood's Justin Green (5) celebrates against Sumter High.



RIGHT: Sumter High's Joseph Chapman runs after a catch on Friday.

PHOTOS BY NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR

SHS

FROM PAGE B1

on the ball in the air. He finished 3-14 with a touchdown and an interception, which Jahmari Witherspoon snagged on a deflected pass. Joseph Chapman led the team with two catches for 40 yards and a touchdown.

"We had a little trouble with the wet ball, but that'll come with experience. I don't know if we played a wet game last year. I don't even know if we had a rain practice," Barnes said. "He got more comfortable with it as the game went on and we had some opportunities and, like anything else, we'll get better with those as the year goes on."

The Gamecock defense played well all night, holding Lakewood to 109 yards of total offense despite playing without most of their starting secondary. Barnes appreciated the way different guys stepped up. Bryce Allen forced a fumble and had six tackles. Cameron Bradley added 11 tackles and 2.5 tackles for loss. Ari Rendell recovered a fumble and had a tackle in the backfield. Elijah Brunson added a sack and 2.5 tackles for a loss. Damarion Holmes and Berkley White teamed up for a sack, while Holmes finished with nine total tackles and 3.5 tackles for a loss and White had 1.5 tackles for a loss and three total tackles.

"We're playing without a lot of people over there right now," Barnes said. "Some people were forced into activity that we maybe didn't plan to see as much activity, but they did a good job of settling in as the game went on. We didn't give up many explosive plays, which is a good sign early in the year. You're always going to tackle worse early in the year, but we were not awful at tackling. We seemed to do a good job of leveraging the ball. We were pleased defensively."

Kaden Brown got his first start at quarterback for the Gators and was a bright spot at times. He was 8-17 for 50 yards, and Ziggy Offord was his top target with three catches for 34 yards. Brown led the team with 44 yards on the ground, scoring both of the team's touchdowns. The first came after the long kickoff return before punching in a second in the fourth quarter. James Brand added 27 yards on five carries.

"He showed some athleticism. Just like everyone else, he made some mistakes, but his energy was positive. He's a tough kid," Offord said of Brown. "We know we have a lot to work with there; he's going to have a bright future."

The Gamecocks host White Knoll next week. Early last season, their overtime win over the Timberwolves was a premier victory that helped spark their run to the SCHSL 5A DI lower state championship game.

Lakewood, meanwhile, will host Westwood next week as they continue their run through non-region play looking to take another step.

"We have to execute and eliminate mental errors," Offord said. "Penalties happen, that's part of the game, but we can't afford to make mental mistakes playing 4A football."

Sumter native strikes deal to make USC Salkehatchie 1st NJCAA school with Urban Edge Network streaming

USC SALKEHATCHIE

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie proudly announces a groundbreaking new partnership with Urban Edge Network (UEN), a trailblazing 24-hour streaming network recently featured in USA TODAY for its innovative role in collegiate sports broadcasting. This agreement makes USC Salkehatchie the first National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) member to secure a streaming deal with UEN.

Through this partnership, Salkehatchie fans, families and alumni will have unprecedented access to live-streamed games, highlights, and exclusive content—all at no cost—giving supporters the ability to follow the Indians from anywhere in the world.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our athletic program and our institution," said USC Salkehatchie Athletic Director Chris Brown, a Sumter native who served as the AD at Morris College prior to his move to the USC system this year. "Urban Edge Network has a reputation for delivering high-quality, accessible content, and we are thrilled to be at the forefront of this movement for NJCAA schools. Our fans, families, and alumni will now have the ability to watch our games live, which is a game-changer for our community and for our recruiting efforts."

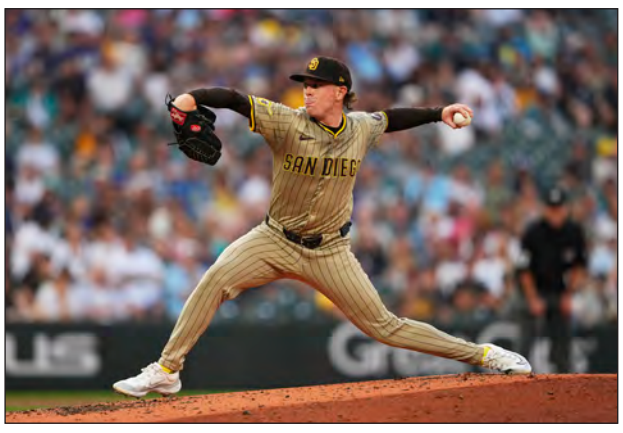
Urban Edge Network specializes in amplifying the visibility of schools and leagues that are often underserved by traditional media. With a focus on creating pathways for exposure, UEN's platforms—such as the widely recognized HBCU+ app—are already available across Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, Samsung Smart TV, iOS, and Android devices, making their content accessible to millions of households.

"USC Salkehatchie is making history with this partnership, and we are proud to walk alongside them," said Hardy L. Pelt, Founding Member and Chief New Officer of UEN. "Our mission has always been to support and elevate underserved sports properties, giving student-athletes, fans, and alumni a stage to shine while also connecting those programs with brands eager to grow their market share in these vibrant communities. This is more than streaming — it's about building ecosystems of opportunity."

Fans can expect comprehensive coverage of Salkehatchie athletics, including live home game broadcasts, recaps, and behind-the-scenes features, extending the reach of the program far beyond South Carolina.

ABOUT URBAN EDGE NETWORK (UEN)

Urban Edge Network is a premier content platform and advertising network dedicated to amplifying the voices of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), NAIA schools, and the NBA G League. UEN delivers over 2,000 live sports events and curated cultural content through digital, CTV, OTT, and social media channels, reaching millions of engaged viewers.



Former Wilson Hall star and current San Diego Padres starting pitcher JP Sears throws against the Seattle Mariners on Monday, Aug. 25, in Seattle.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sears allows Raleigh's 50ths as Padres fall to M's

BY LUKE OLSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Cal Raleigh hit his major league-leading 50th homer, Jorge Polanco drove in four runs and the Seattle Mariners beat the San Diego Padres 9-6 on Monday night.

J.P. Crawford had two hits and two RBIs as Seattle moved within 1 1/2 games of idle Houston for the AL West lead. Josh Naylor had two hits and scored twice.

Raleigh hit a solo shot off Wilson Hall graduate JP Sears in the first for his third homer in two games. The 419-foot drive to left had a 107.2 mph exit velocity.

Raleigh joined Mickey Mantle as the only switch-hitters to hit 50 homers in a season, and he became the eighth player in major league history to reach the half-century mark in August.

Fernando Tatís Jr., Gavin Sheets, Jake Cronenworth and Ramón Laureano homered for San Diego (74-58), which dropped into second in the NL West with the Dodgers' 7-0 victory over Cincinnati. Cronenworth and Luis Arraez each had two hits.

Tatis capped the Padres' four-run second with a two-run drive for his 18th homer. It was his first homer since July 24.

The Mariner scored five times in the fifth off David Morgan (1-2), who entered after Sears was pulled with two outs in the fourth.

Naylor drove in Julio Rodríguez with a tiebreaking single, and Polanco made it 7-4 with a two-run double. Crawford added a two-run single.

Polanco also hit a two-run drive in the second for his 20th homer.

Seattle's Bryce Miller (3-5) permitted four runs and six hits in five innings.

PHILLIP HALE ABBOTT

Phillip Hale Abbott, 69, husband of Norma Owens Abbott, passed away Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, at his home in Sumter. Born in Roanoke, Virginia, on March 1, 1956, Phil was the son of the late Geneva "Sissy" Abbott and Jack Hale Abbott.

Phillip married his high school sweetheart, Norma, in 1977. He retired in March 2024 from a career as machinist millwright in Bishopville, S.C. If you needed something fixed, Phil could fix it and probably make it better than before. His father-in-law, Ladson Owens (Norma "Bootsie"), introduced him to fishing, which became a lifelong passion. Anyone who knew Phil enjoyed something he caught in the ocean.

Surviving are his wife; daughter, Katherine Dowdney (Sam) of Folsom, California; son, Jack Abbott (Maggie) of John's Island, S.C.; niece and bonus daughter, Caroline Blakeslee of Columbia; and five beautiful grandchildren who adored him fiercely and will miss their beloved "Poppy."

Norma, Katherine and Jack extend their heartfelt gratitude to Phil's brother Tommy Abbott (Valerie) and Prisma hospice for their support and care during Phil's illness.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of First Presbyterian Church in Sumter.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to pediatric oncology at MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital, 18 Bee St. Charleston, SC 29403 (please specify pediatric oncology/Phillip Abbott memorial).

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

Elmore Hill McCreight
Funeral Home and Crematory

WILLIAM REED


REED

William Reed, affectionately known as "Pat," was born on July 15, 1947, to the late Robert "Sap" Reed and Lillie Mae Miller Reed. On Aug. 21, 2025, at Regency Hospital in Florence, Pat peacefully transitioned from this life and was called home to be with the Lord. William was a proud 1967 graduate of Ebenezer High School. Shortly after graduation, he answered the call to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Army, where he served with honor and dedication. A man of strong faith and steady character, William was baptized at Union Baptist Church and served faithfully on the Trustee Board.

William's legacy of strength, faith and unconditional love lives on through his children grandchildren and all who were blessed to know him.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the home, 75 Horatio Hagood Road, Rembert.

A Celebration of Life service will be held 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025, at Union Baptist Church, 5840 Spring Hill Road, Rembert, with the Rev. Dr. Walter Robertson III, pastor.

Burial will follow in the 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*

MCKINLEY MURRAY JR.

McKinley Murray Jr., 70, died Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter. Born May 2, 1955, in Sumter, he was the son of the late Willie Mae Sigler Murray and McKinley Murray Sr.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the home, 1385 Grandville Court #5, Sumter.

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

SARAHA J. FLOYD

Saraha J. Floyd, 85, widow of Henry C. "Son" Floyd, died Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at her home.

Born Aug. 8, 1940, in Georgetown County, she was a daughter of the late Oake B. Barnhill and Allie Coker Barnhill. She was a member of Eastside Baptist Church. Mrs. Floyd retired from Pioneer Dress Company. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. She enjoyed cooking and also loved to watch hummingbirds.


FLOYD

Survivors include three children, Debbie Pack (Lee) of Sumter, David Floyd (Luisa) of East Norristown, Pennsylvania, and Steve Floyd (Melodie) of Sumter; eight grandchildren, Lee "Bubba" Pack IV (Amanda), John Kinlaw, Kelly Floyd, Lisa Marie Kinlaw (Adam Upton), Jennyfer Floyd (Josh Fry), Erica Floyd (Matt Faust), Kayla Hardee (Clayton) and Hannah Floyd; great-grandchildren, Austin Pack, Lauren Pack Gainey (Jacob), Madilyn Kinlaw, Molly Kinlaw, Koa Floyd, Hunter Floyd, Colton Upton, Jenny Floyd, Juniper Fry, Naomi Hardee and Wyatt Hardee; great-great-granddaughter, Emberlynn Pack; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Lisa Kinlaw; four brothers, John Barnhill, Sherwood Barnhill, M.D. Barnhill and Gene Barnhill; and one sister, Letha Welch.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at Eastside Baptist Church officiated by the Rev. Jerry Underwood. Burial was in Sumter Cemetery.

The family received friends from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at Eastside Baptist Church and other times at the home.

Memorials may be sent to Amedisys Hospice, 198 E Wesmark Blvd. Suite 2, Sumter, SC 29150.

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

DR. E. GLENN AYERS JR.

Dr. E. Glenn Ayers Jr. was born on Aug. 31, 1930, in a Presbyterian manse in Derita, N.C. He was the son of Ernest G. and Banna Linker Ayers. He died on Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at the age of 94. We, Glenn's family, are thankful for his long life and good health, and are grateful to have had him for so long.


AYERS

As times were tough in 1930, Glenn's parents made the decision to move their family from the big city of Charlotte to the Ayers family farm in rural Robeson County, where Glenn spent the first few years of his life living among extended family. Though Glenn's parents moved the family to Dillon, S.C., while Glenn was still a young child, he always kept one foot on the farm, spending summers, weekends and holidays there, growing close to his cousins, his aunts and uncles and always helping the family to bring the tobacco in at harvest time.

After high school in Dillon, Glenn went to Wofford College, graduating with a degree in Economics. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1952, serving for a year in Korea, and resigning as a captain before he moved to Columbia where he earned his master's degree in psychology from the University of South Carolina. A few years later, he earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Kansas.

In Columbia, Glenn met an energetic young woman named Laura Ellington in front of Caldwells Cafeteria. In time, Glenn and Laura married and became the parents of four children, Ernest of Seattle, Washington, Alice (Luis Cabrera) of Brisbane, Australia, Anne Fanatico (Mark) of Boone, N.C., and Michael (Tracy) of Whiteville, N.C. As the years went on, they were thrilled to become grandparents to Laura and Nicole Fanatico, Cristina and Kittrell Cabrera-Ayers, and Eric Ayers.

Glenn and Laura made their lives in Sumter, where Glenn worked as the program director and chief psychologist for the Sumter Clarendon Mental Health Clinic in Sumter and led the development and establishment of the Santee Wateree Mental Health Center. He retired from the center and continued a private practice until 2006. Civically, he was involved in the Kiwanis Club, the Salvation Army, the Samaritan House, the Sumter County Mental Health Association, the Special Needs Board of the Department of Mental Retardation, the Fortnightly Club and the Sumter Rotary Club, where he was on the Board of the Pastoral Counselling Center. He was a member of the American Psychological Association, the South Carolina Psychological Association, S.C. Psychologists in Professional Practice and the ethics committee of the S.C. Board of Examiners in Psychology.

As befitting someone who was born in a Presbyterian manse, raised in the Methodist church and confirmed in the Episcopal church in his 50s, Glenn has always viewed his faith as a journey. In Sumter, he worshipped at The Church of the Holy Comforter, where he served as a vestry member and past junior warden. He later rejoined Trinity United Methodist Church where Laura is a member. While at Holy Comforter, he chaired the Community Relations Committee, and as a member of the church's outreach efforts, helped establish a program to augment the Soup Kitchen of Emanuel Methodist Church, providing bag lunches for weekend meals for Soup Kitchen recipients.

If you knew Glenn, you knew this about him: he was the kindest person you could ever meet, a remarkably non-judgemental person. He listened well, responded thoughtfully. In his heart, he accepted people as they were, and it was only by example that he encouraged others to be better.

Glenn also had a gentleness about him, a graciousness. He was a bona fide Southern gentleman and carried that with him wherever he went. When he visited his daughter who was living abroad, her friends were amazed by his slow Southern drawl, by his natural, unforced courtesy, by his mastery of the gentlemanly art of hat-wearing, and by his seersucker suit, something they had never seen outside of the movies.

Besides his wife, his children, his sons and daughter-in-law, and his grandchildren, Glenn is survived by his younger sister, Jean (Jim) Skidmore of Montreat, N.C., in-laws Chris Ellington Mark and Jerry Mark, sister-in-law Vivian Ellington, numerous nieces and nephews, and by beloved family members in Charlotte.

Burial will be private.

A private service will be held by the family at a later date.

Memorials may be sent to The Hourly Workers Gift Fund (HEGF) at Covenant Place, 2825 Carter Rd, Sumter, SC 29150; The Bag Lunch Program at Holy Comforter Anglican Church, 213 North Main St., Sumter, SC, 29150; or Trinity United Methodist Church, 226 West Liberty St., Sumter, SC, 29150.

Online condolences may be sent to *www.sumterfunerals.com*.

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

Elmore Hill McCreight
Funeral Home and Crematory

MARY PATRICIA EGLY

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE — Mary Patricia Egly, age 78, beloved wife of Roger Egly, died on Monday, Aug. 18, 2025, at her home. 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.

Bullock Funeral Home
& Crematorium

LUESEEL WORKMAN SPENCER MILLER


MILLER

Lueseel Workman Spencer Miller was born Dec. 10, 1955, in Sumter to the late Hillard Workman and Luellen Young Spencer. At an early age, "Nellie," as she was affectionately called, was baptized and accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and joined Rafting Creek Baptist Church of Rembert, where she served on the Pastor's Aide Ministry. Lueseel attended the public schools of Sumter County and graduated from Hillcrest High School. Lueseel was employed with Sumter School District for over 20 years.

Lueseel departed this earthly life Thursday morning, Aug. 21, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter.

Her precious memories will be cherished by her husband, children, family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life service was held at noon Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at Rafting Creek Baptist Church, 3860 N. Kings Highway, Rembert, with the Rev. Melvin Mack, pastor.

Burial followed in Rafting Creek Baptist Church Yard 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 *williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com*. Visit us on the web at *www.williamsfuneralhomeinc.com*.

VICTOR BAKER SR.

Victor Baker Sr., 80, husband of Shirley Green Baker, died Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital, Columbia. Born May 7, 1945, in Sumter, he was the son of the late Sam Baker and Lucille Muldrow Baker.

The family received relatives and friends at the home on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, from 4 to 8 p.m., at 2280 Queen Chapel Road, Sumter.

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

MICHAEL WRIGHT

Michael Wright, 63, husband of Deborah Conyers Wright and son of Sarah McKnight Wright and the late Jerry Wright, was born on Sept. 7, 1961, in Sumter. He departed this life on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, in Lexington.

Family will receive friends at the home, 4364 B. Dosey Drive, Sumter.

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

SANDY ANN GEDDIE

Sandy Ann Geddie, 54, daughter of Johnnie Lee Johnson and the late Doretha Brown Geddie, was born on June 14, 1971, in Sumter. She departed this life on Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter.

Family will receive friends at 6195 Waco Court, Wedgefield.

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

MARILYN F. MCDOWELL

Marilyn F. McDowell transitioned on Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at Sumter East Health and Rehabilitation Center. Born Aug. 26, 1975, in Sumter County. She was the daughter of the late Duffie and Mary Louise Green McDowell.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 8 p.m. daily at the home of Pastor Alfreda Johnson, 20 Boot Branch Road, Sumter.

Service will be announced by Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home of Sumter.

MACK L. JAMES

Mack L. James, 71, husband of Shirley Brown James and son of the late Mack Neal James and Janie Ruth Davis James, was born on Jan. 27, 1954, in Sumter. He departed this life on Tuesday, Aug.19, 2025, at his residence.


JAMES

Public viewing will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025, at Beulah AME Church, 3175 Florence Highway, Sumter, with the Rev. Dr. Dwayne Bruce, pastor, the Rev. Drusilla Harvin, officiant, and the Rev. Tommy L. China Sr., eulogist.

Interment will follow in Beulah AME Church Cemetery, Sumter.

Family will receive friends at the home, 114 Green Ivy Court, Camden.

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

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

KENNETH WITHERSPOON

A public viewing for Kenneth Witherspoon will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Whites Mortuary LLC. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025, at 1 p.m. from Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church, 609 Manning Ave., Sumter, with the Rev. Dr. Marion H. Newton officiating. Interment will follow in Hillside Memorial Park.


WITHERSPOON

Kenneth, the husband of Betty Sweat Witherspoon, was born April 5, 1962, in Sumter to the late Ronnie Sr. and Susie Mae Watson Witherspoon.

He departed this life on Sunday, Aug. 24, 2025, in Sumter.

The family is receiving friends at 1047 Cherryvale Drive, Sumter, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Services are entrusted into the care of Whites Mortuary LLC - Dedicated to Excellence - Committed to Service.

THOMAS SPENCER

A public viewing for Thomas Spencer will be held on Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Whites Mortuary LLC. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025, at 11 a.m. from the chapel of Whites Mortuary, 517 N. Guignard Drive, Sumter. Interment will be held on Monday, Sept. 1, 2025, at 9 a.m. at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, 4170 Percival Road, Columbia.


SPENCER

Thomas was born March 25, 1958, in Sumter to the late Betty Ruth Spencer and Thomas Hunter. He departed this life on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, in Columbia.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC - Dedicated to Excellence - Committed to Service.

BEATRICE KNOX

A funeral service for Beatrice Knox will be held on Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025, at 4 p.m. from the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 100 Lynam Road, Sumter. Interment will follow in Paxville Cemetery, 1271 Keels Road, Manning.


KNOX

Beatrice was born Nov. 20, 1942, in Sumter to the late Arleathia Conyers Texidor and Spurgeon Knox.

She departed this life on Monday, Aug. 18, 2025, in Sumter.

Services entrusted to the care of Whites Mortuary LLC Dedicated to Excellence - Committed to Service.

MATTIE MAE PRIMES MCKNIGHT

Mattie Mae Primes McKnight, 80, widow of Booker T. McKnight and daughter of the late Albert Primes and Westley Lowery Primes, was born on Oct. 31, 1944, in Lee County. She departed this life on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025, at her residence.


MCKNIGHT

Public viewing will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.

Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025, at Gethsemane Apostolic Church, 851 Hwy 76 W., Lynchburg, with Pastor Orin B. McNeil II, pastor, officiating.

Interment will follow in Solomon Cemetery, Lynchburg.

Family will receive friends at the home, 40 Christopher Court, Sumter, on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2025, from 2 to 6 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.jobsmortuary.net*.

the Sumter ITEM CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application

Notice is hereby given that Sumter Speedway, LLC intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and ON premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 3230 Wedgefield Road, Sumter SC 29154. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than September 11, 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.

Notice Of Application

Notice is hereby given that Chandler MGC LLC DBA Sambinos. intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and ON premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 1305 Peach Orchard Road, Sumter SC 29154. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than September 12, 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.

Estate Notice Sumter County

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

Persons having claim against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the indicated Personal Representatives, appointed to administer these estates, and to file their claims on Form #371PC with the Probate Court of Sumter County Courthouse, N. Main Street, Sumter, SC, 29150, on or before the date that is eight months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, (unless previously barred by operation of Section 62-3-803), or such persons shall be forever barred as to heir claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements, indicating the name and the 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 amount claimed and the date when due, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Pete Miller
2025ES4300516

Personal Representative:
Kenneth Hamilton
PO Box 1774
Sumter, SC 29151
Kenneth Hamilton
Attorney at Law
PO Box 1774
Sumter, Sc 29151

Estate: Gertrude Folsom Marshall Keith
2025ES4300531

Personal Representative:
Eileene M. Evatt
13 Palmer Dr.
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Steven Burnice Moore
2025ES4300564

Personal Representative:
Michelle Louise Vance
3370 Wilton Dr.
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Lashonda Smalls
2025ES4300535

Personal Representative:
Candace S. Mitchell
3340 Lauderdale Lane
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate: Lymon Lee Brunson
2025ES4300529

Personal Representative:
Lymon Christopher Brunson
4150 Myrtle Beach Hwy
Mayesville, SC 29104

Estate: James T. Hodge
2025ES4300577

Personal Representative:
Mattie Yvonne Hodge
2460 Highway 521 South
Sumter, SC 29153

Estate: Wanda Jean Holloway
2025ES4300561

Personal Representative:
Tajma Lashea Davis
306 West Calhoun St.
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Bertina Lou Miller Parrott
2025ES4300534

Personal Representative:
Bryant Shantell Miller
6110 Myrtle Beach Highway
Mayesville, SC 29104

Estate Notice Sumter County

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

Persons having claim against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the indicated Personal Representatives, appointed to administer these estates, and to file their claims on Form #371PC with the Probate Court of Sumter County Courthouse, N. Main Street, Sumter, SC, 29150, on or before the date that is eight months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, (unless previously barred by operation of Section 62-3-803), or such persons shall be forever barred as to heir claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements, indicating the name and the 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 amount claimed and the date when due, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Charles R. Russell
2025ES4300560

Personal Representative:
Victoria L. Clary
1324 Ellison Road
Columbia, SC 29206

Estate: Dora Marie Green
2025ES4300581

Personal Representative:
Barbara Jean Green
3316 Spiral Lane
Effingham, SC 29541

Estate: Margaret Ann Fidler Rivers
2025ES4300110

Personal Representative:
John T. Rivers III
4870 Dubose Siding Rd.
Sumter, SC 29153

Estate: David Fairley McInnis, Jr.
2025ES4300521

Personal Representative:
David F. McInnis, Jr.
50 Paisley Park
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Linda Diana Jambard
2025ES4300223

Personal Representative:
Joseph Jambard
780 East Glouchester Ct.
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Jannie AKA Janie Mae Moses
2025ES4300573

Personal Representative:
Willie Lee Moses
5405 Plantation Dr.
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate: Jermaine Devon Sweat
2025ES4300555

Personal Representative:
Hazel S. Clark
5 Sawgrass Court
Sumter, SC 29150

Kelsey Willey
Attorney at Law
PO Box 313
Sullivans Island, SC 29482

Estate: Elizabeth Dubose Brogdon
2025ES4300579

Personal Representative:
Frederick E. Brogdon, Jr.
1101 Cutleaf Dr.
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Christine Heron Stockton
2025ES4300536

Personal Representative:
Pamela Bertelsen
1390 Barnwell Dr.
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate: Eddie Lee Harvin
2025ES4300545

Personal Representative:
Betty Jean Harvin
2155 3rd Court
Mayesville, SC 29104

Estate: Wayne Horace Johnson
2025ES4300578

Personal Representative:
Jacqueline Robinson
1331 Powell St. Apt. B 308
Norristown, PA 19401

Estate: Mathew R. Mack
2025ES4300533

Personal Representative:
Nicole R. Mack
740 Ripper Lane
Sumter, SC 29153

Estate: Charles Keith Gaulding
2025ES4300567

Personal Representative:
Melissa Adams
112 Riverbirch Road
Lexington, SC 29072

Estate: Harold Gregg
2025ES4300570

Personal Representative:
Alfred Lee Burgess
207 Webb Age
Sumter, SC 29150

Notice of Sale

NOTICE OF SALE 2025-CP-43-00112 BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: FIGRE Trust 2024-HE1 against Antonio Hill and Du-Ty Construction Consultants, LLC, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on September 2, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., or on another date, thereafter as approved by the Court, at the County Judicial Center in Sumter, South Carolina, to the highest bidder, the following described property, to-wit: The following real property is situated in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, and described further as follows: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, lying and being in the City and County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, together with all buildings and other improvements situate thereon, being shown on that certain plat of R. F. McLellan, CE, dated October 30, 1942, which plat is of record in the Office of Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina, in Plat Book S-5 at Page 177, according to which plat the said tract is bounded now or formerly and measures as follows: On the Northeast by Bradford Street, and measuring thereon 405 feet; on the Southeast by Council Street, and measuring thereon 3.1 feet; on the South by lands shown on said plat to be of Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and measuring thereon 341.2 feet; and on the West by lands now or formerly of Leroy Green et al., and measuring thereon 221.4 feet. Be all of said measurements a little more or a little less according to said plat. Less, however. All that certain triangular shaped strip of land lying, situate and being in said city, county and state, being described as follows: Beginning at the corner formed by the intersection of the Southwesterly line of Bradford Street with the Northerly line of the right-of-way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad between Sumter and Columbia, South Carolina, 30 feet at right angles from the center line of the main tract of said railroad; thence Westwardly with said right-of-way line, parallel with 30 feet from said center line, 82 feet to a point 12 feet Northwestwardly to the center line of a proposed connection tract of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad as located and to be constructed; thence Northeastwardly, concentric with and 12 feet from the center line of Bradford Street; thence Southeastwardly 36.5 feet, a little more or less, to the point of beginning; as shown in red on blueprint marked "No. 1" and made a part of the deed hereinafter mentioned. This triangular shaped tract of land having been conveyed to the Atlantic Land Improvement Company by Deed of George D. Shore. Jr., Executor, which deed is of record in the Register of Deeds Office in Deed Book F-6 at Page 291 where it was recorded on October 25, 1944. The plat to which reference is made is dated January 22, 1944, and was file for record in said office in Plat Book ZZ-5 at page 17. This being the same property conveyed to Antonio Hill by Sumter County Tax Deed from Carolina B. Richardson, as Treasurer and Tax Collector, dated July 10, 2023 and recorded July 10, 2023 in Book 1316 at Page 2573 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina. TMS No. 227-03-06-016 Property Address: 10 Bradford Street 8-16, Sumter, SC 29150 All persons in attendance are subject to having their temperature taken (non-touch or temple touch). Anyone that is visually or audibly symptomatic (fever, cough, shortness of breath, nasal or throat congestion, etc.) may be denied in person participation. Anyone that is otherwise symptomatic (loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) should not attend. Masks or facial coverings are not required but may be worn. Social distancing will be observed with at least six foot distancing between participants. TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity at conclusion of the bidding, five per cent (5%) of said 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 noncompliance. Should the successful 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, then the Master in Equity may resell the property on the same terms and conditions (at the risk of the said defaulting bidder). Should the Plaintiff, or one of its representatives, fail to be present at the time of sale, the property is automatically withdrawn from said sale and sold at the next available sales day upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or any Supplemental Order. The successful bidder will be required to pay for documentary stamps on the Deed and interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to the date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 11.6500%. THIS SALE IS SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES. Since a deficiency judgment is being demanded, the bidding will remain open for thirty (30) days after the date of sale, pursuant to S.C. Code ANN. Section 15-39-720, (1976). The deficiency judgment may be waived by the Plaintiff upon written request prior to sale. 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. Riley Pope & Laney, LLC Post Office Box 11412 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 799-9993 Attorneys for Plaintiff 7145

MASTER IN EQUITY'S SALE 2025-CP-43-00605 BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: Bank United, N.A. against Siona M. Johnson, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on September 2, 2025 at 12 o'clock noon, at the Sumter County Courthouse, 141 N. Main Street, Sumter, South Carolina to the highest bidder: The following described property, to wit: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land shown as Lot 89 on that certain plat of Joseph R. Edwards, RLS, dated June 8th, 1999 and recorded June 9, 1999 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 99 at Page 534, the metes and bounds of which are incorporated herein by reference in accordance with §30-5-250, Code of Laws of South Carolina, (1976, as amended). This being the same property conveyed to Felix Johnson and Siona M. Johnson, as joint tenants with right of survivorship, by deed of Sumter Boulevard Church of Nazarene, Inc. dated June 8, 1999 and recorded June 9, 1999 in the Office of Register of Deeds for Sumter county in Book 743 at Page 931. Thereafter, Felix Johnson died on or about March 27, 2023 vesting the subject property to Siona M. Johnson by operation of law. TMS # 248-15-03-023 Property Address: 704 Wen Le Drive, Sumter, SC 29150 TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with theMaster 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. If the Plaintiff's representative is not in attendance at the scheduled time of sale, the sale shall be cancelled 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 the time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Master in Equity may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at risk of the said highest bidder). As a deficiency judgment is being Waived, the biding will not remain open thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on the deed and recording of 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 6.25% per annum. SAVE AND EXCEPT ANY RELEASES, DEEDS OF RELEASE, OR PRIOR CONVEYANCES OF RECORD. SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES NOTICE: This sale will occur outdoors, on the front steps of the historical courthouse, facing N. Main St. All persons in attendance are subject to having their temperature taken (non-touch or temple touch). Anyone that is visually or audibly symptomatic (fever, cough, shortness of breath, nasal or throat congestion, etc.) may be denied in person participation. Anyone that is otherwise symptomatic (loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) should not attend. Masks or facial coverings are not required but may be worn. Social distancing will be observed with at least six foot distancing between participants. The Honorable Michael M. Jordan Master in Equity for Sumter County Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC 339 Heyward Street, 2nd Floor Columbia, SC 29201 803-509-5078 / File# 25-41577 Attorney for Plaintiff 7064**

Notice of Sale

Siona M. Johnson by operation of law. TMS # 248-15-03-023 Property Address: 704 Wen Le Drive, Sumter, SC 29150 TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with theMaster 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. If the Plaintiff's representative is not in attendance at the scheduled time of sale, the sale shall be cancelled 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 the time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Master in Equity may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at risk of the said highest bidder). As a deficiency judgment is being Waived, the biding will not remain open thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on the deed and recording of 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 6.25% per annum. SAVE AND EXCEPT ANY RELEASES, DEEDS OF RELEASE, OR PRIOR CONVEYANCES OF RECORD. SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES NOTICE: This sale will occur outdoors, on the front steps of the historical courthouse, facing N. Main St. All persons in attendance are subject to having their temperature taken (non-touch or temple touch). Anyone that is visually or audibly symptomatic (fever, cough, shortness of breath, nasal or throat congestion, etc.) may be denied in person participation. Anyone that is otherwise symptomatic (loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) should not attend. Masks or facial coverings are not required but may be worn. Social distancing will be observed with at least six foot distancing between participants. The Honorable Michael M. Jordan Master in Equity for Sumter County Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC 339 Heyward Street, 2nd Floor Columbia, SC 29201 803-509-5078 / File# 25-41577 Attorney for Plaintiff 7064**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

Public Notice: Duke Energy Business Services, LLC proposes the construction of a 37.8 meter AGL overall height telecommunications monopole within an existing substation facility located at 1805 Highway 521 South, Sumter, SC 29153 (Sumter County). The proposed communications tower will be located at latitude: 33° 52' 47.8" N, longitude: 080° 18' 52.1" W (NAD 83) and will have FAA lighting style "A", which requires the monopole to be painted aviation orange / white for day protection, and (2) steady burning lights at the top for night protection. The proposed communications tower can be identified by FCC Form 854 File Number A1314783. Interested persons may review the application by going to www.fcc.gov/asr /applications and entering the FCC Form 854 File Number A1314783. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. The Federal Communications Commission strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online, and instructions for making such filings can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalr equest. The mailing address for interested parties that would prefer to file a Request for Environmental Review by paper copy is as follows; FCC Request for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

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Announcements

NOTICE TO CITIZENS OF SUMTER COUNTY:
Pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedure Act, Section 28-2-70(c), Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, notice is hereby given that entry by personnel of the South Carolina Department of Transportation will be made in the area of the road described below for such purposes as topographic surveys, subsurface exploration, environmental related studies and for the gathering of any other data necessary for the planning, development of location alternatives, design, property acquisition, and construction of road and bridge replacement projects.
This project will consist of replacing the US 15 South Bound Bridge over the Pocotaligo River located in Sumter County. The project may also include improvements to the existing roadway in close proximity to the bridge. It is anticipated that additional right of way will be needed to construct this project due to new design standards.
More specific information about the project may be obtained by contacting Program Manager Tyler Davis (803) 737-1854 in Columbia, South Carolina.

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BUSINESS SERVICES

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T2 Golden Doodle Puppies (7 weeks old), 5 For Sale, come with CKC Registration papers . All puppies have been dewormed & have had 1st shots. Call or text Wade at 803-607-4255.

MERCHANDISE

Auctions

ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in 80 S.C. newspapers for only $375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 1.5 million readers. Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-803-750-9561.

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

4920 John Franklin Rd. (off Eagle Rd.), Fri. 9a-4p, Sat. 8a-1p. Men's new & used clth (lg), shoes, furn., vacuums & misc.

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Lawn, Flowerbed, Shrubbery, Leaf, & Pine Straw Service. Yards starting at $35. Pressure washing services. Call Bobby 803-983-5364.

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