the Sumter ITEM

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LOCAL SPORTS

MBNO gives back with 4th-annual basketball camp B1

Sumter sheriff's office updates public after arrest in killings

Bodies of women found in Rembert in August

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Sumter County Sheriff Anthony Dennis held a press conference on Monday, Sept. 15, to update the public on the investigation on the double homicide of two South Carolina women in August.



DRAKEFORD

On Friday, Sept. 12, the agency announced the arrest of 29-year-old Tiamo Henry Mitchell Drakeford, of Camden, in connection to the killings of Christine McAbee, 35, of Walterboro, and Kristen Grissom, 38, of North Charleston. Drakeford was charged with murder, possession of a weapon during a violent crime and desecration of human remains, according to Mark Bordeaux, public information officer for Sumter County Sheriff's Office.

At the press conference, Dennis detailed that Drakeford was arrested at a residence in Kershaw County and has not been cooperative.

According to earlier reporting, deputies arrived at Richbow Road just after 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 8, to find the bodies of McAbee and Grissom placed just off a driveway. According to Dennis, the women were acquaintances and their bodies appeared to have been transported and placed at that location, based on the conditions of the bodies when found and the landowner's inspection of the property 24 hours before the bodies were discovered.



GRISSOM



McABEE

Autopsy results confirmed the cause of death for McAbee as a gunshot wound. Results for Grissom are pending. Dennis said there were no physical identifiers as to what the cause of death was for Grissom.

Drakeford also resided in Charleston before moving to Camden and has an extensive criminal history, according to Dennis.

"This case involved drugs and possibly some solicitation," Dennis said. "It definitely could've been avoided."

The incident is isolated and more arrests are expected, Dennis added.

Several agencies, including SLED, North Charleston Police Department, City of Camden Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Kershaw County Sheriff's Office, assisted in the investigation. Dennis expressed his gratitude to all who assisted.

An investigation is ongoing, and more information will be released as it becomes available.



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sheriff Anthony Dennis, right, during a press conference on Monday, Sept. 15, to update the public on the double homicide investigation of Christine McAbee and Kristen Grissom in August.

Family, Sumter community members celebrate life of Greg Davis

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Every goodbye is softened by the memories we hold closest.

The stories that make us smile, the lessons that lead us and the moments that remind us of who they were — it makes grief heavy to carry but worthy to bear when it comes to keeping a legacy alive.



ALAYSHA MAPLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

A memorial for Greg Davis is seen at Skaterz on Sept. 13.

Which is why as community members and family gathered for the celebration of life Gregory Davis, known to many as Greg, on Saturday, Sept. 13, the memories shared felt as if he were still in the room.

It was his American Poolplayers Association jersey that reminded all of his

SEE **GREG,** PAGE A12



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Kids and adults are hurled upside down on a ride Saturday, Sept. 13. The American Legion hosted the Sumter fair at the fairgrounds near the Sumter County Civic Center, and the fair committee is extending the fair through this Sunday, Sept. 21.

Sumter fair extends run to Sept. 21, offers unlimited ride armbands

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Missed your chance at the 2025 Sumter County Fair?

The Sumter County Fair, hosted by American Legion Post 15, will continue for an extra week from Sept. 15-21, offering discounted gate admission and unlimited rides with purchase of an armband.

Kyle Wagner, general manager and director of operations for Hildebrand Amusement Rides, confirmed with *The Sumter Item* that the extension was driven by the fair committee's interest in a two-week fair format.

"I said I could probably make that happen on my end," Wagner told *The Item*. "We're happy to be here, and we want to build this into something bigger and better for everybody."

Shawn Custer, fair manager with Post 15, told *The Item* foot traffic was slow for the fair's opening week. The committee wanted to expand its run to offer folks the chance to come out and enjoy themselves.

Fair admission is $5 Monday

SEE **FAIR,** PAGE A13

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Phillip Carlyle Schaller II
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Dorothy Lee McKnight
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Anne-Marie Marcelle Jones
Ida Mae Thames Collins
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the Sumter ITEM

SECOND FRONT

E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

Sumter BJ's Wholesale Club membership registration begins on Friday

BY RHIANNON O'BERRY
rhiannon@theitem.com



Can you spot the gaggle of Canadian customers already lining up to check out the new BJ's?

RHIANNON O'BERRY/THE SUMTER ITEM

This Friday, Sept. 19, the membership center at 1140 Broad St. opens for Sumter's first membership-based wholesale store, BJ's Wholesale Club, across from Walmart Supercenter at 1475 Alice Drive.

This store is part of a push by BJ's to open 25-30 locations within the next two fiscal years. BJ's locations are concentrated in New England, as has been the case since the brand's inception. However, that is morphing, as evidenced by expansions into Texas and Indiana, for instance.

AVERTING WASTE AND FEEDING FAMILIES

The first BJ's opened in 1984; now there are 225 stores in 22 states. Over that time, BJ's has diverted millions of pounds of unsold food to charities through its partnership with Feeding America.

Feeding America reported in 2014 that BJ's had cumulatively donated 22 million pounds of unsold food by that time. In 2021, BJ's reported that figure had soared to 120 million pounds. That work will continue at this location.

"Our dedication to serving families doesn't stop at helping members save 25% or more over grocery store prices every day," BJ's told *The Sumter Item*. "When the club opens, we will also donate unsold food to Harvest Hope Food Bank each week as part of our partnership with Feeding America."

Harvest Hope Food Bank is the largest food bank in South Carolina, with more than 200 pantry locations including a few in Sumter.

Learn more below about what to expect when the club is open for shopping this winter.

DO I HAVE TO PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP TO SHOP HERE?

Yes – you cannot shop online, on the app or in-store for BJ's without membership, as is the case with other wholesale stores like Costco and Sam's Club. The exception is if you obtain a one-day shopping pass, which applies to online shopping only.

WHAT CAN CUSTOMERS BUY HERE?

Honestly? Just about anything. There is a large gas and diesel station, a deli, a bakery, groceries, TVs and electronics, patio and garden supplies, jewelry, books, an auto section with tires for sale, furniture, groceries, seasonal offerings and a lot more.

HOW MANY JOBS WILL THIS BRING TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY?

BJ's confirmed with *The Item* that this store will bring over 100 jobs, with hiring for this store already ramping up. Although this location is estimated to open this winter, on Sept. 15, there were already four job openings posted, including for an optical manager role with a minimum hourly wage of $30. By Sept. 16, there were 24 job openings posted.

THREE WAYS TO SAVE

- **Get your membership early and only pay two-thirds of regular rates in your first year.** Pay $40 instead of $60 for regular membership, or $80 instead of $120 for Plus membership.
- **Combine BJ's coupons with manufacturer coupons.** There are also two percent rewards on most purchases, and double or triple rewards during special events.
- **Save $10-$15 on $100 purchases for 90 days after store opening.** Members also get free curbside pickup; that's on any purchase for Plus members and any purchase above $50 for regular members.

BizTalk: New LensCrafters still coming; both Scooters locations and Claire's close

Eyewear retailer expected to open in former Legacies spot in Gateway Plaza

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com



PHOTOS BY BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

A new and remodeled LensCrafters store is slated to go into the former Legacies Bar & Grill spot next door to Yucatan Mexican restaurant, according to the eyewear retailer's longtime Sumter store manager. Construction has been delayed, but the new store is scheduled to open in January, a corporate project manager said.

A new LensCrafters is still coming to Sumter's busiest plaza despite a construction delay, but the news is not so good for specialty coffee lovers.

After closing in Sumter Mall in late March because of Liberty STEAM Charter School's expansion, LensCrafters originally planned to open in Gateway Plaza this month, but Sumter's longtime store manager said this week that the eyewear retailer has pushed back the relocation opening a few months.

On the flip side, both Scooter's Coffee Drive-Thru locations closed locally Sunday, confirming recent social media posts.

Sumter LensCrafters' location manager Tiffani Porter told *The Sumter Item* on Monday that she received formal communication from a corporate project manager recently that the vision-care provider is scheduled now to open in Gateway in January.

The new LensCrafters is still planned to open in the former Legacies Bar & Grill between Yucatan Mexican restaurant and Five Below and will also have a remodeled look, she said.

Construction is slated to begin soon.

LensCrafters was one of five or six mall retailers that had to close earlier this year due to Liberty STEAM's current expansion, adding its junior academy for grades 5-8 on site.

Porter added that LensCrafters was already planning to relocate to outside Sumter Mall, but the charter school's growth pushed everything ahead of schedule.

"It was just unusual circumstances for us," she said. "We were a much older store model that was due for a relocation anyway, and while we were inevitably going to move, I don't think anybody in our corporate office anticipated it would be when it was.

"It's so unusual for a school to expand into a mall and take up all these leases. We had been in the mall for more than 20 years, and as far as anybody knew, we just stay there until we didn't want to anymore."

Until the new store opens, customers' phone calls to the former mall store will continue to be routed to the Florence location, according to Porter, and LensCrafters also has three locations in Columbia.

SUMTER SCOOTER'S SHUTTER

After almost two years of serving its signature Caramelicious and Peanut Butter Crunch coffees locally, both Sumter Scooter's Coffee Drive-Thru kiosks closed on Sunday.



Sumter's Scooter's Coffee Drive-Thru location on Peach Orchard Road closed on Sunday. The Pinewood Road location also closed Sunday.

A local store employee told *The Item* on Friday that multiple locations in the Midlands were part of the closure and all the franchises involved were independently owned. On Monday, *The (Orangeburg) Times and Democrat* confirmed its local store had closed.

A recent social media post also listed a Lugoff store and two in Columbia, but Scooter's corporate officials did not return phone calls from *The Item* seeking confirmation. Scooter's has not announced any nationwide closures, according to internet research.

Sumter's two kiosks were on Peach Orchard Road and Pinewood Road, and both had written statements taped to the drive-through menu board on Monday that the stores permanently closed on Sunday.

CLAIRE'S CLOSES IN WALMART

Claire's, a fashion accessories retailer for young girls and teenagers, closed in Walmart Supercenter on Broad Street on Sunday.

A store employee confirmed the closing to *The Item*.

In late August, Claire's corporate officials announced the retailer would close 291 stores across the U.S. as part of its bankruptcy proceedings, according to various online reports.

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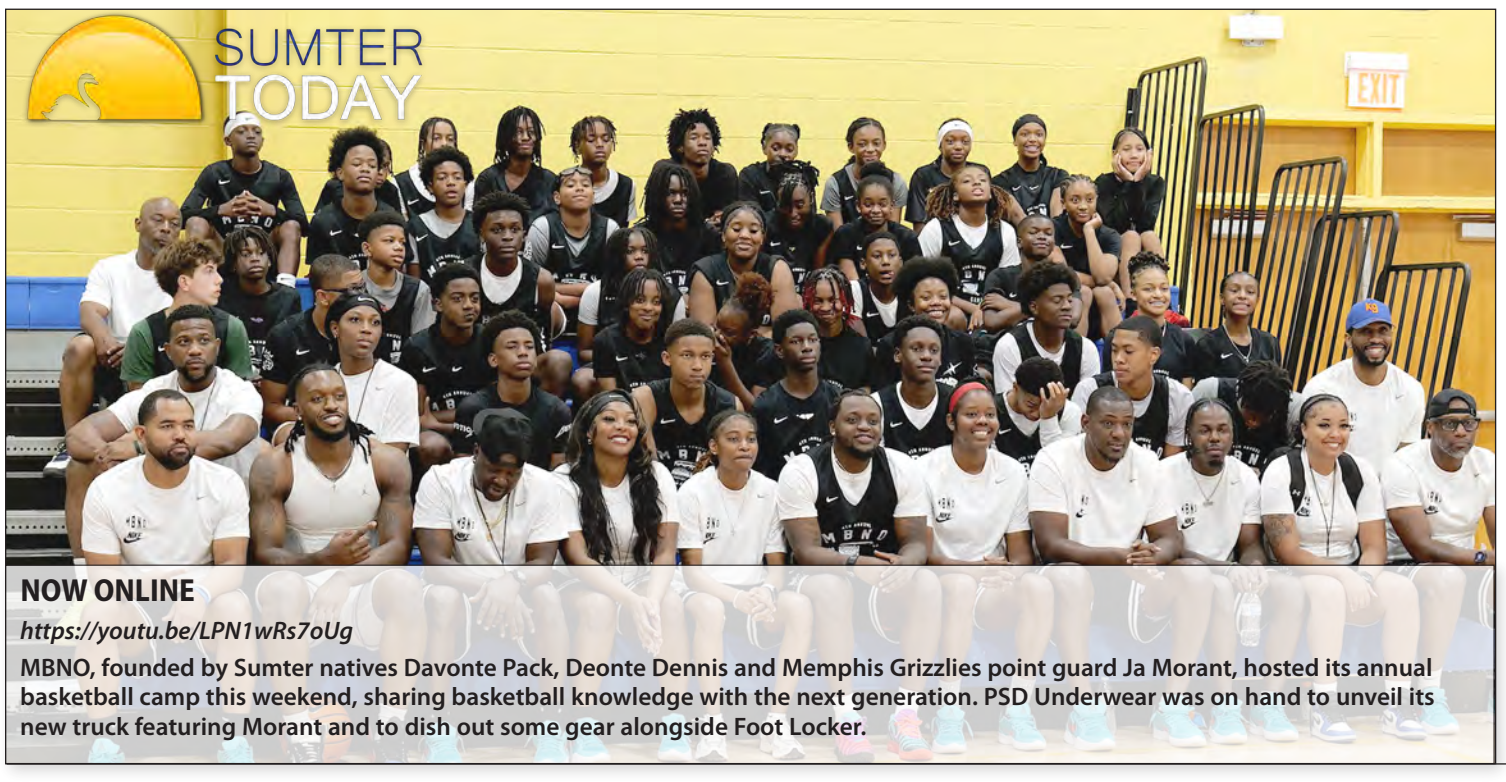
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https://youtu.be/LPN1wRs7oUg

MBNO, founded by Sumter natives Davonte Pack, Deonte Dennis and Memphis Grizzlies point guard Ja Morant, hosted its annual basketball camp this weekend, sharing basketball knowledge with the next generation. PSD Underwear was on hand to unveil its new truck featuring Morant and to dish out some gear alongside Foot Locker.

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SUMTER

SC Green Industry Association announces details for Fall Field Day 2025 set for Oct. 2

SUBMITTED BY SC GREEN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The South Carolina Green Industry Association will hold its 22nd-Annual Fall Field Day on Thursday, Oct. 2, at Modern Turf, 5740 Peach Orchard Road in Dalzell.

Registration at 8 a.m. will begin the day, with classes and exhibitor visits ending at 3 p.m. More than 40 exhibitors will be on hand to show their products and services.

Educational presentations, hands-on courses, equipment demonstrations, networking with exhibitors and a catered lunch will be offered during the event. Attendees can earn South Carolina Pesticide, North Carolina Pesticide, ISA Arborist and North Carolina Irrigation Contractors' License credits.

Presentations include:

— Warm Season Turfgrass Selection and Management, presented by Modern Turf;

— Harmonizing Design and Build with Practical Landscape Lessons, presented by DabneyCollins;

— Do's and Don'ts of Irrigation Installation, presented by The Toro Company;

— Using Pruning and Plant Growth Regulators to Enhance Tree and Shrub Performance, presented by Rainbow Ecoscience; and

— Emergent and Recurring Diseases and Pests, presented by Clemson University's Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic.

To register for the event, visit *https://scgreen.org*.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Sumter school board member the Rev. Ralph Canty makes remarks at a meeting this summer.

Canty stresses board unity is key to saving district

Numerous variables causing school enrollment decline in recent years

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

In Trustee the Rev. Ralph Canty's plea last week, he not only emphasized that the board's Master Plan Committee requests the school board's vision for such a plan, but unification is needed to save the district.

The longtime board member stressed local competition for students is bigger than ever before, enrollment is down, military personnel choose often to live elsewhere because of better perceived public schools, and all the while Sumter school board remains divided on rezoning versus a districtwide master plan or other issues.

The prioritization of "rezoning over a master plan" and "master plan over rezoning" and which should come first has been a board debate for six months. A project objective of rezoning all schools' attendance lines — or realignment as it is officially called — is to balance enrollments across the district. A theme in rezoning is moving students from higher-enrollment schools in the City of Sumter to lower-enrollment schools in the outlying county areas.

Increasing student counts at rural schools will help save them from closure in the future, though those trustees in favor of rezoning first are not saying that.

In his remarks, Canty listed that Wilson Hall might be at its highest enrollment in the school's history, Liberty STEAM Charter School continues to grow and board Chairman Shawn Ragin will be opening his own public charter next school year that will take more students from Sumter School District.

As competition grows, district K-12 enrollment is down about 21% in the last decade from 16,511 students in 2015-16 to 12,904 at the start of this year, according to official tallies. Even with pre-kindergarteners included, the district facilities' occupancy rate is 48.6%.

"Our numbers are in decline," Canty said, "so it's not about School 1, School 2 or School 3. It's about the system. It's about saving this school system, and if we are going to do that it means that we've got to work together as a board."

He said he thinks realignment has basically already occurred, just based on the "attrition" of students in recent years and that trend continues.

"So, if you shuffle some children from School A to School B [in realignment], it just means there are less students at School A," Canty said.

He added that the full board must clearly understand that less students translates to less funding and income for the district.

"So, what happens when we are down to 10,000 students and still have the same amount of schools that we have now, and just keeping the buildings open depletes our fund balance and we are bankrupt?

"You say that is far-fetched, but it isn't. It is as real as 2 plus 2. We must take the rural area and the urban area as one. We are one in this together and must not allow any one single item to derail us. We need to be on a course for building new schools methodically — one at a time."

He stressed that to get community support for a future possible referendum to build new schools, the full board must be unified instead of consistently voting 5-4 on key issues.

Canty added his opinion is that the master plan and realignment need to be tied together and occur at the same time in the future.

He then called for the board to have at least one vision-casting session, or meeting, to develop a unified vision for the master plan for future construction throughout the district during the next 30 years.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the trustees voted unanimously to postpone both rezoning and the master plan to work on that unified vision. As of Tuesday, a meeting had not been scheduled.

CHURCH NEWS

To update your listing or add a listing, please email *pressrelease@theitem.com* and include Church News in the subject line.

Providence Baptist Church, 2445 Old Manning Road, announces:

— Wednesday, Sept. 17, Monthly business meeting at 6:30 p.m.

— Sunday, Sept. 21, communion service, 11 a.m.

— Saturday, Sept. 27 through Thursday, Oct. 2, we will have Fruit of the Spirit Revival Services: How We Should Live in Light of Christ's Return

— Saturday, Sept. 27, the Rev. Bennie Barwick at 6:30 p.m., will speak on Love

— Sunday, Sept. 28, the Rev. Jim Palmer will speak at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Joy & Peace

— Monday, Sept. 29, the Rev. Sam Knight will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Long Suffering

— Tuesday, Sept. 30, the Rev. Kent Wilson will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Goodness & Kindness

— Wednesday, Oct. 1, the Rev. Jerome Underwood will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Self-Control

— Thursday, Oct. 2, the Rev. Jim Johnson will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Faithfulness & Gentleness.

Special Nightly Singing will be featured throughout the revival services with Christeen Hodge, the PBC Choir, Curt Ackerman, Keith Wilson, Hank Todd and the Rev. Wayne McElveen.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 226 W. Liberty St., Sumter, has refurbished its 1920s Steinway grand piano and will celebrate with a concert on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 3 p.m. Experience the beauty and harmony of the newly refurbished piano, enhancing worship services and community events now and for years to come. Performers will include members and friends of Trinity who will showcase the piano as a solo instrument and as an accompanist to other instrumentalists/singers. Nonmembers of Trinity are also invited.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Beth Lewallen and Christopher Roberts rehearse for Trinity United Methodist Church's concert, which will be Sunday, Sept. 28.

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 325 W. Fulton St., Sumter, will celebrate its 132nd Church Anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025 at 10:45 a.m. The guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Said Sewell, president of Morris College. Special music by the Morris College Choir.

Church of Christ, 313 Mooneyham Road, will hold October Fest at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. The public, gospel singers and choirs are invited to help the church praise and uplift the name of Jesus through song and praise.

Applications being accepted for Sumter Christmas Parade



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

SUBMITTED

The Evening Optimist Club is accepting applications for the annual Sumter Christmas Parade which will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

The theme for the 2025 Christmas Parade is "A Candy Cane Christmas."

If your school, civic club, church or business would like an application, contact Gail Hyatt at (803) 983-3916, or via email, *gailhyatt@sc.rr.com*. Deadline for entry is Friday, Nov. 14.

Living on Purpose: Freedom of speech is a God-given right



The Rev. Dr. Billy Holland

For the last few weeks, we've been talking about the end times and what the Bible says about the future. We've touched on the prophecies of the rapture, the coming tribulation, the AntiChrist and the second coming of Jesus. There are many interpretations of eschatology, which should stir us to study diligently about this important subject. One thing we can agree on is that Satan is turning up the heat with more lies, violence and aggressive hatred.

The Bible warns that compassion and basic human decency will dissolve from the conscience of those who choose to live without Christ. We mentioned how the Bible declares that severe persecution against Christians will increase as the masses continue to be confused about right and wrong and lose their discernment of good and evil. We can see this today as those who boldly speak against the delirium and darkness of sin are targeted as deranged extremists.



TESS CROWLEY / THE DESERET NEWS VIA AP

Charlie Kirk speaks before he is fatally shot during Turning Point's visit to Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, on Wednesday, Sept. 10.

On the subject of being attacked, I'm shaken and angry about the young political activist Charlie Kirk, who was assassinated last week. It does not matter if you agreed with anything he said or not, every person in this country has the legal right to express their thoughts and convictions without the fear of being murdered. He was challenging anyone to discuss and debate the issues that are dividing our nation and wanted to hear what people believe and challenged them to prove their ideas. Freedom of speech is the heart of our democracy, as millions of brave soldiers in the last 250 years sacrificed their lives so that we can enjoy this God-given right. Fear is the opposite of faith, and even though we are exterminated for publicly voicing our opinions, we will not be silenced.

Some are crying out to remove all guns from every person, but no gun law would have saved this man. We realize that guns, knives, crossbows, clubs, spears or swords by themselves do not cause destruction; it's the intentions of humans who use them as weapons to kill. Sadly, school shootings are becoming more common, but the real problem is spiritual blindness and mental illness. It's heartbreaking.

Why would any human being want to murder a child? Because they are suffering from psychosis and/or possessed with evil. In our talks lately about the rise in demonic activity and fascination for horror and death, we know that Satan is desensitizing the culture by glamorizing hatred and destruction as entertainment. As more individuals become obsessed with lies and destructive influences, we will only see a rise in horrendous acts of violence.

We develop and exercise our views through our free will — without murdering those we oppose. As we look back through world history, when someone disagreed with the messenger, they often killed them. Remember this happened to Jesus, as His brutal execution had everything to do with His convicting words. Cowards are afraid to calmly discuss issues because of their own lack of intelligence and will occasionally resort to the devious acts of silencing those they cannot debate. It's the easy way to eliminate an individual who threatens to expose them by challenging their weak opinions with common sense.

Satan hates God's gift of enlightenment, holy wisdom and understanding because he knows it is divine truth in love that can set the captives free. The strategy of the dark kingdom is to deceive the masses and turn the world into a state of chaos and falsehood for the purpose of stealing souls.

We are outraged and realize this is war. May we demonstrate our trust in God and accomplish the mission that Christ has called us to do. The sleeping giant is awakening, and we pray God's warriors will be inspired to rise and stand against evil. If we decide to give a speech from our local courthouse lawn tomorrow, we are literally at risk of being killed. The enemy wants God's children to hide and live in fear of persecution … what are you going to do? Terrorism is not just about the past, it's a present danger we face now, and without the faith to stand today, how will we stand when the AntiChrist comes?

We grieve as we remember those who were murdered in the Twin Tower attacks and their families who experienced unimaginable loss. We pray for the Kirk family and ask our Father to give them peace, comfort and strength. I encourage you to receive these uplifting passages. Ephesians 6:19-20, Proverbs 28:1, II Timothy 1:7, Ephesians 3:12, Joshua 1:9, Deuteronomy 31:6.

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

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Small Groups: Sundays at 6 pm
Small Groups: Wednesdays at 7 pm – Adults, Royal Rangers, Girls Rooted in Truth & Spirit

Baptist - Missionary

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(803) 775-1462 • fbmcsumter.org
Rev. George P. Windley, Jr.
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Sunday 11:00 am, in person and live stream on YouTube and Facebook
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm on Zoom
Please check our websitefbmcsumter.org for more information or call the church Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church
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
Sun. School 9:00 am
Praise Worship 9:55 am
Worship 10:00 am

Catholic - Roman

Saint Anne and Saint Jude Roman Catholic Church
1855 Beckwood Rd
Sumter, SC. 29153
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
Sunday Worship 11am
Thursday Evening 7pm
www.lovecovenantchurch.com

Spiritual Life Christian Center
4710 Broad Street * 968-5771
Randolph & Minerva Paige, Pastors
Sunday Worship: 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
www.spirituallifechristiancenter.com

Lutheran - ELCA

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

Non-Denominational

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

Greater St. Paul Church
200 Watkins Street • 803-778-1355
Founder Bishop W.T. English
Sunday School - 10:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 am
Wed. Mid Week Service - 7:30 pm

The Rock Church of Sumter
365 N. Saint Paul Church Rd
803-494-7625 (ROCK)
Pastor Gwendolyn Credle
Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 11:00 am
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

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

Pentecostal

First United Pentecostal Church
14 Plowden Mill Rd • 775-9493
Pastor Theron Smith
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.

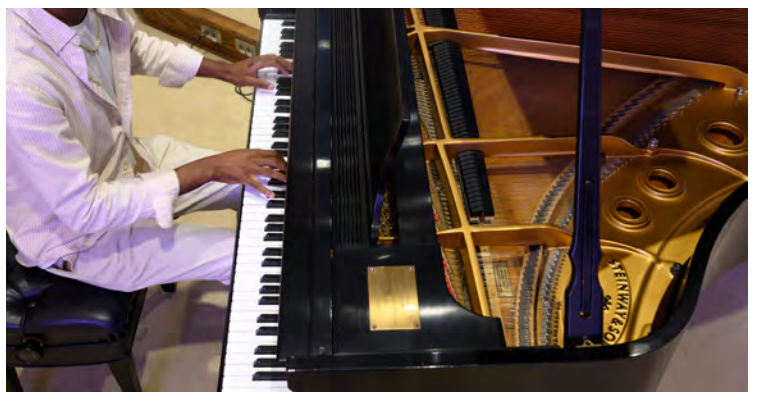


SUMTER'S NEXT GENERATION

Amilyon Glover







SHS grad, self-taught pianist Amilyon Glover on the 88 keys to his future

Every child grows up with a dream. Some picture saving lives in hospitals, others racing into burning buildings and a few standing under stadium lights. For 19-year-old Amilyon Glover, the dream was simpler but no less powerful: to master the piano so that as his hands move across 88 keys, he would fill a room with music that could speak what words could not.

The Sumter High School graduate and University of South Carolina piano major didn't grow up surrounded by music. Neither of his parents played instruments, and the closest musician in his family was a distant uncle who played classical piano.

But, since the age of 8, what he did have was curiosity—and a children's television show that piqued his interest.

"I remember getting exposed to classical music and composers and whatever came with watching 'The Little Einsteins.' I kind of fell down that rabbit hole since then," Amilyon said with a laugh. "A lot of my intent with piano was very self-driven. I was really fascinated with more so the music that came from the instrument."

In seventh grade, he sat at a keyboard and plucked out Drake's "Passionfruit," his first full song. From there, he turned to YouTube tutorials, sheet music books and long, quiet hours of trial and error. That determination to show up every day, to learn lessons of character with every stroke of a key and to grow up alongside his instrument into a better pianist and an even better person carried him through years of solitary practice. For years, he didn't perform for anyone — not his classmates, his family or his friends, his talent sheltered in the four walls of his bedroom.



It wasn't until high school, when band director Troy Cato stumbled upon him playing and was stunned by what he heard, that others began to notice his talent. Soon, Amilyon had mentors who encouraged him to think bigger and teachers who believed in the depth of his talent before he did.

The recommendation of choir director Herbert Johnson led him to study music at Claflin University. By this time, it was instinct for Amilyon to spend hours each day at the keys, sometimes enduring side-eyes from classmates who couldn't understand why he skipped basketball games or social outings for it. But for him, it's worth it.

"Where I'm at now with music is what is the atmosphere of the room, and how am I affecting it?" Amilyon questioned. "Music, it can be played, but I think real music is felt.

And if you're not feeling it, if you're not internally in tune with what you're doing, you're just doing some mechanical actions."

When asked about his future as a pianist, he doesn't pretend to have every detail mapped out. Alongside an impending piano jury, which is a performance-based exam where a piano student plays a 10-minute repertoire to show their progress and technical proficiency, he also balances ROTC commitments, making for a packed and demanding schedule. But he still allows himself to dream.

The International Chopin Competition, first held in 1927 and organized by the Fryderyk Chopin Institute, is a prestigious, triennial piano competition held in Warsaw, Poland, and is dedicated to the works of Frédéric Chopin. It is considered one of the most important musical events in the world, as it is known for launching international careers for young pianists. The competition is held every five years. Amilyon dreams of being one of the few who get to grace its stage.

Passion is what many would say fueled Amilyon to nurture his craft from adolescence into adulthood. But it's much deeper than that for the teen.

"Passion will bring you to something, and it will introduce you to it. But I think the reason why I've stayed with it so long has been more than passion," he explained. "It's been dedication to dream of myself being able to do big things with my instrument."

For young people who may feel out of place chasing their passions, Amilyon offered advice he had to live in order to learn.

"Find what you're passionate about, and learn about it.

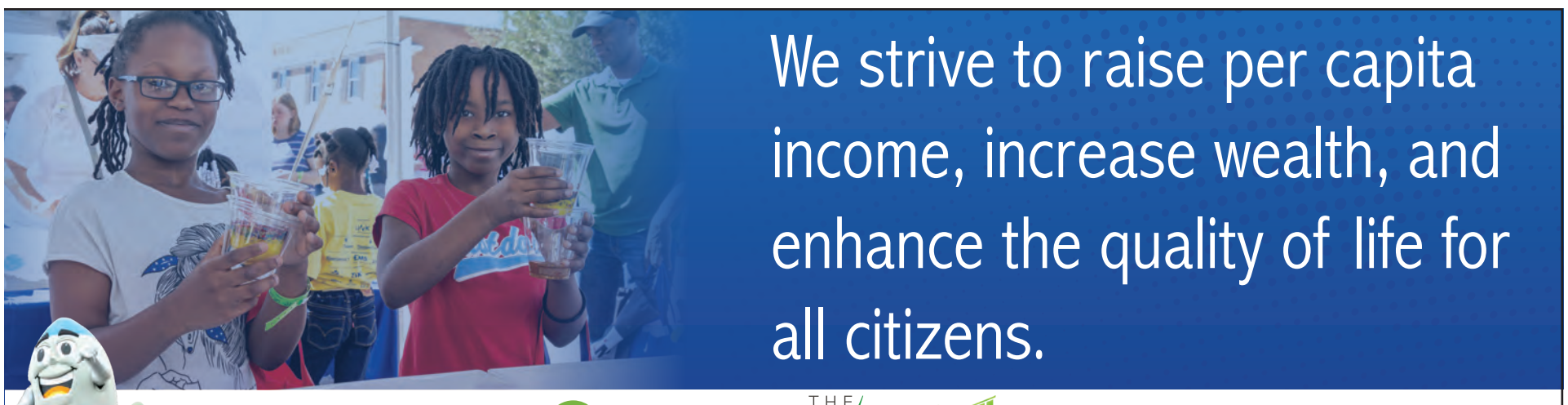
It doesn't have to be in big doses. Take it as you can, and stay true to it," he expressed. "You're going to get backlash. People are going to say things about you. Don't let that stop you from being passionate and loving something and going after it with everything that you can."

MEET THE TEAM

Alaysha Maple (Writer) I Zac Hooks (Videographer)
Cary Howard (Graphic Designer) I Abigail Pittman (Photographer)

Check out the latest episode of Next Gen and more here.

PRESENTED BY: Sumter Economic Development, The LINK, Sumter Edge Economic Development Growth Engine



All fun, no run at Sumter Rotary Club Zero K

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

All the fun without any of the run.

That's what Sumter Rotary Club is offering at its inaugural Rotary Zero K on Saturday, Sept. 20.

According to club past President Jonathan Zimpleman, inspiration for the event came from the Rotary Club of Hendersonville.

"I heard about it and thought it's such a unique event, so why not give it a try?" he said.

One of the local organization's biggest fundraisers is Farm to Table in the spring, which benefits Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust, or CART. Zimpleman and Rotary Club members felt to keep the momentum for fundraising alive, they had to get creative while staying cool and picked fall as the perfect time to do it.

For the Zero K, the starting line is the finish line. There is no running, no jogging and no sweating, only pure fun, laughter and community engagement through games like cornhole, giant Jenga and others.

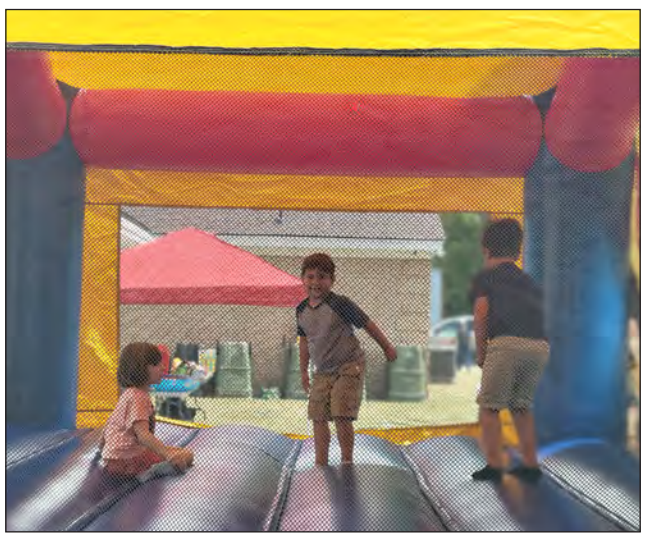
As you greet and gather with friends, family and other friendly faced attendees, food and drinks will be available as well as entertainment by Sumter's own Chapel Court. All this while raising money for CART and Durant Children's Center in Sumter.

Known as "The House Where the Healing Begins," Durant Children's Center was founded in 1994 as an assessment and treatment center for suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. At the time, it was only the state's second children's advocacy center.

The event will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at Rotary Centennial Plaza, 1 S. Main St. Tickets are $35 per racer and $15 for those ages 12 and under. Each registrant receives a drifit T-shirt, racing bib, 0.0 decal and one drink ticket. Be sure to bring a chair or lawn blanket. For ticket information, visit *https://tinyurl.com/378458am*.

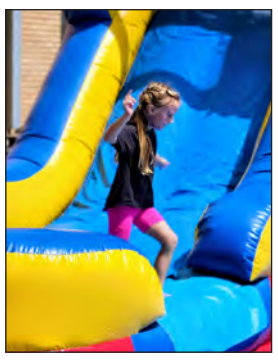
Salvation Army festival offers fellowship, celebrates fundraising for playground







PHOTOS PROVIDED





SUBMITTED

The Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Center hosted a Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 13, where about 75 families gathered for an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship. Children enjoyed face painting, games, a bounce house and a water slide, while families shared lunch and sweet treats together. The event created a lively and welcoming atmosphere, offering families a chance to connect with each other and with the staff of the Salvation Army.

A highlight of the day was the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of fundraising for a new playground for the kids at the Youth Center.

Site Director Crystal Brown and Capt. Rebecca Sullivan proudly cut the ribbon, announcing the children will soon have the playground they deserve. More than just a fun day, the Fall Festival was a way to welcome families, celebrate this exciting milestone and continue building strong relationships within the community.

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SUMTER'S BEDDING HEADQUARTERS

Put on your running shoes for Dash on the Dam 5K on Saturday, and plan trip to Aldersgate's Pumpkin Patch and Old McCaskill's Fall Farm Day

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

SUMTER COUNTY

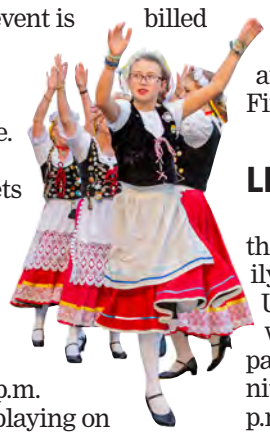


Pumpkin Patch Season at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Sumter is coming! The field full of pumpkins to brighten your home and bless our community will officially open on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 211 Alice Drive. Every pumpkin you pick helps support local ministries and neighbors in need.

Need a pumpkin for carving? Meet farm animals galore and choose your pumpkin for the season during **Old McCaskill's Fall Farm Day** on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit the working farm for its 16th-annual fall celebration and enjoy the pumpkin patch, horseback rides, hay rides, bluegrass music, beer and wine, live farm demos, food and activities for all ages. The farm is at 377 Cantey Lane in Rembert. Buy your tickets at *https://tinyurl.com/ywspjwnx*.

Celebrate culture, style and equestrian history during **Greenfield Farms' Derby Day** this fall. Wear your derby finest and listen to jazz and Louisiana blues while watching skilled horsemen perform. Fashion, culture and tradition will take the spotlight at this day sponsored by BCE Society. There will be storytelling, live demonstrations and exhibits on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The farm is at 4585 Spencer Road, Rembert. Get your tickets at *https://tinyurl.com/yju4kf2j*.

Dust off your lederhosen and sample locally brewed beers at the annual **Sumter Oktoberfest**. This event is billed as "Sumter's largest street party," and you're invited to this fundraising good time. It will be held Oct. 20 on Main Street. Tickets are $10 in advance at *https://tinyurl.com/4cypkw9h* and $20 at the door (no refunds). Kids 10 and under enter for free. The event starts at 5 p.m. with German music playing on Main Street until 8:30 p.m. DJ Howie D's Entertainment DJs will continue the party in La Piazza. All proceeds will go to Sumter United Ministries.



Save your appetite on Thursday, Oct. 23, for that evening because the annual **Fall Feast** is back. Enjoy fabulous food and drinks from more than 30 local businesses with family and friends at this outdoor event that benefits Sumter Green. The band Chief Complaint will provide the jams while you sample chefs' favorite dishes cooked just for the crowd. Only guests 18 years and up can attend, and you must have ID for adult beverage participation. Ticket donations in advance are $40 each, and tickets are limited. Group pre-sale ticket discount of $35 each begins at the purchase of 20 or more. Ticket donations at the door are $50 if available, but this event is known to sell out. Buy tickets at *www.sumteroperahouse.com/fall-feast-2025*.

CLARENDON COUNTY

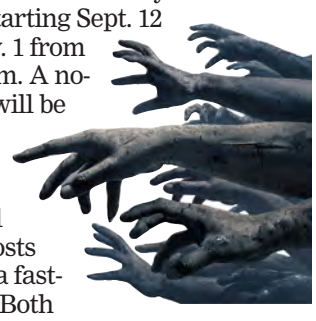
Dash on the Dam 5K and 1-Mile Gold-Bow Fun Run is being held by Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, Sept. 20, this year. Wear gold or yellow for childhood cancer awareness with shirts, costumes, vests, bows, ribbons, etc. Fun run participation is free, but sign up through the link on the Chamber's Facebook page. Individual fee for the 5K is $30 or $20 each for teams of eight or more through strictlyrunning.com. The run starts at 9 a.m. on Lake Marion-Santee Dam, Manning. Proceeds will benefit Camp Happy Days, Curing Kids Cancer, Children's Cancer Partners and local children.

Farm to Table will be celebrated from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, in the Land, Parker and Welch Courtyard near the corner of South Mill and West Keitt streets. Tickets are $30 and can be purchased at Manning City Hall, Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce, and Land, Parker and Welch Law Firm.

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.

Up for a scare? **Scream Acres** is your kind of place. This haunted destination has been operating since 1989 and includes an original haunted house built in the early 1880s. Do your best to make your way through the first house, then get on a custom-made trailer for a terrifying two-mile hayride through the woods before being abandoned in the swamp. From there, walk your way to the second haunted house. If you make it out alive, you will re-board the trailer and finish your tour of the haunted trail. The site also has a souvenir shop and a food truck provided by Jimco Concessions. It runs Friday and Saturday nights starting Sept. 12 through Nov. 1 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. A no-scare event will be on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 7 to 10 p.m. General admission costs $25, or snag a fastpass for $40. Both can be purchased on site, but you can buy the fastpass online at *www.screamacreshauntedhouse.com*. This attraction supports charity. The haunting starts at 1137 Old Camden Road, Bishopville.



Three miles away but also in Bishopville is **Kreepy Hollow,** if you haven't gotten your heart rate up enough. This haunted attraction features an expanded two-story haunted house, a two-mile hayride journey through the swamps of Lucknow Bottom to see seven deadly scenes and Zombie Breakout, where you can find out if you have what it takes to survive a zombie attack. This fall, Kreeper's Bus ride is even Kreepier than ever, too. Hours are: Fridays and Saturdays: 7:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Thursdays and Sundays: 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

November Friday/Saturday: 7:30 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Get scared at 1155 Joe Dority Road, Bishopville. Tickets are available online at *www.kreepyhollowhauntedattraction.com/ticketing*.

COLUMBIA

If you love the South, you probably love boiled peanuts. Enjoy these tasty morsels at the 16th year of the **Palmetto Peanut Boil** from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, on the 2900 block of Devine Street, Columbia. Besides the competition for best boiled peanuts, attendees can enjoy live music, food and entertainment just for the kids. Admission is free; all proceeds from the sale of food and beverages will benefit Animal Mission. Music will include noon-1 p.m., DJ Voodoo Child; 1:30-2:30 p.m., Machine Funk Duo; 3-4 p.m., The Millhands; and 4:30-6 p.m., The Ramblers. For additional information, visit *https://tinyurl.com/yc3fd4u7*.



You don't have to love the slimy vegetable to enjoy the 50th anniversary of the **Irmo Okra Strut Festival** set for Friday, Sept. 26, from 6 to 11 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Moore Park, 7473 Church St., Irmo. The festival includes more than 100 arts and crafts exhibitors, Okryland's kids' area, okra-eating and okra-growing contests and a full day of free musical entertainment. The Okra Strut Parade will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday at CrossRoads Intermediate and proceed down Saint Andrews Road to Lake Murray Boulevard (ending near Irmo Elementary School). Attendees are encouraged to arrive early, as St. Andrews Road will shut down to traffic at 8:45 a.m. For more information, visit *https://okrastrut.com*.



PHOTO PROVIDED

October brings the sights, sounds and smells of the **South Carolina State Fair.** Join the 12-day event for rides, games, exhibits, entertainment and of course fair food from Wednesday, Oct. 8, to Sunday, Oct. 19, at 1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia. Visit *www.scstatefair.org* for more details.



Reader's new job requires socializing



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I'm a man in my early 30s who has made a career switch. My new field requires me to be more social because I will be meeting with colleagues, some of them older than I am, and attending trade shows, meetings, and business and social networking outings. This was never part of my former job.

I'm somewhat shy, and I can be uneasy in conversations. I don't always know what to say if there is a break in the conversation. A relative told me you have tips on how to navigate conversing with all kinds of people in different situations. If they are still available, it would be useful for me.

GEARING UP IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR GEARING UP: Your relative may have been referring to my booklet "How to Be Popular," which is still in print. I will send you a copy. Making social conversation doesn't come naturally to everyone. Few individuals are adept at it because they are so focused on their own insecurities that it distracts them from reaching out.

The keys to social dexterity are: Be friendly. A smile is an excellent icebreaker because it puts others around you at ease. Be kind. Be honest. (Be a good listener and people will think you are a genius.) Show an interest in the people you meet by asking about their interests, but avoid "sensitive" topics, particularly in a business situation.

My "How to Be Popular" booklet contains many other tips on how to approach others, and what to say and not say when trying to make conversation. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 446, Kings Mills, OH 45034-0446. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

If all of this doesn't come naturally, think of it as a skill that needs to be polished. Practice saying hello to six people a day, away from the work environment. And make sure to cultivate your own interests so you will have something to contribute when you talk to others. When you receive your booklet, don't read it just once. Keep it on hand for reference, because you may find it useful in many situations where you interact with others.

Follow tips on stepping back from screens and starting a new hobby

BY JAMIE DUCHARME
Associated Press

During the winter of 2024, Rachel Martin came to a startling realization: She spent most of her free time staring at screens. "I couldn't really think of hobbies or things that I did that took a break from the digital world," she said.

With pastimes like watching TV, playing video games and creating digital art, Martin, 33, sometimes spent more than 12 hours per day looking at screens. She longed for an analog alternative.

After some trial and error, she found one: journaling with fountain pens and specialty inks. "It's quite a cool tactile experience," she said, and one that unexpectedly turned social when she started attending meetups for fountain pen enthusiasts in her city of Sydney, Australia.

"It's something that I definitely didn't expect to love," she said, "but that actually really helped me with going (mostly) screen-free."

Martin had extra motivation for avoiding devices — she has chronic migraines, and screens are a trigger for her — but many people share her goal.

Adopting a new hobby can be an effective way to get a break from screens. (Martin is even looking into selling her TV.) And as an added bonus, enjoyable pastimes can reduce stress and improve mental and physical health, research suggests.

Finding a screen-free hobby that sticks, though, can be easier said than done. Here's where to start:

A MIX OF ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES IS FINE

Some people feel pressured to find the "ideal" hobby that will perfectly optimize their free time — but there's no such thing, said Sarah Pressman, a professor of psychological science at the University of California, Irvine who has studied leisure time.

"Having a mix of small enjoyable activities — a little bit of pickleball, cooking something new, chatting with a friend over coffee, spending some time in your garden — can have a cumulative effect on your mood and health," she said. "So rather than putting pressure on yourself to find the perfect pastime, just ask, 'What brings me a little joy today?'"

Similarly, hobbies don't have to fill hours upon hours of time to be beneficial, said Matthew Zawadzki, an associate professor of psychological sciences at the University of California, Merced who has studied hobbies.

Start small by thinking about activities that would be fulfilling for 20, 10 or even five minutes at a time.

"We really need to embrace small engagements with our leisure," he said, particularly given how many other demands there are on our time.

A pastime may not reset your life, "but instead it's going to reset the next hour," Zawadzki said.

TRY LOTS OF THINGS

Cast a wide net.

"Test out a few activities for 30 minutes each and just notice how they make you feel," Pressman said. "Think of it like dating. You may have to go on a few first dates before you find your match."

Think about how activities you loved as a child could be adapted for adulthood or about things that you naturally lose track of time while doing, she suggested.

It can also be helpful to consider what you're missing, or want more of, in your daily routine, Zawadzki said. If you feel too sedentary, try a new form of fitness. If you need to get out of your head, pick up an engrossing book. If you feel starved for social connection, join a club or volunteer. If you haven't used your creative muscles in a while, pick up a paintbrush.

"It's about being more intentional about how you use your time," Zawadzki said.

ASK FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

"It's hard to think past what we currently do," Zawadzki said. So, outsource your search.

Just as you'd ask a friend for a book or movie recommendation, ask your loved ones which activities they'd recommend for someone with your interests and tastes. Make sure they're aware of any financial, time or space constraints, too.

MAKE YOUR HOBBIES AS ACCESSIBLE AS SCREEN TIME…

If you're used to spending your evening in front of the TV, it can be hard to put those hours to new use — even once you've found a rewarding hobby.

"Screens are so easy," said Gabriela Tonietto, an associate professor of marketing at Rutgers Business School who has studied leisure time.

So, keep your sketchpad or crossword puzzle in plain sight rather than stored away, Pressman suggested, and flow directly from work or dinner into hobby time before you get distracted by screens.

Setting specific goals (not just, "I want to reduce screen time," but something like, "I will read for an hour before bed"), carving out designated time for your activity and enlisting a hobby buddy for accountability can all help you stick to your pastime, Tonietto said.

… BUT DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP IF THE SCREENS SOMETIMES WIN

Screen time isn't inherently bad, Zawadzki said. Watching a movie with your family can be a bonding activity — especially if you talk about it afterward — and catching up with a juicy TV show on the treadmill may motivate you to exercise.

"Any kind of activity has the potential to be positive," he said. "But you have to optimize it a little bit to serve your goals" and set a cap on how much time you spend vegging out.

So don't be too hard on yourself if you can't totally quit your screen-based hobbies. They may have some benefits, too — and recognizing them is half the battle. Tonietto's research suggests that viewing leisure time as wasteful can make it less enjoyable and beneficial.

"Step one is actually experiencing that positivity when you engage in these activities," Tonietto said. "The consequences of that are feeling more relaxed, feeling less stressed, feeling happier."







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COMMENTARY

Recovering from the insanity of summer 2020

What a difference half a decade makes. This summer's prevailing ethos, zeitgeist, vibe — call it any fancy name you want — was sharply different from the summer, just five years ago, of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter.

Such sudden changes in the moral atmosphere seem to occur every so often. The year 1776, the 250th anniversary of which we are scheduled to commemorate next year, was perhaps one such occasion, when the English-speaking world saw the publication of the Declaration of Independence, Adam Smith's "The Wealth of Nations" and the first volume of Edward Gibbon's "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

Another break in general consciousness, from Victorian stricture to Bloomsbury Group fluidity, was announced 101 years ago by the novelist Virginia Woolf. "On or about December 1910," she wrote, "human nature changed. All human relations shifted, and when human relations change there is at the same time a change in religion, conduct, politics and literature."

And it has happened again in the great contrast between the notoriety most conventional media outlets gave to the eight-minute tape showing the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis in May 2020 and the almost total blackout by the same media outlets of the surveillance footage of the stabbing of Ukrainian refugee Iryna Zarutska by a released felon in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Aug. 22 of this year.



Michael Barone

Floyd's death was taken as proof that police in the United States routinely killed unarmed Black men, and that racism was as central to American life as ever. It inspired a series of "mostly peaceful" urban riots that caused billions of dollars in damage.

It sparked a revival of the Black Lives Matter group, whose Democratic congressional leaders in Kente cloth bowed in the Capitol and whose name was emblazoned on the pavement of 16th Street outside the White House.

Floyd's death also sparked a sudden upward spike in violent crime, attributed incorrectly to the COVID-19 pandemic, which started months earlier, resulting in far more deaths of Black Americans than any police malfeasance.

Contrast that with the nonresponse by most media outlets and Democratic politicians to Zarutska's murder in Charlotte. Plainly, they did not want voters coming to the obvious conclusion that liberal policies, such as cashless bail, release violent men onto the streets and public transit.

Other evidence of the change in vibe came from bestselling author Malcolm Gladwell's confession that he lied during a 2022 MIT panel when he said he supported transgender women (that is, biological men who present themselves as women) competing in female sports.

That was the year when the press gave wide publicity to Lia (formerly Will) Thomas' swimming records against female competitors and teammates, who were ordered by athletic and university authorities not to protest or complain about Thomas' presence in the locker room.

For many liberals, this was just another case for showing acceptance of a previously scorned minority. Some may have regretted that they didn't come out earlier for gay rights or same-sex marriage and saw this issue in the same light.

But most Americans believed physical differences between the sexes matter, just as weight divisions are appropriate in wrestling and boxing. As journalist Josh Barro reminded his fellow Democrats, Americans oppose biological men in women's sports by a 66% to 15% margin.

Gladwell's confession of error and columnist Megan McArdle's previously unreported recollection that in 2022 "people were terrified to talk" freely about the issue suggest that, in Woolf's words, "human relations shifted" sometime in 2023 or 2024.

Some of this may just reflect the success of President Donald Trump's comeback. In 2022, he was beleaguered by lawsuits, discredited by Jan. 6, and scorned by many Republicans. In 2024, he was triumphantly elected to a second term.

But the shift in Trump's approval ratings, from 45.9% in 2016 to 46.8% in 2020 to 49.8% in 2024, wasn't overwhelming. Something more fundamental happened. Not just Democratic politicians but also leaders of liberal-dominated institutions discredited themselves:

Teachers unions that kept schools closed; university administrators who tolerated violent speech suppression; Biden administration officials who claimed to have no alternative to the open borders policy they enforced for three and a half years; public health mandarins who lied about mask and vaccine effectiveness and secretly conspired to discredit the lab leak theory of COVID-19 origin; top media outlets, led by The New York Times, that routinely suppressed inconvenient truths about former President Joe Biden's debility; Hunter Biden's laptop and the Russia collusion hoax.

All these eminences squandered their credibility and forfeited their trust, just as Woolf thought the Victorians squandered and forfeited theirs.

"The summer of 2020 was legitimately insane," wrote the critical liberal Thomas Chatterton Williams, author of the recently published "Summer of Our Discontent." America is recovering its footing, though there's always a danger of wobbling off to another side.

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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GUEST COMMENTARY

This time could be prelude to spiritual awakening

BY JAMES R. CHANDLER JR.

I remember too well exactly where I was when President Kennedy was assassinated. It seemed like the next day that Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. And then Sen. Robert Kennedy. Other attempts have been made on presidents' lives, most recently, against the current president. History is too often the story of politically driven assassinations. As long as we have been here, and until our time as humans on this planet ends, these efforts to change the course of debate and law will continue.

Charlie Kirk was a political and cultural force. His Turning Point organization made a large difference in the last election. We have not seen a movement among young college-age people of such magnitude since the early 1970s and the Jesus Movement. His murder leaves a void in the lives of a younger generation trying to make sense of life during a time of cultural emptiness as the foundations of Judeo-Christian civilization continue to weaken.

Kirk stood for the idea that free and open debate is the foundation upon which truth can emerge and grow. For some segments of our population, truth does not exist except as convenience, which logically is self-contradiction. No one can claim truth does not exist without contradicting himself. Yet we live in a time where rational and logical thought is pushed to the rear to promote feelings, opinions and irrationality.

Americans of all descriptions must use this horrible and senseless murder as a chance to decide what kind of path we will have going forward. America has already once tasted the blood of civil war. The great issue is whether we can learn from that failure the value of open and careful debate or not. Time will tell. Perhaps this horrific event seen by millions will make us more willing to see other points of view. It may cause anger to grow among those who feel their views are ignored or silenced. No one knows what course we will choose.

But for those of us who place their faith in God, there is but one path: the path of truth and love. People of faith cannot force their faith. Some religious impulses from many different quarters could not or have not understood this. The realm of debate can be helpful, but in the end, every person must stand on his or her own freedom to make choices about good and evil. In our hearts is written a code of general truth, but we can deny its presence and choose the exact opposite of what we know to be true, and then sadly, celebrate our bad choice.

When we get mad and emotional about real or perceived injustices, the first thing that disappears is the ability to hear what another person is saying and respond with any degree of kindness. If we all can use this political killing to open our hearts and minds to those who are different from us and become willing to accept their humanity, if not their ideas, then perhaps some good can evolve from this tragic loss.

For me, it is a time of serious prayer, a time for all of us to look inward and see what is really in our own hearts. This could well be a prelude to a deep spiritual awakening in America. Without such an awakening, we will see evil continue to raise its ugly head and truth slip further from our grasp.

James R. Chandler Jr. lives in Sumter.

COMMENTARY

Please, conversation, not assassination

Charlie Kirk was a man who had opinions and vocalized them. He believed in free speech. He also believed in the right of free speech for those who disagreed with him. In his Turning Point rallies, he gave untold numbers of people the opportunity to express their opinions and to debate him. He respectfully gave each person the time to state their case on whatever the subject. Charlie was adamant, profound and articulated strong convictions.

Sadly, a deranged 22-year-old man from Utah took Charlie's life. It has been reported that the gunman had previously stated at a family dinner that he thought Kirk was filled with hate. When Kirk spoke at a university rally in Utah, the gunman plotted and positioned himself to shoot a single long-range rifle shot that took Kirk's life. The man ran back to his home, where he later had no choice but to confess to his father that he was indeed the man who had been videotaped at the rally who took Charlie Kirk's life. The lone assassin is an evil coward who silenced one of America's star voices. At least he thought he did. Charlie Kirk has become more known and his sound clips have been heard more in the last few days than in his entire ministry/career. Kirk has been propelled by the assassin to a status in American culture that will never be forgotten. Instead of silencing Kirk he magnified Kirk's voice and message a hundred or more times. Kirk is now being remembered around the world.



Glenn Mollette

Charlie Kirk used his voice. Every American is entitled to this freedom. His voice cost him his life.

Abraham Lincoln gave his life reuniting our country and abolishing slavery. A cowardly assassin took Lincoln's life as he leisurely watched a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. John F. Kennedy used his voice to excite the American people and to bring about a positive attitude in the country but was gunned down by an assassin from a hidden window in downtown Dallas, Texas. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man with a great voice who stirred the hearts of millions of Americans and brought about liberating change for Black Americans. An assassin who disagreed with King cowardly hid and took King's life with a bullet. Malcom X and Bobby Kennedy were orators for positive change in America, but someone who disagreed with their views killed them.

The greatest voice of hope, love, change and forgiveness, who ever lived, was Jesus Christ. A cowardly crowd yelled for him to be executed.

These mentioned voices were not silenced by hideous crowds or hidden gunmen. Each of their voices have rung loudly and clearly. Their legacies have only grown bolder and stronger.

It is sad that Charlie Kirk's assassin did not go down to the rally, stand up like a man and challenge Kirk in a debate. He could have told Kirk what he thought about him and given Kirk a chance to respond. But no, he was a weak, spineless man filled with more hate than probably anyone in America at that given moment. It's one thing to have a hateful, negative thought, but it's another to allow hate to act itself out in such a way.

Violence is never the answer. Let's keep America free. Free to speak, free to debate, free to practice and express our religion. Let's have peaceful and strong conversation, not assassination.

Find books by Glenn Mollette at Amazon.com. Learn more about his books, columns and music at GlennMollette.com. Email gmollette@aol.com.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS represent the views of the owners of this newspaper.

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

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



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CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Trump administration boosts HBCU funding

BY COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is redirecting nearly $500 million in federal funding toward historically Black colleges and tribal colleges, a one-time investment covered primarily by cuts to other colleges serving large numbers of minority students.

The Education Department announced the funding boost days after cutting $350 million from other grants, mostly from programs reserved for colleges that have large numbers of Hispanic students. Agency leaders said those grants were unconstitutional because they're available only to colleges with certain minority enrollment thresholds.

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said the changes will redirect money away "from ineffective and discriminatory programs toward those which support student success."

"The Department has carefully scrutinized our federal grants, ensuring that taxpayers are not funding racially discriminatory programs but those programs which promote merit and excellence in education," McMahon said in a statement.

The department is also redirecting about $60 million toward funding for charter schools and $137 million toward American history and civics grants. President Donald Trump in January issued an executive action ordering the agency to repurpose federal money toward charter schools and other school choice initiatives.

It amounts to a one-time federal funding boost of 48% increase for HBCUs, and it more than doubles funding for tribal colleges and universities, the department said.

The department is flexing its power to repurpose discretionary funding to match the president's priorities — made possible through a stopgap funding bill passed by Congress this year that gives the executive branch more authority over spending decisions.

Trump has long called himself a champion of HBCUs. During his first term, Congress added $250 million a year for HBCUs. This year Trump signed an executive action that pledges an annual White House summit, an advisory board and other support for HBCUs.

The Education Department said the money comes from programs found to be "not in the best interest of students and families." It previously said the other minority-serving grants would be redirected to programs that do not rely on racial quotas.

Last week's cuts to the the Hispanic Serving Institution program reversed decades of precedent. Congress created the program in 1998 after finding that Latino students were going to college and graduating at far lower rates than white students. The department also cut several smaller programs for colleges serving certain percentages of Asian American, Black or Native American students.

The cuts drew swift blowback from Democrats, who said those programs have long had bipartisan support and fueled social mobility for working-class Americans.

A July memo from the Justice Department argues that the Hispanic Serving Institution grants are unconstitutional because they're open only to colleges where a quarter of undergraduates or more are Hispanic. The department declined to defend the program in a suit brought by the state of Tennessee and Students for Fair Admissions, an anti-affirmative action group.

The lawsuit asks a federal judge to halt the grants. Tennessee argued all of its public universities serve Hispanic students but none meet the "arbitrary ethnic threshold" to be eligible for the funding. Those schools miss out on tens of millions of dollars because of discriminatory requirements, the suit said.

Boom in mercury mining is underway

SAN JOAQUIN, Mexico (AP) — A drill echoes through narrow tunnels deep within the mountain where miner Hugo Flores bores into rock in search of one of Earth's most toxic elements. Buried in red stripes of minerals illuminated by his headlamp is mercury.

A boom in mercury mining is underway in Mexico's pine-covered mountains known as the Sierra Gorda – one of the most biodiverse stretches of the country.

The toxic metal is a key part of the process in illegal gold mining, and soaring international gold prices are also driving up mercury's price. While the demand triggers a mining rush in central Mexico, sustaining thousands of miners and their families, it also exposes them and the fragile environment to mercury poisoning. At the same time, this Mexican mercury is fueling illegal gold mining in the Amazon, contaminating large areas and harming both people and the environment.

Here are some takeaways from AP's report:

MERCURY'S JOURNEY FROM CENTRAL MEXICO TO THE AMAZON

Artisanal miners in Mexico's Sierra Gorda extract mercury through a laborious process. They climb into narrow tunnels, carving out cinnabar-rich rock and then carry the heavy bags of ore to the surface. The rock is then heated in wood-fired ovens, separating the mercury into a gaseous form that condenses back into a liquid. The mercury is collected in small Coca-Cola bottles and sold to intermediaries known as "coyotes" for around $1,800 a pop.

While many of the intermediaries are Mexican, others travel from around the world to buy low-priced mercury. Today, the vast majority of Mexican mercury is trafficked to Colombia, Bolivia and Peru and distributed throughout the Amazon basin.

Once in the Amazon, miners mix mercury with gold particles to create an amalgam. Then they burn off the metal, releasing a toxic vapor into the atmosphere. The remaining mercury often flows into rivers where it transforms into methylmercury — its most dangerous form — and builds up in fish and aquatic life.

WHAT'S DRIVING DEMAND FOR MERCURY IN MEXICO

The demand for gold is expected to continue as investors seek its tangible safety at a time of global economic uncertainty. Miners say they expect the same for mercury.

The price of mercury in Mexico has skyrocketed more than tenfold over the past 15 years, jumping from $20 per kilogram (2.2 pounds) in 2011 to between $240 and $350.

Experts say international efforts to curb mercury mining have inadvertently fueled demand for the toxic metal, as mercury miners in Mexico feel the pressure and buyers turn to the country's small-scale operations as larger mines close down.

"Globally, the demand for mercury is only going to continue," said Carlos Martínez, a leader of one of San Joaquin's mines.

A REGION IN PERIL

Scientists and researchers who have long studied the mercury mines in central Mexico say that the excavation of one of the world's most toxic chemicals is poisoning the miners who depend on the work to make ends meet.

Researchers interviewed by The Associated Press said they've watched the health of miners and their families deteriorate as they show some of the most severe symptoms of mercury intoxication, including tremors, neurological decline, vision and hearing loss, developmental delays in children and more.

"For the first time in their lives, mercury is worth something, and the miners are saying: 'It's worth poisoning myself if I'm going to earn something,'" said Fernando Díaz-Barriga, a medical researcher who has long studied the mines.

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GREG FROM PAGE A1

love for the sport. He was prepared to compete that Saturday, Sept. 6, in Florida. His team would play on in Greg's honor after learning of his death.

Shortly after midnight on that Saturday, the driver of an unknown vehicle was traveling east on Broad Street near the intersection of Eagle Road behind a 2020 Honda moped, according to Master Trooper William Bennett with South Carolina Highway Patrol. The vehicle struck the rear of the moped before leaving the scene. Multiple vehicles drove past, striking the fallen driver, Highway Patrol reported. The driver of the moped was later identified as Greg.

Memories of his love for pool playing were plentiful and as funny and fond as the day they were made. Whether it was his mother, Marlene Davis, remembering her trip to Sumter nearly two weeks before the wreck to help him prepare for the competition or his coworkers of Skaterz of Sumter laughing at Greg's playful banter that he could teach them a thing or two about pool playing, the memories brought a smile to their faces long enough to keep the tears at bay.

But beyond the sport, it was the love Greg spread through the community that stood out most. That same love flowed back to his family on Saturday as friends and neighbors embraced his mother, sisters Deb Navin and Sheila Mires, sister-in-law Lynn Davis, nieces Amethyst Newman and Madelyn Mires, and numerous other loved ones, wrapping in the warmth he once gave so freely. Even the young children who frequented Skaterz offered their condolences and their thanks, telling the family how grateful they were to have shared Greg because he became an integral part of their own childhood memories at the rink.

There is one thing everyone gathered on that day could agree on: Greg's presence was larger than life, and his absence has left a space that only love and memory can hope to fill.

Bennett told *The Item* an investigation is ongoing into the fatal hit-and-run of Greg, and there were no updates as of Monday, Sept. 15. The family and South Carolina Highway Patrol ask anyone with information on those responsible to call (843) 661-4705 or 1-800-768-1505 to submit an anonymous tip. Tips can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at (888) 274-6372 or at *www.p3tips.com*.



Community members express their condolences to the family and loved ones of Greg Davis at the celebration of life on Sept. 13.





Family, friends and community members attend the celebration of life for Greg Davis at Skaterz on Sept. 13.

PHOTOS BY ALAYSHA MAPLE / THE SUMTER ITEM





From left, Greg's niece Amethyst Newman, sister-in-law Lynn Davis, mother Marlene Davis, younger sister Sheila Mires and niece Madelyn Mires attend the celebration of life on Sept. 13.

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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 _____

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FAIR FROM PAGE A1

through Wednesday, $7 Thursday and Friday, $10 on Saturday and $5 on Sunday. The fair enforces anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult 21 or older with valid ID to enter the fairgrounds.

This week, the fair is offering $20 unlimited ride armbands Monday through Wednesday, $25 Thursday, Friday and Sunday, and $30 on Saturday, according to Ben Jackson with Hildebrand Amusement Rides.

Free entertainment will include wolf show with daily demonstrations and educational talks, a Michael Jackson tribute show and the B*A* Star Karaoke, which will allow visitors to perform under stage lights and effects. All shows are included with fair admission. The schedule for shows is as follows:

Wednesday, Sept. 17
Gates open 4 p.m.
Gates close at 11 p.m.
Exotic wolf show, 5:30 and 7:30p.m.
Michael Jackson performance, 8 p.m.
B*A* Star Karaoke, 5:30 and 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 18
Gates open 4 p.m.
Gates close at 11 p.m.
Exotic wolf show, 5:30 and 7:30p.m.
Michael Jackson performance, 8 p.m.
B*A* Star Karaoke, 5:30 and 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 19
Gates open 4 p.m.
Gates close at 11 p.m.
Exotic wolf show, 5:30 and 7:30p.m.
Michael Jackson performance, 8 p.m.
B*A* Star Karaoke, 5:30 and 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20
Gates open at 10 a.m.
Gates close at 11 p.m.
Exotic wolf show, 12, 3 and 6 p.m.
Michael Jackson performance,5 and 8 p.m.
B*A* Star Karaoke, 2, 4, 5:30 and 7 p.m.

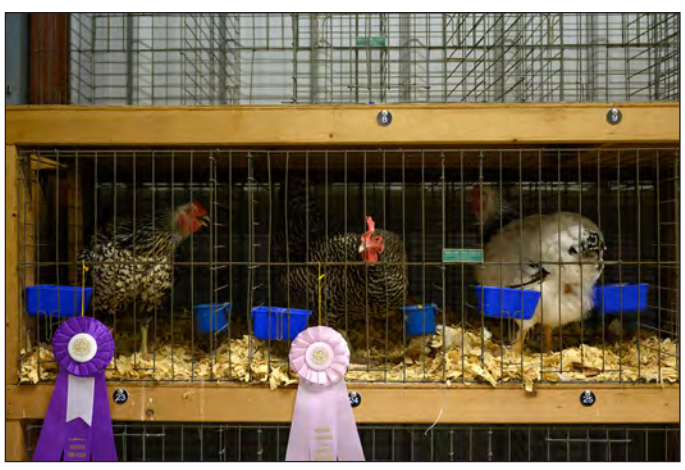
Sunday, Sept. 21
Gates open at noon
Gates close at 9 p.m.
Exotic wolf show, 2, 4 and 6 p.m.
Michael Jackson performance,5 and 7 p.m.
B*A* Star Karaoke, 2, 4, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.



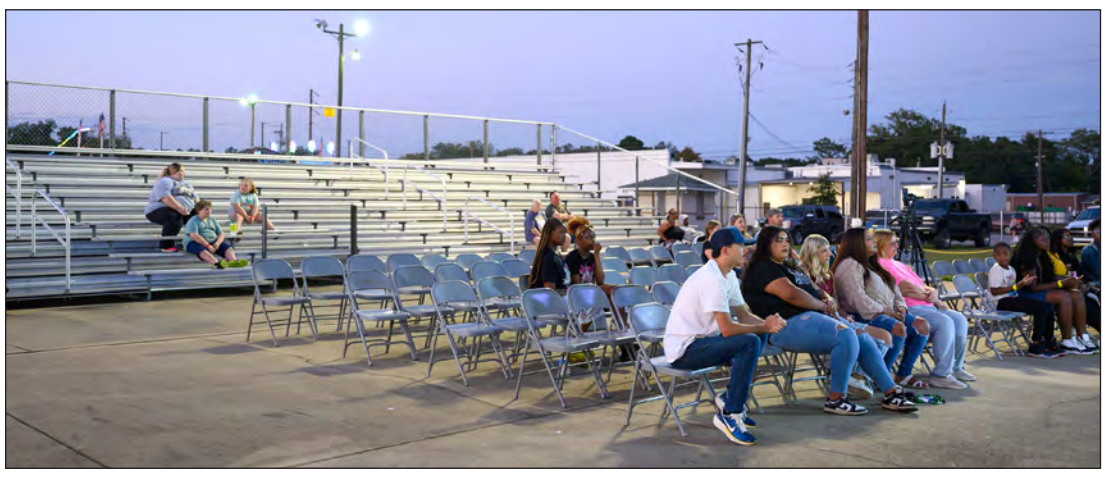
PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

The Sumter County Fair included a circus show this year as part of admission, along with an exotic wolf show and a Michael Jackson performance. Several shows are continuing this week, along with unlimited rides.





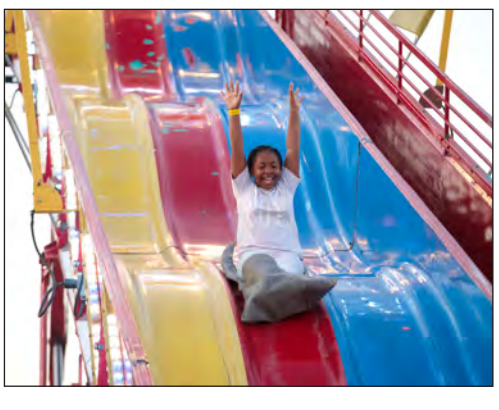














PUBLIC AGENDA

CLARENDON COUNTY FIRST STEPS PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Thursday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m., virtual

For more information, call (803) 433-2848 or email *clarendonfirststeps@gmail.com*.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 202

Monday, Sept. 22, 10:30 a.m., Bernie HOPE Center, 210 Purdy St.

Call (803) 731-9600 for any additional information or questions.

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m., 1345 Wilson Hall Road

SANTEE WATEREE RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, Sept. 22, at 6 p.m., 129 S. Harvin St. For special accommodations, call (803) 934-0396, extension 103. For inquiries, email *info@swrta.com* or mail SWRTA, 129 S. Harvin St., Sumter, SC 29150.

CITY OF MANNING BOARD OF APPEALS

Monday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m., 29 W. Boyce St., City Hall Chambers, Manning

SUMTER COUNTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 8 a.m., training room of Administrative Building, 750 Electric Drive.

SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 6 p.m., Sumter County Council Chambers

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*.

Join the South Carolina Toastmaster D58 for the **Sumter Community Open House** on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at North HOPE Center. You'll discover more about Toastmasters, strengthen leadership, elevate communication and ignite confidence. Keynote speakers will be Lefford Fate, DTM, and Douglas Wilson, DTM PDG. Register at *https://tinyurl.com/2mpwamkz*. The center is at 904 N. Main St. For more information, contact club growth director Mary Lee at *cgd@d58tm.org*.

A **City of Sumter Tire Buyback** will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sumter County Civic Center. During the buyback, city residents can receive $2 for each tire brought for recycling. This event is limited to residents; businesses are not eligible to participate. There is a limit of 20 car tires per vehicle, and no tires with rims will be allowed. A valid S.C. ID is required. This buyback is sponsored by Palmetto Pride and Walmart Sumter. Call (803) 305-5266 or visit *www.sumtersc.gov/litter* to learn more about litter control in Sumter.

Crosswell Home for Children is celebrating 90 years and is in search of alumni who spent time at the home to celebrate at the **Alumni BBQ** on Saturday, Oct. 25. Crosswell, established in 1935 by the estate of John K. Crosswell, has served as a home for more than 1,000 local children. If you are interested in attending or for more information, email *sallred@crosswellhome.org* or scan the QR code.

Parents of Murdered Children will host a memorial service celebrating the life of Maggie Richardson's youngest son, Michael, who was killed 25 years ago. The service will be held Thursday, Sept. 25, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Main Street old courthouse lawn. All are welcome to attend and share in remembering a life filled with love, laughter and meaningful moments. The service will include reading, music and opportunities to share personal memories. Wear or bring pictures of your loved ones. For more details or to share a remembrance, contact Maggie Richardson at *sumterpomc2014@gmail.com* or (803) 468-1825.

City of Sumter is inviting the public to help shape the Annual Action plan for using Community Development Block Grant money to improve neighborhoods and support low- to moderate-income residents. Meeting attendees can share how they would like the money to be spent. Examples include housing rehabilitation, sewer improvements and youth programs. The schedule for these meetings is as follows:

– Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, 6 p.m. North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St.

– Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, 6 p.m., South HOPE Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Drive

– Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025, 6 p.m., Birnie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St.

– Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, 6 p.m., South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave.

– Public hearing Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, at 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, 4th Floor Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St.

Entry to all meeting places is handicapped accessible. Hearing impaired or deaf persons may call (803) 774-1649 for assistance. People needing an interpreter may call the same number for assistance.

WEATHER

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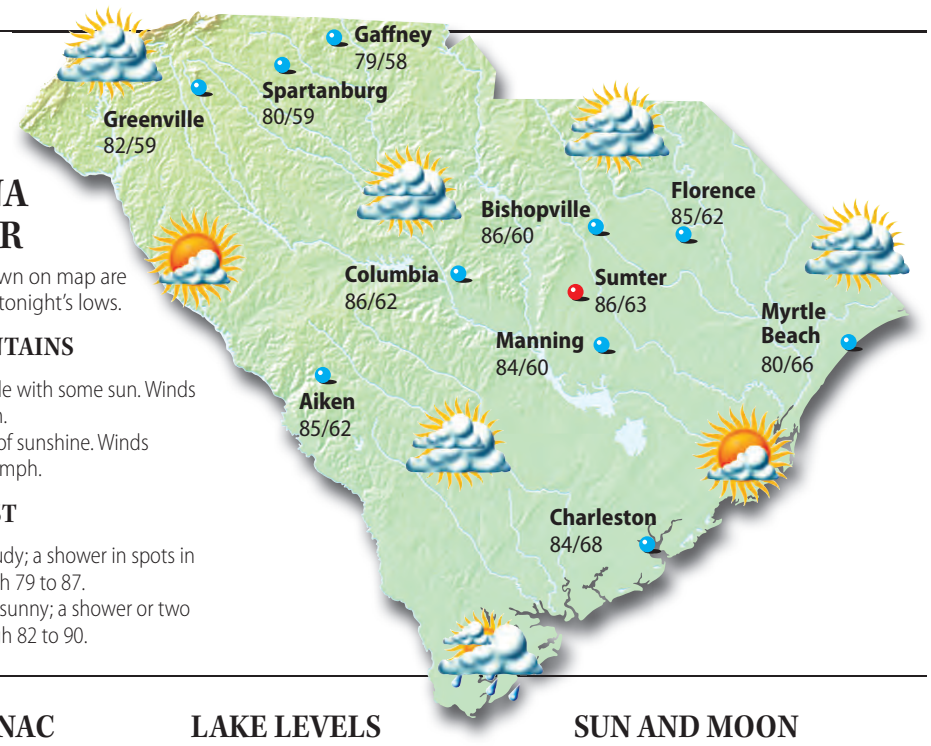
AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny and pleasant	Clear	Sunny and humid	Mostly sunny and warm	Mostly cloudy and warm	Clouds and breaks of sun
86°	63°	88° / 65°	90° / 65°	91° / 63°	86° / 65°
Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 10%
WSW 4-8 mph	SE 3-6 mph	SW 3-6 mph	NNW 3-6 mph	ENE 4-8 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: Comfortable with some sun. Winds southwest 4-8 mph.
Thursday: Plenty of sunshine. Winds east-southeast 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Mostly cloudy; a shower in spots in southern parts. High 79 to 87.
Thursday: Mostly sunny; a shower or two in central parts. High 82 to 90.

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER MONDAY

Temperature

High	87°
Low	63°
Normal high	84°
Normal low	63°
Record high	98° in 1980
Record low	45° in 1985

Precipitation

Monday	0.00"
Month to date	0.16"
Normal month to date	2.09"
Year to date	25.29"
Last year to date	28.94"
Normal year to date	35.91"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	357.42	-0.02
Marion	76.8	75.02	-0.01
Moultrie	75.5	74.97	-0.04
Wateree	100	96.93	-0.04

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	2.26	-0.05
Congaree River	19	2.88	-0.14
Lynches River	14	2.23	-0.06
Saluda River	14	1.90	-0.15
Up. Santee River	80	N.A.	N.A.
Wateree River	24	6.63	+0.51

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:07 a.m.	Sunset	7:25 p.m.
Moonrise	2:42 a.m.	Moonset	5:22 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Sep. 21	Sep. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	6:10 a.m.	2.9	12:48 a.m.	0.9
	6:46 p.m.	3.5	12:48 p.m.	0.5
Thu.	7:09 a.m.	3.0	1:43 a.m.	0.8
	7:38 p.m.	3.5	1:47 p.m.	0.4

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	87/67/s	88/67/s
Chicago	85/62/s	88/64/pc
Dallas	95/76/s	94/75/pc
Detroit	82/57/pc	86/59/s
Houston	94/73/s	93/73/pc
Los Angeles	90/70/pc	80/70/sh
New Orleans	92/72/s	91/75/s
New York	68/64/r	78/66/pc
Orlando	89/73/pc	87/74/t
Philadelphia	70/66/r	80/65/pc
Phoenix	102/77/s	99/80/t
San Francisco	79/62/s	70/61/s
Wash., DC	71/65/r	81/66/pc

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	77/54/pc	80/54/s
Athens	84/60/s	88/63/s
Augusta	87/61/pc	89/62/s
Beaufort	87/69/pc	90/69/sh
Cape Hatteras	73/67/c	76/69/pc
Charleston	84/68/pc	89/67/sh
Charlotte	80/62/pc	86/63/s
Clemson	81/60/s	86/62/s
Columbia	86/62/c	88/64/s
Darlington	85/61/c	88/63/s
Elizabeth City	70/62/t	80/63/pc
Elizabethtown	79/62/c	86/64/s
Fayetteville	78/62/pc	89/66/s

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Florence	85/62/c	87/66/s
Gainesville	90/65/c	91/67/t
Gastonia	78/60/pc	83/62/s
Goldsboro	74/61/pc	85/63/s
Goose Creek	85/66/pc	88/67/sh
Greensboro	74/60/pc	83/62/s
Greenville	82/59/pc	83/61/s
Hickory	78/59/c	84/60/s
Hilton Head	81/71/c	86/69/sh
Jacksonville, FL	89/66/pc	90/69/s
La Grange	86/62/s	88/63/s
Macon	88/60/s	89/63/s
Marietta	85/63/s	87/64/s

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Marion	77/55/c	81/55/s
Mt. Pleasant	82/69/pc	87/68/s
Myrtle Beach	80/66/pc	82/67/s
Orangeburg	86/63/pc	88/64/s
Port Royal	84/68/pc	86/67/s
Raleigh	71/60/c	83/63/s
Rock Hill	80/59/pc	85/61/s
Rockingham	81/59/pc	88/60/s
Savannah	87/67/pc	89/69/s
Spartanburg	80/59/pc	82/63/s
Summerville	84/65/pc	88/64/sh
Wilmington	80/63/pc	84/66/pc
Winston-Salem	75/61/c	84/62/s

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

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SUMTER SPCA PETS OF THE WEEK

ABOVE: My name is Bandit. I'm a 5-year-old, male domestic shorthair. Come say hello at the Sumter SPCA!



BELOW: Say hello to Tiney, the 3-year-old, gray tabby cat. She is good with kids and other cats but doesn't like dogs too much! Come check her out 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 Bingo! This handsome fellow is ready to find a home to call his own. Bingo came to the shelter as a stray and, sadly, no one has come to claim him. He seems to have had a home before, as he appears to be potty trained — what a smart boy! Bingo is about a year old, friendly with other dogs and absolutely adores spending time with the volunteers. He has such a sweet and loving personality and would make a wonderful companion for an active family ready to show him the love he deserves.



BELOW: Meet Duchess! Duchess is a stunning blue Pit mix who is around 4+ years old and weighs 41 pounds. She came to the shelter wearing a collar, and we were sure her family would come for her — but no one ever showed. Now, Duchess is ready to find a new forever home where she'll be loved the way she deserves.This sweet and affectionate girl gets along well with the other dogs at the shelter and loves meeting new people. Duchess has a gentle personality and would be a wonderful companion for a family ready to open their hearts to her.

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

E-mail: sports@theitem.com

SECTION B

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2025

Sumter High blanks rival Crestwood 28-0 as teams wrap up non-region play

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com



TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter High's Bryce Allen (4) celebrates an interception against Crestwood on Friday.

Sumter High head coach Mark Barnes was a happy man as he walked off the field following the Gamecocks' matchup with county rival Crestwood on Friday night.

The Gamecocks played their most efficient game of the season on both sides of the ball, continuing a shutout streak that stretches back six quarters, while running the ball consistently all night long for a 28-0 victory. It was a perfect night for a program that was also celebrating a lost pillar of the community on Tylee Craft Day.

"Defensively, offensively and special teams, I'm as proud as I've been in a long time here," Barnes said. "We've got a lot of reasons to not play well tonight. We played without a lot of people, had new offensive linemen in there. I think our defensive coaches did a great job preparing our players and our players did a great job executing our game plan because they're a really good football team and tonight they didn't

SEE **SUMTER HIGH,** PAGE B5



The Laurence Manning football team celebrates after their 14-13 win over Wilson Hall on Friday.

ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Blocked extra point lifts LMA over rival Wilson Hall

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

SCISA rivals Laurence Manning and Wilson Hall duked it out on Friday night for another classic slugfest. Penalties on both sides limited the scoring but not the intensity. The game came down to the wire, when a blocked extra point in the fourth quarter helped LMA clinch a 14-13 win, getting back to 2-2 after consecutive losses.

"Our kids needed that," head coach Jimmy Noonan said after the bounce-back win. "We were left scratching our heads asking where are we (after losses to Heathwood and Northwood). We needed a big win like that, and it was. Winning a rivalry game is important for our kids."

Wilson Hall head coach Adam Jarecki was just left frustrated. His offense was hampered by penalties all night, losing a few big scoring plays to holding calls. Any points that come off the scoreboard hurt, but it's especially tough in a one-point loss.

"I'm a little disappointed in

SEE **LMA,** PAGE B4

MBNO GIVES BACK WITH 4TH-ANNUAL BASKETBALL CAMP



BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The gym at Sumter High was buzzing throughout the morning and afternoon on Saturday, as MBNO hosted its annual basketball camp. The brand founded by Sumter natives Davonte Pack, Deonte Dennis and Memphis Grizzlies point guard Ja Morant welcomed some of the area's top middle school and early high school hoopers to learn skills in the morning and play a showcase game in the afternoon. PSD, one of Morant's top sponsors, was also on hand giving away gear while also unveiling a new truck with the former Knight displayed across the back. Foot Locker also came with an assist for all the campers and the varsity athletes from all of the basketball programs in Sumter School District.

"This is very exciting. It's the fourth-annual; this is one of the best times of the year," said Pack. "When September comes around, we always want to have this going to give back to the city. Shoutout to PSD, they've been with the fam since Day 1. Foot Locker came through, so it's nothing but excitement."

Tee Morant, the father of the Grizzlies point guard, was thrilled to take part in the annual festivities. The Morants never forget where their roots are planted, even if NBA dreams keep them away from the city at times.

"It ain't no mystery; this is home," he said. "It's always great to get back here. I always tell people the only thing (negative) about being home is having to leave. I hate that part because I'm so comfortable here. It's a real great feeling seeing the support we get when we

SEE **MBNO,** PAGE 5B







PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

The fourth-annual MBNO (My Brother No Other) basketball camp took place at Sumter High School on Sept. 13, 2025. The camp featured a swag giveaway from sponsors PSD and Foot Locker.







East Clarendon finishes clean run through non-region play with 35-14 win over Lakewood

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The East Clarendon football team made the trip over to Sumter County on Friday to face off with Lakewood. The smaller school was able to play the role of the bully in a flag-filled contest, as East Clarendon scored two defensive scores in a dominant 35-14 victory.

"I was proud of our demeanor," EC head coach Larry Cornelius said of the win against his former squad. "It was raining yellow flags on both sides, so when you've got that many penalties, it can be hard to keep your cool. I thought we did a good job of that.

"It was just nice to grind it out. That was the only thing I was upset with was the penalties; other than that, I thought we did a good job."

It's been a long fall for the 0-4 Gators, who have been ravaged by injuries, including three ACL injuries, early in the season. Head coach Willie Offord is just trying to focus on the positives as Lakewood turns their attention to one of the most challenging regions in the state, regardless of classification.

"At this point, we're just looking for small victories, like the fact that we got on the board offensively," Offord said after his team was shut out in its previous two games. "Defensively, we're just losing games by attrition, being on the field too long. They had a couple of defensive touchdowns that hurt our morale a little bit. We'll celebrate the small things without trying to look at the scoreboard."

East Clarendon controlled the pace of the game with their rushing attack, collecting 188 yards and two scores on the ground. Skyler Cornelius got the bulk of the yardage, finishing with 134 yards on 23 totes, but both touchdowns came from Picasso Brown, who also returned an interception for six points. EC had just four possessions in the first half. After a fumble on the first possession, they found the end zone on the next three to coast into the half with a comfortable lead.

"We joked with Picasso, Blease (Hardy) and Sky, that Sky and Blease do the dirty work, running between the tackles, getting the tough yards. When they get a little gassed, we bring in our faster guys in Picasso and Tyquan Wilson. Both of Picasso's touchdowns, he just had a horde of blockers in front of him," Coach Cornelius said. "We joked that we made the underclassmen do the dirty work and the upperclassmen get the glory. It's the team concept, they laugh about it. That's all we care about is putting it in the end zone and winning games."

Gavin White was 7-10 for 68 yards and a score through the air, connecting with Shamar Graham on an 11-yard score.

Defensively, the Wolverines lived in the Lakewood backfield. Jaylon Barron had three tackles for a loss, a sack, a fumble recovery and five tackles. Mike Woods recovered a fumble for a touchdown to go with six tackles. Thomas Fitts had seven tackles and three tackles for a loss. Jesse Floyd had seven stops and one tackle for a loss. S. Cornelius had seven tackles and recovered a fumble. Ke'Shaun Porter had a sack and four tackles. Xavier Smith had two tackles for a loss and four tackles. P. Brown had two pass breakups, a forced fumble and four tackles to go with his pick-six. Avery Lowery added a sack, a forced fumble and four tackles.

East Clarendon opens region play against Lake City on Friday, while Lakewood hosts Wilson for their first region contest.



PHOTOS BY NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR

East Clarendon's Picasso Brown (5) is lifted into the air after a touchdown against Lakewood on Friday.



East Clarendon's Skyler Cornelius carries the ball against Lakewood.



Lakewood's Ziggy Offord carries the ball against East Clarendon on Friday.



Lakewood's James Brand (21) carries the ball against East Clarendon on Friday.



East Clarendon's Gavin White (7) drops back to pass on Friday.



the Sumter ITEM SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL - FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

CRESTWOOD	0	@	SUMTER HIGH	28	
LMA 'CATS	14	@	WILSON HALL	13	
E. CLARENDON	35	@	LAKEWOOD	14	
SB EAGLES	22	@	LAKE VIEW	18	
TSA GENERALS	55	@	SPART. CHRIST.	52	
MANNING	52	@	RIDGELAND SEC	6	
BEAUFORT AC.	41	@	LEE ACADEMY	0	
O-BURG PREP	41	@	CH SAINTS	0	
LEE CENTRAL	2	@	HANNAH-PAMP	27	



Manning team spanks Ridgeland Secondary to close non-region action

STAFF REPORT

The Manning football team faced off against Ridgeland Secondary on Friday and put on a show in a 50-6 victory to close out non-region play.

The Monarchs controlled the game from the beginning as they outgained Ridgeland 375-130 on the night. Three turnovers couldn't slow down a Monarch squad that also forced four turnovers of their own.

Daniel Robinson ran for 152 yards and two touchdowns, while Isaiah Baxter added 83 yards and a score. Lovell Stevenson ran for two touchdowns and threw for two more. He finished 7-10 for 94 yards through the air, while running for 25 yards. CJ Robinson was his top target, catching four passes for 59 yards and two touchdowns.

Tyrese Bennett intercepted two passes for the Monarchs and recovered a fumble. He also had one pass breakup. Ethan Morales added a sack, two tackles for a loss, four total tackles and forced a fumble. Lovon Stevenson chipped in with two stops in the backfield. Baxter added a fumble recovery and three tackles.

The Monarchs now enter their bye week before opening region play at East Clarendon on Sept. 26.



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Manning's Lovell Stevenson ran for two touchdowns and threw two more in the Monarchs' win over Ridgeland Secondary on Friday.



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Scott's Branch receiver Keith Rogers had eight catches for 145 yards and a touchdown and caught the game-sealing interception as the Eagles beat Lake View on Friday.

Scott's Branch outlasts No. 4 Lake View for statement win heading into region play

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Scott's Branch football team has been riding a rollercoaster for the first month of the season.

The Eagles fell flat out of the gate, losing 39-0 to county rival East Clarendon. Since then, they're riding high. Scott's Branch followed with a 40-38 win over Manning, snapping a long losing streak to their larger county rival. After a bye week, the Eagles wanted to build on their momentum against No. 4 Lake View. It was their chance to make a statement, and the Eagles were heard loud and clear.

Scott's Branch pulled out a 22-18 win in a back-and-forth battle that was defined by a couple of key stops on two-point conversion attempts and a late stop to put the icing on the cake.

"We wanted to use the bye week to get better, kinda get back to a camp feel and work on some fundamentals, and it translated with a big win on the road against a well-coached, good Lake View team," SB head coach Pat Fleming said. "It was big."

The Eagles were down a key player in the victory, Quintin Jackson. Their safety and offensive Swiss Army Knife was sidelined with a lower-body injury, so different players had to step up. Sophomore Myren Walker stepped in on defense, while the offensive roles shifted around slightly to adjust for the loss. Lake View put all their attention on Nyren Bowman, so everyone else ate. Keith Rogers had eight catches for 145 yards and a score, while Christian Green caught five passes for 67 yards and a touchdown. Nashawn Chestnut added a 50-yard reception. Jaiven Conyers had another great game at quarterback outside of an early interception, passing for 275 yards and two scores, while adding another 100 yards and a touchdown on the ground.

"They had triple coverage on Nyren Bowman all night, so our outside receivers had big games. We were telling them that all week, and they did," Fleming said. "Keith Rogers came through again, and we had Christian Green take a screen for a touchdown. Those guys played well. We made some big plays on the outside, which allows us to expand the offense even more because a defensive coordinator is going to have to respect every receiver we have because everyone is making plays."

One of the early defining plays was a big goal line stand in the second quarter, which helped send the game into halftime with the Eagles clinging to an 8-6 lead. Scott's Branch played well backed up against their own end zone, as Lake View failed to convert any of their two-point attempts, which proved to be the difference.

"The guys dug deep," Fleming said. "That was the determining factor. We converted two, and they didn't convert any."

Things got a little hairy late. Holding onto their lead in the fourth quarter, Scott's Branch made a stop on third-and-19 and committed a personal foul, breathing life into the Gators. Lake View would go down and bunch in a touchdown later in the drive to take an 18-14 lead. But the Eagles had one more answer in the tank. Rogers scored the final go-ahead touchdown before snagging an interception to seal the win.

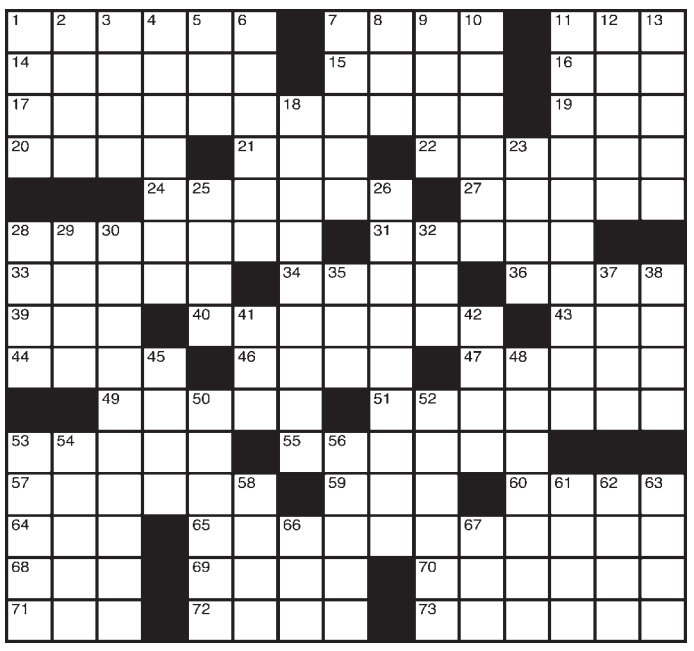
Defensively, Danny Ragin led the team with 11 tackles, a sack and three tackles for a loss, while Nazaiah Richardson added 11 stops. Fra'Jon Bennett had nine tackles and two tackles for a loss. Bowman had seven tackles and a tackle for a loss.

"It was a good defensive effort," Fleming said. "We knew, without Quintin, it was going to be hard to do all the things that we do, but we got it done, and I'm proud of that from the guys."

While their last two wins were massive for their program, Fleming wants his team to focus on the task at hand: winning a region title.

"It wasn't a one-time fluke. We're looking to be consistent, clean up mistakes. We're ready to make this region title push," he said. "It's the same thing after we beat Manning; we didn't want any letdowns. Our goal was 15-0. We slipped against a very good East Clarendon team, who is 4-0 on the season. We're just putting it together, taking it week by week, practice by practice, game by game, play by play. It's the standard now, so it's really not hard when guys understand the task."

CROSSWORD



Across
1 Premolar neighbor
7 Opposite of sans
11 Bub
14 Handy
15 Indistinct number
16 Lone
17 *Ice cream sundae traditionally served in a boat
19 Fertility clinic cells
20 Minor dustup
21 Masks and gowns in the OR, e.g.
22 Game featuring matches and love
24 Organize
27 Money with a double-headed eagle
28 Before now
31 San Antonio landmark
33 Fast Amtrak train
34 Pledge drive gift
36 __ mail
39 Brief moment in time?
40 *Salt-free seasoning introduced in 1983
43 Highland rejection
44 Walked heavily
46 "I'm standing right here"
47 Footnote abbr.
49 Riding event
51 Become familiar with
53 "The Princess Bride" co-star __ the Giant
55 Leonard who wrote "Get Shorty"
57 Jewish mystical doctrine
59 Energy bar grain
60 Named names
64 GI show gp.
65 *Rehearsal
68 Eastern "way"
69 Above the strike zone
70 Nabe in lower Manhattan
71 Antlered buglers
72 Pi Day follower
73 Have the final turn, and what can be found in the answers to the starred clues?

Down
1 Windy City team
2 Urgent letters
3 "99 Luftballons" singer
4 "Maybe not even that"
5 Convent member
6 Go by
7 In accordance with
8 Up/down arrows on a remote: Abbr.
9 Send off
10 Peter of Chicago
11 *Inflatable structure at a kids party
12 Middle ear bone
13 Discontinue
18 Adidas offering
23 Not really feeling it?
25 Thailand, once
26 Flooring in a ryokan
28 Sunrise locale
29 Taiwanese tech giant
30 *Listing of all-time accomplishments
32 French article
35 "__ of Girls' Things": poem by Sharon Olds
37 Café addition
38 Fat-heavy diet
41 Issa of "Insecure"
42 Time division
45 Cartoon explorer
48 Make available ahead of time
50 Oracle site
52 Observing
53 Between zero and 90 degrees
54 Congested, perhaps
56 Scottish bodies of water
58 Extremely dry
61 Solo at the Met
62 17-Across topper
63 Buzzer in a cloud
66 Mature
67 Talk sweetly

JUMBLE

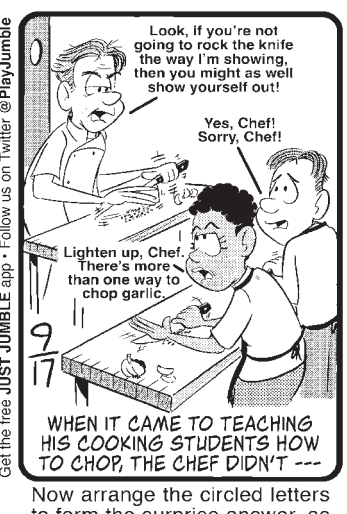
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NDYIK

WPTES

EEGRME

MOCNOM



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

Answer here:

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

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

Jumbles: DINKY SWEPT EMERGE COMMON
Answer: When it came to teaching his cooking students how to chop, the chef didn't — MINCE WORDS

Thomas Sumter outlasts Spartanburg Christian 55-52 for 1st win of the season

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Thomas Sumter traveled to Spartanburg Christian for a battle of wildly different offenses on Friday night. The Generals have transformed into a pass-first offense this fall and showed that off in spades against the Warriors, slinging the ball around the yard for 470 yards in an offensive shootout. On the other side, Spartanburg Christian pounded the rock on the ground on a night when defense was pretty optional.

There weren't many stops to speak of, but the Generals were able to make one when it counted, holding off SCA in the fourth quarter to take home a wild 55-52 victory. Head coach Stacy Bell was beyond thrilled for his team as they continued to battle all night to leave with their first win of the season.

"Our fans got their money's worth, and I probably aged 20 years," Bell joked. "I was very proud of all of our players. It was kind of one of the most unique games that I've been through, but there at the end, we needed a defensive stand, and they made it."

It was an offensive shootout all night long. Thomas Sumter's offensive coordinator Rip Blackstone brought a new style of offense this year, and it paid off on Friday. The Generals have used a two-quarterback system throughout the first few weeks of the fall, but Clay Team was battling a rib injury, which put the ball in Jace Williams' hands all night long. The junior transfer took advantage, going 25-32 for 470 yards and eight touchdowns, with a final toss to Carter Hill with two minutes left to put an icing on the win.

"I was very happy for him because he and his family are great people. He got into a rhythm, and he seemed very comfortable," Bell said. "Outside of one drop, I really didn't see him get flustered at all, and he wasn't upset at his receiver, but that was when we had to punt. He also scrambled for a big run for us. It was just nice to see him have success."

So many offensive stars made an impact on Friday. Sam Petrauschke caught five passes for 130 yards and three touchdowns in the first half, but an ankle injury sidelined him for the rest of the night. Christian Williams was ready to carry the load in his stead, catching 11 passes for 208 yards and three touchdowns. Joseph Andrade added an additional three catches for 79 yards and a score, while Hill caught four passes for 45 yards, including the game's final touchdown.



Thomas Sumter's Jace Williams threw for 470 yards and eight touchdowns in the Generals' win over Spartanburg Christian on Friday.

PHOTO PROVIDED

"We kinda spread it out," Bell said. "Sam had five receptions and three touchdowns in the first half and injured his ankle right before halftime, but people stepped up. Christian for the second week in a row had 10 receptions; Joseph had some big catches."

Bell was also quick to credit his guys in the trenches, who allowed their quarterback to play comfortably from the pocket all night long.

"It's a team game, and the O-line blocked incredibly well," Bell said.

Thomas Sumter had a tough night defensively against Spartanburg Christian's single-wing offense, but they were able to make a stop in the fourth quarter thanks in part to a great play in the backfield by Ryan Cintron-Black.

"Ryan Black made a really nice tackle for a loss and, at that point, they were behind the chains," Bell said. "Not being negative, but that's not necessarily what they're built for, to start throwing it, so at that point, we made the stop."

That defensive stand led to every coach's favorite play: lining up in victory formation and kneeling as the clock runs out.

"We practice all of the situations, but sometimes we don't get a chance to use them. It was fun to get in victory formation and understand what we're doing," Bell said. "It showed growth for our program."

The Generals will look to keep the good times rolling as they return home for a date with Lee Academy on Friday.

"For us to get to celebrate a victory, winning is hard, and they deserve that. The coaching staff is already back to work with the goal to win this week, regardless of who that is," Bell said. "Lee is a good team, and I know they'll be ready for us. The next couple of weeks and it gives us a chance to meet one of our goals coming into the season, to increase our win total. All of our goals are still there."

LMA FROM PAGE B1

our execution," Jarecki said. "We had a lot of penalties in the first half that really hurt. It actually took two scores off the board. We just didn't play very clean, and it wasn't like what we've been doing. I know there's a lot extra with what they're doing. Hats off to them; they had a tremendous plan, which I knew Coach Noonan would. He tried to give us a steady dose of what we try to do, and he held the ball the entire third quarter. We just didn't respond well.

"I'm a little disappointed, but we have to use this as a learning experience. We've got to regroup and see where we're at."

The defining play of the game came early in the fourth. Ford Wilder connected with Milling Galloway on fourth-and-goal from the two, but the Barons were a little slow setting up the kick. Laurence Manning noticed Wilson Hall had some issues with their first successful attempt, so they were ready to send the dogs. Ray Weston found a lane and got a mitt on the ball to keep LMA ahead 14-13.

"We had to burn a time out because we were lacking personnel to defend their water bucket (play). We had a safety that was out, so we were missing a sub," Noonan said. "They had bobbled a snap the first time they kicked an extra point, so I said we're going to line up and block this extra point and win the ball game. Sure enough, they bobbled the snap, and we blocked it."

There was still 10 minutes to play after the blocked extra point. LMA was able to chew up some clock on the next possession before pinning the Barons at their own 11. After a quick three-and-out, the 'Cats had the ball back with five minutes to play. But that was the last time Wilson Hall would touch the ball. Laurence Manning sat on the ball for the rest of the night. They faced a fourth-and-four with less than 30 seconds to play, but Grainger Powell found the edge for a first-down run to ice the win.



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilson Hall's Ben McLaurin (3) carries the ball against Laurence Manning on Friday.



Laurence Manning's Grainger Powell (11) throws against pressure from Wilson Hall's Walker Wilson.

The dramatic end followed a slow start, as penalties hampered both squads early. Ben McLaurin ended the scoring drought a few seconds into the second quarter when he scampered in from five yards out. Laurence Manning responded with 2:19 left until halftime, as Scoop Dennis caught a screen from Powell and took it 74 yards to the house, tying the game at 7-7 heading into the break. Laurence Manning took a lead midway through the third when Powell punched in a QB sneak.

Most of Laurence Manning's offense came on the massive screen to S. Dennis. Powell finished with 137 yards through the air, going 11-15. The Dennis brothers did most of the pass catching, as Scoop had just his 75-yard score and his brother Zy added four catches for 30 yards. Powell led the 'Cats in rushing with 10 totes for 41 yards and a score. Eli Sandifer had 27 yards on eight carries, and Pierson Gamble chipped in 21 yards on seven carries.

(Powell) had a solid night," Noonan said. "He graded out about 85% running the option game and threw the football with solid precision. He's averaging about 70% in the air with his completion rate on the year, and he's protecting the football. I need to find some wood to knock on, but he's done a good job of securing the football."

McLaurin led Wilson Hall with 101 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries. Galloway added 56 rushing yards on 12 carries. Wilder finished 4-11 for 44 yards and a score through the air. In the end, penalties did the Barons no favors on offense.

"We were penalized more in the first half than we were in the first three games combined," Jarecki said. "We were doing it. They were the right call, no doubt, I just hate that we were so sloppy. Against a team like that, you don't need to hurt yourself, and we kinda did."

Shawn Moore led the Swampcats with eight tackles in the win. Asher Sanders added seven tackles, two stops in the backfield, a quarterback hurry and a pass breakup. Weston added six tackles, a tackle for a loss and a sack to his blocked extra point. S. Dennis chipped in with 5.5 tackles, while Rob Briggs had 3.5 tackles and a tackle for a loss.

"We're a scrappy bunch," Noonan said. "It's mostly by committee; we run to the ball really well. We're not going to match up with folks or beat them up with brawn; the kids are disciplined. Against Wilson Hall or any other option team, it's a discipline game. We didn't practice with a football all week just to make sure guys understand their assignments.

"They answered the call and did just that against a very good football team."

Nehemiah Dinkins led Wilson Hall with eight tackles and two tackles for a loss. The Barons hadn't needed to play a full four quarters on both sides of the ball prior to the rivalry game, and that caught up with them a bit after halftime, as LMA just drained the clock.

"The defense played well at times, but at times we got tired," Jarecki said. "That third quarter coming out of halftime, they held it six or seven minutes. We had one possession in the quarter. We felt like we were running out of gas at times. We need to have that not be a factor."

Wilson Hall will look to bounce back with a region game against Camden Military on Friday.

"We can't take anybody for granted," Jarecki said. "We've got to use (the loss) as a wake-up call. Things have been coming kinda easy, and we have to change that mentality. We have to get back to being a blue-collar working team again. We're going to try to make a positive out of it; that's the only way I know how to do it. I hope we can recover. I'm anxious to see how we'll respond. If we want to get to the level we want to be at, we have to respond."

Laurence Manning will look to keep their momentum heading in the right direction when they face off against the other half of last year's SCISA 3A state championship game, Pinewood Prep. After that, it's a run through an important slate of 4A games with home dates with Ben Lippen and Hammond before a trip to Cardinal Newman.

"Pinewood's another solid test; they're every bit as good as advertised," Noonan said. "Our kids need to learn to prepare every single game. We've got to hit that reset button. When things don't go right on Friday night, you learn from it and move on. We've got to be able to do that with positive things, as well."







Sumter High's Frank Richardson carries the ball against Crestwood on Friday.

PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM



Sumter High's Calvin Wofford (15) stiff arms a defender on Friday.

SUMTER HIGH FROM PAGE B1

look like it, and that's a credit to our players. But they're going to win a lot of games. Coach Roosevelt Nelson does a great job, and they're talented. It was just our night."

It was pretty much Sumter High's night from the opening kickoff. After trading three-and-outs to open the night, the Gamecocks used their bruising rushing attack to control the pace of the game. While Crestwood had their moments, they couldn't get out of their own way at times, committing costly penalties to go along with a stout defensive effort from the rival Gamecocks.

"Very sloppy play for a majority of the game," Nelson said of his Knights. "Defensive-wise, we did a little bit of a better job in the second half, giving up one score. Sloppy play in the red zone. We got there three or four times, couldn't get in and didn't stop the run at all. We've got to do better with that. You can't play a good team like Sumter and make mistakes by not tackling, not filling gaps and turnovers. Can't do it."

On their second possession, Sumter High marched down the field largely on the back of quarterback Frank Richardson and running back Reggie Shannon. The Gamecock signal caller eventually punched in a short score with 4:26 to play in the opening quarter. Crestwood then jumped offside on the extra point attempt, which prompted the Gamecocks to go for two. Richardson found the end zone again, and Sumter High grabbed an 8-0 lead that they would not relinquish.

The following drive defined the game for both teams. The Knights found life when Calvin Wofford broke loose on a 29-yard run. Brayden Boults followed with a nine-yard scoot to get the Knights into the red zone. Marek Yates was able to connect with Mekhi Calhoun to get inside the five. Two plays later, Boults tried to reach the goal line, and the ball was batted loose. Sumter High recovered it, but officials ruled the freshman running back down at the one-yard line. Boults was stuffed on his next attempt, setting up a critical fourth down. Wofford tried to find some room, but the Gamecock defense held strong and forced a turnover on downs.

"They wanted it more than us point blank, period," Nelson said.

With momentum fully on their side, Sumter High pounced. Richardson slipped through the Crestwood defense for a nine-yard run to get out of the shadow of his own end zone. The Gamecocks then methodically worked their way down the field once again, taking advantage of a personal foul call against the Knights along the way. Facing third-and-10 after a false start, the Gamecocks found a spark from Jamirh Bey, who took a reverse nine yards to the Crestwood 47. Richardson then found enough room for a first down on fourth-and-one to keep the drive alive. Richardson converted one more fourth-and-short on the drive, getting Sumter High down to the CHS 16. From there, Shannon handled business, breaking free down the left sideline to extend the Gamecock lead to 15-0.

"That was a long drive, and I think that kinda took their spirits away a little bit," Barnes said. "I give our offensive line, our tight ends, our H-backs a lot of credit tonight; we were physical at the line of scrimmage. They put a lot of people in the box, and we didn't care."

The penalties then started to pile up for Crestwood. They got a nice return on the ensuing kickoff only for it to be negated by a hold. Another flag on second down sent the Knights in the wrong direction, and they punted two plays later. The Gamecocks responded with their biggest passing play of the night, a 24-yard pitch and catch from Richardson to Bey to get SHS down to the 25. A fumbled pitch and a flag for an illegal shift left Sumter High with second-and-17, but two Richardson runs gave the Gamecocks a fresh set of downs. Another fumbled exchange put the Gamecocks behind the sticks, but Richardson found the end zone three plays later to push the lead to 22-0 before halftime.

During the break, the Gamecocks were able to recognize September Craft, the mother of former SHS and North Carolina star Tylee Craft. The former Gamecock and Tar Heel battled cancer for most of his time in Chapel Hill and was a beacon of hope for many people fighting the same fight across the world until he passed away on Oct. 12, 2024. Barnes shared an embrace with September on his way to the locker room and reflected on the impact Craft continues to have.

"Tylee was what you want Sumter football to be about," Barnes said. "Our players should try to be the type of man that he was, and his mom is such a phenomenal lady. The way she's handled all this and just been a pillar in our community. Every time I see her, she's got a smile on her face. I told her I love her, and she knows that, and I really respect her. The type of guy Tylee was is a reflection of his mom. She did a great job raising him. I'm happy we had an opportunity to remember him. He ain't ever going to go away; that tribute isn't going to go away. I'm just happy we were able to honor her as much as Tylee."

Crestwood started to find some momentum again on the first possession of the second half, and Boults and Wofford got the ball moving on the ground. Yates got hungry for the end zone and tossed up a deep ball to Jayden Martin, but instead of finding No. 4 in purple and white, the ball landed in the hands of the Gamecocks' No. 4, Bryce Allen. His momentum carried him into the end zone for a touchback, squashing any Crestwood mojo.

Defense dominated most of the second half, as the third quarter ended without an additional point on the scoreboard. Crestwood tried to make a push for the red zone at the end of the third quarter, but they were unable to convert on fourth-and-15 after a pair of negative plays. That would set up the Gamecocks' final touchdown with 9:44 left to play. After two first-down runs from Richardson and Shannon, Cayon Gordon had an eight-yard tote before breaking free for a 32-yard gallop. He was taken down at the 28, but two runs from Shannon and Richardson got the Gamecocks down to the 10. Richardson found the end zone one more time, though he fumbled it along the way. After losing the ball just before the goal line, the SHS quarterback was able to jump on the loose ball for the night's final score. Crestwood was able to force a turnover late, as Jaquaylen Dennis-Harriett snagged an interception after a pass from Richardson was blocked at the line of scrimmage, but the Knights stalled out at the 15 when consecutive passes fell incomplete on third and fourth downs. The Gamecocks were able to run out the clock from there and seal their victory.

The Gamecocks outgained Crestwood 343-145 in the win, amassing 310 yards on the ground. Richardson finished with 158 yards and three scores, while Shannon added 100 and a touchdown. Gordon chipped in 45 yards on just five carries.

Tymaries Thompson-Durant led Sumter High with 10 tackles and a tackle for a loss, while Cleveland Pinkney added nine tackles and a tackle for a loss. The Gamecocks finished with 6.5 tackles for a loss, which accounted for 24 yards lost for CHS.

Sumter High was able to slow down Crestwood's dynamic rushing attack by breaking away from some convention. With a speedy running back room like Crestwood, some teams try to push the Knights inside and pay. The Gamecocks tried to get Crestwood to bounce runs to the outside, which turned into repeated tackles in the backfield.

"I think we played them opposite of everyone else. We can run, too, and we wanted to make them bounce the ball a lot. We didn't want them to hit creases," Barnes said. "When they hit creases, they got us on a couple of drives. We had a lot of success making them bounce and then coming inside out and having someone leverage them from outside and tackle them. A lot of teams haven't done that to them. I give our defensive coaches a lot of credit and our defensive kids.

"We haven't played that well on defense here in a long time. We did some good things offensively, and I'm proud of that, but I'm extremely proud of our defensive kids tonight. We're getting kids back every week now, so maybe we're getting ready for a good run."

Both teams head into region play next week. The Knights start off with a brutal stretch, heading to South Florence, the defending SCHSL 4A champs.

"We better wipe it off," Nelson said. "South Florence is not going to play; that's a conference game. It's a new season starting there, and we have to move forward."

The Gamecocks, meanwhile will stay home to face off with Spring Valley on Friday. Barnes said the key to starting region play on the right note is just continuing to stack good days, not weeks, on top of each other.

"It's not just great Friday nights. Now let's have a great Monday, a great Tuesday, a great Wednesday and a great Thursday, which leads you to a great Friday night," Barnes said. "We've done that, pretty much, for two weeks. I said back when we got our tail whipped (by White Knoll), sometimes getting your tail whipped is good for you. What we're doing, slowly but surely, is developing depth because guys are having to play for guys that are hurt. When those guys come back, you develop depth.

"It's one week at a time, but this is a great win. I said when I got here that we want to own this county. They got us a couple years ago, a real good team; and I think this is a real good team. We just didn't make many mistakes tonight … I knew we could do it, but I didn't know we could do it as well as we did tonight."

MBNO FROM PAGE B1

get, when we come back home, and I'm proud of (Pack) for the give back. We've got this and the turkey drive. It's a testament to how much we love Sumter, South Carolina."

The MBNO crew was thrilled to have PSD and Foot Locker on hand to make the day even more special for the campers and local hoopers.

"Everybody needs drawers," Tee Morant joked about PSD's giveaway, which included athletic underwear and socks. "It's a great feeling to feel the support of PSD, Foot Locker and all. It's great for the kids."

This year's camp had one major wrinkle. The morning came with training from a slew of Sumter-area coaches, including Sumter High's boys basketball staff, led by head coach Bryan Brown, Crestwood head girls coach Shaquanda Miller-McCray and Thomas Sumter girls basketball coach Cedric Rembert, along with members of the MBNO crew. Former Boston College and Florida standout CJ Felder was also on hand to share his experiences on the court. After a full morning of work, lunch and life lessons from coaches and mentors, the new showcase games were played in the afternoon. The girls hit the court first, followed by the boys. The two games featured some of the top talent from local middle schools, as well as a few high school freshmen. Doors opened up so the community could watch the next generation of stars show off their talent.

"That's the main goal, let's put some of these players in front of some of these varsity coaches' eyes and see what they're going to be going against or who's going to be coming up into their program," Pack said.

Tee Morant added, "It's all about exposure. I think that's what we're trying to do more than anything. Everyone knows the story of how 12 (Ja Morant) was unseen, underrated and all that, but made it to the big time. For us to have a platform to give back and make sure these kids are getting the right exposure but, more than that, they're getting the verbal knowledge that we have to make sure they're going in the right direction."

The reaction from the campers makes all the work that goes into making this annual camp happen more than worth it for the MBNO family.

"It's real hard to overlook excitement. You can see the excitement in these kids' eyes when they're out there competing, going through drills, just getting the correct knowledge of the game of basketball. That's more of a blessing to me than anything."





PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

The fourth-annual MBNO basketball camp took place at Sumter High School on Sept. 13, 2025.









ROSA LEE WACTOR

Rosa Lee Wactor, 88, widow of Joseph Wactor Sr., died Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025, at the home of her daughter. Born March 11, 1937, in Sumter, she was the daughter of the late Sylvester Johnson and Evelina Jenkins.

Please be respectful and allow the family time to grieve and prepare for the funeral arrangements. The family will receive relatives and friends from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, Sept. 17-19, at 3370 Alpenglow Drive, Dalzell, and 27 Pine St., Sumter.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by the management of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, SC 29150.

JOEY LEROY CARMON

Joey LeRoy Carmon, 64, husband of Sherry Anderson Carmon, died Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, at his home in Sumter.


CARMON

He was a son of the late LeRoy Garland Carmon and Betty Rose Evans Carmon.

He worked in facility maintenance at Holiday Manor/Sumter Place in Sumter.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a sister, Lisa Carmon Grate of Sumter; three nieces and three nephews; and 10 great-nieces and great-nephews; brothers-in-law, Robert Anderson and Michael Anderson; and a sister-in-law, Angela Anderson Edwards.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Brenda Kay Carmon; and a brother, Robert Wayne Carmon.

A funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025, in the chapel of Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral home with the Rev. Clyde Chan and the Rev. Jim Tanner officiating. Burial followed at Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery.

The family received friends 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, 2025, at the funeral home and other times at the home, 2895 Ithica Drive, Sumter.

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

PHILLIP CARLYLE SCHALLER II

Phillip Carlyle Schaller II, 28, husband of Staci L. Schaller, died Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, at MUSC Medical Center in Charleston.

Born in Sumter, he was a son of Phillip Schaller and Lisa Roberson Schaller.

He was an electrician with SEFA Group.

In addition to his wife and parents, he is survived by his grandparents, Shirley and Horace Roberson; and Keith and Margaret Schaller; two sisters, Heather DeLucy (Michael) of Florida and Olivia Williams (Dakota) of Florida; and two dogs, Luke and Lucy.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, in the chapel of Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home with the Rev. Ray Wiser officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Leukemia Research Foundation, 191 Waukegan Road, Suite 105, Northfield, Illinois 60093. *https://leukemiarf.org/donate*

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

BETTY GALLOWAY ARDIS

Betty Galloway Ardis, 89, widow of M. Wilbur Ardis,


ARDIS

passed away Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, at McLeod Health Clarendon.

Born April 7, 1936, in Wedgefield, she was a daughter of the late Charles and Willene Jackson Galloway. She was a member of Crosswell Baptist Church, where she served as a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Survivors include two sons, Mike Ardis (Cindy) and Stan Ardis (Marijon); grandchildren, Kevin, Courtney, Kaitlin, Bryson and Hayden; great-grandchildren, Freya and Brynley; a brother, Carl Galloway (Pat); and a sister, Deborah Murray (Mike).

She was preceded in death by a brother, Charles T. Galloway; a sister, Dorothy "Dot" Gardenhire; and a niece, Cindy Broome.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, 2025, at Crosswell Baptist Church with the Rev. Charles Owens and the Rev. Rodney Howard officiating. Burial was in Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bryson Ardis, Hayden Ardis, Ryan Broome, John Gardenhire, Steve Galloway and Michael Mitchum.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Faithful Followers Sunday School class.

The family received friends from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, 2025, at Crosswell Baptist Church and other times at the home of Mike and Cindy Ardis, 42 Calhoun Drive.

Memorials may be made to Crosswell Baptist Church, P.O. Box 98, Sumter, SC 29151.

The family would like to express their appreciation to the staff of Pocotaligo Health and Rehabilitation Center for all of their loving care and compassion.

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

DOROTHY LEE MCKNIGHT

Dorothy Lee McKnight, 65, daughter of the late Edward Ned McKnight and Janie Lou Bradley McKnight, was born on Sept. 29, 1959, in Sumter. She departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital, Columbia.

Family will receive friends at the home, 2030 Patton Drive, Sumter.

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

HOWARD LAWRENCE FRASER SR.

Howard Lawrence Fraser Sr., 82, of Sumter passed away on Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, at McLeod Hospital in Florence following a brief battle with cancer.


FRASER

He was born on Sept. 26, 1942, in Laurens County. He was the son of the late Mary and William (Will) Fraser. He grew up in a loving family of six children, with his older brother Will, younger brothers Tommy and Hugh, and younger sisters Mary (Payne) and Pat (Spencer).

He graduated from Mayewood High School in 1958 and loved telling stories of friends, football and driving a school bus.

On Feb. 10, 1968, he married the love of his life, Gulie Corbett Rowland of Sumter. They built a beautiful family and life together with four children, Miriam Moore (Kurt), Margaret Barron (Tommy), Larry (Rebekah) and Brett (Jessica), and 16 grandchildren, Maggie McGranaghan (Josh), Gigi Moore, TJ Barron, Corbett Bell (Patrick), Sarah Teems (Ryan), Lawrence Fraser (Mary Beth), Emory Moore (Sarah), Jonathan Fraser, Hannah Witt (Ethan), and Kasey, Abi, Carleigh, Katherine, Mary, Claire and Jase Fraser. He also leaves behind six great-grandchildren, Dawson, Raya, Aida, Josie and Millie McGranaghan and Jesse Witt.

In his extended family, Howard cherished the love and fellowship of his late parents-in-law, Maggie and George Rowland, his 12 brothers and sisters-in-law, and their combined 30 children.

Later in life, Howard chose to pursue his dream of higher education. While working full time and raising a family, he began taking classes in the evenings at USC Sumter and then Troy State's Sumter Campus, obtaining both his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Master's Degree in Human Resources. His family was very proud of his accomplishment, and he proudly wore his 1993 Carolina class ring. Following high school, Howard joined the Army National Guard, where he served as a drill sergeant. He went to work at Sonoco Products Company (Hartsville) as a skilled welder for 36 years in the machine fabrication division, retiring in 1997. He then began a second career with the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department in Sumter, where he served for 23 years, retiring in 2021.

Howard and Gulie are members of the faith community at Harmony Church. They have been blessed with dear friendships in the Zigrang Sunday School Class and the "Sunday Night Gang with Skeet Keeton."

Howard (Daddy, Granddaddy) leaves behind a tremendous legacy of love for God, his family and their Sunday lunches, his country, his Gamecocks, time managing his property "The Hill" and his hunting time in the swamp with his sons, grandsons and nephews. He led a rich, full and meaningful life. He was our patriarch, and he will be deeply missed.

A private graveside service was held at Hebron Presbyterian Church in Oswego. An outdoor memorial service followed at The Hill, 3500 Ben Sanders Road, Dalzell, at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025. Family and friends were warmly invited to attend.

Memorials may be made to Lugoff Bible Fellowship Church, 883 Pine Grove Road, Lugoff, SC 29078.

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

WILLIE ELLIOTT JR.

Willie "Bill" Elliott Jr., 81, widower of Barbara Jean Pugh Elliott, son of the late Willie Elliott and Eva Mae Dinkins Elliott, was born on Aug. 4, 1944, in Sumter. He departed this life on Monday, Sept. 15, 2025, at Sumter East Health Rehab Center, Sumter.

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

DR. ERIN RAE MCCARTY

Dr. Erin Rae (née Hadley) McCarty (D.C.), Sept. 4, 1960 - Sept. 6, 2025, died in Sumter County, South Carolina, at the age of 65 of natural causes. Born in Jamestown, New York, she was the beloved daughter of the late Fidelma Patricia (née Meenan) Crotser. Erin was a longtime resident of Sumter but left the area to earn her degree (Minneapolis, Minnesota), to care for her ailing mother (Aurora, Colorado), to start her clinic (Aloha, Oregon) but later returned to the area. Erin was a licensed chiropractor, small business owner, entrepreneur and owner of multiple properties. She was a devout Catholic and active in the church community, participating in weekly rosary prayer groups and working with the Women's Guild. Throughout her life, she made sacrifices for the benefit of the people that she loved and her community. Her favorite activities included board games with friends/family, prayer groups, political debates and finding an amazing bargain.


McCARTY

She was beloved mother of Patrick McCarty (Anders) and Brett McCarty (Courtney) and grandmother to Remy McCarty and Isla McCarty. Surviving siblings are Peter Hadley (Georgia), Anne Goodrich, Linda Kelly (Owen) and Patrick Hadley (Susan). Erin is preceded in death by her mother, Fidelma Crotser, and sister Rose Garrick (David).

For those who would like to attend, a Funeral Mass will be held in Sumter on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, at the St. Anne & St. Jude Roman Catholic Church at 2 p.m. A reception will follow the service at the St. Anne Parish Center. Contact info is *erindcmemorial@gmail.com*.

ROSA LEE BILLIE WELLS

Rosa Lee Billie Wells, 81, widow of Dan Wells and daughter of the late Ruben Billie and Edna Mae McBride Billie, was born on July 1, 1944, in Sumter. She departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, at Chippenham Hospital, Richmond, Virginia.

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

ROBERT ALLEN MAULDIN

Robert Allen Mauldin, 86, husband of Dorothy Ruth Beasley Mauldin, died Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Born in Columbia, S.C., he was a son of the late George White Mauldin and Sara Louise Taylor Mauldin.

Mr. Mauldin was a self-employed landscaper.

Surviving are his wife; a daughter, Melody Ann Butler of Dalzell; two stepsons, Mike Johnson of Lyman, S.C., and Paul Johnson of Green Castle, Pennsylvania; eight grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and siblings.

He was preceded in death by a son, Keith Allen Mauldin, and a son-in-law, Floyd Wilson Butler.

Services will be private.

Whoever wishes may call the family.

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

JARVIS DARRELL ROSE

Jarvis Darrell Rose, 43, son of Alma Jean McCutheon Rose and the late Willie Mayes Rose, was born on Nov. 30, 1981, in Sumter. He departed this life on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, at his residence.


ROSE

Public viewing will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter.

Interment will follow in Mayesville Community Cemetery, Mayesville.

Family will receive friends at the home, 925 Miller Road, Apt M5, Sumter.

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

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

ANNE-MARIE MARCELLE JONES

Anne-Marie Marcelle Jones (Nee Marchand) died peacefully in her sleep in the early morning hours of Monday, Sept. 15, 2025, following a long illness.

She was born on Dec. 3, 1942, in Meulles, Calvados, in the Normandy region of France to the late Robert Theodore Marchand and Marie-Therese Odile Rameyssen. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen on Nov. 13, 1984, and she lived most of her life in the United States, but she continued to make periodic visits to her relatives in France.

Many will remember her dedicated work as a French teacher at Thomas Sumter Academy in Sumter from August 1995 to August 2011.

She is survived by a daughter, Micheline Mary Callicott (Nee Phelan), a grandson, Theodore Callicott, and her current husband, Michael D. Jones.

She was preceded in death by both her parents, a sister, Micheline Marchand Pennec, and her former husband Thomas E. Phelan.

A visitation to celebrate the life of Anne-Marie will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bullock Funeral 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

IDA MAE THAMES COLLINS

Ida Mae Thames Collins, 81, wife of Joe D. Collins Jr. and daughter of the late Vernon Thames Sr. and Bertha Starks Thames, was born on May 22, 1944, in Manning. She departed this life on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025, at Sumter East Health and Rehabilitation Center, Sumter.


COLLINS

Public viewing will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, at St. John Baptist Church, 102 W. Clark St., Pinewood, with the Rev. Ricky White, pastor and eulogist, and the Rev. Jeffery Jackson, officiating.

Interment will follow in St. John Baptist Church Cemetery, Pinewood.

Family will receive friends at the home, 2205 Camden Hwy., Sumter.

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

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

ROBERT WOODHOUSE BONNEY II

WEDGEFIELD — Robert Woodhouse "Woody" Bonney II, 70, husband of Mary Lamer Bonney, died Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, at his home.

Born Oct. 19, 1954, in Norfolk, Virginia, he was a son of the late Harry H. Bonney Jr. and Ann Wilson Bonney. He was a member of Sumter First Church of the Nazarene. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served for three years in the 82nd Airborne Infantry and three years in the 2nd Ranger Battalion Infantry as a special operations armorer. He was employed by Sumter County Department of Corrections, Norfolk Southern Railroad and Caterpillar.

Survivors include his wife of 40 years; and two brothers, Harry Bonney III and John Trafton Bonney.

He was preceded in death by a brother, William Bonney.

A funeral service with military honors will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, in Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Greg Pressley officiating. Private burial will be in Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home.

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



the Sumter ITEM CLASSIFIEDS

To Place Your Classified Ads, Please call

803-774-1200

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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

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



Abandon Vehicle / Boat

To all persons claiming an interest in:
1980 - 11'1" - FIBERGLASS - TWOMAN -NO HULL ID# - NO REG # THADDEUS JONES II will apply to SCDNR for title on watercraft. If you have any claims to the watercraft, contact SCDNR at (803) 734-3699. Upon thirty days after the date of the last advertisement if no claim of interest is made and the watercraft has not been reported stolen, SCDNR shall issue clear title. Case No.: 20250512950340

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SUMTER
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Case No. 2025CP4301468
SUMMONS

Skyler Bean,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Lois G. Kota or her heirs, John Doe, a fictitious name representing all other persons or corporations unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described herein, any unknown adults as a class; and Richard Roe a fictitious name representing any unknown infants or persons under disability or persons in the military designated as a class. Defendants.

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to said Complaint upon the subscriber, at his office at 115 E. Church Street, Bishopville, South Carolina 29010, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You will also take notice that E. Thompson Kinney has been appointed to serve as Guardian ad Litem and he may be reached at 17 E. Calhoun Street, Sumter, South Carolina, 29150, Telephone Number (803) 676-1040.

STUCKEY FATA & SEGARS, LLC
s/Creighton M. Segars
CREIGHTON M. SEGARS
(SC Bar No. 103922)
csegars@sfslawfirm.com
115 East Church Street
Bishopville, South Carolina
Phone: (803) 484-5409
Fax: (803) 484-9239
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SUMTER
IN THE PROBATE COURT
Case No.: 2025-ES-43-0148
IN THE MATTER OF:
The Estate of Louis Ramsey, Deceased

PETITIONER:
Simon Ramsey

TO: Cleveland Holmes, Felicia Ramsey, and Antonio Ramsey:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Petition for Appointment of Personal Representative in the above-referenced estate proceeding, and to serve a copy of your Answer or other responsive pleading upon the undersigned attorney for the Petitioner within thirty (30) days after the final publication of this Summons, exclusive of the date of such publication.
Your Answer must be served upon:
Brad Stokes, Esq.
c/o Brad Law LLC
6156 St. Andrews Road, Suite 207
Columbia, SC 29212
If you fail to do so, the Court may proceed in your absence and grant the relief requested in the Petition.
NOTICE OF HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the Petition for Appointment of Personal Representative in the Estate of Louis Ramsey, deceased, will be held at the following time and place:
Date: November 3, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Sumter County Probate Court
215 N. Harvin Street, Courtroom 1A
Sumter, SC 29150
At this hearing, the Court will consider the Petition of Simon Ramsey for appointment as Personal Representative of the Estate.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF SUMTER
FILE NO. 2025ES43602
SUMMONS
IN THE MATTER OF:
SEAVIE EASTERLING, a/k/a SEVIA EASTERLING,
Decedent

ODESSA ELDER,
Petitioner,
vs.
JOHN DOE, A FICTIOUS NAME REPRESENTING ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS IN WHO ARE OR MIGHT CLAIM TO BE HEIRS OF THE DECEDENT, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ANY MINORS, ANY PERSONS NON COMPOS MENTIS, AND ANY PERSONS UNDER A DISABILITY OF ANY KIND OR NATURE,
Respondents.

TO THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE-NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the petition herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to this petition upon the subscriber, at the address shown below, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the petition, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND/OR MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES, AND/OR PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:
YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by Plaintiff.

YOUNG & WARR, LLC

By: Kenneth R. Young, Jr.
South Carolina Bar No. 5741
Attorney for the Plaintiff
23 West Calhoun Street
Sumter, South Carolina 29150
(803) 773-4371 (telephone)
(803) 773-4374 (facsimile)
Sumter, South Carolina
July 18, 2025

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS C/A No.: 2025-CP-43-01353 NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, Plaintiff, vs Soleil M. Strong, Defendant(s). SUMMONS AND NOTICES (Non-Jury) FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE TO THE DEFENDANT(S) ABOVE NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend by answering the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is hereby served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at their offices at 339 Heyward Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff will move for an Order of Reference or the Court may issue a general Order of Reference of this action to a Master-in-Equity/Special Referee, pursuant to Rule 53 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES, AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY: YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by Plaintiff. NOTICE OF FILING OF COMPLAINT TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED: YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Complaint, Lis Pendens, and Certificate of Exemption from ADR in the above entitled action was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on July 30, 2025. J. Martin Page, Esq. (SC Bar: 100200) Morgan Ames, Esq. (SC Bar: 106058) Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC 339 Heyward Street, 2nd Floor Columbia, SC 29201 Phone (803) 509-5078 BCP No.: 25-43751 7211

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF SUMTER
FILE NO. 2025ES43600
SUMMONS
IN THE MATTER OF:
JOE EASTERLING, a/k/a JOSEPH LEE EASTERLING,
Decedent

ODESSA ELDER,
Petitioner,
vs.
JOHN DOE, A FICTIOUS NAME REPRESENTING ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS IN WHO ARE OR MIGHT CLAIM TO BE HEIRS OF THE DECEDENT, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ANY MINORS, ANY PERSONS NON COMPOS MENTIS, AND ANY PERSONS UNDER A DISABILITY OF ANY KIND OR NATURE,
Respondents.

TO THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE-NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the petition herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to this petition upon the subscriber, at the address shown below, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the petition, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND/OR MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES, AND/OR PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:
YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by Plaintiff.

YOUNG & WARR, LLC

By: Kenneth R. Young, Jr.
South Carolina Bar No. 5741
Attorney for the Plaintiff
23 West Calhoun Street
Sumter, South Carolina 29150
(803) 773-4371 (telephone)
(803) 773-4374 (facsimile)
Sumter, South Carolina
July 18, 2025

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SUMTER
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Case No. 2025CP4301468
NOTICE OF FILING

Skyler Bean,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Lois G. Kota or her heirs, John Doe, a fictitious name representing all other persons or corporations unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described herein, any unknown adults as a class; and Richard Roe a fictitious name representing any unknown infants or persons under disability or persons in the military designated as a class. Defendants.

NOTICE OF FILING
TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Summons and Complaint in the above captioned matter was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, SC on August 15, 2025. The Complaint is a quiet title action.

STUCKEY FATA & SEGARS, LLC
s/Creighton M. Segars
CREIGHTON M. SEGARS
(SC Bar No. 103922)
csegars@sfslawfirm.com
115 East Church Street
Bishopville, South Carolina
Phone: (803) 484-5409
Fax: (803) 484-9239
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

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: Sammie Edward Sanders
2025ES4300613

Personal Representative:
Marla Sanders
5105 Dais Road
Rembert, SC 29128

Jasmine D. Smith
Attorney at Law
PO Box 11449
Columbia, SC 29211

Estate: Saraha Jane Floyd
2025ES4300594

Personal Representative:
Deborah Ann Pack
720 Berry St.
Sumter, SC 29153

Estate: Carol E. Hallgren
2025ES4300612

Personal Representative:
Carrie P. McCloud
3740 Winfield Dr.
Sumter, SC 29153

Estate: William L. Galloway
2025ES4300601

Personal Representative:
Ronnie W. Galloway
34 Anne Park
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Christopher Paul Comeau
2025ES4300593

Personal Representative:
Adam Joseph Comeau
256 Prospect Valley Rd.
Willseyville, NY 13864

Estate: Angela H. Montgomery
2025ES4300599

Personal Representative:
Frank Montgomery
445 Rogers Avenue
Sumter, SC 29150

Dwight C. Moore
Attorney at Law
PO Box 1229
Sumter, SC 29151

Estate: Devin J. Wilson
2025ES4300611

Personal Representative:
Silessa Wilson
695 Brewington Road
Sumter, SC 29153

A. Bennett Evers
Attorney at Law
PO Box 11262
Columbia, SC 29211

Estate: Madeline Friel Brown
2025ES4300592

Personal Representative:
Vernon Brown
45 Vining Rd.
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Glenn Paul Miller
2025ES4300595

Personal Representative:
Edith Elaine Miller
5870 Wessex Drive
Wedgefield, SC 29168

Estate: Hugh McFaddin McLaurin, III
2025ES4300622

Personal Representative:
Hugh M. McLaurin, IV
220 Haynsworth St.
Sumter, SC 29150

Jack W. Erter, Jr.
Attorney at Law
PO Box 580
Sumter, SC 29151

Estate: Richard Furman Elliott III
2025ES4300589

Personal Representative:
June E. Alvin
4075 Orrie Rd.
Pinewood, SC 29125

William H. Johnson
Attorney at Law
PO Box 137
Manning, SC 29102

Estate: James Theo Pringels
2025ES4300606

Personal Representative:
Susan Pringels Horton
686 Mattison Ave
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate: Alma Diggs Alston
2025ES4300614

Personal Representative:
Frances E. Waterman
4520 Leslie Dr.
Rembert, SC 29128

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: Anne Elizabeth Roper
2025ES4300621

Personal Representative:
Robert L. Benson
256 Doral Dr.
Pawley's Is., SC 29585

Jack W. Erter, Jr.
Attorney at Law
PO Box 580
Sumter, SC 29151

Estate: Harmon Eugene Rogers, Jr.
2025ES4300610

Personal Representative:
Melanie Miller
418 Branch Forest Way
Stockbridge, GA 30281

J. David Weeks
Attorney at Law
PO Box 370
Sumter, SC 29151

Notice of Sale

MASTER IN EQUITY'S SALE 2025-CP-43-00501 BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Delaware Trustee of Saluda Grade Alternative Mortgage Trust 2024-FIG5 against Jamie Moten, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on October 6, 2025 at 12 o'clock noon, at the Sumter County Courthouse, 141 N. Main Street, Sumter, South Carolina to the highest bidder: The following real property is situated in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, and is described further as follows: Lot 6 of Block 6 on the subdivision of lots on that certain plat recorded in the office of the RMC of Sumter County in Plat Book Z-6 on Page 2. This being the same property conveyed to Jamie Moten by deed from Jamie Moten and Martha Moore dated May 10, 2016 and recorded on May 11, 2016 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina, in Book 1221 at Page 3589. TMS # 227-11-05-006 Property Address: 234 W Williams Street, Sumter, SC 29150 TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of 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 Demanded, the bidding will 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 13.15% 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# 25-41353 Attorney for Plaintiff 7188



Announcements

Replace your roof with the best-looking and longest-lasting material: steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited time offer up to 50% off installation + additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders). Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-900-1261

Announcements

STOCK YOUR POND EVENT Coming to a store near you! Grass Carp, Coppernose Bluegill & Redbreast 1"-3", Channel Cats 3"-5" & Mosquitofish. Must Pre-Order by the Friday before the event. Southland Fisheries 803-776-4923.

Notice of Intention to Establish an Employment Agency

Notice is hereby given that Infinite Care Solutions, LLC, with offices at 5550 Tally Yates Dr, Rembert, SC 29128, intends to apply to the South Carolina Secretary of State for a license to operate as an employment agency under the provisions of Section 41-25-30 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.

Signed:
s/Shavon Mitchell, CEO

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DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package $84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-844-624-1107

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DIRECTV OVER INTERNET- Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, $84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/ CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-237-9741



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.

Public Auction:
September 23, 2025 @ 9:00 AM
A-1 Self Storage
3501 Broad St. Ext
Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 494-2668

Thefollowing units will be up for auction:
N, Pratt (A18)- Misc. Boxes, Misc. Items, Misc.Furniture, TVs

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SPECTACULAR ESTATE AUCTION (Rain or Shine). Sat., Sept. 20 at 9:30 AM. 555 Willington Drive, Orangeburg. Selling 3 partial estates and also contents of Tourville Lodge from Buck Ridge Plantation. This is going to be a Big Auction offering nice antique furniture, lots of designer contemporary furniture, Victorian pieces, bedroom suites, curio cabinets, glassware, porcelains, art, chandeliers, nice stainless restaurant equip, ice maker, dishwashers, tables, sinks, racks, stoves, ovens, pots/pans, over 600 pieces china, 500+ pieces of beverage glasses, tons of tools, lawn mower, 6ft. bush hog, Kubota tractor, much more! Inspection Fri., Sept. 19 from 10 AM 6 PM. Browse web www.cogburnauction.com 803-860-0712.

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

YARD SALE
4059 PUDDINSWAMP RD.
TURBEVILLE
FRI 9-5 & SAT 9-2
Home and garage clearance!
Huge sale incl. household, barware, clothing, hardware, dolls, domestics, and more including:
Shelled Pecans
Christmas Decorations
Wheelchairs $5.00
Bud Collectable Steins
Cast Iron Collection
Plush Pig Collection

HUGE MOVING SALE, Sat Sept 20th. 7am-12. 1185 Chivalry, Women's clthg, househld items & MUCH MORE! No early birds!

YARD SALE
4059 PUDDINSWAMP RD.
TURBEVILLE
THUR-FRI 9-5 & SAT 9-2
Home and garage clearance!
Huge sale incl. household, barware, sewing, tools, dolls, plumbing & more including:
Shelled Pecans
Christmas Decorations
Wheelchairs $5.00
Bud Collectible Steins
Cast Iron Collection
Plush Pig Collection

4920 John Franklin Rd. (off Eagle Rd.) Fri 9-4, Sat, 8-1. Kg bed, coffee & end tables, recliner, seated walker, vacs, clthg.

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Woda Construction is currently constructing Davis Pointe. Davis Pointe is a 58-unit multifamily community in Sumter, South Carolina. We are seeking qualified Section 3 individuals and business owners for various trades. Please contact Jasmine Gordon, jgordon@wodagroup.com for more information.

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ADVERTISE YOUR DRIVER JOBS 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.



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