the Sumter ITEM

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LOCAL



See photos from 2025 Simpson Great Outdoors Expo

A2

Speaker Smith to host annual conference in Greenville in 2026

Sumter native named chairman of annual conference

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

South Carolina's charm lies in its people, places and plates piled high with Southern culinary staples.

And that's what Speaker Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, plans to show state speakers as chairman of the annual State Legislative Leaders Foundation National Speakers Conference in 2026.

The announcement came during the reception at this year's conference

SEE **SPEAKERS,** PAGE A11



From left, South Carolina Speaker of the House Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, receives the gavel as chairman of the annual National Speakers Conference from Speaker of the New York Assembly Carl Heastie, right, as they pose with State Legislative Leaders Foundation President Stephen Lakis at this year's reception in New York.

PHOTO PROVIDED

6-year-old in stable condition after accidental shooting; Sumter sheriff's office investigating

Charges of neglect to child possible

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner with Sumter County Sheriff's Office led a news conference on Tuesday after a 6-year-old accidentally shot himself with his father's handgun on Monday night.

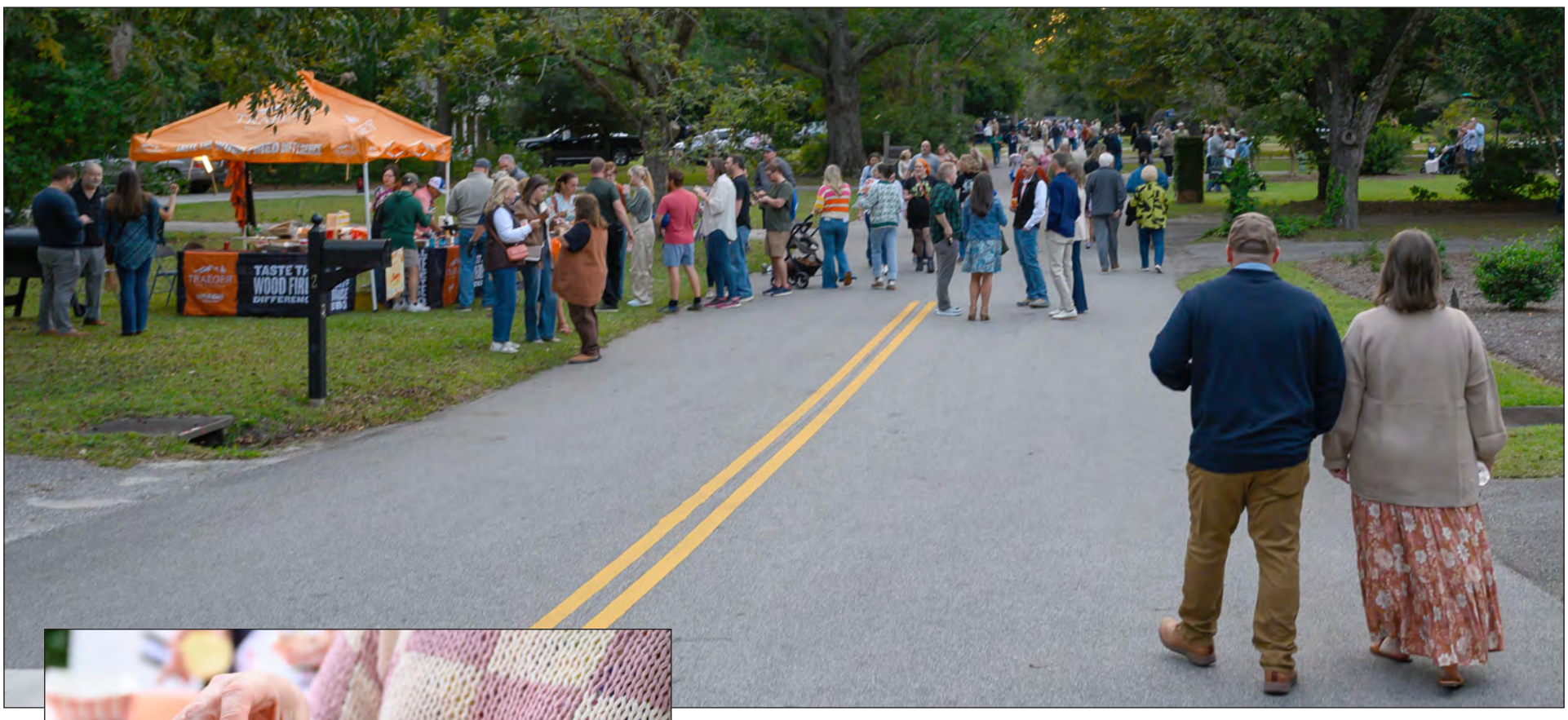
Shortly before 10 p.m. on Oct. 13, a mother was in the master bedroom of a residence on Montana Drive while her son was "laughing and playing" in the same room. In this room was also a .45-caliber Glock that was normally kept on the dresser, according to an incident report by the sheriff's office.

The father later told deputies that it was kept there because of "the area they live in and things always happening."

The mother told investigators that while in the room, she then heard a "loud bang" and saw a flash of light. The child accidentally shot himself,

SEE **SHOOTING,** PAGE A11

Porches of Sumter draws hungry crowd





Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce's Porches of Sumter returned to feed and entertain a crowd on Friday, Oct. 10. The Historic District event invites guests to try different bites to eat while listening to live music and enjoying the company of their neighbors, area businesses and families. This year's Porches included entertainment from Sumter's Chappell Court, a VIP experience and the new Heritage Harvest Artisan Market where vendors offered everything from festive wreaths to soaps, jewelry and more. There was something for everyone to try, from various beers to s'mores with different chocolate bars, shrimp and grits and cowboy beans. The Sanderson sisters from "Hocus Pocus" (Sumter Little Theatre guests) walked around the event, too, in the spirit of the season. See more photos on A5.

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumterite, USC professor to host annual community education forum

Oct. 25 event designed to help parents and students learn about available opportunities

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

A Sumterite who is a University of South Carolina professor and has become increasingly recognized for his advocacy work in public education will host his annual, local educational empowerment forum soon.

Kendall Deas, a 1983 Sumter High School graduate and assistant professor of African



DEAS

American Studies with a concentration in education policy, law and politics at USC, spoke Monday on the third-annual Sumter Community Education Forum, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 25, at Church of the Holy Comforter.

Starting in 2023, the forum is designed to help parents and students learn about opportunities here to improve educational achievement, such as local school tutoring services, and scholarships available to help high school graduates further their education.

Deas' mantra every year for the forum is "education is the great equalizer," he said, and it can help prepare anyone to achieve their personal goals.

Church of the Holy Comforter, 213 N. Main St. in downtown Sumter, is Deas' home church, and the event

SEE **FORUM,** PAGE A11

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Truman Hall Duggin
Samuel Thomas Welch II
Drafus Ford
Hattie Bell Johnson Smith
Robert Lewis Jones Sr.
James Michael Orthmeyer
Moses Hudson

WEATHER, A12

Mostly sunny on Wednesday and clear at night; pleasant and plenty of sun on Thursday

High 79, Low 56

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the Sumter ITEM

SECOND FRONT

E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

Great Outdoors Expo features activities, music, competition and more in Sumter

Simpson Ace Hardware held its 2025 Great Outdoors Expo at the Wesmark location in Sumter on Oct. 10-11. Despite the rainy Saturday, the crowd enjoyed live music by "American Idol" contestant Preston Duffee, Chappell Court and Green Swamp Collective, along with grilling demos by Traeger and Recteq. Champion fishermen also visited the expo to talk to guests, and there was a state-qualifying duck-calling competition, a fully stocked fishing pond, NWTF shooting range and face painting.

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM















Clothing drive rescheduled, donations for annual Thanksgiving dinners accepted

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

The weekend weather may have dampened the mood, but it didn't wash away the intention.

Geraldine Singleton's free clothing drive has been rescheduled for this Saturday, Oct. 18, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

She hosts these drives a few times a year as a chance for folks to gather some seasonal needs. This drive will include men and women's clothing.

To browse the selection, visit the drive at Evergreen Villas, 101 N. Wise Drive.

As the leaves change, that also means it's almost time to gather and give thanks. Which means Geraldine is seeking donations for her annual Thanksgiving dinners. In previous years, she has taken both monetary and food donations.

Anyone with questions about the clothing drive or seeking to donate for Thanksgiving dinners can call Singleton at (803) 775-2047 or (757) 234-1432.

Trick-or-treat with Sumter's superheroes

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Not all heroes wear capes. Those across Sumter County wear a badge and a smile. You can see both up close this Halloween.

The annual Trick-or-Treat with Sumter's Superheroes returns on Friday, Oct. 31.

Hosted by Sumter Police Department, personnel with the police department, Sumter Fire Department, Sumter EMS, Sumter



County Department of Juvenile Justice and South Carolina Highway Patrol will be handing out treats, maybe showcasing a few tricks and sharing a smile for the spookiest holiday of the year. The fun times will begin at 6 p.m. on Oct. 31 at Crosswell Drive Elementary School, 301 Crosswell Drive.

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SUMTER TODAY

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwm1DDKF3Fs

eSTEAM Sumter Festival, presented by TheLink Economic Development Alliance on Oct. 4 in downtown Sumter, allows schools, businesses and industries to showcase applications in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). The event hopes to spark the interest of youth in those disciplines and expose them to available career opportunities in Sumter and the greater region.



UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina SUMTER



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Sumter's American Legion Post 202 hosts an appreciation luncheon for military veterans on Oct. 9 at Shaw Air Force Base's Memorial Lake.

Sumter's American Legion Post 202 hosts appreciation luncheon for veterans

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Sumter's American Legion Post 202 hosted a Military Veteran Appreciation Day luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 9, at Shaw Air Force Base's Memorial Lake, serving hot dogs, hamburgers, fish, chicken and more to the brave men and women who served.

According to *Sumter Item* archives, Post 202 was the second Black American Post to be chartered in South Carolina. It was activated in the Lincoln High School auditorium. The post received a temporary charter in September 1951 and grew from 23 members to more than 100 active members in its first two years, making Post 202 the largest active post in South Carolina for Black veterans. Dr. E.C. Jones, who initiated the idea of a post for Sumter and Sumter County, served as post commander.









CHURCH NEWS

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

First Baptist Missionary Church, 219 S. Washington St., announces:

— Saturday, Dec. 13 — The free Winter Wonderland Holiday Festival will be held from 4-7 p.m. Every child up to age 18 will receive a Christmas gift from Santa. There will be a game truck, food, games and a bike giveaway. Santa will be available for photos.

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 325 W. Fulton St., Sumter, announces:

— Sunday, Oct. 19 — Deacons/Deaconess Anniversary will be celebrated at 10:45 a.m. Minister Hallie Wilson Jr. will be the guest preacher.

— Sunday, Oct. 26 — The Mount Zion Mass Choir Anniversary will be celebrated at 10:45 a.m.

Evangelist Dexter Chandler will speak at The C.U.R.E. Tent Revival at 7 nightly Monday-Friday, Oct. 20-24, at 1770 Camden Highway, Sumter. For information, call (843) 389-5497.

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.

The Church Women United of the Greater Sumter Area will celebrate World Community Day at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, at St. Paul AME Church, 835 Plowden Mill Road. The theme will be "Be Kind at All Times."

3 men, 1 woman identified as dead after weekend bar shooting in S.C.

ST. HELENA ISLAND (AP) — Authorities on Monday identified the three men and a woman who were killed during a weekend mass shooting at a bar on a South Carolina island. At least 20 other people were wounded.

Willie's Bar and Grill on St. Helena Island was crowded with people when the shooting started on Sunday, including many who had attended Battery Creek High School in Beaufort and were at the bar for an alumni event.

Flowers and candles were placed outside the bar on Monday as the Beaufort County coroner's office identified the dead as Kashawn Glaze, 22, Sherrod Smalls, 33, Amos Gary, 54, and A'shan'tek Milledge, 22.

Sheriff's Lt. Danny Allen said Monday that investigators had no new information to share.

It's hard "to have your name on the door and not feel the weight of what's happening," bar owner Willie Turral told WCSC-TV.

Raymond James associate receives Robert A. James Award

SUBMITTED

On Sept. 29, Raymond James announced that Sumter Senior Client Service Associate Cindy B. McGhee received the Robert A. James Award for Service Excellence. Named for the firm's founder, the award recognizes associates who embody the company's service-first culture and live its core values of putting clients first, acting with integrity, thinking long term and valuing independence.



McGHEE

McGhee began her career in the investment industry in 1988 and joined Travis McIntosh's team in August 2016 at Truist Investment Services (formerly BB&T Scott and Stringfellow). Together they joined Raymond James and established the Sumter office in September 2021.

With a wealth of knowledge, McGhee serves as the team's relationship manager and is the primary point of contact for all client service needs. McGhee and her husband, Bill, have four children, Matthew, Ryan, Alyssa and Billy, and six grandchildren, William, Elijah, Easton, Emilee, Waylon and Townes.

When Bob James founded Raymond James, he did so based on a belief that clients deserved more than help with investment decisions, they needed advice that considered their entire financial picture. Today, that client-focused approach has extended to serve client accounts through approximately 8,800 financial advisors in the United States, Canada and overseas. The company has also expanded through the years to serve corporations, institutions and municipalities through significant capital markets, banking and asset management services.

The Sumter office is at 6 Law Range in Sumter and can be reached at (803) 305-6510. Local websites are *RaymondJames.com/MVPWealth* and *RaymondJames.com/ewa*.

The devastating effects of deception

For the next couple of weeks, I want to talk about the secret chambers of our conscience that contains our thoughts, emotions, attitudes, convictions and basically who we really are. Some will say they wear their feelings on their sleeves and how transparent they are to everyone. I admire these individuals, as they seem to have a personality that is open, humble and honest with nothing to hide.

However, just because a person allows themselves to be fearless and honest about what they think does not mean they have a pure heart, filled with the Holy Spirit, or they are walking in the awareness of God's presence. Many people are bold and aggressive about speaking their mind but are just arrogant.

I believe the Lord has always tried to emphasize within the Christian life that it's not just about how we act when others are watching, it's about who we love and serve on the inside. The Pharisees are an example of how humans can be very good actors that can either intentionally pretend to love God, or they can be deceived with a lack of understanding. Jesus confronted and exposed them, saying they did not even know the Lord. In John 8:19, we read a conversation Christ had with these religious leaders. "The Pharisees asked him, where is your father? Jesus replied, you don't know me or my Father. If you knew me, you would also know my Father." So who were they serving and worshiping?



The Rev. Dr. Billy Holland

In the same chapter, Jesus continues the dialogue, "You are from your father, the devil, and you desire to do what your father wants you to do. He has never been truthful. He doesn't know what the truth is." One of the most dangerous truths within Christianity is that many individuals are avoiding the truth. Simply put, they would rather serve the devil and their flesh than God. Truth must not be limited to head knowledge but must become a revelation in order for God's word to change us. James 2:19 says "you believe there is one God and you are correct, but the devils also believe and tremble." So even the devils have knowledge of the truth, but they have no faith or good works because they do not love or serve God. In John 8:47, Christ declares, "The person who belongs to God understands what God says. You don't understand because you do not belong to God."

I want to touch on a phenomenon called the Mandela Effect, and it describes how people can believe and/or remember certain things, but in reality they are not true. The term originated in 2009 by Fiona Broome, after she discovered that she, along with a multitude of others, believed that Nelson Mandela had died in the 1980s (when he actually died in 2013). She continued her study, asking questions like does it say Jiffy on peanut butter containers, does Curious George have a tail, did the original Mickey Mouse wear suspenders, was Alexander Hamilton a president, and did Uncle Pennybags in Monopoly wear a monocle? She was astounded how the eye and brain can accept something we are sure of, and it's difficult to admit we had it wrong. Our memory contains the psychological processes of acquiring, storing, retaining and later retrieving information, but if information is not properly encoded in the filing cabinets of our conscience, this can cause devastating problems.

One of the Biblical examples of this Mandela Effect is the verse in Isaiah that many people believe says the lion will lie down with the lamb. It does not say this. The actual verse in Isaiah 11:6 says wolf. It's staggering how many people refuse to accept this, even going as far as saying that Satan has somehow changed it. After reading several articles about this subject, the Lord revealed how we can believe a distorted reality that is not true. For example, if we harbor secret hatred and resentment in our heart for someone, we are deceived to believe that God understands our feelings and will allow us to embrace enmity because He understands our pain. However, the truth is that in refusing to see ourselves the way God sees us, we have created our own image of Him as being lenient and sympathetic. The truth is that we are a murderer and will never enter into heaven. I John 2:9, 3:15, 4:20, and Matthew 6:14-15. God will not compromise or make exceptions or deals. His grace does not excuse our rebellious assumptions.

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

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www.sumterfirstag.org
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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

First Baptist Missionary Church
219 S. Washington St. Sumter
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Rev. George P. Windley, Jr.
Sunday School 10:00 am
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.







Southern hospitality on display during annual fall event

Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce's Porches of Sumter guests wandered around the Historic District on Friday night, Oct. 10, greeting friends and enjoying bites of food and drinks along the way. After a hearty meal, they also listened to Sumter's Chappell Court and were able to browse the new Heritage Harvest Artisan Market.

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM



















Sister swoops in after reader's engagement ends



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: Eight years ago, I split from my fiance of 30 years, "Anthony," when he accused me of cheating, which I was absolutely not doing. Throughout the entire relationship, he hurt and belittled me. He is insecure and always suspicious. However, he remains attached to my family through my daughter and grandsons, which I am not happy about.

I live across the country now and recently took a trip home to visit my family. I have two sisters. Coincidentally, my niece's 40th birthday party was being held that Saturday. Nobody knew I was coming, so it was a surprise. But it turns out the real surprise was on me.

When we sat down to eat, one sister (my niece's other aunt) turned to me and said, "I'm gonna tell you something, and I don't want to hear anything about it. Anthony and I are in a relationship." You can imagine how that went over. Not only did she ruin our niece's birthday party, but I feel betrayed by that sister.

I have contacted her by text and email telling her how I feel, but she doesn't respond. Right now, I have no desire to talk to her or have any kind of relationship with her. I think she sees dollar signs since he has money, but it's not right to date your sister's ex because it breaks the "sister code." What is your advice on this situation?

BETRAYED SIS IN WYOMING

DEAR BETRAYED SIS: You may have had the longest engagement in history. Wish your sister better luck in their "relationship" than you had, because if your ex is as you described, she's going to need it. If you feel she violated a "sister code," then it appears that when money enters the picture, the code is obsolete.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of eight years is from Africa, and we have a 1-year-old daughter. I am white. My wife is Black and 29 years younger than I am. She was raised not to celebrate Christmas. She says it's because it is associated with pagan rituals coming from satanic worship in old times. She doesn't want our daughter exposed to this even though she lives in the U.S., where Christmas is a valued tradition, bringing people together with good cheer for generations.

My wife has no desire to compromise on this and is willing to leave the marriage over it. I feel like she thinks she can roll over me with no consequences. Should I start looking for a divorce attorney?

TRADITIONALIST IN TEXAS

DEAR TRADITIONALIST: Your wife is convinced she is doing the right thing and protecting her child by not celebrating Christmas. Although I tried, I was not able to find ANY association between a pagan religion that preceded Christmas and Satanism. Rather than look for a divorce attorney at this point, you might be better served to consult a marriage counselor as well as a religious adviser from the denomination to which your wife belongs.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 446, Kings Mills, OH 45034-0446. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

A long-lost ancient Roman artifact reappears in a New Orleans backyard

BY JACK BROOK
Associated Press/Report for America



SUSANN LUSNIA VIA AP

This photo provided by Tulane University classical archeologist Susann Lusnia in October 2025 shows the 1,900-year-old grave marker of a Roman sailor named Sextus Congenius Verus, discovered in a New Orleans backyard.

NEW ORLEANS — A New Orleans family cleaning up their overgrown backyard made an extremely unusual find: Under the weeds was a mysterious marble tablet with Latin characters that included the phrase "spirits of the dead."

"The fact that it was in Latin, that really just gave us pause, right?" said Daniella Santoro, a Tulane University anthropologist. "I mean, you see something like that, and you say, 'OK, this is not an ordinary thing.'"

Intrigued and slightly alarmed, Santoro reached out to her classical archaeologist colleague Susann Lusnia, who quickly realized that the slab was the 1,900-year-old grave marker of a Roman sailor named Sextus Congenius Verus.

"When I first saw the image that Daniella sent me, it really did send a shiver up my spine because I was just floored," Lusnia said.

Further sleuthing by Lusnia revealed the tablet had been missing from an Italian museum for decades.

Sextus Congenius Verus had died at age 42, of unknown causes, after serving for more than two decades in the imperial navy on a ship named for the Greco-Roman god of medicine, Asclepius. The gravestone calls the sailor "well deserving" and was commissioned by two people described as his "heirs," who were likely shipmates because Roman military could not be married at the time, Lusnia said.



This photo provided by Erin Scott O'Brien shows her grandparents, Charles and Adele Paddock, who fell in love and married in Italy in 1946 and brought a 1,900-year-old Roman tablet to New Orleans.

COURTESY OF ERIN SCOTT O'BRIEN VIA AP

The tablet had been in an ancient cemetery of about 20 graves of military personnel, found in the 1860s in Civitavecchia, a seaside in northwest Italy about 30 miles from Rome. Its text had been recorded in 1910 and included in a catalog of Latin inscriptions, which noted the tablet's whereabouts were unknown.

The tablet was later documented at the National Archeological Museum in Civitavecchia before World War II. But the museum had been "pretty much destroyed" during Allied bombing and took several decades to rebuild, Lusnia said. Museum staff confirmed to Lusnia the tablet had been missing for decades. Its recorded measurements — 1 square foot and 1 inch thick — matched the size of the tablet found in Santoro's backyard.

"You can't have better DNA than that," Lusnia said.

She said the FBI is in talks with Italian authorities to repatriate the tablet. An FBI spokesperson said the agency could not respond to requests for comment during the government shutdown.

A final twist to the story suggests how the tablet made its way to New Orleans.

As media reports of the find began circulating this week, Erin Scott O'Brien says her ex-husband called her and told her to watch the news. She immediately recognized the hunk of marble, which she had always seen as a "cool-ass piece of art." They had used it as a garden decoration and then forgot about it before selling the home to Santoro in 2018.

"None of us knew what it was," O'Brien said. "We were watching the video, just like in shock."

O'Brien said she received the tablet from her grandparents — an Italian woman and a New Orleans native who was stationed in the country during World War II.

Perhaps no one would be more thrilled by the tablet's rediscovery than Sextus himself. Grave markers were important in Roman culture to uphold legacies, even of everyday citizens, Lusnia said.

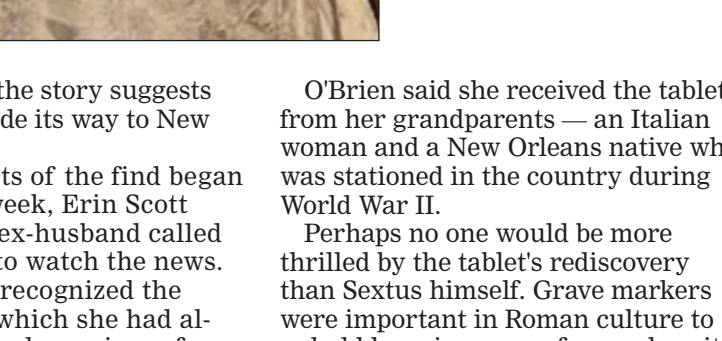
"Now Sextus Congenius Verus is being talked about so much," Lusnia said. "If there's an afterlife and he's in it and he knows, he's very happy because this is what a Roman wants — to be remembered forever."



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State Fair continues this week, and Greenfield Farms' Derby Day is coming to Sumter on Saturday; buy tickets now for annual Fall Feast

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

SUMTER COUNTY

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*.

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*.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, Sumter Museum, 122 N. Washington St., is hosting **Trick or Treat in the Backcountry**. Kids can dress up in their favorite costume and stroll around the homestead for treats from 3 to 5 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Join **Grace Baptist Church's Fall Festival 2025** from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, at the church, 219 W. Calhoun St. This free event will include Trunk-or-Treat Alley, face painting, popcorn, cotton candy, games, bounce houses and family fun.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The South Carolina State Fair is in Columbia through Oct. 19. Visit https://www.scstatefair.org/ for more details.

"The BEST place to be for family fun!" That's the promise of the deputies at Sumter County Sheriff's Office this October, as its **Annual Trunk-or-Treat** is coming up. On Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5 to 8 p.m., everyone can enjoy free hot dogs, chips, drinks, popcorn and of course plenty of candy to go around. And this year the office has added a hayride, so "Come join the fun and make memories with your family!" Don't forget to wear your favorite costume. The event will be at Sumter County Sheriff's Office, 1281 N. Main St.

Trick-or-treat with Sumter's superheroes! Every year our own first responders host a Halloween celebration for local children, spending time meeting the kids and enjoying the festivities together. Join Sumter Police Department and meet your local superheroes during this fun Halloween event sponsored by the department in partnership with Sumter School District, Sumter Fire Department, Sumter Emergency Medical Services, state Department of Juvenile Justice-Sumter and state Highway Patrol. The event will be at Crosswell Drive Elementary School, 301 Crosswell Drive, on Friday, Oct. 31, at 6 p.m.

Put on your costume and drop by the Wesmark Branch Library for **Halloween @ The Library** from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. The event will include a story stroll, Halloween trivia, face painting, coloring, activity sheets and take and make crafts. Halloween cartoons will be shown in the meeting room.



CAL CARY / THE SUMTER ITEM

The annual Trick-or-Treat with Sumter's Superheroes will be on Friday, Oct. 31, at 6 p.m. at Crosswell Drive Elementary School, 301 Crosswell Drive. Sumter's first responders from several departments will be there. Sumter County Sheriff's Office is also hosting an event Oct. 30.

Shiloh Project Lift will hold its annual **Fall Festival** on Saturday, Nov. 1, at the St. John School building, 4515 Narrow Paved Road, Lynchburg. Barbecue will be available for purchase. Attendees may enter for chances to win prizes such as a TV, an air conditioner and cakes. Activities will include cake walks, hayrides, corn hole toss, sack races, kickball, basketball and horseback riding. All ages are welcome to attend. This event supports fundraising efforts for the renovation of St. John School. Residents of surrounding communities are invited to attend. For more information, please call (803) 459-7463.

Shop from over 20 local and area artists for hand-crafted goods at **Sumter First Church of God Craft Show** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, in Sumter FCG Fellowship Hall, 1835 Camden Highway. Handmade and boutique items will include clothing and accessories, coastal decor, handmade soaps, crochet items, ornaments, sublimation tumblers, T shirts, baked goods and more.

Celebrate and support veterans at the **VFW Car, Truck and Bike Show** in Sumter, coming Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be patriotic trophies for winners, food and drinks, 50/50 and cash giveaways. Cost to register a vehicle is $20. The public is welcome to this free show hosted by VFW Post 3034 and Head Turnerz Car Club, sponsored by Patriot Auto Parts-CARQUEST. Proceeds benefit the post. The show will be at 1925 Gion St. Rain date is Saturday, Nov. 15. Call David Dury at (803) 316-1052 for more information.

Sumter First Assembly, 1151 Alice Drive, will hold its **Family Fun Fest and Craft Fair** from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8. The free event will include bounce castles and slides, food, fun, games and prizes.

Sumter Museum will hold the popular **Carolina Backcountry Oyster Roast** from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Museum, 122 N. Washington St. Entertainment will be provided by Chappell Court Band. Purchase your tickets now at *https://tinyurl.com/495hbc8d*.

Get some shopping done at the **Sumter Farmers Market Holiday Market** from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at USC Sumter, 200 Miller Road. Available will be locally grown produce, talented artisans, crafters, holiday decor, sweet treats, jams, jellies, sauces, soaps, lotions, candles and more. Multiple food trucks will be on site. Santa Claus will visit.

CLARENDON COUNTY

Mark your calendar for the annual Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce's **Soups, Stews and Sweets** on Thursday, Nov. 4. From 5 to 7 p.m., stroll from vendor to vendor enjoying the warmth of your favorite fall and winter foods starting at Weldon Auditorium, 7 Maple St., Manning. Call (803) 433-7469. More information will be available closer to the event.

K & H Resource Center is asking everyone to save the date for its **Third-Annual Fundraiser "Steppin' into the Holidays" Adult Sneaker Ball** on Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Clarendon Community Resource Center gymnasium, 1154 Fourth St. Tickets are $25 each. For more information, contact Kathleen L. Gibson at (803) 225-0832.

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 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*.

FLORENCE

No matter how you pronounce "pecans," there is something for everyone at the **S.C. Pecan Music and Food Festival**. The 21st-annual one-day event draws more than 50,000 attendees each year. This year's festival will be held from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, in Florence Downtown, 324 W. Evans St., and will include tons of bands with Thomas McClary Commodores Experience being the headliner. The free Kids Fun Zone on the FMU Performing Arts Center Lawn will include inflatables, activities, games and more with John Tudor's Magic Theater performances at 10:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Pecan Pub Experience — for grownups — is the perfect place to watch the game, sample flights of craft brews and hear from master local brewers and more. If old cars are your interest, check out the open classic car show hosted by the festival in partnership with the Swamp Fox Old Car Club. Registration for the show is handled by the club. Contact Tom Spence at (803) 773-0189. And for those who enjoy a run, enter the Run Like a Nut road races. Choose from 5K, 10K or USATF certified half marathon through Downtown Florence residential area. Register online at *https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/Florence/RunLikeANut*. Shoppers won't be disappointed as the festival has treasures and treats from more than 250 vendors. For more information, call (843) 678-5912 or visit *www.scpecanfestival.com*.



A rainy Oktoberfest





PHOTOS BY ZACHARY HOOKS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Despite the rain, Oktoberfest on Main returned on Saturday with music by Dirndl Dames Oktoberfest Band, great food and family-friendly fun. All proceeds support Sumter United Ministries.







DPH increases measles case count to 16 total in 2025, 12 related to Upstate outbreak

BY S.C. DPH

COLUMBIA — S.C. Department of Public Health is updating the number of confirmed measles cases in 2025 in South Carolina to 16 since July and 12 that are directly linked to an ongoing Spartanburg County outbreak. The five new cases are the result of individuals who were exposed in previously identified school settings and have been quarantining at home. Because they were quarantining before they became infectious, no additional exposures occurred with these new cases.

While the five cases may appear as a large increase, the successful early quarantining as a result of the identified exposure is a successful public health outcome that shows how mitigation efforts (quarantining if exposed) can make a huge difference in preventing community spread.

DPH is identifying Crunch Fitness' location at 1332 S. Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville as the source of a child's exposure on Sept. 30 that was previously reported. DPH is asking anyone who was at that location on that day only between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to see their health care provider if they think they may have been exposed.

As of 5 p.m. Monday, no new students from Global Academy or Fairforest Elementary have been excluded from school activities, and the number of students quarantining at home at those schools is now down to 139 after further investigations into potential exposures.

DPH's 2025 Measles Outbreak Page at *https://tinyurl.com/2r66s32x* has been updated to include a link to the latest 45-day school reports that include school attendance figures, grades served and vaccination percentage for elementary and secondary schools statewide.

The number of cases is evidence of unrecognized community transmission, which does not respect county lines or school zones.

For more information about measles, visit DPH's dedicated measles page at *https://tinyurl.com/2r66s32x*. It includes important information about the measles virus, symptoms and the measles vaccine, which is available from health care providers as well as local public health departments.

Slowdown in U.S. hiring suggests economy still needs rate cuts, Fed's Powell says

BY CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — A sharp slowdown in hiring poses a growing risk to the U.S. economy, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Tuesday, a sign that the Fed will likely cut its key interest rate twice more this year.

Powell said in written remarks that despite the federal government shutdown cutting off official economic data, "the outlook for employment and inflation does not appear to have changed much since our September meeting," when the Fed reduced its key rate for the first time this year.

Fed officials at that meeting also forecast that the central bank would reduce its rate twice more this year and once in 2026. Lower rates from the Fed could reduce borrowing costs for mortgages, car loans and business loans. Powell was speaking before a meeting of the National Association of Business Economics in Philadelphia.

Powell reiterated a message he first delivered after the September meeting, when he signaled that the Fed is slightly more worried about the job market than its other congressional mandate, which is to keep prices stable. Tariffs have lifted the Fed's preferred measure of inflation to 2.9%, he said, but outside the duties there aren't "broader inflationary pressures" that will keep prices high.

"Rising downside risks to employment have shifted our assessment of the balance of risks," he said.

Powell also said that the central bank may soon stop shrinking its roughly $6.6 trillion balance sheet. The Fed has been allowing roughly $40 billion of Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities to mature each month without replacing them. The shift could weigh on longer-term Treasury interest rates.

Separately, Powell spent most of his speech defending the Fed's practice of buying longer-term Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities in 2020 and 2021, which were intended to lower longer-term interest rates and support the economy during the pandemic.

WMA lottery quail hunt application deadline is midnight Wednesday, Oct. 15

BY S.C. DNR

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources will accept applications for WMA Quail Lottery Hunts through Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 11:59 p.m.

A non-refundable fee of $20 is required of all applicants for the lottery. Youth hunters on the application must be at least 10 years old, but at least one adult must be the primary applicant. There can be up to three hunters on an application.

In addition to quail lottery hunts at McBee WMA, Bobwhite Hills WMA will be hosting three quail lottery hunts.

Bobwhite Hills (760 acres) is a WMA owned by Quail Forever on the border of Sumter and Lee counties. Extensive quail habitat renovations are underway on this property, but spring whistle counts indicate there are a limited number of birds at this time.

All hunts are one-day hunts, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

The limit of quail will be a total of 10 birds per hunting party. Hunters must provide their own dogs and equipment during hunts.

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OPINION

Jacqueline B. Osteen CO-OWNER
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COMMENTARY

Don't believe the headlines. Congressional town halls matter

This past summer, Republican and Democratic members of Congress alike returned to their home districts and, in one of the great pageants of democracy, held multiple town halls on their home turf, welcoming one and all to bring their questions, concerns and challenges. It was a stirring display of the kind of face-to-face exchange that strengthens civic engagement and allows elected representatives to carry the unfiltered priorities of their constituents back to Washington.

Only, of course, that's not what happened. Instead, a handful of members of Congress held town halls this summer, while the vast majority avoided them. That's because there was considerable unrest back home about the course of events in Washington, and most news coverage repeatedly dwelt on unruly, fractious crowds and heated exchanges between audience members and their representatives. Looking on, many people dismissed town halls as inconsequential political theater.



Lee Hamilton

Let me be blunt: That's just plain wrong. Those few members of Congress who did hold town meetings deserve our thanks as citizens. Those who sidestepped them, whether out of concern for their image or on the advice of their leadership, should be abashed.

Here's why. For starters, most people never get a chance to set foot in the Capitol or speak to a member of Congress. A town hall erases that distance: Voters can stand up, ask their representative questions without some staff member standing in the way and gauge for themselves what they think of the answer. Town halls turn politics from an abstract process into an actual relationship for a few hours — and they make the people who attend them more likely to keep paying attention and to remain engaged.

So even if a gathering is likely to be tense, when politicians show up, listen and try to present the best arguments they've got for their actions, they are signaling respect for constituents' voices and, more importantly, for the representative democracy that put them in office in the first place. Likewise, avoiding direct encounters — or hand-picking one's audience — risks eroding Americans' rightful belief that representatives should be accountable to the people instead of being insulated, unrepresentative elites. Politicians at the federal level get lots of chances to control their interactions with the public: They put out statements, appear on friendly media outlets and rely on focus-group-tested talking points. A town hall forces them out of that protective shell.

It does something even more important, as well: When ordinary citizens gather in a room, they discover shared concerns. I may come because I'm distressed by rising health premiums or runaway prices at the supermarket — at a town hall, that gets echoed. My private concern, it turns out, is actually a public issue, and the town hall gives ordinary people a chance to hold their leaders accountable, not just rely on journalists or watchdog organizations to do it. In the best circumstances, neighbors leave with the sense that they can work together, not just complain individually. This is how we build civic energy and participation.

This summer, critics pointed at disorderly town halls as evidence of their futility. I saw something different: meetings that proved that Americans still cared enough to show up and demonstrate their investment in the direction of their communities and country. That's much better than a silent room, a representative who never shows up and apathy and disengagement.

In fact, town halls, even unruly ones, strengthen representative democracy because they are unscripted, open and unpredictable. They remind us that our government belongs to us, and they remind representatives that their authority isn't rooted in their party leaders or their donors, but in the votes of the people back home. That doesn't strike me as an exercise in futility.

Though I'm a firm believer that Congress should be in session longer than it often is these days, one of the silver linings of members' time off is that it offers more opportunities for them to get home and engage with the communities they represent. The next time they're due back home for an extended period, let them know you want to see them in person. You'll learn something, and so will they.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

STORIES ON AWARD, WORK WOULD BE IN PUBLIC'S INTEREST

My name is Robert Johnson. I was a captain with the S.C. Department of Corrections. I was the one shot using a contraband cellphone. I have been lobbying for the past 10 years to get our federal leaders and the FCC to change its rule on cellphone jamming within state correctional facilities. I have traveled to Washington, D.C., and talked to and written to many legislators, two presidents, their wives and testified three times before the FCC. The FCC has now voted to open a 20-day public input time on changing this 1934 rule. NBC looked me up and did an article on my lobbying efforts to get this rule changed.

On Oct. 1, 2025, I was inducted into the S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame for my work with the S.C. Department of Corrections. I sent a copy of the announcement to a reporter with *The Sumter Daily Item*. I am not trying to be a glory hound, but I am determined to get this law changed. On Oct. 1, I was inducted into the S.C. Law Enforcement Hall of Meritorious Service for my work with The S.C. Department of Corrections. WIS was there. NBC came to my house to do a story on my lobbying effort. But no *Sumter Daily Item*. I think these two stories would have been more of a public interest than a page full of children coloring their faces.

ROBERT JOHNSON
Sumter

Editor's note: An article on Johnson's award was published Oct. 8 and can be read at https://tinyurl.com/39c54v9z.

DOES ANYONE THINK HARRIS OR BIDEN COULD MAKE DEAL TO STOP WAR?

Be intellectually honest, please, do you really think Kamala Harris or Joe Biden, could pull off what your president just did in the Middle East? Heads up, they couldn't and didn't. How long does this peace last? Who knows when you are dealing with hatred, but the living hostages are home. And that is truly amazing.

Good job, again, Mr. President.

JOHN SELLAR
Sumter

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS represent the views of the owners of this newspaper.

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

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

COMMENTARY

South Carolina State University Homecoming 2025: A firsthand perspective

BY MARIE BROOKS

I feel compelled to address the events that occurred at South Carolina State University during the 2025 Homecoming Celebration. As an alumna of SCSU, I rarely miss a homecoming event and was there for the celebration.

The unfortunate and horrific shootings that occurred on campus, as major as they are, resulting in the death of one young lady and the hospitalization of another person — it cannot be understated how terribly tragic this is because not only was a life lost, but also lives have been eternally changed for the victims' families, the SCSU family and even the perpetrators' families. Yet, in pondering the occurrences, I want to share an additional perspective on the SCSU 2025 Homecoming. Sunday evening after the Saturday night shootings, SCSU President Alexander Conyers in a virtual town hall made many significant comments about the impact of the occurrences. Snippets have been aired and printed by the media (likely because of time and print limitations).

However, not minimizing the tragic occurrences in any way, I want to highlight some of the positivity and excellency of the Homecoming Day. Being a part of the festivities that began at 8 a.m. (Edisto Garden Parade lineup location), I partook in and witnessed much, as did many other notable SCSU graduates who were in attendance. They included Congressman Jim Clyburn, retired S.C. Supreme Court Justice Don Beatty, former SCSU President Dr. Andrew Hugine Jr. (ninth president, for whom Hugine Suites is named), SCSU Athletic Director Oliver "Buddy" Pugh (celebrating his class' 50th anniversary and presenting with his classmates $770,826.96 to SCSU). Also, a notable guest was 803 Fresh (Songwriter for "Boots on the Ground"). There were myriad community people, parade participants, guests and SCSU alums from within and without South Carolina. Children and adults from many walks of life, abilities and disabilities were present having a glorious time tailgating, socializing and embracing each other jovially. The SCSU Bulldogs had a 49-6 football game victory against Savannah State; 803 Fresh performed with the dynamic SCSU Marching 101 for the halftime show. Unfortunately, before the night's end, the homecoming festivities were marred by poor-decision-making and divergent shooters who were not a part of the SCSU family.

President Conyers said that alums could help by ensuring that accurate information goes out because there has been a barrage of misinformation on social media and by people.

President Conyers noted the following:

— There were two shootings that occurred.

— No SCSU students were involved in the shootings.

— No SCSU students were killed or injured in the shootings.

— One young lady was killed (she was a guest on campus).

— One young man was injured and is hospitalized (he was also a guest on the campus).

— President Conyers and his wife, Agatha, spent that Saturday night in Hugine Hall, the area where the shooting occurred; everything was safe.

— President Conyers has not left campus since the incidents; he has been going about the campus (via golf cart) and interacting with students whom he said are pretty resilient.

— The students were about campus, in the cafeteria, etc. for all three meals that Sunday.

— An arrest has already been made in one of the shooting incidents.

— SLED has finished its on-campus investigation.

— Even though South Carolina is an open-carry state with guns, SC State has a no-gun policy on campus, and students are aware that violation of this policy has law enforcement and possibly expulsion consequences. Students can be held accountable for the activities of their guests.

— There were 200 police/security personnel on campus for homecoming and multiple cameras, drones, etc. monitoring the campus. Despite the no-gun policy posts and the security measures, some non-SCSU persons brought weapons on campus.

— Security safety measures also include a gun-sniffing dog and random checks of vehicles entering the campus. However, every vehicle can't be checked.

— The campus was open to all after the homecoming game because some people were coming for the concert.

— All events were canceled after the shooting incidents.

— The lockdown would be lifted that Sunday night or Monday morning.

— Classes were canceled for that Monday. Further class cancellations will be on an as-needed basis as President Conyers and his team engage with the SGA president and students.

— Counselors are available for students in person and by other electronic means as needed.

— A virtual town hall was held for students only on Monday, Oct. 6.

— Other town hall meetings can be scheduled as needed.

— Everything that is currently in place and things that might need to be considered will be assessed.

President Conyers emphasized campuses have various needs and implementations that he will review as he continues to keep SCSU as a safe learning environment where students can feel safe in their academic pursuits.

Following the president's and administrators' introductions and introductory statements, a written Question & Answer Session was provided where people could submit comments and ask questions. President Conyers, the SCSU chief of security, counselors and other administrative personnel answered written questions that were submitted.

As we continue to focus on South Carolina State University's 2025 Homecoming events, it is my desire and the desire of many SCSU alums that the university not be defined or morphed in our memories by the monstrous acts of these unwholesome and callous shooters. Let us remember South Carolina State University for the stellar university that it is and the magnificent products it produces.

In my final analysis, the real problem appears with gun law and the lack thereof of gun control that permits unsavory people to make unsavory decisions and wreak havoc in family- and public-oriented places that should be happy and safe spaces.

Marie Brooks is a South Carolina State University alumnus and is from Sumter.

Shag club makes impact on local youth with 5th-annual tournament

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Saturday showers surely soaked the shoes, socks and polos of local golfers.

Yet, it did little to dampen their spirits as they followed through on their swings and their support of local youth benefitting from Sumter Shag Club's fifth-annual Charity Golf Tournament.

On Oct. 11 at Dillon Park's Crystal Lake Golf Course, the local club's golf tournament featured 27 teams and 114 sponsors — 57 of which were new to the tournament — with $12,200 going directly to Camp Burnt Gin and Turbeville Children's Home.

Turbeville Children's Home Director Perry Wouten spoke about the agency's commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment for children unable to live with their parents in a regular home setting, supporting the needs of each child and helping them build a brighter future. On Turbeville Highway, the children's home opened in 1949 and has operated for 70-plus years.

Camp Burnt Gin Director Marie Aimone shared the importance of children having the "away from home" camping experience, as it helps improve self-esteem, independence and skills necessary to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle. At Camp Burnt Gin, an overnight summer camp for children, teens and young adults with special needs, physical disabilities and chronic illnesses, campers are given opportunities to do many camping activities, build their confidence and learn more about themselves.

Guest speaker Katie Brown attested to Camp Burnt Gin's impact. As a former camper before becoming a counselor, Brown said the camp helped her become independent and realize the depth of her strength. It aided her as a counselor, as she was able to show campers that those with disabilities can do anything they set their minds to.

Thanks to sponsors and players, Turbeville Children's Home and Camp Burnt Gin were each presented with a $6,100 check.

Both charities will continue to benefit next year through BJ's Club for a Cause program, which partnered with Sumter Shag Club to offer discounted memberships. Using the Shag Club's link, those who sign up for the $40 membership will receive the membership for $20 and $5 goes toward the charities. Those who sign up for the $60 membership receive it for $40 and $15 goes toward the charities.

For anyone interested in contributing additional money and who hasn't signed up for a BJ's membership, the special pricing will be available until Friday, Dec. 12, at *www.bjs.com/sumtershagclubgolf*.

While the speakers shared their heartfelt testimonies, golfers, sponsors and volunteers were able to enjoy a meal of savory hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixings alongside chili, chips and drinks. To top it off, homemade cookies, brownies and Edible Arrangements with fresh fruit and chocolate-covered apple treats were provided. Prizes were awarded for first-, second- and third-place teams with three age divisions as well as closest to the pin and longest drive. Through generous donations from local businesses and club members, there were auction items and every golfer received a door prize.

The Shag Club expressed its gratitude to those who made the tournament possible, as without them, "Sumter Shag Club couldn't make a great impact in the lives of the children in our area."



PHOTOS PROVIDED

A total of 27 teams of golfers gave it their best swing to support Turbeville Children's Home and Camp Burnt Gin, the charities featured for Sumter Shag Club's annual charity golf tournament on Oct. 11 at Crystal Lake Golf Course at Dillon Park.



From left, Chip Dallaire, Mike Ardis and Whit Blanton enjoyed Sumter Shag Club's charity golf tournament on Oct. 11.







From left, Perry Wouten, director of Turbeville Children's Home, listens as Katie Brown, former camper and counselor at Camp Burnt Gin, speaks of the impact the camp had on her. Brown stands next to Marie Aimone, camp director of Burnt Gin. Turbeville Children's Home and Camp Burnt Gin were each awarded $6,100 as the featured charities for the annual golf tournament.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SUMTER SHAG CLUB

Friday, Oct. 24 — Halloween Costume Party
Members enter for free, Guests $15

Tuesday, Nov. 11 —Veterans Party
Free of charge

Tuesday, Nov. 25 — Carolina Clemson Party
Free of charge

Friday, Dec. 5 — Christmas Party
Members enter for free, Guests $15

Anyone interested in being a sponsor for Sumter Shag Club's sixth-annual charity golf tournament, scheduled for October 2026, can contact club President Whit Blanton at (843) 250-9169 or via email at *sumtershagclub@yahoo.com*.

Sumter Shag Club meets every Tuesday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Restaurant at Second Mill's Lounge, 2390 Broad St. Free basic shag lessons occur every Tuesday from 6:30 to 7 p.m. with a new line dance lesson every third Tuesday. There is no cover charge to come out and enjoy the sounds of beach music and dance the evening away or just sit back and watch.

Richland man identified as victim in fatal single-vehicle wreck in Sumter

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker identified the victim of a wreck that occurred Sunday, Oct. 12, along S.C. 261.

Damien Waiters, 31, of Richland, was pronounced dead at Prisma Health Richland on Sunday from injuries he sustained in a single-vehicle wreck on S.C. 261 and Richbow Road, according to Baker.

The wreck occurred at about 8:30 p.m. on that Sunday.

Next of kin has been notified.

Sumter County Coroner's Office and South Carolina Highway Patrol are investigating.

Single-vehicle wreck on I-95 near Sumter takes life of Florence woman

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

A Florence woman has been identified as the victim in a single-vehicle wreck that occurred the evening of Sunday, Oct. 12.

The wreck occurred at about 6 p.m. on I-95 North between mile markers 141 and 146.

Felicia Williams Sims, 49, of Florence, was pronounced dead on scene from injuries she sustained in a single-vehicle wreck, according to Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker.

Sims was a passenger in the vehicle, Baker said.

Next of kin has been notified and an autopsy is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

An investigation is ongoing by South Carolina Highway Patrol and Sumter County Coroner's Office.


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107 North Main Street Sumter, SC 29150 803-418-0800

SPEAKERS
FROM PAGE A1

in New York as Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie passed the gavel — both metaphorically and symbolically — to Smith.

As chairman, Smith will serve as host of the annual conference in his home state.

"I can say with confidence that this year's conference will be hard to beat," Smith said. "But in 2026, we're going to give it our best shot."

The 2026 conference will be held in Greenville. Smith shared the coastal and cultural landscape of Charleston and the sandy shores of Kiawah Island were considered as host cities. But after friends visited Greenville and fell in love with its atmosphere, there were "a million reasons why Greenville is the perfect location."

The State Legislative Leaders Foundation, or SLLF, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring and enhancing the leadership skills of state legislative leaders across the country. The Speaker's Conference is the nonprofit's largest annual event, bringing Speakers of the House and their chiefs of staff together to exchange ideas, build relationships and collaborate on governance issues.

Smith's role as chairman is to facilitate networking and discussion among the legislative leaders. By hosting the conference, the chairman will expose visiting leaders to a new environment and characteristics that make their home state what it is.

"South Carolina's story is one that stretches back nearly 350 years. It is a story woven with resilience, tradition and transformation. From the cobblestone streets of Charleston, where America's earliest history was written, to the Upstate mills that powered our industrial growth, South Carolina has always stood at the crossroads of progress and heritage," Smith shared with legislative leaders. "We are a state that has preserved its history while embracing the future. You can walk through Revolutionary War battlefields and then drive a few miles to see cutting-edge manufacturing plants producing the technology of tomorrow. Our people take great pride in our past, but we are equally proud of the new chapter being written in South Carolina today."

He explained the state's economic boom, naming major companies Boeing, BMW, Volvo, Scout Motors, Continental Tire and how communities are flourishing.

Through the years, Greenville has blended "Southern charm with world-class opportunity."

"It is no exaggeration to say that South Carolina is not just participating in the modern economy — we are helping lead it," he expressed.

In 2026, Smith thinks his fellow speakers will see why.

Through the warm hospitality, the savory barbecue perfected over generations, the irresistible Lowcountry seafood, a glass — or two — of sweet tea and many more experiences in store, the state will not only be full of surprises, but will also hopefully make its guests feel special.

"It's not just our landscapes — though from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic coast, they are stunning. And it's not just our history — though it is rich and deeply meaningful. What truly makes South Carolina unique is its people," he explained. "People who greet you with a smile, who make you feel at home and who believe in working together to build something better for the future."

Smith impressed upon the future guests to bring their curiosity, energy and appetite but leave room to carry home a full heart, new friendships and endless fond memories of our Palmetto State.



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner holds a news conference on Tuesday, Oct. 14, concerning a gun-related incident involving a 6-year-old child who was shot in the face.

SHOOTING
FROM PAGE A1



suffering a gunshot wound to the lower right area of his face, the report said.

The mother then grabbed the 6-year-old, felt his face and ran to the car with the child.

The father, who was also inside the home, told deputies he was washing dishes, as the family had just finished dinner, when he heard a single gunshot and the mother's scream before running to the car.

The pair began to drive to Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital; at this time,emergency services had not been called by the parents, according to Gardner.

While en route to the hospital, the parents noticed Sumter EMS in the parking lot of the Gate gas station on East Liberty Street. They pulled in and made contact with EMS. Deputies arrived shortly after being informed by dispatch.

The child was taken to Tuomey before being transported to Prisma Health Richland in Columbia. As of Tuesday morning, the child was in stable condition. The child has autism and is nonverbal, Gardner said.

The father of the child told deputies he is unsure if the weapon fell and how the child got possession of the firearm.

Deputies later responded to the residence to secure the scene. An AR-15-style weapon was also inside the residence.

"We're trying to figure out how the child came about having this handgun, how the child was able to obtain the handgun in the first place," Gardner said. "A child being able to put their hands on that kind of a weapon at all in general should not occur."

Gardner said the agency is investigating the incident, taking into account the height of the dresser, if the weapon could have fallen and other factors. Charges of negligence or unlawful conduct toward a child are possible.

Gardner emphasized "the No. 1 killer of children is a handgun." He encouraged parents and adults to secure handguns where children cannot access them and investing in gun locks, which the sheriff's office issues.

FORUM
FROM PAGE A1

will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church's Parish Hall.

He will serve as the forum moderator, and panelists secured to date include Sierra Neal and Raymond Watkins of Central Carolina Technical College, Alex Floyd of University of South Carolina Sumter and published education author James Langley. He generally also has a Sumter School District official(s), and Deas hopes to also add a panelist from Morris College and University of South Carolina in Columbia, he said.

A question-and-answer session will also be part of the forum, and the event will conclude with attendees having the opportunity to meet with the panelists for more in-depth conversations, he said. There is no cost to attend, and lunch will be provided for free by Mary Ann's Deli.

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Sumter Community Education Forum

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Church of the Holy Comforter, 213 N. Main St., Parish Hall

There is no cost to attend. Lunch will be provided.

The forum is for children of all grade levels, Deas added, and will include door prizes, gift cards for attendees who arrive the earliest, book giveaways, and new this year is a drawing for two scholarships to local high school seniors — public or private school — who attend and have verified plans to pursue education after high school.

The scholarships are $500 and $250, and the two seniors selected will apply with a formal application. The senior with the strongest application will receive the $500 scholarship, and the runner-up will receive $250, he said.

Deas said he hopes the scholarship opportunities will increase attendance this year.

In the future, he is planning to establish a foundation to offer scholarship opportunities annually to high school graduates in Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties.

The forum essentially provides a local "venue" to pull together educators across the board to discuss educational opportunities, Deas added.

"This is all about just getting information in front of the people who can take advantage of it and having a venue every year where that information is under one roof and can be conveyed to parents and students," he said. "And then, of course now, we are moving toward scholarships. So, it's about providing opportunity to people."

In addition to his teaching duties at USC, Deas is also a K-12 educational researcher and earlier this year he won a 2025 South Carolina Education Association outstanding public service award for his policy research to improve public education and community service efforts.

Additionally, last year, Deas was one of 15 educational policy scholars nationally to be chosen as a 2025 Scholars Strategy Network Educational Studies Training Program Fellow. Scholars are chosen based on academic excellence and the societal impact of their research.





PUBLIC AGENDA

TOWN OF LYNCHBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

Monday, Oct. 20, at 6 p.m., Lynchburg Municipal Building, 81 Magnolia St., Lynchburg

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 5:30 p.m., Council Chambers on the fourth floor of Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St. (enter through the back parking lot entrance and take elevator to fourth floor). If you are a citizen of the City of Sumter and wish to speak to council during the "Comments by City Citizens" Period, please complete the sign-in sheet in the lobby of the Council Chambers prior to the start of the meeting. The Clerk will collect this sheet prior to the meeting to verify addresses and location within the City 10 minutes before the meeting begins. Comments are limited to no more than three minutes.

CLARENDON COUNTY PLANNING & PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 6:30 p.m., planning commission office, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

BISHOPVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 6:30 p.m., Colclough Building (as needed only)

SUMTER CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 3 p.m., fourth floor, Sumter Opera House, Council Chambers

SUMTER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7:45 a.m., 10 E. Liberty St.

LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thursday, Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m., District Administration Complex Quadplex, 310 Roland St., Bishopville.

SANTEE WATEREE RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, Oct. 27, 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, Oct. 27, 6 p.m., 29 W. Boyce St., City Hall Chambers, Manning

AROUND TOWN

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

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 last meeting on the schedule will be a 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.

In honor of **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, stop in and meet Mara Jackson Knowlton, holistic cancer practitioner and breast cancer early detection educator. She will be offering and signing her book, "Path to Peace," and Holistic Guide to Wellness and Reducing Cancer Risk. In a world filled with stress, uncertainty and rising health concerns, "Path to Peace" offers women a practical and faith-based guide to reducing cancer risk, achieving inner peace and nurturing holistic wellness. Light refreshments provided. The event is at Elephant Ear Gallery - Artisan Gift Market, 672 Bultman Drive, on Saturday, Oct. 18, from noon to 2 p.m.

Are you a teacher looking to make a bigger impact in your classroom? A national nonprofit with local roots in Batesburg-Leesville has a unique opportunity for you. The **Center of Excellence for Educator Preparation and Innovation's IMPACT initiative** is tackling two of education's biggest challenges: teacher retention and student literacy. The program empowers teachers with the tools and strategies to reach each student, individually. Participating teachers receive a quarterly stipend, professional development, and the chance to earn valuable micro-credentials. The EPI Center is currently seeking certified English Language Arts and Elementary Education teachers. This is your chance to transform your classroom and make a real difference. To apply, visit *epipathways.org* or call (854) 222-7243.

Shiloh Project Lift will hold its annual Fall Festival on Nov. 1 at the St. John School building, 4515 Narrow Paved Rd, Lynchburg. Barbecue will be available for purchase. Attendees may enter for chances to win prizes such as a TV, an air conditioner and cakes. Activities include cake walks, hayrides, corn hole toss, sack races, kickball, basketball and horseback riding. This event supports fundraising efforts for the renovation of St. John School. Residents of surrounding communities are invited to attend. For more information, call (803) 459-7463.

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, please contact Gail Hyatt at (803) 983-3916, or via email, gailhyatt@sc.rr.com. Deadline for entry is Friday, Nov. 14.

WEATHER

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

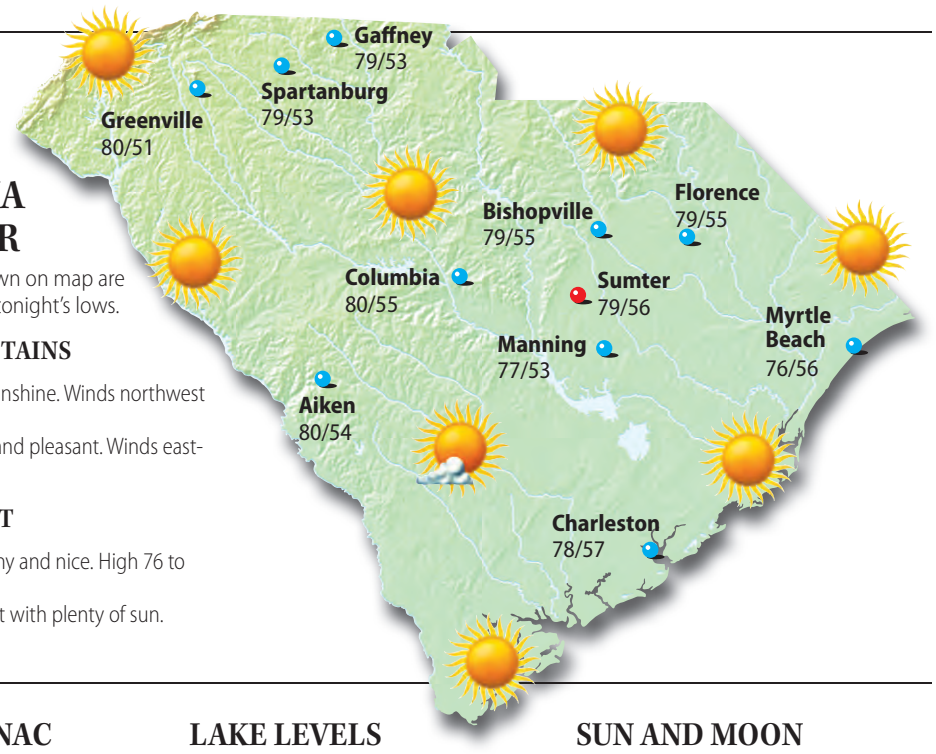
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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny	Clear	Pleasant with plenty of sun	Mostly sunny and nice	Sunny and pleasant	Showers around in the p.m.
79°	56°	74° / 47°	75° / 51°	79° / 56°	79° / 57°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 60%
NNE 7-14 mph	NNE 4-8 mph	NE 7-14 mph	ESE 3-6 mph	SSW 4-8 mph	SSW 7-14 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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



IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Plenty of sunshine. Winds northwest 3-6 mph. Clear.
Thursday: Sunny and pleasant. Winds east-northeast 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Mostly sunny and nice. High 76 to 82.
Thursday: Pleasant with plenty of sun. High 71 to 78.

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER MONDAY

Temperature

High	77°
Low	60°
Normal high	75°
Normal low	52°
Record high	90° in 1954
Record low	36° in 1988

Precipitation

Monday	trace
Month to date	2.31"
Normal month to date	1.95"
Year to date	28.55"
Last year to date	31.38"
Normal year to date	40.13"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	357.04	+0.02
Marion	76.8	75.19	+0.06
Moultrie	75.5	75.17	+0.16
Wateree	100	96.42	-0.10

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.68	+3.25
Congaree River	19	5.08	-0.12
Lynches River	14	8.86	+3.58
Saluda River	14	1.98	-0.19
Up. Santee River	80	N.A.	N.A.
Wateree River	24	5.51	-0.50

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:27 a.m.	Sunset	6:48 p.m.
Moonrise	1:42 a.m.	Moonset	3:59 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Oct. 21	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	4:55 a.m.	2.9	11:32 a.m.	0.8
	5:26 p.m.	3.4	---	---
Thu.	5:56 a.m.	3.0	12:25 a.m.	0.9
	6:22 p.m.	3.3	12:34 p.m.	0.7

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	85/61/s	83/58/s
Chicago	62/55/sh	68/58/pc
Dallas	87/65/s	87/71/pc
Detroit	63/42/pc	64/47/s
Houston	90/65/s	88/71/pc
Los Angeles	70/54/s	77/56/s
New Orleans	87/67/s	85/68/s
New York	66/46/pc	58/44/s
Orlando	82/67/pc	85/67/s
Philadelphia	69/45/pc	64/44/s
Phoenix	80/60/s	79/59/s
San Francisco	68/53/pc	69/52/s
Wash., DC	73/48/s	67/46/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	76/50/s	73/46/s
Athens	81/55/s	78/53/s
Augusta	82/52/s	78/47/s
Beaufort	82/58/s	78/55/s
Cape Hatteras	69/60/pc	65/56/s
Charleston	78/57/s	75/51/s
Charlotte	81/55/s	76/47/s
Clemson	80/53/s	77/52/s
Columbia	80/55/s	76/47/s
Darlington	79/55/s	73/47/s
Elizabeth City	73/50/s	66/44/s
Elizabethtown	77/55/s	72/45/s
Fayetteville	78/55/s	72/45/s
Florence	79/55/s	73/44/s
Gainesville	83/59/s	84/61/s
Gastonia	80/52/s	76/47/s
Goldsboro	76/53/s	68/44/s
Goose Creek	77/56/s	75/50/s
Greensboro	77/50/s	71/45/s
Greenville	80/51/s	76/48/s
Hickory	79/51/s	73/46/s
Hilton Head	78/59/s	76/58/s
Jacksonville, FL	81/58/pc	80/61/s
La Grange	83/53/s	84/59/s
Macon	84/52/s	84/51/s
Marietta	82/57/s	82/57/s
Marion	78/48/s	76/45/s
Mt. Pleasant	77/58/s	75/54/s
Myrtle Beach	76/56/s	72/49/s
Orangeburg	78/55/s	76/48/s
Port Royal	79/57/s	77/54/s
Raleigh	76/52/s	70/45/s
Rock Hill	79/55/s	74/46/s
Rockingham	78/53/s	74/45/s
Savannah	80/57/s	79/54/s
Spartanburg	79/53/s	75/48/s
Summerville	77/55/s	76/48/s
Wilmington	76/55/s	70/45/s
Winston-Salem	78/51/s	74/46/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: Meet CeCe! She is 2 years old, laid-back and sweet. CeCe has been waiting for a new family to come find her since September. Apply for adoption at *www.sumterscspca.com/adopt*.



BELOW: Shylo has overcome so much in her short life! This little girl came in as a stray covered in fleas from head to toe. We were able to completely get rid of her fleas then treat the after-effects of having so many fleas — her poor skin suffered most. Come see her and show her some love on her journey! She is a 5-week-old mixed breed.



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: Ginger was found doing what all good moms do — caring for her little ones. This beautiful girl was discovered at a local school, nursing her six adorable puppies and trying her best to keep them safe. She arrived at the shelter as a stray, still in full mama mode, and has done an excellent job. Ginger's puppies are now safe in forever homes, so she is ready to find a new home and a fresh start for herself. This adorable girl enjoys taking walks and showing us her gentle nature. Ginger is the perfect medium size for just about any home and would thrive with a patient, loving family to call her own. She weighs 36 pounds and is 2 to 4 years old.



BELOW: The sweetest little stray-turned-shelter star, Gypsy is a beautiful young pup, less than a year old and weighing 42 pounds. This adorable girl came to the shelter as a stray, but she hasn't let her past dim her spirit. With her playful energy and loving heart, Gypsy is ready to leave the shelter behind and find a forever home to call her own. Still full of fun puppy vibes, Gypsy craves attention and soaks up every bit of affection she gets from our volunteers. She is smart and eager to learn! This precious little girl is just waiting for someone to scoop her up and show her what love and family feel like.

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, OCTOBER 15-17, 2025

Laurence Manning's Dennis accepts Hines Furniture Athlete of the Year







PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Laurence Manning sophomore Scoop Dennis, standing right, stopped by Hines Furniture on Saturday to receive his recognition as the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Year. Joined by a group of current and former teammates, Dennis was dreaming of touchdowns and baskets after accepting his award from Donny Hines, standing left.

Wilson Hall boys finish 3rd at state as 3 school records fall

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com



Wilson Hall's 200 freestyle relay team of, from left, Cliff Bath, Ryan Brown, Jacob Hewett and Banks Smith pose with their medals after winning the event and setting a school record in the process.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The Wilson Hall swim team traveled to North Charleston for the SCISA state swim meet on Saturday and came home with some serious hardware.

As a team, the boys finished third among 4A schools, while their young girls team finished 14th. Three Baron school records fell in the process, as Jacob Hewett set two new program bests in victories, while the 200-yard freestyle relay team took home gold while breaking another school record.

"It was a wonderful weekend; the kids did a great job," head coach Jeanna Mahr said. "The team overall did really well, so we were really excited for them."

Since transferring to Wilson Hall last year, Hewett has quickly torn through the program's record books, adding two more individual marks at state. He broke his own 200-yard individual medley record and missed the SCISA state record by just .52 seconds when he touched the wall in 1:56.52, beating his previous mark by five full seconds. Hewett also broke the 100 breaststroke record previously set by Jack Poag in 2022 when he won the race in 59.92.

Hewett was joined by Cliff Bath, Ryan Brown and Banks Smith on the 200 free relay team, which won with a time of 1:34.01. Bath also finished second in both the 50 and 100 free with times of 22.99 and 50.24, respectively. Smith added an eighth-place finish in the 50 free with a time of 24.37. J.T. Reimer finished 13th in the 100 free in 57.43.

While those races were the biggest highlights, the Barons saw massive strides across the program, setting 35 new personal records.

The boys 200 medley relay team of Joey Robertson, Hewett, Ethan Wilson and Smith finished fifth with a time of 1:52.20. The 400 free relay team of Reimer, Wilson, Brown and Bath also finished fifth in 3:34.84. Brown finished fifth in the 200 free with a time of 1:58.41, while Gentry Flowers finished ninth in 2:10.62. Ethan Bentley also finished 11th in the 200 IM. Wilson also finished seventh in the 100 butterfly in 1:02.84, while Flowers finished 11th. Wilson added a seventh-place finish in the 500 free in 5:51.88. Brown finished ninth in the 100 backstroke in 1:03.81, while Reimer finished 13th and Robertson finished 17th. Smith finished ninth in the 100 breaststroke in 1:13.52, while Gavin Hendren placed 14th.

The girls 400 free relay of Mary Ellen Thorne, Paige Sanders, Lydia Leihsing and Cat Bowman finished ninth in 5:05.91. The 200 free relay of Campbell Wylie, Sanders, Lilly Shortmann and Bowman finished 10th in 2:10.93. The girls 200 medley relay team of Thorne, Schortmann, Wylie and Leihsing finished 11th. Thorne also finished 24th in the 200 free. Shortmann finished eighth in the 200 individual medley in 2:57.46. Cat Bowman finished 14th in the 50 free with a time of 29.52. Wylie finished 13th in the 100 free in 1:08.26, while Schortmann finished 21st. Bowman also finished 13th in the 100 backstroke in 1:17.25, while Thorne finished 23rd. Wylie added a 16th-place finish in the 100 breaststroke in 1:32.42.

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Wolverines crush Kingstree behind dominant defensive performance

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com



TIM LEIBLE / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

The East Clarendon defense, seen making a stop against Manning on Sept. 26, pitched a shutout against Kingstree on Friday.

The East Clarendon football team returned from their bye week and made the trip to Kingstree on Friday night to continue their run through region play. The Wolverine defense was unstoppable from the moment they stepped off the bus, pitching a shutout, while the EC defense woke up after halftime for a dominant 34-0 victory.

"Our defense played lights out; they kept us in the ballgame," head coach Larry Cornelius said.

The Wolverines couldn't get anything going in the opening half, as Kingstree loaded the box and dared them to pass. A few early drops didn't do EC any favors. East Clarendon punted four times in the opening half, more than they have in any game all season.

Luckily, the defense was able to jumpstart the scoring, as Jaylon Barron recovered a fumble in the end zone for the game's first points with his second defensive score of the season. EC was able to punch in one more touchdown before the half, but they barely cracked 60 yards offensively before the break. The EC head coach was less than thrilled in the locker room at halftime.

"It was just a good butt chewing at halftime," Coach Cornelius said of what sparked a better offensive performance after the break. "I was praising the defense for what we were doing and butt chewing the offense. It wasn't like we were playing horribly, but we weren't playing lively. I made some notes with plays to run in the second half; we didn't even run them. We ran the same thing, it was just a difference in attitude."

After the halftime chat, the Wolverines found their rhythm in the final two quarters, quickly extending their lead in the blowout win. Skyler Cornelius and Tyquan Wilson each finished with 100 rushing yards on the dot, with Cornelius punching in two scores and Wilson finding the end zone once. Blease Hardy added three carries for 10 yards and a score. EC ran for 213 yards as a team. They finished with 180 total yards in the second half alone.

"We did a good job of splitting carries between Skyler and Tyquan," Coach Cornelius said. "They've been pretty consistent, so it's nice to have two rushers with 100 yards or more."

The defense dominated all night. Keyshaun Porter finished with seven tackles and a staggering five tackles for a loss. He also forced two fumbles. Barron broke up two passes, had a tackle for a loss and finished with four total tackles along with his defensive score. Thomas Fitts added seven tackles, while Cade Mooneyham had six tackles, two tackles for a loss, a fumble recovery and a pass breakup. S. Cornelius had five tackles and a pass breakup, while Jesse Floyd added five stops and two tackles for a loss. Mike Woods added four tackles, a sack, a forced fumble, two tackles for a loss and a deflected pass. Jordan Green capped things off with an interception.

"All four linebackers kinda led the way with Cade, Thomas, Mike and Keyshaun," Coach Cornelius said. "Jaylen Barron had a heck of a game on the line, and on the back end, we just covered it up. We covered their receivers really well. As a unit, we just played really well."

East Clarendon will next host a Mullins team that's coming off a lopsided loss to Manning on Friday night. Atlantic Collegiate threw the region for a loop with an upset over Lake City, so the fight for first place will come down to the wire.

"We can't look too far down the road. We're in the driver's seat; we know that if we win out, we'll win the region, but we definitely have to take it one game at a time," Coach Cornelius said. "We're not going to overlook anyone, especially Mullins. Last year, Mullins beat us. We're not going to take that for granted."

Manning runs past Mullins 53-22

STAFF REPORT

The Manning football team made the trip to Mullins on Friday and came home with a resounding 53-22 win.

Traditionally a run-first squad, the Monarchs aired things out a bit on Friday, as Lovell Stevenson went 12-19 for 235 yards and four touchdowns, though he did add one interception. CJ Robinson caught six of those passes for 135 yards and two touchdowns, while Lovon Stevenson snagged three passes for 69 yards and a score. Derahjae Wheeler added a 17-yard touchdown grab.

Manning still ran the ball well, collecting 187 yards on 42 carries. Jontavious Canty had 13 carries for 49 yards and a score, while Isaiah Baxter added 10 carries for 51 yards. Tyrell Nelson chipped in seven carries for 50 yards and a touchdown, while Lovell Stevenson ran for 16 yards and a touchdown.

Outside of a stretch in the second quarter, the Monarch defense kept Mullins out of the end zone for most of the night. Manning outgained Mullins by nearly 100 yards, though the Auctioneers outrushed the Monarchs by two yards.

Manning forced three turnovers to help put the game away. Robinson intercepted a pass and forced a fumble, adding four tackles and a pass breakup. J. Canty recovered a fumble and had seven tackles to go with two assisted tackles for loss. Lovon Stevenson led Manning with nine tackles, two sacks, six tackles for a loss and two forced fumbles. Dontavious Canty added eight tackles, four assisted tackles for a loss and a pick. Ethan Lowder chipped in with eight tackles and an assisted tackle for a loss.

The Monarchs head to Atlantic Collegiate on Friday.



TIM LEIBLE / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Manning's CJ Robinson caught two touchdowns and intercepted a pass during their win over Mullins on Friday.



the Sumter ITEM SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL · FRIDAY, OCT. 18

TRINITY COL.	18	@	WILSON HALL	35
SB EAGLES	14	@	CROSS	38
CRESTWOOD	21	@	HARTSVILLE	34
E. CLARENDON	34	@	KINGSTREE	0
MANNING	53	@	MULLINS	20
LMA 'CATS	61	@	CN CARDINALS	6
GREENWOOD	28	@	TSA GENERALS	14
LEE CENTRAL	26	@	LEWISVILLE	61
LEE ACADEMY	0	@	WILLIAMSBURG	29
CH SAINTS	0	@	DORCHESTER	60
S. FLORENCE	49	@	LAKEWOOD	0





J.R. AKIES / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Laurence Manning's Zy Dennis scored three touchdowns against Cardinal Newman on Friday.

Laurence Manning crushes Cardinal Newman as Dennis brothers dominate

STAFF REPORT

The Laurence Manning football team traveled to Cardinal Newman on Friday and cruised to a 61-6 victory. The Dennis brothers, Scoop and Zy, combined for five touchdowns in the blowout win.

The Swampcats scored in all three phases of the game, punching in two defensive scores, a punt return touchdown and six offensive touchdowns.

Scoop Dennis got the special teams score, getting loose from 63 yards for a touchdown. He returned a total of three punts for 93 yards on the day. He added a seven-yard receiving touchdown. His brother Zy scored three touchdowns, two on the ground and one through the air. He caught a 10-yard score while rushing five times for 76 yards and two touchdowns. Bryce Grubbs added 54 yards and two touchdowns, while Payton Brown ran six times for 48 yards and added a 38-yard reception.

In total, Laurence Manning ran for 219 yards, while Grainger Powell was 11-14 for 139 yards and two scores through the air. Asher Sanders led the team with six catches for 60 yards.

On defense, Peyton McGee and Sanders each scored a touchdown in the rout. Sanders added a tackle for a loss, a sack and 3.5 total tackles. McGee had four tackles. Shawn Moore added six tackles, two tackles for a loss, forced a fumble and broke up a pass. Bryson Pepper added five tackles and two sacks.

Tristan White added a blocked kick as the Swampcats did a little bit of everything in the blowout victory.

Laurence Manning now heads into the bye week with a 4-4 record. They'll return with a trip to Trinity Collegiate before closing the regular season at home against Porter-Gaud.



J.R. AKIES / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Thomas Sumter's Jace Williams (9) and the Generals fell to Greenwood Christian on Friday.

Thomas Sumter looks to grow from loss to Greenwood Christian

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Thomas Sumter football program found itself in an interesting spot when they hosted Greenwood Christian on Friday.

The Generals won just one game in each of the previous two seasons but rattled off four consecutive wins heading into Friday's region matchup. For the first time in a few years, TSA was playing a game with some higher stakes, as a win would've put them firmly in second place in SCISA 2A Region II.

For most of the night, they lived up to the challenge. Thomas Sumter led going into halftime, but the second half didn't go quite as smoothly. The final two quarters slipped away from TSA, as mistakes piled up in a 28-14 loss. While the loss was far from ideal, head coach Stacy Bell thought it was an important lesson for his team.

"We stressed to them that you want to win in everything, you always do, but we believe in our guys. I continue to tell them that they're a much better team than they realize and we want to get back to our schedule," Bell said. "We just want to do what we're supposed to do for the day to the best of our ability."

The night didn't get out to an ideal start, as the Generals turned the ball over on the opening kickoff, but they settled in nicely with a pair of touchdown throws from Jace Williams in the second quarter. One went to Sam Petrauschke, while the other landed in the hands of Christian Williams, who finished the night with a team-high seven catches for 77 yards.

After the half, everything changed. TSA stopped a fake punt on their first defensive possession, but couldn't get much going offensively. Greenwood started to find its footing thanks in part to some short fields. Thomas Sumter threw the first of two interceptions just three offensive plays into the half, starting a trend of short fields for Greenwood. Add in a fumble and you've got a recipe for a tough second half for the Generals. They were still within striking distance entering the fourth quarter, trailing by one score, but couldn't close the gap.

"We played really good defense, but we had four turnovers, which is not like us," Bell said. "Unfortunately, those turnovers gave them short fields. I give all credit to Greenwood Christian on that, but eventually short fields add up."

Thomas Sumter finished with just 156 offensive yards in the loss, as they lost a total of 20 yards on the ground to go with 176 passing yards from Jace Williams.

Defensively, the Generals had some strong performances. Colvin Linville had a team-high 13 tackles to go with four tackles for a loss and a sack. Weston Shaffer added four tackles for a loss, a sack and eight total tackles. Shawn Wrigley had seven tackles, three tackles for a loss and a sack. Carter Hill added nine tackles and two tackles for a loss.

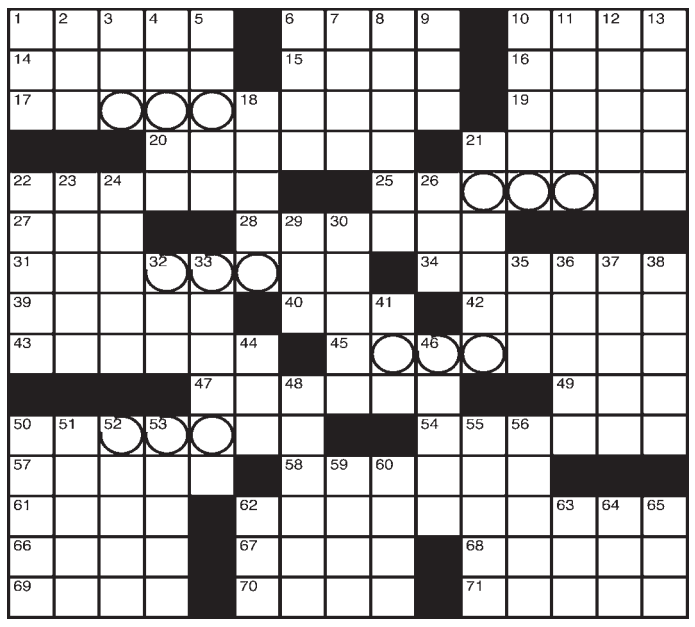
"Defensively, we played pretty well," Bell said. "Colvin continues to get better and better. I can't say enough about him. Our defensive backs, Carter Hill and Clay Team and Andrew (Conyers) and Joseph (Andrade), we did some different coverages and things and they responded really well to that. Greenwood Christian is a really good offensive team, I thought we did a nice job against them."

Thomas Sumter now goes into their bye week as their momentum screeches to a halt. Bell is hoping the week serves as a reset as they prepare to face Wilson Hall next week before capping off the regular season with a pivotal region matchup with Orangeburg Prep.

"We met with the team last week and, win or lose, we'd already plotted out this week and made the team aware of what that was going to be. We didn't want the kids to see what we're doing as reactionary," Bell said. "Whether we had won or lost, because of the bye week, they had Monday off from practice, three hard days of practice and then Friday night off.

"We want them to know nothing has changed. We still have all the belief in the world in them. We have a game against Wilson Hall and a game against Orangeburg Prep and that will determine where we'll be for the playoffs."

CROSSWORD



Across
1 Have a trying experience?
6 Exceedingly
10 Torah chests
14 Common font
15 Wallpaper unit
16 Former Iranian leader
17 Like some fast planes
19 Link destination
20 2007 Apple debut
21 Sixth __
22 Mono alternative
25 Exclusive excursion
27 Clown
28 Make a home in
31 Chili dish served in a corn chip bag
34 Encrypted messaging software
39 Lion of Narnia
40 Microdosing study subj.
42 Bubble bath accessory
43 Waged a long campaign against
45 Toaster pastry brand
47 Disquieted state
49 Song list
50 Had a decent showing on the links
54 Spuds
57 "Obvi!"
58 Microsoft business applications suite
61 First name in jazz
62 Create tension among friends, or a hint to this puzzle's circled letters
66 Some cold drafts
67 Car freshener scent
68 One of the Coen brothers
69 Musical instrument in Orpheus mosaics
70 Amino __
71 Low on cash

Down
1 __ Mahal
2 Equal
3 Basic command at obedience school
4 Mammal with a flexible snout
5 Wed without a guest list
6 Cookie preserved in a vault as part of a 2020 publicity stunt
7 Bike attachment
8 Arm
9 Ancient
10 Useful quality
11 Safari herbivore
12 Panko-breaded fried cutlet
13 Like organza and chiffon
18 Clobber
21 Overly indulged, to a Brit
22 Catnap spots
23 Anklebones
24 Go paperless on April 15
26 "__ my pleasure!"
29 Part of EVOO
30 "Roman Holiday" scooter
32 Identify on social media
33 Bests
35 India's smallest state
36 Viking language
37 In search of
38 Holds up
41 "¿Por qué no los __?"
44 Double helix molecule
46 "Le __ Prince": de Saint-Exupéry novella
48 Spicy, in a way
50 Incredible bargain
51 With anger
52 Sea animal with "pockets" to store food and tools
53 Poke fun at
55 Advil targets
56 Gear components
59 "Doneski!"
60 VanVleet of the NBA
62 Venue offering LED light therapy
63 Vietnam's national dish
64 Crew blade
65 Explosive letters

JUMBLE

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

NAYON

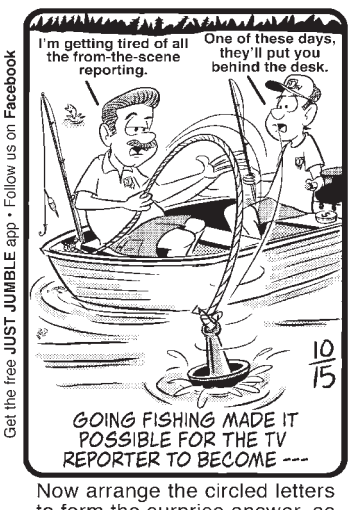
CAKNK

HSAMAT

RACWOD

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



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

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SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

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

Jumbles: ANNOY KNACK ASTHMA COWARD
Answer: Going fishing made it possible for the TV reporter to become — AN ANCHORMAN

Barons dominate 2nd half in win over Trinity Collegiate

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com



Wilson Hall's Peyton Gilley (50) holds up the ball after recovering a fumble against Trinity Collegiate on Friday.

PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Emotions were swirling when Wilson Hall hosted Trinity Collegiate for a critical region matchup on Friday night.

The Barons were coming off a monumental 28-21 win over Pinewood Prep, avenging their loss in last year's SCISA 3A state championship game. For a week, the program was buzzing with excitement as they looked to follow up the victory with an important region matchup. Before the game, the school was then rocked by heartbreaking news, as Baron eighth-grader Sammy Welch passed away after a two-year cancer battle.

With full hearts, Wilson Hall had an up-and-down first half but took a 14-10 lead into the half against Trinity. After the break, it was all Barons, as Wilson Hall scored at will after the break on their way to a comfortable 35-18 win.

"We didn't want to have a letdown after last week," Jarecki said. "Last week was such an emotional high. We didn't want to be on that high and then have a letdown this week. That was kind of the focus with our guys. And they're going through a lot right now. The whole Wilson Hall family is going through a lot with Sammy, and that affects everybody. I'm glad they were able to play for him. He was there watching, so that was kind of the driving thing behind it. I'm proud of them for getting through it."

While the night ended with plenty to celebrate, the Barons didn't get out to the cleanest start. After a three-and-out on their opening possession, the Wilson Hall defense seemed primed to force their own quick punt when a holding call left the Titans facing fourth-and-11 near midfield. Trinity still elected to go for it and the decision paid off, as Davidson Lynch connected with Garrison Copeland for a first down and more. Copeland found some running room down the sideline before stepping out at the 12. Wilson Hall buckled down after that, forcing a field goal try. Parker Phipps connected from 29 yards to put the Titans ahead 3-0.

The Barons didn't wait long to punch back. Shep Vincent returned the ensuing kick 64 yards to get down to the Titan 26. Three plays later, Milling Galloway strolled into the end zone for a 15-yard score.

The back-and-forth half continued with a sharp response from Trinity. They finished the first quarter with a pair of first-down completions before Lynch found Desmond Williams II for a 42-yard strike to retake the lead.

That lead was short-lived, however, as Wilson Hall needed just three plays to find the end zone again. Galloway ripped off runs of 24 and 34 yards before Ben McLaurin found paydirt from 11 yards out. With the extra point, Wilson Hall grabbed a 14-10 lead that they would not surrender.

The McLaurin touchdown was the final score before the half. The Barons thought they had a quick stop when McLaurin snuffed out a wide receiver screen and made a tackle in the backfield for a six-yard loss, but Trinity responded with a 19-yard completion on third-and-18. Trinity then got a little extra help when a Baron snagged a facemask on a run that was stuffed in the backfield. Wilson Hall settled in defensively thanks to a sack from Walker Wilson and Crosby Tisdale. Two plays later, Trinty faced third-and-10. Lynch dropped back to pass but found a diving Henry Jones, who swatted the ball out of his hand for a strip sack. Peyton Gilley jumped on the loose ball for a Baron turnover with 1:39 left in the half. Wilson Hall stalled out on the ensuing two-minute drill but went into the half with a 14-10 lead.

"The first drive was not a great start, but we kind of established it quick after that," Jarecki said. "They set up like we were hoping they would, and we could hit some things that we knew we could do."

Trinity got the ball to open the second half, and the Barons knew another stop would leave them in the driver's seat. Trinity was able to get a quick first down on their first play of the quarter, but Lynch was stuffed on a quarterback sneak on third-and-1, losing a yard. The Titans tried to go for it on fourth down at midfield, but Galloway broke up the pass attempt for a turnover on downs. The senior running back then took a handoff on the next play and housed it from 50 yards out. Galloway's point after attempt was blocked after the long run, but Wilson Hall still had a 20-10 lead.



Wilson Hall's Milling Galloway breaks loose for a touchdown against Trinity Collegiate on Friday.

The Baron defense was electric after halftime, as the next Trinity drive stalled out immediately. Jarecki credits a change to their coverage scheme, moving from a Cover 3 look, with a deep safety and two corners responsible for a third of the field, to a Cover 2 look, where two safeties are deep and everyone else tries to shut down throws underneath. Trinity struggled to complete passes in traffic, as a result, and the Barons were able to more quickly attack repeated receiver screens and dump off passes in the backfield.

"Coming in at halftime, we knew we had to get a stop because we had to play it like it was 0-0, and we did," Jarecki said. "We went to some different coverage looks from what we've normally been doing. We made the adjustment, and it paid off."

After the quick punt, the Barons iced the game with another near-immediate touchdown. McLaurin ripped off a 38-yard run to get down to the Titan 22. After two strong runs from Galloway, McLaurin punched in a six-yard score. Galloway ran in the two-point conversion to push the Baron lead to 28-10 with 5:03 left in the third.

The Wilson Hall defense then forced another quick punt, as H. Jones sacked Lynch on consecutive plays.

The Barons opened the fourth quarter with yet another rushing touchdown, as Galloway galloped in from eight yards out to put the game to bed. Trinity was able to punch in a late touchdown against the reserves and even came out with an onside kick to try to shrink the margin of victory. While the Titans recovered, they couldn't find a final home run shot, ending the game with a final score of 35-18 in favor of the Barons.

"I think they were kinda wearing down," Jarecki said. "They had some big injuries over there in the last few weeks, and they were kind of thin. I think we wore them down, particularly up front, but they've got such explosive guys. They played hard. They're not going to let up; we saw that on film."

Galloway finished with 169 yards and three touchdowns in the win, while McLaurin had six carries for 59 yards and two scores. Cameron Wilsey chipped in with an additional 54 yards on the ground.

Wilson led the defense with eight tackles, two tackles for a loss and a sack. H. Jones had three sacks and a forced fumble. Gilley added five tackles, a tackle for a loss and a fumble recovery.

The Barons were originally scheduled to head into their bye week after the win, but the stormy weather on Sept. 26 had other plans. They'll play the final three quarters of their matchup against Florence Christian on Friday with a region title on the line. Wilson Hall will be in a 3-0 hole when play resumes.

"We knew this three-game stretch was going to be really trying. Last week was so physical and such an emotional high. We're beat up," Jarecki said. "We've got to get healthy and get back on track with Florence because it's going to be a dogfight. We expected it to be that way for three weeks. We accomplished two of them, and now we've got to get that third one."



Ella Sill is crowned homecoming queen in a halftime ceremony that was delayed two weeks due to storms.



Wilson Hall's Henry Jones (9) sacks Trinity's Davidson Lynch on Friday.



Wilson Hall's Ford Wilder passes against Trinity Collegiate on Friday.



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

Scoop and score before half sinks Eagles in loss to No. 2 Cross

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Scott's Branch traveled to Cross on Friday with a chance to make a statement. Early on, the Eagles battled with the No. 2 team SCHSL 2A, but two devastating fumbles late in the second quarter left Scott's Branch in a halftime deficit they could not climb out of in a 38-14 loss.

"We knew going in that it's a hostile environment, they're a well-coached team, and we couldn't beat ourselves. Plays like that were just detrimental," head coach Pat Fleming said. "They're used to winning, and a program like us, we're not used to winning. I felt that changed the momentum, and the guys couldn't pick themselves up after that."

The Eagles had two back-breaking turnovers before the half. The first was a simple act of doing too much, lateralling the ball to try to end the play. Cross scooped up the fumble and punched in their second touchdown of the game, jumping ahead by a score with less than two minutes left in the opening half. Once the Eagles regained possession, a strip sack turned into a Cross defensive score, leaving Scott's Branch in a 26-6 deficit at the break.

"That took the wind out of our sails," Fleming said. "It was just a guy trying to make a play. When guys aren't used to being in the moment, sometimes the moment can be too big. Sometimes guys got out of the scheme trying to make a play, rather than playing as a team."

The Eagles struggled offensively for most of the night. They scored their lone touchdown of the opening half on an 8-yard kick return by Keith Rogers and added another score late on a touchdown catch from Christian Green when the game was out of hand. They turned the ball over three times in the loss, adding an interception.

The Scott's Branch defense, meanwhile, did their job early, but short fields and quick offensive drives left them running on fumes in the second half. Nyzaiah Richardson had 16 tackles for the Eagles, while Danny Ragin added 13 tackles, a sack and four tackles for a loss.

"We played well in spots, but when you have three turnovers and they don't have any, that's the result you'll have in the end," Fleming said. "The defensive gave everything they had in the second half; I couldn't have asked for much more. Football is a game of momentum; when we couldn't move the chains and establish first downs, with the time of possession, they really started wearing on us, and guys got frustrated."

While it wasn't the ideal result, Fleming hopes his team learns from their first true challenge as a contending team. The next time the stage gets bright, Fleming wants to see his team rise to the challenge.

"We'll evaluate the film, let them know the costly mistakes but, overall, I was proud of the way my guys fought," Fleming said. "We were in the game for a whole half against the defending lower state champs. I felt like we took a couple of steps in the right direction, but we have a long way to go."



Scott's Branch junior Quintin Jackson (11) carries the ball against Cross on Friday.

PHOTOS BY NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR



Scott's Branch quarterback Jaiven Conyers throws a pass on Friday.

South Carolina falls to No. 11 LSU, fires OL coach

BY BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Garrett Nussmeier passed for 254 yards and two touchdowns, LSU's defense contained South Carolina's LaNorris Sellers, and the 11th-ranked Tigers overcame three turnovers to defeat the Gamecocks 20-10 on Saturday night.

"We found a way to win, even though we had some mistakes out there that could at some time be catastrophic," LSU coach Brian Kelly said. "The bottom line is: against an SEC opponent, we held them to 10 points and really, except for our own mistakes, we controlled the flow of the game."

The victory arguably should have been easier for LSU (5-1, 2-1 SEC), which twice lost the ball right at the South Carolina goal line on a fumble and an interception. The first of Nussmeier's two interceptions also occurred on the Gamecocks' side of the field.

LSU tight end Trey'Dez Green, a 6-foot-7 former college basketball player, caught eight passes for 119 yards and a touchdown.

"Clearly he is a mismatch," Kelly said. "He is a unique talent and we need to continue to feature him in our offense."

Green, who received a game ball, said he has largely recovered from a knee injury that occurred during LSU's home opener on Sept. 6.

"The ball came my way tonight a lot," he said. "I wasn't going to waste that opportunity."

Kyle Parker had five catches for 75 yards, highlighted by his 43-yard score on which he snagged a short slant pass in stride and ran away from everyone.

LSU also rushed for a season-high 166 yards, led by Caden Durham's 70 yards on 15 carries.

Damian Ramos' second field goal of the game all but sealed it with 1:46 left, capping a drive that started after LSU cornerback Mansoor Delane had broken up Sellers' fourth-down pass with 5:43 left.

Sellers passed for 124 yards, took five sacks and was intercepted once by LSU safety Tamarcus Cooley.

"Sellers is a difficult guy to corral," Kelly said. "I'm proud of the way our guys attacked him. … He will leave here feeling the game against LSU."

South Carolina (3-3, 1-3) drove into Tigers territory six times, but four of those possessions produced no points. One fruitless drive ended with a missed field goal, two ended with punts and the last with a turnover on downs.

"I'm sick to my stomach that we didn't win that football game," South Carolina coach Shane Beamer said, noting the Gamecocks finished with 193 yards rushing. "When we ran the ball, when we won the turnover battle, win time of possession — when you do all that, you should win the game."

LSU was on the brink of taking a 10-0 lead early in the second quarter as running back Ju'Juan Johnson fought through tacklers to try to reach the goal line. But defensive tackle Monkell Goodwine dislodged the ball and edge rusher Bryan Thomas Jr. recovered in the end zone.

Three plays later Matt Fuller, who entered the game with 71 yards rushing this season, broke loose for a 72-yard touchdown run to give the Gamecocks a 7-3 lead.

The Tigers responded quickly, driving 72 yards in six plays for Green's leaping 6-yard touchdown catch on a fade pass.

Former Lakewood standout Brandon Cisse suffered a knee injury in the first half of the loss. The defensive back was seen in crutches in the second half, but there has been no official update on his status as of Tuesday.

BEWILDERED BEAMER

Beamer was upset and perplexed about a flag that nullified what initially looked like a successful pass on a fake punt in the third quarter.

Beamer said officials told him the snap came before officials had given the signal that both teams had finished changing personnel. But after looking at a replay, Beamer began yelling and angrily gesticulating at officials for several minutes.

"In 26 years of coaching I've never seen that," Beamer said. "There was (no official) standing over the ball.

"I don't know how the punter, the personal protector who is making the call, and the snapper are supposed to know to not snap it when the referee is standing behind the punter," he continued. "Somebody is going to have to explain that one to me."

THE TAKEAWAY

South Carolina: Sellers has struggled in the passing game several times this season and did so again against an LSU defense that was also quick enough to largely contain him, limiting him to 19 net yards rushing (on gains of 74 and losses of 55). Two drives into Tigers territory were stunted by intentional grounding penalties.

LSU: Inconsistent execution continues to plague a Tigers' offense that saw several promising drives come to nothing. LSU had seven possessions end with four punts and three with turnovers. They've scored an average of 19 points in their four power conference games.

COACHING CHANGE

Beamer relieved offensive line coach Lonnie Teasley of his duties on Sunday. On Monday, he told reporters, "This isn't a scapegoat because we didn't perform well enough offensively. Big picture (I) didn't think we were progressing, getting the most out of that unit. Too many self-inflicted mistakes that keep showing up and felt the best thing was to see if we can get a new spark and have a new voice in there."

UConn tops women's preseason AP Top 25 ahead of USC; Kitts to miss season for Gamecocks

BY DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press

Defending champion UConn picked up where it left off as the No. 1 team in the country in The Associated Press Top 25 preseason women's basketball poll released Tuesday.

The Huskies received 27 first-place votes from a 31-member national media panel. South Carolina, last season's runner-up to UConn, was picked second in the poll and garnered the other four first-place votes. It's the fifth time in the last six years that Dawn Staley's Gamecocks were picked in the top five of the preseason poll. UCLA and Texas were third and fourth and LSU was fifth.

Oklahoma was sixth, the Sooners' highest preseason ranking since they were fourth in 2008. Duke, Tennessee, N.C. State and Maryland rounded out the top 10.

Led by sensational sophomore Sarah Strong and super senior Azzi Fudd, Geno Auriemma's UConn squad is ranked No. 1 in the preseason for the 13th time since 1995 and first since 2017.

"Hopefully it's a little bit of a confidence builder and not, 'Oh my God!'" Auriemma said. "I'm happy for them. We talk a lot about how we're not out here to prove that we're defending national champions or we're preseason number one in the country, and we have to beat everybody by 40. We don't want to get caught in that trap. You tend to finish the year where you're predicted. So I like being in this position."

Eight of the 12 previous times UConn was picked first, the Huskies won the national championship. Auriemma thinks his team has a good shot this year.

"It's got to come with great leadership and it's got to come with a little bit of luck and people rising to the occasion," he said. "Those four times that we didn't win, we didn't get lucky or we didn't stay healthy."

The top four teams were picked in the same order as last season's final poll. It's the first time in the 50-year history of the women's poll that the top four teams in the final poll were the same in the preseason Top 25 the next year; last year was only the second season that the AP released a Top 25 after the championship game. For more than four decades, the final poll was released before the start of the NCAA Tournament.

GAMECOCKS LOSE KITTS

South Carolina senior forward Chloe Kitts has announced on social media that she will miss the entire 2025 season after tearing the ACL in her right knee.

The injury occurred during a recent team practice, according to a spokesperson for the program.

"Thank you for everyone who has reached out with love and support," Kitts posted Monday on X. "I recently suffered a torn ACL and, unfortunately, will be out for the season. While this isn't how I hoped my season would go, I'm trusting God's timing and purpose. I'll continue to lead, support and push my teammates from the sidelines. We have big things ahead!"

Kitts will have surgery this week to repair the ACL.

A two-year starter for the Gamecocks, Kitts was last year's Southeastern Conference Tournament MVP and NCAA Binghamton Regionals MVP.

She averaged 10.2 points and 7.7 rebounds per game as a junior last year.

"We hate this first for Chloe, who has worked incredibly hard to become the best version of herself on the court this season," coach Dawn Staley said in a statement. "Her teammates are capable of stepping up, and I know that her competitive fire and tenacity will be felt from the sidelines as she pours what she can into them to ensure our team's success."

It's uncertain if Kitts plans to seek a medical redshirt and return to the Gamecocks next season. She was projected to be a high pick in next year's WNBA draft.

It's another huge blow to the South Carolina women's basketball program. Ashlyn Watkins, who tore her ACL in January, announced earlier this year that she was taking an entire year off from school and basketball.

CONFERENCE SUPREMECY

The Southeastern Conference has eight teams in the Top 25, including five in the top 10. The Big Ten is next with six schools in the poll. The ACC has five and Big 12 four. The Atlantic-10 and Big East each have one.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS IN ANN ARBOR

Michigan is ranked No. 13 in the preseason poll, its highest ranking in the inaugural poll since 2021 (No. 11). The Wolverines started three freshmen last year and went 23-11, winning an NCAA Tournament game. Big things are expected from that trio of Syla Swords, Mila Holloway and Olivia Olson.

RESURGENT 'DORES

No. 19 Vanderbilt, led by sophomore Mikayla Blakes, is ranked in the preseason for the first time since 2012. Blakes had one of the finest freshman seasons in school history when she averaged 23.3 points and scoring over 50 twice. Coach Shea Ralph's team was ranked last year for the first time since 2014 when they entered the poll for two weeks.

Klubnik throws for TD, runs for another before injury in Clemson's 41-10 victory over BC

BY KEN POWTAK
Associated Press

BOSTON — Clemson had a little scare with quarterback Cade Klubnik getting hurt. Boston College, however, didn't really give the Tigers any trouble at all.

Klubnik threw for a touchdown and ran for another when Clemson opened a big first-half lead before leaving with an injury late in the third quarter, and the Tigers beat struggling Boston College 41-10 on Saturday night.

"He was trying to come back in there," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "It was his ankle, so we just held him (out)."

Klubnik completed 22 of 30 passes for 280 yards with an interception for the Tigers (3-3, 2-2 Atlantic Coast Conference). He went to the tent after taking a hard hit on a run and remained there for a while before exiting a few minutes into the fourth.

The Tigers led 34-10 when he got injured.

"I could have gone back in the game and kind of pushed it," Klubnik said, standing outside Clemson's locker room. "Definitely could have, but I just felt like in the situation of the game we were in ... I definitely could have returned but was excited for the guys that got in there."

Adam Randall and Peter Woods (defensive-tackle-turned-running-back for the play) each had a short scoring run for Clemson, which beat BC for the 13th consecutive time.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clemson quarterback Cade Klubnik (2) reaches out for a first down during the first half against Boston College on Saturday, Oct. 11, in Boston.

Dylan Lonergan went 12 of 19 for 117 yards for BC (1-5, 0-4). The Eagles have lost five straight.

"It starts with me," BC coach Bill O'Brien said. "I told the team this: 'I'm the head coach, right? I can't figure out how to get this team to play.'"

Scoring on all six of their first-half drives, the Tigers opened a 34-10 edge at halftime.

Clemson had moved ahead 24-10 on Klubnik's 6-yard TD run around the right end, but the Eagles drove to the Tigers' 30 before linebacker Sammy Brown came around the right edge, forcing Lonergan's fumble that teammate T.J. Parker recovered.

Three pays later, Klubnik hit Bryant Wesco in the left corner of the end zone for a 38-yard score that made it 31-10.

THE TAKEAWAY

Clemson: The Tigers have recovered with dominating victories the past two weeks after a rough start; albeit against two of the conference's weaker teams with BC following North Carolina. It does, though, get them lined up for a shot at a solid record.

"Good to see the guys battling back," Swinney said. "The leadership's been great."

Boston College: The Eagles' defense was terrible for the second straight week. Last Saturday, Pittsburgh scored on five of its six first-half drives and led 31-0 at halftime.

NO 'TRAP GAME'

The Tigers beat an unranked opponent for the 36th consecutive time. Their last loss to a non-ranked team came against BC in 2010.

TD PARTY

After a field goal on its first drive, Clemson posted TDs on its next four. Klubnik was 17 of 21 for 233 yards during the initial five possessions.

"With all the man coverage they play, we're going to take what they're giving us," he said.

POOR CHOICE

BC coach Bill O'Brien made a costly decision in the final seconds of the opening half, going for it on a fourth-and-6 at his own 43. After an incompletion, the Tigers converted an 11-yard sideline pass before Nolan Hauser's 50-yard FG as time expired.

UP NEXT

Clemson: Hosts SMU next Saturday afternoon.

Boston College: Hosts Connecticut in a nonconference game next Saturday at noon.

Falcons ride Robinson's 170 rushing yards to 24-14 win over Allen, Bills

ATLANTA (AP) — Big plays from Bijan Robinson and Drake London and mistake-free leadership from Michael Penix Jr. made the Atlanta Falcons look like a playoff contender.

A lack of big offense and more miscues from Josh Allen provided more reason to question the Buffalo Bills.

Robinson matched a career high with 170 rushing yards and gave Atlanta an early two-touchdown lead with the NFL's longest run of the season, and the Falcons denied Allen's comeback attempt to beat the Bills 24-14 on Monday night.

Robinson's career-long 81-yard touchdown run in the second quarter put Atlanta (3-2) ahead 21-7.

"We've been waiting for that moment," Falcons coach Raheem Morris said.

Robinson got his 170 yards on 19 carries. He added six catches for 68 yards for a career-best 238 yards from scrimmage. Morris said Robinson "is the best player in football; I've said it multiple times."

For Robinson's big game to come against Allen, last season's MVP, was meaningful because he paid the same compliment to the Bills quarterback.

"I think he's the best football player in the NFL," Robinson said. "Shout out to our defense. They made him uncomfortable the whole day."

London had 10 catches for 158 yards and a touchdown. Penix threw for 250 yards, including a 9-yard TD to London, while completing 20 of 32 passes without an interception.

Allen threw two touchdown passes, including a 16-yarder to Ray Davis to open the second half.

Allen and the Bills (4-2) were stopped on fourth down near midfield late in the third quarter. They failed to take advantage of another opportunity when Greg Rousseau blocked Parker Romo's 37-yard field-goal attempt early in the fourth.

"Blocking the kick I thought was big for us," Bills coach Sean McDermott said. "Obviously, I thought we had some momentum coming out of that. ... So overall, opportunities, just not good enough and getting the result we want."

Allen and the Bills again failed to capitalize. The Falcons secured the win with a 14-play, 5-minute drive that included Penix's 23-yard pass to Robinson. Romo's 33-yard field goal extended the lead to 10 points, and the Bills were left with 1:47 on the clock and no timeouts.

Who should start? Panthers face tough decision with RBs Dowdle, Hubbard

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Rico Dowdle has been phenomenal since stepping in as the Carolina Panthers' starting running back two weeks ago, totaling 473 yards from scrimmage and two touchdowns in two outings.

Coach Dave Canales now faces a tough decision: whether to keep Dowdle in the starting lineup once Chuba Hubbard returns from a calf injury, which could be as soon as this week against the New York Jets.

"A great question," Canales said after the Panthers' 30-27 win over the Dallas Cowboys, which moved his team to 3-3. "We're going to figure that part out. But I know Rico is doing a great job, and he will be a big part of what we're doing."

Canales calls it a good problem to have.

But that doesn't make the decision any easier, given the team's loyalty to Hubbard.

Dowdle, in his sixth NFL season, is doing it all for Carolina.

He ran for 183 yards on 30 carries and caught five passes for 56 yards and a touchdown on Sunday, just days after warning his former Dallas Cowboys teammates to "buckle up." That effort came seven days after Dowdle rushed for 206 yards on 23 carries while catching four passes for another 28 yards in a come-from-behind win over the Miami Dolphins.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carolina Panthers running back Rico Dowdle (5) runs for a touchdown against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday, Oct. 12, in Charlotte.

He set a franchise record for scrimmage yards in back-to-back games. And he become only the seventh player in the last two decades to amass more than 200 yards from scrimmage in consecutive outings.

Hubbard has been the Panthers' starter and arguably their best player over the past couple of seasons, and the team rewarded him with a four-year, $33 million contract late last season after he ran for nearly 1,200 yards and 10 touchdowns. He's earned Canales' respect for his toughness and leadership.

So Hubbard will definitely play.

But it's hard to imagine Canales putting a hot hand — a scorching hand, in fact — on the bench after two incredible weeks and two Carolina wins.

OBITUARIES

TRUMAN HALL DUGGIN

Truman Hall Duggin, age 72, beloved husband of 49 years to Debbie Duggin, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, at his home.

You may go to *www.bullockfuneralhome.com* to sign the family's guestbook.

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.

Bullock Funeral Home & Crematorium

SAMUEL THOMAS WELCH II

Samuel Thomas Welch II, age 13, passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 10, 2025, at his home.

You may go to *www.bullockfuneralhome.com* to sign the family's guestbook.



WELCH

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.

Bullock Funeral Home & Crematorium

DRAFUS FORD

Drafus Ford, 69, husband of Lottie Ladson Ford and son of the late Luther Ford Sr. and Minnie Lou Butler Ford, was born on Sept. 16, 1956, in Sumter. He departed this life on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter.

Family will receive friends at the home, 20 Idaho Drive, Sumter, daily from 2 to 6 p.m.

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

HATTIE BELL JOHNSON SMITH

Hattie Bell Johnson Smith, 96, daughter of the late Hammie P. Johnson and Inez Couser Johnson, was born on Oct. 20, 1928, in Sumter. She departed this life on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, at Sumter East Health & Rehabilitation Center, Sumter.

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

ROBERT LEWIS JONES SR.

Robert Lewis Jones Sr., age 81, beloved husband of 59 years to Gail Wheeler Jones, died on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025, at 3 p.m. in the Bullock Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Steve Williams officiating.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, from 6 to 8 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 for the arrangements.

Bullock Funeral Home & Crematorium

JAMES MICHAEL ORTHMEYER

James Michael (Mike) Orthmeyer, 76, went to live forever inside God's peace on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, at NHC Healthcare Sumter.



ORTHMEYER

He was the son of the late James Orthmeyer and Ruth (Moore) Orthmeyer.

In lieu of flowers, please give to Harvest for the Hungry Food Pantry, PO Box 153, Ironton, OH 45638. Or via PayPal to *HarvestForTheHungry@outlook.com*.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, at Alice Drive Baptist Church with the Rev. Kevin Buynak officiating.

Burial will be held in the spring at a later date in Woodland Cemetery in Ironton, Ohio.

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

MOSES HUDSON

Moses Hudson, 81, husband of Geneva McCoy Hudson, died Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, at his home. Born Sept. 19, 1944, in Sumter, he was the son of the late Goldon Hudson and Hattie Addison Brown Hudson.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the home, 988 Rebecca Cove, Sumter.

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

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for the Saturday edition

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LEGAL NOTICES

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application

Notice is hereby given that **Yummy of Sumter** intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and **ON** premises consumption of **Beer & Wine** at **2561 Broad St, Sumter SC 29150**. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than **October 31, 2025**. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information: (1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and (5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be submitted online e-mailed to: ABL@dor.sc.gov Attn: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL Section.

Summons & Notice

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS C/A No.: 2025-CP-43-01332 Guild Mortgage Company, Plaintiff, vs Kim Janice Sinkler, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Derrick Bennett; S.B., a minor, and any other Heirs-at-Law or Devisees of Derrick Bennett, Deceased, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in the real estate described herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and any unknown minors or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe; The United States of America, acting by and through its agent, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Gainey Construction Company LLC, 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 Attorney for the 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 25, 2025 and Amended August 7, 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.: 25-43429 7276

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: Billy Edward Helms
2025ES4300664

Personal Representative:
Joye H. Barrs
1425 Old Manning Road
Sumter, SC 29150

Kenneth R. Young, Jr.
Attorney at Law
23 West Calhoun Street
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Melinda Jene Horne
2025ES4300646

Personal Representative:
Bryleigh Aspen Kelly
4460 Pinewood Road
Sumter, SC 29154

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: Cheryl S. Vogel
2025ES4300671

Personal Representative:
Patricia Alsbrooks
2675 Burnt Gin Road
Wedgefield, SC 29168

Estate: Orel McFadden, Sr.
2025ES4300673

Personal Representative:
Patricia C. McFadden
825 Tieasha Lane
Gable, SC 29051

Estate: Pamela Denise Alexander
2025ES4300662

Personal Representative:
Edwin R. Nichols
8419 Rust Wood Place
Charlotte, NC 28227

Eduardo R. Curry
Attorney at Law
PO Box 42270
Charleston, SC 29423

Estate: William Brooks, Jr.
2025ES4300642

Personal Representative:
Isaiah Brooks
201 North Church Street
Mooresville, NC 28115

Estate: Helen Marie Sommers Bode
2025ES4300643

Personal Representative:
Kathleen Burker Quinn
3225 Lee Altman Rd.
Dalzell, SC 29040

Estate: John Harry Hensley
2025ES4300550

Personal Representative:
Christina Dawn Hensley-Causey
304 Sunburst Lane
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Estate: Thomasina Elizabeth Taylor
2025ES4300661

Personal Representative:
Angela Taylor
100 Chatwick Ct.
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Lueseel Workman Spencer Miller
2025ES4300639

Personal Representative:
Philip Leroy Miller
4225 Spencer Road
Rembert, SC 29128

Estate: Cleo Riddick Knight
2025ES4300684

Personal Representative:
Jalicia Ariana Knight
1200 St. Andrews
Apt. 912
Columbia, SC 29210

Estate: Tamekia Hunter Ross
2025ES4300669

Personal Representative:
Arnteyus J. Ross, Sr.
1912 Georgianna Drive
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Carolyn Howard
2025ES4300656

Personal Representative:
Quinten W. Ball
22 Trenton Dr.
Elgin, SC 29045

Michael Clint Horace
886 Trailmore Cir.
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate: Willie Elliott, Jr.
2025ES4300659

Personal Representative:
Alicia McKnight
64 Carrol Drive
Sumter, SC 29150

Robert McKnight
64 Carrol Drive
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Vernice Porcher
2025ES4300638

Personal Representative:
Yolanda Porcher Richburg
30 Lucky Court
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate: Isaac Dinkins
2025ES4300682

Personal Representative:
Meritta M. Dinkins
895 Shedricks Court
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate: Thomasina S. Abrams
2025ES4300667

Personal Representative:
Deloris Pringle
250 HWY 261 South
Apt. 23
Wedgefield, SC 29168

Estate: Grant Grinnell, Jr.
2025ES4300650

Personal Representative:
Martha Grinnell
938 Jensen Road
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate: Edna Clarke
2025ES4300193

Personal Representative:
Purcelle Paul Campbell
829 Hamilton Ave.
Florence, SC 29505

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: Ernest Glenn Ayers, Jr.
2025ES4300676
Personal Representative:
Thomas E. Player, Jr.
305 N. Main St.
Sumter, SC 29150

Thomas E. Player, Jr.
Attorney at Law
PO Box 3690
Sumter, SC 29151

Notice of Sale

NOTICE OF SALE 2025-CP-43-00300 BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: **GITSIT Solutions, LLC, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GITSIT Mortgage Loan Trust BBPLC1 against The Personal Representative, if any, whose name is unknown, of the Estate of Porter Gaymon; Loretta G. Black, Ernestine Gaymon, Alvin L. Gaymon, Randolph Gaymon, Tyrone Strudwick, Porter Strudwick, Laura Strudwick Lewis, and Frank Strudwick, and any other Heirs-at-Law or Devisees of Porter Gaymon, Deceased, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in the real estate described herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and any unknown minors or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on November 3, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., or on another date, thereafter as approved by the Court, at the County Judicial Center in Sumter, South Carolina, to the highest bidder, the following described property, to-wit: All that lot of land, situate in Sumter County, South Carolina, designated as lot No. 24 on a plat made May 3, 1962, by H. S. Willson, RLS. Recorded in the office of the RMC for Sumter County in plat book Z-18 at page 138, and being bounded and measuring as shown on said plat, as follows: on the northeast by lot No. 25 and measuring thereon 171.3 feet; on the east by Bailey Street and measuring thereon in a curve, 37.3 feet; on the southeast by lot No. 23 and measuring thereon 197 feet; on the southwest by other lands of Trotter Company and measuring thereon 69.9 feet; and on the northwest by other lands of Trotter Company and measuring thereon 190.03 feet; all measurements a little more or less according to said plat. This is the same property conveyed to Porter Gaymon by Deed of L. C. Frederick DBA BM&M, dated November 12, 2007, recorded February 5, 2008 in Deed Book 1099 at Page 3916 in the office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County; Thereafter, upon information and belief, Porter Gaymon passed on December 19, 2020 leaving the Property to his heirs, who are believed to be Loretta G. Black, Ernestine Gaymon, Alvin L. Gaymon, and Randolph Gaymon, Tyone Strudwick, Porter Strudwick, Laura Strudwick Lewis, and Frank Strudwick TMS No. 226-04-01-019 Property Address: 932 Bailey Street, Sumter, SC 29150 All persons in attendance are subject to having their temperature taken (non-touch or temple touch). Anyone that is visually or audibly symptomatic (fever, cough, shortness of breath, nasal or throat congestion, etc.) should not attend. Masks or facial coverings are not required but may be worn. Social distancing will be observed with at least six foot distancing between participants. TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity at conclusion of the bidding, five per cent (5%) of said bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the successful bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Master in Equity may resell the property on the same terms and conditions (at the risk of the said defaulting bidder). Should the Plaintiff, or one of its representatives, fail to be present at the time of sale, the property is automatically withdrawn from said sale and sold at the next available sales day upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or any Supplemental Order. The successful bidder will be required to pay for documentary stamps on the Deed and interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to the date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 5.6842%. THIS SALE IS SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES. No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will conclude at the fall of the gavel on the date of the sale. Compliance with the bid may be made immediately. NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search well before the foreclosure sale date. Riley Pope & Laney, LLC Post Office Box 11412 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 799-9993 Attorneys for Plaintiff 7310**

NOTICE OF SALE 2025-CP-43-00971 BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: **Mortgage Research Center, LLC d/b/a Veterans United Home Loans, a Missouri Limited Liability Company against Christopher Roberts, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on November 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., or on another date, thereafter as approved by the Court, at the County Judicial Center in Sumter, South Carolina, to the highest bidder, the following described property, to-wit: All that certain piece, parcel, or lot of land, together with all improvements thereon, if any, lying and being situate in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, designated as Lot No. 8 in Block L, and being shown and delineated on that plat prepared by P. H. Foster, CE, dated December 1907, and recorded in Plat Book 4-A at page 21 in the records of the Register of Deeds Office for Sumter County. Aforesaid plat is specifically incorporated herein, and reference is craved thereto for a more complete and accurate description of the metes, bounds, courses, and distances of the property concerned herein. This description is made in lieu of metes and bounds as permitted by law under § 30-5-250 of The Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended. ALSO, all that certain piece, parcel, or lot of land, together with all improvements thereon, if any, lying and being situate in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, designated as Lot No. 9 in Block L, and being shown and delineated on that plat prepared by P. H. Foster, CE, dated December 1907, and recorded in Plat Book 4-A at page 21 in the records of the Register of Deeds Office for Sumter County. Aforesaid plat is specifically incorporated herein, and reference is craved thereto for a more complete and accurate description of the metes, bounds, courses, and distances of the property concerned herein. This description is made in lieu of metes and bounds as permitted by law under § 30-5-250 of The Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended. ALSO, all that one-half (1/2) lot of land in the City and County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, lying on the West side of Morgan Avenue and being bounded as follows: North by land of Hayes, being Lot No. 8 of Block L as shown on plat of P. H. Foster, CE, dated December 1907, and recorded in the Office of Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 4-A at page 21, and measuring one hundred sixty-three (163) feet thereon; East by Morgan Avenue and measuring twenty-five (25) feet thereon; South by remaining one-half (1/2) of said lot said remainder being conveyed to Lassie Porter Rogerson and measuring one hundred sixty-three (163) feet thereon; West by land now or formerly of Cuttino and measuring thereon twenty-five (25) feet thereon. This being that same property conveyed to Christopher Roberts by deed of Scott's Custom Construction, LLC recorded November 15, 2023 in Book 1320 at Page 5882. TMS No. 229-11-04-017 Property Address: 124 Morgan Avenue, Sumter, SC 29150 All persons in attendance are subject to having their temperature taken (non-touch or temple touch). Anyone that is visually or audibly symptomatic (fever, cough, shortness of breath, nasal or throat congestion, etc.) may be denied in person participation. Anyone that is otherwise symptomatic (loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) should not attend. Masks or facial coverings are not required but may be worn. Social distancing will be observed with at least six foot distancing between participants. TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity at conclusion of the bidding, five per cent (5%) of said bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the successful bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Master in Equity may resell the property on the same terms and conditions (at the risk of the said defaulting bidder). Should the Plaintiff, or one of its representatives, fail to be present at the time of sale, the property is automatically withdrawn from said sale and sold at the next available sales day upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or any Supplemental Order. The successful bidder will be required to pay for documentary stamps on the Deed and interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to the date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 8.1250%. THIS SALE IS SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES. No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will conclude at the fall of the gavel on the date of the sale. Compliance with the bid may be made immediately. NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search well before the foreclosure sale date. Riley Pope & Laney, LLC Post Office Box 11412 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 799-9993 Attorneys for Plaintiff 7282**

MASTER IN EQUITY'S SALE 2025-CP-43-00500 BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: **Guild Mortgage Company against Austin Bellar, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on November 3, 2025 at 12 o'clock noon, at the Sumter County Courthouse, 141 N. Main Street, Sumter, South Carolina to the highest bidder: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with the improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in the City and County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, being shown and**

Notice of Sale

should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search well before the foreclosure sale date. Riley Pope & Laney, LLC Post Office Box 11412 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 799-9993 Attorneys for Plaintiff 7310

NOTICE OF SALE 2025-CP-43-00971 BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: **Mortgage Research Center, LLC d/b/a Veterans United Home Loans, a Missouri Limited Liability Company against Christopher Roberts, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on November 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., or on another date, thereafter as approved by the Court, at the County Judicial Center in Sumter, South Carolina, to the highest bidder, the following described property, to-wit: All that certain piece, parcel, or lot of land, together with all improvements thereon, if any, lying and being situate in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, designated as Lot No. 8 in Block L, and being shown and delineated on that plat prepared by P. H. Foster, CE, dated December 1907, and recorded in Plat Book 4-A at page 21 in the records of the Register of Deeds Office for Sumter County. Aforesaid plat is specifically incorporated herein, and reference is craved thereto for a more complete and accurate description of the metes, bounds, courses, and distances of the property concerned herein. This description is made in lieu of metes and bounds as permitted by law under § 30-5-250 of The Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended. ALSO, all that certain piece, parcel, or lot of land, together with all improvements thereon, if any, lying and being situate in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, designated as Lot No. 9 in Block L, and being shown and delineated on that plat prepared by P. H. Foster, CE, dated December 1907, and recorded in Plat Book 4-A at page 21 in the records of the Register of Deeds Office for Sumter County. Aforesaid plat is specifically incorporated herein, and reference is craved thereto for a more complete and accurate description of the metes, bounds, courses, and distances of the property concerned herein. This description is made in lieu of metes and bounds as permitted by law under § 30-5-250 of The Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended. ALSO, all that one-half (1/2) lot of land in the City and County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, lying on the West side of Morgan Avenue and being bounded as follows: North by land of Hayes, being Lot No. 8 of Block L as shown on plat of P. H. Foster, CE, dated December 1907, and recorded in the Office of Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 4-A at page 21, and measuring one hundred sixty-three (163) feet thereon; East by Morgan Avenue and measuring twenty-five (25) feet thereon; South by remaining one-half (1/2) of said lot said remainder being conveyed to Lassie Porter Rogerson and measuring one hundred sixty-three (163) feet thereon; West by land now or formerly of Cuttino and measuring thereon twenty-five (25) feet thereon. This being that same property conveyed to Christopher Roberts by deed of Scott's Custom Construction, LLC recorded November 15, 2023 in Book 1320 at Page 5882. TMS No. 229-11-04-017 Property Address: 124 Morgan Avenue, Sumter, SC 29150 All persons in attendance are subject to having their temperature taken (non-touch or temple touch). Anyone that is visually or audibly symptomatic (fever, cough, shortness of breath, nasal or throat congestion, etc.) may be denied in person participation. Anyone that is otherwise symptomatic (loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) should not attend. Masks or facial coverings are not required but may be worn. Social distancing will be observed with at least six foot distancing between participants. TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity at conclusion of the bidding, five per cent (5%) of said bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the successful bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Master in Equity may resell the property on the same terms and conditions (at the risk of the said defaulting bidder). Should the Plaintiff, or one of its representatives, fail to be present at the time of sale, the property is automatically withdrawn from said sale and sold at the next available sales day upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or any Supplemental Order. The successful bidder will be required to pay for documentary stamps on the Deed and interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to the date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 3.0% 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# 25-41145 Attorney for Plaintiff 7187**

NOTICE OF SALE 2024-CP-43-01745 BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: **LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC against Tammy L. Kinsey a/k/a Tammy Kinsey, The United States of America, acting by and through its agency, The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 1st Franklin Financial Corporation, Safe Federal Credit Union, Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC, South Carolina Federal Credit Union, and Discover Bank, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on November 3, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., or on another date, thereafter as approved by the Court, at the County Judicial Center in Sumter, South Carolina, to the highest bidder, the following described property, to-wit: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the Township of Sumter, County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot #63 of Rainbow Falls Subdivision, as shown on that certain plat prepared for Julian S. Jones by Ben J. Makela, R.L.S., dated March 24, 1988, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 88 at Page 301 and being bounded and measuring according to said plat as follows: On the South by Lot #62, whereon it measures 180.0 feet; on the West by Lots #84 and #85, whereon it measures the aggregate 96.67 feet; on the North by Lot #64, whereon it measures 179.97 feet; on the East by Rainbow Drive, whereon it fronts and measures 96.6.0 feet; be all measurements a little more or less and according to said plat. This is the property known as 600 Rainbow Drive. This is the same property conveyed to Tammy L. Kinsey by Deed of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., dated May 25, 2005, recorded June 21, 2005 in Deed Book 985 at Page 851 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County. TMS No. 183-13-03-014 Property Address: 600 Rainbow Drive, Sumter, SC 29154 All persons in attendance are subject to having their temperature taken (non-touch or temple touch). Anyone that is visually or audibly symptomatic (fever, cough, shortness of breath, nasal or throat congestion, etc.) may be denied in person participation. Anyone that is otherwise symptomatic (loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) should not attend. Masks or facial coverings are not required but may be worn. Social distancing will be observed with at least six foot distancing between participants. TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity at conclusion of the bidding, five per cent (5%) of said bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the successful bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Master in Equity may resell the property on the same terms and conditions (at the risk of the said**

Notice of Sale

defaulting bidder). Should the Plaintiff, or one of its representatives, fail to be present at the time of sale, the property is automatically withdrawn from said sale and sold at the next available sales day upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or any Supplemental Order. The successful bidder will be required to pay for documentary stamps on the Deed and interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to the date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 3.3750%. THIS SALE IS SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES. Since a deficiency judgment is being demanded, the bidding will remain open for thirty (30) days after the date of sale, pursuant to S.C. Code ANN. Section 15-39-720, (1976). The deficiency judgment may be waived by the Plaintiff upon written request prior to sale. NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search well before the foreclosure sale date. Riley Pope & Laney, LLC Post Office Box 11412 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 799-9993 Attorneys for Plaintiff 7297



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Auctions

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Auctions

LIVE ESTATE AUCTION. Sat., Oct. 25 at 9:30 a.m. 948 Stillwood Rd., Fairfax, SC (Barton Community). Nice furniture, antiques, 1880's oak Horner dining room table/chairs, 1880's oak Griffin Heads Buffet, antique ice box, several bedroom/dining room suits, glassware/china, estate shotguns (Remingtons, Brownings, Winchesters, deer rifles), incredible knife/pocket knife collection to include over 500, new Holland TC30 tractor, small farm implements, tons of tools, shop equip., syrup kettle, riding mowers, coins, much more! Very large auction consisting of 3 estates! At press time we're still tagging items. Please continue to browse website. Preview Fri., Oct. 24, 10 am 6 pm. www.cogburnauction.com. 803-860-0712.

13th ANNUAL FALL EQUIPMENT AUCTION. 7120 Lyle Rd, Chester, SC. Saturday, Oct. 25 at 10AM (Registration 9AM). Bid live or online: www.Proxibid.com/Ligon. Selling Farm & Construction Equipment, Trucks, Trailers, Tools, RVs & More. Consignments accepted through Fri., 10/17. Drop-off: Mon-Fri, 10/13-10/17, 9-4 or by appointment. 803-366-3535. www.TheLigonCompany.com. SCAL1716 SCAFL4120 NCAL8951 NCAFL10066

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Garage Sale, FoxCroft Subdiv (off of McCray's Mill Rd) Sat, Oct 18th 8am-12. Clthg, bedding, furn, & MUCH MORE!!

Yard Sale, Fri & Sat Oct 17th & 18th 8am-?, 785 Legette St. Large household sale & MORE!!

4920 John Franklin Rd. (off Eagle Rd.), Fri, 9am-4, Sat. 8a-1p. Dining table w/6 chairs, coffee & end table, recliner, seated walker, misc!

974 Shadow Trail, HUGE Neighborhood yard sale, Sat. Oct 18th, 7:30am-11:30am. Men's & Women's Designer clothes (many still with tags), men's suits, shoes, purses, household items, fall & Xmas dec, & much more!



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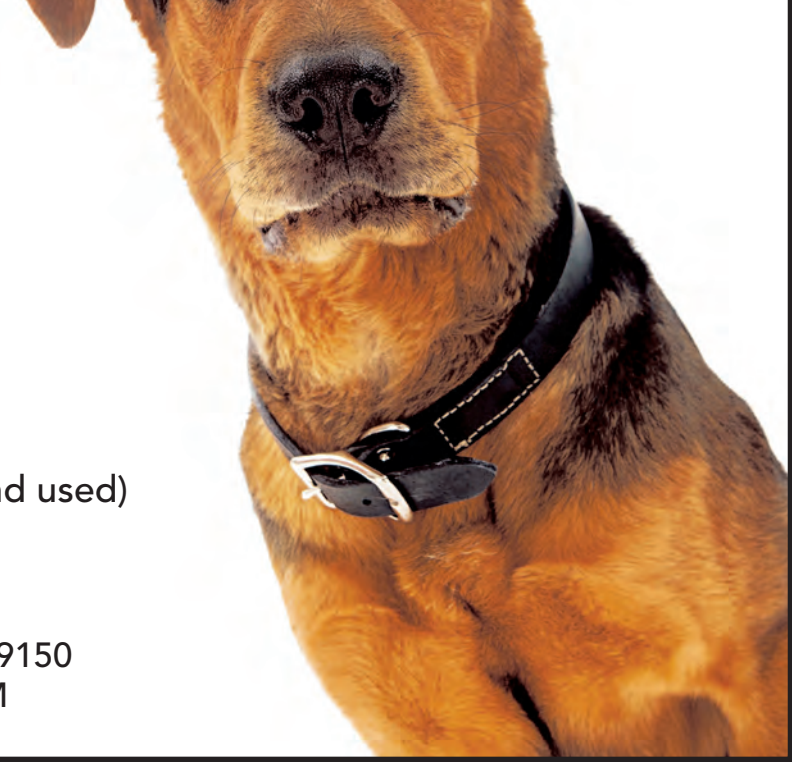
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the Sumter ITEM