



Our newest issue of Lakeside is inside this edition



Sumter school board Chairman Shawn Ragin speaks to the small crowd in attendance Thursday night at the community meeting near Mayesville regarding realignment.

School board will bring back realignment, Ragin says

Canty: ‘Politics driving this action’

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

With just two board meetings remaining because he is not seeking reelection, Sumter school board Chairman Shawn Ragin said Thursday the board will bring the controversial topic of rezoning schools’ attendance lines back up.

In response, the longest-serving trustee, a former board chair, questioned “the politics driving this action,” and another incumbent said the move “could be being used as an election tactic.”

Ragin made his comments at a Thursday night meeting near Mayesville in Sumter County. It was the second community meeting in a week he attended that considered measures to save all rural schools in Sumter School District, especially those in the outermost areas of the county.

Alternatives discussed, led by Rembert-area Sumter County Councilman Carlton Washington and others, included transforming those outermost rural schools – in Rembert, the Mayesville area and Pinewood – into magnet schools and implementing a 4.5-year-old realignment plan that drew outcry from district parents before.

Ragin’s two-year tenure as board chairman has been in parallel with his planned venture to open a public charter school in Sumter that would inevitably take students from the local district. Other trustees have questioned his move, which was initially backed by a slim majority, in his first months as chair to place rezoning all schools’ attendance lines ahead of a more comprehensive and long-term master plan for the district’s aging infrastructure.

The full board postponed both rezoning (or realignment) and a master plan 11 months ago, in September 2025, at least until a new superintendent was in place.

At the Thursday meeting, Ragin

SEE REZONING, PAGE A11

Murdaugh murder retrial set for April 2027 in Sumter

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
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One of South Carolina’s most consequential criminal cases is coming to Sumter County in April 2027.

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Judge Debra McCaslin released a signed order on Tuesday, Sept. 8, ruling that the retrial of Alex Murdaugh will take place in Sumter County.

The court stated the county is an “appropriate venue” for the retrial as Murdaugh would have an “appropriate forum” to receive a fair trial.

The county is also “best suited” as it will offer security measures, courtroom facilities and technological capabilities necessary for the safe, orderly and efficient conduct of these proceedings.

McCaslin set the tentative retrial date for April 5, 2027, during a status hearing in Lexington County in June.



Alex Murdaugh attends court in January 2024. His retrial for the killings of his wife and son will be held in Sumter County next spring.

Murdaugh, a former personal injury attorney in Hampton, is charged with fatally shooting his wife, Maggie, 52, and 22-year-old son, Paul, at the family’s Moselle Estate in Colleton County in 2021. He was also charged with two counts of possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

Murdaugh maintained his innocence throughout the six-week trial in Walterboro but was found guilty. He was sentenced to life in prison in March 2023.

In May of this year, South Carolina Supreme Court unanimously overturned his conviction after the court found that Colleton County Clerk of Court Becky Hill improperly influenced the jury, undermining Murdaugh’s right to a fair trial.

Hill resigned in 2024 and pleaded guilty last year to showing a reporter sealed court exhibits in the Murdaugh’s killings and then lying about

SEE RETRIAL, PAGE A11

30th-annual Gospel in the Park keeps tradition alive through music, fellowship



Gospel in the Park takes over Bishop W.T. English Memorial Park for the 30th year in Sumter on Monday, Sept. 7.



Shonda English continues event in honor of her father

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysa@theitem.com

“If you didn’t feel like staying home and grilling out, come on out to the park and have some hot-dogs, chicken and enjoy some good gospel music and good fellowship.”

That’s what Shonda English told *The Item* about

the event in 2019. Now seven years later, the sentiment of Gospel in the Park remains as it celebrates 30 years.

The 30th-annual Gospel in the Park returned to Bishop W.T. English Memorial Park in Gable on Monday, Sept. 7.

SEE GOSPEL, PAGE A10

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DEATHS, B7

Jesse Thomas Geddings
Margaret Green Lee
Donald Lawrence McElveen Sr.
Willie Oree Singleton Sr.
Larry Durant Jr.
Dr. Barney Levy Williams Jr.
Woodrow Ford Jr.

WEATHER, A12

HUMID AND STORMY
Humid on Saturday with a storm possible in the afternoon and evening; a storm possible Sunday, too
HIGH 89, LOW 73

INSIDE

2 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES
VOL. 131, NO. 96

Clarendon Sun A7
Classifieds B8
Opinion A9
Puzzles A12, B3
Reflections A6
Religion A4
Sports B1

the

Sumter

ITEM

SECOND FRONT

E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

Sumter man charged after violating state’s Roadway Protection Act; 1st use of law by Sumter police since enacted in May 2026

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysa@theitem.com

A local man turned himself in to authorities after he reportedly organized a “street takeover” in August. According to Tonyia McGirt, public information officer for Sumter Police Department, Eric Olander Johnson, 35, was charged with organizing and promoting a street party held along Atlantic Avenue on Aug. 27. Johnson was booked at Sumter County Sheriff’s Office Detention Center. An investigation is ongoing. This violation is the first for Sumter Police Department since South Carolina

enacted the Roadway Protection Act in May 2026, McGirt told *The Item*. The law defines street takeovers as the unauthorized, deliberate and coordinated obstruction of public roadways, highways, intersections, parking lots or other public areas for illegal vehicle exhibitions, including burnouts, drifting, doughnuts, speed contests, stunts, wheelies or other reckless driving maneuvers that disregard safety. These gatherings are often organized without proper



JOHNSON

permits in violation of local ordinances. Organizers, promoters and participants can face misdemeanor to felony charges for their involvement and can be sentenced to hefty fines or imprisonment, if convicted. The act also allows law enforcement to seize the vehicles involved. Sumter Police Department asks that residents and visitors take steps before deciding whether to attend a social gathering advertised through social media: — Do some research before you, your tween or teen go. Who is the organizer? Is the event permitted? Is secu-

rity provided, and are they state certified? Ask any question and consider all factors that could have a bearing on your personal safety. — Parents are encouraged to keep up with what your kids are doing and where they’re going. Ask the tough questions and act accordingly to keep them safe and away from trouble. — Teens and young adults are encouraged to let a trusted adult or responsible peer know their plans, who you may be with, where and contact information. — Always have a safety plan or exit strategy. — If something doesn’t

seem right, call law enforcement to check it out and always dial 9-1-1 should an emergency arise. If you are planning an event, please be aware that “all events on city property, parks, rights-of-way, streets, sidewalks, etc. must be pre-approved a minimum of 12 weeks in advance.” A special events application can be found on the city’s website at <https://tinyurl.com/2bwa4r8t>. For questions, concerns or to report unauthorized/suspicious activity within the city limits, visit Sumter Police Department at 335 N. Lafayette Drive or call (803) 436-2700.



School district honors victims of Sept. 11 attacks



Sumter schools partnered to perform as one choir on the steps of the old Sumter County Courthouse on Thursday, Sept. 10, in remembrance of the victims lost in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The performance included renditions of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” military anthems and “God Bless the U.S.A.” by Lee Greenwood.

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM



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TO PLACE AN OBITUARY

Obituaries must be submitted by a funeral home / crematorium by email at obits@theitem.com.

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First responders, veterans and City of Sumter officials joined students and staff at Bates Middle School on Sept. 11 to remember one of the most devastating tragedies in American history and honor the lives lost on that fateful day in 2001. Principal Nicole Fuller and Career Specialist Cynthia Copeland organized the remembrance with a focus on educating a generation of students who were not yet alive on Sept. 11, 2001. While these students may not have witnessed the events of that day, programs like this help ensure its history, heroes and sacrifices continue to be remembered for generations to come.



Supporting a healthy immune system: Habits that matter

School is back in session, routines are getting busier, and children and adults are once again spending more time together indoors. Along with classes, sports, meetings and activities comes the increased opportunity for germs to spread. While we cannot completely avoid exposure to viruses and bacteria, we can take steps to support the immune system.

The immune system is not one organ that can simply be “boosted.” It is a complex network of cells, tissues and organs working together to recognize and respond to potential threats. A healthy immune system isn’t built overnight. It’s supported by what we do every day. Supporting immune health doesn’t require special products or a complicated routine.

According to the National Institutes of Health, adequate nutrition is essential to this process. Vitamins A, C, D and E, along with zinc, selenium and other nutrients, all contribute to normal immune function. Nutrient deficiencies can impair immunity, but even taking large amounts of supplements when you are not deficient has not been shown to provide extra protection from infections. Aim to consume a variety of nutritious foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, nuts, seeds and healthy fats that provide the nutrients the immune system needs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that insufficient sleep can negatively affect different components of the immune system. Late practices, homework, work responsibilities and screen time can quickly cut into sleep. Establishing consistent sleep and wake times is important for children and adults alike.



Missy Corrigan

Emerging research suggests that physical activity may also benefit immune function. Regular physical activity does more than strengthen muscles and improve cardiovascular health. The CDC recommends regular aerobic and muscle-strengthening activity for adults while encouraging age-appropriate activity for children.

Healthy immunity works best alongside prevention. To reduce the opportunity for germs to spread, the CDC recommends frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

Healthy habits that support immune function do not guarantee illness prevention but may reduce risk. Help maintain your normal immune defenses and support the body’s ability to respond and recover with these tips:

- Build meals around colorful fruits and vegetables, quality protein and whole foods.
- Drink water regularly throughout the day.
- Make adequate sleep a family priority.
- Move your body every day and include regular exercise.
- Wash hands thoroughly and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick to help protect others.
- Be cautious of products promising to “boost” immunity. More vitamins and minerals are not necessarily better.

Supporting your immune system isn’t about never getting sick, it is about giving your body the resources it needs to respond, recover and stay as healthy as possible.

Missy Corrigan is the chief executive officer of the YMCA of Sumter. You can email her at mcorrigan@ymcasumter.org.

‘A Musical Stroll Through Europe’ recital will be held Sept. 20

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

A special recital is happening this September, and the public is invited. Pianists Kay Rasmussen and Mark Burns will perform a special lecture-recital, “A Musical Stroll Through Europe,” on Sunday, Sept. 20, in the St. James Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

The recital will use Modest Mussorgsky’s famed Pictures at an Exhibition artwork, featuring the iconic promenades, as a thematic bridge to guide listeners on a musical tour through England, Germany, Italy, Spain, France

and Russia.

Before each musical stop, Kelsie Decker, serving as narrator, will give a brief introduction of a prominent museum and artwork from each country. Rasmussen and Burns will be joined by guest musicians Caroline Mack (soprano), Lauren Decker (violin), Beth Ryan (flute) and Najja Lyle (French horn). The recital will culminate with Mussorgsky’s grand masterpiece, The Great Gate of Kiev.

Admission to the concert is free. Donations will be accepted at the door to support Emmanuel Soup Kitchen.

The recital will begin at 4 p.m. at 1137 Alice Drive.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Advantage Realty Group’s 50/50 fundraiser winner receives \$4,012 as part of the campaign to raise money for a food drive to benefit Hidden Wounds. From left are Advantage representatives Uriah Covington, Claudia Mann, Shakira Dowell-Somerville, raffle winner Robert Covington, Kim Farmer, Brenda Huber and TJ Green.

Hidden Wounds receives needed food after Advantage Realty Group fundraiser

SUBMITTED

Military veterans will soon have access to more food at Hidden Wounds, thanks to a Sumter Board of Realtors campaign and an Advantage Realty Group fundraiser.

Hidden Wounds, a local nonprofit at 21 S. Washington St., runs, among other things, a food pantry that needs ongoing donations. This marks the second year the SBOR campaign has helped Hidden Wounds.

Advantage Realty Group, Sumter’s largest independent real estate brokerage and a three-time Best of Sumter winner, supported the drive with a 50/50 fundraiser. In less than two weeks, the campaign raised \$8,024, exceeding its \$5,000 goal.

“The Sumter community generously supported this effort, and we thank the hundreds of donors who made it a success,” said TJ Green, an Advantage Realtor who led the agency’s campaign. “The real winners are the veterans who need food.”

Dr. Lance Newman, Hidden Wounds executive director, said the donation shows “what community looks like” when organizations step up to help. He added that Hidden Wounds continues to welcome food donations.

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Forever In Our Hearts

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC’s and Duke Energy Progress, LLC’s 2026 Integrated Resource Plans (IRP) -- Docket No. 2026-8-E and Docket No. 2026-10-E

Why is this Notice Important?

- On August 14, 2026, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (the “Companies”) filed their 2026 Integrated Resource Plans with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”).
- This Notice is for customers of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC, and interested persons, and the Commission has scheduled a public hearing in this case.

What is an Integrated Resource Plan?

An Integrated Resource Plan is an electric utility’s forecast or prediction of the electric utility’s resources needed to provide you with safe, reliable electricity in the future. Essentially, it is a utility’s strategic operational plan for the next 15 years that considers both customers’ demand for electricity and the utility’s ability to supply it. These cases were filed according to the South Carolina Energy Security Act, Act No. 41 of 2025, S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-37-40 and Commission Order No. 2025-468; and this hearing has been scheduled according to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-37-40 and Commission Order No. 2025-468 and S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817.

For the entire Case visit: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/119498>

When Will the Commission Hear the Companies’ Case?

When: Monday, April 5, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.
Where: 101 Executive Center Drive, Hearing Room, Columbia, South Carolina 29210
Livestream: <https://www.sccetv.org/live/public-service-commission>

Who Can I Talk to About This Notice?

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC	803-988-7132
Office of Regulatory Staff	803-737-5230 or 1-800-922-1531
Department of Consumer Affairs	803-734-4200 or 1-800-922-1594
Public Service Commission	803-896-5100

How Can I Participate in this Case?

A stakeholder may participate in the case by the ways listed below.

Option A: File a Letter of Protest by

- Emailing the completed Letter of Protest to contact@psc.sc.gov; or
- Mailing the completed Letter of Protest to 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Columbia, SC 29210. More information is available here: <https://psc.sc.gov/consumer-info/file-letter-protest>

Option B: File a Petition to Intervene. An Intervenor becomes a party in the case. Intervenor has the right to testify, cross-examine witnesses, seek reconsideration of the Commission’s Final Decision, and must follow the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. To intervene, you must:

- Email a Petition to Intervene to contact@psc.sc.gov no later than **Thursday, November 12, 2026**; or
- Mail a Petition to Intervene to 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Columbia, SC 29210 no later than **Thursday, November 12, 2026**. Please include your email address.

****You must give a copy of your Petition to Intervene to all Parties in this case. Petitions to Intervene must meet the requirements of Commission Regulation 103-825 and must be approved by the Commission.**

In the above referenced case, if the proposed tariffs contain any request for a change of rates, the proposed rates may be changed by the Commission.

Persons seeking further information about these procedures should contact the Commission at **803-896-5100** or visit its website at www.psc.sc.gov.

The infallible Word or man’s imagination?

The common thread of Christianity pertaining to the understanding of the Bible is that everyone who declares by faith to be born again has free access to the Holy Spirit to help them discern what it means. At the same time, we must also consider that, with human free will, each individual has the opportunity to form their own opinions.

It’s common and normal for Christians to have the confidence to voice their own interpretations, even if it’s rejected by their fellow brothers and sisters. Yes, the majority immediately condemns biblical and spiritual views that do not line up with mainstream theology as the errors of a novice or, even worse, a heretic. Multiply this among the billions of believers, and we have what is known as a divided, confused and hostile world of religiosity.

Christians are taught that the Bible contains the infallible words of God exactly as he guided approximately 40 human writers to record them within a period of around 1,500 years from Moses to the early church. If you are a traditional

Christian, most likely you embrace this doctrine that promises God personally breathed and inspired divine truth through the minds and hands of His messengers. And it has been preserved without any alterations since the day they were written. Or do you wonder about errors, embellishments, personal worldviews and opinions mixed in between the lines?

When it comes to believing the Bible as perfect truth versus seeing the writings as religious philosophy and folklore, to be honest,

I’ve come to a point in my walk that I’m tired of arguing with other Christians about Biblical interpretations.

When I was a young student, I thought I could win any debate about Christianity and religion, and like most of you, I’ve always believed my views were correct. However, we cannot change someone’s mind about their doctrines and creeds unless these two things are involved: The Holy Spirit is intervening, and the truth seeker is sincerely praying that God will transform their conscience by the renewing of their minds.

People rarely change what they

believe because their opinions and convictions are rooted deep within the core of their being. Have you ever argued with someone about the Bible and finally had to agree to disagree?

This not only includes the angry discord between traditional Christians, but in today’s modern world we now have a growing movement called the agnostic theist. This is someone who believes in God but sees the Bible as a collection of passed-down, exaggerated oral stories and personal biased philosophies that are not necessarily based on proven facts. This way of thinking allows for belief in the perfect God of creation while maintaining skepticism about legalistic dogma and the exclusive “my way or the highway” attitudes and demands from dictatorial churches.

These are the seekers that have way more questions than answers and have separated from those who they consider are afraid to use their intelligence and realize that much of the content is not literally accurate. They refuse to accept a compilation of ancient religious dialogues, visions and stories from human writers as divine revelation simply by faith. Many are asking: “Is the Bible God’s word to man, or man’s word about God?” If God’s word is infallible and the Holy Spirit gives each follower perfect understanding, explanations and inter-

pretations, why is there so much arrogance, antagonism and caustic attitudes? If God is broadcasting, evidently many are on the wrong channel.

Agnostic theism emphasizes prayer and personal experiences with God rather than becoming entangled in the chaos of intolerant churchianity. This is not to be confused with secular agnosticism that does not believe in the existence of any God, along with the supernatural being unknown and unknowable.

Traditional followers argue that if portions of the Bible are not correct, how can anyone know what is true? For example, if someone is convinced there is no possible way the story of Noah and the Ark actually happened, then what else has been embellished or even fabricated? Does it matter that accuracy and credibility may have been lost through years of oral storytelling? Some may believe they can put their trust in God and live for Him without trusting the scriptures, but if the Bible is truly God’s perfect word, it is the most important communication from God to mankind the world has ever known. If every word is God-breathed, we must cherish it, obey it and trust it. If the written Word IS God, and we dismiss it as inaccurate, isn’t this doubting God Himself?

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain and Christian author. Read more about Living on Purpose at billyhollandministries.com.

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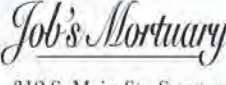
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Assembly of God

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www.sumterfirstag.org
Brian Vanoy, Pastor
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 am
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
(803) 775-1462 • fbmcsumter.org
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.

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

Methodist

St. James United Methodist Church
720 Broad St, Sumter
Rev. Jamal Wilkerson
Sunday School: 9:00 am
Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
Facebook: St. James United Methodist Church

Non-Denominational

Christ Community Church (CCC)
320 Loring Mill Rd., Sumter
www.cccsumter.com
803-866-4600
Sunday Worship 8:08, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Saturday Evening Service: 5 pm

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.



End-of-summer fireworks show



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

City of Sumter and Sumter County Government hosted a fireworks display in Dillon Park to celebrate Labor Day in on Saturday, Sept. 5, in place of hosting July 4 fireworks earlier in the year.



‘What home means to me ...’



Two young girls, Teanna McFadden and Mari'yah Durant, front and center, are recognized recently by the Housing Authority of the City of Sumter for winning state-level awards in a “What Home Means To Me” poster contest. The contest was part of a National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials long-running art competition that showcases the voices and creativity of children living in affordable housing and their perspectives on the meaning of home and community. The girls are surrounded by Sumter Housing Authority staff and officials.

Good friend passes away during ‘off-again’

DEAR ABBY: My friend “Ben” and I had many ups and downs in our 30-year friendship. Three years ago, we had one of our periodic blowouts and stopped speaking. I found out recently that he passed away a year later, and I was never informed. The obituary I found online does not mention a cause of death.

I wrote a letter of condolence to his wife, but it was returned, and I found out that she moved away from the house where she and Ben had been living. I would like to know what happened to my friend, as he was only in his early 50s. Although we were not speaking at the time of his death, we had many years of friendship under our belts, and I cared about him. I found a Facebook page for his wife, but this seems an impersonal way of reaching out on such a sober topic. Any suggestions?

CARED FOR HIM IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CARED: If you and Ben had mutual friends, a way to find out the information you’re looking for, including his widow’s address, might be through them. Do it privately. To approach her online asking for the details of his death would be off-putting, insensitive and possibly hurtful in light of the fact that you were estranged at the time of his death.

DEAR ABBY: My 63rd birthday is coming up. I do not like celebrating my birthday and never have. I would prefer that the day be ignored. I know my wife of almost 38 years, our two boys and their significant others are planning something.

I would prefer they spend the money on themselves or at least donate it to some worthy charity rather than spend it on me. Given that birthdays are important to them, must I just grin and bear it, or should I say something and risk causing ill will?

OLDER IN ISRAEL

DEAR OLDER: Surely your wife, who has been with you for nearly four decades, knows your feelings on this subject. Tell her you know something is afoot, and gently mention that you would prefer that the celebration be kept small. Name the charity of your choice, and tell her you hope the birthday budget will be sent there rather than spent on you.

If your wife ignores your plea and a massive fete does materialize, do your best to endure it with grace and a smile. Remember that these people are celebrating you because they love you.

DEAR ABBY: I’m married, and I’ve recently started developing a crush on my co-worker. We have worked together for four years. I’m

not going to pursue anything, because cheating is against my morals. I just feel bad for having these feelings. What can I do to get my feelings toward my co-worker in check?

CRUSHING IN ILLINOIS

DEAR CRUSHING: The guilt you are experiencing is a good thing; it has kept you from making a terrible mistake. If it’s any comfort, bear in mind that crushes like this usually lessen in time, even if they make the present somewhat uncomfortable.

TO MY READERS: Happy New Year to my friends of the Jewish faith! During this time of repentance, observant Jews reflect on their lives and make amends, seeking a closer relationship with God. Happy Rosh Hashanah!

LOVE, ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren. For nearly four decades, Jeanne Phillips penned this column, which was founded in 1956 by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 270135, Kansas City, MO 64127.



Sumter High Class of 1976 celebrates its 50th class reunion

SUBMITTED

The Bicentennial Sumter High School Class of 1976 held its 50th class reunion Sept. 4-6. This class distinguishes itself as being the largest class to have graduated from Sumter High School, with more than 730 graduates. The reunion festivities included a meet and

greet, bowling fun, a formal gala and a worship service. The theme of the reunion, “Remembering the Past, Embracing the Present,” embodied the sentiment around the occasion. Many friendships were rekindled and numbers exchanged as classmates departed for their trip back home Sunday afternoon.



the
Sumter
ITEM

REFLECTIONS

Sumter
courthouse
space
doubles
in 1964

Reflections recalls the expansion of Sumter’s courthouse in 1964. Construction of courthouses appears to



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

come in cycles. A quick review will show that most of the courthouses being built or replaced in South Carolina were constructed about the same time. Sumter is no exception. The information and photos for this article were obtained from *The Item* archives, the writings of Cassie Nicholes and *Item* reporter Robert Raymond.

According to Raymond, “though temporary facilities for holding court in Sumter County were somewhat crude, the earliest court facilities were generally not refined. The first courts to be conducted in this county were held in John Gayle’s farmhouse, where legal cases were tried more than a century ago. The facility stood for many years at the corner of Main and Canal streets.

Sumter actually grew up around the courthouse. A commission appointed for the purpose directed that a courthouse for Sumter District, as it was then called, should be built “at or near the plantation of John Gayle.” This choice of site for a courthouse came as a surprise to many area residents because it was located on a low and poorly drained parcel quite a distance from a navigable stream or highway. Its merit was its central location in the heart of the district.

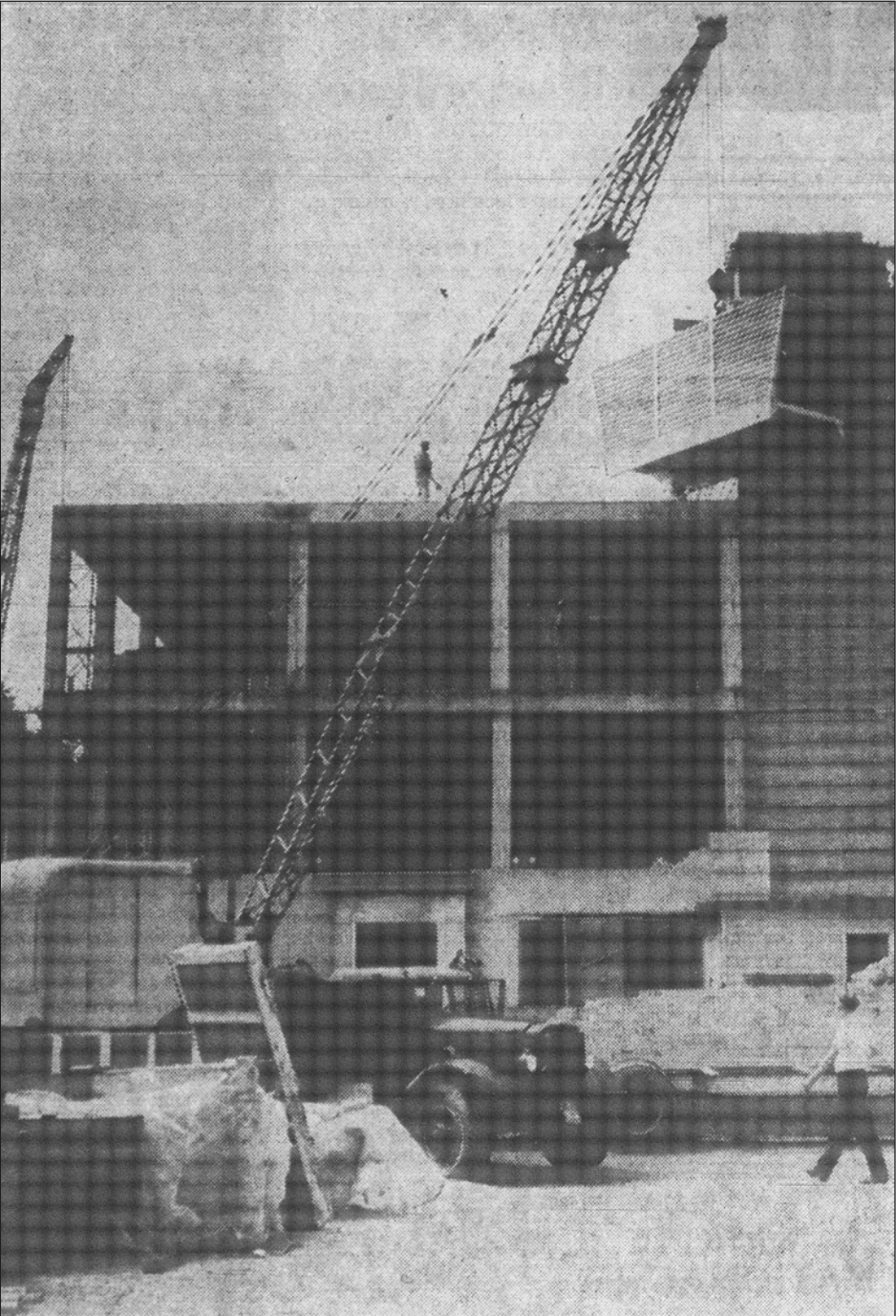
After the site was chosen, it left little time to erect a courthouse building before the beginning of the November term of court in 1800. Thus, court was held in the Gayle home; existing records indicate that at least two civil cases were heard there. When Sumter district was created, all cases which had been pending in the courts of Clarendon, Clarendon and Salem, which previously included portions of these additional counties, were transferred to the new district.

The seat of government was then in Stateburg, a community which once promised to become the state capital. The first clerk of court was a native Irishman named John Horan. On Nov. 27, 1800, Horan’s house at Stateburg burned, destroying all of the public records. Some residents who had retained original copies of deeds and other documents brought them to Sumterville, as the future city of Sumter was then



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

Sumter County’s third courthouse, erected in 1907, was being renovated and expanded in June 1964. Construction was expected to be completed the next year, doubling the floor space and modernizing the interior. It stands on the John Gayle plantation, chosen as the site of the first courthouse in Sumter District and about which grew up the town of Sumterville, which eventually became the City of Sumter.



A two-ton air cooling tower is lifted to the top of the remodeled Sumter County Courthouse by a large crane during its installation on the building’s roof in August 1964.



John Gayle

were designed by state engineer Robert Mills, and all of classic pattern typical of Mills, who called his courthouses “temples of justice.”

Like many structures of that period, the Sumter County courthouse was extremely durable. This courthouse was later removed “having once been the site of the Farmers Bank and Trust and the offices and broadcasting studios of radio station WFIG.” The space is currently occupied by the Hyatt Hotel.”

The courthouse building which now faces Main Street was completed in 1907; recently remodeled, it was a modern courthouse with ample space for county governmental functions. That day has passed, and county government has so far outgrown the courthouse that offices were spread out over a wide area. This building, according to the article written by Robert Raymond, was remodeled and expanded in 1964.

Today a recently constructed Judicial Center which faces Harvin Street provides additional space for judicial proceedings and other county government offices. The Judicial Center is a far cry from John Gayle’s farmhouse where the first local court cases were tried.

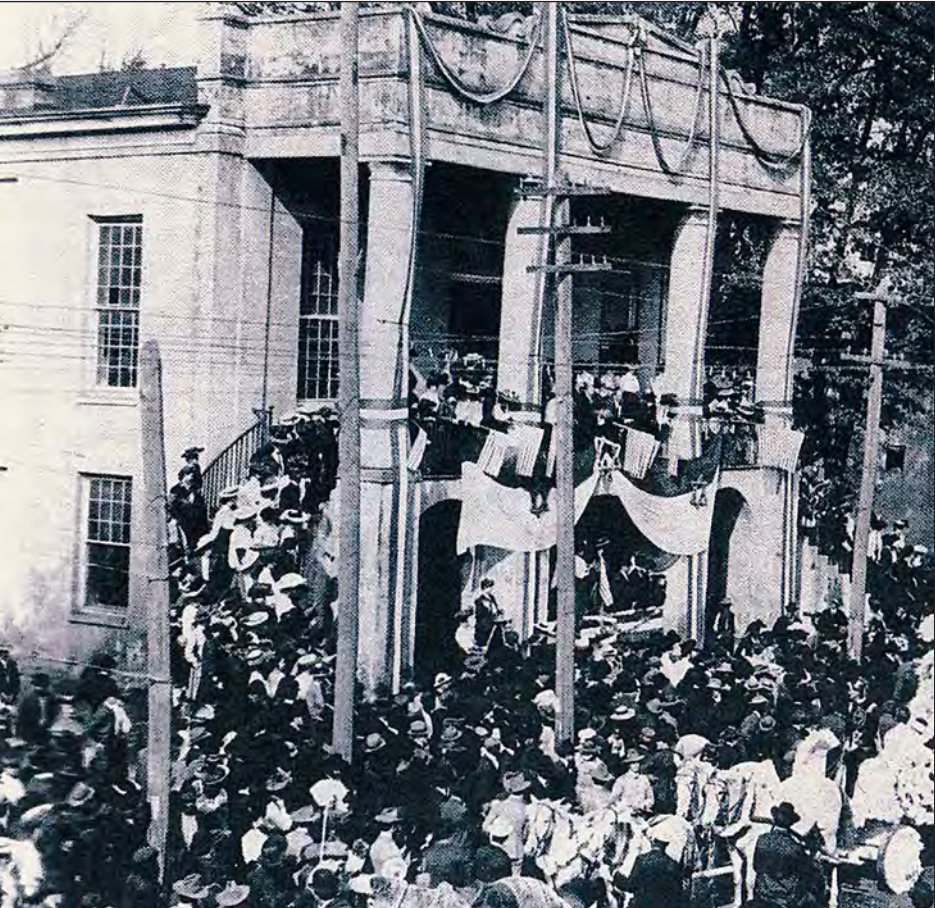
known, and had them re-recorded.

A courthouse building for the new district was long in coming. In fact, the structure needed repairs even before it was finally completed in 1806. Some of the early businesses to spring up in the vicinity of the new courthouse included a store opened by John Spann and a tavern operated by a man named Scott. Scott’s Tavern is said to have been a busy place during court

week, providing accommodations for the judge, lawyers and all who had business before the court.

Sumter was destined for a new courthouse to be completed in the early 1820s. Robert Mills was architect for the new structure which was to be of a classic design. A look into South Carolina history shows a flurry of new courthouse construction in the state during this period; all projects

BELOW: Sumter’s second courthouse, far right, was built in 1821 on Main Street across from the present-day opera house. It was used as a courthouse until 1907, when it became the National Bank of South Carolina office.



Sumter’s second courthouse is seen in an 1893 photo.



Sumter First Steps seeks support to keep the late Dolly Parton’s literacy legacy alive

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Mailboxes often lack the art of surprise. You know what to expect upon opening its flap — bills, advertisements or flyers.

Then, occasionally, inside lies a one-way ticket to a world of literary wonder.

That’s the idea behind Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Launched in 1995, the book gifting program mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter the family’s income. The program quickly grew beyond the lines of Sevier County, Tennessee, to now touch the mailboxes of families across the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Republic of Ireland.

The childhood literacy program continues to reach children across the world, including those right here in Sumter County, after the country music icon and philanthropist’s death.

Manning Mayor Julia Nelson said Parton’s passing has brought renewed

attention to the program. She is hoping that attention can translate into support.

The program is connected to Sumter through South Carolina First Steps. South Carolina General Assembly sought to close the opportunity gap for the state’s youth, establishing the First Steps program in 1999.

Since the beginning, First Steps has taken a “holistic approach” to accomplishing its mission, offering services that improve children’s health, strengthen families, expand access to quality early care and education, and help transition rising kindergartners into school. As both a state agency and nonprofit, it has improved early childhood development and school readiness through a network of 46 local partnerships to ensure children start school ready to reach their highest potential.

Nelson, who serves as the executive director for Sumter’s First Steps, said the partnership with the Imagination Library stretches over 20 years and re-

mains in high demand.

“For children, receiving mail with their name on it is very important to them. They’re very excited about it,” she said.

“I was an avid reader as a child. I would read anything that you would put in front of me. Studies have shown that children that read a lot end up being leaders because it broadens the mind so much farther than where they actually can go and experience,” she shared. “Reading is just such a valuable tool.”

She estimated more than 100 children are on a waiting list to receive books. That demand comes at a cost.

While families do not pay for the books, the program relies on local community partners and private donations to cover the expense of putting those books in mailboxes. Nelson said 25% of the program’s funding must come from private sources.

Sponsoring one child costs about \$31 to \$35 per year, she said.

The relatively small cost could make the program a perfect project for civic



groups, sororities and fraternities, Sunday school classes and those looking for a way to invest directly in children.

The program has lasting effects on families, as those books can be passed down and around to the different generations inside the home.

“This is something that people can consider contributing to with no administrative costs [and] that directly serves the children and improves literacy; not just for the child receiving the book, but it improves literacy in the entire home,” Nelson said. “Children that can read well and develop reading comprehension skills succeed and are ready to go to school, ready to learn. That’s our entire goal with First Steps: helping families and their children be ready to learn and succeed for life.”

Anyone looking to donate or support First Steps can reach out to Nelson by calling (803) 464-1224 or emailing sumter-firststeps@gmail.com.

Clarendon County nonprofit receives \$30,000 grant from Power:Ed to support virtual reality career exploration for youth and adults

SUBMITTED

SUMMERTON — BRAVO Education Foundation of Clarendon County has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from SC Student Loan Corporation through its philanthropy, Power:Ed, to launch “Empowering Clarendon,” a program that integrates cutting-edge Transfr Virtual Reality technology into the Adult Ed Center’s Career Hub and middle school Global Career Development Facilitator curricula.

This immersive platform lets rural adult learners and youth complete interest assessments, experience hands-on career simulations and build founda-

tional technical skills. By mapping local manufacturing, logistics and health care vacancies to bite-sized digital credentials, the program eliminates career blind spots, stops local “brain drain” and equips learners for lucrative local careers. It improves education by introducing immersive, technology-driven career pathways to dismantle systemic economic barriers in Clarendon County. Currently, low educational attainment and wages create a disconnect between local learners and modern employers.

“The goal for ‘Empowering Clarendon’ is clear: create an innovative, scalable solution to local career readiness chal-

lenges. This grant from Power:Ed allows us to turn that vision into reality. Integrating Transfr’s Trek platform into the Adult Education Center and Scott’s Branch Middle School’s established GCDF curriculum creates a seamless pipeline from education to employment. Bravo is thrilled to partner with these two schools and Transfr to launch this pilot program and look forward to the lasting economic impact it will bring to the Clarendon community,” said BRAVO’s Founder and President Maureen Calvo.

She added, “Your zip code shouldn’t limit your opportunities. Our students deserve ac-

cess to the absolute best tools available. This technology can immerse them in virtual high-demand industry experiences, igniting a passion for innovation and equipping them with the tangible skills needed to thrive in tomorrow’s economy. I am so excited at the prospect of observing a student put on a VR headset and seeing that absolute wonder and inspiration when they realize a high-tech career is completely within their reach.”

The Adult Education Center and middle school GCDFs, in partnership with the Bravo Education Foundation, will implement a structured evaluation plan to measure program suc-

cess, track learner progress, and support continuous improvement. Calvo is hopeful that “if this pilot is successful, then we have a firm framework to support expansion into the other middle schools.”

“SC Student Loan and Power:Ed are proud to support Empowering Clarendon and are excited by the transformative impact this program can have. If you see it, you can be it! All South Carolinians should have the opportunity to succeed, and we want to do our part to help reduce barriers and help folks thrive in school, work and in life,” said Power:Ed Executive Director Claire Gibbons.

THE

Clarendon Sun

CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINE
TUESDAY 11AM

LEGAL
NOTICES

Summons & Notice

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

C/A NO.: 2026-CP-14-00228

Freedom Mortgage Corporation,
Plaintiff,
v.

Any heirs-at-law or devisees of Michele E. Gasque, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons or entities entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons or entities with any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described in the complaint herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as Richard Roe; and any unknown minors, incompetent or imprisoned person, or persons under a disability being a class designated as John Doe; South Carolina Department of Revenue; Alexis Robinson; Ashley Whittemore, Defendants(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 1400 Browning Road, Suite 160, Columbia, SC 29210, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES, AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:
YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the

Summons & Notice

appointment of a guardian *ad litem* within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by Attorney for Plaintiff.

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

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

LIS PENDENS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an action has been or will be commenced in this Court upon complaint of the above-named Plaintiff against the above-named Defendant(s) for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage of real estate given by **Michele Gasque to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Ameris Mortgage** dated July 18, 2023 and recorded on July 18, 2023 in Book 1144 at Page 3625, in the Clarendon County Registry (hereinafter, “Mortgage”). **Thereafter, the Mortgage was transferred to the Plaintiff herein by assignment and/or corporate merger.**

The premises covered and affected by the said Mortgage and by the foreclosure thereof were, at the time of the making thereof and at the time of the filing of this notice, more particularly described in the said Mortgage and are more commonly described as:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with buildings and improvements located thereon, lying, being and situate southeast of the intersection of West Huggins Street and South Brooks Street in the Town of Manning, County of Clarendon, bounding, now or formerly, and measuring as follows: On the North by the right-of-way of West Huggins Street, and measuring thereon 99.3 feet; on the East by the right-of-way of South Brooks Street, and measuring thereon 185 feet; on the SOUTH by lands of Ervin Davis, et

Summons & Notice

al., and measuring thereon 100.4 feet; and on the West by lands of Freeman, and measuring thereon 173.3 feet. For a more particular description of said lot, reference may be had to a plat made by Edwards & Perritt, Surveyors, dated June 2, 1915, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon County in Plat Book 3 at Page 121. This being the same property conveyed to Michele E. Gasque by deed of Terri Jo G. Gregory dated July 18, 2023, and recorded on July 18, 2023, in Book 1013 at Page 2787 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon County, South Carolina. Thereafter, Michele E. Gasque died on November 9, 2025, leaving the property to her heirs/devisees, Alexis Robinson and Ashley Whittemore.

TMS No. 169-14-07-012-00

Property Address: 201 S Brooks St, Manning, SC 29102

NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Complaint and Certificate of Exemption from ADR in the above-entitled action were filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County on May 1, 2026. A Notice of Foreclosure Intervention was also filed in the Clerk of Court's Office.

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, upon reading the filed Petition for Appointment of Kelley Woody, Esquire as Guardian ad Litem Nisi for unknown minors, and persons who may be under a legal disability, and it appearing that Kelley Woody, Esquire has consented to said appointment, it is

ORDERED that Kelley Woody, P.O. Box 6432, Columbia, SC 29260 phone (803) 787-9678, be and hereby is appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi on behalf of all unknown minors and all unknown persons who may be under a legal disability, all of whom may have or claim to have some interest or claim to the real property commonly known as 201 S Brooks St, Manning, SC 29102; that he is empowered and directed to appear on behalf of and represent said Defendants, unless said Defendants, or someone on their behalf, shall within thirty (30) days after service of a copy hereof as directed, procure the appointment of Guardian or Guardians ad Litem for said Defendants.

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

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Appointment of Kelley Woody, Esquire shall become

Summons & Notice

Absolute 30 days after the completion of service of this Order without further motion by Plaintiff or Order of this Court unless said Defendants, or persons acting on their behalf, shall, within thirty (30) days after service, procure the appointment of their own Guardian Ad Litem.

Brock & Scott, PLLC 1400 Browning Road, Suite 160 Columbia, SC 29210
Phone (803) 454-3540 **Fax** (803) 454-3541
Attorneys for Plaintiff

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CLARENDON
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Case No.: 2026-CP-14-

Sarah Green,
Plaintiff,

vs.

Hattie Matthews, Edwina Jones, heirs of Willie Kinsey, heirs of Henry Kinsey, heirs of Yvonne Kinsey, heirs of Jimmy Kinsey, John Doe, Mary Roe, and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real properties described in the Complaint, or any claim adverse to Plaintiff's ownership or any cloud on title thereto, Defendants.

SUMMONS

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on Patrick Killen, Esquire, at his office located at 8 Law Range, Sumter, South Carolina, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

KILLEN LAW FIRM, LLC

Patrick M. Killen
Attorney for Plaintiff
8 Law Range
Sumter, South Carolina 29150
(803) 774-5031
patrick@killenlawfirm.com
Sumter, South Carolina
July 17, 2026

LIS PENDENS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Plaintiff will commence an action to partition title against the above-named Defendants. The property covered and affected at the time of the filing of this Notice, is described as follows: House Road, Summertown, SC 29148 / Tax Parcel No.: 120-00-02-049-00:

Summons & Notice

All that certain piece, parcel, or tract of land containing 8.5 acres more or less, lying, being and situate in School District #1 in the County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina, and being bounded and measuring as follows: On the Northwest by lands now or formerly of Mose Dingle, whereon it measures 245.1 feet; On the Northwest by tract #1 on a plat herein after referred to, whereon it measures 1515.8 feet; On the Southeast by a public road, whereon it measures 1615.3 feet.

For a more particular description of said tract reference may be had to a plat made by W.B.Sykes, Surveyor, dated 8 February 1955, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court of Clarendon County in Plat Book 15 at Page 13, whereon said 8.5 acres is shown as tract #2.

This being the same tract of land devised to Mayme R. House Clark by the Will of Bessie E. House, filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Clarendon County in Apartment 204 Package 15.

A59 Pg. 667 Derivation

Respectfully submitted,
KILLEN LAW FIRM

Patrick M. Killen
Attorney for Plaintiff
8 Law Range

NOTICE OF FILING

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Summons and Complaint were filed with the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County, South Carolina on July 24, 2026. John S. Keffer, Esquire, whose address is 10 Law Range, Sumter, SC 29150, has been named Guardian ad Litem Nisi to represent any unknown minors and persons under disability who have or may claim an interest in the subject-property

s/ Patrick M. Killen _____

Patrick M. Killen
8 Law Range
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 774-5031
patrick@killenlawfirm.com
Sumter, South Carolina
Date: August 20, 2026

SUMMONS AND NOTICE
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF CLARENDON
CASE NUMBER: 2026-ES-14-245

Annie Mae Montgomery (f/k/a Annie Mae Moore),
Petitioner(s),
v.

Summons & Notice

John Doe, a fictitious person, representing as a class, all unknown persons who claim or might claim to be heirs-at-law of Lizzie Mae Moore (a/k/a Lizzie Mae Moorer), and Richard Roe, a fictitious person representing as a class, all persons suffering under legal disability and claiming or might claim to be heirs-at-law of Lizzie Mae Moore (a/k/a Lizzie Mae Moorer),

Respondents.

SUMMONS

TO: THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE NAMED:

And to the natural, general, testamentary or other guardians thereof, and to the persons with whom they reside or by whom they may reside or by whom they may be employed, if any there be, and to all other Respondents whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED, advised and notified, that the Summons, Petition, Order Appointing Guardian *ad Litem Nisi*, Order of Publication and Notice to Respondents were filed in the Office of the Probate Court for Orangeburg County, South Carolina on the 31st day of August, 2026. The purpose of this action is to determine the heirs-at-law of Lizzie Mae Moore (a/k/a Lizzie Mae Moorer), as is more fully stated in the Petition.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Scott Robinson, Esquire, whose address is Post Office Box 339, Manning, SC, 29102 has been appointed Guardian *ad Litem Nisi* in the above entitled action by an Order dated August 31, 2026, and his appointment will become absolute thirty (30) days after the last publication of the Summons herein, and that such Order is on file in the Office of the Probate Court for Clarendon County, South Carolina.

JOHNSON | DURANT, LLC

BY: William H. Johnson, SC Bar No. 15167
Post Office Box 137 - 411 N. Brooks Street
Manning, South Carolina 29102
Telephone (803) 435-0909
Facsimile (855) 926-0923
william@johnsondurantlaw.com
Attorney for the Petitioner
September 10, 2026



Life in the Palmetto State: Is opportunity dead?

Market share, bottom line and corporate greed are phrases just under the currents on the sea of frustration. It's only in turbulent times they surface. They are harsh, though, just the same.

It seems like hard work and sheer determination are not enough to make it in today's business climate anymore. In my lifetime, I have seen a determined individual make it and make it big on a shoe-string budget and a work ethic that outshines the sun. It used to be a family could contribute their time, energy and focus on a common goal and make a huge impact.

I remember well the days of the mom-and-pop business that was based on a smile and a handshake. I remember the days when credit was based on if the business owner knew you and you were good to your word — not what your credit score showed.

Maybe opportunity is not the right phraseology, but in an effort to draw attention to this disparity, I think it will suffice.

You see, in my mind, opportunities are based on what you make of them. Not some brass ring that is so far out of reach and reality for the common man or woman that they can't even jump to reach it. I liken it to an attic door with the ladder still in the up position. We can see the dream but can't reach the steps that will take us there.

Nowadays, undercapitalization is the biggest obstacle. Start-up costs are so ridiculous; it almost seems impossible to get past. That presents the first roadblock.

Then of course there are the government regulations that completely weigh you down. If you get past your banking issues, then government throws every curve ball they can to strike you out.

Then if you are fortunate enough to get past those imposing issues, there are input costs, taxes and in-

surance. Don't forget labor and finding people to work. They have a way of sucking the last bit of green off your balance sheet.

Where would we be if the entrepreneurial spirit had died in our countrymen and the immigrants that made our nation great?

I have sounded negative enough. Time for some positive thoughts. We still live in the greatest nation in the world. If you can make it anywhere, you can make it in our United States.

We are so fortunate to live where we do and enjoy the blessings the good Lord gives us and our great nation!

How do we remedy the situation?

First off, let's remember who brought us to the dance.

Those determined individuals that went before us and had a dream that worked out, study them.

Pick their brains for all the knowledge they will impart to you. If they are not willing to help, study them anyway. Don't reinvent the wheel.

Entrepreneurs, build a better mousetrap. Study the ones that are successful and figure out a way to do it better.

Be relentless. Give your idea the time to cook and make the stew.

Work for someone else until the timing is right. Then work your fanny off.

Last, but certainly not least, if you are one of those that made it, reach down and help someone struggling.

Send them work. Slide them some contacts and positive references. Help the determined ones that need a little shove to get them over the hump.

No, I know opportunity is not dead, just maybe disguised.

Don't give up. We still live in the land of opportunity. If you believe in it, someone, somewhere else will too.

Don't let anyone talk you out of your goals and dreams.

May God bless you!

Lee Reaves Jr. is president of Clarendon County Historical Society.



Lee Reaves

Briefs

To add your event to the Clarendon Briefs, please email pressrelease@theitem.com with Clarendon Briefs in the subject line.

END OF SUMMER CONCERT

MANNING — Manning's Summer Concert Series will hold its End of Summer Concert from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, on Brooks Street between Boyce and Rigby streets.

GAMBLE WILL SPEAK AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

MANNING — Sept. 17, Clarendon Historical Society will host Larry Gamble from Sumter as its guest speaker at 7 p.m. at Council Chambers at the County Administration Building, 411 Sunset Drive.

FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

SUMMERTON — Historic Liberty Hill AME Church, 3210 Liberty Hill AME Church, will hold its Fish Fry Fundraiser beginning at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 18. On the menu: Whiting fish sandwich, fries and drink combo, \$10; fish sandwich, \$8; fries, \$2; and drinks, \$1.

MANNING FARMERS MARKET

MANNING — The Manning Farmers Market is open from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday through October at the corner of Boyce and Church streets. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, visit <https://www.cityofmanning.org/community/page/farmers-market>.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

MANNING — The Carolina Heat Dance Collective Cornhole Tournament will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at 205 S. Mill St. Cost is \$75 per team (2 players per team). Pay via Cash App \$CarolinaH-DC. There will be cash prizes, food trucks and more. Register by Sept. 23. Contact Laura Clayton at (843) 560-4339 to register and reserve your team's spot. Fifty percent of proceeds will be reinvested into the Carolina Heat Dance Collective to help provide every child with the opportunity to dance, grow in confidence and experience the impact of the arts.

YARD SALE WILL BE AT CHURCH

MANNING — Manning United Methodist Church, 17 E. Rigby St., will hold a yard sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. All proceeds will benefit the church's youth missions, outreach, programs and activities.

INAUGURAL BASS OPEN WILL BE HELD OCT. 3 AT LAKE MARION

LAKE MARION — C.A.T.T. presents the inaugural Bass Open on Saturday, Oct. 3, at Relaxed Retreat at Carolina King, Lake Marion, from safe light to 3 p.m. Entry fee is \$100 per team, and there will be cash payouts and a big bass prize. To pay online, go to www.cattteamtrail.com and tap on the Santee Cooper Division. Select CATT Gold and list the Oct. 3 date. Relaxed Retreat is at 2498 Belser Road, Summerton. Launch order will be based on order of entry, there will be payback to Top 20% finishers and a \$25 side pot available. There will be a non-mandatory pre-tournament meeting and cookout Friday night, Oct. 2, at Relaxed Retreat. The cookout is open to everyone for \$10 per person – choose burgers, hot dogs or pizza, includes chips and a beverage. Many awards will be given during the event, and prize drawings will be held. All anglers are eligible for special tournament rate for lodging/RV parking at Relaxed Retreat, so make your reservation early. Overnight parking/primitive camping spots are available at Jack's Creek Marina (right across from Relaxed Retreat) for \$35 per night. You can launch at Jack's Creek and head to launch via water. Breakfast is available tournament morning. If you have any questions call or text Brett at (803) 413-7521 or Roger at (757)-323-6548.

MONARCH STRONG'S BIKE-RUN-WALK IS OCT. 3

MANNING — Monarch Strong's 6th Annual Bike-Run-Walk will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. Choose your challenge and register at monarchstrong.com. Road Cyclists' Epic Challenge - all adult cyclists meet at 7:15 a.m.: metric ride roll out at 8 a.m. sharp; 40-mile ride roll out at 8:15 a.m. sharp; and 25-mile ride roll out at 8:30 a.m. sharp. Not a cyclist? Lace up those sneakers and take scenic laps over the Old 301 Santee Walking Bridge (10k/6.2 miles) or the Challenge Run/Walk (28k/17.4 miles (round trip lap from SC Santee State Park over the Old 301 Walking Bridge. Location for 10K is the new park at the 301 Old Walking Bridge (driving directions from 95: Take Exit 102 and turn left at Highway 15-U.S. 301). Location for 28K: 251 State Park Road, Shelter No. 1. For additional information on participating, volunteering or sponsoring the event, email monarch-strong@gmail.com.

2026 eSTEAM Sumter Festival

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The Sumter Item

the Sumter ITEM

OPINION

Jacqueline B. Osteen Co-Owner

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Vince Johnson Publisher

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

COMMENTARY

The Murdaugh murder retrial, media frenzy coming to Sumter

We didn't see this coming.

On late Tuesday afternoon, our staff at *The Sumter Item* heard the news that the murder retrial of Alex Murdaugh in the death of his wife and son is headed to Sumter. That it will be happening minutes from our office in the heart of our local downtown. That it will be happening with jurors that our staff inevitably may have seen at grocery stores, church and local sporting events.

As a follower of true crime and a news consumer, I've watched the shows, listened to the podcasts, read the articles and watched the videos. The whole Murdaugh story was close enough to understand some of the dynamics of South Carolina and observe



Vince Johnson

with interest, but we were at least an afternoon drive and whole community away from where everything was taking place.

Now, Sumter is part of the story.

We're planning our coverage of one of the most anticipated retrials the country has seen this century at our doorstep.

On any typical day, *The Item* is likely the only local media outlet telling the story of the area. When a larger local story emerges, television stations from Columbia swing into town, or one of the statewide outlets may pick it up.

But for these days and weeks in April 2027, assuming the dates don't change, the media frenzy is coming to town. National outlets, statewide publications, bloggers, Youtubers, podcasters and anyone else with an eye to build true crime fandom will be spending their days in or around our Sumter courthouse and their evenings at the establishments Sumterites frequent.

The Item has been around for more than 130 years. We've had our share of celebrity visits and global storylines hit close to home. We've had a presidential visit to Shaw Air Force Base. But once in a generation, maybe more, something bigger than we can ever predict happens.

Our local reporters, visual journalists and entire team will be ready,

though. We're one of South Carolina's strongest small-town, independent local media companies, a rare sight in a country that has watched more than 2,500 newspapers vanish in the past two decades. Our staff is full of talented, dedicated storytellers, and while we're not as large in numbers as *The Item* once was, our small team is used to punching above its weight.

We've always had Sumter in our corner, too, and that's what we'll continue to count on. So while we collectively anticipate a moment in time when Sumter will seem very different than it is today, *The Item* will be here before, during and after, telling the stories of our local community and relying on your support to keep us going.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Candidates Maj. Davey, Johnson, Andrews are fueled to serve by what they have experienced in life

It will not be long before midterm elections, and I have never, since 1971, witnessed such volatility and possible threats to our democracy and to voters. Yes, I most often vote Democrat but have in the past also voted Republican. I look at an individual's approach to social justice issues and qualifications. This midterm there is no doubt as to who I will cast my vote for, and this is why.

For South Carolina House District 67, it will be Maj. Lisa Davey. I have never witnessed such commitment and drive for selfless reasons. Maj. Davey has dedicated her entire adult life to service, first to the Army, her family and later to Sumter's previously incarcerated persons. And now she is answering the call to serve and represent the citizens of S.C. District 67.

For this past year, Maj. Davey has dedicated herself to learning from and listening to community members, as well as the application of endless amounts of time going door to door and making phone calls — all to provide opportunities for future constituents to address their concerns and desires personally. Yes, to retire as a major in the U.S. Army is a significant accomplishment in and of itself, but her journey did not begin in privilege.

She began as a 17-year-old enlistee, and it did not take long for her superiors to recognize the depth of commitment, dedication and willingness to serve for the greater mission — thus Pvt. Lisa Davey's elevation to major. By nature, Maj. Davey serves with generosity and commitment, and her history speaks for itself. I trust such a journey.

For South Carolina governor, Dr. Jermaine Johnson is most qualified for the people of South Carolina. He, too, has experienced the fullness of life from a humble and non-privileged beginning to the S.C. House of Representatives, serving District 52. Dr. Johnson's beginnings included homelessness and days without complete nourishment.

As a college student, some holidays were spent in a dorm room. However, Dr. Johnson applied his energies to commitment, discipline and focus and, like Maj. Davey, was recognized by superiors.

Continued higher education, schol-

arships and an eventual offer to play pro basketball. These opportunities did not go ignored; instead they inspired Dr. Johnson to give back — to return what was provided him and to provide for others as well. He identified unjust links in education and health care, the designed unequal construction to marginalized communities and addressed these issues by establishing organizations to serve.

Dr. Johnson is not a party-centered politician, either. He is totally committed to dignity and opportunities for the people of South Carolina and is social justice-centered. He is also a loving family man. Again, I trust such a journey.

Finally, for the S.C. United States Senate position, I will be voting for Dr. Annie Andrews. As a pediatrician and mother of three children of her own, Dr. Andrews has seen a wide spectrum of childhood illness, childhood poverty, childhood illness from poverty and inadequate housing, and childhood illness from the lack of health care.

She has seen firsthand the quality-of-life differences between families with and families without health care and basic needs. Such witnessing has both opened her eyes to the many injustices designed by the wealthy in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, and it has also broken her heart for the right reasons. This heartbreak now fuels her desire to serve not only the state of South Carolina, but also to influence policy for the United States of America.

Why is health care for all considered communism? How is the desire to raise the standard of education and to provide a decent wage for our teachers considered irresponsible? How is a living wage for all careless? How is the investment in dignified housing a waste of tax dollar money? How has trusting the research of science become naive? As humans, we are born with the ability to feel sorrow from loss or compassion for the suffering or empathy for the oppressed. How do such innate human qualities turn dark and against one another?

Maj. Lisa Davey, Dr. Jermaine Johnson and Dr. Annie Andrews are fueled by what they have experienced and seen, and their journeys have proven discipline and commitment. I want and we deserve individuals who will labor for our communities, our state and our country which will undoubtedly have a positive effect on this beautiful world of ours.

Michelle Ross lives in Sumter.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Before flu season arrives, make one health care decision that can save time and money

BY HONEY DAWN CHAPMAN, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
Chief nursing officer at Colonial Healthcare in Sumter

The best time to find a primary care provider isn't during flu season. It's before flu season begins.

Most people aren't thinking about the flu in September. But establishing a relationship with a primary care provider before you need care can make a real difference for you and your family when illness strikes.

Here in Sumter and across the Midlands, we saw firsthand how quickly last year's flu season spread through our communities. As the season progressed, some weeks saw more than 5,700 confirmed flu cases statewide, putting added strain on hospitals, emergency departments and care teams across the state.

The impact reached far beyond the health care system. By the end of the season, South Carolina had recorded 209 influenza-associated deaths. For many families, flu season meant more than a few days of feeling sick. It meant serious illness, hospital stays and difficult decisions about where to turn for care.

This year could be just as demanding. Nationally, up to 57 million people could get the flu. As many as 25 million could seek medical care, 800,000 could be hospitalized and 81,000 could lose their lives.

When illness strikes, many people end up turning to urgent care or the emergency department because they aren't sure where else to go. Often, it's because they don't have an established primary care provider they can call for guidance, reassurance or an appointment.

For many families, getting sick is stressful enough. The last thing they need is uncertainty about where to go, how quickly they can be seen or what that care might cost.

Having an established relationship with a primary care provider removes some of that uncertainty. When you're sick, you already know where to turn. Instead of searching for care, you're calling someone who knows your health history and can help you decide what

comes next.

That relationship matters. A provider who knows your baseline health is often better positioned to recognize when something has changed, spot concerns earlier and help ensure you get the care you need. That's not something you can easily replicate through a one-time visit.

Anyone who has cared for a child with a high fever, worried about a parent with worsening symptoms or tried to find care while feeling sick understands how stressful those moments can be. That's why knowing where to turn before you get sick matters.

It can also help families avoid some of the financial stress that often comes with an unexpected illness.

Research has found that treating common illnesses such as flu and upper respiratory infections costs an average of about \$167 in a physician's office, compared with more than \$2,000 in a hospital emergency department.

Every situation is different, and true emergencies should always be treated in an emergency department. But when care can safely be managed in a primary care setting, patients may avoid unnecessary costs and get care from someone who already knows them.

The benefits extend beyond individual patients. Better access to primary care helps ensure patients can get the right level of care while preserving emergency departments for heart attacks, strokes, traumatic injuries and other serious medical emergencies. It also helps ensure those resources remain available for the people who need them most.

Flu season will come, as it does every year. None of us can predict when we'll get sick. We can be better prepared when it happens.

Before flu season arrives, don't just prepare for the flu. Get connected to care.

Find a primary care provider. Schedule a wellness visit. Establish that relationship before you need it.

Taking that step today can make it easier to get care when you're sick, manage costs more effectively and stay healthier throughout the year.

Morris College and Denmark Technical College partner to expand student pathways

SUBMITTED

Morris College and Denmark Technical College have entered into an academic articulation agreement designed to create more seamless pathways for students to continue their education, transfer credits and pursue credentials at both institutions.

The partnership establishes a framework for students to transition from Denmark Technical College to Morris College's cyber security, forensic science and e-sports programs based on their academic and career goals. Under the agreement, students from Denmark Technical College who meet applicable admission requirements can transfer into Morris College with credits evaluated toward degree programs.

"Morris College was founded in 1908 under the shadows of slavery when Black men and women started a college for those who were former

enslaved and used their Baptist connection to educate their children and grandchildren. One hundred eighteen years later, we are still educating people to become productive contributors to society," said Said Sewell, president and CEO of Morris College.

"Today's agreement establishes a pathway for students to continue their matriculation to meaningful careers," Sewell said. "By creating stronger connections between our institutions, we can give students a clearer path to continue their education, build on the credentials they have earned and ultimately reach their academic and professional goals."

The agreement creates specific transfer opportunities in cybersecurity, esports and criminal justice, three areas identified by the institutions for transfer opportunities. Students who complete Denmark Tech's certificate in cybersecurity will transfer into

Morris College's Bachelor of Science program with a major in cybersecurity, while Denmark Tech's Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice Technology provides a pathway toward Morris College's Bachelor of Science program with a major in criminal justice.

"This partnership is about giving students more options and removing barriers between where they begin their education and where they ultimately want to go," said Eric Brown, president and CEO of Denmark Technical College. "Our students should be able to build on the work they have already completed, continue advancing academically and see a clear pathway from a technical college credential to a bachelor's degree. Working with Morris College allows us to strengthen that pathway while keeping student success at the center."

The partnership also provides broader transfer oppor-



Campus presidents Said Sewell, left, of Morris College and Eric Brown of Denmark Technical College sign the articulation agreement.

tunities for Denmark Tech students. Those who earn an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree and meet Morris College admission requirements will have satisfied general education requirements and may enter Morris College with junior standing. Students completing certificate and diploma programs are also eligible for

transfer admission and evaluation of their credits toward applicable undergraduate programs at Morris College. The colleges will evaluate the partnership every two years, reviewing measures including student applications, enrollment, transfers, reverse transfers, course and program completion and graduation rates.



Multiple gospel groups and bands entertain the crowd at the annual Gospel in the Park for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 7. Bishop W.T. English Memorial Park in Gable was full of the sounds of worship, socializing and fun throughout the day during the event.

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM



GOSPEL

FROM PAGE A1

Since 1996, it has been a tradition to host the event on Labor Day to give residents another option of how to spend their holiday.

When Bishop English passed away in August 2013, English kept the tradition alive. Community members and music lovers who share the same passion have joined in.

This year's event saw performances by Luther Barnes and the Sunset Jubilaires, Min. Lee Burgess & Resurrection, The Wilson Family of Cades, The Caroli-

na Angels, The Spiritual Uplifters, Soul Alliance, Jessica "Powerhouse" Anderson, Jacqueline Jenkins, The Spiritual Brothers, The Sumter Community Gospel Choir, The Old Landmark Gospel Choir, Purpose Driven and The Spiritual Travelers. Alongside English, local playwright and director Elijah Bradford also served as the event's emcee, even bringing out his social media personality, "Mr. Thaddeus."

From the afternoon until the evening, attendees of all ages enjoyed the festivities as they enjoyed the fellowship and melody of songs that filled the park.



2026

HEALTH MATTERS

Celebrating Breast Cancer Survivors

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

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Deadline:
September 29, 2026

Publish Date:
October 10, 2026

the Sumter ITEM

RETRIAL

FROM PAGE A1

it. She was sentenced to probation. Murdaugh’s attorneys asked McCaslin to move the trial outside the 14th Judicial Circuit, arguing that Murdaugh wouldn’t be able to get a fair and impartial trial after intense

media coverage about him, his family and their role as prosecutors. The defense previously requested Charleston and Richland counties as potential venues for the retrial. The decision was left up to McCaslin, who selected Sumter. Though his double-murder convictions were reversed, Murdaugh re-

mains in prison for financial crimes, including federal and state sentences. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison in 2024 for 22 federal financial crimes, including conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud; bank fraud; wire fraud; and money laundering, according to U.S. Department

of Justice. This is an ongoing story, and more information will be released as it becomes available. To sign up for free breaking news alerts, go to www.theitem.com/newsletter.
This article was contributed to by Tiffany Tan with Lexington Chronicle.

REZONING

FROM PAGE A1

said, “The board plans, since the new superintendent has been in place for nearly six months, we will bring back the realignment option back to the floor.”
The Sumter Item attended the community meeting, about which it was not notified beforehand, and attempted to ask Ragin about the matter immediately after the event, but he ignored the newspaper and instead spoke to other attendees. Realignment was not on Sumter’s school board meeting agenda posted early Friday for Monday night, but Ragin could add it any time during the weekend as long as it posted 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Also, it could be added by a majority vote of the full board when the meeting begins Monday at 6 p.m. After Monday, Ragin has just one board meeting remaining in October as a trustee because he did not file for reelection in November.

REZONING ATTENDANCE LINES’ STUDY AND MORE

A previous board that Ragin was a part of conducted the realignment study in 2021-22 with an outside, third-party consultant. That board’s realignment committee chair was former district Superintendent Frank Baker, who previously served 19 years as superintendent of the more rural, county-area school district in Sumter pre-consolidation. The study only considered school attendance lines’ boundaries and maintaining all schools. Study goals included developing transportation efficiencies and balancing “school facility utilization” with the theme of shuffling students from higher-enrollment schools in the City of Sumter to lower-enrollment schools in the outlying rural areas. Before the full board voted on whether to pass a viable option, the study was presented in public information sessions and created public outcry. The trustees did pass by a 5-4 vote in spring 2022 a rezoning option that moved 32% of high school students to a different high school and nearly tripled the size of the lowest-enrollment school in the district, Rafting Creek Elementary, in Rembert, which is Washington’s district on county council. The board majority said realignment was necessary and long overdue because it was not initially done when the

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Spring 2012	Fall 2020	Spring 2026
(1st year consolidated)	(Data used in study)	Last year’s enrollment
16,249	15,217	12,731
		(↓ since study) 2,486 or 16.3%
		(↓ since consolidation) 3,518 or 21.7%

Source: S.C. Department of Education official enrollment data

two former districts in Sumter consolidated in July 2011. The study did not consider that the district’s enrollment was declining for several. It also did not consider that Sumter’s first charter school – Liberty STEAM Charter School – was already planned to open. According to the most current, official enrollment data, Sumter School District has lost 3,518 students, or 21.7%, since the first year of the consolidated district. The enrollment data in the rezoning study was from fall 2020, and the district is down nearly 2,500 students, or 16.3%, since then. Former board Chairman the Rev. Ralph Canty initially introduced a board master plan concept in October 2023 after a new board was hesitant to move forward with the realignment process and implementation. The full board at the time moved forward with a master plan that would consider a longer-term, comprehensive outlook to include the age of school facilities and whether they could even take on more students, constructing new schools and consolidating others, given growing capacity concerns. Since Gerald Gary began as superintendent in April, the full board has commissioned a facilities study by an independent consultant that would consider all those factors and include more current data. That study is expected to be completed by early 2027. Canty told *The Item* on Friday that he questioned Ragin’s motive because “the facilities study will most likely make major recommendations about existing structures, the new study will take precedence over

the former one.” “Since the realignment study, Ragin knows, our student population has dwindled by more than 2,000 students,” Canty said, “and his proposed charter school will take away another 300 to 600 students, further decimating the numbers and doing irreparable damage to the original plan. “I question his motive,” he added. “What’s the politics driving this action? A chair whose conflict of interest has clouded his tenure, pushing for a vote ahead of the superintendent’s recommendation, consultation and engagement with his board, and on the eve of his departure as chair and member of the board. “Paramount to any further deliberation of the present plan is the public outcry against it, which is already on record. “The chair knows that its implementation will create chaos and drive more parents

away. This then is not leadership; it is annihilation. It is designed to weaken, if not destroy, our district.” Thursday’s community meeting was led by incumbent Tarah Johnson’s opposition in school board Area 4, the Rev. Daryl McGhaney. Johnson beat him in November 2022, when McGhaney was the incumbent. McGhaney said at the meeting that he is for realignment, and Johnson has previously voted against full realignment without caveats attached to it, such as updated data and more planning in the process. She told *The Item* on Friday that a realignment vote “could be an election tactic,” and possibly used against her leading up to November. “I think a possible discussion and vote on realignment now is to see where people stand on the issue prior to the election, in my opinion,” she said.

“There is basically only one more board meeting after Monday before the election, and I may not even be on the board after that time. So why should I basically be making a decision? “I am not opposed in all honesty to moving forward with the realignment; however, I think that it would be with stipulations. So, if it does come up Monday, then I will share that and we will go from there.” She said at this juncture, the move “could be being used as an election tactic.” “If that’s the purpose of it, that is perfectly OK. Like I said, I am not opposed with moving forward with realignment with some stipulations.” She did not want to share those stipulations Friday, saying her preference was that it come from her to the public at Monday night’s meeting. She added that she had no idea of Ragin’s thinking and did not want to speculate on the matter. “I just don’t know. But I can tell you, truly, that the appearance is just to see where people stand prior to the election. “And with Shawn not running for reelection, even though he would be voting on it if that is the case, he would be gone before implementation starts.”

46th ANNUAL

Aynor Harvest
Hoe-Down Festival

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

The Sumter Item is asking for names of these brave people to appear in our special publication, Health Matters 2026, on October 10th, 2026.

Deadline: September 29, 2026

Submitted By _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Survivors Name _____

Number of years cancer free _____

*Please provide a contact number for any surviving honorees for verification

Contact
Karen Cave
karen@theitem.com

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PUBLIC AGENDA

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m., 1345 Wilson Hall Road (executive session at 6 p.m.)

CLARENDON COUNTY COUNCIL
Monday, Sept. 14, at 6 p.m., Administration Building, Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

CITY OF MANNING PLANNING COMMISSION
Monday, Sept. 14, at 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 29 W. Boyce St., Manning

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m., 1345 Wilson Hall Road (executive session at 6 p.m.)

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 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 resident 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 before the start of the meeting. The clerk will collect this sheet before 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 COMMISSION
Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 6 p.m., planning commission office, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE AREA COMMISSION
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 5:30 p.m., President’s Conference Room (M555), Building M500 (Main Campus)

AROUND TOWN

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

Lee County EMS and the library are offering a free CPR class Saturday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will receive certification. The class will be held at EMS headquarters, 130 Industrial Blvd., Bishopville. Please call or come by Lee County Library to register at 200 N. Main St., Bishopville. The class is for ages 10 and up, but there is a limit of 15 participants. Everyone must register.

Love in Action Outreach Ministries will present the “Don’t Carry the Weight” seminar at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. This empowering, life-changing, free seminar will help you discover the joy and freedom from “emotional baggage” with a pathway to a new beginning. Hearty refreshments will be served. Free Bibles and take-home sentiments will be provided. For additional information, call Bobigene Pack at (404) 513-5683.

The next city **Tire Buy-Back Event** will be on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Sumter County Civic Center, 700 W. Liberty St., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the event, Sumter city and county residents can receive \$2 for each tire brought in for recycling. The event is open to residents only – no businesses. Limit 20 car tires per vehicle. No tires with rims. A valid SC ID will be required. For more information, call (803) 305-5266 or visit www.sumtersc.gov/litter.

SOLUTION TO THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

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RATCOBNEWAWADEAT
TENOWELORANMTNOS
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YLTERTERTS
NINIGAREFACIO
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SVIRISNKEISASIS
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SRLIGNREALPEI
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MESADRIVANNANT
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78 Wharf rodent
79 Justice Dept. org.
80 Fort __, IN
81 Corn discard
82 Goopy patching stuff
83 Fiscal frugality personified
86 Independence personified
88 Directional suffix
89 Ending for secret
90 Go for, at auction
93 One of the Little Women
94 Bring about
96 Woodworking slots
97 Belly muscles
99 Addison's literary partner
101 Region prone to heavy winter storms
103 Place where pups are pampered
107 Victimhood personified
109 Protection personified
111 Tests for college srs.
112 __ Del Fuego
113 "Golden" prefix
114 Cologne coin
115 Turner of cable history
116 Be finished before
117 Wall support beam
118 Bank loan's security

DOWN
1 Teddy Roosevelt's successor
2 Mysterious glow
3 __ Brith (Zionism advocate)
4 Scholarship allowance
5 Contribute
6 Mandela's former org.
7 Pressed for time
8 Discourages
9 Sink outlet
10 Dame Diana of Game of Thrones
11 Pouch for roasting turkey
12 Part of MPH
13 Comparably sized
14 Exerting influence on
15 Manual reader
16 Lot vehicles
19 Put off

WEATHER

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AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

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TODAY

Humid; a stray p.m. t-storm

89°

Chance of rain: 55%

SSW 4-8 mph

TONIGHT

Humid with a thunderstorm

73°

Chance of rain: 55%

SSW 4-8 mph

SUNDAY

A t-storm around in the p.m.

92° / 72°

Chance of rain: 55%

WSW 4-8 mph

MONDAY

A t-storm around in the p.m.

95° / 73°

Chance of rain: 55%

N 4-8 mph

TUESDAY

A few morning showers

89° / 66°

Chance of rain: 60%

ENE 7-14 mph

WEDNESDAY

An afternoon t-storm or two

91° / 63°

Chance of rain: 70%

NE 6-12 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

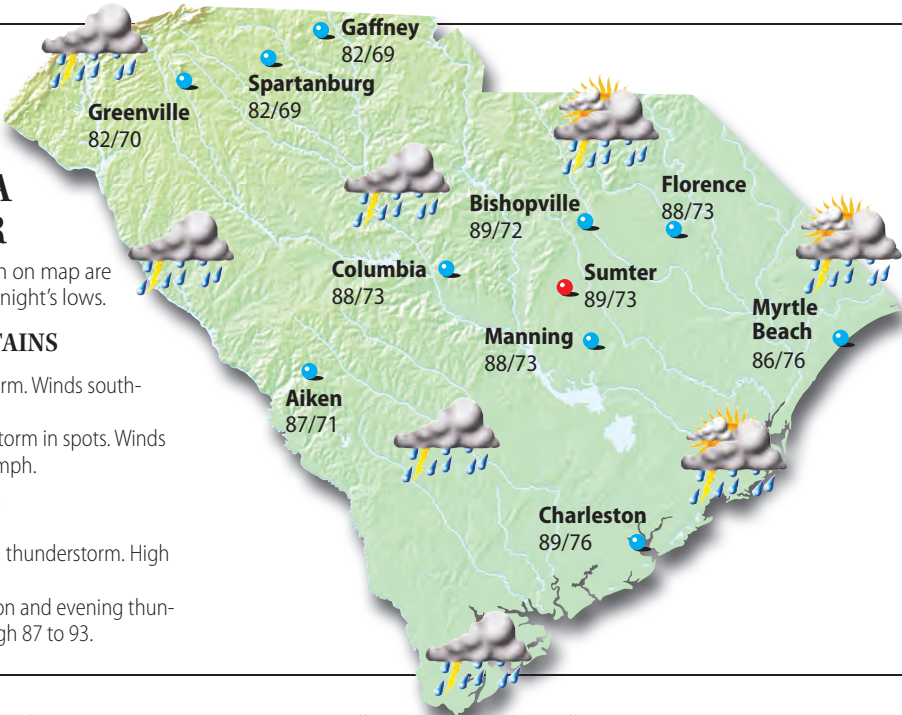
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: A thunderstorm. Winds south-southwest 4-8 mph.
Sunday: A thunderstorm in spots. Winds west-southwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: An afternoon thunderstorm. High 86 to 91.
Sunday: An afternoon and evening thunderstorm in spots. High 87 to 93.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THURSDAY	
Temperature	
High	93°
Low	71°
Normal high	85°
Normal low	65°
Record high	95° in 1983
Record low	45° in 1956

Precipitation	trace
Thursday	
Month to date	0.44"
Normal month to date	1.36"
Year to date	21.68"
Last year to date	25.29"
Normal year to date	35.18"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	356.13	-0.03
Marion	76.8	73.52	-0.05
Moultrie	75.5	73.47	-0.03
Wateree	100	96.92	-0.13

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	1.85	-0.03
Congaree River	19	2.69	+0.03
Lynchies River	14	1.38	-0.05
Saluda River	14	1.97	+0.33
Up. Santee River	80	N.A.	N.A.
Wateree River	24	4.49	none

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:03 a.m.	Sunset	7:33 p.m.
Moonrise	8:32 a.m.	Moonset	8:13 p.m.
First	Full	Last	New
Sep. 18	Sept. 26	Oct. 3	Oct. 10

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	10:43 a.m.	3.5	5:05 a.m.	0.1
	10:53 p.m.	3.4	5:29 p.m.	0.1
Sun.	11:28 a.m.	3.5	5:45 a.m.	0.2
	11:34 p.m.	3.2	6:15 p.m.	0.3

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	83/73/t	90/72/t
Chicago	85/63/pc	76/61/sh
Dallas	103/81/s	100/80/s
Detroit	81/65/pc	81/52/t
Houston	95/77/t	92/77/t
Los Angeles	86/69/pc	84/69/s
New Orleans	87/76/t	90/77/t
New York	78/70/pc	81/67/r
Orlando	92/75/t	93/76/t
Philadelphia	82/74/pc	86/70/r
Phoenix	103/86/t	104/86/t
San Francisco	71/59/pc	73/57/pc
Wash., DC	82/73/t	86/71/t

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	76/67/t	82/64/t	Florence	88/73/t	91/71/t
Athens	83/69/t	92/69/t	Gainesville	90/73/t	92/73/t
Augusta	88/71/t	91/70/t	Gastonia	83/70/t	88/68/t
Beaufort	91/76/t	93/74/t	Goldsboro	91/75/t	88/73/t
Cape Hatteras	85/77/t	84/76/t	Goose Creek	89/75/t	88/74/t
Charleston	89/76/t	90/74/t	Greensboro	81/70/t	88/68/t
Charlotte	86/71/t	90/71/t	Greenville	82/70/t	89/67/t
Clemson	82/69/t	88/69/t	Hickory	80/70/t	86/67/t
Columbia	88/73/t	91/72/t	Hilton Head	87/77/t	87/76/t
Darlington	89/72/t	91/72/t	Jacksonville, FL	91/74/t	91/74/t
Elizabeth City	87/74/t	88/71/t	La Grange	85/70/t	90/68/t
Elizabethtown	90/73/t	89/73/t	Macon	87/71/t	91/69/t
Fayetteville	88/74/t	87/72/t	Marietta	86/71/t	88/71/t

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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1 Bar bills
5 Compensated
9 __ line to (write)
14 French apostle
17 Reunion attendee
18 Diarist __ Frank
19 Takes the wheel
20 Phoenix neighbor
21 Cowardice personified
23 Enthusiasm personified
25 Taiwan's capital
26 Straighten out
28 Lazy folks
29 Long, long time
30 Of cities
31 No chooser, proverbially
33 Pot's partner
35 Opinion piece
36 Small amount
37 Tennis star Swiatek
38 Aloofness personified
41 Jurisprudence personified
45 "Just __ expected!"
46 African viper
47 Yarn purchase
50 Churchill title
51 ICU tubes
52 Pre-planned sporting maneuver
54 Part of MIT
55 "Plus, ..."
56 Little cut
57 Beethoven's Third
58 Ink stain
59 Continue to be
60 Oliver Twist antagonist
61 Partying personified
65 Started
68 Take a crack at
69 Pop singer Tori
70 Enter carefully
74 "Unto us __ is given"
75 WY clock setting
76 Algerian city
77 LA suburb

DOWN
20 Spanish wine
22 "Gloria in excelsis __" (carol line)
24 More nervous
27 Org. with judges
32 Guy's voice in Up
33 Tough question
34 O'Connor's Court successor
35 See at a distance
36 Knockout
38 Sleuth's gig
39 Vulture's cousin
40 Father of 66-Down
41 Ignited
42 Jar top
43 Roman 57
44 NFL game broadcaster
47 Inane
48 Cabinet handle
49 Major river's mouth
53 One living near the Leaning Tower
55 Greek Mars
56 Final word
58 Simpsons son
59 Make up (for)
60 On fire, on a menu
62 What theater producers love to read
63 IRS guy, for instance
64 Career criminal
65 Fence's sharp point
66 Old Testament twin
67 Was struck from a story
71 Insect sci.
72 Major olive oil producer

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88 89 90 91 92 93
94 95 96 97 98
99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106
107 108 109 110
111 112 113 114
115 116 117 118

73 Soft ball brand
75 Ran into
76 Wine barrel wood
77 Bus. sch. major
79 Alaskan national park
80 Royal Rumble org.
84 Welcomes
85 Didn't have to do
86 Came up short
87 Ne'er-do-well
90 Slavic coffee cake
91 Fluorine compound suffix
92 Greek stuffed grape leaves

95 Al __ (pasta option)
96 Disapprove of
97 Garden pest
98 Nectar collector
99 USMC noncom
100 Get worn out
102 Cut back on
104 Feng __ architecture
105 French father
106 Soon, in verse
108 Tonic partner
110 Capote nickname



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO
Scott's Branch senior Nyren Bowman (6), seen against Manning on Aug. 28, caught six passes for 97 yards and a touchdown, while leading the team with 15 tackles in their win over Hannah-Pamplico last week.

Scott's Branch star Bowman shines on both sides of ball en route to Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

After two tough county matchups to open the season, the Scott's Branch football team was looking to get back on track when they traveled to Hannah-Pamplico on Friday. Back facing SCHSL 1A competition, the Eagles soared to a blowout 53-13 victory. In the middle of it all was senior linebacker and utility athlete Nyren Bowman, who powered the defensive ef-

fort with 15 total tackles while racking up 97 yards and a score on offense, earning Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week honors in the process.

"It feels good," Bowman said of the recognition. "I saw all the people voting for me on Facebook and everything. It's my first time winning one, so it feels good."

Scott's Branch head coach Pat Fleming is a former linebacker, so he knows what it takes to thrive at the position.

That's why he shifted Bowman inside from outside linebacker, so his senior leader could be the heart of the defense. So far, the move is paying off.

"He's really starting to own the inside linebacker position as far as the leadership role, getting everybody lined up and attacking the line of scrimmage. Any time you have 10 solo tackles, you're all over the field," Fleming said.

SEE AOTW, PAGE B6

Manning volleyball runs winning streak to 4 with pair of wins over Scott's Branch

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Manning head volleyball coach Sonia Daniels has been in charge of the Lady Monarchs since the school brought the sport back in 2020. Since then, Manning has been slowly building, and she thinks this is the year they'll be ready to put the pieces together amid a 5-2-2 start.

"My senior class is actually first class I coached as a JV team when they were all seventh-graders. This is by far the best team that I've seen," Daniels said. "They are more competitive, and I'm excited."

Since the start of September, Manning is 4-0. They took home a pair of wins against Kingstree last week and followed that with a pair of victories against Scott's Branch. On Tuesday, the Lady Monarchs took the win in four sets. They opened with an 25-18 win and ran away with the second set 25-14 before the Lady Eagles rebounded for a 25-19 win in the third. After that, Manning put the hammer down with a 25-12 win to seal their victory.

The Lady Monarchs kept the good times rolling on Thursday with a clean sweep, getting to play on their home court as the playing surface at Scott's Branch undergoes renovations. After a back-and-forth start to the first set, Ameerah Conyers smacked a kill and an ace to get the ball rolling. Manning got kills from Briana Gamble and Makayla Fordham as they took control for good. Alexis Pressley finished off the 25-17 victory with another kill.

Scott's Branch then got out to a strong start in the second set, as Makaylyn China got a kill to take a quick 3-1 lead. But Manning responded, jumping out to a 9-6 lead on an ace from Conyers before an excellent rally, which saw a dramatic save in front of the Manning bench, extended the lead to 11-6. Manning put the set away behind a strong run



PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM
The Manning volleyball team celebrates their win over Scott's Branch on Thursday.

of service from Gamble, sealing a 25-12 win.

The third set was all Manning early. Conyers got hot in the attack game with three kills as the Lady Monarchs jumped out to a 9-0 lead. As their lead extended to 19-7, Manning mixed in more reserves. That opened the door for a dramatic Scott's Branch comeback. Jenesis Ford had a strong serving run, collecting a trio of aces as a tentative comeback became real, trimming the Manning lead to 23-21 with an ace. After trading points on errant hits, Azariyah Taylor got another ace for Scott's Branch to cut the gap to one, but an attack error gave Manning their final point and a 25-23 win to seal the victory.

The heart and soul of the Manning team this fall is their massive senior group. They have 10 in total, led by captains Gamble and Danielle Palmer. While not all of them see the court consistently with the sheer volume of seniors, all of them have important

SEE COUNTY, PAGE B5

Wilson Hall XC wins meet at Trinity Collegiate

STAFF REPORT

The Wilson Hall and East Clarendon cross country teams traveled to Trinity Collegiate on Wednesday. The Barons dominated the meet, comfortably winning both the boys and girls team titles while claiming the top finish in each race.

The Wilson Hall boys finished with a team score of 23, winning by 43 points as a team. Aiden Bradford took home the individual title in 18:35.58, besting Trinity's Jake Warren, who finished with a time of 18:39.22. Wil Alexander finished third for Wilson Hall in 19:19.59. Cooper Melton and Bennett Blalock finished fifth and sixth for the Barons with times of 19:52.17 and 20:35.74. Wilson Hall also claimed finishes 8-13 and ultimately had 12 of the top 16 finishes.

East Clarendon's top male runner was Jett Robinson, who finished 14th in 23:05.52. Wells Epps finished 26th in 26:04.48. Brayden Spring and Misael Molina finished back to back in 30th and 31st, while Luke Kelly finished 36th.

The Lady Barons finished with 21 team points, beating second-place St. Anthony by 40 points. They had 11 of the top 13 finishes, led by Cecilia Ayres, who won in 23:16.52. Jubilee Lei of Trinity finished second in 23:17.13. Elisa Getz and Mary Mattison Gamble finished third and fourth for Wilson Hall with times of 23:25.49 and 23:36.63. Sutton Shook led a group of eight consecutive Lady Barons to cross the finish line with a sixth-place finish in 24:39.17.

The Lady Wolverines were led by Mattie Kelly, who finished 14th in 27:32.77. EC had four consecutive finishes, starting with Maddie Kirby in 25th with a time of 39:01.87. She was followed by Amelia Brancato, Jayla Frink and Carrie Elvis.



Caleah Dash of Scott's Branch goes up for a kill on Thursday.



Manning's Briana Gamble serves on Thursday against Scott's Branch.

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Cisse, Packers open regular season against Murray, Vikings

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Former Lakewood and South Carolina standout defensive back Brandon Cisse will make his regular season debut on Sunday when the Green Bay Packers head over to Minnesota for a classic NFL rivalry. The second-round pick has "shown a ton of progress" in the eyes of his head coach, Matt LaFleur, as he prepares for his first true NFL action.

Meanwhile, the opposing sideline has its own chance for new beginnings. Kyler Murray became a superstar athlete as a kid growing up in Texas, won the Heisman Trophy with Oklahoma, was the first overall pick by Arizona in the NFL draft in 2019, and made the Pro Bowl after his second and third seasons in the league.

Since then, with a floundering Cardinals team and two major lower-body injuries contributing to the slide, Murray's career has veered off course. He can't hide it: His first game as quarterback of the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday afternoon will be a



AP FILE PHOTO

Former Lakewood standout and current Green Bay Packers cornerback Brandon Cisse will make his NFL regular season debut on Sunday against the Minnesota Vikings.

big deal for him. "Out of how many years I've played football, this has got to be right up there for most anticipated. I can't tell you how ready I am and excited to be on the field again," said Murray, who was sidelined last October by a foot injury and cut by the Cardinals in March.

The storyline gets even better: The Vikings host the division rival Green Bay Packers,

and their new defensive coordinator is Jonathan Gannon, who was Murray's head coach in Arizona the last three years.

"He's in a really good offense with some elite players. Obviously I've got nothing but love and respect for 'K1,' Gannon said, using Murray's longtime nickname. "He's competitive. He's smart. He can make all the throws and beat you with his legs, so it's a big-time

challenge." The first-hand experience Gannon had with Murray ought to help the Packers, whose previous defensive coordinator Jeff Hafley, became head coach of the Miami Dolphins. "Obviously he's a playmaker. You know that," safety Xavier McKinney said. "He can extend plays with his feet, and we also know he can make the throws down the field as well."

After a severe regression last season while J.J. McCarthy struggled to stay healthy and in rhythm during his debut, Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell is more than eager to get his passing game back on track. Murray's frequent connections with star wide receiver Justin Jefferson during training camp provided some promise.

"What surprised me is his arm talent and him being able to come out here and lead the guys every single day in practice and being vocal and being more of a leader than I've seen," Jefferson said. "It's really cool seeing him step up into a role that we really needed him to be in."

NEED TO KNOW
Green Bay (9-8-1) at Minnesota (9-8)
When/where to watch: Sunday, 4:25 p.m. EDT, CBS
Latest odds: Vikings by 1½
Last meeting: Vikings beat Packers 16-3 on Jan. 4, 2026, in Minneapolis
Series record: Packers lead 67-61-3.

MATCHUP TO WATCH
Green Bay's running game vs. Minnesota's defensive front. The Packers will play without three-time Pro Bowl running back Josh Jacobs, who's on hiatus while a case of alleged domestic violence moves through the court system and the league discipline process.
Everyone else on the roster is unproven, with Marshawn Lloyd atop the depth chart for now. The Vikings have a young defensive line led by Jalen Redmond, after dumping veterans Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave in favor of Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins and Levi Drake Rodriguez. The interior trio has just 20 career starts combined, with Redmond accounting for 17.

49ers rout Rams 27-7 in NFL's first Australia game

BY GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — The San Francisco 49ers enjoyed every moment of their weeklong Australian adventure. They gradually adjusted their body clocks, enjoyed Melbourne's sights and tastes — and then they dominated a division rival in the NFL's first regular-season game Down Under.

The Los Angeles Rams only boomeranged in 28 hours before kickoff, and they flew back out with their Super Bowl aspirations in disarray after getting thrashed in a historic season opener.

Mike Evans, Demarcus Robinson and Deebo Samuel caught touchdown passes from Brock Purdy, and the Niners routed the Rams 27-7 Friday.

Purdy passed for 205 yards against the Rams' ineffective defense at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in front of 100,021 fans, the seventh-largest regular season crowd in NFL history. Australia's sporting capital reveled in its first real taste of American football — and in a dominant win by the 49ers, who had already won many Aussies' affection by traveling to Melbourne a week earlier than the Rams.

"It was definitely worth it to come a little bit early," said Evans, who caught six passes in a strong 49ers debut. "We definitely got acclimated. ... All the guys attacked it. We didn't complain. We actually enjoyed being here in Melbourne."

A party atmosphere prevailed even with a Friday morning kickoff necessary for U.S. television. The fans got an

other memorable chapter in this NFC West rivalry as the 49ers surprisingly blasted the touted Rams with superior play on both sides of the ball.

San Francisco coach Kyle Shanahan said the historic, hulking arena "felt gladiator-ish. ... It felt like home once we got here. I'm glad the guys played like it, too."

Kyren Williams scored the NFL's first Australian touchdown on a 5-yard rush to begin the second quarter, but the 49ers took control from there, scoring the final 24 points.

While Purdy's offense managed enough big plays to win, the San Francisco defense frustrated NFL MVP Matthew Stafford into a 15-of-25 performance for just 155 yards. The Niners defense now led by longtime Rams coordinator Raheem Morris held the NFL's

best offense last season to 290 yards and one score, even stopping Stafford on a fourth-down quarterback sneak from the San Francisco 1 in the third quarter.

"Probably only had two good drives, to be honest," Stafford said. "Not enough good stuff on offense. We didn't do the things that we're accustomed to doing. Too many times, we were on different pages. That starts with me."

While San Francisco's Fred Warner and Nick Bosa both had big moments in their first games back from lengthy injury absences, Myles Garrett was practically invisible in his Rams debut after missing much of training camp with aches, recording zero tackles. The reigning AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year finally acknowledged after the game that his knee injury has him at less than full health.

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KING'S ACA. 3 @ LEE ACADEMY 1

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MANNING 3 @ SB EAGLES 0

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LMA 'CATS 0 @ WILSON HALL 6

HARTSVILLE 4 @ SUMTER HIGH 2

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Bears, Panthers look to continue to progress under still-developing No. 1 overall draft picks

BY STEVE REED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — The Chicago Bears and Carolina Panthers meet Sunday in a clash of surprising 2025 division champions looking to build off last year's success behind still-developing former No. 1 picks at quarterback.

Caleb Williams threw for 3,942 yards and 27 touchdowns with seven interceptions last season while leading the Bears to an 11-6 record and the NFC North title. The Bears knocked off rival Green Bay in a memorable come-from-behind wild card win, featuring some big plays by Williams, for their first playoff win since 2010.

The Panthers snapped a seven-year playoff drought by winning the NFC South — albeit with a losing record — behind Bryce Young. He showed steady improvement by throwing for more than 3,000 yards with 23 touchdowns and 11 INTs, and he led some come-from-behind wins.

Both teams were eliminated from the playoffs by the Los Angeles Rams.

The Panthers and Bears now hope they're headed in the right direction after years of disappointment.

“From an offensive standpoint, we are in a great place and the challenge for us as a staff is to make sure that we continue to stay there,” said Panthers coach Dave Canales, who is handling over play-calling duties to offensive coordinator Brad Idzik this season. “We’ve certainly tasked Bryce as he continues to grow with his leadership. We’re like, ‘Hey Bryce, you can remind these guys while you’re out there (on the field), because we’re not going to be out there with you.’”

The Panthers made a trade with the Bears in 2023 to move up eight spots to No. 1 and land Young, a move that would eventually facilitate Chicago's selection of Williams.

Carolina sent two first-round picks, two second-round picks and wide receiver D.J. Moore to Chicago. The Panthers then stumbled to the league's worst record in 2023, allowing the Bears to get the No. 1 pick and take Williams.

Because they won their divisions last season, both teams will play first-place schedules in



AP FILE PHOTO

Carolina quarterback Bryce Young and the Panthers host the Chicago Bears to open the season on Sunday.

2026.

Still, expectations remain high.

“Expectations, I think they start internally for us,” Williams said. “We don’t worry about the external expectations or what people think or our schedule and all these different things. We worry about what’s inside the building and what we have going on and focusing on that. ”

NEED TO KNOW

Chicago (12-7 last season) at Carolina (8-10).

When/where to watch: Sunday, 1 p.m. EDT, Fox.

Latest odds: Bears by 3.

Last meeting: Bears beat Panthers 36-10 on Oct. 6, 2024 in Chicago.

Series record: Bears lead 9-3.

MATCHUP TO WATCH

Bears TE Colston Loveland vs, Panthers LB Devin Lloyd. Carolina struggled defending tight ends last season, allowing a combined 1,109 yards and seven TDs against them. It's one of the reasons the Panthers signed Lloyd, an unrestricted free agent coming off a breakout season with Jacksonville. Lloyd should be tested by Loveland, who finished his rookie season in impressive fashion with 28 receptions for 378 yards in his final four games, including a 137-yard performance in Chicago's 31-27 come-from-behind playoff win against Green Bay.

Falcons enter season opener with more QB health questions against McCarthy’s Steelers

BY WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Mike McCarthy headed home to Pittsburgh.

Kevin Stefanski headed south to Atlanta.

Both have been tasked with helping their respective franchises take the next step, though at wildly different speeds.

The 62-year-old McCarthy, who grew up only a mile or two from the Steelers' training facility, replaced Mike Tomlin as head coach in January, well aware of the lofty expectations that come with a job only three other men have had since 1969.

“That lays on me every single day,” McCarthy said ahead of Sunday's opener against Atlanta.

Time to see how heavy for a team that, as always, expects to win now.

Outside of replacing most of the coaching staff, Pittsburgh made mostly subtle tweaks after winning the AFC North last winter. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is back for a 22nd — and he stressed final — season. The offensive line is shuffled a bit, but the defense returns nearly everyone from a unit that, while aging in places, remains effective when healthy.

McCarthy's grace period will be short. He knows the “hometown boy made good” narrative only goes so far if victories don't follow, and follow quickly. He's quietly bullish on a team that is nearing a decade since its previous playoff victory.

The drive to Acrisure Stadium will surely be special. One of the goals for McCarthy and everyone else on the Pittsburgh sideline is to not let the newness of everything become too much.

“Biggest challenge for Week 1 is clearly playing within yourself, especially for new staff, new players,” he said. “We spent a tremendous amount of time and energy of detailing how we want to play schematically, most importantly fundamentally and I think the biggest challenge in Week 1 is sticking to your fun-



AP FILE PHOTO

Atlanta quarterback Tua Tagovailoa suffered an oblique injury during practice on Thursday ahead of the Falcons’ regular season opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday.

damentals.”

The stakes are a little different for the 44-year-old Stefanski, who is starting over with the Falcons after the most successful stint by a coach in Cleveland since the franchise rejoined the league in 1999. While finding a way to return to the playoffs in an underwhelming NFC South would be nice, Stefanski's first order of business is setting the foundation for a team that hasn't reached the postseason in nearly a decade.

Not that Stefanski is in any mood to get ahead of himself.

“The excitement of a new season with the reality that you have 17 weeks to go,” he said. “It’s not my quote, but I’ve heard this quote: that it is not a marathon, it’s 17 sprints.”

The Falcons could start that sprint with Tua Tagovailoa at quarterback. However, Tagovailoa left practice Thursday with an oblique injury.

“I don’t think for myself and what I believe I don’t have anything to prove to anyone outside,” Tagovailoa said earlier in the week. “It’s to prove to my own self that I can continue to play at a high level.”

The biggest question for the Steelers is the status of cornerback Joey Porter Jr. The 26-year-old is entering the final season of his rookie deal and wants a new contract. The two sides don’t appear to be particularly close, and Porter has been noncommittal on whether he’ll take the field if he

doesn’t sign one before the season starts.

Porter’s teammates, including defensive tackle Cam Heyward and defensive back Jalen Ramsey, want him to get paid. Regardless of whether Porter's in the lineup or not, the expectation will be for the start of the McCarthy era to pick up right where Tomlin's left off, and then some.

NEED TO KNOW

Atlanta (8-9) at Pittsburgh (10-8)

When/where to watch: Sunday, 1 p.m. EDT, Fox

Latest odds: Steelers by 3 1/2.

Last meeting: Steelers beat Falcons 18-10 in Atlanta on Sept. 8, 2024.

Series record: Steelers lead 16-2-1.

MATCHUP TO WATCH

Tagovailoa against Pittsburgh's pass rush. The 2020 first-round pick is attempting to resurrect his career in Atlanta after six eventful if erratic seasons in Miami. Tagovailoa left practice Thursday with an oblique injury. His health is always a concern, and if he’s cleared to play his first start with the Falcons comes against a star-laden defense led by superstar T.J. Watt. Tagovailoa wouldn't lack for playmakers with Drake London and Kyle Pitts around. The key would be how often he can get rid of the ball quickly and how well he can protect himself when he can't.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15									16					
17									18					
19					20			21			22			
23				24					25					
26			27					28	29				30	31
	33					34	35				36			
37									38					
39								40						
41				42						43				44
				45				46	47	48			49	
50	51	52					53					54		
55						56			57		58			
59									60					
61									62					

- Across**

1 Some park visitors

8 Book keepers

15 Concierge's handout

16 Tragic character in the title of a 2025 Taylor Swift chart-topper

17 Act sassy

18 Item under a weizen glass

19 Lowood attendee of literature

20 Brand with a paw in its logo

22 Celtic

23 Animated bouncer

24 Celebrity chef Cat

25 Jet setting

26 Building worker

28 Bipedal cryptid

30 Entree often garnished with lime

33 Hall of Fame wrestler who was a commentator for the first eight Wrestlemanias

37 Western wear with a clasp

38 California city where "American Graffiti" was set

39 Freebie with an airline snack box

41 Collections of letters: Abbr.

42 Itsy

43 Con's decoy

45 Students who may take 14-Down

46 Hose problem

49 Menu eponym

50 Look a lot like

53 Ground substance

54 Nibble away

55 Song heard at Rogers Centre

57 Leave

59 Lego line that includes a 587-piece Eevee set

60 Soda alternative

61 Traps under a blanket?

62 Least chill
- Down**

1 Hoopsters

2 "Need anything?"

3 Comic book city nicknamed "The Big Apricot"

4 Show impatience

5 Shaggy outback runner

6 Secant, for one

7 Valkyrie's weapon

8 Capers

9 Dr. Zaius, for one

10 Conventioneer's first stop

11 Washington who played a Pope

12 Red Halloween costume for toddlers

13 Rosario relations

14 Pre-coll. exams

21 Rudolph of "Loot"

24 Motion-activated trail monitors

25 Counter position

27 Lovers' deity

29 Supermodel born Melissa Miller

30 Tacky square

31 Passport holders, perhaps

32 "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)" vocalist

34 Miller offerings

35 Spanish city or province

36 Brother of Cain

37 Company with a museum in Munich

40 "The Pitt" star

44 Cottage cheese option

45 Tendon

47 1984 "Weird Al" Yankovic hit

48 ___ + Olivia: clothing brand

50 Unruly dos

51 Billboard ___ Award

52 Chum of "Finding Nemo," for one

53 Grammy winner Aimee

54 Pre-coll. exams

56 "Heck yeah!"

58 Chaps

JUMBLE

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

AALSS

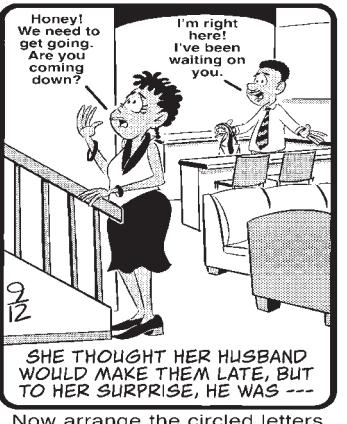
DCEYA

LYLEGA

OERDBR

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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.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: MUSTY NIFTY SWAYED DECENT
Answer: They were able to set up at the campground after paying an — "ADMIT-TENTS" FEE

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

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

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

Jumbles: SALSA DECAF GALLEY BORDER
Answer: She thought her husband would make them late, but to her surprise, he was — READY ALREADY

AREA ROUNDUP

Lady Gamecocks take down East Clarendon in final tuneup before region

STAFF REPORT

The Sumter High volleyball team traveled to East Clarendon on Tuesday as both teams played their final game before diving into region play next week. The Lady Gamecocks took home the win in four sets.

East Clarendon took the first set 25-23, setting the table for a dramatic night on the court. SHS bounced back with a 26-24 victory before running away with the third set 25-13. The Lady Wolverines wouldn't go down without a fight, however, as Sumter High needed five extra points to take home the 30-28 victory.

Mia Amore had a big night for the Lady Gamecocks, recording 12 kills to go with four aces, 19 receptions, two assists, 15 digs and two blocks. Zila Berry was all over the court with 35 assists. Ashleigh Jones added eight kills and four digs, while Laila Stanton added seven kills, three blocks, four digs and an assist. Remy Shauf had four aces, seven digs and nine receptions. Lillie Ivey had nine kills, five receptions and a dig, while McLean Reynolds had nine receptions and seven digs.

Lindsey Robinson led EC with eight kills, three aces and two blocks. Reagan Nesbitt added six kills and two blocks. Aubree Frye had four kills, 11 digs, two aces and three assists. Sophie Brown added 16 assists, four kills and two aces. Payton Hanniford led East Clarendon with five blocks to go with two kills and four aces.

Sumter High opens region play against Blythewood at home on Tuesday, while East Clarendon travels to Manning.

WILSON HALL SWEEPS SPARTANBURG

The Wilson Hall volleyball team improved to 13-1 on the season with a sweep of Spartanburg Christian on Tuesday.

Wilson Hall opened the night with a 25-19 win before cruising to a 25-9 win in the second. They completed the sweep with a 25-19 victory in the third.

McKinley Bath led the Barons with seven kills and 19 digs, while Mary Todd Champion added six kills. Tatiana Erichsen dished out 11 assists, while Natalie Hawkey passed out eight. Anna Meldrim added 10 digs.

LMA GOES 1-1

The Laurence Manning volleyball team hit the road twice this week, traveling to Orangeburg Prep on Tuesday before heading to Calhoun Academy on Thursday, going 1-1.

LMA opened their week with a tough five-set loss to Orangeburg Prep. After taking the first set 25-21, Laurence Manning fell 25-22 in the second. They bounced back with a hard-fought 28-26 win in the third but lost the fourth 27-25 before OP finished their victory with a 15-8 win.

Caroline Barkley led the team with 11 kills, adding an ace and 17 digs. Gracie Lyles added 10 kills and 17 digs. Emily Frierson had 25 digs. Kiera Stukavec added four kills and five blocks. Cydney Cassell dished out 46 assists, while Anna Prescott added 23.

The Lady Swampcats bounced back with a sweep of Calhoun, winning the first set 25-14, the second 25-19 and the third 25-17. Irelynn Connors had five aces and five kills in the win, while Barkley added five kills. Cassell dished out 33 assists, while Prescott added 12.

CHS GOES 1-1

The Crestwood volleyball team faced Lake City on Tuesday before a matchup with

Hartsville on Thursday, going 1-1.

CHS beat Lake City 3-0. They won the first set 25-16 before holding on for a 25-21 win in the second. They finished the sweep with a 25-20 victory.

Savannah Lindsay had 10 aces, six kills and six digs to lead the team offensively. Arianna Crawford had nine aces and a kill, while Taylor Johnson added five aces. Lauren Temoney led the team with eight kills to go with three aces and three solo blocks. Tyliah Murphy had a team-high 13 digs.

The Lady Knights then fell to Hartsville 25-10, 25-17, 25-17 on Thursday. Temoney had four kills, three block assists and six digs. Lindsay added two aces. Johnson had 10 digs. Emma Papp added four kills and five digs.

TSA SPLITS

The Thomas Sumter volleyball team traveled to Calhoun Academy on Tuesday before hosting Trinity Collegiate on Thursday, splitting the matchups.

TSA beat Calhoun 3-1. They opened with wins of 25-15 and 25-17 before Calhoun pushed to extend the match with a 26-24 win. Thomas Sumter finished the win with a 25-19 victory in the fourth set.

Natalie Saphore had five aces, five kills and 12 assists for the Lady Generals. Avery Herod added five aces, seven kills, seven digs and an assist. Aleigha Nelson had three aces, 28 digs, two kills and an assist. Allison Truett added two aces, three kills and a dig. Sophie Lee had three digs and eight assists. Alexis Connell added six kills and a block, while Lola Worthen had four kills and a block.

TSA then had a hard-fought battle with Trinity on Thursday, falling in five sets. Trinity won the opening set 25-19 before the Lady Generals dominated the second 25-9. Trinity pulled out a 25-23 win in the third before TSA returned the favor with a 26-24 win. Trinity finished strong with a 15-10 win to take the match.

Saphore had four aces, 13 digs, eight kills and 10 assists for TSA. Herod added nine kills, nine digs, a dig and a block. Annabelle Connell had two aces, four kills, four blocks and three digs. Lilly Huling had 19 digs. Alexis Connell added seven kills, an assist and a dig.

TENNIS

BARONS TAKE DOWN LMA

The Wilson Hall girls tennis team hosted Laurence Manning on Wednesday, claiming their first region victory of the year 6-0, improving to 4-1 overall.

Claudia Rhodus beat Sarah Margaret Ferriell 6-0, 6-0, while Harper Burke beat Sophia Timmons by the same score. Land Stevens beat Abigail Tanner 6-0, 6-0, and Cameron Kohl defeated Mary Madelyn Way by the same score. Grace McArthur also won 6-0, 6-0 over Lucy McLaren, while Carson Giddens defeated Camdyn Geddings 6-1, 6-0.

On the JV side, Addison Hines defeated Olivia Way 8-4. Marit Deakin beat Kendall Tanner 8-2. Laurence Manning's Ellie Grace Welch beat Winnie Caughman 8-3. Wilson Hall's Mina Hunt beat Cici Hurley 8-0, and Valentina Sores beat Riley Jordan 7-7, 7-1. LMA's Ella Ferrell defeated Lyla Caughman 7-7, 14-12.

In doubles, Hines and Deakin beat Way and Tanner 7-7, 8-6, while Welch and Ferrell beat W. Caughman and Hunt 7-7, 8-6. Sores and Ellen McArthur beat Jordan and Hurley 8-4.

TSA GETS REGION WIN

The Thomas Sumter tennis



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

The Sumter High volleyball team celebrates during their win over East Clarendon on Tuesday.



East Clarendon's Sophie Brown goes up for a kill against Sumter High on Tuesday.

team improved to 1-0 in region play and 5-1 overall with a 6-3 win over Williamsburg Academy on Tuesday.

Emma Jackson won 6-0, 6-0 over Perry Wise, while Marlana Lee beat Sophia Jacobs by the same score. Amy Spivey defeated Delainey Hanna 6-3, 6-4. Sara Claire Reid fell 6-1, 6-3 to Elizabeth Schuta. Lollie Hawkins won a dramatic match over Paige Kellahan 4-6, 6-3, (10-6). Peyton Triplett fell to Blakeley Hundley 6-1, 6-2.

In doubles, Jackson and Lee won 8-2 over Wise and Jacobs. Spivey and Hawkins won 8-5 over Hanna and Schuta. Kellahan and Hundley won for WA 8-3 over Reid and Triplett.

The Lady Generals then faced Pee Dee Academy on Thursday, falling 5-4. Lee was their lone winner in singles, defeating Anna Powers 6-0, 6-0. TSA swept singles with Jackson and Lee winning 9-7, Spivey and Reid winning 8-4 and the pair of Hawkins and Triplett winning 9-7.

SHS FALLS TO HARTSVILLE

The Sumter High girls tennis team hosted Hartsville on Tuesday, falling 4-2.

The Lady Gamecocks got wins from Izzy Wright, who defeated Addison Smith 6-4, 6-2, and Savannah Johnson, who beat Charleigh Rouzee 7-5, 6-2. Merrit Jones suffered a tough loss at No. 1, falling 7-6 (7-4), 2-6, 0-1 (8-10) to McKenna Martin. Hannah Houston fell 0-6, 3-6 to Lindsey Waldrop, and Da'Vya Spann took a tough 7-5, 3-6, 0-1 (3-10) loss to Asa Orr. In doubles, Mariah Connor and Ellie Flynn fell to Kadija Russell and Jaelyn Weeks 6-7 (0-7), 2-6.

SHS will host East Clarendon on Monday.



Sumter's Gabby Russell serves on Tuesday.



East Clarendon's Joss Robinson passes the ball against Sumter High.



Sumter High's Mia Amore (10) rises up for a kill against East Clarendon on Tuesday.



Manning's Ameerah Conyers goes up for a kill against Scott's Branch on Thursday.

Manning's Makayla Fordham (7) and Emerald Jones of Scott's Branch (11) meet at the net on Thursday.



Ariana Brantley of Scott's Branch serves against Manning.



Manning's Aaliyah McFadden sets on Thursday.

COUNTY

FROM PAGE B1

roles on the team.

“Briana Gamble is an awesome server and she serves underhand, but she spot serves. She’s probably one of my best servers,” Daniels said. “Danielle Palmer plays the front row really, really well. I don’t think she knows her potential. Kelis Pressley is on my front row – I’ll tell anyone I have an awesome front row. My other front row is a junior, Makayla Fordham. Der’eona Lang, this is her first year playing, and she has excelled for having never played volleyball before. She brings a lot of energy to the team. My bench has a lot of energy, and she’s the head of that. Ashleigh Smith doesn’t play much, but she’s very humble and she does what I ask her to do when I ask her to do it. She just wants to be a part of the team. Kaniya Burgess keeps the team hyped up. Ashlynn Glover is a back row player. Jada Lee has been with me since she was a seventh-grader, and Madilyn Martin has been under me for several years. Ariel Holtsmith is also a senior, and this is her second year on the team.”

Alongside that massive senior class, Conyers continues to be a presence at the net. She finished the week with nine aces, six kills and four

digs. Daniels can see Conyers’ raw talent, and she’s excited for the day that the sophomore puts all of the pieces together.

“She is not as confident as she should be. She’s a very humble kid, and she doesn’t know when she misses a kill that she missed a kill; she’s just a sophomore,” Daniels said. “The very day that it clicks, I’m scared. But I hope it clicks before she leaves here.”

Across the week, Gamble had six aces for Manning, while Fordham led the team with six aces and nine kills. Palmer added five aces and two kills, while Pressley chipped in with an ace and five kills.

This 4-0 stretch has been important for Manning as they head into region play, which starts with a home match against another county foe, East Clarendon, on Tuesday before a trip to Lake City. As they turn to region action, Daniels is hunting consistency above all else.

“They don’t understand that if they are excellent, they need to be excellent all of the time. They have to bring it every day,” she said. “My theory for this year is that you might get us the first time, but you won’t get us the second time. You might get us the first time, but we will readjust and you won’t get us the second time.”



Manning's Danielle Palmer (12) passes against Scott's Branch on Thursday.

Kid's Corner



Craft FACT:

This is an especially old skill, dating back more than 25,000 years. It is even older than weaving.

Answer: Sewing

Crossword Puzzle

1			2		3		4
5							
6							
7							

- ACROSS**
1. Sewing tools
5. Destroy
6. Once more
7. Materials
- DOWN**
1. Sewing string
2. Clothes for guys
3. Found on shoes
4. Securing fabric together

Answers:
Across
1. Thimbles 5. Ruin 6. Anew 7. Fabrics
Down
1. Thread 2. Menswear 3. Laces 4. Sewing

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEP 14

1814: Francis Scott Key writes, “Defence of Fort McHenry,” a poem that would later be used as the lyrics for “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

1917: The Russian Republic replaces the Russian Empire.

1975: Elizabeth Ann Seton is canonized.

NEW WORD

THIMBLE
small, hard cap that protects the finger while pushing a sewing needle

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piggly wiggly

4 Locations To Serve You Better
“Investing In Our Futures by Promoting Literacy For Our Kids”

Swinney on taking heat after loss to LSU: ‘You play like that, you deserve to be criticized’

BY STEVE REED
Associated Press

Dabo Swinney is taking heat following Clemson’s embarrassing 51-10 season-opening loss to No. 11 LSU on Saturday night — with some of the criticism coming directly from frustrated former Tigers players. Former defensive end Xavier Thomas posted on social media, “first time our preseason ranking has been right .. in a long time.” Former tight end Jordan Leggett said, “Softest Clemson O-line and D-Line play I have ever witnessed.” And former defensive tackle DJ Reader weighed in, writing, “Yeah as a alum this was sad to watch.” Clemson was outgained by LSU by nearly 500 yards and the game was never close, re-

sulting in the most lopsided loss in the Swinney era. Swinney said Tuesday he doesn’t pay much attention to the outside noise but acknowledged. “You play like that, you deserve to be criticized.” Clemson’s loss, coupled with a hugely disappointing 2025 campaign in which the Tigers began the season ranked No. 4 in the country only to finish seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference standings and 7-6 overall, has raised questions about Swinney’s long-term future. Swinney is in his 19th season as head coach and boasts a 187-54 record that includes two national championships and nine ACC titles. But the recent drop-off in the name, image and likeness and transfer portal era has been pro-

nounced, and some believe the end of Swinney’s tenure in Clemson may be near. ESPN analyst Paul Finebaum said if he were Clemson’s athletic director, he would fire Swinney, adding that “on the national stage, (Clemson’s) time is up.” Clemson reportedly would owe Swinney \$57 million if it were to terminate his contract. Swinney has been widely criticized for his reluctance to dive deeply into the transfer portal in a time when other top programs, like LSU, appear to be all in. LSU brought in 48 transfers this offseason, compared to Clemson’s 15. When asked directly if he has any regrets about how he approached the team’s roster building this offseason, Swinney said: “No I don’t. I regret



ASSOCIATED PRESS
Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney reacts after an LSU touchdown on Saturday, Sept. 5, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

being 0-1 right now. I regret that.” Swinney went on to criticize the reporter’s question, calling it premature. “Can you ask that at the end of the season?” Swinney said. “The season ain’t over. We’ve had one game and we have 11 more. What if we go 11-1? Promise me you will ask me that then (and) I will answer that. But I’m not answering questions like that.” The questions surrounding Swinney aren’t likely to go away unless the Tigers find a way to win games.

SEC presidents, chancellors meet without voting on LSU’s membership

BY BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

Southeastern Conference leaders met by video conference on Thursday without holding a vote on LSU’s membership. The SEC had threatened as part of a federal lawsuit against LSU to take such a vote earlier in the week, but decided against it after LSU finalized its football roster without including a pair of NFL signees who had been recruited back to college by first-year Tigers coach Lane Kiffin. Presidents and chancellors of SEC

member institutions discussed “recent matters involving conference expectations and responsibilities,” the SEC said in a statement Thursday evening. “Those discussions will continue as the conference and its member universities work toward an appropriate resolution.” The meeting was held a day after a scheduled federal court hearing was postponed by a judge in Birmingham, Alabama. The postponement came as LSU President Wade Rouse sent a one-page letter, obtained by The Associated Press, to SEC Commissioner Greg

Sankey stating that the league’s claims in its lawsuit against LSU are now moot because Kiffin had complied with a conference ban on rostering players who had previously signed with NFL teams. The rift between LSU and the power conference that it helped found in 1933 stemmed from Kiffin’s recruitment of tight end Dae’Quan Wright and defensive tackle Zxavian Harris, both of whom played for Kiffin at Mississippi last year before attempting to make NFL rosters this summer. Wright spent part of the past offseason with the Philadelphia Eagles and

Cleveland Browns. Harris spent part of the offseason with the New Orleans Saints. LSU has a host of powerhouse athletic programs and has won three of the SEC’s 25 AP national championships in football. But Sankey and leaders of other SEC schools were bothered not only by LSU’s recruitment of former pros, but also the related court drama that ensued — including a marathon hearing last week in which Sankey took the stand to insist the league has the right to enforce its own rules.

OBITUARIES

JESSE THOMAS GEDDINGS
Jesse Thomas Geddings, 86, widower of the late Betty Terry Geddings, died Monday, Sept. 7, 2026.
Funeral services will be announced by Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home & Crematory, 221 Broad St., Sumter, in charge of the arrangements (803) 775-9386. www.sumterfunerals.com



MARGARET GREEN LEE
Margaret Green Lee, age 101, beloved wife of the late Herbert Pressley Lee Jr., passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, at The Grove in Sumter, South Carolina. Born in Turbeville, S.C., she was the daughter of the late Robert Sidney Green and Ressie Coker Green. Margaret earned her bachelor’s degree and was a proud alumna of Winthrop University. She began her career as a social worker for the S.C. Department of Social Services and had a very long and fruitful career until her retirement. A strong woman of faith, Margaret was a faithful member of Manning United Methodist Church, where she was very involved with her Sunday school class. In her free time, Margaret loved her family, cooking, gardening and sewing. She was an excellent cook and was especially known for her cookies. Her true joy in life came from spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her kind spirit and devotion to her family.

Surviving to cherish her memory are two sons, Herbert P. “Joe” Lee III and wife, Jessie, and Sidney Michael “Mike” Lee and wife, Margie, all of Sumter; one sister, Eleanor Green Smith of Turbeville; four grandchildren, Margaret Anne Lee-Horton and husband, Brock, Caroline Lee Barnette and husband, Will, Herbert Russell Lee and Margaret Lee Holder and husband, Kyle; and 10 great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband

and parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Harold Wayne Lee, a brother, Ryan Sidney Green, and wife, Becky; three sisters, Mae Green Turbeville and husband, J.V., Doris Green Powell and husband, J.W., and Miriam Green McFaddin and husband, Aubrey. The family received friends on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bullock Funeral Home. A funeral service was held on Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, at 2 p.m. in Bullock Funeral Home Chapel. The interment immediately followed the service in Manning Cemetery. You may go to www.bullockfuneralhome.com and sign the family’s guest book. The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



DONALD LAWRENCE MCELVEEN SR.
Donald Lawrence McElveen Sr., age 74, beloved husband of 55 years to Julia “Judy” Knotts McElveen, passed away peacefully on Monday, Sept. 7, 2026, at his home in Sumter, South Carolina, surrounded by his family. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, at 3 p.m. in Bullock Funeral Home Chapel, with the Rev. Charles Hall officiating. You may go to www.bullockfuneralhome.com and sign the family’s guest book. The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



WILLIE OREE SINGLETON SR.
Willie Oree Singleton Sr., 82, widower of Jeanette Evans Singleton and son of the late Hazel Singleton Jr. and Bertha Mae Wilkes Singleton, was born on Dec. 1, 1943, in Sumter. He departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026, at his residence. Public viewing will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary Inc.



SINGLETON

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at St. Mark United Methodist Church, 1093 Oswego Hwy., Sumter, with the Rev. Darlene Dellinger, pastor and officiating. Interment will follow in St. Mark United Methodist Church Cemetery, Sumter. Job’s Mortuary Inc., 312 S. Main St., is in charge of arrangements. Online memorials may be sent to the family at jobsmortuaryinc@gmail.com, or visit us on the web at www.jobsmortuary.net.

LARRY DURANT JR.
Larry “Buster” Durant Jr., was born on Oct. 16, 1948, in Sumter, South Carolina, to the late Larry Durant Sr. and Freddie Mae Scarborough Durant. On Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026, Larry transitioned from this earthly life. He was educated in the Lee County public schools and graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School with the Class of 1966. His precious memories will be cherished by his wife, Mary Lizzie McGill Durant, his family, other relatives and friends.

Wake services were held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, in the John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter. Celebration of Life Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026, at Mt. Pleasant AME Church, 1800 Vista Lane, Lynchburg, with the Rev. Eric Ramsey, pastor. Interment will follow in the churchyard cemetery. The family is receiving relatives and friends from 2 to 7 p.m. at the home, 633 CC Road, Lynchburg. Services directed by the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter. Online messages may be sent to the family at www.williamsfuneralhomeinc.com. Visit us on the web at www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com.

DR. BARNEY LEVY WILLIAMS JR.
Dr. Barney Levy Williams Jr., 89, husband of Mary Catharine Shaw Williams, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026, at his home. Born in Sumter, South Carolina, he was the son of the late Bernie Levy Williams and Christine Kolb Williams. Dr. Williams graduated from Edmunds High School, and after three years at Clemson University was accepted and graduated from the Medical

University of South Carolina. He served an internship at Philadelphia General Hospital from June 1962-1963. Upon completion of his internship, Barney entered the United States Air Force where he served as a general medical officer at Hunter Air Force Base in Savannah, Georgia. He was honorably discharged in July 1965 with the rank of captain. Dr. Williams served a residency in OB-GYN at the Medical University of South Carolina from 1965-1969. Upon completion of his residency, he entered private practice in association with Dr. Jimmy Snyder and Dr. Jimmy Bell. The practice would become Sumter OB-GYN where he practiced for many years. Dr. Williams also practiced at Tandem Health. Dr. Williams was chief of staff at Tuomey Hospital from 1975-1976 and was the first physician elected to the Board of Trustees. He was chairman of the Tuomey Building Committee when the new Tuomey Hospital was constructed. He also served on the Sumter-Clarendon County Medical Association as a past president, as a former member of the Sumter-Clarendon Board of Health, as vice chairman of the Wateree District Advisory Board of Health, a member of the South Carolina Medical Association, a fellow in the American College of OB-GYN, a member of the South Central OB-GYN Society, a past president of the SC OB-GYN Society and past president of the Tegos Society. He was also a member of the Board of Visitors of the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Williams was a member of First Presbyterian Church where he actively served as a deacon, elder, trustee and as a Stephen Minister. He served on the Regional Board of Directors at First Federal of Sumter, on the Board of the Sumter Family YMCA, on the Board of Directors at Sunset Country Club, and was a former Rotarian.

Dr. Williams is survived by his wife; children, Barney Whitworth Williams, Scott McCrea Williams (Katherine) and Catharine Williams Frerichs (Brian); eight grandchildren, Barney Whitworth Williams Jr., Austin Law Williams, the late Elizabeth Rose Williams, Mary Parish Williams, Campbell Liles Williams, Anne McCrea Williams, Wilson Basse Frerichs and Jennings Williams Frerichs; and one great-grandchild, Lukas Law Williams. He is also sur-

vived by his sister Christine Williams Hammond. He was preceded in death by his sister Patsy Williams Foster. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Dr. Stewart Rawson officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. Burial will follow in Sumter Cemetery. Grandsons will serve as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be members of Mt. Vernon Coffee Club. Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church 9 W. Calhoun St. Sumter, SC 29150, or to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Online condolences may be expressed at www.sumterfunerals.com. Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of the arrangements, 221 Broad St., Sumter, South Carolina, (803) 775-9386.



WOODROW FORD JR.
Woodrow Ford Jr., 89, husband of Rose White Ford and son of the late Woodrow Ford Sr. and Genevena Pearson Ford, was born on Nov. 6, 1936, in Sumter. He departed this life on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026, at his residence. Public viewing will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary Inc. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026, at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, with Dr. Ralph W. Cauty Sr., officiating and eulogist. Interment will follow in Hillside Memorial Park, Sumter. Family will be receiving friends at the home, 21 Van Buren St., Sumter, daily from 3 to 6 p.m. Job’s Mortuary Inc., 312 S. Main St., is in charge of arrangements. Online memorials may be sent to the family at jobsmortuaryinc@gmail.com or the web at www.jobsmortuary.net.



FORD

LEGAL NOTICES

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application
Notice is hereby given that Shaninath LLC dba: RW Sumter intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and OFF premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 3290 Broad St, Sumter SC 29150. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than September 29th, 2026. 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
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
C/A #: 2026-CP-43-0102

NOTICE OF ORDER APPOINTING
GUARDIAN AD
LITEM NISI AND ATTORNEY

TRUSTMARK BANK F/K/A
TRUSTMARK NATIONAL BANK,
Plaintiff,

Vs.

Courtney G. Shaw, Donnie Scarborough, Mary Swinton Shaw, Megan Dyer-Bolden, Marcus Dyer AND Mandarin Dyer, AS HEIRS AT LAW OF EUGENE SHAW, DECEASED, AND ANY OTHER HEIRS - A T - L A W O R DISTRIBUTUTES OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR SPOUSES, IF ANY THEY HAVE, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WITH ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN AND TO THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN; ALSO ANY UNKNOWN ADULTS AND THOSE PERSONS WHO MAY BE IN THE MILITARY SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALL OF THEM BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS JOHN DOE; AND ANY UNKNOWN MINOR OR PERSONS UNDER A DISABILITY BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS RICHARD ROE; Citizens Bank, N.A.; Regional Finance Corporation ; and Stonecroft Homeowners' Association, Defendants.

TO: THE DEFENDANTS HEREIN, NAMES AND ADDRESSES UNKNOWN, INCLUDING ANY THEREOF WHO MAY BE MINORS, IMPRISONED PERSONS, INCOMPETENT PERSONS, UNDER OTHER LEGAL DISABILITY OR IN THE MILITARY SERVICE, IF ANY, WHETHER RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO THE NATURAL, GENERAL, TESTAMENTARY GUARDIAN OR COMMITTEE, OR OTHERWISE, AND TO THE PERSON WITH WHOM THEY MAY RESIDE, IF ANY THERE BE:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Motion for an order appointing Kelley Woody, Esquire, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi, for all persons whomsoever herein collectively designated as Richard Roe or John Doe, defendants herein, names and addresses unknown, including any thereof who may be minors, imprisoned persons, incompetent persons, or under other legal disability, and as Attorney for said parties who may be in the military service, whether residents or non-residents of South Carolina, was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County.

YOU WILL FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that unless the said minors or persons under other legal disability, if any, or someone in their behalf or in behalf of any of them, shall within thirty (30) days after service of notice of this order upon them by publication, exclusive of the day of such service, procure to be appointed for them, or either of them, a Guardian ad Litem to represent them for the purposes of this action, the appointment of said Guardian ad Litem Nisi and Attorney shall be made absolute.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED AND TO THE DEFENDANT MEGAN DYER-BOLDEN:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint upon the subscribers, at their office, 3200 Devine Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29205 or Post Office Box 11682, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint in the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled action was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on June 22, 2026.

LIS PENDENS
TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action will be commenced in this Court upon the Complaint of the above-named Plaintiff against the above-named Defendants for the foreclosure of that certain Mortgage of Real Estate given by Eugene Shaw, now deceased, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems,

Summons & Notice

Inc. as nominee for Trustmark National Bank, its successors and assigns, dated September 23, 2019, and recorded on September 24, 2019, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina in Book 1260 at Page 650 (the "Mortgage").

By Mortgage Assignment (the "Assignment"), Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Trustmark National Bank assigned the Mortgage to the Plaintiff, and the Assignment was recorded June 9, 2026, in Book 1355 at Page 2432 in the office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina.

At the time of the filing of this notice, the premises affected by the said action were situated in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, and are described as follows:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with the improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot No. 154 of Stonecroft II Subdivision Section No. 3 on that certain plat prepared by Cox and Dinkins, Inc., dated July 2, 2008 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 2008, Page 245. This said lot has such metes, boundaries, courses and distances as are shown on said plat, which are incorporated herein in accordance with the provisions of Section 30-5-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976. This being the same property known as 961 Rockdale Boulevard, Sumter, SC. Represented by Sumter County Tax Parcel No. 182-09-02-016.

This being the same property conveyed to Eugene Shaw by deed of Anthony Seckel and Devin Seckel dated September 23, 2019 and recorded September 24, 2019 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina in Book 1260 at Page 646.

TMS#: 182-09-02-016

For a complete description of the property encumbered by the Mortgage, the undersigned craves reference to the Mortgage, the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference.

By: s/Benjamin E. Grimsley
Benjamin E. Grimsley,
SC Bar No. 70335
Ryan J. Patane,
SC Bar No. 103116
SMITH|ROBINSON
P.O. Box 11682
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(803) 233-4999
ben.grimsley@smithrobinsonlaw.com
ryan.patane@smithrobinsonlaw.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTERNewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, PLAINTIFF, VS.Steven Conklin, et. al. DEFENDANT(S).IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEASCASE NO. 2025-CP-43-01856SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING OF COMPLAINT251136.00243/TO THE DEFENDANT STEVEN CONKLIN ABOVE NAMED:YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action, copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve copy of your answer upon the undersigned at their offices, 1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 407, Columbia, SC 29204 or P.O. Box 2065, Columbia, SC 29202, within thirty (30) days after service hereof upon you, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that should you fail to Answer the foregoing Summons, the Plaintiff will move for a general Order of Reference of this cause to the Master in Equity for Sumter County, which Order shall, pursuant to Rule 53(e) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically provide that the said Master in Equity is authorized and empowered to enter a final judgment in this cause.TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND/OR MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem to represent said minor(s) 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 the Plaintiff(s) herein.NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled action was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on October 22, 2025. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLP*By: /s/Angelia J. Grant Ronald C. Scott (Ron.Scott@mccalla.com), SC Bar #4996Reginald P. Corley (Reggie.Corley@mccalla.com), SC Bar #69453Angelia J. Grant (Angi.Grant@mccalla.com), SC Bar #78334Allison E. Heffernan (Allison.Heffernan@mccalla.com), SC Bar #68530H. Guyton Murrell (Guyton.Murrell@mccalla.com), SC Bar #64134Jordan D. Beumer (Jordan.Beumer@mccalla.com), SC Bar #104074ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 407Columbia, SC 29204803-252-3340*Effective July 1, 2026, Scott & Corley, P.A. is now known as McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT
OF COMMON PLEAS
CIVIL CASE NO.:2026-CP-43-01351
COUNTY OF SUMTER
SUMMONS
(NON-JURY)

LOIS DURANT,
Plaintiff,
vs.

CORETTA SINGLETON, HARRY SINGLETON, DAVID SINGLETON, JERRY GREGORY SINGLETON, TERRY GREEN, BERNICE WILLIAMS, DORA SINGLETON ROLLINS, ESTELLA GREEN, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, SAMMIE WILLIAMS, DEBBIE PEARSON, DOBIE DICKERSON, AUDREY WALKER, WILLIAMS, CHARLIE HARRELL BRITTANY

Summons & Notice

HARRELL, QUINTIN HARRELL, SHANEQUA HARRELL, TABITHA ANDERSON, LOU DELLA MENDOZA, MARY LEE RIVERS KAREN SINGLETON AND RUTH SINGLETON JOHN DOE, AND MARY ROE, being fictitious names used to designate the unknown heirs at law distributees, devisees, legatees, widow, widowers, successors and assigns, if any, of WILLIAM ASHMORE SINGLETON (deceased) and the following deceased individuals: FANNIE MARIE SINGLETON, WALTER SINGLETON, ARTHUR SINGLETON, CAESAR SINGLETON, ROSANA SINGLETON, WILLIE SINGLETON, ABY SINGLETON, VERNELL SINGLETON- HICKS, ELLA MORANT, WILLIAM HICKS, DAN HICKS and HARRY HICKS, JR., DAVID SINGLETON, PAUL SINGLETON, JAMES WEBB, DAVID SINGLETON, JR.DORA JONES SINGLETON, ROBERT JONES,SR., WALTER JONES, ROBERT JONES, JR MARY YATES, MAGGIE MAE JONES, ELOUISE SINGLETON WILLIAMS, ROSA LEE DANTZLER, ARTIE WILLIAMS, WILHELMENA WILLIAMS HARRELL, SAMMIE SINGLETON, EUNICE SINGLETON, DAVID SINGLETON, WARREN SINGLETON, BLANCHE SINGLETON, CHARLES SINGLETON and all other persons unknown claiming by, through or under them or having or claiming any interest in the real estate described in Complaint, whether infants, incompetents, insane persons under any other disability, Defendants.

TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE-NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscribers at their office at the address below, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service.
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE FURTHER that if you fail to appear and defend and fail to answer the Complaint as required by this summons within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE NISI
TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE-NAMED:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Plaintiff has applied to the Court for appointment of a suitable person as Guardian ad Litem for all unknown and known Defendants who may be incompetent, under age, or under any other disability, and said appointment shall become final unless such Defendants, or anyone in their behalf, within thirty (30) days of the service of this Notice, shall procure to be appointed a Guardian ad Litem for them.

LIS PENDENS
(NON-JURY)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action captioned above has been commenced and is now pending in the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, upon the Complaint of the above-named Plaintiff against the Defendants for the purpose of, among other things, clearing a confirming and quieting the title to the properties.

The real properties which constitute the subject of this action may be properly described as follows:

ALL those certain pieces, parcels, lots or tracts of land, situate, lying and being in the Concord Township, Sumter County, State of South Carolina, and being shown and designated as Tract 1 29.20 Acres, more or less, being a portion of the TMS# 295-00-03-001 in Plat Book 4A at page 94 and Tract 2 measuring 2.18 Acres, more or less, being a portion of the TMS# 295-00-03-001 in Plat Book 4A at Page 94 as shown on a plat entitled "Plat of 2 Tracts Located Southeast of the City of Sumter in the Concord Township, Sumter County, South Carolina Being a Resurvey of That Property Shown on a Map Recorded in Plat Book 4A at Page 94. Surveyed for Heirs of William Singleton, dated August 25,2020 and recorded December 29, 2021, in Plat Book 2021 at Pages 288, by Nesbitt Surveying Co.Inc., Johnathan W. Nesbitt, PLS No.24770. TMS No.: 296-00-03-001

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM

TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE-NAMED:
UPON READING AND FILING the Petition herein, it is ORDERED, that ATTORNEY KELVIN HUGER, 27 Gamecock Avenue, Suite 200, Charleston, SC 29407 is a suitable person, is hereby designated as Guardian ad Litem for all unknown Defendants who may be incompetent, underage, or under any other disability. It is FURTHER ORDERED, that unless those Defendants who are incompetent, underage, or under any other disability shall, in person or through someone in their behalf, within thirty (30) days after the final publication of this Order, procure to be appointed some other suitable person as Guardian ad Litem in the place and stead of Attorney Kelvin Huger, Esquire this appointment shall be final. It is FURTHER ORDERED, that service of this Order shall be made on the Defendants who may be incompetent, underage, or under any other disability, by publishing a Notice giving the name and address of the Guardian ad Litem, the date when the appointment become absolute, and the office in which this Order if filed, in The Sumter Item a newspaper published in the County of Sumter South Carolina, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

Attorney Kelvin Huger phone Number 843-573-0143.

NOTICE OF FILING (NON-JURY)
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Summons & Complaint, Lis Pendens and Petition & Order for Appointment of Guardian-Ad-Litem, in the above action were filed with the Clerk of Court for Sumter County Court of Common Peas on August 5, 2026 and August 6, 2026; the purpose

of this action is to establish Plaintiff's interest in and to the real properties described in the Complaint, and to set aside or allot to any party Defendant therein his or her distributive share in kind in and to the same by way of partition and division as between the Plaintiff and any such persons, or in the alternative to grant to the Plaintiff the right of purchase of any such outstanding interest, if any, if found proper and in the manner provided by law for an amount or purchase price as may be prescribed by the Court.

Respectfully Submitted,
s/Thad J. Doughty
Thad J. Doughty
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
6650 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406
Tel.: (843) 576-1400
Fax.: (843) 576-5401
July 25, 2026
N. Charleston, SC

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SUMTER

IN THE COURT OF
COMMON PLEAS
CASE NO. 2026-CP-43-00288

SUMMONS AND NOTICE
OF FILING OF COMPLAINT

Broker Solutions, Inc.
d/b/a New American Funding,
PLAINTIFF,

Vs.

Jennifer W. Smith a/k/a Jennifer Smith; Martha G. Smith a/k/a Martha E. Smith a/k/a Martha Gant Smith; Eric G. Smith a/k/a Eric Smith; Stillwater Homeowners Assn. of Sumter, Inc.; Marcus A. Sims; and Rivertown Credit a/k/a Rivertown Credit LLC, DEFENDANT(S). (261164.00017)

TO THE DEFENDANT MARCUS A. SIMS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action, copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve copy of your answer upon the undersigned at their offices, 1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 407, Columbia, SC 29204 or P.O. Box 2065, Columbia, SC 29202, within thirty (30) days after service hereof upon you, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that should you fail to Answer the foregoing Summons, the Plaintiff will move for a general Order of Reference of this cause to the Master in Equity for Sumter County, which Order shall, pursuant to Rule 53(e) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically provide that the said Master in Equity is authorized and empowered to enter a final judgment in this cause.
TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND/OR MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:
YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem to represent said minor(s) within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment

Summons & Notice

will be made by the Plaintiff(s) herein.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled action was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on February 24, 2026.

McCalla Raymer
Leibert Pierce, LLP

By: /s/Angelia J. Grant
Ronald C. Scott
(rons@scottandcorley.com),
SC Bar #4996
Reginald P. Corley
(reggiec@scottandcorley.com),
SC Bar #69453
Angelia J. Grant
(angig@scottandcorley.com),
SC Bar #78334
Allison E. Heffernan
(allisonh@scottandcorley.com),
SC Bar #68530
H. Guyton Murrell
(guytonm@scottandcorley.com),
SC Bar #64134
Jordan D. Beumer
(jordanb@scottandcorley.com),
SC Bar #104074
ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF
1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 407
Columbia, SC 29204
803-252-3340

*Effective July 1, 2026, Scott & Corley, P.A. is now known as McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP

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Auctions

Notice of Public Sale
Storage Rentals
of America

In accordance with the South Carolina Self-Service Storage Facilities Act, Storage Rentals of America will be conducting a public auction to satisfy the Owner's lien for the following units. Property contained within the unit(s) will be sold to the highest bidder via an online auction at www.storageareas.com. Online bidding will begin on September 14th 2026 at 10 AM and will end on September 24th 2026 at 10 AM, at which time a high bidder will be determined. Storage Rentals of America reserves the right to set minimum bids and to refuse bids. Please refer to www.storageareas.com for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process.

1339 Garner Ln, Columbia, SC 29210
0101-Totes, Vanity, Kitchen Table, Boxes, Luggage
1025 Rauch Metz Rd, Irmo, SC 29063

D0030-Tammy Carollo-Bucket, Suitcases, Window Cover, Amps, Folding Chair. Cleaning Supplies, Globe, Dishes, Security Box

Auctions

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, PS Retail Sales, LLC will sell at public lien sale on September 23, 2026, the personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 10:00 AM and continue until all units are sold.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25924, 1143 N Guignard Dr, Sumter, SC 29150, (803) 282-9623

Time: 10:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

119 - Portee, Candace; 219 - Robinson, Randy; 328 - Hill, Melody; 428 - Williams, Tojhane; 429 - Antrell, Tony; 449 - Graham, Donald; 513 - Fleming, Kimberly; 543 - Hargrove, Kenneth; 642 - Lipscomb, Shaquania

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08604, 1277 Camden Hwy, Sumter, SC 29153, (803) 218-9507

Time: 10:20 AM
Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

A007 - Fordham, Patrick; A020 - Milliner, Carolyn; A027 - Joe, Ke'era; A053 - Williams, Christy; B010 - Miles, Darnaisa; B026 - Davis, LaShay Farmer; B032 - Wright, Sean; B037 - harvin, floyd; B083 - Evans, Linda; C022 - pendergrass, Jerry; E042 - Patterson, Forlona; F019 - Keitt, Gregory; F028 - Prescott, Octavia; G005 - plowden, Zykia; H005 - Porter, Tyrek; I012 - Bryant, Dina

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25925, 3785 Broad St, Sumter, SC 29154, (803) 282-9826

Time: 10:40 AM
Sale to be held at www.storageareas.com.

0111 - kinsey, Tammy; 0120 - Ricks, Jessica; 0206 - Hale, Joshua; 0324 - Wilson, Passion; 0527 - Davis, Dawuan Cary; 0726 - Abraham, Carol; 0753 - williams, Kahleel; 0801 - Patton, Clint

Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Retail Sales, LLC, 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080.



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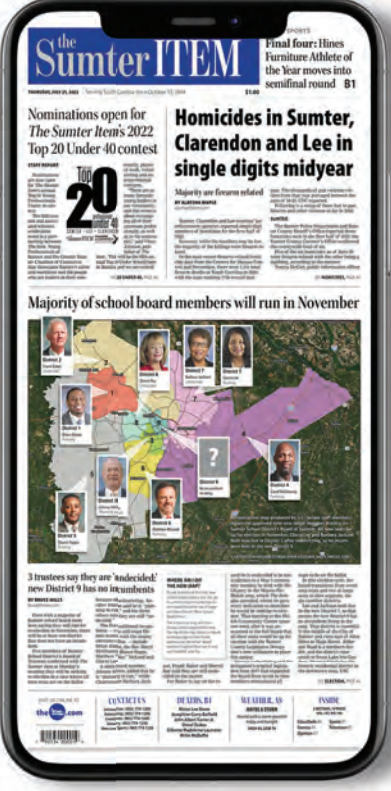
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CHRIS LEE

VP of Sales



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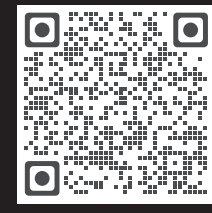


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6 'Star Trek' boldly goes into a rebooted version

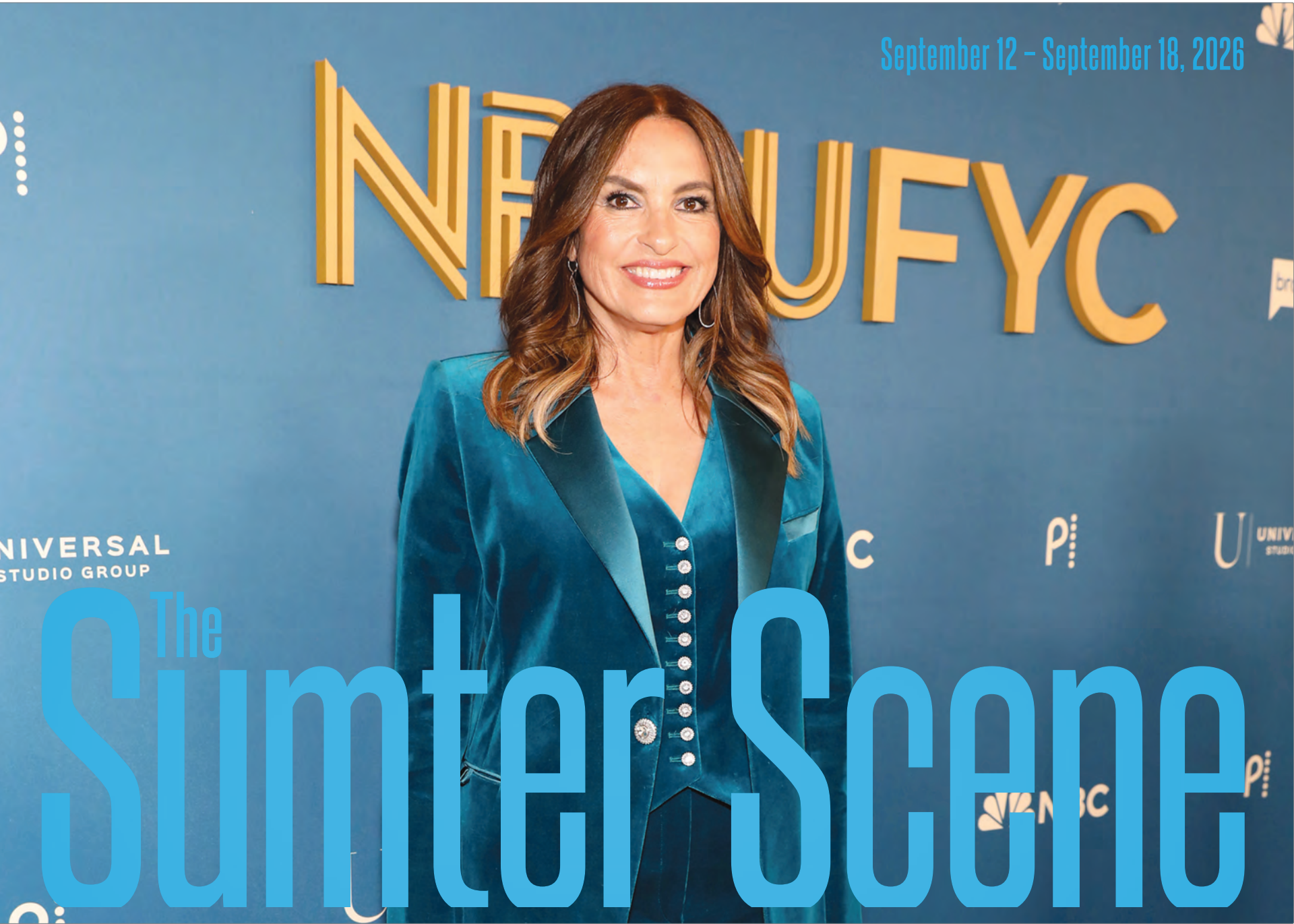


7 Reaching for justice: Spinoff 'Neagley' investigates a suspicious death



7 'The Traitors: New Blood' opens competition to civilian contestants

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



Best in Shows: 78th Primetime Emmy Awards honors outstanding TV

BY DANA SIMPSON

Given the degree to which the television industry has changed in the past 25 years, it's hard to believe that the TV, as a device, has only been readily available to the average consumer for less than 80 years in total. According to PBS.org, a "1949 edition of the Sears, Roebuck catalogue was the first to offer televisions"; and 1949, it just so happens, also marked the first ever Primetime Emmy Awards.

Although the ceremony was not nationally broadcast until NBC took up the honor in 1955, the Emmys has for the past 31 years, been on annual rotation between the four major networks: NBC, Fox, CBS and ABC. Additionally, viewership methods have evolved beyond broadcasting-only to include live and delayed streaming options. Nevertheless, the annual Primetime Emmy Awards has remained a shining example of "appointment television."

Tune in to the Primetime Emmy Awards — hosted by Law & Order franchise icon Mariska Hargitay and airing Monday, Sept. 14, on NBC and Peacock — to celebrate 78 years of excellence in prime-time television, and arguably, 78 years of the household TV set.

In June 2026, the Nielsen.com Data Center released updated statistics for The Gauge, an online doughnut chart displaying recent trends in television content consumption. This

chart, which derives its data from "a subset of streaming meter-enabled TV households" and "linear TV sources" within the National TV panel, attributes 48.5% of all television viewership to streaming. With this in mind, it makes sense that many of this year's Emmy-nominated series are streaming originals.

"Hacks" on HBO Max, "Only Murders in the Building" on Hulu, "Nobody Wants This" on Netflix, and Apple TV series "Shrinking," "Margo's Got Money Troubles" and "Widow's Bay" are all running against ABC's "Abbott Elementary" and FX's "The Bear" for Outstanding Comedy Series, while HBO cable series "The Gilded Age" and "A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms" must try to topple their fellow Outstanding Drama Series nominees, including Netflix's "The Diplomat," Hulu's "Paradise," Apple TV's "Pluribus," "Slow Horses" and "Your Friends & Neighbors," and this year's Emmy top-nominee "The Pitt."

"The Pitt," an HBO Max original medical drama, stars Noah Wyle ("ER") as Dr. Michael "Robby" Robinavitch, an E.R. doctor at Pittsburgh Trauma Medical Center, also known as "the Pitt." Each episode takes place across one hour in real time as Dr. Robby and his team of co-workers and interns face all manner of medical issues, from the mundane to the severe and unusual. Nominated across 25 categories (nine of which are

"Major," according to public-access encyclopedic site Wikipedia), "The Pitt" has only one nomination more than "Hacks," which streams on the same service.

Having released its fifth and final season this past spring, "Hacks" closely follows fictional aging stand-up comedian Deborah Vance (Jean Smart, "24") as she and her 25-year-old comedy writer, Ava Daniels (Hannah Einbinder, "Strange Planet"), navigate their relationship with each other and with their shared true love: comedy.

"It's a love story," series co-creator Paul W. Downs ("Broad City") told Variety in a 2022 video interview. "It's about two women who are cast aside by society and really need each other. We wanted to create characters that were flawed and needed to do a lot of growing."

Audiences have certainly latched onto the love story; to date, "Hacks" has won a total of 12 Primetime Emmys across four seasons and has the possibility of winning 24 more for its final season alone, should it secure wins for each of its nominations. And while that is possible, it's highly unlikely due to the number of nominees and the relatively complex nature of the voting process, which can be found, in detail, using the Emmy Awards page on TelevisionAcademy.com.

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“Neagley” - Season 1 (Sept. 16)

When a suspicious accident claims the life of a beloved friend, Private Investigator Frances Neagley (Maria Sten) must use all she’s learned from Jack Reacher (Alan Ritchson) to uncover the truth. On a solitary, dangerous path, Neagley comes face-to-face with a menacing source of evil. Greyston Holt, Jasper Jones, Adeline Rudolph, Matthew Del Negro and Damon Herriman also star in this “Reacher” spin-off.



“City of Blood” - Season 1 (Sept. 16)

Based on “Berlinoir,” the graphic novel by Reinhard Kleist and Tobias O. Meibner, sisters Bea (Lea Drinda) and Phoebe (Soma Pysall) reunite in Berlin, where the city is ruled by vampires hungry for power. Now, they must decide who to fear more: monsters or men.

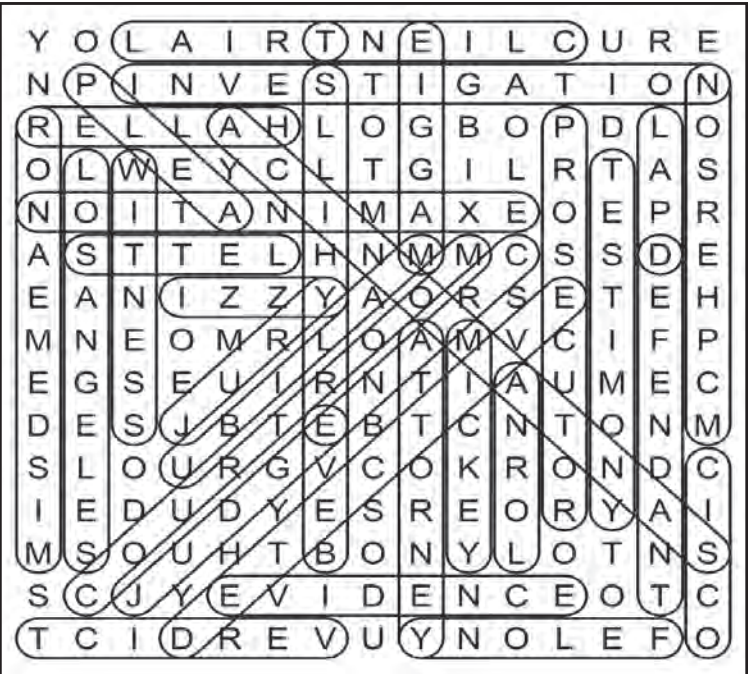
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NETFLIX



"Hot Ones: Extra Heat" - New Episode (Sept. 14)

Sean Evans sure knows how to take the heat — but how well can WWE rock stars handle a culinary punch to the gut? Premiering directly after a live airing of WWE RAW, this special episode sees the “Hot Ones” host joined by wrestling champions as they chow down on spicy chicken wings and answer even spicier questions.

Disney+



"Kraven the Hunter" (Sept. 13)

Villains aren’t born, they’re made. Aaron Taylor-Johnson stars as Kraven, a vigilante whose relationship with his ruthless gangster father, Nikolai Kravinoff (Russell Crowe), leads him down a path of vengeance. There, he becomes not only the greatest hunter in the world, but also one of its most feared.



Q&A: George Lazenby

BY JAY BOBBIN
Q: Is George Lazenby still around? Did he do anything after being James Bond?
A: It might surprise a lot of people to hear that nearly 60 years after (briefly) taking the reins of maybe the best-known film franchise of all time, George Lazenby (“Gettysburg,” 1993) is still acting. He played James Bond just once, in 1969’s “On Her Majesty’s Secret Service,” but it remains the thing he’s best known for. It was a landmark move at the time. In the late ‘60s, Bond was already iconic, but also synonymous with Sean Connery (“The Hunt for Red October,” 1990). You could say that Bond and Connery made each other famous, as neither one was particularly well known before Connery debuted in 1962’s “Dr. No.” Lazenby, meanwhile, was a cinematic unknown — he had done some modelling at that point, but that’s all. But, of course, being cast as Bond changed that. He’s since had a varied and successful acting career that does indeed continue to this day.

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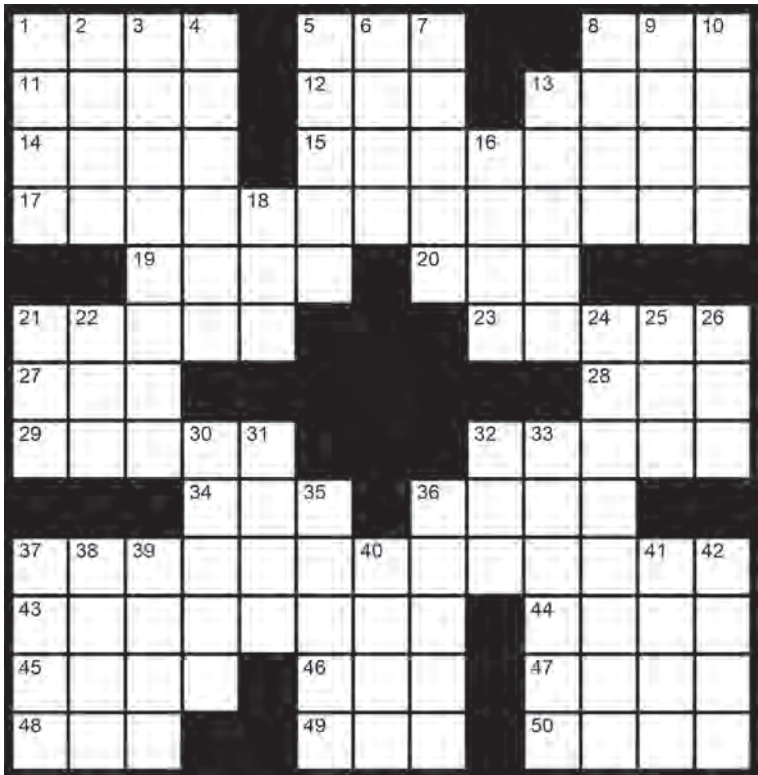
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5. " ____ Day" (1993 rap hit)

8. Broadway opening?

11. Shawkat of "Arrested Development"

12. Aquatic shocker

13. Cutting the mustard

14. Sea dogs

15. Iman Vellani miniseries

17. Kaitlin Olson drama

19. Petfood brand

20. "Vive le ____!"

21. Stage statuary

23. Settles

27. Sundial number

28. Sounds of hesitation

29. Wool producer

32. German flowers

34. Curve

36. College in New Rochelle

37. "Euphoria" actress

43. Coach in an Apple TV series

44. Inactive

45. Aveeno competitor

46. Spike TV, formerly

47. "Star Wars" princess

48. Thickness

49. Boom source

50. Strong cleaners
21. 1980s pop group ____ Tuesday

22. Heating alternative

24. "L.A. Law" costar

25. French beverage

26. Tax form ID

30. Virile

31. Side squared, for a square

32. Beluga yield

33. "Mourning Becomes Electra" playwright

35. Sacs

36. Words of refusal

37. Desist

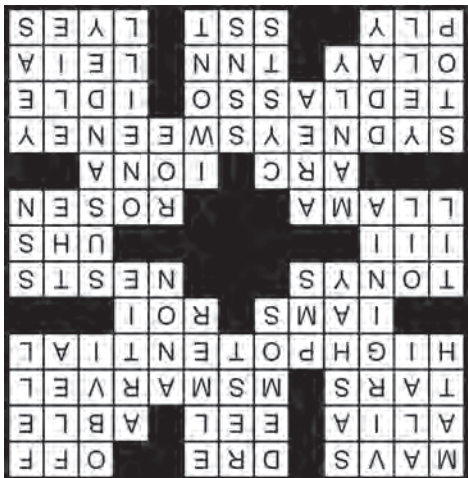
38. Cry

39. Time to act

40. Invoice figs.

41. Peace Nobelist Ducommun

42. Affirmative votes



Coming Soon



"Brothers" - Season 1 (Apple TV — Sept. 23, Series Premiere)

Starring Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson as fictionalized versions of themselves, this comedy series sees the old friends discovering their connec-tion might run far deeper than they previously realized. The truth turns Matthew and Woody's lives upside down, resulting in a chaotic story about friendship, family and finding your people.

Sudoku

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

To complete this puzzle, place the numbers 1-9 in the empty cells, so that every row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold outline) contains all nine digits.

Each number 1-9 may appear only once in each row, column and 3-by-3 box.

SOLUTION

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



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SUNDAY EVENING				SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV				MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		SEPTEMBER 13, 2026	
	SP	FTC	DTV	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
WIS	3	10	10	WIS News 10 at 6 (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Football Night in America (N) (Live)		(:15) NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at New York Giants The New York Giants host the Dallas Cowboys in Week 1 NFL action at MetLife Stadium. (N) (Live)						WIS News 10 at 11	
WKTC	4	22	63	Chicago P.D. "Fight"		Suits "Pecking Order"		Suits "Promises, Promises"		Suits "Revenue Per Square Foot"		Suits "Good Mudding"		Suits "Cats, Ballet, Harvey Specter"	
WOLO	5	12	25	ABC World News (N)	Queen City Country	America's Funniest Home Videos (N)		🌟🌟🌟 The Parent Trap ('98) Dennis Quaid, Natasha Richardson, Lindsay Lohan.						News (N)	Paid Prog.
WACH	6	6	57	(4:25) Football Philadelphia Eagles (N) (Live)	Washington Commanders at NewsNation Live (N) (Live)	NewsNation Live (N) (Live)	The OT (N) (Live)	The Floor "100 Champions Enter the Ring" (N)		American Dad! (N) (SF)		News (N) (Live)	Coaches Show	She's in the Game	The Big Bang Theory
NWSN	8	172	307					Confronting America: A Bill O'Reilly Special (N)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)	
WLTX	9	9	19	(4:25) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings (N) (Live)	Green Bay Packers at NCIS "Cabin Fever"	Packers at NCIS "Blast From the Past"	60 Minutes (N) (SP)	Big Brother "Episode 33" (N)		Best of VMAs: Iconic Performances (N)		Marshals "Out of the Shadows"		News 19 at 11pm	
WRJA	11	14		Doc Martin "Sons and Lovers"				Marlow "The Queen of Poisons: Part Two" (N)		Marble Hall Murders on Masterpiece (N)		Downton Abbey "A Journey to the Highlands" The family travels to Duneagle Castle; servants stay home.			
WZRB	13	18	47					NCIS "Status Update"		NCIS "Patience"		NCIS "No Good Deed"			
NICK	16	210	299	SpongeBob SquarePants	SpongeBob SquarePants	Friends	Friends	Friends "The One in Vegas"	Friends "The One in Vegas"	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
TOON	17	203	296	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Rick Morty	Rick Morty	President (N)
DISNEY	18	200	290	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	🌟🌟🌟 Toy Story 3 (10) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks.		(:50) Phineas and Ferb		(20) Locker Diaries	(25) Phineas and Ferb	Vampirina: Teenage	Place "The Last Spell"	Miraculous: Ladybug	The Dirtifiers"
FREFRM	20	131	311	(4:45) 🌟🌟🌟 Frozen II ('19) Kristen Bell.		(55) 🌟🌟🌟 Brave ('12) Voices of Billy Connolly, Emma Thompson, Kelly Macdonald.				🌟🌟🌟 Moana ('16) Voices of Dwayne Johnson, Rachel House, Auli'i Cravalho.				🌟 Raya & the Last Dragon	
FDSE	21	47	649	Outdoor Eats "Irvine, Calif."	T100 "Vancouver"	Fight NightKazimulo Zulu vs. Jake Hadley		United Fight Alliance UFA 492		United Fight Alliance		Fight Sports: In 60		Fight Sports: In 60	
NATGEO	22	113	276	To Catch a Smuggler "Stash House Take-down"		To Catch a Smuggler "Drug Boat Bust"		To Catch a Smuggler "Endangered and Smuggled"		To Catch a Smuggler "Hidden Compartments"		To Catch a Smuggler "Party Drugs"		To Catch a Smuggler "Dark Web and Liquid Drugs"	
TNT	23	158	245	(4:45) 🌟🌟🌟 The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King ('03) Ian McKellen, Liv Tyler, Elijah Wood.				High Value Target "Baghdad Burns" (N) (P)		High Value Target "Baghdad Burns" (N) (P)		High Value Target "Into the Red Zone" (N)		🌟🌟 The Matrix Resurrections ('21)	
TBS	24	156	247	(4:30) 🌟 Meg 2: Trench	(4:45) 🌟🌟🌟 Twister ('96) Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes, Helen Hunt. Storm-chasers (Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton) follow tornadoes in Oklahoma.			The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Office "The Search"	The Office "PDA"
USA	25	132	242	(3:00) NASCAR	Post-Race	Law-SVU "Criminal Stories"		Law & Order: SVU		Law-SVU "King of the Moon"		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
ESPN	26	35	206	(5:00) Wm. Volleyball		SportsCenter		Women's College Volleyball		UCLA at Utah (N) (Live)		ESPN Films		SportCtr (N) SportsC. (N)	
TRUTV	38	129	246	(4:45) 🌟🌟🌟 Space Jam	🌟🌟 Gridiron Gang ('06) Xzibit, Jade Yorker, Dwayne Johnson.					🌟🌟 Central Intelligence ('16) Kevin Hart, Amy Ryan, Dwayne Johnson.				(15) 🌟🌟🌟 Beetlejuice Beetlejuice ('24)	
SHOPHQ	30		73	(3:00) Channel No		Channel No Longer Available								Channel No	
TWC	32	24	362	Heaven "This Is Chaos"		Highway Thru Hell		Highway "No Thru Road"		Highway Thru Hell		Highway "Recover Stronger"		Backroad Truckers	
CNBC	35	84	355	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
FNC	37	90	360	Weekend (N) (Live)		Weekend (N) (Live)		Life, Liberty (N) (Live)		Sunday Night (N) (Live)		One Nation With (N) (Live)		Life, Liberty & Levin	
HGTV	39	112	229	Home Town "Surprises Lurking Beneath"		Home Town "City Siblings"		Botched Homes "Ruined Retreat"		Botched Homes "Too Many Cooks"		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters
FOOD	40	109	231	Halloween Baking "Flawed Anatomy"		Halloween Baking "It All Begins With Us"		Halloween Baking "Happy Haunting Grounds"		Halloween Wars (N) (P)				Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay
ANPL	41	100	282	Wardens "Overtime Pay"		Wardens "Operation Caviar"		Yellowstone Wardens		Wardens "Safety and Skills"		Yellowstone Wardens		Yellowstone Wardens	
DISCV	42	103	278	Naked and Afraid: Shipwrecked		Naked and Afraid: Shipwrecked		Naked and Afraid: Shipwrecked		In the Eye of the Storm "Father's Day Fury" (N)		In the Eye of the Storm "Father's Day Fury" (N)		In the Eye of the Storm "Tornado Torrent 2025"	
TLC	43	157	280	90 Day Fiancé (N)		90 Day Fiancé (N)		90 Day Fiancé (N)		Double Lives (N)		Double Lives (N)		1000-lb Sisters	
HIST	45	110	269	The UnBelievable With Dan Aykroyd "Strange Afflictions"		The UnBelievable With Dan Aykroyd "Unusual Pastimes"		UnBelievable "Extraordinary Journeys"		UnBelievable "Unconventional Weapons"		(05) UnBelievable "Outlandish Ideas"		(05) UnBelievable "Man vs. Nature"	
A&E	46	130	265	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	(05) Live PD	(35) Live PD
AMC	48	180	254	(3:45) 🌟🌟🌟 Wrath of Man	🌟🌟 The Beekeeper ('24) Emmy Raver-Lampman, Josh Hutcherson, Jason Statham.					The Walking Dead: Dead City		"Tenebrae" (N) (SF)		(10) The Walking Dead: Dead City "Tenebrae"	
TCM	49	186	256	🌟🌟🌟 Crossing Delancey ('88) Reizl Bozyk, Peter Riegert, Amy Irving.				🌟🌟🌟 Withnail and I ('87) Paul McGann, Richard Griffiths, Richard E. Grant.		🌟🌟🌟 The Women ('39) Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell, Norma Shearer.		(05) 🌟 Robin Roberts Presents: Angel in the Rubble: The Genelle Guzman Story ('26) Sherri Shepherd.			
LIFE	50	145	252	🌟 Yoga Teacher Killer: The Kaitlin Armstrong Story ('24) Kyle Schmid, Larissa Dias, Caitly Lotz.				🌟 The Real West ('24) Lucas Bryant, James Denton, Kimberley Sustad. Rebecca is a widow chasing tenure.		🌟🌟 Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny ('23) Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Antonio Banderas, Harrison Ford. Indiana Jones races against time to find a legendary artifact that can change the course of history.		🌟 A Harvest Wedding ('17) Victor Webster, Merren McMahon, Jill Wagner.			
HALL	52	183	312	(5:00) 🌟🌟🌟 Jungle Cruise ('21) Emily Blunt, Edgar Ramírez, Dwayne Johnson.				🌟🌟🌟 Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny ('23) Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Antonio Banderas, Harrison Ford. Indiana Jones races against time to find a legendary artifact that can change the course of history.		(10) Raymond ('45) Raymond ('20) Everybody Raymond ('55) Raymond Raymond				Seinfeld	Seinfeld
FX	54	154	248	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	(35) Raymond	The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes ('23) Rachel Zegler, Tom Blyth.		Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
TVLAND	55	161	304	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	(35) Raymond	The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes ('23) Rachel Zegler, Tom Blyth.		Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
E!	56	138	236	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	(35) Raymond	The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes ('23) Rachel Zegler, Tom Blyth.		Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
COMEDY	57	136	249	Seinfeld "The Rye"	Seinfeld "The Caddy"	Seinfeld "The Seven"	Seinfeld "The Cadillac"	Seinfeld "The Cadillac"	Seinfeld "The Shower Head"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
SYFY	58	152	244	(5:00) 🌟🌟🌟 Ghost Rider ('07) Wes Bentley, Nicolas Cage.		Eva Mendes, Ciaran Hinds, Nicolas Cage.		🌟🌟 Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance ('11) Idris Elba, Ciaran Hinds, Nicolas Cage.		🌟🌟 Halloween ('18) Judy Greer, Andi Matchak, Jamie Lee Curtis.					
BET	61	162	329	(4:30) 🌟🌟🌟 Hancock ('08)		Celebrity Family Feud		(15) Celebrity Wanda Sykes, Nia Vardalos		Celebrity Family Feud		(45) Celebrity Chrissy Teigen, John Legend			
PARMT	64	153	241	(3:15) 🌟 Harry Potter & the ...	(45) 🌟🌟🌟 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix ('07) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe. Harry teaches a group of students to defend Hogwarts from Voldemort's minions.			🌟🌟🌟 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince ('09) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.		🌟🌟🌟 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince ('09) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.					
LMN	66	185	253	🌟 Sins of the Father ('25) Kiera Laidman, Kirsten Comerford.				🌟 The Pastor Who Preys ('26) Daniel Stine, Clark Sarullo, Amanda Nicholas.		🌟 Sins of the Preacher's Wife ('23) Vanessa Angel, Judson Mills, Anna Marie Dobbins.					
GOLF	69	52	218	(5:00) PGA Korn Ferry Tour		Golf Central (N) (Live)				2026 Solheim Cup Final Day		From Education City GC in Qatar.			
OWN	72	104	279	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		Evidence "Facing a Monster"		48 Hours: Hard Evidence	
OXY	76	150	251	Snapped "Tammie Moore"		Snapped "LaFredia Todd"		Snapped "Nikki Hillrich"		Snapped (N)		Unknown Ser (N)		Snapped "Mary Orsini"	
NBATV	308		216	Hardwood Philadelphia 76ers vs. Portland Trail Blazers		Hardwood Philadelphia 76ers vs. Portland Trail Blazers		The Association History in the Making				Gold Blooded: 2022 NBA Champion			
HBO	511	350	501	(15) Lanterns "Trust Fall"		(05) Lanterns "OutKast"		Lanterns		Lanterns (N)		Lanterns		(55) Lanterns	
MAX	531	370	515	(4:45) 🌟 Maltese Falcon	(25) 🌟🌟🌟 Rain Man ('88) Tom Cruise, Valeria Golino, Dustin Hoffman.			(40) 🌟🌟🌟 The Last Samurai ('03) Ken Watanabe, Timothy Spall, Tom Cruise.						(15) 🌟🌟🌟 Magnolia ('99) Jason Robards.	
PARSHO	551	300	545	🌟🌟 Homestead ('24) Neal McDonough, Dawn Olivieri, Bailey Chase.				🌟🌟🌟 Dunkirk ('17) Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Fionn Whitehead.		🌟🌟🌟 Argo ('12) Bryan Cranston, Alan Arkin, Ben Affleck.					
TMC	571	316	553	🌟🌟🌟 Out of the Furnace ('13) Woody Harrelson, Casey Affleck, Christian Bale.				🌟🌟🌟 No Country for Old Men ('07) Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Tommy Lee Jones.		(05) 🌟🌟🌟 The Hunted ('03) Benicio del Toro, Connie Nielsen, Tommy Lee Jones.		(40) 🌟 American As...			
STARZ	581	330	525	(5:20) 🌟🌟 In the Grey ('26) Jake Gyllenhaal.		🌟🌟 Southpaw ('15) Forest Whitaker, Naomie Harris, Jake Gyllenhaal.		(05) Fightland				Fightland		(55) Fightland	🌟🌟🌟 Scary Movie

MONDAY EVENING				SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV				MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		SEPTEMBER 14, 2026			
	SP	FTC	DTV	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30		
WIS	3	10	10	WIS News 10 at 6 (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	WIS News (N)	78th Emmy Awards (N) (Live)						WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)		
WKTC	4	22	63	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Neighbor	Neighbor	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Modern Family	Modern Family	Suits "Sour Grapes"			
WOLO	5	12	25	News (N)	ABC World News (N)	Wheel (N) (SP)	Jeopardy! (N) (SP)	NFL Football Denver Broncos at Kansas City Chiefs The Kansas City Chiefs host the Denver Broncos in Week 1 NFL action at Arrowhead Stadium. (N) (Live)				(35) WACH Fox (N) (Live)		(15) News (N)	(50) J. Kimmel (N)		
WACH	6	6	57	Family Feud	Family Feud	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Name That Tune (N)		Name That Tune (N)		News (N) (Live)		The National News Desk (N) (Live)			
NWSN	8	172	307	The Hill with Blake Burman (N)		Elizabeth Vargas Reports (N)		Cuomo (N)		On Balance With Leland Vittert (N)		Katie Pavlich Tonight (N)		Jesse Weber Live (N)			
WLTX	9	9	19	News 19 at 6pm (N)	CBS Evening News (N)	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside (N) (SP)	FBI "Crusader"		FBI "3 Up, 3 Down"		CIA "Blood Money"		News 19 at 11pm (N)	(35) Comics (N)		
WRJA	11	14		PBS News Hour (N)		Travels With Darley	Rosendo	Antiques Roadshow "Vintage Dallas Hour 2"		🌟 Grace Kelly: The Missing Millions ('21)		Independent Lens "Ghost in the Machine" The forces driving the global artificial intelligence boom. (N) (SF)		(15) News (N)			
WZRB	13	18	47	(55) Chicago Fire "All the Dark"		(55) Chicago P.D. "43rd and Normal"		Chicago P.D. "The Devil You Know"		Chicago P.D. "I Was Here"		Chicago P.D. "Center Mass"		Chicago P.D. "Burden of Truth"			
NICK	16	210	299	SpongeBob SquarePants	SpongeBob SquarePants	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory		
TOON	17	203	296	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Rick Morty	Rick Morty		
DISNEY	18	200	290	Bluey	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Phineas and Ferb	Phineas and Ferb	Vampirina: Teenage	Phineas and Ferb	Phineas and Ferb	Kiff	Miraculous: Ladybug	Ladybug "Heartfixer"		
FREFRM	20	131	311	(5:50) 🌟🌟🌟 Cruella ('21) Emma Thompson, Joel Fry, Emma Stone. A young and clever grifter embraces her wicked side to become the raucous and revenge-bent Cruella.				Somebody Knows "Secrets in the Swamp" (N)				Somebody "Vanished on Loop Road" (N) (SF)		The 700 Club			
FDSE	21	47	649	(4:00) VSIN by the Books		FIBA World Basketball	Sports Stars of Tomorrow	Fight Sports: Boxing FIGHT Miguel Cotto vs. Sadam Ali		SPORTS MEGA Fights:		Diggin' Deep Rob Riggles		Diggin' Deep Dayton Moore			
NATGEO	22	113	276	Construction Fails "Tanker Truck Tragedy"		Construction Fails "Super-Sized Collapse"		Construction Fails "Charm City Catastrophe"		Construction Fails "Implode, Ignite, Collapse" (N)		Construction Fails "Cathedral Catastrophe" (N)		Construction Fails "Charm City Catastrophe"			
TNT	23	158	245	(4:30) 🌟🌟🌟 Con Air ('97)		🌟 Road House ('24) Daniela Melchior, Billy Magnussen, Jake Gyllenhaal. An ex-UFC fighter ends up working at a rowdy bar in the Florida Keys.		High Value Target "Blood Ties" (N)		High Value Target "Blood Ties" (N)		High Value Target "Blood Ties"		🌟 Road House ('24) Daniela Melchior, Jake Gyllenhaal.			
TBS	24	156	247	The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Office "Garage Sale"			
USA	25	132	242	Law-SVU "Missing Pieces"		Law-SVU "Russian Brides"		Law-SVU "Educated Guess"		Law-SVU "Theatre Tricks"		Law-SVU "Official Story"		Anna Pigeon			
ESPN	26	35	206	Monday Night Countdown				NFL Football Denver Broncos at Kansas City Chiefs (N) (Live)						(15) Monday (SportsC. (N)			
TRUTV	38	129	246	Jokers "Blake Anderson"	Impractical Jokers	🌟🌟🌟 The Karate Kid Part II ('86) Pat Morita, Martin Kove, Ralph Macchio. Mr. Miyagi returns to Okinawa with karate protégé.				🌟🌟🌟 The Karate Kid Part II ('86) Pat Morita, Martin Kove, Ralph Macchio. Mr. Miyagi returns to Okinawa with karate protégé.							
SHOPHQ	30		73	(3:00) Channel No				Channel No Longer Available				Channel No					
TWC	32	24	362	Weather Unfiltered		Weather Unfiltered		Weather Unfiltered		Weather Unfiltered		Heroes & Survivors		Top Ten Unlucky Locations			
CNBC	35	84	355	Mad Money (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank			
FNC	37	90	360	With Bret Baier (N) (Live)		Ingraham (N) (Live)		Jesse Watters (N) (Live)		Hannity (N) (Live)		Gutfeld! (N)		Fox News at Night (N) (Live)			
HGTV	39	112	229	Love It or List It "No Laughing Matter"		Love It or List It "A Fixable Problem?"		Love It or List It "Get Me Out of the Garage!"		House Hunters		House Hunters		House Hunters			
FOOD	40	109	231	Halloween Wars "Halloween Word Games"		Halloween Wars "The Boogeyman's Lair"		Halloween Wars "Spellbound"		Halloween Baking Championship "The Museum of Unnatural History" (N) (P)				Halloween "Crazy Colors and Ghostly Graveyards"			
ANPL	41	100	282	Alaskan "Breaking Free"		Alaskan "Return to the Wild"		Alaskan Bush People		Alaskan Bush People		Alaskan "Pile It On"		Alaskan "On the Prowl"			
DISCV	42	103	278	120 Hours Behind Bars "Clayton County, Georgia"		120 Hours Behind Bars "San Joaquin County Jail"		Contraband: Seized at the Border (N)		120 Hours Behind Bars "Indian River County Jail" (N)		Contraband: Seized at the Border "Super-load Sunday"		Contraband: Seized at the Border "Tramadol to Hell"			
TLC	43	157	280	90 Day: The Last Resort		90 Day: The Last Resort		Last Resort "All Rise for Their Last Chance" (N)		Last Chance" (N)		90 Day: The Last Resort (N)		Double Lives			
HIST	45	110	269	History's-Mysteries "Escape from Alcatraz"		History's-Mysteries "The Sinking of the Titanic"		Mysteries "The Hunt for El Chapo: Case Closed"		History's Greatest Mysteries		(05) Mysteries "The Unabomber: Case Closed"		(05) Mysteries "The Theft of the Mona Lisa: Case Closed"			
A&E	46	130	265	Live PD: Great. "Episode 28"		Live PD: Great. "Episode 35"		Live PD: Great. "Episode 31"		Live PD "Episode 36" (N)		Live PD "Episode 37" (N)		(05) Live PD "Episode 34"			
AMC	48	180	254	(4:00) 🌟🌟🌟🌟 Moneyball ('11) Jonah Hill, Brad Pitt.		🌟🌟 Shooter ('07) Michael Peña, Danny Glover, Mark Wahlberg. A wounded sniper plots revenge against those who betrayed him.		🌟🌟🌟 Latin Lovers ('53) Ricardo Montalban, John Lund, Lana Turner.		🌟🌟🌟 Madame X ('66) John Forsythe, Keir Dullea, Lana Turner.		🌟🌟🌟 The Fugitive ('93) Tommy Lee Jones, Sela Ward, Harrison Ford.					
TCM	49	186	256	🌟🌟 College Coach		🌟🌟🌟 Too Many Girls ('40) Richard Carlson, Desi Arnaz, Lucille Ball.		NCIS "The Inside Man"		NCIS "Good Cop, Bad Cop"		(05) NCIS "Code of Conduct"		(05) NCIS "Outlaws and In-Laws"			
LIFE	50	145	252	NCIS "Truth or Consequences"		NCIS "Reunion"						(05) NCIS "Golden Girls "Zborn Again"		The Golden Girls			
HALL	52	183	312	🌟 Love, Fall & Order ('19) Trevor Donovan, Gregory Harrison, Erin Cahill.				🌟 Love Struck Café ('17) Andrew W. Walker, Garry Chalk, Sarah Jane Morris.				The Golden Girls		The Golden Girls			
FX	54	154	248	🌟🌟🌟 Thor: Ragnarok ('17) Tom Hiddleston, Cate Blanchett, Chris Hemsworth.						It's Always Sunny in		Adults "Talia"		🌟🌟🌟 Kingsman: The Secret Service ('15) Michael Caine, Taron Egerton, Colin Firth.			
TVLAND	55	161	304	Andy Griffith		Andy Griffith		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		(35) Raymond		(10) King	
E!	56	138	236	El Live From the Red Carpet		"Emmys 2026" (N) (Live)		(05) Cocktail		🌟🌟 The Waterboy ('98) Kathy Bates, Adam Sandler.		Sandler.		🌟🌟🌟 50 First Dates ('04) Adam Sandler.			
COMEDY	57	136	249	The Office		The Office		(35) The Office		(10) The Office		(45) The Office		(20) The Office		(55) The Office	
SYFY	58	152	244	The Twilight Zone "Steel"		The Twilight Zone		The Twilight Zone		Twi. Zone "Uncle Simon"		Twi. Zone "The Silence"		The Twilight Zone		The Twilight Zone	
BET	61	162	329	Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Martin		Martin	
PARMT	64	153	241	🌟🌟🌟 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince ('09) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe. Harry and the gang confront the terrifying truth that Voldemort is back and Hogwarts is in danger.				🌟🌟🌟 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 ('10) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.									
LMN	66	185	253	🌟 The Nanny Is Watching ('18) Adam Huber, Cinta Laura Kiehl, Talya Carroll.		🌟🌟🌟 My Nanny Stole My Life ('24) Katerina Eichenberger, Iris Hewitt, Jonathan Stoddard.		Golf Central (N) (Live)		PGA Tour (N) PGA Tour (N)		College Golf Jackson T. Stephens Cup, First Round		Larsen, Victoria Setta.			
GOLF	69	52	218	(5:00) Coll. Golf Jackson T. Stephens Cup, First Round (N)				Golf Central (N) (Live)		PGA Tour (N) PGA Tour (N)		College Golf Jackson T. Stephens Cup, First Round					
OWN	72	104	279	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos			
OXY	76	150	251	Snapped "Roberta Samard"		Snapped "Joyce Pelzer"		Snapped		Snapped "Kimberly Williams"		Snapped "Danelle Geier"		Snapped "Ezra McCandless"			
NBATV	308		216	(5:00) Game of the Day		NBA Basketball				Center Court		NBA Basketball					
HBO	511	350	501	(5:20) 🌟🌟🌟 Les Misérables ('12) Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Hugh Jackman.				Lanterns		Conan O'Brien		(45) A Killer Story		(25) 🌟🌟🌟 Deadpool 2 ('18) Josh Brolin, Morena Baccarin, Ryan Reynolds.			
MAX	531	370	515	(4:30) 🌟 Walk the Line		(45) 🌟🌟🌟 Won't Back Down ('12) Viola Davis, Holly Hunter, Maggie Gyllenhaal.		(45) 🌟🌟🌟 Catfish ('10) A man documents his brother's meeting with an online friend.		(15) 🌟🌟🌟 The Town ('10) Rebecca Hall, Jon Hamm, Ben Affleck.							
PARSHO	551	300	545	🌟🌟🌟 Edge of Tomorrow ('14) Emily Blunt, Brendan Gleeson, Tom Cruise.				Lioness (N)		🌟🌟🌟 300 ('07) Lena Headey, David Wenham, Gerard Butler.				🌟🌟🌟 300: Rise of an Empire ('14) Sullivan Stapleton.			
TMC	571	316	553	(55) 🌟🌟🌟 Blindness ('08) Mark Ruffalo, Alice Braga, Julianne Moore.				🌟🌟🌟 Molly's Game ('17) Idris Elba, Michael Cera, Jessica Chastain.				🌟🌟🌟 Dead Man Walking ('95) Sean Penn, Robert Prosky, Susan Sarandon.					
STARZ	581	330	525	(55) 🌟🌟🌟 Michael ('26) Colman Domingo, Nia Long, Jaafar Jackson.				(05) Fightland				🌟🌟🌟 In the Grey ('26) Henry Cavill, Eiza González, Jake Gyllenhaal.				(40) 🌟🌟🌟 Hustle & Flow ('05) Anthony Anderson, Taryn Manning, Terrence Howard.	



‘Star Trek’ boldly goes into a rebooted version

BY JAY BOBBIN

There’s a whole lot of “Star Trek” going on in this 60th-anniversary month of the series that started it all, including the first of the movie reboots that populated familiar characters with different actors.

Syfy presents the 2009 “Star Trek” film on Saturday, Sept. 19, and it had different effects on different viewers. Some thought it was sacrilege to recast the iconic crew of the starship Enterprise, while others — particularly some who weren’t weaned on the 1960s show — arguably had more anticipation about seeing the saga revisited with younger faces who were age-appropriate rising stars well-suited to relaunch the legend from square one.

Director J.J. Abrams and writers Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman refitted franchise creator Gene Roddenberry’s concept, but also added some creative twists of their own, in tracing the roots of James T. Kirk (Chris Pine, inheriting William Shatner’s classic role) as he joins Starfleet Academy under the encouragement of Enterprise captain Christopher Pike (Bruce Greenwood).

Kirk and Dr. Leonard “Bones” McCoy (Karl Urban, succeeding DeForest Kelley) become friends there, then are made Enterprise officers several years later ... along with a certain Vulcan by the name of Spock (Zachary Quinto, in the part Leonard Nimoy originated). Others including Sulu (John Cho), Scotty (Simon Pegg), Uhura (Zoe Saldana) and Chekov (Anton Yelchin) also assume their places aboard the vessel as a Romulan enemy (Eric Bana) plots an attack against Earth.

Winona Ryder, Ben Cross, Chris Hemsworth, Jennifer Morrison and Tyler Perry are among others who add to this revision of “Star Trek” lore, and expectedly, there are considerable Easter eggs for series devotees. This edition was successful enough to inspire two sequels, “Star Trek Into Darkness” (2013) and “Star Trek Beyond” (2016), and there’s been talk from time to time of a prequel to the 2009 movie being made. That evidently remains up in the air, pun partially intended, at this point.

The history of this “Star Trek” iteration is a complicated one. By the time the first of the movie reboots, several sequel series had aired on television, and fans generally appreciated the loyalty that had been displayed by those shows’ makers to the original material. There also was acknowledgment of that in the Chris Pine-starring vehicles, but the makers of those also went their own way to a degree, generating very vocal criticism from some of the “Star Trek” faithful.

Nevertheless, as the entire 60-year span (to date) of the venture is being observed, that film form of “Star Trek” has its place — and for those who may have resisted it, the current celebration might mark a better time to go where they haven’t gone before by sampling it.

BEST PIERCE BROSNAN PROJECTS

BY JAY BOBBIN

“The Manions of America” (ABC, 1981): In one of his first major roles, Pierce Brosnan plays an Irish immigrant seeking his fortune in America in this miniseries created by daytime-serial icon Agnes Nixon (“All My Children”).

“Remington Steele” (NBC, 1982-87): Brosnan legitimately became a star as the title character — or someone posing as that person — in this comedy-mystery series, casting him as a con artist who assumed the identity of a non-existent private detective created by a sleuth (Stephanie Zimbalist) to boost her business.

“Mrs. Doubtfire” (1993): Brosnan has fun with the part of the new love interest of the estranged wife (Sally Field) of a voice actor (Robin Williams) who poses as his family’s housekeeper.

“GoldenEye” (1995): Delayed by almost a decade by the sudden renewal of “Remington Steele,” Brosnan’s debut as James Bond is an excellent entry in the franchise, with the British secret agent running up against an unexpected foe while trying to prevent the hijacking of an orbiting satellite.

“Mars Attacks!” (1996): Director Tim Burton’s sci-fi satire has a huge cast including Brosnan as a professor taken prisoner by some of the Martians that have invaded Earth.

“Tomorrow Never Dies” (1997): In Brosnan’s second James Bond caper, the spy opposes a media mogul (Jonathan Pryce) who’s bent on acquiring global domination by starting a third World War. Later Oscar-winner Michelle Yeoh plays Bond’s main ally against the bad guys.

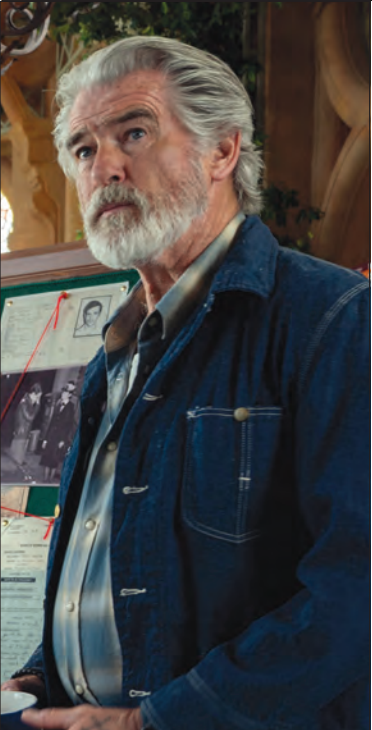
“The Thomas Crown Affair” (1999): Brosnan both produced and starred in this fine remake of the 1968 movie about a business tycoon who engineers robberies for kicks, with an insurance investigator (Rene Russo) on his trail and struggling to separate her duty from her growing attraction to him.

“Die Another Day” (2002): The last chapter of Brosnan’s run as James Bond sees the agent emerge from captivity in North Korea to find out who set him up, leading him to cross paths with an American spy (Halle Berry) and a fencing instructor (Madonna, who also had a hit with the title song).

“Mamma Mia!” (2008): One of Brosnan’s biggest non-Bond hits adapts the ABBA-song –infused stage musical about a bride-to-be (Amanda Seyfried) who wants to know which of her mother’s (Meryl Streep) former suitors (Brosnan, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard) is her father.

“Mobland” (Paramount+, 2025-present): Starting its second season Friday, Sept. 18, this drama stars Brosnan and Helen Mirren as the heads of a crime family facing the threat of a battle with other such groups.

“The Thursday Murder Club” (2025): Brosnan and Mirren also were teamed — along with Ben Kingsley and Celia Imrie — as retirement-village residents who tackle criminal cold cases as a shared hobby.



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Reaching for justice: Spinoff ‘Neagley’ investigates a suspicious death

BY SARAH PASSINGHAM

When it comes to law enforcement, some sensitive situations are best handled by forces from outside the official system. One such avenger, Jack Reacher, has been portrayed by “Titans” actor Alan Ritchson for four heart-pounding seasons of Prime Video’s fan-favorite action series, “Reacher.”

With the latest season soon coming to a close, Prime has answered viewers’ desires for more “Reacher” with a brand new spinoff centered around one of the show’s most popular characters. Jump right from the “Reacher” Season 4 finale into “Neagley” when it debuts on Prime Video Wednesday, Sept. 16, with all eight episodes of the new series available to stream on premiere day.

Maria Sten (“Narcissa”) reprises her role of private investigator Frances Neagley, a protege of Reacher’s who’s been by his side since his Army major days, but is now leading her own titular series. In the opening of the trailer for “Neagley,” she is reassured by Reacher, who tells her she can always call on him if she needs help, however, it is clear that this time, she’s the star of the show.

Both Season 4 of “Reacher” and the series premiere of “Neagley” set the action off with tragedy on a subway train. Per Prime Video, “when she learns that a beloved friend from her past has been killed in a suspicious accident, she becomes hell-bent on justice. Using everything she’s learned



from Jack Reacher and her time as a member of the 110 Special Investigators, Neagley puts herself on a dangerous path to uncover a menacing evil.”

That friend of Neagley’s is Tommy Crane, portrayed by “Supergirl” actor Jhaleil Swaby. Though Chicago police rule his death as an accident, surmising that he got high and walked into the train, that ruling does not sit right with Neagley. Together with her crew, she sets off on her own investigation, stopping at nothing to get to the bottom of Tommy’s death.

Also starring in “Neagley” are Greyston Holt (“Riverdale”) as Det. Hudson Riley, Adeline Rudolph (“Mortal Kombat II,” 2026) as Renee Birdwhistle, Jasper Jones (“To Die For”) as Keno, Matthew Del Negro (“Mayor of Kingstown”) as Pierce Woodrow and Damon Herriman (“The Artful Dodger”) as cult leader Lawrence Cole. Ritchson guest stars as Reacher.

The debut season follows Neagley as she further investigates the case of Tommy’s death on the tracks of the L. She is joined in her efforts by Det. Riley, who helps as an official member of law enforcement who takes interest in looking at the case as a homicide. Keno witnessed Tommy’s death, and once Neagley tracks him down to get his account, he enthusiastically joins her team. What he lacks in experience, Keno makes up for in willingness to jump into action, quickly agreeing to go undercover and sniff out ulterior motives of Echo Canyon Farm.

A collective that looks from the outside suspiciously like a cult, the farm is where Tommy was living before he died. Charismatic leader Lawrence Cole has the members of the farm hanging on his every word, maniacally yelling, “I am your own personal Jesus,” in the series’ trailer. It seems like a good place to start investigating where things went wrong for Tommy.

During this year’s San Diego Comic Con, Ritchson and Sten sat down with Variety to talk about the success of “Reacher,” which Ritchson aptly called “lightning in a bottle,” and the upcoming spinoff series.

“I love the character of Neagley. I love her so deeply and I think when she’s on ‘Reacher,’ we’re just scratching the surface of who she is and what she can do,” Sten said. “There’s the whole mystery behind her background and what happened to her and why she is the way that she is. I think it’s so exciting for people to finally be able to know what her deal is, and of course that’s what we’re going to be exploring in the show.”

From teacher to ‘Traitors’: ‘The Traitors: New Blood’ opens competition to civilian contestants



BY CAROLINE COLLACUTT

The treachery continues as 22 everyday Americans settle into Scotland’s Ardross Castle for “The Traitors: New Blood,” an all-civilian iteration of TV’s most murderous competition series, coming Thursday, Sept. 17, to NBC with a two-hour premiere. Each episode streams the following day on Peacock.

Building on the success of the Emmy-winning Peacock original series “The Traitors,” this latest iteration of the competition sees ordinary civilians — not celebrities, as with previous seasons — working together through a series of thrilling, psychologically challenging missions to build a prize fund worth up to \$250,000. Among these dedicated players, called the Faithful, are a hidden group of Traitors who race to eliminate the Faithful before they can be discovered and taken out of the game. If the remaining Faithful find and banish every Traitor, they share the prize fund — but if even one Traitor survives to the end, the Traitors take it all.

“New Blood’s” first round of contestants include: Abbey Benjamin (37, nurse), Abby Lee (29, astrophysicist), Arisa Thomas (36, dog groomer), Ben McDonnell (34, barrel racer), Clyde Moser (32, teacher), Jay Vinnedge (36, physician), Joe Vanella (44, funeral director), Katie Fites (23, marketing manager), Kim Daily (37, lawyer), Kriste Lewis (52, realtor), Logan Smith (26, realtor), Madeline Kostopulos (26, construction manager), Mark Zgoda (26, personal trainer), Michael Foote (38, lawyer), Morgan Cook (30, content creator), Niyah Hayes (29, therapist), Shane Beatty (32, ironworker), Sherry Kuehl (65, writer), Tomica Adams (54, pilot), Victor Vollbrechthausen (26, business executive), Wyatt Gillespie (26, designer) and Xavier Scruggs (38, MLB analyst).

In the season’s first episode, “New Blood’s” first Traitors will be revealed. But viewers can expect countless twists and turns, as the Traitors franchise has been known to throw numerous twists at the feet of its contestants, including “Secret Traitors,” kept hidden from both the Faithful and the audience at home.

With Alan Cumming (“The Traitors”) returning as host and executive producer, alongside Mike Cotton (“Fake or Fortune”), Sam Rees-Jones (“The Traitors U.K.”), Rosie Franks (“Cooking with the Stars U.K.”), Jack Burgess (“The Circle”), Stephen Lambert (“Undercover Boss”) and Tim Harcourt (“Race Across the World”), “The Traitors: New Blood” premieres Thursday, Sept. 17, on NBC. It streams the next day on Peacock.

View from the Couch



“MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE”

With the recent movie update slated for a mid-October home-video release, this 1987 version — now on 4K Ultra HD for the first time — adds previously unseen footage to the original theatrical cut. With the sinister Skeletor (played by Frank Langella) intent on taking control of the planet Eternia, and then the entire universe, the heroic He-Man (Dolph Lundgren) and his allies come to Earth in pursuit of a Cosmic Key that would enable the villain to carry out his sinister plans. Robert Duncan McNeill (later an actor and director in the “Star Trek” franchise) and a pre-“Friends” Courteney Cox play teenage friends who help in the search. Meg Foster, Billy Barty, Jon Cypher, Chelsea Field, James Tolkan and Christina Pickles (who would play Cox’s mother on “Friends”) also appear in

BY JAY BOBBIN

the expected effects-laden adventure. *** (PG: P, V) (Also on DVD and Blu-ray)

“SHOAH”

The Criterion Collection adds a new Blu-ray edition of filmmaker Claude Lanzmann’s famously lengthy (nine hours-plus) 1985 probe of the killings of more than six million Jews by Nazi officers. The approach is to use testimonies of those who survived the Holocaust, would-be victims as well as former Nazis; the effect is, as would be expected, hugely emotional. Lanzmann spent more than a decade on the project with the intention of demonstrating how situations that occurred in the past, while vivid in their own time, also can have substantial impact in the present. The four-disc set also includes three more Lanzmann works — “A Visitor From the Living” (1999), “Sobibor: October 14, 1943, 4 p.m.” (2001) and “The Karski Report” (2010) — plus “All I Had Was Nothingness,” a documentary released last year about the production of “Shoah” that includes previously unseen footage. **** (Not rated: AS, P) (Also on DVD)

“MADE”

Written and (in his calling-the-shots debut) directed by Jon Favreau, who also stars with Vince Vaughn, this 2001 underworld

comedy gets a 4K Ultra HD Steelbook release. Favreau plays an aspiring boxer and mob associate who brings a sketchy longtime pal (Vaughn) along on a Los Angeles money-laundering mission, and it doesn’t take long for the buddies to get into ever-increasing trouble with the main gangster they’re dealing with (Sean Combs). Famke Janssen, Peter Falk, Vincent Pastore, Faizon Love and Jonathan Silverman also play figures in the plot; the result was an auspicious directing start for Favreau, who proceeded to handle a number of big-budget Marvel Cinematic Universe movies. Special features include deleted scenes and an audio commentary with Favreau and Vaughn. *** (R: AS, N, P, V) (Also on DVD)

“TEQUILA SUNRISE”

Making its debut on 4K Ultra HD, writer-director Robert Towne’s 1988 melodrama benefits from an extremely photogenic cast, with Mel Gibson and Kurt Russell as longtime friends who have been on opposite sides of the law — the former an ex-drug dealer trying to get out of that business, and the latter a police detective torn by his loyalty to the other man. They collide when both fall for a restaurateur (Michelle Pfeiffer) who eventually fears she’s being used by the cop as an informant on the drug peddler, who is being pressured by a longtime colleague to help him with a final

score. Raul Julia, J.T. Walsh, Arliss Howard and Arye Gross also appear; veteran cinematographer Conrad Hall’s work was Oscar-nominated, and Dave Grusin’s music score deserves mention as well. *** (R: AS, N, P, V) (Also on DVD and Blu-ray)

“CHARLIE WILSON’S WAR”

An impressive cast informs this fact-inspired 2007 comedy-drama, the last film made by acclaimed director Mike Nichols. Now on 4K Ultra HD, it presents Tom Hanks in the title role of a U.S. congressman whose social-butterfly status brings him into the orbit of a socialite (Julia Roberts) who gets him to pledge support to the people of Pakistan — with on-the-ground assistance from a CIA renegade (Philip Seymour Hoffman) who uses a suddenly swelled budget to secure weapons that could explode regional tensions into a war also costly in human lives. Amy Adams, Ned Beatty, Emily Blunt, John Slattery and Shiri Appleby also are featured in the tone-shifting film, which prompted some criticism from individuals who held government positions at the time of the events depicted in the Aaron Sorkin script. *** (R: AS, N, P, V) (Also on DVD and Blu-ray)

“GRADUATION DAY”

Now available in a “Special Edition” Blu-ray version, this cult-classic 1981 thriller features some familiar

faces as the members of a high school track team are targeted by a masked felon just before they’re slated to graduate. Patch Mackenzie plays a Navy officer who’s the sibling of a suddenly deceased athlete, convinced that the tragedy was due to the squad coach (Christopher George) demanding too much of his charges. The picture was released soon after the success of the original “Friday the 13th” (1980) — which also had a big box-office return on a relatively small investment — so it’s no surprise to see this project follow the same formula, with young people meeting their fates in pretty quick and grisly succession. ** (R: AS, N, P, V) (Also on VHS — if you can find it — and DVD)

- ## Coming Home Soon
- “TOY STORY 5” (SEPT. 22)
 - “EVIL DEAD BURN” (SEPT. 22)
 - “LANDMAN: SEASON TWO” (SEPT. 22)
 - “OUTLANDER: SEASON EIGHT” (SEPT. 22)
 - “YOUNG WASHINGTON” (SEPT. 22)

Family Viewing Ratings		
AS Adult situations	V Violence	GV Graphic Violence
P Profanity	N Nudity	

SUNDAY
September 13, 2026



COMICS

PEANUTS

featuring
"Good ol' Charlie Brown"

by SCHULZ



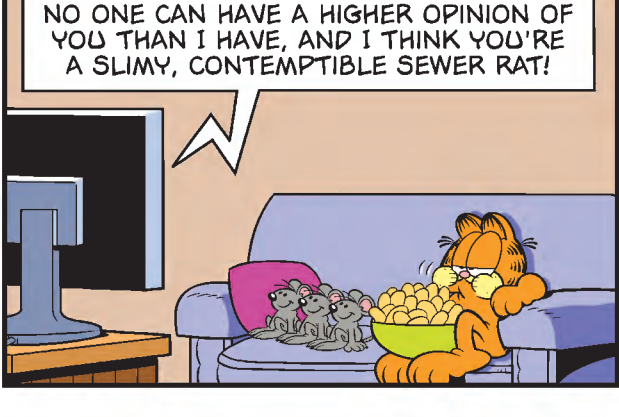
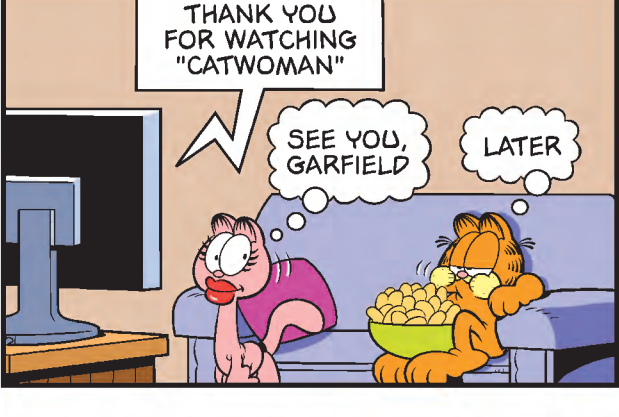


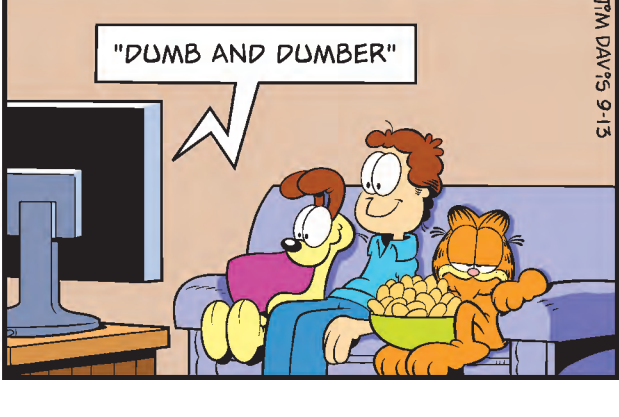
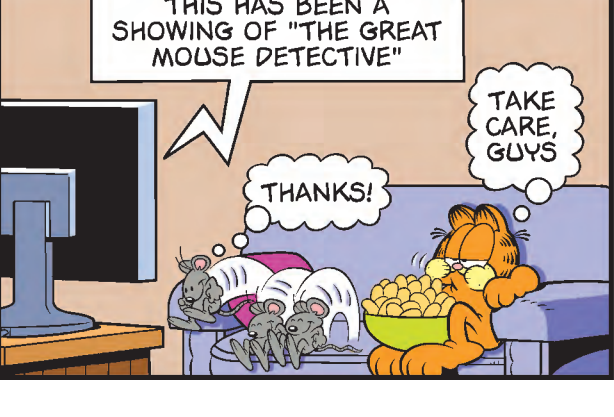




GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS





TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS

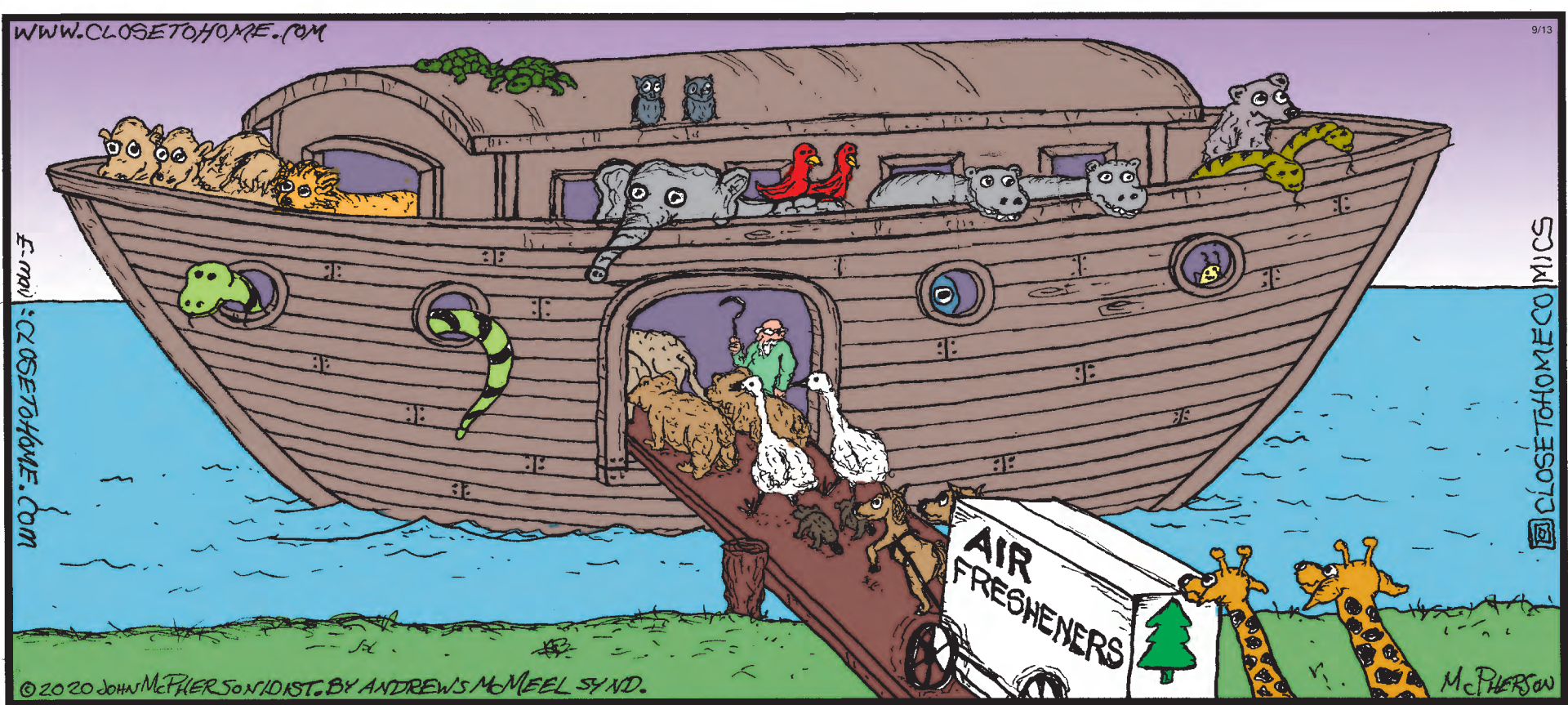
BY BILL BETTWY





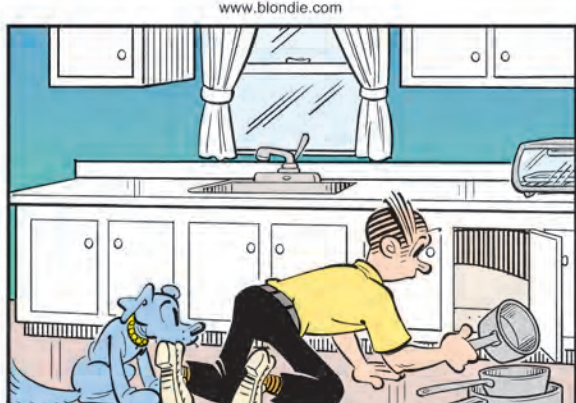
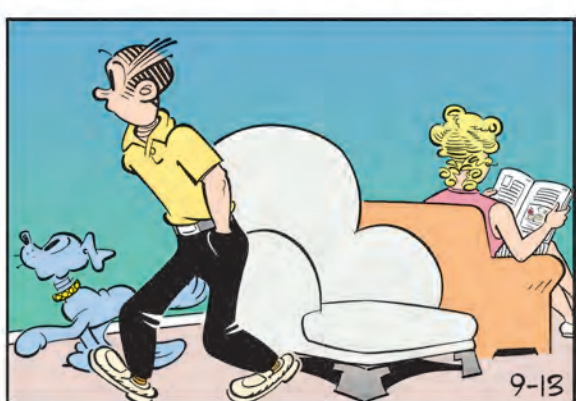
CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



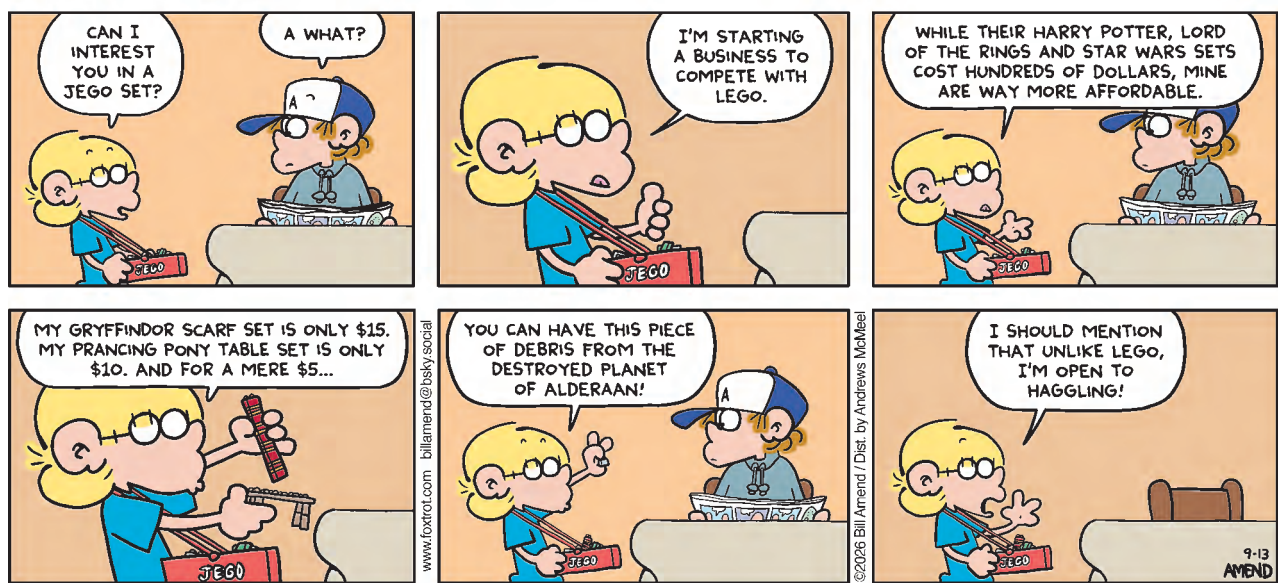
BLONDIE

BY DEAN KUNZE & JOHN MARSHALL



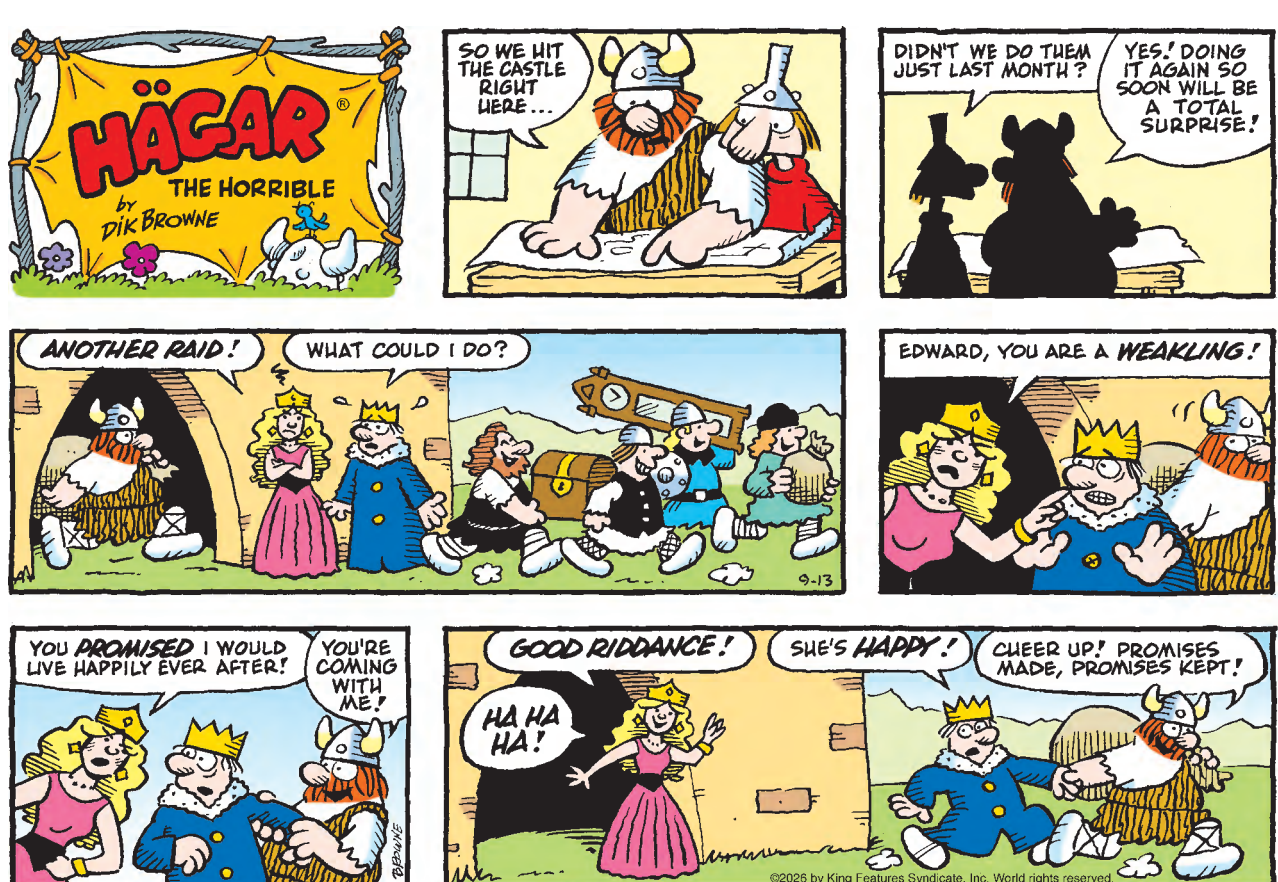
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



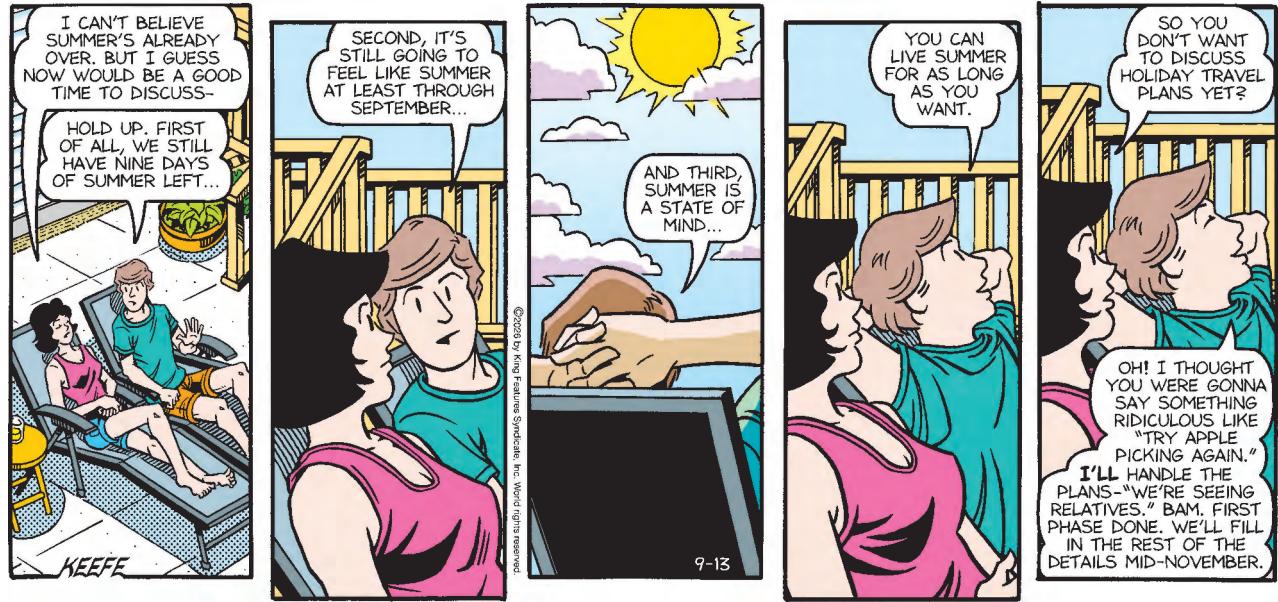
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

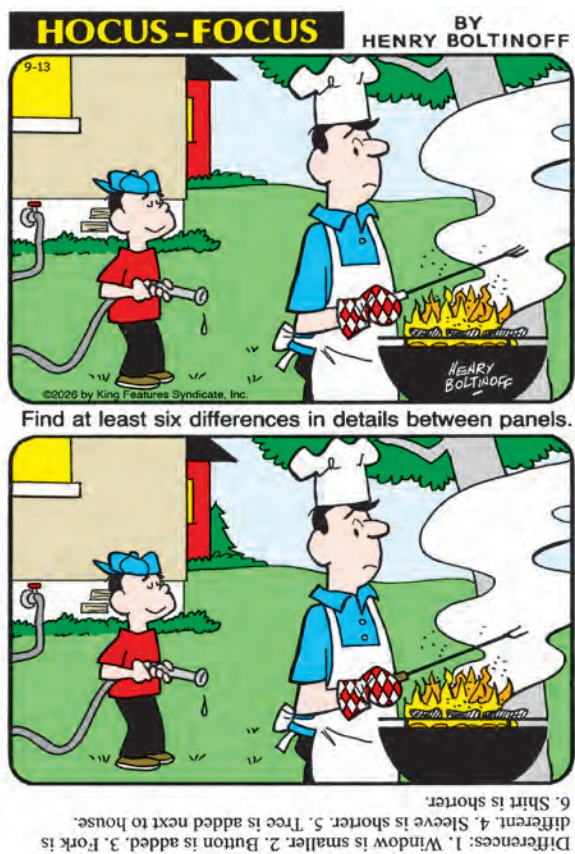
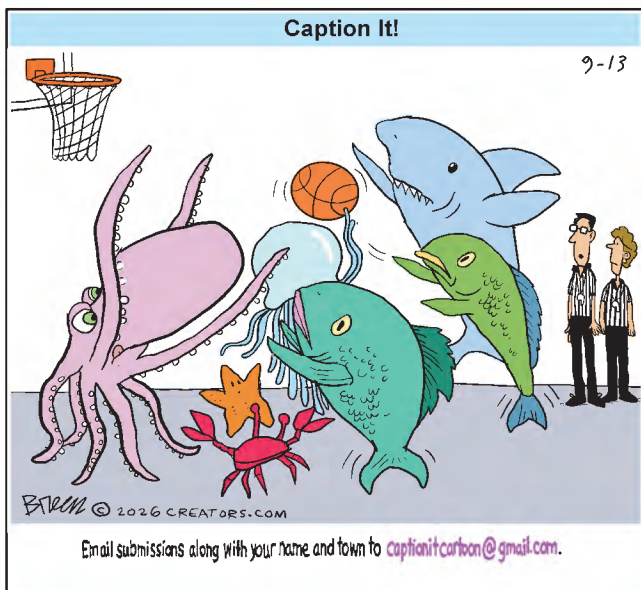
By Bill Keane



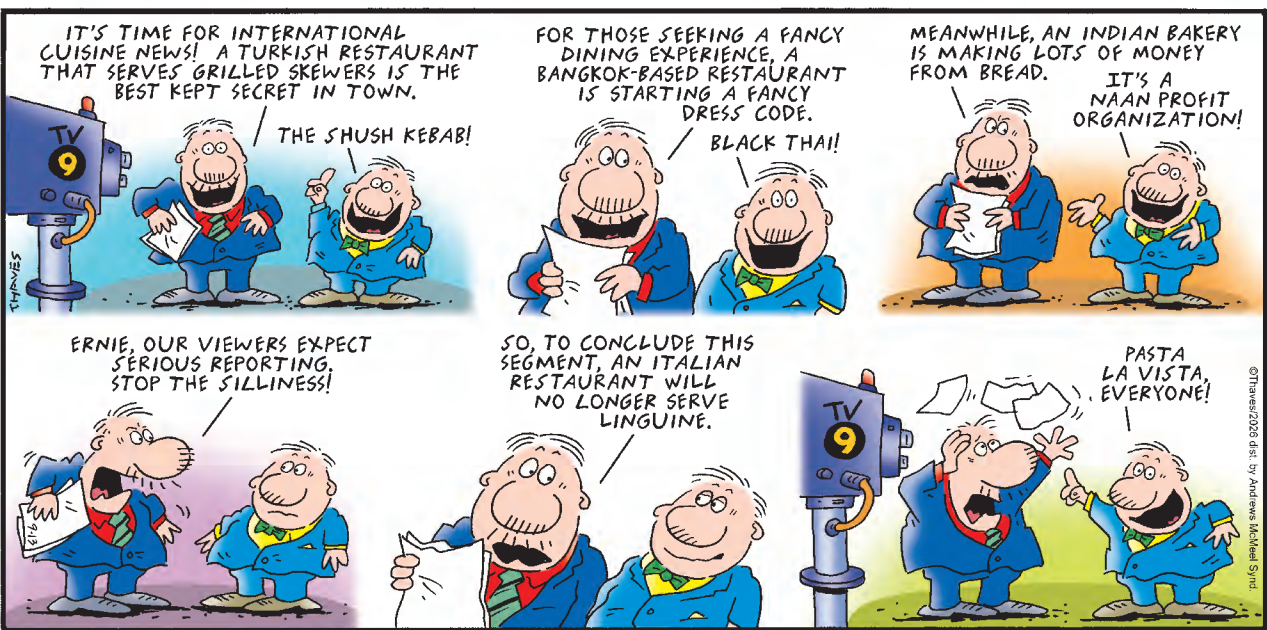
SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



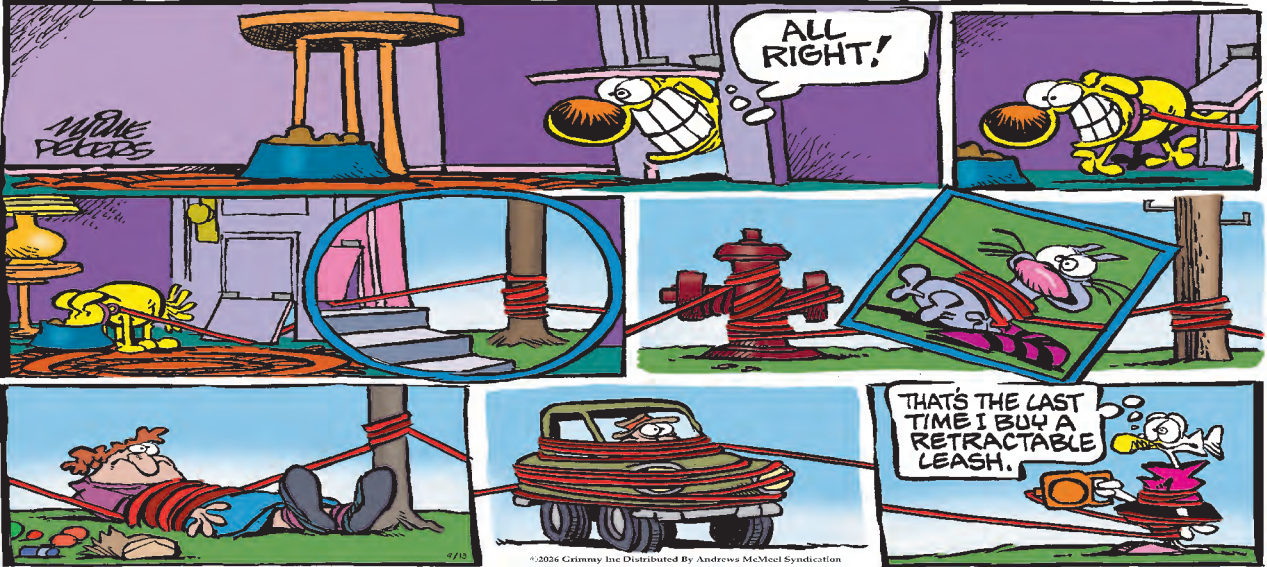


FRANK AND ERNEST



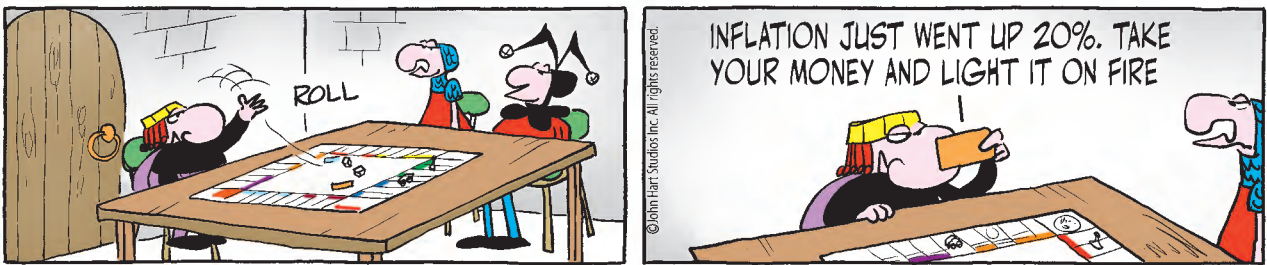
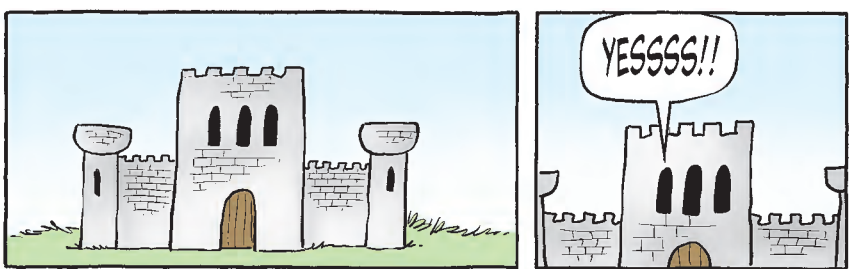
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



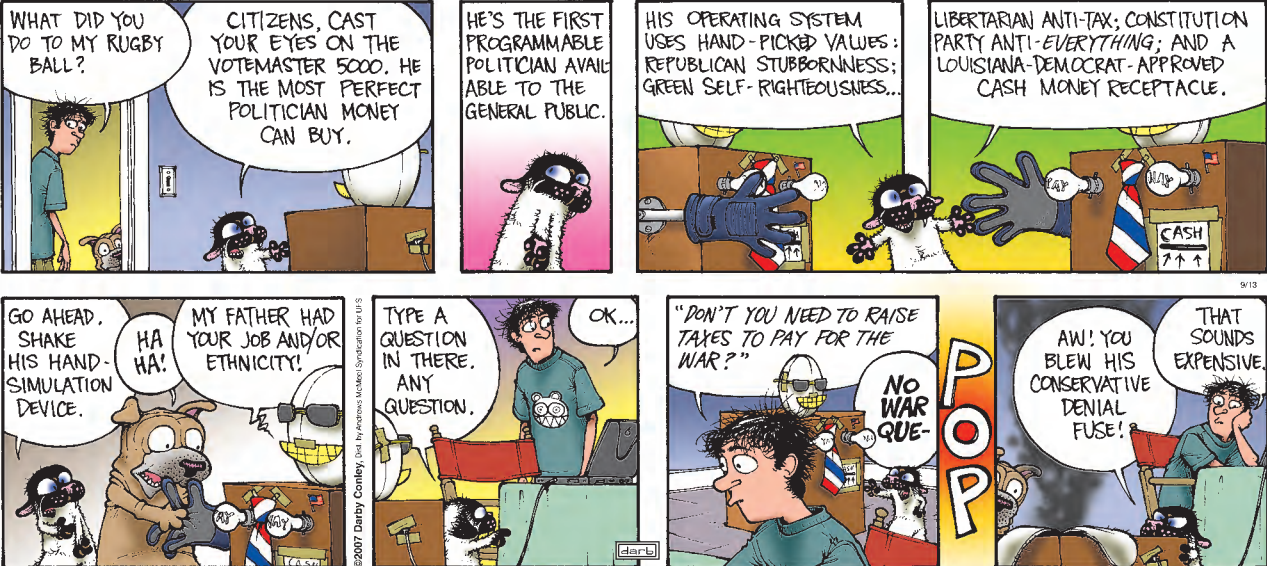
WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker



GET FUZZY

BY DARBY CONLEY



SHOE

BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY

SIGH... DORIS SAID SHE WANTS TO TAKE ME SOMEPLACE SPECIAL FOR MY BIRTHDAY.

THAT'S NICE. WHERE DOES SHE WANT TO TAKE YOU?

COUPLES' COUNSELING!

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BY MASTROIANNI AND HART

OFF TO FISH!

FOR GUPPIES?

JOLT

IT'S HUGE!!

SNAP HOLD ON TO 'ER!

SET THE DRAG!!

*SIGH... I GOTTA ADMIRE THEIR TENACITY...

TING TING OH, BOY! GOT ONE!!

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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

BY LYNN EDWINSON

THEY REPLACED THE CRACKED GLASS IN THE TROPHY CASE.

AN' CHANGED THESE LOCKERS!

WOW! THEY POLISHED THE FLOOR IN THE GYM!

AND PAINTED OVER ALL THE GRAFFITI IN THE WASHROOMS!

MAN, IT'S GONNA TAKE A WHILE TO GET THIS PLACE LOOKIN' GOOD AGAIN!!

BOY, THEY SURE DID A LOT OF STUFF TO THE SCHOOL WHILE WE WERE GONE!

SOME NEW FLOORING IN THE ENTRANCE!

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DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM

HELLO, MARTHA AND GEORGE!

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY, CARLTON!

YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD OF YOUR GRANDSON!

I SURE AM!

AND HOW ARE YOU, GEORGE?

CAN'T COMPLAIN

SINCE WHEN?

YEAH.

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Mort Walker's beetle bailey

DO YOU THINK YOU'LL EVER SEE COMBAT?

OH YEAH

DO YOU HAVE ANY WAR STORIES?

OH YEAH...

I GOT KNICKED ONCE BY SMALL ARMS FIRE

I TOOK SOME SHRAPNEL FROM AN I.E.D.

I WAS BURNED BY AN INCENDIARY DEVICE

HAVE YOU BEEN WOUNDED, LT. FUZZ?

MARYLOU FERTIG BROKE MY HEART IN FIFTH GRADE

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