



Local churches team up to feed SHS football program

A13

CONTACT US

Information:
(803) 774-1200
Advertising:
(803) 774-1246
News:
pressrelease@
theitem.com
Sports:
sports@theitem.com

INSIDE

Business A4
Entertainment A20
Events A18
Military A8
Puzzles A16
Recipes A9
Reflections A12
Religion A22
Sports A13

VISIT US ONLINE AT

the **ITEM**.com

The *Purpose* of the *Porch*

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE PAID
SUMTER, SC
PERMIT NO. 92
POSTAL CUSTOMER



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pound of Love Bakery is a featured Hospitality Host for 2026 Porches of Sumter. At the heart of the business is a 100-year-old pound cake family recipe. We talked to Derrick and Cassandra Floyd and their son Devin, the family behind the bakery, and a family whose home serves as a stop along the route for the annual event. Read the article on A6.

Need Extra Cash?
WE BUY GOLD & SILVER

- Silver Flatware
- Jewelry
- Coins
- Bars

Any Condition

**Same day payments
for your items**

**PAYING
TOP DOLLAR
IN SUMTER**

JEWELRY  **WHOLESALE**
41 E. Wesmark Blvd. • 803-778-1031



If you're a foodie, this time of year doesn't disappoint

Fall is finally on the horizon, although the humidity out there is still intense. But fall brings many of our favorite



Melanie Smith

things to look forward to – gatherings with friends and family, local football rivalry games, anticipation of the holidays coming up, sweater

weather ... and food!

There's no shortage of food-related outings this time of year, many of them fundraising events for local organizations, which makes the enjoyment of all those favorite dishes even better.

In this issue of *The Sumter Item Impact*, we preview a few beloved annual events in our community, including Fall Feast, which benefits Sumter Green. As we wrote about in last month's edition, the organization



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

A guest at Porches of Sumter 2025 toasts a marshmallow at a house along the route in the historic district.

RIGHT: Fall Feast returns on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at USC Sumter.

whose mission is to beautify our county is celebrating 30 years this year, and this annual event serves as a fundraiser to keep that mission alive.

We also share about this year's Porches of Sumter, hosted by Greater



Sumter Chamber of Commerce and presented by Tandem Health and FTC, which is a popular event held each year in our historic district downtown. If you've never been, you're in for a fall treat. Stroll from house to house down-

town while enjoying special bites and drinks at each one, courtesy of local businesses and chefs. Last year was my first time going, and one house had a fire pit with s'mores ingredients arrayed for the choosing. I learned that day that a Hershey's Cookies and Cream bar makes for one fantastic s'more. It was perfect on a cool night right ahead of Halloween. And speaking of the holiday, one stop along the way displayed skeletons enjoying some fresh air atop a vehicle in the driveway for everyone to see. It's just a fun time out with whoever you like to spend time with, so get your tickets soon.

We also take a look back at our own Pizza Lane, which has been in business for decades and was recently remodeled. It's still serving the pizza that Sumterites know and love, along with a delicious pizza buffet.

There are also plenty more events to choose from this month and next, so check out our events list and find something for your family to enjoy this fall. From 2nd annual First Responders BBQ Cookoff & Car/Truck Show to the annual Oktoberfest, there will be a lot going on. We may see you out there!

OSTEEN

PUBLISHING COMPANY
Established 1894

36 W. LIBERTY ST., SUMTER, S.C. 29150
(803) 774-1258

Vince Johnson
PUBLISHER
vince@theitem.com

Kayla Green
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
kayla@theitem.com
(803) 774-1235

Melanie Smith
ASSISTANT EDITOR
melanie@theitem.com

HOW TO REACH US

TO PLACE A NEWSPAPER AD

To place an ad, call (803) 774-1242, (803) 774-1274 or (803) 983-0786 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or email advertising@theitem.com

Impact Item Sales Reps

Karen Cave
karen@theitem.com
(803) 774-1242

Devin McDonald
devin@theitem.com
(803) 983-0786

Mark Pekuri
mark@theitem.com
(803) 464-8917

The Sumter Item is published each Wednesday and Saturday by Osteen Publishing Co., 36 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150, and delivered via USPS. Major holiday delivery may be altered due to USPS schedule.

Periodical postage paid at Sumter, SC 29150.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Osteen Publishing Co., 36 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150.

Publication No. USPS 525-900

It's your world.
Read all about it.

the
**Sumter
ITEM**

Call (803) 774-1200
and get started today.



**MURRELL
SMITH**
GETS IT DONE

**VOTE FOR
MURRELL**



SCVOTES.GOV

HELP KEEP SUMTER STRONG

Sumter has always been more than a place on a map, it's our home. I'm running to represent House District 67 because I believe our best days are still ahead. I'm committed to continuing the work of improving our roads, investing in our community, supporting our veterans and public safety, and creating new opportunities for families and small businesses.

PROVEN RESULTS FOR SUMTER

Working alongside local leaders, Murrell has helped deliver:

-  **\$1.4 BILLION**
invested across Sumter County
-  **1,600 NEW**
industrial jobs
-  **\$90 MILLION+**
invested in healthcare for
Sumter families & veterans
-  **\$403 MILLION**
for roads & bridges
-  **38% INCREASE**
in average income for
Sumter County tax payers



LET'S CONNECT!

Questions? Need help? Want to volunteer or request a yard sign? My team and I are here to help.

 murrellsmith.com |  803-778-2471 |  @MurrellSmith

Return to the glory days

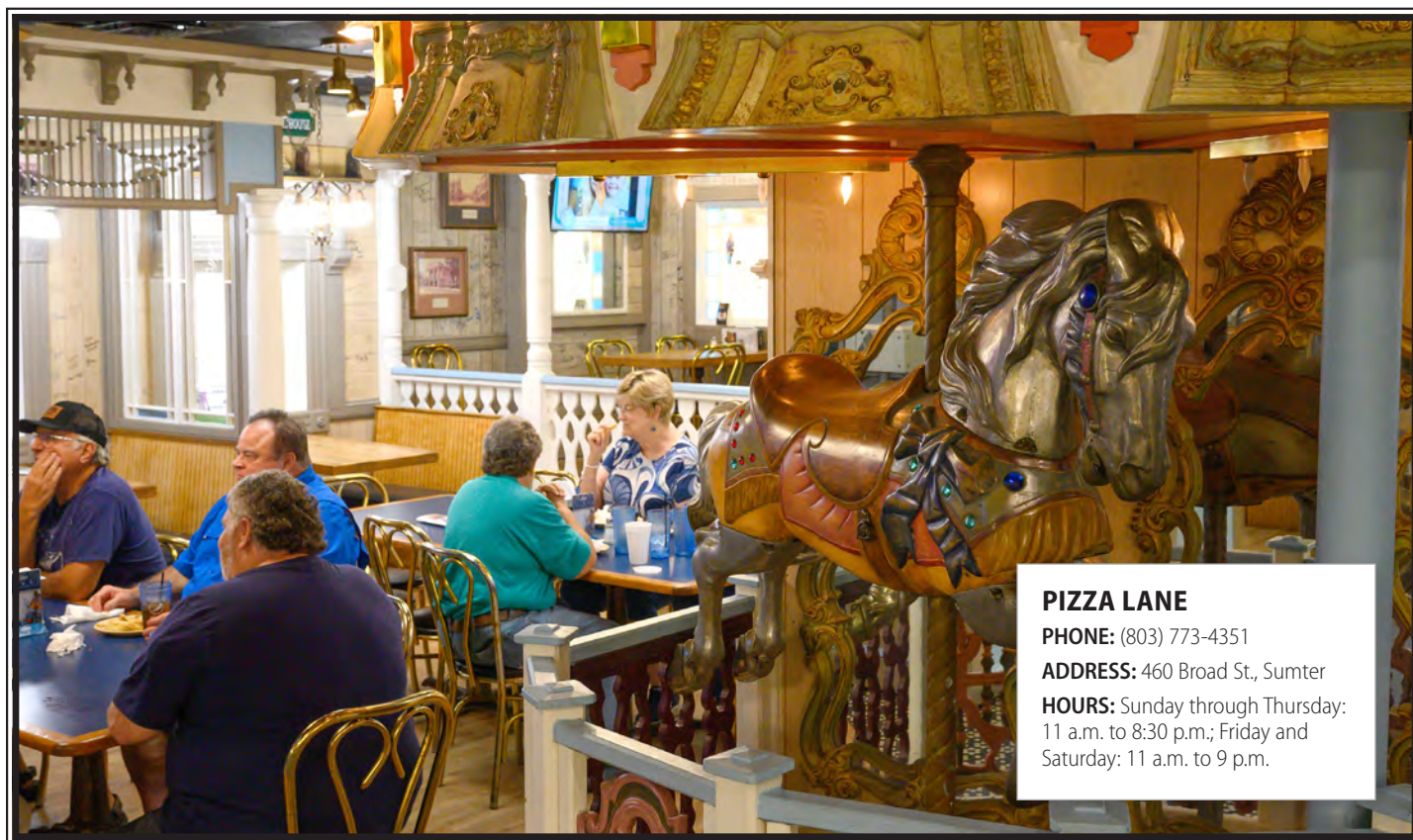
New Pizza Lane owner takes over mainstay, injecting life back into restaurant

BY BRUCE MILLS

bruce@theitem.com

One of Sumter's oldest, local independent restaurants that has always had a local nostalgic theme is "back and here to stay," as its new owner has worked to restore it to its glory days.

New Pizza Lane owner Tony Barwick and its original owner Billy Lane spoke recently on Barwick's renovations, up-fits and new menu additions to the restaurant in the last year to breathe life back into the establishment, and the various investments have Lane tickled pink.



PIZZA LANE

PHONE: (803) 773-4351

ADDRESS: 460 Broad St., Sumter

HOURS: Sunday through Thursday:
11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday and
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

PABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Customers dine at Pizza Lane recently. Original owner Billy Lane included in his remodeling project around 1990 a merry-go-round with a horse that dates back to 1923. New owner Tony Barwick purchased the property last year and has taken steps to return Pizza Lane to its glory days under Lane.

A Sumter business owner with numerous ventures but mostly known for his Palmetto Pigeon Plant, Barwick bought the Pizza Lane building on Broad Street from its out-of-state owner and also took over running the restaurant in 2025.

Immediately he began renovations to the outside and inside of the restaurant to include everything from updated signage of the Pizza Lane name scripted in the Broadway font on the front of the building, new ceilings and flooring to new cooking equipment in the kitchen.

Barwick's fixer-upper project has totaled more than \$100,000, he said, and includes new sound systems and 11 new flat-screen TVs throughout the 4,500-square-foot building.

A Sumter native, Lane started Pizza Lane – originally under the Pizza Inn franchise name – in 1979, and a claim to fame was when he remodeled the restaurant about 1990 with a nostalgic theme to include numerous Sumter artifacts.

Those include a barber pole from the former Victory Barbershop in the down-

town area.

Much of the memorabilia remained on display after Lane retired and sold the business in 2009, and Barwick has tried to maintain that Sumter history as much as possible in his renovations, he said.

Lane said he was already a collector when he began the restaurant and when people were remodeling local establishments and getting rid of older items, he would go get them and put them in his

SEE PIZZA LANE, PAGE A5

MAYO'S SUIT CITY

For your special day, let Mayo's take your stress away!

Great suit selection.
Tuxedos for sale
and rent.

1121 Broad St. Suite 11 Wesmark Plaza
Monday-Saturday 10-7
803-773-2262 • www.MayosDiscountSuits.com



PIZZA LANE

FROM PAGE A4

pizza establishment. Some of his own memorabilia he had collected from elsewhere is also on display.

Lane, who is now 84, got the nostalgic theme remodeling idea in about 1989 from a contractor who worked with Pizza Inn franchises in North Carolina, and he thought it would be great for his restaurant, he said.

When the pizza place opened in 1979, Barwick said he was 17 years old, and it became a great place to hang out with friends.

"I'm 64 years old now," he said. "Literally, I started coming here when I could drive and it opened. Back then, there were not big choices in Sumter, so when something new opened you went and tried it out. Everybody did. It was a great place for young people to go."

Since then, generations of Sumterites have frequented Pizza Lane, he added, including his own kids and grandchildren.

Under Barwick, the restaurant recently moved back to being open seven days a week like when Lane operated it.

The new owner calls his purchase and full-scale update of Pizza Lane "a sentimental project."

"You want to preserve things for your kids and grandchildren," Barwick said. "Pizza Lane is part of Sumter, but it is part of the people of Sumter."

"People will come in and say: 'You see right there. Right there is where we had our first date' and point to the booth. How do you do away with something like that? You got to preserve that."

"As I get a little older, a little more sentimental, I want to preserve our history, too."

"You want to make money and you have got to understand that, but they



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

New Pizza Lane owner Tony Barwick has invested more than \$100,000 in renovations on the outside and inside of the restaurant since taking over last year.



Original Pizza Lane owner Billy Lane, left, and new owner Tony Barwick are seen together recently at the restaurant.

BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

can both work together. When people see you preserving their history, they want to support you. And it's worked here. Pizza Lane is fine, and it's set to go for years and years. We're back to being in the kind of shape that Mr. Billy had it in when he left."

MORE ON VENTURE

Barwick said the pigeon plant remains his primary focus, but he loves Pizza Lane because it is so personal,

compared to his plant operation.

"The pigeon plant has been my real focus, but this has been fun," he added.

"I really like that you walk in here and you talk to your customers. You get to know your customer a lot better. It's just more of a personal business."

"I guess that is part of the restaurant business. And I have always loved food. The pigeon plant is in the food business also, but I have really enjoyed that part of this."

Barwick said there will continue to be some menu additions including hotdogs, hamburgers, subs, a chicken sandwich, "but we will always be a pizza place."

Its thin-crust pizza has always been unique and is Pizza Lane's specialty, he added.

In his menu additions, Barwick also brought back the restaurant's Fair Fries that Lane first started. Those are cut fresh daily from potatoes and are crispier than other French fries, the new owner said.

Barwick added a third buffet, and there is now a salad bar and two hot buffets.

The buffet is a big focus and also fresh ingredients that are high quality, he said. The buffet begins at 11:30 a.m. daily for lunch.

"With the food business, if people like something and the service is really good, then they are willing to pay for it," Barwick added. "You can go eat our buffet and walk out of here for \$15 and eat all you can eat. That's pizzas, a spaghetti casserole, at least one soup if not something else. There are chocolate chip cookies also. There will be a dessert pizza and a full salad bar for \$15."

Back to Lane.

When he realized the business owner in North Carolina was selling Pizza Lane and that Barwick was interested, Lane and the longtime restaurant manager were grateful, he said.

"We were tickled to death that somebody from this town was interested in this business and knew the history of this business," Lane said. "We figure this is absolutely a perfect match."

"I call myself laughingly an 'unpaid financial consultant' now. I try to come by a lot. The biggest reason is not to see Tony, although I like to see him, I really like to see my old customers."

"The social part of running a restaurant is a lot more than people realize."

NOT A PROBLEM!

Happy Puppy
Happy Floors
Happy Momma



All Pets. All Accidents. All the Time!

Dixie Carpets

1255 N. Lafayette • Sumter

775-4391

8:30am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday

Annual Porches of Sumter brings homeowners and businesses together through hospitality and history

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE

alaysha@theitem.com

A porch can be many things. It can be a quiet place to sit at the end of the day, a shaded spot to catch up with a neighbor or an extension of a home where family and friends can share a laugh over food and conversation.

For Beth Jackson, her North Purdy Street porch has become all those things.

Jackson and her husband, John, have welcomed people onto their porch as part of Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce's Porches of Sumter.

The annual fall community event features homeowners in Sumter's historic



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Pound of Love Bakery is a featured Hospitality Host for 2026 Porches of Sumter. At the heart of the business is a 100-year-old pound cake family recipe. This year will mark the fourth year the business has participated in the event.

district who open their yards and porches while local restaurants and businesses can serve savory and sweet Southern bites.

For the Jacksons, the event feels like a natural extension of what they have loved about their home since they first saw it. The couple bought the home in 1977, after John's graduation from Clemson University.

"It was love at first sight when we saw the character of the house, which reminded me of my grandmother's home and, more importantly, the beautiful live oak that dominated the front yard," Beth shared.

The original home was built in 1934. After several small renovations through the years, the couple did a major re-vamp in 1994 to retain the home's 1930 identity, including its arches, porches and high ceilings.

As an architect, John also incorporated some of his own ideas into the renovations. One of the most distinctive features is the home's carport. It is useful, versatile and, during Porches, becomes

an extension of the porch itself. It provides a perfect place for the vendors to display their dishes while being a prime location for friends, family and neighbors to grab a spot to sit, enjoy a bite to eat and have good conversation.

That combination of food, fellowship and that feeling of home is at the heart of what makes the event meaningful for the Jacksons.

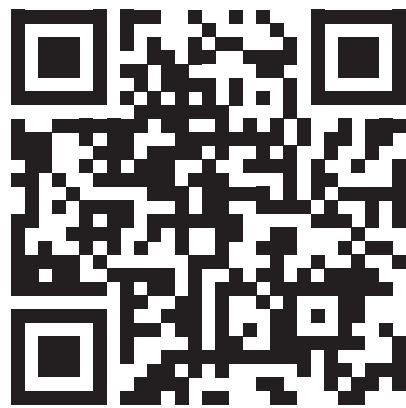
"Everyone always seems to enjoy this community event," Beth shared. "It's fun to meet and greet new people and see friends we have known for years."

While the Jacksons have welcomed visitors through their arches for the tour, other participants bring a different piece of home to the event: food.

For Derrick and Cassandra Floyd, owners of Pound of Love Bakery, Porches of Sumter is equal parts sweetness,

SEE **PORCHES**, PAGE A7





theitem.com/jinglefest2026/




• Vendors • Food • Music • Crafts • Santa





BECOME A VENDOR

USC SUMTER 200 MILLER RD

DEC. 12

11A.M.-4P.M.

PORCHES

FROM PAGE A6

connection and making memories that last.

The micro-bakery specializes in scratch-made pound cake artisan cookies. The heart of the business is a 100-year-old family recipe for pound cakes that has been passed down through the generations. A pound cake was a kitchen table staple growing up, as it was shared with visiting family and friends alongside a cup of warm tea or coffee. Now that recipe is being shared with the Sumter community.

“Serving this recipe is a homage to our family,” the Floyds said. “We believe Porches epitomizes what a community is all about: good people, food and fun.”

The family came to be part of the community after 26 years in the Air Force. Upon retirement, they made Sumter home. The bakery was started to create opportunities for their son, Devin, who is on the autism spectrum. Growing up, baking was a favorite pastime for the youngest Floyd. The bakery opened when he was a junior in high school, giving him an outlet for his interest.

Looking for a better way to become



Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce gifted The Jacksons a painting of their North Purdy Street home after they won the porch decorating contest at 2025 Porches of Sumter.

PHOTO PROVIDED

connected to their new community, Pound of Love Bakery joined Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce. Their first year participating in Porches – the first event they ever participated in after joining – was a monumental one.

“That first event catapulted Pound of Love Bakery into a household name,” the family said.

This led to invitations to various other events, festivals and gatherings, but Porches of Sumter will hold a special place in their heart. This year marks

their fourth year as a Hospitality Host.

The Floyds credit the Chamber and Sumter with helping their bakery grow and expressed gratitude for embracing Devin’s dream.

Porches of Sumter brings people together who may otherwise never cross paths – homeowners opening their homes to visitors, businesses sharing the purpose behind their plates of food and community members being able to fellowship in the middle of it all.

According to Peyton Richardson, di-

rector of communications for the Chamber, that’s the purpose of Porches of Sumter.

“Porches of Sumter is really about celebrating what makes Sumter feel like home,” she shared. “It brings together our local businesses, residents and community partners in one of the most historic parts of our city and gives people an opportunity to connect in a way that feels uniquely Sumter.”

For the Chamber, Richardson said, the event is especially meaningful, as it highlights many of the people who help make it possible, from sponsors, Hospitality Hosts and vendors to volunteers and homeowners.

“Porches truly takes a community to bring to life, and I think that’s part of what makes it so special,” Richardson expressed. “It’s a great example of what can happen when our business community and our community as a whole come together to create something people genuinely look forward to each year.”

And they don’t have to look much longer. Porches of Sumter returns Friday, Oct. 9, at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St, from 6 to 9 p.m. General admission is \$40, and VIP Experience is \$75.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.porchesofsumter.com.



THE
FUTURE
GOES
HERE

WilsonHall.org

PORCHES
Of Sumter

presented by
 FTC **tandem health**

featuring
CHAPPELL COURT BAND

THE GREATER
Sumter
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OCTOBER 9 | 6:00-9:00PM

learn more and purchase your tickets at
porchesofsumter.com



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MAX J. DAIGLE

U.S. Air Force airmen assigned to the 20th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department march in their fire protection gear while carrying an American flag during the 2026 9/11 Memorial Run & Walk event at Shaw Air Force Base on Friday, Sept. 11. During the memorial event, the Shaw Air Force Base community commemorated the actions of the first responders at the scenes of the 9/11 attacks, the servicemembers who deployed across the world to combat terrorism in the years that followed, and their families.

Shaw will never forget

Airmen, soldiers and other members of the Shaw Air Force Base community commemorated the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks by continuously running and rucking with an American flag for 24 hours during its 2026 9/11 Memorial Run & Walk event at Shaw Air Force Base on Sept. 11, 2026.

PHOTOS BY UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MAX J. DAIGLE

ABOVE: U.S. Air Force airmen carry an American flag during the 2026 9/11 Memorial Run & Walk event at Shaw Air Force Base on Sept. 11.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JAMAL PRICE

LEFT: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Steven Cardo, F-16 Viper Demonstration Team public affairs specialist, carries an American flag during the event.

Speeds up to **5 GIG**
NOW AVAILABLE
IN FIBER AREAS

starting at
FTC Fiber Internet \$39.95 /mo.

Get Internet That Gets You.

ftcinet.com | 888.218.5050

insurance the
right way.
the human way.

simple human sense

CRW
CREECH • RODDEY • WATSON
INSURANCE

Sumter - Manning 803.775.1168

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

Score big on game day with winning tailgate recipes

FEATURE IMPACT

Football, family, friends and food are a winning combination during tailgating season, especially if your recipe game is locked in. Whether you're feeding a hungry crowd in the stadium parking lot or putting together a savory plate to enjoy while you chill on the sofa, these recipes bring plenty of flavor and keep the energy going until the final whistle.

A main course of Grilled Chicken Kebabs served alongside Steakhouse Hasselback Potatoes and Simple Salmi Sliders will fuel you and your crew all the way from the pre-game festivities to the after party.

Visit Culinary.net to find more recipes to inspire your game plan.

FIRE UP THE GRILL FOR MOUTHWATERING CHICKEN KEBABS

Tailgating and grilling go together like touchdowns and victory dances, and some of the best game-day recipes are the ones you can make well ahead of kickoff so you aren't rushing around to get ready. These sweet-and-smoky Grilled Chicken Kebabs can be prepped and marinated up to 8 hours in advance so all you need to do is pull them out of the fridge and get them to the grill.

With lean protein from the chicken plus vitamins and fiber from a generous amount of bright, colorful veggies, this recipe is a score for more than your taste buds.

GRILLED CHICKEN KEBABS

Recipe adapted from Dinner at the Zoo

Prep time: 20 minutes

Marinating time: 1 hour

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 4



PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Marinade:

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar or other vinegar
- 1/8 cup soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

Kebabs:

- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 orange bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 small zucchini, cut into 1-inch slices
- 1 small yellow squash, cut into 1-inch slices
- 1 red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 4 wooden skewers
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

To make marinade: In large bowl, whisk olive oil, vinegar, soy sauce, lemon juice, brown sugar and garlic. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

To make kebabs: In bowl, toss chicken, bell peppers, zucchini, squash and red onion with marinade. Cover and refrigerate 1-8 hours.

Soak wooden skewers in cold water at least 30 minutes to prevent burning. Preheat grill to medium-high heat.

Thread chicken pieces and vegetables onto skewers, alternating ingredients. Cook 5-7 minutes on each side, or until chicken is cooked through.

Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

FUEL YOUR TAILGATE TEAM WITH A STEAKHOUSE SIDE

If you're looking for a tasty twist on tailgating tradition that'll give you as much energy in the stands as the athletes on the field, look for a steakhouse-worthy side dish that's loaded with complex carbohydrates and fueling flavor.

These Steakhouse Hasselback Potatoes, loaded with caramelized onions and crispy bacon, feature Wisconsin Russets - a complex carbohydrate that plays an important role in the body by providing energy to cells, the brain and certain parts of the kidney. As a healthier choice than simple carbs, which are composed of sugars that break down faster in your system, potatoes are also a good source of vitamin B6, potassium, copper, vitamin C, manganese, phosphorus, niacin, dietary fiber and pantothenic acid, making them a superstar selection on game day.

Tackle your next tailgate with more delicious recipes by visiting eatwisconsinpotatoes.com.

STEAKHOUSE HASSELBACK POTATOES

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 90 minutes

Servings: 8

Hasselback Potatoes:

- 4 Wisconsin Russets (about 1 pound each)
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- Caramelized Onions:
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2.2 pounds yellow onions, sliced thin
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/4 cup cognac or brandy (optional)

To Plate:

- 1 cup shredded cheddar jack cheese
 - 12 ounces hickory smoked bacon, cooked and cut into 2-inch pieces
 - 1/2 cup sour cream
 - 2 tablespoons fresh chives, chopped
- Preheat oven to 400 F.

To make Hasselback potatoes: Using



Steakhouse Hasselback Potatoes

TAILGATE FROM PAGE A9

vegetable brush, wash potatoes. Dry well and place on cutting board. Arrange handles of two wooden spoons so they are alongside potatoes to prevent knife from slicing all the way through. Make several cuts down each potato about 1/4 inch apart. Repeat with remaining potatoes and ar-

range on baking sheet fitted with wire rack.

Drizzle with olive oil, making sure some oil is in slices. Sprinkle salt on each potato.

Bake 90 minutes, or until potatoes are crispy on outside, fluffy in center and internal temperature is 205 F. Remove from oven and allow to cool slightly.

To make caramelized onions: In heavy-bottomed shallow pan over medium heat, melt butter. Add sliced onions and season with salt. Continue to cook, stirring regularly until onions are deep brown and caramelized. Deglaze pan with cognac or brandy, if desired, scraping caramelized bits off bottom of pan. Remove from heat and set aside.

To assemble, sprinkle potatoes with cheese, about 1/4 cup per spud, ensuring some cheese is in potato slices. Place cooked bacon pieces in some slices.

Return potatoes to oven for about 5 minutes, just long enough to heat potatoes slightly and melt cheese. Place potatoes on serving platter and garnish with caramelized onions, sour cream and chopped chives.

1 teaspoon garlic powder
everything bagel seasoning (optional)
Heat oven to 350 F.

Halve slider buns, creating top and bottom portions. Set top portion aside, leaving bottom portion in original container. Place bottom portion and container in baking dish to prevent sticking.

Layer Swiss cheese, salami and ham then cover with top buns.

Mix melted butter, Worcestershire sauce, brown sugar, Parmesan cheese, onion powder and garlic powder. Pour over sliders.

Cover with foil and bake 15 minutes then remove foil, sprinkle with everything bagel seasoning, if desired, and bake, uncovered, 10 minutes.

Source: Feature Impact

SLIDE INTO THE END ZONE WITH SALAMI

A tailgating MVP recipe is easy to assemble, easy to eat and packed with flavor — and these Simple Salami Sliders check every box. Soft slider buns, melty cheese and savory salami are baked in a buttery sauce for craveable bites that will disappear as soon as you pass the basket around.

Switch up the sauce, use a different cheese or add your favorite extra toppings to customize your perfect slider.

SIMPLE SALAMI SLIDERS

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6

- 1 package slider buns
- 8 slices Swiss cheese
- 8 slices salami
- 8 slices ham or other deli meat
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon onion powder



Simple Salami Sliders



Wally's Hardware

Landscaping Tool Spring Sale



\$17⁹⁹
WALLYS # 1164
MODEL # 34917



\$15⁹⁵
WALLYS # 1163
MODEL # 34585



\$23⁶⁹
WALLYS # 3982
MODEL # 35493



\$22⁷⁹
WALLYS # 3986
MODEL # 34594



\$21⁵⁰
WALLYS # 1226
MODEL # 34613

Landscapers Select rakes and yard tools!



Wally's Hardware

1291 Broad St. Ext. • Sumter, SC
Open: Mon-Fri. 8am - 5:30pm • Sat. 8am - 2pm • 803-469-8531

We're Here



Roger Armfield

803-938-8200



GEICO

Local Office

Serving Sumter

WRIGHT WAY PLUMBING

3425 Thomas Sumter Highway,
Dalzell, SC 29040
803-499-4108

SPECIALTIES:

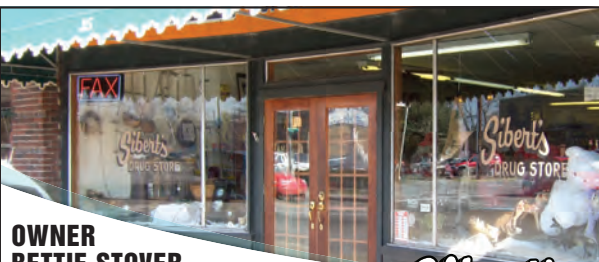
- REPAIRS
- REMODELING
- WATER HEATERS
- TANKLESS WATER HEATERS
- BACK FLOW TESTING & REPAIRS
- WATER & SEWER LINE REPAIRS
- NEW INSTALLATION
- NEW CONSTRUCTION (RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL)
- SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING
- CAMERA & JETTING SERVICES



Gibert's
DRUG STORE

OWNER BETTIE STOVER
Mon-Fri: 9AM - 5PM • Sat: 9AM - 2 PM
35 W. Liberty Street / Sumter
(803) 773-7283

COMPLETE PRESCRIPTION SERVICE



www.KelleyConstructionOfSumter.com

Established 1997 Licensed / Bonded LLC

KELLEY CONSTRUCTION

ROOFING SEAMLESS
CONTRACTOR GUTTERS

BEST OF CLARENDON 2026

803-494-4200

Imports Limited

Proudly serving for more than 44 years

Craig Singleton (MBA)

Sound & Visual Systems | Sales | Installations | Rentals
Pro Audio Projection & Camera Systems
Musical Instruments | Pianos | DJ Equipment & Lighting | Speakers | Microphones | Drums & More!

9 N. Main Street, Sumter (Downtown)
Store: 803-773-1908 Cell: 803-491-7122
www.IMPORTSLIMITEDSC.com



Give any ordinary room
a fresh modern look

Interior Design,
Kitchen & Bath Design,
Custom Cabinetry,
Blinds, Shades,
Shutters &
Wallpaper

gallery
INTERIORS LLC

Design for Beauty,
Comfort & Function

Rebecca B. Compton, ASID, CKD, NCIDQ
gallery406interiors.com

Located inside C&A Carpet 990 S. Pike West | 803.774.0406

the **Y** 175th ANNIVERSARY

NO PLACE

Like This Place

BASKETBALL FOR AGES 3 - 13
Register now online at www.ymasumter.org
Visit us at 510 Miller Road in Sumter



Giggles on the Go
PLAYTIME & PARTIES

INDOOR PLAYGROUND FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, BIRTHDAY PARTY VENUE, AND CHARACTER VISITS

Come PLAY!

741 BULTMAN DRIVE, SUITE 11
SUMTER, SC

803-774-PLAY



SHOW YOUR CARD!
YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE DISCOVERED BY PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTY AREA FOR MINIMAL COST TO YOU.

Moving & Storage Solutions

Dream Homes
By D...
From con...
sure you...
expect...
CONVI...
Ap...
123...
000...

Beautify Your Yard
We have everything you need to enhance your landscape with healthy grass, fresh florals and unique garden accents for spring. Stop in today!

Gigg's Lawn & Garden
1234 Main Street • Anytown
000-000-0000
www.namewebsite.com

NEW CONSTRUCTION: by Gainey Construction Company

\$264,900
3125 Foxcroft Cir.
3 Bed - 2 Bath | 1,600 sf.

CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION! ALSO FOR SALE 1830 GALLERY DR

803-491-4220 | REALTOR™ Susan W Osteen

Advantage Realty Group Inc.
2573 Broad Street Sumter, SC




YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

**TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS ON THIS PAGE
PLEASE EMAIL ADVERTISING@THEITEM.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

The Hub: Sumter's busiest bargain store

Reflections revisits
The Hub, later
known as Bergers,
one of Sumter's favorite
shopping establishments.



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

This business would undergo several changes; however, it remained an integral part of Sumter's shopping community. The data and photos used were obtained from *The Item* archives and from a sketch written by Cassie Nicholes which will be replicated with a modicum of editing.

"This business, once located on North Main Street for more than a half-century, was known as Berger's Men's Clothing and Shoe Store. In 1912 the founder of this store, Abraham Isaac Mazursky, born in Russia in 1892, came to South Carolina and the following year he moved to Sumter County. He

began business with Henry Weinberg, establishing a general merchandising store in Mayesville. He, with his wife, daughter Helen, and son, Morris, continued to live in that town for several years."

"In 1923 he established a business of his own, a department store on the east side of North Main Street in Sumter. This store, known as 'The Hub,' drew many customers. 'Mr. Abe' or

'Mr. Hub,' as he was frequently called by his friends, knew the mercantile business and was a 'born' salesman. Being in a strategic location, he attracted those who came to the city from the country to sell their produce and/or to make necessary purchases, as well as those who lived in the city."

Mazursky's daughter, having inherited the business acumen and personality of her father,



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

The Hub is seen at left in December 1956, looking north on Main Street.

Berger's Special Family Shoe Sale!

one group girls' and boys' School and Dress SHOES values to \$5.00 Now \$1.88 to \$2.88

one group Ladies' Dress and Casual SHOES values to \$5.00 Now \$1.88 and \$2.44

BIG BOOT SELECTION
for all the family from baby to Grandpa!

Two Big Racks Ladies' Dress and Casual SHOES values to \$7.00 Now \$3.00

Men's DRESS SHOE CLEARANCE one group values to \$14.00 Now \$6.88 to \$8.88

BERGER'S 30 N. Main St. Sumter, S.C.

It's Berger's for Better Buys!

This ad for Berger's was published in December 1970.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Richard Berger

was married to Harry Berger, who was also interested in the mercantile business. In 1951 they became partners with her father, and the name of the store was changed to Berger's.

The store was later moved to the west side of Main Street to a location that in the early years of Sumter's history had been occupied at different times by Theodore Solomons and Co., J. Ryttenberg and Sons and Levi Bros. The image of the store, as well as the name, was changed. Instead of a department store marketing wearing apparel for men, women and children, as well as other merchandise in the dry goods category, it later became a specialty store for men's apparel. It carried excellent suits, such as Campus, Cot-

ler and Normano. It specialized in fashionable men's shoes – Padrino, Harbor and others. In addition, all accessories such as shirts, hats, sweaters, scarves, belts, ties, etc. could be purchased by the well-dressed man. The business offered a satisfactory choice for every man at prices that would please.

Later Stephen Berger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Berger, became a partner in the firm. Thus, Berger's was a business of continuous family interest and ownership, guaranteeing to the public the services of a partnership built on a foundation of thrift, integrity and interest in the growth of Sumter. It was the desire of the founder, "Mr. Abe" Mazursky, to establish such a business, that he might leave behind the heritage of a good name. He loved America and wanted to be a good citizen of his adopted country. He loved Sumter and made many contributions toward its growth. In the same spirit his descendants continued this great tradition.

Four full-time salesladies were also employed. Three of these – Ethel Scurry, Ruby Robbs and Martha Hancock – were with the firm for more than 25 years. Addie Hinson was an employee for 15 years. These ladies had a thorough knowledge of the stock as well as the latest trends in men's wear. They were cordial and friendly, knowing how to meet the public and assist the customers. The fact that they were with the company for many years demonstrated their ability and loyalty as well as the successful growth of Berger's.

Clinton Caesar, another full-time employee, was with the business a year. He was responsible for window and inside displays, as well as sales. One part-time employee, Harold Brogdon, was a full-time student at the University of South Carolina.

It takes a village

Local churches team up to feed Sumter High football program

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Any parent of a high school football player knows one simple fact: It's not cheap to keep a young athlete fed. That's why Sumter High head coach Drew Marlowe has teamed up with four local churches to make sure that his athletes are fed every weeknight as they go through a grueling football season.

"We started doing this when I was in Florence after my second year. I realized the needs of a lot of our kids. Unfortunately, not everyone gets to go home and eat supper, especially with how tough it is economically right now," Marlowe said. "In Florence, we started with once a week, then we found some more people and did it twice a week, then three times a week, and it turned into being able to feed a varsity football team six days a week. Right now, we're feeding our football team five days a week. I just reached out to some people I knew, and their answer was yes almost immediately."

"We're just very blessed to have the support of so many different churches who are willing to come every single week, give up their time and invest in our kids by feeding them supper."



The four churches work together in a rotation. Grace Baptist handles meals every Monday, while First Baptist feeds the team on Tuesday. Christ Community Church comes in on Wednesday, and Alice Drive Baptist handles the game day meal on Friday. On Thursday, the players receive a meal courtesy of the SHS booster club.

For each of the churches involved,



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Members of the Sumter High football team receive dinner after practice. The Gamecocks are fed every weekday by a combination of Alice Drive Baptist, First Baptist, Christ Community and Grace Baptist churches and the SHS Booster Club.

this has been a special way to connect with members of their community and show the Gamecocks that they have the support of Sumter behind them.

"It's been an opportunity for us to communicate through food, which is an awesome communication and fellowship medium, that the local church is here for you as a member of our community," said Caleb Dubose, the associ-

ate pastor at Grace Baptist. "Hopefully it inspires them to turn around and do similar things and to feel some community support in a way that is really tangible."

Asa Dinkins, the high school ministry director at First Baptist, added, "It's crucial for them to see that there are people

SEE **VILLAGE**, PAGE A14



VILLAGE

FROM PAGE A13

in Sumter who might not know them by name but care about who they are and care about them as a person, so I think that's super, super special."

Perhaps the most critical portion of this mission is the fact that four churches are uniting under one common goal: making sure the Sumter High football team is fed and hears the Word of God in the process. While some people may see the different names on their buildings, these churches are not high school football programs. There is no rivalry when it comes to giving back to their community.

"That's one of the biggest wins. We're all on Team Jesus," said Corey Watson, senior pastor at Alice Drive Baptist. "If you're a like-minded church, if you're a church right down the road or wherever in Sumter or beyond, if you're Team Jesus, we're on your team. I'm constantly telling our people here, when the church down the road wins, we win for the Kingdom. That's why I'm able to go into these conversations with coaches and say you're not going to see us roll in with bright, neon Alice Drive shirts on because it's not about Alice Drive. If some players and coaches end up walking through our doors on a Sunday morning, praise God, but if they go to the church down the road and Jesus saves them and changes their lives, we're just as excited."

Watson and his team at Alice



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Containers of food are prepared for the Sumter High School Gamecocks every weekday by a combination of Alice Drive Baptist, First Baptist, Christ Community and Grace Baptist churches and the SHS Booster Club.

Drive also don't want to play favorites. When he started in Sumter, he made the same offer to the programs at Crestwood and Lakewood.

"We've done the same with Crestwood and Lakewood, as well. I've had the same conversation with those coaches, which is, 'We're here, we want to be your biggest fan, we want to be an asset, however that needs to look, whether it's food or I have a leadership program

I do, whatever it may be.'

"We just want to add value to a program, whether we operate in the background and no one knows our name, that's completely fine for us, because we're not in it for Alice Drive's name. That's what I told Drew when he came in; that's what I told Crestwood and Lakewood's coaches."

Caleb Yoder, the teaching and missions pastor at Christ Community Church, also uses

this weekly mission as a chance to show that these churches are about doing good within their community, not just talking about it on Sundays.

"We want to share the good news of Jesus to everybody, and that's kind of our heart, but talking about things and actually being involved and invested in being able to provide things for people, I think that's where the gap is bridged between people believing what you say by seeing what you do," he said. "I think we have a really cool opportunity for the community to see and the guys on the team to see that these churches are not just churches that speak about people doing stuff; we're out here doing it, too. I think all of the churches involved want to be invested in the community, not just with what we do on a Sunday morning, but what we're doing during the week in the way that we care for people other than when we're gathered in our own churches. That part has been really neat."

Of course, bringing food to feed a team the size of Sumter High is no simple feat. Dinkins put together a spreadsheet so that every member of the church who wants to participate in feeding the Gamecocks can find a day that works for them and they can provide as much assistance as they can.

"I've got about 15 slots, and I started advertising it to our church, especially the men in the church. I think it's easy for a lot of moms to step up and bake something, but it's been really cool to see our men, our

fathers and our grandfathers step up into this role," Dinkins said. "I advertised that if you want a week or you just want to help or if you can only do dessert, whatever it is, here's the signup sheet, leave your name and phone number, the meal that you want to provide or help provide and if you're willing to give that five-minute testimony right before they eat. That sheet has filled out really, really quickly."

Dubose sees the weekly ritual as an additional way for his congregation at Grace Baptist to bond, while also helping feed a local program full of hungry football players.

"It usually involves people at the church or at their own homes essentially tailgating for the practice, which of course involves some shopping and some time behind a grill or whatever the meal is that day," Dubose said. "But it's been a time of fellowship for members of our church. You have some people who cook together now that maybe don't sit close to each other in the sanctuary all of the time. Some folks bring desserts, and it's a reflection of their own talents and them being able to bring them to the table. My wife is essentially a professional baker and I can't bake, but I can grill. It's that kind of partnership idea on a larger scale."

"But it's a significant undertaking, which is one of the reasons that when I took it to the deacons I said this isn't something we can flop on, it's 80-something players and we

SEE VILLAGE, PAGE A15



Great Benefits - Earn up to \$20.25/hr.

NEW PAY RATES

www.pilgrims.com/pilgrims-jobs

2050 HWY. 15 S, Sumter, SC 29150, 803-481-6243

SCAN HERE!



**NOW HIRING
AND RE-HIRING!**
*Join Our
Team!*

VILLAGE

FROM PAGE A14

wanted some available for coaches or assistants or whoever, so we had to make sure we were able to perform, just like the players are able to perform. It's work, but it's a labor of love for our congregation, and I know everyone who has done it has already asked what other weeks we have open because they're ready to do it again."

Marlowe also wants these daily meals to be an important lesson for his team. He wants them to see the number of people in the Sumter community who are willing to give their time and resources to them so that, in turn, the Gamecocks know the importance of giving back to the community they've been raised within.

"I think helping them know and understand that there are people behind them, there are people who support them," Marlowe said. "Each one of

I think our players just really feeling loved by our community and feeling like there are people here who want to see them grow and want to see them succeed, and not just on the football field, but helping them in life.'

SUMTER HIGH HEAD FOOTBALL COACH DREW MARLOWE

Talking about the importance of community support

them also has a prayer partner. We've paired someone up with every member of our team, they give them little gift bags, write them letters, all of those sorts of things. I think our players just really feeling loved by our community and feeling like there are people here who want to see them grow and want to see them succeed, and not just on the football field, but helping them in life. Doing life together is something that was really important for me coming back here, and it was something I

knew I wanted to get going."

These community leaders also see the importance of Sumter High bringing a local coach back home, especially one who sees the value in boosting all of Sumter to its greatest potential.

"He knows that his role as a coach is more than just as a coach; it's like a teacher role," Dubose said. "He's invested in the lives of these young people; he has them in his home. It's a family atmosphere, which reflects his own beautiful family and his church family. It's a



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Members of the Sumter High football team receive dinner after practice.

layered approach and a layered opportunity to serve to show layers of love and support to the people under his leadership right now."

Yoder added, "I would never speak for him, but I think one of the things that he's showing is that he cares about winning football games and coaching football, but beyond that he cares about raising young men

into men that understand the value of community, understand the value of church community partnership. And I really do believe that they have an understanding of who Jesus is and they see that in things like this, where we're able to go out and take care of a need for you."

Marlowe plans to continue to keep his team invested in the community around them because they're the future of Sumter.

"Sumter is a special place to me, it's important to me. This is why I wanted to come back, because I wanted to give to our kids and help them help Sumter grow and become better," said the Gamecock head coach. "This is just the beginning of the things we want to do. In the spring, we want to get involved with businesses and create micro-internships for our kids. We want our kids to be a part of the community, and we want our community to be a part of our football program and our kids' lives."

RELIABLE

Est. 1946

PAWN SHOP



THANK YOU FOR VOTING US #1

We strive to provide excellent service to our clients
Come see why we are #1!



Lowest Pawn interest rate in the area and
best layaway plan in town. Always buying gold!

Monday-Friday 10am-5:50 pm; Saturday 10am-4:50pm

33 West Liberty Street · Downtown Sumter
18 N. Brooks Street · Downtown Manning
www.reliablepawnshop.com

COMPLETE FLOORING SERVICES & WATER RESTORATION

M&M Carpets, Inc.

SALES • INSTALLATION • CLEANING



We offer both residential and commercial carpet!




1285 Peach Orchard Rd. • Sumter, SC 29154

(Behind Shaw AFB)

803-494-2100 • Cell: 803-972-3758

Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
1. '60s do
4. Estate unit
8. Encourage
12. Tote
13. Those people
14. Likewise
15. Whole
16. Current
17. Charges
18. Boll _____
20. Weeping
21. Winter eave hanger
24. Fruit's cover
27. Curl
32. Vocal
33. Drink
34. Part played
35. Processions
37. Competent
38. Jabbered
41. Actress Keaton
45. Coliseums
49. Feed the pot
50. Ball
52. Coffeepot
53. Hide
54. Mas that baa
55. Floral garland
56. Leaps
57. Alternatively
58. Circuit

- DOWN**
1. Blemish
2. Reign
3. Gape
4. Loft
5. Spicy dish
6. Beet color
7. Gawk
8. Secure
9. Prayer
10. Patron
11. Pinkish
19. Pancho _____
20. Bowling number
22. Brittle
23. Facial feature
24. Dad
25. Age of note
26. Piece of corn
28. Test mark
29. Soft toss
30. Added wing
31. Casual shirt
33. Adriatic, e.g.
36. Hue
39. Loses color
40. Cleanse
41. Quick race
42. Dividing preposition
43. Above
44. Facts
46. Invalid
47. Field of study
48. Prune
50. Golly's partner
51. Punching tool

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
32					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			

COPYRIGHT, PENNY PRESS

SOLUTION

S	P	U	R	A	C	R	E		I	C	I	C	I		W	E	E	V	I	L					F	R	O
S	O			A	L	S									A	L	L										
O	S			T	H	E	Y								L	U	G										
U	R			S																							
P	E	E	L	T																							
T				G	L	E																					
R	O	L	E																								
S				A	R	E																					
A	N	T	E																								
G	A	L	A																								
I																											
L	A	P																									

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

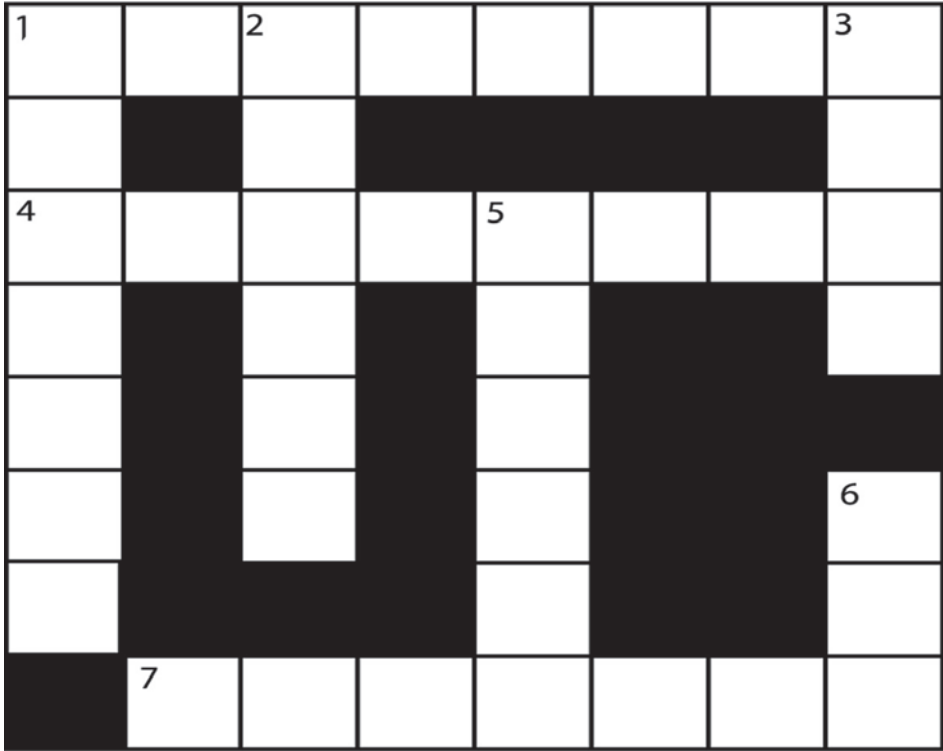
Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SOLUTION

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

KIDS CORNER

Crossword Puzzle



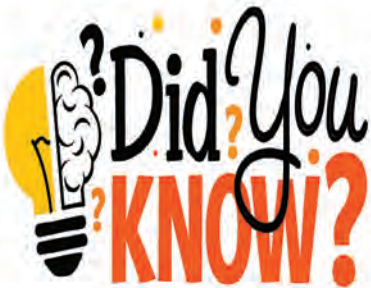
ACROSS

- 1. Trip away
- 4. Vitamin or mineral
- 7. Ice cream desserts

DOWN

- 1. Ice cream flavor
- 2. ____ candy, treat
- 3. Ice cream topping
- 5. Surrounded by water
- 6. Opposite of “no”

Answers:
Across
1. Vacation 4. Nutrient 6. Sundaes
Down
1. Vanilla 2. Cotton 3. Nuts 5. Island 6. Yes



Vacations are highly effective at reducing stress and preventing burnout. They can lead to positive emotions.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Cruise ship



English: Vacation
Spanish: Vacaciones
Italian: Vacanza
French: Vacances
German: Urlaub



RESPITE

a short period of rest or relief from something unpleasant

Coming: Pirate Day, Great Outdoors Expo at Simpson Hardware, eSTEAM festival, First Responders BBQ Cookoff, Oktoberfest and more



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pirate Day with the Backcountry Privaters is returning to Sumter Museum on Saturday, Sept. 26, in downtown. "Ahoy, matey! Set yer course for adventure and join us for a day of pirate fun!" It will be held at the museum's backcountry homestead, 122 N. Washington St., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's free and open to the public.

This year's annual **eSTEAM festival** returns Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. on Main Street in downtown Sumter. Enjoy a day of family-friendly fun, hands-on learning with a parade, food vendors, interactive displays, live stage shows and more. Celebrate STEAM with movement during the eSTEAM In Motion 5K in Downtown Sumter. The theme for this 5K run/walk is Run for Curiosity. The race begins at 8 a.m. Register at <https://esteamsunter.com/esteam-in-motion-5k-2>. If you have questions, email info@esteamsunter.com.

Enjoy an evening strolling through downtown while tasting delicious dishes from area chefs and bakers during the annual **Porches of Sumter**, hosted by Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce and presented by FTC and Tandem Health. This event is always held in downtown Sumter's Historic District as the weather turns cooler, and this year it will be on Friday, Oct. 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. Buy tickets at www.sumterchamber.com.

The **2nd annual First Responders BBQ Cookoff & Car/Truck Show** will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, at Sumter County Civic Center, 700 W. Liberty St. Awards at 2 p.m. Free admission and parking, with raffles and door prizes. To enter the cookoff or show, or to be a sponsor, contact Lt. Mike McCoy at (803) 774-4098.

It won't be long until **Oktoberfest** is back in Sumter. On Saturday, Oct. 10, enjoy all the craft beer you can drink from Sumter Original Brewery alongside authentic German foods on North Main Street. There will be a kids' corner with a slide, balloon artist, ice cream and more. This event serves as the largest fundraiser of the year for Sumter United Ministries. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$20 at the door (no refunds). Kids 10 and under are admitted free. Tickets can be purchased through <https://sumter-oktoberfest.com> via Eventbrite. The

event starts at 5 p.m. with German music on Main Street from Dirndl Dames until 8:30 p.m.

Don't miss the annual **Great Outdoors Expo at Simpson Hardware and Sports**, coming up Friday, Oct. 9, and Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Sumter store at 40 W. Wesmark Blvd. Special guests will include Hayden Alabama Podcast, Andy Montgomery, Andrew Beam and Twiggy the Waterskiing Squirrel. There will be more than 75 vendors there and plenty to do for the whole family. Enjoy great food, giveaways and deals, demos for outdoor gear, duck-calling competitions, live fishing demos and activities for the kids, including face painting, balloon artists, a duck pond and BB gun range. Live music and entertainment will be provided by Chappell Court Band and Green Swamp Collective. Friday's hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



NEWMAN'S
AUTOMOTIVE

**Thank you for voting us
Best Automotive
Repair 8 years
in a row!**

- Oil Changes
- Tune-Ups
- Computer Diagnostics
- Tires

- AC Service
- Brake Service & Repair
- Wheel Balance
- Starters

- Radiators
- Shocks & Struts
- Belts and Hoses
- Alignments



Call Today! (803) 773-3379 www.newmansautomotivesumter.com
1109 Florence Hwy Sumter, SC, 29153

The
Litchfield Company
— CHRISTIE'S —
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

VOTED BEST
Real estate company

Rooted in Community. Connected to the Lake.



THE LITCHFIELD COMPANY
CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



Lake Marion Realty
803.433.7355
6 N. Brooks St.,
Manning, SC

Wyboo Sales Office
803.478.3337
2538 Players Course Drive,
Manning, SC

LitchfieldByTheLake.com

Fall Feast returns Oct. 22 to bring Sumterites good food, good time

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE

alaysa@theitem.com

Leaves will be falling soon, morning temperatures are cooling, and the breeze is picking up. Autumn is upon us, and so is one of Sumter's favorite annual events: the Fall Feast.

The annual community event, presented by FTC, is a unique and extraordinary all-inclusive event with fabulous food to taste, courtesy of more than 30 local businesses and organizations.

The menu is always unique and delicious, as several chefs, businesses and organizations bring dishes to share that range from their favorites to twists on Southern classics.

Serving up savory selections helps to support Sumter Green and its beautification and sustainability efforts in Sumter.

Sumter Green became a nonprofit in 1996, opening the door for growth and expansion of its work. Originally, the effort focused on four entryways into Sumter. Early grants, fundraising and community support helped the nonprofit launch its projects. As the organization developed, it had to figure out how to become sustainable, which required continued awareness, fundraising and community support. After gaining recognition and financial contributions from state and local governments, Sumter Green expanded to enhance major corridors and green spaces throughout the county.

Susan Wild, chair for the nonprofit, said the contributions from Fall Feast and other fundraisers go directly into the community. Thus, as visitors

cross the county lines and take note of its appearance, thanks to Sumter Green's efforts by way of community support, they feel that sense of community pride and are inclined to stay awhile.

Along with the array of dishes served at Fall Feast, there will be beverages provided by Pepsi, Yahnis and Mac's Place Spirits. Entertainment will be provided by beloved local band Green Swamp Collective.

This is an adults-only evening. Valid ID is required for adult beverages.

Tickets are \$40 per person in advance and \$50 at the door. Pre-sale group tickets are \$35 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased at www.sumter-green.org. Group tickets are available by calling (803) 774-1651.

Fall Feast will be held on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at USC Sumter, 200 University Drive. Event entry is through the Nettles Auditorium lobby. This event is known to sell out each year.

HOW ELSE CAN YOU SUPPORT?

This year, Sumter Green is celebrating 30 years of beautifying Sumter and its nine Legacy Partners who have helped make it possible.

The organization has launched its "30 for 30" campaign, which is designed to have 300 community members donate — be it \$10, \$100 or more — to reach a fundraising goal of \$30,000 in recognition of Sumter Green's 30th anniversary.

Money raised through the campaign will go toward additional projects and the revitalization of different Sumter green spaces.

CONSIDER THIS YOUR OFFICIAL SIGN
TO DITCH THE DRAMA AND SWITCH TO OUR
**ALL-IN-ONE
PLUMBING & HVAC
TEAM**



THANK YOU, SUMTER, FOR VOTING FOR US

CALL US TODAY AND SEE WHY WE ARE VOTED BEST OF SUMTER

Best Air Purification Company



HEATING & AIR SERVICES • PLUMBING SERVICES • WATER HEATERS • MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

803.773.6689 | 438 N. Main St | Sumter, SC 29150

hillplumbingandair.com

**OUR COMPANY IS
EXPANDING IN YOUR AREA!**

GET MORE MONEY & MORE CAREER SATISFACTION
LEARN WHY THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES IN AMERICA!

**EARN UP TO \$1,000 DAILY
WITH FINAL EXPENSE SALES!**

THOUSANDS OF EXCLUSIVE, FRESH & HOT LEADS IN YOUR AREA.

- MORE APPOINTMENTS
- HIGHER CLOSE RATIO
- IMPROVED RETENTION
- SAME DAY ADVANCES

CONTACT US TODAY

(803) 773-1838 | SUCCESSINFO@UBIMF.COM

OR VISIT OUR OFFICE

110 EAST LIBERTY ST. SUMTER, SC 29150

Entertainment

'Coyote vs. Acme' deserves a repeat viewing

Michel Blanc's creative and unique genius remains carved within the fabric of our memories for shaping myriad childhoods. The



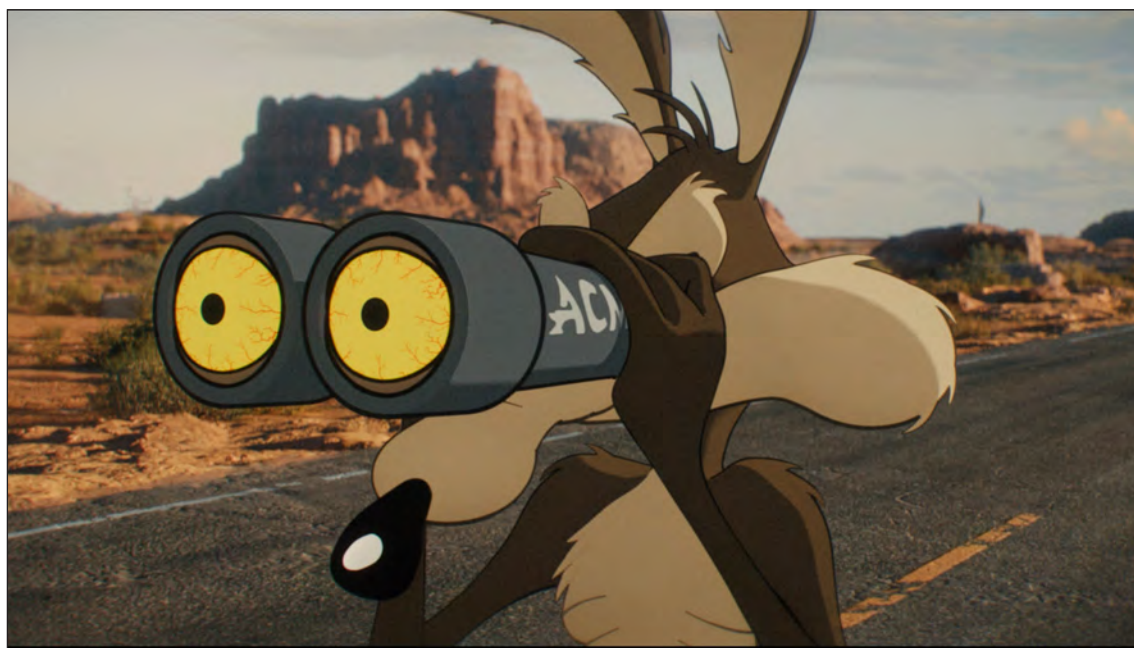
A REVIEW BY
ISAIAH RIDLEY

other day I found myself watching an interview as he performed the iconic voices of every Looney

Tunes character. Hearing him utilize in talents vocalizing Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Tweety Bird, Daddy Duck and Foghorn Leghorn provided a necessary nostalgia trip.

Looney Tunes as a collective are an anthology of classic cartoons our parents watched during their childhood, passing that tradition on to us, with that lineage continuing for more generations to come. I honestly believe there is no childhood to speak of without the existence of Looney Tunes.

Warner Brothers initially had no plans on releasing "Coyote vs. Acme," originally planning to keep it on the shelf, using the financial dynamics for a tax write-off for its business structure. The response from fans after shelving the project was polarizing backlash, especially given how test screenings for the film itself were positive. After unsuccessful bids to purchase distri-



This image released by Ketchup Entertainment shows the character Wile E. Coyote, voiced by Eric Bauza, in a scene from "Coyote vs. Acme."

bution, a studio label known as Ketchup Entertainment secured the distribution rights for \$50 million and set the release date for Aug. 28, 2026.

"Coyote vs. Acme" begins with the iconic and infamous Wile E. Coyote, as most are aware of his constant failures attempting to catch his nemesis the Roadrunner. Every invention from the Acme factory was defective or backfired on him completely. At the end of his rope, he recruits a lawyer named Kevin Avery, known for settling litigation involving Acme corporation for small fees. Believing he has no chance of winning the case, he attempts to persuade his client to settle by accepting the small fee for his misfortunes. Kevin accepts the case unwillingly and is shocked to find he will face a familiar rival from law school and precious court cases.

What follows is the nostal-

gic element of the Looney Tunes we all grew up and fell in love with from our childhood. The film requires live-action actors interacting with cartoons. We as the audience know the cartoons are not there physically, however, I have always appreciated the imagination required with the actors and actresses pretending to engage in conversation with Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Daffy Duck and Wile E. Coyote. There is an element of purity and magic I truly find wonderful with that artistic direction.

Will Forte is the underdog lawyer Kevin Avery battling his legal adversary Buddy Crane, portrayed by John Cena. Their performances were fun, filled with humor and contained brilliant comedic timing with one another. John Cena plays the perfect arrogant, narcissistic, corporate character reminding me

of his late turn into a villain during his retirement tour in the WWE. It was as if he took the traits of that direction and dialed it to a million with the necessary humor to complete the performance.

It is a remarkable breath of fresh air with the film bringing forth the traditional 2D animation intertwined with live-action formatting. While from a cinematic perspective it is nowhere near the caliber of "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" or the original "Space Jam," the feature was not afraid of showcasing the beauty of old-school animated slapstick effects and Easter egg references. The brilliance of this film is how it successfully transitions viewers into their childhood again with the familiarity of The Looney Tunes. A surprising inclusion I was not expecting was the unexpected heartfelt message in the film about the value of friendship

and the importance of perseverance.

The Looney Tunes episodes always had some level of a message included, and without venturing into any spoilers, it is and was emotionally impactful. I remain perplexed as to why Warner Brothers pursued the option of using this feature as a tax write-off. Perhaps the overarching message combined with the emotionality was too personal for the executives? I assume one can only speculate when it comes to the real reason. However, I am grateful Ketchup Entertainment procured the distribution rights and released "Coyote vs. Acme" in theaters.

This is a fun, entertaining, innocent and magical experience audiences from all walks of life will find special in my opinion. Families with children will embrace the journey through memory lane by sharing traditional aspects of The Looney Tunes. The general viewing public will also find this feature special and filled with wonderment, too. While they decided to have Wile E. Coyote remain silent throughout the film, he moves the story with his unique ways of communicating, facial expressions and his consistent relentless nature in his pursuit of satisfying his hunger. I loved this film, and the more I think about it, the more I want to experience it once again for a repeat viewing. This will absolutely become a welcome addition to my DVD collection. I give "Coyote vs. Acme" a 10/10 and two-thumbs-up reaction. Highly recommended for all audiences.

To watch Isaiah Ridley's movie reviews online, find him @ Izzy's Cinematic Escape on YouTube.

Come see our award winning team!



Family Oriented • Warm, Friendly Atmosphere
Painless Experience • Crowns • Smile Enhancement • Preventative Care

Dr. R. Capers Lee & Dr. Hunter Lee



Dental Team
of Sumter



803.494.8466

5635 Broad Street Ext. Sumter, SC 29150
(on the corner of 378 & 441)

www.DentalTeamofSumter.com



 Like us on Facebook

Let's commit to caring for others as we did 25 years ago

As I sit to write this column, it is Sept. 11, 2026, the 25th anniversary of 9/11/01. Anyone who is over 30 years old can tell you exactly where they were when they heard about a plane crashing into the first World Trade Center tower.

We have a younger generation that has no memory. My son, who is now 25, was five months old and humbly admits that he has no recollection of that day. It is important that we continue to tell the story of what happened on that dark, ominous day in September, now 25 years ago.

I was sitting at a bank in Irmo, having moved from Charlotte, North Carolina, two days before. The banker we were working with said, "Something just happened in New York City." We went into a break room and turned on a television, and someone said, "A small private plane went into a tower in Manhattan." We would soon learn that it was not a "small private plane" but a commercial 767 with

hundreds of innocent people on board. A few minutes later another plane flew into the other World Trade Center tower.

We rushed home and unpacked our television from a box and turned to the news as quickly as we could. As soon as we turned on the TV, we learned that another commercial plane had flown into the Pentagon and quickly a fourth plane crashed in a field in rural Pennsylvania. Before the continued shock could settle in, the South Tower, the second tower struck by a plane, collapsed and a dust cloud went into the sky, seemingly a



Pastor Stewart Rawson

mile high. Within 30 minutes the North Tower would collapse, the news broadcast showing scenes of brave New York City firemen still rushing into these towers; we knew that thousands worked in these two towers.

I watched the news for the next 14 hours, leaving only to go to the church I grew up in as they hosted a prayer vigil,

and at that moment in time, I needed to be in a community of faith and I needed to pray, because we all had no idea what was happening. The newscasters made guesses about the source of the attack, but most people felt a certain anxiety for several days that another plane would come out of nowhere.

When the dust settled, which took several months, we would find out that almost 3,000 people died in the 9/11 attacks. Most thought that something like this could never happen on U.S. soil; bounded by two oceans, we felt safe from an attack on the continental United States. How wrong we were.

The stories of bravery from that day were soon told. Three hundred forty-three New York City firefighters were killed that day. Entire engine companies would perish together. We are still to this day, 25 years later, learning of the heroism and bravery of people who gave their lives that dozens of others could live.

And the most amazing thing happened. A stunned nation came together in unity. We were all one. We were Americans! We didn't care if someone was a Democrat or a Republican, a

Southerner or a Yankee, all we knew is that we were united and we took care of each other. Closer to home, many here in Sumter remember Hurricane Hugo and how that horrible natural disaster brought us together, allowed our best selves to emerge and inspired us to take care of each other.

As we remember 9/11 and as we continue to deal with that trauma, we need to come together again. I hope it won't take a disaster, human born or natural, but we need to come together. We need to support each other. We need to work together. We need to take care of those who are in desperate need. We need to be aware of what is going on around us. And we need to stop thinking only about ourselves! We are better when we are together. And we are better when we are united for a cause. Let's not let the memory of those who perished in that horrible attack be in vain; let's commit to being our best selves and caring for others as we did that day and we know we can do again.

The Rev. Dr. Stewart Rawson is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Downtown Sumter.

RELIABLE
Est. 1946
PAWN SHOP

**THANK YOU
FOR VOTING US #1**

*We strive to provide excellent service to our clients
Come see why we are #1!*

**Lowest Pawn interest rate in the area and
best layaway plan in town. Always buying gold!**

Monday-Friday 10am-5:50 pm; Saturday 10am-4:50pm

**33 West Liberty Street · Downtown Sumter
18 N. Brooks Street · Downtown Manning
www.reliablepawnshop.com**

**THANK YOU
for voting us**

best...
TREE SERVICE

**BEST OF SUMTER
2026**

for 17 years

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Tree Pruning & Maintenance

Tree Removal & Land Clearing

Stump Grinding & Debris Removal

Emergency Response

Licensed, Bonded & Insured

(803) 773-1320 StateTree.Net

Best Tree Service

Social Security Matters

Is the Medicare Part B premium a percentage of our Social Security amount?

BY RUSSELL GLOOR

Association of Mature American Citizens
Foundation Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have a simple question:

Is the amount we pay for Medicare Part B premium a percent of our Social Security amount we receive?

Signed: Curious

Dear Curious: Your Medicare Part B premium is not based on a percentage of your monthly Social Security benefit amount.

RUSSELL GLOOR

Medicare Part B premiums are set in October of each year by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and are based upon anticipated total costs of the Medicare program in the forthcoming year. Generally speaking, Medicare Part B enrollee premiums are expected to offset about 25% of CMS' anticipated total

Medicare Part B costs; the rest is borne by the Federal Government. So, when CMS estimates Medicare program costs for the upcoming year, they also look at the number of anticipated Part B enrollees. They then divide 25% of total anticipated Part B program costs by the number of expected Part B enrollees, resulting in the "standard" Medicare Part B premium for next year. For 2026, the standard Part B premium amount is \$202.90. The standard premium for 2027 will be announced in October 2026 and will likely be different.

It's important to understand also that not everyone pays the "standard" Part B premium. Some lower income seniors may pay less because of the so-called "hold harmless provision," and some higher income folks may pay more than the "standard" monthly Part B premium because of a provision called "IRMAA."

The "hold harmless provision" says that monthly Social Security benefits cannot decrease as a result of a Medi-

care premium increase, so if the annual SS COLA (cost of living adjustment) is insufficient to offset any increase to the standard Part B premium, then the SS beneficiary may pay a smaller Part B premium amount so that their SS benefit doesn't decrease (note there are exceptions to this rule).

Conversely, those with a higher "provisional income" (an IRS definition), may pay more than the standard Medicare Part B premium. That's because of a provision known as "IRMAA" (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount), which adds a supplemental amount on top of the standard Medicare Part B premium. IRMAA supplement amounts are determined using a sliding scale to define the required higher Part B premium for each income level category, and IRMAA will cause the Part B premium to be more than the standard premium amount. For those with exceptionally high incomes, the Part B premium can be as much as \$690 per month.

FYI, income reported to the IRS two years ago is used to determine if an individual is subject to IRMAA for the forthcoming year. The reason for this is timing: when next year's Part B premium is determined in October of each current year, the IRS has processed all tax returns for the preceding year but doesn't yet have individual income for the current year. Thus, they must use a person's income from October of the preceding year to determine who will pay the standard Part B premium next year, and who will pay a higher IRMAA amount.

And just to complete this picture, you should be aware that IRMAA also applies to Medicare Part D premiums. And that means that those with higher incomes who are affected by IRMAA for Part B will also pay a higher Medicare Part D premium. (Medicare Part D is private insurance coverage for prescription drugs). But none of this is related to your Social Security benefit amount.

SHIR AMI

SONG OF OUR PEOPLE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
7:00 PM

PRE-CONCERT
RECEPTION AT 6:00 PM

- SEE TRAVELING EXHIBIT
Reading and Writing Anne Frank
- REFRESHMENTS

FREE
CONCERT

Rachel Calloway
Mezzo-Soprano

Join us for a special concert celebrating the rich musical heritage of the Jewish people. The program will feature melodies of the Sephardic tradition, music that would have been familiar to the synagogue's earliest congregants.

The Amernet
Quartet

TEMPLE SINAI
JEWISH HISTORY CENTER
A PERMANENT INSTITUTION
OF THE SUMTER MUSEUM

CENTRAL CAROLINA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina

11 Church Street, Sumter, SC | 803-775-0908 | SumterMuseum.org | @SumterMuseum



**OCTOBER
9-10**

Friday, Oct. 9 10am-7pm

Saturday, Oct. 10 9am-5pm

40 W. Wesmark Blvd., Sumter

HuntSimpsons.com/expo

MAKING A SPLASH!

THE SPORTING & OUTDOOR EVENT OF THE YEAR!

**70+
VENDORS**

GREAT FOOD

LIVE MUSIC

ENTERTAINMENT

GIVEAWAYS

AMAZING DEALS

& MORE!



Twiggy
the Water Skiing Squirrel



Andrew Beam
Country Music Artist



Hayden Alabama Podcast
Live from the Event



Ronnie McCoy
Professional Bass Fisherman



Andy Montgomery
Professional Bass Fisherman



BERETTA



TACTACAM



STANLEY



**ENTER TO
WIN**
DURING THE EVENT



**TRIPLE
Reds**

**Charleston Fishing
Charter with Pro
Fisherman Ronnie McCoy**
(AN \$800 VALUE)

**Pheasant Shoot Blind
Giveaway from Triple Reds
Pheasant Shoots**
(AN \$800 VALUE)

YETI



TURTLEBOX



**Turtlebox Gen3
Outdoor Bluetooth
Speaker**
(A \$430 VALUE)

**Yeti Tundra Haul
Wheeled Cooler**
(A \$450 VALUE)

& MORE!