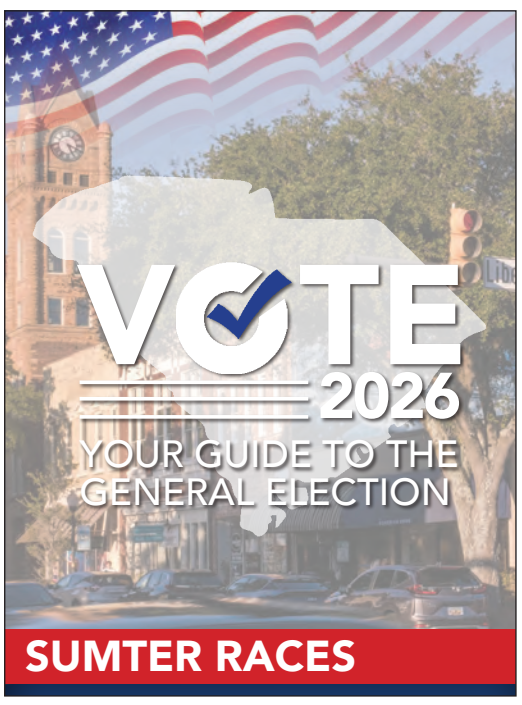
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2 SECTIONS, 24 PAGES | VOL. 131, NO. 99

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Jury convicts man of assault, battery by mob in 2018 Lee prison riot trial

This marks 27th guilty plea/trial related to deadliest such S.C. attack

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Third Circuit Judge R. Ferrell Cothran sentenced Larry White to three life terms without the possibility of parole for his involvement in South Carolina's deadliest prison riot at Lee Correctional Institution in 2018.

White, 30, was convicted on all three counts of first-degree assault and battery by mob, which is the equivalent to a murder charge and carries the same penalty, and criminal conspiracy. He is one of 40-plus inmates charged in the deadliest prison riot in the nation in 25 years.

This conviction marks the 27th guilty plea/trial, according to Chrysti Shain, director of communications at S.C. Department of Corrections.

According to Item archives, nearly eight hours of fighting at Lee Correctional overnight on April 15, 2018, ended in the deaths of seven inmates: Raymond Angelo Scott, 28; Michael Milledge, 44; Damonte Marquez Rivera, 24; Eddie Casey Jay Gaskins, 32; Joshua Svwin Jenkins, 33; Corey Scott, 38; and Cornelius Quantral McClary, 33. An additional 17 were injured. Coroner reports state the cause of death was exsanguination — severe loss of blood — "due to multiple sharp-force injuries from stab wounds and incise wounds."

SEE **RIOT,** PAGE A3

eSTEAM Sumter Festival is next Saturday



ABIGAIL PITTMAN / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

ABOVE: An industrial exhibitor shows a child how to play with a display at the 2025 eSTEAM Sumter Festival on Main Street in the downtown area. This year's festival will be Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and about 90 exhibits have been planned for the event. The parade begins at 10 a.m.

BELOW: The fifth-annual eSTEAM Sumter Festival was held in 2024 in downtown Sumter, bringing together thousands for educational fun surrounding science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. The event always features interactive exhibits from local manufacturers, other industrial firms, businesses, other organizations and local schools. This year's festival is Saturday, Oct. 3.

Thousands typically attend annual downtown event to see 21st-century careers on display

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

This upcoming weekend will be the first Saturday in October, and locally that means it is the eSTEAM Sumter Festival in the downtown area.

The hands-on, fun festival that continues to grow features local and regional STEM and STEAM-based careers with interactive display areas and exhibitors, all with the overarching purpose of sparking the interest of youth and filling the area's workforce pipeline in today's high-skills economy.

eSTEAM Sumter is presented annually by TheLink Economic Development Alliance that manages industrial recruitment efforts for Sumter and Lee counties, and alliance Communications and Strategic Initiatives Manager Erika Williams provided a full rundown on this year's festival to *The Sumter Item*.

Roughly 90 exhibitors will be in attendance to include about 53 local manufacturers, other industrial firms, businesses and organizations showcasing their in-demand careers and how local students can start a path toward employment, Williams said.

The festival has always had an emphasis on local schools as well, and the other 37 exhibitors will be schools illustrating their STEM and STEAM applications.

SEE **eSTEAM,** PAGE A3



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Sumter County Council passes animal nuisance ordinance despite public outcry to delay vote

BY MARSHALL WRIGHT
newsroom@theitem.com

Sumter County Council passed third and final reading of its animal nuisance ordinance at its regular Tuesday, Sept. 22, meeting, despite public outcry to delay the vote.

What it means: Council amended an already existing ordinance, placing further regulations on the treatment of animals by rescue organizations. The changes include defining a "foster-based network" as "a charitable organization" that provides placement of stray or unwanted dogs or cats through volunteers who temporarily foster the animals, usually at their residences, for the purpose of finding permanent homes, adding "temporarily not-adoptable" as an option for foster animal record-keeping, joining the "adoptable" and "not adoptable" classifications; requiring dogs to have proper identification such as a tag on a collar or a microchip; and exempting individual foster volunteers from insurance and double-fencing requirements. Hunting and sporting dogs are exempt from the ordinance unless they are being bred for profit.

What's the impact: The amendment will require foster-based networks to have to

SEE **ORDINANCE,** PAGE A3

the Sumter ITEM

SECOND FRONT

E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

District Teacher Forum to host Sumter school board candidate forum on Oct. 8

The Item to also interview candidates and publish race stories by area

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Election season has begun, and for the always high-stakes Sumter school board races, there are opportunities to get to know the candidates for the open non-partisan seats on the nine-member board.

In addition to the Vote Guide with candidate questionnaires in this edition of *The Sumter Item*, the Sumter School District Teacher Forum will host a school board candidate forum soon, and *The Item* will also publish race stories weekly totaling coverage for all five areas that have open seats in November.

Each election cycle, the district's teacher forum, consisting of all schools' teachers of the year and immediate past teachers of the year, hosts at least one candidate forum, and this year's event will be Thursday, Oct. 8, at Crestwood High School Fine Arts Center, 2000 Oswego Highway in Sumter.

The forum will provide an opportunity for all 15 board candidates in the five area races to respond to questions submitted by district teachers on issues important to the future of education in Sumter School District, according to a district spokeswoman. Candidates will be asked three questions by a moderator and will have one minute to respond to each.

The candidate forum will be from 5 to 6 p.m., and the event is open to the public. From 6 to 7 p.m., attendees will have an opportunity to meet the candidates during a meet-and-greet session.

Also during October, *The Item* will interview candidates on important issues facing the district and board and publish stories for each of the five areas that are up for election on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Those stories will also include candidates' backgrounds and voting records on key issues if they are incumbents or previous board members running again now.

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Sumter School District Teacher Forum School Board Candidate Forum

WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 8, 5 to 6 p.m. (Meet-and-greet session, 6 to 7 p.m.)

WHERE: Crestwood High School Fine Arts Center, 2000 Oswego Highway, Sumter, SC 29153



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Sumter school board candidates participate in a meet-and-greet session on Oct. 12, 2022, at Lakewood High School as part of a candidate forum put on by the district's teacher forum.

Those five areas — or districts as they are sometimes referred to — are Areas 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

All five stories will have free access online for the public on *The Item*'s website.

The newspaper did the same series in 2022 leading up to that election when all nine board seats were up for election because the board then moved to nine single-member districts from seven districts with two at-large seats.

In part because of that detailed coverage, *The Item* won first place in the category of Community Service journalism in the 2022 South Carolina Press Association Awards Contest for all newspapers. *The (Hilton Head) Island Packet* finished second that year in the category, and *The (Charleston) Post and Courier* placed third.

Speaker Smith hosts candidate forum at VFW

Speaker of the House Murrell Smith hosts a candidate forum ahead of the November election at Veterans of Foreign Wars on Gion Street on Wednesday, Sept. 23. Smith told attendees that the forum was meant to include his opponent, Lisa Davey, who is running for House of Representatives District 67. Davey was absent.

PHOTOS BY JANEL PRZYBYLA / THE SUMTER ITEM











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SUMTER TODAY

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Google representatives not only awarded Liberty STEAM Charter School $100,000 to continue its technology-based education on Monday, Sept. 21, but an investment was also made into students' online safety in navigating the digital world.

The tech giant provided the financial gift to Liberty STEAM because of the school's large STEM focus and to further spread STEM education across rural South Carolina, and Liberty's fifth- and sixth-graders also took part in Google's Online Safety Roadshow to learn how to become good digital citizens.

eSTEAM FROM PAGE A1

Science, technology, engineering and math are major focus areas for high-wage and high-demand jobs in the 21st-century economy, and most schools across the U.S. are increasing their concentrations in those disciplines. When the arts are added, the acronym becomes STEAM.

All four regional school districts' career and technology centers including Sumter, Lee, Clarendon and Kershaw counties will be part of a career and technology education area on display at the festival, called the "CTE Village," she added.

That component was added last year as well as a growing presence by the regional technical college, Central Carolina Technical College. The college has branded its festival experience as "Titan Trades and Tech," according to officials.

Both the CTE Village and a portion of the college's displays will be in the college's Health Sciences Center parking lot at 133 S. Main St. Other Central Carolina exhibits will be inside the building.

The addition of those two elements has been to reach more middle-schoolers and high-schoolers and pique their career interests, Williams said.

"eSTEAM has always been successful at reaching elementary school students," she said. "We have been trying to be specific and intentional about attracting students in higher grade levels. The goal has been to strengthen our offerings for older students in middle school and high school."

Many entertainment activities are also on tap for the festival to include stage shows in the college's parking lot. At noon, Sumter American Idol contestant Tianna Roberts will perform, according to Williams. Dance groups will additionally take the stage throughout the event, and food trucks will be on hand.

The festival will begin with a parade at 10 a.m., followed by the opening ceremony.

"eSTEAM Adventures," which are fun-filled inflatables that provide scientific explanations for the activities, will also be in the Health Sciences Center parking lot, she added.

With a goal to be inclusive, there will be a sensory sensitivity hour from 9 to 10 a.m. for children with sensitivities, Williams said, and some exhibitors will be participating. Other festival attendees are asked to be respectful of that time.

Originating in 2018, eSTEAM is one of the largest educational science festivals in the state and is part of the National Science Festival Alliance, she added.

The festival's lead sponsor again this year is Thompson Construction Group.

National Manufacturing Day in the U.S. is traditionally the first Friday in October, and eSTEAM always follows on the first Saturday, Williams said.

"It's just a fun-filled day to spark interests, and we want people to come out and have a great time," she added.

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: eSTEAM Sumter Festival

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE: Downtown Sumter (Main Street area)

ON THE WEB: *esteamsumter.com*

RIOT FROM PAGE A1

White is convicted of killing Raymond Scott, Corey Scott and Joshua Jenkins in the prison's F5 dorm.

Cothran sentenced White to three life terms for each assault and battery by mob charge and an additional five years for criminal conspiracy.

In 2017, White was convicted of attempted murder and burglary charges and sentenced to 15 years in prison. His projected release date before Thursday's conviction was March 2031.

For full coverage, read more at *www.theitem.com*.

ORDINANCE FROM PAGE A1

get identification for their dogs and follow strict rules regarding the care of the animals, including following minimum space requirements, purchasing insurance policies of a minimum of $1 million and following double-fencing requirements.

Catch up quickly: Councilman Artie Baker explained the ordinance came to be because of an ongoing issue with dogs roaming around the county after escaping from their kennels. Several members of South Carolina Animal Welfare Alliance and local residents attended the meeting and expressed their disappointment with council and their "pass now, amend later" mindset, according to the residents. They urged council to delay the vote, giving the organization time to meet with council to discuss potential changes.

What they're saying: Councilwoman Vivian McGhaney expressed that "nothing the council does will get 100% of everybody's satisfaction" in response to criticism from members of the public. Councilman Carlton Washington expressed gratitude to county administration and council for their time spent on the issue.

The vote: The ordinance passed with many residents urging council to make amendments before the end of the meeting.

OBITUARIES

LAURA ELLINGTON AYERS

Laura Ellington Ayers died Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026. She went peacefully in the company of loving family.

Born on June 27, 1932, at McLeod Infirmary in Florence, S.C., she was raised in Latta, S.C., by her parents, Zaida Bishop Ellington and Arthur Densmore Ellington. Her extended family included her mother's sister, Alice Bishop Gaddy. Alice and Laura shared a beautifully reciprocal relationship for 80 years, drawing strength and love from each other from Laura's birth until Alice's death in 2012. Anyone who knew Laura knew Aunt Alice.



AYERS

Laura was a person of endless energy. This was evident from the beginning. Zaida wrote in her baby book that Laura walked at 13 months, ran at 14 and climbed chairs, pianos, dressers and tables.

When Laura was three, her brother, Arthur Jr., joined the family. Her sister, Chris, arrived when she was six. By then, Laura and her group of friends had the run of Latta. As was the case for many children growing up in small towns in the 1930s, adult supervision was optional. As Laura later told her daughters, "Mama never knew where I was until I came home for dinner."

Laura went to school, and at first, her restlessness and loquaciousness got her into trouble. Then, fortunately, she learned to read and found a place to channel her boundless energy. From that day forward, Laura had her nose in a book.

After high school, Laura went to Winthrop College, where she thrived. It was a place where vocal, high-energy women were encouraged to speak their minds and take up space. Laura loved the sisterhood of dorm life. She joined clubs, made lifelong friends and traveled to Washington to meet Eleanor Roosevelt. In her senior year, she served as editor-in-chief of The Tatler, Winthrop's yearbook and was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities.

After graduating with a B.A. in English, Laura taught elementary school in Columbia before enrolling at the University of South Carolina, where she earned a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. It was also in Columbia, in front of the iconic pink walls of the Caldwell Cafeteria, that Laura met E. Glenn Ayers Jr., a handsome, good-hearted fellow who would become her husband and life partner. Their 68-year marriage was filled with love, adventure and challenge. They navigated it all together, and by the end, they were overjoyed simply to be at each other's side.

The Ayers family made their home in Sumter, where Glenn practiced as a clinical psychologist and Laura raised their two sons and two daughters. After her youngest child started school, Laura taught reading at Lemira Elementary and later served as the executive director of the Sumter Art Gallery, working alongside her close friend Martha Greenway to oversee the installation of the downtown mural, Winter Beach by artist Blue Sky.

A staunch advocate for public education, Laura became a member of the Sumter School District 17 Board of Trustees, where she served as chairwoman for 10 years. She and her fellow board members worked doggedly to pass a bond to replace the existing three-campus high school — which included the crumbling Haynsworth Street campus where students were known to open umbrellas in class on rainy days — with a modern, centralized Sumter High School built on the south side of town off McCrays Mill Road.

Laura's dedication to learning never waned. In her 50s, she returned to the University of South Carolina to earn her Ph.D. in Elementary Education, later teaching in the Clarendon school district, where she was named a 1991 Teacher of the Year. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society of women educators. In 1999, Winthrop University recognised her work in education and her service to others by awarding her the Mary Mildred Sullivan Alumni Award, the highest honour the Winthrop Alumni Association can bestow upon a graduate.

Laura was very much a part of Sumter life. She gave her time to many community organizations over the years, including the Sumter Art Association, the Sumter County Literacy Association and Habitat for Humanity. She was a founding board member and a long-time associate member of The Forum, and she was proud to support women pursuing higher education through her membership in the Philanthropic Educational Organization. For sheer fun, she had The Book Club, where for nearly 60 years, she enjoyed sharing her love of reading with her book-loving compatriots. Her spiritual home was Trinity United Methodist Church, where she served as a Sunday School teacher, Circle Leader and Lay Leader. It would be hard to overstate how much Trinity meant to Laura.

Laura was also an epic traveler. She and Glenn took turns deciding where to go. They went to England, Scotland, Europe, Finland, Norway, Russia, China, Costa Rica, Greece and all over the United States. On a trip to Antarctica, they survived a rough crossing of the Drake Passage and rode in Zodiac boats to observe orcas and penguins in the wild.

Laura was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Zaida, her husband, Glenn, her brother, Arthur D. Ellington Jr., her sister, Chris E. Mark and her maternal aunt, Alice. Survivors are her two sons, Ernest and Michael (Tracy) and her two daughters, Alice (Lou Cabrera) and Anne (Mark Fanatico), and five grandchildren, Laura Anne and Nicole Fanatico, Cristina and Kittrell Cabrera-Ayers and Eric Ayers. Also surviving is her brother-in-law Jerry Mark, sister-in-law, Vivienne Ellington, and numerous beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorials may be sent to the PEO Scholarship Fund c/o of Joanie McLeod, 600 S. Hampton St. Pinewood, SC 28125; The Hourly Workers Gift Fund (HEGF) at Covenant Place, 2825 Carter Rd, Sumter, SC 29150; or Sumter Trinity United Methodist Church, 226 West Liberty, Sumter, SC 29150.

Burial will be private.

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

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

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SEE **OBITUARIES,** PAGE A4

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OBITUARIES

FROM PAGE A3

MARK JONES

Mark Jones, 77, husband of Alma L. Grinnell Jones and son of the late Earline Jones Canty, was born on Sept. 18, 1949, in Sumter. He departed this life on Monday, Sept. 21, 2026, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter.


JONES

Public viewing will be held on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 28, 2026, at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, with Pastor Patrice Dow, officiating.

Family will be receiving friends at the home, 2716 Ezell Court, 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*.

RUSSELL DORN MELLETTE

Russell Dorn Mellette, 88, of Lexington, South Carolina, widower of Grace Alford Mellette, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026. Born June 15, 1938, he was the son of the Rev. Miller H. Mellette and Bessie McNeil Mellette of Turbeville, South Carolina.


MELLETTE

A graduate of East Clarendon High School, Russ went on to earn his degree from the University of South Carolina School of Journalism, where he was a member of the Euphradian Society and Sigma Delta Chi. His life reflected a steady devotion to clear communication, thoughtful leadership and service carried out with quiet purpose.

In 1970, President Nixon appointed him executive director of the South Carolina Education Advisory Committee, which helped achieve the peaceful total integration of public schools. Russ also served as director of The State Newspaper PeeDee Bureau, worked in public relations for Carolina Power & Light Company and served as a lobbyist for the Municipal Association of South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. He founded Russell D. Mellette & Associates, a government affairs and public relations firm, and gave generously of his time as a pro bono lobbyist for the South Carolina Organ Procurement Agency and mental health issues. He served on the advisory board of the first South Carolina Organ Procurement Agency, and his byline appeared in many Carolina newspapers, as well as business and government publications. He also served on the select Saleeby committee for insurance reform and was a delegate to The White House Conference on Small Business. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors of Harborside Horizontal Property Regime. Russ also won the national William Randolph Hearst news writing contest.

Russ' commitment to community extended across civic and professional life. He was a life member of the South Carolina Agriculture & Mechanical Society (State Fair) and participated in the Lexington and South Carolina Chambers of Commerce, as well as the National Federation of Independent Business. He was a founding and charter member of the Summit and Capital City Clubs and a former member of The Palmetto Club.

Faith and service were central to Russ' life. At St. Alban's Episcopal Church, he served as a licensed lay reader, a member of the Vestry and in the choir, offering his time and gifts with constancy and reverence.

Russ is survived by a daughter, Tamara M. Edens (John) of Blythewood; and stepsons, Steve Alford (Donna) of Lexington and Charlie Alford (Denise) of Chapin. He was predeceased by his son, Russell D. Mellette Jr.

A memorial service was held at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 403 Park Road, Lexington, on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026, at 4 p.m., with visitation following at the church. Memorials may be made to St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 403 Park Road, Lexington, SC 29072, or to Turbeville Children's Home, 5232 W. Turbeville Hwy., Turbeville, SC 29162.

JULIUS REMBERT JR.

Julius Rembert Jr., 89, widower of Henrietta Fullard Rembert and son of the late Julius Rembert Sr. and Fannie Bracey Rembert, was born on June 21, 1937, in Sumter. He departed this life on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026, at his residence in Sumter.


REMBERT

Public viewing will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026, at St. Paul AME Church-Shaw, 1495 North St. Pauls Church Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Dr. Friendly J. Gadson, pastor.

Interment will follow in St. Paul AME Church Cemetery, Sumter.

Family will be receiving friends at the home of his daughter from 4 to 7 p.m. daily starting Friday, Sept. 25, 2026, at 4380 Julius Lane, 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 the web at *www.jobsmortuary.net*.

DEACON WILLY MCGILL

Deacon Willy "Barkley" McGill was born on June 4, 1950, to the late Eugene and Nover Lee McGill of Sumter. Our father transitioned from this life to his eternal reward at McLeod Regional Medical Center on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026. Deacon McGill accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and was a member of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church of Lynchburg. Barkley was educated in the public schools of Sumter County, where he graduated from Eastern High School.

His memories will be cherished by his children, siblings and a host of other relatives and friends.

Celebration of Life services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 25, 2026, at Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, 418 Main St., Lynchburg with the Rev. Dr. Sammie D. Simmons, pastor.

Interment followed in Bethesda Memorial Gardens.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 2175 Rose Hill 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 *williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com*. Visit us on the web at *www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com*.

MARY JANE DAVIS

Ms. Mary Jane Davis, of Charleston, South Carolina entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026.


DAVIS

She was born Jan. 19, 1967.

The Celebration of Life service was held Friday, Sept. 25, 2026, from 4 to 6 p.m. at The Low Country Mortuary.

Burial will be held Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, at noon at Mt. Sinai Holy Temple, 5045 Borden Road, Rembert.

LARRY DICKERSON SR.

Larry Dickerson Sr., 77, husband of Thelma Blanding Dickerson and son of the late Richard Dickerson and Alethea Riley Dickerson, was born on March 15, 1949, in Clarendon County. He departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, at his residence.


DICKERSON

Public viewing was held on Friday, Sept. 25, 2026, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, at Mt. Olive AME Church-Woodrow, 2738 Woodrow Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Dr. R. L. Brown, officiating.

Interment will follow at Hillside Memorial Park, Sumter.

Family will be receiving friends at the home, 14 Dixie Drive, Sumter, starting Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026, and Friday, Sept. 25, 2026, from 4 to 8 p.m.

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

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

SOPHIA C. ENGLISH

A beautiful life came to a peaceful close on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, when Sophia C. English transitioned into the presence of the Lord, departing this life from the comfort of her home. Born on Jan. 30, 1930, in the close-knit community of Hagood-Horatio, South Carolina, she was the beloved daughter of Roland and Diane Gardener Canty. She was united in marriage to the late Marion English.

Her legacy will be honored by her children, the branches of her family, other relatives and friends.

Celebration of Life Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, in the John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Williams St., Sumter, with the Rev. Dr. Brenda Davis, officiating.

Burial will follow in Mt. Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery, 9250 Camden Highway 521 North, Rembert.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 3270 Valencia Drive, Dalzell.

Services directed by the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter. Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at *williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com*. Visit us on the web at *www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com*.

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Past is Present, presented by Sumter Museum: Shonda English carries forward the music, ministry and memories her father left behind

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL PITTMAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Shonda English, known as "the Gospel Diva," is seen inside her family's home in Sumter, one closely tied to the legacy of her late father, Bishop W.T. English. She carries forward his musical and community legacy through her work in gospel music and hosting the annual Gospel in the Park.

Home is where the heart is.

No matter if it's a person, a place or a feeling, home is where we find pieces of ourselves, remember where we came from and figure out where we're headed.

For Shonda English, home has never been just one place.

From Boston to Sumter, from the church pews to the recording studio, from the house to the park, that feeling of home is something she has spent her life finding, fostering and carrying to her next chapter in life. And when the people who gave those places meaning were no longer here, she found a way to carry them with her.

But first, she'd have to help carry in some moving boxes.

Sumter was not Shonda English's first home. Though her father, Bishop W.T. English, was from Sumter and her mother from Cheraw, the two met in Long Beach, Long Island, New York. A military man, her father's career led the family to settle in Boston, where Shonda and her sister were born. There, they bought a three-story family home and built a life for the family. They still visited Sumter, taking trips down Interstate 95 to stay connected with loved ones. When the bishop left Sumter during segregation, he sought better opportunities. But much like Shonda, there was something that called him back home.

That calling eventually led her father back to Sumter in the 1970s and into ministry, founding Greater St. Paul Non-Denominational Church in 1976. Today the church carries a new name — Marathon Praise Ministries, led by Bishop Adrian Green, who grew up in Greater St. Paul. However, for a young Shonda, returning south wasn't exactly a seamless homecoming. Rather, it was a culture shock.

"My oldest sister, Cheryl, got physically sick. I could not get used to the South, the bugs, the heat. It's been plenty of times my mother almost wrecked the car because a fly landed on my knee, and I'm having a fit because I don't know what that is. And then the story of me poking a stick at a snake because I think it's a worm," she said through laughter. "You know, those are things we had to get used to."

Still, somewhere between the unfamiliarity and the adjustment, Shonda began to find pieces of home and a melody to set them to.

Music had been part of Shonda's family before she was old enough to understand its impact. Her father was one half of the gospel duo the Gospel Encores and remembered recording for HOB Records alongside some of gospel's most prominent names of the era. She grew up going to rehearsals, hanging out in the recording studio or playing the piano keys to keep herself busy and out of the way.



A portrait of the late Bishop W.T. English sits among numerous awards earned by his daughter, Shonda English, known across the music industry as "the Gospel Diva."

The piano eventually became a Rosetta Stone for Shonda's own musical expression. Her mother first noticed Shonda playing melodies no one taught her. By about the age of 7, she was playing for Greater St. Paul's youth choir despite her feet not reaching the pedals. There was no sheet of music notes guiding her fingers. She played by ear — "a God-given talent," as she described it. Those talents would be nurtured under the late Albert Linton, who realized that her ear was something special. Rather than simply teaching her how to play notes, he concentrated more on the theory of music and how it worked as a language. She learned to read music more formally through playing flute in the school band and studying vocal and choral theory in high school. By the time she was a junior, she was directing her own choir. Though some of her members were older than her, the age and experience didn't matter because she found something they all could understand: music.



Shonda English searches through records in her family home in Sumter. She first recorded music when she was in eighth grade with her father and his choir, BEEA Crusade Choir, and released her first vinyl after high school.

Her first studio experience was in the eighth grade when she recorded with her father and his choir, BEEA Crusade Choir. It was then she caught what she calls "the studio bug." Right out of high school, she released her first vinyl, "Shonda and Discoveries of South Carolina." The little girl who once sat alongside musicians was now carving her own space as one.

Years later, she would go on to co-write hits for various well-known gospel artists, earning awards and accolades of all kinds along the way, including recognition from Rhythm of Gospel Awards and Victory Gospel Awards. Shonda would leave the classroom in 2013 to pursue gospel music full time. She found her footing and put passion behind her purpose.

With so much success, she credited her faith and her father.

Bishop English taught Shonda work ethic and business sense, showing her that a musician could be more than one thing at a time — he often used Dr. Mattie Moss Clark, the mother of the renowned Clark Sisters, as an example, as she played the organ, directed and sang. It was that kind of versatility that her father admired. It would be the kind of musician Shonda would become.

Between her father's teaching of purpose and her mother's lessons on how to be a lady, Shonda learned how to conduct herself and how to build something, which is why she sought to build on her father's legacy by keeping it alive. She lives in the family's 1919 home in Sumter, the very house her father saved from demolition and restored. The property became part of Sumter's history, as evident by the historical marker that recognizes the site of Kendall Institute, where Mary McLeod Bethune once taught.

The home holds even more sentimental value to Shonda. She reminisced about the Bible studies that took place in the very room she was interviewed in. She searched her father's vinyl collection, laughing at the memory of how it was once off limits but now she listens to it at her leisure. She estimated she's moved in and out of the home roughly four times. Each time, something brought her back. It was after the passing of her mother in 2024 when she decided to stay. If she couldn't have her parents, she could still have the place they left behind. And inside, she could still find them.

But if the house held her father's memory, the park holds his purpose. Bishop English founded Gospel in the Park 30 years ago at what is known today as the Bishop W.T. English Memorial Park as a way to bring people together across denominations. While churches can bring folks together, they can still be among the most segregated spaces.

"I go to my church, you go to your church, I go to this church. I'm over here, you know, I travel to church, but when do we ever come together? When do we break those lines of denomination?

"When do we break the racial lines and come together? We're all saying we serve the same God, one Lord, one faith, one baptism — we say that, but when do we actually do it? When do we show it?" she questioned. "When he started [Gospel in the Park], I wasn't really thinking that. I just thought, 'Daddy got this land, let's go ahead and do something, let's have a concert.' But it was beyond that."

The event became an annual tradition. When her father died, many regular attendees questioned what would become of the beloved event. Shonda simply said it would go on. She had watched the bishop host the event for years. She knew what was required and knew how her father wanted it done. At first, she thought she might eventually scale back or step away. When she tried, the community reminded her not only of the event's sentimental value, but also of how the venue bears her father's name, a reason to keep his legacy alive. So, Shonda kept going. In the years since, she has found her own reminders of why. Like the 89-year-old grandmother who was brought to the event by her grandson. The woman rarely left her house, except for Gospel in the Park. There, she clapped in time, she sang along, and she enjoyed herself. That, Shonda believed, is what her father was trying to create.

The interesting thing about inheritance is that we don't realize the weight of what we've inherited until we have to carry it. Shonda spent her life watching her father build, watching him use his struggles as momentum to make strides, watching him brave life's tests because he knew it was only another verse in his testimony. Then soon, she found herself standing where he stood. When it is time for her to take a step back from what her father has built, her nephew, Trey, has already expressed interest in continuing Gospel in the Park.

And that's the significance of inheritance. Once you understand its importance, you long for it to be stewarded well. Shonda charted her own path in life, but she also treasured what she inherited. In leaving behind his love for music, the spaces he would create in and the community he had built, he showed her what it looked like to build something and to keep showing up for it. Now, she decides what those things become in her hands. That's the difference between preserving a legacy and simply remembering one.

Every time she directs a choir, every time she plans Gospel in the Park, every time she plays a key, spins his vinyl collection or walks through the rooms of the house, she is showing what became possible because he was here. The past, for Shonda, is not behind her but beneath her feet, in the community she has nurtured and in the choices she makes of what comes next.

"If you don't remember your past, you don't know where you're going, you don't appreciate where you are and you may not understand the steps that are in front of you," she explained. "It's important to appreciate the past … to know your past, know your history and know what it took to have it."

"I don't want people to forget, and I definitely want to keep my father's legacy alive."



the Sumter ITEM REFLECTIONS

Bland's Pond on Shot Pouch



PHOTOS BY SAMMY WAY / THE SUMTER ITEM

From Broad Street looking south at Shot Pouch.



LEFT: Broad Street looking north at Shot Pouch



RIGHT: Shot Pouch runs near the walking trail at Sumter YMCA.



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

Reflections revisits Bland Pond, which became part of the Iris Gardens through the efforts of H. C. Bland, the former owner of the Hudson-Essex, Oldsmobile, Saxon, Kissel Car, Roamer, Milburn Electric car and the Ford dealership in Sumter. The land purchased by Bland, according to Dr. Anne King Gregorie "… was originally owned by the Bradford family, who made it a well-known mill-site. It had passed out of that family in 1877 when it was sold to Andrew Jackson Moses by Gabriel Wesley Bradford, the surviving executor of Robert Bradford, whose will had been probated in 1850."

In 1908, the property was held by Marion Moise, trustee for the Sumter Land Company, who divided it into lots. In 1927, the mill pond, and later some additional lots, were conveyed by F. M. Cain to H. C. Bland, who, with the artistry of genius, made it the Mecca for annual visits for thousands of flower-lovers. The information and photos used to prepare this article were acquired from *The Item* archives and the writings of Gregorie and Cassie Nicholes. A measure of editing was required.

Nicholes noted in her text, "Mr. Bland, having reached a point where he had more leisure time, purchased 'The Pond' on the western part of the city, thinking to develop it as a fish pond, garden and bird sanctuary. He worked tirelessly building little islands with old magazines, newspapers, weeds, branches, even dirt from Hampton Avenue, where paving was being done."

Dr. Gregorie noted that "Men leaving Sumter to engage in the Mexican War marched from the courthouse and bivouacked the first night of their march at what became Shot Pouch Camp, two miles from Sumterville. The name of the camp was probably given because horsemen often had their shot pouch torn due to the large amount of thorns and briars located near the stream." The water supplied to Bland's pond was from Shot Pouch Creek. The small stream was located a half mile from the Sumter city limits according to an article published in *The Item* in April 1934.

The name Shot Pouch Creek is found in a pamphlet titled Names in South Carolina 1959, published by the Department of English of the University of South Carolina. "According to Mr. Herbert A. Moses, the name 'Shot Pouch' describes a little stream that probably existed for a century. What is now Broad Street, and Highway 76, was then just country roads wandering toward Stateburg and generally westward. A little beyond the western limit of Sumterville, one might find the stream that originated in the north and flowed south.

"Later one might be required to cross the stream over a plank bridge; now a pipe carries the water under the highway. This stream is not wide; however, after it crossed the road, it flowed through a rather depressed meadow. When it reached the meadow it broadened then contracted so that it took on the shape of a shot pouch (hence the name given to the creek) which accompanied the muzzle-loading gun used by soldiers and hunters. As the stream moved through Sumter, its waters became Bland Pond, continuing to First Mill before it reached the Black River, which ultimately entered into the Atlantic."



Swan Lake and Shot Pouch

Clarendon Sun

Life in the Palmetto State: A night that turned into weeks



Lee Reaves

Thirty-seven years ago Tuesday, Sept. 22 (1989), Hurricane Hugo crashed into the South Carolina coast in the wee hours of the morning with a fury not experienced before or after, thank goodness.

I remember it well, for I lost my house and the blow down it left in its path was evident for years, especially in our woods. I lived in a mobile home that was strewn all over the woods behind my house. I remember most of our pines were twisted off about 15 feet high and jack-strawed all over the landscape we called home.

The storm for us actually started to show its ugly face the afternoon before, Sept. 21.

I worked in Sardinia, S.C., for a cucumber/pickling operation farm, and we had been monitoring this storm as it wobbled indiscriminately on its feeble axis for days out in the Atlantic gaining strength.

Although there were several bullseyes sighted, it was becoming ever more painfully apparent that our Charleston was in its crosshairs.

I remember distinctly going home for lunch on the 21st and listening to Jean Caughman on Carolina Today on WIS-TV where she had Jim Gandy on to address the concerns of their viewing audience as to the threats this massive storm possessed.

The words still ring in my ears to this day. Ms. Caughman asked Mr. Gandy, "Well, Jim, what are your meteorological thoughts of this storm?" He said, and I quote, " Jean, we will see destruction in the Midlands like we have never seen before."

If he said anything else after that, I didn't hear it. That was enough for me. I went back to work and started getting ready for the impending doom we were facing.

That afternoon the winds started getting stronger as the outer bands moved on shore.

The clouds started to darken as time rocked on until that evening when it really started ramping up.

Rain started coming in, getting heavier as we worked toward quitting time.

The last truck finished on the hydrocooler about 10 p.m.

I asked which way was he bound. He said Greenville, Mississippi. I told him to get out of here and don't look back.

He did, and we finished our cleanup and a few last minute tie-downs before we left.

I got home, actually went to Mom and Dad's because we lived in a mobile home, and I remember my family and my Grandmother were all gathered at Mom and Dad's house to ride out the storm.

The lights went off at midnight on the dot, not to return until 11 days later.

I fell asleep on the floor and drowsily went to bed, not paying attention to the weather at all. I think most of the family did, however. My job was very taxing, especially during harvest and processing time.

So in the morning almost at first light, my Dad and brother walked up to my house to check it out. They met me halfway and persuaded me not to look. It was devastation on a grand scale.

Well, as we gained our composure, we decided to go to Manning and check on family. We had to cut trees and literally tunnel our way under the wind to get through.

Fortunately all was OK, but what was left demoralized the best of it.

A side story: I remember vividly checking in out-of-town helpers at First Baptist Church in Manning, and I overheard a group of gung-ho men comparing their chainsaws and experiences to each other.

I butted in and asked them if they ever cut "jack-strawed" timber before.

(That's trees so twisted from wind damage that it is nearly impossible to determine where the pressures are.)

They laughed at me and discounted me because I was young and they were older.

The next day the biggest mouth in the bunch came back in with two broken arms. Yep, that left a mark where common sense stopped and stupidity took over.

I could go on with one story after the next, but limited space prevents that.

Suffice it to say I had never seen something so traumatic, and I hope I never do again.

As long as my mind stays relatively cognizant, I won't ever forget that night because the days on the path of recovery took weeks.

Hugo was an overgrown man. One that truly left a massive path of destruction etched in the minds and hearts that witnessed it.

May God bless you!

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

McLeod Health Clarendon honors Service Awards recipients

BY MCLEOD HEALTH

MANNING – On Tuesday, Sept. 8, McLeod Health Clarendon employees were recognized for their years of dedicated service during the 2026 Employee Service Awards Luncheon.

During the ceremony, 63 employees were honored for their contribution to the organization. Each employee was recognized for their cumulative years of dedicated service including those years of service at Clarendon Memorial Hospital. When combined, these employees have dedicated more than 840 years of caring to patients and families in Clarendon and surrounding counties.

"Our employees are the heart of McLeod Health Clarendon, and their commitment is reflected in the compassionate, high-quality care they provide each day," said Scott Adams, chief executive officer of McLeod Health Clarendon. "It is a privilege to recognize these team members for their loyalty and dedication. Their many years of service have made a lasting difference in the lives of our patients, their coworkers and our community."



PHOTO PROVIDED

The celebration included a special recognition of Janice McNair of the Radiology Department for achieving 50 years of service.

The following employees were honored:

50 Years of Service: Janice McNair

40 Years of Service: Katherine Gales

35 Years of Service: Renee Halstead and Ernestine Morris

30 Years of Service: Bruce Baker, Priscilla Darby, Angel Lee, Kristi McElveen and Cheryl Ragin

25 Years of Service: Jay Holladay and Helen Burgess McFadden

20 Years of Service: Tommy Jean Alexander, Deborah Campbell, Summer Gaymon, Kathleen Keith and Elizabeth Thompson

15 Years of Service: Anita Brogdon, Teresa Courtney, Dr. Robert Eagerton, T.J. Erickson, Terri Flowers, Debra Mixon, Mary Murray, Paulette Peterson, Brittany Southard and Christy Taylor

10 Years of Service: Ashley Ardis, Courtney Brunson, Hope Bryant, Tracy Canty, Ashley Eshleman, Jessica Jeffcoat, Dr. Carmen Roberts, Loraine Vanhorn and Shawntae Williams

5 Years of Service: Katelyn Broome, Tiffany Caldwell, Hope Carnahan, George Dingle, Shay Dowdle, CNM, Anna Dubose, Adrienne Evans Rabon, Jessica Gabert, Jessica Garris, Sharonda Gregg, Michelle Hanna, Mary Hayes, Rebecca Howell, Courtney Ives, Kristian Jackson, Veronica Lynch, Chloe Martin, NP, Chaz McDonald, NP, April Merritt, Kelsey Pack, Susanne Pappas, Raina Philhower, PA, Arianna Robinson, Pamela Russo, Marlon Stukes, Quanell Sutton, Antoinette Swetnam and Jami White

THE Clarendon Sun CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINE TUESDAY 11AM

LEGAL NOTICES

Summons & Notice

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, Summerton, SC 29148 / Tax Parcel No.: 120-00-02-049-00:

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 bylands 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 Claredon 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 Offfice of the Judge of Probate of Claredon 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

Summons & Notice

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.

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@johnsondurant.law
Attorney for the Petitioner
September 10, 2026

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,
Defendant(s).

SUMMONS AND NOTICES

Summons & Notice

(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 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 Bank 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 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

Summons & Notice

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 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

SUMMONS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CLARENDON
CASE NUMBER: 2026-CP-14-214

TO: Marie C. Mack, Deceased, Fletcher L. Dingle, Deceased, Pauline C. Billups, Deceased, Willie Mae Shuler, Deceased and Moses Cain, Jr., Deceased, and Any Unknown Adults being a class designated as John Doe, and any unknown infants or person under disability or in the Military service being class designated as Richard Roe,

Defendants

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint for Quiet Title in this action, a copy of which was filed in the Clarendon County Circuit Court on April 21, 2026, and is hereby served upon you by publication and to serve a copy of your answer to Charles T. Brooks, III, Esq., PO BOX 3512, Sumter, SC 29151, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Petition within the time aforesaid, the Petitioner in this action will apply to the Court for the relief requested in the Petition.

Charles T Brooks, III
PO BOX 3512
Sumter, SC 29151

DESCRIPTION OF PLEADINGS
Action for Quiet Title to Real Property
Lis Pendens

Plaintiff/Petitioner: Mattie C. King
Real Property Location: Jordon Church Road
Lis Pendens Filed:April 21, 2026
Case documents are E- filed and available for retrieval at www.sccourts.org/caseSearch/

Notice of Sale

Notice of Sale
C/A No: 2025-CP-14-00446
BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE of the Court of Common Pleas for Clarendon County, South Carolina, heretofore issued in the case of Freedom Mortgage Corporation vs. Julia Allen Sizemore; Joseph Blanding Sr and Ruth Mooring AND IF Joseph Blanding Sr and Ruth Mooring be deceased then any child and heir at law to the Estates of Joseph Blanding Sr and Ruth Mooring distributees and devisees at law to the Estates of Joseph Blanding Sr and Ruth Mooring and if any of the same be dead any and all persons entitled to claim under or through them also all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, interest or lien upon the real estate described in the complaint herein; Any unknown adults, any unknown infants or persons under a disability being a class designated as John Doe, and any persons in the military service of the United States of America being a class designated as Richard Roe; South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance Company, Inc: James L Fleming I the undersigned as Master-in-Equity for Clarendon County, will sell on October 5, 2026 at 11:00 AM at Clarendon County Court House, Manning, South Carolina 29102 to the highest bidder:

Legal Description and Property Address:
All that certain tract of land situated a short distance North of June Burn Branch on Highway S-14-290 between Highway S-14-40 and 8-4-123 in School District No. 2 of Clarendon County, South Carolina, containing 1.68 acres according to a plat of four (4) tracts made by R.G. Mathis Land Surveying, for J.C. Pelfrey, dated September 13, 1991, whereon said tract is designated as Tract No. 4 being bisected by a 20 foot right-of-way shown on said plat and being bounded and measuring thereon, as follows: North by lands of John T. Harvin measuring thereon 265.61 feet; Northeast by South Carolina Highway S-14-290 measuring 416.46 feet; Southeast by 50' roadway fronting thereon 100 feet; Southeast by Tract No. 3 on said plat and measuring thereon 543.45 feet.

TOGETHER with a 1998 Jaguar Mobile Home, Serial/VIN # GMHGA1389822080AB located thereon.

This being the same property conveyed to Julia Allen Sizemore by Deed of James Fleming dated December 22, 2022 and recorded May 30, 2023 in Deed Book 1013 at Page 1094, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon County, South Carolina.

2171 Little Star Road
Alcolu, SC 29001
TMS# 219-00-01-048-00 & 219-00-01-048-01

TERMS OF SALE: For cash. Interest at the current rate of 7.25% to be paid on balance of bid from date of sale to date of compliance. The purchaser to pay for papers and stamps, and that the successful bidder or bidders, other than the Plaintiff therein, will, upon the acceptance of his or her bid, deposit with the Master-in-Equity for Clarendon County a certified check or cash in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of bid on said premises at the sale as evidence of good faith in bidding, and subject to any resale of said premises under Order of this Court; and in the event the said purchaser or purchasers fail to comply with the terms of sale within Twenty (20) days, the Master-in-Equity for Clarendon County shall forthwith resell the said property, after the due notice and advertisement, and shall continue to sell the same each subsequent sales day until a purchaser, who shall comply with the terms of sale, shall be obtained, such sales to be made at the risk of the former purchaser. Since a personal or deficiency judgment is waived, the bidding will not remain open but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. If the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's representative does not appear at the above-described sale, then the sale of the property will be null, void, and of no force and effect. In such event, the sale will be rescheduled for the next available sales day. Plaintiff may waive any of its rights prior to sale. Sold subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record. Neither the Court, nor Plaintiff, nor Plaintiff's counsel makes any warranty of title or representations with regard to the condition or existence of any improvements on the subject property. Prospective bidders may wish to assess these matters to their satisfaction prior to sale.

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW

Hutchens Law Firm, LLP
P.O. Box 8237
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 726-2700

call us TODAY

Estate Notice Clarendon County

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Clarendon County, the address of which is 411 Sunset Dr. Manning, SC 29102, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Joseph William Persighin Jr.Date of Death: 08/26/26
Case No. 2026ES1400258
Personal Representative: Dorothy F. Barwick
Address: 11154 Pinewood Hwy
Manning, SC 29102

Estate: Franklin Winston Priester
Date of Death: 2/20/2026
Case Number: 2026ES1400229
Personal Representative:
Marion Roxanne Ramsey
Address: 1228 Krissy Street,
Summerton, SC29148

Estate: Patricia Goettling JonesDate of Death: 07/13/26
Case Number: 2026ES1400260
Personal Representative: Jennifer Goettling
Address: PO Box 137
Manning, SC 29102
Co-Personal Representative:
Carolyn Weixler
Address: 8900 Kershaw Camden Hwy, Kershaw, SC 29067

Estate: George Antwan Ragin Jr.Case Number: 2026ES1400234
Personal Representative: George Edward Ragin, Sr.
Address: 1991 Ludien
Brailsford Road
Manning SC 29102
Attorney: Brian C. Mickelsen Esq.
Address: 20 Society Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Estate: Sadie Mae SowellDate of Death: 07/29/26
Case No. 2026ES1400252
Personal Representative:
Vivian Douglas
Address: 1203 Kousa Court,
Rock Hill, SC 29732
Co-Personal Representative: Laraine S. Cummings
4 Marsh Hawk Lane, Columbia, SC 29229

Estate: Russell Robinson
Date of Death: 11/24/2025
Case Number: 2026ES1400231
Personal Representative:
Ann Robinson
Address: 1871 Sedgewick Ave #2C,
Bronx, NY 10453

Estate: Abigail Wendolyn BarnhillDate of Death: 07/28/26
Case Number: 2026ES1400244
Personal Representative:
Donald Barnhill
Address: PO Box 95, 3474 Shiloh Road, Turbeville, SC 29162
Attorney: Samuel L. Floyd
Address: 15 Courthouse Square, Kingstree, SC 29556

Estate: Inez J. MontgomeryDate of Death: 5/31/2026
Case Number: 2026ES1400254
Personal Representative:
Willie Nelson
Address: 1590 Agape Way Apt. 1149
Decatur, GA 30035



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Laurence Manning's Dennis named Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week after explosive performance against Wilson Hall

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Laurence Manning hosted Wilson Hall last week for a matchup filled with excitement. The rivalry between the two schools already brings a level of anticipation, but the Swampcats also had the boost of their head coach returning to action, as David Rankin coached his first game amid a prolonged health scare.

When the 'Cats needed a big play against their rivals, they were able to consistently turn to their star wide receiver, Scoop Dennis, who did everything from running in touchdowns to mossing defenders in the passing game. He was recognized as the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week as a result after leading Laurence Manning to a blowout win over Wilson Hall.

"They're just a family," Dennis said of the LMA community. "I just know they're always going to be there for me. I just thank them for all of their support."

Matchups between Laurence Manning and Wilson Hall typically come with their share of drama. Last year, a blocked kick was the difference as LMA pulled out a narrow victory, but Dennis and company thought they were capable of a much more explosive performance this time around.

"My mindset was just to go in and kill," Dennis said. "We beat Wilson Hall last year, but we didn't get what we wanted to get out of it. I knew we had a big chance to win the game, and we've got a bunch of pieces on the team, so we just used those with Coach Rankin up in the box calling plays. That was real good."

Dennis showed off his big play ability early, leaping in the air to snag the game's first touchdown over the outreached arms of a Baron defender. That was just the beginning, as he teamed up with quarterback Grainger Powell for six catches for 108 yards and a touchdown, falling a yard shy of a second receiving score as he made another ridiculous leaping grab later in the game. He would go on to add 27 yards and a touchdown in the running game.



Laurence Manning's Scoop Dennis had 225 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns against Wilson Hall to earn Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week honors.

TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

"It was just me talking to my quarterback and the rest of my team just trusting me," Dennis said of his highlight plays. "It's just me and Grainger's chemistry, us in practice every day just working on everything to get ready for the game. It's just him trusting in me and me trusting in him."

Laurence Manning has always been creative in the ways they get the ball in Dennis' hands, but he's been able to get some new looks this fall. He's lined up in the backfield more than ever this season, which has been a fun change of pace.

"It's actually pretty fun. It's really my first time being in the backfield since I played Pop Warner football, so it's really fun to me," Dennis said. "I was looking forward to being in the backfield and hoping coach would call those plays so I could run the ball and show my athleticism."

SEE **AOTW,** PAGE A9



The Sumter High boys and girls basketball teams gather with the team at the Palmetto Tennis Center after an afternoon of learning tennis.

PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

HITTING A NEW COURT

Sumter High basketball teams grow together with tennis lesson at Palmetto Tennis Center

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com



Members of the Sumter High girls basketball team learn from Palmetto Tennis Center professional Brian Hodge, right, on Monday.

As the Sumter High basketball program prepares for another winter on the court, head coaches Bryan Brown and Brittany Lee wanted to find some ways to break their teams out of their comfort zones. They decided to take a little field trip on Monday, bringing their players to Palmetto Tennis Center to hit a different kind of court, flexing their muscles in a new way while also growing together as a team with some lessons from the PTC crew.

"It's just doing a cross-sport activity, having them learn different sports and different skills. Hand-eye coordination is one of the skills that basketball and tennis share in common," Coach Brown said. "Just trying to find something different outside of basketball for them to have fun and also give them challenges."

The Gamecocks certainly found some joy in picking up the racket. Brian Hodge, the tennis development professional at Palmetto Tennis Center, gave the teams chances to compete against each other throughout the afternoon as they learned how to control the tennis ball amid the chaos on the court. Lee also saw the event as a great way to show that Sumter High has a unified basketball program, not just a boys team and a girls team.

"I just thought it was great because it gives the kids an opportunity to bond together as one big program," Lee said. "They lift together, they're in the gym doing yoga together and things like that, so allowing them this opportunity to do something different outside of basketball is super important. They're laughing together, so they're creating a relationship amongst each other, which I think goes a long way."

No matter the sport, a coach never wants their athletes getting too comfortable with where they're at; every great athlete constantly pushes themselves to get better, and that can come with some failure. Learning how to adapt to failure and grow is always critical, so bringing a team of young athletes to try a new activity will only be beneficial as they prepare for their season, which will likely come with its share of ups and downs.

SEE **COURT,** PAGE A9



Wilson Hall's Trip Hunt runs during the Wilson Hall/Thomas Sumter Invitational on Wednesday.

ABIGAIL PITTAN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Barons sweep home meet as tri-county takes part in Wilson Hall/Thomas Sumter Invitational

The area's top cross country event filled Patriot Park on Wednesday with the Wilson Hall/Thomas Sumter Invitational, as 25 programs gathered for the annual meet. Locally, the host schools were joined by Sumter High, Crestwood, Lakewood, Laurence Manning, East Clarendon, Manning, Westside Christian and Clarendon Hall, as the clouds rolled in to provide a cool afternoon in late September.

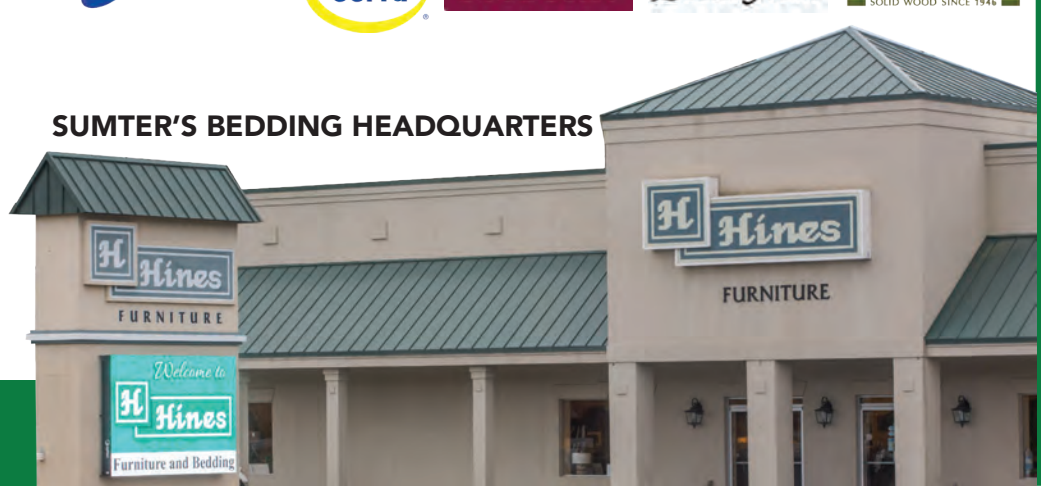
On the team side, it was all Wilson Hall. The Baron boys cruised to a team title with 19 points, easily besting second-place Ben Lippen's 66. Thomas Sumter finished fourth with 132, while Sumter High and Laurence Manning rounded out the top 10 for the boys. The top three finishers were the same on the girls side, as Wilson Hall won with 38 points, followed by Ben Lippen (49) and Hammond (71). LMA finished seventh (228), followed by Thomas Sumter (229), Westside Christian (258) and EC (316).

WILSON HALL

The Wilson Hall boys crushed the competition, taking five of the top six spots to run away with the title. Trip Hunt was the first to cross the finish line in 15:32.37, just missing out on the school record he set last fall. Ben Lippen's Liam Thompson finished second in 15:55.30 before a quartet of Barons followed in rapid succession. Cole Henson finished in 16:04.96, followed by Gavin Getz (16:25.98), Caulder Williamson (16:29.88) and Abel Ayres (16:37.42). Cordin Finley and Aiden Bradford also finished 10th and 11th with times of 17:25.27 and 17:33.36, while Wil Alexander finished 14th in 17:50.73.

SEE **INVITE,** PAGE A9

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COURT

FROM PAGE A8

"I think it's important. There are a lot of different things that you go through with basketball, different situations that you're put in, and this game of tennis creates a lot of different chances to fail," Brown said midway through an afternoon of his own first attempt at the sport. "It is very difficult; I have a newfound respect for the sport of tennis."

It wasn't just the players learning the ropes, either. The Gamecock head and assistant coaches all got in on the fun and had a chance to share in the experience, bringing the entire program a little closer together.

"I think it's fun because they get to see us kind of learn, as well," Lee said. "They're laughing and joking around with us, too, so it kind of opens the door for them to see that coach and player relationship a little bit. They see us learning and being competitive, so I love it. I think this is awesome that we're getting a chance to do this."

Both Gamecock head coaches were so thankful for PTC for being able to provide the experience, all the way down to making sure each player had a racket to borrow for the afternoon. BJ Reed, who oversees Palmetto Tennis Center, is no stranger to basketball after a great playing career at Wake Forest and multiple stints as the head coach at Thomas Sumter. She helped facilitate an excellent bonding opportunity for Sumter High as they prepare for the winter on the court.

"We're really grateful for BJ and her staff; they really opened it up for us and gave us the opportunity to come out here and kind of made it easy for us," Brown said. "They put everything together, and they've done a dynamic job of working with our student-athletes."



PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter High boys basketball coach Bryan Brown hits a ball at the Palmetto Tennis Center on Monday.



Sumter High's Larry Brown returns a shot on Monday at the Palmetto Tennis Center.

AOTW

FROM PAGE A8

But Dennis didn't just make an impact on offense. He and the LMA defense smothered Wilson Hall for most of the night, building a comfortable 35-7 lead before both teams turned to their reserves. Dennis had an interception called back due to a penalty, but his presence was felt as the Barons struggled to move the ball. He added 90 yards on kick returns, as well, finishing with 225 all-purpose yards.

"It's just us getting in the film room, looking at film all day and everybody getting prepared under Coach Brock (Miller)," Dennis said. "Everybody was really focused because that was a big game."

While the opponent and the return of their head coach were important stakes in the matchup with Wilson Hall, it was also just important to get on the field. Five weeks into the season, LMA has played just three games due to weather. Their season opener against Williamsburg Academy was canceled, and they were forced to postpone their Week 4 matchup with John Paul II until Oct. 16 thanks to another bout of storms. Simply getting on the field and having a chance to show that they're a talented team was an important step for the Swampcats during a season that has been filled with starts and stops.

"It's actually kinda crazy that, going in, we'd only played two games, so we were really hyped to play," Dennis said. "We've been practicing, getting ready to play every time and coaches have been in our ears telling us to stay focused, even though we hadn't been playing really that much.

"We always knew we had good talent on the team, it was just us being focused and going out there ready and having our mindsets ready to play anyone that steps on the field against us."

Dennis and the 'Cats just want to keep the good times rolling, but they'll have to start gearing up for some road trips coming up. After hosting Augusta Christian for homecoming on Friday, all but one of LMA's remaining games will be on the road. A home game against Pinewood Prep, the reigning SCISA 3A champs, is the only chance for Laurence Manning to get some home cooking before the playoffs.

"It's just us keeping our heads in the game and staying focused," Dennis said, "just trusting our coaches and everybody being on the same page."

INVITE

FROM PAGE A8

The Lady Barons were led by Emmie Williamson, who finished in third place to lead four consecutive finishes from Wilson Hall with a time of 19:50.04. Jane Foley finished in 19:57.94, while Bella Wassmuth crossed in 20:00.93 and Kayla Henson crossed in 20:09.97. Mary Foley finished 21st in 21:56.51, while Ann Phillips Zitzke placed 26th in 22:25.92.

THOMAS SUMTER

Thomas Sumter's top finisher was Nate Livingston, who crossed in 17:46.63 to place 12th. Aiden and Ashton Pierce finished 19th and 22nd, respectively, with times of 18:03.07 and 17:07.69. Samuel Peckham finished 44th in 19:44.08, just in front of Henry Sturkey in 46th in 19:53.05.

The Lady Generals were led by Savannah Wilson, who finished 39th in 23:23.13. Sophie Bell finished 72nd in 25:31.19. The next four from TSA finished in rapid succession, as Alexis Wiegel (25:51.37) placed 80th, Mary Margaret Reid (26:12.26) finished 82nd, Chloe Perry (26:30.99) finished 85th and Emma Yardley (26:35.74) finished 87th.

LAURENCE MANNING

Both LMA squads had top 10 finishes on the day. Drew Beard led the boys team, placing seventh in 16:42.02. Ben Clegg crossed in 17:58.18 to finish 16th. Caleb Andrews finished 97th in 22:07.33. Andrew Thompson finished 118th in 23:17.63, and Kole Squires placed 179th in 25:33.09.

The Lady Swampcats were led by Meredith Coffey, who placed ninth in 20:53.27. Jenavieve Gardner placed 84th in 26:25.34, and Anne Heaton Durant finished 90th in 27:00.83. Sarah Lane (27:28.18) finished 101st, followed by Aleah Straight (27:36.30) in 106th and Callie Keefer (27:46.28) in 107th.

SUMTER HIGH

The Gamecocks were led by Jaden Robinson, who placed 30th in 18:51.16. Jack Butters finished 40th in 19:33.63. Tyler Metze placed 53rd in 20:21.06, and Maxim Mosneaguta placed 64th in 20:52.50. Colton Jones finished 152nd in 24:20.77.

The SHS girls were led by Camdyn Osteen, who placed 51st in 24:19.00. Lucille Hall (29:41.42) and Makayla Marcum (29:47.63) finished 126th and 127th, respectively.

CRESTWOOD

The Knights were led by Elijah Borja, who finished 47th in 20:05.13. Jorge Borja finished 138th in 23:53.75. Landen Brooks placed 167th in 25:07.93. Tavin Bunker placed 185th in 25:54.70. Gregory Jones finished 231st in 33:42.86.

Chloe McConnell led the Lady Knights in 115th in 28:50.74. Kelsey Cotton finished 142nd in 34:42.17, and Tiana Polanco finished 145th in 37:14.06.

LAKEWOOD

The Gators only had three runners. Ethan Nichols finished 108th in 22:24.06, Christian Howard placed 119th in 23:18.71 and Nicholas Engel placed 218th in 29:22.86.

MANNING

The Monarchs were led by Jorden Hilton, who crossed in 20:12.31 to finish 52nd. Bryce Kinard finished in 23:35.57 to place 123rd. Mehki Anderson finished 125th in 23:41.97. Gabriel Schnelder placed 230th in 33:23.60, and Jason White placed 239th in 45:25.25.

The Manning girls were led by Clerra Utterback, who placed 105th in 27:34.78. Annabelle Schnelder finished 109th in 27:50.71. Selena Robers finished 146th in 37:15.25 and Laekyn Cheek placed 148th in 37:59.83.

EAST CLARENDON

East Clarendon was led by Mattie Kelly, who crossed in 24:50.03 to finish 62nd. Jayla Frink finished in 129th in 20:31.40. Maddie Kirby placed 138th in 33:04.36. Carrie Elvis finished 147th in 37:35.53. Amelia Brancato finished 149th in 38:44.26.

The EC boys were led by Jett Robinson, who placed 85th in 21:33.52. Wells Epps finished in 93rd in 21:56.17. Brayden Spring placed 120th in 23:23.06. Luke Kelly finished 126th in 23:45.89. Misael Molina placed 133rd in 23:49.11.

WESTSIDE CHRISTIAN

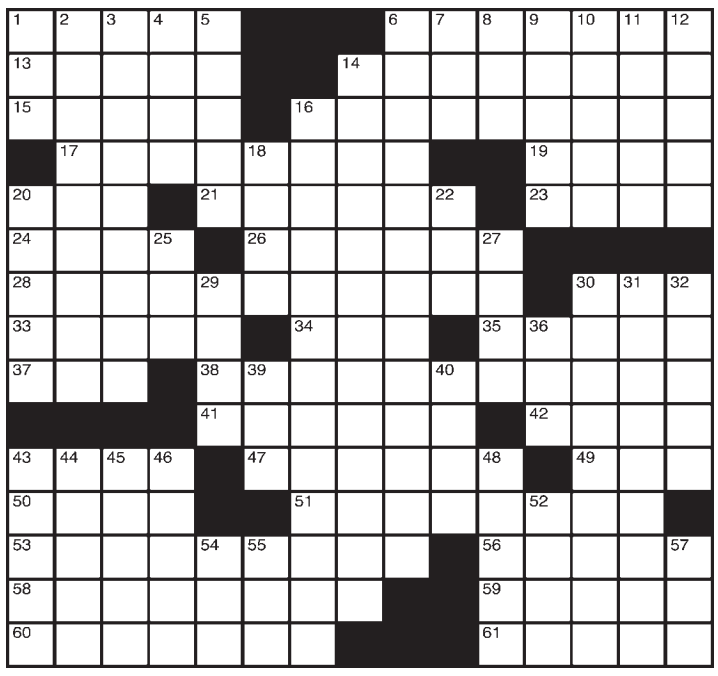
Westside Christian was led by Olivia Lee, who finished 66th in 25:18.31. Gracie Katorkas finished 69th in 25:24.18, while Addy P Jones finished 76th in 25:43.02. Abbygale Watford finished 117th in 28:54.95. Nora Lee (29:17.53) finished 121st, while Lexi Watford (29:29.09) and Lillian Wilson (29:29.33) finished back to back in 123rd and 124th.

The Westside boys were led by Carson Beacham, who placed 134th in 23:49.79. Thomas Jones finished 153rd in 24:22.45. Jakobe Stamper finished 199th in 27:04.52. Elijah Benjamin placed 216th in 28:51.19, and Landon Anderson finished 234th in 34:06.56.

CLARENDON HALL

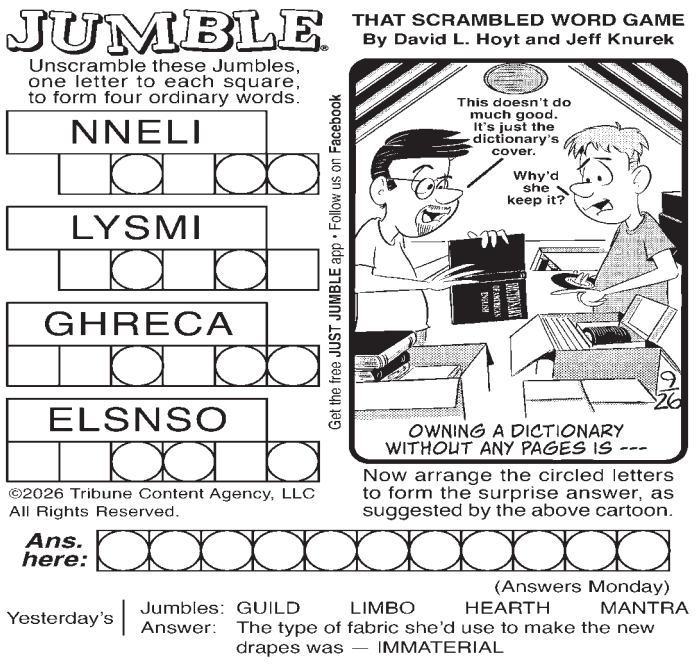
The Saints had just one runner on the day, as Willson Epps finished 146th in 24:12.43.

CROSSWORD



Across
1 Releases
6 Ardent supporter
13 Island country that changed the shape of the International Date Line by skipping December 30, 2011
14 "Anything you say"
15 Guttural sound
16 Outermost meningeal membrane
17 Hot
19 "Bad idea"
20 High return
21 41-Across teacher
23 Army __
24 Double-reed woodwind related to the shawm
26 Seldom seen
28 Racing headgear
30 Tailgating area
33 Angiogram image, perhaps
34 "__ bien"
35 Durable fabric
37 Drug featured in the Dock Ellis biopic "No No: A Dockumentary"
38 "How's it hangin'?"
41 Dojo discipline
42 Bernie Sanders' mittens, for one
43 Singer known as the "Goddess of Pop"
47 Harsh critics
49 PC IDs
50 Martinican poet Césaire who helped found the Négritude movement
51 Dessert often made with espresso
53 "Chocolate in every bite" cookie maker
56 Sonicare rival
58 Herb in fines herbes and herbes de Provence
59 Bring up
60 Welcome words?
61 Wrapped

Down
1 Key hit in panic
2 Platform game that debuted in 1983
3 "You sold me"
4 Bufotoxin source
5 Array at an izakaya
6 Genre in which readers are clued in to the plot?
7 Time to study
8 Beaut
9 Taqueria option
10 Guest room fixture
11 "__ you sweet!"
12 "Aw, phooey"
14 Vinyasa sequence also called Surya Namaskar
16 Event one must prepare for exhaustively?
18 Vibe well
20 Word in many union names
22 Halo-halo base
25 Part of i.e.
27 Make a lasting impression?
29 Skateboarding star Tony
30 "This bears repeating … "
31 Instinctively
32 Hues
36 Muffuletta ingredient
39 Derisive laugh
40 "Buona __"
43 Tacos de nopales need
44 Percussion set
45 Dubai rulers
46 High-quality proof, for short
48 Camping treat
52 Home country of filmmaker Asghar Farhadi
54 Chump
55 Sit in a cellar, perhaps
57 Sack



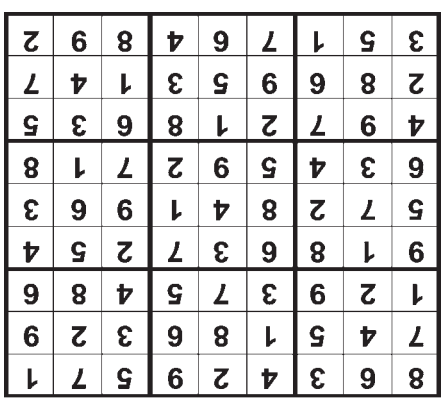
SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS





Jumbles: LINEN SLIMY CHARGE LESSON
Answer: Owning a dictionary without any pages is — MEANINGLESS

PUBLIC AGENDA

To correct any information or to make a submission to Public Agenda, email pressrelease@theitem.com with PUBLIC AGENDA in subject line.

NAACP SUMTER COUNTY BRANCH

Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m., Bethany Baptist Church, 350 E. Red Bay Road

Election of the Nominating Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of 30 days before the meetig date may be elected to the committee (not more than two being officers of the unit).

CITY OF MANNING BOARD OF APPEALS

Monday, Sept. 28, 6 p.m., 29 W. Boyce St., City Hall Chambers, Manning

SUMTER COUNTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 8 a.m., training building at 611 W. Oakland Ave.

SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m., Sumter County Council Chambers

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-RETIRED

Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 11 a.m., North Hope Center, 904 N. Main St. For information, call Ernestine L. Mickens or Geneva Bowman at (803) 469-2909.

AROUND TOWN

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

Receive information about the **2026 Salvation Army Angel Tree and Senior Gift program** for Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 5-9 and Oct. 12-16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The office is closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1 p.m. To receive toy assistance, you must apply in person and pick up on distribution day in person. You must bring picture ID for person applying (valid driver's license, passport or state ID), verification of current address (lease or utility bill), verification of income or benefits (pay stubs or food stamp letter of eligibility), verification of expenses and verification of age for children (must have birth certificate for all children ages 11 and under, 11th birthday on or before Dec. 21, 2026). Legal guardians, please bring proof of custody. The Salvation Army is at 16 Kendrick St.

The Evening Optimist Club is accepting applications for the annual **Sumter Christmas Parade** which will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m. The theme for the 2026 Christmas Parade is "Christmas Dreams." If your school, civic club, church or business would like an application, please contact *SumterSCParades@aol.com*. Deadline for entry is Friday, Nov. 13.

Sumter County Recreation Department, in conjunction with Sumter Economic Development and Sumter Senior Services, will host **"Golden Connections: A Senior Community Health & Resource Fair,"** featuring the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. This event will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Sumter County Civic Center, 700 W. Liberty St., Sumter. Doors open at 9 a.m. There will be local and state resource vendors, prevention information, giveaways, guest speakers, fraud bingo, entertainment and refreshments. There will also be a drawing for an Apple iPad; must be present to win. This is a free event, and all seniors are welcome. To preregister or for more information, call the Recreation Department at (803) 436-2248 or email *recreation@sumtercountysc.gov*.

SOLUTION TO THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD



WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2026

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

AccuWeather We Save Lives Get the AccuWeather app

TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
A bright blue sky and pleasant	Mainly clear	Partly sunny and pleasant	Sunshine	Warm with plenty of sunshine	Sunny and warm
82°	53°	82° / 54°	84° / 59°	87° / 62°	89° / 64°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 10%
NW 6-12 mph	NW 3-6 mph	WNW 4-8 mph	NNW 3-6 mph	ESE 3-6 mph	ESE 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

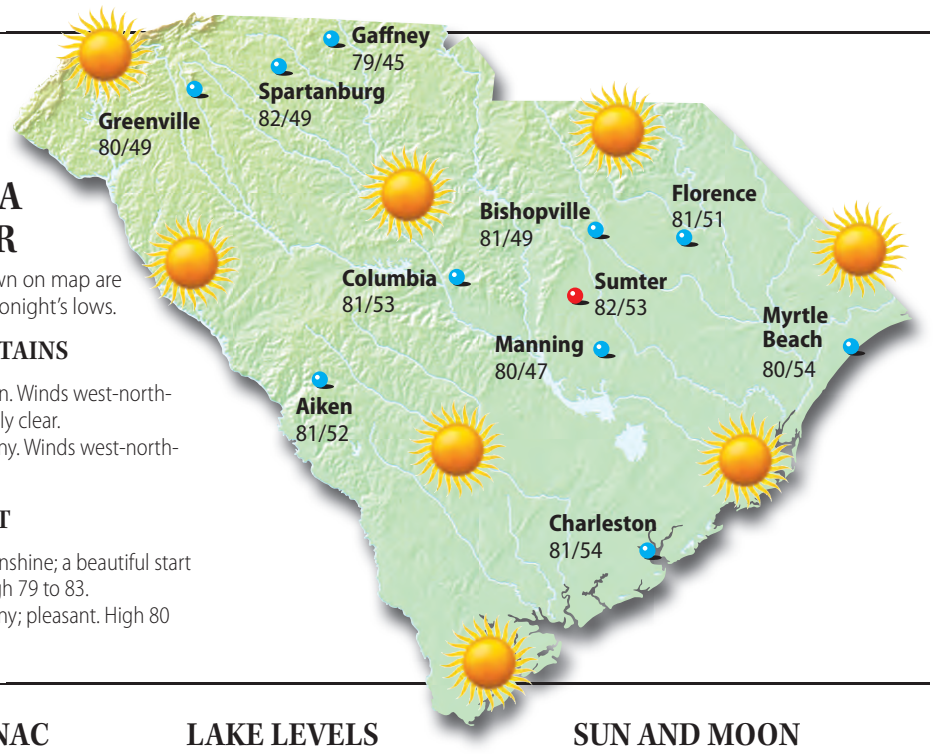
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Plenty of sun. Winds west-northwest 4-8 mph. Mainly clear.
Sunday: Partly sunny. Winds west-northwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Plenty of sunshine; a beautiful start to the weekend. High 79 to 83.
Sunday: Partly sunny; pleasant. High 80 to 84.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THURSDAY

Temperature

High	66°
Low	61°
Normal high	81°
Normal low	60°
Record high	95° in 1980
Record low	42° in 1981

Precipitation

Thursday	0.29"
Month to date	1.06"
Normal month to date	3.38"
Year to date	22.30"
Last year to date	25.29"
Normal year to date	37.20"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	355.83	-0.04
Marion	76.8	73.06	-0.04
Moultrie	75.5	73.05	none
Wateree	100	96.71	+0.05

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	1.56	-0.01
Congaree River	19	5.04	+2.16
Lynches River	14	1.35	+0.02
Saluda River	14	1.99	-0.23
Up. Santee River	80	N.A.	N.A.
Wateree River	24	4.58	+0.02

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:13 a.m.	Sunset	7:13 p.m.
Moonrise	7:05 p.m.	Moonset	7:03 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Sep. 26	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 18

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	9:12 a.m.	3.4	3:46 a.m.	0.4
	9:35 p.m.	3.4	4:08 p.m.	0.4
Sun.	9:52 a.m.	3.6	4:26 a.m.	0.3
	10:15 p.m.	3.3	4:55 p.m.	0.4

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	82/59/s	82/59/pc
Chicago	71/53/pc	70/55/pc
Dallas	92/75/pc	96/75/pc
Detroit	73/49/s	75/51/s
Houston	91/72/pc	93/75/pc
Los Angeles	89/68/s	84/65/s
New Orleans	87/72/pc	90/72/pc
New York	61/56/r	62/58/r
Orlando	85/64/s	85/65/pc
Philadelphia	64/58/r	65/59/r
Phoenix	101/81/s	96/79/c
San Francisco	71/57/pc	66/55/pc
Wash., DC	71/59/r	66/59/r

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	77/46/s	74/46/pc
Athens	81/53/s	82/52/pc
Augusta	83/51/s	84/51/pc
Beaufort	83/56/s	84/62/s
Cape Hatteras	73/63/pc	77/64/s
Charleston	81/54/s	84/59/pc
Charlotte	80/51/s	80/53/s
Clemson	81/51/s	81/52/pc
Columbia	81/53/s	82/53/pc
Darlington	82/51/s	82/51/pc
Elizabeth City	72/56/pc	77/56/s
Elizabethtown	81/53/s	81/53/s
Fayetteville	80/53/s	82/54/s
Florence	81/51/s	81/52/pc
Gainesville	84/56/s	86/61/pc
Gastonia	79/46/s	79/50/s
Goldsboro	81/53/s	82/56/s
Goose Creek	80/51/s	84/57/pc
Greensboro	78/50/s	77/53/s
Greenville	80/49/s	81/52/pc
Hickory	78/49/s	79/50/s
Hilton Head	81/59/s	81/64/pc
Jacksonville, FL	83/55/s	85/64/pc
La Grange	83/55/pc	83/53/pc
Macon	84/52/s	85/50/pc
Marietta	82/55/s	80/53/pc
Marion	78/44/s	76/47/s
Mt. Pleasant	81/56/s	83/63/s
Myrtle Beach	80/54/s	82/57/pc
Orangeburg	82/52/s	84/56/pc
Port Royal	81/56/s	83/61/s
Raleigh	79/52/s	80/56/s
Rock Hill	79/49/s	79/52/s
Rockingham	81/49/s	82/51/s
Savannah	82/54/s	85/60/pc
Spartanburg	82/49/s	80/52/s
Summerville	80/50/s	83/55/pc
Wilmington	80/53/s	81/54/s
Winston-Salem	77/51/s	77/55/s

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

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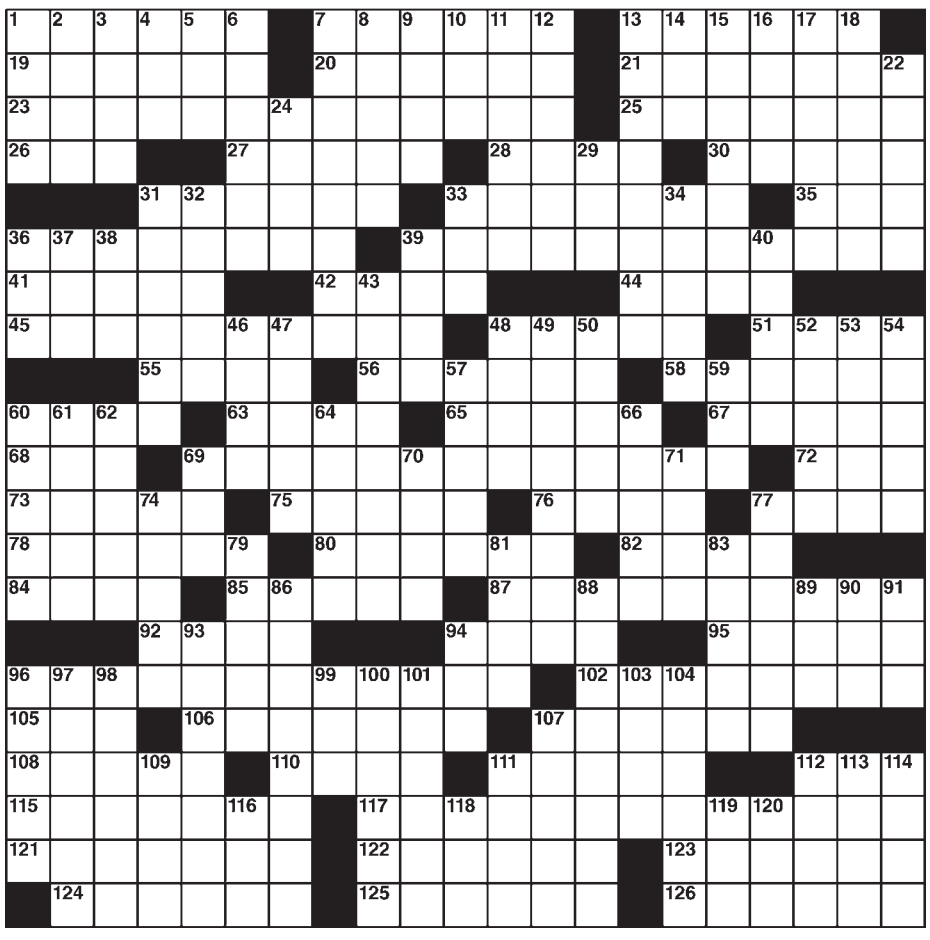


THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

BACK TO SCHOOL: Of the "higher" kind
by Billie Truitt

ACROSS
1 Bill for beer bottles
7 Sequestered
13 Highly horrified
19 Tater Tots producer
20 World Golf Hall-of-Famer Mark
21 Turncoat
23 Magic team
25 Montreal's airport
26 Stayed on the bench
27 Parking permit, often
28 Midmorning hour
30 Camping setups
31 Holder of 1,000+ patents
33 Never
35 Mediocre grade
36 Charismatic
39 The Aviator title character
41 Inedible orange
42 Blood type, briefly
44 Have coming
45 Reddish locks
48 Ocean's motions
51 $$$ dispensers
55 First of 14 popes
56 Digestion catalyst
58 Minor accident
60 Music staff symbol
63 GPS suggestions
65 Dental care brand
67 What boys and toys do
68 Burglarize
69 Cough-drop couple
72 Britain's Isle of __
73 Without warmth
75 That group's
76 Cunning
77 "__ la vie"
78 Get by somehow
80 Rancho animal
82 Formal promise
84 Said "not guilty," say
85 Oscar actress Berry
87 Breakfast condiment
92 Soccer score
94 TV host Brzezinski
95 Donut last name
96 Breakfast noisemakers
102 Discourtesy
105 Bonfire remnant
106 Where Cockney originated
107 Turns into confetti
108 Telejournalist Sawyer
110 Stomping ground
111 Riverboat hazard
112 Genesis craft
115 Not much at all
117 "Noble" composer/pianist
121 Cheer on
122 Have high hopes
123 Appear to be
124 Prepares to be knighted
125 Agreeable answers
126 Sincere

DOWN
1 Conks on the head
2 Carpet calculation
3 Lease expense
4 Sardine holder
5 Tooth doctors' org.
6 Stagecoach robber
7 Fireside beverage
8 "That is to say..."
9 Secluded valley
10 Airport near DFW
11 Thus far, in poetry
12 Tokyo airport
13 -goer
14 Watchdog's warning
15 Arrogant manner
16 Any assistant
17 Foul smell
18 Perfectly
22 Deceptive tactics
24 Lucy's TV hubby
29 Neither here __ there
31 Swallow up
32 Rival of Caterpillar
33 Apt. identifiers
34 Deep divide
36 New Zealand bygone bird
37 Tempe sch.
38 Run off at the mouth
39 Rhinoceros weapon
40 Grind, as teeth
43 Pastry crust
46 Expected result
47 Bandleader's cue
48 Rookie
49 "Too busy to talk"
50 India's Capital Territory
52 Herb in stuffing
53 Some stroller wheelers
54 Utterly exhausted
57 Fictional masked fencer
59 1040 destination
60 Press into small folds
61 In the neighborhood
62 Battery-powered two-wheeler
64 Kerry Kennedy's mom
66 Underwater
69 Airport not far from MEL
70 Quick meal
71 Coogler who directed Creed
74 Sill, for instance
77 Makes butter the old way
79 GWTW heroine
81 Baseball card nos.
83 Voiced disapproval to
86 Biggest-name celebs
88 Slots for rowers
89 "You don't say!'
90 Morning hrs.
91 Abbreviated abode
93 Desert landscape painter
94 Pre-__ major
96 Meteorology tech
97 "Do you mind?"
98 Moon of Pluto
99 Alphabetic trio
100 How hotel rates are often figured
101 Permeate (with)
103 Eurasia's __ Mountains
104 "Yummy!"
107 __ Khan (Kipling tiger)
109 Evening, in adspeak
111 Cinco más uno
112 "Well, don't look __!"
113 Crime novelist Macdonald
114 Plank flaw
116 Text of approval
118 GI dinner crews
119 Paleo- opposite
120 Y or Z, currently



the Sumter ITEM CLASSIFIEDS

To Place Your Classified Ads, Please call

803-774-1200

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application

Notice is hereby given that **Shantinath 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

NewRez LLC d/b/a
Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing,
PLAINTIFF,

VS.

Steven Conklin; et. al.
DEFENDANT(S).

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

CASE NO. 2025-CP-43-01856
SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING OF COMPLAINT
(251136.00243)

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 #4996
Reginald P. Corley
(Reggie.Corley@mccalla.com),
SC Bar #69453
Angelia J. Grant
(Angi.Grant@mccalla.com),
SC Bar #78334
Allison E. Heffernan
(Allison.Heffernan@mccalla.com),
SC Bar #68530
H. Guyton Murrell
(Guyton.Murrell@mccalla.com),
SC Bar #64134
Jordan D. Beumer
(Jordan.Beumer@mccalla.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**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CASE NUMBER: 2026-CP-43-00551

Tyree Fate,

PLAINTIFF

VS.
Alexus Choice and Carrington Murray,

DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS
TO: **THE DEFENDANT ALEXUS CHOICE NAMED ABOVE:**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED, and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is available from the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, South Carolina, herewith served upon you, which was filed on April 14, 2026 at 12:20 PM EST, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the Plaintiff, or her attorneys, Poulin | Willey | Anastopoulo, LLC, India D. Shaw, at their office located at 32 Ann Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29403, 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 amount of time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for judgment by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

_____
s/ India D. Shaw, Esquire
32 Ann Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
(803) 222-2222
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
Charleston, South Carolina
Dated: August 26, 2026

NOTICE
TO: THE DEFENDANT ALEXUS CHOICE NAMED ABOVE:
TAKE NOTICE, that the Summons in the above-mentioned action of which the foregoing is a copy, together with the Complaint therein was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court, SUMTER Court of Common Pleas, on April 14, 2026.

_____s/
India D. Shaw, Esquire
32 Ann Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
(803) 222-2222
ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF
Charleston, South Carolina
Dated: August 26, 2026

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 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**

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, JR. GREGORY SINGLETON, TERRY GREEN, BERNICE WILIIAMS, DORA SINGLETON ROLLINS, ESTELLA GREEN, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, SAMMIE WILLIAMS, DEBBIE PEARSON, DORIS DICKERSON, AUDREY WALKER WILLIAMS, CHARLIE HARRELL BRITTANY 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
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



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For Classi ieds
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For Legal ads
Legals@theitem.com or 803-774-1212

For Obituaries
Obits@theitem.com

For Story ideas or News tips
Newstips@theitem.com or 803-774-1200

For Press Releases
Pressrelease@theitem.com or 803-774-1200

For Marketing & Sales Reps
Marketing@theitem.com

For The Editor
Editor@theitem.com

the Sumter ITEM

Summons & Notice

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 field 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
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
C/A #: 2026-CP-43-01012

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-AT-LAW OR DISTRIBUTEES 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 MINORS 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, 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 NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
CASE NO. 26CV007667-910
CIVIL SUMMONS
FOR DIVORCE

JERMAINE V. BETHEL
Plantiff
vs
TYWANDA M. BETHEL
Defendant

To the DEFENDANT
Above-Named:
TYWANDA M. BETHEL;
last known address:
302 MCDONALD PL,
BISHOPVILLE, SC 29010.
A Civil Action has been commenced against you.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED to appear and answer the complaint of the plaintiff as follows:
1) Serve a copy of your written answer to the complaint upon the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney within thirty (30) days after you have been served. You may serve your answer by delivering a copy to the plaintiff or by mailing it to the plaintiff's last known address, and
2) File the original of the written answer with the Clerk of Superior Court of the county named above.
If you fail to answer the complaint, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.
If you wish to retain an attorney to represent you in this matter, it is advisable to do so before submitting your Answer to the Plaintiff.

Jermaine V. Bethel
4111 Triana Court
Raleigh, NC 27610

Superior Court of Wake County, NC
316 Fayetteville St.
Suite 2050
Raleigh, NC 27601
July 16, 2026

Public Hearing

NOTICE OF SUMTER BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING

The Sumter City-County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 3:00 pm at the James E. Clyburn Intermodal Transportation Center — Santee Wateree Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Meeting Room at 129 South Harvin St., Sumter, SC 29150.

BOA-26-30, 1340 Reona Ave. (County)
The applicant (Johnny Bowen) is requesting variances from the requirements of Sumter County Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance, as follows: (1) residential building maximum number requirements provided for in Article 4.g.2.b.2; (2) residential accessory building maximum total size requirements provided for in Article 4.g.2.b.5 and Article 4, Exhibit 8A:; and (3) any other variances required to establish a new 300 sq. ft. detached carport on the property. Variances are being sought by the applicant to exceed the maximum total number residential buildings over 200 sq. ft. in size allowed and to exceed the total combined maximum size of residential accessory buildings allowed. The property is located at 1340 Reona Ave., is zoned General Residential (GR) and is represented by TMS# 155-07-02-011.

BOA-26-32, 850 Lewis Rd. (County)
The applicant (Kevin Boland) is requesting variances from the requirements of Sumter County Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance, as follows: (1) residential accessory building maximum total size requirements provided for in Article 4.g.2.b.5 and Article 4, Exhibit 8A, and (2) any other variances required to establish a new 1200 sq. ft. detached garage/storage building on the property. A variance is being sought by the applicant to exceed the total combined maximum size of residential accessory buildings allowed, which is 1,150 sq. ft. based on the acreage of the property. The property is located at 850 Lewis Rd., is zoned Residential-15 (R-15), and is represented by TMS# 226-00-01-002.

BOA-26-33, 760 Bay Springs Dr. (County)
The applicant (Carrie D. Tisdale) is appealing the Zoning Administrator's determination that the structures used to keep chickens on the property are subject to the requirements of Article 3.x: Farming, including the stated setback requirements from residential property lines for barns, stables, pens, or other animal shelters. The applicant contends that the keeping of chickens on the property does not qualify as a farming activity/operation as defined in the Zoning Ordinance and therefore the setbacks provided for in Article 3.x: Farming are not applicable. The property is located at 760 Bay Springs Dr., is zoned Residential-15 (R-15), and is represented by TMS# 207-01-07-013.

Documents pertaining to the proposed request(s) are on file in the Office of the Sumter City-County Planning Department and are available to be inspected and studied by interested citizens.

SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL
James T. McCain, Chairman
Sterling W. Mitchum, Clerk

NOTICE OF COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

The Sumter County Council will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Sumter Zoning Ordinance on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Council Chambers of the Administration Building (13 East Canal St., Sumter, South Carolina). The following requests are scheduled for consideration:

OA-26-01: Data Centers (County)
Amend Articles 3, 4, 8, and 10 of the Sumter County Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance in order to adopt comprehensive standards for the establishment of data centers in Sumter County.

Documents pertaining to the proposed request(s) are on file in the Office of the Sumter City-County Planning Department and are available to be inspected and studied by interested citizens.

SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL
James T. McCain, Jr.,
Chairman
Amanda Sterling Winn-Mitchum,
Clerk

Notice of Sale

NOTICE OF SALE CIVIL ACTION NO. 2026CP4300350 BY VIRTUE of the decree heretofore granted in the case of: ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC v. CAROLYN D. BOWDEN, the undersigned Master In Equity for SUMTER County, South Carolina, will sell on October 5, 2026 at 12:00 PM, at the SUMTER County Courthouse, 215 North Harvin Street, Sumter, SC 29150, to the highest bidder:
SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF STATEBURG, COUNTY OF SUMTER, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA:
ALL THAT CERTAIN PIECE, PARCEL AND LOT OF LAND, WITH THE DWELLING AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN STATEBURG TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF SUMTER, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, SHOWN AS 9.58 ACRES IN HISTORIC HILLS SUBDIVISION, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT BY D. D. EDMUNDS, R.L.S., DATED JUNE 25, 1982, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK Z-46 AT PAGE 334, RECORDS OF SUMTER COUNTY. SAID 9.58 ACRES BEING BOUNDED AND MEASURING AS FOLLOWS: ON THE NORTHWEST BY LANDS NOW OR FORMERLY OF TYLER B. DUNLAP, JR. AND TYLENE D. NEWSOME, SAID PLAT, AND MEASURING THEREON 200.0 FEET, 64.81 FEET, 259.82 FEET, AND 105.52 FEET; ON THE NORTHEAST BY LANDS NOW OR FORMERLY OF TYLER B. DUNLAP, JR. AND TVLENE D. NEWSOME, SAID PLAT, AND MEASURING THEREON 750.94 FEET; ON THE SOUTHEAST BY ROAD S-43-488 (MEETING HOUSE ROAD), SAID PLAT, AND FRONTING THEREON 141.97 FEET, 152.82 FEET, AND 314.61 FEET; AND ON THE SOUTHWEST BY OTHER LANDS, SAID PLAT, AND MEASURING THEREON 650.0 FEET. BE ALL DIMENSIONS A LITTLE MERE OR A LITTLE LESS AND ACCORDING TO SAID PLAT. THIS BEING THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 31 MEETING HOUSE ROAD, DALZELL.
BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED BY RUSSELL L. THOMPSON AND PAMELA W. THOMPSON TO ALVIN G. BOWDEN AND CAROLYN D. BOWDEN, AS TENANTS IN COMMON WITH AN INDESTRUCTIBLE RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP, RECORDED ON 10/18/1986 IN BOOK 439, PAGE 376, OF SUMTER COUNTY RECORDS. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON OR AROUND JANUARY 14, 2022, ALVIN G. BOWDEN PASSED AWAY, THEREBY VESTING FULL LEGAL TITLE IN THE SURVIVING JOINT TENANT, CAROLYN D. BOWDEN.

TMS NO.: 093-00-01-042, 093-00-01-041
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 6535 MEETING HOUSE ROAD, DALZELL, SC 29040

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Master In Equity, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to the purchase price in case of compliance, but in the case of non-compliance to be forfeited and first applied to the cost incurred by the Plaintiff related to the sale and the balance then applied to the Plaintiff's debt in the manner suitable to the Plaintiff. Should the last and highest bidder fail to comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Master In Equity may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day.
A personal or deficiency judgment being waived by Plaintiff, the sale shall close on the day of the Sale.
Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on the deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the balance of the bid from the date of sale to the date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 2.750% per annum. The sale shall be subject to any past due or accruing property taxes, assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record and any other senior encumbrances. The sale shall be subject to all title matters of record and any interested party should consider performing an independent title examination of the subject property as no warranty is given.
Neither the Plaintiff no its counsel make representations as to the integrity of the title or the fair market value of the property offered for sale. Prior to bidding, you may wish to review the current state law or seek the advice of any attorney licensed in South Carolina.
In the event an agent of the Plaintiff does not appear at the time of sale. The within property shall be withdrawn from sale and sold at the next available sales date upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or such terms as may be set forth in a supplemental order.

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID,
CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
13010 Morris Road,
Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Telephone: (470) 321-7112
Facsimile: (404) 393-1425

Notice of Sale

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE OF SALE CIVIL ACTION NO. 2026CP4300220 BY VIRTUE of the decree heretofore granted in the case of: SELENE FINANCE, LP v. BEACH FOREST VILLAGE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSN., INC.; ROBETTE L. DRAGO, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF PAUL C. DRAGO; ROBETTE LOU DRAGO, INDIVIDUALLY, the undersigned Master In Equity for SUMTER County, South Carolina, will sell on **October 5, 2026 at 12:00 PM,** at the SUMTER County Courthouse, 215 North Harvin Street, Sumter, SC 29150, to the highest bidder:
ALL THAT CERTAIN PIECE, PARCEL, OR LOT OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, IF ANY, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF SUMTER, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, DESIGNATED AS LOT NO. 349 OF BEACH FOREST SUBDIVISION, PHASE II, SECTION II, AND BEING SHOWN AND DELINEATED ON THAT PLAT PREPARED BY LOUIS WHITE TISDALE, RLS, DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 2005, AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2006 AT PAGE 163 IN THE RECORDS OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE FOR SUMTER COUNTY. AFORESAID PLAT IS SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATED HEREIN, AND REFERENCE IS CRAVED THERETO FOR A MORE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE METES, BOUNDS, COURSES, AND DISTANCES OF THE PROPERTY CONCERNED HEREIN. THIS DESCRIPTION IS MADE IN LIEU OF METES AND BOUNDS AS PERMITTED BY LAW UNDER § 30-5-250 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA (1976), AS AMENDED. THIS IS THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 2025 HATTERAS WAY, SUMTER, SC.
THIS BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO PAUL CARL DRAGO BY THAT DEED OF AARON S. GIBSON AND JENNIFER J. GIBSON, DATED FEBRUARY 1ST, 2024 AND RECORDED FEBRUARY 2ND, 2024 IN DEED BOOK 1323 AT PAGE 2134, SUMTER COUNTY RECORDS. PAUL CARL DRAGO DIED ON JANUARY 10, 2025, NAMING ROBETTE LOU DRAGO AS HEIR, AS IS MORE FULLY PRESERVED IN PROBATE FILE NO. 2025ES4300062..

TMS NO.: 2020303005
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2025 HATTERAS WAY, SUMTER, SC

Notice of Sale

29153

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Master In Equity, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to the purchase price in case of compliance, but in the case of non-compliance to be forfeited and first applied to the cost incurred by the Plaintiff related to the sale and the balance then applied to the Plaintiff's debt in the manner suitable to the Plaintiff. Should the last and highest bidder fail to comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Master In Equity may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day.

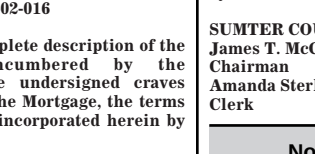
A personal or deficiency judgment being waived by Plaintiff, the sale shall close on the day of the Sale.

Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on the deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the balance of the bid from the date of sale to the date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 6.50% per annum. The sale shall be subject to any past due or accruing property taxes, assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record and any other senior encumbrances. The sale shall be subject to all title matters of record and any interested party should consider performing an independent title examination of the subject property as no warranty is given.

Neither the Plaintiff nor its counsel make representations as to the integrity of the title or the fair market value of the property offered for sale. Prior to bidding, you may wish to review the current state law or seek the advice of any attorney licensed in South Carolina.

In the event an agent of the Plaintiff does not appear at the time of sale. The within property shall be withdrawn from sale and sold at the next available sales date upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or such terms as may be set forth in a supplemental order.

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID,
CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
13010 Morris Road, Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Telephone: (470) 321-7112
Facsimile: (404) 393-1425



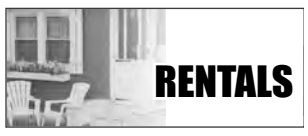
Roofing

ROOFING
Is your roof leaking or need repairs?
Call Robert Nunnery
(803) 478-2950
Expert Repair Work &
Free estimates
Est. 1972



Help Wanted Full-Time

Crew Members
Take customer orders, accept payments, prep. food & bev., serve customers at a Hardee's, operated by Boddie-Noell Enterprises Inc. Mult., F/T openings at locations in Bishopville & Manning, SC. May work at mult. locations if you wish. Apply to boddie.noell.hiring @outlook.com or on www.bnecareers.com



Unfurnished Homes

Lovely home in desirable area of Manning: 2 bdrm, 1 bath, LR, DR, garage. Easy access to food & medical sources. Call (240) 535-3809 or Email sgwaters25 @gmail.com



Homes for Sale

Investor Special - Large Fixer Upper $199K, 883 Woodcrest Rd, Sumter, SC 29154 5-bedroom, 3.5-bath home w/ full basement. Lot size 0.46 acres, 3,000 + sq ft of living space and a solid structure - perfect for rehab, rental, or resale. Strong ARV potential and great neighborhood. **Priced to move.** Please email offers to: newpat64@yahoo.com and paulrtw @yahoo.com

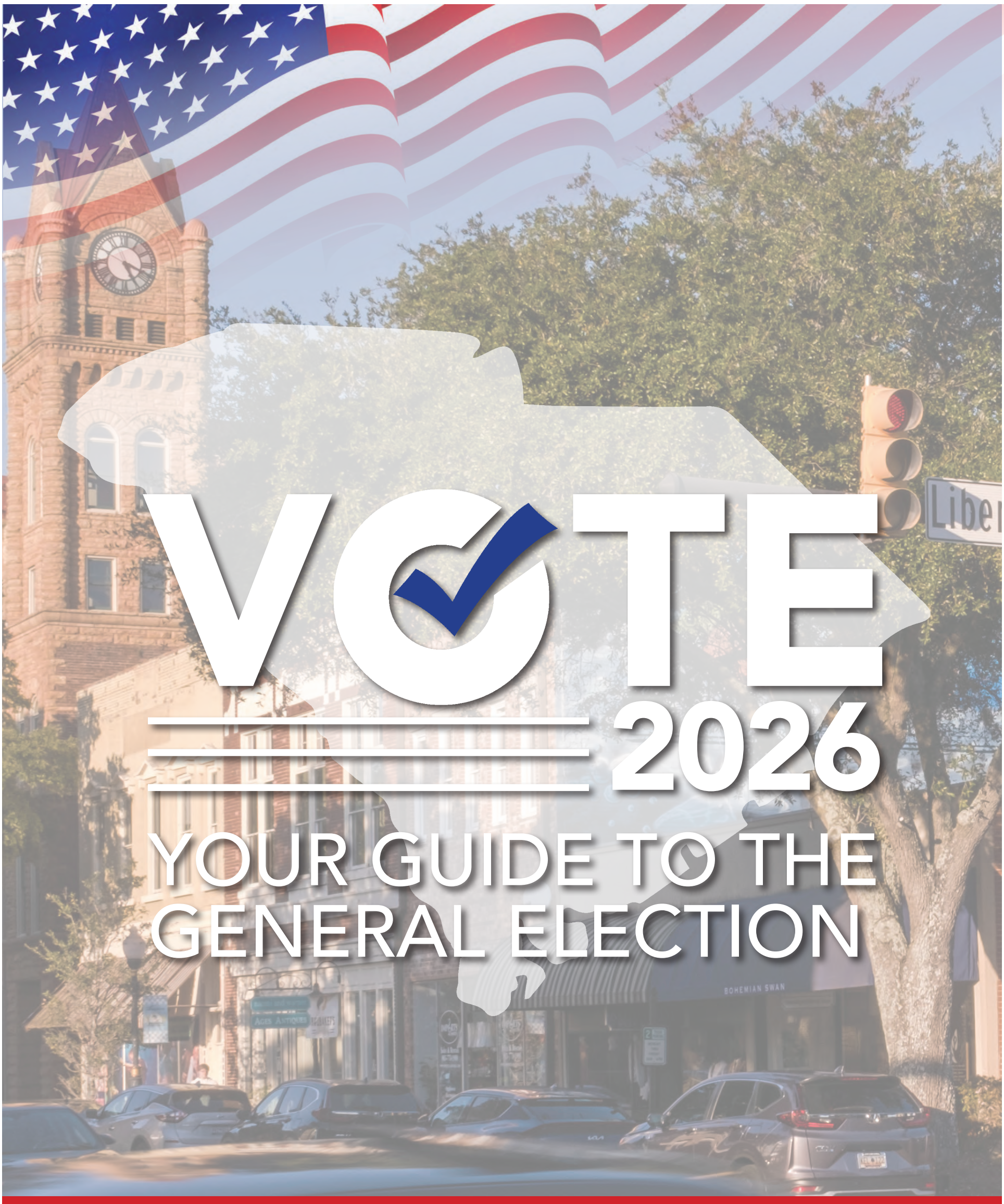


Autos For Sale

2005 DODGE RAM
1500 CREW CAB; IN VERY GOOD CONDITION; 149000 MILES; ASKING $5500; ELDERLY DRIVEN; 803-972-0894







VOTE 2026

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

SUMTER RACES

INSIDE: Voter precincts, local and state candidate Q&As and more information to help you be an informed voter.

VOTER FAQ

Scan to view the Clarendon County races and state races.

SUMTER SCHOOL BOARD — AREA 3



ALLIE SHAYE BULLARD

Why are you running?

I made the decision to run because I believe our public schools are something we deserve to be proud of. For that to happen, we need leaders who are accountable to the community they serve. There has been significant concern specifically surrounding the district's finances, and that has shown just how important trust and transparency is when it comes to decisions involving education and taxpayer dollars.

Families and community members deserve confidence that their voices are heard and that their public resources are handled responsibly. I want to help bring that accountability back to the board while keeping the focus on what matters most: our children, our teachers and the future of Sumter School District.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

No

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

My family and I moved here in July 2019, seven years ago, and have planted our roots here to grow.

Current job/profession:

I am a clinical mental health professional at Selah Counseling Services in Sumter, currently pursuing licensure.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

I believe I am qualified for this position because I bring experience from several areas that directly impact our schools: education, mental health and family support.

During my graduate program, I served as a long-term substitute teacher that gave me a firsthand look into the classroom and a better understanding of the challenges educators face every day. I am the parent of a child and the wife of an educator and coach here in our public school system, and these things alone are large contributors to my desire to see the success of this district.

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in clinical Mental Health Counseling. My education has given me a deeper understanding of student needs and family dynamics and also the importance of communication and trust. I believe a school board member should be willing to listen, ask thoughtful questions and use common sense when making decisions that impact students, families, educators and taxpayers.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

One of my biggest concerns would be to focus on rebuilding trust through both accountability and transparency across all issues, but especially when it comes to the use of taxpayer dollars. Our community deserves to understand how and why financial decisions are being made and have confidence that resources are being used responsibly.

Student achievement and attendance are also areas that deserve continued and direct focus. Every single student in Sumter School District deserves opportunities to succeed. The board should be asking whether the programs and resources we invest in are truly helpful for our students and also taking action to strengthen or refocus them accordingly.

Finally, I believe in the continued support of teachers, staff and families. Strong schools are built by the people who show up every day for our children. If elected as a board member, I would focus on listening, asking tough questions and making common-sense decisions that keep students at the center.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

I have seen many dedicated teachers, staff members and school leaders who all care deeply about their students and work hard every day to provide opportunities for students to succeed.

I also believe our schools are strongest when families and educators work together. I would like to see us build on those relationships by continuing to encourage communication, supporting those who serve our students and making sure the community feels connected to the decisions being made for this district.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

Yes, I have a child who attends a school here in Sumter School District. As a parent, that also means I have firsthand understanding of the experiences, questions and concerns that are raised by families when it comes to their children's education.

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

The district's facilities challenges require moving from planning to action. A long-term vision for our facilities must consider the condition of our buildings, enrollment trends, capacity, maintenance costs and the projected cost of repairs versus replacement.

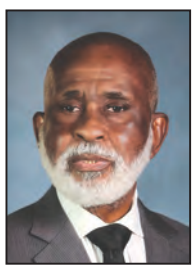
The Master Plan Committee was an important step in understanding these challenges, but the board's responsibility is to use that information to make decisions and establish a clear path forward. That includes identifying priorities, considering available funding options and developing a realistic timeline for addressing the district's most critical needs.

These decisions will not be easy, but they have to be made thoughtfully and transparently. The community deserves to understand the data behind those decisions and have confidence that student safety and educational needs, as well as responsible use of taxpayer dollars, are guiding the process.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

My involvement in the community has been heavily centered around education, children and families. I have served as a long-term substitute teacher, volunteered in our schools and am involved with my child's school Parent Teacher Organization. Being the wife of an educator and coach has also kept me connected to the work that goes on in our school system and the people who serve our students every day.

Through my work at Selah Counseling Services, I also have had the opportunity to support individuals and families in our community. I believe being present and building relationships are important parts of serving well as a school board member.



THE REV. RALPH CANTY SR.

INCUMBENT

Why are you running?

Because I am excited about the next chapter in the life of our district. We are at a juncture where we can see sunlight. A new day is on the ebb. Every promise we have made to our children and to this community is now on the verge of fulfillment.

We have a visionary leader, a highly qualified and committed staff, an enthusiastic community and the translation of rhetoric into reality is not only possible, it is probable.

My purpose has not shifted. I am totally committed to creating a system that will inspire every child toward greatness through scholastic achievement. They are our children, and we have a responsibility to prepare them for a progressive and productive livelihood.

It is a debt that we owe, but it is also an investment with huge dividends. As the quality of our graduates improves, our community will prosper and become an even better place to live.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

Yes, I served in the South Carolina House of Representatives for nine years in the 1990s. At the end of that tenure, I ran for the South Carolina Senate, without success.

Later, I was elected to the former Sumter School District 17 Board of Trustees as a write-in candidate.

Except for two years, I have since served on Sumter School District's Board of Trustees since the district's inception in 2011.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

I have lived at 104 S. Salem Ave. for 43 years, since 1983.

Current job/profession:

I currently serve as pastor of two churches: Savannah Grove Baptist Church in Effingham (for 58 years) and West End Community Church in Sumter (for 20 years). I am also a licensed funeral director and have owned Job's Mortuary Inc. for 56 years and Tranquility Cremation Service for four years.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

My advocacy for education and desire to share in the construct of a world-class system in this community. My love for children and their growth, development and success.

And the shared vision that Sumter be a place of enlightenment, enrichment, expansion, economic development and a destination for newcomers.

All of these, coupled with my zeal for excellence and my years of experience as a board member and businessman.

I'm a graduate of the Sumter school system (Lincoln High School), matriculated at Morris College and the Morris College School of Religion with a baccalaureate and a divinity degree, and post-graduate studies at Morehouse School of Religion and Hood Theological Seminary (Doctorate in Ministry).

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

Antiquated and underutilized schools is a definite concern. However, since I will get the opportunity to address that issue under another question, I will take the liberty to speak to the following:

Discipline and absenteeism: Every child needs and deserves an education, even if they think not. It's unfortunate, we have a generation of parents who do not value the principle, so they and their children are missing an opportunity for a greater, more meaningful life experience. It's essential that they develop an appreciation for education and come to school anxious to learn.

They cannot learn if they are not in school and do not behave when they are there. Obviously, there is not an easy fix to this problem, but I am convinced that Dr. Gary and his staff will cultivate a culture of excellence that will seal the cracks so many are falling through.

I will look to them for directions and will offer input and support and embrace the appropriate policies that will create perimeters to ensure effective management.

Transportation remains a problem. It is regrettable that our transportation system is so massive and our children must spend so much time in transit.

A long overdue study has just been completed, but a problem of this magnitude requires time for successful implementation. A key to success is an elaborate and highly sophisticated communications system. Parental support and engagement are both extremely necessary to employ maximum execution. I am hopeful, once the nuts and bolts are in place, that scheduling will be smooth and consistent.

On the academic side, we have seen indications of growth recently, and I am convinced this trend will continue as we are guided by such a remarkable leadership team and support staff.

Public support is yet another issue. A very influential lady said to me recently, "I am more excited about Sumter School District than ever!"

I pray that this spirit permeates the entire community. There is a high cost associated with education, especially in a system of excellence. As taxpayers and public officials, we must be willing to underwrite the cost of this noble endeavor.

Century-old buildings must become contemporary facilities. Struggling schools must become high-performing schools. And our extracurricular activities must tower above other school districts. We cannot lead from the back of the pack.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

Nothing impresses me more than the shift toward equity. I'm excited because our leadership is committed to ensuring that every child, without regard for school or attendance zone, will have the same educational opportunities. This, I believe, was the driving ideal for the consolidated district. And it is encouraging that the dawn is imminent.

We have seen yearly increases in the graduation rate and the number of graduates achieving career-ready status. This is major! We must continue trending upward.

The Adult Education Program has significantly increased enrollment and diploma graduates. This, too, is critical to the progress and prosperity of our community. Literacy has to be expanded. Folks who dropped out of school 40 years ago or last fall desperately need a "second chance." The Adult Education Program is providing that opportunity.

The explosion of our innovation department is amazing! It is a programmatic giant. The staff, though limited, is providing exemplary and creative teaching models, which assist our teachers with enriching lessons and partnering with content coordinators to assist students in realizing the applications of the disciplines they study. And, just as significant are the two world-class mobile units (STEM and Cyber Security), which are national – if not global – in their inception, rollout and day-to-day use.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

Some of my children attended Sumter's public schools, and I currently have a grandson and two great-granddaughters in the district.

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

As some may recall, I introduced the Master Plan concept. If embraced, it will set the course for facilities to accommodate the educational process in Sumter County for the next 25 to 50 years. The intent of the plan is to build schools for our children, not to preserve buildings for our pride. History is important and cannot be dismissed, but the future lives ahead of us. And anyone interested in Sumter County should be a partner in creating a system better than the one we inherited.

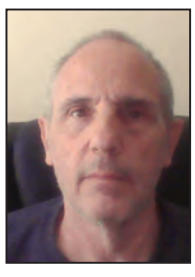
For the first time in a decade, we have a reversal in the decline in enrollment. This trend is most likely to improve as parents become more engaged with our leadership and comfortable with the direction the district takes. The construction of new schools is a critical link in this process.

Families consider where to live and businesses consider where to invest where there are attractive, modern schools. A 21st-century school is designed for how students learn today – not how students were taught yesterday. Technology is infrastructure, not an accessory. And, among other things, the environment is considered as a tool essential for learning. It is unfair for our children to enter the future in schools built for their grandparents.

I remain fully committed to this project. When implemented, hopefully, it will replace every existing school in this district, without regard for geography or demographics. Again, implementation of the Master Plan must be conceived and received by this community as an investment and not a construction project. A community that believes in its future invests in its schools.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

I cannot begin to list the clubs and organizations I support on a weekly basis in this community. Additionally, I continue to maintain membership in my fraternity and a civic club.



RONALD R. PACE

Why are you running?

I became involved because I started asking questions. What concerned me was how quickly the door seemed to shut once those questions became specific.

The district immediately took what I viewed as a defensive posture, even though I was asking for basic information involving financial records, legal representation, emails and public email addresses.

Eventually, I had to take the district to court simply to pursue answers and records that I believed the public had a right to understand. That was a major red flag for me.

Taxpayers should not have to fight their own school district to understand how public money is being spent. Parents should not feel shut out when they ask legitimate questions. Employees and members of the community should be able to raise concerns without immediately encountering a defensive wall.

That experience is one of the primary reasons I decided to run. Plus, they are spending the bank on legal fees to fight it. Your money essentially. That speaks volumes to me.

If asking simple questions causes an institution to become defensive, then perhaps the more important question is: What are we doing wrong if the people paying for and depending on that institution cannot get straightforward answers?

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

Yes. I ran for a seat on a water district board.

I became interested in the position because I had questions about how the district was handling the money the public was paying into it. The people already involved in that system were not particularly enthusiastic about having someone like me asking those questions, and I found myself running against candidates with considerably more financial backing.

I lost.

That experience taught me something important about politics: I do not believe money should determine who gets heard or who gets elected. Deep pockets can buy advertising, signs and exposure, but they cannot replace a genuine conversation with the people you are asking to represent.

That is why I am approaching this campaign differently. I would rather go directly to taxpayers, parents, employees and members of the community, tell them exactly what I believe, answer their questions honestly and let them decide whether I deserve their vote.

I have much more faith in people than I do in money running a campaign.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

About one year

Current job/profession:

I am a U.S. Army veteran, longtime commercial truck driver and former small-business owner with approximately 38 years of experience in commercial transportation.

I am currently pursuing my Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Human Resources.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

There is no study guide for being an elected official. There is no book, test or set of questions someone can pass that suddenly makes them qualified to sit on a school board. So I have always thought this question is a little unfair.

What I can tell you is this: I started asking simple questions about district spending, financial records, legal expenses and how attorneys were being used in connection with FOIA requests. Instead of getting straightforward

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SUMTER SCHOOL BOARD — AREA 3

FROM PAGE B2

answers, I felt the door was shut on me.

Not a single elected official has reached out to me by email to ask about my concerns, and not one has called me to find out what I was trying to address.

So, what makes me qualified?

I have a simple belief: Even if something does not matter to me personally, if it matters to you, then it matters.

If someone emails me, I answer it. If someone calls me, I return the call. If a taxpayer, parent, employee or member of the community has a concern, I listen.

It does not cost anything to listen to somebody. It is free. To me, that is where representation begins.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

My three greatest concerns are the quality of our children's education, the health and physical safety of our schools and protecting the proper role of families in raising their children.

First and foremost is education. A school district exists to educate children. Every decision should be measured against a simple question: Does this help our students learn, succeed and prepare for life after graduation?

That means strong academics, career and technical education, support for teachers and opportunities for students headed toward college, the military, skilled trades or the workforce.

Second is school safety, and I mean more than locks, metal detectors or preventing violence. Our buildings must be safe and healthy places for children and employees. That includes HVAC systems, air quality, mold, asbestos, lead, water, electrical systems and general building conditions. If a health or safety problem exists, it should be identified, disclosed and corrected.

Third, the district must respect the boundary between school authority and the private lives of families.

Families have a right to privacy. Period.

I do not believe school policies should be written so broadly that the district can reach into a child's private, off-campus life simply because that child attends one of our schools. The district should not stick its nose into matters that have no meaningful connection to school.

That does not mean ignoring a child who needs help. If a student comes to school and reports that something is wrong at home, absolutely, we get involved and make sure that child receives appropriate help and protection.

But there has to be a line. When the school day is over and there is no legitimate connection to school safety, school activities or the rights of other students, what Buffy and Jody do in their private lives is their business and their family's business, not the school district's.

Leadership must also set the example. The creed should never be, "Do as I say, not as I do." It should be the opposite.

There is too much politics in school boards and school districts. Public education should not be a stepping-stone for personal political ambitions. Decisions should be made because they are right for students, families, employees and taxpayers.

When politics becomes more important than education, the district gets a black eye. My goal is to put the focus back where it belongs: educating children, protecting families and earning the public's trust.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

One of Sumter School District's greatest strengths is its people.

We have dedicated teachers, bus drivers, maintenance employees, support staff, coaches and administrators who continue doing their jobs despite significant challenges. Those employees deserve recognition and support.

I also believe career and technical education, dual enrollment, advanced coursework and other pathways that prepare students for college, the military, skilled trades and careers should continue to be strengthened.

I want a district where academic excellence and career readiness are both valued, where successful programs are identified objectively and expanded, and where teachers and employees who produce results receive the support necessary to keep doing it.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

No

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

I have already developed a proposal addressing this issue, which I call the Pace Consolidation Plan, and I intend to present it to the board.

The simple truth is that I am not an architect, an engineer or somebody collecting a six-figure salary to study school facilities. But I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express once, so I have that going for me.

Joking aside, my proposal is based on common sense, publicly available information and a straightforward question: Are we using our buildings in the smartest way possible for students and taxpayers?

Unfortunately, I believe consolidation has to be seriously considered. With declining enrollment and aging facilities, we cannot continue operating every building simply because that is the way it has always been done.

My proposal looks at schools individually, including enrollment, capacity, building age and condition, maintenance and utility costs, transportation, geographic location and whether students can be moved into better facilities without harming educational opportunities.

Someone at the district explained to me that the district is already working on these issues. That is wonderful, and I sincerely appreciate the effort, especially considering the amount of money being spent to study it. My advice, however, is free.

I am not suggesting every old school should close or that consolidation should happen simply to save money. Some buildings may deserve investment. Others may have reached the point where replacement or consolidation makes more sense.

The Pace Consolidation Plan is not intended to replace architects, engineers, educators or the public. It is a starting point: Put the numbers on the table, identify realistic options, ask the professionals to verify what needs verification, and then let the community see the facts before the board makes a decision.

I am also not pretending to have every technical answer. That is what engineers, architects and other professionals are for. But you do not need a six-figure consulting contract to recognize when buildings are underused, aging and costing taxpayers more than necessary.

Any savings should be redirected toward students, teachers, transportation, educational programs and maintaining the schools we keep.

Most importantly, I do not want another study that gets discussed and placed on a shelf. My proposal gives the board something concrete to review, debate and, where appropriate, act upon.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes. My community involvement has primarily centered on public education/government accountability and issues affecting Sumter School District employees, students and taxpayers.

I regularly attend school board meetings, communicate with district officials, review public records and research issues involving district finances, transportation, employee compensation, facilities and government transparency.

I have also spent considerable time listening to district employees and community members who have raised concerns about issues they believe have not received sufficient attention.

For me, community involvement means more than attending an occasional event. It means being willing to invest the time necessary to understand an issue, ask questions, obtain documentation and advocate for a solution.

That experience is also a major reason I decided to run for the Board of Trustees. I reached the point where I believed that if I was going to continue asking the board to address these problems, I should also be willing to accept the responsibility of serving on that board myself.

(Tiffany Thompson did not submit responses)

SUMTER SCHOOL BOARD — AREA 4



TARAH COUSAR-JOHNSON

INCUMBENT

Why are you running?

The students and families in Sumter County deserve school board members who care about public education and care about them. They deserve proven board leadership and representatives who will fight for the best possible educational outcomes the district can offer. They also deserve individuals who reasonably understand the various facets of the educational system and how they work to yield the best possible results overall, for students, teachers and the administration.

Four years ago, I pledged to be that type of board member and district representative, and I did just that. I was the right person to lead Area 4 then, and I am the right person now. I answered a call when the public needed it most. And while we, as a district, are still not where we will be, we are getting closer with more focused leadership.

Leadership matters, and my goal for running is to continue the fight for quality education, leadership oversight and accountability. I will not rest as long as I am serving on this board if I am not making decisions that will bring about the change students and the community need and deserve.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

Other than running as a member of the school board, I have not run for a political office before. This said, it is important for me to share that I do not see the school board as a political office -- an elected office, yes -- but not political. And even for those of us who choose to see it as political, we should respect that it is -- and should be -- non-partisan in nature. This is the only way we will all see that which is fair and equitable for all students.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

I returned to the home and community where I grew up in 2020, so six years.

Current job/profession:

Retired pharmaceutical and medical sales professional. Former high school English teacher and assistant principal. My education career began and ended in Sumter's public schools.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

My experience prior to becoming a school board member four years ago positioned me well for the position. I base this on my educational experience.

I am a product of Sumter's public schools, having attended Goodwill Head Start, St. John Elementary, R.E. Davis Middle and ultimately Mayewood High School. So again, I am the candidate who knows and understands and fights for rural schools.

I am an experienced candidate who will use my experience to continue fighting every day. This experience, coupled with my successful business experience, is a perfect combination for the work of a school board member. I can and will get the job done.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

The challenges I see today in Sumter School District are:

a. Aging schools that are not equipped to provide the educational environment needed for modern learning. This ranges from technology support to collaborative learning spaces.

i. To improve, I will continue seeking means and measures to better understand how we continue making small changes toward this effort. People believe when they see. We have to show them something to get the buy-in needed to move to the next phase of growth and success.

b. Consistent parental involvement that leads to greater accountability on many levels - teaching and learning and 21st-century classroom environments. It is important that school leaders believe that every child can learn and instruction is provided or assistance given to make sure it happens. This may look like the standard curriculum offering, career-ready curriculum or a technical track. It could be a combination of traditional, technical, magnet, college preparatory and STEAM offerings.

i. To improve, I will continue to encourage parents to be more involved in the overall educational process. Once the majority realize the power they have to bring about needed change in the district, greater will happen.

c. Declining enrollment, teacher shortage and truancy.

i. To improve, help families and the community have an even deeper understanding of what the district offers. This will happen through proper district campaigns, outcomes and accountability. There are indeed some great things happening that should draw families and teachers to us, not push them away. With proper and effective marketing, we can right the course of this challenge that is not only plaguing Sumter School District, but school districts everywhere.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

The start of this school year brought a different energy with it. Staff was fired up and ready to make great things happen in their schools/classrooms. It was evident during the district convocation.

It is this type of energy and morale that is the start of turning things around for better and greater. If we can continue to build on this momentum, we will get even closer to where we need and want to be as a district and school community.

I will also add that I see the promise of greater transparency and accountability already coming into view. If we can continue this trajectory, it will also help us get closer to where we need and want to be.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

My nephew is in my household, and I serve as his guardian. I have the expectation that he can get a quality education in the district and that it will prepare him for the next phase of growth and adulthood.

It is not where you go, it is what you get as the result of being there. When an individual is hungry enough, he/she can conquer the world.

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

Now that we have new visionary leadership in place, our superintendent and his cabinet, we are positioned to move the needle forward. I will do my part as a school board member to hold myself and others accountable to the task.

I agree there is much that needs to be done; however, the board and administration cannot do it alone. It takes a village, and that village is vast. Bringing the village to the table is half the battle. Convincing the village is the other half. Getting the village to align is key.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

I am very engaged in the community. Organizations and groups to which I belong give back daily.

Be it the Sumter Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., where I serve as chapter president, or the Sumter Benedict College Alumni Club, where I am on the leadership team, our goal is simple: scholarship and community service, one student or good deed at a time. While a group effort is required, as a member, I have to play my part volunteering and giving back, and this is indeed what I do.

At the same time, I am engaged in what happens in my immediate community -- Shiloh/St. John. One of our current projects and priorities is Shiloh Project Lift. The potential here is without boundaries, and I will continue to support this 501c3 to help it reach its ultimate goal, which is to provide a place the community can call its own with access to resources and services that we now must travel miles to receive.

Another priority is what I do in my church to help cultivate our future leaders. Students need to be nurtured, and it can't just happen in schools. The type of support system needed to bring the level of engagement necessary full circle is all of us working together meeting students wherever they are: Each one, teach one.



THE REV. DARYL MCGHANEY

Why are you running?

I want to offer my services to be a part of the solutions for our schools.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

Yes. Sumter School Board Area 4. Also for the board in the former Sumter School District 2.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

26 years

Current job/profession:

Pastor, Bethany Missionary Baptist Church, Sumter

What makes you qualified for the seat?

My willingness to collaborate and cooperate with the school leadership and school board members for the benefit of the total district.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

Academic achievement, teacher recruitment and retention, and administration support and longevity.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

A new superintendent

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

No

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I will be proactive and not reactive. And I will fully support our new superintendent in all efforts to find equitable solutions to concerns.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes. Through ministry.

SUMTER SCHOOL BOARD — AREA 5



JASON JOHNSON

Why are you running?

Sumter School District offers the most accessible education within Sumter County. My ultimate goal is to ensure that every child that attends Sumter schools is able to receive a valuable, high-quality education, while working to create stability and strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders.

Have you run for political office before?

Yes. I ran unsuccessfully for Sumter school board Area 3 in 2018 (when the board was still seven single-member districts before the transition in 2022). I also ran unsuccessfully for Sumter County Council District 3 in 2020.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

I am a Pinewood native and returned to my childhood residence in the Pinewood community in November 2025.

Current job/profession:

co-owner/ operations manager of Global Monument Company, based in Pinewood

What makes you qualified for the seat?

First and foremost, I understand that education is the foundation of personal and social development. I also understand the many obstacles and opportunities that young people are faced with in 2026, but the fundamentals are more important now than ever. It is my firm belief that we have to educate our children to be prepared for the future, which means finding ways to emphasize the fundamentals while providing tools to achieve success in the years to come. I am also well versed in many of the challenges that the district is currently faced with. It is my most sincere desire to inspire young people to dream big and encourage members of this community to take an active role in educating our young people.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

Retention: The student population of Sumter School District has been shrinking at an alarming rate. As the number of students declines, so does funding. We have to explore avenues to present innovative opportunities while working to improve public trust.

Realignment: Since consolidation in 2011, realignment still has not become a reality. Multiple schools within the district are overwhelmingly underpopulated, while others may be at capacity or even at capacity. Realignment could help to evenly distribute children throughout the various schools in the district, which would optimize student-to-teacher ratios and operational budgets for each school.

Public perception: We live in a time when unfavorable situations always grab the headlines. The primary responsibility of every school board member is to advocate for our children, but there's also a responsibility to advocate for the district. We have to play an active role in communicating all of the successes of Sumter School District in order to improve public perception.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

Even though it is early in his tenure, the hiring of the new superintendent has been a great success. Being able to hire a proven leader who knows the landscape of Sumter County is pivotal in creating stability in the leadership of Sumter School District, which has been an issue since consolidation.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

Both of my children graduated from schools in Sumter School District (in 2020 and 2025).

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Stabilizing student enrollment is imperative. Without sufficient enrollment in existing schools, it would be difficult to justify new construction. However, a thorough study of facilities to determine where updates and renovations are recommended for existing schools may be a more cost-effective option while we work to stabilize enrollment.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

I am a co-founder of Brothers Incorporated of South Carolina, where we work hard to curate events that not only educate, but inspire young men and women. I have also worked as a volunteer coach/sponsor with Sumter Parks and Recreation.



ROOSEVELT MIOTT

Why are you running?

I am running to bring about positive change and continued improvement in the educational system of our county schools. I want to use my experience and knowledge to help ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Have you run for political office before?

No

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

73 years

Current job/profession:

Retired educator

What makes you qualified for the seat?

I am a product of Sumter County schools and served the district as both a teacher and an administrator, including as a principal at various schools. My firsthand experience as a student, educator and administrator gives me a unique understanding of our school system. I believe my experience, knowledge and commitment to education make me a qualified candidate for this seat.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

Teacher and staff shortages: We must make every effort to attract and retain certified and qualified teachers and staff. This includes examining compensation, working conditions, professional support and other factors that influence recruitment and retention.

Student achievement gaps: We must prepare students for the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly technological and globally connected world. I would support closely monitoring student achievement data by grade level, school and other appropriate measures so that we can identify areas of need and provide targeted support.

Student transportation: We should examine compensation and working conditions for bus drivers to help attract and retain qualified drivers. We should also revisit bus routes and schedules to reduce the amount of time students spend on buses while maintaining safe and efficient transportation.

What successes have you seen in the school district that you want to build on?

I want to build on the use of technology in the classroom, including the appropriate and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) as a learning tool. We should ensure that students and educators understand how to use AI effectively while maintaining academic integrity and supporting meaningful learning.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

Yes. I have grandchildren attending Sumter School District schools at both the elementary and high school levels.

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s -- at the same time, student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

Before making decisions about new construction, renovations, school closures or other facility changes, I believe the Master Plan should be thoroughly reviewed. We need to examine current and projected enrollment, the condition and capacity of existing facilities, financial resources and the long-term educational needs of our students and community.

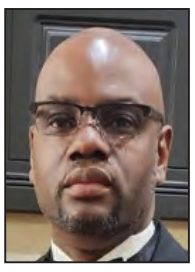
I would support a transparent process that includes input from educators, parents, students, community members and other stakeholders. Our goal should be to develop a responsible, long-term facilities plan that makes the best use of taxpayer resources while providing students with safe, effective and appropriate learning environments.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes, I am actively involved in several community and civic organizations. I currently serve as the 1st Vice President of the NAACP Sumter Branch and as a member of the Sumter Democratic Party Executive Committee. I also serve on the magnet schools committee (organized by county council member Carlton Washington).

In addition to my civic involvement, I serve as superintendent of the Sumter District AME Church School, which encompasses 26 churches. I am also the 1st Vice President of the Northeast Conference Lay Organization, which includes the Sumter, Florence-Dillon, and Marion districts. Additionally, I serve as treasurer of the Sumter District Lay Organization.

I am a lifelong member of Wayman Chapel AME Church, where I currently serve as Steward Pro Tem. Through these various roles, I have the opportunity to serve, advocate for, and support individuals and families throughout the community while contributing to the growth and development of the organizations and institutions I represent.



GREGORY WALTERS

Why are you running?

I am running for the Sumter school board because I care about our children, our teachers and the future of our community. As a childcare provider, I see the importance of a strong education from an early age. I want to be a voice for students, support our educators and help ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Have you run for political office before?

No

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

10 years

Current job/profession:

Owner and director of a childcare center in Sumter

What makes you qualified for the seat?

I am qualified to serve on the Sumter school board because I have years of experience working with children and families as the owner of Growing Hands & Feet Academy. I understand the importance of quality education, supporting teachers and helping every child succeed. I am committed to putting students first and being a strong voice for our community.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

The three biggest challenges I see in Sumter School District are improving student achievement, addressing aging school facilities and strengthening communication with families and the community. Every student deserves access to a high-quality education that prepares them for college, careers and life. I support providing teachers with the tools and resources they need, expanding academic support programs and ensuring students receive the individualized attention necessary to succeed. As a school board member, I will work collaboratively with students, parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders to address these challenges. My goal is to help create a school district where every child has the opportunity to succeed, every teacher feels supported and every family feels heard. By focusing on student success, responsible stewardship of district resources and strong community partnerships, we can build a brighter future for Sumter School District.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

I want to build on the commitment to student success, career opportunities and community partnerships. I believe we should continue supporting programs that help students succeed academically, prepare for careers and develop the skills they need for the future. I also want to build on the strong work of our educators by making sure they have the resources and support they need.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

I have three children that currently attend Lakewood High School.

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

I would begin by bringing the board, district leadership, parents, teachers and community together to develop a clear and realistic facilities plan. With so many schools aging, we need to prioritize safety, repairs, renovations and determine where new construction or consolidation may make sense. Because enrollment has declined, we must also look carefully at how we are using our existing buildings and resources.

I would support using current enrollment data, facility conditions and projected growth to make informed decisions, not decisions based only on emotion. Most importantly, I would push for action. A long-term plan is only useful if we establish priorities, timelines, funding options and accountability for moving the plan forward. My goal would be to make sure our students have safe, modern schools while being responsible with taxpayer dollars.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes. I am actively involved in my community through my work as the owner of Growing Hands & Feet Academy, where I serve children and families every day. I also support community programs offering free rides for elderly to voting polls and initiatives that benefit children, families, seniors and the Sumter community. I believe being involved means listening to people, understanding their needs and working together to make our community stronger.

SUMTER SCHOOL BOARD — AREA 6



SINDY BEAM

Why are you running?

I am running because I believe I can make a positive impact on the school district and help make decisions that are in the best interest of our students, families, teachers and community.

Have you run for political office before?

No

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

I have lived at this address for four years.

Current job/profession:

I am an engineer and estimator for Old South Cabinetry in Lamar, S.C.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

I have been involved in our schools through the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) since 2018, serving as both a PTA president and treasurer. Through those roles, I have gained experience with budgets, financial decisions and the importance of making responsible choices with the resources available. I understand that every decision has to take the budget into consideration, while still keeping the needs of our students and schools in mind.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

One concern I have is that the school board needs to consistently follow the rules and procedures that are already in place. I also have concerns about how the budget has been managed. Before moving forward with major projects or decisions, I believe the board needs to make sure everyone understands and follows the policies and procedures that are in place.

Another concern is making sure we have qualified teachers in all of our classrooms. To do that, we need to make our schools places where teachers want to work and stay. That includes providing competitive pay and creating an environment where teachers feel supported and valued.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

I like that our schools are putting more emphasis on trade and career opportunities along with college, and having early college and dual-enrollment programs through Sumter School District is a wonderful opportunity for students to advance in their education.

However, not every student is going to take the same path after graduation, and I think it is important that students understand all of their options. I would like to see more opportunities, such as career days at the high school level, where students can learn directly about different careers, trades and the

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SUMTER SCHOOL BOARD — AREA 6

FROM PAGE B4

training required to pursue them.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

I have one child who graduated from Sumter High School in 2018 and three children currently in the public schools.

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

I think decisions need to be made, and there needs to be follow-through. The rezoning process and the Master Plan Committee need to present their final recommendations so the board can make decisions and begin moving forward.

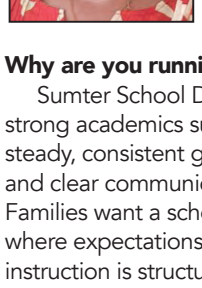
We also need to look at whether we are serving our students and families in the most practical way possible. Students should not have to drive past one school to get to another school that is farther away. In my own experience, I have to drive past a high school that is about five minutes from my home to take my children to a school that is about 20 minutes away.

I understand that decisions about school locations, rezoning and facilities are complicated and involve many factors. However, continuing to delay decisions does not solve the problems we are facing. We need a clear long-term plan, make responsible decisions based on enrollment and the condition of our facilities, and then we need to follow through and put that plan into action.

Are you actively involved in the community?

I have been actively involved with the PTA for over eight years. I have also volunteered with various community organizations over the years, including organizations that are no longer active, and have helped with community events that brought people together and strengthened our community.

Those who know me know that they can always count on me to show up, get involved and do what needs to be done. I believe in listening, gathering the information available and making the best decision I can based on what I know at the time. I will bring that same commitment and approach to serving on the school board.



MATTHEW "MAC" MCLEOD

INCUMBENT

Why are you running?

I have served on the school board and continue to serve on the school board with an intent and goal to improve our schools, which improves our community.

Have you run for political office before?

I have run for the area's seat before and currently hold that office. I was also a board member in the former Sumter School District 2.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

I have lived at my current address for 19 years.

Current job/profession:

I am a local business owner. I own McLeod Carpentry, which is a home repair business, and Decks Express, where we build custom decks and porches.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

I grew up in Sumter. I attended our public schools. I have a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina. I have worked as a schoolteacher and a business owner. I have served on the Sumter School District school board for two terms. I bring experience and knowledge to the board.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

We have a good district, and we have shown periods of improvements. No one board member can make improvements on their own. However, if we work together with our superintendent, the necessary improvements will be made.

What successes have you seen in the Sumter School District that you want to build on?

There have been many successes in Sumter School District. The superintendent's report recognizes success in our students and our staff monthly during the board meetings. I believe when we recognize individual members of our district community, we are showing success as a district.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

I have two grandchildren in Sumter School District. I have a grandson at Pocalla Springs Elementary and a grandson at Furman Middle School. I also have another grandson and a granddaughter who will be old enough to begin school in our district next year. My son and daughter also graduated from Lakewood High School.

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

The master plan needs to be completed in a way that benefits all of the students in Sumter city and county schools. I look forward to moving forward with a plan that improves Sumter School District. That plan should include evaluating all areas, all schools and transportation.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

I run my two businesses with my son Trey McLeod. I have four grandchildren who are involved in sports, dance and gymnastics. I spend most of my free time following them or dancing with my wife. She and I are involved in teaching and promoting our state dance The Carolina Shag. I also follow the athletic teams around Sumter School District.



VENITIA REEBEL

Why are you running?

Sumter School District deserves strong academics supported by steady, consistent governance and clear communication. Families want a school system where expectations are aligned, instruction is structured and leadership provides reliable direction. Strengthening these areas is essential for improving literacy, supporting classroom instruction and building long term academic success. This candidacy is grounded in a commitment to the students, families and educators of Sumter School District.

Governance and fiscal oversight are central to this commitment. Years of experience working in private schools have reinforced the importance of careful budgeting, responsible resource use and transparent financial practices. When funds are managed wisely and priorities are clearly defined, students benefit, teachers have what they need, and families gain confidence in the district's direction. A grounded fiscal approach helps ensure that academic goals, staffing needs and facility planning remain aligned with what the community can sustainably support.

The district also needs communication that is timely, accurate and accessible. Families want to understand how decisions are made, what guides district priorities and how those choices support students. Strengthening that connection is essential for trust and shared progress. A classroom grounded perspective helps ensure that students remain at the center of decision making and that instructional needs are clearly understood.

This candidacy is about supporting evidence based practices, reinforcing transparent procedures and encouraging communication that helps teachers teach and students learn. Steady, thoughtful governance is essential for the progress the community expects and for the work happening in classrooms every day.

Have you run for political office before?

I ran for this school board position in 2022.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

Since 2019, seven years

Current job/profession:

Teacher at a K–12 private school in Manning and adjunct instructor at University of South Carolina Sumter

What makes you qualified for the seat?

I am qualified for this seat because I bring direct classroom experience, curriculum awareness and strong communication skills. I have taught at the K–12, dual enrollment and college levels, which provides a clear understanding of instructional alignment, academic expectations and student readiness. My work designing lessons, assessing student progress and supporting diverse learners has strengthened my ability to evaluate information carefully and make decisions grounded in educational practice.

In addition to teaching, I have experience in communications and coordination, including organizing speakers, managing schedules and ensuring clear and consistent information flow. These responsibilities require structure, professionalism and attention to detail. They reflect the qualities needed for effective board governance.

Experience working in private schools has also reinforced the importance of grounded fiscal stewardship. Careful budgeting, responsible resource use and transparent financial practices support stable governance and long term planning. This perspective strengthens my ability to evaluate information through both an instructional and administrative point of view in order to ensure that academic priorities remain aligned with Sumter County School District financial resources.

I offer a steady, academic focused perspective shaped by real classroom experience, strong communication skills and a commitment to transparent processes, responsible governance and long term planning.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

1. Governance stability and clear processes

Long term progress depends on steady governance and predictable procedures. When direction shifts or communication is unclear, it becomes difficult for families and staff to understand expectations. Strengthening policy consistency, improving information flow and reinforcing transparent decision making would help create a more stable environment for students and teachers. Clear timelines and structured processes support trust and allow the district to move forward with purpose.

2. Academic quality and instructional alignment

Academic performance, particularly in literacy and foundational skills, remains a central priority. Students benefit when curriculum expectations are aligned, instructional practices are evidence based, and progress is monitored consistently. Supporting teachers with clear standards, strong professional development, and reliable resources is essential. Encouraging communication across grade levels and schools can help ensure students receive coherent, well sequenced instruction that prepares them for future coursework.

3. Long range planning and clear direction

A focused long term plan is necessary to connect academic goals, enrollment trends and resource use. Without a clear vision, it becomes challenging for families and staff to understand priorities or anticipate changes. Structured planning, transparent timelines and data based decision making would help the district move forward with stability and clarity. A defined direction also strengthens community confidence and ensures decisions support both current needs and future growth.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

The district's leadership transition has created an opportunity for greater stability and clearer academic direction. The new superintendent has emphasized structured communication, defined expectations and a consistent approach to district priorities. Strengthening this foundation is essential for sustained progress.

Building on the superintendent's focus on stability, communication and academic improvement will help the district move forward with clarity and purpose. I would want to build on a commitment to excellence by supporting initiatives that reinforce academic quality, strengthen communication and provide the consistent leadership needed for sustained progress.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

No

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

The district's facilities challenges require a long range plan that is realistic, transparent and aligned with enrollment trends. With 16 schools more than 60 years old and no new school built since the 1990s, the district must prioritize safety, instructional needs and cost effective modernization. I would support using the Master Plan Committee's data to create a phased facilities plan that identifies immediate needs, mid range projects and long term goals. Clear communication with families and staff is essential so the community understands timelines, costs and decision making criteria.

Enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, which affects staffing, funding and building utilization. I would support reviewing attendance zones to determine whether current boundary lines accurately reflect student distribution, community growth patterns and the practical needs of families. A careful examination of transportation routes is also important to ensure bus schedules and travel patterns are efficient, safe and aligned with effective use of district resources. In addition, evaluating program placement would help confirm that specialized academic programs are situated in schools where they best support students, staff and long term instructional goals.

Strengthening academic programs, improving literacy outcomes and ensuring safe, well maintained schools can also help stabilize enrollment over time. My focus would be on structured planning, transparent communication and decisions grounded in data rather than reactive short term fixes.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes. I am involved in educational and civic activities across Sumter and the surrounding counties. I support local school events, participate in public forums and assist with speaker coordination for community programs. I also stay engaged with veterans' organizations, including the VFW, through events and service opportunities. My work as a teacher and adjunct instructor keeps me connected to families, students and organizations that serve the broader community.

UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES

Here is a list of candidates you may see on your ballot who are not running opposed by someone in another party. Every race has the option for write-in candidates.

CLARENDON COUNTY

County Treasurer
Matt Evans (R)

School Board, District 2
Tami Green (Nonpartisan)

LEE COUNTY

Auditor
Cecil Lavear Stevens (D)

County Council, District 3
Keel Addison (D)

County Council, District 4
Gordon Eckley (D)

County Council, District 6
Charles Arthur Beasley (D)

County Council, District 7
Johnette McCutchen Caughman (D)

County Treasurer
Shirley Cook Dixon (D)

School Board District, District 4
Traves Reames (D)

School Board District, District 5
Regitt James (D)

SUMTER COUNTY

City Council, Ward 3
Calvin K. Hastie Sr. (Nonpartisan)

City Council, Ward 5
Colin C. Davis (Nonpartisan)

County Council, District 2
Artie Baker (R)

County Council, District 4
Charles T. Edens (R)

County Council, District 6
James T. McCain Jr. (D)

Soil and Water District Commission
John Lee Newman (Nonpartisan)

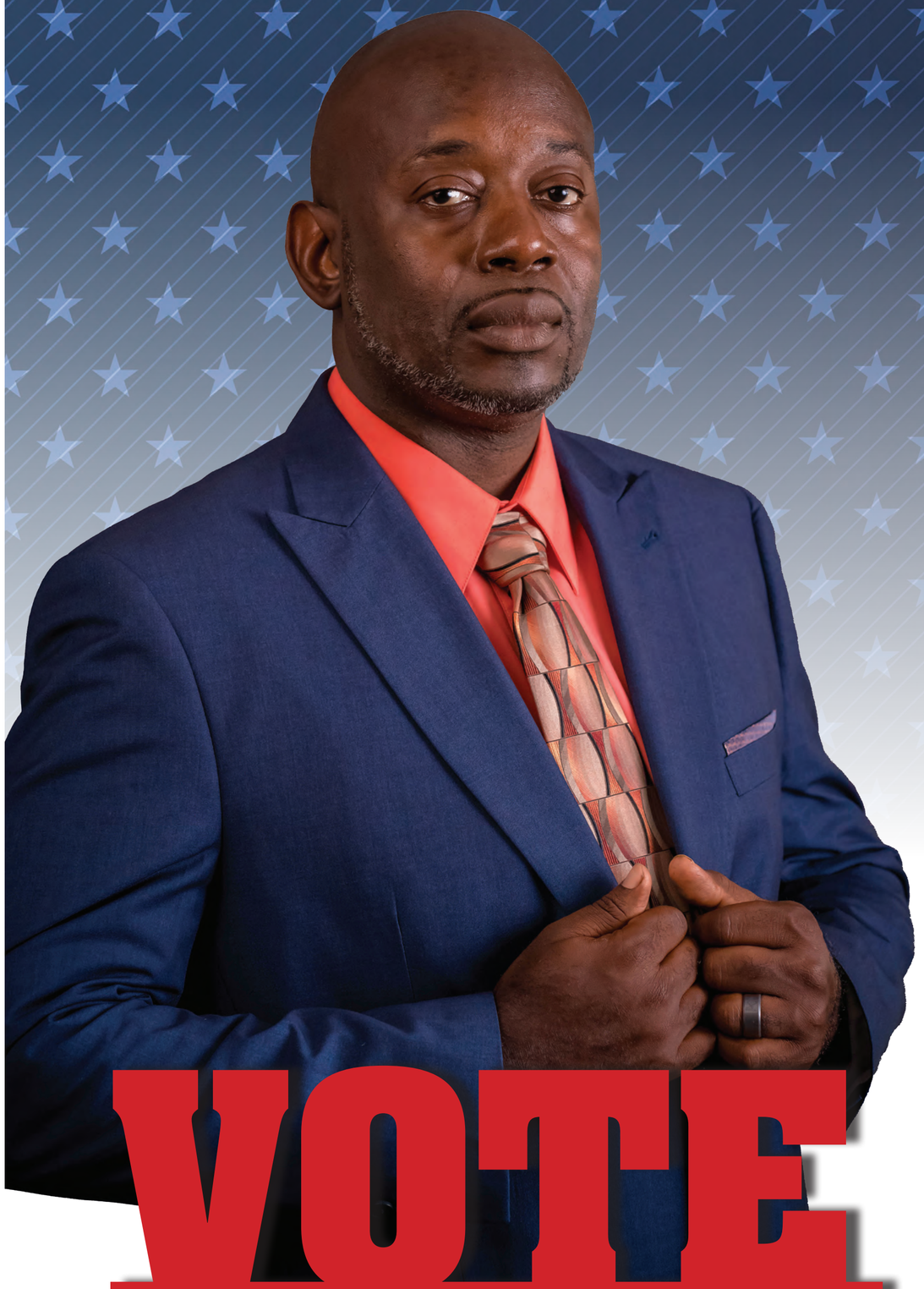
Town Council, Pinewood
Mamie Houser (Nonpartisan)

STATE

Solicitor Circuit 3
Lester M. Gill Bell Jr. (D)

State House 50
Will Wheeler (D)

State House of Representatives, District 51
David Weeks (D)



VOTE
DEREK GAMBLE
City Council Ward 1

WHO IS DEREK GAMBLE?

- Executive Director of the Clean Slate Reentry Program, which helps recently released inmates reintegrate back into society
- Founder of Operation Summer Salvation, which donates air conditioners to the elderly and disabled
- Advisory Board chairman for the Salvation Army
- Board Member of Christian Charities Food Bank
- Adjunct Instructor at Central Carolina Technical College
- Teaches free ServSafe food safety classes to South Carolina prisoners and local area homeless people
- 2022 Sumter County Hometown Hero Recipient
- Past Master of Mount Pisgah Lodge 437, Prince Hall Affiliated Masons of South Carolina
- Custodial Father of 2 sons, ages 10 & 17

VOTE
DEREK GAMBLE
City Council Ward 1
Nov. 3rd











Paid for by Derek Gamble

VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE • VOTE

SUMTER SCHOOL BOARD — AREA 8



PHILIP GOOD

Why are you running?

I am running because Sumter County needs a strong public school system that provides every learner the opportunity to succeed. Without significant improvement, Sumter risks developing a three-tier educational environment: private education for families with the financial means, charter education for families with the financial means or access through a lottery and a lagging traditional public school system for everyone else. That outcome is unacceptable. Our constitutional republic requires an educated and informed citizenry capable of functioning in the 21st century. Every Sumter learner deserves a public education that prepares them for what comes next: college, a skilled trade, military service, employment and responsible citizenship.

Have you run for political office before?

No, this is my first campaign for political office.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

I have resided at the current Sumter residence for 15 years.

Current job/profession:

I retired from the United States Army Reserve in 2017 and from the United States Army Central Command/Third Army as a Department of the Army civilian in December 2025.

Currently, I am pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) with licensure for secondary social studies in grades 6 through 12 from Liberty University online. I was accepted to the Liberty University Online Master of Arts in History program starting in January 2027; however, all required coursework is complete. Consequently, both degrees should confer no later than May 2027.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

I bring experience leading and working within large, complex organizations similar in many respects to Sumter School District. Prior experience working as a civilian within United States Army Central Command afforded the opportunity to work within large, complex and bureaucratic organizations. The U.S. Army Reserve presented the opportunity to lead a combat support hospital with two subordinate forward surgical teams and two minimal care detachments representing over 800 soldiers geographically dispersed across three major metropolitan areas of Ohio.

Upon departing command, the organization was the second-best combat support hospital and a ½ percentage point behind the first-ranked organization within the western half of the United States based upon established metrics. Besides military experience, operational, logistics, marketing and financial experience was gained while working for a large contract management company at a world-renowned medical institution in Baltimore. Additional experience and exposure regarding the previously stated business functions was enhanced by working at the corporation's North American headquarters. Finally, I observed my mother serve on the Medina County School Board located in Ohio for almost 45 years while experiencing the pre-certification teacher requirements.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

First, academic performance across the entire district requires improvement. According to U.S. News & World Report, only 30% of elementary learners test at or above proficiency levels in reading and mathematics. As learners progress to middle school, proficiency decreases further. By high school, reading proficiency increases to 52% and mathematics to 17%, which remains below South Carolina benchmarks. Although there are areas of progress and pockets of excellence, proficiency remains below acceptable levels. The board should establish measurable academic benchmarks, require regular reporting against those benchmarks and identify successful practices within higher-performing district schools that can be replicated elsewhere.

Second, class size and instructor-learner ratios matter. U.S. News & World Report reports a district student-to-teacher ratio of 15:1. However, an aggregate ratio does not necessarily represent actual classroom size. From my current classroom experience, only one of three classes approaches the 15:1 ratio, while the other two have approximately 24 and 29 learners. The district should examine actual classroom enrollment by school and subject and determine how resources can be aligned to reduce excessive class sizes.

Third, we must adequately prepare every learner for life after graduation. Not every learner should attend a four-year college, and there is nothing inferior or undignified about working with one's hands. Skilled trades provide essential services and rewarding careers. Conversely, learners choosing a college preparatory path should graduate academically prepared to succeed in college. One option worth examining is a countywide vocational and technical school while maintaining strong IB, AP, Honors and college preparatory programs.

Accountability connects all three challenges. The board should establish measurable objectives, identify responsibility for execution, receive recurring reports and take corrective action when results fall short. Financial accountability requires more than balancing a budget; taxpayers should be able to see the relationship between district expenditures and measurable educational outcomes.

Ultimately, success should be measured by whether learners leave Sumter schools prepared for their next step. Whether that is college, a skilled trade, military service or immediate employment, graduates should possess the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

Sen. Jeff Zell worked to improve the district's transportation challenges while serving on the Board of Trustees. However, additional work is needed to ensure all students arrive at their respective schools on time. The trustees and administration need to resolve this challenge to prevent some learners from missing approximately 30 minutes of instruction per day due to late arrival. The prior statement is not intended to criticize the director of transportation because I do not know the particulars contributing to the situation – driver shortage, bus shortage, routing issue or other factors. The situation requires resolution because students are the ones negatively impacted.

Academic improvements reflected in reading scores, along with career and college readiness scores, require continued maintenance at a minimum. Pockets of excellence, such as Alice Drive Elementary and Sumter High's International Baccalaureate program, require sustainment with the replication of best practices. However, in reality, academic improvement is needed across the district to stem the downward trend of student enrollment and positively enhance the district's reputation.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

No

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

This issue has two components: project management and political will. Project management is the easier component. The district already has a Master Plan Committee; the next step should be converting its work into actionable alternatives with measurable criteria, costs, timelines and decision points. Political will is more difficult because at least five trustees must ultimately support moving a plan forward.

The age of a school building alone should not determine its future. Each facility should be evaluated based upon condition, capacity and utilization, projected enrollment, educational requirements, location, transportation implications, renovation costs, replacement costs and long-term operating expenses. Declining enrollment must be part of that analysis because constructing or maintaining facilities that the district cannot efficiently utilize would not represent responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

The board should then present realistic alternatives to the community rather than a predetermined conclusion. Those alternatives could include renovation, consolidation, repurposing, replacement, new construction or some combination based upon the data. Community input is essential because school facilities affect neighborhoods, students, employees, transportation and taxpayers.

Eventually, however, the board must make decisions. My approach would be to establish milestones for completing the analysis, presenting alternatives, obtaining public input, selecting a course of action, identifying funding requirements and beginning implementation. A master plan that never progresses beyond planning does not solve the district's facility challenges.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

From a religious perspective, I attend Christ Community Church and participate in Prime Timers, a group of individuals over 55 years young. From a civic perspective, I serve as the Americanism chairman and one of five second vice-commanders of American Legion Post 15. Within the American Legion, my primary passion focuses upon the three Americanism programs, which include Palmetto Boys State, the Nathan M. Wolfe Law Cadet Academy and the H.W. Dare Maness High School Oratorical Program.

Leading the committee selecting deserving high school juniors for attendance to Palmetto Boys State is extremely rewarding and humbling. Palmetto Boys State is a hands-on simulation of our constitutional republic where approximately 1,200 young men across South Carolina participate in a two-party process and establish a mock government from the city to state level. All the individuals interviewed since 2022 were exceptionally qualified. This past June, Post 15 sponsored a total of 25 deserving young men with one representing Sumter Christian School, 14 from Sumter High and 10 from Wilson Hall.

Any high school student is eligible to attend the Law Cadet Academy or participate in the Oratorical program, which is a constitutional speech contest.



PHIL LEVENTIS

INCUMBENT

Why are you running?

I believe, working with the board and the new superintendent, I can make this district even better for our community. Serving on the school board at this point in my life is the most important thing I can do for the community my family has called home for over 50 years.

Have you run for political office before?

Yes. I have served in the S.C. Senate for 32 years. I currently serve on the Sumter school board.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

35 years

Current job/profession:

I currently serve as a school district trustee. I retired from business, the military and state service.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

I have broad experience in business as the owner and operator of a small company. I have served on the board of a financial organization. For decades, I had responsibilities in government over policy, oversight and development. I completed a career in the U.S. Air Force and the South Carolina Air National Guard where I was involved in military operations and leadership. All these activities gave me a great opportunity to view and appreciate the real world we are preparing young people in our schools to face. My philosophy has always been, "I don't go along to get along. When I know something is wrong, I speak up."

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

1. Our first priority has to be a relaunch of Master Plan/visioning process for the district. Every aspect of our district, not just the physical facilities, has to be examined. Staff needs and standards and curriculum that will best serve our students in their future should be another area of concentration. Programs focused on retaining and recruiting the best professional and support staff is central to our future growth. A key for the future will be a program to recruit students and families to Sumter School District. All board members should be involved in this Master Plan/visioning process.

2. Our biggest challenge will be telling the district's story about the great successes being achieved every day for our students, which includes every child that comes to our doors. We also need for the public to understand that our district offers more and broader opportunities than any other educational institution. The Sumter district has the best programs for special-needs students as well as gifted and talented program for students regardless of income. These are but a few of the many great programs offered by the district.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

There are significant successes all across our district every day; however, regrettably, the focus is typically on challenges the district faces. One of the greatest challenges is the requirement to take any and all students at any time their families may choose to enroll them. (This is also one of the district's strengths in building a better community) An exceptional variety of extracurricular programs from drama club to the athletic teams for boys and girls, from chorus to track and ROTC help retain students as the district strives to increase graduation rates. The district has extraordinary and even some unique outreach programs for students whose families can not participate in traditional activities like staying after school for additional instruction where special help is required. The district has exceptional dual-credit programs to assist students gaining college credits while completing high school. Under the leadership of the new superintendent, a review is in progress to ensure that all opportunities are available to all students across all of our schools.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

All four of our children attended Sumter public schools from kindergarten through the 12th grade.

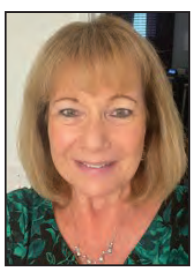
Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

The board's top priority has to be creating a Master Plan/vision for the year 2050 which includes goals as well as programs and timelines moving forward.

The needs and requirements for a building program must be addressed in the Master Plan/visioning process. The district has seats available for over 26,000 students; however, there are less than 13,000 students currently being served! This is a fact after the closure of numerous schools. The vision has to consider right sizing and updating of the facilities to meet our needs over the next 25 years.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

My wife and I are members of the Church of the Holy Comforter. I continue to be a member of the Sumter Rotary Club. Over the previous few election cycles, when I was not a candidate, I volunteered and helped the Sumter Elections Commission count ballots.



SHERRIL RAY

Why are you running?

To offer my leadership skills, knowledge and insight gained from being an educator and having previous board member experience to positively address low student achievement, lack of financial responsibility and failure to follow through and take action on proposed board vision and goals.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

Ran for Sumter school board in 2018 and served until 2022. Had an unsuccessful Sumter school board run in 2022.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

30 years

Current job/profession:

Retired educator; piano teacher; church organist

What makes you qualified for the seat?

Being a career educator with middle and high school experience as a teacher, assistant principal and principal gives me valuable insight to work with the superintendent as he guides the district. I also served as the district hearing officer, which gives me a unique perspective on school discipline and knowledge of board policies. The term served on the school board gives the advantage of knowing procedures and operations of the board.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

Low student achievement - Support the superintendent in plans to ensure quality instruction and develop specialized programs to meet students' needs such as magnet schools. Promote increased efforts to recruit and retain high-quality teachers and staff.

Financial issues - Ensure responsible and transparent oversight of district budget and resources. Monitor spending to prevent a deficit.

Condition of buildings and transportation issues - Make plans to evaluate the maintenance needs of facilities and address them in a timely manner. Continue looking for solutions to increase the number of bus drivers and streamline bus routes.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

The placement of a new superintendent who has committed to our district and

SEE **SCHOOL BOARD 8,** PAGE B9

SUMTER SCHOOL BOARD — AREA 8 FROM PAGE B8

immediately started taking action to make necessary changes.

Implementation of instructional programs that analyze student data and guide intervention strategies that will result in improved achievement.

Excellent fine arts programs across the district that showcase student talent and abilities.

Strong athletic programs that not only strengthen students physically, but also develop character.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school? Please specify (you don't need to give their names).

No

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees created a Master Plan Committee in 2023 to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities – 16 of its 24 schools are more than 60 years old, and there has not been a new school built since the 1990s – also while student enrollment has declined for nine consecutive years, but there has been no action taken on moving a vision forward. How would you work toward solutions to these issues?

There has to be collaboration among all of the stakeholders: school board, school district faculty and staff, parents, community members, community leadership, businesses and industry. Open conversations need to be facilitated to determine how to invest in the school district and the education of the children in our county.

What do parents want? What do industry and business need from our educational system? What is our city and county leadership willing to do to provide needed resources? And there must be more than conversation. A plan agreed upon by the stakeholders needs to be created and put into action.

Importantly, a reassessment of a realignment of the district and a timeline to ensure follow-through is a necessity.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

I am involved in the children's ministry at Grace Baptist Church and also lead a group that provides meals for the homeless. I volunteer for the American Red Cross.

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL — DISTRICT 1



DEREK GAMBLE

Why are you running?

Improvements in the community

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

Yes, 2022 for City Council Ward 1

How long have you lived in your district?

15 years

Current job/profession:

Executive director

What makes you qualified for the seat?

Community involvement

What challenges/concerns do you see in your district (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

Crime, litter, affordable housing

Crime, to involve citizens more closely in patrols.

Litter, establish boards to fight litter.

Affordable housing, create more mid-tier housing developments.

What successes have you seen in your district that you want to build on?

Building of Joe McElveen Park

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes, board member of Christian charities, advisory board chairperson of Salvation Army, distribution of air conditioners to the elderly and disabled, offers free ServSafe classes to the homeless and incarcerated. Operate some nonprofit reentry program for returning citizen.



ANTHONY GIBSON

INCUMBENT

Why are you running?

I'm running for re-election because I believe I can help make a difference in our community in a positive way. We need people who will put the needs of our community first, be forward-thinking and genuinely want the best for everyone. That's the kind of leadership I'll keep working to provide and make happen.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain.

Yes, I ran for Ward 1 nearly four years ago. I was honored to be elected, and now I'm seeking a second term so I can continue serving our community.

How long have you lived in your district?

I've lived in Ward 1 for 19 years, nearly two decades.

Current job / profession:

I serve as senior pastor at Grace Cathedral Ministries here in Sumter, and I'm a real estate agent with Keller Williams.

What makes you qualified for this seat?

I've always tried to serve our community with integrity and respect. I've been in leadership for more than three decades, and that has taught me how to listen, be consistent and serve people from all walks of life. Since being elected, I've also taken part in training through the Municipal Association of South Carolina, so I can better understand budgeting, ethics and economic development, things that affect our day-to-day lives. I also completed the Ports Ambassador Program, which helped me learn about jobs and growth across our state, and how communities like Sumter fit into that picture. But honestly, being qualified isn't just about degrees or programs; it's about serving people. I try to stay present, listen and work with others to move our city forward.

What challenges or concerns do you see in your district, up to three, and how do you plan to improve them?

These are some of the concerns I've been working on, and if re-elected, I'll keep pushing on them. Every community has challenges. It will never be perfect, but the question is, how can we make it better? First, public safety. I've worked with law enforcement, and with their cooperation, we've seen a decrease in crime in our district. Second, quality of life, better wages and living conditions. Over the last four years, we've seen a rise in median income across the city. Blighted houses are being torn down to lift property values. Parks in our district are being remodeled. Roads are being paved. Water and sewer upgrades are happening in older neighborhoods. The Morris College Corridor is getting attention, and North Main is close to done. And third, working together. We need to do a better job of that with mutual respect, fairness, honesty and humility. We must learn to live, work and play together, even when we disagree. We really are better together.

What successes have you had?

Just to name a few, we've seen a decrease in crime in my district. We've supported better jobs locally and focused on keeping housing affordable for residents.

We've worked as a city team to improve the overall quality of life here in Sumter. All of our parks are being remodeled, and every road improvement and utility upgrade you've seen over the last four years, I've been proud to support as part of the council.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes. I currently serve on the Santee Lynches Regional Council of Governments and the Santee Wateree RTA Board. I have adopted four local schools for the past eight years, helping provide supplies for teachers and students. My local church serves weekly in city shelters, we partner with local employers to help connect residents with jobs, and we host financial literacy programs. I also support youth sports, including sponsoring Little League teams. We have also hosted community town hall meetings to hear directly from the constituents of Ward 1 and connected them with city resources that directly address their needs and concerns.

Anything else you want to add?

I was elected in November 2022, but because of an election challenge, I was not sworn in until August 2023. That meant starting late and moving fast. I've worked hard to serve Ward 1 and our city to the best of my ability. With that experience and a deeper understanding of how our city works, I believe I can make an even greater impact in another term. I love our city and value the team we have here. I'm thankful for the opportunity, and I look forward to continuing the work and impacting change in and around Sumter.

SUMTER PROBATE JUDGE



HOLLY THOMPSON BLACKWOOD

Why are you running?

When I learned of our current judge of probate's plans for retirement nearly two years ago, after much thought and prayer, I approached him with my desire to run for the office. Since then, I have been working, training and preparing to become the next judge of probate. I was born and raised in Sumter County. I love my town, the citizens of Sumter, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and wish nothing more than to serve the citizens of Sumter County with the same care, compassion, fairness and respect that we've all been accustomed to during the past 24 years under the leadership of the Honorable Dale Atkinson.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

No

How long have you lived in your district?

I've lived in Sumter County for more than 51 years.

Current job/profession:

I currently work in the Sumter County Probate Court serving the citizens of Sumter County in the daily matters of probate and as the hearing clerk for Judge Atkinson. I work with attorney's offices and pro se litigants assisting in scheduling hearings for the many matters of probate.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

With more than four years' experience working in the Probate Court directly with the probate judge, the Honorable Dale Atkinson, our amazing staff of judges and clerks and for the people of Sumter County, I am the best, most qualified and most experienced candidate running for the office of probate judge. In addition, I know what it's like to run a business. I owned and operated Quality Drug Screening Inc. with my father-in-law, the late William Kenneth Blackwood. For more than 20 years I served the Sumter community, working throughout the state with federal, state and local government offices and private-sector employers providing drug and alcohol testing as well as private, state and forensic DNA testing for individuals, state contracts and law enforcement agencies, testifying in court when necessary.

I have also been a licensed insurance agent for more than 25 years. I am ready to serve the citizens of Sumter County as your next probate judge.

What challenges/concerns do you see in your district (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

Over the years we've seen more families divided over their families' estates. My hope would be to lead these families to meaningful mediation that would help them resolve their differences peacefully, bringing restoration to their relationships. Likewise, there are families dealing with heirs' property who are struggling to understand what is needed to complete the probate process. I hope to assist them in navigating the closure they desire.

What successes have you seen in your district that you want to build on?

Our probate office is known to have a reputation for being helpful, compassionate and fair to families in times of grief and need. I will continue to provide the same level of care and compassion, moving forward for many years to come.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes, I have had the privilege of spending time with a local school's elementary students during their lunch getting to know them and telling them a little bit about what we do in the probate office. I have also had the opportunity to serve on a board of trustees for an educational fund that helps provide Sumter County students with the financial resources to attend colleges and universities in South Carolina.

Anything else you want to add?

I am committed to leading the office of probate with integrity, performing the duties of the office in a fair and ethical manner, and look forward to serving as your Sumter County probate judge in 2027.

(Charles Eddie Drayton did not submit responses.)



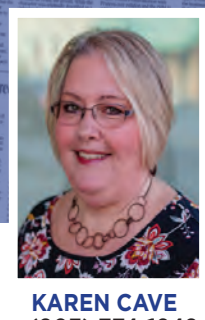
SUMTER COUNTY VOTER'S GUIDE

VIEW: Looking for more info on local races and candidate Q&A's? Read the Sumter Voter's Guide.

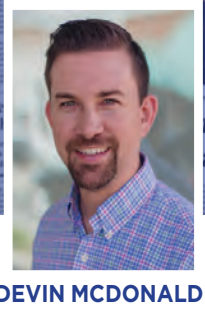
Part 2 will publish in The Sumter Item on Saturday, Oct. 3.

REACH MORE THAN 35,000 SUMTERITES THROUGH THE DAILY ITEM NEWSLETTER.

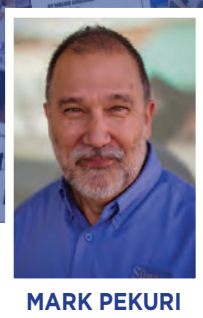




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ABSENTEE VOTING

On May 13, 2022, Gov. Henry McMaster signed into law legislation passed by the General Assembly that establishes early voting and makes significant changes to the absentee voting process. Absentee voting allows qualified voters to cast a ballot by mail prior to Election Day. In-person absentee voting is no longer authorized by law, as voters can now participate in early voting.

Who can vote absentee

- People with employment obligations that prevent them from voting during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on Election Day.
- People attending a sick or physically disabled person which prevents them from voting during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on Election Day.
- People confined to a jail or pretrial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial that prevents them from voting during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on Election Day.
- People who will be absent from their county of residence during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on Election Day.
- People with physical disabilities.
- People 65 years of age or older.
- Members of the armed forces and Merchant Marines of the United States, their spouses and dependents living with them
- Persons admitted to a hospital as an emergency patient on the day of the election or within a four-day period before the election.

How to vote absentee

Voters must apply for an absentee ballot by completing and returning an absentee application to their county voter registration office by 5 p.m. on Oct. 23.

Step 1: Get your application
- You can submit your request for an application as early as Jan. 1 of the election year.
- Call, visit or send your request by U.S. mail to your county voter registration office.
- You must provide your name, date of birth and last four digits of your Social Security number.
- You will be mailed an application.

Step 2: Complete, sign and return the application
- Return the application by U.S. mail or personal delivery to your county voter registration office as soon as possible.
- The deadline to return your application is 5 p.m. on the 11th day prior to the election.

Step 3: Receive your absentee ballot in the mail
- Voters who have applied early will be mailed their absentee ballot approximately 30 days before the election.

Step 4: Vote and return the ballot
- Return your ballot to your county voter registration office or an early voting center either by mail or personal delivery.
- Must present photo ID when returning the ballot return envelope.
- Acceptable photo IDs:
  - o Driver's license issued by a state within the United States
  - o Another form of identification containing a photograph issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles or its equivalent by a state within the United States
  - o Passport
  - o Military identification containing a photograph issued by the federal government
  - o South Carolina voter registration card containing a photograph of the voter.
- Place the ballot in the "ballot here-in" envelope and place the "ballot here-in" envelope in the return envelope.
- Be sure to sign the voter's oath and have your signature witnessed. Anyone age 18 or older can witness your signature. A notary is not necessary.
- Ballots must be received by the county voter registration office by 7 p.m. on Election Day.
- Ballots returned by mail should be mailed no later than one week prior to Election Day to help ensure timely delivery.

Requesting an application for another voter

Immediate family member
- Includes spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law.
- May request the voter's application by calling or visiting your county voter registration office or sending the request via the U.S. Postal Service to your county voter registration office.
- Must provide the voter's name, date of birth and last four digits of voter's Social Security number.
- Must provide the requestor's name, address, date of birth and relation to the voter.
- Requestors are limited to five requests in addition to their own per election.

Authorized representative
- Must sign an oath that he meets the requirements of being an authorized representative by completing the authorized representative form.
- Must request application in person or by mail (may not request by phone).
- Must be a registered voter.
- Must have permission to act on behalf of a voter who is unable to go to the polls because of illness or disability resulting in his confinement in a hospital, sanatorium, nursing home or place of residence, or is unable because of a physical handicap to go to his polling place or because of a handicap is unable to vote at his polling place due to existing architectural barriers that deny him physical access to the polling place, voting booth, or voting apparatus or machinery.
- A candidate, a member of a candidate's paid campaign staff or a campaign volunteer may not serve as an authorized representative unless the person is a member of the voter's immediate family.
- Requestors are limited to five requests in addition to their own per election.

Returning an application for another voter

Immediate family members and authorized representatives must return the voter's application to the voter's county voter registration office in person (mailing NOT allowed).

Returning an absentee ballot for another voter

Immediate family members and authorized representative
- Voter and person returning the ballot must complete and sign the authorized returnee form.
- Must return the ballot return envelope in person at the voter's county voter registration office or an early voting center in the voter's county of residence (mailing is NOT allowed).
- Must present the authorized returnee form and photo ID when returning the ballot return envelope.
- Acceptable photo IDs:
  - o Driver's license issued by a state within the United States
  - o Another form of identification containing a photograph issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles or its equivalent by a state within the United States
  - o Passport
  - o Military identification containing a photograph issued by the federal government
  - o South Carolina voter registration card containing a photograph of the voter.
- Returnees are limited to five returns in addition to their own per election.

o Returning more than five ballots for other voters is now a felony crime punishable by up to a $1,000 fine or five years in prison, or both.

Voters admitted to hospital as emergency patient

- Voters admitted to the hospital as an emergency patient on the day of the election or within four days of the election can have an immediate family member apply for and deliver a ballot to them.



When do I need to register to vote?

The deadline to register to vote in any election in South Carolina is 30 days prior to Election Day.
- The deadline to register to vote online or by fax or email is Sunday, Oct. 4.
- The deadline to register to vote in person is Friday, Oct. 2.
- The deadline to register by mail is Monday, Oct. 5 (must be postmarked by this date).

To register to vote, go to https://scvotes.gov/voters/register-to-vote/.

I've moved since the last time I voted, and I haven't updated my voter registration. Can I still vote?

If you moved to…
- Another residence within your precinct, you can update your address at your polling place and vote a regular ballot.
- A different precinct within your county, you are eligible vote failsafe (see below).
- Another residence in another county within 30 days of the election, you are eligible to vote failsafe (see below).
- Another residence in another county prior to the Oct. 4 registration deadline, you are not eligible to vote. State law requires you to be registered prior to the deadline to be eligible to vote.
- South Carolina after the Oct. 4 registration deadline, you are not eligible to vote. State law requires you to be registered prior to the deadline to be eligible to vote.

Two options for voting failsafe:

1. Vote at the polling place in your previous precinct using a failsafe provisional ballot. A failsafe provisional ballot contains only federal, statewide, countywide and municipality-wide offices.

2. Go to the voter registration office in the county in which you currently reside, change your address, and vote a regular ballot there.

Can I take my child with me to vote?

Yes. Minor children (under age 18) of a voter may accompany the voter in the voting booth.

What do I need to take with me to vote?

At your polling place, you will be asked to show one of the following photo IDs:
- Driver's license
- ID card issued by the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles
- Voter registration card with photo
- Federal military ID
- U.S. passport

What if I don't have one of these photo IDs?

If you do not have one of these photo IDs, you can make your voting experience as fast and easy as possible by getting one before Election Day. If you are already registered to vote, you can go to your county voter registration and elections office, provide your date of birth and the last four digits of your Social Security number, and have your photo taken. You can do this even on Election Day. Free ID cards are also available from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

If you cannot get a photo ID, bring your non-photo voter registration card with you to the polling place. You can contact your county voter registration office if you need to replace your non-photo voter registration card. You may vote a provisional ballot after signing an affidavit stating you have a reasonable impediment to obtaining a photo ID. A reasonable impediment is any valid reason, beyond your control, which created an obstacle obtaining a photo ID. Some examples include: a disability or illness, a conflict with your work schedule, a lack of transportation, a lack of a birth certificate, family responsibilities, a religious objection to being photographed and any other obstacle you find reasonable. This ballot will count unless someone proves to the county board of voter registration and elections that you are lying about your identity or having the listed impediment.

To vote under the reasonable impediment exception:
- Inform the poll managers that you do not have a photo ID and could not get one.
- Present your current, non-photo registration card.
- Sign the affidavit provided by the poll managers stating why you could not obtain a photo ID.
- Cast a provisional ballot that will be counted unless the county board of voter registration and elections has reason to believe your affidavit is false.

What happens if I forget to bring my photo ID when voting in person?

If you forget to bring your photo ID to your polling place, you may vote a provisional ballot that will count only if you show your photo ID to your county board of voter registration and elections office prior to certification of the election. Results are certified on the Friday after the general election (Nov. 8).

What hours will the polls be open on Election Day?

Polling places are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Anyone in line at 7 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

Are there any laws about candidates posting their signs along the roadway?

Yes, there are several state laws addressing political signs on roadways, as well as county and municipal ordinances. See S.C. Code of Laws Sections 57-25-10, 57-25-140 and 7-25-210. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the entity that maintains the road (state, county or municipality) to enforce applicable sign laws.

Can candidates or their representatives take people to the polls to vote?

Yes. It is permissible for any person, even a candidate, to give a voter a ride as long as it is being done solely to help facilitate voting. However, no one can offer a voter anything of value in exchange for voting.

I saw a candidate/member of candidate's campaign at my polling place talking to voters. Can they do that?

Yes, but there are restrictions:

Inside the polling place: No campaigning is allowed. Candidates may be inside the polling place and talk to voters as long as they are not campaigning, intimidating voters or interfering with the election process.

Within 500 feet of an entrance to a polling place: Candidates and campaign staff may campaign as long as they are not intimidating voters or interfering with the election process. However, no campaign literature, signs, or posters are allowed. Candidates are allowed to wear a badge no larger than 4.25" x 4.25" featuring only the candidate's name and office sought. Candidates must remove their badge upon entering a polling place.

A candidate is definitely campaigning while in the polling place, or there is campaign literature within 500 feet of the entrance. What can I do?

Inform the poll clerk immediately. If the issue is not resolved, contact the county board of voter registration and elections. The county board will address the complaint.

When I left the polls, I was asked to participate in an "exit poll." Is this legal?

Exit polls are legal and participation is voluntary. They are not conducted by the State Election Commission or the county boards of voter registration and elections. Generally, polls may not be conducted inside the polling place, and we ask that voters not be approached before they have voted. If a voter feels threatened or intimidated by a pollster, it should be reported immediately to the precinct's poll clerk.

Where should I file a complaint about the election?

It's best to report any concerns to a poll manager or notify your county voter registration and elections office as soon as possible. To send a complaint to the SEC, visit the contact page on www.scVOTES.gov. Complaints regarding voting and elections should be addressed to your county board of voter registration and elections.

Source: S.C. Election Commission/SCVotes.gov

TRI-COUNTY PRECINCTS

SUMTER COUNTY

Barrier Free — Voter Registration Office, 141 N Main St Rm 114, Sumter

Bates — Bates Middle School, 715 Estate St, Sumter

Birnie — Birnie Hope Center, 210 S. Purdy St, Sumter

Burns-Down — Alice Drive Middle School, 40 Miller Road, Sumter

Causeway Branch 1 — Millwood Elem School, 24 Pinewood Rd, Sumter

Causeway Branch 2 — Millwood Elem School, 24 Pinewood Rd, Sumter

Cherryvale — Cherryvale Community Cntr, 4340 Confederate Rd, Sumter

Crosswell — Crosswell Elem. School, 301 Crosswell Dr, Sumter

Dalzell 1 — Hillcrest Middle School, 4355 Peach Orchard Rd, Dalzell

Dalzell 2 — Hillcrest Middle School, 4355 Peach Orchard Road, Dalzell

Delaine — Delaine Community Center, 5400 Cane Savannah Rd, Wedgefield

Ebenezer 1 — Ebenezer Middle School, 3440 Ebenezer Rd, Sumter

Ebenezer 2 — Ebenezer Middle School, 3440 Ebenezer Rd, Sumter

Folsom Park — Willow Drive Elementary, 26 Willow Drive, Sumter

Furman — Furman Middle School, 3400 Bethel Church Rd, Sumter

Green Swamp 1 — Sumter School District, 1345 Wilson Hall Rd, Sumter

Green Swamp 2 — Sumter School District, 1345 Wilson Hall Rd, Sumter

Hampton Park — Meeting House at Memorial Park, 407 W Hampton Ave, Sumter

Hillcrest — Hillcrest Middle School, 4355 Peach Orchard Rd, Dalzell

Horatio — Horatio Fire Station, 7720 Sumter Landing Rd, Horatio

Lemira — Lemira Elementary School, 952 Fulton Street, Sumter

Loring — Crosswell Elem. School, 301 Crosswell Dr, Sumter

Magnolia-Harmony — S. Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave., Sumter

Manchester Forest — Wedgefield Fire Station, 2035 S.C. Highway 261 S, Wedgfield

Mayesville — Mayesville Fire Station, 20 S. Main Street E., Mayesville

Mayewood — RE Davis College Preparatory Academy, 345 Eastern School Rd, Sumter

McCrays Mill 1 — Sumter County Career Cntr, 2612 McCrays Mill Road, Sumter

McCrays Mill 2 — Sumter County Career Cntr, 2612 McCrays Mill Rd, Sumter

Millwood — Millwood Elementary School, 24 Pinewood Rd, Sumter

Morris College — North Hope Center, 904 N. Main Street, Sumter

Mulberry — North Hope Center, 904 N Main St, Sumter

Oakland Plant 1 — Oakland Primary School, 5415 Oakland Dr, Sumter

Oakland Plant 2 — Oakland Primary School, 5415 Oakland Dr, Sumter

Oswego — Crestwood High School, 2000 Oswego Rd, Sumter

Palmetto Park — Central Carolina Tech. College, 660 N Guignard Dr Bldg 700, Sumter

Pinewood — Manchester Elementary School, 200 Clark St, Pinewood

Pocotaligo 1 — Lakewood High School, 350 Old Manning Rd, Sumter

Pocotaligo 2 — Lakewood High School, 350 Old Manning Rd, Sumter

Privateer — Pocalla Springs Elem Scho, 2060 Bethel Church Rd, Sumter

Rembert — Rembert Fire Station, 7045 Post Office Street, Rembert

Salem — Rural Fire Station, 6090 Myrtle Beach Hwy, Gable

Salterstown — Chestnut Oaks Middle Schl, 1200 Oswego Road, Sumter

Savage-Glover — S.Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave, Sumter

Second Mill — USC Sumter Arts/Letter Lecture Room, 200 Miller Rd, Sumter

Shaw — Shaw Heights Elem School, 5121 Frierson Rd, Sumter

South Liberty — American Legion Home Bldg, 28 Artillery Dr, Sumter

South Red Bay — South Hope Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Dr, Sumter

Spectrum — Kingsbury Elementary School, 825 Kingsbury Rd, Sumter

St. John — Shiloh Community Center, 475 Puddin Swamp Rd, Lynchburg

St. Paul — Cherryvale Elementary Sch, 1420 Furman Drive, Sumter

Stone Hill — Jehovah Baptist Church, 803 S. Harvin St, Sumter

Sumter High 1 — Sumter High School, 2580 McCrays Mill Rd, Sumter

Sumter High 2 — Sumter High School, 2580 McCrays Mill Rd, Sumter

Sunset — Kingsbury Elem. School, 825 Kingsbury Rd, Sumter

Swan Lake — Willow Dr Elem. School, 26 Willow Dr, Sumter

Thomas Sumter — Hillcrest Middle School, 4355 Peach Orchard Rd, Dalzell

Turkey Creek — Lemira Elementary School, 952 Fulton St, Sumter

Wilder — Wilder Elem. School, 900 Floral Ave, Sumter

Wilson Hall — Wilson Hall School, 520 Wilson Hall Rd, Sumter

CLARENDON COUNTY

Alcolu — Alcolu Fire Station, 1612 Main St., Alcolu

Barrineau — Barrineau Fire Station, 3803 St. James Road, Lake City

Barrows Mill — Oakdale Union Fire Station, 1757 Fire Tower Road, Lake City

Bloomville — Liberty Fire Station, 5119 Brewer Road, Manning

Calvary — Panola Fire Station, 1984 Elliott Road, Pinewood

Davis Station — Laurel Hill AME Church, 2032 M W Rickenbaker Road, Manning

Harmony — Harmony Presbyterian Church, 8629 Highway 301, Alcolu

Hicks — PineDale Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4450 Turbeville Hwy., Turbeville

Home Branch — Paxville Fire Station, 2151 Conyers Road, Manning

Jordan — (New) Wyboo Fire Station, 9699 Highway 260, Manning

Manning 1 — Weldon Auditorium Lobby, 7 Maple St., Manning

Manning 2 — Clarendon County Administration Building, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

Manning 3 — Manning High School, 2155 Paxville Hwy., Manning

Manning 4 — Manning Fire Station, 42 W. Boyce St., Manning

Manning 5 — Clarendon Community Center (Gym), 10 Maple St., Manning

New Zion — Clarendon County EMS Building, 15677 Highway 301, New Zion

Oakdale — Oakdale Union Fire Station, 1757 Fire Tower Road, Lake City

Panola — Mt. Pleasant RUME Church, 14076 Panola Road, Pinewood

Paxville — Paxville Town Hall, 10279 Lewis Road, Manning

Sardinia-Gable — Melina Presbyterian Church, 3539 Black River Road, Gable

Summerton 1 — Summerton Fire Station, 6 N. Cantey St., Summerton

Summerton 2 — Summerton Cultural Arts Center, 12 S. Church St., Summerton

Summerton 3 — Summerton Community Resource Gym, 1154 4th St., Summerton

Turbeville — Pine Grove Methodist Church Annex, 1090 Morgan St., Turbeville

Wilson-Foreston — Wilson-Foreston Fire Station, 1115 N. Brewington Road, Manning

LEE COUNTY

Ashland/Stokes Bridge — Hebron United Methodist, 3471 Una Road, Bishopville

Ashwood — Fire Station #3, 4396 Sumter Hwy, Bishopville

Barrier Free — Voter Registration Office, 101 Gregg St, Bishopville

Bishopville No. 1 — Colclough Building, 113 E. Council St., Bishopville

Bishopville No. 2 — Colclough Building, 113 E. Council St., Bishopville

Bishopville No. 3— Lee County School District Office, 310 Roland St., Bishopville

Bishopville No. 4 — Lee County School District Office Annex, 310 Roland St, Bishopville

Cedar Creek — Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 3002 Camden Hwy, Bishopville

Cypress — Hebron United Methodist, 3002 Camden Hwy., Bishopville

Elliott — New Zion AME Church, 78 Elliott Hwy., Bishopville

Hickory Hill — Fire Station #5, 763 McCaskill Rd, Camden

Ionia — Fire Station #5, 763 McCaskill Rd, Camden

Lynchburg — Old Police Station, 106 Main. St., Lynchburg

Manville — St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 510 Manville-Wisacky Rd, Bishopville

Mt. Clio — New Zion AME Church, 78 Elliott Hwy., Bishopville

Rattlesnake Springs — St. Andrew Church Of God, 4238 Red Hill Rd, Camden

Schrocks Mill/Lucknow — Concord United Methodist Church, 354 Old Camden Rd, Bishopville

South Lynchburg — Old Police Station, 106 Main. St., Lynchburg

Spring Hill — Spring Hill Lodge 188 AFM, 3980 Springhill Rd, Rembert

St. Charles — Unionville AME Church, 1330 Swimming Pen Road, Rembert

St. Matthews — St Matthews Methodist Church, 2144 Stokes Bridge Rd W, Bishopville

Turkey Creek — St. Matthews Methodist Church, 2144 Stokes Bridge Rd W, Bishopville

Woodrow — Mt Olive AME Church, 2738 Woodrow Rd, Sumter

EARLY VOTING

THE 2026 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION IS ON TUESDAY, NOV. 3

Voters can visit any early voting center in their county during the early voting period, present their Photo ID and vote using the voting system like they would at their polling place on election day.

EARLY VOTING PERIOD

- Early voting for 2026 Statewide General Election is Monday, Oct. 19-Saturday, Oct. 31
- Early voting centers are open 8:30 a.m.- 6 p.m. (Monday-Saturday)
- Closed Sunday, Oct. 25

LOCAL EARLY VOTING CENTERS

CLARENDON COUNTY

County Voter Registration and Elections Office
3 S. Church St., Manning

LEE COUNTY

County Voter Registration and Elections Office
101 Gregg St., Bishopville

SUMTER COUNTY

County Voter Registration and Elections Office
129 E. Liberty St., Sumter

Catchall-Shaw Community Center
2680 Peach Orchard Road, Dalzell

How and where can I vote early in person?

Visit an early voting center in your county during the early voting period and vote in person like you would at your polling place on Election Day. Remember to bring your photo ID when checking in to vote.

Early voting period for any necessary runoffs:

- Wednesday, six days prior to election day, through Friday, four days prior to election day.
- 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Closed on state holidays.





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for roads & bridges

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in average income for Sumter County tax payers

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November 3

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6 'Planet of the Apes' yielded a time-tripping 'Escape'



7 All is fair: Love turns to 'War' on HBO



7 'Flipping' chaos: Jeff Lewis returns to Bravo with new series, 'Still Flipping Out'

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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The Sumter Scene

Catching strays: 'Animal Control' returns for a wild new season

BY SARAH PASSINGHAM

Getting a peek into the world of wildlife up close can be magical. Whether it's a day spent at the zoo complete with a trip to the gift shop or a respectful guided tour of a nature reserve, seeing animals in their habitats is a wonderous gift. However, sometimes wild creatures enter humans' territory and sample some of our creature comforts. That is when wildlife professionals get called in.

Catch the season premiere of "Animal Control" on Sunday, Sept. 27, on Fox. The unconventional workplace sitcom is back this fall for its fifth season, seeing the members of Seattle's animal control unit encounter packs, gaggles, mobs and romps of critters in distress across the Emerald City. Joel McHale ("Community") returns as senior animal control officer Frank Shaw, the gruff, sarcastic animal whisperer who leads the lovable crew of officers responsible for herding unruly wildlife.

Also returning to the animal control unit this season are Vella Lovell ("Crazy Ex-Girlfriend") as Emily Price, Michael Rowland ("The Life List," 2025) as Fred "Shred" Taylor, Ravi Patel ("Three Women") as Amit Patel and Grace Palmer ("Good Grief") as Victoria Sands. Frank and his team are typically overseen by Emily, the director of the region. However, last season's finale pulled a bait and switch with a recurring villain of the department, shaking up the precinct's hierarchy.

The team of officers has triumphed through difficult wildlife distress calls and the unbelievable egos of the animal control world together throughout the first four seasons of the series, but one antagonist has been stubborn as a mule since Day 1. Gerry Dee ("Mr. D") stars as the uptight, devious animal control officer Templeton Dudge.

Once a member of a rival precinct, Templeton's ambitions to replace Emily were directed at Frank instead last season, after a precinct merge made them colleagues. Templeton tormented the precinct all season, and the finale closed with the unfortunate news of his dream appointment. With the core group of officers dodging Templeton's attempts to sabotage Frank's changes of winning the coveted honor of animal control officer of the year, a new problem arose in its place.

Having kept their budding romance mostly to themselves, Emily and Shred loosened up for one fateful moment with a clandestine kiss in the photo booth at the gala. Thinking they got away with it and planning to make it official with HR paperwork as soon as they got back to the office, Emily and Shred tried to play it cool, but photographic evidence from the booth was displayed for the whole hall to see from the stage's digital slideshow.

So, while the team thought they were coming back to a Templeton-free workplace for the first time in a long time, their spirits were crushed in the last few moments of Season 4's finale. With Emily on leave for not reporting her relationship with Shred, it looks like everyone will be following Templeton's rules this season. With another will-they-won't-they office romance bubbling between Frank and Victoria, will Templeton's rule and Emily's example cool things between the could-be lovebirds?

"Animal Control" was created by Bob Fisher ("The Moodys"), Rob Greenberg ("How I Met Your Mother") and Dan Sterling ("The Last Man on Earth"). The co-creators also executive produce and write for the series alongside Tad Quill ("Scrubs"), with Jake Fuller ("Emily in Paris") and McHale also executive producing.

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New Streaming Movies & Shows

prime video



"American Classic" - Season 1 (Available Now)

In a bold attempt to save his family's theater business, a self-aggrandizing Broadway star — Richard Bean (Kevin Kline) — ditches his Shakespeare-loving comrades and returns to his hometown, hoping to drum up business by directing and starring in a production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." Tony Shalhoub, Len Cariou, Jon Tenney and Laura Linney also star in this series' first season.

hulu



"A Complete Unknown" (Sept. 27)

At the height of a rapidly changing music scene, a 19-year-old Bob Dylan (Timothee Chalamet) steps off a bus in New York City in 1961, guitar in hand and a stack of songs scribbled in his notebook. He begins writing music with rising star Joan Baez (Monica Barbaro), and as he moves from performing in coffeehouses to concert halls, Dylan's fame begins to strain his relationship with the folk community that first embraced him.

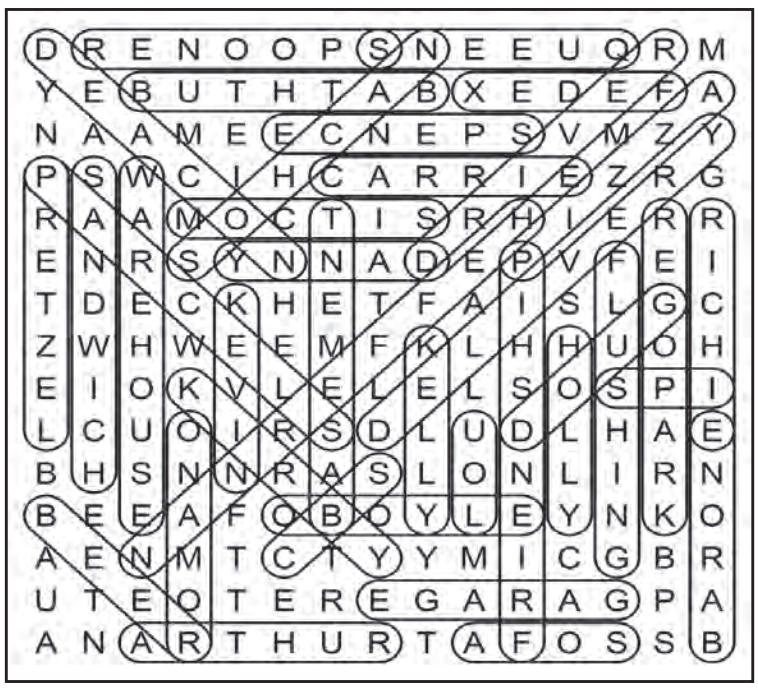
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E N R S Y N N A D E P V F E I
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The King of Queens

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NETFLIX



"LEGO One Piece" (Sept. 29)

The Straw Hats, reimagined in brick form, find themselves entering a treacherous stretch of ocean known as the Grand Line. As they explore islands full of unknown dangers, the crew contends with marines, fishmen, a criminal syndicate and a crazed pirate clown. Inaki Godoy, Mackenyu, Emily Rudd, Jacob Romero and Taz Skylar round out this animated series' voice cast.

Disney+



"The Simpsons" - Season 37 (Sept. 27)

Homer's latest batch of bad ideas keeps the family on its toes, while Marge scrambles to keep everyone in check. Bart prefers to break the rules rather than follow them, Lisa does her best to make sense of the world and baby Maggie is along for the ride. Around them, Springfield's familiar faces and oddball residents provide endless fodder for the show's irreverent humor, whether it's tackling pop culture, technology, politics or the everyday absurdities of life in Springfield.



Q&A: Hilary Swank

BY JAY BOBBIN

Q: I know that "Yellowjackets" is coming back for one more season. Will Hilary Swank still be a part of the show?

A: Paramount+ still has Hilary Swank in the cast list for the fourth and final season of the buzzy drama series that begins its last round on the streaming service on Nov. 20. (Presumably, each episode will become available several days later on Paramount+ With Showtime, which has been the case in the past.) Whether Swank is in the new season right from the start remains to be seen, and regular viewers of the show know it took well into Season 3 for her to make an appearance.

We're going to say "spoiler alert" right now, since discussing Swank's character involves specific plot points that those who haven't watched previous "Yellowjackets" episodes yet may not want to know yet. OK, you've been warned.

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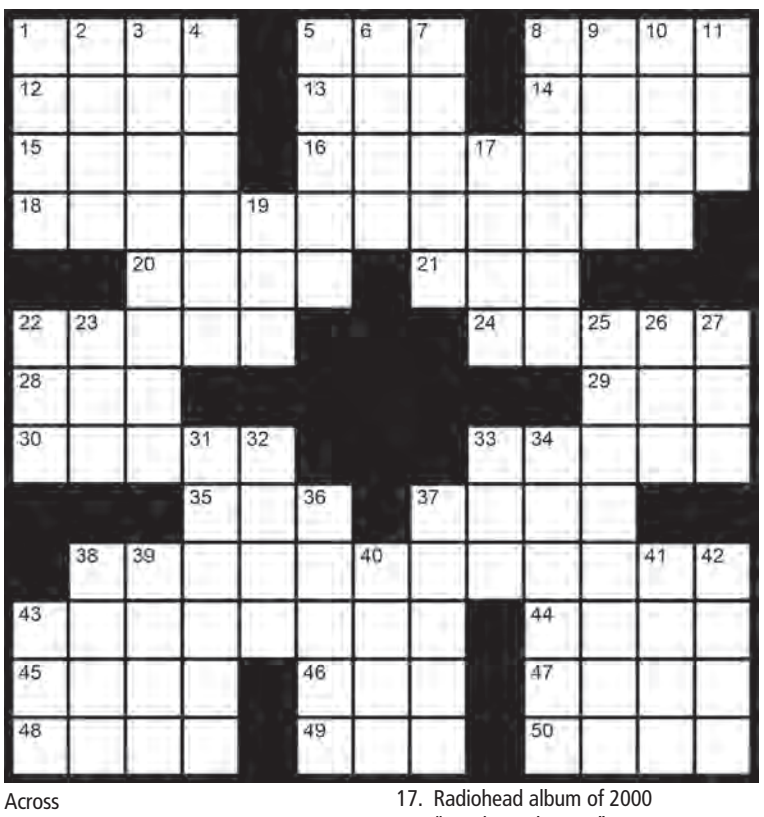


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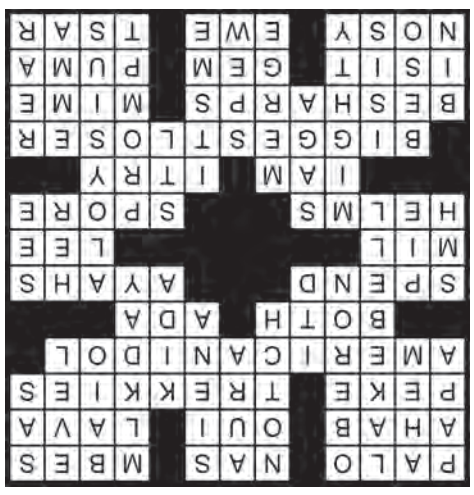
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Crosswords



Across
1. Texas's ___ Duro Canyon
5. ___ Pensacola (mil. center)
8. Brit. awards
12. Jezebel's husband
13. Arles assent
14. Popular soap
15. Lap dog, for short
16. Fans of Picard
18. TV show for wannabe singers
20. This and that
21. Nabokov novel
22. Go on a buying spree
24. Ladies' maids in India
28. Bag thickness
29. Jeans brand
30. Directs
33. Reproductive body
35. Sam-___ (Seuss character)
37. Humblebragging reply
38. NBC reality show about extreme dieters, with "The"
43. Homer Simpson's doo-wop group
44. Charades, essentially
45. "What __ __ now?"
46. Sparkler
47. Mountain lion
48. Prying
49. Dolly, for one
50. Nicholas II was the last one

Down
1. Family man
2. "Don't forget about me"
3. "Boston Legal" actress
4. Moon of Uranus
5. Tally mark
6. Emanation
7. Italian province
8. Jan. observance
9. "Charles in Charge" star Scott
10. Knievel of daredevilry
11. Carrier to Sweden
17. Radiohead album of 2000
19. "___ be a pleasure"
22. "Unbelievable," in online slang
23. Pandowdy, e.g.
25. First name of Snuffleupagus on "Sesame Street"
26. Part of HRH
27. Visit
31. Like the Mississippi
32. Long story
33. N.L. Central team inits.
34. Cue
36. Combine
37. "Who's there?" response
38. "Eso ___" (Paul Anka hit)
39. Egyptian fertility goddess
40. Erupt
41. Lazarus or Goldman
42. Bring up
43. Coal container



Sudoku

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

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

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

Coming Soon

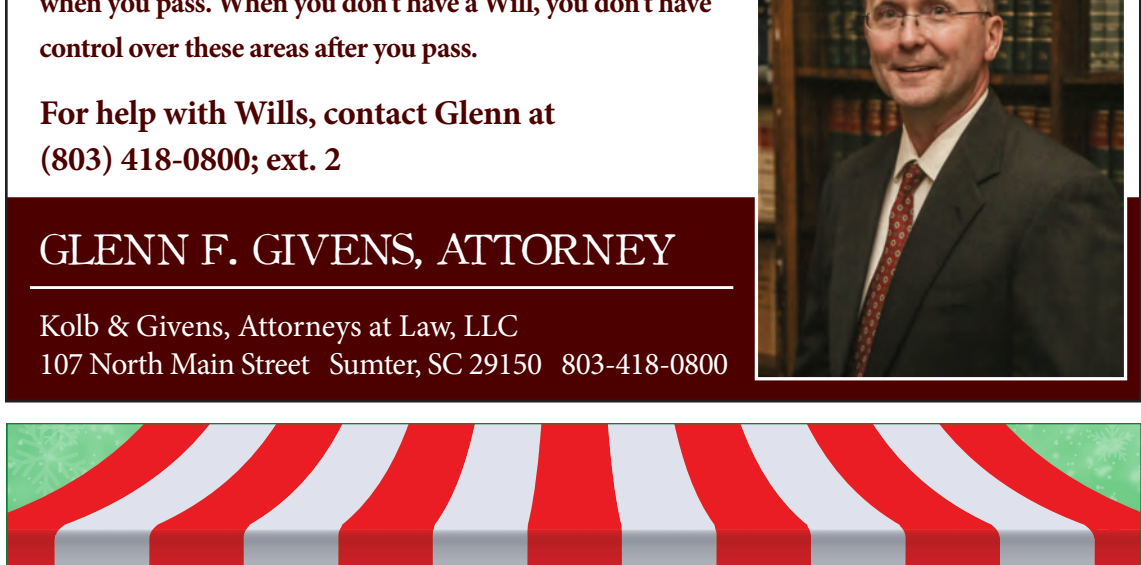


"Carrie" (Prime Video — Oct. 7, Limited Series Premiere)

Stephen King's supernatural coming-of-age story is brought to life by director Mike Flanagan. Young Carrie White (Summer H. Howell) has spent her life in seclusion. After her father's (Tahmoh Penikett) death, however, Carrie's mother (Samantha Sloyan) allows her to attend the local high school, where she discovers just how different she is from the other students. Siena Agudong, Alison Thornton, Joel Oulette and Matthew Lillard also star.









SUNDAY EVENING — SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV — MOVIES — SPORTS — KIDS

	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** Los Angeles Rams at Denver Broncos The Denver Broncos host the Los Angeles Rams at Empower Field at Mile High in Week 3. (N) (Live)							**WIS News 10 at 11**
WKTC	4	22	63	**Chicago P.D.** "On Paper"		**To Be Announced**		**To Be Announced**		**To Be Announced**		**To Be Announced**		**To Be Announced**	
WOLO	5	12	25	**ABC World News** (N)	**American Mayhem** (N)	**America's Funniest Home Videos** (N) (SP)		**Videos** "Birthday Blunders, Pranksters and Winter Woes"		**Inside Out 2** ('24) Voices of Kensington Tallman, Maya Hawke, Amy Poehler. (P)				**News** (N)	**Paid Prog.**
WACH	6	6	57	**The National News Desk**		**Animal Control**	**Universal Basic Guys**	**Simpsons** (N) (SP)	**Animal** (N) (SP)	**Universal** (N) (SP)	**Grimsburg** (N) (SP)	**News** (N) (Live)	**Coaches Show**	**She's in the Game**	**The Big Bang Theory**
NWSN	8	172	307	**NewsNation Live** (N) (Live)		**NewsNation Live** (N) (Live)		**NewsNation Prime** (N) (Live)		**NewsNation Prime** (N) (Live)		**NewsNation Prime** (N) (Live)		**NewsNation Prime** (N) (Live)	
WLTX	9	9	19	(4:25) **NFL Football** Baltimore Ravens vs. Dallas Cowboys (N) (Live)			**2026 MTV Video Music Awards** (N) (Live)				**Big Brother** "Episode 41" (N)		**Marshals** "Wolves at the Door"		**News 19 at 11pm**
WRJA	11	14		**Doc Martin** "Faith"		**Hope Street**		**Marlow** "Murder in the Dark: Part Two" (N)		**Marble Hall Murders on Masterpiece** (N)		**Trespasses** (N)		**Austin City Limits** "Miguel" (N)	
WZRB	13	18	47	**NCIS** "Exit Strategy"		**NCIS** "Skeleton Crew"		**NCIS** "Fake It 'Til You Make It"		**NCIS** "Trapped"		**NCIS** "Burden of Proof"		**NCIS** "Voices"	
NICK	16	210	299	**SpongeBob SquarePants**	**SpongeBob SquarePants**	**Friends**	**Friends**	**Friends**	**Friends**	**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**	**Encanto** ('21) Voices of María Cecilia Botero, Diane Guerrero, Stephanie Beatriz.		(:45) **Phineas and Ferb**		(:10) **Phineas and Ferb**	(:35) **Phineas and Ferb**	**Vampirina: Teenage**	**Place** "The Right Stuffie"	**Miraculous: Ladybug**	**Ladybug** "Heartfixer"
FREFRM	20	131	311	(5:45) **The Little Mermaid** ('89) Voices of Pat Carroll, Jodi Benson.			(:45) **Tangled** ('10) Voices of Zachary Levi, Donna Murphy, Mandy Moore.					(:55) **The Princess and the Frog** ('09) Voices of Bruno Campos, Keith David, Anika Noni Rose.			
FDSE	21	47	649	**Diggin' Deep** Dayton Moore: Part 2		**American Association of Professional Baseball** Wolff Cup Finals: Teams TBA				**Fight** Igeu Kabesa vs. Humphrey Mulenga		**Fight Sports: Boxing** MEGA Fights: Shane Mosley vs. Luis Collazo			
NATGEO	22	113	276	**To Catch a Smuggler** "Drugs, Guns and Money"		**To Catch a Smuggler** "Club Drugs and Party People"		**To Catch a Smuggler** "Internal Investigation"		**Catch a Smuggler** "Smuggle Once, Smuggle Twice?"		**To Catch a Smuggler** "Suspicious Suitcase"		**To Catch a Smuggler** "Cocaine Crackdown"	
TNT	23	158	245	(4:00) **Godzilla vs.** ...	**Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom** ('18) Bryce Dallas Howard, Jeff Goldblum, Chris Pratt.					**High Value Target** "The Devil You Know" (N)		**High Value Target** "The Devil You Know"		**Kong: Skull Island** ('17) Tom Hiddleston.	
TBS	24	156	247	(5:00) **Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom** ('23) Jason Momoa.			**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 Office**	**The Office**
USA	25	132	242	(3:00) **NASCAR**	**Post-Race** Kansas (N) (Live)		**NASCAR** "Family Bonds"		**WNBA** (N)	**WNBA Basketball** First Round: Teams TBA (N)					**Law-SVU**
ESPN	26	35	206	(5:00) **NWSL Soccer**		**SportsCenter**		**SportCtr** (N)		**Wm. Volleyball** Stanford at Pittsburgh (N) (Live)			**SportsCenter** (N) (Live)		**SportsC.** (N)
TRUTV	38	129	246	(4:45) **The Dark Knight** ('08) Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, Christian Bale.				**The Dark Knight Rises** ('12) Anne Hathaway, Tom Hardy, Christian Bale. Batman re-emerges from his self-imposed exile to battle a merciless terrorist named Bane.							**Batman Begins**
SHOPHQ	30		73	(3:00) **Channel No**		**Channel No Longer Available**								**Channel No**	
TWC	32	24	362	**Heavy Rescue: 401**		**Highway Thru Hell**		**Highway** "Wreck Attack"		**Highway** "Get 'Er Done"		**Highway Thru Hell**		**Backroad** "World's End"	
CNBC	35	84	355	**Shark Tank**		**Shark Tank**		**Shark Tank**		**WNBA Basketball** First Round: Teams TBA (N) (Live)					**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	**Totally '90s House** "Phone a Friend, Fix a Kitchen"		**Totally '90s House** "Upcycling the Past"		**Totally '90s House** "Attack of the Giant '90s Tubs"		**Totally '90s House** "Foyers of a Forgone Era: The '90s"		**House Hunters** (N)	**House Hunters**	**House Hunters**	**House Hunters**
FOOD	40	109	231	**Halloween** "Half-Face Makeup and Zombie Parts"		**Halloween Cookie Challenge**		**Halloween Cookie Challenge**		**Halloween Wars** "Back from the Dead: Misfit Monsters" (N)			**Halloween Cookie Challenge**		**Beat Bobby Flay**
ANPL	41	100	282	**Wardens** "Case Closed"		**Wardens** "What's the Deal?"		**Yellowstone Wardens**		**Yellowstone Wardens**		**Wardens** "Montana Style"		**Yellowstone Wardens**	
DISCV	42	103	278	**In the Eye** "Nightmare Before Christmas"		**In the Eye of the Storm** "Houston Hurricane Hell"		**In the Eye of the Storm** "Stranded in St. Louis"		**In the Eye of the Storm** "Father's Day Fury"		**In the Eye of the Storm** (N)		**In the Eye of the Storm** "The Dakota EF5"	
TLC	43	157	280	**90 Day** "Tell All 2, Part 1" (N)		**90 Day** "Tell All 2, Part 2" (N)		**90 Day Fiancé** "Tell All Part 3" (N)				**Double Lives** (N)		(:05) **1000-lb Sisters**	
HIST	45	110	269	**American Pickers** "Knockout Salvage"		**American Pickers** "Southern Charm"		**American Pickers** "Legendary Find"		**American Pickers** "Picker's Dozen"		(:05) **American Pickers** "Two-Wheeled Treasures"		(:05) **American Pickers** "Marsh Madness"	
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	**The Lost World: Jurassic Park** ('97) Julianne Moore, Pete Postlethwaite, Jeff Goldblum.						**The Terror: Devil in Silver** "Disturbed" (N)		(:05) **The Terror: Devil in Silver** "Disturbed"		(:05) **Unstoppable** ('10) Denzel Washington.	
TCM	49	186	256	(5:45) **The Unsinkable Molly Brown** ('64) Harve Presnell, Ed Begley, Debbie Reynolds.				**Arabian Nights** ('42) Maria Montez, Sabu, Jon Hall.			(:45) **Cobra Woman** ('44) Jon Hall, Sabu, Maria Montez. A man (Jon Hall) tracks his bride (Maria Montez) to the island of a priestess.				
LIFE	50	145	252	(4:00) **The Neighbor Who Saw Too Much** ('24) Kia Dorsey, Devante Winfrey, Sage Moore.				**No One Leaves** ('26) Nicole Dionne. Meredith suspects her neighbor is holding a woman captive. (P)				(:05) **The Ocean Between Them** ('26) Jessica Lord, Karl Walcott, Rebecca Gayheart.			
HALL	52	183	312	**Pumpkin Regatta Romance** ('26) Corey Sevier, Jenny Raven, Mishael Morgan.				**Toast to Italy** ('26) Torrey DeVitto, Lily Knight, Will Kemp. Jenny travels to Italy for a bottle of wine for her sister.				**The Greek Aisle** ('26) Nikki Deloach, Apostolis Totsikas. Georgia learns she must marry her co-inheritor.			
FX	54	154	248	**National Treasure** ('04) Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Nicolas Cage. A man (Nicolas Cage) tries to steal the Declaration of Independence.						**National Treasure: Book of Secrets** ('07) Jon Voight, Harvey Keitel, Nicolas Cage.					
TVLAND	55	161	304	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	(:35) **Raymond**	(:10) **Raymond**	(:45) **Raymond**	(:20) **Everybody Raymond**		(:55) **Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Seinfeld**	**Seinfeld**
E!	56	138	236	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**
COMEDY	57	136	249	**Seinfeld** "The Jacket"	**Seinfeld**	**Seinfeld** "The Apartment"	**Seinfeld** "The Statue"	**Seinfeld** "The Revenge"	**Seinfeld** "The Heart Attack"	**Family Guy**	**Family Guy**	**Family Guy**	**Family Guy** "Short Cuts"	**Family Guy**	**Family Guy**
SYFY	58	152	244	**Halloween Kills** ('21) Judy Greer, Andi Matichak, Jamie Lee Curtis.					**The Last Voyage of the Demeter** ('23) Aisling Franciosi, Javier Botet, Corey Hawkins. (P)					**The Ark** "Critical Failure"	
BET	61	162	329	(4:30) **New Jack City**		**Panic Room** ('02) Forest Whitaker, Dwight Yoakam, Jodie Foster.					**Payne**	(:05) **Payne**	(:40) **Payne**	(:15) **Payne**	(:50) **Payne**
PARMT	64	153	241	**The Day After Tomorrow** ('04) Jake Gyllenhaal, Ian Holm, Dennis Quaid.						**Top Gun** ('86) Kelly McGillis, Anthony Edwards, Tom Cruise.					**Gone in 60 Seconds**
LMN	66	185	253	**To Kill a Stepfather** ('23) Kelly McCart, Jamel King, Alex Camacho.				**Who Killed Our Father?** ('23) Devin Cecchetto, Joanne Boland, Kirsten Comerford.				**Stolen by Their Father** ('22) Kimonas Kouris, Valentina Battrick, Sarah Drew.			
GOLF	69	52	218	**Live from the Presidents Cup** (N) (Live)				**2026 Presidents Cup** Final Day From Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill. (N)							
OWN	72	104	279	**48 Hours: Hard Evidence**		**48 Hours: Hard Evidence**		**48 Hours: Hard Evidence**		**48 Hours: Hard Evidence**		**Evidence** "It's About Danni"		**Evidence** "Justine's Voice"	
OXY	76	150	251	**Snapped** "Nancy Gelber"		**Snapped**		**Snapped**		**Snapped** "Jennifer Reali" (N)		**Unknown Ser** (N)		**Snapped** "Donna Horwitz"	
NBATV	308		216	**Marquee Match Up** 2023: Houston vs. Portland				**NBA Playback**				**WNBA Shot Clock: Games of the Week** 9/18-9/24			
HBO	511	350	501	(:10) **Lanterns** "The Weenie"		(:05) **Lanterns** "Lights Out"		**Lanterns**		**Lanterns** (N)		**Youth** (N)	**Youth**	**Last Week To.** (N)	(:40) **Lanterns**
MAX	531	370	515	(4:50) **Shape of Water**	(:55) **The Lobster** ('15) Rachel Weisz, Jessica Barden, Colin Farrell.				(:55) **On Becoming a Guinea Fowl** ('24) Elizabeth Chisela, Henry B.J. Phiri, Susan Chardy.				**Trance** ('13) Rosario Dawson, Vincent Cassel, James McAvoy.		
PARSHO	551	300	545	(5:15) **Blade Runner 2049** ('17) Harrison Ford, Ana de Armas, Ryan Gosling.				**Edge of Tomorrow** ('14) Emily Blunt, Brendan Gleeson, Tom Cruise.				**Sweetness** ('25) Herman Tømmeraas, Aya Furukawa, Kate Hallett.		(:40) **Kiss the Girls**	
TMC	571	316	553	(:05) **The Untouchables** ('87) Sean Connery, Robert De Niro, Kevin Costner.				(:05) **Not Without Hope** ('25) Josh Duhamel, Quentin Plair, Zachary Levi.				(:10) **Babel** ('06) Cate Blanchett, Gael García Bernal, Brad Pitt.			
STARZ	581	330	525	(:05) **Outlander: Blood of my Blood** "The Veil of Time"		(:05) **Fightland** You Won't See Me Coming		**Outlander: Blood of my Blood** "The Veil of Time"		**Fightland** You Won't See Me Coming		(:55) **S.W.A.T.:** "Clean Entry"	(:45) **Outlander: Blood of my Blood** "The Veil of Time"	(:45) **Fightland**	

MONDAY EVENING — SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV — MOVIES — SPORTS — KIDS

	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)	**The Voice** "The Blind Auditions Part 4" The coaches continue auditions on the fourth night. (N)				**Line of Fire** "A Bigger Picture" (N)		**WIS News 10 at 11** (N)	(:35) **Tonight Show** (N)
WKTC	4	22	63	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**Neighbor**	**Neighbor**	**Chicago Fire** "Ride the Blade"		**Chicago Fire** "All Kinds of Crazy"		**Modern Family**	**Modern Fam.** "The Storm"	**To Be Announced**	
WOLO	5	12	25	**News** (N)	**ABC World News** (N)	**Wheel of Fortune** (N)	**Jeopardy!** (N)	**Kickoff** (N) (Live) /(:15) **NFL Football** Philadelphia Eagles at Chicago Bears From Soldier Field in Chicago. (N) (Live)						(:15) **News** (N)	(:50) **J. Kimmel** (N)
WACH	6	6	57	**Family Feud** (N) (SP)	**Family Feud** (N)	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The Big Bang Theory**	**Name That Tune** "Comedy Clash!" Thomas Lennon (N)		**Weakest** Yvette Nicole Brown, Kate Flannery (N)		**News** (N) (Live)	(:35) **WACH Fox** (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 Edition** (N)	**FBI** "Behavior"		**CIA** "Broken Glass"		**FBI** "Fidelity"		**News 19 at 11pm** (N)	(:35) **Comics** (N)
WRJA	11	14		**PBS News Hour** (N)		**Darley** "Korea for Foodies"	**Rosendo**	**Antiques** "Vintage First Finds Hour 2" (N)		**Martin Clunes: Islands of America** "Hawaii and Alaska"		**VOCES: Omara -- Cuba's Legendary Diva**		**Amanpour and Company** (N)	
WZRB	13	18	47	**Chicago Fire** "Retaliation Hit"		**Chicago P.D.** "Instinct"		**Chicago P.D.** "Protect and Serve"		**Chicago P.D.** "Impossible Dream"		**Chicago P.D.** "The Radical Truth"		**Chicago P.D.** "Signs of Violence"	
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**	**Descendants: The Rise of Red** ('24) Malia Baker, Brandy Norwood, Kylie Cantrall.		(:45) **The Wonderful**		(:20) **Ghastly Ghoul** ('20) Aisling Doyle.		(:55) **Mickey Mouse**	**Place**	**Miraculous: Ladybug**	**Ladybug** "Lady Chaos"
FREFRM	20	131	311	(5:20) **The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement** ('04) Julie Andrews, Héctor Elizondo, Anne Hathaway.				**The Parent Trap** ('98) Dennis Quaid, Natasha Richardson, Lindsay Lohan.						**The 700 Club**	
FDSE	21	47	649	(4:00) **VSiN by the Books**		**FIBA World Basketball**	**Sports Stars of Tomorrow**	**Fight Sports: Boxing** FIGHT SPORTS MEGA Fights: Amir Khan vs. Zab Judah				**American Association of Professional Baseball** Wolff Cup Finals: Teams TBA			
NATGEO	22	113	276	**Destruction Decoded** "Collisions"		**Destruction Decoded** "Motorsport Disasters"		**Destruction Decoded** "Disasters At Sea"		**Construction Fails** "Collapse and Control" (N)		**Construction Fails** "Grounded at the Gate" (N)		**Destruction Decoded** "Crashes"	
TNT	23	158	245	(4:15) **Jurassic Wo**...	(:45) **Twister** ('96) Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes, Helen Hunt. Storm-chasers (Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton) follow tornadoes in Oklahoma.					**High Value Target** "The Reckoning" (N)		**High Value Target** "The Reckoning"		**Twister** ('96) Bill Paxton, Helen Hunt.	
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 Big Bang Theory**	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The Office**	**The Office**	**The Office** "Local Ad"
USA	25	132	242	**Law & Order: SVU**		**Law-SVU** "Complicated"		**Law & Order: SVU**		**Law & Order: SVU**		**Law-SVU** "Dead Ball"		**Pigeon** "The Death Grin"	
ESPN	26	35	206	**Monday Night Countdown** (N) (Live)				**Kickoff** (N) /(:15) **NFL Football** Philadelphia Eagles at Chicago Bears (N) (Live)						(:15) **Monday**	**SportsC.** (N)
TRUTV	38	129	246	**Imp. Jokers** "Pity in Pink"	**Impractical Jokers**	**The Karate Kid** ('84) Pat Morita, Elisabeth Shue, Ralph Macchio.					(:45) **The Karate Kid** ('84) Pat Morita, Elisabeth Shue, Ralph Macchio.				
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**		**Save the World**		**Top Ten** "Severe Outbreaks"	
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** "Location Locked"		**Love It or List It** "Moving In or Moving On?"		**House Shock** "A Reno She Never Saw Coming"		**House Hunters**	**House Hunters**	**House Hunters**	**House Hunters**	**House Hunters**	**House Hunters**
FOOD	40	109	231	**Beat Bobby Flay**	**Beat Bobby Flay**	**Halloween Baking Championship** "Into the Wild, Part 1"				**Halloween Baking Championship** "Halloween Haunts" (N)			**Halloween Wars** "Back from the Dead: The Final Fright"		
ANPL	41	100	282	**Alaskan** "Rise of Browntown"		**Alaskan Bush People**		**Alaskan** "Bloodlines"		**Alaskan** "A Big Gamble"		**Alaskan** "Rocky Seas"		**Alaskan** "Sink or Swim"	
DISCV	42	103	278	**120 Hours Behind Bars** "San Joaquin County Jail"		**120 Hours Behind Bars** "San Francisco County Jail"		**Contraband: Seized at the Border** (N)		**Behind Bars** "Tennessee Dyer County Jail" (N)		**120 Hours Behind Bars** "Utah County Jail"		**Behind Bars** "Suffolk County Correctional Facility"	
TLC	43	157	280	**90 Day: The Last Resort**		**Last Resort** "Tell All Part 1"		**90 Day: The Last Resort** "Tell All Part 2" (N)				**90 Day: The Last Resort** (N)		**Double Lives**	
HIST	45	110	269	**History's-Mysteries** "The Legend of the Werewolf"		**History's-Mysteries** "Malaysia Flight 370"		**History's-Mysteries** "Secrets of the Copper Scroll"		**History's-Mysteries** "The Plot to Kill Lincoln"		(:05) **History's Greatest Mysteries**		**Mysteries** "The Final Flight of Amelia Earhart"	
A&E	46	130	265	**Live PD: Great.** "Episode 34"		**Live PD: Great.** "Episode 39"		**Live PD: Great.** "Episode 35"		**Live PD** "Episode 40" (N)		**Live PD** "Episode 41" (N)		(:05) **Live PD** "Episode 38"	
AMC	48	180	254	**The Karate Kid** ('10) Chris Pine, Rosario Dawson, Denzel Washington.				**Wrath of Man** ('21) Holt McCallany, Jeffrey Donovan, Jason Statham.					(:45) **Jack Reacher** ('12) Rosamund Pike, Robert Duvall, Tom Cruise.		
TCM	49	186	256	(:15) **Monsieur Hulot's Holiday** ('53) Louis Perrault, Nathalie Pascaud, Jacques Tati.				**Let No Man Write My Epitaph** ('60) Shelley Winters, James Darren, Burl Ives.				**Escape From the Planet of the Apes** ('71) Kim Hunter, Bradford Dillman, Roddy McDowall.			
LIFE	50	145	252	**NCIS** "Extreme Prejudice"		**NCIS** "Recovery"		**NCIS** "Phoenix"		**NCIS** "Lost at Sea"		(:05) **NCIS** "The Namesake"		(:05) **NCIS** "Shell Shock, Part I"	
HALL	52	183	312	**Follow Me to Daisy Hills** ('20) Marshall Williams, Jade Michael, Cindy Busby.				**Marry Go Round** ('22) Brennan Elliott, Mary-Beth Manning, Amanda Schull.				**The Golden Girls**	**The Golden Girls**	**The Golden Girls**	**The Golden Girls**
FX	54	154	248	**Jurassic World Dominion** ('22) Bryce Dallas Howard, Laura Dern, Chris Pratt. The future of mankind hangs in the balance as dinosaurs now live and hunt alongside humans.						**It's Always Sunny in** (N)	**Adults** "Room Swap"	**Jurassic World Dominion** ('22) Bryce Dallas Howard, Laura Dern, Chris Pratt.			
TVLAND	55	161	304	**Andy Griffith**	**Andy Griffith**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	(:35) **Raymond**	(:10) **King**	(:50) **King**
E!	56	138	236	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**
COMEDY	57	136	249	**The Office**	**The Office**	**The Office**	(:35) **The Office**	(:10) **The Office**	(:45) **The Office**	(:20) **The Office**		(:55) **The Office**	**The Office**	**The Daily Show** (N)	
SYFY	58	152	244	(5:30) **The Exorcist: Believer** ('23) Lidya Jewett, Olivia O'Neill, Leslie Odom Jr..				**Alien: Covenant** ('17) Katherine Waterston, Billy Crudup, Michael Fassbender.						**Star Trek** ('09) Zachary Quinto, Chris Pine.	
BET	61	162	329	**Neighbor**	**Neighbor**	**Neighbor**	**Neighbor**	**Neighbor**	**Neighbor**	**Neighbor**	**Neighbor**	**Martin**	**Martin**	**Martin**	**Martin**
PARMT	64	153	241	**The School of Rock** ('03) Joan Cusack, Mike White, Jack Black.					**The Wedding Singer** ('98) Drew Barrymore, Christine Taylor, Adam Sandler.					**The School of Rock** ('03) Jack Black.	
LMN	66	185	253	**Lust: A Seven Deadly Sins Story** ('21) Tobias Truvillion, Tank, Keri Hilson.				**An Unstable Marriage** ('26) Alicia Blasingame, Adam Harper, Skye Coyne.				**Sins of the Bride** ('24) Charlie N. Townsend, Titus Makin Jr., Kyle Kankonde.			
GOLF	69	52	218	**Golf Central**		**PGA Tour** (N)	**Lessons**	**GOLF Films**		**2026 Presidents Cup** Final Day From Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill.					
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** "Angela Sanford"		**Snapped** "Tashia Stuart"		**Snapped** "Jennifer Reali"		**Snapped** "Denise Gay"		**Snapped** "Amy Reese"		**Snapped**	
NBATV	308		216	(5:00) **Game of the Day**		**NBA Basketball**					**Center Court**		**NBA Basketball**		
HBO	511	350	501	(5:30) **Saltburn** ('23) Jacob Elordi, Rosamund Pike, Barry Keoghan.			(:45) **Last Week Tonight With John Oliver**		(:25) **Lanterns**	(:15) **Youth**	(:50) **Sing Street** ('16) Lucy Boynton, Jack Reynor, Ferdia Walsh-Peelo.				(:35) **Lanterns**
MAX	531	370	515	(5:10) **Final Destination 5**	(:45) **Happy Death Day** ('17) Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine, Jessica Rothe.			(:20) **Full Metal Jacket** ('87) Adam Baldwin, Vincent D'Onofrio, Matthew Modine.				(:15) **Eyes Wide Shut** ('99) Nicole Kidman, Sydney Pollack, Tom Cruise.			
PARSHO	551	300	545	(5:00) **Top Gun** ('86)	(:50) **Se7en** ('95) Morgan Freeman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Brad Pitt.					**MobLand** "Song 2" (N)		**Godzilla** ('14) Ken Watanabe, Elizabeth Olsen, Aaron Taylor-Johnson.			
TMC	571	316	553	(5:15) **The English Patient** ('96) Juliette Binoche, Willem Dafoe, Ralph Fiennes.				**Failure to Launch** ('06) Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew McConaughey.			(:40) **Up in the Air** ('09) Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, George Clooney.				**Don Jon** ('13)
STARZ	581	330	525	(4:15) **Michael** ('26)	(:25) **All About the Benjamins** ('02) Mike Epps, Eva Mendes, Ice Cube.			(:05) **S.W.A.T.:** "Clean Entry"	(:55) **Outlander: Blood of my Blood** "The Veil of Time"		(:50) **Fightland** You Won't See Me Coming		(:45) **All About the Benjamins** ('02) Mike Epps, Eva Mendes, Ice Cube.		



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‘Planet of the Apes’ yielded a time-tripping ‘Escape’

BY JAY BOBBIN

For all intents, “Beneath the Planet of the Apes” should have ended the franchise — no spoilers here — but its makers left a loophole.

Actually, “time warp” is the more appropriate term, since certain characters came back from the future to then-contemporary Earth in the series’ third film, “Escape From the Planet of the Apes.” Turner Classic Movies shows the 1971 fantasy on Monday, Sept. 28, in the closing night of the channel’s “Star of the Month” tribute to Ricardo Montalban ... and even though he doesn’t play one of the apes, he’s still pivotal to the plot.

“Escape” opens with military officials baffled by the sudden appearance of a spacecraft, and they’re unexpectedly more flummoxed when the occupants are revealed to be three apes: scientists Cornelius and Zira (a heavily made-up Roddy McDowall and Kim Hunter, reprising their earlier roles), plus their associate Milo (Sal Mineo). Initially, they agree to keep their ability to talk to themselves, not sure how humans might react.

However, that secret soon is revealed, and the world goes wild over the space travelers — initially, anyway — reflected in such amusing segments as Zira’s shopping spree for fashionable attire. However, government officials (spearheaded by “The Young and the Restless” staple Eric Braeden) soon develop concerns about eventual dangers that could be posed to mankind by the newcomers’ presence, especially with the news that Zira is pregnant.

Enter the aforementioned Montalban as a circus owner who agrees to help hide the apes as others seek to curtail their freedom. Indeed, the “Escape From the Planet of the Apes” script by Paul Dehn (“Goldfinger,” 1964) shifts from a relatively light approach to more of a grim tone that was maintained by later “Apes” chapters, certainly director Tim Burton’s 2001 remake and films that were spun off from that.

Bradford Dillman and Natalie Trundy (the wife of “Apes” producer Arthur P. Jacobs) are welcome as sympathetic officials who do what they can to keep Cornelius and Zira safe, but they have some mighty forces to work against. The story works as an allegory about fearing what one doesn’t understand, and in the broader sense, it’s a worthy part of the “Planet of the Apes” canon.

For TCM’s immediate purposes, it also demonstrates what a valuable addition Montalban was to ventures that had already been established. He continued his portrayal in “Conquest of the Planet of the Apes” (1972), demonstrating how much he brought to the table whenever the entertainment community called upon his talents.

BEST DUSTIN HOFFMAN MOVIES

BY JAY BOBBIN



“The Graduate” (1967): Huge stardom first greeted Dustin Hoffman via his legendary performance as Benjamin Braddock, naive college graduate and seduction target of wily Mrs. Robinson (Anne Bancroft), in director Mike Nichols’s famously sophisticated comedy.

“Midnight Cowboy” (1969): Quickly proving his diversity, Hoffman was celebrated for his portrayal of anxious Ratso Rizzo, who shows the ropes of hustling to New York newcomer Joe Buck (Jon Voight).

“Lenny” (1974): A stark and stunning depiction of censorship-opposing comic Lenny Bruce is offered by Hoffman and director Bob Fosse in this biographical drama, which MGM+ Hits shows Wednesday, Sept. 30.

“All the President’s Men” (1976): The investigation of the Watergate break-in by Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward (played by Hoffman and Robert Redford) — which led to one of the biggest political scandals in American history — is traced in this superb, Oscar-winning drama.

“Marathon Man” (1976): Hoffman plays a running-obsessed graduate student who becomes enmeshed in a mystery involving his mysterious brother (Roy Scheider) and a war criminal (Laurence Olivier) in this superb version of William Goldman’s best seller.

“Kramer vs. Kramer” (1979): An advertising executive’s life and career are upended when his wife (Meryl Streep) deserts him, leading him to care for their young son (Justin Henry) on his own. Hoffman earned his first Oscar.

“Tootsie” (1982): Director Sydney Pollack’s truly great comedy has a lot to say about gender expectations and the media as Hoffman plays a struggling actor who poses as a woman to land a soap-opera job — and has more success than he ever imagined.

“Rain Man” (1988): Hoffman’s second Oscar win came for his work in director Barry Levinson’s comedy-drama as an autistic savant whose hustling brother (Tom Cruise) — newly aware that he has a sibling — tries to cash in on an inheritance from their father.

“Hook” (1991): A heavily made-up Hoffman has a great time as the title pirate, opposite Robin Williams as Peter Pan, in Steven Spielberg’s update of a classic fantasy-adventure story.

“Mr. Magorium’s Wonder Emporium” (2007): There’s true magic in Hoffman’s portrayal of the title character, a toy store operator who needs a lot of candles on any birthday cake he receives.

“Last Chance Harvey” (2008): An engaging Hoffman plays a troubled ad-jingle writer who travels to London to attend his daughter’s wedding and makes an unexpected friend (Emma Thompson).









All is fair: Love turns to 'War' on HBO

BY SARAH PASSINGHAM

When a film or television series sees massive success after its release, the natural next step is a sequel or second season. We have seen this time and again with film franchises such as Scream, Star Wars, the MCU and also with multiple-season series such as "Succession" and anthologies the likes of "American Horror Story." But when a production company greenlights two seasons before the pilot has even aired, that is usually a sign of studio confidence in outstanding content. And HBO knows outstanding content.

From "The Sopranos" and "Game of Thrones" to "The White Lotus" and "Hacks," some of the best television of the past two decades, regardless of genre, has been produced by HBO. This fall, the network (and its affiliated streamers) plans to add another juggernaut to its roster, and filming is already underway for a second season.

"War," a new legal drama featuring two opposing factions in a high-profile divorce case, premieres Thursday, Oct. 1, on HBO and the HBO Max streaming service.

The eight-episode series stars Sienna Miller ("Anatomy of a Scandal") as a well-known international actress named Carla Duval, who is engaged in a contentious divorce with her husband, Morgan Henderson, played by Dominic West ("The Wire"), a big name in the tech world. The splitting couple is central to the show's Season 1 plot, but the series goes further than to chronicle the expected emotional breakdown of a once-happy public relationship.



"'War' is a high-stakes legal drama following the lives of London's most powerful lawyers," reads the HBO logline. "[F]irms Cathcarts & Sons and Taylor & Byrne clash over a headline-grabbing legal battle, drawing ambitious young lawyer Jonathan 'Johnny' Warren [Archie Renaux, "Alien: Romulus," 2024] into a ruthless world where ambition is currency, betrayal is strategy, and winning is everything."

The London-set series is created, written and executive produced by BAFTA and Emmy nominee George Kay, who counts among his credits the Omar Sy ("The Intouchables," 2011) led Netflix series "Lupin" and the Apple TV series "Hijack," starring Idris Elba ("Luther"), and co-produced by "New Pictures (a Banijay company) and Observatory Pictures, in association with Sky and HBO" (per HBOMaxLAPress.com).

Ahead of the Season 1 release, Kay met with Variety to shed a bit more light on the driving force behind the highly anticipated new drama.

"I was really hungry to do a mainstream, high-end TV [show] with characters at the heart of it," Kay told Variety in the interview, adding, "I was really keen to do character stuff and do it in a high-end, unapologetically affluent setting, and go back to those kind of shows that I grew up loving. ... So I was thinking about doing this legal show because I love the idea that a case that you're working on as a lawyer is a kind of metaphor for your own life, where you're constantly bringing the personal into the professional."

"George Kay has created an incredibly compelling cast of characters who will have audiences rooting for them, despite the underhand tactics, dirty tricks and win-at-all-cost mentality they bring to battle against each other in — and out — of court," reads a statement from New Pictures executive producer and CEO Willow Grylls about the legal drama. "We are incredibly pleased to be trusted by Sky and HBO with a two-series order to bring their stories to viewers around the world."

'Flipping' chaos: Jeff Lewis returns to Bravo with new series, 'Still Flipping Out'



BY CAROLINE COLLACUTT

The so-called "king of controlled chaos" — Bravo's very own Jeff Lewis, star of "Flipping Out" — takes viewers on a roller coaster ride of ups and downs as he tries to balance a busy career, business partnerships, workplace dynamics and more in his latest series, "Still Flipping Out," which makes its debut Monday, Sept. 28, on Bravo.

After 11 seasons of "Flipping Out," Lewis has taken on some new roles since fans last saw him. According to the series' description, "Still Flipping Out" will take viewers behind the scenes of Lewis' uncensored daily radio show, "Jeff Lewis Live."

"[Lewis] navigates the demands of his hit SiriusXM show on Radio Andy, an eponymous design empire, and everything in between," the description reads. "Though Jeff's world has expanded over the years, he maintains a tight circle of trusted employees that ground him and is never far away from his eclectic friend group — lovingly referred to as the 'chumps.'"

After updating viewers on how his life has changed in the eight years since "Flipping Out" ended, Lewis offers a taste of what's to come in the series' trailer, introducing viewers to his "co-host chumps," whom he describes as "a close-knit group that know each other intimately." But just how intimately is yet to be seen, with "Still Flipping Out" promising conflict in Lewis' personal and professional lives.

While following Lewis through his day-to-day life, cameras will follow the likes of Shane Douglas, Lewis' chief-of-staff and secondhand man; Jamison Scala, producer of the "Jeff Lewis Has Issues" podcast; Lewis' social media manager, Annie Sharp; and more, including Lewis' beloved housekeeper, Aurora Chavez.

According to the network, Season 1 of "Still Flipping Out" will also see appearances from celebrities such as Andy Cohen ("Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen"), Reza Farahan ("The Valley: Persian Style"), Mercedes Javid ("Shahs of Sunset"), Meredith Marks ("The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City"), Phaedra Parks ("The Real Housewives of Atlanta"), Shannon Storms Beador ("The Real Housewives of Orange County"), Crystal Kung Minkoff ("The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills"), Molly Sims ("The Kelly Clarkson Show"), Carnie Wilson ("Sounds Delicious with Carnie Wilson"), Kym Whitley ("Act Your Age") and Joey Zauzig ("The Real Friends of WeHo").

With Cohen and Lewis himself also acting as executive producers, "Still Flipping Out" premieres Monday, Sept. 28, on Bravo.

View from the Couch

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

BY JAY BOBBIN



"MRS. DOUBTFIRE"

One of Robin Williams's most enduring hits comes to 4K Ultra HD, as the 1993 comedy — which has its heartstring-pulling moments — delivers a fabulous performance by him as a voice actor being divorced by his wife (Sally Field). To stay near their children (Lisa Jakub, Matthew Lawrence, Mara Wilson), he adopts an opposite-gender disguise and gets hired as the family's housekeeper. Inevitably, complications arise as he struggles to maintain the charade, with some of the most memorably hilarious moments involving "Mrs. Doubtfire" in the kitchen. Directed by Chris Columbus ("Home Alone," 1990), the picture also features Pierce Brosnan as Field's new suitor, plus Harvey Fierstein, Polly Holliday ("Alice") and Robert Prosky ("Hill Street Blues"). Also new on 4K is the Williams-starring "Dead Poets Society" (1989). *** (PG-13: AS, P) (Also on DVD and Blu-ray)

"FORBIDDEN PLANET"

Among the greatest of sci-fi movies, this classic gets the 4K Ultra HD treatment as it introduces Robby the Robot in a futuristic take on Shakespeare's "The Tempest" (though it wasn't officially credited as such). The 1956 fantasy brings a spaceship crew to a planet very far away, where they seek answers to the disappearance of another vessel. They're met by Dr. Morbius (Walter Pidgeon), who claims to be one of very few survivors of the earlier mission, along with his daughter (Anne Francis) — and he's not happy about the visitors' presence, nor is an invisible force that turns lethal. Leslie Nielsen, who would milk his serious image for big laughs later in his career, plays it stone-faced as the commander of the space travelers; the cast also includes such familiar faces as Jack Kelly ("Maverick"), Warren Stevens, Richard Anderson ("The Six Million Dollar Man"), Earl Holliman and James Drury ("The Virginian"). **** (Not rated: AS, V) (Also on DVD and Blu-ray)

"FRANKENSTEIN: COMPLETE LEGACY COLLECTION"

With Halloween a month away, it's good timing for the arrival of a 4K Ultra HD version of this set combining several of the thrillers in Universal Pictures' classic "Frankenstein" monster franchise. Included are the original "Frankenstein" (1931) — with Colin Clive as the title scientist and Boris Karloff in a career-defining role as the synthetic man he creates — "The Bride of Frankenstein" (1935), "The Ghost of Frankenstein" (1942), "Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man" (1943), "House of Frankenstein" (1944), "House of Dracula" (1945) and "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" (1948). Several titles are generous with special features, such as "making-of" documentaries, and all of them include the original theatrical trailers. Also getting a 4K release is "The Wolf Man: Complete Legacy Collection." **** (Not rated: AS, V) (Also on DVD and Blu-ray)

"LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT: SEASON 27"

Just as the venerable NBC and Peacock drama series starring Primetime Emmy winner Mariska Hargitay as Capt. Olivia Benson is about to launch its 28th year, its past season gets a home-video release, with Kelli Giddish rejoining the show on a regular basis as Sgt. Amanda Rollins. Her return meant a reduction in appearances, mainly for budgetary reasons, by Ice-T as Sgt. Fin Tutuola. Octavio Pisano left the cast, while Corey Cott joined it, and Christopher Meloni returned as Elliot Stabler, who had become the lead character in the since-canceled "Law & Order: Organized Crime." Other former series co-stars who appeared again included BD Wong, Dann Florek and Dean Winters. A crossover with the parent "Law & Order" — featuring that show's Tony Goldwyn, Maura Tierney, Hugh Dancy and David Ajala — also was among the stories. *** (Not rated: AS, P, V) (Also on Blu-ray)

"ROLLERCOASTER"

With a screenplay by "Columbo" and "Murder, She Wrote" co-creators Richard Levinson and William Link, this 1977 suspense tale — new on 4K Ultra HD — utilized the Sensurround process that made moviegoers feel like they were on the title ride, thanks to a special sound channel that theaters had to be equipped to handle. An extortionist (Timothy Bottoms) targets amusement parks, threatening to interfere with attractions and endanger patrons unless he's paid $1 million to stop. George Segal plays a glib safety inspector who clashes with a tough FBI agent (Richard Widmark, at his no-nonsense Widmark-iest) as the case takes them across America. Henry Fonda, Harry Guardino and Susan Strasberg also are in a cast that also includes a young Helen Hunt as Segal's daughter. An included Blu-ray version offers an uncut version of the film. *** (PG: P, V) (Also on DVD)

"THE FIRST DEADLY SIN"

Frank Sinatra had his final feature-film starring role in this 1980 drama, of which he also was a producer, and which now makes its Blu-ray debut. Based on the Lawrence Sanders novel and directed by Brian G. Hutton ("Where Eagles Dare," 1968), it casts the entertainment icon as a veteran New York police detective with deep concerns about his ill wife (Faye Dunaway) as he pursues a vicious killer (David Dukes). Eventually realizing that the felon might be able to slip through the legal system because of his circumstances, the cop decides to seek justice in his own way. James Whitmore, Brenda Vaccaro, Martin Gabel, Anthony Zerbe, George Coe and Jeffrey DeMunn also appear, and eagle-eyed viewers might spot Bruce Willis in his first movie appearance as "Man Entering Diner." *** (R: AS, P, V) (Also on DVD and VHS)

Coming Home Soon

"THE MADISON: SEASON ONE" (OCT. 6)

"AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON" (4K ULTRA HD) (OCT. 6)

"LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS" (4K ULTRA HD) (OCT. 6)

"MOANA" (2026) (OCT. 6)

"RYAN'S DAUGHTER" (BLU-RAY) (OCT. 6)

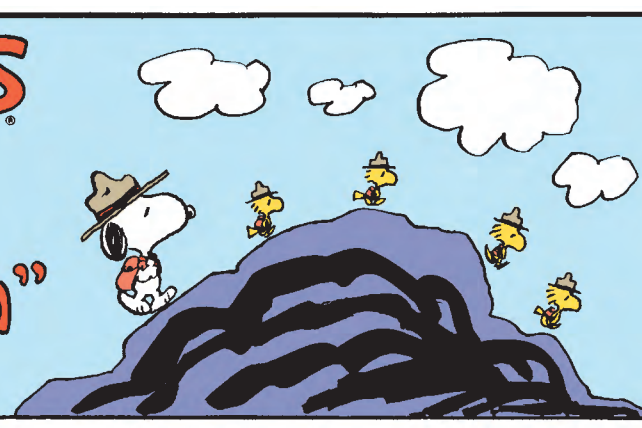
SUNDAY
September 27, 2026

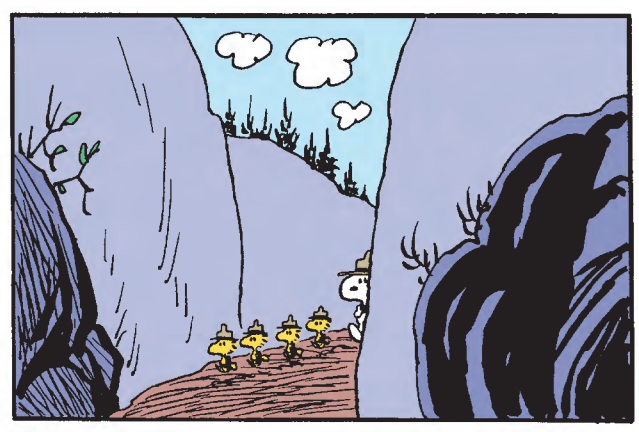
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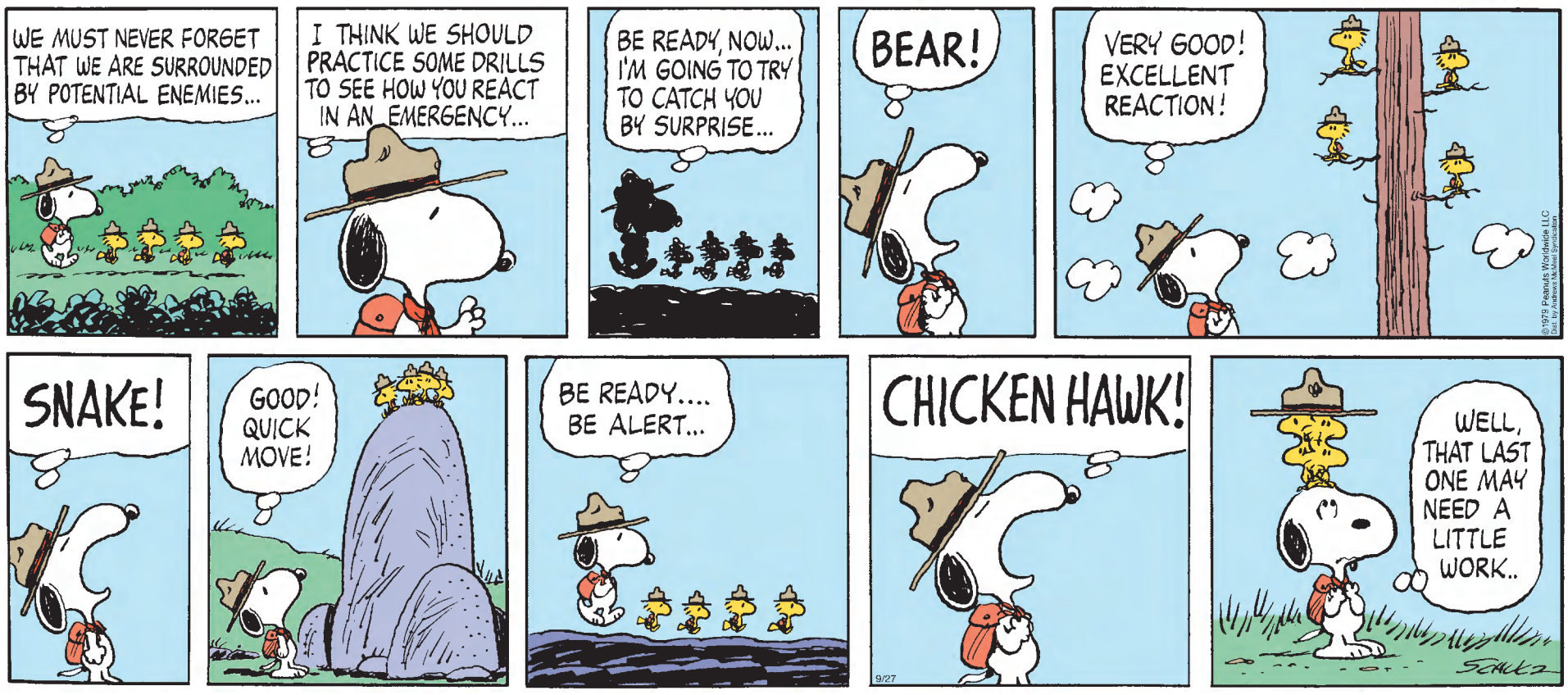
PEANUTS

featuring "Good ol' CharlieBrown"

by SCHULZ







GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



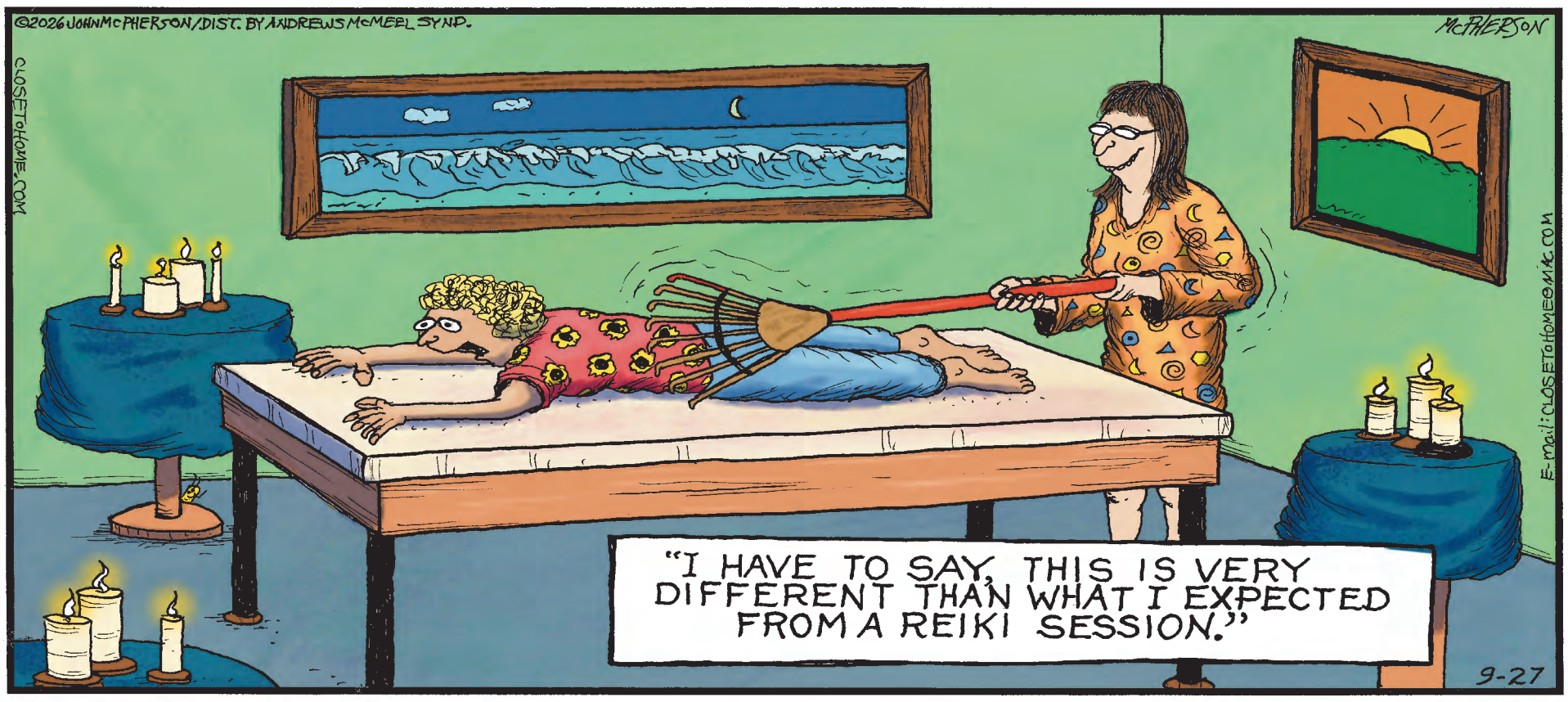
TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS

BY BILL BETTWY



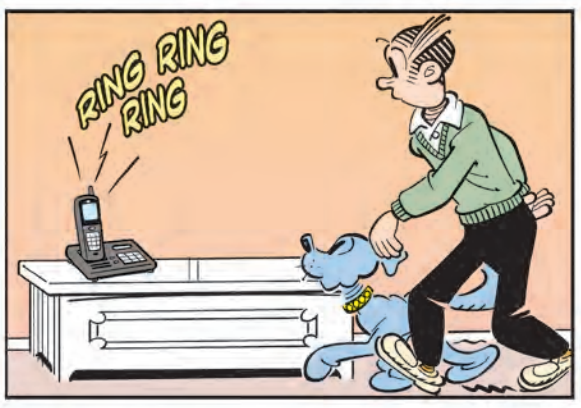
CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



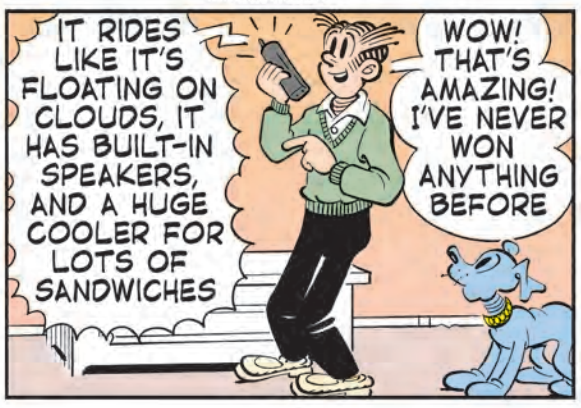
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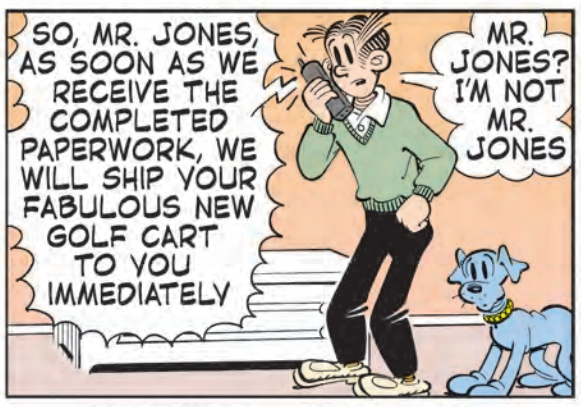
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



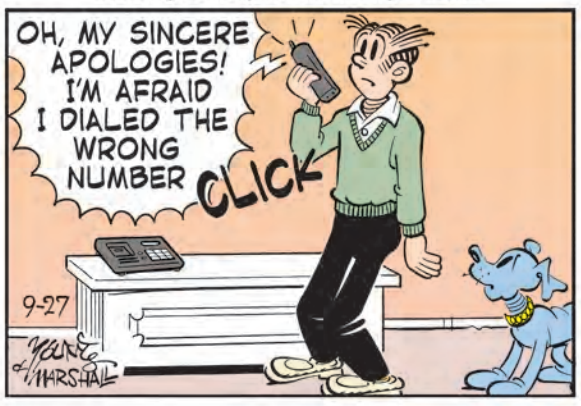


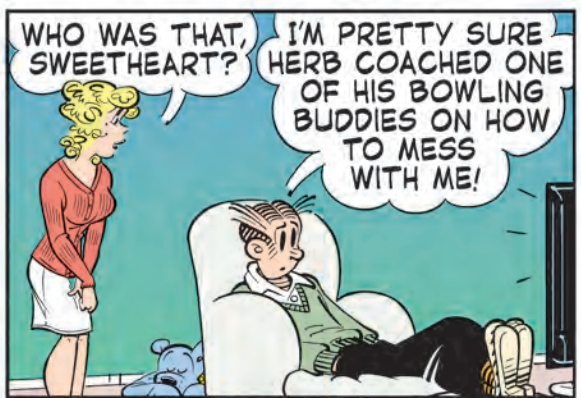
www.blondie.com





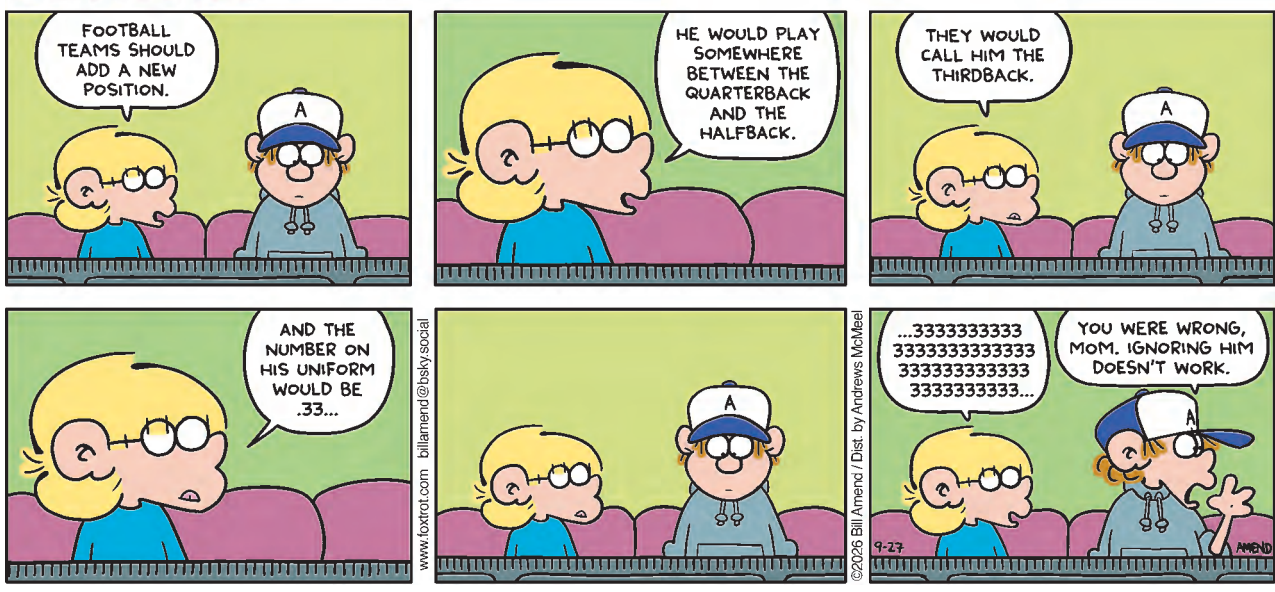
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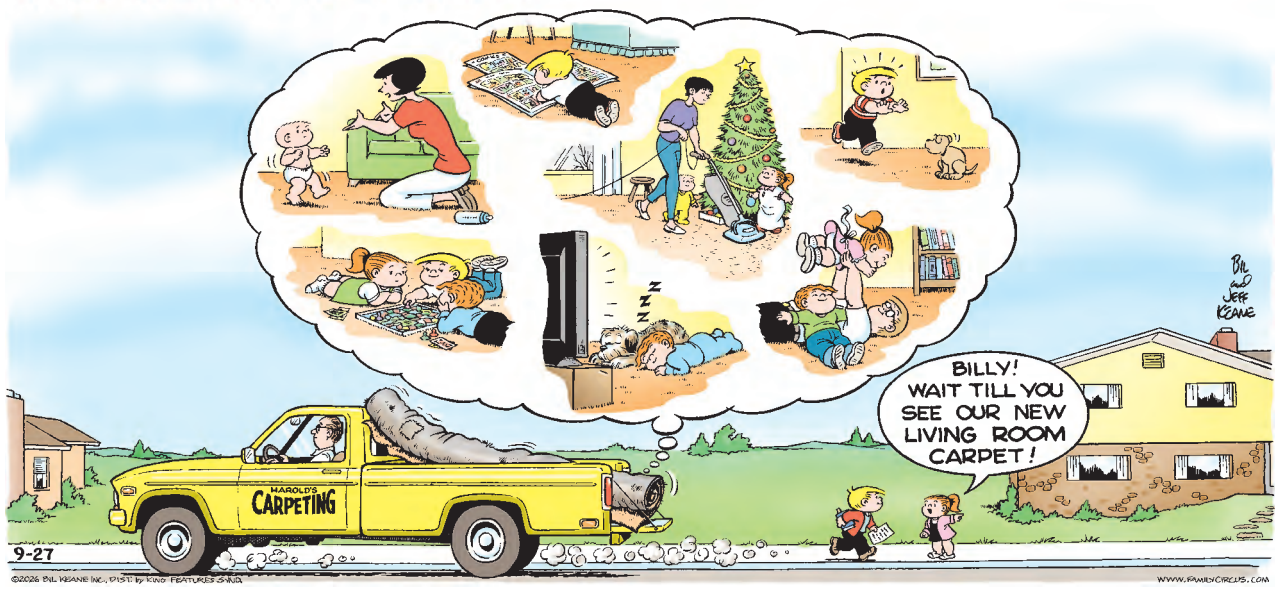
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



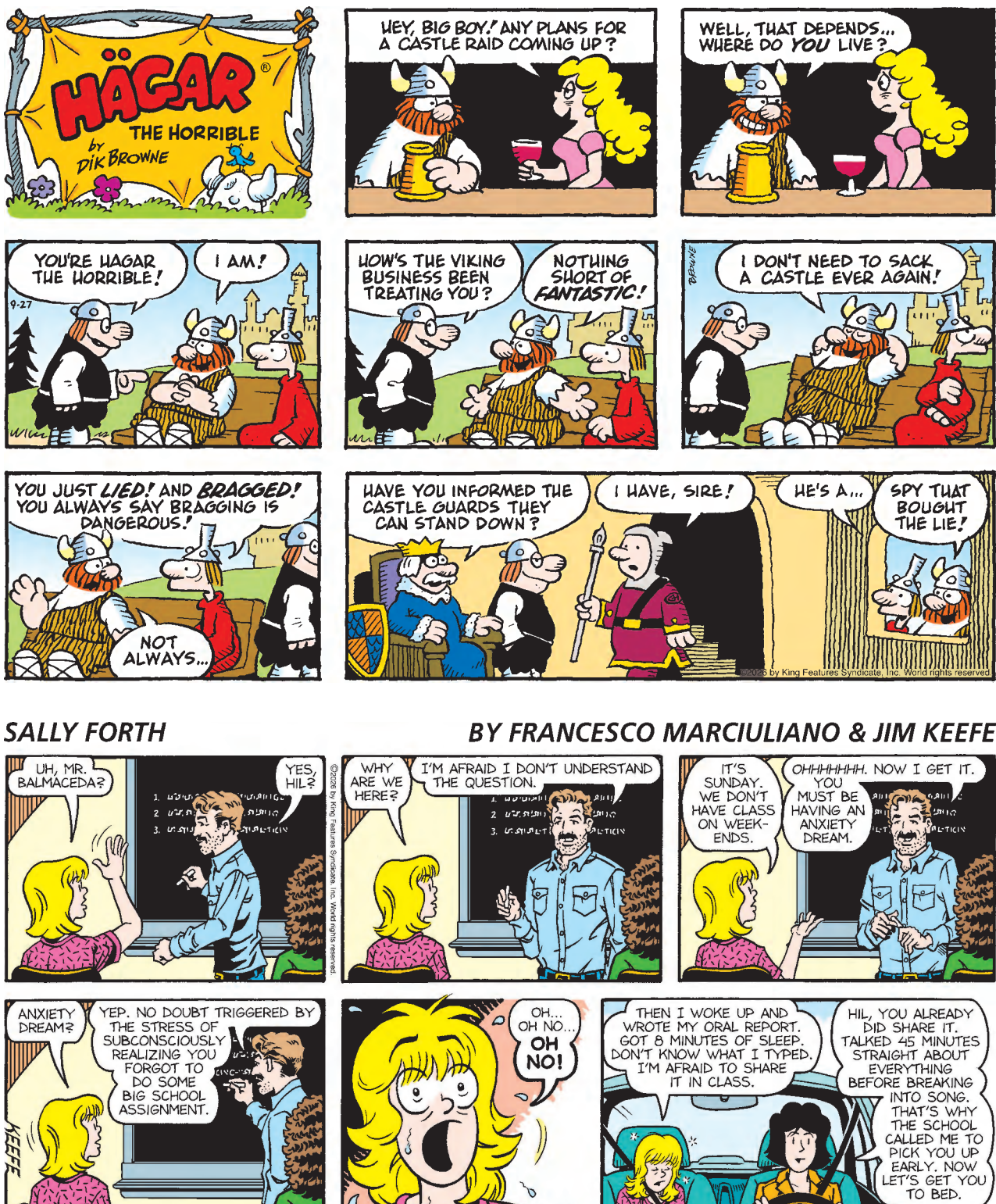
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE®

by Dik Browne



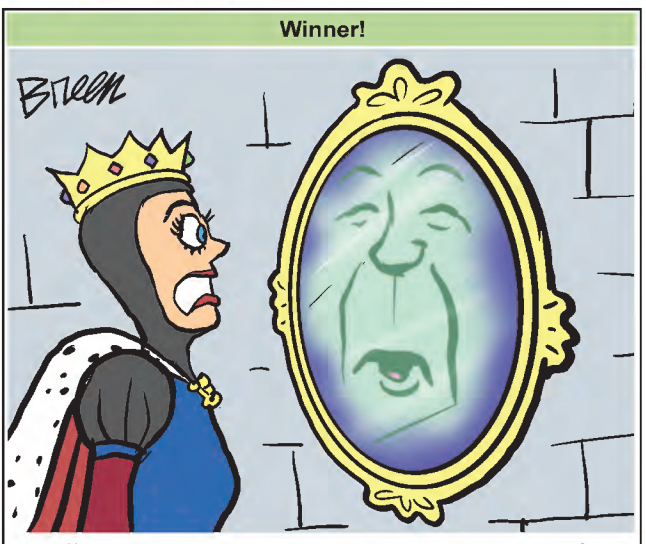
SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE

CAPTION IT!

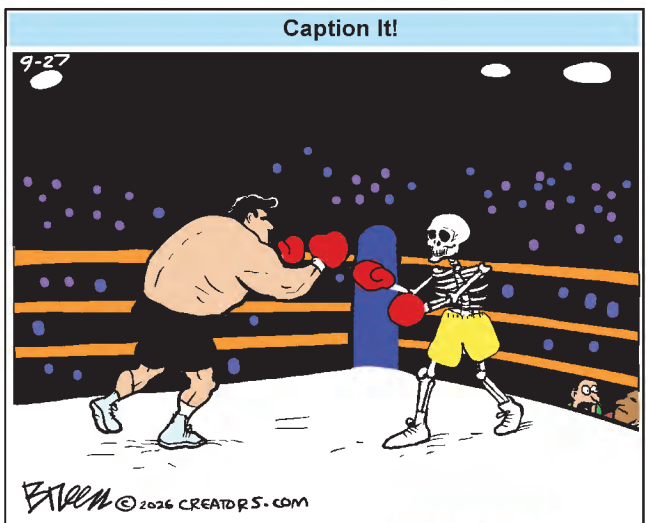
by Steve Breen

Winner!



"I'm sorry, either your username or password is incorrect."
–Anthony Burcher, Williamsburg, VA

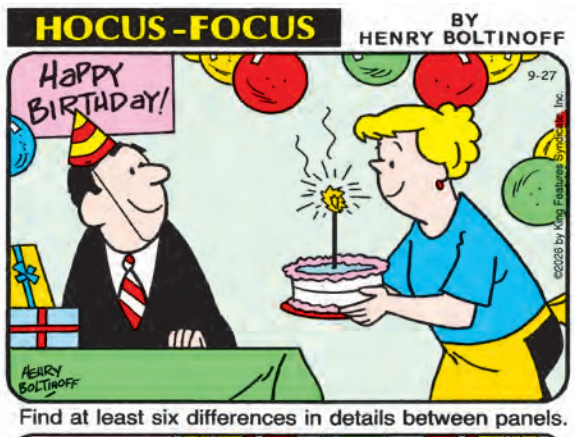
Caption It!



Email submissions along with your name and town to captionitcartoon@gmail.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

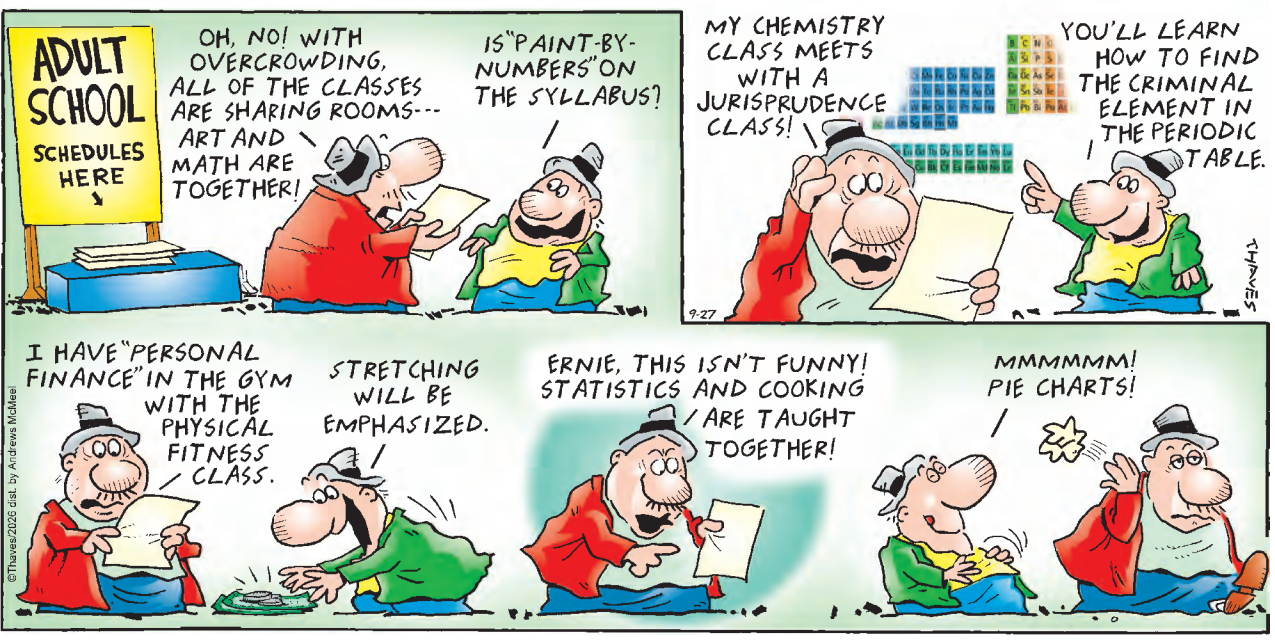


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



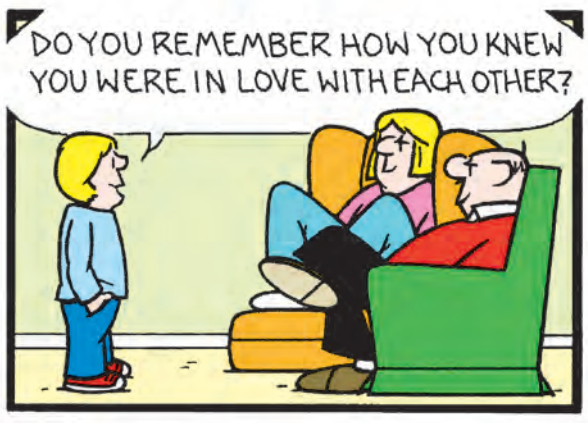
Differences: 1. Cake is taller. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Hat is larger. 4. Woman is thinner. 5. Balloon is lower. 6. Woman's shirt is different.

FRANK AND ERNEST®

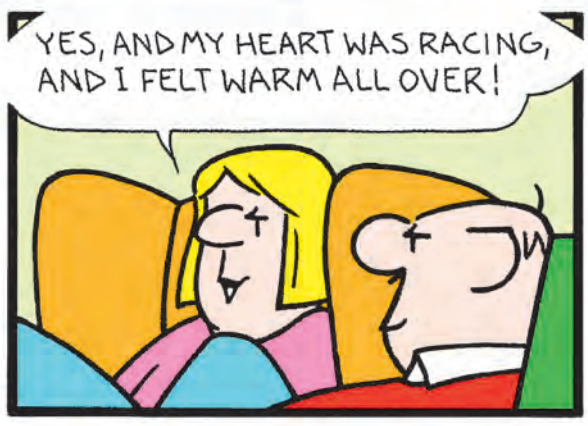


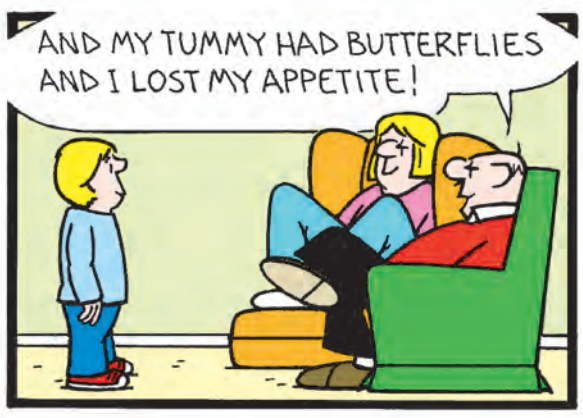
THE BORN LOSER®

by Art & Chip Sansom

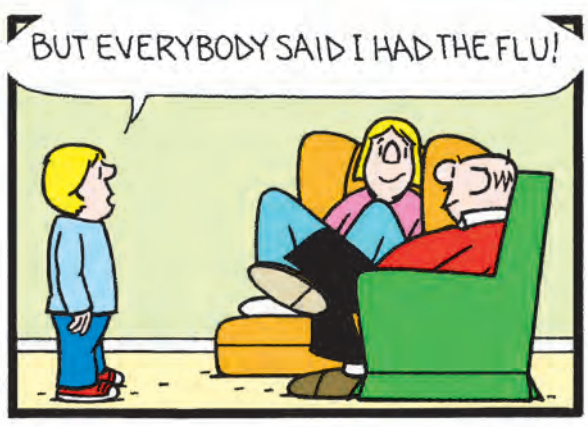












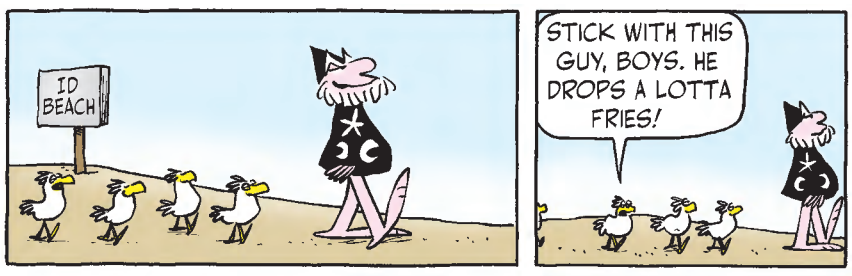
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

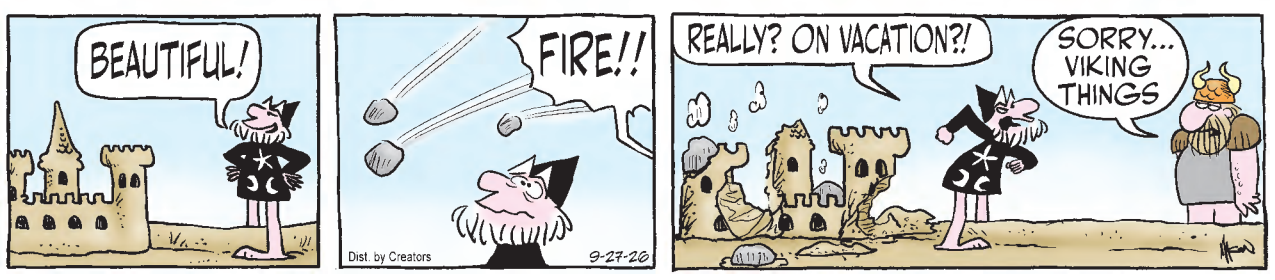
BY MIKE PETERS



WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

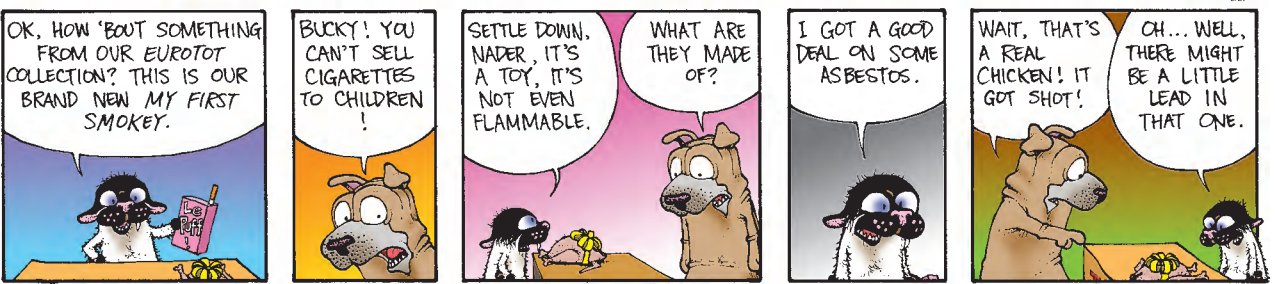




GET FUZZY

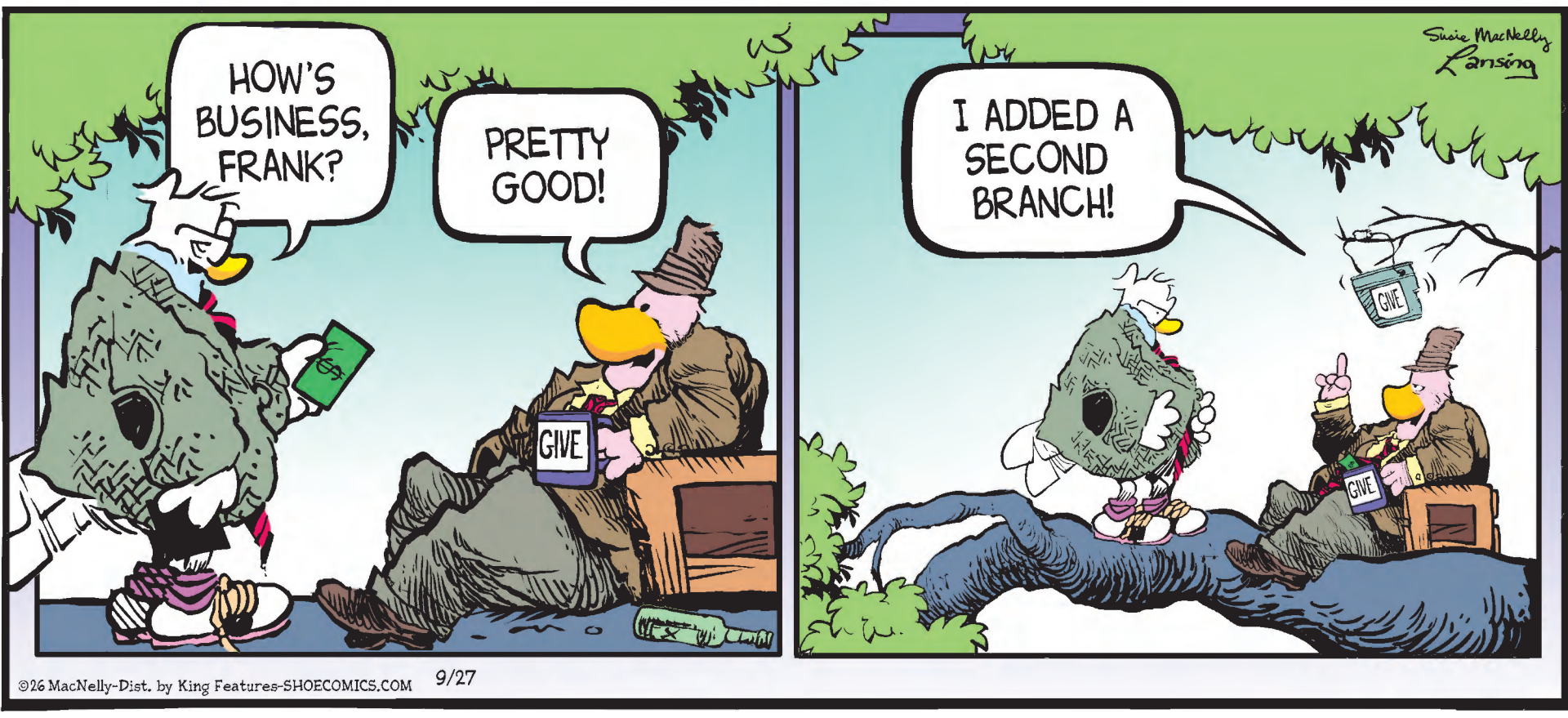
BY DARBY CONLEY



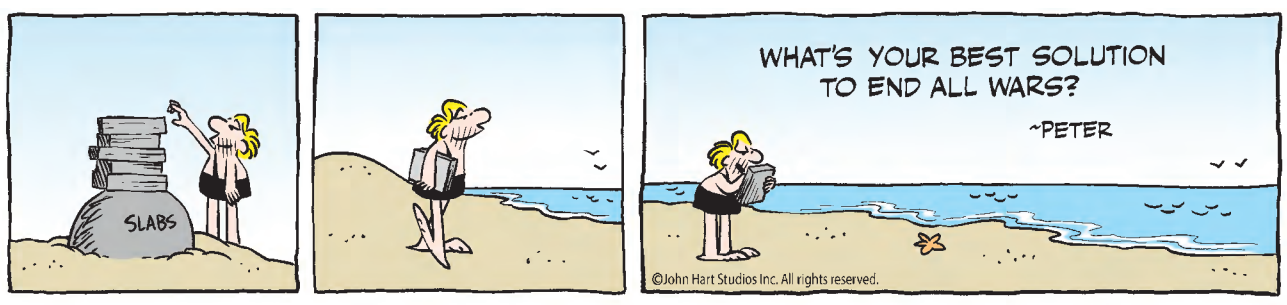


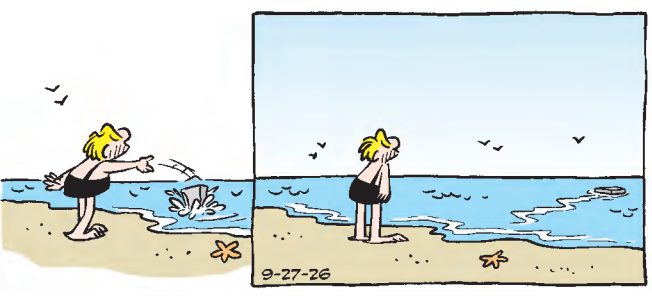
SHOE

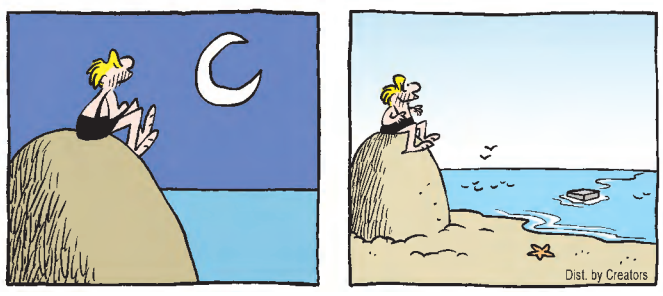
BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY

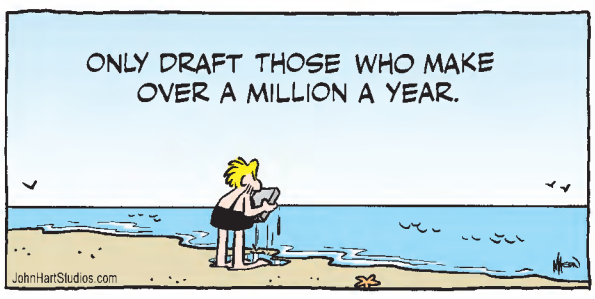
























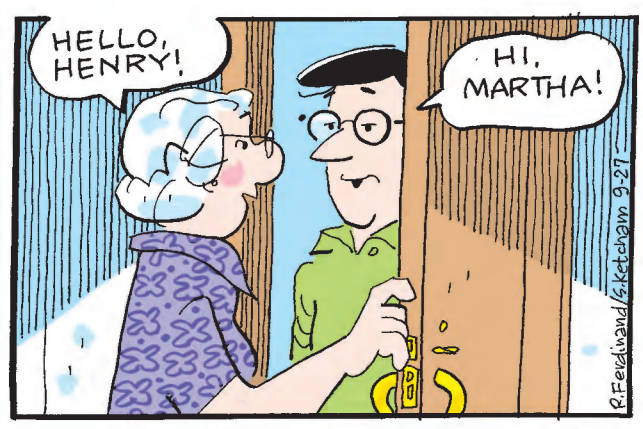


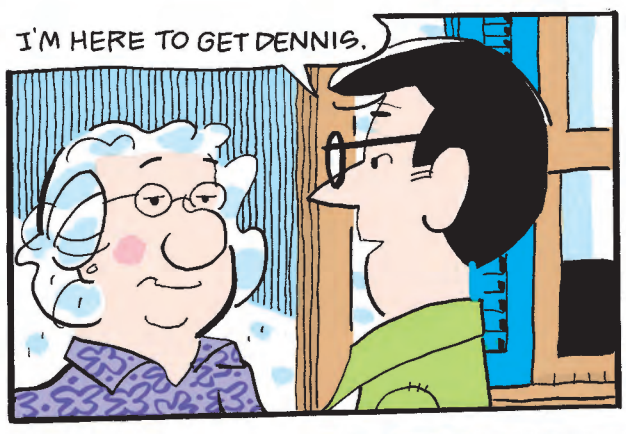


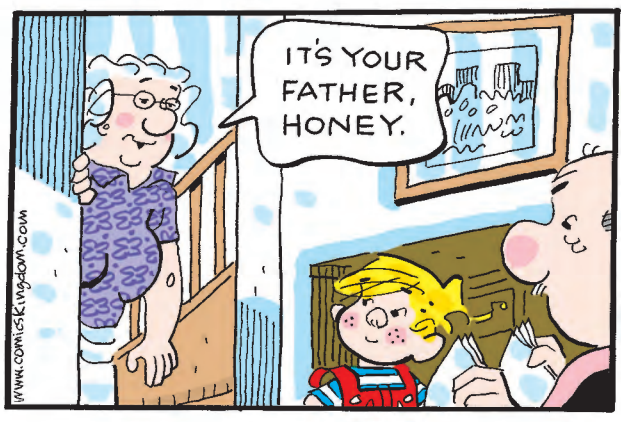


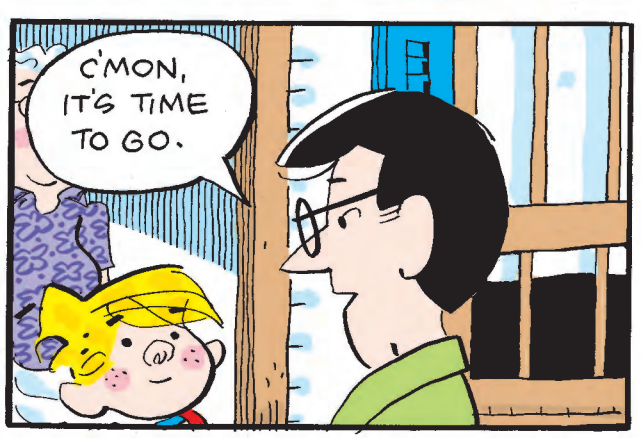
DENNIS THE MENACE

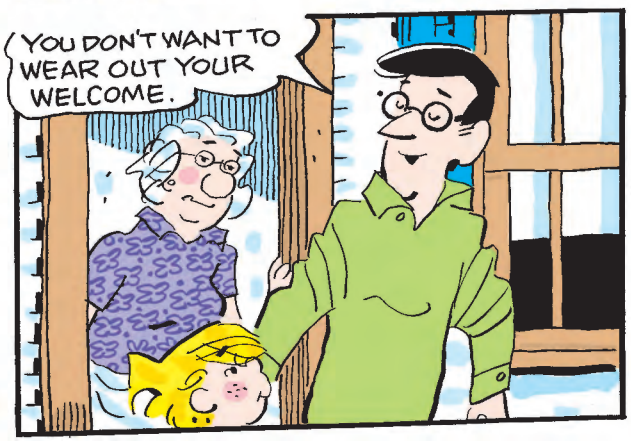
BY HANK KETCHAM



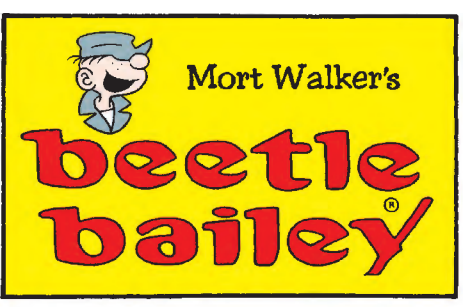






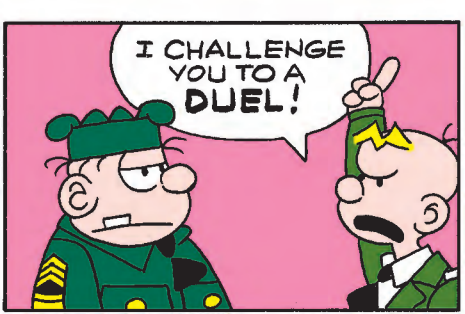
















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ADA -MEMBER-

Our Commitment

To connect. To inform. To build a better Sumter.

We are the microphone. You tell the story

Essentially local. Authentically Sumter.

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