

State mandates in-person classes

Sumter school board to meet Monday

BY BRUCE MILLS
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Sumter School District must adjust its original plan of starting the school year

fully virtual to include an option for at least one day per week of in-person instruction. That news came via updated written requirements distributed by the state Depart-

ment of Education to all school districts on Friday. Ryan Brown, chief communications officer with the state department, spoke with *The Sumter Item* late Friday afternoon and shared the details. In the new requirements,

districts' initial fall term plans must include a virtual option for all students and also an in-person option for all students, Brown said. "We are requiring districts to offer parents an option," he said. "So, virtual and in-per-

son, and the in-person would need to be at least one day a week." Districts' in-person instructional options can range from a single day per week up to

SEE **CLASSES**, PAGE A8

Sweet news: It's National Ice Cream Day

We share the history of the day and the scoop on some deals

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

If you are looking for an excuse to treat yourself right now, Sunday might just provide the perfect opportunity: It's National Ice Cream Day.

According to the International Dairy Foods Association, in 1984, President Ronald Reagan designated July as National Ice Cream Month and declared the third Sunday of the month would be National Ice Cream Day.

We looked that up, and it's true that on July 9, 1984, with Presidential Proclamation 5219, Reagan signed into public law that the month of July 1984 was National Ice Cream Month and Sunday, July 15, 1984, was National Ice Cream Day.

In the official proclamation, Reagan stated, "Ice cream is a nutritious and wholesome food, enjoyed by over 90% of the people in the United States," and encouraged Americans to celebrate throughout July with "appropriate ceremonies and activities."

The proclamation was initially meant to apply just to 1984, 36 years ago; however, the tradition of celebrating ice cream every July has been carried on by ice cream manufacturers and store chains for decades ever since.

SEE **SWEET**, PAGE A8



Did you know?

1.4 billion

Gallons of ice cream and related frozen desserts produced in the U.S. in 2017

23 The average gallons of ice cream each American eats per year

\$11 billion

Ice cream companies' economic impact in the U.S. every year

Source: International Dairy Foods Association

What is your favorite flavor?

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Chocolate | Cotton Candy |
| Vanilla | Something fruity |
| Mint-Chocolate Chip | Something with nuts |
| Cookies & Cream | Other |
| Cake Batter | I don't like ice cream |

To vote, find the poll online at www.theitem.com, or email your answer to editor@theitem.com. We will publish the results on page A2 next Thursday.

Robert E. Lee Academy to change name

K3-12th grade independent school was started in 1965

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
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Robert E. Lee Academy in Bishopville is in the process of dropping the first name and initial of the leader of the Confederate troops in the Civil War and streamlining the name to Lee Academy, according to a couple of sources associated with the school.

The name of the school now appears as Lee Academy on the home page of the school's website. Also, the name of the website has been changed, going from www.releecademy.org to www.myleeacademy.org. Most of the references to the school throughout the site have been changed to the new name; however, there are still a few references where the old name is mentioned.

SEE **NAME**, PAGE A8

Your Voice: Students, parents, teachers share their thoughts on schools reopening this fall

BY KAYLA GREEN
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Kimberly Strickland misses her students, but the Cherryvale Elementary School teacher and mother of a middle school student has asthma, a health factor considered high-risk for developing complications if she were to contract COVID-19.

Parents, teachers, students and just about everyone else is eyeing the reopening of schools this fall as officials try to determine plans amid a continued increase in new cases and hospitalizations from the coronavirus.

On Wednesday, Gov. Henry McMaster announced during a press conference that schools should be open to in-person instruction five days a week starting Sept. 8, allowing parents to make the decision on whether their children go to school on campus or virtually.

SEE **YOUR VOICE**, PAGE A5

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DEATHS, B5

Gregory Jamar Wright Jr.
Marilyn Ruth Walker Follin
Leon Butler
Ellen Pearson Dixon
James Tracy Pringle
Walter E. Peterson Sr.
Aisla C. Barton
Beatrice Cranford

Thomas B. Presley
Dorothy Floyd
Ann Elise Snipes James
William Sanford Morgan
Barbara Green
James Richardson
James Leroy Jefferson Jr.

WEATHER, A10

ANOTHER HOT WEEKEND
Mostly sunny and humid on Saturday; partly cloudy and humid at night
HIGH 94, LOW 75

INSIDE

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SECOND FRONT

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Sumter unemployment at 8.5%, Clarendon at 9%, Lee highest at 10.2%

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

South Carolina added 72,500 jobs in June as it continues its recovery from the COVID-19-induced economic shutdown in March and April.

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Regional Economist Laura Ullrich, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, discussed South Carolina's official June employment report from the U.S. Department of Labor on a Friday conference call with *The Sumter Item* and one other state media outlet.

"For 72,500 jobs to be added in one month would normally be just an incredibly high number, and it is a strong number," she said, "but it is really important to note that we still have over a four-month period a net loss of 132,600 jobs in the state."

After losing 272,700 jobs in April with the onset of COVID-

19, the Palmetto State added a revised 65,100 jobs in May. That was a 24% increase. The additional jobs in June represent about another 27% climb.

Ullrich said based on South Carolina's labor force size relative to the nation, June's job gains were comparable to the U.S. average overall, which gained 4.8 million jobs during the month.

The state's unemployment rate for June was 8.7%, which ranks 25th of the 50 states.

Given the rise in recent weeks of COVID-19 cases in many states, including South Carolina, and the status of schools' reopening being one of several key questions, Ullrich said there is a lot of uncertainty in forecasting even the short-term future.

Locally, Sumter County's unemployment rate for June was 8.5%, while Clarendon's jobless rate was 9%. Lee County had the highest rate in the area at 10.2%.

Sentencing hearing for former Manning police chief Aug. 20

BY SHARRON HALEY
Clarendon Sun Contributor

MANNING — Manning's former police chief Blair Shaffer's sentencing hearing on two federal charges has been scheduled for 3 p.m. Aug. 20 in Charleston.

The sentencing hearing comes more than 19 months after Shaffer was arrested on multiple federal charges, including money laundering, theft of federal funds and providing false statements to federal agents. Following his arrest on Jan. 7, 2019, Shaffer pleaded guilty in federal court in Charleston and was released later that day on a \$25,000 bond.

Six months after his arrest, Shaffer pleaded guilty to theft of government funds and making false statements to federal agents, two counts of the five-count indictment that was originally handed down against Shaffer in January 2019. U.S. District Judge Bruce Howe Hendricks accepted Shaffer's guilty plea and delayed sentencing until he could review the presentencing report.

A sentencing hearing had been scheduled for Jan. 23, 2020; however, that hearing was



SHAFFER

postponed.

The charges against the 25-year law enforcement veteran stem from a 2015 traffic stop when almost \$80,000 was seized from two individuals. The seized money should have been deposited into a City of Manning bank account with the Bank of Clarendon; however, seven days after the stop, Shaffer began making large cash deposits into his personal accounts through ATMs. The theft came to light when the state court ordered the money be returned to the two individuals, and Shaffer issued three checks from his personal accounts for the exact amount of money seized in the traffic stop.

U.S. Attorney Sherri A. Lydon said that during an interview with FBI agents in February 2017, Shaffer stated the deposits that were made into his account were from money that he had been saving for years.

Shaffer's arrest came five months after the City of Manning fired him as Manning's police chief. When firing Shaffer, Manning Mayor Julia A. Nelson cited the "safety of our residents, guests and community."

Shaffer fought his termination by requesting a grievance hearing. The grievance committee sided with Shaffer; however, Manning City Council voted to uphold his termination.

Morris, USC Sumter and CCTC announce reopening plans

BY KAYLA GREEN
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Sumter's three colleges are preparing for students to return to campus for the fall semester, and each educational institution has different plans on tap to address COVID-19.

Both USC Sumter and Morris College are planning to hold in-person instruction on an accelerated calendar format by holding class during holidays, nixing fall break and ending by Thanksgiving. Central Carolina Technical College's academic year will be unchanged, but instruction will be offered in a handful of options that include a range of online, hybrid and on-campus classes.

MORRIS COLLEGE

The historically Black, coeducational, liberal arts college is the only of the three post-secondary institutions in Sumter County to house students in dorms on campus.

Morris will hold move-in for freshmen on Aug. 15 and move-in for returning students on Aug. 17. Classes begin on Aug. 19.

Holidays and fall break are all canceled except for Labor Day, with classes going full steam until the last day of class on Nov. 17. Finals will be held Nov. 18-20, and the end of the semester will be on Nov. 23.

Following are the adjustments being made for cleaning and social distancing:

Academic buildings

- Academic buildings have one-way entrance and exiting;
- Everyone in an academic building must wear a mask;
- Front desks in academic division administrative offices will have plexiglass desk shields; and
- Bathrooms in academic buildings will be cleaned and sanitized frequently.

Classrooms

- Classrooms will be set up to allow for social distancing by limiting the



number of seats to 15 or less; and

- Classrooms will have sanitizing equipment (disposable face masks and sanitizing wipes and cloths) so seats, desks and surfaces can be cleaned at the end of each class.

Computer and tutorial laboratories

- The number of stations in each of the computer and tutorial laboratories will be limited to 15 or less;
- Everyone in computer and tutorial laboratories must wear a face mask; and
- Sanitizing equipment will be placed in each computer and tutorial laboratory so surfaces on work or study stations can be cleaned after each use.

Learning Resources Center

- Everyone in the Learning Resources Center must wear a face mask;
- The Circulation and Reference desks will be equipped with plexiglass desk shields;
- Equipment and surfaces of work areas (photocopiers, tables, chairs, etc.) will be sanitized frequently; and
- Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized frequently.

For more information about student affairs, such as protocol for move-in day, dining services and residence life, go to www.morris.edu.

USC SUMTER

In-person classes will begin on Aug. 20. Face coverings are required on campus, and social distancing will be encouraged among members of the campus community.

The fall semester will be offered in

an accelerated format with in-person instruction ending on Nov. 24. Classes will be held on many traditional holidays and breaks to allow for the semester to end earlier than usual. Classes will be held remotely on Labor Day (Sept. 7), General Election Day (Nov. 3), Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Fall break will also be canceled with face-to-face instruction being held Oct. 15-16. The schedule aligns with the University of South Carolina's institution in Columbia.

"USC Sumter is a vital resource to our students and the communities we serve, and we are glad to reopen our doors as public health and safety guidelines permit," USC Sumter Campus Dean Michael Sonntag said.

"Our first and foremost priority is the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff," USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins said. "The plan will continue to evolve as the public health environment changes. At any point before or after the start of new semester, we are prepared to change course to meet the public health and safety needs of our students and communities."

CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

CCTC's fall 2020 semester will begin, as originally scheduled, on Aug. 24. Academic calendar dates throughout the semester, including exams, breaks and holidays, will not change.

In planning for the fall 2020 semester, CCTC has two priorities: safety and student success. Officials want to protect the health of the campus community while giving students educational opportunities that lead to good jobs, economic mobility and personal fulfillment.

With the virus still prevalent in the community, the college is focusing on those two priorities with "equal purpose and commitment." Students who get sick cannot continue coursework or progress toward completion. Faculty who get sick cannot teach; staff who get sick cannot provide important sup-

port services students need.

Courses will be taught online; synchronous online through Zoom; and hybrid. Traditional lecture courses held in a face-to-face environment will begin as synchronous online courses until conditions allow a return to campus.

- Online instruction is provided via the internet, and no face-to-face instruction is required. Online courses can be completed at a time that is convenient for the student and without traveling to campus.

- Synchronous online instruction delivered online but at a scheduled time through Zoom. Students don't travel to campus but have interaction with the instructor since the class is happening live.

- Hybrid instruction is a blend of on-campus and online instruction. A portion of these courses is accomplished on campus in a face-to-face traditional classroom while maintaining social distancing. The remaining lecture portion is completed in the online environment at a time convenient for the student. Hybrid instruction will be used when a hands-on component, such as labs and clinicals, are course requirements.

Following CDC guidelines, the college has implemented measures to prevent the spread of germs:

- Floor markings are in place;
- Clear safety guards have been added to service counters;
- Mandatory face coverings are required on all campuses; and
- Frequent cleaning of high-traffic areas will be conducted.

The college strongly recommends all students obtain a reliable laptop computer to be used throughout their college career and especially during this challenging time. All CCTC campuses provide free internet access for CCTC students. The CCTC bookstore has new laptops with webcams available for purchase. After the first day of classes, CCTC will evaluate conditions every three weeks to determine next steps.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force members Army Maj. Katie Bessler, right, and Infectious Disease Physician Maj. Gadiel Alvarado, enter a wing at United Memorial Medical Center on Thursday in Houston. Soldiers will treat COVID-19 patients in the newly prepared hospital wing as Texas receives help from across the country to deal with its coronavirus surge.

Military medics deploy in Calif., Texas as virus surges

BY FREIDA FRISARO AND DAVID CRARY
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Teams of military medics were deployed in Texas and California to help hospitals deluged by coronavirus patients, as Miami-area authorities began stepping up enforcement Friday of a mask requirement — echoing efforts in many parts of the world to contain surging infections.

In California, military doctors, nurses and other health care specialists were being deployed to eight hospitals facing staffing shortages amid a record-breaking case numbers. In Houston, an 86-person Army medical team worked to take over a wing of United Memorial Medical Center.

Texas reported 10,000 new cases for the third straight day Thursday and 129 additional deaths. California, meanwhile, reported its largest two-day total of confirmed cases, nearly 20,000, along with 258 deaths over 48 hours. There are more than 8,000 people in hospitals who have either tested positive for the coronavirus or are suspected to have it.

There were signs elsewhere in the country's Sunbelt that the virus was stretching authorities' capacity to respond. The medical examiner's office in metro Phoenix has gotten portable storage coolers and ordered more to handle an influx of bodies — reminiscent of New York City at the height of the pandemic there earlier this year.

In Florida's Miami-Dade County, the county commission unanimously approved an emergency order giving all code and fire inspectors authority to issue tickets of up to \$100 for individuals and \$500 for businesses not complying with guidelines to wear masks and practice social distancing. Police officers already had this enforcement power.

"We're going to put a heck of a lot of people out there," said Mayor Carlos Gimenez. "Our people are going to go everywhere."

Gimenez said that too few people, especially younger people, have been following the "new normal" guidelines, so the county needed another enforcement tool.

In Miami-Dade, which is Florida's most populous county and the current epicenter of the outbreak, more than 3,100 new coronavirus cases were reported on Thursday. The state, meanwhile, reached another ominous record, with 156 virus deaths and a staggering 13,965 new cases.

Amid the upsurge, a Florida state legislator, Republican Rep. Anthony Sabatini, filed a lawsuit Friday against a mask ordinance in Pinellas County, home to St. Petersburg and Clearwater. About 100 people in support of his stance rallied in front of the county courthouse, some holding signs saying mask requirements are unconstitutional.

At least half of the 50 states have adopted requirements for wearing masks or other facial coverings.

But in Georgia, Gov. Brian Kemp has banned cities and counties from requiring face coverings. He sued Atlanta late Thursday to prevent it from defying his order, but Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said she was prepared to go to court to maintain the local mask requirement.

Worldwide, governments are frantically trying to prevent and put down fresh outbreaks and keep their economies running as the pandemic accelerates in some regions and threatens to come roaring back in others. Globally, confirmed cases numbered more than 13.8 million Friday and COVID-19 deaths totaled more than 590,000.

To cope with the pandemic's

fallout, the United Nations said it is increasing to \$10.3 billion its appeal for humanitarian aid funding.

Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said in Geneva that the number of people who need humanitarian assistance has more than doubled during the pandemic — from around 110 million to about 250 million.

India's total confirmed cases surpassed 1 million, the third-highest number behind the United States and Brazil, and its death toll reached more than 25,000. That followed Brazil's announcement Thursday evening that its confirmed cases exceeded 2 million, including 76,000 deaths.

The continuing surge of new cases in India — where experts think the vast majority of cases are still being missed — drove home concerns about the readiness of some countries to cope with outbreaks that could overwhelm hospitals and test feeble health care systems. The government ordered a weeklong lockdown in the technology hub of Bangalore after confirmed cases there increased exponentially.

In sub-Saharan Africa, which already had the world's greatest shortage of medical personnel, nearly 10,000 health workers in 40 countries have been infected with the coronavirus, the World Health Organization said. More than half of infected workers are in South Africa, where most of the continent's infections are as well.

Israel on Friday reimposed sweeping restrictions to tackle a new surge in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called "interim steps" to avoid another general lockdown.

Stores, malls, barber shops, beauty salons, beaches and tourist sites will also be closed on weekends. Public gatherings will be limited to 10 people indoors or 20 outside.

AP answers: Can a pregnant woman spread the coronavirus to her fetus?

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's possible, but it seems to be relatively rare, and scientists think they know why that is.

Many viruses can cross the placenta and infect a fetus in the womb, and evidence has been growing that the coronavirus sometimes can, too.

Researchers in Italy studied 31 women with COVID-19 who delivered babies in March and April and found signs of the virus in several samples of umbilical cord blood, the placenta and, in one case, breast milk. But this sort of testing can just detect bits of genetic material — it doesn't mean there is virus capable of causing infection in those places.

In one case, there was strong evidence suggesting the newborn had the virus at birth be-

cause signs of it were found in umbilical cord blood and in the placenta. In another, a newborn had certain coronavirus antibodies that are unable to cross the placenta, so they could not have come from the mother.

A report from France gave even stronger evidence of in-the-womb infection, and that newborn was very ill at birth.

Meanwhile, research led by the National Institutes of Health gives a possible reason for why fetuses aren't infected more often: cells in the placenta rarely make the two tools that the coronavirus typically uses to gain entry. In contrast, they found plenty of what Zika and another type of virus use.

Most research so far has been on women who were in late stages of pregnancy when

they got the virus; more research is needed on what happens if infection occurs earlier in pregnancy.

The advice to pregnant women remains the same: wear a mask in public, wash hands often and stay at least 6 feet away from others to avoid infection.

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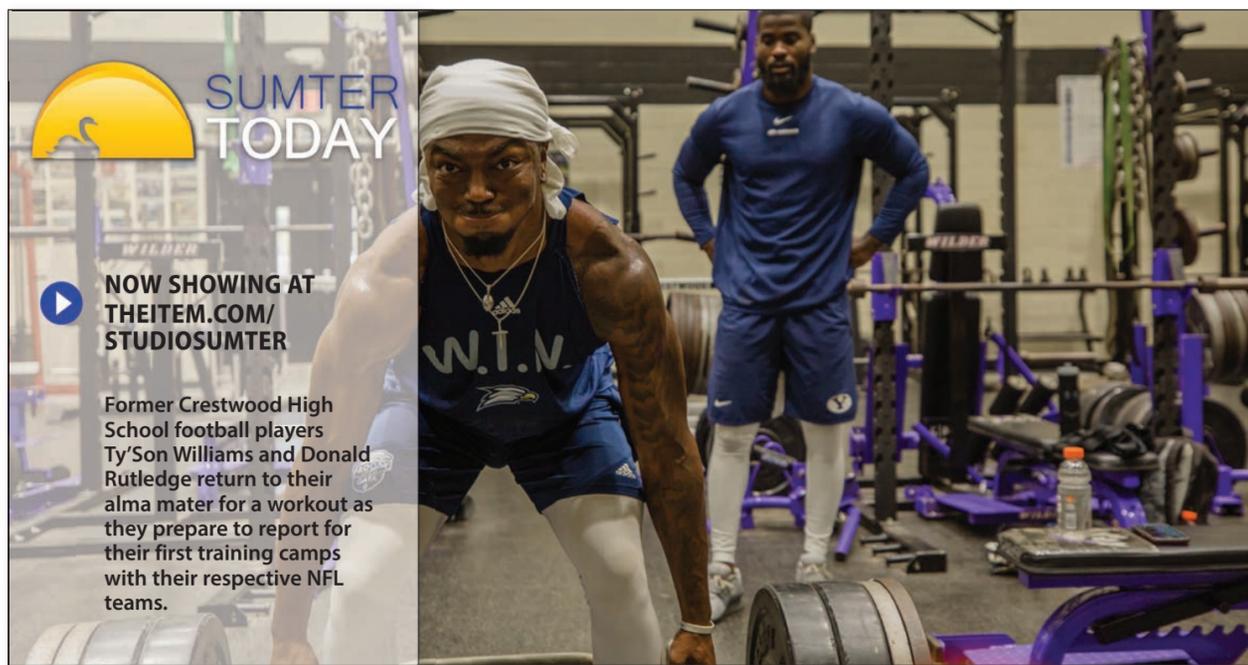
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Pentagon bans Confederate flag in way to avoid Trump's wrath

WASHINGTON (AP) — After weeks of wrangling, the Pentagon is banning displays of the Confederate flag on military installations, in a carefully worded policy that doesn't mention the word ban or that specific flag. The policy, laid out in a memo released Friday, was described by officials as a creative way to bar the flag's display without openly contradicting or angering President Donald Trump, who has defended people's rights to display it.



ESPER

Signed by Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Thursday night, the memo lists the types of flags that may be displayed at military installations. The Confederate flag is not among them — thus barring its display without singling it out in a "ban." Details of the policy were first reported by the AP.

"We must always remain focused on what unifies us, our sworn oath to the Constitution and our shared duty to defend the nation," Esper's memo states. "The flags we fly must accord with the military imperatives of good order and discipline, treating all our people with dignity and respect, and rejecting divisive symbols."

Acceptable flags listed in the memo include the U.S. and state banners, flags of other allies and partners, the widely displayed POW/MIA flag and official military unit flags.

Confederate flags, monuments and military base names have become a national flashpoint in the weeks since the death of George Floyd. Protesters decrying racism have targeted Confederate monuments in multiple cities. Some state officials are considering taking them down, but they face vehement opposition in some areas.

According to a Defense Department official familiar with the matter, the decision not to name a specific prohibited flag was to ensure the policy would be apolitical and could withstand potential legal challenges based on free speech. The official said the White House is aware of the new policy.

Trump has flatly rejected any notion of changing base names and has defended the flying of the Confederate flag, saying it's a freedom of speech issue.

According to Esper's memo, the display of unauthorized flags — such as the Confederate banner carried during the Civil War — is acceptable in museums, historical exhibits, works of art or other educa-

tional programs.

The Marine Corps has already banned the Confederate flag. Gen. David Berger, the commandant of the Marine Corps, directed his commanders in early June to remove public displays of the Confederate battle flag. That flag, which some embrace as a symbol of heritage, "carries the power to inflame feelings of division" and can weaken the unit cohesion that combat requires, Berger said.

Military commands in South Korea and Japan quickly followed suit. The new policy does not affect or rescind those bans.

The other three military services were all moving to enact similar bans, but they paused when Esper made it known he wanted a consistent policy across the whole department. Now they will instead issue this new policy to their troops and employees.

Defense leaders have for weeks been tied in knots over the incendiary issue of banning the Confederate flag.

An early draft of the Defense Department plan banned display of the Confederate flag, saying the prohibition would preserve "the morale of our personnel, good order and discipline within the military ranks and unit cohesion." That version was

shelved, and officials have been struggling since then to come up with a policy that would have the same effect but not create political havoc.

Esper discussed the matter with senior leaders during a meeting Wednesday, including some of the legal issues surrounding a variety of bans, which some officials think could be challenged in court.

The final version is a compromise that enables Esper to enact a ban that passes legal muster and gives military leaders what they want but doesn't infuriate the commander in chief.

According to the official, the new policy doesn't undo the bans already in place, and service chiefs and secretaries will still be able to enact additional, more stringent policies restricting symbols they think are divisive and harmful to unit cohesion. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss decisions not yet made public.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told reporters on Thursday that he is still working on a policy that would remove all divisive symbols from Army installations.

He didn't mention the flag but said, "We would have any divisive symbols on a no-fly list."

Clarendon County Election Commission upholds Manning election

BY SHARRON HALEY
Clarendon Sun contributor

MANNING — The Clarendon County Election Commission voted unanimously Friday afternoon to uphold the official results in the Manning mayor's race.

In Tuesday's municipal election, incumbent Manning Mayor Julia A. Nelson soundly defeated challenger La-Nette Samuels-Cooper by a vote of 546 to 180, or 75% of the votes cast.

Following voting certification that was held Thursday morning, Samuels-Cooper filed for a protest hearing citing a "failure to properly count the absentee votes and to maintain a daily tally of the absentee vote."

For approximately 45 minutes, Samuels-Cooper's attorney, Eleazer Carter, asked Shirley Black-Oliver, the execu-

tive director of Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election, about what he called irregularities in counting absentee ballots.

Carter said the county had "systemic irregularities" with absentee ballots that "impacted the outcome of the election" and that "without the systemic irregularities the results may have been different."

Nelson's attorney, Shaun C. Kent, called Carter's questions to Black-Oliver a "fishing expedition" and said the challenger was just mad that she lost.

Kent said the absentee ballots "didn't change the outcome of the election."

"Take out all of (the absentee ballots), and this is not a close election," Kent added. "Irregularities wouldn't have changed the outcome. Would it



NELSON

have changed the outcome of the election? No."

The commission held a brief executive session before voting to uphold the election.

Earlier Friday afternoon, Kent released a memorandum and released Samuels-Cooper's handwritten protest. In his response to Samuels-Cooper's protest, Kent referred to South Carolina case law and the requirements that are needed to contest an election.

Citing a 1997 case from Edgefield, Kent referred to "The notice of election contest should briefly state facts or combination of facts sufficient to apprise contestee of cause for which election is contested, it being insufficient to allege generally that fraud was committed, or to allege mere conclusions of the pleader." Kent also cited, "To maintain election contest, contest no-

tice must allege irregularities or illegalities in election, and such alleged irregularities or illegalities must have changed or rendered doubtful the result of the election."

"...Samuels-Cooper failed to provide a factual basis to meet the requirements..." Kent said. "Further, the contest notice does not state ... that the outcome of the election would have changed even if its allegations were proven true."

Kent said that the content of Samuels-Cooper's protest "contains purely conclusory statements and does not satisfy the statutory requirements to challenge the results of a municipal election."

Kent added that the contest, "should be dismissed with prejudice, and the results of the election should stand as announced."

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WEDDING

Weeks-Boyle

Erika Meurling Weeks of Greenville and Austin O’Neil Boyle of Augusta, Georgia, were united in marriage at 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 12, 2020, at the home of the bridegroom’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adville Barnes Boyle III of Sumter.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Manfred Gotlob Christian Weeks of Columbia and the granddaughter of Mrs. Henry Richard Weeks Jr. of Columbia and the late Mr. Weeks and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas Mooney of Morristown, New Jersey. She graduated from Ben Lippen and Anderson University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is employed as a nurse by Prisma Health, Greenville.

The bridegroom is the grandson of Mrs. Adville Barnes Boyle Jr. of Pawleys Island and the late Mr. Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. George Byard McEwen Jr. of Sumter and Mr. Robert Edgar Wilder of Manning. He graduated from Wilson Hall and The Citadel with a Bachelor of Science in Business. He is employed as a sales consultant with DePuy Synthes in Augusta.

Senior Pastor Mark Eugene Yoder, of Christ Community Church in Sumter, officiated at the ceremony.

Music was provided by Rebekah Yoder, vocalist; Lauren



MRS. AUSTIN O’NEIL BOYLE

Decker, violinist; and Chris Reardon, guitarist.

The bride was escorted by her father.

Julia Elizabeth Weeks, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor.

The bridegroom’s father and Mr. Davis Wilder Boyle, brother of the bridegroom, served as best men. Grooms-men were Mr. Adville Barnes Boyle IV and Mr. John Evans Boyle, brothers of the bridegroom.

The reception was held at the home of the bridegroom’s parents.

Following a wedding trip to The Cloister, Sea Island, Georgia, the couple resides in Augusta.

ENGAGEMENT

Gayle-Demery

Daniel and Michele Demery of Manning announce the engagement of their son, Treyon Marquise Demery of Smyrna, Georgia, to Melyssa Gayle of Smyrna, daughter of Noel and Althea Gayle of Flowery Branch, Georgia.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Joe Sewell and the late Pansy Sewell of Mandavil, Jamaica, and the late Llewellyn and Mildred Gayle of Dacula, Georgia. She graduated from Georgia College and State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She is employed as a senior human resource administrator at UPS in Alpharetta, Georgia.

The bridegroom-elect is the grandson of Roberta Sabb, Samuel Cantey, Rosa Rose and Major McFadden III, all of Manning. He graduated from Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, Georgia with an Associate in Computer Science. He is employed as a senior network technician at Site One Landscape in Roswell, Georgia, as assistant football coach for West Hall High School and head coach for West Hall Jr. Spartans Recreation Team in Oakwood, Georgia.



MR. DEMERY, MISS GAYLE

The wedding is planned for Sept. 5, 2020, at The Salvation Army Church in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

The couple is registered at Target, www.target.com; Amazon, www.amazon.com; and Bed, Bath and Beyond, www.bedbathandbeyond.com.

CELEBRATIONS POLICY

Engagement, wedding, birth and wedding anniversaries (25th, 50th and above) are published on Saturday except during holiday weeks. The normal deadline is noon on the preceding Monday.

Forms may be obtained at *The Sumter Item* or downloaded from www.theitem.com. Click on the drop-down arrow next to the Lifestyle tab on the navigation bar of the website.

When filling out the form, please type or print all information, paying particular attention to names. Do not print in all capital letters.

Photographs must be vertical and of reproduction quality.

Email wedding and engagement forms and photos to brides@theitem.com. For additional information, call (803) 774-1264. Email birth and wedding anniversary forms and photos to sandra@theitem.com. For additional information, call (803) 774-1226.

YOUR VOICE

FROM PAGE A1

State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman was not at the news conference. That day, she released a statement saying she wants schools to be open for face-to-face learning “as safely and as soon as possible” but that each school district should be able to decide the threshold for safety.

McMaster did not mention the state’s virus spread. On March 15, the day McMaster announced he was closing schools through March 31, DHEC reported 12 new cases. On July 15, DHEC reported 1,850 new cases of the virus.

The issue has become divisive.

Strickland said she will support whatever Sumter School District decides — currently the plan is to open on Aug. 17 with virtual-only learning — but that she wants a decision to be made so she and other

teachers can have time to plan. Opinions vary.

Adrienne Scarborough’s son is a star student on the Crestwood High School marching band, but COVID-19 is too risky for the family to feel comfortable returning in person.

Amanda LeGrand Rogers’ 6-year-old son is entering first grade at Millwood Elementary School. She doesn’t take the pandemic lightly and is concerned for the family’s safety going back, but she and her husband work full-time and cannot take the time needed to help him learn at home.

The Sumter Item wanted to hear from the communities most affected. We asked our Facebook community to share their thoughts on school in the fall by emailing, calling or reaching out in Messenger. Here are the responses from those who were able to detail where they are a student, parent or teacher/district employee.

BROOKE MCCAULEY
Pocalla Elementary, Furman Middle parent

I am a parent of an upcoming first-grader at Pocalla and sixth-grader at Furman. I think parents should have the option of sending their kids to school five days a week. I do, however, feel that if a child needs to be kept out of school, instead of being marked absent entirely, they should be able to do virtual learning on the days that they are absent. I feel that face to face is best, and it should at least be given a shot. If after the first nine weeks there have been too many cases of COVID-19 in the school then we can revisit the issue. I understand the fear of a teacher getting sick and the whole class having to quarantine for two weeks, but

two weeks of virtual learning is a lot better than months of it. I think if each class sticks to itself, for example not going to the cafeteria for lunch, only doing PE outside, recess outside, etc., then it would minimize the spread. Also, each parent that chooses to send their child to school should be held responsible for sending their child with adequate personal sanitizing items (Lysol, wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.). There are so many reasons that I want to shelter my child from this sickness, but there are so many reasons that I want to send them back to school to give them their normal life back. I believe the risk is no higher for my child at school than it is going into Walmart, Lowe’s or any restaurant.

DIANE GREGG
Cherryvale Elementary parent

My son goes to Cherryvale Elementary, and he isn’t going back to school. We’re not looking at the fact that some of the kids live with their grandparents or the fact that the cases are still rising or the kids don’t know nothing about social distancing, and I work in the health care field, and I’m scared every day for the fact the school is about to start and is my son safe to go back. Or what about the teacher? They have family too? How are the teachers going to be safe from it? What about when the kids go to lunch or for recess or when they want to see their friends? I’m worried about these kids. Somebody needs to worry, ‘cause right now he’s not going back. I’ll be damned if my son’s life be in danger for nobody. I’m a single mom, and I try my best to make sure my son’s life and safety come first.

AMY GEDDINGS
Kingsbury Elementary School parent

I want my children in school even if it’s a few days a week. Education is so important! Virtual learning is a joke!

GARY BETTINGER
Retired teacher and administrator; son and daughter-in-law are both teachers

Virtual school until the rates go down. We have to keep teachers, staff, students, and families safe!

REMONA MIXON-VELTRE
Sumter High parent

We are choosing to put our teachers and children in danger. My son is 16 and attends Sumter High School. It’s an overcrowded school of almost 3,000 that has “gridlock” between classes at hallway intersections. I remember them vividly from my own time there, and that was 25 years ago. How do you police almost 3,000 teenagers who haven’t seen each other in months? How do you stop them from holding hands or sneaking hugs and kisses? How can you keep my child safe enough that he won’t bring COVID-19 home from school to my terminally ill father that we care for? A few of us are high risk. What would happen if both myself and my mother died? You see, I have managed to keep my 16-year-old at home and safe since March 14, and now you want me to shove him into a very dangerous and flawed system over politics? The same politics that have allowed this deadly virus to thrive with its rumors and falsehoods? We could be completely over COVID-19 now, but the numbers continue to surge. Is this really the America we are now?

JENNIFER BAKER
Kingsbury Elementary School parent

I have no issue with sending my children back to school. They need structure and a break from each other. Both my husband and I work 40 hours a week and find it a little difficult to make sure the kids are staying on task. I found it unfair that my children worked really hard to make sure their work was done during quarantine to pass their grade, and kids that never signed in or turned in work continued to the next class. I understand that most families may not have access to the internet, or many families have working parents, and some may have grandparents that are not tech-savvy. These children were lost in the mix. Teachers are ready to get back with their kids. I know because I’m friends with several. Maybe we should break the kids up in scheduled letters. Like Schedule A goes to school the first week. Monday ... Wednesday ... Friday, then Schedule B Tuesday ... Thursday ... and then rotate the day schedule throughout the year. Or they can enter the school at different times. Schedule A 8-11 schedule B 1-3. Just a thought.

SHAWN KELSO
Sumter High parent

I have a rising ninth-grader who will be attending Sumter High this coming year. It is my desire for him to return to school for in-person teaching. He is an only child, and my husband and I both work full-time. While the kids were out at the end of last year, my son did not learn much of anything. His teachers pretty much posted material and left the students to teach themselves. He needs to be in a classroom where he can focus, learn, be around peers, have access to his teachers (so they can form relationships with each other) and have access to extracurricular activities and sports. I want the teachers and students to be safe, but I feel my son’s education is extremely important.

ADRIENNE SCARBOROUGH
Crestwood High parent

As a parent of a rising junior of Crestwood High School, I prefer the option to be able to enroll my child into his school for virtual learning only. I wish for this to be how he attends for the entire upcoming school year. I am very concerned about the impact this virus could have on our health and our household as well as immediate family members we have who are high-risk. My son is a star student on the Crestwood marching and concert band and is a very social person, but we are willing to sacrifice sitting out of these activities for the sake of staying healthy. I just hope the district leaves the decision to individual parents on whether or not the children must return to face-to-face learning or not.

KIMBERLY STRICKLAND
Alice Drive Middle parent, preschool teacher

I am a parent of an Alice Drive Middle School student and a preschool teacher at Cherryvale Elementary. I have asthma, so I am considered high-risk. I will support the district with whatever decision is made, but a definite decision needs to be made to give us time to prepare, either way! At this point, my classroom is usually about ready for the year! If we return face to face, I don’t think we should have to burn our sick time because it is limited for us newer teachers that do not have large amounts built up. I would have to take time off if my minor child got sick too, so it could accumulate quickly.

Another issue would be cleaning and sanitizing supplies. It is difficult to find them and could become expensive for the teacher to purchase for frequent cleaning.

I miss being in the classroom and miss all my babies, but I would never want to think I was the reason one of my students became sick or that I put my son or husband at risk. There is really no perfect solution. I love my job and think that Dr. Martin-Knox and her team will take all this into consideration when making her decision about what is best for Sumter School District!

MARESA HEMMINGER HUDSON

CCTC has been holding classes in person since summer semester opened. How many have become ill? Think independently. In person with precautions in place, like wash your hands, don’t share, try to distance. And we have another month, more if we do wait until after Labor Day. At least offer the option of in person or virtual. I have two children at Sumter

AMANDA LEGRAND ROGERS
Millwood Elementary parent

I am a parent of a 6-year-old. He is starting first grade at Millwood Elementary in August. My immediate response is he needs to go back to school. I don’t take this pandemic lightly. I have concerns for his safety once he goes back. It requires a great deal of trust and faith in Millwood as well as their trust in me to keep him home if he’s sick. That being said, I still feel strongly that he needs to be in a classroom. My husband and I work full-time. When COVID-19 first showed up and shut everything down, I was home. I was able to give full attention to his final quarter of kindergarten. My parents were also home, so they were able to help out when needed. I am now back at work five days a week, as are my parents. I am very concerned about balancing a full-time job

and keeping him on task for first grade. He isn’t in a higher grade that can be left home alone or even at a point where he can be 100% responsible for getting his work done without someone helping.

I have seen the harsh comments that have been made on Facebook about people wanting to send their children back to school. I have seen the comments made by teachers about their concerns. I know my opinion may not be the popular one; however, I still feel the option needs to be given. I do not fault anyone who wants their child to remain home in August. I am very worried about the number of cases we have seen, and I fully understand that if they don’t go down then virtual is the only option.

BAILEY ROSDAIL
Sumter High student

I will be a senior at Sumter High School for this school year, and I strongly believe in-person instruction is the only option for high school students. At a younger age, it is easier to successfully do online school, but at our age we need interaction, and we need support from our teachers that we just didn’t experience last year. Our teachers are not trained in online instruction, and it shows. High school is a once-in-a-lifetime experience unlike any other, and we are missing out on important traditions like homecoming and prom. Our state has shown that a large portion of people aren’t gonna take precautions to stop the spread, and we can’t force people to do that. Our students and our education is permanently suffering because our school district is disregarding the permanent damage that school online has caused us. I know lots of people who got worse grades online than they did in person. I also know students that didn’t learn anything and found ways to cheat throughout last semester. The bottom line is, for high school students, online is not an option and will permanently damage our educations and our futures.

KIM SINGLETON

Sumter High parent, nephew in kindergarten at Wilder Elementary

I feel the school should stay closed for now and have the teacher back in the classroom alone and do a Zoom type setting to teach their students.

Then when things get better, numbers go down, we can gradually move into in-person school. With the children wearing masks.

NORM MUDGETT

Coach and father of Sumter School District students

Mental health, education and the future of all these kids: Many students have parents who can’t be home to force their children to learn online. Some have parents who don’t care. Schools are not meant to raise children, but in some circumstances, it’s the only place they go where adults care for them.

Also, we are going to lose a lot of these kids (academically) if we don’t get them back in school. A lot of student-athletes only get grades (unfortunately) because of sports. No sports, no cares given. Coaches and teachers see it all the time. You can’t take away the one responsibility kids have and expect them to succeed later in life. Kids need interaction with other kids. They are learning more than just math and science; they are learning team work and communication. The end of last year is already going to have a negative effect on the upcoming school year. Kids will already be behind. Not getting them back is only going to make it worse.

High. One’s in ROTC and missed out on drill team competitions last year. Hard to do from home. He’ll be a senior, and ROTC is his ticket to schools and scholarships as he plans to pursue a military career. The other would probably be fine doing virtual. So not only differences between families but even within families.

178th Field Artillery had long record overseas with Fifth Army

Reflections remembers the achievements of the 178th Field Artillery, a National Guard unit activated during World War II serving in North Africa, Sicily and the Italian peninsula. This company was noted for its skills in battle and com-



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

mitment to defeating the Axis forces in Italy. It is important that we remember their sacri-

fice and achievements during their extended stay in the European theater of operation. There is a special display honoring this combat unit at the Sumter County Military Display, and the public is invited to view it.

The author used the *Sumter Daily Item* archives and photos donated by the families of John Thomas and W. C. Jones in preparing this article. Also used was information obtained from *The Historical and Pictorial Review* book provided to members of the 178th Field Artillery.

HISTORY OF THE 178TH FIELD ARTILLERY

“The 178th Field Artillery was organized as a regiment on March 31, 1938. The units composing the regiment had been in the National Guard for some years. The organization was dictated by a desire on the part of Army and state officials to have complete regiments within the state boundaries, thus facilitating administration and instruction. Under order of Fourth Corps Area dated March 2, 1938, the Second Battalion, 115th Field Artillery, was redesignated Second Battalion, 178th Field Artillery. The Medical Detachment, 105th Engineers, was redesignated Medical Detachment, 178th Field Artillery. Regimental Headquarters was established at Andrews, South Carolina. The regiment was commanded by Col. Philip F. Wiehrs. Thus the regiment came into being composed of two battalions.”

“An article published in the *Sumter Daily Item* in 1945 reported that ‘there is nothing in the snowy, storm-lashed peaks of the Apennines to remind a person of South Carolina except, of course, a lot of soldiers from that state.’”

“They were members of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion, a 155 mm howitzer unit that participated in six campaigns and 630 days of combat. Most soldiers in the orga-



John Henry Thomas and members of his battalion are seen in Italy in 1944 during World War II.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Officers of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion are seen in North Africa in 1943. They were, from left, Capt. Felters, liaison officer; Maj. Wilson; Lt. Col. Westbury; Maj. McInnis; Capt. Hanemann; and Lt. Van Arsdale.

SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS



PHOTO PROVIDED

LEFT: William C. Jones Jr. served in the 178th Field Artillery. MIDDLE: Hugh F. Knight of Sumter served as commander of the battalion. RIGHT: John Henry Thomas served in the 178th Field Artillery.

nization acquired five gold stripes for 30 months' overseas service. The Germans have grimmer evidence of their stay in the Mediterranean theater.

“The 178th Battalion left

tell-tale marks in North Africa, Sicily and a good part of Italy, a trail of destruction by artillery shells put where they did the most good. The enemy's line came in for a pounding by the 178th, and many a

smashed pillbox, gun emplacement and fortification in that once-formidable defensive barrier was chargeable to its fires.

“Originally a South Carolina National Guard unit, the 178th landed in Scotland in August 1942. It was in North Africa four months later, and there it saw continuous action at such historic places as Gafsa, El Guettar, Fondouk, Hill 609, Mateur, and finally, Bizerte.

“On July 17, 1943, the 178th landed in Sicily and fought up to Messina. It later supported the British Eighth Army in its crossing of the Messina Straits, thus becoming one of the first American artillery units to have shells explode in

Europe proper.

“Prior to landing at Salerno to join the Fifth Army on Sept. 5, 1943, the battalion traded its 1918 model ‘Long Toms’ for the new 155 mm howitzer. Immediately after coming ashore, the unit engaged the enemy near Avellino and started a continuous stretch of combat duty that was to last from September 1944 until late in the winter of 1944 at Cassino.

“It saw a lot of fighting in between. It supported Fifth Army units in attacks against Venafro, the Liri Valley and Cassino. San Elia was a place the artillerymen would long remember. It was while in position there that they were under direct view from German observation posts in the high ground adjacent to Cassino.

“The enemy shelled their firing positions regularly. During one such episode, a truckload of small arms ammunition near the gun position was set ablaze. Capt. Dan E. Riggs of Statesboro, Georgia, S-3 of the battalion, extinguished the fire despite hostile shelling. He received a Silver Star and a Purple Heart for this action.

“The 178th Field Artillery fired incessantly during the assault on the Gustav and Hitler Lines. It was supporting the French Expeditionary Corps, then with Fifth Army, and it continued to support it all the way from the jump-off position on May 11, through Rome, Sienna, Poggibonsi and Certaldo. The French commander later awarded the unit a Croix de Guerre with a special citation.

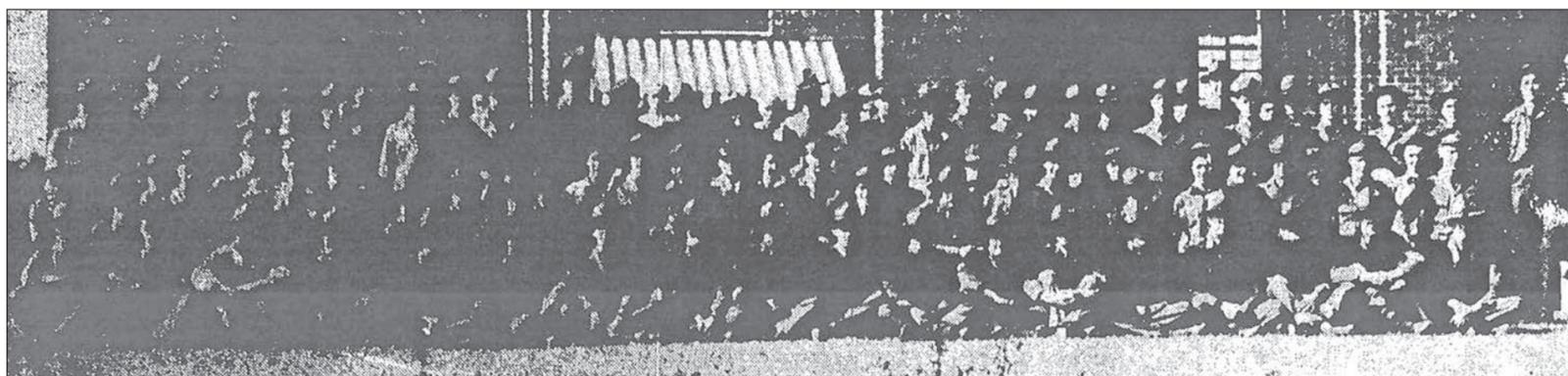
“During the attacks which shattered the German line, the 178th Field Artillery occupied seven different positions, and all of them were subjected to heavy counter-battery fire. No matter what the enemy did, however, the battalion continued to render the type of support which made it as popular with our troops as it was hated by the enemy.

“Its severest dose of counter-battery came during an action near Belvedere. Hostile shells hit powder pits and a house in which some TNT was stored. On top of the action, 30 infantrymen, moving along a nearby road, were wounded by the shelling.

“While the barrage was at its height, two officers and three enlisted men from the 178th crawled to the road, evacuated the wounded to tents, applied first aid and had the wounded moved to safety in ambulances.

“A report issued in early 1945 noted that the personnel of the battalion received: 25 Silver Stars, 2 Legions of Merit, 26 Bronze Stars, 5 Air Medals with 233 Clusters and 105 Purple Hearts.

“The battalion, commanded by Maj. Hugh F. Knight of Sumter, was originally activated as a regiment on Jan. 27, 1941. Its personnel came chiefly from Spartanburg, Greer, Lyman and Sumter, but replacements gave the organization a more national character.”



Sumter's National Guard unit, Battery E, 178th Field Artillery, left the armory Feb. 7, 1941, for Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to begin a year of intensive training. The enlisted personnel of the company lined up in front of the armory were: 1st Sgt. Capers Wactor, Staff Sgt. R. F. McLellan Jr., Sgts. J. F. Carroll, A. R. Cabbage, Ernest Huggins, John H. Humphries, W. A. O'Quinn, James B. Stanley, Robert E. Strawn, Cpls. Harold V. Bradley, J. P. Brogdon, W. C. Chandler, J. L. Jackson, H. B. Josey, W. S. Kolb, M. B. Mathis, A. S. Matthews, J. A. Wactor, J. H. Thomas, privates first class W. P. Allsbrooks, R. C. Ard, D. L. Capehart, E. W. Carlisle, P. A. Cromer, J. H. Cabbage, L. B. Cummings, Otto Driggers, A. W. Hancock, F. I. Herrington, J. C. Hodge, R. W. Hodge, C. L. Huggins, B. W. Jayroe, H. L. Josey, J. M. McColloch, Henry Mixon, W. P. Muldrow, E. W. Player, R. T. Ridgeway, C. B. Smith, Homer Smith, F. W. Stafford, E. T. Truett, B. M. White, R. L. Wilder, J. W. Witherspoon, privates A. M. Bartlett, C. R. Baker, M. C. Baker, H. E. Boyce, Monroe Brown, G. E. Chappell, Paschall Cochran, D. C. Copeland, B. H. Coulter, F. M. Coulter Jr., R. T. Davis, J. M. DuRant, V. M. Fields, R. S. Fowler Jr., H. W. Geddings, L. S. Geddings, J. R. Galloway, J. W. Galloway, Lever Gleaton, L. F. Goodson, J. A. Grumples, O. E. Hatfield, J. E. Hodge, J. P. Hogan, F. P. Holloway, Riley Hudson, Richard Huggins, W. J. Jayroe, W. C. Jones Jr., J. C. King, D. B. Kolb, L. E. McIntosh, L. A. Mathis, T. R. Morgan, G. M. Morrell, J. E. Nesbett, C. F. Newman, W. J. Norris, J. H. Perry, C. M. Player, C. B. Richardson, B. G. Riles, S. B. Russett, A. S. Salisbury, C. L. B. Shirah, E. V. Shorter, Bruce Smith, S. B. Smith, A. A. Spratt, O. W. Stephen, A. M. Tobias, C. D. Tobias, P. J. Warner, H. E. Watson Jr., Willie Wingate, H. R. Young.

Shaw photographers win honors in contest; quarterback Solomon almost unstoppable

75 YEARS AGO — 1945

Feb. 8 — 14

• Sumter Frozen Foods, a new corporation formed here by a group of prominent Sumter businessmen, has begun construction on a freezer locker plant to be located on Broad Street extension, one-half mile beyond the city limits, which will cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000. S. Allen Sauls is president of the corporation, and Edwin B. Boyle vice president; L.E. Terrell Jr. has been named secretary and general manager and W.C. Eldridge, treasurer.

• Sumter High added another victory to its string by trouncing Columbia High in the Capital City gym, 48-25. Presenting a smooth passing attack and some of the most accurate shooting of the season, the Gamecocks were complete masters of the contest from start to finish and won going away. Louis Bryan scored 12 points, Jack Chandler 14, followed by Bill Baldwin with 13.

• Attracting much attention is the Boy Scout display in the W.B. Burns hardware store window. Arranged by the Lions Club Troop 37, it depicts several of the Scouting activities including camping, outdoor cooking and fire-building and direction finding.

• Influenza continued on the increase in South Carolina during the week, reported the state board of health. The week showed a total of 1,767 cases compared with 1,567 cases for the previous week. The report showed 1,130 more cases than for the same week last year.

• In the Y Midget League, the race for the championship is red hot, with the Rambling Wrecks only a few points ahead of the Red Raiders, who are followed closely by the Mallards and Pirates. Tonight's games are Red Raiders versus Pirates and Mallards versus Rambling Wrecks. In the Y Junior League, the race also is tight with the Flying Goons leading by the skin of their teeth, followed in close order by the Sandlappers, Hot Shots and Gremlins.

• The Sumter High School Gamecocks, after defeating teams of Dreher and Columbia high schools, will go to Camden to give the Camden High Bulldogs a return engagement. The Gamecocks won the first game of the season between the two teams a few weeks ago.

• The men's volleyball league, composed of four teams, will play its first games of the season. Capt. Werber Bryan's team will take on Billy Graham's in the first game, with "Jess" James' team playing Billy Gibson's in the second game.

• The remainder of the month will be devoted to a basketball free throw contest at the YMCA, it was reported. The boys got started on the contest with some excellent scores made. Winners of the Midget, Junior and Senior contests will have their names engraved on the handsome Gallo-way and Moseley trophies that are on display in the YMCA lobby.

• Preparations have been completed for the annual Red Cross membership campaign which will open here officially on March 1 with the quota for Sumter County set at \$14,600, according to an announcement made today by C. E. Hurst, publicity chairman for the drive.

• The Red Cross executive board will adopt by-laws and hold monthly meetings, it was decided at the first meeting of the newly elected board, held at Red Cross headquarters. Heretofore, the board has met only when special business

was to come up and has operated without by-laws. W.E. Bynum, chairman of the board, appointed E. C. Stroman, Hugh T. Stoddard and Mrs. Herbert Moses to the committee to draw up the by-laws which will be presented at the next board meeting.

• Gamecock Lodge 17, Knights of Pythias will have the grand officers of the order as their guests at the regular meeting. Grand Chancellor J. C. Mooneyham of Spartanburg will be the principal speaker. More than 100 persons are expected to attend.

• Several hundred Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and their parents and Scouters are expected to attend the annual Scout-parent dinner at the Edmunds High School cafeteria. The meal will be served cafeteria style, and the program will be held in the auditorium immediately following.

50 YEARS AGO — 1970

Oct. 12- 18

• The Sumter County Game and Fish Association will hold its fall meeting at Mill Creek Lake in Manchester State Forest, according to Dick Lee, president. This year the supper meeting will follow the third-annual South Carolina Duck Calling Championship, sponsored by the local association.

• The work of four Shaw Air Force Base photographers gained honors at the 1970 TAC Photography Contest and advanced to the Air Force Contest held at Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas. Photographers were: Capt. Richard Lytle, 363rd Reconnaissance Technical Squadron; Sgt. Paul Frammer, 68th Tactical Air Support Group; First Lt. James Rogers, 363rd RT SQ; and Maj. Neal Mishler, 18th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.

• The U.S. Air Force is scaling down bombing raids across South Vietnam while maintaining pressure on North Vietnamese supply routes in Laos. American air attacks in Vietnam on suspected North Vietnamese and Viet Cong positions and in support of allied ground troops in battle have dropped off by as much as 70 percent since the big enemy offensives in 1968.

• Members of the Bland Garden Club will entertain Mrs. Robert M. Riddle of Chester, State Garden Club president. Mrs. Riddle first began work with garden clubs in 1957 with a Spartanburg club. Following her move to Chester, she served as president for two year terms of the Chester Club and has been affiliated with the state club for 13 years.

• At Sumter Speedway, Rat Morris finished second in the claim main event behind Guy Gamble and won the point championship in that division while Slick Gibbons added 20 more points to his total by winning his 17th main event in the modified action.

• Jan Taylor, who plays the Queen in the Sumter Little Theatre's production of "The Lion in Winter," is making her debut with the local group, but she has had a great deal of experience on the stage. A Texan, she was a drama major at Southern Methodist University and later was a student then a teacher at the Edward Rubin Studio in Dallas and a member of the Aaron Spelling players.

• Edwin B. Boyle, former mayor of Sumter and an outstanding civic and business leader for over half a century, died in Miami after a brief illness. He was 76. He was undergoing treatment at the Miami Heart Institute at the time of his death.

• Far as we know, they still haven't found out whether it was the chicken or the egg that



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Patrick Velte, left, former director of the Ninth Air Force Band at Shaw Air Force Base, receives a certificate of commendation from Mayor Robert E. Graham. Given by the Shaw-Sumter Community Council, Velte received the award for his "outstanding contributions to Sumter-Shaw community relations." The presentation took place at a meeting of Sumter City Council.

came first, but a Clemson Extension poultry specialist says scientists have figured that chickens will produce more eggs if lighting conditions are just right. The light affects the pituitary gland activity, which controls the rate at which the hen will lay. Eighteen hours of light a day is a recommended figure for mature hens.

• Schools will close early in order that teachers may attend the first district meeting of the South Carolina Education Association at Camden High School, Dr. L. C. McArthur Jr., superintendent, has announced. Schools will close at 2 p.m. instead of their normal times. Parents have been notified so that they may arrange for their children to be picked up early.

• The County Planning Board met and voted to present plans for the Wise Drive Park Development to the County Commission. Ed Gusio, city and county planning director, presented the plan to the board for review and discussion. The plan calls for a 13-acre lake, tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, playground equipment, picnic area and a nature trail. Also included are a football field and track, camping area, volleyball and basketball courts, a livestock exhibition area, restroom facilities and parking areas.

• The State Department of Education recommended an average annual pay increase of \$1,004 for South Carolina's public school teachers. Cyril B. Busbee, state superintendent of education, requested the State Budget and Control Board to recommend to the legislature an average increase of \$600 plus an additional cost-of-living increase of six percent.

• He's almost unstoppable on the gridiron! If anyone needed additional proof, he offered it in Sumter's "must" victory over Conway. Quarterback Freddie Solomon, the leading rusher with 104 yards, scored the touchdown which pulled the Gamecocks to within one point, 19-18, and then ran the two-point conversion for the clincher.

• The problems caused by water pollution, specifically in the Turkey Creek area, comprised the major topic of discussion at the County Commission's first of two meetings for the month. Appearing at the meeting were two residents of the Turkey Creek vicinity, Arthur Garrenton and Charles Mooneyhan, who formed an effective duo in voicing their grievances to the commission on the as yet unsolved problems in their residential area.

• Buford S. Mabry was installed as president of the Sumter Kiwanis Club at the annual Ladies' Night banquet. He succeeds I. Byrd Parnell. Other new officers installed

were T. O. Bowen Sr., vice president; Herman R. Moody, treasurer; and Hugh F. Knight, secretary. Charter members Wendell Levi, Fulton B. Creech and E. Murr Hall were honored for their long service to the club.

25 YEARS AGO — 1995

July 12 — 18

• Faced with drastic budget cuts, Sumter School District 17 officials have decided to cut some staff positions and services to balance the district's budget and fund an alternative program for all grade levels. The district will also operate with no reserve money during the 1995-96 school year.

• Curtis Threatt has resigned as the head football coach at Hillcrest High School to take a similar position at East Burke High School in Icard, North Carolina. Threatt was approved as the new head coach at East Burke by the Burke County Board of Education and becomes the third coach in East Burke history.

• West Ashley took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series with a 4-2 victory, with the winning runs coming after a 46-minute rain delay in the bottom of the eighth inning.

• About 250 Shaw Air Force Base personnel, most in the 79th Fighter Squadron, returned from a trip to Jordan, where they flew joint exercises with the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Their 2½-week stay, fortunately, included only battles against blinding sandstorms and 110-degree heat. The mission was created to offer the squadron a chance to train in a foreign country against unfamiliar, but friendly, aircraft that use different airborne tactics.

• Sumter's American Legion P-15's rebounded with a 6-1 victory over West Ashley to pull even in their best-of-five, first-round state playoff series. Game 3 will be played at James Island High School.

• Health care was in the bag for public health nurses in rural South Carolina during the first half of the 20th century. These energetic emissaries of good health carried what amounted to a medical office — medicine, antiseptics, medical tools and bandages in their nurses' bags. They traveled the back roads of the state, training midwives, teaching nutrition and often providing the only medical treatment available or affordable to many South Carolinians.

• Without the comfort and security of a reserve fund, Sumter School District 17 officials aren't sleeping easy these days. Trustees approved the district's budget earlier this week with a zero balance showing in their once-healthy reserve fund — meaning they won't have money to pay for unexpected expenditures next school year. This is the first

time the district has operated without a reserve fund since 1990-91, when it temporarily emptied the fund to cover a deficit caused by mid-year state budget cuts.

• The P-15's led by Lee Hatfield defeated West Ashley 9-3 at Riley Park. Sumter's victory completes the best-of-five series as the P-15's bounced back with three straight wins after dropping the first game.

• Tom Lewis has added the job title of athletic director to that of head football coach at Sumter High School. Lewis, who will be entering his 13th year as Gamecock head coach, will take over for longtime athletic director Pete Dubay. Dubay will remain with Sumter School District 17 as a purchasing agent.

• St. Philips Episcopal Church in rural Lee County is up for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. A board of the state Department of Archives and History will decide whether to submit the property to Washington for final approval. Approved sites are entered on the National Register, the nation's official inventory of historic properties.

• A Sumter attorney says he thinks he can go before a judge within months to ask for a new trial for a Georgia man jailed in the 1970 killing of 13-year-old Margaret "Peg" Cuttino. Attorney Ken Young has been appointed by 3rd Circuit Judge Thomas Cooper to sift through evidence in the case — one of Sumter's most notorious — in response to a recent motion by serial killer William "Junior" Pierce, who says he has evidence that wasn't discussed during the trial.

• Local governments are turning garbage into money. Both the city and Sumter County are collecting and selling residents' discarded plastic, aluminum, glass and paper to businesses that prepare the goods for reuse. While the governments have been doing that for several years, the money they're making from the practice is relatively new. "The market (for recyclable goods) is up, and progressively more people and businesses are making the effort to recycle," said Bill Weaver, who markets recyclable goods for the city of Sumter.

• A heat advisory was in effect in Sumter County and other parts of the state as a heat wave moved from the Midwestern United States and settled in over the East. Temperatures peaked at 97 degrees in Sumter, according to the weather service at Shaw Air Force Base. There have been no known heat-related deaths in Sumter, Lee or Clarendon counties, but scores of heat wave victims, many of them elderly, are arriving at hospitals across the nation.

• Dan Clayton has been hired to replace Curtis Threatt as the head football coach at Hillcrest High School. Threatt resigned to take a position at East Burke High School in North Carolina. Clayton was the head coach at C.E. Murray for two years.

• Game 5 of Manning-Santee's American Legion first-round state playoff matchup against Beaufort turned out to be a battle between two tired teams. Post 68, which took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series only to see Beaufort pull even 2-2 with a pair of wins at Hilton Head, advanced to the second round with a 5-2 victory at County Field in Manning.

• The medical profession has always been a highly publicized, highly glamorized one, from Dr. Kildare in the early days of TV to shows like Marcus Welby, M.D., and St. Elsewhere in the 1970s and '80s to today's popular Chicago Hope and ER. Shaw's ER, like many other real-life ones, has its own share of drama and busy time. "We average 60-90 patients a day," said Maj. Elaine Sopko, 20th medical group officer in charge of emergency services. "We see patients with everything from cold symptoms to serious medical conditions requiring resuscitation efforts and transfer by helicopter to other hospitals."

SWEET FROM PAGE A1

WHO'S OFFERING DEALS LOCALLY?

Baskin-Robbins

Customers can save at Baskin-Robbins in two different ways.

The first is Sunday only through DoorDash, an online food delivery service. When you order \$15 or more worth of ice cream through www.DoorDash.com, you can get a free regular scoop and \$0 delivery fee when using promo code "BASKINSCOOP."

As an ongoing promotion, if you download the Baskin-Robbins app, you can get a free regular-sized scoop of ice cream when you make your first in-store purchase. What better time is there to start than National Ice Cream Day?

The Sumter location, 1106 Broad St., is doing takeout and drive-through services only during COVID-19.

Marble Slab Creamery

According to the ice cream retailer's official website and Sumter location, if you download its new Slab Happy Rewards App and join the rewards program, you get a \$5 reward when you sign up and make your first purchase. This is another ongoing promotion.

The creamery is also celebrating National Ice Cream Month with a special deal: Buy two pre-packed ice cream quarts and get one free. The perk is available on weekdays through the end of July.

The Sumter creamery is doing takeout only now during COVID-19. It's located behind the Sumter Mall at 105 E. Wesmark Blvd., Suite 7.

Dairy Queen

Sumter no longer has a DQ location, but there is one in Bishopville near Interstate 20, Summerton near I-95 and another in Lugoff in Kershaw County.

Home of the iconic Blizzard, DQ is celebrating Sunday with a \$1 off coupon on any size dipped cone (excluding kid cones). The one-day deal includes the chain's new Cotton Candy Dipped Cone or its Chocolate Dipped Cone. DQ fans just need to download its mobile app to get the \$1 discount.

NAME FROM PAGE A1

The school has yet to make a formal announcement on the name change.

Lee Academy is a fully accredited K3-12th grade independent school. It is a member of the South Carolina Independent School Association.

The school came into existence in 1965. It was organized after segregated all-white Bishopville High School and all-Black Dennis High School were merged to form Bishopville High School.

CLASSES

FROM PAGE A1

five days if it can be safely offered, according to the new guidelines.

Those new requirements won't affect many districts that were already planning "hybrid/blended models" of instruction as an option for parents with in-person instruction two to three days per week and online instruction at home the other days, Brown added.

It will impact Sumter, though, since district Superintendent Penelope Martin-Knox and the district's Board of Trustees already agreed on July 6 at a special-called meeting to begin the school year next month in a virtual, online capacity.

Martin-Knox said the fact that Sumter County was classified as a "high-risk community" by the state Department of Health and Environmental Control ultimately influenced her recommendation to the school board to begin online in August.

In the district's decision-making process, it also attempted to follow guidelines from a 13-person taskforce called AccelerateED convened by State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman.

That taskforce's guidance — considered a fluid, non-binding document that could be altered based in the virus' activity — called for districts in counties with a high COVID-19 incidence rate, as measured by DHEC, to begin the school year with full distance learning and no in-classroom options, according to taskforce member Patrick Kelly.

Kelly, the director of governmental affairs for the Palmetto State Teachers Association, the largest teacher association in the state, spoke earlier this week with *The Sumter Item*.

Kelly said 45 of 46 counties in the state currently fall into DHEC's high virus spread category. Only Marlboro County is considered a medium spread county for

COVID-19 this week. The taskforce recommended the "hybrid model" of instruction for medium category counties.

INITIAL REOPENING PLANS AND THEN WEDNESDAY

Sumter made its formal announcement to start fully virtual before submitting its initial reopening plan to the state. All districts' initial reopening plans were due to the state DOE on Friday, but 35 of the state's 81 districts, including Sumter, have requested extensions. They were all granted, Brown said.

Many of those districts had already requested extensions before Wednesday when Gov. Henry McMaster recommended that all public schools in the state be open this fall five days a week for face-to-face instruction. During the press conference, he did not mention the state's continued, increasing COVID-19 spread.

As of Friday, the age group with the largest percentage of all confirmed cases in the state is 21-30, making up 22% of all cases. Those aged 11-20 make up 11% of all cases, the fourth-highest percentage behind age groups 31-40 (16%), 41-50 (15%) and 51-60 (14%).

The Republican governor said it should be up to parents to decide whether to send students to in-person classes or let their children take classes online at home, meaning schools should offer both options. He proposed the Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept. 8, as a start date for public schools across the state to give districts more time to prepare amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spearman, also an elected Republican, declined McMaster's invitation to Wednesday's news conference and released a statement later saying her goal is to reopen schools for five days a week "as safely and as soon as possible." But she indicated the choice should be left with local school districts on when it's safe.

However, she did tell The Associated Press later in the day by phone that while she wouldn't mandate the governor's request, she was telling districts they must give parents the option to put their

kids in classrooms at least one day a week — as long as their safety can be assured.

"You have to put in one day a week so you can put eyes on them," Spearman told AP. She reportedly said she worried about thousands of students who never signed in for virtual work or picked up assignments after the March shutdown of schools.

Mandating any number of in-person days a week was not in the AccelerateED published guidelines for districts.

AFTER-EFFECTS

Teachers, some school districts, state education association groups and some legislative leaders immediately criticized the governor, saying that while they agree in-person learning is best, there has been no sign COVID-19 is slowing down, making it too early to have children in class five days a week.

According to various news outlets, districts across the state also had questions on how McMaster's recommendation would apply to their reopening plans.

Brown, with the DOE, said some staff members then met with Spearman on Thursday because of the questions, and the updated guidelines were formally written and distributed to districts on Friday.

"These are written guidelines," Brown said, "because there were just a lot of questions as to 'Do we have to offer five days a week?'; 'Can we just do virtual?' So, we've answered that, so there's clarity."

SUMTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY

Sumter School District's Board of Trustees has its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday night.

An agenda for Monday's full board meeting was placed online. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

With the ongoing spread of COVID-19, the district has kept all board meetings since April closed in person to the public. Anyone wanting to attend virtually can do so via YouTube at Sumter School District Board Meeting and the district's Facebook page, @SumterSCSchools.

Unemployment plummets in S.C. as hospitals warn crisis looming

BY JEFFREY COLLINS

The Associated Press

By reopening South Carolina after this spring's COVID-19 shutdown, more than 100,000 people went back to work in June, according to unemployment figures released Friday.

But also on Friday, doctors in Greenville joined hospital officials in the rest of the state in warning a rapidly increasing number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients combined with nurses and other staff infected during their off-hours in community hot spots leaves them — at most — weeks from a crisis.

"Since Memorial Day we've established business as usual. We cannot do that," said Dr. Wendell James, a Greenville hospital executive who again said simple steps like wearing masks whenever outside a home can end the six-week spike in cases in South Carolina.

Similar warnings have come from hospitals in Myrtle Beach, Orangeburg and Charleston.

The unemployment rate was good news amid an avalanche of ugly numbers recently in South Carolina's COVID-19 fight. The June jobless rate in the state is 8.7%, well down from the 12.4% rate in May that marked the peak of the shutdown of businesses because of the virus.

It is still a steep increase from the March level of 3.2% before the pandemic began.

South Carolina added more than 105,000 jobs with about 40% of them coming from hotels, restaurants and hospitality as well as professional services like barbers or other occupations that need a li-

cense. Both sectors were hit hard by the government-mandated COVID-19 shutdowns.

"This news shows that South Carolina is leading the way in our economic recovery efforts and that we can, and will, overcome any challenge by working together, being smart and showing compassion for our neighbors," Gov. Henry McMaster said in a statement.

Reopening businesses was a priority of the Republican governor, who says over and over he will not shut businesses again, even as South Carolina's rate of COVID-19 cases adjusted to population has hovered in the top four in the nation — and world — for the past month. The state also recorded 69 deaths Thursday, by far the most in a single day, followed by 25 deaths on Friday, the fourth-highest total since the first case was detected. One of Friday's victims was a Sumter County resident.

About 37% of South Carolina's 65,857 diagnosed COVID-19 cases have come in the past two weeks.

"If we continue to choose to ignore this and act like it is not actually happening to us, we can end up being the equivalent of New York City," said James, a senior vice president with Prisma Health who is based in Greenville. Prisma Health runs Tuomey Hospital in Sumter.

But unlike the more than 8 million people in New York who were the center of attention when the COVID-19 pandemic started, South Carolina is a small state of 5 million with comparable outbreaks also happening in larger places like Georgia

and Florida, James said.

"We have a lot of other places right now that are getting very, very hot, and they are big areas. So if you want the cavalry, if you think the cavalry is coming, we need to look around the room at each other because we are probably going to be it," James said at a Friday news conference.

James estimates hospitals in the Greenville area are

about two weeks away from having to make hard choices if cases continue to spike like they have since Memorial Day. He said that ominous trajectory can change in a week if people wore masks, practiced social distancing and regular hand washing.

Hospitals are being pinched in two directions. More COVID-19 patients — 1,593 people on Friday — are hospitalized than ever before, a

record that has been broken almost every day in July. But James said nurses and other workers are getting infected while off work and in the community so beds go unfilled.

"The majority of the illness we see in our nursing staffs and our support staff is community spread. Almost all of it I can't control," James said. "I can keep them well in the hospital."

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N.G. Osteen 1843-1936
THE WATCHMAN AND SOUTHRON

H.G. Osteen 1870-1955
FOUNDER, THE ITEM

H.D. Osteen 1904-1987
THE ITEM

Margaret W. Osteen 1908-1996
THE ITEM



OPINION

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

Hubert D. Osteen Jr. CHAIRMAN & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Graham Osteen CO-OWNER

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COMMENTARY

It's time to learn what our system's about from the inside

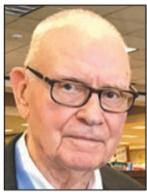
I've spent a long time in politics, and over those years one thing has remained constant: There are a lot more Americans who criticize government than there are who serve and do something about it.

I'll admit, there have been times when I've felt a bit resentful. It's hard to enter the fray, be expected to listen patiently to criticism from all comers, and then look around to find that many of them are nowhere to be found when it comes to the hard work of improving our communities and our system.

But far more than annoyance, what I've felt is amazement at the immense but often ungrasped opportunity our system offers. This is especially acute these days, as millions of Americans take to the streets and to social media with passionate intensity, driven by deeply held beliefs or newfound conviction and a sense that it's

time to weigh in. I agree — but then, I think it's always time to weigh in. That's what our system asks of us as citizens. And in particular, I'd argue that it asks us to do it from the inside, not just from the outside.

We desperately need citizens to enter the public arena — people who are not afraid to



Lee Hamilton

plunge in and try to improve our democratic institutions. To be sure, critics and ordinary engaged citizens have an important role to play in shaping the public

discourse. But if at some point in their lives they and others do not also see a duty to serve, our nation is in trouble.

I know the arguments you can find against it. You have to compromise your values. It's thankless. The system turns

you into a cog. You make yourself a target of scrutiny. You can't actually accomplish anything.

To all of this, I say: So? There is no question that our governing institutions need improving. But it's not going to happen unless people with the power to change them roll up their sleeves and set about doing so. And those people are the ones inside those institutions, who've learned how they work and who understand that actual change happens by dint of legislation, administration and the nitty-gritty details of reform.

There are plenty of other things you can do, too: vote, spend time learning the issues you care about, make informed judgments about your elected representatives, get involved in organizations that advocate for the causes you value. But as writer Andy Smarick put it recently in *The Bulwark*, "[G]overning is formative. Knock-

ing on doors as a candidate is not just about winning votes. Sitting through a long bill hearing is not just about following the legislative process. Taking part in public debates is not just about self-expression. Making a tough governing decision is not just about resolving a policy matter. Through these activities, the public servant listens to fellow citizens, learns of competing priorities and witnesses principles in conflict."

In our democracy, these and other skills are vital — not just for public officials, but for any citizen who wants to be involved in the community. Listening to our peers, understanding their hopes, appreciating the differences among them, grasping why accommodation and compromise are crucial to resolving those differences and learning how to accomplish them are part and parcel of making a representative democracy work. People who do this feel in their bones

how hard it is to govern in a large, diverse republic — and why we depend on large numbers of ordinary people to step forward, find their niche and participate on town boards, in state legislatures and in Congress.

So, as I look about at the remarkable levels of public engagement in this intense political year, I find myself hoping that more comes out of it than simple public pressure. I hope that people who'd never considered it before decide it's time to step forward, serve in public office and help their fellow citizens make this a better country.

Lee Hamilton is a senior adviser for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government, a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Recent editorials from South Carolina newspapers:

THE STATE

July 14

Resistance to wearing masks

Many South Carolinians who still won't wear face masks during the ongoing raging COVID-19 pandemic say they don't want their individual freedoms trampled upon as though they were living in some undemocratic Third World country.

Perhaps someone should break the news to these people that during a recent seven-day period, South Carolina racked up more new COVID-19 cases per every 1 million residents than these authoritarian Third World countries:

Bahrain. Oman. Kazakhstan.

These are the kind of facts that continue to expose the folly of South Carolinians who persist in refusing to wear face masks — even as our state approached the four-figure mark in deaths related to COVID-19.

Doesn't it bother the "If I put on a mask, I put away my freedom" crowd that if South Carolina were a country, we'd be considered a more alarming global hotspot for coronavirus than Panama?

Armenia? Brazil? Chile? Or several other nations across the world?

Clearly not.

And that's understandably a source of raw frustration for all of the South Carolinians who are wearing masks, practicing social distancing and doing their part to reduce COVID-19's spread.

But we can't give up.

We can't give up in our efforts to try to persuade more South Carolinians to transform themselves from dangerously stubborn holdouts to duty-minded citizens who accept their responsibility to wear face masks in the midst of a modern-day plague.

We must keep faith that these naysayers across our state will eventually own up to their obligation to our state.

Yes, it is exasperating that while South Carolina continues to break records for daily COVID-19 cases, no number is seemingly high enough to sway some to wear masks.

But we must keep throwing those grim numbers — politely, of course — into the uncovered faces of the skeptics.

Yes, it is maddening that as one local community after another has moved to implement laws requiring their residents to wear face masks in public places, the citizens who won't can defiantly point out that Gov. Henry McMaster opposes a statewide requirement.

But we must keep pointing out that this is just another example of how local leaders have been way ahead of McMaster in taking decisive action during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yes, it is exhausting to hear and read State Epidemiologist Linda Bell issue yet another heartfelt plea to South Carolinians to simply wear face masks — and realize that her latest appeal will likely be just as studiously ignored by

the "unwilling and uncovered" as the previous ones she's made.

But we must keep encouraging Bell to speak up and speak out — while also giving power to her words by showing how most South Carolinians are embracing and heeding them.

In short, we can't give up trying to lower the stubborn resistance to wearing face masks in South Carolina — because it remains our best chance of lowering the ominous COVID-19 numbers that make donning masks necessary in the first place.

Besides, "We're worse than Bahrain!" isn't exactly the most inspiring slogan for a state, is it?

THE POST AND COURIER

July 12

Ruling is a victory for religious freedom

The U.S. Supreme Court decision that private-school advocates hope to turn into huge taxpayer subsidies doesn't change anything in South Carolina, but it does include an important reminder that our lawmakers can't hear too many times.

The court's landmark ruling in *Espinosa v. Montana Department of Revenue* very reasonably said states that subsidize private schools can't discriminate against religious schools. In doing so, the court rejected Montana's so-called Blaine Amendment, one of many such state constitutional provisions that were adopted after a failed 1875 effort to write anti-Catholic funding prohibitions into the U.S. Constitution.

It's an important victory for religious freedom in states that were discriminating against religious schools. South Carolina hasn't been one of those states for nearly half a century.

Despite the rhetoric to the contrary by organizations that want to pay parents to abandon our public schools, the Legislature removed the Blaine Amendment from the South Carolina Constitution in 1973, replacing a ban on direct or indirect funding for religious institutions with a ban on public funding "for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution" (Article XI, Section 4).

The most obvious thing about that language is that it treats religious and nonreligious private schools the same, as the court just ordered other states to do. The most important thing is that it recognizes the real distinction we can and should make isn't between religious and nonreligious schools. The real distinction — in both importance to our society and propriety of taxpayer support — is between public and private schools. Our constitution recognizes that, as the immediately preceding section requires, the job of the taxpayers is to support "a system of free public schools" that are "open to all children in the State."

Now, the constitutional ban hasn't stopped the Legislature from providing indirect support to private schools. Our state awards college scholarships for students at both public and private colleges and universities. It funds 4-year-

old kindergarten programs that are operated by public schools as well as private organizations — both religious and nonreligious.

Both of those programs make some sense because our state never saw providing higher education as a central part of its job, and the Legislature only recently began to recognize that education needs to start long before age 5. As a result, private colleges and child-care centers grew up to meet the demand for pre-kindergarten and post-secondary education, and it was simply easier (and fairer) for the state to subsidize existing programs that meet our standards than to try to duplicate them.

But South Carolina has recognized its responsibility to provide public education since adding that requirement to the 1868 constitution — a duty so important that even the Tillman constitution of 1895 retained it. Although the political and legal opinion of just what that means has changed repeatedly over the decades and remains in dispute today, our constitution has consistently recognized that the entire state benefits when all of its citizens have some basic level of education — and it suffers when we leave people uneducated.

And this is where we get to the Supreme Court's important constitutional reminder, courtesy of Chief Justice John Roberts' majority opinion: "A state need not subsidize private education. But once a state decides to do so, it cannot disqualify some private schools solely because they are religious."

Read that first part again: A state need not subsidize private education.

Private schools, parents who send their children to private schools and lobbying groups that want to defund public education spend a lot of time trying to convince our legislators that South Carolina has an obligation to pay for private schools, through either vouchers or convoluted scholarship programs.

We don't think that's wise, since we can't control what those schools teach or how well they teach it. And as the chief justice just reminded us — by way of an opinion that has the biggest private-school advocates singing the "Hallelujah Chorus" — it's certainly not a requirement.

THE MYRTLE BEACH SUN NEWS

July 10

Confederate symbols

In the pivotal 1948 presidential election, then-S.C. Gov. Strom Thurmond campaigned against President Harry Truman's civil rights program.

At the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Thurmond told a receptive audience that measures against lynching and racial discrimination "would undermine the American way of life and outrage the Bill of Rights."

In July of that year, Thurmond left the Democratic Party at its national convention in July and established the States Rights Democratic Party, known as the Dixiecrats.

While accepting the Dixiecrats' presidential nomination in Birmingham,

Thurmond declared that "there's not enough troops in the army to force the Southern people to break down segregation and admit the (N-word) race into our theaters, into our swimming pools, into our homes, into our churches."

Thurmond went on to capture only four states — including our state — in the 1948 election, which Truman famously won in come-from-behind fashion over Republican candidate Thomas Dewey.

But Thurmond did go on to represent South Carolina for nearly 50 years in the U.S. Senate as a member of the Republican Party.

In his 2018 book "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels," Jon Meacham used the 1948 campaign as an illustration of Americans' better angels prevailing in conflicts "between the impulses of good and evil." Fortunately, the attitudes of South Carolinians are vastly different in 2020 than they were in 1948 — and they are continuing to change and evolve.

People who were inclined to be silent are now speaking up about issues, including the need to reform law enforcement to ensure that people of color are treated the same as white citizens.

The tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis two months ago triggered a global response, including peaceful protest parades in Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach.

The response suggests there is a fundamental change taking place in attitudes and feelings about relationships with people who may not look like us, about concerns for de facto equality and about the need to truly have justice for all.

In recent weeks alone:

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves removed the Confederate emblem from the state flag.

NASCAR banned Confederate flags from being displayed at its race tracks.

Statues of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and other figures linked to the Confederacy were removed or approved for removal from public places.

The majority of these monuments were removed by government action. Unfortunately, however, a few have been taken down by protesters — which works against their cause just as arson and looting diminish the impact of peaceful protests.

Once the Civil War ended, both Lee and Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States of America, felt the Confederate flag should be put away. Lee urged his troops "to commit to oblivion the feelings" that the Confederate flag engendered; Davis, meanwhile, wrote that the flag should be folded up, laid away and no longer used.

Claims of Southern heritage notwithstanding, the Confederate battle flag was fully usurped by the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacy groups and individuals — and in reality it now represents a symbol of hate and domestic terrorism.

Truman warned against dividing the country into sections and the need "to appeal to people's best instincts, not their worst ones." Those best instincts are what Abraham Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature."

May they again prevail.

AROUND TOWN

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please note that due to the threat of COVID-19, some events may be cancelled or rescheduled unexpectedly.

The Lincoln High School Preservation Alumni Association will hold a teleconference meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 19. Call Rose Colclough at (803) 773-5314 or Ronetta

Moses at (803) 775-2703 for the phone number and access code.

The Carolina Coin Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, at Mount Vernon Inn, 2 Broad St. The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Visitors are always welcome. Call (803) 775-8840 for more information.

PUBLIC AGENDA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please note that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of the following meetings/events may be cancelled, rescheduled or held virtually.

MANNING CITY COUNCIL Monday, July 20, 6:30 p.m., second floor of Manning City Hall, 29 W. Boyce St.

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, July 21, 5:30 p.m., Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St.

CLARENDON COUNTY PLANNING & PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Tuesday, July 21, 6 p.m., planning commission office, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

GREATER SUMTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Wednesday, July 22, noon, chamber office

SUMTER CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION Wednesday, July 22, 3 p.m., fourth floor, Sumter Opera House, Council Chambers

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your energy into something

useful. Apply your skills to something you enjoy. Do your research, set up a game plan and prepare to market yourself for something that excites you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The past will haunt you if you don't take care of unfinished business. Tidy up loose ends, let go of the past and live in the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will try to sway your opinion or feed you information that isn't accurate.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Change begins with you. Look around, observe how others are living and formulate a plan that will encourage a happier and healthier lifestyle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Expand your interests, mind and future. Draw on the past, and you'll realize how best to move forward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A personal change is overdue. Evaluate your situation, feelings and status, and you'll come up with a plan that will help you replace what's negative with a positive.

Surround yourself with people who have something to offer in return.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Research a physical change you want to make, and you'll learn to appreciate who you are and how you look.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your intuition won't lead you astray. Distance yourself from anyone trying to combat what you want and are striving to achieve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get your life in order. A change will lift your spirits. Address home improvements, and set an itinerary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Refuse to let anyone bait you into an argument or ruin your day. Gravitate toward the people you enjoy being with who share similar interests.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider making a change to how you earn your living. Think about how you can apply your attributes to what's trending in the job market.

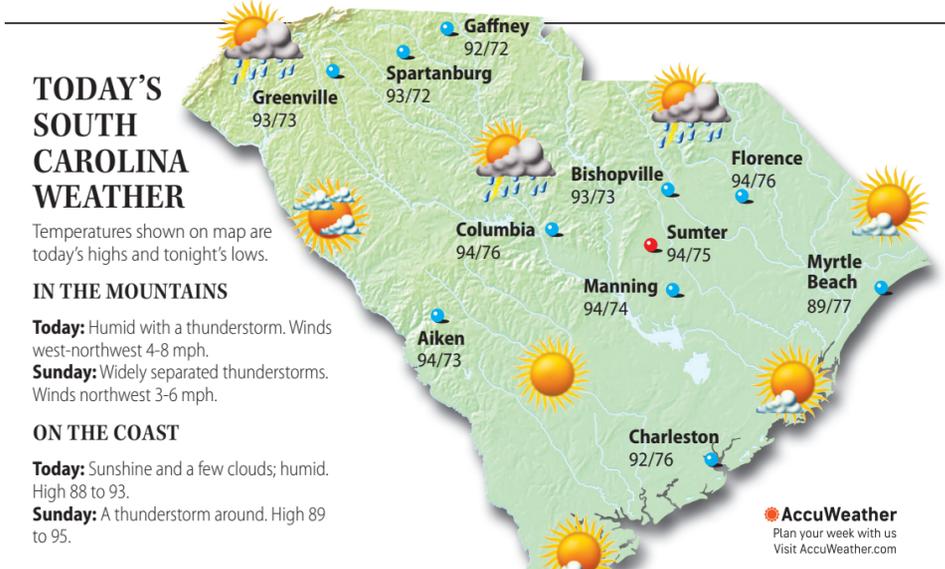
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A heart-to-heart talk with someone will help resolve any issues your relationship faces. Honesty, patience and keeping the peace will play roles in maintaining a workable union moving forward.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

Table with 6 columns: TODAY, TONIGHT, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY. Includes weather icons, temperature forecasts, and chance of rain.



LOCAL ALMANAC

Table with 2 columns: Temperature and Precipitation. Includes high/low forecasts, normal values, and record highs/lows.

LAKE LEVELS

Table with 4 columns: Lake, Full pool, 7 a.m. yest., 24-hr chg. Lists levels for Murray, Marion, Moultrie, Wateree, and other lakes.

SUN AND MOON

Table with 4 columns: Sunrise, Moonrise, Sunset, Moonset. Includes moon phase icons for July 20, 27, Aug. 3, and 11.

TIDES

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, and tide times for Myrtle Beach.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sun. Lists weather for major cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, etc.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sun. Lists weather for regional cities like Asheville, Athens, Augusta, etc.

Advertisement for 'We have a NOSE for NEWS' featuring a cartoon dog detective and contact information for The Sumter ITEM.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'WIDE OPEN SPACES' and 'ACROSS'.

- List of crossword clues including: 81 Fisher, the first mother in space; 130 Last pronoun in the Declaration; 131 Make more acute; etc.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-134.

- List of crossword clues including: LAND anagram; 48 Very early; 50 Retail ID; 52 Independent charities; etc.

SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

Grid of crossword answers including: TIME, TABLE, SPARE, HUT, ERASABLE, PENCIL, ASH, etc.

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9.

JUMBLE

CHIDE CRUSH THRASH ENGAGE. How he ended up with poison ivy on his scalp was a - HEAD-SCRATCHER.

The path to Shoot Yo Leg

The woods are primitive and ancient. Giant hardwoods tower over the hillside. There is a super canopy of massive pines. In March and April, portions of the forest floor are carpeted in a thick stand of wild Easter lilies. A heavy stand of cypress trees reign over the long, narrow, watery swampland that guards this place. It is a portion of the "Upper Swamp."

Most of the Upper Swamp was logged a few years ago. This section of timber company land is tucked in between a narrow private tract that borders the Charleston-Augusta Highway and a club road named Shoot Yo Leg. The timber cutters couldn't get through the long strip of cypress swamp and couldn't get permission to access the area from the adjoining property owner. So, it was left standing.

This remnant of big timber still holds some wild turkeys, and it is one of my favorite places to hunt on this Low-country club. The private land along the highway is mostly cow pastures and hay fields. On the club, both sides of Shoot Yo Leg Road were clear

cut, and the only way to get to the remaining timber is across a wide cut-over. No one else on the club hunts this area.

After the area was cut, I knew that it would grow up in a bramble of briars, weeds and thickets too dense to pass through. So, I marked a trail across the wide cut-over with small strips of orange flagging and reflective tacks. I sprayed the path with an herbicide to knock back the growth. I intentionally left the start of the

trail unmarked so it wouldn't be discovered by other hunters.

One of the other hunters, Buck Nettles, did eventually stumble across my path by accident. Hearing turkeys gobbling in the big timber one morning inspired him to try crossing the cut-over. He found my path and just assumed it was an old abandoned logging road. At the big timber, his progress was stopped by a wall of fallen timber and flooded cypress swamps. He followed my path back to Shoot Yo Leg. He knew there were easier places to hunt on the club.

Every year in June or early

July, I spot spray portions of the path. The deer and hogs use the trail and keep it well-trodden. All I have to do is treat the briars and dog fennel that come back each year. An occasional gum tree sapling gets special attention from me. They must be kept in check or will quickly take over. If I spray earlier in the year, the vegetation will come back before fall. But a mid-summer treatment will last until cool weather and the end of the growing season. I do not bother the pines that were planted by the timber company.

At the big woods end of the path, there is a narrow gap of dry land between the cypress swamps. I found the gap while turkey hunting, before the timber harvest. It was overlooked by the timber cutters. A heavy wind storm blew down a score of big hardwoods that seem to block that gap, but there is a passage around one side. It was not obvious to my friend Buck. I have done some very minor brush trimming in this area.

The big timber of the Upper Swamp runs all the way down to another club road, Ridge Road, but it is a long way, and the wet areas are hard to navigate. No one bothers. The Ridge Road end is wider and



DAN GEDDINGS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wildflowers are seen on the path to Shoot Yo Leg with a deer path down the middle and big timber at the dark end.

more extensive, but the turkeys seem to favor the narrower Shoot Yo Leg end of the timber.

This year my path was festooned with a variety of wildflowers and a good stand of

broom straw grass. I was careful to keep the herbicide use minimized. The path to Shoot Yo Leg is now a thing of beauty. Reach Dan Geddings at cdgeddings@gmail.com.

Daisies bring a sunny look to the garden

BY LEE REICH
The Associated Press

Give a child a box of crayons and a piece of paper, and ask for a flower, and you very likely will get a picture of a daisy.

Daisies also hold attraction for poets. Geoffrey Chaucer, English poet of the 14th century, wrote "...of all the floures in the mede, Thanne love I most this floures white and rede, Swiche as men callen dayes in our toune."

Daisies are my favorite, too. For me, a daisy is the essence of "flowerness."

What makes a flower a daisy? The child's daisy is a circle surrounded by strap-like petals, their bases attached to the circle. To the botanist and gardener, the meaning of "daisy" is not so simple. The botanist explains that the daisy is a composite flower made up of many small, individual florets.

Those florets that make up the eye of the daisy have inconspicuous petals. A different type of floret, the so-called ray florets, skirt the daisy's eye, and each has one large, outward-pointing petal. The petals you actually see on a daisy flower are those from the ray florets.

WHAT IS A DAISY?

Botanically, all daisies are in the Compositae, or daisy, family. But that family also includes many other plants not commonly called daisies. Lettuce and zinnias, for example.

The daisy family has two subdivisions, one of which is exemplified by the child's flower drawing, sunflowers, coneflowers and other daisies with "eyes." For examples of the other subdivision, look closely at a dandelion or chicory flower; in these flowers, all the florets are ray florets, each with a single, large, strap-like petal. There is no eye to these flowers.

The original "daisy" of poetry and literature is the English daisy, *Bellis perennis*. These squat, cheerful flowers, with yellow discs surrounded by petals in shades from deep-rose to



white, originated in the grassy fields of England. Now they are widespread in America, too. Cultivated forms have been bred to have so many rows of petals that their yellow eyes often are hidden. These plants self-sow readily to give seedlings that revert to the "wild" form with a single row of petals, in which case they sometimes are considered weeds as they invade lawns and gardens.

SO MANY FLOWERS WITH "DAISY" IN THEIR NAMES

Nowadays, we gardeners use the word "daisy" to represent many different flowers in the daisy family. In the chrysanthemum genus, for example, there's the ox-eye daisy (*C. leucanthemum*), its white petals encircling a clear yellow disc. It's a familiar roadside plant. This plant, like the English daisy, was a native of Europe, but has firmly established itself in America (many consider it a weed).

Other perennial chrysanthemum daisies include the Nippon daisy (*C. nipponicum*), also with white petals, and the painted daisy (*C. cocineum*), whose red, pink or white flowers begin their show in early summer. The

high, or giant daisy (*C. uliginosum*) is aptly named, because its white flowers tower 4 to 7 feet above the ground. The crown, or garland daisy (*C. coronarium*) is an annual species, with yellow or white flowers atop 3-foot stalks.

The Erigeron genus and the aster genus also have some "daisies;" the former sometimes are called fleabanes, for their alleged ability to drive away fleas, and the latter sometimes are called Michaelmas daisies. Whereas the fleabanes generally bloom in spring and early summer, the asters bloom from late summer into fall. Two representatives of Erigeron that are good garden daisies are the orange daisy (*E. aurantiacus*) and the seaside, or double-orange daisy (*E. glaucus*).

The list goes on, including the perennial globe daisy (*Globularia trichosantha*), a low-growing native of Asia producing a globular, blue flower; the Swan River daisy (*Brachycome iberidifolia*), a gracefully little annual with blue, rose or white flowers; and the blue daisy (*Agatheae coelestris*), a plant best suited for greenhouse-growing, with sky-blue petals surrounding a yellow eye.

Next spring, I will plant a

sweep of pastel landscape with African daisies (*Arctotis grandis*), whose petals, white skyward over lavender undersides, surround steel-blue centers.

In contrast, individual attention is demanded from each flower of Transvaal daisies (*Gerbera jamesonii*), which blossom in shades of salmon, pink and apricot in clay pots on my terrace.

A green thumb isn't required to enjoy daisies. Most are hardy plants, free from pests, and able to tolerate poor, dry soils.

If daisies have captured your fancy, sow seeds of perennial forms now. Sow seeds of annual daisies next spring.

Daisies are adaptable plants that can bring their sunny disposition to the formal garden, cottage garden, meadow or abandoned lot. After all, the name daisy comes from a reference to the sun, "day's eye." Lee Reich writes regularly about gardening for *The Associated Press*. He has authored a number of books, including "The Ever Curious Gardener" and "The Pruning Book." He blogs at <http://www.leereich.com/blog>. He can be reached at garden@leereich.com.

SCDNR: Deer tags arriving in mailboxes soon

BY SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

Deer tags should be arriving in your mailbox soon!

For the first time, Lifetime, Senior, Gratis and Catawba license holders that requested deer tags last year will automatically receive a free base set of tags this year and into the future. These license type



holders who did not request tags in 2019 must request them this year. Youth and Disability license holders must still request their free base set of tags each year.

Additionally, South Carolina deer hunters who have an active or three-year hunting license and big game permit, combination license, or sportsman license, which will be valid on Aug. 15, should automatically receive a base set of deer tags.

We ask you to please wait until at least Aug. 3 before inquiring about tags' status.

Deer Tags will be available over-the-counter beginning Aug. 3 at SCDNR offices located in Charleston, Clemson, West Columbia (Farmers Market), Florence and York.

License holders unsure about their hunting license status/expiration date, big game permit, or other SCDNR hunting privileges can visit the Customer Privileges Portal online.

If you'd like additional harvest opportunities, you can purchase optional antlerless tags or antler-restricted buck tags. You can call 1-866-714-3611 or go online to buy optional tags. Please allow 7-10 days for tags to arrive in the mail.

There are no significant changes to tags or the tagging system from last year. Please remember that all deer in South Carolina must be tagged immediately after harvest before moving from the kill point.

Knights fight for NFL dream during the pandemic

Crestwood alumni Ty'Son Williams and Donald Rutledge are trying to make it in the NFL during the most complex offseason in league history.

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Breaking into the National Football League is not an easy chore, sometimes even for high draft picks. It gets even harder when you don't get drafted, and it's even harder when you're doing it during a global pandemic.

That's exactly what Crestwood High School alumni Ty'Son Williams and Donald Rutledge are trying to do right now though.

The duo graduated from Crestwood in 2015 and took somewhat similar paths to where they are now. Williams, a running back, was the more heavily recruited Knight. He signed with North Carolina, the first of three Football Bowl Subdivision schools he would attend, but only stayed for a year. He transferred to South Carolina and spent three years with the Gamecocks before moving to Brigham Young University as a graduate transfer for his final year of college eligibility in 2019.

His senior year was going well, before tearing his anterior cruciate ligament after just four games. That injury kept his name from being called in the NFL draft, but it wasn't enough to keep the Baltimore Ravens from signing him as an undrafted free agent.

Rutledge's journey came on a smaller stage. The Crestwood defensive back wasn't heavily recruited out of high school and ended up walking on at The Citadel, a Football Championship Subdivision school. After redshirting his freshman year, he decided to transfer to Savannah State, another FCS school. After starring at Savannah State, he went to FCS school Georgia

Southern as a graduate transfer for his final season. He earned a spot in the NFL Collegiate Bowl, where he was able to show off his skills for NFL scouts. Like Williams, Rutledge didn't hear his name called during the draft, but he signed with the Indianapolis Colts.

"It's been awesome," said Williams of battling through the ups and downs with Rutledge. "It's honestly been like step for step. When I transferred, he transferred. He kinda does it first then I just follow him. When we had to sit out for a season, we were just communicating and talking about everything."

"Of course, having someone that's in the same position as you, just getting some feedback on how to handle certain situations has always been good."

After five wild years of college football, the duo is still keeping the dream alive. It's an opportunity the pair won't take for granted.

"It's surreal. I want to take myself out of my body and kind of look at it, because me and Ty'Son mapped it out for so many years that once it hap-

pened, I don't think it hit the same," said Rutledge. "I don't wanna sound like I'm not appreciative of the moment, because definitely I am, but it's just like, you always want more, always have to work for something more. Now we've got our foot in the door, what's next?"

"It's a great feeling, but I probably won't feel it until it gets solidified."

That dream will be solidified by making an NFL roster, but this offseason isn't making that task any easier. The coronavirus pandemic has



PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Former Crestwood football players Ty'Son Williams, left, and Donald Rutledge worked out together at their former school as they prepare to report for their first training camps with NFL teams. Both were signed as undrafted free agents, Williams by the Baltimore Ravens and Rutledge by the Indianapolis Colts.

forced the NFL offseason to be entirely virtual, so neither former Knight has stepped foot inside their teams' respective facilities. Because Williams is coming off of an injury, he hasn't even received a playbook or sat in a Zoom meeting with the Ravens' other running backs.

"Because I got injured, I'm considered inactive, so I'm not able to participate in all the meetings," said Williams. "I kind of just talk to the trainers and the running back coaches just to keep up to date on things, just making sure we're on the same page."

"What's tough about it for me, I'm kind of more where I need to be on the field learning, kind of repping it out. Online, virtual learning is all mental. It's like learning without having to take tests and put yourself through it. That's been the most difficult part for me."

Rutledge, meanwhile, was able to dive in head-first to his Colts playbook. He had about two months of constant meetings with coaches and teammates discussing everything from defense to social justice. One of his biggest challenges so far was keeping a straight face when meeting the most well-known Colt of the 21st century.

"My first Zoom meeting once all the vets got in there, Peyton Manning gave a quick introduction, a little run-down, welcome to the league kind of thing," said the former Crestwood standout. "I'm like, 'That's Peyton Manning,' but I'm trying to act like, 'I don't care, I'm here too, but that's Peyton Manning.' I spoke to him a little bit, so that was cool."

While meeting a future Hall of Famer grabbed his at-

tention, Rutledge said constant Zoom meetings can be a grind.

"It's tough, because I love football, so when I'm in an actual meeting I can stay alert and attentive, but in those Zoom meetings you might have your dog run across the

living room or your little cousin over there, so it's a lot of noise," said Rutledge.

"When you sit there and look at that monitor, you might get a little sleepy. I've seen some vets get on there and turn

SEE **KNIGHTS**, PAGE B4



"I credit that to the perseverance and having people in my corner to talk to. Ty'Son was going through it too, talking to him about it. Having my momma (Sheila Rutledge) there, she was like my rock the whole time."

DONALD RUTLEDGE

On the importance of having the right people in your life.



Gamecocks land 4-star defensive end Wilson

For much of the recruiting battle for defensive end **George Wilson** of Virginia Beach, Va., the national recruiting experts had him pegged for North Carolina. However, on Sunday Wilson went a different direction announcing a commitment to South Carolina.



Phil Kornblut
RECRUITING CORNER

Wilson (6-feet-5-inches, 211 pounds) also had Penn State and Arizona State on his short list. Wilson's decision gave USC a split on Sunday commitments.

Earlier in the day, line-backer Greg Penn of Hyattsville, Md., committed to Louisiana State over USC and Maryland.

"I'm just grateful and happy," Wilson said during his announcement via CBSSports.com. "It was one of my first offers and they showed a lot of love. (Assistant) Coach (Mike) Peterson and (assistant) Coach (Kyle) Krantz and (head) Coach (Will) Muschamp showed a lot of love. I'm just ready to put in work and enjoy the college life. When I get there I'm going to get it done." Wilson will go into his senior season at Green Run High School with a high national reputation. In the 247Sports Composite ranking, he's rated as a 4-star prospect. He's ranked the No. 23 weakside defensive end in the country and the ninth best prospect in Virginia for 2021.

"George is a great kid, very coachable and an awesome teammate towards his peers," said Green Run head coach **Brandon Williams**. "He is very deserving of this opportunity."

Wilson had 12 quarterback sacks as a junior and is viewed as having big-time potential as an edge rusher. He's also seen as a DE who can drop back into coverage. He's also a basketball player and some of those quick-twitch skills there carry over to football.

"He has that natural athletic ability with his long arms," Williams said. "He's yet to reach his full potential on the field. He's definitely a raw player that they are getting. His athletic ability is definitely off the charts. He can play in the open field, coming off the edge, wreaking havoc on opposing quarterbacks. No technique, just straight athletic ability."

Wilson becomes the second DE end and third defensive lineman to commit to USC for the '21 class. A chance to play in the Southeastern Conference was a big part of the attraction to USC.

"The SEC background for the most part," Williams said in regards to Wilson's decision. "And he wanted to compete for a starting job early, which he has a good chance at South Carolina."

USC now has 15 commitments in its class. Of the 25 scholarships for the class, 18 have now been filled.

Cornerback **Damond Harmon** (6-1, 178) of Highland Springs, Va., also has made his decision and has set 7 p.m. on Aug. 1 for his reveal on Instagram Live and with a Twitter video. USC, Georgia, Tennessee, PSU and Oklahoma were the final five for Harmon. He said he has not yet informed the schools of his decision.

"It was kind of 50-50 between two schools, but I've made my decision and I'm sticking with it," Harmon said. "It feels great. It's a burden off my shoulders. Once I put it out there, schools aren't going to be pressing me as much. I won't have to check my phone every day. I won't have to call a coach every single day."

Harmon added that the school he chose fit the criteria he was seeking.

"Everything was a perfect opportunity for me," Harmon said. "I fit pretty good in the system as I do for all my other top five schools. I fit great in the system. But this school, I felt like I was a perfect fit for

the system, and I felt I had great opportunities on and off the field."

Harmon visited USC for the Clemson game last November. It was a tough afternoon for USC as it suffered its sixth straight loss in the Palmetto Bowl. However, Harmon said that didn't diminish an overall positive experience with the USC coaches and players.

"I felt great about everything, that's why they made the top five," Harmon said. "Everything was pretty good for me with that. When I visited it wasn't just all one person. It wasn't a cancer on the team. Even though they lost the game, everybody still had good energy."

Harmon has been in touch with Muschamp and defensive coordinator secondary coach **Travaris Robinson** a great deal, and they've made it a point to let him know how his skills would fit into their defense in a number of ways.

"They like my length and my speed and my tackling ability," Harmon said. "They said I could play any position in the defensive backfield, corner, safety, nickel, all that."

USC running back target **Ontario Brown** of Savannah, Ga., plans to announce his college decision on Aug. 5. USC, North Carolina State, WVU, Virginia Tech and Savannah State are offers he's reported. Brown is a speedster who rushed for 1,008 yards in seven games last season.

LB **Jordan Poole** of Oakboro, N.C., who is down to USC, NCSU and VT, was all set to announce a commitment on July 1. In fact, he had commissioned a commitment video for his big day. However, a few days in advance, Poole threw up the stop sign. He wasn't ready, and he wasn't going to make a mistake by rushing a decision that need not be rushed.

"I guess I was kind of still questioning my decision," Poole said. "I didn't have a solid decision, a hundred percent. I guess it was 50-50 some would say. I'm not really torn between any of the three right now, 33.3 percent, just playing it level I guess, thinking about them all."

Poole did not say which two schools he was torn between, and the recruiting by all three has continued. Muschamp, Krantz and assistant coach **Rod Wilson** from USC have been in regular contact for months, Wilson more recently since he just joined the staff. And there has been no let up there.

"I talk to one of the coaches about every day over text or via phone call, Twitter or whatever it may be," Poole said. "I had a Zoom (meeting) with all the coaches and the education staff, I guess. It was a good Zoom call. We were focusing in on the educational side, seeing the kind of programs they have set up for the athletes. It was a pretty good call."

South Carolina does a good job helping the athlete go far in life and accomplish their goals."

Poole said he's also had Zoom calls with coaches from NCSU and VT. The calls and messages will continue to flow into Poole, and he'll be polite and continue to respond. Still, he admitted there's really not much else left to sell for any of the coaches.

CB **Dontae Balfour** (6-2, 170) of Starke, Fla., had seven interceptions last season along with 65 tackles. USC was the first SEC program to recognize his skills with an offer last month.

"They've been recruiting me for about two months now," Balfour said. "I've been talking to Coach Peterson. It's a school I've always wanted to go to. It's a very nice school and has a very nice education system."

Balfour also has offers from Uva, Coastal Carolina, Florida International, Akron, Tennessee State, Georgia State and Austin Peay.

Wide receiver **Malachi Bennett** of Fairfield, Ala., named his top schools as USC, UGA, Mississippi, Alabama-Birmingham and Louisville.

Ta'Chawn Brooks, a former offensive lineman at Dutch Fork High in Irmo, will need

just one season at Independence Junior College in Kansas after meeting the NCAA qualifying requirements. He said he still communicates with USC OL coach **Eric Wolford**.

CLEMSON

Clemson is definitely in the race for its former commitment and national top prospect DE **Korey Foreman** of Corona, Calif. Foreman committed to Clemson on Jan. 26 and decommitted on April 21 because he wanted to visit other schools, something he couldn't do as a Clemson commitment.

Since then he has done his due diligence, and he named his top seven schools -- Clemson, UGA, Alabama, LSU, Oregon, Southern Cal and Howard. No doubt there was much gnashing of teeth by the Clemson staff when Foreman decommitted, and he said with Clemson on his short list, he wants to get back to where things were with them before.

"I would say I'm trying to build as much of a rapport back with them as possible," Foreman said. "I've been busy, and I haven't been reaching out to that many college coaches. But now that my top seven is out, I have told myself that I need to face reality. So I'm going to reach out, and I'm going to be the best I can to see where I fall, and whoever wins, wins."

Defensive tackles coach **Todd Bates** is Clemson's lead recruiter with Foreman, and he has done his best to keep open the lines of communications.

"We talk as much as possible, but like I said, I haven't been able to reach out due to all that's been going on which made me push everything back," Foreman said. "Let's say all this was marked out and I would have all the time in the world to be able to reach out to all those college coaches again, me and Coach Bates were like best friends."

If there were any doubt about Foreman's seriousness about Clemson this time around, he said there shouldn't be. He said he feels the same toward Clemson as he did leading to his commitment.

"I do, I do, but certain things I'm taking under consideration," Foreman said. "I like doing research and little things about different colleges and other things like that. I'm just trying to pay attention and know exactly if I do go to Clemson, where I'm actually committing to and a whole lot of other stuff like that. The next time I commit will be the last time I commit."

Foreman has not set dates for his official visits, but he confirmed that three of them will be to Clemson, UGA and LSU.

Four-star CB **Nyland Green** (6-3, 170) of Covington, Ga., is not in a rush to end his recruiting. Clemson has been on him as hard as anybody. He's also hearing some from USC, but it doesn't appear to be in the same place with him as Clemson and some others at this point.

"I really haven't come down to a certain group just yet, but I'm working on it," Green said. "I'll come out with that real soon. It will be like a top five." Green has been a frequent visitor to Clemson, for a camp, for games and for junior days. There's a lot of familiarity and comfort between the two sides and plenty of communication.

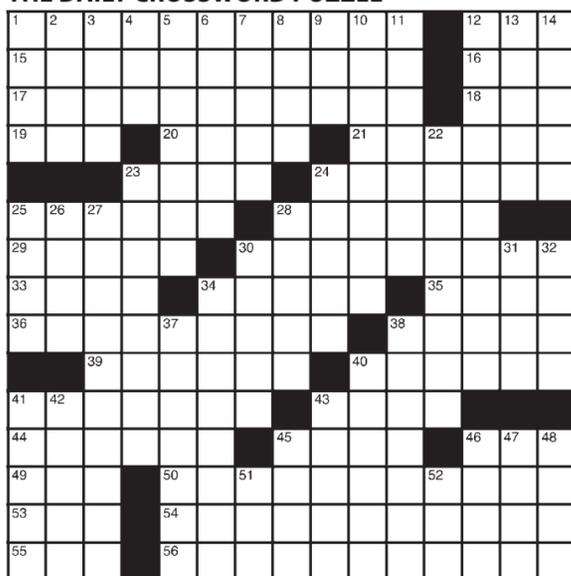
"I hear from them pretty often, from (assistant) Coach (Mike) Reed and (DC) Coach (Brent) Venables," Green said. "Couple of times a week, mostly texting with them and some time on the phone. They really want me bad down there. I'm a main part for them and they surely would love to have me."

"I'm feeling really good about it (his view of Clemson). I'm just sitting back and enjoying it. (They like) that I'm a long, powerful, physical corner. I can move, I have great hips, great feet and great ball skills."

Green also has visited USC, Auburn, UGA, Tennessee and several others. They all remain in contact along with Alabama, FSU, UF, LSU and others.

SATURDAY PUZZLES

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Jim Peredo

7/18/20

ACROSS

- 1 Early finisher's luxury
- 12 Word heard before a hike
- 15 Paper Mate introduced one in 1979
- 16 Hearth debris
- 17 Mock question of literacy
- 18 Poe's Morgue
- 19 Casual greeting
- 20 Struggle with one's sins?
- 21 Vicuña cousins
- 23 pit
- 24 Trap
- 25 Set out
- 28 Relay
- 29 Some memory triggers
- 30 Polite gesture from Alice
- 33 Malicious gossip
- 34 Actions to avoid
- 35 "The Hound of the Baskervilles" setting
- 36 Trial results
- 38 "Nobody Listens to Poundstone": comedy podcast
- 39 Not on the ball
- 40 Spacely Space Sprockets employee
- 41 Some pending cases
- 43 French bean?
- 44 Twist in pain
- 45 Play the sycophant to, with "over"
- 46 Ms. Pac-Man ghost
- 49 Hedonist's goal
- 50 Boss's unsettling request
- 53 A, to Amélie
- 54 Barcelona star
- 55 " Miz"
- 56 Thurible go-with
- 10 Dreamers' opposites
- 11 Circular, in a way
- 12 Like Pentatonix numbers
- 13 Expected
- 14 What we have here
- 22 Sailor's shout
- 23 Strict disciplinarian
- 24 Play things
- 25 -Frank:
- 26 Singer Brickell
- 27 Natural-born quillers?
- 28 Like Nash poetry
- 30 Brewery in Golden, Colorado
- 31 Short court plea
- 32 Pop's ma
- 34 Focused
- 37 One of Kenya's official languages
- 38 Honey or sugar
- 40 The Dresden Green and The Graff Pink
- 41 Not good at all
- 42 Cut back
- 43 Occupied
- 45 Okay
- 46 Just okay
- 47 Space bear
- 48 Change the narrative?
- 51 "Funky Cold Medina" rapper
- 52 Pathological liar's creation

Previous Puzzle Solved



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

DICEH
SHURC
STARHH
EEGGAN



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

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRESS TRACK SMOOTH INVADE
Answer: The hikers hadn't seen each other in years until they — CROSSED PATHS

SUDOKU

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY:

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

7/18

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THE ANSWERS TO THESE PUZZLES CAN BE FOUND ON TODAY'S DAILY PLANNER PAGE.

KNIGHTS

FROM PAGE B2

their camera off because they might get a little sleepy. It was tough, but it was cool.”

Williams will have the opportunity to dive into the football side of things as soon as he's able to report to the Ravens' facility, though when exactly that will be is still up in the air.

“It was supposed to be the 21st of (July), but right now everybody is still waiting on the regulations and guidelines for how they want to handle things,” said Williams. “It's pretty much all we can do is just work out every day, and then it's on them to break the word and then it'll just get back down to everyone else.”

That report date is Tuesday, but neither one still doesn't even know if they will be reporting to their respective cities.

“That's what we're shooting for, but nothing's concrete, nothing's official,” said Rutledge. “We could get out there for a week and there could be a spike or some craziness going and they could

send us right back home. My agent told us to come out, but we might get sent right back.”

Living in a world of unknowns is difficult, but it's not new to a pair of athletes who each attended three different schools in five years.

“The adversity was crazy. It was crazy because there could've been one hiccup in the plan that would've stopped everything because it wasn't a smooth trail, so it took a lot of courage, it took a lot of faith to make this happen,” said Rutledge. “There were some nights where I was tearing up about certain decisions that needed to be made and stepping out to a new school where you have to prove yourself all over again to new guys that have already been there. It's not an easy journey, but it prepared me for this step.”

Williams echoed the same sentiments.

“Life isn't going to be smooth sailing, so when adversity hits, you just kind of have to take it on,” said the former Crestwood running back. “This is another adverse situation, so I'm just going to continue to handle it



PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE AND MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Former Crestwood stars Donald Rutledge, left, and Ty'Son Williams came to their alma mater to work out during the offseason as they prepare for their first NFL training camp during the coronavirus pandemic.

by me putting myself and my body in the best position and when it's time to report, I'll be ready.”

At the end of the day, Rutledge thinks having the right people behind him helped prepare him to make the jump to the NFL. He gives a lot of credit to Williams and, as any good son would, his mom.

“I credit that to the perseverance and having people in my corner to talk to. Ty'Son was going through it too, talking to him about it,” said Rutledge. Having my momma (Sheila Rutledge) there, she was like my rock the whole time. She does a lot in the community, she does a lot for her school and she's just always been a caring person, even if she had to come out of her own pocket for the Sumter High band or the color guard. Always having her and having people in my corner made the journey easier.

“It wasn't an easy journey, but it made me prepare for this because you can only control what you can control.”

If living through the coronavirus has taught people anything it's don't take anything for granted. Williams is taking that approach whenever he is able to finally get to Baltimore.

“Just kind of being more anxious and more ready than if we'd already been there,” said Williams of the challenges of this offseason. “We

haven't been able to be in the facility, be in the meeting rooms, so honestly I'm not going to take it for granted. I'm going to be more appreciative of the situation and when it's time to get on the field be ready to put in the work.”

“I don't really have any control over it though. I just control what I can, come in here and make sure to put myself in the best position and just go from there.”

Rutledge and Williams are trying to do just that, control what they can control. Williams and Rutledge worked out together at Crestwood

this week after Rutledge spent most of the summer in Atlanta. This hasn't been the easiest offseason, but they're going through it together and putting in the work to keep their dream alive.

“I feel like that's all we need, that opportunity,” said Rutledge. “When you talk about those opportunities being taken away because of the situation that's going on, it can be a little nerve-wracking, but at the same time, I've been through these same type of nerves before. It's built me for this moment, so I just control the controllables.”



“Life isn't going to be smooth sailing, so when adversity hits, you just kind of have to take it on. This is another adverse situation, so I'm just going to continue to handle it by me putting myself and my body in the best position and when it's time to report, I'll be ready.”

TY'SON WILLIAMS

On the difficulty of this offseason.



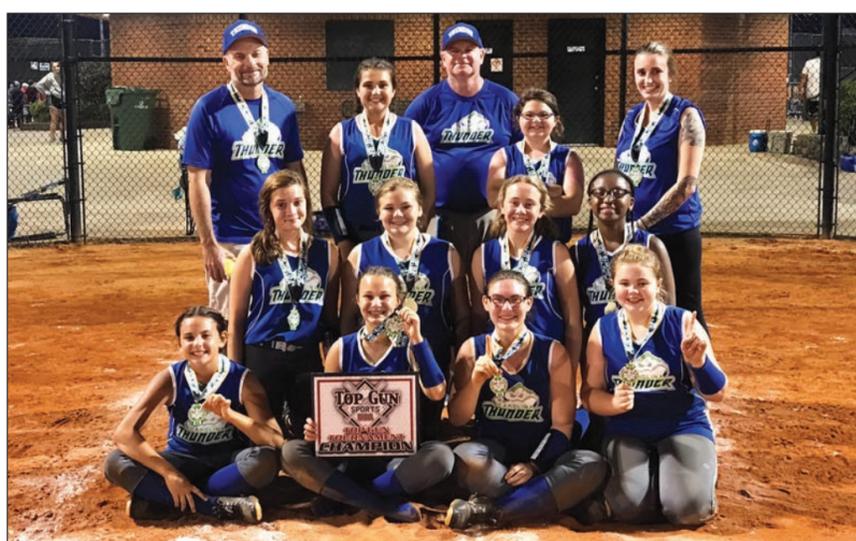
Carolina Thunder wins Buffalo Wild Wings Super Saver Tournament

Staff reports

The Carolina Thunder 12U softball team from Sumter allowed just three runs in four games to win the Gold Bracket championship in Top Gun's Buffalo Wild Wings Super Saver Tournament in Hartsville on June 20.

The Thunder played two pool games, the first against the Killer Bees, beating them 10-0. The Thunder then knocked off the Palmetto Elite with an 8-0 score.

With those wins, the Thunder were the No. 1 seed in bracket play. The Thunder had a 5-0 win over the Palmetto Diamonds to advance to the Gold Bracket championship game. The Thunder won the championship with a 4-3 win over the Southern Elite Crushers was 4-3.



The Carolina Thunder 12U softball team won the Gold Bracket championship in Top Gun's Buffalo Wild Wings Super Saver Tournament in Hartsville on June 20. Members of the team are, front row, left to right: Lillie Ivey, Samantha Townsend, Kiley Laux and Jenna Green. Second row: Kayleigh Parmenter-Avins, Maddie Coward, Hannah DuRant and Amir Bridges. Third row: Coach Earl Parmenter, Lily Morris, Coach Phil Parnell, McKayla Mouradjian and Coach Ashley Parmenter

SUBMITTED

GREGORY JAMAR WRIGHT JR.**WRIGHT**

Gregory Jamar Wright Jr. was born on March 7, 1994, a son of Gregory C. Wright Sr. and Yulonda K. Wright.

He departed this life on Sunday, July 12, 2020, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

He attended the public schools of Sumter County.

Precious memories of Gregory will be cherished by his parents; four brothers, Dontrell Jenkins, Marcques Wright, Zikeem Burgess and Anthony Burgess; a sister, Katrina Frierson; maternal grandmother, Barbara Dinkins; paternal grandmother, Patricia Wright; great-grandfather, Jesse Frierson Sr.; other relatives and friends.

Viewing will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Sumter Funeral Service.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Bradford Cemetery, Sumter, with Minister Tavion Gass officiating.

Sumter Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

MARILYN RUTH WALKER FOLLIN**FOLLIN**

Marilyn Ruth Walker Follin, 83, died on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Born on Jan. 14, 1937, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, she was a daughter of the late retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dr. Robert Newton Walker and Dorothy Schultz Walker. Ms. Follin earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees from Sam Houston State University, located in Huntsville, Texas. She retired from the U.S. Civil Service and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She enjoyed raising, training and showing German shepherds. She also enjoyed riding horses and doing her yard work.

Survivors include two children, Robert Follin (Michelle) of Virginia and Ann Follin Brown (Thomas) of Sumter; four grandchildren, Tiffany Follin, Kimberly Follin, Connor Follin and Hannah Brown; one brother, Thomas Robert Walker (Coleen) of Florida; one sister, Virginia Ellen "Ginger" Walker Metz of Texas; one niece, Cherie Walker Page; and two nephews, Lee David Graham and James Daniel Graham.

A private memorial service will be held.

Memorials may be sent to the National Kidney Foundation, 508 Hampton St., Suite 200, Columbia, SC 29201.

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

LEON BUTLER**BUTLER**

MELVILLE, N.Y. — Leon Butler, 86, died on Saturday, July 11, 2020, at The Hospice Inn (Hospice Care Network), Melville.

He was born on June 9, 1934, in Summertown, a son of the late Everette and Blanche Void Butler.

Funeral services for Mr. Butler will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Hayes F. Samuels Sr. Memorial Chapel, 114 N. Church St., Manning. Burial will follow at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia.

Due to COVID-19, the family is not accepting visitors.

These services have been entrusted to Samuels Funeral Home LLC of Manning.

ELLEN PEARSON DIXON**DIXON**

Ellen Pearson Dixon, 95, widow of Willie Mood Dixon, died on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at Family Residential Care, Sumter.

She was born on Aug. 5, 1924, in Davis Station, a daughter of the late Henry "H" and Lillie Ann Tindal Pearson.

Graveside services for Mrs. Pearson will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Carolina Johnson Cemetery, Manning.

Due to COVID-19, the family is not accepting visitors.

These services have been entrusted to Samuels Funeral Home LLC of Manning.

JAMES TRACY PRINGLE**PRINGLE**

Memorial services for James Tracy Pringle will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Fort Jackson National Cemetery. Social distancing guidelines will be

in effect.

James Tracy Pringle transitioned on Monday, July 13, 2020, at his residence in Augusta, Georgia.

Born in Sumter, he was a son of the late Annie Mae McFadden Gamble and the late Thomas Pringle. He was a graduate of Glenn Hills High School, Augusta, in the class of 1976. He served our country in the United States Army. He was formerly employed in the hazardous waste removal industry. He was affiliated with Bridges Ministries.

Surviving are his sister who reared him, Bettie G. (Louie) Dicks of Columbia; other siblings, Willamae Williams of Philadelphia, Edith (Rabbit) Maybell, Carolyn Vaughn, Agnes P. Frierson, Bobby F. Pringle, Brenda Ross, Mark Ross and Ronald Davis, all of Sumter, and Rochelle (Don) Smalls of Columbia; a special nephew, Corey (Diane) Pringle; a close friend, Kimberly Moulton; other nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Please visit www.PalmerMemorialChapel.com for additional information and instructions on attending the memorial virtually.

**WALTER E. PETERSON SR.****PETERSON**

Walter E. Peterson Sr., affectionately known as "Pete," completed his life's journey on Thursday, July 16, 2020. God gently wrapped his arms

around Pete and took him home. Pete was surrounded by his family and loving wife, Ann, of almost 68 years.

Ann faithfully and lovingly served as Pete's caretaker for more than a year. Their love and devotion to each other has served as an example for their seven children.

He was born on May 28, 1926, in Prentice, Wisconsin, to John Alfred and Bertha Peterson. Pete was drafted into the Army Air Corps during World War II in 1944 and faithfully served in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1964 as a staff sergeant. Pete met Ann while stationed at Hunter Air Force Base in Savannah, Georgia. They got married on Dec. 30, 1952. Together they had seven children.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, George, Clarence, Clyde and Freida; and granddaughter, Emily Ann Peterson.

Pete has left an empty spot in the hearts of his children, Walt (Teresa), Debra (Rusty) Riles, Donna (David) West, Ronnie (Paulette), Kim (Brian) Campbell, John (Angie), Tammy (Mark) Sills; grandchildren, Candace (Matthew) Crook, Nathan (Kelly) Berry, Jonathan Eaton, Arin Eaton, Kayla (Dr. Jared) Tavernier, Adam (Mason) Peterson, Lauren (Joshua) Mahaffey, Erica (Cameron) Ford, Taylor Riles, David Lucas, Daniel Lucas, Jake, Piper and Cubby Peterson; and seven great-grandchildren, Martha and Jack Tavernier, Melody Grace Mahaffey, Olivia Berry, Matthew, Alanna and Wyatt Crook. He is also survived by his sister, Lily Ann Kempton.

A private service with full military honors will be held at Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Barbara Stewart for the excellent care she provided over the past three years.

Memorials may be sent to the Quilts of Valor® Foundation, P.O. Box 191, Winterset, IA 50273.

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

AISLA C. BARTON

Graveside services for Aisla C. Barton will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Dicksfield Cemetery, 2900 E. Lynches River Road, Cartersville, with the Rev. Lem-

**BARTON**

uel Washington officiating.

Public viewing will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday at Palmer Memorial Chapel, 304 S. Main St., Sumter.

Aisla Celestine Timmons Barton transitioned on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at her residence in Sumter.

Born in Timmonsville and raised in Cartersville, she was a daughter of the late Henry and Ella Harrell Timmons. She was the wife of the late Sylvandis R. Barton.

Mrs. Barton attended the public schools in Florence County. She also attended South Carolina State College in Orangeburg and later graduated from Morris College in Sumter. She was employed as a substitute teacher and later worked and retired from the former Campbell Soup Co. Mrs. Barton was raised in the church of New Haven United Methodist Church in Cartersville. After marriage, she attended Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church and later joined Union Station AME Church, serving as president of Stewardess Board 2, participating in the Women's Missionary Society, Pastor's Aide Committee, Sanctuary Choir, Lay Organization and was honored as the "Mother of the Church." In the community, she was a member of the Campbell Soup's Retiree Club and attended Sumter Senior Citizens Center.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Sylvandis, she was preceded in death by a sister, Marcell Hanna; three brothers, Henry, Lewis and Aurin Crosby Timmons; and several nephews and a niece.

Survivors include four children, Sylvia (Lonnice) DeShazor of Trotwood, Ohio, Ronald (Sarah) Barton of Columbia, Myra O. Barton of Sumter and Dr. Darryl (Karen) Barton of Wausau, Wisconsin; 12 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 25 great-great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Palmer Memorial Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

**BEATRICE CRANFORD**

TEXARKANA, Texas — On Friday, July 10, 2020, God sent angels down and carried Beatrice Cranford to glory to be with her family in heaven.

Beatrice Cranford, 89, of Texarkana, was born on Sept. 22, 1930, in Sumter, a daughter of the late Flegar A. and Lucille B. Lewis. She was educated in the public schools and graduated from Lincoln High School. Beatrice found the love of her life and married Lonnie Cranford Sr. and moved to Texarkana.

She was preceded in death by her husband, two brothers, two sisters and her parents.

Beatrice leaves behind to cherish her precious memories: two sons, Lonnie Cranford Jr. and William Cranford (Julie); two daughters, Delores Brown (Freddie) and Barbara Ann Thompson (Robert); two brothers, Matthew Lewis Sr. (Rosa) and Joseph Lewis; one sister, Anna Marie Jenkins; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

Viewing was held Thursday at the mortuary.

Graveside service was held Friday at Fair Haven Cemetery, under the direction of Haynes Mortuary. Online registration is available at www.haynesmortuary.com.

THOMAS B. PRESLEY

Capt. Thomas B. Presley, 75, husband of Betty Carolina Presley, departed this life on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

He was born on Feb. 5, 1945, in Sumter, a son of the late Sam Lee Dunham and Mary Presley Dunham.

The family will be receiving friends at the home, 1281 E. Calhoun St. Ext., Sumter, SC 29153. The family requests mask requirements be observed.

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

DOROTHY FLOYD

Dorothy Louise Anderson Capell Floyd, 82, wife of Emiel

Floyd, died on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Born in Camden, she was a daughter of the late Heyward Sr. and Amy Brazzell Anderson. Mrs. Floyd attended Restoration Ministries Church of God.

Surviving are her husband of Sumter; two sons, Paul Capell and Danny Capell, both of Sumter; a daughter, Dorothy Williams (Timothy) of Sumter; a brother, Willie Anderson of Sumter; four sisters, Shirley Suggs and Mary Whitaker, both of Sumter, Barbara Nesbitt of Lugoff and Geraldine Whitley of Rockwell, North Carolina; eight grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Johnny Anderson, Heyward Anderson Jr., Edward Anderson and Bobby Anderson.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Cedar Creek Baptist Church Cemetery with the Rev. Clyde Chan officiating.

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.

**ANN ELISE SNIPES JAMES**

Ann Elise Snipes James, "Annie" to her grandchildren, died on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at McLeod Hospice House in Florence.

She was a daughter of the late Perry and Elise Watson Snipes.

In addition to her husband of 61 years, J. Ralph James, she is survived by a son, Joseph R. James Jr. (Kathy) of Sumter; a brother-in-law, Milton (Pat) James of Irmo; five grandchildren, Zachary James, Aaron James, Joe James, Elise James and Lewis James; one great-granddaughter, Brayleigh Elrod; two nieces and four nephews.

She was predeceased by a son, Jon Eric James.

Ann was born on Dec. 11, 1938, in Marion County, and was baptized at Spring Branch Methodist Church on June 27, 1943. As a teenager, she served as church pianist at Spring Branch. She graduated from Marion High School and attended Columbia College before marrying Ralph, the love of her life. Ann taught private piano lessons for 56 years in Greenville, Marion, Hemingway and Hartsville. Her impact on the lives of her students went far beyond their knowledge of music. She was a mentor, confident, advisor and grandmother to scores of young people who went on to become church musicians, medical professionals, lawyers and parents. The number of students she taught and the lives she guided is difficult to measure. She also used her God-given talents to serve as church pianist and choir director throughout her life and was known for helping choirs to perform beyond their own expectations. She found great joy in making beautiful music and in helping others to do the same. She enjoyed playing bridge and the company of good friends. She also loved hosting her family for traditional Southern holiday gatherings.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Spring Branch Methodist Church Cemetery at the corner of Temperance Hill Road and East Sellers Road in Marion County. Due to the pandemic, we ask that attendees wear masks and observe social distancing so that no one is put at risk from the coronavirus. The service will be streamed live on the Richardson Funeral Home, Marion, Facebook page for those unable to attend. Memorials may be offered to the Sanctuary Piano Restoration Project, Trinity United Methodist Church, 226 W. Liberty St., Sumter SC 29150. An online register is available at RichardsonFH.net.

William Sanford Morgan, 83, widow of Shirley Jean Morgan, died on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at Covenant Place.

Born on Nov. 23, 1936, in Knoxville, Tennessee, he was a

son of the late Cecil S. and Beatrice Bourf Morgan. Mr. Morgan retired from the U.S. Air Force after 23 years of service. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He also retired from Shaw Lumber Co. after nearly 20 years of service. He enjoyed bowling and spending time with the morning coffee group at Sarah's Café.

Survivors include three children, Robbyn Scott of San Antonio, Texas, Lora Kirby (Guy) of Dalzell and Sonya Nealey of Sumter; five grandchildren, Jacqueline Silverman, Heather Haseltine (Phil), Allison Carteret (Morgan), Hunter Kirby and Nicki DeLozier; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister, Jeanette Greene of Knoxville.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Roy Morgan.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Evergreen Memorial Park cemetery with the Rev. Carl Lavender officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the home of Guy and Lora Kirby.

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

BARBARA GREEN

Barbara Green, 72, wife of Willie Green, died on Friday, July 17, 2020, at her home.

Born on March 1, 1948, in Sumter County, she was a daughter of the late Lampy Farmer and Beulah Johnson.

The family is requesting no visitation at the home.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by the management of Williams Funeral Home Inc.

JAMES RICHARDSON

James Richardson, 82, widower of Elizabeth Richardson, departed this life on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

He was born on Aug. 11, 1937, in Mayesville, a son of the late Elijah and Lena McClary Richardson.

Public viewing will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday at Job's Mortuary.

Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday at Mayesville Community Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the home, 305 Sandy Run Drive, Sumter, SC 29153.

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

Online memorials may be sent to the family at jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com or visit us on the web at www.jobsmortuary.net.

JAMES LEROY JEFFERSON JR.

James Leroy Jefferson Jr., 63, was born on April 1, 1957, in Sumter County, a son of the late James Leroy Jefferson Sr. and Janie Mae Prescott Jefferson Bright. He was called to his eternal home on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital, Columbia.

"Mike," as he was affectionately known in the community, was a caring person with a loving smile. He attended the public schools of Sumter County and, at an early age, he joined Mt. Olive AME Church, Woodrow.

He leaves to cherish his memories: one daughter, Gertrude "Stephanie" Dowdy; two sisters, Hanna (Raynard) Jefferson-Jackson of Sumter and Mary Prescott of Atlanta; four brothers, William Jefferson, Andrew Jefferson and Charles Jefferson, all of Sumter, and John (Junko) Jefferson of Harbor, Washington; one uncle, Alex Prescott of Woodrow; three aunts, Anna Marrow of Bishopville, Louise (Bobby) Brickell of Newark, New Jersey, and Easter (Edward) Cantey of Wedgefield; a host of grandaunts and uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Due to the COVID-19 guidelines, the family is requesting no visitation.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Cooksfield Cemetery, JD Herriott Road, Dalzell, with the Rev. Dr. R.L. Brown, pastor of Mt. Olive AME Church, officiating.

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.

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Announcements IT'S A CRIME TO NOT FILE YOUR TAXES FOR PRIOR YEARS! WE CAN HELP! Tesco 507 Broad St 803-773-1515

Card of Thanks



Ms. Janice Marie McLane



Mrs. Gloria Rosetta McLane-Jenkins

Thank you sincerely for your kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.



In Memory



Riley Bracey Jr, June 8, 1957 - July 18, 2019 A year has past since our last physical touch. We all miss and love you so very much. The Family

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MERCHANDISE

For Sale or Trade

SALE - 2 plots - Evergreen or Hillside Cemetery, \$ 2,200.00 each. Call 803-499-9271

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Stock Person in busy retail store needed. Please call (917)660-5915 for appointment.

Nesbitt Transportation is now hiring Class A CDL Drivers. Must be 23 yrs old and have 2 yrs experience. Home nights and weekends. Also hiring diesel mechanics and maintenance worker. Call 843-621-0943 or 843-659-8254

Full time Sales person needed. Apply at Wally's Hardware 1291 Broad St.

Help Wanted Part-Time

Substitute teachers needed. Send resume to info@sumterchristian.org

Help Wanted Part-Time

Exp. Trailer switcher needed in Sumter to move trailers in yard. Do washouts & minor repairs. Thurs., Fri. & Sun. 7 am - 5 pm. Must have 2 yrs exp. CDL & clean driving record. 803-938-2708 M-F 9am-3pm lv msg with experience.

Work Wanted

I am a CNA that specializes in In-Home Health Care. I have over 20yrs of exp. & will be more than happy to tend to all of your loved ones needs. Call Sally 803-848-5785.

RENTALS

Office Rentals

Upstairs Office Rental Space Available. Liberty St, in Hub Zone. \$225 to \$450, includes util. Call 778-2330 for appointment.

TRANSPORTATION

Autos For Sale

99 Nissan Altima GXE. Good condition. \$2800.00 Please call 803-316-0813

LEGAL NOTICES

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS (Non-Jury)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS Case No.: 2020-CP-43-00767

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Doris C. Robinson, Plaintiff,

vs. Heirs of Rev. T. E. Robinson, Heirs of James Robinson, Heirs of Celia P. Robinson a/k/a Celia R. White, Edward Robinson Jimmie L. Blossom, Barbara Walker Robinson, Glynda Robinson, Theresa Robinson, John Doe, Mary Roe and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the Complaint or any claim adverse to Plaintiff's ownership or any cloud on title thereto, 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 Plaintiff or Patrick M. Killen, Esquire, at his office located at 1 Law Range, Suite B, Sumter, South Carolina, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such

Summons & Notice

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.

LIS PENDENS

NOTICE is hereby given that an action has been commenced to partition the below-described property:

That tract of land in Sumter Township, Sumter County, State of South Carolina, containing 1.36 acres, with the improvements thereon, shown on a plat by H. S. Willson, R.L.S. dated June 16, 1992, and recorded in the Office of RMC for Sumter County in Plat Book 92, at Page 1057; said parcel of land having such shape, metes, bounds and measurements as shown on said plat.

And;

That parcel of land in Sumter Township, Sumter County, State of South Carolina, shown on a plat by H.S. Willson, R.L.S. dated June 16, 1992, and recorded in the Office of RMC for Sumter County in Plat Book 92, at Page 1057; said parcel of land being shown and designated on said plat by the name "Celia B. Robinson", and being bounded on the Northeast by the Loring Mill Road; on the South and Southeast by a road designated "Unimproved Dirt Road" on said plat; and on the South and Southwest by a parcel of land containing 1.36 acres, as shown on said plat, which parcel of land was heretofore conveyed to Thomas E. Robinson and Doris C. Robinson by James Robinson.

TMS NOS. 184-05-01-014 and 184-05-01-011

NOTICE OF FILING

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Summons and Complaint were filed with the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, South Carolina on May 12, 2020. John S. Keffer, whose address is 10 Law Range, Sumter, South Carolina 29150, has been named Guardian ad Litem Nisi to represent any unknown minors, persons under disability or others who have or may claim an interest in the subject-property.

McGOWAN, HOOD & FELDER, LLC Patrick M. Killen 1 Law Range, Suite B Sumter, South Carolina 29150 (803) 774-5026 (803) 774-5028 Fax

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS C/A NO. 2020-CP-43-00563

First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Plaintiff

vs. Janet Barrineau Derrick, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Dorothy Brantley Barrineau; Julius K. Barrineau and Stephen Barrineau, and any other Heirs-at-Law or devisees of Dorothy Brantley Barrineau, Deceased, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in the real estate

Summons & Notice

described herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and any unknown minors or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe, Defendants.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, upon reading the Motion for the Appointment of Kelley Y. Woody as Guardian ad Litem for all unknown persons and persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America (which are constituted as a class designated as "John Doe") and any unknown minors and persons who may be under a disability (which are constituted as a class designated as "Richard Roe"), it is

ORDERED that, pursuant to Rule 17, SCRPC, Kelley Y. Woody is appointed Guardian ad Litem on behalf of all unknown persons and persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America (constituted as a class and designated as "John Doe"), all unknown minors or persons under a disability (constituted as a class and designated as "Richard Roe"), all of which have or may claim to have some interest in the property that is the subject of this action, commonly known as 944 Morningside Drive, Sumter, that Kelley Y. Woody is empowered and directed to appear on behalf of and represent all unknown persons and persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, constituted as a class and designated as "John Doe", all unknown minors and persons under a disability, constituted as a class and designated as "Richard Roe", unless the Defendants, or someone acting on their behalf, shall, within thirty (30) days after service of a copy of this Order as directed below, procure the appointment of a Guardian or Guardians ad Litem for the Defendants constituted as a class designated as "John Doe" or "Richard Roe".

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be served upon the unknown Defendants by publication in the The Item, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, together with the Summons in the above entitled action.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE

TO THE DEFENDANT(S) ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WITH ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED HEREIN; ALSO ANY PERSONS WHO MAY BE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS JOHN DOE; AND ANY UNKNOWN MINORS OR PERSONS UNDER A DISABILITY BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS RICHARD ROE;

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in the above action, a copy which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer upon the undersigned at their offices, PO Box 4216, Columbia, South Carolina 29204, within thirty (30) days after service upon you, exclusive of the day of such service, and, if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE

Summons & Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in this action was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on 04/01/2020.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an action has been commenced and is now pending or is about to be commenced in the Circuit Court upon the complaint of the above named Plaintiff against the above named Defendant for the purpose of foreclosing a certain mortgage of real estate heretofore given by to Janet B. Derrick and Dorothy A. Barrineau bearing date of June 20, 2007 and recorded June 20, 2007 in Mortgage Book 1083 at Page 2 in the Register of Mesne Conveyances/Register of Deeds/Clerk of Court for Sumter County, in the original principal sum of \$59000.00 that, and that the premises effected by said mortgage and by the foreclosure thereof are situated in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, and is described as follows:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with any improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina identified as Lot No. 21, Block C and a small triangular portion of Lot No. 23, Block C, as shown on a plat of Green Acres Subdivision prepared by H.S. Willson, R.L.S. dated 7/5/60 and recorded in plat book Z-17 at page 108, records of Sumter County. This property is known as 944 Morningside Drive and is further identified as Sumter County Tax Map Parcel No. 251-03-02-011.

Aforesaid Plat is specifically incorporated herein and reference is craved thereto for more complete and accurate description of the metes, bounds, courses and distances of the property concerned herein. This description is in lieu of metes and bounds, as permitted by Law under Section 30-S-250 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, As Amended. Be ell measurements a little more or a little less and according to said plat.

This being the same property conveyed to Janet B. Derrick by deed of Dorothy Ann B. Barrineau dated 12/8/06 and recorded on 12/8/06 in deed book 1056 at page 904, records of Sumter County..

TMS # 251-03-02-011

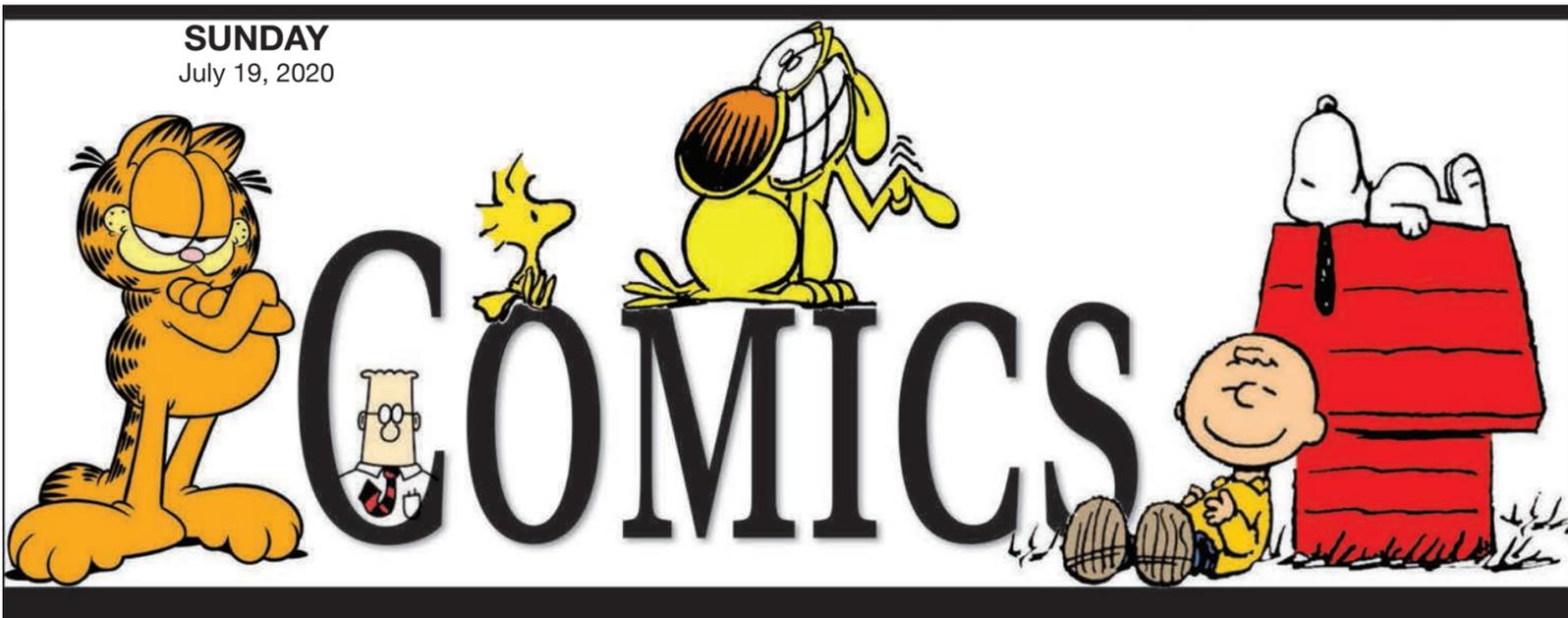
Physical Address: 944 Morningside Drive, Sumter

Crawford & von Keller, LLC. PO Box 4216 1640 St. Julian Place (29204) Columbia, SC 29204 Phone: 803-790-2626 Email: court@crawfordvk.com Attorneys for Plaintiff



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA CLERK'S OFFICE NOTICE OF HEARING AND PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES DOCKET NO. 2020-5-G Annual Review of Purchased Gas Adjustment and Gas Purchasing Policies of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (For Potential Increase or Decrease in Fuel Adjustment or Gas Adjustment) On August 14, 1987, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("the Commission") issued its Order No. 87-898 which requires the annual review of the purchased gas adjustments and the gas purchasing policies of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (f/k/a South Carolina Electric & Gas Company). In Order No. 87-898, the Commission stated, "[The Commission] is cognizant of certain recent Orders and Notices of Proposed Rulemaking issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) involving natural gas regulation. The Commission is concerned about the impact of these matters as such may affect South Carolina Electric & Gas Company and its customers. Therefore, the Commission determines, sua sponte, that the purchased gas adjustments and gas purchasing policies of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company should be reviewed on an annual basis." PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a virtual hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817 and Commission Order No. 87-898, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on Thursday, November 05, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. before the Commission. Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a party of record, should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before September 18, 2020, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all parties of record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. Please refer to Docket No. 2020-5-G and mail a copy to all other parties in this docket. Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and K. Chad Burgess, Esquire, Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc., 220 Operation Way, MC C222, Cayce, South Carolina 29033, on or before September 18, 2020. Please refer to Docket No. 2020-5-G. For the most recent information regarding this docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice, please refer to www.psc.sc.gov and Docket No. 2020-5-G. INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD (Applicants, Petitioners, and intervenors only): All Parties of Record must prefile testimony with the Commission and with all Parties of Record. Prefiled Testimony Deadlines: Applicant's Direct Testimony Due: 9/22/2020; Other Parties of Record Direct Testimony Due: 10/13/2020; Applicant's Rebuttal Testimony Due: 10/20/2020; and Other Parties of Record Surrebuttal Testimony Due: 10/27/2020. All prefiled testimony deadlines are subject to the information as posted on www.psc.sc.gov under Docket No. 2020-5-G. Please be advised that failure to comply with the instructions contained herein could result in your proposed witnesses' testimony and exhibits being excluded in the subject proceeding. Additionally, please note that failure to comply with the above on or before the dates indicated may result in the DISMISSAL of your pleading. Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should contact the Commission at (803) 896-5100 or visit its website at www.psc.sc.gov. 6/11/20

Advertise your business card on Here's My Card Publishes every Friday in The Sumter Item as low as \$1200 per week* with 13 week sign up the Sumter ITEM To advertise contact your sales representative or call 803.774.1212 *with 13 week sign up Here's My Card DAD'S SMALL ENGINES LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT • SALES & SERVICE 1000 Myrtle Beach Highway Sumter, SC 29153 (803) 495-4411 Mike Stone 2160 Thomas Center Plaza Sumter, SC 29150 (803) 962-1902 • Fax: 803-962-1906 Nationwide Agribusiness Ernie Baker McLen Merchandis Insurance Associate Agent 712 Bulfinch Drive | Sumter, SC 29150 (803) 774-0128 (803) 774-0128 (803) 492-4417 Centipede Sod Lenoir's Sod 80 Sq. Ft. 250 Sq. Ft. 300 Sq. Ft. Rentals Available! SUMTER ELKS LODGE #855 Sweet 14 Parties, Business Meetings, Weddings, Reunions, Birthday Parties and more... Spas for all occasions. Call Cindy Davis at 316-2396 or 469-8899 1100 W. Liberty Street - Sumter, SC. Tidwell Septic Tanks & Pumping SALES & INSTALLATION • PUMPING REPAIRS • DRAIN LINES • SEWER LINES • SINKS • TOILETS • SUMP PUMPS • WATER HEATERS • SAVING WATER • THE SUMMERING HOME • OVER 20 Years of Experience • (803) 481-2966 • (803) 481-7719 H.L. Boone Owner / Notary Public H.L. Boone, Contractor All Types of Improvements 1 Monte Carlo Court Remodeling, Painting, Carpentry, Decks, Blow Ceilings, Etc. (803) 773-9904 LIFESTYLES LAWN SERVICE Grass • Edging • Trimming • Leaf Removal • Tree Root Services • Insect • Dependable • Courteous • Professional Erik Ford (803) 968-6655 XDOS Inc. Xerox Digital Office Solutions 18 E. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150 (803) 778-2256



PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol' Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ

The comic strip shows Charlie Brown and Lucy on a golf course. Charlie Brown is on a green, and Lucy is standing nearby. A television set in the background shows a golfer on a green. The dialogue is as follows:

ALL RIGHT, GOLF FANS, THIS IS IT... THE OLD PRO HAS TO MAKE THIS ONE...
HE'S DOWN TO THE LAST PUTT, AND HE CAN'T PLAY IT SAFE... HE HAS TO GO FOR IT...
THERE'S NO TOMORROW!
THERE'S NO TOMORROW?!!
THERE'S NO TOMORROW!!
THEY JUST ANNOUNCED ON TV THAT THERE'S NO TOMORROW!!!
THERE'S NO TOMORROW!! THEY JUST ANNOUNCED IT ON TV!
PANIC! PANIC! RUN! HIDE! FLEE! RUN FOR THE HILLS! FLEE TO THE VALLEYS! RUN TO THE ROOF TOPS!
SOMEHOW I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD END THIS WAY!
I THOUGHT ELIJAH WAS TO COME FIRST...

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

The comic strip shows Garfield at a beach. He is sitting on a green towel next to a red picnic basket. A seagull is on the sand. Garfield is thinking about a roasted chicken. The dialogue is as follows:

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Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS

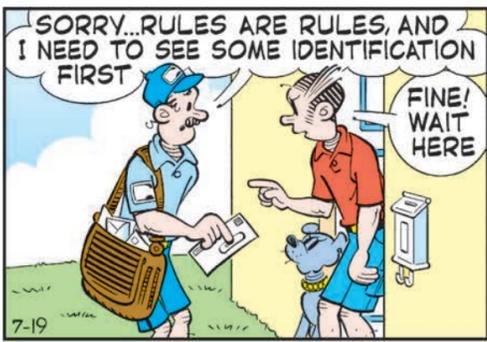
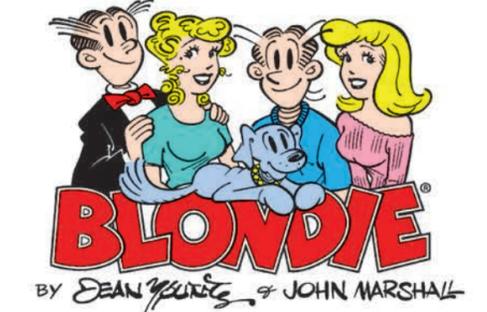
The comic strip shows Dilbert and his boss in an office. Dilbert is wearing a red suit and glasses, and his boss is wearing a blue suit and glasses. The dialogue is as follows:

I'M STARTING A WHISPER CAMPAIGN AGAINST MY RIVAL IN MANAGEMENT.
I WANT YOU TO TELL PEOPLE HE BUYS BABIES FROM THE POOR AND EATS THEM.
NO ONE IS DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT.
PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE ANYTHING.
NOT ANYTHING.
YES, ANYTHING.
FINE. I'LL TRY IT, BUT ONLY TO PROVE HOW WRONG YOU ARE.
HOW MANY DOES HE EAT PER DAY?
I NEED A NEW PLANET.

Twitter: @scottadamssays
Dilbert.com
7-19-20

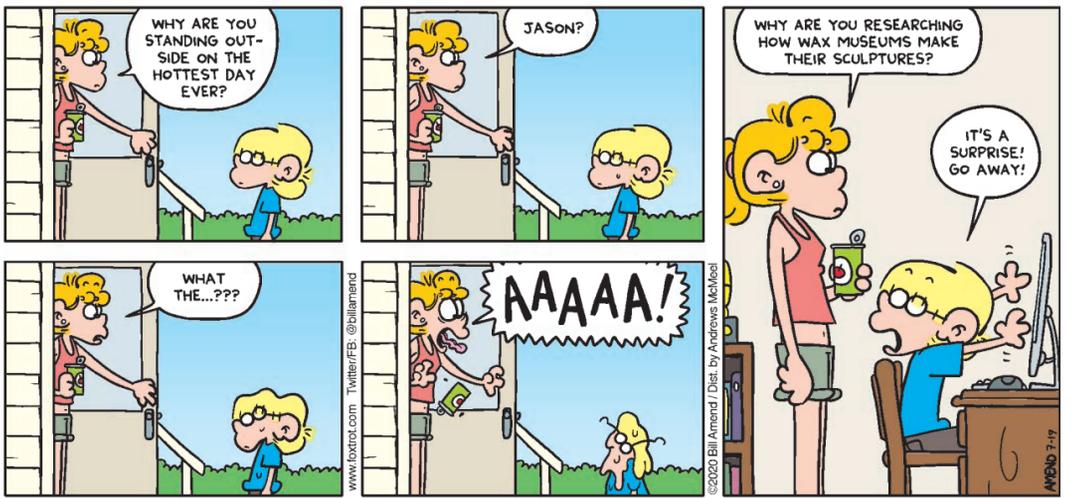
CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



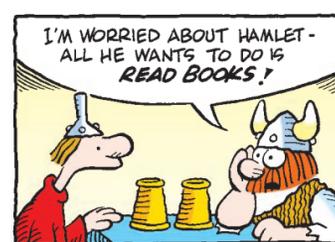
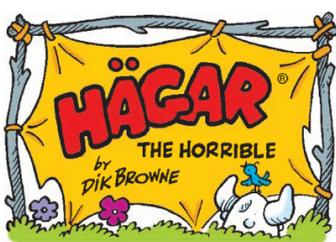
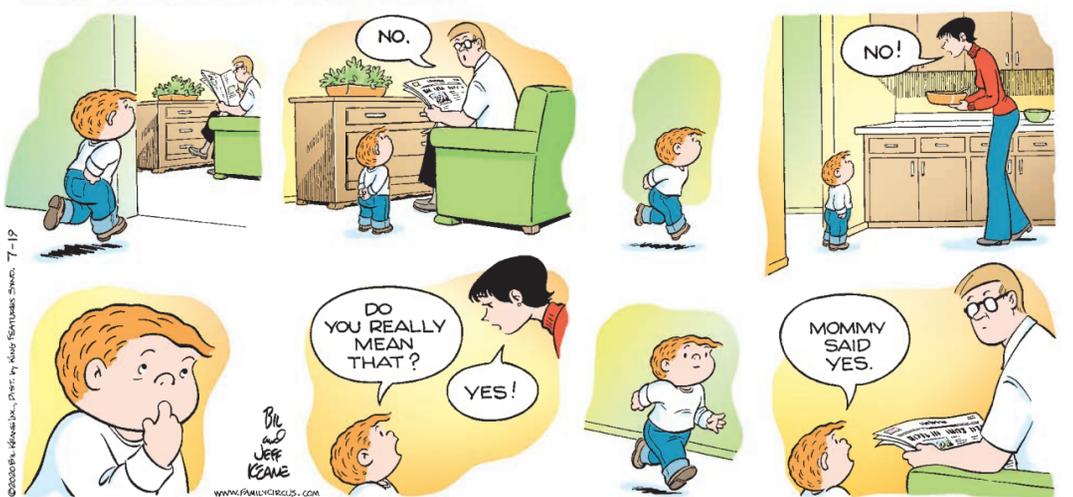
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



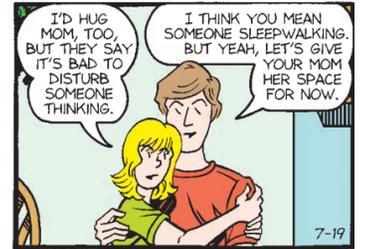
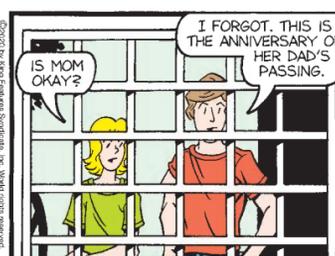
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

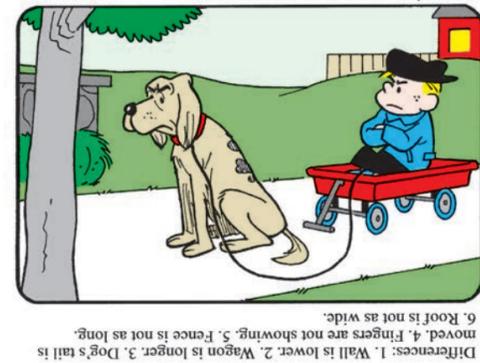
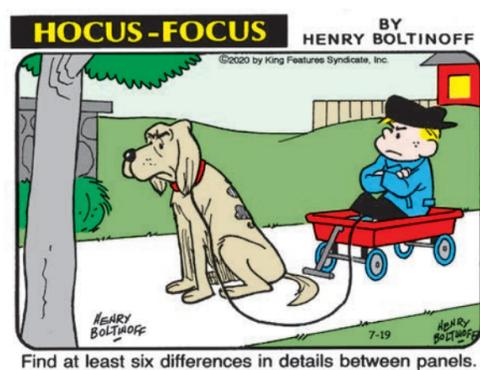
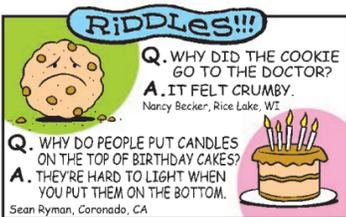
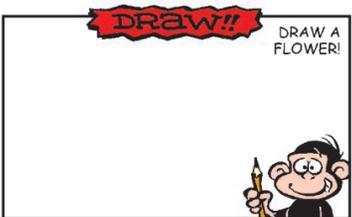
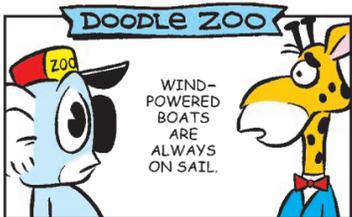
By Bill Keane



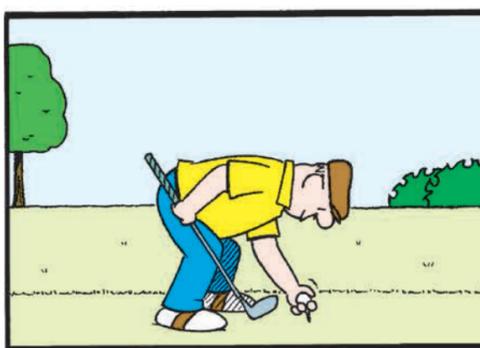
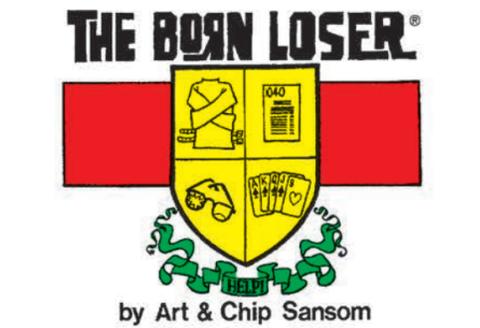
SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



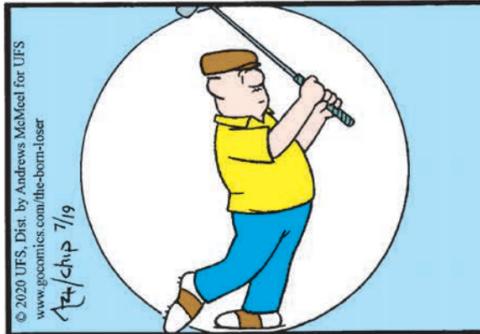
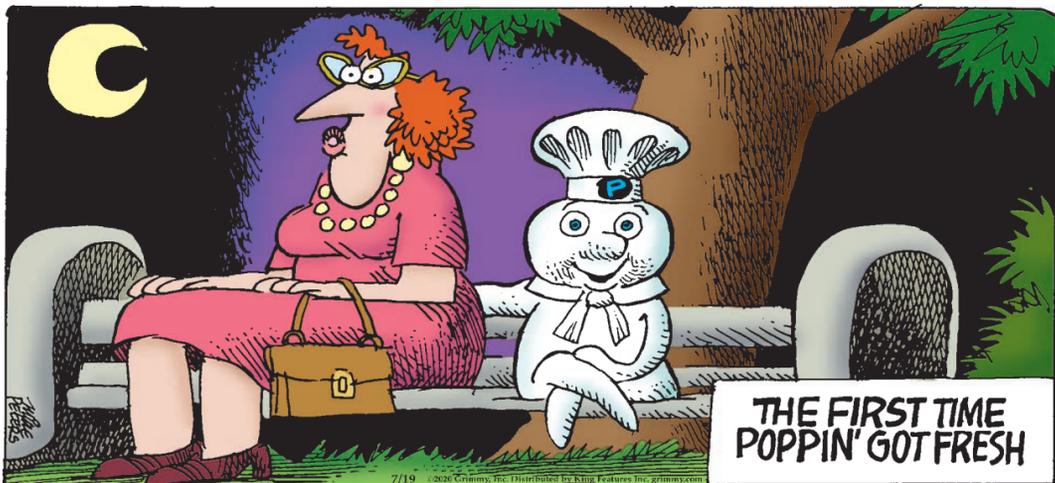


FRANK AND ERNEST



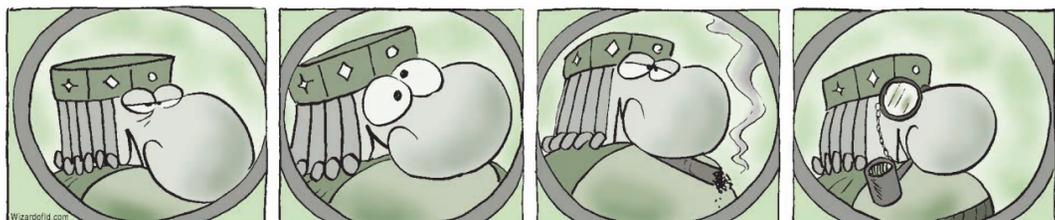
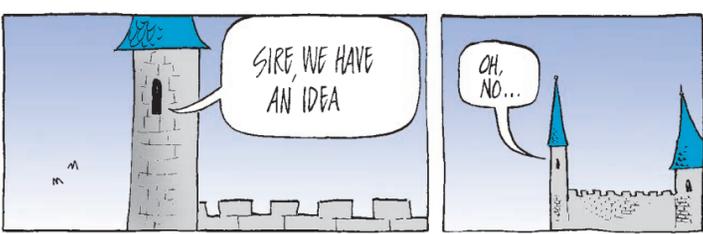
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



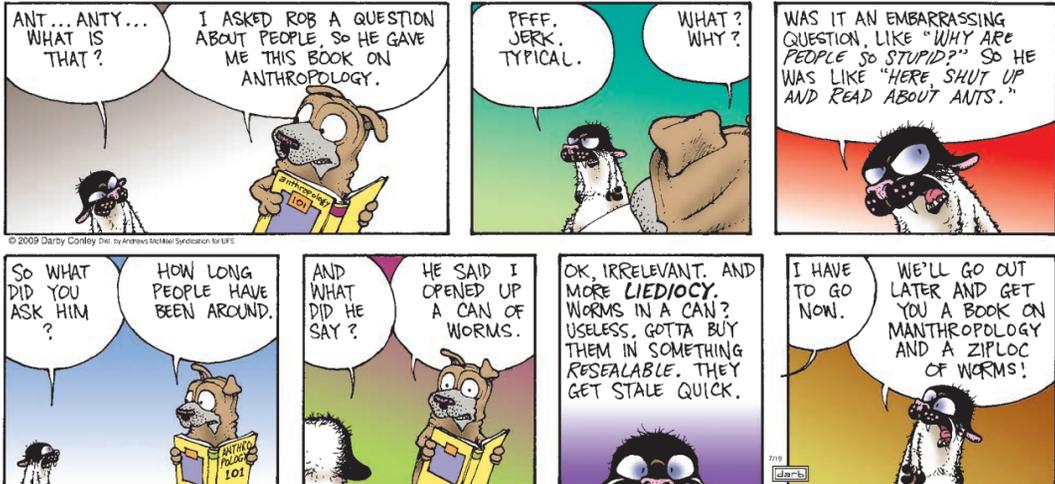
WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker



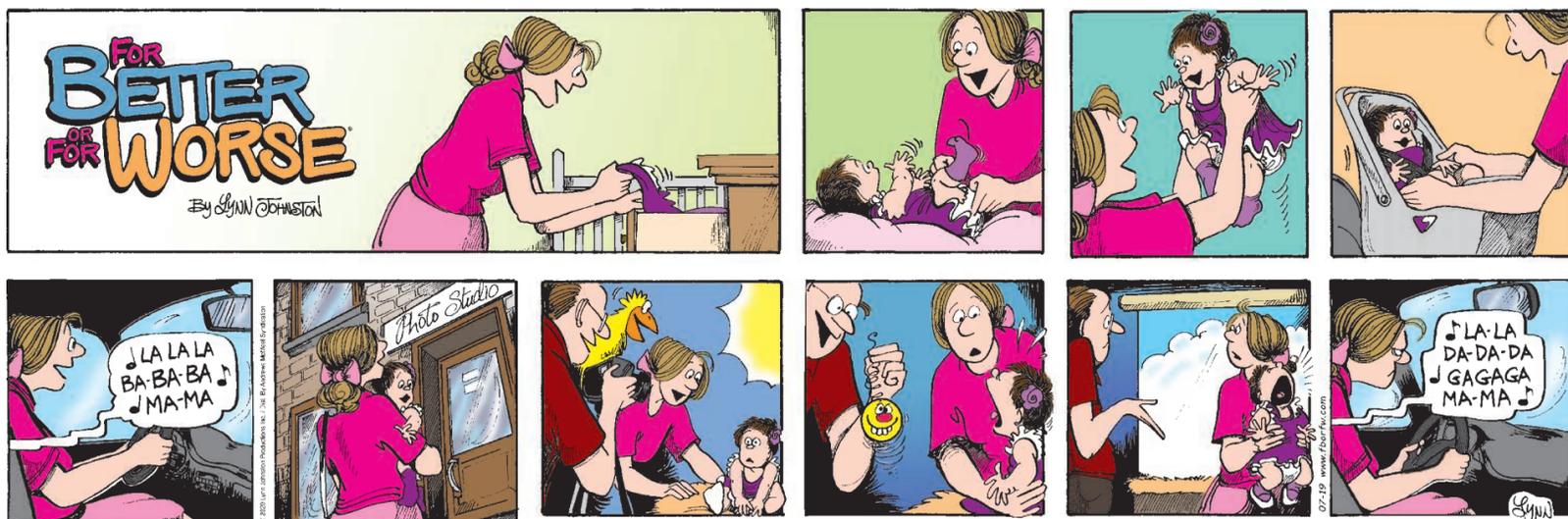
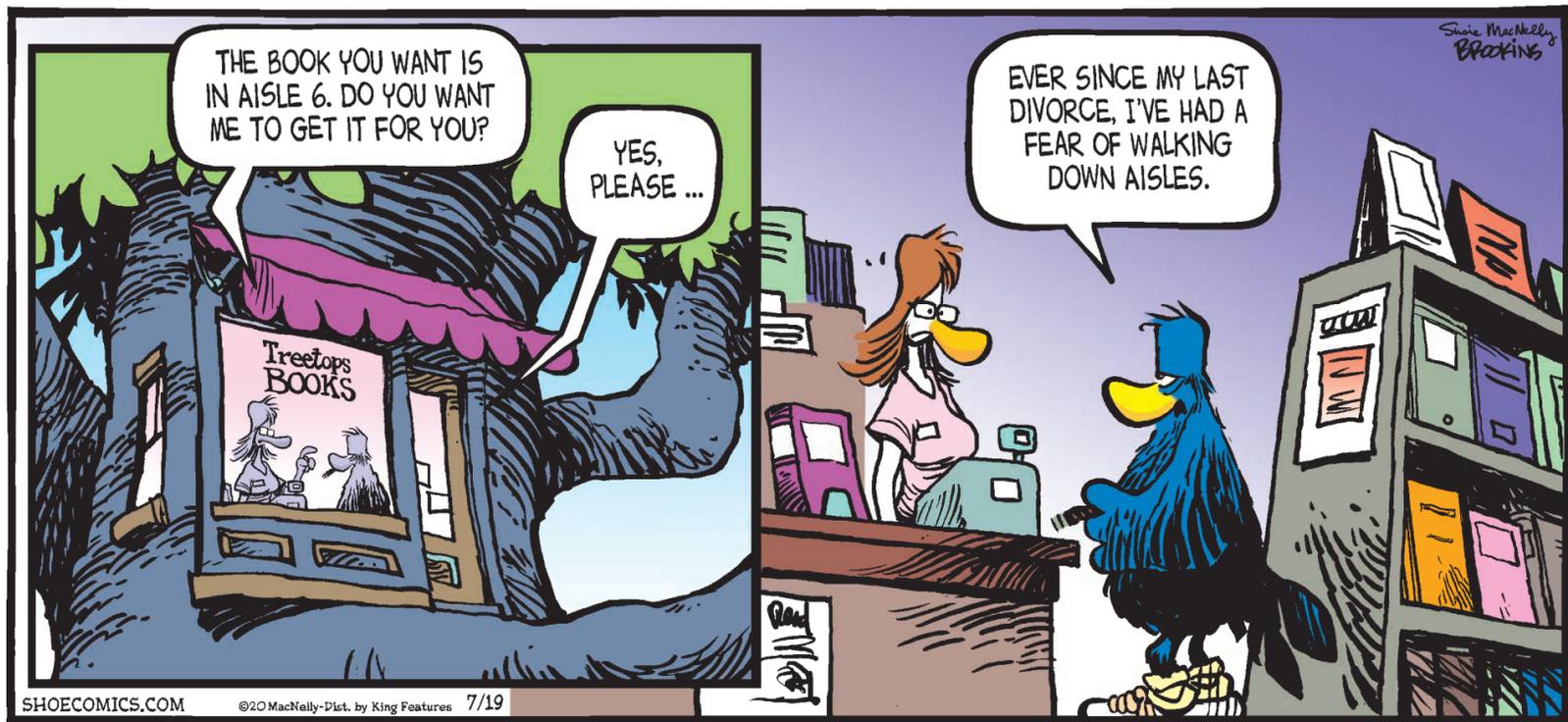
GET FUZZY

BY DARBY CONLEY



SHOE

BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM

