

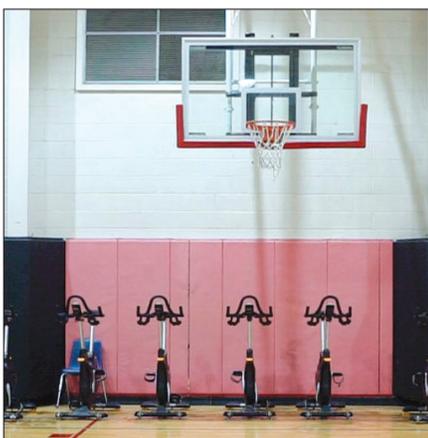
Celebrating
125
the Sumter ITEM
YEARS

MAY 23 - 24, 2020 \$2.00
SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE OCTOBER 15, 1894

Weekend Edition

3 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES | VOL. 125, NO. 156

NATION



Poll: Many in U.S. won't return to gym or dining out soon A7

LOCAL

Victim's brother, 2 others arrested after woman killed by car A3

DEATHS, B5

- Willie Lorine Spence Catington
- Tommie L. Watson
- Jessie Lavern Watkins
- Catherine Choice
- Essie Mae McKenzie
- Solomon Lee Patterson
- James Archie Johnson
- Samuel D. Anderson Jr.
- Sam Baker Jr.
- Ophie Hyatt Atkinson
- Adlean Charles Moses
- Isadore Holliday
- Eddie Brunson

WEATHER, A12

WARM WEEKEND

An afternoon storm in spots on Saturday; humid with patchy clouds at night
HIGH 91, LOW 69

INSIDE

- Classifieds B6
- Comics C1
- Opinion A11
- Outdoors B1
- Reflections A8
- Sports B2
- Yesteryear A9

CONTACT US

Info: 774-1200
Advertising: 774-1237
Classifieds: 774-1200
Delivery: 774-1258
News and Sports:
774-1226

VISIT US ONLINE AT theitem.com



Tri-county near state unemployment rate

Economist: Virus' next steps will determine economic recovery

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

What happens now with the virus? Currently, that seems to be the biggest question facing the U.S. economy on local, state and national levels, according to a Federal Reserve Bank regional economist for the Carolinas.



ULLRICH

Laura Ullrich, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, discussed South Carolina's official April employment report from the U.S. Department of Labor and a glimpse at the economic outlook ahead on a Friday conference call.



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sandi Plume at Carnivore Butcher and Bottle in Sumter checks out a customer on Friday as businesses continue to reopen. The shop recently reopened.

An estimated total of 272,700 state residents lost jobs in April, and South Carolina's unemployment rate rose almost 9% to 12.1% amid the COVID-19 pandemic. What's ahead?

"It is important to note that much of what happens from here truly depends on the virus itself," Ullrich said, "and what happens in

SEE **ECONOMY**, PAGE A10

'My ambitions in life are to do something greater than myself. At the end of the day, it's always about serving people and raising them up and ensuring they can succeed just as I have.'

TRAVIS JOHNSON

On to new heights of service



PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Elaine Johnson helps her son, Crestwood High School senior Travis Johnson, who is headed to Harvard University in August, with his graduation regalia.

Crestwood salutatorian heading to Harvard named Ron Brown Scholar

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Graduating high school senior Travis Johnson will tell you he's been blessed with opportunities throughout high school, and, thanks to recently earning a top national scholarship, those opportunities will likely continue.

Crestwood High School's Class of 2020 salutatorian and soon-to-be Harvard University freshman spoke this week on being named earlier this month as a Ron Brown

Scholar Program recipient. The prestigious, national scholarship program selects about 20 college-bound African-American youth each year to participate in a leadership network while in college, offering them personal and professional development opportunities and experiences to help them succeed.

A \$40,000 academic scholarship is also included, and the program involves a highly competitive selection process with generally

SEE **JOHNSON**, PAGE A10



Hospital leaders worried people need care but are avoiding health facilities

BY KAYLA GREEN
kayla@theitem.com

It's a narrative health care professionals are hearing more than they'd rather recently.

People are avoiding the emergency room and their doctors because they're scared and "have been told to stay home." It's causing preventative health emergencies in people who don't have COVID-19, and hospital and urgent care leaders in

Sumter want to help clear the air.

At the onset of the pandemic caused by COVID-19's spread globally, nationally and locally, we were being told to stay home. Avoid the ER if you're sick with symptoms connected to COVID-19. At first, it was only get tested if you're sick because there weren't enough tests to go around.

To help prevent hospitals and emergency departments from being overwhelmed with patients,

elective procedures were postponed, and doctors' offices closed to regular checkups.

"We see a ton of patients every year, and if we would have just stayed open, we would, I think, have seen a bigger spread," said Clay Lowder, a doctor specializing in family medicine and a partner at Colonial Healthcare.

Colonial was one of the first and

SEE **CARE**, PAGE A10

Best Bank & Best Loan Officer - Chris Lee

BEST OF SUMMER 2020 Come experience how banking should be.

Bank of Clarendon
Sumter · Manning · Santee · Summerton · Wyboo
BankofClarendon.bank

Member FDIC



SECOND FRONT

Call: (803) 774-1226 | E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com



Candidate Q&A: Clarendon County Coroner

BY KAYLA GREEN
kayla@theitem.com

This year's race for coroner of Clarendon County features two people in the Democratic primary: incumbent Coroner Bucky Mock and challenger Jacqueline Blackwell.

All registered voters who live in Clarendon County can vote.

The winner of this primary does not face opposition in November's general election.

Statewide partisan primaries will be held June 9. Gov. Henry McMaster has signed a law that allows any registered voter statewide to request an absentee ballot. Traditionally, voters must fit into one of 18 eligibility categories, but now anyone can request "State Of Emergency" to vote absentee, which can be done by mail or in person.

Any registered voter can vote in the primaries. South Carolina does not require voters to declare a party, so voters can choose any party's primary to vote in, but you can only vote in one party's primary. November's general election is one overall ballot featuring primary winners and any party opposition.

Absentee voting is open now in Clarendon at the county voter registration office in Manning at 411 Sunset Drive.

Keep following *The Sumter Item* in print and online at www.TheItem.com/election2020 for all our coverage of local candidates.

JACQUELINE BLACKWELL

Why are you running? To better serve the people of Clarendon County with integrity, trust, dignity, compassion and dedication.



BLACKWELL

Have you run for political office before? No, however throughout my lifelong career I have served the people of Clarendon County as a teacher and as a

law enforcement officer with over 30 years of experience.

How long have you lived in Clarendon? Over 65 years; Alcolu is my home.

Current job/profession: Victim/witness advocate and administrative assistant for the Third Circuit Solicitor Office currently based at the Clarendon County Courthouse.

What experience do you have that makes you best fit for the seat? I started my law enforcement years in the late 70s as a dispatcher. I was named Dispatcher of the Year for four consecutive years. One of the calls that I received was saving the life of an elderly woman during a fire by directing her to safety until help arrived. The recording was used as a training tool for dispatchers at the South Carolina Fire Academy for many years. During my time as a dispatcher, I assisted the late Rev. Norman Blackwell, who was the coroner of Clarendon County. I assisted

him with administrative procedures, which included helping to notify out-of-state immediate family members of deceased persons.

I worked as an investigator with the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office for over 11 years. These duties include working homicides, sexual assaults, domestic violence situations, hostage situations, suicides, elderly and child abuses, assaults and other major crimes. I am a certified special skills instructor, elderly and child abuse specialist, juvenile officer and sexual assault investigator with over 600 accredited hours through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and other training facilities statewide and nationally.

As a law enforcement officer, I was declared an expert witness by a Circuit judge while testifying in a major General Sessions case in Clarendon County. This testimony was instrumental in putting the perpetrator away and bringing justice to the family.

I was the administrative of the remedial computer lab for English and math at Manning High School and later at Phoenix Charter High School. I also brought computers to the sheriff's office. Prior to that, everything was manually. I was invited to sit in on county meetings by the late Betty Roper, county administrator, when meeting with vendors to make Clarendon County convert to computers.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. I attended South Carolina State University (then called College) and graduated from Morris College. I continued my education getting certifications.

I am currently a South Carolina State Constable, certified through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. I am also a certified Notary Public for this state.

I am a public speaker. I have spoken at high schools and other events. I was a presenter at the South Carolina Law Enforcement Victim's Advocate Annual Conference on the topic of juvenile and drug court and at The Palmetto State Law Enforcement Officers Association Annual Conference on the topic of evidence collection.

I am certified and qualified for this position. And lastly, I love people, and I can get along with people regardless of race, creed or color. To this day, I still have former defendants and victims thanking me for helping them to make major changes in their lives. I was always taught that I should treat people as I would like to be treated.

What challenges/concerns do you see in your district/community, and how do you intend to improve them? The challenge that I see in my community is uniting the generations through educating each other. There is a gap in communication and unity. We must bridge that gap. Everyone has a voice and has the right to be heard. I hear the

concerns of the youth, the elderly and the in-betweens. I feel that I can communicate with anyone. I will find programs and forums to unite people through peaceful solutions. I have access to many resources that would better this community and would not hesitate in bringing them in to help make my community be the best in this state.

If changes necessitate funding, how would you want to move funding around or make it possible? I would seek the best way to make it functional. I am an unofficial grant writer. I have successfully written grants for my sister, who is a teacher in Williamsburg County wherein her students, their parents and the community were well-served. I also gathered the data for the Law Enforcement Segment of the \$3 million Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant, which Clarendon School District 2 received a few years ago. This grant helped place law enforcement officers in each school in the district. I was also part of the team that worked on a grant that helped to place defibrillators in every department on the campus of South Carolina State University while working in the police department. I will be accountable for the funds coming in and out of the office which I seek. Nothing will be finalized without the consent of Clarendon County Council.

What success have you seen that you want to continue/build on? I applaud Clarendon County Council for getting a new and improved building for the Coroner's Office. I will continue to keep the office updated with modern technology and bring in resources that will better serve the people of Clarendon County outside of the physical walls of the building.

What is your vision for Clarendon? I would love to see our county work together for the people of Clarendon. Just as the body has many functions to operate as one, so must the different agencies work together to become one. Where there is unity, there is strength. Clarendon County can become one of the best in the state when we all work together.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so? I am a member of the Sumter Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. based on Christian values and community service, serving Clarendon, Sumter and Lee counties; a member of the Palmetto State Law Enforcement Officers Association; a member of the Clarendon Section of the National Council of Negro Women; a member of the local chapter of the Democratic Party, former secretary and currently the administrator of the party's Facebook page; an active member of Green Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Alcolu, serving in many capacities; assisted Judge Amy Land delivering meals for the Meals on Wheels Program; volunteer

reading at Manning Early Childhood Center; support the Annual Think Pink Event for Cancer in Clarendon County; committee member of the Annual Law Enforcement's National Night Out Community Event.

Why should people vote for you? Because I am the best certified and qualified candidate and would be the best person in this position to better serve the people of Clarendon County with dignity, honor, trust and compassion. I will do my best to make Clarendon County proud of their coroner and be part of the team.

Anything else about yourself you want to add? I am family oriented, a mother of three, Terri, Ka'Tasha and Charles, a grandmother, a sister to six siblings and the daughter of Henrietta Blackwell and the late Jasper Blackwell. The granddaughter of the late William Jasper "Coot" and Carrie Burgess and the late John and Lucille Blackwell Montgomery.

BUCKY MOCK

Why are you running? I have worked for the Clarendon County Coroner's Office for more than 25 years. First, I served as a deputy coroner under the late Ranny I. Stephens and the late Hayes F. Samuels and then as coroner beginning in early 2018 after the death of Samuels. I have a



MOCK

complete working knowledge of the job, and I am passionate about serving the people of Clarendon County. They need a coroner that will go to the scene personally, whether it's in the wee hours of the morning or on a holiday. Due to my almost 48 years as a practicing nurse, I can recognize the cause of death in the majority of cases and give them the answers they so desperately need for deaths due to natural causes or deaths due to criminal activities and accidents. My medical knowledge combined with my professionalism, compassion and caring allows me to help families through these emotional and trying times. If it's a local death, I don't call them on the phone. I go to their homes. I sit down and talk with them. I answer their questions. I contact loved ones for them. For me, being coroner is more than a job. It's a calling. It's my chance to help my neighbors, friends and even strangers get through challenging times. I see how families are devastated by the news of a child's, parent's or friend's death. I want to use my knowledge to aid them in dealing with their grief.

Have you run for political office before? In 2018, Gov. Henry McMaster appointed me to serve as coroner when Hayes F. Samuels Jr. died while in office. In 2019, I ran for the coroner's job and won.

How long have you lived in Clarendon County? More than 25 years

What experience do you have that makes you best fit for the seat? I am a forensic nurse. I have extensive training in death investigations and I have worked death investigations as

a deputy coroner and then coroner with the Clarendon County Coroner's Office for more than 25 years. My nursing training enables me to recognize many medical conditions that can lead to death. I have worked with doctors and can call on their medical expertise and knowledge to assist with determining cause of death. I have also worked with the Health and Human Services (HHS) medical teams during disaster situations dealing with medical emergencies following natural disasters like hurricanes. Recently I have worked with HHS in providing medical assistance in areas hit the hardest with the COVID-19 pandemic.

What challenges/concerns do you see in your district/community, and how do you intend to improve them? I would like to see the rate of accidental deaths decrease in Clarendon County. In an effort to lower accidental deaths, I began offering safety tips on a variety of topics to groups ranging in age from young children to adults. The topics include bicycle, seatbelt, water recreation, life jacket, boating, school bus, wheelchair and driving safety as well as encouraging youngsters and young adults against bullying. I also encourage individuals to use the SC DMV site to list next of kin on their South Carolina driver's license information. This information can only be accessed by law enforcement officials and can be extremely valuable to both law enforcement and medical personnel when individuals are injured or killed. When an individual is unconscious, this information may mean the difference in life or death.

If changes necessitate funding, how would you want to move funding around or make it possible? Grants are a huge revenue asset for governmental offices. I will continue to solicit grant funds from a variety of state and federal sources. As an active member of the South Carolina Coroner's Association, I receive valuable information from coroners from around the state about available grant funding as well as ways to various cost cutting measures.

What success have you seen that you want to continue/build on? I want to see my safety program reduce the number of accidents across the county. I want to continue a program that I recently initiated that will help the community understand the various roles of a coroner. A coroner's role doesn't end when the family is notified of a loved one's death. The coroner's job goes far beyond that. The coroner is most often the first person to tell a family member that their loved one has died. I want families to know that their Clarendon County Coroner is there to answer their questions and to assist them through the grieving process.

What is your vision for Clarendon? Clarendon County is my home. It's where I work, play and serve my community. I want to see my county grow both spiritually and economically. Through continuous

SEE CORONER, PAGE A7

OSTEEN

PUBLISHING COMPANY
Established 1894

36 W. LIBERTY ST., SUMTER, S.C. 29150
(803) 774-1200

Vince Johnson
PUBLISHER
vince@theitem.com
(803) 774-1201

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

Rhonda Barrick
NEWSROOM MANAGER
rhonda@theitem.com
(803) 774-1264

Kathy Stafford
CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER
CLASSIFIEDS, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DELIVERY
kathy@theitem.com
(803) 774-1212

Sandra Holbert
OBITUARY / NEWSROOM CLERK
sandra@theitem.com
(803) 774-1226

HOW TO REACH US

IS YOUR PAPER MISSING? ARE YOU GOING ON VACATION?

Call (803) 774-1258
Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TO PLACE A NEWSPAPER AD

Call (803) 774-1200 Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Birth, Engagement, Wedding,
Anniversary, Obituary
Call (803) 774-1226
Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TO BUY A SUBSCRIPTION

Call (803) 774-1200
Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Standard Home Delivery plus Digital Subscription
TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
(WEEKEND EDITION)
One year - \$199; six months - \$109; three months - \$59; one month - \$20; EZPay, \$15.99/month

Mail Delivery

One year - \$276; six months - \$138; three months - \$69; one month - \$23

The Sumter Item is published five days a week except for July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day (unless those fall on a Saturday or Wednesday) by Osteen Publishing Co., 36 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150. Periodical postage paid at Sumter, SC 29150.

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

Publication No. USPS 525-900

Victim's brother, 2 others arrested after woman hit, killed by vehicle April 28

BY RHONDA BARRICK
rhonda@theitem.com

Three Sumter residents have been arrested in connection to a dispute on April 28 that led to 30-year-old Erica Singletary of Sumter being struck and killed by a vehicle.

According to Tonyia McGirt, public information officer for the Sumter Police Department, the following have been arrested:

Deyonte Singletary, 29, turned himself in Wednesday after warrants were issued for his arrest. He is charged with attempted murder, discharging a weapon into a vehicle, unlawful carrying of a pistol and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

Sheila Juanita Deschamps, 40, is accused of being the driver of the vehicle that struck and killed Singletary. She was arrested Thursday

and charged with reckless homicide.

Latrell Maria Jennings, 34, was arrested Thursday and charged with obstruction of justice after reportedly misleading officers regarding the details of the fatal crash.

All three are being held at the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Detention Center.

According to McGirt, several acquaintances were present during the incident that began after 11:15 p.m. April 28 in the 200 block of Royal Street near Brand Street.

Reports indicate Deyonte Singletary and his sister, Erica, were arguing with Deschamps and Jennings before the incident turned violent and shots were fired. At some point during the dispute, Erica Singletary was struck and killed by a vehicle.

An investigation is continuing. Police are asking that anyone who was at the incident and might have seen something to call (803) 436-2700 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

Tips can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers by logging onto www.P3tips.com and clicking on the "Submit a New Tip" tab or by downloading the P3 Tips app for Apple and Android devices.



SINGLETARY



DESCHAMPS



JENNINGS

Food bank sees increase in need during COVID-19

BY KAYLA GREEN
kayla@theitem.com

A nonprofit that helps bring access to food for those in need was busy in April.

Harvest Hope Food Bank, which serves people in about 20 counties across South Carolina, distributed more than 130,000 meals through 24 mobile food pantries across the Pee Dee, including in Lee County. Mobile food pantries are designed to bring critical, nutritious food to rural communities with high food insecurity numbers, and COVID-19 has even further impacted those areas.

"We've seen a tremendous increase of neighbors who need our help since the COVID-19 crisis began," said Wendy Broderick, Harvest Hope Food Bank CEO, in a news release. "These mobile pantries bring food straight to these communities

to help those impacted by job loss and limited transportation."

The pandemic has affected rural populations that already face hunger by increasing isolation and access to services. Harvest Hope has seen a 125% increase in the amount of food being distributed through its mobile food pantries in communities such as Lee, Darlington, Dillon and Marion counties, according to the nonprofit.

With support from community partners such as Duke Energy, South State Bank, Carefirst Carolina Foundation and other Pee Dee organizations, thousands of residents were given shelf-stable food boxes, fresh dairy, produce and more.

Community members who want to contribute to Harvest Hope's COVID-19 response, visit www.harvesthope.org.

CAMPUS CORNER

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

ANDERSON — Despite the incredible challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the following students were named to the Dean's List at Anderson University for the spring semester 2020. In order to be named to the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade-point average or higher for the semester.

- **Manning** — Michael Boylston and Naomi Woodbury;
- **Rembert** — Harlee Dennis; and
- **Sumter** — Natalie Ardis; Morgan Conte; Christopher Jones; AnnMargaret Phillips; Addison Reed; Katie Rogers; Aubrey Stoddard; and Rachel Wilson.

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

GREENVILLE — **Leah Scott**, a sophomore criminal justice major from Sumter, was among approximately 800 Bob Jones University students named to the spring 2020 President's List.

The President's List recognizes students who earn a 3.75 or higher grade-point average for the semester.

Susanna Hutson, a freshman Premed/Preudent major from Sumter, was among more than 850 Bob Jones University students named to the spring 2020 Dean's List.

The Dean's List recognizes students who earn a 3.00-3.74 grade-point average during the semester.

THE CITADEL

CHARLESTON — Nearly 600 members of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets accepted diplomas during The Citadel's virtual commencement ceremony on May 9. In addition to graduating, about 30% of the class accepted commissions as U.S. military officers in all branches of service.

Local graduates are:
 • **Sumter** — **Daniel Barber**, Bachelor of Science in Physical Education; **John Eppley**, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; **Turner Newman**, Bachelor of Science in Biology; **Chandler Stone**, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; **Daniel Tallon**, Bachelor of Science in Biology; **Addison Osborne**, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; **Kory McIntosh**, Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science; **Jacob Peckham**, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering;

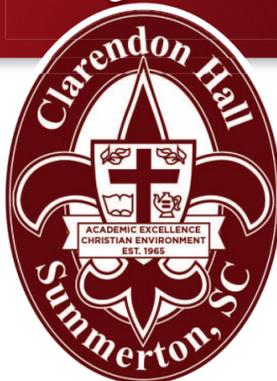
• **Bishopville** — **Tierra Price**, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology; and
 • **Rembert** — **Trace Guy**, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

SAN ANGELO, Texas — Angelo State University conferred 571 undergraduate degrees and 298 graduate degrees to its spring 2020 graduates.

Graduates include **Allison Laclede** of Sumter, who earned a Master of Science in Global Security Studies.

Congratulations Class of 2020



CLARENDON HALL

Academic Excellence, Christian Environment
Advanced (SACS) Accredited ~ Member SCISA
Grades K-3 to 12

100% of college-bound seniors accepted
\$1,453,000 Received in merit-based scholarships



Hannah Nicole Ashba



Whitney Nicole Avins



Mary McKenzie Bagnol



John Ernest Barrentine



Joseph Harold Carlisle



Carson Jody Cline



Payton Breeze Davis



Traveon Malik Davis



Aubrey Christine Edwards



Evan Kade Elliott



Lacey Aleah Fralix



Zyan Shymek Gilmore



Peyton Austin Godwin



Sarah Elizabeth Henning



Justin Tyler James



Robert Leard James, Jr.



Harley Makala Johnson



Cortland Travis McIntosh



Da'Qavion Zyier Miller



Jacob Troy Owens



Sunshine Heart A. Perkins



Linwood Ashwell Robinson, IV



May Elizabeth Rogan



Jahnarious Ephraim Snell

Class of 2020 were accepted to the following Colleges and Universities:

- Anderson University • Charleston Southern University • Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University • Central Carolina Technical College • Coker College
- College of Charleston • Francis Marion University • Lander University
- Lincoln Memorial University • Mars Hill College • Marshalltown Community College
- North Greenville University • Piedmont Technical College • South Carolina State University
- USC – Columbia • USC – Sumter • USC – Upstate

As one of the most well-established schools in the area, Clarendon Hall has provided superior elementary and secondary education in a non-denominational Christian environment since 1965. Clarendon Hall is an independent co-educational school for kindergarten through twelfth grade. In addition to being a founding member of the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA), Clarendon Hall is accredited by AdvancEd/SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). Clarendon Hall is located at 1140 South Dukes Street in Sumter. For more information, contact the school office at (803) 485-3550 or visit the website at www.clarendonhall.org.

(803) 485-3550 • clarendonhall.org



SUMTER TODAY

NOW SHOWING AT THEITEM.COM/STUDIOSUMTER

Sumter School District surprises the three district Teacher of the Year finalists in a social-distanced celebration.

PRESENTED BY



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SUMTER

A Palmetto College Campus

Remembering and relearning our worth

“Once you know who you are, you don’t have to worry anymore.” — Nikki Giovanni

As I was sitting on the balcony the other evening watching the changing colors of the sky as the sun was fleeting behind the clouds, I found myself having a David moment. David, the psalmist and king that began as a shepherd, I imagine, was tending his father’s sheep one evening and began to pen Psalm 8. For those who have never read Psalm 8, I encourage you to, for it is the picture of a person in awe with God and then in awe of God’s love for them.

In fact, as David is writing about his observations of God’s majestic power in creation, he immediately pauses and realizes that the same God that made all that beauty also made him. It is in that moment that he realizes his worth. He says this in Psalm 8:5, “You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands.” In other words, David was saying that humanity holds a special place in God’s heart, and that place is a little lower than that of angels but well above the beasts and animals.

Did you catch that? David says we are all closer to angels than we are to animals. In fact, to push his claim, he reflects on the original intent of humanity’s purpose as expressed as God was planning to create man in Genesis 1:26. For those that don’t remember this story, after God had created Heaven and Earth, after the sun and the moon, after the flowers, the fish, the birds and the beasts were present on Earth, God had a conversation with God’s self about creating God’s best creation — humans. Maybe you missed it: not simultaneously with animals or birds or fish but separately and more intentionally because where God just spoke to Earth for animals to appear, God spoke to God in conversation and contemplation before making human-kind.

That’s important to remember and be reminded, because this was before color, before race, before cultural difference, before sexual identity, before national pride, God made humans, not in the image and likeness of ani-



Napoleon Bradford

at our brothers and sisters, we should see God. That means we must stop referring to each other like animals, likening ourselves to animals and killing each other like animals. The reality is if I saw God in you, it should prevent me from killing you or hating you or trying to destroy you, for when I look at you, the

mals, but in the image and likeness of God. Unfortunately, we haven’t been told that enough, that when we look in the mirror we should see God, and when we look

God in me should be drawn to the God in you, and that should cause connection.

We were all made in the image and likeness of God. In fact, the theological term for that is one of my favorite words, Imago Dei, and that is what must be remembered, and for some of us relearned. When we remember and relearn who we are, we also refuse to handle problems and differences in manners that are inhumane.

Ahmaud Arbery would have never been chased down and killed if Greg and Travis McMichael saw him as the image of God, Imago Dei, before they saw him as black, as a suspect, as a thief or even as a runner. Trayvon Martin would still be alive if George

Zimmerman saw him first as Imago Dei, the image of God, before he saw him as suspicious, or trespasser or unwelcome. In fact, there would be no murder, no drive-bys, no shootouts at gas stations, no black-on-black violence if we simply saw Imago Dei, the image of God, before we saw issue, or beef or vendetta or disrespect.

But I have to push it a little further, for if we really valued the Imago Dei, the image of God, in the people around us, we wouldn’t risk their lives by not wearing masks, by not honoring social distancing, by not respecting curfews or shelter-in-place laws, by rushing back to normal, by forcing governments and churches to rush back to

mass assembly, for if we truly valued the God in each other, we would simply want to do whatever has to be done to preserve their lives as opportunities to offer praise to the God who paused God’s creation of animals and Earth to make a being, a human being, that as David reminds us is, “A little lower than the angels, and crowned with glory and honor.” In other words, remembering and relearning our worth means recognizing that it is our life and not our death that most honors and glorifies God.

Napoleon A. Bradford, D.Min., is the lead shepherd of The L.I.F.E. Center: A Cyber Community of CHRIST Followers.



Thank you for voting us Best Home & Auto Insurance and Best Health Care Insurance in Sumter.

Protecting your investment . . .

We were there when you first decided to follow your passion.

Today, we’re still here keeping all you have built

Safe. Sound. Secure®.

Call or visit us.



AssuredPartners
BYNUM INSURANCE

1170 Wilson Hall Road
Sumter, S.C. 29150
803-469-3030
bynuminsurance.com

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

GOLD PAYING TOP DOLLAR JEWELRY WHOLESALE
41 E. Wesmark Blvd. • 778-1031

WEDDING

Affronti-McCabe

Miss Elizabeth Anne Affronti of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Mr. Griffin Nolan McCabe of Manning were united in marriage at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 21, 2020, in a front yard ceremony at 2185 Bethel Church Road. The Rev. Neil DuBose officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Francis Affronti Jr. of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and the granddaughter of Mrs. Aileen Affronti and the late Dr. Lewis Francis Affronti Sr. of Forest, Virginia, the late Mr. Royce E. Jones, and Mrs. Margaret Anne Jones Tait and Gen. Thomas Tait of Hampton, Virginia. She graduated from The Virginia Military Institute with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and from the University of South Carolina with a Master of Arts in Teaching. She is employed as an English teacher and soccer and volleyball coach at Wilson Hall.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark McCabe II of Manning, and the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark McCabe of Middletown, Ohio, and the



MR., MRS. GRIFFIN NOLAN MCCABE

late Mr. and Mrs. Carroll C. Griffin of Sumter. He graduated from Laurence Manning Academy and Central Carolina Technical College with an Associate of Science degree in Natural Resource Management. He is employed by Continental Tire the Americas.

Escorted by her father, the bride wore a Vera Wang V-neck gown of tulle with flower detailing. She carried a bouquet made from flowers used in the previous day's tea party given by her aunts, Mary Lou Affronti and Eileen Affronti.

Robert Clark McCabe III, brother of the bridegroom, served as best man.

Because of the coronavirus, a rehearsal dinner was not possible, but in the bride's words, they were able to have a "heartfelt celebration with our closest family and friends, a photographer (Rebecca Koenig) who was determined to capture our special day, a pastor who still joined us even after a car accident, and a unique, romantic front yard wedding that Griffin and I will cherish forever and for always. We hope to have a vow renewal and reception in 2021."

The couple is planning a wedding trip to Mexico in July and will reside in Sumter.

ENGAGEMENT

Jackson-Von Minden

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Paul Jackson of Sumter announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Sara Ashlee Jackson of Sumter, to Mr. Garrett Richard Von Minden of Hilton Head Island, son of Ms. Laura Von Minden of Hilton Head Island and Mr. Richard Von Minden Jr. of New Hudson, Michigan. The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Ms. Donna Faye Welch and the late Mr. Eddie Howard Welch of Sumter and Mr. and Mrs. Paul George Jackson of Irwin, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Thomas Sumter Academy and Clemson University. She is employed as a fourth-grade teacher at Hunt Meadows Elementary in Easley.

The bridegroom-elect is the grandson of Mrs. Danute Zielinski of Milford, Michigan, and the late Mr. Norman Joseph Zielinski and Ms. Pamela Sue Von Minden of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and the late Mr. Richard Bruce Von Minden Sr. He graduated from Hilton Head Island High School and Clemson University. He is employed as a project engi-



MR. VON MINDEN, MISS JACKSON

neer at Harper General Contractors in Greenville.

The wedding is planned for June 27, 2020, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Sumter.

•••

The couple is registered at Naomi and Warner in Sumter; Belk, www.belk.com; Target, www.target.com; and Amazon, www.amazon.com.

How the virus changed my street — for the better

BY ELIZABETH DALZIEL
Associated Press

BERKHAMSTED, England — I've been living on my street for about 10 years, in a little market town outside London called Berkhamsted. In a very English way, I knew almost nothing about my neighbors. Everyone kept to their own business.

My street is 322 meters (352 yards) long and over a century old, with late Victorian brick fronts, all similar in architectural style. But inside each house is a unique story.

As the coronavirus lockdown tightened its grip and residents shut their front doors, a few neighbors created a Whatsapp group for the street. From there on, everything began to change.

People began introducing themselves to one another online, sharing news, asking if anyone needed extra groceries, or offering surplus toys and baked goods. The group grew to 98 members.

Kids who missed out on their birthday parties get a chorus of happy birthday songs up and down the block and balloons hanging from front windows. We've raised donations for women facing domestic abuse.

It took social distancing to bring us closer.

I'm originally from Mexico, with postings that have taken me from the Middle East to Asia and the Americas. When I arrived in Britain, I found myself in a little patch of England with its ancient buildings and Harry Potter woods that seemed no less exotic than anywhere else I'd been.

When the pandemic came along, I did what came naturally as a photographer. One by one, I've been capturing the people living around me.

Clare O'Connell, a concert cellist, offers impromptu concerts from her front garden. On Victory in Europe Day, May 8, Nyree O'Brien directed a community band that played the World War II-era hit "We'll meet again." The youngest member is 5.

Band members plan to play the Beatles' "Come Together" next.

"Because truly, that is what we all want to do," she said.

My town first appeared in written records in 970 and is included in the Domesday Book. It survived plagues that ravaged Britain in the 1300s and 1600s. Since my block was built, it has seen the Spanish Flu and two world wars. Long after we've gone, new residents will see things I cannot even imagine.

But for now, here's a record of my neighbors and the people I've grown to know, thanks to social distancing.



PHOTOS BY AP PHOTOGRAPHER ELIZABETH DALZIEL

Clare O'Connell, a concert cellist, and her husband, Dom Shovelton, a composer, offer an impromptu concert from their front door as neighbors flock to listen while observing social distancing on the street in Berkhamsted, London, on May 2. As the coronavirus lockdown tightened and people shut their doors, neighbors began introducing themselves to one another online, building a community on the street.



Amelie and her sister, Camille, watch from their front window as the lockdown enters its third week along with their parents, Victoria and Damian Kerr, in Berkhamsted on April 4. Victoria and Damian are both working full time from home but are enjoying the chance the lockdown has given them to spend more time together as a family despite its challenges.



Bob and Sue Parsons look out from their window in Berkhamsted on March 26. The couple, who has lived there for 40 years, has seen changes on the street, but this is by far the strangest time they have lived through.



Photographer Elizabeth Dalziel's family, Ben, 10, right, and Joe, 7, left, clap along with her husband, Rob Hodge, as people come out to cheer for the National Health Service and frontline workers in Berkhamsted on April 16.



Astrid, 5, and Martha, 3, enjoy a scooter along their home's alley and a little freedom in Berkhamsted on April 7. Matt Leuw, their dad, recently recovered from the coronavirus and self isolated at home. Rachel, their mom, works as a program manager at the NHS Royal Free Hospital.

Biden: If you can't choose me over Trump, 'you ain't black'

BY BILL BARROW
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Joe Biden suggested on Friday that African-Americans who back President Donald Trump “ain’t black,” comments that stirred controversy over whether he was being condescending to voters who could decide whether he wins the White House.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee appeared on the Breakfast Club, a radio program that is widely regarded in the black community. The host, Charlamagne Tha God, pressed Biden on reports that he is considering Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who is white, to be vice president and told him black voters “saved your political life in the primaries” and “have things they want from you.”

“I’m not acknowledging anybody who is being considered,” Biden said. “But I guarantee you there are multiple black women being considered. Multiple.”

A Biden aide then sought to end the interview, prompting the host to say, “You can’t do that to black media.”

Biden responded, “I do that to black media and white media” and said his wife needed to use the television studio.

He then added: “If you’ve got a problem figuring out whether you’re for me or for Trump, then you ain’t black.”

The comments come at a critical point in the presidential campaign as Biden tries to revive the multi-racial and multi-generational coalition that twice elected Barack Obama. He has already committed to picking a woman as his running mate and is considering several African-American contenders who could energize black voters. But with black voters already overwhelmingly opposed to Trump, Biden is also considering candidates such as Klobuchar.

Trump and his allies, on defense for weeks over the president’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic, were eager to seize on Biden’s comments.

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, a Trump supporter and the Senate’s sole black Republican, said he was “shocked and surprised” by Biden’s remark.

“I thought to myself, as an African-American, been black for 54 years, I was struck by the condescension and the arrogance in his comments,” Scott said in a conference call quickly arranged by the Trump campaign. “I could not believe my ears that he would stoop so low to tell folks what they should do, how they should think, and what it means to be black.”

Symone Sanders, a Biden senior adviser who is also black, said his comment in Friday’s interview was “made in jest.”

“Let’s be clear about what the VP was saying,” Sanders tweeted. “He was making the distinction that he would put his record with the African-American community up against Trump’s any day. Period.”

Trump himself has a history of incendiary rhetoric related to race.

When he launched his presidential campaign in 2015, Trump called many Mexican immigrants “rapists.” Campaigning in 2016, he asked black voters, “what the hell do you have to lose?”

In 2017, he said there are good people on “both sides” of the clash in Charlottesville, Vir-



Former Vice President Joe Biden participates in a Democratic presidential primary debate at CNN Studios in Washington.

ginia, between white supremacists and anti-racist demonstrators that left one counter-protester dead.

Last year, during a private White House meeting on immigration, Trump wondered why the United States was admitting so many immigrants from “shithole countries” like African nations. He also blasted four Democratic congresswomen of color, saying they hate America and should “go back” to where they come from, even though all are U.S. citizens and three were born in the U.S.

Biden encouraged listeners on Friday to “take a look at my record,” citing his work as senator to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

“The NAACP has endorsed me every time I’ve run,” he said. “Come on, take a look at my record.”

Black voters helped resurrect Biden’s campaign in this year’s primaries with a second-place finish in the Nevada caucuses and a resounding win in the South Carolina primary after he’d started with embarrassing finishes in overwhelmingly white Iowa and New Hampshire. Sixty-one percent of black voters supported Biden during the primary, according to AP VoteCast surveys across 17 states that voted in February and March.

There is little chance of a sudden shift in support for Trump among black voters. A recent Fox News poll shows just 14% of African-Americans who are registered to vote have a favorable opinion of Trump, compared with 84% who view him unfavorably.

Seventy-five percent of African-American registered voters say they have a favorable view of Joe Biden; 21% hold an unfavorable opinion.

There is a risk, however, of black voters, especially those who are younger, staying home in November, which could complicate Biden’s path to victory in a tight election. The Breakfast Club is a particularly notable venue for Biden’s comments because the program is popular among younger African-Americans.

Biden’s selection of a running mate could help motivate voters. He’s begun vetting contenders, a process he’s said will likely last through July.

Several black women are among those under consideration, including California Sen. Kamala Harris, Georgia voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Florida Rep. Val Demings, Ohio Rep. Marcia Fudge and Susan Rice, Obama’s former U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

Georgia prosecutor pledges to find justice in Arbery slaying

DECATUR, Ga. (AP) — The Atlanta-area prosecutor now handling the fatal shooting of Ahmaud Arbery spoke for the first time about the case on Friday, pledging to “make sure that we find justice” for a broken family and community.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vic Reynolds also appeared alongside Cobb County District Attorney Joyette Holmes, saying that “at this point we feel confident the individuals who needed to be charged have been charged.”

Their news conference at GBI headquarters in Decatur followed the arrest on Thursday of William “Roddie” Bryan Jr. on charges of felony murder and criminal attempt to commit false imprisonment.

Bryan, 50, is the man whose cellphone video of Arbery’s shooting prompted a national outcry. Gregory and Travis McMichael were arrested on murder and aggravated assault charges after the video spread on social media, more than two months after the slaying.

“We are going to make sure that we find justice in this case. We know that we have a broken family and a broken community down in Brunswick,” Holmes said.

Asked how Bryan could be charged with murder if he didn’t pull the trigger on the weapon used to kill, Reynolds referred to Bryan’s arrest warrant, which says he tried “to confine and detain” Arbery without

legal authority by “utilizing his vehicle on multiple occasions” before Arbery was shot.

Bryan’s attorney, Kevin Gough, has said his client played no role in Arbery’s death, asserting that “Roddie Bryan is not now, and has never been, more than a

witness to the shooting.”

But the GBI director said Friday that “if we believed he was a witness, we wouldn’t have arrested him.”

Under Georgia law, a felony murder charge means that a death occurred during the commission of an underlying felony and doesn’t require intent to kill. A murder conviction in Georgia carries a minimum sentence of life in prison, either with or without parole.

Reynolds said the investigation into Arbery’s killing is still active and ongoing but that he expects his investigators will finish soon and hand over the case to Holmes. He said he also expects the investigation into the handling of the case by two local prosecutors to be completed soon and turned over to the attorney general’s office.

The GBI is also working “hand in hand” with federal officials, Reynolds said. Since Georgia lacks a hate crime law, any hate crime prosecution would have to be done by the U.S. Justice Department.



BRYAN

How should I clean, store my face mask?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cloth face masks worn during the coronavirus pandemic should be washed regularly, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Public health experts recommend wearing a mask made from cotton fabric, such as T-shirts, or scarves and bandannas, when you are outside and unable to maintain social distancing from others.

The covering should be washed daily after use, says Penni Watts, an assistant

professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s School of Nursing.

It is best to clean your mask in a washing machine or with soap and hot water. The mask should be dried completely. Dry it in a hot dryer, if possible.

Watts advises storing the clean, dry mask in a new paper bag to keep it safe from germs.

The CDC has urged people to use washable cloth coverings to ensure there are enough surgical and N95 masks for medical workers.

Cash in a FLASH!
We Buy: Gold & Silver Jewelry, Silver Coins & Collections, Sterling/.925, Diamonds, Pocket Watches, Antiques & Estates

Lafayette Gold and Silver Exchange
Inside Vestco Properties
480 E. Liberty St. Sumter, SC 29150
(inside Coca-Cola Building)
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 5:30 PM • Sat: 8 - 2 PM
803-773-8022

NOW HIRING
DELIVER FOR THE SUMTER ITEM

Routes Available in Sumter and surrounding counties

If you have a dependable car and a phone in your home apply NOW for a route.

Apply in-person at the Circulation Department
36 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150

the Sumter ITEM

It's that time of year again!
Rotary Club Of Sumter - Palmetto

Hosts the 2020 Annual Vidalia Onion Sale

Benefits Local Club Projects and Scholarship Funds

10 LB Bag **\$11.00**
25 LB Bag **\$22.00**

May 27, 28, 29, 30 from 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM (12pm Sat)
Wesmark Blvd. Next to Bilton Lincoln Inc.

For more information: 803-847-0780

Poll: Many in U.S. won't return to gym or dining out

WASHINGTON (AP) — Much of the country remains unlikely to venture out to bars, restaurants, theaters or gyms anytime soon, despite state and local officials across the country increasingly allowing businesses to reopen, according to a new survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

That hesitancy in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak could muffle any recovery from what has been the sharpest and swiftest economic downturn in U.S. history. Just 42% of those who went to concerts, movies, theaters or sporting events at least monthly before the outbreak say they'd do so in the next few weeks if they could. Only about half of those who regularly went to restaurants, exercised at the gym or traveled would feel comfortable doing so again.

About a quarter of Americans say someone in their household has lost a job amid that downturn, and about half have lost household income, including layoffs, pay cuts, cut hours or unpaid time off. The majority of those whose household suffered a layoff still think they will return to their previous employer, but the share expecting their job will not return has risen slightly over the past month, to 30% from 20%.

Amber Van Den Berge, a teacher in Indiana, held off on immediately re-

turning to her second job as a fitness instructor. She would need to pass a test for COVID-19, get her temperature checked each morning and lead class while wearing a protective mask.

"Wear a mask to teach a fitness class? I'm not ready for that," said Van Den Berge, 39.

The speed and strength of any economic rebound could be thwarted because many fear the risk of new infections. Consumers make up roughly 70% of U.S. economic activity, so anything less than a total recovery in spending would force many companies to permanently close and deepen the financial pain for 39 million people who have lost jobs in roughly the past two months.

Forty-nine percent of Americans approve of how President Donald Trump is handling the economy, the poll shows. That has slipped over the last two months, from 56% in March. Still, the issue remains a relative positive for Trump, whose overall approval rating stands at 41%.

Trump has at times downplayed the threat of the coronavirus and the benefits of testing and has criticized the leadership of Democratic governors. Meanwhile, many Democratic lawmakers have insisted on the importance of containing the disease and sustaining the economy with federal aid.

Greg Yost, a Republican from Rockaway, New Jersey, says he wishes the president would defer more to medical experts, rather than speak off the cuff. But he added that he thinks Trump thinks he must defend himself against personal attacks.

"He's between a rock and a hard place," Yost said.

But ShyJuan Clemons, 45, of Merrillville, Indiana, says Trump has made the fallout from the pandemic worse by initially denying its dangers and failing to display much empathy for those hurt by the coronavirus.

"Even my cat knows that he's terrible," said Clemons, referring to his 14-year-old Siamese mix, Shinji.

Clemons works with special needs people and worries about his hours if Indiana — starved of tax revenues because of the disease — cuts its budget. But it also shows how an atmosphere of political polarization may be feeding both an eagerness by others to return and a reluctance by others to resume their previous lifestyles.

Among those who did so at least monthly before the outbreak, Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to say they'd go to restaurants (69% to 37%), movies, concerts or theaters (68% to 28%), travel (65% to 38%) and go to a gym or fitness studio (61% to 44%).

Sixty-nine percent of those who regularly shopped in person for nonessential items before the outbreak, including majorities among both parties, say they'd be likely to wander malls and stores again. But Republicans are more likely to say so than Democrats, 82% to 61%.

Yost expressed no qualms about going out because he thinks the economic damage from shelter-in-place orders will be worse than the deaths from the disease.

"What's going to happen with depression, homelessness — a lot of other problems are going to arise because we shut down the economy?" said Yost, a vice president of operations at an insurance agency. "I would go to a restaurant and feel comfortable with my kids and not even have masks on."

Still, there's an exception to the partisan divide, with 76% of Republicans and 69% of Democrats who get haircuts on at least a monthly basis saying they'd do that in the next few weeks if they could.

The poll finds an overwhelming majority of Americans, 70%, describe the economy as poor, but their outlook for the future is highly partisan. Sixty-two percent of Republicans expect improvement in the coming year, while 56% of Democrats say it will worsen.

Detective, nurse, confidant: Virus tracers play many roles

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Health investigator Mackenzie Bray smiles and chuckles as she chats by phone with a retired Utah man who just tested positive for the coronavirus.

She's trying to keep the mood light because she needs to find out where he's been and who he's been around for the past seven days. She gently peppers him with questions, including where he and his wife stopped to buy flowers on a visit to a cemetery. She encourages him to go through his bank statement to see if it reminds him of any store visits he made.

Midway through the conversation, a possible break: His wife lets slip that they had family over for Mother's Day, including a grandchild who couldn't stop slobbering.

"Was there like a shared food platter or something like that?" Bray asks. "There was, OK, yep ... sharing food or sharing drinks, even just being on the same table, it can spread that way."

Suddenly, with a shared punch bowl, the web has widened, and Bray has dozens more people to track down.

She is among an army of health professionals around the world filling one of the most important roles in the effort to guard against a resurgence of the coronavirus. The practice of so-called contact tracing requires a hybrid job of interrogator, therapist and nurse as they try to coax nervous people to be honest.

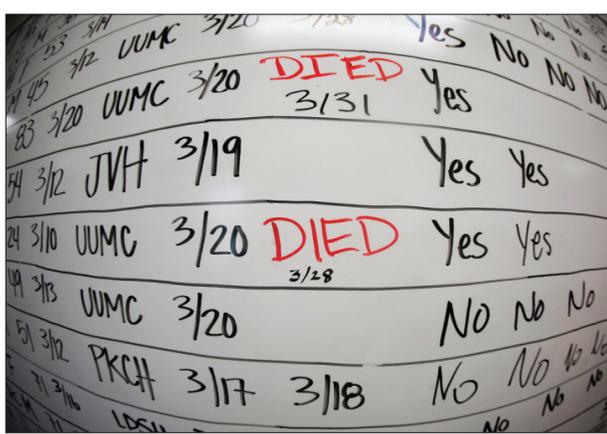
The goal: To create a road map of everywhere infected people have been and who they've been around.

While other countries have devised national approaches, a patchwork of efforts has emerged in the U.S. where states are left to create their own program.

Bray normally does this type of work to track contacts for people with sexually transmitted diseases. She is now one of 130 people at the Salt Lake County health department assigned to track coronavirus cases in the Salt Lake City area. The investigators, many of them nurses, each juggle 30 to 40 cases and try to reach everyone the original person was within 6 feet of for 10 minutes or more. They stay in touch with some people throughout the 14-day incubation period, and calls can take 30 minutes or more as they meticulously go through a list of questions.

Some estimate as many as 300,000 contact tracers would be needed in the U.S. to adequately curtail the spread. While some states like Utah have reported having enough contact tracers, others are hundreds or even thousands of people short.

The contact tracers often find themselves in a tangled web of half-truths and facts that don't match up. Language and cultural barriers arise that



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A list of the confirmed COVID-19 cases were first written on this white board at the Salt Lake County Health Department. Officials later moved to tracking the cases in an online database, but the board remains as a reminder of how quickly the coronavirus spread.

require interpreters and taxing conversations that leave the investigators wondering if the person understands what they're trying to do.

They land on occasion into complicated family dynamics where people are reluctant to tell the truth.

Health investigator Maria DiCaro found out days into a case that a father was sleeping in his car because he and his wife were separating. The man had stopped returning DiCaro's calls, and that key information came from his child.

"I get people that lie all the time," DiCaro said. "I try to get as much information from the beginning, but it's just not always the case. And time is one of those things you can't take back when you are trying to prevent and you know do these contact tracing investigations."

Each call is an exercise in good cop, bad cop. She needs people to cooperate, but no one is legally required to answer the questions. Usually kindness works better than strong words.

Some people lie because they're scared, or they forget an outing. Construction workers, housekeepers and others without paid sick time may gloss over symptoms so they can get back to work. Some immigrants without documentation brush off testing because they fear it could lead to deportation.

"People sometimes think contact tracing is black and white, but there is a lot of gray that goes into it," said Bray, who often thinks about her parents and 97-year-old grandmother as she works to help stop the spread of the virus. "Our worst fear is that we push too hard, and we lose someone. It's not just their health on the line; it's the people around them."

No matter the tension, Bray and DiCaro give frequent reminders of why it all matters: "Thank you for what you're doing. You're helping the community," DiCaro says during one call.

She knows that on the other

end of the line, the first call from a tracer can be jarring. Sometimes, DiCaro and Bray have to break the news that someone was exposed or tested positive.

"It's normal to talk to like your doctor, but you don't ever expect the health department to call you and be like, 'You were exposed to a serious disease,'" said Anissa Archuleta.

The 23-year-old got a call from DiCaro after she, her sister and her mother took a rare break from hunkering down to help organize a drive-by birthday party for a young cousin. They dropped off a present, then caved and accepted an impromptu invitation to go inside to grab some food.

What they didn't know: the father of the birthday boy had the coronavirus and unknowingly exposed more than a dozen people at the gathering.

After that first call, DiCaro checked in every day for two weeks. The fear slowly faded after their tests came back negative, and they began building a rapport with DiCaro. She asked about their symptoms and how they were feeling each day and learned about how Archuleta's mother lost her voice to fibromyalgia. Archuleta would pass along messages her mother whispered in her ear.

And after a while, Archuleta began asking DiCaro about her life and how she was holding up.

About a week in to their calls, on the daily check-in, Archuleta thanked DiCaro for caring about them and checking in every day. Tears welled up in DiCaro's eyes.

"Ah thanks," she said as she grabbed a Kleenex to wipe her eyes.

After she hung up, she leaned back in her chair and closed her eyes for a few seconds.

"When you do this like 10-12 hours a day ... It's nice to get those positive reactions from people that are very grateful who do see the purpose of what we are doing," said DiCaro. "It's nice to be appreciated."

CORONER FROM PAGE A2

training and education, I want to encourage our communities to become more understanding of others and to live safer at home, at school and at play. My vision is to see less accidental deaths, and I will work tirelessly to see that vision become a reality.

Are you actively involved in the community? I have been an active volunteer with the Clarendon County Fire Department and Manning Fire Department for more than 20 years and serve my community as a captain at Wyboo Station 4. When the tone goes out, whether it's at Station 4 or any of the other stations throughout the county, I head in that direction to lend a hand. I am also active with my church where I serve as a layman. I am a cancer survivor and a member of the Clarendon County Cancer OverComer's organization. As a cancer survivor, I also work to bring about an awareness of how residual smoke on fire gear impacts firefighters. I also participate numerous school and community events. I am an active member of the

South Carolina Coroner's Association.

Why should people vote for you? Being the Clarendon County Coroner is not just a job for me. It's my passion. I strive to do my best to help families and loved ones with their various needs every time I'm called out on a death. Although I'm in the office every day, I am on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and that includes holidays. Clarendon County has never had a coroner with as much medical knowledge and experience as I have. Being Clarendon County coroner is a full-time job. It's a job that I am qualified to fill.

Anything else about yourself you want to add? I love my church, my family and my county. I want to continue serving as Clarendon County coroner. I believe my extensive medical background, the time I have served as your full-time coroner for the past two years and my commitment to serving everyone in Clarendon County with compassion, caring and undivided attention show how devoted I am to Clarendon County and everyone who lives here.

PLACE YOUR AD IN 97 S.C. NEWSPAPERS
and reach more than 2.1 million readers using our small space display ad network

Statewide or regional buys available

Randall Savely 888.727.7377
scnewspapernetwork.com

SONNI
SOUTH CAROLINA
NEWSPAPER NETWORK

We know newspapers.



**EXCEPTIONAL
EXCITING
EXPERIENCED**

Life is full of choices, but choosing the right senior living community should be **EASY!**

EXCEPTIONAL - All Day Dining Featuring Regional Cuisine and Signature Recipes

EXCITING - Award-Winning Lifestyle360 Wellness and Activity Programs

EXPERIENCED - A dedicated team of seasoned professionals available to assist anytime

MORNINGSIDE OF SUMTER
A FIVE STAR SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

2500 Lin-Do Court
Sumter, SC 29150
803-469-4490

www.MorningsideOfSumter.com
ASSISTED LIVING • RESPIRE CARE
©2019 Five Star Senior Living

the Sumter ITEM REFLECTIONS

Fallen heroes have provided freedoms we now enjoy

Reflections honors those who gave the full measure of sacrifice to ensure our access to the many freedoms accorded to all American citizens on Memorial Day. The author has selected an editorial written by Hubert D. Osteen Jr., chairman and editor-in-chief of *The Sumter Item*, which was published in *The Sumter Daily Item* on May 24, 1992. This paper captures the significance and essence of why we dedicate this time each year to honor our fallen heroes. Photos and research data were obtained from *The Sumter Item* archives.

“In a sense, Abraham Lincoln inaugurated Memorial Day in 1863 when he gave a brief, powerful and timeless speech now known as the Gettysburg Address.

On that November day, the president who preserved the union was at the site of where a terrible battle had taken place on which thousands of Union and Confederate troops died. Trying to choose the right words to consecrate the battlefield, which had been designated a national cemetery, Lincoln was brief and to the point. “The brave men living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far

above our poor power to add or detract. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.’

“These words more eloquently sum up what Memorial Day is all about than all the purple prose by every editorial writer who ever lived. Lincoln, overwhelmed by the destruction and horrendous human cost of a civil war that defined this nation, challenged his countrymen to not ignore the sacrifices made on a battlefield, to rededicate themselves to ensuring that the fallen soldiers did not die in vain.

“Out of the American Civil War came the first Memorial Day, in 1868, after Gen. John A. Logan called on soldiers and veterans to decorate military graves with flowers. Also known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day is the only occasion this nation has to pay tribute to soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who died in service to their country.

“Many Sumterites were among those who fell from the Spanish-American War to the conflict in Afghanistan. Their names are remembered on the various monuments throughout our community. Most were young when they died, thus we will never know just how much more they could have contributed to their community, state and nation had they survived. That is the most poignant part of Memorial Day.

“Memorial Day is a reminder to the survivors of the dead soldiers, which includes all of us, to think long and hard about how terribly costly it is for a great nation to carry out its responsibility in a less-than-perfect world. And after doing that, we should all utter a small prayer of thanks for those Americans who fought the good fight — for all of us.

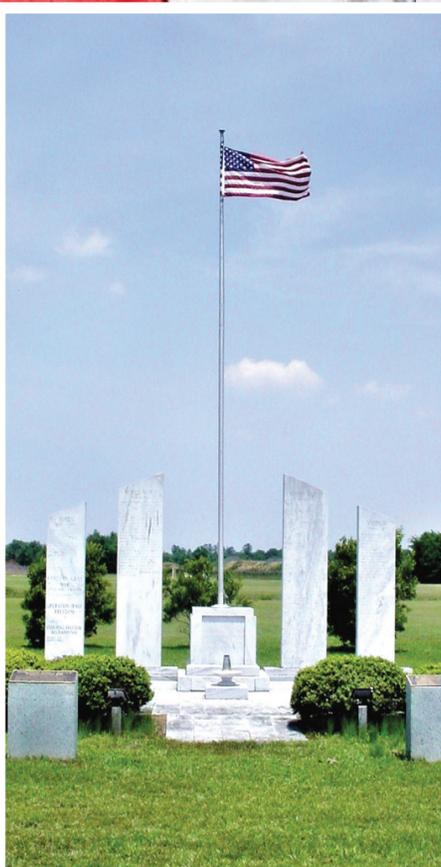
“As Lincoln himself said, ‘It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.’”



This poster appeared in 1943 in *The Sumter Item* honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



Sumter Military Museum has a collection of artifacts donated by military veterans and other members of the community to educate the public. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the display will not be open on Monday.



Mabry Memorial, named for Gen. George Mabry, in Sumter honors military members who have given their lives in service.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

A white marble memorial honoring those from the city and county of Sumter who died in service during World War II was unveiled in 1949 in front of the county courthouse. It bears the names of 131 who died fighting for Americans' freedom. It was sponsored by the Sumter County Pilot Club, which conducted a 2-year fundraising campaign to build it.



Disabled American Veterans Commander Joseph E. Barwick and Gisele Forest, a DAV auxiliary member, place a wreath at Evergreen Cemetery during a Memorial Day ceremony in 1991 in honor of those from Sumter County who gave their lives.

YESTERYEAR

Flag pole dedicated on Tricentennial Week; Pinewood hosts Possum Trot Fest for 2nd year

75 YEARS AGO — 1945
Dec. 14 — Dec. 20

• December checks for distribution in Sumter County to needy persons receiving public assistance are being mailed from the state public welfare office in time to be received early this week, it is announced by the chairman of the county board of public welfare, C.E. Hurst. Residents of the county will receive approximately the following amounts during the week: old age assistance, \$6,900; aid to the needy blind, \$400; aid to dependent children, \$1,200; general relief, \$1,100; total \$9,600.

• Coaches and sports writers of the Carolinas have been invited to join local citizens here Dec. 27 in honoring the big small town boy who made good on the gridiron. The hometown honors will go to twice All-American Felix (Doc) Blanchard Jr., fullback of Army's champion football team, who is expected here Friday for a Christmas vacation from West Point. The affair will be a banquet given jointly by the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and Pilots clubs.

• The possibility of establishing armored, ordnance and air corps units to the Clemson college Reserve Officers Training Corps organization was made known today by Dr. Robert Franklin Poole, president. The three additional units, which would be supplementary to the Clemson basic infantry unit, would be installed before the beginning of the fall term next September.

• Edmunds High School will present the Girls' Chorus in its annual Christmas program to be given at the school. Miss Nan Sturgis is directing the chorus, and Mrs. S. Howard Jones is the accompanist. The program includes soloists, readings from various texts and groups of singers. Miss Lucy Ann Cuttino will accompany Bobby Cuttino at the piano. The music department will be assisted in the program by the art and dramatics departments.

• American prosecutors today called on the international military tribunal to convict as war criminals 600,000 members of the Nazi leadership corps — described as "the brain, backbone and directing arm of the Nazi party." Opening a new phase of the war crimes trial of 21 top Hitlerite leaders, the prosecution charged that thousands of members of such once-powerful organizations as the Leadership Corps, the Elite Guard (SS), the Storm Troops (SA), the Reich cabinet, the Gestapo and the German high command should also be declared guilty as war criminals.

• Robert Epps, quarterback of the 3rd Regiment Football team, champions of the Seventh Army, spoke with Capt. H.D. Osteen, public relations officer of United States Air Force in Europe, at Darmstadt, Germany, before the start of the game with the 100th Infantry. The 3rd Regiment won the game 26 to 6, Epps scoring one of the touchdowns.

• A World War II Memorial Association was chartered by the state today to erect a building at Sumter in honor of the county's servicemen. Funds for the memorial are to be obtained by contributions.

• Vice Admiral Theodore C. Wilkinson related today that he set a death trap for Japanese Admiral Yamamoto despite fears that the Japanese would thereby learn that the United States was cracking their codes. The former head of naval intelligence and later a seafighter with Admiral

William F. Halsey gave the account to a Senate house committee investigating the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

• First Lt. Ashby Dick arrived in Sumter on Dec. 8 after 20 months in North Africa and Europe. Lt. Dick is wearer of the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Silver Star and an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Presidential Citation, the French Foraguere and a campaign ribbon with five battle stars and a bronze arrowhead.

• Selling more than half the quota of Sumter County's E bonds in the Victory Loan drive, pupils in the city schools have brought to a close a fine record of participation in the war. In the eight bond campaigns, they sold approximately \$1.5 million worth of bonds.

• The Shaw Field Fliers basketball team will officially open its season tonight against the Sumter Independents, a group of former Sumter High School and college players, according to an announcement this morning by Lt. Bob Sterling, physical training officer and coach of the Shaw Field team. The Sumter squad has been whipped together by a group of players from this city, and they have been practicing to work out a smooth operating team to give the Shaw Field Fliers some good competition.

50 YEARS AGO — 1970
Aug. 17 — 23

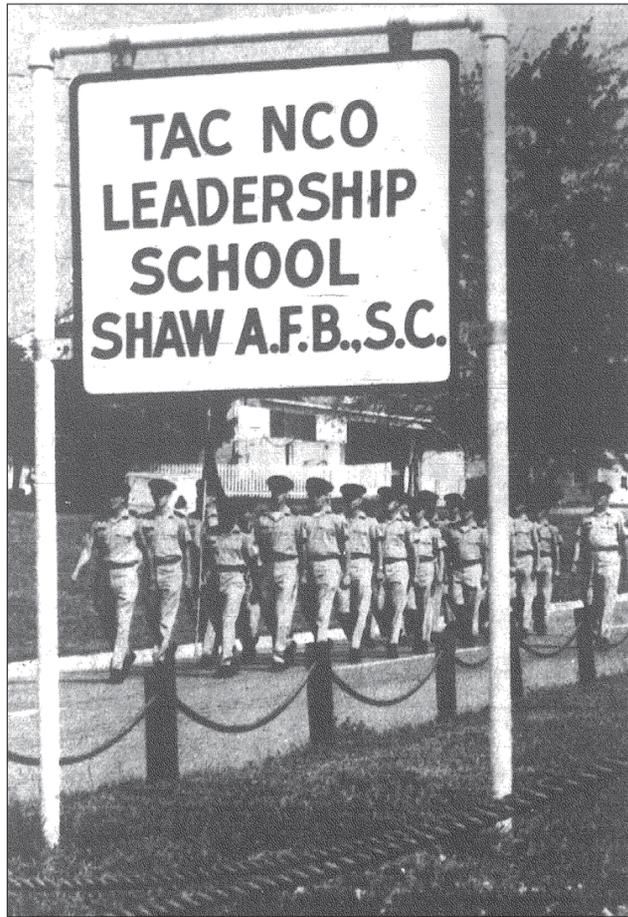
• When the first city bus line began in Sumter 28 years ago, Russell J. Morris became a bus driver. Today he is the only one of the original drivers who still works for the transit company. "Morris is a very satisfactory driver," Arthur Henderson, city bus manager, stated. "I don't know of anything he could do to improve his service to us. He is well-liked, he gets along well with all the other drivers, and his passengers love him."

• The highest student enrollment in Clemson University's 77-year history, including the largest freshman class ever, is expected next week for the 1970-71 year. Kenneth N. Vickery, dean of admissions and registration, predicts a total enrollment of 7,600 men and women, including about 400 students at Clemson's Sumter and Greenville campuses.

• A Citizens Advisory committee has been named by the Board of Trustees of School District 17. The group will hold its organizational meeting with the board tomorrow night, School Board Chairman Robert O. Purdy III said. "We are deeply grateful to the parents, civic organizations and citizens generally of the district for the nominees they suggested for this public service."

• Hundreds of Sumter citizens and honored guests yesterday reflected on the past 300 years and rededicated themselves to a better tomorrow. The occasion was the dedication of a flag pole in front of the Project T-Square facility on South Guignard Drive. It coincided with Sumter County's kickoff of its Tri-centennial Week. Jim Eaves, manager of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, set the tone of the gathering. He said, "Judge your todays, and work for your tomorrows."

• Seven races produced seven different winners at the Sumter Speedway, and two new faces were seen in the winners' circle following two of the main events while a very familiar figure picked up a win in one of the modified features. Winners were: Phil Hanna, claim main event;



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Passing before their home away from home, the class of the NCO Leadership School performs precision drills under the guidance of Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Kervin on Aug. 18, 1970.

Slick Gibbons, first modified race; and Bob Hickman, another modified clash.

• Tri-centennial Week activities for Sumter County got underway and will last a week. Tonight there will be a reception for dignitaries and invited guests to honor the first appearance of the Sumter County Historical Vignettes, a book on historic homes, churches and sites throughout Sumter County.

• Judging of the 38 mini-parks throughout Sumter County took place today with the winners being announced at a luncheon. Nationally accredited flower show judges viewed before and after pictures and information about the parks as well as visited the parks.

• Soybeans grown in Sumter and Lee counties by Ray V. Segars Jr. are being sent to Japan in an attempt to sell Japanese food-producers on the South Carolina crops as a source of supply. Soybeans are used in Japan to make tofu, a basic food. Milk is extracted from the soybeans, and a curd is formed from the milk. The curd is known as tofu.

• Not only the Women's Liberation but the men stationed at Shaw Air Force Base will be happy to learn that the new director for the Sumter USO is a female, Miss Judith Ann Gaffga of Garden City, New York. LeDeitrich O. Coggin was director of the USO until he was reassigned to the Armed Services YMCA in Charleston. Miss Gaffga has been working with USO for two years and just recently returned from Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, where she spent one-and-a-half years working with the USO there.

• Yesterday's official Recognition Ceremonies for Sumter County's Tri-centennial Week at the courthouse square ended with a striking ceremony at the gravesite of Gen. Thomas Sumter in Stateburg. After an introduction of state and local dignitaries, Sen. Henry B. Richardson introduced Gen. W. S. Coleman, commander of Fort Jackson and a native of Anderson County, who spoke to the audience.

• The Graham Shelter for children was built about 1855 and received a plaque during the Tri-centennial Week. The home was built by Elijah Pringle for his town house, and later it was purchased by First Baptist Church as its first parsonage for pastor Dr. Clinton Capers Brown. The home has been owned by Mrs. R. D. Graham since 1928 and has been extensively remodeled. In 1966, it was presented by Mrs. Graham to the Salvation Army for use as a children's home.

• Last week's election that filled two city council seats was the 99th municipal election held in Sumter since its founding in 1900. During the first 45 years of its existence, Sumterville remained unincorporated. When the village was incorporated in 1945, its government was to be carried out by a council made up of an intendant (mayor) and our wardens (councilmen). Town records for these early years were destroyed in a fire, and the first intendant's name isn't known with certainty.

• The Golden Age Club, 436 West Hampton Ave., was built about 1845. In 1931, it was removed from the southwest corner of North Main and West Calhoun streets to 6 W. Calhoun St. The house was relocated to its present site in 1966 under the sponsorship of Mrs. R. D. Graham for the Golden Age Club.

• The Frank A. McLeod family home on West Hampton Avenue was dedicated this week by the Historical Commission. This house was built about 1840. It was given to First Presbyterian Church and in 1960 was used as a manse. The home was later owned by the Noah G. Osteen family, and in 1923, the McLeod family purchased the home.

• The Henry Haynsworth house on Haynsworth Street also received a permanent plaque from the Historical Commission. This house was built about 1945 and has been used as a children's home. It was acquired in 1946 by the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. Bultman, who have renovated the large antebellum town house.

25 YEARS AGO — 1995
May 17 — 23

• Sumter School District 17 trustees had a busy meeting. After they left a Sumter County Council meeting, they approved a vastly different expulsion policy, the resignation of an assistant superintendent and three principals, a reorganization of district administrators and a bid to purchase a call-back intercom system at Sumter High School. Sumter 17 Superintendent Dr. Andrea Ray announced that Assistant Superintendent for Instruction John Tudor is leaving to take an administrative position in the Cayman Island school system.

• Sumter School District 17 asked Sumter County Council for an additional \$2.4 million in property taxes for next year while Sumter School District 2 asked for an increase of \$516,000. School officials presented their requests to council at a budget workshop, saying school program cuts and increased property taxes may have to make up for money

the state Legislature won't be giving them this year. If council agrees to the requested increases, it would mean a \$52 tax increase for the owner of a \$50,000 home in Sumter 17 and a \$26.40 increase for the owner of a \$50,000 home in Sumter 2. Each district gets about 25 percent of its total budget from local property taxes.

• Jimmy McDuffie seemed uncomfortable, even a little embarrassed, with all the attention he was getting. That would explain why a man who has donated more than \$450,000 to the city to build the West Liberty Street overpass at Sumter's Swan Lake-Iris Gardens has wanted to keep his identity a secret until now. "I suspect everybody knows (who I am) now," McDuffie said, still debating whether he should reveal his identity to the public. "So I guess it's OK to print my name." In an evening ceremony, Sumter Mayor Steve Creech declared the overpass "McDuffie Crosswalk."

• Farmer "Woody" Green is postponing planting his soybean crop this season. He doesn't want it to suffer like the corn, which is standing nearly brittle in the fields in the Trinity community near Lynchburg. The soil is simply too dry. Area farmers hoped this year's spring weather couldn't get any worse than last spring's record drought. Unfortunately for the harvest, it has. Like Green's corn, corn crops across the state are withering, hit hardest by the dry weather.

• Although one would be hard-pressed to classify two consecutive years as a tradition, traditions have to start somehow, and that's what the town of Pinewood is shooting for. Pinewood will host the Possum Trot Festival for the second consecutive year. If it's as successful this year as last, the event may again become an annual event as it was from 1982 until 1989.

• The South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission's first-ever Sumter meeting brought news of concrete plans to repair county roadways and build new ones. The commission met with Sumter County and city officials for the commission's monthly meeting. Sumter Mayor Steve Creech gave a presentation on Sumter's top three pending road construction projects — for which the area needs SCDOT dollars.

• *The Item's* Panorama section was honored by the Governor's Office for its coverage of aging issues. The award was presented during the annual Senior Celebration awards ceremony, sponsored by the governor's Division on Aging. Thursday marked the first time the division has awarded print media for its coverage of aging issues. Also given were regional awards for outstanding older South Carolinians and other agencies and businesses that support the elderly.

• Sumter County Sheriff's Office investigators Rick Nelson and Dana Wingate must feel like old-time revenuers. The pair took to the woods outside Pinewood in black fatigues and boots to find and photograph a whiskey still they had gotten a tip about, planning to go back later with more deputies to stake out or bust up the operation. But they said they got lucky when they achieved the goal of every alcohol agent of old to sneak up on a man actually turning sour mash into moonshine.

• With the opening of Lakewood and Crestwood high schools just a little over a year away, Sumter School District 2 Superintendent Dr. Frank Baker is shuffling personnel and reassignment positions among those on the athletic coaching staffs of the district's three existing high schools for their final year of existence. Easing the transition from three high schools to two for both the staff and the student body is the main reason for the upheaval, according to Baker.

ECONOMY FROM PAGE A1

terms of infection rates and things like that.”

As states across the country have reopened restaurant dine-in services, hair salons, retail stores and other businesses, will there be a second spike now in COVID-19 cases?

As of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Friday update, there have been 9,638 confirmed cases of the virus in the state

and 419 deaths, including 245 cases and three deaths announced Friday.

The pandemic is “very different” from anything the modern U.S. economy has faced, Ullrich said.

The April report did reveal the best picture as of yet of what did happen in the state's shutdown last month.

Almost half of the jobs lost in the state, 46%, were in the leisure and hospitality industry, which includes restaurants and hotels. An additional 15% of job losses were in professional and business services, which includes

employment agencies and business-support services, the employment report showed.

As University of South Carolina economist Joey Von Nessen forecasted to *The Sumter Item* on Thursday, Horry County — home of tourism-dependent Myrtle Beach — had the highest unemployment rate of all 46 counties in the state at 22.7% for the month. The next highest rate was 18.5% in Union County.

In the tri-county region, Sumter County's jobless rate for April was

11.1%. Clarendon was near Sumter with an 11.4% unemployment rate, and Lee County came in at 12%.

Human behavior is also a big question going forward, and many wonder just how comfortable consumers will be at shifting back to visiting local retailers as opposed to online purchases. Both Ullrich and Von Nessen said that is also critical.

Ullrich said she couldn't “guess” as of yet when a full recovery of jobs lost will be but said she doesn't expect it to be fast.

CARE FROM PAGE A1

biggest places to offer testing in Sumter for the highly contagious respiratory coronavirus, along with Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital. Lowder said he thinks keeping people home as much as possible helped.

“We encouraged everyone to stay away at our own peril. Our business was hurt by it. Now, we want people to come back,” he said. “We have seen some really bad cases of things where people have waited too long to get treated.”

Now, with universal testing and an increased number of mobile testing sites offering specimen collection to anyone, regardless of symptoms, the message Lowder and other health care professionals want out there is that people need to get the services necessary to protect their health.

He said two or three people suffering heart attacks during the past month have come in after having reservations about doing so. A man came in on Thursday, he said, for a stress test and found 80% blockage in a critical artery that, left unchecked, can be suddenly and likely fatal.

He said he is seeing increased cases of untreated diabetes and high blood pressure. Colonoscopies and mammograms are down, and mental health needs are up.

The “same chatter” is being heard nationwide, said Scot Dilts, an emergency medicine trained doctor and the medical director of Tuomey's Emergency Department. He said he has heard a lot of stories of sick people delaying a trip to the doctor for chest pain and stroke evaluations because they're afraid to come in.

“People should not be afraid to come to the Emergency Department. Certainly not for chest pain, numbness in your



Chloe Peters, an RN at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, and Kyle Sanders, a BLS specialist with Prisma Health, wash up after conducting and collecting a drive-through COVID-19 test in Sumter in mid-March.

arms, tingling in your fingers, difficulty with speech, those symptoms of heart attack and stroke,” Dilts said. “Those are time-sensitive evaluations, and they should not be put off.”

The sooner you treat someone suffering a heart attack, the more heart muscle you save, he said. The better both for short-term life-saving efforts and long-term recovery.

“Time is muscle,” Dilts said.

Stroke patients need even more prompt professional intervention. Generally, care rendered within three hours gives the patient and the medical staff their best hope for treatment.

Dilts said patient volume at Tuomey's ER is down. They're seeing less minor complaints, and the admission rate is up, so that means there's a higher percentage of sicker patients.

“Which is what we want the Emergency Department to be used for, but we also want to make sure that sick patients are coming in,” he said.

Waiting to get care, he said, could mean what would have

been an outpatient procedure and easier treatment now means the patient has medical needs that require hospital admittance.

Dilts said people may be scared they'll contract COVID-19 at the hospital.

“My non-medical friends always tell me, ‘You work in such a dangerous place.’ Really, I think we work in the safest place in the city,” he said.

Every person inside the hospital has a mask, and there are no nonessential people inside, he said. Visitors are only allowed in rare circumstances that necessitate one companion, and the hospital staff knows the status of everyone inside.

“If I get sick, it'll be in the grocery store or in the gas station or the big department store or something like that,” Dilts said.

Gene Dickerson, Tuomey's physician executive, which he describes as vice president-level, said patients are still being encouraged to postpone routine checkups but to see your

doctor if you need care to keep it preventative and not reactive.

Dickerson oversees patient safety, quality, medical staff services and risk management, and he said offices are relying on telehealth for non-emergency visits. Much of the routine meetings between doctors and patients in family medicine, cardiology, orthopedics and other such fields can be done virtually.

Those who are visiting offices and the hospital are all screened for symptoms and fever, Dickerson said, and everyone is given a mask. He said rooms are cleaned after each patient.

Tuomey has a separate COVID-19 unit, and even within that unit everyone is separated. The unit can handle up to 24 patients in individual rooms and a site manager ensuring staff don't miss anything in putting on and taking off their PPE.

There is a separate COVID-19 operating room. Usually, there are 10 ORs. They're run-

ning five or six right now. Before COVID-19, the department would take about 30 cases a day. Right now, there are around 20.

“That's by design,” Dickerson said.

If the point of keeping people away at first was to not overwhelm hospital capacity and staff, it seems to have worked at Tuomey.

Dickerson said they had up to 17 inpatients at the same time in mid-March, a few in the ICU and the rest on the COVID-19 floor. The ICU has 17 beds with the ability to expand to 21, and the COVID-19 unit has the ability to expand from its current 24. Tuomey also has the other hospitals in Prisma Health's network to tap into if needed.

There was a resurgence in hospital visits a couple weeks ago, Dickerson said, but as of Friday at 6 a.m., the inpatient count was down to eight.

Dickerson and Dilts both voiced confidence that safety procedures are being followed successfully and that people should not be afraid to see the doctor or go to the hospital if they are in need. Not doing so could be worse.

They both also said people need to return to getting care because they don't see the situation ending soon.

Until a vaccine is developed and widely administered, these safety measures are expected to remain. They both said they think that may be for at least another year.

Back at Colonial, Lowder said he's starting to see people come back. Their safety precautions remain, too. Waiting rooms are separated, and testing is done outside.

The man whose artery was 80% blocked was happy it was discovered before it proved to be fatal, Lowder said.

“He said, ‘If I could hug you, I would,’” he said. “It matters that people get care.”

JOHNSON FROM PAGE A1

about 5,000 applicants from across the country annually. The program awards scholars based on demonstrated academic excellence, leadership potential, social commitment and financial need.

The scholars program was founded in 1996 and named in memory of the first African-American to serve in the Cabinet as secretary of commerce, Ronald H. Brown. Brown, who served during President Bill Clinton's first term, was also the first black chairman of the Democratic National Committee and is remembered for his dedication to public service.

The \$40,000 scholarship is the largest Johnson has received to date and will provide him \$10,000 per year at Harvard.

A Lynchburg native, Johnson is no stranger to accolades, though. In addition to being his high school's salutatorian with a 5.345 GPA, he's the national Future Business Leaders of America president and two-time state FBLA president, and he has already earned a two-year associate degree from USC Sumter's Early College program. He will earn his high school diploma on Friday.

With all those accomplishments and multiple scholarships in tow to the private Ivy League university in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the fall, Johnson doesn't take a lot of personal credit for what he's achieved, instead crediting others for helping to pave the way.

“I recognize that none of us get to where we are today alone,” Johnson said, “and I believe in giving back to other people.”

He attributes his parents, Derick and Elaine Johnson, for instilling those qualities

TRAVELING TRAVIS

Opportunities afforded to him in high school have allowed Travis Johnson to visit seven states and also Washington, D.C. Those states include California (twice), Texas, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Alabama, Colorado and Louisiana. As far as Washington, Johnson has visited the nation's capital seven or eight times, he said, including four trips last summer before his senior year.

in him. Johnson said he considers leaders such as former President Barack Obama on the national level and state Rep. David Weeks, D-Sumter, on the local level as role models for him, and he wants to follow in their footsteps with a career in public service.

After graduating college, Johnson said he wants to attend law school at Harvard and become a lawyer.

His “dream job” down the road, he said, is to be a U.S. senator.

Johnson said he's fascinated with the role because a senator represents a significant population, has the opportunity to write legislation to help people and gets to debate that legislation.

Public service has been a passion of his for a long time, he said.

“Since I was a child, I admired the idea of public service,” Johnson said. “I admired the idea of being able to contribute to society and helping other people realize their dreams and fulfill those dreams. My ambitions in life are to do something greater than myself. At the end of the day, it's always about serving people and raising them up and ensuring they can succeed just as I have.”

Crestwood Principal Shirley Gamble said Johnson's parents instilled in him a strong foun-

dation toward service and that he's humble and appreciative.

“Since I have known Travis, this has been his message, as well,” Gamble said. “He's always wanted to be about service. Each time that he has had the opportunity to speak in front of crowds, that has always been his message. He acknowledges the help of others. He will acknowledge his teachers and past principals that he has had.”

She added that Johnson is willing to share his accomplishments with others and de-

sires to share the spotlight.

Through his accomplishments, Johnson has met many people in high school. He said he hopes being a Ron Brown Scholar will allow him to continue to do that.

“I feel like this program is a culmination of four years of hard work in high school,” he said. “Now, being able to see that work pay off in college and after college by being able to network with people and potentially explore career options, I am excited about that.”

Visit for more information:
www.scdmvonline.com

Do you have your REAL ID?

Purchase before October 1, 2021!

You only need a REAL ID driver's license or identification card if you plan to board a domestic, commercial flight, enter a secure federal building, or visit a military installation*.

*You must have a reason to visit a military installation, and, even with a REAL ID, you may be subject to additional visitor control measures once on site.

Documents needed to buy a REAL ID:

- Proof of Identity (Birth Certificate or Valid US Passport)
- Two Proofs of Current, Physical SC Address
- Proof of Social Security Number
- Proof of all Legal Name Changes

2019 BUICK ENCORE Preferred FWD
 Stock#5141

Save up to 25%/\$6,498 off MSRP!

NOW JUST \$19,492

MSRP \$25,990
 - \$1,998 Dealer Discount
 - \$4,500 Purchase Bonus Cash

SALE PRICE \$19,492

ONLY 6 REMAINING

GET ONE BEFORE THEY ARE ALL GONE.

All offers with approved credit, not all may qualify. Offers apply to in-stock vehicles only, residents of SC and do not apply to prior transactions, and cannot be combined with any other advertised offer. Offer expires 6/1/2020.

Jones BUICK GMC 1268 Broad Street, Sumter, SC
 803-469-3429 | JonesGMCBuick.com

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

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

Graham Osteen CO-OWNER

Kyle Osteen CO-OWNER

Jack Osteen CO-OWNER

Vince Johnson PUBLISHER

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

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Recent editorials from South Carolina newspapers:

THE POST AND COURIER

May 19

Creating incentives for employees to return to work

Unemployment has hit South Carolina very hard, and it's a good thing that the large temporary federal boost in unemployment insurance is available to help hundreds of thousands of residents get through a difficult time.

But Congress is debating whether to extend the extra \$600-a-week payment beyond its expiring date of July 31, maybe until the end of the year. There are good reasons for thinking that may be too much of a good thing and ultimately bad for the state's economic recovery.

The temporary closure of businesses in an attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19 has shredded the state's economy. An astounding 486,149 South Carolinians applied for unemployment insurance for the first time in the eight weeks from March 15 through May 9, according to the state Department of Employment and Workforce.

Add in the 71,526 who were already unemployed as of mid-March, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, and that means more than 550,000 residents are out of work. With 2.4 million workers in the state workforce as of mid-March, that means unemployment has jumped from 3% to 23% in just two months.

Unemployment in the Charleston and Greenville areas is about the state average, while the Columbia area's burden approaches 19%. But one coastal area, Horry County, has been particularly hard hit, with unemployment there approaching 40%.

It is going to be hard enough to fill several hundred thousand jobs as the economy gradually restarts. It could be even more difficult if workers feel no economic pressure to return to work.

The maximum unemployment benefit at the moment is \$926 a week, equating to about \$23.15 an hour, but the median wage in the state before the crisis hit was just over \$16 an hour. Half of the workforce earned less.

That means a lot of laid-off workers have higher incomes now than they did when employed. Many of these employees want to return to their jobs as soon as they can. But that extra money could be enough to push some people into staying home when they're already concerned that going back to work is too dangerous without enforceable health and safety standards in place.

The law says you lose your unemployment insurance if you turn down a legitimate job offer, which makes sense. But the last thing the state needs is a crackdown on workers laid off for no fault of their own and on employers reluctant to press too hard for the return of key workers because of legitimate safety concerns.

What the state needs, says Isabel Soto of the American Action Forum, a center-right economic think tank, is to create an incentive that will draw workers back despite the generous unemployment insurance they now enjoy. "The key for South Carolina and other states is creating incentives to go back to work that are competitive with the incentives of the unemployment benefit," she said.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp is using his emergency powers to authorize a temporary change in the state's unemployment compensation law to



give workers an extra incentive to return to the job.

Under the Georgia plan, workers may earn and keep up to \$300 a week while still drawing unemployment insurance. The temporary extra income boost is a real incentive to return to work.

The South Carolina Legislature should consider something similar to complement enforceable health standards and a temporary safe harbor from lawsuits for businesses as needed preparations for a strong recovery.

Meanwhile, Congress should think twice before it extends the full extra \$600 a week far beyond July 31. Ms. Soto has written that a phased withdrawal of the extra benefit keyed to the pace of the economic recovery would be a better plan. We agree.

THE AIKEN STANDARD

May 16

Bill allows more voters to use mail-in absentee ballots

South Carolina voters received some good news last week when the State Legislature approved a short-term bill that will let all voters request a mail-in absentee ballot for the upcoming primaries.

A combination of the coronavirus pandemic, which spurred multiple lawsuits asking for expanded absentee voting, and common sense prevailed. State lawmakers approved the state of emergency as a reason for voting absentee, and Gov. Henry McMaster signed it the next day.

Previously, absentee ballots could only be cast by voters who aren't physically able to leave their home, are away from their home county for work or vacation, have to work the entire time polls are open, if they are sick or mourning the loss of a just-deceased relative, or if they are 65 or older.

This decision only applies to the June primaries, but if the pandemic persists, lawmakers could extend it to the November general election.

The June 9 primaries are important locally because there are several contested races. Voters will elect several Aiken County officials, including a sheriff and county council members.

Visit scvotes.org and download the form, print it out and mail in the request.

When filling out the form, voters just need to select "State of Emergency" to receive the absentee ballot.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the primary is June 5, but officials encourage voters to make the request at least one week in advance to ensure there is enough time to get the ballot in the mail.

"We applaud South Carolina for allowing all voters to seek absentee ballots for its primary," said Josh Silver, co-founder and director of RepresentUs. "Other states should take steps to protect voters. This is not a partisan issue."

South Carolina election officials are already seeing an increase in absentee ballot requests. We'll say it again: In this day of wearing masks and practicing social distancing, those who can vote absentee should do so.

Fortunately, that now includes all eligible voters in South Carolina.

And here's one more thing state lawmakers can do: Make this a permanent change. There is no good reason, going forward, that voters shouldn't be able to request absentee ballots.

THE TIMES AND DEMOCRAT

May 18

Memorial Day weekend travel forecast is not released this year

The AAA travel forecast is a fixture of Memorial Day and other holidays. The coronavirus has changed even that.

For the first time in 20 years there will not be a holiday travel forecast, with AAA saying the accuracy of the economic data used to create the forecast has been undermined by COVID-19. The forecast — which estimates the number of people traveling during the holiday weekend — will return next year.

With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continuing to recommend that Americans stay home and avoid nonessential travel, it is inevitable that fewer people than a year ago will be on the road for the holiday weekend officially kicking off the summer travel sea-

son.

"Last year, 43 million Americans traveled for Memorial Day Weekend — the second-highest travel volume on record since AAA began tracking holiday travel volumes in 2000," said Paula Twidale, senior vice president of AAA Travel. "With social distancing guidelines still in practice, this holiday weekend's travel volume is likely to set a record low."

But AAA is offering information that indicates Americans are slowly returning to normal life despite the coronavirus threat.

AAA.com/Travel reports online bookings have been rising, though modestly, since mid-April, suggesting travelers' confidence is improving. When it is safe to travel, AAA predicts vacationers will have a preference for U.S. destinations, mostly local and regional locations, and the great American road trip.

The expected rebound in domestic vacations aligns with trends AAA anticipated for summer 2020 pre-COVID-19. In a March AAA Travel survey, 90% of the 173 million Americans who had summer vacations on the books planned to take a U.S.-based vacation. AAA travel experts say that's common during a presidential election year, when many travelers hold off on international travel because they want to see how the election will affect the economy or international relations. This year, the phenomenon is amplified by concerns about the pandemic.

"The saying goes that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Americans are taking that first step toward their next journey from the comfort of their home by researching vacation opportunities and talking with travel agents," Twidale said. "We are seeing that Americans are showing a preference and inspiration to explore all that our country has to offer as soon as it is safe to travel."

AAA expects vacationers will gravitate to road trips and family bookings including air, car, hotel and activities to destinations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

In South Carolina and states where tourism plays such a vital role in the economy, signs that people will return to traveling and focus on domestic venues are welcome.

And unlike Memorial Day 2009, when travel near the end of the Great Recession was at its lowest, the hope is the economy will rebound quickly after being shut down intentionally. It can't happen soon enough.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS represent the views of the owners of this newspaper.

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

1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, or email to letters@theitem.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are written by readers of the newspaper. They should be no more than 350 words and sent via e-mail to letters@theitem.com, dropped off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St. or mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, along with the full name of the

writer, plus an address and telephone number for verification purposes only. Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at www.theitem.com.

MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE

BANKS — All area banks and credit unions will be closed Monday.
GOVERNMENT — The following will be closed Monday: federal government offices; state government offices; U.S. Postal Service; City of Sumter offices; Sumter County offices; Clarendon County offices; City of Manning offices; Lee County offices; and City of Bishopville offices.
SCHOOLS — All private and public schools in Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties will be closed Monday.
UTILITIES — FTC and Black River Electric Coop. will be closed Monday.
OTHER — The following will be closed Monday: Sumter County Library, Harvin Clarendon County Library, Clemson Extension Service and Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce.
The Sumter Item will be closed Monday.

PUBLIC AGENDA

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

- MCLEOD HEALTH CLARENDON BOARD OF TRUSTEES Tuesday, 6 p.m., board room, 10 E. Hospital St., Manning
SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL Tuesday, 6 p.m., council chambers
SUMTER CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION Wednesday, 3 p.m., Sumter Opera House, Council Chambers
SUMTER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD Thursday, 7:45 a.m., 10 E. Liberty St.

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You're gaining momentum. Believe in what

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have insight into what's going on, what's possible and how you can take advantage of a situation that is influencing your lifestyle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Weigh the pros and cons before you leap in a direction that could be damaging contractually, financially or medically.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Circumstances will test partnerships. Listen carefully; question what someone offers. Do your best to keep the peace, but don't give in to someone's manipulative ways or unrealistic demands.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be careful who you do business with or how you handle money matters. Someone will try to take advantage of you financially. Look over contracts carefully, and invest in something safe.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Say what's on your mind. Share your intentions, and start making changes in your life that will improve your surroundings, relationships and prospects.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let jealousy be your downfall. Stick up for your beliefs, but don't force what you think on others. An unexpected situation will develop. Reconsider options, and make a decision that will deter others from interfering in your life.

you're capable of doing, and map out your course of action. Refuse to let a change of plans make you appear inconsistent or allow stubbornness to turn into a loss.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A time-out will help you rethink your next move. Engage in activities that bring joy or ease stress. Personal growth will have a sobering effect on lifestyle changes you make.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Deception is on the rise. Whether it's you refusing to recognize the truth or someone playing mind games, it's time to take a closer look at the motives behind the events that unfold.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't share personal information. Make sure you have all your documents in order. A proposal may entice you, but before you get involved, follow the money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Speak up, lend a helping hand and do your best to shine in a time where others need encouragement. Your dedication should not be at the expense of giving up something you love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Proceed with caution when dealing with matters that can affect your reputation or livelihood. Don't trust others with your responsibilities or to keep what you say in confidence a secret.

WEATHER

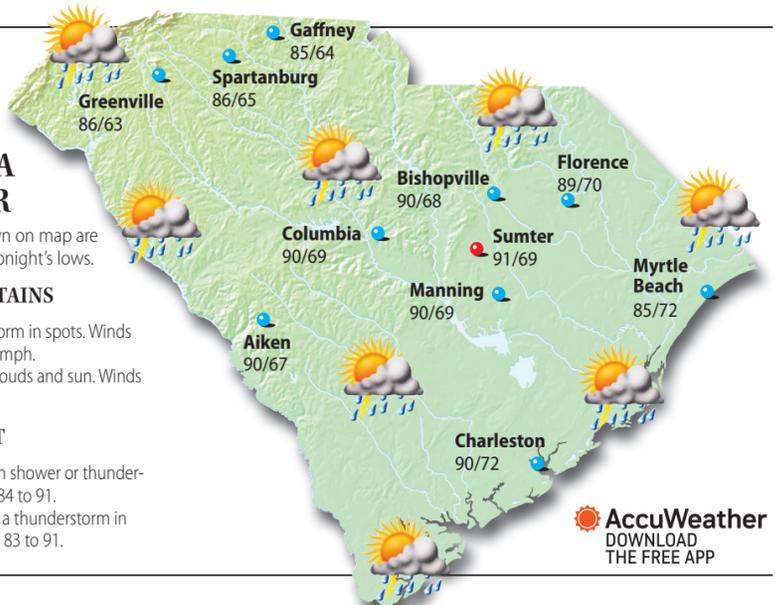
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

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

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.
IN THE MOUNTAINS Today: A thunderstorm in spots. Winds west-southwest 4-8 mph.
ON THE COAST Today: An afternoon shower or thunderstorm around. High 84 to 91.



LOCAL ALMANAC

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

LAKE LEVELS

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

SUN AND MOON

Table with 4 columns: Sunrise, Moonrise, Sunset, Moonset. Includes moon phase icons for May 29, June 5, June 13, June 21.

TIDES

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, and corresponding times for AT MYRTLE BEACH.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sun. Lists cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, etc.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sun. Lists regional cities like Asheville, Athens, Augusta, Beaufort, Cape Hatteras, etc.

Advertisement for 'We have a NOSE for NEWS' featuring a cartoon dog detective and the Sumter ITEM logo.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

132 Word of caution

- DOWN 1 Discoverer of the Mississippi 2 Lack of vigor 3 Baltic port in Poland 4 Belly 5 Art Deco icon 6 Job-related move, briefly 7 Pre-school song start 8 Shout of support 9 Move like a butterfly 10 Measured two-dimensionally 11 Frequent patron 12 Prefix like equi- 13 Brand-new socialite 14 Act of trying 15 Nonstick cookware brand 16 Work the land 17 Fair-hiring initials 20 I, to Einstein 21 Actor Zac 23 Oklahoma city 24 Reader (alt-media emag) 30 Breakfast nook, e.g. 32 Beat walker 33 Expressive music genre 35 Year-end helper 36 Hydrocarbon group 38 Cathedral recess 39 Director Mira from India 40 Very top 41 Catchy parts of songs 42 Low ship deck 43 Invitation sub-head 44 Electrical junction 49 OED listings 50 What cutoff shorts lack 51 Unspecified person 52 Bring to a close 54 Comics Brit

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-129.

- Andy 56 Comics bulldog 57 Spanish days 58 Kiwi cousin 60 Abhorrence 61 Pieces of a pound 62 Iranian faith 63 All matter, essentially 68 Chorus voice 69 Shawl maker's machine 70 National Mall trees 72 Supermodel 73 Frat letter 74 Disney undersea princess 75 Last WWII president 77 One hanging out in the kitchen? 79 "Spill it!" 80 Nintendo console 81 CIA operative 82 Easily frightened 83 Abacus piece 84 Beatles' "Work It Out" 85 Bit of help 86 Genesis shepherd 87 In ___ of (rather than) 93 Part of TGIF 94 Filibuster stopper 96 Bahamas islet 97 "Green" Web domain 100 Some soda bottles 101 Open space for sports 102 Arias, for instance 103 Chain worn low 104 Depose 105 Ore source of element #56 106 La nazione di Roma 107 Side of a situation 111 Breakfast crepe server 112 Video game neophyte 114 Frequently, in verse 115 Created, as cotton candy 117 1998 Apple debut 118 Lauderdale neighbor 120 Frequent bake sale sponsor 121 "___ for xylophone" 122 Antelope seen on safaris 123 Poetic planet 124 Genetic "messenger" molecule 125 Pub serving, informally Besides the cro-

SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

Crossword puzzle grid with answers filled in.

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9.

JUMBLE

SAVVY DRANK CUSTOM EMBARK The automobile featured in Stephen King's "Christine" had — BAD "CARMA"

Stewardship of the land

A few days earlier, I had driven in as close to the small stream as I could on the dim woodland road. I stopped at regular intervals and clipped the overhanging limbs back from the roadside, just to maintain the roadway and make it more passable. I set the nest box and predator shield on the bank while I looked around near the stream for a good box location. Now, I was back.



Dan Geddings

At the site, I carried the lopping shears in my left hand and a 10-foot-long 4-by-4-inch post over my right shoulder from the truck to the nearby streambed, then returned for the hole diggers and a shovel. The lopping shears were needed to clear some small brush and weeds from the stream bank. I clipped the brush and pushed the leaf litter away with my boot to expose the bare soil below. The top six to eight inches were rough going with the hole diggers as there were many small roots. But I soon encountered softer soil that was root free. When the hole was about 30 inches deep, I stopped and went back to the truck for a small bag of ready-mix concrete. This wood duck nest box installation was being done on a small tributary of Little Rafting Creek that passes through a section of our hunting club. I've recently installed two other boxes on the property. One is already in use by a pair of woodies. Nest box installation is a good example of land stewardship.

Stewardship can be practiced by anyone — hunt club members, land managers, forestry professionals and landowners. A steward of the land seeks to reap the rewards of good conservation. The rewards might be more wood ducks or more songbirds, successful turkey and deer hunts, good road access, peace and solitude or a better view. Stewardship can also mean you want to be a good neighbor, one who shares a concern for the land that surrounds yours and the waters that travel downstream from your property or lease. Many folks think that the late Aldo

Leopold was the father of modern conservation. Leopold thought that land stewardship was not only rooted in conservation, but that it also involved ethics. He wrote that “the individual is a member of a community to include soils, waters, plants, animals, or collectively ... the land.” He was saying that once we understand that humans are not separate from but are part of and depend on the natural community, we will develop an ethic to care for the community as a whole. That care for the land is stewardship.

The land that I own in Clarendon County is mostly wooded wetland, and my management practices are minimal there. I have installed wood duck nest boxes and can maintain water levels by installing flash-board risers in the existing ditches. Recently, I cleaned out a section of ditch that was clogged by leaves and sticks. I keep corn piles there through the winter but hunt the place seldomly. It is my reserve. I will never harvest the timber or make any roads there.

The Lowcountry club that I belong to is mostly timber company land, and there is not much we can do there, but we keep the roads up and plant food plots in open areas. I've also installed a wood duck box in a slough just off the river. We make an effort to manage the deer herd and hogs there. We limit the days that the land can be hunted. These things, too, are stewardship.

Back at the high hills club, I got the post in position but will need some help to install the guard and nest box. My son, Clayton, will come over one day soon, and we'll get that done. On the way out, I noticed that a couple of other club members had installed a new pipe in a creek crossing. And, back at the farm shed, another group was getting ready to plant some powerline right-of-ways that run through the property. There is always something to do on the land.

Some of you that live in town may think that there's not much you can do. But you can put up a bird or squirrel feeder in your back yard. You can plant a butterfly bush in your garden, or flowers to attract bees.

The National Wildlife Federation has a program that encourages backyard wildlife habitats. We can all be stewards of the land.

Email Dan Geddings at cdgeddings@gmail.com.

Not giving up cold turkey: Bird hunters are winging it

FALMOUTH, Maine (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic has canceled dozens of spring traditions, from college basketball's Final Four to Easter Sunday services, but there's one rite that's going on largely unfettered — turkey hunting.

Every state except Alaska, which is the only state with no turkeys, hosts a spring turkey hunt each year. The birds, whose domesticated cousins grace Thanksgiving tables from Hawaii to Maine, are among America's greatest conservation success stories.

The hunt is taking on a new look in some parts of the country this year because of social distancing laws. Many states, including Maine, are requiring out-of-state residents to self quarantine for two weeks when they enter the state. That functionally eliminates out-of-state hunters from coming to the Pine Tree State to bag a bird.

Other states, including Kansas, have suspended the sale of turkey permits to non-residents to reduce spread of the coronavirus. Some have suspended the need to register a bird after shooting it.

But all 49 states are going ahead with turkey hunts in some form or another, said Mark Hatfield, national director of conservation services for the South Carolina-based National Wild Turkey Federation. That even includes Hawaii, where the birds aren't native but were introduced in the 1960s.

In Maine, hunter Joel Pitcher said he expects a good season, though it won't be as social an affair as it has been in the past.

“I'm not just going to go with a bunch of buddies, like I normally would. It cuts into it that way. Somebody might call and say, ‘Hey, what are you doing tomorrow? Hunting turkey?’ That's not going to happen,” Pitcher said.

Turkey hunting takes place every spring in part to control the population of the birds, which were once numbered in only the tens of thousands before repopulation efforts brought them back. The population rose to 1.3 million in the early 1970s and is now more than 6 million, Hatfield said.

The turkeys have become so successful that in some parts of the country they're overpopulated and can cause nuisances, such as the traffic disruptions that sometimes

emerge in suburban Boston when a flock of the birds decides to mill around in the road. A continued hunt is important to manage the population, Hatfield said.

The earliest hunts began in March, and some last until June. Hatfield said it's difficult to know how successful this year's hunt will be, but with many hunters laid off or furloughed or simply working from home, they might have more opportunities to participate in what is traditionally a weekend activity. Early season hunters seemed to be having a very successful year, he said.

“That person may say, ‘Well I'm going to turkey hunt more. I used to be able to turkey hunt more on the weekend; now I can do it during the week.’ It could increase the harvest of resident hunters,” Hatfield said.

Two million turkey hunters bagged about 665,000 birds in spring 2014, the most recent year for which statistics are available, Hatfield said. The biggest harvests were in Pennsylvania and Missouri, while Georgia and Texas also had large hauls, he said.

In Vermont, it appears that more hunters are taking part in the spring turkey hunting season this year than last year. In late April, 13% more young hunters participated in the annual youth turkey hunt, based on license sales, and it appeared that 23% more resident adult hunters bought turkey licenses for the start of the spring season, which opened May 1, said Mark Scott, the director of wildlife for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

“We can't confirm for sure if this will mean more turkey hunters given that maybe hunters are buying their license earlier than normal,” he wrote in an email. “But based on increased youth participation, we feel there is more interest, and we are optimistic that we will see more people getting out into Vermont's woods and fields.”

But in Kansas, the suspension of non-resident turkey permits has hurt business for Randy Lyons, the owner of Randy's Turkey Hunting Adventure in the northwestern part of the state. He said he has “zero clients this year.” It is a side business for him, and he normally has five or six clients.

“The virus definitely hasn't helped. Most of the time we rely on out-of-state hunters,” Lyons said.

Author, professor urges gardeners to form 1 big ‘national park’

BY KATHERINE ROTH
The Associated Press

Imagine if all the back and front yards — and even patio container plants — across the country were seen as one magnificent patchwork quilt, a “Homegrown National Park.” Home gardeners would join forces to bring back a variety of native plants to protect and nurture struggling birds, bees and other pollinators. That's wildlife ecologist and entomologist Doug Tallamy's vision, as laid out in his most recent book, “Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard” (Timber Press).

Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware, is urging everyone — in cities, suburbs and rural areas — to pitch in.

“This enormous new national park can absolutely make a difference,” he said in an interview with The Associated Press, especially east of the Mississippi River, where the vast majority of land in the U.S. is privately owned.

While one home garden can have a welcome effect, he says, it would be a game changer if lots of people pitched in on different, connected parcels of land, replacing traditional lawns, imported ornamentals and invasive species that fail to provide habitat for native birds, butterflies and other pollinators with ecologically crucial trees like oaks and other native species, he says.



Seen is a photo in Douglas Tallamy's book “Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard” of Monarch butterflies in the University of Delaware Botanical Garden in Newark. Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware, doesn't just want you to embrace native plants in your yard or on your patio; he wants everyone to see their patches of land as part of a giant quilt.

DOUGLAS TALLAMY/TIMBER PRESS VIA AP

And even a single person acting boldly with this goal in mind could be a crucial source of inspiration for others.

Despite climate change, or perhaps partly because of it, Tallamy optimistically envisions the coming decades as “The Age of Ecological Enlightenment.”

“I am an ecologist who makes this claim with confidence, because it is the only option left for Homo sapiens if we want to remain viable in the future,” he writes in his book.

The pivot, he says, must start at home. You can make changes slowly on your own or hire a landscaper to make changes all at once, but embracing native plants and re-

ducing lawn is the direction gardening must take to help the environment, he says.

Todd Forrest, vice president for horticulture and living collections at The New York Botanical Garden, agrees it's urgent that home gardeners focus on enhancing native biodiversity.

“Over the past few decades, advances in gardening equipment and techniques, increased access to a diversity of nursery-grown native plants and rising environmental awareness among gardeners have made it more possible than ever before to harness all the joys of gardening to benefit the health of the planet,” Forrest says.

Tallamy says it's easy to

make a meaningful transition toward conservation-minded gardening.

“You can do it for free, bit by bit, as a hobby. And if you don't own property, you can help the process in local parks, in roof gardens or community gardens, and you can plant native species in containers on balconies or patios,” he says.

His advice: First, reduce the amount of lawn on your property. Tallamy suggests cutting the size of your lawn by half, retaining, for example, a narrow stretch in the front and just enough in the backyard to create a pathway. “You don't have to get rid of it, just reduce it,” he says.

Second, plant an oak or hickory tree, both of which provide

habitat for a huge diversity of native species. “You don't have to buy a tree, just plant an acorn. That's free,” he says.

Third, put in plants that support a diverse community of pollinators, like native milkweed, pie weed or other native plants.

Fourth, get rid of invasive species. The worst are burning bush, barberry, Bradford pears, autumn olive, porcelain berries, bush honeysuckle and Kudzu, Tallamy says.

Fifth, add a bubbling water feature. “Any sort of bubbler where the water is kept clean is great for birds. It's just a magnet for them,” he says.

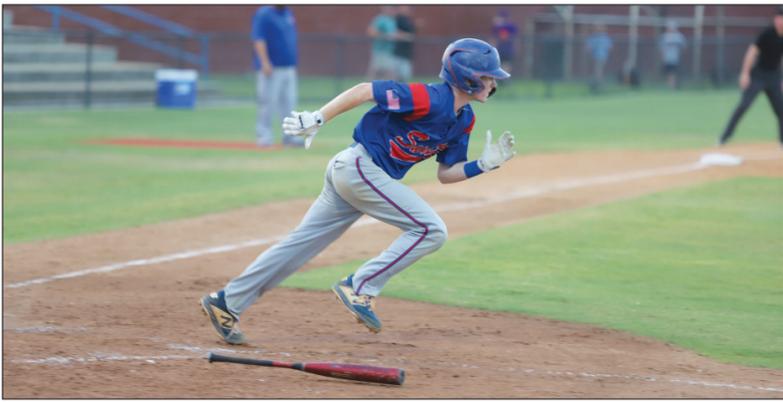
Sixth, coordinate with your neighbors. “You don't have to do all these things on a single property, particularly if your property is small. Maybe your neighbor can plant an oak and you can put lots of native species in containers and install some kind of water feature,” Tallamy explains.

As a whole, the Homegrown National Park should feature all these things on a loosely connected patchwork of land, he says.

“Admission to Homegrown National Park is free, and there are no restricted seasons,” he writes in his book.

“As you become familiar with the natural cycles that occur in your yard, you will start to anticipate them, subconsciously at first but then as something you eagerly await.”

Sumter P-15's prepare for summer season in independent South Carolina American League



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

While there won't be an American Legion baseball season, that doesn't mean the Sumter P-15's won't be playing this year. Sumter will be taking part in an independent league and will begin practice on Tuesday after restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic were lifted.

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Sports are finally starting to return in South Carolina after Governor Henry McMaster's announcement on Wednesday that gave the OK to resume activities.

With Riley Park re-opening, baseball will resume after a long hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the American Legion season has been canceled by the national committee. However, many Legion teams in South Carolina plan on

playing independently.

Sumter Post 15 athletic director Bill Lyons was disappointed that the American Legion season was canceled so early, especially with the governor opening the door for sports this summer on Wednesday.

"I'm just glad the governor is opening things up," said Lyons. "To be honest with you, I think they made these decisions way to early about canceling the American Legion season. He's opening things up now and we could've been playing

by June 15 and we could've had a regular season of Legion baseball, but the powers that be canceled it, so there's nothing else we can do but play independently."

The Sumter P-15's will play under the same name this summer, but they won't be affiliated with American Legion. They will instead play in the South Carolina American League, which was started up by Florence Post 1 head coach Derrick Urquhart. That

SEE POST-15, PAGE B5

USC sets protocols for student-athletes to return June 8 for voluntary workouts

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

The Southeastern Conference announced on Friday that its schools will be able to bring athletes in all sports back to campus for voluntary activities starting June 8 after being shut down to the coronavirus pandemic, at the discretion of each school. The University of South Carolina will have its football players ready to go that day.

Voluntary in-person athletics activities will resume under protocols and procedures that have been developed by the USC athletics department and medical advisors.

"Based on the decision today by the Southeastern Conference Presidents and Chancellors, the University of South Carolina will be ready to host football student-athletes on campus for voluntary workouts on June 8," said USC athletics director Ray Tanner in a press release. "They will return to campus several days before to get tested for the COVID-19 virus.

"We are excited to have our student-athletes back on campus. Their health, safety and well-being are our No. 1 priority. Our staff and medical team

have developed a thorough set of protocols that exceed CDC guidelines and will help our student-athletes through the transition back to campus."

The SEC had suspended all athletics activities through May 31 because of the coronavirus. June 1 will begin a transition period that will allow student-athletes to get tested for the virus on campus as well as gradually adapt to the full training and sports activities.

Tanner said the other fall sports and the men's and women's basketball programs will begin their voluntary workouts at a later date.

There have been several protocols developed by a school task force to help protect all involved from the coronavirus. Some of the protocols are:

- Student-athletes will receive a COVID-19 and antibody test upon arrival on campus. They will also receive a daily symptoms and temperature check and trace contacting will take place.

- All facilities used by student-athletes have undergone a strict cleaning process to ensure they have been fully disinfected and will include additional hand sanitizing stations.



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

South Carolina wide receiver Shi Smith and the Gamecocks will be able to return to campus for voluntary workouts on June 8.

SEE USC, PAGE B4

NASCAR grabs much-needed momentum in return to live racing

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — NASCAR had been planning sweeping changes for 2021 in hopes of finding new fans and adding some energy to a staid, stale schedule.

The coronavirus pandemic put those plans on hold and NASCAR is frantically trying to recover from a 10-week lay-off.

So far, the stock car series is succeeding.

NASCAR came up with a health plan that allowed it to resume racing last Sunday at Darlington Raceway, the first of 20 events scheduled in seven Southern states through June 21. Although spectators are not permitted, making for eerie, empty venues, the racing itself has delivered.

Kevin Harvick scored his 50th career victory in NASCAR's first race back with seemingly everyone watching to see if the safety protocols would work. The next event was the first Cup Series race on a Wednesday in 36 years



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chase Briscoe celebrates after winning the NASCAR Xfinity series race on Thursday in Darlington.

and it was about as good as it gets for a series dependent on miles upon miles of left turns.

Reigning champion and resident villain Kyle Busch angered fan favorite Chase Elliott, who flipped off his competitor after he was wrecked. A fox scampered across the track during a lull in what was a flat-out entertaining race.

Then came Thursday's

emotional Xfinity Series race, won on the final lap by Chase Briscoe two days after he sat in the infield at Darlington and FaceTimed his wife as the two learned their unborn child did not have a fetal heartbeat. Reeling from the loss, Briscoe was able to hold off Busch, the best driver in Xfinity Series history, for his

SEE NASCAR, PAGE B4

Williamson's lawyers doubt marketing firm's contract

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — Lawyers for New Orleans Pelicans rookie Zion Williamson want a federal judge in North Carolina to rule that a marketing firm suing Williamson for \$100 million never had a valid contract with the former Duke star.

Prime Sports Marketing and its president, Gina Ford, sought breach-of-contract damages from Williamson and his current representatives at Creative Artists Agency after the player pulled out of an agreement with Prime Sports before he became the No. 1 overall pick in the 2019 NBA draft.

The motion filed by Williamson attorney John Wester in U.S. District Court in Winston-Salem this week centers on North Carolina's Uniform Athlete Agent Act. The law is meant to shield amateur athletes from agents trying to take advantage of their lack of experience with acquiring professional representation.

It requires agents to be registered in the state. It also

requires contracts to contain a warning that athletes are forfeiting amateur eligibility, as well as language stipulating that athletes have 14 days to cancel the agreement.

Wester argued in a memorandum in support of his motion that Prime Sports' contract with Williamson contained none of that required language, which is supposed to be "prominent, all-caps, and bold."

Wester also asserts that Ford, who was Prime Sports' primary contact with Williamson and his family, was not registered in North Carolina.

"These statutes recognize the vulnerability of young student-athletes and attempt to aid their transition to professional sports by preventing manipulative, underhanded behavior from athlete agents who prey on student-athletes' youth, and the athletes' and their families' inexperience in the industry," Wester wrote.

Ford's attorneys this

SEE ZION, PAGE B4

Jerry Sloan, coaching great of Jazz glory days, dies at 78

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

Jerry Sloan walked up the steps to the stage at the Basketball Hall of Fame to give his enshrinement speech in 2009, almost as if he were dreading what the next few minutes would bring.

He never wanted the spotlight.

"This is pretty tough for me," Sloan said that night.

Talking about himself, that wasn't easy. But basketball, he always made that seem simple.

Sloan, who spent 23 years as coach of the Utah Jazz and took the team to the NBA Finals in 1997 and 1998, died Friday at 78. The team said that for four years he had Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia.

Sloan presided over the glory days of the John Stockton and Karl Malone pick-and-roll-to-perfection era in Salt Lake City. He is fourth on the NBA's victory list.

"Before coming to Utah, I was certainly aware of Coach Sloan and what he meant to the NBA and to the coaching world," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said Friday. "But, upon living in Utah, I became acutely aware of just how much he truly meant to the state."

Sloan was a two-time All-Star as a player with the Chicago Bulls, led his alma mater, Evansville, to a pair of NCAA college division national championships and was an assistant coach on the 1996 U.S. Olympic team that won a gold medal at the Atlanta Games. He fell in love with the game as a student in a one-room Illinois schoolhouse, never forgetting his



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Utah Jazz head coach Jerry Sloan died Friday morning from complications related to Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia at the age of 78.

roots.

"His more than 40 years in the NBA also paralleled a period of tremendous growth in the league, a time when we benefited greatly from his humility, kindness, dignity and class," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said.

Sloan often said numbers meant nothing to him. That's a shame, because he has so many to marvel.

Sloan had 1,221 NBA coaching wins, behind only Lenny Wilkens, Don Nelson and Gregg Popovich. And Sloan's 23 seasons with the Jazz are the second-longest string with one team in NBA history; Popovich is in his 24th season with the San Antonio Spurs.

"We lost one of the giants of basketball, not only of the NBA variety but basketball in general," said longtime NBA executive Rod Thorn, who hired Thorn as coach of the Bulls in 1979. "No one ever played harder. He was a very, very good player and then became one of the top coaches

in the history of the NBA."

Out of Sloan's 23 seasons with the Jazz, the team finished below the .500 mark only once. He's one of five coaches to roam the sidelines for at least 2,000 games, and the only one of those five with a winning percentage better than .600.

And he was revered as a player with the Bulls, and his No. 4 jersey was the first retired by the franchise.

"Loyalty was his badge of honor and his no-nonsense approach to competition was perfect for the game," said Miami Heat President Pat Riley, the fellow Hall of Famer who called it a privilege to coach against Sloan. "Jerry will go down in history as one of the most admired great winners and respected teachers of basketball ever."

Sloan spent 34 years in the Jazz organization, as head coach, assistant, scout or senior basketball adviser. Sloan started as a scout, was promoted as an assistant under

Frank Layden in 1984 and became the sixth coach in franchise history on Dec. 9, 1988, after Layden resigned.

"Like Stockton and Malone as players, Jerry Sloan epitomized the organization," the Jazz said in a statement. "He will be greatly missed."

Sloan retired as coach of the Jazz abruptly in 2011, amid reports of conflict with Deron Williams, the team's point guard at the time. Williams, in an Instagram post Friday, said he was "blessed" to play for Sloan.

"I know things didn't end well between us in Utah, however I'm glad that I got the chance to sit down with him before it was too late," Williams wrote. "Definitely something that would have haunted me for the rest of my life."

Sloan was the coach at Evansville for all of five days in 1977. He then made an arduous — and fateful — decision.

He was going to take over for his college coach, Arad McCutcheon, who was retiring. Sloan signed a contract but backed out quickly, citing undisclosed personal reasons. Later that year, a plane carrying the Evansville team and coaches crashed, killing all 29 people aboard.

Had he not left Evansville, Sloan could have easily been on that plane. And he thought about that countless times over the next four decades.

"That incident on December the 13th, 1977, made me realize that there are a lot more things more important than basketball," Sloan said in 2009. "Even though I love this game, I will always be grateful for what it's given

me."

Sloan's longevity with the Jazz was remarkable. During his time in Utah, going 1,127-682 in regular seasons, there were 245 coaching changes around the league and five teams — Charlotte, Memphis, Toronto, Orlando and Minnesota — did not even exist when he started with the Jazz.

Fellow coaches raved about him. The majority of George Karl's coaching career overlapped with Sloan's, and Karl simply adored his rival.

"What I admired about him, is he was a friend to all coaches," Karl said. "He stood up for coaches. ... He was a man that stated his opinion, didn't mind being overly aggressive with referees and many times got thrown out because of it. But if he thought he was being wronged, he stood up for himself. I admired that."

He coached Chicago for parts of three seasons, going 94-121. His playing career there was cut short by knee issues, and he averaged 14.0 points, 7.4 rebounds and 2.5 assists in 755 games.

They called Sloan "The Original Bull" because he was selected in the 1966 expansion draft and became known for his toughness and grit. He remains the only NBA player to average more than seven rebounds and more than two steals a game in his career.

Jerry Reinsdorf called Sloan "the face of the Bulls organization from its inception through the mid-1970s."

"A great player and a Hall of Fame NBA coach," the Bulls chairman said Friday. "Most importantly, Jerry was a great person."

NASCAR FROM PAGE B2

second win of the season. He collapsed in tears after the race in a moment shown across the country.

NASCAR, with all its personalities, conflicts and raw feelings, was back.

"One of my favorite lines I've heard this whole time is, 'Don't let a good crisis go to waste,'" driver Joey Logano said Friday. "For us to find a way to get back to the race track as a sport, as an industry, and get back to work before most was an amazing opportunity. I think NASCAR saw it was important for everybody for that to happen for all of our livelihoods, every one of us."

The sport has long been fueled by rivalries and its explosion began in 1979 when the first Daytona 500 televised flag-to-flag ended with a brawl as Bobby and Donnie Allison got into it with Cale Yarborough. The best Elliott could do with social distancing rules in place was flip Busch the bird.

"It'd be kind of hard to fight when you have to stay six-feet apart. My arms aren't long enough," Elliott said.

Busch admitted he made a mistake, called Elliott to apologize, but

the kerfuffle has ignited fans.

"I know it's gained a lot of traction and there's a lot of people talking about it, so that was ultimately a win for the sport," Elliott said Friday. "It was a loss for me and my team, but ... people love drama, they love talking about that stuff and they've been doing a lot of it."

Austin Dillon saw Briscoe's victory on ESPN, which like other outlets has been starved for fresh material.

"It's been a minute since our sport has really been featured on that channel and that made me proud of NASCAR for the efforts they went through to be the first big sport to come back," Dillon said. "It's huge for our sport."

The series now shifts to Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord for four days of racing beginning Sunday with the 61st running of the Coca-Cola 600, a crown jewel event and the longest race on the NASCAR calendar. The series rolls into the event with huge momentum and confidence from North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper the event will be a success.

"I know a lot of people are looking forward to this live sporting event on TV — I know that I am," Cooper said.

ZION FROM PAGE B2

month filed documents alleging Williamson "engaged in conduct that rendered ... him ineligible to be or remain a student-athlete" before Williamson had met Ford to discuss endorsement deals. In theory, the claim would render arguments about the Uniform Athlete Agent Act moot, although no evidence has been offered yet to back it up.

Wester counters that the fact Williamson was deemed eligible to play for Duke and was "one of the most prominent student-athletes in the country in recent years," means Williamson met the description of an amateur athlete when he was negotiating with Ford.

"It is undisputed that Mr. Williamson played basketball for Duke during the entire 2018-2019 basketball season," Wester asserted.

The legal maneuvering between Williamson and Ford has been taking place in two federal jurisdictions.

Williamson sued in North Carolina last June to void the contract. Ford and Prime Sports responded by suing in federal court in Flori-

da for damages related to breach of contract by Williamson and tampering by his CAA agents.

In Florida this month, Ford's lawyer submitted a list of questions that include asking whether Williamson or anyone on his behalf had sought or accepted "money, benefits, favors or other things of value" to sign with Duke.

The filings — which offer no evidence of wrongdoing by Williamson or his family — sought answers within 30 days to establish facts under oath in the pretrial discovery process.

The questions reference Williamson's mother and step-father as well as apparel companies Nike — which outfits the Blue Devils team — and Adidas. The questions include whether he received any improper benefits from an agent between January 2014 and his April 2019 announcement that he would go pro.

Duke spokesman Michael Schoenfeld has declined to comment on the filings since the school is not a party to either lawsuit. Schoenfeld also referred to a previous statement that the school has reviewed Williamson's eligibility and found no concerns.

Clemson' Ross to have shoulder surgery

CLEMSON (AP) — Clemson receiver Justyn Ross will have shoulder surgery next month to take care of an issue that cropped up during the team's spring workouts in March.

Team spokesman Ross Taylor said the 6-foot-4 receiver is doing well, but will have the operation to take care of any lingering issues. Testing on Ross was delayed because of protocols put in place by the school due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Ross led the Tigers with 66 catches



ROSS

last season that went for 865 yards and eight touchdowns. For his career, Ross had 1,000 yards receiving as a freshman, highlighting his season with a 74-yard TD in the national championship win over Alabama.

Ross, from Phenix City, Alabama, is considered a first-round NFL draft pick in 2021 should he choose to forego his final year in college.

USC FROM PAGE B2

All student-athletes and staff are required to wear face coverings in public spaces and wash their hands frequently.

Physical distancing with staff and student-athletes will be emphasized. There are extensive educational efforts including videos, in-person communication and signage.

Tanner said the school has tried its best to come up with a way to make conditions as safe as possible for all involved.

"It's a daunting task," he said. "It's like playing a game; you want to win."

PROTOCOLS FOR THE RETURN OF USC STUDENT-ATHLETES

TESTING

- Upon arrival at the University, all student-athletes will be given a COVID-19 and antibody test. All student-athletes must have a negative COVID-19 result before taking part in voluntary workouts or the start of practice activities to immediately learn whether the student may have the virus. The antibody test indicates if the student may have previously had the virus.
- Any student-athlete who tests positive for COVID-19 will immediately be isolated away from the team and either return home or remain on campus until the end of the isolation period. The University will interview the student to trace contacts that have occurred with the other individuals. Medical staff will provide health monitoring of the student multiple times each day and football staff, dietitians, counselors, and Student Development staff will consistently keep in close contact with the student during the isolation period.
- Should a roommate or member of his cluster test positive, the player(s) must quarantine themselves for 14 days from the last exposure of positive individual. Those individuals will be monitored daily by the athletic trainer. If the individuals develop symptoms themselves, they would be referred to the team physician and staff at Student Health Services.
- The return to workouts would only occur after the player is symptom free for the 14-day quarantine period.

FACILITIES

- All facilities that are to be used by football players have undergone a strict cleaning process to ensure that they are fully disinfected. Touch surfaces in all these facilities will be disinfected at least once per day.
- There will be staggered entry and departure from the Long Family Football Operations Building. Cell phones, keys and other personal items are disinfected upon entry into these facilities.
- Additional hand sanitizing stations will be

We want to have the mitigation in place to make it a very successful situation at the university."

During the month of June, NCAA regulations permit only strength and conditioning personnel to supervise voluntary on-campus athletics activities in the sports of football, as well as men's and women's basketball.

Clustering will be used in voluntary workouts and in weight rooms. Tanner said the clusters will be from four to six players and not necessarily will be of one position group.

"We'll do our testing in clusters as well and that will allow them to be isolated (if needed) when we get tests back," Tanner said.

in the lobby elevator, all lobby entrances, and the parking garage at 650 Lincoln, the student-athletes' on-campus housing.

DAILY PROTOCOL

- A daily medical check will be administered to each student or staff member before entering the Long Family Football Operations Building. This includes a checklist of symptoms and a temperature check. Student-Athletes who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will be evaluated by a medical professional for appropriate follow up.
- All football players and staff will be required to wear face coverings in public spaces and wash their hands frequently.
- Physical distancing with staff and students will be emphasized.
- As an added precaution, players will be divided into small clusters. This helps limit any possible exposure to COVID-19 within the football team. Workouts, housing accommodations, eating, and socializing activities will be restricted to teammates in a player's cluster. Ready-made meals will be available to all players and distributed to keep the player's cluster together.
- Strict protocols are used in the weight room and athletics training spaces, using physical distancing as well as disinfecting of machines and apparatus.

EDUCATION

- In addition to the rigorous safety protocols in place, there will be extensive educational efforts including videos, in-person communication and signage.
- Medical staff will have an educational session next week with parents of the players on campus to provide them with information and answer questions that they have.

MEDICAL AUTHORITY

- All medical decisions related to practice and competition will be made by the medical director in consultation with team physicians and other medical staff.

POST-15 FROM PAGE B2

league will generally consist of American Legion teams playing under the same names; they will just not be associated with American Legion.

Lyons said the P-15's plan on hitting the practice field as soon as possible. The league will get to work on establishing a schedule now that the governor has said games can start being played on June 15.

Sumter head coach Robby Coker said the plan is to hold the first practice on Tuesday. He said the plan is to hold two separate practices with nine players in each practice in order to practice social distancing.

The exact size of the league is unknown because teams are still able to register. Lyons estimates that

they have 26 senior teams and just under 20 junior teams as of now and expects that number to rise now that the governor has given the OK to start playing.

"We had 26 senior teams and 17 or 18 junior teams that were scheduled to play and there's still more of them signing up to play," said Lyons. "Right now, we're not sure exactly how many teams there will be in the state, but probably 30-35 teams for seniors and maybe 20-25 juniors. A lot of teams were held back because they weren't sure what the governor was going to do."

Because the league is still in the early stages, Lyons doesn't know exactly what the season will look like. Whatever the schedule ends up being, the league will play through the end of July, before playing a week-long playoff.

"We'll probably have a couple of

preseason games held at Riley Park to see how everybody looks," said Lyons. "Once we start, we'll play through the month of July. The season will end on July 31, then we'll have playoffs August 3-10, I believe. There will be no state tournament or anything like that for juniors or seniors, so we'll just play a regular season and the playoffs."

Safety measures will also be in effect to make sure that the league will not jeopardize the health of players or spectators. Guidelines include coaches wearing face coverings at all times and players not in the game are encouraged to do the same. Players, coaches and umpires must bring their own water bottles and there will be no chewing gum, spitting, licking fingers or eating and spitting seeds. There will also be no handshakes, fist bumps or high-fives and equipment is not to be shared whenever possible.

Lyons doesn't expect these guidelines to effect the season severely.

"We will follow all the CDC guidelines and the guidelines issued the other day when (McMaster) said we could go back to playing," said Lyons. "I don't think it'll effect the season. The stadium is big enough that people will still come out and you can spread out the spectators far enough apart that it won't be a problem. We'll keep the kids far enough apart in the dugout also. I don't think it will be a problem."

After losing out on most of the spring season, Lyons thinks the players are just excited for the chance to play baseball again.

"The ones I've talked to are really excited about coming back and getting to play some this summer before school starts back up in the fall, and we are too," said Lyons. "I'm happy to finally see something starting to take place."

OBITUARIES

WILLIE LORINE SPENCE CATINGTON

ABILENE, Texas — Willie "Billie" Lorine Spence Catington went to her heavenly

home on Tuesday, May 7, 2020, while listening to her family sing "Amazing Grace."

Born on Sept. 11, 1922, in Graham, Texas, Billie

was a daughter of Chris and Zephyr Spence. She grew up in Waco, Texas, graduating from La Vega High School in 1940. Billie grew up in the Depression, picked cotton and lived without indoor plumbing and electricity during her youth. During World War II, she served her country by working for Consolidated Aircraft in Fort Worth, Texas, where she installed radio and electrical equipment in B-24 aircraft. Billie served for nearly 20 years in civil service at bases in the U.S. and Germany, prior to moving to Sumter in 1969, where she married retired U.S. Air Force Col. James D. "Doug" Catington. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina in 1983 and was an avid writer and photographer. She enjoyed traveling, reading and working in her beautiful yard. She was an accomplished handywoman, always working on projects.

Billie was an active volunteer wherever she lived and gave generously of her time to national and local charities, civic organizations and hospitals. She supported the USAF through the Officers' Wives Club and Air Force Association; she was an auxiliary member of the Daedalians. She loved and served Aldersgate United Methodist Church and cherished her Sunday school class. Her heart was to serve God by serving others. Her strong faith in God and her generous love of family and friends defined her.

Left to cherish her memory are her son, Daniel Morgan and his wife, Joanne, of Abilene; grandson, Capt. James Bailey and wife, Amber, of Copperas Cove, Texas; daughters, Michelle Porter and husband, Keith, and Patricia Bynum and husband, Will, all of Raleigh, North Carolina; sons, Richard Catington and wife, Susan, of Springfield, Virginia, and Scott Catington and wife, Ann Cullen, of Madison, Mississippi; seven cherished grandchildren; eight precious great-grandchildren; and scores of treasured friends.

Billie was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Chris Jr. and Harvey Spence; and a son, Marvin Carroll Bailey.

A memorial will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at a later date, when all who loved her can attend.

She will be interred with her husband at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorials in Billie's name can be made to United Methodist Pantry, P.O. Box 863, Abilene, TX 79604-0863.

Online condolences and guest book may be signed at www.abilenefuneralhome.com.

TOMMIE L. WATSON

Tommie L. Watson died on Saturday, May 16, 2020.

Graveside service is sched-



WATSON

uled for 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday. She will arrive at Brown Cemetery, Panola, where she will lie in repose for public viewing. This is a drive-by service, which will allow the community to pay respects.

At 10:30 a.m., the immediate family will depart from her residence for a private service. A short program outlining the service will follow. Please note there is no public viewing. We, the family, are requesting that our guests remain in their vehicles and maintain social distancing during this period. The family appreciates your loving affection during this period; however, we will not be receiving guests at her residence. Sympathy cards can be left in the mailbox or on her front porch. Remember, this service is social distancing.

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

JESSIE LAVERN WATKINS

Jessie Lavern Watkins, 75, departed this life on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

He was born on March 23, 1945, in Sumter County, a son of the late Ashby and Bernice Jackson Watkins.

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

Mr. Watkins will be placed in the church at noon on Sunday for viewing until the hour of service.

Family and close friends of Mr. Watkins will celebrate his life at 1 p.m. on Sunday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150 with Pastor Cheryl G. Johnson officiating.

Masks will be required of family and friends.

Interment will follow at Dicks Cemetery.

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.

CATHERINE CHOICE

Catherine "Cat" Choice began her beautiful journey of life on Saturday, Oct. 13,

1956, in Sumter, and passed peacefully, after an extended illness, 63 years later on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital. She was

a daughter of Albertha Choice Hale and the late David Loyd.

She was a lifelong member of Wayman Chapel AME Church, Sumter, where she served faithfully in many capacities, until her health failed. She was a 1974 graduate of Hillcrest High School and later earned an associate degree from Central Carolina Technical College (formerly Sumter Technical College). Catherine was employed with WIS International (Columbia) as an area manager and utilized her gifts as a wedding and event planning consultant.

Catherine loved all sports (favorite teams — Dallas Cow-

boys and Los Angeles Lakers) and played with several area softball and bowling leagues (served in many leadership roles). She was an assistant coach on the 1996-97 Lakewood High School 4A Girls Basketball Championship Team and one of the first women to coach for the Sumter County Parks and Recreation Flag Football team.

In addition to her father, Catherine was preceded in death by her grandparents who reared her, John Henry Choice Sr. and Sallie Choice.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories: her mother, Albertha Choice Hale; a son, Darfirio F. Choice; two grandchildren, Zentrina D. Choice and Darfirio F. Choice II; three aunts, Louise Hunter, Elease James and Bessie Loyd; one grandaunt, Elnora Gathers; three special cousins, Teresa (Willie) Bracey, Deirdre Robinson and Patricia Bracey; a former "daughter"-in-law, Zentra Green; two godchildren; her companion-dog, Jacque; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

Myers Mortuary & Cremation Services have been entrusted with arrangements.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a memorial will be held at a later date.

ESSIE MAE MCKENZIE

Essie Mae McKenzie, 61, departed this life on Saturday, May 16, 2020, at her residence.

She was born on June 16, 1958, in Columbia, a daughter of the late Eva Mae McKenzie Miller.

Public viewing was held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Friday at Job's Mortuary.

Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. today at Bradford Cemetery in Sumter.

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.

SOLOMON LEE PATTERSON

BISHOPVILLE — Solomon Lee Patterson entered eternal rest on Friday, May 8, 2020, at McLeod Regional Medical Center, Florence.

Graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. today at Mount Calvary Baptist Church Cemetery, Bishopville.

Wilson Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Bishopville, is in charge of arrangements.

JAMES ARCHIE JOHNSON

James Archie Johnson, 85, died on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at his home.

Born in Hartsville, he was a son of the late Boyd Leo Johnson and Hattie Freeman Johnson Short. Mr. Johnson was a member of First Baptist Church and a volunteer worker at McLeod Hospital. He was a retired U.S. Air Force master sergeant and a veteran of Vietnam. He was also retired from the Broward County Sheriff's Department in Florida.

Surviving are a son, James "Robert" Archie Johnson Jr. (Kathy) of Bennettsville; a daughter, Cynthia Robyn Guzman (Nick) of Bennettsville; two sisters, Catherine Williams of Sumter and Jean Kimery of Hampton, Virginia; a brother, Albert "Abbie" Johnson (Kathy) of Burlington, North Carolina; a sister-in-law, Mary Johnson of Wallace; six grandchildren; and

six great-grandchildren. He had a host of extended family that he dearly loved.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, William "Bobby" Johnson and Kenneth Johnson.

Private graveside services will be held at the Florence National Cemetery with the Rev. Patrick Dye 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.



SAMUEL D. ANDERSON JR.

Samuel D. Anderson Jr., 92, widower of Sylvia M. Anderson, died on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at Covenant Place.

Born in Sumter, he was a son of the late Samuel D.

"Bud Anderson Sr. and Gussie Booth Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, the Omar Shrine Temple and Omar Color Guard Unit. He was the past owner of Anderson Transfer Co.

Surviving are two daughters, Susan L. Anderson (Al Nickles) and Patricia A. Glenn (Max); one brother, Ralph Anderson of Columbia; four grandchildren, Kent Johnson, Dr. Walker Nickles (Jena), Matthew Nickles and Kylie N. Yancey (Matt); and four great-grandchildren, Hazel Grey Nickles, Miller Nickles, McCord Nickles and Elliott Yancey.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Sylvia M. Anderson; two brothers, Lloyd and Wallace Anderson; and two sisters, Lucille Anderson and Nettie Maude Hucks.

Private graveside services will be held at Evergreen Memorial Park cemetery with the Rev. Joseph James officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 950 W. Faris Road, Greenville, SC 29605.

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.



SAM BAKER JR.

Sam Baker Jr., 93, widower of Henrietta Small Baker, died on Friday, May 22, 2020, at Blue Ridge of Sumter Nursing Facility.

Born on Nov. 14, 1926, in Sumter County, he was a son of Sam Sr. and Lucille Muldrow Baker.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 81 James St.

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

OPHIE HYATT ATKINSON

Ophie Hyatt Atkinson was born on Jan. 8, 1926 and died

on May 22, 2020.

Born in Sumter, she was a daughter of the late Frashier Wheeler Hyatt and Eliza Elizabeth Campbell Hyatt. Ophie was the youngest of eight children. She was a past member of Grace Baptist Church in Sumter and was a current member of Union United Methodist Church in Irmo. She was a member of the Aline Leitner Sunday School Class and sang with the Spirited Singers. She also attended St. Andrews Shepherd Center.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Prody Reed "PR" Atkinson.

Surviving are her sons, Reed Atkinson (Martha) of Summerville and Otis Atkinson (Judy) of Sumter; her daughter, Janice Hall (Wayne) of Columbia; three granddaughters, Julie Atkinson and Lori Aamold (Chris), both of Sumter, and Graham Marie Atkinson of Charlotte, North Carolina; and two great-grandchildren, Ryan Aamold and Ashley Grace Aamold.

A private graveside service will be held at Sumter Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff of National Health Care Lexington and Abbey Road Hospice for their loving care of Ophie.

Memorials may be made to Union United Methodist Church, 7582 Woodrow St., Irmo, SC 29063.

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

ADLEAN CHARLES MOSES

Adlean Charles Moses, 90, widow of Deacon Andrew Moses, died on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at her home.

Born on April 8, 1930, in Lee County, she was a daughter of George and Bertha Carter Charles.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 68 Moses Road, Bishopville.

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

ISADORE HOLLIDAY

Isadore Holliday, age 65, died on Friday, May 22, 2020, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Arrangements will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home.



EDDIE BRUNSON

Eddie Brunson, 77, departed this life on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

He was born on April 25, 1943, in Pinewood, a son of the late Pinkney and Meta Brunson.

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

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday at Calvary Baptist Church Cemetery, 10075 Calvary Church Road, Pinewood, SC 29125.

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.

the Sumter ITEM CLASSIFIEDS

To Place Your Classified Ads, Please call

803-774-1200

OR TO PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE GO TO WWW.THEITEM.COM/PLACEMENT

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

11:30 a.m. the day before for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday edition.
11:30 a.m. Friday for Sunday's edition.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Ads



Happy 95th Birthday Dad!
We love you, your family and friends!

Announcements

File any tax year.
507 Broad St.
803-773-1515

Up to \$15,000 of GUARANTEED Life Insurance! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company - 855-837-7719 or visit sss.Life55plus.info/scan

BOY SCOUTS COMPENSATION FUND - Anyone that was inappropriately touched by a Scout leader deserves justice and financial compensation! Victims may be eligible for a significant cash settlement. Time to file is limited. Call Now! 888-985-1039.

Tuesday, May 26 2020 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Games: (SC1120) Neon Super 7 11 21, (SC1130) Win Big, (SC1140) Flash of Cash.

Attention: Auto injury victims. If you have suffered a serious injury in an auto accident, call us! Our attorneys have the experience to get you the full compensation you deserve! Call Now: 855-462-8075.

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 844-524-2197

Still have life insurance? Need or want to access those funds now? If you're 75 or older and have a policy worth \$100k or more, you may qualify for a cash buyout. Call Benefit Advance. 1-877-649-1439

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for (350) procedures. Real dental insurance NOT just a discount plan. (Don't wait!) Call now! Get your FREE Dental information kit with all details! 1-855-397-7030 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/60)



Card of Thanks



We, the family of Rev. Henry W. Mitchell would like to thank everyone sincerely for the heartfelt LOVE shown to us during his passing. Each prayer, card, flower, will always be remembered. And nurses of Kindred at Home, the staff at MPMC (3rd floor) Clarendon: Casey, Delaine, Cynthia, Tommy Jean, and Dr. Barrineau a special thank you for your attentiveness to detail.
With Love, The Mitchell Family.

In Memory



My Dear Little Jaybird
Your angels are delighted to welcome your precious beautiful soul home. I will treasure always the times we spent together since when you were a baby. Save a place for old poppi when we meet again.
My love forever Jalen Freeman 1999-2020

BUSINESS SERVICES

Business Services

GENRAC Standby Generators. The weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year warranty (\$695 value!) Schedule your FREE in-home assessment today. Call 1-844-775-0366. Special financing for qualified customers.

Two great new offers from AT&T Wireless! Ask how to get the Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e FREE. FREE iPhone with AT&T's Buy one, Give One. While supplies last! CALL 1-866-565-8453 or www.freephonesnow.com/SC



PRIME BURIAL PLOTS EVERGREEN MEMORIAL PARK
Front Row Section #369
Fountain #4
8 adjoining plots - family will no longer need them
make us an offer - will sell separately **828-290-8314**

Business Services

DISH Network \$59.99 For 190 Channels! Add High Speed Internet for ONLY \$14.95/month. Best Technology. Best Value. Smart HD DVR Included. FREE Installation. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-877-542-0759

Roofing

All Types of Roofing & Roofing Repairs All work guaranteed. 30 yrs exp. SC lic. Virgil Bickley 803-316-4734.

Tree Service

Newman's Tree Service Tree removal, trimming, topping, view enhancement pruning, bobcat work stump grinding, Lic & insured. Call **803-316-0128**

A Notch Above Tree Care Log pickup available. Full quality service low rates, lic./ins., free est BBB accredited 983-9721

Ricky's Tree Service Tree removal, stump grinding. Lic & ins, free quote, 803-435-2223 or call 803-460-8747.

Tree removal & stump grinding. Jenkinson Tree Service, LLC. Fully insured. Call 803-847-8014 for a free estimate.

MERCHANDISE

Want to Buy

Adult Cruiser Bicycle. 1speed. Call 803-460-7666

Auctions

ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers. Call Alanna Ritchie at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

For Sale or Trade

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

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-875-2449.

ENJOY 100% Perfectly Tender and Guaranteed! 20 Main Courses PLUS get 4 FREE Burgers, Order The Butcher's Bundle - ONLY \$69.99. Call 1-855-399-3306 mention code: 61086SLM or visit www.omahasteak.com/dinner559

AT&T Internet. Starting at \$40/month w/ 12-mo. agmt. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Get More For Your High-speed Internet Thing. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-855-724-3001.

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call Empire Today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 844-254-3873

OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 833-833-1650

For Sale or Trade

Viasat Satellite Internet. Up to 12 Mbps Plans Starting at \$30/month. Our Fastest Speeds (up to 50 Mbps) & Unlimited Data Plans Start at \$100/month. Call Viasat today! 1-866-463-8950

DIRECTV - Switch and Save! \$39.99/month. Select All-Included Package. 155 Channels 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 months! Call 1-844-624-1107

DIRECTV NOW. No Satellite Needed. \$40/month. 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports & On Demand Titles. No Annual Contract. No Commitment. CALL 1-877-378-0180

Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$14.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-877-649-9469

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Now Hiring
New McDonald's in Summerton inside Love's Travel Center Looking for great people for all Shifts, Crew and Management Apply at: McDJobs@jkskinc.com or 843-553-4999. Leave Name, Number for interview

Immediate hire! Must have DL & chainsaw experience. Please Call 803-847-8014

Experienced Cafeteria Food Service Workers needed. All positions available & must be available to work all shifts. Please call Cindy at 803-481-6495 for more information.

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-965-0799. (M-F 8 am - 6 pm ET)

Thai Tea now hiring Professional Chef with experience in Thai Street Food, Sushi & Bakery. Apply only: thaiteausa11@gmail.com or text to: 803-236-6565 or Facebook ThaiTea.

Help Wanted Part-Time

Looking for experienced lawn care person, must have drivers license, and experience with lawn care equipment. Call 803-968-3262.

Trucking Opportunities

ADVERTISE YOUR DRIVER JOBS in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers. Call Alanna Ritchie at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

RENTALS

Unfurnished Apartments

Carolina Crossings Apartments (803)773-2518
Remodeled: 5Br/2Ba Apts 1, 2 & 3 Br Apts Also Available
OPEN: Mon, Wed, Fri. 8:30 - 5:30
Walking Distance to Morris College
861 Carolina Ave. #40 Sumter 378 Near Hwy 15, Behind Shoney's
*Housing Vouchers Accepted

Vacation Rentals

SANTEE - Lake Marion, 4 BR Waterfront home, 2 acres, boat ramp, pier, sandy beach, screened porch, sleeps 14. Summer rates: \$1800/wk. Fall 3 day weekend \$500. (843) 442-8069. www.lakehousevacations.com/page-4383.html

ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE to more than 2.1 million S.C. newspaper readers. Your 25-word classified ad will appear in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Call Alanna Ritchie at the South Carolina Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

Office Rentals

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

REAL ESTATE

Farms & Acreage

580 Acres - Cross Hill, SC - Hunter's paradise - investment opportunity. Furnished cabin. Wooded part marketable - industrial site on R.R. \$2,895 per Ac. LakeMurrayPro perry.net 803-359-1113

199 Acre - horse - cattle farm. Lg. Pond, barns, storm shelter w/ Kit., B.R., 2,300 sq. ft. brick home in McCormick, SC. LakeMurrayProperty.net, Lisa Dawn Glass 864-923-9960 or 803-359-1113

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the County Council of Sumter County, South Carolina (the "County"), in County Council Chambers located at 141 North Main Street, Sumter, South Carolina, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, on June 9, 2020, or at such other location as proper notice on the main entrance to the said building might specify.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider an Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2020, or such other appropriate series designation, of Sumter County, South Carolina, in the principal amount of not exceeding \$3,500,000 (the "Bonds"). The proceeds of the Bonds will be used for: (i) funding capital projects (ii) paying costs of issuance of the Bonds; and (iii) such other lawful purposes as the County Council shall determine.

The full faith, credit, and taxing power of the County will be pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds and a tax, without limit, will be levied on and collected annually, in the same manner other County taxes are levied and collected, on all taxable property of the County sufficient to pay to principal of and interest on the Bonds as they respectively mature and to create such sinking fund as may be necessary therefor.

At the public hearing all taxpayers and residents of the County and any other interested persons who appear will be given an opportunity to express their views for or against the Ordinance and the issuance of the Bonds.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF SUMTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



CITY OF MANNING BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

PURSUANT TO SECTION 6-1-80 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT MANNING, SOUTH CAROLINA CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR

DATE: MONDAY, June 15, 2019 **TIME: 6.00 P.M.**
LOCATION: MANNING CITY HALL, 2nd FLOOR, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MANNING, SC

	BUDGETED FOR YEAR 7/2019 - 6/2020	PROJECTED FOR YEAR 7/2020 - 6/2021	PERCENTAGE INCREASE 7/2020 - 6/2021	CURRENT FISCAL MILLAGE 7/2019 - 6/2020
REVENUES (General and Utility)	\$8,666,000	\$8,489,900	-2.0%	214.5 MILLS
	BUDGETED FOR YEAR 7/2019 - 6/2020	PROJECTED FOR YEAR 7/2020 - 6/2021	PERCENTAGE INCREASE 7/2020 - 6/2021	ESTIMATED MILLAGE 7/2019 - 6/2020
EXPENDITURES (General and Utility)	\$8,666,000	\$8,489,900	-2.0%	214.5 MILLS

Public access to the meeting is available by calling 872-240-3412 and using the access code 923-121-405.

TOWN OF PINEWOOD
PO BOX 236
PINEWOOD, S.C. 29125

Public Notice

Pursuant to Section 6-1-80 of the S.C. Code of Laws, public notice is hereby given that the council for the Town of Pinewood will hold a public hearing on the municipal budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year on June 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pinewood Community Center 130 Epperson St.

General Account

Current Fiscal Year Revenue 2019-2020	Projected Revenue 2020 - 2021	Percentage Change in Revenue	Current Fiscal Year Millage
\$205,245.00	\$ 205,245.00	.0 %	55.5 Mills
Current Fiscal Year Expenditures	Projected Expenditures 2020 - 2021	Percentage Change in Expenditures	Estimated Millage for 2020-2021
\$205,245.00	\$ 205,245.00	.0 %	55.5 Mills *

Water Account

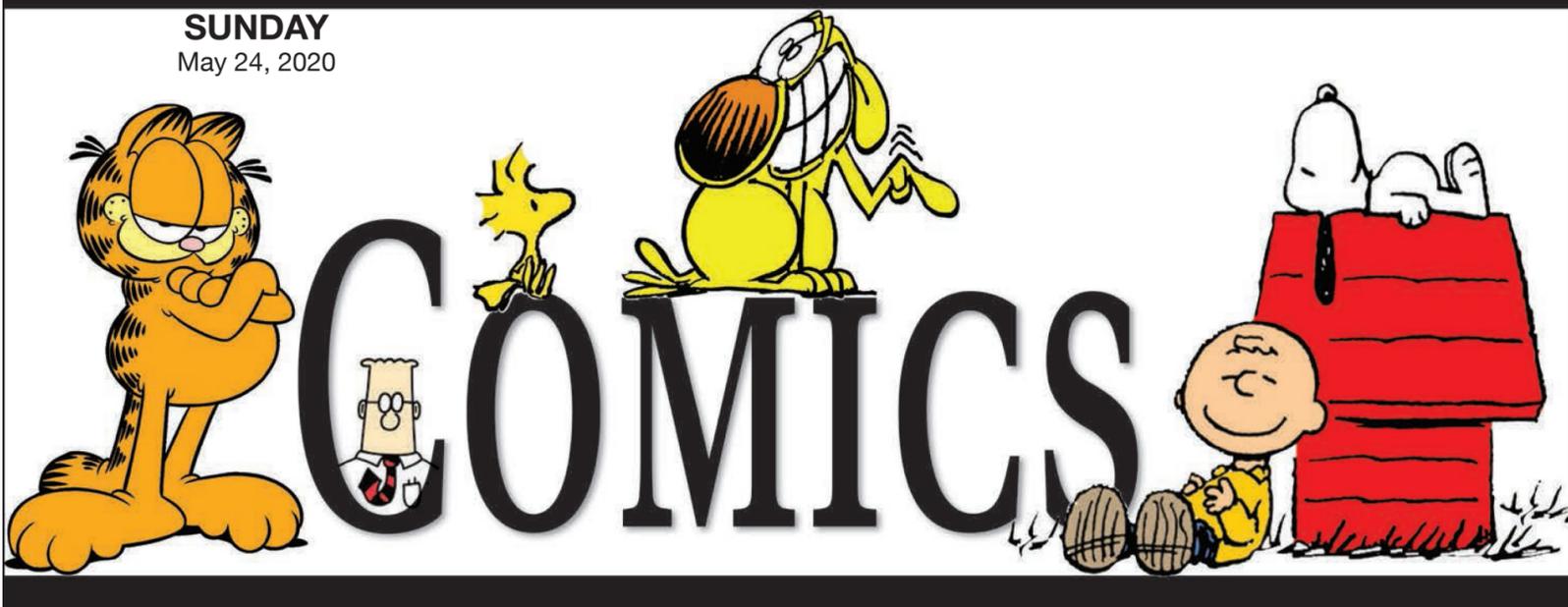
Current Fiscal Year Revenue 2019 - 2020	Projected Revenue 2020-2021	Percentage Change in Revenue
\$140,800.00	\$140,800.00	(.0 %)
Current Fiscal Year Expenditures 2019-2020	Projected Expenditures 2020-2021	Percentage Change in Expenditures
\$ 140,800.00	\$140,800.00	(.0 %)

*Estimated Millage Equals \$55.50 per \$ 1000 of Assessed Property Value

GET THE SUMTER ITEM DELIVERED TO YOUR DOORSTEP.

START YOUR SUBSCRIPTION CALL (803) 774-1258

SUNDAY
May 24, 2020



PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol'
Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ



"Hi, pretty girl," he said.



"I love you," she said, and together they laughed. Then one day she said, "I hate you," and they cried. But not together.



"What happened to the love that we said would never die?" she asked. "It died," he said.



The first time he saw her she was playing tennis. The last time he saw her she was playing tennis.



"Ours was a Love set," he said, "but we double-faulted." "You always talked a better game than you played," she said.



THAT'S VERY GOOD...NOW ALL YOU NEED IS A TITLE...



A Love Story
by Erich Beagle



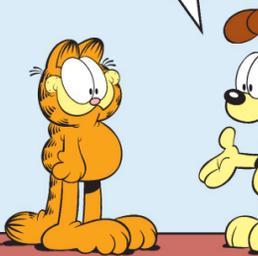
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

HEY, ODIE! TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR DAY!



BARK! BARK! YIP! BARK! BARK!



DO GO ON

BARK! BARK! BARK!



THEN WHAT?

BARK! YIP! YIP! BARK!



THANKS, BUDDY!



NOPE. STILL CAN'T SLEEP



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS

AND BY USING THIS SYSTEM, WE WILL DRASTICALLY REDUCE THEFT.



THAT'S THE DUMBEST THING I HAVE EVER HEARD.



NO ONE CAN STOP THEFT EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD.



I SAID WE WOULD REDUCE IT, NOT ELIMINATE IT. AND ONLY FOR OUR OWN PRODUCTS.



SO, IN OTHER WORDS, IT WON'T WORK.



IT WORKS TO REDUCE THEFT.

BUT YOU ADMIT THERE WILL STILL BE THEFT.

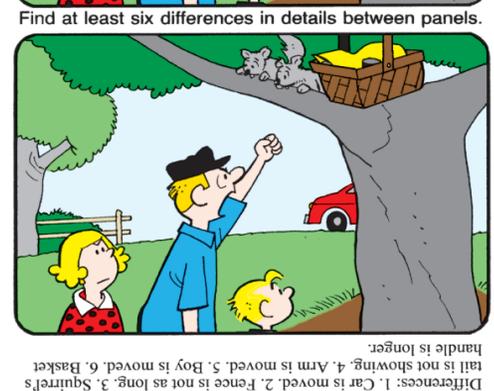
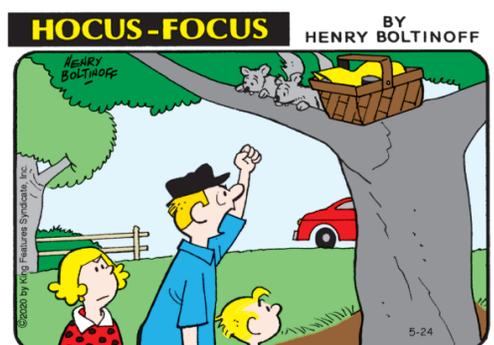
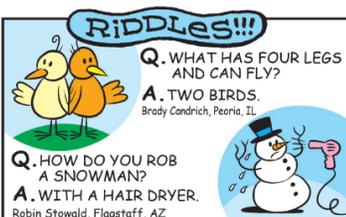
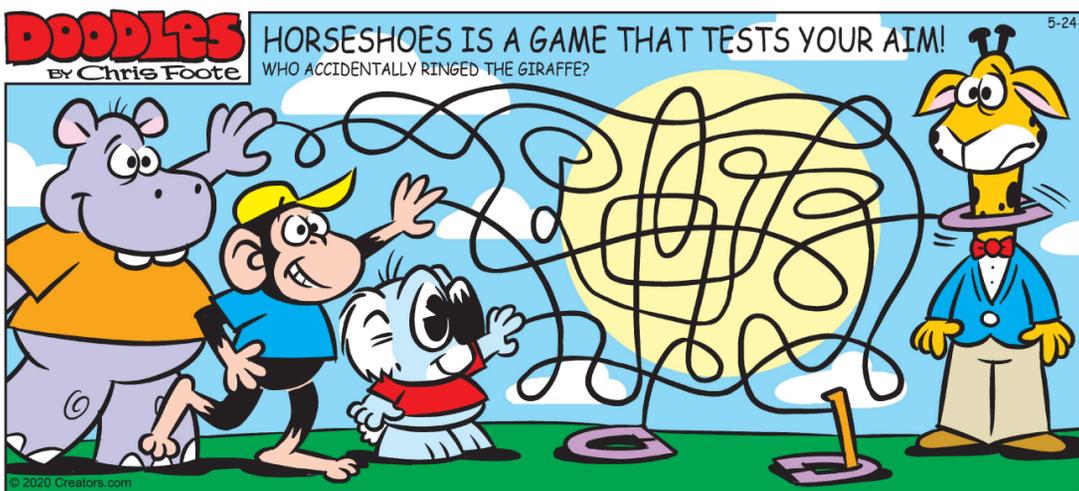


WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU???

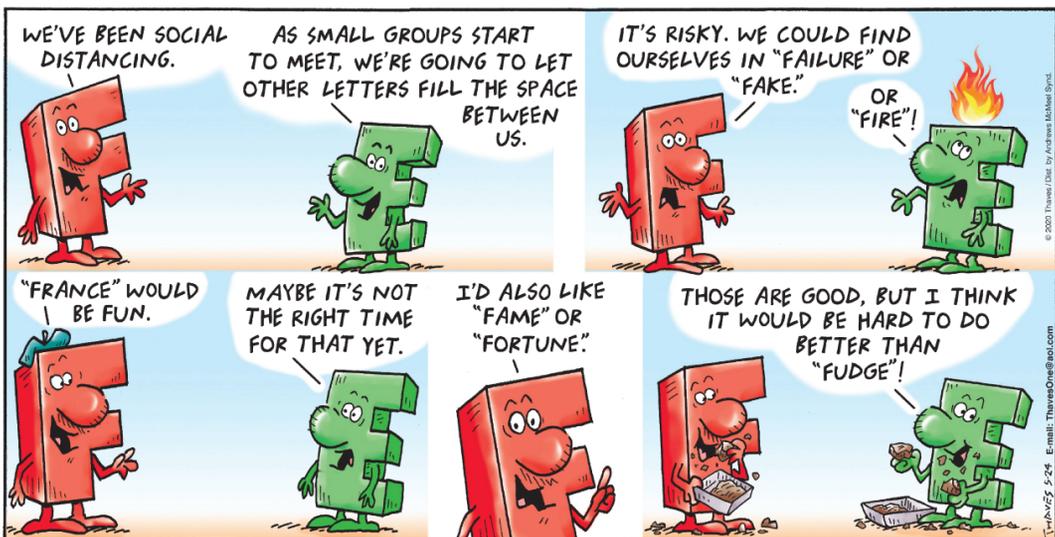


HEY, I'M NOT THE ONE WHO IS IN FAVOR OF THEFT.

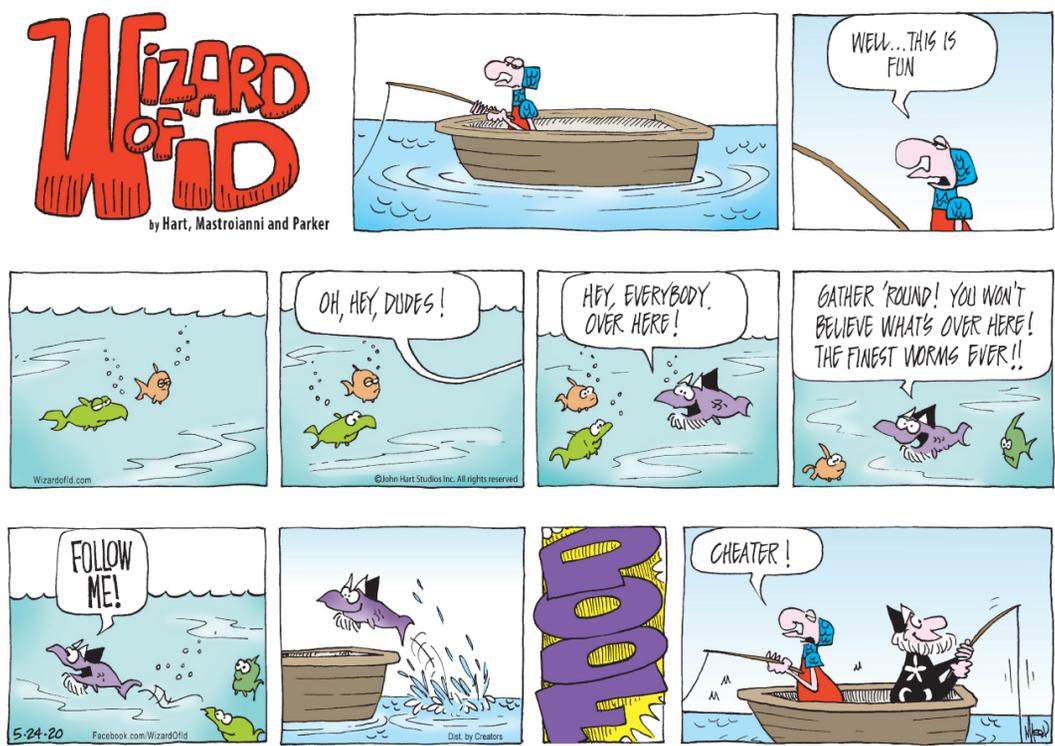
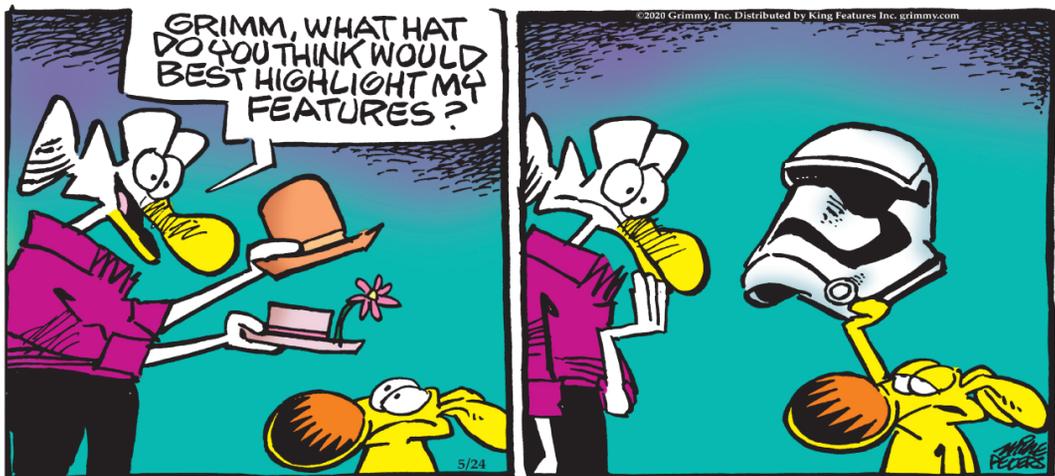




FRANK AND ERNEST



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS



GET FUZZY BY DARBY CONLEY

