

The State



Three New York City firefighters raise an American flag at Ground Zero, site of the World Trade Center, on Sept. 11, 2001.

RICKY FLORES The Journal News/USA TODAY Network via Reuters Connect

On Sept. 11, 2001, a series of terror attacks in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania carved scars across our nation that continue to heal. To mark the anniversary, we pause to reflect on the tragedy of that day and the triumphs that rose from the ashes.

- Inside:** Read the story of a firefighter and the man he couldn't save, learn about the ways 9/11 changed our world, and see unforgettable images of loss and heroism.
- Special section in Edition:** Expanded coverage of the 25th anniversary, with more in-depth stories and striking visuals, can be found by visiting [thestate.com/edition](#).
- Online:** View a photo story of enduring images of Sept. 11 and its aftermath, and search a Legacy database of victims. [thestate.com](#).

Famed clothier Brittons announces a ‘final season’

BY CHRIS TRAINOR
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For eight decades, Brittons has been a fixture on the Columbia retail scene, offering the latest in bespoke fashions to generations of South Carolinians.

Now the shop’s proprietors say this fall is the “final season” at the store located at 2818 Devine St.

A Labor Day Facebook post from Stacy Levinson and Perry Lancaster, the married couple that has long run the shop together, indicated a farewell is on the way.

“For 80 years, our family business has had the extraordinary privilege of being part of this community, dressing generations of men and women through the moments that make a life: first jobs and first suits, graduations, weddings, celebrations, Sunday best, and final good-byes,” the Facebook post said.

“And now, the time has come for our family to close this chapter and move on to the next adventure. This fall will be our

final season, and while saying goodbye is bittersweet, we want this season to be a celebration of the people who made these 80 years possible: YOU. You did not simply shop with us. You trusted us with the moments that mattered. You became part of our story.”

The Labor Day post indicated things will be “business as usual” through Dec. 24.

“We look forward to celebrating with you, sharing, memories, telling stories, and saying thank you for eight remarkable decades,” the social media post said. “One last season. 80 years of memories. A lifetime of gratitude.”

Brittons’ Facebook post about the “final season” drew a huge response, with more than 26,000 views, more than 500 reactions and nearly 150 comments as of Tuesday morning.

Long a family-owned business, Brittons was initially opened by Arnold Levinson in 1947 at 1337 Main St. The company later had other store locations, including at the Dutch Square mall. The Devine Street Brittons location opened in 1996.



FILE PHOTO BY JOSHUA BOUCHER [jboucher@thestate.com](#)

Brittons was founded in the 1940s and is currently located at 2818 Devine St.

Stacy Levinson joined the family business in 1990 and took sole ownership of the business in 2017 when her brother Lucky retired. Lancaster, meanwhile, went to work for Brittons in 1975, and marked 50 years with the business in 2025. Stacy and Perry got married in April 1996.

“Brittons has been dressing the people of Columbia, South Carolina since 1947,” the Brittons website notes. “We are a third generation family-owned company that prides itself in creating an experience for each customer that makes them feel confident in their lifestyle and in the clothes that they wear.”

Sumter County to be site for Alex Murdaugh’s new trial

BY JOHN MONK
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South Carolina Judge Debra McCaslin has picked Sumter County as the site for Alex Murdaugh’s new double-murder retrial.

“After careful review of potential venues and courthouse facilities throughout the state, the court finds that Sumter County is an appropriate venue for the retrial of (Murdaugh),” McCaslin wrote in an eight-page order handed down late Tuesday afternoon.

“Sumter County provides an appropriate forum in which (Murdaugh) can receive a fair trial, while also offering the security measures, courtroom facilities, and technological capabilities necessary for the safe, orderly and efficient conduct of these proceedings,” McCaslin wrote.

Jury selection in Murdaugh’s retrial is scheduled to begin April 5.

McCaslin made her ruling after granting a motion by Murdaugh’s lead attorneys, Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin, to move the trial out of the five-county 14th Judicial Circuit because of the potential bias of jurors in that five-county region.

Murdaugh, 58, comes from an influential political and law enforcement

SEE MURDAUGH, 2A

Chapin council hires new attorney amid standoff with mayor

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
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One attorney is gone and another has been hired to represent the town of Chapin, even as the town’s mayor claims he will refuse to pay him despite a vote of the town council.

Chapin Town Council voted 4-1 to hire Ryan Hicks of Columbia as the town’s new attorney in a specially-called meeting on Tuesday, with Mayor Bill Mitchell voting against. The vote came after Mitchell confirmed that attorney Bubba Samuels of Buford, Georgia — previously retained by the mayor to represent the town on utility matters — had resigned.

Tuesday’s vote came weeks after the four other council members voted to give themselves the ability to hire an attorney and have the attorney communicate with the council using other council members as a liaison, bypassing Mitchell. The council objected because Mitchell had previously engaged with attorneys on his own without the council’s knowledge or approval.

SEE ATTORNEY, 5A



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