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March 27-April 9, 2025

Anderson medical trailblazer's estate items being auctioned online

The household estate items of the late Dr. Anne Austin Young are presently being auctioned online at Barnes Auction Company. The auction will end on Saturday, April 5th. Dr. Anne Young's historical home on East Greenville Street will also be listed for sale in the near future.

Dr. Anne Young was one of the first female obstetrician-gynecologists in South Carolina. She is renowned for her lifelong contributions to women's healthcare. Graduating high school at age 14, she enrolled at Presbyterian College the same year. Not only was she one of the college's first female graduates, but she graduated at the top of her class. From there she attended the University of Maryland in the nursing program. Determined to advance as a medical professional, she attended the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. She received a scholarship and also worked as a typist to help fund her training. She graduated in 1915 with the highest academic average in her class. After an internship at the

Women's Hospital in Philadelphia, she moved to South Carolina. After passing the State Medical Exam with the highest score in the history of the state, she practiced at the South Carolina Hospital for the Insane and supervised the treatment of over 600 women.

Dr. Anne married Dr. Charles Henry Young and they established a medical practice together in Anderson. During her career, she delivered over ten thousand babies. In addition to her practice, she led the efforts to establish funding for Whitten Village in Clinton, SC. Dr. Young also funded the construction of a medical clinic, schools and churches in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In recognition of her trailblazing contributions, Dr Young was inducted into the S.C. Hall of Fame in 1981. She was the second woman to receive this honor. She continued practicing medicine until the age of 95. Her impact on the medical community of Anderson is incomparable.



Dr. Anne Austin Young



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Meet Mariana: the children's book author bridging cultures through storytelling

Once upon a time, Mariana Ríos Ramírez grew up in the bustling city of Toluca, Mexico alongside her younger brother and sister, and her beloved pets: a French Poodle Peluzo and a pet turtle Tita. Surrounded by a



Ainsley McCarthy

vibrant manufacturing community and iconic architecture, she cherished her home and her family. But, she also loved

to travel, so while she was pursuing her degree in International Business from Tecnológico de Monterrey, she found herself chasing otherworldly places for new and exciting educational opportunities. Her favorites are her summer spent in France and her internship working at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C. She later earned a double degree MBA from Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Thunderbird School of Global Management. Despite these diverse experiences though, she'd never imagined she'd become a writer, or that she'd settle in Anderson, South Carolina.

Ríos Ramírez moved to S.C. in 2016 because of her husband's job at Robert Bosch LLC. They had previously spent six months in Germany together, but this relocation felt different—more permanent—and this time, she was a mom. She worried how her children, especially her then-5-year-old son, would adjust to a new life far away from their family and friends in Mexico.

"I think missing family and not having family around like we had in Mexico has been really tough," she shared. "That's been one of the hardest cultural shocks I think. In Mexico, we were living in the same city with my parents and my husband's parents. We were really close. We would see each other every week. Suddenly,



Mariana Ríos Ramírez

coming here, just the four of us and our dog-it was hard."

As they adapted to the new food, accents, schools and jobs, they began to find something of a second family, too. Her husband's coworkers welcomed them warmly and offered advice, like where to find the best pediatrician or hair salon. At church, they met a few older friends who became honorary grandparents to their children.

Ríos Ramírez grew to appreciate plenty about the Palmetto State, like its sunny weather and vivid flowers, but she struggled to chart a new career path. She'd been a high school teacher for seven years after college, and then ran an online event decor shop from her home after having kids. Though she tried to keep it up and running after the move with the help of her sister, it eventually became too tedious to manage. She began looking for her next adventure, and found it in storybook writing workshops.

She had been using picture books to help her children learn English, which inspired her to write a story for immigrant children like her son. She wanted to help them navigate the challenges of adjusting to a new culture while remaining tethered to their own rich heritage.

Her journey to publication was not an easy one. It was long and littered with rejection, and still is at times. She first pitched the draft of her debut picture book, "Santiago's Dinosaurios" to Albert Whitman & Co. at a networking event in 2020, and waited months to hear back. Her editor wanted her to revise the story before purchasing the manuscript, but rather than give up, she saw it as an opportunity to grow. The edited version was published in October 2022 without an agent.

True to her mission, the story follows Santiago, a dinosaur-loving first grader, as he learns how to connect with his classmates in ways that transcend the English language, which he is still grasping.

Her second release, "Abuelita's Gift: A Día de Muertos Story" landed her an agent who resonated with its heartfelt message. The book, deeply rooted in Ríos Ramírez's childhood and motherhood, celebrates the tradition of Día de los Muertos, a Mexican holiday whose practices allow participants to honor loved ones who've passed.

By sharing the tradition with children, she hopes to portray the invaluable connection with family that endures even when loved ones are apart.

"The name of the character is the name of my Abuelita, or some of the other characters are named after family and [modeled after our] experiences. My Abuelita loved Dulce de Leches, and so does the abuelita in the story. So there are certain things from my life that are a part of my books, and I think that happens for every writer to a certain degree. So I think that everything is intertwined. Being able to use Spanish, to use part of my culture and traditions, has been a privilege-it's something that I really enjoy doing."

That book is available in both English and Spanish, and has allowed her to connect with children across the U.S. and Mexico through virtual and in-person readings. Some of her most cherished moments come from the unexpected reactions of young readers.

"In an 'Abuelita's Gift' presentation, I was wearing the dress that appears on the cover. It's a dress from Veracruz, so I would wear that for my library or school events, and I remember there was this little girl-maybe four years old-who was like, 'Look Mommy, a princess!' That was super sweet," she recalled. "It's always unexpected with children, what their reactions are going to be, or their comments and questions, but it's a treat. And for me, that interaction with children is one of my favorite parts of being a writer."

Ríos Ramírez is currently in the process of creating her third book, which will continue exploring themes of diversity and perseverance. She invites readers to visit her website for more information about her books, awards, events and social media. Signed copies of her work are also available at McDowell's Emporium.

"You need to believe that your 'Yes.' is coming sometime," she said. "Keep pushing, and of course, while you wait, keep writing. Every story deserves to be told, even if it doesn't become a book."

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BRACONE TURNS FOCUS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Who is Maleia Bracone?

She is T.L. Hanna's all-time leading scorer in basketball -- including boys and girls.

She also had a very solid college career, first



Brian Hodges

at Presbyterian College and then the last three years at North Carolina A&T.

Who is she? She is a smooth, 5-foot-10 shooter on offense and a feisty player on defense. And she has professional goals.

"Maleia is just a straight dog (on defense)," North Carolina A&T coach Tarrell Robinson told the media a year ago.

Her Mom, Sonya, would probably agree with his assessment.

"She is extremely competitive," Sonya Bracone said last week. "When Maleia was young, she would dwell on a loss or a disappointment and I would have to say, 'Maleia, forget that and focus on the next game."

Maleia just completed her graduate senior season at North Carolina A&T and she averaged more than 10 points and 3.7 rebounds per game. She was a team leader. But her Aggies stumbled at the end, losing to Virginia Tech 61-45 in the first round of the WBIT last Thursday night to end the season at 19-12.

Still, Maleia scored more than 1,500 points in her college career and 1,000 points at N.C.

This season she helped lead N.C. A&T to their first regular season Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) title in their third year in the league.

Her mother was obviously proud.

"Maleia is not a selfish player," Sonya said. "If she is scoring, she always looks for teammates to pass to. If she is not scoring, she'll



ramp up her defense."

Bracone is the only player in coach Robinson's career to score 30 points in one game, dish out 10 assists in another and have double-digit rebounds in another game.

The Aggies were 15-3 in the Coastal Athletic Association in the regular season, but seemed to hit a wall at the end, including an overtime loss to William & Mary in the CAA tournament.

But this year was a success overall. Sonya and her husband, Michael, were fervent supporters, attending most of her college games, home and away.

"She always looked for us in the stands," Sonya said.

But let's back up. She finished her career at Hanna in 2020 with a total of 1,949 points. No player at Hanna has done it better. She was a three-time All-State player.

"She played for Glenn Elrod beginning in the 8th grade and they seemed to be a good fit," Tonya said. "Once we realized she had real

talent, we got her a trainer beginning in the 8th grade.

"She was 12 years old and we knew she had a growth spurt ahead," Sonya said. After Maleia's high school career ended, she played at Presbyterian College for two years before transferring to North Carolina

"She really needed to play on a bigger stage," Sonya said.

After transferring to the Aggies, she averaged 13.1 points and 4 rebounds her junior season, and 11.2 points and 4.5 rebounds her senior season.

Bracone has been described as a gritty, competent leader. A story on thenexthoops. com said she was humble off the court, but on the court she commands a lot of attention.

"I try my best to get everybody together, especially in crucial moments." Maleia was quoted in the website story. "Just knowing that we have to play together, and that's what we're going to do."

But North Carolina A&T's season is over, so Maleia will turn her attention to her future. She looks to take her basketball talent to the next level, mother Sonya said.

"She's going to find a trainer to get her ready for WNBA tryouts or playing ball in Europe."





Anderson's community-based approach to helping the unhoused

Dozens of people squeezed into the gallery at Anderson Arts Center last week to voice their concern for a pervasive yet preventable issue impacting a growing number of residents in Anderson County houselessness. Many of them shared their interactions with unhoused people, which have subsequently informed how they feel it should be addressed.

The meeting was led by Reid Lehman, the former CEO of Miracle Hill Ministries, to evaluate potential opportunities for improvement to a proposal made by The Task Force Seeking Solutions to Homelessness, which Anderson City Council established last year.

The audience heard from teachers, business owners, and church leaders to name a few, but perhaps the most powerful testimony came from one woman who was unhoused herself not long ago.

"This month will be a year that we are here living in Anderson, me and my fiance. We witnessed being homeless last year around this time. If it wasn't for Hope (Missions of the Upstate), Salvation (Army), The LOT Project, Makers—we wouldn't be who we are today," she said. "I thank y'all so much for being a part of our lives, because this year, we've been blessed with a house."

Her words were met with applause, as they spoke to the effectiveness of some of the county's previously-established programs meant to provide clothing, food and shelter to those in need. Those nonprofits are the basis of the city's progress framework.

At the forum, the Task Force distributed a White Paper detailing the quantitative data and recommendations from local experts. Rather than primarily focusing on funding new initiatives, they advocate for the consolidation and coordination of existing services from historically successful programs.

The point in time count conducted by Zoë Hale and Dave Phillips from Hope Missions on January 24 of last year found 296 unhoused people in Anderson County. Of those, 78% were unsheltered, the highest concentration out of all surrounding counties.

Anderson also has the least

shelter beds per capita out of any surrounding counties.

A survey of the bed spaces available in Anderson County revealed



Ainsley McCarthy

that 205 beds were available across six shelters, not accounting for restrictions based on cold weather, sobriety status or sex.

This leaves a gap of at least

91 people sleeping on the streets if all the beds are in use at any given time. This number is flexible, but given the county's unhoused population has steadily increased since 2022, expanding shelter options is a top priority for the Task Force.

According to United Way of Anderson County, supportive, long-term, affordable housing is considered the most effective means of preventing or recovering from houselessness.

On the same night as the meeting, Anderson City Council approved the donation of 24 unused plots to Habitat for Humanity, Anderson Housing and Homeless Alliance and Hope Missions.

Another speaker was a retired social worker from Ohio who was disheartened by what she saw on the streets when she moved south. She used her 90 seconds at the podium to tell the story of how she challenged herself to befriend an unhoused man outside of Phil's Jewelers when he asked for money.

After enjoying conversation with

him, she invited him out to eat, but when they arrived at the restaurant together, she noticed that he seemed so ashamed of being there that he wouldn't go to the counter to order. That experience confirmed for her the importance of education and empathy for and about the unhoused in considering possible solutions to their plight.

Fellow speakers discussed the need for accessible public restrooms, financial literacy courses, the consistent availability of public transportation, and productive consequences for violent or inebriated offenders.

A number of local entrepreneurs shed tears as they recounted feeling unsafe and frustrated with the substance use, vandalism and loitering that occurs at their storefronts at the hands of disruptive unhoused people. To combat this, the Task Force is suggesting that any future shelters will be kept away from the downtown business district, with sobriety as a condition for their use.

With this in mind, the Task Force is recommending an additional 140 shelter beds and more affordable housing with a case management component.

"We can't solve homelessness, but what we can work toward is the idea of a net-zero. If we can provide a way for people to come out of homelessness at the same rate that other people are falling into homelessness, then the problem will stabilize and our economic health, our safety, our city, the people suffering will become much better," Lehman

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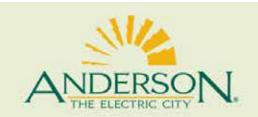
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FROM THE SHELF

On 'Dopesick' and addiction, part 3

Part of my going so in-depth with Dopesick and addiction has been an effort to give people a different face and understanding behind the illness. We often view addiction as a moral failing, or reflection of the failings of the person who is battling it, but it is techni-



Sara Loady

cally defined medically as a disease. Addiction, or 'substance use disorder,' is viewed as a chronic disease that affects the brain. Whether it has originated from a mental health issue and is being used as a means to cope with that challenge, or

it has come as a result of the body becoming chemically dependent, the resulting challenge of sobriety is one that deserves way more empathy than it is currently given.

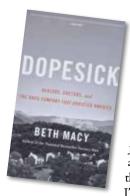
I've always been open with my brief and small brush with narcotic addiction. Prior to

reading Dopesick, I hadn't really understood fully what I had gone through with withdrawals as I was weaning off of the dilaudid. In June it'll be fifteen years since I fully came off the dilaudid. At the time I knew it was withdrawal symptoms and had been warned about aspects of what to expect, but looking back it's terrifying to think about how close I came to being another statistic to be added to what Macy covers in Dopesick.

January 2010 was when I started taking dilaudid, which is roughly 14 years after the introduction of OxyContin to the market. I knew enough to be cautious at the time but only because I had someone in my life personally battling painkiller addiction. With the intentional misinformation provided by Purdue to their sales reps, it's easy to see how quickly OxyContin and similar painkillers can become abused. One thing I appreciated about the Hulu adaptation of the book into a drama series was the focus on a rural small

town doctor who also becomes an addict. Michael Keaton plays the doctor, and the writers highlight the relationship between him and his Purdue sales rep, alongside his relationship with the patients he prescribes Oxy to. As Keaton watches his patients spiral, his addiction gets worse because he's also dealing with the guilt of having given them the drug he thought was safe in the first place. I wasn't thrilled when I heard the adaptation was more drama than a documentary, but the whole crew did a great job taking the facts and packaging them to have that much bigger impact on the viewer. The on-screen portrayals and attention that was paid to what it's actually like to go through withdrawals was incredibly powerful.

While Dopesick focuses specifically on OxyContin and opioids, I think it's important to remember all the other faces that addiction wears and the different experiences people go through as they wage war with it. It's easy to judge someone who is in their darkest place with



addiction, but when we do this we forget the person behind it.
Often our judgement is rooted in an attitude that if the person would just "try harder" they'd be able to recover and get their life back together. I'm hoping that by shar-

ing my personal journey, as small as it may be, and putting a face to the addicts that Macy talks about in the book, it can be a catalyst for taking time to pause and reflect on the judgments we so easily make when it comes to addiction.

If you wanted to do some further reading (and you should), Beth Macy follows up Dopesick with Raising Lazarus: hope, justice, and the future of America's overdose crisis. Released four years later, Macy follows different people on the frontlines, trying to help the communities devastated by opioid addiction, many of whom are our neighbors just a few hours drive away.

To the addicts and their loved ones reading this: You are not alone. You or your family member's addiction is not a reflection of your worth as a human being.



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AWAKENINGS

We're well into early spring, and most people are breathing a sigh of relief. The season officially started on March 20 – the the vernal equinox, the point in the earth's movement where neither the north or the south pole is



Ann K. Bailes

facing toward the sun. On that date, days and nights are each twelve hours, everywhere on the globe. We're now headed toward the summer solstice, which will be June 20. Our northern hemisphere will then be tilted 23½

degrees toward the sun, days will be at their longest, and summer will officially start. But for now, signs of spring abound.

Recently I heard a rufous-sided towhee outside the window, pulling a piece of straw with all his might – it was almost too big for him, but he was making slow progress. That piece of straw was almost certainly bound for a nest.

This is a time of tension for fruit and other crop growers, because their plants are flowering, but we're not out of the woods yet with low temps. Mid-April is usually the cutoff point for frost. The peach growers are especially susceptible, and more than once in past years we've lost our blueberry crop at the farm. We will almost audibly hear the collective sigh of upstate growers when the possibility of freezing temps is past.

Hopefully sometime soon I'll see a male bird feed a female at our feeders, be it a cardinal or a house finch or one of several species. It's one of those sights that can be observed maybe once a year, and it's an early-spring indication that it is mating season. Anyone who is romantic at heart would have to smile and say "Aww" at the sight of a male bird giving a female the special gift of...a sunflower seed.

We'll need to keep our garage doors closed for awhile now. We have Carolina wrens in the neighborhood; if the doors are open, the wrens will find their way inside, and we'll find a loose twiggy nest built in a cloth grocery bag, pocket of a jacket, or anything else it can find. One year we discovered that they had started a nest on top of our garage door opener.

Pollen has already started, as we know, because Mike is sneezing like crazy. It seems



Photo by Jenn Clementoni

to me that the pollen has been much worse in recent years. We can't even use our porch much in the spring, the best season to use it, because the pollen is so bad.

Winter is losing its grasp. I'm a cold

weather fan, so tend to think negatively of the upcoming hot and sticky temperatures. But – all of us have to get through all the seasons every year, both the ones we love and the ones we don't care for. So bring on spring!

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Casey and Fant Architects

BY RICH OTTER

Charles William Fant, Jr. and his brother Reese were architects, BC—before computers. They recognized the enormous benefit of the new machines, but the initial expense was great and they felt they were too old to attack the learning process. It was time to retire.

It had all started when Fant's Aunt Julia was visiting Buffalo, New York, and met Joe Casey, a practicing architect. As things evolved, Joe Casey became Uncle Joe and sometime around 1989 or 1900 the Caseys visited Anderson and he decided to relocate his practice to the community.

Charles Fant, Sr. studied engineering at Clemson. They did not have an architectural school then. Casey, who was about ten years older then Fant, helped Fant obtain a position in New York City. After Fant's father died, Charles returned to South Carolina to help his mother and went to work for Joe Casey. The firm became Casey and Fant.

Casey passed away at an early age and in 1949 Charles Fant, Jr. and his brother Reese joined the firm. They had actually spent a good deal of time working with the firm when they were youngsters. Charles Fant, Jr. reminisced: "I was an office boy at the firm in the summertime." In those days they drew plans on tracing paper.

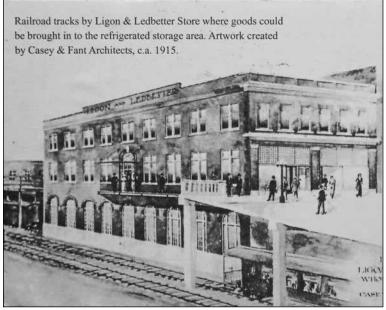
"From that tracing paper we would make blueprint copies they would use to construct the buildings." He explained the blueprinting machines were very primitive. They looked like a big window that hinged open. The blueprint paper was put on a bed inside the window with the tracing paper on top. It was always facing the sun. The sun would help expose it. Then they developed it.

The blueprinting process was fairly sophisticated. The machine was a half round glass cylinder about three feet in diameter and six feet in height. The light to expose the paper was produced by four electrically charged carbon arcs suspended by a steel cable inside of the glass cylinder. The arcs were lowered from top to bottom and the speed of descent controlled the amount of exposure the blueprint paper received. The exposed paper was dipped in a large developing solution, washed in water, and hung up to dry. The process took about ten to fifteen minutes to make each print.

"We made all of our specifications on ditto-type machines that were kind of a messy way of reproducing. We typed on a special type of paper that had a chemical on it and the printing embossed on it. We put the paper on the machine and rolled it over ink and it would reproduce multiple copies. It was a very unwieldy type thing. Corrections were hard to make."

Charles Jr. returned to Clemson right after discharge following World War II and he and Reese thereafter immediately returned to the firm. The firm had done a great many churches and schools and continued to do so after they returned, including schools in District three and five. They did not just do buildings. They also did stadiums.

Joe Casey had done the original architecture for the buildings at Anderson College. The firm did all of the buildings when Dr. Rouse joined Anderson College, including a men's dormitory and the Watkins Teaching Center. They



Charles Fant, Casey and Fant Architects

expanded the Wyte building and did the Abney Athletic Center, more dormitories in the back, and the Callie Stinger Rainey Fine Arts Center.

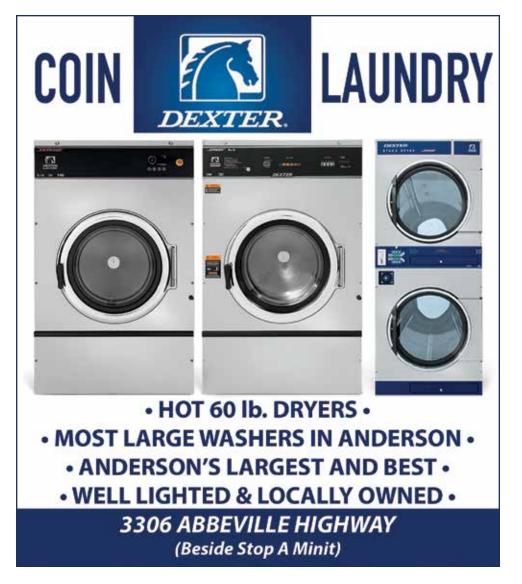
The firm had designed personal residences but moved away from them to specialize on other types of construction. Fant said he had calculated that, over a 100-year period of being in existence, the firm had completed close to 2000 different projects.

He described their work as passing through three distinct phases—the primary phase, the construction/ drawing phase and the actual construction phase. They wanted to determine what the project would look like, how it would be assembled with all of the compo-

nents, and then supervise the composition.

Computers revolutionized the business. In looking back over the antiquated earlier procedures, the Fant brothers might have found learning how to use a computer would have been a simple transition by comparison to their earlier manual processes. But time had marched on.





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TAKE A PILL

It doesn't matter what type of condition you may be suffering from, there's a pill for it. One of the earliest mentions of pills



Neal Parnell

was found written on Egyptian papyrus, on a ship that had wrecked. It described honey and pomegranate juice rolled

into balls of bread. The pill was to soothe the eyes, but apparently, the vessel navigator didn't know the pills were to be applied to the eyes and not swallowed.

In the early 19th century pills and medicines were dispensed without regulations and anyone with a bottle and a label could claim cures for all types of maladies.

Do you feel tired, listless, irregular? Are you weak, slow, and have no pep? Try a bottle of Mrs. Maude's Tireless Tonic and you'll feel happy, healthy, and on top of the world. Little did they know that Mrs. Maude's Tonic was nothing more than mineral oil, red pepper, and turpentine. Store owners became pharmacists and didn't need labels for their bottles so they were free to mix concoctions they claimed would cure whatever the illness may be. One such pharmacist in Waco, Texas named Charles Alderton concocted a solution that he claimed would relieve indigestion and an upset stomach. He tested it on a few customers and word spread of a new tonic that they called a "WACO". Sales exploded and Charles mixed, poured, and eventually labeled his tonic with the name, DR. PEPPER. To this day, Dr. Pepper is not classified by the FDA as a soda, soft drink, root beer, or cola,



but is listed as a pepper drink along with

There are now strict regulations on foods and drugs, but that doesn't stop the modern snake-oil salesman from trying to dupe a 'Heal me Instantly' public. Just go to Amazon.com and type Healing in the search bar. You'll see pain pills, pep pills, poop pills, and pee pills. And there's even a male birth-control pill that, when taken the morning after, will supposedly change your blood type.

My wife has a large shelf stocked with all types of oils, creams, emollients, lotions, potions, balms, liniments, moisturizers, salves, rubs, ointments, gels, and jellies for everything from foot pain to dry scalp. Just below that shelf is one she has filled with containers of vitamins that I am supposed to take daily. What I really need is a vitamin that will give me the strength to be able to open them. Not one of those vitamins is approved by the FDA and is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. I take them for her, but it's my belief that all I get from them is some very expensive urine. I tried to explain to her that "Laughter is the Best Medicine" but she

Coca-Cola's knock-off...Mr. Pibb.

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countered with, "Not for Diarrhea".

Last week my better half sent me to CVS to pick up a prescription and a few other things that I wrote on a post-it note. I grabbed a little basket for my items and proceeded to the pharmacy counter. The pharmacist came out from behind some racks of pills and I couldn't believe how tall and muscular he was. I mean

this guy was bulging with muscles and was so tall he could hunt geese with a rake. He handed me the prescription and I shopped for the other items. I couldn't find what I was looking for so I went back and asked the seven-foot steroidal pharmacist, "Do you have cotton balls?" He said 'Yes" and I couldn't help my sarcastic self by asking, "Do they tickle when you walk?"



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The first step to catching feral cats — placing the trap

BY SHIRLEY MCALISTER

Circumstances caused me to miss the last edition of The Electric City News, so let's dive right back into the subject of trap/neuter/release.

Update: In a recent column, I asked readers to let me know if they had any trapping tips to share. My friend Sommer Hammett responded with a wealth of helpful information. She also recommended a website, http://www.feralcats.com, as an excellent resource.

First of all, if you decide to trap cats, please take the time and effort to make sure you're doing it right. It's not something to do haphazardly or on the spur of the moment. Best case scenario: Work with a trapper to see first-hand how the process works. Remember, the purpose of cat trapping is to help the animals. (It's illegal to trap cats to dump or kill.)

Also, and I should have led with this, make sure you have a plan for surgery before you begin to trap. If you can work with your own vet to get the animals "fixed," that's great, but if you don't have the resources to go that route, please contact the Anderson County Humane Society, the Anderson County animal shelter (P.A.W.S), or Anderson Voices for Animals for information and assistance.

In my last column, I outlined how to actually catch feral cats. But before the trap is set up and baited, it has to be placed. For me, this is the most aggravating part of trapping.

I try to place my traps as close to the cat's usual feeding area as possible, but that's hard to do sometimes because there are many other factors to consider. First of all,

the trap must be on a firm, level surface. If it "wobbles" at all, the motion can scare away a cat who's thinking about entering. Worse, an unsteady trap can be sprung prematurely, causing the door to close before the cat is completely inside. Obviously, this could cause injury.

Next point: Try to make the trap blend into its surroundings. I'll place it under the low-hanging branches of a tree or bush or, if the colony hangs out around a house where someone is feeding regularly, next to a porch or steps. But no matter where you put it, make sure there are no obstructions. For example, a sprig of a bush or tree intruding into the trap can keep the door from closing all the way, and the cat can escape.

It's important to scope out the trapping area in advance to find the best location for the trap. Watch out for hazards or distractions such as cars or barking dogs or anything else that could potentially harm the cat or scare it away. And finally, be patient. Some cats will walk right into a trap if they're hungry enough, but others will take their sweet time. After all, cats are cautious by nature, and there always seems to be one "hard case" in every colony who takes longer to catch. Eventually, though, almost all cats can be caught.

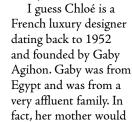
There's still much to be said about how to trap, but in my next column we'll also talk about the positive side of trap/neuter/release. Spaying and neutering feral/community/stray cats benefit not only the animals themselves, but the community as well. Stay tuned!

"If man could be crossed with the cat it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat." -- Mark Twain

CAPTIVATED BY CHLOÉ

I'm completely obsessed over a fashion designer. Chloé has me totally captivated and I haven't been this enthralled over fashion in a while. I'm actually really excited about it again! There for a while, I wasn't into most of the attire I was seeing. It was sort of an athletic, baggy look which is totally fine if

that's your thing, but I'm into Bohemian so it's my time to shine.





Kristine March

bring a seamstress from Paris to Egypt and witnessed the latest fashion creations sewn together in front of her as a child. It motivated her and she moved to Paris with her husband. She gathered inspiration from artists like Picasso. She didn't just want to be a boring housewife so she decided to start her own fashion house and named it Chloé.

In 1953 she joined forces with Jacques Lenoir. He quickly became her business manager, but allowed her to be the creative side of the line. Together they made fashion history. She had the money and the resources to make her first collection which was a huge hit. Since then, everyone has taken the helm from Karl Lagerfeld and Stella McCartney and have come up with brilliant designs for Chloé. I think what I like most about it is the soft, delicate silhouettes. The lace, chiffon and the ruffles with a big clunky clog. Think traditional hippie chic, but for the modern woman. It's really feminine, yet powerful. If you enjoy watching runway shows it's definitely my favorite.

Net A Porter and Bergdorf Goodman



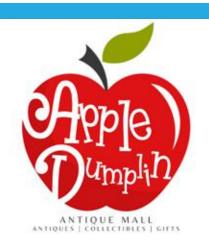
sell the ready to wear pieces. Now, do keep in mind that it is a luxury line so it's extremely expensive. If you're in New York and you want to go to Bergdorf Goodman, just look at and feel the fabric and the pieces - even try them on. I highly recommend.

I truly appreciate fashion and the hard work and effort that is put into a piece of clothing. To me it's not just to wear it for the label or for the status symbol. It's about the craft. If you're not familiar with Chloé you should be. I think everybody will gather some sort of ingenuity from it. Who is your favorite fashion designer and what inspires you? Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.









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THE GARDEN SHOP

SUNDRY SPRING STUFF



Botanical beauties are busting out these days. Birds are singing. Pollen is turning things yellow. My head was already warning me of pollen before the world started turning yellow. Greenville Master Gardeners took a field trip to the SC Governor's Mansion in Columbia last week, and after each time I took a picture, my phone was yellow, even prompting me one time to clean my screen.

Azaleas are already blooming on the grounds of the Mansion. There is only one variety, Abbey's Re-view, blooming in my garden now. Abbey's Re-view has become a recent favorite. It blooms early spring, and again in fall, but is not an Encore variety. Foliage is darker green than most azaleas and lavender flowers contrast beautifully against the dark foliage. I don't remember where the first one came from, but a vendor at Hall County Master Gardener Expo had them last year so I got another one. Both are next to a native sweet bay magnolia (Magnolia virginiana). On a breezy day, silver undersides of sweet bay's leaves look really pretty with Abbey's Re-view's dark foliage. Assorted

bulbs are in front of the azaleas. It's turning out to be one of my favorite spots in the yard. Spraying the azaleas with Bobbex deer repellent is keeping deer away from them. Deer have really done a number on many Formosa azaleas this year. Some get sprayed, depending on where they are, others I don't bother spraying. Where are the animals going to live as trees disappear for these crammed neighborhoods. When listening to owls in the woods, I sometimes feel sorrow for such habitant loss.

It won't be long until I'll have to cut grass, well really, wild onions, but deer are in the yard almost every day eating grass, clover, and other stuff, that I don't mind seeing them eating. I'll wait as long as possible to cut grass. Henbit, deadnettle, chickweed, and clover inside Yogi's fence are almost shin high. I'm waiting as long as absolutely possible to cut his "grass". First, to let things go to seed so there will be something there next winter to absorb dust and mud. And these weeds are covered with bees and other pollinators enjoying the flowers.

The front garden has many varieties of daffodils blooming. I don't know the names of any of them, am not even sure if they are Narcissus, the botanical name of daffodils, or what they are. All are rescues from Grandmother Cooley's neighbor's yard, my great great aunt's yard, and another place I used to go rescue. Curiosity creeps in sometimes and I think about going back to this

rescue place, but kudzu has moved into part of it, and I really have no business going there now. I probably needed a better weapon than my shovel when I used to go there many years ago. Obviously, a gardener loved it at one time.

As I look out the window for more inspiration for this article, the first tiger swallowtail butterfly just landed on flowering almond. This seems early but yay! Flowering almond (*Prunus glandulosa*) is a very easy shrub to grow in full sun, at least four or five hours of sun a day. It is a larval host plant for tiger swallowtail butterflies so maybe she's laying eggs. Flowering almond is not native but obviously our state butterfly doesn't care. Deer do not eat this plant. Its pink flowers last for a few weeks, but after that, there's not much interest. It does sucker a bit but that's not a problem in my garden. It can be difficult to transplant and divide so choose the site wisely.

Some early blooming daffodils did not bloom this year, so I've started digging them up and dividing them. It may take them a couple of years to bloom in their new spot. Recently, a friend called and asked if he would be wasting his time to dig up some on his hunting land. It's funny how one can tell where an old homeplace used to be come daffodil season. He would not be wasting his time to dig these bulbs. Most likely, they are too deep and crowded to bloom. The time to dig and divide bulbs that don't bloom is when you're looking at them.



Abbey's Re-View Azalea in full bloom

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