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February 13-26, 2025



A dream come true

Anderson native Gambrell takes the stage with Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus to accompany Bocelli

BY KIM VON KELLER

The first time Anderson native Donna Gambrell heard the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, she thought, "I want to sing onstage like that."

It pays to dream big.

On February 14, 2025, Donna will take the stage at Savannah's Enmarket Arena as a member of the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus as they accompany world-renowned Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli. Best known

for his Academy Award-nominated duet with Celine Dion, "The Prayer," Bocelli will celebrate his 30th year of performing with pieces from his iconic repertoire.

The opportunity to sing in such a concert is not lost on Gambrell, who is a Solution Specialist at Georgia Southern University.

"I first started singing in the chorus at McCants Junior High School. When I lived in Seattle, I would sing at the graduation ceremonies

at Bastyr University. Since I've been with the Phil, we've had the opportunity to sing all kinds of music; we even sang the soundtrack at Home Alone in Concert at the Lucas Theater for the Arts. But accompanying Andrea Bocelli is such an incredible opportunity. On a scale of 1 to 10, my excitement level is at an 11!"

Gambrell has lived in Savannah since 2009. The city is home to the Savannah College of Art and Design, and one of the things she's



enjoyed the most about living there is the vibrant arts scene.

"Every year, there is a music festival in Forsyth Park here in Savannah. When I heard the Savannah

SEE DREAM ON PAGE 2



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AnMed team writes book to help children prepare for tonsillectomies

Surgery can be scary, certainly – even more so for children. Operations to alter a person’s body can trigger anxiety about what’s expected and what’s unknown, and when the person is younger, with less life experience, fear can feel amplified.

That’s why Ashley Dashnaw, a certified surgical technologist at AnMed Medicus Surgery Center, and Dr. Justin Way, an ear, nose, and throat specialist with AnMed, wrote: “Jane Gets Her Tonsils Out.” The book provides a different, innovative way to help children prepare for tonsillectomies – by informing them, assuring them, and comforting them through fiction.

Children can easily identify with Jane, and by reading along as she navigates her journey through surgery, they can be put more at ease.

The book by Dashnaw and Dr. Way was published on Amazon last year.

“I scrubbed with Dr. Way and the other ENT doctors in the OR and noticed so many kids coming back scared and terrified,” Dashnaw said. “I wanted to find the reason

why some children came back calm and happy, and why the others kicked and screamed.

“My daughter at the time was 6 years old when she had her tonsils out, and she did amazing. I talked with her and told her all about what to expect, who she would see, and the noises she would hear. I realized that preparation was the key! And Dr. Way agreed. The kids who did so well were prepared.”

Tonsillectomies are among the most common childhood surgeries performed in the U.S., with more than 500,000 performed annually in children under age 15, according to the National Institutes of Health. Sleep-disordered breathing and recurrent throat infections are common reasons for the surgery.

Dr. Way dedicated “Jane Gets Her Tonsils Out” to his former ENT partner Dr. Lawton Salley, who died unexpectedly last year.

“The idea for this book was conceived out of multiple conversations that Ashley and I had surrounding improving patients’ experiences,” said Dr. Way. “We were trying to figure out ways to



help patients, especially children, understand what will be going on in surgery. It can be extremely scary and anxiety-provoking for these kids. Many times, their imaginations run wild with what will happen to them.

“We first talked about videos, but then Ashley had the idea of creating a series of children’s books that would explain the process in a simple way. Once that idea was conceived, we became more and more excited as the book took shape. During our development, my partner Dr. Salley passed away suddenly. He was one of my mentors, and we thought what better way to

honor him than to dedicate this book to his memory? He took care of thousands of children over his career and would have been proud of this book.”

Dashnaw said the book has been well received.

“A few of our patients are now asking questions prior to surgery, which I really believe is a huge step in their experience,” Dashnaw said. “They are asking, ‘Can I have Chick-fil-A after getting my tonsils out,’ or saying, ‘I have a freezer at home full of ice cream!’ So not only are the parents taking care of their children, but the children are also taking accountability in their recovery.”

The book also provides the opportunity for the team at AnMed to deliver important messages to families in positions like Jane’s.

“We want every child coming back to surgery to know they will be taken care of, and we want them to have a great experience despite the surgery itself,” Dashnaw said. “We want parents to be assured that we will treat their children the same as if our children were having the surgery.”

Dream

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus perform, I decided, I want to be onstage like that, and I decided to audition.”

But to do that, she decided that she would need some coaching in Latin and Italian for her audition piece. She turned to an old friend and Anderson native Susan Pelter.

Pelter is the owner of Susan Pelter Communications in Jacksonville, Florida, but she’s also an accomplished vocalist, with degrees in vocal performance from the University of South Carolina and the University of Maryland. She and Gambrell have known each other since their time in chorus at McCants, and Susan was more than happy to help.

“We had reconnected through Facebook,” Pelter says, “and music was something we had always had in common. I had to laugh when she asked for my help, though, because I knew that as soon as they heard her voice at the audition, she’d be in. I have a background in vocal coaching and teaching, but all I did was help with some pronunciation and the refinement of some details. I knew they would be delighted to have her. In a choir, it’s not just your voice. In addition to being a wonderful singer, Donna has such incredible energy and personality. She’s the whole package, and it was my pleasure and privilege to help.”

Gambrell’s experience with singing in Italian and Latin will come in handy as the chorus accompanies Andrea Bocelli, who will sing selections from such works as “Il Trovatore” and “La Traviata” by Giuseppe Verdi. The concert promises to be a high that any chorus would struggle to come down from, but she and the rest of the Savannah

Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus will be switching gears to perform again the following night. “Symphonic Spirit” is an evening of music both sacred and spiritual, performed under the baton of guest conductor, Jason Max Ferdinand, at the Lucas Theater for the Arts.

“One of the things I enjoy the most about performing with the Phil is the wide variety of music we get to sing,” Gambrell says.

In addition to singing choral music, Gambrell also enjoys singing as a soloist. In the spring, she will be performing the National Anthem at Georgia Southern University’s commencement celebration. She also has other ideas for her future in music.

“I want to sing at coffee shops and try to do background vocals for commercials,” she says. “I feel like 63 is the new 18. It’s like being young, but we have more information now and can figure things out. Trying something new and different, like joining the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, is a new beginning!”

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Hanna Class of 1974 donates to Radio Scholarship Fund

The T.L. Hanna Class of 1974 Reunion Committee was pleased to present to Walter Mayfield, Principal of T.L. Hanna a donation of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) to the Radio Scholarship Fund.

These funds were from the participation of the more than 150 people attending the 50th reunion as well as donations. It was decided early in the planning process that 50% of remaining funds after the reunion would go to the fund. Alexandria Stathakis, Class Secretary, said, "it was important to our Class that our memories at T.L. Hanna ,which Radio was certainly a part of, are memorialized in a signifiant manner."

At the presentation of the check Mayfield said that " the donation will keep this schol-

arship funded. Fortunately, a few other class reunions have made donations too. We were worried that we would not be able to award the scholarship this year for lack of funds... this helps us to keep it active." The intent of the Radio scholarship is described as follows:

Radio positively impacted T.L. Hanna's students and teachers with his kindness. Encouraging everyone he met, Radio influenced our inclusiveness and enthusiasm at T.L. Hanna High School. This scholarship honors a student of exceptional character and scholarship who wants to pursue a career in education. It is our hope that each scholarship recipient will in turn spread the same joy that Radio has given to our school.



Front: Walter Mayfield, Alexandria Stathakis. Left to right: Tom Kelly, Vicki McCoy Fouts, Cathy Woodson White, Buhl Watt, Anne Compton Whitney, Tom Bolt, Elliott Holman

Students apply to the Scholarship Committee and it is hoped that the recipient has an interest in pursuing the education of special needs students.

Future Reunion classes are encouraged to make contributions to this Scholarship Fund. For additional information contact T.L. Hanna High School.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR SET FOR FEB. 22

Central Presbyterian Church in Anderson is hosting a community wide Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, February 22nd from 10:00

a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate, especially those who do not have easy access to health and wellness infor-

mation and screenings. There will be over 30 community services and vendors represented including screenings for blood pressure and blood sugar.

The event is free. Come, participate, have no cost food and get acquainted with the health and wellness services for mind, body

and emotional well-being available in our community. Central Presbyterian is located at 1404 N. Boulevard.

The legacy of Chadwick Boseman and Ma Rainey's Black Bottom: A homecoming production at Market Theatre in Anderson

BY DREW WHITLEY

Chadwick Boseman's passing in 2020 left a profound void in the world of cinema and theatre. Best known for his iconic portrayal of T'Challa in *Black Panther*, Boseman's legacy extends far beyond his roles in blockbuster films. His commitment to telling authentic and empowering stories about Black life resonates deeply with America's best-known Black playwright August Wilson's work, particularly *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Now, here in Boseman's hometown of Anderson, a production of Wilson's powerful play is taking place at the Market Theatre, creating a poignant intersection of art, history, and legacy.

AUGUST WILSON'S MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM: A TALE OF STRUGGLE AND RESILIENCE

Written by Wilson, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* is one of the cornerstones of the playwright's "Pittsburgh Cycle," a series of ten plays that explore the Black experience in the 20th century. Set in 1927, the drama centers on Ma Rainey, the real-life legendary Blues singer, and her band as they record music in a Chicago studio. The play delves into issues of race, exploitation, and the power dynamics between Black artists and white music producers.

At its heart, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* is about agency. Ma Rainey fiercely fights to control her music and her image, reflecting Wilson's broader themes of Black identity, autonomy, and resistance. The characters in the play—particularly the ambitious Levee, famously played by Boseman, the trumpet player whose dreams of stardom are thwarted by the harsh realities of

racism—embody the tensions between personal aspirations and societal oppression.

When Chadwick Boseman appeared in the film version of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, it exemplified his career and his devotion to telling stories of Black excellence, resilience, and struggle. Whether playing historical figures like Jackie Robinson in *42* or bringing to life the regal character of T'Challa in *Black Panther*, Boseman embraced roles that highlighted the depth of the Black experience, much like the characters in Wilson's plays.

WHAT: The play *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* by August Wilson

WHEN:

Friday, Feb. 14 at 7:30 PM
 Saturday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 PM
 Sunday, Feb. 16 at 3:00 PM
 Friday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 PM
 Saturday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 PM
 Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3:00 PM
 Monday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 PM

WHERE: Market Theatre, located downtown at the Anderson Arts Center 110 Federal St, Anderson, SC 29625

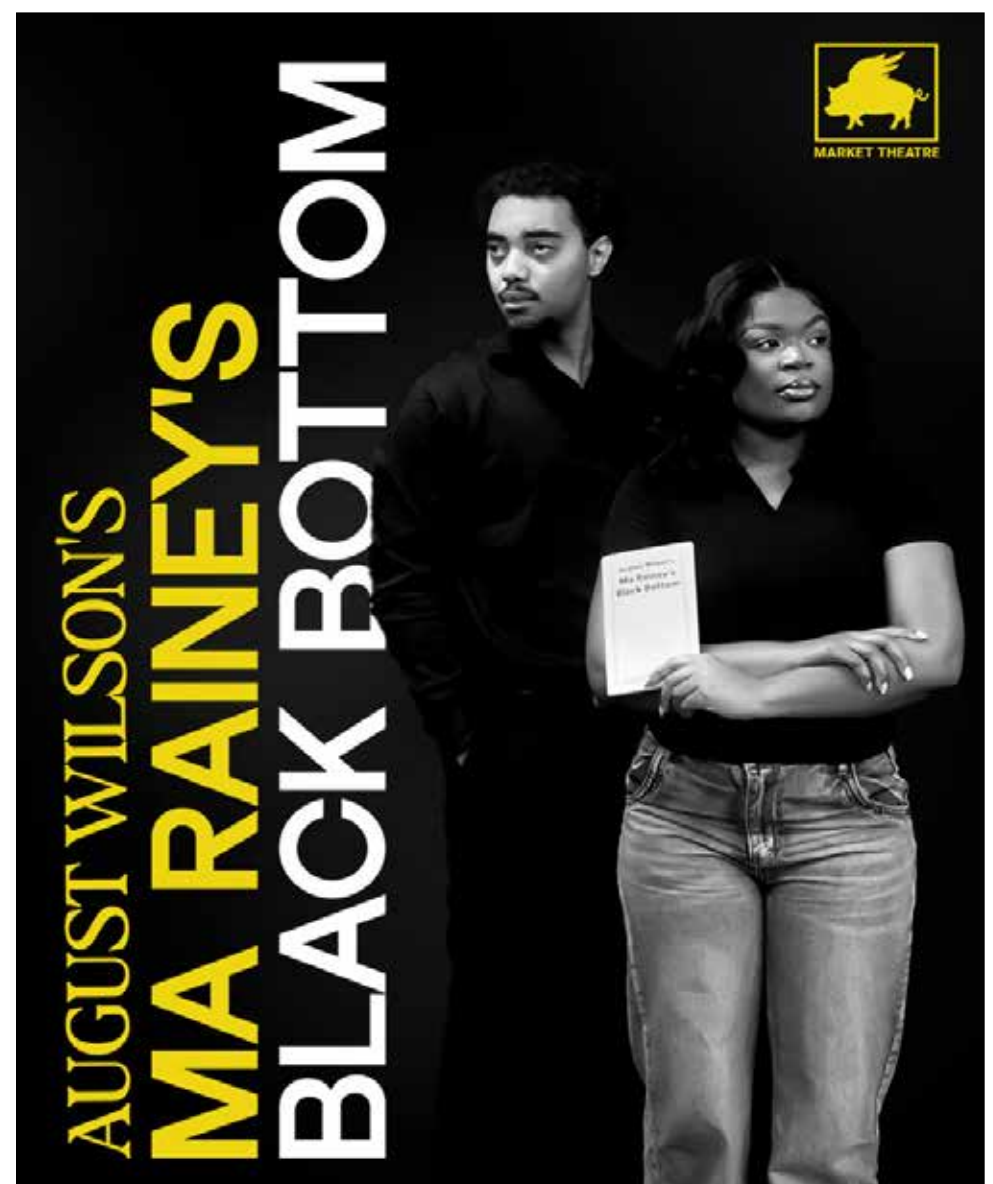
TICKETS: \$15+ at the door or online at tickets.markettheatre.org

ANDERSON, SC: A TOWN PROUD OF ITS LEGACY

Chadwick Boseman was born and raised here in Anderson, SC, a small town with a big heart and an even bigger sense of pride for its famous son. Though Boseman went on to study at Howard University and build a Hollywood career, his connection to Anderson remained unshakeable.

For the people of Anderson, the upcoming production of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* at the Market Theatre represents much more than a theatrical event; it is a way to celebrate their native son's enduring influence and to engage with the complex, multifaceted narratives that he worked so hard to elevate.

The performance of Wilson's work in Anderson is especially poignant because it ties together local pride, the cultural significance of Black storytelling, and Boseman's own passion for creating stories that reflect the African American experience. Just as Ma Rainey demanded respect and autonomy over her music, Boseman fought throughout his career



to take on roles that empowered Black voices and showcased the brilliance of Black talent.

A FULL-CIRCLE MOMENT

The upcoming production of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* at the Market Theatre represents a full-circle moment for the town that birthed Chadwick Boseman. It is a celebration of the

actor's lasting influence, a tribute to the work of August Wilson, and a powerful reminder of the ongoing fight for Black empowerment and creative autonomy. For the people of Anderson, this production is a homecoming—a way to celebrate their heritage, reflect on the struggles of the past, and look forward to a future where Black stories continue to shine on stage, screen, and beyond.

YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Is the emotional health of our youth at risk?

Yes, I am a professional with a dental practice dedicated to improving the health and well-being of my patients. That said, I am also a parent with five active and blessedly healthy children (three are teenagers!). So, if you are like me you keep up with societal issues that can affect them -- their health, their future and their opportunities in life.

There is one subject that is garnering more and more attention these days. And it is a not a pleasant one. But I believe it deserves our attention. Sometimes hard truths simply must be discussed and solutions considered. I am talking about depression and loneliness, particularly acute this time of year. And more specifically, the alarming rise in depression, anxiety, and social isolation among our young people.

We have to ask ourselves: "What's going on?" What exactly is the cause?" A recent study found that almost half of teens admit they are online "almost constantly." Mental health experts emphasize this alarming trend is a poor if not destructive use of precious time young people should

be spending with other people and engaging in activities that help with emotional growth and maturity. This is a complex situation no generation before has had to contend with. Here are three important pitfalls parents should be aware of:



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

1. Social isolation. Don't let your youngster sequester in their room. Healthy young people should have at least one or two friends who listen to them, engage with them, and have fun together.

2. Sleep disruption. Screens keep us awake, impacting quality sleep, which is linked to increased anxiety, stress, depression, and also substance abuse.

3. Fear of missing out. Young people strive to build up their social media profile. This can

lead to taking risks that can then put them in an awkward position or even lead to bullying.

Parenting has never been easy. Today it's even more challenging. Requiring us to understand this evolving technology – the good and the bad – in order to create healthy boundaries for our children and help them use this technology in positive ways. It means staying aware and setting limits. The way technology is evolving (AI) this must start at an early age. Remain vigilant until you know your youngster is mature enough to manage on their own. And remember. You should be the model by putting your phones and screens aside when your youngster comes to talk!

On a positive note, social media can help young people connect in the real world, whether it's meeting up with like-minded kids, advancing their education, or engaging in healthy interests like art, music, or online classes. Avoiding social media altogether is nearly impossible. So, help them use it wisely. This is an evolving societal issue that deserves further discussion. But for

the moment, please reach out to us if you have comments or suggestions on this important topic. We're here for you. Consider us your hometown resource for guidance and support.

Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick is the owner of Grand Oaks Dental, located at 3905 Liberty Highway in Anderson. A strong believer that dental fear and anxiety should not prevent any patient from receiving the highest quality dental care, Dr. Cannick has received extensive training in Sedation Dentistry and is a certified member of the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation. She is also a member of the South Carolina Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.

For more information about Grand Oaks Dental and the services provided, please call 864-224-0809, or click to grandoaksdental.com or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrandOaksDental>.

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FROM THE SHELF

On Ta-nehisi Coates

This issue I'm not writing as a librarian (let alone a local one), but as a reader, a thinker, and citizen of the world.

I have a lot of passion for books that make us think. Books that challenge us and force examination of the world. This can absolutely come from the romances I read, but most often it comes from non-fiction and literary fiction. A writer who has consistently made me think and had me sitting with their work long after is Ta-nehisi Coates. If you aren't familiar with Coates, I strongly encourage you to look him up and learn about him and his works.

While it's only my opinion, I feel confident stating that Coates is an author that one hundred years from now will be one of the most important voices of our current time. Writing, regardless of genre or style, is a litmus test for society at the time of its penning. To me, an 'important' writer or piece of work is one that, for good or bad, is discussed continuously, from publication to whatever future point in history.

Coates is one of the most respected but controversial writers currently publishing. Coates is an award winning journalist writing for *The Atlantic*, various newspapers, *Vanity Fair*, and is a professor at Howard University. He's written multiple memoirs (all best-selling) and is a regular writer for different *Marvel* comic runs. He's a pretty big deal.

Between the World and Me, a National Book Award Winner, Pulitzer Prize Finalist, and 'top ten best books of the year' according to over a dozen different periodicals, was my introduction to Coates. Between the World and Me is a memoir, but also a letter to Coates' young son about what it has meant for Coates to be a Black man in America today. Originally published in 2015, it has in the past few years jumped to national headlines, not just because of varied

social movements but also as one of the most challenged books across the country.

Whether we as readers want to agree with Coates or not, all of his writing is his own and reflects his truth as he's experienced it. It is because of this that I think Coates and writers like him should be read by all. I do not have to agree with a pivotal work to justify its being read. It is because it is pivotal that I should read it, and seek to understand the human behind the piece and the life they have led that created the work. I view works like this as society's opportunity to look in the mirror and take stock. Whether it leads to a new understanding and appreciation for another's experience, or a firming up of one's own beliefs, the simple act of being willing to question is important.

I recently read Coates' latest work, *The Message*, and it solidified my opinion of him as one of our most important voices. In this collection of essays Coates examines the importance of words and the stories they create. What impressed me most about this work was Coates' vulnerability, and his ability to take the reader on a journey of his very personal experiences as a Black man from America, in the context of Senegal and its history with American slavery. Coates goes further to sit with his earlier works and strong stances asserted within them, and reexamines it through the fresh experience of a trip to the Gaza Strip. It is with this new experience that he takes a metaphorical look in the mirror, and bravely tells the reader that perhaps he was wrong or hadn't fully fleshed out the complexities of the human experience like he thought he had within previous publications.

It is this act and this vulnerability that I would encourage everyone to participate in. Engage with the stories around you whether you agree with them or not. Use them to not just better understand the world around you, but you as an individual and how you fit within the larger conversation.



Sara Leady



HAPPILY MARRIED?

You've heard it a thousand times, "We're Happily Married."

Don't you believe it. These two words do not belong together, they are oxymorons like Jumbo Shrimp or Government Intelligence. Trust me, I have been married going on forty years and we are the best of friends that love and trust each other beyond measure. However, we have not lived in a state of silly giddiness seven days a week for four decades. We can get happiness from many things but it doesn't last very long.

Happiness hides and everyone wants to find it. Money can't buy it, but that doesn't stop those searching for it from forking over their hard-earned cash to try and get it. Then some believe that if they get married, they will find happiness. This approach works, in the beginning, and happiness is perceived to be had, even though there was no mention of it in the vows. That's the thing with happiness, it's like that grape that almost makes it into your mouth, but slips away under the fridge. Maybe if we have a baby we'll be happy? Sure, that always works for a few months until you realize that your happiness now revolves around little Mr. or Mrs. Poopy-Pants for the next eighteen to twenty-five years. Even our Constitution speaks of the pursuit of happiness, but as far as I know, no one has caught it. Happy as a Clam. What does this mean? Apparently, the original saying was

"Happy as a clam at high tide". Clams could not be gathered as easily when the tide was high, and if clams were to be happy, this would be the time. "If you're happy and you know it clap your hands", is a fun song for kids, but if I ever see an adult clapping their hands for no reason, I'm going to think they are many things besides happy, and I'll cross to the other side of the street. Happiness must be balanced. Too much happiness and people will avoid you and possibly recommend you seek professional help from inside a padded cell. Too little happiness and they'll shower you with suggestions on how to cheer up.

That's why people are always asking if you're happy. If they find you're happier than them, they think you're crazy. If you're below their level of happiness they want to help elevate you to where they are, but not above. Happiness is usually based on external happenings like achieving a goal, or when poopy-pants tries to walk. It's an outward expression such as putting on a happy face. In other words, happiness is something we see that causes a short-term feeling.

The word Happiness or Happy is mentioned in the Bible less than twenty times. On the other hand, JOY is mentioned four hundred and fifty times. Joy is internal and eternal and never leaves. You can put on a smile and say you're Happily Married if you want, but if the marriage has gone through the highs and lows and will endure beyond earthly bonds then you two are without question, JOYFULLY MARRIED.

HAVE A JOYFUL VALENTINE'S DAY!



Neal Parnell

IN HONOR OF AN AWE-INSPIRING PERSON

My first cousin Emily Gauthier went to Heaven last week. I'm writing this to share with you what an awe-inspiring person she was. I want to tell you a little bit about her and honor her. So, here goes. Emily was born in Spartanburg, South Carolina. My Aunt



Kristine March

Debbie and her father Mickey, were my favorite relatives of all and their daughter Emily was a few years older than me. She and I quickly bonded as children and shared some of the best vacations, shopping sprees and family get-togethers that anybody could ever ask for. You see, my Aunt and Uncle took us everywhere and spoiled us rotten in the best way possible. My twin sister and I spent most weekends with them and her amazing sister Michel. We were just totally inseparable.

They lived in a stunning home with a pool that changed colors and it had a hot tub right next to a beautiful lake. As a young girl I never wanted to go home on Sunday. We would sit up in Emily's elaborate bedroom room and listen to '90s music and put makeup on and laugh and dance. I thought Emily hung the moon. She wore Anna Sui and Betsey Johnson dresses and fabulous shoes. I loved playing dress up and loved for her to put makeup on me and pick out and style my outfits.

As we got older, we always cruised around in her red jeep and would flirt with all the cute boys, blaring Boys to Men and George Micheal. It was so much fun. Emily was a phenomenal artist and could draw and paint impeccably. As college fast approached it was time for Emily to go off and she got a full scholarship for a piece of art she painted at Spartanburg High School. The American Intercontinental University in Atlanta was



obsessed with it. I was sad for her to go, but we still remained close. She was just brilliant and had to go study her art and fashion. As I approached my early twenties, we took the most incredible trip to Los Angeles and had the time of our life. We hung out with celebrities and dined at the infamous Ivy restaurant and went to clubs with Rod Stewart's son, Sean and hung out with Mena Suvari who had starred in a big motion picture at the time - American Beauty. It was surreal.

We drove out to the desert and hung out around the plateaus and swam in Lake Mead and just had the best vacation ever. One I certainly won't forget. We also went to every concert you could imagine. Stevie Nicks and Tom Petty was probably my favorite experiences with Emily. I snuck backstage at that particular one and met Stevie Nicks. We were all just

something else. We had no fear or hang ups and we all lived life together like free spirits and had many silly shenanigans. Emily had a contagious laugh that made everyone else laugh. A dry wit like no other and a heart as big as the sky. She was so free-hearted. Always giving to everyone she met and loved animals so much. She had gorgeous cats and named each one after Grateful Dead members. She loved them so much, in fact that when she moved to Charleston, South Carolina she ended up working for an amazing vet.

She still painted and would always make art for me. Emily had this unique way of speaking and people always said she reminded them of Drew Barrymore. She was a beautiful blonde and just cool as can be. I will always hold a space for her in my heart and hold dear everything we got to do together. She accom-

plished so much in just forty-five years on this earth and I can only imagine what she's accomplishing in the after-life. She was bold and brave and made everyone feel special. She never met a stranger and really lived her life to the fullest. I could go on and on, but it would take years to tell it all. I will miss her forever. I will leave you with some lyrics to one of her favorite bands, Simon and Garfunkel. For Emily, Whenever I May Find her. "When you ran to me your cheeks flushed with the night. We walked on frosted fields of juniper and lamplight. I held your hand. When I awoke, I felt you warm and near. I kissed your honey hair with my grateful tears." Oh, I love you girl. Oh, I love you. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. I love you, Emily. Love your little cousin, Kristine



Central Presbyterian Church Health & Wellness Fair



Time

- Saturday
- February 22, 2025
- 10a - 2p
- Door Prizes
- Food



RESOURCES

- Wide variety of vendors representing community services



Community

- Bringing church and community together in mind, body, and emotional wellbeing

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SPECTACLE IN THE SKY

Last summer we were watching the motion and commotion at our purple martin gourds – as nesting season wound down, the activity was even more pronounced. When things seemed to freeze for just a second, we saw a huge vulture fly much closer to the ground than normal, very close to our covered deck. Suddenly the activity resumed – but this time directed at that vulture. Almost every purple martin in the area began swooping at it, surrounding it, chirping at it, and basically giving it what-for. The vulture decided enough already, and flew away to more welcoming grounds.



Ann K. Bailes

This behavior is called “mobbing,” where larger birds seem to be being attacked by smaller ones. Usually it is a defense mechanism to keep predators away from nests or young. Sometimes it’s to protect food sources or territories. (Mockingbirds are particularly territorial.)

Mobbing is an example of the “strength in numbers” phenomenon. That’s why smaller birds often go after hawks. And it’s safer for the small birds than may be thought, because the larger birds cannot move or turn as quickly as the smaller ones.

I’ve seen similar scenes many times—smaller birds attacking, or at least irritating or bullying, larger birds. Mockingbirds bother crows. Crows bother hawks—and even

eagles. Mike has even seen crows mobbing wild turkeys on the ground. Any kind of birds bother vultures. Most any combination of a smaller bird and a larger one can be seen at one time or another. Typical mobbers are chickadees, mockingbirds, blackbirds, and blue jays. Common targets of mobbing are hawks, vultures, and owls. Crows fit in both categories. But mobbing is not limited to these species.

Drive down any country road and you have a good possibility of seeing such behavior – it’s much more common than expected. It’s especially common in the springtime when birds are establishing nesting territories, but it can occur any time of the year.

A few years ago, we heard a huge squawking as we stood in our church parking lot, and looked up to see a hawk carrying a mockingbird in its talons. But the poor mocker’s friends were not standing by idly. They were mobbing that hawk mercilessly, dive-bombing it, poking it with their beaks, and generally making a huge, loud ruckus. It worked. The hawk finally gave up, dropped the mockingbird, and flew away.

Smaller birds rarely hurt the larger ones; they just run them off. And likewise, the larger birds don’t usually injure the smaller ones. Their one goal is just to get out of the situation.

So mobbing behavior is mainly for bluster, for swaggering, for throwing that bird weight around. And if you ever look up and get to experience this, you will agree that it is one of the great shows of nature in the daytime sky!



Photo by Frank Baker

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ACHS SPAY- NEUTER CLINIC

BY SHIRLEY MCALISTER

Before we talk about how to actually trap cats, we need to know where we can take them once we have them in hand. This week I'm going to focus on the Anderson County Humane Society's spay-neuter clinic.

To date, the clinic, which is located at 407 Pearman Dairy Road in Anderson, has spayed or neutered 40,000 animals. Many of these were done through the low-cost program available to Anderson County residents and their pets, but the clinic also offers a feral cat package that includes the spay/neuter surgery, rabies and FVRCP shots, and an ear tip. The FVRCP shot protects cats from three common and potentially fatal feline diseases, viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia, while the ear tip enables rescuers and trappers to identify cats in the group who have already been "fixed." The cost of the feral cat package is \$40.00.

According to the ACHS website, the easiest way to make an appointment for spay/neuter is through the organization's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AndersonHumane>) or by calling 864-367-7220. However, please note that the phone line is not monitored, so please leave a message with your name, number, and a brief message and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Another option is to stop by the clinic in person, and this is the one I've always preferred, especially when dealing with feral/stray/community cats. Talking to someone in person can eliminate the need for several phone calls or messages. The clinic is open Tuesday-Thursday from 10-3, but the best time to drop by is around 11-1:00. Keep in mind that the clinic is very busy, and you may have to wait for a short time in order to speak to someone.

Many thanks to those of you who are willing to take the time and make the effort to help the feral/stray/community cats in Anderson County. This week and for a few weeks to come, we'll be focusing on different organizations that offer assistance with TNR and spay/neuter. According to an old African proverb, it takes a village to raise a child. In the same way, it takes a community of compassionate, civic-minded people to help these animals, and a knowledge of available resources will make it easier to do so.

Cotton history in Anderson County

BY RICH OTTER

It was not exactly a chicken or egg question when considering whether the railroads or the cotton industry came first to Anderson County, but it was close. There was some cotton growing before the railroad but the transportation was difficult and severely limited the amount of cotton that could be transported.

Shipment by barge downstream was bad enough, but getting the barge back upstream was no picnic. You couldn't just guide it, you had to pull it or pole it. It certainly lacked efficiency. Even traveling to a launching point was difficult with a wagon and a limited load for shipping.

In the mid-1800s, along came the trains. The wagon travel was generally much shorter to the railroad and the transportation to market faster and much more convenient. The load capacity was greatly enhanced and the farmer could increase his production.

Then a question was asked. With all that raw cotton being grown in Anderson County and shipped out where someone else spins and weaves it, why couldn't that be done right here in Anderson County? Anderson was just sending it to someplace else for someone else to profit. The labor potential was already available with people then living under relatively poor circumstances. The skill to operate the machines could be acquired.

That introduced an industry that was both good and bad for the county. Financing, to a large degree, came from the outside with much of the profit going elsewhere, but it did create a higher standard of living for many who were barely surviving in an agricultural society.

There then evolved Anderson Mill, Orr Mill, Riverside Mill, Toxaway Mill, Equinox Mill. Mills sprang up throughout the county. They first ran by water, by manual labor, or by steam, and then surged ahead of the industry with electricity.



Anderson Mill remnants

The textile mills built housing for those who worked in their plants. Those mill villages had houses with generally four rooms for a family (occasionally two families), a comfortable outhouse later being on the back porch, and a company store. They received electricity after it came to the mills.

The company wages, to a large degree, came back to the company with rent for the houses and income from the store. It had benefits for both the company and its employees.

There were work opportunities for husband and wife and often children from about eight years of age. The wages were low, but needed by those employed. The companies and the railroads were the biggest financial winners, but it opened doors for the workers.

Social activities and schools came into being. There was pride in company sporting teams and comradery in the communities.

Then came the Great Depression. Benefit programs introduced, including things like the Civilian Conservation Corps where new job skills developed and World War II brought a totally new outlook and educa-

tional opportunity for those who returned and were able to carry on. Many had learned new trades in the military and there was the GI Bill that opened advanced education.

Moving into the latter part of the 20th Century, the cotton mill industry entered into decline. There were new methods of manufacture and transportation, and cotton competition increased with international production where costs were materially lower.

In Anderson County, wages did not increase to match other industries and the cotton mills in Anderson were then deemed by many as actively holding the county back from entertaining industrial prospects offering greater salary and benefit potential for employees. Mill managers still held a tight rein on the community through their positions as community leaders.

The influence was eventually broken allowing greater industrial diversification. The cotton fields disappeared and the cotton mills crumbled.

Anderson County reoriented and progressed, but the memories lingered.

Where's the E?

Mike McClain of Anderson was thankful to have The E with him for something to do while exploring the ancient Mayan city of Cahal Pech overlooking San Ignacio, Belize.



Anderson County football players sign with colleges

Feb. 5 was National Signing Day for high school football players, the first day of a college signing period that extends through March.



Brian Hodges

Eight Westside High School football players signed, while two T.L. Hanna players signed.



Two Rams, Chamarryus Bomar and Armoni Weaver, signed with West Virginia after they had withdrawn their commitments to Appalachian State due to a coaching change.

They are brothers and have played on the same team for years. Both played wide receiver and cornerback at Westside, but Bomar will play cornerback at West Virginia and Weaver will stick with wide receiver.

"Just tremendous athletes," Rams coach Brian Lane told the Anderson Independent-Mail. "They helped us have a great season (13-1 and a Class AAAA state title game appearance)."

The pair obviously benefited from playing with quarterback Cutter Woods, who signed with South Carolina.

Bomar had 43 catches for 1,293 yards and 19 touchdowns last season. Weaver missed games due to an injury but still had 26 catches for 541 yards.

The Westside list of signees included running back Sharode Richardson, who signed with Charleston Southern, offensive lineman A.J. Suttles, who signed with Gardner-Webb, OL Xy Moore and receiver Dreson Evans, to Erskine, defensive lineman Ja'Nyzae Allen to Minnesota West Community College and



kicker Brayden Barnette, who signed with Anderson University.

Defensive lineman Ross Brown had signed earlier with Charleston Southern as did Woods with S.C.

At Hanna, two defensive ends signed. Jayden Martin will join Mars Hill (N.C.) and Noah Miller signed with Anderson University. Martin was a two-time all-region selection.

Quarterback Brandon Cunningham is

still weighing options and could sign later. Running back KD Patterson's destination is

still uncertain, but a junior college program is possible.



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MS. ANN'S HOUSE

BY DONNA ANDREWS BRATCHER

This story begins 110 years ago. The year was 1914- a much different world than the one we know today. A loaf of bread cost 6 cents, a gallon of gas cost 12 cents, and Henry Ford introduced minimum wage as \$5 a day. 1914 was also the year Woodrow Wilson was president and WWI officially began.

But for a moment, let's skip ahead to the present. It's a breezy, cold December day, and I'm sitting in the warm, cozy home of a lovely older woman named Ms. Ann. She is sitting nearby in her favorite chair, dressed in a white and red sweater and black dress pants, wearing her gold earrings and necklace, and her hair is nicely arranged because it's Friday and that's the day she gets her hair done. She has kindly agreed to meet with me and share the story of her home. You see, I recently found out that Ms. Ann will be leaving her home and moving into assisted living. This will be a difficult move for Ms. Ann. This has been her home for the last 61 years, when she came to live here as a young bride. Its walls shelter treasured family keepsakes and years and years of beautiful memories. But the story of this home goes back even further than Ms. Ann's arrival. Ms. Ann is the only one left to tell the history of this home, and this is the story she shared with me...

It was the year 1914, and Willie and Lula Wilson decided to begin a new chapter in their lives. They purchased 83 acres in Anderson County, SC, on a little country road that led toward Broadway Creek. Today we know the road as Broadway Lake Road. As was often customary in those days, neighbors came together and helped build Willie and Lula a home. The Wilsons were a close-knit family, so Willie's brothers lived nearby. Calvin lived across the road from Willie and Lula's house, and Floyd lived a few miles away on Hwy 413.

Willie and Lula's new house was a beautiful white clapboard home with 3 gables and a wrap-around porch, perfect for enjoying summer breezes and visiting with neighbors. It had tall ceilings and a wide central hallway that extended to the back of the house. Willie and Lula filled their home with love, laughter, and a large family. They had 6 daughters, and eventually, when Lula was 44 years old, she gave birth to a son who they named Clarence. Clarence was born in the front room, which today serves as the formal dining room. They had their boy at last!

Clarence, the last child and the only son of Willie and Lula, was affectionately called "Booter." As the years passed, Booter's sisters grew up, married, and moved away to homes of their own, but Booter continued to live at home with his parents, taking care



of them as they aged. Lula passed away in 1959 and Willie in 1961. The home that had once been so full was now quiet and lonely. But that soon changed. Booter met the love of his life when he was introduced to Ann McClees, who worked at the Saluda Baptist Association. They were married in 1963 and Booter brought Ann to live in his childhood home. Ann fell in love with the old place the minute she walked through the doors. She knew she was home.

Ms. Ann smiles as she gives me the tour of the home she has known and loved for so long. She tells me of some of the changes that have taken place through the years. The outhouse was given to a neighbor in need when indoor plumbing was installed. She laughs when she recounts that when Booter was growing up, if he and his sisters had to go to the outhouse, they would say, "I have to go mail a letter." Some of the floors have been replaced, the laundry room is now built over the top of the old well, the wood stove no longer stands in the kitchen, and a brick carport extends from the side of the house.

As the tour continues, the furniture and pictures on the wall seem commonplace until she tells me of the story behind each one. Suddenly they are priceless treasures. The old desk that belonged to her father, the 200-year-old table in the foyer, the antique glass vase that belonged to her mother. She smiles as she recalls being a little girl and admiring the flowers her mother had displayed in the vase. She tried to pull a leaf off a flower, the vase tipped over and fell off the table onto her



head, and she had to have stitches.

Then she pauses quietly at the artwork on the wall, a painting of a young man and woman walking arm in arm in the rain. She reaches



out to touch the frame and says she will be taking this picture with her when she moves. She says it reminds her of Booter and herself. Booter passed away in 2001, yet the love between them is still alive in Ms. Ann's heart.

Through the years, most of the acreage adjoining the house has been sold, and today the house sits on the 13 remaining acres. It is surrounded by tall water oak trees and lovely aging live oaks with their long, drooping branches. A large magnolia tree casts an afternoon shadow on the porch, where two rockers sit that years ago were purchased from a passing peddler. Ms. Ann tells me about the colorful flowers that grow around

the house each spring.

In a few short weeks, Ms. Ann will walk out of her front door for the very last time. She is sad, but she knows the change is necessary at this time in her life. But the memories she has of her life with Booter and the home she loved will go with her. The old home-place has been sold, and she does not know what will become of it. She hopes it will be preserved and loved by a new family who will cherish it as she has done for the last 61 years. I hope so, too.

Whatever the future of this old home, it will live on in Ms. Ann's heart. And because she shared her memories with us, it will live on in ours as well.



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BY AINSLEY MCCARTHY

★ free ★ there is a fee for this event
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Feb. 13

★ ★ Local History Talks: Anderson Jewish History featuring Derry Draisen
Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St.

Time: 1-2 p.m.

★ ★ Galentine's Celebration

Location: The Bradbury Bistro, 502 N. Main St.

Time: 6-8 p.m.

\$75 ticket fee, fundraising for Anderson

Free Clinic

Feb. 14 | Valentine's Day

★ ★ Valentine's Day Buffet & Dance

Location: Palmetto Catering & Event Center, 1410 Cherry St. Ext.

Time: 6-9 p.m.

\$55 ticket fee

★ ★ Live Music

Location: Magnetic South Brewery, 516 N. Main St.

Time: 6-9 p.m.

★ ★ Music Bingo Location: Palmetto

Distillery, 200 W. Benson St.

Time: 7-9 p.m.

In The Smoke BBQ food truck parked outside from 6-8 p.m.

Feb. 15

★ ★ Saturday Family Storytime

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St.

Time: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

★ ★ American Girl Club

Location: Anderson County Museum, 202 E. Greenville St.

Time: 11-12 p.m.

★ ★ Chili Cook-Off

Magnetic South Brewery, 516 N. Main St.

Time: 12 p.m.

\$5 entry fee

★ ★ AU Men's Basketball vs. Mars Hill

University

Location: Abney Athletic Center, 909 E.

Calhoun St.

Time: 4 p.m.

\$7 ticket fee

★ ★ Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Location: FAVOR Center, 401 Whitner St.

Time: 4 p.m.

Feb. 16

★ ★ Singer Songwriter Sunday

Location: Carolina Bauernhaus, 115 Federal St.

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Feb. 17 | Presidents Day

City offices will be closed

Feb. 18

★ ★ Home Buying Seminar

Location: Keller Williams Western

Upstate, 4105 Liberty Hwy

Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

★ ★ Anderson County Council meeting

Location: Council Chambers in the

Courthouse, 101 S. Main St.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 19

★ ★ Tween Art Club

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St.

Time: 5-6 p.m.

★ ★ AU Men's Basketball vs. Wingate

University

Location: Abney Athletic Center, 909 E.

Calhoun St.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

\$7 ticket fee

Feb. 20

★ ★ City of Anderson Planning

Commission meeting

Location: City Hall, 401 S. Main St.

Time: 6 p.m.

Feb. 21

★ ★ Opening Night: "And Then There Were None" by Agatha Christie at Mill Town Players

Location: Mill Town Players, 214 Leppy

St.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 22

★ ★ Central Presbyterian Church Health & Wellness Fair

Location: Central Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall, 1404 N. Blvd.

Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Food and door prizes available

★ ★ Saturday Family Storytime

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

Time: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

★ ★ Pokémon Day at the Museum

Location: Anderson County Museum, 202

E. Greenville St.

Time: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

★ ★ AU Men's Basketball vs. Emory &

Henry University | Senior Day

Location: Abney Athletic Center, 909 E.

Calhoun St.

Time: 4 p.m.

\$7 ticket fee

Feb. 23

★ ★ Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Location: FAVOR Center, 401 Whitner St.

Time: 4 p.m.

Feb. 24

★ ★ Anderson City Council meeting

Location: the first floor of City Hall, 401 S. Main St.

Time: 6 p.m.

Meetings are also broadcast live and archived on YouTube @CityofAndersonSC

Feb. 25

★ ★ Healthy Soil, Healthy Garden: Testing and Amending Your Soil for Success

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St.

Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

★ ★ Craft Movie Night: The Little Mermaid & Glass Seashell Vases

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St.

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

★ ★ Trivia Night

Location: Growler Haus, 313 N. Main St.

Time: 7 p.m.

Feb. 26

★ ★ Project Preservation: A History of

Black Schools in Anderson County

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

Time: 3 p.m.

★ ★ Trivia Night

Location: Magnetic South Brewery, 516 N.

Main St.

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Feb. 27

★ ★ Cross-Stitch Greeting Cards

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

Time: 5-6 p.m.

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**SUSAN
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The annual deed of tending peonies is done. This task was running a bit behind. Usually by mid January, dead foliage has been cut back, leaves removed, and weeds gotten out from around them as well.

This year, I didn't get started until late January. Prying out wild onions is also part of this task. I figure while crawling on my hands and knees, I might as well get rid of as many wild onions as possible while at it. If it were not for double doing, peony foliage could be cut back once it's all brown and ratty, but then I would have to go back around to get all the leaves off of them, so it seems best to wait until all the leaves are gone, then do it all at one time. Keeping the eyes exposed (the pink buds of next year's blooms) helps give peonies winter chill they need to bloom. This also helps them not get too deep in the ground which also causes them to stop blooming. It is a labor of love. Thank goodness it is only an annual task. There are about 75 ish in the front garden.

There is one that did need to be dug up and moved. It is where water washes and it had sunk quite a bit. I have no idea what the name is, Mama bought it years ago and it is a unique one. The blooms are red and white, sort of striped. It seems the name started with a K, but I can't find it in my garden book nor on any internet searches. One would think since it's special, better records would have been kept. It may even be an Itoh, not the normal herbaceous peony. It is a short little peony, and it was surprising how big the roots are, and yes, they were very deep. Anticipation builds to see what this mystery peony does now. A few others were tagged that may need some extra care, depending on how they bloom this year.

It took about two weekends, plus an afternoon or two to get this big job done. It's a slow process as extra care must be taken not to break off the peony eyes. After each peony, a gardener's worn out back needs to walk around, buckets of wild onions must be dumped in places they hopefully will not root and grow, peony foliage, and other things cut back, were taken into the pasture and dumped, and there are those momentarily "while we're here" things that jump into the picture. Plus, when this job began, many areas of the ground were frozen from recent snow and such cold temperatures. That will be great for the peonies.

This time in the garden caused me to notice breath of spring (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) was not blooming yet. It usually blooms in late December, early January. Flowering apricot trees (*Prunus mume*) were not covered in buds. They usually bloom late January, through most of February. Low temperatures and snow slowed them down too. However, now, the yard is perfumed by both, and these plants are abuzz with pollinators. Roseglow flowering apricot is in the front garden and Peggy Clarke is around towards the back of the house. They are WONDERFUL. These trees are rather small growing, as far as trees go, to about 20 feet tall and wide. They are worth every inch of space but may take some searching to find. And more gardening anticipation, Camellia Forest, a vendor at Greenville Master Gardener's annual symposium, offers a weeping *Prunus mume* on their website. I placed an order for two and they will be delivering them when they come to Greenville. There aren't any weeping types of trees at my place, and I've been trying to find something to plant in a particular spot out in the front yard that won't get too big and shade out a magnolia tree. 'Bridal Veil' weeping apricot will be a perfect focal point plant for this spot. It's very pale pink, almost white flowers will contrast nicely too. I have no idea where the other one will go, but I'll spread the fragrance around somewhere.

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