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February 15-29, 2024

## THE LOVE OF A TEACHER

BY JULIE JOHNSON

We all have that one, or two, favorite teachers that left an indelible mark on our lives. A teacher who showed us special attention, taught us how to read, helped us through a difficult time at school, or was just a great teacher overall.

I had several. One was a nun at St. Joseph Catholic School named Sister Anna Maria. She was kind, soft-spoken, and patient, and made me, and all of her students, feel important. There were high school teachers that I adored, like Coach William Floyd at Hanna, who was a coach first, and teacher second, but he was one of the best teachers I ever had. He always had a smile on his

face, was always willing to give you extra time on an exam if you needed it, and was always willing to give you extra help. He had a great sense of humor and he loved every single one of his students. He allowed us to laugh and talk and just be kids. We celebrated milestones when it was our turn and we shared our lives in that classroom. It was like a little family, but the one person who greatly impacted my life as a teacher, and as a human being, was my 7th-grade teacher, Mrs. Helen Davis.

I thought she hung the moon. I was fresh out of six years at a private Catholic school and was terrified of going into the unknown of public school. McCants had hundreds of students who were total strangers and I didn't have the security of my siblings being close by. At the time, 7th, 8th, and 9th grades all had their separate floors of the school and if you weren't in that grade, you weren't allowed in that

**"I thought Mrs. Helen Davis hung the moon."**

SEE LOVE ON PAGE 2



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# MOTHERHOOD IN YOUR 30S



**MARY-CATHERINE  
McCLAIN  
RINER**

When it comes to having children, one often desires to feel “ready” while also having stability personally, relationally, emotionally, and financially. While there are biological factors, research is showing individuals having children later and later. It should be noted that there has become more and more pressure and societal judgment regarding biological clocks ticking.

Personally, I was not ready in my 20s and did not get married to my husband until the age of 30. Within 5 years, I would be considered advanced maternal age. As my oldest

turns 5 in April of this year, I have several reflections to share on these “golden years” of motherhood as we await the arrival of our last baby this summer.

Before having children, I knew I would be the parent who would have well-behaved children who listened and remained quiet and still in restaurants—because it is easy to control children, right(wink!)? Needless to say, in motherhood I have quickly learned that I was naïve to parenting and that becoming a parent has a profound impact on you. Similarly, an intense sense of attachment and protection forms when meeting your baby for the first time and the sacrifices you make feel immediate. I learned that there is nothing like that newborn smell or precious child you watch while sleeping.

I have observed first-hand how fast these first years go, how quick the changes are, and how it is so bittersweet to say goodbye to one phase while opening the door to the next one.

It is so beautiful to hear the sounds of “mama” coming from the lips of the little one who made you a mother. My biggest challenge has been balancing their need for agency and independence with my need for control and safety. I have learned that my definition of success no longer matches my desire for perfectionism. It has become much less about to-do lists and maintaining a spotless house and more about soaking in the joys of chaos and meeting the sparkle in my child’s eyes. After all, babies change overnight and do not keep. My hope and challenge for you is to set aside the worldly measures of success and focus more on the joy you are building for your child(ren). You will never regret or forget these moments and memories.

*Mary-Catherine McClain Riner, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., is a Licensed Psychologist with Riner Counseling, LLC. Visit [www.riner counseling.com](http://www.riner counseling.com) or call 864-608-0446.*

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## Love

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hall. The only people I knew were a few students from St. Joseph’s and a handful of fellow Catholics who attended St. Joseph’s Church, and even fewer of the kids on our street that I grew up with. So, I felt alone and afraid to delve into the unknown waters ahead of me, however; those fears were quickly diminished on the first day of school.

I vividly remember walking up the long stairs to the 7th-grade hall on the first day. I was nervous and a little self-conscious because it was my very first time wearing clothes that weren’t a uniform to school. I remember walking up to the classroom door and there stood Mrs. Davis. She was wearing a button-down dress with a slim belt, her hair was beautifully coiffed and her lovely brown skin accented her incredible smile. She looked at me, called me by name, and put her arm around me. I didn’t want her to let go. I suddenly felt safe and secure and immediately loved her. I quickly took a front-row seat to be closer to her and was fortunate that my last name was in the alphabetical order that kept me near her. I felt immense joy.

Throughout the school year, Mrs. Davis was the bright spot in my day. Every day she was there at the door waiting on us. She was always impeccably dressed, always had a huge smile on her face, and always made us feel like the most important kids in the school. She was a wonderful educator who made learning easy. She kept our attention by making the

class fun and interesting. She remembered our birthdays and made sure that we knew how special we were. I adored her and wanted her to feel the way she made me feel. I went to the office secretary one day and asked her when Mrs. Davis’s birthday was. When it came time, I gathered all the ingredients for my very first attempt at baking a cake. It was a disaster. It was lopsided and not quite done, the icing was thick and difficult to put on the cake, and the candles were most likely left over from someone else’s birthday at home. But I packed it in a box, took it to school, and was unsure of how she would react. I knew it was the work of an inexperienced kid but I made it with love just for her. In Mrs. Davis’s fashion, when she looked inside the box, her beautiful smile exuded joy and made me feel as if it was the most beautiful cake she had ever seen. She hugged me and told me how very much she loved it and that she couldn’t wait to eat it. It was by far one of the happiest moments in my life. She removed the

cake from the box and showed the class and we all sang Happy Birthday to her. It was one of the earliest experiences I had of happiness in doing something for someone else. I was elated. Whether or not she liked the cake, or if she had even eaten it, it didn’t matter. The way she made me feel that day was priceless.

When 7th grade was coming to an end, I knew I didn’t want to leave her class. I knew then what an impact she had made on my twelve-year-old life and because of her, I would never be the same. I knew I would never have another teacher who made me feel as important as she did. I knew she was one of the most extraordinary people I had ever known and would ever know. I knew I would never forget her...and I still haven’t.

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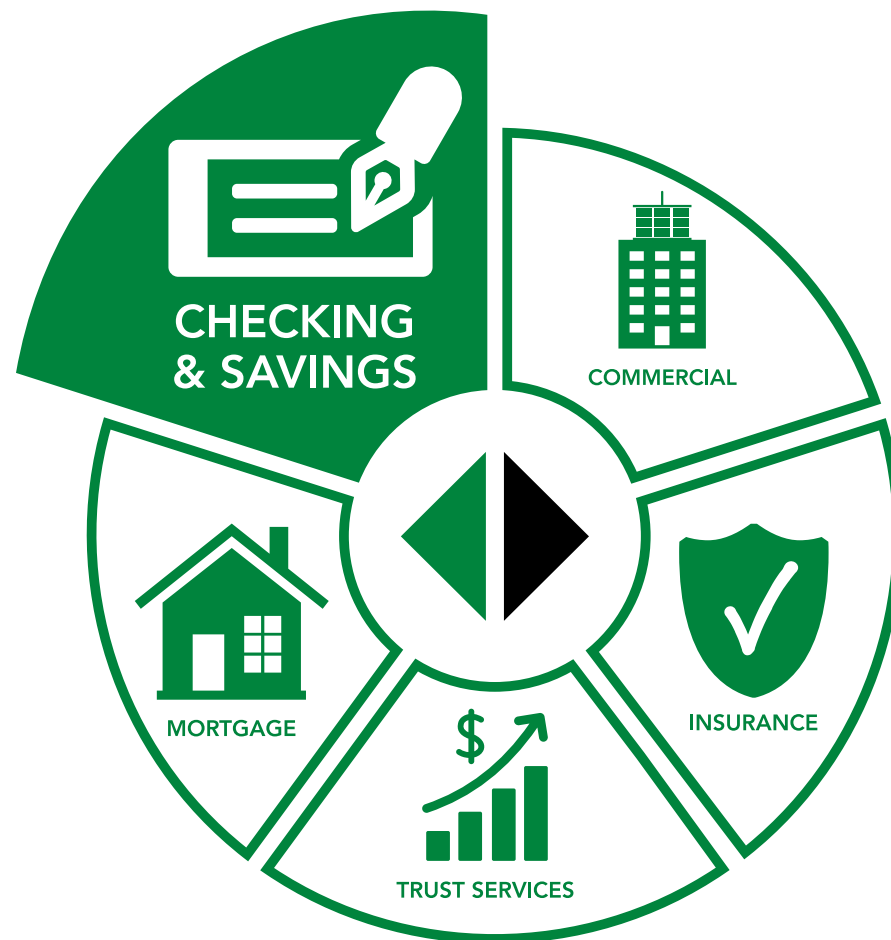
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# Gem of the Lowcountry

Imagine the sight that greeted early settlers as they came onshore to the South Carolina sea islands. Wide beaches, windswept toppled trees, shells of all kinds. Everything completely unspoiled. No houses, no hotels, no development at all. Just unspoiled nature.



Ann K. Bailes

That's exactly what a visitor will see during a visit to Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve on the northeast side of Edisto Island. This former plantation is now a part of the South Carolina

Department of Natural Resources, and it is a state treasure. The original residents dated back to the 1700s and were plantation owners or part of the Gullah-Geechee population that served as slaves and workers.

We visited Botany Bay's 4,600 acres recently during a brief trip to Edisto Island with dear friends. The entrance to the former plantation is a long winding road through live oak and palmetto trees forming arches overhead - exactly what people expect to see during a drive on a plantation road. We reached a sign-in kiosk, then drove further to the beach entrance.

The walk to the beach is over a causeway with saltwater marsh on both sides. Great egrets and white ibises were unconcerned by the presence of people, and marsh grass was visible to the horizon. At the end, we had to carefully climb over several fallen tree branches, but the effort wasn't too difficult.

And then - we were on the beautiful

oceanfront beach. Fallen trees litter the sand. Beach combing was easy as shells are everywhere. (Taking shells home is illegal; thus the beauty remains for all.) After walking for awhile, dodging natural debris, my friend and I sat on a fallen log and just enjoyed the beauty, while our husbands went further to explore more of the three full miles of undisturbed ocean frontage. An osprey lit on a tall tree limb above us and perched for probably ten minutes before moving on.

After leaving the beach, we drove the scenic history tour back to the entrance. Botany Bay is the combination of two smaller plantations that flourished during the 1800s. Historically significant remnants still stand in several spots - such as plantation house ruins and an ice house, used to store ice shipped from up north during the winter season.

My favorite story of Botany Bay involves the wife of the plantation owner in the early 1800s, Hephzibah Townsend, who started an industry of baking various goods which she and her helpers then took to Charleston to sell. This bakery was begun for a novel purpose. The ladies wanted to raise money to build the Old First Baptist Church on the island, and also send money to mission endeavors. This was a totally new idea back then, and they were very successful. The oven, built of tabby cement, is still visible near one of the old plantation homes.

Plan to visit Botany Bay on a trip to the Lowcountry - a significant destination because of its natural and historical treasures. Visitors need to go at low tide, as much of the beach disappears during high tide. You won't regret a side trip there, and you will leave refreshed.



# GIMME SOME SUGAR

Did you know that after chimpanzees and baboons fight, they kiss? My wife and I do the same thing, although it's not usually over the last banana. (WARNING)...If you're eating or about to eat, please wait until you finish before you read the next couple of sentences... "It is believed that kissing began with a mother chewing food and transferring it to the baby's mouth with hers." Now I don't know about you, but I'm now wondering if those strained peas that my Mama fed me came from a Gerber baby jar.

No one actually knows when Kissing began, but I believe it went something like this. A Cro-Magnon named Ug had just dragged his new bride named Ugli back to his man-cave. Ug had prepared a meal of Barbecued Baby Back Brontosaurus ribs and lifted one onto a large rock. As Ug and Ugli gnawed toward the middle of the rib, their lips touched. What happened next is depicted in a hieroglyphic on the cave wall that ends with Ug and Ugli smoking a cigarette and

naming their daughter Ugliest. 85% of the world's population engages in kissing. So what does the other 15% do? The native people of the Arctic and Polar regions are so bundled against the cold that the only part of them that is exposed is what they rub together; their noses, otherwise known as the Eskimo Kiss. Most Far-Eastern cultures frown on public displays of affection and practice



Neal Parnell

what is called the Sniff Kiss. Dogs and cats use this technique but are not usually facing each other. Can you imagine meeting someone for the first time and instead of a handshake, you lean in and sniff them? You try that around here and you'll most likely never sniff again.

The lips have the thinnest skin on the body with thousands of nerve endings. The

skin surrounding the lips is called the vermilion and the reddish parts of the lips are called the vermilion border. The vermilion border of the upper lip is called Cupid's Bow and looks the part. This horizontal pair of soft appendages when enhanced with lipstick and a sultry pout has caused more men to trip and stumble than a loose flip-flop.

There are many types of kisses that you may be familiar with, or not. I once threw a kiss and smacked the person next to me at the same time. Maybe you have had or given a Butterfly Kiss. This is done by fluttering your eyelash softly on someone's cheek. How about the Spiderman Kiss? I used to hang upside down from the monkey bars or a limb but never got a kiss, all I got was dizzy. Then there's the Lizard Kiss where only tongues are used. Ok, that's enough of that...Ewww! Suffice it to say that people will kiss just about anything. Baby heads, hands, rings, frogs, the Blarney Stone, crosses, and I almost forgot there's a band too! The Kiss of Death is portrayed in many mafia films and it's said that



Judas gave Jesus one to identify him to those seeking him out. I got the Kiss of Death once in a tawdry game of Spin the Bottle; that girl was so ugly the tide wouldn't take her out.

Now for y'all about to get your first kiss, allow me to give you a tip. Do not try to practice on department store mannequins, their heads come off and you'll be too traumatized to kiss again. For the rest of you rascals I only have this to say, "KISS MY GRITS !!".



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# Fresh Burger's homestyle goodness expands: Thriving locations across South Carolina and beyond

Fresh Burger, celebrated for its commitment to crafting fresh, homemade burgers that embody the essence of home-cooked goodness, is excited to announce its ongoing expansion, now encompassing four thriving locations across South Carolina. With hand-pressed patties that are never frozen, Fresh Burger offers a gourmet dining experience reminiscent of the comforting flavors found in home-cooked meals. The restaurant now proudly serves the communities of Anderson, Easley, and Greenwood, offering patrons a taste of home-cooked goodness like never before. This expansion underscores Fresh Burger's dedication to delivering authentic flavors and its unwavering passion for culinary excellence.

Founder Gregory Bazile's journey with Fresh Burger began with a profound idea – a great burger isn't just a meal; it's a connection to cherished traditions. Driven by this vision, Gregory set out to create a restaurant that would bring back the comforting flavors of home, just like "Mama used to make." Gregory's steadfast commitment to serving burgers that encapsulate the essence of home-made goodness has propelled Fresh Burger's rapid expansion.

Each Fresh Burger patty is a testament to this commitment. Hand-pressed with precision and crafted from never-frozen beef, these patties offer a gourmet experience that transcends ordinary burgers. They evoke the heartwarming and nostalgic flavors of home-cooked meals, quickly becoming beloved favorites among patrons.



## LOCATIONS:

225 Rolling Hills Cir, Easley, SC 29640 | 1505 Bypass 25 NE, Greenwood, SC 29649  
102 W Shockley Ferry Rd, Anderson, SC 29624 | 210 N Main St, Anderson, SC 29621

In addition to their mouthwatering burgers, Fresh Burger offers a diverse menu featuring a delightful selection of items, including chicken wings in flavors like Mild, Hot, BBQ, Caribbean Jerk, Parmesan Garlic, Lemon Pepper, Teriyaki, and Ranch. The menu also includes sandwiches, wraps, salads, and hot dogs, ensuring there's something for every palate.

"Our journey has been incredible, and we have big plans ahead. Our vision is to see Fresh Burger not just in South Carolina but in every state, across the nation, and around the world, sharing the timeless appeal of good food and the comforting taste of home with communities everywhere," shared Gregory Bazile, Owner of Fresh Burger.

Fresh Burger's vision doesn't stop at its

current locations; it reaches far and wide. With every delectable bite, the restaurant showcases its dedication to creating delightful, classic, and always fresh homemade burgers. This commitment resonates with Fresh

Burger's mission to share the comforting taste of home-cooked meals with its patrons, wherever they may reside. The restaurant aspires to bring this culinary experience to communities across the nation and around the globe.

For those seeking an exceptional culinary experience, Fresh Burger beckons. Residents and visitors alike are encouraged to visit their nearest Fresh Burger location in Anderson, Easley, or Greenwood. Discover the authentic, gourmet flavors that have made Fresh Burger a beloved sensation across South Carolina.

As Fresh Burger continues its rapid expansion, patrons are urged to stay tuned for new locations coming soon. Don't miss the opportunity to savor the essence of home-cooked goodness like never before. Join Fresh Burger on its extraordinary journey, one mouthwatering bite at a time.

For more information, visit [www.eat-freshburger.com](http://www.eat-freshburger.com). Follow Fresh Burger on Instagram: @eatfreshburger

## Free total joint replacement seminar planned in Anderson



Dr. Hunter Hsu, an orthopedic surgeon at AnMed Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, will conduct a free seminar on joint replacements at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Anderson Area YMCA, at 201 East Reed Road in Anderson. Register to attend at [anmed.org/orthopedic-seminar](http://anmed.org/orthopedic-seminar). Total joint replacement surgeries bring life-changing benefits to hundreds of thousands of people annually. Understanding what to consider and what options there are can help tremendously.

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## FROM THE SHELF

# On the phenomenon that is Sarah J. Maas

So, this is a hard one. Sarah J Maas is an international bestseller with over 12 million books sold in 37 languages. Kind of a big deal, especially for a fantasy romance writer. I'm a huge fan of her books, but also hate the things that she also represents in publishing.

My introduction to Maas was her debut



Sara Leady

Throne of Glass which kicks off her YA series of the same name. I cannot tell you how much I LOVED the book. It is fantasy perfection, which I don't say lightly. In this series, we get introduced to one of my favorite female heroes ever written. Celeana Sardothien

is a teenage (ish-she's 18 at the start) assassin who through her adventures in the 8 book series uncovers all sorts of conspiracies and secrets in her quest to save her country Ardalan.

I'm a big nerd when it comes to 'hero theory' and one of the reasons I loved Celeana's character is that she's this incredible warrior, but also remains traditionally feminine, which isn't something we see often when it comes to warrior women. Celeana is a seasoned killer, but also loves beautiful dresses and makeup, openly expresses her emotions and even vulnerability (well, as much as an assassin can). BIG big fan. However... Maas doesn't necessarily continue this incredible trend through her other books, or unfortunately, through the end of the Throne of Glass series (ToG for short).

I will likely always recommend Maas because she writes epic fantasy stories and romances, but there's also some glaring issues that as a bestselling author I'd have hoped she'd have improved upon more. Maas isn't the most diverse writer, and while she's improved on this, she still has a long way to go. She also tends to use the loss of magical powers to be a catalyst for the heroine ultimately being saved by some male. Neither are uncommon issues in romance fantasy, however plenty of authors are actually getting it right (I see you Rebecca Yarros) and given the platform that Maas has, she can and should do better.

In her early books Maas also had tighter writing without a lot of fat to the narrative. I am far from being anything akin to an editor (I know y'all see my excellent "grammaring") but if I can see where a lot can be cut, then an editor barely worth their salt should too.

In her/the editor's defense, Maas is also known for epic tomes of fantasy romance, so most readers are all in on a 900+ page book to slog through regardless of extraneous content or not.

Book 2 of her first adult series, ACoTaR, A Court of Mist & Fury, is hands down one of my favorite romances written. This is in large part due to the handling of a budding relationship that also pays respect to the characters healing from some serious traumas, gives an incredible example of building a relationship on equal footing, mutual support, and general acceptance and celebration of a partner, flaws and all. You know, like basic, healthy relationship stuff.

The most recent series, Crescent City, returned to a slightly tighter narrative while also being doorstep worthy. However, this is where she creates issues in publishing. The latest installment, A House of Flame & Shadow crosses over with ACoTaR, which means now you have to read both series to know what's going on in either series moving forward. For the savvy library user, this doesn't mean buying ALL the books, but ultimately the goal is forcing more sales. With the latest release, her publisher released FIVE different editions to five different stores, each edition containing an exclusive chapter only available in that edition. So, to get the whole scope of the worlds/characters, you have to buy 5 different editions of the same book... Fortunately, the added excerpts appear to be largely fluff, but who knows if they will be imperative for coming installments in any of the series. She's alluded to all 3 series eventually crossing over with each other.

All that criticism aside, I 100% spent 86 hours in 5 days listening to all 3 Crescent City books. So, I'm critical, but obviously also locked in. Plus, there's a pet chimera so like how can I not read everything just to know EVERYTHING about Syrinx?



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# Anderson Senior Follies to hold annual March production

If you have never attended Anderson Senior Follies' annual March production, add it to your Bucket List. For 35 years, this premier southeastern performance group in Anderson, SC has showcased the talents of countless musicians, actors, dancers, vocalists, and comedians, all over the age of 55. If your first thought is "Oh how sweet, a bunch of slow-moving, has-beens performing dusty old numbers for other old people, I am here to shatter that misconception. Best ye prepare for an energetic, fast-paced, creatively choreographed, and costumed production with amazing staging that will delight you every step of the way, regardless of your own age! Did I mention hilarious? The humor woven into each year's original script keeps you in a state of mirth, until the next song tickles your memory. I guarantee you will walk away feeling uplifted.

Here are a few direct quotes from newcomers to our show:

"Wow, that was like a Broadway show!"

"I wasn't expecting all the costumes, lights, and live band. Really professionally done."

"It's like a variety show with a really creative storyline."

"Wow, you actually tap-danced on stage."

I first caught wind of this amazing group of performers when a small subset of members, known as "Follies to Go," performed during a luncheon at Utica Baptist Church in Seneca. I knew before the final number commenced that I had found my tribe. The energy, the talent, the humor, and

camaraderie were on full display as I basked in the songs of my yesterday.

Our director, Mary Nickles, is also the show's producer. An energetic, creative, fun-loving, whip-cracking multi-tasker, she has the

unique ability to spotlight and cultivate each performer's particular gifts (including ones we are unaware of) and bring the best parts of each one of us to the stage. She has us performing in ways we never imagined. As producer, she has her hand in every stage of development, from

scriptwriting to choreography, costuming, music, set, sound, lighting—you name it. Collaborative by nature, she attracts an array of talent to help design and flesh out these components to carry out her vision. Hence, our production excels with an amazing live band, experienced choreographer, and a team of creative costumers within our own ranks, just to highlight a few. I think it is safe to say that Mary inspires us through her sheer belief in us. Last year I watched her work with a group of cast members on drumming skills for a particular number. Only a couple of them had even picked up drum sticks prior to this, yet by the end of practice, Mary sat smiling and keeping time in the middle of a veritable drum circle, rhythm and cadence defying their novice. This was their first practice for the number.

I like to think we all have a spark of the Divine inside us—a creative spirit not unlike our Father's in its desire to burst forth and make beau-

tiful things, if we but give over and let His Spirit show us vast, amazing possibilities. It's faith, really. Faith that the creation we envision will be made manifest. This is the secret ingredient to the annual spring production by Anderson Senior Follies. Each year, no matter the complexity, we collectively believe it into being.

Rehearsals are well underway for the 2024 show, entitled "Bucket List," which runs from March 7th through 10th at Anderson University's beautifully renovated Henderson Auditorium. Each year, busloads of people from churches across South Carolina and beyond, and people of all ages take their seats in anticipation of the entertaining and uplifting experience that awaits. We hope to see you there! Call the box office at 864-231-2080 Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from noon until 3:00, or visit [www.andersonseniorfollies.org](http://www.andersonseniorfollies.org) for tickets.

— By Timmi Jernigan, Follies Member since 2021



## Local attorneys honored at Memory Hold the Door

The Anderson County Bar Association held the second Memory Hold the Door ceremony Thursday, November 29 at the old Anderson County Courthouse in the main courtroom. The inaugural ceremony was held in 2005. Memory Hold the Door is in honor of Anderson attorneys who served the community as lawyers and civic leaders. This event is a way of paying tribute to those dedicated men and women who have since passed on and in honor of their families, friends and colleagues.

### CHRISTINA 'CHRISSY' THEOS ADAMS (1967-2016)

Christina "Chrissy" Theos Adams was born November 10, 1967 in Charleston, SC to parents Gregory O. Theos and Helen K. Theos. She received her B.S. in management from Clemson University in 1989 and her J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1994.

She was a true public servant having worked as Assistant Solicitor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Tenth Judicial Circuit, and the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. She was elected Solicitor for the Tenth Judicial Circuit in

2004 and took office in January of 2005. She served as Tenth Circuit Solicitor for three successful terms. She also held a term as president of the South Carolina Solicitors' Association. As Solicitor, she was the first in South Carolina to introduce the Courthouse Facility Dog program to assist victims of crime.



Chrissy served on the Anderson County Alternative School Board, Carolina First/TD Bank Advisory Board, Tri-County Technical College Advisory Board, and Tri-County Technical College Criminal Justice Advisory Board. She was a member of the SC Trial Lawyers Association, the National District Attorneys Association, the SC Bar, Oconee County Bar, the Anderson County Bar, and the Seneca Golden Corner Rotary Club. She was a staunch supporter of Collins Children's Home, Foothills Alliance, Safe Harbor, and

The American Red Cross. She was also a beloved member of the Greek Community.

Chrissy was married to Eddie Adams for nearly twenty years, with two cherished sons, Gregory and James.

### EARLE MCGEE RICE (1920-2015)

Earle M. Rice was a native of Anderson, graduating from Boys High, Furman University, and Duke University School of Law. He followed his father, Leon L. Rice, and older brother, Leon L. Rice II, into the field of law. His legal career spanning over 60 years of practice.

After graduating from Furman, Earle served in the Army Air Corps as a flight instructor for young aviators during World War II. He remained in the U.S. Military as a reservist in the Air Force, retiring as a colonel.

Following his active duty service, Earle graduated Duke Law School, he returned to Anderson to join his father, Leon L. Rice (UVA Law) in his law practice, establishing the firm of Rice and Rice. Earle became an Anderson County judge during his earlier tenure. Years later he was joined by his daughter,

Louisa, as a partner in the private practice.

Earle's leadership abilities in the legal field, in many civic organizations including Kiwanis club, and in his spiritual home, Grace Episcopal Church, were exemplary,



demonstrating his integrity, sense of fairness, and oratorical abilities. He was a renowned and popular public speaker, often using his spontaneous sense of humor to highlight his "gift of gab."

His affinity for a court environment was evident at the Anderson County Court House, enjoying the tennis courts with his cronies, and in his later years holding court for various residents and staff at his assisted living facility. Earle is survived by 5 children, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

His final gift of humor was his choice of words on his grave marker at OSB: "The Defense Rests."



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# What do you keep in your purse?

This will be the only time it's appropriate to go into my purse. I thought it would be fun to delve into what we keep in our handbags. I was gifted this amazing Myra shoulder bag recently



Kristine March

and it basically holds everything in it, but the kitchen sink. It's a lifesaver when I'm in full on mom-mode and running around town. I can put everything I need in it to keep me organized and in check. Firstly, I have to have my makeup bag. It's chocked full of things and bits and

bobs. From lipstick to nail glue and a nail file to eyeliner. You never know when you're going to need something in a pinch. If I'm on a road trip or something there are tons more stuff, but for every day I keep it pretty simple. I have to have a good lip balm as well. I have too many to count and a triangular powder puff.

I also keep a Revlon pressed powder in

there for when my skin gets shiny throughout the day. Next is chewing gum or Altoids. I have to feel fresh and I love to chew gum when I'm driving. Occasionally, I will keep a book in my bag. I'm really into any kind of memoir. At the moment I'm reading Like Streams to The Ocean by Jedidiah Jenkins. He's also the author of To Shake the Sleeping Self. Two excellent reads. Sometimes I'm waiting in my car for long periods of time because I do have a teenager and lots of appointments and different events. So, it keeps me occupied.

Next up, is hand cream and essential oils. I love the little tin of Nivea hand cream because it smells good and fun fact, Marilyn Monroe always wore it. My favorite essential oil is lavender or cedarwood to keep me calm. I'm kind of obsessed with the doTERRA brand. I also keep a roll-on perfume oil and I can't get enough of the Zusa African Essence. It's Heaven in a bottle. It's also hand crafted and bottled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Asheville. Need I say more! It's just a dreamy aromatherapy.

Sunglasses are everything. I usually keep two pairs and they're always in a case so they don't get scratches. I keep a hair clip in there too just in case I want to pull my hair halfway up which is rare unless it's summer. I also love my ear buds. I love the brand Skull Candy in the color mint. I can listen to a podcast or my Spotify playlist while I'm grocery shopping. Touch Land Hand sanitizer mist is always a must and my phone and my charger. I keep my house keys and my wallet of course and a change purse all together because I'm usually in a hurry. Lastly, is a Kind bar or some type of energy bar, just something to hold me over. It's a busy world out there and staying organized keeps me balanced. What are you keeping in your purse? Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.



## NIBBLE & SIP

# COMFORT FOR ONE

Sometimes, in an effort to take care all the things that are stressing us, we forget to take care of ourselves. If you find your world swirling around you, it's good to take a bit of time to treat yourself.



Kim von Keller

"Comfort" food and beverages carry that description for a reason. Some take us back to a pleasant memory. Some are rich and indulgent. The best are both, and this time of year, the

one that fits the bill for me is Hot Chocolate for One.

I first had this at the Lindt Chocolate Outlet in Asheville. We walked in from a gently falling snow to the most delicious aroma, and as we watched the hot chocolate being prepared, I couldn't believe how simple it was. When I make my version, it takes me back to that magical winter's day, and it is such a decadent Sip that no Nibble is required. Put on your comfiest PJs, curl up with a mug and your favorite book, and enjoy a bit of time for yourself.



### Hot Chocolate for One

- 6 oz. whole milk
- 2 oz. heavy whipping cream
- 4 milk chocolate Lindor truffles, chopped
- 2 oz. Lindt EXCELLENCE 70% Dark Chocolate, chopped
- Sweetened whipped cream
- 1 oz. Lindt EXCELLENCE 70% Dark Chocolate, grated, for garnish

In a small saucepan, combine the milk and cream and bring to a simmer. Add the chopped truffles and dark chocolate, and whisk until smooth. Pour into your favorite mug, top with sweetened whipped cream, and garnish with grated dark chocolate. Makes one.

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## Patricia Walker, Bay3 Artisan Gallery Partner

"I began drawing as a child and was enrolled in drawing classes early in life. In college I majored in art, but life responsibilities took me away from my passion. Eight years ago, I attended an alcohol ink seminar that renewed my artistic interest," shared Patricia Walker, Bay3 Artisan Gallery partner.

"I was immediately drawn to alcohol ink because of the vibrant colors and the way the inks merge into interesting colors and shapes. With the help of online courses, I learned how to effectively use this medium. I describe it as being the most like watercolor but using alcohol instead of water and on a non-porous surface. Finally, the finished painting is sprayed with a protective varnish," explained Walker.

"Using nature as my inspiration, I paint mostly natural themes as well as pet portraits.

I have recently begun working with Bill Jameson, a noted oil landscape painter, and have completed two of his workshops. This change in media is an extreme contrast from my typical small alcohol ink paintings. The large oil landscape paintings have opened a new season in my artistic journey that I am anxious to pursue."

Walker is a partner in Bay3 Artisan Gallery where many of her paintings are on display. Bay3 Artisan Gallery is located just off the Atrium Gallery in the Anderson Arts Center, 110 Federal Street in Anderson. Gallery hours are Wednesday thru Friday 10:00 - 4:00 and Saturday 10:00 - 1:00.

# AMERICA'S THERAPIST

America, it seems, has an official therapist. He's someone your children know and love, and you probably do, too, although his voice can be a bit grating, and he refuses to use the first-person pronoun. He's also red



Kim von Keller

and furry. And a Muppet. Our new Secretary of Mental Health is none other than Elmo.

In the event you've given up your smartphone for an old-school flip phone, allow

me to bring you up to speed. A little more than a week ago, everyone's favorite Sesame Street resident took to the social media platforms such as X (formerly Twitter) and Threads and posted a simple comment: "Just checking in. How is everybody doing?"

We're not good, Elmo. We're not good at all. Among the responses were these:

"Honestly, Elmo, I've been feeling lonely and friendless..."

"Stressed, Elmo, very stressed..."

"Elmo cares more than my parents..."

"Cancer is kicking my butt and now my insurance won't cover my chemo bc my chemotherapy was refilled by the oncologist on staff who just happened to NOT be in my network."

"Kinda falling apart. Wish I knew how to live life. I'm too worried about everything and don't know how to plan for the future. I do honestly doubt how far off in the future I'll be around and that scares me."

That's a lot to lay on a therapist whose arms are controlled by sticks, but sometimes, we just need to feel heard. While my stresses don't rise to those above, this morning, my husband came upon me grabbing everything from my sock drawer and slinging it across the bedroom. It's not that I didn't have socks. It's that I couldn't find the RIGHT socks. It's not that I didn't have other, more serious concerns, because I do: Half of my nieces and nephews live in Los Angeles, a city that's floating away. The presidential campaign is already brutal, and it's only February. I have more work that one person can carry out in a timely manner. My sister and I are supervising our aging mother's care. Finding the right pair of socks was



one thing I could control, so out they flew, hither and yon across the floor.

"What kind of socks are you looking for?" he asked.

"The ones I wear with boots," I answered, in between throws.

"Look!" he said, reaching into the drawer. "Here are some boot socks."

"Not those. Those are the wrong ones. I need the short ones, but not the ones that fall down under your heel. If I'm at work today and my socks end up under my heel, I'm

going to have a full-on toddler-style hissy fit."

In the end, I showed that sock drawer. I didn't wear ANY socks with the boots. Half a box of bandages later, I'll admit that it wasn't my best decision.

The good thing about the whole sock incident, though, was that it led to a good discussion with Ted about why I was feeling so stressed.

Even though he couldn't help, I felt better just knowing that someone had listened. I think that's why people nearing their breaking points responded to a Muppet's simple question.

If you're feeling like Elmo's friends, I hope you'll find a listening ear. In the meantime, I'll put the question to you, dear readers: How is everybody doing? You can let me know at [editkim50@gmail.com](mailto:editkim50@gmail.com). I'm not a therapist, I don't have answers or solutions, but I can make sure you are heard.

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## T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

# Hanna hoops squads start postseason

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — After a hard-fought regular season, the T.L. Hanna Yellow Jackets are set to begin postseason play on the hardwood with both their boys and girls teams set to kick off the Class 5A playoffs this week.

The Yellow Jackets began their final push toward the playoffs on Feb. 2 at home against the Hillcrest Rams. The two teams split their games with girls picking up a crucial win, while the boys fell in a close contest.

The Jacket girls opened the

action with a dominating win, taking down the Rams 77-20. Three T.L. Hanna players scored in double figures, but freshmen Olivia Freeman and Harmoni Earl stole the show. Freeman led the Jackets in scoring with 21 points to go with a 20 point, seven assist effort from Earl.

Following the big win, the Hanna boys took the court hoping to get back on track against the Rams and halt a two-game losing streak. Instead, Hillcrest hung on for a 58-54 upset victory to essentially end the Yellow Jackets region title hopes. Senior guard Tanner Epps led the

Jackets in scoring in the loss with 17 points.

The next week, the Yellow Jackets finished their regular seasons on the road at Woodmont. Once again, the two teams split the result with the girls falling to the Wildcats, while the boys got back on track with a win.

The Hanna girls took the floor first, taking a 46-37 loss to Woodmont. Once again, Earl proved to be the driving force for the Jackets scoring 17 points, but it wasn't enough as the Jackets fell to earn fourth place in Region 1-5A.

While the Hanna girls fell, the

Yellow Jacket boys finally ended their three game losing streak with a 59-52 victory that secured them the two seed in their region. The senior duo of Javeyn Martin and Jaquarius Patterson proved to be huge in the win, combining for 33 points to help Hanna secure the win.

The T.L. Hanna girls opened their playoff run on Feb. 13 on the road against the third-ranked Rock Hill Bearcats. Meanwhile, the Yellow Jacket boys hosted the Clover Eagles on Feb. 14. Results from the Jackets' first round games were unavailable as of press time.

## WESTSIDE RAMS

# Rams host playoff openers after strong finish

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — Coming off a successful regular season, the Westside Rams are preparing to begin lengthy playoff runs for both their boys' and girls' basketball at home this week.

The Rams began their final stretch of the regular season hosting the Greenwood Eagles. Westside had little trouble dispatching the Eagles, with both home teams picking up wins.

The Westside girls opened the night locking down the Eagles on the defensive end to come up

with a 60-36 win and lock down their region championship. Senior Ahrianna Scott led the Rams with 17 points in the victory to go with a dominant 12-point, 20 rebound effort from freshman center Khalia Hartwell.

Not to be outdone, the Ram boys took the court and pulled away big in the final quarter as they took down Greenwood, 68-44. Senior guard Josh Williams and junior forward led the Rams in a balanced win putting up 15 and 14 points respectively in the win.

In their final matchup of the reg-

ular season, the Rams traveled to Pickens on Feb. 8 to take on the Blue Flame. Once again, Westside came up with the clean sweep to finish region play on a high note.

Against the ninth-ranked Pickens girls, the Rams let an early lead slip away only to use a 19-4 run from the end of the second quarter going into the third to propel them to a 57-45 win. Sophomore Asia Clinkscales powered the Westside offense with 17 points, but Scott and Kiarra Gregory also came up big in the win as they each hit three three-pointers.

In the boys' matchup, Williams proved to be entirely too much for the Pickens boys to contend with as he put up 44 points on his own in a 97-35 win. The senior guard was unstoppable hitting 19 of 27 shots including three three-pointers to lead his team to victory.

The fourth-ranked Westside girls began their playoff run on Feb. 13 against the Airport Eagles, while the Ram boys began the playoffs at home against the Midland Valley Mustangs. Results from the Rams' first round games were unavailable as of press time.

## THE GARDEN SHOP

## MERLOT IN THE GARDEN



**SUSAN  
TEMPLE**  
master  
gardener

Leaving Greenwood last week on my way to Abbeville, of course I could not pass by Greenwood Nursery without seeing if there was something I couldn't live without. This nursery has been a stop for many years. They seem to always have something surprising. This visit did not disappoint either. Winter Daphne was beginning to bloom. It's been many years since I've given in to that temptation. And the last time was facing the fact that it would be grown as an annual. Daphne can be spectacular one day and dead the next. I talked myself out of her wonderful perfume. Just behind those pretty pink flowers, very dark, upward facing lenton rose blooms caught my eye. Mama is a lenton rose connoisseur and has lots of special varieties. Can't say I've ever caught the fancy for them. Not sure why because they are deer resistant and relatively easy to grow. There is a patch out in the middle of my front yard that are run of mill varieties. After their shade tree was cut down, they have been in full sun for many years. In summer they get a little burnt, and if they get too ratty looking, they get run over with the lawnmower. Maybe in my lifetime, the Shumard oak will give the azaleas, and lenton

roses, shade again. There are two fancier types of lenton roses in my garden, Cotton Candy (*Helleborus x hybridus*) part of the Winter Jewels series, and Anna's Red, part of Frostkiss series. There are so many hybridized types now it is very easy to get lost in offerings.

The one that caught my eye is Merlot, part of the Helleborus Gold Collection. When a tag has the name Helleborus HGC (with the trademark sign) Ice N' Roses (with the trademark sign) 'Merlot' PPAF, it shows someone has been busy coming up with a new patented plant. I don't plan on breaking the asexual reproduction prohibited rule on the tag either. These fancy types supposedly don't seed like run of the mill variety do so there probably won't be much opportunity to make more that way either. Digging Dog Nursery in California gave a very wordy description that I found humorous. "A complex German hybrid consisting of *Helleborus niger*, *Helleborus sternii* and *Helleborus hybridus*, 'Merlot's large rounded forward-facing flowers flaunt a luxe velvety wine-hued aspect. Brightened by ebullient sunshine-colored stamens, the clustered long-blooming display dwells atop staunch erect reddish stems plus broad durable deep green foliage that's chiseled into hand-like evergreen segments. Heady saturated colors coupled with a dignified year-round persona give you good reason to welcome this first-class HGC series member into your winter garden." I simply said to myself as I walked up to 'Merlot' for a closer look "Wow, look at that one". I think I'll start a new patch in the shady area behind

the house with this velvety luxe bloom and let her flaunt her stuff amongst the camellias.

Another new plant that came home with me is some kind of a weeping phlox. They only had four plants left, and none had a tag w/the picture or any info, just the sticker on the pot. One had lots of buds that looked like those on Sweet William (*Dianthus barbatus*), but I couldn't tell what color the flowers are going to be. The sticker says Blue Moon phlox. This plant doesn't look like any blue phlox, which is usually a woodland plant, I've ever seen. It looks similar to a house plant commonly called wandering jew. Backside of the leaves are maroon; tops of the leaves are green. It definitely trails. Foliage practically covered all around the one-gallon pot. The guy helping me said it is great for containers. I have no idea where it will live but I hope it's happy once its home is found.



Merlot Helleborus blooms

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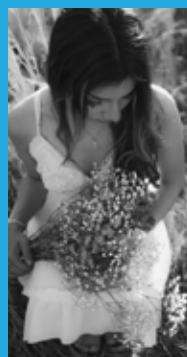
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# GENERAL'S ROAD

BY RICH OTTER

In preparation for our country's sesquicentennial celebrating the signing of the Articles of Independence, Anderson County's 250 Committee is planning a number of projects emphasizing education, community historical events, and locations. One such project is for the erection of a historical monument in recognition of the General's Road, a portion of the road that includes Main Street in the City of Anderson.

Anderson County Museum's Curator Dustin Norris described the General's Road as emanating in Abbeville County and roughly following what is now Highway 28. The road reached the home of General Andrew Pickens at Hopewell before continuing into present day Oconee County. In fact, the General's Road gained its name due to Pickens' frequent use of the route for business trips between Pendleton and Abbeville.

The road passage, as described on the proposed plaque, includes notable sites such as in Abbeville County's Temple of Health stagecoach inn, proceeding then to Anderson County's Varennes Tavern. It passed what in 1826 became the Anderson County Courthouse location on the way to the White Hall stage stop. Its final resting place in Anderson County was in Pendleton before crossing the Seneca River at Cherry's Crossing (known as Pickens Ford) to General Pickens' retirement home at Tomassee.

The proposed marker indicates that the General's Road was in use by that name from the 1780s and on into the late 1800s. The trip was an uncomfortable and tiring sojourn. Passengers would freeze in the winter, and the dust thrown up on the rustic roads meant flaps had to cover the windows creating a suffocating enclosure in summer. When the wheels were mired in mud, the passengers



**Believed Temple of Health Stage Stop**

had to get out and push. If an axle broke, they were likely treated to a long walk.

The stage would make 10 or 15 mile runs between each stop where passengers greatly welcomed food and likely a stimulating beverage. The horses could be changed and the stops often included a night's rest. It was a rugged ride.

Before entering Anderson County, heading north through Abbeville County, there was respite at the Temple of Health stage stop in a community at least large enough to warrant a post office. It was speculated by a DeKalb County newspaper that the area had acquired its name based upon the Cherokee Indian belief a spring in the area had healing qualities. Undoubtedly the available beverages offered at the Temple of Health tavern provided equivalent recuperation.

The next stop along the bumpy dusty stage route was in Anderson County at the Varennes Tavern operated by the Norris family in Varennes Township. It was a large structure with a hallway running through the center of the tavern with two rooms, a parlor and a dining room. A large fireplace provided comfort in the winter. There were four rooms in



**Varennes Tavern Stage Stop**

the back, two for the family and two more to accommodate up to four people each, one for males and one for females. The second floor also had two rooms appropriately separating by gender. Out back was a privy, a trough to clean off the trail grime, and the kitchen. The stop also had a post office.

On the road again, the stage bounced past the location of what would become the center of the town of Anderson County Courthouse toward Pendleton, reigning in at White Hall, the next welcomed stop. Author Louise Vandiver identified the stop as being just outside North Anderson. It was where Whitehall Road and Concord Road now intersect with North Main Street. It had been one of the locations considered for the new town of Anderson Courthouse. It already was a stage stop, had a store and a fine white-washed home. Vandiver, however, reported one of the buildings had a basement where a man had been murdered and, of course, was haunted. That may have encouraged those searching a new courthouse site to move on to the next tavern. There they settled a location

disagreement, avoiding fistcuffs, determining the new Anderson County courthouse would be adjacent to the tavern. Undoubtedly they then returned to the tavern and toasted their success.

The final stage stop in Anderson County was in the growing community of Pendleton. From there, travelers galloped into present Oconee County and, following the remainder of the path, would eventually terminate at General Pickens' retirement home at Tomassee.

It would be interesting to glimpse how a travel brochure could have described the General's Road tour and its accommodations. But the days of the stagecoach were limited. In the late 1850s, those romantic trips were replaced by the iron horse that extended its run all the way up to the town of Walhalla where it thereafter abruptly ended inside an unfinished Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel. All was not lost, however.

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