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Justin Overdeep became a foster parent almost eight years ago at age 41. He and his partner Kirk have fostered 78 children and adopted four.

LOVE OF A FATHER

Justin Overdeep became a foster parent almost 8 years ago, he was 41 years old. In his first experience, he was gifted with a set of 3 year old twin boys. He housed them, nurtured and loved them for 6 months. Once they all adjusted, their mother was ready to take them back. It was only a matter of time and the twins returned again for another stay. This time it was only for a month. This was the beginning of Justin's journey being a parent.

Being a foster parent requires a sense of being emotionally grounded. Caring for children and becoming attached is natural. Releasing kids into the care of someone else can be difficult. Love for each one never really fades. Concern for their welfare is much the same as any parent.

Justin and his partner Kirk recently moved to Anderson from Rhode Island. They have fostered 78 children and have adopted 4. They have 3 sons, one grown daughter and 1

SEE FATHER ON PAGE 2




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GUILT AND MOTHERHOOD



**MARY-CATHERINE
McCLAIN
RINER**

Over the last month, I have learned that no matter how intentional you choose to be and how much time you have with your child (children), the time will never be enough. This pregnancy, I experienced a more severe case of gestational thrombocytopenia and headaches for 21 straight days in the third trimester, and our daughter caught the stomach bug a week before my due date. This led to significant feelings of guilt and feelings of sadness due to the expectations I created of how the last month “should be.” What I have learned is that this guilt is very normal due to the fact that nothing will be the same again—things will change and things will be different. Change and different does not necessarily mean bad. I did not expect to feel guilty, yet this experience has taught me several lessons.

- Guilt stemming from:
- Firstborn’s world inevitably is turned upside down.
 - Giving more attention to baby in front of firstborn, and vice versa. Guilt over hurting firstborn’s feelings.
 - Guilt over feeling inadequate and not meeting the needs of family.
 - Guilt with not finding the right balance for caring for the needs of a baby versus toddler.
 - Guilt for having different bonds with each child.
 - Guilt over worrying that the firstborn won’t feel as loved.
 - Guilt over not giving the newborn the same experiences as the first (e.g., attention, new items, nursing).
 - Guilt over not having enough quiet moments with either child
 - Guilt of not having time for other relationships, friendships, clients, pets, etc.
 - The list could GO ON AND ON!

STEPS for releasing guilt:

- Normalize and validate that guilt is common and OK

- Accept the feelings by allowing them to exist without judgment
- Create a mantra, such as everyone survived today and is breathing
- Create realistic expectations that are NOT based on social media. Don’t compare your worst to someone’s best
- Give yourself 10-15 minutes daily to unwind—separate from your partner and your children.
- Share your feelings with others, such as other second-time mothers.
- Let go of the need to be superhuman or super mom.
- Reframe your goals as this is good enough.
- Quality over quantity
- Ask for help from family and friends, and possibly visit with a professional
- Remind yourself you are giving your child the gift of lifelong friend

Mary-Catherine McClain Riner, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., is a Licensed Psychologist with Riner Counseling, LLC. Visit www.rinercounseling.com or call 864-608-0446.

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Fashion on four legs

I’m the proud owner of a beautiful black cat. She was a rescue that we got six years ago and my family has been in love with our little panther ever since. It was a dreary and cold January night when we adopted her. She crawled up into my arms and has really never let go since. Her name is Luna and she’s as sweet as she can be. She’s mild tempered and loves to cuddle. She also loves to wear little outfits.

Believe it or not she actually loves baths in the tub and to have her fur brushed. We say she’s part human and she’s our baby. I’m

definitely not planning on having any other real children, so I guess you could say I like to dress her up like another child on special occasions like her birthday and of course



Kristine March

Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. I often just go to the local PetSmart to get her funny little accessories. You wouldn’t

believe the Etsy accounts that offer hand sewn darling little hats and outfits for small pets. It’s not only adorable but hilarious and fun to do. Only if the pet doesn’t mind. If they get mean, anxious or scared then definitely don’t do it, but our Luna loves it.

There are so many precious kerchiefs made from crochet. Little crowns, dresses or sweaters and even little teepees and plush bedding they can sleep in, in their favorite little corner of the den. It’s very important to keep our pets clean and healthy. If they don’t like an actual bath make sure to use a warm cloth to gently wash their faces and eyes. They really appreciate it. If you’re a cat owner make sure to keep their lit-

ter cleaned daily and always clean out their food bowls. Those tend to carry the most bacteria.

Fresh, filtered water is a must for our princess. Luna loves to play with a hacky sack. She sleeps most of the day but exercise will make our pets live a long and healthy life. So if you’re not a pet owner, maybe plan on becoming one. It will change your life for the better. There is also scientific evidence that when we spend time with our pets and hug on them and love them, it actually releases an oxytocin in our brains. How amazing is that? They’re definitely sent from above. So make the sidewalk your runway for your sweet fur babies. Kindness always matters and adopt, don’t shop, y’all.

Father

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

younger daughter. Nova is 18, Christian is 17, Gabriel is 12, William is 7 and their daughter Faith is 5. Their dream is to adopt one more. Four puppies and a cat make their family complete.

They were certified as foster parents in Rhode Island. Once they become certified in South Carolina, they will continue to foster children. This is a familiar lifestyle for Justin.

His parents had 3 children of their own, they fostered over 300 children and adopted 9. His mother’s superpower is fostering and adopting those with medical challenges. Her gift has obviously imprinted on Josh, as two of his children are autistic.

“I learned to be a dad from one of the best. My hope is that my kids feel the same unconditional love that my parents continue to give me and countless other children still, to this day.”

Their biggest challenge in Rhode Island was dealing with the state regulations. They were warned before they moved here that the South Carolina school system was very

difficult in cases of special needs. Justin says he found out that in Anderson District 5, it is just the opposite. The staff has been welcoming and very helpful. Their biggest challenge is the renovations on their house. Being a foster parent requires lots of room for kids. They bought a house with plenty of space, but are making the space suitable for a large family. When your capacity to love is open and spacious, only the same kind of house will accommodate.

This father’s day, celebrate those who are opening their homes and hearts to children who are fatherless. Their love is unconditional and the result is a soul that is healed.

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Woodchuck's Axe Throwing opens in Anderson

BY JIM HARRIS

There is no doubt that axe throwing is exploding as a sport and activity. Gaining a worldwide audience with ESPN adding coverage of the World Axe Throwing League, there seems to be no end in sight as to how big it may get. The sport's origins go back for centuries, but it's only gained international prominence in the last decade or so.

Just this week, Woodchuck's Axe Throwing has opened at 311 North Main Street. With a great location convenient to everything in the thriving downtown Anderson district, it looks like it will be on everyone's to-do list.

Owner Don Trentham comes from a background of owning fitness businesses, but when he saw axe throwing firsthand, and the great times the participants were having, he saw an opportunity. The Woodchuck's in Anderson is the first of three planned locations, with Georgia and Mississippi coming soon.

Don compares axe throwing to Top Golf or bowling, in that a group can come in just to have a great time, or participants can get serious about improving their skill levels and all points in between. First-time participants describe the experience as exhilarating, and bullseyes are definite crowd-pleasers.

Youth leagues will soon provide activity



options during summer break, and adult leagues will follow shortly. Don also plans league offerings for first responders in the area. Ages 13 and up are welcome, but those under 18 will need to be accompanied by a parent. To tie in with the grand opening, Woodchuck's is offering a Father's Day special as well.



WOODCHUCK'S AXE THROWING

Basic instructions are printed on the scorecards, and the coaching team is always available to give pointers. Don and his coaching team will help you and your group get set up in your lane, then come back with additional tips as needed. They want to help make the axe stick in the target. As Don says, "We want people to have fun. If you aren't sticking

the board, you may not like it."

Don and his team have taken multiple steps to ensure the safety of all participants. Sturdy fencing separates the lanes, and rubber flooring helps eliminate bouncing axes in the event of a missed throw. Players should wear closed-toed shoes. Axes are provided, but you can bring your own.

You can tell there is a Southern connection, with the available refreshments for participants including Cheerwine, Moonpies, RC Cola, and pork rinds. A selection of Southern craft beers will be coming soon, with something for every taste. Don also intends to pursue a relationship with area wineries.

Players can make reservations through the company's website, google, and Instagram pages, and drop-ins are welcome. Lane rentals are available for 2 to 6 people. Woodchuck's Axe Throwing is open Tuesday through Friday, 2 PM until 10 PM, and Saturdays from noon until 10. The facility can also be reserved for larger groups or private functions, including gender reveal and birthday parties. Axe throwing is also a popular option with companies for team-building exercises. Live music is also in the plans, as they prepare to become a destination of choice on Anderson's activities calendar.

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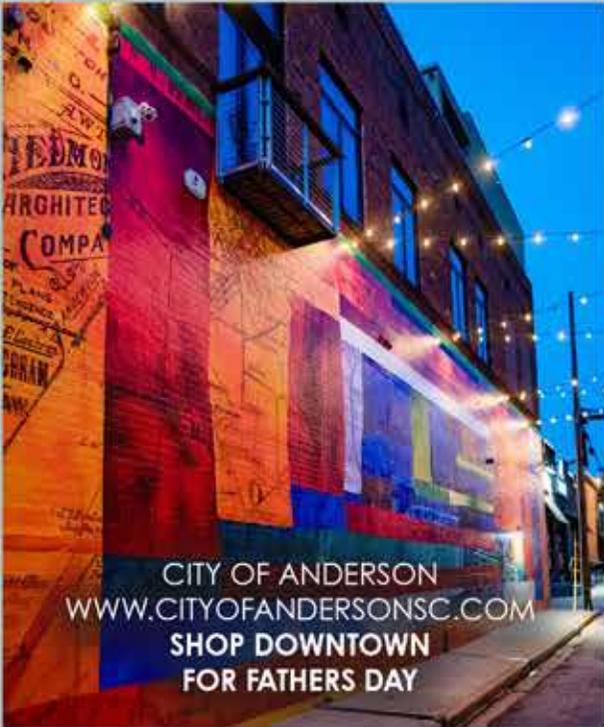


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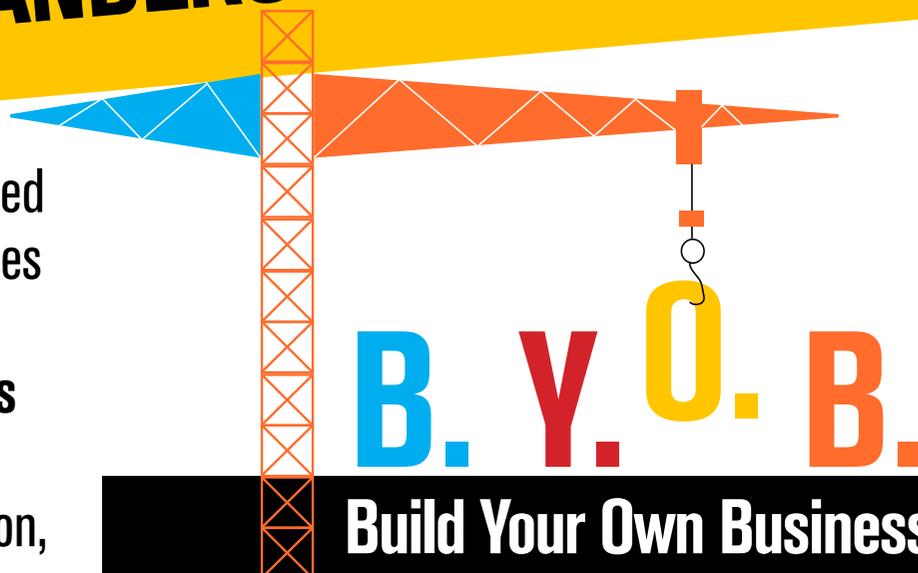
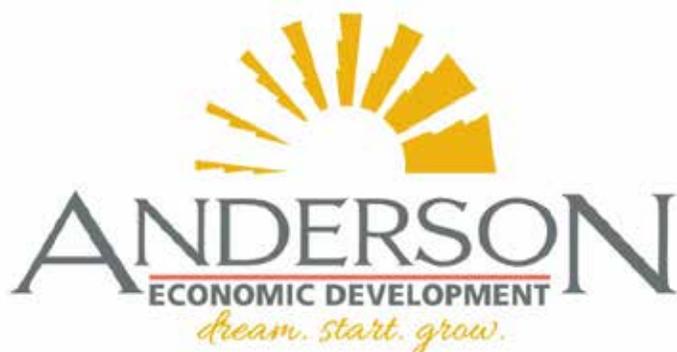
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THE GARDEN SHOP

Gardenias are blooming



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
master
gardener

Spots in the garden these day are about fragrance. An August Beauty gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*) at the screened porch is perfuming the air. Plan A was to have rose bushes there. At that time, I had two dogs and my Sparkler girl was prone to dig. The roses were in whiskey barrels and other containers. Only two are left, Teasing Georgia, a wonderful pale yellow one, and the root stock of one. It blooms with single, very dark, red flowers. Root stock red is in a quality home-made container. Teasing Georgia's whiskey barrel is long rotted and she grows fine with how soil has found its own way through years of decomposing. A dwarf gardenia, whose type I

don't remember, is in the other quality home-made container. It's just about choked out with mint and sea oat grass (*Chasmanthium latifolium*). Birds planted the grass from where it grows in the woods. I like the seed heads so I leave it, only cutting it with the lawnmower and pulling some, to keep it in check.

The August Beauty gardenia was also once in a whiskey barrel, long ago rotted. Many of its roots were exposed because Sparkler dug around it after the barrel rotted. I've been adding leaves the last few years to cover the roots. It has done fine as well and got a pretty hard pruning last year because it had just about outgrown its spot. Tags will say it grows five feet tall and three to four feet wide. They get bigger than that. They bloom mainly this time of year but will bloom sporadically throughout the summer with a little flush of bloom again as late summer temps start to cool.

If you don't have room for one

this big, there are smaller varieties. Radicans will be only two or so feet tall and wide. The flowers look like August Beauty. It seems to me they don't bloom as much. Kleim's is another small one, growing about three by three. The blooms are single. Kleim's is a profuse bloomer. The shrub can be almost white from so many blooms. It blooms earlier than August Beauty too. This would be a good way to stretch the fragrance time. I learned about Golden Magic recently. It is a small one that has yellow flowers. No, traditional ways must stand. Gardenias are white. Plus hardy zone shows it will not winter over for us.

Good air circulation is a must as gardenias are prone to white flies. White flies can be difficult to get rid of too. Horticultural oil and insecticidal soap are best options. Sometimes a good blast of water, if they are caught soon enough, will wash away the eggs. Technically, they are cousins to aphids and scale,



August Beauty gardenia

not flies at all. Chemical methods will also kill beneficial insects that keep bad bugs in check. Sometimes a good spraying of the underside of leaves with dishwashing liquid is enough. I've read of people vacuuming the leaves. My oh my, I do good

to keep the house vacuumed.

Gardenias are easy to root also. Take a cutting that does not have a bloom. Coat with root tone, put in mix of garden soil and sand, and you'll have a new plant, usually within a growing season.



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ANDERSONVILLE

BY RICH OTTER

Ravished by an 1840 freshet and repeated storms and bypassed by the iron horse, the final demise of Andersonville occurred with inundation by waters of Hartwell Lake in 1962.

Founded in 1901, about a quarter of a century before the City of Anderson by Anderson's namesake Revolutionary War hero Robert Anderson along with Captain Samuel Earle and Colonel Baylis Earle who laid out the town, it was strategically located at the Savannah River headwaters formed by the Tugaloo and Seneca rivers. It was destined to become a major shipping location connecting with Hamburg and Augusta. From Hamburg the shipped commodities were carried by land to Charleston.

The town was also serviced by two ferries the cables for one of which were still functional well into the mid-20th century. The land for the town was owned by Samuel Earle who purchased 340 acres from Joab Mauldin.

A substantial residential com-

munity blossomed with many fine homes. In addition, Historian and author Frank A. Dickson reported that "Andersonville included an iron foundry, a flour and grist mill, cotton gin, a tailor shop, a sawmill, a wagon shop, a gun factory, livery stables, warehouses, a tan yard, a blacksmith shop, a shoe shop, and cotton and wool factories." Andersonville's Southern Clock Company became a producer of fine quality Ogee 30 hour spring clocks.

The community accommodated a 40 room hotel as well as many retail establishments. At one time Andersonville was said to have surpassed both the City of Anderson and Town of Pendleton in population and productivity.

Townville are farmer Fed Dobbins recalled "Andersonville was the only commercial center for this part of the state. It was about as far as you could go in the river. To go any further you just had to put it on a wagon."

Louise Vandiver reported "its trade with Hamburg and Augusta were brisk during the days when



Ferry to Andersonville remains, 1943

river navigation was the means of carrying freight...After the Civil War there was a factory established in Andersonville for making yarn from cotton seed. It was probably the only one of its kind ever operated in the South." In addition, the town boasted substantial education facilities including an academy for young ladies.

The community was thriving, a major engine in the upstate of South Carolina and picture of progress. But then when the freshet struck in 1840. The cotton and wool mills and the cotton gin were devastated. They rebuilt but were again inundated in 1852 and never recovered.

An effort was made to attract railroads to the community as the

water traffic dwindled but trains bypassed Andersonville. Industry evaporated and residents left for more prosperous localities. The post office closed in 1893. The fine homes disintegrated and the land was mostly left to campers.

Then came the project that permanently spelled doom to Andersonville, Hartwell Lake. Remains of the community were dismantled, graves were moved and the waters rose. The hills that remain above waterline stretch about two miles and the island is irregularly shaped with numerous coves. The island is about three-fourths of a mile from the nearest shore.

Remnants of a road built in the 20th Century stretch down the length of the island with some



Southern Clock Company, Andersonville, S.C.

few stones still present as a gentle reminder of the time there was a thriving community on the land. Other islands nearby represent peripheral habitation sites that once existed in the area. All are now locations for campers, picnickers and adventurers, most of whom are unaware of the vibrant community that once pulsed under their feet or boats.



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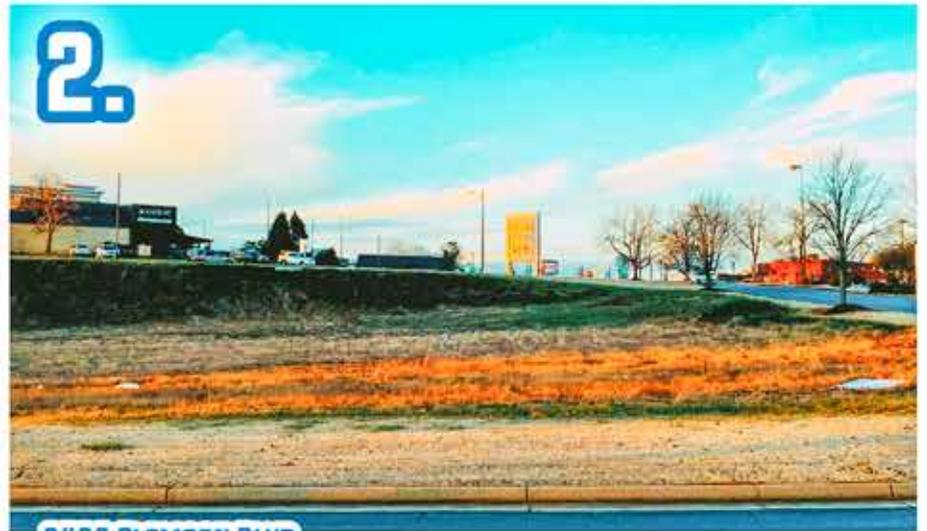
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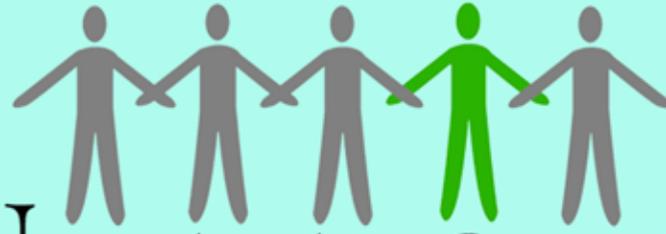
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CREATING HOME



Photo via Country Home Magazine

Gallery walls

BY AMIE BUICE

Filling walls, especially large ones, can be quite daunting. Large walls covered in a gallery of art add so much warmth to a home, but it takes years and years to collect enough art to do so. In past columns I have written about creating gallery walls with art, and even with plates, but there are other ways to create a gallery that don't include a collection of framed art. Below I've listed some ideas for filling empty walls that you may not have thought of – but that will instantly add warmth and interest to any room of your home!

Hats: It's almost summertime, which means many of us have pulled out all of our straw hats. Instead of keeping them stored in your closet, hang them on your wall for texture and color.

Mirrors: If you visit your local craft or thrift store you will find an array of mirrors for great prices. Collect a bunch of different shapes and sizes and use them to fill a small bathroom, hallway or staircase. Not only will it be beautiful, but it will make the space fill larger.

Cutting boards: If you love a charcuterie board as much as I do chances are you have some wooden cutting boards stacked in your kitchen. Rather than taking up counter space, hang them! They will look warm, inviting, and give you easy access for upcoming entertaining.

Silver Trays and Plates: Again, you may have these stored away for entertaining. If not, you can find them at any thrift shop. Pull out the ones that never get used and hang them on your Dining Room wall! This is a quick way to add a bit of sophistication and shine to your space.

Another benefit of creating a gallery wall out of a collection of one thing is that it seems intentional and tidy. Enjoy collecting things around your home or around town and freshen up your room by hanging them! Beyond adding interest to your room, hanging some of these things is a great way to store items that might otherwise be taking up unwanted space. That's a win, win!

NIBBLE & SIP

A day at the beach

Last week was one of my favorite weeks of the year, my extended family's annual week at the Isle of Palms. We've kept up this tradition since 1993, and what started



Kim von Keller

as a Ninja Warrior exercise of lugging sand buckets, boogie boards, chairs, towels, and coolers across the sand dune and down to the water's edge has now become just a stroll to the shore... for the parents. The great thing about our family's younger generation in 2021 is that they're all bigger and stronger than us, so we make them haul everything to the beach AND back.

The other good thing about the younger generation is that they're all over the age of 21, which means that every evening at 5:00, we gather for a Nibble and Sip. Once the sand has been washed off, sharing a drink and a snack is a great way to ease into the evening, whether we're cooking in or dining out. The drinks are simple, they

can be made in batches, and nobody gets more than one; after all, nobody wants to shake 10 individual cocktails, and it doesn't set a good example for the young folks if the parents are behaving like they're at a fraternity party.

One of the favorites of the week at the IOP was Mint Julep Iced Tea. It was refreshing and not too sweet, with the brightness of fresh mint and citrus balancing the bourbon's caramel notes and the tea's tannins. And in my mind, there's only one snack to have with any type of iced tea, and that's Barbara's Pimento Cheese. Named for my mother, this pimento cheese was always on hand for family gatherings or picnics. It's the cream cheese that sets it apart. Whether you use it to make mini sandwiches or simply let your guests spread it on crackers, I wouldn't count on leftovers. Sneak in a few hands of Rummy before going to dinner, and that's what I'd call a day at the beach.

Mint Julep Iced Tea

16 mint leaves
2 lemons, sliced
2 limes, sliced
2 c. bourbon
3 c. sweetened iced tea

additional mint leaves and lemon/lime slices, to garnish

In the bottom of a pitcher, combine the mint leaves with the lemon and lime slices. Mash with the back of a large spoon to release the mint and citrus oils. Add the bourbon and the iced tea and stir well. Refrigerate until chilled. When ready to serve, stir the mixture well before pouring ½ cup into ten tall glasses filled with ice. Garnish with mint leaves and lemon-lime slices.

Barbara's Pimento Cheese

1 lb. extra-sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
½ c. mayonnaise, plus extra, if desired
½ c. drained jarred diced pimentos
½ to 1 t. hot sauce (I like Tabasco.)
salt and black pepper, to taste

Bread, crackers, or celery sticks, for serving
Place shredded cheese in a food processor bowl and pulse several times until chopped small; empty cheese into a mixing bowl. To the food processor bowl, add the softened cream cheese, ½ c. mayonnaise, and ½ t. hot sauce and blend until smooth. Scrape the mixture into the mixing bowl with the cheese and stir well with a rubber spatula, adding additional mayonnaise to your desired texture and additional hot sauce, plus salt and pepper, to taste. Use as a filling for mini sandwiches or serve as a spread with crackers or celery sticks. Serves 6-8.

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Most all of us have fond childhood memories of spending summer break having fun, going on exciting adventures and spending quality time with family and friends. Now as parents with our own families, we desire to create that same unforgettable summer magic



Katie Laughridge

that will forever be treasured by our little ones as they too grow older. However, despite our best intentions, the one challenge we all have in common is how to best entertain our little ones while carting them around in a vehicle all summer.

Although I don't have the magic solution for every challenge you may encounter this summer, I do have a few ideas that may help make your car trips a little more pleasant:

- Coloring books, art pads, crayons, and stickers (Michael's always has coloring books at their checkout counters for only \$1). There's nothing more exciting than a new coloring book, especially if it features one of your child's favorite characters.

- Have a coloring contest or challenge your child to use every color in their crayon box to color a picture!

- A construction paper pad and gel pens is another good way to encourage your child to use their imagination to create something new.

- Books: Keep a few age-appropriate books in your car and change them out periodically. Board books are great for babies and toddlers (even if they do put them in their mouths!). Picture books and non-fiction books are perfect for your school-aged child. Your older school-age children generally prefer chapter books, and likely already have their own favorites. Be sure to encourage them to grab their book from the nightstand and bring it along for the ride. If you don't have access to an adequate supply of books, the Anderson County Library has an endless supply of great books for all ages- plus you can check out up to twenty books at a one time.

- Portable Etch-A-Sketch's and Magna Doodles are also great! Use these to encourage your child to create a masterpiece, play Pictionary, or practice writing their name, "abc's" and "123's".

- Road Trip Games: Check out your local Dollar Store for small board games in little bags.

- Small Toy Figures (for younger children): Your local Dollar Store has a great selection of your child's favorite toy figures. Store these in small plastic bags, and get one or two out as a surprise when your child starts getting antsy and bored.

I hope you and your family have a great and memorable summer. Stay safe and happy traveling!

Carolina's secretive marsh hen

BY ANN BAILES

A couple of years ago, our family saw all kinds of bird life from our porch during a vacation in a house on the marsh at Pawleys Island - herons, terns, egrets, pelicans, purple martins, and much more.

But the first afternoon, we saw something that wasn't so obvious -- a larger plain brown bird that crept out from under the dock, hunched over with a long orange downturned bill. It ventured out a little, ran back, and then quickly made its way across the back yard to the neighbors' dock. But the bigger and cuter show was still coming. This mama bird came back out - and following her were three adorable tiny chicks, covered with black down. The four birds scurried across the yards and quickly secluded themselves back under our dock.

This was our close-up introduction to the clapper rail - more commonly known as a "marsh hen." These very secretive birds are often heard but rarely seen in tall salt marsh grass all up and down our Carolina coast. According to the Audubon website, they let out a "clattering cackle" --a "kek" repeated several times from deep in the marsh. Anyone familiar with beach habitat knows that sound - especially when a



clapper rail and chicks every day, making sure that they were still fine, since in the absence of much marsh grass behind our house, the docks appeared to be their home. Several times a day they'd make a dash across the back yard from one dock to the other.

Our last night at the beach we were also introduced to a phenomenon known as a king tide - an uncommon and much higher than normal high tide, that came almost up to the house. The undersides of both docks were completely flooded. We wondered about our marsh hens' chances to make it through that high water, and although animals instinctively

group of them gets going together!

Clapper rails spend their entire lives in the salt marsh. They seldom fly, but rather walk with a stilted gait. They spend most of their time foraging for whatever is available to eat, and they're not picky. These rails are so secretive that biologists have difficulty estimating their numbers. They are not considered to be threatened; however, extensive beach development is slowly destroying their habitat.

As the week went on, we watched for "our

know survival tactics, it still appeared that nothing under those docks could have lived through that king tide.

Next morning before going home, I had to get in one final time of sitting on the porch, enjoying the beautiful marsh breezes and sights. And, after several minutes - here came the mama, scurrying between the two docks. Soon afterward, the little ones followed her. "Our" clapper rail family had made it. We could go home in peace.

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Happiness is a mindset for your journey, not the result of your destination. (Shawn Achor)

It's no secret modern life as we are currently living it is stressful. I see it in my patients, and I suspect they reflect the feelings of millions of our fellow citizens.

Is there a proven way to raise our "happiness quotient"?

Yes, if we will embrace it. Recent medical studies confirm that positive emotions result in a sense of well-being which leads to better health, even longer life. People who think positively have lower risk of dying of all causes compared with those their own age who have a gloomier view of life.

Medical science is finding that through the discipline of practicing what is called "mindfulness" we can achieve a higher level

of joy and peace in our lives. Mindfulness means focusing on the present moment, and it is emerging as THE key element that determines our level of happiness in life – and leads us to a healthier mind and body. Consider: Simple pleasures. We all tend to focus on big events in our lives. To help sustain a positive attitude focus daily on enjoyable moments while experiencing them. Slow down and savor pleasurable feelings. Do not let them slip by unnoticed.

Be thankful and grateful. Try living every day with greater appreciation for what you have and what you receive. Focus on here and now, whether it be pleasant or unpleasant.

From this comes the ability to better deal with problems as they arise. Worry less about the



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

future (which we cannot control) and regrets over the past. NOTE: Research shows that those who practice this also worry less about issues of self-esteem. Going a step further, consider this. When we focus on the positive, we gain something important – resilience – which enables us to weather the storms of life that are bound to come.

Finally, in survey after survey older people report that despite the ups and downs they have experienced through the years, they have become more satisfied with their lives as they age. Why? Researchers studying the aging process have found older folks tend to focus more on what is pleasurable. They accept their limitations and use their experience to compensate. And, best of all, they set goals for the future believing "this year will be better than last".

The take-away? The earlier in life we adopt these practices of mindfulness the greater the impact on the quality, and possibly length, of our lives. Now that's personal power. You are in charge of your life – your happiness – by

living in the moment. If you have questions, or would just like to talk, feel free to call. We are here to help you. Think of us as 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.

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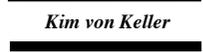
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Bye-bye, bumper sticker — there's a new smart-aleck in town

I'm not the biggest fan of bumper stickers. First, it's hard to express a cheeky, sarcastic idea on a space that measures 3" x 10". Second, even if you can find one that says what you're trying to express, there's a good chance that another driver, possibly one who's overworked, underpaid, exhausted, and emotional — for example, anyone with a toddler or a Labrador retriever puppy — is going to take issue with your thoughts and run you off the road. But while space constraints and edgy drivers force me to keep my smart-alecky thoughts to myself on the highway, they'll never take away my freedom of expression in the privacy of my own kitchen. Readers, I give you the modern tea towel.



Kim von Keller

Way back in the 20th century, tea towels were just perpetual-

ly stained, ratty-looking lengths of cotton fabric that were hidden in kitchen drawers until somebody spilled something again. Twenty-first century tea towels, though, are statements of personal philosophy meant for display, draped over the oven door handle so that guests can appreciate your sassy sense of humor. And they're not just for women; in recent months, Ted and I have both received them in gift bags. See if you can guess which one was meant for whom:

"I couldn't eat another bite... Oh, look, there's pie!"
 "I love Jesus, but I curse a little."
 If you guessed that the first one was for me, you are correct. Technically, the second one could apply to me as well, especially if someone leaves a crumb-filled Cheetos bag in the snack basket or I'm trying to untangle a bunch of wire coat hangers. But for both



quantity AND quality cursing, no one beats my husband, whose favorite adjective is @#%^&\$!*.
 And that's the great thing about tea towels. For less than \$10, you can find one that suits everyone. Between the hundreds I saw for sale last week at the Historic Charleston

City Market and the thousands available on the internet, I've found the right tea towel for each of my friends and family members.

For my mother, who makes a heck of a pound cake: "Good moms let you lick the beaters. Great moms turn off the mixer first."

For my sister, who loves to watch shows about serial killers: "If at first you don't succeed, it's only attempted murder."

For my daughter, an associate attorney by day and home renovator by night: "It was a rough week, but at least I didn't need bail money, so there's that."

For her boyfriend, who's not a rise-and-shine kind of guy: "I hate morning people. And mornings. And people."

For my friend Helen, who just celebrated a speed-limit birthday: "The new sponge in the sink brightened my day. Being an adult is stupid."

But before you go on a tea-towel spending spree, you should know the first rule of tea towels: You CANNOT buy one for yourself. A tea towel is a token of affection meant to show how well you know the recipient. The one I received recently is meaningful to me because my sister, who gave it to me, knows that I will always order pie, even if I'm not hungry; that's what makes it a thoughtful gift. And even though it will make me cringe just to touch it, the Ted Bundy tea towel that you can absolutely find online will make Lisa know she is loved if she receives it from me.

So how do you get your own tea towels if you can't buy them for yourself? Think of them like engagement rings and start dropping hints. Laugh just a bit too loud when you see them at craft fairs. Make a fuss over them at your friends' homes. Put them on your Amazon wish list. Just remember that you'll never sit at the cool kids' table if you don't have your own tea towel. After all, they're the bumper stickers of the 21st century.



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GONE FISHIN'

I must have been around five years old when my Dad told me that we were going fishing. He'd bought a couple of cane poles, some fishing line and a small container of hooks that went into the back of the station wagon, along with a container of red worms.



Neal Parnell

We were sitting on a dock on Broadway Lake and Daddy was putting one of the worms on my hook as I watched it squirm and wiggle. I felt a little sad for that worm as I lowered it into the water. A few seconds later, my first fishing trip was over. I had no idea what to expect, and when that pole bent and shook in my hands, I let it go in a flash, and watched as the pole seemingly swam away. My Dad just laughed and said, "That's fishing lesson number one, Hold



on to the Pole". He handed his pole over to me and immediately it started to bend and shake. I held on as Daddy said, "Git 'im up son!". My heart was racing as I raised the pole and saw nothing but a huge fighting whale coming right at me. I screamed, and just as I was about to drop the pole again, my Daddy grabbed it. He swung the great fish into his hand, removed the hook from its mouth, and held it out for me to see. It was much smaller than it had looked a few seconds ago, but still fighting. "You've caught your first fish son, but we need to keep working on lesson number one."

I didn't try fishing again for fifteen years.



I bought a Zebco 202 rod and reel, and filled a five gallon bucket with a small tackle box, some drinks, a couple of sandwiches, and a carton of night crawlers. I drove my VW bug to somewhere near Greenpond Landing and parked. I grabbed my bucket and pole and started walking toward the lake. I followed one of many paths through the pine woods, and as I got closer to a cove in the lake I heard squealing and giggling. On a stump near the

lake I saw a pile of clothing, and in the lake I now saw three young women huddled together with just their heads above the water. One of them yelled at me, "We're not coming out till you leave!". I walked to the edge of the lake with my bucket, reached in and pulled out a sandwich and said, "Fine with me, I'm just here to feed the Alligator". I didn't catch any fish that day, but I'll never forget the three that got away.

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One Degree of Chadwick Boseman

BY MAURA HOGAN

“One Degree of Chadwick Boseman” pretty much sums up the connective tissue of Anderson, the community of 27,000 in upstate South Carolina.

Most everyone has a story about the late Hollywood actor, who many film followers say was snubbed by one of his industry’s highest achievements, an Academy Award for best actor, on April 25.

Boseman had deep ties to the community in which he was born. He remained connected to it until his death from colon cancer in August at age 43.

But with all the adulation swirling around the mega-star, those in Anderson knew him simply as Chad.

“He would come back and give to this community,” Anderson Mayor Terence Roberts said. “He was a family guy ... and he was very involved in their lives.”

In an Oscar night upset, the award that many had forecast as presumptive for the Anderson native was given instead to Anthony Hopkins, who was not present, for his role in “The Father.”

The evening’s broadcast thus ended on an odd and deflating note that sent the Twitter and media worlds reeling with criticism of the so-framed Boseman snub and fingers pointed at ceremony producers for teeing up a highly anticipated posthumous win that wasn’t.

This year’s Academy Awards otherwise marked new strides in inclusivity, with award winners including Daniel Kaluuya for best supporting actor and Yuh-Jung Youn for best supporting actress. And Chloé Zhao became the second woman and first woman of color to win as best director for “Nomadland.”

But the votes did not tally up for Boseman, a forceful film actor who has embodied legendary Black figures from Jackie Robinson to Thurgood Marshall to T’Challa, the Black Panther.

The Oscar nomination was for his role as Levee in “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” the Netflix production of August Wilson’s play directed by George C. Wolfe, which many consider the finest manifestation of Boseman’s magnetism and transcendent talent.

Another nominee with South Carolina roots, Viola Davis, was nominated for best actress for her portrayal of the title character of the same film. Born in St. Matthews,

she left the state as an infant but still lays claims to those origins. That award went to Frances McDormand for her part in “Nomadland.”

On the red carpet, Davis trained her attention on Boseman, saying it “feels right” that her co-star should get it.

“It’s like I said before, he was authenticity on steroids,” she said. “You know, sometimes, people honor people who actually were not really nice or really the persona did not match the real person. This — it matches the person.”

But, around Anderson, where Boseman was greatly admired as an inspirational example of achievement and humility, there was little detectable Oscar buzz afoot.

Even with a local icon dominating the media waves, Oscar Sunday appeared to be typically low key in the welcoming, well-scrubbed downtown, which boasts plentiful public art, cheery banners, sidewalk engravings, and a range of boutiques and dining spots. In Anderson, pride in place is clear.

Elsewhere in the area, instead of red carpets, freshly cut lawns rolled out against a blue, cloud-happy sky, offering lush green views and sweeps of land in this rural part of the Upstate.

There were no outward signs of the pending awards, no letters on marquees or such. With many establishments closing early on Sundays, only a handful of public places provided a spot to gather and watch the ceremony.

That is by no means an indication of the town’s ongoing ardor for Boseman. The week after his death, the city held a public memorial, drawing 2,000 people.

For it, emerging local artists created portraits of Boseman, doing so with equal parts speed and emotion.

“He was an artist and brought out a lot of the other artists locally,” Roberts said.

Enlarged reproductions of the works are now on view in an exhibition at the Wren Pavilion Art Gallery in downtown Anderson.



Mayor Terence Roberts gathered with artists at Anderson’s Wren Pavilion Art Gallery during an exhibition of portraits featuring Chadwick Boseman.

In the hours before the ceremony, a group of the artists talked about their works and why Boseman meant so much to them.

Joey Withinarts started his work, “The Rising King,” immediately after learning of the film star’s death, creating a massive image on wood referencing his T’Challa role and inviting other locals to sign it.

“For him to come from a rural area like this and ... be successful, it makes it possible for anybody. I feel like that really inspires me,” Withinarts said.

Patro Pero Ulmer, who painted his work of T’Challa in blacks and whites, did so to express his emotions about Boseman’s death, adding he has seen a great deal of meaning in the actor’s impact on the community.

Troleum Dawson had battled colon cancer and understood well the struggles Boseman must have faced managing treatment with his film work. A friend of Boseman’s family who was taught by his aunt, Dawson has watched the actor perform since his days at T.L. Hanna High School.

“He just showed that if he can be somebody, we can be somebody,” he said.

The youngest artist there, 17-year-old J.C. Austin, teamed up with his brother Eric Greer in “Keep Striving,” which merges Boseman as T’Challa and Jackie Robinson. In the background, it repeats “864ever,” referencing the local area code



This image released by Netflix shows Anderson native Chadwick Boseman in “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom.”

by adapting the iconic “Wakanda Forever” saying from “Black Panther.”

Austin, who also is a basketball player, is similarly moved by Boseman’s fortitude in the face of illness.

“I just thought it was really admirable that he didn’t show any weakness while he was living as he was dying,” he said.

Styles varied from the exquisite renderings of Nat Morris to a digitally created graphic work in peaceful purple by Anna Grace Burch, but throughout, Boseman’s brilliant, kind eyes beamed.

Some were excited to watch the Oscars broadcast, with Dawson sporting a Hollywood T-shirt and L.A. hat for the occasion. Others were pleasantly less committal.

Later, at Local Uptown, Anderson’s oldest downtown pub, most channels were turned to sports rather than the awards show. The patrons, an easy mix of young and old, Black and White, were mainly occupied amiably talking with one another, with frequent shouts of greetings to those who walked through the door.

The awards at times absorbed some, and Glenn Close’s “Da Butt” dance prompted peals of laughter.

They all smiled at the mention of Boseman.

“I had the same football coach as he did, who said he was a really nice guy,” Colin Roberts said as the Academy Awards red carpet amped up.

Patron Andrew Boisvert said if Boseman wins, “I know my mother will be excited by it because she’s in the Elks Club with his relative and talks about him.” Another said she taught Boseman’s nephew, who would bring in pictures of him and his famous uncle to share in class. “Everybody knows Chadwick

Boseman,” another pub patron said.

But with all the shared affection for Boseman, the presumptive Academy Award win was met with polite, mild interest. Their focus, instead, was Boseman as a stand-up guy. The words “laid back” and “humble” cropped up time and again, as well as his sports and theater achievements at T.L. Hanna High.

Earlier that day, Welfare Baptist Church showed the most prominent display of the Boseman name. It is the actor’s family church. In a graveyard resting beside it, stately stone markers bear the family name throughout, though the church’s pastor has said that the actor himself is not buried there.

As many around the country were gearing up to watch the Oscars, an unrelated gathering under an outdoor pavilion on the grounds resonated with live music in the form of earthy, soulful blues. It was the stirring, and, at times, mournful sound of the Black South, a place Boseman championed in his work and his life, and was particularly reminiscent of his last role as a trumpeter in his Oscar-nominated role.

And, while those in Anderson may or may not have been drawn to the Oscars, they and others are consistently drawn to its hometown nominee.

“He was Chad to us,” Roberts said, “From going to school, to his church community and his family — very humble.”

With an office near the Wren Park Art Gallery, he has observed continued interest in the Pavilion’s portraits since they were installed in October. There is always someone in there, taking in the many facets of the local hero they call Chad.

Maura Hogan is the arts critic at *The Post and Courier*.

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'Moonlight Feels Right' — The hit that almost wasn't

BY JIM HARRIS

Forty-five years ago, the song "Moonlight Feels Right" by Starbuck was exploding. On the charts for over five months, the song went to number one in Canada, and number two in the U.S. Only Elton John kept it from the top spot. Appearances on American Bandstand, Midnight Special, Merv Griffin, Mike Douglas, and Solid Gold and tours with ELO, Hall and Oates, KC and the Sunshine Band, and Boston followed. The song, and the band, were everywhere. Had the music, and the band, not survived a series of numerous close calls along the way, we could have easily never heard of either.

Lead singer and co-founder of Starbuck, Bruce Blackman, was born in Greenville, Mississippi. He got his musical start in college bands and was a founder of the band Eternity's Children. They had a minor U.S. hit in 1968 with the song Mrs. Bluebird. Unhappy with management, he soon left the band.

Bruce and his wife were headed to Tampa to connect with a DJ who had promised to open doors for him in the music world. But, as Bruce recalls, "We ran out of money in Atlanta.," so he planted his roots in the emerging Atlanta music scene, resuming writing,

playing, and looking for a record deal.

Bo Wagner joined Eternity's Children after Bruce departed. He loved Bruce's songs. Sometime later, Bo was touring with Liberace as drummer and music director. When that tour visited Atlanta, Bo contacted Bruce, invited him to the Liberace show, and talked afterward. They decided to form a band, which became the first version of Starbuck.

Bruce had written "Moonlight Feels Right" about his pursuit of the lady that would become his wife, Peggy.

He had seen a newspaper photo of her and enrolled in her college, hoping to meet her. Her school, in the song, was changed to Ole Miss because "it sounded better."

Bruce was advised to connect with famed producer Bill Lowery, who had created Studio One outside of Atlanta, where tracks like Free Bird and Sweet Home Alabama were recorded. After months of unreturned phone calls, a friend told Bruce that he needed to reach Mike Clark, Lowery's right-hand man. Calls to Clark were also not successful, so

Bruce decided to drop by their office with a demo tape.

Entering the doorway of their complex, a former school in metro Atlanta, he walked directly into a meeting with 10-12 people, including Mike Clark. They went into a side room, listened to part of the tape, and Clark took him into Lowery's office.

Lowery listened offered a publishing contract then and there.

Days later, the band was in Studio One, cutting an album, including Moonlight Feels Right. When the basic track was complete, the band tried various solos using various instruments to add to the song, but

they just didn't seem to fit. Bo suggested trying a marimba solo. Bruce recalls, "We mic'd up his marimba with five mics. He did an ad-lib, one-take solo. There was silence in the studio afterward. It was incredible."

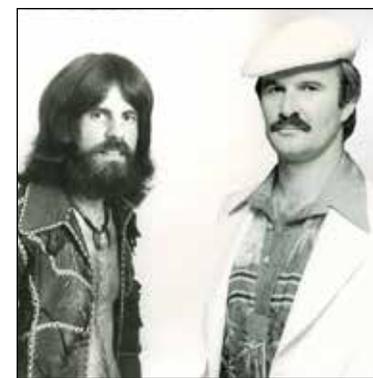
The band finished the album, then made the rounds with prospective record companies. Southern rock was becoming huge, which was what the companies were seeking. That wasn't the Starbuck sound. After dozens

of pitches, only one label, Private Stock, offered them a deal. They loved Moonlight, but wanted the marimba solo removed to shorten the song time. Bruce dug in his heels, and the solo stayed.

The next challenge was getting the record on the air. In the fall of 1975, Bruce and Bo hit the road, visiting dozens of radio stations. Smaller stations added Moonlight to their playlists, but they weren't having any luck with the large markets, and the song stalled.

Bruce visited WERC in Birmingham, Alabama, and met DJ Mike St. John, who listened to Moonlight and loved it. He felt it was a spring/summer song and promised to play it the following year. Thinking he was finding a nice way to blow them off, Bruce and Bo returned to Atlanta.

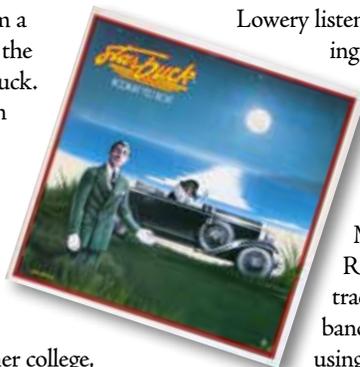
In the spring of 1976, Bruce heard from Mike Clark, "You've got a hit." Bruce assumed he meant "Drop a Little Rock," a song he had written for Tommy Roe, but found out it was Moonlight. St. John had begun playing it in Birmingham, and it was doing well. A test pressing of 25,000 copies sold out quickly, and the song's chart climb began, only to hit yet another snag.



Bo Wagner and Bruce Blackman

Program directors at that time were hesitant to play songs with synthesizers; thinking engineers created them with effects, not musical talent. To show the program heads the band's musical ability, it was arranged for them to play the Southeastern Radio Conference in Birmingham. Billboard, Cash Box, major stations, and labels were all in attendance. The band blew them away with a live performance, the attendees loved the band, and the song resumed its rise.

After Moonlight Feels Right, Starbuck hit the charts with several other songs, although none did as well. In 1980, the band released an album under the name Korona, which also yielded a popular single. Bo Wagner passed away in 2017. Bruce Blackman still records and produces music. He was inducted into the Mississippi Writer's Garden on April 5, 2014.



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