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CATER'S LAKE: MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

BY KIM VON KELLER

The City of Anderson will soon break ground on the \$5.8 million Cater's Lake revitalization project. The park design features new paved walkways, native landscaping, nesting islands for winged residents, and a covered bridge.

The project will also include closing the intersection at Hiawatha Drive and East Greenville Street. This will allow SCDOT to install a traffic signal at Mauldin Street and East Greenville Street to slow traffic and make pedestrian movements safer. The closure will not only eliminate cut-through traffic adjacent to the park, but it also offers the opportunity to create an entrance plaza and additional parking for visitors.

As folks look forward to the new and improved park, they're also looking back to their favorite memories of Cater's Lake.

DUCKS AND GEESE

"Growing up in Anderson, I practi-



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Lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cally drove by Cater's Lake on a daily basis," says Lisa Acker Parker. "It always looked so beautiful and serene traveling along that curve on the road. What I didn't know until my Grandmama took us there to feed the ducks was how scary it would be as I was being chased and pecked by those ducks. I can remember it to this day!" Lisa Acker Parker

"A pleasant memory is going to Cater's Lake with my grandparents when I was a child and throwing bread into the water and watching the fish snap it up almost immediately. And later, in the years following my late sister Fredda Lee's stroke, she enjoyed going there. As her mobility was limited, I would open the passenger side door, and the ducks would come right up to the car door so she could feed them. She got a big kick out of that!" Cliff Smith

"I was always an avid bird watcher and was at Cater's Lake constantly. The first time I ever saw a green heron was there. When my son was still in a stroller, we were there one day and were charged by one of the nesting female geese." Cheryl Smithen

"We would get baby ducks and chicks at Easter. When they got big, we had to take them and leave them at Cater's Lake. We would come back to visit and try to identify which ones were ours." Jana Laughridge

WINTER WONDERLAND

"I think the ducks would actually chase us! But I also seem to remember how magical the lake looked on the rare occasion that it froze over."

"I only remember skating – even though I had no skates – on Cater's Lake in my childhood. I don't remember my age or the year, but I was probably in grammar school, so it would have been the late 1950s to early 1960s. My second grade teacher at Kennedy Street School was Constance Cater Skelton, daughter of Postelle Cater. She was a wonderful

teacher!" David King

"The police almost arrested us for ice skating on the lake! This was back in the 70's." Charlie Davenport

GROWING UP

"In the summer, my mother would take us to the morning movie at the State Theatre. Afterwards, we would meet my father at Cater's Lake for a picnic. He would have hot dogs from the Greasy Spoon." – Bren McClain

"Drinking my first beer(s). They were Miller Ponies. A few of us snuck down to Cater's Lake during a Social at Central Presbyterian. We polished off a sack of beer." Bill Thompson, Jr

"I used to go there with my great-grandmother. I would ride my bike to her house on Shannon Way. She would make me call her once I got home because she was nervous about the teenagers that would be 'parking' around the lake." Mary Harris

"I grew up a block and a half from Cater's Lake, and I still live nearby. When I was a kid, we could go anywhere we wanted on bicycles, and on Saturday mornings, we would meet at Cater's Lake by the weeping willow. My brother and I would take long walks there, and my sister got engaged there!" Graeme McGregor Heintze

STARTING OUT

"I did some modeling for a store called Pants and or Etc in the '70's for an advertisement in the paper. Van Sullivan was the photographer, and the pictures were taken at Cater's Lake." – Anne Bailes Gallant

My fondest memory there was when I had my first professional pictures done. The agency in Greenville needed a comp card, which was a card with three different looks. I don't remember the photographer's name, but I remember being nervous and then feeling right at home because I had spent so much time there as a child feeding the ducks with my mom and dad, my brother, Roger, and my

grandparents." Michael Clowers

BEAUTIFUL BUT DANGEROUS

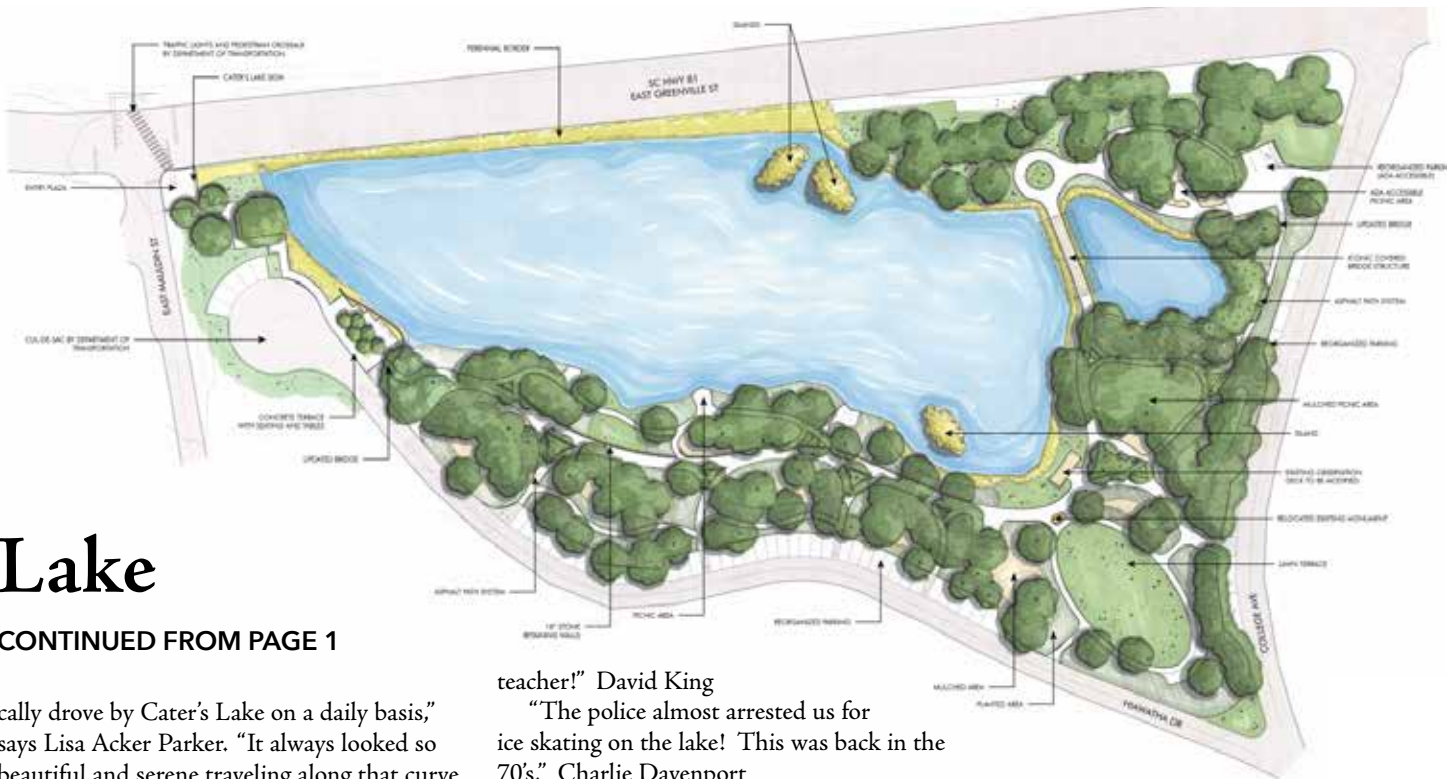
Becky Pickens has a memory of her father's scary incident at Cater's Lake. She shared this story that appeared in the local paper:

"Fred Pickens, well-known young Anderson businessman, was reported improved by attaches of the Anderson County hospital today after a serious cut upon one foot from which he lost a large quantity of blood. Mr. Pickens was frog gigging when the accident occurred. He lost much blood before reaching the hospital and had virtually no pulse on arrival there.... A transfusion was immediately ordered, and the injured man showed considerable improvements.... The accident occurred when Mr. Pickens killed a bullfrog in Cater's Lake. The frog sank, so Mr. Pickens pulled off his shoes and jumped in after it. One of his feet struck the jagged edge of a broken bottle, or jug, and several bad wounds are inflicted. His companions attempted to shut off the flow of blood, but without success. He was rushed to a physician's office and then to the Anderson County Hospital."

NEW AND IMPROVED, BUT STILL FAMILIAR

"This is going to be a light-imprint project," said Andrew Strickland, Assistant City Manager. "When designing the project, it was important for us to maintain the natural landscape and ambiance the park offers to its visitors."

The Cater's Lake revitalization project will be substantially completed by January 2026. For more information and updates, visit the project website at <https://www.cityofandersonsc.com/caterlake2024/>.



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TO SEND INFORMATION

Please make sure photos include the date taken, location and names of people in the photos. If photos are submitted via email, make sure they are a minimum of 300 dpi and saved as a JPEG file. If photos are mailed, we cannot guarantee the photo will be returned. The editor of The Electric City News will make your article/story grammatically correct without altering its content. The publishers of The Electric City News reserve the right to withhold inappropriate content or photos.

DESIGN ON A DIME

Do you have a room or space in your home that needs a redesign? It's that time of year that we all want to refresh our living spaces.

In keeping with the memory and talents of our former columnist and dear friend Bill Ducworth, we are bringing back the ever popular "Design on a Dime." One lucky person in Anderson who needs a room redesign will win a free room makeover. We will bring in an interior design expert to redesign, rework and revamp a room using only the things you have in your home and without spending a dime.

For this project, Anne Gallant

of Elizabeth O'Herron Interiors in Beaufort, has agreed to donate her time and talents to get you started on a fresh look for the new year.



Anne Gallant

Liz O'Herron, founder of O'Herron Interiors, earned a bachelor's degree in Interior Design from Meredith College in 1990. After graduation,

she worked for Circa Interiors in Charlotte, NC. After a decade, she opened her own firm in Charlotte. Later, she and her family moved to Beaufort and O'Herron Interiors has been a staple there for 22 years. Anne Gallant, born and raised in Anderson, was project manager for Coosaw Point Development on Lady's Island in Beaufort. She has contributed her design talents to countless homes of all sizes and style. Ten years ago, Liz and Anne began to work as a team redesigning some of the most exquisite homes in Beaufort.

Anne will transform one lucky person's room into a fresh new vibe. Using her eye for furniture arrangement, enhancing the uniqueness of the home and freshening the atmosphere, she will create a bold new look. So, take a look around your house and see if there is a room that could use a lift. Don't waste another minute. Take pictures and send them to us. Anne will look through the photos and choose the best room.

Once the room is finished, we



will reveal the transformation with before and after photos in the following issue.

To enter, just email us photos of

a room that you would like to transform to ElectricCityNews@gmail.com. And may the best (or most deserving) room win!

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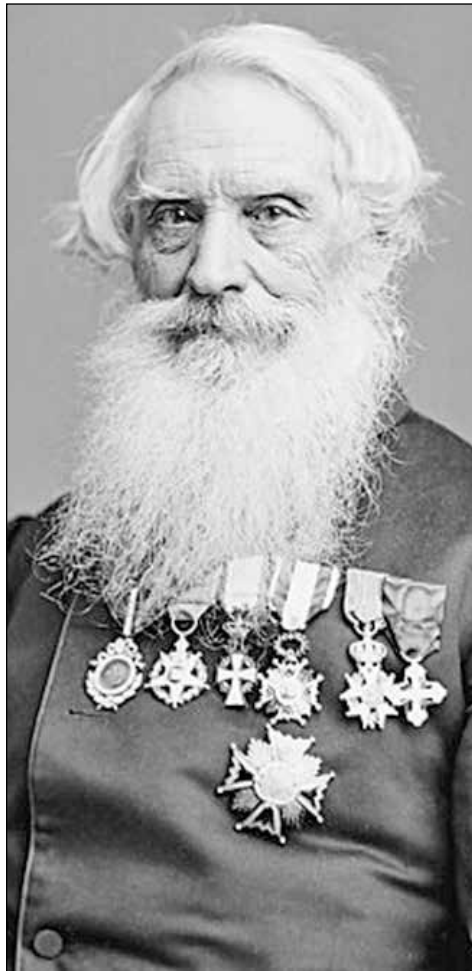
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MORSE CODE



Samuel Morse

BY RICH OTTER

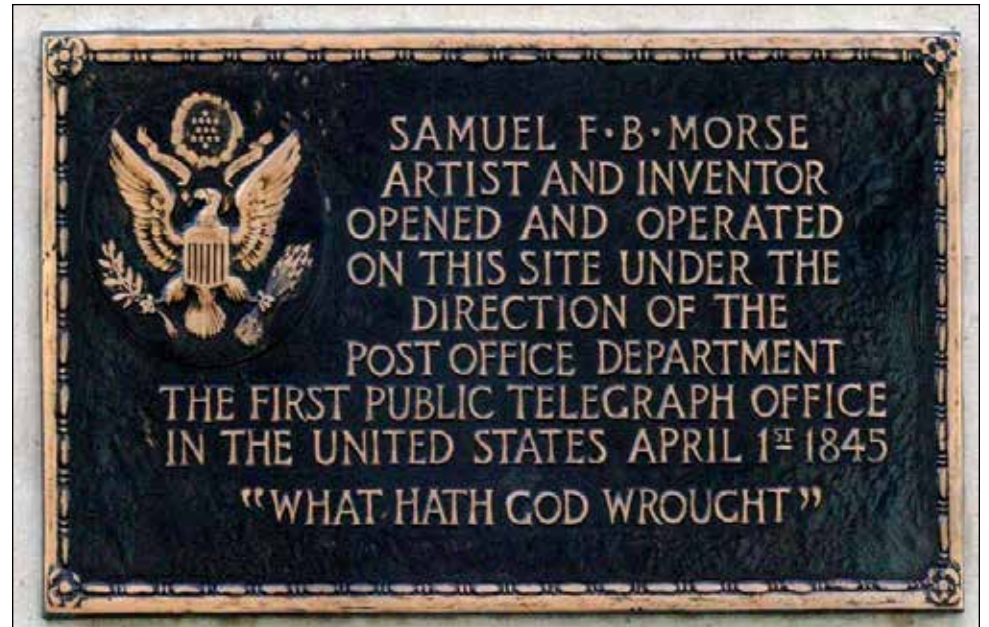
You may have watched a wild-west movie with a frantic telegraph message being sent right before the wires would be cut by the bad guys in order to save the day. You see the telegrapher hitting a key with a bunch of clicks. You may know they are dots and dashes, but probably never wondered what they actually looked like or how it was understood by the party on the other end.

Think about messages that must have been sent in the wild-west: “Indians attacking Custer at Little Bighorn.” Or, in Anderson County South Carolina: “Trestle washed out at Broadway Creek. Send help.”

Wartime communication was tremendously important, and special training was given for telegraphers such as John Wesley Smith who came to Anderson with the (Southern) Blue Ridge Railway, eventually became the superintendent.

Telegraphing was a critical service in this country and throughout the world for many years, requiring a very fast mind and finger coordination that is almost unbelievable. It may be surprising that it is still being used.

The primary developer was Samuel Morse, a painter born in 1791. The story is that he was off painting when his wife took sick and died before he could return because it had not been possible to get in touch with him. He felt there needed to be a faster method of communication in an emergency. Fortunately, he had



A plaque placed at the site of the first public telegraph office in Washington, D.C.

been interested in electricity.

With an American physicist, Joseph Henry and mechanical engineer, Alfred Vail, an electrical telegraph system was developed. An alphabet was converted into dots and dashes. A space separated the dots and dashes constituting a word. For instance: if the communication were to say “stop now” it would read ... for s, - for t, --- for o, .-. for p, then, a brief pause at the end of the word (equal to seven dots), and -. for n, --- for o, and .-. for w.

The trick is in having the mental and finger dexterity to get the message out and reading it at the other end. In the military or for directing train tracks to be appropriately switched, it could take rapid action transmitting a crystal clear direction. Time was lost looking down at a sheet in order to figure how to spell out a message or how to interpret a received communication. It had to be read as fluently as if the words appeared, not just as a bunch of dots and dashes. In addition, action to be taken instructions could be complex and needed to be clear.

The system evolved over time but has remained essentially the same. Originally it was slow because there was a single needle and the operator had to look to the needle to get the dots and dashes and then convert to writing the message. Later, a double needle system included a needle to the left corresponding to the dots and to the right corresponding to the dash, and the telegrapher could tell the difference by the sound of the respective needles—no looking up and down—much faster.

The dots and dashes are actually called dits and dahs. The dahs are equivalent to three dits. They can be transmitted by light as well as sound.

Morse code still has applications, particularly regarding emergency communications. It is used in maritime situations, search and rescue and even space missions. It has recently been used to communicate with miners

trapped after a cave-in. It is not a dead language. There are also armatures who can be available for emergencies.

Think of the operator sticking to it and sending out as the Titanic went down. He probably knew there weren't enough life boats, anyway.

NOTICE

Pursuant to South Carolina Statutory Law, personal property from the following unit will be sold on **March 20, 2025, at 10:00 am** at **Stowaway Self Storage** to satisfy a lien for storage rent.

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B	--•••	O	----	2	••-----
C	-•-•	P	•--•	3	•••---
D	-••	Q	--•-	4	••••-
E	•	R	•-•	5	•••••
F	••-•	S	•••	6	-••••
G	--•	T	-	7	--•••
H	••••	U	••-	8	----••
I	••	V	•••-	9	-----•
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HALL OF FAMER RETURNS TO WATCH YELLOW JACKET GIRLS IN PLAYOFF OPENER

It was so fitting to see Wayne Jones at the T.L. Hanna girls' first-round state tournament basketball game last week.

The Hanna girls trounced Northwestern 65-21 in an easy-does-it opener for the Jackets.

Coach Jones, who recently turned 80, remembers when things weren't so easy.

He began the Hanna girls' basketball program in 1974 and coached them until '79.

"Coach [Jim] Fraser asked me to get the program going," Jones said. "We won our very first game, at Pickens. I think we went 9-10 in our first season and 11-10 in the second season. I had to get some girls from church-league teams that first season."

Things got better as the girls posted records of 19-6, 21-4 and 21-4 before taking the boys' job.

"Coaching the girls was fun. It was more

like a family," he said. "They wanted me to quit smoking and I promised I would if they'd matched the number of wins from the year before. They did and I haven't touched a cigarette since."



Brian Hodges

Fast forward to 2024 and Jones was voted into the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.

The Hanna girls made the state playoffs three times with Jones in charge.

His girls' teams went 81-32.

His record as the boys' coach was 357-311 over 26 seasons. His boys' teams won eight conference championships. He coached the boys golf team for six years and won a state title in 1974.

His best girls' players during his tenure? He

mentioned Luanne Wentzky and Melinda Hall.

"They were both high school All-Americans. They could obviously play," he said. "But I only coached Melinda for one season."

Jones had been a longtime football assistant and teacher at Hanna. (He was my high school psychology teacher in 1972.)

Does coach Jones have any instant analysis of today's program?

"You know, this is the first time I've seen them play this year," said Jones.

In his day, Jones was adamant that he coached the girls just as hard as the boys.

"I had to be tough on them [to bring out their best]," he said. "Maybe later after practice I'd let them know I cared about them as a human being."

"I told them, 'Look if I quit yelling at you at practice, that means I've given up on you.'"

Former restaurant manager recalls 1978 Quincy's robbery

BY BRIAN HODGES

A story I wrote about Quincy's steakhouse robbery in 1978 hit home for one guy. No one was hurt or worse in the incident but the culprit had a pistol and escaped with the money. To my knowledge, the robber was never apprehended.

I unexpectedly got a call from Mike Lyon, who was the manager that night at Quincy's. We decided to meet up.

Lyon is now almost 78 and looks content. He left Quincy's after two years and eventually became an insurance adjuster.

The memories came flooding back as we talked. The bad guy wore a towel around his head and forced me and approximately 10 employees to sit on the floor in a back office.

There were some powerful emotions as we wondered what would happen next.

Lyon said he was momentarily angry.

"Your mind thinks of all kinds of things, ways to respond (to the robber)," Lyon said. "I had a pistol under the front counter. But I'm glad I kept my cool. It could have gone bad."

There was anger, terror, but what about laughter? There was that too.

"Believe it or not, one girl started laughing hysterically," Lyon said. "She was sitting on the

floor (in the office) and was losing it. It's hard to say why. I touched her nose and told her to please calm down. She got quiet."

Who knows how we'll react in a high-anxiety situation? I didn't like staring at the pistol and kept my distance.

Lyon saw the man's pistol had at least 5 bullets. "I knew he couldn't shoot us all," Lyon said. "But he was definitely calm. It was like he had rehearsed it."

The man stuck his pistol in Lyon's side and said, "Where's the safe?" Lyon told him there was no money in the safe, that the only money was at the cash register.

The man got away with \$800 in the cash register and the Anderson city police soon arrived.

Lyon said they asked their questions. Greenville had had some recent steakhouse robberies and they had a suspect for him to see. But Lyon said the suspect they had was not the same man.

Did Lyon suffer from post-traumatic stress afterward?

"No, not at all," said. "I have to admit I was shaken a bit right after. But I was glad everybody came out OK."

His emotion now? Gratitude.

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10.5 Acs on Royal American (Frontage) Rd on I-85. High Traffic count. Ideal for Motel, Retail, or Your Tail. \$1,270,500

Must-have beauty items dominating online shopping carts

I personally try to shop local as much as possible, but often times we tend to get in a hurry and have to order from Amazon. I've gathered some really neat must have items that are dominating people's carts. Influencers



Kristine March

all over our social media accounts inspire us to get the latest and greatest products. Some of them are hit or miss, but these items you will surely want to buy.

I love to do a spa night at home. I've been using an ice roller on my face for a couple years now and I honestly can't live without one. When I travel, I take it with me. It reduces puffiness in your face and is great for your lymphatic system. You simply pop it in the freezer and roll away the day and the stress. It instantly relaxes your face muscles and you're good to go. It's also helpful for people that suffer with migraines. The Esarora ice roller is my go-to

and will last a long time if you clean it properly and store it correctly. Another Amazon favorite is a bit controversial, but I've also used this product for a few years now and it's an absolute essential. It's called Corsx Snail Serum and yes, if you don't already use it, don't frown upon it. It gives you an instant face lift and makes your skin so smooth. It also doesn't hurt the snail in any way. I did my research. Don't knock it until you try it. It's from Korea and is beloved by many makeup artists and celebrities and is really affordable and truly has improved my skin to the nth degree.

Another must have is a body lotion by Eos. It's their 24-hour moisture Shea butter lotion in Vanilla Cashmere. When I tell you want to literally eat this stuff it smells so good! You will absolutely love it. Just kidding. Don't really eat it though. I sent my sister a bottle and she's obsessed with it as well. It isn't greasy and it's very hydrating. Next on my list isn't skincare related. It's for those of you that have a sweet tooth and now this you really can eat. Swedish candy is super popular right now and

it's so good if you want to indulge. The Bubs Swedish gummy candy mix is so delicious. You can order half a pound of it on Amazon and you don't have to travel all the way to Sweden. They have tons of flavors in tutti fruit, bubble gum and raspberry and some are sour. The texture is really incredible. It would go great with popcorn for a movie night. Last, but not least is a blanket by Vera Bradley that you can order from Amazon. Her fleece oversized throws come in a multitude of colors and are so luxurious. I recently purchased

one for my aunt and she loved it. It's soft and beautiful and perfect for these cold snaps we keep getting lately. You can curl up with a good book and get cozy. These are all trusty and affordable pieces that actually work. I've tried them all. So, if you want to treat yourself or your loved ones, go for it. It's always better to give than receive, but if you want to buy it all for yourself, I promise I won't tell! Make an opulent oasis for yourself and do some self-care. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.

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MAN-FLU SEASON

I'm one of many people that cannot stand germs.

Germaphobia is one of the scientific names given to people who have a fear of bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

I wasn't always this way. As a child, I had no hesitation about drinking from a hosepipe, licking a window, or sharing my school lunch with a coughing, sniffing, sticky-fingered cutie I had a crush on. As a teen I was invincible; it didn't matter if that slice of pizza was two days old, it was, after all, in a box. It didn't bother me if Margie had what appeared to be a piece of crusty rust on her lip, I needed a sip of her Dr. Pepper.

I realize we once lived in a society where people were encouraged to come together, interact, shake hands, and swap spit. It's now a new world where the once common cold can mutate into an organ-stopping, flesh-eating, Marvel comic villain and my only defense is a mask and a can of Lysol. Ninety percent of television commercials are for some witches brew of medicine for your symptoms and not one offers a cure for anything but has potential side effects worse than what you're trying to alleviate.

Have you ever heard anyone say "I haven't been sick a day in my life"? This person is either in denial or can't remember anything before or after they were five years old. If you've had the real flu you remember the exact

date you had it. It knocked you down, gave you delirious fever chills, and caused you to expel nasty, vile, and alien things out of every opening for days and days, then left you weak for a month afterward.

I am absolutely the worst patient when I get sick, and I always have the kind of sickness that no one on the planet has ever experienced in the history of mankind. I can almost see the hate behind my wife's eyes as I whine for another blanket, a wet washcloth, more cough drops, the remote, a pillow fluffing, and seconds of chicken noodle soup with those little round crackers. It takes me six months of good behavior to build up enough Wifey-Points to be able to watch twelve hours of college football every Saturday for ten weeks, but a five-day bout of flu will wipe the slate clean and I'll be watching last week's re-run of "In the Kitchen with David" on QVC. This is the reason men especially try to pretend they are not sick.

Cough! Turn on the game, Cough! Honey, my temperature is always 103*.

I'm retired with no kids, and no place to be, so I can avoid the flu if I take a few precautions. I don't go out to eat or buy fast food during flu season. There's just no way I'm allowing a red-eyed, runny-nose teenager to hand me a bag of McNuggets and fries from a sliding-window that blows McVirus-filled air into my face when opened.

If you've ever wondered why there are no free anti-bacterial wipes in the dispenser as you enter Ingles, I took them all. I don't dare touch anything in there without one. The Ingles I visit opens at 6 am and I'm there



Neal Parnell



when they unlock the door. They know me by name but have never seen my face without a mask. I can whiz through the store in fifteen minutes as I'm usually the only shopper there,

but every once in a while, as I'm on my way out, I'll see one of my kind wearing a mask and is puzzled over why the bacterial wipe dispenser is empty.



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How to catch a cat

BY SHIRLEY MCALISTER

I've had several questions and comments on my article about the Anderson County Humane Society's spay/neuter clinic, as well as inquiries about what is available at Pets Are Worth Saving (PAWS), the government-funded animal shelter. (Please remember: These are two separate organizations, although there have been times when they helped each other.) Until I can answer those questions, we're going to get down to the heart of the matter: how to actually catch the cats. Let's begin.

So you have your trap--see a previous column for suggestions on which trap to buy--but every trap must be baited. Trappers use different foods, but various types of fish seem to be the "go-to" lure. Any fish will do: tuna, salmon, mackerel, sardines. I have one friend who mashes all these things together. Others use

chicken or plain ol' cat food. In my experience, the stinkier the fish, the more likely I'll catch a cat, so I opt for sardines or tuna. Whatever your choice, the food should be packed in water only.

You need a small dish for the food. Don't use a dish with a "lip" because it's easier to overturn. Put the dish at the opposite end of the trap from the end the cat will be entering. The food will be behind the plate the cat steps on to spring the trap.

As soon as the cat is in the trap, cover it with a blanket, large towel, or other safe covering. Many cats will panic when they realize they're trapped, and some of them will injure themselves trying to escape. I remember lying awake in bed, afraid the monsters were gonna get me, but I always felt safe if I pulled the covers over my head because if I couldn't see them, I was sure they couldn't see



me. Well, cats apparently have that same logic. If they're covered up, they immediately calm down. I've never seen this little trick fail, but please keep a close eye on the cat to make sure nothing goes wrong.

Of course, you'll need to place

the traps before any of this occurs, and we'll talk about that in the next column. And please, if you or anyone you know traps, I'd love to hear their ideas or suggestions. There are folks out there who've been trapping longer than I have, and some of them

still trap more than I do. Our common goal is to help these kitties, and I'll take all the assistance I can get!

"Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea."-- Robert Heinlein



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No birthday this year

My niece Haley is not having a birthday this year. I didn't say she's not celebrating her birthday, or is anti-parties, or anything like that. She is not having a birthday. To further confuse you, she is old enough to hold an M.D. degree, but has had only eight birthdays in her entire life. What is wrong with this picture?

Some readers have probably already deduced that Haley is a leap-day baby, and that is correct. She is that one person out of 1461, or .0684% of the population, who was born on February 29--the tiny fraction of the calendar that occurs only once every four years. So, though she is 33 years old this week, she has had only been able to have eight celebrations on the actual anniversary of her birth!

What is leap day all about? Why did we have a February 29th last year, but not this year?

A year, loosely defined, is the time needed for the earth to make one revolution around the sun--approximately 365¼ days. The Roman emperors Julius Caesar and his successor Augustus Caesar recognized this when they



Ann K. Bailes

established the reasonably accurate Julian calendar back in the first century AD.

(As an aside: Emperors get to name calendar months. So now you know where the months July and August got their labels! And since JC and AC wanted "their" months to have 31 days, they each yanked a day from February--which is how it got stuck with hav-



ing only 28.)

By the fourth century, astronomers realized that something was wrong--the winter solstice was happening around December 11 instead of closer to Christmas. Some

countries just dropped ten days out of their calendar, but that was hazardous and did not prevent the date from drifting again.

Now here is the technical part. The new and improved Gregorian

calendar, revised from the Julian calendar in 1582, stated that every year divisible by four is a leap year, unless it is divisible by 100 but not by 400. That's why 2024 was a leap year, and 2000 was, but 2100 will not be. This modification accounted for the extra quarter of a day for the most part; however, even with that, the Gregorian calendar is still off 27 seconds per year, or 1 day in 3236 years. I'm not worried about that. When that time comes, the emperors and scientific authoritarians around then can figure out what to do.

My DDIL (dear daughter in law) was born a mere 24 hours ahead of my niece, so she does get a birthday every year. (Happy celebration -- to you both!) So, as you go about your business this year on Friday the 28th, give a shoutout to Haley and the rest of that .0684% of the earth's population who are turning a year older but who are not getting a birthday. May they enjoy their slightly off-day celebrations with as much cake and festivity as everyone else!

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Nate Thomason

These men, women and trucks are the rotors in the engine that powers our modern world of convenience, and with a single click of a mouse, they will deliver the world to our very doorstep.

Just this afternoon, a guy I've never met in my life left a box full of frozen steaks and chicken at my door. Another guy brought me 500 feet of rope. A woman in a Honda Civic gave me some new bedroom slippers. If you are old enough to remember the Dark Ages before the internet, when you sit back and really think about it...it still seems kind of new (and maybe still a little "Fahrenheit 451-ish"). With that being said, we all know what online shopping SAVES us: precious money and valuable time. But we never stop to consider what it COSTS us.

Case in point: I love music. And at this very moment, I can listen to any song by any band throughout history with a tap of my phone. Every song ever written and recorded is literally in my pocket. But, as I mentioned earlier, I'm from the Dark Ages before the internet and still love to hold physical music in my hands, so I collect vinyl albums. And yes, you can still order vinyl albums online all day long (and some days, I do.) I can order an album right now and be listening to it at home by this time tomorrow, and that is both awesome and amazing. But let's say I want to get out of the house and actually go visit a record store. Most likely, my wife and I would

make a date out of it, go grab some food, walk around a bit. Or I would invite one of my kids along (I cannot stress enough how proud it makes me that all three of my kids collect vinyl albums). And, as any good parent knows, when you are with your kid, you gotta feed 'em. So, we'd probably stop to eat. And what do you do when you eat together? You talk. You catch up. You laugh. You share what's going on in your lives.

All that precious time I "saved" by ordering online was potentially time I got to spend with my loved ones doing things that we love to do and making memories together.

I can't tell you how many vinyl albums I have in my collection at the moment, but I can tell you precisely which ones were purchased online, and which ones were purchased "live and in person" while spending time with my family. These albums have become physical tokens or reminders of some of my fondest memories. Maybe it was a fleeting conversation, maybe it was something we laughed about, maybe it was just me staring at my wife and thinking about how lucky I am. But I swear it all just makes that album sound that much better.

Of course, my theory here doesn't just apply to albums, it applies to anything and everything. We live in a time where we can have the whole world delivered to our doorstep in an instant. While this may be a great benefit, it also tends to give us tunnel vision towards material things and often lose sight of some of the greatest parts of life: the experiences we share together.

Pay attention to the things that supposedly save us time, because that time has the potential to become a wonderful experience. Life is a game, and the winner isn't the one that ends up with the most money in the bank...it's the one that ends up with the most memories in

their heart. So the next time you are considering an online purchase, do this: grab the car keys, grab a friend or family member, and go

out into the world and look for it. You'd be amazed at what other amazing things you find along the way.

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FROM THE SHELF

On 'Dopesick' and addiction, part 1

For this year's Books & Community program, the library is focusing on addiction as a follow up to last year's 'mental health' theme. The opioid crisis has been growing at an increasingly alarming rate for several decades now. With fentanyl on the rise right here in



Sara Leady

Anderson, the choice for us to read *Dopesick* by Beth Macy is a timely one. Copies of the book are available for free physically and digitally at your local library while supplies last.

Dopesick, which has been adapted into a miniseries on Hulu,

should be a stark reality check for everyone, but especially for policy makers and anyone within health related fields. While the show has been dramatized, the true horror and dire state of the opioid crisis has only gotten worse since Macy's original 2018 publication. I think part of the struggle with getting society to take addiction, especially opioid addiction, seriously is multifaceted but not overly complex. We have a stereotype in mind when we envision addiction, and it's both an extreme and representative of the worst of the worst long term cases. We aren't thinking about who they were as a person before they became addicted to something. We also view addiction, much like mental health, as some sort of individual moral failing. We see it as an active choice and forget anything to do with science or chemicals. I think we do this because that's easier than accepting the reality of how chemistry evens the playing field, making us just as susceptible to something like addiction, as the

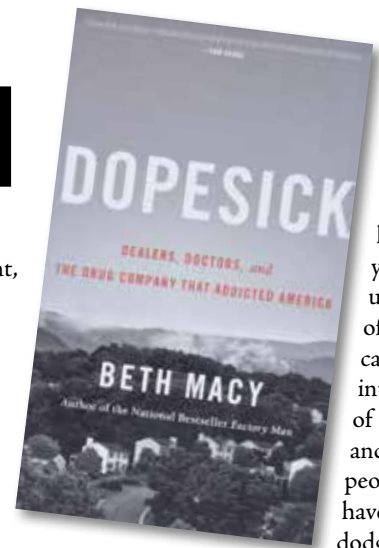
people we're judging.

In *Dopesick*, Macy goes through the history of OxyContin from its development at Purdue, controversial FDA approval, the company's sales scheme that had pharmaceutical reps lying to doctors about the dangers of the drug, and the lawsuit(s) against the company. Macy focuses on Central Appalachia, both the rural and wealthy parts, which is the epicenter of the opioid crisis. She juxtaposes this prescription medical drug history against its story on the streets, and how drug dealers created pyramid schemes of users acting as dealers and recruiters. Dealers and users who don't fit your stereotype of a drug addict, many of whom started as patients who were prescribed Oxy by doctors they trusted. As of January this year, Purdue has settled for \$7.4 billion dollars for their cases tied to OxyContin.

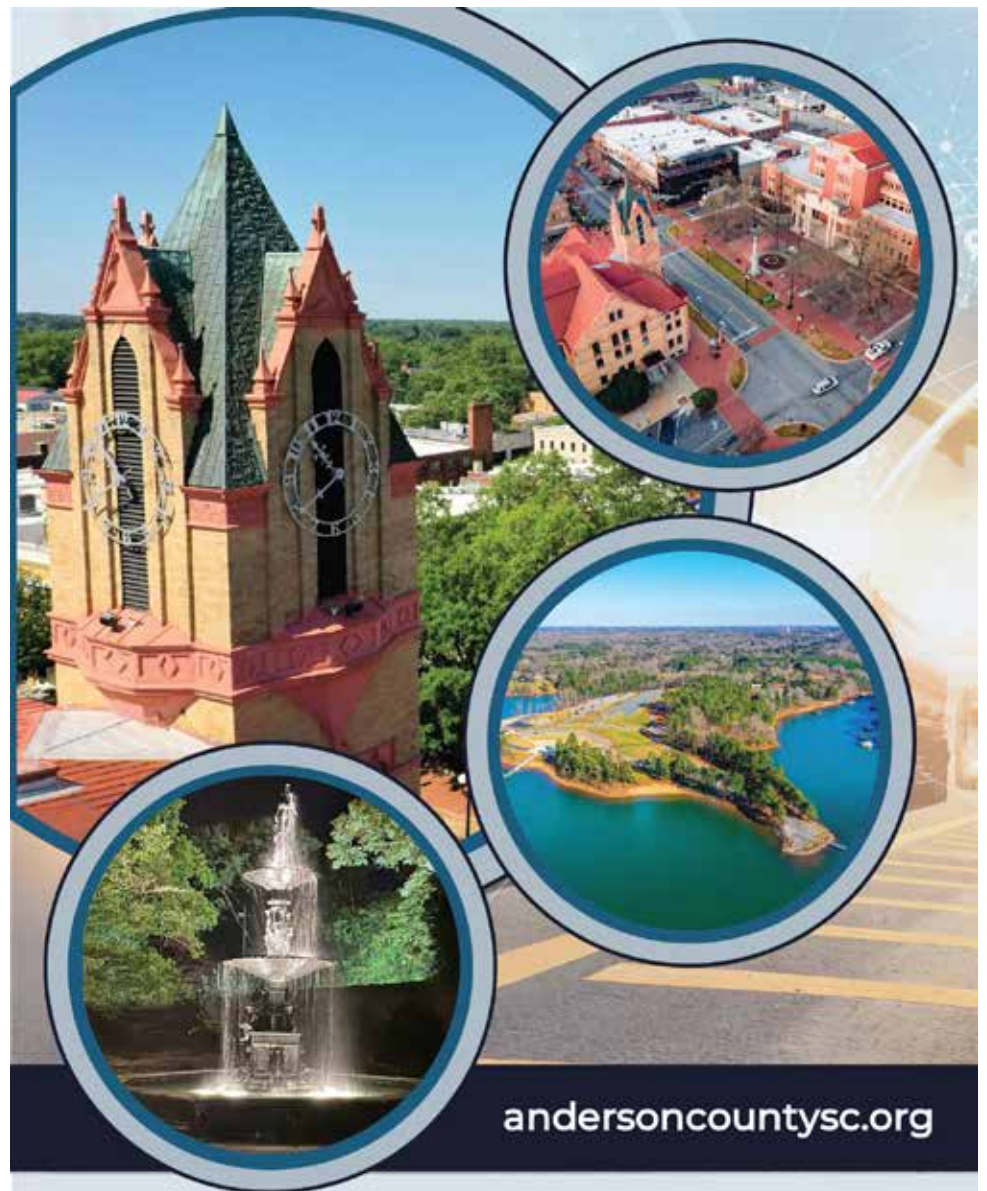
I'm coming up on my fifteenth anniversary of being cancer free this June and while I've talked about my cancer journey, I haven't talked about what it took to manage the pain of two bone transplants, a marrow extraction, and the relearning to use my arm after its reconstruction. Surgeries of any kind, let alone this level, can be incredibly painful, and it's common practice to be prescribed a narcotic based pain med to manage post op. It's not a secret that narcotics are addictive, literally everyone knows it. It's why people can be cautious about prescription pain meds. What *Dopesick* examines is the lie that Purdue told specifically about OxyContin and its claim that, unlike other narcotic based pain meds, OxyContin was somehow the exception to the addiction rule.

Dopesick really looks at why OxyContin can be so dangerous. It comes down to the

user, who usually started out as a legit patient, but finds themselves trapped in addiction seeking to avoid the unique pain and experience of being 'dopesick,' or going through withdrawals. Coming up, I want to tell you about my experience being dopesick and explain to you how as bad as it was for me, it's probably not even a mere drop in the ocean of the true withdrawals experienced by people who have actually battled addic-



tion. I want to give you a familiar face to tie Macy's book to, and hopefully help you gain an understanding of how easy it can be to fall into the trap of Oxy use, and how lucky people like me have been to have dodged the bullet.



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Habitat for Humanity, Anmed partner to build home

AnMed is partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Anderson County to build a home and give back to the community.

The home build will kick off on Feb. 28 with what Habitat calls a panel build in a parking lot near the AnMed main campus on Fant Street. About 75 AnMed employees will gather with Habitat staff and volunteers to frame the entire home and raise its walls at that location.

The walls will remain standing for a few days before being moved to the construction site, where AnMed staff will continue to help



build the home.

"This partnership is a beautiful alignment between our missions," said Kylie Herbert, director of development for Habitat for Humanity of Anderson County. "Safe, stable housing has a huge impact on health."

That is why AnMed leadership

embarked on this project.

"It is our vision at AnMed to work together for better health and a better life," said AnMed

CEO William Kenley. "It's a blessing to collaborate with an organization like Habitat to assist and empower people who are in need."

When the home is complete, it will be purchased with an affordable, interest-free mortgage by one of Habitat's partner households. Habitat partners are Anderson

County residents with low income who are living in substandard or cost-burdened housing. As part of Habitat's affordable homeownership program, they complete 300 sweat-equity hours, which includes helping to build their home and taking financial and homeowner education.

"This project will be a lot of fun," Herbert said. "It also will raise a lot of awareness around affordable housing in our community and how we can work together to improve the quality of life for our neighbors in need."



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BY AINSLEY MCCARTHY

★ free ★ there is a fee for this event
★ for families ★ for adults

Feb. 27

★ ★ Cross-Stitch Greeting Cards

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

Time: 5-6 p.m.

Feb. 28

★ ★ Live Music

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

Time: 6-9 p.m.

★ ★ Cocktails & Comedy (18+)

Location: Palmetto Distillery, 200 W. Benson St.

Time: 7 p.m.

\$8 admission fee

★ ★ IPRA Championship Rodeo

Location: T. Ed Garrison Arena, 1101 W. Queen St.

Time: 8 p.m., multi-day event through

Mar. 1

Adult tickets (13+) cost \$20 per day;

Child tickets (2-12) cost \$5 per day

Mar. 1

★ ★ Anderson Classic Car Club Cruise

In Location: El Patron Mexican Restaurant, 186 Station Dr.

Time: 5 p.m.

Mar. 2

★ ★ Anderson's Got Talent '25

Location: Henderson Auditorium at Anderson University, 316 Blvd.

Time: 3-4:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$18 for adults, kids' admission is free

Mar. 3

★ ★ Monday Night Jam at Golden Grove

Farm & Brew Location: Golden Grove Farm & Brew, 115 Krim Rd.

Time: 7:30-10 p.m.

Mar. 4

★ ★ Lunch & Learn— Echoes of

Resilience: Unveiling the Untold Stories of Anderson's WWI Heroes

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

Time: 12-1 p.m.

★ ★ City of Anderson Planning

Commission meeting

Location: City Hall, 401 S. Main St.

Time: 6 p.m.

★ ★ Anderson County Council meeting

Location: Council Chambers in the

Courthouse, 101 S. Main St.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 5

★ ★ Door Hanger Paint N Sip Event

Location: Vine & Barrel Wine Shop, 3737

SC-81 Ste. A

Time: 6-8 p.m.

All inclusive tickets are \$30 per person

Mar. 6

★ ★ Raised Bed Gardening

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

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

★ ★ Italian Wine Dinner with Chef Andrew

Location: The Kitchen Emporium & Gifts,

418 N. Main St.

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

All inclusive tickets are \$100 per person

Mar. 7

★ ★ Live Music by Myron Hyman

Location: Vine & Barrel Wine Shop, 3737 SC-81 Ste. A

Time: 6-9 p.m.

★ ★ Music Bingo

Location: Palmetto Distillery, 200 W.

Benson St.

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

★ ★ Opening Night: Alice, An Adventure

in Wonderland

Location: Clemson Little Theatre, 214 S.

Mechanic St.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children

Mar. 8

★ ★ Saturday Family Storytime

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

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

★ ★ Mario Day

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

Time: 2-3 p.m.

★ ★ The Ultimate Car Show to benefit

Special Olympics of SC

Location: 701 Brookfield Parkway, Greenville

Time: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

General Entry is \$10

Mar. 9

★ ★ Clemson Tigers Baseball vs.

Davidson Wildcats

Location: Doug Kingsmore Stadium, 114

Baseball Dr.

Time: 2-6 p.m.

Ticket prices vary

Mar. 10

★ ★ Unlocking Family History: The

Power of Timelines in Genealogy

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

Time: 5:30-7 p.m.

★ ★ Anderson City Council meeting

Location: the first floor of City Hall, 401

S. Main St.

Time: 6 p.m.

Meetings are also broadcast live and

archived on YouTube @CityofAndersonSC

Mar. 11

★ ★ Pricing Strategies with the Small

Business Administration

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

Time: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mar. 12

★ ★ Sonic Lunch Concert Series

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

Time: 12:15-1 p.m.

Mar. 13

★ ★ Sewing 101: Buttons

Location: Anderson Main Library, 300 N.

McDuffie St.

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

★ ★ Paint This or That!

Location: Electric City Pizza Company,

305 S. Main St.

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$35

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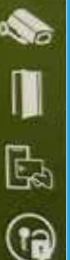


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**SUSAN
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The 23rd annual Greater Greenville Master Gardener Symposium was inspiring again this year. Mama and I have been attending since 2006. It's an annual event for us, and 500 of our gardening friends. Each year, various themes give way for entertaining and educational speakers on all sorts of topics. Vendors provide lots of temptations with plants, tools, pottery, and more. GGMGA.org has information if interested. Registration opens the first few days in December, and it is sold out by the end of the year.

Camellia Forest, from Chapel Hill NC, started joining as a vendor a few years ago. Oh the beautiful blooms they bring! I resisted camellias this year but did pre-order from their website and had them bring three new specimens. As with mail order, you don't know what you've bought until it arrives. I was quite pleasantly surprised with Inman's Select Redwood tree (*Sequoia sempervirens* 'Inman's Select'). It's close to six feet tall. There is one redwood tree in the conifer corner that came from SC Botanical Garden's plant sale many years ago. It is growing into a beautiful tree. SCBG did a study on several varieties to see which ones would grow best in our part of the world. If this redwood has a particular name, that name is long lost. Inman's select came from one in Inman SC that is dated back to about 1950. Redwoods are relatively fast-growing trees, particularly when young. When verifying my facts, many sites suggested planting in consistently moist to wet areas. Some also included well-drained soil. What? Wet but well drained? The unknown named redwood is in an area closer to the woods where water stands when we've had a lot of rain. But I doubt soil is consistently moist where it is. After Yogi Bear Dog and I walked around the conifer corner area several times, hopefully the perfect place has been chosen. This redwood will be seen better from the house than the other one. It will help block the other side of the creek, and if the spot is not consistently moist enough, it's close to the yard hydrant. I will definitely have to put fence around it come rut season. It's the perfect size for a buck to tear up.

For at least a year now, I've been searching for something to fill an area in the front yard



Bridal Veil in JC Raulston Arboretum

to decrease grass cutting and wishing it could be a bit of a focal point. It seems maybe this try is round three of said plan. That focal

point is going to be a weeping flowering apricot tree (*Prunus mume* 'Bridal veil'). I got two from Camellia Forest. If one is good, two are

better. Or what the heck, I've never heard of or seen such, so get a spare one while at it. These trees are small. One will be potted up and kept in the garden shop area until next year since there is no plan for it at this time. See how it grows first. 'Bridal veil' has very pale pink, almost white flowers. Two other flowering apricot trees, closer to the house, have pink and dark pink flowers. Where the first 'Bridal veil' will go has nothing giving a show in January and/or February when flowering apricots bloom. It won't grow into a huge tree, only about 15 – 20 feet tall and wide, so it won't shade out other full sun loving plants in the area. And its wonderful fragrance will be spread out into other parts of the yard.

As Yogi (who is slowly but consistently becoming my faithful four-legged gardening companion) and I were deciding where to put 'Bridal veil', it occurred to me there is a weeping plant in the yard, a Japanese maple 'Inaba shidare'. It is planted beside another Japanese maple 'Seiryu' that is growing into a beautiful stately tree. The texture and shape of 'Seiryu', along with little 'Inaba shidare', will hopefully make lovely companions to 'Bridal veil' flowering apricot. Plus, if all grow as planned, 'Bridal veil' can eventually be included into the mulched area of these Japanese maples and fill in a somewhat big area of grass.

W.E. BLACK

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