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February 1-14, 2024

Anderson author publishes new book

THREADS: Zlata's Ukrainian Shirt is a historical fiction picture book set in the 1930's Ukraine. It



Lina Maslo

is the story of a young girl growing up during the Holodomor, a man-made famine-genocide that happened during the times of the Soviet

Union. The main character, Zlata, goes through difficult times, but the book really focuses on the power of hope and on the importance of art, in this case embroidery, to get through hard times.

Anderson author, Lina Maslo, wrote this book years before the war in Ukraine began, but since the war, the book has become more relevant. Many Americans wonder why Ukrainians are so determined to fight for their



land and people. One reason is the history between the two countries. Historically, Russia has not always had the best interest of Ukrainians in mind. The Holodomor, which happened less than a hundred

SEE AUTHOR ON PAGE 2

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Region championship still possible for Westside boys

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — After facing a tough non-region slate, the Westside High School boys' basketball team has found its groove in region play and is still in contention for the region championship heading into its final stretch of games.

After starting 2-0 in region play with wins over Easley and Pickens, the Rams (12-9, 5-1 Region 1-4A) began their most recent stretch of games at home against the Berea Bulldogs. The Rams took control early with a 22-8 first quarter and never looked back in an 86-42 win. Joshua Williams led Westside with 25 points in the win, while Zeke Marshall was close behind with 20 points and nine rebounds.

Later that week, the Rams took on the Greenville Red Raiders for first place in the region. Westside fell behind 25-6 early, only to battle back and cut the lead to single digits entering the fourth quarter. However, the hole was too big for the Rams to overcome in a 74-53 loss. Williams once again led the Rams in the loss with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Westside traveled to Greenwood the next week looking to get back on track against the Eagles and get a firm grip on second place in the region. The Rams took control of the action from the opening quarter and pulled away for good with a 17-5 fourth quarter run for a 62-41 win. Williams and Marshall topped the scoring

charts for the Rams with 23 and 15 points respectively, while freshman Kmajay Jenkins had a 12-point, 10-rebound double-double.

The Rams kept the momentum going in their most recent game at home against the Easley Green Wave. Westside was in total control of the contest with four players hitting double digits in the scoring column as they pulled out a 71-58 win. Williams led the Rams in the win with 19 points and six steals.

The Rams looked to keep on track in a road rematch with Berea on Tuesday before heading into a crucial matchup with Greenville on Friday with major region championship implications.

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Yellow Jacket girls trying to finish season strong

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — It's been an up-and-down year for the T.L. Hanna High School girls' basketball team, and they'll look to finish the season on a high note after going 1-3 in their last four games.

The Yellow Jackets (9-13, 1-4 Region 1-5A) opened their most recent slate of games on the road at J.L. Mann. The Jackets kept things close in the first half, but a 16-6 third quarter propelled the Patriots past Hanna for a 54-40 win. Freshman Olivia Freeman led the Yellow Jackets with 11 points in the loss, while junior Tamerah Wynn had a strong day with 10 points and seven rebounds.

Following the loss, T.L. Hanna looked to bounce back in Simpsonville against the Hillcrest Rams. The Jackets dominated the

Rams from start to finish in a 73-24 victory that doubled as their first region win. Freshman Harmoni Earl stole the show for the Yellow Jackets with a game-high 25 points, to go with seven rebounds and eight steals.

Hanna hoped to keep its momentum going the next week as it returned home to take on the Woodmont Wildcats. However, the Yellow Jackets were unable to get a win streak started as they fell 61-45 to the Wildcats. Earl led the Jackets with 13 points and was the only Hanna player to reach double-digits with the team shooting just 30 percent from the field.

The road got even tougher for the Jackets in their next game as they traveled to take on the defending Class 5A state champions Mauldin. Despite battling to stay within three

at the half, Hanna was unable to pull off the upset, losing 53-37.

The Yellow Jackets returned to action on Tuesday against Mann with results unavailable at press time and will look to clinch a playoff spot on Friday as they host Hillcrest.

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Author

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

years ago, is something that most Ukrainians know about, having heard stories from their grandparents and great-grandparents. Communists came from Moscow and took the harvest from the Ukrainian farmers which led to massive starvation throughout Ukraine and other parts of the Soviet Union. Estimates begin at almost 4 million Ukrainian deaths from 1931 to 1934. This tragedy was covered up and denied by Russia, and most people around the world haven't heard about it. With the beginning of the war in Ukraine, some of this history is finally coming to light.

The art in THREADS was done with acrylic gouache paints. This was Lina's first time working in this medium, although she is mostly experi-

enced with acrylics. "I really enjoyed working with these paints, as they are very bright and colorful," says Maslo. The colors in THREADS are very significant. Each color in Ukrainian embroidery symbolizes different things. Two commonly used colors are red, which usually stands for love and life, and black, which stands for sadness, and sometimes for the deep Ukrainian soil.

Lina came to America from Ukraine in 1989, and has lived in the Anderson area for sixteen years. She is a published author and illustrator of children's books, as well as a designer. THREADS: Zlata's Ukrainian Shirt is her third book. Maslo's other books include FREE AS A BIRD: The Story of Malala and THROUGH THE WARDROBE: How C. S. Lewis Created Narnia.

Signed copies of THREADS will be available at McDowell's Emporium.

Her website is www.linamaslo.com. Readers can reach her through the contact form on the site.



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WHY AM I RUNNING?

I was born and raised in Upstate SC and moved to Anderson to attend Anderson University in 2016. After graduating from school and joining the workforce, I quickly became involved in multiple different areas of the community. All of my experiences here have led me to fall in love with the people and community that Anderson provides. I have a strong desire to invest back into the city that has invested so much in me!

A little over a year ago, I was approached by councilman Luis Martínez to serve on the Planning Commission for the city. I was honored and delighted to serve. This began my fascination with local government and the processes that shape the place we get to call home. I started regularly attending city council meetings and getting to know the current council members and knew that I wanted to serve alongside them one day. I have decided that now is that time.

Please consider supporting me in my candidacy for Anderson City Council Seat 6 so that we can make Anderson the best city that it can be.

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'Building a Legacy': Anderson Chamber holds 2023 Small Business Luncheon

The Small Business Awards Luncheon was held on Wednesday, December 20th, recognizing and honoring the Small Businesses in our community. The Chamber presented the following awards: Pillar of Anderson, Small Business, Athena, and Young Athena Awards.

The Pillar of Anderson Award was presented to Trey Thomas for Hill Electric. Hill Electric was founded in Anderson, in 1954, and they continue today playing a vital role in being part of and giving back to our community. Throughout its history, Hill Electric has pivoted based on the economy, the needs of the community, and most importantly the areas of expertise of their people.

The Small Business Award was presented to Melissa Fabry Moore, the owner of Indigo Custom Framing & Artisan Market. Indigo Custom Framing & Artisan Market is a fixture in Downtown Anderson.



ATHENA Award winner Sandy McComas Campbell

Indigo provides a platform for the Anderson Arts Community to shine. Melissa has served for many years on the Board of Directors at the Anderson Arts Center. Indigo continues to sponsor shows, promote events, and seek out local artists and creators providing a space for them to display and sell their work on Main Street.

The ATHENA Leadership Award celebrates the potential of

all women as valued members and leaders of the community who devote time and energy to their community and serve as a role model to others. This year's Athena Award was presented to Sandy McComas Campbell. Sandy has just recently retired from the U.S. Corps of Engineers as their Park Manager at the Savannah District.

The ATHENA Young Professional Award honors emerging leaders who strive toward the highest level of personal and professional accomplishment, and who devote time and energy to their community and serve as a role model for young women. This year's award was presented to Mary Haley Thompson, Director of Strategic Projects for the City of Anderson.

The "Building a Legacy" featured speakers were Bill Nickas, owner of Sullivan's Metropolitan Grill, Gay McLeskey, owner of The Kitchen Emporium, and Greg Shore, owner



Building a Legacy featured speakers for Small Business Luncheon

of Medshore Ambulance Service. Their expertise and combined years of experience in their fields high-

lighted valuable advice and personal stories of their journeys as successful local business owners.

Health and Wellness Fair set for February 17

Central Presbyterian Church in Anderson is hosting a community wide Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, February 17th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate, especially those who do not have easy access to health and wellness information, screenings and opportunities. There will be over 20 vendors and community services represent-

ed, including free mammograms and the opportunity to give "the gift of life" through The Blood Connection. There will also be mini classes in Yoga and Sound Meditation.

The event is free. Come, participate, have refreshments and get acquainted with the health and wellness services for mind, body and emotional well-being available in our

community. Central Presbyterian Church is located at 1404 N. Boulevard.

Organizations set to participate include A/O Behavior Health, A/O/P Mental Health, AIM, Anderson County Library, Anderson University-Nursing Students, Community Health, AnMed Access Health, Asher House, Blood Connection, Blue

Dragonfly, Counseling for Life, DHEC, Favor, First Light, Foothills Community Health, Friends of the Park, Hope Mission, Lot Project, Mammogram Bus, Prisma Adult Care, Rec Center, Rotary Club, SC Work, Senior Solutions, Tri County Technical College, United Way, Vets Helping Vets, Vocational Rehab, YMCA, and You Turn.

Sullivan running for county council

Chris Sullivan announces his run for Anderson County Council Seat 1 in the next election cycle. Chris is a lifelong Andersonian whose family dates back 7 generations in Anderson County. He graduated from T.L. Hanna High School in 1989 and earned his BBA from the University of Georgia in 1993.

Chris's parents were the late Johnny and Jan Sullivan, both of Anderson. His family founded Sullivan Buick in the 1950's which operated until the early 1990's. Johnny Sullivan served on numerous boards during Chris's childhood. Emulating his father, he believed it was his duty to serve the Anderson community. Following college graduation, Chris moved back to Anderson. He became involved with the local Chamber of Commerce and United Way along with various other boards and committees.

In 2003 he married his wife, Sissa, of Mobile, Alabama. They have two teenage daughters. Blakely is a sophomore at the University of Alabama and Brady is a junior at T.L. Hanna High. Both daughters are involved students and active in extracurricular activities. Chris worked in the local banking industry for fifteen years. In 2007, he and his wife opened Blake and Brady Boutique in Downtown Anderson. They witnessed tremendous growth in Downtown Anderson during those years and consider that period as one of the greatest times of their life.

As a proud Andersonian, looking forward to 2024 and beyond, Chris wants to ensure that we continue with a plan of "Smart Growth" in our community. He wants to bring additional quality industries to our county that provide stable, high paying jobs for

Anderson residents. "We can do all of this and still maintain the charm and character that attracts so many to our county."

By focusing on strategic economic development, managed "smart" growth and improving local roads, he believes we can continue to make Anderson County one of the best areas to live in the entire country.

While the seat he is running for is limited to District 1, Chris is passionate about the entire County of Anderson as a whole. There are many exciting projects being considered for Anderson, and his desire is ensuring the best interests of our county are represented going forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, email Chris at csullivan@me.com.

Please vote for Chris Sullivan on June 11th.



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YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Practicing self-care with restorative sleep, part 1

In this new year we are delving deeper into the topic of "self-care" or "lifestyle medicine". This is a relatively new area of emphasis which is all about empowering you – the individual – to stay healthy and enjoy a more productive life by making better life choices.

Consider how health issues can impact your life – and those around you who may end up as care givers. No one wants this. And frankly, it is sobering to see so many young men and women today developing health conditions that will be with them throughout their lives. Type 2 diabetes comes to mind, a serious condition that is dramatically increasing in adolescents and young adults. Primary causes include obesity, family history, and a sedentary lifestyle. Two of these factors are within our power to control!

Healthy habits and behaviors matter. And perhaps no habit is more conducive to good health than restorative sleep. As a member of the American Academy of Dental Sleep

Medicine, I know from experience in caring for our patient family that a good night's sleep on a regular basis is essential. And you



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

look, feel, and perform so much better. Unfortunately, given the pressures of modern life, sleep is often the first thing sacrificed. You may think you are getting ample rest. But think about it. Do you find yourself waking in the morning feeling tired and listless -- as if you never really fell asleep?

The simplest description of restorative sleep – or healthy sleep – is when you cycle through the stages of sleep multiple times every night– moving from light sleep to deep sleep, concluding with rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, the stage in which dreaming

takes place. These alternating sleep stages allow the brain to heal and restore itself. Poor sleep habits – and the resulting mental and physical issues that result -- constitute one of the most serious and persistent health conditions we face as a society today. If you find yourself in this no-sleep category, you are by no means alone. Approximately 1 in 3 American adults isn't getting enough sleep. The profound impact on one's health is stunning. Perhaps we all need a reality check. Here is the list of known conditions resulting from poor sleep habits: dementia, heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, obesity, cancers of the breast, colon, ovaries and prostate, high blood pressure, heart attack, heart failure, stroke, Irregular heartbeat, and depression.

Sleep science is learning more about healthy sleep patterns. Going forward in Part 2, we will delve deeper into restorative sleep -- with guidance on how to achieve sleep habits that can help improve your life. If you

have any questions, please reach out. Consider us your hometown resource for guidance and support.

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

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

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OLD MAN STUFF

Hey Daddy! Want to climb that tree with me? I'd like to son, but I can't. Well, why not? Just wait till you get old, then you'll know. I



Neal Parnell

didn't believe him. He was bigger than me and stronger than me, why wouldn't he climb the tree? What I didn't realize at the time was that he was also smarter than me and knew about things like dead branches, loose bark, and gravity. It was twenty years later when

my little nephew asked me if I wanted to climb that same tree that I understood what daddy meant.

I admit it, when I was young I would say, "Look at that dumb old man". I now know that statement was exceedingly wrong. You don't get old being dumb, but somehow I managed to do it. Wisdom came to me about a second after I needed it, and never stuck with me for long. "Hey Neal, I double-dog dare you to ride that bike and stand on the seat." I'm not sure how I got to be old, it certainly wasn't wisdom that got me here. I've been a Sexagenarian for almost nine years. That's what they call people between sixty and sixty-nine years old. What was the person that coined that word

thinking? Apparently, they were between the ages of 60-69 and wanted others to think they were still "gittin' jiggy wid it". The only exertion I get in bed is watching Monday Night Football, and I've pulled a muscle doing that. I've noticed that the older Septuagenarians, (70-79) have a tendency to want to show the younger crowd that they still have some youth left in them. They are extremely proud of the

fact that they can bend and touch their toes. This still happens with the Octogenarians, (80-89) but that pride stops at the knee. Old people are very careful about dropping things, it's a long way down to the floor and even longer going back up.

I'm very stubborn and I'm just now starting to learn that I shouldn't try to do the things that I did in my younger years. **RUNNING:** Old people don't run. I'm not talking about jogging like the Ingles manager returning the phone you forgot in your shopping cart. I'm talking about the teenage Ingles grocery bagger that chases your car down the road at 30 mph when he forgot to bag your bread. **JUMPING:** "Old men can't Jump". In my prime, I could dunk a basketball, and I was only 5' 10"; that's a vertical leap of over four feet. With age, I've condensed to 5'8" and my so-called old man leap is no longer measured in feet, but in fingers. **CARTWHEELS:** I used to be able



to cartwheel myself around the whole yard, stop for a few minutes, then do it again. I can still do a cartwheel, but only Monday through Friday between 9am and 3pm when my doctor can call in a prescription. **TATTOOS:** Old people usually don't get tattoos unless a loved one has them tatted with their name and address. I've never had one. I just can't wrap

my head around having a picture punctured into my skin that I wouldn't hang on my wall. Besides, it would be like putting a bumper sticker on a Ferrari. If I did get one at my age, what would I call it? A "Gramp Stamp".

You kids go ahead and climb, run, jump, and do cartwheels while you can, but remember what my dad said to me. "Just wait till you get old."

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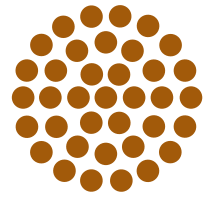


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FROM THE SHELF

Legends & Lattes by Travis Baldree

In my year of reading for joy, *Legends & Lattes* was a warm and cozy delicious hug. Originally just a trade paperback and ebook release, *Legends & Lattes* hit big enough to be picked up by Tor Books (big deal) for a second release in the US and a new



Sara Leady

release in the UK. It also went on to be nominated for Goodreads best fantasy novel for 2022. Seriously big deal for a small and under the radar new title by a debut author.

My best attempt at a genre description would be that it's a "cozy high fantasy." In the book world when we say "cozy" we tend to mean light, not particularly violent/graphic, and the general vibe of the story being, well, cozy. We generally use the term "cozy" when we're talking about lighter mysteries (*Murder She Wrote* being my favorite example). I've never really thought of "cozy" as an identifier outside of mysteries (for romances/basic fiction I'd use "gentle") so using it as an identifier here feels odd, but I also can't really think of a more apt descriptor.

"High Fantasy" is generally classified as fantasy titles that are set in worlds that are wholly made up, often having varying species of races that make up the cast of characters (Tolkien is a standard example). Our library book ordering system identifies *Legends & Lattes* as "gaslamp," a new term for me. I'm iffy on their classification, but I see the stretch they're making for it. "Gaslamp" is a subgenre of both fantasy and historical fiction, more or

less taking inspiration from the Edwardian time period.

Legends & Lattes is both the title of book one and the actual series. It follows an Orc named Viv who's decided she's had enough of the adventurous mercenary life, so she's hanging up her epic sword and has her mind set on a new career. While the title should really give this one away, it's also not the expected retirement you'd think of; Viv wants to open a coffee shop.

Taking the *Scalvert's Stone* from her crew's last mission as her part of the payment, Viv heads to the small village of Thune to purchase an old stable to revamp into a coffee shop like the Gnome ones she used to frequent. The stone, which is rumored to bring fortune to the owner, is obviously a perfect addition to the espresso machinery needed to start Viv's new business.

Rounding out all the necessities for the mercenary turned entrepreneur is a cast of delightful supporting characters. My two favorites were Tandri, a no nonsense succubus, who's also an incredible artist and very smart in regard to marketing. So smart with marketing in fact, that Viv recognizes very early into Tandri working for her that Tandri is a better business partner than just a barista. My other favorite, which will shock no one, is Amity, a dire-cat who decides the coffee shop is her new home and she will guard it as such, including her preferred spots in the cafe that customers should scurry out of when the nap strikes her.

Action in the story comes from Viv's old crew coming by, one of which is very disgruntled by her taking the *Scalvert's Stone* for herself. Viv quickly realizes that he'll stop at

nothing to get his hands on the stone. For added conflict there's also a local gang who provides security for business (for a fee of course) and it's not really optionable, even for an Orc who can more than handle her own business safety. While those may seem a bit tropey, Baldree handles them in interesting ways that don't fall prey to the narrative you'd expect.

I mentioned that this is a start to a series. Book two recently just released, but it is a prequel rather than a sequel that looks into Viv's early days as a bounty hunter and when she's getting started with her crew. *Bookshops & Bonedust* surrounds a bookstore and a secret book, and is also very delightful. This is a series that I am very excited to see continue to grow. Especially as Baldree leans into the fairly typical cozy presence of quirky animals doing adorable things.



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The Halloween-ization of Valentine's Day

The holidays between New Year's Eve and Christmas used to be fairly G-rated, suitable-for-the-whole-family kinds of occasions. We'd exchange cards and Conversation Hearts in February, hide some eggs in March or April, shoot some firecrackers in July, and cook enough to feed a small army in November. As the year closed, we'd gather together to decorate trees, sing carols, and exchange gifts.

And then one day, Halloween decided to go rogue.

If you've gone costume shopping in the 21st century, you know what I mean. The costume themes aren't so different, but the cut and the connotation definitely are. Instead of dressing as one of society's most treasured

medical professionals, the nurse, you can now be a naughty nurse. You can also dress as a naughty teacher, cheerleader, nun, pirate, cowgirl, and pineapple. (Yes, you read that correctly.) And these costumes aren't just for women. A trip to any costume shop will reveal (pun definitely intended) men's costumes for naughty vampire, school nerd, mechanic, Roman legionary, aerobics instructor, and package delivery guy.

But Halloween-ization – the term I use



Kim von Keller

for turning the boring into the bawdy – is no longer limited to October.

This week, I went online to search for trends for Valentine's Day. Some of them were standard; dinner and a movie with a sweetheart, or Gal-entine's Day, made popular by the character Leslie Knope on television's "Parks and Recreation," are perennial favorites. Some of them were new to me, such as visiting a rage room and smashing the bejeebers out of glassware and small electronics as you picture an ex. But where I saw the Halloween-ization of Valentine's Day was in the gift options.

Now, I realize that love and its expression come in many forms. The cards and tchotchkes we give to our children, parents, or siblings are different from the ones we exchange with spouses or romantic partners. But some of the things I found on mainstream gift-giving websites were way more than suggestive. I'm pretty sure I blushed a little, which is pretty remarkable given that, 20 years ago, I

explained the birds and the bees to our daughter so nonchalantly you'd think I had invented the concept.

As I looked through all the gift-giving possibilities, the first thing I saw was a jar candle, the label of which read – never mind. I can't repeat that in a family newspaper.

Next, there was a greeting card with pictures of smores which read – never mind. I can't repeat that one either.

The Last Thing is one that I can't even hint at. All I'll say is that it's a total do-it-yourself project, so if you're willing to pay \$12.79 plus shipping for it, you're either stupid or have some serious Kardashian money.

But this is a judgment-free zone. If you want to buy a risqué kind of Valentine's Day gift, go for it! But if you're buying for your kids or your parents as well, make sure you label each one properly. If you accidentally give them The Last Thing, you're gonna have a lot of explaining to do.

Random acts of kindness

"How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time." –Morgan Freeman

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest

compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which we have the potential to turn a life around." –Leo Buscaglia

I came across these two quotes a few weeks ago and was reminded of how powerful small, random acts of kindness can have on a person. A random act

of kindness can truly turn someone's day around. It's never too early to start teaching our children this practice! Below I have listed some ideas they can implement at school or at home.

At school:

Holding the classroom door open for classmates

Allowing a friend to go first in a game

Asking another student if they need help with their work

Throwing a friend's trash away for them

Waving to a classmate when leaving

Picking up another student's pencil when it falls

Leaving a note of appreciation for a custodian or a teacher

Baking cookies for your teacher

Carrying a friend's food at lunch when they

are on crutches

Sharing crayons, glue, and other classroom resources

Offering another student a hug when they are sad

At home:

Leave a note of encouragement for a friend or family member

Make a card for a nursing home resident

Help a neighbor with a task, such as raking leaves or picking up sticks

Donate toys or clothes to those less fortunate

Bake cookies or cupcakes for a local fire station or police department

Leave coins in a vending machine for the next person

Make flowers for a grandparent and deliver a bunch "just because"

Leave a kind note on a park bench for a stranger to find it

Help a younger sibling with their homework

Pick up trash when you spot it in a parking lot or at the park

Leave a kind note in a library book for the next person who checks out the book to read it

Give a compliment to someone in the grocery store

Help a homeless person by giving them a "blessing bag" or a little snack

Offer to walk a neighbor's dog

Leave a fun drawing on a stranger's car to brighten their day

Let's change the world, one random act of kindness at a time! -Katie



Katie Laughridge

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THE GARDEN SHOP

Roseglow and Peggy



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
master
gardener

The yard smells wonderful these days. Roseglow (*Prunus mume*) is practically in full bloom and has been blooming for a few weeks already. Regardless of the weather, it blooms every winter for several weeks. With a cold snap, as we had low teens a couple of weeks back, open blooms get burned a bit, but buds will still open, and more buds will follow and bloom. This small tree, growing about 15 – 20 feet tall and wide, is in the front garden and gives me a place to grow shade perennials under it. I can't say I planned for it to have such a short trunk but am very glad it turned out that way. Roseglow branches out only about two feet from the ground. Once I learned how wonderful it smells, limbs are allowed to grow low so I can cut some of the

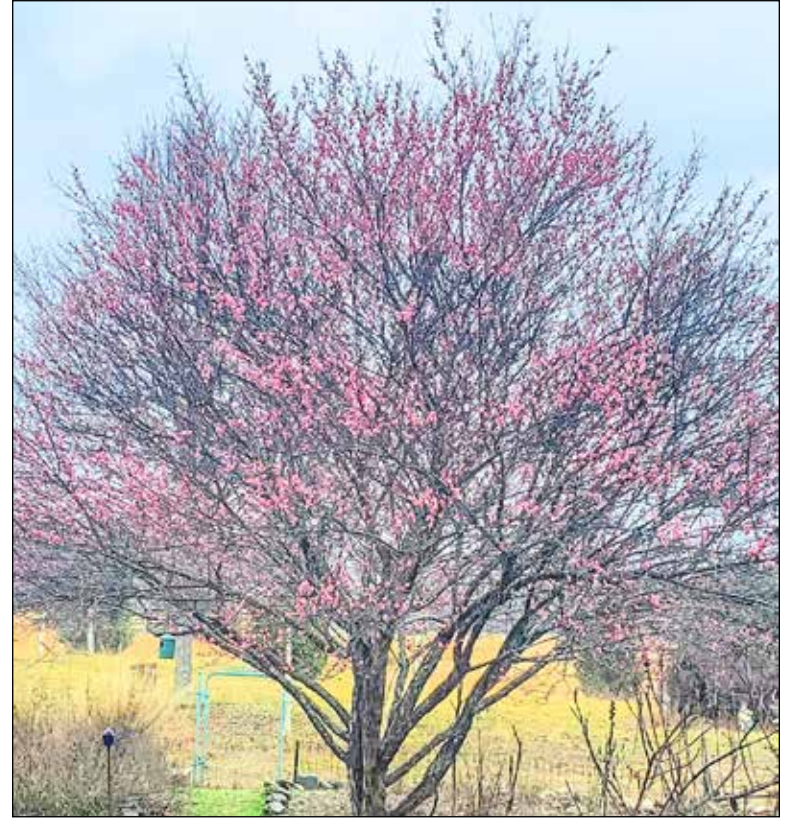
branches and bring them into the house. I can just barely walk under much of the tree without bending over a little bit. The smell is sort of cinnamon, clove like, and can be smelled even behind the house.

Full sun is best, at least 6 hours of direct sun is needed to bloom. Ideal soil should be acidic and rich. Rocky red clay should be amended. These trees bloom on previous year's growth so any pruning should be done right after blooming. When not in bloom, very dark bark can add some interest. Native to China, five petals of the blooms are supposed to represent five blessings – wealth, health, love of virtue, old age, and natural death. Commonly called Japanese flowering apricot, it seems these trees are grown more in Japan than China. There are hundreds of cultivars with single and double blooms, white, pink, and dark pink. Roseglow has dark pink flowers.

Peggy Clarke is a variety more commonly found in nurseries. These flowers are a true, little girl pink, and are double. W. B. Clarke was a plant breeder of shade trees and

shrubs in California. He bred Peggy Clarke and named it after one of his daughters. Rosemary Clarke, named after his other daughter, is white. A few years ago, I thought about adding a Rosemary to the yard. But seeing it bloom, the white flowers looked a bit brown, maybe from cold damage. Maybe I saw it at the end of its blooming. I passed on Rosemary Clarke. W.B. Clarke also named a double pink, weeping one, after himself. A Peggy Clarke is near the back of the house. It is just beginning to bloom. Peggy usually starts blooming as Roseglow is fading. Peggy Clarke has a tall trunk, and unfortunately, it doesn't branch out lower as it grows. I might not be able to pick branches of it in a few years. If you're in the market for a flowering apricot tree, start looking towards the end of the year. It seems once they start blooming, they sell out very quickly. J. C. Raulston arboretum at NC State University has a large selection of Japanese flowering apricot trees. I bet that is wonderful to see, and smell, when blooming.

Japanese apricots are mostly



Roseglow blooming

ornamental trees. They can produce a small fruit but are supposedly very tart. There are tiny little fruits on the trees each year, but I've never ventured to taste one. These trees are usually pest and disease free, but I've read may be susceptible to some canker and fungus problems.

Roseglow oozes sap from the bark sometimes but it doesn't seem to cause any problems. Roseglow is buzzing with pollinators too. I recently read leaves, stems, and seeds are toxic to dogs. Yogi is stick crazy, so I'll have to be sure he doesn't play with Roseglow or Peggy Clarke.

NIBBLE & SIP

A simply super (and super simple) Valentine's Day treat

Whether you're celebrating with the one you love, a group of friends, or on your own, Valentine's Day is the opportunity to treat yourself to something special. The great thing



Kim von Keller

is, special doesn't have to mean "expensive." With the right Spotify playlist, modest super-market flowers, and a fancy dessert, staying in for Valentine's Day can feel like an indulgence.

This annual recognition of love calls for bubbles, and the one of the easiest bubbly Sips to prepare is the Framboise Royale. This sparkling raspberry cocktail has only two ingredients; three, if you include the

garnish. While it looks best in a champagne coupe or martini glass, it will be just as delicious in a jelly jar, and it will taste its best if the ingredients are well chilled before mixing.

The combination of raspberry and chocolate is a no-brainer, and Chocolate Truffles are a Nibble with very few ingredients. They're super simple to prepare, but you'll need to make them several hours ahead to make sure the consistency is right.

Regardless of how, where, and with whom you celebrate, I wish you a lovely Valentine's Day!

Framboise Royale

4 oz. sparkling wine, such as La Marca prosecco, chilled
½ oz. raspberry liqueur, such as

Chambord, chilled

Fresh blackberries, to garnish

Pour sparkling wine into a champagne coupe. Add raspberry liqueur and stir gently to blend. Garnish with a fresh blackberry and serve. Makes one.

Chocolate Truffles

1 c. heavy whipping cream
1 lb. semisweet chocolate, chopped
1 t. vanilla

Unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted; toasted coconut; chocolate jimmies; or finely chopped toasted nuts, to garnish

Pour cream into a large glass mixing bowl and microwave on HIGH for one minute, or until boiling. Immediately add the chopped chocolate, swirl the bowl, and cover the bowl

tightly with plastic wrap; set aside for 5 minutes.

Remove the plastic wrap and whisk until the chocolate is thoroughly melted and blended into the cream. Whisk in the vanilla and scrape down the sides of the bowl. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 to 3 hours, or until completely firm.

Using a small cookie dough scoop, scoop small portions of the truffle mixture onto a cookie sheet lined with waxed paper. Place the cookie sheet in the refrigerator and chill for half an hour.

Arrange your chosen garnishes in shallow bowls. Quickly but gently, roll the chilled portions into small balls, then roll the balls in whichever garnish you choose. Place each truffle in a candy paper cup, then refrigerate in an airtight container until ready to serve.



January night

5:30 am, mid-January. Litchfield Beach. I threw back the covers and eased out of the nice warm bed. To combat the below freezing temps out there, in the darkness I put on every bit of warm clothing I could find. I quietly



Ann K. Bailes

opened the sliding glass door, so as not to awaken my sleeping husband, and stepped out onto the balcony - to an absolutely beautiful sight. The ocean waters rolling in over the beach were surprisingly easy to see in the extreme darkness. January beachgoers are

few and far between, and with very few lights coming from houses and hotels, the wave caps were starkly white as they rolled in.

But the sight that was so stunning was not the water, but the sky. It was pitch black--no moonlight and no clouds. That caused Venus to be absolutely brilliant in the southeastern sky - probably the brightest I have ever seen it. (Former earth science teacher here: Planets do not twinkle like stars, but shine with a steady light.) Venus was the queen of that early morning view.

To the immediate right of Venus, the constellation Scorpio was also easily visible, twinkling, and with its bright orange star Antares just slightly northeast of Venus. Against the blackness, Scorpio really did look like a scorpion.

I looked up skyandtelescope.org on my

phone and found This Week's Sky at a Glance. Many good resources and apps are out there for seeing what is visible in the night sky, but this is my old standby. And, to my amazement, the diagram on the website showed that to the southwest of Venus, Mercury should be visible as well.

Mercury is notoriously hard to observe. It is the smallest planet, and so close to the sun that it is only visible very near sunset or sunrise. From most places on land, trees and buildings obscure the view even more.

But here at the beach, with nothing out there but rolling water, Mercury was astonishingly easy to locate. It was much dimmer than Venus, but it was very obvious out there over the ocean. I've never seen Mercury as clearly or easily as that night.

The stark beauty of the black sky, with the bright planets and stars showing so clearly, made me feel very small in the overall scheme of the universe. I thought of the words of the psalmist, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars. . .What is man that thou art mindful of him?" (Ps. 8:3-4) That writer must have seen some beautiful night skies.

As the earth turned on its axis toward the east, the pink rays of impending daylight began peaking up out over the watery horizon. The stars began disappearing, but the planets were visible a little longer. As the sun continued its inexorable rise, even the planets disappeared, and soon brilliant sunlight took over the sky.

But I was left with the memory--and inspiration--of that stunning nighttime ocean view.

TURN OFF THE TUBE

I'm guilty of it. I think we all are to a degree, but every morning we turn on our phones and look at the latest news, whether



Kristine March

it be celebrity gossip, internet influencers, politics or the latest trend. Even bad, gloom and doom news. Sometimes, I think it's best to not immediately turn our phones or televisions on right away. Maybe take a walk in nature instead or go to the library or coffee

shop. It's a sensory overload world nowadays, but grounding is vital.

Before being pop culturally obsessed and just internet obsessed in general, the world was so much more simple. I'm lucky enough to remember my grandparents always having their cups of coffee with their local newspaper. There was no such thing as Google. I remember whenever I got a sore throat or any kind of ailment or minor illness, my family got out the big medical book instead. It was full of home remedies and ideas to cure a hacking cough. Now, we just instantly type in whatever we're feeling and go down a rabbit hole of diagnosed problems that can terrify you and make you think you have a terrible disease that more than likely doesn't exist in your body. It's really bizarre. I'm so thankful that I got to grow up at the very end of the simple life per se. Where we got to ride our bikes all day, almost all night and drink out of the hose pipe.

Now, back to being pop culturally and celebrity obsessed. It seems like we almost worship these people that we don't even know. We hold them on a tall pedestal. We idolize them when they're really just human beings that are going through all kinds of problems, if not more, than we are. Hollywood has become a very strange world that I used to really admire, but not so much anymore. There are so many

other people to look up to that have so much to offer us as well.

Think about our incredible environmentalists. Our scientists and farmers. I think it's super important to teach our children about poets and authors, architecture and people that really make a difference in the world. Philanthropic people, amazing artists that paint masterpieces and people that help and study animals and so on. I'm not saying that all celebrities are bad at all and there are some really talented ones at that, but when it comes down to it - it's all smoke and mirrors. There are parents and guardians that are paying more than \$8,000 for their children to go see a specific pop star in concert on tour and that to me is insane. Concert tickets used to be under fifty dollars when I was a teen. Fashion and glamour are fine and dandy. I will always love it, but all that eventually fades. I say we all get back to the root of how we grew up. I saw a really cool quote the other day that resonated. "Humans really could've had a beautiful life existence on earth. Just creating art and eating fruit, instead we have credit scores and taxes." That unfortunately will always be in existence, but how are you going to change it up? Maybe go on a social media break or incorporate more books in your life. All of these things can make us more mindful of what's really important. I usually watch all of the award ceremonies like the Golden Globes and the Oscars. This year I had no desire to turn it on. I played a card game with my family instead. Turning off the TV and the computer and having family game night is way more fun and you're making those core memories. Get a record player and start collecting vintage vinyl. A family camping trip or going skiing is even better. Those are just a few thoughts on how I feel about our society and our world right now. This world can make us feel heavy at times and overstimulated. How do you feel? Remember to always be kind and to make the sidewalk your runway. Turn off the tube y'all.

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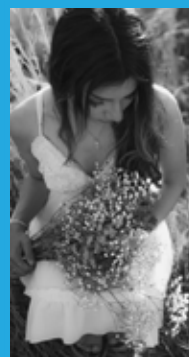
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Remembering iconic newspaperman Frank Dickson

BY RICH OTTER

Frank Dickson began freelance writing professionally when he was in high school for the Anderson Independent in 1928 and joined the company that transferred ownership through the years, finally retiring after 52 years. Following his death in March of 1988, Publisher John Ginn of the Anderson Independent-Mail paid tribute to him as “a diligent and sensitive newspaperman who clearly cared about this newspaper and this community.”

For the newspapers he generally wrote about Anderson and related area history and its people but also authored six books. Although he had never completed a college education, he wrote numerous articles for the Writer’s Digest. Five of his six books were intended for professional writers offering ideas and suggestions, including “1001 Article Ideas,” that Anderson Historian Joanne Thrift reported was one of the first selections after organization of the Writer’s Digest Book Club.

She described the publisher as crediting Dickson as “a perpetual writing machine,” a gold mine for writers, reporters, speakers, feature and assignment editors and program directors – “in

fact, for anyone who needs good ideas fast.”

Thrift said the book presented ideas for features in calendar form, and each month opens with a discussion of national or state events, seasonal topics, anniversary angles of significant happenings of the past, birth dates of notables, and also special days, week and months, around which articles can be built and slanted.” With that kind of assistance the authors’ books could almost write themselves.

She said other books included *An Idea a Day, Every Day* is a new adventure for the writer, *Building an Idea* and *2000 Articles You Can Write and Sell*. A memorial article in the Independent-Mail reported his wife, Renthly, said he would get up at night when he got an idea and go to the dining room table where we had his typewriter before the inspiration would be lost.

Perhaps his best know book locally was of Anderson history written for the United States Bicentennial celebration as well as the County’s Sesquicentennial honoring the divi-

sion of Anderson and Pickens Counties from the Pendleton District, *Journeys into the Past*. For the Bicentennial, Dickson also wrote over 30 newspaper articles about people and places of the day. Because Anderson County had little known history during that period with then sparse settlement other than for passing through Indians and outlaws who preferred not to advertise their locations, Dickson for that celebration largely recounted subjects in the low country or other parts of the colonies.

It has been said that quite a number of people created scrap books with his articles, some of which are still in existence and likely resulted in usable school reports to the relief of students. There certainly were some enticing titles, including: “Pastor, Wife, Fight Battle against Odds;” “Georgians Help Settle Indian Wars;” “A Harrowing Ride Ends successfully;” “Heroine Earns Glory;” “Pickens, Anderson: Cowpens Battlefield Heroes;” “Spying Nancy That Helped Patriot’s Cause;” “Pioneer Lady with a Lot of Hart;” “Widow Comes to Rescue During War.”



Frank Dickson

Perhaps his favorite stories involved Nancy Hart, the “Only woman for whom Georgia named a county.” While pretending to be a gracious hostess inviting invading Tories to a meal with the last turkey from her yard, she sent her 12-year old daughter for help, confiscated their laid aside weapons and herself engaged in battle with the enemy. When help arrived, the surviving Tories were hanged for the murder of a neighbor. At least they had been well fed before their abrupt departure.

Journeys into The Past emphasized “The Anderson Region’s Heritage.” Dickson’s book stretched from 1540 to bring an understanding as to how the country developed. With regard to Anderson County and surrounding areas there is a preservation of stories of individuals, historical places and events. Dickson deftly brought together folklore, history, romance and memories in his 46 chapters.

Books by Dickson, Beth Klosky and Roy Ethridge have lent inspiration to the Anderson County 250 Committee for an upcoming publication and programs in honor of the State’s Sestercentennial celebration in 2026

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