

THE Electric City News

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Mill Village Memories: Gone, but not forgotten

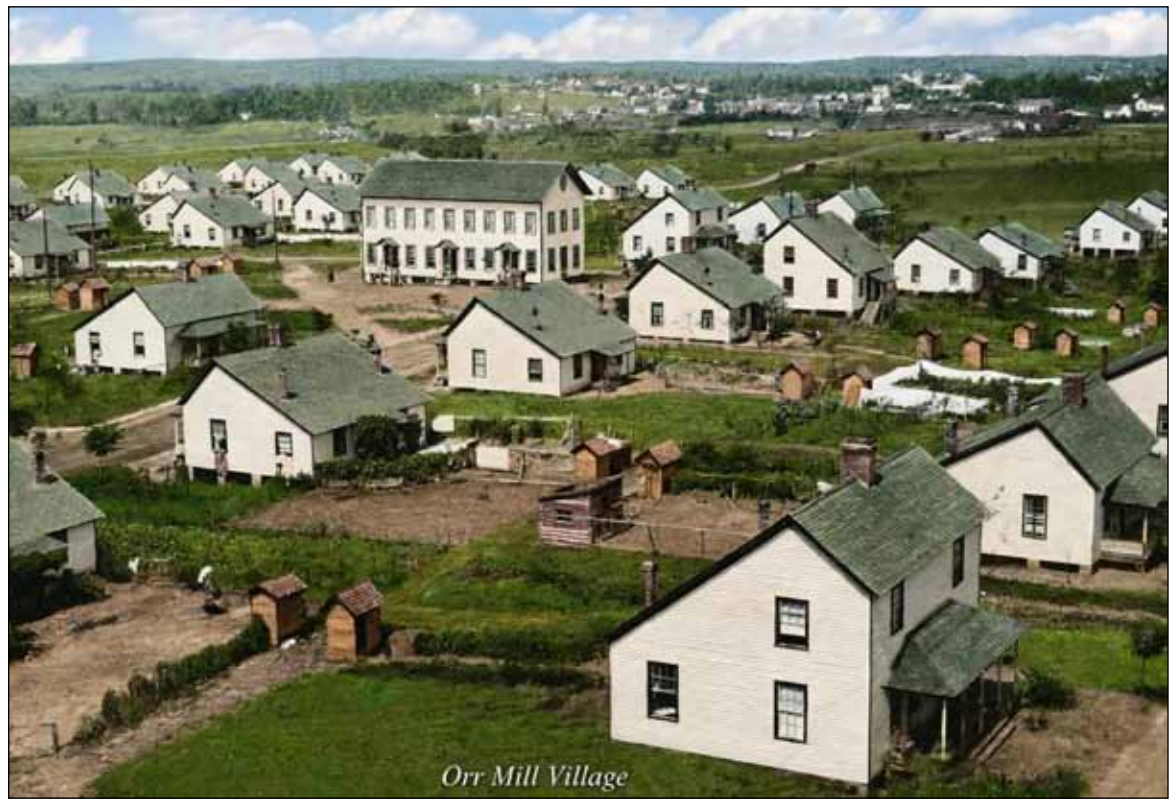
COMPILED BY
ANGELA MASON LOWE
AND DAVID ABLES

Angela Mason Lowe:

For years, I stared at the decaying ruins of demolished mills that once provided a steady income for employees and thought about the history behind overgrown, brush-covered piles of brick. Brick masons like Tommy (Poss) Owen once laid bricks with precision. Smokestacks stand as tall and straight as the day the brick masons finished them. Some still stand as monuments to those faithful textile mill workers who have come and gone. Some called the hard-working, dependable mill employees who worked to provide for their families "lint heads". Lint head was a derogatory remark used to describe the white lint that collected on a person after working all day in the cotton mill.

Many were champion baseball players who played baseball for their mill's team. The mills' investment in the textile baseball leagues served a three-fold purpose: promoting teamwork, keeping them busy and out of trouble, and fostering pride in the mill. Anderson and the surrounding counties had several cotton mills. Some were within walking distance of each other. Each mill had its own little community of neighbors who lived in white plank or asbestos-sided houses. The mill villages had churches, a gymnasium, a day care for children, a barber shop, and a general store for groceries and other needed items, all within walking distance. Many textile mills had a mill store where workers could use mill tokens to buy needed goods. The churches in the Mill Village were the center

SEE MILL ON PAGE 2


Orr Mill Village



Mill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of everything. Families learned how to help each other through the love of the church and their pastor. Some mills used the gymnasium as a place for workers to cast their vote in state and national elections. Cotton mills also hosted annual Christmas parties in the gymnasium. They gave families a large basket of fruit, candy, and a toy for the children. A little joy for the children whose parents worked long hours amid deafening noise, choking dust and lint, and heat that the mill workers endured. Schools gave the textile workers' children a good start, focusing on reading, writing, and arithmetic. Many of the children's parents had less than an eighth-grade education, and some could not read or write. Often at an early age, they worked to support their large families and aging parents. Through hard work and dedication, many children became the first in their families to graduate from high school, and some became the first in their families to attend college.

My father once told me, "Nothing stays the same; time has a way of changing things". One day in the early 1980's things changed for my husband, my mother, and many of our friends who worked in the mill. The recession became real, and unemployment was high. Textile cotton mills were closing, and mill employees lost their only income. Like me, many watched the man on the six o'clock news interviewing employees at locked gates at other shut-down mills. Families had always helped each other when things got hard. Now that the mill was closing, no one would be in a position to help anyone else. But the determination and ingenuity that made the textiles great lived on in the families of the mill even after the textile mills ceased to operate. My husband now tells our grandchildren, "I probably would not have received a college education had the mill not closed down, but I would like to see more industries like the textile mill for those willing to work and provide for their families. Our family appreciates the start the mill gave to them"

Experiencing a bit of nostalgia, we wrote our stories for this book to remember some good times and wonderful friends. We thank those who came before us to pave the way. Memories still echo with the good these mills brought to the families who lived there, even though the roar of the mill remains silent.

David Ables:

I grew up in the Appleton Mill village of Anderson, South Carolina. My dad worked at the mill for over 42 years. Except for a few months, I have spent my entire life in what was once known as the Mill Village. When my longtime friend Angela Mason Lowe proposed compiling a collection of stories and memories from growing up in the mill village, I thought it was an excellent idea. So many of the older generations are gone, and we wanted to record our recollections of life as we experienced it.

Villages or neighborhoods existed around the many cotton textile mills throughout the state. At first, the mills rented the houses to employees. Eventually, the mills allowed employees to purchase their own homes. The work was hard, but life was good in the mill village. We hope that, as you read the memories and stories of life back then, you will get a glimpse of the work, play, school, church and life in general on the "Mill Hill."

**This book can be ordered on Amazon.*





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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.

City of Anderson celebrates new trail connection with Electric City Food Truck Festival and Halloween Fun Run

ANDERSON, S.C. — The City of Anderson invites the community to celebrate a new connection along the Whitner Creek Greenway at the first-ever Electric City Food Truck Festival & Halloween Fun Run presented by Edifice Construction on Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The celebration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a ribbon cutting for the newly completed greenway stretch connecting the Recreation Center Complex to the revitalized Linley Park. Following brief remarks from City leaders, participants will head down the trail for a one-mile Halloween Fun Run/Walk. Costumes are encouraged, and participants are welcome to run, walk and enjoy the new connection at their own pace.

"This connection brings together two of our community's favorite recreation spaces and creates new opportunities for people to get outside and enjoy Anderson," said Andrew Strickland, Assistant City Manager. "We're excited to celebrate this investment by inviting families to experience the trail and see how it connects them to everything Linley Park has to offer."

The ribbon cutting and run will begin along the trail just past the ball fields at the Recreation Center Complex and finish at Linley Park, where the celebration continues with food trucks, live music, children's activities and Halloween fun.

Hosted by 110 North Kitchen + Commissary, the food truck lineup will offer a variety of options for festivalgoers to purchase directly from participating vendors. Festivalgoers will receive one raffle ticket per food truck transaction for a chance to win one of our special giveaway baskets.

"Behind every food truck is an entrepreneur who brings their own creativity and passion to what they serve," said Lilly Herman, Manager of 110 North Kitchen + Commissary. "We're excited to bring these businesses together, introduce people to new favorites and share the role 110 North plays in supporting our local food community."

The event celebrates the City's continued investment in parks, trails and public spaces while highlighting local food entrepreneurs through 110 North, the City of Anderson's shared kitchen and commissary.

Whether joining the costume run, cheering on participants or stopping by for lunch and live music, residents and visitors are invited to spend the afternoon exploring the trail and enjoying Linley Park.

Event at a Glance
Date: Saturday, October 24, 2026
Time: 11:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Ribbon Cutting & Fun Run Start: 11:30 a.m., along the trail past the ball fields at the Recreation Center Complex
Festival & Run Finish: Linley Park
Admission: Free festival entry; food available for purchase
Presenting Sponsor: Edifice Construction
Fun Run Registration: Advance registration is required, and participants will receive a run T-shirt. Find the registration link on the event page listed below.
Parking & Runner Transportation: Parallel parking is available along Park Drive, with additional parking in the South Linley Park lot near the playground and pavilion. Runners who park at the Recreation Center should arrange transportation back to their vehicles, as the run finishes at Linley Park.

For more info, visit: www.cityofandersonsc.com/event/electric-city-food-truck-festival-and-halloween-fun-run-presented-by-edifice-construction/



A DIFFERENT KIND OF NATURE WATCHING



Ann K. Bailes

Our recent trip to the Pawleys/Litchfield area with the two young grands (and their parents) was very different than when just the two of us go alone. We're used to taking a lot of time to birdwatch and look at nature. But with the littles along we didn't have as much opportunity – and more distractions mean being less organized as well.

Some of the lack of nature-observing-wasn't of our making. For reasons unknown, Huntington Beach State Park was the least active that we have ever seen. We happened to be there during several days' worth of abnormally high king tides, and maybe those affected the bird movements. But even at low tide, not much could be seen except plough mud, marsh grass, and oyster beds—not even any alligators!

One morning, we didn't look for bird sat the park because Little Miss was with us. We knew there would be no hiking or observing much when she was along, because for her, the playground held greater charms.Back at the condo, I did see several interesting possibilities on the beach – but of course, never when I had binoculars, or enough time to watch. I was too preoccupied with entertaining Little Miss, or making sure our little crawler didn't get away.

However, we did take "nature walks" each night –Little Miss, Little Mister in his stroller,Mike, and me, walking along the quiet street our condo was on. We noticed the trees and the marsh,and the clouds in the sky. We listened for the sounds of the surf close by. We watched mullet jumping in the inlet and schools of bait fish on the move.

During one walk we got a good look at a kingfisher after hearing him rattle several



times. He swooped across the small pond, and we watched him catch and then lose a small fish. He then landed in one of the bushes on the edge, in a perfect pose, with perfect lighting. And my camera? Back at the condo.

Then, at that same pond, we saw two ducks. Little Miss was excited. "Mr. and Mrs. Mallard!" she exclaimed."But where are their babies?" (She recently was read the childhood classic Make Way for Ducklings.) As we watched the mallards waddle along the bank, enter the water, and paddle to the other side, I told her that the ducklings have grown up. I loved watching the ducks from the perspective of this little one, who was seeing them through the eyes of her book.

And then, throughout our long slow meander back, several times Little Mister's hand would shoot up in the air as he pointed at the various gulls and terns flying by. "Buh!" he would announce repeatedly. "Buh!" He may have only been able to enunciate the first sound, but he knew what he was seeing, and we did too.

Maybe it was a good birdwatching trip after all. Different, but good. And very, very sweet.



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NOVEMBER 3RD
DICKIE
SMITH
FOR
ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT 5
AREA 6
SCHOOL BOARD

Every Student Matters, Every School Matters, and Every Opportunity Makes a Difference.





A Lifetime of Service

For 40 years, I dedicated my career to serving students in the classroom and on the athletic field, followed by 10 years as Community Liaison for Anderson School District 5.

Throughout my career, I've believed that supporting students goes far beyond academics and athletics. It means understanding the challenges they face both inside and outside of school, building strong relationships, and working together to help every student reach their full potential.

If elected to the Anderson School District 5 School Board, I will continue to work closely with administrators, teachers, support staff, families, and our community to provide students with the opportunities, resources, and support they need to succeed.

After 50 years of service, my commitment to our students and community remains as strong as ever.

40 YEARS
In the classroom and on the athletic field for ASD5

McKINNY-VENTO ADVOCATE
Working with schools and community partners to support students experiencing homelessness. ASD5 currently has a 65% homelessness rate.

SERVING THE ANDERSON COMMUNITY
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- Rotary Club of Anderson Member
- American Legion / Boys State Selection Committee
- PlaySafe Board

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Festival of Trees

Anderson Free Clinic

All events will be held at The Bleckley Station

Tickets available at:
givebutter.com/2026-festival-of-trees-kp3z8t

Sneak Peek
Free Admission
November 18 & 20
(10am - 2pm)

Sip & Spruce Girls' Night
$75/person or $420 group of 6
November 18 (6:30-9pm)

Holiday Luncheon & Fashion Show
$45/person or $320 group of 8
November 19
(11am-1:30pm)

The Treemendous Party
$100/person or $760 group of 8
November 20 (6:30-9pm)

Goodies with the Grinch
$10/person (including adults); children under 2 Free
November 21 (9-11am)

Halloween: Then and now



Neal Parnell

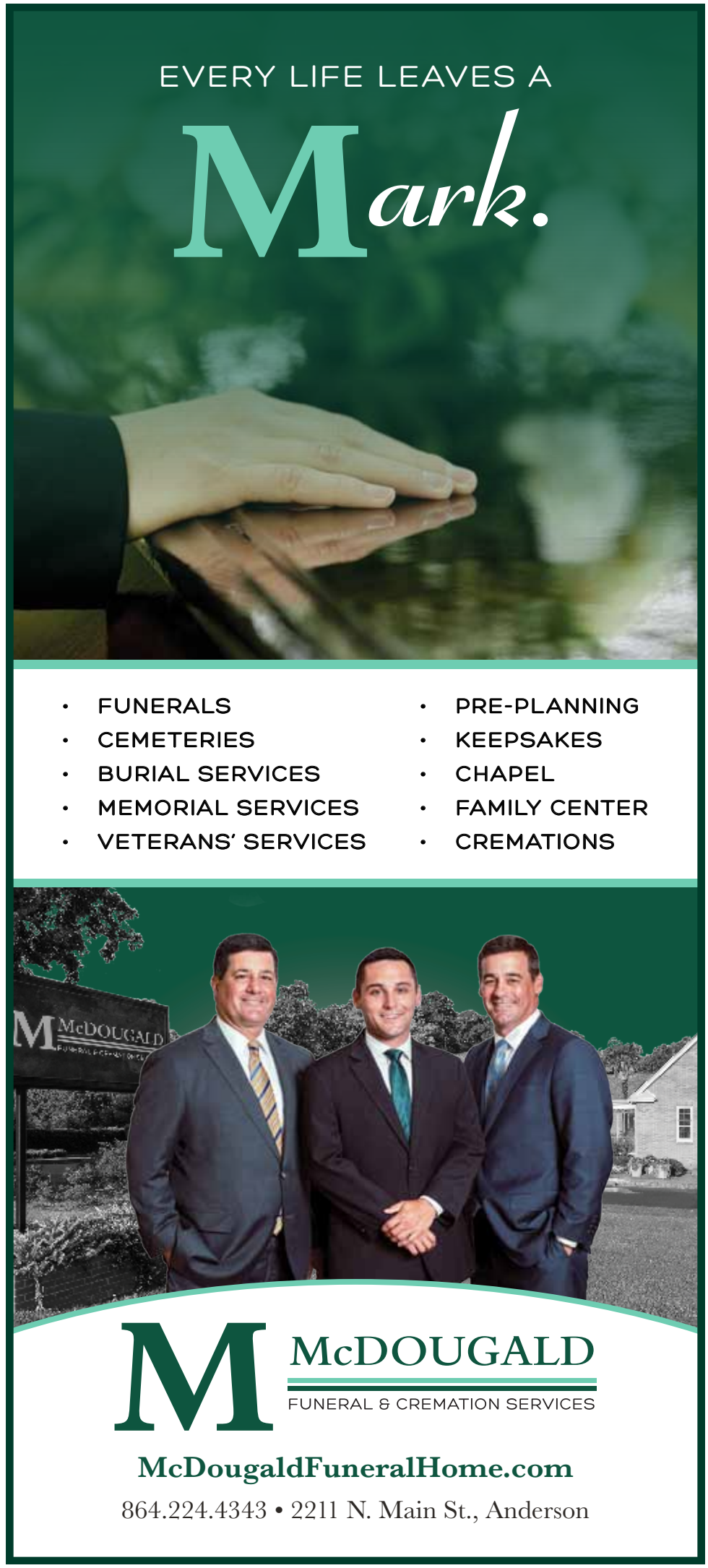
It's almost Halloween, and that's conjured some foggy thoughts about what eerie metamorphosis that spooky night has gone through since I was a Trick-or-Treater. I've magically gone back to when I was seven years old in 1962, and Presto! Change-O! Here it is…



What	1962	Kid's Today
Costume	Mom's old bedsheet; I've been a ghost for 3 years.	$59.99 from Amazon that lights up, talks and won't fit through a door.
Trick or Treat bag	Dad's pillowcase that will hold 30 pounds of candy.	Plastic pumpkin bucket that holds 8 pieces before Mom says that's enough.
Transportation	Me and 8 Kids turned loose at dark with no flashlight.	Drives you house to house, tracks you on his phone and posts it on Facebook and Tik Tok.
Shoes	What you wore to school that day.	Light-Up NIKES that have to be charged
Candy you got	Popcorn balls, red apples, Bit-O-Honey, a few pennies and a toothbrush from Old-Lady-Jenkins.	Sealed, peanut-free, gluten-free, QR-coded candy that gets x-rayed when you get home.
The dog	Old mutt that followed the whole gang and ate everything we dropped.	Dog stays home wearing a SpongeBob costume.
Yard decorations	Real candle inside of real pumpkin that caught the porch on fire once.	Projected ghost hologram, fog machine, inflatable 12-foot skeleton with Bluetooth speaker.
Haunted House	An abandoned house at the end of the road that no one would go near.	A professionally built maze with a waiver you have to sign.
Prank	Soaping the windows and rolling the mean neighbor's yard in toilet paper.	There are no pranks, too many cameras and Karens.
After trick or treating	Dump all the candy on the floor and trade with your siblings until someone cries.	Sort it by allergy warning, take a photo for Instagram, trade it in at the dentist for a toy.
The morning after	Teeth hurt, stomach hurts, but still have two Snickers for breakfast.	Brush teeth, return costume for store credit.

I guess the best thing about Halloween in 1962 was that your costume didn't have to be authentic or store-bought. If you put on your dad's boots, his old hat, and hung a candy cigarette out of your mouth, you were a Hobo and the scariest thing on the block.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Sole searching: The best shoes to shop this season

I don't know about you, but I love shoes. I have these vivid childhood memories of always putting on my mother and grandmother's high heel shoes when I was a toddler which is rather hilarious. I learned to walk in heels at a very young age. I guess you could say I've loved shoes all my life. There are so many stunning shoes right now and I have narrowed down my choices.



Kristine March

It's boot season of course so I will start there. Hunter Wellie boots have always been a classic and will certainly never go out of style. They're perfect for rain and snow and now they make a vast variety. From ankle boots to lace up, and even leather, there are so many chic choices.

Kate Moss is their global ambassador which makes me like them even more. She was famous for wearing them at music festivals like The Glastonbury while sloshing around in the mud and making them look oh, so rockstar. There's a new crocodile pair out that I would love to purchase. The good thing is they're not over $300, so fairly affordable and they'll last you a lifetime.

If you're in a funky mood, you should peruse Jeffrey Campbell's website. His designs are really unique and will make you stand out in a crowd. And I have to say every pair I've ever owned from his line are really comfortable. They don't look like they would be, but they really are.

I personally love the lace up tapestry boot. Even though it's a lace-up boot It has a zipper closure and a short heel so you could wear them everywhere. A great price point as well.

Now if you're more of a sneaker type person, I say go with the Adidas Gazelle. They are comfortable and colorful, and you can wear them with just a about everything. When I was in New York, I noticed all the women wearing them with baggie boyfriend jeans and even long bohemian skirts with an oversized denim jacket. It looked like really relaxed French girl. Effortless and cool.

If you're into a Western vibe you can't go wrong with a good cowboy boot. They make buttery soft ones that will take you to the barn and right on the line dancing dancefloor. Boot Barn has so many options it will make your head spin, but,If you're new to the cowboy boot scene, I highly suggest getting on their website or going to their store and trying them on in person. They have every color and every style you can think of. Some are a little bit on the pricey side, but there's also really budget friendly ones. I personally love the Dingo Western over the knee boot with a snip toe. I definitely will be putting these on my Christmas list. They're beautiful and really lovely on the leg. They elongate but are very wearable. They come in a leopard print and black print in these particular boots, but this company really carries everything. They even have really great clothing. I'm a big fan.

Now for flats. A lot of ladies just love a good flat. I'm sure everyone has caught on to the new trend of jelly flats. They originated in the post-war of France in the '40s and they have made a huge comeback. I see them everywhere I go. If you want to carry the trend into fall and light winter, I would recommend going for darker colors.You can even be bold and pair them with a cute little trouser sock, but they wouldn't be good in the dead of winter, your feet would definitely freeze.

I love the Steve Madden Grove Flat. It comes in a dark brown tortoise shell pattern and covers the entire foot, so it's really classy and cute to wear for a brunch and shopping day with your gal pals. Cushy and great for walking through town all day.

Lastly, every woman needs a good pair of heels. Being in my forties I can't wear the huge heels like I used to, unless it's just getting out of the car and walking right into the restaurant, so I generally stick to a 2.5 to 3-in block heel now.

I discovered a company out of Copenhagen Denmark called Anonymous. They're a Danish footwear brand, and they're so gorgeous. I love the Carlota style that comes in metallic prints and patterns. They also sell accessories like handbags, belts and gloves. Just a really beautiful and well-crafted brand that's a bit more obscure. Definitely check them out.

These are just some options fowr y'all to enjoy. It may or may not be your style, but these are great options and a good place to start. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and be kind! Happy show hunting, y'all.



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garden • home • birds



THE EYES HAVE IT

BY RICH OTTER

Old-timers may remember the popular song lyrics "Beautifull, beautiful blue eyes, I'll never love brown eyes again." That fellow may have sung himself into a corner if his blue-eyed flame took a walk. He obviously distanced himself from any future brown-eyes who greatly outnumber blue-eyes.

Eighty percent of the people in the world have brown eyes. Only 16% are said to have blue eyes. Fortunately, chances in the United States are better at about 24% to 27% being blue eyed, but still a long shot. What would he do, advertise for a blue-eyed prospect in the newspaper? He could go to Ireland where it is said 50% have blue eyes. That may have inspired the song lyrics "When Irish eyes are smiling, Sure 'tis like the morn in Spring."

A study has claimed that all blue-eyed people derived from a single person, 6-to-10,000 years ago, in the Black Sea area. The individual's name is not known. Brown eyes sprouted from Africa and spread around the world.

The brown eyes were to protect those around the equator from intense sunlight. As folks migrated north, eyes adjusted and generally became lighter in color or mixed. You might crudely say the eyes became mongrels. A color chart may be necessary to tell them apart. But, stare carefully at anyone you meet. Their eyes supposedly carry historical meaning, observed and interpreted over the years.

The accumulated knowledge of how different colored-eye people act has been studied closely. For instance, you can ask any of the 80% brown eyed people in the world and they know brown eyes prove they are reliable, solid, humble, trustworthy individuals. Blue eyed people will quickly admit they are calm, although a bit distant, intelligent, pure and insightful. They don't overly emphasize it, but they have an understood royal heritage as well as demeanor–from whence, is not known. They just know it.

Green eyed people, being of Celtic or German ancestry, are pretty rare at about 2% throughout the world, but are a rousing 9% in the United States. They enjoy a somewhat mixed reputation. On the one hand, they have exotic or fiery spirited and curious dispositions, but, on the dark side, they could be deviant and wild. Green eyes have been associated with witches, magic, vampires and evil spirits. Why are there so many in the United States? Green-eyes could be well advised to wear dark glasses.

In the U.S., if you have grey eyes, you constitute only 1% or 2%, but are cool, thoughtful and introspective. Those with Hazel/Amber eyes, ranging between 10% and 18% of Americans, may modestly proclaim versatility, spontaneity, a dynamic personality, adaptability and are adventurous. Wow!

Perhaps the scary thing about eye coloration, is that color may change after birth. When proud mommy and daddy celebrate a child's blossoming blue at birth, they may watch it change as their youngster ages.

There may be shock if a baby's eyes don't match either parent, but don't panic. The hospital didn't mix kids up. That may just naturally happen.

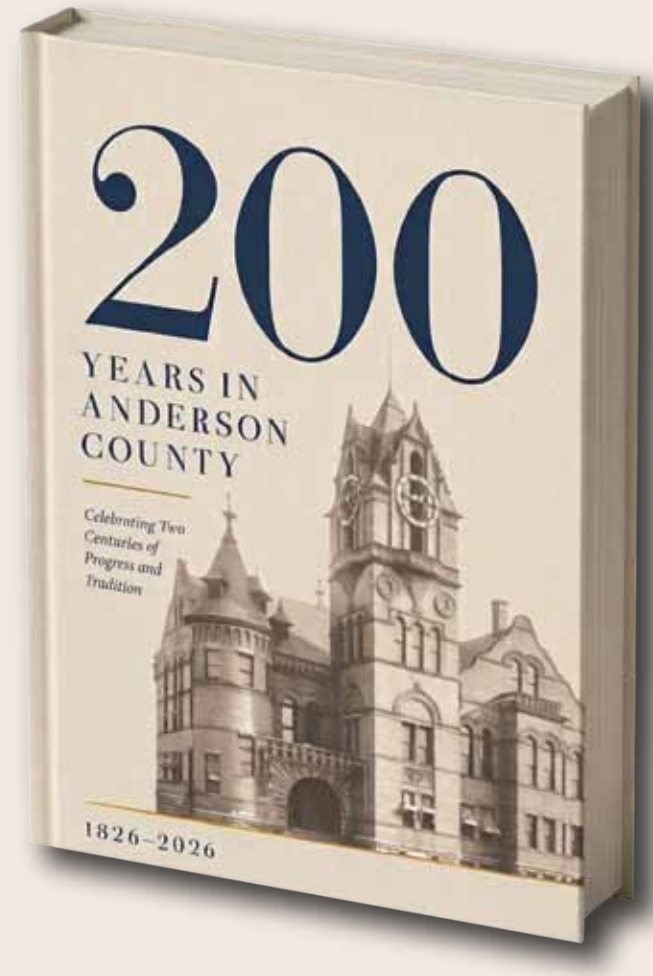
There is also heterochromia. That is where there are eyes of different color, such as one brown and one blue. Depending on who the youngster might want to impress, he or she may learn to keep one eye shut during a conversation. But how do you answer "eye color" on a form? Just say yes.

No matter what the color or the attributes of that color, it will be completely over-ridden with beady eyes–eyes that seem to gleam conveying greed or suspicion. They may be similar to those of a bird of prey or a rodent. Beware!

What is actually not part of the eye itself is the black eye (or shiner) that appears under the eye. Of course, it is earned, not inherited, and frequently accompanies a broken nose. The black eye usually results from blunt force trauma that is acquired by an individual known as a "smart aleck." It also was well known by football players before the introduction of nose guards.

Be sure to keep this information available when meeting someone. Also, have a magnifying glass handy so you may closely study the individual's eye color. You can't be too careful these days–especially during an election year.

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Important Admission Info: To join us for this event, guests are required to purchase a non-refundable ticket in advance. Ticket sales must be completed by Thursday, October 22, 2026 so we can finalize our numbers.

Thank you, Development Corporation of Anderson County for your amazing support!

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The woman behind the wheel of a family legacy



Kim von Keller



Rhonda Williams Howell has successfully run her waste management company, R & R Sanitation, for almost 30 years. And while that is quite an achievement, what's most meaningful to her is that she's run the company in a way that would make her father, the company's founder, proud.

Rhonda, an Anderson native, is the youngest child of the late Vivian and Roy Williams. Roy founded R & R Sanitation, which provides trash pickup services, in the early 1960s. But Rhonda's career didn't start in waste management. After studying marketing at Greenville Technical College, she worked as a buyer for Belk Tyler in Goldsboro, North Carolina, where her husband was serving in the U.S. Air Force. When they moved back to Anderson in 1990, she worked for Belk Simpson in Greenville and, later, Gallant Belk, but what she really wanted was to work with her dad. His response was not what she expected.

"He said I was too cute to work in sanitation," she laughs. "But when I got my Commercial Driver's License, I started working for the company part time while I was also working for Gallant Belk. After I had been working with my dad for four years, he said, 'I want you to take over the company.' He passed away in 2006, and every day when I go to work, I just want to make him proud."

With that in mind, Rhonda kept the work ethic and business values she learned from her father while also putting her own stamp on R & R Sanitation.

"I used my marketing skills to really grow the business. One of the biggest advantages that I had was the ability to build on relationships that my father started. It can be hard for a woman in this business when you're buying a new truck or trusting a mechanic to do work properly, but I always knew I could trust the businesses that he partnered with."

Rhonda maintains long-term relationships with her customers as well.

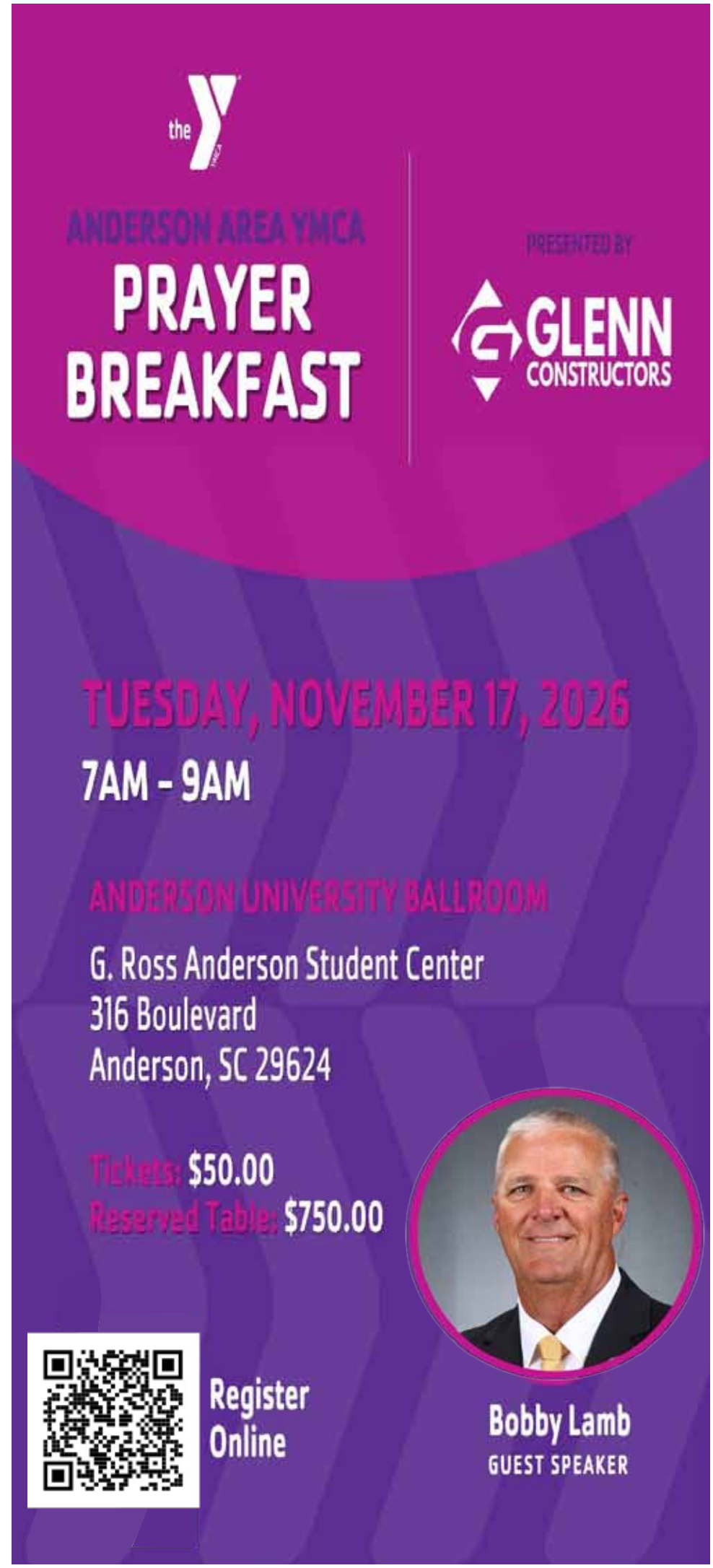
"Two and a half days a week, I drive a truck to pick up garbage from our clients. I know their communities. I know them and their homes and businesses, and some of them have known me since I was a child. I get invited to their weddings, and I mourn at their funerals. One year, I was spending a lot of time at a funeral home. One of the employees there noticed and asked what I did for a living. I said, 'I'm a garbologist.' He said, 'What's that?' I said, 'That's what I call my job when I'm dressed up, like I am now. When I'm wearing my overalls, I'm a trash lady."

But Rhonda is much more than that. She often works 14-hour days managing every aspect of R & R Sanitation.

"In addition to driving, I'm responsible for billing and other office work. I manage the truck maintenance. I make sure the trucks are washed regularly. Since I took over the business, I've never missed a pickup. On the few occasions I've been late, customers will call to make sure I'm okay. My dad was dedicated to this business and loyal to his customers, and so am I. This is also how I make a living and support my family."

When Rhonda first began working with her father, there were few women working in the waste management industry. Since then, she's seen the numbers increase, and she is glad to have been a role model for women entering fields that were once exclusively male. What I tell women who want to run their own businesses is to find out what you have a passion for and then know what you want to do. Be dedicated. Be consistent. Nobody thought I would enjoy this job. It is a nasty business and a dangerous one too; the trucks are heavy, and you can't stop quickly. But I love driving big trucks. I love being outdoors. I love people, and I knew I wanted to carry on my family's business. My father worked hard and supported my three siblings and me in anything we wanted to do.

"This is what I wanted, and it means a lot to me that my father trusted me to run the business in such a way that I'll be able to pass it on to the next generation."



THE GARDEN SHOP

A new life



SUSAN TEMPLE
master gardener

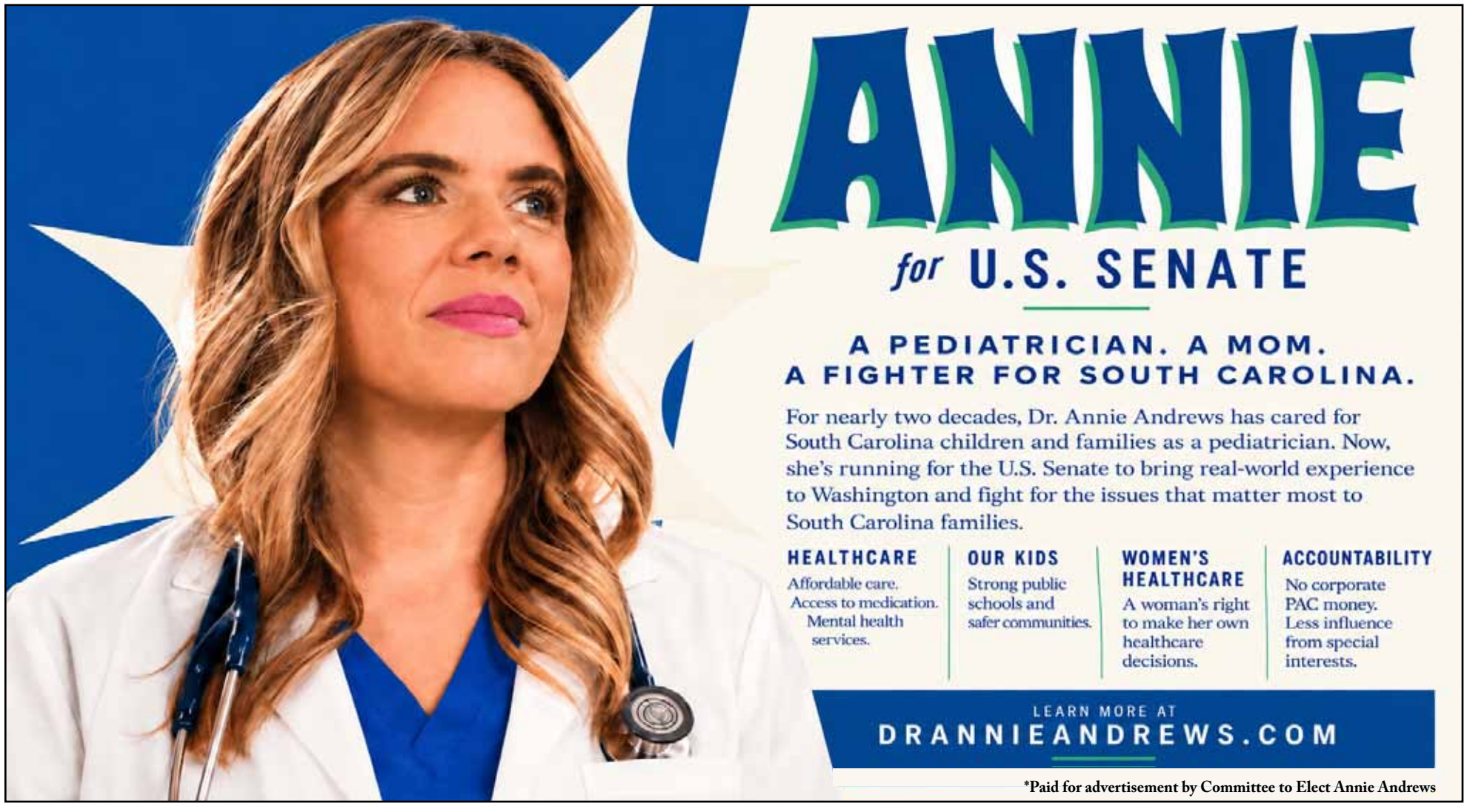


It's a new life these days, and not a welcomed one. Mama walked through the Pearly Gates on October 8 at 2:13pm. I'm so thankful we were all with her. It is very peculiar without her. About a month ago, Mama and I were looking at her mother's scrapbook. Grandmother had a page labeled "my mottos" and there were several poems on them. One was "Today"; it summarized living for today. Another was "Keep on Keepin' On" and repeated that throughout. Another one did not have a title but was about sunsets, darkness, and how dawn brings light, hope, and joy. How poignant to read these with Mama in her final days. I have them on my refrigerator now.

Using Grandmother Cooley's mottos, I'm looking for my peaceful mind and happy heart. And where better to find them than in my yard. Between the 100 degree days, spending time with Mama, and then taking care of her, my plants have been on their own. I did redo the garden shop area by having a concrete pad poured. Now dirt does not splash up on things. Nothing is make do propped up on bricks and concrete blocks, my collection of blue and white pottery is nicely displayed, the potting table is level, and my special vintage yard furniture is safely off the dirt. I love it. Mama said she liked it better the other way, more natural. I told her not to worry, I'd have the white concrete crapped up in no time. The next plan for garden shop is to have the furniture powder coated - maybe a bright chartreuse color. I'm still deciding. There are some tiles, iron finials a friend gave me, and a couple of other things that will be hung on a fence panel, once I get the fence panel put up.

I've decided on making another long standing wish come true…putting up a deer fence. How can I grow hydrangeas in memory of Mama without one? Mama's yard is full of hydrangeas and some will be moved to my place. I tried growing mophead types but quickly realized it was too much trouble to keep deer from eating them down to nothing but stems. So many camellias and small native azaleas have fence around them now to keep deer out of them. That is laborious and aggravating. I also want to bring some of Mama's clematis (another thing she was a connoisseur of) to my place. Deer also love ones I've tried to grow before. Oakleaf and paniculata type hydrangeas I have are pruned up like ice cream cones by deer. The oakleafs are going to be cut back to the ground this winter because there is no foliage until about five feet up. If they recover fine, if not, fine. Pinky Winky hydrangeas actually look pretty good as they are. I may plant something under them some day to hide the stems.

The deer fence will come off the chain link fence in the back yard. This is one of my favorite areas. Many formosa azaleas from Mama's and Grandmother Cooley's are there, a camellia japonica "Sarah Catherine", was planted at the end of February, not knowing how soon it would be in memory of Mama, and the confederate azaleas are in this area. Mama's ashes are there. I will find my peaceful mind and happy heart in the plants Mama and I shared and loved.



Clean Start celebrates 20 years of serving Anderson community

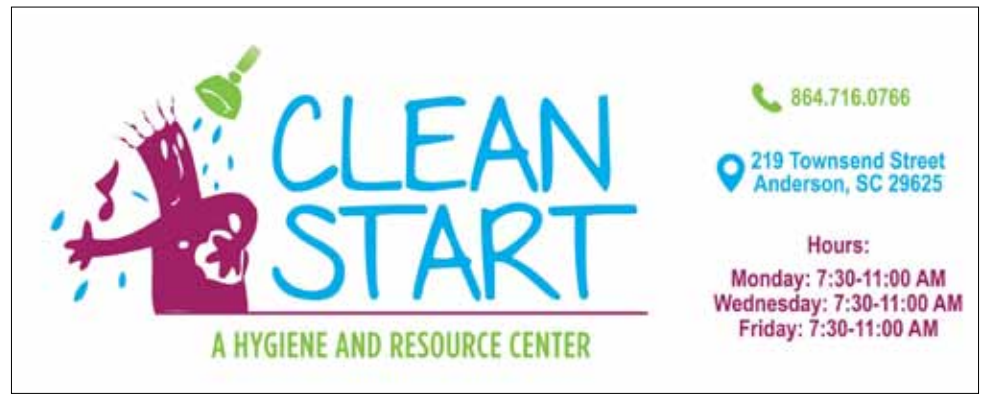
For 20 years, Clean Start of Anderson has provided clean clothes and a place to shower for those who don't have this accommodation. The volunteer-run nonprofit has offered hope, dignity, and encouragement to people experiencing homelessness, poverty, and difficult circumstances throughout the Anderson community.

Founded in 2006, Clean Start was established with a simple but meaningful mission: to help those in need achieve basic hygiene and cleanliness while offering a fresh start toward a more stable and fulfilling life.

Director, Norene Smith, retired from nursing 20 years ago not knowing what she would do next. She was invited to attend a meeting about the start-up of this facility that would provide people a chance to begin their day with a fresh, clean start. When asked why they had invited her, she was told they wanted her to run it.

Noreen said, "I told them I'll do it for 30 days. I've been there for 20 years. I remind myself each day, that could be me coming through that door. I love being there, it is my second home. Many times, when I get home in the afternoon, there will be a box at the door containing donations of supplies we use. Many times, there is no name."

Located at 219 Townsend Street in Anderson, the volunteers at Clean Start serve an average of 150 clients each week, providing essential services. The organization completes 45 loads of laundry weekly and offers clients access to four showers where they can bathe and shave. Gently used and new clothing, basic hygiene supplies and barbering supplies are also available.



Beyond these necessities, Clean Start provides access to telephone and mailing services, helping clients stay connected and work toward opportunities that can improve their circumstances. The organization also helps direct individuals to other available community resources for assistance with needs such as employment and housing.

At the heart of Clean Start's mission is the belief that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and compassion. By providing a clean, welcoming place and practical resources, volunteers help clients feel valued—an important step towards rebuilding confidence and starting anew.

Clean Start operates entirely through the dedication of volunteers and is supported solely by private donations. As a private 501(c)(3) charitable organization, it relies on the generosity of individuals and businesses throughout the community to continue its work.

Operating expenses total approximately $2,200 per month, making community support essential in keeping the doors open and services available to those who need them.

There are many ways to become involved. Volunteers are welcome to help organize supplies and donations or work directly with clients. Assistance in identifying potential job leads, housing opportunities, and other resources is also appreciated. Sometimes,gestures as simple as a smile or an encouraging pat on the back can make a meaningful difference.

As Clean Start marks its 20th anniversary, the milestone celebrates not only two decades of service but also the countless acts of kindness that have helped sustain its mission. Every donation, volunteer hour, and gesture of compassion helps the organization continue offering Anderson residents an opportunity to begin again with dignity.

Community members interested in supporting Clean Start can make tax-deductible monetary donations by completing the Tax-Deductible Donation form available on the organization's website and returning it to the Clean Start location. Donations may also be mailed to: Clean Start of Anderson, 219 Townsend Street, Anderson, SC 29625

For more information, call 864-716-0766.

Clean Start is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:30 to 11 a.m.

After 20 years, Clean Start continues to demonstrate how a community can make a difference by meeting basic needsand remind-

Real Estate Spotlight





Offense leads the way for top-ranked Westside

There's no big secret to the Westside Rams' rate of success.



Brian Hodges

They play a wide-open style of offense with lots of big-play talent. They pass the ball almost every chance they get.

It helps having a talented quarterback in Bear Woods, a handful of talented receivers and of course, an excellent offensive line.

Throw in a pair of running backs in Damauri Robinson and BJ Anderson and you've got a team that's hard to stop.

Last Friday night, Westside outscored Fountain Inn 56-42 to improve to 7-1, 3-0 in region play.

Woods, a sophomore left-handed quarterback, completed 19 of 29 for 387 yards and four touchdowns. He may have played one of his better games this season.

"He rarely plays a whole game. But he played well tonight," said Westside coach Brian Lane. "Bear played three quarters of a game in the opener (against Ashley Ridge), he played a half in the win against Murphy, N.C. (a game that was called after one half due to bad weather) and last week he played one half because we were way ahead against Easley."

The Rams never trailed, and had to constantly keep one step ahead of Fountain Inn, a 4-4 team which featured its own outstanding QB in senior Sam Holliday.

"He's real good," said Lane of Holliday, who has committed to Anderson University, "Fountain Inn is a really good program with good players. We had to keep a step ahead of them."

The teams were tied at 14-14 in the second quarter when Woods connected with Tajeh Watson-Martin on a 71-yard scoring strike. Boom. It can happen that fast when Westside is in sync.

The Rams opened up a seemingly comfortable 42-21 lead in the second half. Robinson then scored on a very determined 54-yard run up the middle. He pulled away from several potential tacklers.

They still led 49-35 with 6:11 to go in the game, when Westside made a rare mistake on a punt.

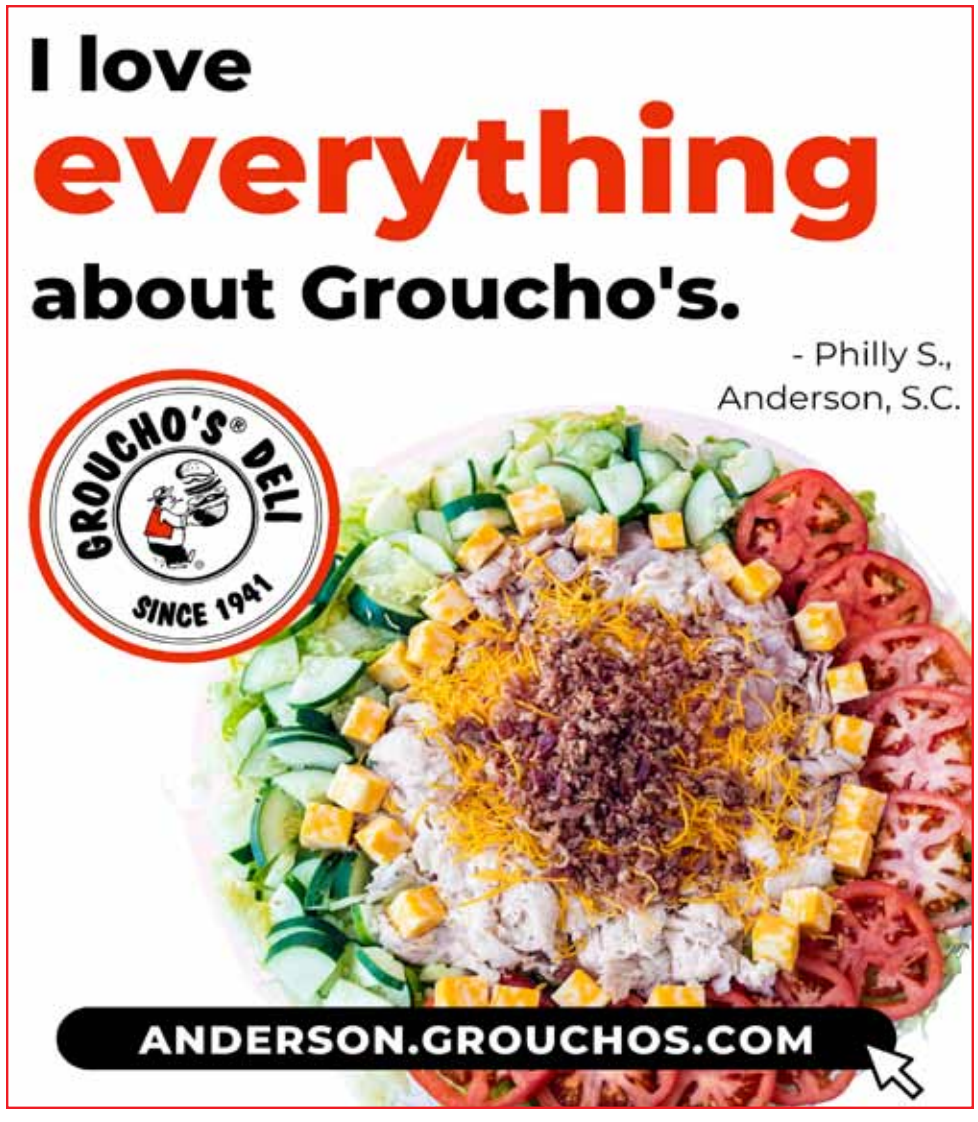
The Rams tried a quickkick, but the Fury blocked it and Tywone Martin picked up the loose ball and scored. Suddenly, it was 49-42 with 4:48 left.

"We've got to keep our composure when we build a lead," Lane said. "We'll get back on the practice field and work on our blocking upfront."

On the Rams' next possession, Woods threw a sideline pass to Jae White, who turned it into a 67-year touchdown catch and run.

With four minutes to go, that 56-42 score was the final margin.

The Rams have 2 games left in the regular season. They host Greenwood on Oct. 23 and then play at T.L. Hanna on Oct. 30 in a much-anticipated matchup before the playoff season begins.





ASK THE DOGTOR

Which vaccines does your dog really need?



JACKSON WALKER
DVM

"My dog hardly ever leaves the house. Does he really need vaccinations?"

It is a fair question. Owners want to protect their dogs, and they deserve to understand what we recommend and why. Vaccines remain one of our most useful tools for preventing serious infectious disease. A good vaccination plan considers your dog's medical history, previous vaccinations, environment, and activities. The goal is appropriate protection throughout your dog's life.

Veterinarians divide vaccines into two broad categories: core vaccines, recommended for essentially all dogs unless a medical reason prevents vaccination, and additional vaccines selected according to exposure risk.

Core protection includes rabies, distemper, adenovirus, and parvovirus. The American Animal Hospital Association's updated guidelines also include leptospirosis as a core vaccine for dogs. Several of these protections may be combined in one injection, so the number of diseases covered does not necessarily equal the number of shots given.

Rabies deserves special emphasis because it threatens both animals and people. Once clinical signs develop, rabies is virtually 100% fatal. Keeping your dog vaccinated helps protect your family and the community.

Leptospirosis is a disease I studied closely during my undergraduate senior research. It is a bacterial infection that can cause severe kidney or liver disease in dogs, and it can also infect people.

Exposure can occur through water or soil contaminated with infected animal urine. A dog does not have to be a hunting dog or swim in a pond to encounter it. Small dogs and dogs living in town can be exposed, too.

WHY PUPPIES NEED A SERIES

One puppy vaccination does not mean the job is finished.

Puppies receive temporary antibodies from their mothers. Those antibodies offer early protection, but they can also interfere with vaccination. The timing varies from puppy to puppy, and interfering antibodies can persist beyond 12 weeks. That is why puppy vaccines are given in a series rather than relying on a single shot.

Distemper and parvovirus vaccinations are generally repeated every two to four weeks through at least 16 weeks of age, sometimes longer when risk warrants it. Keep the appointments your veterinarian recommends, even when your puppy looks perfectly healthy. Prevention works best before exposure occurs.

LIFESTYLE MATTERS

Does your dog board, attend daycare, visit a groomer, or spend time around unfamiliar dogs? Those details help determine whether Bordetella and canine influenza vaccination should be included. Does your dog live or travel where Lyme disease exposure is a concern? That deserves a discussion as well.

"Noncore" does not mean unimportant. It means the recommendation depends on the dog's circumstances. Tell your veterinarian about upcoming travel and boarding plans early enough to complete any needed vaccine series.

DOES EVERY VACCINE NEED TO BE GIVEN EVERY YEAR?

No. Different vaccines provide protection for different lengths of time. Some adult boosters can be spaced several years apart after the initial series and follow-up vaccination; others require more frequent boosters.

Ask what is due, what it protects against, and why it is recommended. Those are reasonable questions. Your veterinarian should be able to explain the plan.

ASK WHAT TYPE OF VACCINE IS BEING USED

Owners should also ask which vaccine their dog is receiving, including the product name and the technology behind it. Newer options include RNA particle vaccines, such as one available for canine influenza. These products have undergone safety evaluations, including field studies.

However, in my professional opinion, I would like to see more long-term experience with their use in everyday veterinary practice before choosing them over established alternatives. I prefer a longer clinical track record. That preference does not mean these vaccines have been shown to be unsafe.

WHAT ABOUT REACTIONS?

Vaccines can cause side effects. Mild soreness or tiredness may occur, while serious allergic reactions are rare. Facial swelling, hives, repeated vomiting, difficulty breathing, or collapse warrant immediate veterinary attention.

Always mention any previous vaccine reaction before another vaccination is given.

Do you know these twins?



This photo of the Clemson Tiger (Dr. David Baird from Ravenel, SC) and a set of twins was taken in 1976 by an unknown sports photographer at Little John Coliseum during a Clemson basketball game.

The twins were said to be from Anderson.

If you know who these twins are, please email us at ElectricCityNews@gmail.com.

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Martha Hamze, E.A.

FROM THE SHELF

On books that have directed my reading habits

Recently Ginny (who runs this paper) posed the question, "What grade and what classic author was your first experience of loving literature?" My answer was The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde. I read it my freshman year of college for a basic lit class, and I had never had English taught like it was for this class. It's legit the reason I changed my major to English from Forensic Psychology (for which I literally went to Seattle specifically to study). The question got me thinking about different books that have left distinct marks or shifts in my reading habits.



Sara Leady

According to family legend, I went from one day not being able to read, to the next day reading whole picture books on my own. I was at least five at the time, and I remember reading Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure by Bill Peet. Hubert is literally the very first book I ever read all on my own. It's a delightful picture book by the former Disney animator and the 1990 Caldecott winner. Bill Peet was a staple of my childhood (fun fact: he's also the brain behind my favorite Disney movie, The Sword in the Stone).

In fifth grade I was obsessed with the book Perloo the Bold by Avi. I feel like this was the first time I had ever read "serious" fantasy because it was an entirely made up world. Perloo has a lot of social justice and "what it means to be a hero" themes, both of which are a huge part of my reading habits and my life in general. The major themes and character traits in Perloo mirror all my favorite books regardless of genre – the underdog/outcast does the right thing even though it's hard, and in the end the evil powers that be are defeated.

Jumping forward, there's Spider-Gwen by Jason Latour, but more importantly, colored by Rico Renzi (art by Robbi Rodriguez). My first time in a comic shop was during my first semester of library school, and I happened upon Spider-Gwen #1. The cover mesmerized me, I was obsessed with the color palette and art style. I remember the first time I met Rico Renzi and told him how his color work for that comic was the entire reason my master's degree ended being focused on comics and graphic novels. Without that cover, I don't know if I would have picked up my very first comic and fallen so in love with the genre.

When I first took over the fiction collection for the library I noticed a huge gap in my genre knowledge – I knew nothing about romance. I've never been a genre shamer, but at the time romance lacked any appeal for me. However, for me to succeed with the fiction collection, I knew I had to get to know the genre, and this happened to be right around the time that Bridgeton debuted on Netflix. The Bridgerton series by Julia Quinn was the first time I ever sought out a romance novel intentionally. A few years later, I co-run the library's romance book club and it's my most read genre. Historical romance still isn't really my thing, but romance absolutely is.

Stiff by Mary Roach is the last bench marker I'll leave you with. Stiff is important because it's the book that made me rethink my relationship with nonfiction. For the longest time I pretty much refused to read nonfiction because it was "boring." Roach opened my eyes to the broader world of nonfiction that went beyond history, biographies, or what felt like reading a textbook. Five, maybe six years ago, I might have read three nonfictions a year at best. These days they make up close to 20% of what I read (StoryGraph gives statistics).

It's been an interesting exercise to think back and try to find those big markers in my life as a reader. There are definitely other books along the way, Grady Hendrix selling me on horror for example, but these were the ones that when I really drilled back to why I read what I read, clearly made the big impacts.



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