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April 14-27, 2022

RETURN OF THE SOIRÉE!

After an absence of over a decade, one of our most beloved festivals is headed back to Anderson. The Soirée is returning to downtown on April 29th and 30th.



Jim Harris

The City of Anderson is hosting the community-led festival in partnership with area volunteers and a great group of local sponsors. They have created an event that is sure to be a crowd-pleaser and offers something for everyone. Visual, performing, and culinary arts will be highlighted on a grand scale.



Several blocks of Main Street will be closed to through traffic to accommodate the booths and events. Ten food trucks will offer a wide variety of options, from BBQ, Greek, low country boils, burgers and seafood to pound cake, shaved ice, and popsicles. Seventeen of the area's restaurants will join in and extend their outdoor dining areas into Main Street to accommodate the event's visitors.

A wide variety of music will be offered on five downtown stages. Local and regional artists will be featured, including bands, duos, choirs, and performing arts dance studios. Saturday evening, there will be a live concert in Carolina Wren Park.

Anderson University and the South Carolina School of the Arts will have their own stage on the courthouse square and provide entertainment all

day on Saturday. Scheduled to appear are an orchestra, a jazz band, a drum ensemble, a choir, and others.

In partnership with the Anderson Arts Center, 52 artists were carefully selected through an application process by an Arts Center Committee to ensure a great range of styles and mediums will be represented. They

SEE SOIRÉE ON PAGE 2

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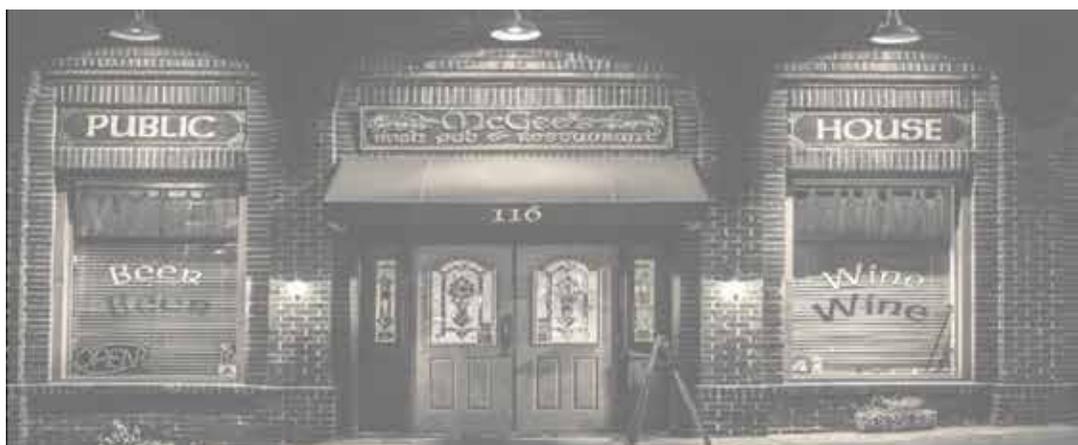
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THE GIFT OF ACCEPTANCE



**MARY-CATHERINE
McCLAIN
RINER**

Life is filled with transition, change, and uncertainty. Individuals have two choices; blame others and act irresponsibly or take ownership, responsibility, and accept what is present in the moment. This does not negate

the fact that life events certainly impact us.

However, pointing fingers, dwelling on the past, and blaming others/life for grievances that happened years ago is not truly dealing with the impact. Specifically, the blame takes power away and keeps people stuck from healing. Alternatively, acceptance facilitates moving forward and inner healing or peace. This provides a sense of power and overall freedom.

The next time you are in a difficult position (e.g., personal, career, relationships, finances, health, etc.), ask yourself if you are going to make excuses, blame others, and

avoid responsibility or if you can lean into acceptance and responsibility to cultivate power and positive change.

Remember, acceptance does not mean you agree with someone else. It only means you are embracing what is in your control and surrendering what no longer serves or supports you.

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

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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.

Meet our own Anderson Area Special Olympics Basketball team



On April 2, 2022 our basketball team went to the State Basketball Tournament in Irmo, SC. At left, Leif and Lilli Chapman came home with the Gold Medal in SKILLS. Awarded the Bronze Medal, from left to right in the group picture above, were Zach Brandon, Sean Montion, Tyler Cole, Killian Barnes, Melissa Ann Trotter, Bruce Osborne and Coach Chris Simcoe. Our Special Populations Area 14 Co-Area Directors are Kathy Scofield & Tessa Hilley. Erin Johnson is our County Coordinator. These ladies are great. Enough can't be said about all the work they do to help and organize all these events. They also work every day at the Rainbow Gang, located in the old McCants School building. The next event will be in May. A group of our athletes will be going to the State Tournament at Fort Jackson. This is a 3-day event. The athletes will be competing in swimming, Bocce, softball, and field and track. They will stay as guests in the barracks on the military base.

Soirée

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

run the gamut from oil paintings and watercolors to mixed media, ceramics, photography, jewelry, carvings, and more. Each artist will have a booth at the event, and their works will be available for purchase.

This family-friendly atmosphere also features a dedicated area called Kid's Kingdom, which will offer games, activities, and crafts dedicated to younger guests.

From the Anderson City Council, Kyle Newton says of the event, "I am very excited about the return of the Soirée, not only as a Council member but also as a community resident and parent of two young children. Having this event gives local Andersonians a premiere event to call their own and also attracts thousands from the surrounding areas into our downtown. From an economic perspective, it is great, but even beyond that, it is great for the families that live here and desire to stay local and enjoy what Anderson has to offer. It is a community-led initiative, and the hard work of the steering committee is the reason why the Soirée is making a return after

its hiatus. Truthfully, this is a great example of what communities can accomplish when people work together. I am excited, my family is excited, and I know Anderson is excited for the Soirée!"

Parking is available at the two downtown garages, Whitner Street and Market Street, and numerous other dedicated parking areas will be available to attendees. The event will be held rain or shine, so make plans to attend Anderson's exciting new, old tradition.

The Soirée hours are Friday 4 PM-8 PM and Saturday 10 AM- 8 PM. Admission is free. Tickets are required for select children's events and may be purchased at the event.

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Soirée

The Electric City • Anderson, SC

Presented by



April 29-30

Friday
4pm - 8pm

Saturday
10am - 8pm

Downtown Anderson



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more
information



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WABBIT SEASON

It's time once again to hop down the trail of another covert, commercialized, chocolate-covered holiday... "Easter". Sorry, I didn't



Neal Parnell

mean to express my opinion and take all the funny out of the bunny.

I know that when I was a kid I couldn't wait to wake up and see if the Easter Bunny had left me a basket filled with plastic green grass and a chocolate rabbit. I loved the thought of the Easter

Bunny, because, unlike Santa, I didn't have to be good to get a present. My mom would tell me stories of a cute little bunny that would lay chocolate Easter eggs, put them in baskets, and leave them for children while they slept.

When I heard that I was going to see the Easter Bunny for the first time, I was giddy with excitement. It was Saturday, a week before Easter, and downtown Anderson was decorated with pastel streamers, ribbons, and banners of every color. The windows of Woolworths were filled with huge Easter baskets, cuddly bunnies, and chocolate eggs as big as footballs. I pressed my face to the glass and dreamed of eating them all. The glass fronts of clothing and shoe stores such as Gallant-Belk, Marilyn, and J.C. Penny had mannequins of ladies dressed in flowing Easter dresses with flowered and feathered hats, posing happily in new Spring attire. There were plastic eggs with surprises inside that were hidden all around the square, for kids like me to find. The one I found had a Hershey's Kiss inside, along with a strip of paper that read, "Shop at Welborn's". I was led into Pennies (J.C. Penny) where I found out that I was getting an Easter outfit.

"But I thought we were going to see the

Easter Bunny?" I said to my mom. "We are, but let's find you something to wear for Easter Sunday".

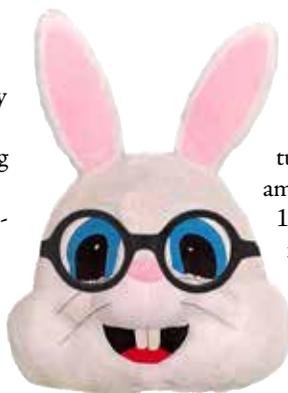
When mom and the store clerk were finished with me I could have posed for the painting "Blue Boy" and felt just as dandy. As we exited the store I spotted the Easter Bunny about a half-block away, walking towards me. He was not the little cute white cottontail that I had imagined from the stories. I grabbed my mom's pleated skirt and peeked out from behind her. It had ears that reached seven feet, and his face had elongated black eyes behind large glasses that I knew had seen me. Its frozen smile contained two of the longest teeth I'd ever seen and its huge head turned and

bobbed as if it wasn't attached to its fat white furry body. It wore a pink vest and short pants with pockets big enough to hold a kid. My mom tried to walk, but I tugged her skirt as the giant rodent ambled closer. When it got to within 10 yards of me it kicked up one of its long feet and waved. I screamed bloody murder and ran back into the store and slid under a table. I looked back at the double doors and there stood the buck-toothed herbivore waving at me again. I screamed again and saw

my mom step in front of the giant fur-ball as I watched him topple onto his bulging bunny butt.

You folks go ahead and hide your eggs and fill your baskets, but while you're hopping down the bunny trail, I'll be right here under the table.

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER, EVERYONE!



Countybank's Fowler promoted to Anderson Market Executive

ANDERSON — Countybank is pleased to announce the promotion of James R. Fowler, Jr. to Executive Vice President, Anderson Market Executive.

Fowler has served Countybank for more than 24 years in various leadership roles, most recently as the bank's most senior corporate banker as Director of Commercial Banking and Strategic Initiatives. As Anderson Market Executive, he is responsible for leading Countybank's business development efforts in Anderson and helping the organization continue to grow and prosper in this growing market.

Fowler holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Wofford College and has attended the North Carolina School of Banking at UNC Chapel Hill and the

Campbell University Trust and Investment School. He holds a Wealth Management Specialist Certification and is a S.C. Licensed

Insurance Agent. Fowler has also served in a variety of important roles in banking and in the community, including president, president-elect, treasurer and member of legislative committee of the Independent Bankers of South Carolina.

"Jimmy has successfully served in many different types of leadership roles throughout his long tenure with Countybank," said Ken Harper, Executive Vice President, Chief

Banking Officer. "His extensive business development experience and knowledge of this market as an Anderson County native will serve both him and the bank well as we continue to support growth and development in the Electric City."



James R. Fowler, Jr.

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ELECTRIC CITY EVENTS

APRIL 16TH - 8:00 PM

90's Sneaker Gala
Rucker Hall VFW
2009 Scarborough Road
Tickets available at Rainbow Records
2705 N Main Street
(864) 225-0725

APRIL 19TH 6:30

The Impact of Eviction in Anderson County
Anderson County Library
300 N McDuffie Street
(864) 260-4500

APRIL 21ST @ 6:00 PM

Dancing for Our Heroes
Anderson Sports & Entertainment Center
6:00 PM
Tickets available at Eventbrite.com
The Rotary Club of Greater Anderson

APRIL 24TH @ 3:00 PM

Friends of the Library Open House
Find out what our Friends of the Library are doing and how you can help
(864) 260-4500

APRIL 27TH - NOON

Brown Bag Book Club
Anderson County Library
300 N McDuffie Street
(864) 260-4500

APRIL 28TH @ 5:50 PM

Teen Anime Club
Anderson County Library
300 N McDuffie Street
(864) 260-4500

APRIL 29TH & 30TH

Anderson Soiree Downtown Anderson
Contact: cgaddis@cityofandersonsc.com

APRIL 29TH & 30TH

Food & Wine Festival - The Kitchen Emporium
April 29th: Italian Alfresco with Chef Josh Crenshaw. Wine pairing with each course. Reservations required.
April 30th: Grand Tasting with food, wine & beer
Music, food and fun. Call for details, tickets and reservations
(864) 225-2021

APRIL 30TH - 1:00 PM

Colors Against Cancer Color Run
AnMed Health Campus
2000 E Greenville Street
Hosted by Cancer Association of Anderson
(864) 222-3500

ANDERSON SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, April 15th – Upstate Magistrates Meeting
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Contact: Tom Tucker 864-269-5947
ttucker@andersoncountysc.org

Monday, April 18th – Chemical Spill Training Ballrooms C & D 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Contact: Anna Marie Brock 864-716-3692
abrock@andersoncountysc.org

Tuesday, April 19th – City Election Run Off (IF NEEDED)
Ballroom A 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20th – Dancing for Our Heroes
Set up day 10:00 a.m.
Contact: Jennifer Osgood 864-231-5494
jennifer@wwadvisors.com

Friday, April 22nd – Mountain Springs Baptist Church Dinner
4 Ballrooms 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Contact: Sam Spear 864-617-6757
sespear21@gmail.com

Friday, April 29th – Blood Drive
Balloon Launch Field
Contact: Katie Smithson 864-751-1191
ksmithson@thebloodconnection.org

Saturday, April 30th – March of Dimes
Balloon Launch & Recycling Walking Paths
Contact: Brantley Reames 864-784-2536
breames@marchofdimes.org

Wednesday, April 27th – May 4th – Great Anderson County Fair

ANDERSON U. TRAVEL CLUB

May 5th @ 1:00 PM - Anderson County Library
Amy Kicklighter and Sharon Jacobs will be presenting Mackinac Island.
Contact Sharon Jacobs for information:
864-245-5501

CHALK IT UP!

If a poll was conducted to determine the “all-time” top ten favorite fun outdoor activities for kids, “Sidewalk Chalk” would most definitely be somewhere near the top! Not only is sidewalk chalk an enjoyable activity



Katie Laughridge

for every member of the family, it's super inexpensive and offers boundless creative play potential. And best of all, the number of different “educational” and “non-educational” ways sidewalk chalk can be used is endless. Whether you're drawing a foursquare court, sketching your favorite flower, playing hangman, practicing your ABC's, learning colors or working out math problems, sidewalk chalk offers a way to turn your outdoor space into a fun, educational, and interactive experience.

So, if you're looking for a fun way to spend time outdoors with your family, pick up a box of sidewalk chalk from your favorite variety store (or order it from Amazon!) and let the creative juices start flowing! Below are some ideas to inspire your time outside this season

that I know you and your family will love!

• “Hopscotch with a Twist:” You can add any activity to the boxes. Ask your kids to pick actions and motions for the game or concepts you are working on with them, and even have them help build it!

• Draw jumbo checkers and chess boards (use bean bags)

• Create a favorite board game like Candy Land

• Draw a bulls-eye and toss bean bags or water balloons

• Create a backdrop for pictures

• Inspire kindness with a sidewalk of encouraging words in a neighbor's driveway

• Trace your shadow! Instead of tracing your body, stand and trace someone's shadow! You can do this with shapes of toys too like dinosaurs and animal figures!

• Have a Chalk Art Contest or play Pictionary

• Color outdoor murals

• Play outdoor Tic Tac Toe games or Hangman

• Build a Maze – build your own maze using chalk and have the kids complete the maze or build their own!

I hope you are inspired to get your child outdoors this spring to draw, learn, write, or play! Let your imagination lead the way! -Katie

Join us for worship at
St. John's United
Methodist Church
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Service at 10:30 AM
515 S. McDuffie Street
Anderson, SC 29624



He is Risen!

All pop-ups run from 2-3 PM

- Thursday, April 7th @ Iva
- Thursday, April 14th @ Belton
- Thursday, April 21st @ Honea Path
- Tuesday, April 26th @ Lander Memorial
- Thursday, May 5th @ Piedmont
- Thursday, May 12th @ Pendleton
- Tuesday, May 24th @ Powdersville
- Thursday, June 2nd @ Bookmobile

YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Can meditation prevent diseases?

With everyone focused today on avoiding sickness and staying healthy, we hear a lot about the importance of diet and exercise. And these are the cornerstones of good physical health — along with making good life choices. In a recent feature we discussed the relationship between maintaining a healthy nervous system and a strong immune system. There is another avenue of maintaining optimum health we should not overlook.

Meditation.

It may sound too “mystical” to be plausible. And yet, there is sound evidence that meditation can heal both the body and mind. Studies are confirming that just 20 minutes each day meditating can dramatically improve your health. Certainly, good news for those feeling the seeming unrelenting pressures of modern life.

Meditation is a mind and body practice with a long history that creates calmness and physical relaxation. It's been shown to improve our mental state and help us better cope with

illness and enhance our overall health and sense of well-being. It can be helpful for a variety of conditions, such as high blood pressure, certain psychological disorders, and even pain. Although it is unclear why, studies are showing that meditation also strengthens the immune system — while improving our ability to concentrate! There are multiple forms of meditation.



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

What they have in common are a narrowing of focus that shuts out the external world and stills the body. Those who meditate regularly for six weeks show improved immune systems and less emotional distress, a known contributor to many modern health problems. Scientists are not sure what happens in meditation that effects the brain and immune

system, but an increased electrical activity in regions of the left frontal lobe have been noted, an area more active in optimistic people.

How do you learn to meditate? There are dozens of techniques and disciplines available. The basics include: • **Focusing Mind:** it is normal for your mind to be active when you are meditating. The key is to acknowledge this while focusing on controlling your breathing. • **Being in the Now:** Rather than focusing on the past or future, meditation is about focusing on the present. Focusing on the here and now takes practice. That's because many of us live most of our lives thinking ahead to the future — or reliving the past. • **Practicing a “quiet mind”:** Relax and let go. Studies show this can produce feelings of happiness and positive thoughts and emotions.

Meditation takes practice. It is important to keep trying until something feels right for you. Also, there may be classes locally you can

attend, and there are a number of free online apps to choose from. Final word: Be thankful for each day. Take a deep breath; all will be well. Call with questions. We are 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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THE GARDEN SHOP

Looking forward to peony blooms



SUSAN TEMPLE
master gardener

There has been interest in peonies lately. Greenville Garden Council wanted to learn more in January. Anderson Library patrons wanted to learn more this month. It's always a happy day to talk peonies (*Paeonia*). Growing peonies might be a little tricky for us, and some say we cannot grow them. But that is not correct. Methods just have to be tweaked somewhat. Experts will say plant them in the fall but plants will be hard to find in the fall. Nurseries have them now. Bigger plants are not always better, but in the case of peonies, bigger is always better. They can take several years to bloom if too small. From what I've

seen in a couple of nurseries, plan on about \$50 for a three gallon plant. They are worth every penny. Festiva Maxima, Sarah Bernhardt, Felix Krouse, and Kansas are some of the more popular varieties sold locally. Catalogs will offer lots of choices. Beware of sources selling peonies for \$12 or so. They will be tiny and poor quality.

The most common question is why doesn't my peony bloom? If it is getting about 5 or more hours of sun a day, it is most likely planted too deep. Always err on the side of planting a peony high. The "eyes" have to be above the ground. An eye, technically, is where the plant starts sprouting. If planting a peony that is already growing foliage, just barely cover the roots. Where the stem comes off of the root, that must be above the ground. Well-drained soil is a must. Peonies are not particular about the kind of soil nor Ph. They will grow in most any type but amending rocky red clay will help. Sandy soil needs to be richened up a bit too. One friend is the only person I know who does

not stake hers. I plant a tomato cage with each peony and leave it. This helps me remember where they are in winter and not step on them. It also keeps all the four legged things that tromp through the garden from stepping on them too. When a peony is just beginning to sprout, it is very important to protect those eyes. Fortunately, deer pass on by peonies.

Once all the foliage is brown and ratty, usually by end of August or so, the foliage can be cut back if that is a bother. I leave the foliage until after all the leaves have fallen in early winter, then go to each peony and very gently, by hand, rake off all the leaves, soil, mulch, anything, until the eyes are exposed. Lack of winter chill is why some say we cannot grow them here. Removing all that protection helps them stay colder in winter and keeps them from getting too deep. Planting early blooming varieties is your best bet. Some of my earliest bloom late April. Most are in peak bloom around mother's day.

Peonies are very long lived plants and some



A good peony year

cultivars go back thousands of years in China. I have one from my Grandmother Cooley's yard that is probably about 75 years old. The Chinese name for the Peony is "Sho Yo", or "Most Beautiful"

and that is certainly fitting. It was also a symbol of prosperity and only the elite and wealthy could supposedly afford them. Most of mine are pass along plants from Grandmother Cooley's neighbor and my great great Aunt Marshall's. I don't know the name of many. I would love to know the name of grandmother's. It is mostly white with very, very pale pink petals on the outer edges. It does not have the blood color splotches in the middle like Festiva Maxima. It is simply named Grandmother's.

NIBBLE & SIP

Things looking blah? Try new glasses!

I've been making cocktails for a long time, and while I've definitely kept my creations modern, my glassware is starting to feel a bit outdated. So back in January, I made a resolution that I've actually been keeping, which is to gradually rebuild my collection of cocktail glasses. When it comes to a festive beverage, we drink with our eyes first, so why not take your Nibble and Sip to the next level? These are a few of the pieces I've added — or am hoping to add — to my home bar.

The hand-blown crystal coupe

glasses by Luna&Mantha are so delicate, the glass almost sings in your hand.



Kim von Keller

Fortunately for me, they're also made from lead-free titanium crystal, giving them strength as well as beauty.

While the coupes are perfect for any martini-style cocktail, they really show off a beverage with a bit of

color, such as the Aviation (recipe below). Available at amazon.com for \$29.77/set of two.

Tiki drinks are my new obsession, with their wild mix of rums, liqueurs, syrups, and fruit juices. A drink with so much personality demands barware to match, so I'll be adding the **Trader Vic's Conch Shell Bowl** to my collection of tiki mugs and bowls. With its 24-ounce capacity, it's designed for two or more people to share, preferably through umbrella straws. You'll find it at shop.tradervics.com for \$35.00.

I love a bubbly beverage. Whether it's a Kir Royale, a Bellini, or the classic Champagne Cocktail, these drinks transform any occasion into a party. The stemless **Centaury Champagne Glasses** are as practical as they are lovely. As each glass bears a distinctive gold pattern, your guests will never be left wondering whose glass is whose. You'll find this set of six at houzz.com/products for \$132.

Aviation Cocktail

2 oz. gin
¾ oz. fresh-squeezed lemon juice

½ oz. maraschino liqueur
¼ oz. crème de violette*

Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker and fill with ice. Shake vigorously and strain into a chilled martini glass. Makes one.

*The bottle of crème de violette you buy today will probably be passed down to your children. Its distinctive floral notes tame the citrus in any sour cocktail while adding a beautiful, pale blue color, but use more than the recipe suggests and you are dangerously close to perfume.

Barnette Grove Independent Baptist Church
5523 Hwy 187 Anderson S C 29625

Services

10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning
6:00 p.m. Sunday evening
6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening

Pastor Dale Duckett
864-844-2118

2940 Concord Road
Anderson, SC 29621
(864) 226-6585

Easter service times:
Saturday, April 16
at 6pm

Sunday, April 17
at 9:15am and 11:15am

www.EasterAtNewSpring.com



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FINE WATCHES

Someone once pointed out that a Toyota Corolla will get you to your destination just like a Rolls Royce. Based on that logic, why would anyone buy a Rolls? The utility isn't why some people choose to drive a high-end luxury vehicle. Prestige, validation of one's



Jim Harris

success, and an appreciation for finely made items could all be considerations. The same philosophy applies to a fine luxury wristwatch.

Rolex is perhaps the best-known luxury watchmaker. In the last several years, their market has exploded into

the highest demand in the company's history. They are producing more watches than ever, yet the company steadfastly refuses to accelerate the process at the expense of maintaining their legendary quality. It takes a year to make a Rolex watch.

Hale's Jewelry in Greenville is our closest Rolex Authorized Retailer. With over a century and a half of service to the Upstate area, they are highly skilled at caring for their client's needs.

Typically, you won't find any new Rolex watches in a dealer's inventory. The highest demand and consequently longest waits are for sports models, like the Daytona, Submariner, and GMT. Rolex doesn't allow its retailers to pre-sell or place orders, so knowing how to navigate the process becomes a vital part of the equation.

One of Hale's Rolex experts, Russ Rowland, suggests that a prospective buyer visit the store and start a relationship with one of their sales professionals. While there may not be any Rolex watches available for immediate purchase, they do have exhibition models that you can

try on, compare and decide which one is for you. Once you've chosen the right watch, stay in touch with the rep, keep them aware of your continued interest and be prepared to complete the purchase when you are notified that the watch you want is available. When you pick up your new Rolex, your rep will take you through all of the watch's functions and how to care for your new timepiece properly. For many Rolex owners, one leads to two, then three, and so on.

An alternative is buying a Rolex from a reseller, but that comes with caveats. Those businesses buy watches through channels that Rolex does not authorize and resells them for well over the price you'll get from an authorized dealer. These prices can be as much as double, so avoiding the wait for a Rolex can be very expensive. Buying from an authorized dealer removes any concerns about the watch being legitimate or authentic, plus gives you a relationship base in the rare event that a repair is needed under warranty.

If you are considering the reseller route, Russ says, "Make sure you're getting the authentic watch, and if you buy a used watch, be sure you're buying from a reputable place." He suggests instead considering an alternative quality brand like Tag Heuer, an excellent timepiece that's wearable every day.

Other fine watch options include premium brands like Breitling, Omega, and Tudor. Reed's Jewelers in Greenville is part of the nation's largest family-owned jewelry group, with locations across the country. They carry all of these lines.

Reed's Cass Agerton is a true watch lover and collector, and he enjoys helping his clients select the right timepiece. With a quarter-century of fine watch experience, Cass can help a person entering the fine watch segment make a perfect choice.



Breitling Navitimer



Rolex Daytona

The brands at Reed's, while very popular, do have better availability than Rolex. Their high-quality Swiss watches start at around \$400. One of the more famous lines Reed's offers is Breitling. The brand has a heritage in aviation, mainly displayed in the classic Navitimer series. They offer a dressier series, called the Premier line, and a wide variety of sport-type watches.

Omega has a long history of excellence and innovation. Its Speedmaster and Seamaster lines are considered classics among collectors. Omega was the first watch on the moon and has been on James Bond's wrist since 1995.

Tudor is a sister company to Rolex, and its models are similar in appearance to some of the classic Rolex models. Years ago, the brand

outsourced components. Today they are developing their proprietary works and unveiling exciting new models, soaring their popularity. The line includes several entries in the popular sports category.

Cass cautions against online purchases of fine watches for authenticity and service reasons. He recommends going to an authorized dealer for the best direction. He says, "I've been in the business for twenty-five years, and watches have always been my passion. I will sit down and talk to anyone about anything dealing with watches because that's what I love to do."

Most fine watches utilize an automatic movement, unlike manuals that must be hand-wound or battery-powered quartz watches. These pieces have a rotor inside that swings from the wearer's movements. This winds the spring, which in turn powers the watch. If you aren't wearing the watch every day, you'll need a watch winder.

Many experts, including Russ and Cass, recommend Wolf Winders for their reliability and quiet operation. The winder stores your watches and periodically rotates them to keep them wound and running. This will ensure that they always have the correct time, date, etc., when you're ready to wear them again.

Fine watches can also appreciate and become solid investments. Auctions frequently have watches that sell for millions, with a Rolex selling for more than \$30 million in 2020.

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THE LOVELY SNOWY EGRET

BY ANN BAILES

The snowy egret is a lovely bird a little smaller than its more commonly known cousin, the great egret. It breeds in the lower part of South Carolina, and is a permanent resident on our coast. Even here in the Upstate, we see the snowy occasionally in bodies of water, especially in late summer, as young birds move northward in what is called post-breeding dispersal. The snowy stands about two feet high and is covered with white feathers. It also has a black beak and black legs - but its feet are yellow, giving the impression that it is wearing bright shoes on black stockings.

And high fashion in the late 1800s almost caused us to lose this beautiful bird.

Right before the turn of the 20th century, plumes on women's hats became all the rage. Millions of birds were slaughtered for their feathers, as hatmakers and others thought that these birds were so common that harvesting for hats would not make

a dent in their numbers. It did. Several species were decimated, including the great egrets, sandhill cranes, roseate spoonbills, flamingos, and others.

But by far the most desirable was our snowy egret, whose plumage is beautiful year-round--and is especially gorgeous during mating season, when it produces light, lacy feathers. This particular egret came close to extinction, thanks to the fashion industry. The mating feathers of four birds were required for a single hair ornament sold in upscale stores.

The upside to this is that around the turn of the century, many thinking people soon realized what was happening, which eventually resulted in our modern day conservation movement. Both individual states, and eventually our federal government, passed laws regulating the hunting and collection of migratory birds and their eggs. Finally our various beautiful bird species could rebuild their numbers without

the possibility of ending up on ladies' hats.

And thanks to the work of many throughout the time period, the first Audubon societies were formed. From their website: "Audubon's mission is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation." Two Audubon bird sanctuaries exist in South Carolina: the Beidler Forest in Harleyville (right off I-26 on the way to Charleston) and the Silver Bluff preserve in Jackson, which is below Aiken. Both are well worth a visit.

And the snowy egret? Its status is now "Of Least Concern" as far as extinction. Its numbers continue to increase. And in a final nod to this iconic and graceful bird, an egret serves as the Audubon Society's emblem. May it live on in great numbers as its beauty continues to take our breath away!!



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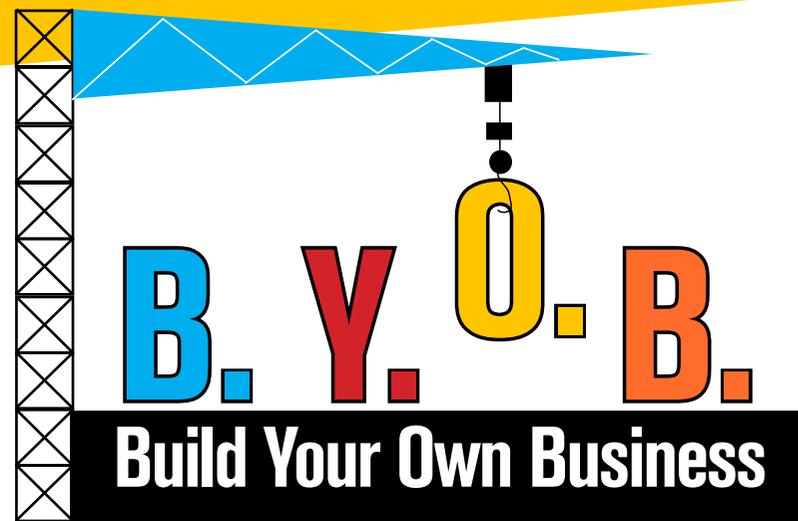
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Happy birthday to me (and the other lady)

A couple of weeks ago, I became Very Many Years old. You know those celebrity magazine photo spreads called “Beautiful at Any Age”? My age group is no longer at the top. Or in the middle. My peers are in the section where everyone is in pantsuits, no one is in closeup, and the lighting is extra soft.



Kim von Keller

Still, it was nice when my friends called with lively renditions of “Happy Birthday.” My husband took me, my daughter, and her boyfriend to a nice dinner, and social media loaded me up with assorted

GIFs, memes, and messages encouraging me to eat, drink, and be merry. (Which I did, even though it was a work night. When I found myself nodding off at my desk the next day, I tried to do it with my face in my hands so that if I were observed, it would look like I was having important thoughts.)

A highlight, though, was a call from my mom. She told me she loved me and offered her best wishes. “One of the happiest days of my life was the day I met you,” she said. You’ll notice that she didn’t say, “...the day you were born.”

That’s because she wasn’t there.

Like so many people, my sister and I were

adopted. Our mom and dad met me when I was about five weeks old, giving me time to have lost that pointy-headed, red-faced, Winston Churchill look that so many babies are born with. My sister was closer to three months old, so she came to us practically red-carpet ready. I never celebrate a birthday without thanking God and the South Carolina Department of Social Services for creating our little family of four. But there’s another character in my biography, the one who brought me into the world, the one I call The Other Lady.

She really wasn’t old enough to be called a lady. According to my DSS non-identifiable information, she was a “mid-teen” whose physical description matched mine when I was 15 or 16. Her boyfriend was no longer in the picture. Her parents were described as loving and supportive, but she was sent to the Florence Crittenton House in Charleston, a home where unwed mothers could wait out their pregnancies with privacy.

When I was her age, my biggest crises were acne and geometry, so I can’t really imagine what her life was like then, living away from her family for the first time, being scared without knowing of what, feeling lonely although never alone, her thoughts interrupted by what must have been my incessant kicking. A few years ago, on a trip to Charleston, my sister and I found Florence Crittenton. Looking at the rows of windows, I wondered if any had been The Other Lady’s and

what future she saw for herself as she looked out onto the rows of trees on Saint Margaret Street.

If I were to meet her today, I would ask if she finished her education, a goal she mentioned to her social worker. I would ask if she had other children, who would be my half siblings. I’ve thought about this a lot, and in this era of \$99 DNA analysis and 23AndMe, it would be easier than ever to make such a reunion possible, but I’ve decided that’s not for me. To do so would not open a door, but tear it from its hinges, and I

don’t think I’m emotionally equipped for that.

When The Other Lady made what must have been the biggest decision of her life up to that point, she didn’t abandon me. She released me to a couple who were ready and able to be parents. She released herself to a slower path to adulthood. I am so grateful for her bravery, and I hope her life has been everything she imagined it would be as she looked out from that Charleston window. Happy birthday to both of us.



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Get your glow on

I admit it. I did indeed take terrible care of my skin in my teens by tanning and too much sun exposure. Basically, everyone did, and I honestly don't think we knew any better. Thankfully now we definitely have been gifted and granted with more information on those harmful UV



Kristine March

rays. Soaking up the sun in moderation is great. We all need a bit of Vitamin D on occasion, but sunscreen, a beach hat and even an umbrella are a must nowadays.

I've come up with ways to get that sunless tan without the sun. I'm going on a little holiday

in a few days and I will be hitting the beach. I get a mystic tan when I really want that golden glow. They have sunless spray tanning everywhere you turn. It's a little awkward to say the least but luckily, they have heated warm booths now where you actually get in and get sprayed from head to toe by a machine. It takes a few hours to see the results but once you do, you're hooked. It's definitely better for you than the sun and you won't have a streaky orange mess, but if that's not your thing I've gathered the three best self-tanners you can do yourself in a flash in the comforts of home.

St. Tropez is a beautiful product. It's a mousse that gives you even coverage. Make sure to shower, shave and exfoliate with a loofah. Prepping your skin will give you a perfect tan. Apply all over with a mitt and let



it dry. Be mindful of your elbows and hands and make sure you use a barrier cream so you don't have any uneven splotchy spots. You will notice within a couple hours how glowing and bronzed you look. You can start with a light shade and work your way up to a dark.

If self-tanner isn't your thing, you can always try a glow infused body oil or illuminating lotion. Sol de Janero makes a beautiful one called Copacabana bronze. It leaves your skin with a stunning pearl essence hue. It's easy to apply and Sephora will ship to you for right around thirty-five dollars. It will get you in that summer spirit. If you want something for the face, try the brand Glossier. They make a lovely product called Solar Paint. You can highlight your cheekbones and it will give you that instant fresh luminosity we all want. Put in places where the sun would naturally hit, like your collarbone and décolletage area. I promise these are easy to do and cost effective. It will especially be gorgeous with a sundress and your Spring attire.

So, what are you waiting for? Get your glow on, y'all. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.

GOOD AS GOLD

BY RICH OTTER

There are two sure ways to get rich quick: (1) marry a million (or preferably billion) heir or heiress without signing a prenuptial agreement, or, (2) invest in a placer mining pan. The deluxe mining pan may cost up to twenty dollars or so and hopefully may come with a guarantee or a full refund if you aren't successful. Either way you become a gold digger.

Certainly the doddering old million or billion heir/heiress would be the better selection but possibly as difficult to locate and capture as finding a seeded stream with an equivalent gold return. But if you are the outdoor adventurer type, South Carolina may be the perfect place for your dreams to pan out.

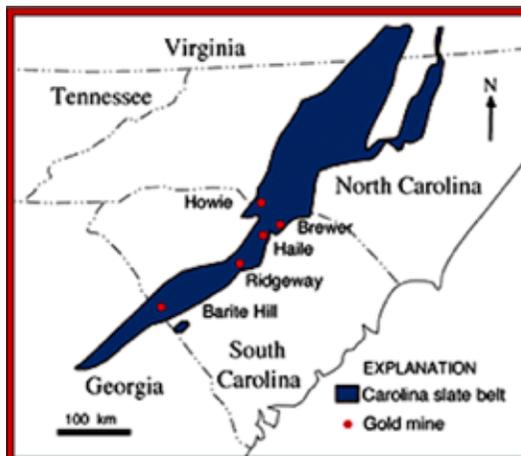
Although it is rumored some gold dust has been found in Cox Creek and that the Three and Twenty Creek may have potential, you might do better a little further east of Anderson County if you can avoid being caught for trespassing. A gold hot-spot runs from Virginia through South Carolina to Georgia.

It has been reported that in the late 1800s and early 1900s the Haile Gold Mine in Lancaster County out-produced every other mine in the eastern United States. They were digging for theirs and had a little greater investment than you may have with a pan, even if you buy the deluxe model. But if you really want to go first class also take along a magnifying glass and some tweezers. You will find advice and "sure-fire" maps on the internet but your investment will then rise.

Gold has been mined as close by as in Abbeville, Greenwood, Greenville, Pickens and Oconee counties. The western part of the state in the early days certainly upset the local Native American population. They thought their problems had subsided, however, after exercising a bit of deception and running intruder Hernando De Soto all over captivity for a couple of years, but they hadn't counted on the persistence of the Scot-Irish.

On October 7, 1829, The Pendleton Messenger reported: "We understand gold has been found in several places in our district." On September 22, 1830, the Messenger flashed an ominous warning: "Notwithstanding all the efforts made by both the State and United States authorities to prevent intrusion on the gold lands in the Cherokee country, multitudes of people still resort thither for the purpose of plunder."

The thither mayhem had occurred after Chief Chevchunsene in good faith had made his mark on the treaty of



1816 to cede Cherokee property, including in the old Pendleton District, to the state of South Carolina so his people could be left alone in their own designated territory. As usual, our government spoke with forked tongue. Apparently, however, the "multitudes" reaped little reward from the deceit. But there still may be some gold "in them there hills."

To pan gold all you have to do is find a good spot where a stream may have washed the precious metal from its resident rock, swept it down stream and gently deposited it into the sand below. You just dip your pan



into the water bed, swirl it around until the water and less dense particles drain out of your pan, and then pluck out the glittering gold that remains in your pan. Simple.

The only things you must learn to avoid will be copperhead snakes, fools-gold and an angry farmer who owns the land. The farmer will probably lower his shot gun and may even invite you for dinner after you have surrendered any gold you have discovered. He might also confiscate your pan planning to return to your lucky spot.

South Carolina was said to have had over 100 mines and they certainly could not have retrieved all of the gold. Somewhere there are little particles just waiting for someone to snatch them. Even some national parks will let you pan. All you need is a pan and a little patience — oh, and an abundance of good luck.

Of course, if all else fails, you could search for the Confederate gold that allegedly disappeared while traveling through these parts.

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Westside softball having tough time on diamond in Region I-4A play

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — Region softball play is in full swing for area high schools, and the Westside Rams have had an up-and-down run over the past couple of weeks, coming out with a 1-3 record.

The Rams began their recent stretch of games on the road against county foe Pendleton. A close game early, the Bulldogs appeared to pull away before a big sixth inning for Westside gave the Rams an 8-6 lead.

However, Pendleton stormed back in the final inning, and a walk-off home run by Sage Dowis took down the Rams, 10-8.

Following the Pendleton loss,

the Rams returned to Region I-4A play against the Walhalla Razorbacks. Early trouble put Westside down, before the Rams tied the game in the fourth inning.

Keeping the momentum, the Rams added five runs in the sixth, but Walhalla responded with a big top of the seventh to



reclaim the lead. In the bottom of the seventh, Westside took the lead for the final time and secured the 10-9 win as Zy Bell scored on a wild pitch.

Sticking to region play, Westside traveled to Pickens High School on April 5 hoping to keep its momentum rolling. After scoring a run early,

things went downhill fast for the Rams.

Pickens pitcher E.G. Lawton held Westside to just four hits, while the Blue Flame bombarded the Rams in a 13-3 loss.

Westside returned to Pickens County for its next matchup, as the Rams traveled to Easley. In another heated region battle, things were tight for most of the night before Easley pulled ahead 5-2 in the fifth.

Westside battled back to bring the game within one run but was unable to complete the comeback, falling 5-4.

With the losses, Westside hopes to rebound as it returns to action next week against Belton-Honea Path.

T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

Yellow Jackets hoping to return to winning form after midseason struggles

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — With less than a month until the start of the playoffs, the T.L. Hanna High School baseball team is hoping to regain its early-season form after going 1-4 over its last five games.

The Yellow Jackets, who won 11 straight games to open the season, saw the tide turn in a series with region foe J.L. Mann.

Traveling to Mann for the first game in the series, the Yellow Jackets seemed likely to keep their winning streak going with a 6-0 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh.

However, the Yellow Jackets were in for a rude awakening in the final inning, as the Patriots scored seven runs off a home run, double and a passed ball to take game one, 7-6.

In game two of the series, the Yellow Jackets matched their previous finish with a ghastly start as Mann shelled Hanna starter Jackson Robinson to build a 6-1 lead in the second inning.

Despite big days from Brett Boone (1-3, 2B, 2 RBI) and Jay Dillard (2-3) the Jackets were unable to come back, as they fell 7-4.

Back at Mann for the rubber match, the Jackets found themselves battling in a high-scoring game and

trailed 7-5 after two innings.

Conner Swanson, Brody Winter and Walt Smith drove in runs to recapture the lead again in the fourth, and despite a late Patriot rally, the Jackets never trailed again in an 11-10 win.

Coming off the win over Mann, the Yellow Jackets returned to action against Franklin County (Ga.).

In their first matchup against the Lions at home, the Jackets got ahead early riding the arm of Fletcher

Cothran and bat of Jay Dillard.

Things flipped for Hanna in the fourth, as Franklin took advantage of errors and passed balls to score six runs and take the momentum. Four more runs in the final inning proved to be too much to overcome for Hanna, as it fell 10-5.

Traveling to Georgia to take on Franklin County the next day, the Yellow Jackets found themselves in a low-scoring affair with the Lions.

Dillard and Cothran were the only Jackets to manage hits on the day, and Franklin took advantage of four Hanna errors to get on the board in a 3-1 win.

Coming off the cold stretch, the Yellow Jackets hoped to return to form this week against Lexington on Wednesday.

