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March 14-27, 2024

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Anderson University partnering with The LOT Project for spring football game

On Saturday, March 23 at 1 PM, Anderson University will hold its spring Black and Gold football game at the Spero Financial Field. This event will be in partnership with local nonprofit, The LOT Project. The LOT Project seeks to cultivate intentional relationships with those in need, to build connections to opportunities in our community, and to serve our neighbors in creative and empowering ways. The word "LOT" is an acronym referring to Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the Least Of These my brothers, you did it to me."

The LOT Project pursues their goals through four programs: The LOT, Artisan Gardens, West Market Makers, and Village Homes. The LOT program exists

to meet physical needs of the homeless, transient, and low-income population while building relationships with them and connecting them with their next steps (e.g. housing, a stable job, rehabilitation, mental health services, etc.). The Artisan Gardens are located in the Alphabet Streets of Anderson. In these gardens, free organic produce is distributed and weekly block parties are held for the families and children of the neighborhood. The West Market Makerspace is a co-creative space with an artist studio and woodshop where all community members can learn, teach, and participate. Village Homes is a transitional housing unit designed for an individual ready to take a

SEE GAME ON PAGE 2



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THE POWER OF POETRY FOR CHILDREN

If you are a dreamer, come in.
If you are a dreamer,
A wisher, a liar,
A hope-er, a pray-er,
A magic bean buyer...
Come in...for where the sidewalk ends, Shel Silverstein's world begins. You'll meet a boy who turns into a TV set, and a girl who eats a whale. The Unicorn and the Bloath live there, and so does Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout who will not take the garbage out. It is a place where you wash your shadow and plant diamond gardens, a place where shoes fly, sisters are auctioned off, and crocodiles go to the dentist. This is taken straight from Shel Silverstein's book: *Where the Sidewalk Ends*."

I vividly remember reading this book of poems as a child. I thought it was so intriguing then and I still feel the same way now, as an adult. I love to read these poems and watch children as they

visualize the collections of words in their heads. Sometimes it leaves them laughing, sometimes it



Katie Laughridge

Poetry is an important form of creative writing that centers around the expression of complex feelings and experiences. The interplay of certain words and rhythm makes poetry a powerful tool for building foundational literacy and writing skills, including reading comprehension, phonemic

leaves them wondering, and sometimes it leaves them inspired. It encourages great discussion about a wide range of topics and leads to great conversation!

awareness, self-expression, and storytelling. Reading poetry helps children appreciate simple ideas through figurative language and gain a deeper understanding of stories outside of their own life experiences. By providing a window into the thoughts of others, poetry has the power to increase empathy and provide a new perspective of the human experience.

Check out a few of these poetry books the next time you are perusing the bookstore: *A Light in the Attic* or *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein!

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems by Bob Raczka
Here's a Little Poem by Polly Dunbar (60 short poems about and for toddlers)

All the Small Poems and Fourteen More by Valerie Worth (poems that show how poets use minimal words to SHOW, not tell)
Poem in your Pocket for Young

Poets edited by Bruno Navasky (100 poems to rip out and read)

I've Lost my Hippopotamus by Jack Prelutsky

I'm Just No Good at Rhyming by Chris Harris (If you like to laugh, RUN to buy this one!)

In the Past by David Elliot (book of poems with gorgeous illustrations that celebrates pre-historic creatures)

World Rat Day: Poems about Real Holidays You've Never Heard Of by J. Patrick Lewis (silly poems for kids with silly but real holidays)

The Red Ear Blows Its Nose by Robert Schechter (silly, fun poems about various topics like winter, dogs, aliens, popcorn, imagination, and more!)

Books Speak! (21 funny, delightful poems about books)

"A poem is a cup of words open to the sky and wind in a bucket." – Naomi Shihab Nye.

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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.

Game

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

step toward independence without being fully on their own. While in this 6-12 month program, the resident will work alongside The LOT Project staff to create and reach their goals. The organization is actively working towards plans to expand this program.

In 2023, The LOT Project served over 1,200 unique individuals experiencing homelessness and severe poverty. They distributed over 14,000 articles of clothing and basic need items and distributed over 10,000 meals to those in need.

Anderson University's athletic department has generously committed to raising funds for

The LOT Project at their spring game this month. All funds raised from concessions, donation buckets, and The LOT Project merchandise sales will be directly donated to the organization. The LOT Project has set the goal of raising \$15,000 at this event to directly benefit their four programs. All are welcome to attend this game! The LOT Project is truly grateful to live in such a supportive community that prioritizes the needs of its neighbors.

Faith Gammons, Assistant Athletic Director of Game Operations exclaims, "We are so excited about the start of Anderson University Football and the new opportunities the game of football will provide for us to partner with the local community. As we work to engage and support the local community through AU Football, we are blessed to partner with the Lot Project during our

upcoming Black and Gold Spring Game on March 23rd. Through our partnership with the Lot Project, Anderson Athletics, along with all of the Trojan Family, will be able to serve and love on those who have need in our community and make a lasting impact on all of Anderson for years to come. Come out and support your Trojans and your local community at the Black and Gold Spring Game at Melvin and Dollie Younts Stadium – Go Trojans!"

For more information, please visit www.thelotproject.com. To give, please visit www.thelotproject.com/giving.



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COTTON

Alabama and South Carolina. Both states deeply entrenched in the South. Both states with a great agricultural heritage in cotton. Yet each contributed differently to the huge textile industry in our country.

I grew up in north Alabama, where my dad was a pastor, and where the cotton fields waved as proudly as the amber fields of grain further north. At that time, cotton was still king in north Alabama. Much of life there revolved around the cotton fields.



Ann K. Bailes

My friend went to county schools, where the students' calendar was: out of school in May, six weeks of chopping in the fields in June/July, six weeks of school, then six weeks out in September and October for picking cotton. Whole families pitched in. We went out occasionally to support the church people, more for the experience than to participate in the brutally hard work. While looking at some recently digitized old slides, I found a childhood memory of this--my two little sisters and some unknown friend, out in the fields.

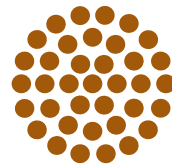
Even as mechanical pickers took over in the fields, cotton still bloomed and grew in every rural area. The fields were flat, and gins were everywhere, to remove seeds and produce large bales from raw cotton. All

the small towns had railroad connections to transport all that product. But mills, at least in our part of Alabama (about an hour south of Tennessee), were few and far between. That may be because in those flat lands water didn't flow as readily as it does in the upstate Piedmont hills - therefore eliminating cheap power for industry.

Then I moved to South Carolina. I haven't seen many cotton fields in the Upstate, only passing one occasionally. But when I married Mike, I learned a little about mills from his work in Newberry. After we returned to Anderson in 1990, I found out much more about cotton from a different perspective than the chopping and picking of my childhood. Carding, slasher room, spinning, weaver, weave room, loom fixer, mill hill. Gluck, Abney, Orr-Lyons, Appleton Mills, all new vocabulary words. And all the small towns around here had railroads also - where all that cotton grown in Alabama and other places ended up.

Obviously, I am oversimplifying the roles of both states in the production of cotton products. But although both represented different ends of the cotton spectrum, they were both in the heart of U.S. textile production during the 20th century. In the 21st, Alabama fields are more diversified with corn and soybeans, and many of our South Carolina mills are gone, victims of overseas competition.

I'm saddened to see the broken old hulls of the previously lively cotton mill lifestyle in Anderson, which had been fed by raw cotton grown in Alabama. But we have a vibrant heritage in looking back at what took place here. Anderson's history as part of the great legacy of American-produced textiles should be a source of great civic pride!



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A HALLMARK HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

The Hallmark Channel certainly knows a good thing when it has one. Based on its wildly popular, G-rated Christmas movies, the film-production arm of the greeting-card-and-chotchke company launched its first Valentine's Day movies just last month. Well, Hallmark,

I hope you're listening, because I'm about to offer you the next big thing: St. Patrick's Day movies.

Who amongst us isn't charmed by an Irish accent? Fiddle tune? Soda bread? As a self-professed expert on Hallmark movies, I've got three ideas

that build on both a love of all things Irish AND the Hallmark movie story arc.

It goes like this: Each movie starts with a heroine who has stressful career/is building a business/is trying to save a business/is working on a novel/is working in a bakery. Next, she has a "meet-cute" with our hero who is a business rival/country boy/royalty in disguise/time traveler/widowed with children. (Occasionally, gender roles are reversed.) As they begin to fall in love, the couple were now rooting for encounters conflict due to a misunderstanding/outside interference/difference in backgrounds. In the

last five minutes, all is resolved, they kiss, and everyone lives happily ever after. With that in mind, here are my ideas:

MY DINGLE LASS

Maeve lives in the coastal town of Dingle with her father, who raised her after her mother's death. Together, they make a delicious but little-known small-batch whiskey called "Dingle Lass" after Maeve's mom. When Irish Spirits Ltd., a Big Corporation, learns of their product, the company devises a plot to buy it and shut it down. They send an agent, Michael, to make the offer to purchase. Maeve and Michael fall in love after a whiskey-tasting leaves them both a bit tipsy. Later, Maeve discovers a Secret Dossier informing her of the plot, and she ends the relationship. Michael, who knew nothing of the plot to shut down Dingle Lass, quits his job, goes to work with Maeve, and together, they win the Irish Whiskey Championship, beating an Irish Spirit's Ltd. brand. As Maeve and Michael accept their trophy — and quite a large check — they share their first kiss.

STEPPING INTO LOVE

Rory and Finn are members of famous Irish dance group Step Together. The team's big performance as headliners of the Ballyshannon Folk Festival is jeopardized when their star,

Collin Collins, suffers an injury resulting in his arms temporarily extending awkwardly from his shoulders. When the choreographer asks members to audition for the star role, Rory and Finn support each other's efforts until fellow dancer Aoife's starts a rumor that encourages each to undermine the other; meanwhile, Aoife is planning to beat them both and dance as the star. When Aoife accidentally sends both the same text message, her duplicity is discovered, and Rory and Finn decide to audition as a couple. They are chosen as lead dancers, and to thunderous applause at the festival, they share their first kiss.

FERRIS WHEELS OR WELLIES?

Álainn Móinéir, or "Lovely Meadow," is a charming stopover village for tourists traveling between Dublin and Galway. When Shamrock Land Development, Ltd., a Big Corporation, hears of the village, the company decides to purchase it as a site for a Lucky Leprechaun theme

park. Dublin marketing ace Maureen, a big-city girl, is sent to negotiate with the landowners, who want to maintain the village's quaint guest inn, book store, pub, and woolen goods store. Liam, a sheep farmer and widowed father of two small girls, negotiates for the landowners and teaches Maureen that authenticity should never be for sale. Maureen dumps the land developers and offers to market Álainn Móinéir as the charming Irish village that it is. She also dumps her stuffy business wardrobe for local sweaters and Wellie boots. As Maureen and Liam gather with the locals at a celebratory céilidh dance at his farm, they share a kiss as his children look on with approval.

All the men look like Allen Leach, and all the women look like Caitriona Balfé. (Look them up.)

Readers, if any of you know Mr. Hallmark, just tell him to give me a call. I think I'm onto the next good thing. Happy St. Patrick's Day, everyone!



Kim von Keller

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March 19, 2024
6pm - 8pm
Anderson Arts Center
110 Federal Street

Dinner will be provided to those who RSVP to mthompson@cityofandersonsc.com by March 15.

Help us cast a vision for the targeted areas. Public input will be used to develop two Special Area Plans that will serve as a roadmap for future growth and development.

The event will feature two concurrent breakout group sessions. Attendees will choose their group depending on his or her area of interest.

Project Background
The City of Anderson has partnered with an award-winning urban planning and design firm, Houseal Lavigne Associates, to pursue a public process for the development of a city-wide Comprehensive Plan and Unified Development Ordinance.

Named "Plan This City", the public engagement process is the most important part of the plan's development as it will ensure the final product represents the community's vision for Anderson.

The Comprehensive Plan and Unified Development Ordinance are slated for completion by October of this year. For more information, visit the project website by visiting www.cityofandersonsc.com and select the tab labeled "Plan This City."

FROM THE SHELF

Yinka, Where is your Huzband?

by Lizzie Damilola Blackburn

Have you ever stumbled upon a book with zero intentions only to have it turn out to be the exact book you needed? This past weekend I had finished a book, but none of the titles in my queue on Libby were capturing my interest. I honestly wasn't sure what I



Sara Leady

wanted, but I was thinking something light that maybe didn't take itself too seriously. As it was a rainy, cozy day that I was spending with my fluffy main squeeze, I searched for a fluffy romance.

I maintain two different 'tags' on Libby that I toss books into as I see them. "Tags" through Libby let you 'tag' a title, which places it on a list you can refer back to. My two 'tags' are "TBR" (to be read) and "Thirsty Options." As a co-leader of the library's romance book club, a.k.a. Thirsty Thursdays, I regularly toss new romances onto that list if I think they might be a possible club read. Often when I'm looking for a listen (I really don't "read" the traditional way anymore) and nothing is striking the mood, I'll go into one of my tags, limit it to "available now," and see what strikes me.

Since I was looking for fluffy (which came to mind as I brushed the dog) I pulled up my "Thirsty Options" and scrolled down. I'm not 100% sure what made me pick "Yinka, Where is Your Huzband?" but I think the title and the cover made me give it a shot. When I say give it a shot, I didn't actually look up any info

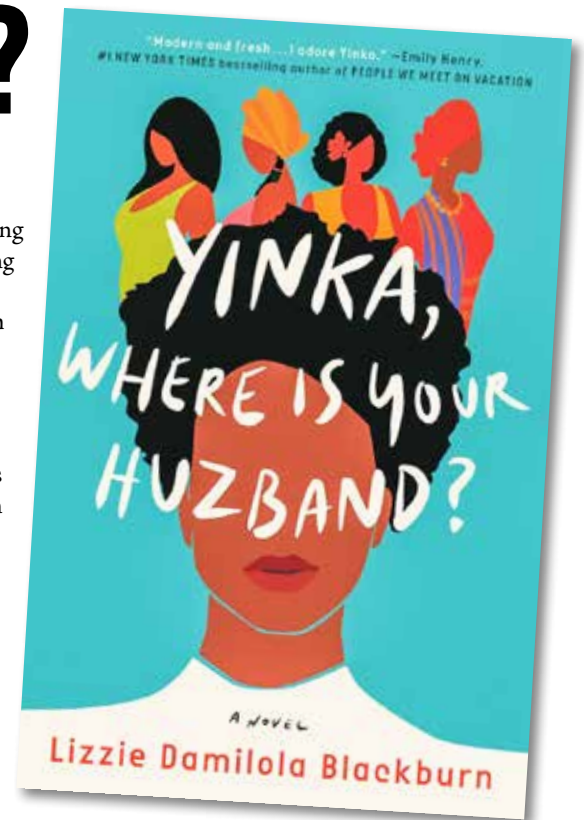
about the book. I literally just downloaded it and pressed play, knowing nothing beyond assuming it was a romantic comedy that starred a Black woman who didn't have a husband. Blackburn's book could arguably also be classified as "Christian fiction," but not in the stereotypical way. Yinka's faith is at the core of the story and has a lot of impact on how she dates and interacts with life in general.

Yinka is 31, an Oxford graduate, has a great job, is close with her family, and has a great best friend, but she's still single. Yinka chalks her singleness up to something being innately wrong with her, not just her personality or basic looks, but much worse: how dark the shade of her skin is. Yinka was in a serious relationship, however he chose a job in New York and told her he didn't want her to come with because he wanted to experience new things. A few years later and Yinka is still single, a thing her Nigerian aunties can't help but loudly pray about at large family gatherings, church gatherings, or really any public gathering.

With Yinka's sister having her first baby and a cousin getting married, she's feeling the pressure of being single that much more. Enter our small (and hilarious) parade of potential suitors that Yinka meets or has thrown at her. Yinka's insecurity is already pretty high given how often she's asked "what's wrong" with her because obviously she's at "fault" for being single, and coupled with some rejections Yinka tanks into crisis.

Yinka lapses into a spiraling mental crisis

as she obsesses over WHY she's single. She ends up in therapy due to the building anxiety and obsessive behaviors stemming from her struggles with dating. There's some really incredible conversations with her and her friends where she's being challenged to evaluate what she's doing and seek help. There's just a lot of realness to the title on a lot of levels. Taking on insecurity while being authentic in its portrayal is a feat in itself, but Blackburn also makes it relatable and funny. I saw myself in a lot of Yinka, especially thinking back to my dating struggles in my mid-thirties where I was also getting asked that same question. It was a really good reminder of how far I've come in my own personal journey and how lucky I've been to also have strong women in my life that are always willing to challenge me.



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Bassmaster College Series 2024 Championship set for Lake Hartwell



ANDERSON, S.C. — B.A.S.S. officials announced recently that the 2024 national championship for the wildly popular Bassmaster College Series will be played out on the waters of Lake Hartwell in Anderson, South Carolina. The 2024 Strike King Bassmaster College National Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops will showcase the nation's best college anglers Aug. 22-24.

Anglers will launch from and weigh in daily at Green Pond Landing and Event Center in Anderson as they scour the lake's 56,000 acres of water and more than 960 miles of shoreline for three days to bring Hartwell's biggest bass to the scales to claim the title of national champion.

"We're so excited to host the Bassmaster College Series National Championship in Anderson County, Green Pond Landing and Lake

Hartwell," said Visit Anderson Executive Director Neil Paul. "The leadership of Anderson County has provided us with a championship-caliber facility in Green Pond and the resources to recruit events such as the national championship.

"The college angler is the future of our sport, and with the youth movement taking place among the Bassmaster Opens and Elite Series, there has never been a more exciting time to be a college angler," Paul continued. "We look forward to welcoming the anglers, the teams, and their families to Anderson County, where the hospitality is second to none."

Lake Hartwell is no stranger to Bassmaster events. In 2023 Hartwell hosted a Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series scored by TourneyX event, the Bassmaster Junior National

Championship, the Strike King Bassmaster High School Championship, and the Mercury B.A.S.S. Nation Championship presented by Lowrance. Later in 2024, the St. Croix Bassmaster Open at Lake Hartwell presented by SEVIIN will be held Oct. 10-12.

Playing host to four Bassmaster Classics, Lake Hartwell borders South Carolina and Georgia and is located on the Savannah River seven miles below the point at which the Tugaloo and Seneca rivers join to form the Savannah. Hartwell is regarded as one of the Southeast's largest and most popular recreation lakes and boasts largemouth, smallmouth and a large number of 5- to 12-pound striped bass.

As many as 130 teams of anglers representing universities across the nation will compete in the event.

Beginning this season, the Strike King Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops recently announced a new two-division format — the Legends Trail and the Lunkers Trail — with three tour stops each in an effort to help meet the booming demand for college teams to compete. There will now be more priority placed on the Bassmaster College Team of the Year standings to qualify for both the National Championship and the College Classic Bracket presented by Lew's.

Qualifications are based on stops at Lake Murray in South Carolina, Kentucky Lake in Tennessee and Michigan's Saginaw Bay in the Legends Trail, as well as stops at

Clarks Hill Reservoir in Georgia, Tennessee's Douglas Lake, and Sam Rayburn Reservoir in Texas in the Lunkers Trail.

"We are proud to offer collegiate anglers the opportunity to cap off their season with a shot at the national title on the waters of Lake Hartwell," said Glenn Cale, tournament manager for the College, High School and Junior Series. "The fishery, community and facilities of Anderson certainly make for an unforgettable experience for these exceptional young anglers."

The 2024 Strike King Bassmaster College National Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops is being hosted by Visit Anderson.

Local attorneys honored at Memory Hold the Door

The Anderson County Bar Association held the second Memory Hold the Door ceremony Thursday, November 29 at the old Anderson County Courthouse in the main courtroom. The inaugural ceremony was held in 2005. Memory Hold the Door is in honor of Anderson attorneys who served the community as lawyers and civic leaders. This event is a way of paying tribute to those dedicated men and women who have since passed on and in honor of their families, friends and colleagues.

V. LANIEL CHAPMAN (1931-2017)

V. Lanier Chapman was a 1957 graduate of Carson-Newman College. He attended graduate school at the University of Georgia and graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1961. He served in the United States National Guard for 5 years and in the United States Army. He was honorably discharged in 1955. Lanier ran a private law practice from 1962 until 2016 and was a senior partner at Chapman & Yon, LLP in Anderson.

Lanier was a member of First Baptist Church of Belton where he served as a deacon and held many elected offices during his career. He served as the solicitor for the Tenth Judicial

Circuit from 1972-1977. Lanier served as president of the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association, the Anderson County Bar Association, and the American Board of Trial Advocates, South Carolina Chapter. He was elected Highway Commissioner for District 10 for South Carolina Department of Highway and public Transportation in 1990 and served as Chairman from 1993-1994. He was also a member of the American



Trial Lawyers Association, American Board of Trial Advocates, and Southern Trial Lawyers Association. Lanier was a member of the South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Association of South Carolina Claimant Attorneys for Workers Compensation and was a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Lanier participated in numerous civic activities, serving on the Anderson Area Medical Center Foundation Board, the Chairman of the Anderson County Courthouse Authority,

the Wachovia Bank Board of Directors, the Belton Lions Club, and the Anderson Rotary Club. He was a member of the Carson-Newman College Advisory Board, and a Trustee of Carson-Newman College. He received the Carson-Newman College Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2004. Lanier was a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the University of South Carolina School of Law Alumni Board and was an executive committee member of Anderson College Board of Trustees and Chairman of the G. Ross Anderson, Jr. Scholarship Committee for Anderson University. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws in 2003 from Anderson University. Also, in 2003, he was awarded the prestigious Order of the Palmetto.

Lanier was married to Vivian B. Chapman for 60 years and had two daughters, Lisa C. Robinson and Gina C. Earle. He was also survived by six grandchildren, Elizabeth D. Brittain, Chapman D. Archer, Lauren R. Dunbar, Catherine S. Dunbar, Vivian Alexandria Williams, and Jones Hampton Williams.

GLENN SCOTT THOMASON (1962-2017)

Scott Thomason was born in Anderson,

South Carolina in 1962. He attended Anderson County Public Schools, graduating from T.L. Hanna in 1980. He then attended



Clemson University where he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. He graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1988 and returned home to practice law in Anderson with his father,

Glenn W. Thomason, at Long, Thomason & Mullinax.

Scott was a lifelong fan of many sports, but he was an especially devoted Clemson fan. He was proud to be a student when Clemson University won its first National Football Championship in 1981. Unfortunately, he passed away only days before they claimed their second national title.

He had an unbelievable memory and could retain useless trivia, sports statistics, and other entertaining information. He was well-liked and would lighten the mood most anywhere he went.

YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Practicing self-care with restorative sleep, part 2

As we continue delving into “self-care” or “lifestyle medicine”, our number one objective is to provide useful information and guidance that can help us all stay healthy and avoid debilitating health issues. It is also about developing the ability to make better life choices which can improve our lives and our families’ lives.

Ignoring healthy habits and behaviors takes a toll. Consider, an alarming percentage of young people today are developing health conditions historically seen in people much older. It’s primarily due to lifestyle, which means armed with knowledge and a little discipline we can self-correct and practice self-care.

A pillar of self-care is getting enough quality sleep. Without it we risk developing a host of issues: dementia, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, various cancers, high blood pressure, heart problems and depression.

The pressures of modern life — with our “24/7 connectivity” — while marvelous in some respects — makes it difficult to disconnect. This

is why our practice is a member of the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine. Our goal is to provide help in overcoming issues that prevent our patients from that all important good night’s sleep that enables the body to restore itself, mentally and physically.



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

Sleep continuity is part of the solution. Without it, there’s daytime tiredness.

Nodding off. Difficulty paying attention. Feeling “out of it”. Moody, anxious, or depressed. If you are experiencing sleep issues, take stock of your situation. The most common sleep disruptions include sleep apnea and snoring (our practice may offer you solutions), restless legs syndrome, and caregiving responsibilities. Sleep experts recommend:

- Start winding down and going to bed at a

consistent time.

- Get 30 minutes of sunlight in the morning to reset your inner “sleep clock.” Light is a cue for your body to know when it’s time to sleep and when to wake.

- If you are one of the fortunate few who has time for a nap, limit them to 20 minutes.

- Nearing bedtime embrace relaxing activities like reading or even stretching.

- Get at least 30 minutes of exercise each day. Avoid exercise near bedtime.

- Make sure your bedroom is cool, dark, and quiet. No cell phone and avoid screen time as you wind down.

Lastly, be sure to avoid alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine in the hours before bedtime. Considering what’s at stake everyone deserves and should strive for a good night’s sleep.

Important tip — talk to your doctor if you suspect your sleep problems are the result of an underlying medical or mental health condition. And we can help too. Our practice spe-

cializes in sleep issues. If you have any questions, or would like to request a consultation at no cost, please reach out. Consider us your hometown resource for guidance and support.

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

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



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Styling into spring

Spring is almost here and I think we're all counting down the days of its arrival. The trends this season are really lovely and enchanting. I'm also so happy to know that on the runways recently, boho chic fashion is



Kristine March

making a comeback and it's all the rage. Think the Olsen twins and Sienna Miller circa 2004. It will be a forever favorite. I still dress like that on the daily, but it makes me content and cheerful knowing it will be in stores.

Quilt patterns are going to be really big this year. I just got this incredible quilted jacket handmade in Charleston, South Carolina that is so amazing! There are still evenings where it gets chilly, so it's the perfect jacket to wear and the colors are white and a pale peacock blue. It really just screams cottage core. That stands for romantic farmer vibes or a nod to the English country-

side if that makes sense. If that's not your thing and you're more sporty and tailored or sophisticated, then polo popped collars are here to stay. That look was all over fashion week recently. Plaid skirts, loafers and even oxford shirts are huge this season.

The most popular color that I have seen is iced blue. That would look so dreamy in a blazer or a flared pants set or in any type of accessory. A purse or shoe in that color would be so luxurious. Also, a luscious lilac shade. A pale purple would be so pretty for a manicure or pedicure. For makeup, bold lip colors are trending. Corals, vibrant oranges and pink will be stunning for the springtime.

Also, on the spring shoe trend a glossy patent leather style is happening from Mary Jane's to slingbacks to mules to ballet flats. This shoe trend will have you looking swanky and snazzy. What spring trends are you going to be wearing or maybe avoiding altogether? No matter what you wear remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. Happy on the brink of Spring y'all!



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Andersonville Baptist Church

BY RICH OTTER

Pastor Jerry Nation recalled a church and store then still in existence at the old town location of the doomed Andersonville at the conjunction of the Tugaloo and Seneca Rivers, the last feasible shipping destination to the area. The once flourishing community had been partially devastated by the very rivers that had built its economy as the result of repeated freshets. The final blow was not from weather, however, but from the railroad.

Andersonville had been a commercial hub with such activities as a foundry, flour and grist mill, cotton gin, tailor shop, sawmill, wagon shop, gun factory, warehouses, a tan yard, blacksmith, livery stables and a unique clock manufacturer. It also hosted a female academy.

Its location provided what Louise Vandiver described as the “cotton market for the whole of what is called the Piedmont Section of the State, and a large area of Georgia; its trade with Hamburg and Augusta was brisk, during the days when river navigation was the means of carrying freight.”

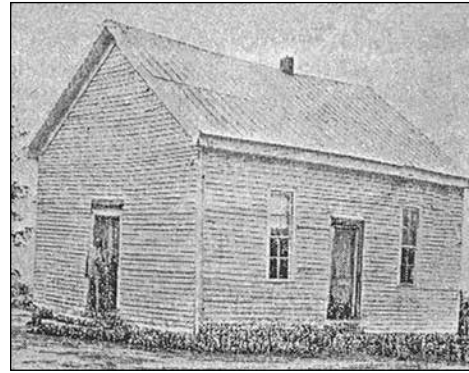
The river was traversed by a ferry that was pulled to the Georgia side by mules and returned with South Carolina mules tugging from its bank in the opposite direction. Pastor Nation’s great-grandfather, John

Avenger Jones, was a ferryman at the site. He was a Confederate veteran. When visiting Andersonville in his younger years, Nation recalled seeing the cable that crossed the river but no other remaining evidence of the ferry.

Even after the general abandonment of the area, the river provided a pleasant visit on a 4th of July outing or other special occasion with the river producing family fun, including picnics. Dobbins Bridge Road was the access to Andersonville followed by branching off to the left (Nation thinks he recalls at a store) prior to the highway crossing the river and going on toward Fair Play, South Carolina.

The Andersonville Baptist Church remembered by Nation was founded in 1839 by just 12 members. Like the town where it was located, 117 years later it was doomed by the same waters that contributed to the decline of the community, but this time resulting from a man-made hazard. It came about due to construction, beginning in 1955, of a dam to create a lake unfortunately taking the name of an adjoining community on the Georgia side. It was obvious the church building would be separated from its parishioners by the lake.

Church members began construction of a new church building that would retain its predecessor’s name. On October 14, 1956,



Original Andersonville Church

the last service was held in its Andersonville home. On October 21, the first service, high-and-dry, was on what would become the dead-end of Dobbins Bridge Road. The road then suffered the indignity of becoming bridgeless through the incursion of Hartwell Lake.

Following their church membership, the cemetery inhabitants were transferred to the new church. One of those inhabitant’s transferred was the great-grandfather of Pastor Nation, J. A. H. Jones. While most of the monuments due to age and weathering are virtually impossible to read, his clearly bears his name, date of birth and death (1832-1912) along with the inscription “Wounded in Action.”

J. A. H. Jones’ great-grandson, Jerry Nation, was born in Hart County, Georgia, where his father was a sharecropper. When a youngster, with his family, he moved across



Jones monument

the river to Anderson County, living on H Street where his parents both took up work at mills. The Pastor recalled the mill villages had the convenience, sought by many rural families of the day, indoor plumbing and a bathroom.

Nation retired from Owens Corning Fiberglas, and has served as Pastor of the House of Prayer for Jesus Christ in Starr. At 86, he remains active helping Anderson County two days a week at the Anderson Civic Center Recycling Center.

A DOG FOR A DAY

I had just sat in the recliner with my usual cup of coffee when I saw something walk by the backdoor window. We have three cats, so this occurrence was not unusual except that this movement was not the graceful stride of a cat, but bouncy and prancing. Here on the outskirts of Anderson County, I’ve seen just about every type of critter in my backyard. Squirrel, deer, turkey, possum, rabbit, fox, everything except armadillo and bear; so far.

My curiosity caused me to abandon my coffee and investigate. I looked out and there it was; a tiny little dog with large pointy ears as big as its head. I mean this thing was no bigger than a shoe and I could see that it was wearing a red vest-type garment with the words Service Dog printed in white lettering.

Now normally when I see an animal on my patio I’ll open the door and shoo it away with a loud

JEETONOUTAHEUH! (Southern for... Get on out of here). I’ve seen my cats carrying rabbits smaller than



Neal Parnell

this wisp of a dog, and I was afraid it would end up as a kitty snack. I opened the storm door and stepped out expecting the condensed canine to high-tail it out of the yard, but it looked up, stepped toward me, and sounded its ferocious squeaky bark. I jumped back into the house and couldn’t believe I’d allowed this ball of microscopic fur to intimidate me like a gigantic hungry wolf. From inside I looked down and saw him/her wagging its fluffy tail and smiling at me.

I gathered my courage and stepped out once again. “Hey little

fella, you lost?” The doggy gazed at me with very intelligent eyes, cocked its head, and seemed to say “Yes” as I bent to pet it. It was going to be below freezing tonight and the kitty’s would need to be inside... without Big Ears. I removed the red vest, hoping to find any information, but nope. I Googled, Dogs with big ears and saw the breed immediately, Papillon. I knew that veterinarians would scan for a microchip for free, and Big Ears followed me to my truck and jumped in like it wasn’t the first time. The vet performed the chip scan and informed me that Her name was BOO, she had been spayed, had her shots, and that they would notify the owner along with my phone number. That’s all I could get for free, but they’d be happy to kennel her for only ninety dollars a day. “Sorry Boo, we can get a room at the Hilton for that price, I’ve got a coupon”. Boo turned her nose up



at Fancy Feast, but chowed down some Meow Mix as I sat on the patio in thirty-nine-degree weather, praying for a call or answer. My cat Caly came strolling out of the hedge and Boo was off to the races without any hesitation.

It was dusk now as I walked around the front yard with my phone, worrying about our cats and Boo. I spotted Boo two houses

down being held up in the air by a neighbor I hadn’t met but could hear him shout, “Where have you been?” I never got a phone call, but returned Boo’s vest the next day and relayed my story to the neighbors, and now you. The cats sniffed around the patio for an hour before they came inside, and I was thankful for the answered prayer and that I got to have A Dog for a Day.

SCREENING SAVES LIVES

The recommended age for colon cancer screening has been lowered.

Here's what you should know about colon cancer and rectal cancer. It's essential that you talk to your doctor about getting screened, and this could be an ideal time.

As Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, March is an ideal time for people ages 45 and up to talk to their healthcare provider about getting screened for colorectal cancer, including colon cancer and rectal cancer.

One in 23 men and one in 26 women will develop colorectal cancer, according to the Colorectal Cancer Prevention Network at the University of South Carolina.

Excluding skin cancers, colorectal cancer is the third most diagnosed cancer in the U.S.

Colorectal cancer is expected to cause 53,000 deaths this year, according to the American Cancer Society – but experts estimate that 60% of those deaths could be prevented through screening tests that can lead to early detection.

“The earlier colon cancer is caught, the more effective surgery is and the higher likelihood of cure,” said Dr. Brian Sadowski, a gastrointestinal surgeon at AnMed. “While bowel issues are often uncomfortable to talk about, discussing them with your doctor, especially if there are abnormalities, is very important because it may justify an exam sooner than standard.”

COLORECTAL CANCER RATES RISING IN PEOPLE UNDER AGE 50

Thanks largely to more widespread screening, the overall incidence and mortality rates of colorectal cancer have decreased in recent decades.

For unknown reasons, however, the incidence rate of colorectal cancer has been rising in individuals under age 50 since the mid-1990s. Colorectal cancer mortality rates for people under age 55 are also increasing.

As a result of these troubling trends, the recommended age to begin colorectal cancer screenings has been lowered from 50 to 45.

“Given the significant increase in cancer in these younger patient populations over a relatively short period of time, I think it is likely related to dietary and environmental factors, although the exact cause is still not clear,” Dr. Sadowski said. “Nevertheless, our standard screening is very effective in these younger patients as well, and we are hopeful that lowering the screening age will help drop the cancer rates in these young patients as it has successfully done in our older patients.

“For our young patients, probably the most



important thing to know is that they cannot ignore symptoms. Bleeding, change in bowel habits and pain are all symptoms that should not be ignored and should be brought to the attention of your doctor, who can decide whether further testing is appropriate.”

Here's more you should know.

WHAT IS COLORECTAL CANCER?

Growths called polyps can form in the colon or rectum. Over time, some polyps can become cancerous.

Screening tests can find polyps, allowing them to be removed before they turn into cancer. These tests also can detect colorectal cancer at the earliest stages when treatment is most effective.

RISK FACTORS FOR COLORECTAL CANCER

About 55% of colorectal cancers in the U.S. are attributable to potentially modifiable risk factors. These factors increasing your chances of colorectal cancer include:

- Excess body weight
- Physical inactivity
- Long-term smoking
- High consumption of red or processed meat
- Low calcium intake
- Heavy alcohol consumption
- Very low intake of fruits and vegetables and whole-grain fiber.

Hereditary or genetic and medical factors that increase risk of colorectal cancer include:

- Personal or family history of colorectal cancer
- Certain inherited genetic syndromes
- Personal history of chronic inflammatory bowel disease
- Personal history of type 2 diabetes

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF COLORECTAL CANCER

While many people never experience any symptoms before they are diagnosed with colorectal cancer, there may be some warning signs. Regardless of your age, contact your

health care provider if you experience:

- Ongoing changes in bowel movements
- Narrow or pencil-thin stools
- Bright red or dark blood in toilet or on stool
- Blood on toilet paper after a bowel movement
- Unexplained anemia
- Weakness or fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss
- Abdominal fullness, pain or cramping

TYPES OF SCREENING TESTS FOR COLORECTAL CANCER

Your primary doctor can help you determine which tests you might need based on your health history, family history, age and other factors.

Colonoscopy is the most commonly offered screening for colorectal cancer. During a colonoscopy, a doctor uses a thin, flexible, lighted tube to check for polyps or cancer inside the rectum and colon. Most polyps and some cancers can be found and removed during this test.

Stool-based testing options are available, too, and can be performed at home.

Other screening tests include:

- Fecal immunochemical test (FIT) – uses antibodies to detect blood in the stool.
- Multi-targeted stool DNA test, commonly known as Cologuard – checks a stool sample for blood and genetic mutations linked to cancer.
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy – inserts a thin tube with a light and camera into only the lower part of your colon to look for polyps that could be cancerous.

WHAT IF CANCER OR CANCER IS FOUND? THERE ARE OPTIONS

If colorectal cancer is found during a screening, options are available.

“Colorectal cancer is a very treatable disease, especially if caught early,” Dr. Sadowski said. “This is why screening is so important. The closer we follow patients with screening, the more likely we are to catch an early cancer and the more successful the treatment is. Cure rates for early stage cancer are very high. Depending on the location of the cancer and how advanced it is at the time of diagnosis, colon and rectal cancer may be treated with chemotherapy, radiation, surgery or a combination of these.

“In terms of surgery, many colon and rectal operations can be performed laparoscopically or with the surgical robot, which means the incisions are smaller, postoperative pain is less and recovery from surgery is faster.”

For more information, visit anmed.org/services/cancer-care/types/colon-rectal.

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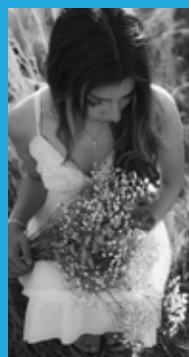
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THE GARDEN SHOP

Yucca, maybe not so yucky



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If someone had told me yucca would be in my yard one day, I would have said the same thing formally said about junipers, "I wouldn't plant it if someone gave it to me".

There are several mystery junipers planted along the edge of the yard. They are plants from Busby Nursery that had been around the garden center way too many years. Tags long gone, no one had any idea what they were, moss was growing up the trunks, and when Henry was retiring, we made a deal of moving the inventory at a fair price before he closed his garden center. One is huge, at least 20 feet tall and even wider, and slightly different. Five others might be the same kind but just not as big yet, even though they were planted about the same time. To me, these are plants that were popular in the 70's. They make a great privacy screen, but as bigger houses get built on smaller lots, they are too big for many yards these days. The silver-gray color, silver-blue berries, deer and Mother Nature mood swing proof, nice gin, I mean juniper smell, are now a favorite in my garden. The branches make wonderful fillers for winter containers and last great for Christmas decorations. My brother has some too and has limbed his up. His have taken on a bonsai look and are quite interesting. We had no

idea how big they would get and his had to be limbed up because of where they are. That's one thing about junipers, they rarely put back out when pruned.

There are a favorite pair of big pots, again from Busby's, one in full sun and another in some shade. The pot in full sun used to be on the breezeway but got moved out to make room for a cabinet. The pot was in the shade of a crabapple tree until the tree started pushing up the sidewalk and got cut down. It's been difficult to find something that will take sunup to sundown sun. And that deer will let me have. They loved a sedum first put in the pot. Some other annuals thirst to death. The pot has potential to be a nice focal point, and if it gets moved further into a shadier spot in the garden, I know it won't get watered.

A groundcover type native aster with tiny white flowers has survived two years, evergreen gray santolina (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*) is growing great. Santolina can be tricky to find in nurseries. If you ever come across it, the gray or green variety, buy it. It is great for hot, dry, well-drained spots in the garden, and wonderful in containers. It has a unique smell and deer pass it by. This pot needed something taller though. Preferably something that would stay year-round. A few annuals are put in it each year but that has been a mixed success.

Then I saw a yucca with chartreuse yellow foliage, trimmed in green, with rusty red edges here and there. Wow! I love chartreuse plants. This colorful plant stood out amongst all the other plants in the nursery. The blue pot immediately came to mind. Color Guard is

the common name for this wow yucca. There is nothing like yucca in my garden. It will add architectural interest, provide winter interest, blooms in summer like regular yucca (I suppose) providing a different type of bloom than anything else. It should not thirst to death come summer and contrasts quite prettily to gray santolina.

An unexpected, pleasant surprise is how pretty Color Guard looks with all the yellow daffodils blooming now. Mother Nature has added chickweed to the pot, and it is making a free filler, showing how nice aster's white flowers will look with this new yucca come late summer.



Color Guard and daffodils



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J PETERS

GRILL & BAR

It's fair to say that when J Peters Grill & Bar briefly closed for renovation, Anderson residents went into a kind of panic. How could they do without the prime rib? Those burgers? The Black & Bleu Salad?

Never one to disappoint a customer, J Peters' owner, Jon Angell, made sure the renovations went quickly. Before they could say "Honey-Butter Croissant," customers were already enjoying the updated dining space and the quality meals they've come to love since the restaurant opened on March 15, 2010. Although he knew J Peters would be missed, Angell says the customers were the reason for the renovations.

"We wanted to give back to our guests, who, since our opening, have always supported us," he says. "They deserve the nicest restaurant possible, and we really spruced things up. It was a full renovation, with new flooring, paint, and lighting. I give full credit to John Glenn at Glenn Mechanical for the renovations. Together, we accomplished in two weeks what might have taken other restaurants three months. I also want to thank my landlord, Steve Kay, for trusting me in 2010 to do what I wanted to do to serve the City of Anderson."

Angell and the restaurant have come a long way over the last 14 years.

"When I opened J Peters, I had \$80 in my pocket. There were those in Anderson who said I wouldn't last three months. Since then, however, we've had \$35 million in sales and proved the critics wrong. Still, I am always cordial to the naysayers."

That kind of success doesn't mean it's been easy. Hospitality is a tough business, and a restaurant is only as good as the last meal it served. That's why Angell remains so hands-on when it comes to J Peters.

"I manage our food and liquor inventory, and I do every food order personally. I also demand perfection from everyone at J Peters. My servers and my cooks must take good care of you because I want you eating here three days a week. But I don't expect anything out of my staff that I don't expect of myself. If you show up and do your job properly, I'll never bother you."

In addition to the building, the physical menu was spruced up well. If you walk into J Peters today, you'll find it has a more colorful, exciting look. But in terms of menu items, customers will still find the big food they look forward to.

"Our prime rib is the best from here to the coast," Angell says.

And speaking of the coast, diners can find the quality they expect from J Peters even when traveling for business or vacation. Angell owns J Peters restaurants in Murrells Inlet, Pawleys Island, Myrtle Beach, and North Myrtle Beach. And on the drive back to Anderson, you can stop in Columbia for lunch at another of Angell's restaurants, Angell Bros. 1801 Grille, which he owns with his brother, Dan Angell.

But as his restaurant empire expands, Angell wants the residents of Anderson to know that J Peters isn't going anywhere.

"One day, our children will take over. Even after 14 years, J Peters is a force to be reckoned with, and I appreciate Anderson's support. Our goal is always to make sure that every dish is perfect."

by Kim von Keller



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