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May 11-24, 2023

'A destination playground'

City officials celebrate D.B. Walker Park improvements

BY JANA MACKIN

What was once an East Side eyesore, recently celebrated a miracle makeover that has made D.B. Walker Park a destination jewel among playgrounds. Early this month, more than 100 city, civic, community leaders and locals showed up to celebrate phase II "significant upgrades and improvements" to the park and green space.

Whether Mayor Terence Roberts, the city council, Bobby Beville, parks



and recreation director, and the many others who helped realize this vision, all were wowed by this wonderland of magical towers, tomorrow land slides,

climbs and swings located at what was once the site of old basketball courts, and a decrepit picnic shelter.

"Today, we celebrate these beautiful



park improvements in this community," said councilman Tony Stewart, "and it is up to us as a community to help preserve these improvements for current and future users of this park."

"That is my prayer today for this community," Stewart said, "so we can

SEE PARK ON PAGE 2

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Award-winning TL Hanna Yellow Jacket Band plans performances

TL Hanna Band has made history again! The TL Hanna Band has been awarded the South Carolina Outstanding Performance Award for the first time in school history! This is the highest award offered to a band program from the South Carolina Band Directors Association.

To receive this award, a high school band must meet a rigorous set of qualifications including superior ratings at the State Marching Band



Championship, Superior Ratings at the South Carolina Concert Performance Assessment, seat a large number of students in the South Carolina All-State and All-Region Bands, and have a large number of superior ratings at the South Carolina Solo and Ensemble Event. This award is given to bands that excel in every aspect of a band program.

They have had an incredible school year and they will be capping their year off with two huge stage perfor-

mances at Calhoun Academy of the Arts on May 12 and May 13. Tickets are \$12 and are on sale now.

You do not want to miss these performances. This is the Hanna Band like you have never seen before. Let's show our community's support of our award-winning program by packing the house for these two days!

May 12th Tickets - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/619214185297>

May 13th Tickets - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/music-motion-and-color-tickets-619257705467>

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Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

enjoy this beautiful park for years to come."

The phased improvements to the 6.3 acre park have totaled nearly \$2 million in Community Development Block Grants of which \$950,000 was phase II improvements. The city's park and recreation department worked with Carolina Parks and Play to design, create and equip the new playground; a confection of climbing, swinging, sliding, spinning adventures and apparatus that incorporates the PlayOdyssey and Alpha towers. Further, the playground features poured-in-place rubber surfacing with ADA access and safety standards.

The park also features a 24' hexagon multi-rib metal picnic shelter, grill areas, basketball court, a newly surfaced walking track, a parking lot that features 10 regular and 2 handicapped places, LED lighting, four security cameras and a chain link fence that surrounds the playground.

"We have nothing like this in Anderson.... And what makes me proud is to concentrate on improving our playgrounds so



people in wheelchairs or walkers can get around," said Beville, project head.

"All this playground equipment has been designed to be

used by all regardless of the handicap," he said. "It's really wonderful."

Carolina Parks and Play Sales Consultant, Chris Yang, worked

at length with the city's parks and recreation department to realize this playground from vision to reality, looking at design ideas, demographics, topography, community draw, safety and other issues. The playground's unique theme focuses around the two towers as design elements intertwined with the various types of other play activities and equipment.

"Play really brings people together," said Yang. "It's becoming a destination playground."

The park's history and evolution testifies to its namesake D.B. Walker, a long time councilman, civic leader and pastor. From little more than a city plot to its present incarnation as "destination playground", the park incarnates a message of hope, joy and actualization. Playgrounds are great equalizers, and play speaks that common language of children swinging, sliding or climbing one of those towers towards the sun.

"People from outside of the community are coming to enjoy the park," Walker said. "I'm (also) hoping people of our community take their children to enjoy such a beautiful park."

"He's smiling in heaven," said Caroline Walker, about her dad. "He had a long life. He was 100 years old when he died."

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The Electric City News announces the winners of its National Poetry Month

Poetry Contest



The Chip Thief

BY BRADLEY GOODBAN

*Once he was a friend
On whom I could depend.
I could not comprehend
How the fun would never end*

*But now my trust he's trashed.
Into my vault he crashed.
A wicked plan he hatched.
My precious chips he snatched.*

*He stole my chips, that rotten thief!
It is a crime beyond belief.
My endless grief will not be brief.
For from this pain there's no relief.*

*I loved those chips and to me it seemed
That all night and day I dreamed.
Whene'er I thought of my chips I beamed.
But then that chip fiend intervened.*

*Him and his evil chip-stealing scheme!
How could he be so horribly mean?
It makes me want to shout and scream!
My rage is totally and utterly extreme!*

*My chips he did so cruelly rob
To shove in his big fat slobbery gob.
It makes me want to sadly sob
To think of my precious chips
Pinched between his fingertips
And perched upon his drooling lips-
A stolen-chip apocalypse!*

From this betrayal I will never recover,

*We are no longer friends with one another.
I'm warning him now, he'd better take cover,
He's my worst ever friend, my ex-blood brother.*

*I'm going to hunt that chip thief down!
Him and every last one in town!
They won't be laughing then, those clowns,
I'll turn their smiles into permanent frowns!*

*I'll wreak my stolen chip revenge!
His punishment will never end!
I'll tell the world of his infamy,
Of how he stole my chips from me.
His name will go down in history
Synonyms with chip thievery!*

*So now he'd better prepare his tomb-
That gangly-limbed, crazy-eyed,
curly-haired loon,*

*'Cause I'm going at him faster
Than a supersonic boom-
That greedy, grasping, chip-stealing goon.*

*Closer and closer to him do I zoom-
That traitorous, treacherous
BFF of a baboon,*

*And when I get there
It will be safe to assume
That, very soon, you know whom
Will get what's coming
When I deal out his
DOOM!!!*



Autobiography in Four Short Chapters

BY AURELIA LEBRUN (INSPIRED BY PORTIA NELSON)

Chapter I

I walk in the garden I was born in
where there are trees ripe with fruit,
shrubs teeming with flowers,
children laughing and playing (at something, what?)
I do not see their color, I do not hear their laughs, I do not understand enough to want.

Chapter II

I walk in the garden again,
walking faster now as I feel scared of what I do not know.
Someone stops me and asks,
Why aren't you with the others, playing?
I pretend I'm deaf and walk faster.

Chapter III

I'm here in the garden,
and every plant seems to wilt
as I walk in with my monotone mind.
I wonder why I still bother with this garden,
keeping up appearances and pleasing it every day still.
I almost don't come back.

Chapter IV

But I do come back.
And when I do,
I keep my eyes open.
I'm standing,
looking around.
No one even notices I'm here.
I'm going to leave, why did I even bother-
and then I saw them.
Instead of the typical obnoxious kids, an old couple sat together on the old park bench,
holding hands and talking to each other softly. They were perfect and scarred and were
rough-edged puzzle pieces merged into something even more beautiful.
I began to wonder;
Has the sky always been this blue?
Has the chirps of birds
and the whistling of a tree's leaves
always sounded so heavenly?
All around me,
flowers explode into countless hues of vermillion and emerald and dandelion yellow
and I'm just standing here, mouth open,
and all I can see is everything I haven't seen before.
The world is now full of color,
full of sound,
full of hope.
I walk,
not just to get myself through the garden,
but to appreciate it for the first time.

Déjà Vu

BY BETTY HENRY YOUNG

*My sister sits beside me
On Granny's wide veranda.
The creaking swing-song
Lulls my little one to sleep.
Fireflies explore the twilight,
Darting, twinkling.
A honeysuckle-breeze
Sets windchimes tinkling.
The sweet antiphony of playing children
Punctuates the night.
We share a smile, remembering
When carefree voices,
Calling in the early summer nights
Were ours.*



* Betty is now 99
years old and is the
wife of the late Dr.
Jim Young

Anderson County Sheriff's Citizens Academy

BY RICH OTTER

The public generally learns about law enforcement operations from television programs, glamorized presentations where the culprit is apprehended due to brilliant deduction by the leading character. Alternately information comes from newspaper articles revealing actions or mistakes of agents alleged to cause an injustice.

What is not seen is what good law enforcement agencies do to prepare their people to appropriately respond to the multiple situations with which they are confronted and the workings behind the scene so essential to carry out their responsibilities. They have to do their job without a written script that guarantees a happy ending.

Anderson County residents have an opportunity to understand how the real functions of their protectors are carried out, to actually get behind the scene and directly see the training facilities and background operations required for their safety.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Citizens Academy is offered for those who go through a security check because the program introduces them to areas not generally open to the public.

The program includes an intensive 10 week program, once a week two-hour presentations, delving into the various divisions operated by the Sheriff's Department. The programs are given by local personnel in charge of the divisions. They are presented not just in a classroom, but also on site.

Right now is a particularly important time following a crucial transformation as the result of Covid-19 and the training procedures and adjustments made by the department, as well as with the Sheriff Department's movement from their present multiple locations necessitated for operations due to space limitations to consolidation at the new site on the Highway 28 Bypass.

Covid-19 brought training previously spread to outside locations in-house, with facilities in many respects unique in the state that can also be available to serve Anderson municipalities and other counties.

One of the most exciting is VirTra, a training program with a 300 degree visual and audio experience taking trainees through situations that are likely to be encountered in the field. For instance, the deputy may experience a school shooting scenario, having to make instantaneous decisions including encounters with suddenly appearing students, teachers or a shooter.

With prison inmates, they also constructed a facility that can be changed for multiple settings using live actors, training including how



to react to and diffuse such things as domestic or hostage situations.

Citizens participating in the program learn about emergency management such as through 911, uniform patrol procedures, criminal investigations, forensics, evidence handling, narcotic responses, various operational units, judicial involvements and detention.

The Detention Center is a very immediate issue as it is about to receive an enormous rejuvenation. Present accommodations are double an acceptable capacity. The new facilities are at the same location but also encompass the area of the old, abandoned, National Guard Armory. They will have provisions for juveniles now required to be taken to Columbia. The center will allow appropriate separation of offenders by class as well as for the retention of federal prisoners.

There will be meeting areas for attorneys with their clients and for families, medical treatment facilities, counseling and space available for future expansion to avoid significant future expenditures.

The Citizens Academy will provide a unique opportunity to visit the operation and gain an on-spot understanding of the Sheriff's Department with the people who make it happen. The next academy will be held in September and the number of attendees are limited due to space. Applications may be filled out and submitted on line (Citizens Academy Anderson County Sheriff's Office) or contact Christi Lee at 864-260-4368.

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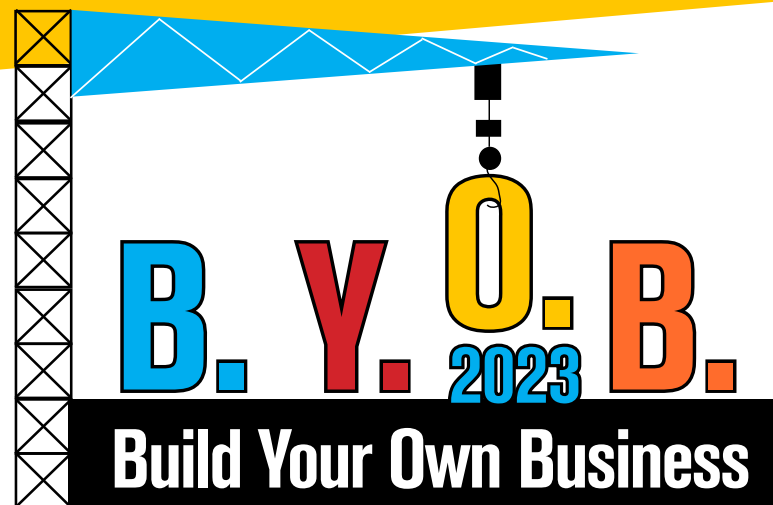
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YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Want more energy? Foods to help you power up

With the daily demands we face — from making a living to raising families — no one escapes the pressures of modern life. So, one might reasonably ask — are there energy benefits to be had from modifying our diet? Specifically, can certain foods help overcome mental fatigue and that sluggish feeling we experience as the day wears on?

First, consider exactly how food affects energy. It depends on how well our mitochondria are functioning. These are powerhouse cells that produce energy and make everything in our bodies run. Eating foods that support optimal mitochondrial function can promote overall energy. On-going research is continuing to expand our knowledge of the energy benefits of many different foods. This includes “exotic” fare like chia seeds, lentils, matcha, and quinoa. All are good. Please consider them. However, most of us are more interested in the healthiest “common” foods that boost energy naturally. Here are tried and true choices you might say, “won’t let you down!”

Sweet potatoes. A staple in American diets for generations.

Eggs. Rich in vitamin B, crucial in converting food to energy. Helps build and maintain muscle mass.

Bananas. Probably THE best quick snack for sustained energy. Better than a carb drink for performance and endurance.

Salmon (fish).

Packed with protein and B vitamins that can produce sustained energy throughout the day. Also, may improve brain function and reduce inflammation.

Oatmeal. Make this a breakfast choice. A bowl of whole-grain oatmeal is packed with minerals, vitamins, and compounds that energize the body.



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

Nuts. In addition to essential vitamins and minerals, nuts are high in essential fatty acids which help reduce fatigue and inflammation.

And let’s not forget good old H₂O. Water is the most crucial energizing ingredient of all. It’s vital for every cell in the body to work correctly. Maintaining energy can be as simple as carrying a water bottle around and sipping from it throughout the day to stay properly hydrated.

Who doesn’t like cheeseburgers and fries? It tastes good for sure, but the nutritional value is low. Also try to avoid processed foods. I know it’s hard but avoid as much as you can packaged or canned foods, candy, boxed meals, and precooked meats. They are full of preservatives, additives, sodium, trans fat, and artificial ingredients that can really slow you down. On the other hand, whole foods help reduce fatigue. Remember, your body runs off what you feed it. The best way to get the most energy from your food is to make sure you’re giving yourself the best food possible. If you have questions about

this and other topics that can help you improve your overall health, please reach out. 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](https://www.facebook.com/GrandOaksDental) or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrandOaksDental>.



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Foster moms describe delights and difficulties of fostering

As Mother's Day approaches, some moms will be celebrating with children who may only be theirs for a short while. The Electric City News talked to three local moms who share their experiences and encourage anyone who is able to become a foster parent.

HEATHER HARBERT

"The benefit of being a foster mom is truly indescribable. You get a front-row ticket to a child's life. Whether the child goes to reunite with their birth family or if perhaps the plan is to go into TPR (termination of parental rights)/Adoptions, as a foster mom, you are there advocating for these children. Fostering is a Godly act.



Kim von Keller

Children benefit from foster care by having a stable environment during a time in their lives that, without foster care, they would not have a stable environment to live in. They are exposed to families that invite them in with open arms.

Why should people consider fostering? That's easy! For the blessing you receive. You are supported by DSS and have a ton of resources to support your fostering journey. You are not alone in the journey. There are foster groups that are there for every step of the way. Fostering a child opens doors to community involvement as well. If you think you couldn't "Foster" for whatever reason, just know that you are what these children need. A loving home, a stable environment, someone that they can call family. Never say never! I have been fostering our foster child since he was three months old. He is now two. And let me tell you, we needed him more than he needed us."

CAMMY CLARY

"I have been a foster parent for seven years. My husband, Greg, and I have fostered upwards of 40 children. We do long term care, short term care, respite care, and emergency care. I can't speak for why other parents foster, but I was not in the foster care system when I should have been. There was no one to help me, so I promised myself that if I was ever stable enough, I would do it. My husband and I have two daughters, and I feel like I have been able to break that cycle.

I think for the parents that stick with fostering, it is a calling because there is nothing easy about it. The children who come through foster care are very traumatized. Even if they have been abused or neglected, being moved is traumatizing. With the little ones, you can



see them overcome their trauma, their fear. You can see they are not scared anymore. You can see them live as normal a life as they can. When they go into their forever homes, they have the greatest lives. They have so much more than they could ever have had with parents who put themselves first. Knowing that you provided nothing special - bed, clothes, outings - they thrive and blossom under it. They just want to feel safe and secure and loved. Teenagers can be their own worst enemies, and when you know that all you can do is pray, when you can't fix it, that is the hardest thing. As teenagers, they want to make their own decisions because everyone has

made their decisions for them.

People say, 'I could never foster because I would get too attached.' You're supposed to be attached. My heart will take a beating so that child's heart won't have to. I always say my heart is like a patchwork quilt."

KELLY VALETTI

"I love being a mom in general, so being a foster mom means I benefit by getting to do all the kid things over. Frequently with foster kids, they are doing things that my family does routinely but for the first time. It is crazy to look at all the kids at the zoo who come all the time and my foster child who's never been to a zoo before and every tiny thing is new. Mostly the foster kids and I enjoy the simple things, like reading books together, cozy before bedtime. One five-year-old foster started crying the first time we were reading and snuggling because no one had ever loved on her that way before. I asked what was wrong, and she said she wanted to stay in that spot forever, safe and being attended to. My foster kids love listening to songs in the car because they have never heard all the classic kid songs. I think of them whenever I hear those songs again. One nine-year-old had never heard 'Teddy Bear Picnic.' I didn't think she would like it because she was very mature for her age, but she loved it and always asked to listen to it. Another loved 'Baby Bumblebee,' another, 'Herman the Worm.' Most liked a lot of 'Frozen' songs. My foster kids have been so excited to have me show up at Muffins for Mom, to take them to birthday parties, to put bows in their hair. They appreciate the simplest of things.

While it is nice to be appreciated and look

at things from a foster child's perspective, it is also baffling how much damage children have endured and how much it affects their development. Discipline, learning, emotions are all frequently more difficult with foster kids. While the simplest things can cause joy, the simplest injuries or frustrations or disappointments can unleash a lifetime of hurt and sadness. They rarely have learned structure, boundaries, or healthy discipline. They frequently need way more time and attention. While they love having someone to pay attention to their needs, they are frequently demanding. They have a lot of time requirements with therapy and family visits.

All our foster kids have gone back to their families, and it is very hard to love someone so much and then have no idea how they are doing. I like to think every time my foster daughter hears the 'Teddy Bear Picnic' song that she thinks of me, and someday when she is a mom, she might remember the things she learned from being a part of our family and play the 'Teddy Bear Picnic' song to her child."

To learn more about becoming a foster parent, visit dss.sc.gov/child-well-being/foster-care/prospective-foster-parent/

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FINDING LINLEY

BY AUBREY NEWBY

As early as 1949, in the design plans for a residence for Dr. L.D. Huff, John Linley appears to have taken on a design partner—David P. Watkins. Like Linley, Watkins was a native of Anderson, had attended Clemson College, where he had been a student of Linley's, and had completed his architectural degree before returning to Anderson. Among Linley's early drawings is a plan for a small one-bedroom home recorded as "Residence for Mr. and Mrs. D.P. Watkins." While there is no date on the plan, it likely dates to before 1947. Watkins appears to have started as a draftsman working with Linley and the Home Realty Company. There is even some evidence the Watkins was himself the architect for some of the work for the Home Realty Company.

Linley first records himself as the senior partner in Linley and Watkins Architects in

1951. Starting his own firm had long been a consideration of Linley's.

In an undated five-page document in the Linley manuscript collection in the University Archives, is a list of the advantages and dis-

advantages to various employment options, which included work for Army Corps of Engineers that Linley notes as "already decided." It was "trick knee" that had kept Linley from enlisting during World War II and later kept him from employment with the Corps of Engineers. The other options included practicing alone, forming a partnership, or working within a larger firm. Linley expounds on the range of his con-

cerns, including: the workload, personal time off, opportunities to work for a broader range of clients, sharing design ideas and creativity, and how to properly set up a partnership or as a small architectural office or a larger firm.

From 1951 until 1963, Linley and Watkins

From their offices in the Anderson Building in downtown Anderson, Linley and Watkins designed the county jail, doctor's offices, a downtown record store, a school auditorium, buildings for Tri-County Technical College and some of the most modern home designs that Anderson, South Carolina had seen at that time.



were one of the premier architectural firms of Anderson, South Carolina. Other noted architectural firms in Anderson at the time were Fant and Fant and Leadbetter and Earle. Harlan McClure, architect, and later Dean of Clemson College of Architecture, who knew Linley during this time said that he had been impressed with Linley's "fortitude and determination to practice architecture in an objective and contemporary manner when that was not easy in Anderson, South Carolina."

During this period, Linley was no longer working under the constraints of his father's realty business. From their offices in the Anderson Building in downtown Anderson, Linley and Watkins designed the county jail, doctor's offices, a downtown record store, a

school auditorium, buildings for Tri-County Technical College and some of the most modern home designs that Anderson, South Carolina had seen at that time.

In conversations with Anderson residents and the families of both men, it appears that Linley was the design portion of the firm and Watkins more of the engineering side. Watkins son, David Watkins, Jr. recalls that while his father was largely the draftsman, his other role was in "holding back Mr. Linley's ideas for the more conservative population of Anderson." Even with the conservative restraints of Anderson, it would be the most architecturally productive time in Linley's career and an exciting time for architecture in Anderson, South Carolina.

ELECTRIC CITY EVENTS

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Saturday, May 20th Carolina Superstars Recital Event in Arena 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Contact: Hazel Cartee 864-844-1249 hazel@carolinastars.com

Sunday, May 21st Brax's Paws for a Cause Car Show Parking Lot 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Contact: Teryj

Louch 864-934-5960 teryj3838@aol.com

Tuesday, May 23rd Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Ballrooms 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Contact: Sam Christopher 864-226-3454

Thursday May 11th - A Spring Recital with the Anderson Childrens Choir
St Johns United Methodist Church Sanctuary
515 S McDuffie Street
The concert will be under the direc-

tion of Ms. Lauren Owens. Tickets will be sold at the door and are priced at \$10 for adults. Children under 12 will be admitted free of charge.

THE KITCHEN EMPORIUM & GIFTS

MAY 12th - Talbert Black & Matty's Pattys
May 9th - Dana Beigay & Matty's Pattys
May 26th - Timothy Lee & RAD Dad's BBQ

WINE TASTINGS:

May 16th - Stress Relief Wine Tasting

6:30 PM - \$25 - Randi with Southern Glazers will guide the tasting. Reservations required.

May 19th - Italy on a Plate
Author Susan Gravelly and owner of Vietri will be available for a book signing reception
From 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The Piedmont Chapter of the Military Officer's Association luncheon meeting will be held May 18th at 1130 at Occasions at Wedgefield, 1551 18 Mile Rd in Central, SC. The speaker will be D. Andrew Dill, Director of Government Relations at Lockheed Martin. He will be talking about the F-16 project at the Donaldson

Center in Greenville. He represents Lockheed Martin to federal, state, and local officials across the Southeast.

Any current or former commissioned officers of all uniformed services are invited and eligible to join MOAA. If you would like to attend or get more information, please contact LtCol Howard Stammerjohn at (864) 964-1631

Movie Night @ Carolina Wren Park

Puss in Boots - Friday May 12th @ 8:30 PM

The Rookie - Friday June 23rd at 8:55 PM
111 E Whitner Street, Anderson

FROM THE SHELF

'Seven Days in June' by Tia Williams



If you've been following along with my reviews, you'll remember a year or two ago (I think?) I did a deep dive on the romance genre, an area of books I didn't know much about. I found a new appreciation and love for the genre,



Sara Leady

so much so that I convinced some coworkers to start a new book club for the library that'll be all romance books. I get that might seem an odd choice, or maybe a question of what we'll even discuss, but considering that, at least 40% of all the library's circulation is, in

fact, romance titles... I think we'll be good.

There's a myriad of reasons for why I'm super excited about this endeavor; so I'll do my best to highlight them, slash, tell you about my "research" for book picks in a concise (ish) manner. One, we're doing a partnership with The Bradbury Bistro, which means tasty treats and drinks while we are meeting there. Two, it's

on a Thursday, which led to our name "Thirsty Thursday Romance Book Club," because I think I'm hilarious since "thirsty" is a way the youths like to say "ready for love," so it's also a pun. Third, I'm having a blast researching diverse types of romances, discussing them with my co-leaders, and then trying to narrow down picks because there are too many to pick from.

The club meets the second Thursday of the month at The Bradbury Bistro. June 8th, we'll discuss *Seven Days in June* by Tia Williams. Y'all. This book. I had heard nothing but good things about it, and given the title, I knew it'd make for a perfect June pick. I'll forewarn that the opening scene is higher on the spicy level, but the rest of the novel tones down in that regard. That warning said, I spit out my coffee because I was laughing so hard at the opening scene, so there's that too.

Seven Days in June focuses on seven days in June when powerhouse authors Eva Mercy and Shane Hall meet again, twenty years after a whirlwind romance and heart wrenching break-up when they were seventeen. Both authors and their books have been continuously influenced

by that short torrid romance and its following twenty years.

Eva is famous for an erotica vampire series, while Shane is bordering on the opposite being known as a reclusive author who writes thought-provoking literary character studies. It gives some Emily Henry's *Beach Read* vibes given the remeeting of two authors many years later; but there's a bit of a deeper dive into the reality of the mess that is love. Through added flashbacks to when Eva and Shane first met twenty years earlier, Williams really fleshes out the characters alongside the seven days in the present, showing all the reasons why they are the way they are.

Williams dives into all the messy aspects of relationships and life and how all their facets affect every detail of our lives. I know I've said it before, but this is another romance novel that affirms the depth of the genre we like to ignore. Not only does Williams tell an incredible love story, she uses it as a vessel to discuss chronic

pain, disability, racism in the world of publishing, sexism, and the added bonus of how little respect

the world tends to give the romance genre, its writers, and its readers. Which brings us back to the point of this new book club, a celebration of the diverse and incredible stories being told in a genre we all tend to view as trivial or less than. So, if that sounds like a fun time for you, then please join us the second Thursday of each month at The Bradbury Bistro to celebrate the unsung greatness that is the romance genre. Namely come June 8th, because obviously you're all going to go out and grab *Seven Days in June* by Tia Williams and come discuss its magic with us while you have a handcrafted beverage from The Bradbury Bistro.

RE-SCRIPT YOUR DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES



MARY-CATHERINE
McCLAIN
RINER

It is extremely normal to have dreams of your teeth falling out, being late for work, or failing a test. These dreams are typically not nightmares, although can be re-occurring.

Often themes relate to unpreparedness, feeling inadequate, being in danger, social embarrassment, and loss of control. Similarly, dreams may reflect a general fear of failure or being judged by others, or represent a loss in life. Likewise, recurring dreams may stem from biological sources (e.g., sleep apnea and drowning, suffocating, gasping for air). When these recurring dreams occur, ask yourself what the message may symbolize, consider the relationships between things/people, and if there are fears or belief systems among the images in the dream.

To help alleviate the distress of nightmares, focus on the facts. First, dreams are images and

stories created by your subconscious. Second, try to better understand the dream content by writing it down in a journal or speaking it aloud. As images are transformed into a new or different language the meaning may actually reveal itself. Third, look for patterns—does it relate to an unresolved issue from the past or a fear in the future. Is there an unresolved issue that needs to be addressed during wake time? Fourth, practice dream rehearsal. Re-write your dream and change the narrative so it ends positively. Prior to bed, review and visualize the positive outcome.

Remember, you are the creator and director of your dream which allows you to re-construct a different image and rescript the nightmare or image that is playing in your mind. Approach the feared content and change it. This allows you to change the scary or threatening image to something silly, funny, and non-threatening. Practice changing these images while you are awake — leading to empowerment and enhanced control.

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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NIBBLE & SIP

A Mother's Day breakfast so easy that a child can make it

Every year at the beginning of May, you'll see those sitcoms or supermarket commercials featuring kids making breakfast on Mother's Day. Two hours after they start, every pot in the kitchen is dirty, the toast is burnt, and the coffee is cold... AND YET



Kim von Keller

Mom soldiers on, smiling through every crunch Nibble and tepid Sip.

Mom deserves better, so whether she's helping make the breakfast or being treated to one, it's best to choose something that even small kids

will enjoy and can make with guidance. Certifiedsc.com reminds us that strawberries are in season, so while Mom reads the paper or scrolls through TikTok, help the little ones whip up a quick Strawberry Smoothie made with thick, delicious Greek-style yogurt. Blueberries are in season in South Carolina, too, so that smoothie will tide mom over until the Easy Blueberry Muffins are ready.

Strawberry Smoothie

- 1 cup milk or milk substitute
- 1 (5.3-ounce) FAGE Total Blended Strawberry

- 3/4 cup strawberries, hulled
- 1 tablespoon agave or maple syrup
- 1 cup ice, optional

For each smoothie, combine milk, Greek yogurt, fruit, syrup, and ice and blend until smooth.

Serve immediately.

Blueberry Muffins

- 2 cups Original Bisquick mix
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3/4 cup fresh or frozen (thawed and drained) blueberries

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Place a paper baking cup in each of 12 regular-size muffin cups. Combine Bisquick, milk, sugar, vegetable oil, and egg in a medium mixing bowl. Using an electric mixer or wire whisk, mix until the batter just comes together. Using a spoon or a spatula, stir in blueberries. Divide the batter evenly among the muffin cups.

Bake for 13-18 minutes or until golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the middle of a muffin comes out with no muffin batter. (A bit of wet blueberry is okay.) Transfer the muffin tin to a rack and cool for 5 minutes before serving. Makes 12.



Rose-bibbed and beautiful

Spring is such a great time to experience birds. My daughter just watched a pair of house finches raise a brood in her front door wreath. Carolina wrens are doing everything they can to get in our garage to nest in old



Ann K. Bailes

pants pockets, shelves, or anywhere they can find. Last week I watched a male cardinal beak-to-beak feed a female a sunflower seed — a sure sign of coming nesting. Birds are on the move, busily preparing to produce the next generation.

But in my opinion the best exclamation mark on the bird beauties of spring is the passing through of the rose-breasted grosbeaks.

These birds are stunning black and white with triangular rose-colored bibs on the chests of the males. They are totally migratory, meaning that the entire species makes the long trip to their spring nesting grounds in the northern U.S. states and southern Canada. In the autumn they make the return trip to the Caribbean islands and South America. At times they fly in loose flocks of fifty birds or so; other times they are more solitary. Though they do take land routes, research has shown that some groups of rose-breasted grosbeaks have flown over the entire Gulf of Mexico in a single night.

This spring they have passed through the Carolinas in abundance. My Facebook birding groups are studded with pictures and reports of rose-breasts, from Cayce to Camden to Charlotte, from Easley to Spartanburg, Greenville to Gaffney. . .and points all around Anderson. They seem to be traveling through in waves, and they just keep coming.

We get these gorgeous grosbeaks only for a three-week span in late April and early May, and by the time this issue comes out, the show may be over. But it has been particularly beautiful and widespread this year. On the last three days in April, we saw at least half a dozen of the stunning male birds daily, even though we were gone during much of each day. And we've also seen a number of the less flamboyant but still beautiful females.

I can't adequately describe the sight it is to look out a window at feeders that usually are filled with house finches, chickadees, and titmice — all nice birds in their own right, but common — and see one of these striking rose-bibbed beauties, filling up on our sunflower seed to fuel itself for its continuing flight north.

By now, only a few stragglers may be left, but these pictures are in my memory for another year. Congrats to all the locals who had the privilege of seeing one of this year's migrating rose-breasted grosbeaks. A glimpse of one is a gift with a beautiful splash of color!

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THE GARDEN SHOP

SEEING THE LIGHT ON WHITE



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
master
gardener

For the most part, years ago, a plant with white blooms would be passed over for my garden. White azaleas are pretty in bloom but they don't seem to last long, then one has to look at the brown, faded, yucky blooms. Pretty much the same for camellias. White ones are beautiful but the slightest unusual cold snap then they're brown. A dear friend has a strong preference for white, so much so, that I only know of one plant in her yard with blooms that are not white. Yes, I talked her into planting Amsonia for its beautiful fall color. Maybe its sky blue flowers can be tolerated for a few weeks in exchange for brilliant golden colors later.

When Mama and I were plant shopping last week, both new additions for the garden have white blooms. At our first stop, a climbing rose caught my eye. There were no blooms but the

foliage was practically perfect. Upon looking up the flowers for Cloud 10, pure white, very full blooms like classic English roses, came up in the first picture. All information said it is a great rose for the south, has exceptionally clean foliage, resistant to black spot, practically resistant to rust and mildew, and is a vigorous climber, growing to eight feet tall and five feet wide. The only downside is it might not be a wonderfully fragrant rose. One site described it as an exotic musk scent. If all other descriptions are true, I can live with it not being a great smelling rose. Bloom time is primarily in spring but it is supposed to re-bloom throughout the year.

On our next stop, at the front of the garden center was a large display of clematis. Mama is a clematis connoisseur and has dozens. I thought "Uh oh, she's gonna be in trouble". But not one caught her eye. She said none were very different than what she already has. However, Henryi caught mine, with its large white flowers. There I go again with white. Of course my friend came to mind. When the house was painted in fall of 2021, confederate jasmine on a trellis was killed. The trellis actually is an old

casement window that I picked up off the side of the road. I did not want to put jasmine back because even though the window was mounted low enough (I thought) so I would not have to get on a ladder, that plan turned out wrong. I collected little stained glass things here and there to put in the "window panes" and thought it's good enough. But then a light bulb turned on and it occurred to me Cloud 10 and Henryi could go on the trellis. There should be enough sun for both. Since Cloud 10 is supposed to be so disease resistant, maybe there is enough air circulation for it too. The trellis is mounted far enough from the house that I can get behind it.

Pruning clematis can be very tricky. Prune at the wrong time and there goes next year's blooms. Mixing Henryi with Cloud 10, I won't have to worry about pruning the clematis or live with brown stems all winter. Experts put clematis in groups and Henryi is in group 2, meaning don't prune much at all. Group 1 flowers on old wood (previous year's growth) and should only be pruned, very little, after flowering. Group 3 flowers on new wood and can be cut to the ground in fall. When catching up with my friend, I told her about my new white



Henryi clematis bloom

flowers and suggested she is rubbing off on me. Looking out the window while we were talking, mock orange (*Philadelphus pubescens*), near the trellis, is blooming with white flowers. White peonies are scattered throughout the front garden. Mother Nature plants white daisies each year. I have no idea where they came from or where they'll show up. Strawberry begonias (*Saxifraga stolonifera*) are blooming with their dainty little white flowers. As my friend said "Maybe I'm seeing the light on white" and there is more white in the garden already than I realized.

THE STUMP

We have a small embankment that runs the length of one side of our house. My wife decided she'd like to add a flower bed in the only sunny spot on this bank. A few years ago I cut down a Bradford pear tree in that very place and hoped the stump would rot away; it didn't. Now I know that I can drill holes and add a chemical that when set ablaze will eventually destroy the stump, but I'm as stubborn as my short wooden enemy and prefer a more



Neal Parnell

physical attack. I lug out the four tools that should get the job done in short order. Each of these tools are expertly designed by Satan himself to break the spirit and back of any man fool-hardy enough to use them. I start by poking around the perimeter of the stump with the least evil tool, the shovel. On the first poke, I hit a root, same with the second, and so on until I surmised that the shovel would be of no use. I grab the next demon-possessed



tool, the post-hole digger, and attempt to dig between the roots I'd found. I raise the handles of the double-spaded implement over my head and drive it downward into the soil. The vibration of a hidden root shook two buttons off my shirt and stunned me like a tased escapee. I swear I heard ol' Stumpy giggle as I tossed that second tool aside. Stumpy stopped giggling



as I bent to wake the twenty-pound mattock from its nap. This tool has been around almost as long as the devil and can pick and cut through practically anything. If you're looking for hard labor just swing a mattock, once. I spit in both hands, bowed back, and struck one of Stumpy's appendages. Stumpy didn't blink as a tiny chip of bark flew over my head. I was dealing with some sort of petrified iron-wood and the giggling got louder as I chucked the mattock to the ground. I took the protective leather cover from the axe and a glint of sunlight gleamed off the razor-sharp edge.

Stumpy swallowed hard and tensed as I grabbed two handfuls of curved hickory and swung with all my might. Sparks flew and my hands went numb as I struck what I now perceived as an alien being from planet Krypton, and I had no Kryptonite. I looked at those four tools that just a bit ago had hung undefeated in the shed of honor, but now hung their heads in shame. I propped them in the corner of the shed as punishment and left their appointed spots empty for them to see. I was determined to slay my foe without the use of gasoline or electricity. I did search Amazon for some DYNAMITE but all they offered was a romance novel by the same name. I opened the shed early next morning and looked for a weapon of mass destruction. I couldn't believe I considered using it, but there in a bucket by the door, was my wife's pink-handled Dollar Tree potting trowel. Stumpy bawled with laughter as I scooped teaspoons of dirt from under his largest leg. The laughter turned to moans as my bow-saw amputated Stumpy's extremity. I was laughing as I placed a bottle jack under Stumpy's fresh cut. A couple of pumps and I heard the crack of impending victory. Just a few more pumps and cracks and Stumpy was free from earthly bonds. The pink-handled trowel now hangs majestically in a place of honor above all others.

Anyone can be a (second) mom

"Ms. vK, you're like my second mom."

"Hi, Second Mom."

"This is Mrs. von Keller, my second mom."

If you have teenagers, you are likely to hear some version of things like this from their friends who spend time at your house. I heard that a lot from Elizabeth's friends when they would come over to swim, do homework, or complete a group project that involved lots of crafting supplies. (True story: I still find red glitter in my family room from a series of trigonometry posters they made during the first Obama Administration.)

It is not like I was some kind of super woman. If I had really

been like a second mom, I would have told them to stop slouching, prepare for the SAT, and make good choices. Instead, I baked cookies, listened to their stories, and asked them questions.



Kim von Keller

In other words, I made them feel connected.

It is what moms do. It is also something that anyone can do, and it cuts to the core of what so many of us crave, whether we are 13 or 93. I've been thinking about that a lot after reading "Our Epidemic

of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community."

If I am being honest, I am more likely to read recipes for desserts and stories about why Harry isn't taking Meghan to his dad's coronation than anything on the website of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I always thought that the Surgeon General's job was to hound us about decreasing our intake of yummy things like bacon and movie-theater popcorn and increasing our intake of healthy things like fiber and – well, fiber. It seems that loneliness, though, can be as dangerous as cholesterol. According to the advisory, loneli-

ness "... is associated with increased risk for anxiety, depression, and dementia."

Why are we lonelier than ever? Pandemic conditions certainly did not help. Work became remote. School became remote. Even though restrictions have been lifted, we work longer hours, cutting into time to socialize. The water cooler that our parents gathered around has been replaced by the Dasani we keep at our desks. And when we do reach out to another person, we are far more likely to do it via text than in person.

I understand social isolation. When I had my Unfortunate Accident last year, I wheelchaired myself back to work as soon as I could. I wasn't gunning for

Employee of the Year; rather, I couldn't stand the idea of being home alone. For me, the office was like therapy as I had people to talk to, especially Wayne, our IT guy. Each day, he would video my efforts to increase my distance across the parking lot by increasing my speed down the curb cut. He also shared excellent baked goods, and I didn't want to miss Buttermilk Biscuit Day. Even at my age, I needed a second mom. Even though he has no kids, he was able to be a second mom.

So be on the lookout for someone who needs some mothering. Ask questions. Listen to the answers. Share some cookies. But only First Moms get to comment on the slouching.

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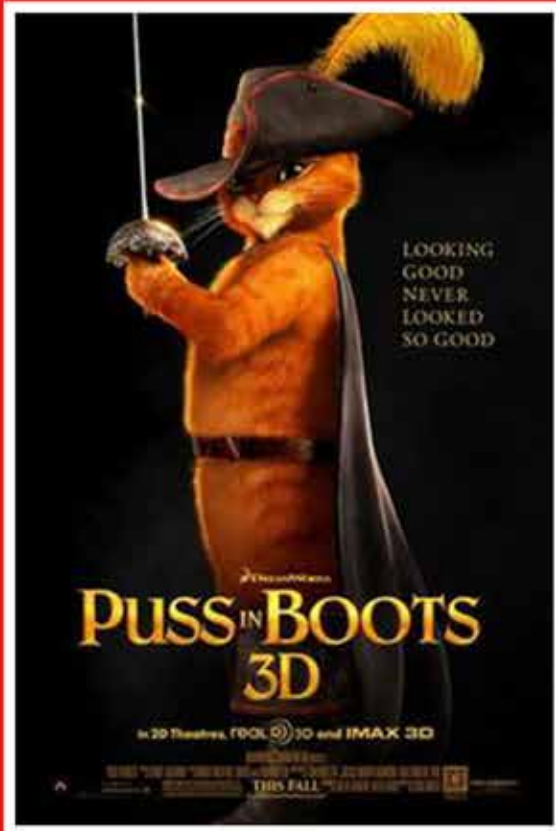
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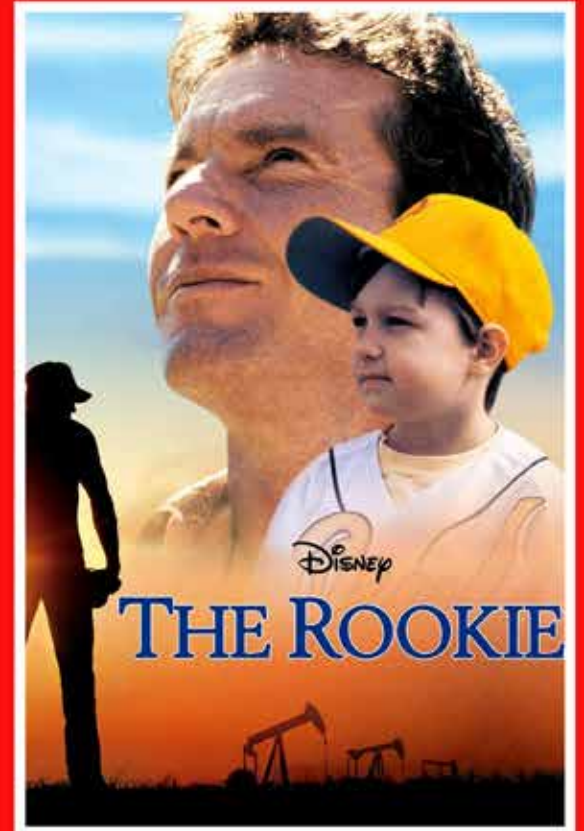


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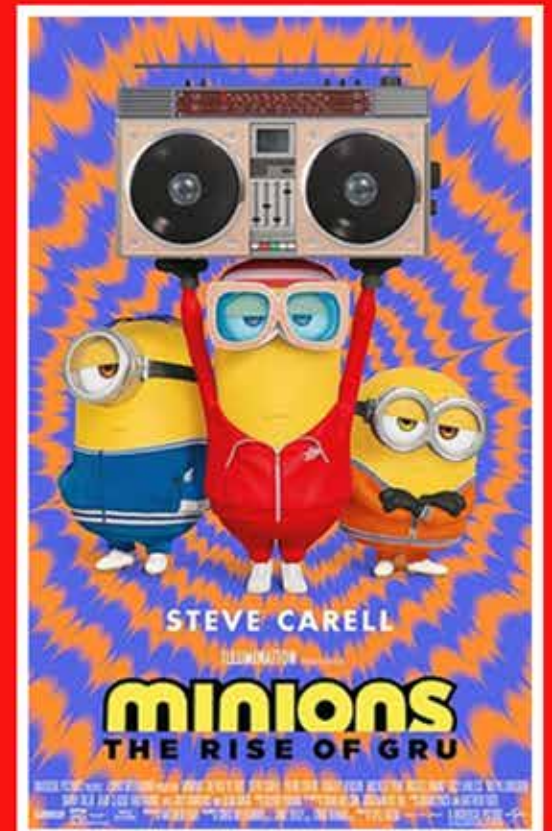
The Rookie

Friday, June 23 @ 8:55pm



Addams Family 2

Friday, July 14 @ 8:50pm



Minions : The Rise of Gru

Friday, August 11 @ 8:30pm

CHET

I found my way through the hospital corridors. I was running a little late, so I was jogging through the medical center.

The young man was waiting for me in his hospital bed. He was wearing a cowboy hat with a hospital gown.



Sean Dietrich

"Thanks for visiting me," he said.

He smiled.

The boy is 13, he has gone through multiple surgeries. The muscles in his face have been affected by the surgeries, so his smile is uniquely beautiful.

He is a nice-looking boy. He's been through a lot. You can tell it by his attitude.

"I appreciate you visiting me."

"Are you kidding?" I replied. "I'm a writer. Which means if I didn't have a wife, I'd be living underneath an overpass. I appreciate you WANTING to meet a writer like me."

"I like your writing."

"I'm sorry to hear that."

"I am a writer too."

"Yes. That's what your father told me. What do you like to write?"

"I write stories about cowboys."

Verily I say unto thee, this is a boy after my own heart. I fear that in our era of high-tech movie graphics, Chat GPT, and AI we are going to lose a love of pure Westerns. But this child gives me hope.

He is even a John Wayne fan. My holster runneth over.

"Can I read one of my stories to you?" he says.

"I'd be honored."

"Maybe you can tell me what you think about it; as one writer to another."

The boy clears his throat. He removes a sheet of paper from a folder and assumes a recitation voice.

I'm paraphrasing here, but he tells a story about a young cowboy named Chet.

Chet was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Chet, the young hero, was told he would never recover. Oh, how his parents cried. And, oh, how the boy nearly lost hope.

"It was very hard on the young Chet," said the kid. "He didn't want to give up."

The boy looked up from his paper. "Chet was very sad, because he wanted to be an old man someday, just like you."

I smiled and jingled the change in my pockets.

The story went on. Chet was undaunted by the news of his illness. He knew there were a lot of people praying for him.

For starters, everyone in Chet's little country church. Secondly, everyone's friends and relatives in town were praying.

The cowboy was stuck in the hospital. But all the praying people started sending gifts to him. Every day, they sent gifts which arrived in the hospital. Handmade quilts, huge baskets of food, and all kinds of paraphernalia related to six-shooters, square-toed boots, and lassos.

He even received a genuine Rodeo King hat. Silverbelly, beaver pelt, 10X.

As the story goes: Chet's doctors tried an experimental procedure. It was a last ditch effort, but all Westerns are built on such efforts. The treatment was dangerous. Chet could have died. He was under the knife for several hours.

"Several, SEVERAL hours," the kid's mother adds.

"Then what happened?" I asked.

The kid smiles a beautifully off-center smile. He keeps reading.

"It worked," his little voice squeaks. "Chet woke up one morning and he was completely okay and all the doctors couldn't believe he was okay! Because they all said Chet was supposed to be dead! But you know what?"

"What?" I asked.

"Chet KNEW that wasn't going to happen! Because cowboys just know!"

The kid was using a lot of exclamation points.

When his story was finished, we embraced. His parents asked to let their son remain anonymous.

Then, his mother whispered into my ear that her child has been cancer free for three years now. He is only in the hospital now for a routine thing. Just a bunch of tests and checkups.

We released our embrace.

The young man smiled his uniquely off-center smile at me. "I'm actually the cowboy in the story," he admitted.

I had a feeling you were, Chet.

I just had a feeling.



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T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

Hanna baseball still alive in playoffs, softball season over

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — Nearly a week into their playoff runs, the T.L. Hanna baseball and softball teams have seen some big highs and sad defeats.

In baseball, the Yellow Jackets opened the playoffs on May 2 hosting the Dutch Fork Silver Foxes. A close matchup throughout, Hanna came out on top in the extra inning battle as Will Craddock drove in Walker Klugh in with a walk-off single in the bottom of the eighth.

In addition to Craddock, the Yellow Jackets got a big day from Brett Boone in the batter's box. Boone went 3-4 with two doubles and an RBI in the win. The Jackets also saw solid performances on the mound from Jackson Robinson and Cam Townsend. Despite giving up 12 hits, Robinson controlled the damage with just three runs and eight strikeouts, while Townsend got win in 2.1 innings in relief.

Things didn't get any easier for the Yellow Jackets two days later, as they hosted Fort Mill. Falling behind 2-0 early, Hanna managed their second straight walk-off as Boone drove in two runs in the bottom of the seventh to give the Jackets a 3-2 win.

Alongside Boone's two RBIs, Brooks Bloomer also drove in a run for Hanna. On the mound, Seth Manning pitched a gem giving up six hits and striking out four batters.

Taking on Dutch Fork again for the district championship,

Hanna prevailed 6-3 to advance to the Upper State District championship.

Home runs from Bloomer and Craddock were huge for Hanna in the win, while Broome added two more RBIs. Reece Oakley got the win on the mound for Hanna giving just three hits in 3.2 relief innings.

Meanwhile in softball, the Yellow Jackets also opened the playoffs against Dutch Fork. Hanna was stunned in its playoff opener taking a 7-1 loss to fall into the loser's bracket.

Grayce Shortridge and Emma Williams managed the only hits for Hanna in the loss, while Addison Sharp had a rough outing in the circle giving up seven runs and walking eight.

Two days later, the Yellow Jackets returned to action with their season on the line against Nation Ford. Hanna managed to survive a late scare against the Falcons in a 6-5 win.

Allie Grace Pruitt and Jada Sanders controlled things in the batter's box for Hanna each driving in two runs. Sharpe also had a nice bounce back effort in the circle getting the win.

Still in win or go home mode, Hanna hosted Dutch Fork once again on May 8. The Yellow Jackets once again failed to take down the Silver Foxes ending their season in a 7-2 loss.

McKenzie Wessel was the only Jacket batter to add multiple hits in the loss while Sharpe took the loss in the circle after walking six.

WESTSIDE RAMS

Ram softball squad still has chance at winning district title

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — With the playoffs in full swing, the Westside Rams have seen up and down playoff results from their baseball and softball teams.

In baseball, the Westside Rams began their playoff run on May 1 against North Augusta. Falling behind early, the Rams were never able to catch up against the Yellow Jackets falling 9-0.

Jacob Kirkus got the start for the Rams, but only lasted one inning as he gave five runs on four hits in the opening inning. The Rams didn't look much better in the batter's box picking up just four hits from Camden Crosby, Mikey Scott, Jaxon Thomas and Jaylen Telley.

Trying to stay alive, the Rams traveled to Taylors on May 3 to take on the Eastside Eagles. After giving up eight runs in the third, the Rams battled their way back into the game only to fall 10-8 to end their season.

Jaxon Thomas and Elijah Grant proved to have the big bats for Westside with Thomas driving in three runs, while Grant added a home run. On the mound, Westside ran through pitchers as they struggled to get outs with Tyler Scott, Ace Amidon, Samuel Parnel, Jackson Holmes and Mikey Scott all pitching for the Rams.

Meanwhile in softball, the Rams are still in the hunt for an upper state championship appearance.

The region champion Ram softball teamed kicked off the playoffs on May 2 against Airport.

The Rams were able to take control of the game early and didn't look back in a 9-4 win.

Elissa Rich starred for the Rams in the victory pitching a complete game in the circle, while going 2-4 with two doubles and a RBI in the batter's box. Mackenzie Jefferson also had a strong day for Westside going 2-2.

Two days later, Westside hosted Riverside hoping to stay in the winner's bracket in Upper State District 1. After falling behind 2-0, the Rams battled back and used a walk-off double from Samantha Haney to secure a 3-2 win.

Alongside Haney's big hit, Westside was able to rely on Amelia Wilson in the batter's box with the first baseman going 1-3 and driving in a run. In the circle, Rich had another stellar day giving up just three hits and striking out seven batters in the complete game win.

Coming off the win, Westside hosted North Augusta on May 11 trying to secure home field for the District Championship. The Yellow Jacket relied heavily on their bats to upset Westside and move them to the loser's bracket in a 17-4 win.

Despite a multi hit day from Cadence Cribb, Rich struggled to get stops in the circle for the Rams giving up 14 hits and walking eight batters.

The Rams will host the York/Easley on May 11 for a chance to play North Augusta for the District Championship on May 13 and May 15.

Should I buy a home or continue renting?

Many are wondering if it's time to buy a home or continue to rent. Though that is a personal decision, there are a few things to consider. Rental affordability can be a challenge and has been for several years. Realtor.



Tina Brown

com shows in their latest rental report that rents have continued to rise recently, though at a slower pace than during the pandemic. According to that recent report, the median rent in the US was \$1,732, up \$15 from the previous month, but down by \$32 from the peak but is still 25.7% higher than in 2019.

Owning your own home has long been recognized as the ultimate American dream. There may be many reasons why people may not want to own a home, but there's no denying that being a homeowner can have a big impact on your net worth. The Survey of Consumer Finances states the median household net worth in the US is \$121,700 and the difference between the net worth of homeowners versus renters is staggering. In 2019, homeowners in the US had a median net worth of \$255,000, while renters had a net worth of just \$6,300. That is a difference of 40 times between the two researched groups. There are many factors that play into this difference. One could say that a house payment is a forced savings plan where each month part of the payment goes toward the equity of the home. Renting is a sunk cost with no return on the investment.

Historically homes have appreciated in value increasing the overall net worth; also, homeowners can take advantage of tax write-offs unavailable to renters.



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey was recently asked, "Should I buy a home in 2023?" He responded with 3 things that happen with home ownership that make you want to do it as a long-term play vs. renting your whole life.

1. Rents go up every year and more of your money goes out the door. When you buy a home and lock down the payment, your rent doesn't go up anymore.

The value of the house goes up.

2. It's a great wealth building tool and it stabilizes the largest line item in your budget, which is housing.

3. If you're trying to decide whether to buy a home or continue renting, find a trusted real estate professional in your area to help

you explore your options. With rents rising, it may make more sense to pursue homeownership.



Tiny Tot Triathlon

presented by:



Saturday, May 20, 2023

at the

Anderson Area YMCA

Bring your "tiny tot" for a morning of kid-friendly triathlon activities. Participants will run 600 feet, bike 1200 feet, and get "wet" in a water feature as they make their way to the finish line where everyone receives a medal. Bring a bicycle, tricycle or scooter (with helmet), and wear tennis shoes and comfortable athletic clothing that can get wet at the end. A family member is encouraged to assist their child as they make their way through the course.

Ages: 3-7

Event Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

(Waves start every five minutes and will be assigned first come, first serve at packet pick-up)

Pre-registration cost: \$20.00 (\$25.00 Day-of)

Cost includes t-shirt and medal

T-shirt guaranteed if registered by May 12th

Packet Pick-Up: Friday, May 19th, 3pm – 6pm (front drive-thru of YMCA)

Saturday, May 20th, 8am – 9am (tent near Water Works)

To Register: Scan the QR Code above to register on-line, or visit our front desk to register in person.

*** Adaptive Division***

We welcome participants with diverse abilities from our community.

The adaptive division takes place on the same course, but may be modified for our participants who face physical and intellectual challenges. There is NO AGE LIMIT for the adaptive division.



To register:



PMOA visits Andersonians at War exhibit

The Piedmont Military Officer's Association visited the new Andersonians in War exhibit at the Anderson County Museum.

On March 16th following their meeting and catered lunch Beverly Childs, Executive Director and Curator Dustin Norris spoke about the museum and then led a tour of this outstanding permanent exhibit called Andersonians at War.

Entry into the exhibit through Veteran's Hall is a chamber of black marble and skylights featuring the American Flag and the Military Branch Seals of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. Any veteran or service member who has lived

in Anderson County is eligible for inclusion in Veteran's Hall.

Pictured here is CDR Robert Fant Jr, USN during his service and now with his wife Becky. CDR

Fant was born in Anderson and served 20 years in the Navy from 1960 til his retirement in 1980 spending almost 5 years as a POW in Vietnam. They currently live in Clemson Downs.

Moving through the

exhibits there are many scenes depicting Andersonians in wars throughout history. The Anderson Doughboy that was vandalized several years ago at the American Legion was reconstructed to show the extent of the damage done.



Anderson County Museum



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2016 KIA SORENTO LX Stk#24162B.....	\$18,988	2020 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L Stk#23896A.....	\$22,497	2020 HONDA CIVIC SPORT Stk#23704C.....	\$25,988
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Best of the Met Gala



Kerry Washington

On May 1st of every year, the Met Gala or also formerly known as The Costume Institute Ball is held in my favorite city on the planet, New York City! Right in the heart of Manhattan, celebrities are dressed to the nines to raise money, benefitting The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Every year there is a theme and this particular year the concept was based on Karl Lagerfeld, "A Line of Beauty" and all of his exquisite designs for Chanel.



Kristine March

In 2019 he passed away at the age of 85, but his designs will be eternal. Everyone looked beautiful, timeless and extremely graceful this year. I have my top looks and they are listed as follows. Number one goes to the beautiful, Kerry Washington. She was dressed in Michael Kors. She wore a sultry, mermaid style two-pieced number. It was embellished with black sequins, a tulip shaped skirt with a matching hand beaded bandeau

top and her team draped her in an oversized black blazer on top of her gown, with a diamond choker and a diamond cocktail ring to finish off the look. She wore her hair up in a chignon bun and looked like an actual goddess.

My second favorite look of the night goes to Penelope Cruz. She went full vintage Chanel from Spring / Summer 1998. She wore an ethereal bridal look with a belted cinched-in waste. It was a pale blue or almost a mint-colored gown. She also wore a sheer organza



Penelope Cruz

hood and her makeup was done by Charlotte Tilbury, a nude lip with a slight smokey eye and it was total perfection. She wore her hair in a tight ballerina bun to show off her stunning features paired with dropped gemstone earrings. She looked like an actual earth angel. So lovely.

Lastly, my third and final pick of the night, goes to supermodel, Emily Ratajkowski. She wore a plunging cream-colored gown by the designer, Tory Burch. She paid homage to Audrey Hepburn with her brunette short bangs and a big black velvet ribbon in her hair. She did a fierce and heavy winged eyeliner with long diamond earrings. She absolutely stunned. She also hosted the glittering after party. Oh, to be a fly on the wall. Femininity mixed with sparkles were definitely everything this year and I'm here for it. What were some of your favorite Met Gala looks this year? Hopefully, all of these looks will inspire you to wear something to your next gala or big event. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.



Emily Ratajkowski



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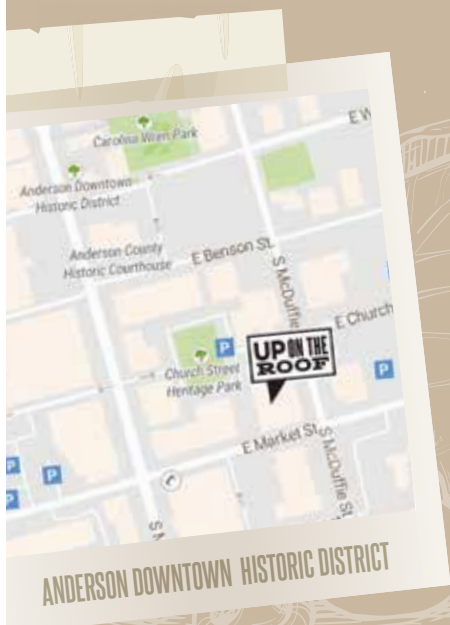
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