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March 4-17, 2021

Buy-A-Box to alleviate childhood hunger in Anderson County.

Each box provides 32 meals to children in need.

Due to the pandemic, up to 18 million US children may face hunger this year

Buy-a-Box to feed Anderson County children.

Children who are hungry are more likely to face sickness

Support children through Weekend SnackPack.

Weekend SnackPack

Childhood hunger is a silent epidemic that affects nearly 1 in 4 children. For the poorest school-age children, Friday night begins the Weekend Meal Gap, two days when the school lunch programs are not available and the children have little or nothing to eat. These children

come back to school on Mondays, famished and weak, thinking only of the free meal that will come at breakfast and/or lunchtime.

Hungry children are often unable to fully engage in daily activities such as school and social interaction with peers. Children who have little

or nothing to eat over the weekend return back to school on Monday hungry and unable to concentrate, learn and sometimes are unable to control impulses, leading to behavior issues.

Through the Weekend SnackPack Program, teachers and counselors at

all elementary schools in Anderson County identify children who are at the greatest risk of falling into the Weekend Meal Gap. Free and reduced breakfasts and lunches are only available during the week, so the program provides needy children with meals to take home on Fridays. Each enrolled child receives a bag of child-friendly, ready-to-eat foods on Friday to take home for the weekend, when school meals are not available. Children return to school on Monday, well-fed and ready to learn.

Buy a box today to feed 8 children for a weekend!

- 1 box = feeds 8 children.
- 2 boxes = feeds 16 children.
- 4 boxes = feeds 32 children.
- 13 boxes = feeds 104 children.
- 26 boxes = feeds 208 children.

GIVE TODAY:

Call 864-226-3438 or give online at unitedwayofanderson.org/buyabox.

For more information email Liz Brock at liz.brock@uwandersoncty.com.



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T.L. Hanna High presents 4th annual Wearable Art Exhibition



The T.L. Hanna High School Visual Arts Department presented its 4th annual Wearable Art Exhibition on Friday, February 19th and Saturday February 20th at the Anderson Arts Center. The exhibition is an unconventional fashion show featuring current, former students, and instructors.

The participants were challenged to create unique designs using unconventional

or recycled materials. Materials used ranged from dryer sheets, industrial trash bags, Kit-Kat wrappers, plastic bottles, old yearbooks, tea bags, can tabs, drink cartons etc. "We were incredibly proud of what our students achieved despite all the obstacles they had to work around this year", said Kathy Moore, Visual Arts Instructor at T.L. Hanna High School.

Photography by Libby Williams @ libbywilliamsphotographs.com



Clockwise from above: Stephanie Roznowski, Julia Ngo, Visual Arts Department, Belle Brechbiel, Dakota Myers

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TO SEND INFORMATION
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Start spring with the Seed Library

Check out seeds from the Anderson Main Library beginning March 1 when the Seed Library reopens for spring. The Seed Library allows library cardholders to check out up to five seed packets at a time, no returns necessary. The Seed Library is made possible by a partnership between the Anderson County Library System and the Anderson County Soil and Water Conservation District and aims to foster and engage Anderson residents of all ages in food and environmental sustainability.

Check out up to five seed packets with an Anderson County Library card. Library cards are free for anyone who lives, works, or owns property in Anderson County. Each seed packet contains multiple seeds, and seeds range from vegetables, herbs, and limited fruit and flowers. Then, plant and see what grows. There's



nothing to return and what grows is yours to keep. For a full list of available seeds visit www.andersonlibrary.org/seed-library. For help with growing, gardening guides and books are available to check out from the library or find additional information from Clemson Cooperative Extension's Home and Garden Center online at hgic.clemson.edu.

In addition to the Seed Library, enjoy free activities for kids,

teens, and adults during March. Beginning March 8 tweens ages 8-12 can pick up a grab and go kit to learn about microgreens and get supplies to grow their own. Tweens and teens can make their own seed bombs on Thursday, March 11 at 4:30, held virtually. Call or visit calendar.andersonlibrary.org to register, and then come by the library to pick up supplies. Adults have two different take and make activity kits: make



a seed bomb or a felt flower bookmark. Kits include most supplies and are available for pickup at any library location upon request. Look for the Creative Crafters tutorial for the felt flower bookmark on the Library's Facebook page on March 9.

Visit the Anderson Main Library, go to www.andersonlibrary.org, or follow the Library on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram for more information on the Seed Library and other library events and news.

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In-house absentee voting now open for Democratic primary

Registered voters, who qualify, and intend to cast absentee ballots in-person for the March 30, 2021 Democratic Primary may do so now.
In-person Absentee Voting will be

conducted Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and will end on Monday, March 29th at 5:00 p.m. The Voter Registration Office is located at 301 North Main Street. For more information on voting

Absentee in-person or by mail please call 864-260-4035.
People are encouraged to visit www.scvotes.org to learn more about Absentee Voting and the Voting Process.

March

BY EUNICE SULLIVAN PRACHT
Unkempt, undisciplined March
Races,
Carrying great gusts of air
Into the winterswept world.
She entwines early jonquils.
And red tulips about
Her
And simultaneously beckons
An icy gale to surround her,
The mistress of trickery.

Author of *White Heather*, a collection of forty poems which became a best seller. A reprint and forward will be published with all net profits donated to charity. To be released June 9, 2021.

Dr. Archibald Rutledge, the late Poet



Chris Pracht, Eunice Pracht and Christopher Pracht

Laureate of South Carolina, gave his review of *White Heather* as follows: "In these days of so much bad taste in poetry, it is a real delight to come across a beautiful book like *White Heather*. The poems are clear, wise poignant, and beautiful. Especially in these crazy days, what more could a reader wish? Anderson, our state, our whole country should be proud of this modest and genuine poet. I know that I am."

Library's 8th annual poetry contest open

Poets in Anderson County, professional and amateur, are invited to submit an original poem for the Anderson County Library System's Eighth Annual Poetry Contest. Submissions are open February 15 through March 19 for anyone ages 12 and up who lives, works, or owns property in Anderson County.

The Library's annual poetry contest is an opportunity to celebrate National Poetry Month held each April and highlight the creativity and artistic talent in the Anderson community.

Poems entered into the contest will be published in an anthology, which is available to preorder and will be added to the Library's collections. Past anthologies are available

to check out from any of the Library's nine branches.
Poems will be judged on originality, creativity, and artistic quality by Dr. Bob Hanley of Anderson University. One adult and one teen will be selected for a grand prize and a complimentary printed copy of the anthology. Winners of the Poetry Contest will be announced on Friday, April 30.

Express your creativity and submit your original poem online at www.andersonlibrary.org/poetry-contest or pick up and submit your paper entry form to any Anderson County Library location.

Visit www.andersonlibrary.org or contact adultprograms@andersonlibrary.org for more information.

**Penguin Books
Author Event**
Author: Sue Monk Kidd
Title: THE BOOK OF LONGINGS
(Penguin Trade Paperback;
ISBN: 9780143111399; OS:
3/23/21; \$17)
Date: Sunday, March 28
Time: 2:40 pm ET click in for
3:00 to 4:30 pm ET Zoom
Event
Event Site: VIRTUAL
EVENT: Anderson Forum for
Progressive Theology
Contact / Phone / Email:
Steve Morgan / 864-614-
9288 /
stevenmorgan1001@gmail.com
Forum Rep: Stuart
Sprague/864-314-5640
/sprague_s@bellsouth.net
Format: Stuart Sprague will
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CARL CLOSE

BY RICH OTTER

Carl Close was certainly a celebrity. He secured a distinguished position on the FBI's top 10 most wanted list shortly before making a trip to Anderson.

He was an imposing figure, well dressed and handsome. It was reported he visited a used car dealer in Anderson and test drove a 1955 brown and white Cadillac. He later returned and asked if he could take the car for his wife's approval. Granted permission, he departed and drove to the first National Bank on North Main Street.

Upon arrival at the bank he encountered tellers Mrs. Catherine Erwin and Mrs. Evelyn Jackson and assistant manager Claude Jones, Jr. The manager, John Higginbotham, and a customer were in the manager's office unaware of the visit. With a seven shot Beretta exposed, he requested Mrs. Erwin and Mrs. Jackson to fill a bag he had conveniently brought for the funds from their drawers.

He checked to make sure they had not fudged on his withdrawal and as he turned to leave a guard from Anderson Armored Car Service entered with two bags of money. Seeing Close behind the counter, the guard assumed he was a bank employee until he felt the Beretta sticking in his back. The guard and Jones were escorted into the vault and invited to remain there.

What Close had not noticed was that as he had turned away after getting the funds Mrs. Erwin had pressed the silent alarm button that alerted the radio operator at the Anderson police department. Jim Burriss was immediately on the radio reporting the bank alarm. Patrolman Louie Brock (who happened to be the owner of Anderson Armored Car Service) and Leroy Faust sped to the bank, siren blar-



Carl Close mug shot

ing. Faust radioed the car description received from bank employees. Detectives Allen Martin and Julian Jones, two who were only a few blocks away spotted the described Cadillac.

Close had seen the detectives' car but it was unmarked and no siren was sounding although he had heard sirens as he left the bank. He swung in behind a textile plant where he had his personal Buick secreted and stepped out of the Cadillac. Martin and Jones had followed in behind him with Faust and Brock right behind them. Close was confronted by Martin and Jones and facing a shotgun. He quickly determined that was not good. Patrolmen Louie Spears and Rufus Mitchel also had arrived on the scene.

Close had sworn never to be taken alive but the leveled shotgun and the converging officers appealed to his more sensible instincts. A reach for his pistol did not seem prudent. Close raised his hands saying: "You fellows have a lot on the ball." He later was reported as commenting: "When you play this game you can't win them all."

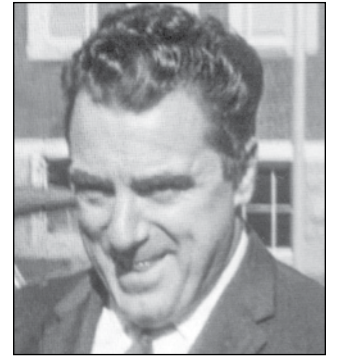
Having already spent time in Leavenworth, Alcatraz and the Atlanta Penitentiary, Close certainly spoke from experience. He was escorted to the police department where he was of good spirit, cooperating, and seeming to enjoy the assembled crop of reporters and

cerated. In between the two Baltimore heists he and his family had spent an enjoyable two weeks vacationing in Florida and they apparently had needed

to refresh their coffers with the return heist. In 1963 he had stayed busy with at least three other robberies before coming to Anderson.

For his Anderson endeavor, he was sentenced to 25 years. Emerging from the courthouse, with a broad grin Close joked with reporters and the police. His only complaint had been that when in solitary confinement he didn't have anyone with whom he could play chess.

Close reputedly faced an additional 65 years for his other activities but obviously did not have to fully fulfill those obligations as he quietly passed away in 1987 in Florida at age 72 where he had been living comfortably, likely thanks to stashed loot.



Carl Close after sentencing



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YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Winter exercises to keep you fit and healthy!

When I look outside, I am just not sure. But, yes, Spring is coming!

But right now, winter's chilly temperatures and the risk of viral exposure can discourage even the most active people from outdoor exercising. Don't let this happen to you. As we all know, staying active helps reduce stress, boosts our energy level, helps us sleep better, and even improves our attitude.

To this end, there are so-called "winter" or more specifically "indoor exercise" routines fitness experts recommend that are ideal when it's cold, gloomy, wet, and you either can't or don't feel like being outside. (Also, for the time being group activities are not recommended.) To keep it simple here are interesting options that are easy to incorporate into your schedule, take little time, and do not require equipment or membership fees. Plus, you get immediate benefit:

1. Stretching. Flexibility is one of the

most neglected components of fitness, and one of the most important, especially as we



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

get older. Beginners should start with simple static stretching. Get into a stretch position, and hold it for 15-30 seconds, without bouncing. A good stretching routine requires only five minutes a day. This small investment can

make a huge difference. You will look leaner, stand taller, and have better posture which can take years off your appearance.

2. Dance. Why not have fun! Whether it is free-form movement to your favorite pop song, a choreographed hip-hop routine, or even waltzing around your living room with a partner. Dance does wonders for your mental health too. Plus, you can burn a lot

of calories per hour dancing, depending on the style.

3. Wall Chair. Ok. This is a little different. Buy try it. It is often used to improve stamina and lower body strength by health-care providers who work inside for long hours on their feet. Place your back against the wall – lower yourself into a sitting position – and hold. Feel the burn!

4. Plank. Considered the gold-standard for developing core strength. Stretch out holding your body off the floor with feet and elbows. To start out you can try a plank with your knees bent, and on the floor, rather than with your legs straight. Since I am a confirmed walker, I must add that on nice days I try to get outside for a brisk walk. If you have space, you can certainly walk indoors. Truly, there is no better overall exercise. The point is there is a lot we can do right inside our homes to improve our emotions, our vitality, and our appearance – and warm weather is coming! If you

have any questions, call us. Think of us as 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 visit grandoaksdental.com or facebook.com/GrandOaksDental.

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Seen on a cold morning

BY ANN BAILES

Today is a cold and dreary February day, and I write this while looking out at the “airport” in the trees by our dining area window. Birds are coming and going non-stop.

Pine warblers are everywhere, eating both suet and seeds, as they have been for several weeks. Some years we have hordes of goldfinches and a few pine warblers, but this year the reverse is true. The pine warbler is the same lemon-yellow color as a summer goldfinch, but does not have black wings. They can have variety in the amount of their yellow shading, but a bright yellow one is beautiful.

A Carolina wren pecks at a suet cake. Northern juncos scour the ground looking for spilled seed. Occasionally one flies up into the trees, but they are mostly ground feeders.

We were invaded by pine siskins this morning. They’ve been in the Anderson area all winter, but this is the first time we’ve seen them. The last time we saw siskins in the



neighborhood was six years ago, so it’s been awhile. These aggressive and hungry little birds are related to the goldfinches and often flock with them, which they are doing this morning. A few house finches have appeared, braving the presence of the siskins. Usually the house finches feel at home here, but siskins will intimidate anything.

Mike just pulled his truck

into the driveway, so everything scattered. Two chickadees quickly return; they are quite tame and don’t get too concerned about the presence of people. A cardinal returns also, as has an orange-crowned warbler which has taken over at the suet. And now a yellow-rumped warbler just displaced the orange-crowned. It too can be aggressive along with the siskins, so the squab-



bles out there are ongoing.

A tiny ruby-crowned kinglet has landed on the other suet feeder. It has a beautiful red crest that is rarely seen. Two nuthatches are coming in also - the small brown-headed, and the red-breasted, which is only here some winters when the cone crop up north is poor.

Here comes a blue jay, and the smaller species scatter again. Blue jays are beautiful, but they are bullies, and they command dominance over whichever feeder they choose to go to. A mockingbird and a brown thrasher have been here this morning also, and they are just as

bad about scaring the smaller birds off. The pecking order means big birds reign. Fortunately those larger birds usually don’t stay long.

A little downy woodpecker has appeared. It usually braves the suet, but there’s so much traffic today that it may not. Today it’s just getting seeds and pounding them against the branches of the tree.

I just made a list. We have had twenty different species of birds feeding right outside our window this morning. Partnering with nature is rewarding. It’s a simple pleasure in life, but one that is easy to love and enjoy!!



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ANDERSON REAL ESTATE BUSINESS

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While the end of the pandemic remains unforeseen, it appears there is little to no negative effect on commercial real estate in Anderson. In fact, as most expected the buying, selling, or leasing of properties to cease following the COVID-19 outbreak, the opposite has happened. Anderson is seeing economic growth as many businesses are entering the area, both national and local brands.

Many national retailers are starting to recognize the growth in demographics in Anderson as they consider the market one for expansion of their brand. Both Clemson Boulevard and East Greenville Street are seeing growth and expansion of business. As of Thursday, February 17th, HomeGoods officially opened their 21,000 square foot location on Clemson Boulevard which replaced Staples as a major tenant in the Midtowne Park Plaza. Five Below is set to open its first Anderson location as it takes the former Pier One Imports space in the Anderson Station shopping center located on Clemson Boulevard, just a little over a mile from I-85 Exit 19. The former Toys-R-Us space sits under contract currently and a user should be announced soon. There are also plans for a restaurant to be built on a portion of the parking lot. Chicken Salad Chick plans to have over 200 franchises by the end of 2021, which includes an E Greenville St location. They are set to open in the former Casa Fuentes and are currently upfitting the space.

There are also national retailers ready to expand their stake in Anderson, such as Dollar Tree, Dollar General and 7-Eleven. Dollar Tree plans to take up 10,000 square feet of the 45,000 square foot former Bi-Lo on E Greenville St, making this their first location on E Greenville St, but their fourth location in Anderson. 7-Eleven has two new locations in Anderson County, one on US-29 North and the other is planned to open at exit 27 (E Greenville St exit).

The hospitality industry is seeing expansion in Anderson as well. Residence Inn by Marriott of Anderson Clemson had its grand opening February 25th. The location opened on Interstate Boulevard, right off I-85 Exit 19. Similarly, Tru by Hilton is in permitting stages for their new Anderson location. It will be built at the end of Interstate Blvd at the end of the road next to the Regal where they plan to extend the road. Home2 Suites by Hilton is continuing progress on construction and estimates opening May 2021 in Downtown Anderson.

Magnetic South Brewery will open their first brick and mortar location at 516 N Main Street by summer of this year anchoring the new A&P Plaza developed by McCoy-Wright. Magnetic South Brewery will have a fully operational production facility on site, as well as a taproom, kitchen, spacious indoor seating area, and outdoor beer garden with walkup bar. Magnetic South Brewery will be Anderson's third brewery.

Anderson is also seeing plenty of economic growth through multiple different development projects. Clemson Common is a retail and multi-use development project on the former Abney Rose property that sits on Exit 19 of I-85 on roughly 65 acres. The development site offers easy access for businesses and is featured as the midway point between Atlanta and Charlotte, as well as the gateway to Clemson. This development is attracting the attention of many national tenants.

Clemson Grove is a multi-use development in Pendleton. The project is located at the intersection of US-76 and SC-187, both major connector roads between Interstate 85, Anderson and Clemson. Clemson Grove is situated on a 300+ acre parcel and features multiple commercial opportunities, 400+ single and multi-family units as well as the existing Miliken Plant. The commercial opportunities are endless with more than four strip centers proposed of various sizes and outparcels available along US-76 and SC-187.

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CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

I turn thirty-six on March the twentieth. Last year, I spent my birthday at home for the first time ever. I'm an identical twin and our birthday has always been kind of a big deal in my family. It's really wild to be



Kristine March

able to celebrate it with your built in best friend and this year we're going all out.

Last year, we were on a stay at home order so it was a somewhat depressing one. This year however, will be one for the books. I'm planning on making reservations at our most favorite moroccan restaurant in town where you sit on floor pillows and they have a belly dancer and everything. I'm not sure if they're providing the amazing dancer because of Covid but it will still be fantastic. The outfit needs to be fabulous, so what to wear?

We may start out at a birthday brunch to get the party started so if that's the case I would go for more of a day look. A pair of flare jeans and funky platform wedges or block heels and a cute springtime looking blouse with big earrings. Or a fun, loose fitting floral maxi dress with oversized shades and a mimosa in hand. Add a beautiful sparkling head band or if you really want to dazzle, an ornate flower crown that's not too trendy but authentic looking. A cute rancher hat always looks good.

For night, add some face jewels and glitter to the eyes. Go for a plunging neckline or a great little mini dress with faux snake skin booties. Dance the night away with your tambourine in hand and put some Stevie Nicks on the record player. If you want to wear your birthday suit, that's fine too. Just kidding but after all - you only live once, so make the sidewalk your runway and be sweet y'all. Happy Birthday to me!

NIBBLE & SIP

Chip chip, hooray!

As you should know by now, I'm a big fan of potato chips. With so many varieties to choose from, I seldom make a dip to go with them if they're tasty right out



Kim von Keller

of the bag. That being said, I like trees, too, and yet every Christmas, I decorate one with so many lights that it's visible to the International Space Station.

Since National Potato Chip Day is coming up on March 14th, I've been researching dips that will really dress up a kettle-style potato chip. If you've not tried them, kettle chips are usually cut thicker and fried twice. This makes them extra crunchy and sturdy, so they're less likely to break under the weight of a dip. So with that in mind, I'm gonna whip up a bowl of Sweet Onion and Blue Cheese Dip. With its caramelized sweet onions and sharp blue cheese, you could also use this as a topping on May 28, 2021: National Hamburger Day.

The chips and dip can be a little salty, so I'm pairing the Nibble with a Sip that is slightly sweet, sour, and bitter. The Jasmine is a gin cocktail that is great with savory snack food, but it's also delicious on its own, so much so that you might



want might want to make it on March 24, 2021, National Cocktail Day.

Sweet Onion and Blue Cheese Dip

- 1 1/2 c. thinly sliced sweet onions, such as Vidalias
- 2 T. vegetable oil
- 3/4 c. mayonnaise
- 3/4 c. sour cream
- 1/4 t. hot sauce (I like Tabasco.)
- 1 c. crumbled blue cheese

In a skillet, slowly cook onions in vegetable oil, stirring often, until golden and caramelized, 15-20 minutes. Remove the onions from the skillet and allow to come

to room temperature.

In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise, sour cream, and hot sauce. Stir in caramelized onions and blue cheese crumbles. Spoon into a serving dish and refrigerate for two to three hours to allow flavors to meld. Serves 4-6.

Jasmine

- 1 1/2 oz. gin
- 3/4 oz. lemon juice
- 1/4 oz. Campari
- 1/4 oz. triple sec or other orange liqueur

Combine all ingredients in a shaker filled with ice. Shake vigorously and strain into a martini glass. Serves 1.

Strategies for success for children's reading

In my previous column, I discussed how to find a "just-right book" for your reader. Once you've found the "just right" book, your young reader is ready to begin. Following are additional strategies that you can use to help your child when they become "stuck":

Think about the Meaning:

It is important that we encourage children to THINK about what they are reading. To use this strategy, try asking your child one or more of these questions to help them figure out the word:

What would make sense in the sentence?

You read _____. Does that make sense?

Look at the picture to help you read the word.

Think about what is happening in the story right now.

Go back to the beginning of that sentence and start it again.



Katie Laughridge

Skip over the word and continue reading until the end of the sentence. Now, go back to the beginning of the sentence and start again.

Use Visual Clues from the Words: Encouraging your child to use "visual clues" is another effective way to help them get "unstuck". Here are

few techniques you can try:

Look at the first letter(s) of the word. Say the first sound(s).

What would you expect to see at the beginning/middle/end of the word if the word is _____?

Spell the word out loud. Look at each letter.

We've seen that word before in this book. Let's find it on a page we've already read.

Do you see a part of the word (word chunk) that you already know?

Let's cover up a part of the word and read the part we see. (For example, if the word is walk, cover up the -ing. Let them read the word walk first, then adding the "ing" back.)

Sound it out. (This only works if the child has adequate word knowl-

edge and understands how to use phonics strategies for sounding out words.)

Do you see a prefix or a suffix in the word? Does a part of the word look familiar to you?

Can you break the word into syllables?

Relate it to Talking:

Simply asking our child to think about how a word should sound if it was being used in a regular conversation also works well. Try asking your child these questions:

Does that sound right to you?

You read _____. Does that sound right?

Can you point to the word that sounded wrong?

Lastly, remember that comprehension is important, and stopping

to problem solve unknown words can hinder the flow of the story. If your child tries several strategies and still can't figure out the word, it is probably best to just tell them what the word is - and move on. The last thing you want to do is make your child so frustrated that reading ceases to be enjoyable to them. The key is to challenge your child to improve their reading skills a little more with each session, but never pushing past the point where frustration sets in, and they end up feeling less confident about their ability to read. The goal is to foster a love for reading- the rest will happen in its own time.

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." -Frederick Douglass

Transform any room and still have a life ... with Harris Home

So, you've finally decided it's time for a major room renovation in your home. Major—as in moving walls and changing absolutely everything for a transformed look and feel. How in the world do you begin? And how do you find all the specialists necessary to handle a thousand details in that process? Simply starting to think about the process and doing it on your own can be exhausting.

"In my experience with customers going through the renovation process as their flooring partner, I've seen far too many projects fall short of expectations," says Scott Junkins, owner of Harris Home. "Lack of planning, poor communication and exceeding preliminary budgets are all contributing factors to an unpleasant customer experience."

Managing such a project on your own can be an all-consuming job. Getting price comparisons from multiple contractors, and more sub-contractors, can require 20 or more people in your home. That would only be to get an estimate, which are guesses based on other jobs. Finding samples for your room means traveling to several stores and one wrong choice can skew your budget, even before

you've seen the first sketch. Add in juggling the schedules of all the different crews, and your "dream project" could quickly become a full-time nightmare...that doesn't resemble your dream at all.

"With Harris Home, we created a solution for these renovation challenges," says Junkins. "We combine every detail of your custom room transformation into a logical, managed process, complete with your own personal Customer Specialist. Think of us as a renovation concierge that handles everything. All you need to do is approve."

Whether it's your living room, bedroom, bath or kitchen, the Harris Home transformation begins with collaboration. Based on your style, story and vision, their accredited interior designer and team will create inspiring concepts, bringing your unique ideas to life. They'll help you choose all the flooring, cabinets, lighting, and one-of-a-kind details to make your space both beautiful and functional.

When your plan is in place, you'll review the total renovation cost, plus see drawings and a detailed 3-D rendering of your room



design. Your Customer Specialist then coordinates all the subcontractor scheduling, from demolition to finished painting, and stays on site to oversee the timeliness and quality of all renovation work. It's complete project management, with open communication at every step. Meanwhile, you can go about your daily life, while your expert sweats the details.

Best of all, you'll have a breathtaking room that matches your plans and fulfills your vision. "Your home is where memories are made, and our goal is to deliver a customer experience beyond all expectations," says Junkins. When you're ready to treat your home to a truly innovative transformation, discover exciting new renovation possibilities. Open the door to more...with Harris Home.

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THE GARDEN SHOP

Big Bill got repotted



Big Bill's pot being busted



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
*master
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A little cactus from Lowe's came to live with me in the mid/late 80's. It seems in my early gardening days, I was partial to cacti, possibly because they only need good light. No skills needed and not much water either. Cacti can have pretty flowers if all conditions are right for them to bloom. Big Bill was named by a friend during the time of Monica Lewinsky. The cactus had grown two new sprouts, and as my friend walked by, he pointed at the cactus and said "Is that Bill Clinton?" I guess you get the gist of what the growths looked like...and we'll leave that there.

A few years after moving to my current house, Bill was still moved in and out for

summer. But for years now, he's been too big to wrestle to get outside. The stickers are quite painful and he's quite top heavy. And just plain heavy! Big Bill has needed repotting for several years and I've been too chicken, plus had no idea how to do it. I really like Big Bill and decided if he didn't get repotted now, I certainly would not be able to in the future.

After picking a pot, mixing sand and potting soil together, and guessing how much to put in the pot, I headed to the house. In three of my thickest shirts, I checked to be sure I could pick him up. I could but the way he grows made it hard to balance without using my body to help hold and balance him...those stickers!! I got the scales to see how much he weighed, sat the scales on the desk, and gingerly put Big Bill on them. 42.8 pounds. When I get on the scales, they weigh about 15 pounds too much but I believe Big Bill weighs every bit of 42.8 pounds. Then Big Bill was sat on another container to hold him while

I cracked the pot. This turned out to be pretty smart because as I started whacking his pot with a hammer, sand started spilling out. Some of it went into the container he was sitting on. I didn't remove him from the old pot but broke parts of it off and teased the roots a bit. Then the old pot was put in the new pot. It could have used more soil but backing up was not a viable option by this time. Some of the spilled sand was poured around the top and gently pushed into the pot with a piece of rebar. Big Bill also had a few hens and chicks growing with him that came from Grandmother Cooley. They were trimmed up and added back with him.

Too bad Big Bill cannot be rotated to even up his growth but he's simply too big. There is no available window in the house that gets enough sun that is not putting us in danger when passing by. Only one little tip was broken a bit. I left it as is to see if it rots off. Depending, I may cut it off the rest of the way and see if it will root.



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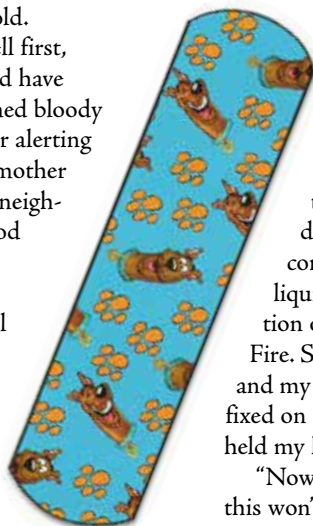
My arm got scratched while pruning a rose bush, and after I applied some soothing antibacterial neosporin and covered it with a scoby-doo band-aid, I got to thinking what would have happened had I been scratched in 1960 when I was five years old.



Neal Parnell

Well first, I would have screamed bloody murder alerting every mother in the neighborhood

that a catastrophe of earth shaking proportions had taken place. Next, while still in siren mode, I'd run into the house where my panic stricken Mom would ask, "What in the world is going on?!" With a dirty tear streaked face I'd blubber out that I was bleeding. "Aww, sit right here in this chair and let's have a look". What she saw was a tiny half-inch scratch that may have leaked a drop of



blood; but I saw a hideous open wound that required immediate surgery to save my life. "You sit still while I get the mercurochrome".

Uh-oh, my mind suddenly flashed back to my last boo-boo and that tiny one ounce dark bottle that contained a red liquid concentration of pure Hell-Fire. She was back, and my eyes were fixed on the hand that held my healing fate. "Now don't move, this won't hurt a bit". The smell of a sterile hospital hit my nostrils just before she painted the liquid brimstone across the wound. I had watched Shock Theater on Saturday, and I



didn't have a mother that held him and blew on his boo-boo while saying, "It's ok, let's put on this Band-Aid and it will all be over". But it wasn't really over. Band-Aids in 1960 were not "Ouchless", and would bond to flesh like duct tape with super-glue. Two days later, the Band-Aid would be quickly ripped away, taking skin and hair with it. The scratch was healed, but the red stain of the mercurochrome would remain for weeks, subjecting me to ridicule and a leprosy like avoidance from friends until it slowly faded away.

My Grandmother and many others called it, 'Monkey Blood'. I'm not sure if this was because of the bright red color, or the fact that it would make us howl like apes.

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Keith Watson and Thomas "Redneck" Pruitt

The art of tattooing

BY JIM HARRIS

Tattooing goes back centuries but has never been more popular than today. It once faced a negative stereotype of rough characters, studios in the shady part of town, and an unwelcoming environment, with retail businesses even having policies requiring employees to cover them at work.

Younger people began widely embracing tattoos as a form of expression, the industry exploded and now has spread to all ages and segments of society. 1/3 of Americans have tattoos, and the industry is the sixth fastest growing here.

Anderson currently has several studios. Most are upscale salons, with luxury decors, friendly staffs, award winning work and a huge variety of artistic options. The common denominators among the studios we visited were commitments to a great client experience, the safest possible environment and a passion for their art. They also mention major advances in technology, like wireless pens and easily interchangeable needles adding to the artist's options, the client's comfort, and enabling more sophisticated images.

The Painted Pony is owned by Thomas "Redneck" Pruitt. With 25 years of experience, he has seen a wealth of industry change, like the artist/client relationship becoming much more personal. Demographics of tattoo customers have evolved to include all ages and professions. For example, artist Keith Watson currently has a 70 plus year old client in a long-term project involving hours of work each week for several weeks. With easily hidden tattoos once most popular, clients now opt for more visible locations. Trees on the forearm are a popular tattoo here.

Another industry change is the emergence of women as artists and studio owners. Once male dominated, today as many as one half of tattoo artists are female. Studio owner Jessie Silva of Just Another Hole in the Wall grew up in the industry and has seen these changes firsthand. Her studio features three female artists. Their clients are included in all points of the process, including an evaluation session, advance review of the art and design and a final agreement prior to setting the actual tattoo appointment. They also will often suggest a new client try a temporary tattoo as a "test drive" prior to getting permanent art.

Lost Sailor Tattoo's owner Keith Freelin, has over 15 years of experience. Realizing early on that he was an artist, he found his medium in tattoo. His studio has 6 artists. Keith's advice to anyone considering a tattoo is to look at the work of the specific artist, not just the studio. This can help you find the ideal fit for you and your design. He and his artists spend a great deal of advance



Jessie Silva-Just Another Hole in the Wall

design time so the client gets a full preview of their new project. Pocket watches are popular images here.

South Carolina regulates the tattoo industry to maximize client safety. In addition to inspections from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, there are also strict licensing standards for artists, yearly courses on bloodborne pathogens, infection control and first aid. To even begin tattooing, a new artist first needs 1000 hours of documented experience in a licensed facility.

There has been an uptick recently in "outlaw" tattooing, where non-licensed people do tattoo work outside of licensed facilities. Those artists don't always comply with safety and sanitation standards and may not have the required education or credentials. This option may seem appealing initially because of a lower price, but this can lead to needing a legitimate studio to do costly corrections and coverups. The risk of infections like Hepatitis and Staph are also higher without the sterile studio conditions and could require painful and expensive laser removals, so legitimate, licensed studios are your best option.

You can begin your research with Instagram. Most studios utilize it to showcase their work and give prospective clients a great look at styles and options.

If a tattoo is on your radar, Anderson has many great options for you!

My favorite annual celebration requires lots of napkins

Are you in a celebration slump? I know I am. I started decorating for Christmas so early last year that I was wearing shorts when we put up our tree. And I'm glad I did, too, because having my house lit up like, well, CHRISTMAS was emotionally satisfying during



Kim von Keller

the long nights of the pandemic winter. But ever since I took down the garland and bangles and strings of lights, I've been looking for something to celebrate.

Valentine's Day was nice. Ted and I stayed in and taught ourselves how to make ravioli. They were delicious, but in their aftermath, remodeling my kitchen would be easier than cleaning it, and I'm still finding flour in my hair. Presidents Day is all about mattress sales, and Mardi Gras is too boozy, even for a person who writes a cocktail column. That's why I'm so excited about the very important holiday that is less than two weeks away, and I don't mean St. Patrick's Day. I'm talking about National Potato Chip Day.

What is better than a crispy, crunchy, salty bite of heaven that leaves you with greasy fingers and a satisfied soul? During a recent family conversation, a nephew asked each of us to name our favorite potato dish. (As a family, the von Kellers are deep, philosophical people.) Most everyone named mashed potatoes, and now I'm worried that they all suffer from sensitive teeth and crippling ennui. I can eat a spoonful of mashed potatoes and push the plate away, but Frito Lay knew who they were talking to when they introduced their slogan, "No one can eat just one." Honestly, I thought they meant one bag.

Whenever we've traveled

abroad, we always visit a neighborhood grocery store, even if we're not buying anything. The Louvre Museum and the Tower of London are important sites, but if you really want to know what another country is like, look at what the citizenry has in its shopping carts. Over the course of our market "tours," we've found chips flavored with shrimp, *jamón*, ketchup, haggis, and paprika. The English like sauce flavors. The Spanish like meat flavors. The Greek like herbaceous flavors. And don't let the French fool you with their fancy croissants and Coquilles St. Jacques. If they're having *un sandwich*, there are potato chips on that plate, and they're flavored like roasted chicken or, oddly, spaghetti Bolognese.

One of my favorite contests of each year is Lay's Do Us a Flavor. Chip lovers are asked to submit an original potato chip idea, and four suggestions are chosen to go to store shelves, based on public voting. Every year, a few wise acres submit names like Barbie Hair, Blistering Insults from Grandma, or Everyone Forgot My Birthday. But most of the flavors that actually went to production have been delicious, with flavors that are familiar in the South. Southern Biscuits and Gravy was full of sausage and sage. Nashville Hot Chicken had good spice, and Fried Green Tomato had that tart, familiar taste. Quite frankly, I've only met a single contest entry that I didn't like, and that was Cappuccino. If coffee with lots of warm milk is your thing, there's a Starbucks on Clemson Boulevard.

So on March 14, 2021, I'll be celebrating my favorite potato dish on its dedicated day. I'll be sampling as many new flavors as I can. The only question is, how do I decorate the living room?

Which is your favorite potato chip flavor, and which one could you do without? Share your reviews with me at editkim50@gmail.com

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