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February 29-March 13, 2024

DONE ON A DIME!

BY JULIE BAILES JOHNSON

Congratulations to our Design on a Dime winner, Suzanne Campbell and her family.

"Suzanne's room was chosen because it seemed to be the room that would have the biggest impact on a redesign", says Anne Bailes Gallant of O'Herron Interiors in Beaufort. "We scoured through a dozen entries and though they were



AFTER



BEFORE

all good candidates, Suzanne's room had good bones and was part of a well-built house. The purpose of this tradition begun by Bill Ducworth, is to emphasize that you don't necessarily need to replace every thing.

Placement and arrangement of what you have can transform your existing space.

The redesign began with a declutter of

SEE DIME ON PAGE 3

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GAMAC'S BEACH BALL RETURNS!



The Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium's (GAMAC) beloved BEACH BALL returns on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:00pm at The Bleckley Station! Dance the night away to the best in Carolina Shag and Beach Music performed by THOSE GUYS! Featuring great food catered by Ruffage, beer, wine, and soft drinks, proceeds from the evening will benefit GAMAC's mission to entertain, educate, and enrich lives with great music in the Upstate. Reservations are required by

March 4. Founded in Anderson, the THOSE GUYS band has been delighting audiences with the best in Beach Music, Classic Rock, Motown, and much more for over 20 years. Members Garry Collins (rhythm guitar), Mark Cox (lead guitar), Mike Strickland (keyboards), David Glymph (drums), Larry Hudson (bass), and Steve Alexander (vocals) pride themselves on keeping toes tapping with classic dance favorites. "The reason so much of our music is timeless is because it reminds us

of our carefree years when we literally danced our troubles away," they say. "Just try and keep still at a THOSE GUYS concert...we dare you!" Catering for the BEACH BALL will be provided by Ruffage from Pendleton, SC. The menu for the evening will include a Lowcountry Boil, Kalua Pork, Chicken Kabobs, Orzo Salad, Honey Basil Slaw, rolls, and dessert. Drinks will include non-alcoholic beverages, beer, and wine. Tickets for the BEACH

BALL are priced at \$75 per person or \$600 for a table of 8. All tickets include table seating with food and dancing. Non-alcoholic beverages are unlimited. Each ticket includes one (1) alcoholic beverage with additional wine and beer available throughout the evening for a cash donation of any amount. To purchase tickets visit www.gamac.org/specialevents for secure online sales or call (864) 231-6147.

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A good deal is a good deal!

I am a worrier at heart, especially when it comes to my husband. For example, last week, when Ted had to leave the house at dark o'clock for some early morning business in the Low Country, I called him while he was on



Kim von Keller

the road to check on him. I also asked him to call me when he got there. And when he was leaving, I just hated the thought that something might happen to him in the awful traffic around Charleston.

AND YET, if I can ever find a Ninja Air Fryer on Facebook Marketplace for less than \$20, I will send him, covered in cash, to pick it up at a Sinaloa Cartel crack den. After all, a good deal is a good deal.

And this, my friends, is what happens: Everything looks like a good deal. If you haven't visited Facebook Marketplace, the e-commerce branch of the social media juggernaut, it offers everything from hair dryers to houses, clothing to cars. You might think you don't need a robin's egg blue trench coat until you see it's only \$25, and then you'll wonder how you ever left the house without it.

If you're like me, just going to the

Marketplace tab is loads of fun. I don't filter the searches by category; instead, I just let random items wash over me like a gentle rain: Hunter boots, Starbucks city mugs, dining room chairs, a \$1.6 million home, a set of Lemony Snicket books. On one row of products alone, I found a \$6 sourdough starter, a \$10,000 1983 Mercedes Benz, and a \$650 blood centrifuge.

Such treasures can be overwhelming, so it shouldn't surprise us when we make questionable decisions regarding money and strangers. Last week, a neighbor responded to an ad on Facebook Marketplace for a used DR Pull-Behind Brush Mower, and he took a trailer to Greenville to pick it up after agreeing on a price of \$2,500. Before he left, he messaged the seller and asked, "Would you rather I paid you by check or by money order?" The response was, "I'd rather you paid me in cash." So, off our neighbor went to the bank to get a big stack of bills. He was counting them out when he realized that telling a stranger – who might or might not have an actual mower to sell – that he was showing up with so much money could be dangerous, so he asked a friend to go with him. All was fine, though, when he met the seller, a good and honest man who was returning from coaching his son's Little League team, a DR Pull-Behind

Brush Mower in his driveway.

As I enter the intoxicating world of Facebook Marketplace, I've decided to treat it the way gamblers treat casinos. I'll set aside a specific amount of money before I browse, and I won't go a dollar over. My first purchase will be full body armor, because if I ever find that Ninja air fryer, I want Ted to be well protected when he goes to that crack den to pick it up.



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Dime

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

things that needed to go to other rooms in the house.

The existing carpet was in good shape but it had a few wrinkles in it. Thanks to Harris Home, we were able to get the carpet stretched which left us with an almost blank canvas. That's when the magic of Anne's talent came out. Along with several of her sisters, Anne created a design that would accommodate the entire family. She thought out every angle, every wall and every bit of space in the room to make it multifunctional and very cozy all at the same time.

With Anne's connections in the interior design world, she had a previous client who donated a pair of club chairs and a much-needed etagere to house some personal items and add lighting.

Strategic lighting was important, so Anne and her team collected lamps throughout other rooms in the house to give the room the warm glow that it needed. Once she placed the furniture in a way that gave everyone plenty of room to spread out and have a spot of their own, she began to concentrate on some of the key spots. One of those spots was the fireplace. The homeowners have a beautiful brick wall



that encases the fireplace that serves as the main focus of the room. It was lacking a mantle and in need of light in that corner. So, Anne enlisted her husband, Robert, who is a master with a tool belt, created a shelf from raw wood braced with iron brackets that now houses the television. Along this same brick wall, is a perfect home for the etagere

re containing books, personal items and lighting. The space offers a cozy atmosphere for reading and enjoying the outdoors with the adjoining patio doors.

Along with the couch seating and three other club chairs in the room, Anne created a space for the kids to do homework, crafts and just spread out in their own little

spot. Coupled with a beautiful antique oversized filing cabinet that belonged to Suzanne's mother, there was also a lovely mahogany bookcase that now showcases some of the family's treasures. Three vintage boat oars that were made by Suzanne's father-in-law made for a lovely focal point above the couch.

With the rearranging of furniture, additional pieces, lighting and Anne's vision and talents, this wonderful den is now a place for peace, tranquility and family. Sometimes

all it takes is just a fresh pair of eyes to create a space that families can enjoy for years to come.

Many thanks to Suzanne and her family for being such good sports and trusting us with her home. And of course, to Anne for bringing it all together to give this family a room to love.

IN FASHION, GO YOUR OWN WAY

Do you ever call your friends and ask them the question, "What are you going to wear"? I always call my sister before we go to a party or dinner or an event just to see what she's going to wear and get a general idea.



Kristine March

Well, I'm here to tell you to nip that in the bud if you can help it. I've said it many times before, getting dressed is a total art form, so go your own route. Wear

what you want to wear, even if it's daring. Don't try to be like anybody else. Make it your own and your confidence level will soar. It may be scary at first, but once you get the hang of it, you'll never ask anybody what they're going to wear again.

Now, that brings me to the outfit of the day. I find it easy just to go ahead and pick out what I'm going to wear sometimes the night before. I like to lay it out and style it just to see what it will look like.

Today I'm going to a really cool Japanese tea house, so I want to look minimal and ultra-modern and not too fussy or overdone. I'm starting out with a funky pair of Harem pants. They're sort of a baggy trouser and are so comfortable, yet flattering. A company called Buddha Pants makes really cute ones. I'm going to pair them with a black hat and black oversized sweater. They can seem tricky to pull off at first, but once you get the gist of them, it's like wearing actual lounge pants in public. They're really cute, I promise.

Add a hat and some layered jewelry. I love

this style pant because it really shows off your shoes. You can get really creative in the shoe department. You can add boots, flats or even a fancy heel. Whatever suits your mood for the day or evening. You could add a denim jacket or even a blazer. Dress them up or down. There is really no wrong way to do it. After all, it's just fashion.

I look at it like a painting. If one person likes it or appreciates it then you have made a good impression and what better person to like it than yourself. This is the year to really give yourself credit. Own it. Give yourself a pat on the back because there is no one like you and that is your super power. Be authentic and have fun with the everyday mundane task of getting dressed.

Remember to make the sidewalk your runway, and kindness always matters. Stay stylish y'all.



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February at the farm

On the first Saturday morning in February, I finally had an opportunity to visit our farm property with Mike. Two months of sickness and various other crises had kept me away.

The weather was perfect - nice, but just cold enough to remind us that yes, winter was still with us. And two different events in the couple of hours we were there made the morning a great nature getaway.



Ann K. Bailes

I was standing in the doorway of the barn while Mike was working on some project inside, when we heard an unusual squawking noise in the air. I never quite recognize these unusual sounds without help, but Mike, who has an incredible ear and eye, immediately said "Wood ducks." We watched as a mated pair beat those powerful wings and then sailed down to the neighbors' pond, tucked away and hidden behind the trees.

I decided to walk down the slight hill to that pond to try to get a glimpse. Mike cautioned me, "You'll spook them." I knew that was possible, because the three other times I've gotten glimpses of wood ducks, as soon as they realized they had been seen, they immediately hid in cover. But silly me thought perhaps I could see them without them realizing they were being watched. So I moved down toward the pond, slowly because the terrain was rough and I wanted to be inconspicuous.

Too late. I still had several yards to go when they apparently spotted me through the trees. I heard loud strong wingbeats as they gained the momentum to get airborne. And then I watched as they took wing, the unusual shape of the male's head obvious as they passed nearby. That brief sight was the consolation prize.

About then, Mike emerged from the barn, and I saw what his project was. He had the gourds ready to put up for this year's purple martins. We did get a few last summer; we're not sure if they nested, but they definitely used



Photo by Jay Wooster

our gourds and poles as perches for at least a couple of months. And usually if martins find a site one year, they will return the next.

We spent an hour attaching the gourds to the poles and then raising the entire contraption by means of a rope and pulley. The final step was to attach a metal snake guard to the bottom. We were glad to have that project done. Martin scouts have been seen this week as nearby as Greenwood, so I hope to

have more to tell about the martin gourds as springtime arrives.

So the morning was a success. I couldn't take the golf cart out due to mud from recent rains. But just being there, seeing the martin gourds rising into the sky, knowing we'd observed a beautiful duck pair, and feeling the calming presence of nature, was enough. Going to the farm is wonderfully relaxing, and I'm ready to go back right now.

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FROM THE SHELF

On mental health

Mental health has been a bit of an ongoing theme in my reviews and it's because it's an incredibly important conversation that I wish more people would openly have. In case it hasn't been previously clear, I am someone who does in fact have some mental health issues.



Sara Leady

So let's talk about my brain and its wee health journey. In 2014 I got my first official diagnosis of 'depression' while I was in grad school and working full time at the library. I had a full meltdown in the doctor's office and he told me he'd tried to gently talk to me about potential mental health stuff, but the kid gloves were off; I was going to address it or find a new doctor. In 2020 after struggles with medication, I saw a new psychiatrist and he broached the idea that perhaps I didn't have depression, but instead that

depression was a symptom of ADHD. We got wild and tried some ADHD meds, and magically my serious depression seemed to be resolved.

Now I want to specify something here that isn't really broadly understood. Neurodivergent conditions (like ADHD or autism) are not synonymous for mental illness. I specify this because it's an important distinction: while some people with neurodivergent brains have mental health issues, those issues are in addition to or can be exacerbated by their neurodivergence. Someone who is autistic, or someone who may have ADHD, does not automatically have any sort of mental illness. What they do have is a brain that's wired differently, and they can have a mental health diagnosis in addition to being neurodivergent. It can be a tricky distinction to see because in the case of ADHD, a lot of our symptoms are often tied to, or can present as, a mental illness. So it's more of a symbiotic relationship when someone has both a neuro-

divergent brain and a diagnosed mental illness.

In terms of my delightful brain, I have ADHD and I have anxiety. My ADHD and anxiety LOVE to play off of each other, attempting to outdo the other by all means necessary. I tell you all of this "personal" information because I know the importance of people understanding this separation. By openly discussing this we all gain a better understanding of the fascinatingly diverse ways someone's individual brain can work.



There's a lot of stigma that goes into getting a mental health diagnosis, especially with needing medication to manage it. Somewhere along the line, we as a society have tied someone's mental health to that individual's moral value or general "worth" as a human. Because of the stigma surrounding mental health, a lot of people go without a diagnosis or get help, and it can have HUGE impacts on their life and ability to function within society. We shame someone for getting a diagnosis from their brain chemistry being off, but we don't shame someone for their body chemistry being off and getting a cancer diagnosis. Speaking from experience, both can be devastating both physically and mentally, but I'm only celebrated for enduring one of them.

While this is a small look into my personal mental health, it's just one of a million different experiences occurring right here in Anderson. This March, the Anderson County Library is inviting you to join us in a conversation about mental health and the many different shapes it can take. To help facilitate these conversations, we've selected the title (Don't) Call Me Crazy: 33 voices start the conversation about mental health, a collection of essays from authors and celebrities discussing their own mental health journeys (a bit like I just did) in hopes of opening up the conversation, removing the stigma, and just letting our special little brains be seen.

All our book clubs will be discussing essays from (Don't) Call Me Crazy and we'll have different events discussing mental health that are listed on the Library's online calendar. Excitingly, we have a Zoom event with Kelly Jensen, the editor of the (Don't) Call Me Crazy on March 28th at 7:00 PM that you can attend in person or from the comfort of your home. So, I especially invite you to grab your copy of the book from your local library (we have free copies to give you!) and join us in conversations about mental health.

I love everything about Groucho's.

- Philly S., Anderson, S.C.

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United Way of Anderson County announces retirement of longtime CEO and president Carol Burdette

ANDERSON — After an illustrious 35-year tenure with United Way of Anderson County, CEO and President Carol Burdette has announced her retirement, marking the end of a transformative era for the organization. Burdette has dedicated 22 years as CEO, preceded by 13 years of voluntary service.

Throughout her remarkable career, Burdette has exhibited an unwavering commitment to United Way, both as a faithful contributor and a dedicated leader. Her leadership has been instrumental in fostering positive change within the community, leaving an indelible mark on the organization's mission and impact.

Highlights of Carol Burdette's Distinguished Career:

1. United Way's Women's Leadership Initiative partnered with the Anderson County School Districts and AnMed to drive down the teen pregnancy rates by 81%.
 2. United Way Worldwide CEO Brian Gallagher's visit to United Way of Anderson County launched the Weekend SnackPack Program to feed elementary students who would be food insecure over the weekends. This program is ongoing after 13 years.
 3. United Way of Anderson County bought the Ellio` Davis Building at the corner of Greenville Street and Murray Avenue in downtown Anderson and was able to pay it off in just over 9 years!
 4. United Way of Anderson County launched the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program and later created the United Way Financial Stability Center at AIM.
 5. United Way of Anderson County partnered with the South Carolina United Methodist Conference to create the South Main Chapel & Mercy Center.
- Reflecting on Burdette's retirement, Nakia Davis, United Way's Board Chair, states, "Carol Burdette is a true leader in our community. She leads by example, with purpose and with a servant's heart. We at United Way want to thank her for her tireless years of service to our



community and for truly making a difference."

Cara Hamilton, United Way's Campaign Cabinet Chair, adds, "We will miss her passion for and commitment to the work United Way is doing to improve the health, education and financial stability of the Anderson community.

Without a doubt, Carol's heart for serving others and her passion for improving her community will keep her fully engaged in the Anderson area and with United Way for years to come."

Burdette will continue to serve as CEO until the end of 2024, working closely with the board to ensure a seamless transition to new leadership. "It is not often that a person is blessed with a job of a lifetime, but in 2002 when I came to United Way, I found the place that has allowed me to serve a community that I love. I have been given the opportunity to serve in ways that I could never have imagined. It has been a privilege to work with amazing staff members, volunteers, and donors. WOW...what a blessing to have been given to SERVE the people of Anderson County!" says Burdette.

Looking to the future, a search committee has been formed to identify a qualified successor. Further details regarding the search for a



new CEO will be released in the coming weeks.

United Way of Anderson County expresses deep gratitude for Carol Burdette's extraor-

dinary contributions and wishes her a well-deserved retirement. Her impact will resonate for years to come.

UNITED WAY OF ANDERSON COUNTY
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RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

HONORING CAROL BURDETTE

*In recognition of her commitment to our
community and her tireless service to others*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th AT THE BLECKLEY STATION

Local attorneys honored at Memory Hold the Door

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

RICHARD K. "DICK" ALLEN (1948-2017)

Richard K. "Dick" Allen, Jr was born on July 25, 1948 and he was a lifelong resident of Anderson, South Carolina where he attended the Anderson public schools. Dick graduated from The Citadel in 1970 where he was a member of the elite Summerall Guards. He received a commission in the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation and afterwards attended the University of South Carolina School of Law graduating in 1973. He was admitted to the South Carolina Bar that same year.

Upon graduation he entered into the pri-

vate practice of law with his father, Richard K. Allen. He was the third generation of Allens to practice law in Anderson in the Allen Law



Firm. His grandfather, Thomas "T" Allen, began his practice with M.L. Bonham and H.H. Watkins in the early 1900's.

Dick was in a private practice for 44 years and an active member of the Anderson

Bar Association and the South Carolina Bar during this time. He will be remembered for his legal knowledge, professionalism, and his honesty and ethical conduct. He was recognized and listed in the centuries old attorney peer review rating publication, Martindale-Hubbard, as a distinguished member of the legal profession.

Dick served his country in the United States Army attaining the rank of Captain in the reserves. He served as a Trustee at Anderson University. He was a long-standing member of the First Baptist Church of

Anderson where he taught Sunday School, was a Deacon and served as Chairman of the Pastor Church Committee in 1995 that called Dr. James R. Thomason as Pastor.

At the time of his passing, he had been married to his wife, Debbie Allen, for almost 40 years. They had three children – Richard K. Allen III, Mary Allen Lowe and Jonathan Reed Allen.

ELLIS BRANCH DREW (1934-2017)

The Honorable Ellis B. Drew, Jr was born in Anderson, South Carolina in 1934. A lifelong Anderson resident, he attended the Anderson city schools and later graduated from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. There he served as president of the student body. Judge Drew was a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law and enjoyed a remarkable career spanning 58 years.

After serving his country in the United States Army, he began his legal career with the Watkins Law Firm in Anderson. Subsequently, he moved into his own private law practice. He was appointed by then Governor Richard Riley to be the first mas-

ter-in-equity for the Tenth Judicial Circuit (Anderson and Oconee counties), serving in that position for 35 years and retiring in 2016.

Away from the practice of law, Judge Drew



was well-known in the Anderson area as a champion golfer who won multiple golf championships, but he is equally known in that sport as having taught and mentored many golfers throughout the years.

Judge Drew was a member of First Baptist Church of Anderson where he was a long-serving church trustee.

At the time of his passing, Judge Drew had been married to his wife, Nan Haddock Drew for 61 years. They had three children, Bo, Sam and Mary.

Ellis Drew will be remembered for being a brilliant attorney and jurist who exhibited patience and civility to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

GAMAC

THE
Beach Ball
RETURNS!

Put on your dancing shoes and join us for the best in Beach Music featuring **THOSE GUYS!**

Thursday, March 7, 2024 @ 7:00pm

The Bleckley Station

Table seating with dance floor, food, & drinks

\$75 per person or \$600 for table of 8

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JONES SELECTED FOR SC BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Congrats to TL Hanna Hall of Famer Wayne Jones on his selection to the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. Coach Jones started the girls' basketball program in 1974, then transitioned to coaching boys' basketball from 1979-2005. He won 438 games while head coach and earned 13 Region Coach of the Year Awards. He was an all-star game coach 3 times.

Coach Jones will be honored with his fellow inductees at a ceremony in July.

Wine & Cookie Tasting planned at Anderson Arts Center

Get ready to tantalize your taste buds as the Anderson Arts Center staff pair a variety of fine wines with everyone's favorite Girl Scout Cookies. From velvety reds to crisp whites, each wine has been carefully selected to enhance the unique flavors of these beloved treats.

But that's not all. The VIP tickets include a bourbon and Girl Scout cookie tasting, all while listening to the beautiful music provided by the Anderson String Quartet.

By joining this unique celebration, you'll be showing your unwavering support for the Arts Center and contributing directly to our vibrant arts community here in Anderson.

March 1, 2024, 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Anderson Arts Center, 110 Federal Street
864-222-2787, www.AndersonArts.org



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ANDERSON CRITTERS

If you've lived in the South for any length of time, you have encountered many infiltrators that annoy and disturb your peaceful Southern environment. No, not the Rock band that lives two houses down, or the neighbors with no mufflers on their trucks, but the other pesky critters that love to party all night while you're asleep. I've told how Anderson insects are unlike any other, but there are a few Anderson mammals that are allowed to creep around our neighborhoods invading the peaceful night.

The O'possums, or possums as we call them, are the only marsupials (animals with pouches) in North America. The Anderson Possum does not have a pouch but straps on a fanny-pack where it stores a 357 magnum, lipstick, and Lance crackers. Copying our ways, the Anderson Possum can be seen

walking through the Wal-Mart parking lot with twenty kids on its back, all grabbing for the Lance crackers. When threatened the possum will curl its lips back, emit a foul odor, and play dead. The Anderson Possum when threatened will curl its lips



Neal Parnell

back, put on lipstick, emit a foul odor, and draw out that Three-fifty-seven magnum.

The Polecat, otherwise known as a skunk, can lift its tail and spray an unpleasant odor from its glands for up to twenty feet. The Anderson Polecat is said to have copied its scent from the old Portman Lounge Men's Room and has left whole communities reeking for days. The

only way to remove the stench is to dig a hole and bury it, just as some wives buried their husbands when they came home from the Portman Lounge.

The armadillo has a hard thick fingernail like plating that allows it to escape through briars and bushes. They possess long claws for digging up grubs and burrowing their dens. They are also one of very few mammals that always give birth to four identical babies. An Anderson Armadillo that was captured and studied was found to have stainless steel armor plating. It's presumed the plating came from an Anderson Plant as this specimen had ELECTROLUX stamped on its side, while its four babies had tiny FRIGIDAIRE markings.

The Red Fox is established the world over and is considered one of the most invasive predators. They have binocular vision and can



observed filling their stomachs with air to appear bloated, and lie still as if dead, waiting on unsuspecting prey. The Anderson Red Fox has developed into a master of hunting prowess as it has begun to recognize Papa John signs on delivery cars and snatches pizzas from drivers without leaving a tip. It's been told that an Anderson Red Fox, standing on its hind-legs, dressed in pants and vest, was seen pointing to a sterling sirloin at McGee's

Scot-Irish Pub.

I hold no animosity toward these animals, they are only trying to survive along with us. They are stealthy, and try their best not to be seen or heard. So, what if they dig a hole or snatch a pizza. Until they start a Rock Band or rev their truck in the middle of the night, I'm all for 'em.

hear a chicken moving a half mile away. To catch the chicken, they hone in and leap from fifteen feet, steering in midair, and land on the prey unnoticed. I know a guy that tried this technique when stalking a bucket of KFC. The Red Fox is one of the most cunning hunters in the animal kingdom. They have been



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WESTSIDE RAMS

Lady Rams in Upper State championship game

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — Following successful regular seasons, the Westside boys' and girls' basketball teams continued their strong play in the playoffs the last two weeks with both teams picking up playoff wins and the Lady Rams earning a trip to the Upper State championship.

The Westside girls began their trek to Upper State against the Airport Eagles on Feb. 13. The Rams controlled the contest from start-to-finish with an 87-17 win.

The 70-point win was the largest of the season for the Rams and helped catapult them in to round

two against the Wade Hampton Generals.

Taking on the Generals and Class 4A Player of the Year Quinasia Abercrombie, Westside used a big second quarter to take control and never look back in 68-59 win.

Sophomore Makyhia Paul led the Rams with 18 points in the victory, while freshman Khalia Hartwell made her presence felt all over the floor with 16 points, nine rebounds and five blocks.

The win secured a third-round matchup between the Rams and the North Augusta Yellow Jackets, two teams who combined

for the last seven Class 4A State Championships. The Rams won the battle of the two titans by stifling the Jackets in a 44-30 win to advance to the Upper State Championship.

The Rams took on Riverside High School on Feb. 28 with results unavailable as of press time. The winner of that matchup is slated to play the A.C. Flora-Ridge View winner on March 2 at 6 p.m. for the State Championship.

Meanwhile, the Westside boys had a slightly less successful playoff run falling in round two.

The Rams opened their playoff slate at home on Feb. 14 against the

Midland Valley Mustangs. Westside overpowered the Mustangs 74-51 to advance to round two.

Junior Zeke Marshall dominated the Mustangs in the victory with a 28-point, 16-rebound double-double to lead his team.

Westside looked to keep its momentum going on the road at Riverside later in the week, but ultimately fell 57-47 as the Rams struggled to score in the second half.

Marshall and senior Josh Williams were the only Rams to hit double figures in the loss as the Rams ended their season with a record of 17-10.

T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

Hanna hoops seasons come to an end

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — After opening the Class 5A playoffs earlier this month, basketball season has come to an end for both the T.L. Hanna boys' and girls' basketball teams.

The T.L. Hanna girls' basketball was the first to be eliminated from the postseason as they fell to the Rock Hill Bearcats, 64-37 in the first round. The Bearcats proved they were more than a worthy adversary advancing all the way to the state championship against Sumter on Mar. 1.

Freshman Olivia Freeman led the

way for the Yellow Jackets in the loss scoring 11 points as Hanna finished its season at 10-16.

The loss was the final game for long-time T.L. Hanna coach Glenn Elrod, who is retiring from coaching at the school after nine years. Elrod finished his career with 132 wins, second in school history, and won two region titles at the helm of the program. Former Belton Honea-Path coach Zipporah Scott-Martin is slated to lead the Jackets next season.

Meanwhile, the T.L. Hanna boys managed to put together a solid run advancing to state quarterfinals

before seeing its season come to an end.

The Hanna boys opened the postseason hosting the Clover Eagles and needed a fourth quarter comeback to advance in a 62-60 win.

Senior guard Javeyn Martin paced the Yellow Jackets with 15 points in the win, while senior forward Jaquarius Patterson played the hero by sinking a late three-pointer to help the Jackets pull ahead and pick up the win.

The Jackets advanced to take on Nation Ford in Fort Mill three days later, picking up the 50-43 road win

to reach the state quarterfinals.

Once again, Patterson and Martin led the Yellow Jackets combining to score 34 points to keep Hanna's season alive.

One win away from earning an Upper State Championship berth, Hanna traveled to Byrnes on Feb. 20. The two teams battled throughout the night in a close game, but the Rebels ultimately pulled away for a 63-55 win.

Patterson led Hanna with 19 points, while Martin added 18 of his own as the Yellow Jackets finished their season at 21-8.

SUNSPOTS

BY RICH OTTER

In case you hadn't noticed, in early February, a rather large magnetic field was drifting across the face of the Sun. Occurring as sunspots such fields appear as darker images that may be 2,500 times stronger than magnetic areas occurring on earth. They are cooler than the surrounding surface of the Sun.

The photosphere is where light is radiated constituting what is our Sun's visual surface. The photosphere of our star registers between 139,574 and 213,954 degrees Fahrenheit. Seeing as we live some 93 million miles away, that gives a little time to cool down before reaching us. It can still deliver a pretty good tan in summertime.

Thomas Harriot, an English astronomer, was the first person to observe sunspots and Galileo was probably the first person to observe them with a telescope. William Herschel corresponded sunspots with heating and cooling on the Sun's surface. They fluctuate in numbers with a roughly 11-year cycle that is now approaching a maximum.

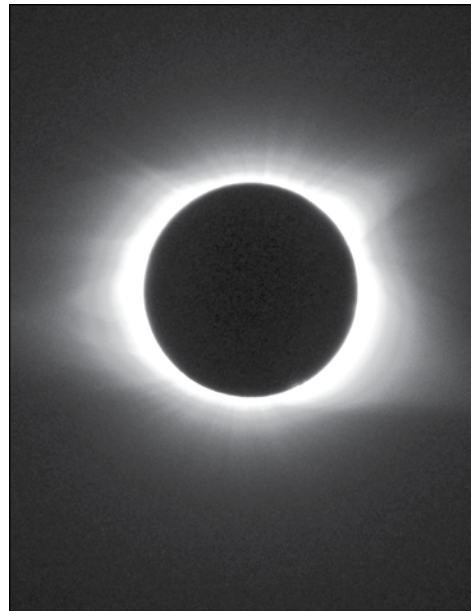
The umbra of the spot, the dark area, produces the strongest magnetic field. The surrounding lighter area is the penumbra. Individual sunspots may be observed from a few days to a few months in duration. As the Sun plasma rotates, sunspots are carried along, moving across the Sun's surface for about 25 Earth days at the Sun's equator, disappearing from the Sun's visible edge, and, if they have not decayed, reappearing again after rotation. To put a sunspot's size in proportion to our world, the Sun's diameter is about 109 times the diameter of Earth.

Sunspots cannot be observed directly without proper eye protection. Special protective lenses are available but the Sun's image can also be focused by extenders from a telescopic instrument on to a receiving platform to avoid a direct blinding view – and a direct view through an instrument will blind.

During heavy sunspot activity, solar flares are more prevalent resulting in an increase in the Northern and Southern Lights and possible disruption of radio transmissions and/or interference with power grids.

Sunspots, flairs and other solar activities are closely watched by NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). They describe the dark areas in the Sun's photosphere being "as a result of intense magnetic flux pushing up from further within the solar interior." The rapid changes in the magnetic field are likely responsible for "significant space weather events such as solar flares."

In spite of being around for quite a while, the Sun still retains many mysteries. One of the most puzzling is the heat of the Sun's



Sun's corona 2017 eclipse in Anderson

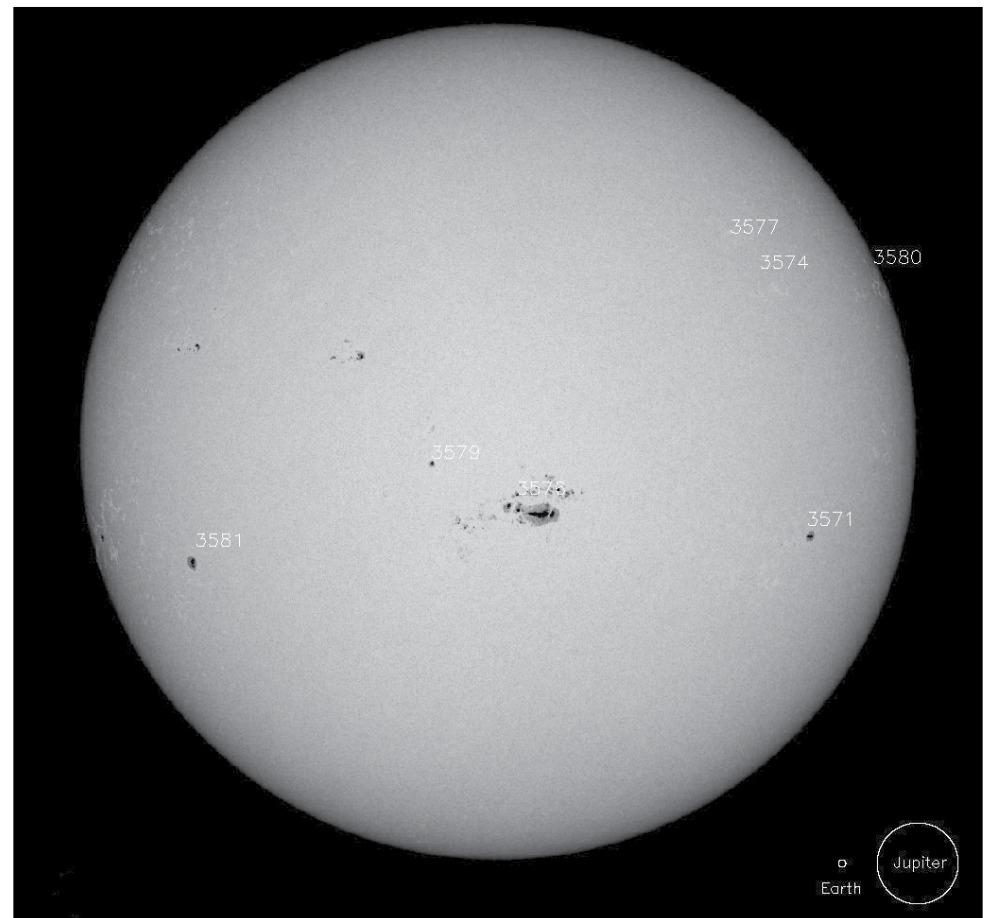
corona. It is said to be 200 times hotter than the surface of the Sun. How could that be? It is hotter away from the heat source. That has not as yet been fully resolved, but it now has been suggested the corona is heated by magnetic waves.

Other questions include what causes the solar flares, and why are there sunspots in the first place, not to mention their 11-year cycle? Scientists reasonably know what's cooking. They just haven't gotten a good grasp on the recipe.

In December 2021, NASA's Parker Probe reached the upper atmosphere of the Sun and gradually looped around our star collecting information. It was estimated that, in 2024, the probe would attain a top speed of 430,000 miles per hour flying to within 3.9 million miles of the Sun's surface, passing through the corona which extends out some 8.2 million miles. Its closest encounter to the Sun actually will be in 2025. Its reports relative to solar winds have already been valuable. Although the winds, constituting charged particles escaping from the Sun, actually have minor effect upon earthlings being deflected to a great degree by our magnetic barrier, the study could bear vital information for future astronauts.

Anybody interested in solar observations can follow the Sun's activity on the internet by pulling up SOHO – the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory. It produces real-time images of solar activity and furnishes far more observations and information than the average individual may require, but the currently observable images can be fascinating.

If today's Earth news is found disturbing, you may want to relax and pick up what is



February 10, 2024 sunspots

happening 93 million miles away. After all, solar winds traveling at about 250 miles a

second won't even reach us for at least two to four days.

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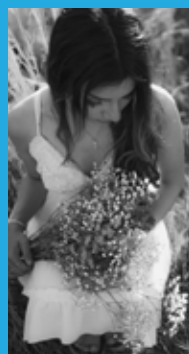
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Several years back, I thought about getting rid of what is called the high dollar mud hole. It is a rather large container buried to ground level that has water lotus (*Nelumbo*) in it. On a trip to Franklin NC one July 4th, the antique shop owner asked was I there for the water lotus festival. The festival, and water lotus, was news to me. She insisted we must go to Perry Water Gardens and see the water lotus. We did, and they sure were a sight to see. Lotus pods are sold anywhere dried flowers are but one might not have a clue how beau-

tiful of a plant that wooden looking thing comes from. The large tub that came home with us had yellow water lotus in it, and I bought tubers of pink flowers. Lotus must live in still water and will take over a pond if let loose. *Nelumbo lutea* are native to the United States. *Nelumbo nucifera* are native to several other parts of the world. I have no idea what kind I bought. Water lotus are heavy feeders, and as years passed, they did not do so well. I finally decided one day to dig them up, divide them if needed, and possibly just do away with the whole thing. After the very laborious job of getting them out of the mud, it seemed a good idea to replant them and see. Tubers look like bananas, are very fragile, and should be covered with only enough soil to keep them from floating up. They supposedly find their correct depth. Some other

aquatic plants came up over time, but the lotus did not seem to do any better, even after fertilizing them. There might be two or three blooms a year and even the foliage, which can be quite pretty on its own accord, faded somewhat. So again, I thought about doing away with the whole thing.

However, as time passed, birds and frogs moved in. One evening about dark thirty, I heard the most unusual song coming from the mud hole. With binoculars, even though the mud hole is only about six feet from the bathroom window, I could see the head of a tiny frog. He was singing away. As I watched, I realized the frog couldn't get out of the mud hole. I had an old picket fence in the crap collection, so a piece was broken off and used to make a ramp. Now birds bathe in it, drink from it, and each year, beginning late January,



Water lotus bloom and pods

early February, the high dollar mud hole is an almost constant serenade of frog tunes. It is staying. And another perch has been added to let other birds bathe and drink.

Another decision was made too. After years of watching the one tea camellia (*Camellia sinensis*) in the garden become more and more infested with scale, it got pushed up and dumped in the creek. It was too big to bag and haul away. I did not want to dump it, and all its insects, in the pasture. It seemed like a good idea to

drown them. After trying the past few years to prune out infested branches, and increase air circulation, nothing was working. It could have been treated, but a systemic chemical required would hurt bees and other things that visit the garden. Plus, the flowers are only so so, and where it was planted was the perfect spot to put a new camellia, Black Tie. If you grow camellias and leaves turn yellow, look on the back. If you see white, cotton looking stuff, that is scale. So far, other camellias in the garden do not have scale.

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City of Anderson celebrates grand opening of Shared Kitchen incubator downtown

Anderson – The City of Anderson will host a grand opening ceremony at 110 North Kitchen + Commissary, Anderson's first shared kitchen incubator on Thursday, February 29th at 4pm.

The City of Anderson was awarded \$500,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission and \$500,000 from the USDA Rural Business Development Grant program for the construction of a shared kitchen incubator, a licensed commercial space that

provides a pathway for food entrepreneurs to start and grow their business.

The grant dollars were used to upfit a city-owned property located on the street level of the Whitner Street parking garage in downtown Anderson. The property adjoins the City's current business accelerator facilities and will serve as an extension and full-service innovation epicenter for small business development.

"The shared kitchen incubator concept is an extension of the City's local economic devel-

opment strategy to address the emerging needs of food entrepreneurs," Assistant City Manager Andrew Strickland said. "This will really help ignite our hospitality and restaurant scene in Anderson. We are excited for what the future has in store for our kitchen users."

The concept of a shared kitchen and business incubator operating in tandem is the first of its kind in the upstate region. The model will provide services such as production space, food storage, business education, workforce

development, and more.

"We hope to see new businesses open, products launched, and partnerships made as a result of this project," Mayor Terence Roberts said. "We are thankful for the support from ARC and USDA that made this project a reality."

Rentals are available daily and programs have already started to help support local food entrepreneurs. For more information, email Francesca Milford at FMilford@cityofandersonsc.com.



Grand Opening!

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The Mayor and City Council invite you to celebrate the opening of 110 North Kitchen + Commissary, Anderson's first shared kitchen for food entrepreneurs.

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