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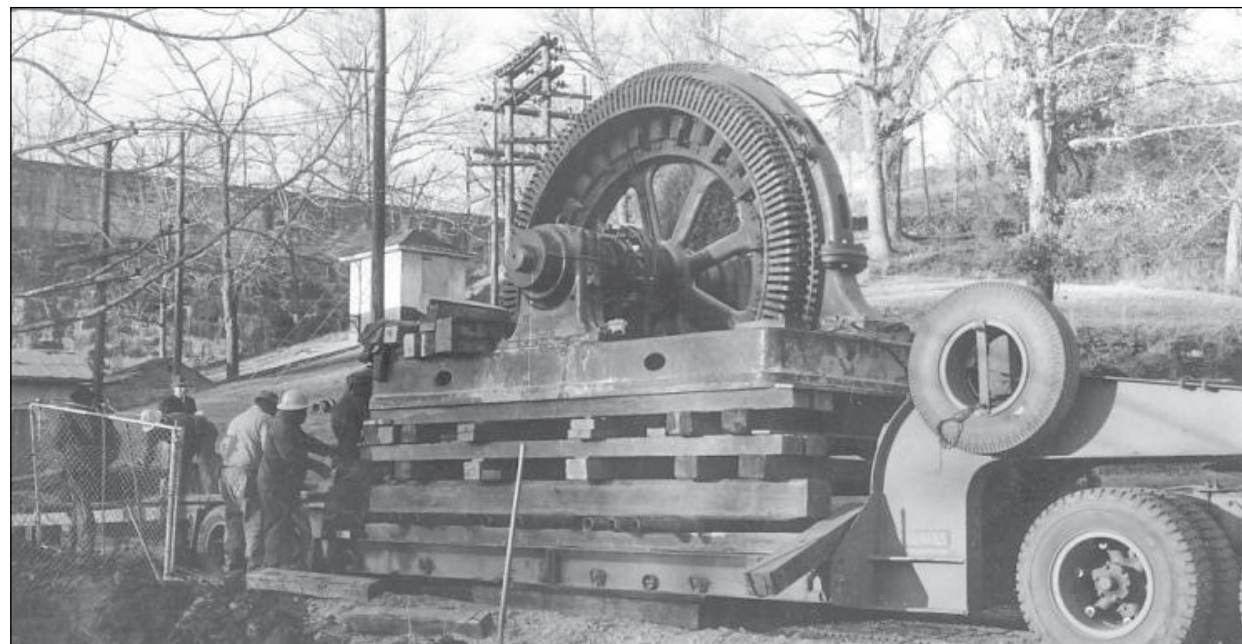
November 7-20, 2024

## TO BETTER ANDERSON

BY KIM VON KELLER

The grandeur of the Millennium Pegasus. The delicacy of the Carolina Wrens. The intimacy of Caton Alley. The joy of the Threaded Fountain. Community members and visitors alike experience these every day while strolling downtown. But these sites weren't created by local government or tax dollars. These and other public spaces are the result of the vision and dedication of TBA 100, a nonprofit organization dedicated to beautification, preservation, and public art in Anderson, South Carolina.

TBA 100 is an initiative of the Foothills Community Foundation. Founded in 1999, the FCF is a public charity that brings together financial resources to support nonprofits, such as TBA 100, in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Over the past 16 years, TBA 100 has funded seven community projects, with an eighth currently in the works. Both the FCF and the TBA 100 were brought to life by the late Cordes Seabrook, Jr., after



Portman Shoals Hydro Station generator removal - Project #1

learning of similar organizations in Spartanburg.

"Mr. Seabrook believed that the privilege of being a part of a commu-

nity comes with a cost of admission," says Cindy Kibler, the former director of donor services for the FCF. "He also believed that you can't expect govern-

ment to do everything, so in 2007, he approached 100 private citizens for

SEE BETTER ON PAGE 2

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# SUSAN LENZ BECOMES A BAY3 ARTISAN GALLERY PARTNER

"The driving force behind my art is giving life to old things. I use needles and thread for self-expression in combination with old and discarded objects such as textiles, book art, photography and 3D found objects," explained Susan Lenz, one of the newest partners in Bay3 Artisan Gallery. "Working with the hope that a piece of my art might be kept through coming generations, I often make pieces that are meant to touch and be touched."

In addition to Susan's unique, creative one-of-a-kind pieces she also offers a selection of original

greeting cards and handmade Christmas ornaments.

Susan's work has appeared in national publications, numerous juried exhibitions and fine craft shows including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Smithsonian Craft shows. She has been featured on art quilting television and South Carolina ETV's Palmetto Scene. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Textile Museum and the Department of Interior Museum, both in Washington, DC and at the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina in

Columbia. Susan has also been awarded fully funded fellowships to art residencies. Her solo shows have been displayed all over this country, and as far away as the Festival of Quilts in Birmingham, England.

Lenz is a partner in Bay3 Artisan Gallery where her works are on display. Bay3 Artisan Gallery is located just off the Atrium Gallery in the Anderson Arts Center, 110 Federal Street in Anderson. The Gallery is open Wednesday - Friday, 10:00 - 4:00pm and Saturday 10:00 - 1:00pm.



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## Better

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

donations of \$1,000 each. He was an old-school, face-to-face fundraiser, and though his goal was \$100,000, he actually raised \$116,000."

Perhaps the most amazing thing about Seabrook's efforts is that the donors didn't know exactly what their contributions were funding.

"TBA not only stands for 'To Better Anderson,' but 'To Be Announced,' says Dean Woods, president of the FCF. "There was such buzz that first year, so much anticipation. Since the unveiling of that first project, Generator Park, in 2008, TBA has funded six additional projects, including the Dog Park and the Rotary Clock at Textile Point. Sadly, Mr. Seabrook passed away in 2015, but we've been fortunate that there have been others willing to pick up his mantle for new projects. We hope that each one makes Anderson a more attractive community for citizens and for visitors. We hope that each one is inspiring and makes people's days a bit better."

Kimberly Spears is no stranger to public art. A former executive director of the Anderson Arts Center, she has been a member of the TBA 100 committee since the beginning.

"The thing I love about public art is that it is accessible to everyone and can be viewed at any time," she says. "As an art form, sculpture can tell a story. Rotary Clock at Textile Point and the Threaded Fountain remind us that Anderson was once a vibrant textile commu-

nity with five mills. Collectively, these projects send a message to residents and visitors alike that we appreciate the arts and what creative people can bring to the community. They also remind visitors that, in Anderson, we appreciate finer things. We were happy to get such a well-done, classical piece like Millennium Pegasus. When it arrived here by truck, I had to laugh at the idea of drivers seeing a 3,000-pound winged horse 'flying' down the highway."

TBA 100 already has a new project in the works which is scheduled for unveiling toward the end of 2025. The ultimate goal is to sponsor a new project annually, which is only possible through the generous donations of community members. John A. Miller, Jr., is a member of the FCF board and TBA 100 committee, and he invites people to learn more about these organizations \*\*

"TBA has been a unique way for people to demonstrate their support for public art and community pride, without having to roll up their sleeves to do a lot of work," he says. "The seven projects we have done so far represent the hard work of a small group which has some very talented members. We are hopeful that as the effort continues, more people will join us by participating in the annual membership contribution or even contributing more if they feel compelled to do so. Our steering committee has no paid support staff, and the partnership with the Foothills Community Foundation has been a wonderful relationship in helping to coordinate our labor of love."

To learn more about the Foothills Community Foundation, visit [foothillscmfoundation.org](http://foothillscmfoundation.org). To keep up with TBA 100, find them on Facebook at TBA of Anderson.

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PHOTO: Kraft/Maid cabinets Marquette door style, painted dove white

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Sunday: 2pm-6pm



# CELESTIAL SNOWBALL

Did you see the comet? The one that was around during October? It had quite a name: C/2024 S1 - Tsuchinshan-ATLAS. It was visible with the naked eye, and then with binoculars, for a couple of weeks last month.

I didn't get to see it when it was at its brightest, but found it on the evening of October 20. I followed the diagrams seen on Facebook and elsewhere, and could tell it was to the upper right of Venus, which was unmistakable in the southwest sky right after dusk.

Supposedly Tsuchinshan-ATLAS was easily visible, but after sitting outside for a little while to let my eyes adjust to the dark, I went straight to the binoculars. Even a simple pair like mine will open up the night sky. I could see hundreds more

stars with the binoculars – bright stars and clusters that are brilliant but need a little magnification. Another entire world exists up there.

I scanned the western sky several times and saw only stars and more stars. I almost gave up, thinking the comet wasn't going to be seen. Patience is not my strongest virtue.

And then – there it was. It looked just like the descriptions – a snowball with an upward-facing tail. I got a great look at the beautiful Tsuchinshan-ATLAS.

Comets are balls of ice that get caught in our solar system by the gravity of the sun. Some are said to be periodic because they return (think Halley's Comet that comes back every 75-76 years). Others are one-time occurrences that get caught in our gravity, with the sun acting like a sling-shot to change their direction in space.

Most comets have a tail, which develops because the sun melts part of their head, and the gases stream behind it – always away from the sun. That's why

Tsuchinshan-ATLAS's tail appeared upward – the sun, though hidden from our night sky, was directly underneath it.

And as the sun melts the head of periodic comets, they lose more matter each time they return, and thus they get dimmer and break up. That's why Halley's Comet was not very impressive in 1986 and will probably be even less so when it returns in 2062.

If you missed Tsuchinshan-ATLAS, the website skyandtelescope.com (a great resource) says that it is still visible with binoculars or a small telescope. Other comets will appear eventually. Several websites and apps can keep an interested person informed of the latest comets coming.

The night sky reveals another world to the person who takes the time to let eyes adjust and then studies what's out there. So while going out in the dark, cold night to search for a celestial snowball with a tail may sound a little crazy, it's actually a rewarding experience. Go outside at night and see what's in our great universe!



Photo from the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville AL



## Improving the Landscape of Our Community

TBA privately funds projects of preservation, public art and good works benefiting the Anderson area community since 2008

tba: Project Three



**Caton's Alley:**  
**Did you know...**Caton's Alley was named for a merchant of long standing, Ross Caton, whose store was adjacent to the alley. A fountain, benches and raised beds enhance Caton's Alley located between East Benson Street and the municipal parking area in Church Street Heritage Park.

***"The Dog Park project was the first, and is the only one of its kind, in the center of town. It was the dream of Marshall's to have a place for man's best friend to have a place to run and play."***  
**Jennifer Brown Meadors**

tba: Project Four



**Dr. Marshall L. Meadors III Dog Park:**  
**Did you know...** that this dog park is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Marshall Meadors and is located on Fant Street in Anderson. The dog sculpture was created by Dale Rogers, of Haverhill, MA.



# Fire at the Texas Oil Company plant?

BY RICH OTTER

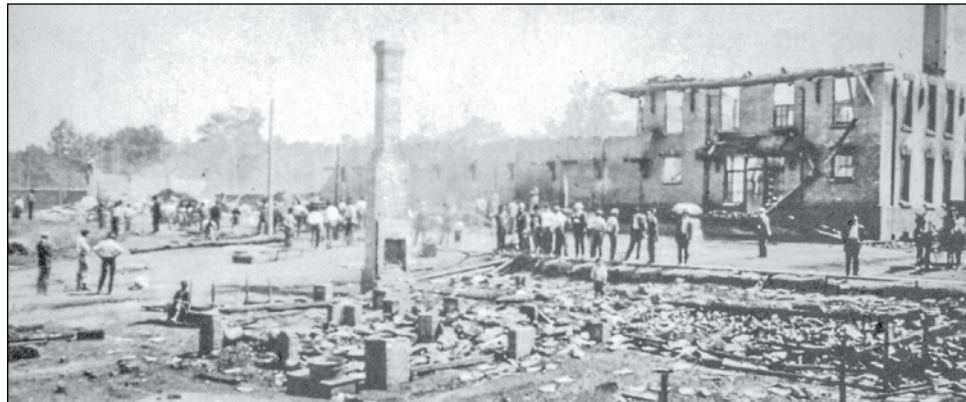
Perhaps the most destructive fire in Anderson County's history was described in The Anderson Independent in a segment entitled "Does it Seem So Long Ago" on January 30, 1952. The piece was a popular presentation in the earlier papers. There was a picture of a standing fireplace beside remnants of a building and spectators of the destruction in garb of an obviously former day.

It was reported that the fire occurred in 1914 with widespread destruction. The description under picture stated: "It started in the old Texas Oil Company plant not far distant from the Blue Ridge roundhouse and before being brought under control destroyed several houses, warehouses, a lumber yard and the P&N freight depot and a considerable amount of cotton."

It was indicated that if the wind had not shifted, the northeastern part of the city would have been in jeopardy. The information was picked up later in The Anderson Independent's publication Anderson Memories—The Early Years and has appeared numerous times on the internet. Curiously, it was not reported in later Anderson County history books, including by Louise Ayers Vandiver who was the closest in time to the reported incident.

With such a tremendous occurrence it seemed to be important to review contemporaneous reports. The two newspapers of the day in Anderson were the Anderson Intelligencer and The Anderson Daily Mail. A review of both papers for the year 1914 could find nothing about such a fire.

Anderson City Fire Chief Charles King, known in the Anderson Fire Department as having extensive knowledge of the city's fire history, was consulted. He was not aware of any such fire and could not find material



1914 reputed fire

about it in his records.

Interestingly, there was some information concerning a fire in Anderson County, Texas, with information about the Texas Oil Company, and destruction of a train depot causing considerable damage to surrounding structures and a threat to the town. Unfortunately, those reports were from artificial intelligence sources that are often subject to question. Neither the Palestine, Texas fire department nor the town library could verify the fire.

The Anderson County, South Carolina, Museum found information indicating a Texas Oil Company fire had occurred in Anderson on August 9, 1913. A spark ignited it when Mr. O. F. Taylor, the company's agent, was putting gasoline in his automobile inside the building. His automobile did not survive, but two mules in the building and Mr. Taylor made it out and Mr. Taylor saved two of the four delivery trucks that were in the building.

In spite of considerable heart and poor water pressure, the Anderson fire department was able to subdue the fire, and by spraying adjacent buildings contain any spread. The fire was in the vicinity of the old Union Station which generally matched the description of

ground in conflict with the 1913 contemporaneous report. The other picture shows a lot of smoke and no recognizable landmarks.

The question is: at some other time was there actually a great fire in Anderson at a Texas Oil Company facility that spread throughout the area? There is no mention of the direction of the wind in the 1913 article and the article specifically indicated that the fire had been contained. If there ever was such a fire as has been described, it is apparent it was not the August 9, 1913 fire, or in 1914.

The important issue based on the confusion is whether or not such a fire ever occurred in Anderson County, South Carolina. If so, it is an important event in Anderson's history. If it did later occur, certainly Texas Oil Company and its insurer would have decided Anderson was not a comfortable place to remain.

This is where community help is needed. Anyone with such information coming from a contemporaneous source is requested to respond. It may even be important to acquire any stories of such a fire that have just passed down through family recollections, especially if at least an approximate date is known.

Let's get it straight for future generations. Right now there's just a lot of smoke—but no fire.

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## FULL CIRCLE

*a Steven Jordan Retrospective*

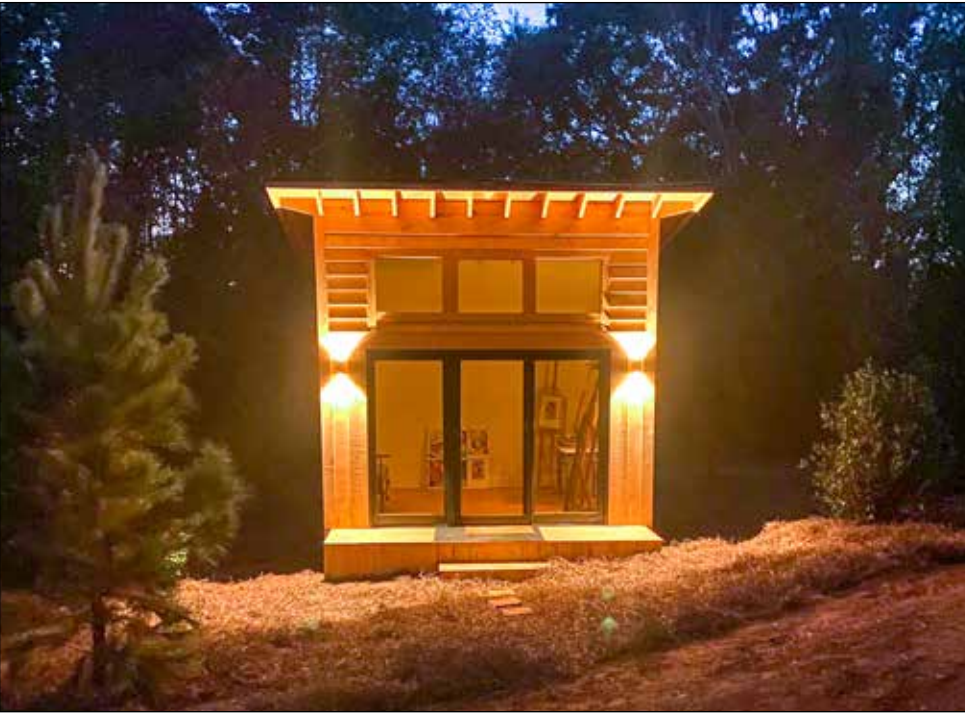
**Opening Reception**

**Nov. 15, 6:30-8:30pm**

[www.AndersonArts.org](http://www.AndersonArts.org)







# SHEDDING LIGHT ON LOCAL TALENT

This summer Anderson native, Sue Belk, decided she would like a space of her own outside the house for an art studio. A building with high ceilings, plenty of natural light and a place that she could play her music, do yoga and work during hours that wouldn't disturb her husband David in the wee hours.

Following a few conversations with her sister Anne, they perused the internet for inspiration in search of just the right structure. They found an image of the space that had the basic shape of what she had in mind. Contacting a trusted friend and carpenter, Mike Seymore, they showed him the picture. After discussion on raising the ceiling, installing hardwood floors and extending windows for the right amount of light, David created a rendering of the desired structure. Mike took the sketch and went to work from the image to create a beautiful space for creative expression.

Mike Seymore's grandfather, Hill Harris, was a carpenter who worked for Charlie Brown Construction here in Anderson. When Mike was 8 years old, he would go to work with his grandfather on Saturdays. His grandfather taught him some basic skills and Mike was hooked right away.

Mike graduated from Westside High School in 1974 and subsequently enlisted to serve in the Navy. When his tour was over, he returned to Anderson and enrolled in school Tri County Technical College. He graduated with a degree in radio broadcasting. Returning to carpentry, Mike went to work for Perry Orvin Construction. He worked there for 3



years. He then moved to Atlanta and continued to hone his carpentry skills with a local company. Six years later, he moved back home and started his own carpentry business in the mid 90's. Over the years, he has remodeled countless homes and completed additions to homes.

In 1995 he remodeled an older home from the late 1800's located in Travelers Rest. The completed project won the Greenville Builders Association Remodel of the Year and also a prestigious award given by the Greenville Realtors Association for his outstanding craftsmanship.

These images of the residential art studio are a shining example of the expression of Mike Seymore's experienced and refined skills as a talented local carpenter.

To contact Mike: Email him at [mseymore52@aol.com](mailto:mseymore52@aol.com).

## Caregiving During The Holidays



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# Construction of Brookstone mini-golf course teed up to finish soon

Anderson is getting a new putt-putt course thanks to Tyler Brennan and his wife Dr. Melissa Mertely, the power-couple co-owners of The Club at Brookstone on 100 River Club Drive. The project sits alongside an 18 hole, par 72 golf course, a driving range and a restaurant,



Ainsley McCarthy

which have been backdrops for everything from weddings and live performances to golf championships and tournaments. Now, the pair is looking to add to the good old fashioned family fun with help from a team of contractors led by Structure Insights.

The construction phase has taken about two months so far and will likely last at least another two due to scheduling adjustments after Hurricane Helene. All there is to see right now is a 12,000 square foot patch of red clay bordered by a nine foot retaining wall and littered with blue stakes. However, an elaborate model, which took a year to design, has been in the works since Aug. 2023. The result is a mix of 18



different iterations, complete with stone and palm trees purchased from local suppliers. Brennan said his vision is an 18 hole fusion of pop stroke and traditional mini golf. The first is usually for adults only because it has true-to-size golf holes and complex obstacles that require a technical approach, whereas mini golf is characterized by shorter putting distances and simpler challenges, making it approachable for everyone. “We’re going to find ourselves in between

the two, where any hole you can get a hole-in-one without having to bounce it off any rock or siding or anything. The golfers can be like, ‘Okay, so I can see the shot this way, I see the slopes, and I’m going to avoid the bunker and this and that,’” Brennan said. “The kids can just fire it off the rocks and let it bounce off the sides and still have fun.” He also said that the putt-putt course will share aesthetic similarities with the golf course, as it will also have bunkers, hills, undulations

and water features. Though, to preserve its usability for all guests, the routes to each of the holes will be wheelchair accessible. Brennan and Mertely said they began this endeavor after realizing they could expand their mission to provide Anderson with quality entertainment, and fulfill local demand for the activity, as there are not any mini golf courses open for business in the county right now. “Part of the reason why we’re doing all this—and Tyler has spearheaded this whole project—is because Anderson needs a community center where it can be for families, it can be for golfers, it can be for date nights, and there’s going to be something for everyone here. We’re excited to bring that to light,” Mertely said with a smile. Hours of operation for the putt-putt course will be the same as those for the golf course and driving range, which are from sunrise to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and sunrise to 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

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FROM THE SHELF

# On Rick McIntyre and the Wolves of Yellowstone

A current obsession of mine is wolves, and like any ADHDer I have gone fully down the rabbit hole. Within my lupine deep dive, I came across Rick McIntyre. McIntyre has spent more time than anyone else alive, maybe even ever, studying wolves and their behaviors in the wild. Twenty-five of those years have been spent specifically in Yellowstone studying the famous wolf packs of the region.

In the early 1900s the US government started 'predator population' control with various predators, including wolves. Initially done with the intentional infection and spread of mange (bio-engineered to be even more infectious and deadly for wolves), the last wolf in Yellowstone was shot and killed in 1926. After decades of seeing the havoc the loss of wolves had on the region, the call was made to reintroduce them to the famous park and surrounding region.

The wolf reintroduction project started in 1995 and McIntyre's series, *The Alpha Wolves of Yellowstone*, covers the lives of the Yellowstone packs from that point through to

today. McIntyre was on the ground, assisting with the cages for the wolves that were brought in from Canada for the purpose of reintroducing the species to the region.



Sara Leady

His first book, *The Rise of Wolf 8*, chronicles one of the young pups released in the initial 1995 maiden introduction. Wolf 8 was the runt of one of these original family packs, who within a year became the alpha of another pack

after their alpha male was illegally shot.

McIntyre's series focuses on four different alphas and covers his twenty-five years with Yellowstone. While not truly necessary to read the series in order, it does lay out the full lineage of all the packs and major players of Yellowstone, so you can clearly see how Wolf 8 influenced the nature of Alpha Female 06 almost two decades after his introduction to the park. After *The Rise of Wolf 8* comes *The*

*Reign of Wolf 21*, whose name you might recognize; if not, just know he's the legendary leader of the famous Druid pack of Yellowstone, which at one point included 38 pack members, the largest on record. You probably wouldn't catch it, but it's an easy bet that any famous picture of a very large black wolf is also likely 21, and if not him, one of his descendants.

After Wolf 21, McIntyre covers the renegade bad boy Wolf 302 in *The Redemption of Wolf 302*. Finally, McIntyre covers what's maybe my favorite wolf in *The Alpha Female Wolf: The Fierce Legacy of Yellowstone's 06* (it's a toss-up for favorite since Wolf 8 was a heck of an underdog). With McIntyre's years of studying wolves in their natural habitat, over the course of the four books he gives a clear picture of the real nature of wolves, debunking a lot of common misconceptions about wolves in general (like how gentle they can be), and around the

role an 'alpha' actually plays in a pack.

Part of my love of Wolf 06 is how clearly she, and the rest of the lady alphas, are the true powers behind not just the success of wolves in Yellowstone, but wolf packs in general. Reading through any of McIntyre's titles will show you just how wrong the myth of the 'alpha male' truly is. While they are enforcers and mighty in their own right, it's the female alpha that is the true leader, making decisions around pack dynamics and migrations. Many female alphas, like 06, are also the superior hunter and fighter within a pack. Even bigger myth busting however is the equally cooperative nature of a wolf pack where every member takes turns with different roles/tasks, and they collectively come together to maintain the pack, not just the leader. McIntyre has a new book, *Thinking Like a Wolf: Lessons from the Yellowstone Packs*, coming out October 29th that looks at the very real things we as a society can learn from wolves and how they function as a cooperative pack, even amongst conflict and rivalries. I'm pretty excited for it.

## THE BREW

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# Holiday Market

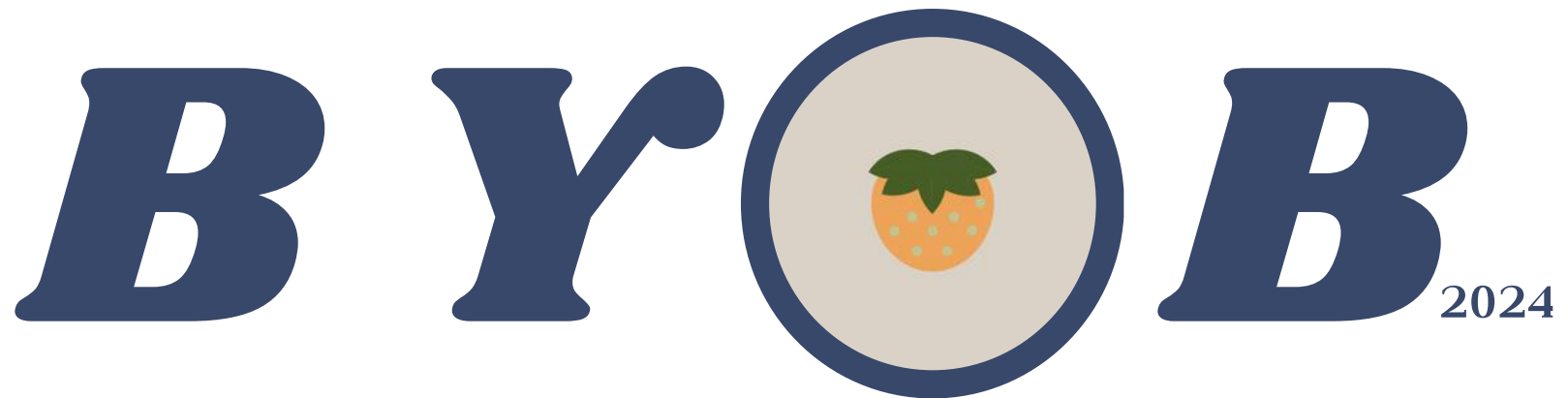
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**August 15th**  
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**September 19th**  
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**October 17th**  
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# GET A LIFE

In the past, they would say things like Buck up, Snap out of it, straighten up and fly right, and shape up.

“Get a Life” is now the catchphrase that has gained international usage over the years. It’s usually used to taunt someone who needs



Neal Parnell

to mind their business and is often directed at a person perceived as boring and needing to find a date, a hobby, or a job. The phrase can also apply to people who have a job but are consumed by it and need to find other activities.

Having zoomed through six decades, I’ve almost had a Life, minded my own business, and had hobbies and many jobs, but if you could see me now, there’d be a neon billboard in my front yard flashing “GET A LIFE”.

I’m no longer an amateur senior citizen, I’ve turned Pro. I know this by having taken a prolonged look at my weekly routine. I seem to be obsessed with the delivery of the U.S. Mail. My hearing has diminished somewhat, but I can hone in and hear that mail truck three neighborhoods away. Somehow my mind believes that when that truck doesn’t stop and leave a card addressed to “Resident”, my Life is over. Wednesday has evolved into a day of anticipation. It’s no longer “Hump Day” as the working folks proclaim, It’s the day that Ingles releases their weekly flyer. My heart skips a beat and I need to keep a defibrillator handy when I see that Smithfield Bacon is BOGO, gas points are doubled, and Duke’s is on sale for \$1.98 (limit ten per customer). I’ve found that since becoming a professional

retiree I no longer need a clock or a watch. Seconds and minutes have lost meaning but a nice big calendar with large blocks to write about the days ahead is key.

Have a look at the astonishing week I’ve just had.

- Monday: Give Cats flea treatment
- Tuesday: Haircut-canceled
- Wednesday: Ingles Flyer Day
- Thursday: Buy Meow Mix
- Friday: Ruby threw up on the carpet
- Saturday: Buy Carpet Cleaner
- Sunday: Clean Carpet

Being an elite, top-tier, pro senior, I have developed an acute sense of focus. By that, I mean that I stare into space appearing to be in deep thought about solving the mysteries of the universe when I’m, in all actuality, braindead for minutes on end.....Oh! It just happened again, it’s no wonder the days go by so fast when I miss half of them in another world.

“I wanna Rock and Roll all night, and Party every day”, was the KISS mantra and mine, in the late 70s.

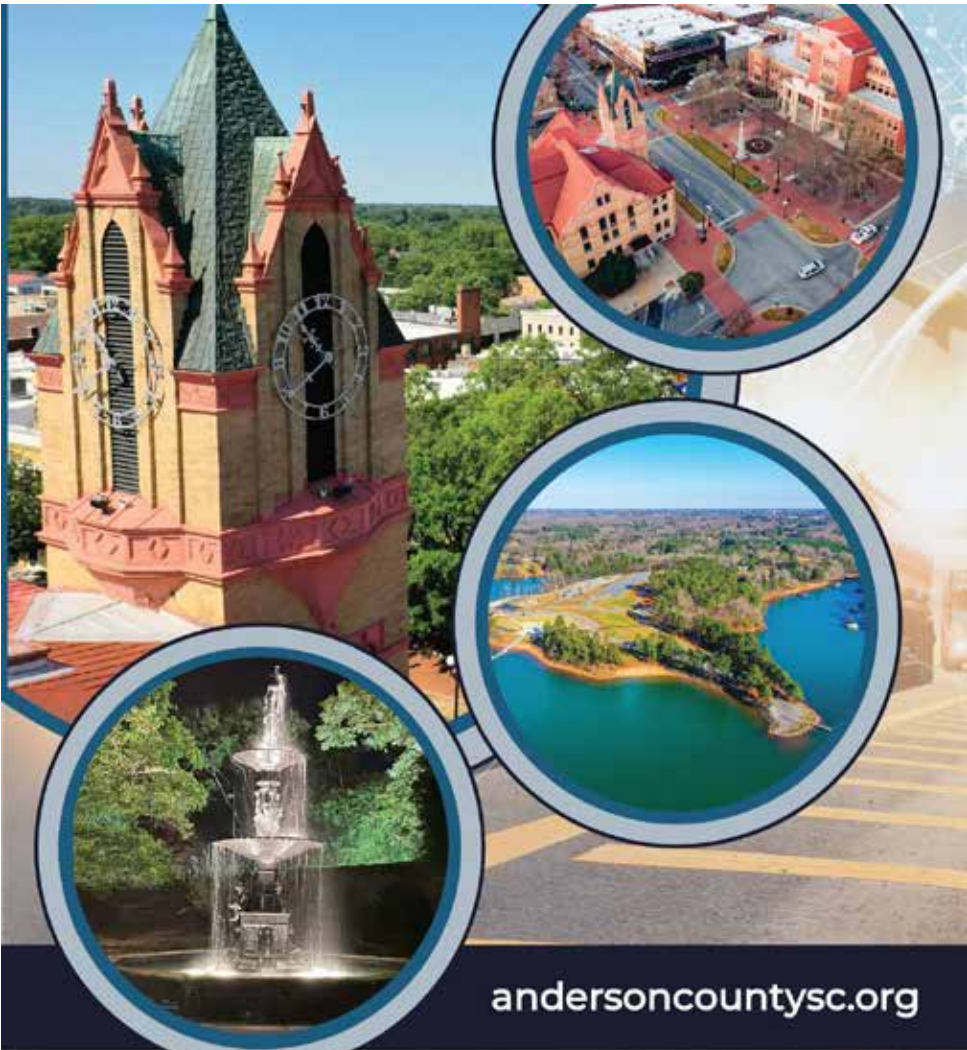
During Daylight Savings time I’m in bed before Night and have lost all desire to Party any Day. You can put me down for a wild pre-dusk game of Parcheesi or Connect Four; if you think you can hang until 9 pm. I can usually make it through Carrie Underwood’s “I’ve been waitin’ all day for Sunday Night” pre-game song, but I record the game for Monday. No longer will I say, “Did you see that game last night?”.

.....Sorry, I’m doing it again, now where was I? Oh yeah, If someone tells you to Get A Life, send them over to watch me for a day; they’ll be back praising your accomplishments and admiring your achievements after just a few hours of listening for



the Mail Truck, watching me Stare, and a rousing game of Parcheesi. Just don’t send

them on Wednesday, that Ingles flyer may be just the thing to send them over the edge.





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## YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

# Protecting your cognitive and social skills, Part 2

In our previous feature we discussed how health experts are warning that our dependency on smartphones is impeding if not altering our natural human process of interacting with others. Studies are bringing to light that an over-reliance on these devices may alter our cognitive and social skills — skills that are essential for a successful personal and professional life.

But with the daily demands of modern life — from our jobs and our families to caring for others and travel — is it realistic that we can do without the convenience and safety of our smartphones? Probably not. That said, would we alter our use of our smartphones if we knew they could potentially cause significant emotional health consequences? That's a question from an adult perspective.

But what about our children?

What about their ability to make good choices when lacking life experience?

Health experts are telling us technology addiction is real. Constant screen time is "ravaging" America's young.

This raises a sobering question: Do we as parents not have a duty to protect our children from the dangers of unfettered usage of technology? The world we live in is dominated by screens! Consider Gen Z — the first generation to grow up with the internet, modern technology and social media. A large portion of Gen Z suffers from depression, anxiety, and



**Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick**

prescription medication dependency. Millions of our youth suffer from feelings of detachment and loneliness with digital "addiction" exacerbating the problem because it provides a form of escapism. Is there a clearcut answer? Not at present. But if you have young children, you might consider the following steps — recognizing it requires serious parenting:

• Don't let your child sit with a phone, with a screen. Provide limits.

• Ensure their smartphone has limited internet or social media apps.

• Keep their phone in a "public" place in your home. They are not allowed to have it in their room. Impose time limits on usage.

• Mental health experts suggest parents and teachers get back to basics, using technology in ways that are educational. Some may ask: Do young people not need access to technology in order to keep up? It's a conundrum. The experts will say the most important objective is making sure we as parents preserve human-to-human interaction for the mental and emotional well-being of our children.

The purpose of these features is to not only provide useful information. When merited we take these discussions in new directions that can inform and potentially have a positive impact on our ability to maintain good health, quality of life, and happiness. If you have any questions

or would like to discuss this important subject, please reach out. Consider us your hometown resource for guidance and support.

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

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## WESTSIDE RAMS

# Rams still undefeated

BY BRIAN HODGES

The Westside Rams keep it pretty simple. They dare you to stop them, and so far, nobody has.

The Rams faced Wren last Friday night in a Region 1-AAAA home game and overpowered the Hurricanes 56-34. Westside improved to 8-0 and has won 22 consecutive games. Wren is a good team but fell to 6-2.

How good is Westside's offense? They average 48 points per game this season.

"If they give you the short pass, we take it," Westside coach Brian Lane said. "If the long pass is available, we take it. That's football."

Quarterback Cutter Woods repeatedly hit short sideline passes to Armoni Weaver, Dreson Evans and Chamarryus Bomar. It was pitch-and-catch in the first half.

But Woods can throw deep, too. He hit Weaver with a perfect 28-yard scoring pass after a failed Wren gamble on fourth down. That TD pass gave the Rams a 14-0 lead.

After Wren countered with a touchdown drive, Westside's Sharode Richardson responded with an 85-yard kickoff return for a score to give the Rams a 21-7 cushion.

Westside led 42-28 at halftime. The high-octane game slowed a bit in the second half.

But Richardson finished the night with four touchdowns.

"He does a great job," Lane said. "He's very quick and explosive."

Richardson also plays cornerback on defense and made a key interception in the fourth quarter.

"Sharode and Weaver are playing in the North-South All-star Game [on Dec. 21 in Myrtle Beach]," Lane said. "Cutter and Chamarryus Bomar are going to the Shrine Bowl [which is also played on Dec. 21, in Spartanburg]."

Westside finishes the regular season on Nov. 8 by hosting winless Southside. Then the playoffs will begin the following week.

## TOO YOUNG OR TOO OLD TO EXERCISE?

As I sit here today, on my day off from exercising, I realize one important thing...You're never too young or too old to exercise. Not just exercise your body physically, but exercise your mind and your spirit. You have all three.

I think back on the days as a boy on the farm... how we did chores and ran and played until it got so dark we couldn't see. We cut firewood, we milked cows, we fed the animals,



Tommy Walls

and we had a makeshift basketball goal nailed to the barn where I learned how to dribble without hitting the piles of chicken poop.... most times. My dad and mom taught us hard work, but they also taught us how to treat each other and every other person that we came in contact with.

Daddy would make us "listen" and he'd tell us which bird or animal was making a certain sound. He'd take us to the

woods to cut firewood and explain what kind of tree each leaf or needle belonged to. Mama would show us how to make bread and how to garden and preserve vegetables and fruit for later use. Through our parents our minds were enriched and "educated" about life.

I started playing ball and running as soon as I could walk...and I've never stopped. If you could hit it, throw it, kick it or shoot it...we did it. And guess what, we were very seldom sick.

As I got older, I didn't run as fast or kick as high or hit it as far as I used to.... but I learned what modification meant! You see most of us think we can do the things we did 20 or 30 years ago.... good thought but not realistic. You never stop exercising your body, your mind or your spirit.... you modify. Each day that God gives you is a blessing for you to enjoy and improve...."yes" improve. You can get stronger and smarter and wiser every day with a little motivation. I love to see how much my physical body can perform every day and I try to read more than ever, because the more I know the better decisions I can make. And, most of all, I've learned to do what my daddy taught me...to listen.

You see God speaks to me every morning. He knows that some mornings I'm tired and may not listen as well.... but He loves me anyway and He keeps teaching me.

I took a course a few years back called "senior power". It was for older folks to push themselves a little more to see what they could accomplish physically. The more they did the more they wanted. It was amazing. Don't make excuses, make schedules. Schedule time to exercise, time to learn and time to relax and recover. You'll soon realize you're not as old as you thought. I tell my class all the time at the Y that you're only as old as your heart!

Keep God, family and friends first in your life and everything else will take care of itself.

Regular exercise is essential for your overall health and well-being regardless of your age. Whether it be physical, social, emotional or spiritual, exercise enriches them all. Remember exercise can slow the aging process...."look at me!" You gotta love me!

## T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

# Hanna rolling in region play

BY BRIAN HODGES

Line them up and knock them down. The T.L. Hanna football team has carried out its gameplan pretty well.

After the hurricane, their schedule was revamped, with four games scheduled in little more than two weeks.

The Hanna football team knew what to do — blow out their opponents.

The Jackets have hit their stride. Hanna crushed Greenville High School 48-27 on Saturday, Oct. 26. The Yellow Jackets had defeated Easley 57-20 four days earlier on Oct. 22. They also had a 42-20 win over J.L. Mann on Oct. 17 and routed Woodmont 49-21 on Oct. 12.

Against Greenville, Hanna's K.D. Patterson opened the game

with an 80-yard touchdown run, and the Yellow Jackets were off and running.

"We scored on our first four possessions, which is what we wanted to do," coach Jason Tone said after the Greenville victory. "We are growing up on the field. Getting better as a team. It's fun to watch."

"We're not perfect and we've still got a long way to go."

Hanna is 6-2, 4-1 in Region 1-AAAAA. They are tied for first place in the region before playing Mauldin late Friday (Nov. 1).

Tone is using two quarterbacks and both have played well. Brandon Cunningham and Gavin Magin are making it work.

"Brandon was out for a while with concussion symptoms since the Greenwood game (Sept. 20),"

Tone said. "We are working him back in. Gavin has done a good job running the offense."

"They both earned the right to play. I've played two quarterbacks every year here but 2020 and I like doing it that way. I really like rotating them,

"They both do things differently than the other but each runs the offense really well," Tone added.

How tough was it playing a game on Tuesday, then again on Saturday?

"We weren't in pads at all,"

Tone said of his mid-week practice schedule. "After the Tuesday game, we didn't practice Wednesday. Practiced Thursday for 90 minutes and Friday for 60 minutes."

The Jackets have certainly found their rhythm.



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## THE GARDEN SHOP

## As Dorothy said



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After a wonderful week away on our favorite island, it was surprising how much fall foliage color changed, and how many plants started blooming, in a week. Edisto is a favorite place, the weather was perfect, and we did all our annual traditions. Sounds of the waves, and smells of the salt air do a body good. But there is no place that does my body and soul any better than my yard.

Coming down the driveway to sights of the woods shimmering in golds, browns, and russets, was lovely. The "amber waves of grain" as the broom sedge in the pasture is called, is golden rusty and contrasts against the green, or what's left of it after drought, grass in the yard. After unpacking, Yogi and I had to go tour the grounds.

It is terribly dry. It seems rain from Helene just ran off. Maybe because it was so dry before and it could not soak in. There's been no rain since. Two types of perennials, white baptisia, and white hyssop were planted before we left. I knew there was no way the small plants would survive a week without water. I had to lay the hosepipe on the ground for a bit to even be able to dig a proper hole for them. Other plants, waiting for me to figure out where to plant them, and other plants being rooted, etc, were soaked in buckets of water to be sure they would make it through

the week. Even with that, native azaleas from SCBG's plant sale were still withered. The chippy, almost coco liner type stuff growers use now dries out so quickly. Even when sitting in water, it still does not soak up water like potting soil. I potted up several one-gallon plants to keep them moist. After a thorough watering, the azaleas bounced back. Thank goodness.

Whoa Nellie hollies, with bright chartreuse foliage, are outstanding against other fall colors. They struggle a bit and are growing very slowly. Bald cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*) are brilliantly golden red. Korien spice viburnum is covered in red berries. Purple berries of beauty berry are hanging on. It is surprising to see a pink loropetalum in full bloom and the one beside it has practically no blooms. Several different varieties of garden mums are blooming, despite the bottom foot or so of foliage looking like it's been set on fire. Ryan's pink seems to have played out in some areas. They've been shared over the years, but I don't think the majority were given away. Mammoth quill yellow mum is putting on a show after a couple of years. There are a few other colors mixed around, but I don't have a clue what they are or where they came from. Firewheel gaillardia (*Gaillardia pulchella*) are still blooming, as these strong babies have all summer. I'm looking forward to seeing how they re-seed next year. Some zinnias are still blooming nicely but the foliage is covered in powdery mildew. Furman's Red autumn sage (*Salvia greggii* 'Furman's Red') is spectacular! It's sort of new in the garden and bees love it, as with other salvias. Mexican marigold (*Tagetes lemmonii*), with its very bright yellow flowers, is beginning to bloom. Sometimes frosts get it just as it



Whoa Nellie with Bald Cypress

starts blooming. The foliage has a very pungent marigold smell. In heat of summer, it permeates the garden sometimes.

Speaking of fragrance, the loquat is just about to burst forth. I caught a whiff of it a couple of weeks ago. But now, it's beginning to perfume the air behind the house. Two loquats, grown from seed, have been babied along several years now. I may just plant one in

the front yard. Tea olives are still blooming too.

On an excited note with native azaleas in the confederate series, I found a source online that offers lots of native azaleas. They had a Robert E. Lee!! He arrived last week, got potted up into a bigger pot, and is awaiting his spot amongst the others in the collection. All research says he's difficult to grow. Maybe I can get it right.

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