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March 30-April 12, 2023

It's heating up in Belton!

What could be more exciting than a beautiful spring day spent sampling the world's best chili? You can enjoy this and more if you join us on Saturday, April 22, in Belton for the 13th Annual SC State Chili Cook-off Championship, brought to you by Deals Galore.

Whether you want to sample the amazing culinary talents of champion chili cooks from around the nation or you try your hand at competing yourself, the SC State Chili Cook off Championship is waiting for you!

Cooks in the professional arena can compete in four categories: traditional red,



Tasting bands (unlimited samples for \$15) and tasting tickets (5 samples for \$5) will be sold from 11 am to 2 pm at two ticket locations. Electronic and cash sales will be taken.

homestyle, chili verde, and salsa. Amateur cooks can compete in People's Choice and Amateur Homestyle competitions.

Great cash prizes and distinctive trophies are awarded to winners. And best of all, profes-

sional winners qualify for the International Chili Society World Championship!

Or, if you just love a good chili, no matter what kind, come buy a tasting ticket packet (5 tickets for \$5) or band (unlimited tastes for \$15) so you can sample the

SEE CHILI ON PAGE 2



Balloons will mark the booths that will have chili available for tasting from 11:30 AM until the chili runs out.



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South Fant Education Center still prospering

Great days of learning continue at South Fant Education Center, former home of South Fant School of Early Education. The location and school traditionally filled with historic as well as modern learning, teaching, and leading records of achievement will continue to prosper due to strong community and education foundations.

In the fall of 2022, Anderson School District Five was able to provide preschool for 4 year olds in each of its 11 elementary schools, allowing students to begin and remain in home schools throughout the elementary experience. This change provided the opportunity to expand the offerings at South Fant and provide robust learning, teaching, and working activities.

The repurposing of South Fant expanded the site and former school into a multifaceted Education Center. The following are now located and/or centralized at South Fant:



- District leaders and teachers regularly use adult learning spaces in order for teachers and staff to continue professional development.

- The District has had an interest in partnering with The Champions Center (formerly DCEC) for many years. They are now located in the Center using 10 classrooms, 2 offices, the gymnasium, and playground.

- The Community Engagement Team (the

community liaison, social workers, mental health counselors, McKinney-Vento Homeless and Foster Care) and Auxiliary Services staff use the Center as a central location when not directly serving in schools.

- The Community Liaison housed at South Fant brings together business, industry, and interested citizens to learn about and offer support for educational concerns and support for needy students.

- The District Hearing Officer manages disciplinary concerns and schedules tribunal hearings when required in a dedicated space.

The South Fant Education Center serves as a community presence with a nod to historic preservation maintaining the spirit of the school's successful past. The Center will continue to provide rich and fulfilling opportunities for educational excellence in a superior school system empowering students to reach their potential through academics, arts, and athletics.

BAY3 ARTISAN GALLERY: AN ANDERSON TRADITION



The eleven partners of Bay3 Artisan Gallery make up a co-operative gallery of local artists. The gallery is located inside the Anderson Arts Center, and just off the Atrium Gallery. With convenient parking just steps from the main entrance off Federal Street the gallery is easy to find. The eleven artist-partners have a variety of expertise that includes painting in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and alcohol ink, pottery, woodwork, and jewelry. According to Kathy Ogden, jewelry maker, "We all try very hard to have a serious range of prices. There really is something for everyone – from wooden tops to jewelry and artwork for your office or home. In addition, all the artist-partners take turns working in the gallery. This allows visitors a chance to meet the artists and ask questions. A visit to Bay3 is truly an experience worth your time." The gallery hours are

Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 - 4:00, Saturday 10:00-1:00.

Bay3 Artisan Gallery evolved from an original group called Creative Connections who were professional artists seeking to share and support creative expressions. The founding members were Jose Acaba, John Davis, Ann Heard, Ruth Hopkins, Rosemary Moore, Nancy Perry, Diann Simms, Andrea Shoemaker, Armie Tuorila and Vickie Woodward.

When the opportunity became available to collectively manage a gallery, they rented a space in the Sullivan Shops (now Sullivan's Metropolitan Grill) through the Anderson Arts Center and became known as Gallery Ten. When the Anderson Arts Center opened in a converted grocery warehouse, they moved into the beautiful new space as Bay3 Artisan Gallery, where they are today.

Chili

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

best chili around. With your tickets or band, you can expect the chance to sample from among at least 30 varied chili recipes. Come between the peak hours of 11:30 and 2 and

look for the balloons and cast your vote for your favorite. Proceeds from the band and ticket sales benefit five non-profits in our town who provide quality of life and emergency services for our community.

In addition to the great chili, entertainment and fun abounds, as you view extraordinary artwork at the Belton Center for the Arts, experience the history of our area at the Belton Area Museum Association, appreciate restored

and cherished vintage and antique autos at the Chili-Pepper Cruise In, or dance to the melodic sounds of The Combo Kings. There are children's activities, great crafters and food vendors, and fun for the entire family.

For more information or to apply to be a professional or amateur competitor, please visit our website at www.schilicookoff.com.

Come on down to Belton and light those fires!

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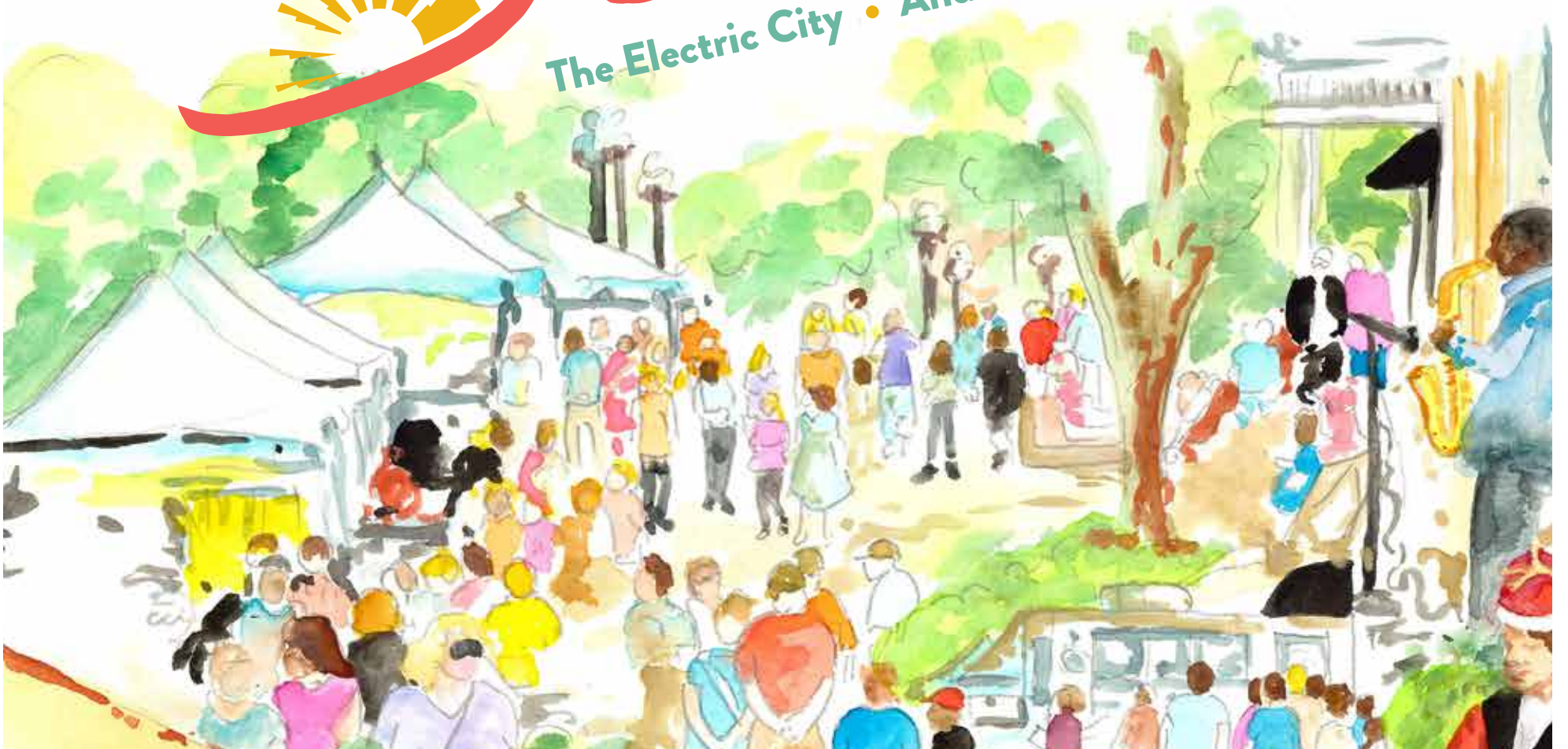
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THE DAY ANDERSON SURRENDERED

BY RICH OTTER

They gave up without a fight. They surrendered the City of Anderson. It was the first city to be so attacked in the continental United States and they buckled. Not even a shot was fired.

It was July 11, 1941. They had plenty of notice. Germany was trampling Europe. Everybody knew the Japanese were up to something. And there were very suspicious activities going on at Clemson.

Historian Hurley Badders later reported that leaflets were dropped by airplane warning that the city would be taken. They proclaimed there was no sense resisting.

The attack began emulating procedures then common throughout Europe where Germans utilized Fifth Columnists in areas to be attacked – clandestine groups, subversive agents. In disguise some 450 such individuals infiltrated Anderson and seized control of public utilities, communication systems, transportation facilities and law enforcement posts. It was alleged to have been the first time in the United States such an attack had ever been staged against an entire city.

Rapidly following, a motorized column materialized coming from the direction of Pendleton on Main



Anderson's air raid siren

Street, passing amazed spectators in a dash to the center of town. Soldiers spilled out and split into units that disbursed to the strategic facilities temporarily under control of the Fifth Columnists. It was all over in a matter of minutes.

Anderson was under the complete control of the invaders. They had set off smoke pots, firecrackers and other noise makers to simulate battle, utilized to intimidate the confused citizens. It worked. No resistance.

The mayor and councilman were dragged out of their refuge in City



Citizens surrendering to the invaders

Hall, hands waiving in submission. Almost immediately, Mayor William C. Johnston issued a statement advising residents the city was held by the enemy and expressing hope future negotiations could establish an honorable peace - in some way negotiate freedom for Anderson's citizens.

It took 14 minutes, just 14 minutes for Anderson to collapse. Nothing so humiliating had occurred in Anderson since May 1, 1865, when a group of Yankees broke up a

peaceful picnic at Silver Brook.

It was a bleak day for Anderson and a warning immediately spread by news media throughout the country of what could occur. The United States had gingerly stayed mostly uninvolved with the horror enveloping its allies, wishing to be oblivious of their suffering - an ostrich syndrome.

Thanks to a simulation produced by Clemson R.O.T. C. students who soon would find themselves personally involved overseas, there

was a partial awakening. The peacetime draft had begun September 16, 1940 but direct conflict seemed unlikely with two large oceans as protection. That changed abruptly on December 7, 1941.

It would not be long before Anderson would be on full alert, including with a 400-pound air raid siren installed atop City Hall with a range of seven miles and aerial spotting stations located around the county. Chamber of Commerce Secretary J. A. Mitchell proudly announced: "We will be the first county in the state to be completely organized for aerial defense."

Anderson's defense would be to sound the siren. Some of its senior citizens may still remember hiding their heads under school desks in preparation.

Drills were held with volunteer air raid wardens walking the streets at night when citizens were supposed to have lights in their homes turned off or receive a knock on the door demanding that they be extinguished. No sense giving the enemy an easy target to bomb.

It may seem in retrospect to have been unnecessary in Anderson. But who then would have guessed just a few months later there would be an attack on Pearl Harbor.

Cocktail-centric rooftop restaurant opens in Anderson

ANDERSON — Just in time to sip into spring, UP on the Roof, a cocktail-centric rooftop restaurant, is open in Anderson, S.C. Located atop the city's new public parking

deck at South McDuffie and East Market Streets (behind the Home2 Suites by Hilton), guests can expect to enjoy an exciting bar and craft beverage program featuring a repertoire of signature bottled cocktails

and hand-crafted libations. Complimenting the innovative bar offerings, the menu will focus on comfort-led twists on Southern culinary classics that highlight locally sourced, seasonal ingredients in a lively atmosphere that includes limited indoor dining as well as a year-round, heated outdoor terrace with stunning panoramic views and cozy firepits.

Enthusiasm for the Anderson outpost of UP on the Roof has been building since construction of the newest downtown Anderson parking garage began before the pandemic. "This has been a long time coming. We're thrilled to open our doors and serve Anderson locals, greater Lake Hartwell area residents

and visitors as well as the vibrant Clemson community," said Wilson Oswald, CEO and Managing Partner of UP on the Roof. "Making people feel welcome, familiar and

at ease is what our version of hospitality is all about."

Upstate industry veterans and dynamic duo Macy Taylor, General Manager and Eric McCollum, Executive Chef, have been tapped to oversee

UP on the Roof's daily operations in Anderson and bring a vibrant energy to this culinary- and cocktail-focused restaurant. "As an Anderson native, I'm elated to help bring this unique rooftop concept to my hometown," says Macy Taylor. "It's like a little slice of heaven getting to do this right here in the town where I grew up."

"We are very excited about the opening of UP on the Roof in Anderson" says Kirk Watkins, COO of UP on the Roof. "This is going to be the place to be when you're looking for an elevated dining and drinking experience in Anderson. Whether you just want to drop in for a casual Thursday or Friday lunch, enjoy a sunset dining experience, take

in a nightcap under the stars or you're looking to soak up some sun at our weekend mimosa brunch, UP is the perfect spot."

Situated on the 7th floor above the new Market Street parking garage, UP on the Roof's unique aesthetic juxtaposes natural beauty with an industrial chic décor. The vibrant rooftop venue invites guest to linger and take in downtown Anderson and beyond. A highlight of the space is the Barrel Bar, which was built using authentic, repurposed Jack Daniels barrel staves and is the perfect place to enjoy one of the many selections from the restaurant's extensive whiskey collection.

In addition to serving UP daily dinner and nightly drinks as well as weekend brunch and lunch service on Thursdays and Fridays, the unique outdoor space will also provide exciting options for social or corporate events.

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Wednesday: 3pm to close
Thursday – Friday: 11am to close
Saturday – Sunday: 11am – 3pm (brunch) + 3pm – close

For more information about UP on the Roof, visit www.eatUPdrinkUP.net.





Nola style

I'm about to embark on an anniversary trip to New Orleans in a few weeks and I'm already thinking about what to pack. The thing about Nola is anything goes but I still have to be comfortable, yet stylish.

We're staying at the St. Vincent hotel which has a beatnik, flower child, artsy vibe. It's stunningly beautiful and from the photos online, it's giving me an idea of my color palettes and how I want to dress. One of my main statement pieces that I want to be wearing a lot there is a silk tasseled kimono. It's versatile because you can take it with you to the pool or you can wear it out for a fancy dinner.



Kristine March

You can make it your own. Shoes are everything on a trip that requires lots of walking and sight-seeing. So, I'm going with The Converse Chuck Taylor platform sneaker in a dark beetroot color. I like to choose a little bit of a darker shoe when I'm walking so the canvas won't get so dirty. These shoes are literally like walking on sunshine, so pillowy and comfortable but so adorable at the same time. And believe it or not you can actually wear them with anything.

For night however, when I go to fancier dinners, I will probably opt for a metallic cowboy boot. Also, keep in mind, the cobblestone streets, heels and a cocktail are your worst enemies. A bad pair of shoes will turn your trip into a nightmare. So, go comfortable. New Orleans is hot and humid so I will definitely bring a folding bamboo hand fan. You can get them in an immense range of colors and prints and they just give you a boost of fresh air and energy. Plus, they're easy to fold into your purse. Light weight sunglasses are a priority for me. I love oversized ones but they can hurt your head after a while so I love my Ray-Ban's. My signature pair is called the Ja-Jo round. They're so light you forget you're wearing them. Your fabrics should be flowy and not confined. I suggest nothing heavy. My make-up will be glowing and effortless with probably a vamp lip at night just to give that witchy vibe. I also suggest carrying a handbag that zips just because you don't want anything to fall out. Everything should be airy and feathery feeling on this trip. I always remember when I pack, that less is more because the airport can be a real nuisance. We've all been there. There are so many tricks and trades when it comes to travel. What are you going to be wearing on your next big trip? Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.

Anderson County Woman's Club presents a century of fashion

BY KIM VON KELLER

When the Anderson County Woman's Club was considering a spring fundraiser, they looked to an earlier time for inspiration. A much, much earlier time.

"Our fundraising events are important as they go towards the upkeep of the Marshall Orr House," said club member Karen Roberts. "We've had fashion shows before, but they usually featured contemporary clothing from local merchants. This year, we decided to present fashions from the 19th Century."

As the Marshall Orr House was built in 1883, a showing of historical fashion made perfect sense. But the biggest question the club membership had was, "Where will we find the dresses?"

It turns out they had an ace in their pocket in club member Victoria Vane. Victoria is a historical dressmaker whose interest in period fashion began with her work as a fiction writer.

"For eight years, I was a romance novelist," she explains, "and some of my novels have historical settings. I was going to a publishing event, and I decided I would wear a period costume. The one I ordered turned out to be so horrible that I had to completely remake it, and after that, I was hooked. I'm now a full-time historical dressmaker, sewing every single day. I provide costumes for historical reenactors and living historians."

For the April 1st show, the Woman's Club will present 30 full ensembles. Daywear and evening wear from every fashion period of the 1800s will be modeled by members of the reenactor community and homeschool students with a love of history. People from across South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia will be participating.

"The dresses that will be shown are the effort of about 20 people from the historical dressmaking community," Victoria said. "Of those, I have



made half of them. We have stayed as true as possible to the textiles and colors of the various fashion eras. Each



garment is as good or better than those you would see in a movie."

The fashion show will

be presented at the Marshall Orr House. The emcee of the event will be fashion historian Jeannie Rucker. Gowns and accessories will cover fashion eras from the First Empire through the end of the Victorian Era.

"I love the fashion of the 19th century because it is so diverse," Victoria says. "The audience will see leg o' mutton sleeves, hoop skirts, bustles, and gowns highlighting the natural form."

When the Woman's Club first conceived the event, they weren't sure how it would be received. However, with only word-of-mouth advertising, the event is sold out.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to do it again in the future," Victoria says. "We probably could have sold twice as many tickets!"





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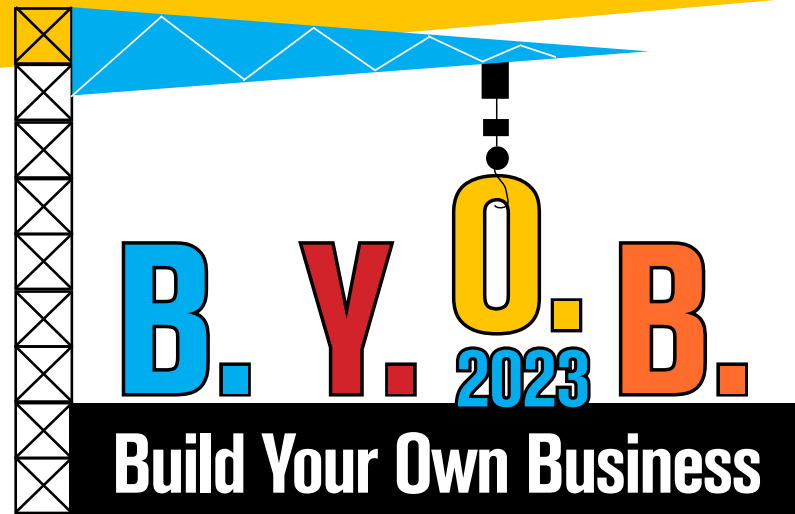
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THE GARDEN SHOP

Wild violets



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
master
gardener

A friend was lamenting about violets in her yard and what she could do about them. My first reply was "Oh I love them and let them do their thing". But she does not want them in her lawn. Well, that's a different situation. The "lawn" inside my fence is full of violets and they are particularly allowed to run wild



Wild violets in bloom

and free in there. For the most part they are evergreen, so it keeps the mud down from my faithful four-legged companion. When I had two dogs, practically anything was allowed to grow so something would be there other than

dust or mud. I even planted mint in the fence.

To treat weeds in the lawn, it depends on type of grass, time of year, and how many chemicals one is willing to use. My friend did not get much usable information from me about how to fix her violet in the lawn problem. However, for any lawn problem, cutting the grass at proper height and keeping the grass healthy will go a long way in keeping weeds out. Then there's my standard answer to a problem lawn, cover it with mulch and plant flowers. That is never a popular answer with lawn lovers. Mama has also gotten on the anti-violet bandwagon because they are taking over some smaller flowers in one part of her garden. Because of how violets reproduce, they are a strong survivor, and it will take diligence.

Blooms of wild violets (*Viola sororia*) can be dark purple, pale blue, and even almost white. These colors are pretty against the sort of shiny, dark green foliage. They have several ways to reproduce and spread; by seed, by stolons, and a couple of other, quite interestingly complicated ways. Seeds that dry will shoot out to other areas. A fancy word for this is dehisce, meaning to burst open. Many plants are capable of sending their seeds several feet away when they dehisce. Violet seeds are also spread by ants who are attracted to a little growth on each seed. This growth is high in a fatty oil that ants feed to their larvae. Then the seed is left to germinate wherever

the ants took it. Then, if all that fails, violets produce a self-fertile, small growth so close to the ground we most likely will never know is there. No wonder they can be so prolific, in sun, shade, dry, and damp places. If you've ever pulled them, or dug them out, the stolons are very obvious. These stolons can also be helpful in letting us know we are pulling out the right thing when violets are intermingled in things where we do not want them to grow.

Violets are beneficial for pollinators, particularly early pollinators who may not have a lot of choices yet. I've seen spring azure butterflies on some of mine already. A wonderful thing about violets is there are 14 species of greater fritillaries and 16 species of lesser fritillaries that only lay their eggs where there are violets. Mining bees (*Andrena violae*), which I read are native to eastern parts of US, only visit violets. By the time I read several articles about mining bees, my eyes were crossing, and my head was spinning, trying to determine if these bees live in our part of the world. According to some maps, they do. *Andrena carolina* showed up in a couple of searches. According to the maps though (before I gave up), they live in North Carolina, skip us, and live in Georgia. But who knew there is a mining bee, that is a specialty pollinator, and only visits violets. Another added benefit, maybe, is deer love them, and possibly this keeps them from eating things I pay money for.

DO I REALLY NEED A HOME INSPECTION?

During the buying frenzy (I use that word a lot) of the market in 2020-2022, many buyers were wondering if they should waive the right to have the property inspected by a professional home inspector. To make their offer "more competitive," many buyers were



Tina Brown

choosing to not have an appraisal or professional inspections. With most homes receiving multiple offers, and many over asking price, sellers were gravitating to the cleanest offer with the fewest contingencies. On the website of Dynamic Inspection Services it states, "buying a home is one of the largest investments you will ever make. When you find the home you've been looking for, you should have a home inspection performed to protect your investment."

A home inspection is a professional analysis of the condition of a home. It's completed by a licensed home inspector, who will inspect visually as well as test the home's major mechanics and systems and deliver a comprehensive report. On a recent home inspection completed by Michael Cartaft, with Dynamic, the following areas were inspected and evaluated: Exterior, Roofing, Ventilation, Electrical Systems, Water Heater, Plumbing System, Attic/Foundation, Heating/Cooling Units, Bathrooms, Interior Conditions, Insulation, and Appliances. The report gave detailed findings on both major and minor property flaws and made recommendations on items that should be repaired or replaced due to safety concerns, or typical wear and tear. This inspection is not an appraisal, that determines

the value of the property, nor does it give the cost of any recommended repairs.

In South Carolina, we have a due diligence period where buyers can have any inspections completed before definitely committing to the purchase. A standard home inspection may declare any red flags that might warrant a specific inspection, such as roof, plumbing, electrical, etc. There are multiple reasons why getting a home inspection is a smart move for home buyers. Mainly, it's impossible for a buyer to assess the condition of a home and its major systems in just a simple walkthrough.

If your inspection report recommends any repairs or safety issues and you are within the due diligence (inspection) period, you will be able to renegotiate repairs with the seller. Your options include:|

- Asking for a reduction in price
- Asking for cash back at closing to address the repairs
- Requesting that certain items are professionally repaired before closing
- Accepting the property in its current condition
- Backing out of the deal entirely if you're not comfortable with the report findings or if the seller is unwilling to renegotiate. At this point, you would only owe a termination of contract fee that you previously decided with your agent.

Even if you're buying a new construction home it's wise to have a home inspection. While it's less likely that a new build will have major issues, having an inspection on a new home can still provide peace of mind. For most people, their home is their largest single investment. The cost of a home inspection is a small price to pay for the security of knowing what's behind the walls.

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FINDING LINLEY

BY AUBREY NEWBY

Anderson's native son and leading architect, John W. Linley graduated from Princeton University in 1945. That same year, he returned to Anderson to resume a position with his father's Home Realty Construction Company. The company had been largely responsible for much of the development of Anderson, beginning in about 1913.

Linley's time at Princeton had been an unusual one, with limited enrollment due to the war. At times, there were as few as two students enrolled in the school's architecture program, which had only a few years before been the premier architectural school in the country. In the 1945 annual report for Princeton University, Sheryl Morgan, who was head of the architectural program wrote; "The architectural profession is enjoying an almost unprecedented demand...every office is crowded with work; draftsmen are a premium...The long-postponed construction needs of the nation can no longer be denied." This building boom would soon be one that would explode in Anderson- with veterans returning home, the baby boom, new businesses and even more residential developments.

Linley's first private commission, even before completing his Princeton education, appears to have been for a "Summer Residence for Mr. John Clarkson." Clarkson appears to have been an attorney in nearby Newberry and Charleston – but there is no indication where the "Summer Residence" might have been located.

The plans for the Clarkson house are interesting and show a clear advancement after the start of Linley's studies at Princeton. There is clear influence in the design from Frank Lloyd Wright with long vertical lines and some nods to Wright's Prairie School, but it also has details- particularly in the façade, with early elements of a Ranch influence, which started appearing as early as 1935. The enormous banks of multipaned windows on the rear elevation likely intended to take in views of a lake or mountains. The design called



Photos courtesy Pam Gamble

for a mix of exterior finishes including stone, board and batten, and scalloped vertical siding on projections on the rear elevation. The main floor of the Clarkson Summer Residence, included four bedrooms, with a lower level containing the main living areas of the house, all of which had access to the rear stone patio area. The design also featured a moon gate in the wall on the rear of the house. Linley never listed the project among his designs and unfortunately, at this time it has not been confirmed if the Clarkson Summer Residence was ever constructed. (If anyone has information regarding the Clarkson Summer Residence, we would love to hear about it.)

In the years following his graduation, Anderson would begin to embrace some of the more modern designs Linley had come to understand. In 1946, Linley was commissioned for what may have been his first job in Anderson that offered some creative license. He was hired by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hill to design a home for them to be built on Spring Park Drive. The Hills owned a textile manufacturing facility in Anderson. Linley's drawings show the evolution of the design, into the house that was eventually constructed by the Home Realty Construction Company, starting sometime probably in 1947.

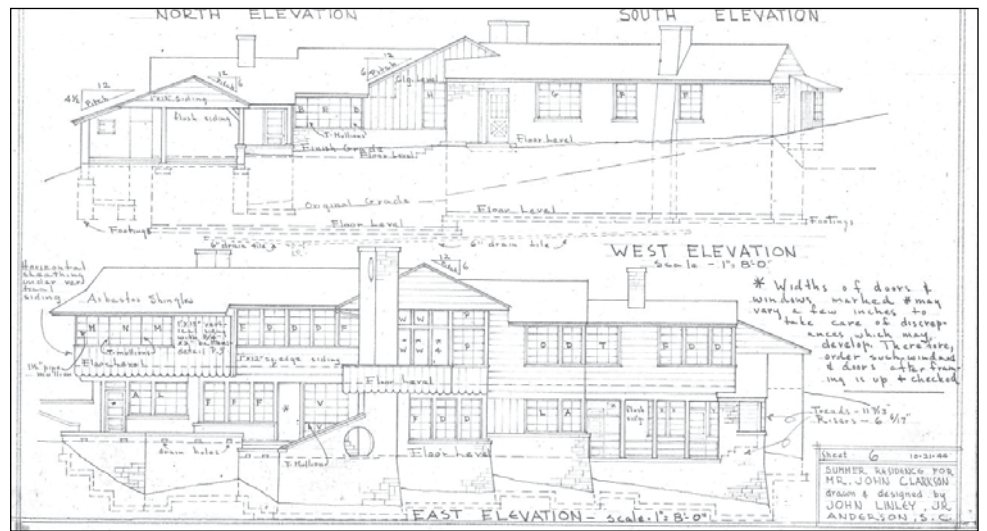
The exterior was a mostly brick traditional design. Linley designed a flagstone patio, stone walls and much of the landscape that surrounded the house. With his use of the corner window in the design it allowed for the interior and exterior space to blend together and for those inside to take in the expansive views of the surrounding landscape. The

two merge almost seamlessly together.

The plan called for a large 3- bedroom two story house. The front façade was a very restrained formal entrance and the rear with its banks of windows, and board and batten finish over brick was a more relaxed design. The rear entrance to the house was adjacent to a conservatory/potting room that was flooded with natural light. The interior stairs ran behind the space allowing for plants to be watered from the landing of the stairway. The den featured Linley's signature use of wormy chestnut.

It is important to note that in addition to the Home Realty Construction Company, John Linley Sr also owned two lumber companies. As a result, interesting woods, paneling and the very best lumber were used in all of the collaborative projects. The wormy chestnut would appear in many of Linley's Anderson designs. The Gamble family who bought the house from the Hills recall it as a wonderful home for entertaining and welcoming family and friends. Through multiple owners the house remains a charming addition to Anderson today more than seventy years after it was first constructed.

Many of the elements of this design, would be explored in Linley's next major project which was the home for his father on Moultrie Square. Of all the neighborhoods in Anderson, Moultrie Square likely has the highest concentration of Linley designs. Next time as we continue the journey of "Finding Linley" we will explore the Linley residence on Moultrie Square. In the meantime, we will continue to roam Anderson, looking for the next great Linley house.



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FROM THE SHELF

The Writing Retreat by Julia Bartz

The Writing Retreat is a recently released, runaway debut. It's most often classified as a thriller, but that feels somewhat limited to me when attempting to nail down a genre. There's certainly thriller aspects, but there's also some horror, romance, frenemies, and locked room mystery components. There's a lot of ingredients going into this reading feast, but for a debut the recipe is bordering on perfectly balanced.

We open with Alex, a writer who hates her job; she's massively depressed, lonely, and struggling just a touch extra. She attends a party for a writing friend Ursula, who's finally broken through the publishing bubble, when Alex can't even get a sentence down for her current project. Adding to the sucking of life? Her former best friend, Wren, is also attending the party, emphasis on the former.

At absolute rock bottom after the party, Alex gets a phone call from Ursula, informing her that Ursula got Alex into an exclusive month-long writing retreat with THE Roza Vallo. Roza Vallo is the QUEEN of horror writing, and has won all the awards and is Alex's idol. The retreat is even at Roza's famous, potentially haunted villa, hidden in the middle of nowhere—the literal perfect setting for writing a landmark horror

story. The catch? Ursula also pulled strings to get Wren on the list. Alex met Ursula through Wren and joined their peer-writing group, so it was only fair for her to set Wren up too. Why are they continuing their feud anyway?



Sara Leady

Wren and Alex's friendship ending goes back to one particular night, and what may or may not have been an accident that led to someone falling down stairs and needing really serious surgery. But Alex didn't push her! Or did she... and even if she did, didn't Wren deserve it after her betrayal? Tied to this night too, is Alex's writer's block. Since the infamous incident, Alex hasn't been able to put pen to paper. But surely Rosa can fix that, even if Wren is there too.

The writing retreat is for five aspiring female horror writers to spend writing a novel, and the winner at the end gets a million dollar publishing deal and stamp of approval from Rosa Vallo herself, which basically guarantees their writing future. They'll live together, eat together, write,

edit and critique, while they all vie for Rosa's approval. Surprise to no reader the tension is high amongst the five women, the Wren/Alex drama aside, and they're all competing for the deal of a lifetime, not knowing it really might cost them their actual lives.

Given the genre mashup I described, there's a certain expected formula you can expect. What I loved about The Writing Retreat though is Bartz's fresh spin. She really puts you through the paces of trying to tease out who's behind the nefarious happenings and leaves you guessing whether they're supernatural or not. She partly does this by giving you excerpts of Alex's writing project which is partially inspired by the rumors of rituals and murders that took place in the house they're writing in, so really anything could be afoot. Either way, writers are dying and dying to meet the writing deadline.

Bartz does a great job of having a cutthroat industry competition without it feeling overdone, part of which is giving us readers such a raw look into the real world of publishing and what that can look like for different writers, especially female writers in a male dominated genre. Each character has deep layers that help add to the richness of the story that are slowly revealed



through interactions and the novels they're writing. It's metafiction in such a surprising way that it really does come out as fresh.

There's several books I could relate/compare The Writing Retreat to, so I'll just leave some word-vomited titles that if you liked them, you'll like The Writing Retreat: Just Like Home by Gailey, Plain Bad Heroines by Danforth, elements of Bray's The Diviners series, Daisy Darker by Feeney, Malice House by Shepherd, and there's definitely some Silvia Moreno-Garcia vibes.

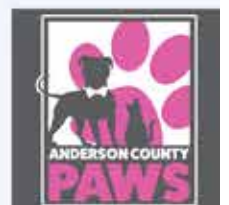


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THE BUNNY

Here we are again, celebrating a holiday that has no date, Easter. Oh, we know it will be on a Sunday, but which month? It could be March or April depending on when the ecclesiastical full moon has passed. The Anglicans, Greeks, and Romans have been trying to solve this dilemma for centuries, and there are proposals in the works that will fix the date for Easter, but this won't happen until 2025 for Easter's 1700th celebration, so keep your rabbit's foot handy. They think they have problems, a few weeks ago I spent half the day trying to set my sundial forward one hour.

Easter is a very special day in the history of Christianity. Without a resurrection, there would be no Christianity, no New Testament,

and no Easter Bunny. Please allow me to tell you how a long-eared, pink-eyed, flat-footed, buck-toothed, grass chewing rodent became associated with the American Easter. It all began when an immigrant German boy named Petre Kuttental, was up before dawn gathering eggs on his father's Pennsylvania farm that Easter Sunday.



Neal Parnell

There were no eggs in the five nests he'd checked, but as he approached the last nest, he was astonished to see a white rabbit with six eggs. The rabbit would not allow Petre to



have the eggs, so he picked up the whole nest with the rabbit and eggs, and put it all in his basket. He ran back to his house to show his discovery to his mother and father. They were still asleep so Petre waited, but soon fell asleep himself. When he awoke, he couldn't believe his eyes. There were now twelve eggs in the basket and one that had hatched! He yelled out to his parents and they ran to him and saw the rabbit, and the eggs. Petre's father told Petre that he had seen this miracle back in the old country on Easter morning. He explained that the white rabbit represented the purity of Jesus. The nest symbolized the manger where Jesus was born. The first six eggs that you saw stood for the six days in which God created the earth. While you were dozing the rabbit gathered six more eggs, and the twelve together illustrate the twelve disciples. This is why we package our eggs by the dozen.

The hatched egg exemplifies the empty tomb, new birth, and the resurrection, and somewhere in this house there is a new Spring chick running around. He said that when he



was a little boy back in Germany, they called the coming of the rabbit on this day the Eostre Hare, but that they would give the appearance of it here a new American name. They called it, the Easter Bunny. In honor of his son discovering this Easter miracle, he would Americanize his name, and name the rabbit, Peter Cottontail.

Petre repeated the story to his friends and it spread throughout the land. Soon there were songs being written, baskets of plastic eggs being sold, and even marshmallow replicas of the Spring chick. The big chocolate makers wanted in on Easter and started stamping out chocolate bunnies and chocolate eggs. Millions of dollars are spent each year so that millions of kids can experience what Petre Kuttental discovered for free. There is good in the Easter Bunny.

His annual hop down the bunny trail does serve to remind us that Easter is about renewal, rejuvenation, rebirth, and reward.

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE

Easter 2023: What's in YOUR basket?

Are you ready for Easter this year? I'm not. Maybe it's because I spent half of last year recovering from an accident (or the last three years dealing with a pandemic), but events seem to sneak up on me more than previously.



Kim von Keller

Even though I'm writing this in a pair of shorts and a t-shirt, I think I'm still stuck in stocking-stuffer-and-eggnog-by-the-fire gear.

Which is a problem as I've now got baskets to fill. With Easter falling almost a month into

spring, neither my daughter nor my husband – nor anybody in South Carolina, really – is going to want to wake up on April 9th to find flannel pajamas nestled in pink plastic grass. I am clearly in need of some inspiration.

My Easter baskets of childhood were almost entirely filled with candy. We could always count on a large chocolate rabbit, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, and Butterfinger candy bars. Coincidentally, these happened to be the favorites of my mom, a/k/a the Acker Family Easter Bunny, as well. When my daughter was old enough for an Easter basket, I made sure to include these items in her basket, too, but not because of tradition. I just felt that if I was going to go to all the trouble of belly-crawling into her room and snatching candy out of her basket in the dark of night when she was asleep, it should be something I really wanted.

Today, baskets with a smattering of candy seem quaint, like the kind a child of the 1920s would have run to after a fun afternoon of pushing a hoop with a stick along the sidewalk. The Easter basket of 2023, by comparison,

must be overflowing with not only sweets, but toys, clothing, and electronics. And if Pinterest is any indication, it must also have a THEME.

How about a Fun in the Sun Basket with a bathing suit, sunscreen, sandcastle set, and sunglasses? The Handyman Basket holds a tape measure and small tools for minor household repairs. I even discovered a S'mores Basket in which the marshmallows are replaced with Peeps, because nothing puts the joy of Easter into a small child's heart like watching a tiny bunny rabbit burn to death over an open fire.

But I don't need social media to tell me how to put together themed Easter baskets for my family. These are the ideas I've come up with:

For my husband, who loves soccer: a Manchester United scarf, a "Ted Lasso" box set, a bag of shortbread cookies, and "Filthy English: The How, Why, When and What of Everyday Swearing," the title of an actual book about British cursing.

For my daughter, who is remodeling a home: a pair of coveralls, a "Home Town" box set, a package of energy bars, and "Zen (and Rage) and the Art of a Never-Ending Home Renovation," the title of an actual book about house reno.

I'll throw some candy in those baskets, too, as I love the challenge of stealing it without being discovered.

Of course, if someone makes an Easter basket for me, we could end this thievery with a simple basket containing a large chocolate rabbit, some Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, and a few Butterfingers. But a note to my husband and daughter: If you're thinking of swiping my candy, I sleep with one eye open.

What do you most like to find in an Easter basket? Share your favorites with me at edit-kim50@gmail.com.



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Butter what?

Years ago, when I first saw this small bird on Paris Mountain in Greenville, it was called a "myrtle warbler." Its name was then changed by the American Ornithologists' Union to "yellow rumped warbler," of which there are two subspecies: "Audubon's warbler" in the west, and "myrtle warbler" here in the east. Those may be the official names of this aggressive little late-winter and early spring warbler. But everyday birders know it by a different tag: butter butt.

The name fits. In winter and early spring it is gray and white, nondescript except for small yellow spots on its head and at the top of its

wings. And, it has a bright yellow backside, bum, fanny, haunch, or whatever you want to call it. After hearing the widespread choice of birders, I've found it difficult to call the yellow-rumped by any other label. "Butter butt" is just too appropriate and too catchy.

Yellow rumped warblers appear in February, sometimes earlier, and aggressively take charge of any food



Ann K. Bailes



Photo by Rita D. Brown

source to be found. They often come in large flocks, so anyone watching birds knows when they return. Every year, as well as seeing them in my own yard, I'll see posts in Facebook bird groups that say "Well, the butter butts are back."

Once these late winter and spring birds return, they seem to be everywhere. They are found in shrubby areas of any kind - woods edges, fields, parks, residential areas, and dunes at the coast. They'll eat seeds, insects, or berries, and they do come to feeders. Just this morning I glanced out the window and saw a grayish bird flit across the view - but immediately I saw that patch of bright yellow derriere. Yep. It's a butter butt.

The only obvious difference in the two

subspecies is that the western Audubon's has a yellow throat, but our myrtle has a white one. All these birds have yellow on the head and sides, and that bright yellow backside. Other than that, they are basically grey and white. As breeding season approaches and they move farther north, the male myrtle subspecies changes by developing a large black mask across its face. But both sexes keep their characteristic yellow patches.

So in late winter, when you get a glimpse of a little grey and white bird that appears inconspicuous until you notice yellow patches in prominent places, you'll know you are looking at a - well, you can call it a yellow-rumped warbler if you like. Just know that most people prefer to call it a butter butt.

SWITCH IT UP

When the seasons change, I get an itch to not only refresh our home and décor but our routines as well. I like to look at it as a restart. One of the areas that I continuously come back around to is our reading routines at home. I know that reading is important but I also have children ranging from ages 2-10. While my little

boy loves to read about monster trucks, while also playing with monster trucks and talking about his recent visit to Monster Jam in between pages, my pre-teen wants me to read the latest sequel of The Vanderbeekers—with zero interruptions. I have to strategically plan how to make our reading routine at home work while keeping everyone inter-



Katie Laughridge

ested in books. Every few months/season we have to reassess where we are and do a refresh to our home library and routines. Below are some things that have helped me keep us all interested and happy to read. I hope you will find some ideas

Be entertaining. Read slowly enough for your child to build mental pictures of what he hears. Stop periodically so he can study the pictures in the book without feeling hurried. Raise or lower your voice to build drama and suspense. If a character shouts, raise your voice! If he speaks in a stern voice, do the same. This will make the book more exciting for you to read and for your child to listen to!

Mix it up! Wordless picture books give kids the chance to tell their own stories as they "read," jump-starting the creative process. Let your child's imagination soar, and show her how excited you are by her ideas. Bring in joke books, poetry, novels, non-fiction, and fiction books! Don't be afraid to introduce something new — they might find a new favorite genre or author.

What do they enjoy? When you make a

point of finding books on subjects dear to your child's heart, you not only stimulate his interest in literature but let him know that you value what he thinks and does. Let them choose the book (within reason). When they get to choose the book you read or the book they read, it will make them more engaged.

What do you enjoy? Enthusiasm is contagious. If you're excited by an author or a story line, your child will be too. The world of books provides a safe, inexpensive way to explore new subjects. I love to point out connections to books I read to my kids. It's a springboard for telling stories about my childhood or making connections to other books we've read. You can also share your love for certain topics and find ways to connect to your child in an even deeper way.

Foster closeness between siblings. If your children are several years apart, you may want to schedule individual reading times as they get older to ensure that the books are at the appropriate reading level. But don't forsake family reading. Suggest that older kids read to younger ones. Or if you have to separate one or all of them during reading time for a season, that's okay! This is where we are at our house.

Let her read to you. Once your child starts to read, vary your ritual by taking turns reading to each other, and don't be too quick to correct a beginner. If your child mispronounces or incorrectly sounds out a word, wait until he finishes the page or the thought so you don't discourage his attempts. Then say, "Did that word make sense?" If what they say isn't correct but makes sense, it's okay to let them make a few mistakes. You don't want to hinder comprehension or discourage them. It's all about balance.

Get her a library card. Most public libraries issue cards when a child is 5 or can write her name. Celebrate the event, and check out library reading hours and family reading times as well as book clubs and other motivating programs. There is something about having your "own card" that makes checking out books so much fun!

As always, Happy Reading! -Katie

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NIBBLE & SIP

The most expensive Easter item isn't the solid chocolate bunny

A few weeks ago, I was standing in front of the cooler section of my local Food Lion when I heard a woman say, "I'm going to have to take out a loan." I thought she was talking to her banker via Bluetooth, but she was actually talking to me... and pointing to a carton of eggs.

I glanced at the price and realized that it might be cheaper to buy a Faberge egg. And while the price has dropped recently, they're still more expensive than usual, which is unfortunate as we go into the egg-iest season of the year. So if you'll be featuring eggs at your Easter gathering, show them off by making a platter of spectacular deviled eggs.

This staple of grandmas across the South is enjoying renewed popularity as restaurants are offering tricked-out versions on their appe-

tizer menus. One of my favorites is the Nordic Deviled Egg at Vivian's in Asheville. It's stuffed with potato, smoked fish, and cornichons and topped with a bit of caviar. Southern



Kim von Keller

Way Catering in Columbia serves them fried and topped with a pimento chutney.

My favorite non-traditional deviled egg is adapted

from Anya von Bremzen's "The New Spanish Table." One of our neighbors has declared it the best he's ever eaten. Do not be afraid of the tuna! (Or the anchovy, but you can leave that out if you must.)

Another version features two of Americans' favorite ingredients, avocados and Ranch dressing. It's from the American Egg Board, and who should know better?

Spanish Stuffed Eggs

6 large hard-cooked eggs, peeled and split in half lengthwise

1 6-oz. Can tuna packed in oil, well-drained and flaked

2 T. Mayonnaise

1 T. lemon juice

2 T. capers, drained and rinsed

Salt and pepper, to taste

12 anchovy filets, rinsed and patted dry

1 roasted red pepper, cut into strips

Gently remove the yolks from the eggs without breaking the whites. Combine the yolks, tuna,

mayonnaise, and lemon juice in the bowl of a small food processor. Process until completely smooth and transfer to a small mixing bowl. Season with salt and pepper to taste and stir in the capers. Fill the egg whites equally with the tuna filling, cover with plastic wrap, and chill until ready to serve.

Before service, roll each anchovy into a spiral and place on top of each filled egg half. Place a red pepper strip in each spiral and serve. Makes 12.

Avocado Ranch Stuffed Eggs

12 large hard-cooked eggs, peeled and split in half lengthwise

2 ripe avocados, pit removed, flesh mashed

3 T. prepared Ranch dressing (I like Hidden Valley)

2 T. lime juice
garlic salt and pepper, to taste
¼ c. thinly sliced scallions, divided

¼ c. crumbled crisp cooked bacon

Gently remove the yolks from the eggs without breaking the whites. Combine the yolks, mashed avocado, Ranch dressing, and lime juice in the bowl of a small food processor. Process until completely smooth and transfer to a small mixing bowl. Season to taste with garlic salt and pepper and stir in 1 T. sliced scallions. Fill the egg whites equally with the avocado filling, cover with plastic wrap, and chill until ready to serve.

Before service, garnish each half with the remaining scallions and crumbled bacon. Makes 24.

T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

Hanna seeking consistency

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — After splitting a pair of games with city rival Westside to kick off the regular season, the T.L. Hanna baseball team has struggled to find consistency over the last two weeks.

In the first game of their recent run, the Yellow Jackets took on St. Joseph's on March 14. The two teams traded runs in the early innings, but Hanna came out on top in a 4-3 win.

Tyler Ethington drew two walks in the win, while picking up one hit in the win but it was a big one as he launched a first inning home run that scored two. Bradley Schoenholz got the start for the Jackets, but struggled early, leading Jackson Robinson to come on in the second inning and pick up the win after striking out 10 batters over nearly five innings.

Following the win, the Yellow Jackets traveled to Flour Field in Greenville on March 18 against the Wren Hurricanes. The Jackets managed just three hits in the 5-0 shutout loss.

In a game that started as a pitchers duel through three innings, Easton Thomas looked solid, giving up one hit early before Wren found its groove in the fourth picking up four runs.

Hanna attempted to bounce back the next week as they hosted the Laurens Raiders. The Raiders got a great start,

picking up eight runs over the first three innings and didn't look back in a 12-7 win.

The Yellow Jackets again struggled in the batter's box, picking up only three hits, but Ethington had another huge day with a grand slam and another RBI single. Blane Wentzky took the loss for Hanna, giving up five runs in just over an inning of work.

The Jackets were given a chance for redemption just three days later at Laurens. Hanna led by as many as four runs, but a big Raider run in the middle innings put Laurens over the top, 9-7.

Thomas got the start for Hanna, giving up two runs before the wheels came off for Seth Manning in relief. In the batter's box, Ethington and Brett Boone had big days driving in two and three runs respectively.

With a three-game losing streak, the Jackets opened region play on March 27 against the Mauldin Mavericks. The Yellow Jackets found their groove shutting out Mauldin, 8-0.

Hanna got a masterful performance on the mound from Robinson, as he gave up just one hit and struck out six in six innings. Meanwhile, Brooks Bloomer did a great job providing run support for the Jackets going 2-2 with a double while driving in two runs.

With the huge region win, Hanna should have plenty of momentum going into the meat of region play.

WESTSIDE RAMS

Rams build momentum

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — It's been an up and down few weeks for the Westside softball team between weather postponements and a .500 start to region play, but a win over in-town rival T.L. Hanna could be a big momentum builder for the team down the stretch.

The Rams began their most recent stretch of games against the Greenville Red Raiders on March 14. After building an early lead, Westside was on the brink of collapse after a six-run sixth inning for Greenville tied the game at 9-9. Luckily for the Rams, Abbie Grace Thompson drilled an RBI triple to score Alyssa McConnell and give the Rams a 10-9 region opening win.

Thompson was huge for the Rams in the win going 3-4 with 3 RBIs to lead the team in the batter's box, while Allen University commit Elissa Rich handled things in the circle striking out 13 Greenville batters.

Coming off the win, the Rams hosted the BHP Bears two nights later. Westside was unable to match BHP's 10 runs over the first two innings, leading to an 18-5 loss in six innings.

Cadence Cribb drove in two of the Rams' five runs in the win with a 2-4

day in the box. Mackenzie Jefferson drove in another for Westside and had a solid day in relief of Amelia Wilson in the circle.

Attempting to get back on track, the Rams traveled to Greenwood on March 21 hoping to move to 2-0 in region play. Falling behind 3-0 early, Westside was never able to catch to the Eagles in a 9-3 loss.

Rich had all the makings of a solid outing in the circle giving up six hits and striking out 10, but control issues led to seven walks. Hailey Grooms led the Rams in the batter's box going 2-2 with a double.

After a rainout postponed their game the next night with Easley, Westside finished up their recent run against Hanna. The game proved to be a return to form for the Rams as they pulled out a 5-0 shutout win.

Rich was electric on the mound in the win giving up just three hits and striking out 12 Jacket batters in the complete game shutout. In the box, Jefferson proved to be the biggest difference maker with a triple that drove in three batters.

Coming off the big win, the Rams will head into a crucial region stretch to start the month of April.

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2017 NISSAN ROGUE SL Stk#24008A.....	\$20,988	2018 NISSAN FRONTIER S Stk#23650B.....	\$23,988	2023 TOYOTA CAMRY LE Stk#23454A.....	\$29,455
2018 HYUNDAI SONATA LIMITED Stk#23957A.....	\$21,488	2016 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5 Stk#23695B.....	\$24,988	2018 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD OFF-ROAD V6 Stk#P8616.....	\$36,488
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