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A PARTNERSHIP FOR WILDLIFE

Blue Ridge Electric helps install pole for osprey nest at Anderson home

Wildlife conservation. Concerned citizen. Big business. Six words that don't often appear together. But in a recent display of mutual cooperation, a great service to wildlife was accomplished.



Ann K. Bailes

In the spring of 2022, longtime Anderson resident David Sims noticed that ospreys had built a nest on a Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative power pole near his home in west Anderson, off Highway 187 near Lake Hartwell.

Ospreys have frequented the Anderson area in recent years, because of Lake



Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative employees erect a pole topped with a platform (right) set to hopefully be home to an osprey nest in the future.

SEE NEST ON PAGE 2



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Bowman awarded first-ever McDuffie High School Distinguished Alumni of the Year



Clifford Bowman was recently honored with the inaugural McDuffie High School Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award.

Clifford Bowman was awarded the inaugural McDuffie High School Distinguished Alumni of the Year at Anderson School District Five's Back-to-School Celebration held on Monday, July 31, 2023.

The Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions while maintaining high standards in personal integrity and character as an outstanding leader in their field, and service to their community through local, state, national, or international organiza-

tions. This individual is selected by a committee of Anderson District Five graduates. The recipient is someone who makes us all proud with their contributions to our community and their profession while always maintaining high standards in personal integrity and character. Anderson School District Five has graduated many deserving young men and women who have gone on to make their school, district, and hometown proud, and looks forward to many more years of bestowing this honor on its alumni.

Nest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hartwell and the presence of many high power poles and cell towers. These large hawks were previously known as fish hawks. People at the lake sometimes can see ospreys catch their dinner, feet first, out of the lake. They are often mistaken for eagles; however, they do not have white heads. They are a mixture of brown and white coloration.

Like eagles, they nest on high flat platforms. They often reuse nesting sites and add more sticks and organic matter to them each year. Nesting begins in April and takes about five months for the chicks to be mature enough to go out on their own.

That first year the nest on David Sims' road was not completed, and there were no baby birds. In April of this year, the ospreys did complete the nest, and Sims saw the birds several times. At some point they seemed to abandon it. Blue Ridge then took down the osprey nest and installed baffles to prevent the birds from rebuilding it. (The company must walk a fine line with these nests. They can legally only remove non-active nests, which they must do from time to time to prevent electrical shorts in the power lines.)

Sims, a retired pharmacist at AnMed, was troubled to see the removal of the nest, since it had been active so recently. So he concocted a plan. He called Blue Ridge Electric to see if they would consider installing a pole on his property, not connected to the electrical grid, but strictly for use by the ospreys. Sims was willing to pay for the pole and to build the platform himself, if Blue Ridge would be willing to do the installation.



An osprey built this nest in a cell tower in the Anderson area several years ago.

Sims first came in contact with Renee Woodall, Customer Service Representative Supervisor. She was sympathetic to what he wanted to accomplish, and she put him in touch with Sam McMillan, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative's Vice President for Operations. McMillan too was enthusiastic about the project. He called Sims and told him to let him know when the platform was built, which only took Sims a few days. McMillan came out to verify the location and make sure no vital lines would be affected, and let Sims know that the project would be done when a crew was working in the area.

Knowing how projects like he was proposing can sometimes take awhile, Sims was cautious about expecting the pole to be installed any time soon. He was very pleasantly surprised to get another phone call from McMillan within two days! And the

Blue Ridge crew then arrived the following day. Cameron Simmons, Jared Cooper, and Tommy Blackwell efficiently placed the pole in the location previously determined by McMillan and Sims.

And so the pole and platform are now in place, ready to be used next spring by a pair of nesting birds. Having it erected now will also help birds to get used to its position in the neighborhood, which should help the prospects for nesting. And the entire project, from the first phone call to the completed installation, took place in a couple of weeks' time.

Blue Ridge did not charge Sims for the pole or the installation. Sam McMillan says "We want to be servants to the public. So we were glad to install this pole, to help the wildlife in a way that will also help to keep the power on for our members."

And David Sims says, "Now we just have to wait for next spring and hope that the pair of ospreys will come and build a nest and start raising a family."

It's nice to see how someone such as David Sims, who cares about wildlife, and people such as Sam McMillan, Renee Woodall, and the Blue Ridge installation team, whose jobs are to ensure the safe and uninterrupted transmission of electrical power, can coexist and work together for a mutual goal that benefits everyone. The placing of this pole and platform represents a great partnership for wildlife between private citizens and Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative!

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Lawson is Bay3 Artisan Gallery's newest partner

Chet Lawson began painting again after forty-two years of not having picked up his brushes. His goal was to learn a bit about watercolor painting, a medium he had never been comfortable with. He started with a series of pieces inspired by the works of Andrew Wyeth. After completing almost thirty paintings in about two years, he felt comfortable and "somewhat proficient" with the watercolor drybrush technique.

Last fall, as a break from watercolors, Lawson decided to revive a childhood interest in oil painting. He started with a series of portraits and figure studies inspired by the work of John Singer Sargent. This proved to be a solid foundation to "someday" move forward with more work in portrait painting.

As a change from portrait work, he recently completed a series of land-

scape paintings in oils. "My goal was to accomplish five paintings in as little time as possible," Lawson shared. "They are impressionistic in style and are smaller than I would normally work." Four of these paintings, as well as other works, are currently on display at the Bay3 Artisan Gallery located in the Anderson Arts Center, where he is a partner.

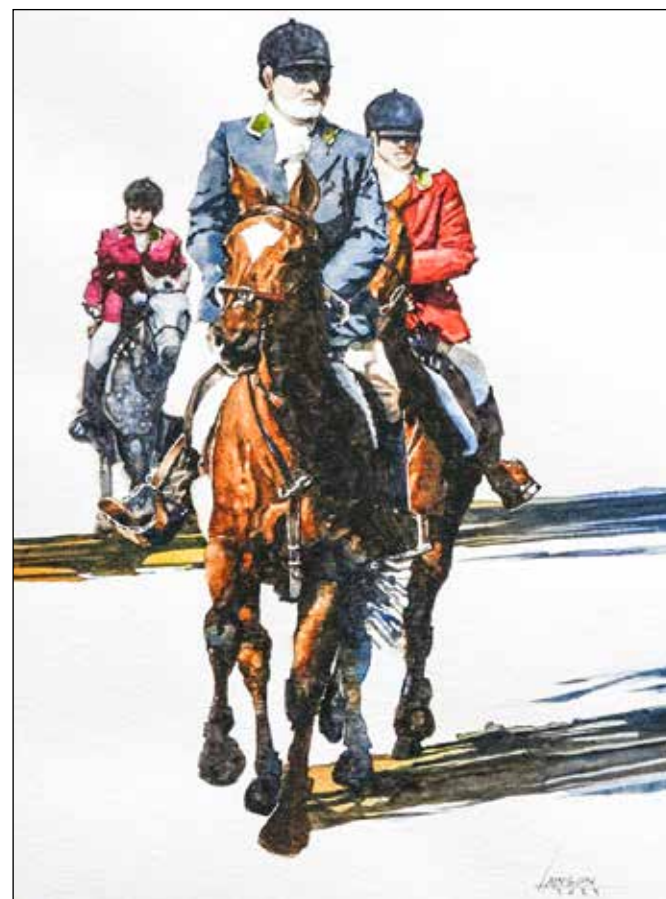
Lawson describes his approach to painting and drawing as representational and with an impressionistic leaning. "I am more focused on utilizing values in composition than color or pattern. My goal is to continually challenge myself with each new piece by attempting the uncomfortable, unfamiliar or what I see as difficult."

"Being a relative newcomer to the Anderson art scene I have found my dual membership in the Anderson Arts



Chet Lawson

Center/Anderson Artists Guild, has made me aware of the amazing number of programs and services that the talented staff offers to our community. As well, through my involvement at the Arts Center, I have been completely awed by the abundance of extremely talented artists we have in our area." Lawson's work can be seen at Bay3 Artisan Gallery located just off the Atrium Gallery in the Anderson Arts Center. The gallery has summer hours Wednesday – Friday from 11:00-5:00 and Saturday from 10:00-1:00.



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With the bird world being quieter during the hot days of August and with school getting underway, I'm going to switch things up and give you another teaching story instead. This is from long ago, but it's still a good one.

Justin was one of the cutest seventh graders in my science classes, one whose big smile could win over the world. And he knew how to use that to his advantage. "Mrs. Bailes," he would say, grinning widely, "you are the prettiest teacher in the school!" "And what do you want, Justin?" I would smile back, because his compliment usually coincided with time to take a test, or turn in work that probably wasn't finished. Caught in his flattery, he would grin sheepishly. Classic behavior for middle schoolers, but he was better at it than most--until the day he really, really got caught.

The English teacher, Diane, and I were working and talking in the faculty room one day, when she made the offhand comment, "That Justin. Whenever he wants something, he tells me I'm the prettiest teacher in the school." I looked up in surprise. "What a rascal!" I told her. "He's always telling me the same thing!" So we put our heads together and concocted a plan to carry out the next day.

Justin was in my last-period class, and Diane was teaching right across the hall. She filled her class in on our deviousness (Justin was well loved, and his classmates had all seen his antics). We taught our subjects; and then, with five minutes to go in the school day, we carried out our plan.

Diane brought her entire group into the back of my room. Then she and I both stood in front of Justin's desk with hands on our hips, seriously but with the slightest hint of smiles on our faces. He had no idea at first what this was all about, but since he was such a good-natured kid, we knew he would not be embarrassed, but rather would love the attention.

"Okay, Justin," Diane said to him in full view of both of our classes, "which one of us is the prettiest teacher in the school?"

The other students were struggling to keep their laughter in. Justin knew the gig was up. He looked back and forth from Diane to me, and we could almost see the file cards flipping in his head as he cast about for a solution to his dilemma. How in the world would he get out of this one?

Then his eyes lit up as he looked at us both once again, back to his usual level of confidence. "Why," he announced with assurance, "you two must be twins!"

I've not seen Justin ever again after that memorable school year, but have no doubt that he's gone far in life. And if you ever run into someone named Justin who is trying to sell you something, you might want to give Diane or me a call.



Ann K. Bailes



Cancer Association of Anderson's Hot Air Affair: Rising Above Cancer joins Celebrate Anderson

Celebrate Anderson is our community's largest annual outdoor concert focusing on family, fun, and camaraderie. This year's music under the stars will feature world-renowned country artist Martina McBride.

Celebrate Anderson weekend is set for Labor Day Weekend at the Anderson Sports & Entertainment Center.

NEW to Celebrate Anderson this year: The Cancer Association of Anderson's Hot Air Affair: Rising Above Cancer event will kick off our Celebrate Anderson – Labor Day Weekend spectacularly. Anderson County is excited to partner with the Cancer Association's ballooning event, establishing the Celebrate Anderson Weekend and solidifying Anderson County's reputation as THE Labor Day Destination!

"Anderson County is appreciative of its partners and Michelin, Arthrex and many sponsors for joining with the county in giving back to the local community by funding and to the Cancer Association of Anderson as they provide assistance to many Andersonians through a life-changing experience," said Anderson County Council Chairman Tommy Dunn. "There's no need to look further for something to do this Labor Day Weekend; it's right here in Anderson County."

The Cancer Association of Anderson is proud to bring the 2023 HOT AIR AFFAIR: RISING ABOVE CANCER



to the Anderson Sports & Entertainment Complex during this upcoming Labor Day Weekend! Once again, skies above Anderson County will be filled with beautiful hot air balloons. Mark your calendar for Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 1-4! This signature event benefits the Cancer Association of Anderson, the only LOCAL cancer charity in Anderson County.

Join our Hot Air Affair sponsors Anderson County, Blossman Gas & Appliance, AnMed Health, The People's Bank, and many others as we join with Anderson County's Celebrate Anderson to bring together more than twenty-five hot air balloons and a Labor Day Weekend filled with Family Fun and entertainment!

According to Cancer Association Director Angela Stringer, "We look forward to welcoming our balloon pilots to the skies over Anderson County every year! The opportunity to join with Celebrate Anderson to provide a FREE event that raises funds and awareness for our brave patients and survivors makes it even more exciting! The fabulous Combo Kings will be performing on the Balloon Stage as well as other local talent. Please come out and join us for a family-friendly weekend with hot air balloons, kids-zone, food trucks, vendors, and much, much more."

Organizers are expecting 30,000-plus people during the three-day event.

CAA will host a couple of training sessions for those who would like to volunteer and/or crew with the balloons. For volunteer or sponsorship opportunities at the Hot Air Affair, please email Angela@CAAnderson.org or call 864.222.3500.

CANCER ASSOCIATION OF ANDERSON

For 20 years, the Cancer Association of Anderson has fulfilled its mission to "lessen the burden on Anderson County residents who are battling cancer" by providing financial, physical, and emotional assistance. CAA is a LOCAL charity and is not affiliated with, nor receives any funding from larger, national organizations such as the American Relay for Life or any Relay for Life events.

Button jacket in the '80s

"Buttons adorning his jacket, Devlin Thompson adds his own special brand of culture to Daniel (High School)." From the 1985 edition of the D.W. Daniel High School Summit yearbook.

Devlin is the son of Terry and Myra Thompson and the grandson of Mr. Jake Thompson, owner of the K-P Mart that once was located on Concord Road.

"The buttons were part of my vast collection, and are almost all still around, though the jacket is long gone. While I frequented multiple Sky City locations from Central to Seneca, the Homeland Park Sky City in Anderson was the source of the t-shirt."



Styling in sunglasses

I love a good pair of sunglasses. I think they're probably my favorite accessory. It's always a good idea to invest in a really great pair. I have my top favorites. I just recently purchased the coolest pair from Free People. They're an aviator style in a sky-blue color. Which, I think you can wear that color any season, personally.



Kristine March

When it comes to fashion in my book, everyone knows that I don't have any rules. Like the whole white after Labor Day thing. I say go with wearing white whenever you want to. Back to my new shades. These particular sunglasses are really fun and they make you look sophisticated yet funky. The price is unreal, right at \$25. The Luna aviator sunglasses are a must. They're also lightweight and go with any face shape. Order them for sure.



say go big or go home. I adore anything Gucci. Especially vintage, but the square frame pre-fall version is stunning. I like the tortoise shell style and the logo is tiny at the temples, which is really important to me because I don't like big logos. They also have some bold styles. Like the cat eye and rectangular frame which instantly gives you that retro look. Most of them are pretty affordable, and they never go out of style.

And lastly, you can never go wrong with the trusty Ray-Ban Wayfarers — they are classic and have been around since 1952. They're a staple and should be in everybody's wardrobe. The thing that I love about sunglasses the most is they make you look fabulous. Whether you're boarding a plane or you're on a boat or you've stayed up too late, I love to pop them on and go. They're also great if you want to hide from someone at the grocery store and not have to make small talk. Great for staying incognito.

If you get my drift. What sunglasses will you be wearing the season? Remember to make the sidewalk your runway, and kindness always matters.

For an expensive pair, if that's your thing, I



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Kim von Keller

or engagement party takes a lot of organization. It's best for your

plan to include things you can make ahead as well as those that require last-minute preparation. No matter what you serve, though, don't fall into the trap of making everything from scratch. It's good to rely on prepared ingredients to cut down on your prep time in the kitchen or at the bar.

This time of year, the Spiked Arnold Palmer is a refreshing cocktail that's easy to make and uses only two



ingredients, excluding the garnishes. If you're hosting a crowd, you can make these by the pitcher and keep them chilling in the refrigerator, pouring 4 ounces in each glass when it's time to serve.

Smoked Salmon Tea Sandwiches also make use of pre-packaged ingredients. The biggest task? Trimming the crusts from the bread. Topping the salmon with lemon juice

and dill right before serving yields a bright, fresh bite that takes only minutes to prepare.

Spiked Arnold Palmers
2 oz. sweet tea vodka, chilled (I like Firefly.)
2 oz. lemonade, chilled (I like Simply Lemonade.)
1 lemon slice and 1 mint sprig, to garnish
Combine sweet tea vodka and lemonade in a rocks glass.

Fill with ice, and stir until thoroughly chilled. Garnish with a lemon slice and a sprig of mint. Makes one.

Smoked Salmon Tea Sandwiches
8 slices sturdy whole wheat sandwich bread, crusts removed
1 c. cream cheese spread with onion and chive (I like Philadelphia Brand.)
4 slices cold-smoked salmon, cut into quarters
thinly sliced red onion slivers
1 lemon, halved
dill sprigs, to garnish
Cut each bread slice in half. Spread each with one tablespoon of the cream cheese spread and top with a piece of salmon and a sliver of red onion. Squeeze a bit of lemon juice over the top of each and garnish with dill sprigs. Makes 16 small sandwiches.



4th Annual James Robert "Radio" Kennedy Memorial Celebration

WHEN:
Friday, August 25, 2023 at 6:30 PM

WHERE:
Anderson Sports & Entertainment Center

SPECIAL GUESTS:
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It's the 20th Anniversary of the Outdoor Dream Foundation & the release of the "Radio" Motion Picture. Don't forget to wear Radio's favorite color, gold, for childhood cancer awareness. There will be a special drawing for those wearing gold.

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FOR INFORMATION or TICKETS

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- Colt Python .357 Magnum Revolver (Stainless Steel, Wood Grips, 3" Barrel)

One winner only. Drawing Friday, August 25th. Do not have to be present to win.

The Outdoor Dream Foundation is a non-profit organization that grants outdoor adventures to children who have been diagnosed with terminal or life-threatening illnesses.

YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Improve your sleep with the right exercise

Previously in this column we have discussed how a daily walking routine can improve overall health. Understandably, when you are young – in your twenties for example – you don't give much attention to the importance of routine exercise as it applies to matters of health and longevity. But at some point, as life progresses, we begin to realize the aging process applies to us too.

Another wake-up call relates to diet. We are what we eat is a fact – no matter what age. Making good life choices matter every step of the way. It's not the same as cramming for an exam; maintaining good healthy habits is a lifelong pursuit. The rewards can translate into an overall better quality of life, lessening your risk of heart disease, cancer, and dementia. No small feat!

Among all our options one of the best forms of exercise for the human body is walking – no matter your age. As a species, walking is what we are best “engineered” to do. Walking is easy to do and requires no gear. Don a pair of good walkers and head out the

door. Walking is low impact, yet it strengthens muscles. It's good for your heart, which after all is a muscle. It improves circulation, reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, and makes you



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

feel good. Most everyone is capable of taking a few steps or strolling around the block. But there is one other – oft overlooked – benefit of regular walking. It improves sleep. When you get enough sleep, it impacts almost every aspect of your health which in turn improves your life. Experts cite

the following five key benefits:

1. Helps you fall asleep faster and helps you stay asleep, alleviating insomnia.
2. Alleviates stress that keeps us up at night. We worry about work, money, and work

ourselves into a mental frenzy that makes sleep difficult. Exercising helps eliminate stress by clearing our minds and removing the symptoms of stress from our bodies.

3. Improves the quality of sleep. The result? Your cells repair and rebuild, and hormones are secreted to promote bone and muscle growth. Your body uses sleep to strengthen your immunity to fight off illness and infection.

4. Helps you get more sleep. Research findings indicate that when you adopt a consistent walking regimen, your total average sleep time increases.

5. Decreases daytime sleepiness for all age groups -- helping alleviate such problems as depression, obesity, diabetes, and sleep deprivation.

As a diplomate of the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine, our practice has specific training in sleep issues. If you or members of your family are experiencing problems sleeping, we may be able to help. If you would

like to know more, we offer a free sleep consultation. Please reach out. We are your hometown resource for guidance and support.

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

For more information about Grand Oaks Dental and the services provided, please call 864-224-0809, or click to [grandoaksdental.com](http://www.grandoaksdental.com) or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrandOaksDental>.



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FINDING LINLEY

BY AUBREY NEWBY

The year 1958 introduced some of the most iconic music of that decade. Songs like “Rockin Robin,” “All I Have to Do Is Dream” and “Yakety Yak,” filled the airwaves of local radio stations and countless hi-fi stereo systems throughout Anderson. For Anderson teenagers there was no better place to find the latest and greatest music than John B. Lee Music Co. at 116 North Main Street in downtown Anderson.

John Lee, graduated from Clemson University, was an avid photographer and sometime radio disc jockey. After graduating he taught for a brief time at McCants School, and for a period owned a photography shop. The photography shop known as Bunny Camera Shop, forever earned Lee the nickname of “Bunny” to close friends and many customers.

In 1946, Lee opened his first music store in what had formerly been a lady’s millinery store in downtown Anderson. By 1957 John B. Lee Co, had outgrown the original space and he hired Linley and Watkins to redesign a new space for him at 116 North Main Street. Today this is the location of Phil Jewelers.

The second store location was narrow. The entrance to the space had a recessed storefront with glass display windows. Above the entrance was the John B. Lee logo with musical staff and treble clef sign. Behind this was a modern mural of musical instruments designed by Linley and painted by Sue Brown. Linley noted the width at the front of the store



was a mere 10 and a half feet and at the rear 13 and a half feet. In regard to the design Linley believed that “we (Linley and Watkins) achieved a spaciousness in a very cramped area.” Within that original space there were different areas assigned to the various genres of music and a listening room at the back of the store where customers could listen to records before making a purchase. The upstairs mezzanine area of the store housed musical instruments, radios and office space. This was a creative use of the space considering the entire height was only 14 and a half feet.

The interior of the space was well documented in photos by Lewis Moorehead for Linley and Watkins. Those photos reveal a very modern space with paneled walls replicating Linley’s love for board and batten, curved walls, modern globe light pendants, and a beautifully paneled wood stairwell. Linley wrote on the back of one of those photos dated 1963 “We have just designed a much larger successor to this store, but have no photographs as yet of the new store.”

Within a few short years of opening the second store John B. Lee was in need of yet another

expansion and once again turned to Linley and Watkins for the new design. The new building was located at 132/134 North Main Street and opened in 1963. Today this is the site of Club 134. This location is the one perhaps mostly fondly remembered by Andersonians today. That location was often advertised as John B. Lee “for music” and where one could join the Record Club entitling you to free records on the 7th and 14th purchase.

The Grand Opening of the new location brought Lorne Green of “Bonanza” fame to Anderson. George Sands, Linley’s nephew and longtime friend of the Lee family recalls that during his appearance, Green “...pulled out his trusty .45 and shot it in the air. Even though it was loaded with blanks it put a black hole in the store’s ceiling...Mr. Lee decided it was a great memento from the visit and he left it.” In later years Lee arranged to have the gold stretch Cadillac belonging to the king himself Elvis Presley parked in front of the store. There was no Elvis, but the car alone was enough to draw much excitement and a crowd.

The new space contained more listening rooms, more space for larger stereo systems, speakers, instruments and a wider array of music. The Linley and Watkins designed new location served Anderson from 1963 until John B. Lee Music Co closed in 1989. From record albums to 8 track tapes, cassette tapes and the emergence of the compact disc,



the space served multiple generations of Anderson teenagers long before streaming devices put music in the palm of their hands.

If you go looking for Linley in either of these two buildings today you won’t find them, nothing remains. To find them, one must

probe the minds and memory bank of another generation. There in the reminiscences of those who would race to John B. Lee Music Co. in the afternoon from school you will discover the look, feel, and even sound of that new and innovative space is as alive today as it ever was.



To start them on their way, shower the people you love with love

Chances are pretty good that if your wedding took place anywhere in the United States between 2017 and the present, my husband and I were there. That Cuisinart Ice Cream, Frozen Yogurt, and Sorbet Maker you put on your registry but still haven't used? We gave it to you. The rice/bird seed/fake snow thrown artfully at your exit so as not to smack you in the face? Our practiced hands. The dance-floor leaders of the Electric Slide and the Cha-Cha Slide and the Cupid Shuffle? Okay, that was NOT us. Put us in a line dance that involves constant turning, and we will only run into each other. Until the DJ plays "I Gotta Feeling" by the Black-Eyed Peas, we cheer from the sidelines.

We also attended all your couple showers. Whether the theme was Honey-Do, The Great Outdoors, Stock the Bar, Around the Clock, or Home Chef, Ted and I showed up in "nice" casual, "smart" casual, or "sporty" casual attire, however the invitation read. We enjoyed your taco bars, barbecue buffets, and luau spreads immensely while the margaritas and ice-cold beer flowed throughout the night.



Kim von Keller

Recently, though, my sister and

her daughter hosted a ladies only, old-fashioned bridal shower for our daughter, Elizabeth, the kind that our grandmothers' mothers would have hosted back in the day. The rooms were filled with white flowers and balloons. The buffet was filled with iced teas, Mimosas, and delicate pick-up food such as miniature tomato pies, creamy chicken salad sandwiches, and vanilla-raspberry petits fours. The youngest "lady" in attendance was three months old. The oldest was in her 80s. Four generations of Elizabeth's soon-to-be in-laws were there.

When it was time to open gifts, everyone crowded into the living room to ooh and ah over blenders, towel sets, cook books, and picture

frames. The baby squealed each time the gift wrap was torn. We laughed about how adults get excited over things like flour and sugar canisters. Everyone joked about wanting Elizabeth's future mother-in-law, Janet, to have THEIR Amazon registries because of the generous gifts she brought. We played a game to see which of us knew the most about the bride and groom to be. (For the record, I scored very highly.)

Sitting in that room crowded with so many of our friends and family really made me think about the whole nature of wedding showers. They're fun and festive, for sure, and the guests of honor always appreciate the gifts. But they also feel ancient and weighted with the responsibility

to help a couple start their married life in the best way possible. By sharing food, giving gifts, and spotlighting Elizabeth, we gave her assurance that, as women who have walked her path before, we will continue to be there for her and her husband, offering love, guidance, and advice... whether she wants it or not.

I don't think I will ever tire of attending weddings and wedding showers. When times seem bleak, they offer hope for the future. They invite newlywed and soon-to-be wed couples to become a part of a community, strengthening that community in the process. Isn't it amazing what some chicken salad, a bowl of punch, and a zillion white balloons can do?

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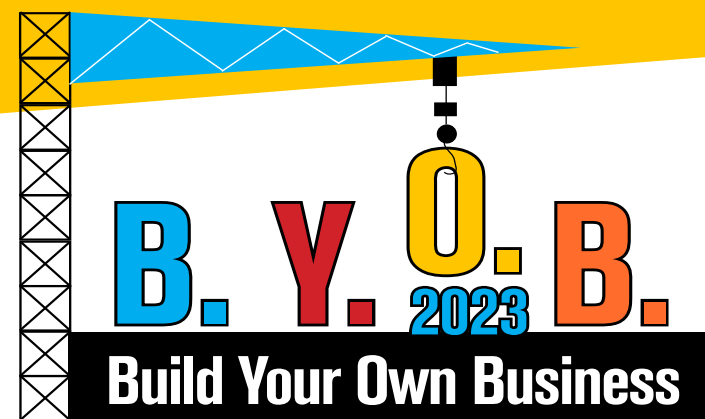
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FROM THE SHELF

The worlds of Rick Riordan, specifically Percy Jackson

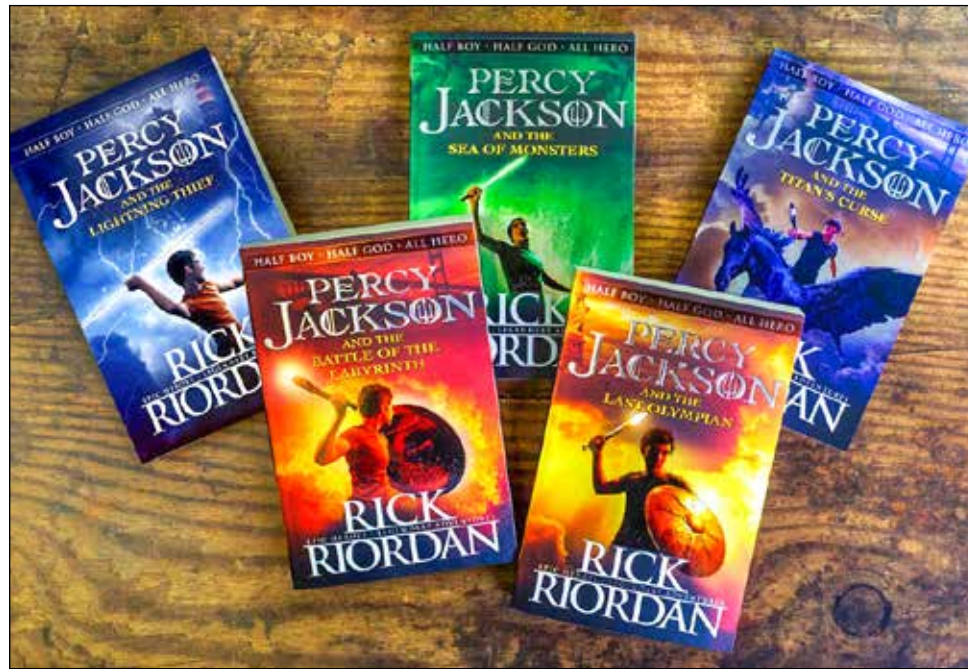
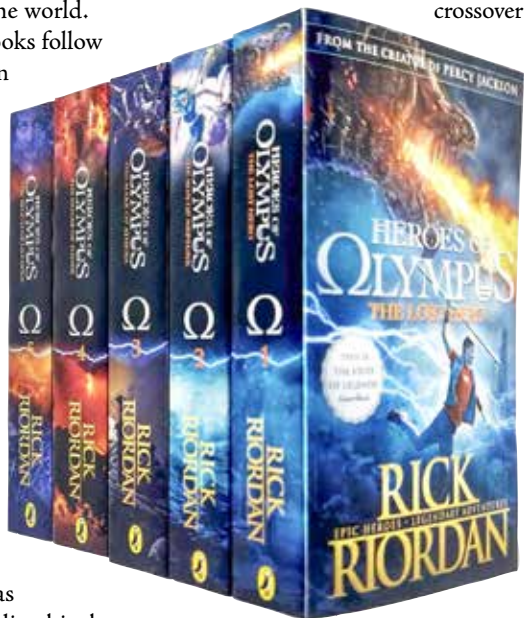
Rick Riordan has been one of my favorite authors ever since I discovered him in undergrad. The world of Percy Jackson currently spans three different series, plus a standalone, starting with Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, to the latest installment dropping this September. Plus, the new Disney+ series is releasing sometime in 2024 (do not let the awful movie adaptation scare you off).



Sara Leady

So why is Percy Jackson magic? In this series Riordan takes dyslexia and ADHD and makes them symptoms of being a demigod, making them a cool, not shameful thing. He did this because his son has both, and to make his son feel better Riordan started telling him stories about a demigod named Percy, who's ADHD was actually his god-like reflexes and brain being wired for battle. His dyslexia comes from his god-side too, since his brain is wired for Greek letters, not English, so of course things look weird. Riordan just uses the vessel of an updated take on Greek mythology, to create this incredible world for his son, which he then shared with the world.

The first five books follow Percy Jackson, a son of Posiedon, and his two quest buddies: Grover (a satyr), and Annabeth Chase (daughter of Athena). The first book opens with Percy, who doesn't know he's a demigod, being chased to Camp Halfblood (haven for demigods) by monsters, only to find out Zeus has accused him of stealing his thunderbolt, so the gods are about to be at war (because Greek gods gonna Greek god). Percy, brand new to the world of the gods, gets sent on a quest with Annabeth and Grover to find the bolt and return it. The rest of the original series follows several quests that have Percy and crew running into all the monsters, gods, and entities of lore, which all tie back to one big prophecy that concerns a child of the big



three, so most likely Percy, since Zeus and Hades didn't screw up and have more demigod kids, right? You guys made a pact to not cause the next World War like you did last time!

The second series, The Gods of Olympus, introduces Roman mythology and the crossover between the gods from Rome taking over Greece. There's even a Roman camp, Camp Jupiter, and the two have always been kept separate because their meetings always lead to another World War. Here we get to see the different aspects of the gods and how their personalities change in their Roman forms. Riordan covers so much history, including showing why certain gods like Athena, were changed to quell the Greeks (she's no longer a war goddess and is the maiden goddess of crafts). His background as a teacher really comes into play in this series because he pulls all these incredible threads I never knew about that are based in the real myths and history, but he packages them in a way that you don't feel like you're getting a history lesson. We see heroes from both camps team up to thwart another huge prophecy and save the world again.

From The Gods of Olympus we shift to The Trials of Apollo, which follows Apollo's punishment for the nonsense he caused in the previous series. There's also The Sun and The Star, which is a standalone that follows Nico (son of Hades) and his boyfriend Will (son of Apollo), as they journey through Tartarus to save Bob the Titan, giving us all kinds of cool info on Tartarus and mythology monsters.

Releasing this September is The Chalice of the Gods, taking us back to the original Percy, Annabeth, and Grover team, after the events of all fourteen (I think?) books. This time we have Percy going on quests in order to get letters of recommendation for college, because of course the gods can't just give him them, he has to earn them. I'm really hoping it's a new series, not a standalone. I seriously can't recommend these series enough. Whether you're an adult, kid, or looking for a family read, these are absolutely superb.

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Retirement retreat: Why Anderson County is perfect for retirees

Anderson, with its beautiful landscapes, close-knit communities, and an array of amenities, has recently emerged as a sought-after destination for retirees seeking a peaceful and fulfilling life after their working career. Our charming town, nestled away from the hustle and bustle of larger cities, offers a unique mix of affordability, recreational opportunities, and a warm welcoming atmosphere.

At this point in their life as retirees are increasingly concerned about making their savings last, Anderson and the Upstate area shines with affordability. The cost of living here is notably lower compared to the nearby urban areas of Charlotte and Atlanta and allows retirees to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle without the financial stress.

Housing options range from garden home and townhome communities to condos with Hartwell Lake as their backdrop. Local taxes are also friendly to retirees' wallets. With reduced property taxes for owner-occupied properties and the homestead exemption for seniors over 65, retirees can stretch their retirement income further.



Tina Brown

Retiring in a small town doesn't mean slowing down; it means that they are free to embrace an active and engaging lifestyle. Anderson's natural beauty offers numerous

outdoor activity options from hiking or biking the East-West Connector, golfing at Cobb's Glen or Brookstone Country Club, joining the Anderson Area YMCA, or fishing and boating on Hartwell Lake. Retirees can stay physically active and enjoy the outdoors.

For those who seek cultural enrichment, the Anderson Arts Center and the Anderson County Museum offer an array of events throughout the year. Anderson also has community theater productions at the Electric City Playhouse and the Market Theater. Retirees can immerse themselves in the town's cultural scene and explore new passions that they may not have had time for during their working years.

One of Anderson's most cherished attributes is its welcoming and close-knit community. Retirees often find it easy to forge new friendships and build connections. The ABC group (Anderson by Choice) offers many activities for re-located seniors and there are numerous opportunities to volunteer with any of our great non-profit organizations. Regular community events, farmers' markets, and gatherings ensure that

retirees always have a reason to come together and enjoy their new community. Whether it's sharing stories at a local coffee shop, volunteering for a charitable cause, or participating in city-wide festivities, retirees in Anderson can engage in a vibrant social life that enriches their retirement years. One of the greatest joys in selling real estate is introducing new people to our hometown.



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Neighbors in nature

BY RICH OTTER

There are a great many residents in the City of Anderson who are not taxpayers. No one has done a census. Most of them are sneaking around at night. They all appreciate Anderson's leash law. That helps eliminate an annoyance except for some insane barking. But even that is kind of fun because canines are usually enclosed in fences while these residents are cavorting at will.

Perhaps the largest population are deer, bedded down during the day, but frequently seen in the early morning or evening. Outside the municipality endangered by hunters they quietly moved into the city limits. Herds of eight, ten or more roam residential areas. Mainly does and fawns are seen, the bucks being more cautions, but they are true gentlemen. They always permit the ladies to go first – particularly when crossing a road.

During the day deer fade into the landscape, even where there seem to be no hiding places. But at night, they get together at favorite rendezvous and their presence may be detected next morning by prints in such comfortable resting places as where there are large concentrations of pine needles.

One morning during Christmas season an interesting previous night's encounter was portrayed with a string-lighted deer replica equipped with moving head standing on pine needles. Deer hoof prints identified the meeting near an evening's gathering under a large pine tree. It was a cautiously made nose-to-nose greeting. The buck had never seen this cutie with the herd. She was kind of skinny. She made a low humming sound and was swinging her head right and left - saying "No?"

"Oh well, not the first time."

Deer can also be peeping Toms, curious as to what goes on inside those structures where funny-looking human things live.

Red fox from hidden dens can be encountered hunting and trotting through yards, driving fenced dogs crazy. Before long their skinny pups are wandering before breaking out on their own. Coyotes mosey through occasionally and are not the most welcomed visitors by the human population.

Skunks like to stay to themselves and are primarily seen or sniffed after an encounter with a motorized vehicle. They apparently feel their defense is such that nothing will mess with them. Cars don't seem to be offended. Occasionally in cold weather one will climb up into a car engine to get warm. That certainly becomes a problem when the operator turns the ignition key.

Some wet areas in town have provided habitat for beavers and muskrats. Unless the landowner desires a lake, the beavers are not particularly welcome. With a sort of a ho-hum industrially patient attitude, beaver generally go right back and replace human damage. Those humans just don't know any better. If the beaver gets away with a new pond, along will come muskrats and possibly an otter family. Otters aren't much for construction but they certainly enjoy the new habitat.

Raccoons have always considered themselves useful citizens. Who else is going to collect garbage? Humans don't understand they should not be using big cans that have to be turned over for the good stuff to be collected.

There are also other helpful creatures who are not appreciated. Squirrels work very hard



Peeping Tom's sister

to collect acorns and break down pine cones. Those things are otherwise a nuisance. With all the pine trees you really need more squirrels. And bats - think of all the nasty bugs they eliminate. They just quietly hang around in the attic, not disturbing anyone. Everyone hosts a chipmunk or two and there are also

groundhogs or, if you prefer, woodchucks, inhabiting the residential areas.

Some strangers like armadillos show up collecting insects. Occasionally a black bear even visits, a somewhat intimidating guest.

In any event, we have a lot more neighbors than we normally encounter.



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THE GARDEN SHOP

Head out of the sand, body into the dirt



**SUSAN
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Enough looking at the garden and saying “I really need to do something with it”. Last Friday morning that workhorse Susan finally showed up. Summer is not the time I do most garden work. But the front garden finally struck a nerve. Yogi and I were touring the garden one afternoon last week and I was quite disappointed in her appearance.

Bare spots have been showing up where plants used to bloom beautifully. And new weeds have moved in. There have been small patches of Asiatic dayflower (*Commelina communis*) in other parts of the yard but never in the front garden, until now. And it’s spreading. It has a pretty blue flower but doesn’t put on enough of a show to put up with its unruliness. It is not easily pulled up. The roots must be dug out. NC State’s website lists it as a perennial, some sites say reseeding annual. Either way, I’m after it! Another one that has gotten out of hand is hophornbeam copperleaf (*Acalypha ostryifolia*). Thankfully it pulls easily and pre-emergents help control it. Grass from the pasture, which I’m not sure but think is big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), is coming up in the garden. I love its fall amber color in the pasture but it is not welcome in the flower garden. It’s gotten pulled out. And crabgrass! Geez, in one year, there is so much. I guess this gives a taste of times to come when I’m too old to tend the land. My new wheelbarrow, with two wheels, is too wide to fit through some of the pathways. They were widened. It’s one thing to have plants spilling over into a path, but it’s different to have to push things back to pass through.

For years now, I give thought to adding winter interest to the front garden, but never seem to find the right plants. Now with new bare spots, I’m going to get on that too. Several years ago, two small growing bluish gray conifers were planted but I lost the tag and can’t find the name in my garden book. I would love to add some similar to that. They haven’t grown much so some fertilizer this fall is in order. Azaleas should not be pruned after June without losing next year’s blooms. But foliage damaged by Japanese beetles got pruned out. It was a banner year for those pests. They ate the majority of blooms off Fantasy crepe myrtle. It smells good when blooming so I missed that but the bark is already shedding and turning



Gardeningirl in all her glory

a dark, beautiful cinnamon color. That’s the main reason it was planted but white, fragrant blooms are nice too. Several other plants, like elephant ears, mums, and asters have either disappeared or not doing well. Maybe it was

the arctic blast last winter, maybe the normal life cycle, who knows. But the garden sure is different. Even four o’clocks have decreased. They’ve been a sure fire bet every year. But cannas, maroon and regular, are prolific, so

much so, they’re being thinned. I thought about potting them for our master gardener plant sale next April, but a gardener just about can’t give those things away. So they got tossed into the pasture with the other weeds. A good plant, amsonia, has not been divided in a few years. Many babies of those got potted for the sale. It’s a good native, pretty blue flowers, and deer pass it by. Fireworks goldenrod got potted up for the sale too. It’s a great variety of goldenrod, growing to about 4 feet, doesn’t flop, and deer pass it by too.

While spending most of the day crawling around on my hands and knees, even continuing to work through a shower and misting rain, I saw lots of swallowtail caterpillars on wild parsley. It’s a weed too but is left alone for that very reason. I saw a few hummingbird hawk-moths. They love to visit cleome starting in late evenings. Hummingbirds were busy on salvia. Bog sage (*Salvia uliginosa*) was busy with bees. Bog sage is a bit rambunctious, as you may can tell from the picture, but worth it for its pretty blue flowers. In my gardening glory, I’m standing on what should be the pathway. And now it is.

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ANXIOUS

I can't do it. Oh, I've tried to relax, but it just takes too much effort.

I've always desired to be the laid-back, easy going, mellow person that goes with the flow and lets nothing bother them, however, I am not that person. I am an anxious, hyperactive, toe-tapping, finger-drumming, got to get it done even if it doesn't need doing person.



Neal Parnell

Now I may be a prime subject for psychological evaluation, but I've always reasoned that anyone that can afford two hundred bucks an hour every week for years, probably doesn't need therapy. I'm not knocking psychology, and I'm fascinated by how the mind works, I just don't think a completely semi-normal, partially functioning person such as myself could sit still and talk about my upbringing to a stranger for an hour.

I don't have feelings of dread or paranoia, and I don't receive audio transmissions from beyond. It's just that everyone is after me and all the voices in my head keep telling me they are. I'm kidding, unless you know something... you do, don't you? I knew you were in on it.

I tried the square-breathing technique; breathe in for four seconds, hold four seconds, breathe out for four seconds, hold four seconds. This seems to work, and I mean by working that it caused me to get dizzy, black-out, and bang my head, but I didn't have an anxiety episode. I have anxiety about having

anxiety. A theologian wrote that anxiety is, "A state in which

a being is aware of its possible nonbeing". I may not actually have anxiety,

I may just be a "worry-wart". I don't have anxiety over dying, but I do have claustrophobia, so I want to be buried in an open-casket. I have no fear of heights, it's the falling part that causes the anxiety. I used to get anxious about stairs, but I got over that by taking it one step at a time.

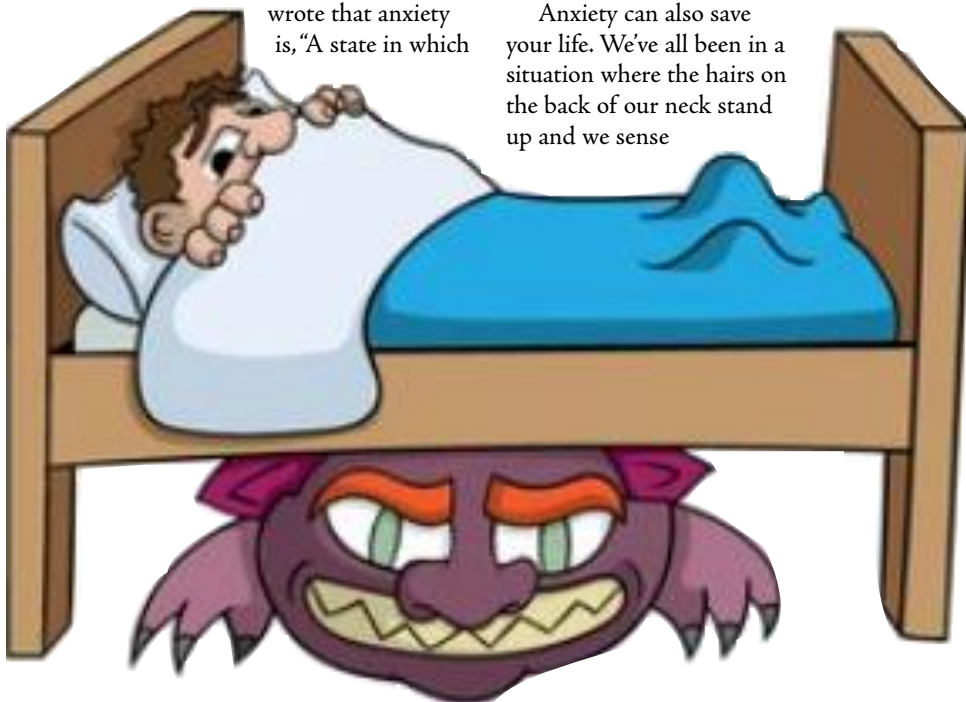
When I was a child I told my Dad that there was a monster under my bed, I didn't know what to think when he said, "Don't worry, you're not alone".

I haven't been diagnosed with anxiety because I was worried that if I didn't have it, I would have wasted the doctor's time. I did tell my doctor that I was anxious, he prescribed medications for my supposed anxiety but I'm too anxious to take them.

Sometimes I tend to overreact. Just the other day I was about to checkout at Ingles and the cashier asked me, "How are you today?" I said, "I think I'm ok, why? Do you know something? Is it Cancer? Is it Lupus? It's Cancer isn't it?" She laughed, and I smiled back without her knowing I was serious.

I'm even anxious about submitting this article and letting you know that I'm not quite as normal as I think I am, but I'm guessing that ship has sailed. Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself". That's exactly what anxiety is; the fear of fear, and results in a seemingly endless loop of constant fright. I realize that chronic anxiety can be crippling and does require treatment by a professional therapist.

Anxiety can also save your life. We've all been in a situation where the hairs on the back of our neck stand up and we sense



that something is not quite right. It's in our programming and signals our bodies to go on full alert.

So, go ahead and keep calm, relax, and go with the flow, but I'll already be miles away when the zombies attack.

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