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March 28-April 10, 2024

## A decade of love

### South Main Chapel & Mercy Center preparing to celebrate 10th anniversary

Every day, South Main Chapel & Mercy Center helps Andersonians suffering from addiction, poverty, homelessness, and mental illness. Next month, you can help the mission of South Main Chapel & Mercy Center by celebrating its 10th anniversary.

On Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 6:30 pm, the United Way of Anderson will host 10 Years of South Main Chapel & Mercy Center at the G. Ross Anderson Student Center Ballroom at Anderson University. This ticketed event will include music by Belton native Loretta Holloway, South Carolina's First Lady of Song; remarks by Deb Richardson-Moore, author of "The Weight of



Mercy"; and a catered dinner.

Carol Burdette, President and CEO of United Way of Anderson, is excited to host the anniversary celebration and for what the proceeds could mean to South Main Chapel & Mercy Center.

"In my 30-plus years of community work, I'm most proud to have

been involved in the establishment of Mercy Center. I've been a Christian and churchgoer all my life. We all say our churches are open to everyone, but South Main Chapel & Mercy Center is a place for every one."

Kurt Stutler is both pastor and director of South Main Chapel & Mercy Center, which is a part of the United Methodist family in South Carolina.



## SOUTH MAIN CHAPEL & Mercy Center

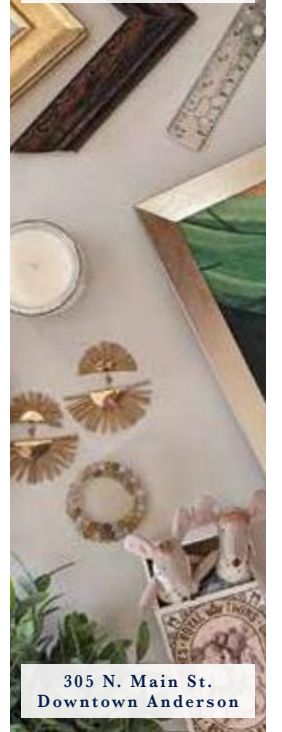
"In 2012, Orville UMC on South Main Street closed. This is a low-income area with lots of abandoned

houses, and many residents struggle

SEE CHAPEL ON PAGE 2

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# SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Oh Boy! Green grass, blue sky, red tulips, and my favorite spring color, yellow pollen. With the record rains we've had, this year promises to have record-breaking pollen counts too. Ok, I'll just say it, flowers and plants have unprotected sex, and lots of it.



Neal Parnell

It really should come as no surprise, why do you think flowers have beds? Now I'm not going to gossip. What a flower does with its pistil or stamen is its own business, but when their lovemaking leftovers find

a way up my nose and irritate my tender nasal passages, I'm going to blow. Under an electron microscope, a single grain of pollen is round, with thousands of sharp spikes, and it's easy to see how these tiny inverted pin-cushions can attach to anything they come into contact with. Pollen is Male. This fact alone could explain the irritating part, but there's more. This single, unattached male is looking for love, along with trillions of his brothers and friends. He will not give up or allow anything to keep him from finding his perfect match. He has a tough outer shell that protects his inner love and can't ever die. Pollen grains have been discovered that are millions of years old and still viable if only the plants they came



from weren't extinct. Those thousands of yellow dusty males that are blown into your eyes and inhaled by your nose and mouth are not deterred at all. You'll send them on their way by sneezing or coughing them back on the love path again. Be aware that if you are a criminal, the F.B.I. has pollen samples from plants and flowers the world over, and can calculate the time your clothing or hair brushed past that ragweed or sunflower. Newer bullets and shells are now impregnated with pollen identifiers that under microscopic analysis can place and date where the weapon was fired from. It's got to be humiliating for criminals to think that they have gotten rid of all the evidence, only to discover in court that they were caught by a daisy.

Flowers and plants are of course living things, but there are some people, including me, that believe they can communicate and feel. It may seem farfetched but they were here before we were, and some may still be. My

grandmother thought the same way I do. I remember her yelling to one of my sisters, "Get out of that garden with that dress on, don't you know those 'taters have eyes?!!'" The plant with the tiniest pollen is the 'Forget me Not' and the largest pollen particles are from Corn, which we all know has Ears.

So why is there more pollen every year, and what can we do about it? Here's another farfetched statement, "The plants know that we are bulldozing them to build more structures and are retaliating." Arizona was once known as the 'Hay Fever Free State but with new suburbs and irrigation came new strains of ragweed, so Arizona has lost that title. Last year, of all the cities in the United States with the highest pollen counts, Greenville was ranked 10th. Why? Urban growth and retaliating flowers? We keep fighting the flowers so they keep fighting back. Which

will win? I'm pretty sure we have a deal with the flowers; they get to cause us to rub our eyes and sneeze for two months, and we promise to water them every evening until September. It seems like a fair deal, considering they could all unite and bring back FLOWER POWER.

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## Chapel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with addiction, homelessness, poverty, and mental illness. District Superintendent Susan Leonard-Ray had a vision to establish a church that would work alongside those who struggle the most, based on the work of the Triune Mercy Center in Greenville. Along with Carol Burdette of United Way of Anderson, we began visiting TMC, and in 2013, we began holding meetings to discuss the feasibility of such a center in Anderson. Using new church start funding and other monies, South Main Chapel & Mercy Center opened its doors in 2014.

Make no mistake: South Main Chapel & Mercy Center is

a house of worship with services each Sunday. But as Pastor Stutler likes to say, it is a church, "and then some."

Following the service, fellowship dinner is offered each Sunday, supported by several area churches, non-profit organizations and businesses. Two meals per day are also offered throughout the week. Showers are made available twice a week. Other services include on-site mental health counseling, vocational rehab counseling, laundry, nursing care, addiction recovery referrals, transportation assistance, and housing assistance for over five hundred individuals in the community.

"The mission of South Main Chapel & Mercy Center is loving God and loving each other," Stutler says. "That's the focus of our faith.

**UNITED WAY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SOUTH MAIN CHAPEL & MERCY CENTER**  
Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 6:30 pm

**G. Ross Anderson Student Center Ballroom**  
**Anderson University**  
**316 Boulevard, Anderson, SC 29621**

We are here both to serve and to be served, all of us. We're a community of faith that is bridging the racial, economic, educational and socioeconomic boundaries that often separate the church. We are a congregation that is diverse in our backgrounds, and we reach out to people who struggle."

Programs of this kind require the support of everyone in the community, which is why United Way of Anderson is hosting the anniversary celebration. Tickets are \$65 per person, and sponsor-

ships, which include tables and special recognition, start at \$500 for a table of 8. There are additional sponsorships available for between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Carol Burdette hopes that the ballroom will be at capacity.

"South Main Chapel & Mercy Center gives

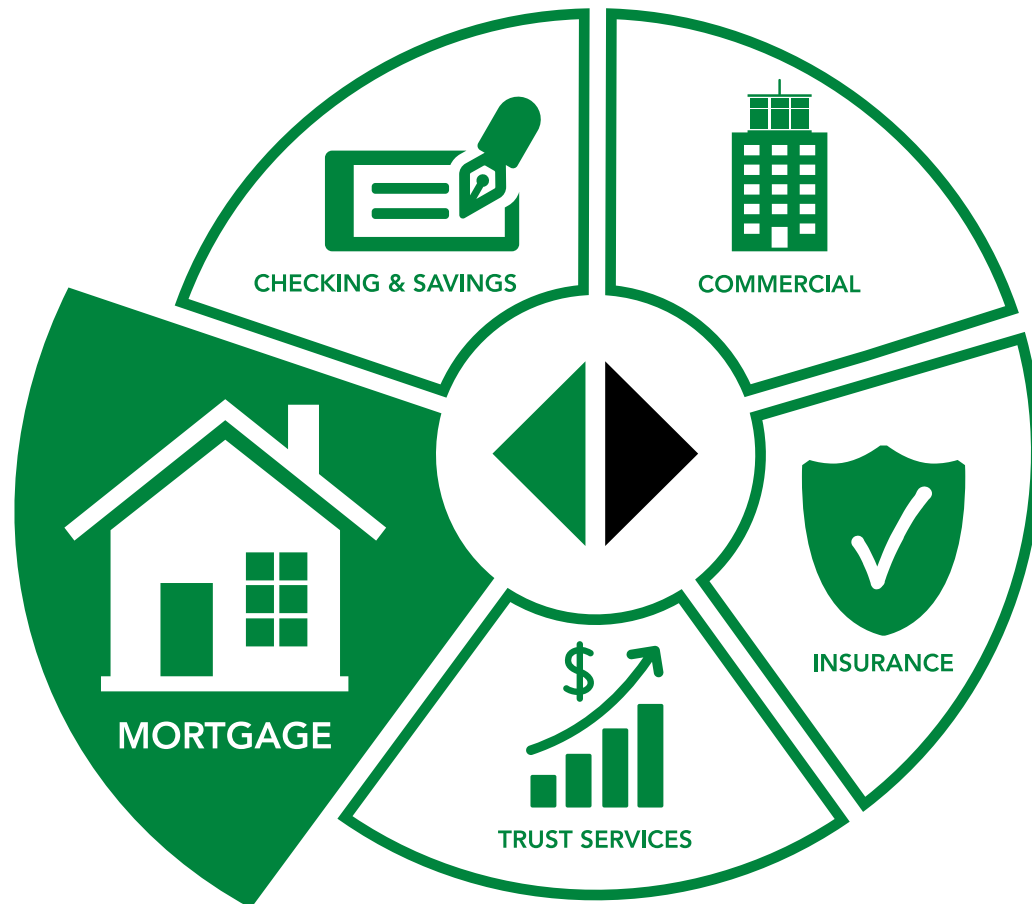
me faith in what we can do together. This anniversary event is an opportunity to shine a light on the things that we've accomplished in the first ten years and on the anticipation of the things we want to accomplish in the decades to come."

To learn more about South Main Chapel & Mercy Center, visit [southmainmercy.org](http://southmainmercy.org).

To purchase tickets or to sponsor a table, visit [www.ticket signup.io/TicketEvent/SouthMain](http://www.ticket signup.io/TicketEvent/SouthMain).

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# Anderson County Library benefits from local game developer

ANDERSON — Inspired by travels throughout Egypt, Anderson resident Paul DeMichael is introducing the ancient game of Senet to our local community through his donations to the Anderson County Library.

Widely recognized as the world's oldest known board game, Senet games were found in the ancient Egyptian tombs of Queen Nefertari and King Tutankhamun, and were enjoyed by commoners and royalty alike.

"Egyptian Senet is easy to learn and fun to play", said DeMichael, who designed and produces the board games and playing pieces in his Anderson studio. "It combines both skill and chance for two players, as they advance their stones through the thirty-square game board."

Anderson County Library's Game Night

event seemed like an ideal place to introduce Egyptian Senet, and DeMichael provided the library staff with its first set of games.

"We held a library gaming event last December, and the game that stole the show was Egyptian Senet!", stated the facility's Electric City Creative Makerspace (ECC) staff member Cashandra Seabrook. "It was incredibly entertaining to watch others enjoy a game designed by a local creator."

Although no "official" rules for setup and game play were ever found, there is a general consensus as to how the game begins and ends: Players take turns casting four game sticks, which determine the amount of spaces one of their five playing stones can be moved. Two or more of a player's adjacent stones may provide a strategy to block their opponent

from moving or exiting the board. A typical Senet game session usually lasts about twenty minutes.

"I'm pleased to share these games with the Anderson County Library", DeMichael added. "And I'm very proud and thankful to have my Egyptian Senet game included in the facility's Electric City Creative Makerspace events."

Anderson County Library's Electric City Creative Makerspace (ECC) is open to all library visitors ages 12 and up to explore new creative tools and technologies, and work in a collaborative environment on personal projects. It is located on the second floor of the Anderson County Library. Open Create

Hours are Tuesday – Thursday: 1 PM – 7:30 PM & Saturday: 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM.

Additional information can be found online at <https://www.andersonlibrary.org/> and <https://www.etsy.com/shop/blueibissenet/>.



Anderson County Library Electric City Creative Makerspace (ECC) staff member Cashandra Seabrook (left) receives its second donation of Egyptian Senet board games from local game developer Paul DeMichael.

## MARRIAGE



**MARY-CATHERINE  
McCLAIN  
RINER**

If you take an inventory of relationships across the world, you will find significant differences and dynamics within each relationship. Instead of comparing with others, I challenge you to consider what/who your ideal partner/relationship is during our ever growing and fast-changing society. Ask yourself what makes you the happiest as you consider these love styles/types.

1) American Love: The desire to marry based on pure love and the expectation that love endures across the lifetime. Yet, it also leads to questioning why you remain in a relationship when you "fall out of love." There is a growing trend of churches caring less about separation and the divorce stigma has significantly decreased.

2) Work Based Marriages: It is more common than ever for both partners to work outside the home. Individuals share the load of cooking meals, washing clothes, and cleaning the house. For partners who have children, there is also the juggling act of running errands and attending activities. Couples take pride in their accomplishments. The difficulty lies when one loses the commitment to work together.

3) Ritualistic Marriages: Husband and wife are key identities for many Americans. We define ourselves as partners or spouses following

a public ceremony. Married couples typically have a village and community, which leads to additional social supports. On the other hand, becoming a parent may lead to feelings of neglect and rejection. Being successful in these roles leads to the expansion in identity as a grandparent. Routines become familiar and comfortable, and create a sense of orderliness (e.g., dinner as a family, going to bed together). One danger or pitfall is how these routines can feel monotonous and mundane. The goal is maintaining some sense of change and spontaneity.

4) Playful Marriage: Similar to dating, these couples enjoy going, doing, and trying new things. Couples desire to take risks, have fun, and explore the world. In other words, marriage should just be the beginning and not the end of our adventures. The risk lies in the need for needing more and more pleasure and novelty. It can become difficult to maintain this dynamic pace.

5) Communal Marriage: This marriage represents the desire for shared intimacy and mutual support. We let go of self-centeredness and focus on joined moments. Quality time and bonding is the goal, as is expanding the family. Similar risks relate to the relationship feeling stale and boring.

It is important to note that most marriages represent combinations and variations of the above types. Likewise, marriages and relationships are always changing and evolving. Marriages ultimately deteriorate when partners cannot agree on the life desired together. It is important to check-in with your partners and re-assess individual as well as shared needs, values, goals, and desires.

*Mary-Catherine McClain Riner, Ph.D., Ed.S, M.S., is a Licensed Psychologist with Riner Counseling, LLC. Visit [www.rinercounseling.com](http://www.rinercounseling.com) or call 864-608-0446.*

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# On shelter staff and the animals they care for

I had something else entirely written for this issue, but I've just gotten home from volunteering at PAWS and I have some feelings. For those of you who might not know, PAWS is one of the local animal shelters. They've been in the news a lot recently because they've been taking on dogs from a few different animal cruelty/hoarding cases. We're talking like 200 dogs this month alone, and as I write this, March isn't even over.

My heart breaks for these dogs, but my heart also breaks for the staff who are on the frontlines of this. As a volunteer I've seen some dogs in deplorable condition, both physically and mentally, but I'm seeing these dogs after they've been evaluated and moved to the public floor. That means I'm not actually seeing the worst. The staff does though, and they see it in droves.

It's the shelter staff who are cleaning these dogs up. They're giving them baths, addressing wounds or other concerning physical ailments, and making decisions about how best

to move forward with the dog's care. It's the shelter staff who are working with dogs that are at best, just scared, and at worst, scared and defensive toward any interaction with humans. A lot of these dogs likely haven't had positive interactions with people, and they can be justifiably spicy because of this. It's the shelter staff who takes the time, has the patience to slowly gain trust, and start the dog's journey toward hopefully being adopted.

It's the shelter staff who love and pour their hearts into these dogs. They do this day in and day out without pause. They do this, and then see another cruelty or hoarding case come in. They do this, and see a dog who was previously in the shelter come back, and come back in terrible condition. They watch dogs that the longer



Sara Leady

they are residents in the shelter, start to develop behavior issues like 'stranger danger,' and watch it increase the longer they're there, knowing the behavior isn't going to help the dog get adopted. They do this, and watch dogs they've seen grow and blossom, start to decline and give up. And they still show up, pouring love into every interaction with every dog every day.

The staff does all of this, and still gets questioned and criticized for not doing more. I want to state that the staff has never complained to me about any of this. This is all coming from me as someone who has a deep love for dogs, and therefore a deep love for anyone doing the work to make any dog's life better. This also isn't about any animal shelter in particular, I just happen to have more immediate knowledge of PAWS. I see comments regularly online where people are upset they aren't getting call backs or immediate answers to questions they're posting online. I see comments where they criticize the shelter for not letting them meet a dog that's getting highlighted online because it needs out, and

they make assumptions that if staff really cared, they'd do more to get the dog a home. It's not that they aren't doing enough, it's that they care enough to make sure the dog, and new owner, are set up for success from the start, by being intentional with placement.

The shelter staff spend their time seeing the worst that humanity can offer, we really don't appreciate them or what they do near enough. So, I hope this will instill some empathy and appreciation for shelter staff everywhere. There are obvious ways of thanking them like adopting, fostering, or volunteering, but I get that those aren't options for everyone (also seriously don't adopt/foster if you aren't actually up to the work of owning a dog). But every shelter has an Amazon Wishlist; send them some of those things. Look at their different donation requests and help with those. Get wild and buy them all lunch or a round of massages. But minimally give these unsung heroes some kind words of encouragement and a thank you. I promise you they are doing more than enough, and they absolutely deserve it.

## SPRING IN NYC

I'm going to New York next weekend and I want to pack a good wardrobe. The weather can be tricky in the Spring in Manhattan, so it's best to bring layers. Packing is rather

dreadful at first, but once you get into it and get everything in order it can really be sort of fun. I've actually become quite the packer. I used to overdo and over pack everything and now I know that less is more. That way you can bring back cool souvenirs and mementos

with you from your travels. When it comes to going to the airport, I have found that comfort is key. I just got a really cute oversized sweatshirt dress and I'm going to pair that with zipper boots or platform Uggs so they're easy to pop off during the airport security check.

I'll be bringing lots of black attire so I can add cute accessories to it. I always call that the bones of my wardrobe, if you will. You can add really cute jackets, scarves, necklaces, hats and you're good to go. I'm not checking my luggage for this trip so it will be a bit trickier packing in a carry on, but I always start a few days prior so I'm not overwhelmed.

Next is itinerary. By that I mean shopping and restaurants that I've already previously

picked out and written down on my notepad in my phone so I have some sort of idea. I've picked out some really fun spots. I'm not really into tourist attractions. I always try to live like a local when I go on vacation and it always seems to work in my favor. My top three restaurants are – number one is Lucali which is a great Italian restaurant in Brooklyn. Their pizza is beyond. My second is Commerce Inn which is a nod to early American food in Greenwich Village and my third is Panna Indian Garden which has trillions of lights covering the funky, eclectic restaurant that lots of celebrities like to frequent. Maybe I will bump into someone.

Next on my list is shopping, of course. I want to go to Sarah Jessica Parker's shoe store, SJP Collection and try on everything. Bergdorf Goodman for their exquisite window displays and hit up The Chelsea flea market for antiques and vintage. The Row for their beautiful textures and Chloe to transport me back into the seventies.

I'm trying to play it cool, but I can hardly wait to go to my most favorite city in the world. Just walking down the street is a treat in NYC. There is so much to do and see and so much opportunity. The melting pot of it all. It will always be New York or Nowhere y'all. What are some of your favorite spots in the Big Apple? Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.



Kristine March

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# A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP, PART 1

BY RICH OTTER

To the extent there may be developed a mutual benefit for both parties, it has become important that a symbiotic relationship be acquired between law enforcement personnel and parties they apprehend and incarcerate.

This is not a matter of social consciousness. It is common sense and, in many cases, may have far-reaching consequences. It does not require friendship. It is about a relationship – an association based on mutual respect, trust, and understanding. At all times, however, an officer must be alert for the unexpected.

In law enforcement, perhaps the most important thing to know is what the individual with whom confronted may be thinking, what he or she may do and why. The officer must not just react. The officer must anticipate. That can be learned through experience and training.

This is not a new concept. It has been practiced instinctively for years by many law enforcement people. It generally is neither recognized nor appreciated by the public, especially due to improper actions by inexperienced or poorly trained officers generating emblazoned headlines.

A former mayor of the city of Anderson recalled two officers with such instinct from the 1960-1970s – Billy Newton and Louie Brock. It helped if they knew the individual but that was not necessary. From experience, recognizing verbal and physical clues, they could often anticipate reactions before an individual determined what to do. That was beneficial for both parties, often avoiding physical conflict.

Anderson Sheriff Chad McBride remembered when he first served as a deputy, there were only eight deputies on a shift for the entire county. There was only one deputy to a vehicle. He said you learned to be diplomatic very quickly. You had to talk an individual into the patrol car's caged backseat area, partitioned from the driver. "There were some arrested you couldn't fight - just too big and too strong."

The sheriff emphasized the increased necessity now of learning de-escalation procedures to meet multiple circumstances. A great number of issues presently encountered, often several times of day, have to do with mental problems, many caused by drug usage, but others from accidents impacting the brain, or dementia. Tactics have changed.

Anderson County training deputy, Sergeant Juvan Mitchell, explained that deputies are taught to react to possible threatening suspects using a three-point approach – ask, tell, make. It is an attempt to determine the problem, stabilize the issue and, if not resolved, make an appropriate response.

Mitchell was an Anderson high school graduate who then attended Anderson College obtaining a degree in psychology. After an



VirTra Console

internship with the sheriff's department and while working in the detention center, she acquired a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Anderson University. There followed 14 years on patrol and two years with investigations. She then assumed training responsibilities for Anderson deputies. De-escalation had become an invaluable and essential tool, and Mitchell had first experienced its merit while working in the Anderson County Detention Center. With her life-time interest in how the brain functions and study of psychology, de-escalation principals were a natural.

Anderson County was the first law enforcement agency in the state to acquire a training simulator known as VirTra where a trainee is positioned surrounded by a 300-degree screen with audio-visual projections that replicate hundreds of criminal scenarios encountered. Each encounter has multiple available equipment adjustments that may be utilized in real time as determined by the training operator depending upon how the trainee is responding to the actions upon the screen. The testing party actually engages in verbal communication with the screen images since the operator may change the screen audio and visual presentation depending upon the participant's response and reaction to the situation. It has many uses, including engraining effective de-escalation techniques.

De-escalation practices also help the tested party to learn how to control his or her own emotional reactions. A law enforcer's personal reaction to a particular situation may well not be favorable, often intentionally antagonized by the suspect. Sergeant Mitchell points out: "If we come in angry and they are angry, we're not going to get anywhere." A deputy must be able to take control of the situation.

Following successful experience in responding to the simulator, a participant may proceed to the department's Crisis House, constructed by prisoners, where live actors may simulate interactions the participant will encounter such as with domestic situations. Domestic arguments are often the most difficult to calm and likely the most frequently met in the field.

Sheriff McBride acknowledges de-escala-

tion is not always effective and the simulator will also require response of the participant in dealing with the situation if things go badly. The subsequent reaction training for the unexpected may determine a life-or-death response for the law enforcement officer if extreme force becomes the only option. The experience is very realistic.

Encountered problems are often equivalent to those utilized in a hostage situation. It is necessary to maintain an open line of communication, permit the airing of concerns, remain calm and build rapport to resolve the matter. Active listening and the ability to build trust is critical.

The initial person dealing with the public is often the 911 dispatcher. When a call is received, comprehensive information must be acquired to alert the first responder as to how to handle the ensuing encounter. The call received automatically records the initiating location and it may be possible for the dispatcher to identify difficulties previously encountered there, possibly even permitting retrieval of a picture of the individual involved to give the responder immediate recognition upon arrival.



Sheriff Chad McBride

*This article will continue in the next issue of the Electric City News.*

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# What are you walking toward?

Spring is the time of year in which we experience all that is new. Daffodils and tulips poke their heads through the ground. Adorable baby animals make their appearances. New clothes are purchased for Easter services and photos taken in front of a flowering cross.

This spring, Ted and I are thinking about a whole new way of life. We are discussing the notion of retirement, and I have to say that it scares me a little. We are happiest when we are busiest, and the idea that we'll have to find new things to occupy nine hours a day is a bit daunting.

Many of our friends are starting to retire after long careers in a variety of arenas, so we're trying to learn from them. Most of them have all found new things to do with their

time. One of them has started building furniture and turning wood.

One of them is approaching gardening with the scientific enthusiasm of a botanist. One of them is foraging for mushrooms. (This one is a little frightening.) One of them is learning about English Lawn Bowling.

Two of them are kayaking. Two of them are camping. Two of them are fostering dogs. Two of them are hiking. Two of them are traveling. Almost all of them have tried pickleball, and all of the pickleballers say that the idea that it's easy on the body is a lie.



Kim von Keller

And then, there's Al.

Al – not his real name – had a long career as a closer for a large international company, and his work took him across the globe. When the company went public, Al found himself sitting on quite a nest egg and decided to retire. For a few months, he and his wife traveled to all the places Al used to go on business but never had the opportunity to enjoy. Once they returned home to an empty calendar and time to kill, though, Al realized that he actually disliked retirement so much that he reestablished himself as a consulting closer. The only difference between then and now is that now, he takes the work he wants and says no to the rest.

One of my best friends retired as a college professor last year, and

she thought about it for a long time before she pulled the trigger. She's probably busier than ever, but, like Al, she chooses her activities instead of having them given to her. She paints, she runs, she's active in her church. She said that she had been advised to think of retirement like this: You shouldn't think of it as running away from something. Instead, you should think of it as running toward something.

And that is the conundrum. When you find yourself in this new phase of life, what do you run towards? Because if you don't know, it will be more like running with scissors, jabbing at this and that before falling down and sticking yourself in the eye.

Ted is interested in education. He'd like to take advantage of the

South Carolina Senior Citizen Tuition Waiver (ouch, what a name) that allows residents to take college courses at state-supported schools tuition free. He'd also like to take cooking classes at Johnson and Wales in Charlotte.

So far, the only thing I can think of is that I would like to bake the kind of small pastries that you often see on The Great British Baking Show. Between that and Ted's cooking classes, I'll need to take up sewing so that I can let out all of my pants.

If you've figured out what to run toward in retirement, drop me a line at [editkim50@gmail.com](mailto:editkim50@gmail.com). I'd love to hear what keeps you busy. But if it involves cooking, or baking, or eating, let me learn to sew first. I've got a closet full of pants to work on.

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## Canada geese — at home in Anderson

While looking through old journals I found this entry from 1988: "On the drive to Newberry we saw a beautiful Canada goose silhouetted against a field."

That observation is now a little amusing, because back then a Canada goose was uncommon. Now that they are seen easily, and sometimes can even be obnoxious, I would never even write down such a sight. It would be like getting excited about seeing a robin, or a blue jay, or any other very common bird.

The first thing to know is the correct name of this species. Occasionally I hear someone say they saw a "Canadian goose." Just FYI, they are properly called Canada, not Canadian geese. The purists in your life will appreciate your accuracy.

Canada geese pretty much cover North America, either breeding in northern areas, wintering in southern areas or living year-round most anywhere. They are easily recognized with their long black necks and characteristic white chin strap. They are also easily identified when flying due to their large size and their V formation (which helps as a windbreak).

Oh, and they're also identified by their loud noises when flying. That honking is unmistakable. During my teaching years, I'd hear them overhead most mornings, probably headed over my classroom from nearby fields to the pond at Chris Taylor Park by the Civic Center. Researchers think they make that honking sound to help them coordinate their

movements and stay together as a group.

One reason geese have become more common is because of the proliferation of yards and grassy fields. I regularly see geese feeding on extra grain in fields off of Whitehall Road and Highway 24. Geese no longer need to migrate because they've got plenty to eat right here.



Ann K. Bailes

Canada geese do have one feature that is particularly nice, and that is how they land. When a formation of geese gets ready to come to earth, they arch their bodies and cup their wings out into large semi-circles. They then glide in for a landing on the water, using their feet as skids to slow themselves down. Beautiful.

The negative about having so many geese around has nothing to do with their honking or flying. No, the biggest problem with geese is that, to put it delicately, food moves quickly through their digestive tract, and they're not shy about where they get rid of the leftovers, if you get my drift. And when they are present in large groups, the problem is intensified.

So - in parks, golf courses, or yards where geese congregate - be careful where you step. And other than that, enjoy your interaction with these big beautiful birds: Canada - not Canadian - geese.

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Katie Laughridge

book during your regular story time routine. Once you download Novel Effect, you will see a wide range of books. You will find books organized by ages (from 0-13+) along with many different genres such as poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Additionally, you will find interactive videos where students are prompted to read speech bubbles into the microphone on their device.

Also, I really enjoy using the monthly calendars they provide. If you search noveleffect.com you will find a read-aloud calendar for each month. The calendar gives you a themed book to read each day of the month. What a great way to learn about new books!

Story time will never be the same, I'm sure of it. Happy Reading!

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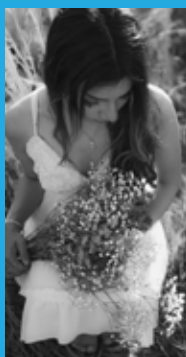
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Wisteria is that monster of a plant we tend not to notice until it blooms. Yes, it is beautiful in bloom. Yes, it smells good. Yes, the seed pods are cool. Yes, it WILL get out of hand. Yes, it will eat your house, everything around it, and anything else that is still long enough. I was very surprised when a friend told me they saw it being sold at big box stores. It was in a section with plants being sold in boxes. That might be the only saving grace; plants packaged this way are usually not very good plants. Plants such as clematis, hosta, and some perennials are sold in plastic, and put in a box. One can't really see what's in them and it is usually wise to pass them by. Go for plants in pots so you can see what you're getting. Plants packaged in these bags and boxes are cheaper for a reason.

Interestingly, Japanese wisteria twines clockwise and Chinese wisteria climbs counterclockwise. I've never absolutely ran out of everything else to do to allow me time to watch wisteria wind and climb. In full disclosure, I did transplant a little wisteria from a vacant lot near Grandmother Cooley's house onto my fence when I lived in town. I remember grandmother telling me I would regret planting a cedar tree in my yard, but I do not remember her telling me not to plant wisteria. Fortunately, it bloomed beautifully every year. Many times, wisteria will not bloom until very old, if at all. Back when I planted this one, I remember reading about people whacking the



Wisteria on the loose

main trunk with a chain to stress it to make it bloom. Nothing was planted near this wisteria in my yard for it to latch onto. I was very diligent in winding it on the fence, cutting it, tending it, to keep it in check. Much to my surprise, while tending it one spring, a very long, probably 75 feet, wisteria rope, as I called it, was running on the ground along the fence. There were no leaves on it. It was right where the dog ran. I found it peculiar it never started running up the fence. Or spirea that was planted along there too. On my way to Mama's now and then, I travel on the road behind my former home. Shame, shame on the person who planted that wisteria in the late 80's, then went off and left it in 2002. It has traveled to the pecan tree at the next house over, into the yard behind, and so forth. Husband and I used to stop at an antique shop in Elberton, GA that was in an old house. One end of the porch was

held up by a huge wisteria trunk. Somehow, the man kept it sort of under control. The

house was his mother's home. She planted it, and over the years it broke the banister that was holding the porch roof. Wisteria will squeeze trees like this too.

Do not be taken in by native wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) either. It will not grow like the monster Asian wisteria but will still require tending and a very watchful eye. And it stinks, unless one finds a smell somewhat like cat pee appealing. Blooms are not long and graceful. They are short and stubby. A big problem with American wisteria is it sprouts like crazy from roots all around the mother plant. A friend has some growing on an arbor beside his house and it sprouts many, many feet from the mother plant. This is particularly bad when it comes up in other plants. He has to get up on the roof every year to prune it off the house. It even sprouts up under his house. American wisteria is poisonous to dogs, cats, and horses. Add people to the list of Asian wisteria.

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# J PETERS

GRILL & BAR

It's fair to say that when J Peters Grill & Bar briefly closed for renovation, Anderson residents went into a kind of panic. How could they do without the prime rib? Those burgers? The Black & Bleu Salad?

Never one to disappoint a customer, J Peters' owner, Jon Angell, made sure the renovations went quickly. Before they could say "Honey-Butter Croissant," customers were already enjoying the updated dining space and the quality meals they've come to love since the restaurant opened on March 15, 2010. Although he knew J Peters would be missed, Angell says the customers were the reason for the renovations.

"We wanted to give back to our guests, who, since our opening, have always supported us," he says. "They deserve the nicest restaurant possible, and we really spruced things up. It was a full renovation, with new flooring, paint, and lighting. I give full credit to John Glenn at Glenn Mechanical for the renovations. Together, we accomplished in two weeks what might have taken other restaurants three months. I also want to thank my landlord, Steve Kay, for trusting me in 2010 to do what I wanted to do to serve the City of Anderson."

Angell and the restaurant have come a long way over the last 14 years.

"When I opened J Peters, I had \$80 in my pocket. There were those in Anderson who said I wouldn't last three months. Since then, however, we've had \$35 million in sales and proved the critics wrong. Still, I am always cordial to the naysayers."

That kind of success doesn't mean it's been easy. Hospitality is a tough business, and a restaurant is only as good as the last meal it served. That's why Angell remains so hands-on when it comes to J Peters.

"I manage our food and liquor inventory, and I do every food order personally. I also demand perfection from everyone at J Peters. My servers and my cooks must take good care of you because I want you eating here three days a week. But I don't expect anything out of my staff that I don't expect of myself. If you show up and do your job properly, I'll never bother you."

In addition to the building, the physical menu was spruced up well. If you walk into J Peters today, you'll find it has a more colorful, exciting look. But in terms of menu items, customers will still find the big food they look forward to.

"Our prime rib is the best from here to the coast," Angell says.

And speaking of the coast, diners can find the quality they expect from J Peters even when traveling for business or vacation. Angell owns J Peters restaurants in Murrells Inlet, Pawleys Island, Myrtle Beach, and North Myrtle Beach. And on the drive back to Anderson, you can stop in Columbia for lunch at another of Angell's restaurants, Angell Bros. 1801 Grille, which he owns with his brother, Dan Angell.

But as his restaurant empire expands, Angell wants the residents of Anderson to know that J Peters isn't going anywhere.

"One day, our children will take over. Even after 14 years, J Peters is a force to be reckoned with, and I appreciate Anderson's support. Our goal is always to make sure that every dish is perfect."

by Kim von Keller

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