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March 31-April 13, 2022

'God paves the way'



Evacuees in the van, headed to Poland

US Army vet helping Ukrainian refugees

The crisis in Ukraine has dominated our newsfeeds since the Russians invaded the country. We've seen powerful images showing the Ukrainian people's horror, strength and resolve. We've witnessed the kindness of neighboring countries.



Jim Harris

Much less noticed is the story of the incredible people from our country that saw the situation

arising and sprang into action. Some people see a need and think, "Someone should do something about that." Others see the same condition and say, "I will be the one who does something." Kathy Stickel is the latter, through and through. The U.S. Army veteran is on the ground, putting herself in harm's way to shuttle Ukrainian women and children to safety in Poland and bring supplies to Ukraine for those staying behind to fight the invaders.

Kathy was in the middle of taking the bar exam for California when the news broke of the invasion. She



Kathy Stickel - one sturdy, enthusiastic American headed north out of Bucharest with supplies for the Ukrainians. 03/08/2022

immediately decided to travel to Ukraine and find a way to help. She finished the second day of the exam, bought her plane tickets, and left for Europe.

She initially financed her trip out of pocket but had faith that someone or some-

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Vet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thing would take care of what she needed to serve. She says, “God paves the way in the world, so I wasn’t worried at all. I don’t have to stick the landing, I just have to lift off from what I’m doing, and the landings get handled.”

She flew into Bucharest, Romania, and began helping the refugees arriving there via train. She then heard from a friend on the ground in Poland and made her way there.

Her friends connected her with a van. They suggested she set up a Facebook fundraiser, which has been footing the bill for the supplies she’s carrying in, like wound care items, cold treatments, combat lifesaver bags, food, medical supplies, tourniquets, solar chargers, and water purification equipment. They are finding ways to utilize everything available. For example, even tampons can be used to stop bleeding from a gunshot.

Those still in Ukraine are primarily using social media for communications. Kathy was in Poland, collecting supplies and having some needed repairs to the van, when she saw a tweet from the town of Rivne. “Who knows somebody in Rivne that can offer us some food?” a lady named Olga tweeted. Kathy replied with a request for the person’s address and a promise to be there with food in two days. She asked if anyone needed evacuation. Olga responded yes. Kathy had other evacuation requests from Central Ukraine and another from further west at almost the same time.

Olga’s husband is missing. All Ukrainian men between 18 and 60 participate in the defense against their invaders. Still, even men in their 70s and beyond refuse to evacuate, staying behind and digging foxholes to defend their homes. Heroics are in abundance. Ukrainian Police General Vyacheslav Abroskin offered himself as a captive to the Russians in exchange for the safety of the children of Mariupol, which is under siege.

Kathy shared a situation she encountered in another town where she rescued residents. The locals had recently taken a Russian plane down over their village. Even with missiles landing nearby, a woman and a grandmother had chosen to remain because they cared for an autistic boy. The family decided relocation would not suit him, so they made the tough call to stay in their home.

Even though many Ukrainians are too young to remember the repression and the



Vadim, 14, in Lubien, Poland



Nina Visotska and her son, Zahar, on the phone with Dad in Ukraine

absence of freedom living under a Soviet regime, they’ve grown up hearing the stories. Kathy says, “Everybody here knows that, years ago, when people evacuated to the West and that Iron Curtain came down, everyone who ran to the western countries to keep their kids out of the war, they never got to go back. They never saw their parents again. They never saw their husbands again.” She continues, “These folks will die before they go back under that, as will the Poles.”

She points out the grace and generosity of the Polish people. They are welcoming the Ukrainians with open arms. Poland has taken in 2 million refugees, and that number is growing, with children warmly welcomed into Polish schools. Technology allows the refugees to stay in touch with family members who remained in Ukraine to fight.

Military checkpoints are throughout Ukraine. Russian troops are clustered in the North, but missiles are striking other areas. Russians are infiltrating, so checkpoints verify the nationality of those passing through and check for Russian accents to detect impostors. With the curfew in place in most parts of Ukraine, the American passport becomes a green light for moving refugees after dark. The severity of the situation hit home for many of the refugees when they saw the sky light up from Russian missiles striking near their homes.

Kathy says, “These people are hugging their kids goodbye at 10, 11 o’clock at night,



Boddan Plesiuk, 9, getting his picture taken for refugee registration



Brothers Alexander, 11, and Dmitry, 17

and they don’t know if they’ll ever see their Dad again.” An 11-year-old is trying to look brave when they get into the van, with one bag and walking away from their lives.”

Kathy is no stranger to this type of situation. She is a trained combat lifesaver. Previously, she had traveled to Kosovo when the crisis happened there. She was to be a volunteer ambulance driver, but the cease-fire occurred just as she arrived, so she worked in a refugee camp in Albania. She has familiarity with the region as she spent a year and a half as a missionary near Moscow. Her friend Susan Willis of Anderson says of Kathy, “She’s done a lot of brave and courageous things in her life. She is a tough angel.”

After attending law school in Vermont, she spent time in New York City before returning to California. She took a state parks job in Big Sur until she decided on her next step, taking the bar to practice law there, which she’ll resume after her current mission.

Kathy intends to work in Ukraine as long as she is needed. She recalls a lesson she learned in Sunday School as a young girl, “We repair the world. Just because you can’t repair all of it doesn’t mean you don’t repair any of it.”

The link to donate to Kathy is on her Facebook page.



Ukraine supply run

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A giggle a day keeps the doctor away

Knock, Knock.

Who's there?

Luke.

Luke who?

Luke through the peephole to find out!

You've probably heard the old saying "Laughter is the best medicine." As it turns out, it's more than just an old wives' tale—laughter truly does have a profound positive effect on every aspect of our being. Studies confirm that humor can lighten our burdens, inspire hope, connect us to others, keep us grounded and provide encouragement to release anger and forgive sooner. Laughter is not only great for our health and mental well-being it has the uncanny power to turn a sad day into a great day in a matter of seconds.

While laughter is essential for adults, it's also a basic need for children. Researchers have discovered that children are naturally drawn to stories that are funny and make them laugh. A great example is *There is a Bird on Your Head* by Mo Willems— a story in which two characters go back and forth about birds nesting on top of Gerald's head. When read to a group of young readers, it's impossible to get through this hilarious book without

hearing constant laughing and giggling.

On the most basic level, kids who read or listen to funny books and enjoy them will associate the act of reading as being fun. This is especially important when matching books to struggling or reluctant readers and is a great way to make reading enjoyable and encourage children to read more. So, why not combine a child's love for laughing and being silly with reading? Joke books have been found to be a great resource for accomplishing this goal.



Katie Laughridge

Jokes are quick, easy to comprehend, encourage community and family ties, and help teach vocabulary in fun ways. Plus, anyone who's ever sat through a round of little kids' nonsensical original knock-knock jokes will appreciate some professionally written alternatives! Following are a few popular standout joke collection ideas sure to get students of all ages giggling.



-*Get the Giggles: A First Joke Book* by Bronwen Davies (pre K-1st grade)

-*Knock, Knock! Who's There?* By Tad Hills (pre K-1st grade)

-*My First Joke Book* by Amanda Enright (pre K-2nd grade)

-*Lunchbox Jokes: Animals* (K-3rd grade)— you can tear these out to put in your child's lunchbox!

-*Laugh Attack! The BIGGEST, Best Joke Book Ever* by Highlights (K- 5th grade)

-*National Geographic Kids Just Joking LOL* by National Geographic Kids (1st grade-8th grade)

-*Roald Dahl Whoppsy-Wiffling Joke Book* by Roald Dahl (2nd grade-6th grade)

-*The Big Book of Laugh-Out-Loud Jokes for Kids* by Rob Elliot (2nd grade and up)

-*The Jokiest Joking Joke Book Ever Written...No Joke!* By Kathi Wagner (3rd grade and up)

-*Joke-Lopedia: The Biggest, Best, Silliest, Dumbest Joke Book Ever!* By Eva Blank, Roseanne Green, Llana Weitzman, and Lisa Sparks (4th grade and up)

All jokes aside, I hope you and your young reader will "get a kick" out of laughing and learning together!

You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child." Dr. Seuss

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Saying no to social events

BY RICH OTTER

Arthur Klugh recalled Attorney Leon Rice talking about the early days of the Saluda Baptist Association. He said there were rules that there could be no “fancification” or “twistification.” No fancification ruled out the use of cosmetics, styling hair and the like. Twistification ruled out dancing.

Dances were frowned upon by many churches up through the late 1960s with the sometimes exception for square dancing.

Klugh also recalled the last church trial he had heard about. It was held at the First Presbyterian Church. When all of the evidence had been heard by the elders Dr. Townsend, one of the elders, rose and said “gentlemen, we heard the testimony and we understand what happened. I would say that he who is without sin let him speak next.” Silence. The trial thus ended.

In spite of restrictions, the First Baptist Church sponsored what was called a “Tom Thumb wedding.” Eunice Sullivan Pracht was the bride at five years of age. Clarence Brown was the groom, Lila Albergotti was the maid of honor and Grady Clinkscales the ring bearer. Somewhat shockingly, Clarence kissed Eunice. When questioned he said, “Well, Mother and Daddy did.”



Viola Thompson who played professional baseball during the 1940s when the men were all off at war, recalled criticism when she was growing up because girls were wearing shorts during games.

Fleet McClain said in high school they were limited as to social activities but they had prom parties. Em Holman explained the girls had a little prom card and the boys would sign up for a prom. They would just prom up and down a street and visit until it was time to

change to the next person on the list. A girl would announce that she would hold the next prom party and they would go to her home and prom up and down the sidewalk or street there.

Roberta Hopkins remembered that the girls would be wearing long dresses and would prom for about 10 minutes and then a bell would be rung to change to the next prom on their list. She said if a girl didn't have a prom she would just have to stand there and watch – “the worst thing in the world.” There often would be punch and cookies available.

As time went on, things began to change. Dancing school was taught by Eleanor Neely at the old Elks' Club on McDuffie Street. The girls would be lined up against a wall and boys would cross the room and pick a partner. Roberta Hopkins said that is where the name wallflower originated – a girl who didn't get a dance.

A boy could come over and tap a girl's partner on the shoulder and cut in. If no one cut in, the girl was stuck with the boy she was dancing with. Marshall Fant recalled they were supposed to learn etiquette, how to dance and how to break in on someone. He said they were in the seventh or eighth grades. They also had dances at the old Girls' High School.



Tom Thumb wedding

There then developed socials after basketball games in the gym with a record player and they could dance. During holidays there would be dances at the American Legion Hut and occasionally at the Country Club. In the mid-1970s dances were held after football games in the St. John's Fellowship Hall with music from local bands. Later there were also dances at some of the Baptist churches.

It was even rumored that at some private parties the invitees played spin the bottle. For those who have never walked the wicked side, a bot-

tle would be spun and the person at whom it pointed would go out to a secluded area and give a peck on the cheek to the spinner.

There was a major rumpus and picketing (including a bomb threat) when the city scheduled the then popular Jesus Christ Super Star program at the old Coleman Recreation Center. But years later the program was featured in a prominent local church without comment or incident.

Time has a way of changing perspectives, sort of a twistification.

Sharing our space

BY ANN K. BAILES

Everyone recognizes blue jays, cardinals, crows, and robins. And most people know a little about many less common birds as well. But an entire spectrum of avian friends arrives in our woods and fields in the spring and summer, groups that aren't often seen because they keep to out of the way places rather than towns and well-traveled byways. These species, for example many warblers and vireos, are much less well known to the general public, or sometimes even to those people who like to keep an eye out for whatever is passing through.

The best time to see some of these more secretive migrants and summer visitors is early in the spring before the foliage gets too thick. During the COVID shutdowns, I had more opportunity to spend in the woods than usual, so took advantage of the extra time to try to find some different birds. One afternoon I noticed a flash of yellow way above me, but couldn't tell much about it. After an hour

of sitting in a box stand, I just happened to look to the left, out the open door, and there was that gray and yellow bird seeming to stare right at me. It was especially interesting because of the markings on its head. It had intense yellow lines through its eyes (called spectacles), and its eyes were completely white except for tiny pupils. This was a new one to me. I pulled out my trusty Peterson bird guide (I'm too old-fashioned for apps) and soon identified it as a white-eyed vireo.

This is a mostly gray bird, with washes of yellow on its sides and belly, and the bright yellow eye lines. And those strong white eyes, with only slight black pupils, give it a piercing intensity that made me feel like it was checking me out instead of the other way around. It also has two obvious white bars on its otherwise gray wings. Its bill is thicker than a warbler bill, but not particularly large.

The white-eyed vireo forages for insects mainly in dense thick woods, edges, or thick-



Photo by Rich Otter

ets, which explains why it is seldom seen. It's a summertime resident of the Upstate, although near our coast it may stay year-round.

I checked off a “lifer” on my all-time bird

list that day in the woods, and even more so, had the satisfaction of seeing one of the more unusual birds that shares our space - a beauty to see even if it's not very well known.

'OH MY WORD'

Whether you're a Baby Boomer (1946-64), A Gen X'er (1965-80), or a Millennial (1981-95), it's probably time to update your slang vocabulary. If someone tells you something surprising and you respond by saying, "Golly!



Neal Parnell

or Wow!" then I may be able to help with your struggle. If your response phrase is "Jeepers or Gee Willikers", then I'm afraid a total brain Slangectomy may be your only hope for recovery. I know it's tough to let go of your Groovy and Far-Out past, but I promise

that this next-gen slang will not be Bogus or Squaresville. So put on your Peepers, and you can count on me for some Gnarly new phrases that will have you Wiggin'Out Daddy-O.

Gen Z'ers (1997-2014) and the up and coming Gen Alphas (2015-2025) have brought beatnik, hippie, and yuppie language into the twenty-first century. The cool, mod and hip slang of yesteryear has been replaced with new Trendy, Kickin', and Edgy phrases that only smartphone-reared teens can decipher, IYKYK, Amirite? Which translates into (If You Know, You Know) and (Am I Right?). If you want to show your teen or grand-teen that you are in on the new slang trends, don't say, "Dats da Bomb" or "That's Awesome", say, "That's SAVAGE", and don't forget to record the dope look you get on your Pocket PC (mobile-phone, cellphone, handheld). Most of the trending slang originates from using the newer phone apps, (applications). You've probably been YASSIFIED and didn't know it. To Yassify someone requires a Face-app that applies beauty features or other digital cosmetics to your image until you are virtually unrecognizable. Way back in the nineties there was the expression, "Friends with Benefits" this was kind of like having a Yo-Yo with only one Yo. Today they have what's known as a "SITUATIONSHIP" which is



two people that are more friends and less relationship. This is like each having a Yo-yo but also having no idea how to Yo. "SUSSY" is the new slang for Suspicious, as in, "I'm a little sussy of their situationship." If you were a teen, then you tried to be sneaky. Today's teens are no different. You've heard or used the social media site Instagram, but savvy teens have a new word, "FINSTA" which is short for a Fake- Instagram account that you're not aware of them having. So be a bit Sussy if you see or hear this one. If you happen to see your teen text "POS", this is not a positive thing, as you might think; it actually means "Parent Over Shoulder". In the old days of the past when we wanted someone to tell us some gossip we'd say, "Spill the Beans", today they say, "Spill the Tea" or if someone is just listening and not spreading gossip it's called, "Sipping the Tea". Just one more slang-text that you don't want to see on your teens phone is "LMIRL" which is, "Let's Meet in Real Life". Now back to some fun slang that's trending with the new Geners. Cool has been around for decades, but has become a bit lame to the new Gen. "GUCCI" is the ultra-modern cool, as in, "He's so Gucci, or That is so Gucci". Of course, by the time you read this, the new slang will be a "blast from the



past" and other hip, savage, and Gucci phrases will try to take hold. There's one that I hope is gone but may not be, and that's the "Fauci Ouchie" that refers to Dr. Anthony Fauci and vaccination.

It's been a real gas, and I hope I haven't harshed your mellow, but maybe someday all your retro slang will return and be cooler than the bee's knees. Until then, show some Bling, Cut a Rug, and Get Jiggy-wid-it.

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ANDERSON THE ELECTRIC CITY

SPRING INTO COLOR

Spring is here and so are all the pretty colors. Incorporating them into your wardrobe is a must. My personal favorite is the lilac color I keep seeing everyone wear and it's on every fashion designer's runway. It's gorgeous on every skin tone and I especially love it for a manicure or pedicure. You could even add it to



Kristine March

your makeup routine in an eyeshadow palette.

Another lovely shade to wear is hot pink. Yes, it's bold but it doesn't automatically have to make you look like Birthday Barbie. You can actually just add a pop of it here and there.

Try it in a silk scarf tied around your neck. A lovely, flowy pashmina for a night out or a dinner. Or in a glossy faux crocodile skin hand bag. Yellow is stunning for swimsuit colors this year. Try it out for Spring Break. I love a bold hue or even a buttercup shade. Add a floral cover up and you're good to go. It will look perfect with a glowy beach tan as well.



Kelly green is beautiful on a blonde. Think Gwyneth Paltrow in *Great Expectations*. A silky dress in that shade would be sensational. A great look for a cocktail party. A caramel oversized blazer would look smashing on a brunette. Try it all in one. Caramel color everything, or you could color block it. Posh meets luxe for a day in the city. Retro prints are big this year and automatically give you that mod squad vibe. Try it in a trouser with a simple top or in a cute mini skirt. Add a pair of white boots and you're ready to go-go dance. It will be a show stopper. Also great for a party look.

Animal print I don't think will ever go out of style and I still love it. Add a cute shoe boot or a block heel in that print to a pair of jeans for instant glam. Add all these fun colors to your closet this spring and it will instantly feel fresh and give you that revamp, but in a flash. Effortless and fun. Always my motto. So, remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matter. Get your color on y'all.



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Anderson Recreation Center 10U team finishes unbeaten

Congratulations to the City of Anderson Recreation Center's 10 and Under basketball team. The 2022 Blue Devils team had an undefeated season. Coach C.J. Groves brings 10 years of devoted coaching experience to his 10 and under team. He is a devoted father figure, mentor and advocate for the team members. He has a true love for the game and each of the young men. He and Coach Earle are dedicated coaches that motivate their players on and off the court. The parents are very proud of these coaches and the 10 and Under Blue Devils. "Keep up the hard work!" Players, front row, from left: Tyler Cromer, Zyan Earle, Drayden Brownlee and Ayden Shaw. Back row: Jeremiah Bennett, Ja'Darious Norris, Dray'Shon McDowell and Karter Hartwell. Coach CJ Groves, left, and Coach Quentin Earle, right.

NIBBLE & SIP

An outdoor celebration of spring ... or maybe not

Now that we're in our first full month of spring, it's time to start thinking about outdoor Nibble and Sips. Or maybe not. April is so unpredictable that we could be wearing shorts one day and parkas the next. That doesn't mean we can't plan a tasty outdoor treat. We just need to make it an easy one to grab as we dart for the cover of the house.



Kim von Keller

One of my favorite all-time cocktails is the Pimm's No. 1 Spritz. Pimm's No. 1 is a gin-based spirit created in 1840 by James Pimm. When combined with lemonade and sparkling wine, it makes the perfect refreshing, fruity, low-alcohol cocktail. And when I'm sitting outside with my Pimm's No. 1 Spritz, I'll have a tray of Cucumber Sandwiches with Herbed Cheese Spread. They're quick, delicious, and if the weather turns sour, the tray is easy to grab and run with.

Cucumber Sandwiches with Herbed Cheese Spread
1 5.2-oz. package Boursin Garlic & Fine Herbs Cheese, room temperature
¼ c. mayonnaise
4 slices good-quality white bread, crusts removed and cut into quarters
1 English cucumber, rinsed and dried but unpeeled

In a small bowl, combine the Boursin and mayonnaise. Using a hand mixer, beat on low until thoroughly combined. Divide the mixture evenly among the 16 pieces of bread and top with cucumber slices. Save remaining cucumber slices for your...

Pimm's No. 1 Spritz
1 ¾ oz Pimm's No. 1
2 ½ oz. lemonade, chilled
1 oz. sparkling wine, chilled
cucumber slices and mint leaves, to garnish

In a large wine glass, combine Pimm's No. 1, lemonade, and sparkling wine, stirring gently. Fill glass with ice and garnish with remaining cucumber slices and mint leaves. Makes 1.

The StoreEase difference

Let's face it, we all accumulate more stuff than we have space to store it. That's why it is exciting news that Anderson has a new, cutting-edge self-storage facility. Located at 205 East-West Parkway, the new StoreEase facility is convenient to everyone in the local area. Customers will be impressed with the features offered with this innovative concept, which is so much more than just storage units secured with padlocks.

With operations in eight states, StoreEase has revolutionized the self-storage industry by evaluating the conventional self-storage operation and adding technology to drastically improve the customer experience. Upon entering a StoreEase facility, customers will see a Virtual Counter that provides a contactless rental experience. A Virtual Manager will assist with anything needed to make your storage experience easier and more enjoyable. There is no more waiting for a manager to get back from lunch or a bank run. In fact, StoreEase is known for their "Two Minute Move-In" because they realize customers want a fast and efficient process to locate a storage unit and be on their way.

During the pandemic, the unique, contactless operating platform has thrived while providing essential functions to customers. StoreEase has implemented a "CleanZone" throughout the office which is an antimicrobial film located on common touch points that uses powerful silver ions to kill 99.99% of germs that are pres-



ent. Customers really appreciate the clean safe environment of this facility.

By utilizing a state-of-the-art security system, digital video monitoring, and lighting, customers feel safe no matter what time of day they need to access their storage unit. The Anderson facility is gated offering 24-hour access 365 days a year. Customers will find "Smart Storage Units" with built-in locks and motion sensors which monitor activity inside each unit. This alleviates the need for access cards, keys, and padlocks for each unit. The StoreEase difference is making the customer experience Smart, Safe, and Simple.

To enhance the customer experience, moving materials and boxes can be ordered online and shipped to any destination. Moving carts and dollies are accessible for cus-

tomers use and free wi-fi is available to conveniently manage your online account. The 65,000 square foot Anderson location offers climate and humidity-controlled units, drive-up storage, covered, and non-covered parking. There is a broad range of unit sizes that are competitively priced for every budget. Flexible month-to-month lease terms ensure that storage will suit your schedule with no long-term commitments.

As a local Anderson business that has been in operation since 1996, this location is the second StoreEase facility to open and operate in the state of South Carolina. StoreEase is happy to serve the local community and we invite you to stop by to find out why the Anderson location is the perfect solution for all your personal and business storage needs.

CREATING HOME



Bringing in warmth

When it comes to incorporating warm elements into our homes like cozy blankets and pillows, the first rooms that we think of are our Living areas and Bedrooms. These are the rooms where we hunker down to relax and unwind, so naturally they should be comfortable and inviting. Rooms that



Amie Buice

are often overlooked, though, I think can be the most important places to add warmth. Utilitarian rooms like our Kitchen, Bathrooms and Laundry Rooms are rooms where we spend a lot of time... preparing our meals, washing our clothes, getting ready for our days and everything in between. These rooms should also have warmth, interest and depth! If for no other reason than we spend much of our time in these spaces. Below are some easy ways to bring these elements into your Kitchen, Bathrooms and Laundry Rooms.

♦ Bring in art. Art instantly adds a personal touch to a room. While fruit paintings are great in a Kitchen and botanicals are nice in a Bathroom, don't be afraid to think outside of the box. If you have an old oil

portrait or a great landscape, use them! In my opinion, if you love a piece of art, it can go anywhere. And what better place to put it than in a spot where you'll enjoy it every day?

♦ Bring in something green! Plants and flowers give a fresh feeling that you can't get from anything else. They also add great color and texture. Whether your style is a casual plant in a terracotta pot, or a bunch of flowers in a beautiful vase, use them! Plants add a bit of "happy" to any room, and who doesn't need a little extra "happy" when folding clothes?

♦ Bring in textiles. The type of textiles that you use will be different in a Kitchen vs Bathroom and Laundry Room, but in either space, make it pretty! Use attractive dish towels in your Kitchen and Laundry Room as well as pretty hand towels in your Bathrooms. Use a color that you love, a great stripe or block print. This is a small thing that makes a big difference in the way you enjoy your space.

Incorporate these small changes and they will make a big impact in these rooms. You might find yourself enjoying doing the dishes or laundry just a little bit more... maybe!

Website: amiebuice.com Contact: amie@amiebuice.com

APRIL LIKE A BOSS (BY BEING A VOLUNTEER)

This year marks the 100th anniversary of one of T. S. Eliot's most famous poems, "The Waste Land." Whether it is famous for its modern exposition on the themes of despair and death in the years following World War I or the fact that it is 434 LINES LONG is anyone's guess. Still, if you read it in high school or college, you are sure to remember the first four lines:

"April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain."

While Eliot may have been speaking metaphorically, I get it on a literal level. Here in the Deep South, we invest a lot of expectation in the first full month of spring. The azaleas and dogwoods are blooming, as are peaches and strawberries. We are in that sweet, sweet HVAC spot when we need neither heat nor air conditioning. We look forward to Easter or Passover, depending on the calendar. We plan Spring Break getaways, depending on the dates of Easter or Passover. But the month is highly unpredictable, occasionally bringing a hard freeze or even tornadoes, like the 20-plus that tore through South Carolina in 2020. I also have my own, less dramatic experience with April.

When I was six, my mom hosted a surprise party for me and my kindergarten class at Cleveland Park in Greenville. There had been a terrible storm the night before, and the wind was still gusting. Two memories of that day stand out. First, the sky was littered with cups, napkins, and plates being carried by the air as my mom and the other moms tried to catch them. Second, a little boy in my class — it's always a little boy — broke through the tape on the steps leading to a closed sliding board and slid to the bottom, where he was swallowed by a gigantic mud hole. He could not have been more thoroughly covered if someone had held him by the heels and dipped him in. His mom grabbed him by the hand and took him

home immediately; I always wondered if she had to have her car seats reupholstered.

The April calendar also features some dates we'd probably forget about. On April 12, 1861, shots were fired on Fort Sumter, marking the start of the American Civil War. On April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I. Also during the "cruellest month," the Titanic



Kim von Keller

sunk, the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl exploded, President Roosevelt died, President Lincoln was assassinated, and San Francisco was struck by a massive earthquake. And let's not forget Tax Day. (Really, don't forget to file by Monday, April 18 this year.)

Maybe Eliot was speaking more literally than we thought.

But despite this month's uncertainty, I plan to April like a boss. I will be attending a dog birthday party outdoors at a brewery. We're hosting a small reunion of my husband's family. I even have a birthday weekend planned for Asheville which will definitely involve a hike. I approach all of these by following the words of another famous poet, Oscar Wilde: "There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing."

You can April like a boss as well. At the end of the month, Anderson will host the Soiree, the city's signature arts festival, for the first time since 2009. Over April 29-30, there will be live performances, arts and crafts vendors, and food from some of Anderson's best chefs. An event like the Soiree doesn't happen without a lot of help, though, so if you'd like to help make some great April memories, visit downtownanderson.com/webinar-registration and look for the volunteer tab. Together, we can transform April into the "coolest" month... but I'd still save the sliding boards till May.

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GAMAC Chorale counts down to 50 years!

The GAMAC Chorale returns to the stage for the first time since the onset of the pandemic on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 7:30pm at First Baptist Church. Titled Countdown to 50, the evening will celebrate the Chorale's 49 year history with performances of favorite pieces chosen by ensemble members while looking forward to its upcoming 50 year anniversary in 2023. The evening will also celebrate the Chorale's 10th year under the direction of Dr. Don R. Campbell.



Don Campbell

In preparation for this concert, Chorale members were asked to submit titles of their favorite pieces from the past 49 concert seasons. The resulting program promises to be an entertaining blend of both classical and pop performances. Popular selections will include a choral medley from Beautiful - The Carole King Musical featuring "I Feel the Earth Move" and "It's Too Late" among others in addition to Carly Simon's "Let the River Run." Classical fans will enjoy "Make Our Garden Grow" from Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, the "Anvil Chorus" from Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, and "How Lovely is They Dwelling Place" from Johannes Brahms' *A German Requiem*. Additional favorites chosen by the Chorale will include Gwyneth Walker's "How Can I Keep from Singing," "Ching-a-Ring Chaw" by Aaron Copland, and more.

Established in 1970 as the Anderson Civic Chorale and renamed in 1990, the GAMAC Chorale has performed much of the great choral literature in its rich history. Like many choral groups dealing with the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Chorale paused all rehearsals and performances in March 2020. While small groups of singers were available for Christmas caroling and GAMAC's 2021 Christmas concert, the Chorale officially resumed weekly rehearsals in January 2022 in preparation for the April 9 performance. A true community ensemble, the GAMAC Chorale is comprised of volunteer vocalists representing

all areas of Anderson County. Membership is open to all adult singers by audition.

As the Chorale looks back on the past 49 years, Don Campbell's 10-plus years as conductor have brought tremendous energy and growth to the ensemble. Originally from California, Don and his wife Karen, have called South Carolina home for many years. He serves as Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Southern Wesleyan University. In demand as a choral clinician, he has traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand to conduct professional, collegiate, and church choirs. In addition to his busy academic and



GAMAC Chorale

performance schedule, he is an international faculty member of Harmony University for the Barbershop Harmony Society as well as Director of Music at Trinity United Methodist Church in Anderson, SC.

Tickets to Countdown to 50 are on sale now. Prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for high school and college students. Children under 12 are admitted free. Tickets are available online at www.gamac.org or by calling (864) 231-6147. Tickets may also

be purchased at the door 1 hour prior to the performance. This performance is made possible with generous support from Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Hobson, Drs. Brena & John Walker, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rainey, Members of the GAMAC Chorale in Honor of Dr. Don Campbell, and the Irvin & Jorene Cauthen Donor Advised Fund. Support is also provided in part by the City of Anderson Accommodations Tax Fund and the South Carolina Arts Commission.

Anderson wins big at Southeastern Theatre Conference Community Theatre Festival

The Market Theatre Company's debut Mobile Production Unit show *Every Brilliant Thing* traveled to Memphis, TN in March for the Southeastern Theatre Conference Community Theatre Festival and scored a Best Actress win for Antoinette Hall. Actress and one-woman show, Antoinette was captivating as she portrayed the depths of depression woven into a story based around her character's ever-growing list of things to live for.

The Mobile Production Unit is a show that travels to underserved areas of the Anderson community. "Our mission is to bring quality, affordable theatre to Anderson and sometimes that means getting outside of our own space to reach a broader audience," explains Noah



Antoinette Hall in *Every Brilliant Thing*

Taylor, Executive Artistic Director of the Market Theatre.

This year, Director Drew

Whitley chose the show *Every Brilliant Thing* by Jonny Donahoe and Duncan Macmillan. "The tim-

ing for this show felt perfect. Yes, it's a show about mental health, something that so many have really struggled with during the pandemic and beyond, but it's also a show about connection, about conversation, about the little things we do for one another that make a big difference. We could all use some of that togetherness right now," says Whitley.

More than 20 shows have been produced at over a dozen locations across Anderson County.

Based on its success in Anderson, the Market Team wanted the one-woman show to compete on the big stage of the Southeastern Theatre Conference Community Theatre Festival. The annual convention was held at the Renasant Convention Center where 3,300

theatre professionals attended. The Community Theatre Festival competition was judged by Marci Duncan, the president of the Florida Theatre Conference and professor of theatre at the University of West Florida. At the award ceremony, Marci Duncan announced and praised local actress Antoinette Hall as Best Actress for her talent and dedication to the tremendous role in *Every Brilliant Thing*.

A testament to Anderson's national spotlight, Andersonian Sally Cade Holmes was the keynote speaker for the convention. Holmes is a two-time Tony Award-winning producer for Broadway's *Hadestown* and *The Inheritance*.

Follow the Mobile Production Unit tour for upcoming show dates and times at themarkettheatre.org.

FROM THE SHELF

Evicted by Matthew Desmond

One of my favorite things that I get to do for the library is run our “community read” every year. A community read is where as a library system, we select a title we want the entire community to come together to read and discuss. When I started this program a



Sara Leady

few years ago, the idea was to take something from global or national headlines and discuss it on a community level. The news is filled constantly with terrible things happening, but it's always presented at the national and global lev-

els, despite having direct effects here at home in our communities. Since starting Books & Community the idea has been to cut the distance from the headlines, and show how this stuff is real right here and right now.

Pre-pandemic, the plan had been to look at homelessness and poverty through the lens of the award-winning book *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. In March 2020 when we were originally planning the program, the numbers were startling. Now two years later and with the effect of the pandemic on the economy, they're even worse. Desmond's title was a culmination of years of research and data collection while also literally walking alongside people living in Milwaukee who were facing eviction head on (see the evictionlab.org for the South Carolina numbers, but keep in mind those are just up through 2016 and it's only gotten worse).

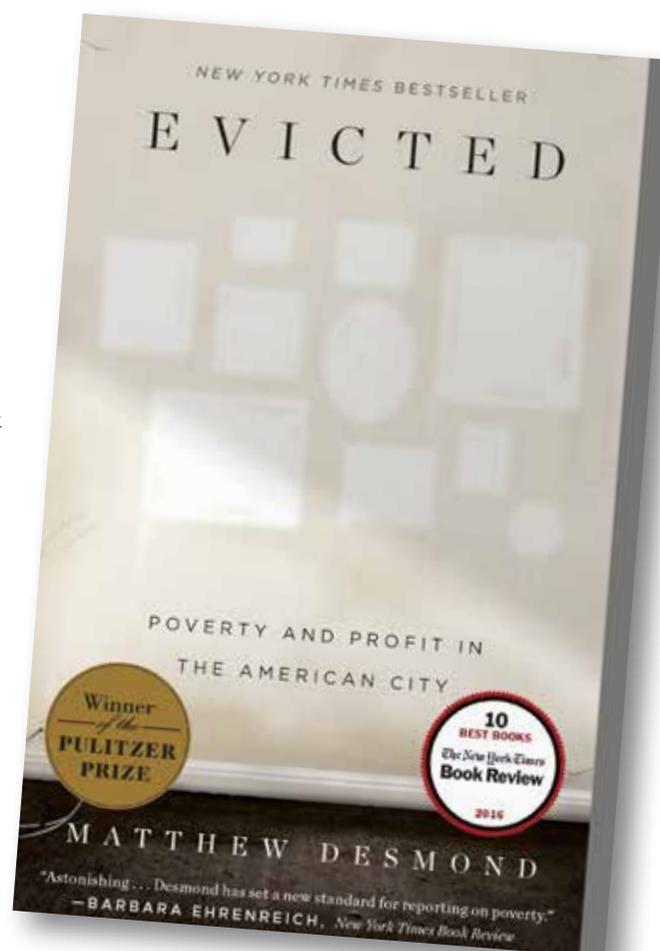
While it is a daunting title given the content, especially the data driven stuff, Desmond writes it in a way that makes it incredibly accessible. The book follows several different families and individuals as they go through the eviction process, including multiple perspectives of people losing their homes, landlords having to make the decisions, sheriff officers carrying out the court orders, and the movers tasked with cleaning up the areas after an eviction has been handed down. All these perspectives are put in context of the statistics that Desmond gathered so the reader can understand the real numbers that are driving these decisions, and also see that the individual stories he's sharing are not an anomaly, but are actually the rule.

Desmond also goes through the history of housing rights and how things have shifted socially and philosophically from the time when housing was viewed as a right rather than as a privilege. He shows this through anecdotes from the people he's following in his narrative and their histories, and how life has

led them to where they are (or aren't) living today. A quote that's really stuck with me since the first time I read the title back in 2019 (it's been reread a couple times) was the idea of one person striving to just have “stable poverty and not grinding poverty.”

One of the great things that Desmond does in his title is that he gives a broad range of experiences and backgrounds to the people who are living in these conditions and how a single eviction will affect the rest of their lives, including that of a child whose family is getting evicted. While working on this year's Books & Community, I've been in contact with some of the local organizations who are studying Anderson County specifically and helping those who are struggling in poverty. A lot of what they're reporting lines up with Desmond's title despite Milwaukee being drastically different from Anderson County. One of the big things affecting Anderson that's also looked at in *Evicted* is the rising costs of housing for people who are on fixed incomes. I know most people immediately assume I'm referring to those “taking advantage” of the welfare system (honestly, eye-roll at you) but an even bigger population that's getting hit with this (and a quickly growing group) is seniors who are living on their Social Security Benefits. What complicates this is people's response of “well, get another job!”; the issue is that not a lot of places are willing to higher the older demographics, especially as everything becomes more and more tech based. Should seniors, or anyone for that matter, have to live in squalor because the cost of living is increasing faster than their fixed income? The answer feels obvious, but solutions and realities of it are increasingly complicated.

The point of the book, and hopefully of the library's book discussions tying back to Desmond, is to show how much further poverty and the housing crisis goes beyond what people tend to think of, and how the systems currently in place aren't helping, and oftentimes are even exacerbating the issues. I've focused more on the tenant perspective because it's something that hits harder at home for me, but Desmond also looks at the landlord perspective and the potential (and likelihood) that they too are living paycheck to paycheck, and lost rent can lead to homelessness for them too. Desmond offers a great view of the issue and gives some ideas for ways to move forward, but it's a very compli-



cated mess that's been generations in the making. It's definitely a book that should make you pause and think about your own home security and what could happen to you if the literal worst-case scenario struck tomorrow.

As part of Books & Community and this year's focus on poverty in America, the library will be hosting multiple book discussions across our various locations. We'll have free physical copies of *Evicted* available for pick up starting in April, alongside digital access to the audiobook (super well done!) and eBook through the library's free app, Libby. If you read the book, and you really should, I'd also love to encourage you to come to the panel discussion of the title by community leaders on Tuesday, April 19th at 6:30 pm at the Anderson Main Library. For this we have some of the lovely people I mentioned above that I've been speaking with that are on the front lines of this problem, and they'll be discussing the reality of *Evicted* as it's happening right here to our neighbors across Anderson County. For a full event and book discussion schedule, see the library's website.

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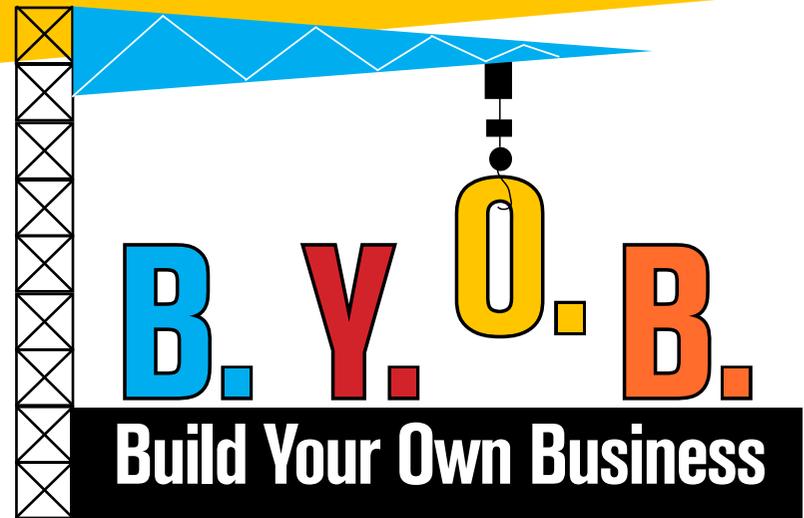
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JOINING THE BREAKFAST CLUB

In 1985, John Hughes wrote and directed the classic film "The Breakfast Club." In it, five high school students from different backgrounds and social settings with seemingly little in common were thrust into getting to know each other during a Saturday



Jim Harris

in detention. A brain, a beauty, a jock, a rebel, and a recluse is what the movie's advertising called them. As they got to know each other, it became evident that they had more in common than it initially seemed, and they could bridge what appeared

to be the gaps in their lives and become friends.

Fast forward to today. You've likely seen us or groups like ours. We're a table filled with older men enjoying breakfast at one of our local institutions, sharing opinions on the day's issues, and solving the world's problems.

Our locations rotate among a few area spots. We meet at 8 AM on Mondays and always order at 8:30, like clockwork. At first glance, we may look like the stereotypical old fogies, charter members of the "You Kids Get Off My Lawn" club, but we are a diverse group. Some in the group are lifelong friends, while others only met from joining the group.

A closer look will reveal what could be a valuable life lesson for everyone. The group represents a variety of ethnicities, faiths, political leanings, economic backgrounds, and the like, and conversations will often veer into those typically volatile lanes of religion and politics. Opinions can be wide-ranging. We often learn something from our friend's contrary positions or may just have to agree to disagree. However, unlike what we see on social media and in the news, those differences never result in insults, anger, or terminated friendships. Everyone arrives as friends and leaves as friends. Folks from other tables will often chime in on the day's topics. You may even see South Carolina fans somewhat toler-



ated by the Clemson loyal, but only after a bit of ribbing.

All will tell you the Monday breakfast is a high point of the week. It can be laborious for some of us to even get from the car to the table, but they always make it. You'll see American flag pins and several of the group proudly sporting caps designating their branch of service in the military.

Most of the servers know us. As the food comes to the table, the founder of the group, Ed Ashworth, leads us in the blessing. Ed started the group a few years back, hoping to create a group of men to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that only comes from being with friends. I'd say he has succeeded.

It may not seem like it, based on our breakfast orders, but participating in a group like ours could be making us all healthier. The famed Mayo Clinic touted friendship as a valuable asset for wellbeing. Their website states, "Good friends are good for your health. Friends can help you celebrate good times and provide support during bad times. Friends prevent isolation and loneliness and give you a

chance to offer needed companionship, too."

Benefits they cite from friendship include improving our sense of belonging, lowering stress levels, helping cope with loss or trauma, and providing a support network when we need to make changes in our lives. Adults with

strong social connections are at a reduced risk for many physical disorders, like depression and high blood pressure, and typically live longer.

Find yourself a breakfast club, and you'll get more from it than just a good meal.

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**SUSAN
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Chalk it up to live and learn. After buying various bulbs on a half off rack, ranunculus being some chosen, I read deer love them. I tried to grow ranunculus in my beginning gardening days. There were no concerns of deer then, nor do I remember the flowers ever growing. The corms are weird wood chip, claw looking things. One patch of ranunculus are planted alone. Others are mixed in with allium and crocus that were also on the sale rack. As the new ranunculus foliage came up, deer ate them down to nothing but stems. Glad I didn't pay full price! Alliums, in another patch, have provided some protection from deer. That's another reason I love alliums. Deer have left the crocus alone too. The colors are mixed, but mostly shades of purple, which is one of my favorite colors. I hope they multiply to form a nice patch. They were quite pretty on their first

year. The striped foliage adds a bit of interest too.

There was another very dainty little flower in the patch, with foliage that looks like ranunculus, but the bloom looks more like a daisy. When I went to look up the card in my book, I had not put it in there. Husband is right this time, I have no idea what I'm talking about with the little dainty purple flower. I keep a large three ring binder documenting when and where what is planted. It is a big help...if the information is put in the book.

The garden has been in bloom since January with various other bulbs. Snowdrops (*Galanthus*) are always the first to bloom and are multiplying nicely. These days, daffodils of all sorts, none of which the names are known, snowbells (*Leucojum*), Spanish bluebells, blue and white varieties, and green foliage of magic lilies are giving nice color. Magic lilies will bloom in summer. For the first time, deer have eaten the foliage of some of the Spanish blue bells. I hope this doesn't interfere with them blooming.

Tulips were also on the half off rack too so I decided to try some. Deer love tulips and most tulips should be grown as an annual for

us. They are in a home-made planter at the breezeway. So far, deer have not come that close to the porch...so far! Buds are beginning to open. If all proceeds as it seems thus far, this is going to be very pretty. Arum, another bulb, that gardeners seem to have strong opinions on, is in the planter. Arum (*Arum italicum*) can be a garden floozy but it gives nice winter interest. If it comes up where I don't want it, it gets cut down or dug up. Bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*) is the other perennial in the container. Foliage is up and it will bloom later this spring and sporadically through summer. Once danger of frost is gone, and we warm up, caladiums go in the container. Maybe the tulips will get enough winter chill in the container to come back. Mama has a patch of red tulips that come back for her every year. And her garden is much warmer than mine. Another Mother Nature mystery.

Flowering almond (*Prunus triloba*) is blooming now too. Its pink blossoms contrast nicely with the other colors in bloom. Deer leave flowering almond alone too. Flowering almond can sucker a bit but so far that has been a good thing. Several of them have been moved to other parts of the garden to help



tie it all together. There will be some for sale at Anderson Master Gardener Plant Sale on April 9, at the Farmers Market. Hint Hint.

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WESTSIDE RAMS

Westside baseball team has mixed week with series loss, win over county foe

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — With region play in full swing, the Westside Rams had an up-and-down week, dropping a series with Pickens and losing to an out-of-state opponent while also adding a big win last weekend.

Westside opened the week on the road on March 21 against Pickens, starting the series with a 5-2 loss.

From the start, it seemed like the Rams had the advantage after taking a 1-0 lead in the first with a Noah Robinson RBI. The Blue Flame later tied the game in the fourth and were able to take advantage of a number of errors to pull away from the Rams in the sixth.

In game 2 against the Blue Flame, Westside managed to pull out the victory in an electric 12-10 game.

For the second straight contest,

the Rams built an early lead, going up 7-2 on Pickens before the Blue Flame stormed back to tie things and force the game into extra innings.

There, a three-run eighth

seemed to give the Blue Flame every-

thing they needed for a win before

Camden Crosby and Jaxon Thomas hit home runs in the bottom of the inning to give them the walk-off win.

In the rubber match on March 25, the Westside bats

seemed to go cold in a 5-0 loss.

The Rams managed just two hits and struck out 10 times as they couldn't get anything going in the loss.

Westside returned to action on Saturday against county foe Belton-Honea Path hoping to avenge the series loss and were able to do so with an 8-6 win over the Bears.

Once again, the Rams got up big on their opponent with a five-run first inning and a three-run fourth inning before the Bears clawed back down the stretch.

However, Camden Crosby managed to get the save in the two-run win.

After the win, the Rams hosted Dublin Coffman out of Ohio on Monday night, falling 6-1 to the out-of-state foe.



T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

Yellow Jacket softball team snaps losing skid with big victory over Pickens

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — Despite a postponement and a couple of losses, the T. L. Hanna Yellow Jackets softball team finished its recent stretch of games on a high note by beating Pickens.

After finishing second at the West-Oak Warrior Invitational Tournament, the Yellow Jackets returned to action on March 17 against the Woodmont Wildcats.

The Yellow Jackets were unable to keep the positive momentum going against the Wildcats, falling 6-2 against their conference foe.

The slide continued the next day as the Yellow Jackets hosted county foe Belton-Honea Path.

For the second straight game, the Jackets struggled to get going in the batter's box as they managed just a single run in the 11-1 loss to the Bears.

After the consecutive losses, Hanna was sched-

uled to return to action against Wade Hampton on March 22 before the

game was postponed.

Having to wait three extra days to break their losing spell, the Yellow Jackets took on Pickens and beat the Blue Flame in a big way.

The Jackets hammered the Blue Flame, with five T. L. Hanna

batters managing to put up multiple hits in an 8-2 win. Claire Long led the way for Hanna, putting up three hits and bringing home two runners, while Graycie Shortridge had a big day on the base paths, stealing three bases and scoring two runs.

With positive momentum, the Yellow Jackets moved into a huge week of play with three games in three days starting with Riverside on Monday before facing region opponents Hillcrest and Mauldin the next two days.

Results for those games were unavailable at press time.

