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New life emerges at Cater's Lake with goslings making their debut



Some of Cater's Lake's newest residents can't drive, pay taxes, or even walk in a straight line yet—but they're already becoming the talk of the town.

Visitors to the lake this spring may have noticed a new family of goslings waddling along the shoreline, marking an exciting milestone for one of the park's newest environmental features: the nesting habitat island.

Created as part of the recent revitalization of Cater's Lake, the island was designed to provide a safer place for waterfowl to nest and raise their young. Just months after the park reopened, it has already welcomed its first family of geese—a promising sign that the habitat improvements are doing exactly what they were intended to do.

For generations, Cater's Lake has been one of Anderson's most beloved community spaces. Families have gathered here for picnics, afternoon walks, family photos, and countless childhood memories. Many residents also remember bringing bread to feed the ducks—a

SEE DEBUT ON PAGE 2

Edward Jones
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Debut

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tradition passed down from one generation to the next.

Today, while the lake remains a place for people to connect with nature, it is also becoming a healthier environment for the wildlife that call it home.

The nesting island is just one of several ecological enhancements incorporated into the park. Native landscaping was added throughout the site to create food sources, shelter, and habitat opportunities for a variety of species. In fact, more than 50,000 individual plants now grow throughout the park, helping support pollinators, birds, and aquatic life while adding seasonal beauty for visitors to enjoy.

Wildlife activity has steadily increased since the reopening. Turtles have returned to bask along the shoreline, ducks and geese are raising young, and additional habitat improvements are on the way. The Anderson County Waterfowl Association plans to install wood duck nesting boxes to further enhance habitat opportunities around the lake.

As exciting as the goslings are to watch, visitors are encouraged to admire them from a respectful distance and allow them to thrive naturally in their habitat.

Feeding ducks and geese may seem like a harmless act of kindness, but bread and other human foods provide little nutritional value and can contribute to health problems, poor water quality, and disruptions to natural wildlife behaviors.

The arrival of the goslings serves as a reminder that Cater's Lake is more than just a park—it is a living ecosystem that continues to evolve more than 100 years after its



creation. Built in 1923 by Andrew Postelle Cater using little more than a shovel and wheelbarrow, the spring-fed lake has long been a backdrop to generations of Anderson memories. Today, a new generation of visitors

is enjoying the same views while watching new life take root around the water's edge.

And if the newest residents are any indication, the next chapter for Cater's Lake is off to a pretty good start.

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AnMed becomes first health system in Carolinas to provide innovative new diagnostic for sepsis

AnMed has become the first health system in the Carolinas to adopt the TriVerity test, an innovative decision-support diagnostic designed to help clinicians rapidly assess a patient with suspected infection or sepsis by reading the patient's immune system.



chief physician executive. "This technology gives our clinical teams clearer, faster insight into a patient's immune activity and risk of sepsis — allowing us to make more informed decisions and deliver truly personalized care."

As part of AnMed's ongoing commitment to innovation and exceptional care, TriVerity adds a new layer of actionable clinical insight to support care for patients who present with symptoms that can be difficult to differentiate early, when time matters.

More confidence when time matters
TriVerity is designed to provide immune-response information that sup-

ports clinical decision-making in cases of suspected acute infection or sepsis, helping clinicians:

- Make faster, more confident decisions when symptoms are nonspecific and time-sensitive
- Improve efficiency by aiding timely triage and care pathway decisions, particularly for high-risk patients
- Advance patient-centered care with earlier diagnostic clarity and more targeted next steps
- Support appropriate level of care decisions by helping guide escalation or de-escalation decisions

"Every hospital should have this test available to save lives," said Sharon Robb, PhD, AnMed's supervisor of microbiology and molecular diagnostics. "It will help us to more quickly and efficiently identify

patients who don't necessarily need intervention, those who can go home on antibiotics and those who need to be admitted. It will improve our practices because the results given will drive how each individual patient is treated.

"Innovations like TriVerity reflect our commitment to bringing advanced technologies to our community. Being first in the Carolinas underscores our focus on exceptional, leading-edge care close to home."

The TriVerity adoption comes just weeks after Dr. Brian Miller and AnMed Arrhythmia became one of the first in the nation make the FARAPOINT Pulsed Field Ablation Catheter from Boston Scientific available to patients. That technology represents significant progress in treating people with right atrial flutter, a growing public health challenge.




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BABY BLUES

The time is quickly approaching. And, much as I hate to see strawberry season end, this next season is every bit as good. It's almost time for blueberries.

Most years I haven't paid a lot of attention to the process of berry development, at least until picking time is near. But this year I noticed a little more closely what was happening on the bushes at our farm.



Ann K. Bailes

As preliminary, in mid-February we poured a bag of acid-rich fertilizer around

the base of each bush. Blueberries are members of the azalea family and they thrive in acidic soil. In March and early April, the white upside-down bell-shaped flowers came out. Then the bees did their job. I enjoyed watching them flit from blossom to blossom, knowing that each fertilized flower would eventually develop into a berry.

As all growers do (I use that term loosely – we have all of seven bushes), we held our breath that there would be no late winter freezes to destroy the flowers. One year, early in our blueberry-growing experience, we worked feverishly in a cold wind to cover all the bushes with blankets, plastic, and whatever we could find. It didn't work. The wind blew off all the coverings, and the cold temperatures claimed that year's entire crop. But this year the crop remained safe.

After pollination, the flowers fell off in mid-April, and a little red knob swelled up from the base of where each flower had been. Development of baby berries, depend-

ing on the type and the temperatures, takes from 8-16 weeks. Ours are maturing somewhere between those two benchmarks.

The hard pinkish berries enlarged a little each week. Eventually the skin color changed to pale green, and as the season progresses now, will end in the typical dark blue. We're just starting to see a few of those ripe ones develop and will leave them on the bushes for a while to continue enlarging and getting tastier. Not all the berries develop at the same time, which continues the season for several weeks.

The design of blueberries causes them to develop a whitish surface, or bloom, at the very end of the ripening process. That whitish coating protects the berry from excessive heat and keeps microbial pathogens off. It also causes rainwater to bead off, so that the berries dry quickly and do not develop fungus.

Our granddaughter, Little Miss, has just turned three (she can hold up the correct number of fingers to prove it), and is excited about coming for this year's season. She remembers it well from last year. "I brought my little bucket and I put berries in it. Pick, pick, pick!" Well, to be honest, berries went to her bucket--but then all of them went straight to her mouth. That's fine also. There's not a better snack around than healthy blueberries – high in vitamins, fiber, and antioxidants.

We're ready to get picking and can already taste the pies, crisps, cheesecakes, and jams (blueberry-lime is great) that will hopefully come from this year's crop—as well as fresh berry snacks. Bring on the blues!



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Anderson artists use art to spark dialogue

Edward Degas famously said, "Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." And while their style and subject matter may be different than that of the French



Kim von Keller

Impressionist painter, this philosophy is shared by Anderson artists Joey Withinarts and Triq uFOURia in their new collection entitled "What Do You See?"

The two artists, who paint in different styles using different media, create images of African Americans in various cultural and historical settings. But the paintings, Joey Withinarts says, are meant to be seen by everyone.

"When we show our work, it's an invitation to folks to think, react, and converse. We're not trying to make a point. We have had good reactions from people of all races. I love it that they can see it."

The collection has already been shown in downtown Greenville and most recently in Tryon, North Carolina. Plans for showing "What Do You See?" in Anderson are in the works. For Triq uFOURia, this show is about freedom.

"Art, in this circumstance, is freedom in itself. These are thought-provoking pieces about the present and the past. They can be interpreted in many different ways, and we are giving viewers the freedom to express their thoughts, especially when we are painting live in front of an audience."

Joey Withinarts is a native of Virginia, but he has lived in the Anderson area for ten years. He grew up in a family of artists who trained each other. He works primarily in oil pastels and acrylic paint on wood, but he is starting to add wood, metal, and mixed materials to his paintings as well. His earlier subjects have included figures such as actor Chadwick Boseman, T.L. Hanna's James "Radio" Kennedy and Coach Harold Jones, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and singer Nina Simone. This collaboration with Triq uFOURia, though, holds a special place in his artistic career.

"It's one thing to constantly sell my work, but I'm trying to make something for me that is my masterpiece, something about my vision. Once you sell a painting, it's gone. With these, my goal is to get them in front of as many people as possible as a collection."

Triq uFOURia is a native of the South Carolina Upstate and started painting and drawing at age six. After high school, he studied art at Lander University, receiving a degree in digital arts and graphic design.

"Since then, I've been working in photography, painting, and sculpture every now and then. With this show, we want to make it known that a lot of the pieces don't require us to fully explain them. We want to know what it is that you see. It's interactive on that level."

Both artists are looking forward to showing their collected works in Anderson. To learn more about their work, and for information on when and where you can view



"What Do You See?"; visit @joey_withinarts and @triqufouria on Instagram.

"Our art is all about the people viewing

it," Joey Withinarts says, "and having conversations with them. Whether their feelings are good or bad or sad, we want them all."



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SUSAN TEMPLE
master gardener

Acceptance is a virtue and it's one that's been on a mind a lot the past few months. Back in the first part of the year, I was giving serious thought to putting up a deer fence. It would be tricky to make it look good as it would be hooked to the front of the house. My neighbors grow sunflowers, and they've put up fences to keep deer out of their field, even an electrical fence. The reward inside the fence was worth the zaps. Deer are winning in the neighbor's battle.

Mama and I went to Athens in April for their annual garden tour. It was obvious from individual plants fenced in the front they have a deer problem. I was glad to see a patch of pussytoes (from a couple of Garden Shop articles ago) did not have fence around it. Maybe it is true what I read about it being deer resistant and thus far, they are not eating what is in the pot awaiting me to decide where to plant it.

In the back, one side of their property had black tarps attached to what was probably 10-foot chain link fence. They had antique mirrors on each section. It was

quite eye catching and gave the appearance of windows. The garden is mostly shade and the owner collects Japanese Maples. Along the back fence, it was just chain link, no tarps. About four to five feet away from the chain link fence was rope tied to posts; some sections with white rope, some with blue. Even with all this, a few plants still had individual fences around them which told me deer are still getting in.

As we continued touring, I saw who I thought was Mr. Homeowner, but it was Mrs. Homeowner talking to a man. I asked her about the fences and ropes. Mr. Homeowner is an engineer professor at the University of Georgia. He has done extensive research on deer fences. She said he would better for me to talk to and pointed him out, but he was busy talking with others. What they've learned so far is deer will not jump a fence if they can't see what is on the other side. Hence, the tarp. But they got in from the back fence... a 10-foot fence. There was not a lot of clear land for them to get a running start, there are a lot of trees. Mr. Homeowner is now researching color. That is why blue and white ropes. Plus, it seems that provides a bit of a barrier to keep them away from the chain link fence. When I was looking at the fence earlier, my thought was how much money it was to fence in two acres with 10-foot, black chain link fence. Cha

Ching Cha Ching. And do all that to have deer jump it, similar to my neighbor's electric fence.

Back to my acceptance. Armadillos. While cutting grass last week, I was having to go slow and overlap anyway because it needed to be cut before the rain. Thank goodness for the rain. Along the woods behind the house, they are digging where shrubs are. Until a couple of months ago, armadillos had been simply rooting around. No holes. Mercy, the lawnmower was beating me up, clunking in the holes. And throughout the yard, randomly, armadillo holes; ankle turner holes. I don't know how I'll accept if they start digging up my perennials.



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EMPOWERMENT AND BETTER HEALTH

As we have been emphasizing in this feature, the whole point of self-care is empowering us to make the best choices when it comes to our health and quality of life. The “triumvirate” of self-care is diet, exercise and quality sleep.



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

We've discussed diet -- and the importance of exercise. The simplest thing to do on a busy schedule in order to achieve the greatest benefit for the effort expended is a good old-fashioned 30-minute walk.

You need to sustain a stride that elevates your heart rate.

Walking is medicine for your body -- strengthening everything from your heart to your immune system.

So why so much emphasis on walking? One of the big “quality of life” issues we face today given our hectic modern lifestyle is lack of energy! Regular exercise -- and

walking is key -- helps build stamina.

But also consider the power locked into certain natural foods.

You may not be aware there actually are specific natural foods you can eat that will provide you with an energy boost; plus, combat fatigue keeping you alert and energized throughout the day. These foods also have high nutritional density -- magnesium, iron, and B vitamins -- making them extremely healthy options. Think prevention!

So, what is a good energy food plan -- one that balances your budget with making food selections that work to keep you and your family strong and ready to face the day? To keep it simple here is a shortlist of your very best -- well-researched and proven -- energy food options. Note: What you pair them with impacts how long that energy lasts. But know this, if you find yourself fading every afternoon forget the sugar and caffeine. Eating these foods regularly will give you back the boost you need:

1. Romane lettuce, broccoli, peppers, pineapple, watermelon, spinach, cabbage.

2. Bananas and blue berries.

3. Eggs. Builds strong bones. Helps reduce muscle fatigue. Think kids and sports.

4. Lean protein rich foods. Salmon, chicken, lean beef, turkey. These contain all the key compounds that support the body in generating energy.

All well and good. But what if you had to choose one single energy food above all others. What would it be? The answer may surprise you. Based on exhaustive research the single best all-around energy food is steel-cut old-fashioned oats. Why? Whole oats deliver slow-release carbohydrates, soluble fiber, and a proven stabilizing effect on blood sugar that lasts for hours. So much more beneficial than sugary drinks and snacks.

As a plus, in addition to energy, the above natural foods can also help you lose weight! Again, let's keep this self-care journey going! Reach out if you have questions

or would like to share. We are your hometown resource for guidance and support.

Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick is a dentist, Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine, and certified Nutrition, Lifestyle, and Wellness Coach. Dr. Cannick is the owner of Grand Oaks Dental and Sleep Well Anderson, located at 3905 Liberty Highway in Anderson. Dr. Cannick is passionate about integrating oral health, sleep medicine, and lifestyle coaching to promote whole-person wellness. She is a member of the South Carolina Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation, and the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.

For more information about Grand Oaks Dental, Sleep Well Anderson, and the services provided, please call 864-224-0809, or click to grandoaksdental.com or sleepwell-anderson.com



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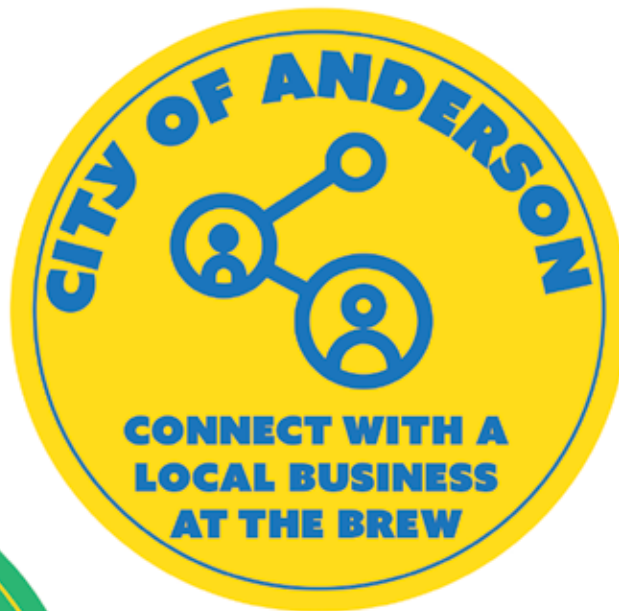
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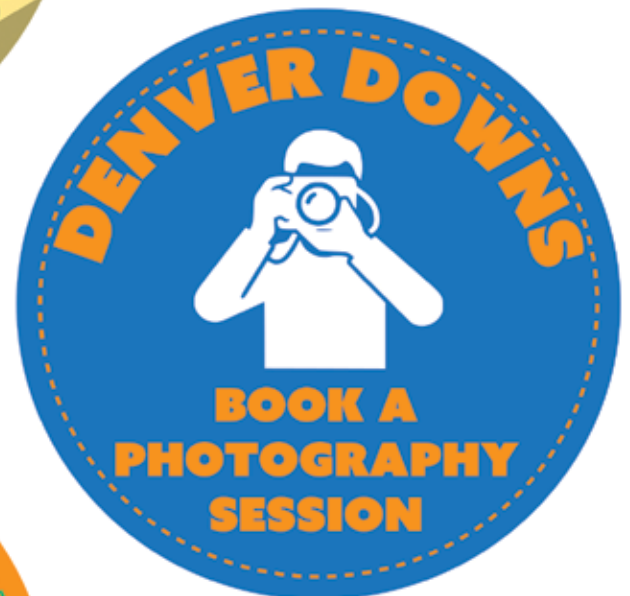
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Anderson Five schools name Distinguished Alumni

McDuffie High School Ms. Cathy Shaw

A proud graduate of McDuffie High School's Class of 1970, Cathy was deeply involved in student life and leadership during her high school years. She served in numerous clubs and organizations, was selected as Miss Senior, named to Who's Who and was admired by classmates for her spirit, leadership and vibrant personality.

After graduation, Cathy became a lifelong learner earning an Associate of Arts degree from Anderson College, a Bachelor of Arts degree from Clemson University, a Master of Arts degree from Furman University and a Specialist degree from Clemson. She believed deeply in the power of education and spent her life helping others realize that same potential.

For 40 years, Cathy served Anderson School District Five as an educator, counselor, and administrator. Throughout her career she was known not only for her professionalism and excellence, but for her compassion, kindness and extraordinary ability to build relationships with students and colleagues. She had a gift for listening, uplifting others and helping people see the best within themselves. Cathy's service extended far beyond the classroom. She quietly helped students with lunch money, clothing, graduation expenses, holiday meals and countless other needs. She mentored young teachers, supported future cosmetologists, served in civic organizations and remained deeply connected to her McDuffie roots and lifelong friends.

Her philosophy of education, published in the 1988 McDuffie yearbook, reminds us of the heart behind her life's work: "education is not a luxury, but a necessity for all people." That belief guided every student she taught, every colleague she mentored and every life she touched.

Though Cathy passed away on April 20,

2023, her legacy continues through the many lives she changed and through scholarships in her honor to support future students.

McDuffie High School Mr. Don Saxon

A proud graduate of McDuffie High School's Class of 1967, Don studied machine shop for two years before entering the workforce at Machine Parts in Anderson. In March of 1968, he entered the United States Marine Corps. Just months later, he was deployed to Vietnam. While serving our nation, Don was wounded in combat and returned to the United States where he spent nine months recovering at Charleston Naval Hospital. Through multiple surgeries and extensive rehabilitation, he demonstrated the courage and resilience that would define the rest of his life. For his bravery and sacrifice, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" for Valor.

Following his military service, he returned home and accepted a position at Clemson University as a lab technician in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He attended Tri County Technical College at night earning an associate degree in Engineering Graphics and Design and later completed a Bachelor of Science Degree at Clemson University.

Life brought him back to McDuffie High School. After stepping into the drafting classroom, he knew he had found his calling. Mr. Saxon served with distinction as a drafting instructor, assistant principal at McDuffie High School as well as T.L. Hanna. He served as principal at Lakeside Middle School, Homeland Park Elementary, Nevitt Forest Elementary and Varennes Elementary. He later served as Director of Student Services for Anderson V. His remarkable career in education spanned decades and he touched count-

less lives of students, families and colleagues.

Don has also served others through his church, in mission work and by opening his home to troubled youth in need of stability, guidance and care. He served on the board of Directors for New Foundations, continuing his lifelong commitment to helping young people succeed.

T.L. Hanna High School Ann Dunaway Herbert

The class of 1966, Ann was actively involved throughout her high school years. She participated in Allied Youth, Future Teachers, Glee Club, and Tri-Hi-Y. She worked on the Yellow Jacket staff and was a cheerleader.

In Ann's adult life she has devoted herself to serving the Anderson community through leadership and volunteerism across a wide range of organizations. She has served on the AnMed Health Foundation Board, the AnMed Health Board of Trustees and the boards of Regions Bank and the Bank of Anderson. Her community involvement has also included service with Hospice of the Upstate, the Anderson County Museum, United Way, Success by Six and the American Heart Association.

Ann has also been deeply involved in faith-based and community initiatives. At St. John's United Methodist Church, she has faithfully served through choir participation and numerous committees. She also helped lead fundraising efforts for the Kid Venture playground project alongside her daughter, Tricia McDougald.

Her service continues today through organizations such as the Foothills Foundation, the Gambrell Foundation, Brighter Christmas Fund and cancer awareness fundraising efforts benefitting the American Cancer Society. Many in Anderson also recognize Ann from her years as a social columnist for the

Anderson Independent and Daily Mail. Mrs. Ann Dunaway Herbert's life has been marked by generosity, compassion, leadership and an enduring dedication to serving others.

Westside High School Matthew Thrasher

A proud member of the Westside High School Class of 1979, Matt was actively involved during his high school years as a football, baseball and basketball player. He was selected to participate in Boys State and was recognized in Who's Who Among American High School Students. His success on the baseball field earned him a scholarship to Western Carolina University where he continued his education and athletic career. He graduated in 1983 with a degree in Computer Information Systems.

Matt began his career in Columbia before eventually returning to Anderson. Alongside his family, including his brother Mike, Matt helped to grow the family business. Growing from 1 to 11 locations, Skin's rated as one of the fastest growing businesses in S.C.

Matt's impact on the Anderson community extends far beyond his business success. Over the years, he has dedicated his time and leadership to numerous organizations and causes throughout our area. He volunteered as an assistant softball coach at Anderson University, served on the Pendleton Area Church Camp Board and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the People's Bank Board after serving as Chairman.

Matt and his family have always believed in helping others and giving back to the community that has supported them throughout their lives. Through service and philanthropy, they have made a meaningful impact on countless individuals and organizations across Anderson County.

Matt's life reflects generosity, integrity and an unwavering commitment to his community.

The necklace that started it all

I love jewelry. One of my first memories was my grandmother rocking me on her porch in her little teak rocking chair. She wore turquoise and her beautiful rings shimmered in the sun.



Kristine March

I would play with her Add-a-Bead necklace and ever since then I was obsessed with jewelry. I inherited that necklace and I wear it daily and think of her. She and my mother had my ears pierced in little turquoise studs when I was little, per my request, at my local jewelry store. I was a prissy little thing. I think I was probably

four at the time. Bracelets and earrings were a must, and they still are to this day. Jewelry in the summer needs to be breathable and not heavy or clunky, or it will make you feel weighed down and just kind of sticky and gross. It's also a good idea for it to be waterproof. My latest obsession are these little gold and silver bangles my sister bought me. When I tell you every lady needs a pair, you will not regret these. You can even sleep in them. They're called BuDahGirl bangles. They're even soundproof and TSA proof. So, you can wear them through anything. Pool, ocean, river, you name it. This company makes earrings now to go with them. You can also get them in different colors, like red, blue, green, and dusty rose. They're

really fun to wear and absolutely perfect for hot and humid days. They're weightless on your arms and wrists. You'll get lots of compliments too. Another cute summer jewelry item to wear is an anklet, of course. You also want to buy something waterproof with these and not heavy. I love anything seed bead. You can just slide it in with no clasp. Pura Vida makes really pretty ones that will look so good with your sandals and a fresh pedicure. Shells are really trending. Anything with a seashell makes me happy. Brinker & Eliza make the most beautiful seashell necklaces. I especially love The Dora necklace. It's adorned with smoky quartz, freshwater pearls, and a big scallop shell that hangs on your décolletage. It

will definitely be a showstopper when you walk into the backyard barbecue party. You will truly feel like a mermaid in all of their pieces. Lastly, is a statement ring. I love gold in the summer because it makes you look glowy and bronzed. A big chunky gold ring can take you from day or night and looks so lovely on your hand. I'm really into this ring you can get from Neiman Marcus by the Nest company out of Dallas Texas. They have these really cool rings with all sorts of different charms on them. I especially love the eye charm. So sleek and modern. It can take you from casual to black tie and I'm very partial to anything adjustable. These are all alterable and comfortable and you don't have to get them sized. So, what are you going to be adorned in this summer? All of these ideas should get you started and ready for some fun in the sun. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. Shine on, y'all!

THE Electric City News

Kids Corner

Let's Talk About Fries

BY ISRAEL GREER
4TH GRADE

Welcome to the Great Fry Off! I've been to three different restaurants to try their fries out! I'm going to rate the fries by crunch factor, saltiness, and dippability.

First, McDonalds: The home of the grimace shake, anyway I'm giving the fries a Crunch Factor of 4/10, Saltiness is 7/10, and Dippability is 10/10. You can dip 5 fries at a time!

Next, where your burger is a king, Burger King! The fries Crunch Factor is 6/10, Saltiness is 6/10, and Dippability is 8/10.

NOW THE FINAL PLACE IS Zaxbys! The fries Crunch Factor is a 10/10, Saltiness is 10/10, and Dippability is 7/10.

So if you want some fries, those are some recommended places. Stay interested, stay hungry.

THE GREAT FRY OFF

BY WILL HOLZSHU
4TH GRADE

What's the best fry? Is it Chick-fil-A with their waffle fries? Or is it McDonalds with their super greasy fries? Let alone I think Chick-fil-a is good because they have potato skin on them and there super salty. I think McDonalds is good because you get easy chewable fries and they are super greasy. I also think Zaxbys fries are good because they have a bunch of seasoning and makes it very tasty in a different way. So which fries do you like? Do you like crunchy fries, soft fries, or even salty fries? No matter what they are all good.



“What do you think teachers do in the summer?”

BY 2ND AND 4TH GRADERS

“I think they learn new things to teach. First, they go to teacher school to learn. Next, they need to learn new skills and equashens for math. Last, they need to make sher the kids are safe.” -Kalet
“First, I think teacher's get set for the new children. Next, I think they go to teacher school. Last, I think they say goodbye to their old students.” -Van
“I think teachers learn to be the best teachers.” -Harvey

“I think teachers relax at home and make plans for the next year.” -Vincent
“Work.” -Addy
“I think they go on vacation.” -Julie
“I think all the teachers will go to Florida. Florida is the best. If the teachers go to Florida they have so much fun. I hope them come back home safely if they go.” -Everly
“I think they lrne how to help people to lrne. They defintly go to Teachrs School! I think they say goodbye and give hugs when it is time to go, too.” -Lila

KYLE

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YOUR ANCESTOR'S FINGERCLAWS

BY RICH OTTER

Be honest about it. In all your lifetime, you have probably never—ever—appreciated your toenails. In fact, you likely have been irritated by them. They are hard to trim and they can catch on things if they have not been cut. What in the world are they good for? Why do you even have them?

The question is, do you even have toenails and fingernails? It is time to stop the years of sugarcoating. They are just claws. Their adaptation has changed and we hoity-toity humans have tried to cover it up for millennia. The dictionaries will give you explanations as to how the word nails came about and the term has stuck, but they are just semantics. It is time to face facts.

You possibly could owe your very existence to your claws. One of your deep ancestors may have been able to fight off a wild beast or a human adversary by deftly employing a painful infliction of the foot or finger natural daggers. Even the sight of a threatening claw might have warded off an attack. Or, if not a result of a heroic encounter, those claws could have given life-saving traction for escape by rapidly



ascending a tree. Those claws could also have been used for grooming—getting rid of those creepy crawly things.

Toeclaws could have attracted a mate through their beauty or being recognized for your ancestor's cave-manliness. All that may have been necessary to attract a glorious encounter may have been a seductive wiggle of a toe. Visualize sitting around a campfire with shy glances. They could have been a real heart pumper.

You may not appropriately appreciate them today, but your toenails do protect sensitive toes and their blood vessels, particularly if you happen to drop something on them. They help you keep your balance, give you support. They balance a tall two-legged creature that walks and runs. They can also give warning of a nutritional

deficiency or infection with a color change. You better keep an eye on them. And, thank your blessing for your fingerclaws when you have an itch.

In various forms, many animals have claws. If you ever get a look at a bear's foot (from a respectable distance) you will behold claws you would definitely not want to encounter. They are massive. Hooved animals don't have claws. They have different eating and usage habits. They don't need them. If our ancestors had been horses or elephants, we wouldn't need claws either—but we'd probably have four legs.

Our more recent ancestors did need them and their usage generally helped take care of them. As they walked, dug and engaged in their normal daily activities, they were kept in check. Rocks and soil polished them down. If all else failed, they had teeth.

Your human ancestors were proud people. They didn't want to be known as having claws. That was for wild beasts, not modern cavemen.

In the good old days, humans had been able to file down their nail-claws with sharp flint flakes, obsidian or keep them

in shape using bronze or iron knives. In about the eighth century trimming came into fashion. It was not at that time a universal necessity, but convenient

The ancient Chinese aristocracy, however, found it fashionable to have long toenails and fingernails. But they were very wealthy, and vain. They had servants who could perform their manual activities.

The first patent in the United States for a nail trimmer was recognized in 1875. Of course, there are now also nail files available.

Long fingernails and colored polish, currently of various shades, have been deemed to be stylish by females (and now some males). In addition, there are press-on fingernails. When not needed or wanted, they may be removed to permit functional fingers.

It is not known if there are press-on toenails. It is difficult to imagine someone going for a night out in bare feet with such adornment (or press-on claws for that matter), but styles change—who would have imagined shoes 20,000 years ago.

Ditch the wimpy nail description. Be proud of the toeclaws and fingerclaws you inherited.

T.L.Hanna baseball reaches State Finals

The T.L. Hanna baseball team record was only 18-16 after they clinched the Upper State title just before Memorial Day.

But this is a tenacious bunch.

The Yellow Jackets rallied to beat

Indian Land 9-3 on May 23, and advanced to the Class 5A, Division II state final series for the first time since 1988. They face Chapin High School.

The Jackets are looking for their first-ever state baseball title.



Brian Hodges

Hanna fell behind the Warriors 3-0 after the first inning of Saturday's game. Then the Jackets took over. Reece Oakley and Jackson Robinson finished with 2 hits and 2 runs batted in, and Phifer Glenn added 2 hits and 2 runs scored.

Will Mayfield had 6 innings of 2-hit relief to get the victory.

This all seemed to be an unlikely scenario as top-seeded Indian Land won the opener, 8-5 but Hanna came home on May 21 and won a dramatic extra-inning game, 3-2.

"The guys have competed all year long," Hanna coach Dan Crenshaw said after Thursday's win. "The season hasn't gone exactly the way we wanted it to. But our will to win tonight really showed up. We competed for nine innings.

There it is. This team definitely has found "a will to win."

Crenshaw said Hanna was facing the state's top pitcher in Liam Robinson in the pivotal Thursday game. He was matched up against Hanna's Connor Brooks.

Indian Land scored twice in the top of the ninth, but Hanna rallied with three runs to even the best-of-3 series.

In the ninth, Sam West's sacrifice fly drove in one run, Phifer Glenn's line-drive single knotted the score at 2-2 and Cesar Ochoa bounced a single up the middle for the game-winning hit.

Somehow, the Yellow Jackets have found their footing after some early season struggles.

Crenshaw didn't come up with a grand speech before the ninth inning of the second

game, but he said, "we try to keep it simple. "We said, 'Don't try to score two runs. Don't try to do too much. Just don't make the last out.' If we don't make the last out, we

can win," Crenshaw added. "This place (at Hanna) is special."

Crenshaw knew escaping Indian Land's top starter was big.

"We knew we were up against a good one," Crenshaw said. "We hoped to scratch out a run or two early, but he was very tough."

Hanna starter Brooks pitched into the eighth before being removed for a reliever, but he was able to match Indian Land's ace pitch-for-pitch.

"Connor's a competitor and he's been special the last two weeks," Crenshaw said. "Super proud of that kid. He doesn't show emotion on the mound, but he makes pitch after pitch."

The Yellow Jackets had even showed their determination in mid-May when they advanced to the Upper State playoff series with an extra-inning 4-3 victory over Eastside.



ANDERSON SENIOR LOCALS

It's not easy to tell which Andersonians have lived here for over 50 years. But there are signs that give us away. We can be seen at four-way stop signs, waving and directing the other vehicles, letting them know when it's their turn to go. If two or more of us are at the four-way, there will be a backup. We Super-Locals know at least three ways to avoid Clemson Boulevard and still reach our destination. If we do happen to find ourselves in a hurry, we will drive straight over a roundabout like it's a big speed bump.



Neal Parnell

It's not uncommon to see one of us at a wedding reception or funeral wearing overalls and a Clemson hat. We walk a little cattywampus and sour our faces when we must wear those foot-restraining devices they call shoes, and we can't wait to let the dogs out. We know the differences between lake people, town people, and country people. The differences are subtle, and there are hybrids that can thread a needle and thread a hook, and others that own million-dollar tractors and ride a bike to town.

We firmly rooted locals don't need to see the weather on TV, but we will watch it for a laugh. We know Anderson weather can be fickle, and no outsider can predict it. We are aware that when the sky turns that weird green color, somebody's lawn furniture is about to be relocated. If your hair doubles in size while walking to the mailbox, summer has officially arrived. When the wind smells like wet dirt and

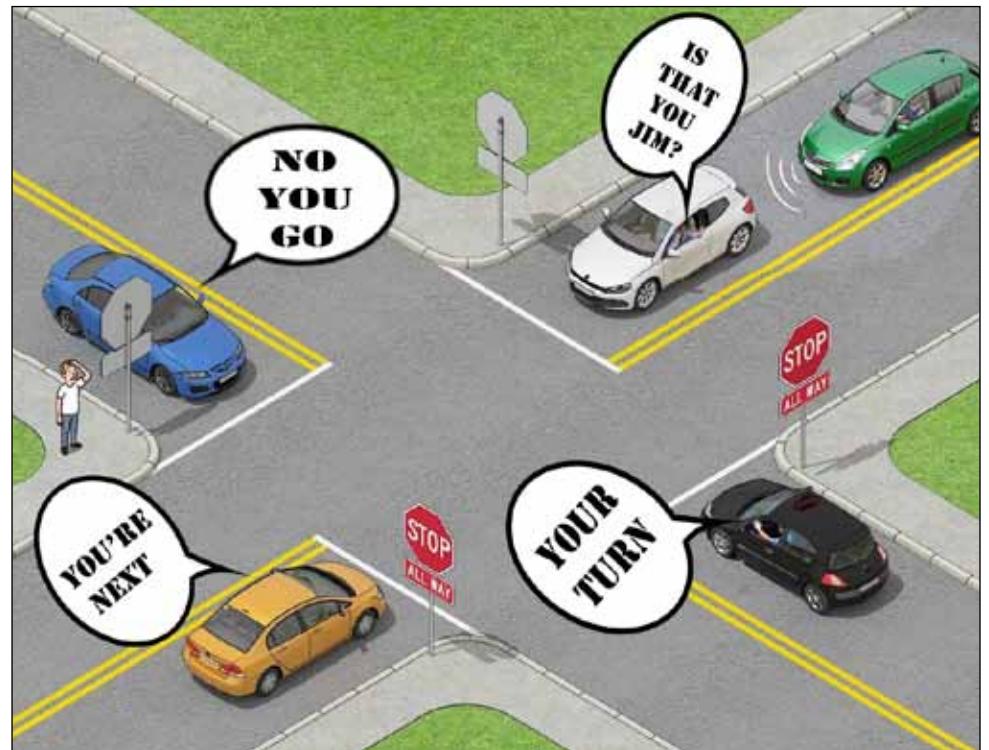
pine trees, rain is within arguing distance. If all your pains start hollerin' at once, congratulations, you're a certified southern weather station.

It's a given that we love to gossip about anything, including why the church sanctuary is as hot as hell's blazes, but the preacher just got a new car. If you happen to suspect we were gossiping, we will tell you to mind your own business. There is the woman who knows everybody's business but says, "I just keep to myself". Then there are grandmothers who can detect relationship problems just by the way you say "Hey." Most gossip starts with, "I'm not one to talk, but" ...and lasts 45 minutes.

You'll find that most of the original Andersonians were corrected with a belt, and most of the time, only one correction was needed. It still happens, but mostly with threats that were passed down through generations. My dad would say things like..." Boy, I'll fold your clothes with you still in them." or "You're acting like you ain't never had a whippin.'" and his favorite..." You wanna sit on a pillow the rest of the week".

We remember when downtown was an attraction to dress up for on Saturdays and to show off your best outfit while window shopping on Sundays. As kids, we remember having to sit on top of the ice cream churn to keep the gear from slipping while grandad turned the handle that would freeze the best homemade peach ice cream we'd ever have.

"When you've been in Anderson a while, you just can't imagine that there could be anywhere else that feels so comfortable, so friendly, so welcoming, and so easy to call home."



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