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September 12-25, 2024

Celebrating 75 years of service

Anderson Area YMCA marks diamond anniversary

BY KIM VON KELLER

Everything ages, but some things actually improve with age as they grow and adapt, all the time maintaining their relevance while adhering to core values. That's true of people, for sure, and it's also true of institutions. One of Anderson's most cherished institutions will soon celebrate

its diamond anniversary with a party honoring its past and providing for its future.

On October 3, the Anderson Area YMCA will celebrate 75 years of service to the Electric City community with a Diamond Anniversary party at Bleckley Station. Tickets may be purchased at www.andersonareaymca.org



and at the YMCA, located at 201 East Reed Road. Tickets may be purchased individually or by table, accommodating eight guests. Proceeds from the event will go towards the YMCA scholarship campaign. The evening begins with

a cocktail hour at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30. There will be speakers representing three different eras of the Anderson Area YMCA, along with photos from its 75-year history. Most importantly, it's a night of fun in

which those celebrating this diamond anniversary will have the opportunity to win actual diamonds.

"PHIL Jewelers has provided us with 10 half-carat,

SEE YMCA ON PAGE 2

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YMCA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lab-grown diamonds, which we'll put in a giant fishbowl filled with cubic zirconias," says Julie Underwood, YMCA director of community relations. "Benji Silverstein, owner of PHIL Jewelers, will be on hand to authenticate the stones as they're pulled. Guests will also have the opportunity to purchase a special ticket at the event for a drawing in which the prize is a 2-carat, lab-grown diamond."

Since 1949, the YMCA has worked to fulfill its mission statement of putting Christian-based programs into place to provide "a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all." Joe Drennon, the chief executive officer of the YMCA, is entering his 42nd year with the YMCA.

"I started at the YMCA as youth sports director, and today, the kids I worked with then are now coaching or serving on our board," Drennon says. "Their children and even their grandchildren are active here. That's what I'm most proud of."

When the Anderson Area YMCA received its charter, it was located at the corner of Society and North McDuffie Streets. In 1952, the YMCA moved to East Greenville Street, where it remained for nearly five decades. And in 2001, the YMCA moved to its new home on East Reed Road. There, its members enjoy a state-of-the-art wellness center, personal training, an 8-lane swimming pool, and a therapy pool. The sports complex covers 85 acres.

"We're still doing what we did in 1949," Drennon says, "but today, we can reach more of the community."

Since its founding in 1949, there have been a lot of changes at the YMCA. There are new sports to play, like lacrosse, and new ways to stay in shape, like CrossFit. One of the biggest changes, though, has been in membership.

"Over the last few years, we've seen growth in senior membership," Drennon says. "Some come for our fitness programs, but many come for the opportunity to socialize, which is also important. We like to say that we are here to serve members from birth to old age. This year we hit a record high membership of 12,076 members."

Some things just get better with age. Mark your calendars for October 3, 2024, and plan to attend the Diamond Anniversary celebration at Bleckley Station starting at 5:30 pm. For more information about the celebration, visit www.andersonareaymca.org or stop by the YMCA in person.

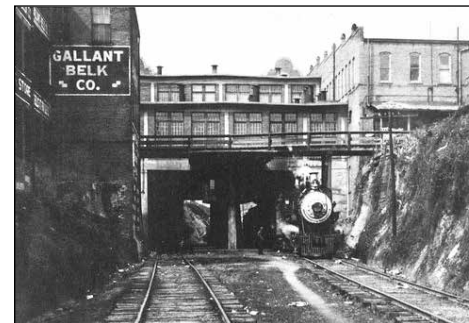
DESPERATELY WANTED: YOUR MEMORIES

The last passenger trains ran from Anderson about 1945. They included the Southern Railway (the old Blue Ridge Railway) from the station under the bridge on North Main Street downtown; the P&N (Piedmont and Northern) with the passenger depot on North Main Street, the present Jones Law Firm Building; and the C&W.C. (Charleston and Western Carolina) with a passenger depot across South Main Street from City Hall.

If you have any personal memories of any of these stations, pictures, or stories passed down to you about the stations or trains, we need them to help preserve their historical record. We want both physical descriptions and personal experiences of people and happenings involving the passenger and freight depots and trains. Please help us before these memories are lost.

Please call Dustin Norris, Curator, Anderson County Museum at 864-964-6557 or email: rdnorris@andersoncountysc.org.

The collected information will be maintained by the Anderson County Museum and may be utilized in putting together a book for the county.





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ANDERSON AVIATION ASSOCIATION

BY ROB WALLACE

I have been a private pilot for 6 years and I keep my plane at Anderson Regional Airport. Every time I go to the airport, I end up talking with someone who shares an aviation story or experience with me that I learn from. In other conversations that I have with people, it often gets brought up that I fly, and people are amazed by flight and want to know more. That led me to take my passion for flying and the experiences I have and try to share them with others and to also get people with similar interests in aviation together. In June 2023, I founded the Anderson Aviation Association with the goal of building a community of people that have an interest in aviation. This is not your normal pilots' association; we include anyone and everyone. We have mechanics, airport staff, teenagers, medical examiners, parachutists, radio operators, and people that just want to learn more about aviation as part of our group. We hold monthly meetings on the 4th Monday of every month at 6 pm at the Anderson Regional Airport and currently have over 100 members. These monthly

meetings cover a variety of topics that would interest anyone who would like to learn more about aviation and all that aviation has to offer.

As we have grown, we have started hosting community-wide events at the airport to get more people from our community to come out to the airport and to build awareness that Anderson has a regional airport.

We held the first-ever Young Eagle Day at Anderson Regional Airport on May 11th, 2023, where kids from the ages of 7-17 could come out and ride in a plane for free. We flew 32 kids, and for many, it was their first time ever riding in an airplane. To do that, we had 12 volunteer pilots and over 20 ground volunteers. It was a huge success for Anderson Aviation Association, Anderson Regional Airport, and the greater Anderson community. We gained lots of positive media attention that enhanced our goal of bringing awareness to aviation and Anderson Regional Airport. With that success, we are often being asked to host another event, which we plan to do in the fall.

On June 1st, 2023, we held the first Foreign Objects of Debris (FOD) Walk in over 19 years at Anderson Regional Airport. Anderson Regional Airport closed all flight operations that morning to allow more than 70 people from our community to come out and help pick up FOD off the runways and taxiways. FOD can be dangerous to aircraft and has caused major problems in the past at other airports, and we wanted to work to prevent any accidents due to FOD at our airport. Again, this event gained positive media attention and helped further enhance our goal of bringing awareness to Anderson Regional Airport.

Our next big event will be the 1st Annual Earn Your Wings 5k and 1-mile run on October 5th. We are inviting everyone in the Greater Anderson area to come out and partici-

pate in this event with plans of having over 200 runners/walkers in attendance. This promises to be an annual event that all of Anderson can look forward to marking on their calendars. All the proceeds from this race will go towards the brand-new playground being built at Anderson Regional Airport and each year after towards the expansion of the playground. This event will be very similar to what Downtown Greenville's Airport has done for the last 11 years. In their most recent race, they had over 1,000 runners and raised nearly \$100,000 to benefit their playground/park area. The Anderson Aviation Association Charitable Fund is a 501(c)(3), and all those who would like to donate or sponsor are invited to do so in a tax-incentivized way. Those who would like to gain more information about the race can contact me or follow the Earn Your Wings 5k Facebook Page.

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- Philly S.,
Anderson, S.C.

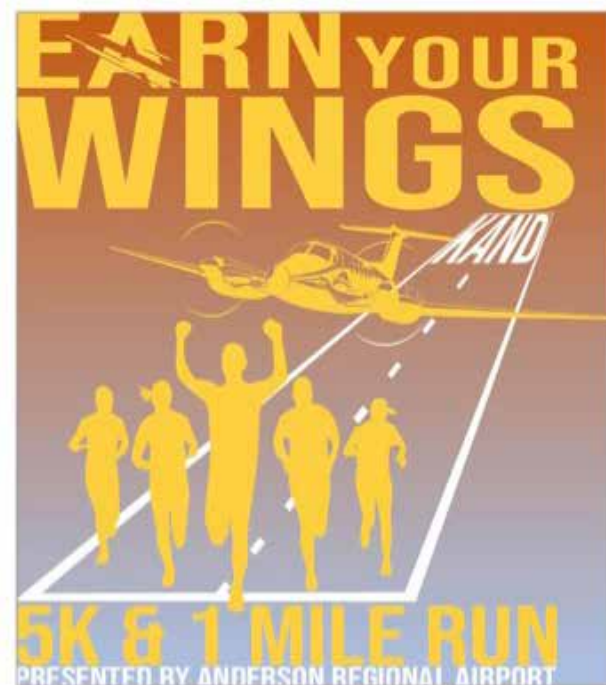


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YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Quality connection with others is important to your health!

Staying focused on our topic of “self-care” or “lifestyle medicine” another area of importance to our health and well-being is maintaining quality connections with others, be it family, friends or colleagues.

You would think this would be a simple routine -- part of daily living. But there are warning signs that modern life is altering if not impeding our natural human process of interacting with others.

Experts refer to our “obsession” with our cell phones as a contributing factor. We’re hearing medical and mental health specialists recommend in the strongest terms that we “get our heads out of our phones”.

Tough to do, you say. I would agree. However, the evidence suggests an alarming trend. Adults as well as children are losing the essential cognitive and social skills they need for a thriving successful personal and professional life. (We will discuss this further in a future column.)

So, why then are quality connections so important?

According to the Surgeon General, there is a public health crisis of loneliness, isolation, and lack of connection in our country. Approximately half of U.S. adults suffer from measurable levels of loneliness affecting



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

our mental, physical, and societal health. Loneliness and isolation can cause serious health issues comparable to smoking -- and greater than obesity and physical inactivity. These include heart disease/stroke, depression, cognitive decline, and a shortened lifespan. The good news is involvement with others may be one of the easiest health strategies we can adapt. It’s inexpensive, no equipment or regimen required -- and we can engage in it immediately and in many ways. Health experts advise these simple steps:

• Put yourself out in the world. Learn new things and form new memories. It’s a workout for your brain.

• Keep in touch with friends and relatives — schedule the time if need be.

• Get a pet. Animals provide companionship and often lead to interactions with other people.

• Get moving. Walking with a friend or joining the pickleball craze!

• Talk to your neighbors. Organize a get-together.

• Spirituality. Get involved in faith-based groups or activities.

• Take a class. Or connect with people who share your interests and hobbies. See what groups are available at the library or community center.

• Volunteer. Any local organization would be grateful for your help.

Be creative. But also -- prepare for life transitions. As we get older, we are at a higher risk of becoming socially isolated and lonely. Retirement. Loss of loved ones. Moving to a new location.

Bottom line: establishing a social network with mentors and friends who can introduce you to new people is a smart move. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this important subject, please reach out. Consider us your hometown resource for guidance and support.

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

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



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SPOTLIGHT ON TARA DEVIDO

BY ROSIE THOMPSON

We're back with this week's caryatid! The definition of a caryatid is as follows: "a sculpted female figure serving as an architectural support, taking the place of a column/pillar, particularly in Greek architecture." These women were literally the foundation for these illustrious structures. Just as these women are foundational to the community of Anderson. This week we have...

Tara DeVido

Tara is currently the nurse manager of the emergency department at AnMed Health in Anderson, SC. We sat down with Tara to get a better idea of this week's dynamic caryatid.

Give us a bit of an 'overview' of yourself. Kiddos, origin story, how you ended up in Anderson. Whatever you're comfortable sharing!

I graduated from Fanshawe College in London, Ontario in 1993 with a nursing diploma. At that time, there were not any nursing jobs in my home province of Ontario, Canada. This was when the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) was in full force and part of the agreement was to allow Canadian trained RNs to work in the United States on a visa. I took nursing boards in Canada and in the United States. Back then, boards were pencil and scantron! Thankfully, I passed both. I got a call to interview at Anderson Memorial Hospital and my step-mom and I hit the road to check this place out. I was offered a job on the telemetry floor (5 South).

I loved my job, made many friends, and had the time of my life – even backpacked through both Europe and New Zealand. I was just about to move back home when, instead, I got married and had two little girls that I adore. They are now both in college - Anna is at College of Charleston and Abby is at Athens Tech. Despite the distance, I am very close to my family.

I made some really good friends on 5 South, but quickly transferred to the ED roughly six months after I started at AnMed.

Thirty years later - I'm still here.

Tell us more about your emergency nursing career. Full disclosure that the author of this article is not only a former ED nurse, but one that has had the pleasure of working with Tara herself. So, we're pretty interested in this aspect of your life.

For many years I was a bedside staff nurse in the ED - and it was my dream job. I spent a few years as charge nurse in the ED, director of the trauma program, as well as a flight nurse. Eventually, when the former ED manager left, I felt like it was time to attempt to



manage the department that I loved. I applied and was offered the position.

I absolutely love emergency nursing and my team. I consider it an honor to take care of the patients that arrive to us seeking help. And having the ability to save someone's life happens frequently. That feeling is indescribable and makes me proud to be a part of it. And if I'm not a part of it, I'm still proud because that is my team.

In terms of credentials, I am an active member of the Emergency Nurses Association. I hold a variety of certifications including Certified Emergency Nurse, Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse, and Trauma Certified Registered Nurse. (I was actually the first Trauma Certified Registered Nurse in the state of South Carolina). I also received the South Carolina Palmetto Gold Award in 2020.

What's a 'typical day in the life' of an emergency department nurse manager?

First, I log in and check out the day priors numbers. We are very time oriented because we want to get patients in front of a provid-

er as soon as possible. So, any time element you can think of, we analyze and find ways to improve. I hire many of the personnel to work in the ED. I collaborate with the ED medical director, director, educator, our fabulous admin assistant, and the trauma program leadership team. I am also fortunate to have two assistant nurse managers that help keep this place going with throughput, staff support, QA, and scheduling among many other things.

I can't do this without my team. They are the best and that's why I am here.

What are some of your hobbies outside of the hospital walls?

I try my best at CrossFit! I love my gym crew and it's a stress reliever for me. I also like to spend time with my family and friends, Broadway as well as local theatre, being on the lake, and am an avid card player. Nertz is my current game of choice.

Who are some women you look up to?

My sisters, Stacey, Nadine and Virginia. We've made it through this life together - been

able to balance being successful career women with raising our children. My daughters, for their strength and ability to find their way in this crazy world. Not to mention many female nurses and physicians that I strive to be at their level of providing emergency care.

What is your 'philosophy on life'?

Be kind and be a good human.

Anyone who knows me knows that I really like nice people. It is the first question I ask of any nurse I hire to work in the ED. I want the whole package, clinically competent and nice.

Also, a little birdie told us you're a 'Swiftie' - what is your favorite Taylor Swift era?

My favorite era would be this current one – Tortured Poets. It will always be connected with my dad, who recently lost his battle with DLBCL - Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma. My family is pretty into music - most of my sisters are big Swift fans and music helps us feel good and provide support when we need it - I have to throw in the Tragically Hip and my dad's favorite Rolling Stones as big family favorites.

We also reached out to members of the community to get their thoughts on Tara. Here is what they had to say:

"I met Tara about 6 years ago at the AAYMCA CrossFit and she quickly became my favorite Canadian. Tara will entertain you with stories of what it's like to work in the ER, but if you're in need of help she will not hesitate to jump in. I saw this firsthand as she saved the life of a CrossFit athlete who had a massive cardiac event at a competition. In addition to managing the ER nurses for years, she's also raised two kind, witty, and beautiful daughters who are just like her and who, without a doubt, will also be community advocates. Tara is strong, smart, knows all of Taylor Swift's lyrics by heart, and has the most infectious laugh in Anderson. She loves her friends and family fiercely. You want her on your team," - Annie Sutton.

"I have rarely met a person who inspires such loyalty, both personally and professionally. I admire Tara's niceness, though I take every opportunity to tease her about being such a Canadian. My career and my life have been enriched by our many years of friendship," - Sheila Langford.

It was an absolute pleasure to sit down with Tara this week. Whether it's playing card games, singing Taylor Swift, or providing lifesaving care – Anderson is better because of Tara's presence in it.

Lightning strikes twice — Anderson School District 3 names Teacher of the Year



Terri Ivester

On July 26, 2024, Anderson County School District 3 named Terri Ivester, reading coach at Starr Elementary, District Teacher of the Year for 2024-25.

Dr. Laura Beth Smith is the Director of Instructional Support for District 3. In that role, she supervises mentors, teachers, reading coaches, and substitutes, and she has worked extensively with Ivester.



Kim von Keller

“She’s always, ‘Yes, I can do that. I’d like to do that,’” says Smith. “Everything she takes on is always done and done correctly. Everything she does

better the school, the kids, and their families. Teachers know that she is a veteran teacher, and they trust her opinion. She also just has the best personality to work with!”

Nominees for District Teacher of the Year are teachers of the year from the individual schools within the district. Nominees submit essays, and a committee reviews those before making a determination.

“Terri Ivester is passionate about her students,” Smith says. “Her students are always number one. She has a real drive for the profession.”

Ivester has had that drive since childhood.

“Being selected as District Teacher of the Year is one of the highlights of my career,” she says. “I have wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. I have to give a shout-out to my parents for always encouraging my dream. When I was little, they set up a pre-tench classroom in our garage so that I could play teacher.”

Ivester’s career in education spans 24 years. She holds a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from Erskine College and a master’s degree in reading and literacy from Walden University. She began her career at Iva Elementary School and has just finished her fourth year at Starr Elementary School. For a time, she also worked in Anderson School District 2, where she was named District Teacher of the year in 2012.

“When it was announced that I had been named as Teacher of the Year in District 3, it was just so humbling,” she says. “I felt like there were others who were more deserving. It felt like I had been struck by lightning again!”

In addition to her work as a reading coach, Smith also finds Ivester to be an excellent role model for new teachers.

“Terri Ivester has the experience that few

teachers have, and new teachers should look for mentors like her,” Smith says. “She builds rapport with fellow teachers and can give comfort to new teachers. Her fellow teachers know that she will always have a good answer.”

Even though she has 24 years in education, Ivester is still in touch with the little girl who played school in her garage. And there’s one thing she’d like anyone interested in education

to know before they ever step inside a classroom.

“Teaching is a calling, not a career; I would even call it a mission field,” Ivester says. “Your heart has to be in it. It’s important to build relationships with the kids and with their families. It’s important to stay light-hearted and have fun. There are calm waters and rough seas, but I would do it all over again.”



Ray McGee's Jazz Club returns on **Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7:00pm** at Bleckley Station in downtown Anderson with special guests **The Jamie Wright Band!** Featuring the best in Jazz, R&B, Motown, and Funk, we hope that you'll join us for a cool night at the hottest club in town! Enjoy table seating with hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks, or just experience the music with general admission seating and concessions.

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All proceeds will benefit the Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium, Inc. (GAMAC) GAMAC is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

FROM THE SHELF

On libraries, part 2: The new community center

Last issue I gave a very brief look at all the cool things libraries have on offer to check out that aren't physical books. This issue, I'm going to talk about how public libraries have evolved into community centers. The Oxford English Dictionary defines 'community centers' as places "where people from a community can meet for social, educational, or recreational activities."

The educational component of that definition may seem obvious, but the educational aspects of the library go far beyond just physical books. The library offers a ton of different classes on different topics and interests. We have online classes through Universal Class and Learning Express Library where you can take at-your-own-pace classes for free on topics like Excel, business accounting, even things like photoshop and watercolor painting. Universal Class not only offers test prep, it also can provide certificates for completed courses. We also offer access to Tutor.com, which

can be clutch at midnight the night before a big math test (we're speaking from experience).



Sara Leady

We also do classes and one-on-one appointments for things like smart device help, basic computer and Microsoft

Office help. Then there's crash courses on things like how to run a Cricut or use Canva Design Space (more on the Cricut in the next issue). Beyond more classroom/tutoring settings, we offer all kinds of informational programs from a legit NASA astronaut stopping by to growing your own mushrooms. And that's just the stuff for adults! We have all kinds of programs for kids and teens that are not just educational, but fun. Storytime may seem just fun, but it can play a huge role in your child's brain devel-



**ANDERSON COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM
SOUTH CAROLINA**

opment through social interactions, learning new songs and rhythms, and of course new vocabulary and stories. There's also the fostering of better physical coordination through dance and simple things like how to use a pair of scissors.

Beyond our awesome programs (but seriously please check out the event calendar) we also provide free internet and computer access. While those may seem trivial, for some people they aren't a given and our providing access to them can be literally lifesaving, let alone life changing. Having computer access can mean seeing websites on a bigger screen, looking at the images your doctor

just gave you on a disc, or simply printing your resume on the way to a job interview. We also have staff to help with the computers. People often forget how new computers and that type of technology are, so when your grandma is trying to print her cruise tickets but is flummoxed by all the necessary steps and clicks, we're there to help her. We're also there when someone is trying to apply for jobs and is having a hard time making sense of the application process since it's vastly different platform to platform. Again, we're there to help.

As for the 'social' part of a community center, we aren't the deathly quiet dusty institution everyone seems

to think we are. We have conference rooms the public can use for Bible studies, planning a reunion, working on a group project, or just to gather like-minded people for a chat. We also have programs like Game Night where you can play board games with Empire Games and meet many cool people. Then we have book club services where you can start your own book club, and we'll help you get enough copies of the book for everyone. Or you can just join one of our established book clubs. Some of the library book clubs are more traditional, but we also have two mystery based ones (at the Belton and Piedmont branches), and one that reads nothing but romances (curated and led by yours truly).

I haven't even started on all our creative programs or offerings. Next issue I'll take you on a deep dive of the Electric City Creative Makerspace and all the cool stuff we have going on in it. There's a ton more than just the referenced Cricuts.

Welcoming New Patients!

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ANDERSON
DENTAL PARTNERS 



MOVIE NIGHT IN WREN PARK

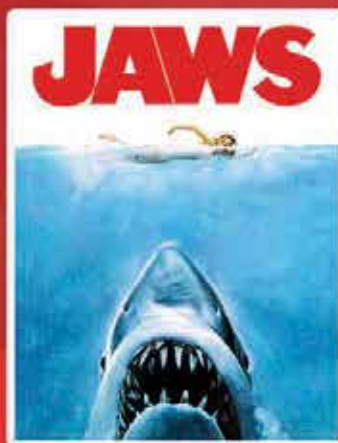
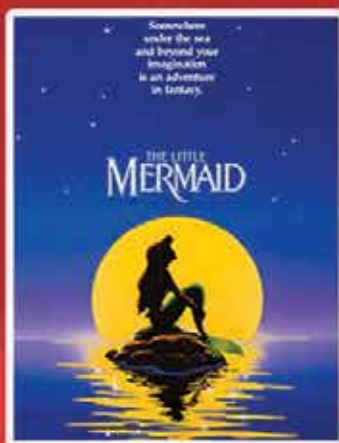
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FRIDAY, JUNE 14 – LITTLE MERMAID @ 8:55PM

FRIDAY, JULY 12 – JAWS @ 8:55PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 – TOP GUN @ 8:35PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 – COCO @ 6:50PM



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Fant's prisoner of war story

BY RICH OTTER

They were flying as one of the two lead aircraft just north of Vinh City in North Vietnam. "Our mission was to bomb the railroad tracks to trap some rolling stock. I could see the muzzle flashes and puffs of smoke coming out of the anti-aircraft guns all along the railroad." At about 4,000 feet during the bottom of their pull out, suddenly everything outside the aircraft "turned a brilliant yellow-orange. We just floated weightless. We had no internal communication. We lost all electricity in the aircraft."

The last thing Anderson native Robert S. Fant, Jr. remembered seeing was the instrument panel reading they were at 1,000 feet and doing the equivalent of about 450 miles an hour. He ejected. He grayed out and the next thing he knew he was sitting on the edge of a rice patty dike.

He reached up to release his parachute fittings so he could evade capture. His right arm did not respond. He released with his left and then tried to stand. His left leg went out to one side. "I had either broken or dislocated my left leg." He made two quick calls on his survivor radio. A young Vietnamese man was suddenly on top of him and commenced beating him. "There wasn't much I could do except roll up in a ball and protect myself as best I could."

"Fortunately for me there was a civilian militia man close by. He fought his way into the crowd with his AK-47 and pushed them off of me. I was taken prisoner." They cut his flight suit off with a machete. They did not know how to use a zipper. He could not walk. He looked at his knee and saw no kneecap. He later learned that when dislocated it goes off to one side.

A six or eight year-old boy was produced as his crutch and he hopped. They then put together two poles and two croaker sacs for a stretcher "and hauled me away." He was kept moving from village to village and everyone would come out and "get their licks in." Finally, in one village an old lady produced an egg, broke it and poured it in his mouth. That was all the food he got.

He was taken to an aid station where he met his first interrogator. He was told he would receive no medical aid until he answered questions. He wouldn't answer questions and received no treatment. He started thinking of how to escape, but realized, "my plan to crawl to water, steal a boat and paddle with a broken arm and leg had zero chance of success."

The beatings continued at successive villages until he finally reached a permanent holding facility equipped with irons and chains. There they forced a pill down his throat that



Bob Fant

was apparently a hallucinogen and he was out for about three days, waking through a fog to find he was found face down on the floor and was helped by air force prisoners who had joined him. They carried him through rice paddies to where trucks then transported them to Hanoi. On the way, they had to stop during the day and "the people would mill around, poke at us, jab us, burn us with cigarettes and throw rocks at us." A woman also came after them with a butcher knife that was knocked away.

They finally made it to Hanoi to an old French prison built in 1899 known as Hao Lo and he was taken to interrogation rooms and solitary confinement. For a week he was refused medical treatment, adequate food or water. He was in such miserable shape that they had to get other prisoners to clean him up before further interrogation. "I got my first bath in two weeks."

"They did get physical. It depended on how effective you were in evading their questions. My training was very good in this area." There were three of them living in a cell in what was known as Heartbreak Hotel. It had no windows and the only ventilation came from above the door. They quickly became "covered with heat rash" and "bed sores."

He was finally examined by a doctor and told he was to be taken to a hospital. He had to do his own pre-op. When he returned, other prisoners provided his care.

The years rolled on with slightly improving conditions at times during peace negotiations, making the North Vietnamese think they might be released with their treatment then revealed. By the time that finally arrived, he had been incarcerated under barbaric conditions for over four and a half years.

His much more detailed recollections may be found in Anderson County Twentieth Century Memories & Reflections—but, be warned, they are disturbing.



THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM

"Is that what I think it is?!" We were driving down North Main Street toward town, when Mike's ever-watching eye for wildlife kicked in. There, on the top of an electrical transmission line, was what appeared to be a great-horned owl. The feather tufts on both sides were obvious even from the ground. That would be quite

an observation to make on a Tuesday afternoon in downtown Anderson.



Ann K. Bailes

The great horned owl is the model for the owl caricature in storybooks. It has those two tufts of feathers (horns), one on each side, and

an eerie stare-down appearance from its yellow eyes. It is a large owl, a little bigger than a red-tailed hawk, and has a thick body with short wings. The great horned owl is not seen as often as the more common barred owl (which is a little smaller), but is still present in our local woods and byways.

(We've actually had a recent, much sweeter, encounter with an "owl." Little Miss, our 16-month-old granddaughter, has been learning animal sounds lately. Leave it to our son not to teach her just "What does the birdie say?" No, she has to learn the sounds of a dove, or a barred owl. And I have to admit, after being asked "What does the owl say?" it's the cutest thing to hear her sweet soft voice saying,

"Hoo Hoo Hoo Hoo-ee." This grandparenting thing is the best gig around.)

But I digress. Back to the owl story. The idea of a great horned owl, out in broad daylight in upstate South Carolina, does have precedent. I clearly remember one from a number of years ago, sitting on a wire right on Clemson Boulevard at Lake Hartwell. That's the only time I've ever seen one, night or day, but I have heard them calling outside my bedroom window at night.

We were already past the owl and decided to turn around to get another look at it. We pulled into the Besto parking lot and I pulled out my binoculars. That was one weird-looking owl, but sometimes birds don't always match the guides exactly. I passed the binoculars over to Mike and he studied it. Then he announced "It's a decoy." Oh me. I feel so stupid when something like that happens, even if no one knows that we stopped, turned around, parked, and tried to identify a fake bird (at least until I write about it for a newspaper).

Things are not always as they seem. . . a quotation by Phaedrus (a contemporary of Socrates), and a theme in Shakespeare's Macbeth. . . that was the case with our owl observation in the middle of Anderson. And for what it's worth, the decoy was completely ineffective. Three live crows were perched just one rung beneath the decoy, unbothered by what was supposed to be scaring them away. Things are not always as they seem, and sometimes they don't even work.

Westside dominates Jackets in rivalry showdown

BY BRIAN HODGES

In case you thought the Westside Rams' Class AAAA state football championship last season was a fluke. ... forget it.

The Rams are really good..

Last Friday night, Westside traveled across town to T.L. Hanna and defeated the Yellow Jackets 56-20.

Hanna has been a consistent playoff team in AAAAA the past few seasons. But this was a tough night. They were down 28-7 at halftime.

Rams quarterback Cutter Woods, a South Carolina commitment, had a 54-yard touchdown pass to Charmarryus Bomar and threw a 33-yard scoring strike to Jameson Wilson just before halftime.

Westside coach Brian Lane was happy.

"We always try to get off to a fast start," Lane said. "Hanna was ranked 5th in AAAAA so we knew they are a quality opponent."

Late in the second quarter, Westside raced 71 yards in 1:01 to score on the TD pass to



Wilson. "That's our one-minute offense," Lane said.

"They are explosive," said Hanna coach Jason Tone. "I'll be glad when Cutter Woods graduates. But I didn't do a good enough job getting us ready to go."



The Rams scored a touchdown on their first possession, going 71 yards on 9 plays,

scored again on a Hanna botched punt attempt (Zyon Paul with the TD), then scored a third touchdown on the Woods to Bomar pass.

Hanna finally struck back with a nine-play, 53-yard drive in the second quarter. KD Patterson scored from 8 yards out and it was 21-7.

Lane was proud of defensive lineman Ross Brown.

"He had a good game facing that (unique) Hanna Wing-T offense," Lane said. "I was glad we had two weeks to prepare for that."

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SOUTHERN SEPTEMBER

In most parts of the country, September is a quick thirty-day transition from summer to fall. Here in the South that transition can be



Neal Parnell

slow and quite strange. Some are born here, yet somehow believe that September means Fall has arrived. It's called, "The Home Depot Effect". It started last year when the Home

Depot corporate bigwigs decided that all their stores would start displaying Halloween decorations in the last week of August. I witnessed this phenomenon two weeks ago as I stood in the giant hardware store that proudly and grammatically incorrectly proclaims, "How Doers Get More Done". I've always thought the slogan should be, "IT'S LOWE'S, EXCEPT ORANGE". Anyway, here is what got me thinking.

There was a man watching two teenagers in orange vests inflating a fifteen-foot-tall skeleton. I'm sure you've seen this guy; he's in every Southern town. He stands about five feet four, has never seen his feet, wears a Dale Earnhardt hat from 1998, shirtless cutoff overalls, flip-flops, and sips an extra-large Big Gulp. The seasons do not affect him as he wears the same outfit year-round. Others are confused by Southern Septembers and they are



baffled by the choices of clothing to wear. Their indecision results in some unusual hybrid fashion ideas.

You've seen them walking around wearing a warm jacket with shorts, or jeans with boots and a tank top. I've seen them wearing a winter hat, boots, shorts, and a fishnet t-shirt. These are the same people who want the thermostat down when you're freezing and up when you're sweating. Southern September has the same effect on our food choices. The first cool morning comes and we think that this would be a perfect day to make some homemade vegetable soup and bake a cornbread. When lunchtime arrives, we're in the kitchen drenched with perspiration

and can only think of a cooling chicken salad sandwich and an ice-cold glass of sweet tea. Don't take this the wrong way, I love Fall, but I refuse to pretend it's Fall when the thermometer reads eighty-five degrees. I'm also not going to order a pumpkin-spiced latte and watch Ghostbusters while I'm still going barefoot. Neither will I carve a jack-o-lantern, place it on the front porch, and watch it shrink into an even scarier gnat-infested orange glob of goo before October. September is World Candle Month. Ironically, Fire Safety Week starts the first week of October. Sorry, but I'm that person who does not care for scented candles. I do love scented oils, and the battery-operated remote-controlled flameless candles, along with those little color-changing electric tea candles, but for me, smoke and fire are meant for outdoors where there are no alarms. I had a look at some September candle scents offered

online, but there are a few that have me perplexed. I get the Warm Apple Pie scent and the Orange Slice and Cinnamon, but I'm puzzled at one called "Cider and Sweaters". If it smells anything like Beer and Denim, I'll have to pass. Then there is one called "Warm Fall Leaves". The person who conjured this scent must live in the desert; I can't think of anything worse than the smell of burning leaves. I guess I'm trying to say that a Southern September reminds me of chopping wood; by the time you have it all chopped, stacked, and loaded, you don't need a fire.

HAPPY ALMOST FALL Y'ALL



Ralph Lauren

I was watching CBS recently and the host featured my favorite fashion designer, Ralph Lauren, at his extraordinary ranch in Colorado. He grew up in The Bronx



Kristine March

Manhattan. Living so close to the fashion industry began to change his life forever. He began styling his brother as a child in a most significant way. He would pop his collar like Fred Astaire and discover fashion ideas from movie stars.

He studied business in college, but dropped out and joined the army. He had a calling for fashion, so he moved to the city and started designing neck ties for business men and the rest was history. Now back to this particular interview on CBS that I was watching, the host Jane Pauley asked him about the clothes he was wearing. He gave the most humble response. He said his shirt was worn in and rugged and he had purchased it from K-Mart. He evidently has nothing to prove and that to

me was fascinating.

His ranch is over sixteen thousand acres however and it looks like something out of an historical novel. It's decorated with Native American teepees and tin roof cabins all decked out in the collections he's designed over the years. He has artifacts that once belonged to John Wayne and art nouveau lamps and Apache baskets everywhere. It's a dream come true. His clothing designs are everything from concho belts mixed with something you would wear to a polo match. He became intrigued by polo matches when he was younger and that became his famous emblem. It's a mix of rustic meets glamorous meets a little bit of preppy sophistication which is probably why I personally love it so much. His runway show was just last night at New York City Fashion Week and it was just that, a mix of faded glamour and now at 84 years old, he is still going strong. His Ralph Lauren revenue worldwide is now at around ten billion dollars. It just goes to show you that a young child from the Bronx can make all of his dreams come true. Do you own any Ralph Lauren pieces in your closet? Be sure to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.



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POTENTIALS FOR IMPROVEMENT



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Finally, September is here. This summer seems to have been a long one. Hot, hot, hot, and dry. Some plants show the stress of such a summer. A Chantilly Lace hydrangea paniculata may not make it. A newly planted native azalea, Super Trusses Pink, is not going to make it seem. Thankfully, new native azaleas in the Confederate series, planted at the same time and in the same area as Super Trusses Pink, are hanging on. They've been getting watered because such plants are hard to find. Some plants seem no worse for the wear. Gardenias and roses are blooming. Somehow it seems weeds have been kept in check this year. Could it be that since I don't plant as much as I used to, I'm finally tending what I have? The red maple tree in the front garden loses its leaves earlier than other trees. It's pretty one week, and the

next, all the leaves have fallen. By the time you're reading this, the tree will be bare. Loropetalums, that were limbed up a while back, are losing a fair amount of leaves too. That area was raked when the shrubs were limbed up. But the heat kept me from doing anything with the piles of leaves. It has been raked again and the piles still are waiting for me to decide where to put them.

While overseeing things one afternoon, it occurred to me there is a lot of bare ground in some areas of the front garden. Most of this garden has not been mulched in more than 12 years. One year, voles were becoming a problem, so I quit mulching. Weeds increased then too. Now I'm not sure if the bare ground is because plants have gone dormant early, or died. Or if it is because clover and other weeds used to be there. After the rain a few weeks ago, I did get on a cleaning jag. Also, usually plants are left to their own accord and stems and such are left to decompose naturally.

A lesson learned this summer may help with these bare ground areas of the garden. I used potting soil with soil moist stuff in it. A dear friend gave me her wicker plant stand and I love it. After rearranging a couple of things

on the breezeway, it fits perfectly in front of the chimney and reminds me of her every time I look at it. Surprisingly, even its brown color grew on me. At first, I thought it needed painting. Caladiums and a different type of begonia, found at Pickens Jockey Lot, looked great in it. More caladiums and diamond frost euphorbia were put in an old wash tub that was filled with the soil moist potting soil. Plants in the wicker stand never thrived, and slowly started rotting. I sat the insert out in the sun to let it dry out. Literally, I watered that container two times all summer. It does not get any direct sun. It drains well. I'll never use soil moist potting soil in it again. The wash tub does get some direct sun, maybe three or so hours a day. The plants did great. Even it, getting sun, rarely needed watering. I am going to try to winter over those caladiums. See if it's worth the effort. But figuring out somewhere to store them, that stays

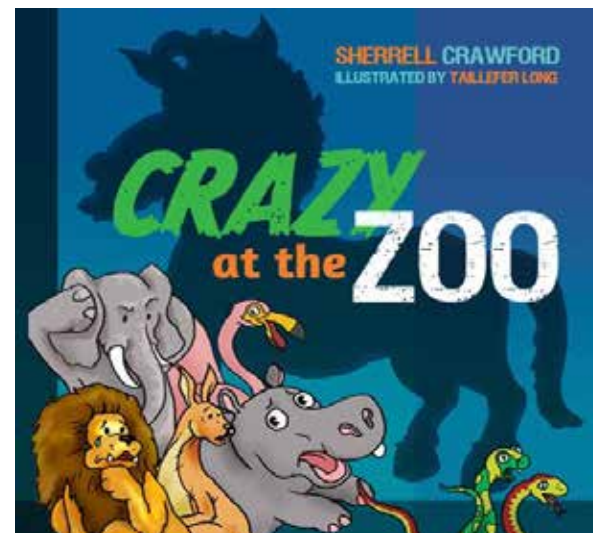


Pitiful container

about 60 degrees, will be tricky.

Soil in the wicker container will be scattered in bare areas in the front garden. I may work it into the ground a bit. A large pot in full sun, from sunup to sundown, is going to get some of the soil moist potting soil put in it too. This pot is in a focal point spot and I'm trying to make it worthy of its location. It is planted with very drought tolerant plants but still struggled this summer. Next year will tell if the soil moist potting soil helps things grow prettier.

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