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March 16-29, 2023

RAISING URBAN CHICKENS



Tillman Quinney



Samuel Quinney and his daughter, Tillman

BY JANA MACKIN

Whether you're a sophisticated urbanite cruising for high class hens, or just your average cluck fed up with being flocked by sky high egg costs, you too can achieve hen Zen raising urban poultry. Something happens when a city slicker raises a few urban chicks in a high-rise sliver of soil let alone suburbanites cultivating backyard, lawn chickens. Folks find a kind of barnyard Nirvana when they channel their Farmer John in Gucci overalls.

With more than 1,600 different chicken breeds worldwide, one can find the perfect pluck. Whether egg layer, pet, show bird or Sunday dinner, one can delight in the poultry plethora: Golden Comets, Dixie Rainbows, Frizzles, Silkies, Barred Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, Araucanas, Rumpless, Onagadoris, Easter Eggers, and Grandma Hens.

"I have a backyard flock," said Samuel

SEE CHICKENS ON PAGE 2

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Belton Area Museum Association hosts 9th annual Community-wide Rummage and Craft Sale

Join us Saturday, March 25, on the grounds of the historic Belton Train Depot from 9 am – 2 pm for the ninth annual Community-wide Rummage and Craft Sale.

“There are 50 booths providing one-of-a-kind items, handcrafted treasures, and rummage sale take-aways at this year’s event,” said organizer Alison Darby, of the Belton Area Museum Association (BAMA).

On the rummage side of things, there are people selling costume jewelry, clothing and

accessories, tools, books, gently used furniture, sporting goods, kitchen goods, electronics and games, and household décor.

Crafters include those selling woodcrafts and signs, hand painted furniture, unique paintings, ceramics, jewelry, wreaths, vinyl products, handbags and market bags, crocheted items, handmade knives, bird feeders, wood carvings, hand-sewn baby clothing and accessories, decorative bottles, and holiday décor including Easter baskets.

Sour dough bread, cupcakes

and cakes, jams and jellies, boiled peanuts, cake pops and other snacks will be available for purchase as well. There is even a booth selling dog treats for your furry friends.

Bath Fitter and Scentsy will also be on site.

“If past events are any indication, we expect a huge crowd that day,” stated organizer Alison Darby.

The event will be cancelled in case of inclement weather.

The decision will be made the

morning of the event, so look for updates on social media.

Ample parking is free and located on the square, in the Belton First Baptist parking lot on Brown Avenue, and in the field behind the Belton Library.

For more information, please call Abigail Burden, BAMA Executive Director, at 864-338-7400 or email Alison Darby at memoryln@charter.net.

“We look forward to having you at this community event!” said Mrs. Burden.

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Chickens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Quinney, Anderson County Cooperative Extension Agent-Livestock and Forages. He and his family have a number of different types of birds, including egg laying Golden Comets, and pet Silkie for his children.

“I have one group that are super calm and docile. The kids love to play with them,” Quinney said. “And I have another group that are laying birds.”

Chickens are easy to raise and offer food, fun, entertainment, family education. They eat bugs, help aerate and fertilize the soil, and can be used as pets or show birds.

“It’s not rocket science,” Quinney said. “but it’s not something you walk away from.”

“You just have to make sure you provide them with food, water, shelter, let them free-range if possible, and make sure they are safe from predators.”

Here are a few hard-boiled tips for raising backyard chickens:

- Don’t get your feather ruffled- plan ahead. Select the chicken breed to suit your needs. Chickens are categorized as pedigree, pure-bred, hybrid, heritage and bantam. They have individual and breed temperaments and characteristics. Some are single purpose chickens while others are dual purpose for meat and eggs. Also consider your climate, location and lot size, neighbors, noise etc.

- Don’t run a-fowl of the law. Check out city and HOA chicken raising ordinances. In Anderson, you can have four permitted hens within city limits with certain coop, location and neighbor requirements. No roosters. Hens can lay without a rooster.

- Don’t fly the coop- build or buy one.

For the haves, a bespoke, Versailles-inspired Le Petit Trianon Heritage Hen House for a mere \$100,000 is the perfect roost for your Lamborghini of Poultry, an Ayam Cemani @ \$2500 per bird.



Addie Barham

For the rest of us, you can build your own, makeshift hen house out of scrap wood, chicken wire etc. You can also purchase ready-made coops, starting at around \$150 which is perfect for your \$35 adult Golden Comet. A good rule of thumb is 3 to 5 square feet per chicken in the coop; and 10 square feet per chicken in the run. Other coop elements include nesting boxes, roosting bars, chicken wire/enclosure material, shelter, shade and ventilation, and feeder and waterers.

- Don’t count your chickens before they hatch:

Chicks can be hatched by a broody hen, incubator, or you can buy day old chicks. They are very vulnerable when first hatched so get a draft-free brooder pen with a red brooder lamp on at all times. Also, chick starter feed and clean water are essential. As the chicks grow, you will need to adjust the heat lamp, location and other factors to accommodate various growth stages. Chicks run around \$3 per chick depending on the breed.

- Give them something to crow about: Provide good feed such as laying mash, pellets, scratch. Hens like worms, bugs, fodder



and various leafy greens, certain fruits and vegetables, and grains. Don’t give them junk or moldy, rotten food. Also, they enjoy oyster shells, good shade, dust bath areas, perches, swings, treats, free-range space if possible, and a regularly cleaned coop.

“The best thing about chickens,” said Addie Barham, 7, who raises and shows chickens with the SC 4-H Poultry Project, “is you get fresh eggs.”

“They help with bugs around the house,” said Addie, awarded Anderson County Best in Breed with Bella, her Barred Rock hen. “You get to watch them grow.”

The best advice for swank cosmopolites hungering for their inner chick is don’t play chicken when raising fowl.

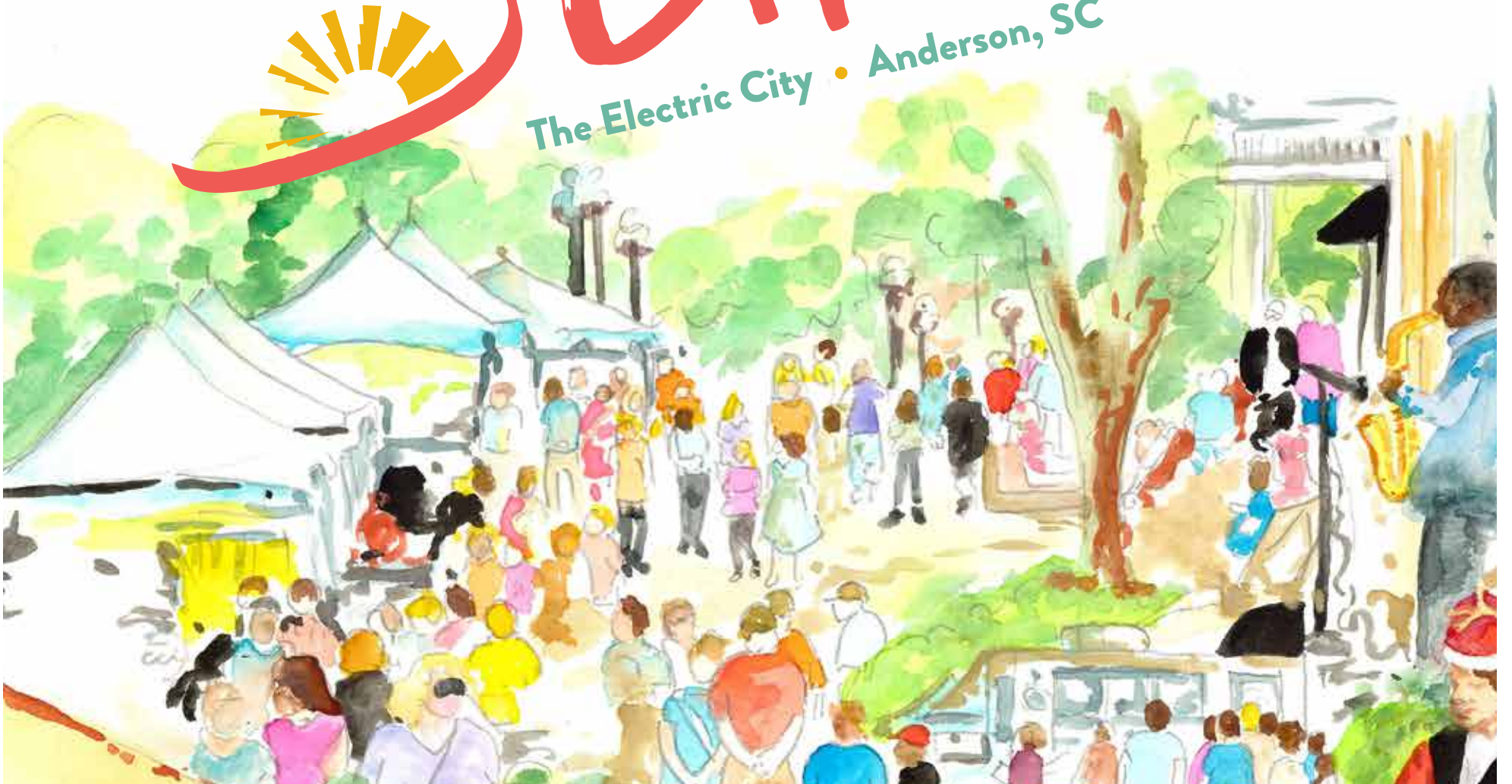
After all, they are pure poultry in motion. “Raising poultry is like a gateway drug,” said Jessica Simpson, Anderson County Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Agent, She heads the local poultry program. “You start with something small like poultry or rabbits, and then move to bigger and bigger animals like a calf or pigs.”

“They love it,” Simpson said.

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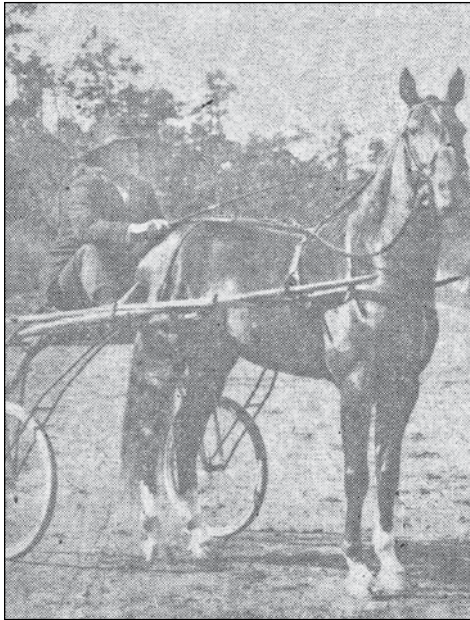
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J. Thomas Eskew, Sulky and horse, 1907



Mary Tee Pickens, harness racer

HORSE RACING

BY RICH OTTER

The reference could be a compliment, a complaint, an observation, a description, or a plea. Just think of it: He has horse sense; Stop horsing around; It's straight from the horse's mouth; A work horse; An old gray mare; A horse of a different color; A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse - and they go on and on. More human comparisons than with any other creature sharing our planet.

Think of how revered it was when it galloped with a silver maker to warn the British were coming. And we can't even keep track of how many people have bet their bottom dollar on them.

Speaking of keeping track, Anderson was virtually surrounded by them - race tracks. It was a day when speed could only be achieved in a few ways - by foot, by bicycle, by mule, or by horse.

Councilwoman Cindy Wilson recalled the temptation when by mule or by horse to offer the challenge: "I'll beat you to the ..." - the greatest speed likely when heading to the barn. But the best competition was actually on tracks.

Southeast of town off White Street Extension was a track used for harness and horse racing. The harness racing with horse and sulky dashed with racers including Billy Pickens' grandmother, Mary Tee Kay Pickens. Yes, his grandmother!

Harness racing was not limited in the Anderson area to White Street. Historian Jim White, in an unpublished document, wrote of the large farm owned by Tom Eskew where "he was in a position to indulge himself in the pleasures most dear to his heart - harness horse racing." His race track was where Anderson Mall now stands. Eskew's horses were said to have been in great demand by racers from all over the South.

Louise Vandiver reported in 1928 that a source of entertainment for the Anderson people in the 40s [1840s] was horse racing. One track was somewhere near the old Orr

Mill site. "A great ring it was, and the jockeys were little Black boys fantastically garbed. Everybody attended the races, and people came from some distance for the event."

She went on to explain that Pendleton boasted a jockey club. Of course, in the early days the folks in Pendleton, composed of Charlestonians escaping the summer miseries, had their ritzy abodes and attended "annual races [that] were fashionable, and long anticipated events."

It has been reported there was a large horse barn for race horses that occupied the land where later was constructed a county jail which, in 1897 became what is now commonly referred to as the Old County Jail built contemporaneously with the "Historic" Courthouse. Those facilities were at the corner of West Church Street and what was called Jail Street, later renamed Peoples Street, now Murray Avenue.

Jack Glenn recalled a race track across from the Glenn home-place, approximately where East North Avenue makes its abrupt merger with North Main Street. It likely was the Eskew track.

An early track was said to have been established in the 1830s at the Anderson Cotton Mill. Apparently the different mills competed for employees with the excitement of race tracks, a competition later replaced by the famous mill-league baseball teams.

Early events were reported of horse races for holiday celebrations around the Anderson County Courthouse square, obviously before the streets were paved. Spectators gawked from building rooftops and windows.

But racing took many forms. One of Anderson's best-known residents, John Gates, served as a sports announcer calling pig races, the contestants dressed in jackets emblazoned with numbers and trained to run the course for a food reward at track end. A little less exciting were his goat and duck races.

Naturally, none of these races in Anderson involved wagering. That was illegal.




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Finding Linley

BY AUBREY NEWBY

In the May 8, 1996 edition of the Athens, Georgia magazine *Flagpole*, noted community author Pete McCommons eulogized John Linley Jr. McCommons described Linley as the personification of the “Southern gentleman of charm, wit and unflinching politeness and consideration...his demeanor like his attire, was always appropriate for the occasion.” It is the description that inevitably almost always comes up when discussing John Linley, “He epitomized



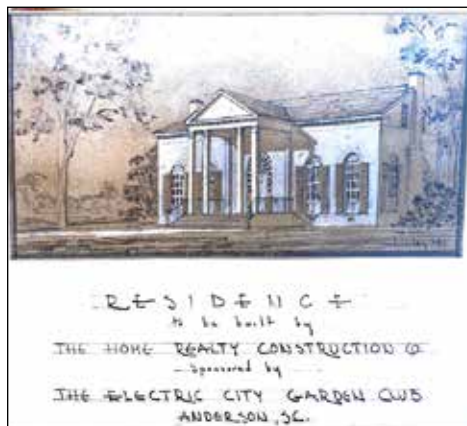
the Southern gentleman.” By most everyone who knew him personally, Linley is remembered for his impeccable manners, his linen suits, the Clemson-Georgia parties he hosted at his home on Pulaski Street and

his garden, which he carved out of the steeply sloping hillside in the middle of downtown Athens, Georgia and transformed into an urban oasis. He was the much-loved professor in the University of Georgia’s School of Environment and Design. Today he is revered as one of the pantheons of architectural historians of Georgia for his two books *Architecture of Middle Georgia* and *The Georgia Catalog*.

For residents of Anderson, South Carolina, where Linley was born, his legacy is a bit different. Anderson shaped many of Linley’s ideas about community, suburban developments, pedestrian areas, and tree lined curvilinear streets. In turn Linley shaped much of the mid-century modern Anderson. If one ventures down the streets of almost any neighborhood developed between 1940 and 1960 in Anderson, you will almost always inevitably spot a Linley design.

John Linley was born in 1916, in his parents’ colonial revival home in North Anderson, overlooking what is today known as Linley Park. These were exciting times for Anderson, South Carolina, by then well known throughout the region as the “electric city.” Linley’s childhood was spent traversing the streets of North Anderson, his father’s first real estate development project just north of downtown. The houses there reflect the popular revival trends of the early part of the 20th century. A simple walk around the neighborhood of his youth would have served as a lesson in almost every architectural style from Neo-Classical Revival’s to English Tudors and Craftsman Bungalows.

Johnny as he was known locally, graduated in 1938 from nearby Clemson College with a degree in architecture. In 1945 he earned an MFA in Architecture from Princeton University. Linley’s earliest designs date to the years between Clemson and Princeton when he first started working for his father’s Home Realty Construction Company. Many



Photos from The Linley Papers, UGA Archives, Athens

of those houses can still be seen in neighborhoods along Henry and Hunter Drives among others. These early designs reflect a more traditional style common for an area emerging from the economic depression brought on by the boll weevil and the stock market crash of 1929. It would be a few years before the emergence of what would become trademark indicators of a Linley design began to appear.

By scholars, Linley’s work might be described as Southern Regionalism, elements of modern design but with a strong influence of southern traditional style. This was a softer, gentler form of modernism. Harlan McClure, architect, and later Dean of Clemson College of Architecture, would say that he had early on been impressed with Linley’s “fortitude and determination to practice architecture in an objective and contemporary manner when that was not easy in Anderson, South Carolina.” We can all be thankful that for his fortitude and those in Anderson who embraced these new ideas of Organic Architecture.

While not his preferred style Linley was a master at modest Neoclassical designs, when that was what the client desired. But as one will see in the coming weeks, his design capabilities were exceptional when given the ability to design freely with his modern organic architectural style. His creative designs juxtaposed the ornamental rich details of the past with the clean lines of the early 20th century. These elements would become synonymous with Linley’s work which almost always embraced four design principles that he considered “ageless principles which were basic in all good architecture,” those were that the building should 1) relate to its site and surroundings 2) be guided by and express the materials and methods of construction 3) be guided by its function and 4) the form must be guided by the climate of the area.

Over the next few months, I hope you will come along on the journey as I go looking for Linley. The journey will take us to the Linley Papers at The University of Georgia, I will talk to those who knew him and his work and search out the neighborhoods of Anderson and other nearby towns for some of the very best of Linley.



The Belton Area Museum Association Presents

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March 19-May 27

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Photo Getty Images

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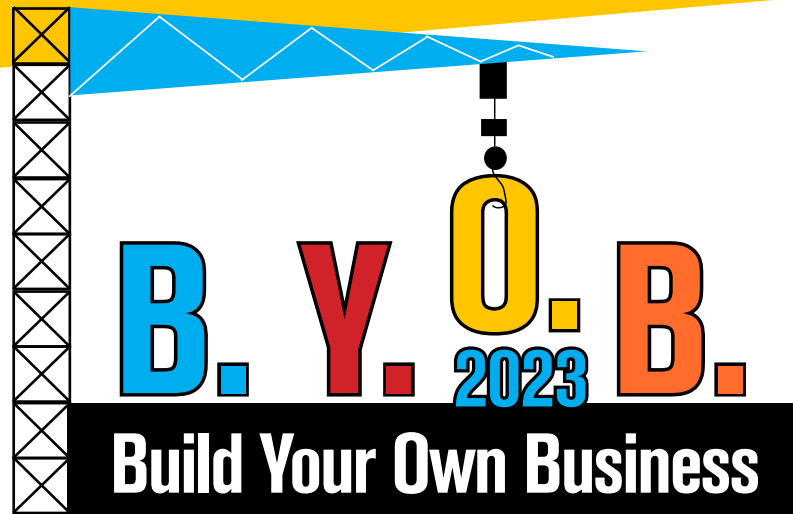
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Anderson Singers experience a 'luminous night' at Carnegie Hall

BY KIM VON KELLER

Everyone has heard the old joke, but it's true: The way to get to Carnegie Hall is to practice, practice, practice. That's exactly what Anderson residents Diane Schonauer and April Swanson did when preparing to perform with a choir at one of the world's most storied performing arts centers in June of 2022.

The performance featured The New England Symphonic Ensemble and a select choir conducted by Dr. Christopher Hansen, formerly of Anderson University. Together, they performed "Dark Night of the Soul" and "Luminous Night of the Soul" by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. April, a second soprano and member of the choir at Central Presbyterian Church, learned of the event through the church's director of music, Mandy Keathley, and fellow choir member Dr. Hansen. This was not her first time performing at Carnegie Hall.

"I was part of an auditioned choir at age 11-12. I play violin and sang at Carnegie Hall once before. I wanted to join the choir because my first experience at Carnegie was so



good, and I have great regard for Dr. Hansen personally and as a musician. I was especially eager to perform pieces written by a Norwegian because that is part of my heritage."

Diane learned of the opportunity to join Dr. Hansen's choir from a story she read in this newspaper.

"Choral music is a way to give back to my community as well as being very therapeutic for me, and it's wonderful to be part of something bigger than myself. I sing as a first alto with The Choir of Hope and Remembrance, the Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium (GAMAC), and at First Presbyterian Church in Anderson. I read about Dr. Hansen's scheduled performance at Carnegie Hall and

his invitation to join the choir in the 'Electric City News.' I had never been to New York City nor dreamed of singing at such a wonderful venue, so it was truly an opportunity I couldn't pass up!"

Before performing the concert pieces for the first time at Anderson University in the spring of 2022, many rehearsals for the concert were virtual. Both women took the virtual rehearsing very seriously.

"For me," Diane says, "learning was simply a matter of listening and following the music, over and over again. I joined Dr. Hansen's class on Zoom and watched YouTube performances of the two pieces a countless number of times. I love both 'Dark Night' and 'Luminous Night,' especially the latter."

For April, the significance of the venue guided her rehearsal. "Performing at Carnegie is an honor, but even more, it was a promise that I would work very hard to sing my part to the absolute best of my ability. At first glance, the music looked fairly simple. While learning the pieces, it became obvious that they were pretty tricky. There were many sustained

notes and sections with unusual rhythm patterns. These were interwoven with contrasting passages from other choir sections, and the entire choral part was designed to illuminate the piano solo played by Dr. Howard Kim of Anderson University during the performance. Working on my part at home was not straightforward."

The choir traveled to New York several days before the concert scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2022. There were hours of practice on Thursday and Friday, and a full dress rehearsal on Saturday morning. By the time Dr. Hansen raised his baton, they were ready to perform.

"I always sang in elementary school as well as with the Girl Scouts, so it has been a long time that I have sung," Diane says. "It was an absolutely fabulous experience to be on the stage at Carnegie Hall, never having dreamed of it at any time in my life."

As the performance began, April was calm and confident that she was prepared.

"I had a sense of treating the experience with a lot of respect. There were two other choirs performing that

night who worked at least as hard as we did. I look on a choir as a rebellious instrument that can be played well only by a skilled conductor, and I was grateful to the staff at Carnegie for seeking out a variety of choirs which made the evening a very broad choral experience."

When the concert was over, April had nothing but praise for her conductor and fellow choir members.

"The Carnegie trip was a significant exercise in study and practice devoted to and in honor of love for choral music, and I have so much admiration for young students of Dr. Hansen who made up the main part of the choir," April says. "I found out I could still work hard enough to participate in this type of event, but I think I'll leave future Carnegie trips to the younger set."

For Diane, the experience of learning, rehearsing, and finally performing was as radiant as the music sung by the choir.

"I very often listen to 'Luminous Night. It is such a moving piece, and hearing it again transports me back to that fabulous night at Carnegie Hall."

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SUSAN TEMPLE
master gardener

Gardeners are a determined lot. Being at the mercy of Mother Nature can be tricky enough sometimes with ornamentals. I imagine how it must have been when people literally survived off their land. In all my years of gardening, there have only been a few attempts to grow food. Results are I'd be living off blueberries. Deer are a convenient excuse now for not growing food. Over the years, I've gotten about a dozen tomatoes, two or three squash, and six or eight hands full of asparagus to eat. Farmer side of gardening is just not in me it seems. My aunt, Issie, worked in the Rocky River mill between Lowndesville and Calhoun Falls when I was a child. I'd stay with her, Grandmother and Granddaddy Crittendon every summer when the mill closed for July 4th. I picked tomatoes, corn, peas, beans, okra, etc., shelled and shucked, but never got the love of growing such. Their freezer was always full, and cabinets (and closets) were full with jars of stuff "put up" from the garden. My brother got



Peony re-redo in progress

that gene and grows a wonderful garden every year. He could live off his land. One year, deer got in his garden, stomped his watermelons, and had a feast. Last year, deer got in it and feasted on everything. One heck of a deer fence will be finished in time for planting this year. It's funny, I never remember Grandmother and Issie talking about deer in their garden. But a memory is firmly in my mind of when Grandmother chopped a possum with a hoe in her garden, right there in the corn row.

Gardening determination for Mama these days is growing peonies. A bed of peonies has been slowly declining for years. About four or five years ago, I dug them up, got all the grass out, and re-planted them. Mama lives on a corner lot, has a small yard, and between grass overtaking her peonies, and probably heat from

the road, this is the cause of the pitiful peonies. Even though there are two, Scarlett O'Hara and Buckeye Belle, which are outstanding every year. Her peony redo accomplished nothing.

Peony re-redo this time is in a raised bed. She found one online at Tractor Supply. And a big kudos to people at the new Tractor Supply on 28 by-pass. Their customer service could not have been any better. They were extremely helpful and so pleasant. Unfortunately, such is unusual these days. They ordered it for her from the store and had it shipped there - free shipping that way. Plus Mama could not have moved it from wherever the deliverer may have left it. Mama got busy digging up the peonies as we waited on the order to arrive. It only took a

few days. Once dug up, it was very obvious these pitiful little peonies were in decline. Many only had one eye (buds on a peony where stems will grow). The container is eight feet long, 16 inches wide and deep, with a section in the middle. It's a simple slide the sides in design and screw caps on the corner pieces. She doesn't have room to add on but that is an option with the design.

We laid down several layers of thick cardboard to kill the grass, put the container together, and placed it on top of the cardboard. Well, of course we had to move it all and dig out the ground a bit to level it up. We ended up putting cardboard in the bottom section and corners just to be sure soil didn't seep out too much. Over time, some is bound to seep out. Lining with landscape fabric was an option but we wanted to be sure it drains well. Several different types of potting soil and compost, about 10 bags total, were mixed in. Once the container is rained on, and the soil settles, we'll top it off. Some greensand was put in to help keep the peonies free of potential botrytis fungus, some milorganite for the overall magic that stuff does, and some worm castings. Each section has about 10 little peonies. If this doesn't work, we'll have to admit defeat.

Doing it yourself

I love beautiful potions and making things from scratch. Not only is it fun and a relaxing hobby, but it actually saves money. You know what you're putting on your body and in your home. Whether it be a homemade wreath



Kristine March

where I forage things from outside in nature or a do-it-yourself lip scrub or potpourri pot simmer on my stove, I love finding new ideas and making them as gifts or just for myself to have on hand. There are endless things you can make yourself, from natural makeup to a even teeth whitener. Since it's almost officially Spring start out by making your house smell like a fresh garden.

Here is a recipe that's so easy and really fun. All you need is a large pot of hot simmering water, two limes sliced, a handful of mint or a half tablespoon of mint extract. Add four sprigs of thyme and a tablespoon of vanilla extract. Let that simmer on your stove for the day and it will be an instant mood lifter and make everything feel fresh and homey. Make sure to monitor it and keep extra water in the pot so the ingredients won't burn.

Another great do-it-yourself is what I like to call vacation in a bottle. If you want an instant glow and a sun free tan, try getting your old bronzing powder that's almost done, your favorite body oil, (I love Bio Oil because it's scented with lavender and doesn't stain) and a bowl and a spoon. Sounds weird I know, but it works. Take your remaining bronzer powder and use a spoon until it's clump free in your bowl. Stir constantly then incorporate your oil until you have a smooth lotion consistency. Add it to a small air tight jar or pretty bottle and you have an instant bronzing oil. It's much safer than the sun and it feels lovely on your skin. Try it!

Teeth whitening can be extremely expensive and make your teeth feel sensitive but I have found a really simple yet cost effective idea. All you need is baking soda and coconut oil. Mix a paste and use it after you brush your teeth. You will see incredible results in a about two weeks. It's healthy and it won't break the bank. These are all fun and even healthy ideas for you to do at home. What are you going to make? If none of these suit your fancy, try Pinterest DIY and see what you would enjoy making for yourself or a loved one. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.



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FROM THE SHELF

Thrilling new SC author Stacy Willingham

I've been a tad loquacious about my slumpy reading and just general struggle-busing. Pro-tip? Say the struggle out loud and it will magically sort itself out. Added pro-tip, buy super expensive tickets to an author event so you'll cram reading their books purely out of "I spent how much? And I'm driving how many hours?" In this case, my event was stellar and both author's books were exactly what I needed to snap myself out of my funk, and speed-read ahead! Totally worth the cost of the tickets and the eight hours of driving (yes, I drove eight hours in one day just to see these people).

Who did I "suffer" this adventure for, you ask? *drum roll please* Grady Hendrix, a favorite horror writer of mine (also my first review for Electric City News!) and new to the thriller scene, Stacy Willingham. Two things these authors share in common: they

both grew up in Mt. Pleasant, and they're both New York Times best-selling authors.

Now I could go full-bore into fangirling over Grady Hendrix, who is as delightful in person as his books are terrifying, but the true star of this review is Stacy Willingham.

Willingham accomplished a really cool thing with her debut novel *A Flicker in the Dark*, not only hitting the New York Times best-sellers list, but was also immediately optioned by the one and only Emma Stone and HBO for a mini-series. That's a pretty big deal. Her second book? Also a New York Times bestseller and it's

barely been out for two months.

I started with *All the Dangerous Things*, her second title, quickly devoured it, and then waited (very impatiently mind you) for my hold for *A Flicker in the Dark* to come through on Libby. I maybe liked *A Flicker in the Dark* better, but that's only because it features a serial killer, and I'm an absolute sucker for a serial killer book. Both titles are thrillers, feature interesting and complicated heroines and twists you think you see coming, but she pulls an audible on you and catches you off guard.

A Flicker in the Dark follows Chloe Davis, the daughter of a serial killer who killed six teenage girls in their small Louisiana town over the course of one summer when Chloe was twelve. Flash forward twenty years, and Chloe is engaged, living in Baton Rouge, and a successful therapist with a pri-

vate practice treating teenage girls.

On the brink of finally achieving the happiness she's fought for, teenage girls start going missing following eerily similar patterns of her father's summer of killings. Is Chloe paranoid and seeing patterns that don't exist, or is there another killer out there and she's right in their crosshairs?

All the Dangerous Things is a thriller, but the root of this novel all ties back to a missing toddler, a potentially unreliable mother, and zero leads or evidence with the case growing colder each day. Isabelle Drake didn't have a sleeping problem, but after Mason, her toddler disappeared while she was sleeping in the room next door. Since his disappearance she can no longer sleep, and in an effort to keep the case alive, Isabelle is on the True Crime circuit hoping one of the enthusiasts will take the charge and find her

child. Isabelle agrees to be interviewed by a true-crime podcaster and as the interview unfolds and the evidence is laid bare, we're left with more questions than answers, including whether Isabelle is hiding a dark secret that might be the key to finding her child.

Both absolutely captured my attention and sent me full-throttle out of my reading slump. Willingham gives me Gillian Flynn and Karin Slaughter vibes (two excellent thriller writers if you haven't read them). As I know the 'unreliable narrator' isn't everyone's favorite, Willingham doesn't take it as far as Flynn, but she definitely leaves you guessing as to who's telling the truth in both excellent novels. Bravo to Willingham for beating that sophomore slump so many authors fall into. Seriously fantastic thrilling reads, with the added bonus that she's an SC author!



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FROM A READER



Let's stop littering our community

BY VANCE CLINKSCALES, JR

First of all, let's answer some questions. What is litter? Litter is something thrown out or disposed of in the wrong place. Where do we litter? Some people litter anywhere, even where they live. Others litter anywhere away from home and often on other people's property. Why should we avoid littering? One reason is that it creates work for others, an ugly sight, odor, and can often cause safety hazards.

One main concern for all of us should be how it affects, which is necessary for our very lives. Some litter consists of old medicines, poisons, germs and other undesired materials. Just think about how vital water is to us. We swim, fish and boat in our streams; drain our homes and road water to rivers and streams. And we still have to drink it. Yes, we have bottled water to drink. Where does it come from and when will it be polluted?

Picking up litter helps, but it does not solve the problem. That litterbug knows you're going to pick it up when he throws it out again. Out go plastic bottles, soda and beer cans and bottles. Food wrappers, empty cigarette packs, paper plates, clothes and even bags of trash.

Being a retired teacher, I believe education is the only sure solution to the problem. I'm suggesting education through the school system by making students aware of the danger of litter pollution and the need to stop it. Not to make this a major subject in the school curriculum, but to have every school official and student in our community and the districts in South Carolina to promote litter free communities. Let's make sure students are freely involved and welcome to offer their solutions.

The teachers in our schools already know we have a litter problem. Every teacher should be able to engage their students on litter prevention in regularly scheduled intervals.

Students will then educate their own parents, "Mom, Dad, don't throw that litter there. Let's recycle it."

Please everybody, we can do this. Let's join together and get it done. I'm still willing to help. Thanks to you all.

Thinking about buying your first home?

Now that the housing market is calming down from the frenzy it was a few years ago, buyers are facing the new challenge of rising mortgage interest rates. Even with higher rates, buying a home is still possible, even for first-time home buyers.

Properties are staying on the market a little longer, they are getting fewer offers, and some builders are offering incentives. All of this gives buyers the upper hand when negotiating the best price. The following guide will help first-time buyers navigate the process.

1. Planning Your Money - Only you can decide your budget. Having trusted advisors in your corner (real estate agent and lender) can assist you in understanding the costs of buying a home, but you need to make sure it fits with your financial goals. Dave Ramsey teaches that mortgage payments should only be 25% of your take-home pay, and remember that includes taxes, insurance, interest and HOA payments. There are also up-front costs as well, such as down payment, lender fees, appraisals, home inspections, attorney fees, etc. A good rule of thumb is to budget 2-4% of the purchase price for closing costs.

2. Finding a Real Estate Agent - If you are buying your first home, you need an agent with the heart of a teacher. Trust your gut and find someone that is willing to answer questions and be available to you. You need someone to walk you through every step of the process. Remember, the buyer's agent is typically paid by the seller and poses no additional cost to the purchasers. You need a leader in your corner.

3. Finding a Lender - Before you start to look at houses, you need to determine if you qualify for a mortgage and for what price range you are approved. Your trusted real estate professional will have referrals for mortgage brokers in your area.

4. Getting Pre-Approved - In that process you will determine with the lender what loan type you qualify for, your max purchase price, the interest rate, down payment, lender costs and other estimated costs. Your lender will also

need certain documents to get started, 30 days paystubs, 2 years W-2s, 2 years tax returns, 2 months bank statements. Once you are



Tina Brown

Property search websites do not always have accurate data and your agent can give you the correct and updated information. Stick to your lender's maximum price limit and don't set yourself up for disappointment. Be patient and trust the process, but also do not delay scheduling a showing if a great home hits the market.

6. Writing an Offer - This involves more than just the price. You can negotiate other terms, such as length of contract to close, type of financing, seller credits, inspections periods and asking for repairs. Sellers can accept your offer or counter the offer on price and/or terms. Once the contract is accepted and executed (signed by all parties) it becomes the map for the transaction. It is a legally binding contract that all parties must adhere to. Ask your agent how you can make your offer more competitive. Many lenders will also make a call to the listing agent to let them know that your financing is strong.

7. Getting a Home Inspection - Certified home inspectors, recommended by your agent, will examine the home to identify any issues that you as the buyer need to know. They will also issue you an inspection report that sometimes seems overly thorough. Don't let this report scare you. You and your agent can decide what, if any, repairs that you want to negotiate for the seller to cover.

8. Finalizing the Loan - During the under-

writing process, the lender will make sure you can pay back the loan, check to make sure there were no changes in income or purchases during the loan process and issue a final approval. They may ask for additional, or updated information. Make sure you are providing all information in a timely manner. You will also need to get homeowners insurance at this time.

9. Getting an Appraisal - The appraisal is mainly for the lender and will be ordered by them. The mortgage broker just needs to make sure the property is valued at or above the purchased price. If the appraisal comes in below contract price, then contract price can be negotiated. This is another reason to have a trusted realtor by your side.

10. Closing Day - Typically, you will have a final walkthrough to make sure the home is in the same condition as when you saw it and that any repairs have been completed. You will receive a closing disclosure or settlement statement prior to the closing appointment. It's very important that you look over this paperwork carefully and call your agent, lender or attorney with any questions. Make sure that you understand what you are signing. At the actual closing table, you will sign all final documents and receive your keys.

There's always going to be things that come up along the way and bumps in the road. Trust the team that you have put together and never be afraid to ask questions, that's what they signed up for.

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Pictures will be posted at storagetreasures.com.

Tenant Listings for Auction are as follows:

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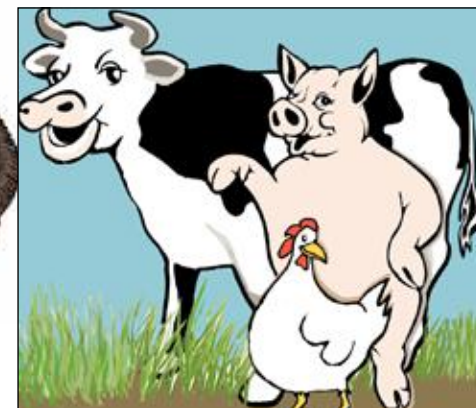
LIFESTYLE CHANGE

The advertising gurus on television and the internet are forever reminding me that I need a lifestyle change for the betterment of myself. There are many lifestyles to choose from. For instance, the Bohemian lifestyle usually involves artistic people that choose to put their whole existence into their art by living in voluntary poverty. In other words, they avoid work by designing wind chimes out of beer cans. Don't get me wrong, I love art, and admire artists, I just couldn't be a starving artist, and I don't think I could change to this style of living; I'm just too fond of HULU and



Neal Parnell

indoor plumbing. The Nomadic lifestyle is one that we've all thought about at least once in our life. Traveling the world with nothing but a backpack, while discovering new cultures and far off lands. I tried that once when I hitchhiked to Iva and discovered a world unlike any other. There was one traffic light with no traffic. One post office that opened only when the mailman finished delivery. One policeman without a police car, and a lone barber with no hair. I had to walk back home because apparently no one ever leaves. There's the Solo lifestyle where a person decides that they just don't need or want other humans in their life. It has become quite easy to be a recluse nowadays. You can work and shop from home with virtually no human contact. It's a hermit's paradise until you find your-



self watching a YouTube channel on how to pull your own teeth. We also have the Urban lifestyle where life is fast and complicated. Millions of people crammed into a few square miles of concrete and asphalt. I can't imagine living 30, 40, 50 stories above the street and only seeing the sun at certain times during the day. I'm fairly certain I'd break out in hives the second I couldn't see a tree or walk on grass. All those horns and sirens blaring, people walking above me, no wonder it's The City That Never Sleeps. At our house we get excited when the mail lady or the Amazon truck drives by. I'm not sure how long I could go without hearing an owl hoot, so the Urban thing is not for me. Now we get to the lifestyle that they bug me about the most, the Healthy lifestyle. You'd think that all of that running, jumping, and climbing I did as a kid would carry over into adulthood, it didn't. My grandfather ate a buttered biscuit two fried

eggs, bacon, and Maxwell House every morning for 98 years, and they want me to have a half grapefruit and decaf. No thanks. I need something that Oinked, Clucked, or Mooed to keep me going. "But Neal, you need citrus, iron, and vitamin D in your diet." Well honey, I just had a Peanut butter and Strawberry jelly sandwich with milk. "But you told me you were dieting, and you just ate five Oreos". Yes dear, but I was going to eat ten. I did buy a treadmill with the goal of losing weight and getting my blood pressure down. Did you know that you can hang up to fifteen shirts on a treadmill? Or that the base can hold numerous empty boxes until trash day. I have made lifestyle changes over the years. I went from VHS to DVD to Blu-ray, and I feel great.

Reading through the stages

"When reading to young children, follow your child's pace. Let them lead. If they want to linger on one page for a long time, let them; their absorbent minds are at work!" - @literacyforlittles



Katie Laughridge

I recently read this quote and it really got me thinking about how reading looks different for every child in every stage of their childhood. My little boy is only two years old and we've already been through many reading stages in his short life. When he was a newborn, he'd just watch (or sleep!) as I read, then as he got

a little older he started trying to grab the pages. I quickly found the Indestructibles book series to be very beneficial! We later reached the stage where he HAD to have a button to press or something to "feel and touch" in order to sit still for one second. A few months later we moved to the stage where I would read while he played with his toys on the floor. We have now entered the stage where we lay together snuggled up in his bed and read the same books over and over and over again. It's so sweet to reminisce on these same moments I had with my two girls when they were his age. While I was reading Alligator Baby for the 100th time last week I remembered I thought I'd go nuts reading A Bad Case of Stripes or Pinkalicious to them one more time! I had every word to those books memorized (and I think they did too)!

Although it may sometimes be difficult to believe, reading to your preschool child daily has been demonstrated to be the "most important" thing you can do to ensure their success in school and in life! There are so many benefits of reading, even if they are grabbing pages, pushing buttons, or insisting

on the same book over and over again!

Did you know?...

Reading to young children has been shown to improve and promote the process of cognitive development.

Reading aloud provides children with background knowledge about their young world-which helps them make sense of what they see, hear and read. "It is the talk that surrounds the reading that gives it power, helping children to bridge what is in the story and their own lives, rather than just the vocalization of the words."

Studies have shown that "the more words that are in a child's language world, the more words they will learn, and the stronger their language and reading skills are when they reach kindergarten

By taking time to read to your child daily, you are likely to forge a strong and trusting bond with them.

Literacy is one of the best ways to help children understand something without necessarily having to experience it for themselves.

Reading aloud helps young children learn to use their imagination to explore people, places, times and events beyond their own experiences.

By reading to your children daily, they will eventually learn to focus, concentrate and stay still for the duration of the book. This "learned" behavior will be of great importance upon entering kindergarten.

Reading with your toddler daily will help to instill a lifetime love for reading and for learning new things.

Remember, when you are frustrated and feel that reading aloud to your young child is an unproductive use of your time, rest assure that you are laying a foundation for a lifetime of success, happiness and productivity!

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

Emilie Buchwald

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Greenville Chamber names Anderson's Mance Multimedia 'Minority Business of the Year'

The largest business organization in the upstate, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, has named Anderson-based agency, Mance Multimedia, LLC, its 2022 Minority Business of the Year. The recognition was presented in front of a sold-out crowd at the Greenville Chamber's 134th Annual Meeting.

Mance Multimedia, a full-service creative agency, was founded by CEO Michael Mance, a native and current resident of Anderson County. The company helps build clients' recognition and credibility through marketing, advertising,

design, and production services.

CEO Michael Mance states, "This is a true full-circle moment, as I started my career as a Marketing Director for the Anderson



MANCE
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Chamber of Commerce. It was there that I fell in love with both promoting and growing business. To transition into a full-time business owner, and be recognized by such a large, pro-business organization is definitely a great accomplishment!"

The company has worked with both local and national companies, most recently designing packaging for Texas-based flooring company Acufloor – helping launch

their product into 1200 Lowe's stores.

To learn more about Mance Multimedia, visit their website at www.mancemultimedia.com, or email them at info@mancemultimedia.com.



T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

Hanna softball squad off to hot start to year

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — Playing a very busy schedule to open up their 2022 campaign, the T.L. Hanna Yellow Jacket softball team has started hot with a 5-1 record through six games.

The Yellow Jackets opened the regular season on March 6 at home against Walhalla. The Jackets took the lead early and despite a little resistance, they managed to come out on top 5-2.

The Jackets were led by a strong performance in the circle from Addison Sharp as she hurled a complete game, while striking out 16 Razorback batters. Avery Ashworth also had a solid day going 2-3 with a triple and a RBI.

The next night, the Jackets went on the road to take on BHP. In a back and forth battle that went to extra innings, the Bears squeaked out a 6-5 win.

Ashworth once again led the Jackets with two hits and Grayce Shortridge reached base four times in the loss. Sharp picked up 12

more strikeouts for the Jackets, but faltered late after throwing over 170 pitches.

Two days later, the Yellow Jackets traveled to Walhalla hoping to bounce back after the loss in the first game of the Razorback's tournament. After falling behind early, the Jackets pulled ahead in the third inning and didn't look back in a 4-3 win in five innings.

Taylor Wessel had a strong day at the bat going 2-2 including the go ahead RBI single in the third and Sharp was in the circle giving up two earned runs and striking out six.

The Jackets continued tournament play at Walhalla two days later, taking down Pickens and rival Westside twice to win the tournament. Sharp was especially impressive shutting out Westside in back to back games including the tournament championship.

The Jackets had plenty of momentum heading into their region opener with Mauldin on March 14, with results unavailable as of press time.

WESTSIDE RAMS

Westside baseball splits first two games

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — The spring sporting season is here and the Westside baseball have had a solid start to the regular season sitting at 1-1 after two games.

In their final tune-up of the season, the Rams traveled to Central to take on the Daniel Lions. The Rams fell behind 4-0 early in the contest before a huge third inning kicked off by an Elijah Grant home run helped them pull ahead in a 7-5 win.

Grant's home run was the highlight of a 1-3 day for the center fielder, while Jaxon Thomas also had a strong day in the batter's box going 3-4 with 2 RBIs.

Camden Crosby got the win on the mound for the Rams for four innings work after coming in in relief of Samuel Parnel. Crosby struck out four Daniel batters.

To open the regular season, the Rams hosted cross-town foe T.L. Hanna on March 8. After giving up the lead early, Westside was

never able to find its groove in the batter's box mustering three hits in a 6-0 loss.

Grant, Thomas and Brody Caudle managed the lone hits for the Rams in the loss. Jacob Kirkus took the loss for Westside giving up two runs in over four innings of work in addition to striking out four Yellow Jacket batters.

The Rams got a chance to redeem themselves two nights later on the road against the Jackets. Westside got their win back in the rivalry rematch using two first inning runs to pull out a 2-1 win.

Mikey Scott and MJ Lee had the crucial RBIs for Westside and Crosby also provided two hits.

On the mound, Tyler Scott pitched a gem giving up one run and three hits over 6 2/3 innings, while striking out six.

Sitting at 1-1 on the season, the Rams began region play this week against Berea with results unavailable at press time.

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2018 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE Stk#P3442.....	\$19,542	2022 TOYOTA COROLLA LE Stk#P2533.....	\$24,988	2023 TOYOTA CAMRY LE Stk#23454A.....	\$29,455

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