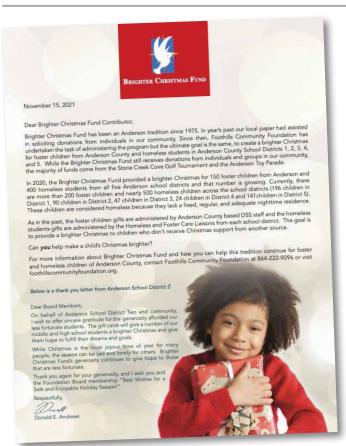
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Nov. 24-Dec. 8, 2021



HELP MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS BBIGHTER

The 2021 Annual Brighter Christmas Fund has a goal to brighten Christmas for approximately 600 foster and homeless children from Anderson County this year.

Brighter Christmas Fund has raised over \$1.3 million since 1975 with the goal to raise funds from the Anderson community to help Anderson County families in need to provide gifts for their children. Foothills Community Foundation partnered with the Brighter Christmas Fund in 2006 and aver-

ages over \$64,000 raised each year.

Dean Woods, president of the Foothills Community Foundation, explained "Our partnership with DSS to supply Walmart gift cards to the 150 foster care children from Anderson County, and to work with the homeless liaisons from Anderson County School Districts 1,2,3,4, and 5 to identify 400 homeless children in the districts has been a blessing this year."

SEE BRIGHTER ON PAGE 2





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Brighter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 2020, the Brighter Christmas Fund provided a brighter Christmas for 150 foster children from Anderson and 400 homeless students from all five Anderson school districts and that number is growing. Currently, there are more than 200 foster children and nearly 500 homeless children across the school districts (196 children in District 1, 90 children in District 2, 47 children in District 3, 24 children in District 4 and 141 children in District 5). These children are considered homeless because they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

The goal is to provide a brighter Christmas to children who don't receive Christmas support from another source.

The Foundation is grateful for all our Brighter Christmas Fund donors from the community.

Can you help make a child's Christmas brighter?

For more information about Brighter Christmas Fund and how you can help this tradition continue for foster and homeless children of Anderson County, contact Foothills Community Foundation at 864-222-9096 or visit foothillscommunityfoundation.

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For more information about Brighter Christmas Fund and how you can help this tradition continue for foster and homeless children of Anderson County, contact Foothills Community Foundation at 864-222-9096 or visit foothillscommunityfoundation.org.

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> *checks made payable to Brighter Christmas Fund

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Civic Center hosts Diwali celebration

BY JIM HARRIS

On November 7th, the Anderson Civic Center was alive and glowing with the firsttime celebration of a festival that it will likely see again, as the Hindu holiday Diwali was celebrated on a grand scale.

Larger areas like Greenville and Spartanburg have significant, formally organized Indian community associations. They host galas for Diwali attended by well over 1,000 people. Even with the rapidly growing Indian community here, there has been no official association.





A group of around twenty individuals decided to donate their time to put the event together. One of the volunteers, Dr. Taral Sharma, said, "It was a team effort. We met six or seven times to organize this and handle the planning involved."

Traditionally, Diwali has been observed on a smaller scale in the Anderson area, in individual homes, or area clubhouses. Deciding to include Pickens and Oconee counties, organizers set out to create a first-time event-level celebration of the festival for the 300 or so Indian families in Anderson. Original estimates were for an attendance of around 200 people. It speaks to the efforts and dedication of those planners that well over 500 showed for the evening.

The event started around 4 PM. A large number of attendees were wearing traditional Indian garb. As they made their way into the Civic Center lobby, they were greeted by a brightly colored display, ringed with lights and featuring a depiction commemorating the Lord Ganesha, with an elephant head and a human body. The most popular of Hindu deities, this display suggests knowledge, power and indicates the gentle strength of God.

Diwali is a festival of lights, a fusion of harvest festivals. It dates back for centuries and is a five-day celebration that spans the New Year on the Hindu calendar. Taking place in early autumn, it follows the conclusion of the

summer harvest. The major celebration is on the third day, which precedes the New Year on the fourth day. In India, the holiday is observed similarly as Christians here celebrate Christmas, with schools and businesses being closed in observance. Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

The event began with an informal social period, during which a buffet setting offered a generous selection of appetizers. Guests were welcomed by some of the organizers. Soon, attendees were enjoying a series of dances by young people dressed in traditional garments. A speaker paid tribute to the first Indian residents of the Tri-County area.

The crowd enjoyed Stuti, a prayer in song, followed by Vandana, a spoken prayer of greeting. The festivities then took a turn toward the younger guests as Indian rapper D.J. Mack made an appearance.

Soon a large group headed for the open dance floor for Garba, a traditional Indian dance. Building to as many as 200 people in an ever-growing circle, the dancers soon take up sticks, called Dandiya, for the conclusion, called the Raas. After dinner, the DJ returned, and the crowd enjoyed dancing and socializing for the remainder of the evening.

The organizers are already discussing plans for next year and may also add other events onto the social calendar.

Tickets available for St. George's Charity Oyster Roast

ANDERSON — Now is the time to order your tickets for the St. George Episcopal Church Charity Ovster Roast. The 33rd annual roast will be held Saturday, January 29, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

This year's Charity Oyster Roast will be held at the Civic Center of

Anderson. This venue gives oyster-eaters plenty of free parking, as well as a large sheltered area in which to enjoy friends, family and all the oysters, chili and beverages you wish.

Over the years, this event has raised more than \$220,000 to benefit local charities and non-profits.

The roast always sells out early, so patrons are urged to order tickets as soon as possible. Tickets to the roast cost \$40 and are limited. The tickets make great holiday gifts for family and special friends.

In addition, some patrons may wish to order tickets to the St.

George's Society Pre-Oyster Party. Those attending this party may arrive at 1 p.m. for the first oysters, as well as boiled shrimp, premium beverages, personal waiters and a commemorative gift. Tickets to the Pre-Oyster Party are very limited and are available for \$75. Once

these tickets are gone, they are gone.

To order Oyster Roast or Pre-Oyster Party tickets, please contact St. George's Church Office as soon as possible at 224-1104 or email saintgeorgeanderson@gmail.com. For more information visit: www. stgeorgesanderson.org.

community community

Holiday eating tips for people with food issues

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's meals are staples of the holidays, including delicious dishes of turkey and dressing, ham, green beans, pumpkin pie and all the fixings, plus deserts. But for people who suffer from acid reflux or are on weight control diets, some of those foods may be off limits.

Spicy, acidic and chocolate foods may trigger acid reflux, heartburn and regurgitation in people who suffer from GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease), while high carbs, sugar and fat can cause issues for people who are in a bariatric program. And overeating can be a serious problem for both, ranging from discomfort to disrupted sleep to requiring medical attention.

Although GERD and bariatric patients' food choices and serving sizes may be limited, that doesn't mean they have to deprive themselves of the joy of cooking and eating with family and friends.

"The last thing anybody wants to have to deal with during the holidays is food-related pain and suffering," said AnMed Health Dietitian Christen King, "But it doesn't have to be that way. Talking with your doctor, being educated about what bothers you specifically, and having a food plan is a great start to being prepared for family dinners."

King provided some tips that can make Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's more pleasant for anyone concerned about GERD symptoms or weight gain.



 ${\bf Christen\ King, LD, RD-AnMed\ Health\ Dietitian}$

GERD

- Skip cranberry sauce, tomato-based foods, onions, garlic and any others that are acidic or are known to cause problems.
- Avoid foods cooked in grease.
- Choose dressings and deserts that are low-fat, non-dairy and chocolate free.
- Stick to safe foods that have not caused any symptoms with

you before.

• Drink only water, decaffeinated tea or coffee, and non-alcoholic beverages.

BARIATRIC

- Choose high-protein foods and eat them first.
- Skip the high-carb and fried foods
- Select low-carb vegetables and casseroles.

- Avoid sugary drinks and

 sleahol
- Include an activity before and after the meal for exercise.

BOTH

- Use small plates.
- Practice portion control and moderation.
- Eat slowly and chew thoroughly.
 - · Stick to one helping.

"Those are general suggestions based on best practices and common issues," King said. "But each person is unique, so stick to what works for you, listen to your body, and consult with your doctor or E-Visits if you have questions about specific foods or symptoms."

King offers dietary counseling and management for referred bariatric patients. The program can help clients make healthy food choices for life, including the holidays. Assistance includes identifying behavioral patterns, meal planning, nutritional education and sustainable dietary changes.

"Learning how to overcome lifetime behaviors and adjust to a new way of thinking about food takes time and effort," she said. "But if holidays cause you to worry about food, then start making a change now by talking with your doctor. We're here to help."

AnMed Health has specialists who can help with both conditions. For more information about either, please visit AnMedHealth.org/WeightLoss and AnMedHealth.org/TIF.

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TO SEND INFORMATION

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"We would go to one of the coaches' houses after a football game to eat and entertain ourselves. This was our way of celebrating a win and it was tremendous fun! Sometimes one of us was on the piano or the guitar — whatever was fun at the

time. It was usually Floyd, Fraser and myself singing. There would be others that joined in as the night went on. Some of us looked as forward to the after-game entertainment as we did the games." – Coach Wayne Jones. At right, Coach William Floyd, Coach Jim Fraser and Coach Wayne Jones participating in the Talent Show at Hanna. They sang their version of "Elvira."





Picture-perfect Christmas? Not in my Lifetime

Has this ever happened to you? You're a talented interior decorator, living and working in Washington, D.C., and you're asked to decorate a foreign embassy for its annual holiday ball. Unfortunately, your traditional style of Christmas decorating is contrary to that of the new ambassador, whose approach to the season is more "minimalist." Somehow, you must please your client, the ambassador, without compromising your vision... even as you're falling in love with him.

That hasn't happened in my lifetime, either.

But you will find this story on the Lifetime Movie Network on Wednesday, December 1. It's called Match Made in Mistletoe, and it's just one of a stable of original Christmas movies the network airs during November and December. And LMN isn't the only network bringing the laughter, tears,

and romance of the season. The Hallmark Movie Channel started its Countdown to Christmas on



October 22, almost a week before you carved your Halloween pumpkin.

While these holiday movies may have different titles, they do

share a basis premise: Boy meets girl during the holidays, and, in spite of an initial conflict, they work together to solve a Christmas problem while unexpectedly falling in love. Characters include, but are not limited to, Workaholic with No Time for the Season, Single Parent, Rock or Country Music Star, Struggling Bakery Owner, Stressed-Out Party Planner, Scrooge with a Secret, or

Prince/Princess in Disguise. They are often set in country inns, small towns, mountain cabins, charity events, or parades. And conflict often presents itself in the form of refusing to compromise, struggling with grief, saving a failing business, or sneaking away from royal duties.

So popular are these movies that you can even find online generators to create your own story lines. By choosing one feature from each column on the E! Online Story Generator Game, I created the following synopsis which is sure to be a hit: A dog walker who'd rather spend the holidays with animals than people meets a mysterious psychic. They are forced to travel together to beat a storm and get home for the holidays, falling in love during the process.

My actual Christmas movie would probably be more like this: During the holiday season, Kim, a woman

from the South Carolina Upstate and Ted, her husband from the Sandhills, struggle to keep the Christmas tree from falling over for the FOURTH #\$%^ TIME as they wrap a zillion presents for mailing and try to predict when the line at the post office will only be 30-people long.

That's one movie I would never watch, even if Ted were played by Daniel Craig, whom I happen to like very much.

And you wouldn't watch it either. Even the best real holidays have some aspect of frustration or unrealized expectations, and who needs more of that? What networks like Lifetime and Hallmark do is create a virtual Christmas reality, one where there's always a blanket of snow that doesn't melt, lights that never go out on one side of the tree only, cookies that don't burn on the bottom before they're done in the middle, and a stack of gifts that are

all beautifully wrapped by your husband, Daniel Craig. Of course, it's easy when that Christmas is created set designers and lighting directors and prop masters and make-up artists and personal trainers and caterers and a special-effects department, all guided by a script that never allows for imperfection.

I doubt that I'll ever experience the kind of Christmas you see on the cable channels and streaming platforms. My holidays have always been way too human for that. But sometime in December, you'll find me and Daniel -- I mean, Ted -curled up on the sofa as I make him watch An Ice Wine Christmas. Is it possible that a big-city sommelier can preserve her small Upstate New York hometown's annual Ice Wine Christmas Festival, even while falling in love with a wine specialist who only has a head for numbers? In this Lifetime, it absolutely can.

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A Brighter Christmas

Brighter Christmas Fund helps provide Christmas for more than 500 foster and homeless children from Anderson

Generous support from Anderson Toy Parade, Stone Creek Cove HOA & Golf Club, and individuals like you have kept Brighter Christmas Fund alive since 1975.



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community





Horace King

The twin-spiral entry staircase designed by Horace King in the Alabama State Capitol

THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF HORACE KING

BY IIM HARRIS

Horace King had an incredible life, by any standard. His accomplishments make one of history's most remarkable biographies, especially considering the era in which he lived.

Horace was born into slavery on the King Plantation in South Carolina in 1807. His parents Susan and Edmund, share Indian ancestry. King learned to read and write at a young age, and by his teenage years, had become a skilled carpenter and mechanic. During this time, historians believe King may have worked on a bridge project led by Ithiel Town, a prominent contractor of the day. During that association, King likely became acquainted with lattice truss design, which became his preferred style later in his career. When the plantation owner died in 1829, Horace became the property of Jennings Dunlap, a slave trader who sold him to John Godwin, a bridge builder. Godwin soon became aware of King's skills and formulated plans for the two of them.

Godwin became aware of a project to build a bridge across the Chattahoochee River, near Columbus, GA., to connect Columbus with Girard, Al, now known as Phenix City. At the time, a ferry was the only available mode of passage, and the water there was swift, which also impacted the construction plans for building the

bridge. Godwin submitted a bid of \$14,000 and won the contract. He and King moved to Columbus and began work.

King served as a supervisor for the construction and contributed to the design. When the project concluded in 1832, the two men had established a reputation as excellent bridge builders. A relationship began between the two men as business partners, almost unheard of in the day. Deciding to reside in the area, they first built a house for Godwin in Girard, then one for King. They built other homes as speculative and undertook projects across the South, building cotton warehouses, courthouses, and bridges in Florida, Georgia, and

During this period, reports suggest that Godwin arranged for Horace to attend Oberlin College in Ohio, the first college in the U.S. to admit black students. When King had completed his studies, he returned to Alabama to resume building. After success with numerous large projects, Godwin gravitated more toward building commercial buildings and houses, leaving Horace handling most bridge projects. In 1837, Godwin encountered some financial issues and transferred King's ownership to his wife and uncle, protecting Horace against potential seizure from creditors.

One of their larger projects was

building another bridge to cross the Chattahoochee near West Point, GA. During this time, King met his future wife. Francis Thomas. a freewoman. They were married in 1839. As Francis was free, their children, four sons, and a daughter were considered free at birth. All five children later entered the family

One of the projects King undertook on his own was a bridge in Eufala, AL. There he met Alabama businessman Robert Jemison, Jr. King built several bridges in Mississippi for Jemison, and they began a lifelong friendship and partnership. In 1846, King paid Godwin for his freedom. Alabama law at the time only allowed him to remain in the state for one year as a freeman. so Godwin and Jemison, who by then served as a State Senator, petitioned the legislature to pass a law providing King with his freedom in perpetuity. He gained his independence due to that legislation on February 3, 1846. King then purchased land and built a home near Godwin.

King's reputation and wealth continued to grow. He built the Alabama Insane Hospital in Tuscaloosa, a bridge across the Flint River near Albany, GA., and later a home for Godwin's daughter and her husband at Spring Villa.

In 1849, the Alabama State Capitol burned, and King agreed to design the replacement structure framework and a twin-spiral entry staircase. He created a cantilevered design, and the staircase appeared to float with no visible means of support. This staircase is still in the Capitol today.

When Godwin died in 1859, King had a monument erected over his grave. It read, "This stone was placed here by Horace King, in lasting remembrance of the love and gratitude he felt for his lost friend and former master." After Godwin's passing, King helped Godwin's children with the family business and continued his own. When the Civil War began, Godwin's sons entered service for the Confederacy, and King ran the company in their

King and Jemison both opposed secession. Jemison was a delegate to the Convention, where he voted against the matter. Still, when it passed, he was pressed into service as President of the Alabama Senate and later elected to the Confederate States Senate.

When the war started, King enjoyed a significant period of prosperity, and the war effort was causing an economic boom in Columbus. In 1863, the Governor of Alabama ordered King and his men to work on Confederate projects. As the war began drawing to a close in 1864, King's wife died. Nearing the end of the war, Union troops destroyed many of the bridges King had built, so King rebuilt them in the years following the war. His business, King Brother's Bridge Company, which his children managed, prospered.

In 1868, as a Republican, King was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives, where he served until 1872. He also served as a magistrate and registrar in Girard and compiled the 1870 Census. In the 1870s, King and his family moved to LaGrange, GA., and continued building in the area. He also established a school to teach trades to former slaves, stressing the importance of education. His oft-repeated mantra was "ignorance breeds poverty." In his career, King built nine bridges across the Chattahoochee River, plus four at LaGrange, Georgia, four in Alabama, nine or more in Mississippi, and one in South Carolina. He also built courthouses for Russell and Muskogee County and the Bridge House in Albany,

King died in 1885, and most prominent Southern newspapers covered his death. In 1989, the University of Alabama named King to the Alabama Engineers Hall of Fame. In 2017, King's portrait hung in the Alabama State Capitol, underneath the staircase he designed. He was the first African American to receive that honor.

History of the Anderson County Home

BY RICH OTTER

In 1841, two acquisitions of real property by Anderson County set the process in motion. On January 16, 128 acres of land were recorded from Richard Felton and the same day 219 adjoining acres from Allen Gentry. This property included land now used for the recycling center, the area up the hill to where balloons are presently launched and across the highway to what is now the Anderson Civic Center and beyond. Both properties were transferred to Daniel Brown, Asa Clinkscales, Val D. Fant and Alexander Moorhead, Commissioners of the Poor for Anderson District. The combined purchase price came to \$2,255.50.

It has not yet been determined when the first Anderson County Home was constructed but most likely shortly after the land was acquired. Such homes have been referred to as Poorhouses, Almshouses, and Poor Farms but later the more acceptable term in Anderson County was County Home. They were rebuilt and extended multiple times over the years.

By act of the General Assembly of South Carolina on February 20, 1915, a Board was created of Charities and Corrections whose duty it was to visit, examine and report the condition of public and private institutions of a charitable or correctional or reformance character. The Board was to make reports relative to the condition of the institutions, care of inmates, the efficiency of the entities' operation and such other matters pertaining thereto as to it seemed proper.

Findings in the first annual report of the State Board of Charities and Chrections to the Governor reflected detailed observations of visits to all counties in South Carolina. The Anderson County Almshouse' was reported neluding meals provided.

A typical day: Breakfast: Fried bacon, biscuit, outter, molasses, coffee; Dinner: Bacon, beans, outnip salad, milk, corn bread, biscuit, molasses; Supper; not served, inmates made their outnown offee.

The white residents lived in two two-room brick houses and two frame houses containing two and four rooms, respectively. The flack residents lived in three frame houses, two of which contained two rooms and the other three rooms. A separate building contained a chapel and a section of one building served as a hospital.

In 1929 a new brick building was erected for the white residents. The construction of a 260 foot long building was finished in September including a living room, dining room and bedrooms that could accommodate 50 people. Also included were a kitchen, 2 bathrooms, a linen room and pantry. The number of inmates in September was 65.

William L. Watkins in his book Anderson County, South Carolina, Things That Made It Happen stated: "The inmates did all of the work they were able to do, including farm work to supply their needs, and the county prisoners, the chain gang, did the heavy work. In this way



The 1929 County Home

There is a cemetery where residents were buried who were not otherwise removed by family elsewhere. Some stockade prisoners were also buried there. A monument was erected by County Council, the Detention Center and the Anderson County Museum to commemorate those who had lived in the County Home. The property had been overgrown but was cleaned up in 1949 and enclosed with a white picket fence. Only one grave is now identified. Others have been marked only with a floral marker, the deceased occupant being unknown.

In 1969 the County Home was closed. It was determined the expense could not be justified and there were then adequate Federal Programs to otherwise provide for the residents. The 1929 County Home building, up beyond the Civic Center on the left, is now used for administrative offices.

The sign on the cemetery monument reads: "Stranger, when you look upon this stone remember us, the homeless and forgotten, so that in death, we lie not twice disowned."







Family traditions

As is often true, discovering the true meaning and happiness that surrounds the holiday season is closely tethered to our ability and desire to seek out and engage in time-honored holiday traditions. They are designed to celebrate the individuals that provide the greatest meaning to our lives. As a wife and mother of three young children, my understanding and appreciating of the importance of holiday traditions, especially as a celebration of family and friends, continues to expand and gain new meaning with each passing year. Although some holiday traditions are the same now as when I was a young 8-year-old little girl, others have naturally evolved and merged into slightly different traditions that better reflect the things that hold importance for who are today. While change is inevitable and necessary for our progression as productive individuals, traditions, whether new or old, will always have a significant place in our hearts that will continue to serve as reminders of life's many blessings.

Now is the time of year that is most rich in family traditions. It's the perfect time to continue old traditions or even to start new ones with your family and friends. Luckily, your

home offers many opportunities for you and your family to take part in a new and exciting adventure together. Here are few suggestions

to consider:



Katie Laughridge

Read a different Christmas book every night during the month of December.

Snuggle up on the couch with a blanket, a cup of hot cocoa, and watch a new Christmas movie together. (The Christmas Chronicles on Netflix is a new family favorite!)

Decorate your

Christmas tree together as a family. Talk about the ornaments you hang up and what they mean to you. Do they tell a story? Did you get them from somewhere special? Play "I Spy" as your children look for ornaments to give you to hang up (ex: I spy something red and sparkly in the shape of a star!). You could even create some new ornaments together!

Allow your children to make cards for each family member and/or wrap presents



in brown Kraft wrapping paper and let them decorate the paper with pictures or decorations. This activity will make them feel a part of the gift-giving. Help your children make homemade gifts

Help your children make homemade gifts for family members—showing them that the best gifts are "from the heart."

Sing popular Christmas songs together. Teach them some of your favorite Christmas songs. Go caroling around your neighborhood.

Make Christmas cookies to deliver to your close neighbors.

Write letters to Santa to mail to the North Pole and/or to leave by the fireplace Christmas Eve.

Traditions are not only meaningful to children, but to adults as well. They create a sense of belonging and anticipation for the future. They give children something to talk about, something to write about, something to hold close to their hearts, and a legacy to pass on their children and grandchildren in years to come.

Here's to embracing new traditions and to honoring those of past generations!

GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVING



Expressing gratitude is positive for your mental health; it increases happiness, fosters empathy, and enhances relationships while simultaneously reduces depression and releases toxic emotions of jealousy, resentment, and envy. The voice of gratitude and appreciation plays a significant role in interrupting and ultimately weakening the inner critical voice. This critical voice plays a role in maintaining defenses that were built during childhood. As an adult, this voice is often limiting and restrictive because it reduces trust and vulnerability. The critical voice may sound like, "you give more than you receive," this person is only interested in my money," and asks "when was the last time you received a gift." Humans have a tendency to attend to negative and danger, which takes the focus away from gratitude.

Shifting the voice to appreciation and thanks allows one to identify what is already

being given. The critical inner voices loses power and strength by focusing on gratitude. This November, you have the opportunity to take the spirit of Thanksgiving beyond the holidays. To bring more gratitude in your life, consider using a gratitude journal, notice the little things, sandwiching one negative comment in between two positive comments, and list three things you are thankful for daily.

It is also important to remember that social media often bombards us with stories of corruption, homicide, racism, injustice, terrorism, etc. While these concerns do exist and remain worthy of focus, stories of blessing, hope, and optimism remain in the background. The goal is not to sweep concerns under the rug, yet to find a more balanced perspective. In this world, the majority of us have access to clean running water, AC/heating, vaccinations and modern medicine, transportation, etc. In addition to being an informed consumer and challenging your inner critical voice, practice more acceptance, and lean into mindfulness.

Mary-Catherine McClain Riner, Ph.D., Ed.S, M.S., is a Licensed Psychologist with Riner Counseling, LLC. Visit www.rinercounseling.com or call 864-608-0446.





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GIVING THANKS

It was a frosty late November morning as I made my way along the edge of the dark forest. A couple of my buddies were anxiously following me and trusting that I knew

the way.



Suddenly, I heard machines and saw lights moving across the field in front of me. The machines stopped and the lights went out. They had

been here a couple of weeks ago, tromping around the woods and yelling like wild children.

I was listening then as I heard one say," Ca'mere Cooter, "rite thar is whar I shot that big'un last year". Cooter says," I heard dat!, Whut chu gon do wif yorn if ya git one this here year Slick?""Well Cooter, the fust thang I does is chop the neck and watch'em run around".

I'd heard enough and trotted

back into the deep woods.

Now they had returned, and this time they carried long guns and wore bright orange vests with camouflage clothing. They were easy for us to see, but these 'ol boys had a trick that I wasn't aware of until it was too late.

They walked to the woods edge, and the next thing I remember was loud clapping. This spooked my friends and they scattered in different directions leaving me shocked and frozen in place. I couldn't call my friends and risk giving away my

position, but I thought I heard one of them calling me. I moved toward the sound, but something wasn't quite right. I stopped in my tracks, I could see one of them lying on the ground and rubbing some sort of box that made the sound I'd heard. He hadn't seen me and kept making that

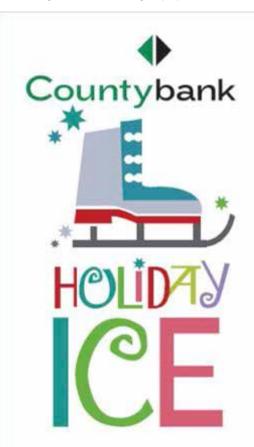
> sound. Mv heart almost stopped as I saw my friend Big Beard advance to the sound. I wanted to signal him, but the sound had stopped

clucking

and been replaced with a monstrous BLAM! The woods shook, and when the smoke cleared I was a half-mile away. It was noon as I made my way back to where the carnage had happened.

As I got closer to the site I heard that clucking sound again. This time I clucked back, and as I moved forward I heard it again coming to

me. It was my friend Snood and boy was I glad to see him. The men had left, but we saw the feathers on the ground where...WAIT! What's that in that tree? It's Big Beard, standing on a limb with all of his butt feathers gone. We finally coaxed him down and all three of us turkeys gave thanks that we wouldn't be on anyone's table this year.



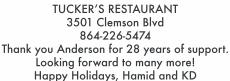




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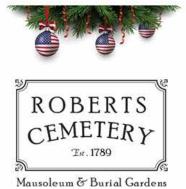
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THE GARDEN SHOP

Musing and bathing



To use Coach Fraser's phrase, musings of an old ball coach, this Garden Shop is musings of a middle aged gardener. Fall colors have about peaked at my place and they are beautiful. Leaves are blowing onto the breezeway and covering the ground in other areas. Leave the leaves is the garden trend these days and I'm glad to have been ahead of the times on this one. A recent cartoon on a gardening website showed two people under a tree with one saying "It's raining free fertilizer. Yippee." My thoughts exactly. I don't care about a lawn and understand what leaves do to those who care about grass. Perfect lawns are so boring and of no benefit to nature. To use another phrase though, live and let live. Leaves from the sycamore tree inside the fence will be cut with the lawnmower. The leaves are so big, the lawnmower has to be put on the highest level and it still takes a couple extra rounds to get them cut. I haven't slap run out of something to do so raking them is not even a consideration. Leaves get raked off paths in the front garden and gently removed, by hand, from the peonies after all leaves have fallen. Otherwise, Mother Nature gives free fertilizer wherever else she chooses.

Another recent trend is to encourage gardeners to save the cleanup of their gardens until the end of winter. This has always been my practice. Partly because neat and tidy is not my style, partly because I'm busy doing something else outside, and partly because I like the winter interest of stalks, old seed heads, pods, etc. All sorts of things need such areas to survive and I'm okay with providing that. For double speak though, I did go to battle several years ago with voles who were making a great living under the cover of mulch and such in the front garden. I think I saw one the other morning. It moved too fast for me to see if it was rat (which was obviously making a good living by its size) or a vole. Someone asked recently how you know the difference. A vole is a rat with a stubbed tail and maybe a bit of a longer nose. Otherwise, they look the same to me. Along the edge of the woods, moles used to make a very good living too by the amount of tunnels. They are welcomed, back to because I don't care about a lawn, and they eat grubs. With the fantastic year Japanese beetles had this summer, maybe moles were not earning their keep. Tunnels seemed to have decreased too. Coyotes making a living maybe?

Another new term I'm hearing more and



View from the porch

more is forest bathing. A friend called one day and said "Can we forest bath in your woods?" We both watch J Swanke on NCETV and he had done an episode on forest bathing. Forest bathing term comes from the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. I love to wander in the woods. The smell, the feel, sounds, looking for all kinds of interesting things, just wandering and wondering. These wanderings are mostly in the winter because of poison ivy. The woods have a lot of it. Otherwise, I have to really forest bath and get in the creek. There is often a bar of soap in my pocket on these wanderings.

Carolina Chickadee — ruler of the feeder

BY ANN K. BAILES

The Carolina chickadee outside my house was not happy. It wanted its supper, now. It was chattering above in the trees, unhappy about that woman who was outside filling the feeders, and its "chick-a-DEE-DEE" had an urgency about it that was stronger than usual. Its friends were making a racket also, wanting me to go inside and let them EATI I noted with irony that, though they may not have been "biting," they certainly were "fussing" at the hand that was feeding - or at least trying to feed - them.

Chickadees are fun, delightful, amusing, pleasant, entertaining -- pick your adjective. They, along with titmice, will likely be the first birds to find new feeders filled with sunflower seed. And once they have found those buffets, they will claim ownership. Even as other birds also



find the new food source, the chickadees will hold their own at main-

taining their own belly-up spots at the trough. They are at home in

both country and urban habitats, and just about anyone who puts out bird food will have them coming as long as the feeders are kept stocked.

That's a good thing. Chickadees are wonderful little birds - a great introduction for children to the world of birds and nature study. They are busy, busy, busy--grabbing sunflower seeds and then flying to the closest trees, where they can be observed as they get the meat out by opening the seeds with their beaks. With patience from the person doing the feeding, they are tame enough to be enticed to grab a seed out of someone's hand.

Carolina chickadees range broadly across the southern U.S., and are slightly smaller than the more commonly known black-capped chickadee, which is more widespread but also more northerly. Their ranges meet but only slightly overlap in the mountains north of here. The other major differences in the two are that the black bib on the Carolina is neater than the ragged-looking one of the black-capped, and the latter has a longer tail and more white striping in its wings. Anyone who sees a chickadee in our part of the country is almost certainly looking at a Carolina. (See a comparison at feederwatch.org.)

Chickadees are little entertainers, moving quickly from branch to branch in their quest for food. They never seem to run out of energy and are a delight to watch. And they only get irritated if they want to eat but someone is impeding their progress. So remember who's really the boss out there. Fill the feeders and then get out of their way ASAP! If not sooner!! And then, in safety from through the window, enjoy the show.

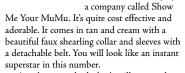


JACKET SEASON HAS ARRIVED

The cold months are here, and for some of us that can be a depressing thought. But we can make those chilly and gloomy days absolutely fun and fabulous with my top favorite jackets for the season. I'm all about that Bohemian vibe, as most people know, but I

have chosen something for everyone.

To begin with, I'm personally obsessed with anything embroidered. Penny Lane coats are so dreamy and give you that instant vintage gratification. My favorite pick is the Sienna Corduroy by

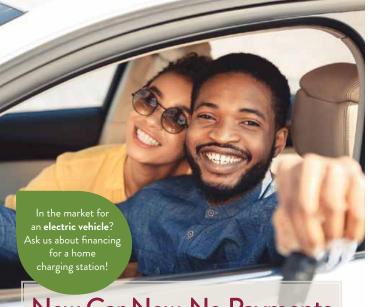


Another great look that's still on trend and will always be, is an oversized blazer. If you head out to your local vintage shops you will be sure to find one. They go with everything from jeans to skirts and tights and boots. So cute if you want a business look that can take you right into a chic dinner look, without any fuss. A timeless must have. A vintage one just feels better. Trust me when I say you will find one too. If not in store, then definitely online. Etsy has a fantastic vintage selection on just about everything you can think of.

My splurge is a beautiful leather jacket by a company called Understated Leather. The mercy fringe style leather jacket is gorgeous and will be a showstopper for those brutal,

cold days ahead. It's buttery soft with a bell type sleeve. Perfect for that chic motorcycle vibe for a night out on the town or for a commute to work. Whatever your fancy, these will have you feeling warm and stylish. Pair them with a big fluffy blanket scarf and some vegan cushiony leather gloves and you're ready to make an entrance. So, make the sidewalk your runway and kindness matters. Stay warm y'all.





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NIBBLE & SIP

SLICED OR SIPPED, RED VELVET CAKE IS A TASTE OF THE SEASON

It wouldn't be the Christmas season without a slice of my mom's Red Velvet Cake. The beautifully moist cake crowned with smooth buttercream frosting is one of the things I



look forward to most between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Unfortunately, I just don't have the time to bake a cake every time the mood strikes.

What I can do, though, is make a Red Velvet Cake Cocktail. Unlike the Red Velvet

Cocktail, which relies on raspberry liqueur or muddled summer fruits to give it a red color, my Red Velvet Cake Cocktail has no color at all. What it does have, though, are the subtle, slightly sweet flavors of vanilla and chocolate that you find in the actual cake. By rimming the glass with red sugar crystals and topping the drink with a dollop of whipped cream, the Red Velvet Cake Cocktail can be enjoyed any night of the week, and you never even have to preheat the oven.

Because of its flavor profile, I save the Red Velvet Cake Cocktail for after dinner, and I serve it with Pecan Shortbread Cookies. Based on an Ina Garten recipe, these simple, crumbly cookies are the perfect companion to my cocktail, my sofa, and cable network Christmas movies.

Pecan Shortbread Cookies

- 3 sticks salted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour



bined. Add the vanilla and beat to combine. In a medium bowl, sift together the flour and salt before adding them to the creamed butter and sugar mixture. Add the pecans and mix on low speed until the dough just comes together. Shape the dough into a flat disk, wrap with plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Sprinkle a clean pastry board or countertop with flour and roll the dough into a rectangle with a thickness of 1/2 inch. Cut the dough into 24 squares. Place the cookies on an ungreased baking sheet and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until the edges begin to brown. Remove the pan from the oven and place on a wire rack to cool. Makes two dozen.

Red Velvet Cake Cocktail

Red sugar crystals

1 ½ oz. vanilla vodka (I like Absolut

1/2 oz clear chocolate liqueur (I like Nirvana Cocoa)

1/4 to 1/2 oz. simple syrup sweetened whipped cream

Spread the red sugar crystals onto a plate. Dip the edge of a small martini glass into water, then swirl the edge through the sugar crystals to rim the glass. Set aside.

Pour the vodka, liqueur, and simple syrup into a cocktail shaker. Fill halfway with ice, secure the lid tightly, and shake until thoroughly chilled. Strain into the prepared glass and top with a dollop of sweetened whip cream. Makes 1.



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FROM THE SHELF

'The Heart Principle' by Helen Hoang

Helen Hoang is a romance author I discovered before I started my year of romance reading. Just this past month, book three of The Kiss Quotient series, The Heart Principle, came out, and it somehow managed to be better than the first two, which is a high, high bar.

Generally in fiction, portrayals of autistic characters are not shown having, let alone enjoying, romantic relationships. Part of what



Sara Leady

makes Hoang so unique as an author is that all of her books feature an autistic protagonist pursuing a romantic relationship. Her protagonists experience all the same blunders that anyone in any romantic relationship ever experiences, they just experience it in

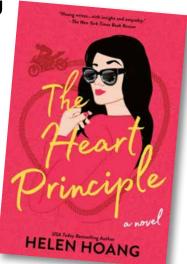
their own unique ways. Each of the characters also present autism in a different way, adding more diverse layers by starting to show the full potential spectrum of the autistic experience.

Reading through interviews that Hoang has given, The Heart Principle reflects her own personal journey more than the other titles. The original idea for the initial book in the series, The Kiss Quotient, came after Hoang had started doing research into autism. What sparked this research quest? In a parent teacher conference, the question was raised as to whether one of Hoang's children might be autistic. Like a good parent (at least in my opinion), Hoang took the thought seriously and not only took her kid to get a professional opinion, but she started researching for herself. The more she researched, the more Hoang saw herself reflected in the varying

experiences of the diagnosed. Through all her research, Hoang came up with the concept of writing a romantic comedy starring someone with autism because it went counter to some of the narrative we're often presented with about autistic people (i.e. Hoang herself, who's happily married with children).

The Heart Principle follows Anna, who overnight became a viral YouTube sensation after a violin concert where she subbed for the famous first violinist in her symphony. As a viral sensation, Anna has become sought after as a musician and has even had a famous composer write a piece specifically for her. All this new fame and being sought after has however crippled Anna with performance anxiety and made it impossible for her to move through even practicing, because any mistake means she has to immediately start over. Because of her anxiety over perfection leading to an inability to play, Anna, against the advice of her older sister, seeks out therapy. It's within therapy that Anna is presented with the idea that maybe she is autistic. The therapist's suggestion and even gift of a book leads Anna to really examine herself and how she moves through life to see that maybe nothing is wrong with her like she has been led to believe and she instead just interacts with and processes the world differently.

The romance component comes in with the oh so sexy, bad-boy looking, Quan (brother of Kai, who is the autistic lead in book two, The Bride Test.). Anna's long term boyfriend announces to her that he's decided before he marries her that they need to have an 'open relationship,' so he can experience sex with other women before permanently commiting to her. Anna has a tendency to focus on making the other person happy so she doesn't



object despite her complete discomfort with the idea (boyfriend is a piece of garbage). With the advice of some internet friends, Anna decides to pursue a one-night stand. She happens to match with Quan and this is where the romance, and the comedy, begins. Quan has his own issues with intimacy having had a, um, 'thing' removed due to cancer, and his lopsided new state of being makes him very self conscious, and he too wonders if a one-night stand might get him over the hump of his new body insecurity.

Not to ruin too much, but let's just say they're on like, meeting five before they manage any intimacy because of various panic attacks, insecurities, and just bad luck-and that's really just kissing. Both are surprised to find themselves falling for the other person despite neither actually wanting something serious. The romance is unbelievably sweet as Quan supports Anna through her struggles to play, family tragedy (and bad dynamics), her new diagnosis and navigating that, and really just all those awkward get-to-know-you moments we all have at the start of any new relationship. It's literally your warm fuzzy Hallmark movie with some sriracha sauce kicking up the heat as these two love birds finally get to the one-night stand that turns into a lifetime stand.

I seriously can't recommend this series/ author enough. They're great romances that are also incredibly realistic in their struggles, even with all their various happily ever afters. Even if you're not a romance reader I guarantee you'll love these books and all their





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Frankie Felder has stared out into the "plantation" neighborhood of her South Carolina home many times, wiping tears from her face as she learned more and more about the Louisiana and Mississippi plantations and rural towns where her ancestors lived enslaved. Overwhelming emotions ranging from anger, fear and disbelief of man's inhumanity to man has paused this research over the years, but she persisted with the recognition that her ancestors' lives could be liberated from the silence of the ages, their stories unchained from dusty trunks in Southern attics, and their legacies shared. It became evident that this was an assignment meant for her.

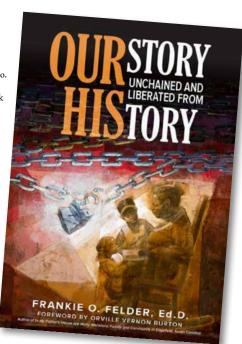
Uprooted from Africa, Felder's family's story twists and turns, and as most Southern stories do, it exposes frailties, injuries, hope, and faith - all cloaked in illusions of "states' rights," individuals' rights, honor, freedom, and religion - defined differently, of course, depending on the color of one's skin or origin of birth. Yet, the ancestors survived and many thrived. Joseph and Susannah's child, Sona, became "one of Mississippi's greatest preachers." Sona's daughter, Beatrice, became one of Mound Bayou's greatest teachers.

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QUESTIONS for thought: Are there connections between major historical events and your family? How can you find out? Is there relevance in knowing? What legacies did your ancestors establish? Do you tell their stories? What legacies are you creating? What will YOUR story be 150 years from now and who will tell it? Consider sharing your thoughts in an interactive session with Frankie. Email: frankie. felder@yahoo.com to arrange a book talk or workshop.





T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

Jackets' season ends with playoff loss against Gaffney

Hanna Yellow Jackets

Aug. 20	Laurens	W, 23-17
Aug. 27	Wren	W, 27-16
Sept. 10	BHP	W, 43-10
Sept. 17	Easley	W, 62-14
Sept. 24	Westside	W, 45-14
Oct. 1	Woodmont	W, 37-14
Oct. 8	Mauldin	W, 43-22
Oct. 15	J.L. Mann	W, 50-7
Oct. 22	Byrnes	W, 28-22
Oct. 29	Hillcrest	L, 44-28
Nov. 5	Dorman	W, 41-35
Nov. 12	Gaffney	L, 34-26

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — After a year filled with nailbiting wins, the T.L. Hanna Yellow Jackets saw their season come to a close earlier this month against Gaffney in a 34-26 playoff loss.

The Yellow Jackets received the opening kickoff, but couldn't get much moving, ceding the ball over to the Indians.

Gaffney took advantage of the quick possession change, taking a 7-0 lead on a 47-yard touchdown pass from Grayson Loftis to Jadarius Littlejohn early in the first quarter.

Hanna bounced back on the following possession, with N.J. Williams taking the Gaffney kickoff into Indian territory at the 42. Seven plays later, the Jackets reached the end zone on a 10-yard play-action pass from Jay Dillard to Carson Bacheller to tie the game at 7-7 with 5:14 left in the first.

After trading punts, Gaffney took over at the Hanna 49 and moved down the field as the first quarter came to a close. With 10:01 left in the half, the Indians regained the lead on a one-yard touchdown run by Tyler Smith.

After another Hanna punt, Gaffney continued to roll, with Loftis hitting Littlejohn again on a 51-yard flea flicker to increase the lead to 21-7 with less than five minutes until halftime.

With the game getting away from them, the Yellow Jackets powered their way 59 yards down the field behind Kabrail Morrison and Fletcher Cothran. Then, with just three seconds left in the opening half, Cothran burst into the end

zone on a three-yard run to cut the lead to 21-14.

Things didn't get much easier for Hanna in the second half, as Smith broke through again on the first possession of the third for a 47-yard touchdown to push Gaffney's lead to 28-14.

The Yellow Jackets responded, driving down on a long run by Dillard and a pass to Bacheller deep into Gaffney territory, but a failed fourth-down attempt ended the Jacket drive.

The Jackets picked off a pass to end the next Gaffney possession, then, on the first play of the fourth quarter, Walt Smith burst through the Gaffney defense for a 35-yard touchdown. A missed PAT dampened the score, but the lead was cut to 28-20 with 11:54 left in the game.

The Yellow Jacket defense came up big with a stop on the following possession, and Dillard and Kam Johnson came up with runs of 20 and 24 yards. Then, Dillard hit Johnson on a 45-yard pass down to the 1-yard line. One play later, Morrison found paydirt again to cut the lead to 28-26 before the Jackets failed to convert their two-point attempt with 6:45 left.

After trading punts, the Indians reached the end zone one final time on an 18-yard run by Smith to stretch the lead to 34-26 with less than two minutes to go after a blocked PAT.

With one last chance, the Indians ended Hanna's season as Kaliber Hoey picked off Dillard to secure the win.

The Jackets finished the season at 10-2 and will have to replace a talented senior group after the heartbreaking loss.

WESTSIDE RAMS -

Westside reaches end of playoff road vs. Irmo

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — After an up-and-down season that saw them bring home the Region I-4A title, the Westside Rams' season came to an end against Irmo in a 42-20 loss in the second round of the playoffs Nov. 12.

It was all Irmo from the start, as the Yellow Jackets drove 55 yards down the field on their first drive, capped with a touchdown pass from Izyah Whiteside to DeAree Rogers to take a 7-0 lead with 9:28 left in the first quarter.

Disaster struck for the Rams' on their first possession, as senior quarterback Pete Zamora, a Marshall commitment, was pressured into an interception that Rogers returned for a touchdown to stretch the lead to 14-0 lead with 6:29 left in the quarter.

The Rams' struggles continued as they were forced to punt on their next possession, but a sack by A.J. Williams helped get the ball back to Westside with a little less than two minutes to play in the opening quarter.

With just 30 seconds left in the quarter, the Yellow Jackets picked off Zamora again. Early in the second quarter, Rogers found the end zone for the third time to push the lead to 21-0.

After the teams traded punts, the Rams finally got rolling behind a nearly 40-yard pass from Zamora to Cameron Spadafina. Following the big gain, the Rams got on the board on a run by Hunter Puckett. A missed PAT left the score at 21-6

with just more than two minutes left in the half.

Irmo wasn't done, though, as Whiteside got the Jackets down inside the Westside 10-yard line with two big passes. Rogers scored once more on the ground to give Irmo a 28-6 lead heading into halftime.

The Rams bounced back to start the third as it became the Zamora to Spadafina show, with the two leading Westside 50 yards down the field before a 12-yard touchdown cut into the lead. A two-point conversion from Puckett made it 28-14 with 9:36 left in the third

The Rams matched the score with a defensive stop, but lost all momentum as they fumbled the ensuing punt. The Yellow Jackets took advantage, with Rogers scoring his fifth touchdown of the night on a pass from

Whiteside to put Irmo ahead 35-14 with 5:55 left in the quarter. Both teams stalled out on their next possessions, but Zamora and Spadafina teamed up to get the Rams inside the 5-yard line, where Puckett finished the job on the first play of the fourth quarter. A failed conversion attempt left Westside down 35-20.

Whiteside and Rogers connected for another touchdown later to boost the lead to 42-20, and the deficit proved to be too much to overcome, as the Yellow Jackets held on to move on to the third round of the playoffs, where they lost to Greenville.

We stide finished 6-5 and had plenty to be proud of after a region championship season.

Westside Rams

BHP	L, 23-20
Summerville	Canceled
Greer	L, 28-25
Byrnes	W, 64-62
Hartwell Co.	L, 63-28
Hanna	L, 45-14
Easley	W, 58-20
Trav. Rest	W, 48-20
Walhalla	W, 56-24
Pickens	W, 48-7
Greer	W, 24-21
Irmo	L, 42-20
	Summerville Greer Byrnes Hartwell Co. Hanna Easley Trav. Rest Walhalla Pickens Greer