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## PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC ART



**Hanna Jubran**  
Life Cycle  
Location: Corner of E. Earle St. & Main St.

### SculpTOUR exhibit now open in downtown Anderson

The pARTnership for public art, SculpTOUR, is a unique sculpture competition held through a collaboration between the Anderson Arts Center and the City of Anderson. The year-long sculpture exhibit enhances the overall aesthetic and cultural experience in downtown Anderson for residents and visitors alike. This collaboration not only supports regional artists but also fosters a sense of community pride and engagement. SculpTOUR is a wonderful way to promote art and culture within the community and create a vibrant and

SEE ART ON PAGE 3



**Aldo Muzzarelli**  
The Juggler of Illusions  
Location: Corner of E. Whitner St. & Main St.

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# THAT'S MY J!

I was cleaning out the toys in our bathtub the other night and decided it was time for a new set of foam ABC letters. After a while, they get moldy and yucky (and sometimes a few bite marks on them, ha!) I threw our old set away and ordered a new set. Although 26 letters take up a lot of space in our bathtub basket, I know that these bathtub “toys” are a wonderful learning tool! They are a great way to introduce your child to letters, letter sounds, colors, etc. Even if

you think your child is too young to



**Katie Laughridge**

understand, it's never too early. They will catch on and one day they will surprise you when they randomly say “that is my J!” (J for Jack) or “D is for dog!”

These activities can be introduced to children as young as one year old and can be continued for several more years leading up to kindergarten.

- Associate letters with other special family members and/or pets (ex: D is for daddy, P is for Penny, M is for Mommy, J is for Jack)
- As your child gets older, talk more about letter sounds.
- Sort letters by color (ex. Put all the red letters together, put the purple letters together)—this will help them begin to learn and sort colors
- Once they learn their letters,

letter sounds and colors, you can make little games out of them (ex: Can you find all the red letters? What letter says “b”? Where is Jack's letter? Where is mommy's letter?)

You'll be surprised at how fast they'll catch on and how fun it will be to watch them learn. Of course, your child likely won't learn everything all at once, but if you continue these activities daily, you'll be amazed at how fast they will catch on. Keep reading, keep playing, and keep interacting with your children. They are watching and learning all the time- even when you don't think they are!

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# AnMed supports more than 100 veterans on its staff

With more than 100 active reservists and veterans of the U.S. armed services on the team at AnMed, the health system takes special interest and pride in celebrating and supporting veterans.

AnMed has been honored by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs for its services to military teammates and families, and local events throughout the year express appreciation, admiration and commitment while strengthening connection.



During a Memorial Day ceremony at

the flagpole in front of AnMed Medical Center, teammates and community members gathered to hear remarks from Greg Nix, an Army veteran of 20 years and a physician assistant at AnMed's VetNET teammate resource group, which leads engagement with and for veterans who work at AnMed.

The health system treasures the values instilled in military service. The message to veterans is simple:

“We value you,” Nix said. “We value your input.”

A Final Salute program that involves VetNET and AnMed's Spiritual Care department produces a statement that's broadcast to acknowledge the passing of a veteran as a flag and card are presented by a chaplain to the veteran's family.

Veterans Day brings more special observances every November. AnMed teammates are honored for their military service with hand-sewn Quilts of Valor as veterans from throughout the community are invited to take part.

“It's an honor and privilege to support our military teammates,” said Juana Slade, AnMed's chief diversity officer and director of language services.

“We benefit every day from what they've done for our nation, and we benefit from what they do for AnMed. A successful health system shares many similarities with military life and service: the com-

mitment to excellence, service above self, innovation, integrity and collaboration. VetNET provides an opportunity to benefit from these qualities and to simply say, “Thank you for your service.”

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# Art

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dynamic atmosphere in the city. The pARTnership between these organizations demonstrates the power of art to inspire, connect, and transform public spaces.

The sponsors are the Anderson Arts Center and the City of Anderson.

## ROBERT COON: INTERSECTION

Statement: It is ironic that it often seems that I must talk about my



**Yelitza Diaz**  
**The Mermaid: Fantasies of Freedom**  
**Location: Across from the Bleckley Inn off of McDuffie St.**

work to tell the viewer that my sculpture is not, nor was ever intended to be verbal. Yes, we are verbal creatures. Many of us speak one language, some speak several languages, and a few speak many languages. In either case, we all use words to communicate in our everyday world, indeed in our everyday thoughts. However, we are also visual creatures...nearly all use; in truth... depend on, our visual sense and visual sensibilities every day... every waking minute. The irony is that we seldom have a real need to translate the visual into the verbal. My sculpture is conceived, "seen" by me, as shapes, textures, and colors, that is, arrangements of these elements in a three-dimensional form. This three-dimensional arrangement is its own raison d'être. These sculptures begin as thoughts and work their way into real objects. I often record ideas in my sketchbook. I do not write words, but rather draw images of what I have "seen". I make visual decisions and choose to make a sculpture...a real version of visual images. I sincerely hope that my work is seen by others as a "treat for the vision".

## YELITZA DIAZ: THE MERMAID: FANTASIES OF FREEDOM

Statement: "The Mermaid, Fantasies of Freedom" boldly challenges the boundaries of imagination, where the improbable becomes a tangible reality, defying conventional logic. This piece symbolizes creative freedom in the face of obstacles, conveying a sense of infinite ascent that fills us with empowerment, progress, and adaptability, thereby defining our existence.

## HANNA JUBRAN: LIFE CYCLE

Statement: Hanna Jubran received his M.F.A. in Sculpture from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is currently a Sculpture Professor at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. Hanna's work addresses the concepts of time, movement, balance, and space. Each sculpture occupies and creates its own reality influenced by its immediate surroundings. The work does not rely on one media to evoke the intended response, but takes advantage of compatible materials such as wood, granite, steel, stainless steel, iron



**Robert Coon**  
**Intersection**  
**Location: Next to the Wren Pavilion**

and bronze. Hanna regularly participates in international art shows, competitions, and symposiums. Some of his most recent activities are: The creation of "A Monument to a Century of Flight" in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; The International Sculpture Biennale, Chaco, Argentina; The Elements of the Earth Symposium at Pedvale Sculpture Park, Sabile, Latvia, The International Wood carving Symposium, St. Blasien, Germany; The International Sculpture Symposium in Pirkkala, Finland; Tultepec, Mexico Monumental Sculpture Symposium; The international sculpture symposiums in: Jish, Israel; Ma'llot, Israel; Cayo Largo, Cuba; Granby, Canada; Kemijarvi, Finland; The international Sculpture Symposium and Conference in Europas Parkas, Vilnius, Lithuania and The Toyamura International Sculpture Biennial at Toyamura Japan where he received semi-grand prize. Every symposium Hanna participates in, the sculpture created is retained as part of the town or organizations permanent collection. Hanna is consistent in his pursuit of creating enjoyable sculptures for private and corporate collections. The nature

of my goals for art is to reflect my own aesthetic views, concepts, and sincerity of expression. My journey began when I left my hometown of Jish, in 1967. My vision, goal and dream is to become an active voice out of this relatively invisible place. Therefore, there is no choice but to continue my intended journey and to give to my community in the East and West a feeling of accomplishment and pride. I am emotionally motivated to be creative and a contributor to humanity. For me sculpture and research is an opportunity I cannot ignore.

## DOUG MCABEE: SOPHIE

Statement: I was taught the power of laughter and humor by my father and I seek to channel that power into my creative work. Knowing that art has the power to change how people think, I have chosen to communicate positive and hopeful messages to my audience through my work. Often using imaginative creatures as stand-ins for the characters in my narratives, my work focuses on the challenges that face all humans regardless of race, gender, or class. These issues are communicated through narratives and while the problems and



**Doug McAbee**  
**Sophie**  
**Location: Corner of Market St. & Main St.**

dualities are acknowledged, there is always a sense of hope that we will overcome these challenges with kindness and community. The drawings on wood, steel sculptures, and murals I am currently producing are approachable by viewers of all ages. As viewers engage with the works of art they will connect with the absurdity, the liveliness, and the humor in the work. Whether for a few seconds or perhaps longer, my hope is that connection will create change.

## ALDO MUZZARELLI: THE JUGGLER OF ILLUSIONS

Statement: The Juggler of Illusions is a highly poetic piece that portrays a teenager playing with a group of butterflies, which appear to be captivated by him. At his feet, an open book rests with yet another butterfly perched upon it. The artwork is crafted from iron, resin, and stoneware, and is painted to evoke the appearance of aged bronze.

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## YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

# Being resilient when dealing with stress, part 3

This is Part 3 of our feature on self-care or lifestyle medicine focusing on one of today's most important health issues – chronic stress. When we are chronically stressed physical changes can occur over time resulting in severe health problems – plus it most certainly will impact our quality of life.

Why is chronic stress so prevalent in society today? So much so that it is now considered a health crisis? Are we so different in our approach to life than previous generations? We have discussed the causes of chronic stress and methods we can all adopt to mitigate its effects. Like recognizing stress triggers in ourselves and changing our lifestyle accordingly.

However, there is one aspect of chronic stress we have not addressed.

Consider: Could we be the cause of much of the stress in our lives because we're not very good at saying "no"? Or admit we just cannot handle anymore – but still absorb more and

more because it's our "responsibility"?

Let's be honest. We live in a society that values and admires busy people. We want job/career achievement, we want a good life for our children, we want the material rewards from our efforts, we want...well, more.



**Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick**

Perhaps to the point of making ourselves sick.

What happens when we begin to feel overwhelmed? Have we crossed the line, from fulfillment to self-imposed stress? Must we

make time for everything?

Perhaps we should ask ourselves: Am I trying to do too much? Believe me, I know saying "no" is easier said than done when you have job responsibilities and a family. Still,

to protect your well-being creating healthy boundaries for yourself is essential. Yes, this is a complex issue. Each of us must decide for ourselves if we are at risk of moving from busy to self-imposed chronic stress.

I will leave you with one other important point to consider. And that is the impact of social media on our lives. We live a 24/7 "plugged in" lifestyle. This connectivity indeed has its benefits. On the other hand, according to the Surgeon General the average person now spends around 6 hours per day accessing digital media. Add to this the sobering fact that nearly 40% of children 8 to 12 years old and 95% of children 13 to 17 years old use social media apps! Could this possibly contribute to our stress levels?

The difficult question remains. Am I doing too much? Am I at risk of tipping into chronic stress? Is it worth it? Is it past time for me to begin setting boundaries to protect myself? We are here to listen and to discuss this

important issue. Chronic stress in our society does not seem to be abating, rather it is growing. Consider us your hometown resource for guidance and support.

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

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



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# GETTING TO KNOW CLAIRE BLANTON

BY ROSIE THOMPSON

What the heck is a caryatid? The definition of a caryatid is as follows “a sculpted female figure serving as an architectural support, taking the place of a column/pillar, particularly in Greek architecture.” These women were literally the \*foundation\* for these illustrious structures.

Well, we don’t know about you, but we know quite a few caryatids. Women that, through their skills, generosity, and passions, aid in the very foundation of the Anderson community. And what better way to highlight these women than a newspaper column – the structure that these women replace as well as regular story in a newspaper. (We’re all about plays on words around here.)

Each issue, we will highlight a different female that is integral to the foundation of the ‘architecture’ that is the Anderson community. Know a caryatid of your own? Send your nominations to rosethompson917@gmail.com. And so, without further ado, our first caryatid:

Claire Blanton.

Chances are, if you’ve done any amount of running in the upstate – you’ve heard this name. Claire is currently the president of Upstate Running Club – Anderson. But boy, is she more than that. A philanthropist, community leader, friend, mother, healthcare worker. The list could go on. We sat down with Claire for a Q&A to get to know a bit about her.

Here’s what we found out:

Claire was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland and raised in Jupiter, Florida. She made her way to Anderson nearly 20 years ago. Claire is a mom to one daughter, Hayley, as well one goldendoodle, four cats, and one pond slider. She worked at AnMed as a physical therapy assistant for eighteen years and is currently employed as a community healthcare worker for United Health.

*What is your origin story of running?*

I ran track as a freshman at Suncoast High School to spend more time at school and less time at home. Even after major back surgery my junior year, I continued running cross country two months later. Due to immigration issues, I could not advance to college running after high school graduation but continued running on my own. At age 29, I ran my first official 5k road race. 5ks and 10ks were my go-to races until the age of 36, after being present at my mother’s passing. And unable to sleep for weeks after, I decided to run the Spinx half marathon just to feel fatigued. The marathon distance came the following year, 2013, because I really wanted a 26.2 bumper sticker on my car. That’s when the addiction began. At this point I have lost count of how many races I’ve participated in. My biggest race accomplishments are my 115 miles at the Country Mile and a 25 hour



100 mile at Tunnel Hill. However, my favorite race was the 2023 Boston Marathon because of the atmosphere and community support of the towns along the route.

*If you had to put words to it, what does running mean to you?*

Initially my objective in running was to be fast, but after another back surgery and chronic pain, my outlook on running has changed. I now focus on experiences while running - making memories, friendships, and encouraging others in their running journey. Nowadays, I enjoy giving myself to others by pushing racing chairs to allow those who are unable to run to participate. I also enjoy pacing to assist those who can run in meeting their goals.

*Tell us about your wish to bring running to the community of Anderson.*

In February 2021, I had the desire to create an all-welcoming running group in Anderson. Our first Thursday group run consisted of 11 runners, and Upstate Running Club- Anderson was born. What started as one club run a week has grown into five weekly group runs plus many community projects and extracurricular get togethers. URC Anderson ranges from first time 5k runners to ultramarathoners and everything in between. Even though this is a running club, it has developed relationships between people who would not meet otherwise. Community service is integrated in our monthly meetups such as trash pickup days in Linley Park, donation collections for PAWS, HOPE Missions, and the Champion Center, volunteering at local youth organizations, and volunteering at AU track meets. Not only am I the host of URC Anderson, but I have also served as the president of URC and assisted on the boards of many local races for charity, currently for the Earn Your Wings 5k.

*If you had to boil down your philosophy on life to one sentence, what would it be?*

Always serve when you see a need.

We also reached out to various members of the community to give us their thoughts on Claire – here is what they had to say:

“She is one of the most selfless folks I know. And an amazing cheerleader that will support you through your endeavors. Hardheaded and stubborn but determined to reach her own goals. Even through her own pain. She is a rock and rocks! Her ability to persuade folks to step out of their comfort zone is uncanny.” - DeeDee Waters

“She’s the most selfless, caring person I know. She routinely puts others before herself - even when those others are complete strangers. She truly elevates everyone around her, we’re fortunate to have her both in our community and in our lives.” - Jeremy Brick

“Claire is both a great leader and runner. Our group is simply an overflow of who Claire is as a person. She’s created a group that includes, encourages, and supports runners (and walkers) of all backgrounds. This group is so much more than a running group. Yes, we run together, but we also hang out and serve our community together. I wouldn’t want to be a part of any other group.” - Jean Foltz

As you can see, Claire is a force to be reckoned with. In fact, as the author of this article, I consider not only myself, but our community, lucky to have a woman so selfless and community driven as part of Anderson. For more information about the running club, you can find them at Upstate Running Club – Anderson on Facebook.

Come out and see what a truly encouraging, fun, and all-inclusive atmosphere it is. And you can bet your bottom dollar Claire will be there -- cheering you on every step of the way!

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# My Anderson arrival

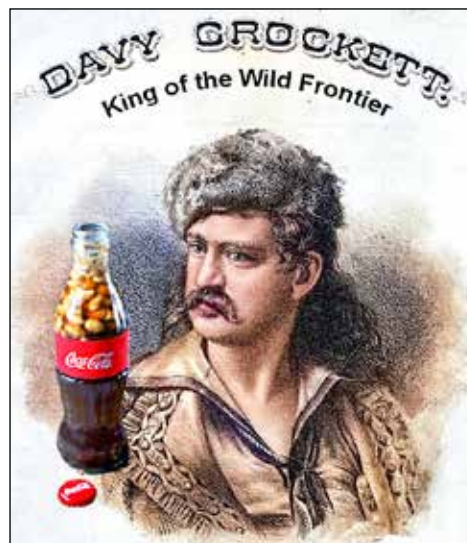
Life began for me when I attended the Honeymoon with my Dad and returned from the trip with my Mother. Eight months later, my soon-to-be parents were in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. The excursion started in Anderson on a hot, July Fourth day in 1955. Air conditioning was non-existent in most homes then, and apparently, I was very restless and to blame for my Mom's flashes of heat. It was decided that a long ride in the cool mountain air would solve both problems. I felt my mom's ears pop as we gained altitude and knew the cool air was dousing the hot flashes. There wasn't much for me to do while suspended in such cramped quarters, but according to my Mom, I twitched and shook so much that she thought she was carrying another Elvis. I was also to blame for her hourly hunger pangs, and why Dad called her the world's largest cuckoo clock. While Mom and I consumed a roadside cheeseburger and fries, Dad had his favorite driving meal. He'd have a few sips of Coke-a-Cola, then pour a

pack of Tom's peanuts into the Coke, and off we'd go. Even in my protected human cocoon, I could tell Dad was straightening the mountain curves at his usual pedal-to-the-floor speed. They had no idea that I was a boy, but if they could have seen me, I was in the exact fetal driving position as my Dad and already thinking of going fast.



Neal Parnell

Gatlinburg was packed for the holiday and "No Vacancy" signs hung on every Hotel, Motel, and Inn, so they chose to head northeast. Another hour passed when the cuckoo clock once again sounded, and I'm fairly certain I tasted Almond Joy and 7-Up. Just a few more miles up the highway is a historical landmark. As they were looking at the log cabin where the King of the Wild Frontier, Davy Crockett, was born, there was a sudden



splash, and my world turned upside down. It was 10 p.m. and normally the drive from there to Anderson would take 3 hours in 1955. My Dad cut that time down to 2 hours and didn't stop, even over the wails of the now sweating and panting cuckoo clock.

The last of the Fourth of July fireworks were still popping when I made my arrival at Anderson Memorial Hospital at 12:01 a.m. on the Fifth of July. I was so close to being the last Independence Day baby of 1955, but fate said, "Nope". My first name would be the same as the Statesmen, Pioneer, and teller of Tall Tales; Davy. Since that night, Davy Neal Parnell has never been to see the birthplace of his namesake, but if you go there and look down while facing the cabin, you'll see my Splash.

## FRENCH FLEA MARKET

Yesterday I was scrolling through my phone and this incredible French Flea Market in Paris popped up. There were different types of people there shopping and wheeling and dealing and hobnobbing with each other. The first thing that I noticed was what everyone was wearing. From your typical teenage group of kids to an elderly man, their outfits were absolutely fascinating.



Kristine March

When I say the word creative, I mean it. It seemed like everybody was ready for a fashion show, but that's just their average, everyday street clothes. I could not believe my eyes.

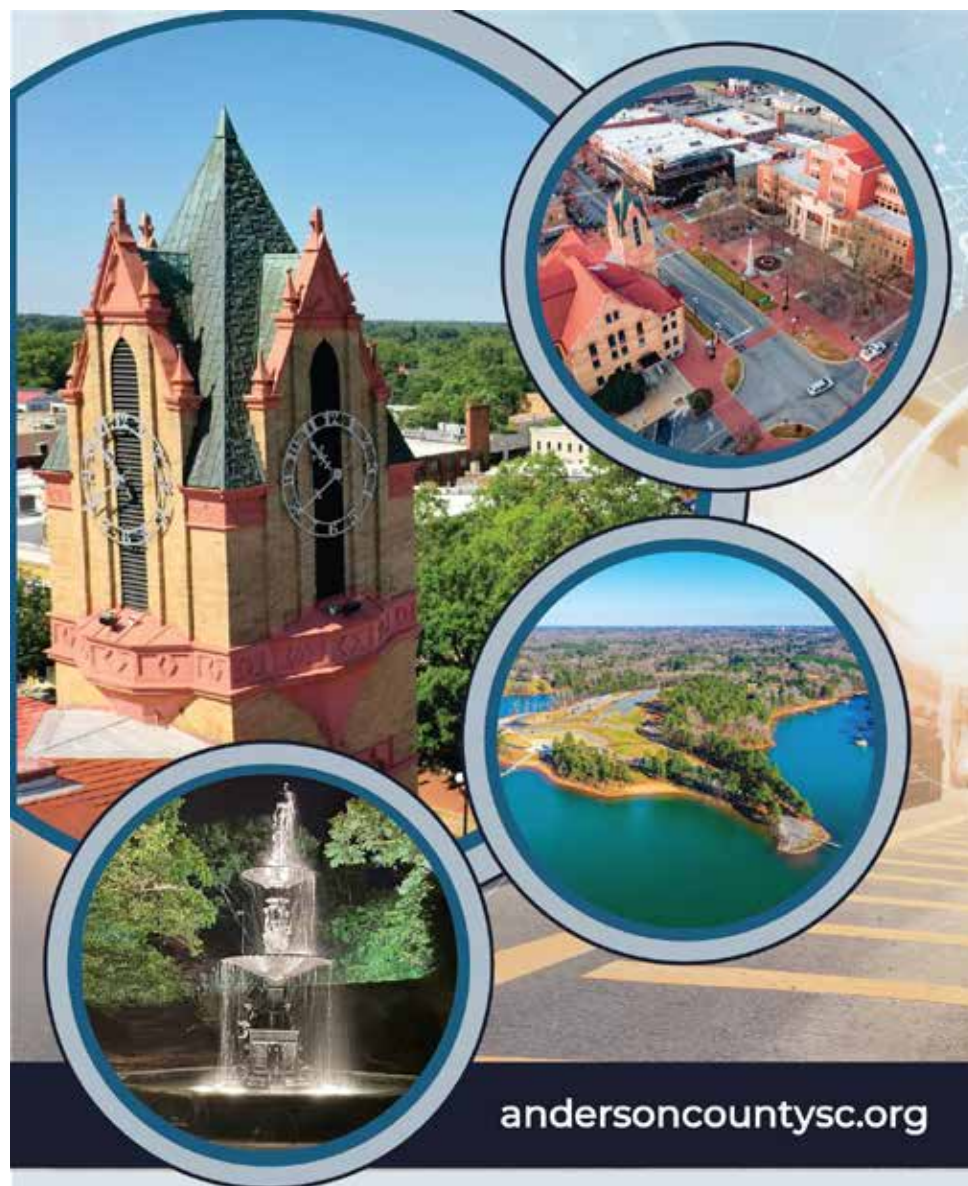
They all had on multiple patterns, really great hairstyles, jewelry, the coolest shoes I've ever seen and I didn't even notice what the flea market was selling. Then, I began thinking, we as Americans have our own fashion sense as well, but what a difference. Our culture is a bit more uptight whilst theirs is flowing and free and not conformed. It almost looked as if they felt like they could be who they really wanted to be and definitely unapologetically so. They had no hang ups either. It was just a normal day at a Flea Market for them.

American fashion almost looks like we're in

a huge hurry to get somewhere, if that makes sense. It's very comfortable and not complicated. We like labels a lot more too, I've noticed. Of course, European style is into labels as well, but we really flaunt it. We do fast fashion and they do it leisurely. Literally and figuratively. When I was observing, I noticed that they do it more in quality form. Nothing looked cheap, but they also probably didn't spend a fortune on it. It looked vintage in a way. Effortless.

I also noticed that women don't fuss over their hair and makeup as much, they just look beautiful, but in an undone natural way. I personally spend over an hour some days on my hair and makeup and I'm almost ashamed to admit it. I'm going to start to waking up like an uncomplicated French woman now. I think they just put on a little bit of mascara and lipstick and go. It looks so alluring to me. I think I'm going to really start studying European fashion. Getting into the habit of expressing myself in a different form. Culture is so captivating to me.

I probably won't make it to France this summer, but I can at least go to a flea market or a local vintage store and pretend or get that same vibe and you can too. Do something out of the box. Wear something you wouldn't normally wear. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. Bonjour, y'all!



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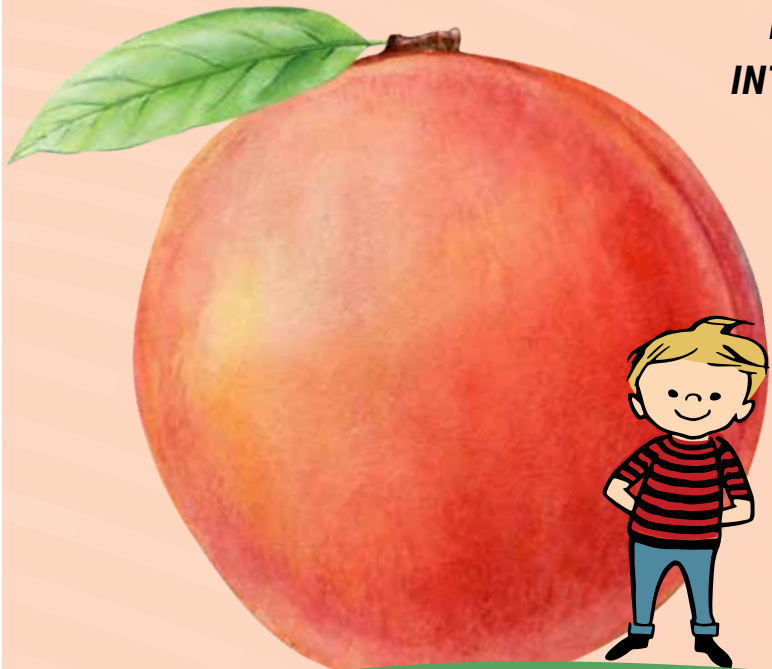
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## SHOREBIRDS — IN THE UPSTATE?

BY ANN BAILES

People don't quite know what to think when they see a small shorebird with two black stripes across its chest, running across the ground in Upstate towns and countryside. Aren't shorebirds supposed to be seen at, well, the shore? Most are. But not the killdeer.

Killdeer, unlike most in their family of plovers (a type of shorebird), thrive far away from any beach. They are locally common; I often hear and see them in the field by the Ingles on Highway 24.

Killdeer are unusual in that they nest on the ground and don't seem to take much care where they place their nests or how they create them - often just scraping out a depression in gravel. For years, killdeer repeatedly chose to nest on the playground at Oakwood Christian School on Pearman Dairy Road. I asked Betty West, third grade teacher, for some details:

"Several years ago students at recess saw a bird that was squawking and walking funny like she had a broken wing. The teacher walked closer and saw the nest in the gravel rocks right beside the playground. We put a sign near it: 'Bird nest--please don't disturb.' Any time the students were close by, the female would do her broken wing dance. We explained to them that she did this so we would think she was hurt

and follow her and get away from the eggs.

"One day the children started yelling 'The baby birds hatched!' We watched as the mother bird chased one chick after another as the three babies wandered from the nest. Then the male bird flew nearby also, and the parents tried to shoo the chicks back towards the grass without success. Once they passed the nearby store, we just hoped they would fly before they reached the highway.

"A few weeks later another nest appeared under the bench in the corner of the playground wall. We usually have at least one nest each year."

Those students (and teachers) observed a great example of common killdeer behavior. The new hatchlings are altricial, which means they are able

to run and find food immediately. The parents do, however, look out for them - instinctively putting on that fake broken wing display as a distraction if anyone comes too close. One year at our farm, we watched the local killdeer mama herd her little ones so that they kept a safe distance from those dangerous creatures who were picking blueberries!! Recently, another family of killdeer fledged next door to our farm property. They kept close to the small pond, but they were occasionally spotted running across our driveway.

So, no, shorebirds are not only seen at the shore. Many plover species migrate through here on their way further north, but others like the killdeer are here to stay - and that is for our enrichment and enjoyment of this cute and entertaining bird.



## What you don't know may kill you

BY KIM VON KELLER

On a recent shopping trip, my husband and I learned two things about ourselves. Number one, we are stupid. Number two, our stupidity could kill us. We were told this directly, and in no uncertain terms, by a machine at a mattress store.

As I am Very Many Years Old, I have bought a few mattresses in my lifetime, and the process has always been simple: 1. Visit a mattress store. 2. State your price point. 3. Lie down on a few mattresses to find one that feels right. 4. Realize that none of them feel right. 5. Pick a Serta or Sealy or Tempur-Pedic or Purple because you saw a commercial once. 6. Pay way above your price point. 7. Grumble about how uncomfortable your new mattress is until a few years go by and it's time to buy another one.

But just like technology gave us Alexa to explain how everybody's related on "House of Dragons," it has also given us software that is designed to make scientific recommendations on which mattress we should buy. Once you're in the store, you answer a few questions about sore muscles, creaky joints, and your preferred sleep position. Then, based on your answers, a space-age mattress adjusts itself to create your perfect shape and density and recommends the brands and styles that match.

Before any of this happens, though, you have to watch a video on the importance of

sleep. The first takeaway is that people aren't smart enough to choose their own mattresses without the aid of computer systems and robot beds. The second is that if you insist on choosing your own mattress without technological assistance, the resulting poor sleep can give you all kinds of serious, life-threatening diseases.

This was very surprising to me, as when I go through a period of sleep loss, I usually just eat too much chocolate and strike out at Wordle. Now I know that I might develop mattress cancer.

Stupidity and poor sleep are probably why our ancestors had such short life expectancy. Back in the day, mattresses were made from some type of cloth and filled with material such as straw or horsehair. If our forebears died before they were 40, it was probably from disease associated with horsehair or embarrassment at having chosen a horsehair mattress.

While I am loath to admit it, the mattress software did a good job. We're pleased with our new mattress, and we're sleeping much better than we did on the old one that we picked the old-fashioned way so many years ago. Maybe there is something to this high-tech way of choosing items for your home based on answering a few personal questions and trying out the recommended product.

But if I ever need a new toilet, I'm drawing the line.

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# ATTAWAY & COMPANY

BY RICH OTTER

Printing businesses, as with so many occupations, have had to adapt and evolve to survive. A major challenge occurred with the onslaught of computers capable of producing personal and business materials previously in a printer's domain.

John D. Attaway, Jr.'s father ran a small stationary store, Attaway & Company, in Williamston. After graduating from Auburn, John, Jr. returned to help his father in the business. He then opened his own business operating out of facilities in the basement of the Calhoun Hotel, described as a dungeon by Andrew "Pat" Patrick, Jr. who, after graduating from Anderson College and then Erskine College, went to work for him.

Pat had worked his way through school including in a men's clothing store where he became the manager, but he was wondering what he really wanted to do. John told him about being in the business of distributing tags. Tags? What were tags? John explained tags were a heavy, reinforced stock product that might have a string or wire to attach to "something like a bale of cotton or a roll of

fabric, as opposed to labels in rolls that you just peeled off and stuck on."

"I said: 'John, how-in-the-world can you sell these little tags and make a living?'"



Pat Patrick

John was a good salesman. Pat went to work for Attaway, Inc. in 1972.

"We sold a large portion of the tags used by the textile industry east of the Mississippi. I was traveling all the time,

going to North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

"We were printer distribution representatives and we compiled specialized documents for customers with our registered trademarks. There was AttaData for contiguous forms used on a computer, AttaSnaps for snap-off forms with two to six parts and AttaLoops that were sold to the textile industry—an elastic string with a barb on it. We sold billions of those over the years to the textile industry."

One day in 1978 I received a call from John's wife, Martha. She and John had gone out of town on business. She said: "Pat, come get me." She told Pat John had dropped dead while doing his regular morning jog.

At that time Pat was a principal in the company and a minority stockholder with John holding the majority interest. The estate trustees knew with Pat's sales and ownership that he was the most likely person to purchase the remaining shares. He did.

The business was on Murry Avenue when John passed and subsequently relocated while expanding into commercial printing. It ended up on Shockley Ferry Road in facilities vacated by Tag & Label Corporation. Tag & Label had been formed by Jerry Little of Electric City Printing Company, with Jim Smith. Jerry had sold out to Jim.

When Tag & Label moved from the Shockley Ferry Road location, it acquired a facility on West Whitner Street. Needing even greater space, they moved again. Almost every Friday evening, Jim Smith began contacting Pat to convince him to purchase their vacated Whitner Street property. Finally, Jim asked Pat: "Just make an offer." Pat did so thinking Jim would laugh the offer away. It was accepted and Attaway, Inc. moved to West Whitner Street where it remains today. Their office

is in the former home of the Appleton Mill superintendent.

With the printing industry changing, Attaway, Inc. expanded into document management, managing document inventories for companies, physically controlling their inventories, advising businesses as how to reduce costs and in some cases warehousing the stock.

A major segment of their operation became mail processing, involved with printing a piece, addressing and sorting it for direct mail. Much of it was for nonprofit organizations. For businesses in retail, they pinpoint areas by zip code surrounding the business location, providing mailing lists.

In the meantime, they have absorbed the customer base of about eight other printing companies which either lost their management or were unable or unwilling to adjust to changes in the industry. It has been a continuing evolution, including with Pat's son, Andy, the 3rd, assuming the company presidency. It is Andy who must deal with the latest evolution into artificial intelligence.

With John Attaway's flame for innovation, he would be very proud of the company today, still carrying his name constituting a trademark in the industry. He would certainly insist they carried on in the AttaWay.

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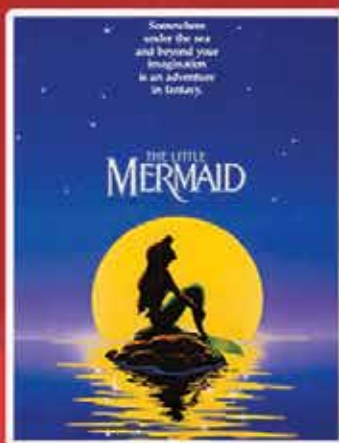
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## THE GARDEN SHOP

## JULY COMES IN DRY



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Twenty something days with no rain. Our wonderfully long spring came to an abrupt end and July has shown up hot and dry. These are the days that show benefits of a diverse garden. Some things are beyond crisp, others are pouting, and some are blooming.

Native yellow coneflowers (*Ratibida pinnata*) are in full bloom. Some sources list this variety as deer resistant. When foliage first started growing, deer were browsing them. Knocking on wood, I sprayed them with Bobbex and deer left them alone. I've repeated spraying them a

few times. Maybe deer have moved on to eating other plants, or decided they didn't like them, or it's the spray. These bright yellow pretties are now at least five feet tall. They have seeded and multiplied a bit over the years. I hope they spread more. Butterflies and hummingbirds visit them, and they are supposed to be beneficial for other pollinators.

A surprise this year from scattering seeds are Indian blanket flowers (*Gaillardia pulchella*). My favorite seeds, Earth Science, that Tractor Supply sells, gave lots of Indian blanket flowers this year. I've tried, and failed, over the years to grow gaillardia plants that are sold in nurseries. I don't recall that variety of gaillardia, but they are much shorter than Indian blanket flowers. *Gaillardia pulchella* are also native. According to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, if we have plenty of rain, they can

bloom most of the growing season. They've been blooming since late April. The site lists a common name of Firewheel. I like that better than Indian blanket flower. They are about two and half feet tall. Deer seem to pass them by. They should reseed too and hopefully there will be more in years to come. Their orange, with yellow trimmed flowers, mix in well with summer's yellow blooms. You know it's dry when black-eyed Susan's are crisp and failing to bloom. A few are managing to bloom but nothing like normal for this time of year. It wouldn't hurt my feelings if some didn't make it. They can be a bit too rambunctious sometimes. But deer don't eat them, so that's good.

A plant that never fails to bloom, no matter what the weather is bog sage (*Salvia uliginosa*). And its blue flowers are hard to come by in the plant world. A single stem has a



**Gaillardia Fire-Wheel**

bloom about six or eight inches on it. These are tall plants, at least five feet tall. Even though bog might make one think they need a wet place, they'll grow in just about any soil. It is a cousin to mint, and like mint, bog sage runs. But it is very easy to pull up. Deer don't eat it. It sways in the breeze, and even being tall, it rarely flops over. Bees love it! Bog sage is on both sides of the path in one section of the garden. It's like walking through a tunnel almost. I love it too! This fall I'm going to move some to the other side of the garden. There is a small

section in the middle. Another section at the other end will even things out nicely.

Several issues ago, coreopsis was featured in Garden Shop. These plants got a major thinning a few weeks ago. Late one evening, when it had cooled off enough that I dared venture outside, one path was practically blocked from new coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) seeding themselves. Thankfully, they pull up easily. I took those plants and dumped them into the pasture. I hope they seed themselves there. Some are blooming again in areas that got thinned.

I don't know what is attracting gold finches to the garden, but this morning when I opened the front door, gold finches flew out of the garden by the dozens. I see them on giant coneflowers (*Rudbeckia maxima*) but there is only a small patch of that in the garden. It has finished blooming and is going to seed. Gold finches visit it as soon as it starts blooming. Whatever they like, I love to see them in the garden.

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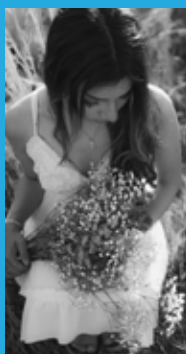
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# Husbands & Lovers by Beatriz Williams

An area of romance that I really haven't delved much into is 'historical romance.' Honestly when it comes to reading, historical anything is probably my least explored area. I have a few favorite historical fiction authors like Kate Quinn, Elizabeth Wein, and Amor Towles that I keep up with. Any other historical fiction I happen to read is almost always stumbled upon, rather than intentionally sought out, and that especially applies to historical romance.

My "stumbling" in this case was thanks to Beatriz Williams's upcoming author visit to the library on Saturday, July 13th at 11:00 am. I'm a bit ashamed that I didn't already have more familiarity with Williams given her popularity. As I do with any author event I'm planning to attend, I went to the library's digital collection to pick out one of her

titles and got to reading so I could familiarize myself with her books before her visit.



Sara Leady

Husbands & Lovers wasn't released until June 25th, so I started with *The Beach* at Summerly thanks to its lovely yellow cover. What I didn't know at the time, was that *The Beach* at Summerly and *Husbands & Lovers* (and *The Summer Wives*) are all tied to the fictional Winthrop Island off the New England coast. They just take place at different times, though you'll catch glimpses of the families and characters from the other books which adds a fun extra layer because you can see both snippets

of the future and then glimpses into the pasts you don't get in one of the other books (pro-ish tip: they do not need to be read in order).

*Husbands & Lovers* is split between two different women as they navigate love and life while having a bracelet tying their two stories together. In the present we have Mallory, an artist and single mom, who inherited the cobra shaped bracelet from her mother. Mallory's mom was adopted but was given the bracelet by her biological mother when she left her for adoption in an Irish convent. Hannah's story takes place during the tail end of WWII and into The Cold War taking place in her home country of Hungary and then Cairo. Hannah was given the bracelet as a gift from a lover right before The Cairo Fire, also known as Black Saturday, a day of

riots and looting where 750 buildings burned across the city in 1952.

Mallory's story starts in 2019 with her learning her son is in the hospital after eating a Death Cap Mushroom while away at a wilderness summer camp. Sam will survive but has permanent kidney damage which means he'll need a kidney transplant. Mallory nor her sister are matches for Sam's transplant, which leads to them delving into the family history in hopes of finding a potential donor. It's that or actually speak to Sam's father who doesn't know he exists... Oh and he's Monk Adams, a now very famous rockstar (like the dude version of Taylor Swift). When Mallory knew him, they were young and just best friends until that perfect summer on Winthrop Island in 2008 when she nannied his step-siblings and their friendship blossomed into a passionate romance. The night before they were to take a romantic road trip, Mallory runs away. Monk

doesn't know why Mallory ran that summer, but it left him shattered and heartbroken having lost his best friend and the love of his life in one go.

In 2022 Mallory begrudgingly takes a short vacation to Winthrop Island (first time back since she ran). She only reluctantly agrees to go to the island because the tabloids say Monk and his new influencer fiancé are off-island for the summer. It's a shock to everyone when Monk runs into Mallory on the beach, and then he sees Sam, who is absolutely very clearly his son (they could be twins). Slowly we unpack the history of the bracelet and how it ties Hannah to Mallory and why Mallory disappeared without saying goodbye to Monk. There are some heavier moments in both storylines, but I'd still call this a perfect beach read. You can't help but be swept up in the summer on Winthrop Island and the romance and lives of Hannah and Mallory.



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