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August 18-31, 2022

SEEK THE TRUTH

Ministry supports those struggling with addiction

"No way."

It's what people often think when they attempt to break free from addiction. "No way. I can't do it. I've tried before. It's too hard." But Genie Craft McGaha, who is part of Gethsemane Baptist Temple's Seek the Truth



Kim von Keller

addiction support ministry, has a different thought.

"There is hope," she says. "When there is no way, God makes a way!"

Helping people find that

way is the goal of Seek the Truth, a support group that meets every Monday night at Gethsemane Baptist Temple in Starr, South Carolina, less than 10 miles from downtown



Anderson. Under the direction of the late Pastor Scott Kahler, Seek the Truth began as a modest ministry seven years ago. Today, Seek the Truth's Facebook page has more than 600 followers, and the ministry hosts an average of 40 people each week who meet for a meal, a message, singing, personal testimony, and, most importantly, fellowship with others who struggle with addiction.

Genie understands that struggle on a personal level.

"I was a functional alcoholic for 14 years," she says. "I kept a job, but other than work, I drank. I missed out on a lot of my children's activities because it would cut into my time to drink. I got so bad and low down that



Genie Craft McGaha

I attempted suicide by overdose and alcohol. Praise God, I was unsuccessful. I went through a divorce because it broke my family apart because of poor decisions. Three and a half years ago, I reached out to our EAP (Employee Assistance Program) at work because I couldn't stop drinking. I went through 16 weeks of rehab, and with the help of Jesus Christ and



the support from my family and my church family, I have been sober since then. I surrendered my life to Christ in March of 2019, and he sent me a Godly husband. We just want to help others who struggle with addiction or depression."

It was Genie's husband, Russell

SEE MINISTRY ON PAGE 2

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'NAPKIN NOTES'

"People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel." —

Maya Angelou



Katie Laughridge

It's hard to believe how fast summer break has flown by. While beach vacations, family cook-outs and lazy days by the pool provided unforgettable fun and excitement, the inevitability of a new school year has once again arrived right on schedule. As a first-grade teacher, I treasure the summer months because I am blessed to spend most every day interacting with my three children. Though I love teaching and being a positive influence for my students, nothing can replace the

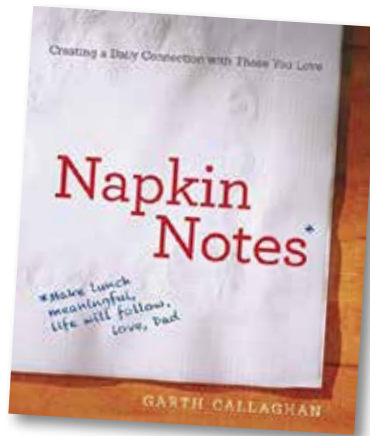
joy of creating lasting memories with my family.

As every parent knows, the end of summer also brings the chaos of dance class, cheerleading, soccer, tennis, and football team sign-ups, along with a plethora of other extracurricular activities designed for our children — not to mention the homework and school projects that consume the remainder of their time. While these are all excellent and worthwhile opportunities, trying to carve out quality time with your child during the school year can be challenging.

Several years ago, a friend shared a post with me from Garth Callaghan's Facebook page, "Napkin Notes". On his page, Garth tells the story of his daughter, Emma, and how each morning he routinely tucked a little surprise into her lunchbox. These little notes, which consisted of short, tender messages to convey his love, encouragement, and pride, eventually became known as "Napkin Notes". Depending on the specific

challenges and events Emma was currently facing, Garth crafted each note to provide just the right encouragement or support, such as "Champions keep playing until they get it right" and "What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?"

Garth initially began writing his "Napkin notes" when Emma was in elementary school, and as she grew up, his notes became more meaningful. Shortly after Emma turned twelve, Garth learned that he had kidney cancer. Determined to make his remaining time as meaningful as possible, he set out to write enough "Napkin Notes" to ensure that Emma would receive one note every day until she graduated from high school. Utilizing a compilation of these daily notes to Emma, Garth eventually published his book, "Napkin Notes: Make Lunch Meaningful, Life Will Follow," where his remarkable legacy offers a guide to help us deepen relationships with our



own children and those we love.

As we begin this new school year, consider effective ways to ensure a positive and consistent connection with your own children. Perhaps you'll be inspired to write your own "Napkin Notes" or maybe even create a great new idea of your own. If you need a few good "Napkin Note" ideas to get started, try following Garth Callaghan on Facebook, or purchase his book, "Napkin Notes: Make Lunch Meaningful, Life Will Follow", on Amazon or at your local bookstore.

Here's to a wonderful and meaningful school year for you and yours! -Katie

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Ministry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

McGaha, who took over Seek the Truth when Pastor Scott passed away unexpectedly last year. Those who attend the Monday night meetings are working through addiction to drugs, alcohol, or pornography. Some suffer from depression. Genie credits the group with helping her remain sober.

GETHSEMANE BAPTIST TEMPLE
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genie.craft@gmail.com

"It is a great support group," she says. "I am able to love and support others and show true sympathy because I have been where they are. Seek the Truth lets me stay prayed up and close to the Lord."

Seek the Truth builds a path to sobriety on three verses of Biblical scripture. The first is from Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." The second comes from 1 Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." The last is found in 1 John 4:4: "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them because greater is he that is in you

than he that is in the world." Often, the ministry continues after the meeting is over.

"Russell and I have stayed after to help listen and pray with people," Genie says. "We genuinely want to help."

While the ministry is sponsored by Gethsemane Baptist Temple, anyone is welcome to join the Monday night meetings,

which take place in the church's activity building at 6:30 p.m.

"God loves each of us," Genie says. You belong, you're loved, and you're wanted. He placed you here to have an abundant life, so please don't let the devil destroy you with addiction. We are here to help. Let Jesus break your chains of addiction!"

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VETERAN'S HALL



The Anderson County Museum is in the construction phase of our new permanent exhibit, *Andersonians in War*. Visitors will enter the exhibit through Veteran's Hall, a beautiful chamber of black granite and skylights featuring the American Flag and the Military Branch Seals of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. Once in Veteran's Hall you will see the names of Andersonians, their branch of service, rank and dates of service etched in white onto black granite. These blocks are 5" x 12" and are included in an overall panel. There will be 30 names on each panel, 24 total panels, adding up to 720 names.



Any veteran or service member who has lived in Anderson County is eligible for inclusion in Veteran's Hall.

Highlighting Anderson County heroes and our rich military history, this exhibit aims to open up new understandings of our county and state's place in national narratives. Using a diverse cross section of veterans, we will explore the experiences of local veterans as they inform and enrich our understanding of past conflicts and contribute to broader historical narratives. The study will extend to how these experiences related to ideological and social movements which preceded or resulted from them, balancing perspective among various races, genders, and classes.

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Examples of our 5" x 12" blocks: etched in white onto black granite in Veteran's Hall.



Our MISSION

The award-winning Anderson County Museum (ACM) collects, preserves and interprets artifacts that document the history of Anderson County and South Carolina.

As a collecting museum, we are the custodian of local and state history and a key element in the cultural and intellectual landscape of Upstate SC. We value education and an environment of inclusion of all ethnic groups as we broaden perspectives through our exhibits and programs. We offer opportunities for visitors to remember our shared past and promote healthy discussions about history. ACM educates diverse audiences by creating a place where visitors find meaning in learning the local, regional, and national significance of Anderson County, South Carolina and its residents.



202 East Greenville Street
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www.andersoncountymuseum.sc.gov



Learn more online about opportunities to support our new exhibit.

For more information or to make a donation, contact:

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The Friends of the Anderson County Museum is a private 501(C) 3 non-profit organization. Gifts made to the Friends of the Anderson County Museum exclusively support ACM exhibits and programs. Gifts are tax deductible as to the extent the law allows. Anderson County funds the museum's staff and the operation of its facility.

The Anderson impact of Joe Davenport

BY RICH OTTER

Joe Davenport was born in Anderson, August 19, 1933. "I may have been an accident but I don't know. When I came along my sister was 13 years older and she said I ruined her life."

His father was only 49 years old when he died, Thomas Lucas Hanna for whom T. L. Hanna High School is named lived right across the street and offered his help. "He took over like my father."

An Anderson icon shouldered blame for what Joe Davenport turned out to be. In an August 9, 2003 interview, John Gates said: "I am responsible for Joe Davenport being as he is because I dropped him when I was babysitting him."

"The first full-time job I had was with McDougald Funeral home. I stayed with McDougald probably six years. Then I went to Electric City Printing Company and stayed there three and a half to four years. I was a sales person. I had the Elberton and Anderson area."

Davenport married Betty Carlton. He credited her working "often saved us when I was between jobs and doing community work." In addition to regular employment, Betty accepted an appointment to the board of the Department of Social Services where she served for nine years. "She has been gone now for 31 years."

They initially acquired an apartment in Columbia "while I was working for Fritz Hollings. I helped every Governor from Fritz Hollings all the way through the first term of Governor David Beasley except for Donald Russell who resigned and was appointed Senator to fill the term vacated by the death of Olin D. Johnston." That period included Governors Robert McNair, John West, Jim Edwards, Dick Riley and Carol Campbell. A lot of what I was doing was in the health area. But Governor Bob McNair got me into something that I can't talk about, period. Governor John West backed it up and I was there for five years in that particular thing they had me doing."

It had been repeatedly rumored that much of what Joe Davenport did for a living was a mys-



tery. His response is: "I want it to remain a mystery." He was once reported as describing himself as a man behind the scenes.

He does admit to having been on the Health Coordinating Council for a long time where he served as its chairman. He was on the Appalachian Council of Governments for seven or eight years and served with the Appalachian Health Group. He had three terms on the Board of Visitors at the Medical University." His primary areas of service were in health care.

Most of the things Joe Davenport said he did for the governors encompassed serving on committees and keeping an eye on what others were doing. When he would get home to Anderson he would return to the Lion's Club from which he recently received his 60 year pin.

When in Anderson he always gravitated to the city fire department. He went to Atlanta for the department and helped with the purchase of new equipment. He was intensely interested in their work and a great friend of Anderson's chiefs, Bailey Maddox and Bo Gilreath.

When Pete Glenn was mayor he helped with the development of the North Main Street fire station and under Mayor Darwin Wright the new fire station replacing the main station that had been part of the city hall complex. He is recognized on the plaques at both stations.

When a member of the National Health



Council, he learned that six nursing homes for veterans were to be built around the country and submitted an application for South Carolina. Its acceptance resulted in the Richard N. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home.

When the Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric

Hospital was dedicated, Senator Strom Thurmond stated: "This place wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for Joe Davenport."

Joe and Betty Davenport were the first man and wife to have received the Order of the Palmetto.

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FINDING YOURSELF ON REALITY TV

When it comes to reality TV, my husband and I default to two very different shows. He like "Building Off the Grid," where couples who will likely end up on "Divorce Court" build homes in inhospitable environments and call on inexperienced friends to assist in their construction, all with budgets of around \$40,000. These 21st-century pioneers are always trying to finish their builds before the arrival of the snow or hurricanes, and they only mention the bathrooms quickly and in passing, as in, "ThisIsOurCompostingToilet. Let's go outside and look at those solar panels again."

I, on the other hand, am a big fan of "House Hunters International," where couples who will likely end up on "Divorce Court" search for homes overseas. One partner is

always looking for modern convenience, one is looking for local charm, their wish list is three pages long, and their budgets are around \$40,000.



Kim von Keller

These 21st-century pioneers always want American-size refrigerators but settle for foreign fridges the size of

composting toilets. Even though I enjoy the show, I've not often found myself relating to the participants who uproot their lives and move abroad, far from family and friends, often with no job or language skills. Until now.

On a recent episode, a French

woman and her American husband were moving from Chicago to France. Her wish list was quite long. Her husband, though, moving to a country where he'd never lived and having very little French to speak of, had only one requirement of their new home: He wanted to live within walking distance of a bakery, preferably two.

I believe I've found my Spirit Animal.

I have never been anywhere in my life without first getting intel on the best bakeries. (I trace this back to the years that my grandmother worked at the Belvedere Bakery on North Main Street, making me the most popular kid in school on Teacher Appreciation Day.) Prior to the Internet, it was harder to do, requiring phone calls to friends or library research. Today, all I have to

do is Google the words best bakery and my destination to know where I'll be spending most of my time and my calories.

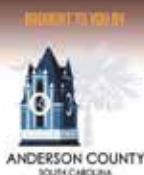
Last year, Ted and I went with some friends to Orcas Island off the coast of Seattle. We rented a little house on the water that was only a short walk to the village of Eastsound. While Ted and our friends knew of the best places to bicycle or hike or enjoy a dinner well in advance, I knew the location of Brown Bear Bakery, its menu highlights, and its opening hours. Every day, I braved the half-mile walk along a curvy stretch of road with no sidewalks to be one of the first in line for the pumpkin-cream cheese muffin, which was covered in streusel (one of the happiest words in the English language) and salted pumpkin seeds. It was the

size of a composting toilet, and I had one every day for a week. By the time we hopped on the ferry for the trip back to Seattle, I had spent \$40.00 on muffins and my jeans didn't fit right. What can I say? The heart wants what the heart wants.

I'm watching "House Hunters International" differently now. I'm no longer interested in whether the couples settle for homes near the city center or the beach or whether there's a balcony or a garden. I'm old enough to know that you can't always get everything you want. I'm looking for those brave wanderers who know that the secret to making a house a home is always having a freshly baked croissant or coffee cake within easy reach... even if you have to put up with a composting toilet.

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a bit. Seems blooms have gotten smaller over the years too. But I'm afraid to prune it because deer will eat all that new growth next year.

Two different types of crepe myrtles, Carolina Beauty and Dynamite, are really making a show. They are sort of stuck out in the middle of an area where, once again, plans changed. When the house was built, the storage building from my house in town was placed in an area that was going to have a potting bench, work area, etc. A big trellis was going to give some shade and ideas were grand. I call the storage building Blair Street Beige because it was chosen to match that house. It did not strike my fancy with current grey and silver. Crepe myrtles planted around it and Carolina jessamine on the trellis were going to hide it from the house. When the silver metal tractor shed showed up, my brother and I banished Blair Street Beige to live behind the new shed. I definitely didn't want a shed in one



Dynamite blooms

place and another one in another, even if the same color. The trellis was taken down, jessamine dug up, but the four crepe myrtles remain. And they're fine like they are.

Carolina Beauties came from Mama's. They grow big, usually about 25 feet tall and wide, have relatively good powdery mildew resistance, particularly out in the open with good air circulation, and red flowers with a slight hint of pink. Bark is smooth gray. Fall color



Fantasy bark

is usually shades of orange.

Dynamite crepe myrtles have almost true red flowers. Blooms are definitely a deeper shade than Carolina Beauty. Dynamite blooms for several months too, as does Carolina Beauty and most all crepe myrtles. Dynamite has very good powdery mildew resistance. Plus, it's a fast grower and will get almost as big as Carolina Beauty. Bark peels a bit with mostly shades of beige or gray and has fiery fall color. Most

all crepe myrtles have fantastic bark and fall color.

Fantasy crepe myrtle is inside the fence and has the best peeling bark. Memory says Fantasy is the daddy of Natchez crepe myrtle but I could not find that in my crepe myrtle document, a list from a large poster that was in the garden center at Busby Nursery. White flowers would not have been my first pick, even though they smell good, but oh that bark! It didn't bloom much this year. Japanese beetles thoroughly enjoyed it. Lots of desirable beneficials enjoy it too. It is a buzz every year with all sorts of visitors. I do not notice such activity on Carolina Beauty and Dynamite. But Fantasy is quite close to the house. There is a size and color crepe myrtle for most any garden except shade. NEVER stump them. When going down Mall Road, notice how pretty the purple crepe myrtles are. When bush hogging, a few babies have come up near Carolina Beauty and Dynamite. I cut around them to increase this pretty patch. Deer have never eaten them, nor have bucks rubbed on them. It's getting that time of year too.

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Robotics improves precision in hip replacement surgeries

BY SALINA JIVANI

On weekends when the sun is blazing bright, friends and family of Paul O'Brien, a proud resident of South Carolina, know to bypass his couch and scope out the great outdoors if they want to get ahold of him.

With a home situated on a lovely expanse of land abutting Lake Hartwell, O'Brien enjoys landscaping and gardening. He is often found on the golf course or enjoying the breeze on his boat. Most of all, he cherishes time spent knee boarding and tubing with his grandchildren, who are his pride and joy, and going hiking with his wife to the waterfalls located in the Upstate.

But in 2019, somewhere between jet skis and golf clubs, life changed for O'Brien. He began experiencing a heightened discomfort in his ankle and hip. Suddenly, lake activities came to a halt. Simple tasks like trimming bushes and mowing grass became impossible. And walking over uneven ground became painful.

After a trek to a local hospital, O'Brien was injected in both areas with stem cells and sent home. The ankle improved. The hip did not. Eventually, he was referred to AnMed Health's orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Hunter Hsu for further

evaluation, who advised him that he would be a good candidate for hip replacement.

AnMed Health had only recently started performing robotic hip replacement surgeries after astounding success with robotic knee replacements. However, at the time O'Brien was unaware that such technology even existed.

"I knew that a lot of medical procedures utilized robotics but was not familiar with when, why or how," says O'Brien. "Dr. Hsu did a great job explaining exactly what he would do and how long recovery would take."

Once O'Brien expressed interest in moving forward with the procedure, Dr. Hsu and his staff got to work. As part of customary pre-surgery protocol, they scheduled a pre-operative appointment and an informational session for O'Brien, where they not only discussed the actual surgery but every detail of what would take place from the time he arrived to a few weeks post-surgery, including the role

and significance of robotics.

"Robotics technology helps determine what size implants the patient will need, the best position for the implant, and previous surgeries that might inhibit or cause a stiff spine in certain patients, influencing the ideal position for an implant," says Dr. Hsu.

And hip replacements involve another complication: ensuring both legs are of the same length prior to performing the procedure. If not, patients could suffer from pain and discomfort later, potentially exacerbating their condition. Robotics helps ensure accuracy in that realm, too.

As a complement to the precision of robotics and to further augment success for patients, Dr.

Hsu and his team do ample prep work pre-surgery, scheduling consultations with patients, discussing a surgery game plan and staying in communication until the day of surgery—and beyond.

"If there is still a list of questions or concerns

not answered by the morning of surgery, I take that to mean we failed to do our job properly," says Dr. Hsu. "We have a process in place to ensure no stone is left unturned before surgery."

And O'Brien can attest to that. After discussing the procedure at length with Dr. Hsu and his team, he spoke with his sister, who'd had a total hip replacement the previous fall and further prepared him for what to expect. But despite all the information shared, O'Brien was completely unprepared for one thing.

"I was not prepared for how well my pain was managed post-surgery," says O'Brien. "On a scale of one to ten I never experienced anything more than a three. And after the first week, I was off all pain medication except Tylenol."

Today, thanks to Dr. Hsu and robotics technology, O'Brien reports to be pain free and has resumed his favorite pastimes with his favorite people. "I'm back to playing golf with my friends, and I'm able to enjoy the lake again with my grandkids," says O'Brien. "I'm no longer concerned with whether my hip will fail me when I step from boat to dock. Twelve weeks after surgery and I'm doing everything I was before surgery—except I'm pain free."



Dr. Hunter Hsu

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Joshua Powell is also President of the
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Anderson School District Five

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SNAKE DOCTOR

I remember being quite young and sitting on the back steps with my grandmother when I saw it land on the walkway in front of us. It had four translucent wings with a square black stripe in the middle of each. Its head was like a chrome ball and its body was thin and long like a needle. I gasped, and asked her what it was. She said, "It's a Snake Doctor".



Neal Parnell

I said, "A snake doctor, really?" She says, uh-huh, when a snake gets hurt, the snake doctor comes and fixes him up. Grandmother, you're joshin' me. "Oh no I'm not", she continued.

My daddy, your great-grandfather, told me that he saw a snake in his garden, so he used his hoe and chopped it into three pieces. He said the next day he saw that same snake in his garden sewn back together by a snake doctor. "Grandmother, is that really true?" She says, "When you see a Snake Doctor like that one, there's probably a snake close by that it's just sewn up. So, we better get back in the house."

"I went to sleep that night thinking about



that Snake Doctor, but never doubting what my grandmother had told me.

A few years later, I was standing on the bank of Broadway Lake. I looked down and saw a Snake Doctor in the still water. It was standing and inching forward on something just under the water, and its rear-end was going up and down just like a sewing machine needle. I watched for a few seconds when the memory of my grandmother's story hit me. I just knew that I was seeing a snake being sewn back together, but I wasn't going to stick around to see the complete recovery and skeddaddled out of there.

Those last two events happened around sixty years ago. Let me now fast forward to the scorching summer of what is now 2022. Just out my back door is a small patio with



an umbrella table and a couple of cushioned chaise lounges. Beside the patio is a flower bed. A few days ago, I was digging there when I encountered a three-foot long copperhead. Adrenaline kicked in and I instinctively jabbed it with my shovel and sliced it into pieces. I scooped up the remains and tossed them into the overgrown brush on the side of the house.

The next day, I was looking out my back

door when I saw a Snake Doctor land on one of the chaise cushions. I watched as it laid perfectly still with its four wings spread in the sun. Out of the corner of my eye something moved. I turned my head to the motion and saw a three-foot copperhead slithering away. My eyes were wide as I looked back at the chaise to see the Snake Doctor flutter away to the next patient.

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CHARMING CHARLESTON

I've spent a lot of my life in Charleston SC.

I lived there as a toddler and moved back to the upstate as a child. Then in my teens my parents bought a beach house. Well, it's actually on the intercoastal waterway which to me is even more magical in a sense.



Kristine March

There is so much history. Some of it hauntingly beautiful. And, of course there is that ugly part of Charleston, but we have overcompensated the raw, unpleasant narrative into lovely

memories instead, but we certainly never forget and should honor it.

There is an old ice house on our property towards the nature trail where ships used to bring in salt and cured meats. It's still standing. The place feels like a second home to me now and I've watched my son grow up there and swim in the salt water pool and fish on the dock of

the Wando River. Memories with my sister and brother-in-law that are unforgettable, hilarious and precious. Stunning meals made by my dad and husband in their little man cave in the basement, where we have low country boils and grill outside overlooking the waterway.

My mom decorated the place like an interior designer for Architecture Digest or some sort of Faded Glamour By The Sea magazine all by herself. She is very humble about it. Music plays nonstop on an old radio and we dance and laugh and make frozen drinks. When you get there, you don't really want to leave the property, but Charleston restaurants and boutiques often force a calling to your soul because everything is exceptionally curated. You have to spend at least one day doing so and being a tourist. Plus, we love our good old trusty Folly Beach. Basking in the hot sun all day, then stopping by Bert's Market before coming home to our little slice of Heaven.

Nature alone makes you just want to sit on the back screened porch and

not move. You see stunning white snowy egret flying over the skyline and sweet little deer that come up super close. Hummingbirds, tree frogs and even the occasional raccoon. The air smells like pine straw and salt and is heavy and humid, but eventually you get used to it. Well, sort of. I don't think I will ever get used to southern, summer heat. The nights are quiet besides the occasional fireworks display, the old wooden docks go on for miles, as do the stars. Boating is my favorite part of it all, yet I'm far too timid to actually jump off the dock and swim like the guys do.

It's honestly a time to reflect and really take in all the family love. I've come to the conclusion that what really makes a place a home is the people that are in it. As summer comes to an end, it makes you feel nostalgic and almost sad in a sense. Those moments are so vital and we have named it our happy place. What are some of your favorite beach memories? Here's to making many more with your families. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and be kind.

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FROM THE SHELF

The Dead Romantics

by Ashley Poston

Remember when I decided I'd go on an intentional romance kick so I'd be a better fiction orderer for the library? Yeah, me and



Sara Leady

my TBR remember too, and we apologize for yet another romance review but y'all, it's so good!

Before you skip this review, hear me out.

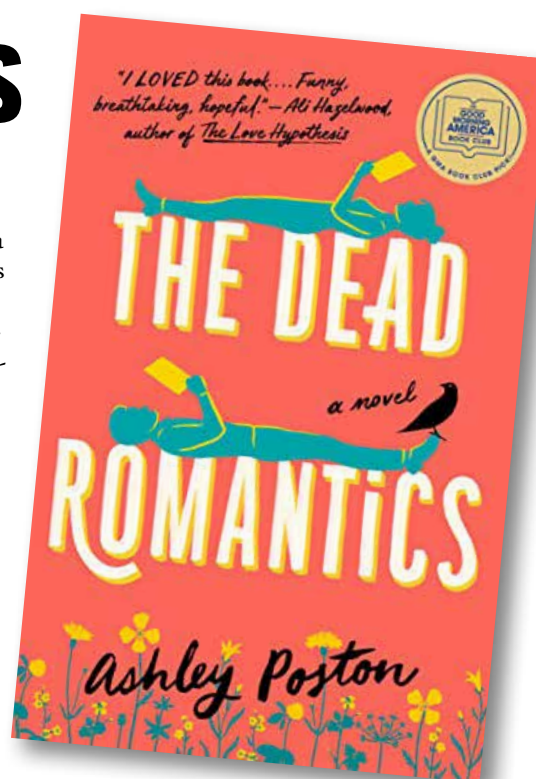
The Dead Romantics is Ashley Poston's adult debut, and she's an SC writer, so really you should keep reading to

support SC natives and all that jazz. Plus, it's more than just a romance, it's a love letter to books and a deep dive into the layers of grief.

The Dead Romantics focuses on ghost-writer Florence Day, who writes for a prolific romance author. The trouble is, Florence is still recovering from a bad breakup and thinks

romance is dead, therefore she absolutely cannot write a romance novel. Going in for a meeting with a brand-new editor, Florence is hoping she can convince them to give her an extension, or even better, let her write something that's not a romance, like a gritty thriller or something. Her overly handsome new editor is having absolutely none of it. Not only does he expect another stellar romance, he expects it on the date it's due, which is in just a few days, and of course she can't tell the tall-drink-of-water that she hasn't really started it...

Stewing in her predicament, Florence gets the call that her father has died, and she must return home for the first time in ten years to help lay him to rest. Florence's anxiety over the book naturally shifts to going home, which she's avoided because she's sort of a town pariah. A fun Florence fact is that she can see ghosts, and when she was young, she helped a ghost identify their killer. So, while heroic, you can see how a town might find it weird. Her father, however, never found it weird, as he too could



the door to the most delicious ghost she's ever had on her front stoop—Ben, her new editor. Florence and her father have always assumed part of their seeing the ghosts is to help them move on by completing whatever unfinished business they have that's keeping them there. Florence assumes Ben's business is to help her finish the book, but maybe, just maybe, Ben's business is to help Florence fall in love with writing and romance novels again.

I know it sounds like I'm setting you for a ghostly Hallmark movie, but there's seriously some really fantastic meat to this story. Poston, who was going through her own grief while writing, really delves into grief and the different ways it manifests in our lives. Not only is Florence grieving her father (the obvious one), she's grieving a past relationship and all the hope and potential of that love that's been lost. As she and Ben work through the issues with her novel, Florence is able to work through her grief of her father, grief of losing her passion for romance novels, and grief of her lost love. If all that doesn't sell you, it's got several starred reviews, has hit the bestseller lists, and was even featured on Good Morning America. Oh, and did I mention it's even set in the upstate? Just another reason to dive into The Dead Romantics. I promise it's to die for, pun intended.

see ghosts. Which was both handy and disconcerting considering that her family, led by her father, runs a funeral home.

Florence is at home arguing with her family when the doorbell rings, and she opens



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Stop, look and listen

BY ANN BAILES

Stop, look, and listen — the typical way to check for safety, either crossing a street or watching for a train. It used to be so well known that anyone over a certain age remembers all kinds of songs and movies using that phrase. Well, I am going to do a little stopping, looking, and listening of a different kind this morning.

The morning sun is merciless, and I'm taking a break from picking blueberries under that blazing sky. I'm sitting on the deck of our farm property, drinking a diet drink, and just watching what is going on around me.

A huge dragonfly perches on a nearby bush. My seventh graders would have loved this for their bug

collections. But today I'm watching, not catching.

Several kinds of birds fly into the blueberry patch as soon as I'm absent from it. A cardinal swoops into the bushes but doesn't stay long. And a Carolina wren finds its way in and out. A mockingbird perches on a top branch and surveys the surroundings, then flies off, probably sensing I am close by. I suspect that most of the berries I find that have little marks in them have probably been found first by that mocker.

I see motion underneath the bushes. It's a squirrel, probably a very young one, based on its size and fearful way of movement. It finds its way out and disappears.

Behind me, I hear noise. A chipmunk, who does know I am there,

wants to get away before this threat causes it any problems. It stays close to the siding of the barn before darting behind the propane tank where I can't see it.

An eastern phoebe finds its way to the clothesline strung at the end of the deck. This bird used to have a nest under the eave and probably still feels at home there.

I haven't yet seen the little lizards that usually poke their way around. Once I was picking berries while sitting on a railroad tie by the bushes, and one in a hurry ran along the tie and right into me! That little lizard was scared to death.

Sometimes the lizard that passes by is a classic chameleon that changes color and flares its neck tissue out bright red. But sometimes it's a dark



blue skink with white racing stripes down its body. Wait — here comes one. It's feeling very much at home while making its way down the front edge of the deck.

Well, the winter blueberry pies

and crisps are calling my name, and it's time to get back to the berries. I enjoyed this break on this hot day. The details of nature pop out with a little time and observation. Stop, look, and listen.

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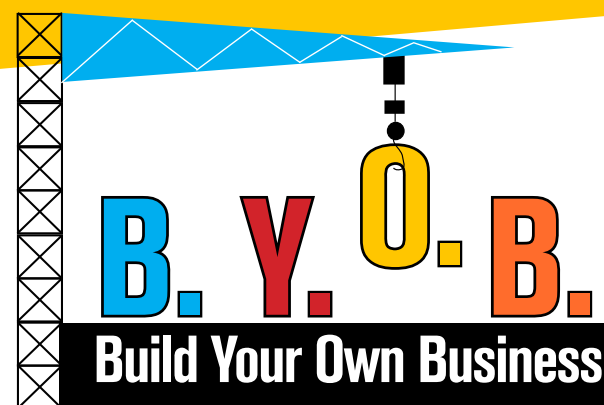
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TL Hanna Yellow Jackets looking to reload after finishing 10-2 last season

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — You'd be hard pressed to find a high school football team that lost more than T.L. Hanna did from its 10-2 2021 campaign, and yet the Yellow Jackets seem likely to be another top contender in Class 5A again if only because of the culture built by head coach Jason Tone over the last four years.

Starting on the offensive side of the ball, the Jackets will have to replace Jay Dillard at quarterback, but they have a ready-made heir in Kenny Fretwell. While Dillard took command of the offense last fall, Fretwell was no stranger to the field, splitting time with Dillard and performing admirably in his stead.

Quarterback isn't the only position

in the backfield where the Jackets will have to turn to a new starter, as nearly every back with substantial yardage last season was lost to graduation.

The good news for Hanna is that hope isn't completely lost at the position, with Vashun Burton back to make waves again after standing out as a sophomore. Junior Josh Donald is also a runner to watch in an option offense that will spread the carries around, alongside fullback Tyler Ethington.

The Jackets aren't known to throw the ball much, but they still have some weapons at wide receiver in TJ Brownlee and Joquan Morgan.

Up front, Hanna will need a big push from its offensive line, with Zack Ramsey being a name to watch. On the defensive line, Ramsey and Ezekiel Carroll could pose issues for opposing defenses as pass rushers. At linebacker, Ethington should provide a stable presence alongside



junior Jake Curtis and senior Omari Spencer as the Jackets look to replace the standout play of Fletcher Cothran. In the secondary, Jaylon Boles, Tehran Cole, Will Epps and Nasque Norris could all be difference makers in a revamped group.

At the kicking position, Walker Broome seems poised to handle duties. After finishing up the preseason with a jamboree performance against Alcovy High School (Ga.), The Yellow Jackets will begin the regular season on Friday, Aug. 19, at home against Boiling Springs. After their matchup with the Bulldogs, the Jackets will travel to Greenville High School to take on the Red Raiders on Aug. 26.

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WESTSIDE RAMS

Despite region championship a season ago, Westside aiming higher in 2022

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — There's no denying that the Westside Rams had higher hopes than a 6-5 season in 2021, but even with the disappointment, the Rams took home a region championship.

Now, a season later, Westside seems to have plenty of firepower on the offensive side of the ball as it prepares for a tougher region slate.

At quarterback, the Rams will have to replace the talented Pete Zamora, but they seem to have found their answer in Eastside transfer Cutter Woods. Just a sophomore, Woods threw for 827 yards and seven touchdowns last season for the Eagles and holds an offer from Georgia Tech.

In the backfield, Westside has one of the strongest backs in the state in Hunter Puckett. Puckett, who moonlighted as a defensive end last fall, ran for nearly 700 yards and 14 touchdowns alongside Amir Dendy in 2021.

The receiving corps for the Rams is also an exceptional group, led by junior wideout Jimmar Boston. Boston is arguably one of the best receivers in

the Upstate after putting up 606 yards and eight touchdowns last fall, and he should get plenty of help from Joshua Williams, who led the Rams in receiving two seasons ago as a freshman. On the offensive line, the Rams are expected to have a stout group of maulers with Nick Hatten and Justin Williford standing out. On the defensive front, AJ



Williams returns and will look to help the Rams control the line of scrimmage after picking up six TFLs and three sacks last season.

At linebacker, Westside will miss the play of KT Perry, but Titus Crisler, the Rams' second-leading tackler in 2021, is back and expected to lead the group, while Nore Belton could build off a strong campaign last fall.

In the secondary, KD McGowan and Zeke Curry should cause problems for opposing passers alongside Boston and Williams.

At kicker, Bola Gil hopes to build on a promising freshman campaign. The Rams will have week 0 off before hosting Belton Honea-Path for their first game on Aug. 26.

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