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Ready for action

AU football set to kick off first season

Are you ready for some Trojan football? It's almost here. In the Electric City there is a new buzz in town as Anderson University will field its first ever football team.

At the helm will be long time college coach Bobby Lamb. Previous to being hired as the first ever head football coach of the Trojans, Coach Lamb had coached at Furman University in Greenville, SC both as assistant and head coach from 1986 - 2010.

In January 2011 Coach Lamb became head coach of the Mercer Bears after the sport's 72 year absence from campus. Coach Lamb left that position in 2019.

Kickoff of the inaugural game is set for September 7 at 1:00 PM versus the St.

Andrews Knights from Laurinburg, NC.

The Anderson University football stadium is where the baseball field was for many years which was the venue of the American Legion baseball team. A state of the art fieldhouse has been built beside the football field.

In conversation with Coach Lamb we discussed the things which would bring success to the program. One is involvement in the community. After being hired in 2021 he spent six to eight months meeting people and helping raise money for the football program. Coach Lamb was successful and gives much credit to the fact he was aided and supported by Anderson University's great administration. He has also

SEE FOOTBALL ON PAGE 2

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FROM THE SHELF

On Ron Rash

Let's talk about Ron Rash. I'm sure as readers, and South Carolinians, you're all familiar with minimally his name if not his works. I took the plunge with Rash thanks to the library landing a coveted author visit with him on Thursday, September 5th



Sara Leady

at 6:00 pm at the Main Library in downtown Anderson.

I knew Rash had been compared to aspects

of Faulkner, and that he wrote both modern and historical stories unique to the Southern Appalachian region. I also had surmised that his stories, much like the region they reflect, were gritty, and while often tragic, maintained underlying elements of triumph (though maybe not always your standard definition of triumph).

As a transplant originally from Colorado, and then from Seattle, I'll admit to an initial misunderstanding of the reality of Southern Appalachian history

and culture. Oftentimes the region is represented as devastatingly poor, ill-educated, and at best, trapped in the backward past.

Definitely harsh words coming from what I imagine are people who have never actually spent more time than it takes to pump gas in the region. It is an undeniable fact that the region thrives on grit, self-reliance, and despite any challenge (or maybe in actual spite of), the spirit of the Appalachian people cannot be broken.

I think it is this spirit that often leads many to attempt to write about or represent this region, but without actual true experience and immersion in it I find that these imposters almost always fail. Originally of South Carolina, Rash not only has lived on the outskirts of or within Southern Appalachia boundary lines, he's also a cele-



brated professor of Appalachian Cultural Studies. Maybe it's the academic in me making me biased, but the fact that he's not only lived the experience of Southern Appalachia, but he's also immersed himself in an academic study of it, adds weight to the authenticity of his representation of the area.

Rash's latest, *The Caretaker*, like most of his works revolves around themes of family and friendship and the ties that bind us together. Set in the mountains of North Carolina post The Great Depression, but in the early stages of the Korean War, *The Caretaker*, finds its roots in love and the lengths we'll go to in the name of it. Jacob Hampton gives up his inheritance for Naomi, a young girl whom his parents do not approve of because of her country roots. When Jacob is conscripted to Korea, he tasks Blackburn Gant with keeping an eye on Naomi who is newly pregnant. Blackburn cares for the town cemetery and limits his interactions with the

townsfolk that treat him differently due to his physical appearance, having suffered permanent effects from polio as a child.

I'd say tragedy strikes, sending everyone on new paths, except that I would argue the true tragedies are along the new paths the characters are sent down after a catalyst event. The love each character and their families have for them are tested as time marches on. While set in a small town and thus driven by typical behaviors for small towns, the lush backdrop of Southern Appalachia guides the story in directions that could only be achieved because of the unique culture and atmosphere of the mountains of North Carolina.

I haven't made it far into Rash's catalog, but thus far there feels to be some ambiguity to the morality or "goodness" of each character. This brings an added raw and realistic element to the characters because their flaws make them more relatable. Whether he's writing historically or in a contemporary setting, you may not agree with their decisions, but you understand the whys and motivations behind each one of them. It is these factors on top of Rash's clear love for the land that I think bring authenticity to his portrayal of Appalachians and the region.

RED ROCKET PUBLISHING OF ANDERSON, LLC PUBLISHERS

Julie Bailes Johnson
864-221-9269
julie@theelectriccitynews.com

Ginny Bailes Fretwell
864-934-1477
ginny@theelectriccitynews.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Becky Pruitt
864-367-2102
beckypru@aol.com

LAYOUT/DESIGN

ART DIRECTOR
Zack Mauldin
zack@upstatetoday.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Nate Thomason
signal43@live.com

WRITERS

Neal Parnell
dnparn@gmail.com

Rich Otter
ottwill@bellsouth.net

GARDEN & FLORAL
Susan Temple
gardningirl@yahoo.com

MENTAL HEALTH
Mary-Catherine McClain Riner
drmarycatherine@rinercounseling.com

FASHION
Kristine March

SPORTS
Neal Parnell

COLUMNISTS
Kim Acker Von Keller
Katie Laughridge
Ann K. Bailes
Sara Leady
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Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

assembled a very good coaching staff.

As far as talent, along with having quite a few freshmen, twenty two players have transferred in to the Trojan's program with playing experience on the college level.

Naturally success is based on how the team performs on year one. With that in mind, the players and staff live by a slogan known as the Trojan Triangle - Love, Serve, & Compete. The coach also says success is based on two factors. One is playing at home before a hometown fan base and second winning your first game.

His first game as head coach at Mercer was a game Mercer won on a last second field goal by a score of 40 to 37. Let's all hope AU can win their first game in convincing fashion without having to win on the last play of the

game. Their inaugural season should be one of success. They do, however, play Lenoir Rhyne the last game of the season. The contest is not only a conference game but the Bears are

ranked #13 in the nation in NCAA Division 2 rankings. Let's all come out in support of the Anderson University Football Trojans during their first year of football.

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KESTREL FOR THE WIN

On a sweltering August afternoon, I made the rather misguided decision to see if anything could be found on the backroads out in the Townville area – often a very productive area for all



Ann K. Bailes

kinds of wildlife viewing. But not on this day. Even out there, wild-life mostly stays hidden on these miserably hot afternoons.

I did see a great blue heron and a white egret in the backwaters of a creek on Gaines Road, back behind a sternly stated sign: “Beaver Habitat! Do Not Disturb!” The heron flew away as I approached; the egret didn’t seem to care who was passing by.

I also heard several indigo buntings singing loudly in the same area. They appear to like the heat and humidity enough to sing, but not enough to pop out where I could see their iridescent royal blue color.

At the ponds near the Dobbins farm, I saw very little bird life – but in all three of the pond overlooks I saw turtles sunning themselves on rocks. Turtles must like oppressively hot weather.

I finally called it a day and started back to town, but decided to try Prater Gin Road right before quitting. An osprey nest on a high platform watches over the countryside on that open country road, and various other birds can often be seen flying about. Not much today, though. Too hot. Then – a speedy and strong flash of brown shot past the front of

my car. It was a bird about the size of a mourning dove, but it moved with the determination and power of a hawk species. The fast flyer landed on a wire close enough to the road that I could get a glimpse of it, both with binoculars and camera.

It was a female American kestrel, the smallest of all the falcons in North America. I could tell it was a female because the body was primarily brown – a male would have had more slate blue on its wings. But that mustache appearance (two black slashes on its slate blue head) was a giveaway that it was a kestrel. And it was in open country, its most common habitat. High on a wire surrounded by fields is a perfect spot for it to hunt insects and other small prey, and that’s where kestrels can almost always be found.

These compact but fierce birds



live year-round across most of the United States, including our area. I’ve seen them on the roads out near Townville many times. They may not be as large or as strong as merlins or peregrines, which are other falcons in the same family, but kestrels are still strong flyers that are fairly easy to see in the fields.

And they, along with turtles, apparently are not bothered by stifling, humid, South Carolina afternoon heat. More power to them. I went on home to my air conditioning.

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL FASHION

I can't believe school is already back in session. Summer goes by swiftly when you're having fun. This year I have a junior in high school and still cannot wrap my head around it. He loves style and clothes just like I do so it can be a bit challenging finding the perfect outfits for the occasion.



Kristine March

We all know and remember how high school can be somewhat of a tough crowd. I think it's extremely important for our children to have a good self-esteem. I also think we have to be realistic when it comes to shopping for particular items that can break the bank. Firstly, get your student a

good backpack. One that can literally last their entire school or high school career. It is made by The North Face. It's durable, holds the perfect amount of books and laptop and it's super easy to clean. The Surge backpack from their collection, is unisex and comes in a vast array of colors. It's also comfortable on their shoulders because we all know how heavy some of those books can get at the end of the day. The cost is right at 140\$, so it will save you money for other things on your list.

Next is a good pair of shoes. It's still hot outside so go for something light and airy. My son's high school is huge and I can only imagine how many miles he walks a day. Adidas makes a great style called The Gazelle. It's sharp and looks great with anything. You can dress them up or down and they come in twenty-five different colors and designs. They're also right at 130\$ so they're affordable and will last.

For shirts, shorts and pants H & M is always my go to for teens and children. You can get their whole wardrobe there for hardly anything. They have great styles for everyone to choose from and the material is actually really good and does well in the washer and dryer. Sometimes affordable things can shrink and aren't well made but H&M is my handy go to. They have loosely printed tees, polos and hoodies, and sweatshirts for 20\$. They're having a great sale right now as we speak. Three items for 12\$. They also have tons of accessories like sunglasses and other stylish but and bobs. You can't beat that. It's also perfectly on trend so your child will feel cool, calm and collected. We all know how picky they can be so it's definitely mutually beneficial for you and your kiddos.

So, this year make it easy, affordable and stress free for back-to-school shopping. You also can spread out your shopping days. Remember to stick with the season. You don't have to buy fall attire until it's really on sale, plus it is far too hot right now so take it slow. Comfort is key. Give your students the self-confidence and assurance they deserve this year and sneak in a big hug if they'll let you. Remember to always make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. Happy Back To School, Y'all!

Defense is the best offense

BY RICH OTTER

It has often been quoted in sports that the best offense is a good defense. The reverse is also applicable, particularly regarding law enforcement. For officers as well as those apprehended, a good defense may be the difference between the need for an offense in a possible life or death situation.

Defense by law enforcement officers has many faces. The officer's uniform itself may help calm a situation and officers are now carefully trained in the use of de-escalation procedures—how to bring about a resolution through discussion and reason.

Anderson Sheriff Chad McBride has mentioned his office has had to develop more and greater defensive weaponry and equipment to be able to match what now is encountered on the street. Such armored protective equipment in Anderson may have had its initial appearance in the county a number of years ago when city and county protectors encountered an individual holed up in his home, shooting wildly, including at officers called to the scene.

It so happened the first reaching the shooter's home were patrolmen Louie Brock and Jim Burris. Brock happened to be the owner of Anderson Armored Car Service. He quickly had an armored car brought to the scene and, being equipped with a teargas gun, approached the combatant's home under that vehicle's protection.

The culprit suddenly flushed from the house with shotgun blazing and



Brock, teargas gun, Anderson armored car

three pistols in his possession, charging the assembled officers. It is not known if it was the advancing armored vehicle or just his lunacy that brought him out. He did not survive the charge to answer the question.

The sheriff's office now is equipped with a specially designed armored SWAT vehicle with room for a number of officers and equipment available to handle such incidents. It is certainly intimidating in itself and hopefully would be a deterrence to avoid serious intervention.

Helpful now are drones. They are very effective in search and rescue, including with heat-seeking equipment, to locate lost or hiding parties. They can also assist in a situation of a person lodged in a building.

Drones have the ability to enter a structure to seek out an individual. They can absorb a beating and be able to send back pictures and information that would otherwise endanger the life of an investigating officer. A drone's presence in itself

may be sufficiently unsettling to a barricaded party to precipitate a surrender or show that the individual has been rendered harmless.

K-9 partners have been invaluable. No matter how tough a person encountered may think he is, he may not want to take his chances with a dog.

Sheriff's deputies are equipped with all of the modern accessories weighing them down, ranging from their regular armament and protection gear through communication equipment. Often their greatest defense is what they receive from 911 operators who can become law enforcement's first line. Their training and electronic equipment allows them to collect information from callers and anticipate danger officers are to encounter before they reach a scene.

Backup comes through emergency services and specialized personnel such as SWAT, experienced personnel with hazardous materials and devises, and crisis negotiation experts.

In the background may also be the detention center. Unfortunately many of the parties arrested are repeat offenders. Their prior experiences may have a great influence as to how they respond. The new detention facilities under construction will have very extensive programs to help minimize repeat offenders through training and rehabilitation opportunities.

In any situation, it is unknown what will control, but every effort is being made to minimize danger for both law enforcement personnel and those encountered.



Anderson County Sheriff's Office SWAT vehicle

TL HANNA INDUCTS 5 INTO HALL OF FAME

The T. L. Hanna High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is happy to announce the 2024 inductees to the school's prestigious group of players, coaches, and others who have made great contributions to its athletic program over the years. The TLH Athletic Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony will be held at Hanna on October 4, 2024, the same night as the TLH vs. Hillcrest football game. The following former athletes and coach will be inducted:

Christina Leverette McCowan (Track, 1987-1991)

Christina was an outstanding track star at T. L. Hanna. She began her track career in 7th grade and continues throughout middle and high school. She was All-Region in 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991. She was S.C. State Champion in the 100 meter hurdles in 1987, 1988, 1990, and 1991. She was also S.C. State Champion in the 300 meter hurdles in 1991. She holds the TLH school record in the 100 and 300 meter hurdles. She was on the All-State



Track Team for six consecutive years.

Phillip Mollica (Golf, 2001-2005)

Phillip was an outstanding golfer at T. L. Hanna. He was a member of the Varsity team from his 7th grade year to his Senior year in 2005. During his tenure at TLH, he achieved four national rankings. In 2003, he was ranked the



#1 Junior and received the Jay Haas Player of the Year Award as the highest ranked junior in the state of South Carolina. He received a golf scholarship to Clemson University in 2005. During his college career he won the North-South Amateur in 2007 and was a two-time winner of the Monroe Invitational. In 2008, he was named to the Ping-All Region Team. Phillip was a three-time U.S. Amateur participant and was a quarterfinalist in 2009.

Jake Nicolopoulos (Football, 2001-2005)

Jake was a four-year letterman at T. L. Hanna. In 2007, he was All-Region 1-AAAA Sophomore linebacker and TLH Varsity MVP on Defense; 2008 All-Region 1-AAAA Junior linebacker;

and SCVarsity.com Junior All-State Football team (first team defense).



In 2007, he led the team with 146 tackles and in 2008, he had 124 tackles. Though he primarily was a linebacker during his tenure at TLH, he also played tight end and punter. He was ranked the #16 linebacker in the nation by ESPN.com; #18 player in South Carolina by Super Prep; All-Atlantic Region player by Super Prep; and #26 inside linebacker in the nation by Rivals.com. Jake received a football scholarship to attend Clemson University.

Caitlin Robinson (Soccer, 2005-2008)

Caitlin played soccer for TLH from 2005 and 2008. In 2005, she scored 39 goals and had 12 assists. She was #2 in AAAA in scoring. In 2006, she scored 37 goals and 12 assists. The team won the Region 1-AAAA, with Hanna winning 19 matches and progressing to the third round in the playoffs. In 2007, she scored 46 goals and 10 assists. She led the state



in scoring. In 2008, she scored 40 goals (most in AAAA) and 14 assists. For the 4th year in a row, she led the state in scoring. She was three-time Region 1-AAAA Player of the Year; four-time All-Region and All-Area selection; and four-year All-State selection. She was Anderson Independent Mail All-Area Player of the Year in 2005 and 2006. She was twice selected as SC's "Super 22" best players in the state. She was named "Most Valuable Player" for the SC team in the Clash of the Carolinas All-Star Senior game with NC vs. SC. She had 161 goals (which is still #2 in the state record books) in her career and 46 assists. She signed a scholarship to USC Upstate.

Terry Honeycutt (Coaching 1986 - 2020)

Terry is a graduate of T. L. Hanna (1975), where he played football. He began his coaching career in 1986 and coached until his retirement, a total off 34 years. He also taught at TLH for 33 years. He coached six different sports: Football (JV Head Coach and Varsity Assistant);



Basketball (JV Head Coach); Baseball (JV Head Coach, Varsity Assistant, Varsity Head Coach); Wrestling (Varsity Head Coach); Girls' Track (Varsity Assistant); Boys' Golf (JV Head Coach); and Girls' Golf (Varsity Head Coach). He was six-time Region Coach of the Year (2003, 2004, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019). He led Girls' Golf to six Region Championships and led them to six Top Five and 10 Top Ten finishes in the highest classification. He was named 2016 North/South All-Star Assistant Coach and 2017 North/South All-Star Head Coach.

"We honor these Hanna athletes and coach for their great accomplishments and the recognition and pride they have brought to the school. They continue to serve as role models for hard work, perseverance, and pride for their Alma Mater," states Chairman Dr. Sheila Finley Hilton. The T. L. Hanna Athletic Hall of Fame committee consists of the following members: Chuck Allen, Tommy Bell (Athletic Director), Anthony Galloway, Derek Hamby, Glendale Hill, Dr. Sheila Hilton (Chair), Terry Honeycutt, Brantley Isom, Wayne Jones, Walter Mayfield (Principal), and Chuck Parker.

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The Wild Robot

I can't believe we are just finishing up our first week of school. Now that students are back in school, we are back to daily reading



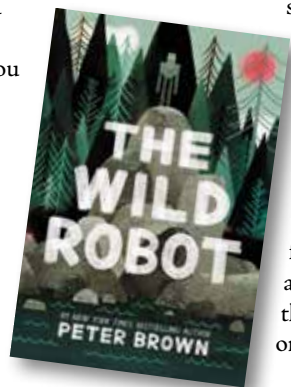
Katie Laughridge

logs and expectations. Many of our students will receive reading logs in the days to come while some of them will be asked to read for "20 minutes each night." If you are like us, I'm always looking for a book to encourage all of the children in my life to read!

Last weekend we took our four year old to see Despicable Me 4. While we were watching the previews, I saw a trailer for The Wild Robot and it really intrigued me. A robot...in the wilderness...trying to survive... with animals. I later decided to buy the book to read to my students (and kids). I thought I could use the excitement of a new movie

coming out to encourage them all to read! It's much more exciting to read a book leading up to the movie than to read a book after you've seen the movie.

I began to read some background information about this book and learned that this book is actually a #1 New York Times best-selling novel. The book summary explained that after the robot discovers she's all alone on a remote and wild island, her mysterious past comes back to haunt her. How interesting! I also learned that there are more books in this series by Peter Brown: The Wild Robot Escapes and The Wild Robot Protects.



Two days later, we started reading it and we are already on Chapter 20! It's perfect and it "checks all the boxes." The kids are reading for 20 minutes each day, they are motivated to read, and they can write their pages read on their reading logs.

Can a robot survive in the wilderness? What happens when nature and technology collide? What is in her "mysterious past?" Let's read to find out! (The Wild Robot premieres September 27, 2024, at your local theatre.)

GOOD TO KNOW

Color WOW Root Coverup

BY MELISSA BROWN

Now, here's a product that is specifically advertised for women but I think it might be of interest to men as well.

Color WOW Root Coverup is a temporary hair coloring powder that brushes on seamlessly to camouflage grey and thinning spots. Its reflective mineral consistency is applied with a brush (included) to create a multidimensional natural look. It comes in 8 different shades, covering the gambit of hair tones.

I use it daily in spots along my hairline and it instantly gives me the appearance of a fuller head of hair! (And although the company does not advertise this, I read in some of their reviews that it can also be used to fill out sparse eyebrows.)

Root Coverup is not sticky or waxy but it is waterproof. You can even swim with it on! It won't smear or smudge and it won't come off until you shampoo your hair.

The cost of Coverup is \$34.50 which might sound a bit pricy until you consider that it lasts an average of 6 months (not to mention that it can stretch out time between hair appointments).

You can find this and more great products at www.colorwowhair.com.



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SPOTLIGHT ON ANNIE SUTTON

BY ROSIE THOMPSON

We're back for our next edition of the caryatid article. For review, a caryatid is a sculpted female figure used in ancient Greek architecture. They were integral to the foundation of the grandiose structures of the time. Like these sculptures, the women we highlight each edition are integral to the foundation of Anderson.

Our third foundational caryatid?

Annie Sutton.

Annie is currently the director of the Anderson County Library System. She has held this position for three years, but has been employed at the library for nearly eighteen years. Annie obtained her undergraduate degree in English as well as a graduate degree in Library and Information Science from Indiana University. Post grad, Annie moved to Anderson for a job as a reference librarian in 2006. She currently resides in Anderson with her two rescue pups. We sat down with Annie for a Q&A. Here's what we found out:

Tell us about a 'day in the life' as a librarian. What does a typical day look like for you?

This is difficult to nail down because it all depends on projects we are working on, programs we have going on, and outreach activities we have planned that affect my day. So far today, I've signed invoices for payment, worked on several reports, sent a lot of email, filmed a small segment for social media, placed books on hold for a book club, and had two meetings. As the director, I oversee the major operations of the library including finance, HR, maintenance, and marketing. That means that some times of the year are busier with one thing or another. For example, early in the year, we are working on budgeting and financial planning for the next fiscal year. Additionally, every few years we work on strategic planning and create goals the library will seek to achieve over the course of three years. I would say my strength lies in this area - I'm a big picture person.

My love for libraries started when I was kid. My parents took us all the time and I'm fortunate to be able to work at a place that I believe is a crucial part of our community. I truly believe the library is for everyone and that we have something for everyone. We work hard to evolve to meet the needs of our growing community and I'd encourage anyone who hasn't visited in a while to come by and check us out - and make sure your library card is active!

What are some things you enjoy doing outside of the library walls?

I love hiking and being outdoors. I have a love of our National Parks - if you see me, ask me about my trip to Alaska last year to see the brown bears in Katmai! I enjoy staying fit and attend Crossfit classes at the AAYMCA four to five days a week. I'm also very involved in Rotary, United Way, and other service organizations. I foster dogs from PAWS whenever I am able to do so.

Reading, visiting breweries with friends, and playing board games are just a few of the things I love!

What are some things you enjoy about the Anderson community?

I absolutely love our downtown area. It has evolved tremendously since I've lived here with wonderful restaurants, breweries, the Arts Center, Market Theatre and shops. Another thing I really love about Anderson is that if you get involved, you will find your niche, and your people, here. When I first moved here almost 18 years ago, I didn't know a soul. It wasn't long before I started to feel at home. We have a wide range of people with varied interests, hobbies, and beliefs - and I see that as a real strength of Anderson.

Who are some women that you look up to? Why?

There are so many hard working women in our area who prioritize our community every day. I admire them, feel lucky to know, and occasionally even work beside these women: Carol Burdette with United Way, Juana Slade at Anmed, Dr. Sanders at PAWS, Beth Batson with City of Anderson, Cara Hamilton at Tri County Tech, Zoe Hale at Hope Mission, and so many others that I can't begin to name them all. The library also had a wonderful previous director in Faith Line. I learned so much from her and still call on her when I need advice to this day. I wouldn't be where I am today without the mentorship of so many wonderful women.

If you had to sum up your 'philosophy' on life in

one phrase, what would it be?

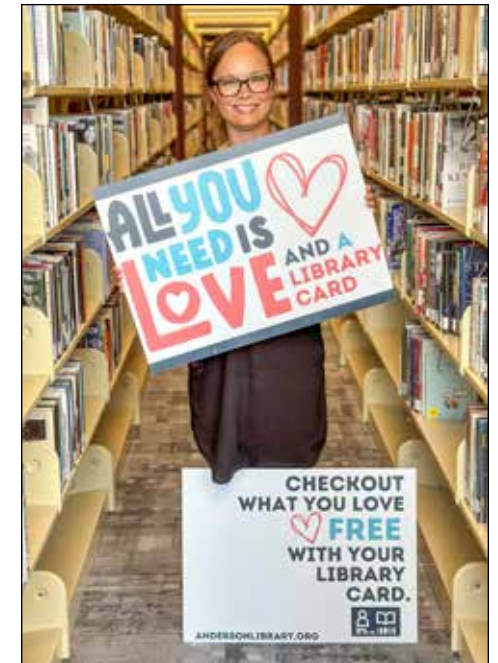
I have a tattoo on my arm that reads "surprised by joy" as a reminder that it's the little, everyday things in life that bring happiness.

We also caught up with a few members of the community to get their thoughts on this dynamite caryatid. Here's what they had to say:

"Since meeting Annie a few years ago, she has become a dear friend and someone whom I admire and deeply respect. Her unwavering commitment to excellence and her exceptional leadership in her role at the library are a testament to her remarkable intelligence and dedication. Her contributions to the Anderson community, not just through her work, but through volunteering and being active in local initiatives are immeasurable and help to improve the lives of others."

- Whitney Smith

"Annie Sutton has been a major part of the Anderson County Library for over 18 years. She moved up the ranks at the library sharing her talents and energy at each step. When she was chosen as Library Director, I couldn't have been more pleased. She has been involved in almost every aspect of the library and has made a huge impact on the direction of the library. She has done amazing things since she took over. Including, but not limited to, building projects, structural renovations and new programs. And with all that, she works with many community organizations like United Way, PAWS, and Leadership Anderson.



Annie is a wonderful asset to the Anderson community and I look forward to seeing all she accomplishes in the future for our community." - previous library director, Faith Line.

All told, Annie Sutton is foundational to our community. Through Annie's career, service work, and passions, she has become an integral part of Anderson. And boy, are we grateful to have such a dynamic force amongst us.

Be sure and visit the library to see all the wonderful programming they have going on, check out a few books, and perhaps even bump into Annie. And remember, make sure your library card is active!

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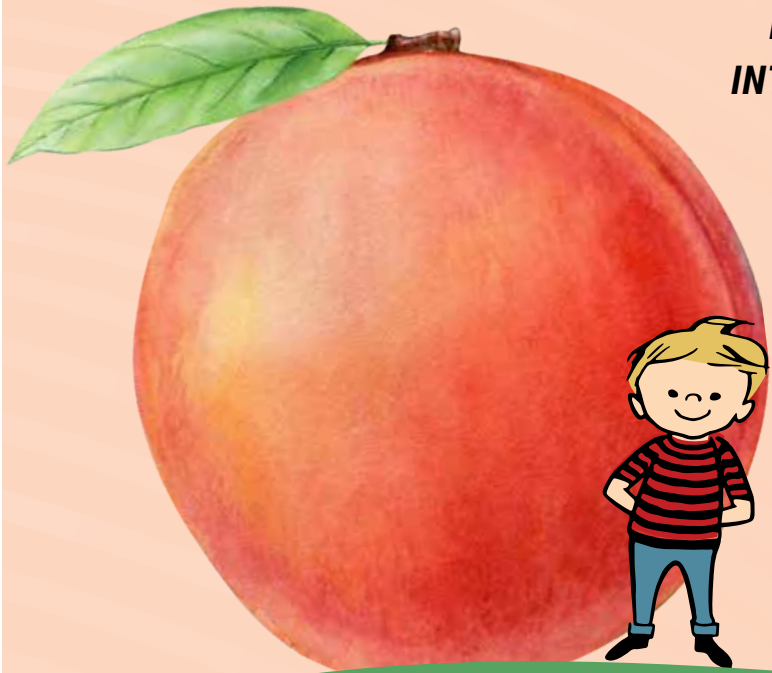
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Local leadership initiative expands transitional housing program

Anderson, SC – A new initiative from The LOT Project, in partnership with Leadership Anderson Class 39, aims to expand the Village Homes Program. This program offers transitional housing and support to families experiencing homelessness or close to being homeless.

Village Homes provides stable living environments and essential classes on goal-setting and financial management for 6 to 12 months, facilitating successful transitions to independent living. Currently, the program operates with a single “tiny home” on E Street, constructed and donated by Leadership Anderson Class of 35 in 2021. Since its inception, this initiative has helped five families move from homelessness to permanent housing.

This year, LA39 is renovating 800 square feet at The LOT Project’s property to create another transitional single-family housing unit. With approved designs and secured city permits, the project is well underway. Thanks to the generous in-kind contributions from Chapman Design Group, Hill Electric,

Yoder’s Building Supply, Harris Home, Carter Lumber, and DB Painting the expansion is progressing smoothly. The goal is to raise \$60,000 to double the capacity and impact of the Village Homes Program.

To highlight their progress and encourage community involvement, LA39 invites the public to an open house at The LOT Project. Attendees will have the opportunity to see the impact of the initiative, hear from program participants, and learn how they can contribute to providing hope and a home to those in need. RSVP at www.thelotproject.com/events and choose the specific open house date.

For those unable to attend but still wishing to support the cause, donations can be made through United Way at unitedwayofanderson.org. Donors are asked to indicate “LA39” in the section for special instructions or on the memo line of their checks. We also would be glad to receive in-kind donations of skilled labor and materials. Please contact Nate Knox at nate.knox@thelotproject for more details.

HELP US FUNDRAISE!

LEADERSHIP ANDERSON CLASS 39 + THE LOT PROJECT

OUR MISSION

Leadership Anderson Class 39 is embarking on an inspiring journey to repurpose the space pictured to your right into a beacon of hope and transition. In collaboration with The Lot Project and their Village Homes initiative, we’re dedicated to more than just construction; we’re building futures.



Our mission is clear: to provide individuals and families emerging from homelessness with not just a roof over their heads, but a foundation under their feet for a brighter, more stable future. Join us in creating a space where hope is homegrown, and second chances are nurtured.

PHASE 1: RAISE \$10K

- Make the space usable & eliminate water damage

PHASE 2: RAISE \$50K

- Make the space into a liveable area

Currently Phase One is being completed and work is beginning on Phase Two. Leadership Anderson needs \$10,000 to begin work on Phase Two. Currently seeking monetary or in-kind donations.

Ways to give and support:

To give, go to United Way of Anderson County. Be sure to note Leadership Anderson 39 for the funds to go to this project.

Fundraising events coming up:

- Raffle night at Magnetic South Brewery August 30th @ 6pm
- Groucho's proceeds day September 12th (all day)

KEY FACTS TO NOTE:

- The space is not usable in its current state due to water and mold damage.
- The Lot Project will facilitate and manage the space once the Leadership Class is complete in November.
- Just completing Phase 1 would make the space useable for the Lot Project.

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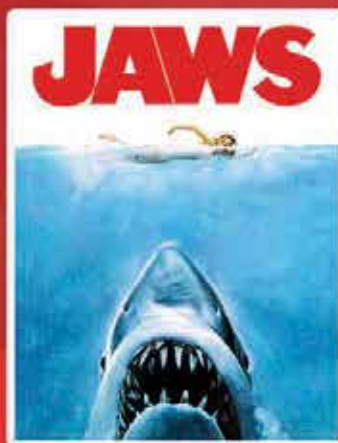
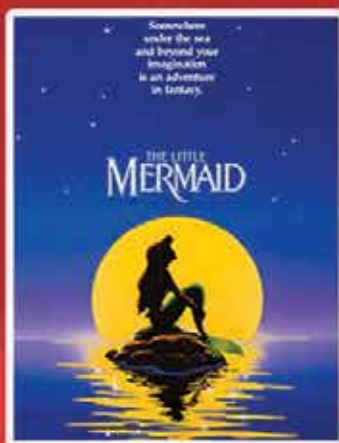
FRIDAY, MAY 17 – SUPER MARIO BROS @ 8:35PM

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

FRIDAY, JULY 12 – JAWS @ 8:55PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 – TOP GUN @ 8:35PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 – COCO @ 6:50PM



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TARGETED

The first time that I realized I was being targeted was on my 50th birthday. I'd had a brutally hot week of work, but it was now late Saturday morning and I strolled to the mailbox on that happiest of days. What I found inside rocked my world and sapped the future right out



Neal Parnell

of me. It was an AARP magazine addressed to Me. The cover was of a grey-haired, perfect-toothed, tanned, happy man smiling at me with a photoshopped twinkle in his eye, accompanied by a bold headline that read, Hello, New Senior. I was so mad that I crumpled his face into a ball, jammed him back to where he came from, and raised the little red flag. I was supposed to be celebrat-

ing a half-century of life, not being reminded of the end of it. I tried to forget about the mailbox and settled into my recliner with a celebratory cold beverage to watch some golf. I clicked the remote, and the first words I heard were Joe Namath saying, "IF YOU'RE FIFTY OR OLDER," click, that was it, I couldn't take anymore. They had me in their sights and were everywhere. Telemarketers started calling during supper, inquiring if I would be interested in the latest Florida Senior Living package or how I could now qualify for savings on arthritis medication. My wife even got in on it and questioned if I would start asking for a senior citizen discount at the grocery store. Sure, honey, and maybe I'll shop for a rocking chair, purchase a Rogaine treatment, and hang out at Hardee's every morning, telling stories about how I was taken out by a marketing campaign that made fifty-year-olds feel like they



were a hundred.

For all of you Gen Xers, don't feel left out, they have you sighted in their scopes, too. Maybe you've already received a free sample of the

new Anti-Aging serum and wrinkle cream or a 50% discount coupon on a Tummy Tuck. Haven't you noticed more ads on your phone offering you second mortgages and

testosterone boosters? You must've recognized how they aim at your baggy eyes, deflated cheeks, greying hair, and sagging jowls. Stop worrying; they have new drugs with a list of side effects longer than a CVS receipt that will have you feeling and looking like a low credit-scoring twenty-five-year-old in no time.

Once you're targeted, that's it; they share all of your information with other corporate cronies. I did a search for 'The Little Rascals' on Netflix, and the next thing you know, I'm getting bombarded with ads for Rascal motorized scooters on my phone and laptop. I've often wondered if the young crowd gets targeted with the newest fashions, fresh music, and vape flavors while I'm hit with adult diapers, hearing aids, and colon tests. That man on the AARP magazine cover is long gone by now. He's been replaced by celebrities who aren't retired at all. Yep, I'm still getting them in the mailbox, but now I get to crumple George Clooney into a ball and toss him and his 'How to Stay Young Secrets' right into the stinkin' trash-can.

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Now and next year



**SUSAN
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A break in the heat week before last provided a perfect opportunity to get the front garden tended. Good rain, finally, made for easy weeding too. I was so bored being in the house. Thirty minutes or so outside just before dark is not enough to keep my mind happy and satisfied. Organizing a linen closet doesn't help my peace of mind like being amongst my plants does. The front garden now is about as clean and kept as it gets. Hophornbeam copperleaf weed is in check. Old bulb foliage is raked up and practically gone. Some burned up baptisia has been cut back. Several spots of rue have been tidied up. Asiatic dayflower weed is sort of in check. That stuff is practically impossible to pull up so what I could spray without killing

other stuff got sprayed. The rest I broke off to hopefully stop it from seeding. It has a pretty blue flower, and the day may come that I have to embrace the blue flower, rather than fight it. It was wonderful to find very little chamberbitter, not much mulberry weed either. High dollar Snapshot preemergent is proving to be worth the money. When I first started fighting chamberbitter years ago, Snapshot was being put down every 60 days, like the label says, for about three years. Cha-ching cha-ching!! It seems this also decreased some reseeding annuals but there are tradeoffs on most things in life.

While on this roll, some shrubs were cleaned of oak trees and sweetgums that seem to find their way into them. Fortunately, this job only needs doing every few years. I've found if unwanted trees won't pull up, I let them grow until they are big enough to be bent out from whatever they are growing in. Then spray them. Sometimes it's possible to cut them off and using a little hand sprayer, drop some glyphosate on the fresh cut. Otherwise, they will grow back if just cut off. A big task this winter will be to



Wrought iron with model

clean out from under dead cedar down the property line. Sweetgum and oak trees, and poison ivy (yikes) have to be killed. That's a big job and I would never go crawling around under them in summer. I'm thinking about cutting off some of the lowest limbs this winter so I can bushhog under them.

Another project that has come to mind is to start a parterre, of sorts, out in the middle of the front yard. Baby boxwood cuttings from the Abney house on Clemson Boulevard are coming along nicely but are not big enough to go in the ground yet. And with boxwood blight becoming such a problem, I don't want to focus a garden around these boxwoods. Plus, that style parterre is entirely too formal for my place. The main goal of this new spot is to decrease cutting grass. It may be a catch 22 though because it will be another area to tend. Time will tell but I know what gets planted will do more good than grass.

Years ago, when the house beside my brother was being remodeled, they tore off wrought iron railings that went around the top of the screened porch. I cannot relate to not wanting beautiful old wrought iron. My brother and I rescued it. Some are being used as a border in my garden now. David is not using what is at his place for anything particular so I'm going to get that and use it as the border for this new spot. I know I want the new area to be straight lines – totally different from all the curvy beds. I walked off about a 12 x 12 area. As a stroke of good luck, we have about 34 feet of railing. David is going to cut one piece in half for me. That should make it fit just about perfectly for what my mind's eye is seeing. Once it cools off, the waffle house method will begin - smother and cover. Cardboard will be put down to smother the grass, then cover it with leaves this winter. And a cottage style parterre begins.

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