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IZZIE'S POND: THE MISSION

BY LINA MASLO

Izzie's Pond: Animal Rescue and Sanctuary, is a nonprofit organization that provides rescue, rehabilitation and refuge to injured or orphaned wildlife, waterfowl, and farm animals. They also raise awareness and appreciation for animals by educating children and adults around the Upstate area.

Izzie's Pond began in 2009 when Angel Durham and Greg Askew had

a difficult time finding a vet to help their pet duck after an owl attack. They drove their duck all around the Upstate, and at first were turned away—many vets don't work with farm animals or wildlife. They were finally able to get help, but after that experience, Angel and Greg realized the need for a domestic duck and waterfowl rescue and adoption program in their area. They bought 5.5 acres in Simpsonville, SC, and named

it Izzie's Pond, after their daughter Izzie.

Soon, they realized that wild waterfowl—birds like great blue herons, loons, coots, swans, and Canada geese—also needed rescue services, so they took wildlife rehab courses to learn more. Not long after, people were calling them about other animals that needed help, too.

As the Upstate grows and develops, and more people move into

the area, animals can sometimes become displaced or injured as a result. Animal habitats decrease, and vehicles pose a threat to the safety of wildlife. Izzie's Pond is here to help. Since their foundation in 2009, the sanctuary takes in hundreds of animals each year. In fact, they have helped care for over 9,000 animals so far. Domestic animals such as

SEE MISSION ON PAGE 2



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**Anderson's
Agency**

Mission

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

goats, donkeys, cows, chickens, turkeys, quail, ducks and geese are treated, rehabbed, and then adopted out to approved homes. Wild animals, such as opossums, squirrels, raccoons, deer, birds of prey, bobcats, rabbits, chipmunks, turtles, snakes, lizards, peacocks, pigeons, doves, emus, and others have been treated and released back into the wild.

Not surprisingly, Izzie's Pond began to outgrow their 5-acre property, and recently, they were able to purchase a 30-acre farm in Liberty, South Carolina. Now, they can spread out and care for even more animals.

In addition to helping animals, Izzie's Pond gives the community a chance to get involved by volunteering, donating, participating in community events, learning more about animals, and even adopting one!

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Adult volunteers should have their own transportation, be able to lift 25 pounds, and be in good health. Children who want to volunteer must be ages 8 or older, have adult supervision, and, of course, not be afraid of animals. No matter your age or abilities, Izzie's Pond offers a range of activities and opportunities for those willing to help. Volunteers can help by responding to calls to help an injured animal and bring it back to the facility, if needed. Depending on your location and time constraints, you can choose the areas and times that best fit your schedule.

Children and adults can also help around Izzie's Pond. The animals need fresh food and water twice per day, and cleaned cages once a



week. You can collect eggs from ducks, chickens, and turkeys. (And you can take your collected eggs home if you want!) And, like most farms, there are all kinds of other chores that need to be done.

Inside, there is an area where animals are kept, and help is needed there, too—cleaning bird cages, washing baby bottles and medical supplies, helping prepare foods for baby animals, helping administer vaccines, and helping with laundry (baby animals go through lots of blankets and towels!).

If you want to help from the comfort of your home, you can become a hotline vol-

unteer. That is, you can assist callers with orphaned or injured animals, provide referrals to other rescuers, and give wildlife advice. You can also help out by being an adoption coordinator for farm animals and waterfowl.

If you have construction or woodworking skills, Izzie's Pond needs help constructing or maintaining structures such as buildings, den boxes and pens for the animals, feed and water containers. They also need help weatherproofing structures throughout the seasons, mending fences, and with other repairs around the farm.

Volunteering at Izzie's Pond would be a great way for children to get involved in their community, and to learn a few skills along the way. (Current volunteering guidelines may be impacted by COVID-19.)

If you don't have the time to volunteer, please consider helping out financially, or by arranging a fundraiser. Izzie's Pond is funded entirely on donations, and 100% of the proceeds go to the care of the animals. They appreciate any fundraisers that are held in their benefit. Bake sales, craft fairs, or even setting up an online crowdfunding campaign can go a long way in helping.

Izzie's Pond is also an educational resource for the community. It's a great place to learn how to coexist with wildlife, and how to reduce encounters with wild animals. They also want to teach the next generation about how to conserve resources and live a sustainable life.

The main goal of Izzie's Pond is to give an animal that may not have survived on its own another chance at life. Once a domestic animal is healthy, you might even be able to adopt it! The majority of animals available for adoption from Izzie's Pond are ducks, geese, and chickens.

To read more about Izzie's Pond, or to volunteer, adopt, or donate, please visit izzie-spond.org or find them on Facebook at Izzie's Pond.

The photographs are from the Izzie's Pond Facebook page.



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TO SEND INFORMATION

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American Goldfinch — brilliant bird of mid-summer

BY ANN K. BAILES

The local bird of mid-summer has to be the American goldfinch, which has been compared to a flying stick of butter. It's about that size, and its color is similar, although brighter. A glimpse of a breeding male goldfinch will take a first-time observer's breath away. It is brilliantly yellow, and brilliant is an understatement. This bird is colored a yellow that is so intense that the first time someone sees one, he is not sure that he's really seen a natural bird. Yes, it's that bright. And that beautiful.

In addition to the bright yellow color, a breeding male has a black patch on its forehead that looks like a jaunty cap topping it off, and its jet-black wings also complement its color perfectly.

By July most birds are winding up their nesting and raising young for the year. Not so with the American goldfinch. It's just getting a good start. That's because they like milkweed and thistle, plants that come out later in the season. The goldfinches incorporate these seeds into their nests as well as feed them to the young birds. The beautiful design of goldfinches allows them to reproduce when milkweed and thistle seeds are more prominent.

One way to attract goldfinches is to hang a bag of nyger seed, which is a great substitute for thistle. Nyger is sterilized (to prevent it from germinating), and net bags of this tiny seed are easily found at hardware and grocery stores. If the seed is relatively fresh, goldfinches will almost mob it at times. They are picky, however. If they ignore a nyger bag, the seed is probably old, and the birds won't come to it. They also come to sunflower seed in feeders year-round.

The contrast between a breeding male and a winter male is striking. In the winter, a male goldfinch is drab — a grayish brown color with gray-black wings and a hint of yellow, almost indistinguishable from the female, who is grayish brown and yellow year round. But around the end of March, the male's bright breeding color begins coming in. Soon it has taken on the lemony butter hue for which it is so well known.

These birds are common around our area. Anyone who keeps eyes open has a good chance of seeing one out in open areas. Even after many years, I still find it a mid-summer treat to look up and see the undulating flight of a pair of goldfinches, the bright yellow of the male leading the way as the two dip and rise through the spring and summer sky.



Do your part, be a part of the Anderson Strong Promise!

The **City of Anderson** is asking people to do these three things as we stay strong and continue to try to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19.



WEAR

A cloth covering over your nose and mouth in public



WAIT

6 feet apart, avoid close contact



WASH

Your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer

If you need a mask, drop by Anderson City Hall during business hours and pick one up FREE!

Books, books and more books

It's hard to believe that the start of the next school year is only a month away! Like many of you who also have school-age children, I have a lot of questions and concerns about what the coming year will bring. Just thinking about



Katie Laughridge

it can be very overwhelming! Although there are many operational questions that remain unanswered, the one thing we know for certain is that the educational process will rev back up in August – in some fashion. As parents, the most important thing to focus on is ensuring that our children are actively engaged in challenging learning experiences every day. One great way to accomplish this is to encourage your child to read more. The importance of reading cannot be overemphasized. It is the foundation for success in all school subjects, and in all professional career paths your child may eventually choose to pursue. Scientific studies have proven this fact again and again. Spending thirty minutes to an hour each day reading is an excellent way for your child to stay on a track for success- regardless of age or grade level.

While the Anderson library is most definitely our “go-to” place to find exciting new books, we also enjoy going to local bookstores on occasion. Books-A-Million is a fun place to visit for the entire family. Not only do they offer a large variety of interesting books on almost every topic, but it's also a great place to get a delicious cup of coffee. McDowell's Emporium is another excellent bookstore to visit. Here you can find a mixture of new and used books in a small-

er, quainter setting. Either way, I'm sure you and your family will love the adventure!

My two girls particularly enjoy going to the bookstore because they like picking out favorite books to keep on their bookshelf at home. This is especially true when they discover a new book series while reading at the library.

Lately my seven-year-old has been obsessed with the “Owl Diaries” series. Since we have been trying to stay at home as much as possible, she reads through the books faster than I can buy them for her. Amazon.com has come to my rescue and is my “go-to” source for purchasing the next book in the series. Thanks to Amazon Prime, the books are delivered the very next day! Not to be left out, my five-year-old has been fascinated with the “I Can Read” boxed set of Pinkalicious beginning readers. Getting books in the mail is like Christmas at my house, and it makes me happy to see them so excited about reading!

Bookstores and libraries can be often be overwhelming because of the multitude of books they offer- making it hard to choose a book that's just right for your child. To make this process a little easier, below are a few guidelines and suggestions I hope you will find useful:

If you find yourself choosing a book for your child to read, have them follow the “Five Finger Rule:”

Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.

Read the second page.

Hold up a finger for each word you are not sure of, or do not know.

If there are five or more words you did not know, you should choose an easier book.

If you're still not sure, use the five-finger rule on two more pages.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” Dr. Seuss

Happy Reading!



SUMMER HAIR

It was actually four months ago when I had my hair highlighted. I finally and thankfully just had an appointment with my hairdresser. I feel like a brand new girl. In all actuality that's mostly the case for us all. This year's



Kristine March

trends for summer color are pretty awesome. I used to be what you would call a Jean Harlow blonde but now I'm a cooler more natural Gwyneth Paltrow shade. Weather you're blonde or brunette or red headed there are so many beautiful options out there.

Speaking of red, the color red velvet and cabernet is big for 2020. It looks amazing on all skin tones, so if you want to be daring, try it.

Pastel hues are super fun if you want to look like a mermaid this summer. Rich chestnut browns with chunky highlights are big. Think Jennifer Lopez. It looks stunning with a bronzed glow. Bold roots are even making a come back so don't feel bad if you haven't made it to the salon yet. Strawberry blonde and honey blondes are lovely and not so harsh. A smoky ice blonde is absolutely gorgeous as well. A good trim is vital to keep our hair at it's best. Whatever cut you choose, remember, it's just hair. If you want to rock a wig, silk ones with a lace front are extraordinary. They make the most stunning ones now that look so authentic. From a long sexy style to a cute shorter bob you may never want to get your hair done again. It's a really fun thing to do if you ever have a chance to try on some wigs.

Whatever shade or style you are, remember that we really glow from within when we're loving one another and helping others. We're our best selves when we're happy and healthy so no matter what, remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. Happy summer y'all.

Promoting positive body image in children



**MARY-CATHERINE
McCLAIN
RINER**

Preschool teachers often note that the majority of 4-year olds like their bodies and the way they look—without judgment. On the other hand, by second grade, children (boys and girls) begin disliking their appearance and report more negative body image. What happens during these pivotal 4 years and how do we change the course?

- 1) Eliminate thin/fat talk, and reduce making comments about your body to your son/daughter.
- 2) Affirm that body appearance and size does not equal happiness.
- 3) Focus on treating people with respect and kindness regardless of how “perfect” their

body is — which does not exist.

4) Remind yourself that children model, so if you are checking yourself in the mirror, constantly changing clothes, obsessing about the number on the scale, weighing yourself, etc. your children will notice and internalize this behavior.

5) Demonstrate a healthy relationship with exercise by going on walks, hikes, and bike rides. Consider doing yoga and stretches. Emphasize how it feels and the importance of joyful movement rather than how you look.

6) Making family nutrition initiatives rather than singling 1 person out. Instill values of intuitive eating and health at every size as well as body neutrality.

7) Focus on personal qualities and personality characteristics over appearance and body shape.

8) Do not buy into diet culture, diet products, fake news in magazines, or watch shows that portray unrealistic standards while also reducing negative social media focused on



Make family nutrition initiatives to instill values of intuitive eating and health.

unrealistic standards.

9) Identify the functionalities of each body part and the purpose served (e.g., thighs for strength and walking).

10) Maintain a healthy library of books, including: I’m Gonna Like Me—Letting Off a Little Self-Esteem, The Skin You Live In, I Like Myself, Stand Tall, Brontorina, The Boy

Who Grew Flowers, Wonder, The Second Life, and Beautiful Girl: Celebrating the Wonder of Your Body

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

CHERRY BOMB

In 1966 the Child Safety Act went into effect, banning all fireworks that contained over 50 micrograms of black powder and labeled them an Explosive Device and illegal. In 1965 the Cherry Bomb contained 1 gram of black powder and was completely legal.



Neal Parnell

We were living on Beauty Square. The back of the house had about 20 steps that went over the garage to a landing at the top, with a door that led into the kitchen.

It was July 4th, my dad and a friend of his were on this landing lighting and throwing Cherry Bombs down into the backyard below. I was there with both hands over my ears watching as they would light the fuses with a cigarette, hold it a couple of seconds, then fling it, trying to get the Cherry Bomb to explode before hitting the ground.

The Cherry Bomb was not an ordinary firecracker that we know of today. This was one gram of black powder that when thrown into a pond would explode underwater and any fish within twenty feet would cease to exist and float to the top. Or if ignited in a mailbox, would blow said mailbox to smithereens.

Now, back to the landing where I’m begging to throw my first Cherry bomb. “Please let me throw one, please, please, please”. Dad said, “Ok, Ok, hold your arm back like you are ready to throw, I’ll light it and tell you when to sling it”.

So I’m standing there with my arm back in a throwing position, and holding the Cherry Bomb with the fuse sticking up. He lit the

fuse with his cigarette.

I suppose he thought

I was going to throw

it at that moment, but I

was waiting for him to tell

me to “Sling It!”.

I could hear the fuse sizzling as

I was looking forward and still waiting for the “Sling It” signal. Dad must have seen the last of the fuse heading into the Cherry Bomb, “Neal! Sling! It!”

I threw it in a flash, but that little red sphere didn’t get two inches out of my hand when, BOOM!!

Blindness, deafness, my head and hand felt ten times its original size and the glass on the kitchen door shattered.

I’m sure I was screaming and crying, but I couldn’t hear it. I don’t remember anything after the BOOM!

The term P.T.S.D. didn’t exist in ‘65 but I must have it. I have to stay in the house like a dog on July the Fourth and New Years, and when a car backfires I have to evacuate. In fact, I think I just did.



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A new life in Anderson

BY LINA MASLO

Piotr Nestertsov and his wife, Nina, moved to Anderson in 2005. They had lived in Florida for many years, and then in Connecticut. But the Northeast proved to be too cold for them. South Carolina was right in between, and it was the perfect balance of warm and cold weather. So Piotr settled down and set up a business and a church.

Piotr is the founder of Summer of God, a Slavic Evangelical church on River Street. When he moved to Anderson in 2005, the city did not yet have a Russian-Ukrainian church. In 1992, Piotr had founded a church in Florida—First Slavic Pentecostal Church in North Port. Over the years, that church had grown from a few families to over 1,000 members.

In Anderson, Summer of God began with about 6 members, and now there are over 200. Most of the preaching and songs there are in Russian or Ukrainian, but the church has been incorporating more English into the service. As children grow up, and the generations change, the church is slowly melding with the surrounding language and culture.

Although Piotr's main passion has always been to serve his church community as a Pastor, he also has other interests. For many years, he was a tailor of clothes. Piotr was born in Ukraine. As a young man in the army, he chose not to bear arms, and instead fixed and sewed clothes for soldiers. He

immigrated to America in 1989, right before the fall of the Soviet Union, to make a better life for his family.

In Florida, Piotr had a tailoring business. Over the last decade or so, he's turned his focus toward furniture upholstery and making custom mattresses. Piotr has made mattresses for boats and other spaces, and can sew a custom mattress for an individual, allowing them to choose what foam, springs, and material they want to make it from. Piotr has also upholstered and refurbished custom furniture for restaurants, businesses and homes.

Recently, sewing and upholstery has become more of a hobby. The church takes up most of his time now. For the past few years, Summer of God has been remodeling the building they purchased in 2005. The plaza, on River Street, used to be Garrett's Clothing Store. It has now been repainted and furnished into a place of worship, of constant weddings and baby showers, and even of a school. On Sunday mornings, the pews are full of adults and children. Wednesday nights are for prayer service, and the youth gathers on Fridays.

Piotr and his wife are happily settled. Their grown children are married, and all of them live in the Upstate area. Piotr is surrounded by his family and the church community, and he spends time doing the things he enjoys most. He has no regrets about moving to the beautiful city of Anderson, SC.



How to prepare for a secure financial future, part 5

Indexed Universal Life or a 401K ... which is best?

Ask Fred

The 401(k) Investment plan, which made its debut following the passage of the Revenue Act of 1978 by Congress, remains the most common retirement investment vehicle provided to employees today.

Section "401(k)" of the 1978 Internal Revenue Code allowed employees of any income level to save money into a retirement plan through monthly payroll contributions. In most cases, the employees are enrolled into a "Traditional" 401(k) plan, which is funded with "pre-tax" (qualified) dollars.

This means the 401(k) contributions made will help lower taxable income now, and any investment growth that occurs in future years will also be sheltered. The goal is to allow the 401(k) account to grow tax-free until the

individual retires, at which time the money is withdrawal in monthly increments at a lower tax rate.

Money placed into a 401(k) account is usually invested into a mutual fund account, which typically consists of conservative, moderate or aggressive stocks- depending on the employee's choice.



Fred Reid, R.Ph.
Senior Insurance
Advisor

If the stock market mutual fund account does well, the 401(k) account will increase in value. If the market records a loss, the 401(k) account is likely to lose value as well.

Unlike the 401(k), Index Universal Life (IUL) is a newer and lesser known "investment" option, that has recently gained popularity due to its ability to produce a "income tax-free" retirement

income that is safe from market risk.

To be more accurate, the IUL is technically a life insurance product- and not an "investment" vehicle. In contrast to the 401(k), funds are not directly invested into the stock market, but instead are tied to stock market "indexes" - such as the S&P 500, Hang Seng Index and the Euro Stoxx 50. Investment gains are credited to the account based on the index performance.

One of the components of the IUL that has attracted significant attention is the fact that, even if the stock market takes a huge loss, funds inside the IUL will remain safe. This is because the IUL is structured so that, if the stock market index records a "negative" gain, the IUL account will record a "zero percent change" for the year; and in some cases there is a guarantee of at least a 0.75 to 2% gain - no matter how the stock market index performs).

The object is to set up an IUL while relatively young (50 years old or younger), and to invest an adequate amount of "after-tax" money (i.e. typically \$250-\$350) into the

account on a monthly basis.

Since the cost of life insurance is relatively low for young adults, most of the money will be invested into the stock market index fund. If left untouched, the IUL account should have significant tax-deferred growth over the years (based on historical data).

Later in life, the money can then be accessed to obtain a tax-free loan (that don't have to be paid back), supplement retirement, and provide necessary funds for chronic, critical and terminally ill conditions.

Part 6 of this series will explore the pros and cons of the 401(k) and Index Universal Life plans as wealth building options.

Please contact Fred Reid at 864-940-6113 if you have questions or need assistance identifying the Medicare plan that best meets your health-care needs. I am happy to meet with you in your home at your convenience. Also, please connect with me on Facebook (search for "Fred Reid-senior insurance advisor").

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Sargent Metal Fabricators expanding operations in Anderson Co.

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Sargent Metal Fabricators, Inc., a custom metal fabrication company, recently announced plans to expand operations in Anderson County. The company's \$9.5 million investment will create 50 new jobs over the next five years.

Recently celebrating 45 years in business, Sargent Metal provides precision metal fabrication, welding, powder coating and assembly services to leading original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in a variety of markets.

Located at 5500 Airport Road in Anderson, Sargent Metal's 80,000-square-foot expansion will allow the company to increase capacity to meet growing customer demand. This investment will expand Sargent Metal's current precision fabrication equipment base with a new fiber laser cutting and material handling system. The expansion also includes additional assembly areas and a 1,200-foot automated powder coating system.

The expansion is expected to be completed in the first half of 2022. Individuals interested in joining the Sargent Metal team should visit sargentmetal.com/contact.

"We are proud to be a family-owned business born in Anderson, S.C. and are excited for this new phase in the growth of Sargent Metal. We look forward to the creation of new job opportunities for our community and additional capabilities with which to serve our customers with excellence." -Sargent Metal President & CEO Tim Hayden

"It's exciting to see a local, family-owned company like Sargent Metal grow here in South Carolina. The company's decision to invest and create 50 new jobs in Anderson County is a reason to celebrate in the local community, and we look forward to watching this company continue to grow and thrive."

-Gov. Henry McMaster

"South Carolina continues to build on its success in the manufacturing sector, and Sargent Metal's decision to invest \$9.5 million in our state will provide yet another boost. Today's announcement is further testament that South Carolina's business-friendly climate is perfect for businesses, both new and existing, to succeed."

-Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt

"Sargent Metal has been an integral part of our business community for more than 45 years, and I couldn't be more thrilled with the news of their latest announcement. We congratulate them on this expansion and thank them for the confidence they have shown in our community." -Anderson County Council Chairman Tommy Dunn

One day at a time

Is there such a thing as time anymore? What about days? A few months ago, I at least knew it was the weekend if I spent all day in my pajamas. Now, there's a better than even chance that it's a weekday and I'm working from my kitchen. Months are even harder.



Kim von Keller

On a recent trip to my doctor's office, I wanted to schedule an appointment for three months out.

"Thanks, and we'll see you in September," the receptionist said.

"Not six months," I said. "Three months."

She rolled her eyes

in a manner usually reserved for moms who sing in the car.

"This is June," she said. "Three months from now, it will be September."

I thought it was still March. I think every day is still March. By my calculations, this edition of The Electric City News hit stands and driveways on March 131st.

Since traditional calendars seem to be of no use to me at all this year, I've turned to another source to help me mark time: the National Day Calendar. If you're not familiar with it, the National Day Calendar describes itself as "the authoritative source for fun, unusual, and unique National Days." So if you're like me and Tuesdays no longer have meaning, check out some of the important days to recognize during the next couple of weeks.

MONDAY, JULY 13TH

Forget Christmas. Forget my birthday. My favorite day of the year is actually July 13th, National French Fry Day, the day on which

we honor the salty, crispy contribution that fries make to American culinary culture. Back in the spring, when everyone else was pillaging the toilet



paper aisle at the supermarket, I was in frozen foods, buying every bag of crinkle-cut potatoes my freezer would hold.

Forget about

Charmin; what was I going to eat on Friday nights with a hamburger?

One year, while on vacation, we met a Canadian family with a son Elizabeth's age. We soon learned that not only were they quite wealthy, but that a great deal of their wealth came from the production of frozen potato products. Seeing the possibility of a good son-in-law AND a never-ending supply of french fries, I tried to convince our daughter that she and their son would make a good match. She said that the idea was "weird" and "yucky," probably because she was only eight years old at the time. Years later, I saw one of the family's products in the freezer section of BI-LO and became teary-eyed at the prospect of what might have been.

TUESDAY, JULY 14TH

I have a lot of questions about July 14th. First, it is National Nude Day, when people are encouraged "to shed the restrictions of clothing and be natural." (Just so you know, I ain't doing that; there's enough going on to scare people these days without piling on.)

Second, and more importantly, it is also National Mac & Cheese Day. And while everyone loves a hot, gooey casserole of pasta

and melted cheddar, eating a bowlful while naked seems a little dangerous.



A better combination, I think, would pair National Nude Day with National Plain Cold Turkey Sandwich Day

or, better yet, National Bathrobe Day.

FRIDAY, JULY 17TH

While it's supposed to acknowledge the history of the game, I like to use National Lottery Day to think of what I would do with the prize if I ever won. My husband's plan is to buy apartments all over the world. My plan is to buy a car that has a gas-tank cover that I don't have to pry open with my key.

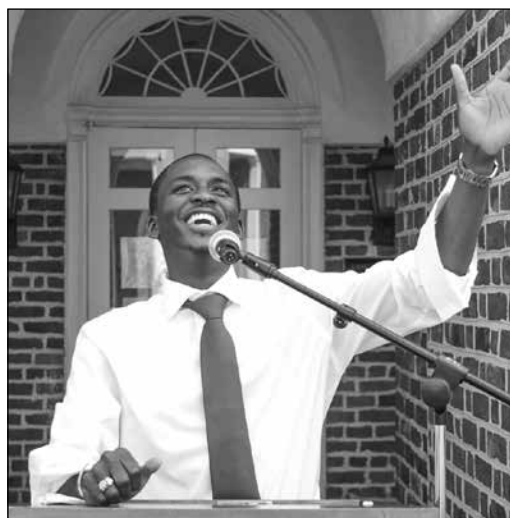
Somewhere between the two plans is probably something more reasonable. It would also be more reasonable to make these plans after we buy an actual lottery ticket, which we seldom do.



So forgive me if I forget your birthday or anniversary this year. I am confident that in 2021, we will return to our normal week-day-versus-weekend, today-is-the-day-I-wear-pants lives. Until then, I'll muddle through the best I can, one french fry at a time.

What's your favorite National Day? Let me know at editkim50@gmail.com.

New Hope appoints Francis as pastor



The Rev. Sh'Kur Francis


New Hope United Methodist Church, a 136-year-old congregation, located at 233 New Hope Road in the West Anderson Community, will celebrate the appointment of its first African American senior pastor on Sunday, July 5th during a 11 a.m. worship service.

The Reverend Sh'Kur Francis, 26, is the adopted son of former state superintendent of education, Inez M. Tenenbaum, and Samuel Tenenbaum, president and CEO of Prisma Health Foundation. He is a graduate of Winthrop University and Emory University and is currently serving as the first African American senior pastor of Grace and Lynnwood United Methodist Churches in Lancaster, SC.

"I look forward to being an integral part of the Anderson community as New Hope UMC actively helps meet local needs, provide wholesome environments for families and invest in young people with a sensitivity to the changing world around them," says Reverend Francis. "I am particularly excited about connecting with other faith leaders, connecting church and community, and building lasting relationships in Anderson."

New Hope United Methodist Church has been a part of the West Anderson area since 1884.

Those attending are asked to please bring masks and be prepared to observe social distancing.



* Imagine YOUR Story *

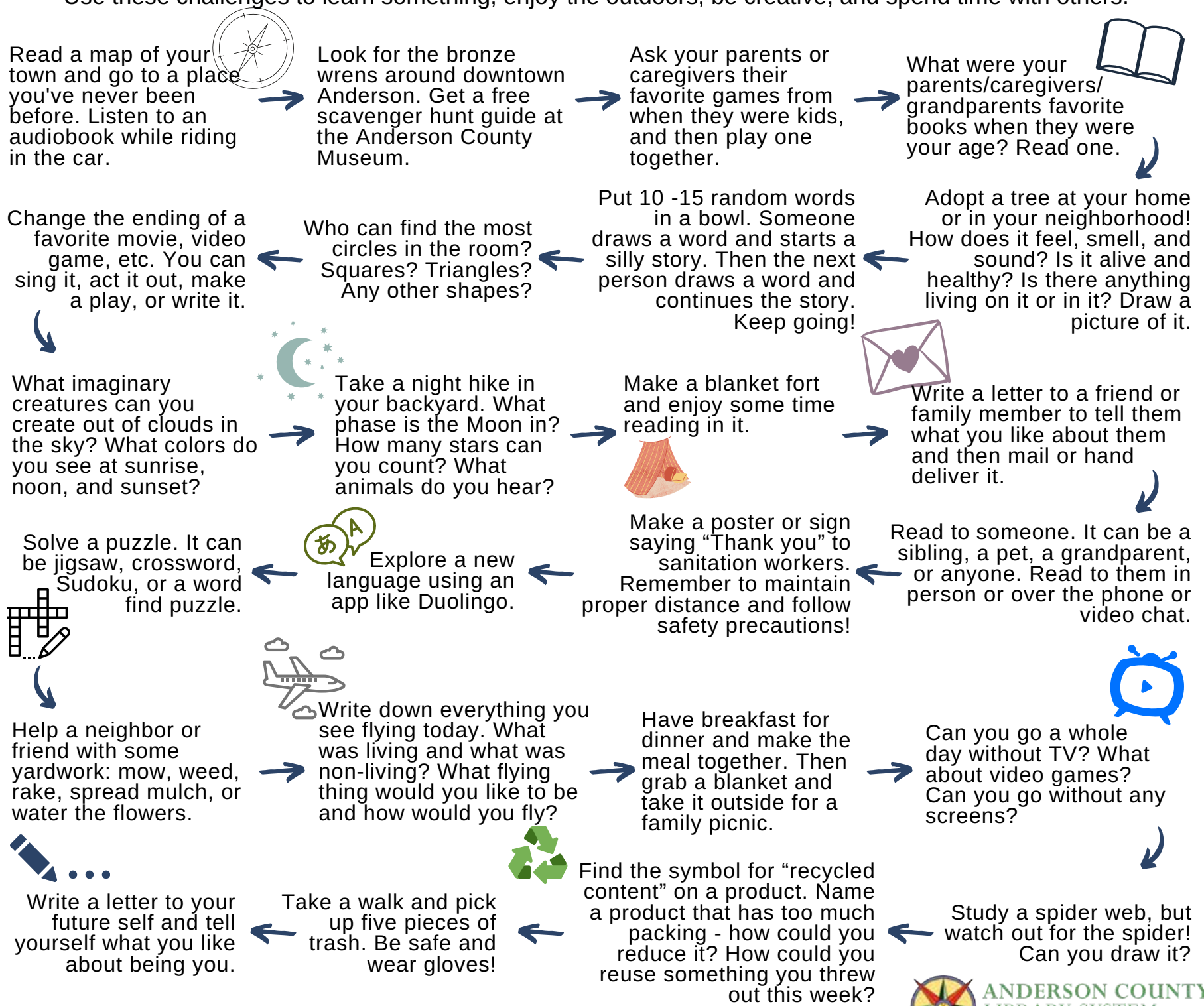
Summer Reading with the Anderson County Library System

July 1 - 31

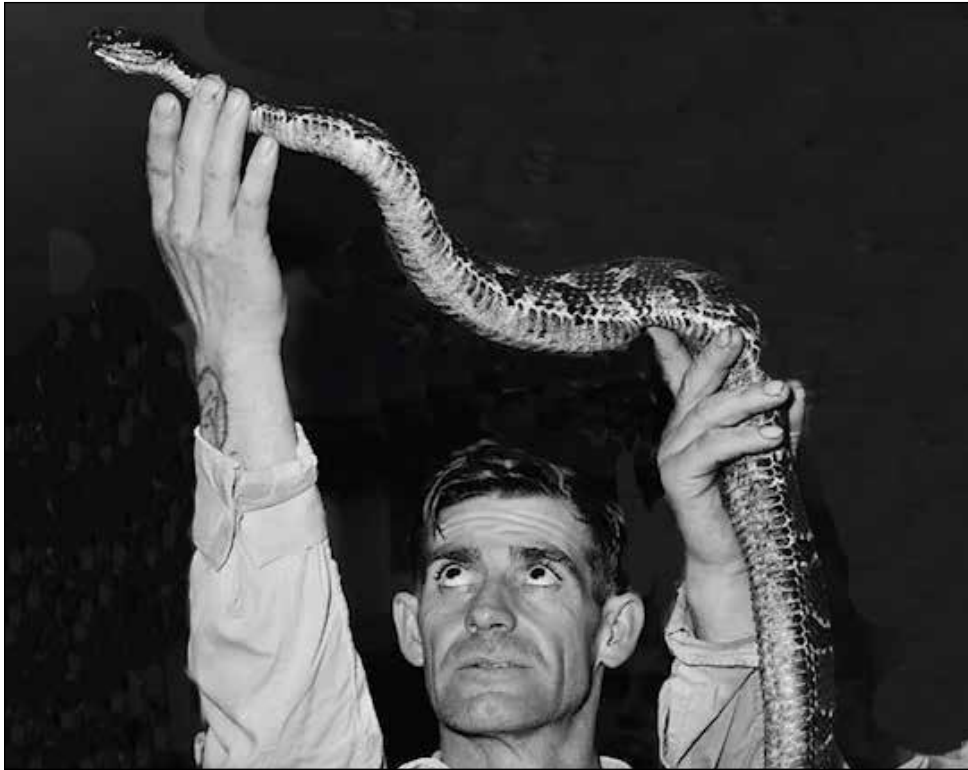
Visit one of our libraries or go to www.andersonlibrary.org/summerreading to get started.

Reading is great, but it's also fun to try something new!

Use these challenges to learn something, enjoy the outdoors, be creative, and spend time with others.




ANDERSON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
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Snake handling

BY RICH OTTER

George West Hensley (1880-1955) is often attributed as having been the originator of the practice of religious snake handling, a test of true faith relying upon spiritual protection. He died of a snake bite but retained a following. The practice was primarily centered in the Appalachian Region.

According to the September 17, 1953 Anderson Free Press, the previous Tuesday night a group of snake handlers, who apparently had experienced trouble in Greenville, came to the Anderson area and conducted a service on Meta Street outside of the Anderson City limits. A large crowd had assembled.

A man identified as Willie Evans grabbed a snake and whirled it around above his head. The congregation members fearful he was going to throw the snake into the audience retreated in panic. In the confusion a Mrs. Tom Honea was said to have been trampled by a minister. From the Anderson County jail the minister promised he was willing to compensate her for her medical expenses.

Another woman, Mrs. S. C. Sanders claimed to have been hit in the eye by venom from the snake as it was being swung around by Evans. Her husband was one of the leaders at the service.

Deputies M. C. Cooper and Clarence Broadwell were called to the scene and later Sheriff Clint McClain commented the situation could be deemed a public nuisance. There was no applicable State law as to snake-handling.

Greenville had a city ordinance against the handling of snakes but Anderson did not then have one and contact was attempted with Mayor William C. Johnston and Police

Chief W. I. Burden to determine what would be done if the handlers brought their practice within the city limits. Both were out of town at the time. There was no further problem, however. The snake handlers decided to retire from the community.

The State of South Carolina is one of the few states that has no laws restricting the sale of venomous snakes, ownership, or religious utilization of them. In fact, South Carolina has been a primary hub for such snakes to be acquired. Columbia has hosted an annual snake show. It has been claimed people have come from far and near to the shows to enhance their collections. The most popular vipers appear to be timber rattlesnakes, the eastern diamond-back rattlesnake and copperheads. As the saying goes, you can pick your poison.

Snake handling has continued in some rural areas. The last highly publicized instance of a snake handler death was a Kentucky preacher by the name of Jamie Coots in 2014 who died two hours after being bitten by a snake supposedly acquired at a Columbia show. Because of the handling being a test of faith, the faith test continues after a bite occurs that causes the person bitten to decline medical attention. Claims have been made that some 400 deaths have occurred over time as the result of snake handling.

It has been argued by some preachers that faith will not save someone who intentionally does something stupid.

Faith snake handling has declined with the aging of its followers but now some younger practitioners have been said to have adopted the practice, allegedly for its showmanship value. A cynic might equate it to what has evolved with some television "news" broadcasting.

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FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS COMES A CLEAN START



Remar Rucker isn't afraid of hard work. In fact, he prefers it. "Growing up I made some mistakes and realized the only way to create something for myself was to work hard and prove to others, and to myself, that I have something to offer. Something good."

"I worked for a national pressure washing company that catered to big companies like Wal-Mart and Sam's Club," Rucker says. "I would work 28 days out of the month in 38 different states. I was a people pleaser. If I was going to do it, I was going to do it right."

Rucker worked his way up the corporate ladder quickly, making sure his managers and the company owner knew about his hard work and dedication. "There was a company policy — 100% satisfaction guaranteed, so that's what I strived for. Although it wasn't my company, it was my work and if it had my name on it, I was going to make sure it was done right."

Years of working for a large company helped Rucker build his

own business plan. He catered to the customers to make sure they were happy and it helped him build business relationships and gave him the confidence, work ethic and know-how to step out on his own. "You have to make your customers happy. Period. Without customers, you have no business," he said.

After many years with the company, Rucker decided to move to South Carolina and start his own pressure washing business. "I was working long hours and putting everything I had into my job. I decided that if I was going to work that hard and do it right, I was going to do it for myself," he

said. "And it's not always about the money. It's about doing something for yourself and accomplishing something. I'm a worker — a hard worker — and I want to have something to leave to my kids."

Now, three years later, Rucker is the proud owner of Bee Clean, LLC. His hard work, dedication and love for the human race has him on a positive, successful path.

"I don't hold grudges and I don't live in the past. I love all people and I enjoy helping them when they need it," he says. "There is a reason for everything in this world and the path that I have been given is a good one."

"I don't hold grudges and I don't live in the past. I love all people and I enjoy helping them when they need it. There is a reason for everything in this world and the path that I have been given is a good one."

— Remar Rucker

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MUSINGS OF AN OLE BALL COACH

DISPELLING SOME OLD AGE MYTHS

As I take pen in hand to regale you about old age myths I consider myself to be eminently qualified being in my 3rd day of four score and 8 years. You've heard me say before



Jim Fraser

I'm a poster boy for prayer and medicare. Enough of my pontificating and on with the myths.

#1 I don't care how I look or what I say. Nonsense-we all want the support and approval of those we come into contact with (remember

those days when contact was okay). If we were vain at 25, chances are we'll always have that trait, and nobody wants to be a lecherous old man that says creepy things.

#2 There's no fool like an ole fool. Balderdash,

I've got a legion of young friends who are very adept at this. I must admit, however, I've got some quirks and habits I can't seem to outgrow.

#3 I've lived a rich, full life and now I'm ready to go. Hog wash. Go where, certainly not to my heavenly reward, not with football season, and end to sequestering, and Mr. Trump vowing to make us great....again (I always figured we were great even before Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity told us we weren't. Don't get me wrong now, when my final summons come, sure I'll be ready.

#4 The older I get the harder it becomes to suffer the counsel of fools. Let me qualify that by saying I would never call anyone a fool. Only their foolish actions and notions. With all the misinformation abounding and the proliferation of conspiracy theories, here in lies a major problem. We must not revert to the culture of those who dispute the existence

of the holocaust, our landing on the moon, the JFK assassination, etc.

#5 You're too old to learn anything new. Horse feathers. If you've been blessed to have maintained your cognitive powers and your reasoning ability you have more to learn than ever. It is up to me to have the wisdom and the sagacity to separate truth from alternative facts. We're the ones who were making America great again before the present day guys came down the pike. We must pass on to posterity the basis of honor, decency, kindness, empathy, and yes a work ethic.

We are in danger of making true the old adage that says, "The only truth is that there is no truth". There is always an ultimate truth. This nation was built on the idea of these attributes. Above without an adherence to those values, we are left with the false narrative that might make right and all people are NOT created equal.

The septuagenarians, the octogenarians and upward must promote an idealistic world and maintain our position of leadership, or the purveyors of hate conspiracy theorists and disinformation who infest the airways and internet will win out.

The abilities that make us first are sometimes not being promulgated truth, justice, dignity must be paramount in all our negotiations.

Jim Fraser was the athletic director and head football coach at T.L. Hanna High School from 1968-1985. He was also a full time member of the faculty who taught U.S. History.



THE GARDEN SHOP

Plants for full sun container

**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
master
gardener

Container gardens in full afternoon sun can be a bit tricky. When a co-worker's mother passed away recently, giving a plant was mentioned. After some questions, we decided on a container for their deck. Some privacy from their road would be a plus. The deck is in full sun from about mid-day on. Toss in she is not much of a gardener. Alrighty then. Just as the saying goes dig a ten-dollar hole for a ten cent plant, successful container gardening depends on the container. Bigger is always better, even if it's a shade container. Small containers dry out quickly and few plants will survive. Even if one can keep a small container watered enough in hot sun, the roots will often cook.

Once I found the appropriate container, I started looking for plants. If budget does not allow to do the container and plants all at once, splurge for the container then get plants later. To save on budget through the seasons, mix perennials and annuals. Quality soil will be a deal breaker too. As I was deciding on soil, I overheard two men also shopping for soil say "Just get that cheap stuff. They're all the same". They did not take my advice...for which they did not ask. I mixed organic, a soil moist type, and cow manure, then added a little super phosphate and milorganite. Each bag of soil was watered to be sure it

was thoroughly damp before I put it in the container. Putting water in the bag helps the soil not float up and out of the container and lets it really soak up the water. Wet soil also helps gauge how much soil is actually needed to fill a container.

For the pretty part, a trellis with confederate jasmine was put at the back of the container to help provide privacy. Jasmine could even run along the deck for more privacy. Evergreen foliage will give year round interest. Wonderful smelling flowers will be nice when weather allows for time spent on the deck. Autumn Joy sedum went in the middle for different color and texture foliage. Summer blooms will dry and provide fall and winter interest. Cutting back the foliage after frost is all it will need. Hot Lips salvia, great for hummingbirds as are most all salvias, was put on one side. Hot Lips will bloom throughout the summer, winter over, and will only need a minor pruning if they want to tidy it up a bit. Yellow lantana on the other side, for butterflies, will bloom all summer. It might winter over but will most likely need replacing. This will provide a spot to change annuals. Creeping rosemary, another evergreen with blueish blooms in early spring, was put in front corners. Nothing required for it. Pink begonias, between the rosemary, will bloom all summer too. Another spot to change out annuals if they want. These plants are drought tolerant, very easy to grow, and will fill in where the annuals are. There won't be a need to replant the annuals if they don't want to. All were topped off with pine needles for a finished look, and yes, containers benefit from mulch too.



Full sun container



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NIBBLE & SIP

As summer sizzles, sip some swizzles

When I think of summer in South Carolina, several adjectives come to mind: hot, blazing, humid, sticky, and stifling are just a start. A few years ago, the City of Columbia held a contest in which participants were asked to create clever marketing slogans for their hometown. "Famously Hot" was the winner, but my favorite, and the one I felt was more accurate, was "Nothing Between Us and Hell but a Screen Door."

It was probably just too long to fit on a bumper sticker.

The best cocktails for a South Carolina Nibble and Sip have to counter the intense heat that we often experience from June through September. The adjectives I look for are cold, frosty, fruity, and refreshing, and this is how I would describe that favorite rum drink of the Caribbean, the swizzle.

Swizzles are made with dark rum, fruit juice or citrus, and bitters. They are usually served in a highball glass, but any tall, skinny glass will do. Instead of shaking the ingredients in a cocktail shaker, they are poured directly into the highball, which is then filled

halfway with crushed ice. At that point, the drink is agitated with a swizzle stick until the ingredients are cold and the outside of the glass begins to frost. Finally, the glass is filled with more crushed ice, yielding an unbelievably cold drink.



Kim von Keller

While the term has come to mean any plastic stick used to stir a drink, an authentic swizzle stick is longer than the glass and has small prongs extending at 90 degrees from the bottom. The bartender places the stick into the drink at the halfway point and twirls it between his or her palms, churning and rapidly cooling the drink. If you don't have a swizzle stick, use a long iced tea spoon and burn off some calories with some fast, old-fashioned stirring.

And there's nothing like a flavorful dip on a hot day. One of my favorites is Herbed Butterbean Dip. It's easy to put together, and

it combines some of the best produce grown under the South Carolina sun.

Herbed Butterbean Dip

1 10-oz. package butterbeans or butter peas
3 t. salt, divided
¼ cup fresh mint leaves
¼ c. Italian parsley leaves
2 T. sour cream
¼ c. olive oil
¼ c. lemon juice
ground black pepper to taste

crackers or pita chips for serving

In a medium saucepan, cover the butterbeans with 3 cups of water and add 2 t. of salt. Bring the pot to a boil and then turn down to a simmer, cooking until the butterbeans are tender, about 20-30 minutes, adding more water if necessary. Drain in a colander and rinse under cold water until the beans are cool.

Place the beans and the rest of the ingredients in the bowl of a food processor. Pulse several times before scraping down the sides of the bowl. Continue this process until the mixture is smooth.

Scrape the mixture into a serving dish and add the remaining 1 t. salt and black pepper to taste. Serve with crackers or pita chips. Serves 8-10.

Southern Swizzle

1 oz. dark rum
1 oz. amber rum
2 oz. pineapple juice
2 oz. mango peach juice

blend
½ t. grenadine
3 dashes Angostura bitters

Combine all ingredients in a highball glass. Fill halfway with crushed ice and stir vigorously, using a swizzle stick or an iced tea spoon. Fill the glass with crushed ice and serve. Makes 1.



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The **City of Anderson** is asking people to do these three things as we stay strong and continue to try to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19.



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