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Hartwell Lake News

Volume 27, Number 1 • Winter 2025

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Legendary Green Pond Landing Celebrates 10 Years

Anderson County, S.C. – When people gathered to cut the ribbon for Green Pond Landing on December 19th, 2004, they had no idea what it would mean for Anderson County. It has turned into an economic engine!

The Green Pond Landing Project is a collaboration between Anderson County and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Sport Fish Restoration administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Natural Resource Trustee Council for the Lake Hartwell PCB Settlement.

On its 10th birthday December



19, 2024, the fishing tournaments will have generated an astounding \$116M in economic impact! This amazing decade has featured: Three Bassmaster Classics; Two TBF High School World Finals & National Championships, Two Bassmaster High School National Championships, Bassmaster & TBF Junior World Championships, Two Ray Scott Championships; Three BASS Nation Championships, Association of Collegiate Anglers National Championship; Bass College Series National Championship; Two Fishers of

continued on page 4

New Mobile App Simplifies Reporting of Illegal Hunting and Fishing Activity in Georgia



GEORGIA
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LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) Law Enforcement Division has announced a new partnership with the Hunt Regs App to provide an easy, free, and effective way for citizens to report illegal hunting and fishing activities.

The Hunt Regs app enhances public engagement in wildlife conservation efforts by connecting users directly to the DNR Ranger Hotline program through the in-app crime reporting. The Hunt Regs App enables hunters to effectively assist Game Wardens by providing

accurate and timely poaching reports where violations occur. Not only can hunters easily do their part in protecting wildlife, but the Georgia DNR is also offering the opportunity to earn a \$100 cash reward for reporting specific violations.

The Hunt Regs App streamlines the reporting process by providing an interactive reporting form where users can submit violations with just a few taps on their mobile devices or computers. By facilitating direct communication with law enforcement, the app empowers the



Hunt Regs App

continued on page 4

Recreational Boating and Fishing Anchor the Nation's Outdoor Recreation Economy

By TowBoatU.S.

A new report from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) reaffirms that recreational boating and fishing continue to drive the outdoor recreation economy, contributing more than any other conventional outdoor activity including RVing, hunting/shooting, motorcycling or equestrian activities. The "Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account: U.S. and States, 2023" report revealed that boating and fishing account for \$36.8 billion in current-dollar value added, representing a significant portion of the \$639.5 billion outdoor recreation economy in 2023.

The data also highlighted the impact of the industry at the state level, with Florida (\$4.2 billion), California (\$3.1 billion), and

Texas (\$2.8 billion) leads as a top contributor.



continued on page 4

BOAT LIFTS



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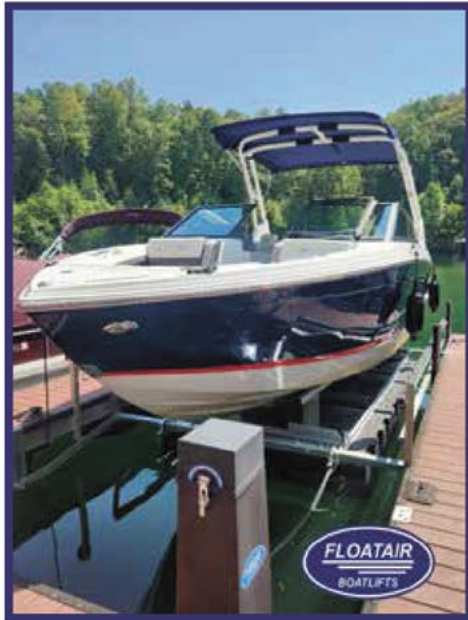


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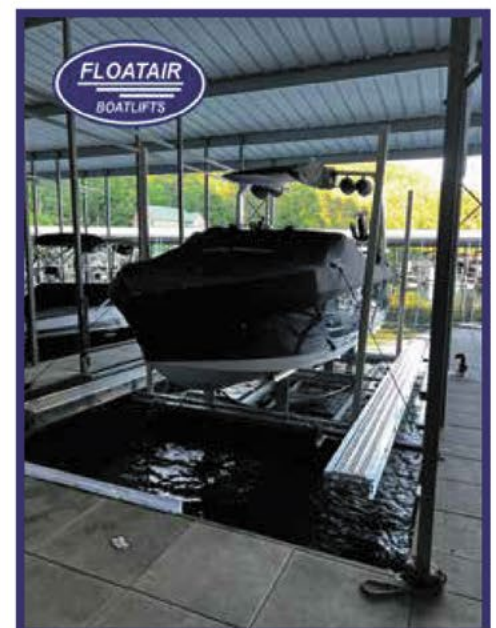
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Legendary Green Pond Landing Celebrates 10 Years - continued from pg. 1

Men National Championships; Two National Professional Fishing League tournaments; Three ABA Military Championships.

Anglers from 48 states, four Canadian provinces and 12 foreign countries have fished Lake Hartwell out of Green Pond Landing. In addition to European & Asian anglers, four countries in Africa have traveled here to compete.



The day after the celebration, Anderson County Parks, Recreation & Tourism Division Director Glenn Brill will retire after a 20-year career. When Brill arrived here in December 2004 to find our Convention & Visitors Bureau, he remembers, "Nobody was talking about our lake." We've come a long way since then! ■



New Mobile App Simplifies Reporting of Illegal Hunting and Fishing Activity in Georgia - continued from pg. 1

community to play a crucial role in DNR's enforcement of hunting and fishing laws.

This user-friendly app is completely FREE for reporting illegal hunting and fishing activities as well as providing hunting regulations for all wildlife. Hunt Regs not only

makes the reporting process and regulations access more accessible but also includes optional premium services for a small fee, such as journaling and real-time weather conditions, which can help hunters and anglers make informed decisions during their hunting and

fishing trips.

The GA DNR encourages all citizens to download the Hunt Regs App and to report violators. By working together, the community and law enforcement can combat illegal activities and ensure that the state's natural

resources are preserved for future generations. For more information on how to download the app and start reporting violations, please visit HuntRegsApp.com/georgialandingpage/ or gadnrle.org/ranger-hotline. Serving Since 1911. ■

Recreational Boating, Fishing Anchor the Nation's Outdoor Recreation Economy- continued from pg. 1

"BoatU.S. is committed to ensuring that policymakers recognize and prioritize the needs of boaters and anglers," said BoatU.S. Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. "This may include ensuring boaters have sufficient and safe access to the water such as launch ramps, support for boating safety programs, and conservation efforts to support fish stocks."

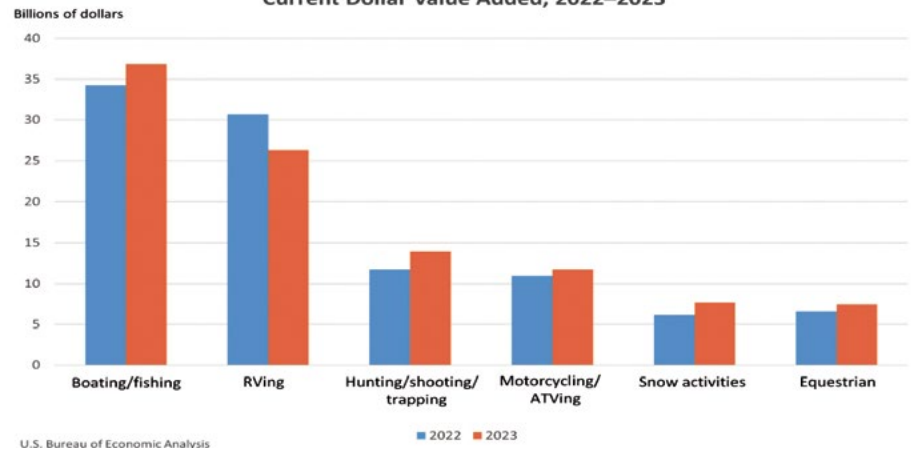
The report also noted that outdoor recreation overall accounted for 2.3% of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023.

Boating and fishing were listed as the largest contributors to this sector in 34 states and the District of Columbia, demonstrating their widespread economic significance.

The BEA report's findings come as communities across the U.S. face decisions on how best to manage natural resources and recreation infrastructure.

For more information on BEA's findings and what they mean for recreational boating, visit <https://www.bea.gov/news/2024/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-states-2023>. ■

Chart 3. Conventional Outdoor Recreation Activities, Current Dollar Value Added, 2022-2023



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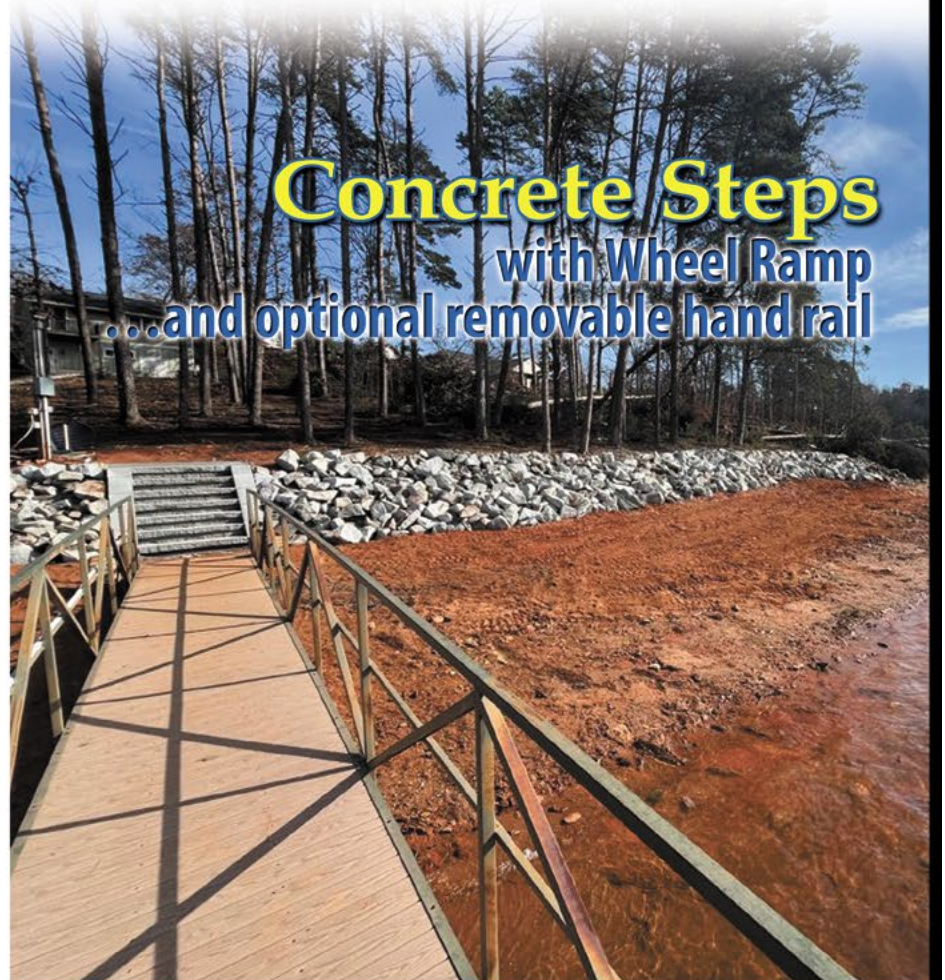
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Calvary Home for Children: Annual Pheasant Shoot at Evergreen Plantation

For the past 15 years, Calvary Home for Children has proudly hosted its annual pheasant shoot, an event that brings together hunting enthusiasts from across the region to support an organization making a profound difference in the lives of children. This cherished tradition is more than just a day of outdoor fun, it's an opportunity to contribute to a cause that transforms lives.

Set amidst the picturesque backdrop of Evergreen Plantation in Iva, South Carolina, this year's event on February 21st promises excitement for seasoned hunters and newcomers alike. With two shooting sessions at 9:00 a.m. and another at 1:30 p.m., participants will have the chance to showcase their skills across two towers accommodating up to 80 shooters per time slot.

Each year, 1,200 pheasants are specially brought in from North Carolina for the occasion. Bird dogs and expert bird cleaners will be on-site to assist hunters in collecting and preparing their game to take home. To round out the experience, a hearty BBQ lunch will be served for all shooters and volunteers from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., providing a perfect break to connect and enjoy delicious Southern fare.

The event welcomes participants aged 16 and older, with no hunting license required to attend. Shooters should bring their own firearm and shells, though extra shells will be available for purchase on-



site. Safety is a top priority, and all participants are expected to wear safety orange during the shoot. To ensure a smooth start, attendees should arrive at least 15 minutes before their scheduled time.

This annual pheasant shoot is more than just a hunting event, it's a celebration of community, camaraderie, and compassion. Funds raised from the day go directly to support Calvary Home for Children's mission of providing a safe, loving environment for children in need.

Whether you're an avid hunter or someone looking to make a meaningful impact, join us for a day of sport, fellowship, and philanthropy. Together, we can ensure that Calvary Home for Children continues to be a beacon of hope for the children it serves.

Mark your calendars and get ready to aim for a great cause. We can't wait to see you at Evergreen Plantation! Visit <https://www.calvaryhome.org/pheasant> to register. ■



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The 2025 Girlfriend's Tea: A Day of Fun, Friendship, and Philanthropy

Mark your calendars for the 21st Annual Girlfriend's Tea, taking place on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the elegant Bleckley Station, 310 S Main Street, Anderson, SC. This beloved tradition promises a day filled with friendship, creativity, and community spirit, all in support of a fantastic cause.

The Girlfriend's Tea is more than just a gathering; it's an opportunity to make a difference. Proceeds from the event benefit the Cancer Association of Anderson, providing vital assistance to local cancer patients. By participating,

you'll be helping your neighbors while enjoying an unforgettable day.

Grab your besties and secure a table for this unique event! Let your creativity shine by decorating your table with a theme of your choosing. Recognition awards for hosts and hostesses will be given, so bring your A-game. Enjoy a light lunch, a variety of hot teas, and the thrill of both silent and live auctions.

Last year's event was the biggest yet, and with your help, 2025 can set a new record!

This year, the excitement kicks off early with

a special VIP Cocktail Hour on Friday, February 21, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. For just \$30 per ticket, attendees can enjoy cocktails and charcuterie while previewing and voting on their favorite table decorations, registering, and starting early bidding on the silent auction. Plus, there will be a 50/50 raffle to add to the fun!

Table hostesses who complete their decorations by 6:45 PM on February 21 will be entered into a drawing for a special prize. Don't worry, your tables will be protected throughout the cocktail hour.

Table Names & Guest List: Submit your table

name and guest list by January 22, 2025, to ensure they are printed in the program. Email details to heidimlandre@gmail.com.

Purchase VIP Cocktail Hour tickets by February 19, 2025.

Don't miss this chance to come together for an incredible cause. Whether you're attending for the tea, the auctions, or the camaraderie, the 2025 Girlfriend's Tea promises to be a memorable and impactful event.

Let's make this year's tea the biggest and best yet! ■

Recycle Real Christmas Trees at Thurmond, Hartwell Lakes for Fish Habitat

By USACE, Savannah District

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District's Forest, Fish, and Wildlife Section at the J. Strom Thurmond Lake and the Hartwell Dam and Lake will accept real Christmas trees for recycling as fish habitat again this season.

Thurmond Lake will accept real trees from Dec. 20, 2024, through Jan. 17, 2025, and

Hartwell Lake will accept real trees from Dec. 26, 2024, through Jan. 26, 2025. Artificial trees are not allowed and will not be accepted. All decorations, e.g., tinsel, lights, garland, bulbs, ornaments, etc., must be removed from the trees before dropping them off. Dumping of wireframe wreaths, decorations, yard debris, and household trash is prohibited.

Trees will be tied in bundles, weighted with concrete anchors, and submerged in various

locations marked with fish attractor buoys by Corps of Engineers personnel. This creates shelter and food for bait fish which attracts crappie, bass, and sunfish species. Ultimately, the recycled trees benefit the fish as well as the angler. Trees can be dropped at the following location.

Hartwell Lake: Georgia side, Big Oaks boat ramp (Hart County) and Poplar Springs boat ramp (Franklin County).

South Carolina side: Twin Lakes boat ramp

(Pickens County), Coneross boat ramp (Oconee County) and Mount Lebanon Elementary School (Anderson County)

Anglers can pick up recycled trees to create fisheries habitat at a desired location. Christmas Trees should be anchored with concrete blocks at depths of 8-12 feet out of the main navigable channels and away from private docks. For more information, contact Park Ranger Jason Corder at (706) 856-0332. ■

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Daylight Saving Time 2025: Springing Forward to Brighter Evenings

As March approaches, it's time to prepare for the annual transition into Daylight Saving Time. This year, Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 2:00 a.m. At that time, clocks will be set forward one hour, marking the shift to brighter evenings and signaling the unofficial arrival of spring. On the evening of Saturday, March 8, remember to adjust your clocks so you don't miss a beat when the time change occurs.

Daylight Saving Time, or DST, is a seasonal practice that shifts the clock forward by one hour during the warmer months and back again in the fall. The concept originated as a way to make better use of natural daylight, giving people longer evenings to enjoy outdoor activities during summer while conserving energy. By advancing the clock in spring, we gain additional evening sunlight, whereas the fall change prioritizes brighter mornings as the days grow shorter.

With the shift in time, DST also provides an excellent opportunity to tackle essential home maintenance tasks. The twice-a-year clock change serves as a handy reminder to address important upkeep that can enhance your home's safety and efficiency. Begin by adjusting the clocks throughout your home, including those on appliances like stoves and microwaves. Check and replace batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, ensuring these life-saving devices remain operational. Take the time to replace air filters in your HVAC system, as clean filters improve air quality and system performance.

Another helpful task is to adjust the direction of your ceiling fans. During warmer months, fans should rotate counterclockwise to push cooler air downward, creating a refreshing breeze. While you're at it, consider rotating your mattress to extend its lifespan and washing curtains and pillows to refresh your living spaces. For those

with fireplaces, a professional chimney inspection and cleaning can prevent hazards during the colder months.

Don't overlook your appliances. Cleaning fridge coils and your oven can help them operate more efficiently. Additionally, vacuuming out dryer vents and air ducts enhances air circulation and reduces the risk of fire. For boat owners, this

is also an ideal time to winterize vessels that won't be in use during the off-season.

Daylight Saving Time isn't just about adjusting clocks—it's about embracing the changing seasons while maintaining a safe and efficient home. With brighter evenings ahead, make the most of this time to prepare for the year to come. ■



Carbon Monoxide-Related Deaths and Poisonings Have Dropped Over the Last 20 Years, But Boaters Must Still be Aware of the Hazards

By BoatU.S.

Life jackets and throwable device? Of course. Visual distress signal? Roger. First-aid kit? Got it. Fire extinguishers and signaling devices? Check and check. VHF with DSC? Yup. Anchor? Affirmative. You might think these items would be enough to protect you and your crew in most boating situations. But there may be a silent and invisible killer in your midst that these items won't help with or fix.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas produced when burning any carbon-based fuel – gasoline, diesel, propane, wood, and so on. While the most common source of CO is exhaust from gasoline or diesel engines and generators, it can be produced by any open-flame device, such as a stove, heater, or grill. When inhaled, CO displaces the oxygen in your blood and deprives your body of oxygen. Symptoms mirror those of other common issues such as

seasickness, intoxication, and dehydration, so carbon monoxide poisonings are often missed until it's too late. Breathe in enough CO and you might pass out; it can kill in just minutes.

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is an innovative leader that aims to reduce boating accidents and fatalities, increase stewardship of waterways, and keep boating a safe and enjoyable pastime. It accomplishes this with educational outreach directly to boaters through its many programs including nationwide life jacket loaner locations, on-water powerboat training, abandoned and derelict vessel removal grants, and EPIRB and PLB rentals. The Foundation is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization primarily funded through grants and individual donations.

BUT THERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS

While the realities of CO are serious, there's also some optimistic news. The most recent U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics

report shows only six reported cases of carbon monoxide poisoning and no deaths in 2022, a sharp decline from nearly 100 fatalities and 377 nonfatal CO poisonings just two decades ago.

This drop can be correlated to several factors. First, modern boat engines have become dramatically more efficient. Fuel injection, engine-control modules, and closed-loop controls result in a more complete combustion process, which decreases CO. In addition, around 2010, gasoline inboards and sterndrives began using catalytic converters, which also aid in reducing CO.

A second reason why CO poisonings have decreased is due to a study and recall of houseboats in the early 2000s. After nine deaths and more than 100 poisonings on Lake Powell over the course of a decade, mainly attributed to poor design and lack of boater awareness of the hazards, the Coast Guard urged houseboat manufacturers to make changes to designs,

especially regarding the placement of generator exhausts – moving them from the transom to the side of the hull to avoid pulling the exhaust back into the cockpit.

A third contributor to the decline can be attributed to multiple recommendations and requirements for boatbuilders, introduced by the American Boat & Yacht Council. ABYC called for the sealing of engine room bulkheads; revised requirements for exhaust locations; called for installing CO detectors; made changes to the design, construction, and testing of boats in consideration of carbon monoxide; added transom danger and helm warning labels; and, along with other organizations including the BoatU.S. Foundation, disseminated information about the hazards of CO.

Still, while CO poisonings and deaths are generally rare, it's important for boaters to remain aware of the potential hazards and take them seriously. ■

Navigating Restaurant Tipping Etiquette: A Guide to Modern Practices

Tipping etiquette can be confusing, especially when faced with different dining scenarios and tip suggestions on receipts. From takeout orders to sit-down meals and reservations, understanding the norms can help diners make informed decisions while ensuring restaurant staff feel appreciated. Here's a breakdown of tipping expectations and practices.

Tipping for takeout is a topic of debate. While it isn't always necessary, it's becoming more common as restaurants invest effort in packaging meals and ensuring orders are correct. A modest tip of 10-15% is a thoughtful gesture, especially if staff go above and beyond, such as carrying your order to your car or accommodating special requests. However, tipping for takeout is typically lower than for dine-in service, since the level of interaction is minimal.

For sit-down service, tipping is customary and often expected. The

standard tip ranges from 15% to 20% of the total bill. However, many restaurants now suggest tips starting at 20%, with higher recommendations of 25% or even 35%. While these suggestions may seem steep, they reflect a shift toward higher service industry standards and may account for rising wages, inflation, or the division of tips

among staff.

The generally accepted tipping norm remains 20% for good service, with more given for exceptional service. It's ultimately up to diners to decide how much to tip based on their experience.

Making a reservation doesn't directly impact tipping expectations, but it can influence how diners perceive the service. If the restaurant goes out of its way to honor special requests, provide personalized attention, or accommodate changes, leaving a slightly larger tip (e.g., 22-25%) is a courteous way to acknowledge their effort.

The suggested tip percentages on some receipts, such as 20%, 25%, and 35%, reflect modern tipping trends but are not strict rules. These amounts are meant to guide diners rather than mandate specific percentages. While 20% remains the baseline for good service,

higher percentages are often recommended for exceptional experiences or when dining at upscale establishments.

In many restaurants, servers are required to share their tips with other staff members, such as bartenders, bussers, and hostesses. This system, known as "tipping out," ensures that the entire team benefits from the diner's generosity. The percentage servers must share varies by establishment but typically ranges from 10% to 30% of their tips. For example, a server might give 10% to the bartender, 5% to the hostess, and another portion to bussers.

Tipping is a way to show appreciation for the effort restaurant staff put into creating a pleasant dining experience. While norms and expectations continue to evolve, understanding the context of each dining scenario can help diners make fair and considerate choices. Whether picking up takeout or enjoying a sit-down meal, tipping remains an essential part of restaurant culture. ■



29th Annual Polar Bear Plunge and Winter Festival

Benefiting Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence. When: March 1, 2025, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Where: Gum Branch Mega Ramp, Hartwell GA

The Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence (NEGACDV) proudly announces the 29th Annual Polar Bear Plunge and Winter Festival, returning to Lake Hartwell on March 1, 2025, with an exciting twist! Expanding on the success of last year's family-friendly Winter Festival, this year's event will be packed with even more activities, entertainment, and ways to participate.

The Winter Festival and Polar Bear Plunge raise essential funds for NEGACDV, supporting their mission to provide free, confidential wraparound services to victims of domestic violence. These funds also serve as critical matches for government and foundation grants, ensuring ongoing support for the Hart, Franklin, and Elbert communities. In 2023, 115 individuals in Georgia lost their lives to domestic violence. NEGACDV provided 32,639 units of service to 580 victims in our local communities. Surprisingly, data shows approximately 30% of grand jury indictments in Hart County involve family violence, which has grown in the last year.



- Event Highlights:**
- Brave the Plunge: Watch or join our daring jumpers as they dive into the icy waters of Lake Hartwell—the centerpiece of this heartwarming event.
 - Mob Dancers for Donations: Not a fan of cold water? Join the fun with our TikTok-style mob dances! Teams of 5-10 participants. Each dancer aims to raise \$25 or more by daring to perform a choreographed dance in costume. While showcasing their creativity through synchronized dance routines. Prizes will be awarded for Best Mob Dance,

- Most Money Raised, and Funniest Dance
 - Live Entertainment: Enjoy live music, photos with Benny the Polar Bear mascot, and performances by Mob Dancers.
 - Family Fun Activities:
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 - Bounce/slide house
 - Petting zoo
 - Winter crafts for kids
 - Face painting
 - Cake walk
 - Costume parade and contest with prizes
 - And so MUCH MORE!
 - Winter Games: Participate in fun challenges and win great prizes.
 - Vendors Galore: Diverse food and retail vendors to explore throughout the day.
- It's never been easier to participate! Use the QR code or visit <https://NEGACDV.org/event> to register as a jumper, dancer, sponsor, or vendor. You can also call 706-376-4787 for

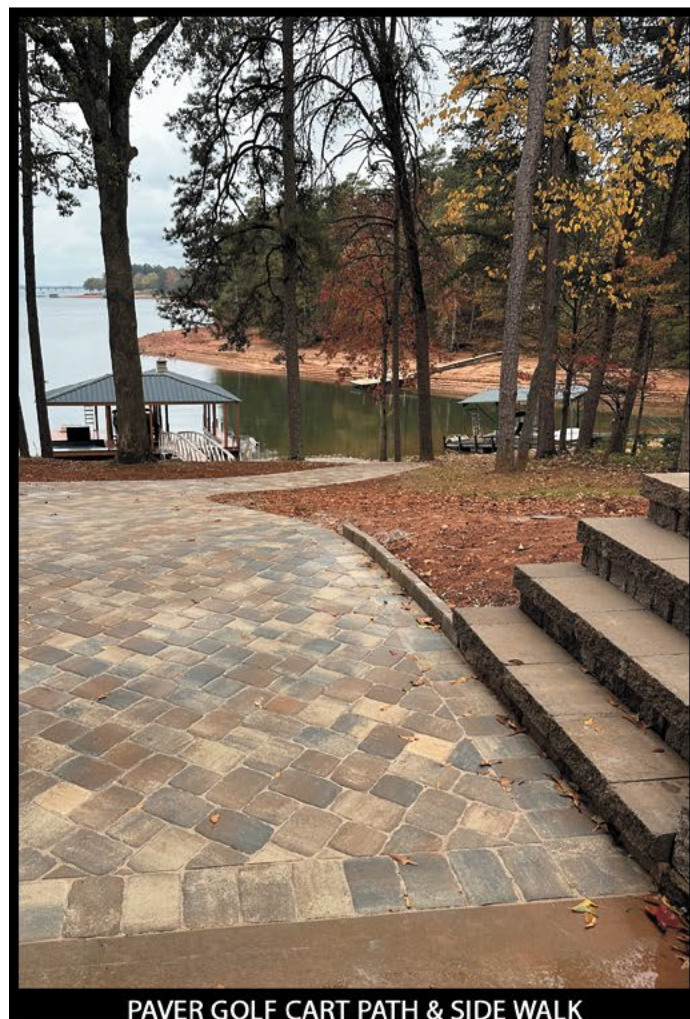
assistance. Online registration and payment make signing up quick and convenient. For more information, contact Barbi Stowe at 706-376-4787 or barbi.stowe@negacdv.org.

Join the Fun and Make a Difference

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to



showcase your creativity, have fun, and make a positive impact on your community. Whether you're plunging, dancing, or just enjoying the festival, your participation helps bring hope and support to those in need. ■



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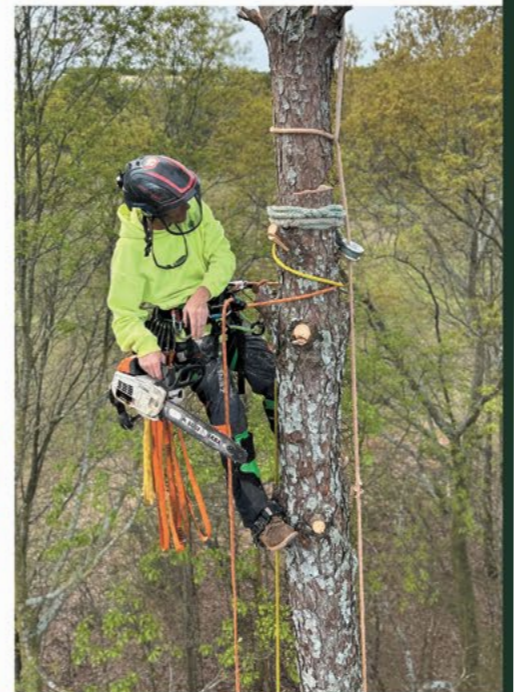


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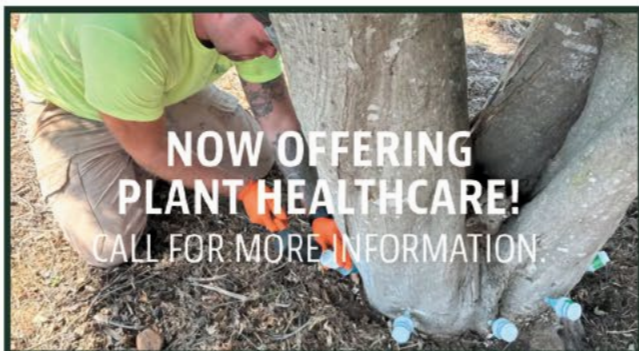
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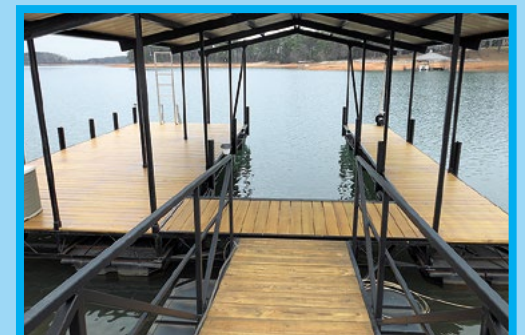


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Choosing the Perfect Boat for Your Boating Adventures

Boating offers an escape from the daily grind, providing a chance to relax and enjoy the water. However, purchasing a boat can quickly become overwhelming and expensive, especially for first-time buyers. The excitement of owning a boat often leads to impulsive decisions, but taking the time to evaluate your needs will ensure you choose the right vessel for your lifestyle.

Before diving into the market, consider how you plan to use your boat. Are you drawn to serene cruises across a lake or river, or is your vision of boating more action-packed, like deep-sea fishing with friends? Perhaps you'd like to explore marshy areas or enjoy a mix of activities. Your boating intentions will significantly influence the type of boat you should buy.

For fishing enthusiasts, understanding the different types of fishing boats is crucial. General-purpose fishing boats are versatile, performing well in both saltwater and freshwater. They're ideal for anglers who may encounter choppy waters. On the other hand, airboats are perfect for marshy terrain or shallow waters that traditional boats cannot navigate. Choosing a boat tailored to your fishing style ensures you'll enjoy every outing.

If fishing isn't your main focus, there are boats designed for leisurely cruises and socializing. These vessels prioritize comfort and allow you to enjoy the scenery while spending quality time with family and friends. Whether you're coasting along tranquil rivers or exploring expansive lakes, selecting a boat designed for relaxation will make

your time on the water more enjoyable.

A common mistake among first-time buyers is choosing a boat based solely on aesthetics. While an eye-catching design may grab your attention, it's essential to prioritize functionality over looks. The right boat should meet your specific needs, not just your desire for visual appeal.

Another key factor is to take your time. Purchasing a boat is a significant investment, and rushing into it can lead to buyer's remorse. Researching and understanding your options ensures that your choice aligns with your lifestyle and intended use.

Although this article focuses on choosing the right type of boat, it's worth briefly considering whether to buy a new or used one. A brand-

new boat comes with warranties and the latest features, but it's often more expensive. A used boat, while more affordable, might require additional maintenance. Your budget and boating goals will ultimately guide this decision.

The perfect boat enhances your enjoyment and delivers the best value for your investment. By clearly defining your boating intentions, whether it's fishing, cruising, or a mix of both, you'll be better equipped to find a vessel that meets your needs.

Boating is about more than owning a beautiful craft; it's about creating unforgettable memories on the water. Taking the time to select the right boat ensures that your purchase supports those moments, making every trip a true pleasure. ■

Sailing Into Winter Excitement

As the winter months settle in, sailors at the WCSC (Western Carolina Sailing Club) are gearing up for the Frostbite Series, a pursuit start race that promises thrilling competition without the formality of traditional buoy racing. The upcoming WCSC Frostbite Race #3, scheduled for Saturday, January 11th from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM Eastern Time, beckons sailors of all levels to embrace the chill and enjoy the camaraderie of winter sailing.

The Frostbite Series adopts a pursuit start format, setting it apart from the more conventional windward-leeward buoy racing. This approach utilizes government navigation buoys as course marks, offering a unique and engaging experience for sailors. Staggered start times based on PHRF ratings ensure that slower boats set off first,

creating a visually dynamic racecourse and eliminating the chaotic crowds typically associated with traditional starts.

The pursuit start format adds a delightful "fun factor" to the race, allowing participants to gauge their performance against others. It's a straightforward concept: if you're ahead of a boat on the course, you're beating that boat. The first boat to cross the finish line emerges victorious, embracing the simplicity and excitement of this style of racing.

Beyond the adrenaline of the race, participants can look forward to a cozy post-race gathering. Warm up by the fireplace, bring your favorite adult beverage (BYOB), and engage in the lively post-race banter that adds a sense of community to sailing events. Ray and Jeanne Guidi will provide a meal, adding a savory touch

to the social after-race. We are still recruiting volunteers to provide soup or chili for the after-race social for the remaining six Frostbite races. If you are willing to do this, please contact Rick Font at cowardlyliontri@gmail.com or 334-332-2025.

The day kicks off with check-in and registration starting at 10:30AM. Rick is the person with the computer, who will be ready to receive your boat information to set up the staggered start times accurately. The skippers' meeting, scheduled for 11:00 AM, is a crucial gathering where the course for the day will be decided, and the pursuit start process will be explained.

Sailors are advised to come prepared by downloading and printing essential documents such as the Sailing Instructions, Lake Map, and Buoy and Course List from the Frostbite Series

2025 folder on the Club website. These documents hold crucial information, especially for those new to sailboat racing or the Club's pursuit start races.

For those eager to participate or seeking more information, reaching out to Rick Fontenot, the event contact, at cowardlyliontri@gmail.com or 334-332-2025 is recommended. The WCSC Frostbite Race #4 is open to both members and non-members, with registration being recommended but free for all.

As winter settles over the cove, the WCSC Frostbite Race #4 offers sailors a chance to break free from hibernation and sail into the excitement of winter racing. Whether you're a seasoned sailor or a newcomer, the Frostbite Series promises a unique and enjoyable experience that celebrates the spirit of winter sailing. ■

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Understanding Boat Lifts: How They Work and Evolving Designs

Boat lifts are essential tools for lifting and storing boats above the water's surface, protecting them from prolonged exposure to water and other environmental factors. Designed to accommodate various boat sizes, boat lifts operate on principles of hoists and lifts and are primarily classified into two types: Hydro-Hoist models and Air-Dock models.

Hydro-Hoist boat lifts use float tanks with drain fittings at the bottom that remain open to the water. Heavy-duty motors drive hoists to lift the boat out of the water. These models come in several variants, such as Boat Floater and Econo Lift, each tailored to specific needs. In contrast, Air-Dock boat lifts rely on air pressure to raise boats. They use water tanks that are alternately filled and evacuated with air to achieve the desired lift. By pumping air into the tanks, water is forced out, lifting the boat. To lower the lift, air pressure is vented, allowing water to refill the tanks.

The mechanics of these systems involve

motors equipped with blowers, similar in size to vacuum cleaner motors. These blowers push air through hoses attached to the float tanks, which typically feature four-inch diameter openings at



Above: Hydro-Hoist boat lifts are sold by MSI. See ad on page 2

opposite ends. An electric switch controls the motor and valve system. When lifting the boat, the valve is opened, and the blower motor is

activated until air bubbles escape from the tank openings, signaling the maximum achievable lift. Once the desired height is reached, the valve is manually closed, sealing the air inside the tanks. For lowering the boat, the valve is reopened, releasing the air, and the lift gradually settles back into the water.

Advancements in technology are continuously improving boat lift designs, making them more efficient and versatile. Innovations such as floating drive-on dry lifting systems have rendered traditional lifts, hoists, and trailers less relevant. These systems are fully portable, modular, and adaptable to various water conditions, including shallow and deep water, tidal movements, saltwater environments, currents, and even waves.

In addition to technological advancements, modern boat lifts are designed with the

environment in mind. Many systems now use materials and designs that minimize environmental impact by reducing water pollution and disturbance to aquatic ecosystems. For instance, eco-friendly lifts often have features to prevent oil leaks from machinery and use corrosion-resistant materials that last longer, reducing the need for frequent replacements. These systems not only provide superior functionality but also align with the growing emphasis on sustainable marine practices.

For boat owners, choosing the right lift is an essential part of maintaining their vessels and enhancing their boating experience. Whether it's protecting your boat from the damaging effects of prolonged water exposure, ensuring its longevity, or reducing maintenance costs, a high-quality boat lift is a wise investment. With the continual evolution of designs and technologies, boat lifts are becoming more accessible, efficient, and eco-conscious, offering tailored solutions for every boating need. ■





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Winter Events Around Lake Hartwell

January 15, 7:30, Wine Wednesdays, Wheel & Fowl Fine Cigars & Spirits, 121 N Marin St, Anderson, wfcigarbar.com, 864-844-9171

January 16, 6PM, Live Music, Luke Smith, The Bradbury Bristo, 520 N Main St., Anderson

January 17, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, Doug McDonald, The Doors, Pearl Jam, The Eagles, Jump, Litter Children, Marc Broussard & Otis Redding, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca, www.dougmcdonaldmusic.com/music

January 18, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, Scott Low Southern Songwriter, American Music, Folk, Blues, Jazz, Bluegrass, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca, www.youtube.com/efrerock

January 17 – February 21, Winston Wingo/Winston Cely Exhibit, Anderson Art Center, 110 Federal St., Anderson

January 17, 7PM – 9PM, The Fiddle and Bow Music & Southern Folk Art Gallery, Live Music, 45 N. Main St., Honea Path

January 18, Monster Truck Wars, Pre-Show Meet & Greet Pit Party, 10:30AM – 11:30AM, Matinee 12PM – 1:30, Pre-Show Meet & Greet, 4:30PM – 5:30PM, Evening 6PM – 7:30PM, T. Ed Garrison Livestock Main Anderson, 864-224-6563

January 18, June 21, 6:30 PM – 9:30PM, Big C and High Cotton House Band, \$15 General Admission, Free for Jammin Musicians, 57 Depot St., Hartwell

January 20, 7:30AM – 5:30PM, MLD Day Camp at Hydra, Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks, Grades K-5, \$30, Register @ HartwellHdry.org, Questions HartwellHydra@gmail.com, or In Person, 200 Clay Street, Hartwell 706-376-8899

January 20, 6PM – 9PM, Open Mic Night at Carolina Bauernhaus, 115 Federal Street, Anderson

January 21, 6:30 – 8PM, Stress Relief Wine Tasting, Kitchen Emporium, 418 N. Main St., Anderson

January 22, 7PM, Trivia, Growler Haus, 313 N. Main St., Anderson

January 22, 7PM – 9PM, Trivia at Magnetic South Brewery, 516 N. Main St., Anderson

January 23, 6PM, Live Music with Luke Smith, The Bradbury Bistro, 502 N. Main St., Anderson

January 24 - 26, 7AM – 7PM, Blue Ridge Agility Club AKC Agility Trial, Three Day Event, Time2Beat & Fast, All Levers of Competition, Novice to Premier, Jumps Heights 8"- 26", Free Event, T. Ed Garrison Livestock Main Arena, 1101 W. Queen Street, Pendleton, Lynn Hurley, 828-581-9405, lynn@waggingtailsmassage.com, https://blueridgeagilityclub.com/

January 24, 4PM – 7PM, Bridal Fair Expo, Kitchen Emporium, 818 N. Main St., Anderson

January 24, 6PM – 9PM, Live Music at Magnetic South Brewery, 516 N. Main Street, Anderson

January 25, 6AM, Bantam Chicken Show, T. Ed Garrison Livestock Main Arena, 1101 W. Queen Street, Pendleton, Chad Satterfield, 864-247-0545, chad.satterfield.danver@gmail.com

January 25 – 26, 8PM – 9PM, Mojo On Max, Sticks, Stones, Roots and Bones, Educational & Authentic Blues Prestation, Family Friendly, High Cotton Music Hall, 57 Depo St., Hartwell

January 25, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, David Locke, Singer & Songwriter, www.facebook.com/davidlockemusicofficial/, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca

January 27, 6PM – 9PM, Open Mic Night at Carolina Bauernhaus, 115 Federal St., Anderson

January 29 – February 1, All Day, Upstate Kid's Spring Sale, Anderson Sports & Entertainment, 3207 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Anderson

January 29, All Day, Upstate Kid's Spring Sale, Anderson Sports & Entertainment Center, 3027 Martin Luther King Blvd., Anderson

January 29, 7PM – 9PM, Trivia at Magnet South Brewery, 516 N. Main St., Anderson

January 30, 6PM, Live Music with Luke Smith, The Bradbury Bisto, 502 N Main St., Anderson

January 31, 4PM -7PM, Bridal Fair Expo., Location: Kitchen Emporium, 418 N. Main Street, Anderson

January 31, 6PM – 9PM, Live Music at Magnetic South Brewery, 516 N. Main Street, Anderson

January 31, 7PM, 1920's Party with The Past, A Night at The Speakeasy, Costumes Optional, Food, Prohibition Cocktails, Dancing, Music & Vintage Vibes, Friends of The Museum, 2020 East Greenville Street, Anderson, andersoncountymuseum.sc.gov, 864-260-4737

January 31, 4PM – 7PM, Bridal Fair Expo, Kitchen Emporium, 418 N. Main St., Anderson

January 31, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, World Famous Billy Bauer, Variety of Music, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca

February 1, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, Halem Albright, Guitarist, Vocalist, Songwriter, From Atlanta, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca

February 1, 10AM – 12PM, Harry Potter Painting for Kids, Anderson County Museum, 202 E. Greenville St., Anderson

February 2, 10AM, Carolina Carnage-Medieval Combat National Championship, Honoring the Tournament for Nation Selection to Team USA, Competitors From England, Australia, France & Italy, www.palmettoknights.com/carolina-carnage, Larry Lagnese, 803-465-1302, ljlagnese@gmail.com

February 6-9, Tiger Classic, Gymnastics, The Civic of Aderson, 3207 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Anderson, andersonevents.com/events

February 7, 6:30PM – 9:30PM, The Winter Ball, Sponsored by Liberty Oaks Academy, Music, Dance, Food, Chaperoned, Formal Event, The Pavilion at Walker Century Farms, 110 Walker Road, Anderson

February 8, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, David Locke, Songwriter, www.facebook.com/davidlockemusicofficial/

February 8, 11AM – 1PM, Harry Potter Day – Winter Edition, Dust Off Your Wands & Grab Your Broomsticks to Celebrating All This Magic, 202 E. Greenville St., Anderson

February 8, 8PM – 10PM, Paul McDonald & The Mourning Dover, Compared to Legends Rod Steward and Bob Dylan, High Cotton Music Hall, 57 Depot St., Hartwell

February 8, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, LC Branch, Singer Songer Writer, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca, LCBranchmusic.com

February 7, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, Joe Owens, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca, www.facebook.com/JoeOwensmucis/

February 8, 9AM- 1:30PM, The Call Conference 2025, One day, Explore God's Call on Your Life, \$10 High School & College, Free for Adult Leaders, 316 Blvd., Anderson

February 8, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, LC Branch, Soul-Infused Acoustic Sounds, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca, LCBranchmusic.com

February 13, 7PM, The Beach Ball, GAMAC, Valentine & Dance to Carolina Shag & Beach Music, Table Setting with Dance Floor, Food & Drinks, \$75 Per Person or \$600 for Table of 8, 864-231-6147 or GAMAC.ORG, Bleckley Station, 310 S. Main, Anderson

February 15, 7PM – 10PM, Zane Lamprey, Nationally Touring Comedian, Award Winning TV Host, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca

February 22, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, Andrew Crocker, Singer, Songwriter, Soulful Voice, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca

January 24, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Live Music, BJ Callihan, Oconee County Native & Performs High Energy, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca

February 22, 12PM – 3PM, 21st Annual Girlfriends Tea & Auction, Light Lunch & Hot Tea Served, Host a Table & Decorating It With Any Theme of your Choosing, Host & Host Awards & Recognition, Join Benefiting The Caner Association of Anderson, 310 S Main St., 864-222-3500, www.caanderson.org

February 25, 9AM, Preventive Controls for Animal Food, FSPCA Event 2 days 8 hours, Hazard Analysis & Risk-Based Preventive Control, 1428 Pearman Dairy Road, Anderson

February 27, 5PM, Preventive Controls for Animal Food, FSPCA Event 2 days 8 hours, Hazard Analysis & Risk-Based Preventive Control, 1428 Pearman Dairy Road, Anderson

February 28, 6:30PM, David Locke, Songwriter, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca www.facebook.com/davidlockemusicofficial/

March 8, 7:30PM – 10PM, Door Time 5:30PM, Fleetwood Mac Experience, Hits from Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac to Stevie Nicks Solo Material, Vocalist Lara Smith, The Station of Hartwell, 210 Railroad St., Hartwell, FreshTix.com for Tickets

March 8, 11AM – 12PM, Junior Docents, Anderson County Museum, 202 E. Greenville St., Anderson

March 8, 11AM – PM, March Marker's Market 2025, Hand Crafted Products, Decor and Art! There will be over 70 small businesses, Barefoot Acres SC 181 Barefoot Acres Way, Fountain Inn

March 15, Race for The Green, 5K - \$20, Half Marathon \$45, Half Marathon 2 Person Relay \$65, Door Prize For Race Entrants, Cash Prizes Top 3 Finishers in 5K & Half Marathon, Cash Prize 1st Place in All New Half Marathon Relay, Best Costume Contest, www.senecascevents.com

March 21, 7:30PM, Doors Open 5:30PM, Slippery When Wet, The Ultimate Bon Jovi Tribute, Jason Morey, Food & Drinks, The Stations of Hartwell, 210 Railroad St., Hartwell, Purchase Tickets, www.freshTix.com

March 22, 10AM, Home & Garden Show, The Civic Center of Anderson, 3207 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Anderson

March 22, 11AM – 12PM, American Girl Club, Anderson County Museum, 202 E., Greenville St., Anderson

March 29, 10AM – 5PM, In Water Boat Show, Food, Drinks, Vendors, Bargains on Everything Nautical & Home, Presented by Gordon's Marine, Gum Branch Mega Ramp & Pavilion, 1352 Vanna Waller Rd., Hartwell, Vendors & Sponsors Forms, www.hartwellrotary.com

March 30, 2PM, Easter Egg Hunt, Lavonia City Park, Chick-Fil-A of Lavonia, Lavonia Downtown Development & Main Street Crew, Egg Hunt, Bouncy Castle, Meet the Easter Bunny, Mind-Blowing Balloons, Animals by Mr. Twister, 706-356-1926 or 706-356-5725

March 30, The Franklin County Community Players Car Show, 12005 Augusta Rd, Lavonia, GA. 706-491-1538.

April 5, 10AM – 3PM, 17th Annual Dam Dog Walk, Vendors, Food, Live Music, Dog Pageant, Big Oak Recreation Area, Dam Road, Hartwell

April 8, 5:30PM – 6:30PM, Heritage & History, Anderson Museum, 202 E., Greenville St., Anderson

April 18, 7:30PM, Door Time 5:30PM, The Yacht Rock Schooner, 70' & 80's Smooth Hits, T Dance Party, The Station of Hartwell, 210 Railroad St., Hartwell, For Tickets, www.freshTix.com

Lake Hartwell Restaurants Accessible by Boat

The Galley Restaurant: Located at Portman Marina, 1629 Marina Rd, Anderson, SC, 864-287-3215, Tues. - Sat. 5pm - 9pm, Sun. & Mon. Closed, www.galleyrestaurantportmanmarina.com. Waterfront dining serving fresh seafood, prime beef, specialty dishes, sushi. Outdoor dining is available & two private dining rooms for your special occasions. Accepting reservations & would encourage you to call ahead for weekends & holidays. **Buoy 79**

Boat House Grill: Located at Hartwell Marina, 149 Hartwell Marina Drive, Hartwell, GA, 706-376-5150, Thur. & Sun. 11am - 9pm, Thur., Fri. & Sat. Live Music, Fri., and Sat. 11am - 9pm, www.theboathousegrill.com, Live music & events every weekend, indoor & outdoor seating, a variety of games, and a sandy beach where the kids can hunt rocks or watch the fish! **Buoy MLLC8**

The Waterfront Grill: Located at 1600 Asbury Park Rd, Anderson across from the double bridges & across from Green Pond Landing. Low Country boil, crab legs, grouper, apple pie, pork chops, turnip greens, burger, waffles, chicken & waffles, shrimp & grits, French toast, both indoor & outdoor setting, catering available, birthday parties. www.theshoresofasbury.com. Open 11am, 7 days a week. 864-844-9002.

Tilly's Tiki Bar & Grill: Located at Harbor Light Marina, 1476 Harbor Light Marina Rd., Lavonia, GA, 706-356-0727, Mon. - Wed., Closed, Thur. 5pm - 9pm, Fri. - Sat. 12pm - 9pm, Sun. 10am - 9pm, www.tillystikibargrill.com. Serving fresh seafood, steak, salads & sandwiches. Team Trivia weekly Sun. 6pm - 8:30pm, **Buoy T51**

J.R. Cash's Grill and Bar: Located at Big Water Marina, 320 Big Water Rd., Starr, SC, 864-309-0111, Fri. - Sat. 11am - 10pm, www.jrcashs.com. Serving fresh, scratch-made, classic American grill. Whether enjoying a legendary salad, oversized sandwiches, or a huge, fresh patty piled high with fixin's. Outdoor setting with a beautiful view of the lake. **Buoy 10**

The Grill at Clemson Marina: Located at Clemson Marina, 150 Clemson Marina Drive, Seneca, SC, 864-653-6767, Fri. & Sun. 11am - 9pm, www.clemsonmarina.com. Serving burgers to tacos & wings, po boys to chicken fingers, salads, wraps and grilled sandwiches in an open air, relaxed environment. Outdoor playground, offering top notch food under refreshing ceiling fans with stunning views of Lake Hartwell & Clemson University's Death Valley. **Buoy 89**

Pixie and Bill's: Located at 1058 Tiger Blvd, Clemson, SC, 864-654-1210, Mon. - Sat. 5pm - 9pm, Sun. closed, www.pixieandbills.com, Fine dining serving fresh seafood, natural hand-cut beef, pasta, pork, chicken, seafood, vegetarian & gluten-free. Opened since 1971, accepting reservations. **Buoy S98**

Waldrop's Restaurant: Located at 1141 Andersonville Road, Townville, SC, 864-287-3958, Breakfast 7am - 10:30am, Lunch 11am - 2pm. Scratch made biscuits, Jalapeno cheese grits, daily specials, burgers, signature sandwiches, salads & more. Across the road from **Buoy T10**

Your Pie Pizza: Tiger Blvd, Suite 100, Clemson, 864-642-6888 ■

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Foothills Heritage Market

Westminster: farmoconee.org

Greenbrier Farms

Easley: www.greenbrierfarms.com
(864) 855-9782, Amy Bishop

Patrick Square CSA

116 Thomas Square Blvd. Clemson (864) 654-1500, Chris Hodge
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(864) 247-000, Neil and Gwen McPhail

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(706) 499-8255

Stephens County Extension Service

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North Broad Street in Toccoa.

Hartwell Farmers Market

Benson Street at Hartwell Sun
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www.hartwellfarmersmarket.com
(706) 376-7505 Shirley Johnson

Anderson County Farmers Market

402 N. Murry Ave.,
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Thur, & Sat (8am - 1pm)
Sharon Nicometo (864) 231-1924

Anderson Jockey Lot & Farmers Market

4530 Hwy 29 N., Belton
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Clemson Farmers' Market

Patrick Square Village Green
(578 Issaqueena Trail)
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(3:00pm - 6:00pm)
Kathi Dimmock (864) 654-3918
Kathi.dimmock@att.net
www.clemsonfarmersmarket.org

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berryacresllc@gmail.com
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Tues, Thur & Sat (6am - 12pm)
Ed Halbig (864) 885-2726

Westminster Tuesday Farmers Market

135 East Main Street
June - Oct. (4pm - 7pm)
Sandra Powell (864) 647-5316

3 Oaks Farm

1223 North Seed Farm Rd.,
Westminster www.3oaksfarm.com
(864) 324-4231

Split Creek Farm

3806 Centerville Rd., Anderson
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With over 25 years of painting experience, David Brown, owner of Brown Painting, has dedicated his career to transforming homes and properties throughout South Carolina. As a seasoned professional, David combines skill, attention to detail, and a passion for excellence to bring new life to every project.

Brown Painting specializes in both interior and exterior painting, along with a range of services including pressure washing, drywall repair, popcorn ceiling removal, cabinet refinishing, staining and more.

David emphasizes the importance of winter preparation, ensuring homes, decks, driveways, and boat docks are ready for spring. His thorough process includes pressure washing surfaces to create the

ideal foundation for painting.

Using Sherwin-Williams paints for superior quality, David delivers outstanding results but remains flexible to meet customer preferences for paint selection. Licensed, insured, and bonded in South Carolina, he provides reliable, professional service backed by excellent local references and a portfolio of satisfied clients.

Whether it's a residential repaint or a commercial makeover, David Brown offers free estimates on projects of all sizes. Serving Lake Hartwell and surrounding communities, he's ready to transform your space with precision and care.

Contact Brown Painting today and let David bring your vision to life! ■ *See ad Above*

Reviving Your Winter Garden: Tips for a Year-Round Oasis

As winter settles in, gardens can often look lifeless and uninspiring. However, with thoughtful planning and a few creative strategies, your yard can remain vibrant, even in the coldest months. Whether you're a homeowner looking to improve your curb appeal or someone eager to keep the beauty of your garden alive, there are plenty of ways to conquer cold-weather gardening challenges.

Winter gardens require extra care, particularly to avoid unsightly features such as murky, green paths caused by mold. Regularly power-washing paths, decks, and even the base of fences can prevent this slimy nuisance from taking hold. In milder climates, lawn maintenance may still be necessary. If you're mowing your lawn, raise the blade to avoid cutting the grass too short during winter, which can damage its resilience.

Potted plants can add character to your winter garden, but they require extra attention in freezing temperatures. If you're keeping your plants in ceramic containers, watch for frost warnings and protect them with bubble wrap or fabric coverings when the temperature drops. For a non-gardening touch, consider installing path lighting. Affordable, push-in mushroom lamps can brighten your front yard and create a welcoming atmosphere during the darker months.

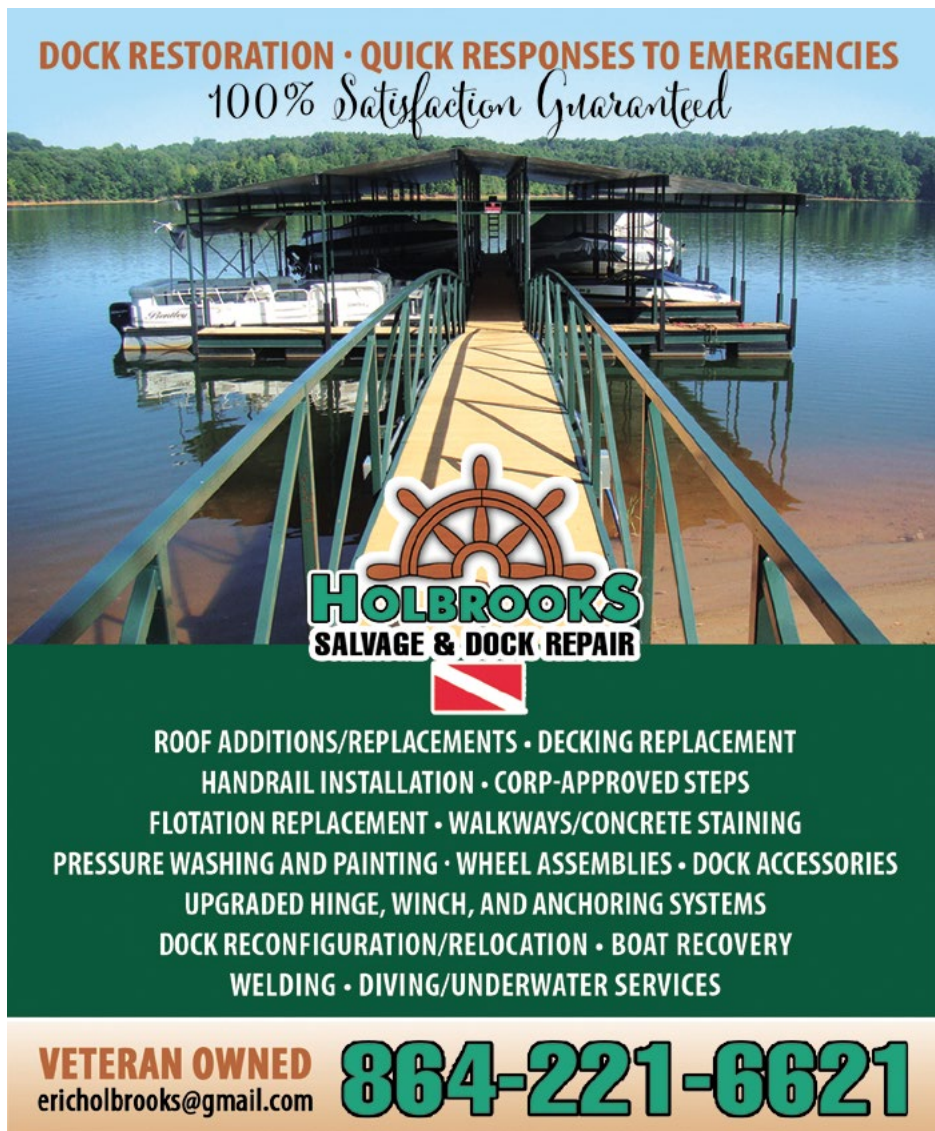
Evergreens are a cornerstone of any winter

garden. If your yard is missing them, now is the time to invest in a variety of these hardy plants. Blue fir, bronze, yellow, silver, and variegated evergreens provide structure and color year-round. For an extra touch of brightness, consider berry-bearing evergreens like holly or rowan trees, which add vibrant reds and oranges to the landscape.

Winter-blooming flowers can be rare, but their charm is unmatched. Pink viburnum, winter honeysuckle, and winter jasmine are excellent choices, with the latter two offering delightful fragrances. Bedding plants like winter pansies and heather also bring pops of color. For an unconventional twist, ornamental cabbages in shades of cream and purple provide visual interest and withstand the cold.

To ensure a lively start to spring, incorporate early bulbs such as snowdrops, daffodils, and crocuses into your planting scheme. These blooms emerge early, offering a cheerful reminder that warmer days are on the horizon. If you're selling your home, these bulbs can enhance curb appeal by promising prospective buyers a colorful spring view.

Winter doesn't have to mean a dull garden. By incorporating evergreens, winter flowers, and strategic landscaping, you can maintain an inviting and vibrant yard throughout the season. With a little effort, your garden can be a winter oasis, showcasing beauty and life even in the coldest months. ■



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Lavonia Boat Expo Returns for Sixth Year: Celebrate Spring on Saturday, March 15th

LAVONIA, GA – The Lavonia Downtown Development Authority is thrilled to announce the return of the Lavonia Boat Expo, now in its sixth year. Set to take place on Saturday, March 15th, this beloved community event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. along East and West Main Streets. Admission and parking are completely free, making it a perfect outing for families and boating enthusiasts alike.

Boating season is just around the corner, and the Lavonia Boat Expo is the ideal way to gear up for summer fun on the water. Attendees can explore a wide range of boats, watercraft, and accessories, with expert



vendors and representatives on hand to provide demonstrations, answer questions, and showcase the latest innovations in the boating industry.

“The Lavonia Boat Expo is a great way to kick off spring and get excited for the boating season ahead. We’re thrilled to welcome boat dealers, exhibitors, and representatives from organizations like Tugaloo State Park and local boat rental companies to this year’s event,” said Main Street Director, Ashley Rose Dodd.

But the excitement doesn’t stop with boats! The Expo will also feature satellite events and activities to entertain all ages, including a children’s play area and music at the

Gazebo.

Whether you’re a seasoned boating enthusiast or simply looking for a fun day out in Lavonia, the Boat Expo promises something for everyone. Don’t miss your chance to enjoy this vibrant event and explore all that the boating world has to offer.

Event Details:

- What: Lavonia Boat Expo
- When: Saturday, March 15, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Where: East and West Main Streets, Lavonia, GA
- Cost: Free admission and parking

For more information, please contact Ashley Rose Dodd at

ardodd@lavoniaga.gov.

Come celebrate the start of spring in Lavonia – we’ll see you at the Boat Expo! ■



Winter is The Perfect Season to Build Your Dream Dock

When winter rolls around, most homeowners focus on indoor projects or put outdoor improvements on pause. Yet, for those considering a new dock, winter might just be the ideal time to get started. While it may seem counterintuitive, building a dock in the colder months offers several unique benefits that make it the perfect season to transform your waterfront property.

One of the biggest advantages of starting a dock project in winter is being ready to enjoy it as soon as spring arrives. Dock construction requires careful planning, obtaining permits, and often customization, all of which can take time. Initiating these steps during the off-season allows

you to bypass delays and ensures your dock is ready for fishing, boating, or simply enjoying the water when the warm weather returns. With the groundwork laid in winter, your dock will be ready just in time to make the most of the boating season.

Winter is also a season when many families allocate their budgets toward vacations or holiday expenses. Investing in a dock during this time is a smart way to channel those funds into a project that adds lasting value to your property. A well-constructed dock not only enhances your waterfront lifestyle but also serves as a long-term investment. Properties with high-quality docks have seen increased resale values in recent years,

making this a financially savvy move, especially if you’re considering selling your home in the near future.

Building a dock in winter comes with practical advantages, too. Construction crews often have greater availability during the off-season, which can lead to faster turnaround times and, in some cases, lower costs due to reduced demand. Additionally, frozen ground and low water levels in winter can simplify certain aspects of the construction process, particularly when it comes to accessing the shoreline and securing materials. These conditions make it easier to create a durable, properly installed dock that

will stand the test of time.

The type of dock you choose is critical to enhancing your property’s value and usability. While a simple, DIY wooden dock might suffice for basic needs, a professionally designed and expertly installed floating dock offers greater durability, functionality, and aesthetic appeal. Factors such as shoreline features, existing structures, and intended use should guide your choice. Consulting with experienced dock builders ensures that your new addition complements your property and meets your specific needs.

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Winter is The Perfect Season ... – continued from pg. 18

Winter is not just a season of stillness; it's also a time for preparation. Starting your dock project during this period allows you to envision and create a waterfront oasis tailored to your lifestyle. Whether you plan to use it for boating, fishing, or entertainment, your dock will serve as a focal point for years of enjoyment.

Don't let cold weather deter you from

pursuing your dreams of dock-building. By starting construction in winter, you position yourself to enjoy a seamless transition to springtime waterfront activities while increasing the value and appeal of your property. So, embrace the season, plan, and make this winter the beginning of a new chapter for your waterfront living. ■

**Revitalizing Your Mind:
The Healing Power of Outdoor Activities**

In today's demanding world, mental health has become a critical focus as individuals navigate the stresses of modern life. While challenges affect everyone differently, one universal solution lies in embracing outdoor activities. These moments in nature offer therapeutic benefits that can transform our mental and emotional well-being. Let's explore how engaging with the great outdoors—through activities like fishing, yoga, boating, and more—can help foster a healthier state of mind.

Amid the whirlwind of daily life, fishing emerges as a simple yet profound way to boost mental health. The act of casting a line and patiently waiting allows the mind to unwind, disconnect from stressors, and immerse in the serenity of nature. Beyond its calming effects, fishing offers a sense of accomplishment and connection with the environment, making it both a meditative and rewarding experience.

Similarly, practicing yoga outdoors elevates this ancient discipline to new heights. Whether stretching beneath a canopy of trees or breathing deeply by a tranquil lake, outdoor yoga amplifies feelings of mindfulness and gratitude. The natural surroundings enhance the physical and mental benefits of yoga, fostering a profound sense of unity with the world. Coupled with sound baths or guided meditations, outdoor yoga becomes a powerful tool for clearing the mind and nurturing emotional balance.

Self-care is another cornerstone of mental well-being, and outdoor environments can play a significant role. Simple routines, like a daily walk in fresh air or journaling under the sun, bring clarity and rejuvenation. Self-care extends beyond physical pampering—it's about creating space to nurture the mind and emotions. By embracing outdoor rituals, individuals can rediscover the joy of caring for themselves in a

holistic and fulfilling way.

Boating, whether enjoyed solo or with loved ones, is uniquely restorative. The rhythmic motion of the boat and the vastness of open water create an unparalleled sense of calm, often referred to as the "Blue Mind." This state of mental reset allows individuals to escape routine, recharge, and connect deeply with themselves and the natural world. Whether kayaking on a quiet river or cruising on a pontoon, boating is an invitation to embrace tranquility.

Even everyday indoor hobbies take on new life when moving outdoors. Reading, painting, listening to music, or even playing video games beneath an open sky infuse these activities

with a fresh perspective. The combination of natural light and fresh air enhances mood and creativity, transforming familiar routines into vibrant expressions of joy.

As life grows more complex, the power of outdoor activities in promoting mental health cannot be overstated. From fishing's quiet reflection to yoga's mindful movement and boating's serene escapes, nature offers endless opportunities for healing and renewal. By prioritizing time outside, we can nurture our minds and embrace the beauty and balance that the great outdoors provides.

Taking a step into nature—it might just be the key to revitalizing your mind and spirit. ■



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