

Lifestyles

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ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Kathy Mitchell
and Marcy Sugar

Sis's stories are a little too racy for 16-year-old

Dear Annie: My husband is very close to his sister, "Cynthia." I also like her very much, as does our 16-year-old daughter.

Since Cynthia lives in another state, we see her only a few times a year and she usually stays in our home. We often spend two or three hours sitting around the dining room table talking about our families, our lives, our jobs, etc., but then the conversation turns to the escapades Cynthia and her brother had as teenagers.

The two of them were rather wild back then. On her last visit, Cynthia told a story I hadn't heard before. It was sexual in nature and much too graphic for a 16-year-old girl, but there was our daughter, hanging on every word. I tried to change the topic several times, to no avail.

The next day, when my husband and I were alone, I told him I really like Cynthia and am glad she visits, but some of her conversation is inappropriate for our daughter to hear. I was surprised that he agreed with me. Now we are wondering how to get Cynthia to edit her stories without offending her. Any suggestions?

— **Puzzled in Pennsylvania**

Dear Puzzled: Cynthia sounds like a great gal with an interesting past. We don't think she will be offended if you take her aside when she next visits and say, "Cynthia, we love your stories, but we're afraid some of them are a little racy for our daughter. You and your brother survived those times and came out fine, but she looks up to you and might imitate your escapades and not do as well. We know you'd feel terrible if that happened. How about saving those stories for the adults?"

If you explain your concerns, we think she'll get it. You also should discuss these stories with your daughter, who finds tales about Daddy extremely interesting, and help her understand that what is fun in retrospect is less innocent and more risky than it sounds.

Victim of office gossip

Dear Annie: I am a medical receptionist at a clinic. I like working here and my boss thinks I do a pretty good job. Recently, however, things just aren't right.

A nice raincoat of mine was stolen from a closet that was not accessible to the patients. I reported it to the office manager, but nothing happened. Last week, the manager called me in and said I had been accused of discussing private medical charts with other employees. Annie, this is a complete lie.

The clinic is a little hotbed of gossip and I don't get involved in the drama. I simply keep my mouth shut and do my work. I am currently seeking other employment, but I really can't afford to quit this job. Any advice?

— **Disgruntled**

Dear Disgruntled: You sound a bit aloof from the rest of the office staff. This tends to engender an us-against-her mentality from the nastier and less secure crowd, leading to jealousy and backstabbing. You can ignore it while looking for a new position, or you can try a different approach. Invite one of the troublemakers to join you for coffee and conversation. It might keep things calm until your resume gets some attention.

He's obviously hiding something

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Not Sure in California," whose husband of two years had never let her see him naked, meet his family or see pictures of him as a child. He also changed his name and hid all his financial information from her.

I strongly suspect this man is in some stage of gender reassignment. He very likely does not want her to see (via pictures) or find out (via family) that he once was (or still is) a woman. It would also explain the name change as well as the lack of insurance, since that usually requires a medical examination.

"Not Sure" needs to consider this possibility and respond accordingly.

— **M.H.**

Dear M.H.: An interesting possibility. Certainly, his secretive behavior indicates he's hiding something. We hope she can find out what it is.

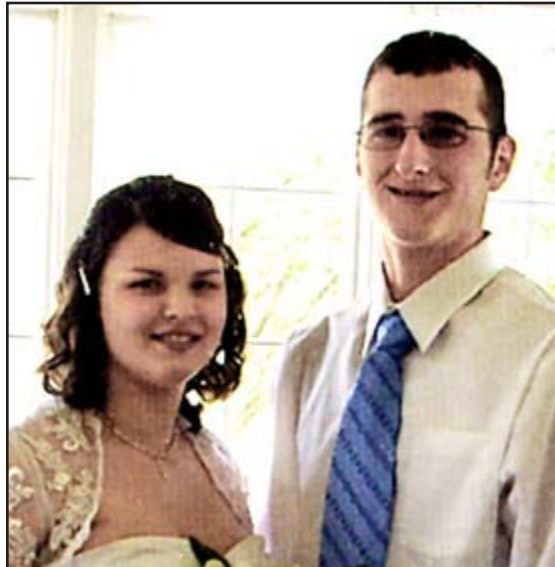
Miss Blanton, Mr. Peterson wed in March 22 ceremony

Shahna Veree Blanton and Jonathan Ross Peterson, both of Blacksburg, eloped on Saturday, March 22, 2008, and exchanged vows in a 1:30 p.m. double ring ceremony at The White House Inn in Blacksburg.

The bride is the daughter of J. Knox Blanton and Cheryl P. Blanton of Gaffney. Her grandparents are Joyce Poole, Ruth Blanton, the late Joe Dean Poole and the late L. Fred Blanton.

The groom is the son of Ray and Sandra Allison of Gaffney and grandson of Edith Peterson, also of Gaffney.

The bride and groom were attended by their children, Kylie Deanna Veree Peterson and Maddox Knox Peterson, as maid of honor and best man, respectively.



MR. AND MRS. JONATHAN ROSS PETERSON

'Team Up to Read' final event April 26 at library

The Cherokee County Public Library and the Limestone College Athletic Department co-sponsored a reading contest for all ages themed "Team Up to Read."

The contest began in March and ended April 18. Nineteen teams of two members each teamed up to read for the duration of the event. For every hour that the teams spent reading, their names were entered into a drawing held at the end of the contest. They also received entries if they attended a Limestone College sporting event.

Now that the contest has ended, the Team Up To Read members and those who participated are invited to the Team Up to Read final event that will be held Saturday, April 26, at 1 p.m. in the large conference room at the library. There will be refreshments and door prizes along with the drawing for all of the members who participated.

For more information, call Susan Sarratt at the main library, 498-2711, or LeaAnne Batchler, branch manager at Blacksburg, 839-2630.

Xi Alpha Delta hears program by professional photographer

The executive board of Xi Alpha Delta held a meeting at Magnolia's of Gaffney on April 7. Present were members Libby Reed, Patty Greene, Shirley Turner and Ruth Ann Ohlsen. The board discussed items on the agenda for the regular monthly meeting which was held at 7 p.m. following the executive session.

After the opening ritual members of Xi Alpha Delta answered to Greek roll. There were 10 members, two guest, and one guest speaker present.

Patty Greene introduced the guest speaker, Richard Andrews, who presented a program on photography. Being exposed to photography at a young age, Mr. Andrews said that what started out as a hobby became a profession for him. Mr. Andrews answered questions from the group and displayed many of his professional photographs to demonstrate how his information could help one become a better photographer.

After the program, the president, Libby Reed, called the meeting to order. Reed read a letter from international, thanking the local chapter for its support of the endowment funds.

There were reports from the officers and all committees. Members voted on two new members, Carolyn Jones and Louise Spencer. Also, the membership committee was given the names of two members at large to be contacted and invited to join the local chapter. A special meeting will be held

to perform the Ritual of Jewels Degree for new members, Carolyn Jones and Louise Spencer; the Legacy Ritual for Nora Reed; the Golden Circle for member Ruby Travers; and the Preceptor Degree for member, Libby Reed. Members voted to make a donation to Relay for Life and a donation to the March of Dimes. Also, the chapter will make a donation to the Restoration Church International in memory of John Reed, who was an Envoy of the chapter.

Reed presented to the chapter the names for the new officers. They were president, Patty Greene; vice-president, Libby Reed; secretary, Ruth Ann Ohlsen; and treasurer, Shirley Turner. Members voted to accept the new slate of officers. A motion was made to appoint a historian for the chapter which was second and approved by the members.

For the April service members are to buy small items to be given to Magnolia's of Gaffney for the prizes when the residents play bingo.

The Founder's Day Dinner will be at the home of Ruth Ann Ohlsen on Monday April 28, at 6:30. The new officers will be installed at the dinner. Members will bring gifts for their secret sister to be exchanged after the dinner.

The next meeting will be at the home of Rebecca Robbs on May 12.

After the closing ritual members enjoyed refreshments provided by hosts Patty Greene, Fran Kerr and Montez Harvey.

Directors of local service organizations guest speakers at Gaffney BPW meeting

Directors of local service organizations spoke at a special membership meeting of the Gaffney Business and Professional Women's Club on Tuesday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Sagebrush Restaurant.

Speakers were Terry Dennis, executive director, Cherokee County Meals on Wheels; Amanda Knowles, community relations director, Hospice Care of South Carolina; Shellie Wylie, director, Cherokee County Chapter of the American Red Cross; and Joan Wood, executive director, Senior Centers of Cherokee County.

Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit organization that delivers hot meals to the elderly, homebound and handicapped.

Hospice Care of South Carolina provides care for patients with incurable diseases and their families by working with an interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, social workers, home health aides, clergy, therapists and volunteers.

The American Red Cross provides

disaster services, disaster prevention, health and safety classes, and blood services.

The Senior Centers of Cherokee County has outreach and assistance, transportation, congregate dining and home delivered meals, home care services, physical fitness and health promotions for senior adults.

The Gaffney Business and Professional Women's Club is a strong advocate for women in business and professions by their public policy goals and legislative agenda. The club welcomes the directors of the local service organizations as their newest members.

The organization's next meeting will be Monday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m. at House of Pizza. The program will be an installation service for the 2008-2009 officers. Cyndi Waters, BPW/SC treasurer, will install Trysha Blanton, president; Stacey McDaniel Tabor, vice-president; Elizabeth McDaniel, secretary; and Patty Greene, treasurer.

ENGAGEMENTS



Angel Corry and Christopher Browning

Corry - Browning

Mr. and Mrs. King W. Corry announce the wedding celebration of their daughter, Minister Angel Corry, and the Rev. Christopher Browning on Saturday, June 21, at 3 p.m. at Youngs Grove Baptist Church, 222, Young Grove Road, Blacksburg.

Wood - Fowler

Kristy Renee Wood and Lincoln K. Fowler will be married on May 24 at Concord Baptist Church.

Miss Wood is the daughter of Joyce A. Wood and Joseph "Broadway" Logan, both of Gaffney. Her grandmother is Betty Joe Parker of Gaffney.

Mr. Fowler is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln M. Fowler who resided in Gaffney.



Kristy Renee Wood and Lincoln K. Fowler

State Museum to honor veterans and military personnel May 3

COLUMBIA - Vietnam War veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient John F. Baker Jr. will be the principle speaker at a special ceremony titled "A Salute to Heroes" as the South Carolina State Museum pays tribute on Saturday, May 3, to the brave and dedicated men and women who have served and who continue to serve in our country's military branches. Baker's presentation will be held at 11 a.m.

As another part of this day of patriotic programs and honors, called Military Tribute Day, Phil Butler, director of the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs, will offer a special salute to Vietnam veterans by reading the governor's proclamation on Vietnam Veterans Survivors and Remembrance Day. The ceremony will feature music by members of the Fort Jackson Army Band and a Fort Jackson children's chorus.

Many veterans groups and military organizations, including a group of World War II veterans of the Guadalcanal

campaign which will hold a reunion May 3-4 in Columbia have been invited to attend the ceremony, which will be followed by a light reception.

Military Tribute Day also will feature living history reenactors, military vehicles from World War II through Desert Storm, a military-themed scavenger hunt for children and much more.

The day is held in conjunction with the State Museum's military-themed exhibits "Seeds of Change: South Carolina and the Great War 1917-1918" and "Tet: Military Victory, Political Defeat."

In addition, veterans and active duty military personnel will receive free admission to the State Museum on this day.

The museum is presenting Military Tribute Day in partnership with the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum and the Celebrate Freedom Foundation, whose primary missions are to educate children, promote patriotism and honor the military, past, present and future.



Pictured are (front) Sheree Godfrey, owner of Pet Connection; Amanda Knowles, community relations director, Hospice Care of South Carolina; Elizabeth McDaniel, BPW/SC vice-president and membership chair; (back) Debra McDaniel, Gaffney BPW Club president; Terry Dennis, executive director, Cherokee County Meals on Wheels; Joan, Wood, executive director, Senior Centers of Cherokee County; and Shellie Wylie, director of the Cherokee County American Red Cross.