

# South Carolina Living



## Turning point

'Liberty Mountain'  
shares a Revolutionary  
story

### SC RECIPE

Cold-weather soups  
and sandwiches

### HUMOR ME

'Tis the season  
of crud



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#### 'Tis the season of crud

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it's the crud you picked up from sniffly relatives. Enjoy this  
classic Jan A. Igoe column from 2012.



On the cover and above:  
P.J. Barnes, front and center,  
plays a leading role in “Liberty  
Mountain: The Revolutionary  
Drama,” alongside a cast and  
crew of 34 others. Photo by  
Matthew Franklin Carter.





**tri-countyelectric.net**

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## Balancing electricity supply and demand

**ELECTRICITY IS ESSENTIAL** for nearly every aspect of daily life—so essential that we rarely think about how it's pro-

duced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

Ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet your needs. That's a big job in South Carolina, where our state's rapid population and economic growth has driven a sharp increase in energy demand. There are many factors we must consider as we plan for the future.

### Powerful sources

Electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources—coal, natural gas and nuclear energy—or from renewable sources, such as solar energy and hydropower. Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, Tri-County Electric Cooperative knows we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

We work closely with Central Electric Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix, we have options to ensure reliable power at an affordable cost. Because Tri-County Electric and South Carolina's other

electric cooperatives work with Central Electric, we can pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

### Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, and demand for electricity could at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources such as coal- and natural gas-fired power plants, which make up the backbone of America's power supply. Losing these generation sources before we have adequately replaced them puts the reliability of our power grid in jeopardy.

Tri-County Electric remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to our members. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

For instance, our power supplier, Central Electric, was selected to receive up to \$500 million from the federal government for clean energy projects. We're pursuing this money in order to add approximately 700 megawatts of nuclear power, solar energy and battery storage to the statewide cooperative system—enough to power hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses across our state.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have partners in place to direct the electricity you need from the power generating sources to your homes and businesses.

*Chad T. Lowder*  
**CHAD T. LOWDER**  
Chief Executive Officer

PHOTOS BY JOSH CROTZER



Brothers Robert and Calvin Woodard of Eastover give a thumbs up to the drive-thru experience at Tri-County's Annual Meeting.



Teresa Hair of St. Matthews took advantage of the sunny day to roll through registration in her 1972 Chevelle.

## Members earn bill credits at Annual Meeting

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

ON A MILD AND SUNNY FALL DAY, 2,384 Tri-County Electric members swung by the co-op's St. Matthews headquarters to register for the 84th Annual Meeting of Members. The convenient drive-thru registration, which took place Nov. 16, earned them a \$25 credit on their upcoming bills.

With no board seats contested, incumbent trustees Greg Wilson, Joe Strickland and Willie Jeffries were reelected to three-year terms by acclamation.

In an address live-streamed and still available for viewing on the cooperative's website—[tri-countyelectric.net](http://tri-countyelectric.net)—Chief Executive Officer Chad Lowder thanked members for their participation and encouraged them to continue to make their voices heard.

"Annual meetings give you a voice in the governance of your cooperative," says Lowder. "I hope you recognize, as I do, that this is the cooperative difference."

Lowder also laid out the challenges that Tri-County Electric is facing with increasing costs for materials, equipment and wholesale power rates, factors that impact how much members pay for their power.

"Share your concerns with us," Lowder says. "We want to work with our members on a daily basis. Our goal is to provide you with the highest service with a local touch you can't get anywhere else. We'll always be here for you."



PHOTO BY SHEILA RIVERS

Tazahn Asbury, grandson of Valarie Sweat of Vance, was happy to claim the gift bag, which included a mini lantern, given to all registering members.

### Registered members who won door prizes included:

- ▶ **Carole R. Shuler**—riding mower
- ▶ **Mary B. Myers**—air fryer
- ▶ **Willie Sinkler**—air fryer
- ▶ **Jarelyn Gott**—air fryer
- ▶ **Veron Hampton**—blender
- ▶ **Joseph Key**—43-inch TV
- ▶ **Richad Aiken**—43-inch TV
- ▶ **Karen Goodwin**—\$100 bill credit
- ▶ **Charlie Steifle**—\$100 bill credit
- ▶ **Jeffery Davis**—tool set
- ▶ **Willie Snell**—vehicle jump starter
- ▶ **Betty Stone**—roller cooler

Carole R. Shuler of Elloree won this year's grand prize drawing, a John Deere riding mower.



PHOTO BY SHEILA RIVERS



## Co-ops help women returning to college

IT'S TANESHA SIMMONS' JOB to support students, working as a student concern specialist in Charleston County schools. But now, Simmons is getting support, too, thanks to her co-op, as she furthers her own education.

The Berkeley Electric Cooperative member is one of two recipients of the 2024 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship, a \$2,500 award for women who are members of a South Carolina electric cooperative and are returning to college.

Simmons is pursuing a bachelor's degree in special education from Columbia College. She hopes to eventually obtain a master's degree in school psychology and continue to help students in her community.

"This scholarship will go a long way to help me complete that goal," says Simmons, who lives on Johns Island. "I won't have to acquire a lot of debt to finish school."

Caitlin Bhimull of Lexington also received a \$2,500 scholarship. A member of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, she is studying special education at the University of South Carolina at Aiken.

Women returning to college may now apply for financial assistance from the 2025 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship program. Sponsored by



JOURNEY GRACE PHOTOGRAPHY

Tanesha Simmons, a student concern specialist, is a 2024 scholarship winner.

### Applicants for the Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship must:

- ▶ Be a member/customer of a South Carolina electric cooperative
- ▶ Have graduated from high school or earned their GED at least 10 years ago
- ▶ Obtain acceptance into an accredited college or university
- ▶ Demonstrate financial need

Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE), a service organization associated with South Carolina's not-for-profit electric cooperatives, the \$2,500 scholarship is a one-time award based on financial need and personal goals.

The deadline to apply is June 1, 2025. The recipients will receive the scholarship for the fall 2025 or spring 2026 semester, paid to the recipients' colleges of choice. To apply online or to learn more, visit [ecsc.org/wire](https://ecsc.org/wire). —JOSH P. CROTZER

## MORE AT [SCLiving.coop](https://SCLiving.coop)

### Inspired to serve

Brian Knowles was a fifth grader living in New York when terrorists crashed planes into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Like many Americans, he was inspired by the courage and sacrifice first responders showed that day.

"I've always wanted to be able to wear a flag on my arm and serve in some capacity," says Knowles, who is now a member of the volunteer fire department in Monetta, S.C.

Knowles' humble commitment to serving is one reason he was selected as the statewide winner of the 2024 Who Powers You Award, a contest sponsored by South Carolina's electric cooperatives to recognize people making a positive impact and benefitting members of their co-op.

Find out more about Knowles' service to his community online at [SCLiving.coop](https://SCLiving.coop).

REBECCA OGBUEFI



## MEMBERS SPEAK ON THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE



### LAURENS ELECTRIC MEMBER

MEMBER SINCE: 1998

HOMETOWN: Spartanburg

OCCUPATION: Retired attorney

## Supporting greener options

Kathleen Kempe's co-op isn't just powering her home. She sees how Laurens Electric Cooperative is also helping protect the environment for future generations.

Kempe heard about geothermal energy during an educational session about energy use at Laurens Electric. Geothermal systems use the earth's underground temperature to heat, cool and provide hot water to homes. Kempe learned that a geothermal system under her yard could decrease her power bill and create an environmental benefit similar to planting 750 trees.

**"The community came together and did it."**

—KATHLEEN KEMPE

To Kempe, having a geothermal system installed at her home was the best of both worlds.

"We are heating and cooling our home for a lot less energy usage, but we're still cool in the summer and warm in the winter," Kempe says.

She describes how Laurens Electric was consistently involved and helpful throughout a sometimes tricky installation process.

"Laurens Electric was on the site the whole time. The contractors were wonderful," Kempe says. "It really was like a barn raising ... where the community came together and did it."

Kempe also owns solar panels in Laurens Electric's Community Solar program and says she appreciates the cooperative's focus on green energy, energy efficiency and community.

### WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Scan this QR code or visit [SCLiving.coop/stories](https://SCLiving.coop/stories) to share what you love about your co-op. Entries may be published in future issues of *South Carolina Living*, online and on social media.



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**MIKE COUICK**  
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## The best of both worlds

**IT'S NOT OFTEN WE GET THE BEST** of both worlds.

When shopping for anything, we often must choose between quality and price or between convenience and good customer service. In a world with so many choices, surprisingly few come without compromise.

Fortunately, when it comes to acquiring the critical materials and equipment to deliver power to your homes and businesses, South Carolina's electric cooperatives get to have their cake and eat it, too. That's because they created a supply cooperative to serve cooperatives, and it has been operating smoothly for five decades now.

You see, 50 years ago, our state's co-ops became frustrated with the time and money they were each spending to secure the poles, wires and transformers they needed to build the power grid.

They agreed to pool their resources to get lower prices and better service by buying in bulk. CEEUS, Inc. was formed by your cooperatives to make sure they have the equipment and materials that make up your local power grid.

CEEUS has become a game-changer over the past half-century because its staff understands the needs of our co-ops and works tirelessly to fill them.

When COVID-19 threw global supply chains into chaos, CEEUS was there to help untangle the snags and make sure our co-ops got the supplies they needed. Lately, as commodity prices have soared, CEEUS has helped our co-ops secure materials and equipment as affordably as possible.

But nowhere was CEEUS' commitment to service better illustrated than during Hurricane Helene. Thanks to CEEUS, co-ops all over our state could quickly replace transformers, fuses, thousands of poles and miles of wire in order to restore their members' power. CEEUS had to overcome significant competition for those supplies and navigate logistical hurdles to deliver about 30 truckloads of materials to our co-ops each day.

Many communities served by South Carolina's electric cooperatives are growing fast. That means more equipment and materials are required to ensure safe, reliable power. A few weeks ago, CEEUS opened a brand-new facility in West Columbia with three times the storage capacity

South Carolina's electric co-ops get to have their cake and eat it, too, because five decades ago they created a supply cooperative to serve cooperatives.

of its previous home, offering plenty of room for further growth.

CEEUS is a shining example of how co-ops succeed through cooperation, but it isn't the only one.

South Carolina's electric cooperatives also band together to secure reliable, affordable power through Central Electric Power Cooperative.

They work collaboratively as part of the South Carolina Power Team to land economic development deals that bring new industries and jobs to rural South Carolina and change surrounding communities for the better.

They help each other respond to storms through mutual aid, and they join forces to push for fair energy policies at the State House and in Congress.

This cooperation among cooperatives allows them to have the best of both worlds. They deliver the local feel and service of a small business while enjoying the cost advantages, stability and efficiencies you'd expect from a larger company.

The proof is in the pudding. South Carolina's electric cooperatives enjoy some of the highest consumer satisfaction ratings of any electric utilities in the country, according to the American Customer Satisfaction Index.

There's a saying in our industry: If you've been to one co-op, you've been to one co-op. Each of our co-ops is independent and autonomous, with its own leaders, unique programs and bylaws. That's part of what makes the co-op model so special.

But so, too, is their habit of putting aside individual differences for the collective good.



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### ALPINE HELEN SWEEPSTAKES

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\*Required. Winner will be contacted by *South Carolina Living* to verify eligibility and mailing address.

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# Cold-weather comfort—soups and sandwiches

BY BELINDA SMITH-SULLIVAN

The very mention of a “soup and sandwich” combo conjures feelings of warmth and comfort. Easy to make, these recipes will help you get through the traditionally coldest month of the year.

## ROASTED TOMATO BASIL SOUP WITH GOOEY GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH

SERVES 4

### SOUP

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 tablespoon olive oil                     | 1 teaspoon brown sugar       |
| 1 large onion, chopped                     | ½ teaspoon dried basil       |
| 1 celery stalk, diced                      | ½ teaspoon thyme             |
| 4 garlic cloves, minced                    | ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes |
| 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock          | ½ cup heavy cream            |
| 1 28-ounce can fire-roasted diced tomatoes | Fresh chopped basil          |

### SANDWICH (ONE SANDWICH)

- 2 slices sourdough bread (or your favorite)
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
- 4 thin slices (1 ounce each) cheddar, havarti, Gouda and Gruyère cheeses (or your favorites)

Heat oil in a Dutch oven or soup pot over medium heat. Add onions and celery and sauté until onions are translucent. Add garlic and sauté an additional minute. Stir in stock, tomatoes, sugar, basil, thyme and red pepper flakes. Bring to a boil and reduce heat. Cover pot and simmer until tomatoes are soft, about 15 minutes. Pour tomato mixture into a blender about half full, cover and puree until smooth. Repeat with another batch until all the mixture is pureed, then return to pot. Stir in cream and cook over medium heat until hot, 5–10 minutes. Garnish with fresh chopped basil and serve.

Spread each side of the bread slices with butter. Add cheeses to one slice and cover with the second slice of bread. Heat a cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Add sandwich and cook until golden brown, 3–4 minutes. Flip and cook on the other side until golden brown. Transfer to a cutting board to cool slightly. Cut in half and serve immediately.

## EASY-PEASY LENTIL SOUP AND CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH

SERVES 4

### SOUP

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 1 carrot, sliced
- 1 celery stalk, sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- 2 cups lentils, picked over for stones and rinsed
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 2–3 sprigs thyme
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper
- Fresh chopped parsley

### CLASSIC CHICKEN SALAD (SERVES 4)

- 2 cups chopped cooked chicken
- ½ cup chopped celery
- ⅓ cup finely chopped red onion
- ⅓ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon fresh chopped dill or tarragon
- Fresh ground black pepper
- Kosher salt (optional if chicken is already seasoned)
- Bread slices (your favorite)
- Lettuce



Add oil to Dutch oven or soup pot over medium heat. Add onions, carrots and celery and sauté until onions are translucent. Add garlic and sauté an additional minute. Add cumin, paprika, lentils, stock, thyme, salt and pepper. Stir well and bring to a boil. Cover pot, reduce heat and simmer until lentils are soft, 30–40 minutes. Garnish with chopped parsley.

In a large bowl, combine chicken, celery, onion, mayonnaise, mustard, lemon juice, herbs and pepper. Toss to thoroughly combine. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

To make sandwich, cover one slice of bread with lettuce leaf and cover with ½ cup (or more as desired) of chicken salad. Top with other slice of bread.

GWENAEL LE VOT

KAREN HERMANN





JULIA NEDRIGALLOVA

## RED BELL PEPPER SOUP WITH TURKEY PANINI

SERVES 8

### SOUP

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 1 medium zucchini, chopped
- 3 red bell peppers, chopped
- ¼ cup sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- ⅛ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- 2 cups half and half or heavy cream
- Fresh chopped parsley, for garnish
- Red pepper flakes, optional for garnish

### PANINI (ONE PANINI)

- 1 ciabatta bun or 2 slices of a large ciabatta loaf
- Pesto, store-bought or homemade
- 1 slice beefsteak tomato
- 2 thin slices fontina cheese
- Sliced deli turkey
- Olive oil spray

Add oil to a Dutch oven or soup pot and heat on medium-high heat. Add onion and sauté until translucent. Add garlic and sauté an additional minute. Add stock, zucchini, peppers, sun-dried tomatoes, oregano, cumin, salt, black pepper and paprika. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and cover for 20 minutes. Puree the soup in a blender (you may have to do this in batches) until smooth. Pour soup back into the pot and add cream. Stir well. Serve topped with parsley and red pepper flakes, if desired.

Spread the pesto on the top and bottom half of bun. On the bottom bun, with the pesto side up, arrange the tomato, cheese and turkey. Top with the other half of bun, pesto side down. Heat a grill pan over medium-high heat and spray lightly with olive oil. Place sandwich on grill pan and weigh down with another heavy skillet. Cook until cheese starts to melt and grill marks appear, 3–5 minutes. Flip over and repeat.

What's cooking at  
[SCLiving.coop/food/chefbelinda](https://scliving.coop/food/chefbelinda)

**THE PERFECT TOPPING** With Chef Belinda's recipe to guide you, learn how easy it is to make pesto for your turkey panini. Pesto is delicious on many kinds of sandwiches, as well as pizza, pasta, meats and fish. It will last for two days in the refrigerator or six months in the freezer.



GINA MOORE

## SPICY BLACK BEAN SOUP WITH EASY CHICKEN QUESADILLAS

SERVES 4

### SOUP

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 2 15-ounce cans black beans
- 1 15-ounce can fire-roasted tomatoes
- 2 chipotle peppers, chopped
- 2 tablespoons adobo sauce
- 2 cups vegetable stock or broth
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- Fresh chopped green onions or cilantro, for garnish
- Avocado slices, optional
- Sour cream, optional

### QUESADILLAS (MAKES 4)

- 1 pound cooked boneless, skinless chicken breast, sliced
- 1 10-ounce can tomatoes and green chilies, drained
- 2 cups shredded Mexican cheese
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- 4 large flour tortillas
- Pico de gallo, optional



In a large Dutch oven or soup pot, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onions and celery and sauté until onions are translucent. Stir in the beans, tomatoes, peppers, sauce and stock. Add cumin, coriander and chili powder and stir well to combine. Bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Transfer half of the soup mixture to a blender and puree until smooth. Return to the pot and stir well. Serve garnished with onions, avocado and sour cream.

In a large mixing bowl, combine chicken, tomatoes and chilies, cheese and seasonings. Divide mixture between the four tortillas. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Fold tortillas in half and brown one side in the skillet; flip and repeat on the other side. (You may only be able to work with two tortillas at a time.) Place tortillas on a serving platter to cool slightly. Slice into wedges and serve with pico de gallo.



## A century of memories

For nine of her more than 10 decades of life, one place has played an enduring role in Clara Dixon Britt's story: The St. George Rosenwald School. It's where she recently celebrated her 103rd birthday with family and friends.

The school was one of several Rosenwald Schools built in the early 1900s to provide better education opportunities for Black children throughout the South. Britt remembers it as the place she attended lessons, excelled in home economics class and sang on the auditorium stage.

The St. George Rosenwald School operated for nearly 30 years before shutting down in 1954 and falling into disrepair. But with help from South Carolina electric cooperatives, the schoolhouse has been restored and now boasts replica classrooms, a children's museum and an event space perfect for hosting 103 years' worth of friends and family. (For more on the restoration, search for "Rosenwald School" online at [SCLiving.coop](https://SCLiving.coop).)

Being back at the school resurfaces fond memories for Britt of her love of learning. While other students often tried to get out of school, Britt did everything she could not to miss it. One day, that meant riding her family bull to school in a rainstorm.

"See, I lived out in the country, and the water was everywhere, and I couldn't get to school without wading," Britt says. "And I got ready, and I got on that bull, and I went on to school."

When she got a car, Britt helped other students get to school and didn't ask for anything in return from the classmates who would pile in her backseat. "Through my life, I always try to be nice to people, you see," Britt says. "If you be nice to people, then people remember."

People certainly remember Britt, from her Sunday school students—some of whom now call her Mama Clara—to the friends and family who surround her. She is proud the Rosenwald School is now back up and running and can be a space not only for her birthday party but also for young students again.

"I was so proud that they have it remodeled ... and you can walk in and (feel) all these memories," Britt says.

—SYDNEY DUNLAP | PHOTO BY THOMAS HAMMOND

### Clara Dixon Britt

AGE: 103.

RESIDES IN: Saint George.

CLAIM TO FAME: She once rode her bull, Dan, to the St. George Rosenwald School so she could earn perfect attendance.

ADVICE FOR A LONG LIFE: Eat right and don't put anything in your stomach that you don't like or will make you sick. While Britt might turn away bacon or stew, she's a big fan of fried pork chops and chicken wings.

A FEW OF HER FAVORITE THINGS: Vintage cars, printed photographs (enough to fill many albums and gallery walls) and plants.

CO-OP CONNECTION: She is an 80-year member of Edisto Electric Cooperative.



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# TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Backstage with the South Carolina battle that turned the Revolutionary War

BY MICHAEL BANKS | PHOTOS BY MATTHEW FRANKLIN CARTER

In the stillness of an autumn afternoon, there are the sounds of the woods, but also something more. A near-silent shuffle of feet, the harried breath of a soldier moving fast. He flinches when the sound of a gunshot fills the space just off his shoulder.

There's a yelp, a scream, another flash of gunfire and the smell of black powder. British Loyalists, armed with their

muskets, emerge while the Overmountain Men and their long rifles take the mountain. More gunshots. A metallic clash of bayonets. Cries for mercy. Calls for "mother" from the lips of those who lie dying.

The Battle of Kings Mountain was a brief moment in time—less than an hour, really—but Oct. 7, 1780, proved to be a turning point in the Revolutionary War.

"If it were not for the Battle of Kings Mountain, we might be still singing today 'God Save the King.' I've got nothing against the king, but I'd much rather be singing the 'Star-Spangled Banner,'" says Robert Inman, who penned the play "Liberty Mountain: The Revolutionary Drama."

It's a story told each year in a small theater in a small town that straddles the border between North and South Carolina, no more than 9 miles from where the battle took place on an elevated ridge in present-day Cherokee County.

## Turning the tide

In the summer of 1780, with the war at a stalemate in New England after five expensive and wearisome years, King George III directed his military to invade South Carolina. The British captured Charleston and drove north, tapping into an outpouring of Loyalists. Another victory followed at Camden, and soon after, the British commander, Lord Cornwallis, captured Charlotte.

"The British were winning," Inman says. "Their plan was to conquer the South and march north and squeeze



**TAKE IT FROM THE TOP** Director Jeremy Homesley, front, and actor Ian Lee take in a rehearsal.

**FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM** Top: "Liberty Mountain" actors reenact fighting between British Loyalists and the Overmountain Men.



“If it were not for the Battle of Kings Mountain, we might be still singing today ‘God Save the King.’” —ROBERT INMAN

(Continental Army Gen. George) Washington between the forces in the South and those in New York and defeat his army and end the revolution. And they were well on the way to doing that.”

On Cornwallis’ flank was British Major Patrick Ferguson and his militia of 1,000 Loyalists. He perceived his greatest threat to be the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians in the Appalachian Mountains and foothills. He told the settlers to “lay down your arms and swear allegiance to the king, or I will cross the mountains, hang your leaders and lay waste to your country with fire and sword.”

The ultimatum would be Ferguson’s fatal mistake.

A group of 900 Patriots—mostly frontiersmen—quickly organized and soon found themselves at Kings Mountain, where Ferguson defended the high ground. But the backwoodsmen used trees and rocks as cover as they fought uphill, their long rifles steadily picking off the Loyalists. Much of the battle was savage hand-to-hand combat. In the end, 680 Loyalists were captured, 163 wounded and 290, including Ferguson, killed. The Patriots lost 28 men.

The battle stopped the British advancement. Cornwallis retreated, and just over a year later, on Oct. 19, 1781, the war ended with his surrender at Yorktown, Virginia.

“Kings Mountain turned the whole thing around,” says Inman, whose ancestor is Col. James Williams, a South Carolinian who commanded a force of Patriots and died in the battle. Inman says it’s important for the story to be both entertaining and historically accurate.

“And I think, over 10 years of doing this play, we’ve accomplished that,” says Inman, who praises the “Liberty Mountain” cast and crew of 35. “All I’ve given them is some words on paper, and what they do is take those words and make magic. And they really, really do.”

### Behind the curtain

Showtime is in less than 30 minutes, and backstage, voices drift from the women’s dressing room, singing in harmony. A table holding props—a cast-iron skillet, a brass trumpet—is next to a near-empty Gatorade bottle. Nearby hangs an erasable board, and someone’s written, “Don’t be angry. Worry less.”

Director Jeremy Homesley chomps on an apple as he checks his watch to



**GETTING IN CHARACTER** Period fashion helps bring the play to life. In the dressing rooms, Samantha Harris (top left), Tish Merrill (top right) and Macrina Cloutier work on styling hair, and Joshua Peterson straightens his cravat as Brandon Pendley looks on.

communicate with his fellow actors. Homesley has been in all eight seasons of the production, bouncing from the villain to the hero. This year, he is Ferguson—the villain, a role he relishes.

“The other night, I got a cheer when I got shot,” he says.

“When I got backstage, several of the actors were like, ‘We’re so sorry they did that.’ I was like, ‘What are you talking about? That’s the best reaction I could get.’ I did my job right if they cheer when I get shot.”

Standing nearby is P.J. Barnes, who stars as Silas Martin, the patriarch of a fictional family at the heart of the story. A married father of three, Barnes relates to Silas’ need to protect his family amid life’s obstacles—fleeing Ireland, living in the woods, the death of an infant daughter, and a son bound and determined to go to war.

“I try to ground myself in that character,” he says. But there is one difference: Barnes is an African American playing the role of a Scotch-Irish immigrant.

“I look a little different from everybody onstage, but after the first few moments of



**“JUST ANOTHER GUY”** P.J. Barnes plays the role of a Scotch-Irish immigrant and relates to his character’s need to protect his family.

the scene, you realize (I'm) just another guy up there," Barnes says. "It's no big deal. I don't have to come out here and play a slave. I can play a real person who is going through real things. You get to see the humanity of a family. People of all races and creeds can all relate to humanity."

There's nothing quite like community theater, says Mary Grace Keller, a board member with the Kings Mountain Little Theatre, which hosts "Liberty Mountain" each fall at its Joy Performance Center.

"The arts are very important in your own personal learning and growing. It's made me who I am today," says Keller, who is a CPA and owns an accounting firm in Kings Mountain with her father. "I used to be so shy I wouldn't talk to anybody. I got into theater, and it made me human."

"Liberty Mountain" draws more than 3,000 people each year from as many as 28 states, says Jim Champion, a member of the Kings Mountain Little Theatre since 1971 and its current general manager. He says there is no plan for a final curtain on the play that premiered in 2014.

"Hopefully, we'll turn it over to a new generation," Champion says. "I'd like to see us get to the 250th anniversary (of the battle) in 2030."

## Keeping history alive

Homesley is part of the new theater generation that Champion speaks of. He has been a part of "Liberty Mountain" since the show opened, and he's been doing theater since the third grade.

Years ago, he was working in a fabric warehouse five minutes from Kings Mountain Little Theatre when folks from the theater stopped in to buy fabric for costumes. Someone mentioned it was the last night of auditions for a new Revolutionary War play.

"I was pretty much done with theater at that point," Homesley said. "But I auditioned and got the part, and that kind of set everything else in motion. I was 27 and had a rebirth."

He'd meet and eventually propose to his wife, Ashley DeMar, on the "Liberty Mountain" stage. She stars as Priscilla Martin and is his assistant and music director.



▲ **TAKE A BOW** (From left to right) P.J. Barnes, Hailey Bullinger, Ian Lee, Tony To, Mary Grace Keller, Tim Evans and Bernadette Cloutier celebrate a performance.

◀ **THIS SEASON, THE VILLAIN** Director Jeremy Homesley, as British Major Patrick Ferguson, has played many roles over the play's eight-year run.



"We need to keep that history alive and teach it to the younger generation."

—MARY GRACE KELLER

Homesley has acted in and directed other regional plays and has hopes of producing, in the next year, a screenplay he's written. Still, "Liberty Mountain" is his home.

It's his hope that the drama becomes an educational supplement for schools in the area. He's written lesson plans and activities that he shares with teachers, and this year, they held nine shows just for schoolchildren.

"I see young people come here, and they learn about the battle for the first time," Homesley says. He tells of being 12 years old and taking part in a Civil War reenactment in Carthage, North Carolina.

"I was the happiest kid in the world," he says with a smile. "When I went to that reenactment, it became real. I could smell the smoke. I could see the canvas tents. I want to make that possible for young people in our schools who right now don't think they like to read. They just haven't had that real-life experience, that companion."

Keller agrees.

"We need to keep that history alive and teach it to the younger generation so that they know this history. We wouldn't be standing here with the freedoms we have if it wasn't for those men." ☺



**GET THERE** "Liberty Mountain: The Revolutionary Drama" is held each fall at the Joy Performance Center in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. For more information, visit [libertymountaindrama.com](http://libertymountaindrama.com) or call (704) 730-9408.





## Upstate

### JANUARY

**17–26 Little Shop of Horrors,** Spartanburg Little Theatre, Spartanburg. (864) 585-8278 or [spartanburglittletheatre.com](http://spartanburglittletheatre.com).

**18 The Greenville Track Club Run Downtown 5K,** downtown, Greenville. [greenvilletrackclub.com](http://greenvilletrackclub.com).

**18 Winter Bluegrass Jubilee presented by the Young Appalachian Musicians,** Pickens High School, Pickens. [yamupstate.com](http://yamupstate.com).

**23–Feb. 9 Peter and the Starcatcher,** Centre Stage, Greenville. (864) 233-6733 or [centrestage.org](http://centrestage.org).

**25 Brotherhood: A Doobie Brothers Tribute Band,** Abbeville Opera House, Abbeville. (864) 366-9673.

**26 Spartanburg Wedding Festival,** Spartanburg Marriott, Spartanburg. (864) 616-2156 or [weddingfestivals.com](http://weddingfestivals.com).

**30–Feb. 1 Andrew Lipka's Wild Party,** Mauldin Cultural Center, Mauldin. (864) 335-4862 or [mauldinculturalcenter.org](http://mauldinculturalcenter.org).

**31 Spartanburg Philharmonic presents Go For Baroque,** Chapman Cultural Center, Spartanburg. [spartanburgphilharmonic.org](http://spartanburgphilharmonic.org).

**31–Feb. 16 Jane Anger,** The Warehouse Theatre, Greenville. (864) 235-6948 or [warehousetheatre.com](http://warehousetheatre.com).

### FEBRUARY

**1 Greenville Wedding Festival,** Greenville Convention Center, Greenville. (864) 616-2156 or [weddingfestivals.com](http://weddingfestivals.com).

**1 Sweet Baby James: The #1 James Taylor Tribute,** Abbeville Opera House, Abbeville. (864) 366-9673.

**6–8 Andrew Lipka's Wild Party,** Mauldin Cultural Center, Mauldin. (864) 335-4862 or [mauldinculturalcenter.org](http://mauldinculturalcenter.org).

**8 Cupid's Chase 5K Greenville,** Conestee Park, Greenville. [runsignup.com/cupidschase5kgreenville](http://runsignup.com/cupidschase5kgreenville).

**14–15 CRMHA Model Train Expo,** Rock Springs Church Impact Center, Easley. (513) 325-8850 or [crmha.org](http://crmha.org).

**15 Deep Winter Blues,** Hagood Mill Historic Site, Pickens. (864) 898-2936 or [visithagoodmill.com](http://visithagoodmill.com).

**15–16 Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro,** Gunter Theatre, Greenville. (864) 232-0344 or [greenvillesymphony.org](http://greenvillesymphony.org).

**16 Spartanburg Youth Orchestra Winter Concert,** Twitchell Auditorium, Spartanburg. [spartanburgphilharmonic.org](http://spartanburgphilharmonic.org).

**22 Meals on Wheels Greenville Sweetheart Charity Ball,** Greenville Convention Center, Greenville. [mealsonwheelsgreenville.org](http://mealsonwheelsgreenville.org).

**22 Tell Me Lies: Fleetwood Mac Tribute,** Abbeville Opera House, Abbeville. (864) 366-9673.

**28 Della Mae,** Chapman Cultural Center, Spartanburg. [spartanburgphilharmonic.org](http://spartanburgphilharmonic.org).

### ONGOING

**Through May 25 Clyde Butcher's "America the Beautiful,"** Upcountry History Museum, Greenville. (864) 467-3100 or [upcountryhistory.org](http://upcountryhistory.org).

**Through May 31 A Measure of Music: S.T.E.A.M. and the Musical Mind,** Sigal Music Museum, Greenville. (864) 520-8807 or [sigalmusicmuseum.org](http://sigalmusicmuseum.org).

## Midlands

### JANUARY

**17–19 Columbia Home Building & Remodeling Expo,** Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, Columbia. (800) 374-6463 or [homeshowcenter.com](http://homeshowcenter.com).

**18 Aiken Camellia Show,** St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church, Aiken. (706) 495-0633.

**23 United Way of the Midlands Young Leaders Society Oyster Roast,** City Market, Columbia. (803) 733-5400 or [uway.org](http://uway.org).

**26 Anne Springs Close Greenway Wedding Show,** 288 Dairy Barn Lane, Fort Mill. (803) 547-4575 or [ascgreenway.org](http://ascgreenway.org).

**28 Spies in the American Revolution,** Andrew Jackson State Park, Lancaster. (803) 285-3344.

**31 Noel Freidline presents You Make My Dreams Come True: A Jazz Celebration of Hall & Oates,** Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia. (803) 799-2810 or [columbiamuseum.org](http://columbiamuseum.org).

**31–Feb. 1 Peter Pan,** Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264 or [newberryoperahouse.com](http://newberryoperahouse.com).

**31–Feb. 2 Aiken Antique Show,** Aiken Center for the Arts, Aiken. (803) 641-9094 or [aikenantiqueshow.com](http://aikenantiqueshow.com).

## SCLiving.coop/calendar

Our mobile-friendly site lists even more festivals, shows and events. You'll also find instructions on submitting your event. Please confirm information with the hosting event before attending.

**31–Feb. 2 Vintage Market Days of Midlands Upstate presents "Vintage Valentine,"** South Carolina State Fairgrounds, Columbia. (828) 773-0091 or [vintagemarketdays.com](http://vintagemarketdays.com).

### FEBRUARY

**8 Cupid's Chase 5K Columbia,** Maxcy Gregg Park, Columbia. [runsignup.com/cupidschase5kcolumbia](http://runsignup.com/cupidschase5kcolumbia).

**8 Lake Murray Polar Plunge,** Lake Murray Public Park, Lexington. (803) 772-1555 or [so-sc.org/event/lake-murray](http://so-sc.org/event/lake-murray).

**19–23 Aiken Women's Heart Board 2025 Heart Show,** USCA Etheredge Center, Aiken. [awhb.org](http://awhb.org).

**20–23 Love, Loss & What I Wore,** Arts Center of Kershaw County, Camden. (803) 425-7676 or [artscenterkc.org](http://artscenterkc.org).

**22 Joy of Gardening Symposium: Enlightened Gardening,** Gateway Conference Center, Richburg. [symposium.yorkmkg.org](http://symposium.yorkmkg.org).

**22–23 Battle of Aiken,** 1210 Powell Road, Aiken. [battleofaiken.com](http://battleofaiken.com).

**22–23 Columbia Philatelic Society Winter Stamp and Postcard Show,** Tri-City Leisure Center, West Columbia. (803) 309-2534 or [columbiascpilately.com](http://columbiascpilately.com).

**22–23 Gun and Knife Show,** Jamil Temple, Columbia. (803) 463-9377 or [scgunshows.com](http://scgunshows.com).

**25 Newberry College Music Honors Recital,** Newberry Opera House, Newberry. (803) 276-6264 or [newberryoperahouse.com](http://newberryoperahouse.com).

## Pee Dee & Lowcountry

### JANUARY

**17–25 The Last Five Years,** Florence Little Theatre, Florence. (843) 662-3731 or [florencelittletheatre.org](http://florencelittletheatre.org).

**19 World Affairs Council of Hilton Head presents Dr. Ajay Chhibber: Making India an Advanced Country by 2047: What Will It Take?,** First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island. (843) 384-6758 or [wachh.org](http://wachh.org).

**19–20 Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra presents Jaime and Friends,** First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island. (843) 842-2032 or [hhso.org](http://hhso.org).

**22–Feb. 9 The 39 Steps,** Dock Street Theatre, Charleston. (843) 577-7183 or [charlestonstage.com](http://charlestonstage.com).

**24–26 Charleston Boat Show,** Charleston Area Convention Center, North Charleston. [thecharlestonboatshow.com](http://thecharlestonboatshow.com).

**25 Bo's Roast & Chili Cook Off,** James Island County Park, Charleston. [bosroast.com](http://bosroast.com).

**25 Charleston Half Marathon,** downtown, Charleston. [charlestonhalfmarathon.com](http://charlestonhalfmarathon.com).

**25 Hilton Head Island Snow Day,** Shelter Cove Park, Hilton Head Island. (843) 681-7273 or [islandrecenter.org](http://islandrecenter.org).

**30, Feb. 1–2 Beaufort Children's Theatre High School Musical Jr.,** USC Beaufort Center for the Arts, Beaufort. (843) 521-4145 or [uscbcenterforthearts.com](http://uscbcenterforthearts.com).

### FEBRUARY

**1 Step Afrika!,** Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center, Florence. (843) 661-4444 or [fmupac.org](http://fmupac.org).

**2 Lowcountry Oyster Festival,** Boone Hall Plantation, Charleston. (843) 853-8000 or [lowcountryhospitalityassociation.com](http://lowcountryhospitalityassociation.com).

**2–3 Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra presents The Seven Deadly Sins,** First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island. (843) 842-2032 or [hhso.org](http://hhso.org).

**2–4 Horry Georgetown Home Show,** Myrtle Beach Convention Center, Myrtle Beach. (843) 438-4124 or [springshow.hghba.com](http://springshow.hghba.com).

**7 Electric Avenue: The '80s MTV Experience,** USC Beaufort Center for the Arts, Beaufort. (843) 521-4145 or [uscbcenterforthearts.com](http://uscbcenterforthearts.com).

**7 World Affairs Council of Hilton Head presents Emily Harding—Bytes vs. Bullets, How Technology Is Changing Warfare,** First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island. (843) 384-6758 or [wachh.org](http://wachh.org).

**7–8 Florence Stampede and Pro Rodeo,** Florence Center, Florence. (843) 679-4525 or [florencecenter.com](http://florencecenter.com).

**8 Cupid's Chase 5K Charleston,** James Island County Park, Charleston. [runsignup.com/cupidschase5kcharleston](http://runsignup.com/cupidschase5kcharleston).

**10 Florence Symphony—Carmen & Company,** Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center, Florence. (843) 661-4444 or [fmupac.org](http://fmupac.org).

**12–15 Sister Robert Anne's Cabaret Class,** Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center, Florence. (843) 661-4444 or [fmupac.org](http://fmupac.org).

**14–16 Southeastern Wildlife Exposition,** multiple locations, Charleston. [sewec.com](http://sewec.com).

**15–16 Carolina Master Chorale presents Love Songs of the First Nation,** First Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Beach. (843) 444-5774 or [carolinamasterchorale.com](http://carolinamasterchorale.com).

**16 Charleston Wedding Festival,** Charleston Area Convention Center, North Charleston. (864) 235-5555 or [weddingfestivals.com](http://weddingfestivals.com).

**16–17 Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra presents Get Happy! A Judy Garland Celebration,** First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island. (843) 842-2032 or [hhso.org](http://hhso.org).

**17 Burnham Sings Bubl ,** Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Hilton Head Island. (843) 842-2787 or [artshhi.com](http://artshhi.com).

**17–23 Hilton Head Island Seafood Festival,** multiple locations, Hilton Head Island. [hiltonheadseafoodfestival.com](http://hiltonheadseafoodfestival.com).

**18–23 Beaufort International Film Festival,** The Beaufort Inn, Beaufort. [beaufortfilmfestival.com](http://beaufortfilmfestival.com).

**21 Edwin McCain,** Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center, Florence. (843) 661-4444 or [fmupac.org](http://fmupac.org).

**21 World Affairs Council of Hilton Head presents Barbara Slavin: Risks and Opportunities in Iran—U.S. Foreign Policy,** First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island. (843) 384-6758 or [wachh.org](http://wachh.org).

**22 Isle of Palms Polar Plunge,** The Windjammer, Isle of Palms. (803) 772-1555 or [so-sc.org/event/isle-of-palms](http://so-sc.org/event/isle-of-palms).

**22–23 Sea & Sand Festival,** downtown, Folly Beach. [visitfolly.com/sea-and-sand-festival](http://visitfolly.com/sea-and-sand-festival).

**23 Lowcountry Food Bank Chef's Feast,** Trident Technical College, North Charleston. (843) 747-8146 or [lowcountryfoodbank.org](http://lowcountryfoodbank.org).



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	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
<b>JANUARY</b>				
16	7:12	1:01	7:35	1:24
17	8:02	1:51	8:23	2:13
18	8:49	2:39	9:09	2:59
19	9:33	3:23	9:52	3:43
20	10:16	4:06	10:35	4:25
21	10:58	4:47	11:18	5:08
22	11:40	5:29	—	5:51
23	—	6:11	12:23	6:35
24	12:43	6:56	1:08	7:21
25	1:29	7:42	1:56	8:09
26	2:17	8:32	2:46	9:00
27	3:09	9:23	3:37	9:52
28	4:02	10:16	4:31	10:45
29	4:57	11:11	5:25	11:38
30	5:52	11:35	6:19	12:06
31	6:48	12:35	7:13	1:00

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
1	7:43	1:31	8:07	1:55
2	8:38	2:26	9:02	2:50
3	9:32	3:20	9:57	3:45
4	10:27	4:14	10:53	4:40
5	11:22	5:08	11:50	5:36
6	—	6:03	12:17	6:32
7	12:42	6:57	1:12	7:27
8	1:36	7:51	2:05	8:20
9	2:29	8:43	2:57	9:12
10	3:20	9:34	3:47	10:01
11	4:10	10:22	4:35	10:48
12	4:58	11:09	5:21	11:33
13	5:44	11:55	6:06	—
14	6:30	12:19	6:50	12:40
15	7:14	1:05	7:34	1:24
16	7:59	1:49	8:19	2:09

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\*Source: MRI-Simmons 2022 Reader Survey





## JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

■ Extended periods of dry, sunny days in the winter can cause evergreens to lose moisture through transpiration, so if you planted such pretties in your landscape last fall, be sure to keep these newbies mulched and regularly watered while they are still becoming established.

■ If you think the winter garden is a cold, desolate place, you would be wrong. On any pleasant day this month, visit nearby arboreturns or botanical gardens—or local nurseries with display gardens—to check out the foliage and, yes, even flowers that defy the chilliest times of the year to show off.



**GOOD HOUSEKEEPING** A clean snake plant is a healthy snake plant.

**TIP OF THE MONTH** Enjoy pampering houseplants? Keep in mind indoor greenery such as fiddle-leaf fig, philodendron, peace lily, rubber plant, dracaena and snake plant that have large, smooth leaves will show off better if they are wiped at least once a month using a soft cloth moistened with warm water. This will not only dispatch the occasional six-legged pest, but it will also perk up foliage coloration. Perhaps more essentially, however, this leaf cleaning will remove surface dust and other particles that can interfere with these potted pretties' all-important photosynthesis process.

## Getting sassy: Flashy foliage plants

BY L.A. JACKSON

**THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR** is when most gardeners' green thumbs start to itch. Come on, spring! But while planting activities will have to wait, now, at least, is a good time to plan and prepare for the warm weather to come.

So, what will you grow this year? If you are ornamentally inclined, extend your pleasure with sassy plants flaunting flashy foliage that will last through the whole, long growing season. Here are some of my favorites:

**Croton.** Orange, red, yellow, green, purple—these are crotons' colors, which come in streaks, splotches, splats, stripes and speckles on leaves that vary wildly in width and shape. Croton has been known as a dependable houseplant, but this dazzler is now being found more and more as potted outdoor accents on decks and porches during the summer.

**Caladium.** A Southern favorite for eons, this garden charmer brightens shaded areas with heart- or arrow-shaped leaves lit up in various combinations of red, green, pink and white splashes. Caladiums are obvious additions to the front of an ornamental bed, but they also look great spilling out of hanging baskets or window boxes.

**Rex begonia.** While many other begonias depend on their flowers for attention, Rex begonias rule in head-turning with their vibrant foliage, and in partial shade, no less. Green, pink, silver, lavender, red, maroon—these colors in swirls and twirls add the beautiful pizzazz to Rex begonias. Since they won't survive freezing temperatures outdoors, plant them in pots so they can be moved to a protected place during the winter.

**Coleus.** The cultivars (and there are hundreds) of this eye-catching annual have many leaf shapes and (especially)



L.A. JACKSON

**SHOW-OFF** In foliage and flower, "African Sunset" canna brings flashes of color to the garden.

**Stop the show with strong visual foliage statements from spring until fall.**

color combinations, with just about the only hue missing being blue. They are the perfect pretties to light up summer border gardens or container plantings.

**Canna.** Grown from rhizomes, this popular perennial has been favored for its vivid flowers. But recent introductions—such as "African Sunset," which sports orange, yellow, pink, green and maroon streaks on each leaf, and the popular "Tropicana" flaunting foliage screaming in intense yellows, reds, oranges and greens—now stop the show with their strong visual statements from spring until fall. Want to go to the dark side? The leaves of "Australia" smolder in a dusky burgundy-black. ☘

**L.A. JACKSON** is the former editor of Carolina Gardener magazine. Contact him at [lajackson1@gmail.com](mailto:lajackson1@gmail.com).



# 'Tis the season of crud

BY JAN A. IGOE

**LIKE EVERYONE ELSE** who smooched one too many typhoidal third cousins over the holidays, I've got the crud. My lungs and sinuses are now weapons of mass mucous production, working to guarantee legions of doctors, respiratory therapists and pharmacists full employment through April, at least.

I'm not complaining about the post-nasal sludge, nonstop hacking or noon-whistle wheezing. Everyone you meet sounds like a pneumatic riveter this time of year. And fashion-wise, the ski mask Honey gave me to prevent spreading my personal plague doesn't look half bad with the right accessories. (My kids actually like it better than my favorite knit hat, which they hid so I won't get mistaken for the homeless, senile bird feeder in *Home Alone 2*. They're always thinking of me.)

Back at the doc's for the third time, I emerged with more prescriptions and a handful of samples (which I shamelessly begged for) in a paper bag. The doc assured me I'm not really contagious, only disgusting. So on my way back to the pharmacy, I returned one last Christmas present at the mall. There's a good chance I'd need that money and a second mortgage to pay for all these meds.

The pharmacy tech watched wearily as I emptied all 67 compartments of my purse on her counter. There were dog leashes, tennis socks, foreign coins, Crock-Pot recipes and bungee cords, but amazingly, no prescriptions. My oxygen-starved brain and I sorted



Before I could throw myself on his mercy, the large, frightened driver started punching numbers in his phone and yelling, "Get back! The cops are on their way!"

through the rubble again, trying to discern their disappearance. Then it hit us.

I collected all my green-slimed tissues in a coffee cup. The cup went into a paper bag. I vaguely remember depositing a bag in a trash can outside the mall. And my prescriptions just might have been in that bag.

The doc's office had already closed, so I drove back to the mall, waited until the trash can was alone and dove in head-first, trying to be discreet. About 15 minutes later, I headed back to my car with

slimy prescriptions in hand. Victory was mine until the car refused to start. Its battery was deader than my brain, which neglected to turn the headlights off.

This shouldn't have been a problem because we own several sets of jumper cables. But for reasons even mucous-free females with clear heads can't grasp, all of them live at home in the garage, although I'm not blaming any particular husband.

No need to panic. I'd simply scope out the parking lot to find some Good Samaritan with his own set of jumper cables

who'd be eager to help a wheezing, sneezing, hacking damsel in distress.

Suddenly, I spied a large white Dodge Ram, cut off from the herd. Cautiously approaching the driver's side window, I didn't want to spook him. But before I could throw myself on his mercy, the large, frightened driver started punching numbers in his phone and yelling, "Get back! The cops are on their way!"

Apparently, some crazy person in a ski mask was stalking motorists in the parking lot. So I took refuge behind my favorite trash can and waited for the police. Maybe they'd give me a jumpstart. Or better yet, arrest me and take me to a nice, warm jail with free drugs. ☹

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** South Carolina Living is reprinting some of Jan A. Igoe's previous columns. This "Humor Me" originally appeared in the February 2012 issue. Visit [SCLiving.coop/news/in-memory-of-jan-igoe](http://SCLiving.coop/news/in-memory-of-jan-igoe).





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