

COZY CHRONICLE

MAGNOLIA RIDGE, SC

Local Victorian House Draws Supernatural Speculation

The historic Weaver house has become the center of unusual activity in recent days, prompting multiple calls to the Magnolia Ridge Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Scott Johnson confirmed that his office has received numerous reports from concerned citizens regarding strange occurrences at the property, which has been vacant since the passing of longtime resident Josiah Weaver earlier this year.

"We've had calls about lights flickering at odd hours, unusual sounds, and what some residents describe as voices coming from the house," Sheriff Williams stated. "We take all citizen concerns seriously."

Several neighbors have reported witnessing the phenomena, though accounts vary. Local resident Chelsea Morrison noted that the activity has been particularly disruptive to families with young children in the area.

"It's been unsettling for the whole neighborhood," Morrison said. "We just want to understand what's happening."

The Sheriff's Department continues to investigate the reports. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the office during regular business hours.

The property remains privately owned, and officials remind the public that trespassing is prohibited.



The Victorian home, built in the 1890s, has been in the Weaver family for three generations. Following Josiah Weaver's death, the property passed to his granddaughter, who is reportedly considering her options for the estate.

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Spotlight of the week

This week, we are putting our community spotlight on
Emma Richardson.

Tell me, Ms Richardson, how does the owner of a small
town diner become the town's most important sleuth?

"I didn't really have a choice. When Lenny died in the
Squawking Chicken Diner, I knew I had to figure it out fast
or we risked losing the diner. I wanted people to know
they could trust us."

When was it that you realized you had a knack for this?

"Oh, I don't know about that. I take the pieces and put the
puzzle together. That's all."

Have you ever been scared during an investigation?

"Only once. I got a threatening call, and I was worried that
if something happened to me, Max would be alone."

Could you tell us a little bit about your canine
companion?

"Max is my boxer. I got him after MeMaw passed. The
man who had him couldn't keep him, so I took him in."

So he's a rescue.

I don't know. PopPops always said, "Don't take any
wooden nickels. the rescuer..

Tell us a bit about The Squawking Chicken.

MeMaw and PopPops opened the diner after World War
2. MeMaw wanted to have a place where people could
heal from everything that had happened over the past
decade.

What has changed in the diner since

Nothing yet, but we are planning to turn the back lot into
a dining area for nice weather.

How will that impact parking downtown?

"It shouldn't impact it at all. The only ones that park there
are staff."



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Back To School

It's that time of year again—when the scent of fresh pencils, peanut butter sandwiches, and anxious excitement fill the air. As the summer sun begins to soften and fireflies give way to football season, the children of Magnolia Ridge are heading back to school.

Monday morning saw yellow buses rumbling down Main Street as sleepy-eyed students, many still adjusting to early alarms, shuffled into classrooms with new sneakers and nervous smiles. Parents stood at the school gates a little longer than usual, snapping photos, giving extra hugs, and, in a few cases, dabbing away tears (we won't name names).

Principal Diane Foster of Magnolia Ridge Elementary welcomed students with her signature "first day dance," complete with a sparkly apple pin and a booming rendition of *Walking on Sunshine* over the intercom. "It's important to start the year with joy," she said, laughing as kindergartners looked on in awe and fifth graders pretended not to smile.

Over at the high school, the football team was already in morning drills while the drama club met during homeroom to begin planning this year's fall play. "We're thinking Shakespeare... but with zombies," said drama teacher Mrs. Cline, who winked but didn't clarify if she was serious.

The Squawking Chicken Diner offered free kids' hot chocolate for any student with a bookbag in tow. Emma Richardson, the owner, said it's her way of making sure every child starts the year with something warm and sweet. "A good education and a good cup of cocoa—what more could you want?"



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This Week's Forecast

The kids aren't the only ones adjusting to early mornings again. Magnolia Ridge is easing into the school year with a week of warm days, cooler nights, and just enough humidity to make your bangs misbehave.

Temperatures will hover in the low 80s during the day, with mornings cool enough to trick you into grabbing a jacket you'll regret by lunchtime. Afternoon sun is still strong, so don't let the calendar fool you—it's technically fall, but the weather didn't get the memo.

Expect foggy mornings on the backroads, a little dew on the grass as the school buses roll out, and skies mostly clear through the week—perfect for recess, crosswalk duty, and standing in the pick-up line with your windows down.

Local tips for a smooth start to the season:

- Layer up: Sweaters in the morning, short sleeves by noon.
- Check the weather before picking that first-day hairstyle.
- Keep an umbrella in the car—it's the South, after all.

The fireflies may be fading, but the cicadas are still singing their summer swan song. So grab your thermos, kiss your kids (or grandkids) goodbye, and enjoy the brief, beautiful window between heatwaves and hayrides.



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Book Nook

If you've ever sipped coffee at The Squawking Chicken Diner or been greeted by the ever-mischievous boxer pup, Max, you'll feel right at home in Chloe Jaxon's debut mystery, *Murder at the Squawking Chicken*.

Set right here in Magnolia Ridge, this cozy whodunit follows diner owner Emma Richardson as she stirs up more than just biscuits and gravy when a shocking death interrupts small-town life. With a nose for the truth (and for trouble), Emma teams up with her best friend Charlie—and of course Max—to uncover secrets that some folks would rather keep buried.

Readers have called the book "funny, heartwarming, and delightfully twisty." Expect red herrings, laugh-out-loud diner chaos, and plenty of Southern charm.

Where to Find It

Available now in paperback and e-book formats. Check it out Elderberry Bookstore, where copies have been known to disappear faster than Max can steal hearts.

So if you're looking for your next cozy read while cooling off after Founders Day festivities, grab a slice of pie and settle in with *Murder at the Squawking Chicken*. You might just find yourself looking twice at your neighbors



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Recipe of the month

Apple pie

Double pie crust

8 Granny Smith apples peeled cores and sliced

3/4 cup sugar

1 tsp of cinnamon

1 tablespoon butter cut into pieces

1 tablespoon flour

Pre heat oven 450

Lay one crust in the bottom of the pan

Lay Apple slices into the crust lined pan. Mix sugar and cinnamon and pour over apples. Top with butter and sprinkle the flour over the top of the apples. Lay top crust on and seal the sides and vent the top of the crust.

Bake 10 minutes and lower the oven temperature to 350 and bake 30 - 35 more minutes.



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Grocery Specials

Magnolia Ridge Market Weekly Specials

Good through Founders Day Weekend

🍏 Fresh Apples – \$0.99/lb
Picked just down the road in Cedar Haven.

🍖 Ground Beef – \$2.49/lb
Stock up for burgers at your for those nights when chili is what's on the menu

🥛 Whole Milk – 2 for \$5
Because no cereal-loving kid should go without on the first day of school.

🍗 Fried Chicken (8-piece) – \$6.99
Hot, crispy, and ready to go. (Perfect for picnics... or for when you don't feel like cooking.)

🍪 Bakery Fresh Cookies – Buy 1 dozen, get 1 dozen FREE
Yes, really. But don't blame us if they disappear before you get home.

🍹 Lemonade Mix – \$1.99
Pairs well with front-porch swings and neighborhood gossip.



Magnolia Ridge Market
"Proudly serving our town since 1954."
Open daily 7 AM – 9 PM •