



# The Extra

April showers bring May flowers

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019 • A PUBLICATION OF THE LAURENS COUNTY ADVERTISER

## Spring Fling concert a homecoming for Naik

By John Clayton  
Editor

Anjali Naik has appeared in venues across the U.S. as Diaspora, performing her unique blend of music, which has been described as “electro chill-pop” but has no real definition.

But the style is all Naik, a Clinton High graduate who found a home on stage while attending the College of Charleston. Naik is set to perform this weekend at Spartanburg’s annual Spring Fling, appearing Saturday on the Main Stage at 12:45 p.m.

“I’ve never been able to classify it, so I’m always interested to hear what listeners think,” Naik said. “It’s electronic music but a lot more laid back than what you would imagine (electronic dance music) to sound like. I also play the bass and guitar in most of my tracks too, and I sing in a pop style.”



**CHILL** — Clinton High and College of Charleston graduate Anjali Naik, performing as Diaspora, will be on the Main Stage this Saturday at Spring Fling in Spartanburg. Diaspora is scheduled to play at 12:45 p.m.

feeling cool while growing up in a small Southern town.”

Diaspora’s concert tours have taken Naik all over the country where she’s enjoyed performing in front of strangers at other venues, but coming home to perform will have its own challenges.

“Well, I just went on tour, performing in cities like New York and Los Angeles, which went really well, so I know I’ll be OK, but something about earning support and respect from my neighbors makes me a bit nervous,” she said. “Growing up, I struggled a lot with wanting to feel fully accepted. I had a lot of differences compared to my peers. I was also outspoken, and trying to stand up for what’s right, which is hard amidst peer pressure in school. Luckily, I work well under pressure, so I think I’ll have a good time in Spartanburg.”

Although it may be difficult to categorize Naik’s music, she said she has been inspired by many different mainstream artists.

“I have been influenced by so many, including my friends and mentors,”

Naik said. “My vocals definitely take inspiration from Dolores (O’Riordan) of The Cranberries, and I was a huge fan throughout school of M.I.A., who surely has influenced me. The work of Nina Simone really inspires me, especially as a Southerner.”

Naik’s dream of becoming a pop music star began as a child, but that dream began to take shape as she pursued her music career while a student at the College of Charleston, where the first chapter of Diaspora was written.

“When I graduated from the College of Charleston, I had been performing as Diaspora for about two years,” Naik said. “The week of graduation, I had just performed inside of the 600-seat Charleston Music Hall with a standing ovation from friends and followers, as it was my last show as a Charleston local. The loving local support I had in that time convinced me to pursue Diaspora professionally. It was always my dream to become a ‘pop star,’ but it took time for me to believe in myself.”

Diaspora’s music can be found on Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube.

## Event-filled weekend through Sunday

By Judith Brown  
Staff Writer

This weekend is filled with numerous opportunities for Laurens County residents through Sunday afternoon.

On Saturday morning, District 55 will hold its first Lace Up for Literacy, with a timed 5K and a one-mile fun run beginning at 9 a.m. at United Community Bank on West Main Street. Children will be offered an inflatable obstacle course and other events, and it’s sponsored by the Laurens Family Y and the district’s Department of Teaching and Learning.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, food and other options will be offered during Bridging the Gap Advocacy’s annual Kicks for Kids, the state’s largest kickball festival, near the Bridging the Gap center.

The center is located at 101 Park Place in Laurens and the festival will be on Park Place near Commission Drive, and helps fund maintenance of the Historic Sanders Football Field. Music will be provided by 107.3 JAMZ.

Those interested in crafts can head over to Ghost Creek Gourd Farm, 2108 Ghost Creek Road in Laurens, where gourd crafters and artisans will be painting, carving and marketing their unusual artwork. The event, which began Friday afternoon, lasts until about 5 p.m. Saturday.

Musgrove Mill State Historic Site will offer a two-day encampment Saturday and Sunday, featuring a variety of British and Patriot soldiers and civilian re-enactors and history-related vendors. Visitors can ask questions of the re-enactors.

The historic site is located at 398 State Park Road, Clinton, just off Highway 56 north of Clinton. The event will go from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28. Admission for the day is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

Joanna-Woodson Elementary School is offering a host of activities and displays for the community at its Joanna-Woodson Spring Fling, and it’s open to the public on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be hot dog sales, as well as snow cones, a bake shop and many vendors.

For those who enjoy dirtbike and ATV racing, a two-day Mid East Hare Scramble will take place at Strange’s Ranch both days this weekend, with ATV races beginning Saturday at 10 a.m. and motorcycle races starting at 9 a.m. Sunday. The ranch is located at 1313 Ranch Road in Laurens. Admission is \$10.

In the Lanford section of the county, Stewart Farms’ you-pick strawberries are also in season. Check its Facebook page for specifics, but the address is 6600 SC-92, Enoree.



MUSGROVE MILL  
STATE HISTORIC SITE

“There is so much on TV filmed in big urban cities. It was my goal to create new stories of kids like me having fun and feeling cool while growing up in a small Southern town.”

Anjali Naik

The Spring Fling performance follows a short return home to Clinton in between tour stops and the recent online release of Diaspora’s “Glisten” EP.

“I’ve had a lot of support nationally, even internationally, with this EP. It’s more pop and the lyrics are more contemporary too,” Naik said. “‘Glisten’ was filmed in Laurens County, and featured in Nylon Magazine. There is so much on TV filmed in big urban cities. It was my goal to create new stories of kids like me having fun and

**CNNGA Presents**  
The Clinton Neighborhood Council Association

# Rhythm on the Rails

Clinton, South Carolina

MUSIC • BBQ • AMUSEMENTS • MUCH MORE!

**MAIN STREET**  
Clinton, South Carolina

## MAY 17 & 18

**FRIDAY, MAY 17**

5-9 p.m. Unlimited Amusement Rides for \$5  
Food Vendors, Main Street  
Retail & Craft Vendors, Broad Street

**WOMEN ROCK THE RAILS**  
CNNGA MAIN STAGE  
5 p.m. • Lisa DeNovo  
6 p.m. • Pam Taylor & The Flyin’ V’s  
7:30 p.m. • April B & The Cool

**SATURDAY, MAY 18**

10 a.m.-9 p.m. Unlimited Amusement Rides for \$7  
Food Vendors, Main Street  
Retail & Craft Vendors, Broad Street

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Kerby’s Kritters Petting Zoo  
Corner of Broad & Pitts streets

11 a.m. King BMX Bike Stunt Show

2 p.m. & 5 p.m. Musgrove Street

**MUSIC ON MAIN**  
CNNGA MAIN STAGE

10 a.m. Laurens 56 Music Groups	2 p.m. Rockin’ Randall
11 a.m. Clinton High Dancing Devils	3:30 p.m. Caution Blind Driver
Noon Tyler Pearson	5 p.m. Pantasia Steel Band
1:30 p.m. BBQ Awards	6:30 p.m. Parker Ford
	7:30 p.m. Lee Roy Parnell

**WE LOVE OUR SPONSORS!**

By Bob & Phyllis Staton

Trust in Every Drop

CAROLINA AUTO SALES OF CLINTON

The Copeland Agency  
“Good Hands Judging Accidents”

Clinton Economic Development Corporation

Matt Davis  
State Farm

THOMAS & HUTTON

**Main Street Laurens**  
South Carolina

# Welcomes

**MAIN STREET BAKE SHOPPE**

128 South Public Square • Laurens

**681-4488**

**HOURS:**  
Tues.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**ANTIQUES ON THE SQUARE**

120 South Public Square • Laurens

**681-7011**

Open Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**SOUTHERN TWIST BOUTIQUE**

123 East Laurens Street • Laurens

**681-1829**

**HOURS:**  
Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.  
Saturday 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

**EXPERIENCE #LAURENSLIVING!**

Join us for the next Finally Friday!  
May 31 • 6-9 p.m.

www.mainstreetlaurens.org Follow us on Facebook & Instagram