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February 4-17, 2021

Love and the Magic Apron

BY JULIE BAILES JOHNSON

Love comes in an array of forms. Even the smallest gesture can make you feel loved.

Helen, who was not just a helping hand to a large family, but a giver of love and adoration. Some in large ways and some in small.

Helen was a beautiful young African American girl who came into a family's life when she was just 21 years old. It was 1962. She was there to help the woman of the house with her schedule of daily chores. But her biggest role was to help with the unusually large number of children. There were 10.

Helen's daily routines began early in the mornings and ended in the early evenings. Each day she arrived with a brilliant smile on her face. Her eyes twinkled and her mole dotted face beamed with love for every one of them. Her warm welcoming arms would wrap around them and make them feel as if they were the most loved person in the room. And they were. Her laugh was hearty, warm, and genuine. She was such a

large part of each of them.

Helen held roles such as therapist, counselor, medical aid, teacher, spectator, coach, religious leader, and cheerleader. She loved them through broken bones and broken hearts, bad days and bad haircuts, scraped knees and bruised hearts, awkward stages, and life's milestones. She was everything they needed her to be and so much more. And among all these, she was also a disciplinarian. She was given full parental rights to raise and treat them as they were her very own. And she did. She commanded respect and she received it. When needed, she disciplined them. When necessary, Helen would give the children a choice - pick your hickory switch or she would pick it for them. Not knowing the smallest switch had the greatest impact, more times than not the children chose the smallest ones. But immediately after the punishment, Helen would take a child into her arms, squeeze them tightly and reassure them of her unending



love for them. To them, that alone was worth the punishment.

She was also the first to make the children smile. When she arrived at their home each day, she would put on a beautiful crisp, white apron with flower embroidered pockets on the front. That apron housed many

things: a comb to remove tangles from hair, a band-aid or two for the ever-present scrapes and bruises from outdoor play, a Kleenex that was also adorned with embroidered flowers that were used for dirt, scrapes, and tears, and most importantly: magic.

Helen would gather several of the children and tell them to pat down her apron pockets and look inside. With great anticipation, they obliged and always felt and saw nothing. The pockets would be empty. But then Helen would smile, put her beautiful loving hands into the apron pockets, and before their very eyes, she would pull out handfuls of candy. She would hand each child a piece of the candy and off they would go, completely amazed. The magic in that apron was always present, always putting smiles on the children's faces and always just another example of Helen's love for them.

Helen spent 30 years of her life, and theirs, caring for them and loving them. She was there when their mother died. She was there for wed-

dings and funerals, birthdays and births, anniversaries, and accomplishments. She was there when their father died and there was no one else to care for. She stayed until the house was empty and life moved on. She remained in all of their lives until her own life came to an end.

Helen became ill and had to move to Virginia so that her only daughter could care for her in her last days. The children filled the back of a van with tons of pillows and blankets, drinks, and snacks to make her as comfortable as possible for the long drive to her new home. The day was bitter cold and snow began to fall. She was settled into her moving bedroom with the same enormous and beautiful smile on her face. Her eyes still twinkled and her warmth still with her. She said her good-byes and the van pulled away. They wept as that van turned the corner and disappeared. Although one of the most difficult days of their lives, the love they had for her and the love she had for them, would never fade...nor would their memories of her and her magic apron.



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Erskine vs. McClaine for sheriff

BY RICH OTTER

Anderson County has long experienced a reputation for contentious elections, but the struggle between W. J. (Bub) Erskine and Clint McClain for sheriff in 1956 turned out to be probably the most bombastic, both figuratively and literally.

Erskine had served as sheriff from 1941 to 1948, McClain from 1949 to 1956, and the match was on in the Democrat primary that produced a run-off between the two. It would be tantamount to election since there would be no effective challenge in the general election.

Erskine campaigned relying partially upon an advertisement showing segments of newspaper articles demonstrating successful action while he had been sheriff attacking such things as road house operations, illegal liquor, prostitution, gambling and "crime breeding" places. He claimed McClain had been spending his time getting those Erskine had locked up out of prison.

McClain was convinced of his invincibility but touted having created a program creating Anderson County Junior Deputies. It was counter argued, however, that the Anderson City Police Department harbored a vast collection of badges confiscated from those junior deputies involved in violations.

There was an outdoor public speaking scheduled for the two. The Rev. G. W. Brown signed an

affidavit that he and his wife had attended the speaking. His wife, it was alleged, had stayed in the car on the periphery of the crowd. She noticed two men talking to a sheriff's deputy. They left the deputy and went over behind the speaker's platform and the men appeared to have strapped something on each of two trees.

When it came time for Erskine to take the podium, there were two consecutive loud explosions disrupting the proceedings. It was reported Sheriff Clint McClain was seen grinning and none of his deputies were dispatched to determine the source of the blast. Federal agents later investigated but it was too late. Subsequently Andes "Footsie" Woods, a regular on the chain gang and frequent visitor to the Anderson city jail, claimed he had been responsible for the explosions.

On the basis of past history, Footsie Woods was considered a likely suspect but, even though he admitted doing the deed, he would not disclose where he had gotten the dynamite. It was also peculiar that Footsie was reported as being seen in downtown Anderson at the time the detonations occurred. Sheriff McClain, accepting the confession, claimed the action by Footsie was simply a "fun-loving, playful gesture."

The next stirring of the pot came when a man made a statement to Alcohol and Tobacco Tax officers that he received protec-

tion from the Sheriff's office "at a place, I sold liquor, had women in the place, and was never disturbed." In defense, Sheriff McClain produced a telegram sent from the Greenville Alcohol and Tobacco Tax office saying they had not been investigating him. That was true. The investigation originated from a different Alcohol and Tobacco Tax office.

To counter alleged misinformation having been circulated on behalf of McClain about a jail sentence served by Erskine, Bub Erskine felt compelled to issue a public letter through The Anderson Free Press even though the situation had previously been well known. He said that a gold watch given to him by his mother had been stolen by a young man who worked on his farm. The thief had admitted to a deputy the watch had been sold for \$5 to another young individual.

The culprit was in jail and Erskine went to talk to him hoping to retrieve his watch. The admitted thief was antagonistic and claimed the deputy had lied. He refused to give Erskine any information as to the disposition of the watch. In anger, Erskine slapped him and, attempting to dodge the blow, the thief fell against a bar in the cell and cut his eye. Erskine admitted to the judge what he had done and was fined \$500 and sentenced to serve two months in jail. After that incident Erskine was again elected sheriff in 1944, defeating two other



W. J. ERSKINE



J. CLINT McCLAIN

candidates, including McClain.

McClain then, in a last ditch effort to influence voters, brought a suit against the Anderson Free Press owners alleging liable. His final assault failed.

W. J. (Bub) Erskine won the primary in a landslide, 10,883 to 6,987. Once again he became Sheriff of Anderson County following an uncontested general election.

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TRAIL MIX AND BIRD SEED?

BY ANN BAILES

You would think I would learn my lesson. I know from years of feeding birds that most of the species I desire in our yard come best when offered plain black oil sunflower seed. But no, I can't be satisfied, and have to get fancy and try new things. This time it almost cost me a husband.

Mike likes to snack on trail mix when he is working at our farm. The stuff I buy for him is a big purple bag full of peanuts, shelled sunflower seeds, and chocolate pieces. Recently I noticed another variety in a darker-colored bag - various nuts, peanuts, and dried cranberries. I thought that this mixture might attract some different birds if mixed 50-50 with their black oil seed. So I bought both kinds - Mike's and the birds'. I put Mike's bag (which was the color that he was accustomed to) on the

garage table, and reminded him to take it to the farm. I then created my ill-conceived mixture for the birds, and put it in its darker-colored bag high on the garage shelf.

Now, black oil seeds for birds are less refined than sunflower seeds processed for human consumption. The birds' version has unsalted shells, and often contains various forms of sticks, stones, and other bits of this and that, which never get sorted out. The birds don't care - they just throw the refuse to the ground with their beaks as they look for the good stuff. So the contents of the bird bag mixture were a little rough.

Well, I did not take into account Mike's height, and the fact that he might more easily see the birds' bag up high, and overlook his on the garage table.

You have now deduced what happened. Mike came home that night. My sister was

visiting and we were chatting after supper. And then Mike, who did not know about my little project, announced: "By the way, what was that you sent with me? It was terrible!! I felt like I was eating sticks. Do not EVER buy that trail mix again!" In horror I realized what had happened. There wasn't much I could do but admit that yes, he really was eating sticks, as well as other stuff not meant for him or any other humans. And then we all had a good laugh. At least my sister and I did.

The final piece to this sad saga is that the birds didn't even like the fancy new mixture. I finally dumped it out in the yard. Maybe some creature will come along who likes creativity in his food, but I'm not even hopeful about that.

The birds are back to eating the plain seed that they like best. I think Mike has forgiven me. I just hope he doesn't start to chirp.

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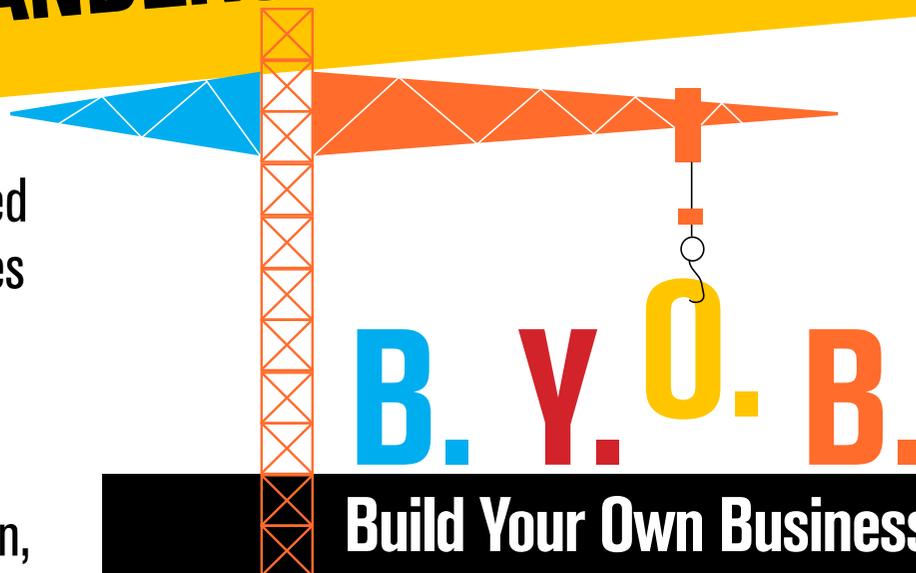
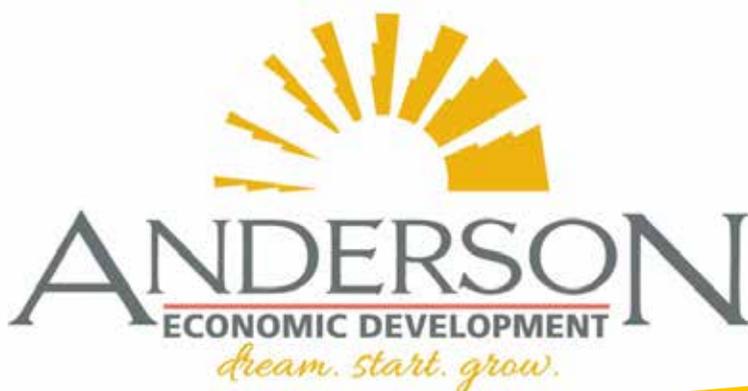
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Beyond 'Brian's Song' — a true hero

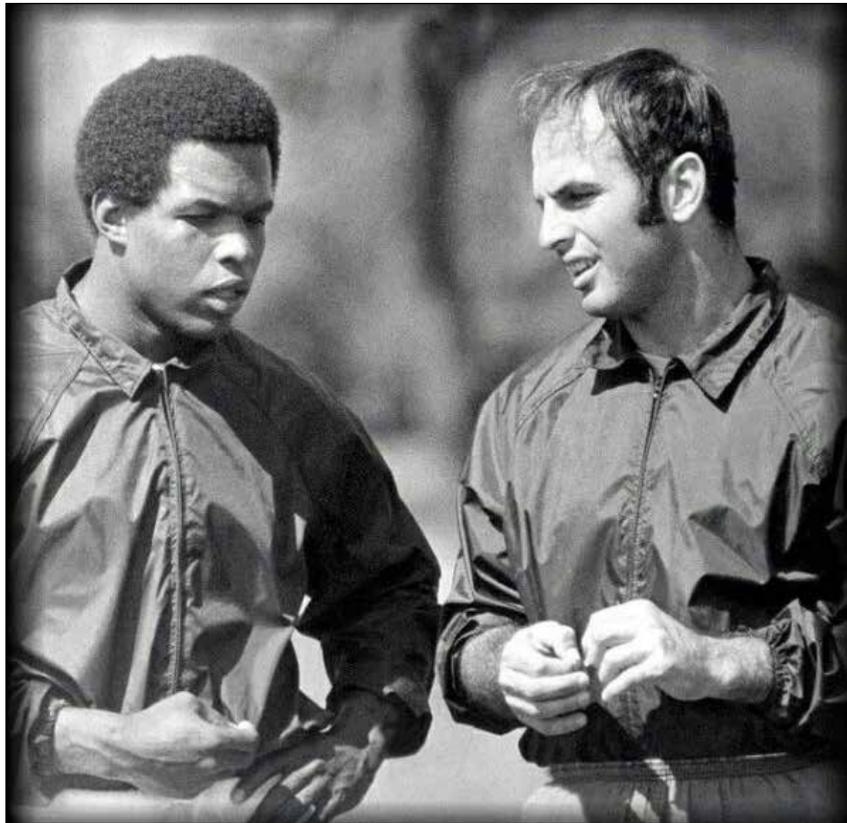
BY JIM HARRIS

Many of us became aware of Brian Piccolo's story through the TV film *Brian's Song*, released in 1971. In it we became acquainted with an underdog who never gave up, for whom "quit" was never in his vocabulary, and who was a sports pioneer in Civil Rights. When you learn more about Piccolo, however, you find that the man we came to love in the movie did so much more and left a legacy that reaches well beyond football.

Piccolo was born in Massachusetts in 1943, but his family moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida when he was only three years old. He later attended Central Catholic High School and lettered in four sports, graduating in 1961. Even with impressive high school stats, Piccolo was overshadowed locally by future NFLer Tucker Frederickson, who played for cross town rival South Broward High.

Piccolo had scholarship offers from two schools, Wake Forest and Wichita State. He opted for Wake. In his time there, he led the perennial loser Deacons to their best record in years in his senior season, as well as an ACC Championship. That year Piccolo led the NCAA in rushing, the ACC in scoring and was named the ACC Conference Player of the Year.

Perhaps Piccolo's most notable moment at Wake Forest was something that showed in no record book or in any highlight reel. Conference



Gale Sayers and Brian Piccolo

rival University of Maryland, primarily through the efforts of Assistant Coach Lee Corso, had broken the ACC color barrier in 1962 when they signed Darryl Hill to play football. Hill became the first black player at any school in a major Southern Conference. He was greeted cruelly in most stadiums in the Conference, even having opposing teams refuse to play against him. Chants of "Kill Hill"

echoed through many stadiums. Games were delayed as protesting fans rushed fields. Nation Guard units had been needed in some facilities. Hill's mother had been refused entry into the stadium at Clemson, and was finally allowed in at the invitation of the University's President, Robert C. Edwards, to join him in his private box.

On October 26, 1963, the Terps were set to play an away game at

Wake Forest. The reception there was similar to what Hill had experienced elsewhere. Hearing the crowd booing and taunting Hill during warmups, Piccolo, who was by then a star and highly respected by the Deacon fans, walked over to Hill, placed his arm around him, and said "I want to apologize for the behavior of my fans." The two then walked together to the front of the catcalling student section. He made the hand symbol for time out, the boos immediately quieted, and the game went on. Hill scored two touchdowns that day in a 32-0 Maryland victory.

Between the 1963 and 1964 seasons, Wake Forest was without a head coach. Piccolo and his classmate, John Mackovic, began recruiting black players to join the Wake Forest team.

Thanks to their efforts, in 1964, the first three black student athletes entered Wake Forest.

In spite of his amazing college statistics, Piccolo was not chosen in the NFL draft, primarily because of his small size. The Bears signed him as a free agent, but he spent his first year on the taxi squad and was sidelined with an injury. The following year, the Bears drafted Gale Sayers, who Brian played behind at half-

back. In his third season, he moved to fullback and played alongside Sayers. In the 1968 season, Sayers was injured, and Piccolo moved into his spot. When Sayers returned in 1969, Brian was again relegated to a backup role. Late in that season, Piccolo removed himself from a game in Atlanta because of chest pains, and that soon led to the diagnosis of the cancer that was to take his life.

As portrayed in the film, Piccolo was a barrier breaker in the NFL. He and Gale Sayers became the first ever black and white NFL players to room together.

In 1970, when Gale Sayers was awarded the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year Award, in his acceptance speak, he said "You flatter me by giving me this award. But I tell you here and now that I accept it for Brian Piccolo. Brian Piccolo is the man of courage who should receive this award. I love Brian Piccolo and I'd like all of you to love him too. Tonight, when you hit your knees, please ask God to love him."

Brian Piccolo accomplished what many only dream of; he played in the NFL. His legacy, however, is much greater than that. Several schools, parks and fields across the country are named after Piccolo, and the Brian Piccolo Cancer Research Fund provides endowments for cancer research at several universities. His accomplishments in life, not just on the field, made him a true hero on a grand scale.



Anderson Co. PAWS nearly empty

BY DR. KIM SANDERS

Friday was a day that I never dreamt about as a veterinarian. I never dreamt about it because it never felt possible. Today we CLEARED THE SHELTER! That's right, Anderson County PAWS is nearly empty. (To be 100% honest there are 3 cats, 2 on bite hold and one that just had his leg amputated yesterday and 16 dogs. Only 9 of those dogs are available for adoption right now).

Four years ago there were well over 300 hundred in the shelter. This was typical for your southern open admission animal shelter. Over 60% of those animals were being euthanized. Today there are 19 animals in the shelter and we saved 93% of the over 5,500 animals that came into the shelter in 2020.

To say that I'm proud is an understatement. To say that I have the most amazing, hard working, animal loving staff, Boss, County Council, Animal Control Officers and community support is an understatement.

It still doesn't feel real. I have laughed, cried and yelled with joy today. Thank you doesn't say enough to everyone involved in saving so many lives over the years. I love each and every one of you.

Tomorrow we will begin again. More animals will be brought into the shelter and the process will start all over. And we will fight for each animal and love them and do what is best for them all over again. But, for tonight I will go to sleep with a full heart knowing that dreams do come true.



YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Winter vegetables important for a healthy diet

Have you noticed? More and more people are looking for things to do at home that involve the family – from recreation and teaching their children important life-skills and values -- to ensuring they get a good education. In our home we have added something else, something that is great fun as well as beneficial -- a winter garden!

I know what you're thinking. This requires an investment of time and effort. True. But I can report it's well worth it. Our little gardening experiment started with our new year focus on eating healthier.

Of course, you need not have a winter garden to eat healthier during these cold months. You can still avail yourself of healthy options. The point is during the weeks of winter, we tend to spend more time inside and bulk up eating the wrong foods. Getting proper nutrition is more challenging as winter sets in because cold weather brings cravings – and we end up neglecting good nutrition.

As our winter garden experiment is proving, there are hearty, healthy vegetables that survive and even thrive in the colder tempera-

tures. They are delicious! They taste sweeter in the cooler months, making winter the optimal time for harvest!



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

Here are the top healthiest winter vegetables and their benefits. It gives me pleasure to report...our family is growing all of them right in our backyard. For some these vegetables may be an "acquired taste" -- but try them. I wish

I had space here to share a few delicious recipes. If you have some, please share!

1. Kale. Exceptionally nutritious and packed with vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants.

2. Rutabaga. High in vitamin C and potassium. Increasing potassium may lower blood pressure and reduce risk of heart disease.

3. Turnip greens. Among the top foods with the highest possible vitamin, mineral, phytonutrient density (ANDI) score of

1,000 points!

4. Arugula. Contains glucosinolates, natural substances that may protect against breast, prostate, lung, and colon cancers. Fights inflammation and may help prevent osteoporosis.

5. Red and Green Cabbage. Packed with nutrients including Vitamin A, C, and K. Also contains anthocyanins, which may protect against heart disease and certain cancers.

6. Broccoli. Enjoys a well-deserved reputation as a superfood. It is low in calories but contains a wealth of nutrients and antioxidants.

7. Collard greens. May decrease the risk of a number of health conditions including obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

In summary, these wonderful – indeed amazing – winter vegetables contain a range of benefits which may help prevent or even reverse the type of cell damage that leads to a host of health issues. Scientists even have a name for them: "green chemoprevention." Our little winter garden is a fun and healthy learning experience for our whole

family. That said, these winter vegetables can be found in our local grocery. The point is – make healthy choices. The benefits are many. If you have questions, please call. Think of us as your hometown resource for guidance and support. And here's to a productive, and healthy, new year!

Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick is the owner of Grand Oaks Dental, located at 3905 Liberty Highway in Anderson. A strong believer that dental fear and anxiety should not prevent any patient from receiving the highest quality dental care, Dr. Cannick has received extensive training in Sedation Dentistry and is a certified member of the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation. She is also a member of the South Carolina Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.

For more information about Grand Oaks Dental and the services provided, please call 864-224-0809 or visit grandoaksdental.com or facebook.com/GrandOaksDental.

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Longstanding Anderson business changes name

A longstanding Anderson business recently changed its name. The company known as Harris Flooring America is now Harris Home. They still offer every kind of flooring you can imagine for homes and offices. This new name reflects the addition of design and remodeling services that open the door to amazing room transformations.

“Think of us as a renovation concierge that handles every phase and detail of interior or renewal,” says Scott Junkins, president of Harris Home. “It’s all about creating just the right look, the perfect feel, and dependable function—for every room in your home, or for any business setting.” And, most importantly, it’s an all-encompassing service that handles every detail, from start to finish.

Lots of homeowners have at least one room in the house that needs updating, and a new coat of paint just isn’t enough. They can visualize a complete makeover, but the thought of hiring demolition, construction and decorating crews is too much to handle.

Harris removes the stress of daily renovation details from the homeowner’s shoulders. “Our clients have rather full lives,” he says. “Many juggle careers, families, and community involvement. They want a beautiful home where memories are made, but they don’t



want to coordinate contractors, site workers or decorators.” He assembled a team of fully accredited interior designers, construction experts and project managers to oversee every step of the transformation experience.

The Harris Home transformation process begins with discovery, with the customer specialist learning the homeowner’s dreams and desires for a particular room. Whether it’s a kitchen, bedroom, living room or bath,

they explore the possibilities for every square foot available. The Harris Home customer specialist consults with the homeowner in the design phase to determine the look and feel of the room. They discuss flooring, fabrics, textures, and paint shades, as well as cabinets, lighting, fixtures, and other desired features.

When all the ideas and decisions are in place, Harris Home presents detailed blueprints and computer models, so the client can see exactly how the finished room will look. The customer specialist finalizes all the homeowner’s sample choices and product specifications, and the transformation begins.

The delivery phase has a detailed, homeowner-approved timetable established by the customer specialist. Construction, plumbing, and electrical contractors work their renovation magic, along with paint, sheetrock, cabinets, floors, and countless other specifics. Communication is constant throughout the project while still giving the homeowner time to live a normal life and make memories with their family.

Harris Home handles everything. All you need to do is approve. Open the door to more, with the transformational renovation experience from Harris Home.

Anderson Elks Lodge to hold open house

Ever wonder what exactly are the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks? What do they do to help our Community be an even better place to live? Come to their open house on Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM and find out.

Members of the Anderson Elks Lodge and Committee Chairpersons will gladly tell you of the many projects the Lodge employs each year to aid our local Veterans, Youth, Needy, Homeless, and High School students getting ready to enter college.

Free hot dogs, chips, and iced tea will be served to all attendees and a guided tour of the Lodge will be available for anyone interested.

So, come on out and learn all about Anderson’s best kept secret - the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge #1206.

If you are interested in becoming an Elk, we will show you how. You must be an American Citizen, age 21 or older, have never belonged to any organization that abdicates the overthrow of the US Government, and you must believe in God to become an Elk. If you pass these tests, and do not have a major criminal record, someone at the Lodge will be happy to propose you for membership. If approved, you may become an active part in improving our community.

New neighbor coming soon to Anderson



Anderson’s newest little attraction, Ballyhoo Petting Zoo, is set to open on March 20, 2021. Ballyhoo is a hands-on interactive experience the whole family will love! With over 60 animals, playground, games, snacks, and photo booths, there is plenty to explore.

The zoo is home to a variety of animals of all ages, shapes and sizes. There are 7 petting and feeding zones along with many hands-on exhibits throughout the 5-acre farm. Meet Mary Belle the miniature cow, feed Scott the Katahdin Lamb, hold Juliette the and the baby Holland Lop Bunnies, and so much more.

Other animals at the farm include miniature goats, sheep, miniature pot belly pigs, bunnies, miniature cows, miniature donkeys, ponies, horses, alpacas, hedgehogs, ducks, and chickens.

Ballyhoo offers group rates and perks

for birthday parties and field trips to come throughout the week. The farm is open to the public Thursday-Saturday from 9AM-6PM and Sunday from 1PM-6PM. General admission tickets or year memberships are available. They are located at 849 Norris Road, Anderson SC 29626 close to the Anderson Airport.

Learn more at www.ballyhoopettingzoo.com.



NIBBLE & SIP

All the single ladies ... and gentlemen

Each year, Americans spend billions of dollars -- that's "billions" with a 'B' -- to celebrate Valentine's Day. There are Valentines for parents, Valentines for siblings, Valentines for children, and even Valentines for pets. At its heart, though, Valentine's Day is the chance for couples in love to celebrate their romance with gifts and candlelit dinners and bottles of Champagne, which are all great if you're actually part of a couple.



Kim von Keller

If you've gone through a recent breakup, though, don't let the lovebirds get you down. Gather the closest single friends in your bubble for Anti-Valentine's Day, a celebration of your glorious independence. You'll find plenty of decorating ideas for your singles' soiree on sites like Pinterest, Amazon, and Etsy. You can also create a playlist with songs like "Lips Are Movin'" by Meghan Trainor, "Love Yourself" by Justin Bieber, or the one that never gets

old, the 1960s classic "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'" by Nancy Sinatra.

But no matter how you choose to acknowledge February 14th, don't cry into your beer. What you and your friends really deserve is a Stupid Cupid. It's the kind of drink that your couple friends will be ordering at fancy bars, where they'll pay \$13 a pop. And no matter what else you serve, you have to start with... well, you'll find the recipe below.

Stupid Cupid

2 oz. citrus vodka
 ½ oz. sloe gin
 1 splash homemade sour mix (recipe below)
 1 stemmed Maraschino cherry, to garnish.
 Combine the citrus vodka, sloe gin, and sour mix in a cocktail shaker filled with ice. Shake vigorously and strain into a martini glass. Garnish with a stemmed Maraschino cherry. Serves 1.

Sour Mix

1 c. fresh lemon juice

¼ c. water
 ¼ c. simple syrup
 Combine all ingredients in a jar and stir. Sour Mix will keep, refrigerated, for 3-4 weeks.

Jerk Chicken, Skewered

2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1 ½ inch pieces
 prepared jerk marinade, such as Lawry's Caribbean Jerk Marinade
 Bamboo skewers, soaked in water for 30 minutes
 Mango Salsa, to serve
 In a plastic bag, combine the chicken pieces with the jerk marinade. Seal the bag, squeezing out as much air as you can, and refrigerate for two hours.

Preheat oven to 450°F. Remove the chicken pieces from the bag and thread them on the prepared bamboo skewers. Prepare a broiler pan by lining it with aluminum foil and

spraying the pan's rack with quick-release spray, such as PAM. Place the skewers on the rack and cook for 10-12 minutes, or until the chicken is fully cooked and the juices run clear when the chicken is pierced. Serve with Mango Salsa.

Mango Salsa

1 ripe mango, peeled, seeded, and chopped
 ¼ c. finely chopped red bell pepper
 ¼ c. finely chopped onion
 2 T. chopped cilantro
 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped
 2 T. lime juice
 1 t. lemon juice
 salt, to taste
 Combine mango, bell pepper, onion, cilantro, jalapeno, lime juice, and lemon juice in a bowl and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Season with salt, if desired, and serve WITH Jerk Chicken but not TO jerks.

The words all around us

Fruit Loops, McDonalds and Walmart. Stop signs, Pop Tart boxes and Milky Ways. Environmental print is the print of everyday life. It's the words on signs, labels, and logos and the name given to the print that appears on street signs, words on candy wrappers, and the T in Target. Early encounters with environmental print, words, and other graphic symbols found in children's surroundings are among their first concrete exposures to written language. Young children learn how to recognize this type of print first and it's an important part of the emergent literacy process. Environmental print builds a young child's confidence and gets them excited about reading. When children are excited about reading and print holds meaning for them, they will learn much faster and begin to make connections to the world around them. When children use the contextual clues found in Environmental Print to read then they will be able to transition into the functional print of school more easily.

Parents, you can take advantage of all this print by talking about letters, sounds, and words. Here are some ideas:

When driving talk about the store names. Talk to your child about what each sign stands for (or the signs they are familiar with) and the letters in the signs.

Talk about street signs and their beginning sounds (stop signs, one way, caution, yield). In

the beginning you could focus on just one sign (ex: Stop sign) and talk about what it means. Count how many Stop signs you see during your trip and how every time they see it, it means the same thing.



Katie Laughridge

Cut out words from cereal boxes and other familiar items (Lucky Charms, Yoplait yogurt, Mott's applesauce, Pop Tarts, etc.) and lay them on the table. Ask your child to pick up the word/label that starts with a "y" or a "p" and see how many they can identify. Glue the labels on pieces of paper and staple them together to make a book. Now your child will have a book they can "read" all by themselves!

Cut out the faces of cereal, granola bar, and Cheez-It boxes. Cut them in half, in fourths, or in sixths. Then let your child put the puzzle together. While they are creating and building, you can talk about the letters, shapes, and colors they see.

Learning with environmental print can be very easy and simple. It's all around us, everywhere we go. Not only is it a fun way to interact with your kids, but a way to make learning fun and meaningful.



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Tough questions for the youth of 2021

I have close relationships to all of my nieces and nephews, but especially to Sam Parker, my sister Lisa's youngest. (Let's just say that 17 years ago, I bailed him out of a tight spot in kindergarten with a case of Moon Pies.) Sam is a senior at the University of Georgia, where he's working on his B.S. in Biochemical Engineering and his MBA concurrently. He's super smart, so for this week's column, I decided to ask him tough questions about being a young person in 2021.

Kim: You explained to me that biochemical engineering uses microorganisms to create new things.

Sam: That's right. Anything on the industrial side of food, medicine --

Kim: So if Col. Steve Austin, 1973's "The \$6 Million Man," was being rebuilt today, how much would he cost?

Sam: What? I thought we were talking about biochemical engineering. Who is Steve Austin?

Kim: That's Col. Austin to you. Google him. (Sam googles.)

Sam: Okay, due to inflation rates and the price of biomedical implants, especially the ones with superhuman capabilities, I'd say that in 2021, he'd be the \$100 Million Man.

Kim: If you were the chief engineer, how would you trick him out?

Sam: Do you want to talk about engineering ethics?



Kim von Keller

Kim: No.

Sam: Okay, I'd add a mode of flight, something Iron Man-esque. I'd also implant a universal translator that would allow him to speak and understand any language.

Kim: And?

Sam: More? Okay, I'd give him a built-in stereo system. Having music accessible at his fingertips, he could diffuse hostile situations with a simple dance party.

Kim: Changing subjects, a new president was recently inaugurated. If you had a chance to sit down with the President over lunch, what would you --

Sam: Ask him about the efficacy of the COVID vaccine?

Kim: -- order for lunch?

Sam: I think I'm catching on here. I'd order the escargot to get a read on how our relationship with the French will play out over the next four years.

Kim: That's an interesting --

Sam: I'd also ask to see the White House master bathroom -- more specifically, the President's porcelain throne -- and ask him to designate the Georgia Bulldawgz as America's Official College Football team. Next year is definitely our year.

Kim: You brought up foreign relations earlier. Your father was born in the United Kingdom, one of America's closest allies. How mad do you think Queen Elizabeth II is over "The Crown" on Netflix?

Sam: I've never seen it, but I imagine that the show gets into some things that the public doesn't know about. I want to watch it now to see if my hypothesis is correct.

Kim: If you were on "The Great British Baking Show," where would you excel?

Sam: My education has taught me a lot about the technical side of biology and chemistry, so I think I could create something no one had ever seen in the Signature Challenge.

Kim: Returning to biochemical engineering, it's often used to make produce more drought tolerant or insect resistant. Could you engineer celery to taste like blue cheese dressing? They never give you enough dressing in a wing basket.

Sam: It wouldn't be difficult. You've made

me hungry now, so I'll be right back. (Sam hangs up and calls back.) I'm not a blue cheese fan, so I'm currently snacking on Ranch-flavored celery. See, that didn't take long at all. The patent is currently pending, so don't even think of stealing my idea.

Kim: I think you're making that up, but I can't be sure. Changing subjects, as Atlanta becomes a center of industry, technology, and entertainment, housing costs are soaring. If you needed a roommate, would you pick Tyler Perry or Usher?

Sam: Tyler Perry is funny, but if I lived with Usher, I'd learn how to bust a move. You never know when you'll need to diffuse a hostile situation with a simple dance party.

Kim: Final question. As we make our way through the pandemic, maintaining personal relationships is important for our social and emotional health. Who is your favorite aunt and why?

Sam: Aunt Kimmy, of course. She never ceases to make me laugh, and she has been a part of some of my favorite memories, whether from our amazing Christmases or our yearly trips to the Isle of Palms. I can't wait to make more in the future.

I told you he was smart.

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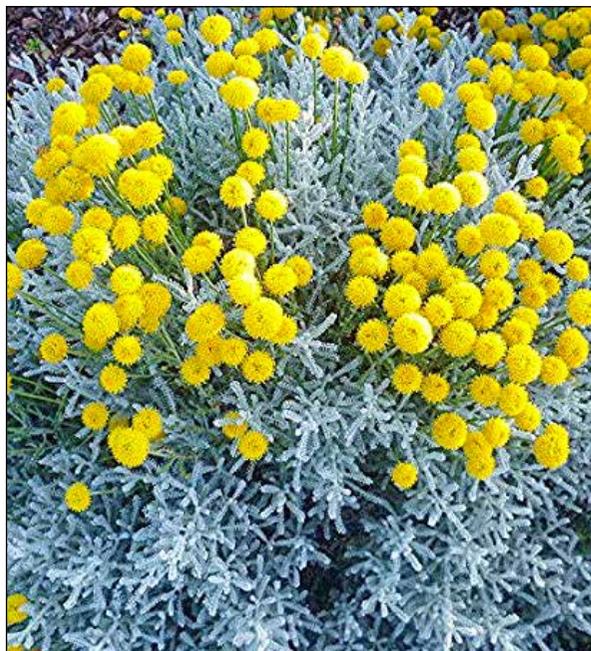
A poll taken on a recent webinar asked what are you doing in your garden this winter. By far, the majority were planning for the future. The second most popular was cleaning the garden. Each winter I notice things I would like to change. Paths are very noticeable when lots of plants are dormant. I wish for better paths and as Mama says, and her mother said, "If wishes were horses, men would ride". Paths are lined with broken stepping stones. If the budget allowed there would be fancier borders but oh well. During



Spider lily foliage along sidewalk

the growing season the stones are barely noticeable. Each year I try to add more winter interest. Maybe I'll use Pantone's colors of the year for inspiration. They offer two this year, Illuminating and Ultimate Gray. According to their site, "Illuminating is described as bright but not overwhelming yellow. Ultimate Gray is said to look like pebbles on the beach. Together they represent hopefulness and resilience". Timely words for the twilight zone days we're living.

As I read about plants that fit these colors, lavender cotton was first. I used to grow this plant in containers and had forgotten about it. *Santolina chamaecyparissus* is the gray type. *Santolina virens* has green foliage. Flowers on both should be close to Pantone's Illuminating yellow. Santolina may be a good option to plant along borders of the garden. It should trail nicely, and being evergreen, it will add winter interest. Well



Gray santolina

Dusty miller (*Jacobaea maritima*) is another Pantone option. Having used it in pots several times, and never having it grow decently, I would probably pass on this one. Plus, being an annual, I wouldn't want to have to plant it every year in the ground. Artemisia (*Artemisia schmidtiana*) has Pantone's colors too. Silver mound is a common variety. I tried this back in my beginner gardening days and don't remember being impressed. Some types can be weedy too if my memory is correct.

Many conifers can provide the silvery gray color of the year. Using perennials with yellow blooms can tie in too, hence providing more options if the color of the year is of interest for your garden.

Nothing to do with the colors of the year, but back to borders and pathways, it occurred to me while doing my annual peony tending, spider lily (*Lycoris radiata*) foliage is up and growing great. It had not dawned on me to use these as winter interest. A couple of clumps were so thick I got over 100 bulbs from just that one spot. I'm going to spread these around some of the path edges. As the foliage fades, perennials will be sprouting. Then come fall, the blooms will be nice along the edges.

drained soil is a must. I have a problem from time to time with plants rotting in the winter so picking a spot will need extra attention. The foliage is very fragrant and was used as an insect and moth repellent. A co-worker at Busby Nursery lined her hosta bed with it to help keep deer away. Santolina's gray foliage should really stand out in my garden so this will be a definite add in a month or so. Nurseries should have it by then.

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Baptist women to speak on Baraca Radio

Four ordained Baptist women will speak in February on the long-running Baraca Radio Sunday School Class from Anderson's First Baptist Church (FBC). Three of the four women are members of FBC.

Rev. Lawrence Webb, who has taught the class for 29 years, said the women will speak as part of the annual focus on Baptist Women in Ministry in Ministry (BWIM) of the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).

Dr. Stephanie Patterson, a hospice chaplain, who will lead off the series on Feb. 7, is a member of First Baptist along with her husband and children.

Rev. Lane Riley, speaker for Feb. 14, is associate coordinator for the CBF in South Carolina.

Rev. Cara Morgan, who will speak on Feb. 21, is minister to children and their families at FBC.

Rev. Amy Brown, minister to youth and their families at FBC, will conclude the emphasis on Feb. 28.

Baraca, on the air for nearly 87 years, can be heard each Sunday morning at 104.7 FM, 1240 AM, and 1020 AM.

Webb said BWIM calls attention to how God calls women and men alike to various Christian ministries including preaching.

CREATING HOME

THE JOY OF BASKETS

BY AMIE BUICE

As we enter the second month of the year, everywhere I look people are organizing, purging, and cleaning. There is something so refreshing in the new year about tidying up and hunkering down for the rest of winter in an orderly and thoughtful space. Which brings me to one of my favorite design tips ever... baskets!

While this may seem like an obvious answer, using baskets throughout your home is one of the most simple and impactful ways to organize. Beyond being practical, baskets are beautiful, rich in texture and color, and instantly add a casual and warm feeling to your room that says 'Come in, stay a while, and don't worry about stepping on a lego, because hopefully they are in the lego basket!'

As a mom, baskets are my favorite way to corral kids' toys. At our house we have a car basket, animal basket, train track basket, blocks basket, you get the picture. There are so many other useful and attractive ways to incorporate baskets into your home. In the winter months, they are great for storing logs, extra blankets and pillows. Baskets are great for collecting magazines and



of us who have recently set up an office in our living room, baskets can be a pretty way to organize notebooks, printers, papers, or when strategically placed, can hide cords.

While some baskets can be a little pricey and worth the investment, you can find other great options at antique and thrift stores. Baskets are a great way to add both charm and organization to your home in a simple way. And after all,

old papers, backpacks and shoes, dog toys and leashes. Baskets make great storage in bookcases, in bathrooms for toiletries, in kitchens, to collect laundry, or as a trash can. For those

what could be wrong about something that is both stylish and sensible?

Website: amiebuice.com

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Favorite fashions in film

I have so many films that hold special significance to my heart. I grew up watching movies with my mother and my grandmother. As a child we watched old films with Lana Turner and Bette Davis and Rita Hayworth. Not only did the theme of the movie inspire me but their wardrobe and accessories and hair. The glamour aspect was so neat to watch as a little girl.



Kristine March

While my friends were watching Disney movies, my sister and I were into old classics and dramas. We would try to recreate them with improv and play dress up as children. My mom noticed and eventually put us in drama class because we were so obsessed. If you look at Cinema everyone behind the scenes are just as important as the actors. The costume designer makes the movie if you ask me.

One of my most favorite costumes would have to be Penny Lane from Almost Famous. She plays a glamorous hippie chick from the

70's that goes backstage at concerts as a "band-aid" and wears a huge shearling coat, Levi's and a midriff lace blouse with big curly hair. When I saw that outfit I instantly bought a coat just like it. Thrift store chic was completely brought to life because of that film. Nobody will ever be as cool as Penny Lane.

Another film that inspires is Julia Roberts character in Pretty Woman. Especially when they turn her into a sophisticated lady at the horse race. The brown cinched waist dress with the white polka dots and gloves and that amazing straw hat. I would definitely rock that this Spring, a timeless look for sure.

My final and favorite costume from a film would be Elizabeth Taylor in Cleopatra. The heavy winged eyeliner with blue eyeshadow is just divine and her part down the center with the gold serpent and braided hair with the gold baubles is beyond. The gold winged Egyptian goddess costume is probably one of the most exquisite ones in cinema history.

What are your favorite costumes in film? Sit back and relax and enjoy some good movies this week and remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.



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Naval shenanigans

New Navy recruits boarding a ship for the first time are subjected to a little hazing and other pranks that initiate them into the real



Neal Parnell

Navy world. Yes, I fell for the Mail Buoy Watch, and the fetching of the Steam Blanket, but there were others that I witnessed and was happy to not be the target. One new squid was ordered by a superior to go to the ship's store and ask for a Long Weight. He makes his way to the store and asks the storekeeper for a Long Weight, the storekeeper leaves for a bit and when he returns he says, "Was that long enough?" Harmless, but funny, and a lesson was learned. I saw guys ordered to find some Prop-Wash, wooden welding rods, and one was told that the ship was too long and we were going to need a Shoreline-stretcher before we could dock.

Once I was walking toward the aft end of the ship when I saw a bunch of guys gathered around a wooden box. I said to them, "Whatcha got there?"

"We caught a Sea Bat, come have a look." I bent over to look into the hole in the top of

the box when, Wham! Someone had whacked me on my backside. I turned quickly around and there was a sailor holding an oar, and he said, "SEE, BAT!"

The best prank that I witnessed was very elaborate and will need a little backstory. Ships of old had masts that held the main sail; modern ships have what is called a mast but attach things such as radar, high frequency radio screens and other electronics that need to be as high as possible. A subject was selected and told that he would have the crucial job of cranking down the mast just before the ship went under the Cooper River bridge. He was outfitted with a radio helmet and microphone, and positioned at the bottom of the mast where a large wheeled crank did nothing but make a loud clanking sound when turned. He was left at his post with orders to crank with all his strength when the signal was given. We all went to the radio room to listen and instruct our target. Our boy had his hands gripped on the brass handle and said over the radio, "Mast to Radio Room, we're getting closer, should I start cranking?" "Negative Mast, wait on our signal."

"Aye, Aye Radio Room but we are getting closer."



"Negative Mast, wait for signal."

We all left the Radio Room and went out to watch the show. "Mast to Radio Room, ready to crank down mast!" (silence).... "Mast to Radio Room, we're only a hundred yards away!" (silence).... "Mast to Radio Room, we're fifty yards away, I'm cranking!!" We watched as he turned the crank as fast as he could, and

listened as he yelled, "I'm cranking but the mast is not moving!"

"Oh God!! It's going to hit! It's going to hit!! Take cover!! You wouldn't believe the panic and sheer terror in that boy's eyes as he ran into us as we were laughing, and we all looked up to see the mast slide smoothly under the bridge.

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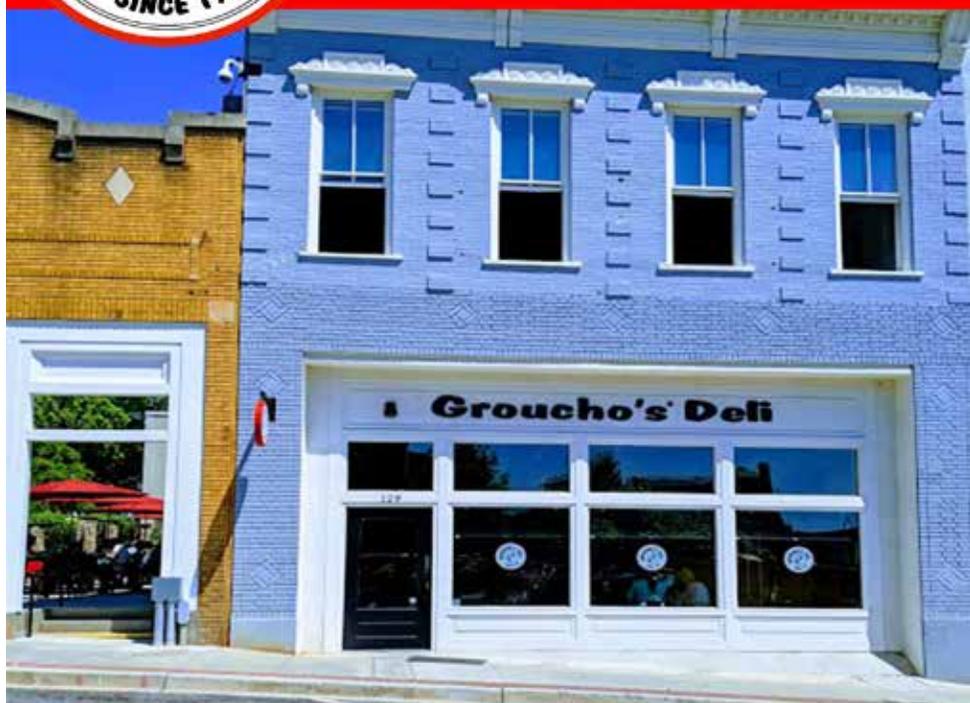


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MUSINGS OF AN OLE BALL COACH

Amazing Gracie

I was deeply saddened yesterday upon hearing of the death of Gracie Floyd to the insidious coronavirus. My journey with her began in the summer of 1970 when her husband



Jim Fraser

William and I became coaching and teaching associates. Here are the circumstances that prompted our journey.

The Supreme Court had ruled that separate but equal schools were not working, we would therefore merge the two. The desegregation or integration of the nation's school system began.

It was deemed that all the nation's schools would be bound together to reflect the town's black, white ratio. In Anderson's case, student body, teaching and coaching, and administrative bodies must reflect a 72% white 28% black ratio. Herein began my journey with William and Gracie Floyd.

Dr. William Royster who incidentally made our model an example for others, informed me to meet Hanna's two new coaches. As I've written before, Anderson would be



Gracie Floyd

divided by Murray Ave. Therefore, we gave many players and coaches to Westside and got many in return.

I met William along with Irv Cunningham on a Sunday afternoon. I knew I had two "keepers," William would have the massive civic center, and several thoroughfares around it named in his honor. Irv would have the football stadium at Pendleton High School named for him. Irv and I would coach together for the next two years while William and I the next 14 years.

Coaching staffs were like fami-



Jim Fraser and William Floyd

lies because of the time constraints for weekends, vacations, birthdays etc. All these scheduled to coincide around the football season. The consensus being that if you were asking the player to give up family time you had to also ask the coach. Therefore, if a wife who controlled these things didn't buy in you had a sorry coach. I was super lucky during my coaching seasons at Aiken and Hanna to have such great ladies.

William was a valued member of our staff at Hanna, not only coaching receivers on the football staff, but was head coach of the boys' basketball and girls track. He was also a fine math teacher. You probably know the rest of the story. Upon William's retirement he became the first black member of Anderson County Council, until his untimely death at an early age. To say he served with distinction would be an

understatement as attested to the fact that our show case center beams his name. Gracie served in his seat for the next 21 years. Her worth to the council was evident, although being the only Democrat, made for many uncomfortable moments for her.

I maintained my relationship with her during my financial planning career. I was fortunate to help serve her at Williams death as he had a policy with me. As the Floyd's had the only pool on the coaching staff Gracie hosted many pool parties. The cuisine and the libations were always superb.

I did not have the pleasure of coaching her two great sons, Greg and Kenny as I had changed careers when they played at Hanna. They are leading successful lives in Charlotte, where Gracie had gone to live.

"We'll always remember you Gracie, and your wonderful family. Joyce and I will see you on the other side!" Coley

Jim Fraser was the athletic director and head football coach at T.L. Hanna High School from 1968 to 1985. He was also a full member of the faculty and taught U.S. History.



HOT HITS

A MONTH INTO 2021

It's already the beginning of February. Already a month into 2021. And still no new music from Rihanna. I'm so done with her. Australia's "NME" compiled a list of artists we need and crave music from this year and Rihanna was at the top of the list. I have to admit I only scrolled through the first 10 in a compilation of 50. There were definitely artists I never heard of. I also learned that Taylor Swift gave us two albums in 2020. I had no idea. I do remember Adele & Lana Del Ray being on the list and again I couldn't agree more. I am craving both of them.

It could also be a big year for Aaliyah fans. They may be able to hear all of her music on platforms like Spotify. Since her death 20 years ago her family has been

involved in a nasty fight with Aaliyah's management. It's really quite sad. For those of you who



Justin Tyme

don't know. She was a beautiful lady. She had so much talent. All accounts show her as a very decent human. And that voice. I think she married R. Kelly in some wack-a-doo-doo marriage sham.

R. Kelly now broke and in prison engaging minors. A few weeks ago we learned that R. Kelly was beat and nearly died when he became the victim of a targeted attack inside the prison.

I would love to see new music from Mariah and of course JLO. Jennifer Lopez broke new music in December called "In the Morning" and performed it at Times Square New Years Eve, but I want more. The song is not charting as of yet in the United States, but around the globe it's a top 20 song in many places. I don't know why radio stations won't touch her stuff. I think it's because she's 50.

That's a very touchy number for me, Oh no. I've already said too much. I'm not ready to talk about it. And if Rihanna doesn't give me new music by the time.. nope! Still can't talk about it.

Justin Tyme can be heard on HOT 98.1 Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m.



Aaliyah

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Additional Information: Account approval, conditions, qualifications, limits, timeframes, enrollments, and other requirements apply. \$100.00 minimum deposit is required to open the account. One monthly Direct Deposit or ACH credit, at least 10 POS debit card purchases post and settle to your account, enrollment in online or mobile banking, and enrollment in eStatements are conditions of this account. Limit of 1 account per social security number. There is no Monthly Service Fee to open or close this account. Contact one of our bank service representatives for additional information, details, restrictions, reward calculations, processing limitations, cycle dates and enrollment instructions. **Trademarks:** Kasasa and Kasasa Cash Back are trademarks of Kasasa, Ltd., registered in the U.S.A.