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SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Captain Christopher Bailes, grandson of the late Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bailes and the son of Dr. and Mrs. Steve Bailes, is serving in the United States Air Force as Officer In Charge for the Urgent Care Clinic at Air Base 201 in Agadez, Niger. He is a 2018 graduate of the Family Medicine Residency Program at AnMed Health. Agadez, located in West Africa, is con-

sidered to fall in the Sub Saharan region. Dr. Bailes is responsible for the acute medical needs of all active duty military personnel deployed to this location. He has also had the opportunity to serve on several community outreach trips to the city. Happy New Year to him and all of our men and women in uniform. Thank you each and every one for your service to our country and we wish you the very best in the year to come.



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Christmas



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Sheriff touts accomplishments

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office continues to manage the available resources and work with their counterparts in local government to provide a positive, family work environment to their employees, along with a customer based service approach to the residents of our county.

"In the past year, we studied and analyzed our internal wage situation, which resulted in the creation of a structured pay plan for all sheriff's office employees," Sheriff McBride says. "This pay plan has helped us become one of the most competitive agencies in the upstate of South Carolina. The new pay plan has also helped improve retention within the

department significantly and essentially keep "more boots on the ground".

Additionally, Sheriff McBride conducted an in depth study on Body Worn Cameras including trials of several different products. With the assistance of County Council they were able to finalize purchase and will conduct implementation in the weeks ahead.

"In our Detention Division, we entered into a partnership with a new health care provider,

who is able to provide better care at a more efficient cost to Anderson County," McBride says.



Anderson County Sheriff Chad McBride

In their School Resource Division, we were able to place a Deputy in every Anderson County School that participates in their program.

"We also recently purchased four Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (grant funded used for two) that

will allow us to provide more cost effective aviation services in some circumstances," says McBride.

"We are very proud of the accomplishments that our agency has been able to make over the last 3 years in Anderson County. Currently, crimes statistics show that burglaries are down over 30%, vehicle break-ins are down 42%, and homicides are down over 40%. Additionally, 2019 so far, has provided a record breaking year for the amount of illegal drugs and narcotics being taken off our streets."

Sheriff McBride attributes the accomplishments made this year and previous two years of his administration to the dedicated and hard-working employees of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office.

Anderson native and Grammy-nominated artist Clay Ross to perform at Earl Street

Clay Ross, guitarist and vocalist for the Charleston based quintet Ranky Tanky, will take the stage for his 19th annual reunion concert at Earl Street Restaurant tomorrow night. Ranky Tanky is a Gullah term meaning "get funky" or "work it". The Ranky Tanky Band creates a modern composition of the traditional music of Gullah. The origin of the Gullah sounds is passed down

from West African slaves along the coastal islands of South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

Ranky Tanky received the

2019 Grammy nomination for their new release, "Good Time", in the category of Best Regional Roots Music Album.

"Good Time" debuted in July 2019 at No.2 on Billboard's Jazz Chart.

November 17th has officially been declared as "Ranky Tanky Day" in the City of Charleston, S.C..

Ross is a Grammy Award nominated artist and the founder of the Billboard chart topping band Ranky Tanky. A native of South Carolina, Ross moved to NYC in 2002 and has since collaborated with artists as diverse as Gregory Porter, Snarky Puppy, and Bobby McFerrin. Winning multiple grants through the U.S. State Department, he has toured worldwide as a Cultural Ambassador. "Mr. Ross is a very deft guitarist with a rich vocabulary of folk, blues, and jazz at his disposal." – Wall Street Journal

Featuring All Star musicians from across the Southeast, you won't want to miss this night of jazz.

Earl Street Kitchen & Bar
134 W. Earle Street
7 p.m. showtime \$10
For reservations call:
(864) 965-9052



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THE HISTORY OF ANDERSON COUNTY TOWNSHIPS: A SERIES

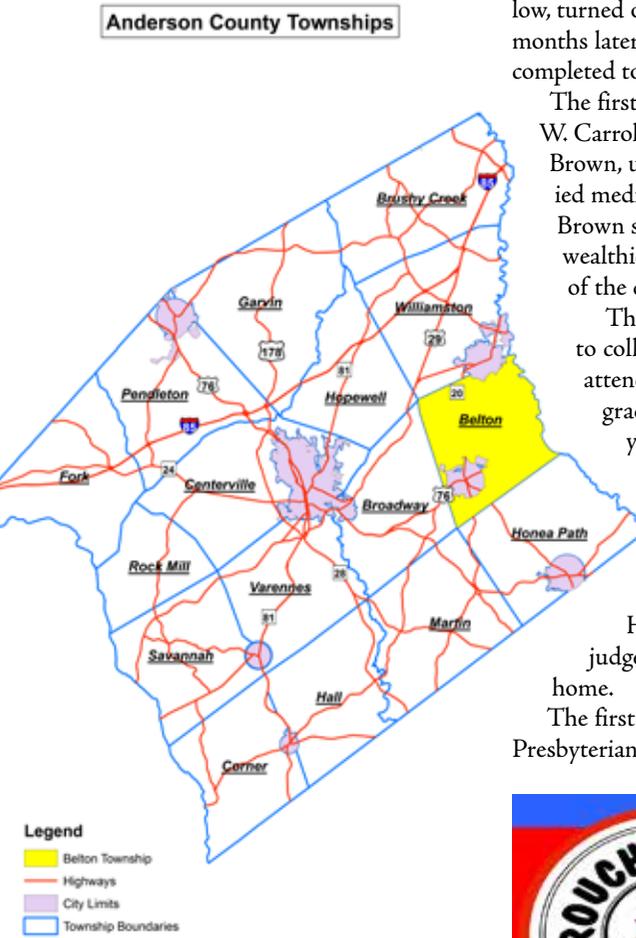
Belton Township

BY KAY BURNS

The town of Belton gave its name to the township and it was named in honor of Judge John Belton O'Neal. He was the first president and promoter of the C. and G. railroad. Belton is a child of the railroad, having come into existence as a station, and junction, of that railway. Miss Josephine Brown, daughter of Dr. George Brown, suggested the name for the new town.

When it became certain that the road would be built and pass through that section of country, lots were laid off and sold at public auction. Several acres, including what is now the public square, were given in perpetuity to the railroad company and a school house lot was conveyed in trust to the town for educational purposes. The land belonged to Dr. George Brown, a physician with a large practice all through the section. Soon he and his son-in-law, Major (Witt) Broyles, began the construction of a hotel. Mattison Gambrell became its manager. In 1855 the hotel was bought by G. W. McGee, who greatly improved and enlarged it and for many years ran a successful and popular house.

G. W. McGee, G. W. Taylor, and A. J. Stringer were among Belton's earliest residents. They lived in the town until they seemed to become an integral part of it. Among the earliest homes built were those of Colonel William Smith, Alexander Stevens and Thomas Cater. The original country home of Dr. George Brown stood almost where the future residence of where Carroll Brown's residence would be located. Tragedy as well as success followed the development of the infant town. One of the hopeful new settlers was Ephriam Mayfield. Trusting in



low, turned out to see the train come in. Two months later, the branch to Anderson was completed to the Broadway trestle.

The first school in Belton was taught by W. Carroll Brown, a nephew of Dr. George Brown, under whom the young man studied medicine while teaching. Dr. Carroll Brown subsequently became one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of the community.

The first Belton boy to be sent to college was Judge W. F. Cox. He attended Furman University. Upon his graduation he taught school eight years. Judge Cox became mayor of Belton when he was only twenty-one years of age, and at the same time was made magistrate through the influence of Colonel J. A.

Hoyt. In 1887 he became probate judge in Anderson, where he made his home.

The first church in Belton was Presbyterian, the old Broadway church

removed to a new location. Among the earlier members of that congregation were George Harvey, William Telford, Thomas Erskine, Thomas Cox, Thomas Anderson, Robert Smith and Green Taylor.

The limits of the new town were one-half mile in every direction from the railroad station. Supervisor Chamberlain, of the C and G. road, was the first intendant of the town. Mr. William Holmes gave the land on which the first Baptist Church was built. It stood near the cemetery. Belton felt indebted to the Reverend Charles Manley who, while president of Furman University, found time to also be the pastor of the Baptist Church from 1880 to 1895.

Mr. Asbury C. Latimer of Belton was, for many years, the Congressman from the third district. He was prominent in the Farmers' Alliance movement, and was one of the leaders in establishing a large and prosperous Farmers' Alliance store in Anderson, which was under the management of Mr. R. S. Mill.

Source: Genealogy Trails

the boom predicted for the town, he ventured too deeply in its promised results, and losing everything that he owned, killed himself in the woods adjoining his home.

The railroad was completed in 1853, and when in that year the first train in charge of Conductor Feaster, rolled into the station, the whole population, white, black and yel-

Anderson Travel Club, AU Lifelong Learning Institute Program plan monthly meeting

The Anderson Travel Club and AU Lifelong Learning Institute Program

will meet on Thursday, January 2. The meeting be held at the Anderson County Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St., in rooms B and C on the first floor at 1:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Dana McElreath from The Electric City Playhouse

The Travel Club welcomes those who would like to present a program on their travels to interesting places in the United States and around the world. For more information, please call 864-338-8318.

Brenda Hucks is the president of the Anderson Travel Club. Andria Carpenter is director of the Anderson University LLI Lifelong Learning Institute (AU LLI).

AnMed Health CEO announces retirement after 39-year career

ANDERSON — AnMed Health Chief Executive Officer Bill Manson has announced plans to retire in July 2020. Manson joined the organization's leadership team in 1981, serving in a number of roles throughout his tenure. After providing executive oversight of the health system's operations for 16 years, he took over as CEO of Anderson's largest employer in 2015.

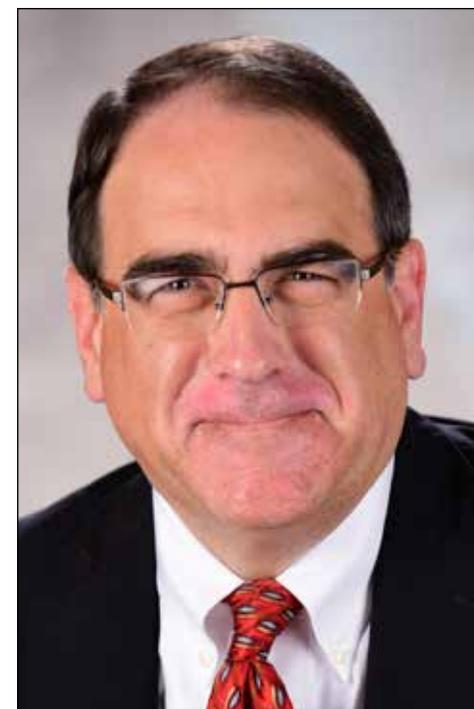
"I have been both humbled and honored to serve as CEO of AnMed Health. As I reflect on the growth and change that has taken place since I first arrived in Anderson 39 years ago, I am proud of the remarkable community asset that AnMed Health is and honored to have worked alongside many talented individuals who have helped to make it so. I am convinced the work we have done in recent years to build a very strong physician network, improve our clinical care programs, develop a local and Upstate population health program, and look for the right strategic partnerships, leaves AnMed Health in an excellent place to continue to fulfill its mission of optimizing community health well into the future," Manson said.

Under Manson's leadership, AnMed

Health has consistently risen to meet the growing needs of those it serves and the changing face of health care. Over the last several years, he has successfully led the health system through a national paradigm-shift to reduce hospitalizations and improve population health. Through the implementation of a sophisticated electronic medical records system in 2017 and the formation of strategic partnerships on both the local and regional levels, Manson has helped build an infrastructure to support the organization's mission in a new industry environment. During his tenure, AnMed Health has continued to enhance clinical capabilities, facilities and technology with the development of an expanded presence in Clemson, construction of a hybrid OR at the Medical Center and introduction of the TAVR procedure for minimally invasive aortic valve replacement. In addition, new partnerships were developed with Anderson University, Tri-County Technical College, MUSC and others to expand educational and professional opportunities for nurses and primary care physicians and to ensure a pipeline of top talent.

"Bill came to Anderson almost 40 years ago to work for a place we called Anderson Memorial Hospital. Through Bill's vision and leadership – his leadership at many levels – Anderson Hospital grew and transformed into AnMed Health: a strong, nationally recognized, independent healthcare system. Bill's mission has always been to serve the community humbly and – above all – to support the patients, clinicians and staff of AnMed Health. Because of Bill's commitment, AnMed Health will provide gold standard health care to our community for decades to come," said Bill Kibler, AnMed Health Board Chairman.

Throughout his career, Manson has been very involved in the community. He has served the United Way of Anderson County, the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, Success by Six, the Anderson Free Clinic and as an elder in his church, First Presbyterian Church. His professional activities include serving as chairman of the South Carolina Hospital Association and as South Carolina chapter president and regent for the American College of Healthcare Executives. Manson is an economics graduate of Davidson College



**AnMed Health Chief Executive Officer
Bill Manson**

with an MBA from UNC-Charlotte.

Manson and his wife, Kathryn, have two grown married daughters and a recent grandson. They plan to remain in the Anderson area and stay active in the community.

The executive committee of the AnMed Health Board of Trustees has engaged Gallagher MSA Search, a nationally recognized healthcare consulting firm, to assist in the CEO selection process.

AnMed Health program pays for registered nurses to get BSN degree

BY CINDY LANDRUM

Kayla Phillips knew early on she wanted to work in health care.

"I wanted to help people," said Phillips, who participated in HOSA - Future Health Professionals, an international student organization designed to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of health care, while in high school.

She started out as a certified nursing assistant, a job she did for nine years for several companies. While she was working, she attended Tri-County Technical College to earn her associate degree and become a registered nurse.

"I enjoyed being a CNA, but I wanted to become a nurse," said Phillips, who started working as a nurse for AnMed Health in February 2017. She now works on 7 South, AnMed Health's neuroscience surgery floor, and serves as a charge nurse every other week-end.

Phillips is now working on her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at Anderson University thanks to a new program that allows RNs at AnMed Health to go back to school and earn their four-year degree for free if they agree to continue working at the hospital for a certain period of time after graduation. Phillips, who is one of the first nurses to



AnMed Health nurse Kayla Phillips is among the first participants in an AnMed Health program that allows nurses to earn their Bachelor Degree in nursing from Anderson University for free.

start the ADN to BSN program, expects to graduate in spring 2020.

"I never thought I'd graduate from a university," Phillips said. "It's been a blessing."

AnMed Health Human Resources Manager Stephanie Collins said the reason

behind the ADN to BSN program is twofold — to help address the universal nursing shortage and to allow AnMed Health to continue to provide excellent patient care.

"The ADN to BSN program gives our nurses a flexible and affordable way to advance

their education," she said. "It prepares nurses for the increasingly complex demands of the profession and helps them provide excellent care for patients while advancing their careers."

Going to Anderson University for free is not the only advantage of AnMed Health's program. It allows ADN's to make money and gain valuable work experience while earning their BSN, allowing them to jump-start their careers.

Phillips, who had been looking at Bachelor of Nursing programs at the University of South Carolina Upstate and Western Governors University before her manager asked her to apply for the Anderson program, said she appreciates that all classes are online. As a mother of two young children, she's able to fit her classwork around her work schedule and duties.

"I feel really blessed to be in the program," Phillips said. "It's a great opportunity that AnMed is offering. AnMed wants to help us go to school and it wants to offer higher service to the community. It really is a blessing."

As for the requirement to work at AnMed Health for three years after graduation, Phillips said that's no problem.

"I'm not going anywhere. I love AnMed," she said. "I enjoy working at the hospital and the environment. I'll probably never leave."

A tough old cookie: Remembering J. Alex Neely, Jr.

BY RICH OTTER

J. Alex Neely, Jr. rarely was deterred by a challenge, including when he decided to become an attorney. He did not attend law school, he did it the hard way and read law, undoubtedly because of finances. In addition to a general law practice, he undertook a branch of law as a tax attorney, then rarely practiced.

Neely was born in 1894 and began his law practice in about 1918, roughly 5 years after the 16th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified creating the income tax. He argued cases in Washington and was well known throughout the upstate of South Carolina with regard to his specialty. He was so well respected by Internal Revenue Agents of old that he could just state a factual situation which they accepted coming from him without further substantiation.

In later years when his personal tax return was audited he could not understand why the young whippersnapper IRS auditors would not just take his word. He grumbled but produced the documentation.

When Broadway Lake was developed, he personally surveyed some of the properties to the later consternation of professional surveyors. He was furious regarding the



J. Alex Neely, Jr.

spelling of the Broadway name. He insisted an "a" was omitted. It should have been "Broadaway" Lake. In fact, the 1877 maps did list Broadaway Creek in Broadaway Township

as did earlier histories.

Neely was credited with having the first air conditioned office in Anderson. He had a fan blowing across a block of ice. For Christmas he harvested mistletoe by shooting it out of trees with a shotgun.

He was a short man constantly puffing on a large cigar. In later years his hair turned snow white. His voice was gruff. Like a coach sending a player into a game, in the 12 years he and his partner worked together he only called his partner by his last name. His partner called every other attorney in Anderson by their first name but Neely was always Mr. Neely.

Through his law practice Neely came in contact with a struggling company called Transit Homes, one of the three national movers of mobile homes, which he acquired with some Greenville investors. The movement of the homes frequently resulted in damage to the units so Neely designed and constructed a truck with a bed that actually slid under the home. Unfortunately, the small tires could not stand up to the heavy weight and highway travel.

In 1960, he hired a young law school graduate to help take over legal and tax matters he was neglecting due to his involvement

with Transit Homes. Although a confirmed Democrat, he took pleasure in introducing his new associate, later partner, as a Yankee Republican, an introduction that could have been a kiss of death at that time in Anderson if it had come from almost anyone else. When the Yankee Republican later decided to run for political office, Neely thought it was fine to run, just not to get elected. Running would acquire name recognition but if elected would take time away from the law office. When later he was actually elected, Neely was gracious enough to swear him into office.

Neely built a bomb shelter in a room in his house during the Cold War when there was fear of atomic attack by the Russians. One visitor reported the only things he saw in the shelter were a keg of beer and a urinal.

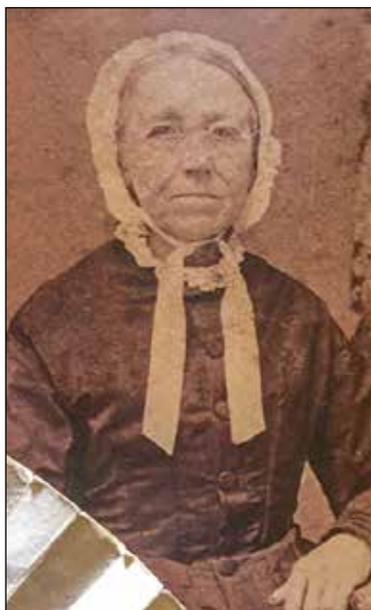
When late in life he experienced a ruptured appendix, his son called his law partner and said Neely was not expected to live through the night. It was a Friday and his partner said he would stay in the office over the weekend and asked his son to call when it happened. Sunday morning the phone rang. When answered, a gruff voice called the last name of the attorney and grouched: "Is there any mail?" He was a tough old cookie.

Mr. Neely passed away in 1972.

EARLY SCHOOLS IN ANDERSON

BY KAY WILLIS BURNS

Separation in small elite 19th century schools developed in the larger towns, funded in part by wealthier families. In the case of



Mrs. Albert Elken Reed, former Johnson Female University student

male students, these private schools were often held in multi-room structures that had teachers who were college-educated and taught with military discipline. Structures began to be built of brick or finely milled wood to differentiate them from the one-room school house.

In 1811, Pendleton District saw the formation of the Pendleton Male Academy, and in 1827, the establishment of the women's academy. Both schools were multi-room educational facilities for the children of land owners and the wealthy.

Not all male schools were located in large townships. One prominent example of this is the Thalian Academy near Slabtown. The Academy had its beginning in 1832 and was highly regarded throughout the state. To accommodate the increasing number of students attending the school, many farmers built additional log cabins for lodging. The academies began to decline with the Civil War in 1861.

In 1913 Dr. Frazer, the pastor of the



First Presbyterian Church, opened the Frazer Fitting School, a preparatory school for boys wishing to enter college. Though uniforms were not required, marching and military discipline existed within its curriculum. The school was located at the First Presbyterian Church in Anderson during its short history.

ALL-FEMALE SCHOOLS

The establishment of "finishing

schools" for women began in the era before the Civil War. The teachers were women who taught reading, writing, and simple arithmetic to educate young women on how to run a proper home. Music, needlework, and household management were also considered essential parts of the curriculum.

Anderson County began to show marked divergence from other counties in SC with the

establishment of several schools for women to obtain higher education. Four outstanding examples are Presbyterian Female Seminary, established in 1835, Johnson Female Academy in 1852, Williamston Female College in 1872 and the Anderson Female Seminary in 1881. These institutions provided an extensive curriculum including the sciences, advanced literature, and mathematics.

Johnson Female Academy would set the stage for the formation of Anderson College in 1911. Williamston Female College would move to Greenwood, SC, and become Lander College, named after its founder, Dr. Samuel Lander.

The Anderson Female Seminary was a charter institution and was empowered to give degrees. Vassar College gave Anderson Female Seminary a unique distinction by allowing any student from the seminary to enter Vassar without examination. Though Anderson Female Seminary existed only seven years, many local women received outstanding educations as a result of their attendance.

Sources: Courtesy of the Anderson County Museum

THE CITY OF ANDERSON PRESENTS...

The City of Anderson is excited to present the year-long series

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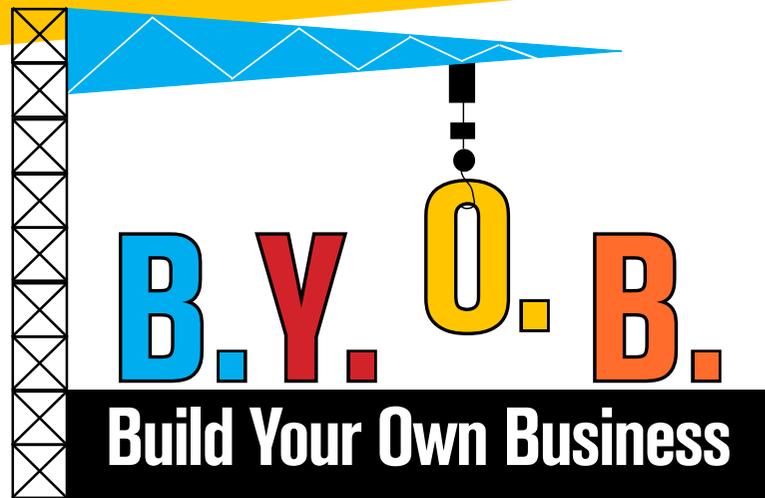
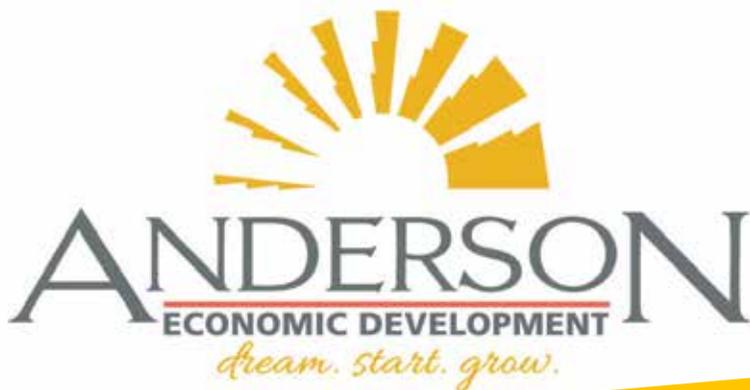
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- MAY 21TH** Accounting: Pour concrete results
- JUNE 18TH** Business Plan Writing: It's your blueprint
- JULY 16TH** City Resources: Grab your toolbox
- AUG 20TH** Best Practices for Hiring: Building your crew
- SEPT 17TH** Site Selection: It's all about location
- OCT 15TH** Social Media: Nail your platform
- NOV 19TH** Creating Content: Framing the Message
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T.L. Hanna High School senior Jed Little signed a letter of intent Dec. 18 to swim for Carson Newman University beginning next fall.

Anderson Area YMCA Makos' Jed Little signs national letter of intent

ANDERSON — On Wednesday, December 18th, TL Hanna Senior and Platinum AAYMCA Makos swim team member Jed Little signed his letter of intent to swim for Carson Newman University beginning in the fall of 2020.

Little began swimming competitively at the age of seven for the Anderson Swim Club located at the old Sheppard Swim Center. He joined the Anderson Area YMCA Makos soon after the closing of the Sheppard facility. He has been a key member of the Makos team for the last seven years setting several team records and becoming the sixth YMCA National Qualifier in team history.

While swimming in high school, Jed has been a four year varsity letter winner and state qualifier where he placed seventh in the 500 Freestyle at the 2019 High School State Championships. He has previously served as a SC representative for the Regional Open Water Select Camp in North Carolina and most recently represented Anderson Area YMCA at the YMCA National Championships in College Park, Maryland this past summer.

"I have had the privilege of watching Jed grow up both in the sport of swimming and as a young man. He has been instrumental in the building of our program and is a testament to the positive impact we are making in the lives of our young members in the community. I have no doubt that he will enjoy continued success in the pool and classroom

as a student athlete in college," said Makos Coach Brian Heaton.

Little maintains a 3.7 GPA and is very active in his church youth group. He has been a counselor at the Bonclarken Community Church retreat in the summer and he currently works as a lifeguard and swim instructor at the YMCA throughout the year. Through all of this, Jed finds time to give back to the sport that has given him so much as he often volunteers to assist with the coaching of the younger athletes who will be the future of competitive swimming in our community. "The coaches and my teammates at the YMCA have pushed me to be both a better swimmer, and, more importantly, a better person. I would not have been able to reach my goals without their constant help, love and support," Little said.

About the Y

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,700 Ys engage 22 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Those interested in donating to the Anderson Y can visit www.andersonareaymca.org or call 864-716-6260. Anderson Area YMCA is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization and all gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

'SURE, I SING IT, BUT WHAT'S IT ABOUT?'

There are songs you just know, like Happy Birthday to You. Then, there are songs you mostly know, but the lyrics are a little foggy, like Stairway to Heaven: Is there really a lady who's "short" who is "shopping at 7-11?" And finally, there are songs you know, but you have no idea what they mean.

A good example of an indiscernible song would be After the Gold Rush by Neil Young. It's been covered by a lot of artists over the years, but most famously by Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris, and Linda Ronstadt. When the trio confronted lyrics like, "I dreamed I saw the silver spaceships



Kim von Keller

flying in the yellow haze of the sun," Parton went directly to the source and asked Young to explain what it meant. His reply? "Hell, I don't know. I just wrote it. It just depends on what I was taking at the time. I guess every verse has something different I'd taken."

You might wonder what Robert Burns was taking when he wrote about "braes" and "gowans" and whatnot in what is arguably his most famous poem, Auld Lang Syne. Unlike Young, however, Burns has the excuse of having written the words 231 years ago in his native dialect. And while it may have made perfect sense to the rank and file of 18th century Scotland, you have to do a little digging to understand what Burns was trying to express.

To get to the bottom of what has become the anthem of New Year's Eve, I did a little Internet research. Choosing which Internet source to believe is like choosing which relative to explain the facts of life; ask the wrong person, and you'll be the laughing stock of the middle school slumber party. I finally decided on an article I found on the website of Reader's

Digest. It's an oldie, sure, but Reader's Digest is kind of like your dodgy but earnest aunt who vows to always tell you the truth about everything. So when RD says that the title of the song means "days gone by," the rest of the lyrics, once translated, start making sense.

So what's with the "braes" and "gowans"? The poet is reminding an old friend that, even though they have been parted by time and distance, the two had once hiked the slopes (braes) of Scotland, picking daisies (gowans) as they went. He reminisces about paddling the streams together from morning to night. In today's parlance, it's like saying to an old friend whom you've run into at a bar, "Hey, remember that time when we did that thing?"

And it's another pair of questions that set the whole song in motion, the opening lines that we sing at parties and ball drops from Anderson to Anaheim to Auckland: "Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne?" It's pretty clear that Burns is

telling us that the answer is no. We should take our cups of kindness, and we should raise them up to friends from days gone by. Could there be a better song with which to end a year?

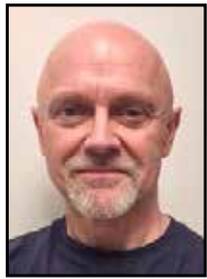
There are a lot of ways you might choose to spend the last night of 2019. Some of you may attend big outdoor parties or restaurant shindigs. Some of you may curl up on the sofa and watch "New Year's Rockin' Eve" with Ryan Seacrest. Ted and I will get together with a few close

friends, eating and drinking and laughing and making plans for 2020. But when the ball touches the ground at midnight, we should all stop to raise our glass in memories of days gone by. Cheers, good friends, to the good times we've had. Cheers, you dodgy aunts, to all the things you taught us. And cheers, Robert Burns, to your words, however foreign, which remind us every year to remember Auld Lang Syne.



Silver white winters that melt into spring

Are you the kind of person who packs up the Christmas tree on December 26th or are you the sort who keeps the holiday décor around well towards Valentine's Day? Somehow the thrill of decorating the house



Clay Martin

gets replaced with procrastination once the big day is over. But with the end of the Christmas season brings a new opportunity to transition your home's décor away from the traditional trapping of the holidays and more toward a look and feel that reflects

the pending winter season. This also brings an opportunity to declutter your home, giving way to a fresh start as we move into a new year.

First, remove all the bright color, especially the traditional reds. Try sticking with a palette that mirrors the winter season – whites, silver, metallics, pale blues and the like. Tone down the greenery but don't lose it completely. Perhaps keep the boughs of evergreen over the mantel while keeping some of the mercury glass, silver glitter and white ornaments. Randomly place throughout the branches of greenery. If you want to avoid any hint of the holidays altogether, you can replace the ornaments with pine cones or dried flowers that reflect a wintery palette. Include some birch logs to the fireplace. The light/dark texture of the bark will easily provide continuity from the mantel to the hearth, reflecting a wintery vibe for your living room or dining room well into January.

Be liberal with silver accessories such as candlesticks, frames and hollowware. The silvery finish will mirror the icy, cool tones of winter. Also, take some of your existing pillows that are pale in color and add some crème or white Mongolian fur pillows to provide texture and a neutral backdrop for your existing home textiles. Highly textured throws in solid patterns amply placed throughout the house – end of the bed, on the back of the sofa or chair – carries that cozy theme of the season without signaling "Holidays".

As with any changes in a room 'refresh', there's the opportunity for decluttering. It may sound unconventional, but when starting the decluttering process, I prefer to work alone. It's a lot easier to remove the clutter when you don't have a myriad of voices chiming in on what stays and what goes. If



it helps, make different stacks or piles with each designating what will be thrown or given away, what belongs in a different part of the house or what will be stored away. Decluttering your home done in tandem with transitioning out of your holiday décor will give you a leg-up on spring cleaning and will keep your surroundings fresh and relevant for your family and guests.

Additionally, this neutral, albeit winter, palette sets the stage for the upcoming spring décor as well, providing a foundation to introduce brighter colors. And while we have another couple months still left to winter, I'm always reminded of the lyrics from Rodgers & Hammerstein which poetically remind us that "silver white winters" indeed do "melt into spring".

Out with the old, in with the new

Out with the old, in with the new. It's almost a new year and its time to reinvent ourselves. Get our sexy back. Revitalize and rejuvenate our style.

There are many beautiful new colors that are trending in 2020. Teal is going to be a game changer. It looks good on everyone. Mint



Kristine March

and cantaloupe are going to be big for Spring. Sunflower yellow and Cassis which is a pretty purple shade are all going to be our key colors for 2020. Add them into your handbags and accessories.

In the shoe world it's going to be all about chain pumps and block heeled loafers. Chic looking sneakers are going to be big. Popping them on with little dresses and denim jackets for that effortless appeal. Also, look for nomadic looking rope sandals this summer. I was super impressed with the Valentino ready to wear Spring runway looks. Very ethereal and airy. Lots of floaty taffeta and sheer billowy material for dresses. Just breathtaking!

In the denim department its all things cropped. Cropped wide leg denim and knee high boots set the trend. Taking it back to the late seventies. Boyfriend jeans are back and bootleg. Trouser jeans are going to be big for that casual look. Bell bottom denim is always in style in my opinion and it's my personal favorite as you may know. Ankle cut skinny jeans are huge this year to peep those sandals you will be rocking. Another denim look that's always really adorable are overalls. Dress them up or down. So easy and fun to wear. You can roll them up and wear them with your favorite heel for an instant Carrie Bradshaw moment.

Also trending is hair accessories. Ultra feminine is the look. Pearl hair barrettes, bows and headbands are going to be all the rage. Head scarfs wrapped like turbands will give us that beachy "I'm on a yacht" look. Blingy hair accessories will dress up any outfit. Wearing a bunch on each side of the hair is the look. Bucket hats are back. Believe it or not this trend will be big for spring/summer. It gives a sporty aesthetic, but it's actually really cute. All of these looks will be available for 2020. Get ready for a new year and a new you and don't forget to make the sidewalk your runway and as always, kindness matters.

NIBBLE AND SIP

A MEMORABLE PARTY THAT THEY'LL ACTUALLY REMEMBER

The guests are greater in number, the food is more plentiful, and the drinks are sparklier, but what is New Year's Eve but a great big Nibble and Sip? So if you're hosting a party on December 31st, I've got a couple of suggestions for an evening that your guests will actually remember on the first morning of 2020.



Kim von Keller

First, offer plenty of food: dips and chips/crackers, small sandwiches/sliders, mixed nuts/snack mix, and vegetable platters are mainstays. And let's give thanks to the char-

cuterie board. Pre-sliced salamis and cured meats and cheeses are easy to serve and eat while standing. Offering a lot of small choices is not only hospitable, but it slows down drinking as you count down to midnight. A hot appetizer I like to serve is Roasted Smashed Potatoes. Plan on two to three for each guest. You can do most of the preparation in advance, and you can trick them out with whatever topping you like.

Second, make the beverages festive. If you can, purchase champagne flutes and wine charms. (Amazon, Target, and Walmart are great sources for both at all price points.) Glassware, as opposed to plasticware, is sturdier, and the charms ensure that your guests always know which glass is theirs. This will be helpful when you set up your self-serve Bubbly Bar. Instead of playing bartender, let your guests customize sparkling wine with various liqueurs, fruits juices, and garnishes. Plan on three to five for each guest, depending on the length of your party. And offer cans of flavored seltzer to help your guests pace their drinking. They'll definitely thank you in the morning.

Roasted Smashed Potatoes

- 12 baby red potatoes or fingerling potatoes, rinsed
- salt
- cooking spray, such as Pam
- olive oil

Toppings: truffle salt and parmesan cheese; sour cream, chives, and crumbled bacon; whipped cream cheese and smoked salmon; sour cream and salmon caviar; Ranch dip

Place the potatoes in a large pot and cover with at least two inches of water. Add 2 t. of salt and bring to a boil. Turn the heat down to simmer, and cook until potatoes are tender enough to pierce with a toothpick, 12 to 15 minutes. Drain potatoes and set aside on a cloth towel to dry.



Place a sheet of aluminum foil on a cutting board, and spray the foil with cooking spray. When the potatoes have cooled enough to handle, place each one on the foil, cover with waxed paper, and press with your hand or the bottom of a drinking glass until the potato is flattened and smashed. At this point, the flattened potatoes can be stored in the refrigerator for up to eight hours.

Preheat the oven to 425° F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and transfer the flattened potatoes to the prepared sheet. Brush each potato with olive oil and sprinkle lightly with salt. Roast the potatoes for approximately 30 minutes, turning once with a spatula, until they are crispy and brown around the edges. Transfer to a serving tray, and top with one of the suggested toppings. Serves 4 to 6.

Bubbly Bar

- Inexpensive sparkling wine, such as Cava or Prosecco
- 2-3 liqueurs, such as elderflower, raspberry, or red currant
- 2-3 juices, such as orange, grapefruit, or cranberry
- plastic stirring sticks
- garnishes, such as citrus wedges or good cocktail cherries

On your designated space, fill a cooler or metal trough with ice and nestle the bottles of sparkling wine to stay cold. Arrange your liqueurs, juices, stirring sticks, and garnishes so that guests can customize their drinks. Each bottle of sparkling wine will make 6-8 drinks, depending on how much mixer your guests use. Set aside a couple of bottles for toasting at midnight. And to open a bottle of sparkling wine without making a huge mess, visit www.wikihow.com/Properly-Open-a-Bottle-of-Sparkling-Wine.

Escaping perfectionism



MARY-CATHERINE McCLAIN RINER

The holidays are in full force, and with the new year around the corner, you may experience pressure to "be perfect" and to have "the perfect holiday experience." Likewise, you may find yourself comparing your life to the "Instagram" and "Facebook" curated world. This may lead to wanting more, bigger, and better experiences. This year, I challenge you to become more aware of "blind spots" that lead to perfectionistic patterns and to ask yourself when good enough really is good enough (e.g., folding clothes 2 times rather than 12; adding food to your plate without measuring it first).

In order to prevent perfectionism from becoming a destructive monster and to have perfectionism symbolize more of an unwanted party guest, consider these tips and strategies:

- Give perfectionism a voice and name rather than dismissing it or defending it as just a "habit."

- Become more aware and journal about the situations and places perfectionism rears its ugly head (e.g., emails; appearance; punctuality).

- Ask yourself what feeds your humanness rather than what fuels being flawless/perfect. Consider coloring outside the lines or dancing in the rain.

- Allow all feelings, the ugly and pretty ones, to visit. Sit in the feelings, even when the outcome is imperfection.

- TRUST yourself rather than compulsively asking others what their opinions are/what choices to make. Let go of the "right" and "wrong" decision mentality.

- Take risks and be afraid to fall (this is different than failing!).

- Ask yourself daily what is good enough.

Remember, there is no destination and this is a process. You are building the muscle of imperfection and uncertainty—ultimately leading to more self-acceptance and self-love. We were all born to be real and human, not perfect.

Mary-Catherine McClain Riner, Ph.D., Ed.S, M.S., is a Licensed Psychologist with Riner Counseling, LLC. Visit www.riner-counseling.com or call 864-608-0446.

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“What do I need to know about Medicare enrollment, and which Medicare option is best for me?": Part 2

Ask Fred

Part one of this series examined the basics of Medicare; including how Medicare works, what medical services are covered, and the shared financial responsibility left behind for the consumer. Part two will discuss the specifics of the Medicare “Initial Enrollment Period” (IEP).

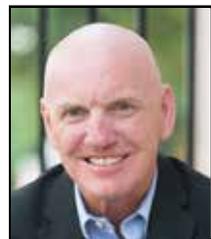
The Medicare IEP occurs during a seven-month time period surrounding an individual’s 65th birthday (i.e. three months prior to, the month of, and three months after your 65th birthday). The IEP is very important for two reasons:

During the Initial Enrollment Period, beneficiaries may sign up for any MediGap supplement they desire- regardless of pre-existing health problems. When this seven -month “guaranteed issue” period is over, however, health issues may prevent an individual from ever qualifying for a MediGap policy in the future.

Depending on the situation, new Medicare beneficiaries may be required to enroll in both

Part B and Part D (prescription drug coverage) to avoid “permanent” penalties and gaps in coverage.

“Signing up for Medicare Part A and Part B” is not the same for every individual.



Fred Reid, R.Ph.
Senior Insurance Advisor

Therefore, it is important to understand what your specific responsibilities are concerning Medicare enrollment.

Category 1: Individuals who have acquired at least 40 work credits (roughly equivalent to working full-time and paying Medicare taxes for ten years or more during

their lifetime) will “automatically” be enrolled in Medicare part A on their 65th birthday. For this group, enrollment in Part B is not automatic, and should be manually applied for during the IEP time period to avoid potential penalties and coverage gaps.

Category 2: Individuals receiving social security or Railroad Retirement Board

benefits for at least two years prior to their 65th birthday (due to disability or certain disabling physical illnesses) will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B (i.e. referred to as “Original Medicare”). These individuals can also make changes in Medicare coverage during the IEP surrounding their 65th birthday- including the option to enroll in a “guaranteed issue” MediGap policy (note: you must be at least 65 years old to apply for a MediGap supplement policy).

Category 3: Individuals who are still actively employed on their 65th birthday may be able to postpone Part B enrollment (i.e. remember, the cost of Part B is \$144.60 per month- and potentially more based on higher personal incomes). If this is you, here’s what Medicare has to say: “If, during your initial Medicare enrollment window, you’re still working for a company with 20 employees or more, and have health insurance through that company, you can hold off on Part B without incurring a penalty. Rather, you’ll be given a special enrollment period (SEP) that lasts for eight months. That period will begin after you leave your job, or the month after your group health coverage is

terminated- whichever comes first”.

Part D Enrollment: It is also crucial that you sign up for a “credible” prescription drug plan during the Medicare IEP. Medicare (CMS) defines “credible drug coverage” as coverage that is “expected to pay on average as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage”. If, after turning 65 years old an individual goes 63 days or more without “credible” prescription drug coverage, a “permanent” monthly penalty will be assessed to the beneficiary. This topic will be covered fully in a future article.

Part three of this series will discuss additional Medicare enrollment periods, and associated penalties when established Medicare deadlines are “missed”.

Please contact Fred Reid at 864-940-6113 if you have questions or need assistance identifying the Medicare plan that best meets your healthcare needs. I am happy to meet with you in your home at your convenience.

Please contact me at 864-940-6113 if you have questions or need assistance enrolling in the Medicare plan that will best meet your healthcare needs.

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THE GARDEN SHOP



Dozen Eggs Magnolia

Only the strong survive



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
*master
gardener*

Yet again, we are made aware of how time flies. 2019 is ending and a new decade is beginning. Summer 2019 was a tough one. The slogan for my place is only the strong survive. Plants have to make it with only water from Mother Nature, be able to live with deer, voles, rabbits, and whatever else may happen.

This summer, however, I did water a few newly planted Japanese maple trees. Grandmother Cooley's magnolia caused a larger water bill. A soaker hose dripped on it more than a few nights. This treasure did not show any signs of stress but I wasn't willing to take a chance. I'm the 5th generation to grow a tree from the original magnolia, planted at my granddaddy's grandmother's house. The original was cut down about 25 years ago or

so. The one mine came from still grows where Grandmother Cooley lived.

Last winter, Mr. Maple (two brothers who own a nursery in East Flat Rock NC) were vendors at the annual Greater Greenville Master Gardener Symposium. I decided I couldn't live without three of their offerings. Wildfire, a coral bark maple, didn't make it, even though I watered it. I usually give things a year or two to be sure they're dead. Sometimes they put back out from the root. But there was no chance for this guy. Purple Ghost (*Acer palmatum Purple Ghost*) didn't get watered as much and made it through wonderfully, even grew a bit. It's not much to see these days. It's a bit gangly and covered in chicken wire to keep deer from rubbing on it. Next year Purple Ghost will get a little extra attention to shape it. Germaine's Gyration, a contorted weeping *Acer palmatum*, made it living in a pot all summer. I still don't have any idea where to plant it. This form will be unique to my place.

Another strong plant, Dozen Eggs magnolia, has survived at least a couple of years in a

pot. I won this fancy fellow in a silent auction at a seminar by Kevin Parris, Arboretum Director of Spartanburg Community College. He hybridizes magnolias. Dozen Eggs looks a little bit like a traditional magnolia. It has brown undersides on the leaves which are smaller and spaced further apart along stems. It may thicken up once it gets in the ground. The name comes from blooms which were described as looking like eggs up and down the stems.

If I make gardening new year's resolutions, I suppose they will be figure out where to plant Dozen Eggs and Germaine's Gyration, along with a few other things still in pots. This is part of my disorder of buying a plant because it strikes my fancy with no idea of where to put it. I would also like to go wander around Spartanburg Community College's campus and visit their arboretum. I make no resolutions on the disorder of buying plants with no idea of where to put them.

Contact Master Gardener Susan Temple at gardningirl@yahoo.com.



Purple Ghost foliage

A Christmas Memory



“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas... perhaps...means a little bit more.”

–Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

The Christmas season is indeed a magical time of year. As children, most of us fondly remember waking up on Christmas morning, pulling mom and dad out of bed, and racing into the den to see what Santa Claus had left for us; and then later traveling to grandma’s house for the annual family Christmas get-together. Christmas is also loved because of the spectacular twinkling lights and candy canes that line the streets, lively parades, yummy food- and of course all the presents.

While we all eagerly look forward to the fun and excitement that surrounds the holiday season, the true meaning of Christmas is uniquely different for each one of us. As we grow older, we realize that Christmas magic has nothing

really to do with gifts, parades and twinkling lights. The magic of Christmas, we discover, is contained in the sweet memories of time spent with family, friends and those we love and cherish. I would like to share with you a special childhood Christmas memory that always brings



Katie Laughridge

a warm smile to my face.

As far back as I can remember, it was a Reid family tradition to embark on a journey together to pick out the perfect Christmas tree. As was our custom, my dad piled me and my younger brother and sister into his red station wagon and headed for the local Christmas tree stand to begin our search. Since we had no better option, the goal was

to load the tree on top of the car, tie it down and carry it home- hoping for the best. For therecord, my dad’s station wagon was relatively small, and not exactly designed for transporting large items. In response to this challenge, my dad’s motto was always the same- “We can make it work”.

On this particular year we found the best tree ever. It was slightly larger than our previous trees, but we all thought it would look great in our den. Full of anticipation, we loaded the tree on top of the car, tied it down, and began our journey home. Try to visualize this situation: a ten-foot Christmas tree tied down on top of a small red station wagon – with at least four feet of tree hanging off the back. My dad analyzed the situation, thought a second, but stuck to his motto: “We can make it work”.

As I’m sure you’ve already guessed, after making a wide turn from Reed Road onto Greenville Street, the top-heavy tree worked

itself loose from the car top and landed in the middle of road! Of course, since it was Friday night, there was a lot of traffic on Greenville Street- which quickly resulted in a traffic jam since our huge tree shut down an entire lane.

While my dad just laughed it off, I was so embarrassed! I just knew that everyone in Anderson was aware that the red station wagon driving around town belonged to my dad. I wanted to hide in the floorboard to avoid being seen by all my school friends- which was a big deal since I was only thirteen years old! My dad, however, insisted that I get out and help him secure the tree back on top of the car. Although simplistic and undeniably comical, not a Christmas goes by that someone doesn’t retell the story about the time the Christmas tree fell off my dad’s little red station wagon. Without fail, the story always brings joy and laughter – as we fondly remember sharing time together during the holiday season.

To this day, it is our favorite family Christmas story.

A few years back my younger sister, Claire, found an ornament that is almost an exact replica of the little red station wagon with a Christmas tree on top. Each year this little ornament earns a prime position on our family Christmas tree. I still love sharing this special childhood Christmas memory with my own children. Even though it happened twenty years ago, this special story now brings laughter and Christmas joy to a new generation

As you celebrate the holiday season with your family, remember that there is Christmas magic in everything you do! Even when we least expect it, special moments spent with family often create timeless Christmas memories that last through the generations.

The Grinch, I think, was right — Christmas does mean “a little bit more”!

I pray you and your family have a blessed and joyful holiday season.

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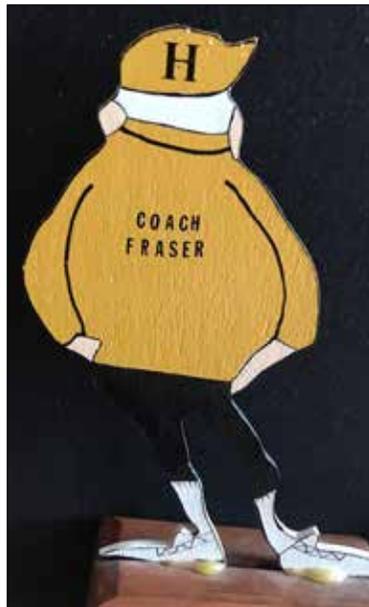
MUSINGS OF AN OLE BALL COACH

Santa Claus visits Camden

BY JIM FRASER

Sometimes during the late spring and early summer it began to dawn on me that my 28 year pilgrimage to Camden to spend Christmas morning with Amy and her family was in jeopardy. The mobility of the lovely Joyce and me was becoming dramatically limited. We had gone from being lithe (moderately), athletic (somewhat), youngsters to teetering, tottering old timers. After some angst and consternation we decided to brave the clogged Christmas interstate traffic and keep the tradition alive.

I must confess we became subject to some interrogation from friends and family alike such as, "Are you sure just the two of you can make that trip?" "You're driving it by yourself, maybe you should reconsider?" With providential good fortune we made the trip to picturesque Camden, the



oldest inland city in the state, in a respectable two hours and forty minutes, on virtually empty highways, including a rest stop and a purchase of a pack of lance cheese

crackers, (we're talking high noon on Christmas Eve, now).

We arrived at the Speaks abode in time for a leisurely visit before going to the annual Christmas Eve Service at Camden's First Baptist Church. This is always a splendid evening of soaring Christmas music, prayer and reflection. This was followed by a repast of barbecue and egg nog. Some few preferred the nectar of the grape.

Another tradition is the viewing of neighborhood Christmas lights. The scores of Antebellum homes and mansions are resplendent with decorations, each lattice, wrap around porch, porticos and second story porches and columns are dressed in holiday finery.

All of the aforementioned was simply a prelude to the main event, the reason we took our hazardous journey, the opening of the presents.

As we gathered around the tree, I thought it appropriate that I make some profound remark to preserve for posterity. I blurted, "My friends agree with me, they know of no other family that has observed the Santa Claus tradition for 28 consecutive years." "C'mon Coley," they chided me in unison, "We're none of us married, ya know, this is our family."

May I insert this absence of the taking of marriage vows by these awesome grandkids is by design. Fraser at 28, combines pulchritude and brains by working with the Citadel athletic department as a counselor and advisor. Tripp at 25 (a Johnny Depp look-a-like) is hours away from a degree to teach special-ed and handicapped children. He now teaches at New Lebanon Elementary. Maggie, the baby at 24, following a successful volleyball career at N.C. State and

professionally in Greece, is now playing in France.

Conventional wisdom might say you cease and desist on the Santa Claus ritual once you leave middle school. The Santa Claus thing is for kids, o.k. Not so fast! As one who has observed four score and six of these events, and should have the sagacity and wisdom of one who has enjoyed these abundant years, I say keep the wonder and the anticipation of that morning always alive. It might work for you.....it has for me.

This article is a year late, it was written for Christmas 2018. Alas the tradition for 2019 has ended.

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

PENDLETON BULLDOGS

Tough start to season for Pendleton hoops

BY DAN LACOBIE

The Pendleton High School boys' basketball team's season has been a little rough so far. With an 0-9 mark so far this year, the team has dropped a few very close games that could have gone either way — and the record sure doesn't depict the efforts of the Bulldogs this season.

Since our last look at the Dogs, in a very close game versus Lakeview Academy in the T.L. Hanna High School tournament, the Bulldogs started off very well, leading 18-12 after the first quarter. But after Pendleton managed just two points in the second quarter, Lakeview took a 25-20 lead into the locker room. At the end of the third quarter, the Dogs had again taken the lead at 37-34, but the Lions answered back, scoring 14 points to Pendleton's 9 in the final period to take a 48-46 win. Since then, the Bulldogs have

dropped an 82-44 game against an always-tough Daniel team and taken an overtime loss in another very tight game against the Walhalla Razorbacks, 60-56.

Next up on the schedule for Pendleton is Travelers Rest in a tournament hosted by Greenville High School during the holiday break on Dec. 27-30. After the break, on Jan. 7, the Daniel Lions will come down the highway for a 7:30 p.m. game.

As a team, the Bulldogs are averaging 42.1 points per game. They are averag-

ing 17.4 rebounds per game.

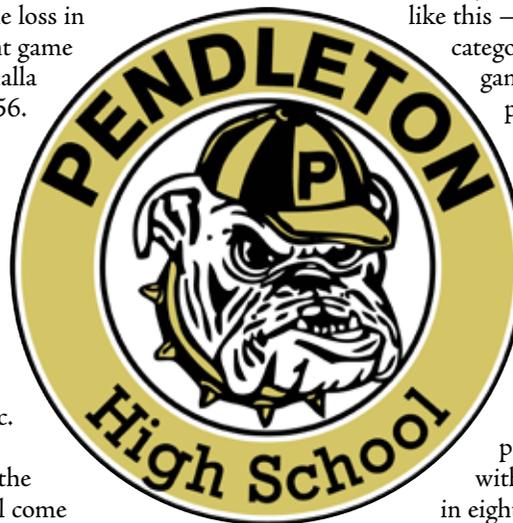
Individually, stats look a little like this — in the scoring category, with eight games reported at press time, No. 1 Matthew Walker has 80 total points for an average per game of 10 and is shooting 45 percent from the floor. No. 3 Mario Sanders is averaging 9.1 points per game, with 73 points scored in eight games. No. 5 Jett Hammes and No. 24 Jaquan Sanders have 60 and 56 total points, respectively, this season.

From three-point range, Hammes

has made 16 out of 40 for an average of 40 percent. Hammes is leading the team, and Mario Sanders has contributed seven more three-pointers to the team. In free throws for the team, Walker has made 16 of 27 from the line for a 59 percent completion rate.

Bringing the ball back off the boards, Mario and Jaquan Sanders are tied after eight games with 29 total rebounds each.

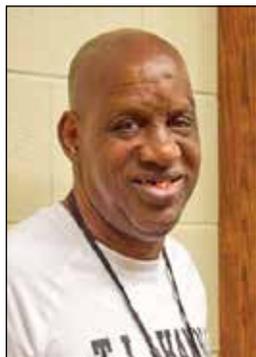
The 2019-20 Lady Bulldogs, 3-5 overall so far, wrapped up the first part of the season with a couple of wins versus the Walhalla Razorback (49-34) and the Palmetto Mustangs (41-27). The score of the Pendleton girls' recent game against the Pickens Blue Flame was not available at press time. The Lady Bulldogs were playing at Pickens High in the Pickens Festival of Flames Tournament December 20-21. Detailed stats were not available for the girls' team.



A tribute to Radio; Jacket boys, girls on a hot streak

BY DAN LACOBIE

Before starting this article on the Yellow Jackets, I must first touch on James Robert “Radio” Kennedy. I met Radio when first playing with the T.L. Hanna High School football team back in the mid-’70s. As with most, I was fascinated by Radio and who he was. It didn’t take long after running around that



Courtesy tlhannasports.com
James Robert “Radio” Kennedy

bowl at Hanna that I learned who Radio was.

As time rolled on during my tenure at Hanna, Radio became an everyday staple at school. He knew me, as he did every

other student at Hanna. Without him by our side at those games, they would have been so much harder to win. He seemed to give that team he loved so much just the right lift they needed when they needed it.

I will treasure my memories of Radio — those made during my high school days and those after. Thank you to those who saw that Radio and Hanna were all in the same.

On the boys’ basketball court, the Yellow Jackets have won three of their last four games played, with their only loss coming at Wren, 92-68. Those won were at Spartanburg (58-53), at Easley (51-44)

and at Woodmont (54-52) on Dec. 19.

This has brought Hanna’s record to 6-5 overall and 2-0 in region play. Hanna looks to add to the win column after the holiday break with home games versus the J.L. Mann Patriots on Jan. 10 and the Greenwood Eagles on Jan. 14. All that will be followed up with a ride across town to play the always-tough Westside Rams. Detailed



stats for the Yellow Jacket boys were not available at press time.

As for the T.L. Hanna girls’ basketball team, they are on fire, to say the least! The Lady Jackets so far this year are 10-0 over-

all and 2-0 in the region. Since our last reporting on the Lady Jackets, they have wins versus Spartanburg (47-40), Wren (43-32), Easley (40-27) and Woodmont (56-49) on Dec. 19.

The Lady Jackets won’t be back in action until Jan. 2 against Carver in the B Town Classic in Bluffton, S.C.

The leading scorer for the 10-0 Lady Jackets is No. 24 Maleia Bracone. Bracone has an astounding 189 total points scored — an average of 21 points per game. The next closest Jacket is No. 5 Carmen Chandler, who has 85 points scored, averaging 9.7 points per game.

Bracone also leads from three-point range, with 21 made from beyond the arc this season.

And, yes, Bracone also leads in rebounding for the team, with 90 total rebounds. No. 1 Deasia Marshall has grabbed 68 total boards this season, good enough for second on the team.

Happy New Year to all, and best of luck in the coming new year.

WESTSIDE RAMS

Westside basketball squads on fire entering break

BY DAN LACOBIE

As we last looked in on the Westside High School boys’ basketball team, the Rams had started the year at 0-4.

Since that time, the Rams have had a proverbial fire lit under them.

Westside has put five straight in the win column and has a record of 2-0 in Region I-5A action.

Those wins came against Mill Creek (56-46), Seneca (57-53), Belton-Honea Path (81-47), the Laurens Raiders (59-41) and the Easley Green Wave (62-50) on Dec. 20.

The Rams, 5-4 overall, will face off with Southside in the first game of the Poinsettia Classic Tournament at Greenville High School during the holiday break on Dec. 27-29. After school resumes on Jan. 3, Westside will welcome Daniel High School for a home contest.

After adding five wins to their resume over the past couple of weeks,

we should give the stats a quick peek and see how the team and players are faring.

All stats are all based on eight games played. As a team, the Rams have scored a total of 475 points on the year, averaging 59.4 points per game. The Rams shoot 40 percent from the floor and have hit 35 of 135 three-point attempts. Westside is shooting free throws at a 57 percent clip, with 92 converted on 162 attempts.

When the ball comes off the boards,

the Rams average 32.6 rebounds per game. They have 93 offensive and 168 defensive rebounds to their credit.

How are the players on the court contributing after eight games? Leading the way in scoring, with a total of 108 points scored, is No. 2 Junior Smith, a senior, who is averaging 15.4 points per game. Smith is also leading the team in three-pointers

this season with a total of 19 made in 51 attempts.

Rebounding the ball, No. 21 Jayden

Ramsey, a 6’5” junior center, has brought down 55 rebounds this year — 21 offensive and 34 defensive. No. 11 C.J. Plantin, a 6’4” senior, has 17 offensive and 31 defensive rebounds for a grand total of 48.

Meanwhile, the Westside girls’ basketball squad is checking in at the holiday break with a very impressive 7-1 overall record, with a 2-0 mark in the region.

The lone loss for those Lady Rams came at the hands of West Forsyth (Ga.) in the GA/SC Border war tournament back on Nov. 26. Since that little setback, the girls have reeled off five straight wins, with no score on the Easley game on Dec. 20 reported by press time.

The Westside girls will pick up the season after the holiday break with a visit from the Daniel Lady Lions on Jan. 3 at the Westside gym, with tip-off set for 6 p.m.

