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**HAPPY
New Year**



Looking back on the positives of 2021

We often hear more negative information from news and media sources than positive. It's easy to lose sight of just how much good there is in the world. We are blessed to have some amazing folks in our community in Anderson, and we



Jim Harris

have so many positive things happening in the Upstate. When I look back over the articles I've written and the heroes I've met in 2021, I am reminded of just how fortunate we are. We met Anderson Pastor Velma Williford, who leads the Tabernacle of Faith. She and her members feed 300 or so people each week, including area homeless, and their food bank, one of the area's largest, serves the

SEE POSITIVES ON PAGE 4



Local resident and former college soccer player Brock Elder worked in 2021 to turn his love of the sport into a passion project that will provide a bright spot for young people in the Anderson area.



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Our New Year bet

So the wife and I have a New Year bet. She says that I can't write this article without using the thirteenth letter of the alphabet. I said, I'll take that bet, and the winner has to load and unload the dishwasher for the next four weeks. I asked why she chose that particular letter, and she explained that it was the center letter of the alphabet



Neal Parnell

and the one that is used often in describing oneself. She says that all the stories are about, "Yours Truly". I knew where she was headed with that prognosis, and I countered with the fact that I had written about a sister and a dog that was called a popular yellow liquid used on hot dogs. I confessed that it was going to be tough going if I had to address the exceptional lady that gave birth to "Yours Truly", and the Grandparent that had her.

Geez! How can I get through this without using that letter? I know, for the rest of the article, I'll just turn the letter upside-down, it will be a warvelous way to ventention wy Wother and Grandwother.

Uh-Oh, she's seen what I've done and is not pleased with how I've tried to hedge the bet. An extra week of dishwasher duty has been added for the loser. She threatened to subtract another letter but I begged and pleaded for it to be a "Q" or a "Z". She allowed the slip-up, but any other word shenanigans and it would be over.

Why oh why did I accept this silly bet?

No one should have to write without having access to all twenty six letters. I can't even tell you how the food I had for lunch tasted without a string of those letters in a row. How can I tell you about one of our favorite old television shows about a surgical hospital? No, it was not called A*S*H*. Even 007's boss is called that letter, and bags of candies have two of that iconic



letter right on the front.



Of course I could stop right now and win the bet easily, but I can't do it. I have to tell you about the wonderful wife I have, and how that without her this article would not

have been possible.

I've done it! A whole article without using that letter.

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Positives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

local homeless population as well. The church is also involved in foster care and provides college scholarships to members in need. Shirley Combs in nearby Toccoa opened a restaurant, Shirley's Sole Food, and began feeding the area's homeless on day one. Later she established a homeless shelter and has helped almost 300 people get their lives back on track.

Safe Harbor has been providing clothing, education, shelter, and counseling resources for victims of domestic violence in the Upstate since 1997. With their story, award-winning actress Andie MacDowell talked with us about how her series *Maid* was shining a new light on domestic violence.

Vets Helping Vets is a group of volunteers founded in Anderson that have served their country and donate time and money to help other vets in need. A local doctor, Sanjeev Kumar, established a hospice practice where he makes house calls, making a very challenging period for patients and their families a bit easier. Watson McBride suddenly became a single parent, which led to a significant career change and a commitment to coaching young people.

For the first time in 2021, the area's Indian community held a Diwali celebration at the Anderson Civic Center, thanks to a generous group of volunteers. Over 500 attendees enjoyed the observance of the Hindu holiday.



Claude and Pastor Velma Williford

Two local elected representatives, Anderson City Council Seat One's Kyle Newton and John Wright, Jr., who represents Anderson County's District One, joined forces to recognize those who serve and protect us. They put together a fundraising barbecue that honored law enforcement and benefited the foundations of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office and the City of Anderson Police Department. Former college soccer player Brock Elder has worked tirelessly to bring an exciting new sport surface to an area of town that desperately needed a destination for the area youth, Homeland Park. His efforts are spurring other activities in the area, like improvements to the baseball field and park.

We met some brave pioneers, like 86-year-old Ulas Broom, who played Negro League baseball and shared stories of the challenges he faced breaking barriers in the game he loves. We learned about Horace King, who was born a slave in South Carolina but became one of the preminent bridge builders of his time. Carmen Walker was the first black Miss Anderson pageant winner and the first black



Dr. Sanjeev Kumar

contestant in the Miss South Carolina pageant.

New developments in the food world are always eagerly welcomed. This year, we were blessed to welcome Richard Farr's Restaurant 151 at the Bleckley, celebrate the 75th anniversary of Skin's Hotdogs, an Anderson institution. We were introduced to LandShark, a food truck specializing in Cajun-style seafood.

Long-term Anderson attorney Jack McIntosh shared his new novel, *Mannie, the Major, and the Teef*. Erskine Professor John Harris gave us the background behind his award-winning book "The Last Slave Ships" about the illegal slave trade in NYC.

We also met some celebrities, like Kool and the Gang, still entertaining us after over 50 years. We met Bernard Lansky, who helped develop Elvis Presley's style. We learned about the private side of Muhammad Ali and how he lived up to his philosophy that "Service to others is the rent we pay for our room here on earth." We learned that Brian Piccolo, immortalized in the classic film *Brian's Song*, was a genuine civil rights advocate well before meeting Gale Sayers. Toccoa's Paul Anderson was the world's strongest man but used the notoriety from his gifts to help troubled young men find their way in the world.

As we wrap up this unconventional and challenging year, it's nice to know that our community has good people who do good deeds and lead us toward a bright future.



Ulas Broom



The Anderson Civic Center hosted its first-ever Diwali celebration in 2021.

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THE GARDEN SHOP

A busy start to 2022



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
master
gardener

2022 is ushered in with staying on track for things (dare I say the word resolutions) I want to get done by spring. First is getting some azalea beds and another mixed shrub beds mulched. Before buying the tractor, I would get mulch and shovel it from the bed of the truck. Now I rake leaves from the woods

and dump them in flower beds. Maybe it is labor neutral, maybe raking is a bit harder. But the only costs is running the tractor. I rake lots of piles then load them in the bucket. With the tractor, I've been able to clear a nice path from the side of the yard, around behind the woodshed, and over to garden shop area. It looks better, gives a good view into the woods in that area, gives more room at garden shop, and provides a place to rake all the leaves I care to rake. Garden shop area keeps expanding as I add plants being rooted, plants for master gardener plant sale, and have other things waiting to go in the ground. There are also chairs there now for resting and oversee-



Cudweed

ing much of my labors. It's a shady area that is a nice break area. I won't ever get everything mulched but so what.

Much of that area is planted with large evergreens to block the piece of land beside me. I was very fortunate to buy those three and half acres in 2019. Some of the evergreens are not needed now and I would have done it differently if that part of woods were mine from the beginning. There was no tractor either back when all those large growing plants were planted. All I had to do was have room for the lawnmower. Nothing much needs cutting though since it is part of the woods. The tractor will make it through for now. I knocked down one loropetalum to make room in the path. Now

we'll be okay for several more years. A big tea olive is in that area. It could be limbed up but it's the one limbs are layered under to root more. Florida leucothoe (*Agarista populifolia*) is the back row of plants. It is a favorite! They may be what gets pruned some if the tractor needs to fit. A huge oak tree fell years ago when Joaquin came through. It took down a smaller tree behind it and there is a big hole. Therefore, going behind Florida leucothoe is not an option. It'll all work out though. If your garden needs a large growing evergreen for shade, that deer do not eat, this leucothoe may be for you. It grows slow though.

Before last week's rain, I noticed there is a lot of cudweed in the front garden. If that is not what it is, I have no idea yet what it is nor where it came from as it was not there last year. I'll never get it all out without putting forth more effort than it may be worth. According to NC State's website, cudweed (*Gnaphalium*) generally grows in low fertility soils and is a winter annual. This is a part of the front garden that was expanded last year and it is time for winter annuals. Maybe I need to dump some leaves there too, get the soil richer, then try to keep it from going to seed. Cudweed is food for American painted lady caterpillars, that's good. There are herbal uses for it. My herbalist friend says the land will give you what you need. NC State's site also said it has been used for sciatic pain. Uh oh!

Family Movie Night

As a young girl growing up in the 1990s and early 2000s, I fondly remember going to the local Blockbuster Video store on Friday night to rent movies for my whole family to watch. Having great movies to watch together in our PJ's on a wintry night, with a cozy fire simmering in the background, brings back some of my best memories! The VCR is



Katie Laughridge

beyond a doubt one the greatest inventions of my childhood years!

Although times have changed and technology has evolved, "Family Movie Night" remains my family's favorite night of the week! I can think of no better way to relax and reconnect on a Friday night than curling up together on our couch to watch a movie espe-

cially chosen for the whole family to enjoy. Even though Blockbuster and Hollywood Video are ancient relics of the past, we now have a plethora of better entertainment options, that are not only less expensive, but offer far greater variety suited for each member of the family.

Finding a movie that is appealing and well-suited for every member of your family can be challenging, especially if you have children of varying ages with differing interests. A movie that your eight-year old son would find hysterical and exciting, may not appeal to your thirteen-year old daughter! The good news is there are plenty of heartwarming, entertaining and funny family movies that are sure to please everyone. While every movie chosen may not appeal to all family members, family movie night offers a great opportunity to introduce different types of movies to your children. Even though movie classics from the past, heart-felt

family dramas, and Disney films we enjoyed growing up are probably not on your children's movie radar list, they just might discover a world of entertainment they knew nothing about- and may even enjoy watching!

If you are ever in doubt about the appropriateness of certain movies, "commonsensemedia.org" is a great resource to use. This website provides useful information for parents about movies, tv shows, and even books. Included are parent reviews, age suggestions, a description of the title, and candid commentary and opinions offered by both parents and children.

I asked around and compiled a list of some popular movie picks that are family favorites. So, grab a bowl of popcorn, candy, or even a box of pizza with a TV tray and settle in for some family togetherness!

- Beethoven series
- Parent Trap
- It Takes Two
- Ramona and Beezus
- Alexander and the Terrible No Good Very Bad Day
- Elf
- Home Alone
- Hook
- The Sandlot
- Star Wars
- Marvel series
- Toy Story
- Sing
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- Dennis the Menace
- The Little Rascals
- Princess Diaries
- Jungle Book
- Clifford the Big Red Dog
- Ron's Gone Wrong
- Disney + movies (old and new)

Happy watching!

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FROM THE SHELF

'Lore Olympus' by Rachel Smythe

So, a fun Sara fact is that my Master of Library Science degree essentially focused on comics (technically visual literacy and the use of comics and graphic novels in fostering social literacy, but that's a mouthful to say). I give that context to start with so we can skip the not taking comics seriously bit given that my Master's program thought it was legit enough to let me focus on it. Comics, graphic novels, WebToons



Sara Leady

(explained in a second) can run the gambit of genres for literature, and while this may not be the BEST choice to change your mind regarding their legitimacy, it's certainly a start.

SO! The biggest thing to note with Lore Olympus is that it originally started as a WebToon. If you have comic nerds or teens in your life, you may already know what WebToon is. Essentially, it's a free app that allows artists/writers to post their comics or cartoons (yes, there's a difference) to the platform so that anyone can read them. As a WebToon, Lore Olympus is one of the most successful running stories on the platform, with like, hundreds of thousands of subscribers and more than 200 million views (yes, it's THAT big of a deal). The 'subscribers' bit might throw you, but that's another cool thing about Webtoon; it throws back to the time of serials where all the stories are done in installments and you get a notification once the next installment has been added.

Because of Lore Olympus' wild success on the WebToon platform, major publishers literally courted Smythe to get to be the one to turn

the runaway hit into a collected graphic novel. Del Rey won out and what I'm reviewing is that actual graphic novel, but I have also read the WebToon. Some of the timing of the story has been changed up from the WebToon, where Smythe and editors opted to bring forward or push back aspects of the story to give a more cohesive storyline as a graphic novel rather than as a piece of serial storytelling (such as seeing Smythe's notes and concepts on WebToon, which don't appear in the graphic novel).

Lore Olympus specifically is a reimagining of the ancient Greek (and some Roman myths) major gods and goddesses. It however takes place in today's times and reads a bit like the cover of a gossip magazine with its high stakes drama and glamour of those living on Olympus. A few people have even compared it loosely (emphasis on loosely) to 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' or other similar shows following rich and famous families (but again, loosely). The main focus of the story is the romance between Hades and Persephone. Yes, I said romance. Smythe doesn't play into all the classic Greek elements. And when she does, she does in a way that acts as a mirror to today's environment and culture. For example, in regards to the very racey undertones of the original myths, Smythe shows it for what it would be today with a character getting roofied and even gaslighted into thinking it was her fault or that she somehow asked for what happened. The social commentary that Smythe pulls out is really quite brilliant, especially in the context of classic stories that also show how far we've come (or not come) in human nature and how we relate to each other.

Smythe updates all the characters with some toss backs to their origins, but again



and their "updates" are just masterfully thought through and rendered.

One of the major things that drew me to comics was bold and bright color work (specifically Rico Renzi and his work with Marvel's Spider-Gwen). Smythe's work is deeply saturated with bold color tones that enhance the stories and characters with each color choice. Smythe even darkens a character's normal color as part of a mood indication. Smythe's various takes on the gods are all fun and even color coded which

translates them into what you might expect those attributes to embody today. Hades, who is the Greek god of death (obvi), but also his Roman iteration with the ties to wealth, is presented like a major real estate mogul with fancy Armani suits and sleek luxury cars. Persephone as the goddess of Spring is presented as very young and naive, and living on her own for the first time in the big "bad" city (and very fortunately for our romance NOT a niece of Hades, rather Demeter created her herself). All the characters follow similar suits

adds an even deeper layer to her phenomenal artwork. Poseidon having gill-like wing things on his face (insert real scientific name here if you know it) and being a deep-sea green is just fun and honestly lovely. This is one of those graphic novels that even if the actual story wasn't great and 100% worth it, the color work alone would make it a worthy read. Please just trust me and give it, or any comic/graphic novel, a shot since there's some really amazing stories out there getting missed just because of a bad rap tied to the format.



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Let's make this year better than last!

Someday is not a day of the week. — Denise Brenman-Nelson

For many, the past months have been challenging. But, as the experts in matters of the human condition tell us, a key to happiness and fulfillment in life is believing next year will be better than the last.

Yes, that can be difficult to do at times given life's ups and downs. But on the bright side, at this time of year we celebrate the old year passing and a new year beginning as a signal for a fresh start. It is a time to focus on the future – and the wonderful possibilities for improving our lives in the new year.

This of course takes the form of new year resolutions. We start with the best of intentions, but there is that old problem of...well, follow through. It is important to understand that the desire, readiness, and motivation for change happens only when we are ready and not a moment sooner. Sometimes

our enthusiasm becomes contagious, and others may want to join us. But, if you are ready now, go ahead and get started. Don't



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

wait on someone who may not be at that point. Making new year resolutions is a time-honored tradition: lose weight, exercise more, eat healthier. Whatever the objective we start off strong, but then our energy and focus often fizzles. This

can lead to negative thoughts and stress. We make excuses and end up feeling bad about ourselves. If you fear this trap, here are some suggestions:

Be realistic. Take small steps that make it easier to achieve your objectives. Having long-

term goals is good but focus on what you can accomplish day-to-day.

Partner up. Why not ask a friend to join you? They may be ready too. This way you can help motivate one another to stick with it. Be a learner. If you want to eat healthier, take a nutrition class or find resources online. Follow a healthy lifestyle blog or research menu ideas. Whatever helps keep you motivated and on track.

Take it easy on yourself. Think of change as a journey you are embarking on. As we all know, with life there is no straight line. Think of change as alternating periods of forward momentum and periods of slipping back to our former "setting". If we accept this it is easier to accept setbacks. We don't have to be perfect in our effort to improve; we just need to stick with it. And now is the time. But let's not forget the essence of a happy life -- enjoy the "right now" and always count your blessings. Have a wonderful new year! Call with

questions. We are your hometown resource for guidance and support.

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.

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CREATING HOME

Preparing our home for a New Year

As another year comes to an end and we prepare ourselves for what the next has in store, we hear talk of new resolutions, personal goals, business ideas and exciting plans. As a lover of all things 'home', I am a big believer that our homes inspire our energy. I find that when my house is in chaos (which is often with two small children), I feel less productive and motivated. But when my house is tidy and the things that I love are on display, I feel both calm and



Amie Buice

energized. So, as we begin a fresh year, I propose we set the stage with a home that makes us feel inspired to carry out our goals. It doesn't take much to spruce things up, and below I've listed some things that help me when my home (and head) need a little extra love.

• Tidy up. As you move through your home, think about the way you use things. If it's something that makes you happy, dust it off and find a nice place where you can enjoy it. If not, create a home for it that is easy to put away and find. If it serves no purpose, donate it!

• Rearrange. Think about your rooms; the way you live in them, their flow, furniture placement, and styling. As you've added things

throughout the years, does your old layout still make sense? Shift things around and see how you like it. I find that the smallest changes make the biggest difference!

• Clear your closets. Pull out all of the pretty things that you keep stored away. Hang rarely used silver trays on your wall, eat off of your fancy china, use the towels and throws that you keep put away for company, light your favorite candle. Our home is meant to be lived in enjoyed by us! Don't wait to use the things that bring joy to your day.

• Clean! After all of this is done, give your home a good New Year clean. Nothing makes you feel more inspired than a little sparkle.

By doing some of these things



you may find that you're creating an environment that not only makes you happy, but gives space for new ideas, ambitions and the energy to

reach them. Happy New Year!

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BEAUTIFUL AND BRASH BLUE JAY



BY ANN K. BAILES

Mike has been delivering a deer to be processed for a friend as I write this, a couple of days before the new year. He just called to say he's on his way home, which is a veiled way of saying "What do we have for supper?" I told him I'm working on a blue jay article but will stop long enough to warm him something up. A brief silence on his end, to which he then replied with a twist of humorous irony, "I'm glad to know I rank slightly above the blue jay." Well, he ranks way above it, but, supper or no supper, I had an article to write, and my mind was on jays!

The blue jay often evokes strong feelings from people, both positive and negative. Many admire this bird for its beautiful looks, but others see its behavior and are not as enamored.

It is definitely striking to look at-- blue, black and white with a large crest, and a black feathered "necklace" around its neck. The many-shaded blue and black patterns in its wings and tail are especially nice, and it has piercing black eyes. Its call is noisy and sharp. It does produce a good imitation of hawks,

which is thought to be a warning to other nearby birds.

Blue jays, however, have brash behavior and tend to be bossy about food sites. They do not like to let smaller birds feed, and most birds scatter when a jay arrives. Jays are especially fond of peanuts, and will gulp them one after another to store in their gullets, in order to carry them off to a site to "save" them for later. They have similar routines with acorns, and in an attempt to cache them for later, spread acorns widely. The existence of so many oak forests across the eastern U.S. is believed to have some basis in this activity.

Jays are present year-round, but they do migrate slightly from north to south. And its population appears to be going up slightly in the northeast, though decreasing slightly here in the southeast.

Jays are common both out in the woods and country, and also right in town. If you can't see blue jays with their striking colors, you can hear their raucous sounds. I observed one outside on the crepe myrtle trees as I warmed up supper for Mike. He got fed and the article got finished. Happy New Year!

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NIBBLE & SIP

Traveling without a passport in 2022

Traveling is one of the things my husband and I enjoy most. When we were first married, money was the biggest obstacle to seeing the world. Later, scheduling around work was a big deal. In the last few years, though, more disposable income and greater professional flexibility means that we've been crossing more destinations off of our bucket list... or we were before COVID reared its head almost two years ago. So, if you're like us, how can you travel when most of the world has closed its doors?

It only takes three things: a good movie, a good Nibble, and a good Sip.

Let's take Ireland, for example, a trip we'd planned for 2020 but had to cancel. There are so many great movies set in the Emerald Isle that are great for armchair travel: *The Commitments*, *Into the West*, *The Quiet Man*, *Michael Collins*, *Sing Street* and *Leap Year* are just a few. My personal favorite and

probably my favorite movie of all time, is *Waking Ned Devine*, a film about community, friendship, a winning lottery ticket, a cranky old lady, and killer allergies.



Kim von Keller

Next, choose your Nibble. For armchair travel, I'm going with Irish Potato Skins, featuring bacon, scallions, and Irish cheddar cheese. Finally, you'll need the right Sip. My favorite right now is the

Galway Tipple, featuring one of the country's greatest exports, whiskey.

I'm still hoping to make that Irish vacation this year, but if I can't, I'll travel to my family room sofa instead. Here's hoping that you'll make it to your bucket-list destination in 2022. Sláinte!

Irish Potato Skins
2 medium russet potatoes, scrubbed
2 bunches scallions
6 slices bacon, diced
1 ½ c. shredded Irish cheddar cheese, such as Kerrygold

Preheat oven to 400°. Bake potatoes for one hour, or until tender when pierced with a fork. Set aside to cool slightly and reduce oven temperature to 350°.

Wash scallions to remove any dirt or grit. After removing the roots, thinly slice the white and pale green parts and set aside.

Spray a small skillet with quick-release spray, such as PAM. Sauté the diced bacon and scallions until the bacon is crisp and the scallions are translucent. Set aside.

When the potatoes are cool enough to handle, slice them in half and scoop out the potato flesh, leaving a thin layer. (Reserve potato flesh for another use.) Cut each half

in half, for a total of eight strips. Place the strips on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Divide bacon-scallion mixture evenly among strips and top with Irish cheddar. Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until the potato skins are crispy and the cheese begins to brown. Serve immediately. Serves 2-4.

Galway Tipple

1 ½ oz. Irish whiskey
¾ oz. lemon juice
½ oz. honey syrup (see note)
¼ oz. allspice dram
¼ oz. ginger liqueur

Combine all ingredients in a shaker filled with ice. Shake vigorously until chilled, then strain into a rocks glass filled with fresh ice. Serves 1.

Honey Syrup: Combine ¼ c. honey with 2 T. very hot water. Stir until well combined.

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The Anderson airfield

BY RICH OTTER

On property transferred by Richard Felton in 1841 to the Anderson County Commissioners of the Poor, in 1927 there was a grass landing strip at the location of the current Anderson County Civic Center. It was not completely level and it was bumpy, but it was the county's first airfield.

A series of beacons were constructed that were spaced every 25 miles to guide airmail flights at night. There were then no radio guidance systems. One of the beacons was situated at the Anderson airfield. It had a sweeping yellow light on a fifty foot tower, the light completing its rotation six times every minute. Beneath the yellow light were red and green lights flashing Morse code letters identifying the beacon location. In clear weather the beacon could be seen for ten miles.

Anderson was an intermediate field that could be used for an emergency landing. The fields were developed by the United States Postal Service and Department of Commerce. The Anderson beacon was relocated to the new Anderson County Airport where the tower still stands some 90 years later with a modern beacon. It likely is one of the few such towers still standing in the country and deserves identification with an historic marker.



Restored Sikorsky Amphibian

The old airfield was equipped with a weather station constructed in 1931. After the new Anderson County Airport entered service the building was moved and used for various operations until finally being relocated across from the Anderson County Recycling Center.

Howard Drake taught Harry Osteen to fly in an Alexander Eaglerock at the old field when Harry was 17 years of age. It was a two-wing, open cockpit, inline engine airplane. Drake's father, who owned the plane, said Harry could fly the plane, "just bring the gasoline out."

Osteen recalled: "It wasn't anything but a rocky field. It was the same place Amelia Earhart flew into in an autogiro [November 14, 1931] out near where the Civic Center is now."

John H. Gates, Sr. said when he was 11 years old "My father got my brother Bill, my mother and me in the old Essex automobile. He said 'We are going to the airport.' There



Amelia Earhart visits Anderson in 1931

was no Camson Road. You came in McGee Road and went right up the hill. We had a hilly airport. Anderson County Airport was just a hilly field.

"In fact, if you stood in good with the county supervisor you would be invited to the dove shoots there. That was the only cultivated field illegally run by the county. Those doves would come and get into your pouch without even being shot they were so well trained."

The Gates family had gone to the airport to see Amelia Earhart on her promotional tour for Beechnut Gum. "Miss Earhart met everybody. I don't remember if I shook hands with her or not. I was too busy waiting for the free Beeches." The site is marked by an iron fence. Both the marker and flag are gone from the flag pole that is now hidden by trees.

Ralph T. Wickford had flown into the

Anderson airfield in September of 1931 in a Sikorsky amphibian. He could carry about 10 passengers on sightseeing tours and made over six flights. Having twice torn away his rear landing gear on the rugged field he declared Anderson had one of the worst airfields in the nation.

The Department of Transportation refused to allow passenger service from the Anderson field and posted a sign stating "Warning! No trespassing. No grazing of stock under penalty of law." The current airport property, then constituting 163 acres, was purchased in 1933 by the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, the County of Anderson and City of Anderson.

Technology and a dangerous field brought about the airfield's demise, the land later being used for one of the two prisoner stockades. The property finally being used for the Anderson County Civic Center and recreation facilities.

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Making New Year's resolutions? Just look for the signs.

As I've said in the pages of the Electric City News before, Asheville, North Carolina, is my happy place. It's hard to say exactly why that is, but I've been drawn there since childhood. People who believe in or understand such things say that the city is located on a geological vortex — a specific point where



Kim von Keller

energy is focused — that people respond to. I'm not exactly sure how that works, but I do know that I respond to the creative cocktail scene, concerts at The Orange Peel, hiking along the Blue Ridge, and the occasional black bear sighting. I also know that I feel more like myself there than anywhere else.

It's a good thing, as I'm not sure that I've really felt like myself since I first saw the word "COVID" back in early 2020. Many of the things I'm accustomed to doing on autopilot — visiting family, seeing friends, working, shopping, making decisions of all kinds — now require a lot of thought and deliberation. Sometimes, it can be hard to know whether you're getting any of them right or not.

Which brings me back to Asheville. On New Year's Eve, I stopped at the Harris Teeter to pick up some necessities like cheese, crackers, and discounted Christmas Peanut M&Ms. I was leaving the parking lot, and as I waited to turn onto Chestnut Street, I saw the sign that I had been looking for.

It was a literal sign, the message written in black Sharpie on blue paper and mounted with a thumbtack to a telephone pole. It read simply, "You're doing great!"

Apparently, I'm not the only one who's been questioning my every move for the last 22 months.

I spent a lot of time thinking about that sign as 2022 drew closer. By the time I got to the bottom of the bag of M&Ms — I do my best thinking under the influence of chocolate — I realized that the most important part of the message was missing but meant to be understood, as in, "You're doing great under the circumstances." And what circumstances we've been through! Over the last two years, I have learned how to troubleshoot my mom's cable television problems over the phone, choose the right face mask to wear to a wedding, get by as a one-car household when my car was totaled and dealerships were empty, and buy toilet paper through Amazon. Were all my decisions great? No, but they were as great as they could be under the circumstances.

Had I seen the sign on any other day of the year, its message probably wouldn't have resonated as clearly as it did. But December 31st is a day I often spend thinking about how to make the next year better, usually by losing weight or mastering a new hobby. Under the circumstances, a better resolution might be to just lower my expectations. I'm not giving up on resolutions, but I can lose five pounds, not ten. I can learn how to play "Tonight You Belong to Me" on the ukulele, not lead a ukulele band. If I make just those two changes, I'll be doing great, under the circumstances.

I'll bet that you'll be doing great in 2022 as well. I don't know who posted the message outside the Asheville Harris Teeter parking lot, but I do know that it wasn't meant just for me. As you revisit 2021 and make your plans for January, just remember to lower your expectations and do the best you can under the circumstances. And when you're unsure of yourself — and you will be on occasion — just grab a bag of candy and look for the signs.

DUKE'S MAYONNAISE

Few things will identify someone as Southern as clearly as a love for tomato sandwiches, potato salad, or deviled eggs. If you want to get an intense conversation started, open the topic of which mayonnaise is preferred. You could ignite a debate as fiery as college football or politics, but, in the South,



Jim Harris

you are likely to get a passionate endorsement of one particular product, Duke's Mayonnaise.

Eugenia Duke was an entrepreneur in the truest sense of the word. She was born in

1881 in Columbus, GA, one of ten children. When she was 19, she married Harry Duke, an electrician. Harry worked setting up power plants across the Southern states, and they eventually landed in Greenville, S.C.

In 1917, troops were training to enter WWI at nearby Camp Sevier. Eugenia saw an opportunity to add income for the family. Along with her daughter, Marta, she began making sandwiches in her kitchen and selling them for ten cents each at the canteen. She also created her own mayonnaise. Known for its tangy flavor, it was made with cider vinegar, oil, and eggs. There was no sugar included, possibly from a lack of availability due to wartime rationing.

Demand snowballed, and soon Eugenia's sandwiches were sold in various locations, like textile mills, drugstores, and lunchrooms. The favorites were egg salad, chicken salad, and pimento cheese. Legend has it that she once sold 10,000 sandwiches in one day, which paid for the addition of a delivery truck.

She decided to open her own location in the Ottaray Hotel in Greenville. A City Directory from the 1920s lists her as the President and



Old Duke's advertisement



Eugenia Duke

Treasurer of the Ottaray's Duke Tea Room. She began hosting tea parties in the hotel lobby, which featured her sandwiches made with her mayonnaise. Amid this whirlwind of business activity, Duke also involved herself in the efforts to pass the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

Getting numerous requests for her recipes from her soldier customers who were now stationed around the world and with the encouragement of her top salesperson C.B. Boyd, in 1923, she decided to bottle and sell her mayonnaise. She opened an office on the second floor of a furniture store and began manufacturing mayonnaise in an old coach and carriage factory.

By 1929, her mayonnaise had grown so popular that she could not keep up with the demand. She sold her mayo business to the C.F. Sauer Company in Richmond, VA., but remained with the company as a spokesperson. She sold her sandwich business to her bookkeeper, Alan Hart. Both companies continue to operate near Greenville today.

Andrew Smart, the current President of Duke Sandwich company, says, "Here's a woman in 1917, who was an entrepreneur and business leader in a time before she even had the right to vote." Bill Donahue, former Director of Marketing for Duke Brands, says, "She was a presence in downtown Greenville, active in women's rights and a socialite."

Daughter Martha married a soldier from Los Angeles and moved west. Eugenia and Harry soon followed,

moving to Oakland, CA. Within a year of their arrival, Eugenia opened a new venture, the Duchess Sandwich Company. When WWII began, she started selling her sandwiches at a shipyard to the workers. The Duke's eventually sold that company to family members. Eugenia passed away in 1968,

at age 90. In 2018, the City of Greenville named a pedestrian bridge after Duke.

Today, Duke's Mayonnaise is still manufactured

using Eugenia's original recipe. The brand is the number one selling mayo in Georgia and the Carolinas. The number three selling mayo in the U.S., Duke's is also available in New Zealand, Australia, the Middle East, and Latin America. On the Duke's Facebook page, you'll find quite the volume of compliments, most referring to Duke's as the best, or the only, brand of mayo, and some pics from dire fans who have the Duke's bottle tattooed on their person. One individual said of the mayo, "I never thought there was a difference in mayonnaise until I tasted Duke's. Total game changer. Wow!" Another refers to Duke's as "The best mayonnaise on the planet."

Pretty lofty praise. However, none may match the passion of an older woman that contacted the mayonnaise company a few years back with an unusual request. She wanted four of the original jars with metal tops. When asked why, she responded that she had four daughters, and when she passed, she intended to be cremated, and those jars would be where she would spend eternity.



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MUSIC, FASHION GO HAND IN HAND

I love music. It inspires me. It's healing and wonderful and just puts me at ease. I have been a backup singer in bands over the years with

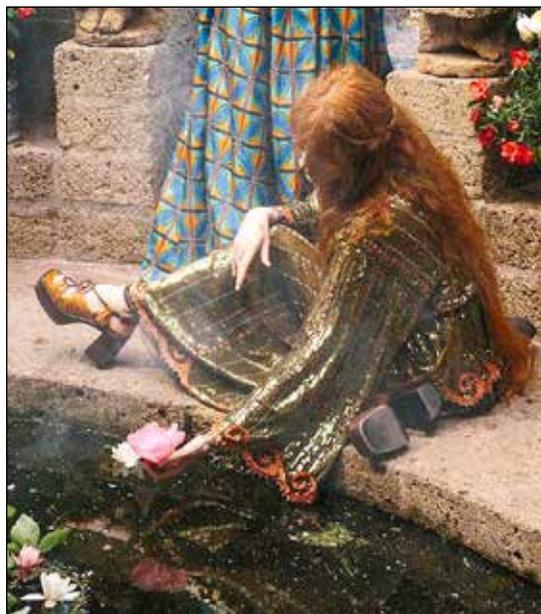


Kristine March

my identical twin sister and we have had our fair share of meeting and hob knobbing with some really notable people in the music industry.

The most interesting and possibly the coolest night of my life was when we both were invited backstage at a Tom Petty and Stevie Nicks concert in Charlotte NC. It was surreal to say the least.

I was in awe of Tom of course but Stevie made my knees almost buckle. I couldn't believe that we were standing beside the queen of rock and roll. She was a vision. She had on her infamous top hat and long billowy, flowy shawls, and huge platform, double suede boots. She held a tambourine in one hand a mic in the other. I just remember



quite ethereal and exquisite. She wears some of the loveliest vintage dresses with whimsical coats and lace up boots. She's hippie goth, if you will. Gucci gowns with bare feet is her stage look with a huge harp playing in the background. Just glorious. She can rock a hat like no other. And has a voice that is straight from Heaven. She has amazing red flowy hair that makes her unique. She is truly an old

being so intrigued. Her whole aura is something very special and absolutely stunning. It was a moment in time my sister and I will never forget.

Someone that I've never had the privilege of meeting, but is truly fashionable and inspiring is Tina Turner. I recently watched a documentary on her and not only is she

an amazing talent but her gumption and strength is beyond measure. She has some of the best outfits I've ever seen. From the beginning of her music career, through the sixties and even today, she is something else. My favorite fashion moments of Ms. Turner's are definitely the seventies. She was all about the fringe — with

her million dollar legs, of course. She wore hot pants and really incredible makeup and hair. She wasn't afraid of a short hem line on her costumes. Brave and beautiful. Tina is a legend.

Another iconic fashionista that I admire is a British song bird. Florence Welch from the band Florence and The Machine. She's

soul. Her home decor is just as astonishing as her wardrobe.

These are just a few of my favorites. Music and fashion go hand in hand and make the world a better place. Who are some of your style icons? Remember to always make the sidewalk your runway and please be kind.



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Yellow Jacket girls looking to bounce back after disappointing tourney finishes

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — After a .500 start to the regular season, the T.L. Hanna High School girls' basketball team struggled over the holidays, going 1-4 over the course of two different tournaments.

The Yellow Jackets kicked off tournament action in the Anderson County Holiday Classic Girls Basketball Tournament on Dec. 20 against Pendleton High School. In what proved to be their best showing of the break, Hanna freshman Tamerah Wynn and junior Taylor Wessel led the way for the Jackets in a 40-30 win. Wynn scored a team-high 13 points, while Wessel was close behind with nine points.

Following the win, the Jackets returned to action the next day against Wren High School.

Both teams struggled to put the ball in the basket throughout the day, before the Hurricanes prevailed in a 34-28 win. Junior Grace

Ikenegbu kept the Jackets in it with a monster day, picking up 10 points and 18 rebounds for a double-double.

After falling to Wren, Hanna faced Powdersville the next day for third

place in the tournament. Once again, the Yellow Jackets struggled to score, as they finished just 8-of-44 from the field in a 38-23 loss. Eighth-grader Asia Clinkscales led the team with eight points

and earned all-tournament honors. The Yellow Jackets hoped to bounce back after Christmas at a

tournament at Stephens County in Georgia.

Hanna started its play in Georgia against the Habersham Central High School Raiders on Dec. 28. The 8-3 Raiders proved to be too much for the Yellow Jackets, taking the contest 65-34. While not the result they wanted, Hanna got a great performance from freshman Jamyllah Handy. Handy, who is averaging just 4.5 points per game, put up 19 points in the loss.

The Yellow Jackets' tournament play came to an end the following day against host Stephens County in a close 40-36 loss.

Hanna (5-8) returned to action on Jan. 4 against Hart County, with results unavailable at press time.



WESTSIDE RAMS

Westside boys take part in tournaments

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — With an up-and-down start to the season, the Westside Rams boys' basketball team took part in two tournaments over the holiday break.

The Rams opened up tournament play in the Anderson County Holiday Classic against Belton Honea-Path (BHP) on Dec. 20. Westside, led by the dynamic duo of sophomore Joshua Williams and senior JC Austin, picked up a 66-43 win. Williams and Austin both scored a team-high 18 points in the win.

Coming off the win over BHP, the Rams took on the Powdersville Patriots. The Patriots, off to a 9-4 start to the season, held off the Rams behind big days from Kidd Brizek (25 points) and Hayden Assemian (24 points) in a 69-65 win. Williams once again led

the Rams in scoring with 12 points, but shot just 29 percent from the field.

The following day, the Rams battled Wren in the third-place game on the final day of the tournament. In another close game, the Hurricanes pulled out a 68-62 win behind 26 points from Isaac Humphries.

Seniors Malachi Brown and Kaziaes Hemphill led the way for Westside with

14 and 12 points, respectively.

After the disappointing finish

in the Anderson County tournament, the Rams returned to action the following week on Dec. 27 in the Poinsettia Classic. Playing in the Carolina bracket, Westside opened tournament play with a big 68-40 win over Eastside. Williams once again shouldered the

scoring load with 17 points, with sophomore Jimmar Boston coming in behind him with 12 points.

With the win, the Rams moved on to play South Pointe in the second round. The Stallions proved to be too much for Westside to handle, as the Rams fell 60-50. Williams and Brown paced Westside in scoring with 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Moving into their final day of the tournament, the Rams faced off with a Wade Hampton team with just two losses on the season. In need of a win for some huge momentum heading out of the holidays, Westside pulled off a 56-55 win behind 16 points from Williams.

The Rams (6-8) hoped to use that momentum coming out of the break, as they had a rematch with Daniel on Jan. 5.

