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November 1-14, 2018

MEET REAL LIFE *Ghostbusters*

By Kay Willis Burns

Meet Ghost PRO — an all female, ghost-bustin', haint-hustlin' spirit-rustlin' team of spit and grit.

Ghost PRO (which stands for Paranormal Research Organization) began investigating paranormal phenomena 10 years ago. The goal of this non-profit group is to assist those who are experiencing unexplained activities in their home or business. Through careful observation, in-depth research, investigative data collection, and unbiased analysis, they attempt to provide an explanation for the events their clients are experiencing. Their vision is to help people who are burdened, concerned, or curious about the paranormal phenomena happening in their lives.

Based in Anderson, Ghost PRO includes Catherine Vinson, Mariel Hunkeler, and Deborah Lewis.

Catherine grew up in a house that was 140 years old. As a child, she frequently encountered mysterious occurrences that other family members did not experience. For example, she would sense that someone had died before being told. And when she told family members of the paranormal occurrences she had experienced, her family urged her not to share her experiences with others because, "somebody will come and take you away to the crazy house," she said.

Both Mariel Hunkeler and Deborah Lewis have their own connections to the paranormal as well, and are driven to explore the mysteries of the spirit world.

With the advent of paranormal television shows such as "Ghost

SEE GHOST ON PAGE 2



The three members of Ghost PRO.



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Poetry contest winners

Thirty-four entries were submitted for The Electric City News Poetry Contest. It's exciting to know that so many readers are interested in poetry. It was a tough decision for the judges. Congratulations to the three winners: Nate Thomason, K. Elijah Wimbush and Walter Hudson. Many thanks to Keith Freelin — the local owner of Lost Sailor Studio — who painted the first place winner's poem on the window of the newspaper's office at 309 Main Street for all to read and enjoy.



Nevermind the Moon
By Nate Thomason

Nevermind the moon, my dear
Let's keep the hours at bay
There's promise in tomorrow
But life left in today

Nevermind the moon, my dear
Let's let the music play
Words have turned to whispers
Yet we've so much left to say

Nevermind the moon, my dear
We've chapters yet to write
Just because the day is done
Doesn't mean we've lost the light

Nevermind the moon, my dear
Our time is all our own
Each day is but a wager
Our last is never known

Don't put off 'til tomorrow
What could be done today
Nevermind the moon, my dear
'Fore it will never, ever be too late.



A Flower Blooms in Time
K. Elijah Wimbush

In the frigid night sky
A star falls to Earth, like petals in
Autumn
A pale girl walks across the shimmering
lake

That ripples with each step that hums
One man admires the beauty in her
eyes
Another notices the richness of her hair.

The glances she receives cause envy
with women alike
But she has little worries nor care

Out of rage and jealousy,
One strikes her down
And her blood fills the lake
Flowing from her celestial crown

The woman named Gloxinia
With delicate beauty best gazed from
afar
Will surely bloom in time, illuminating
Like a violet-hued star



Prior To Forever
By Walter Hudson

There's a chasm that we cross while strolling
the earth

In between our appointments with death and
birth

It's that nonspecific certain day
Innocence begins subtle decay
And the glorious years that make up our
youth

Safely inside blanket forts hidden from truth
When vibrant memories fade like paint
Hope that once shouted often grows faint
We see that time spent is a bittersweet walk
With not enough motion and a lot of talk
Our lives made of chances and choices
Souls brush by with lingering voices
Are we eternal or extinguished in time?
To ignore or question it seems such a crime
No child born has requested to be
Not one is spared the pain and beauty
Understand that time received comes from a
source

You'll see it all balance while going your course
Don't take for granted your right to choose
Keep hope in sight while learning to lose

Ghost

continued from page 1

Hunters," "Destination Truth," "Ancient Aliens" and "Ghost Adventures" the interest in the unexplained has increased exponentially in recent years. Amateurs with no training will order EMF detectors (electronic magnetic field) and EVP recorders (electronic voice phenomena) online and head for old abandoned houses and desolate cemeteries to sniff out spirits.

It is because of the pitfalls of the naïve and foolhardy ghost hunters that Catherine designed a course called Ghost Hunting 101. The program has been part of the "Special Interest" courses at Tri County Tech, Piedmont Tech, and Greenville Tech during the past 10 years. In addition to the course, Catherine has presented abridged

GHOST HUNTING 101

The Ghost Hunting Basics of the Ghost PRO Curriculum include the following:

- Safety
- Audio recording
- Definitions of various terms
- Initial data
- Ghost hunting basics
- Reviewing the evidence
- Audio Evidence
- Equipment
- Research
- Presenting evidence to the client
- Types of ghosts
- Photography
- Finding haunted locations
- Protection
- Common mistakes
- Ghost PRO code of conduct and ethics

versions of the curriculum at museums, libraries, and genealogy societies.

The Ghost PRO team has been called to investigate homes across South Carolina including Anderson, Greenville, Taylors, Greer, Spartanburg, Lyman, Wellford,

Gaffney, Fountain Inn, Gastonia, Greenwood, Hodges, Laurens, Liberty, Pelzer, Mauldin, Simpsonville, Catechee, Pickens, Easley, Seneca, Walhalla, Woodruff, and Charleston.

Most recently, an Anderson County resident requested the services of Ghost PRO to investigate his property known as the old Anderson/Breazeale plantation house. The owner had been experiencing strange occurrences over the years such as smelling pipe tobacco when nobody had recently been in the house smoking a pipe. Events also included the client coming home and finding the front door open with the deadbolt still turned and no evidence of an alarm having gone off.

Over the past 10 years, the trio has investigated approximately 40 properties.

So if there's something strange in your neighborhood, who you gonna call? I think you know!

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History of the Anderson County Courthouse

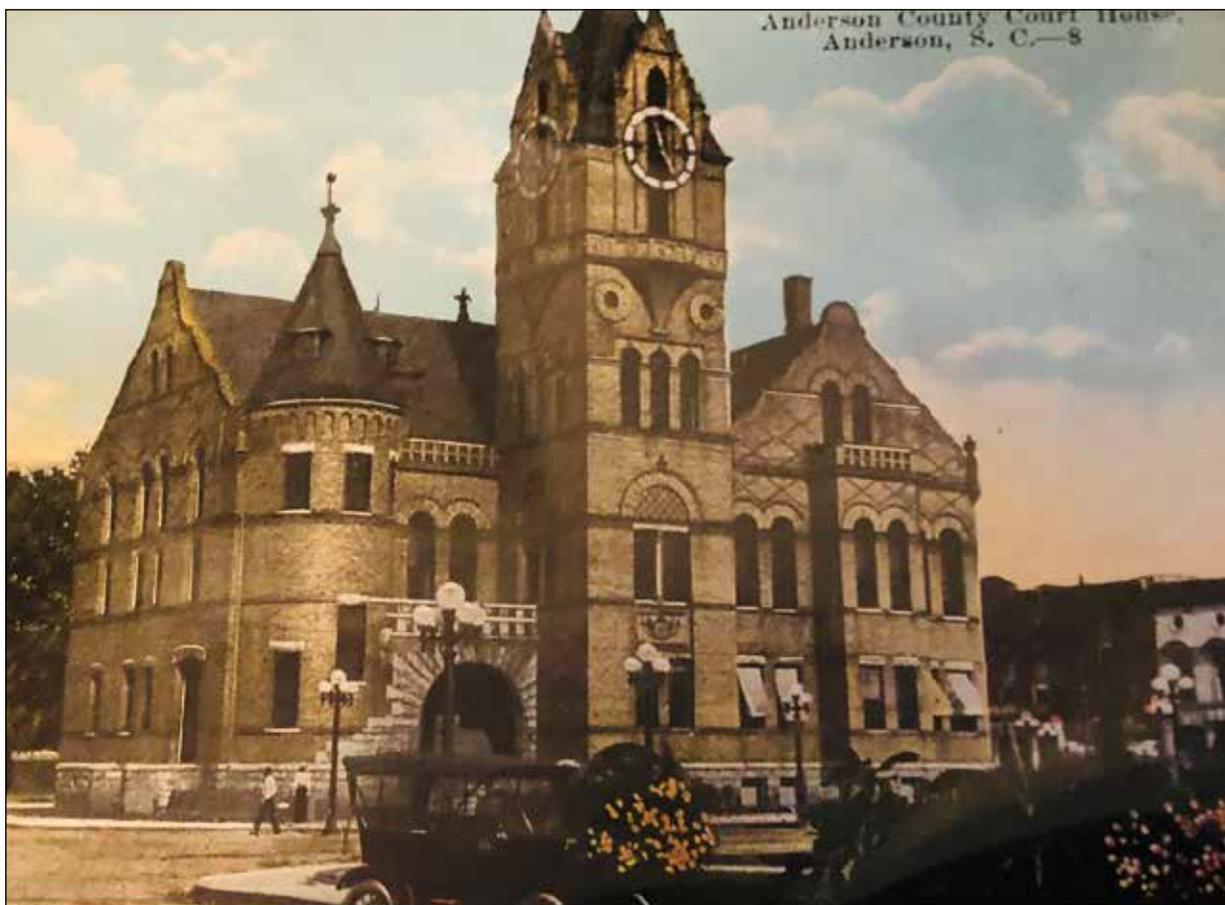
By Kay Willis Burns

While the location of the Anderson courthouse has remained the same, the building itself has undergone a number of alterations and renovations. The decision to place the courthouse where it now stands was more or less a compromise between two preferred locations. Several historians provided the story of the Anderson commissioners having difficulty deciding on whether to construct the County Seat at White Hall (which was — according to Frank Dickson in "Journey into the Past: Anderson Region's Heritage" — the current location of the Pruitt Shopping Center) or to build closer to what is now the area of Orr Mill.

The commissioners grew tired of riding back and forth on horseback between the two sites, and decided to rest in a tavern located near- what is now- the Masonic Temple on Benson Street. The debate over locations continued at the tavern until one of the frustrated commissioners walked a few yards out of the tavern and declared that that would be the site of the southeast corner of the building. The other commissioners agreed, and so the land for the new Anderson County Courthouse was purchased for \$4.625 cents per acre.

The courthouse was completed and the first court inside the new building was held on Monday, October 3, 1828. While historian Louise Vandiver claims the first courthouse was built of logs, historian Frank Dickson believed that brick would have been used for at least part of the building materials. A jailhouse was included in the courthouse. It was located where the Woolworth's building used to be in the 1960's. The jail was relocated in 1850 to accommodate for more commerce in the downtown area.

Also in 1850, a grand edifice was added and the building's brick walls were plastered over and painted white. Four large Grecian columns were erected on a portico at each end. Two curving flights of ornamental



Above: The Anderson County Courthouse

iron stairs were installed at both entrances and ran from the ground to the second story which housed the only courtroom. Doors beneath the stairs led to offices within the building. On the buildings western end, a belfry tower was added with a large bell that could be rung to signify the time, or to notify citizens of special events such as weddings or funerals or to sound a civil defense alert or fire alarm.

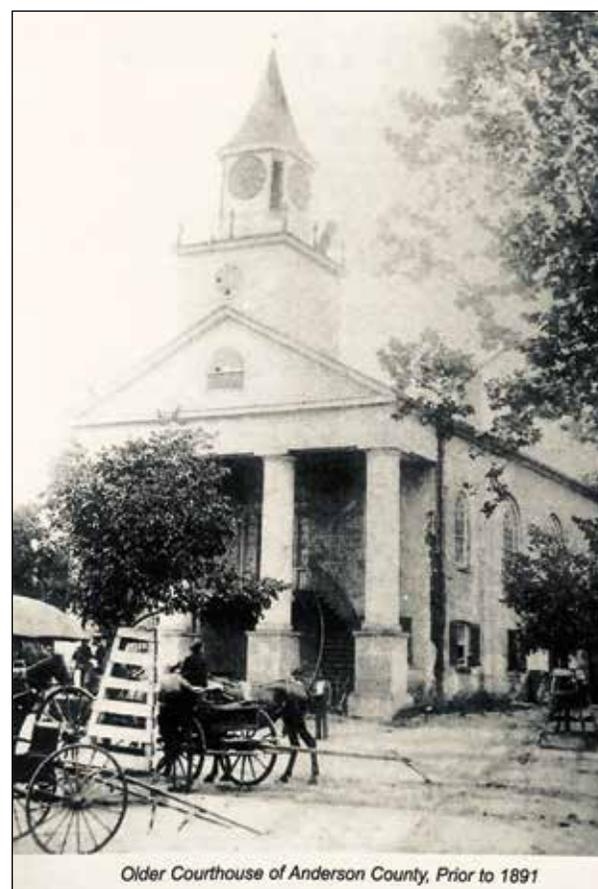
By the 1890's, the courthouse was deemed to be inadequate for the business of one of the richest and most prosperous counties of the South. So in 1896, a one-mill property tax was authorized for a six-year period to finance a new facility. In April, 1897, after the public approval on a referendum (850-yes; 617-no), the old courthouse was demolished.

In 1898, a mid-Victorian style courthouse was built on the site of the old one at a cost of \$26,000. The architect, Frank P. Milburn, had used the same courthouse design to construct the courthouse in Forsyth County, NC the previous year, and purchased the building plans from Winston-Salem for \$50. Upon the Anderson County Courthouse's completion, Milburn again sold the plans to Washington, Georgia whose courthouse construction reflects great similarity to that of Anderson and Forsyth counties.

To save money in the new courthouse, steam heat was omitted from all rooms except the courtroom, and every office had a fireplace. When the courthouse almost caught fire in 1902, the fireplaces were replaced with stoves, which were used until 1920 when a central heating system was installed. The courthouse was again remodeled in 1904 at a cost of \$100,000.

In 1937, a courthouse building commission proposed erecting a new courthouse and demolishing the current building. But by 1938, the plan changed and the building was again renovated to include an addition, built on the east side of the building in 1939. The annex and façade renovation occurred in 1940, providing for the appearance that the courthouse has today.

The construction of a new courthouse in 1991



provided the county with opportunity to renovate the almost 100-year-old building, now one of the county's best-loved symbols. The 'historic' courthouse, as it is now known, needed an extended face-lift and in 1992 the building was renovated with \$1,000,000 appropriated by the Anderson County Council in bonded indebtedness. Much needed upgrading of the building's electrical and plumbing systems was completed, and parts of the tile roof were replaced while the entire building was repainted and refinished.

Today, the historic courthouse of Anderson County contains administrative offices of Anderson County government, and hosts County Council meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Source: Anderson County's historical records.

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VOTE - NOVEMBER 6

FALL, FAMILY FUN, FITNESS

By Tommy Walls

These beautiful, cool fall mornings make you want to get outside and reinvent and reinvigorate your exercise routines. That is, if you have one. If you don't, get one. Do yourself a favor, fall on, not off, the fitness wagon.

Whether you're going through a corn maze, picking apples or hiking on some of our scenic trails, you're being active and having fun. Grab some of your friends and find some local trails to walk, run or bike. A lot of the fun runs occur during the fall season like Halloween runs, Turkey Trots or Reindeer Runs — these all can be a time to connect with friends and enjoy your exercise. If you have a specific goal you're more apt to increase the likelihood of a regular program.

If you're exercising in colder temperatures, remember to dress for the weather. Proper attire and accessories make outdoor fitness activities more enjoyable. Also remember to hydrate in the fall just like you do in the summer.

Outdoor chores like raking leaves or cutting wood can also burn calories and burn fat and you're doing something productive.



TOMMY WALLS
fitness instructor

When the time changes and it gets darker earlier, people have a tendency to feel as though it's later in the day. This makes people feel more tired than usual. Try working out in the mornings when you feel fresher and more energized. There are plenty of places and times when you can move your exercise indoors when it's too cool or there's inclement weather outside. Therefore, there are no excuses.

Make yourself a realistic schedule during the fall and holiday season. People have gatherings and family outings that take up a lot of time. Enjoy the season and set aside some time for you and for exercise. That makes for a happier holiday and a better, more relaxed you.

This fall strive for the 3 C's of a successful fitness program: commitment, convenience and consistency. We all lead very busy lives. You have to commit to

exercise just like you do the other aspects of your life, such as work, school, church, transporting kids, etc. Don't let "I'll do it later" turn into "never."

Why do we wait until after January 1st to be resolute about improving our minds and bodies? Why not start now and be ahead of the game when spring rolls around? Fall is a time of harvest. Remember you reap what you sow. So, start now "weeding" and "planting" and "watering". Your body is a power plant, feed it and nourish it with daily exercise and nutrition.

There are a lot of great workouts that you can do in the fall — Walking, hiking, running, swimming, fitness classes, raking leaves, yoga, tai chi, are just a few easy inexpensive ways to stay fit year round.

Find yourself an accountability partner and do a "fall firm up." This will help you stay focused and gives you a goal to work toward. Remember, you're only one workout away from a good mood. Also remember if you fall someone will be there to catch you, pick you up back up and put you on the right track.

Do yourself a favor: fall for fitness, you'll be glad you did!

ANMED HEALTH PRESENTS CONNECT 2018 SYMPOSIUM

AnMed Health remains on the cutting edge of courageous and progressive diversity and inclusion by holding open, inviting and bold discussions.

On Thursday, November 1, 2018, from 2-6 p.m., AnMed Health will bring together a cavalry of leaders from business, health care, education and the community for the CONNECT 2018 symposium on the realities of race and race relations in modern-day America. The message will focus on how effective cross-cultural communication can build both an active community and a robust work environment regardless of the industry. The CONNECT 2018 symposium will be held at The Bleckley Station, 151 Main Street, Anderson, S.C.

Presenting at CONNECT 2018 is the Racial Equity Institute (REI), based in Greensboro, N.C. It is a diverse alliance of trainers and organizers committed to bringing awareness and analysis of the root causes of disparities and disproportionalities. The REI team uses stories, validated by local and national data, to lead participants in an interactive discussion about the realities of race and race relations in modern-day America.

Tickets can be purchased for \$20 each online by visiting https://connect2018_anmedhealth.eventbrite.com. Tickets will not be sold at the event.

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Public Forum Makeup Session

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November 5, 2018
3-5pm

Urban Design Charette

December 4, 2018
10am-12pm, 3-5pm & 6-8pm
Please register for specific time slot

Urban Design Reveal

December 6, 2018
6-8pm

*All programs will be held at the
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What's your vision?
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of "Shock this Block" as we begin to
create a site-specific development
plan for downtown Anderson.



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mthompson@cityofandersonsc.com



THE GARDEN SHOP

After much work, the garden looks good

After being away on vacation for a week, it was nice to come home to a garden to which fall had arrived. I was surprised at how much had changed in just a week. Asters, pink muhly grass, trees, viburnums, oakleaf hydrangeas, and more, are all in their fall splendor. Sasanquas are starting to bloom too. Mums are in full bloom. Many are Ryan's Peach, Ryan's Pink, and Sheffields. There is a patch of white ones that I have no recollection of what they are. There are also some which are almost purple. I found a patch of pink ones at the edge of the woods. I'm sure these were dumped there in past cleanings. I am going to dig them up and bring them back to the garden.

And speaking of cleaning, I am happy to say the front flower garden is looking the best it has in years. I am not one who lives consistently prepared for company. A friend came years ago to get a flower arrangement and brought her mother. She wanted her mother to come in and see the house. Horrors —



SUSAN TEMPLE
master gardener

it was early spring and my two dogs were in full shed mode. Oh the dog hair! Another friend came one spring to get peony blooms for her daughter's wedding portrait. The garden was unruly at that time with evening primroses. She gave me a weeding tool as a thank you. Could that have been a hint hint? Cool weather, two and half inches of nice slow rain softening the ground, and a big ol' dose of thank goodness hot weather is gone, a weekend of gardening has left me quite satisfied right now with how the garden looks. And the house is clean because our faithful four-legged companion spent a week at the beach too.

Another mission accomplished is planting beside an antique gate recently added. Husband and I do a fair amount of antiquing. I couldn't resist a gate found on a spring trip.



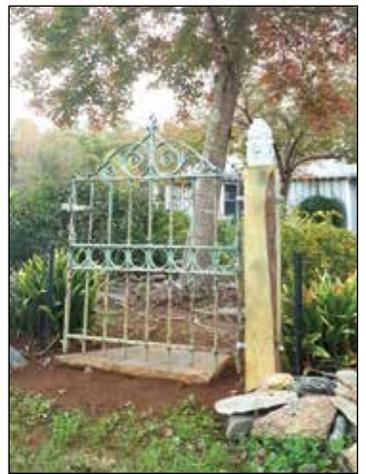
Above: Ryan's Peach and Ryan's Pink mums are in full bloom. Below: Sacred lilies are planted to soften each side of the antique garden gate.

It is super heavy and just the right old, blueish green color. I wanted something to soften each side. It would have to grow in shade, stay small, and preferably be evergreen. There were two clumps of Sacred Lily (*Rohdea japonica*) left in full sun after stumping a quince. To control this suckering quince, I wanted to move everything planted near it so I cut around it. Sacred lilies are perfect for the gate.

We found a topper for the post

on another antiquing trip. It's faces of four seasons and fits perfectly with other garden faces I have around. I'm still thinking about letting the post age naturally, staining it, just lightly painting it, or some combination thereof. Ditto for the topper.

But so far, I'm very happy with how it's turning out. The house and grounds could have unexpected company for now and I wouldn't be in a frenzy to neat and tidy things up.



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

How would you define your signature style?

By Kristine March

Style is an art form. Everyday we wake up and dress. How we dress says something about us.

I remember as a young girl, my grandmother never went anywhere without her lipstick, turquoise jewelry and her cute little moccasins. It was her signature. She didn't even realize it, but it was her little stylish routine.

My mother always — and still to this day — wears platforms. From the time she was in high school in the 1970's, when they became a trend, she generally has some type of a wedge on her foot. She can rock a pair of shoes, that's for sure. My sister has always had some type of fringe; usually her handbag or shoes always have to be fringed. She's also got to have her lip gloss in her possession at all times.

My aunt is always in a long dress. Ever since I can remember, she has worn elegant, long dresses. My dear family



Kristine March

friend Ginny Bailes (co-owner of The Electric City News) is always wearing her beautiful hoop earrings, like the 70's girl that she is. Another friend of mine, Kathy Davis, always wears a Persian necklace. She says she wears it everyday to ward off negativity. My grandfather always had on a pair of cowboy boots. He loved neckties, as well, he had at least a thousand of them. My husband loves a good hat. You won't catch him without one, unless he has to remove it for church or to go into a restaurant. My dad has always rocked a little ponytail. He wouldn't be Arthur Randolph without it. It's just who he is.

As for me, it's sunglasses. I try not to buy expensive ones because I know I will lose them. I have at least 30 pairs. I would wear them at night if I could.



When it comes to signature styles, author, Kristine March loves to wear sunglasses. Her husband, above right, always wears a hat.



I love them. Especially big oversized ones. I feel like they complete my look. Everyone has a signature style. Celebrities certainly have them. Audrey Hepburn wore cat eye

sunglasses and ballet flats. Elton John is known for his shades too. Jim Morrison wore leather pants. It's truly an interesting thing about people. What's your signature style?

BELTON-HONEA PATH BEARS



By Dan Lacobie

The BHP Bears have had an excellent season, with losses only to T.L. Hanna and Walhalla. The Bears end the regular season at 8-2 overall and a region record of 4 - 1, giving them the Region 1-AAAA title.

The Bears, after 10 games have tallied 208.9 yards of receiving per game. They have also put up an average of 194.2 yards of rushing per game with 42 touchdowns. Defensively, BHP has averaged 49.8 tackles per game. Also, the defense has added 23 sacks on top of 6 interceptions.

Quarterback #18 Cameron Bratcher had a great season, attempting 197 passes, completing 129 of those passes for a total of 1,951 yards, 22 touchdowns with only 5 interceptions. He had an average of 195.1 yards per game.

Senior running back #25 R.J. Ellis has the team lead in rushing with 856 yards on 141 carries, an average of 142 yards per game. #5 Jaquez Dixon has contributed 582 yards of rushing on 102 attempts averaging 58.2 yards per game. #20 Jeremiah Johnson and #33 Jalen Geer added 374 yards and 142 yards, respectively, running the ball.

Bringing in passes from Bratcher, #3 Xavier Nance has caught 62 passes for a total of 718 yards averaging 11.6 per catch. Adding 487 yards of receiving on 22 catches is #4 Jacob Howard, averaging 22.1 yards per catch. #21 Bralyn Oliver caught 15 passes for 451 yards, averaging 30.1 per catch.

The Bears were very good defensively during the regular season. Leading the Bears with tackles #6 Joseph Sloan IV picked up 69 tackles, 31 solo and 38 assisted with 7 tackles for loss. Next in line with 42 tackles, 1 tackle for loss is #10 Antareus Pressley; with 41 tackles #40 Devan Bolt also had 4 tackles for loss, and #65 Tysheik Galloway had 37 tackles of his own with 9 tackles for loss.

Interception team leader sees Pressley with 2 for 36 yards. #7 Semaj Groves, #21 Bralyn Oliver, #23 Wes Newton and Bolt all contributed 1 interception each. Defensive sacks of the quarterback, Galloway and #33 Jalen Geer had 5 each.

The Belton-Honea Path Bears will be in round 1 of the playoffs facing Westwood High School on Friday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

**ANDERSON
SCHOOL
DISTRICT 2**

PENDLETON BULLDOGS



By Dan Lacobie

The Pendleton Bulldogs' last game of the regular season was played on October 29 due to bad weather rolling through on Friday, October 26. This game was against The Seneca Bobcats.

Pendleton was behind at the half 10-7 but rallied to kick a last minute field goal to win the game 30 - 27 for their 8th win of the season. The Bulldogs finished the regular season with 8 wins 2 losses overall and 4-0 in region play to capture the region championship.

(Stats are based on 9 games, with the last game being played late on Monday evening.)

Pendleton on the season has 1,595 yards of passing on 111 completions a percentage of .594. Scoring 20 touchdowns against only 4 interceptions, Pendleton has a pretty potent passing attack.

Leading that attack is quarterback #7 Jamal Blakley. Blakley has 1,547 yards passing in 9 games this season with 105 completions while tossing 20 touchdowns.

Catching Blakely's passes, #15 Payton Bunch has caught 37 passes for 579 yards. #2 Sidney Mattison has 28 receptions worth 380 yards. #1 Zaine Green and #4 Jason Wright-Mann have 228 yards and 235 yards, respectively, receiving.

When keeping the ball on the ground, Pendleton has 1,432 yards as a team this season with #7 Jamal Blakley showing his threat as a dual threat quarterback, having 522 yards on 59 carries. Wright-Mann adds 487 yards of rushing and #21 Amir Dendy putting up 257 yards on 52 carries.

With 621 tackles through 9 games as a team, #34 Tanner Stuetgen leads the team with 83 tackles and 10 tackles for loss. #8 Cameron Williams has 64 tackles and 6 tackles for loss. #53 Jerrod Galloway has 58 tackles of his own with 10 tackles for loss.

#6 Tamyus Davis leads the team with 3 interceptions for 20 yards total. Several other Bulldogs have 1 interception each. Sacking the quarterback on defense, #32 Antwin Jackson has a team leading 6 sacks. Stuetgen has 4 sacks as does Galloway and #99 Shane Bell.

As region champs, The Bulldogs will be in the playoffs on Friday, Nov. 9, although their opponent was not named as of press time.

Anderson
School District **4**

BUILDING UP THE NEXT GENERATION

GATHER 'ROUND THE TABLE

By Katie Laughridge

For many American families, finding opportunities to spend quality time together can be a real challenge. However, even though hectic schedules seem to dominate most of our productive time, the one place we can all agree to be on time and present each day is at the family dinner table. The evening meal can be an excellent time to put down our phones, take a timeout from homework and daily obligations, and set aside forty-five minutes to relax, recharge, tell stories, laugh and share the highlights of our day with each other.

According to Dr. Fishell, advocate of The Family Dinner Project, over the past 15 years researchers have confirmed what parents have known for a long time- sharing a family meal is good for the spirit, the brain and the health of all family members. Recent studies link regular family dinners with many behaviors that parents pray for their children to adopt, including lower rates of substance abuse, teen pregnancy and depression- as well as higher grade-point averages and self-esteem. Studies also confirm that dinner conversations boost children's vocabulary and help build respectful speaking and listening skills. Additionally, regular family dinners have been shown to decrease obesity and eating disorders in children and adolescents.

Soccer, dance, gymnastics, play practice, piano lessons, karate, and so many extra-curricular activities- although excellent growth activities for our children- can keep families busy and



Katie Laughridge

disconnected during the weekdays. The obvious question is, "How can we find time to eat together as a family?" One solution may be to try cooking and freezing several large casseroles on the weekends, or perhaps prepping for meals by buying pre-cut prepared items from the grocery store- such as pre-cut veggies or pizza crusts. You could even brown hamburger meat or cook chicken ahead of time to make dinner preparation quicker and easier.

Another great way to promote family connection to encourage your children to be involved in preparing the evening meal. Young children can assist by performing simple tasks such as sprinkling seasoning, stirring vegetables, or washing fruit. Elementary aged children can help by setting the table, pouring drinks, and can even assist with simple food preparation. Adolescent aged children can help prepare all aspects of the meal, including planning, shopping, cooking, and cleaning up. The goal is to make the evening meal a fun family event- so that everyone looks forward to it and feels like their part is special and important.

Perhaps the most important benefit gained from sharing family dinners is that it provides an excellent opportunity to have meaningful conversations with each other. Research shows that, by routinely

participating in family discussions, your child will be more likely to learn polite and respectful listening and speaking skills. Learning how to take turns and fully listen to another person when they are speaking can be a very difficult skill to develop for many children. The family dinner table can be a great setting for teaching and practicing these important communication skills. Below are a few age-appropriate conversation starters that you may find useful during your next family dinner conversation:

Ages 2-7:

- Name three things that are fun for you.
- What is something you are thankful for?
- Go around the table and say something nice about each person.
- Name your favorite tradition for each season.
- Who is your best friend? Why?
- Talk about something nice someone did for you this week or something nice you did for someone else.
- First, choose a topic. Then, go around the table allowing everyone to guess what each other's favorite thing is (ex: some topics could include: favorite food? Color? Candy? Hobby?)

Ages 8-13:

- What makes you a good friend? Sibling? Child?
- Tell me something about you that you think I might not know.
- "Don't judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes." What does that phrase mean to you?

• What three words would you use to describe our family?

• Play the game of "Choices." Ask questions with two choices such as "socks or no socks?," "zoo or aquarium?" "plane or train?," "vacation or staycation?"

Ages 14-100

• What was your favorite tradition when you were a child? Have you passed that down to future generations? Will you?

• Who at school do you feel most excited to see in the morning?

• What chore did you especially dislike when you were a child?

• What was the happiest day of your life so far?

• Tell me about the first time you fell in love.

• What makes you laugh?

One fun and effective idea is to write these conversation starters on notecards or small pieces of paper, and then place them in a basket in the center of your dinner table (i.e. you can find more like these at thefamilydinnerproject.org). Every night a different card is drawn from the basket, and then each person can take a turn providing their version of the answer. This activity is fun, educational and provides promotes communication among members of the family.

I hope you and your family will be able to carve out an hour or so from your busy days to prepare meals together, eat, converse, and connect as family. You know what they say-- "Dinner is better when we eat together!"

The scary side of single

By Mary Haley Thompson

This week we celebrated Halloween with haunted houses, thriller movies and scary costumes. Being single for two years has thickened my skin. It takes a lot more than a few ghosts to scare me after what I've been through.

Though I often write in celebration of being single, let's face it, it's not all glamorous. Join me for the first time as I surface the monsters of dating and the scary side of being single.

Meeting a Catfish: A "catfish" is someone who pretends to be someone they're not using the internet to create false identities, particularly to pursue deceptive online romances. You never know who is behind the screen of



Mary Haley Thompson

an online dating profile. To answer your question, yes I have been catfished; a night that will haunt me for the rest of my life!

Skeletons in the Closet:

When meeting someone new, we tend to dress in our best costume to make a good impression. We avoid conversations around bad habits or past relationships to ensure our stability. Enjoy this "honeymoon" phase while it lasts; it is only a matter of time before closet skeletons begin to appear.

Monsters under the Bed: Ever notice how monsters only come out when children are alone in their rooms? That's exactly what happens in our minds. Being alone forces us to sit with ourselves and our own neuroses. Companions help suppress the thoughts in our mind and protect us from dealing with them head-on.

The Ghost of Relationships' Past: It is nearly impossible to start dating again without comparing each person to your last boyfriend or girlfriend. Even if it was a toxic relationship, its friendly ghost will appear to remind you of only the good times you shared as a couple.

Haunted Houses: While you can certainly run from your last

relationship, you cannot hide from its constant reminders. A certain room in your house, outfit, TV show or shared pet will remind you of "that one time" or "the thing we always did as a couple", making it that much harder to move on.

Being single is scary, but what is even scarier is being in a bad relationship to avoid being alone. Enjoy the thrill of your single status and embrace the opportunity to better yourself.

Amazon best selling author, Sanjo Jendayi, explains, "Somewhere along the way people became afraid to be single. To be unmarried, separate from others and lost their individuality searching for it in society's view of relationships."

MUSINGS OF AN OLE BALL COACH

Hard work and practice are still essential for success

What is it with these premier world-class college receivers dropping so many passes of late? There has been a veritable spate a virtual plethora of these drops. Try Carolina for instance, a dozen in two games for reference.

How do you coach these athletic phenomena to catch a ball? They come out of the cradle knowing this skill. These guys run like cheetahs, leap like gazelles, and with long arms and big hands bolstered by gloves with a tacky surface that serves as super glue, are never at a disadvantage in snagging a spiraling Rawlings out of the end zone.

As a coach you give most



JIM FRASER

instructions on running routes and blocking. The bulk of instruction is the protocol for signing autographs and granting interviews. So how do you coach a God given ability? It would be as ludicrous as telling Enrico Caruso how to hit a high note, or teaching grace to Cyd Charisse (for you late bloomers, Miss Charisse would get teen testosterone bubbling as she danced effortlessly with the likes of Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly and Donald O'Connor). How

about this, a class on How to Sell Platinum CD's? And the teacher saying, "You Elton and you, Miss Swift, listen up, you don't know this material."

The late great William Floyd, who coached Jacket receivers for us for eons, had a philosophy on pass receiving that went something like this, "I'm gonna throw you a hundred balls a day and if you show me you can't catch them, I'll send you over to the linemen."

Tell Vincent Van Gogh he needs some help painting with colors, but don't tell Nuk Hopkins how to catch a pass. Tell Hemingway he needs work on sentence construction, but not Deebo Samuel on looking the

ball in.

So all of these musings lead us to a profound truth. That only hard work and steadfastness get you to the top, and those same ingredients keep you there. Nothing drives this home more efficiently than those like Thomas Edison who said, "Genius is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration."

Coach Pinky Babb must have adopted this mantra. As a fledgling head coach at Aiken and later as a seasoned and experienced one at Hanna, he dashed my dreams on many a gloomy October or November night. I might add I was only one of his 387 victims. So the conventional wisdom is that

Pinky would rest on his laurels, that he would stop his learning curve, right? Not so fast my young friend. On the contrary, Coach Babb was on the front row of every coach's clinic I attended, and I attended them all.

So it would appear that if the Carusos, Edisons, Jordans and all the greats we idolize must always hustle to stay on top, so must Deebo and that cadre of Carolina catchers. Happy musings.

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.

Thanksgiving: The most dangerous meal of the year

By Kim von Keller

Thanksgiving used to be my favorite holiday. There are no gifts to buy and no cards to send. The celebration lasts exactly one day. It starts with an awesome parade, moves into great football rivalries, and ends with a delicious family meal. Unfortunately, it is the meal that has become the problem. With so many people divided along cultural and political lines, dinner conversation has become a minefield. Any subject, no matter how benign, can turn "Today, I'm thankful" into "You'd better be thankful I didn't bring my baseball bat." (True story: A supper club that I belong to once got into a fight over infant baptism.) People have become so prickly that the only questions



Kim von Keller

I ever feel safe asking are, Would someone please pass the wine? Are we out of wine? Would someone please pass a length of rope?

This year, I'll be attending a Thanksgiving feast with 25 people who are Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, Christians, Jews, agnostics, Northerners, Southerners, and a couple of Californians. Five are attorneys, and two are comedy writers. I want to be prepared to guide the conversation along the least offensive path possible, so I've come up with a list of

topics and conversation starters that will keep everyone happy until the tryptophan kicks in and they're all asleep. Feel free to use my list at your own Thanksgiving table.

Tom Hanks

Everybody likes Tom Hanks. He's funny. He's modest. In TV's "Bosom Buddies," he played a man disguising himself as a woman to get a better apartment. In movies, he's portrayed famous people like "Sully" Sullenberger and Ben Bradlee, and next year, he'll appear on the big screen as – oh, this just gets better and better – Fred Rogers of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." Tom Hanks is truly the Captain's Wafer of celebrities, and Captain's Wafers are always the most popular cracker in the basket. Table talk: Who among us looks best in a dress? Which celebrity would you choose to portray you in your life story? What's your preference, Triscuits or Saltines?

"The Great British Baking Show"

"The Great British Baking Show" is the gold standard of all culinary competitions. It is watched by millions in the United States, and with good reason. First, the bakers compete in a tent, surrounded by sheep. Second, they are all are so nice! When 2016 season winner Candice Brown got married in September, all of her former rivals attended the ceremony

AND BROUGHT WEDDING CAKES! Third, it's 60 minutes of looking at dessert, which is everyone's favorite food group. Table talk: What's the most delicious wedding cake you've ever eaten? Which guest can affect the best British accent? What cut of brownie do you choose, a corner piece or an inside piece?

The State of Nebraska

The best thing about the State of Nebraska is that no one knows enough about it to argue. This total of my Nebraska knowledge is that a lot of corn grows there and Warren Buffet lives in Omaha. Fun fact: The 88-year-old billionaire has such a reputation as a junk-food junkie that he once told "Fortune" magazine, "I checked the actuarial tables, and the lowest death rate is among six-year-olds, so I decided to eat like a six-year-old." Table talk: What's your favorite popcorn flavor? What would you do with Warren Buffet's money? How many chicken nuggets can you eat in one sitting?

This Thanksgiving, I hope that the parade floats are magnificent, that your team wins the big game, and that there's enough pecan pie left for breakfast the next morning. And if you can't think of anything safe to say at the table, just keep smiling and eating. It's hard to talk with your mouth full.

Kim von Keller is a closed caption editor whose interests include literary fiction and global politics.

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Make a big change with wallpaper

By Amie Buice Speer

It's back! I guess it's been back for a while but as of late I see it everywhere, I have clients requesting it and I am blown away by the great options and endless resources. What, you may ask, am I referring to?

Wallpaper!

For many, wallpaper may seem like a risky design choice. The options can be daunting, it can be a bit of an investment and not as easy to change your mind on as a paint color. However, when done right, wallpaper can be the thing that not only makes a room but also makes it easier to design. For me, wallpaper is like a rug. It instantly gives you colors, patterns and textures to work around. It can in a subtle or bold way, direct the theme of the room.

Wallpaper can be used in so many ways. It can be a beautiful mural in a dining room, a large-scale animal motif in a kid's room, a lovely floral in a bathroom or a textured grasscloth in



Amie Speer

an office. Wallpaper can have a bright and bold pattern for high impact, or a subtle pattern that in an understated way pulls the entire room together. When wallpaper is thoughtfully chosen with the client's taste in mind it can be a special part of the home that adds warmth and character.

To show the wide range of wallpaper options available, I have selected 15 of my favorites in a neutral color way, pictured at right. These patterns come in many colors and as you can see, there is something for everyone!

If you feel inspired, give it a try. Wallpaper is a great way to make a big change.

If you are interested in any of these wallpapers, contact Amie for details.

For more info, visit Amiespeer.com or email amie@amiespeer.com.



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JUDGES, LAWYERS AND TEDDY BEARS

Judge Edgar H. Long, Jr., of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, is a seasoned and well-respected Family Court Judge.

He was admitted to the bar in 1981 and began his career as a family and general practicing attorney in private practice. In 2009 he was elected by the General Assembly of South Carolina to fill the unexpired term of the Honorable Barry W. Knobel. Since that date Judge Long has gained respect with the local bar and statewide as a fair and impartial, but sometimes stern, family court judge.

Judge Long is known for his ability to handle complex legal matters, as recently seen in his hearing for Jesse Osborne to determine if he should be tried as an adult.

As tough as he may be, Judge Long also has a soft-hearted side. This began several years ago when he realized there



Judge Edgar H. Long, Jr., center, presents a teddy bear and enjoys a special moment in the adoption of an 18-month-old child with his new family.

were children, especially DSS children, who were being adopted without any fanfare or celebration. Judge Long begins a ceremony at each adoption hearing to celebrate the adoption of a child by a new family — whether it be through DSS or a private adoption —

with these words: "I want to welcome you, and thank you for the opportunity to be part of this joyous occasion. I realize this is a special day for you, and it's a special day for me as well, this opportunity to create a new family."

Following the hearings,

Judge Long joins the family for pictures and presents the child with a teddy bear, saying "I want you to keep this to remember this special day for the rest of your life."

He had been doing this for some time when it came to the attention of the Anderson County Bar President Tom Dunaway and the Vice Chairman Leslie McIntosh. They quickly took up the cause and began providing the funds for the purchase of teddy bears. Teddy bears are awarded to 100-150 children each year in Anderson County. This idea was so popular that the Anderson County Bar presented this program to the entire South Carolina Bar Association presidents at their recent meeting in Columbia. Dunaway and McIntosh have written to each of the State Family Court Judges and their respective bar association presidents

and urged them to adopt the *Judges, Lawyers and Teddy Bears* program for their family court. Richland County already does that with puppy dogs. There has been a significant amount of interest in each of the bar associations.

Congratulations are due to Judge Long for his significant contribution to the adoption of children, as well as his bright and humanitarian practice of helping to make this a most special moment in the lives of children and their new parents.

Hopefully the *Judges, Lawyers and Teddy Bears* program will be adopted by each bar association in South Carolina, making sure the thousands of children who are adopted each year are presented with teddy bears and the moment is recognized as and that fanfare is consistent with the occasion of being adopted.

It is so ordered!

WHERE'S THE E?



John and Ann Gates and Steve and Susan Moon take The Electric City News with them on a trip to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

Pat Savas is seen at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle — the chapel where Prince Harry and Megan Markle were married. "When we toured the interior of the chapel I discovered King Henry VIII and one of his wives, Jane Seymour, are buried near the front of the altar with a slate type slab over their graves and their names appear to be brass markers embedded into the stone," Pat said.



VIEW FROM THE STANDS

By Dan Lacobie

Show of hands, how many fans can believe football season is half way through the season? I, for one, had to look at the calendar just to believe it.

Of course, we have to look at the college level first and foremost. As of October 28, Alabama holds on to the top spot at #1 with LSU looming for their next game. LSU is at the #4 position in the latest AP poll. #2 Clemson faces The Louisville Cardinals in their next contest after defeating Florida State 59-10 in an away game. Clemson came out strong and finished that way with freshman phenom Trevor Lawrence leading the way. Lawrence set a new Clemson record for passing touchdowns for a freshman in this game.

The University of Georgia played a very good Florida Gator team on Saturday, Oct. 27 ranked #9 at game time. Georgia ranked #7 at kickoff, started off a little slow but the running game was really pushing Florida's defense down the field. After picking up as the game rolled on, The Bulldogs finished off the Gators 36 - 17 for a good conference and division win.



Dan Lacobie

The Bulldogs are now #6 in the most recent AP poll. Georgia faces The Kentucky Wildcats next in Lexington in a game that will decide the SEC east division.

The University of South Carolina saw The Tennessee Volunteers roll into Columbia on Saturday, Oct. 27 in a divisional conference game. The Gamecocks have taken out Tennessee the last couple of years and had high hopes of doing the same this season.

Quarterback Jake Bentley led a rally that had South Carolina down by 12 points to a comeback victory over the Vols by a score of 27-24. The Gamecocks will visit Oxford Mississippi for their next contest on Saturday, Nov. 3 versus Ole Miss for an SEC East versus West game. After which, USC will visit #13 Florida in a divisional conference game.

Meanwhile, in the NFL, The Carolina Panthers are 5-2 this season and have won their last two games. They defeated the Super Bowl champions Philadelphia

Eagles in October and this past Sunday beat the Baltimore Ravens 36-21. The Atlanta Falcons aren't doing as well this season and are 3-4 overall; two games behind the Panthers who are 1 game behind the New Orleans Saints in the division.

For baseball, The World Series sees The Boston Red Sox taking on the Los Angeles Dodgers. In the first two games, played in Boston, it was mighty chilly as the teams took the field. After two games, Boston had a 2 game lead as they headed for Los Angeles for the next two. (For those that do not know the World Series is a best 4 out of 7 games.)

After taking game 3 in Los Angeles, the Dodgers lost game 4 by a score of 9-6, giving the Red Sox a series lead of 3 games to 1. In game 5 last Sunday evening, the Red Sox took an early lead in the first inning on a 2 run shot by former Gamecock Steve Pearce, who was also the series MVP. Pearce led a hungry Red Sox team with another homerun later in the game to seal the win and the World Series title for The Boston Red Sox.

Church to say goodbye to children from Haiti

Please join Carpenter's Church and Love Him Love Them Ministry for a goodbye celebration for the children's choir as they return to Haiti. After being here since the end of June, the children will go back to Haiti to attend school.

The church wants to make sure they go home with a bang. There will be a performance by the choir and a celebration afterwards in the church hall with refreshments so attendees can say goodbye to the children.

The service will be held on Sunday, November 4th at 6 p.m.

Join the congregation so they can:

- All pray for their safe return
- All pray for them to grow and prosper in Jesus as they return



• All pray for them to continue to have the strength to spread the word and love of Jesus.

Carpenter's Church is located at 1610 Pearman Dairy Road in Anderson, SC 29625. For directions, call 864-716-9944.

For questions, or to book the choir for next year, please call Linda Gunter at 706-599-7525 or Lisa M. LaFleur at 508-4108-9318.

HOT HITS

The World of Juice

By Justin Tyme

I have never heard of a rapper being influenced by rock artists such as Sting and Billy Idol until now.

Jarad Higgins, known as Juice Wrld, was raised by his single mother. She was a very Christian lady and forbid Juice from listening to hip hop and rap music. His musical influences were heard on Playstation games such as Tony Hawk and Guitar Hero.



Justin Tyme

By the age of 10, he knew how to play piano, drums, and named himself after watching his idol Tupac in the motion

picture "Juice." While his mother did her best to keep him from listening to hip hop, his cousin who would play it for him at sleepovers and family functions.

After uploading tracks recorded on his cell phone to Soundcloud while in high school, Jarad finally was discovered a few years later. Interscope took a chance on the 20 year old and his first single "Lucid Dreams" ran up the Billboard Hot 100 making it all the way to #2. Higgins samples music from Sting in his hit "Lucid Dreams," and even Sting himself told TMZ what a huge talent Juice Wrld is, an honor that Jarad says he will never forget.

Justin Tyme can be heard on HOT 98-1 Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m.

ANNUAL WOOD CARVING COMPETITION

The Piedmont Woodcarvers Club proudly presents Sculptures and Designs in Wood, the 31st Annual Wood Carving Competition and Show (sponsored by WOODCRAFT, Greenville, SC) and the 2nd Annual Artist Craft Fair on November 17 & 18, at the Simpsonville Activity and Senior Center, 310 W. Curtis Street, Simpsonville, SC 29681. Show hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is \$2 (over 12), 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult. Craft Fair Hours are Saturday, 10-4, and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visit PiedmontWoodCarvers.com.

WHERE'S THE E?



"Little" George (George L. Sands, III.) at the helm of a pontoon boat on Lake Glenville, NC, with his recent issue of The Electric City News. The family said, "We had a great time on a recent family vacation in Highlands but made sure to pack our Electric City News! Thanks for the excellent job that you do with the paper."



Anne Harper Perry of Marietta, Georgia, took The Electric City News along with her to Norway this past summer. Anne is pictured in North Cape (Nordkapp), which is the northern most point in Europe. She said, "It's a beautiful location to see the magnificent views and enjoy the Midnight Sun."

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T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS



By Dan Lacobie

T.L. Hanna's yellow Jackets finished off the regular season a perfect 10-0 overall and 7 - 0 in conference play. The last 2 weeks have seen Hanna play Laurens in a 56-24 win and Woodmont High for a 41 - 7 win.

(All stats are based on 9 games, as the 10th game stats versus Woodmont were not posted as of press time.)

Through the 9 games this season, Hanna has put up 732 yards on 34 completions as a team and only 47 attempts for a completion percentage of .723. The Jackets had 21.5 yards per completion and 81.3 yards passing per game, 14 touchdowns and 0 interceptions.

While running the ball this year, Hanna amassed 2,728 yards on 347 carries. That is an average of 7.9 per carry or 303.1 yards per game and 38 touchdowns.

Hanna's receivers brought in 33 catches for 724 yards for an average of 21.9 per catch or 80.4 yards per game and 13 touchdowns.

Individually in passing, #1 Alex Meredith led the Jackets with 579 yards on 25 completions per 32 attempts for a completion percentage of .781 and 10 touchdowns. #14 Logan Milford added an additional 138 yards passing to the Jacket offense, completing 7 of 11 passes for a percentage of .636 with 2 touchdowns.

With a swarm of Yellow Jackets running the ball this season, #23 Isaiah Norris has led the way with 428 yards on 48 touches. an average of 8.9 yards per carry. #6 Zacch Pickens carried the ball 42 times for 401 yards, an average of 9.5 yards per carry. Also #9 Jay Lagroon toted the ball for 393 yards, and 31 touches gave him an average of 12.7 yards per carry, an excellent stat! Adding 333 rushing yards, #12 Erick Lopez carried the ball 42 times for an average of 7.9 yards per carry.

Catching passes from Hanna quarterbacks, Norris hauled in 366 yards on 12 catches and Lagroon had 145 yards on 8 catches.

Defensively, the very versatile Pickens, who had Gamecock head coach Will Muschamp at the last game observing his recruit, has a team leading 52 of the 461 total team tackles through 9 games. With 49 tackles #44 Cameron Chandler is right behind Pickens and #22 Jaydon McKinney has 43 tackles. As a team the Jackets sacked the quarterback a total of 16 times this year, led by Chandler.

Hanna moves on to the AAAAA playoffs on Friday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m., hosting the Spartanburg Vikings.



WESTSIDE RAMS



By Dan Lacobie

After a slow start to the year, the Rams finished the regular season winning 4 out of 5 games. Overall Westside was 5-5 with a region record of 5 wins and 2 losses.

Team totals saw the Rams with 3,695 total yards of offense. Breaking that down to 1,889 yards worth of passing, averaging 188.9 yards per game scoring 18 touchdowns by air.

Running the ball, Westside has 1,806 yards as a team and averaging 180.6 yards per game on the ground they added 21 touchdowns. The Rams only had 9 turnovers and allowed 8 sacks.

#17 Elijah Harper has led the Rams for the most part this season with 54 completions on 127 attempts for a grand total of 1,093 yards and 10 touchdowns in only 8 games played. Harper has a 42.52% completion percentage completing 8.61 yards per attempt. Harper isn't alone with #2 Shedrick Smith adding 667 yards on 48 completions himself. Smith carries a 47% completion percentage and 6 touchdowns.

#23 Paul Johnson has rushed for 503 on 101 carries and the always reliable Johnson is also a very versatile receiver. Johnson has 275 yards on 24 catches which averages out to 11.46 yards per catch and 2 touchdowns.

#2 Shedrick Smith is second in the rushing department with 490 yards on 72 carries averaging 6.81 per carry. A host of other Rams have carried the ball adding 191 yards to the teams overall rushing total.

Catching the ball from Westside's quarterbacks, #1 Traye Carson has caught 36 balls for a total of 704 yards and 7 touchdowns. After Johnson, Smith has caught 11 tosses for 261 yards of his own.

The defensive side of the ball looks like Westside as a team with 84 tackles led by #45 Ty Danzy with 11 solo tackles, 1 sack and 4 tackles for loss. #12 Kiante Miller and #44 Tucker Gray have 10 tackles each. Interception totals are led by a host of Rams with 1 each.

Westside has a tough game to open the playoffs and will be traveling to Byrnes High School on November 9. But with Coach Scott Earley showing his team the way, it should be a great contest.