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July 31-August 13, 2025

HERE FISHY FISHY – THE WINNERS!



Congratulations to the winners of our Fishy Fishy contest. We received so many adorable photos of kids and adults from all over. It was a tough call. Thanks to everyone who entered. We enjoyed looking at every single one.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

SILAS GLENN - OVERALL WINNER
 Silas is 14 years old and caught this snook in Jupiter, Florida.
 Silas is the son of Joey & Amy Trammell Glenn.



ASHLYN GILBERT - 1ST RUNNER UP
 Ashlyn was 5 years old when this was taken in Lexington, SC.
 Ashlyn is the daughter of Kyle and Riley Gilbert and Ashley Fields.



TAB BATES - 2ND RUNNER UP
 Tab and his son, Parker, reeled in a beautiful rainbow trout on the Chattooga River.

Thanks again to everyone who entered. Keep those rods in the water for future contests.



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Memories of Radford's Toxaway teams

BY JACKY NEWTON

As time goes on memories begin to fade, but some stay with you a lifetime.

Someone posted a few pictures of the beautiful, revamped Linley Park in my hometown of Anderson, SC. Seeing those pictures brought back some amazing memories of playing Little League at Embler Field located in that park.

When I was 12 years old, Cecil Radford became the coach of Toxaway, my little league team. We practiced on an old, rock-filled ball diamond located near Toxaway Textile Mill.

Coach Radford approached me on my first day of practice and asked, "Can you pitch or catch?" Although I had played little league for two years, I had never pitched or caught.

He also asked a good friend of mine, Aaron Crowe, the same questions. Neither of us dreamed how that season would turn out.

Coach Radford would pile 6-8 of us boys in his Volkswagen Bug and haul us to practice every afternoon after he got off work. He took a group of ragamuffin boys in the summer of '67 and made us champions. I would pitch and Aaron would catch, then vice versa. If we needed relief, Buck Hall, our 3rd baseman, would take our place.



This team finished the year 23-0 under Coach Radford's leadership. I can still hear him shouting, "Throw it down the goozle Jackeeeee."

In those days we had two divisions in Anderson for 12 & Under—the American League and the National League.

In midsummer of '67 the AL Champions, "Jaycees," coached by Annie Claire Tribble; and the NL Champions, "Toxaway," were scheduled to play for the City Championship. Both teams were undefeated as we came together at Embler Field to play the best 2 of 3 series.

It seems the entire city turned out to watch. Cars were lined up and down every street that surrounded Embler Field. It was estimated that over 500 people lined the stands, hill and wall that surrounded Embler Field to watch us play.

The games were close, but "Toxaway" won both games and we kept our perfect record. Coach Radford was the perfect coach for young boys. He seldom raised his voice, but instead found the right words to encourage his players.

Most of that "Toxaway Team" went on to play for T.L. Hanna High including Aaron, Buck, Van Cawthon, Keith Radford, myself and a few others. Cecil Radford was the epitome of an amazing human being as well as a great Coach. I'm grateful for the time I spent under him, learning about life and baseball.

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Pictured: Countybank Board of Directors. Front row, from left: Julian J. Nexsen, Jr., R. Thornwell Dunlap, III (Chairman/CEO), R. Thornwell “Wells” Dunlap, V (President), and David C. King. Back row, from left: W. Wesley McMullan, William B. Patrick, Jr. (Director Emeritus & Corporate Counsel), Megha S. Lal, John H. Stroud, and George W. Ballentine, Jr. Not pictured: Stephen L. Davis

Wells Dunlap elected President of Countybank by Board of Directors

Thursday, July 17, 2025 - Countybank Board of Directors announced the appointment of R. Thornwell “Wells” Dunlap, V as the new President of Countybank on Thursday, July 17.

Dunlap was also elected to the Board of Directors for both Countybank and TCB Corporation, the bank’s holding company.

Dunlap’s father, R. Thornwell Dunlap, III, previously served as President of Countybank since his appointment in 1995. At present, Dunlap, III will continue to serve as CEO and Board Chairman for Countybank and as President, CEO and Board Chairman for TCB Corporation. As Countybank President, Wells Dunlap will oversee the bank’s senior leadership team and financial performance, overall operations, and business development.

“Wells embodies Countybank’s mission of service and our core value of Putting People First,” said R. Thornwell Dunlap, III. “He is well-equipped to lead as President as we look to serve the next generation of customers throughout the Upstate.”

Wells Dunlap graduated from Presbyterian College in 2008 and after a career in economic development in Anderson County, joined Countybank in 2013 as a Credit Administration Officer. In 2017, Dunlap graduated from the South Carolina Bankers School, and in 2022 he graduated from the LSU Graduate School of Banking. After working in Credit Administration and earning an officer title of Vice President, Dunlap was promoted to Commercial Banking Officer, primarily serving the Greenville

community. In 2022, he was appointed Senior Vice President by Countybank Board of Directors, was promoted to Senior Operations Officer, and joined the bank’s senior leadership team. Since 2022 he has overseen Countybank’s retail banking, digital banking, marketing, customer service, and deposit operations.

“I’m honored to step into this new role,” said Wells Dunlap. “I’ve always believed that people are at the heart of our business model and even as we innovate our digital technology, it’s a people-first approach that will continue to set our business apart.”

In 2024, Dunlap was named South Carolina’s Outstanding Young Banker, the highest honor presented in South Carolina’s banking industry. In June, Dunlap was elected to serve on the Board

of Directors for the South Carolina Banker’s Association. Dunlap is actively involved in numerous community-focused organizations throughout the Upstate.

Countybank was founded in Greenwood in 1933 and, under the leadership of Thornwell Dunlap, III, the bank expanded into Anderson, Greenville, Greer, and Simpsonville. Under Thornwell Dunlap, III, the bank also diversified its offerings, providing mortgage, trust, insurance, and investments services for customers throughout the Upstate in addition to personal and business banking. Founded amidst the Great Depression, Countybank’s 92-year history has been marked by a commitment to personalized service for its customers and giving back charitably to the local community.

SUMMERTIME BLUES

Remember back a few months ago when you couldn't wait for Summer? You had thoughts of floating in a cool pool with a cold drink as the sun warmed and toasted your skin and soul. You looked forward to outdoor barbecues, picnics, and sunlight till 9 p.m.

Look at you now. The pool is 95 degrees, the heat index is 115. The leaves of your tomato plants are curling and yellowing, but you don't dare step out to water them and risk being nuked and melted by the sun, consumed alive by bloodthirsty mosquitoes, or inhaling hordes of tiny flies and gnats. You're

stuck inside with a straining A/C system that is set at 71 but only cools to 77 and sucks money from your wallet faster than a college freshman. It's too hot to cook, so you are left to survive on baloney sandwiches, cheese crackers, and Dr. Pepper. You're sluggish, slothful, and sweaty. Your brain is in a fog, and you feel like there is nothing to do; even opening the blinds to view the outside world makes your power bill skyrocket. You've got the Summertime Blues.

Well, have no fear, friends. The song may say there is no cure for the Summertime Blues, but I'm here to guide you through the last hot, bleak days of Summer.

Firstly, I'm not a Summertime Blues Psychologist, but I've always wanted to be one, and now is my chance to shine, so let's kick those Summertime Blues to the curb. This first tip may seem a little extreme, but trust me, it will lift your spirits and have you on your way to Summertime Bliss.



Neal Parnell



(If the kids are home, send them to grand-ma's. Now!)

GET NAKED! You heard me, take it off, take it all off, put a flower in your hair, dance, and spin around like it's the Summer of Love at Woodstock. Okay, I'm kidding, but doesn't thinking about it help you feel better? If you do decide to try it, please, "Do Not Send Thank You Photos."

Here's a tip that never fails to get you on the Happy Train. Singing. Take a deep breath, and at the top of your lungs belt out, "I'm Walking on Sunshine", or Mungo Jerry's In the Summertime,

when the weather is high, you can reach right up and touch the sky...Whatever it is, Do it now! Do it Loud!, and do it with some clothes on, because the neighbors are calling 9-1-1.

Maybe you just need a little action, something to break your routine and stir things up a bit. I amused myself and confused my wife with this one: Grab two or three paper towels and a wooden spoon. Find a pair of shoes she's likely to wear and use the spoon to jab and jam those paper towels into the toes of the shoes...Now sit back and wait for the fun. Tempers are short in the summer, so keep it safe and lighthearted. A little bubble-wrap under the toilet seat or bathmat is one of my favorite go-tos. Be ready for the comeback; I reached into a drawer to grab a pair of underwear, only to pull out 10 pairs that were zip-tied together in a chain of Hanes.

Look at you, you've taken the first steps to get you out of the hot doldrums, and you've practically cured The Summertime Blues. You can now feel cool and confident knowing that the last 52 days of Summer will be gone faster than the babysitter's boyfriend.





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Have you seen the Confederate gold?

BY RICH OTTER

Okay! It's time to come clean. Who stole the Confederate gold? We know you didn't—so there is nothing to lose by revealing the truth. You'd have to be way over 100 years old to have done the deed. If your family got it, it would be long gone, but you could make a fortune by writing the book.

The rumor has always been that local Anderson inhabitants snatched the gold, apparently arguing it happened while it sat in Anderson when Confederate President Jeff Davis was in Abbeville May 2, 1865, for his last meeting with his cabinet. It was known the gold had headed south when Richmond became uncomfortable as the Confederate States of America capital. Some of it was supposedly dispensed or hidden on the way here and it's assumed arrival may have had something to do with the Confederate treasury having been previously relocated to Anderson.

The Confederate Treasury had been yanked out of Richmond as Union Forces threatened, and relocated in Columbia until again imperiled. It was sent to Anderson where it was housed in the former Johnson University building (later to become the Patrick Military Institute). It consisted of printing presses and paper including printed Confederate currency that was rapidly becoming of dubious value. After the war it was said the bank notes were used as note paper by young girls.

But the name treasury excited the uninvited Union troops who visited Anderson. After ransacking the old Johnson University building and digging up its yard without success, the soldiers took it upon themselves to interrogate local citizens.

Louise Ayer Vandiver wrote of Daniel Brown having a rope from a tree limb drawn around his neck while sitting on a horse. There were threats of striking the horse to leave him dangling. He almost died while being questioned. Dr. A. P. Cater underwent such inter-

rogation while suspended by his thumbs and was left so hanging after failing to reveal the location of the supposed hoard.

Prominent citizens have long been thought to have been involved with the disappearance of the gold, helping to explain their financial success. Fingers have been pointed at almost anyone for whom a town street has been named.

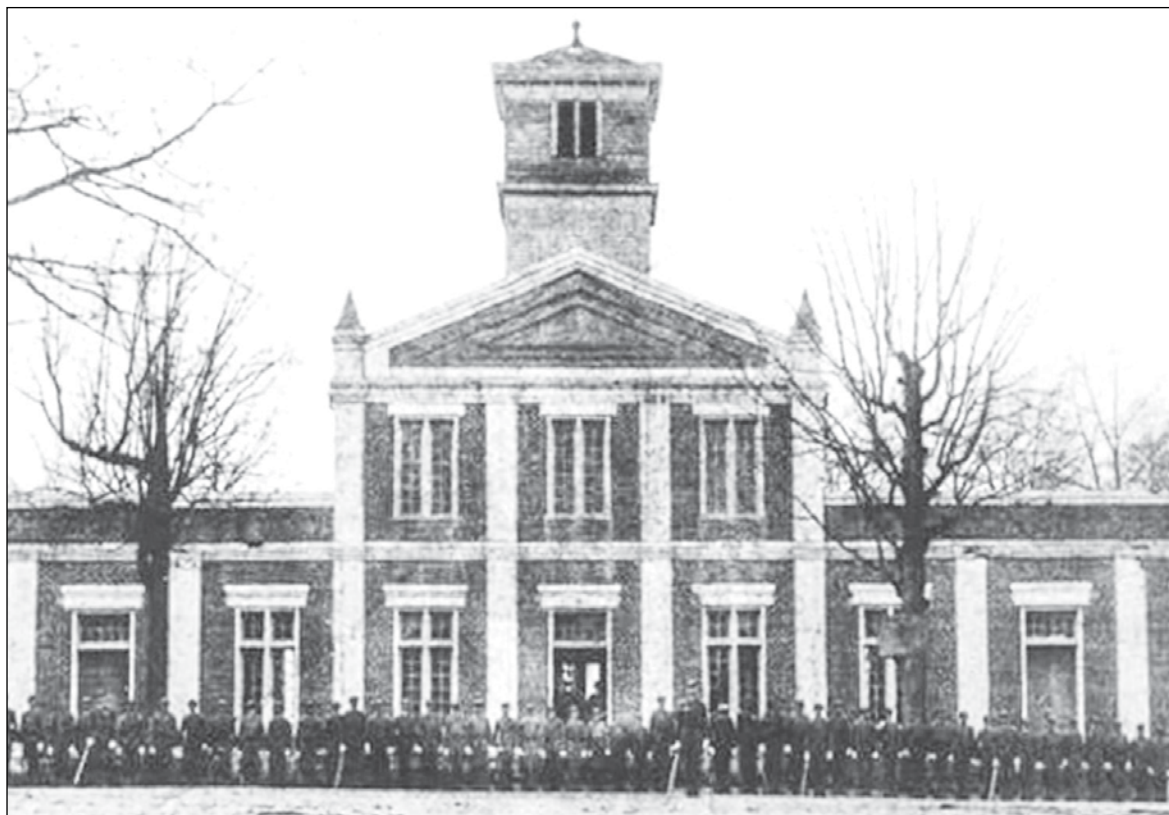
This has caused intensive investigations and also claims by old folks who in years past "saw" the gold in Anderson and "knew" where it had gone. There is substantial proof that a horde of booze was discovered in a downtown basement that was consumed by Yankee troops, but the gold was a commodity of a different color. In fact, there is claimed proof the gold never actually arrived in Anderson.

It is said that some of the gold was dispensed on its journey south to Confederate servicemen who were owed back-pay. One story says that by hook or crook it ended up on a train that took it to a place on the Great Lakes where it was being shipped to an unknown destination. The boat supposedly sank—probably from the weight of the gold.

Some was said to have been robbed (apparently, they couldn't carry off all of it) and some was found by the Federal government, reportedly having been recovered from those who had stolen part of it. Apparently, part of it may have traveled by wagon and part by train.

Probably the most convincing story was that the gold had been buried—somewhere. It would seem that with the number of people who would have been necessary to bury such a heavy load, someone would have come forth by now unless they were all wiped out by the Yankees.

There does not appear to be doubt there was Confederate gold and some Mexican silver (where did that silver come from?) that started on the southern trip. It was said the amount was worth over a half million dollars, a huge sum considering what that inflated value would



Confederate Treasury

be today. It is amazing such a sum could have just disappeared.

It may be that none of your Anderson neighbors were bene-

ficiaries of the booty. They likely have been successful in their own right, and not the crooks you have supposed.

In any event, it wouldn't hurt to keep an eye out for any suspicious digging you notice in your neighbor's backyard.

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FROM THE SHELF

On Christmas in July

I am admittedly writing this in July while fully knowing that it won't actually be published till it's just about August, but I'm jingling forward in the spirit of things. 'Christmas in July' as a concept is actually something I'm a bit of a Grinch about; I think it's peak money grabbing and just unnecessary (Scrooge gonna Scrooge). If you need a big mid-year sale, just call it a mid-year unicorn sale or some nonsense. All that said, this morning when I was trying to find a Santa hat for my partner because his work had a 'Christmas in July' thing, I had the realization that I've recently read a smattering of Christmas books (wrap me chagrined). So now I will "gift" my annoyance to you by heralding some Christmas romances.

Starting with our countdown of tinsel levels, is Everyone I Kissed Since You Got Famous by Mae Marvel. This is the lowest on

our holiday as "Christmas" itself is more in the background than the star on this romance tree. Katie Price is an A-list Hollywood star from Wisconsin who is so followed by paparazzi that she can barely go home for Christmas to see her family without upending everyone's lives. This year is different though, because she's also going to get to see Wil, her childhood best friend and greatest 'what-if' of her life. There's some Christmas parties and related things, but Christmas is more the catalyst for bringing the two back together for their second chance. It's very sweet.

Make the Season Bright by Ashley Herring Blake is a step up in the tinsel decora-



Sara Leady

tions—maybe we've added some booze to the eggnog, and there's definitely caroling. Make the Season Bright is another second chance romance, but like come on, Christmas magic! Christmas magic is the most magical of all the magics, so even though it's five years since Charlotte was left at the literal altar of their Christmas wedding, ex-fiancé Brighton manages to win her back. Herring Blake has been a favorite recent find of an author and this one is very fun. Charlotte hasn't told any of her bandmates about her ex or the disastrous non-wedding, so it's more than a lump of coal when she goes home for Christmas with a bandmate only to run into Brighton. They act like they don't know each other, even go so far as to take part in the town's ridiculous Christmas singles event. But Christmas magic and chemistry can't be denied with the tension on the bow holding these two together.

The final romance ghost for this 'Christmas in July' is The Nightmare Before Kissmas by Sara Raasch. In case it's not subtle enough based on the title, this one also includes Halloween. Raasch has gotten very fun with the 'enemies to lovers,' royals,

arranged marriages, and rival families tropes. Halloween is on the outs with all the other holidays, but they still send a delegation to the ball announcing the union of Prince Coal of Christmas and the Princess of Easter (a total unfair monopoly for the holidays). Too bad she's in love with his brother and the Halloween royal is frighteningly scrumptious. But Coal under pressure will surely turn to diamonds, of the engagement and romance kind of course.

While these are peak warm and fuzzy Hallmark Christmas vibes, perhaps the wintry settings will help cool you down in this heat wave. Then again, they are adult romances so maybe the thermostat is about to get turned up too. I ironically have another Christmas romance, The Christmas Tree Farm by Laurie Gilmore on the docket. It's part of a series of cozy, but spicy romances that have recently gained popularity. I loved book one, The Pumpkin Spice Cafe. It's like Hallmark and HBO had a late-night pumpkin spice latte baby, but of a very adult and spicy variety. Perhaps I am a sucker for 'Christmas in July,' just in book form and nothing else.

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END-OF-SUMMER BEACH CHIC

It's almost time for school to start back and I can't believe I'm actually saying that, but my family always squeezes in one last beach trip. We have been going to The Outer Banks for a few years now. We love it because it's private and exclusive and you literally have it all to yourself. The only downside is, if you're driving it's quite a haul, but we sort of turn it into a road trip and it makes it easier. We leave this Sunday so that means it's time to pack for almost a week's worth of beach wardrobe. Packing suitcases has become something that I'm starting to truly excel in. I used to be the world's worst over-packer and now I know that you don't need all of that stuff. You can be a minimalist.

I'm still the opposite of that word, but I'm learning how to mix and match different things and it's really fun and creative. I'm always my most visionary self with my wardrobe on trips and holidays. It's probably also the fact that I'm relaxed and I don't have a schedule. When going to the sea, I always bring the best staples and you can't go wrong. I bring several swimsuits and I even mix and match those up. Don't ever be afraid

to mix prints or patterns. A kimono robe is a must. You can wear it over your bathing suit or around your beach house. It's breezy and effortless and it feels good on the skin. Headscarves are always fun with an eclectic pair of sunglasses. It keeps the pieces of hair off of your face and protects your forehead from the sun. A straw cowboy hat is ideal. I have one that's actually an SPF hat that blocks out rays. There's nothing worse than being sun-burned on your beach



Kristine March

vacation. I like to wear light jewelry. Nothing too heavy because it's sticky and hot, but I still like to look put together. So, I will stack a few necklaces that are easy to wear. I love a pair of rubber Birkenstocks for the beach because they can get wet and sandy and it comes right off and you don't track it inside. I like gold or silver or a metallic color just to be original. My beach makeup is usually just a little bit of concealer, contour, bronzer and a pretty

peachy shade of blush. I usually don't wear eye makeup because of course it will just smear everywhere, but I have to have those items on my face at least and lip gloss is a must.

If you know me at all, I carry at least 10 different colors of lipstick or gloss in my purse at all times. I promise I'm trying to be minimalistic here, but I've been this way since high school. I like to wear cosmetics on my face because I feel like it protects me from the sun. Of course, I wear sunscreen, but I still like to get a little bit of color so I always have some kind of glow oil that's safe and smells tropical. I also love these little Turkish towels. I find them so much more lightweight than a heavy beach towel. They're sand resistant and you can just wrap it around you. Being by the ocean is all about feeling free and lightweight.

Last on my list is hydration. I love coconut water and of course a nice cocktail. A coconut Margarita or Pina colada is pure bliss to me. Pair that was some groovy tunes on a water-proof speaker and you are good to go. Where do you like to go to the beach and what do you wear? Remember to make the shore your runway and live it up at the beach, y'all.

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TL Hanna inducts five into Hall of Fame

The T. L. Hanna High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is happy to announce the 2025 inductees to the school's prestigious group of players, coaches, and others who have made great contributions to its athletic program over the years. The TLH Athletic Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony will be held at Hanna on September 26, 2025, the same night as the TLH vs. Mauldin football game. The following former athletes will be inducted:

PHILLIP MOLLIKA (GOLF, 2001-2005)

Phillip was an outstanding golfer at T. L. Hanna. He was a member of the Varsity team from his 7th grade year to his Senior year in 2005. During his tenure at TLH, he achieved four national rankings. In 2003, he was ranked the #1 Junior and received the Jay Haas Player of the Year Award as the highest ranked junior in the state of South Carolina. He received a golf scholarship to Clemson University in 2005. During his college career he won the North-South Amateur in 2007 and was a two-time winner of the Monroe Invitational. In 2008, he was named to the Ping-All Region Team. Phillip was a three-time U.S. Amateur participant and was a quarterfinalist in 2009.



RICHARD MCCONNELL (1986-1989)

Richard was T. L. Hanna's first 5-year letterman in soccer and was named to the All-Conference and All-Region/State teams in 1988 and 1989. Additionally, he was the first player selected for the North/South All Star game in 1989. He finished his high school career with #26 goals and #21 assists and named "Best Offensive Player" in 1989. He ranked 5th all time in goals and assists in the 35-year program. Richard signed with Division #1, College of Charleston, in 1989

and played for famed college coach Ralph Lundy. He is the first Anderson native to sign a professional soccer contract in 1995 and played for Chattanooga FC in the USISL Professional League. He has coached for the YMCA, CESA, CASA, and is currently the TLH JV soccer coach.



He has US Soccer National Coaching credentials as well.

AMY CRAFT WHITNEY (1994-1998)

In 1998, Amy earned both the South Carolina AAAA Player of the Year and Region 1 AAAA Player of the Year honors in softball. During her high school career, she was named All-State twice and All-Conference three times. She played as both a pitcher and catcher and was a switch hitter, batting third in the line up with a .372 batting average and a .476 on-base percentage. In her senior year alone, Amy had an impressive pitching record of 18 wins and 4 losses. She pitched T. L. Hanna to the State Class AAAA semifinals, striking out 105 batters and allowing just nine walks in 135 innings. Hanna High School posted a 24-6 record during her career—a mark that



still stands as a school record. Amy continued her softball journey at the collegiate level, earning a full athletic scholarship to pitch for Emmanuel College.

RILEY LOVORN YOUNG (2010-2014)

Riley was an outstanding golfer for TLH. During her career she was four-time All-



Region selection, four-time All-State honoree, and a six-time Varsity Letter Winner. She was a two-time Region Tournament champion. From 2010-2013, she placed in the top ten in each year's SC state tournament. In 2013, she was

a North/South All-Star. She holds Hanna records in the nine-hole low score (33), the nine-hole average score (36.1), and 18-hole low score (69). She won the 2013 SC Junior Golf Tradition Four-Ball Championship, the 2011 Hurricane Junior Golf Upstate Classic, the 2013 PKB Palmetto Classic, was runner-up at the 2013 Blade Junior Tournament, third-place at the 2013 Beth Daniel Junior Azalea Tournament, and attended Clemson on a golf scholarship. She finished her career at Anderson University.

CHRISTI KILLEN GRAY (1983-1986)

Christi ran Cross Country and Track for Hanna. She has five varsity letters in both sports. In track in 1983, she was Rookie of the Year for the TLH Track Team, won third place in the AAA State Track meet, and was selected as a member of the Western AAA Region Champion Team. In 1984, she won the Region Championship in the 3200-Meter run; set the record in the Two-Mile run; selected as a member of the school-record Distance Medley Relay Team at the Trojan Relays; placed fifth in the 1600-Meter Run; and placed fifth in the 3200-Meter Run in the AAA State Meet. In 1985, she was the

State Champion in the 3200-Meter Run in the AAA State Meet; named All-State Track in the 3200-Meter Run; and was selected as Team MVP for Track and Field. In 1986, she



was Region Champion in Western AAA in the 800-Meter Run; second place in Western AAA 1600-Meter Run; third place in the AAA State Meet 1600-Meter Run; fourth place in the AAA State Meet in the 800-Meter Run; named Team MVP for

Girls' Track and Field; and member of the team that won the Western AAA Region Championship. She also excelled in Cross Country from 1982-1985. She set a school record in CC in a 5K meet that stood for 11 years until 1994 and holds the all-time sixth fastest 5K CC time for a Hanna runner.

"We honor these Hanna athletes and coach for their great accomplishments and the recognition and pride they have brought to the school. They continue to serve as role models for hard work, perseverance, and pride for their Alma Mater," states Chairman Dr. Sheila Finley Hilton. The T. L. Hanna Athletic Hall of Fame committee consists of the following members: Chuck Allen, Tommy Bell (Athletic Director), Anthony Galloway, Derek Hamby, Glendale Hill, Dr. Sheila Hilton (Chair), Terry Honeycutt, Brantley Isom, Wayne Jones, Walter Mayfield (Principal), and Chuck Parker. Nomination forms can be found on the Hanna website at <https://tlhannasports.com>.



Back-to-school shopping signals summer's end

For parents with kids in grades K-12, August 1-3 is one of the most important weekends in the 2025-2026 academic calendar: the last weekend for back-to-school shopping before Anderson County public schools open their doors to students on Tuesday, August 5.



Kim von Keller

It's a time-honored tradition. According to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American history, parents in the 1800s would have been searching for slates, slate pencils, and quill pens for their children. But in 2025, parents are more likely searching for Chrome Books, not hornbooks, as small electronics are considered everyday items in American schools.

One thing that hasn't changed is the excitement that kids often feel as they prepare for a new school year. Do they want the same things their parents wanted? Sometimes yes, and sometimes no. To understand how back-to-school shopping trends have changed over the years - and through the generations - I spoke to several children, their parents, and their grandparents about their back-to-school shopping experiences.

Harper McNeely is a rising seventh grader. "I'm excited about new clothes for school, but right now, my friends and I really like using glue guns and ribbons and bows to decorate our notebooks and stuff. We love using highlighters that are really brightly colored. I'm also looking forward to getting a new backpack. These days, everybody loves the North Face ones."

Harper's grandmother, Kim Holmes, remembers her school shopping trips.

"When we went shopping for school clothes, we got new everything, even down to socks and underwear. I was always excited to get new notebooks and binders. Trapper Keepers were the binders that everyone wanted."

Hannah Womack's son, Mason, will be starting fifth grade this year.

"Mason is so excited to get his supplies for his last year of elementary school," Hannah says. "His favorite part is picking out what style of items he wants. He loves to make his own decisions and choose what he will be using for the rest of the year."

"When I was growing up, I would ask my mom to take me back-to-school shopping halfway through the summer! There was no feeling like it. I wanted everything colorful, big binders, glittery pencils, stickers to put on everything, and fun erasers. Anything that

matched my personality, I grabbed!"

Gina Polanco has two children in elementary school, daughter Isabel and son TJ.

"They love to shop for whatever they're into," Gina says, "and this year, it's capybaras and Minecraft! Isabel loves back-to-school shopping at Target. She looks forward to the notebooks with the character pens, cute highlighters, Squishmallow pens, and scented erasers with fruit inside. She says that school shopping makes her feel more excited to go back to school in August. As for TJ, when I asked why he likes back-to-school shopping, he said, 'I don't!' He's not looking forward to going back to school."

"When I was a child, I enjoyed picking out a few new outfits, but as a child, I never got all the cute and glittery new things; it was all about practicality and affordability. As an adult, I enjoy the excitement that my children get from going back-to-school shopping. I love to see the look on their faces as they see things that excite them, even if it's just a composition notebook. They even go home and create their own Target store on the kitchen table so that they can go back-to-school shopping again."

Anita Tores has two boys, Calam Vanfossen, who's starting third grade, and Clay Vanhossen, who's starting fifth grade. Their back-to-school shopping lists are definitely different from their mom's childhood list.

"Where do I even start?" Anita asks. "I wanted and was so excited for all things school-supplies related. I would be so excited to pick out different character folders, pencils,

and notebooks; there was not a thing I wasn't excited to get. This is a big difference from Clay. He wants everything in all black, and if it's not Roblox, he doesn't want anything to do with it. For Calam, it's all about school clothes: He's most excited about button-up Hawaiian shirts."

Perhaps the biggest difference between the generations is that in South Carolina today, the first weekend in August is a tax-free weekend. For more information on applicable items, visit the South Carolina Department of Revenue's website, dor.sc.gov/taxfreeweekend.

end. But for all the discounts available, the most important thing that kids can take to their first day of school is absolutely free: kindness.

"The day before I started middle school, I was excited, but I was nervous at the same time," says Harper. "I thought it was going to be really hard, but it's not as hard as everyone says it is. Since this is my second year in middle school, what I'm looking forward to most is meeting the new sixth graders and encouraging them and letting them know that middle school can be really fun!"

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THE GARDEN SHOP

Surviving the sizzle



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I've never been zealous about housecleaning. There have been cleaning ladies over the years, but for various reasons, it's on me again. I've cleaned out, gotten rid of stuff, re-organized, re-arranged, washed base boards, polished furniture and doors, discovered that Orange Glo will work miracles on sun faded furniture, and the windows need washing but there's a limit to my heat induced crazy. One night last week, rain woke me up. Hallelujah! I don't remember when it has rained. A few evenings looked like it was "coming up a cloud" as Grandmother Crittendon would say, but no rain.

A day or two after the rain, heat and humidity broke (the thermometer on the woodshed only

registered 90). I finally got to spend some time working in the front garden. For weeks, time in the garden has been strolls on early weekend mornings, and rare, brief evening strolls, weeding some of the worst ones along the way. A simple pleasure is seeing things enjoying the garden – butterflies, dragon flies, damsel flies, gold finches, other birds, hummingbirds, and pollinators I don't have a clue on what they are. A herd of deer come into the yard every day. Two bucks, one little fawn, two bigger fawns, and lots of does, usually 13 in the herd. If I ever win the lottery, I'll fence in the front garden. It can be interesting to watch them. The fawns are corrected with a swift kick now and then. Some will stomp or lunge as others get too close. I wonder if it's a guarding of the food thing. Since I started spraying Bobbex, I can live with what they eat in the garden and mostly they're eating grass. Fence is put around shrubs they love, and the rest is an "Oh well". Armadillos are a much bigger concern, but thus far they are in the woods. Now and then, some are seen on the camera near the garden shop area,



Caught with a mouth full of Crinum

but they haven't come into the flower garden. That would be terrible. Then there's that wild hog caught on camera near the creek.

Most plants are holding their own. Confederate azaleas, planted last winter, get watered when they droop. Bridal veil weeping Japanese apricot (*Prunus mume* 'Bridal Veil') planted in February is getting watered. Another one is in a pot. I didn't dare put them both in the ground in February, thinking this summer may do what it has done. It seems one of the new rattlesnake master perennials has died. Maybe it will put back out. I got watered too. Since they both are planted in the wrong place, I may pull the dying one up, put it in a pot, see if it will recover.

Cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), a favorite, is making a comeback since spraying Bobbex. Websites say it's deer resistant - not in my

garden. About eight feet tall, its yellow blooms stand above others. Butterflies love it. When it goes to seed, birds enjoy it also. Bronze fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) is very tall this year. It seeds around the garden but that's ok. Deer have been eating its flowers for the first time. In this case, there is enough to go around. Beneficial insects love the flowers too. It can be a host for swallowtail butterflies, but I haven't seen any caterpillars on it this year. On a morning stroll, a black swallowtail had just hatched. I noticed the butterfly just hanging there on a bog salvia stem and thought something was wrong with it. On closer inspection, the chrysalis was inches away. I watched as it slowly prepared to fly away.

The roseglow flowering apricot tree in the front garden looks bad, and I'm concerned. Its winter blooms smell wonderful. Losing leaves during very hot weather is not unusual. However, when walking across the pasture one evening, I noticed the sunny side of the tree looks dead. Branches grow low so I can pick them when blooming. The ones I checked are dead. If all those dead looking branches are indeed dead, that's about half the tree. Nothing much can be done now, but hopefully winter will bring some good news.

THE TEACHER

"That's when I realized, maybe I'll never change the world, but I can be a friend. I could show her I didn't care about her grades as much as I cared about her."

MAY 9, 2019

She is older. Past retirement age. She stands in the Walmart checkout lane with a full cart. In her basket: Kleenex, paper towels, notebooks, number-two pencils, Scotch tape, staples. The works.



Sean Dietrich

She teaches ninth grade. And she's been doing this for thirty years.

That's three decades of lesson plans, spitballs, my-Labrador-ate-my-homeworks, senior pranks, and pep-rallies. She is a living saint.

"When I was young," she says. "Had this idea I was going to be a wonderful teacher and change the world."

Her first year of teaching nearly killed her.

Ninth-graders are their own breed of domestic skunk. The children drained her youth and drove her toward a nervous breakdown.

"Almost gave up," she says. "I actually wrote a letter of resignation after my first year. It was that bad."

It was that bad. But she didn't quit.

There was a girl in her class. The girl's mother had died. She had no father. She was living with relatives.

The girl was quiet. Sad. She didn't try in class. She had no friends. She was a D-student, a poor reader, and a lost child.

"I knew she needed me. So I told myself, 'I'm gonna win this girl over if it's the last thing I do.'"

She worked with the child after school hours. She ordered pizza delivery while they studied. She introduced the girl to the simple pleasures of Nancy Drew, and helped her with math homework.

She listened. Sometimes all she did was listen.

"That's when I realized, maybe I'll never change the world, but I can be a friend. I could show her I didn't care about her grades as much as I cared about her."

The girl's grades improved. In fact, that year she made A's in every subject. Her disposition got sweeter, too.

Her life was on the upswing. She dated her first boyfriend. She joined school clubs. She

played in band.

And on the last day of class, the girl was sitting outside her teacher's classroom, crying.

The girl told her, "I don't wanna leave your class. I don't wanna lose you like I lost my mom."

So, they kept meeting every day after school. Through tenth grade. Eleventh. Twelfth. The girl traded her Nancy Drew novels for fatter books with big words. The math problems got harder.

So did her brain muscles.

"We got her a scholarship," said the venerable teacher. "Lemme tell ya, it was a big day when that happened. I locked myself in my room and cried."

That was a lifetime ago. They still talk, but not as much.

Today, the girl is a married woman, a business owner, and she has a family. Her old teacher might be up in age, but she's still as proud as she was decades ago.

"It's bittersweet with kids," the teacher goes on. "But that's how it goes. I'm in their lives for a season. All I can do is love them."

"They don't realize, once I love them, it's forever, even after they leave and forget me."

Thus, another school year closes. And she's been in her classroom, doing what she set out to do a long time ago.

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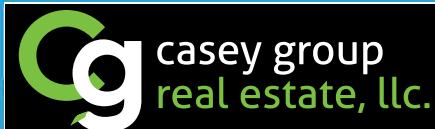
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A TIDE OF KNOWLEDGE

You're at the beach. You're stretched out on a towel or in a low chair at a safe distance from the water line, and you doze off. Next thing you know – you're awakened rather suddenly by cold water washing over your sandy body. What has happened? The tide has come in.

We have a vague knowledge about the tides, and that the moon has something to do with causing them. But how? While the earth exerts gravity on the moon, keeping it in orbit around us, the moon also exerts gravity on the earth – not enough to pull the entire earth toward it, but strong enough to tug on the waters around our planet.

(Actually, every object on the earth exerts a gravitational attraction – it's just that very few objects are large enough to create any force. In earth science class, I used to tell my eighth graders that they were all attracted to each other, and they always answered "Ewwhh!")

So, since the earth is constantly turning, the tidal level at the shore is constantly changing. And when the moon is overhead, wherever that may be, a high tide occurs. Look up, and you'll actually see the moon at that high tide.



Ann K. Bailes

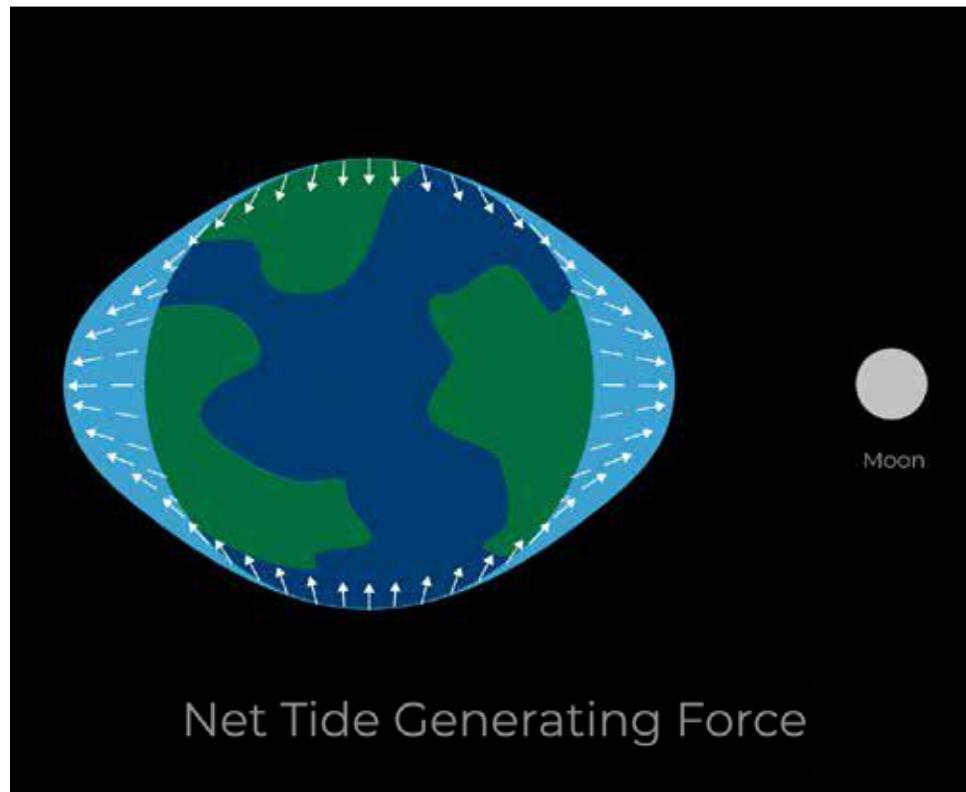


Photo credit: NASA

However, since the gravity of the moon is tugging on the earth, that and the principle of inertia cause a high tide on the other side of the

earth as well. (You obviously won't see the moon overhead at that high tide.) Low tides are perpendicular to the high tides around the earth.

The tides are constantly changing from day to day as well as from hour to hour. Since the moon is revolving around the earth, high tides each day are about 50 minutes later than the day before. It takes 6 hours, 12.5 minutes, to go from high tide to low tide. Two high tides, two low tides a day – you can add it up. Thus the need for all those handy tide charts or apps, so you can keep up with the best time to go fishing, enjoy the beach, or just know what's happening with the ocean.

Tides are vitally important. Tides wash the shores and keep the beach clean. Tides circulate nutrients and get rid of pollutants. They also churn the water, combining cold Arctic water with warmer water from southern climates, moderating the temperature of the entire ocean. Low tide is important for exploration and food collection, for birds, animal life, and people. Think clams, oysters, and other food sources. "The tide is out, our table is set," is a traditional saying among the Tlingit tribe of the Pacific Northwest coast.

If you still have a beach trip in your future this summer, you can now go with a better knowledge of the "how" of the tides. And when the cold water, that was 30 feet or so away the last time you checked, breaks up your beach snooze, you will know that you just experienced the huge continuing cycle of tides that helps keep life on earth functioning well.

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