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Jan. 20-Feb. 2, 2022



Troleum Dawson is fast becoming a Renaissance man in the Upstate art community and beyond. Exhibiting his skills across various mediums ranging from kid's face painting and cartoons to commissioned portraits of



celebrities, he also experiments with graffiti and wildlife portraits. A native of Anderson, SC, Troleum's gift for art began showing itself in grade school at Whitehall Elementary

Jim Harris

School. His talents were soon recognized, with his ink drawings receiving

awards and inclusion in a showcase display in the Anderson Arts Center. At Westside High School, he continued his formal art training and designed to logo for the Lady Rams basketball team. Runway modeling soon became another talent he pursued and writing poetry.

In 2009, he faced a scare with colon cancer, but the successful treatment had him emerging



Troleum Dawson's tribute to the late Anderson superstar Chadwick Boseman is displayed at the Carolina Wren Pavilion Gallery

in 2011 with a commitment to a healthy lifestyle.

In 2012, Troleum entered the world of interior design with painting on pillows and began designing T-shirt logos.

Another genre that Troleum is exploring is celebrity portraits. The artist, through his extensive networking and word of mouth, has been commissioned for a large number of paintings featuring prominent talents in the horror

SEE GIFT ON PAGE 2





Troleum Dawson with Tony Moran





Gift CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

film segment, like Tony Moran (the original Mike Meyers in Halloween), Roger L. Jackson (voice actor in the Scream films as well as a large number of popular video games), Ernie Hudson from Ghostbusters, Tony Todd (the Candyman), Michael Bailey Smith (The Hills Have Eyes) and Alex Vincent (Child's Play).

Another in his growing roster of ventures is a cross-promotional event with theaters in Anderson and Greenville, where Troleum shows his art featuring actors in the theater's screenings. He's also demonstrated his loyalty to the Tigers with portraits of former Clemson stars Chandler Catanzaro, Andre Ellington, Ben Boulware, Woody Dantzler, and Tajh Boyd.

This artist won't be a well-kept secret for long with upcoming interviews and profiles from as far away as LA. His story will soon be a feature in an article about stars on the rise in Hollywood Weekly.

Troleum has also donated his work for local causes and charities. One of his works was recently offered for auction at the Fashion for Passion fundraiser for the Safe House in Greenville. Other charitable commitments include The South Carolina Make-A-Wish Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and the AnMed Cancer Center.



Troleum Dawson with Alex Vincent

His tribute to the late Anderson superstar Chadwick Boseman is displayed at the Carolina Wren Pavilion Gallery. An award from the Mayor recognized his work there. He's also committed to helping younger generations experience art by teaching school-age children in programs like Artbeat and Leaders Academy.

Troleum's work can be seen at his theater showings and featured at Upstate Visual Arts in Greenville. He keeps in touch with his fans through his Facebook and Instagram pages.

FOOD OBSESSIONS



It is the new year. Individuals are bombarded with messages to make goals—often centering around weight loss. Magazines, commercials, ads, comparisons, and social media posts consistently advertise the "best" ways to lose weight and "shed the pounds." This can be exhausting and extremely dangerous/ damaging by making people believe his/her bodies are wrong, inadequate, or have "failed."

Possible signs of struggling with food obsessions include restricting overall food intake, missing meals, postponing or delaying eating, cutting out food groups, and labeling foods as good or bad. Additionally, someone may use gum, water, or coffee to feel satisfied rather than consuming actual food. Experiencing physical hunger, becoming preoccupied with food (e.g., cooking, ordering outside of the home), and constantly looking up nutritional information and menus are additional signs of a concern. Common cognitive distortions include seeing food as black and white (e.g., I will eat the entire box or will not eat any today), self-punishing (e.g., I have to run 5 miles because of what I ate at breakfast), comparisons (e.g., this person never eats as much as I do), and over generalization (e.g., everyone views me as ugly and unattractive). Remind yourself that you do not have to justify or rationalize your choices, and the needs of your body may be different than someone else's. Likewise, you only get one lens or perspective as you do not spend 24/7 with someone. Your worth and value is not dictated on how someone else sees you. Do not let the outer determine your inner worth.

Recovery is a journey and a process. Focus on eating consistently, be mindful during mealtimes, and establish a regular eating pattern. Expect recovery to not be "perfect" and that it will ebb and flow. Relapses are OK and expected. Recovery can be difficult when navigating this journey alone. Use your supports, friends, family, and professionals as needed. Do not feel bullied into making 2022 about weight loss and changing your appearance.

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

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Gayle Edwards and **The Andersonian**

BY RICH OTTER

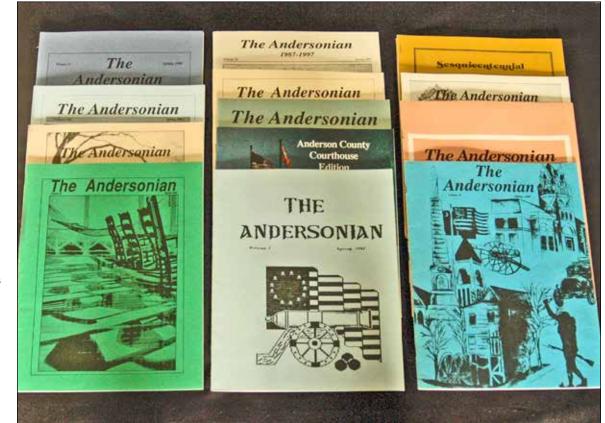
The plan for The Andersonian magazine evolved during a trip back to T. L. Hanna High School (then in the McCants location) from Georgia with four students of the first journalism class introduced and taught by Gayle Edwards. The group in Mrs. Edwards' car included Mary Pickens, Elizabeth Spann, Gabi Davidovich, and Scott Playford. Gayle Edwards had arranged for the students to meet and talk to Elliot Wigington whose students had been publishing a magazine called Foxfire.

Playford recalled that on the way home "We began to brainstorm for topics and found that the five of us were quickly able to come up with a good list of subjects." The magazine differed in content from Foxfire but owed its creation to its inspiration and that of Gayle Edwards. It continued annual publications for 10 years until Mrs. Edwards retired, including special issues in honor of the opening of the Anderson County Courthouse and a Sesquicentennial Notebook.

The final 1987-1997 issue provided a review of the history of the publication and of previous editions. The Andersonian was a monumental effort undertaken by the students in classes spanning the period under Mrs. Edwards' patient direction. Over the years Gayle Edwards also assumed advisory responsibilities with regard to the Yellow Jacket newspaper, Whit & Wisdom and the annual.

The students were invited to choose their own topics that ranged from local individuals through schools, businesses, community programs, local organizations, athletics, industries, cemeteries, and churches - virtually anything that interested them. Historic situations and places were common, often reflecting information passed down through the writer's family about things not otherwise preserved for future generations.

It gave the students experience with interviewing, research, organization, writing and the thrill of producing what was a professional publication.



At the beginning of the year Gayle Edwards would introduce the classes to a stroll through town, visiting city hall, the fire station, the Federal building with its WPA murals, county courthouse, past the stores and buildings of the downtown area, past the historic Chiquola Hotel (then the Plaza Hotel) to the Calhoun Hotel. It was an introduction for many to the downtown area, stimulating interest that frequently produced articles for the magazine.

During one of the trips through

town while at the fire station, a student asked where they had their Dalmatian, the iconic fire

station dog. After being advised the Anderson station did not have one, a project was undertaken that acquired a Dalmatian replica that was placed in the fire station window.

Classes included guests such as historians Fred Whitten and Ed Hillhouse who introduced topics bringing Anderson history to the students, also stimulating ideas for topics adopted for articles. They frequently had field trips including to the University of South

Carolina, Washington, theatrical and other presentations. Students entered essay contests and enjoyed a very busy year that crossed educational boundaries far beyond just English and journalism.

The journalism course was an elective that had been designed, directed and produced by Gayle Edwards but was intended to be starred by members of the classes. That certainly was the result. Their experience became a development tool that endured.

Electric City News columnist Kim von Keller fondly recalled:

"Until I knew Mrs. Edwards – I have never been able to call her by first name - as a mentor and

teacher at T. L. Hanna, I thought of writers as a breed Luckily for her apart, born with a gift that separated students, her them from the rank and file. Under her temperament guidance, I learned was perfectly that whatever writing seed I had inside would germinate and grow if working with only I would nurture it. (Even now teenagers.... she writes to me that she is ready to She loved her read my first book, if ever I would students, and write it.) "As the advisor we loved her.

suited for

We still do.

for the T.L. Hanna Yellow Jacket, Mrs. Edwards took me on my first trip to New York City, my

first trip to a Broadway musical, and my first trip to a scholastic journalism convention, where I won a contest which, unbeknownst to me, she had entered my name and credentials.

"Luckily for her students, her temperament was perfectly suited for working with teenagers. Once, when the late Bill Ducworth and I graffitied her chalkboard with our favorite lines from Saturday Night Live in tiny, tiny print, she read each line, laughed at each line, and then made us erase them...with two toothbrushes. She loved her students, and we loved her. We still do."



Playford, Edwards, Wiggington, Davidovich, Spann and Pickens.

THE GARDEN SHOP

ANOTHER PERSON'S TRASH IS MY TREASURE



SUSAN TEMPLE master gardener

It used to mildly cause vexation for Husband when I would pick up stuff from the side of the street. He has seen so many things now though that he's not surprised anymore. I would like to think my happiness with another person's trash being my latest treasure brings him a bit of happiness too. Many months ago, on my way to work, I passed what appeared to be wrought iron railings. While quickly whipping the truck around, I was thinking "Surely it's not real iron someone has put out there". It was!! The sun was just barely coming up. Not that I care if anyone sees me, but in my secretary clothes, it might be a bit difficult. Thankfully, those two railings were loaded without difficulty.

The railings used to go up some steps so it took some rigging to get them in their new home. The edge of the front garden is on a small terrace. The original one the farmer had was taken out while grading for the house. After years of collecting rocks, a short rock



Wrought iron treasure



Double play candy corn spirea

wall was put on the terrace. Fence from my great great aunt Marshall's house is behind the rocks. Her short gate is with the fence, as well as a taller one that was at the side of her house. Then several years ago on an antiquing trip in North Carolina, I spent my whole budget on a gate. It is much fancier than the other two and that sucker is heavy. To make the fence go all the way along the garden, an opening was left about mid-way. It doesn't look too funny and the opening is big enough for the tractor to get through. That makes for easier loading from time to time by getting into the garden a tad.

That little bit of a rise from the terrace and rocks made it just about right for these railings. They look a little wonky right now. Pink muhly grass (Muhlenbergia capillaris) is planted along most of the fence and one clump is almost big enough to hide the rigging of the railing. Pink muhly on the other side is smaller and the rigging really stands out. I may add another clump with it or maybe fertilize it and see what happens. The railings were painted the same color as the gates, vintage teal. When pink muhly grass is in its splendor each fall, that bluish color really stands out against the grass.

What I hope to do is get something that grows small and put in front of the posts holding the railings. Greater Greenville Master Gardeners' annual symposium is next month. There are always great vendors at this show. Maybe the perfect plant will be there. If not, I saw Double Play Candy Corn spirea last spring at a nursery. It may get a bit too wide though. Tag said it grows about two feet tall and three feet wide. The colors are eye popping yellow, chartreuse, and pinkish burgundy all at the same time. Flowers are sort of a fuchsia pink color. It would really stand out against vintage teal and pink muhly. Any type of spirea are great plants. They are drought tolerant, boom regardless of the weather, and deer do not eat them. Plus, most give good fall color too.

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TO SEND INFORMATION

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Anderson Area Remembrance and Reconciliation

TENTATIVE EVENTS

Soil Collection Ceremonies A series of soil collection ceremonies honor each of the five victims and featuring diverse teams of area youth and young adults

> The AAR&RI Lecture Series Three part lecturing series (2022)

Sojourn to Montgomery A two-day community trip to Montgomery, AL to visit the EJI National Museum and Legacy Memorial

AAR&RI Night at the Movies A four-part movie series featuring fictional and non-fictional stories of racial and economic injustice

Essay Contest

Scholarship competition for five scholarships awarded to one African American male student from Anderson School districts 1 – 5

Juneteenth 2022 2nd Annual Community Juneteenth 19th observance and celebration

2023 Signature event featuring Bryan Stevenson, Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative

Documentary Documentation of the first 24 months of the AARR&RI In early 2020, a group of community members in Anderson County, South Carolina formed the Anderson Area Remembrance and Reconciliation Initiative (AAR&RI.) The goal of the group is to honor the five known victims of racial terror lynching in Anderson County by reflecting more honestly on the history and legacy of racial and economic injustice. AAR&RI is working in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama, to raise awareness and inspire action through dialogue, community education, and public memorials to eliminate disparities and move us toward the goal of a "Beloved Community."

The Anderson Area Remembrance and Reconciliation Initiative is honoring the five known victims:

Mr. Edward Sullivan – 1894 Mr. Elbert Harris – 1898 Mr. John Laddison – 1901 Mr. Reuben Elrod – 1903 Mr. Willis Jackson – 1911

AAR&RI has enlisted the services of professional artists to design and construct a world-class exhibit to travel throughout Anderson County's nine municipalities and unincorporated areas with a potential reach of 200,000 people.

The designer and lead artist on the project



is Anderson native and Howard University graduate, Herman Keith, Jr. Mr. Keith and his team have a vision to "take the story to the people" in a powerful way to educate, evoke empathy and inspire movement toward a more just society.

This structure, made of wood and metal, will be designed in harmony with the art installation in tribute to lynching victims at the Equal Justice Initiative. Glass jars containing soil from the site of each lynching will be cradled in a movable structure accented with potent imagery and verbiage.

Artist statement from Mr. Keith: "This will be much more than a container. This will be a piece of art, designed specifically to reach deep into the community as we articulate this part of our history. It will be powerful...something like people haven't seen before. It's definitely a way to get attention, moving us closer to the vision of a 'Beloved Community.' Our design will be both graceful and formidable, serving as a model for other communities."

The City of Anderson has a history of success in the implementation of public art and education projects having been awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Duke Energy Foundation. The City was also honored with the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award, the highest award in South Carolina for public art.

Contact information for Leader and Coordinator

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ANDERSON

THE BREW

AnMed Health practice uses high-resolution scope used to examine little talked about cancer

BY LIZZ WALKER

Anal cancer claimed the life of actress Farrah Fawcett more than 12 years ago. The incidence of anal cancer has risen in recent years. According to a 2019 study published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, the overall incidence of anal cancer increased by 2.7% a year from 2001 to 2015.

AnMed Health Piedmont Surgical Associates is the first practice in the Upstate to use a new high-tech tool to examine patients suspected of having anal cancer. The high-resolution anoscopy (HRA) is a procedure where referred patients undergo an office-based anal examination for anal lesions that could indicate anal cancer. The equipment magnifies the view of the tissues and enables the doctor to see potential cancer cells more clearly. "The high-resolution anoscope is a lubri-

cated tube equipped with a light and camera and provides a sharper, clearer picture of the lining of the anus and rectum," said Dr. Brian Sadowski of AnMed Health Piedmont Surgical Associates.

The high-resolution anoscope is more sensitive and permits a full evaluation of the area, identifying smaller and subtle lesions. The high-resolution anoscope allows for office-based treatment of many abnormal findings, often avoid-

ing exams in the operating room and general anesthesia. The examination with the high-res-

olution anoscope typically follows an abnormal anal pap test.

"A traditional pap smear test detects potentially cancerous or precancerous cells on a woman woman's cervix. The anal pap test can detect precancerous cells in the anus of both males and females," Sadowski said.

An OB/GYN or primary care physician can conduct an anal pap test.

"We stay on top of our health care by getting specific routine tests done. I would recommend conversing with your

provider about an anal pap test," Sadowski said According to the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, anal cancer accounts for about 1-2% of all cancers of the intestines. People most affected are between the ages of 55-64.

As many as 20% of patients with anal cancer may not have symptoms, but signs and symptoms of anal cancer can include rectal bleeding, anal pain, or a mass or growth by the anus. Several factors increase the risk of anal cancer, including human papillomavirus (HPV), many sexual partners, previous cancer treatment in the cervix or vagina, anal sex, and human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV) smoking.

Call AnMed Health Piedmont Surgical Associates at 864.224.1111 for more information about the high-resolution anoscope and patient referrals.

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Dr. Brian Sadowski

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NIBBLE & SIP

THE BITTER(S) TRUTH

a few

drops

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herbs.

3pm-5pm – "Willkomenn" Ex-

JANUARY 24

• 4pm-7pm - Anderson Interna-

tional Festival: Bavarian Crème Do-

nuts Decorating for Tweens & Teens

• 6pm-8pm - City of Anderson

Council Meeting at City of Anderson

JANUARY 25

• 10am-5pm - Anderson Univer-

• 10:30am - Preschool Storytime

• 2pm - Make A Winter Paper Lan-

• 3pm-6pm - Open Create at the

• 5:30pm – Germany Program

with Dr. Tonya Cordoba at the Ander-

JANUARY 26

• 8am - The Brew at the City of

• 10am-5pm - Anderson Univer-

• 10:30am - Toddler Storytime at

• 2:30pm - Locating Your German

• 12pm – Brown Bag Book Club at

Ancestors (Anderson International

Festival) at the Anderson County

the Anderson Main Library

sity Alumni Exhibit at the Anderson

Anderson Economic Development

sity Alumni Exhibit at the Anderson

at the Anderson Main Library

Anderson Main Library

son County Museum

Office

Arts Center

Main Library

tern at the Anderson Main Library

at the Anderson Main Library

City Hall

Arts Center

hibit Opening at the Belton Museum

of

When I first began making cocktails at home, I would search out new recipes online and in books and magazines for drinks to try out on my family and friends. One thing I noticed is that most recipes called for a drop or two of bitters. As a rookie home bartender, I assumed that any ingredient used in such a small amount wasn't necessary to make a great beverage, but, boy, was I wrong. The bitter truth is that the right bitters in the right amount can add additional flavor to a cocktail while bringing it into a beautiful balance.

Consider the four basic flavors: sweet, salty, sour, and bitter. Just as you would never drink maple syrup from the bottle, eat a spoonful of Morton's from the box, or

snack on lemon wedges, you don't want a cocktail that's too sweet, salty, or sour. Just



spices, and bittering agents such as gentian root or cassia chips, or tree bark, add great flavor while reigning in the rest of the ingredients, keeping one from overpowering the others.

My home bar has 20 different bottles of bitters, including one I made myself that I call Bakers Bitters featuring cinnamon, allspice, and nutmeg. Here are some of my favorites:

Angostura Bitters

If you're buying your first bottle of bitters, Angostura aromatic bitters is where I would start. Angostura bitters are produced in the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago and have been sold commercially since 1824. Available at most supermarkets, Angostura is sweet on the front but finishes with a pleasant tannic bitterness on the tongue. Try a few dashes in a mulled cider with rum or bourbon, or soak a sugar cube and top with chilled sparkling wine for the perfect Champagne Cocktail.

> Peychaud's Bitters Peychaud's bitters are a

staple in cocktails from New Orleans. In the early 19th century, Antoine Amedie Peychaud was an apothecary in The Big Easy, having emigrated from Haiti. He used his bitter concoction to add flavor to the cognac he served in his shop. You'll find Peychaud's bitters in any good party shop or online at amazon.com. I find Peychaud's to be slightly less bitter than Angostura, with an almost minty herbaceousness. Peychaud's is most closely associated with the official cocktail of New Orleans, the Sazerac.

Bokers Bitters Made in Scotland, Boker's bitters are not as well-known to the drinking public as Angostura or Peychaud's but are a friend to profession-



al bartenders everywhere. Extremely bitter, Boker's is flavored with orange and cardamom and can be found at better party shops and online at amazon.com. Boker's is most often associated with The Martinez, a gin cocktail.

Best of the Rest To elevate your fruit-forward cocktails, look for the Fee Brothers line of bitters. Varieties include Cherry, Orange, Lemon, Cranberry, Lime, Rhubarb, and Grapefruit. The Black Walnut is also good in many

bourbon or rye whiskey drinks. Bittermens makes a Xocolatl Mole bitters with chocolate, cinnamon, and other spices that compliments drinks made with aged rums or tequilas. 1821 Bitters, made in the Atlanta area, makes a bitters called Havana & Hide with notes of tobacco and leather that is excellent in an Old-Fashioned. And finally, Plum Tree Bitters by Girl Meets Dirt on Orcas Island, Washington, taste like concentrated summer, bringing new life to an old favorite, the French 75.

ELECTRIC CITY EVENTS

JANUARY 20

• 10am-5pm - Anderson University Alumni Exhibit at the Anderson Arts Center

• 10:30am – Baby Storytime at the Anderson Main Library • 12pm-1:30pm – Build Your Own

Business at the City of Anderson Economic Development Office

 3pm-6pm – Open Create at the Anderson Main Library

• 6:30pm – History on Tap at Carolina Bauernhaus

JANUARY 21

• 10am-5pm - Anderson University Alumni Exhibit at Anderson Arts Center • 7:30pm - The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane at Electric City Plavhouse

JANUARY 22

 Monster Truck Wars at T. Ed Garrison Arena

• Tour of SC West Region Showcase at the Anderson Sports & Entertainment Center

• 10:30am - Family Storytime at the Anderson Main Library

• 7:30pm - The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane at Electric City Plavhouse

JANUARY 23

• Tour of SC West Region Showcase at the Anderson Sports & **Entertainment Center**

 3pm - The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane at Electric City Plavhouse

JANUARY 27

• 10am-5pm - Anderson University Alumni Exhibit at the Anderson Arts Center

• 10:30am - Baby Storytime at the Anderson Main Library • 1:30pm-5pm - Sheriff's Depart-

ment Recognition Ceremony at the Anderson Sports & Entertainment Center

• 3pm-6pm - Open Create at the Anderson Main Library **JANUARY 28** • Big Water Marina at the Upstate

SC Boat Show at the Greenville Convention Center

• 8am-5pm - Blue Ridge Agility Dog Show at T. Ed Garrison Arena • 7:30pm - The Miraculous Jour-

ney of Edward Tulane at Electric City Playhouse

• 7:30pm - Moon Over Buffalo at The Clemson Little Theatre

JANUARY 29

 8am–5pm – Blue Ridge Agility Dog Show at T. Ed Garrison Arena • Big Water Marina at the Upstate SC Boat Show at the Greenville Convention Center

• 10:30am - Family Storytime at the Anderson Main Library

• 3pm-7pm - St. George's Episcopal Church Oyster Roast at the Anderson Sports & Entertainment Center

• 7:30pm - The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane at Electric City Plavhouse

7:30pm - Moon Over Buffalo at The Clemson Little Theatre

JANUARY 30

• 8am-5pm – Blue Ridge Agility Dog Show at T. Ed Garrison Arena • 3pm - The Miraculous Journey

of Edward Tulane at Electric City Playhouse

• 3pm - Moon Over Buffalo at The Clemson Little Theatre **FEBRUARY 1**

• 6pm-7:30pm – City of Anderson Planning Commission Meeting at the City of Anderson City Hall **FEBRUARY 2**

• 12pm – Anderson Area Crime Stoppers Meeting at Carson's Steak Warehouse

• 4pm-9pm - Food Truck Wednesday at Magnetic South Brewery

FEBRUARY 3

 7:30am-9am - 2022 February Toast 'N Topics at Tucker's Restaurant

• 1:00 pm - Anderson County Library - "The Outer Banks" **FEBRUARY 4**

• 5pm-8pm – First Friday with German Oompah Band in Downtown Anderson

• 7:30pm – Moon Over Buffalo at The Clemson Little Theatre **FEBRUARY 5**

 Community Yard Sale (indoor) at Iron Oak Barn

• 7:30pm – Moon Over Buffalo at The Clemson Little Theatre

FEBRUARY 6 • 3pm - Moon Over Buffalo at The

Clemson Little Theatre **FEBRUARY 7** • Anderson County Police Appreci-

ation at Eggs Up Powdersville 6:30pm-8:30pm – Williamston Town Council Meeting at the William-

ston Town Hall **FEBRUARY 9**

• 4pm-9pm – Food Truck Wednesday at Magnetic South Brewery

FEBRUARY 11 Valentines Day Silent Disco at Magnetic South Brewery

FEBRUARY 14

• 6pm-8pm – City of Anderson Council Meeting at the City of Anderson City Hall

FEBRUARY 16

• 12pm-1pm - Anderson Rising Networking Event

• 4pm-9pm – Food Truck Wednesday at Magnetic South Brewery

FEBRUARY 22

• 2pm-3:30pm - Book Club -Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy (by Eric Metaxes) February 25

• 8:30am-9:30am - Morning Leads - Free Leads Group at the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce • 7pm – German Fairy Tales with BHP Drama Students at the Belton Museum

'Amazing Grace'

Every Sunday, churches across the South include the famous hymn "Amazing Grace" in their song selections. While it is not by origin a Southern song, and a Brit wrote it, it is a part of the fabric of faith communities



all across the South. It is so loved in our part of the world that we may choose to consider it "honorary Southern." Author Jonathan Aitkin estimates that the song is played over 10 million times each year. The song's creation and

path to the popularity it enjoys today encountered significant challenges. It was written by a man whose life choices were hardly consistent with composing spiritual music and coming about in a time when music in church services had been forbidden. It took many twists of fate to

come to light. Composer John Newton

came from humble beginnings. Born in London in 1725, he spent time in a boarding school before taking to the sea at age eleven. When he was eighteen, he was captured and pressed into naval service by the Royal Navy, becoming a midshipman aboard the HMS Harwich. He tried to escape but was captured and flogged in front of the ship's crew, and his rank was reduced to a seaman. He considered

murdering the captain for revenge then taking his own life but thought better of it.

He soon had transferred to the Pegasus, a slave ship bound for Africa. He was extremely profane, creating obscene poems and songs about the captain, which led to him being shackled for the remainder of the voyage. He was abandoned in West Africa in 1745 and given to a slave trader, who gave Newton to his wife, a Sherbro Princess. He remained in slavery until 1748, when a sea captain located and rescued him at the request of Newton's father. He returned to Britain on the Greyhound.

It was on that voyage that Newton's path to salvation began. The ship became caught in a massive storm, lasting for days, and survival seemed impossible. One sailor was swept overboard. Newton and another sailor tied themselves to the ship's pump to avoid experiencing the same fate. He said, "If this will not do, then Lord have mercy on us." When it was Newton's turn to take the wheel and steer the ship, he spent the time pondering faith. He had mocked the faith of others, only to believe now that God had sent him a profound message. When the ship's pitch caused the cargo to shift and cover a hole in the hull that seemed like it would result in the vessel's sinking, Newton thought it was a sign from God. His conversion to Christianity did not complete itself then, but that was the beginning.

In 1750, Newton married his high school sweetheart and adopted his two orphaned nieces soon after. He continued to work in the slave trade and eventually became a ship's captain and investor in trafficking. A stroke forced Newton to retire in 1754, but he remained an investor in slaving operations. Newton became a tax collector, then began to study Latin, Greek, and theology, and soon became a priest, becoming ordained in 1764. His sphere of knowledge and influence grew, and he became the advisor of choice for many.

As an Anglican priest, newton wrote hymns to accompany his sermons. Amazing Grace was one of those, written in 1772. The song has roots in the New Testament, drawing from the stories of the prodigal son and Jesus's healing of a blind man. The first known occa-

sion of the poem being set to music was around 1780 when

it was paired to the tune of

Hephzibah By John Husband. Around 1835, American com-

poser William Walker assigned

Newton's lyrics to a traditional

tune, "New Britain." That cre-

we know today. Another verse

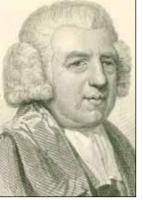
Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

In 1788, Newton pub-

lished a pamphlet that strong-

ated the version of the song

to the song appeared first in



John Newton

ly opposed slavery, called "Thoughts Upon the Slave Trade." In it, he described the horrific conditions on the slave ships. He apologized for his years of supporting the practice, saying, "It was a confession that comes too late. It will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders." The pamphlet sold well and required many printings. He sent copies to each Member of Parliament.

Newton had an epiphany that he had not been a faithful Christian during the first years he thought he was, as he could not reconcile that Christianity could not have been in his soul while he supported slavery. He said, "I was greatly deficient in many respects ... I cannot consider myself to have been a believer in the full sense of the word, until a considerable time afterwards."

Newton's efforts influenced MP William Wilberforce, who was instrumental in the British Government outlawing slavery in 1807. Newton lived to see that, dying in December of that year.

The Second Great Awaking in the U.S., which started in Kentucky and Tennessee, was behind the song's popularity. The Conservative faith movement incorporated hymns as an accent to their programs encouraging testimony



and witnessing. The music has remained timeless, playing a part in historical events from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement. It has been recorded thousands of times by performers from all musical genres. Artists as diverse as Mahalia Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Rod Stewart, Johnny Cash, Sam Cooke, the Byrds, Elvis, Willie Nelson, and Judy Collins recorded the classic tune. Folk singer Joan Baez says it is her most requested song, and it was played at Woodstock by Arlo Guthrie.

Many refer to the hymn as our country's "national spiritual anthem." The Library of Congress has over 3,000 versions in its collection. The song has also appeared in numerous films.



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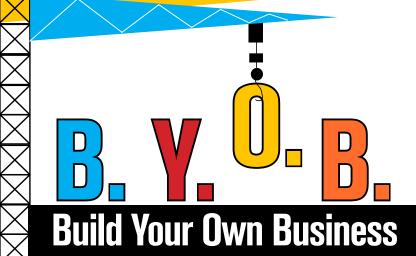
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VISITING THE DOCTOR

So I hadn't been to see my doctor since the start of the pandemic. I had a Zoom appointment last year, but the number I dialed connected me with a one handed alligator dentist



taking new patients. Now that I've had my vaccines and a booster, the doctor insisted that I make an in person visit. The appointment was made and my dread began. I can't stand entering doctors offices,

in Florida that wasn't

wear I arnen

hospitals, barber shops, or Wal-Mart. They all have an odor of what I assume an old morgue must smell like.

I arrive wearing my N-95 mask and holding a Clorox wipe to open the door; which I think should be automatic like Ingles. I checked in and was told to have a seat in what I imagined were chairs filled with a year of Covid-19 virus build-up. I started to hover over the seat like a germaphobe in a public toilet, but reluctantly sat hoping that my Fruit of the Looms would protect me. My name is called and I'm led by the doctor's assistant

to be weighed and measured for what I'm sure will be a long lecture about why I'm vertically shrinking but horizontally expanding. The assistant then asked me to stick my index finger into some sort of little clamp. She said she was checking my oxygen level but I instinctively thought of the old "Pull my Finger gag". Thank goodness I held back. The assistant next had me stop in the hall as she walked to an Eye Chart at the end of the hall. "Can you read this line for me?" I said, "What?". "Can you read this line for me?" I said, "Is this the hearing test or the eye test?". I explained that after thirty six years of marriage my hearing reflex automatically blocked women's voices, but that I could tune them in if I chose to. We then entered the actual doctors office where I was told again to have a seat. The assistant said that she was going to say three words and wanted me to repeat them as she said them. This was new, but I said, "ok". Coffee...coffee, Car... car, Biscuit...biscuit. She then handed me a blank piece of paper on a clipboard and told me to draw a clock and have the time read

eleven fifteen. This also was new and I thought it must be some kind of Alzheimer's test. She seemed a bit irked when I handed her a quick drawing of a digital clock that read 11:15. My blood pressure was taken and the readout looked like the prices for regular and premium on the Shell gasoline sign. She asked if I smoked and I responded with a No. She asked if I drank alcohol and I said that

I usually have a glass of wine with dinner. I didn't tell her that I usually have five dinners. She asked if I had any stress and I repeated that I'd been married thirty six years. She went on a bit about healthy eating and exercise, but I interrupted with a "What?". She gave me the same look I get from my wife and



I immediately heard what she had said and agreed. She said that the doctor would be right in, but before she left she asked me what were the three words that she had asked me to repeat earlier. I couldn't remember even one of the words. She scribbled on her pad and left. The doctor came in and asked how I was feeling and I said "just fine". We went over my lab work and talked about cutting down on carbs and anything to do with pigs. We made a little small talk and before leaving the doctor asked what my plans for the day were. I said, "I'm going to get in my car and get some coffee and a biscuit".





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FROM THE SHELF

The Brown Sisters series in order **by Talia Hibbert**

comes from

chronic pain

surgeries and

appreciated

how Hibbert

what life, and

addressed

specifically

romance. is

like when

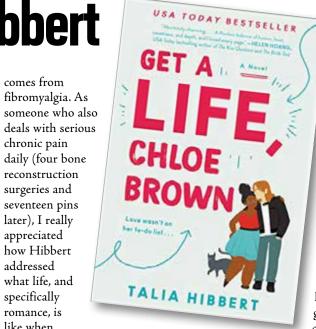
If you've been reading my reviews these past few months, you'll have read



library. This

series might top my other romance series of The Bromance Book Club. It's a tough call. They're both contemporary romance but one is more fun and the other tackles some more serious issues. The serious issue tackling is done by Talia Hibbert in The Brown Sisters series.

The first book in the series, Get a Life, Chloe Brown might be my favorite, but I think that's more because I relate to it in a specific way. In Get a Life, Chloe Brown, we follow the eldest Brown sister Chloe who happens to battle chronic pain, which specifically



pain is part of your daily existence. Hibbert disclosed in an interview that, like Chloe, she has fibromyalgia so she wrote from experience. That really came through in how the story of Chloe and Red (and their adorableness) was handled in the context of Chloe having fibromyalgia.

Book one follows Chloe and her decision to "get a life" by creating a to-do list of things to do or achieve

A to-do list?) Red, her landlord and struggling painter (more struggling for inspiration), was not part of that plan as he's a terrible grump and couldn't possibly help her get a life or do more fun things...

to "get a life"

(that's

works

right?

how that

except he does have a motorcycle and that is on the list... As you can imagine they obviously fall in love but it's really sweet how he handles Chloe's different challenges specific to romance and how chronic pain has made her feel like a burden her whole life. On the flipside, Red is coming out of an incredibly abusive relationship and has his own bag-

gage that he's trying to sort through (extra points to Hibbert for showing abuse against a male partner since it's a thing we never really talk about). It's absolutely lovely and there's a cat roped in so obviously everyone should read it (and the rest of the series).

Book two, Take a Hint, Dani Brown, follows the middle sister Danika, whom we meet in book one. Dani is in the middle of working toward her doctorate in English/ Women's Studies/whole bunch of super rad smart sounding stuff, and has no time or patience for romance as her work is her literal whole life. When a video goes viral of her friend, former famous rugby player and very attractive security guard, Zafir, carrying Dani out of a building, Dani's no time or interest for romance is put to the test. The trending video helps Zaf's nonprofit for young men playing rugby and working on their mental health because of the "relationship goals" of #DrRugbae, and with that boost Zaf and Dani agree to fake date in order to help keep propelling his nonprofit into success. As you can imagine, they quickly realize it's not so fake, but they also don't immediately admit that to each other. It's super fun and super spicy (seemed spicier than the first). Beyond romance, the book is about balance and finding it in all aspects of your life, especially between work and

personal life. There's also a lot of talk about mental health and open communication which is great and super on topic given Zaf's nonprofit.

Book three, Act Your Age, Eve Brown, follows the youngest of the Brown sisters. In this one, Eve, who's always been a bit babyed and known for not exactly following through, has to like, follow through and be an adult since mom and dad are cutting off that trust fund. Upset by the ultimatum, Eve jumps in her car and just starts driving. Eventually she stops at a B&B in a small quaint town and seeing it has an opening for a chef she decides to go and interview. Jacob, the B&B owner is very put together and very much can follow through, so the whirlwind that is Eve is an absolute no from him just from her entrance alone. However, once Eve hits him with her car (by accident), he's stuck with her as he can't keep running the B&B alone and has never been able to cook. They definitely start by hating each other and then obviously fall in love. Like Hibbert's other titles, other meaty topics are hit on, like family's and personal value, and late diagnosis autism. It is also hilarious, as you can imagine when a romance is based on hitting someone with your car.

Literally the only problem with this series is that there are only three sisters.

Rare and getting rarer

BY ANN K. BAILES

It's been the classic game bird of South Carolina and the southeast since the late nineteenth century. It has been memorialized in many pieces of writing by no less than the likes of esteemed outdoor writers Archibald Rutledge and Havilah Babcock. It's a beautiful sight in a field or roadside. And anyone who has ever heard the call of a bobwhite quail will never forget it.

Bobwhites are plump, pretty little birds with rounded heads and wings. They are intricately patterned with shades of brown, black, tan, and white. Males have black and white patterned heads, while females are plainer. These quail are ground dwellers that flush when disturbed, and they build nests and lay eggs in cover on the land.

I first heard its call years ago, the familiar "BOB-bob-WHITE," while we were sitting on the porch of the house we were renting in the midlands. Mike, who's always been a natural at interacting with

wildlife, said "Listen to this." He then made the two-syllable call of a female bird, which is just "bob-WHITE." The male responded, and Mike called again. Next thing we knew, the male bird was running toward our porch, looking for the lady love that he thought was calling him. He was sadly disappointed, and returned to his weedy field.

But that was back when the sound of the bobwhite quail was still heard often across the countryside. The chance of an experience like that happening today, anywhere in South Carolina or the eastern U.S., is very slim. Bobwhites are in steep decline and are close to being endangered.

A range map of the bobwhite (officially known as the Northern Bobwhite) shows that it appears to exist widely over the entire eastern half of the U.S. Would that that were so. While the bobwhite's territory is very broad, it has declined greatly within that area in the past few decades - as much

as 85%. The causes for this are not well understood, but one major reason is loss of habitat. Urban sprawl has had its effect, as has loss of grassy edges of fields, and also pesticide use. Feral hogs and other mammals often are predators of quail eggs and young birds.

Groups such as Quail Forever (based in Minnesota but with chapters in the southeast) are working to help the problem: funding research and working to help increase better habitat for quail.

Fortunately, the western U.S. quail species are doing much better than the bobwhite, but that doesn't erase our bird's dire circumstances. We must be aware of its plight, and do anything we can to help this beautiful quail survive.

And if you ever get the opportunity to hear that beautiful "BOB-bob-WHITE" call, remember it. You've been blessed to hear a treasure that doesn't come along too often anymore.



TAKE THAT, CAMDEN!

My husband, sadly, did not have the experience of growing up in in the Upstate. He is a product of the Midlands; Camden, to be specific. I guess it was nice being so close to Revolutionary War history and international steeplechase racing, but I wouldn't trade Lake Hartwell, the foothills, and bluegrass music for anything.

It was a shame, then, in our early years as a couple, that there were only two things he knew about Anderson, and both involved women whom I like to call members of the world's second-oldest profession. (I firmly believe that the world's oldest profession is baking.) The first was a high-profile murder,



and the second was a high-profile crime that took place on government property. I would explain both further, but this is a family newspaper. Over the years, he's learned that there's

Kim von Keller much more to my hometown than these stories, but it took a while to shake his first impression. You can imagine, then, the pleasure I took when the most recent

issue of "AARP, The Magazine" arrived in

our mailbox, even though I take no pleasure in being old enough to receive "AARP, The Magazine."

Hidden amongst titles like "Build a Better Sandwich" and "Say No to Fraud" was an article titled "Best Places to Live Now." Sitting on the sofa, the following conversation ensued.

Kim: Look at this AARP article on places to retire. Ted: Why are we getting an AARP magazine? How old

ARE you? Get that thing out of the house. Kim: You are older than me, so just listen for a minute. There's a list of places to retire. Do you want me to read it to you?

Ted: No. Kim: Great! The first one is Cedar Falls, Iowa. The next is Idaho Falls, Idaho, followed by Jackson, Tennessee, and Fort Worth, Texas. Do you know what the last place is? Guess.

Ted: No.

Kim: Anderson, South Carolina!

Ted: What the --

Again, this is a family magazine.

I have to admit, even I was a little surprised, and my connection to the Electric City is long enough that I receive "AARP, The Magazine" in the mail. But I guess it's easy sometimes to take for granted a place that means so much to you.

The magazine article discusses the things that Americans of all ages value in this pandemic era, and towns were rated for cost of housing, access to nature and broadband internet, and "a palpable sense of community." According to AARP, Anderson offers "budget Southern charm on a lake," with quality health care, a vibrant arts scene, and 962 miles of shoreline surrounding Lake Hartwell.

But that's just an overview of the city I love. I could spend hours at the Anderson County Museum or the library. There's beautiful choral music at Anderson University and collegiate sports down the road at Clemson University. Farmers markets with beautiful local produce. Great dining and shopping. A rich faith community. Sounds in the Park downtown. Ice skating at Carolina Wren Park in the winter and Movie Nights in the summer. First Fridays events. And just in time to welcome all the newcomers generated by the highlight in "AARP The Magazine," the Soiree, Anderson's signature two-day community festival, returns this year after a hiatus of more than a decade. Whether you're just starting your adult life, married with children, or old enough to receive a retirement magazine in the mail, there is enough going on in for everyone to experience what AARP refers to as "the good life in America."

Take that, Camden.



Countybank Foundation makes charitable holiday season donations

Greenwood, S.C. — The Countybank Foundation recently made a number of donations totaling \$10,000 to local charitable organizations in Greenwood, Greenville, Greer, Simpsonville, and Anderson. Donations will go toward immediate human services needs and feeding the hungry.

In addition to volunteer work, sponsorships, and donations, Countybank and Greenwood Capital provide funding to nonprofit and charitable organizations in their local communities through the Countybank Foundation, which was established in 1971.

"We are always looking for ways to give back to our community," said R. Thornwell Dunlap III, President and CEO of Countybank. "Our local non-profits do so much to support our residents and businesses, and we see these donations as an opportunity to say thank you and further support them during the holidays."

The Countybank Foundation recently made donations to the following local non-profit and charitable organizations, in addition to many others throughout 2021.

- Anderson Interfaith Ministries
- + Center for Community Services
- Community Initiatives
- Greenwood Food Bank
- Greenwood Soup Kitchen
- Greer Soup Kitchen
- + Project Host
- The Countybank Foundation



contributed more than \$150,000 to community organizations in 2021 as a whole.

To learn more about Countybank's community involvement efforts, visit www.ecountybank.com.

My mother, the fashionista

My mother is a such a unique and free-spirited woman. Not only is she beautiful on the outside but has a heart as big as the bracelets she wears on her pretty arms. She has a brightness about her. She grew up in a



very colorful family. She traveled and lived all over the United States in her youth with my amazing grandparents because my grandfather worked with the National Football League. I definitely think it gave her a culture of style.

My lovely grandmother and basically all of the women in my family have always loved clothes and accessories. My mother you see, is a rare bird. She has a fashion sense all of her own. Even a signature scent which is made up of high-end perfume that she mixes a little patchouli with, and everyone always stops her when we're out saying what perfume are you wearing? I want it. Actually, the more I think of it, everyone stops her everywhere we go because she has this magnetic presence about her.

If you've met her, well, then you know and understand. She was a theater major at Winthrop. A dance teacher, and a drama teacher. She taught me both. I was in her extraordinary dance recitals as a child and I always thought she was a celebrity or a movie star when I was little. Our small little hometown did and still does think that of her to this day.

Her fashion

taste is whimsical yet occasionally chic and even gypsy esque. She had no label because she's just too distinctive to put your finger on. She adores a good thrift store but loves a nice boutique. She especially loves costume jewelry that she will pair with chunky turquoise. She always has on boots no matter the season and she has more scarves and shawls than should be humanly possible.

Her closet is

like delving into some sort of time capsule. My favorite thing she owns is this pair of purple platform clogs with gold trim. They're from London England from the seventies. Her sister gifted them to her during that era . They're still in mint condition. I've always loved those shoes.



She rocked platforms in the seventies. Amazing hair in the eighties and today she looks straight out of a Rolling Stone magazine. She's a rock star in her own right. Think Betsey Johnson and Marilyn Monroe combined.

Not only is her fashion and style fabulous, but she makes everyone feel good. She compliments and always says things to brighten someone's day, and it's genuine. When we go out to dinner or shopping, I'm prepared and know that we're going to end up meeting and chatting with basically everyone in the place before we leave. It's just something she's always

Not only is her fashion

and style fabulous,

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... She's taught me so

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woman I am today.

done. She makes friends so easily and she's secure with herself. She's refreshing. She's taught me so much and made me the woman I am today. I know that I need to always look semi put together, line my lids and always put a little lip gloss on even if I'm in a slump. It works too. She taught me to take pride in my clothing and home decor and treat everybody like a somebody.

My mom is sunshine on a cloudy day. She is the ultimate fashionista. Who in

your life do you look up to? It's such a blessing to have someone in this wild world to learn so much from and she's made a positive impact on so many. She is a true legend. So, remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters.









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POPCORN SNOWBALLS

Cold, disagreeable, rainy weather can be a drag, especially when your kids love playing outside in the warm sunshine. One fun activity my family has found to beat the "wintery blues" is to get more creative in the kitchen! Making "Popcorn Snowballs" together is great fun for my kids, and an entertaining way to spend the afternoon doing something everyone can enjoy. Not only is the recipe easy to follow, "Popcorn Snowballs" are the perfect treat because of their sweet, crunchy, gooey deliciousness!

INGREDIENTS

3 Tbsp canola oil 1/2 cup popcorn kernels 1/2 cup sugar 4 Tbsp butter 5 cups mini marshmallows 1/4 tsp salt 1/4 tsp vanilla extract 1 cup M&Ms sprinkles or peanuts optional

INSTRUCTIONS

Place a heavy bottom Dutch oven

or saucepan over medium heat. Add the oil and popcorn and stir the



Katie Laughridge continue gent shaking back

and forth while the remaining kernels pop. Once the popcorn stops, remove from heat and place into a large mixing bowl to cool. Next, in a small saucepan over medium heat, add the butter and marshmallows. Stir continuously until the marshmallows are melted. Remove from heat and add the salt and vanilla extract.

Pour over the popcorn and coat evenly. Add M&Ms, sprinkles or nuts. Cover your hands with a light layer of butter or coconut oil. Form the popcorn mixture into 3" balls. Set them on a piece of wax (or parchment) paper to cool completely, about 30 minutes.

Tips to remember:

Try to remove any un-popped kernels before adding the marshmallow mixture to your popcorn.

Add a few drops of food color to the marshmallow mixture or use pastel colored marshmallows for some fun and festive tints.

Any kind of popcorn can be used – even microwaved or air popped. You will want to use at least 12 cups of popped popcorn for this recipe.

Add in any candies that you like to your popcorn balls – skittles, cut up gum drops, candy corns, and Reese's pieces would all be fun additions.

STORE cooled popcorn balls wrapped tightly in plastic wrap at room temperature for up to 5 days. Bon appetit!







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T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

Yellow Jackets struggling with losses in three straight games after holiday break

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — After splitting two tournaments over their Christmas break, the T.L. Hanna High School boys' basketball team has had a tough go of it the last few weeks.

The Yellow Jackets won the Anderson County Holiday Classic earlier in the break before falling to Cherokee (Ga.) and Lambert (Ga.) in a tournament in Georgia right before New Year's.

The Yellow Jackets came out of the holidays on Jan. 4 against Hart County (Ga.). Against the Bulldogs, Hanna battled for four quarters to force overtime.

In the overtime, the Yellow Jackers

fell just shy in a 66-64 loss to their Peach State opponent. Trevor Pittman

led the way for Hanna with 20 points, while Adarius Armstrong was close behind with 14 points. Coming off

the loss, T.L. Hanna returned home to play the

Woodmont Wildcats. The Yellow Jackets continued to

struggle in their first region game against the Wildcats, as they fell

> In their most recent game as of press time, T.L. Hanna took on top 10-ranked Mauldin High School on the road.

The matchup was hotly

throughout, with Hanna barely holding on to 63-62 going into the fourth quarter.

Both teams battled in the final stanza, and Hanna even tied the game at 74-74 on a shot by Armstrong in the final seconds. However, the Mavericks drew free throws with less than five seconds left in the game to secure a 76-74 win.

Despite the three straight losses, the Jackets still sit at 9-7 on the season and have plenty to play for as they prepare to get into the meat of region play.

Hanna was set to return to action on Jan. 18 against J. L. Mann, with results unavailable at press time, before moving on to face Wade Hampton on Jan. 21.

WESTSIDE RAMS -

Westside girls maintain perfect season

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — The perfect season for the defending South Carolina Class 4A state champion Westside High School girls' basketball squad continued coming out of the holiday break.

The Rams went 3-0 over the past two weeks and currently sit at 16-0 on the season and have won their last 26 games dating back to January 2021.

The Rams, coming off a championship win in the Anderson County Holiday Classic, returned to action on Jan. 5 against the Daniel Lions.

Westside was rolling on offense from the start, outscoring Daniel 30-9 in the opening period. From there, the Rams kept their foot on the gas in a 83-50 win.

Ahrianna Scott led the Rams in scoring on

the day, put-

ting up 23

points and

hitting six

threes. Four

other Rams

also scored in

double figures

Coming

in the win.

off the win,

returned to

action two

days later

against the

Southside Tigers.

Westside fell behind 38-30 in the

the Rams

third quarter, but a huge 12-2 run

in the final quarter allowed the Rams to pull out a 42-40 win.

Despite not having the best shooting performance, Destiny Middleton led the Rams with 13 points. Scott finished sec-

ond on the team with 10 points. The following week, Westside opened up region play against the Travelers Rest Devildogs.

The Rams controlled the game from the outset and held the Devildogs under 10 points in each quarter in a dominating 60-26 win.

Once again, Scott led the Rams in scoring, with 23 points and three three-pointers, while Olivia Randolph had a big game down low with 15 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks.

With their perfect record intact, the Rams will continue their region run with games against Walhalla on Jan. 21 and Pickens on Jan. 25. The Rams were also set to play Greenville High School on Jan. 18, hoping to avenge one of their two losses from last season, with results unavailable at press time.

60-46.

contested

a lead by the slimmest of margins at

