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Everyone wants MeMe's recipes!



If you're ever visiting friends in Hanoi, you might expect them to serve dishes like pho or bánh mì. In at least one household, though, you might

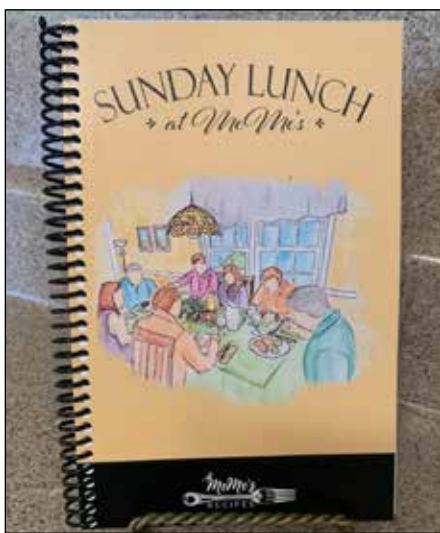


Kim von Keller

be served steak and gravy, red rice, and lemon icebox pie. That's because MeMe's Recipes, a wildly popular Facebook page featuring simple Southern cooking videos, has gained followers from Vietnam to the U.K. and from Canada to Australia. And those don't begin to match the number of viewers from all across the United States. Who is the talent behind these charming videos? Home cook turned Internet star, Anderson's Diane Leary, who is known as MeMe to her grandchildren.

"I think the nicest and most surprising thing about MeMe's Recipes and the people who watch the videos are the worldwide friendships I've created," Diane says. "It's strange how much you have in common with people. They send comments and things about their families, and I share things about my family and things we've experienced here in South Carolina. It's created a whole new circle of friends for me."

Make no mistake: Diane and her Facebook page have a LARGE circle of friends. Her Crabcake video has 18,000 views. Her Chicken and Dumplings video? 54,000 views. It seems that everyone wants to learn to cook like MeMe.



FROM HOME COOK TO COOKING TEACHER

Diane will be the first to tell you that she learned to cook out of necessity. "I have always loved to cook, and being the oldest of four children, it seemed to be my duty when Mama was sick. So, Daddy

SEE RECIPES ON PAGE 2



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Recipes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would put a box in front of the stove powered by kerosene, and I would scramble eggs or make oatmeal. That experience evolved into my adult life when I had a family of my own. We didn't live in the era when you could pick up meals. It was difficult enough just to find a hamburger, much less a complete meal."

In addition to her family, Diane was also prepared for guests at her table as her children, Ken, Katrina, and Kaylene, always knew that their friends were welcome. And as her children became adults and started their own families, Diane's table grew even larger: Ken is married to the former Teresa Chapman, Katrina is married to Garry Collins, and Kaylene is married to Michael Foster. There are grandchildren Hunter Leary and his wife Hannah; Caroline Leary Gaddis and her husband William; Mackenzie Collins Rash and her husband James; Jackson Collins; and Graham Foster. And the fourth generation to sit at MeMe's table are great-grandchildren Townes and John Walt Leary and Collins Rash. When someone in this large extended family is having a birthday, the honoree chooses the menu, and favorites like meat loaf, steak and gravy, pork chops and rice, broccoli casserole, pasta salad, apple dumplings, and strawberry cake line the dining table. In fact, it was her grandchildren's desire to hold on to the precious memories of family meals that led Diane to start her cooking videos.

"We were talking about a cookbook just for the family," she says, "and they made a list of things they wanted in the cookbook. I actually had to create a lot of my own recipes for food I cooked because a lot of dishes didn't have a written recipe. Eventually, acquaintances, college friends, church friends, and neighbors wanted the recipes as well. One thing led to another, and in the process, we decided that a good way to help them understand the recipes would be to video me cooking. It was never intended to be public; it was just supposed to be teaching by demonstration."

FACEBOOK FAME

It started with a video about pralines. At her family's request, she posted it on Facebook at the end of 2020, but as we approach her one-year anniversary, thousands of viewers look forward to Diane's easy, inexpensive, and delicious preparations each week. The videos are friendly and conversational, around 10 to 20 minutes in length, with ingredients at the ready and edits that show the cooking process from beginning to end.

"When it comes to cooking," she says, "a lot of people just don't know where to start. When you can show people how simple it is to make these things, it eliminates a lot of fear. Once you show them where to start, they can do it."

As one of Diane's videographers, Kaylene has learned the secrets behind her mother's bountiful meals.

"I think when we were growing up," she says, "we thought that the food somehow appeared by magic. Now, when Caroline and I film the videos, we look at each other and say, 'Oh, gosh, is it that easy?'"

Diane chooses the recipes she features according to the time of year, what's in season, or what she's in the mood to eat.

"I love the old Southern recipes," she says. "They're not exotic, and they use ingredients that most people keep in their pantries. I love to cook steak and gravy. I came up near the coast, so I love to cook seafood. I particularly love desserts, and I keep a pound cake on my counter at all times."

One of the first things that viewers notice is the way her face lights up when she uses the word butter.

"It's probably my favorite ingredient," Diane says. "It just makes everything taste better. If a recipe calls for a half stick, I use the whole stick because it enhances the flavor. My viewers are so accustomed to my using it that when I posted a recipe for my Lemon Icebox Pie, one responded, 'MeMe, no butter?'"

One of her favorite responses to the Facebook videos came from one of her nephews. "We were talking about the cookbook, and he told me that the men he works with watch my videos. I love sharing my food, but I still can't believe that people like to watch me cook!"

"SUNDAY LUNCH AT MEME'S"

Diane's cooking has come full circle, as the recipes she prepares on Facebook are now available as a cookbook, "Sunday Lunch at MeMe's." Readers will find Diane's best recipes for entrees, salads, side dishes, and desserts galore, along with the kind of menus she often puts together for her family. A featured menu lists BBQ Ribs, Chicken Rolled in Bacon, Brown Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Cabbage Casserole, Peas and Dumplings, Steamed Broccoli, Pinkeye Peas, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Tiny Lima Beans, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Deviled Eggs, Pear Salad, Sweet Iced Tea, and two to three desserts.

Right now, cookbook sales are in-person only, and MeMe's fans can follow her Facebook page for meet-and-greet events around town where the books will be available. Online sales will begin at a later date.

When the cover of the cookbook was designed, there was one feature that Diane requested: a cardinal on the handle of a fork.

"A cardinal is a sign that a lost loved one is paying you a visit," she says. "For me, the cardinal reminds me of my late husband, Lee Leary, who passed away in 2016. And there's a story that you read on the Internet about a dying woman's request to be buried with a fork in her right hand. As a child at church suppers, as the dishes were being cleared, she was always told, 'Save your fork.' That was because even though the meal was over, something better was coming in the form of a delicious cake or pie. As a Christian, this woman knew that something better was awaiting her."

While we can't all have Sunday lunch at MeMe's, something good definitely awaits anyone who loves traditional Southern dishes and wants to learn to prepare them. To watch her videos, visit her Facebook page, @memes-recipe, where a new recipe is posted each week. You'll also find more information about "Sunday Lunch at MeMe's" and where you can buy a copy. In the preface, Diane writes, "Some of my fondest memories are times spent around the kitchen table." Her videos and cookbook are helping her fans make their own food memories, one stick of butter at a time.

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NIBBLE & SIP

Entertaining, MeMe style

I am no stranger to the kitchen. I grew up cooking with my mom. For a few years, I had my own dessert catering business. I've won State Fair ribbons for some of my baked goods, and I'm even a member of two different supper clubs.

So I feel like I have enough experience to write a column that shares recipes for entertaining friends and family.

That was before I got to know Diane Leary. This week, I'm bowing to the master.

AnMed Health provides back-to-school tips

As kids get ready to go back to school and get back to homework, parents and caregivers have a little homework themselves. This time of year is a good time to anticipate children's annual medical visits, as well as to reinforce healthy habits and prepare for the year ahead.

PHYSICALS

Check with your school to learn which physicals your child need, depending upon their grade and any sports they plan to play. It's important to prepare younger children for the visit to the family doctor. Teach them that an annual physical is a positive step in taking care of their health and that doctors are there to help them.

VACCINES

Be sure to stay up to date on which vaccines your kids need and when. The COVID-19 vaccine is just one of several vaccinations that can protect your child's health, said Dr. Michael Seemuller, AnMed Health's chief quality officer and medical director at AnMed Health Wren Family Medicine.

"Parents are encouraged to talk to their family doctors about getting the vaccine for their children 12 years old and older. To help protect children of all ages, provide them with a mask to wear when appropriate and remind them to maintain social distancing when possible and regularly wash their hands," he said.

SLEEP

Children who get enough sleep tend to be healthier, perform better in school and have better mental health than children who don't sleep enough. You can help your child create positive sleep habits by creating a daily bedtime ritual. Turn off screens, whether on the phone or the television, at least an hour before bedtime. When it's time for bed, have a few activities that signal to your child that it's time to wind down and prepare for sleep.

EATING

Eating habits can affect sleep. One of the best ways for parents and caregivers to create healthy food habits in children is to model those good habits themselves. Choose a variety of foods – including fruits, vegetables and healthy grains – that give you a variety of nutrients. And while certain foods should be limited, including fast foods, processed foods and sugary drinks, you don't have to ban them entirely, but avoid them at bedtime.

DENTAL CARE

Children should be taught to brush and floss regularly, but good oral health is about more than healthy teeth. If cavities are left untreated, they can cause pain and even difficulty speaking and eating. The CDC has found that poor oral health in children is associated with lower grades and missed school.

HYGIENE

When helping children create positive hygiene habits, put the focus on how these habits make them healthier. It's about more than how they look; it's also about how they feel. And, just like healthy food habits, one of the most important ways to teach children these skills - hand washing, hair washing and tooth brushing - is to be a role model.

MINOR ILLNESSES AND INJURIES

Children will catch colds, get rashes and scrape their knees, so be prepared for minor illnesses and injuries. If your child needs medical or urgent care and the family doctor is not available, then AnMed Health Kids' Care or AnMed Health CareConnect are there for you. Learn more at AnMedHealth.org/Locations.

For more useful health information, visit AnMedHealth.org/Healthy-Together. If you need a primary care provider, visit AnMedHealth.org/Doctors or call AnMed Health WellnessConnect, 864.512.3748.

Diane has been cooking since she was a child, and she continues to turn out beautiful meals for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren on a regular basis. You won't



Kim von Keller

visit her home without finding a pound cake on the counter. If there's a church lunch, wedding shower, or birthday, she knows exactly what to prepare, no matter how many people she's feeding. Many of her favorite recipes are featured in her new cookbook, "Sunday

Lunch at MeMe's," including two that make for a delightful Nibble and Sip.

Diane, who is known as MeMe by her grandchildren, suggests Sausage Balls as a perfect appetizer. "I'm often asked to bring them to baby showers," she says, "which is funny since creating my cookbook has been a little bit like giving birth." With only three ingredients, they are great for a last-minute get-together, but they'll be gone in a snap.

To accompany the savory appetizer, Diane recommends serving Citric Punch, which is sweet, sour, and full of fruit flavor. "This seems to be the favorite of all my punch recipes," she says, "and it's also quick and easy to make."

For more of Diane's recipes, visit facebook.

com/memesrecipessc. You'll find her cooking videos as well as the latest on where to buy a copy of "Sunday Lunch at MeMe's."

Sausage Balls

4 cups Bisquick
½ lb. grated sharp cheese (grate by hand for much better results)

1 lb. pork sausage (mild or hot)

In a large bowl, cut sausage into Bisquick until well blended. Add grated cheese and mix with your hands (mixture will be stiff). Form into small balls (about the size of walnuts) and bake for 15-20 minutes at 350 degrees.

This recipe will make 50-60 sausage balls.

Diane's Note: "My favorite cheese to use is Cracker Barrel Extra Sharp Yellow Cheese, found at Walmart. The wrapper is black and red. These are perfect to serve at shower or brunch."

Citric Punch

3 oz. citric acid
1 (46 oz.) can orange juice
1 (46 oz.) can pineapple juice
6 cups sugar

Mix all ingredients together and add enough water to bring mixture to 3 gallons. Chill and serve. Refreshing!

Nibble and Sip's Note: Citric acid can be found at Walmart or Target. Look for it near the canning supplies.



Michael Seemuller, M.D.

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Nandel Hiott Smith calling it a career

A lot of people do not remember or never knew that Clemson University at one time had a 2-year nursing (associate degree) program, but they did. (It's funny but I Googled it and I cannot find any mention of it at all.) When I graduated from TL Hanna, I wanted to study nursing and obtain my RN as soon as possible so I chose the Clemson program. I graduated from Clemson in 1978. As I recall, the 2-year program was dissolved around 1981 or '82. I accepted a staff nurse position at what was then Anderson Memorial Hospital in July 1978.

The first unit I worked on was 5 South which was a general medical surgical unit. The one thing I remember very clearly is that we still had 4-bed wards back then. It is hard to envision now but we had these huge hospital rooms that held 4 adult beds with only curtains for privacy. They did away with all the 4-bed wards in the late 1980's.

In 1981, I went to work on the Intravenous Therapy Team (IV Team). I loved that job because I got to go all over the hospital to all the floors and units to start IV's and transfuse blood products. One patient I will never forget was Coach Frank Howard. He had been retired from Clemson for several years by then. I had only been on the IV Team for about 3 weeks, and I was still gaining experience in venipunctures when I was called to start a pre-op IV on Coach Howard. I was scared to death, but he was actually very nice and made me feel comfortable. He recognized my Clemson ring right off and he

said he was glad that if he had to be stuck, it was by a Clemson graduate. I remember that I only had to stick him once, thank goodness.

I loved IV therapy and eventually became certified. Tri County Tech contacted me about developing their first state board approved LPN IV Therapy course which I taught for approx. 5 years.

In 1986, I was offered a position as an instructor in the Nursing Staff Development department. My job was to help plan and implement orientation and continuing education for all nursing staff. I quickly realized I needed to continue my own personal and professional development in order to be an effective instructor, so I enrolled in Clemson again in order to work on my bachelor's degree. I continued to work full time and attended classes one day a week and it was slow-go because I could only handle one 3-6-hour class a semester. I was so glad to finally be finished in 1994. Very soon after I received my diploma, I told my husband that I would never go back to school.

Never say never! A very good friend of mine talked me into going back for a master's degree in 1998 and luckily, I was able to graduate Summa Cum Laude in 2001 while still working full time. I realize now it was the best decision I ever made because it opened a lot of doors for me professionally. One great thing that came out of my degree was that my thesis was published as an article in a scholarly journal. Another great result was that I was offered the

Manager position right after graduation in June 2001. I have been in the Staff Development department ever since – about 35 years. Part of my job in Nursing Staff Development was to collaborate with several nursing schools in our area to schedule their students' clinical experiences. In Spring and Fall semesters over 400 nursing students from Anderson University, Clemson University, Tri County Technical College, Lander University, Greenville Technical College, and USC Upstate come to learn and practice nursing skills. It also allowed me to be a member of the Tri County Technical College Nursing Advisory Committee and the Clemson University Community Advisory Committee.

I feel so fortunate to have celebrated my 43rd year of nursing on July 15, 2021. AnMed Health has been so good to me. It has truly been like my family. I have seen tons of changes (3 name changes) over the last 43 years. I entered AnMed Health when I first graduated and never left. I hope I have made contributions along the way. I know I have made friends.

Some people that had the greatest influence on my career were first - Peggy G. Deane, Chief Nurse Officer. She actually hired me in 1978. I still remember that she always wore a white



Nandel Hiott Smith

uniform, white stockings, and her nurse's cap. I had 3 great nurse managers that taught me so many great leadership lessons. They were: Raye Lawing- she was a graduate of the old Anderson Memorial Hospital Diploma Nursing Program. Another was Peggy White. She led with a sense of humor and fun. She taught me how to start IV's. Peggy has just turned 91 and I hear from her daughter that she's still going strong. Lastly was my dear friend, Sandra Friddle. She was always so kind and patient. We became so close in our years working together that she asked my husband and I to be her two girls' godparents.

Although I am officially retired from AnMed Health, I am keeping my hands in nursing education as I will be adjunct faculty for Anderson University teaching Nursing Leadership to senior level nursing students.

TRANSITION INTO THE COOLER MONTHS

Autumn is right around the corner. I don't know about you but I'm ready for cool crisp air, bonfires, a hot toddy and oversized, slouchy sweaters and boots. I must say I love fall fashion the most. Summer style just isn't quite as lux to me in my humble opinion.

There is definitely something so opulent and chic about autumn.

I've discovered some really great boots from a company called FreeBird. It's a great transition into the cooler months.

They offer everything. I'm obsessed with their shoe boots. The south

stays warm for quite some time so these will be perfect for that much anticipated conversion. The textures and styles on these boots are gorgeous. Snakeskin and cognac crocodile material with big buckles on them will have you looking like the rockstar that you are. They come in every design and style you can think of so it's definitely worth checking out.



Kristine March

The color trends this season are marigold, fig, caramel and sand tones. Try one in a cashmere scarf. Long plaid cardigans and asymmetrical dresses are big this year. A houndstooth blazer looks so glam with a pair of great designer jeans. Speaking of denim I love a brand called R13. They're a bit pricey but oh so chic.

The Fall makeup color palettes are divine. Bold, neon eyeshadows and orangey red and coral lips are going to be all the rage. Berry colored lips will forever be in style. Floppy brimmed and rancher style hats are still a thing and if you're fun and daring try a bucket hat on a rainy day.

I love turquoise jewelry better than anything. I think it's the perfect color contrast for fall. It's timeless and has such a unique and stunning history behind it. It's also a great excuse to take a drive to the mountains on a random excursion to find some, whilst looking at all the beautiful foliage. All of these trends will take you right into the most beautiful season of all. So make the sidewalk your runway and Happy Almost Fall Y'all!

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The hydrangeas, camellias, azaleas, David Austin roses and extensive other gorgeous flora and fauna have captivated photographers which have used the property for countless portraits. Irrigation system in back garden, and front planting beds.

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Minyard's forethought and his beloved Cadillacs. The inside of this spectacular home continues with intrinsic details throughout the home from the three-point architectural archways, original hardwood floors, black and white tiled floors, authentic period glass doorknobs, crown molding including picture molding for hanging your artwork without damaging the plaster walls and original chandelier lighting in the common rooms. There is a formal dining room that can easily seat

12 people. The home has been completely rewired, has updated plumbing, and a generator for family room upstairs, downstairs office and all refrigerators in case of emergency. This spectacular home is an absolute must see as one

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These days the garden must pretty much fend for itself and it is mostly enjoyed from looking out the windows. That's why views from the windows are important I suppose. My faithful four legged companion and I are back in the house by about 9:30 when we tour the grounds or we are racing daylight as dark thirty approaches.

Many plants are doing fine in this heat and humidity. A second round of black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) are in full bloom and brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*) are just beginning to bloom. I think these came in a pack of wild-flower seeds. They pop up here and

there. Seeds are gathered and spread in other places too. Heavy Metal grass (*Panicum virgatum*) is beginning to set its plumes. The silver, blue gray foliage is a stand out color. The bag of seeds I got at Tractor Supply earlier this summer are growing all sorts of little plants. If you read Garden Shop issue about glitter in the garden, it was that bag which sprouted these babies. Haven't given much effort into figuring out what is what but white flowers, alyssum maybe, and some little pink flowers are blooming. The patch is quite thick. Hopefully they will come back next year if they do not bloom this year in time to re-seed.

A standout now is cleome (*Cleome hassleriana*), commonly called cat's whiskers. This is a very easy to grow re-seeding annual. Blooms are usually a pink/pale purple color. There is also a white variety but I've never seen white. One

patch at my place, in more shade, is pale pink. The standout patch in full sun is more purple. Seeds for this patch came from the shade patch. Apparently the amount of sun may make for different colors. One site stated after several years, plants will all end up a pale pink. Other common names I read, but have never heard used, are spider legs and grandfather's whiskers. Native to South America, cleome has been in gardens in the US back to the 1800's.

Cleome can grow up to six feet tall but generally stay five feet or shorter. The standout patch is eye level to me, maybe a tad taller on some stems. The shade patch is only about three feet tall. They are very easy to pull up when young but do develop a tap root. The standout patch is about eight or ten feet wide. Seed pods look sort of like a bean pod. When sharing seeds, people always ask "How do



Full sun patch of cleome

I grow them?" My standing answer is you can research the complicated details, start in a pot, etc. Or you can take the seeds home and toss them around where you want them to grow. Cleome seeds are definitely ones that the only thing a gardener needs to do is toss them down. My patches are already setting seeds from the older blooms. I'm gathering some and scattering them nearby. The patch in full sun is where

cardboard was put a couple of years ago to kill Bermuda grass. Leaves, leftover potting soil, and some dirt from the woods were put on top of the cardboard. I've been putting various seeds there since last fall.

Another nice thing about cleome is hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies like them. Hummingbird moths, and others, visit them at night. And deer have never even nibbled on them.



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Countybank's Jamie Compton selected for 2021 Class of Forty Under 40

GSA Business Report has selected Countybank's Jamie Compton for the 2021 Class of Forty Under 40.

The Forty Under 40 program honors the top 40 business professionals across the Upstate who have excelled in their chosen profession and in service to their community. Please join us in congratulating Jamie Compton for this distinguished honor.

Jamie Compton currently serves as Assistant Vice President, Communications Director for Countybank where she leads Countybank's corporate communications, brand development, internal and external marketing, social media presence, and public relations. During her time with Countybank, Compton successfully launched the bank's external website and associate intranet.

"It is great to be part of an organization like Countybank that is

focused on serving our clients and our communities," said Compton. "We find ourselves working alongside our neighbors to make the communities in which we live and work a better place."

Compton has almost 15 years of experience in the marketing and communications field and has working in a variety of industries, including financial services, technology, and nonprofit. She holds a Master's degree in Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina and currently serves on Thornwell Charter School's Board of Directors.

"I graduated from the original Thornwell School, located in Clinton, SC, before it closed in 2007. Like many alumni, I was excited to see them reopen as a charter school in 2019," said Compton. "Serving on the Board is one way I believe I can serve my

alma mater while also giving back to the community."

GSA Business Report is proud to recognize 40 elite individuals who start companies, lead community efforts for positive change and who have made an impact that reaches far behind the Forty Under 40 honor.

GSA Business Report's panel of judges had a difficult challenge in determining who would be named to the 2021 Class of Forty Under 40. Not only did they have to consider the personal, professional dedication and commitment of service each nominee provides in the Upstate but to have done so in the shadow of a global pandemic indicates this class has been tempered like no other and destined for great things in the future.

ABOUT COUNTYBANK:
Founded in 1933, Countybank is a

community-oriented financial services provider with locations across Upstate South Carolina in the Greenwood, Greenville, Simpsonville, Greer, and Anderson communities. The combination of trusted, professional financial management experience with a community-first approach has made Countybank the premier community bank in Upstate South Carolina. In addition to a full array of traditional deposit and loan products, which include worldwide access via mobile and online banking, Countybank also provides products and services through Countybank Insurance Services, Inc., Countybank Investment Services, Inc., Countybank Mortgage, Countybank Trust Services, and its affiliate, Greenwood Capital. Connect with Countybank on Facebook and LinkedIn @CountybankSC.

About GSA Business Report
GSA Business Report is the source



JAMIE COMPTON

of business news for high-level executive across the Upstate and beyond. As part of the SC Biz News team with several publications, including the Charleston Regional Business Journal, Columbia Regional Business Report, SCBIZ magazine and many others online and in print, GSA Business Report's team of content providers partner with businesses and economic development leaders across the state.

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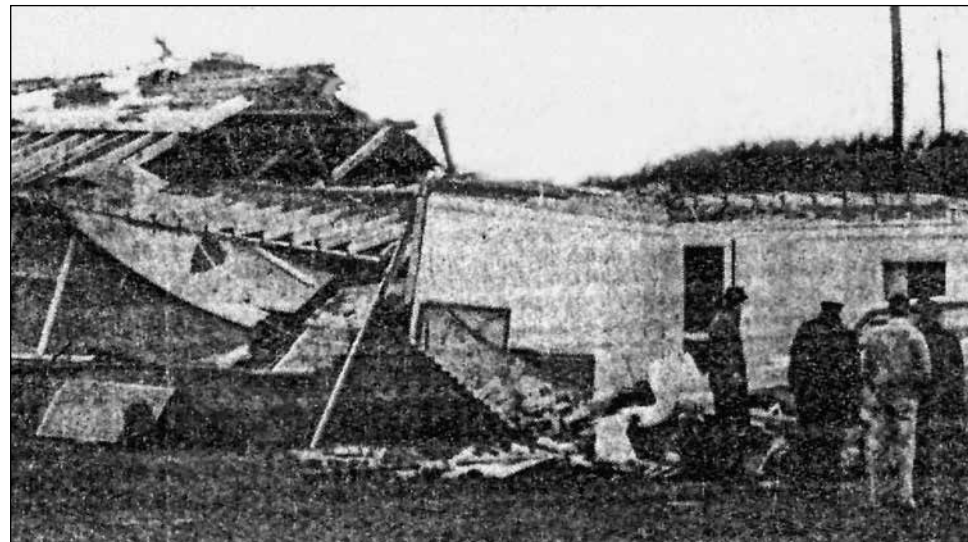
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Riverside Mills 1924 tornado - Courtesy Anderson County Museum



Milgate Road - 1970 tornado

The terrifying tornadoes of Anderson's past

BY RICH OTTER

The City of Anderson has been no stranger to tornadoes but the most devastating one in recent memory (of a few) occurred April 30, 1924. Frank A. Dickson in his book *Journeys Into The Past* described the fury and terror of that event from personal experience as a 12 year old boy.

The tornado first touched down near Masters' Store south of Anderson and skipped to the intersection of South McDuffie Street and East Franklin Street, continuing down Franklin to East River Street, Elizabeth and Brock streets. Extensive damage was caused at Riverside Mills. It arrived at breakfast time. Frank Dickson was at home on Elizabeth Street.

"The roar in the sky got louder and louder until it seemed to approach the explosion point. The torrents of rain pummeled the roof, and the wind suddenly howled with the churning turbulence of Niagara Falls, lashing the house like a thousand whips.

"Then the roar apparently collided with the house. In a split second the wind took complete and reckless possession of our home and the houses in the neighborhood...I shot a glance through one of the windows in the dining room, my eyes caught the sight of a huge ball — so red that it resembled a fire raging beyond control...An oak tree in our front yard tore from the ground and crashed into the front room. The front porch roof met its destruction." When the "darkness dramatically lifted" he "felt as if freed from a vise of torment."

"The tornado had plunged a two-by-four piece of lumber through the wall just above the pillow of my bed." When outside he heard "screams of horror and cries for help." Fire broke out in the neighborhood but the continuing rain helped to suppress it.

Some of the homes were completely demolished. After leaving Anderson there were reported 9 dead, 100 injured and 600 homeless. The estimated property loss was valued to be \$1.5 million (current value \$23,235,000). The storm was said to have

reformed into one or more tornadoes that touched down in Laurens County and then in Spartanburg. It was reported to be the worst tornado to have hit Anderson County since February 19, 1884. In April of 1924 some 28 tornados swept through the Southern United States killing 144 and injuring 1,166, most of the casualties being in North and South Carolina. Seventy-six of the deaths were in South Carolina.

Of lesser magnitude and with far fewer consequences but stirring terror was the tornado that whipped through Anderson on April 2, 1970. Anderson's mayor was eating breakfast when the telephone rang. An excited lady exclaimed a tornado had just come through her yard. Oh sure, the mayor thought. Another excited constituent. He said he would come take a look.

When he got near the house trees were down, snapped or uprooted. Debris was everywhere. He ran from house to house until he could find a working telephone and called the police department. They knew nothing about a tornado. He asked them to notify the street and sanitation departments. Fortunately, there were no fires.

The tornado had gone from Rose Hill through "B" Street, and from the old recreation center through Shannon Way, Ravenal Road, Bellview and finally Millgate. A path was cut five miles across the heart of Anderson. Unbelievably, with trees being tossed and tumbled only one house on Millgate was destroyed, and no one was seriously hurt although many had a very traumatic experience. Roy Ethridge in Anderson County 1929-1972 reported that leaving Anderson the tornado did minimal damage to the new Anderson Bible Church but a house under construction was demolished.

One house on Bellview had somehow been partially lifted and curtains were protruding outside between the brick and window sills. The total dollar value of the losses in the city were estimated to be \$500,000, in 2021 dollars about \$13,380,000.

Acting independently with little communication, city crews quickly mobilized and cleared streets and helped property owners. One street department driver, later recognized by city council, was clearing trees from Market Street and knew there was not enough time to take loads to the landfill. He took the loads to the city maintenance barn and dumped them to

the understandable chagrin of the maintenance people. He was sure he would be fired but his efforts cleared a main artery in record time.

The City of Anderson has experienced some near misses suffered by others in Anderson County as well as in neighboring counties but little has compared with the 1924 experience.



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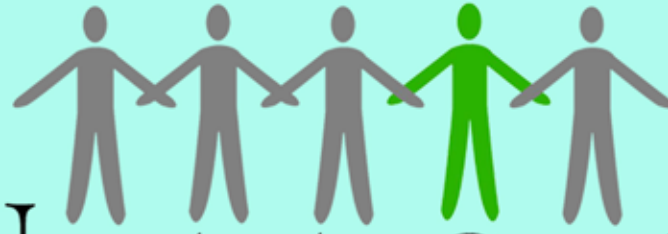


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AMERICA'S LEGENDARY DANCE BAND STILL 'KOOL' AFTER 50 YEARS

BY JIM HARRIS AND
JULIE BAILES JOHNSON

Few things in this world can get a group of people onto a dance floor like a song from the legendary Kool and the Gang. With hits spanning decades and a fusion of multiple musical genres and styles, they appeal to a broad and diverse group of fans across generations. With sales of over 70 million albums worldwide, there is no doubt they have made a mark on the music scene everywhere.

In 1964, in Jersey City, New Jersey, brothers Ronald and Robert "Kool" Bell joined with childhood friends Ricky West, George Brown, Charles Smith, Dennis "Dee Tee" Thomas, and Robert "Spike" Mickens to form a band. Over a half-century later, the iconic hits from their fusion of jazz, R&B, soul, rock, funk, and pop have become a part of our popular culture.

Initially calling themselves the Jazziacs, they progressed through a series of band names before deciding on the one that would become known worldwide, Kool and the Gang. Their performing skills were polished by frequent east coast appearances, supporting acts like Ritchie Havens and comedians Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor. In 1969, they released their debut album, the instrumental "Kool and the Gang." It did well, sales-wise, with hits like "Kool and the Gang" and "Let The Music Take Your Mind," both of which reached number 19 on the Billboard Hot R&B Songs Chart. It was a successful first album by all standards, but it showed only a glimmer of what was to come.

They released two other studio albums in the early 1970s, and all sold well, but it was 1973's *Wild and Peaceful* that launched the group into a worldwide phenomenon. Their record company had a producer in mind they felt would take the band to more of a national audience. The band had their own plans. In one of the most amazingly productive days in music history, the musicians headed to the famous rehearsal studio Baggy's in Soho. They began to jam at about 8 AM, and, at the end of that day, they had written *Funky Stuff*, *Jungle Boogie*, and *Hollywood Swinging*. After that, Bell says, "Needless to say, there were no more problems with the record company." The album was recorded at MediaSound Studios in New York and featured three hit singles that performed well on R&B and pop charts. The album was certified Gold for sales of over 500,000 copies.

In 1979, the band took a new direction toward a crossover audience and added lead singer J.T. Taylor, a Laurens, S.C. native. That year, they released the hit album *Ladies*



Kool & The Gang

Night, which was certified platinum with over 1,000,000 sales. All three singles did well on both the R&B and pop charts.

In 1980, the group released *Celebrate*, which was certified double platinum, and featured a smash hit single hit, *Celebration*.

The song's inspiration came from the story of God's creation of Adam, with the angels celebrating and singing praises. It would reach number one on the Billboard Hot 100. In 2021, the Library of Congress chose *Celebration* for preservation in the National Recording Registry for being "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant."

The band continued producing albums and singles that performed well. Their songs have appeared in motion pictures, like *Saturday Night Fever*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Undercover Brother*, and *Rocky*. They participated in 1984's star-laden charity single "Do They Know It's Christmas." As proof of their wide-ranging appeal, in 2012, Kool and the Gang were invited to be the opening act for rock legends Van Halen on their "A Different Kind of Truth" tour.

Kool and the Gang are generally considered the most sampled band in works by other artists. They have 31 gold and platinum albums, seven American Music Awards under their belts, and two Grammys. In 2015, they received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2018, the Bell brothers and George Brown and D.T. Taylor were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Today's version of Kool and the Gang reflects the loss of some founding and long-

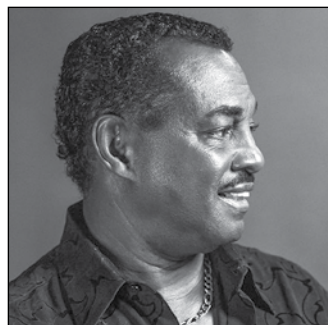
time members. Robert Bell's brother, Ronald, passed away in 2020. Another brother, Amir

Bayyan, has been with the band since 2006. "Kool" and founding member George Brown still make up the nucleus along with a group of many seasoned musicians.

Bell has launched a champagne line, Le Kool Champagne Grand Cru, currently available in Europe and Japan, but he hopes to have American distribution soon.

Kool credits their longevity in part to the advice they received early on from their parents, who told the young musicians, "Whatever you do, make sure you stick together as a band." When asked if they still enjoy performing live, Robert says, "Absolutely. Before Covid, we were doing over 100 shows a year. We still have the same energy. We always have 12 musicians on stage so we can play live."

This year marks the band's 50th year of music. They have a new album just coming out, *Perfect Union*, with the first single being one of the last songs Ronald Bell co-wrote, "The Pursuit of Happiness". In the meantime, they are utilizing social media to stay in touch with their fans. Look for the band back on tour soon, circumstances permitting.



Robert "Kool" Bell

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Prepare your space for back to school

As has been true for years gone by, the end of August signifies two important milestones--the conclusion of one season and the beginning of another. While it's difficult to say goodbye to the carefree



Katie Laughridge

days of summer, it's equally exciting to welcome the start of another school year.

Recently, as we continue to prepare ourselves for the next phase of our crazy lives, I have obsessed myself with rearranging our home to better meet the changing needs of the "back-to-school" hustle and bustle that

will soon engulf us. Some of the items on our constantly growing "to-do" list include hanging new hooks to hold extra coats and bags, sharpening pencils for homework, clearing a workspace for completing projects, organizing our home library, and charging devices we may need in order to be successful. Slowly but surely our hard work and diligence is starting to pay off.

As a young girl, having my own special space to relax, think and create was very important to me. It created within me a sense of security, individuality and confi-

dence. Now, as a mother of three, I want to create "spaces" in my own home where my children can relax, create and just be themselves. Whether that means finishing the last chapter of *Shiloh*, practicing their spelling words, or completing a science project, having their own special space will help them feel more confident and inspired- which will lead to a desire to excel and create their own successes.

Maybe you have an extra table sitting around that would make the perfect desk space or perhaps you have an extra pillow and throw blanket to add to an empty comfortable chair! If you look around your house, I bet you'll find the perfect items to create "special spaces" for your own home. It may surprise you how such a small thing can inspire your little ones to be more excited about school and be more driven to learn and experience new things.

Wishing you all a wonderful and successful school year!



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FROM THE SHELF

'The Final Girl Support Group' by Grady Hendrix

My initial foray into the horror genre started last year when I came across the descriptions for Grady Hendrix's *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires*.



Sara Leady

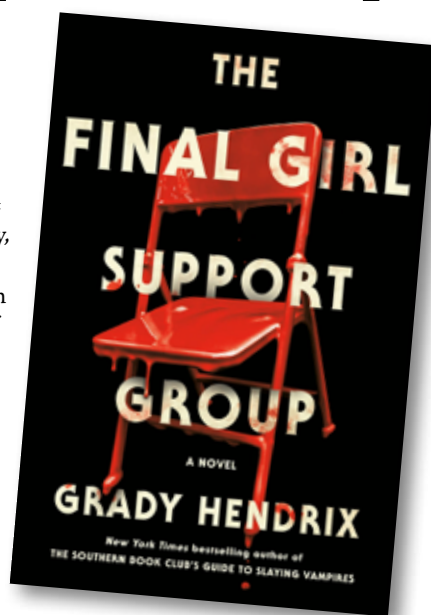
Since that gem (think middle-age women in Charleston waging war with a vampire that's moved in and threatening the property value) I've been dipping my toe into the waters of the horror genre and have been surprised to find myself actually appreciating a lot of it.

As I've become more familiar with the genre I've come to appreciate the genius of Grady Hendrix that much more. Hendrix balances the graphic nature of horror with sly

humor and scathing social commentaries that I am beyond here for. It's going to sound a bit crazy, but I'd honestly almost say to think Mel Brooks meets Stephen King with maybe a sprinkling of Quentin Tarantino.

The *Final Girl Support Group* follows that recipe with a celebration of classic 1980s and 90s slasher films in all their ridiculous gory glory. For those who aren't in the know (me before diving into the genre), 'final girls' are the literal final girl (seriously, almost always a girl) standing at the end of the slasher film covered in blood having just killed the killer that's terrorized them and their friends for the last hour and a half.

As the title suggests, the book focuses on a group of 'final girls,' now in their 40s and 50s, who meet monthly with their psychologist for



group therapy. Each member of the support group has their own unique story of how they became a final girl and very different ways of coping with the aftermath of surviving such an event. One created a retreat for trauma survivors, another does drugs, and our narrator is rather paranoid with multiple safe rooms and

mapped out escape routes (including stashed cars and fake IDs).

The book starts when one of the members fails to show up for the group, and then turns up dead at the same camp where she, decades before, became a final girl. Lynnette (our paranoid leading final lady) just knows someone is finally coming for the Final Girls now that the secret about their little group is out. Lynnette goes on the run after the killer makes an attempt on her life (and most traumatizing almost kills her bff, a potted plant...) and is determined to not only find the killer, but end things to protect the group.

Part of the humor comes from Hendrix's commentary on the monetizing of tragic events like these women have lived through since each woman's story has actually become franchised and turned into full media experiences with ongoing sequels (and in some cases action figures.) There's even snippets of reviews of the various franchise films peppered through the text. The reviews come from professional movie reviewers to the anonymous haters posting in online forums, giving you a broad idea of the absolute insanity that the women's stories have morphed into. There's also

obviously the potted plant thread that is also fun since full conversations and arguments are had (don't worry, the plant survives.)

As humorous as I found the title, I'd be remiss to not be transparent about the gore and violence levels. As a celebration of slasher films, I meant what I said about a sprinkling of Tarantino in regards to the blood spilling and over-the-top nature of some of the murders. As a seasoned thriller reader, it didn't go too much further beyond your typical super gritty thriller, but if you're looking for funny horror that's maybe a touch lighter, Hendrix's *The South Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* might be the ticket for you. As we head toward Halloween season with its release of the latest horror films, *The Final Girl Support Group* is sure to set the mood for your spooky season.

As an added bonus, HBO has announced that the book has already been optioned for a limited series, with the duo behind the *It* reboot and Charlize Theron taking part in bringing it to the small screen.

Sara Leady is Head of Reader Services & Creative Programming for the Anderson County Library.

Tinnitus (constant ringing or buzzing in the ears)

I'll never forget when I first heard the loud high pitched ringing. I was scared, panicked, and the more I thought about it, the louder it seemed to get. It was the weekend, but I called my doctor who suggested I make an appointment with an audiologist. I couldn't sleep or work or do anything until this awful sound was gone.



Neal Parnell

I was a drained zombie as I entered the ear, eye, nose and throat clinic. The young doctor examined the holes in my head and of course found nothing in there. I sat in the sound proof booth waiting to hear a series of beeps through some headphones. My hearing was excellent.

The Doc sat me down and said, "I believe you have Tinnitus". I said, "Well if that's a constant loud high pitched tone in my head, I do, and what can you do about it?" His answer still shocks me to this day, "We're not sure what causes it, and it may or may not go away".

"What! Are you kidding me? There's nothing you can do?"

I paid for the scare of my life with a credit card and left the clinic in a depressed ringing fog. As my wife drove me home, I told her that I was beaten and would soon turn to mush. She said, "I don't want to hear any of that whiny beaten crap, we're not giving up, so put that in your head too! Just across the street from the modern clinic I'd just left, was a house that had been renovated into an office and examination rooms. The old wooden sign out front said, "Complete Hearing Care". She pulled up, and we went in without an appointment. I had barely



given my name when the receptionist said, "Follow me, the doctor will see you now". The doctor was at least eighty years old and I wondered if I should speak loudly so that he could hear me. I told him my symptoms and what the other doctor had said. He says to me, "I have had Tinnitus for fifty years, and most likely, you will too".

My head drooped, when his comforting and understanding voice said, "There are things that will help you live with it". He told me about masking the sound, and that quietness was my enemy now. He reached over on his counter



and turned on a little speaker box. It played the sound of a roaring waterfall, and he asked me if I could hear any ringing? I could not, and it was the most peaceful my mind had been in a week. He turned off the speaker, unplugged it from the wall, handed it to me and said, "This is your new best friend". I didn't get his name, but he didn't even charge me for the visit. I knew that it was God that led my wife to this angel in doctor's clothing. I've witnessed his leading her to things before.

I slept like a baby with my new sound masking friend that I named "Splash", and the comfort of knowing that someone understood and cared.

A few days later I went back to thank the old doctor, but the sign was gone and there were people living in the house. There was no entry in the phonebook for "Complete Hearing Care" and I could find nothing that even said it existed. I know God works in mysterious ways but this was up there with the burning bush and parting the Red Sea. My wife said it wasn't ours to question, and that I should forget it and just be thankful.

I long to hear complete silence, it's been eight years since I have. But thanks to my wife and that wise old doctor, I have learned to cope and appreciate the sounds that give me peace.

JOANNA MOORE

BY JIM HARRIS

You'd be hard-pressed to find a TV show more beloved than the Andy Griffith Show. Over six decades after the show debuted, it is still popular in syndication. Dialogue lines and characters from the show have become part of the fabric of popular culture. One of the most fondly remembered roles is Peggy McMillan, a girlfriend of Andy's, played by actress Joanna Moore. Even though she only appeared on four episodes in 1962, many fans still consider her a favorite of all of Andy's love interests. She had over 80 film and television credits and was once married to Hollywood's number one heartthrob. She co-starred with the most successful entertainer in history. Her daughter even won an Academy Award. What many may not know is the challenging path Moore had to travel before her arrival on our screens and the horrific life that followed.

Joanna Moore was born as Dorothy Joanne Cook in Americus, GA, in 1934. Her name change was not as is often seen in Hollywood, attempting to create a more marketable moniker; hers was from tragedy. When she was seven years old, her family was involved in a serious car accident that killed her mother and younger sister and seriously wounded her father. He passed a year later from his injuries. Dorothy was sent to live with her grandmother until she became too feeble to care for her. Dorothy was placed for adoption and soon placed with a local family, who changed her name to Joanna.

In her 2004 book "A Paper Life,"

her daughter, Tatum, recalls rumors that a member of Joanna's adoptive family had molested her. At 16, Joanna married and quickly divorced another teenager, Willis Moore. Not long after, she enrolled in Agnes Scott College, near Atlanta. Winning a local beauty contest led her to decide on a move to Hollywood. There she met a producer from Universal Studios at a cocktail party, and her career path was set into motion.

A brief second marriage came and went. In late 1957, Moore began appearing in TV and film roles, including *Maverick*, *Perry Mason*, *The Rifleman*, *The Untouchables*, and *Studio One*. As she was injured when shooting an in-water scene on the set of *Route 66*. It left her with a six-inch scar on her leg. Nonetheless, she continued working steadily in numerous series.

Moore suffered from a genetic hearing disorder, otosclerosis, which is a bone growth in the inner ear. Her hearing had declined to the point that directors had to tap her on the shoulder when it was time to shoot her parts, and she went through her lines without hearing them and had to read her co-stars lips to complete a scene. Despite that, in 1961, she was able to travel to Florida to film *Follow That Dream* with Elvis Presley. The gossip columnists of the day relayed stories of Elvis once trying to break down her door, but it seems there was never any romantic connection.

In the summer of 1962, she underwent surgery to correct the hearing issue, and it was successful. Leaving the hospital after the procedure,



Joanna Moore with Andy Griffith and Don Knotts

she heard a truck horn honk. "I was thrilled," she later said. Soon after, she filmed her first Andy episode, entitled "Andy's Rich Girlfriend." Her third episode was one of the most famous, "Barney Mends a Broken Heart," which is the first appearance of the Fun Girls from *Mt. Pilot*.

Rumors later surfaced that a relationship was brewing between Moore and Griffith, which may explain her exit. Still, she enjoyed her experience there. "I liked the Griffith show better than anything else I've ever done. Everyone on the program is so nice. The show is well organized, and there is no rush. The people discuss their problems openly, and the difficulties just seem to disappear," she later said.

In 1963, Moore married her third husband, actor Ryan O'Neal, and months later, delivered their first child, Tatum. Son Griffin followed in 1964. O'Neal's career exploded that year when he landed a role on the nighttime soap opera *Peyton Place*. Moore's career seemed to slow, and amphetamines and alcohol became more present in her life. She continued acting but became affected by depression. In early 1966, the couple separated, with their divorce became final in 1967. The court awarded custody of the children to Moore.

Moore's alcohol and drug use escalated after the divorce. Still getting acting roles, her personal life suffered from the substance abuse. She moved the family to a run-down ranch, where she had the misguided idea of providing care for troubled youths. Her downward spiral continued. Tatum describes an environment with rampant drug abuse, unsanitary conditions, beatings at the hands of her mother's sixteen-year-old boyfriend,



Joanna Moore and Ron Howard

and being locked in the garage for so long that she and her brother resorted to eating dog food. A DUI with her children in the car resulted in a loss of custody of her children. Another DUI was from a wreck in which she lost three fingers. In 1970, she checked herself into rehab but continued to struggle with her addictions. Other DUIs followed.

Another marriage quickly ended in divorce. By the late 1970s, Joanna's life had gotten to the point that her daughter had to provide support for her. Tatum later said of her mother, "She was extraordinarily beautiful, with blond hair, a perfect heart-shaped face, huge green eyes, lush, full lips. She had a smoky, seductive voice (which my daughter Emily and I both inherited) warmed by her southern lilt

Moore still landed the occasional acting role and did some theater in

Palm Springs. Her last television appearance was the TV movie *Scout's Honor* in 1980. A lifelong smoker, she was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1996 and died in 1997. She is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Americus.

In 2015, Moore's grandson, Kevin McEnroe (son of tennis legend John McEnroe and daughter Tatum), wrote a book, "Out Town," based on Moore. He has her likeness tattooed on his shoulder and considers her his guardian angel.

In her book, Tatum says, "My father Ryan O'Neal always said that my mother was the best actor in the family, but it was only after she died that I came to recognize her power." In the fore papers of that same book, Tatum shares a quote from her mother, "My dream is to remember to laugh at myself when I've been a fool . . . and to learn from it, and then let it go."



Joanna Moore and Elvis Presley

The other pink bird, part II

BY ANN BAILES

The rare roseate (ROSE-e-at) spoonbill seen in the Townville area in late July had appeared to have moved on, but then was spotted again on August 10. Wild birds come and go. (An equally unusual wood stork has also been seen lately, but that's another story for another issue.) There's so much to be said about the beautiful and unique spoonbill, which is the "other" pink bird beside the flamingo, that it's worth continuing from the last ECN issue with a second article about it.

The spoonbill seen in Anderson County is a pale pink immature bird. An adult is a more striking sight. Its head and neck are white, and its eyes are red. But it's the bright pink coloration on its shoulders and lower

body, and its flat spoon-like bill, that catch an observer's eye immediately. Some adults have such bright colors on their shoulders that they are almost reddish. That brilliant pink comes from eating small crustaceans, such as shrimp, that contain carotenoid pigments.

Spoonbills are social, and can often be seen in groups with ibises, egrets, and herons in shallow water, sweeping those flat pancake bills from left to right, looking for anything they can eat. These birds also can be seen, like flamingos, standing on one leg. Keeping their balance doesn't seem to be a challenge for them.

Roseate spoonbills were scarce in the east anywhere but Florida for many years, as they were one of the species decimated by the plume industry of the 1800s. A

range map in Peterson's field guide of 1980, the gold standard guide at the time, shows that spoonbills in the eastern half of the United States were seen only in southern Florida in winter. Any dispersal northward was merely to the center of that state. Even in the 2002 updated version of Peterson's guide, the range of the bird extended only to the Georgia coast. But a few years ago that started to change as spoonbills began ranging northward.

Now, spoonbills are no longer exotic birds in South Carolina. They can be seen in estuaries in Hilton Head, Charleston, Murrells Inlet, and points all along the coast, even to North Carolina and occasionally further north than that - and bird experts agree that they are here to stay. A few have hung around all



year, even when most of their counterparts have gone back to southern Florida and South America to breed.

Some animal species that have come to South Carolina, such as fire

ants, armadillos, and starlings, are not good additions to the fauna. But the beautiful roseate spoonbill is more than welcome, and we are richer because it has moved into our state.

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SUCCESSFUL CO-PARENTING



**MARY-CATHERINE
McCLAIN
RINER**

When two parents file for divorce, participating in a child or children's upbringing requires co-parenting. One of the biggest goals of co-parenting is choosing the child's wellbeing over conflict, and communicating respectfully and proactively. Although it sounds easy, this can be difficult when two individuals are experiencing betrayal, hurt, and loneliness. Co-parenting is about the needs of the children, fostering a sense of love and safety, and ultimately doing what is best for them. Co-parenting has become even more important during the pandemic.

Below are recommendations for successfully co-parenting.

- Create a reasonable and feasible schedule. Set realistic goals based on personal schedules, work schedules, and school schedules. Write it down. Visualize it. Review it weekly. Make changes as needed.

- Communication is often best when brief,



- neutral, and focused on one thing or specific topic/need. Communication can be verbal or written (e.g., email or text message).

- Remove emotions out of the communica-

- tion. Focus on facts over feelings. Focus on the children rather than personal emotions.

- Do not put your children in the center; specifically, avoid using children as spies, mes-

sengers, or allies. Reduce the probing for questions. It is not the child's responsibility to relay information happening in the "other house."

- The rules and expectations between both houses does not need to be perfect. There is a reason you are no longer married or in the relationship—because you did not agree about everything. It is OK to have similar but not identical rules. Children are resilient, adaptable, and flexible. Ongoing conflict between parents is more detrimental than house differences (in reason).

- No people have the same identical parenting style. Learn to let go of what is not most important. Prioritize your needs. Take deep breaths. Ask a trusted friend his/her opinions. Move forward and let go of the small, petty stuff.

- People want to feel heard and valued. Whether you agree or not, it is usually helpful to ask for feedback/input. Remember, you can choose to co-parent effectively and in a healthy way even if you have strong negative feelings towards your ex-partner.

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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T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

Jackets have all the pieces back to make another run

Hanna Yellow Jackets

Aug. 20	Laurens	HOME
Aug. 27	Wren	HOME
Sept. 10	BHP	HOME
Sept. 17	Easley	AWAY
Sept. 24	Westside	AWAY
Oct. 1	Woodmont	HOME
Oct. 8	Mauldin	HOME
Oct. 15	J.L. Mann	AWAY
Oct. 22	Byrnes	AWAY
Oct. 29	Hillcrest	AWAY

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — Coming off a successful season in 2020 that saw the T. L. Hanna Yellow Jackets make a run to the state championship game, there are plenty of questions for coach Jason Tone's team.

Entering his third year at the helm of the program and his fifth overall at the school, Tone will have to replace a senior class that made it to the top of the mountain twice and find a new leader for his offense.

Luckily for Hanna fans, the 2021 Jackets have all the pieces necessary to compete at the highest level again this year.

One of the biggest questions for the Jackets this season is behind center after the transfer of Trey Horne to Wren and the graduation of Noah Hamby.

With no returning varsity experience at quarterback, the job will come down to junior Kenny Fretwell and Clemson baseball commit senior Jay Dillard.

Elsewhere in the backfield, the Jackets will rely on a solid stable of backs led by senior Kam Johnson.

Johnson looks to become the focal point of the offense in a similar vein to last year's leading rusher J.J. Hudson after finishing second on the team in yardage with 346 in 2020.

Joining Johnson in the backfield are the likes of seniors Carson Bacheller, Fletcher Cothran and Kabrail Morrison.

While passing is never a focus of the Jackets' Wing-T offense, Hanna knows it can count on senior receivers Chase Burton and Brody Winter when called upon.

On the offensive front, the Yellow Jackets should be able to pound opponents with big bodies like senior tight end Chap Pendergrass and tackle Colin Sanders.

The Hanna defensive line should be able to stop most opponents in their tracks with the play of senior Eli Reid-Levrette in the middle and Tracy Cheatham at end.

Cheatham could be in for a big season stepping into the place held by Ryan Wynn last year. Pendergrass, Morrison and senior Jay Cheek are also important contributors on the defensive line.

In the linebacking room, Cothran is the leader, and the Clemson walk-on commit should pack a punch alongside seniors Wes Stringer and Brodie Mattison.

Cothran picked up 30 tackles last season, including three for loss and a sack and should provide even more for the Yellow Jackets this year.

At defensive back, senior N.J. Williams will anchor a group that also features Burton and senior Dakota Smith.

In the kicking game, senior Logan McConnell will be called on to replace Jay Billingsley.

The Yellow Jackets will kick off their fall season at home on Aug. 20 against Laurens High School.



WESTSIDE RAMS

After 2020 region title, Rams set sights higher this year

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — Coming off a region title in 2020, expectations are high for the Westside Rams as they enter the fall season, and there's no reason they shouldn't be.

With one of the best offenses in the Upstate and a defense that should have no trouble getting stops, the 2021 season could bring even greener pastures for the Rams.

Success for the Rams begins with the play of senior quarterback Peter Zamora in his second year under center for the Rams.

After transferring to Westside last season from Deerfield Beach High School in Florida, Zamora tore apart Region I-4A with more than 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns through the air. With another year of experience behind center and continued growth as a player, Zamora can be expected to surpass those numbers with ease this season.

If teams didn't already have to worry enough about the Westside offense, the tailback tandem of junior Hunter Puckett and senior Amir Dendy will undoubtedly be a cause for concern for opposing defensive coordinators.

Puckett was the workhorse for the Rams a season ago, picking up 730 yards and 11 touchdowns. This year, Dendy, a Pendleton transfer who holds college offers from Utah and Ole Miss, will provide an electric change of pace for the Rams.

Also back for the Rams on offense is a strong group of

receivers, led by sophomore Josh Williams.

Williams led the Rams in yardage as a freshman and should continue to be a big-play threat alongside seniors Ryan Brownell and Owen Skelton and sophomore Jimmar Boston.

On the offensive front, the Rams are sure to miss Jayden Ramsey now that he is playing at Appalachian State, but they can rely on Will Fant and Brady Bendig.

The Rams are going to have a lot of trouble replacing

Carlos Hernandez off the edge, but Puckett, who plays defensive end in addition to running back, may be the man to take his spot. Another name to watch on the interior is junior A.J. Williams.

The strong point of the Ram defense should be the trio of Chris Hardy, KT Perry and Titus Crisler at linebacker. The trio combined for nearly 100 tackles in 2020 and should be in line for even more this season.

On the back end of the defense, the Rams will look to replace the all-around play of Marquis Gant, but Nehemiah Smith should more than do the trick after a solid campaign last fall.

Finally, on special teams, Westside will replace Mr. Reliable Bryce Earley at kicker. River Duncan seems to be the man for the job after kicking in limited duty in 2020.

The Rams will open the season Aug. 20 on the road against BHP.



Westside Rams

Aug. 20	BHP	AWAY
Aug. 27	Summerville	AWAY
Sept. 3	Greer	AWAY
Sept. 10	Byrnes	HOME
Sept. 17	Hartwell Co.	HOME
Sept. 24	Hanna	HOME
Oct. 1	Easley	HOME
Oct. 8	Travelers Rest	AWAY
Oct. 22	Walhalla	HOME
Oct. 29	Pickens	AWAY