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Dec. 9-22, 2021



GAMAC PRESENTS...

*A sleigh  
ride for  
the whole  
family*

**A**fter nearly 2 years since the Covid-19 pandemic shut their annual concert series down, the Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium (GAMAC) returns with a heart-warming musical journey for the entire family. Now in its 30th season, GAMAC will present Sleigh Ride: A New Christmas Tradition on Friday, December 10, 2021 at 7:00pm in Henderson Auditorium in the Rainey Fine Arts Center at Anderson University. With performances by the Anderson Symphony Chamber Orchestra with members of the GAMAC Chamber Chorale, and the Electric City Big Band,

SEE RIDE ON PAGE 2



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## community

# Ride

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sleigh Ride will feature lighter holiday fare than in previous GAMAC Christmas performances.

The Anderson Symphony Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Andrew Pettus will kick off the evening with Leroy Anderson's beloved classic Sleigh Ride! A medley titled Christmas at the Movies featuring themes from such favorite holiday films as The Polar Express, Home Alone, Miracle On 34th Street, and more will follow. Spectacular arrangements of the traditional Carol of the Bells and God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen are also planned. Formerly known as the GAMAC Chamber Orchestra, the Anderson Symphony Chamber Orchestra is comprised of professional instrumentalists from the Upstate.

A GAMAC Christmas celebration is incomplete without choral music! Performing both sacred carols and popular Christmas tunes will be members of the GAMAC Chamber Chorale under the direction of Dr. Don Campbell. Comprised of 20 singers from the larger Chorale, the GAMAC Chamber Chorale will perform Sherri Porterfield's Winter Carol featuring soprano soloist Jean Ellen Linkins, Alfred Burt's Some Children

See Him featuring soprano Vivian Ewart, and O Holy Night featuring baritone Addrian Wilson. Reduced in size amid Covid concerns, the full GAMAC Chorale looks forward to returning to the stage in the New Year.

The Electric City Big Band under the direction of Mr. Alan Nowell will add a bit of swing to this sleigh ride with a performance of Jose Feliciano's Feliz Navidad and George Stone's arrangement of Silver Bells. And, rumor has it, that the Grinch himself might make an appearance!

Tickets to Sleigh Ride: A New Christmas Tradition are priced at just \$20 for adults and \$10 for full-time college students. Children will be admitted free with donation of a new, unwrapped toy to benefit the Upstate Fatherhood Coalition. To purchase tickets, please call (864) 231-6147 or visit [www.gamac.org](http://www.gamac.org) for secure online sales. Masks are encouraged. Social distancing will be enforced with rows and seats skipped to keep patrons 6 or more feet apart.

Sleigh Ride: A New Christmas Tradition is sponsored by the Irvin & Jorene Cauthen Donor Advised Fund, AnMed Health Carolina Cardiology, The Montessori School of Anderson, The Peoples Bank, Kay & Harold Gilbert, Barbara Gaines, John & Julie Miller, and Margaret C. Herndon. Support is also provided in part by City of Anderson Accommodations Tax Funding and the South Carolina Arts Commission.

GAMAC  
Christmas 2021

## Sleigh Ride

A New Christmas Tradition



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# A PAGEANT PIONEER

BY JIM HARRIS

Anderson native Carmen Gayton (then Carmen Walker) didn't start out to become a pioneer. The Anderson native attended Westside High School, where she cheered and excelled in academics. She saw beauty pageants as a way to earn scholarship money, so she decided to try her hand and became a glass ceiling breaker in the process.

One of her first titles was Miss Westside High School. In 1976, she won the first Statewide Miss Internationale Teen-USA pageant, also winning the essay contest. An article covering the event in the Orangeburg newspaper referred to Carmen as "A very bright girl who maintains a straight-A average." She traveled to Washington, D.C., to represent South Carolina in the national finals. Carmen soon entered the Miss Anderson pageant but fell short of the title. In 1979, she entered again, and she won. Carmen became the first African-American to wear the Miss Anderson sash.

In that era, one may have expected some negative experiences with being the first winner that was a person of color. However, Carmen recalls a supportive community and a positive experience. She says, "It was less about me being the only person of color, but more about the people that were a part of the pageant, like the Jaycees. They never made me feel less than. I always felt accepted, embraced. I always felt like they were pulling for me as much as they were pulling for the next person."

Her success resonated through the African-American community. She recalls, "It made me embrace the moment. There were so many young people, particularly in my neighborhood, which was an African-American neighborhood. The kids were so excited for me, the families were so excited for me because I represented

who they are, and I did something that hadn't been done before. They were just bursting with pride, and that gave me the impetus and the energy and made me excited that I did it."

During her reign as Miss Anderson, she made appearances throughout the state, often at festivals that also had pageants, which she entered for practice. She soon realized that the process was going to be hard work. She traveled across the state, representing Anderson, put in an hour of training every day on her talent, staying in shape for the swimsuit segment, and keeping abreast of current events for the question phase of competitions.

She looked at the situation as an opportunity to "see the world," so to speak. She appeared at various events, judged for other pageants, and met many people. While her home community was very supportive, some other towns weren't so positive. She recalls, "I did go to some communities that made me acutely aware that I was black."

She recalls, "In one town, I was in the parade, on the car, driving down. These guys held up scorecards, ranging from zero to ten, rating the contestants as they went through on the cars. I almost said to myself, 'don't look up.' Then I saw the other contestants getting eights, nines, and tens. When I went by, zeroes went up. It was hurtful. I asked myself, why am I being portrayed as different because I'm not the same color as these other women are?" On another visit to a festival in a small town, someone left an ugly symbol in her mother's hotel room.

Her win in the Miss Anderson pageant qualified her to compete in the Miss South Carolina pageant, where she made history again as the first African-American contestant. For the talent portion of the event, she played piano, with Beethoven's Sonata Pathétique as her song selection. Her fellow competitors voted her the

Miss South Carolina Observer School Friendship award.

The 1979 winner of the Miss South Carolina pageant, Jane Jenkins, became a long-term friend. She recalls the experience as a catalyst for building beautiful friendships. Carmen says, "I didn't win the title of Miss South Carolina, the crown itself, but in many ways, I did win, from my experiences, relationships, and learning more about myself and how I could accomplish a goal. All of those things helped me become a better person."

After graduating from Clemson in 1981, she worked with Duke Energy. She met her husband, Dr. Carver Gayton, in Houston, TX, and they got engaged within a month. Carmen established a hugely successful career in real estate,



which she has been in for twenty years. She is in the top 1% of performers in her organization. She and Carver reside in Seattle, WA. Their son, Chandler, is currently working on his Masters at the University of Washington. She still has family in Anderson, and she visits often.

## AnMed Health nationally recognized with 'A' Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade

AnMed Health received an "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for fall 2021. The national distinction recognizes AnMed Health's achievements in protecting patients from harm and error in the hospital.

"At AnMed Health, patient care and safety are priorities. "Everybody, including physicians, nurses, as well as all of our support staff and volunteers has a hand in the process of making sure we're doing the greatest job taking care of our patients," said Jennifer Weeks, AnMed Health director of system quality.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent

national watchdog organization. It assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country based on over thirty national performance measures reflecting errors, injuries, accidents, and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital rating program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and injuries to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

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# Platelets, hair growth and better skin: what's the connection?

BY EMMY WILLIAMS

About 50 million men and 30 million women have male (or female) pattern baldness. It can begin early in life but is much more common after the age of 50. In fact, more than 50% of men will experience some kind of hair loss in their life.

PRP (platelet-rich plasma) therapy is used for a range of conditions – from muscle pain and injuries to cosmetic procedures like hair restoration and microneedling.

Platelets are one of the four parts that make up blood. Platelets promote cell growth and helps cells multiply. In platelet-rich plasma, platelets are about five times more concentrated than in regular blood. This concentration of platelets is useful, because platelets assist in wound healing.

When it comes to hair loss, platelets are injected into the head to reach the bottom of the hair follicle and stimulate hair growth.

Dr. Terrence Bruner and nurse practitioner

Lauren Craig of AnMed Health Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery are thrilled to announce the addition of PRP for hair restoration to their extensive service list beginning in January.

"We are so excited to see PRP for hair restoration launched at our office. This will be amazing for our patients and anyone in the Upstate experiencing hair loss," said Dr. Bruner.

How often someone will need to have PRP injections administered depends on genetics, amount of hair loss and age.

"I am very excited to begin offering PRP injections for hair restoration, as I have seen the benefits and know this can be life changing for so many people," said Craig.

A PRP injection is a low-risk procedure and does not usually cause major side effects. The procedure involves drawing blood, so staying hydrated can prevent feeling lightheaded.

PRP is also used in microneedling, a service that AnMed Health Cosmetic and Plastic

Surgery also offers. Microneedling is a cosmetic treatment that creates extra collagen which can help heal scars and reduce signs of aging.

People may consider having a microneedling treatment with PRP if they want to treat certain marks or blemishes on the body or face for cosmetic reasons. Practitioners use microneedling with PRP to treat acne scars, surgical scars, wrinkles and fine lines, sun damage, large pores and uneven skin texture.

The addition of PRP with microneedling will help to speed the healing process and stimulate skin growth – potentially producing better results than microneedling alone.

Because PRP injections are made up of your own cells and plasma, the risk of an allergic reaction is much lower than with other injectable medications.

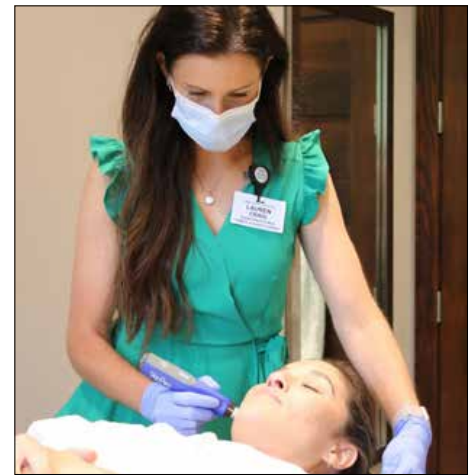
"I have seen a huge improvement in skin tone and texture as well as improvement in acne scarring with microneedling. Microneedling in combination with PRP acts as a growth factor and can dramatically change the skin after as little as two or three

treatments," Craig said.

AnMed Health Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery is now accepting patients for both microneedling with PRP and PRP for hair loss. Call 864.367.0197 to book an appointment today.

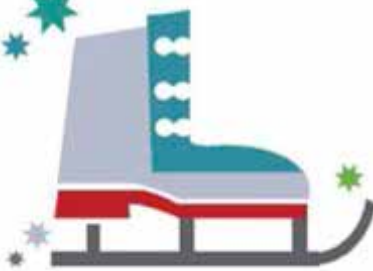


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**Nurse practitioner Lauren Craig demonstrates microneedling with PRP.**

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# THANKSGIVING DAY PAGEANT

BY JULIE BAILES JOHNSON

The 2022 Thanksgiving Day Pageant was yet another success. The entries were great and the competition was stiff. Submissions for the pageant came from all parts of the state including Anderson, Spartanburg, Columbia and Charleston. All areas were well represented and contestants came prepared for a fair but serious fight. After a long day and night of taste testing and consideration, the following prize winners were announced:

**BEST DRESSED - THE TURKEY:** This year, there was a rookie in the game with their first ever attempt to roast a turkey, however, it did not disappoint. The beautiful bird was perfectly roasted with just the right amount of juices and tenderness and its outer skin had the perfect browning as if it had sunbathed for the occasion. Congratulations to this first timer. We look forward to seeing you next year.

**RUNWAY WEAR - THE DRESSING:** A seasoned contestant, the dressing was not only delicious but a feast for the eyes. With its finely chopped celery peeking out above the top layer, this satisfying and filling staple had more eyes on it than the potatoes. Although a lengthy process, this delightful dish disappeared and did not offer much in second portions. Needless to say, it was a very attractive addition to the line up.

**MISS CONGENIALITY - BROCCOLI SALAD:** Another seasoned entry, this dish is always delightful and brings a great deal of smiles and happiness to the pageant. With its bright green broccoli and tidbits of robust red onion, both were only outshined by the bacon and creamy dressing that completed the dish. This dish was also gone almost before the end of the line. Well done broccoli salad, well done.

**MOST TALENTED - BRUSSEL SPROUTS:** This delightful dish not only tasted good but it had the ability to offer richness in vitamins and iron. Even the most finicky eaters enjoyed the robust sprouts and crispness of the pecans and sweetness of the dried cranberries. Not bad for a sprout.

**EVENING WEAR - CARAMEL CAKE:** This first timer really showed off its multiple layers and sweet side. Its snug fitting icing surrounded each layer with ease and a little bit of sex appeal. The fluffy yellow cake crumbled with every bite and this sweetheart showed grace and dexterity even as it was being devoured. A real beauty.

**MOST PHOTOGENIC - BLUEBERRY COBBLER:** This little show off was well at ease in front of a crowd and showed no signs of shyness. Bright berries and a beautifully toasted crust, this little cobbler shined bright at every angle. No backdrop or extra lighting was needed. This one held its own and made for a beautiful front runner.

**BEST ENTERTAINMENT - THE BONFIRE:** This category had no competition. It was the perfect place to warm fingers and toes, sit on a bale of hay and converse with family members and friends and just the perfect atmosphere for whatever was going on around it. The stiff cornhole games were also paired nicely with the fire and made for a picturesque setting. This



one is a sure winner at any family gathering. **HONORABLE MENTION - GARLIC GLAZED CARROTS:** This last minute entry was small in size but big in taste. Although a smaller contestant, it was delicious and showed lots of possibilities for future pageants. This well thought out dish has a bright future.

**SECOND RUNNER UP - MACARONI & CHEESE:** This bold and hearty dish is always a staple and one of the best tasting dishes every year. With its cheesy base and hearty noodles, this dish has lots of character and possibilities depending on who makes it. Add lobster, chicken or ham to create an extended version of this familiar dish. Nice job, macaroni.

**FIRST RUNNER UP - RICE CASSEROLE:** This sought after beauty has really become one of the favorites. With its bright red cranberries, crisp celery, savory pecans and a touch of red wine, this sassy little rice number bursts with personality and taste. It was a close call and this one only came in 2nd by a nose. We see great things for it again in the future.

**THE CROWNED QUEEN - THE TRACTOR:** What an absolute show stopper this was. This gorgeous 1941 Farmall showed great preparation, showmanship, talent and beauty all rolled into one. It was meticulously restored and sang like a bird. It was quick to welcome new drivers and entertained the crowd with its bright red color and size. It made several trips around the fields with no signs of slowing down. With a backdrop of fields, cows, horses, a bonfire and dozens of onlookers, this girl really put on a show. Congratulations! A job well done and the grand prize well deserved.

**SPECIAL AWARD - THE SPIRIT OF PAGEANTRY - THE FARM AT DUE WEST:**

This year offered The Spirit of Pageantry Award for the first time and The Farm at Due West was the unanimous winner! 141+ acres of beautiful sprawling nature equipped with views as far as the eyes can see, untethered nature, wildlife, livestock and a nature lover/hunter's

dream come true. It is the absolute perfect place for a large family gathering with plenty of room to roam with covered sheds, barns and a quaint country homesite. It was the ideal place for the main meal, bonfires, competitive games, hunting and tractor pulls. A grand time was had by all and it lends itself to many, many gatherings



in the very near future. A top honor and duly deserved. Superb.

A big thank you to all our contestants for their efforts and hard work. Each and every one was loved and appreciated. We look forward to next year's competition.

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# May the coming year be your best ever!

"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." — Carl Brad

Every year at this special time I reflect on the past months. Not on the challenges or mistakes but rather on the opportunities to live more fully -- and with greater joy and appreciation for the many blessings in my life. And one of those blessings is you, my dear readers.

Although it can sometimes be difficult, it is important to focus every day on the good things in our lives. There is an old saying, "You can choose to be happy." But taking it a step further, you can also choose gratitude. There is no question the past months have brought difficulties to many. There is a way forward -- and that is to intentionally choose to maintain a positive outlook.

Pollyanna? Not necessarily. This can

indeed help change your perspective for the better. When we are feeling stress with the challenges of family and work -- or simply the complexity of modern life -- it is easy to overlook the things that matter to us and that we really do feel grateful for or feel hopeful about. To put it simply, there is true value in being grateful.



**Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick**

Emotional health experts advocate a simple step we can all take that can help. Make a "gratitude list". It doesn't have to be long, just two or three things that

you are thankful for. For example, it may be a mental checklist you do every morning or night. A quick reminder. Think about what you have you can be grateful for -- not just big things like your spouse,

your children, loved ones -- but little things too like the beautiful day, the sense of well-being that comes with a good walk, the taste of good food, sharing with friends. Consciously draw yourself into the moment and into that positive experience.

Of course, none of us should for one moment take for granted good health, personal development, contributing to our community, our mind and emotions, relationships with others and our ability to love, and...spirituality. To have a chance at life. To live and strive and fail and continue to do so with the belief that we will succeed. And whatever happens along the way, well, we can choose to see these as lessons in life that help us learn and grow.

Simply waking up with this level of optimism and gratefulness can set your day up in a positive way. And by doing so at night, we ease our worries. When you start to see things as blessings, and stop taking things for granted, your life takes on new meaning.

Thank you, dear readers. May the coming year be your best year ever! As always, we are your hometown resource for guidance and support.

*Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick is the owner of Grand Oaks Dental, located at 3905 Liberty Highway in Anderson. A strong believer that dental fear and anxiety should not prevent any patient from receiving the highest quality dental care, Dr. Cannick has received extensive training in Sedation Dentistry and is a certified member of the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation. She is also a member of the South Carolina Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.*

For more information about Grand Oaks Dental and the services provided, please call 864-224-0809 or visit [grandoaksdental.com](http://grandoaksdental.com) or [facebook.com/GrandOaksDental](https://www.facebook.com/GrandOaksDental).

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# Memories to last a lifetime

“City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style, in the air there’s a feeling of Christmas...” –Silver Bells

Without a doubt, Christmas is one of America’s most favorite holidays! We all love the magic of Santa and his reindeer, the anticipation of Mama’s traditional Christmas feast, and the breath-taking display of glittering trees, candy canes and dancing lights that bring life to every home and city street in view. While these are all enchanting signs that the holiday season has arrived, Christmas is beloved for far greater reasons.

Beyond the giddy excitement of opening presents, attending festive parties and singing along to our favorite Christmas songs, the holiday season is also a time to share time-honored family traditions with those we love and care about, and to express appreciation for the true blessings that bring pleasure, peace and purpose to our lives throughout the year. The true meaning of Christmas, the part that brings a happy smile to our face, even when we are old and gray, is uniquely created through the act of giving of ourselves to friends, family and to those less fortunate. These are gifts that have no price tag, cannot be bought or sold at any store and are available to anyone who chooses to give them away. The only

requirement is that the gift be an expression of love and gratitude and given for the purpose of sharing joy and happiness to those who receive it.



**Katie Laughridge**

As parents I believe it is our responsibility to communicate this truth to our children. We can begin this process by sharing how the act of selfless giving to others has blessed our lives over the years. The timeless adage, “it is better to give than to receive”, still rings true- and is even more important for the broken world we live in today. Our children should understand that “true value”, the things that have the greatest meaning and impact for our lives, can only be derived by embracing the aspects of life that have no monetary value. The sharing of precious memories and stories that remind us of why we treasure family and close friends, are the things that live on forever. These are the stories and memories that will be told and retold for generations to come.

If you are looking for ways to bring more meaning and joy to your family experience

this holiday season, consider trying out some of the opportunities offered right here in your community!

Visit “Holiday Ice” at Wren Park to go ice-skating together as a family.

Get hot chocolate at Figgs Beanery and Creamery and walk around downtown Anderson while you look at Christmas lights.

Check out The Market Theatre’s production of the “Storefront Storybook.” Pages of the book are posted in windows along Main Street, and the book comes to life in a read-along podcast.

Have your whole family put on pajamas, grab some munchkins at Dunkin Donuts, then drive around “Lights of Hope” and area neighborhoods to marvel over the grand display of Christmas lights! Visit “Indigo Custom and Framing” to create an ornament to take home.

Go to the Anderson County Library and check out some Christmas books to read together.

Spread some holiday cheer by making greeting cards or delivering treats to community helpers or those who aren’t well this season.

I hope you will enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones! Merry Christmas!  
-Katie

## NIBBLE & SIP

# Christmas gifts for cocktail lovers

If there’s one thing that cocktail creators like, it’s discovering a new taste. So if you’d like to give the amateur mixologists in your life gifts that will really excite them this Christmas, consider a spirit that they might



**Kim von Keller**

be unfamiliar with. I’m listing some of my favorites, plus the websites that will give your recipients new cocktail recipes to try in 2022. I’ve also got some ideas for cocktail gifts that don’t come in bottles.

My favorite discovery of all time is the liqueur called Chartreuse, but it’s hardly new. Made from 130 different plants, Chartreuse, which comes in green

and yellow varieties, has been produced in France by Chartreuse monks since the late 19th century, though the spirit’s history goes back to 1084. Slightly sweet and herbaceous, Green Chartreuse is used to make one of my favorite gin cocktails, the Last Word. Either variety is perfect for the person who loves a subtle, classic cocktail. Expect to pay around \$60 for a 750 ml bottle. For history and recipes, visit [www.chartreuse.fr/en/home/](http://www.chartreuse.fr/en/home/)

I first tasted Ancho Reyes Original Liqueur about a year ago. Made with rich, smoky ancho chiles, Ancho Reyes Original is inspired by the Mexican home-made concoctions known as menjures. Thinking it was a novelty product that would last me forever, I bought a bottle in 2020, but it was empty by the time the summer of ‘21 arrived. Turns out that it’s an excellent addition to

an Old Fashioned and other substantial cocktails. You’ll pay under \$40 for a 750 ml bottle, so grab one for yourself as well. You’ll find great recipes at [anchoreyes.com](http://anchoreyes.com).

For your friends who like a fruity cocktail but don’t want to drink a jar of jam, consider a bottle of Plymouth Sloe Gin. Made from blackthorn, or sloe, berries and assorted botanicals, Plymouth Sloe Gin tastes of mellow herb and cherry. Use it in the classic Sloe Gin Fizz or visit [plymouthgin.com](http://plymouthgin.com) for more recipes. You’ll pay less than \$40 for a 750 ml bottle.

You’d be wrong if you think that gifts for cocktail lovers always come in bottles. One of the best-received gifts I gave this year was Feridies 5 O’Clock Crunch. The perfect cocktail nibble, this snack mix includes honey roasted peanuts, cheddar cheese

crackers, chili-lemon corn sticks, honey roasted sesame sticks, honey mustard pretzel sticks, and salted corn chips with flax seeds. The Sriracha Ranch version is also a winner, and a 6-oz. can will cost you less than \$8. View the entire Feridies product line at [feridies.com](http://feridies.com).

Some of the best gifts I’ve received this year have been paper cocktail napkins. Whether your friends are traditional, elegant, or sassy, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) is a one-stop shop cocktail napkins of all kinds. The last set I received from a friend read, “If drinking on the porch counts, then, yes, call me outdoorsy.” Expect to pay around \$10 for a package of 20.

And finally, I’d like to offer a holiday toast: Here’s to making this the best Christmas you’ve ever had, but not nearly as good as the ones to come!

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Pursuant to SC Statutory Law, personal property from the following unit will be sold on

December 17, 2021 at 10AM at Speedy Storage, 4519 Belton Highway, Anderson, SC 29621.

Unit #60 – M. J. Smith – Unit appears to have: Dresser, tripod, tubs, couch, mattress, vacuum, clothes, lamp, small animal carrier, sleeping bags, end tables, old tools.

Property being sold to satisfy a lien for storage rent.

Terms of sale: Cash Only

Bidders must sign in prior to sale at [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com). Unit availability subject to prior redemption by tenant.

Pursuant to SC Statutory Law, personal property from the following unit will be sold on

December 17, 2021 at 10AM at Speedy Storage, 4519 Belton Highway, Anderson, SC 29621.

Unit #53 – B. Kelly – Unit appears to have: Desk, mattress, bed frame, clothes, tubs, TV wall bracket, Household, wicker table, fishing poles, speakers, recliners, Black & Decker Blower/vacuum and hedge trimmer.

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Terms of sale: Cash Only

Bidders must sign in prior to sale at [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com). Unit availability subject to prior redemption by tenant.

Pursuant to SC Statutory Law, personal property from the following unit will be sold on

December 21, 2021 at 10AM at Stowaway Self Storage, 4350 Highway 24, Anderson, SC 29626.

Unit #C14 & C18 – E. Tatum – Unit appears to have: Car parts, boxes, Silver Truck Tool Box, Wheels, Tires, Tool Box, Wires

Property being sold to satisfy a lien for storage rent.

Terms of sale: Cash Only

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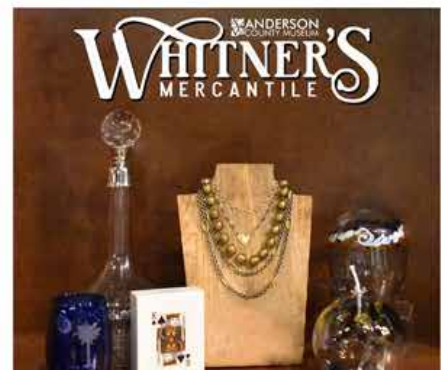


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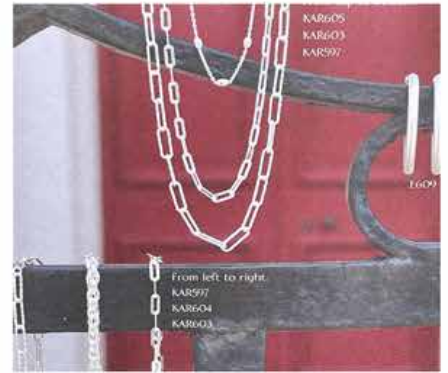
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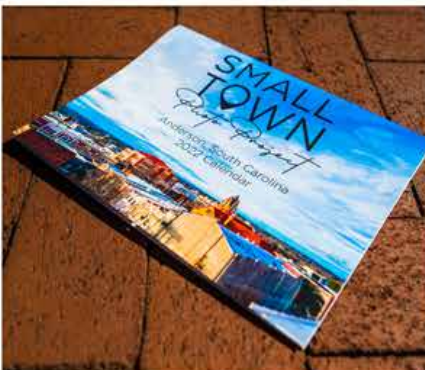
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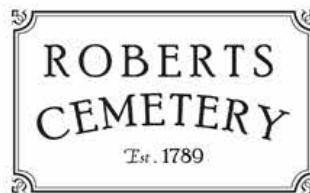
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# Merry Christmas, however and wherever you may celebrate

BY RICH OTTER

It would be only nine more days before Christmas and on December 15, 1914, B. O. Evans & CO., Spot Cash Clothiers, "The Store with a Conscience," was advertising in The Anderson Intelligencer "A Few Suggestions Worth While." And they were indeed bargains. Consider just a few:

- Neckware.....25c to \$1
- Gloves.....25c to \$3.50
- Silk Handkerchiefs.....25c to \$1
- Hose.....10c to \$1
- Holeproof Socks.25c to \$1
- Silk Mufflers.....50c to \$2.50
- Cuff Buttons..25c to \$1
- Stick Pins.....25c to \$1.50
- Suspenders.....25c to 50c
- Shirts.....50c to \$3.50
- Collars.....15c to \$1.50 Box

Overcoats.....\$10 to \$25  
 Fantastic Bargains – for those who could afford them. But even in pre-Depression days there were a great many who were looking toward a much more modest Yuletide.

Ora Clark Dunn, then fourteen years old with great expectation embraced some oranges, apples, candy, raisins, butternuts "and all like that" and occasionally some dolls for Christmas. Isaac Fleet McClain, Jr., born a few years later, remembered his family had a chair in a room where Santa Clause left a little candy, an orange or two, an apple and some raisins. One year when he was about fourteen, however, he received a gun, a 410 shotgun, and could then go hunting with their beagles. He said there were rabbits everywhere and he could help put something on the dinner table.

Born in 1922, T. Edward Garrison, Jr.

remembered going to his grandmother McPhail's home for Christmas dinner when he was eleven years old. He was wearing his brand new Christmas suit. They did not have electric lights on their Christmas tree, they had little candles. "Somehow I got mixed up with one of the candles and set my new suit on fire. It was the only suit I had."

Ralph E. Sutherland, Jr. who was also born in 1922 recalled that "At Christmas time we got fruit candy and things like that. G. Ross Anderson, Jr., born during the great Depression remembered how in the mill village they would get together for Christmas parties.

Lillian Lois Latham, also a Depression baby, cherished rag dolls made by family members. "We decorated a Christmas tree by stringing popcorn. We also joined together little paper rings. Sometimes we put berries on the tree along with little burrs off the sweet gum tree. We had to make do with a lot of things."

Marion Middleton worked in the mill during college break at Christmas "to get a little extra money." A not so pleasant holiday time was when he arrived in Korea during that conflict two days before Christmas. "Christmas Eve we pitched a squad tent. They gave us about six cans of beer for each person

and said 'Merry Christmas.'"

Vernon Edward Pollard was also able to celebrate Christmas in Korea. "I noticed about Christmastime 1950 I was shivering and shaking and freezing but I was also sweating. They told me I couldn't go to the medics and I couldn't understand why. They said 'You can only go if you have frostbite or a gunshot wound. I went anyway, I think I was in the battalion aid station for about three days and nights with a high fever. Then they sent me back to the line and I went straight to the outpost. I wasn't in too good shape when they sent me back."

Offering a little different perspective, Nisha Sidharth Patel as a Hindu in Anderson, in 2005 said: "As for local holidays, we celebrate like everyone else around here. We put up a Christmas tree around Thanksgiving time. My girls get very excited about Christmas and Santa and make a list for Santa. They listen to Christmas music and bake cookies during the holidays. They get very excited on Christmas Eve and leave cookies and milk for Santa. On Christmas morning they wake up early to see what Santa brought them. We usually get together with friends and family for Christmas dinner."

Have a very Merry Christmas, however and wherever you may celebrate it.

## 'DIGNITY'S DREAM IN THE MIST'

BY ANN BAILES

"What the Heron was Thinking" by Nina Parmenter (used by permission) "I am patience, the strength to persist; I am dignity's dream in the mist. Honestly, I should charge for this."

Dignified is a great way to describe great blue herons. They are solitary - it's rare that you'll see more than one at a time. They are quiet birds. And great blues are also some of the most graceful flyers you will ever see. When you spot a long, narrow silhouette in the sky, with slow flapping wings and a head pulled back over its body, you are likely seeing a great blue heron.

Great blues often fly over roads or places where you might not expect to see one. I've seen them making their way over Highway 24, I-85, or many other roadways around here. Drive over any creek, marshy area, pond, lake, or water of any kind, and you have a good possibility of seeing a great blue on the edge or in the shallows. It can stand for hours in good water habitat, stalking fish or frogs with slow movements, then spearing prey with lightning-fast movement. And it's not limited to fish or frogs. It will eat almost anything and will also hunt in grasslands if appropriate food, such as mice, is present.

The great blue is the largest of the North American herons. It has a thick gray-orangish bill, and plumes on its head and body that give it a shaggy appearance. These large birds are common in the southeast. They're here year-round, content to forage in either fresh or saltwater habitats. They also range all across North America, and temperature extremes don't matter. They're happy in the southeast, the desert southwest, Canada, and even the coasts of Alaska.



People commonly call this large heron a "crane," but if someone says he's seen a crane in our area, it's almost certainly a heron. The two birds are similar in size, and they both have long legs and necks. But cranes are not common in the Upstate, and usually are migrating through rather than staying all year like the heron. We have seen sandhill cranes a couple of times in Anderson County (whooping cranes are endangered and not seen around here), but seeing great blues is a common occurrence.

So keep an eye out for "dignity's dream in the mist." That's a perfect description for our large local heron that's living the dream in our local marshes, ponds, and creeks.



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# CHRISTMAS IN A CAN

What are your memories of Christmas? Candles glowing in the windows? A delicious meal? A gift you'd begged for? Maybe it's your first Christmas with a new love, or your child's first Christmas. Every December, we recall those happy times when we flip through the pages of a photo album or hang an heirloom ornament on the tree. Or, in my case, every time I open the lid to the chest freezer in my laundry room and see the can of fruitcake.

It was a tradition in my family, that often-denigrated, rarely eaten dessert made with candied fruits and nuts. In the beginning, it was my maternal great-uncle James who baked it. He'd start collecting the ingredients — sweet red and green cherries, tart pineapple, bitter citron, and crunchy pecans — in early November, and by Thanksgiving, he'd have them baked, wrapped in cheesecloth, and stored in old cookie tins. Every few days, he'd unwrap the cakes and brush them with grape juice instead of bourbon or rum, as my mom's family didn't use alcohol. He'd deliver some to friends, but on Christmas day, when the whole Beasley clan gathered at the home of my grandmother, he'd unwrap the last 5-pound (at least) confection and place it on the sideboard beside the coconut and red velvet cakes. At least 4 ½ pounds of it would go uneaten.

Undeterred by its unpopularity, my grandmother took over the baking of the fruitcake when it became too much for her brother, and



Kim von Keller

eventually, my mom took the task from her. Neither the recipe or the size of the cake ever changed, and by the time my mom baked the last one, there were only three people in the family who actually ate it: my mom, my brother-

in-law, and me. I was lucky enough to get the remaining 4 ½ pounds.

And that's the one I see in my freezer every time I need a package of chicken breasts, a container of pizza sauce, or a Lean Cuisine. And at least once a year, I slice a tiny sliver of it before wrapping it tightly in foil and returning it to its resting place. It still tastes the same as it did when my mom baked it BACK IN 2006.

That's not a typo. The cake I'm eating was baked 15 years ago, when George W. Bush was president, "Hips Don't Lie" was a Billboard number-one hit for Shakira, and Facebook was just a baby. I'm a strict adherent to those use-by dates on canned goods, and yet I continue to eat out of the biggest, oldest can in my house.

I've been tempted to discard it to free up storage space, but every time I taste it, I'm carried back to those Christmases at my grandmother's house. As the youngest ones in the family, my sister, Lisa, and I couldn't wait to sit at the kids' table with our older teen-aged cousins. Our great aunts would fuss and laugh and fuss some more in the kitchen as they assembled the meal; one time, my great uncle Freddy hid outside the window and lit a huge strand of firecrackers, scaring them to death

but delighting the rest of us. When calm was restored, dinner was laid out buffet-style, with enough meats and casseroles and congealed salads and desserts to feed the entire block. Finally, we would exchange gifts, but even as a child, that was the least important part of the day.

At the rate I'm going, there's probably more than two pounds of fruitcake left, and there may come a day when the only way I can eat it is to puree it. I'm not in any hurry to finish it, though, as it holds memories of people and events that are long gone. Merry Christmas, readers, and as you make new memories in the weeks to come, I hope you store them in something as solid and long-lasting as a fruitcake.

## CREATING HOME

### Getting cozy

As the days get cooler and the Holidays approach, many of us are pulling out decorations to make our homes feel festive and warm. While nothing says 'cheer' more than twinkle lights and colorful trimmings, there

are other simple updates that we can incorporate in our home that will have us embracing the shorter days and ready to cozy up in the evening.

Have warm blankets at the ready! Whether draped over the back of a sofa, or gathered in a

basket, warm blankets give any room a comfortable and inviting feel.

Embrace cool weather textures.

Incorporate fabrics like velvet, faux fur, wool and mohair in blankets and pillows to give your room a warm and seasonal ambiance.

Bring in lamp light. Turn off those overhead lights and fill your room with the warm glow of lamp light. A lit lamp in the evening welcomes the end of the day, a time to unwind and relax.

Treat yourself to a new holiday candle



or diffuser. Whether you have a real tree or faux, a holiday scented candle will get you in a festive mood.

Bring the outside in. Bring in garland, magnolia leaves, branches with berries, dried flowers, or clippings from your tree to create pretty arrangements for the season.

As you pull out your seasonal décor and begin to deck the halls, remember these small touches that can have your home feeling cozy and Winter ready in no time! Happy Holidays!

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THE GARDEN SHOP

# Ch-ch-ch-changes



**SUSAN TEMPLE**  
master gardener

From Lynyrd Skynyrd, article before last, to David Bowie. The front garden got a rather large change. The crab apple tree was cut down. When it was planted in 2002, right after the house was built, I knew the day may come when it would have to be cut down. I planted it close to the sidewalk at a focal point area just as the sidewalk turns towards the breezeway. A friend had a mature yoshino cherry tree planted right next to her side walk and it never damaged the sidewalk so I took my chances. My friend's cherry tree died before it ever damaged her sidewalk. However, as my luck goes, the crab apple starting pushing up the sidewalk. It wasn't a very big tree, about 38 inches around, but it sure looks different with it gone.

Several plants enjoying the crab apple shade had to be moved. A fancy lenton rose, Anna's Red, Japanese painted ferns, and black

mondo grass were replanted under the maple tree. The plan with that tree is to create high dappled shade. We'll see. The roots are very shallow and create some minor problems in the paths but so be it. A pot with ornamental grass, Prairie Fire (*Carex testacea*) and creeping jenny had to be moved also. It now lives with other containers near the breezeway. Some type of St. John's wort grows where the crab apple was. None of it has been moved yet. Time will tell if it will do okay in full sun or need to be moved. A couple of peonies nearby have not bloomed well the past couple of years. We'll see if more sun helps that. My treasured cry baby bush (*Erythrina crista-galli*) has not bloomed very much the past few years either. I hope more sun will solve that. If not, I don't have another guess for its lack of blooms.

A very large pot that lived on the breezeway until the house was painted is still sitting on the sidewalk waiting for me to decide where it will go. I put annuals, mostly coleus, in it every year. They have never looked better than when I moved it off the breezeway. That was September though and I'm afraid that in full hot summer sun, I won't water it enough for it to be that pretty next year. Deer left it



Gladiator blooms

alone. I don't know if they eat coleus or not. This pot may go where the crab apple was. If that idea flops, I can move on to the next plan, whatever that ends up being.

Positively, new alliums will be planted in the empty spot as I lucked up on the half off rack at Lowe's and got Gladiator and Persian Blue. Alliums are a favorite. They add height and dry nicely on the stalks, giving interest for a long time. They make nice cut flowers if you can stand the smell in the house. It is quite pungent. Deer pass them by. Gladiator and Persian Blue should get about three feet tall. Not as tall as the pass alongs in the garden

now but the variety will be nice. Crocus were also half off and a couple of bags of those will be put in the area too. They grow short, only about six inches high, and will be put along the edge of the paths so they don't get lost. We'll find out if deer like them. Anemones, on sale too, will be given another try. I haven't tried to grow them since living in town. The "bulbs" of these look like wood chips. It is very difficult to tell which way is up. Instructions say to soak them in lukewarm water for two hours before planting and to plant in clusters. The instructions also said they are well known to be deer resistant. Time will tell.



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## FROM THE SHELF

# Give the gift of reading!

If you have bookworms in your life but aren't sure what books to give them, here's a list of books that make great gifts for the reader in your life this gift giving season!

## "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig

This was sort of a sleeper best-seller, as you've likely been hearing more about it recently even though it's been out for over a year. Follow Nora as she goes through the Midnight Library, experiencing what her life could have been like if she'd made a different decision for each moment in her life where she's asked herself "what if?" I've literally reread this gem twice - it's that good.

## "Under the Whispering Door" by TJ Klune

Following a little bit in line with the theme of *The Midnight Library*, TJ Klune's latest novel takes the theme of second chances and what you could/should do with them. Under the Whispering Door starts with the literal death of Wallace and his subsequent stay at Charon's Crossing, a weigh station of sorts for the dead as they move on to the next step, entering *The Whispering Door*. Wallace has lived his life in his office ambitiously and rather ruthlessly becoming THE lawyer. When he's given a week to cross over, he does his best to pack a lifetime into those seven days. Don't let the semi-depressing set up fool you, I actually read this right after the death of a family member and it was soothing while also hilarious. Klune knows how to take serious topics and make you feel everything you can feel about them, especially a lot of joy.

## "Never Saw Me Coming" by Vera Kurian

This one takes place at a university where a psychology professor is conducting an observation of students who also happen to be diagnosed psychopaths. There's eight students in the study, but soon after school starts their numbers get cut to six after two seemingly unrelated murders on campus (no one knows this study is going on, by the way. Can you imagine the uproar?) We get three perspectives from three of the different study participants, one of which chose this school to quite literally kill another student who has a video of her she wants permanently deleted. The three psychopaths we get perspectives from "team up" to figure out who is trying to kill them all while plotting how to make sure the other two are the next victims and not them. It's a wild ride y'all - easily a favorite read of this year.

## Anything by Kate Quinn

Her latest title is called *The Rose Code* but I didn't want to just limit this recommendation to that title (even if it might be my favorite of her. Maybe...). If you have a historical fiction reader in your life and they haven't read Kate Quinn, you should probably just buy her

whole catalog. I personally tend to find WWII fiction overdone, but Quinn breathes new life into the genre for me. Quinn's titles always feature unbelievable women who are actually based in fact. Some are codebreakers (*The Rose Code*), some Russian fighter pilots (*The Huntress* - also searching for a Nazi woman who escaped!), and an English socialite turned French Spy (*The Alice Network*). All her



Sara Leady

latest historical fiction titles do some time jumping, where you're getting history as it happens and a present day take or clue hunt. They're part mystery, part historical fiction, part thriller, and a very small smattering of romance. As someone who's previously not been a big fan of historical fiction, I can't get enough of Kate Quinn. If you needed a comparison I'd link her to Marie Benedict, whom she's actually partnered on a novella with.

## "The Brown Sisters" series by Talia Hibbert

I've only just come across this series/author and boy am I glad I have. Hibbert writes romantic comedies that read REAL. It's not that other romcoms aren't "real," but Hibbert touches on things like chronic pain and its effect on your relationships (*Get a Life*, Chloe Brown, Book 1), academic burnout (*Take a Hint*, Dani Brown, Book 2), and being high functioning autistic with some other quirks and how that can affect relationships in your life (*Act Your Age*, Eve Brown, Book 3). Hibbert's *Brown Sisters* series is all romance, but she also looks at different things and how they affect every aspect of your life, not just your romantic life. Hibbert takes on healing from toxic and abusive relationships, family meddling, class issues, and so much more in super fun (you'll laugh out loud) and realistic ways that I'm sure any and every reader can relate to. I seriously love these books. If, however, the reader you're gifting to isn't fond of spicy romance, you might skip these for something a bit less hot.

## Anything by Jenny Lawson

Jenny Lawson, also known as "The Bloggess," is a famous blogger turned writer who shares her daily life living with chronic illness/pain, mental health, being a mom, taxi-dermy obsession, and general life as an awkward woman. Shifting from just blogging or tweeting, Lawson has started writing memoirs hitting on different aspects and different times of her life, including even chronicling her struggle to even write the memoirs. Lawson is hysterical and gets herself into the most insane predicaments, often with her husband Victor, because she's bought yet another botched taxi-dermy job (see the cover of *Furiously Happy*

for one example of this, Rory the Racoon). These are some of my absolute favorites and as someone who's also super anxious and awkward I relate to her endlessly.

## "Fuzz" by Mary Roach

Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law is Mary Roach's latest nonfiction investigation. I personally am not a big nonfiction fan, but Roach is what we call "narrative nonfiction" so her deep dive into various topics read more like novels than hardcore in-depth research. Fuzz looks at the intersection between humans and wildlife and how those interactions can often be tumultuous at best. All of Roach's books are great. They're all super quirky, oddball topics that she chronicles her research of in all its hilarious turns. Stiff, a deep dive into how dead human bodies serve science and the history of that is another favorite of mine by her.

## "The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story" by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Caitlin Roper, Ilena Silverman, and Jake Silverstein

This is an ongoing investigative piece started by the New York Times editors as part of their magazine. Essentially the authors take us back to the start of slavery in America, in late August 1619, and go through historical documents, records, and first hand accounts of not just American slavery but how it echoes into the real-life experience of Black Americans today. Powerful stuff, and the level of research and attention to detail will make any history junkie swoon.

## Young Adult or books for Teens

### "Gilded" by Stephanie Meyers

Really any of her books (there's a lot) but I'm happy she's back to her fairytale retellings with her most recent release, *Gilded*. While she's been great with her other endeavors, the way she spins new takes on old tales like her latest *Rumpelstiltskin* retelling is pure magic.

### Anything by Nic Stone

Stone largely writes YA contemporary (see her in kids' books for other) and she's a serious force to be reckoned with. Stone tends to take on serious issues like race and look at self

identity issues, but she does it in a non-preachy way and, more impressively, a very succinct way. Her stuff isn't long but you'll feel its effects months later. Seriously can't rec her enough.

## "The Fire Keeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley

This one hit me hard because the gorgeous cover made me think it'd be fantasy based, but it's actually a thriller/mystery that takes place on and around different American Indian Reservations. Boulley is an Indigenous author. This is her debut and I cannot wait to see what she releases next! So many good twists and turns!

## Middle Grade and Kids' Chapter Books

### "Fast Pitch" by Nic Stone

This is a PERFECT book for your young sports reader or mystery reader. *Fast Pitch* follows the first all Black girls competitive softball team going for the regional Dixie title (i.e. lower eight southern states) and their catcher Shenice 'Lightning' Lockwood. As Shenice deals with the stress of racism on the field, she also hunts down the history of her ball-playing legacy that leads back to her grandfather, a star of the Negro Leagues, falsely accused of theft and banned from making his debut into the MLB. Part mystery, part history, and a whole lot of ball, this is in my top reads for the year. Stone also has a great novel series featuring Shuri from Black Panther that's a middle grade read.

### "The Mystwick School of Musicraft" by Jessica Khoury

This is a favorite that was released a couple years ago but book two drops in 2022. Amelia Jones has always dreamed of attending the Mystwick School of Musicraft just like her mom but sometimes her musicraft magic can get a little out of hand... Think like if Harry Potter were a school for musicians and all their magic came from playing instruments and even composing. It's super fun and if you're an audiobook person it's easily one of the best audiobooks I've ever read as it actually has a symphony playing all the music. Bonus points since Khoury is actually a local author too.



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# Getting holiday party ready

What to wear to all the holiday parties is the first question that comes to my mind. It doesn't have to be complicated. I tend to overthink, but this year I'm really going to focus on the accessories aspect. I always say a good rule of thumb is to start with the skeleton of your wardrobe. Which simply means the bones - also known as the skirt or shirt or pants. It could even be all one color. Then you can go from there.



Kristine March

So, say for example you're doing all black everything. A black turtle-neck, a black pair of leather pants and a black leather jacket. Then you could pop on bits of red. A red hat or tam. A red lip. Red earrings. Or be audacious and add red booties or even over the knee boots. So easy to do, yet so stylish. Add one bit of color for flair and you're done.

Another great look would be all white of your wardrobe, then add lavender or baby pink to go for more of a soft, snowy ethereal look. Then incorporate a pretty, dewy makeup with a nude lip. Fresh and beautiful for winter. If you want that glitzy, glitter appeal try adding

all of one color, but with an oversized headband, bejeweled and encrusted in crystals or pearls. Let that be your fancy accessory. Then add a fierce lip and just like that, you're looking chic and not overdone.

Lele Sandoughi designs the most marvelous headbands you've ever seen and you are holiday party ready in a flash. Her line of headbands and accessories are a little steep for the wallet but if you would rather have a dupe version then they have almost the identical style on Amazon. Do your research and make it fun and stress free this year. Accessories are the key to the outfit and that will forever be my motto.



Sometimes simplicity is key and then you add the flair. Also, a good piece of advice is: Don't wait until the last minute. Take an hour and really pick the apparel out all ready. Have five outfits ready to go so you're not in a slump. It takes less time if you're already preplanned. I can attest to this. It's nicely organized and ready to be worn for your next event.

Hanging in your closet. You can thank me later.

Get great ideas from Instagram and Pinterest on how to really organize your wardrobe and you will be ready to take on anything at anytime. So, get party ready and make beautiful memories this holiday season. Make the sidewalk your runway and be kind.

# Ditch pranks

Some of my fondest memories as a kid were playing in ditches. They were foxholes when we played army, ponds to sail our boats



Neal Parnell

when it rained, and great hiding places for playing pranks on passing motorists. We didn't have Playstations and XBoxes or smartphones to keep us occupied inside, so we risked our lives playing in or near the road. You've probably seen the video of two guys on either side of a road acting as though they are pulling on an invisible rope, and cars stopping to investigate. Well, one of our favorite pranks was called, "Hubcap". It happens like this. We would be down in the ditch and spot a car coming toward us, and just as it passed we would fling and roll a metal trash can lid onto the road and yell, HUBCAP!! The rattling sound of the bouncing lid was identical to an ejected hubcap, and the driver would stop the car and get out searching all around for the lost hubcap while we laid low in the ditch laughing till the next victim was targeted. Now we didn't have these ideas on our own, they were passed down from teenagers to kids like us over generations of young pranksters.



This next "Ditch Prank" is quite clever and a bit frightening to the unsuspecting driver. It involves stretching a very thin fishing line across the road, and tied to trees. The line is adjusted to windshield and driver height, then one of those tiny school photos is taped to the line to face the driver. A car is approaching and we all hit the ditch to watch as it gets closer, and closer, and closer, SCREEEECH!!, as they hit the brakes thinking they have just run over someone and sit there a bit before climbing out and looking under and behind the vehicle only to realize it must have been an illusion or daydream. Meanwhile, muffled laughter in the ditch becomes howling guffaws as the car leaves paying much closer attention to the road ahead. That same fishing line was also used to pull a kid's truck or squirrel's tail quickly into the road to cause the same effect.

It would all come to a 'Tanned Hide End' when one driver recognized us and called our parents. All we could do then was to pass our scheming ditch prank knowledge to the next generation of roadside pranksters to carry on the tradition.

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## T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS

# Hanna girls win tournament, dominate Easley

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — After opening the season with a perfect 3-0 slate at the West-Oak Thanksgiving tournament on Nov. 20, the T.L. Hanna girls' basketball team went 1-1 last week against Hart County (Ga.) and Easley.

Led by the tournament's most outstanding player, eighth-grader Tamerah Wynn, and all-tournament players in senior Caroline Jones and junior Grace Ikenegbu, the Yellow Jackets swept Greenville, Pickens and Jefferson (Ga.) on their way to the tournament championship.

Wynn averaged 12 points and nearly 10 rebounds in the tournament, while Ikenegbu managed to put up 7.7 points and 7.3 rebounds over the course of the three games.

Facing off with their opponents

from Georgia on Nov. 30, the Hanna girls were stuck in a close battle throughout the night.

Things looked pretty dire for the Yellow Jackets as Hart County went on a 12-4 run to open up the final quarter.

Down 39-33, the Jackets rallied back behind clutch points from sophomore Taylor Wessel, Ikenegbu and

Wynn to tie at 40-40 in the waning seconds before some late free throws from Hart County secured a 42-40 loss for Hanna.

Wessel led the Yellow Jackets with 14 points in the contest,

while Ikenegbu had a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Following the loss to Hart County, the Yellow Jackets returned to action at

home against the Easley Green Wave.

While their previous game was close from start to finish, T.L. Hanna dominated Easley throughout the night as they picked up a 51-27 win.

Junior Brooke Kelly and Wynn both reached double digits in the win, and all 10 Yellow Jackets players managed to score.

Five games into the season, Wynn leads the Yellow Jackets with 11.4 points per game and is second on the team in rebounds with 7.4 per game. Ikenegbu is right behind the eighth grader with 8 points per game, while leading the team with 7.8 rebounds per contest.

The Yellow Jackets face two of their biggest games of the season in the coming weeks as they will play Westside on Dec. 10 and 17.



## WESTSIDE RAMS

# Westside boys at 2-1, with only loss to Seneca

BY BRU NIMMONS

ANDERSON — Just three games into the 2021-2022 basketball season, the Westside Rams boys' basketball team has to like where they are.

Sitting at 2-1 with wins over JL Mann and Pendleton, the Rams' only loss so far has been against defending Class 3A state runner-up Seneca.

The Rams opened their season on Nov. 29 against the Pendleton Bulldogs in a 75-36 win.

Westside's matchup with the Bulldogs might have turned into a blowout, but it wasn't that way from the start, as they led just 9-7 after the first quarter. However, the Rams outscored Pendleton 45-13 over the next two quarters to help pull away in the big win.

Senior guard Keyshun McDuffie led the Rams in scoring with 15 points, while junior forward

Lamaurion Scott also impressed with eight points and 12 rebounds.

Following the win over the Bulldogs, the Rams traveled to Greenville the next night to face off with Class 5A opponent J.L. Mann.

The Rams dug themselves into a big hole early, as they trailed by 13 after the first quarter.

After whittling the lead down to five in the third quarter, the Rams out-

scored Mann 24-17 in the final frame to pull out a 65-63 win.

Sophomore point guard Joshua

Williams was the star of the show for the Rams, putting up 20 points, three rebounds and six assists.

Sophomore swingman Jimmar Boston and senior center Kaziaes Hemphill also

impressed scoring 12 and 10 points, respectively.

After the close road win over Mann, the Rams returned to action to face the third-ranked 3A Seneca Bobcats on Dec. 3. After building a first-half lead over the Bobcats, the Rams fell down the stretch in a 64-47 loss.

For the second straight game, Williams led the way for Westside, scoring 12 points alongside five rebounds and three assist. Senior forward JC Austin also managed to hit double digits with 11 points.

Three games into the season, Williams leads the Rams in scoring and assists with 13.7 and 3.3 respectively. Scott leads Westside on the boards with 7.3 per game.

The Rams will move into the meat of their non-region schedule over the next few weeks with two huge matchups looming with city rival T.L. Hanna on Dec. 10 and 17.

