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of Laurens County

Annette Bodie - 2016 Teacher of the Year

By Vic MacDonald

Horizons 2016

In an ideal world, Annette Bodie and the Agriculture Education students of Clinton High School would be working in a barn.

Their ideas and ambitions to grow their program are just too big to be contained in a classroom. Oh, they have a classroom. It's one of those "back side" of the school, over-sized classrooms, like the ones for welding and JROTC.

It's (likely) the only classroom in the high school equipped with shovels.

Sometimes, especially after their "breaking in" period in Ag Ed I, the students are rarely in the classroom. They don't work outside when it's super-cold, but if it's just kinda cold, "they

can wear a jacket," Bodie says.

Because outside, that's where it's all happening for Agriculture Education. And, because her students are so active in the community and broaden their horizons through 4-H and Future Farmers of America, the person who grows them, Annette Bodie, is The Clinton Chronicle's Horizon 2016 Teacher of the Year.

"It is great to watch them blossom," Bodie says of the Red Devils she gets as shy and hesitant ninth graders, who grow into confident and articulate seniors. Many of them participate in 4-H judging; and as part of that program, and others, they have to give oral presentations in front of peers and groups.

"They say as ninth graders I 'voluntold' them," Bodie said. "After a while, they're

hooked."

Bodie, her husband Scott and son Garrison live on a mini-farm in Laurens County, off Hwy 14 near Laurens Academy. She and Garrison are active members of Bellview Baptist Church. The family has, as her CHS website bio says, "three horses, a miniature donkey, two rabbits, four cats, two dogs and a steer. I enjoy working with animals and anything outdoors."

Bodie wants to bring her home to work with her.

Her biggest dream for Ag Ed at Clinton High School is to have an on-campus barn. They even have the land for it.

"Out there where they're building the baseball and softball fields, there's a third terrace. It's not fenced so there are some wildlife issues," she said. But it's the perfect place, in



Ag Ed students and FFA members get green thumb experience at Clinton High's on-campus greenhouse, under the direction of Annette Bodie, far left. Students conduct plant sales for the fall and spring, and use the plants they raise to put in the planters of uptown Clinton under an arrangement with the City of Clinton for community beautification.



Annette Bodie stands with the Clinton High School Future Farmers of America banner outside her Agriculture Education classroom. It is one of the few – if only – classrooms where shovels are stored in a wall rack. – Photos by Vic MacDonald

Bodie's vision, for a barn.

Other high schools that teach agriculture education and animal science have barns. If the students are doing a hands-on with a cow, it would be the perfect place for the "test subject" to be housed for a day or so.

They wouldn't keep cows and horses there - too much upkeep required. Goats and chickens - that's a different matter. Fence the land, build the barn, find a water source, send the students out there to do feeding - it could be Red Devil Acres.

"My husband Scott works for Carolina Concrete," Bodie

says. "I think I could get some concrete." She has written a Tractor Supply Grants for Growing grant for \$1,500 that will start the fencing.

"If we could find a funding source," Bodie said, "I wouldn't mind putting their name on a barn." She also wouldn't mind having the barn donated in pieces - somebody donates the wood, somebody donates the design, somebody donates the labor, they could make that work.

The barn is in the future. The CHS and Bell Street greenhouses are the right now. Watering and growing takes place

there year-round. Bodie is looking to bring the small greenhouse from the former Bell Street Middle School out to Clinton High School. It's OK where it is, but having the two sites means transporting students.

Which Bodie doesn't have any trouble doing. As spring approaches, they will go to Hospice of Laurens County, and bring the facility's backyard garden back to life. They have four houses in the Clinton area when they handle land-

Annette Bodie, Page 3

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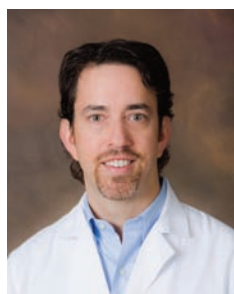
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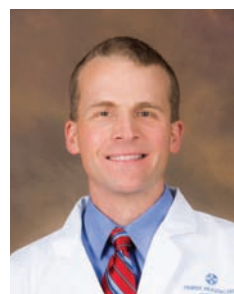
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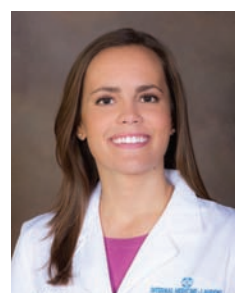
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Annette Bodie continued

From Page 2

scape maintenance. Just in time for Rhythm on the Rails, May 20-21, the Ag Ed students of Clinton High School will have planted flowers in the planters of uptown Clinton. Right now, the planters look sad - by mid-May, they should explode with color. The CHS students handle the planting, the City of Clinton handles the watering - we all enjoy the result.

Bodie believes agriculture education and animal science can be just what students who enjoy hands-on education can benefit from. She said a baseball player who falls short of making a MLB team, can stay close to the game by maintaining the diamond.

Turf management is one of



Annette Bodie, far right, stands with CHS Ag Ed students who worked to beautify the grounds and meditation garden of Hospice of Laurens County on Springdale Drive. They have to time the mulching and planting with the seasons so when spring comes, the area comes alive with flowers. The Hospice headquarters is one of several community partners with CHS Ag Ed that benefits from the students' work and planting expertise. - Photos by Vic MacDonald

tificial turf doesn't. Without disinfectant, it can create staph infections," Bodie said. "That's kinda gross."

Bodie grew up in Simpsonville, graduated Hillcrest High School and Clemson University (bachelor of science, agriculture education). She obtained a master's in education from Southern Wesleyan University.

Bodie is a 13-year teaching veteran and has taught in three schools with her service at CHS since 2010. Her students have worked in the farm at Thornwell Home for Children, and she would like to form a partnership to work in the greenhouse at Whitten Center.

She sponsors the Future Farmers of America, a national group that broadens the horizons of many Clinton High stu-

Annette Bodie, Page 8



Annette Bodie and Chip Cooper, of Cooper Motors in Clinton, partner on a scholarship program offered for Future Farmers of American through Ram Trucks. The hard-working line of trucks has been a sponsor for many years of the National FFA, which trained students with an agriculture interest in leadership skills.

the nation's fastest growing occupations. There are 200 golf courses in South Carolina - 150 of them within a short drive of the Atlantic Ocean. Every one of those courses need greens keepers and landscape technicians.

A Clemson fan, Bodie used the Tigers' football's national championship game against Alabama as a teaching moment. She showed the Ag Ed students how natural turf is grown outside the giant stadium in Glendale, Arizona, and conveyor-belted into the stadium, so the teams can play indoors on natural grass.

She has taken students to tour Clemson's sports facilities, with head grounds-keepers giving them tips on how to maintain safe, natural playing surfaces. Even the un-natural surfaces need attention.

"They have to disinfect the artificial turf. Natural grass absorbs the blood, spit and vomit - things football players do. Ar-

The Chronicle's Teachers of the Year

- 1996 Howard Pierce, Clinton Elementary School
- 1997 Amy Poag, Clinton High School
- 1998 Elizabeth Crowder, Eastside Elementary School
- 1999 Cynthia Simmons, Thornwell
- 2000 Nancy Morgan, Eastside Elementary School
- 2001 Diane Evans, Clinton High School
- 2002 Valerie Jones, Thornwell
- 2003 Paula Pace, Bell Street Middle School
- 2004 Debbie Green, Eastside Elementary School
- 2005 Courtney Robertson, Laurens Academy
- 2006 Prondolyn Copeland, M.S. Bailey Elementary
- 2007 Hunt Coffey, Martha Dendy Sixth Grade Center
- 2008 Marjorie Tobias, Clinton Elementary School
- 2009 Susan Cauble, Joanna-Woodson Elementary
- 2010 Terri O'Shields, Bell Street Middle School
- 2011 Erica Coats, Bell Street Middle School
- 2012 Jenks Howe, Clinton Elementary School
- 2013 Jennifer Satterwhite, Joanna-Woodson Elementary
- 2014 Jennifer Howard, Clinton High School
- 2015 Nancy Wood, Clinton High School
- 2016 Annette Bodie Clinton High School



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Brenda Romines - CMS principal

By Ethan Black

Horizons 2016

Many of you with children who are middle or high school age are probably familiar with Brenda Romines. Romines is the principal of Clinton Middle School, and has been for the past four years. She was principal of Clinton Elementary School for six years before that.

Romines grew up here in Clinton. She lived and attended school at Thornwell for nearly her entire childhood. She eventually graduated from high school there in '89 and hopped from job to job while she decided what career path she wanted to take.

During this time she worked as a waitress, helped out at the post office, and even worked at the hospital for a while.

Eventually, Romines decided she wanted to be a teacher, so she went to Erskine, eventually transferring and graduating from Lander in '97 with an education degree. She continued in school, getting her masters from Clemson in '99, and her EDS in leadership from the University of South Carolina. She has now been in the Clinton education system for 19 years altogether, and she has been a teacher, coach and principal among other roles.

Many of you may also be familiar with Romines' husband, Eddie. He is a coach and teacher at the high school. The two have been married for 10 years. They were both divorced, but they had known each other for years.

They had taught Sunday School together and coached at Thornwell at the same time, and their kids were friends, too. They decided to start going out, and three years later, they decided to spend the rest of their lives together.



A Focal Point: When District 56 decided to reactivate the former Clinton High building as Clinton Middle School, it had this unique rock wall installed in the CMS front lobby. It has become a favorite picture-taking spot, as it is with this photo of CMS Principal Brenda Romines.

– Photo by Ethan Black

There is an eleven and a half year age difference between them, but they don't mind. They found what they were looking for in each other, and haven't looked back.

Romines says they make a good team; "I'm more spur-of-the-moment, he plans things out more." Both have children from their previous marriages, but none together. The two oldest are her husband's, and the three younger children are hers.

However, they each treat all five of their kids as their own. Most of the kids are grown, the three older being 22 and up, and have moved out, though the two youngest still live at home.

Romines says that she enjoys

spending time with her children and husband, and they love to travel and attend sporting events together. Their whole family is very much into sports.

Both Romines and her husband have coached at schools in Clinton, and their children are and have been involved in sports at school. They are big Gamecock fans, and try to watch every game they can, often together.

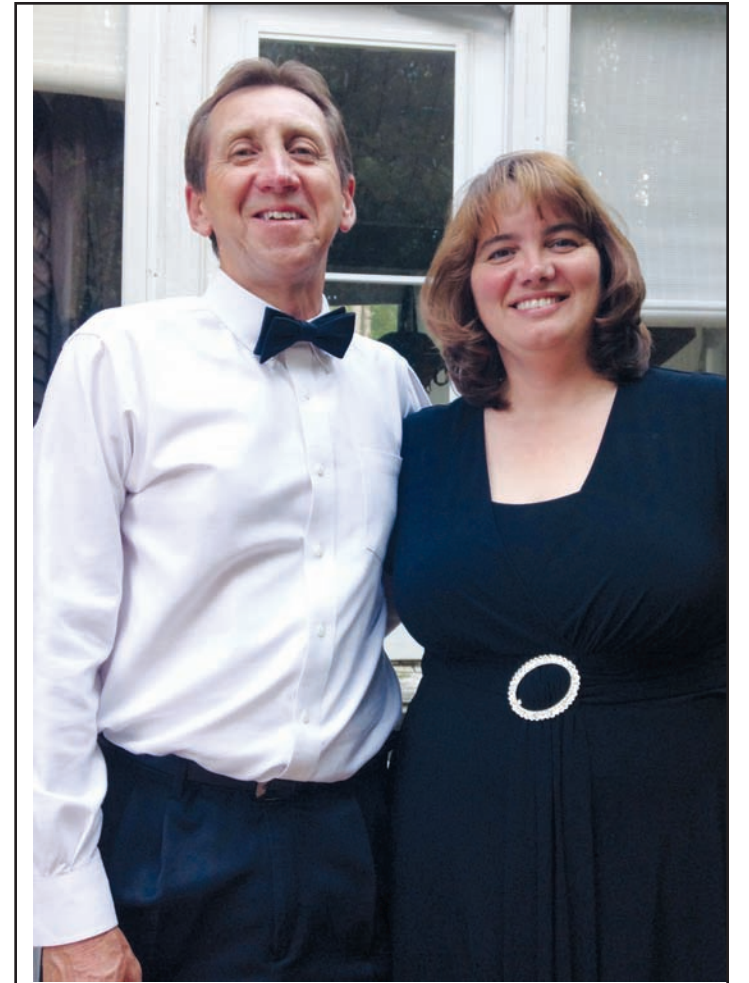
As Romines put it, "Gamecocks [football] fans haven't had much to cheer for this season," but they stuck with their team all the way. Romines also likes to read and cook. She says her cooking is not very good, but the important thing is she has fun doing it. Plus, it helps relieve the

stress of being in charge of a school full of children five days a week.

Even though she grew up away from her family, in Thornwell, Romines does know her biological parents. She also has a brother and a sister. Her father and sister live in Cross Anchor and her brother lives in Camden, though she doesn't see them much.

Romines says her church and school families are enough family, and she loves them all from the bottom of her heart. She does her best to know every student by name and to make sure they are enjoying their school years as much as possible.

The Romines attend First



Brenda and Eddie Romines dress to impress for a formal family event. When they are not busy with school and athletic activities working for District 56, they are active members of First Baptist Church, Clinton. – Photo provided

Baptist Church here in Clinton, and are very active members. They try to help out with events when needed, and they both have taught Sunday school and helped with their youth group in the past.

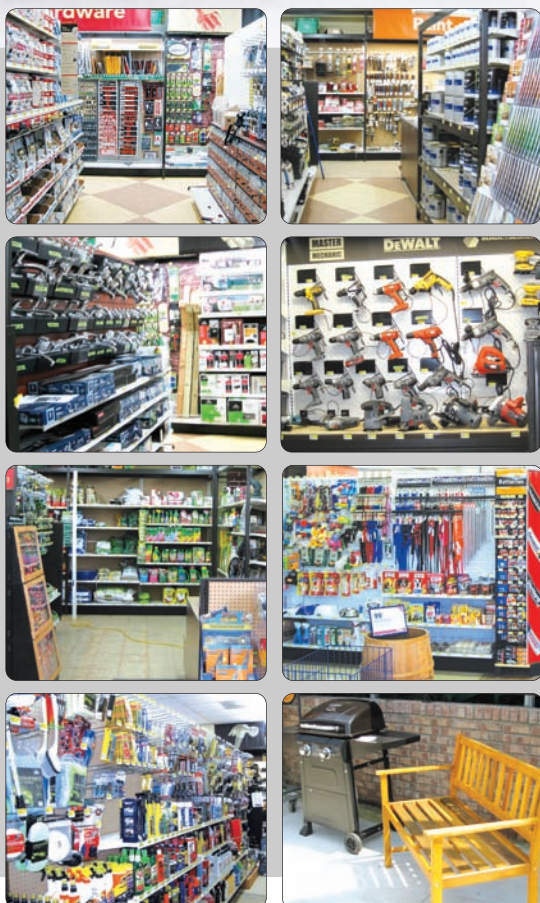
She is also on the YMCA board and has coached at the YMCA from time to time. She and her husband are big supporters of getting youth involved in sports, and try to encourage it through the YMCA and their schools. They have also helped

and support the United Way and Relay for Life, participating in events and helping out when they can.

Romines' goal as a principal is to ensure that all of the students at her school are happy and healthy. She does so by making it clear to them she is always available to speak to them and will do what she can to help solve their problems, and by encouraging athleticism and school sports teams to keep kids active.



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Eddie Romines - CHS teacher, coach

By Ethan Black

Horizons 2016

Eddie Romines is a soft-spoken man with a big heart, as was evident from the hour we spent talking in his classroom at Clinton High School. This is a man that really cares about his students and his players, and wants only the best for them.

Romines grew up here in Clinton. His family originally lived in Lydia Mill, but moved just down the street from Thornwell when he was a child. He attended Clinton public schools up through his junior year of high school, though he always wanted to go to Thornwell, where many of his friends were.

Thornwell, being a private school, his family couldn't afford it. However, just before his senior year, Romines was able to transfer to Thornwell to spend his last year of high school with his friends. He graduated in '79, and went to Montreat for two years (it was a two-year college at the time), then on to Central Wesleyan (now known as Southern Wesleyan) where he graduated in '84 with a religion major and physical education minor.

At the time, Romines was considering going to seminary,



Eddie Romines provides instruction for Clinton High junior varsity basketball players, coaching in the CHS gym. He once thought about going into the seminary, but coaching duties with the former Thornwell School JV football and basketball teams kept his competitive spirit going. He graduated Lander University with the physical education degree. - Photo provided

In October, Eddie Romines ran in a marathon in Rhode Island. He wants to run in another marathon, but training takes time - coaching, teaching and family come first.



Eddie Romines teaches a class for students with learning disabilities, to improve their reading, writing and math skills. He and wife Brenda, the principal of Clinton Middle School, were married in 2005 at Horseshoe Falls, near Clinton. - Photo by Ethan Black

hence the religion major. In the meantime, he helped out at Thornwell, coaching for the JV basketball and football teams. His experiences there made him realize that his true calling was coaching, and he took classes at Lander, sharing his time between school and coaching at Thornwell.

He graduated with a bachelor's in physical education from Lander in '93, the same year that he assisted Danny Orr with coaching at Thornwell for the state championship. He was also certified to teach special education.

Since then, Romines has taught and coached at Bell Street, Thornwell, Whitten Center, Martha Dendy and Clinton High School. He has dabbled in coaching football, but his favorite sport is basket-

ball, and he coaches junior varsity basketball at the high school now.

He also teaches a class for students with learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, to help improve their reading, writing, and math skills. He also sets aside time to help them with their homework and to make sure they aren't having too many problems in their other classes.

Romines is married to the principal of Clinton Middle School, Brenda Romines.

The two have known each other for years, having coached at Thornwell at the same time and taught Sunday school at First Baptist together. They were both previously married, but after they were divorced, some of Romines' friends told him that he and Brenda would make a good couple.

Eventually they started going out, just as friends at first. Romines said he had soon fallen for her, and three years later they were getting married. They were married on March 30, 2005 at Horseshoe Falls.

Romines couldn't be happier, saying, "I'm a very lucky man." He says she's been a wonderful wife and mother, and really cares about her students. It's clear that Romines really cares about his students as well. He puts a lot into helping the students in his class, as well as helping his players and making sure they're doing well in the classroom, not just on the court.

Romines has five children that he calls his own, though only two of them are actually his. The three younger children belong to his wife from her previous marriage (as are his), but he considers them his anyway. He cares very much for them and loves to spend time with them whenever he can.

The whole family loves sports, but none moreso than Romines himself. He loves to play golf, basketball, and ping-pong, and he used to play tennis often. He also loves to watch college and high school football, among other sports, especially the Gamecocks.

He runs a lot to help himself stay in shape. In October of this past year, he ran in a marathon in Rhode Island. He hopes he'll be able to run in another one, but the training takes a lot of time, and he said his coaching and teaching come first. On top of all that, he loves to read as well, for the times when he just needs to take it easy.

Romines' father died back in '82, and his mother died more recently, in 2003. He still has a brother, Steve, who is alive. He loves to spend time with him when he can. Aside from that, Romines very much considers his students, players, and the congregation of his church as his family. He attends First Baptist Church in Clinton and has for many years. He used to teach Sunday school there, and co-teaches an adult Sunday school class now, along with being a deacon.

Romines really cares about his students and players, just as much as he cares for his wife and children. He does his best to help them in any way they need it, and he will continue to do so for as long as he is able.

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Dee Nichols - Presbyterian College athletics

By Ethan Black

Horizons 2016

With the sports department at any school, most people think it only really consists of the coaches and the players. In fact, there are numerous administrative jobs that must be handled to ensure everything runs smoothly.

The games we all enjoy throughout the week wouldn't be possible without these people, but you may never see them unless you deal with the athletic department directly. They work on many different levels: some work to keep the players healthy, others help them stay on top of their academic work, and some work with the public.

Dee Nichols works in the administration for the Presbyterian College athletic department. More specifically, she is the senior associate director for compliance, which means she is responsible for overseeing eligibility for incoming and participating students. She ensures that all the students meet any requirements (PC's or the conference's) and deal with students who break the rules set by the department.

She is also the senior woman administrator in the department, meaning she oversees the life skills program, helping students with career development and she also helps to provide alcohol and nutrition education programs, which are often used for students other than athletes, too.

Alcohol and nutrition education is very important to college students because the dangers of too much alcohol or too little nutrition are easy to come into by accident, especially since this is often their first time without their parents watching out for them. She is a member of the SAAC as well—that is, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. The committee helps student athletes get the classes they need in order to fulfill their majors and/or minors. She's been at PC for almost seven years now, and she has helped many students along their way.

Nichols grew up in McDonough, Georgia. She attended Woodward Academy there, and that is where she graduated from in '87. She went on to attend Georgia Southern University and majored in health and physical fitness. She graduated in '91 and also got her masters degree in education there.

After graduating, she coached volleyball at Georgia

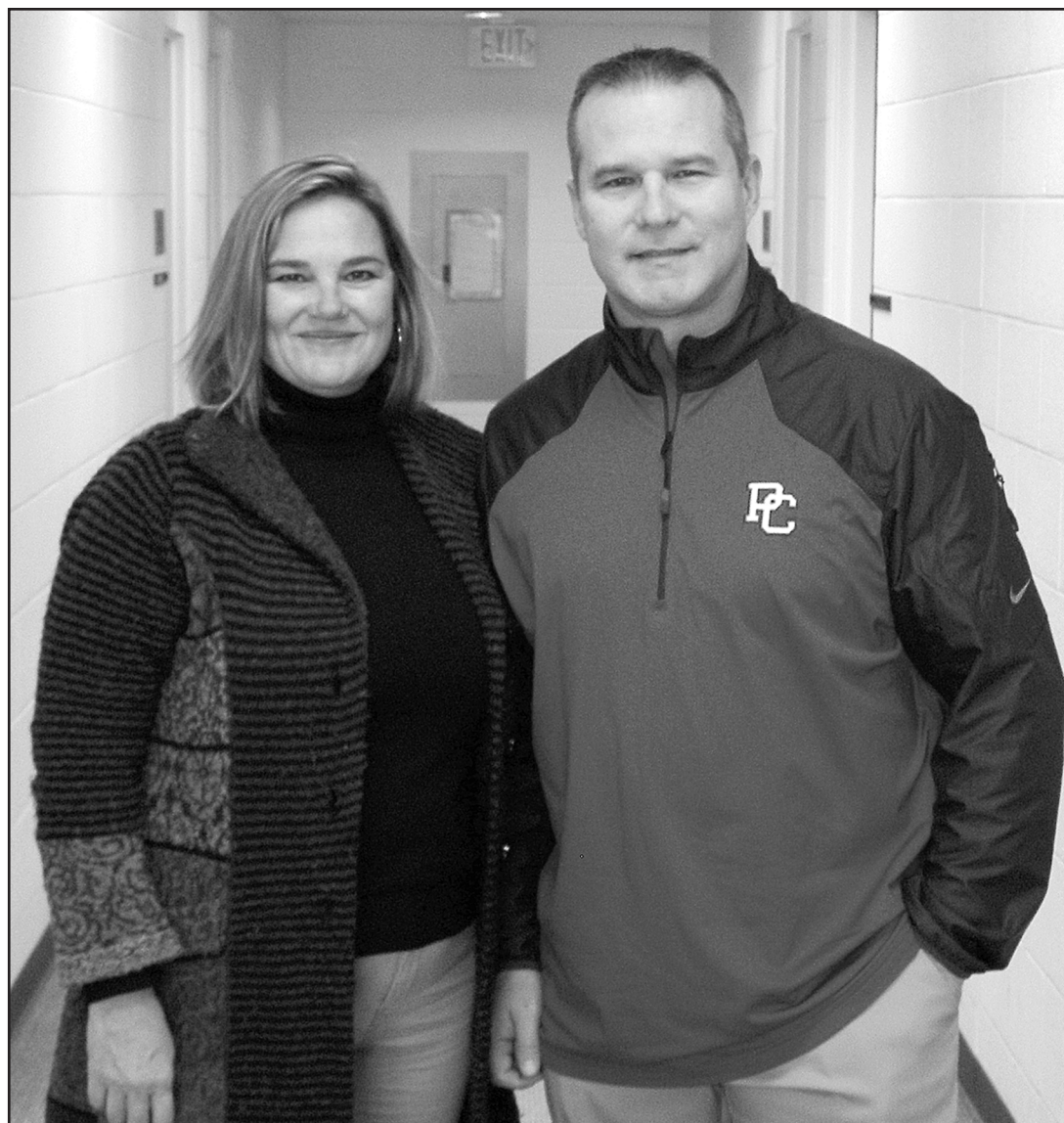


It's that time of year. High school seniors are receiving their college acceptance letters, and parents are wondering, "Where did the time go?" Dee Nichols embraces her daughter Cassie, a Clinton High School senior who has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball for Presbyterian College, where dad Harold, left, is the head football coach. - Photo by Vic MacDonald



Dee Nichols is the senior associate director compliance for Presbyterian College Athletics, a position that ensures the eligibility of incoming and participating student-athletes. She oversees life skills program, and counsels athletics about the effects of alcohol and good nutrition on their performance. - Photo by Ethan Black

Southern for a few years, where and head coach. During this she served as both an assistant time she met her husband,



Dee and Harold Nichols met in the weight room at Georgia Southern University – she was coaching volleyball, he was a football coach. Their three children spent their childhoods in Rhode Island – Harold coached there, Dee was an athletic administrator – and their teen years in Clinton. - Photo by Ethan Black

two girls and a boy — Cassie, Cameron, and Corey. The oldest, Cassie, is a senior at Clinton High School, and the other two, twins, are both freshmen.

"The twins were our little surprise when we got to Rhode Island," Nichols recalled with a smile. All three of their children spent most of their childhood in Rhode Island, but have spent their teen years here in Clinton. Most of Nichols' extended family still live in Georgia, in McDonough and a few other places.

Though her job takes up much of her time, Nichols does occasionally get some time to herself. She likes to spend time with her family and is an active member of her church, First Presbyterian Church in Clinton. She also likes to go antiquing and is a member of the Clinton Federated Woman's Club. She enjoys sports, of course, and loves to watch the PC players she works with play and have fun.

Nichols really cares for the athletes she works with. She is often one of the first to know if they are having academic problems or other issues. She does what she can to help them, and often tries to give them options for help so they don't fail to meet the proper requirements to stay on their respective teams.

She really cares that they are doing well in school and are able to participate in the events and sports that they want to, and she tries to check on them and their progress when she can. The requirements for athletes from both the conference and the school regarding academic performance can be strict, and the students sometimes require help to ensure they are able to continue playing. The compliance office helps them get that help and makes sure they fulfill all the requirements.

Harold Nichols, in the weight room. He was a football coach at Georgia Southern at the time, and they were married within a few years.

She served for three years here at PC as an administrative assistant, helping with ticket sales and the like, but she and her husband moved to work at the University of Rhode Island—he as head coach, and she as an athletic administrator. During the seven years she was

there, Nichols spent about half that time working in the compliance office, which would eventually lead to her getting the job she has now when she and her husband returned to PC to work in the athletic department.

The Nichols got married in her hometown, McDonough, a couple of years after meeting at Georgia Southern and have been married now for 21 years. They also have three children,

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Harold Nichols - PC football head coach

By Ethan Black

Horizons 2016

Presbyterian College has a prominent place in the Clinton community. It draws in students and faculty from all over the country, as well as international students from around the world, adding diversity to our community. One of the best times for the PC and Clinton communities to mingle are the fall football games.

Many in our community come out to support the PC Blue Hose on Saturdays in the fall. Harold Nichols, the head coach of PC, is grateful for the support shown by the Clinton community.

Nichols was born in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. He attended New Smyrna Beach Senior High School, and he was on the football team. Go Barracudas! After he graduated in '85, he came to join the PC family. Go Blue Hose!

Nichols was quarterback for the Blue Hose, and was on the team when they made it to the playoffs in '87. When he graduated in '89, he stayed on for a few years to be an assistant coach before moving on to some other places.

He first went to Georgia Southern University, where he met his wife, Dee. They were both coaching, and first met in the weight room. In '94, they got married in Dee's hometown. They had a child, and later moved to work at the University of Rhode Island.

Nichols coached while his wife worked in an administrative capacity, and shortly after their arrival in Rhode Island, they were expecting again, this time with twins. After several years



What Every Blue Hose Fan Loves: When PC football wins – as in this victory under the lights in 2015 – the players and coaches stand in front of the Blue Thunder pep band and salute the home stands crowd at Bailey Memorial Stadium. Blue Hose football head coach Harold Nichols, front left, was the 2014 Big South Conference co-Coach of the Year. – Photo by Vic MacDonald

there and a year-long stint at Bucknell University, Nichols returned to PC to become head coach of the football team. Altogether, he has been coaching for about 26 years.

Being head coach is tougher than it sounds, as Nichols will tell you. "You have to wear different hats for different people," he said. "For the fans, for the players, for the administrators."

Head Coach is really many jobs, and it's not really as simple as helping the football players play better. There are administrative jobs that Nichols must handle, as well as recruiting, and, of course, actually coaching the team. Luckily, he has an administrative staff and coaching staff to help him. Through them, he can effectively be in multiple places at once, and together they

make sure everything gets done to keep the sports programs at PC running smoothly.

Nichols' job still takes up much of his time, to the point where he doesn't get much time for anything else besides sleeping and eating. When he does get a bit of free time, he likes to spend it with his family. He also likes to fish, go bird hunting, and play a little golf. Despite being a foot-

ball coach, Nichols' favorite sport to watch is baseball, and he's a big Cincinnati Reds fan. He and his family attend First Presbyterian Church, and he tries to help out with things there when he can.

Nichols and his wife have three children, all of whom attend Clinton High School. The oldest, Cassie, is a senior. The other two are twins, a boy and a girl, who

are freshmen. Their names are Cameron and Corey.

Nichols doesn't really have any other family near here, as his family is rather spread out in many different states. Some are back in Florida, others are in Pennsylvania, and many more are scattered across other parts of the country.

Nichols also considers his players family. The players form bonds of friendship that will last a lifetime, and they all look to Nichols for guidance, often for personal or academic problems as well as athletic.

As an example of how these bonds last far longer than just their time at PC, consider Justin Bethel.

Bethel graduated a few years ago, and was one of the star players on the PC football team while at the school. He now plays for the Arizona Cardinals, but he always remembers his alma mater and his old coach, and comes back to visit when he gets a chance. He was here just a few weeks ago, coming down from Charlotte just before the NFC Championship game between the Cardinals and the Carolina Panthers.

Nichols definitely treats his players like they are his own children. He cares about their well-being far beyond just their ability to play. He does his best to make sure that his players are doing their best in all their classes, even if they're at PC on a football scholarship. Not only does it make the school look good, but he wants to make sure his players get the education they need in order to be productive citizens and pursue whatever career they choose, whether it's professional football or anything else.



PC football players stand and salute the home crowd after a win at Bailey Memorial Stadium. The 2016 season kicks off Sept. 1 at Central Michigan. – Photo by Vic MacDonald



Harold Nichols
– PC football head coach



Cassie Nichols was in the Homecoming Court this fall, and Harold Nichols had the chance to get away from football for an evening and "just be a dad." – Photo by Vic MacDonald



Phyllis Staton - Presbyterian College First Lady

By Vic MacDonald

Horizons 2016

Phyllis Staton shines in her blue blazer, but she can still rock the pink.

She had a 50-year "first career" on the front lines of the fight against breast cancer. She went back to see her former staff recently in the Midlands, and they chided her about switching over to royal Scottish blue.

"My wardrobe for so long was pink (the color most identified with the fight against breast cancer)," she said, "and I still have it. At the Pink-Out game, I was all decked out, even pink jeans."

Presbyterian College has sorority-inspired pink-outs for football, basketball, baseball and softball, so Phyllis has plenty of chances to service as the poster girl for breast cancer awareness.

She started her career as a X-ray technician and rose to the



Phyllis Staton tries her hand at Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese low-impact form of fitness and stress relief, during the International Day program in the Springs Student Center Gym on the Presbyterian College campus. — Photos by Vic MacDonald



The Center of Attention: Phyllis Staton, middle, was acknowledged during PC's Opening Convocation, as she and husband Bob became the college's First Couple. Bob Staton is a PC alumnus, Phyllis had never been to the campus until Bob was asked to return as president.

position of directing the mission of breast cancer treatment centers and a mobile testing lab. "I was very passionate about my career," she said.

The grandmother who raised her had breast cancer. "We are detecting it so early now," Staton said, "with technology and screening."

In her healthcare career, it

was all about the patients. "With education," she said, "it's all about the students, same principle."

Friends were sure Phyllis was going to hate it, moving from Lexington to small town Clinton. She loves it, "it's been amazing to me, students see me in the grocery store and run up to hug me."

Clinton has been very open

and hospitable, Phyllis and husband Bob Staton, the president of Presbyterian College, agree. "We're glad to be here," Bob says. "The whole community has been great, we both know this is where we're supposed to be," Phyllis says.

The Statons are making the stately President's House on South Broad Street a Blue Hose students' destination. "We've

had several student events in the house," Phyllis said. "Many of the seniors had never been in the home."

Bob Staton was a widower, when they met. Phyllis had been divorced for some time. A friend set them up. "I think he did it just to get it over with," she chided her husband.

Bob has four children, Phyllis has one child. Now they are blending as a family, and grandchildren are arriving. The grands are too young yet to decide on college, but Phyllis did admit the youngest has a PC onesy.

"To be here at this point in our life is fun and exciting," Bob said.

"I think about how blessed I am, and appreciative to be here," Phyllis said. "Everybody we have met in Clinton has been so welcoming."

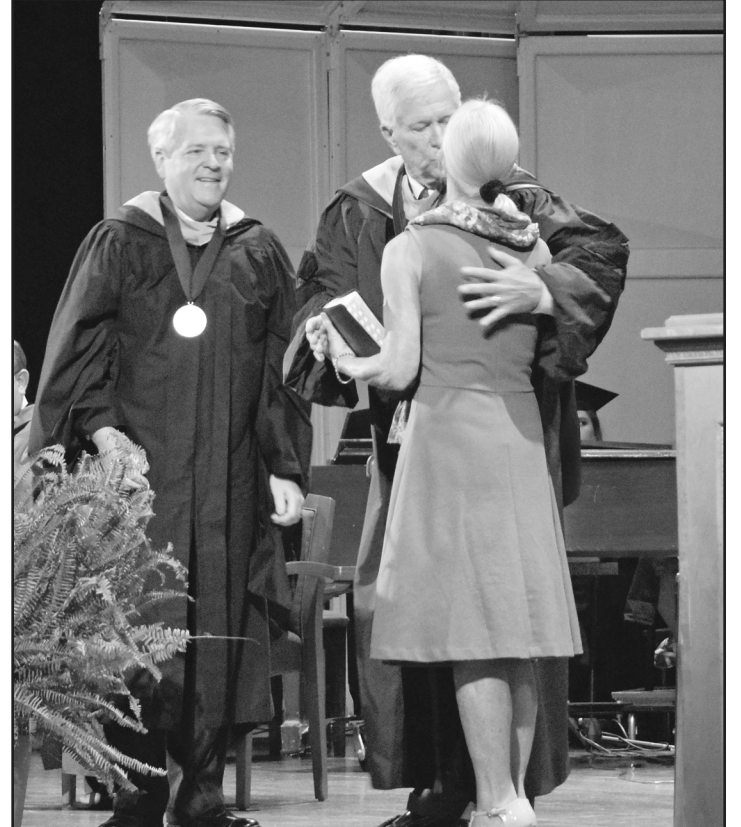
The Statons were being interviewed in the President's Office on the PC undergraduate campus, and just a jump over the railroad track up on North Broad Street is the Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy.

The President and First Lady see it as a gem.

"It has brought attention to PC and Clinton," the president said. "It has brought students and faculty here. The way it looks, the apartments that have been built ... everybody would like to have more, but there are more people downtown walking around now, and it is based on the PC culture of giving back to the community."

"I was at the Y the other day, and they were there offering health screenings," Phyllis said. "I asked them where they were from and they said, 'PC School of Pharmacy.'" For a former healthcare provider, that's exciting stuff.

"As with any graduate school, generally, they are paying for it themselves," Bob said,



Phyllis Staton accepts a kiss from husband Bob after they are introduced as the President and First Lady of Presbyterian College during the 2015-16 academic year opening ceremony in Belk Auditorium.

"rather than their parents paying. They know they need to focus."

Having the experience of setting up and running a doctoral program like the School of Pharmacy should help in determining Presbyterian College's next potential direction.

Bob Staton said PC is considering a physicians assistants master's degree program. "We have some critical decisions that we have to make," he said. "Pharmacy has taught us some things. There is a big demand. It is a service-based profession, and that ties into all of those aspects of PC."

Initially, there could be 25 students enrolled in a 24 month

to 27 month program of study. Each class of potential graduates likely would not exceed 40 students. "We have to develop practice sites," Staton said. "In Pharmacy, the P3s and P4s are rarely on campus. They are out working at practice sites. We need to develop those relationships (for physicians assistants practice sites)."

With her healthcare background, Phyllis Staton could be the program's first Dean. "She really could," her husband admits, as she just smiles.

"The demand is out there," Bob Staton, lawyer turned CEO turned college president, says. "We are well-equipped to meet the demand."

Annette Bodie continued

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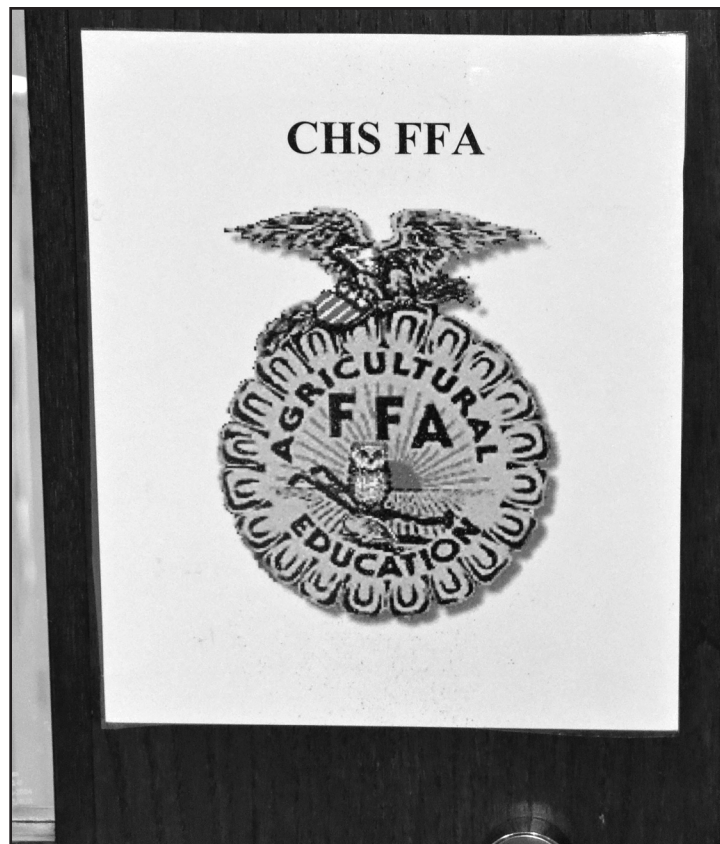
dents. This is National FFA Week (Feb. 22-26), a tradition that began in 1947 when the National FFA Board of Directors designated a week in recognition of George Washington's legacy as an agriculturist and farmer.

The CHS FFA, for the first time, is sponsoring on campus an Ag Olympics. During early morning FLEXTime on Feb. 26, there will be competitions, and the club that wins the event gets a trophy.

Students are urged to participate in the dress-up like a farmer relay, corn cob relay, wheelbarrow race and egg toss (fake eggs into a hat if it's raining). Six-person teams designated by each campus club will compete, and club members in their T-shirts or coordinating colors will sit together and cheer for their teams.

After school that day will be the Mr. FFA Pageant. A canned food drive and trip to Columbia for FFA Legislative Day also will be highlights of the week.

All this is happening right now for Annette Bodie. But she can't help looking ahead, just a little, to something she's done all her life. It could be coming her way again this summer,



with a twist.

The State FFA Convention is in June, and during the spring and summer, the future farmers and animal-keepers will have the chance to participate in specialty camps. The Clinton group went to a specialty camp that was fishing, deep-sea and net casting out of Cherry

Grove.

Another specialty camp comes up in mid-March.

As a teacher always in control, but excited nonetheless, Bodie says, "We're going to horse camp, and we are going to ride on the beach. I've ridden horses all my life. I have never ridden on the beach."

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Bob Staton - Presbyterian College president

By Vic MacDonald

Horizons 2016

Newlyweds Bob and Phyllis Staton were looking for a calling, somewhere they could direct their energies as a power couple, after their wedding in Lexington. Bob's alma mater came calling.

"I had never been to PC before," Phyllis said. "It was truly a new adventure."

Staton was asked to take over the presidency of Presbyterian College, upon the resignation of Dr. Claude Lilly. Staton had served as interim president following Dr. John Griffin's retirement and before the PC board of trustees hired Lilly from the Clemson University College of Business.

This time, there is no interim label.

"The last time I was filling in. It was different this time. It was to be the president," Staton said, as he and Phyllis sat down in the PC President's Office for their Horizons interview.

"For me, at this point, it's more of a calling. We could be sitting on a beach somewhere, but this is something I care about. This place is important."

So with his new wife - they took a trip in October that served as a post-wedding get-away - Staton came back to the president's office. Aside from the skunk that took up residence under the floor over Christmas break, everything's been smelling like a rose.

Bringing a unique perspective as an attorney and corporate CEO to the PC presidency, Staton sees value in the liberal arts education in today's workforce.

"Today's graduates, they're likely to have 20 different jobs during their careers. They need critical thinking and problem-solving," Staton said. "They need to be able to adapt and



Bob Staton pauses for a photo between the end of the opening convocation at Belk Auditorium and the beginning of the academic year opening picnic at Alumni Green, after he is introduced as the PC president. Staton served as interim president between the presidencies of Dr. John Griffin and Dr. Claude Lilly, and now the "interim" label has been removed by the colleges' Board of Trustees. - Photos by Vic MacDonald

learn. The jobs of today might not be here tomorrow."

The liberal arts is seeking to find its place in the new wave of high school education geared toward workforce development. Students are asked to identify their careers earlier and earlier, often in middle school. "There needs to be balance," Staton said. "You need business and industry to drive the economy, but the one thing they all need is a workforce. In the liberal arts, you can learn the problem-solving, for the jobs right now and the jobs out there five years from now."

Parents wonder, Staton said, "what's my child going to do when they get out of school. They want them to be out on their own. The truth is, (their children) will always be around.

They need to think longer term. Instead of making X, Y, Z, find out what are passionate about. That's what will make you satisfied as a person."

Bringing the message of the liberal arts, as cultivator of the well-rounded person, Staton says he has found the perfect partner in Phyllis. "We try to do this together, that's what I told the board," he said. "She is an invaluable partner, and she's great at it" - being The First Lady of Presbyterian College.

Staton said what PC is all about was summed up recently in a statement by a trustee who is leaving the board. The departing gift is a PC-emblemed rocking chair and the trustee, who is not a PC alum, said he was sending the chair to his son, who is a Blue



Bob and Phyllis Staton greet Dr. Jerman Disasa, right, prior to a picnic and ceremony at Bailey Memorial Stadium marking the 20th anniversary of the CHAMPS program, founded by Disasa, a former education professor. PC named its annual scholarship presented to an outstanding CHAMPS student in Disasa's honor.

Hose graduate.

"He said he was going to send the chair to his son who is teaching in a small school in a West Virginia mining town," Staton said, "so he can put it in his classroom. The son is inspiring his students to attend college. That's what life is about."

Bob Staton believes Presbyterian College will be successful as its people are successful. "You can provide leadership. You can motivate, but any enterprise is only as strong as its people. Most corporate people know, others will make or break your business, that's where you will find success.

"A corporation - a college - is just a legal entity. It comes alive with its people."



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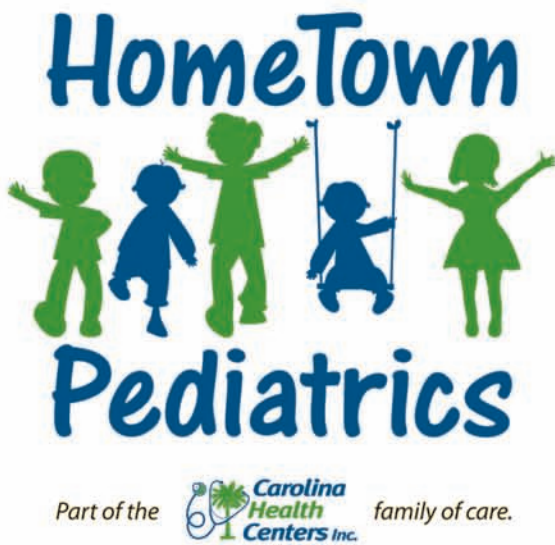
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