

The GreenWaveNews

Inside the Wave Academia, Views/Opinions, Features, Tributes to Tanner, Classes and Clubs, The Back Page

Leeds High School Quill and Scroll Honor Society (established October 10, 1947)

International Honor Society for High School Journalists

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A “PENNY” for our thoughts...

Heather Moore thanks Penny Bailey, candidate for the US House of Representatives for Alabama’s District 6, for the inspirational words of hope she shared with members of the LHSisterhood on January 25.

Penny Bailey, Leeds resident and retired Air Force Colonel, spoke with young ladies at her own alma mater, LHS, on the importance of integrity, excellence, and service before self in setting personal goals and mapping out individual courses of life after high school. Colonel Bailey emphasized an Air Force motto: “Attitude determines Altitude” as she encouraged the members of The Sisterhood to reach for the

stars and “never settle”.

Club members listened intently as Colonel Bailey recounted the horrific events of 9/11 when she was at work — **in the Pentagon** — on that traumatic day in America’s history.

Following twenty-four years in service to our country, Colonel Bailey has thrown her hat into the political arena. She emphasized the countless opportunities for young women of today.

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“The Scream” of Hunger Wins 1st place



Photo courtesy of Miriam Turner
Ashley Blackmon and Alexis Oden hold the 1st Place trophy LHS Art Club and FCCLA won in recent completion. Also pictured are club members Courtney Blackmon and Casey Collins.
See Story on Page 7.

Mr. & Miss Leeder 2012



Photo courtesy of Madison Russell

Miss Leeder, Casey Collins, plans to attend California State at Long Beach and major in public relations and marketing. Casey will graduate as one of the Top Ten with an advanced academic diploma in May.

Mr. Leeder, Keaton Glass, also a top honor graduate, is undecided between Vanderbilt and the University of Alabama. His graduate interests lie in accounting/business.

Interestingly, this pair holds the offices of president and/or vice president of every single club at LHS with the exception of two — there just wasn’t time in their schedule to lead those organizations!

**LHS Prom
May 4th
Get your tickets
NOW
\$50.00 per ticket**

The Vision of Leeds City Schools is Promoting Achievement, Respect, and Success.

Opinions and Viewpoints

Don't be a MARTYR

by Victoria Lyon

"It is heartbreaking for society to blatantly ignore bullying on such a large scale that it takes an unfortunate event, such as suicide, to bring attention to the matter." — Nick Wright

Bullying is a strong topic that gets ignored in many schools today throughout the nation. Students who **bully** others do not realize (or care about) the damage it can cause to the emotions and confidence of classmates. If someone is being bullied, people argue that it is that specific individual's responsibility to inform an adult of the action that is taking place.

For someone who is being bullied, it takes a great amount of courage to notify higher authority. What most people do not realize is that the **bully** is taking away that person's confidence and courage to seek help.

Because of this misconduct, a young boy in a neighboring community took his own life in desperation to rid the emotional harassment that was inflicted upon him. Because of this young boy's pain, his death has impacted the lives of many students on both sides of "The Bridge" and beyond.

The school campus occasionally becomes a place where diverse youth are defiant and where no one feels safe. Bullying is not a laughing matter only evident on TV shows. It is real and in schools throughout the nation. LHS is fortunate to have a caring staff who always have time to listen. Posters throughout the school and the LHS website give the Hotline Phone Number where students can report bullying anonymously.

DON'T BE A VICTIM! REPORT BULLYING!



Photo courtesy of The Birmingham News

LHS wrestlers win at state

LHS senior Brian Shockley wrestled his way to his second State Championship by defeating Dalton Carroll, a four-time state champion, of Walter Wellborn in the Class 1A-4A, 152 pound AHSAA championship wrestling match at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville on Saturday, February 18. Shockley (49-5) took top state honors over Carroll (54-1) who came into the match undefeated in Alabama with only one loss to a Georgia wrestler.

Zac Willis and Taylor Simmons brought home 3rd place wins in their respective weight classes.

As we all have been tragically reminded recently, wrestling, like all sports, can take a toll on young bodies. But sports add strength and endurance to the body as well as to the character and mind. The LHS Wrestling Team is a family of courage and loyalty.

Shockley said, "Wrestling takes hard work, dedication, endurance, strength, and, most of all, passion. That match was hard fought and Dalton is a great wrestler. I just had more passion and wanted the win a little more."

Photos in this edition provided by The GreenWave News staff, The Birmingham News, Susan Stovall, and Miriam Turner.

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Leeds City Schools is to develop confident, productive young people and enable them to become independent life-long learners. We will accomplish this through a dedicated professional staff committed to continued learning. A relevant curriculum will be taught based on thinking and reasoning skills. This will take place in a positive environment recognizing the individual differences in children.

The GreenWave News

1500 Greenwave Drive
 Leeds, Alabama 35094
 205-699-4510
 Fax: 205-699-4515
 Email: mshannon@leedsk12.org
 Advisor: Maggie Shannon

Senior Editorial Board

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Purpose

The focus of The GreenWave News is to provide a school and community informational service highlighting activities of Leeds High School. Additionally, the publication seeks to provide a public forum for the opinions of students, the newspaper staff, and faculty.

Articles and opinions expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of Leeds High School nor the City of Leeds Board of Education. The editorials are the opinions of the Editorial Staff.

Corrections:

Errors appearing in The GreenWave News should be reported to the advisor. If a correction is warranted, one will be published in the next edition.



**Mr. and Miss Leeder
2011 and 2012**

Here's how I learned those pesky Literary Terms

By Victoria Lyon

The antagonist antagonizes the protagonist.

When you compare two things it's a metaphor; it is kind of like using a simile, but without using *like* or *as*.

Seeing how the cat told the story, I guess that might be personification.

But...if I said that was smart in a stupid way, I guess I would be talking about an oxymoron.

Although the story ends badly, it isn't quite a tragedy but more so ironic.

The monologue isn't considered a dialogue if the speaker is only talking to himself.

If you use satire, make sure it isn't offensive to the human race because, if so, the atmosphere will be quite hostile. Maybe, if you're lucky, it will be a romance!

Considering tone is a result of the style, you might want to watch what you say. Now, if you don't watch what you say, there might be a conflict which will lead to suspense whether you will get hurt or not.

Since we know the literary terms, don't forget that the plot is what's happening and setting is where it's happening.

Oh, be sure you know the meaning of why it happened because the theme is fairly important. Watch out for hints that might foreshadow an unexpected climax.

You may think it means one thing, but be careful, it could symbolize something else entirely.

If it appeals to your senses, it might just be imagery instead of symbolism.

And, last but not least is the ending... if you want to get 100 on the exam, **study** and you'll come to a great resolution!

Leeder Pageant 2012

By Maya Everett

On the evening of January 28, the annual Leeder Pageant was held in the LHS Auditorium. Our ladies and gentlemen put on their best shows for the night and, if I might add, they were quite spiffy.!

The pageant was again sponsored by the LHS Yearbook Staff. A new face to the pageant world, Librarian Emily Thomas, succeeds fellow teacher, John Windham, as pageant director and yearbook sponsor.

Three judges with significant backgrounds in pageantry and judging included the mother of M'ia Callens, Miss Alabama Outstanding Teen 2011. Overall point judging was based on 20% GPA, 20% pageant application points, 20% interview, and 40% stage presence.

Prior to the pageant, the contestants, wearing their best "dress-up" attire, met for individual interviews with the judges.

Beginning with the freshman ladies and progressing through the young women of the junior class, the contestants took their turns on stage. Senior ladies and gentlemen then commanded the stage.

Before the presentation of awards, the senior boys and girls put on a nice skit of their perception of onstage questions in pageant world. The term "world peace" was often used, giving the audience a good laugh.

Mr. and Miss. Leeder 2011 Jesse Turner and Carmen Smith presented awards to this year's winners.

For each class, there was a category for Miss Class, Class Beauty, Miss Congeniality, Photogenic, and Class Favorite. Senior awards included Mr. and Miss Senior Class, and Mr. and Miss Leeder. **A complete listing of winners is on Page 4.**

The careful planning of Mrs. Thomas and her yearbook staff resulted in a tremendous event.

Special appreciation is extended to Principal Michael Turner and Assistant Principal Stephen Hall for ensuring an enjoyable evening for all. Additionally, thanks to the many teachers and "helpers" who contributed in the production of this year's most amazing pageant.

African American Literature 101

By Alexandria Shorter

African American Literature is a new elective class being offered for the first time at LHS. Ms. Shannon teaches this class during 4th block.

This class examines the significance of a specifically African American literary tradition in shaping both the identities and the histories of not only African Americans but of society as a whole.

Our class began our studies of the ways in which the models of storytelling shaped African American narratives including oral traditions such as folk stories, poetry, and music. Our in-depth studies focus on the literary voices of African American writers and the ways these writings have affected both African Americans' understanding of themselves as well as the ways in which these literary pieces and the African American culture have been historically understood in culture's popular imaginations.

To critically trace the genealogies of this tradition, we will be researching the historical and political contexts of the works and

the lives of the writers and also the ways in which issues of gender and class specifically define the works.

Another focus of the class will be to understand how racial and ethnic groups have resisted and struggled to recreate their own cultural identities in relation to each other and to dominant white groups, leading to both conflict and community empowerment.

As individuals, we will strive to appreciate the literary contributions of African Americans and how these writings have affected history; understand the significant value these literary pieces have on worldly literary treasures, and to value the opinions of others who *are not exactly like ourselves*.

Our class has plans to take a field trip to Selma, Alabama and retrace the steps taken on March 7, 1965, tragically remembered as "Bloody Sunday", across The Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Students are Courtney Blackmon, Cherish Briskey, Cassidy DeShazo, Maya Everett, Jamie Finch, Alexandria Shorter, Courtney Watkins, and Jimeria Williams.

2012 Pageant Pulchritude



2012 Leeder Pageant Winners

Senior Class

Miss Leeder Casey Collins
 Mr. Leeder Keaton Brooks Glass
 Miss Senior Class Chasity Carr
 Mr. Senior Class Logan Smith
 Senior Favorite (girl) Alexis Oden
 Senior Favorite (girl) Danylle Everson
 Senior Favorite (girl) Victoria Leigh Lyon
 Senior Favorite (boy) Jordan Teems
 Senior Beauty Ashlyn De'Anne Newton
 Senior Beau Dylan Shelton
 Miss Photogenic Victoria Leigh Lyon
 Mr. Photogenic Keaton Brooks Glass
 Miss Congeniality Ashlyn De'Anne Newton
 Mr. Congeniality Steven Tanner Hunter

Junior Class

Miss Junior Class Hannah Christina Smith
 Junior Favorite Brianna Rose
 Junior Favorite Ashley Blackmon
 Junior Favorite Tiambra Clark
 Junior Beauty Ja'Larria Williams
 Miss Photogenic Brianna Rose
 Miss Congeniality Hannah Christina Smith

Sophomore Class

Miss Sophomore Class Jimeria Lynn Williams
 Sophomore Favorite Shea Callaway
 Sophomore Favorite Blaise Elizabeth Herman
 Sophomore Favorite Emily Claire Goodwin
 Sophomore Beauty Sydney Darabaris
 Miss Photogenic Shea Callaway
 Miss Congeniality Blaise Elizabeth Herman

Freshman Class

Miss Freshman Class Suzanna Elise Turner
 Freshman Favorite Allison Chambers
 Freshman Favorite Caroline Renee Payne
 Freshman Favorite Victoria Wolfe
 Freshman Beauty Melissa Eve Thompson
 Miss Photogenic Melissa Eve Thompson
 Miss Congeniality Suzanna Elise Turner



Leeds High School Beauties & Beaus





Freshman Class Winners



Junior Class Winners



The Beauties of the Senior Class



Sophomore Class Winners

PROM 2012.....get your GLOW on

Lights Out! Get Your Glow On! May 4th is going to be a psychedelic array of color, music, and dance! According to prom sponsors, this year's event promises to be one for the memory books!

Tickets are \$50.00 per student — and are non-refundable! You may reserve a prom ticket now with a \$25.00 deposit. The remaining balance is due March 30th. This advance payment ensures entry to the event of the year, a gift bag packed with goodies, and a prom tee shirt! To guarantee receipt of the Prom Package, the entire \$50 per student price must be paid by March 30th. Any tickets bought or remaining balances paid after March 30th will only guarantee entry...no gifts!

The extravaganza will held the Grayson Valley Country Club and the music and fun will begin at 8:00 PM.

Sponsor Walker said, "This year's prom will be awesome! We weren't sure we could out-do last year's prom, but it's lookin' like we just might. In fact, the future is so bright, ya' might better just wear your shades!"

Prom has historically been a great time for all — so don't miss out!

Again, tickets purchased or balances paid AFTER March 30th will not include a gift bag or tee shirt! So, see Mrs. Angela Walker NOW!



Miss Freshman Class



Miss Sophomore Class



Miss Junior Class



Art Club & FCCLA win top award

By Alexis Oden

On Jan. 21st, the LHS Art Club and FCCLA won first place with their design in an area school competition at the Riverchase Galleria. The event was sponsored by Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, an architectural and design company.

The main goal was to collect food for the community food bank. The competition required participants to build an art sculpture composed of canned foods. The two clubs, sponsored by Mrs. Rominger and Mrs. Turner, had prepared for the event many weeks in advance by sketching, organizing, and building.

Art Club members include Art Club President Alexis Oden, Tanya Sandoval, Chelsea Schlitz, Ashley Blackmon, Courtney Blackmon, and Drake Schofield. FCCLA members helping were Elise Turner, Adam Brown, and Casey Collins.

Club members wanted to design an image that was creative and difficult. "The Scream," by Edvard Munch was the first thing that came to mind. "**The Scream**" of Hunger was the theme chosen. They collected over 480 cans of food for the design — food that ultimately went to the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama. LHS finished in 1st place. Club members would like to thank Mrs. Angela Walker for her great ideas which helped them achieve their goal. Appreciation is also extended to Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Thomas for their volunteer assistance.



Art Club and FCCLA members (Casey Collins, Courtney Blackmon, Alexis Oden, and Ashley Blackmon) prepare "The Scream" of Hunger design which ultimately won First Place. Photo Courtesy of *The Birmingham News*

LHS presents *The Seeds of Africa*



By Jimeria Williams

February is Black History Month. The celebration began February 1, 1926, as Black History Week and later extended to encompass the entire month of February. Here at Leeds High School, through the dedication of staff and students, a Black History Month program, *The Seeds of Africa* was produced not only for the school but also for the community.

"The program gives the students and the community an understanding and respect of the legacy and struggle of African Americans through the vast time periods being represented," said Program Director, Shaemun Webster.

The Seeds of Africa included numerous forms of dance and song as well as a representation of historically Black colleges and significant African American individuals who made a major difference in history.

The shows were held in the LHS Auditorium for students on Wednesday, February 22, during WAVE Assembly and on Sunday, February 26, at 3:00 PM for the general public.

Webster emphasized that the successful production was possible with the help of other teachers including Ashley Allen, Kwastina Jackson, Amanda Beason, and Ann Boone. He also stated that he plans to continue directing this program and hopes to set a tone for the generations to come.

TANNER HUNTER...You are our VALENTINE ! WE LOVE YOU!

Dear Tanner,
I just wanted you to know that I'm thinking about you and I wish you the very best.
Mary K. Harris

To my Friend, Tanner...
I know you are going through a lot, but I know you can make it because pain never kept you down. As long as God is there for you, you can do everything you want to do! Get better 'cause I miss you!
Eddie Boswell

Dear Tanner,
I have so dearly missed you! Getting to visit you brightened my whole week. Seeing your sweet smile was just what I needed. I cannot wait to see you again (hopefully soon). Keep getting better, Sweet Boy!
With lots of love,
Shelby Musgrove

Tanner, we miss you at school and on the baseball field. We are all praying and hoping for a full recovery.
T. J. Phillips

Tanner,
You are doing so well, Bud. Keep up the good work. You are the strongest person I know. You are progressing so well and so many people are amazed at your progress. I love you, Bud. Keep your head up!
Love,
Caitlin Wilmas

Tanner,
You are the most amazing person I've ever had the honor of knowing. I love you Brother. Stay strong and keep on getting stronger. I will see on stage on May 24th.
Brian Shockley

Dear Tanner,
We are always thinking about you and praying for you constantly. We all know that you will make it through this. You have touched so many lives.
Stephanie Falkner

Hey Tanner,
I miss your goofy laugh in class. You have an amazing will. Keep your positive attitude. You are in our thoughts and prayers at LHS.
Miss you Man,
Keaton Glass

Tanner,
We are all still praying for your healing, but meanwhile know that you are surrounded by those who love you.
Jimeria Williams

Tanner,
I am glad that you are doing well. I hope that you will be able to "walk" with the rest of the senior class! We miss you.
Cherish Briskey

Tanner,
We miss you, Man! Not just at school but as one of the LEADERS on our team. We are praying for you!
Zac Willis

Get well soon, Bro,
Keep your head up. I'm still praying for you.
Love ya' Bro,
Christian Blaylock

Tanner,
You are such a great inspiration to everyone. The way you always smile even though you are going through a hard time in your life is just amazing. Keep on smiling and holding on!
Courtney Morgan Watkins

Tanner,
I'm glad you're making progress. Just keep taking baby steps. I know we never talk, but I've heard nothing but great things about you. LHS really does miss you and cares so much about you. Stay strong and never lose hope!
Jamie Finch

Tanner,
We miss you and you need to back to LHS soon! I miss our talks at lunch.
Love you,
Caitlin Frederick

Tanner,
Never give up hope! You will get through this. I have faith in you and everyone else does too.
Cassidy DeShazo

Valentine's Day is the day we celebrate love. This is my short cut of brotherly love to you Tanner. I hope your love stays strong!
Josh McClendon

Tanner's Story

By Taylor Anderson



On Wednesday, December 21, 2011, Tanner Hunter's life was changed in a way no teenager could ever imagine.

Tanner had it all going for him: senior in high school, starting catcher on the baseball team, wrestler, former football player, and an excellent A+ student. He was in St. Clair County, wrestling his 160 weight class, well on his way to a state championship. He went for a takedown and landed wrong.

Tanner told me, "I remember having my head on his chest. We went down, I landed with my head on my chest, but one of my discs slipped and then I couldn't move. I was on the mat for about 10 minutes. They put me on a board and then I was moved to a stretcher. That's all I remember. I didn't recognize anyone — not even my mom at one point. I remember the night before I was moved to Atlanta, but nothing between being put on the stretcher and then waking up in Atlanta."

Tanner was at UAB for 3 1/2 weeks. A lot happened in those three weeks. He was in the Trauma ICU for all of those 26 days on a ventilator and under lots of pain medications. When he arrived at UAB, he was put in a halo for 3 hours to try and relieve some of the pressure on his spinal cord, but this did not work. He underwent a two-hour MRI to see what damage had been done. Surgery to remove the misplaced discs and fuse the new bone together that was taken from his hip was next on the list.

At 6 A.M. on December 22, he was out of surgery and moved immediately to the trauma unit. His mother was in Hawaii through all of this and did not arrive in Birmingham until 9 A.M. the day of surgery. He ran a 103-105 temperature for about a week and could have no visitors. He was put on heavy antibiotics so that infection did not spread or get worse.

On December 27, he was diagnosed with pneumonia. He had a tracheotomy and feeding tube inserted on December 28. The trach was put in so that the ventilator could be removed from his throat and mouth because it was agitating him and he continued to try and force it out. The feeding tube was put in because the ventilator was keeping him from being able to swallow.

January 4, after being in trauma for 16 days, he interviewed The Shepherd's Center in Atlanta, Georgia. His parents also had to be interviewed. Later that afternoon, they were also interviewed by Ms. Sherea Harris, a reporter from Fox 6 News. The interview aired that evening and the next morning.

On January 5, he got a haircut. We had been joking with him that we were going to shave his head and he said, "That's something little that doesn't matter anymore. You can shave it, I don't care."

Now if you know Tanner Hunter, you would know that before his accident he would NEVER have even considered cutting his hair in any way that showed his forehead or it being cut above the eyebrows.

That broke my heart, knowing that, to him, it didn't matter anymore and it is just something so insignificant now after the accident.

January 6, just a few days after his interview he got his results from the Shepherd Center. He was accepted! The family felt as if this is where he needs to be and he was very excited to go.



He was supposed to move Monday morning, but the doctors decided that another surgery was necessary before leaving UAB to fix a disc that had slid over and was putting pressure on his esophagus and could cause complications later down the road.

All went well with this surgery and on Tuesday, January 10, at 8 A.M, Tanner was on his way to Shepherd's Center in Atlanta.

When he left UAB, he was still on the ventilator. When he arrived safely at The Shepherd Center, he was given applesauce and chocolate milk. You would have thought he was eating gold — he was so excited because this was the first real food and drink he had had since the accident.

On January 11, he was fitted for a wheelchair that he would use to get around the Center. He would also use the chair in therapy.

The doctors also started to wean him off the ventilator. He relied solely on himself to move his wheelchair and do the things he wanted it to do. There is a tube that allows him to go forward, backward, left, and right. He has two buttons beside his head so that when he rolls his head to the left or right it clicks a button to change the setting on his wheelchair.

He also has two sip/puff tubes on his bed. One calls his nurse and the other operates the television.

January 19, he was taken off the ventilator completely. The following day he had a smaller trach put in to make it a little easier for him to swallow.

Tanner told me during one visit, "I was doing something I love and I don't regret it."

On January 29, they capped his trach so that he could talk and eat. Since his accident he had lost almost 30 pounds in a little over 30 days. But after they capped his trach, Tanner started to eat ice cream, yogurt, and Smoothies. In approximately a week, he was eating pizza, Chik-Fil-A, cinnamon rolls, and real food. This will lead to weight gain that will be back to his normal weight.

He has improved tremendously since he arrived in Atlanta. He arrived with no feeling from mid-chest and elbows down. He could shrug his shoulders, move his biceps and turn his head. He has progressed tremendously since then. He can now use his bicep to turn his left palm from floor to ceiling and back to floor. He can also feel his middle finger knuckle and his thumb on his right hand.

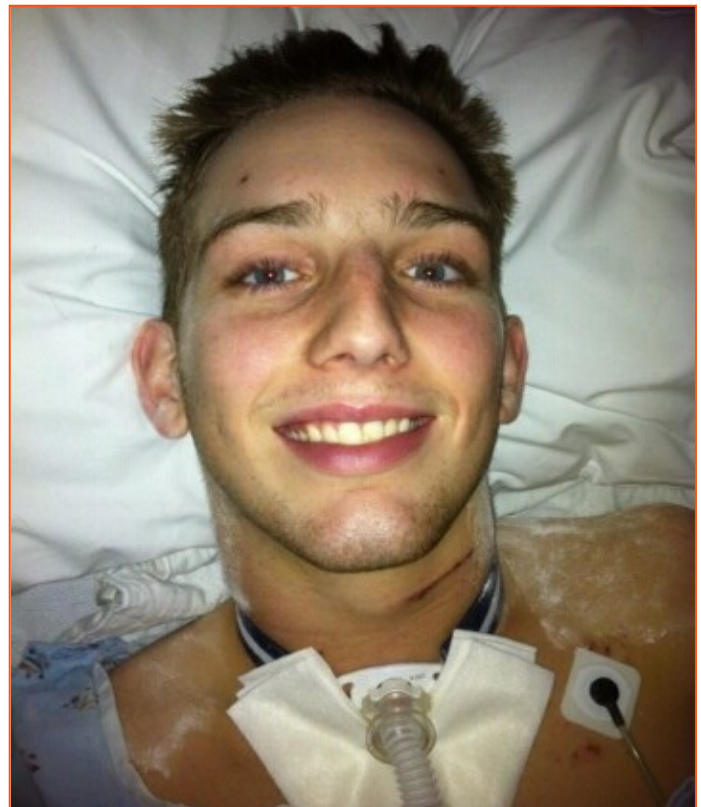
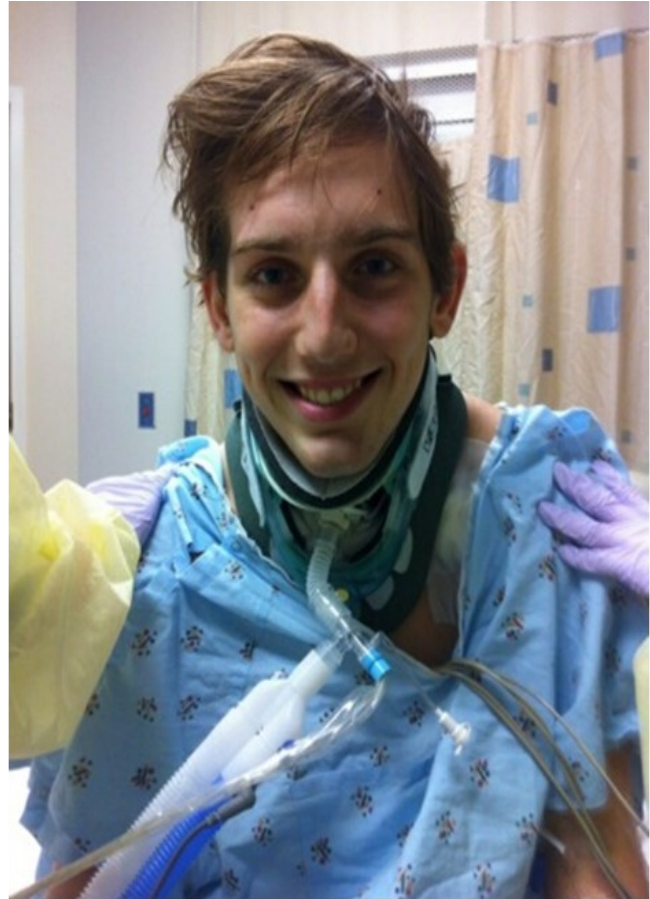
On January 31, he received a new way to maneuver his wheelchair that uses his arm instead of the sip/puff tube. On February 2, I received a video of Tanner moving his right foot.

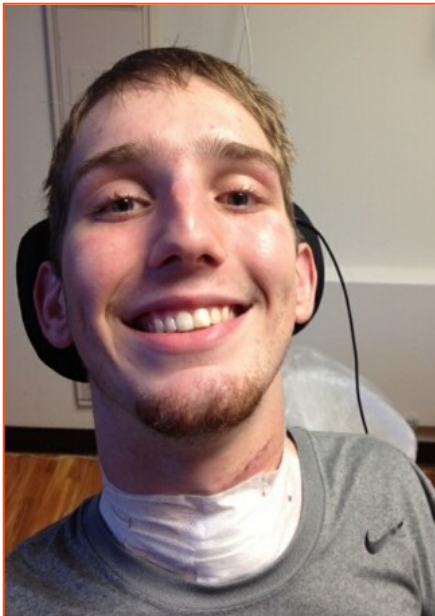
He had his trach completely removed February 3 and is doing very well.

From the very beginning Tanner has been very confident and continues to tell me that he is going to walk again and that he is going to be okay. With this mindset, how could your body not continue to improve?

Family and friends have been by Tanner's side throughout this recovery phase. He has over 5,000 Facebook followers who continue to pray for him and applaud his progress on a daily basis.

I ask that everyone please continue to pray daily for Tanner and pray for a miracle from God that Tanner will have a full recovery.





There's that famous SMILE

Tanner's Address:

**Tanner Hunter
Room 426
The Shepherd Center
2020 Peachtree Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30309**



"I am doing much better and I am going to be okay. It is going to take a long time and a lot of work, but I can do it. I will be at graduation and walk with my class."

Article and most photos submitted by Taylor Anderson



Auburn University's Football Coach Gene Chizik sent an autographed football to the LHS 2010 Football State Champion.



Mrs. Beason and students visit with Tanner



Keaton and Tanner



Coach Lloyd and Coach Anderson and members of the LHS Wrestling Team visit with Tanner. Notice the BIG ORANGE of Tennessee keeping Tanner cozy!



Wrestling teammate Brian Shockley sports the team's new tee-shirt supporting Tanner!



Keaton Glass and Hannah Smith give a "smooch" to Tanner during a recent visit!



Casey Collins matches smiles with the Tanner Man!

Holidays

By Casey Collins



St. Patrick's Day

February 14th

Valentine's day is a lover's holiday celebrated on February 14th. According to the most popular legend, St. Valentine was the one who actually sent the first "valentine" greeting. While he was imprisoned, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a girl who may have been his jailor's daughter. She is alleged to have paid visits to him during his confinement. Before his death, he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine," an expression that we know and still use today. Although the Valentine legend is unclear, the story continues to provide a heroic and romantic basis for this holiday.

Facts —

- Pink is the official color of Valentine's Day
- Convention says that candy and flowers make perfect Valentine's Day gifts, but convention is pretty lame. "Originality" is worth a lot on Valentine's Day.
- more than a billion Valentines are sent every year.
- **St. Valentine's Day Massacre:** Al Capone and Bugs Moran got tangled in Chicago over supply lines for Canadian liquor. Capone fled to Florida, while a crew of his men dressed as Chicago cops apprehended seven of Moran's men, lined them up in a north side warehouse and killed them all on Feb. 14, 1929.



St. Valentine

March 17th

St. Patrick was actually not Irish. He was born in Britain in 390 A.D. He was born into an aristocratic family and was brought up in a Christian household by his Italian father. In his youth St. Patrick was not interested in Christianity until he was kidnapped and forced into slavery at the age of 16. Today, St. Patrick's Day is essentially a religious holiday in Ireland. It is celebrated on March 17th. St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated as a secular holiday in the USA.

Truths to the Myths

- There were already Christians in Ireland before the arrival of St. Patrick.
- St. Patrick did not run the snakes out of Ireland. There were never any there in the first place.
- "The modern celebration of St. Patrick's Day really has nothing to do with the real man."
- The tradition started when parade organizer Steve Bailey, head of a plumbers' union, noticed how a dye used to detect river pollution had stained a colleague's overalls a brilliant green. Why not, Bailey thought, turn the river green on St. Patrick's Day? Thus began the tradition.
- St. Patrick's Day was basically invented in America by Irish-Americans.



Happy Valentine's Day