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# THE HORRY INDEPENDENT

## Nye's was THE place to be!

BY SCOTT HARPER  
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Ask almost anyone who grew up in Conway in the past eight decades to name their favorite childhood treats and 10-cent hot dogs with chili, cherry cokes and turkey salad sandwiches are bound to make the list.

But treats aren't all that most Conwayites remember about Nye's Pharmacy.

For years it was the place for Conway teens to hang out, drive around, meet their friends and keep up with the latest teenage scuttlebutt and on-again, off-again romances.

The contributions of Nye's Pharmacy will be honored today as the Horry County Board of Architectural Review holds a "ribbon-cutting ceremony" at the Tenth Avenue business, now owned by Matt and Tiffany Combs, and the hot dogs won't be just 10 cents. From 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., they'll be free.

These ceremonies take



This photo from the Horry County Board of Architectural Review shows diners and customers of Nye's when it was on Main Street. That location was closed in 1973. The Tenth Avenue location is celebrating 50 years.

NYE'S, A3

## Nye's Memories

Cathy Floyd Beverly

*When I was 3 or 4-years-old, Dunny Green and I ran away from home headed to the Nye's beside the hospital. We had gotten two blocks. The babysitter was yelling for us to come back, but we ignored her. Sara Manship came along and tricked us into her car by offering us a ride to Nye's. She took us straight home. We never got to Nye's that day!*

Jimmy Hammond

*Hammond says when he was boy he had a good bit of dental work done by Dr. Gene Proctor, whose office was just across Tenth Avenue from Nye's. His mother often told him when he got through at the dentist to walk over to Nye's, sit under the oak tree and wait for her to pick him up. But he seldom followed her instructions. Instead he went inside, went to the U.S. 501 end of Nye's, sat down and flipped through the comic books. On one occasion, he said, Jimmie Nye told him if he was going to read the comics he needed to pay for the books, but Hammond explained that he wasn't reading the books, he was just looking at the pictures.*

*Hammond said he loved the chicken salad sandwiches at Nye's. When he got older and learned that the salad*

MEMORIES, A3

## LOUIS JORDAN RESCUED



SCOTT HARPER / THE HORRY INDEPENDENT

Louis Jordan shows the scar from the shoulder injury he received when his sailboat overturned in the ocean in January.

## Conwayite hopes to write a book about his 66 days stranded at sea

BY SCOTT HARPER  
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There was a joyous reunion at Bucksport Marina Wednesday as Louis Jordan returned 76 days after he left in his sailboat for a fishing trip, and less than a week after he was rescued from being stranded at sea for more than 60 days.

On April 2, a very grateful and surprisingly healthy Jordan was rescued about 200 miles east of Cape Hatteras, N.C., by a passing cargo ship.

Now Jordan says he is planning to write a book about his ordeal.

Jordan's friends and family are calling his rescue a miracle because it was assumed he had died. Others have expressed doubts about Jordan's account of the events, especially after a search conducted by the Coast Guard in February ended without a trace of him anywhere.

When he arrived at the marina Wednesday, he was greeted by Jeff Weeks, manager of Bucksport Marina, and Lisa Self, who works in the marina store.

"Louis! How are you man? I did not think I would see you again," Weeks said as he hugged Jordan.

Self told him she had made him a dessert to take home, which put a big smile on Jordan's face.

Jordan, a man of very few words, answered only two questions from reporters who were on hand to witness the reunion.

Before answering the questions, he said he is a member of the Baha'i faith and recited a prayer.

"Oh God guide me. Make me a shining lamp and a brilliant star. Thou art the mighty and powerful," he prayed.

JORDAN, A11

## New truck dedication follows fire tradition

Tuesday's dedication of a new \$425,000 Ferrara fire truck was all about tradition, according to new fire chief Le Hendrick, who said washing the engine and pushing it into its bay dates back to the days when horses pulled fire pumpers.

When the crews returned from fires, they washed down the horses and pushed the pumpers into the stations, he said.

Hendrick sprayed water on the new truck that was built in Holden, La., before a group of firemen joined in to push the vehicle into its new home at the city's public safety building on Ninth Avenue.

Conway Mayor Alys Lawson said Hendrick had recently taken over responsibility for the fire department inheriting a

TRUCK, A11

## Coast RTA has new leader... kind of

BY TOM O'DARE  
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Coast RTA sent out a press release Tuesday afternoon welcoming Brian Piascik as its new general manager/CEO.

But a couple of hours later, the bus agency's board chair-

man Bernie Silverman said Piascik was the top choice, but nothing was official.

The GM position opened a year ago when Myers Rollins was fired by the board for missteps he took in a bus shelter program and other is-

RTA, A2

### | YOU ASKED FOR IT |

Q. I'd like to know how many of the dogs that were "rescued" recently and taken to the Horry County Animal Care Center have been euthanized? Policy says dogs are kept for five days. Are exceptions being made for the recently "rescued" dogs?

A. Horry County spokesperson Lisa Bourcier said the first rescue dogs were adopted out as soon as they were spayed, neutered and ready. The second group of dogs was held for court.

Once the judge issued his order, county workers started the process again of sending some to rescue organizations and adopting

out others.

None of the dogs were euthanized; however, one dog had a stroke and died, according to Bourcier.

The rescue organizations mentioned here are established nonprofit groups within the area that rescue dogs, some targeting specific breeds. The Golden Retriever Rescue Group is a good example.



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## Celebrates 50 years

This is Nye's Pharmacy today. It looks pretty much the same as it has for the past six decades. It is the oldest building on the U.S. 501 Corridor in Conway.

SCOTT HARPER / THE HORRY INDEPENDENT



## Nye's: Conway's Nye's Pharmacy celebrates 50 years

### FROM A1

place from time to time to honor local businesses that have contributed to the economic heritage of Horry County for more than 50 continuous years.

Since 1953, Nye's Pharmacy has served its customers from its current location underneath its iconic sign, most visible along U.S. 501.

But the history of the pharmacy dates back to 1928 when David Sherwood Nye Sr. and R. Bruce Nye began the business on Main Street in Conway where Shirley's Jewelers is now located.

At that time, they also had locations in Loris, Mullins and Myrtle Beach, but those stores are no longer in business.

In 1971, the decision was made to close the Main Street location.

The current building was owned by David Sherwood "Jimmie" Nye Jr. until his retirement in 1989.

It "is one of the city's only examples of modern style architecture, making it an icon in historic Conway," the BAR states in a news release about the ribbon cutting.

### The place to be

"It was a place to see and be seen."

That is one way former Horry County Council Chairwoman Liz Gilland describes Nye's.

Gilland said when teenagers were not cruising the blocks surrounding the store they backed into the parking spaces because that made it easier to see their friends as they drove by.

"As soon as another car took off to cruise, that space would be filled by a returning car," Gilland wrote on Facebook.

Since the cost of gas was only 25 cents per gallon and the fountain drinks were only a dime, it was a rather inexpensive way for young people to have fun, Gilland recalled.

It was not just an after-school and weekend hangout. Gilland recalls on many occasions some Conway High School students sneaking off campus to enjoy a meal from Nye's rather than eat what was being served in the cafeteria.

"Those good ole days seem carefree in recollection, but were filled with the melodrama of teenage years at the time," Gilland wrote. "Break-ups and make-ups, gossip and fashion critiques, flirting and snubbing, all were a part of any given Sunday afternoon at Nye's."

Conway resident Ann Marie Young says she is carrying on the Nye's tradition with her children.

Back in the day, there were two pedestrians near Nye's, Dr. Howard Smith and later Dr. Brad Courtney, and after visiting the doctor, many people stopped at Nye's to enjoy an ice cream or maybe a cherry ice, cherry juice poured in a glass of ice, while waiting for their medicine.

Young states her children "look forward to going to Nye's after a doctor visit at Conway Pediatrics. They love the turkey salad sandwiches and cherry cokes."

The turkey salad sandwiches are another thing that has been a part of the store since the start.

David Nye III, who

worked in the family business as a teen, said the recipe for the turkey salad plate being used today is the same recipe he grew up eating as a child.

Tiffany Combs said the store she and her husband now own was a big part of her youth. She worked in the store behind the lunch counter while she was in high school.

"There are so many memories. I know when I was growing up and I started working here, teenagers would come here after school got out. That is where a lot of memories were made. When they came to get a cherry coke or ice cream. We still have a good crowd after school, but it is not the teenager hangout like it used to be," she said.

### Different owners, same name

Though ownership of the business has been passed to those outside the Nye's family, former owner Kevin Martin and the current owners all decided the name of the pharmacy would not change.

Martin said he felt if he had changed the name after he bought the pharmacy there may have been a backlash from customers.

"It is an historic landmark," he said.

Martin said Nye's has always been a place people used when giving directions to people looking for someplace in Conway.

"It's Nye's and it will always be Nye's. We want it that way," said Tiffany Combs.

She said she learned just how big the store's impact is on Conway while she was a student at the Medical University of South Carolina. That is where she met her husband Matt, who was from Kentucky.

She said when she told him she had worked at Nye's while she was in high school, he knew exactly where she was talking about.

"He knew where it was because he remembered the sign," she said.

Martin said there is a reason no major changes have been made to the building.

"It is the oldest building on the Highway 501 corridor in Horry County," he said.

David Nye III, now a real estate agent who worked in the store as a teenager, said his family is honored Martin and the Combs decided to keep his family's name.

"I am proud they have carried on the tradition. Kevin was handpicked to be the successor and I am proud of what Matt and Tiffany have done also," he said.

Nye said the store people see now is being operated as his father and grandfather wanted.

"We tried to always cater to local people. It was the high school hangout. The teens would cruise the block around the store then come in for a coke," he recalled.

### Not a big box store

Martin, who still works at the pharmacy 10 hours each week, described his years of ownership as "a growth period for the City of Conway and for Nye's."

As part of the city's growth, places like CVS and Walgreens built stores in Conway, but the owners of Nye's decided expanding

their store to offer a wide variety of non-pharmaceutical merchandise was not the way to go.

"We are not like them," Mrs. Combs said of the chain drug stores. "Our focus is on the people, their medication and just customer service. We don't want them to have to walk through a bunch of stuff to get to us. We want to greet them as they walk in the door."

Her husband Matt, who worked at CVS for a year before he was hired by Martin to work at Nye's, said he thinks a drug store that sells everything from toys to trash bags is "kind of gimmicky."

"I have worked at a chain and it is just not the same. The personal relationship you have with the customers is just not the same," he said.

### The future of Nye's

Mrs. Combs said there is a possibility of an expansion of the business in the near future.

"We are always hoping to expand. We will see where the good Lord leads us. We have something in the works now where he has opened some doors. We are waiting to see where he leads," she said.

Combs said she thinks it is the atmosphere of the store that has kept it suc-

cessful through the decades. She said it is that atmosphere that she enjoys each day.

"For me as a pharmacist, it is wonderful because it is laidback. I do not have corporate on top of me. I get to make my own decisions. We have good local people working here. We get to know all of our customers. That is the best part about it," she said.

Matt Combs agreed the atmosphere of the store is like no place he has ever worked. He said that is why generations of customers still visit the store each day.

"Customer service is the main thing. People come here. Their parents came here. Their grandparents came here. It's not prices. It comes down to people knowing who you are and the people are here to help you, the sincerity and that we care about you," he said.

### Customer appreciation day

As a way of saying thank you to its customers, Nye's will hold a customer appreciation day today to coincide with the ribbon cutting.

The ribbon cutting takes place at 10 a.m. with light refreshments. Then, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. there will be free hot dogs, chips and prizes.

## Nye's Memories

FROM A1

was actually turkey, he started liking the sandwiches even more, but the best part of eating a turkey salad sandwich was being able to charge it to his mom and dad.

His favorite Nye's treat? A float made with lime sherbet and ginger ale. His wife Lynn says her favorite was the pink lemonade.

### Tony Hendrick

Hendrick says he can remember back to the days when Nye's had an entrance on its Bell Street side. That door was bricked up 40 or maybe 50 years ago, he said.

The assistant coroner said he remembers when all of the Conway High School kids, some of them cutting school, went to Nye's to get cherry cokes.

"I think cherry cokes were the big thing back then and still are for a lot of people. I had one or two myself," he said with a smile.

### Alys Lawson

Conway's mayor is still another Conwayite who has spent time in Nye's. Her favorite memories don't go back to her high school days; they involve her two children, Paul and Kate.

Lawson says she vividly remembers taking Kate to Nye's when she was about 18-months-old on the day the youngster learned to drink out of a straw.

She chuckled as she remembered Kate's first successful suck through the straw.

"Her eyes lit up and she giggled. It was just the greatest thing," she said.

Son Paul is remembered for his recipe that he offered to his 4-year-old preschool teacher at First Baptist Church when they discussed their favorite food and its recipe.

Paul's favorite food was a grilled cheese sandwich. His recipe for the toasty sensation was get in the car, drive to Nye's and get one.

### Janice Cutts

Cutts, who graduated from Conway High School in 1968, said she remembers getting her driver's license in the 10th grade and joining the others teens who spent Sunday afternoons cruising around Nye's.

She said she lived four miles from the store, so her parents knew how many miles should be on the car when she returned home. She said she got into trouble often for exceeding the mileage limit.

"About a third of the miles I put on my car was from cruising Nye's," Cutts said. "That is where you wanted to go and stay as late as you could."

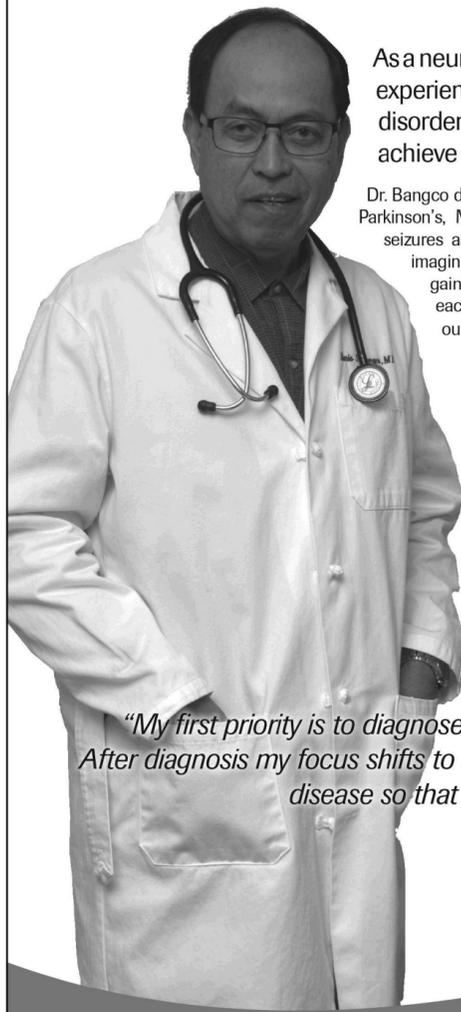
She said a big part of her diet back then consisted of coke and french fries from the Nye's lunch counter.

"It was very teenager friendly. I never remember there being any trouble," Cutts added.

### Bobby Ropp

Ropp remembers seniors at Conway High School cutting lunch to go to Nye's to eat 10 cents hot dogs, a trip he made a few times.

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- Residency in Neurology at State University of New York (SUNY) Health Science Center in Syracuse, New York
- Residency in Internal Medicine at the Department of Internal Medicine Bergen Pines County Hospital in New Jersey
- Doctor of Medicine from Far Eastern University in Manila, Philippines

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