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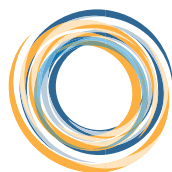


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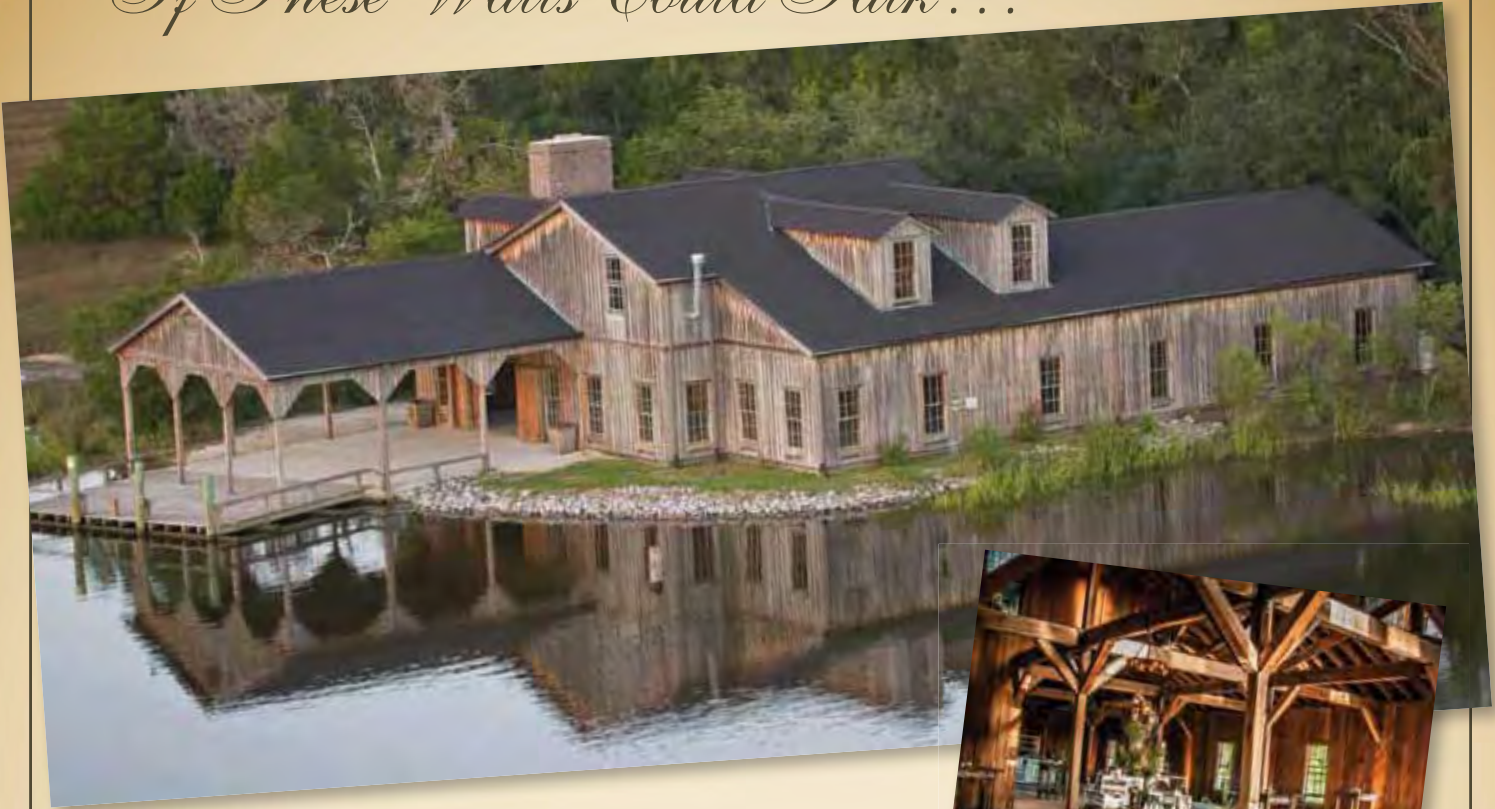


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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

I THINK ONE OF THE MOST PRECIOUS THINGS IN LIFE is when we form bonds of friendship with people who cross our paths. Sometimes, if you're lucky, you will form friendships whose roots have decades to grow – the kind of friendships that are as strong as towering oak trees.

Norman Lorusso, a well-known Mount Pleasant photographer, was a friend of mine for several decades. The roots of our friendship were planted in 1982 when I was looking for someone to do some darkroom work for my magazine. As I started networking around town, this guy named Norman Lorusso kept popping up in conversations. I called him and visited his house, where he had a darkroom set up in his garage. It was obvious Norman was a genius when it came to darkroom techniques. Way before Photoshop and computers, Norman was doing Photoshop techniques in his darkroom. We both had kids, small businesses and a tremendous passion for what we did. Our friendship began to grow immediately.

Norman was the quintessential entrepreneur, always pushing the envelope with his photography and searching new roads to explore with his business. His zest for life took him on adventures, to places no regular person would dare to go. On occasion, we would go on business adventures together and have the time of our lives. From TV wedding shows to bridal expos to selling aerial posters of Charleston, it seemed like the next great adventure was always inside Norman's head, screaming to get out.

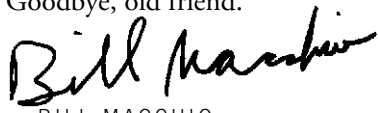
One such adventure was documenting Hurricane Hugo through the lens of Norman's camera. I can remember making our way through the destruction caused by this massive storm, climbing over mountains of debris to get the next great photo. Norman's photos helped make our Storm Of The Century Hurricane Hugo magazine the best. See page 79, or access www.HugoMagazine.com.

Norman's family – Chris, Magenta and Kai – always welcomed Drew and I as part of their family. Being a single dad, it was great to have a close family to hang out with. I knew it was good for Drew to see how important family is. When Norman and I talked about our children and his family, his love for them was obvious.

On June 8, Gold Bug Island came alive as Norman's friends, family and much of Mount Pleasant's creative community gathered to celebrate his life. It was a great evening of hugs, food, drink, smiles mixed with a few tears, engaging conversations and lots of good music.

Although Norman passed through this life on June 4, the roots of our friendship and the many other friends Norman had are deep enough to push Mount Pleasant's tallest oak tree to the heavens above. 🌳

Goodbye, old friend.



— BILL MACCHIO
Publisher



MOUNT PLEASANT

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Christian Alberg is a graduate of Academic Magnet High School who has lived in Mount Pleasant for years. He is interning at Mount Pleasant Magazine during the summer while pursuing a degree in English at McDaniel College.



including marine, medical and hotel/resort. With a degree in journalism and a professional background in both public relations and sales, Hagedon has a keen understanding of how the right image can make or break a marketing campaign. He resides in Mount Pleasant with his wife and two children.

Joe Rhyne returned to his native Mount Pleasant after a seven-year enlistment in the U.S. Air Force. Joe earned the rank of staff sergeant and is a veteran of both the Iraq War and Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2012, he graduated from The Citadel with a business degree and is now working with the Charleston County Treasurer's Office. On the weekends, he is a paddleboard and kayak instructor on Shem Creek.



Ronald Martinelli has a passion for capturing the people, culture and landscapes of the environment. He has resided in a variety of scenic locations that have driven his love to photograph people in the moment. He recently relocated from Denver to Mount Pleasant with his family and is focused on raising his two children and continuing to foster his enthusiasm for photography. In his leisure time, he enjoys snowboarding, hiking, biking and boating.



For more than 10 years, commercial and advertising photographer **Andy Hagedon** has been providing corporations with high-impact images that drive business. He has worked with reputable brands in many different industries,

Interested in contributing to *Mount Pleasant Magazine*? Email your contact information (name, phone, mailing address) and one sample of work you have created (or a link to your work online) with the subject "**Aspiring MPM Contributor**" to Editor@MountPleasantMagazine.com.

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From the Managing Editor

DOESN'T THIS FRONT COVER MAKE YOU WANT to jump on a boat and fish away these dog days of summer? Photographed by the cover story writer and all-around talented contributor, Andy Hagedon of SmART Imaging, it's the perfect view of Mount Pleasant and the surrounding islands during these sultry months.

Our education issue this year is painted with a broad stroke; we like to learn about all kinds of things behind the scenes at Mount Pleasant Magazine and share them with our readers. You'll love Andy's story about fishing guides in East Cooper (p. 18), Pam Gabriel's first segment in a special feature about Mount Pleasant's influential people in history (p. 34) and Cullen Murray-Kemp's chat with a local guy who courageously tackled none other than Mount Everest (p. 62). There are plenty of great reads about our neighborhood schools as well, including the new Sullivan's Island Elementary, opening in August.

I haven't stopped learning since the first day I stepped through the door at Mount Pleasant Magazine. Being the managing editor isn't all fact-checking and selecting the best photo. It's also practicing how to work with the team so we can produce the best publication possible; not losing my cool when someone takes a hot minute to call back; and saying "thank you" a lot, even for the smallest things. I'd like to thank all of you, our loyal readers, for making this labor of love a worthwhile one every day.

Until the weather cools off and we speak again, enjoy the issue. 🍷

Yours,
DENISE K. JAMES
Managing Editor



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We love feedback from our friends, whether it comes from our Facebook page ([facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine](https://www.facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine)) or by email, snail mail or MountPleasantMagazine.com. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

I have chills reading this!!! Amazingly accurate; I can imagine every moment this took me through! Roller Derby is an extraordinary gift that I get to give to myself (hopefully twice a week) and fills me up like nothing else can come close to! Smelly, thank you for writing this! Thank you for coming to Charleston! I'll see you on the track! Shoves!

-Alexis McCusker
via MountPleasantMagazine.com

I have just read the piece written by Courtney about her dad, Tony Page. It was wonderful and very touching, obviously written with a lot of heart and love for her dad. I sit here thinking of all the beautiful memories she and all the rest of the family will have of Mr. Page. My permanent address is North Carolina. However, we spend more time, it seems, in Mt. P. than we do at home. My wife and I, along with our children, who have settled in Mt. P., have been fans of the restaurant for a long time. I had the pleasure of meeting and talking with Tony on our visits. He was a wonderful personality and always made us feel special. The Sunday before his passing, we spoke and he left the table with "thanks for coming out and supporting the cause." I replied, "Our pleasure." We will miss seeing him as I know the family will. However, his spirit and great smile will always be "in the room." We look forward to seeing you again real soon and often.

-Kirk Clark
via MountPleasantMagazine.com

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If our feature on **Harry Farthing's ascent up Mount Everest** fascinated you, check out more breathtaking photos on our website. We're also including extra **photos from our fishing cover story**, courtesy of photographer Andy Hagedon, as well as more photos from the night **Anthony Macchio met Shepard Fairey**.



And, in honor of both our education issue and our fun feature story on **trivia in the area**, we invite you to test your knowledge of a number of different subjects by quizzing yourself with our trivia questions about history, sports, music and movies. Then, impress your friends and family with your intelligence!

Visit us on **Facebook and Twitter** (@MountPMagazine) to share your feedback about this issue, enter contests and keep up with exciting events. And don't forget to share our **digital version** (MountPleasantMagazine.com/Green) with a friend.



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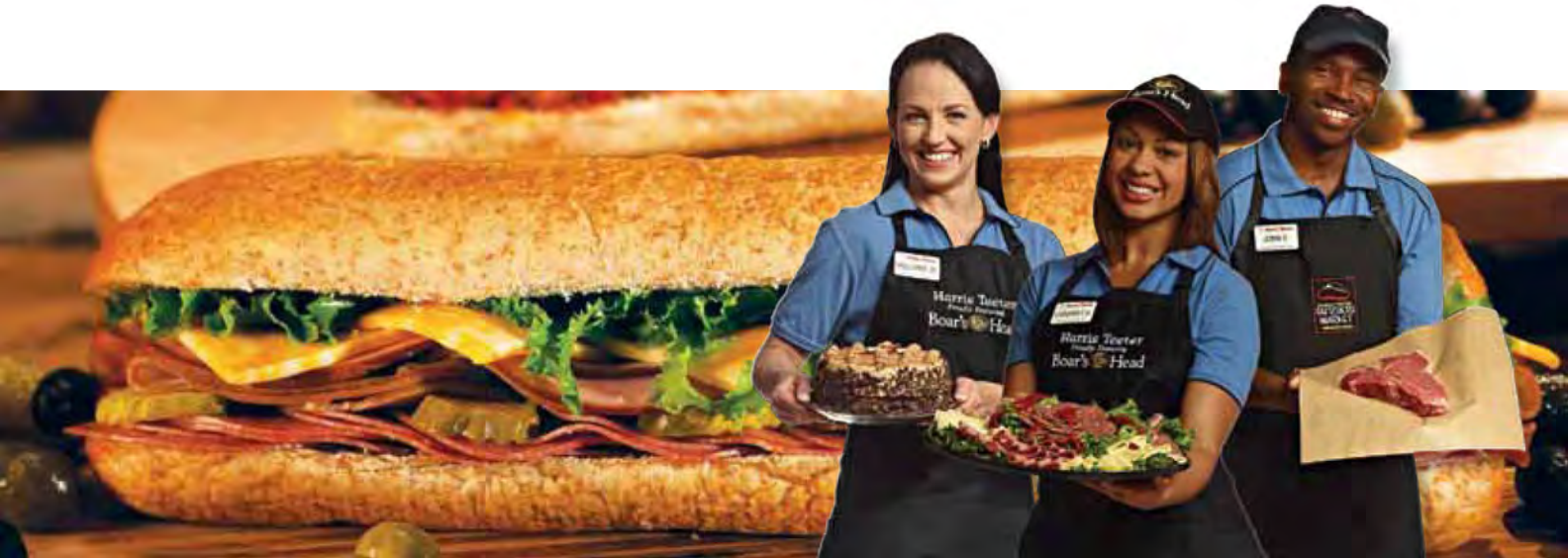


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way of life.



THE GUIDING LIFE

SIREN SONG OF
THE SALT WATER

*Story and photography
by Andy Hagedon.*

FOR PEOPLE PASSIONATE enough to scrape together a living by fishing, it's more than just a job. Guiding is a way of life – a tough, wonderful life. For the rest of us, fishing is just occasional recreation, the once-every-so-often chance to spend time with our kids or maybe get away with the guys. On the surface, the lure of fishing for a living sounds romantic, but, every year, new wannabe fishing guides quickly find out that it's a brutal business.

HAVE BOAT, WILL FISH FOR CASH

Becoming an inshore charter boat fishing guide is pretty simple and, aside from the cost of the boat and tackle, which many new guides already own, isn't prohibitively expensive. Taking charter trips offshore, more than three miles, is a different story, requiring much bigger boats, heavier tackle and higher expenses and taxes.

Under the law, before anyone can accept passengers for hire, they need a captain's license from the U.S. Coast Guard. The entry-level and most popular license for inshore guides is an OUPV – Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel. It is often called a "six-pack" because it allows for up to six passengers per trip.

Christine Giles, director of SeaSchool in Charleston, which handles testing requirements for a Coast Guard license, tells applicants the total cost of a six-pack usually runs at least \$1,100, which includes drug screening, a physical and CPR/first aid training. Additionally, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources requires an annual charter boat license, classified as a V1, which costs \$50. The time it takes to complete these requirements varies, but most guides said it took about a year to attain the license.

DNR requires charter boat operators to log details from every trip – such as the number of passengers, catches,

locations and approximate size of fish – and to fax a monthly report to the agency. Data culled from these reports help DNR manage area fisheries.

While these barriers to entry are fairly low, charter fishing is not typically a financially lucrative business. An average trip might earn \$400 for a half-day charter or \$600 for an eight-hour trip. There's not a lot of money in helping a visiting Canadian land his first redfish. Guides do their thing because they love fishing and being on the water. According to Orangeburg native, Citadel grad and Mount Pleasant fishing guide Chad Ferris, "My passion is my job." Ferris, who has been guiding in the Lowcountry since 1996, said when he was growing up, it was the fishing trips to Charleston with his father that lured him in.

"I knew then that I wanted to be a guide," he said.

This seems to be a common story among full-time guides: They grew up fishing and there is simply nothing else they would rather do. Jim Dodge, for instance, left behind a 20-year career at a national insurance company to start guiding in Mount Pleasant.

"I survived all the corporate turmoil and was bound and determined to do something I want to do," he said. "Since I left (corporate America), I'd swear I am 10 years younger. I just don't wake up with stress anymore, as long as I have the keys in my pocket and sunscreen in the boat."



Many fishing guides grew up fishing, and there's nothing else they would rather do.



Catching fish is just part of the equation. There's preparing bait, cleaning the boat and equipment, fixing tackle, repairing the boat and more cleaning. And that doesn't even take into account the business aspect of being a guide.

MORE THAN JUST FISHING

While Dodge left boardroom drama and office memos behind, he still faces plenty of new challenges, such as finding clients and reliably putting them on fish, regardless of season, tides and weather.

“Every day can be different. Just when you think you have them figured out is when (the fish) humble you,” Ferris said.

Catching fish is just part of the equation. Like with many small businesses, there also is a lot of paperwork, marketing, selling, scheduling and networking. Add to that everything that goes with fishing, such as catching or preparing bait, cleaning the boat and equipment, fixing tackle, repairing the boat and always more cleaning, and you have a captain with a lot on his plate.

“An inshore guide is captain, wash boy and mate all rolled into one – kinda just doing it all,” said Mike Able Sr., who founded Haddrell’s Point Tackle on Coleman Boulevard in 1983 and ran both offshore and inshore fishing trips for 13 years.

During the summer, 12-hour days are common, according to Able, with typically a few hours of work to be done before and after the actual fishing experience. And because November through February are generally slow months,



Because November through February is a slow time for guides, many of them are reluctant to take days off from May through August.

Ferris said most guides are reluctant to take days off from May through August. He remembered one long stretch with charters on 35 consecutive days, some of them doubles – two half-day trips.

For many guides, that means a lot of time away from their wife and kids. Family commitments often take a back seat to unpredictable schedules and last-minute bookings. Vickie Waller, president of USOBE, a Charleston-based charter boat booking service, said close to 70 percent of tourists book day-of or next-day trips. That means a guide’s family plans for the weekend can be tenuous. As much as

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dad might like to make that soccer game, a late phone call and the promise of a few hundred dollars can quickly change his plans.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, charter captains might have more free and family time in the winter months when the phone stops ringing. To help pay the bills, many of them turn to other part-time work. Some shift to guiding hunts in the upstate, while others follow the tourists and migrate south to Florida, operating charter fishing trips there.

For Dodge, who is working on his second full season guiding this year, "It was a long, cold winter. I love duck hunting, so I kinda liked the time off," he said.

But he soon felt he was wasting time and money when he would rather have been guiding. Dodge's free time turned into practice for his pattern fishing, taking notes and learning the winter-time tricks.

"I wasn't getting calls this winter, but I still was out there fishing," he said.

This summer he hopes to build on the 90 trips he booked last year.

"I'd like to be a little busier, but I'm new. For now, I'm right where I should be," he commented.

ROUGH SEAS AHEAD?

In the late 1980s, long before Charleston was topping international "Best Of" lists, it might have been difficult to locate the one or two fishing guides launching in Mount Pleasant. Today, you'll find no shortage of professionals ready to welcome you aboard. Not to mention, according to some, more than a handful of "Chuck in a truck" guides working under the radar and possibly without licenses. That poses a problem for both the unofficial captain and the paying customer, both of whom can be ticketed and fined by DNR.

There are currently 75 V1 charter boat captains licensed in Mount Pleasant, 24 more than in 2007, a 47 percent growth. Sixteen of those came aboard just last year. With another 179 V1 licenses in Charleston County, the Lowcountry has more than half the saltwater charter boat captains on the entire the South Carolina coast. That's 254 area captains and lots of competition.

Ferris, a seasoned, established pro, booked nearly 275 trips in his best year. But those heydays are over, he said. His business, Tall Tail Charters, consistently now books around 175 days a year, still enough to make a good living. He's doing a lot better than 75 percent of the guides who are reporting



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Captains are competing not only for fish and clients but also for dock space to load and unload passengers, which can be hard to find. In Mount Pleasant, during high season and busy holidays, guides try to stay away from Shem Creek, where they know it might be all but impossible to tie up.

“When I was guiding, we’d fish the bays and there was nobody else in there. These days you might leave the dock with five other boats all going to the same spot,” Able said.

Regardless of the recent growth, guides still make up a relatively small community, and many of them tend to work together. For instance, seven to nine captains work out of the Isle of Palms Marina.

“We’re a family. It’s not a competition

between us,” said Ferris. “We want to see everybody have a good day out here.”

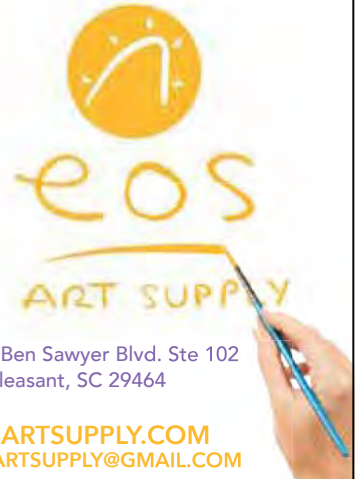
Waller agreed that full-time captains enjoy a culture of cooperation.

“They all know they need to work and play well together because so much business comes from within the group,” she said, adding that captains rely on each other for referrals, collaborate for corporate outings that require multiple boats and even share real-time tips about what’s working on a specific day.

The first few years for a fishing guide are particularly tough, and there is much to learn while making very little money. However, with perseverance and perhaps a little luck, a good guide can turn a fun, recreational pastime into a real job.

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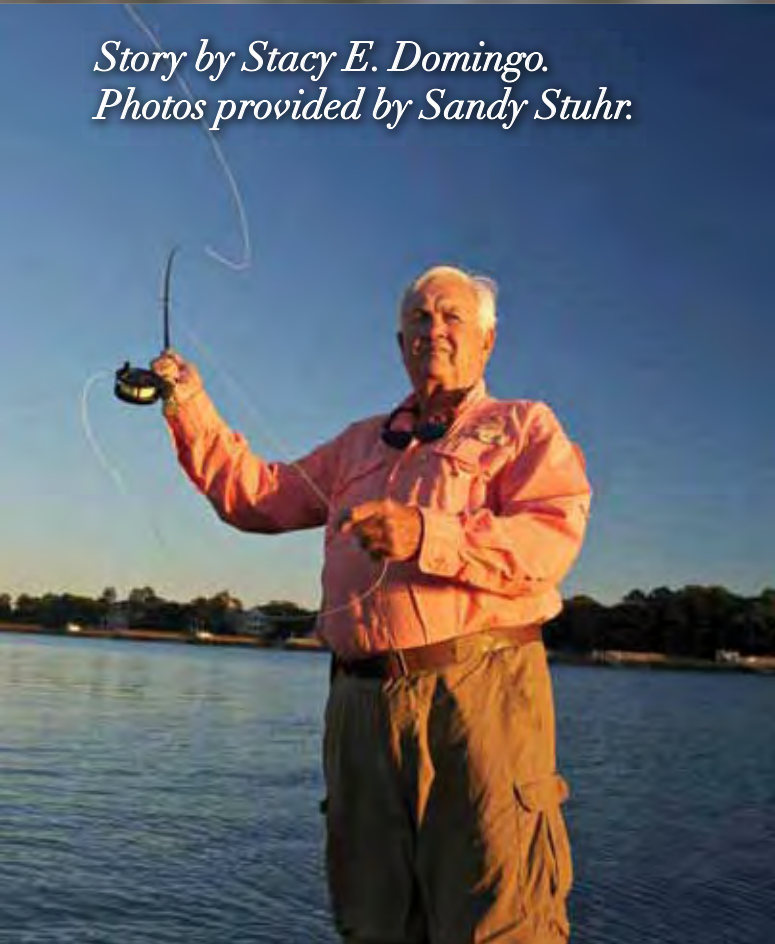


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FISHING ON THE FLY

THE LOWCOUNTRY'S PIONEER OF SALTWATER FLY-FISHING

*Story by Stacy E. Domingo.
Photos provided by Sandy Stuhr.*



When he was only 10 years old, Captain Sandy Stuhr started fly-fishing with his father.

IF YOU'VE NEVER heard of, thought seriously about or tried fly-fishing, it's time to get into the sport and take a closer look at one of the fastest growing segments of the sport fishing industry.

Slinging string is in.

"In the early 1960s, I decided to bring fly-fishing to the Lowcountry because I thought the idea was a good one," said William Sanderson Stuhr, CEO and chairman of the board of J. Henry Stuhr Funeral Home. "I began fly-fishing with my father when I was about 10 years old and was delighted that it was a bit more than just casting a reel."

Despite many who believe saltwater fly-fishing – using artificial "flies" that look like natural invertebrates instead of live bait – is the latest discovery, it has been around for quite some time. Stuhr shook it up a bit among local saltwater fishermen and introduced what has become a favored pastime to the area.

Anglers in New England cast to striped bass, while other anglers have used heavier tackle and full-dressed flies to entice tarpon – which can reach 4 to 8 feet long and weigh in at between 60 and 280 pounds – as well as other marine species.

"Throughout the Lowcountry, you can experience some good fishing in the Edisto, Ashepoo and Congaree rivers," said Stuhr, who is often referred to as Captain Stuhr by friends. "Fly-fishing in salt water can produce winter trout and the occasional flounder, croaker, spot tailed bass or channel bass."

Captain Stuhr knows the Lowcountry well and was a fishing guide before giving up his license at the age of 70. His is the fourth generation in a family business that had its beginnings in the Lowcountry in

1865. Today, his grandchildren make up the sixth generation of Stuhrs in the funeral business.

Captain Stuhr is a charter member of the South Carolina Saltwater Sportfishing Association and, having joined the Coastal Conservation Association in 1990, is considered a lifetime member.

"Conservation is important, and the CCA is responsible for making it law that any bass under 15 inches or over 23 inches must be thrown back," he pointed out.

Beginners should remember the old adage to keep it simple.

"Fly-fishing looks easy when someone does it right, but there are techniques a beginner needs to learn," Stuhr explained. "Make sure you are properly equipped and don't rush it. Visit some area marshes as they can yield great catches."

Saltwater fly fishermen can also be found on inshore beaches, salt ponds, rivers that flow into the ocean, near jetties and in flats near the shore.

Stuhr advises fly-fishermen to pay attention to the weather.

"I've seen people get discouraged because they can't cast their lines, when in reality the wind is playing havoc. A lot has to go together to be successful," he said.

Fly-fishing equipment can be a bit expensive, but prices have started to drop. The tackle can be complex or simple, depending on the angler, but the basics include rod, reel, lines, leaders and shooting baskets. It is important to anticipate the habitat in which you will be fishing and the type of fish you want to catch.

Like Captain Stuhr, many people turn to fly-fishing as an outlet from their everyday job.

"I find it relaxing and fun. It is an art that many can enjoy, including young kids. Get out and try it," he said. 🍷



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Sky Zone, Mount Pleasant

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Whether you are 8 or 80, you can experience a freedom that's as close to weightlessness as most of us will ever get at Sky Zone, the Lowcountry's first indoor trampoline park.

Located at 411 Wando Park Blvd., just off Long Point

BY BILL FARLEY

Road past Interstate 526, Sky Zone is the latest version of a concept that

began as the brainchild of a Las Vegas entrepreneur. He envisioned a new and different sports league based on an ingenious set of rules with a playing field composed entirely of trampolines.

The league failed to materialize, but everyone who heard about the trampoline "arena" wanted to try it. It became apparent that although the sports league was a non-starter, trampoline parks could be a draw for the general public.

Today, Sky Zone's parent company has facilities in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and the popularity of its "non-sport sport" continues to grow.

Mount Pleasant's Sky Zone offers 15,000 square feet of fun. The indoor trampoline park is surfaced entirely in, well, trampolines. Even the walls. And there's a pit filled with 10,000 foam cubes into which jumpers can "dismount" from their springy surfaces.

Comparing Sky Zone to the backyard trampolines that have been around for the past half century or so is like comparing a Model T to a 2014 Ferrari. As great exercise, challenging sport or just plain fun, nothing beats soaring from the trampolines' springy surfaces, doing flips in mid-air and rebounding off the elastic walls.

In addition to the freestyle jumping, Skyzone offers activities from skyrobics, a trampoline workout that works all your muscles and gets your heartbeat racing, to the sky slam, in which players can soar and dunk like Kobe or even play fast-paced, challenging 3-D dodgeball.

Dodgeball has quickly become one of Sky Zone's most popular attractions. Leagues are being formed with an eye on



Photos courtesy of Sky Zone.

Comparing Sky Zone, which offers 15,000 square feet of fun, to backyard trampolines is like comparing a Model T to a brand new Ferrari.

regular team competition once schools are back in session.

Laura Sullivan, who owns the facility along with her husband, Brad, said they selected Mount Pleasant because of its demographics. The town has a large number of young families with school-age children, the target audience for trampolining.

That said, Sullivan was quick to point out that Sky Zone is not just for kids.

"It's for the whole family, whether parents are jumping with their kids or just enjoying being spectators," she said.

Safety is always a prime consideration at Sky Zone, she added. Rules and regulations for safe jumping are enforced by a team of "jump monitors" who are on-site each day.

Mount Pleasant has received Sky Zone's message. The facility has been thronged with jumpers since it opened its doors. Walk-ins are always welcome, but buying tickets online is a better idea. 🐼

For additional information, visit www.skyzone.com/ Charleston or call (843) 588-5789.



Photos by Jenn Cady.

A Strong Influence From Nature

THE NEW SULLIVAN'S ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

IMAGINE AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL perched above a beautiful beach, not unlike a sand castle. Inside, classrooms are level with the tops of the trees, children can peek into neighboring rooms through porthole-like windows, and they can touch and closely examine water environments. Instructors are teaching more than just science and math; they delve into biology and social responsibility as well.

There's really no need to imagine all this. It's what reality is all about for students, parents, faculty and staff at the new Sullivan's Island Elementary School.

The 74,000-square-foot school, which will open in the fall of 2014, cost \$26.5 million and will house 500 students. According to Principal Susan King, the new building lives up to the school's mantra of "learning by the sea."

"It's not just a typical school building," King said. "The theme is to have a 'menu' of different spaces to learn in on a weekly or daily basis."

Because the school is located within shouting distance of the Atlantic Ocean, it had to be built on stilts, which brings classrooms to an almost treehouse-like height, King said. Windows are placed on interior walls that encourage exploration and inspiration inside the building, while the unique Design and Discover Lab will teach students preliminary engineering skills.

Students will learn outside the walls of the school as

well, on two second-floor decks. One deck will include a telescope and WeatherBug weather monitoring system borrowed from the Sullivan's Island Fire Department, while another will function as a hands-on garden lab. In addition, an outdoor classroom will be built in the vacant space below the building.

Sullivan's Island Elementary students won't be limited to learning in and around their new school.

"Some of our spaces aren't part of the site, but students can access them using the beach, ocean and the nature trail in the park behind the school," King said.

Interaction between the school and the Sullivan's Island community was a driving force in the school's design, according to Loren Ziff, the School Improvement Council's rebuilding chair.

"What's really exciting about this is that there's been a tremendous amount of community involvement. Residents, parents, students and especially faculty have been very collaborative and have had a participatory approach to building a great school," he said.

King agreed.

"We're trying to make it really kid-friendly," she added. "The whole school feels very calming and has a strong influence from nature."

For example, the surrounding environments will categorize the grade levels: kindergarten is the beach habitat, first and second grade are the maritime forest, third grade

is the marsh, and fourth and fifth grade are the ocean.

The curriculum will also focus on biology and environmental sciences, with one of the most unique features being the portable “touch tanks,” purchased using funds raised by the Friends of Sullivan’s Island Elementary School. Each tank will house a different water environment and can be moved from classroom to classroom. To King, it’s the small details such as the touch tanks that will make a huge impact on the students.

A focus on sustainability will go hand-in-hand with the nature-inspired design and curriculum.

“This is a partial magnet school, and we’re really taking it to heart about what that means, so we wanted to create an education platform that really honors being green and honors

living in a more sustainable fashion,” Ziff commented.

According to King, Sullivan’s Island Elementary School already practices green habits such as recycling. She added that its efforts along these lines will be enhanced at the new school.

“It’s just so exciting, not just to have new walls and windows, but we really want to integrate some of the key assets of the location into the curriculum,” Ziff pointed out. “It will really foster our kids to be good stewards of the Earth in as sustainable a way as possible.”

School administrators and those who were involved with the planning process for the new school are anticipating its opening, but future students are even more excited about the newer and bigger facility. Betsy Fuller, who

lives on Sullivan’s Island, said she and her family cannot wait for the new school to open.

“We’re very excited about having the school back on the island,” she said.

Her three children will be in preschool, kindergarten and third grade, respectively.

She said it’s an honor to have such an innovative school in her backyard and to share the advantages it offers with students from surrounding areas.

“It’s going to be a top school in South Carolina. Why not share as much as you can?” she asked.

But for her family, the best thing about the new Sullivan’s Island Elementary is its proximity to home.

“I think we’re most excited about riding our bikes to school,” she said with a laugh. “No more driving.” 🐼

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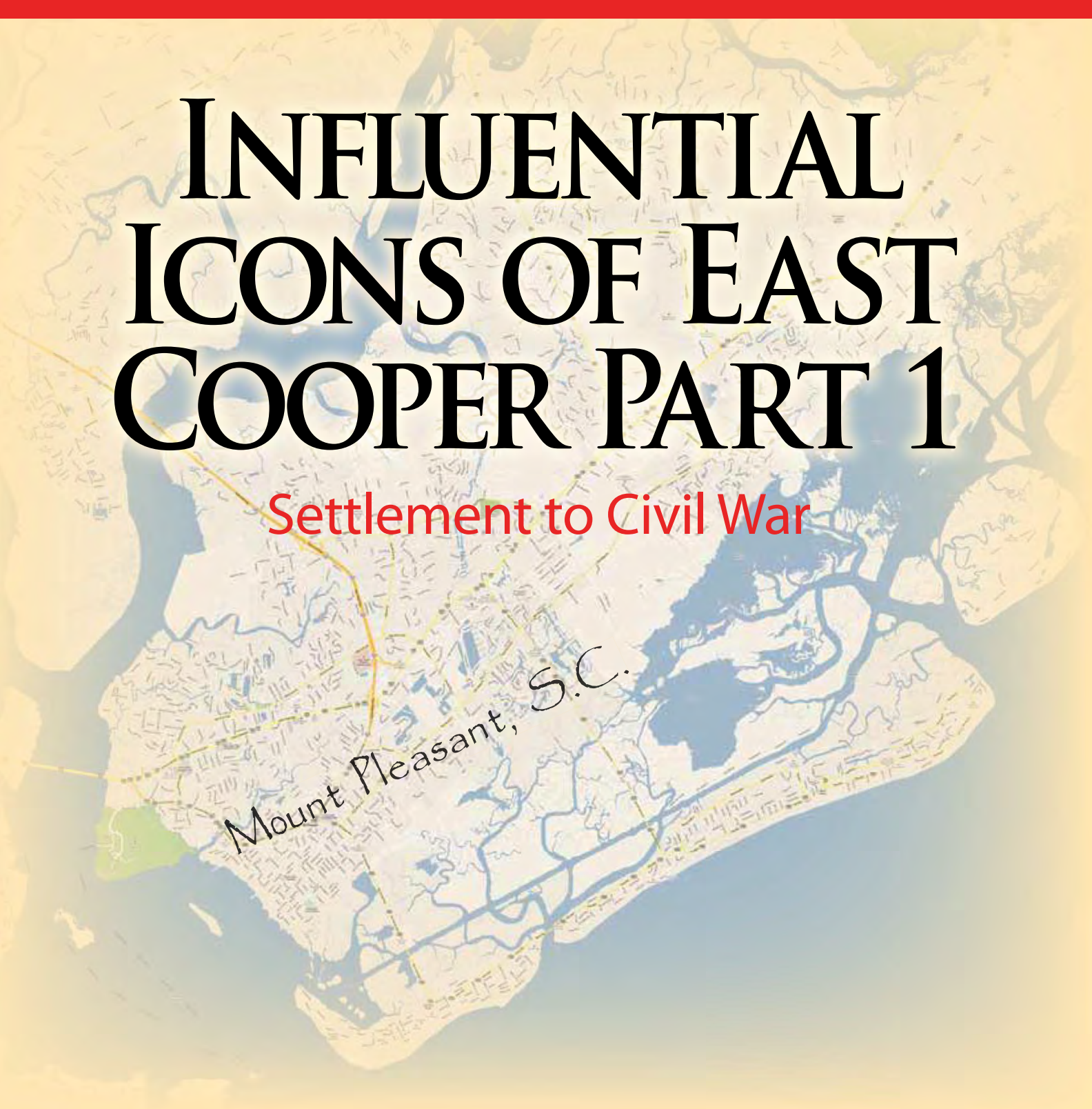
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INFLUENTIAL ICONS OF EAST COOPER PART 1

Settlement to Civil War

Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Story by Pamela Gabriel.

Editor's Note: This is the first in a three-part series on interesting people who influenced early Mount Pleasant and the surrounding islands. For this section, we will meet folks from Mount Pleasant's settlement to the Civil War. Stay tuned for the September/October segment, from the Civil War until World War II.

For even more people from this period of influential icons, visit mountpleasantmagazine.com/influentialicons.

FLORENCE O'SULLIVAN

In 1670, the British frigate Carolina brought the first settlers to Carolina. Among those on board was Capt. Florence, aka Florentia, O'Sullivan, an Irish soldier of fortune who brought 16 servants with him. As deputy to Sir Peter Colleton, one of the Lords Proprietors, he was granted 2,340 acres, which encompassed most of current East Cooper. Despite the fact that a fellow officer described him as an unsavory individual, he participated in the Provincial Parliament of 1672, and two years later he was stationed on an island in Charleston Harbor, alerting the settlement of Charleston when Spanish and French warships approached. He served on the Grand Council, the Commons House of Assembly and became surveyor general of the Carolina colony. Capt. O'Sullivan died in 1683.



A century later, prior to the American Revolution, Fort Sullivan was established on the site of his sentry post. Early in the war, the British Navy launched an unsuccessful attack on the fort, which was made of palmetto logs that absorbed the cannon balls.

DAVID MAYBANK II

David Maybank II was born in 1660 and arrived in the Carolina colony in the 1670s. He purchased 200 acres in 1698 from the Lords Proprietors near the mouth of the Wando River along Wackendaw Creek, which was later named Hobcaw Creek. His property was adjacent to the Shipyard Tract in the Wando Neck



region. The Colonial ship-building business thrived in this area due to an abundance of live oak and long needle pine trees.

Maybank was a carpenter by trade and held various positions in Charleston. He was appointed commissioner for fortifying Charleston and oversaw the construction of the city's defensive walls. In addition to his Charleston residence, he built a house on Hobcaw Creek, which he called Hobcaw Plantation. When he died in 1713, he bequeathed "unto Susannah my beloved wife all my plantation wherein I now dwell ..." Upon Susannah's death three years later, the property passed to her daughter, Susannah, wife of Jacob Bond.

JACOB BOND

In 1715, Capt. Jacob Bond, a planter and mariner, married Susannah Maybank II, who inherited Hobcaw Plantation

from her mother a year later. Bond was born in Cornwall, England, in 1695, but it is unknown when he arrived in the Carolina colony. He owned more than 4,000 acres in Granville and Craven counties, but he and Susannah made their home at Hobcaw Plantation, where they raised eight daughters and one son. Possibly because the home was near the shipyards, many of their daughters married seafaring men or ship builders.



Bond was active in the Christ Parish Church, where he served as a vestry man. He was a justice in the Commission of Peace for a number of years and also was appointed to the General Assembly. When his wife died in 1746, she willed Hobcaw Plantation to her daughter, Rebecca Read, but Capt. Bond continued to live on the plantation until his death 20 years later.

Both Capt. Bond and Susannah are buried in the family cemetery, located in the I'On community. David and Susannah Maybank probably are buried there as well.

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JACOB MOTTE

Jacob Motte was born in 1700 in Dublin, Ireland; his father, the Dutch counsel, was descended from the Marquis de la Motte. The family arrived in Charleston with other



Huguenots and, by 1713, Motte was serving an apprenticeship in Charleston. While still in his 20s, he owned a store on Tradd Street and a wharf at the end of the street. One of the wealthiest merchants in Charleston, he was active in many organizations and was elected twice to the Royal Assembly. He succeeded Gabriel Manigault as public treasurer for the colony, a position he apparently was ill-suited for – he was found to have misappropriated funds. Despite his money troubles, he managed to purchase approximately 60 acres in Christ Church Parish on Charleston Harbor in the 1750s.

In 1759, Motte built a house on a rise overlooking the harbor and named the estate Mount Pleasant. He had 19 children by his first wife and two by his second. One of his daughters-in-law, Rebecca Brewton Motte, who was married to his son, Jacob, was a heroine of the Revolutionary War. He died a wealthy man in 1770. In addition to his Mount Pleasant Plantation, he had a town house in

Charleston and 20 slaves. He is buried in St. Philip's churchyard.

ANDREW HIBBEN

As a young man, Andrew Hibben immigrated from Kent, England, and arrived in Charleston in 1763 with the evangelist Rev. George Whitefield. A year later, Hibben advertised his jewelry and watch-making shop on Tradd Street and the following year moved to Broad Street. When he married a wealthy young widow, Elizabeth Barksdale Wingood, in 1766, he gave up his business and became a planter in Christ Church Parish, where the Barksdales were prominent landowners.

Hibben named his plantation Seaside and subsequently sold it to John Hamlin, as noted on Robert Mills' survey of 1825. In 1770, Hibben purchased a tract of land south of Shem Creek and established a ferry service to Charleston. He died in 1784.

JAMES HIBBEN

Following the death of his father, Andrew Hibben, James Hibben continued and expanded the ferry service between Charleston and Haddrell's



Point. As Andrew's only son, he also inherited his plantation and, in 1803, purchased the house that Jacob Motte built, which still bears his name. He also purchased Motte's lands, known as Mount Pleasant. He divided the land into 35 lots and gave a lot to each of his surviving 10 children. The five

streets laid out were Beach, Bennett, Whilden, Boundary and Venning.

Hibben was politically active. He was elected to the General Assembly for Christ Church Parish from 1795 to 1799 and state senator from 1800 to 1819. His son Andrew followed him into the political arena. A trustee for South Carolina College, Hibben was a captain in the War of 1812. He died in 1835 and is buried alongside his wife, Sarah Wells, in Cook's Old Field Cemetery, a family burial ground located off of Rifle Range Road.

JACOB BOND I'ON

Apparently Hobcaw Plantation was never occupied following Jacob Bond's death in 1766. However, the land passed to Bond's daughter,



Rebecca Read, and remained in the Read family until it was sold in 1846. The home must have been substantial, because Jacob Bond I'On entertained President James Monroe and Secretary of State John C. Calhoun at the family's Hobcaw Plantation during their visit to the Lowcountry in 1819. I'On and Calhoun were roommates at Yale.

Remnants of the family cemetery, all that remain today, are located in the I'On community. In 1857, I'On erected a large Victorian monument in the family cemetery

which was restored by the developer of I'On in 1996. The old homestead no longer exists.

Jacob Bond I'On and his twin sister were born in 1782. He served in the War of 1812 and advertised for deserters as a captain of the 2nd Regiment of Artillery and commanding officer of both Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney. He was later known as "Colonel." He served as a state senator from Christ Church Parish from 1820 until 1830. He was elected intendant (mayor) of Moultrieville in 1834, a settlement that grew up around the fort that was completed in 1811. Moultrieville was incorporated in 1817 and consisted of approximately 200 homes, mainly for summer residents from Charleston. These homes were destroyed by the Union bombardment of the fort during the Civil War.

Accounts of the time describe I'On as a very large man who enjoyed entertaining the soldiers stationed at nearby Fort Moultrie. At the time of his death, his home was described as "comfortable and commodious ... situated on Sullivan's Island ... contains six rooms, a pantry and storeroom; and ... good servants' accommodation, carriage house and stable ..." Across the street from his home was "the elegant mansion of General Pinckney."

Susannah Smith Miles tells of an account by I'On's neighbor, who stated that just prior to his death in 1859, I'On's leg fell off. Given I'On's size, it is probable that he was a diabetic. He is buried in the family cemetery.

Today a street in Sullivan's Island bears his name, as does the I'On community, where a historic marker commemorates his life. 🍷

For even more people from this period of Influential Icons in East Cooper, please visit MountPleasantMagazine.com/InfluentialIcons.

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Nothing but Net (working)

The 2014 Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo



ACCORDING TO WEBSTER'S, an "expo" is a "public exhibition or show, as of industrial and artistic productions, as in the Paris Exposition of 1878."

According to Frank Frazier, the Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo "is a great event for small business people and entrepreneurs because it draws a terrific crowd."

That's Frank Frazier of Merrill Lynch, who also serves on the Mount Pleasant Business Association's Expo Committee, which is tasked with laying the foundation for this year's Expo, set for Sept. 18, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Omar Shrine Convention Center.

BY BILL FARLEY

Frazier has attended the event since its inception in 2011, the first year as a visitor and the next two as an exhibitor. He'll be back again this year because "The event is a big hit. I've been to some others in the Charleston area and Mount Pleasant's is the most robust. It's the best one I've ever been to."

Frazier's enthusiasm is shared by exhibitor Andy Bonner of Signarama.

"I'm back because last year's event was great. I just went into business here a year-and-a-half ago, so it was really helpful to meet other Mount Pleasant business owners," Bonner commented. "The networking opportunities are exceptional and, as a new business owner, it's helpful to learn what other businesses are doing around town."

Exhibitor Buddy Smith of Minuteman Press called the Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo "an outstanding opportunity to have face time – which I don't often get – with the owners of the leading businesses in town."

"It's always a positive to participate in this Expo, and I've definitely gotten new business from exhibiting and showcasing all the key services that Minuteman Press can provide," he said.

Longtime MPBA stalwart Brian Sherman is chairman of the 2014 Expo, ably assisted by Frazier, David



Photo by Brian Sherman.

Elliott Davis was among the businesses exhibiting at the 2013 Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo, and the company has already reserved its booth for the 2014 Expo.

Gebhardt, Chris Staubes, Jennifer Passmore, Sue Spearman and Denise K. James.

Sherman noted that 2013 was "a breakout year for the Expo." Last fall, the event attracted 60 exhibitors and around 1,000 visitors. He pointed out that the Expo is "the biggest networking event in Mount Pleasant."

But it's more than just shaking hands, passing out business cards and picking up a slew of brochures and promotional swag. A happy hour from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., with free food from Raising Cane's, Sticky Fingers, Jimmy John's and My Father's Moustache, plus beer and wine for sale, will give exhibitors and visitors alike an opportunity to kick back and get to know one another better while listening to live music from the jazz trio Lyndsey and Friends.

Throughout the day, attendees will be eligible to win numerous prizes, up to and including an iPad. The Expo's title sponsor is the law firm Clawson and Staubes. Community sponsors are State Farm agent Tony Pope and the town of Mount Pleasant.

For information on purchasing a booth at the 2014 Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo, contact Brian Sherman at (843) 437-8817 or brisherm@comcast.net. Businesses wishing to donate door prizes should get in touch with Chris Staubes at (843) 557-2026.



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A Go-To for Luxury Mount Pleasant Jewelers

FOR A YOUNG GUY, ALEX HEAD knows his jewelry.

He may only be 23, but Head has a lifetime of exposure to the jewelry business from working with his father, who has owned a successful jewelry store in Greenville for 32 years.

Coupled with a minor in Business from the University of South Carolina, Head knows what he's doing.

That's why when it came time to pick a career, the young entrepreneur confidently launched his own jewelry store on Coleman Boulevard. Mt. Pleasant Jewelers opened its doors in April.

"I opted to go into the family business," he said. "It's all I've ever known, and I love it."

Mt. Pleasant Jewelers focuses on unique, high-quality pieces, he said, with a special emphasis on custom design work. Though it can be a lengthy process, Head said he enjoys working on custom pieces the most.

"We have a few estate pieces, but mostly we work with new jewelry and custom work," he pointed out.

He prides himself on the business' reputation for exceptionally fast service. For example, a custom jewelry piece must be designed on a computer, printed on a 3D printer, molded, casted and the stones must be set, but it still only takes two weeks for Mt. Pleasant Jewelers to complete the job from start to finish.

The business also does jewelry repairs, which often are turned around in a day, Head said. More complex repairs

take a maximum of five days.

In addition to repairs, Mt. Pleasant Jewelers also does appraisals and gold refinement.

When he's not busy selling custom-designed jewelry, Head said he has a passion for watches and enjoys working with one of the store's best sellers, certified pre-owned Rolex watches.

With an additional line of luxury gifts, such as monogramable soaps, linens and glassware, Head said the store truly does carry something for everyone.

"The quality of jewelry that we provide for the price is just unbelievable. We do have smaller things, like engagement rings in the \$3,000 to \$6,000 range on the lower end, and on the higher end we have as much as your wallet will allow," he commented.

Head sells products that mirror the high quality of life Mount Pleasant offers, he said, which was the main reason he chose this area for his store. Since opening, he's spent much of his time getting to know the most important thing about Mount Pleasant – the people.

"I'm definitely a people person. I love talking to people, and it's been so much fun breaking into the community and meeting everyone," he remarked. "I think people are often surprised to hear I own a business based on how young I am, but I know I've been able to show Mount Pleasant that Mt. Pleasant Jewelers is the new go-to store for all of their luxury gift needs." ❖

To find out more about Mount Pleasant's newest jewelry store, call (843) 388-4804.

Photo courtesy of Mt. Pleasant Jewelers.



Mt. Pleasant Jewelers focuses on unique, high-quality pieces, with an emphasis on custom design work.



Dog & Duck hosts trivia nights at both its locations every Monday.

In Pursuit of the Trivial

IF YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF ALEX Trebek, you might want to skip this article. On the other hand, if you happen to know the answers to such “Jeopardy-style” questions as which director won the Academy Award in 1962 (David Lean, “Lawrence of Arabia”) and where the largest stadium in the world is located (North Korea, 150,000 total capacity) Trivia Night in Mount Pleasant might be right up your alley (a narrow path or passage between or behind two buildings).

BY BILL FARLEY

Under the auspices of Team Trivia, headquartered in Atlanta, with franchises from Florida to Wisconsin, including one each serving Myrtle Beach and the Charleston area, you can test your knowledge of the obscure, arcane and just plain trivial as a solo contestant or as a member of your very own team – and you can qualify for prizes of up to \$2,000 while dining, drinking and having lots of fun.

Each face-off over little known facts features six three-question rounds plus a halftime’ bonus question, and you get to bet points on each of your answers. Categories range from movies, sports and magazines to science, nature, geography and more, so being able to recall odd facts you never thought you’d stashed away in your memory – or having great team members who do – is a must. But at the end of the evening, a good time is all that really matters, and sometimes your wrong answers are more fun than the right ones.

A great place to start in Mount Pleasant is Steel City Pizza Co. on Ben Sawyer Boulevard. Not surprisingly, this Pittsburgh-themed sports bar features pizza, and their 16-incher is enough for two really hungry players, with maybe a slice or two to take home. There’s plenty more on the Steel City menu, including pastas, burgers, “veggies” and calzones. Plus, the upbeat, welcoming environment will make even novice Trivia Night players feel right at home. Wednesdays are game night, and the action takes



Photo by Ronnie Martinelli

place between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

In the Long Point area, the trivia hub is Big Game Bar & Grill on Belle Station Boulevard. In addition to a very busy Wednesday Trivia Night, Big Game offers Buzztime online trivia continuously, and players can log in, play against contestants at other bars and restaurants across the country, then see the correct answers flashed on one of Big Game's 17 TV screens. On Mondays during happy hour, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Big Game adds its own bonus wrinkle. Patrons play for the opportunity to snag a prize from the bar's fishbowl and can go home with fun items from hats to T-shirts and more. Bar food, including burgers and wings, are on the bill of fare and, according to manager Addie Culler, the atmosphere is always festive, and the servers are careful not to intrude while players are wracking their brains for answers.

If you like your trivia with a side order of sushi, your best bet is Locals Bar, located in the Queensborough Shopping Center just off Highway 17. Acclaimed as the best sushi bar in the Lowcountry three years running, Locals recently underwent an exciting renovation, adding a second sushi line. Between questions and answers, try a Tuna Tower, a Lobster for Two Roll, a Crazy Boy Roll or any of the restaurant's Competition Rolls. Meat eaters are welcome as well. Beef Tataki is only one of Locals' non-sushi offerings. According to manager Shawn Sherman,



Photo courtesy of Steel City Pizza Co.

Steel City
Pizza Co. hosts
game night on
wednesdays.



Photo courtesy of Steel City Pizza Co.

If trivia is your area of expertise, Steel City Pizza Co. is the place to be on Wednesday nights.



Photo by Ronnie Martinelli

Arrive early if you expect to get a good seat for trivia night at either Dog & Duck location.

the venue is packed on Trivia Night, so a pre-7 p.m. early arrival might be in order.

Another popular bistro, Dog & Duck, features Trivia Night Mondays at both its Mount Pleasant locations – Belle Hall and Park West. It's a crowd pleaser, so eager contestants are advised to arrive before the 7 p.m. start time to get good seats. On Thursday nights, Dog & Duck doubles down with a Music Trivia Night, where the crowd can listen to great tunes and win in-house cash. While playing, contestants can munch on their selections from the restaurants' encyclopedic menu of terrific bar food. Two favorites: the best Fish & Chips this side of Trafalgar Square and the whimsically-named Hillbilly Hamburger, a delicious fried bologna sandwich.

Mount Pleasant's Louise Pennisi, who, with her husband, Sal, is a member of "Team Clueless," playing regularly at Steel City Pizza Co., considers a night of trivia always a night well spent.

"We enjoy two moments especially – when you retrieve a correct answer from the dusty recesses of your brain, something you were surprised you knew and actually could recall, and the groans when you try to choose between two answers and submit the wrong one," she explained.

It sounds as if the Pennisis are ready for "Double Jeopardy." And that's not trivial. 🐾

For additional information on Trivia Nights throughout the tri-county area and Myrtle Beach, visit teamtrivia.com.

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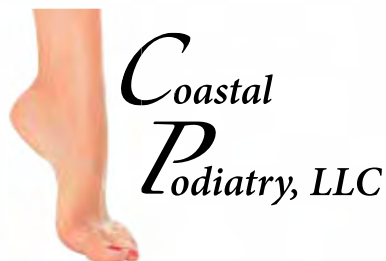
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Brains and Beauty

Brooke Mosteller – Miss South Carolina

THE MISS AMERICA PAGEANT doesn't take slackers. When Mount Pleasant native Brooke Mosteller earned the Miss South Carolina crown in 2013, she already had more than a few achievements under her belt, many of them fostered right here in East Cooper during her years at Wando High School. In addition to earning the title of Miss Senior

BY DENISE K. JAMES

Wando, she also graduated as salutatorian of her class. She chose the Miss America pageant system as a way to learn more about herself, give back to the community and further her education.

"A lot of people don't realize that the Miss America system is the largest college scholarship organization in the country for women," she pointed out.

After graduating from Wando, Mosteller made the most of her time at Furman University, studying Political Science and planning to continue on to law school. Yet, she said, she "learned more about being a citizen during the pageants than at Furman."

Mosteller has completed her first year at the University of South Carolina School of Law. She interned with Attorney General Alan Wilson last summer, but Mosteller is careful to keep not only her intellect but also her body and spirit engaged. Her talent during last year's Miss South Carolina pageant was singing – she performed "Don't Rain on My Parade," a number made famous by

Barbara Streisand in the hit Broadway musical "Funny Girl" – a pastime she has always loved. She has even sung at the Darlington Raceway.

Mosteller played tennis for four solid years at Wando – and helped her team get to the state championship level – and then started running track at Furman. Her mother, Cyndi Campsen Mosteller, described how her daughter "went from tennis to track in just six weeks, once they realized she could run as well!"

And run she did. Mosteller set a Furman record at her first meet and two weeks later went to the Southern Conference championships at Appalachian State and ran off with the conference title in the 5,000-meter event.

She credits her faith in keeping her humble and thankful for the opportunities she's been given. She



Photo courtesy of Brooke Mosteller.

Faith and giving back to the community are both big deals for Miss South Carolina Brooke Mosteller.

remarked how "faith is a big deal for most of the girls in the Miss America system." Naturally, giving back to the community is another important facet of earning the crown.

"I was an ambassador for the Children's Miracle Network," she explained. "MUSC is a part of that network. My team and I raised a record-breaking amount for the network. It's such a precious thing to be involved in with this whole process."

As filled with glamour as Mosteller's life might be, she loves nothing more than being in East Cooper for a spell, relaxing with family and reflecting back to her years growing up.

"We lived on the Isle of Palms until I was 14," she commented. "And my family has always loved East Cooper for the beaches, history and beauty." 🏖️

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Photo by Jenn Cady.

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Daniel Island Business Directory

Restaurants	Specialty	Address
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Alchemy	Casual dining and bar	245 Seven Farms Drive
Ali Baba	Mediterranean deli	186 Seven Farms Drive, ste. 500
Daniel Island Grille	Family restaurant and pub	259 Seven Farms Drive
Daniel Island Yogurt	Yogurt	186 Seven Farms Drive, Ste. C
Dragon Palace	Chinese bistro	162 Seven Farms Drive, ste. 320
Hokey Pokey	Ice cream	162 Seven Farms Drive, ste. 335
Honeycomb Café	Breakfast any time	162 Seven Farms Drive, ste. 340
Laura Alberts	Farm-to-table cuisine; fine wine; craft beer and gifts	891 Island Park Drive
Orlando's Pizza	Traditional pizzeria	295 Seven Farms Drive
Quiznos	Subs, soups and salads	216 Seven Farms Drive, Ste. 130
Ristorante LIDI	Italian restaurant	901 Island Park Drive
Sauer Grapes	Wine lounge	885-C Island Park Drive
Sermet's Courtyard	Casual dining and bar	115 River Landing Drive
Subway	East fresh; live green	162 Seven Farms Drive, Ste. 315
Vespa	Wood fired pizza and more	224 Seven Farms Drive
The Islander	Fresh seafood, salads and sushi	160 Fairchild St
Wasabi	Japanese restaurant	194 Seven Farms Drive, Ste. E

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BISHOP ENGLAND High School is presently the largest four-year Catholic high school in South Carolina. With a current enrollment of more than 700 students, the courses quickly fill to capacity.

“We encourage parents to begin the enrollment process during a student’s eighth-grade year,” explained Kit Brownell, director of admissions for Bishop England High School. “Our open house, held every year in November, kicks off the admissions cycle for each student.”

STACY E. DOMINGO

The admissions cycle also includes the application and student placement test before each file is reviewed for admissions.

“We accept high school-aged children and can accommodate from honors students to individuals who qualify for our Options Program,” Brownell said.

In 1915, the hopes of the Charleston Catholic community became reality when Catholic High School opened its doors on Queen Street. The school has since gone through a name change and has moved to a new location on Daniel Island, but it is still highly successful in providing a top-notch education to many



Bishop England is the largest four-year Catholic high school in South Carolina.

Photo courtesy of Bishop England High School.

Photo courtesy of Bishop England High School.



Originally located on the Charleston peninsula, the beautiful Bishop England campus is now on Daniel Island.

Lowcountry children.

“We were asked by the city of Charleston to move to Daniel Island to help build the island community. We were given 40 acres of land by the Guggenheim Foundation,” explained Brownell. “Daniel Island has been great. We have watched the entire community grow up around us. The move to Daniel Island made it easier for our students from the Summerville area to get to school. Previously, we were landlocked in the downtown area, so this move allowed our extracurricular activities to grow.”

Bishop England High School offers faith-based education aimed at developing all-around students who are strong and disciplined.

“We offer a very classical institutional education,” said Brownell.

This year, 23 percent of the students at Bishop England weren’t Catholic; their parents’ primary reason for choosing the school was academics, according to Brownell.

Because Bishop England High

“Our average SAT and ACT scores are consistently well above state and national averages.” ...

School has a large number of students, the school can offer a wide range of courses in science, mathematics and foreign languages, some of them in the advanced placement category.

The Options Program at Bishop England High School is for students with special needs. Those with autism or Down syndrome have successfully completed certificates of achievement and gone on to similar programs at the College of Charleston and Clemson University.

“We seek to give our students the entire high

school experience, with extracurricular activities, while having a strong faith, the ability to make the right choices in life and getting ready for college,” said Brownell. “Our average SAT and ACT scores are consistently well above state and national averages.”

To learn more about Bishop England High School, an accredited school, visit www.BEHS.com or call (843) 849-9599 for a tour the campus at 363 Seven Farms Drive on Daniel Island.

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The outdoor arena at the Family Circle Tennis Center on Daniel Island has established itself as a topflight music venue. In the past, acts such as Hootie & the Blowfish, The Lumineers, Barenaked Ladies, Fun, Sugarland, Zac Brown Band, O.A.R., Don Henley and the Beach Boys have all graced the stage and set the mood under the Carolina sky. For summer 2014, we are looking forward to a few good shows, including a double dose of Hootie and O.A.R. Check out FamilyCircleTennisCenter.com/Concerts for your tickets.

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Aug. 9..... 12th Annual Hootie & The Blowfish
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Exploring Options in Family Law

The Vitetta Law Group

MOST PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T GROW up in the Charleston area have an interesting story about how they landed in the Lowcountry, and Guy Vitetta is no different.

A native Philadelphian who met his wife, Betsy, while attending Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, Vitetta earned his law degree at Capital University in Columbus. While visiting friends in Beaufort in the early 1990s, they fell in love with the Carolina coast. Vitetta was hired by the Charleston County Public Defender's Office in 1993. Nine years later, he opened his own practice, thus discovering his true calling: family law.

After 11 years in criminal law, Vitetta was expecting private practice to be less emotional; he found just the opposite to be true. A year after he started practicing in Family Court, Vitetta "sought out a way to help people and maintain his integrity." In addition to litigation and mediation, he learned about collaborative practice and formed the South Carolina Collaborative Law Institute in 2004. He still serves on its board of directors.

The Vitetta Law Group, located on Daniel Island, focuses exclusively on divorce and family law, with an emphasis on collaborative practice. Betsy worked with Guy for eight years, and they both spoke passionately about the subject. He dove into the problems litigating family issues, such as cost, "slash and burn" mentality and the problems divorce causes for children. Vitetta mentioned that other than traffic citations, divorce is usually a client's first exposure to the law, so most people have no idea what to expect or what their options are.

Collaborative practice is a legal process that supports the parties and their attorneys in resolving issues and avoiding

litigation. According to Vitetta, collaborative practice is family oriented, effective and considerably more ethical than most processes used to resolve family legal issues.

"Collaborative law is a rational approach in an emotional setting, and it requires hard work," Vitetta admitted. "It's more difficult but yields better results."

First, both the clients and their lawyers sign an agreement that if the process fails and the parties must litigate, the attorneys are required to help the clients' transition to trial attorneys. This is the main incentive for both the lawyers and the clients to complete the process successfully.

The collaborative process is also effective in reducing the level of conflict. He mentioned that divorce coaches, counselors and financial professionals are included in the process; having each professional handle the part that they are trained for enhances efficiency.

"Divorce is traumatic," said Vitetta. "Trauma creates a fight or flight mind-set."

Occasionally, litigation is unavoidable and divorce can go to trial, but Vitetta wants what's best for his clients, especially the

children, regardless of how the issues are resolved.

Betsy nodded and added, "Children are always affected by divorce."

Vitetta continues to promote collaborative law, mediation and ethical law practice by lecturing on various family law topics throughout the Lowcountry. An Internet search on Vitetta Law will produce multiple short videos discussing everything from child support to divorce proceedings. It's another way Guy Vitetta gives back to his clients and to the local community. 🍷

For more information about family law, visit www.vitetta-lawgroup.com or call (843) 302-2050.



Photo courtesy of the Vitetta Law Group.

The Vitetta Law Group focuses exclusively on divorce and family law, with an emphasis on collaborative practice.



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DR. LESLIE STEELE, WHO OWNS Advanced Animal Care with her husband, Dr. David Steele, also a veterinarian, practices what they lovingly refer to as “family pet medicine.” Both their professional lives and their personal lives revolve around their desire to help family pets.

“Our patients reach beyond Mount Pleasant. They come from other nearby locations such as Daniel Island, Isle of Palms, Seabrook and Kiawah,” said Dr. Steele. “We medically treat our patients as well as help with preventive treatments and consultation.”

Dr. Steele knew from the age of 6 that she wanted to be a veterinarian, and today she shares that mutual passion with her entire family.

“All pets, including ours, will sort of gravitate to particular members of the family, but, in reality, they are family members themselves,” she commented.

Advanced Animal Care, which has cared for pets since 2001, knows well how best to choose an animal.

“Anyone considering a new pet should consider the energy level of the pet and how it coincides with theirs,” Dr. Steele explained. “Also, try to match the breed with the climate in Charleston.”

In the South, animals are exposed to parasites such as heartworms that are transmitted through mosquito bites, “especially if a pet owner is moving from a Northern climate where they may only have three months of hot weather and are not used to the continuous threat that can last year-long in South Carolina,” she said. She added that people can help their pets with oral or topical products that fight parasites.

“Also, people can sometimes forget how intense the heat can get around here,” Dr. Steele went on to say. “Never leave a dog in a car, never walk during the day and always have water available.”

Dr. Steele added that many animals end up being given up for adoption because they have behavioral problems. She encourages regular exercise and training sessions, which will help a dog understand what is expected of him or her.

“Lastly, mixed breeds tend to be healthier than pure breeds, and we recommend avoiding puppy mills. I

recommend going to the shelter and spending time with the animal so that you get to know one another before making that commitment,” she cautioned.

Advanced Animal Care offers a limited adoption program, typically stray cats that have been treated by their staff.

“In our area, there are more cats than there are homes,” she remarked. 🐾



Dr. Leslie Steele has known since she was 6 years old that she wanted to be a veterinarian.

To learn more about proper veterinarian treatment for your pet or to view furry friends available for adoption, visit Advanced Animal Care online at www.advancedanimalcaremp.com or call (843) 884-9838.

FUN FACTS *provided by Advanced Animal Care*

- In 2011, there were 70 million dogs in the United States.
- That's one dog for every 4.5 people.
- 36.5 percent of U.S. households own at least one dog.
- A yellow ribbon tied on a dog leash means the dog doesn't like to be approached or petted by strangers.

PETS *And Their* PEOPLE



Pets are a part of the lives of several Media Services employees. Above: Brandon Clark and Sadie; left: Dana Coleman and Piper; below: Bill Macchio with Charlie and Madison; and bottom left: Jennifer Burke and Mia.



Story by Stacy E. Domingo.

Front page photos by Robyn Leigh. All other photos provided by pet owners.

PETS COME IN MANY SIZES, SHAPES, BREEDS AND PERSONALITIES, something that can be said for their owners as well. People choose pets for many reasons, but sometimes pets choose their people. Regardless, the bond shared between a pet and its owner develops over time and rarely is broken.

The following East Cooper residents have unique bonds with their pets, and their stories are fun and inspiring. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we enjoyed hearing them.

Be sure to visit us online at www.MountPleasantMagazine.com and share your own pet stories. And don't forget that Aug. 22 is National Take Your Cat to the Vet Day and Aug. 26 is National Dog Day.

**Paige Pollock,
Realtor - Carolina One Real Estate**

Pollock has spent a lifetime with poodles and today she owns a 12-and-a-half-year-old named Eliza and a comical 2-year-old named Bridgette.

"My very first dog was a poodle who acted as my babysitter. My mother said if I started to go down the hill near our home, the dog would grab hold of my diaper and pull me back up," she said.

Standard poodles were originally used for duck hunting and are from Germany, but French women found them so intelligent and such good company that they became companions. Today, miniature poodles have become fashion accessories that happen to be pets.

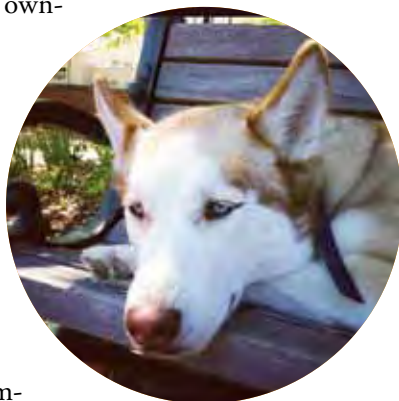
"Poodles are intelligent, so it is easy for them to adjust to many owners or a family unit. They understand who provides for them and will adjust to fit into their mold," Pollock explained.



**Anthony Recine,
recent University of South Carolina graduate**

Recine is the proud owner of a female Siberian red coat husky named Athena. This goddess truly captured her owner's heart the moment he saw her at an animal rescue in Columbia, South Carolina.

"All of my friends had a dog, and my room-



mate and I decided we wanted one, too. We went to the rescue and found Athena. We fell in love with her," he commented.

When Recine first adopted Athena, she was underweight but enthusiastic.

"She would jump through open windows while taking out the screen," Recine said. "She would run away a lot, but we got that under control by giving her a lot of attention and taking her for frequent walks."

Athena, also known as the Trash Bandit, has adapted to the move from college back home to Mount Pleasant.

"She has a crush on one of my mother's cats. She follows it around and has become friends," said Recine. "Athena has definitely become part of the entire family."

In addition to adapting to an extended family of pets and people, Athena has discovered her true Southern huskiness by taking a liking to sunbathing.

"At 4 years old now, she has calmed quite a bit, but she still likes going for those walks," said Recine, who recommended finding your pet at a shelter.

"When we went, Athena wasn't the only husky there. At shelters you can usually find the pet you want and save an animal at the same time," he concluded.

**Dr. Cara Daniel,
owner - Tidewater Veterinary**

Tidewater Veterinary is located just off the Isle of Palms Connector and treats patients from all of the nearby islands.

"We see a lot of patients that are named by location," Dr. Daniel pointed out. "We have a few Sullys and Sullivans that are named for Sullivan's Island."

At the young age of 9, Dr. Daniel was the proud owner of a dog and three cats. Today she and her husband have



welcomed a dog and cat into their family.

“Both our dog and cat are part of our family, but our dog, Tucker, has definitely bonded more with our son. The two are the typical image of a boy and his dog. They are always clowning around and having fun,” said Dr. Daniel. “Our cat, Penny Lane, favors our daughter, and the two are almost always together.”

Dr. Daniel witnesses a lot of relationships between pets and their owners and knows that the bond is strong.

“Certainly people go out and find their pets, but sometimes a pet will find their people. I believe this is the case with our chocolate Labrador Tucker. He had a heart defect, and, because of my position, I was able to recognize this and treat it accordingly, otherwise it may not have been done,” she explained.

“Companionship, unconditional love and entertainment, such as we get with Tucker, are all reasons people choose to adopt a pet,” Dr. Daniel concluded. “Cat owners like to have an animal they can pet regularly, but owners have even allowed large dogs like Great Danes become lap dogs. There are various reasons an owner chooses a certain pet. I’ve even witnessed people adopting a dog for their dog. A pet for a pet, so to speak.”

**Linda Page,
Mayor - town of Mount Pleasant and
owner - Page’s Thieves Market**

“A few years ago, my beloved dog crossed the rainbow bridge, and I never thought I would get another pet,” said Page. “I missed him terribly, but I have a grand-dog that I absolutely loved to the point my son said I was coveting his pet.”



Through not-so-subtle encouragement from her son, she agreed to take a look at two beagle puppies.

“Well, the puppies were the cutest things. One was really sweet and one was a terror, so I decided they had to stay together because as a unit they made the perfect dog,” she said.

Dixie and Dazey now travel regularly to work with Page and her daughter.

“They have visited Town Hall a few times, but they cause

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too much of a distraction for most everyone, so normally they are at the market with me,” the mayor explained.

So while Page didn't believe she could let a new pet into her life, she has since committed to two.

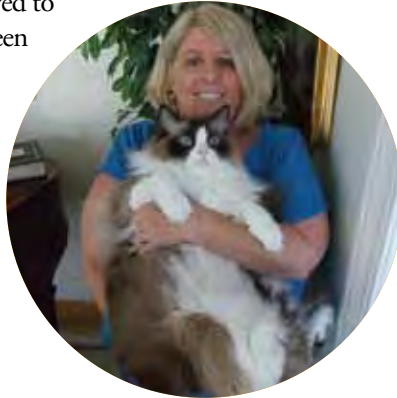
“My schedule is hectic, but these two girls give me companionship,” Page remarked.

**Ann Pape,
Fifth grade teacher - Belle Hall Elementary School**

Ann Pape started teaching in 1977 and moved to Belle Hall Elementary in 1998 where she has been teaching fifth grade ever since. Her daughter, Laura Pape, who was once her mother's student, attests that she “is the most passionate teacher.”

While nurturing her students and her own family, Ann Pape also keeps company with Jameson Blue Jackson Pape – or J.J. for short – who is a member of the ragdoll cat breed.

“I grew up on a farm and can only go so long without a cat,” said Pape. “When I got J.J., we drove up to Columbia to look at him, and I realized immediately I wanted him to be my cat.”



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Pape lets J.J. visit her classroom from time to time to let her students get to know a more personal side of her life. She commented that it's "important for her students to see her as a human being, not just a teacher." Plus, J.J. loves the attention.

"He has a lot of dog qualities," she said with a chuckle. "He greets us at the door when we get home; he follows us around the house; he wakes us in the morning if we aren't out of bed."

Brittany Marrazzo, owner of Paws in Paradise in Mount Pleasant

"Subconsciously, a person typically picks a dog that is similar in personality, but a person won't bond with every single dog, so they must choose wisely," said Marrazzo. "A pet is another member of an owner's family, and,



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in many instances, it is their child. They form a bond and have unconventional love. A pet looks up to their owner.”

This is especially true if you are choosing a pet that will join a family with young children, the elderly or if you are choosing a service pet.

“We take all breeds and sizes,” explained Marrazzo. “It is fun to watch the animals come through Paws in Paradise, as the dogs are usually excited to be dropped off and are excited to go when they see their owner come through that door.”

**Michelle Cieslak,
owner of Pleasant Paws Dayspa in Mount Pleasant**

A pet’s excitement when it sees its owner is the heart of a one-of-a-kind bond that Cieslak sees every day.

“I believe pets and owners have similar looks and personality. It is very interesting for us to observe. However, I do feel that whatever type of energy the owner has will transfer to the pet. Hence, they have a similar personality.”

Cieslak knew at a young age that she wanted animals to be part of her everyday life. She started dog-sitting and walking dogs at the age of 7. She said love, friendship and companionship are all emotions pets and their

owners experience.

“What’s interesting is how these roles are interchangeable depending on the situation,” Cieslak explained. “When people adopt a pet, they are taking on the responsibility for all of the pet’s needs.”



On the flip side, a pet can quickly become an emotional outlet for the owner, or, in the case of service canines, the animal is attuned to all of the owner’s needs.

As temporary caregivers at Pleasant Paws Dayspa, the staff is often the first to notice important issues.

“Grooming is a hands-on experience. We sometimes notice skin and health issues. At the end of the day, though, we are here to pamper your pets and make sure they go home looking and feeling their best,” Cieslak said. 🐾

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From Mount Pleasant to Mount Everest:

A Profile of the Most Interesting Man East of the Cooper





Farthing with his wife, Farrah, and daughters, Isla and Eden.

*Story by Cullen Murray-Kemp.
Photos provided by Harry Farthing.*

DURING MY TIME WITH MOUNT Pleasant Magazine, I've interviewed and crossed paths with many interesting East of the Cooper residents. I have been dragged down the Isle of Palms beach by a 20-foot kite while learning how to kite board. I drank beers with some of the coolest old-timers I've ever met at the Carolina Coast Surf Club. I even rode shotgun in a souped-up golf cart as the wingman of the "mayor of I'On."

Yet, as I look back at all the remarkable people and their extraordinary stories, one Englishman stands out. Meet 49-year-old mountaineer, writer and Mount Pleasant's most interesting man: Harry Farthing.

Farthing, who hails from the United Kingdom, is an explorer whose voyages have literally taken him to the furthest corners of the world. A born traveler, Farthing's lust for exploration began at a young age. At just 19, he embarked on an extreme motorcycle adventure – the first of many – from the U.K. to the Moroccan Sahara.

Whether it's climbing Mount Everest, riding from country to country on his BMW motorcycle or winning the title of NBC Universal's "Hottest Dad over 40," I can't think of a better person to be stuck in an airport terminal with than Harry Farthing.

I recently sat down with the former commercial real estate executive turned writer to talk shop. Farthing pulled up to our meeting at Mozzo Deli on Coleman Boulevard on his signature red and black BMW motorcycle.

Our conversation drifted to Farthing's passion for motorcycle journeys, such as his 4,000-mile trip from England to Morocco.

"I had never traveled by myself before, and seeing all the different cultures in Spain, Portugal and eventually Morocco was a wonder. It really set the tone for my later trips," Farthing remembered.

Farthing's passion for mountaineering can be traced back to his childhood days, when he would study books by Chris Bonington, a member of the original British Himalayan expedition. In 1999, Farthing moved to Lake Como in Italy, near the Swiss Alps, which is where Farthing began to fall in love with mountain climbing.

Since the late 1990s, Farthing has become a successful and experienced climber and has challenged and defeated peaks such as Mont Blanc and The Matterhorn in the Alps, Mount McKinley in Alaska, Shishapangma in Tibet, and Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.

I asked Farthing to describe "Summit," his forthcoming novel. I could feel his passion from across the table as he explained that the fictional story about an adventurous Mount Everest climb existed whether he had climbed Everest or not. Yet the essence and success of the novel hinged on his experiences as a mountaineer and his time spent in the Himalayas.

Farthing's objective with the novel was to remove his readers from their front porch lounge chairs and relocate them to a treacherous, icy cliff in Tibet.

"It's a novel written with firsthand knowledge of what it is actually like to climb above 26,000 feet without the benefit of an oxygen mask – to feel the joy and pain of an ascent of Mount Everest," Farthing explained.

"Pretend you're a book reviewer and you have 15 words or fewer to describe your novel," I prodded.

"'Into Thin Air' meets 'The Da Vinci Code' with a touch of 'Indiana Jones,'" said Farthing confidently.

I was beginning to feel like I was 10 years old, and I was interviewing my childhood hero.

"What's the craziest thing that's ever happened to you on a climb?" I asked.

"Probably the first time I entered the death zone without oxygen," said Farthing.

"Whoa, the death zone?" I blurted out, interrupting Farthing.

"Yes. The death zone is over 8,000 meters, where no human body can acclimatize. It's like flying on the wing of

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a commercial airplane,” Farthing continued.

“So what was that like?” I questioned.

“I was on a four-week journey to the summit of Shishapangma in Tibet (8,013 meters). At 8,000+ meters without oxygen, it felt like I was walking through gel. The whole experience was very dream-like,” Farthing related.

As our conversation fluttered from peak to peak, we landed on the topic of the day: Mount Everest. I asked



Harry Farthing – mountaineer, writer and explorer – might just be the most interesting man East of the Cooper.

Farthing just what it was like to reach the highest point of the highest mountain in the world.

“It must have been quite the pinnacle, so to speak, for a mountaineer such as yourself,” I punned.

Farthing paused, as if maybe my question took him back to a point on the mother of all mountains.

“Well that’s just the irony of the book’s title – “Summit” – that I actually never summited Mount Everest. There was a point when I was about 400 meters from the summit and bad weather was rolling in. I thought of my family and made the safe decision to return to camp,” Farthing lamented.

“Not summiting Mount Everest hurt me for a few years after the climb. Yet that mountain will stay with me forever and won’t fade away like other mountains I’ve summited,” Farthing said.

He seemed at peace with the mountain – almost as if it had taught him a life lesson.

“Will you ever go back?” I had to ask.



“I’d be lying if I said I haven’t thought about it. I can never say never,” Farthing said. 🐼

Find out more about Harry Farthing and his novel, “Summit,” at www.harryfarthing.com.

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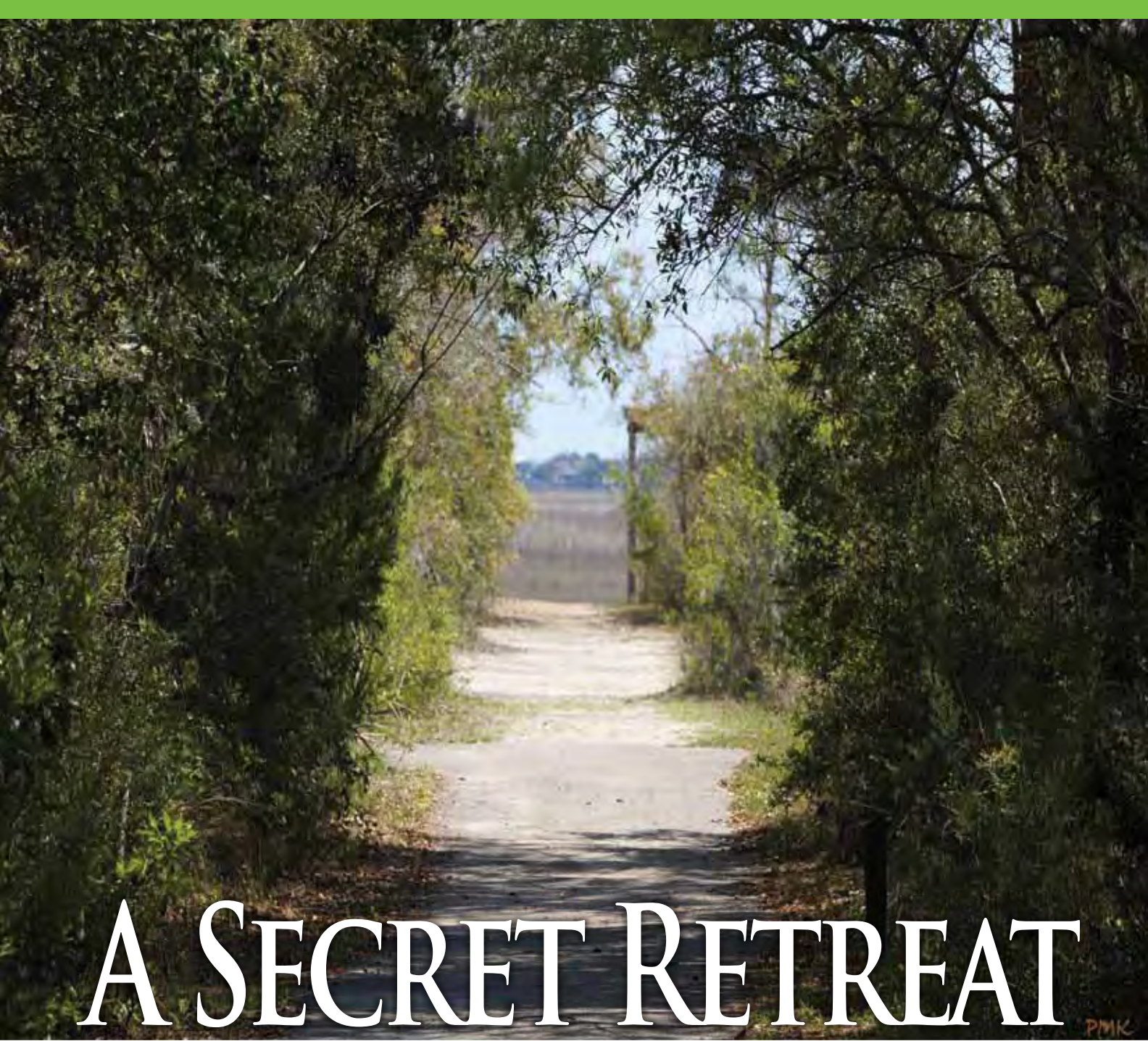


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A SECRET RETREAT

Mount Pleasant's Marsh View Trail

Story by Pam Gabriel.

Photos courtesy of the East Cooper Land Trust.

Less than 50 years ago, Rifle Range Road was a quiet rural route surrounded by small farms. Today the farms are gone and cars speed by, bringing folks to one of the many residential neighborhoods that line the roadway. Many are unaware of a hidden retreat that lies behind the Mount Pleasant Waterworks complex.

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Photos by William Quarles.



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WHEN I WAS ASKED TO write about Marsh View Trail, my first response was “What’s that?” I met Catherine Main, executive director of the East Cooper Land Trust, at the entrance to the trail behind the

Mount Pleasant Waterworks complex on Rifle Range Road, and we strolled the quarter-mile paved walkway that meanders through more than 50 acres of woods and marshland.

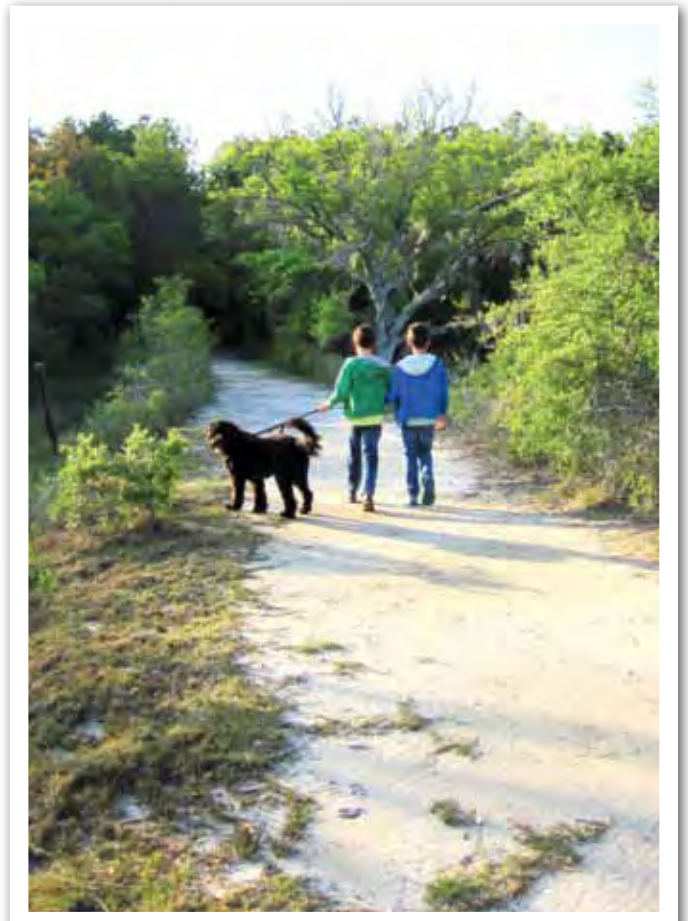
I left Mann armed with a folder of information, but there was still much to learn about this “secret garden.” I elicited the help of my friend, Julie Cliff, a former Wando High School biology teacher, who also knew nothing about the trail. A few days later, as I waited for Julie on an overcast Sunday, an older couple emerged from the entrance, and, as we chatted, they acknowledged that they were frequent trail walkers. As Julie and I prepared to begin our journey, the couple warned us that the path was flooded from the rain the day before.

Not far from the entrance is the dog park, fenced so large dogs can enjoy one area while small ones play in the other. We passed a young man with a chocolate lab who also warned us that the trail was wet. Undaunted, we made our way to the butterfly garden, where plants and flowering shrubs, specially selected to attract butterflies, were slowly emerging after a harsh winter. The garden was added in the spring of 2012, a project made possible by community volunteers. Just to the left of the garden is a beehive, a recent Girl Scout project, and the bees were active.

Armed with a handout we picked up at the information board, Julie and I headed along the trail, carefully dodging puddles. As we entered a densely wooded area, Julie explained that this is one of the few maritime forests remaining that are accessible to the public. A canopy of loblolly pine, live oak, laurel oak and magnolia almost blocked out the sky and Julie remarked, “I bet this is cool in the summer.”

We hadn’t gone too deeply into the forest when we discovered the trail was buried under water. After all, marshland has a propensity for returning to its natural state following heavy rains. As we returned to the butterfly garden, a young female jogged past us, and we shouted a warning that was ignored. While we sat on one of the benches in the garden, the jogger returned and said, “I should have listened to you.”

Julie and I returned a few days later to complete our



Many local residents who have discovered the Marsh View Trail bring their canine friends there to frolic in the dog park.

tour. She was pleased to see that the forest land was left in its natural state, with an abundance of native shrubs. It reminded me of the woods behind my childhood home, where my brothers and I spent most of our youth exploring.

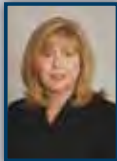
As the trail transitions into the salt marsh, there are smaller and fewer trees because of the salt spray. Julie pointed out the bright red shiny berries of the yaupon holly that are a particular favorite of local birds, among them the colorful male buntings that are visible from April until September. She showed me the edible pickle weed, and we tried to identify tracks that led across the trail into sandy marsh paths.

The smell of pluff mud greeted us just as the scene changed again and opened to a breathtaking panoramic view of the marsh. A protected bench invites visitors to relax and observe the ever-changing marsh – the seasons and tides offer an exceptional habitat for numerous birds, fish, mollusks and other water species. It was low tide, and Julie explained the mating ritual of the male fiddler crab. He waves his dominant claw in hopes of attracting an admiring female. She showed me trails etched in the mud made by the tiny periwinkle snails as they glean algae from the

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The butterfly garden features plants and flowering shrubs specially selected to attract butterflies.

sand and plant life. As we sat and chatted on the bench, we gazed across the marsh at the raised land masses with trees and other green foliage, remnants of old sand dunes, known as hammock islands. To the left and barely discernible is the Isle of Palms Connector, and, far to the right and mostly hidden, is the causeway leading to Sullivan's Island. We were soon joined by an older woman and her two beautiful black labs, who bounded up to greet us but soon lost interest and dove into a nearby creek.

At the beginning of the millennium, Mount Pleasant officials realized that due to the town's rapid growth, natural lands were being lost to development. In 2002, the town created the East Cooper Open Space Foundation, with a mission to "identify and conserve natural spaces of environmental, cultural or historical value." The foundation also sought to "provide natural lands such as parks, gardens and trails for people to enjoy."

In 2009 the foundation obtained autonomy from the town and became the Mount Pleasant Land Conservancy. A year later, the MPLC acquired a conservation easement to establish the Marsh View Trail on 57 acres behind the Mount Pleasant Operations Center on Rifle Range Road. In 2013, the MPLC realized that its scope and vision extended beyond Mount Pleasant's boundaries and became the East Cooper Land Trust, which encompasses the area between the Cooper and Santee Rivers.

Catherine Main partners with community volunteers to expand the organization's mission and sphere by identifying vanishing natural lands and establishing protective easements so that these lands will be enjoyed by future generations. 🐾

To learn how you can help the East Cooper Land Trust, visit info@eastcooperland.org or call (843) 224-1849.



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The most successful franchisee just might be here in the Lowcountry, where Merv Epstein, owner of Budget Blinds of Charleston, has been number one in the country in gross sales three of the past four years. In 2013 alone, the company sold more than 5,000 shutters.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

The secret of Epstein's success is really no secret at all.

"I always put the customer's needs first," he commented. "Our goal is simple: Be honest and please our customers."

He added that it doesn't hurt that Budget Blinds of Charleston is a locally owned family business backed by the strength of a national corporation. Epstein's son, Adam, who will soon be taking over the Summerville part of the operation, joined the company in 2005. A Johns Island fireman since 2012, he heads up the installation team, which consists of head installer John Serpe, who has been with Epstein since 2007, three full-time employees and four part-timers who also are firefighters.

Epstein's son-in-law, Lang Dinkins, came aboard in 2009. A graduate of The Citadel, he covers West of the Ashley for Budget Blinds.

Other key employees include Jana Sanders, office manager Lynn Hahn and Marianne McLaughlin, an interior decorator who handles draperies and other soft window treatments.

Epstein, who was in the real estate business in the Upstate before moving to the Lowcountry to be closer to his children and grandchildren, launched his business in 2004, operating out of his home on Daniel Island. Four years ago, he opened his showroom on Highway 17 in Mount Pleasant.

Some customers visit the showroom first to take an up-close look at Budget Blinds' extensive product line, while others prefer to start by having a consultant visit their home, at no charge, of course. Regardless of which option



Photo by Brian Sherman.

Merv Epstein and Polly Epstein aren't related, but they are working together to make Budget Blinds of Charleston one of the company's most successful franchises.

they choose, they are dealing directly with the owner of the company or a family member. If there are questions or issues, they know they can talk with someone who can make any problems go away.

"I have a great staff and they're always involved," Epstein said. "We take care of everything, from start to finish, and we stand behind our products."

Epstein pointed out that 70 percent of his business is either referrals from satisfied customers or homeowners who have used his products and services before. The company's newly-established commercial division will be led by Polly Epstein – no relation – former owner of a commercial cabinet company. As a customer, she appreciated Merv's customer-first attitude.

"They showed up, we got a price and the order went in. It was seamless," she said, adding that she has witnessed firsthand Epstein's work ethic.

"He meets the installers early every morning, and they review the previous day's activity and what needs to be done for the day. Then they load up the trailers," she said. "He is hands-on and really watches his business."

Budget Blinds of Charleston has continued to grow since its inception, despite the financial crisis of 2007 and 2008 and the sluggish national economy that followed.

"The referrals and repeat business speak for themselves," Merv Epstein remarked. 🐼

For more information on window treatment options, visit www.budgetblinds.com, call (843) 856-9498 or drop by the showroom at 2447 Highway 17 North in Mount Pleasant.

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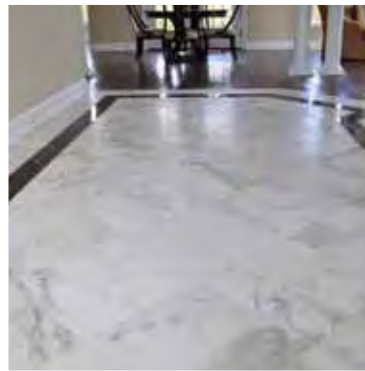
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Bookworms, Rejoice!

New Mount Pleasant Library

MOST RESIDENTS OF MOUNT Pleasant have visited the regional library on Anna Knapp Boulevard and battled its crowded parking lot and checkout desk. Residents of East Cooper love to read and learn, and we've deserved more space in which to do those things for quite some time. Fortunately, a new library is finally planned for the town of Mount Pleasant, and bookworms – myself included – couldn't be happier.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

"The last time there was a referendum about building new libraries was in 1986," emphasized Doug Henderson, executive director of the Charleston County Library System.

Henderson talked about how even the "newer" branches – such as the main library on Calhoun Street in downtown Charleston – are now outdated, given the outrageous surge of technology in the last 10 years. The new referendum, which Henderson and the rest of the board hope to pass this November, will include renovations to most of the existing libraries, plus a few new ones built from scratch, including the Carolina Park branch.

"We've always needed more space at Mount Pleasant Regional," he remarked. "And originally that location was supposed to be bigger. But then it was decided to make all the regional libraries the same size."

Henderson, who is a proponent of literacy and modern resources within the library system, is looking forward to watching the Carolina Park library become a reality.

"We'll have plenty of study space, venues for community meetings, more young adult resources and lots of new books," he said. "We want it to be a flagship library."

A key ingredient at the proposed Carolina Park library will be a greater number of pre-literacy sources for children who are too young to read but old enough to obtain the skills that will eventually make reading easier – including learning vocabulary words, understanding rhymes and recognizing the position of words on a page. Kids can learn such skills in a library program known as "Babygarten," which has grown quite popular among mothers in East



Photo provided by the Charleston County Library System.

Mount Pleasant's bookworms could hardly be happier: The town is getting a new library.

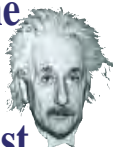
Cooper. The improved library system will offer more Babygarten classes, as well as more updated resources for both parents and kids.

As for the beloved Mount Pleasant Regional library on Anna Knapp Boulevard, Henderson assured me that it will be going through changes of its own after the Carolina Park branch is in place. Improvements for the existing library will include a new parking lot, as well as interior updates such as abolishing the outdated circulation desk. Henderson said it's important to update the older libraries and make the new buildings flexible in terms of modern technology.

"Technology will change again," he said with a smile. "So we know we have to allow for that and make buildings adaptable."

If a referendum that would provide funds to update the Charleston County Public Library passes in November, community members will be invited to attend meetings regarding plans and progress. After all, the changes in the county library system are to benefit the public most of all.

"We want to keep residents informed," Henderson said. 🐛

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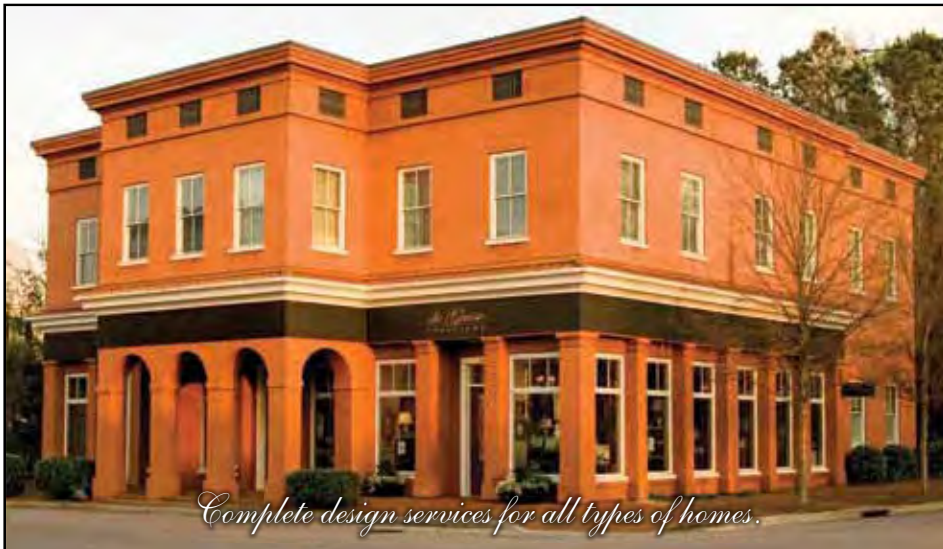


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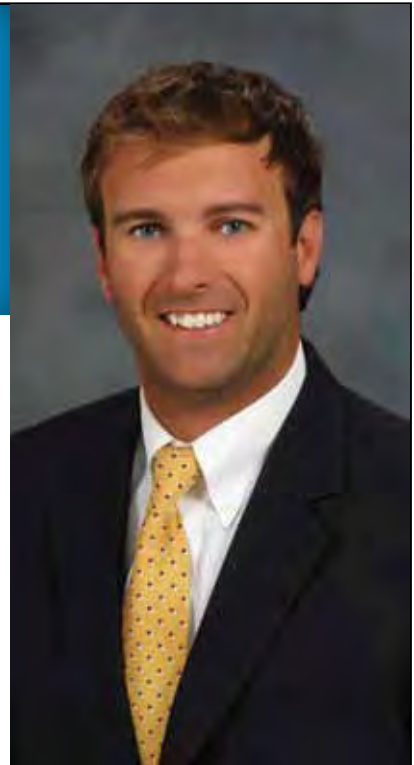


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The Calm Before *and After* The Storm

Story by Stacy E. Domingo.

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO PREPARE FOR A HURRICANE THAN during the calm before the storm. While the hurricane season is generally considered to be between June 1 and Nov. 30, severe storms can develop at any time. But according to Cathy Haynes, chief of operations with the Charleston County Emergency Management Department, many Lowcountry residents are complacent because they weren't here when Hurricane Hugo paid a devastating visit in September 1989.



There's no better time to prepare for a hurricane than during the calm before the storm, but many local residents are complacent because they weren't here when Hurricane Hugo paid a devastating visit in September 1989.

“Right after Hurricane Hugo, we did a big campaign for the citizens on being prepared and having a family plan should an emergency occur, but we are now seeing that the previous population has changed,” said Haynes. “Our population is like the tide. It goes up and it goes down, but I think the new citizens are slowly becoming aware of the vulnerability they face.”

Haynes said local residents should routinely practice evacuation techniques and learn what they should do if the area is under a hurricane watch or hurricane warning.

“We ask residents to pay attention to the local media, and we stress that those who are willing to evacuate to do so early,” said Haynes. “When the governor gives the evacuation order, residents must follow the evacuation routes which are already identified with signs. These routes are predetermined so many individuals may never even travel

the interstate and those that do will find that eastbound lanes on I-26 have been reversed.”

A category 1 hurricane, the least powerful storm that gets a name, will produce some damage, while major storms in categories 3, 4 and 5 can cause catastrophic destruction. She said anyone who chooses to remain in their home during a named storm should consider the structure's strength and reliability.

“Residents also need to remember that emergency response may not be that quick after a storm or a response may not happen at all. You must be able to care for yourself as it can take days or even weeks,” said Haynes.

She warned that downed power lines and downed trees that cause damage to homes might cause similar damage to fire stations, police stations and other government facilities and equipment. A lack of electricity and blocked roadways

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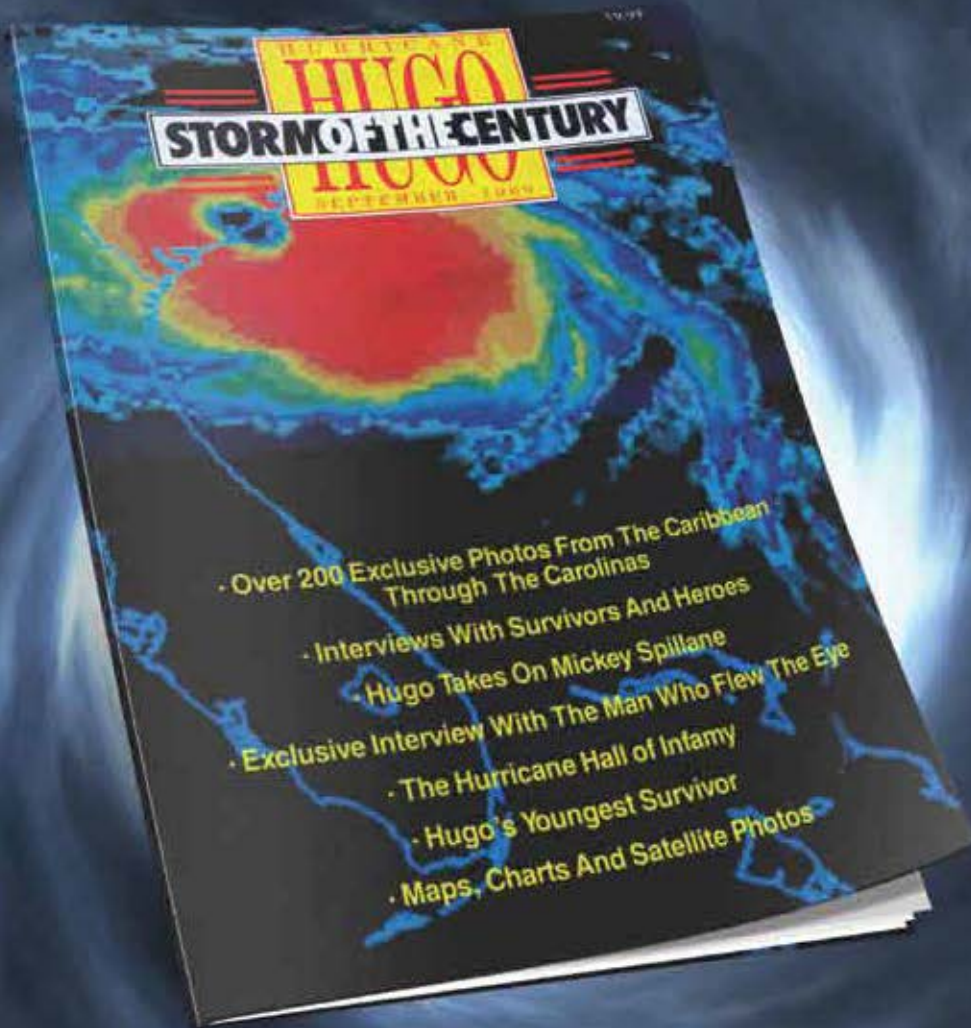
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- Robert C. Sheets, Director,
National Hurricane Center, 1990



If you lived through this massive hurricane, you'll probably remember where some of the 200 photos documenting the devastation were taken. If you've heard about Hugo and would like to experience the storm without the danger and destruction, access www.HugoMagazine.com and read it anywhere, anytime.

Our story of this storm doesn't start in Charleston; we've documented Hugo from the day it was born as a sea breeze off the coast of Africa. You'll believe it when you access this historic document containing 200 action photographs, surrounded by dozens of stories, written by the survivors and heroes of this terrifying storm. 107 lives were lost to Hugo, and reported damage was estimated to \$10 billion.

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can isolate communities quickly.

Haynes recommends that area residents put together an emergency kit that can come in handy during the hurricane season and year-round. The kit should include: important documents, sanitation supplies, medication, batteries, flashlights, a battery operated radio and anything else you might need to keep you as safe, comfortable and informed as possible.

Once a hurricane watch is issued, it's time to review your family disaster plan, check your kit for supplies and add food and water. Be certain your car's gas tank is full, make arrangements for your pets and be sure to anchor or stow small boats. You also should bring in outdoor lawn furniture and other objects that strong winds can turn into dangerous projectiles. Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows, and turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting. Trimming dead or weak branches from your trees might save your entire roof once a storm hits.



Lowcountry residents should put together an emergency kit to help them ride out a storm and its aftermath.

“Lastly,” said Haynes, “Look out for your elderly neighbors and help them get prepared.” 🐼







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THE SECRET IS OUT: MOUNT Pleasant is one of the country's most desired places to live. The salt marshes and creeks, rich history and culture, and friendly community appeal not only to people hoping to relocate but also those who already call Mount Pleasant home.

Many of these folks are looking for ways to improve and remodel their houses for the long haul. And, like their clients who are committed to the Lowcountry, Strock

BY CULLEN MURRAY-KEMP

Enterprises Design & Remodeling has focused on their home remodeling business in Charleston for years. A family affair, Strock Enterprises has roots that trace back to the early 1980s in Savannah, Georgia, when Tommy Strock launched his general contracting company.

"Those were the days," second generation owner Trey Strock recalled fondly. "My job was to move dirt, tote lumber and clean up for my dad."

Through the years, Strock Enterprises grew out of small-town Savannah and eventually relocated its offices to the Charleston area. Trey sought his independence from the family business, earning his business degree and taking a job in the trucking industry.

Strock liked his new career but missed the personal touch of working with people one-on-one.

"My eyes were opened to the fact that I could not treat people and conduct business the way that some people do in the big business world," he said.

So, in 1996, he left the trucking industry and returned to Strock Enterprises to use his knowledge and prowess in business development to help his family business grow.

"I would have never thought that nearly 20 years later I

would still be here," Strock commented.

One of the most attractive aspects about returning to his family's business is that Strock can combine what he learned during his years away with the life pillars his father instilled in him at a young age.

"My father has always emphasized that if you're going to take on a job, you must complete that job to the absolute best of your abilities," he remarked. "If people are going to pay us money that they earned from the sweat of their brow, we are going to give them a great product that is built to last."

It is these values that have enabled Strock Enterprises to successfully maintain long-term relationships with its clients. Hobcaw Creek resident Bridget McDonald had



Photo courtesy of Strock Enterprises.

Hobcaw Creek resident Bridget McDonald is a six-time return customer and also has become a friend of Trey's.

been troubled with builders and remodelers who had taken advantage of her for years, but that was before she was introduced to the Strocks eight years ago. During that time, McDonald has become a not only a six-time return customer but also a friend of Strock's.

"Trey always does an incredible job. He goes out of his way to do great work and cause me as little stress as

possible," said McDonald.

What is a typical remodeling job for Strock Enterprises? "Well, it's never really typical," Strock said. "We do everything from a few hours of maintenance such as replacing a screen door to million-dollar projects."

Regardless of the project size, Strock concentrates on developing a personal relationship that "lives beyond the project."

"We are just like you. The identity of our business is the people and the process," Strock said. 🐾

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IF YOUR HOUSE NEEDS UPDATING – OR A complete renovation, for that matter – a call to Jack Demscheck at Kitchens, Bath & Beyond in North Mount Pleasant would be in order. Demscheck and his staff of seven provide a complete range of services for homeowners trying to personalize, renovate or redo their homes.

“We are a turnkey remodeling company,” Demscheck said. “From design to the final punch list, you will be dealing with the same people. We design, coordinate, supply and install your job, all in-house.”

Demscheck, who’s been in the remodeling business for 32 years, noticed a gap in the Mount Pleasant renovations market and decided to fill it.

“I saw that there was a tremendous need for clients to be serviced by a one-stop shop so they would not have to deal with four or five companies to complete their projects,” he explained.

Kitchens, Bath & Beyond has been located at 2447 North Highway 17 for four years, but Demscheck’s knowledge of the complete renovation process extends much further back than that. His background includes two years of advanced education and five years working under a master plumber. Before moving to the Mount Pleasant area, he owned and operated a remodeling

company in New York for 18 years.

When he moved to Mount Pleasant from Long Island in 2005, he began working toward establishing a business similar to the one he’d left behind in New York. His company’s current location is especially convenient because it is just a few miles from both Towne Centre and Park West.

“We also love the synergy of sharing a building with Budget Blinds,” he added.

Today, Demscheck runs a successful business that helps clients with all types of projects.

“New clients should expect a warm and inviting

atmosphere with a friendly and educated staff to assist them with their every remodeling need,” he stated.

Above all, he said, Kitchens, Bath & Beyond wants to provide a high level of service to every customer who comes through the doors.

Though Kitchens, Bath & Beyond specializes in full kitchen and bath remodels, the company also supplies and installs flooring, tile, cabinets

and countertops for new and existing homes. Kitchens, Bath & Beyond also does a wide range of work for commercial builders. 🐾

For more information about Kitchens, Bath & Beyond, visit www.kitchensbathandbeyond.net or call (843) 881-9566.



Jack Demscheck of Kitchens, Bath & Beyond has been in the remodeling business for 32 years.

Photo by Robin Leigh Photography.



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EXEMPLIFYING THE OLD ADAGE that two heads are better than one, respected local interior designers Gigi Chapman and Becca Barton have joined forces to become a team. Operating out of deGuise Interiors, Chapman's showroom in the nationally acclaimed I'On neighborhood of Mount Pleasant, the newly minted duo offers comprehensive design/build services and project management.

BY JULIE SPRANKLES

Barton, an Augusta, Georgia, native who has enjoyed success in the local interior design arena for 10 years, will be bringing her strength in renovations to the table.

"We can do it all, basically. We want people to know we are here if they need design advice, from the ground up through the entire process," Chapman commented.

Chapman and Barton recently overhauled the spacious showroom at 152 Civitas St. in I'On to better serve those in the midst of a design project – or those who are planning one.

"We just finished the remodel," Barton elaborated. "We moved all of the fabrics and wall coverings to our newly expanded showroom to create an enormous work space where people can come in, sit down, flip through wallpaper books, look at samples, consult with us or whatever their need for their project may be."

DeGuise's design library – it merits mentioning – boasts a massive array of samples from fabrics to wallpaper samples to window treatment options and everything in between, and it's open to the public. Anyone is welcome to come in, sit down in the newly renovated work space and pore over the samples.

"We offer complete design services, so we find it imperative to carry a comprehensive resource library so

that we are able to work in-house and expedite most elements of the project," Chapman explained.

Accordingly, Chapman and Barton take pride in the fact that they offer nearly every line available, including several exclusive to them in the East Cooper area.

"We have over 300 wallpaper books and tens of thousands of fabric samples, including a wide selection of outdoor fabrics," said Chapman, "along with all applications of window treatments, from woven woods and wooden blinds to all fabric applications."

DeGuise Interiors has also been selected as the exclusive retailer in Mount Pleasant for Amy Howard at Home paints

– an extremely popular line which embodies Howard's "go-green" interior design mantra of "rescue, restore, redecorate!" The paint line includes the versatile One Step Paint, which offers rich, chalky-soft color in a convenient no-prep form.

"I went to Memphis, Tennessee, and learned how to use these paints from Amy Howard herself," Barton said. "We're going to be carrying these classes here twice a month, each taught by a certified designer."

Called Amy Howard Hands-On Workshops, the semimonthly classes beginning in June will help design enthusiasts master the techniques needed to turn a well-worn piece of furniture into a piece of art for the home.

With a newly remodeled showroom, a new partnership and innovative new workshops open to the public, it's clear deGuise Interiors is poised to cement its status in Mount Pleasant as the area's premier one-stop shop for interior design needs. 🏡

To collaborate with Barton and Chapman, call deGuise Interiors at (843) 971-1491. For more information, visit www.deguiseinteriors.com, or swing by 152 Civitas St. in I'On to check out the newly remodeled showroom.



Photo courtesy of deGuise Interiors

DeGuise Interiors is poised to cement its status as the Mount Pleasant area's premier one-stop shop for interior design needs.

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MOUNT PLEASANT BURSTS AT THE SEAMS



IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SEEING A LOT more smiling faces as you make your way around Mount Pleasant, you aren't simply imagining things. According to the Census Bureau, Mount Pleasant was not only the fastest-growing large city in South Carolina in 2013: It was gaining population at a rate surpassed by only eight other municipalities of comparable size in the entire country.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN
Mount Pleasant, which had fewer than 7,000 residents as recently as 1970, reached the 74,885 mark in 2013, based on Census Bureau estimates. That's an increase of 2,938 people in a year, a 4.1-percent jump. Among towns and cities with a population of at least 50,000, only San Marcos, Texas; Frisco,

Texas; South Jordan, Utah; Cedar Park, Texas; Lehi, Utah; Goodyear, Ariz.; Georgetown, Texas; and Gaithersburg, Md., grew at a faster rate than Mount Pleasant from 2012 to 2013.

Charleston, North Charleston and Mount Pleasant together gained more than 7,300 residents from 2012 to 2013, helping to make South Carolina the 11th fastest growing state in the nation. Much of that growth was close to the ocean, where Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head and their environs were the fastest-growing areas along the entire Atlantic coast.

With developments such as Carolina Park kicking into high gear on the north side of town and restrictions on residential building permits a thing of the past – at least for now – Mount Pleasant is expected to match or even

Photo courtesy of the town of Mount Pleasant.



Once a tiny village on the outskirts of Charleston, Mount Pleasant now offers its ever-growing population a wide array of dining, shopping and entertainment possibilities.

exceed its healthy growth of the past few years. What is it that attracts people to an area that less than half a century ago was no more than a tiny village on the outskirts of Charleston? It's proximity to the Holy City? The nearby beaches at the Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island? An array of shopping opportunities and dining possibilities? Maybe it's all of the above.

Wil Riley, chief executive officer of the Charleston Trident Association of Realtors, doesn't live in Mount Pleasant, but he has an opinion about why its

population continues to soar.

"The quality of life in Mount Pleasant is something that continues to be in high demand for people moving into the Lowcountry," Riley pointed out. "It offers a certain quality of life that people are looking for."

CTAR, which represents approximately 4,000 Realtors in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties, provides its members with education, technology, legislative advocacy and public relations, and it also publishes a monthly report on the

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housing market in the tri-county area. According to the June 15 edition, 213 of the 709 homes sold during the month of May in Charleston County were in Mount Pleasant, with a median price of \$356,950, well above the \$282,290 figure for the entire county.

“Mount Pleasant is close to the beach, it offers amenities with regard to live/work communities and it has a town center environment folks are looking for as they make a decision about where they’re going to live,” Riley added.

Carolina Park, located just off Highway 17 on the north side of Mount Pleasant, is on the verge of pushing the town’s population well above the 75,000 mark. Sitting on 1,700 acres in one of the fastest-growing areas of the fastest-growing municipality in the Palmetto State, the community eventually will include approximately 1,500 single-family homes and an additional 500 luxury apartments. Since November 2012, the developers have sold more than 200 homes.

So leave early if you want to be sure to make it to an important appointment on schedule, expect to spend a little more time standing in grocery store lines and get used to bigger crowds at your favorite eatery. People are moving to Mount Pleasant because of its weather, location and quality of life. Isn’t that why you moved to Mount Pleasant? 🏡

The 10 Fastest-Growing Large Cities in the United States – 50,000 population or more July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2013

San Marcos, Texas	8.0%
Frisco, Texas	6.5%
South Jordan, Utah	6.1%
Cedar Park, Texas	5.6%
Lehi, Utah	5.5%
Goodyear, Ariz.	4.8%
Georgetown, Texas	4.5%
Gaithersburg, Md.	4.4%
Mount Pleasant, S.C.	4.1%
Meridian, Idaho	4.0%

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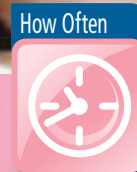
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Name a sporting activity, and you can be fairly certain it will be available at Dunes West Golf and River Club. The gated community off Route 41 in Mount Pleasant features a championship 18-hole Arthur Hills-designed golf course with five sets of tees; nine tennis courts – three clay and six hard surface – three pools, one

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

adult only and

one with a slide and zero entry for toddlers; a fitness and aerobics room; a playground; a boat ramp and optional boat dry storage; plus miles of sidewalks for walking, running and biking.

And there's more, including two clubhouses. The golf clubhouse was designed in the antebellum style to give you the feeling that you have somehow been transported back in time. Sitting near Wagner Creek, it has hosted more than 1,200 weddings and receptions since it opened in 1991.

One of the things that makes Dunes West Golf and River Club special is that the club's owners and managers are constantly upgrading the course and everything else about the club.

"We redid our sand traps and continue to add drainage where needed on the golf course, all of which helps to keep playability consistent and memorable," said the club's affable general manager, Rich Rankin. "We have added many new pieces of maintenance equipment to our operation, helping us to stay up with new technology and keeping the course in great shape

year-round."

Rankin said the club is also in the process of resurfacing two of its clay tennis courts and just completed a redo of one of its pools.

"Work continues throughout the club to make improvements where necessary. We also just added a new wedding ceremony site underneath three 200-year-old oaks overlooking Wagner Creek that has created some dramatic, beautiful photos," he said.

Driving into Dunes West Golf and River Club, past tall live oaks draped with Spanish moss, is indeed a bit like stepping back in time – and a little like walking up Magnolia Lane at Augusta National Golf Club.

The golf course at Dunes West plays anywhere from 6,859 yards down to 5,208 yards. Water comes into play on seven holes, and the fairways are fairly large and forgiving. The greens are mildly undulating and guarded by both sand and grass bunkers.

The club is offering a discount off its one-time initiation fee that brings the price down to \$999 for a Premier or Golf membership.

Said Rankin, "We have included a new feature, allowing children to stay on the family membership until the age of 30. They then have the option to

join the club on their own, and we will waive the initiation fee for them." 🏌️

For more information, visit www.GolfDunesWest.com. If you are interested in living in Dunes West, call John Wieland Homes at (843) 881-6060.



The golf course at Dunes West plays from 6,859 down to 5,208 yards, with water on seven holes, fairly large fairways and greens guarded by both sand and grass bunkers.

Photos courtesy of Dunes West Golf and River Club.

TOP MOST EXPENSIVE TEN HOMES SOLD June 2013-June 2014

Hamlin Plantation Mount Pleasant, S.C.

MLS LISTED PRICE	LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	DAYS ON MARKET	SELLING PRICE
1) \$1,195,000	Unrepresented non-license Unrepresented non-license	Alicia Mendicino Carolina One Real Estate	0	\$1,130,000
2) \$1,049,000	C. Scott Layton Beachside Real Estate	Roxanna Morey The Real Buyers Agent HBC	338	\$992,600
3) \$829,900	Hunter Reynolds Keller Williams Realty Charleston	Jeff Dail Trident Real Estate, LLC	99	\$799,000
4) \$749,900	Laurel W. Cockfield Wieland Realty, LLC	Laurel Cockfield Wieland Realty, LLC	122	\$771,402
5) \$775,000	Anton Roeger Keller Williams Realty Charleston	Jason Ogden The Cassina Group	69	\$763,550
6) \$775,000	Neil C. Barrineau Carolina One Real Estate	Dede Warren Carolina One Real Estate	171	\$752,500
7) \$789,000	Tim P. Walter Carolina One Real Estate	Bryan McEachern Prudential Carolina Sun Real Estate	35	\$740,000
8) \$725,000	Matt O'Neill Matt O'Neill Real Estate	Carol Varadi Carolina Elite Real Estate	76	\$725,000
9) \$699,000	Jan D. Snook Carolina One Real Estate	Dora McGillis Harbourtowne Real Estate	166	\$675,000
10) \$700,000	Stephanie Wilson-Hartzog Carolina One Real Estate	Jay Unger Carolina One Real Estate	69	\$670,000

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Brickyard Plantation Mount Pleasant, S.C.

MLS LISTED PRICE	LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	DAYS ON MARKET	SELLING PRICE
1) \$2,000,000	Matt O'Neill Matt O'Neill Real Estate	Paul LeClaire Keller Williams Realty Charleston	52	\$1,900,000
2) \$700,000	Marcia E. Wray Carolina One Real Estate	Kimberly Lease Century 21 Properties Plus	3	\$665,000
3) \$650,000	Jerod K. Coulter Carolina One Real Estate	Ed Hunnicutt Carolina One Real Estate	5	\$625,000
4) \$569,900	Ed Hunnicutt Carolina One Real Estate	Cheryl Paul Carolina One Real Estate	49	\$569,900
5) \$595,000	Marcia E. Wray Carolina One Real Estate	Marcia Wray Carolina One Real Estate	0	\$567,000
6) \$525,000	Jennifer J. Daly Carolina One Real Estate	Debbie Davis Dunes Properties of Charleston Inc.	14	\$509,000
7) \$492,000	Owen S. Welling AgentOwned Preferred Group	Neil Schneider AgentOwned Preferred Group	340	\$480,000
8) \$475,000	Rick Stein Coldwell Banker United	John Ford John Preston & Company, Inc.	17	\$465,500
9) \$475,000	Leslie K. Anderson William Means Real Estate, LLC	Don Dawson Carolina One Real Estate	98	\$463,000
10) \$450,000	Leesa Northrup Carolina One Real Estate	Leesa Northrup Carolina One Real Estate	18	\$445,000

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1) \$3,500,000	Everett Presson Carolina One Real Estate	Everett Presson Carolina One Real Estate	232	\$3,075,000
2) \$2,400,000	Kitti Mullins Wild Dunes Real Estate, LLC	Christine Donavan Carolina One Real Estate	590	\$2,200,000
3) \$2,495,000	Betty Poore Dunes Properties of Chas. Inc	Ron Davis Ron Davis Realtors LLC	201	\$2,000,000
4) \$2,199,00	Michael Naylor Keller Williams Realty Charleston	John Vance Premier Properties Charleston	520	\$1,950,000
5) \$1,995,000	Ashley A. Haynes East Islands Real Estate	David Nelson Wild Dunes Real Estate, LLC	115	\$1,910,000
6) \$2,297,000	Annette M. Whitmer Carolina One Real Estate	Ann Cortes Wild Dunes Real Estate, LLC	256	\$1,850,000
7) \$1,695,000	Doug Berlinsky Disher Hamrick & Myers	Jeanne Kane Exit Realty - The Tracey Group	393	\$1,675,000
8) \$1,750,000	Debbie B. Davis Dunes Properties of Charleston Inc	C. Kendrick Kendrick Keller Williams Realty Charleston	597	\$1,600,000
9) \$1,999,900	Ron Davis Ron Davis Realtors, LLC	Ashley Haynes East Islands Real Estate	143	\$1,575,000
10) \$1,695,000	Beau C. Hollingsworth Beachside Real Estate	Larry Pierson Carolina One Real Estate	15	\$1,540,327

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Real World

Lessons

STUDENTS LEARN AT THE WARRIOR STORE

Story by Brian Sherman.

The Warrior Store at Wando High School helps students hone the skills they need to excel in the real world. They learn about inventory and merchandising, and why customer service is a crucial aspect of a successful business. Most important, according to Wando marketing teacher and Distributive Education Clubs of America advisor Kirk Beilke, they are exposed to the lessons of responsibility – showing up on time, working

without supervision and simply doing the best job possible.

Though the store serves as a training ground for budding entrepreneurs and future icons of business and industry, it is also a source of income for a wide range of school and community organizations, as well as families and individuals who fall on hard times. Beilke, who has been responsible for running the store since the school opened in 2004, pointed out that its profits have provided financial aid for organizations such as the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, MUSC

The Warrior Store at Wando High School gives students the opportunity to learn about the business world, but it also provides financial help for a wide range of school and community endeavors. Wando teacher Kirk Beilke, center, runs the store, with help from dozens of students, including Kendell Pottieger and Annie Farley.

charities and Dreamweavers, which provides clothes, food, gift cards and other items to families in need.

“If it touches Wando and we can be of help, that’s what we do,” Beilke said. “Every dollar goes

back to the school and the community.”

The store grosses more than \$100,000 a year and returns around \$25,000 of that to the school and the Mount Pleasant community. It has provided financial support for several student organizations at Wando. For example, Beilke and his DECA students recently returned from Atlanta, where they competed with their peers from across the country. Students paid only around \$400 to attend; without help from the store’s profits, it would have cost them three times that much.

The store’s overhead is low because the students who work there are not paid for their efforts, nor is Beilke. Some students get academic credit for putting in a certain number of hours, while others get credit toward the cost of DECA trips.

The store, “a full-service retail organization,” according to Beilke, sells more than just school supplies. The shelves are lined with food items, including candy bars, chips, ice cream and cold drinks, as well as books, baseball caps and coffee cups. In fact, it’s one of the best places in Mount Pleasant to purchase Wando-related apparel, and parents are invited to drop by the school to shop for Wando T-shirts and other items. The store is open to Wando’s 3,400 or so students from 8 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. and during lunch, from noon to 2 p.m. Beilke suggested that parents do their shopping at other times of the day.

Beilke, who worked in the business world himself until he started teaching in 1999, pointed out that he will soon have to make a major change in some of his inventory. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Charleston County School District have decreed that schools must sell healthier snacks, including those made with whole grains and those that “have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product or a protein food.”

Beilke said most of the candy, chips and processed foods will have to go.

“Sales will probably go down initially, but they will eventually accept the new products,” he said. 🐼

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Diversity in Education

East Cooper Montessori Charter Leads the Way

WHEN I VISITED EAST Cooper Montessori Charter on a seemingly ordinary Thursday morning, I found myself treated to a rare performance – the upper elementary students were busily crafting their Rube Goldberg projects, learning how to perform “a simple operation – namely, turning on a hair dryer – as a result of a complex invention,” according to the school’s principal, Jody Swanigan.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

Swanigan led me amongst the busy classrooms where students were working in teams. Teachers moved about, offering guidance and support yet letting the students make their own way.

Thus the Montessori tradition is alive and well in Mount Pleasant, but it was not always this way. Years back, before East Cooper Montessori Charter became the well-known and respected institution it has been for these last 11 years, Swanigan worked hard to bring the benefits of a Montessori education into the limelight. These benefits include keeping students with a single instructor and classroom environment for three years instead of one; offering “multidisciplinary tasks” at each level to prepare students for the real world; offering students freedom to meet goals and objectives; and developing lessons that are tailored for smaller groups.

“Each teacher has a child for three years and becomes aware of that student’s learning patterns,” noted Swanigan, who added that this practice makes Montessori a viable option for the middle school years, allowing adolescents to grow and learn within the same classroom rather than constantly switching around.

Swanigan’s hearty belief in the Montessori method, coupled with her pride for the school, have propelled ECMC to new heights. Of course, the top-notch teachers have done their part as well.

“The educators here are some of the finest in the state,” remarked Swanigan. “They are state certified in their area,

as well as certified in Montessori theory. They are also Gifted and Talented endorsed, which means

our students are exposed to a gifted and talented curriculum 100 percent of the time.”

Though ECMC has made the most of its time on a campus nestled in the I’On community of Mount Pleasant, a more comprehensive facility for the thriving student population would include a media center, cafeteria and gym. Fortunately, a solution might be on the horizon, and Swanigan is excited about the opportunity to move ECMC into the former Whitesides Elementary building in the near future.

“We would be able to expand our seats there and enjoy new opportunities,” she emphasized. “Because of the success of the school and its reputation, the Charleston County School District is willing to consider this partnership.”

CCSD Superintendent Dr. Nancy McGinley spoke favorably about the proposal to move East Cooper Montessori into the Whitesides building.

“ECMC is a leader in the development of the public Montessori school movement,” said Dr. McGinley. “Principal Jody Swanigan has been an outstanding advocate for Montessori education. Without her help, we would have had a harder time expanding Montessori across the district.”

Swanigan agreed that the school’s performance has helped Montessori gain a favorable reputation within the district.

“It is the success of the school that has put us in the unique position to be able to help District 2 with overcrowding and meet the 2016 goals of having a Montessori option in each quadrant of the district,” she said. 🌱

For more information about East Cooper Montessori Charter School, visit eastcooper.ccsdschools.com.



Photo courtesy of East Cooper Montessori.

ECMC is a leader in the development of the public Montessori school movement.

A Special Relationship With Special Kids



The kids from Wando High School's Exceptional Education Department made this poster for Grimaldi's employee Tammi Smith.

ALAN WILLETT, OWNER of Grimaldi's Pizzeria in Mount Pleasant's Towne Centre, has partnered with the Wando High School Exceptional Education Department since he opened the restaurant two years ago. One of his employees in particular has cemented the special relationship between the local business and the special students who work there. According to Willett, Tammi Smith

BY JOE RHYNE

has an exceptional gift for helping students discover the activities that best fit their skills.

The students show up every Monday and Wednesday morning, prepared for their experience and edification. Smith greets them with snacks, doughnuts and a warm smile. They are so enamored with her that they invited her to serve as a representative and assistant for them during the Special Olympics. She proudly accepted.

When Willett was contacted by Wando's Exceptional Education Department, he invited the students to participate in the pizzeria's everyday activities. At a

previous restaurant, he had already worked with other Wando Exceptional Education students for five years, so he knew he was getting into a relationship that would be beneficial both for the students and his business.

What's the reasoning behind this relationship, you might ask? How can the restaurant assist in the development of these students? The answer to those questions is that these young men and women can benefit by gaining cognitive and even professional development from spending just a few hours at a time in the business world. For example, they can learn about the inner workings of the food and beverage industry and the importance of efficiency, order and cleanliness.

I asked Smith about the day-to-day duties the Wando students are handling. She listed several: arranging the tableware, rolling the silverware in napkins, pouring oil and vinegar, folding pizza boxes and filling salt and pepper shakers.

"These tasks teach everyday skills and really help focus on coordination," Smith said.

One student, for instance, struggled with the salt and pepper shakers. He would resort to using small, paper funnels to help prevent any spilling. But visit after visit, he

improved. His speed and dexterity increased as he retained muscle memory and developed confidence, a lesson that would last him a lifetime.

Preparing Exceptional Education students for life outside of the classroom affects more than just the pupils. Willett mentioned that the students give back to him as well.

"As soon as I come in and they're here, it brightens my day and makes me forget about all of life's troubles," he commented.

Another goal that both Grimaldi's and Wando strive to reach is making the students more employable. Some of them struggle more than others and require different levels of attention. Willett elaborated on the success story of two students, a young gentleman and a young lady hired by Grimaldi's after they graduated from high school.

The relationship between Grimaldi's and Wando has been a success for all involved. The local pizzeria has earned the good will it has nurtured in the Mount Pleasant community, while the students are receiving an enhanced education. They're preparing themselves to survive in the business world.

Smith said it best: "Our goal is to help teach them life skills and prepare them for life after school." 🍷

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The Tide is High but I'm Holding On

Editor's Note: We asked Walt the Worm, an unlikely fan of Mount Pleasant Magazine, to write an essay that would complement the July/August fishing features. He was more than happy to take our bait.



DEPENDING ON WHAT KIND OF fishing it is, a fisherman has choices when it comes to baiting his line. Lowly worms like myself are not always the first choice in the Lowcountry – they have crickets, shrimp and other hot-shot creatures around these parts – but we're a solid one. The downside of this fact is that I've lost many a relative to the bodies of water in Charleston. All of them, from backyard ponds on Daniel Island to Mother Ocean herself, have swallowed an uncle or cousin of mine. I say a quick prayer for their wormy souls and do what I know they'd want me to do – I keep on trucking. Or, should I say, slithering?

BY WALT THE WORM

backyard ponds on Daniel Island to Mother Ocean herself, have

swallowed an uncle or cousin of mine. I say a quick prayer for their wormy souls and do what I know they'd want me to do – I keep on trucking. Or, should I say, slithering?

I'm Walt. I'm a European Nightcrawler worm, and my relatives and I are known for being great bait on fishhooks. But I haven't let that stop me from living an energetic life, free of anxiety and paranoia! Everyone has a cross to bear, and the fact that a fisherman might snatch me up and pierce me all the way through with a metal hook just happens to be mine.

Summer days around Mount Pleasant, where I live, are mainly a hide-and-seek game for me. What I mean is, I have to hide from the zealous fishermen (and fisherwomen – though girls are usually not fans of picking me up) so I don't get eaten by some hapless, hungry fishy. It's quite easy, most of the time, picking a place to hang out until the danger has passed. But lately, I have to admit, it has gotten harder. You see, Mount Pleasant is growing, and with that growth comes more and more buildings, parking garages and hotels. In other words, there are far fewer thickets of cool, dense leaves and dirt for me to curl up in and while away the afternoon.

Now don't mistake this comment for a complaint. I'm glad Mount Pleasant is getting the recognition it deserves. I've personally known a lot longer than these humans how great a place it is – my whole family has lived here for centuries, pretty much since it was nothing more than a

prehistoric mound of salty earth. I don't take my knowledge of life for granted. In fact, I'm currently teaching my youngest niece, Willa the Worm, how to protect herself from people.

Being as small as she is, Willa is having an easier time slithering into small spaces. Still, she needs my coaching, so we've scheduled lessons for Tuesdays and Thursdays. For two afternoons a week, I teach Willa how to move quickly on sidewalks so she doesn't get her end caught on the paw of a fisherman's Labrador and how to seek shelter quickly when she hears voices and footsteps that are decidedly human. She's a quick learner.

"Uncle Walt?" she asks me one balmy Tuesday. "If a worm is lucky enough to survive to old age, how long do we live?"

"Well, Willa, it's hard to say," I tell her. "Most of our relatives have always perished in unfortunate ways. But if you heed my advice and make sure you're always safe, you'll live a lot longer."

"Like, forever?" inquires Willa, her eyes – or what passes for a worm's eyes – wide.

I smile at her enthusiasm and assure her that no worm necessarily wants to live forever – but, still, if it's a personal goal of hers, I'll help her achieve it.

Moments after the conversation, two fingers belonging to a young boy rustle through the grass, right at our throats. I hiss at Willa to be quiet and play dead.

"Dad!" the boy shouts. "I think I found a worm!"

"Leave it alone," a man's voice bellows. "I told you, we're using artificial bait this time."

Whew.

Once the coast is clear, Willa and I emerge from the grass and slither our way to the family wormhole. Some of the best stories of a worm's life are tales that never have the chance to be told, but, when we're lucky enough live through them, we share them.

What else did you suppose worms discuss over dinner? 🪱

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THE SCIENCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ENROLLING YOUR CHILD INTO an early childhood education program is a decision that many parents take seriously – and for good reason.

Many studies, including the HighScope Perry Preschool Study, found that individuals who were enrolled in a quality preschool program could ultimately earn up to \$2,000 more per month than those who were not. Additionally, those who were in preschool programs were more likely to graduate from high school, own homes and

to have longer marriages.

The South Carolina Department of Education reported in 2013 that the number of high school dropouts is declining. In fiscal year 2011-2012, the most recent data available, 5,232 South Carolina high school students dropped out, 670 fewer than in the prior year and 2,800 fewer than in 2007-2008.

Does this information mean that parents, as well as state and local governments, now recognize the importance of early childhood education? That's certainly a possibility, because, in recent years, South Carolina has seen a rise in early childhood development centers. Among them

BY STACY E. DOMINGO



South Carolina has seen a rise in early childhood development centers in recent years.

is Sundrops Montessori.

“I originally started Sundrops in 1998 on the Isle of Palms,” said Shannon Smith, director of education, partner and founder. “We have expanded to three locations around the Mount Pleasant area, and we are almost always full.”

Families who want to place young children in a private development center should begin looking early. Smith recommended a year in ad-

vance for infants and at least a couple of months for toddlers.

“It depends on the type of program you are looking for, but six months allows parents enough time to tour and revisit several facilities before making a commitment and securing a spot,” she said.

Private Christian centers offer early care and educational services for children as well.

“We believe early childhood learning begins with discovery in a compassionate, Christian environment,” said Katie Carter, director of Children’s Discovery Center in Mount Pleasant. “Our program involves children in a joyful, absorbing and growing awareness of their world.”

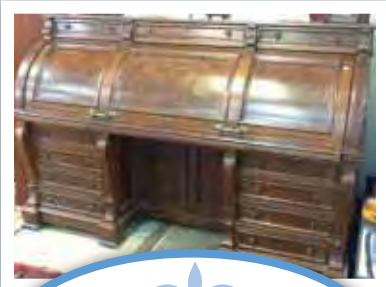
The publicly funded – through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Early Head Start program is for kids up to the age of 3, at which time they switch to the Head Start program. Both programs are available to low-income families through the Charleston and Berkeley County school districts.

All of these programs, both private and public, target activities to help children develop. Each day, time is allotted for gross motor skills such as running, climbing and throwing to help students build muscles and achieve coordination. In turn, this leads to gripping a pencil to form letters and numbers. Fun activities teach basic math skills and reading readiness.

Further, preschool programs help children get accustomed to a structured environment with time constraints, authority figures and peer interactions that involve taking turns and sharing. All of this helps produce an emotionally sound child who can handle the pressures of kindergarten.

Preschool programs help children develop, but all education starts at home. From the moment a child is born, he or she learns from each inter-

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action, whether with a parent, grandparent, sibling or even the family pet.

“Science is learning more every day about the importance of brain development during the crucial preschool years,” explained Carter, a longtime educator and mother. “The neu-

rons in the brain which are there at birth are going through a pruning process, and many of those neurons will become hard-wired as part of the child’s brain. The early stimulation that is provided in high-quality preschools will help in that pruning process, thus increasing the brain’s capacity to learn. When proper stimulation does not occur, neurons



Early childhood learning begins with a compassionate environment such as the Children’s Discovery Center in Mount Pleasant.

can be lost.”

Smith offered advice when choosing a provider for early childhood education.

“One of the most important aspects is the connection a parent makes with a teacher or administrator. Look at the longevity of the staff and the company’s commitment to professional

growth. All of this leads to happy children,” she said. 🍷

We encourage parents to make a list of their own important questions and to seek answers from contributors to Mount Pleasant Magazine: Time to Grow Montessori, Sundrops Montessori and Children’s Discovery Center.



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Preschool education is sometimes competitive in East Cooper, but if your child is on a waiting list, that doesn't mean that your busy day has to be on pause because she's not yet enrolled. Here are a few Mothers Morning Out options in the area, ready to keep your young child occupied long enough for you to run those errands.

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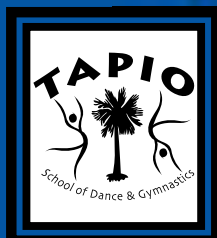
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Following his show at the Charleston Music Hall, Shepard Fairey, left, took the time to meet with Anthony and Bill Macchio.

From One Artist to Another

MY SON'S EXPERIENCE WITH SHEPARD FAIREY

*Story by Bill Macchio, Publisher.
Photos by Jon Furlong.*

IT WAS A NIGHT OF CONVERSATION between Mark Sloan of the Halsey Institute Of Contemporary Art and home-grown, nationally known artist Shepard Fairey at the Charleston Music Hall. I'm sure it was a special night for the sold out crowd that came to listen to Fairey talk about his roots, his art and how he hopes his art will encourage people to think a little differently.

Few people were more interested in hearing what Fairey had to say than my youngest son, Anthony. It started back in February, when Anthony, my wife, Kim, and I attended the Iron and Wine concert. Upcoming Charleston Music Hall events were being shown on the screen, including an evening with Shepard Fairey. Even though it was months away, knowing how much Anthony likes Fairey, Kim jumped into mom mode and, within a few days, had our tickets. Although I wasn't as excited as Anthony, I was curious and wanted to know more about the artist who inspired my son.

Every father wants to be a hero to his children, and I guess I'm no different. So the night I learned Shepard Fairey was going to be at the Charleston Music Hall, I thought about reaching out to him to see if there was any way he would spend a few minutes with Anthony. I knew it was a long shot, but I also knew that it would mean so much to Anthony.

I did not know Shepard Fairey, but I did know that his time was precious. Think about it: Day after day, he'd been spending time in the hot sun doing street art, in some cases hundreds of feet in the air. And he also was preparing for a show at the Halsey Institute. With all this going on, why would he want to spend his time meeting Anthony?

After discussing the idea with a couple of people at the magazine, I thought the best thing to do was to reach out to Fairey's public relations manager, Victoria Yarnish, in Los Angeles. She knew Cullen Murray-Kemp from working with him on a recent article we published. I wrote an email to Victoria and sent it to Cullen, asking him to broach the idea. In my introduction, I mentioned that the artist's father, Dr. Strait Fairey, had been Anthony's pediatrician and was there the day Anthony was born. I mentioned how much Anthony admired Fairey's work. I spoke about Anthony's bicycle accident in San Francisco in February of 2013, which resulted in a brain injury.

Anthony has some of Fairey's art hanging in his bedroom, so we took a picture of him in front of the artwork so Victoria could see she was communicating with a sincere person who truly appreciated Fairey's art.



Shepard Fairey is among the world's best-known street artists.

I didn't know if I should even mention my efforts to Anthony, but when I get excited about something, my excitement seeps out. Although I had no idea if Fairey would agree to meet Anthony, I shared the news with my son. I had set myself up. I could easily go from hero to zero. I had to somehow make this meeting work.

I couldn't believe that within a few days, I was exchanging emails with Victoria. She asked if Anthony was going to attend any of Fairey's events. I told her we had purchased tickets back in February for the Charleston Music Hall in May, and I was ecstatic when she informed me that we would have the opportunity to meet with Fairey at this event.

Before we headed to the Charleston Music Hall the night of Shepard Fairey's conversation with Mark Sloan, I printed out Victoria's email explaining how she would inform Fairey's team that Anthony would be attending the show. Earlier in the day, I called the hall to see if back stage was wheelchair friendly. Charles Carmody, who manages the building, answered the phone and told me there was only one step leading back stage from the outside of the building. He assured me it shouldn't be a challenge.

When we arrived, Charles escorted us to our seats. I didn't know if Fairey's people had said anything, but I wanted to make sure Charles knew. I was pleasantly surprised when he informed me he was aware of the time we were supposed to spend with Fairey and that we would be able to get together after the show. At this point it was obvious that Victoria had done a good job communicating with the rest of Fairey's team.

Knowing Anthony was actually going to meet Fairey reduced my anxiety, and, when Mark Sloan took the stage, my mind was freed up to take it all in. Although I had heard Anthony talk about Shepard Fairey, and I had seen his art, I really didn't know the man behind the art. This evening gave me an opportunity to really get to know this artist my son seems to idolize.

Possibly one of the world's best known street artists,

Shepard Fairey's message is thought-provoking and bold. No matter what your opinion of his art, he has a clear message that could transform the world as we know it today if we would practice the fundamental core of that message. Fairey is definitely impacting the world we live in, one painting at a time. As I listened, I began to realize his art is only the beginning.

As the show headed to a close, Fairey took questions from the audience. His answers espoused a message of people finding their voice so society will be stronger, creating images that ignite people's thoughts about the world around them and achieving individual goals by stepping out of your comfort zone. As the closing approached, my thoughts started drifting back to Anthony and the famous artist he was meeting for the first time.

As the hall begin to empty, our anticipation heightened as I pushed Anthony's wheelchair up the ramp. Kim and I were so excited for him. As we waited back stage, we could see the twinkle in his eyes become brighter and the smile on his face broaden. We were standing around chatting, trying to get rid of our nervous energy. Then Shepard Fairey appeared. Right away, Anthony shook his hand



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Fairey appeared. Right away, Anthony shook his hand and Fairey started asking him questions. Where did your bicycle accident happen? Where did you go to school? Are you still designing? It was so rewarding seeing my son talking to a person he looks up to and seeing that person caring enough not only to spend some time with him but to actually try to get to know him.

As I stood there basking in Anthony's moment, Dr. Strait and Charlotte Fairey walked up. The interaction between Anthony and Dr. Fairey was instant, even though they had not seen each other in years. As the conversation between Dr. Fairey's son and my son progressed, I took out a black and white drawing on a white sticker of Anthony and showed it to Fairey. I told him that shortly after Anthony's accident, I wanted to print something we could give to people or stick in strategic locations. I knew Anthony loved Fairey's work, so the inspiration for the sticker came from "Andre The Giant." I told him I knew he wanted people to think and be inspired when they view his art and how I thought this would be something that would help Anthony through his recovery. As I told our story, I could see by the look in Fairey's eyes that it clearly touched him. Listening to his words throughout the evening, you



During their back-stage conversation, Fairey autographed Anthony's shirt.

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could tell he cares passionately about his art and works hard to make sure it touches people in such a way that they might think differently.

It was also obvious that Shepard Fairey cares deeply about his own children. When Anthony asked about them, Fairey's voice raised slightly, and you could see he was getting excited as he told us how his 8-year-old daughter told him she wanted a skateboard rather than a bike.

As gracious and welcoming as Fairey and his staff were, I was sure Dr. Strait and Charlotte Fairey were looking forward to spending some time with their son. As Anthony, Kim and I were leaving, we thanked everyone for their hospitality. As we headed down the ramp, we knew we had made memories we would not forget and met someone who was not only special to Anthony, his family and friends but also to the thousands of people who admire his art and the message behind it.

We fathers are fortunate to become heroes of all different kinds to our children, and I never fathomed that I would be the one to introduce Anthony to one of his inspirations in the art world. I realized that evening that, in a way, Shepard Fairey had become my hero as well – thanks to his compassion and willingness to connect with Anthony. 🐾

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BY STACY E. DOMINGO

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Remember those plastic tabs placed throughout your mouth that held the X-ray in place, for example? Your instructions were, "Bite down hard and don't move." If you didn't remain completely still, you had to do it all over again.

Needless to say, those tabs, professionally known as bitewing X-rays, were extremely uncomfortable and pinched your gums and the inside of your cheeks.

These X-rays were important because they could show the upper and lower back teeth and how the teeth touch each other in a single view. They could show your dentist decay between the teeth and indicate how well the upper



and lower teeth lined up.

Those prickly tabs no longer have to be a part of your routine at the dentist's office. In some offices, a pen-sized camera now is held against your gums, developing images based on laser pulses. The image is then produced on the monitor directly in front of you.

The Canary System from Quantum Dental Technologies has been described as a "wow product" by dental professionals. It detects tooth decay in its early stages and is pain free and non-invasive because it uses a low-power, pulsating laser light to scan teeth.

The Canary System provides important information about the tooth up to a depth of 5 millimeters below the surface and as tiny as 50 microns in size – 20 times smaller than a millimeter.

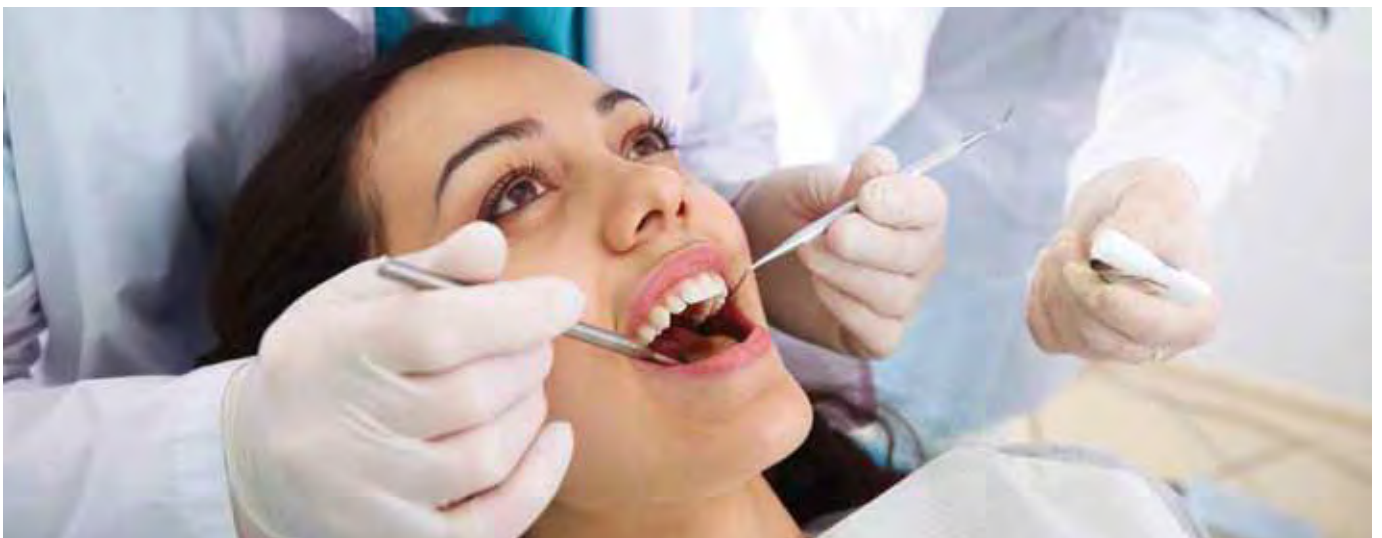
Going from futuristic equipment to a simple wipe may seem extreme, but dental technology can come in many forms, especially when it packs a potential lifesaving punch. SDS Southland has created Steriplex SD, a wipe that can kill more than 99.9999 percent of

Clostridium difficile spores in five minutes. It contains no bleach, ammonia, phenol, phosphates or aldehydes. It is being used widely by dental practices and hospitals because it quickly and safely disinfects surfaces against various bacteria and viruses.

Another popular item is the Elevance Delivery System, distributed by Midmark. A delivery system is a machine that controls components such as air and water.

The clinician-inspired Elevance Delivery System manages all components from one location. The digital controls eliminate the need to adjust settings multiple times during the work day and may potentially reduce a patient's time in the chair.

Advancements in dental technology have resulted in more effective treatment and long-term benefits for patients. So, the next time someone asks if you've been to the dentist lately and your answer is a sheepish "no," go ahead and book an appointment with one of our talented professionals in East Cooper. And show those pearly whites for Smile Week this year. 🦷





DR. TIM ASSEY
DR. JOHN ASSEY

Assey Dental Associates

1041 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.

(843) 884-6004

www.asseydental.com

Assey Dental Associates is a model for the adage: “A person should always choose an old doctor and a young dentist.” Father and son dentists, Drs. Tim and John Assey, are double the experience in their profession. Dr. Tim has been in practice for 30-plus years and has the wisdom and expertise that can only be obtained over time. Dr. John, his son, graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina Dental School several years ago, eager to join his father in his dental practice and share his cutting-edge knowledge.

Father and son share a unique commitment to their patients. They both view patients as members of their extended family and provide quality care and personal service.

“We strive to create a warm, inviting environment – almost like walking into a home,” explained Dr. Tim. “We don’t do things ‘to’ patients but ‘with’ them.”

According to Dr. Tim, the initial meeting with patients involves a lot of listening because their primary goal is to develop a plan of care for a lifetime of dental health, based on the wishes of the patient. Where to start and how to proceed is a collaborative decision, primarily controlled by the patient.

The work performed at Assey Dental Associates is satisfy-

ing to both the dentists and their patients since it results in helping people love their smiles. Cosmetic work, in particular, involves how a person perceives his or her appearance. Restorative work, such as crowns and implants, is done with the intent of helping people keep their teeth for a lifetime.

Drs. Tim and John both agree that there are many good dentists in Mount Pleasant, and choosing a dentist is difficult. However, individualizing care within the patient’s time frame and budget to determine how much is done and how quickly it gets done seems to be an aspect of their practice that is greatly appreciated by their patients.

Another important facet of the practice is service to the community. For example, after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Dr. Tim co-founded the East Cooper Community Dental Clinic, which offered free dental work to those who couldn’t afford it. The clinic still thrives today, and Dr. John regularly volunteers there.

“Being able to be part of something your dad started 20 years ago is so rewarding. There’s nothing better than serving those patients who are in pain but can’t afford dental care,” said Dr. John.

Dr. Tim continues to give back as a volunteer faculty member at the MUSC Dental School and was recently appointed to the board of directors of the MUSC Children’s Hospital.

The mission of Assey Dental Associates is based on the saying that Dr. Tim frequently repeats to his son and staff: “People will forget what you did. People will forget what you said. But people will always remember how you made them feel. We are here to serve people and to help them feel comfortable and better by visiting us. That’s what we do – We serve!” 🦷



DR. AMANDA SEAY

Park West Dentistry

3404 Salterbeck St., Suite 202

(843) 375-0395

www.amandaseay.net

patients solutions. Through educating patients, whether it's addressing acidity, new dental products or other health factors, patients are able to work with the doctor to take control over their oral health. According to Dr. Seay, "an empowered patient makes good decisions."

"Each treatment plan is based on an individual risk assessment, and any contributing risk factors are taken into account," Dr. Seay explained. "Someone who displays signs for high risk of decay has a much different treatment plan than someone who's at low risk."

Speaking of risks, Dr. Seay has been known to spot the signs of cancer through head and neck exams, as well as using the Velscope oral cancer screening tool. At Park West Dentistry, this screening is a standard part of the practice's high quality of care. It's only in recent years that oral cancer screenings have become routine at dental visits, but Dr. Seay has been doing them for several years. According to her, these screenings are important to obtain the total picture of a patient's health, all relating back to the thorough comprehensive exam philosophy.

Recently, Dr. Seay achieved Accredited Member status in the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. This rigorous process tests the doctors through five clinical case tests. This status assures patients that Dr. Seay is staying on top of industry trends, skills and judgment, all for the benefit of her patients. Dr. Seay feels that dentistry is a combination of science and art, often blending her own personal interests such as sculpting and photography into her work.

"A lot of talented dentists are musicians, painters and other kinds of artists," she said.

Another way Dr. Seay stays on top of industry trends and technology is by traveling, teaching and learning from the Kois Center in Seattle, Wash., throughout the course of a year. This gives Dr. Seay the chance to teach and collaborate with her colleagues. ❏

When Dr. Amanda Seay at Park West Dentistry looks at a treatment plan for a patient, it is more than just reacting to the patient's current oral health. She envisions optimal conditions and evaluates based on risk factors through a comprehensive exam.

"Dentistry as a whole has been a reactive model," Dr. Seay explained. "It's more than just finding and treating a cavity. That's reacting to the problem."

Dr. Seay and the Park West Dentistry team also focus on preventing and tackling oral health issues early on – taking a proactive approach.

Comprehensive exams evaluate and treat current decay but also focus heavily on Dr. Seay's "risk assessment." By evaluating what risks a patient is facing, she has an idea of what their oral health will look like in the future. An example of this would be "soft teeth." Instead of accepting that patients are at high risk for decay, Dr. Seay offers the



Accredited.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

GOOD QUESTION.

IT MEANS DR. SEAY HAS EARNED THE PRESTIGIOUS HONOR OF BECOMING AN ACCREDITED MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF COSMETIC DENTISTRY, WHICH IS RECOGNIZED AS THE TOP COSMETIC DENTAL DESIGNATION IN THE WORLD. IN FACT, SHE IS ONLY 1 OF 359 DENTISTS IN THE WORLD THAT HAVE ATTAINED THIS AWARD. IT MEANS MASTERY OF TRAINING, SKILL AND JUDGEMENT, ALL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PATIENT. BECOMING ACCREDITED IS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PROCESS THAT REQUIRES ARTISTIC AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE. WELL DONE, DR. SEAY.

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remember their chores? Based on these answers, we help the parents choose,” he said. “I love traditional braces, but, for the patients who want Invisalign, we are there for them when others may have said no.”

The practice also uses a 3-D Invisalign scanner when making impressions of patients’ mouths. This scanner eliminates the need for traditional trays and provides a more accurate model of the teeth and gums.

“Impressions are universally hated,” Dr. Garrett acknowledged. “The 3-D scanner makes the process much easier.”

The scanner is so effective that his North Charleston patients are often asked to come to the Mount Pleasant office – where the scanner is located – in order to have their impressions taken.

Garrett Smiles Orthodontics wants everyone who comes to the office to feel at ease.

“We aim to give the best customer service that we can deliver,” Dr. Garrett said.

His dog, Professor, can be found by the front desk, greeting all who stop by. The office also offers a rewards program called Beagle Bucks, which allows patients to accumulate points by brushing their teeth, taking care of their braces and completing their regularly scheduled dental visits. The points can be redeemed for gift cards to stores such as iTunes, TCBY or Game Stop.

Though he grew up in Virginia and earned his bachelor’s at the University of Virginia, Dr. Garrett now calls Charleston home. He was first introduced to the area when he moved here after college and became a ghost tour guide downtown.

“That was a fun job,” he said, “but I knew I wanted to do something else long-term.”

That something else was dental school at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and an orthodontics residency at St. Louis University. He returned to Charleston after his residency and his two-year-old practice is thriving. 🐾

At Garrett Smiles Orthodontics, creating the perfect smile for each patient is an art form.

“There’s an art to orthodontics that most people don’t realize; that’s the part I get excited about,” Dr. Justin Garrett said. “It’s not just about aligning the teeth. It’s about getting the smile in harmony with the rest of the face. I see a lot of patients who don’t show their upper teeth when they smile, and most people – especially if they already have straight teeth – have no idea how much more attractive their smiles could be. My favorite thing to hear a patient or parent say is, ‘Wow, I didn’t even know you could change that.’”

With an office in Mount Pleasant and another in North Charleston, Garrett Smiles Orthodontics works with more Invisalign patients than any other orthodontic practice in Charleston.

“We can finish a wider range of cases to a higher quality result than what used to be possible,” Dr. Garrett stated.

While Invisalign (clear plastic trays that work like braces) remain a popular choice for adults and older teens, Dr. Garrett’s staff considers each patient’s personality before committing to traditional metal braces or Invisalign.

“We ask the teens and the parents about the child’s habits. Do they leave their backpacks at school? Do they

Your Favorite Dentist, Just a Click Away

Dentist.MountPleasantMagazine.com
CharlestonPhysicians.com

PERHAPS YOU HAVE JUST MOVED TO a new neighborhood. Perhaps your last experience at the dentist left a funny taste in your mouth, both literally and figuratively. Whatever

the reason might be, you are on the hunt for a new oral health professional in your life, be it a dentist, orthodontist or even an oral surgeon.

Where do you turn?

You've heard, of course, that one should ask the people next door or the parents of your kids' classmates. But you haven't met them yet, and your back tooth is screaming in pain. So, like any other member of the 21st century, you sit down with your computer to see if you can find a dentist in the area. But where will you start?

CharlestonPhysicians.com and Dentist.MountPleasantMagazine.com are two excellent places to learn about health professionals in the area. Both are members of the South Carolina Medical Network, a group of helpful websites that are equipped with the information you will need to make an educated decision for your own health or your family's health.

On CharlestonPhysicians.com, you will find almost all of your questions about health care in the Lowcountry

answered, from local hospitals to doctors and dentists. Each person or facility listed is linked back to the original site, and most are accompanied by brief, informative articles to help readers understand the benefits and



ideology of the practice. In other words, you'll find articles about the Charleston area's main hospitals, plus profiles on doctors and dentists who do more than fix what's wrong – they're engaged in their communities and pursuing excellence.

Plus, if you're on the go, CharlestonPhysicians.com is mobile friendly, so you'll have no problem accessing the site from a tablet or smartphone while you're out enjoying what Mount Pleasant and Charleston have to offer.

Meanwhile, fans of Mount Pleasant Magazine

will love accessing Dentist.MountPleasantMagazine.com for helpful information on oral health. Readily available from the magazine's main site,

MountPleasantMagazine.com, the Mount Pleasant Oral Health page has convenient category lists in topics such as general dentistry, periodontics,

orthodontics and more. It's simple to find what you're looking for and read more about each doctor. You'll get the same quality of content that you enjoy while reading Mount Pleasant Magazine.



The South Carolina Medical Network covers Charleston and Mount Pleasant in addition to other areas of South Carolina, from Hilton Head to Myrtle Beach and more. For information about joining the South Carolina Medical Network, email Publisher@mountpleasantmagazine.com or call (843) 881-1481, ext. 21.

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DR. CRAIG RHYNE

Rhyne Oral and Facial Surgery

1203 Two Island Court

(843) 849-5188

A mainstay in oral health in East Cooper and beyond, Rhyne Oral and Facial Surgery specializes in everything from jaw and facial surgery to implants and extractions. Much of the practice's business involves wisdom teeth, which are a challenge for about 95 percent of the population in the United States. In much of the rest of the world, however, they aren't a problem.

"One theory is that we don't need them in a country where we care for our teeth," Dr. Rhyne said. "None of our teeth are lost, so there isn't room for wisdom teeth."

The cornerstone of Dr. Rhyne's practice is serving his patients – and his staff – to the best of his ability, in part by staying current with trends in the industry. For example, Dr. Rhyne and his staff recently decided to go paperless, which will be advantageous in the long run both for his team and patients he serves.

"It will make what we do more efficient," he said. "It'll

be better for communication and referrals – it will make things much easier."

Dr. Rhyne has a full calendar these days. In addition to managing Rhyne Oral and Facial Surgery, he serves the community in various ways. Most recently, he was sworn in as a deputy law enforcement officer game warden for the Department of Natural Resources.

"It's something I plan to do for a while," Dr. Rhyne said. "I patrol the area and make sure our natural resources are protected."

Speaking of protecting resources, Dr. Rhyne does a superb job of keeping his patients' teeth intact at Rhyne Oral and Facial Surgery, which is now a solo practice. He stays busy perfecting his craft, improving the office as a whole and getting to know his patients on a one-on-one basis. After all, service comes naturally to Dr. Rhyne.

Dr. Rhyne's efforts extend well beyond East Cooper. This summer, he's taking a mission trip to Belize to help run a dental clinic and build an orphanage. He has participated in the trip, through his church, Hibben United Methodist, and offered his professional assistance for three years.

"We help people who have poor access to health and dental care," he remarked. "We help both children and adults."

Dr. Rhyne is particularly looking forward to taking along his 12-year-old son, Harding, who will be going on his first mission trip. He wants his son to see "a different way of life" and interact with and understand people in other parts of the world.

"My wife and I are raising our children to feel that serving is part of being a good citizen," he remarked. 🙏

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From state-of-the-art technology to flexible office hours and all the comfort a patient could ask for, Pleasant Family Dentistry is all about making a trip to the dentist as pleasant an experience as possible.

In the reception room, patients find a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere where they can read, use the Wi-Fi or watch a TV that's usually on the PFD channel featuring dental trivia and information about the practice's three doctors – Rick Jackowski, Greg Johnson and Rob Carimi.

"In addition to providing comfort, we are also committed to building relationships based on trust and confidence in the dental services we provide," said office manager Heather Rourk. "One way we achieve this is through patient education."

A good example of this effort is the use of high-tech cameras and TV screens in the exam rooms that allow patients to see their teeth like never before – in high-definition.

"A tool called an intraoral camera allows the patient to see on the TV screen what we are looking at," Rourk explained. "We can actually show them why we are recommending a particular treatment plan."

The cameras are an integral aspect of this progressive dental practice, but the center of PFD's technological uni-

verse is CEREC – Chair-side Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics. This computer-aided process can create an inlay, an onlay or a full crown in 15 to 20 minutes. The whole process takes about two hours, which means there's no need for a return visit to replace a temporary crown.

"The definition of a crown has changed in our office since we started using CEREC," said Dr. Johnson, a graduate of the Medical College of Virginia. "The 3D technology allows us to digitally create a precise impression and preserve as much of the original tooth structure as possible."

PFD offers an array of other services, from root canals to routine cleanings. Patients coming to the office for the first time can expect to see Dr. Carimi – a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry.

Dr. Carimi and his team see an average of more than 60 new patients a month. He said the practice's flexible office hours are one reason he stays so busy. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We value our patient's time and want to accommodate every patient's schedule," Dr. Carimi said. "Patients appreciate the convenience."

Another fundamental aspect of the practice is a cohesive team that works together to provide exceptional patient service and skilled dentistry, said Dr. Jackowski, who also is a Medical College of Virginia graduate.

"Our team is very caring and works hard to make the patient experience in our office a positive and fun one," he said. "We constantly train with consultants to keep the patient experience consistent and focus on providing services patients may not find in other offices, such as one-visit CEREC restorations." 🦷

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Many people think that brushing and flossing is all they need to do to keep a picture perfect smile. That's a good start, of course, but most of us are not as thorough as we think we are – and the result could be gum disease.

Gum disease, also known as periodontal disease, is an inflammatory condition which, left untreated, can cause serious problems. In advanced stages, periodontal disease leads to bone loss as well as tooth loss. Research has shown oral infections such as periodontal disease increase the risk of developing cardiovascular disease, stroke, uncontrolled diabetes, pre-term births and respiratory disease.

How do you know if you have gum disease? Some warning signs include gums that are red, swollen, tender or bleeding, persistent bad breath, receding gums and loose or separating teeth. The good news is that there are treatments available for every level and stage of periodontal disease.

How can you prevent gum disease? Start by limiting the use of tobacco products and eat a healthy diet that includes plenty of fruits and vegetables. Brush and floss your teeth

at least twice a day and use an antiseptic oral rinse such as Listerine®. Be aware that certain medications can cause dry mouth, which will exacerbate gum issues. And due to its inflammatory nature, diabetes can increase the occurrence of periodontal disease.

Periodontal Associates, with offices in Mount Pleasant and Charleston, are leaders in the prevention and treatment of gum-related conditions and also of dental implants.

Your family dentist will likely be the first to notice that you have periodontal issues and may refer you to a specialist. Ask for a referral to Periodontal Associates, where three specialists provide services including bone grafts and regeneration, scaling and root planning, tissue grafting, crown lengthening and dental implants. Dr. Christopher Caputo, Dr. Edward Murphy and Dr. Daulton Keith are supported by a caring and professional staff, many of which have been with them for more than 20 years, so you will always see a familiar face during your visit.

The doctors at Periodontal Associates are board-certified and are members of the American Academy of Periodontology. Board certification requires doctors to take their specialized education a step further by showing that they have gone above and beyond the basic educational requirements of their specialty. Re-certification is required every six years.

While most people do not wish to spend time in the dentist's chair, Periodontal Associates is committed to reducing anxiety through various forms of sedation, including nitrous oxide, oral sedation and intravenous sedation.

Talk with your dentist or visit Periodontal Associates to learn more about gum disease, its prevention and procedures that can be used to solve this problem. This is the best way to keep smiling. 🦷

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DR. JENNIFER LOHSE

Periodontics and Implantology

904 Coleman Blvd.

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New patients to the practice are led through an hour-long examination, which allows Dr. Lohse and her team to thoroughly evaluate each patient's needs. "We spend a lot of time getting to know them and make a real lasting connection. We like to know what their motivations are for treatment and help them devise a plan to accomplish their goals," she said.

Dr. Lohse has been helping patients regain confidence since launching her Charleston business in 2003. She moved to the current location at 904 Coleman Blvd. in Mount Pleasant in 2006, and she expanded her dental business in 2011 with the opening of an additional office in North Charleston. Before moving to the Charleston area in 2001, Dr. Lohse lived in various places across the United States. Born in California, she was raised in New Jersey. She attended Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, then earned her dental degree at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. She completed her residency at the Medical College of Periodontics in Georgia. During her residency, Dr. Lohse simultaneously received an advanced degree in periodontics and a master's in oral health.

Dr. Lohse has called Mount Pleasant home for a decade-and-a-half and loves being a part of the community.

"There is a true sense of being neighbors and taking care of each other. I like to be a small part of that – taking care of my friends and neighbors – by making them feel good and look better," she stated.

She pointed out that there are added benefits to living in a coastal area.

"Being close to the beach is also a real joy – you can sneak out over lunch and soak your toes in the water for a couple of minutes," Dr. Lohse explained.

When she's not perfecting the smiles of her patients, Dr. Lohse can be found with her fiancé and his children, boating, traveling or reading. She also enjoys volunteering at ECCO and at the Our Lady of Mercy free dental clinic. 🦷

At the dental offices of Dr. Jennifer Lohse, the difference starts at the door. "We have candy on our front desk! If you are coming to us, we think you need something sweet," said Dr. Lohse.

She and her employees want to create a warm, inviting space where their patients feel comfortable discussing any dental issue. Since the team at Dr. Lohse's office specializes in periodontics and implantology, their focus with patients is on improving and maintaining the health of the oral bone and gums. Much of their work involves replacing missing teeth with dental implants.

No matter what the patient needs help with, Dr. Lohse is there to lend a helping hand and a sympathetic ear: "We take an encouraging, positive approach to our treatment," Dr. Lohse promised. "We make no judgments and listen with an open mind when we meet our patients so we can hear their stories. We learn about them as people first and patients second."



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The practice uses state-of-the-art technology to provide veneers, crowns, bridges, fillings, implants, dentures, whitening, checkups and periodontal exams. Highly-trained associates offer patient education to enhance the natural beauty of teeth to maintain a healthy, beautiful smile.

Dr. Garner devotes 100 hours each year to advanced education. She has attended the Frank Spears hands-on workshop in Scottsdale, Arizona, studying advanced techniques in dental occlusion and cosmetic dentistry. She is a member of the Seattle Dental Club, which is committed to the advancement of dental excellence. And Garner Family Dentistry's website educates patients by offering videos on a variety of dental procedures.

Dr. Garner pointed out that it is important for children to see a dentist for the first time when their baby teeth have come in and absolutely essential once permanent teeth begin to grow. Adults should visit a dentist twice a year for routine checkups. She added that gum care is important as well in maintaining overall health and that sometimes X-rays are required to get a better view of potential problems. For example, many teenagers need to have their wisdom teeth pulled to make room for other teeth to come in.

According to Dr. Garner, elderly patients might be susceptible to a variety of dental problems. Root caries, cavities that form on the roots of teeth, are common among senior citizens because of bone loss and because their gums tend to recede. Treatment includes fluoride rinses, brushing twice a day and flossing. She went on to say that patients with arthritis might want to consider using electric toothbrushes, and she noted that partial and full dentures need to fit properly so people can properly chew their food and avoid digestive issues.

"The mouth is the pathway to overall health," Garner remarked.

Dr. Garner lives in Mount Pleasant with her husband, daughters ages 12 and 14 and a lab named Buster. 🐾

A trip to the dentist is no longer a dreaded experience. At Garner Family Dentistry, patients are welcomed into a stress-free environment by friendly staff, expert professionals and gentle, caring assistants.

Raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Cynthia Garner earned her degree at the Creighton University Dental School, a nationally recognized institution noted for its academic reputation and rigorous curriculum. In 1995, her graduating class received the highest operative dental score in the nation. From Creighton, she went on to complete a residency program at prestigious Temple University in Philadelphia.

Her husband, Alan Garner, was an Air Force officer from the Isle of Palms, and, like most military families, the couple moved a lot. Dr. Garner worked as a managing and associate dentist in various practices around the nation. When her husband retired, they settled in Mount Pleasant and established Garner Family Dentistry.



DR. KARI RYAN DR. KRISTI DILLARD

815 Lowcountry Blvd.
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www.mtpleasantdentist.com

Ryan and her partner Dr. Kristi Dillard. A Michigan native, Dr. Ryan received her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. She later married her college sweetheart, J.B. Ryan, and together they moved south for careers and Southern sunshine. Dr. Ryan earned her doctor of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Dr. Dillard grew up right down the road in Murrells Inlet and earned her bachelor's degree at the College of Charleston, where she met and married Dr. Matt Dillard. She completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at MUSC after graduating.

"By far, the most rewarding part of my job is helping people every day," said Dr. Ryan. "I love restoring a person's smile so they feel confident and proud to smile. I also love helping a fearful or nervous person have a great dental experience so that they are no longer afraid to come to the dentist." 🦷

Whenever you drop by the office of Dr. Kari Ryan and Dr. Kristi Dillard for an appointment, you can count on the fact that you'll get high-quality treatment utilizing the latest technology – and, undoubtedly, that you'll be greeted by smiling faces.

"There is no reason why people need to be scared to come into our office," exclaimed Dr. Ryan. "We have such a welcoming, comfortable practice that patients are always at ease."

Much of that friendly atmosphere has to do with Dr.



DR. NICOLE DAHLKEMPER

Water's Edge Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
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per also specializes in Invisalign, TMJ and sleep apnea.

Dr. Dahlkemper came to Mount Pleasant from Washington, D.C., where she practiced after completing her dental education. She received dual degrees in Biological Neuroscience and Psychology from Allegheny College before earning her DMD at Case Western Reserve University of Dental Medicine. Dr. Dahlkemper earned a fellowship at Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies and is one of the five youngest dentists ever to receive that fellowship.

"My patients are interesting, active, loving and kind people who I enjoy getting to know and help," Dr. Dahlkemper said.

She added that she believes in giving back to her adopted home and is a supporter of the Wando Band and the Choral Arts Experience. She also helps those in need by volunteering at the East Cooper Community Outreach free dental clinic and through her mission work abroad with the Dental Community Fellowship. 🦷

Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper and her staff at Water's Edge Dentistry don't just want to help their patients have beautiful, healthy smiles – they want to form long-lasting relationships.

"We provide the best dental care, and we treat every patient like a member of our family," Dr. Dahlkemper stated. "I believe in honesty, equality, kindness and compassion, and I strive to live these values in my personal life as well as in my vocation."

The Water's Edge team offers everything from routine family dental care to complete mouth restorations. Dr. Dahlkem-



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DR. J. TED MELCHERS

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After receiving a bachelor's in Biology from Georgia Southern University, Dr. Melchers returned to the Lowcountry and graduated from the dental school at the Medical University of South Carolina. With 30 years of experience in dentistry, he knows what's important.

"As a professional, I look out for the patient," he stated. "We have lots of cosmetic options, and we strive to customize each patient's treatment plan."

One option both for common issues like fillings and more in-depth surgical procedures includes a dental laser. This approach to treatment is a nearly pain-free procedure and greatly reduces swelling and recovery time.

Dr. Melchers enjoys hunting and fishing when he's not at his practice. He is also an accomplished trumpet player and can be found sharing his talents in the orchestra at East Cooper Baptist Church and in the Charleston Community Band. 🎷

For Dr. Ted Melchers, Mount Pleasant is home, and he wants his patients to feel that way, too. "When you walk into the office, you're greeted with a handshake and a 'hello,'" Dr. Melchers said. "We want our patients to feel as if they are guests."

A second-generation resident of Mount Pleasant – both of his parents grew up here as well – Dr. Melchers has helped improve the smiles of locals for three decades at his practice in the Old Village.

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DR. ROBERT J. MORRIS

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care and attention they deserve,” he explained.

As a young teen, Dr. Morris had a great dental experience from caring professionals who nudged him to consider dentistry as a profession.

“Of course, my parents followed through with encouragement in hopes of recouping their investment!” he laughed.

Dr. Morris grew up in Aiken, graduated from the University of South Carolina and completed his dental education at the Medical University of South Carolina. He has served the Mount Pleasant community for more than 30 years.

Dr. Morris and his wife, Patricia, have been blessed with four daughters and two sons-in-law to date. In his spare time, “Bob” loves to retreat into the great outdoors – hunting, fishing or just enjoying being there. One of the original dentists volunteering at East Cooper Community Outreach, he also remains active in local philanthropy. 🏠

Dr. Bob Morris started his dental “education” early. Having had extensive dental treatment as a teenager – followed by crowns and bridges as an adult – he understands the experience from both sides of the dental chair.

“We have all the current technology to encourage our patients to be active participants in their diagnosis and treatment planning, and we strive to ensure they receive the



DR. JUDY VILLANYI

Life Smiles Dentistry

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best teacher in life is not learning what to do but what not to do.”

Life Smiles specializes in family, restorative and cosmetic dentistry, and the focus is on total dental wellness. Dr. Villanyi and her staff make sure that all patients feel comfortable before, during and after each procedure. Life Smiles Dentistry’s goal is to create an open, honest relationship between the dental staff and all patients.

“We believe in making patients responsible for their own choices by educating them in the different options of treatment and the outcome they can expect,” Dr. Villanyi stated. “Knowledge is power; empowering our patients produces successful and positive outcomes.”

When she’s not perfecting people’s smiles, Dr. Villanyi loves to travel, dive and spend time with her husband, family and friends. 🏠

Dr. Judy Villanyi and her staff at Life Smiles Dentistry have been helping Mount Pleasant smile brighter for over nine years.

After working as an associate dentist in a downtown practice, Dr. Villanyi decided that the time was right to start her own, so she opened the doors of Life Smiles Dentistry in August 2005. The experience of becoming an entrepreneur has been exciting but challenging.

“When I went to dental school, business classes were not offered,” Dr. Villanyi said. “But I’ve learned that the

Your Teeth and What You Eat

DIET IS A WORD THAT CAN BE everywhere, but what you eat matters and can have an important effect on your oral health. The U.S. Department of Agriculture advocates that for a healthy diet, fruits and vegetables should make up half of the food you consume every day. In addition, you should try to eat whole grains whenever you can and stick to dairy products that are low-fat or fat-free. When it comes to protein, the USDA encourages the consumption of lean protein, specifically seafood.

Snacks are a part of life that many people cannot live without, but it is important to think about how they fit into your diet. Avoid sugary drinks such as sodas and juice, opting instead for healthy alternatives such

as fruit, vegetables or yogurt. If you are wearing braces, eating certain healthy foods that make great snacks, such as apples and carrots, can be challenging. However, if you cut them up into small pieces, you can eat them more easily and enjoy a snack that is both tasty and good for your. 🍏

For additional information, check out www.mouthhealthykids.org, a website brought to you by the American Dental Association.



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DR. SUSAN DOYLE IS SO enthusiastic about the benefits of chiropractic care, you'll want to make an immediate appointment. Even if you're eating well and exercising, you can do more to promote a healthy body and live life to the fullest.

As a chiropractic physician, Dr. Doyle knows firsthand how wonderful it can be to live pain-free and move easily through life. She learned at a young age that traditional medical care does not have all the answers.

BY BARBARA MILLEN PATRICK

"At the age of 9 or 10, I was diagnosed with scoliosis and told that I'd never be able to run or take part in sports," Dr. Doyle said, expressing how devastating that news was for a young child.

"My mother was a pharmacist and had a friend who was a chiropractor, so we turned to her for help," she continued. "After three years, my scoliosis was reversed, I was pain-free and able to enjoy many different sports."

That positive experience spurred Dr. Doyle to become a chiropractor herself, and two years ago she was inspired to open her own business. Absolute Wellness Center is dedicated to offering a variety of natural remedies for complete body health.

"Many people think that chiropractic only helps those with back pain, but it does much more than that," she said.

The spinal column is truly the pathway to optimal health. By resolving issues that hinder the natural healing ability inherent in each of us, pain can be alleviated and health can be restored. In addition to conditions such as slipped discs and back pain, chiropractic treatment can benefit those suffering from allergies, arthritis, fibromyalgia, PMS, stress and many more health issues. Each chiropractor has his or her own individual style, but the ultimate goal is the same. Dr. Doyle uses a variety of techniques tailored to the needs of each patient.

Absolute Wellness Center also offers several different forms of massage therapy, including prenatal and sports massages, as well as acupuncture. As part of the total wellness concept, custom orthotics can be created to improve posture as well as foot problems, and hair analysis can help assess how your body absorbs nutrients.

Because diet is such an important part of wellness,



Photo courtesy of Absolute Wellness Center.

The staff at Absolute Wellness Center includes, left to right, licensed massage therapist Coby Daniels; licensed massage therapist Suzi Jones; Dr. Susan Doyle, chiropractic physician and owner; office manager Jennifer Ethier; and licensed acupuncturist Christine Ruffing.

Absolute Wellness Center offers a full line of natural nutritional supplements ranging from vitamins to formulas designed for GI support, stress relief and sleep aids. Natural products that aid in maintaining normal cholesterol and blood pressure levels are available. Each product has been chosen carefully, and brands include Standard Process, Metagenics, Greens First, Natural Vitality and Deep Steep, a line of personal care products made locally on Johns Island.

Dr. Doyle offers these wellness techniques in conjunction with her chiropractic care because she has seen the results in her patients' lives as well as her own. She offers a complimentary 15-minute consultation so you can learn more about chiropractic care and the additional services available at Absolute Wellness.

Absolute wellness is just a phone call away. Make an appointment and discover how good you can feel. 🐾

Absolute Wellness Center is located at 966 Houston Northcutt Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. You can learn more at www.AbsoluteWellnessMtP.com, or you can call (843) 416-8218 for an appointment. You'll feel better!

Winning!

Dr. Andrew McMarlin Gets Us Back in the Game

EVER WISH YOU COULD HAVE access to the same care pro athletes and Olympians receive? One of the country's top sports medicine doctors, Dr. Andrew McMarlin – who was a team doctor for Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals and Major League Soccer's D.C. United and is one of the U.S. Olympic team's physicians – is now in Mount Pleasant. He's providing world-class sports medicine and musculoskeletal care for everyone, whether their goal is winning an Olympic gold medal, getting back to Little League practice or just being able to move freely and enjoy a day at the park with their grandchildren.

"Injuries and chronic conditions slow us down. They handicap us, keeping us from being and feeling full-strength. Helping people to move without pain and to get the best out of life is my passion," said Dr. McMarlin. "At Winning Health, I am able to treat every patient like a champion."

And he should know. Dr. McMarlin is an eight-time world champion paddler who currently holds two world records and a seven-time national champion rower who met his wife while winning Olympic rowing trials in the double sculls in 1996. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a former Navy officer, Dr. McMarlin has created physical fitness training programs for many elite athletes and for Navy SEALs and pilots.

Before he started specializing in sports medicine, Dr. McMarlin practiced for many years as a family doctor serving needy patients. But his interest in sports and his desire to help all of his patients stay active for as long as possible led him to a fellowship in Sports Medicine, to his career with big-time sports teams in Washington, D.C., and,

in 2011, to South Carolina with his family.

According to Dr. McMarlin and his staff, one of the main differences between an experience at Winning Health and at another sports medicine facility is that Dr. McMarlin is board-certified in both Family Medicine and Sports Medicine, so he takes a holistic approach to patient care. In other words, Dr. McMarlin does not simply treat the injury at hand; he gets to the cause of the injury. Dr. McMarlin is among the leaders in treating both arthritis and concussion, and he feels strongly about providing baseline neurological testing for young athletes so he can measure their recovery after a sports injury, which is the standard practice for professional sports teams.

"If I can help people get back in the game, back to enjoying the activities they love, their whole lives are



Dr. McMarlin is board-certified in both Family Medicine and Sports Medicine, so he takes a holistic approach to patient care.

Photo courtesy of Winning Health.

better," said Dr. McMarlin. "That is how my staff and I measure success." 🏆

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YEAR AFTER YEAR, THE GORGEOUS red silk dress draped aimlessly in her closet. Hidden amidst a surplus of black outfits, the dress only saw the sunlight when an eager child played hide-and-go-seek in the closet. The red dress had no real emotions but couldn't help wonder why its owner was shunning it. Some days the dress overheard its owner speak about it in a nostalgic tone, "If only I could wear that beautiful red dress for tonight's party, without covering it up with a sweater or jacket," she lamented.

BY CULLEN MURRAY-KEMP

Then one morning she swung open the closet doors and pushed the other dresses aside, revealing a spectrum of light that emphasized the red dress' natural beauty. "I can finally wear you!" She yelped joyfully and removed the dress from its hanger and slid it over her bare skin. From that day forward she wore the red dress – along with an array of other colorful clothes.

Hyperhidrosis, or excessive sweating, is a condition that affects the lives and lifestyles of more than 9 million Americans. From foreheads to foot soles, excessive sweating stinks.

"Folks were not always offered a safe, simple and easy solution to their problem," said Claudia Grimes, founder and owner of Don't Sweat It.

In 2013, Grimes, Jennifer Amram and certified neurologist Dr. Marshall White teamed up to offer South Carolinians a solution to excessive sweating – a non-invasive procedure called Mira Dry, which has, over the last few years, revolutionized the world of hyperhidrosis control.

Twenty-five-year-old Mount Pleasant resident Callie Ryall struggled with hyperhidrosis her entire life.

"Before the Mira Dry treatment, I was always self-conscious – keeping my arms tucked by my sides in public to hide my sweat stains," said Ryall.

She knew it was time for a change and consulted with White and Grimes at Don't Sweat It about her problem. The low-risk, high-reward Mira Dry procedure was a no-brainer for Ryall. After just one treatment, her excessive

sweating was nearly gone.

A challenge for Don't Sweat It is that although so many folks suffer from embarrassing and excessive sweating, hyperhidrosis remains a touchy and rather private subject. Yet the company's success rate of 98 percent for two Mira Dry treatments is creating quite a stellar reputation.

"The 90-minute Mira Dry procedure utilizes electromagnetic microwave heat technology to eliminate sweat glands, and, since sweat glands do not regenerate, it is permanent," said Grimes.

In addition, Mira Dry patients will experience "side effects" (or benefits) of reduced odor and hair growth under their arms.

Dr. White also treats a number of hyperhidrosis patients who suffer from excessive sweating of the hands, feet and scalp with Botox.

"Before my Mira Dry and Botox treatments with Don't Sweat It, I could literally pick up a piece of paper by sticking my sweat-soaked hand on it," said one patient.

Don't Sweat It works with patients who suffer with all sorts and levels of hyperhidrosis symptoms.

"Some folks are just looking to clear up slight underarm moisture with one Mira Dry treatment, while others may struggle with much more excessive sweating. It doesn't matter where you sweat – we can help," said Grimes.


One evening a few weeks after her Mira Dry treatment, local dental hygienist Allison Garbarini decided to brave an outdoor concert in a white T-shirt. This was after a lifetime of wearing only black clothes due to her excessive underarm sweating.

"I danced my butt off and didn't get sopping wet armpits," exclaimed Garbarini. "I was sweating like a normal person, and it was awesome!" 🙌

To find out more about how to beat hyperhidrosis, visit www.dontsweatit.com or call (843) 884-6800.





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Hearing Loss Can Signal Other Problems

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN hearing loss was simply considered to be an aspect of growing old, not unlike gray hair and wrinkles. That's no longer the case. Medical professionals now know that when you have trouble hearing, there might be something more serious going on than just missing the sounds of barking dogs and singing birds.

According to Dr. Mary Anne Larkin, who has been taking care of patients at Advanced Hearing Care in Mount Pleasant since 1993, hearing loss is often an early warning sign that cardiovascular disease, dementia, diabetes or kidney disease could follow. In addition, she pointed out, untreated hearing loss puts a person at higher risk for depression, anxiety and relationship issues.

Which, she said, is why you should talk about your hearing problems with a trained audiologist rather than with a person who sells hearing aids for a living.

"If you have a hearing problem, we examine you in a health care context and not in a retail-oriented context," Dr. Larkin explained. "We follow evidence-based scientific protocol when we test and treat our patients."

In other words, Advanced Hearing Care does more than just sell and fit technologically advanced hearing aids. Dr. Larkin and her fellow audiologist, Dr. Lainey Bruhn, also provide hearing evaluations, a variety of tests to determine why you can't hear as well as you would like to and rehabilitative and preventive counseling to help you deal with and improve your hearing situation.

Dr. Larkin pointed out that people lose their hearing for reasons other than hidden health problems. Their problems could be genetic, or they might be caused by playing music too loud or by participating in occupational or recreational activities such as playing in a band, mowing the lawn, hunting or target shooting.

She added that hearing even can be affected by what you eat, citing five foods that enhance auditory health: omega 3 fats and vitamin D, which you can get by eating fish such as salmon, tuna, trout and sardines; anti-oxidants and folic acid, which are found in spinach, asparagus, beans, broccoli, eggs, liver and nuts;

magnesium, available in bananas, potatoes, artichokes and broccoli; zinc, which is found in dark chocolate and oysters; and vitamins C and E, which you can get from vegetables such as peppers and fruits such as oranges.

"Eating a heart-smart diet can help," Dr. Larkin commented. "We hear with our ears, and we process with our brain. Reduced hearing compromises your brain health. We want to keep our brains as sharp and alert as they can be."

Regular checkups are also an important part of hearing health, according to Dr. Larkin. She said people should visit an audiologist at least every five years, and every three years

BY BRIAN SHERMAN



Dr. Mary Anne Larkin, left, discusses the workings of the inner ear with patient Linda Rhyne.

after they reach their 55th birthday. Those who notice a decrease in hearing should check in for a checkup every year.

"People visit a health care professional for their eyes and teeth every year," she said. "Why wait until you notice a problem to get your ears checked?"

"Don't take your hearing for granted," she concluded. "Once you lose it, it's gone. It's irreversible. Having a hearing checkup is all about making sure you are keeping your hearing working at its best." 🦻

Advanced Hearing Care is located at 900 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., suite 101. To find out how you can help protect your hearing, visit www.advhearing.com or call (843) 606-6306.

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Everything Under the Sun and Stars

The Rusty Rudder

ONE WAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE of the Lowcountry's magnificent weather is to enjoy an excellent meal under the sun or stars. That certainly is a possibility at the Rusty Rudder, one of Mount Pleasant's newest restaurants.

Counting the dozen or so seats at the Tiki bar, around 100 people will be able to soak in the outdoor ambience on the huge patio behind the main building. Shaded by a few massive trees and surrounded by jasmine-covered trellises, it will be among the largest outside dining options in the Charleston area. Inside, another 85 to 90 diners will be able to choose from a Lowcountry-themed menu offering more than a few interesting twists.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

Vacant for almost a year, the former home of 17 North sprung back to life early in 2014. The Rusty Rudder opened its doors in June in one of the fastest-growing parts of Mount Pleasant. With Carolina Park and other burgeoning subdivisions nearby, the owners are confident they can replicate the success they attained in North Carolina.

"There's lots of energy and activity headed in this direction," said Brian Johnston, who, along with Eric Paul, owns the first Rusty Rudder, located on Lake Norman, just north of Charlotte, and the second one in Mount Pleasant.

"We walked into the area behind the building, and we had a vision," Paul added.

They both have connections to the Charleston area. Paul attended Johnson & Wales University when it was located in the Holy City, while Johnston, whose parents live on the Isle of Palms, is in the process of buying a home in Darrell Creek. And they both agree that getting involved with Mount Pleasant, schools, organizations and charities will be a vital part of running a successful business.

"It's important to be part of the community," Johnston commented. "We want to be involved as much as we can, and we're happy to help in any way we can."

The Rusty Rudder menu will be similar to the menu at the Lake Norman location, a thriving business for the past 12 years. However, it will feature more of a Lowcountry

flavor, "adapted to fit here," according to Executive Chef Josh Arnold, who worked at the Rice Paddy in Georgetown for six years. Signature dishes include a sweet potato soufflé, topped with lump crab meat, a lime cream sauce and country ham; shrimp and grits; pork belly tacos; fish tacos; and lobster rolls. The Rusty Rudder also will be serving oyster pot pie, based on a traditional Gullah recipe, along with a wide range of seafood, steaks, burgers, salads, appetizers and desserts.

Arnold said almost everything the restaurant serves will be made in-house, and that he'll purchase as much as possible from local farmers and fishermen. He will even be



Photo by Brian Sherman.

The Tiki hut on the back patio is certain to be a popular spot at the Rusty Rudder. Brian Johnston, second from left, is one of the owners of the restaurant, while Michael Kraus, right, is the bar manager.

buying from a farm in Georgetown that will grow free-range chickens to his specifications.

"One cool thing is that we'll make our own bacon," he added. "We'll cure it and smoke it right here."

"This will be my dream kitchen," he concluded. "It appeals to the redneck in me, but it also appeals to the chef in me."

Other key staff members include Operating Manager and General Partner Tom Brand; Assistant Manager Christi Miller; and Bar Manager Michael Kraus. 🍹

The Rusty Rudder is located at 3563 N. Highway 17 in Mount Pleasant. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner every day and for brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit www.therustyrudder.net.

Fire It Up!

Brixx Wood Fired Pizza

A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE IS going to be quite pleased when she hears the news that Brixx in Mount Pleasant is putting our favorite pimento cheese dip back on the appetizer menu. Brixx Wood Fired Pizza has been a spot of ours in East Cooper for quite some time – and one of the reasons, I suspect, is that the restaurant is never boring.

Take, for example, one of their signature pizzas, affectionately named “Nick’s Pizza” for the bartender who

BY DENISE K. JAMES

dreamed it up. A

spinoff of another popular pizza on the menu called the Bronx Bomber, Nick’s Pizza takes all the goodness of the bomber – prosciutto, sausage, Gorgonzola, fresh oregano – and adds fresh mozzarella, pepperoni and banana peppers to the pile. The result is a pizza patrons of the Mount Pleasant restaurant love.

“We have a menu for pleasing entire families,” affirmed Renee Milholland, general manager. “People can build their own pizzas or tweak our house recipes. We also offer gluten-free options.”

The Brixx menu is extensive – and it’s more than just pizza.

In addition to the famous pimento cheese appetizer, the restaurant also serves plenty of homemade spinach and artichoke dip and bruschetta with local tomatoes to hungry guests in search of a starter course. The salads at Brixx are a great pick for summer meals; Milholland personally recommends the Mediterranean salad with a salmon fillet on top or the Brixx salad, topped with pistachios and crumbled goat cheese. Or, perhaps you would fancy a sandwich prepared with house-baked focaccia.

“Everything we serve here is fresh,” Dillan Milholland, who is Renee’s daughter and a server, added.

Indeed, the moment I walked through the front door I spotted Dillan plucking fresh cilantro from stems. It calmed me down in the midst of my hectic Monday as I watched the herbs fill a nearby glass bowl, ready to top more than a few yummy entrees.

This summer, Brixx will no doubt stay busy with their inviting outdoor patio and Masters of Beer Appreciation Program – guests get a free pizza after eight visits to the restaurant. Simply order a craft beer on draft and your

program card gets stamped. And it’s not like you’ll run short of interesting brews to sample; the list changes often and always features popular local favorites.

Come into Brixx just about any night of the week, and you’ll run into a special deal. Sunday nights feature half-priced wine bottles; Wednesday nights are when kids eat free; Tuesday nights offer \$4 local beers and “two for Tuesday” entree deals. Oh, and Fridays mean half-price for all military.

But don’t get too full before dessert. If you have a table overflowing with kids,

try ordering the s’mores pizza. With the classic ingredients cooked over a fire, it’s practically like the real thing.

“Whether guests share food with the table or order items for themselves, no one will be hungry when they leave,” said Renee Milholland with a smile. 🍷

Brixx is located at 656 Long Point Road, in the Belle Hall Shopping Center. For a look at the menu, visit www.brixxpizza.com/locations/mount-pleasant.



The Brixx menu is extensive – and it’s more than just pizza.

Photos by Ronald Martirelli.

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Funny Name, Fun Food

My Father's Moustache

ROB WALKER'S NEWEST restaurant is unlike any other in Mount Pleasant. The walls are adorned with photos of the people who were running the world in the 1940s. Traditional American fare is on the menu, but so are meals more often found in the British Isles. Diners can enjoy a game of darts, and the brand of football most often shown on the TV screens is the version Americans call soccer.

And the restaurant has a funny name that isn't even spelled right if you put your faith in American dictionaries.

Nonetheless, My Father's Moustache has been making a splash since it opened on Ben Sawyer Boulevard in February,

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

replacing J.Paul'z, which Walker also owned and operated. After

visiting several restaurants in England, Ireland and France last summer, he and his wife, Wendy, decided to ditch their



Some people will tell you the fish and chips at My Father's Moustache compares with the same dish in England.

upscale eatery in favor of a replica of a British pub.

"Sometimes you try something and it doesn't work. You can run and hide or you can adapt and change. We chose to change," Walker explained.

And change they did. The menu at My Father's Moustache features British favorites such as fish and chips, Yorkshire pudding and shepherd's pie. There's also 16 beers on tap, eight of them of English or Irish origin, and a

selection of Scotch and Irish whiskeys.

If you like the atmosphere but crave American-style food, you can go with one of eight sandwiches, including the T.E.D. (Thanksgiving Every Day), a combination of roast turkey, stuffing, gravy and cranberry mayo. Several salads are on the menu, along with eight burgers, the Bison Burger and the Colorado Lamb Burger among them.

The English fare, according to Walker, is authentic. He said many customers from the other side of the Atlantic have commented that the fish and chips compare to that served in Britain. He added that an Englishman recently visited My Father's Moustache and asked if the shepherd's pie was made with beef or lamb.

"I told him I've never seen a shepherd guarding a flock of cows," Walker commented. "Therefore ours is done with lamb."

The authentic British food and adult beverages have attracted a large number of avid soccer fans. The Charsenal, local fans of the Arsenal, a successful English soccer team, have made My Father's Moustache their home bar. Up to 100 animated fans might show up at a time to watch a big match.

"They're different from baseball or football fans," Walker said. "They come in wearing their team's jerseys and jackets and they sing and chant."

He said he even opens the restaurant early if, for instance, there's a big match on TV at 8 a.m. Eastern time.

But what about the funny name?

Walker said he came up with the moniker while looking at a photo of his great grandfather that he keeps on his desk. Robert Jefferson Walker II sported a substantial tuft of hair on his upper lip.

"I kept looking at that picture and saying to myself: 'That's my father's father's father's mustache,'" he said.

"British pubs have weird names," he added. "We wanted something that didn't make sense, but, after you thought about it for a while, made perfect sense," Walker explained, sort of. 🍷

My Father's Moustache is located at 1405 Ben Sawyer Blvd. To check out the menu, visit www.myfathersmoustache.com.

Photo courtesy of My Father's Moustache.

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A Family-Friendly Sports Pub

Dog & Duck

ANYONE WHO'S LIVED IN Mount Pleasant for more than an hour-and-a-half knows about Dog & Duck, the family-friendly sports pub with two locations. Opened 13 years ago, the popular restaurant at the Stein Mart end of the Belle Hall Shopping Center spun off a satellite store in 2008 near the Park West Publix.

With their voluminous roster of tasty pub food – munchies; wings and things; tacos; sandwiches and wraps; burgers and dogs; and much more – plus their numerous beers in the bottle and on tap, their multiple TVs tuned to the best in sports and their almost nightly special promotions, the Dog & Duck duo thrived.

Yet something was missing, and, just this summer, that something was found. Dog & Duck owner Rod Bradley leased vacant retail space next door to the Park West restaurant, nearly doubling its size to dimensions comparable to those of its always packed big brother in Belle Hall.

“That’s our big news,” Bradley said, “and we couldn’t be happier about it. Opening up our Park West space has allowed us to expand our family restaurant concept.”

According to Bradley, Dog & Duck Park West was previously limited to 43 patrons at a time, but now its capacity is a robust 95. Additionally, the restaurant has upped its draft beer taps from four to 10 – with more to come – has mounted nine television screens, including five 50-inchers, and found room for a quartet of comfortable booths.

Like the Belle Hall location, Park West offers a spacious and attractive outdoor dining area with picnic tables and umbrellas. In this alfresco area, customers are welcome to bring their dogs, and canine guests are always offered a large,

refreshing bowl of cold water.

“We’ve done everything possible to make the family dining experience the same at both restaurants,” Bradley said. “Our organizing principle is consistency in everything we do, and providing the same fun experience at both of our stores is our goal.”

“Now we can be that family pub at both locations,” he added. “We can accommodate families that need the table space to share a meal together, and we can reach out to sports groups, such as rec league teams, who would like to drop by for some refreshments together after a game.”

Additional staff has been added as well, because both Dog & Duck locations serve food until midnight during the week and 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and Bradley insists that no one should have to go to the bar to order something to eat.

As is the case at Belle Hall, Park West now offers three lunch and three dinner specials seven days a week, in addition to its already extensive menu. And, should a special event require catering, the restaurants are well-equipped to handle assignments from wedding receptions to feeding celebrity artists backstage at the Family Circle Cup.

Although they’re not listed on any printed Dog & Duck menu, both locations specialize in some exotic, delectable and maybe just a little bit weird desserts, of which FrozenChocolateFudgeBananaCreamPie is just one. It’s in good company with a number of other mind-boggling sweets, such as Frozen Peanut Butter Pie and Candy Bar Pie.

With its wide range of food and beverages, wallet-conscious happy hour specials, trivia and music competitions, Friday night live music and weekend bloody mary bar, there’s little that the two Dog & Duck restaurants in Mount Pleasant don’t offer. Except, of course ... duck! 🦆



The Dog & Duck offers a voluminous roster of tasty pub food, from wings and things to burgers and dogs – and more.

Photo by Ronnie Martinelli.

To find out more about Dog & Duck, visit www.dogandduckfamilypubs.com.

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Chris Staubes

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Charleston, South Carolina.

Education: JD, University of South Carolina.

Employment: Head up the Corporate Law Department at Clawson & Staubes, LLC.

Favorite reading: Mystery and suspense.

Favorite music: Rock and roll from the '70s and '80s.

Activities: Travel, movies, spending time with friends and family.

Interests: Guitar, classic cars and history.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Don't be afraid to stand for what you believe in, even if that means standing alone." – Unknown.



Tara Gallant

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Portland, Maine.

Education: B.A. in Human Relations from High Point University in North Carolina.

Employment: Front desk supervisor at Embassy Suites Historic Charleston.

Favorite reading: Colleen Hoover.

Favorite music: Reggae.

Activities: I love to dance and sing karaoke; I enjoy walking or riding my bike to the Pitt Street Bridge.

Interests: Traveling to tropical beaches and meeting new people.

Likes: I love to cook and host dinner parties. I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I like to try new foods and new restaurants as well as the new hot spots in town.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "About all you can do in life is be who you are. Some people will love you for you. Most will love you for what you can do for them, and some won't like you at all." – Rita Mae Brown



Vickey Boyd

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Kingstree, South Carolina.

Education: Associate of Arts from Williamsburg Technical College.

Employment: Publisher, The Moultrie News.

Favorite reading: Murder mysteries, local authors.

Favorite music: Anything but rap.

Activities: Reading, yoga.

Interests: Outdoor activities.

Likes: Sunshine, smiling faces and The Moultrie News.

Favorite quote or philosophy: In tribute to her recent death: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou



Chris Bible, aka The Peanut Dude

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: My parents were in the Navy: Hawaii 1978-82; Charleston 1982-90; Beaufort 1990-96; bounced around until life brought me back to Charleston in 2006. I am happy to be home.

Education: Class is in session every day. ... always observing and learning.

Employment: Owner: "The Peanut Dude Boiled Peanuts."

Favorite reading: Biographies and autobiographies of folks I admire. The list is long, broad and continues to grow, from Steve Jobs to Benjamin Franklin to C.S. Lewis, Buddha, Jesus, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Oprah.

Favorite music: Whatever is playing ... Let's just dance.

Activities: Kiteboarding, paddleboarding, guitar, ukulele, writing songs, poetry and stories, meditation, reading, hanging out with my dog, Hudson.

Interests: Continued growth, be it personal, professional, spiritual or fitness. I am interested in always growing, improving and having fun.

Likes: All aspects of my business, from boiling the peanuts, to having fun, sharing smiles and making new memories with all the folks who come by and visit my boiled peanut stand at the GDC Home Store on Coleman Boulevard.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "The unexamined life is not worth living." – Socrates



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