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PUBLISHER’S NOTE

WE’VE ALL HEARD THAT WE SHOULDN’T “sweat the small stuff” or that we should “stop and smell the roses.” Both these sayings ring true. Because we all are caught up in our day-to-day grinds, we sometimes don’t pay attention to the truly important things in life. Most of us are guilty of this attitude. Time is the most precious commodity we have to give. Once each minute of each hour of each day is gone, we don’t have the option to give it back or to spend it on some other rose in our lives.

One of the great things about living in Mount Pleasant and so close to our sister islands is that there are so many beautiful places to smell the roses and spend time with friends and family. Whether it’s walking on the beach on the Isle of Palms or Sullivan’s Island, strolling through one of Mount Pleasant’s peaceful parks or crabbing or shrimping in one of Mount Pleasant’s creeks, creating memories with the people you love will make you far richer than the money in any bank account. Yes, I am partial to Mount Pleasant. Our year-round magnificent weather makes outdoor activities possible from January through December, adding to the vibrancy of our beautiful town.

All my sons grew up in Mount Pleasant, and, because my family has lived here for more than three decades, we have a treasure chest of Mount Pleasant memories. In fact, our youngest son, Anthony, was born in Mount Pleasant, attended school here and graduated from Wando High School. The photo is of Elle and Anthony getting ready to go to their junior/senior high school prom. Some of you might remember me writing about his graduation from Full Sail University; you can read that publisher’s note at www.MountPleasantMagazine.com/Anthony.

Please don’t forget to create as many memories with family and friends as you can. You never know when events will change your opportunity to add treasure to your personal treasure chest. I would like to share our family’s story about Anthony, not to bring you down but to help you focus on your own personal wealth – your personal treasure chest. The real meaning of life has everything to do with faith, family and friends.

Read about our story at www.MacchioTrustFund.com. And turn to page 11 in this issue for information about a special event on Anthony’s behalf.

When bad things happen, silver linings are sometimes hard to find. For us, your prayers and good wishes are our silver linings. 🍷



This photo is of Anthony and his girlfriend, Elle, getting ready for their junior/senior prom.

Until next issue,

— BILL MACCHIO
Publisher

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Ben Davis is a senior at the College of Charleston studying Political Science. He has lived in Charleston for the past five years and will always consider the Holy City his home. After graduating, he plans to embrace his love for travel and

writing by working for a travel magazine or news agency and exploring every corner of the world.

Patrice Smith is a retired radio and television journalist who worked in the Charleston market for more than three decades. Still a journalist at heart, she now pens words to paper as a freelance writer and is immersed in Lowcountry history. Patrice is also a motivational speaker who tries to uplift her varied audiences. She loves reading, traveling and visiting all of Charleston's beaches.



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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About the Cover



I COULD WRITE AN ENTIRE MEMOIR ON THE MARCH/April cover; it truly went through what our publisher, Bill, calls “the evolution of ideas.” Since this is our Best of Mount Pleasant edition, we all put our heads together about how we could represent the best that Mount Pleasant has to offer on the face of our magazine.

Thanks to your many votes, we were able to capture Dr. Amy Warner of Lowcountry OB/GYN, who won for best OB/GYN in Mount Pleasant, as well as TJ Phillips of Clear Channel Communications and WEZL, who won for best radio personality. They are joined by Jim Stalker, owner of Vickery’s on Shem Creek, which received your votes for the best outdoor dining and seemed like a lovely place to capture a sunset. In fact, if you look closely, another Best of Mount Pleasant winner appears in this photo – Shem Creek, which was voted the best place to put your paddleboard in the water.

As always, my gratitude goes out to our willing photo subjects, TJ, Amy and Jim, as well as our talented photographer, Andy Hagedon of SmART Image, and my team members, Brandon and Brian.

Turn to page 17 for our special section on the winners of the Best of Mount Pleasant, 2013, and enjoy the rest of the issue; it’s chock-full of fun about the 2013 Cooper River Bridge Run, baseball and other spring happenings.

Cheers to warm weather and to our lovely city.
Denise K. James

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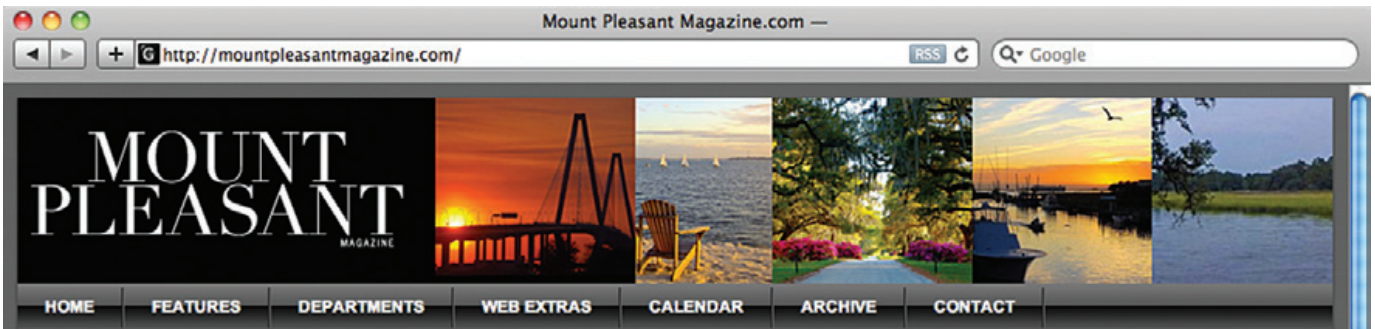
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The time has come for the beloved tradition of honoring our friends and loved ones by playing cruel, heartless tricks on them for your own personal amusement. Be forewarned: April Fool's Day will soon be upon you. Prepare yourself for the onslaught of buffoons and their hijinks by planning a little revenge with a few of our favorite **April Fools' pranks** this year. If, however, you are the type who would prefer to shed those extra holiday pounds by exercising rather than laughing them off at your friend's expense, jog over to our **Bridge Run recipe suggestions**. These filling and delicious dishes are sure to keep your heart pumping and your taste buds happy. With friendly advice on high-carb, low-fat meals and strategies to fight pre-race jitters, you can find the perfect way to maintain your energy as you soar over the



Cooper River and blaze past the crowds of cheering supporters.

And, since April is National Poetry Month, we will celebrate by collecting **verse from East Cooper poets**. Get swept away in rhythm and rhyme and enjoy a moment with poetry from right in your own backyard. Who knew we had so much literary talent around here?

We also are sharing behind-the-scenes **photos from Charleston's Women's Show, as well as from our March/April cover shoot**. Both were a success and lots of fun.



Visit us on Facebook and Twitter (@mountpleasantmagazine) to share your feedback about this issue and keep up with exciting events. And don't forget to share a green version of our publication with a friend. Thanks for being a part of Mount Pleasant Magazine. 🌱



Cara Daniel, DVM



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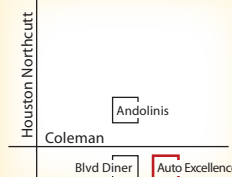
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A large cable-stayed bridge with a prominent A-frame pylon and multiple stay cables, spanning across a body of water. The scene is captured at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden glow in the sky and clouds. The bridge's structure is dark against the lighter sky.

WELL- KNOWN FACES AT THE RACES

**THE COOPER RIVER
BRIDGE RUN**

*story by Cullen Murray-Kemp
photos provided by the
Office of the Cooper River Bridge Run*

EVERY YEAR, THE COOPER RIVER BRIDGE RUN ATTRACTS TENS OF THOUSANDS of participants, ranging from hot dog-eating speed walkers to the world's top distance runners.

Over the run's 35-year span, the race has been graced by several famous faces, including actor Bill Murray and TV star Oprah Winfrey. Murray, who owns a home on Sullivan's Island, chose to be the center of attention in 1997, igniting the canon that started the race.

Winfrey, on the other hand, took a low-profile approach to her participation in the run. Tammy Varn, who has been race director for 18 years, discovered Winfrey's ploy while sifting through the applications.

"After hearing a rumor that Oprah was running in the race, I searched the database for applications we got from Chicago," said Varn. "I noticed an applicant named Francesca Kincaid, which was the name of a character played by Meryl Streep in the popular movie 'The Bridges of Madison County.' I knew it was her."

Murray and Winfrey are not the race's only big-name runners.

CAROLYN MURRAY

WCBD-TV

2 News Anchor Carolyn Murray, renowned for her journalism awards, has been running in the race since 1989. Not always a runner, but certainly a natural competitor, Murray was turned onto the idea of running when she was told by a friend that it is the true measure of an athlete.



Eight full marathons (26.2 miles), a half marathon (13.1 miles) and a daily running routine of 40 miles a week have turned Murray into quite the runner. Her passion is hereditary.

"My dad was one of those people who, in the '70s, would run around the neighborhood with the dog on a leash, wearing tube socks and a headband," she explained.

The Cooper River Bridge Run is one of Murray's favorite races, a scene she describes as camaraderie forced by happy people in close quarters. It's a "euphoric crowd of people high-fiving and looking out for one another. I'm just happy to be part of the whole spectacle," she said.

Murray typically runs around her neighborhood listening to books on tape.

"Sometimes I end up running one or two hours longer than I expected because the books are so good – I just

finished Lincoln," Murray said with a laugh.

When asked to relay one experience she associated with the Bridge Run, outside of the pleasure she gets from seeing everyone come together "running toward better health," Murray cited a slight misunderstanding from last year's race.

The day after the race, Murray was running along the street when someone stopped her to offer congratulations for her daughter's first-place finish. Murray was confused because her daughter, Reese, had decided to pull out of the race at the last minute. Suddenly it dawned on her: She had decided to wear her daughter's running bib under her shirt, which officially made Murray the first kid to cross the finish line.

"Well, at least I was faster than all the kids," she laughed.

BOB SHLAU

Bob and Benita Shlau related captivating stories in the MUSC Wellness Center lounge. Unfortunately, I struggled to pay attention because I was preoccupied, rather stunned, by how, at 60, both would fare far better than I,



at 20-something, in a swimsuit contest.

Bob Schlau, a vice president at Merrill Lynch, carries an aura of success everywhere he goes – endless trophies, multiple medals and two Olympic trial appearances are a byproduct of his dedication to running. But he has not always been a great runner. I asked him how, as his competition aged and began to slow, he maintained his speed. Benita interjected in a sure Southern accent, “Well, his mom always said he was a late bloomer.”

That’s how much of the conversation went: Bob reclining comfortably while his wife articulated great tales of his running success. Bob had surpassed world-class runners Bill Rodgers and Frank Shorter and, at 40, became the oldest runner to make the Olympic trials in 1988 – out-running professionals half his age. A year later, runners’ magazines ranked Bob the number one masters – over 40 – runner in the world.

In 1990, Bob was voted runner of the decade by Running Journal Magazine, and eight years later he was elected into the South Carolina Runners Hall of Fame. Over the years, he has claimed more than 100 road race victories, with a best marathon time of 2:17:16 and a best 10-kilometer time of 30:26.

Bob’s greatest success came at the Penn Relays Marathon in Philadelphia in 1984, where he hadn’t even planned to compete. Bob and Benita both were recently

divorced, and Bob was serving as his future wife’s trainer. Benita had asked him to pace her in the marathon, a qualifying race for the Olympics. When the race day came around, Benita changed her mind, realizing that the Olympics were something Bob wanted a shot at as well. Bob reluctantly agreed to run the race. He qualified for the 1984 Olympic trials, but that wasn’t the real trophy he won that day.

“When we got back to town, Charleston was buzzing with the excitement of Bob’s making the Olympic trials – his face was on the cover of the newspaper,” Benita boasted.

“So did you fall for Bob right then and there?” I asked jokingly.

With a Southern grin and a slight blush, Benita responded, “I was very happy for him.” Their eyes met and even Bob couldn’t keep from smiling.

RIVES POE

I was sitting at Fuel Cantina downtown when she pulled up on a 10-speed bike, dressed like a teacher. The clothes made sense because Ashley Hall had just let out. Rives Poe, a teacher by day and a runner pretty much any other time, was just getting off work.

At 35, Poe has become one of the biggest names to participate in the Cooper River Bridge Run. In 2011, she was named one of two long distance runners of the year by

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USA Track and Field, and she is in the running again this year. Poe also has won the Marcus Newberry award, given to the first place local male and female in the Cooper River Bridge Run.

Like Schlau, Poe has not always been a premier runner.

“I just sort of got enthralled with the Charleston Running Club and the running culture,” said Poe, speaking of the days leading up to her elite running status.

The Rives Poe who sat across from me that day at Fuel was a runner through and through. She runs more than 50 miles a week, and she wasn’t happy about what she considered to be a poor performance in last year’s Cooper River Bridge Run.

“This year it’s going to be under 37 minutes,” Poe said, referring to her unacceptable time of 38:20 last year.

Poe has run numerous races around the country but maintains that one of her favorites is the Bridge Run.

“The run has been nothing but fun,” Poe said, remembering her 2010 race.

Poe’s friend, Marc Emblar, one of only six American men to win the Bridge Run, told Poe she would never beat him in a run. Stifling laughter, Poe described a scene when a “lanky, tan, curly-haired man” passed her on the back half of the run. Emblar turned around and began running backward and yelling at Poe, “I told you that you would never beat me. Why even try?”

“The crowd must have been wondering what was wrong with this guy,” Poe said.

Poe did not end up beating Emblar that year, but with her best time of 37:04 in the 2011 Cooper River Bridge Run, Poe finally proved Emblar wrong.

Oprah Winfrey, Bill Murray, Carolyn Murray, Bob Schlau and Rives Poe are just a few of the famous faces that have graced the race-party-fiesta-festival that is the Cooper River Bridge Run. On the first weekend in April, the run begins early and the fun lasts late, and, if you’re lucky, you might spot your favorite celebrity trotting down Meeting Street. 🐾



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Most likely, you’ll find Myra in the creative arts studio. Missy will be in the pool, and Jolene is probably holding court in the Somerby Room. But come lunchtime, you bet the sparks will fly. These ladies met here at Somerby, and it looks like friendship for life. Somerby is more than a smart, comfortable retirement residence at rates that make sense. It’s the key to leading a life you want, a life you’d enjoy. Including health care if you ever need it. Discover your true spark. Somerby is the place.

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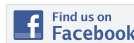
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A New Experience on New Year's Day

WHEN SHE WOKE UP ON New Year's Day, something quite new was about to begin for Danielle White of Georgetown. That something was motherhood. White knew that her nine months of waiting was up and that she could meet her new baby at any time, but it did not dawn on her that she would deliver a New Year's baby.

"I was hoping for a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day baby," White remembered.

BY AMY KEHM

"But he made it on another holiday, so that's cool."

At around 11:30 on New Year's morning, White began feeling uncomfortable but believed that she was experiencing Braxton Hicks contractions. By mid-afternoon, her pain increased, so White made her way to Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital. She was surprised to learn that her pain actually meant that she was well into the throes of labor. At 9:54 that night, White and Darnell Howard welcomed their son, Darnell

Christopher Howard Jr. Their new arrival checked in at 7.1 pounds and 20 inches long.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh. This is my baby,'" White recalled. "They put him on my chest and I was like, 'He was so cute.' Words can't describe how happy I was."

Baby Darnell is not just any New Year's baby; he is

Mount Pleasant's first baby of 2013. Mount Pleasant Magazine is in its second year of a First Baby Stork Basket Contest between Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital and East Cooper Medical Center. The competition is all in good fun since moms-to-be really have no say about who the winner will be. Fate is up to Mother Nature.

"I think it's really interesting, but nobody has control," White admitted. "It's not a race or anything."

Baby Darnell and his family received this year's Mount Pleasant Magazine First Baby Stork Basket. Local businesses donated items to welcome Darnell to the world: Southern Belles provided clothing, Baby Bloomers contributed burp cloths and onesies, Coastal Pediatrics offered a bottle and other goodies and Angels and Rascals donated a gift certificate. The new

mom did not seem surprised by the generosity.

"I think it's really nice," said White, who is considering moving to Mount Pleasant. "I love coming to Mount Pleasant because of how the people are."

In fact, she chose to have her baby at Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital because she felt pampered at the facility.

Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital is now tied with East Cooper Medical Center, which boasted the first baby of 2012.

White plans to enjoy her stork basket and her new role as Darnell's mom.

"He's really good baby. He's so neat," she said. 🐦



Darnell Christopher Howard Jr., center, was Mount Pleasant's first baby of 2013. His parents, Darnell Howard and Danielle White, live in Georgetown.

Photo by Denise K. James



ALHAMBRA HALL
In 1847, Charles Jugnot and Oliver Hilliard, owners of Mount Pleasant Ferry Company, developed a picnic ground in a grove of live oaks, called Hort's Grove. They built the first Alhambra as a summer retreat and dance hall overlooking Charleston Harbor. The present building was constructed in 1937 and is maintained by the town as a multipurpose recreational facility.



BEST of
MOUNT PLEASANT
MAGAZINE
2013
MountPleasantMagazine.com/BestOf





5 Months Open
5 Awards Won
Just wait til next year!

Thanks Mount Pleasant!



#1 Best Cocktail #2 Best Mac n Cheese
#2 Best Desserts #3 Best Happy Hour #2 Best Service

Brunch
Dinner
Catering

American Tapas, Sushi,
Martinis, Seafood, Pasta



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The Best of Mount Pleasant 2013

Welcome to the Winners' Circle

IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO LET YOU, OUR READERS, TELL US WHICH RESTAURANTS, people, businesses and places are worthy of being called “best” in our beautiful city. With more than 14,000 individual votes cast, we know that declaring your opinions about what rocks East of the Cooper is important to you. The categories for this year covered a few different headings and ranged from food and beverages to medicine, plus everything in between. We think you’ll like what you see.

When writer Cullen Murray-Kemp and I sat down to write these blurbs, we each had our own style. I preferred to jot everything down by hand in a college-ruled notebook, while Cullen typed on his Macbook Pro. We composed all of them in the span of a few days, sitting beneath a shady tree and sipping cups of coffee. We hope you’ll enjoy reading our take on your answers. We tried to make it humorous and fun.

We’d also like to take this opportunity and tell you thanks for being the best readers we could ask for. Until next year, keep Mount Pleasant at its best.

Denise K. James

Boys' and Girls' Clothing • Shoes Baby Items • Accessories • Gifts



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"a children's clothier"
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Voted Charleston's
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Final Results For Best of Mount Pleasant 2013



Best Wings -
Wild Wing Cafe
Photo provided by
Wild Wing Cafe

Best Food & Drink

BEST STEAK

1. Outback
2. Longhorn
3. Langdon's

It's a well-known fact that the Aussies make the world's finest steaks. It's also a well-known fact that Australia is more than 8,000 miles away. So why not skip the 23-hour plane ride and savor an authentic Australian steak at the Mount Pleasant Outback Steakhouse?

BEST BURGER

1. Five Guys
2. Poe's
3. Sesame

The burger and the fry have been best friends since America gained its independence from Great Britain and chose to ditch bangers and mash. These days, nobody reps the red, white and blue better than Five Guys – so be an American and scarf down some of their burgers and fries.

BEST FRIED CHICKEN

1. Publix
2. Page's Okra Grill
3. Raisin' Cane's

You missin' mamma's chicken fryin' in the kitchen? Missin' that grease poppin' as your teeth crunch down through that crispy skin and into the soft, white, Southern paradise? Miss no more my friends; Publix has the fix for your chicken twitch.

BEST RIBS

1. Sticky Fingers
2. Home Team BBQ
3. Melvin's

If the moon were made of spare ribs, would you eat it? Well, if those spare ribs were saturated in succulent Sticky Fingers barbecue sauce, then the answer is: Hell yeah, I'd eat the moon!

BEST SEAFOOD

1. The Wreck
2. Water's Edge
3. Red's Ice House

Want some fresh-from-the-ocean seafood? The Wreck at Shem Creek will be happy to fill you up with clams, oysters, shrimp, scallops, fish and all other sea dwelling creatures, all the while providing customers with a magnificent view of the Charleston Harbor.

BEST BREAKFAST

1. Page's Okra Grill
2. Charleston's Café
3. Sea Biscuit Café

For years, McDonald's had the world convinced that its Egg McMuffin was the best breakfast in town. Despite all of the marketing geniuses that promote the golden-arch breakfast, people have finally realized that Ronald McDonald's slab of rubbery Canadian bacon and an egg cooked into shapes that can't be fully understood just don't contend with the breakfast suited for presidents being served up at Page's Okra Grill in Mount Pleasant.

BEST BRUNCH

1. Red Drum
2. Crave
3. Triangle

The key component to making your Sunday a fun day is a picture-perfect brunch. There's nothing like a heaping hunk of fried chicken over a biscuit, smothered with thick, creamy gravy at Red Drum to spark a fun Sunday.

BEST BARBECUE

1. Home Team BBQ
2. Melvin's
3. Mama Brown's

On the days you want to get your hands messy while you eat, Home Team BBQ on Sullivan's Island offers the sauce and the napkins. A local favorite for good grub and live tunes, you'll feel right at home even with a dirty face.

BEST ASIAN

1. Basil
2. P.F. Chang's
3. Asian Flavor
3. Bambu

Mount Pleasant collectively rejoiced when Basil opened an East Cooper location – and the votes prove it. For a tasty experience that won't drain your wallet, Basil is a good choice for lunch, dinner or even at 3 p.m., when you're tired of bickering with your co-workers and need to escape to a bowl of coconut soup.

BEST ITALIAN

1. Sette
2. Carrabbas
3. Bricco Bracco

Sette, the winner for Best Italian, has left nothing more than the shadow of a spaghetti noodle over our hearts.

Mount Pleasant recalls the cozy, delicious meals fondly and rues the day that we became forced to bake our own ciabatta.

BEST MEXICAN

1. Santi's
2. Los Arcos
3. Senor Tequilla

Is your chip in need of some salsa? Is your heart in need of some

beans? Santi's Restaurante Mexicano gets the thumbs up from our readers as the place to get a margarita and go loco for tacos.

BEST SUSHI

1. Tsunami
2. Bambu
3. Fuji

The chefs at Tsunami were saying "That's how I roll"

long before the catch phrase came onto the pop culture radar. For fresh, delicious sushi in the company of Mount Pleasant Magazine readers, pay them a visit and toast with some hot sake.

BEST WINGS

1. Wild Wing Cafe
2. Home Team BBQ
3. Blue's

Ever get a craving for wings at a restaurant and realized the only two flavors they have available are "wimpy"

and "hot"? Well, that won't happen at Mount Pleasant's Wild Wing Cafe, voted by our readers as the ultimate place to order chicken wings. With dozens of flavors to tantalize the most discriminating of wing-chowing palates, it's always a crowd pleaser. Plus, you get wet naps, and who doesn't love those?

BEST PIZZA

1. Mello Mushroom
2. Andolini's
3. Steel City Pizza

Pizza is the ultimate comfort food, and Mellow

Mushroom is our readers' favorite place to be comforted. Sink your teeth into a gooey pie, enjoy the trippy artwork and mellow the heck out.

BEST RAW BAR

1. Shem Creek Bar & Grill
2. Abe's Oyster House
3. Red's Ice House

The true art of a raw bar is often lost amid fried, baked, seared and grilled seafood. The essence of the

sea lies in a raw oyster (perhaps with a dab of cocktail sauce) sliding down your throat at Shem Creek Bar & Grill.

BEST MAC 'N CHEESE

1. Home Team BBQ
2. J. Paul'z
3. Graze
3. Page's Okra Grill

Kids are inherently picky eaters. It doesn't take a seasoned food palate for yours to realize that there is no love in the Kraft mac 'n cheese you feed them. Your kid needs love. Your kid needs Mac 'n Cheese. Home Team BBQ promises both.



BEST SHRIMP 'N GRITS

1. Page's Okra Grill
2. Boulevard Diner
3. Old Village Post House
3. Vickery's

It's really by default that shrimp swim around in the

salty backcountry marshes. The real home for shrimp is frolicking about a soft bed of creamy Page's Okra Grill grits. Well, maybe not, but at

least that's where our taste buds believe they belong.

BEST DESSERT

1. Village Bakery
2. J. Paul'z
3. Burtons
3. Page's Okra Grill

Double chocolate brownie bottom cake, coconut cake, assorted cupcakes dressed with flavored icing, fruit pies, French silk pies – the list goes on. Village Bakery, known for its superlative sweets, does not harbor any responsibility for your stretching midsection. It does, however, promise yumminess.



BEST COFFEE SHOP

1. Starbucks
2. Café Metto
3. Troubadours

"I want a Venti, fat-free, mocha with two

shots of espresso added, four cubes of ice to cool it down, half a spoonful of your energy puree ... Oh, and my name is spelled with a y, not an i." If this sounds familiar, get in line with the rest of the readers who voted Star-

bucks as the best place to get a caffeine buzz.

BEST GROCERY STORE

1. Publix
2. Harris Teeter
3. Whole Foods

You can't go wrong with Publix, according to our readers, for your everyday shopping. Whether you're Southern and you call it a "buggy" or you're a Yankee and call it a "cart," fill that sucker up, go home and have dinner with the family around the kitchen table.

BEST FROZEN YOGURT

1. Menchie's
2. TCBY
3. Yobe

Ice cream is downright passé; frozen yogurt is the dessert du jour. Our readers chose Menchie's for the best fro-yo in town. And, best of all, when you get the hankering to top your dessert with three different colors of gummy worms, the employees will not wrinkle their brows at you.

BEST HAPPY HOUR

1. Water's Edge
2. Burtons
3. J. Paul'z

Living in Mount Pleasant, there are very few hours that would be considered unhappy, but we still must pay homage to a Southern tradition. An hour every day, regardless of what miseries are hindering your happiness, you should be able to be just flat out happy. The drinks, the camaraderie and the view at Water's Edge will certainly help.

BEST COCKTAIL

1. Basil
1. J. Paul'z
3. Burtons
3. Red Drum

Is beer just too tart for your liking? Does wine make you pucker up? Does the thought of a shot make your eyes hurriedly search for the nearest vomit bowl? With its city-renowned cocktails, Basil is just the place for weak-tummy drinkers who still like to catch a buzz.

BEST CRAFT BEER

1. Coleman Public House
2. Westbrook Brewery
3. Mellow Mushroom

I know you. Instead of Apple Jacks and Cheerios for breakfast, you would rather have barley and hops (lots of hops), slowly fermented by the churning of your spoon. You aren't alone – the other 14 people who prefer craft beer to cereal for breakfast are down at Coleman Public House, and they would love your company.

BEST BUDGET-FRIENDLY MEAL

1. Page's Okra Grill
2. Five Guys
3. Five Loaves

Page's Okra Grill is not the fanciest place to chow down in Mount Pleasant, but it may well be the best place to eat a yummy meal for next to no dough. If you're looking to save for your next big summer vacation, bring your posse to Page's for supper.

BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

1. Chick-fil-A
2. Moe's
3. Home Team BBQ

Kids love chicken, and moms love to take the little ones to Chick-fil-A if they've been good. Just make sure to get there early for a lunch date; the place is so popular that the line wraps around the building, sometimes more than once. Now that's good poultry.

BEST PLACE TO DINE OUTDOORS

1. Vickery's
2. Red's Ice House
3. 17 North

Sometimes you want to eat outside, picnic style, but you want someone else to bring the food. On one of those days, the extensive amount of outdoor seating at Vickery's, a Shem Creek favorite, does the trick. The views of the water make you realize how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful place.

BEST UPSCALE RESTAURANT

1. Langdon's
2. Red Drum
3. Opal

You deserve a night out, whether it's for putting up with the in-laws or just a reason to put on something other than stretchy pants. Langdon's Restaurant & Wine Bar fits the agenda for an evening out on the town, without the hassle of parking on the peninsula, which can be just as frustrating as hanging with the in-laws.

BEST PLACE TO TAKE AN OUT-OF-TOWNER

1. Red's Ice House
2. Poe's
3. Water's Edge

Oh, Red's. You are an icon of happy hour, of drinking beer by the water and feeling elite, even if we live in an apartment the size of a bathroom. So when friends visit and you have nowhere to put them except on the grubby, pull-out sofa bed, head to Red's Ice House and make their trip completely worth it.



BEST SERVICE

1. Burtons
2. J. Paul'z
3. Red Drum

If you want the glass to be more than half empty, Burtons has your back. As a newcomer to the Mount Pleasant restaurant scene, Burtons has made a fine impression on our readers by employing a staff that makes you tip cash, tip your hat and give your friends tips to visit the restaurant for exceptional service.

BEST HANGOVER FOOD

1. Page's Okra Grill
1. Waffle House
3. Acme Lowcountry Kitchen
3. Five Guys

Oh, alarm clock, why must you taunt us, especially after a night at the wine bar? Readers could not decide between Waffle House, the American interstate classic, and Page's Okra Grill, the local classic. Either one will ease your pain on the morning after. Don't forget to hydrate.



Shopping & Goods

BEST BOUTIQUE

1. Teal
2. Affordables
3. Copper Penny

There are times you want to shop somewhere with character, maybe find a little something that not every broad on the block is wearing to the PTA meeting. According to our stylish readers, Teal, located in Towne Centre, can help you out with that.

BEST CONSIGNMENT SHOP

1. Butterfly
2. Angels and Rascals
3. Consigning Women

Consignment has become huge in the Lowcountry, and our readers think that Butterfly Consignment at Belle Hall is the place to find awesome designer clothing and accessories – and to drop off your own awesome goodies that are ready for a new owner.

BEST THRIFT SHOP

1. Goodwill
2. SC Thrift
3. Uptown Cheap skate

If you're a thrift store junkie, you probably know where all of Mount Pleasant's Goodwills are located. You might even know that readers voted Goodwill the best thrift shop in the area, whether you're hunting a cheesy sweater for the holidays or donating a television that your friends can't watch without snickering.

BEST SWIMWEAR

1. Belk
2. Salty Girls
3. Parrot Surf Shop

Shopping for swimwear can be rough on anyone, but our Mount Pleasant Magazine readers salute Belk for offering a selection wide enough to "suit" anyone's tastes. Around the Lowcountry, we spend half our lives in the water, so we might as well get something that turns heads, right?

BEST COCKTAIL/DRESS ATTIRE

1. Gwynn's
2. Copper Penny
3. Genealogy

Our readers are fancy sometimes, and when the situation calls for black tie, it's time to head to Gwynn's. Featuring swanky stuff for both ladies and gents, including shoes and makeup, the Mount Pleasant mainstay is guaranteed to help you step out in style.

BEST WOMEN'S ACCESSORIES

1. Versona
2. Francescas
3. Handpicked

No chick alive can deny that accessories are amazing. You don't have to be any certain shape or size to deck yourself out with bracelets, sunglasses and handbags. That said, our readers picked Versona for dressing up an outfit. Feel free to get gaudy; we won't judge.

BEST HOME GOODS

1. Marshall's
2. Celadon
3. GDC

Contemplating that unsightly lamp that your husband's old girlfriend bought before you met him and stole his heart? Ditch it. Then, go to Marshall's for a new one. Our readers voted it the best in town for outfitting the house in your own good taste.

BEST TOYS

1. Wonderworks
2. Hollipops
3. Target

Is your adult life dragging you down? Do you long to venture someplace that feels like a fairy tale or a fun park? Our readers suggest WonderWorks for bringing out the kid in all of us. You might even want to bring the kids along when you go.



Best Cocktail Dress/Attire - Gwynn's
Photo provided by Gwynn's

BEST PLACE TO BUY HOSTESS GIFTS

1. Coastal Cupboard
2. Southern Accessories
3. Celadon
3. Zinnia

We've all heard that the kitchen is the most popular room in the house. When you want to kiss up to your hostess (after all, she

does throw the best parties) our readers say Coastal Cupboard has the perfect gift for her kitchen.

BEST PLACE TO BUY BIRTHDAY/HOLIDAY GIFTS

1. Out of Hand
2. Celadon
3. Palmetto Moon
3. Southern Accents

Whether it's someone's 25th birthday for the fourth time or your cousin is graduating from an Ivy League college, celebrations are important.

Out of Hand, a gift emporium in the Old Village, has items to commemorate the occasion. Don't forget to get a little something for yourself, too. You deserve it.

BEST ART GALLERY

1. Karen's Korner
2. Treasure Nest
3. Steven Jordan

Walls are a real snooze when they're naked. Luckily, Karen's Korner Frame & Art Gallery in Mount Pleasant can help you

dress your walls for success. Whether you need a piece of colorful Lowcountry scenery to jazz up the downstairs powder room or a custom frame for your favorite photo, our readers give this local shop the thumbs up.

BEST FLORIST

1. Out of Hand
2. Belva's
3. Buy the Bunch

OK, so you missed your 10-year anniversary because the Clemson/USC football game antics ran late. Admittedly, you're in trouble. Yet there is one way to escape

a decade-long doghouse: Buy her a couple dozen roses from Out of Hand.

BEST LIQUOR STORE

1. Bottles
2. Clarey's
3. Bradley's

Is Grandma throwing a fit because nobody ever brings her specialty gin to family dinner parties anymore? Mo-

sey on down to Bottles Beverage Superstore for the widest variety of beer, wine and spirits in the Lowcountry.

BEST DISCOUNT SHOP

1. T.J. Max
2. Wal-Mart
3. Target
3. Tuesday Morning
3. Uptown Cheapskate

Want to maximize your style and still have a little change to buy that cute Southern belle a cosmopolitan tonight? T.J. Max has all the name

brands she'll recognize for next-to-nothing prices. Now you just have to figure out how to convince her that you live on Sullivan's Island and that your 1987 Dodge Stratus with 200,000 miles on the odometer is the result of a lost bet.

BEST CASUAL ATTIRE

1. Affordables
1. Kohl's
3. T.J. Max

Even Ms. South Carolina doesn't dress up in gaudy sun hats, a wavy white dress and four-inch stilettos every day.

Come down to Affordables for casual wear that will keep those Southern gentlemen on their toes and their wallets open.

BEST SPORTING GOODS

1. Haddrell's
2. East Cooper Sporting Goods
3. Play It Again Sports

There's always the one that got away – not the woman of your dreams but the trophy

red drum that snapped your fishing line, which was cheaper than Thursday night dollar drinks on King Street. Haddrell's Point in Mount Pleasant has the line that will reel in any red in the Lowcountry.

BEST PLACE TO BUY A BOAT

1. Seel's Outboard
2. Daniel Island Marina

Ready to go overboard and splurge on a new yacht? Or how about

buying a Carolina skiff to impress the ladies down at Shem Creek and maybe even reel in a fish or two? Seel's Outboard is prepared to provide you with a lifetime of maritime musings.



BEST PLACE TO BUY A CAR

1. Baker Motor Company
2. Lowcountry VW
2. McElveen Chevrolet

Are you tired of buying lemons from the less-than honest salesman at a run-of-the-mill car dealership? Have you found yourself beating the steering wheel of your recently purchased car because it

crapped out on you halfway across the Cooper River Bridge? Baker Motor Company in Mount Pleasant sells reliable cars to all its Lowcountry customers.

BEST BABY GOODS

1. Baby Bloomers
2. Southern Belles
3. Angels and Rascals

Your baby probably won't know what to say when you come home with a fresh new crib and a Dolce and Gabbana diaper bag from Baby Bloomers. Or how about surprising your infant with an alpaca car seat? Baby Bloomers recognizes that babies are acutely aware of life's finer things.

BEST CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

1. Southern Belles
2. Angels and Rascals
3. Gymboree

Have your book club meetings turned into weekly discussions about TLC's hit TV show "Toddlers & Tiaras"? Does your toddler need a wardrobe revamping? Well, Southern Belles has been styling Mount Pleasant toddlers for over 25 years.

BEST MENSWEAR

1. Jos. A. Bank
2. Gwynn's
3. Belk

Fashion magazines everywhere are saying that it is the year to look good. "Out with the hip t-shirts of 2012, and in with the sports coats and dress shirts," read the covers. Jos. A. Bank not only has all the menswear to tackle 2013 but also will provide peace of mind for your bank account in today's uncertain economy.

BEST SHOES

1. The Shoe Fairy
2. Phillips Shoes
3. Copper Penny

Flat out, The Shoe Fairy has the classiest kicks around. Whether you were born into Southern aristocracy or fit the magic shoe like Cinderella, The Shoe Fairy has the footwear for your next formal function.

BEST HARDWARE STORE

1. Ace Hardware
2. Lowe's
3. True Value

Tired of walking into a big-box hardware store and being harassed by employees asking you what "project" you're working on this weekend? At Royall Ace Hardware, you can find whatever it is you need for that new man cave you're building, as well as a friendly face guaranteed to steer you in the right direction.

BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE

1. Ace Hardware
2. Gwynn's
2. Publix
2. Southern Belles

Don't be surprised if you leave Royall Ace Hardware feeling like the entire world is working for you. Many customers contract the feeling-like-the-president syndrome and are stunned when nobody opens their car door and unravels a red carpet leading into their house. If that would make your experience better, Ace Hardware does keep a few bundles of red carpet in storage.

BEST INSURANCE COMPANY

1. State Farm
2. Billy Swails State Farm
3. C.T. Lowndes
3. Jack Tankersley State Farm

Don't worry if you make a bad decision behind the wheel or if Mother Nature deals you a bad hand. That's what insurance is all about. Many Mount Pleasant Magazine readers depend on State Farm to bail them out.



Entertainment & Leisure

BEST PLACE TO WATCH SPORTS ON TV

1. Wild Wing Cafe
2. King Street Grille
3. O'Brion's

My heaven looks something like this: A tall glass of Budweiser, a heap of hot wings smothered in an assortment of sauces and me and the guys shouting at the top of our lungs at a 100-inch television screen that pictures grown men running over each other while chasing down an oval-shaped piece of leather. If this is your fantasy, too, I'll see you down at Wild Wing Cafe in Mount Pleasant.

BEST PLAYGROUND

1. Palmetto Islands
2. Alhambra Hall
3. Waterfront Park

Are the kids yearning for fresh air in a way that makes you want to pull your hair out, one strand at a time? Head to Palmetto Islands County Park, which won for having the best playground, and let the little tykes walk – or slide – it out.

BEST WAY TO SPEND A RAINY AFTERNOON

1. At the movies
2. Cinebarre
3. Reading

On the rare day when Mount Pleasant isn't pleasant, our readers love to recline in a comfortable chair, look up at a big screen and watch their favorite flicks with a snack and a drink while the sky cries outside.



Find Out Why Mount Pleasant Voted Us The Best!



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Cliff Hudson, MD
Motor Doctor

At Hudson's Import Service, we aren't just taking care of cars - we're taking care of customers.

- 24 Month/24,000 Mile warranty on all repairs
(twice the time & mileage of the industry standard)
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in Mount Pleasant with all service & repairs over \$50



If you're looking for an experienced technician to diagnose your car's illness, Cliff Hudson and his staff have been caring for import cars in Mount Pleasant for over 35 years.

Happy Anniversary!



We look forward to seeing you again.
Cliff Hudson, MD
Motor Doctor & Staff



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Thank you for your support as we celebrate our 35th year!

Bring this coupon in for
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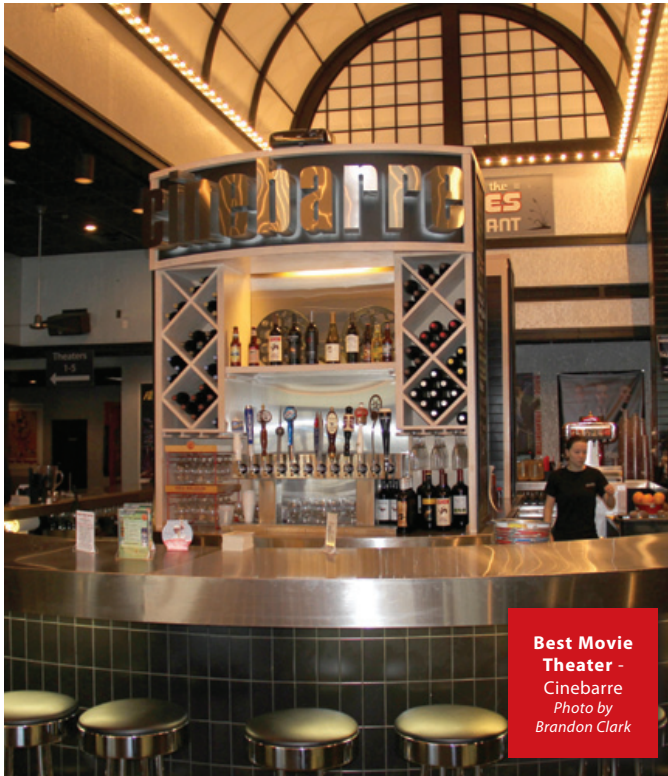
Bosch Authorized Service Center

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www.HudsonsImport.com



ASE Certified Technicians



BEST MOVIE THEATER

1. Cinebarre
2. Palmetto Grande

First things first: Scratch every single thought you have about a traditional movie theater. Instead, contemplate custom cocktails and craft beers paired with mouth-watering appetizers and enticing entrees, all served to you while you relax in comfortable seats, watching the movie of your choice playing on the big screen. Yeah, that's Cinebarre in Mount Pleasant, and it's a moviegoer's heaven.

BEST PARK

1. Waterfront Park
2. Palmetto Island
3. Alhambra Hall

Waterfront Park, a Mount Pleasant addition since 2009, features some of the Lowcountry's best views of the Ravenel Bridge up close. And, hey, any place is good where you can walk out to the harbor, gaze soulfully into the distance and call it exercising, right?

BEST KIDS' ACTIVITY

1. Blackbeard's Cove
2. Art Buzz Kids
3. The Beach

There are days when you want to reward the kids, not just take them to the same old tired spots and demand that they wear themselves out so you can watch "Project Runway" in peace that evening. For those special times, Blackbeard's Cove on Highway 17 scored points with our readers for a fun, adventurous day with the family. ... just guard the family fortune. We hear there are pirates around those parts.

Thank you Mt. Pleasant!

For Voting Vickery's Best Place to Dine Outdoors!



While soaking up **the best waterfront view**

in Mt. Pleasant of Shem Creek & the Charleston Harbor, Vickery's is a **hot spot**

for lunch, dinner & Sunday brunch that both locals & visitors crave! Enjoy

cool cocktails

at either of Vickery's outside bars,

the shark fin or muddy's

while taking in one of the best

sunsets imaginable.

Lunch & Dinner starting at 11:30am

Sunday Brunch 11:00am-3pm



Shem Creek, Mt. Pleasant
1313 Shrimp Boat Lane
843-884-4440
www.vickerys.com

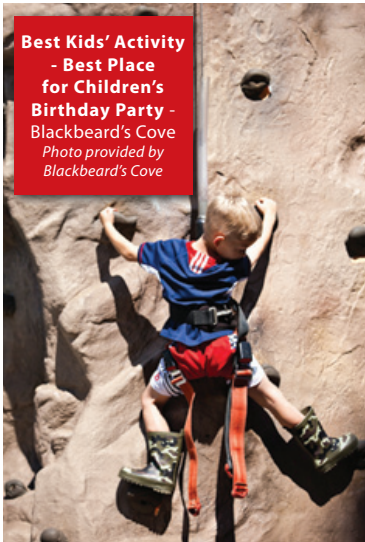


BEST PLACE FOR CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

1. Blackbeard's Cove
2. Art Buzz Kids
3. The Little Gym

A birthday party for kids can either be a nightmare for every adult involved or a chance to let the perfect,

kid-friendly place put an unforgettable celebration together. If Johnny and Suzy are too popular for a backyard barbeque, take the gang to Blackbeard's Cove. With all sorts of amusements and excitement for birthday gatherings, your kids will stay enthusiastic and your house will stay clean.



Best Kids' Activity - Best Place for Children's Birthday Party - Blackbeard's Cove
Photo provided by Blackbeard's Cove

BEST PLACE TO PADDLEBOARD

1. Shem Creek
2. Isle of Palms
3. Sullivan's Island

Paddleboarding has become a hot sport in recent years, and our readers have chosen beloved Shem Creek as the board path they most adore. With its abundance of restaurants and bars at which

to dock and socialize after absorbing the natural beauty, we certainly understand their reasoning.



Best Place to Paddleboard - Shem Creek
Photo by Chase Greiser

Rich with history, the scenic Dunes West Golf Course is challenging enough for the scratch golfer and forgiving enough for the duffer. The twisting fairways, the Bermuda rough and the green-marble greens, juxtaposed by the placid waters rich with red drum, provide a picturesque golf experience. Now you just have to figure out how to get rid of that nauseating slice.

BEST PLACE TO PLAY GOLF

1. Dunes West
2. RiverTowne
3. Charleston National

to figure out how to get rid of that nauseating slice.

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BEST PLACE TO PLAY TENNIS

1. Wild Dunes
2. Dunes West
3. Live to Play

Are you tired of getting whooped up on the tennis court by your spouse? Do your buddies make fun of you because your 11-year-old daughter has a serve that you just simply can't return? Have your baffled backhand and horrendous forehand become the laughingstock of your tennis club? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, then it's time to visit the Wild Dunes tennis courts for practice and lessons from the pros.

BEST PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS

1. Isle of Palms
2. Sullivan's Island
3. IOP County Park

Mount Pleasant and East Cooper residents alike love getting sandy, and the Isle of Palms is the home of our readers' favorite public beach accesses. Whether you want to take a brisk walk at sunset or spend the whole day catching rays (don't forget the sunscreen), IOP fits your needs.

BEST PLACE TO WALK YOUR DOG

1. The beach at IOP
2. The beach at Sullivan's Island
3. Palmetto Islands County Park

Man, you guys really love your pets. In fact, you love them enough to bring them to paradise, otherwise known as the Isle of Palms. We won't argue that your pooch deserves a walk in the fresh air and gorgeous scenery. Just be courteous to your neighbors and scoop up the poop.



• Best Public Beach Access
• Best Place To Walk Your Dog
• Best Place To Fly A Kite
• Best Place to Stargaze -
Isle of Palms
Photo by Brian Sherman

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CHECK OUR SPECIALS BOARD

BEST PLACE TO FLY A KITE

1. The beach at IOP
2. The beach at Sullivan's Island
3. Waterfront Park

the best place to watch that tail go soaring.

If you tell someone to go fly a kite, and you don't mean it ironically, you'll probably want to let them know that Mount Pleasant Magazine readers voted the Isle of Palms

BEST PLACE TO STARGAZE

1. The beach at IOP
2. The beach at Sullivan's Island
3. Pitt Street Bridge

city of Mount Pleasant, there's a great big world out there.

Have you wished upon a star lately? You might have been on the Isle of Palms (again), where our readers do most of their stargazing. Just think, beyond our beautiful

BEST PLACE TO HAVE A PICNIC

1. Waterfront Park
2. Alhambra Hall
2. Palmetto Islands County Park

have a picnic, and don't forget your gingham cloth.

With the abundance of great weather we enjoy in Mount Pleasant, dining alfresco is a popular way to enjoy lunch. Head to Waterfront Park, our readers' favorite place to

BEST PLACE TO DAYDREAM

1. Pitt Street Bridge
2. Waterfront Park
3. The beach
3. The beach at IOP

One of our editors, Brian Sherman, insists that a baseball park is the ultimate place to daydream. But if you're lacking tickets to the big game this year, the Pitt Street Bridge makes a good second choice for a location to let your mind wander.



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Common Mistakes Smart Home Buyers Make And How To Avoid Them.



Best Place to Daydream - Pitt Street Bridge
Photo by Brian Sherman

BEST PLACE TO GO FOR A RUN

- 1. Arthur Ravenel Bridge
- 2. The Beach at IOP
- 3. The Old Village

The Arthur Ravenel Bridge won as the best place to go for a run.

The pedestrian lane has been a hit since the bridge opened in 2005. So tie on those sneakers and hoof it to the top. The view is well worth the sprint.

BEST PLACE TO RIDE A BIKE

- 1. Old Village
- 2. The beach at Sullivan's Island
- 3. Arthur Ravenel Bridge
- 3. The beach at IOP

As a kid, biking was our main mode of transportation, from our house to our best friend's house down the street. The

same holds true for readers who cycle around the Old Village and wave hello to each other. It's like being in Mayberry.

BEST PLACE TO FISH

- 1. Waterfront Park
- 2. Shem Creek
- 2. Wando River

Tired of watching the fishing channel on your 1980s TV set? Ready for the real thing? Head down to Waterfront

Park for the scenic sunset, the smell of saltwater and the best darn fishing in the Mount Pleasant area.

BEST BOARD SHOP

- 1. Parrot Surf Shop
- 2. Odyssey
- 3. Charleston Water Sports

Do you sit at work in front of a computer all day long and watch videos of long-haired

surfers shredding through head-high waves? Do you drool at the sight of ripped-jeaned, sweaty-shirted skaters soaring 10 feet above a rusty ramp? If so, it's time to turn in those khaki pants and Oxford shirts for a skateboard or a surfboard down at Parrot Surf Shop and make those dreams come true.

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Dr. Hensel and his son Joshua

BEST PLACE TO PUT YOUR BOAT IN THE WATER

1. Remleys Point
2. Shem Creek
3. IOP Marina

Grab the sunscreen, tow rope, inner tube, wine coolers and fishing poles. Hook the boat and trailer up to the

back of the family minivan. Put lifejackets on the kids, and head to Remley's Point for a day on the water.



BEST PLACE TO VIEW THE RAVENEL BRIDGE

1. Waterfront Park
2. From the water
2. Patriots Point

Do you feel like you're having an "I'll cross that bridge when I come to it" kind of day? Mosey over to the Water-

front Park and gaze at the Ravenel Bridge while you ponder.

BEST CONCERT VENUE

1. Family Circle Tennis Center
2. Boone Hall Plantation
3. Awendaw Green
3. The Windjammer

Nothing says "summer in Charleston" like Hootie & The Blowfish getting back together

for what has become their annual reunion concert at the Family Circle Tennis Center on Daniel Island.

BEST NIGHT LIFE SPOT

1. Suede
2. Red's Ice House
3. Home Town BBQ

It's that champagne pourin', big bass knockin', sexy girls dancin' night club we spend 80 percent of our

weekdays dreaming about. Meanwhile, we sit in our cubicles staring at business trends that make about as much sense as mink coats on Sullivan's Island in August. Yes, we are dreaming about Suede.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD FOR FAMILIES

1. Park West
2. Old Village
3. l'On

There's nothing like a neighborhood where your kids can roam free after dusk. Our readers concur that Park West helps foster

a fuzzy feeling with the families next door.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD FOR RETIREES

1. Dunes West
2. Seaside Farms
3. Charleston National

Dunes West is our readers' favorite neighborhood for remaining active and social during the retirement

years. This community keeps seniors living a life of excitement.

BEST APARTMENT COMMUNITY

1. Hibben Ferry
2. Runaway Bay
3. Belle Hall
3. Wando East

When it comes to apartment homes, nothing beats a sparkling swimming pool, quiet feet over your head and a friendly staff. Hibben Ferry, Mount

Pleasant's most popular apartment community, offers all of this and more to those who pay the rent on time.

BEST CUSTOM BUILDER

1. David Weekley Homes
2. Madigan Projects
2. Structures

Looking to build your one-of-a-kind abode in the town of Mount Pleasant? Our readers say David

Weekley Homes is the best custom builder for the job.

BEST VOLUME BUILDER

1. David Weekley Homes
1. John Weiland Homes
3. Pulte Homes

New to the lovely Lowcountry area and searching for a starter home to fit your needs and your

heart? David Weekley Homes is the top pick for volume building. In other words, you'll get more house for your buck.



Local Personalities & Services

BEST NAIL SALON

1. Long Nails
2. Creative Nails
3. Pro Nails

Gorgeous nails are all the rage these days, and, if yours are looking more like dragon talons, head to Long Nails

and get 'em manicured along with our other readers. Then tap them against a window so everyone can see them.

BEST HAIR SALON

1. Vanity Salon
2. Stella Nova
3. Fulton Street
3. Courtyard & Co.
3. Kayla's Beach & Hair Salon
3. Visage

They don't call this place Vanity Salon for nothing; walk out of here and you'll be batting your eyelashes and flipping your mane as though the

grubby lottery ticket in your car's cup holder just won you a million bucks.

BEST YOGA STUDIO

1. Bikram Yoga
2. Bella Forza Studio
3. Blue Turtle Yoga

Can you touch your toes? Face down like a dog? Or give the sun a salutation like a Greek god in training?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, you'd best sign up for lessons at Bikram Yoga, where readers learn to breathe deeply, remain flexible and chant "Om."

BEST DANCE STUDIO

1. Dance Carolina
2. Dance Anatomy
2. Tapio

There are those who are just born with a natural rhythm, and there are those who need a little more help.

Dance Carolina, a studio just for kids, is the favorite place for your little ones to hone their dancing skills at an early age.

BEST DAYCARE

1. Miss Aimee's Childcare
1. The Children's Center
3. Christ Kids

When it comes to whom you trust with your children, Miss Aimee on Sullivan's Island gets

a gold star. She'll send the kids home with smiles and tales that will make you proud – plus a few that might make you cringe. But that's part of being a parent, right?

BEST MECHANIC

1. Hudson's Import Service
2. Gerald's Tires
3. Exclusively Bimmers

The mechanics at Hudson's Import Service are the sharpest tools in the shed. Rumor has it,

you can hand Hudson the keys to your 1998 Honda with a suspect transmission, and, in no time, it will be purring like your boss' 2010 BMW.

BEST BODY SHOP

1. Ascue's
2. Mount Pleasant Collision
3. Gerald's Tires

We all know that every employee at Ascue's Auto Body & Paint has chiseled abs, muscles surrounded by muscles and legs for days.

What we didn't know is that they all are experts at fixing cars as well.

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BEST CAR WASH

- 1. Liquid Highway
- 2. Americana
- 2. Wash Wizard

Come on, she's begging for a bath. No, not your girlfriend; I'm talking about your car. Take them both

down to Liquid Highway for the scrubbing they deserve.



Best Place To Work -
 Mount Pleasant Roper Hospital
 Photo courtesy of Mount Pleasant Roper Hospital

BEST PLACE TO WORK

- 1. Mount Pleasant Roper Hospital
- 2. East Cooper Medical Center
- 2. Pleasant Family Dentistry

Have you ever dreamed about waking up every day and going to a job you love;

a place that feels like play rather than like work? Well, that job doesn't exist because it wouldn't be called work – it would be called recess. Roper Mount Pleasant Hospital is certainly the next best thing.

BEST JEWELER

- 1. Polly's
- 2. Loy Harn
- 3. Campbell's

If diamonds really are a girl's best friend, there must be a bevy of Southern beauties hanging out at Polly's Fine Jewelry.

Sounds like a great place for Southern men to spend some time as well.

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BEST ATTORNEY

1. Dennis O'Neill
2. Edward Phipps
3. Karen DeJong
3. Charlie Condon
3. MaryBeth Mullaney
3. Skipper Woody

Dennis O'Neill will convince the judge that you weren't trying to "disturb the peace" when you were listening to Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Freebird" at top volume in your red Chrysler convertible while cruising through a residential neighborhood. The cop who pulled you over and wrote you that \$500 ticket was

just having a bad day, and you should not be punished for your Freebird fanaticism.

BEST VETERINARIAN

1. Pet Vet
2. Animal Medical Center
3. Patrick Veterinary Clinic

Old Roscoe is starting to get those gray whiskers.

For goodness sake, he's like 10 (that's 70 in dog

years) and needs the right care. No matter how old

your pets are, if you love them, you'll take them to Pet Vet and give them the best pet care in the Lowcountry.

BEST PLACE OF WORSHIP

1. Seacoast Church
2. Christ Our King
3. Mount Pleasant Presbyterian

Remember being a kid at church, sitting next to your family members, bored silly and straining to hear the bland sermon? Well, those days

are long gone at Seacoast, our readers' favorite place to get inspired, sing songs and praise the one who made our days in Mount Pleasant so lovely.

BEST RADIO PERSONALITY

1. TJ Phillips
2. Charlie James
3. Kelly Golden

Readers voted TJ Philips of 103.5 (WEZL) as the best radio personality, and, in the country-music-loving South, he gets plenty of recognition for being a favorite AM host for

more than 30 years. Yet another reason to listen to the local stations and avoid the satellite craze, eh?



BEST TELEVISION PERSONALITY

1. Rob Fowler
2. Dean Stephens
3. Bill Walsh

In South Carolina, the weather

can be unpredictable. One minute you're tanning your freshly waxed legs on the beach, and the next you're wading through a puddle deep enough to drown your brand new SUV. Rob Fowler is the favorite television personality of our readers for knowing when to pull out the rubber boots. Check him out on your nearest boob tube.



Dining room manager, Ann Warner serves up a seafood platter.

The Wreck of the Richard & Charlene

106 Haddrell Street, Mount Pleasant
Open 5:30pm Daily

The Wreck 'n Crew are most grateful for the generous response by our customers naming us "Best Seafood Restaurant East of the Cooper." **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!**

The Charleston City Paper's description of us in 2010 still seems to ring true: "The most unique Shem Creek dining experience. . . is to be found at the **Wreck of the Richard and Charlene**. . . on a spot, . . . a little hard to find . . . tucked away down in the Old Village neighborhood almost at the mouth of the creek. (*between Magwood & Wando Seafoods*).

The Wreck is a low-key, bare-bones place that sits on a big dock looking out over Shem Creek. It specializes in big, freshly made portions of local seafood, and the menu is simple: various combinations of grilled or fried fish, shrimp and scallops, along with fried oysters, deviled crab and stone crab claws, too.

Credit Cards Welcome
Visit us for directions:

www.wreckrc.com

BEST LOCAL CELEBRITY

1. Darius Rucker
2. Bill Murray
3. Stephen Colbert

To hear people talk, we're all a bunch of blowfish in a Hootie-obsessed town. Our readers think Darius

Rucker deserves the title of best local celebrity. When we hear his voice sing "I Only Wanna Be With You" on the '90s iPod mix, we cannot help but agree.

BEST TEACHER

1. Cynthia Beall
1. Kim Jackson
3. Gina Fennell

When it comes to reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic, readers said that Cynthia Beall of Sullivan's Island Elementary

can't be beat for educating your offspring. The word is that children leave her classroom feeling significantly smarter.

BEST PRINCIPAL

1. Lucy Beckham
2. Michael Antonelli
3. Karen Felder

Remember the old spelling tip on spelling "principal" and "principle?"

Well, after tallying our readers' votes,

we don't doubt that Lucy Beckham of Wando High School must be everyone's pal. Wando churns out a lot of successful young people, and Beckham is encouraging them to achieve their dreams.

BEST COACH

1. Jimmy Noonan
2. John Cantey
3. John Lupton

Jimmy Noonan has taken the Wando Warriors to new heights under the Friday night lights. His friend-first

attitude might have been the reason he was voted best coach in Mount Pleasant. Or maybe it's just because Wando football trumps any other sport East of the Cooper. Either way, readers agree, Noonan is the man.

BEST LOCAL POLITICIAN

1. Tim Scott
2. Billy Swails
3. Craig Rhyme

Tim Scott, our newest U.S. senator, doesn't ever make our state look foolish. On the contrary, readers think he's

a beacon of light for South Carolina's march into the future. If you didn't vote, don't bother to take credit for his prowess. But if you voted for Scott like many of our readers, pat yourself on the back.

BEST REALTOR

1. Ed Hunnicutt
2. David Kent
3. Jamie Hollingsworth

Have you thought recently about relocating to beautiful Charleston, in search of good food, great vibes

and that everyday-vacation feeling? Have successful business ventures enabled you to start thinking about a second home on Sullivan's Island? Your man with the plan is the Lowcountry's top Realtor, Ed Hunnicutt.

BEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY

1. Carolina One
2. Keller-Williams
3. Beachside

Ode to the cocktail glass you clutch that's half full of Southern-style sweet tea. Ode to your rocking chair that's

swaying back and forth on your redwood front porch. And most of all, ode to Carolina One, the top-notch real estate company that put you in that chair on that porch, with that satisfying sweet tea in your hand.

BEST RADIO STATION

1. 105.5 - The Bridge
2. 92.5 - Kickin'
3. 95SX - Hit Music Now

You all know that incredible feeling we get once a day when we're headed home from work,

our minds finally free from all job-related stress. As we drive over the Cooper River Bridge to our Mount Pleasant homes, we crank up our favorite radio station, 105.5 The Bridge, of course, and smile – knowing we live in the finest city in the world.

BEST HOME CLEANING SERVICE

1. Maid Pure
2. Molly Maids

The time your fiancée found out about the "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas" bachelor party or when the deli manager realized

you had been taking bites out of every sandwich that you served probably were messes you can't clean up. For everything else there's Maid Pure cleaning service.



Health & Wellness

BEST FAMILY DOCTOR

1. Dr. John Knepper - SeeWee Family Medicine
2. Dr. John Rowe - East Cooper Family Practice
3. Dr. Lucy Davis - Palmetto Primary Care

It's hard to find a good doctor you can trust, one that

makes each patient feel special. Try visiting Dr. John Knepper at SeeWee Family Medicine, who gives all patients, young or old, the attention and care they deserve.

BEST SPECIALIST

1. Dr. Elaine Eustis - Coastal Women's Wellness
2. Dr. Marguerite Germaine - Germain Dermatology
3. Dr. John Ciccone - Mount Pleasant Cardiology

Attention men. As we all know, without our

women at full health dictating our every move, we will inevitably revert back to being barbaric cavemen. So fellas, keep your wonderful woman healthy with routine trips to Dr. Elaine Eustis at Coastal Women's Wellness.

BEST PEDIATRICIAN

1. Dr. Matthew Davis - Mount Pleasant Pediatrics
2. Dr. Kim Caristi - Coastal Pediatric Associates
2. Dr. Neill Herring - Mount Pleasant Pediatrics

There's nothing worse than a sick, crying baby when

we're trying to host a dinner party and impress new friends. But for better or worse, we love our kids, so give Dr. Matthew Davis at Mount Pleasant Pediatrics a call and toast with friends to a cute, healthy baby.

BEST DENTIST

1. Dr. Rick Jackowski - Pleasant Family Dentistry
2. Dr. Tara Griffin
3. Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper - Water's Edge Family Dentistry

Let's face facts: Every-body hates

the dentist. Whether it's the plaque-pulling metal instruments that scrape across our pearly whites or the terrible-tasting bubble gum fluoride basting our mouth, going to the dentist is just simply not fun. But the word is that Dr. Rick Jackowski and the folks at Pleasant Family Dentistry will give you the dental experience of a lifetime that's guaranteed to be more fun than a day at your favorite carnival.

BEST ORTHODONTIST

1. Dr. Travis Nash - Nash Orthodontics
2. Dr. Tim Pierce - Pierce Family Dentistry
3. Dr. James Kelley - Kelley Orthodontics

Although not as bad going to the dentist, the

orthodontist is no picnic, either. However, the care and attention that Dr. Travis Nash and staff give their patients make the entire experience a little less painful.

BEST ORAL SURGEON

1. Dr. Courtney Shelbourne - Palmetto Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
2. Dr. Philip Prickett - Mount Pleasant Oral, Facial and Implant Surgery
3. Dr. Craig Rhyne - Mount Pleasant Oral, Facial and Implant Surgery

Dr. Courtney Shelbourne surgically reconstructs Lowcountry mouths to perfection. So whether it's pulling some wisdom teeth or fixing an overbite, make it Palmetto Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery for the best mouth in the South.

BEST PLASTIC SURGEON

1. Dr. Jack Hensel - Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center
2. Dr. Thomas Funcik - Facial Plastic Surgery
3. Dr. Marguerite Germaine - Germain Dermatology

With monumental advances in

technology, plastic surgery has seen a spike not only in the number of procedures but also the number of patients who were happy with their surgeries. Dr. Jack Hensel and the Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center team have not noticed the positive trend of patient satisfaction, because, well, their patients are always happy.

BEST ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

1. Dr. William Carroll - Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine
2. Dr. John Graham - Orthopaedic Specialists
3. Dr. Waddell Gilmore
3. Dr. Andrew Saffer - Carolina Foot Specialists

Dr. William Carroll of Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine might not be able to solve the figurative pain in your neck, but he can solve the literal one. He's got you covered, according to our savvy readers, for complete musculoskeletal health. Your joints will feel better after visiting his joint – guaranteed.

BEST SURGEON

1. Dr. William Lynch
2. Dr. Elaine Eustis - Coastal Women's Wellness
2. Dr. Brian Cuddy - Charleston Neurosurgical Associates

Surgery is probably one of the least fun things a person can experience. There's the getting up way early, fasting for a whole day and oh, yeah, getting cut open. Dr. William Lynch earned the most votes from our readers as the surgeon you can trust when it's 6 a.m. and you're under anesthesia. That's saying something.




Best Pediatrician -
Dr. Matthew Davis
Photo courtesy of Dr. Matthew Davis



Best OB/GYN -
Dr. Amy Warner
Photo courtesy of Dr. Amy Warner

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BEST OB/GYN

1. Dr. Amy Warner - Lowcountry OB/GYN
2. Dr. Lauri Bullen - Mount Pleasant OB/YN
3. Dr. Natalie Gregory - Lowcountry OB/GYN

If you're a parent, you probably remember the day you first held your bundle of joy in your arms like it was yesterday. And if the miracle worker was Dr. Amy Warner of Lowcountry OB/GYN, we know the experience was stellar. How do we know? Our readers told us.

BEST WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

1. Metabolic Medical Center
2. Lowcountry Beauty & Wellness
3. Weight Watchers

If you want to shed baby fat for spring or just impress your friends on a beach weekend, check into the Metabolic Medical Center for a weight loss program that our readers voted the best for getting rid of extra pounds.

BEST PHYSICAL THERAPIST

1. John Mart
2. Isa Grob

For the best in physical therapy, John Mart got the seal of approval from our readers. Whether you're going through rehabilitation yourself or helping a family member, Mart will help you put your best foot forward.

BEST CHIROPRACTOR

1. Drs. Gina and Michael Courson - Accurate Chiropractic
2. Dr. Rick Huston - Atlantic Spine and Health Clinic
3. Dr. Lucas Cole - Cole Chiropractic Clinic

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BEST PSYCHIATRIST

1. Dr. Ric Fermo

When things spiral out of control, Dr. Ric Fermo is our readers' choice for talking about your feelings on a friendly leather sofa.

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1. Roper Mount Pleasant Hospital
2. East Cooper Medical Center
3. MUSC

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It's Time For Some Serious Tennis

— And Some Serious Fun

THE WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION Tour roars onto Daniel Island March 30 to April 7, when the Family Circle Cup, presented by Dove, will be contested for the 41st time. Launched in 1973 in Hilton Head, the tournament moved to its present site in 2001, and this promises to be another thrilling year for the thousands of fans who will attend the weeklong display of forehands and drop volleys at the Family Circle Tennis Center.

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

Defending champ Serena Williams will highlight a star-studded cast.

"Having Serena back to defend is certainly our biggest asset," Tournament Director Bob Moran commented.

Williams will be happy to be back in the friendly confines of Daniel Island, where her powerful game has thrived amid the palmettos. How good has she been? She's 10-0 in match play at the Family Circle Cup.

"Serena and Venus love the city of Charleston and love being here," Moran said.

Older sister Venus, the 2004 champion, committed to the tournament early, as did Samantha Stosur, who won in 2010, when she was ranked ninth in the world.

Reporting brisk ticket sales, Moran said the tournament would continue its upsurge in overall attendance.

"Last year we had some of our biggest crowds the first three sessions but we lost one session to rain. We were averaging between 6,000 and 7,000 fans. We are slightly ahead of last year in regards to pre-event ticket sales," he pointed out.

There's more to the Family Circle Cup than world-

class tennis. Special nights of the tournament will honor the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the military, and every night match will be preceded by a happy hour at the Racquet Club Bar on the Grand Lawn, where attendees can bend an elbow from 4 to 7 p.m. and kick back and enjoy live music. New this year is an after-hours ticket package that allows fans to purchase tickets for every night session at a discount rate. The popular Winning In Doubles Luncheon has been expanded to two days – April 1 and April 2 – featuring a behind-the-scenes meal, a question-and-answer session with a top doubles team and some autograph time.

Charity is at least as important as 120-mile-an-hour

erves. Family Circle supports Charleston's Courting Kids Program and Tennis in the City. The tournament's opening weekend has activities aimed at youngsters, such as an interactive zone that features demo courts with ball machines and a fast-serve cage.

The viability of the Family Circle Cup in Charleston appears as secure as the Williams sisters' place in tennis history.

"We have a long-term lease with city, the economy is

coming back, we have a permanent facility and the future seems bright," said Moran.

The list of those who have taken the top prize at the Family Circle Cup includes luminaries such as the Williams sisters, Stosur, Caroline Wozniacki, Justine Henin, Martina Hingis, Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert – eight times. 🏆

For tickets and further information, visit www.FamilyCircleCup.com.



Defending champion Serena Williams, bottom right, will highlight a star-studded cast at this year's Family Circle Cup.



A Weekend of Fun

The 2013 Charleston's Women's Show

THE WEATHER COULDN'T HAVE BEEN nicer for the 2013 Charleston's Women's Show. People from all over the Lowcountry visited the Omar Shrine Convention Center in Mount Pleasant for two days of "health, beauty, family and fun." More than 50 vendors participated this year, offering goods and services ranging from scrumptious, Valentine-appropriate edibles to makeup and beauty tips. Ladies strolled from booth to booth, sampling what the vendors had to offer and enjoying the opportunity to network.

One of the highlights of the Charleston's Women's Show is watching performances by talented, local individuals, and this year was no exception. Twelve-year-old singing sensation "Karoline" stole our hearts, as did charming duets by brother-sister duo Nydir and Adaya Singletary. We also watched dancing by Bollywood performer Aarti Narang, plus Dance Carolina, Elite Dance International, Fred Astaire, Dance Anatomy and Gymnastics Academy of Charleston.

Fashion and beauty is another key component of the

Women's Show, with the three contestants of the Lowcountry Extreme Makeover revealed on Sunday afternoon. This year's three – Cameron Craft, Vada Love and Erin Quinn Welk – were all declared winners in the competition, thanks to their hard work and exceptionally close results. And speaking of good looks, guests enjoyed a chic fashion show by Blush Boutique on Saturday.

"I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of the vendors and checking out their products," claimed Jodi Harter, show director. "The performances were terrific, and we enjoyed seeing the results of the makeover – all three contestants looked wonderful, and their hard work and dedication over the prior 30 days is admirable."

Money raised by a silent auction over the weekend benefited My Sister's House.

"It was a great feeling, knowing that we raised money for My Sister's House," remarked Harter. "Being a Women's Show, we wanted to reach out to the women in need within our community, and My Sister's House is a worthwhile organization."

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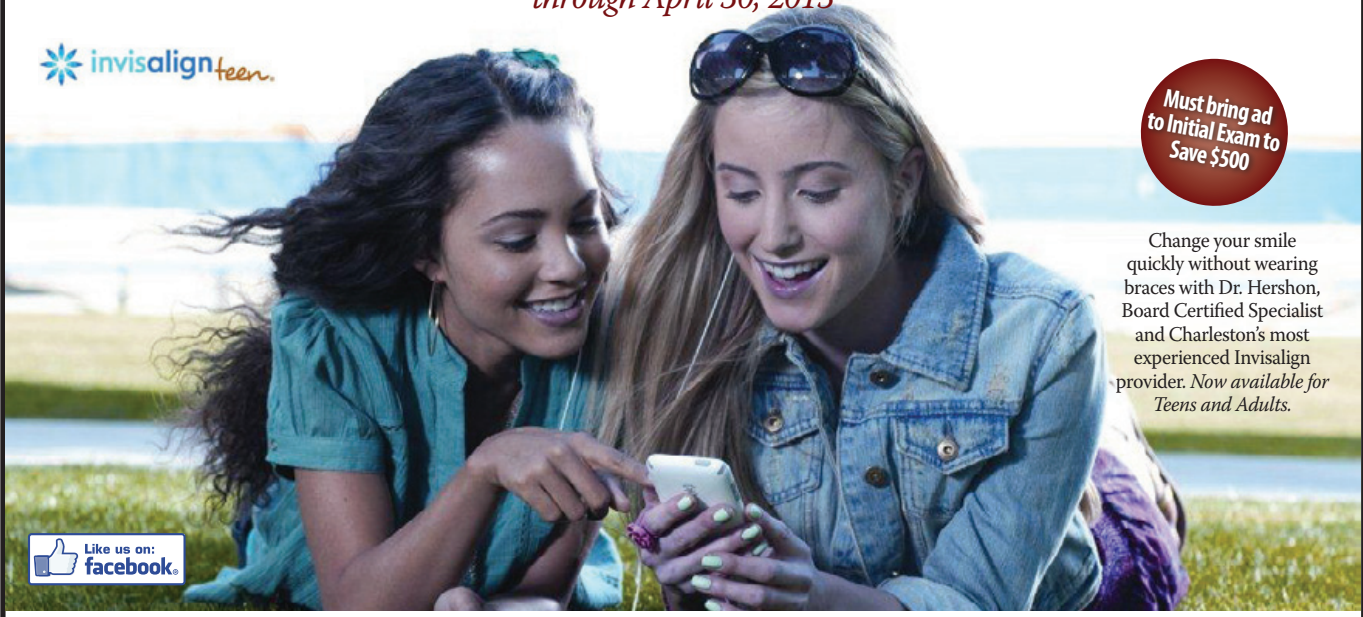
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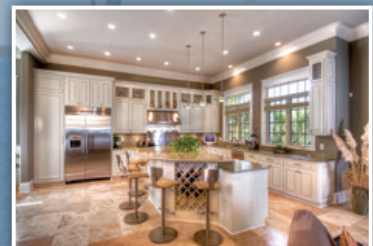
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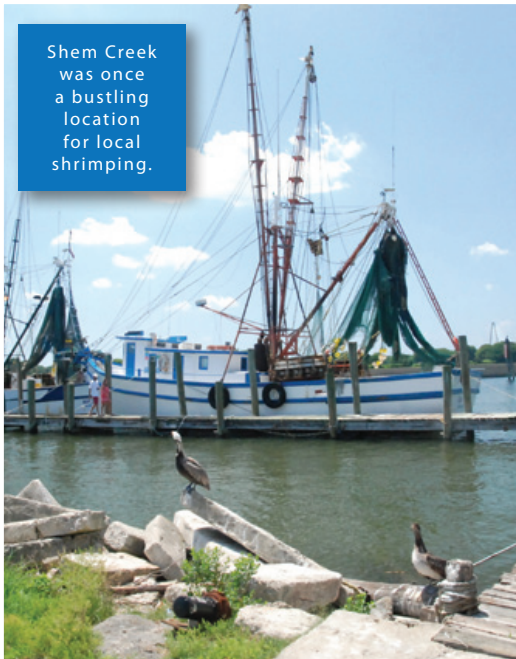


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BIG SHRIMPIN'

TALES FROM MOUNT PLEASANT'S SHRIMP BOAT HEYDAY

Shem Creek was once a bustling location for local shrimping.



story by Denise K. James

ON AN UNSEASONABLY WARM day in January, I dined at Red's Ice House on Shem Creek, a familiar place to nearly all residents and visitors East of the Cooper, and daydreamed about what Shem Creek was like during the golden age of local shrimping. The restaurants and bars we currently love would be gone, of course, replaced by rustic fisheries, where shrimp boat captains would stop in with the morning's bounty. Make no mistake, the creek would be just as populated as it is today – mostly with shrimp boats vying for the best spot to occupy until the time came

Photo by Bill Macchio



Above, Shrimp boats line the sides of Shem Creek. Below, Sam Schirmer, left, and his father, Sonny "Hagg" Schirmer, were in the shrimping business for years.

Both photos reprinted with permission from "East Cooper: A Maritime History," by Tressy Magwood Mellichamp. Available from the publisher online at www.arcadiapublishing.com or by calling 800-313-2665..

to head out for the open water once again.

Until I talked with Sam Schirmer, a native of Sullivan's Island and a one-time shrimp boat captain, along with his father, the legendary Sonny "Hagg" Schirmer, I knew little about shrimping besides what could be gleaned from watching "Forrest Gump." But, while listening to Sam's vivid stories about Mount Pleasant's shrimping era, I felt like I was right there on the boat.

Schirmer, his father and the mates who accompanied them on various adventures undoubtedly can tell countless tales among them. But in the couple of hours I spent speaking with Sam, I learned a great deal about navigating Lowcountry waters for shrimp and the laughs and bloopers



that went along with it.

“When I was growing up, I thought all the other shrimp boat captains and crews were friends with my father,” Sam explained with a hearty laugh. “I didn’t realize, because I was a kid, that they were actually competitors, out to get the most shrimp. Of course, when I became a captain myself, later on, I quickly figured it out.”

Schirmer reminisced about the different “groups” of shrimp boat captains and crews and how everyone shrimped different parts of the Lowcountry, including groups that stuck to Rockville and McClellanville.

“Of the ones close by, the Magwoods shrimped on Morris Island; Wayne Magwood, Barry Wilson and Louis Williams tended to shrimp in “the channel,” where the ships came in – which could be difficult because of dodging ships – and others shrimped from Sullivan’s Island to Bulls Island,” Sam told me. “The Bulls Island and Sullivan’s Island crews included my father, Farrell White, Wally Shaffer, Skipper Shaffer and Bubba Rector, who actually still shrimps to this day.”

According to Schirmer, shrimping was so popular around Mount Pleasant during his youth that it was tough to get down the center of Shem Creek because the boats were so thick.

“Now there are only a few boats; it’s not like it was back then,” he explained.

How did these shrimp boat captains beat their competition and get the most shrimp? Very craftily, according to Schirmer.

“There were certain tricks of the trade,” he



Photo courtesy of Sam Schirmer.

Left to right: Tom Claxton, Bubba Rector, Sam Schirmer, Sonny Schirmer and Preston Sanders.

Below: Fishery employees clean and devein the day’s catch.



Photo reprinted with permission from “East Cooper: A Maritime History,” by Tressy Magwood Mellichamp. Available from the publisher online at www.arcadiapublishing.com or by calling 800-313-2665.

said. “These included techniques that were not so sophisticated, like straight-up fibbing – ‘You catch anything over there?’ ‘Nope’ – and other stuff.”

The “stuff” included everything from radio scramblers, which garbled conversations between crew members so competitors could not decipher what they were saying; to selecting the best docking position at night for earlier

continued on page 49

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Obstacles in the water, known as hangs, are dangerous to nets.



Photo by Andy Hagedon



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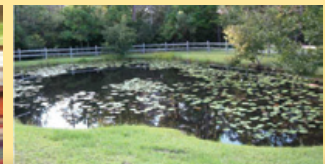
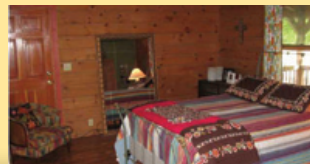
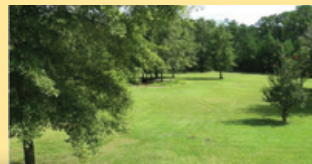


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Photo courtesy of Sonny Schirmer.

In the 1970s, the Department of Natural Resources made night shrimping illegal.

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launch the next morning; to, according to Sam, one of the most important techniques, otherwise known as the “rules of the road.”

“The rules of the road, as we called them, were how the ships approached each other on the water,” Sam said. “There were red lights and green lights on either side of the boat. They determined who was able to pass whom. The lights helped with dealing with the close quarters among ships that traveled similar paths.”

As the years passed, the hours in which the captains were able to shrimp decreased. In the late 1970s, the Department of Natural Resources made it illegal to shrimp at night in South Carolina.

“It actually made sense – there was never any down time on the ocean floor,” Sam said. “Ships were out all day and all night. When the new law took place, 30 minutes prior to dawn became the cutoff. People got arrested all the time over being a couple of minutes early, because the actual time for sunrise changes each day.”

Just as the water was home to competitive shrimp boats, Shem Creek was home to competitive fisheries. Among the earliest on Shem Creek were Mount Pleasant Seafood, owned by Buddy Sturges, and Moultrie Fisheries, owned by Red Simmons – yes, that Red.

“My father and I unloaded with Moultrie Fisheries for years. Then, in 1976, we began unloading with Mount Pleasant Seafood,” said Sam. “Later we unloaded with Geechee Seafood, which was across the creek from the other ones and which came about after the others shut down. In fact, it still exists.”

“How would the boats determine who went to which of

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the fisheries?" I asked.

"Ohh, fighting," Sam admitted with a laugh. "An owner of a fishery would get into a fight with a shrimp boat captain and they'd part ways for awhile. It all came down to whomever you were getting along with."

Despite the bickering and competition running rampant with shrimp boat crews, Schirmer said that obstructions in the waterways, also known as "hangs," were not kept secret, because they could tear the shrimp nets.

"Many a fisherman lost a net on a local hang that we now recognize as part of the Hunley," he mused. "But a lot of people don't know that two more hangs exist off the

Isle of Palms pier – Confederate ships. When we'd fish off the Isle of Palms, we could never get any closer than half a mile away."

Though Schirmer and his father left the business around 1982, Sam Schirmer said he still misses it.

"These days, most shrimp are farmed or imported," he mused. "I went into insurance after the shrimping life, a career that I've maintained since then, and my father retired as well. I always thought if I wanted to go back to it one day, I could."

A look that can only be described as nostalgia came over Schirmer's face.

"But it's not the same anymore," he admitted. 🍷

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The Tourist and the Hare

An essay by Evan Benjamin “the Easter” Bunny

Editor’s Note: In 2008, Evan Benjamin Bunny, who was working as the Easter Bunny at that time, decided to take on the Cooper River Bridge Run, since Easter fell unusually early that year. Luckily for curious Mount Pleasant Magazine readers, he wrote about the experience. Here is his story.

LIKE OTHER CHARACTERS YOU hear about only on special occasions – the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus, for example – once Easter is over, I typically don’t get much publicity or attention. Actually, now that I think about it, Santa is talked about year-round way more than I am – Christmas is practically a three-month-long lifestyle, whereas Easter is just a brief excuse to eat something shaped like an egg and filled with enough caramel that it oozes out the sides. Not that I’m complaining. My job is much easier than Santa’s gig – imagine all those chimneys – but this year, I’d like to try something new. So I’m shaking things up a bit.

So there’s this race in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, the city I tend to hang out in after the mayhem of basket-delivery quiets down, where I can catch a few dandelions in my teeth and hop around with the average Joe springtime bunnies. They call the race the Cooper River Bridge Run. It’s been going on forever, but, to my knowledge, a rabbit has never claimed first place. Heck, I doubt a rabbit has ever run at all, despite our swiftness and likelihood of outrunning those silly human beings. That fable, the one about the turtle beating the hare in some kind of competition? Yeah, that’s the one. Thanks to that story, I think everyone forgets how fast we long-eared types really are. Those bridge runners are in for a surprise.

Luckily, this year’s big run is a few days after the big basket hurrah, so I’ve had a couple of days to get ready. The hardest part has been figuring out how to hide my ears and whiskers. If people realize that I’m the Easter Bunny while they’re running over the bridge, they’re

liable to try anything from demanding my autograph to capturing me, dragging me to one of those trendy, farm-to-table places and suggesting that I be turned into a braised stew.

So here I am, trying to fit these ears of mine into a knit cap. I’ve checked the weather; it’ll be a pleasant morning but not so warm that people will stare at me because I’m wearing the cap. The ski mask is another story, though. I can’t figure out how else to disguise my rabbit face, but I’ve heard from other rabbits – who have been too scared to actually run but still sat and watched in the audience – that you see all kinds of crazy stuff on that bridge and some really off-the-wall outfits. So I should be all right.

Finally! It’s the day of the bridge run and I’ve disguised myself cleverly – at least I think so. I’m wearing a ski mask that covers most of my head and a wind suit that probably won’t get me any fashion points, but at least no one will see my cotton tail.

“Here’s a bottle of water.”

Suddenly, a stranger hands me a plastic bottle with water inside. I open it, but I can’t figure out how to drink it. Finally, I hop around a corner, spill it on the sidewalk and lap it up. It’s refreshing. I want to thank the man who gave me the water, but, by the time I get back, he’s long gone.

“Take your places,” the loudspeaker booms at the crowd, and I fumble my way into my group, otherwise known as the fastest runners. But really, I don’t care how I do in this race. I just want to have a new experience. The blond woman next to me looks at me curiously.

“Good luck,” she says, eying my head-to-paw ensemble. I lift my paw – cloaked in a mitten, naturally – and wave to her in reply.

When the race begins, I realize running is harder than I thought it'd be. Rabbits have strong hind legs, but instead of leaping through the crowd using my non-human abilities, I was trying to blend in. Around me, everyone was pouring sweat and grunting like they'd never worked so hard in their lives. They should try being the Easter Bunny for a day.

The water and the bridge are lovely, but I feel like I don't have time to look at them because everyone else is huffing past me, too jaded to enjoy the natural beauty of the race route. I stop at the top of the bridge to gaze out at the scenery, and everyone pushes past me, practically running over me in their haste to get across.

"Watch where you're going!"

"Why aren't you moving?"

"This is a race."

Their angry bellows make me want to rip off my costume and leap to victory, leaving them behind to ponder what just happened. But, instead, I just keep trucking.

At the bottom, I realize that I'm among the first few to finish the race and I start to panic. What if someone tries to give me an award for finishing quickly and my cover gets blown? I have no choice but to hop off the trail and hide.

"Hey, where'd that guy go? What was his time?" I hear someone yell. I hold my breath, duck behind a bush and hope for the best.

It's hours, and I mean hours, later when I finally don't hear people anymore, and I come out of my hiding place, starving and ready to take off the get-up I've been wearing since dawn. Though this might be the last time I run the



Original art by Ryan Collins

Cooper River Bridge Run, I'm satisfied that I did it.

That night, in my rabbit hole with friends and family, I get a lot of handshakes. My family has thrown a small get-together on my behalf with other rabbits and hares in the Lowcountry; all of them are curious about the race.

I raise my glass of carrot juice at dinner – we're having a nice arugula and radish salad – and tap it gently, getting everyone's attention.

"I'm glad to be finished with that ordeal," I tell the room. "And I know all of you want to know if it's worth it. The truth is, I prefer being the Easter Bunny. It's easier to just be myself."

Everyone applauds. 🐰

A High Five for Five Loaves

New Location Holds Promise

AS DELICIOUS, GOURMET lunches in Mount Pleasant go, Five Loaves Cafe has had a hold on the concept for quite some time. Co-owners Casey Glowacki and Joe Fischbein have been in the business for eight years East of the Cooper and even longer than that in their downtown Charleston location.

“Our concept was to bring the quintessential soup and sandwich lunch to Charleston,” Glowacki explained. “I wanted to keep it gourmet and use the chef skills that I had garnished in culinary school.”

When Five Loaves opened in its old location, the cozy corner of the Crickentree shopping center, the results were promising, and Mount Pleasant diners liked it. Glowacki said that business took off, and he quickly realized the value of offering a dinner menu. Thus the restaurant expanded.

“As more restaurants, excellent ones, open in Mount Pleasant, the time has come for us to revisit our concept as well,” Glowacki said. “And it seemed to me that what we’ve been missing this entire time comes down to a full bar, craft beers, as well as a more inviting space.”

The “new” Five Loaves Cafe will still be located in Crickentree but will take over the larger space that locals will recognize as the old Village Tavern. Glowacki and Fischbein are excited about the changes to the space’s interior – it will look completely different, they said, and fans of Five Loaves

are sure to be delighted.

“We’re using all reclaimed wood – cypress trees are the focal point – and we’re using earthy, comforting tones and plenty of natural light,” said Glowacki. “We’ll also have crank windows, which we can open for fresh air.”

Die-hard Five Loaves enthusiasts need not fret that the restaurant is changing its timeless menu; Glowacki assured me that the beloved entrees will still be available. What will change, however, is the fancy cocktail you can order alongside your meal.

“Our head bartender at Sesame, our other restaurant, is developing an innovative cocktail list,” he said. “I can’t tell you exactly what drinks will be on the menu right

now, but I do know that our focus will be freshly-squeezed juices with seasonal, organic ingredients. I’m picturing gin and fresh lime juice with cucumber; I want local produce in these cocktails.”

If you’re not a liquor drinker, don’t hesitate to enjoy the extended wine and beer list that Glowacki and Fischbein have up their sleeves.

Glowacki anticipates

more visitors during cocktail hour, not necessarily for dinner but simply to wind down after a hard day.

“My hope is that ladies and gentlemen will stop in after work, share a glass of wine or craft beer and an appetizer,” he remarked. “As we move Five Loaves Cafe into other regional markets, this is the direction I want to take.”

Keep up with Five Loaves by visiting their website at www.fiveloavescafe.com, or give them a call at (843) 849-1043.



Top left and right: The dining room in the new Five Loaves location features warm, earthy tones; **bottom left:** owners Casey Glowacki and Joe Fischbein opened Five Loaves Cafe in Mount Pleasant eight years ago.



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Longevity

Companies that have passed the test of time are the backbone of the Mount Pleasant business community.

Long-Term Success Automotive Excellence Concentrates on Customers

HOW DOES A LOCALLY-OWNED business keep its doors open for more than a decade, despite the problems caused by a struggling economy and competition from national chain stores? Outstanding customer service and concentrating on long-term success rather than focusing on short-term profit are the keys to longevity, according to Johnny Page, founder and owner of Automotive Excellence.

Located on Coleman Boulevard in Mount Pleasant since the business opened its doors in 2001, Automotive Excellence offers a wide range of services aimed at keeping cars and trucks in tiptop condition, including work on brakes; transmissions; exhaust, cooling and air conditioning systems; and tires. Expert diagnostics and quick and easy oil changes also are on the menu.

However, Automotive Excellence's most important commodity is its unique brand of customer service. Page pointed out that he considers his job to be to fix what's wrong with a car or truck, not to sell his customers products and services they don't really need.

"We shoot straight from the hip," he commented. "We tell them what's wrong, and we repair it for a fair price. We'll beat anybody's price in town."

He added that the people who bring their vehicles to Automotive Excellence aren't simply paying customers; they are more like friends and family members. One of his goals is to earn the business of the generations who follow.

"We know our customers, and we have a personal relationship with each of them," he said. "We know their kids and their grandkids. And we're not doing our job if the next generation isn't bringing their vehicles here to be repaired. We're starting to see that now."

Page has spent his entire life in the

Lowcountry and in the world of automotive repair. He grew up in McClellanville – he still lives there – and his father also owned a repair business. Before he opened Automotive Excellence a dozen years ago, he was the service manager at Aerotire, which was located in Mount Pleasant. When he decided it was time to make his own mark in the business community, he brought his former boss with him. Johnny Britz is still the head mechanic at Automotive Excellence. The two men have worked together for 16 years.

Counting Page, Automotive Excellence has six employees, "a good group of guys," according to the boss. They all realize that if you don't treat people right, they'll find someplace else to take their car or truck when it isn't running quite right.

"It's all about talking to the customer," Page said. "We don't upsell a bunch of stuff or gouge our customers. We fix the problem at hand."

Automotive Excellence is located at 415 W. Coleman Blvd. To learn more about this longtime Mount Pleasant business, call (843) 216-1599.



Johnny Page started Automotive Excellence in 2001.

Photo by Brian Sherman.

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Summertime is Here

BY STACY E. DOMINGO



PENDING LAZY AFTERNOONS NEAR THE WATER

is a long-standing pastime in the Carolina Lowcountry. Here are some ideas to help you do it in style.



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Breast in Show: Patients Find Reassurance after Reconstruction

MANY WOMEN ARE UNAWARE OF breast reconstruction options and that reconstruction is even an option at the time of mastectomy, if that is the recommended treatment.

When I met with Debbie Dutcher, a breast cancer survivor, to have early morning coffee and chat about her reconstruction experience with Dr. Ram Kalus, her sunny disposition was remarkable.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

“I was referred to Dr. Kalus by Dr. Paul Baron, said Dutcher. “Since I’d just moved to the area about four years ago, I didn’t know any plastic surgeons.”

Dutcher was pleasantly surprised to work with Dr. Kalus, whom she described as “protective and meticulous.”

“He was there during the actual mastectomy, and then he took over for the breast reconstruction,” she said. “I was ready to get everything over with at once.”

Laughing, Dutcher remembered how eager she’d been to get back to “normal life” after the surgery.

“Dr. Kalus wants everything to be perfect,” she said. “He tells you not to vacuum or lift anything heavy. ...

it was so hard for me when I started to feel better and wanted to start running again. But after a scare with some complications, I’m just walking.”

Dutcher said her experience with Dr. Kalus helped her feel confident, not doubtful, about the reconstructive process.

“I think it really made a difference,” she said. “After a couple of visits, he just got up and hugged me. We got to be pretty close. You can’t replace that kind of reassurance.”

Another one of Dr. Kalus’ reconstruction patients, Claudia Medlin, had a similar experience.

“After my double mastectomy, I was sent to Dr. Kalus,” said Medlin. “He’s like family now – he and his office staff.”

Medlin, who had previously been small-breasted, decided on a slight enhancement for her reconstruction.

“I visited Dr. Kalus’ website, but none of the photos reflected exactly what I wanted,” Medlin commented. “Dr. Kalus was very understanding and worked with my ideas.”

Like Dutcher, Medlin got to know Dr. Kalus through routine visits.

“I had to go back every two weeks for silicone shots,” said Medlin. “During the process, I probably asked the

silliest questions, but he never minded. I would ask about running, taking a bath, whatever ... and he was always there for me. I’d never encountered a doctor like that.”

Medlin said other women comment on how natural her reconstruction looks, which helps assure her that she made the right choice.

“Other women who have implants are amazed,” she said. “It sounds funny to say that we compare breasts, but we do. And I tell everyone what a great job Dr. Kalus did.”

For more information, visit www.BreastReconstructionOptions.com.



Claudia Medlin, left and Debbie Dutcher both are satisfied patients of Dr. Ram Kalus.

Photos provided



Rice

GROWS ON THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE LOWCOUNTRY

IF YOU WERE BORN AND RAISED IN Charleston, chances are there's a pot of rice on your stove right now, waiting for you to smother it with lima beans or maybe pork and beans.

I am not a Charlestonian – I hail from Virginia – so imagine my surprise when I first arrived in the Lowcountry to find rice on my school lunch menu every single day. And, at the time, I wasn't a fan. Sometimes the rice was topped with collard greens and pig tails. I remember asking my mom why they eat so much rice here; she didn't know. It wasn't until I was an adult that I began to actually feast upon this delicacy and discover that rice is a vital part of Lowcountry culinary history.

Coastal South Carolina produced tons of rice during the Colonial period; the crop dominated the Lowcountry

economy for nearly 200 years. South Carolina was the richest North American colony and Charlestown, now Charleston, its capital and principal port, was the wealthiest and most fashionable city in America.

Rice wasn't native to the Americas. The grain got here by accident in the 1600s, when a sea captain paid for his ship's repairs with a sack of rice seeds from Africa. South Carolina planters had no idea how to grow rice, but they knew who did. They began importing experts in cultivating the crop from the rice-growing regions of West Africa. West Africans made up the largest group of slaves brought to South Carolina during the 18th century, and many of them came ashore on Sullivan's Island, near Charleston.

South Carolina plantation owners adopted a system of growing rice that drew upon the technical and labor patterns of their African slaves.

Slaves worked long hours under harsh conditions to



Photo by Patrice Smith

cultivate rice. The tedious process began with male slaves clearing swampland. The women planted the rice seedlings, using their feet to submerge them into the muddy soil. At harvest time, the women removed the rice from the golden hulls by pounding it in large wooden mortars identical to the ones they used in West Africa. Next they fanned the rice in large round baskets to separate the grain from the chaff. It was a laborious task, but all that changed when an Englishman was shipwrecked off the coast of Charleston.

Jonathan Lucas settled in the Lowcountry in 1783 and revolutionized the rice industry. He was to rice what Eli Whitney was to cotton. Lucas put his expert knowledge of the wheelwright's trade to use and invented the rice mill, which replaced the laborious task of pounding and threshing rice by hand.

Lucas built several rice mills throughout the Lowcountry. In 1793, he bought a plantation on Shem Creek, where he



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constructed a combination rice mill and sawmill named after a village in Mount Pleasant. Greenwich Mills got its power from the tides of Shem Creek, and its foundation is still visible today at low tide – you can see it from Coby Frampton’s backyard. Frampton, who still lives in his Colonial-style childhood home, said he’s always known the significance of where he grew up.

“Everybody always said I lived at the rice mill,” Frampton said. “When we were kids, we’d go exploring and find all kinds of things that were part of the mill.”

Lucas bought up lots of land in the Village, and the area near the mill became known as Lucasville, one of the four original villages of Mount Pleasant. Lucas Street and Mill Street are named for this brilliant inventor, and the Lucas family cemetery is a block from the Frampton home.

Lucas’ mills produced Carolina Gold, the grandfather of long grain rice that was named for its brilliant color in the fields. And “The Gold” made Charleston the center of the



Photo by Patrice Smith

South’s profitable rice industry. It was exceptional in flavor, texture and cooking qualities. Hot, steamy, fluffy Carolina Gold spawned a culture of its own and a cuisine that was central to the everyday diets of Charlestonians.

The slaves supplemented their rice with greens, peas and beans, which they also grew. They’d throw in fish or pig’s feet, making a complete and savory meal. Because they had few cooking utensils, the slaves combined everything in one big pot, which is how rice and beans became a signature dish in the South.

Numerous delectable rice dishes now fill Southern cookbooks, and rice pilaf and chicken-and-rice casseroles remain popular throughout the Lowcountry. Carolina Gold is still grown today, and it still graces Lowcountry dinner tables.

My palate now delights in the likes of pilau rice and those huge white lima beans with chunks of ham hock over rice. Though I’m not a Lowcountry native, I have actually learned to cook red rice – well, sort of – even though the texture is still off just a bit. I adore all things rice topped with almost anything, and I enjoy taking in the succulent history of this place called Charleston. 🌾



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SUMMER HOME, SUMMER AT CAMP



MOST OF US CHERISH THE nostalgia of childhood – fond memories of sunny skies, frosty lemonade, ice cold ice cream and happy days at summer camp. Summer camp today really is no different than it was for our parents. We want our children to be safe, but we also want them to enjoy all of the wild and crazy experiences

childhood has to offer. So in between weekend barbecues and late nights watching fireflies, many of us choose to send our kids to a nurturing camp while we're at work – a place that will provide more than just a babysitting service.

Each year, we scour the Internet and sort through stacks of fliers, hoping to find the camp that best suits our children's needs. We usually discover that if you can come up with a specific subject or sport that interests your child, you can generally find a camp to match his or her needs.

"We have a motto here at Camp Baker, now in its 66th year," said Tamar Sternfeld, program director for the Charleston Jewish Community Center. "If the kids don't come home dirty and tired, then we aren't doing our jobs."

Camp Baker, open to everyone in the Charleston area, has taught important values to local children for decades.

Among its many specialty camps are Mad Science, Lego Camp and Circus of the Kids, as well as those that concentrate on soccer, tennis and horseback riding.

"Our camps run in two-week sessions, so it allows the children to mix it up a bit and choose what they like most," Sternfeld explained. "We also arrange transportation if enough people sign up from the same area, like we did last year from Mount Pleasant."

Blackbeard's Cove, a popular attraction on Highway 17 in Mount Pleasant, also likes to mix up the lessons taught to campers throughout the summer.

"Our weekly sessions are broken up, and we plan to have events such as National Safety Week, where we will have police, fire and emergency responders in to meet with the campers. We will also have Independence Week, Pirate Camp and Craft Week," said Tammy Gable, who serves as the camp's director.

Many camps are so popular that they fill up quickly, which means you should start your research long before the summer arrives.

"Our 4- to 6-year old age group sells out the quickest, but all of our groups eventually sell out and we unfortunately have to turn people away," said Heather Speizman, director for Art Buzz Kids. "That's why our registration is at the beginning of February each year."

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Art Buzz Kids, which accepts campers in all age groups and those with special needs, runs for eight weeks, featuring fun that includes art, pottery and many other projects.

There also are many outdoor camps for your little adventurer, such as The Naturalist Adventure Day Camp, which runs weekly sessions for children ages 6 through 12. Campers are dropped off at Shem Creek, but each day their adventure takes place in an exciting new location.

“The first day is all about safety and from there our campers get to experience kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding and island exploration,” said David Fink, manager of the Naturalist Adventure Day Camp. “We only allow 14 children per session, so they can fill up quickly each week.”

Regardless of which camp you think your kids might like, if you aren't sure about something, you should always ask the camp director about it, according to Sternfeld.

“If it doesn't feel right, then it probably isn't. But when it is, your child will learn values and create memories for a lifetime,” she said.




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- ✓ Before enrolling your children, always ask for references so you can speak to parents whose children have gone through the camp before.
- ✓ Take a close look at the structure in which the camp takes place. Is it age appropriate? Do children have easy access to the outside or is the structure locked?
- ✓ What is the instructor-to-camper ratio? Will your child be properly looked after?
- ✓ What is the goal of the camp? Is it merely summer babysitting? Know what you are paying for ahead of time.
- ✓ What are the camp's refund and cancellation policies?
- ✓ Is the camp staff certified in CPR, the Red Cross or Darkness to Light?
- ✓ Be clear on how long the camp session lasts and what hours of the day it will be in session.
- ✓ Find out if lunch or snacks are provided.
- ✓ Always send your child with his or her own water bottle.
- ✓ It is a good idea for your children to apply sun block every morning.
- ✓ Appropriate clothing is important. Children attending camps that involve water need a change of clothes.
- ✓ Foot attire is extremely important. Make sure your child is wearing appropriate shoes for the activity that day.
- ✓ If your child has any allergies, let the director and camp staff know about them.



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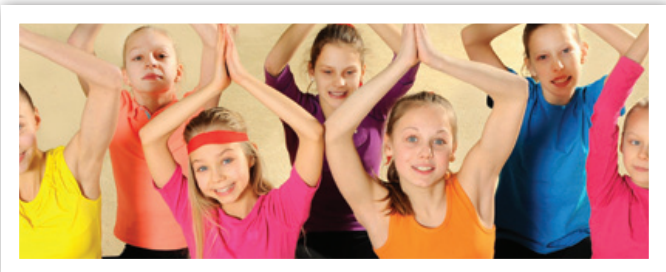
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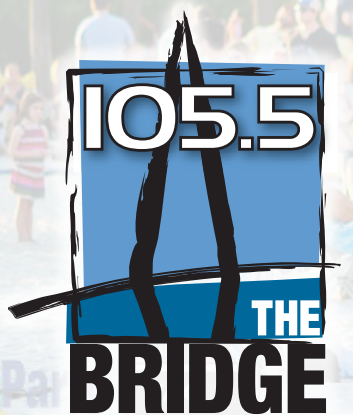


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“The Civil War and its Aftermath in Mount Pleasant”

“Conflict”

This is the fourth part in a series about Mount Pleasant's role in the Civil War. It has been offered to Mount Pleasant Magazine by former Post and Courier editor and writer John L. All, who resides East of the Cooper and is passionate about preserving its history. We hope you will enjoy this tale about Mount Pleasant's past.

—The Editors

ALTHOUGH HISTORIANS AND novelists have written more about the Civil War than any other period or event in our country's history, very little has been written about Mount Pleasant. That's not at all surprising because no battles were fought here; there was little, if anything, to make an attack on the town militarily worthwhile. The one thing that made Mount Pleasant different from similarly insignificant towns was its location near Sullivan's Island, to which it was connected by a long, wooden bridge. It was an ideal place from which to provide rear echelon support to the troops at Fort Moultrie and elsewhere on the island and those in the coastal areas to the North.

BY JOHN L. ALL

In 1928, Mount Pleasant historian Petrona Royall McIver interviewed her great-uncle, Richard S. Venning, about his wartime experiences and prepared a manuscript which apparently has never been published in its entirety. It is among her papers that are now in the South Carolina Historical Society Archives in Charleston. McIver quoted her uncle as follows:

“My first company were the Coast Guards, state troops drawn from Santee and Christ Church Parish. We had just gotten our uniforms on the day of the shot on the Star of the West – nothing fine, just brown mill cloth, unshrunk. After Sumter surrendered, we went to Sullivan's Island, crossing from Kinloch's Place to the back beach. We had to march through marsh, and we were kept on the beach all night in the wind and rain. There was plenty of booze and the next morning, what with the effects of the rum and rain and the shrunken uniforms, we were an awful sight.”

The Coast Guards, which on Jan. 19, 1861, had 76 volunteers, remained on the island about a month. Most had joined the Confederate Army there, but 10 volunteered for duty in Virginia. The bodies of three of them were sent home about six months later. They had gone directly from a train into the heaviest fighting during the first battle of Manassas, or Bull Run, on July 21, the first great battle of the war. (Many Civil War battles have two names because the South gave them the name of the nearest settlement, while the North named them after the nearest body of water.)

Among others who died there was Benjamin J. Johnson, who had been a captain in the Coast Guards and promoted to the rank of colonel in Wade Hampton's legion while serving with the Palmetto Guards of Charleston. Gabriel Jervey, who was about 60 years old, fell at Johnson's side. Three of Jervey's sons would die while serving the Confederacy. The third former Coast Guard to fall there was Harry S. Roux, whose family home on Venning Street would become a negro orphanage after the war's end.

Soon after arriving in Charleston in March 1861 to prepare for its defense, Gen. Pierre G. T. Beauregard telegraphed requisitions to Confederate headquarters in Montgomery, Alabama, and additional mortars arrived from Savannah and Pensacola. He planned to make Fort Sumter the center of the ring of fire, which would isolate it from the sea as well as reduce it to ruins. A new, two-mortar work in Mount Pleasant, Battery Gary, which guarded the bridge to Sullivan's Island, closed the circle. 🦩

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Waiting His Turn

LOCAL HURLER HOPESTO MAKE MAJOR PROGRESS

By Brian Sherman



MILLIONS OF KIDS PLAY baseball; only a tiny percentage are blessed with the talent, ambition, confidence and good fortune to reach the pinnacle of the sport and seize the opportunity to test their skills against the most accomplished players in the world.

Each player travels his own unique path to the day he dons a Major League uniform for the first time, takes his first practice swings as he approaches a Major League batter's box or throws his first pitch from a Major League mound. Some rise meteorically through the minors, stopping briefly at each level to display their talents in front of adoring fans, all the while knowing that their eventual destination is New York or Chicago or Los Angeles.

Others plod their way toward their dream, spending

a year or two or three at each level and hoping against hope that a team – any team – will recognize their potential, ignore their shortcomings and give them a chance at the Major League level.

And some, like Mount Pleasant resident Mike Cisco, fall somewhere in between. He's not a can't-miss prospect, but neither is he a career minor leaguer. After five years of working his way through the Philadelphia Phillies' farm system, he's just one giant step away from realizing his lifelong dream of making his Major League debut at Citizens Bank Park – or some other big-city stadium.

"I'd love to be in the big leagues with the Phillies," Cisco said in late January, as he prepared to head to the Phils' Spring Training camp in Clearwater, Florida. "But if it's with another team, it wouldn't be a huge disappointment. Any time a team trades for you or picks you



BY THE NUMBERS

Mike Cisco's Minor League Career

YEAR	TEAM	LEVEL	W	L	ERA
2008	Williamsport	Short Season	1	0	1.86
2008	Lakewood	Low A	2	1	0.51
2009	Clearwater	High A	7	3	3.31
2009	Reading	AA	2	4	4.58
2010	Clearwater	High A	0	0	1.93
2010	Reading	AA	4	11	4.73
2010	Lehigh Valley	AAA	0	0	7.11
2011	Reading	AA	8	0	1.59
2012	Reading	AA	3	3	1.21
2012	Lehigh Valley	AAA	2	0	2.67

Photo courtesy of Lehigh Valley IronPigs/Digital Photographic Imaging.

in the Rule 5 draft, you know that team has some interest in you.”

Cisco, who will turn 26 in May, grew up in a baseball family. His grandfather, Galen Cisco, pitched in the majors for the Mets, Red Sox and Royals and later served as a pitching coach for the Phils. His father and uncle, Jeff and Galen Jr., were minor league players. Mike’s younger brother, Drew, is in the Cincinnati Reds organization.

After stellar baseball careers at Wando High School and the University of South Carolina, Cisco was taken by the Phillies in the 36th round of the amateur draft. A

starting pitcher in high school and college and for the first four years of his professional career, he was moved to the bullpen in 2011. He produced eye-popping numbers in the pen the past two years, posting 13 wins against only three losses, six saves and a miniscule 1.70 earned run average while splitting time between AA Reading and AAA Lehigh Valley.

Though he was apprehensive at first, Cisco obviously thrived in his new role.

“I didn’t know what to expect, but I adapted and now I love it,” he said. “As a starter, if you have a good out-

ing, those four days in between starts fly by. But if you have a bad outing, those four days really drag. You want to get back on the mound as soon as you can.”

He added that he enjoys working out of the bullpen so much that he would relish the possibility of someday being a closer, a job that requires a short memory, nerves of steel and never-ending confidence.

“I like the adrenaline and the pressure of pitching late in a game,” he commented. “I want to have the ball when the game is on the line. Think of me as a competitor with a bulldog mentality.”

Cisco will go to Spring Train-

ing with every intention of impressing Phillies' Manager Charlie Manuel, but he realizes that his chances of being in Atlanta on April 1 when the Phillies open their 2013 season against the Braves are slim. The good news is that as the season progresses, the possibility increases that this will be the year he makes his Major League debut. Plagued by injuries in 2012, the Phillies recalled 12 different pitchers from Lehigh Valley; 10 of them worked out of the bullpen. The bad news is that none of them were named Mike Cisco. Though he has put together impressive back-to-back seasons, he's not on the Phils' 40-man roster, which means the team would have to release another player to take him to Atlanta at the end of Spring Training.

He's encouraged by the fact that two of his teammates at AA Reading at the start of 2012, B.J. Rosenberg and Tyler Cloyd, were pitching in Philadelphia before the end of the year.

"Anything can happen during the season. You have to be ready if the opportunity arises," he said. "The last two years, my numbers have been hard to beat. It's a little frustrating, but it's out of my control. All I can do is keep doing what I've been doing."

Cisco said he has mixed emotions when a teammate gets a ticket to Philadelphia. Some of the pitchers the Phils called up last year were close friends who came up with him through the team's farm system.

"You want it to be you," he said. "But at the end of the day, the players aren't the ones making the decision. Rooting against your teammates is not a good way to go about your business."

Cisco, whose fastball is in the 92 mph to 93 mph range, certainly lively enough for success at the Major League level, also throws a changeup and a slider. He pointed out that it's vitally important to be able to use any pitch in any count.

"Command is important. When you can command all three pitches, the hitter can't zero in on one pitch," he said.

Many players have put together a backup plan, a way to make a decent living just in case they don't make it to the majors. Mike Cisco hasn't considered that possibility.

"That's not even in my mind. I've spent so much time in baseball, and I absolutely love it," he commented. "I'm not giving up." 🍌

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WHEN CINEBARRE OPENED its doors on Houston-Northcutt Boulevard in Mount Pleasant four years ago, local observers were pleasantly surprised to discover that it was a forward-looking entertainment business dedicated to providing patrons with an exceptional “night-out” experience.

BY BILL FARLEY

Movies are one centerpiece of Cinebarre’s business, but dining and a carefully refined ambience geared toward heightening the enjoyment of its audiences also are important.

With the exception of some special event screenings, Cinebarre shows the best of first run features on 11 screens, now all digital. It also offers meals made in-house, ranging from a selection of popular appetizers to burgers, pizza, sandwiches and more – all labeled with whimsical cinema-themed names – and a wide variety of soft drinks plus and extensive list of wines and beers. All of Cinebarre’s dining selections are prepared from scratch to order and delivered to patrons in their seats in the theater.

The adult atmosphere at Cinebarre is established by barring parents from bringing children under the age of 3 – except to a designated Tuesday matinee on “Crybaby Day,” when they are more than welcome – and barring teens under 18 unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult older than 21.

All this is the vision of Cinebarre’s creator, Terrell Braly, whose entertainment career includes producing movies, running restaurants, pioneering the prototype cinema-eatery concept and promoting concerts for legendary acts such as the Beach Boys, the Eagles, the Steve Miller Band

and Huey Lewis and the News.

To state that Braly has had a wide-ranging and colorful career is to understate the strong opinions he has formed on what constitutes an enjoyable and cost-effective entertainment experience and the influence his own larger-than-life personality continues to have on his staff and customers.

When Braly lived in New York City and frequently went to the movies, he found his enjoyment marred by several concerns. For one, if he went to dinner before a show, he was constantly checking his watch, worrying

about whether his party would be seated promptly, served expeditiously and be able to make it to the theater by showtime. For another, once he was seated and the film began, his senses were assaulted by people talking and texting on their cell phones and younger patrons, primarily teens, chatting loudly among themselves, throwing popcorn, aiming laser pointers at the screen and even blatantly smoking cigarettes. In his experience, cinema staff, themselves often young kids, were more likely to ignore disruptive

behavior in order to appear “cool.”

Braly vowed that when he was the guy in charge, dinner and a movie – a quality dinner and the best movies he could book, that is – would be available under one roof, and any activities that detracted from his customers’ entertainment experience would be eliminated.

That formula obviously worked. Today, Cinebarre has six locations across the country, with nine units projected by the end of 2013. In Mount Pleasant, the complex can seat – and feed – up to 1,000 guests simultaneously. To reach out to an even broader universe of customers, Braly has instituted, in addition to “Crybaby Day,” “\$5 Tuesday,” “Wednesday College Night,” offering reduced-price beer



Cinebarre offers meals made in-house, ranging from a selection of popular appetizers to burgers, pizza, sandwiches and more – all labeled with whimsical cinema-themed names.

Photos by Brandon Clark

The Cinebarre in Mount Pleasant can seat – and feed – up to 1,000 guests simultaneously.

and even a “Breakfast Club” brunch menu for the Saturday and Sunday 2 p.m. Screenings.

Braly decided to bring Cinebarre to Mount Pleasant for several reasons: the friendliness of the people, the help and cooperation of the town government and the location near the ocean. A believer in giving back to his community, Braly has already instituted a program that includes a mobile screen which shows a summer series of films at Mount Pleasant Waterfront Park. The same mobile theater has showed the Christmas film “Elf” at Dunes West and provided special screenings in downtown Charleston’s Marion Square.

What do Cinebarre customers think of the cinema-eatery concept? Unsolicited opinions include: “Wonderful concept, eating while you watch a movie on the big screen. I was skeptical of what the food/drink quality might be and was pleasantly surprised”; “The whole experience is fun. Food is good. And you get to watch a movie, too”; and “I love visiting Mount Pleasant and getting to go to Cinebarre!”

Feedback of this sort brings a smile to Braly’s face. As he put it, “We’re not just a movie theater. We’re not just a restaurant. We’re a total entertainment experience.” 🍷



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Evan Benjamin Bunny

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: I can't tell you. The origins of Easter Bunnies are secretive.

Education: Home school.

Employment: I was the Easter Bunny for a while; now I'm taking it easy.

Favorite reading: I. M. Hare's "Field Guide to Edible Plants" – and Mount Pleasant Magazine, of course. I'm a contributor.

Favorite music: Disco.

Activities: Lying in the sunshine, burrowing in the dirt, eating plants.

Interests: World religions, holidays, magic tricks, gardening.

Likes: Children, grassy fields, warm weather.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "You're nobody until some bunny loves you."



Jon Chalfie

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Cincinnati, Ohio.

Education: Bachelor's from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Employment: Commercial Realtor with Lee & Associates, specializing in office space. Current president of the Mount Pleasant Business Association.

Favorite reading: Malcolm Gladwell.

Favorite music: Jam bands such as Furthur, Phish, Wilco, Gov't Mule, Grace Potter and Dangermuffin.

Activities: Date night with my wife, live music, camping, live sporting events.

Interests: All things commercial real estate in the Charleston area, especially in Mount Pleasant.

Likes: Traveling, spending time with the family, going to movies and exploring downtown Charleston.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Nothing left to do but smile, smile, smile" • Robert Hunter.



Latonya Denmark

Lives in: North Charleston, South Carolina.

From: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Education: Tattnell County High.

Employment: Assistant manager at Bluewater gas station.

Favorite reading: Mount Pleasant Magazine.

Favorite music: R&B.

Activities: Spending time with my kids.

Interests: Fashion and meeting new people.

Likes: Food, good movies, sleeping, my kids, my job.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Make the money and don't let the money make you."



Reece Smith

Lives in: Isle of Palms, South Carolina.

From: Atlanta, Georgia.

Education: Bachelor's from Presbyterian College; MBA from The Citadel.

Employment: Compliance officer, MUSC Medical Center.

Favorite reading: New York Times; anything from the Bronte sisters; Edwidge Danticat; and Josephine Humphreys.

Favorite music: REM, Counting Crows, James Taylor, Bob Dylan, Warren Zevon, Ray Charles.

Activities: Going to Starbucks on Saturday mornings with my daughters, watching movies with a huge bucket of buttered popcorn and a Diet Coke.

Interests: Teaching, Bible study, genealogy.

Likes: Dining out with my family. We have so many wonderful restaurants in East Cooper.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Be the living expression of God's kindness." • Mother Teresa.



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