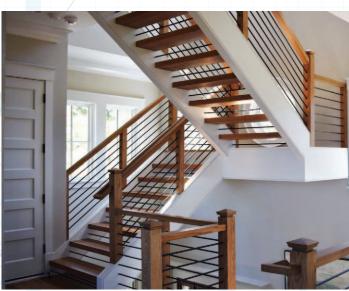


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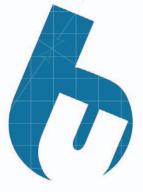












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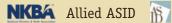
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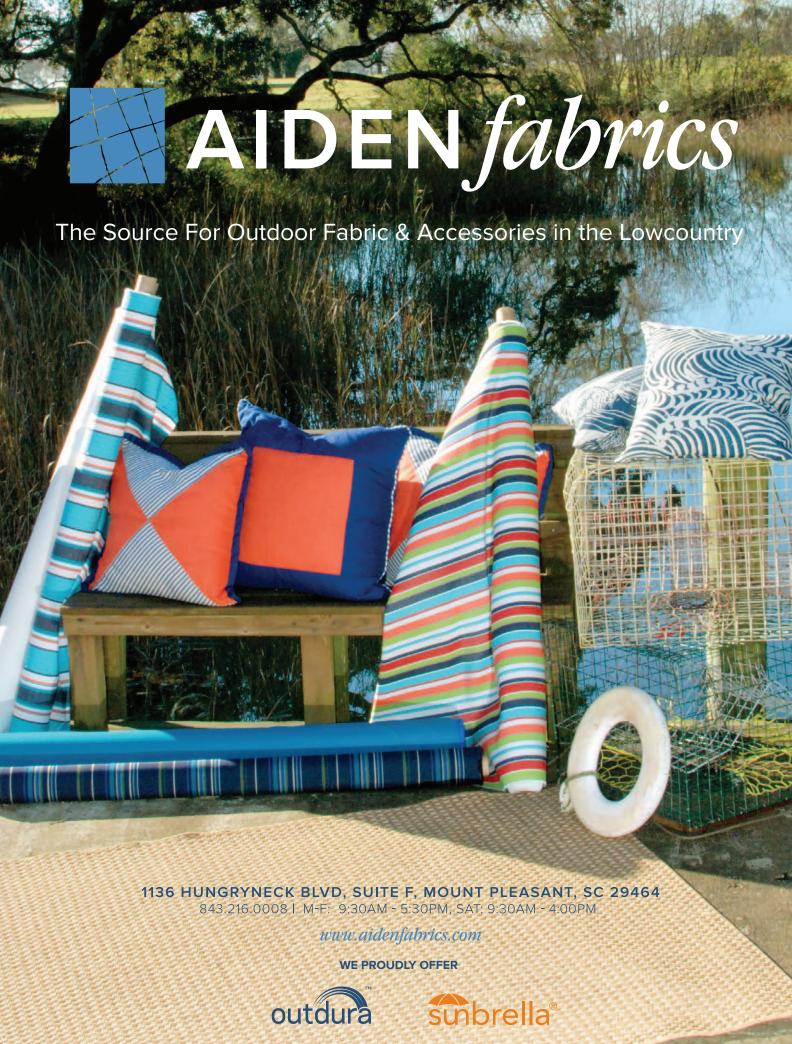
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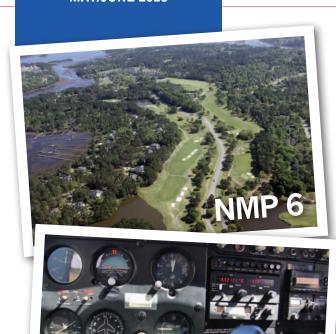
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

S YOU CAN PROBABLY GUESS, I'M ALWAYS THINKING of ways to improve *Mount Pleasant Magazine* – ways to better serve our readers and the advertisers who help bring our magazine to you.

The best way to make something better, no matter what kind of business you're in, is to know what your customers think of the product you provide.

One evening during a relaxing walk through my neighborhood, I was talking to one of my neighbors, Carol, who works at MUSC. As we chatted, Carol mentioned she was attending evening classes at the Citadel to earn her MBA. She went on to tell me she was in the middle of doing a study on a local business as part of her class. My marketing antenna was activated, and I started asking questions about how the studies worked and what was involved. The next day, Carol sent me Dr. Ron Green's email address.



After a couple of emails, Dr. Green and I met at Vintage Coffee to discuss the possibility of one of his MBA classes conducting a survey on *Mount Pleasant Magazine* readers and advertisers. I expressed my interest with enthusiasm. A couple of weeks later, I stood in front of Dr. Green and his students. I was impressed how everyone sitting in that MBA class had professional jobs and was taking the course at night. It was very inspiring to be around achievers like that.

Hopefully, in some way I inspired them as I explained to the class the high level of passion everyone here has for what they do. I went over how many issues of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* come out in a year, how much it has grown, our direct mail patterns and how our subscription base is stronger with each issue. Following the presentation, a team was established, with Dr. Green overseeing the process.

The assigned team for our magazine from the Citadel MBA class has conducted field surveys at events such as the first day of the Mount Pleasant Farmers Market and Second Sunday on King Street. They've interviewed people shopping at Towne Centre. They have also used Facebook, e-blasts and telephone calls to reach out to our subscribers and advertisers. Thousands of readers and advertisers were asked to participate.

Mount Pleasant Magazine's staff is excited about attending the team presentation regarding the results. A few samplings have already shown how readers love our local content and how our advertisers are enjoying new business and community awareness. We can hardly wait to share these findings with you.

For now, let me leave you with this comment from one of our readers, Judith McClinton: "After 35 years in Mount Pleasant, we recently moved to Shalimar, Florida to be closer to our grandchildren. I would like to subscribe to *Mount Pleasant Magazine* – I have read every issue since its beginning. Thanks very much!"

Bill Machin

- BILL MACCHIO
East Cooper resident since 1979
Publisher@MountPleasantMagazine.com



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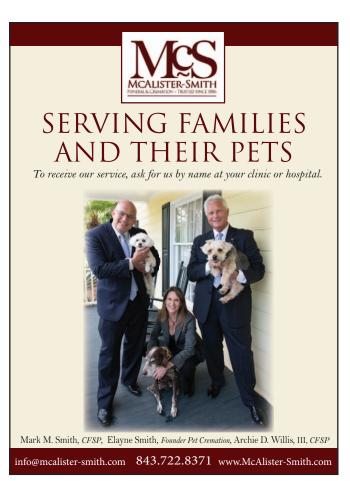
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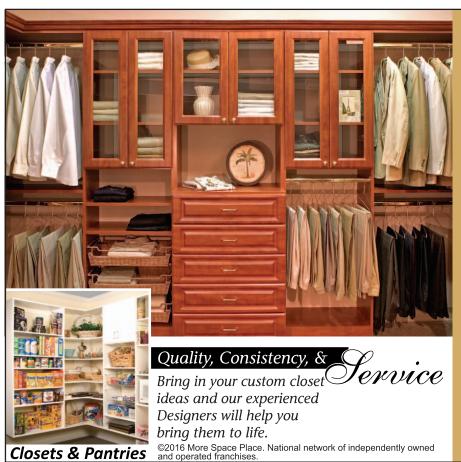


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From the Managing Editor

UST THE OTHER WEEK I WAS TELLING MY YOUNGER SISTER MARIE, WHO LIVES ON James Island, that I don't mind driving all over the Lowcountry to visit loved ones, embrace more opportunities and take care of general business. "To me, the whole Charleston area is a metropolis," I mused. "I don't get it when people stay in one spot!"

Now I'm still thinking about that conversation. May/
June is our annual Favorite Moms and Dads edition, and
this year it also features our inaugural section on North
Mount Pleasant. Maybe it's just me, but I think this issue says a lot about
unity. You know, that thing we believe we have more of after logging
onto social media but that we still struggle with in real life? I like to think
of the May/June issue as inspiration for fostering a real life community,
whether it's knocking on a neighbor's door to borrow sugar or scheduling
a face-to-face meal at the end of the day.

The families on our cover include one of our favorite dads, Derrick Vann, plus his wife and children, as well as one of our favorite moms, Lisa Wright, plus her husband and children. Both the Wrights and the Vanns rearranged their schedules, asked their grown-up kids to attend the shoot and basically put major effort into a photo that could capture their families in whole, not in part.

Furthermore, these families knew nothing about each other, but they got along great and had fun posing together for the photo. Shot in Hamlin Plantation at dusk by our talented photographer Jenn Cady, the May/June cover represents how much we cherish summer evenings and being together.

Meanwhile, Mount Pleasant continues to grow, but that's no reason we can't feel like a cozy community. Residents on either side of the IOP

ing our North Mount Pleasant supplement for all the good reasons to meander up Highway 17, from the Mount Pleasant Regional Airport to Oceanside Collegiate Academy – and, depending on how much time you have, Awendaw and McClellanville.

Unity is what bonds a team of colleagues (like the staff of your favorite magazine); a family (like the two on our cover); a town (like Mount Pleasant); or the whole world. But it doesn't come easily; it takes practice and dedication. Now that it's summer, there's never been a better time to work hard at being together, not online but face-to-face. So here's my encouragement to unplug and unwind during these long, balmy days we love.

Yours,
DENISE K. JAMES
Managing Editor

connector will love read-



Left to right: Morgan, Madison, Dale, Marli and Lisa Wright; Sophia, Derrick, Matthew and Saritta Vann.





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Our Contributors



Anne Hassold Harris graduated from Clemson University with a degree in Communication. Originally from the Upstate of South Carolina, Anne's favorite childhood memories all involve vacations to the Lowcountry. Anne works as a designer/selections coordinator for Renaissance South

Construction Company. She lives in Mount Pleasant with her husband and two young children. When she isn't working or spending time with her family, you can usually find Anne on the beach or with a book in her hand.

Helen Harris moved to Charleston from Milledgeville, Georgia, as a graduate of Georgia College, with a degree in English Literature. Helen served as a contributing writer for various publications throughout her college career and still enjoys doing so as a way to learn more about the beautiful



city she calls home. In her free time, she enjoys the beach

and exploring Charleston with her golden retriever, Beezus.



From poetry and songwriting to inspirational pieces, as well as nonfiction, writing has been a part of **Jordan Scanlan's** life since he was a child. Having grown up in Kansas, he finds the Charleston area to be a completely new world of opportunity, creativity and culture. He and his wife

have been living here for just over a year, and he also writes for *I'On Life* magazine and *South of*

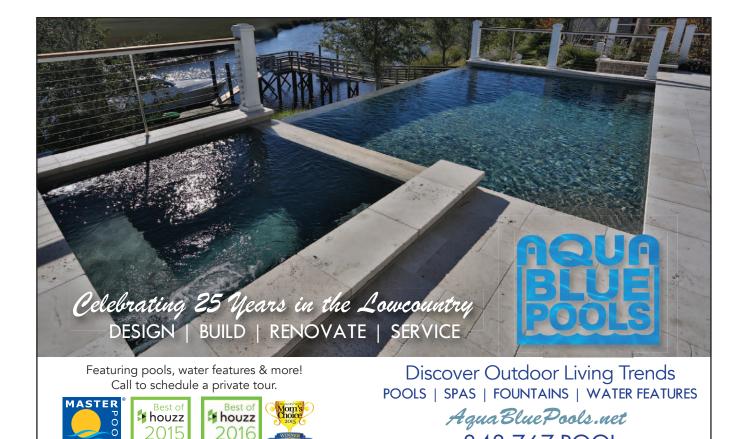
Broad Living magazine.

Daniel Brock is a Mount Pleasant resident, and, while he's not originally from Mount Pleasant, his wife is, which gives him ample street cred when he strolls down Coleman Boulevard.



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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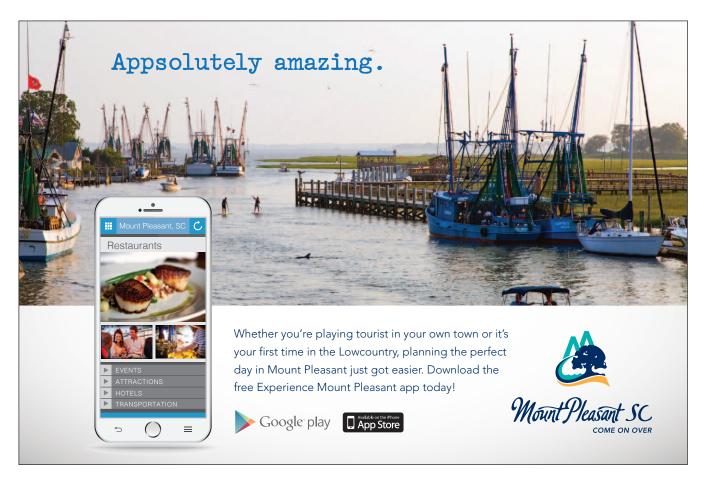
The summer pet issue is approaching. And that means we're ready for our readers to submit **fun pictures and stories about your pet** at MountPleasantMagazine.com/PetPhotos for a chance to show off your cuddly kitten or devoted dog in the July/August issue. Your dog, cat or parrot deserves its 15 minutes of fame! But hurry – the deadline is June 1.

The **2017 Golden Spoon Awards** results will be published in our September/October issue this year. We are looking forward to hearing more about your favorite restaurants, and we urge you to share the news of the Golden Spoon Awards with your friends outside of East Cooper, since we're extending the opportunity to win to any restaurant in the tri-county area.

VOTE NOW at GoldenSpoonAwards.restaurant, now through Aug. 1.

Be sure to **share the digital versions** of *North Mount Pleasant Magazine* (NorthMountPleasant.com) and *Lowcountry Women in Business* (LCWomeninBusiness.com) with family and friends, so they can read along with you.

And don't forget to connect with us on our social media accounts: Instagram (@MountPleasantMagazine), Pinterest and our open Facebook group, located at Facebook.com/groups/MPMCommunity.





2016



We asked our Mount Pleasant Magazine friends and fans to nominate their favorite moms and dads in honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day. The results are more interesting and heartfelt than we ever thought possible. We had spouses nominate each other, children nominate parents and friends, and nannies and colleagues nominate parents in the community who they consider to be extraordinary. We hope you enjoy reading the winning essays as much as we did. We're also publishing a few other comments we received on social media and elsewhere.

Thank you for your nominations and Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day.

For even more stories, visit MountPleasantMagazine.com/MomAndDad



BETH ANN DERYCKE CHACONAS

Nominated by Paul Chaconas, husband

Beth Ann puts others before herself. She has fun by helping others have fun! She models honesty and hard work through her loving actions more so than her loving words. She's one hardworking lady who's as "honest as the day is long." Beth Ann is an excellent listener. She speaks the truth in love to all people. Beth Ann is quick to listen and slow to anger. She does not hold a grudge. Beth Ann is not one to overanalyze or dwell on the past. She simply does not have time to think too much. Beth Ann is a doer with a capital "D." The DeRycke family she was born into and raised with in upstate New York are "doers" more so than talkers. Beth Ann detests gossip and excessive small talk, but she loves a healthy conversation. Beth Ann enjoys helping our children and other people in practical, tangible ways. She's a peach!



Beth Ann Derycke Chaconas and family.





Jennifer Crouse and family

JENNIFER CROUSE

Nominated by Phoebe Crouse, daughter

My mother has given her life to raise her children to the best of her abilities, and, in doing that, she cultivated four happy, self-actualized and grateful people. I owe all that I have to her – not only the blessing of security, but my ability to love extensively and my relationship with God, not to mention my passion for cooking. Now that I have delved into that hobby, I realize cooking and cleaning three meals a day is a full-time job, and doing it for four hungry kids is a career.

When my dad left our family, there was potential for my mother to fall apart and lose sight of who she is, but, because she always had a grip on her priorities and values, she remained a strong, inspiring woman. I love her and she deserves to be appreciated by everyone.



Courtney M. Martin

I love my mother because she showed me how to be a great mother! Her compassionate unconditional love and patience go without saying. I love you Mom and thank you for all you still do! You will always be a mother. You never stop or give up on your lifelong commitment when you are a mommy! I still want my mommy when I get sick; she held my hand during labor! I love you, Mom.

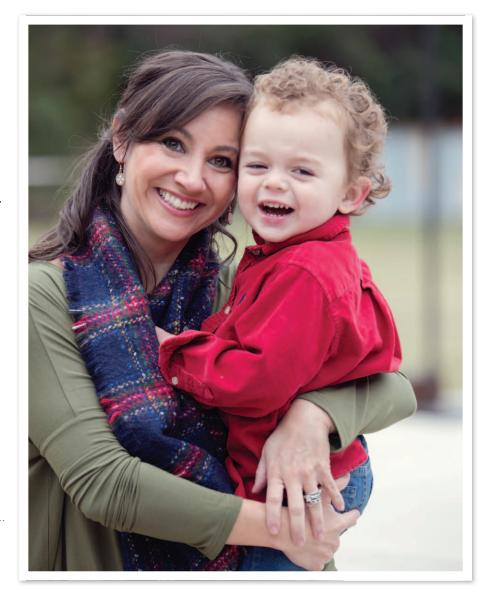


STACEY HEILMAN

Nominated by Cheryl Figueroa, stepmother

Stacey is the kind of mother that every woman wishes she could be. She and Hudson have daily explorations in Mount Pleasant and Isle of Palms. They visit parks, beaches and museums, where she incorporates her love of teaching through creative play.

Stacey was an elementary art teacher prior to becoming a full-time mother. Her love of art is evident each and every day. They may build sand castles and draw pictures on the beaches in the morning and explore parks and wildlife in the afternoons. They love to read books and visit the library for various children's programs. I am proud of the wonderful woman and mother she is.



Stacey Heilman and son Hudson.



Lisa T. Beluzo

I love my mother because she gave me unconditional love, taught me the importance of independence and cooperation and modeled values that were never self-serving. Without her support, I would not be the woman I am today. She embodied strength, perseverance and dedication. I lost her and there is not a day that dawns that I don't miss her.





ROBIN MOSES

Nominated by Rachel Jones, daughter

When I think of a great mother, I automatically think about my mom. She raised me by herself for 13 years before she met and married my stepdad. In those 13 years, she did everything in her power to make sure I had the best things in life and did everything I wanted to do, whether it was trips with my friends or just shopping for new things. She always put off doing things for herself to make sure I was completely happy!

My mom is the backbone of our entire family. Right now she takes care of my grandmother full-time, because my grandmother can't take care of herself anymore, and my mom takes of care of my son while I work so I won't have to pay for daycare. Basically, she takes care of everyone in our family and she never asks for anything in return. That is true love! Words can't describe how much I truly appreciate her. I know for a fact that I have the best mother in the entire world. I love you, Momma.

Robin Moses and daughter Rachel.



Just Hannah

To see my mother bear six children and lose five, yet she still has so much faith in life. It's amazing. She is not only strong physically but faithfully as well. No matter my faults, she will love me. She has taught me what forgiveness means and sincerity and that life is not about money but love.





Lisa Wright and family.

LISA WRIGHT

Nominated by Madison Wright, daughter

Our mother is one God-loving woman. She will give you the shirt off her back in a winter storm. She never missed a sporting event during our years and years of playing seasonal sports. We call her Gazelle because during soccer she would run down the sidelines just cheering us on!

Our aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer a couple years ago. Mom took off work almost every day just to take our aunt to the doctor or just be by her side when she needed it. She is there every second when you need her. She has the energy and love that shines right into people, giving them a warm, loving feeling. Our mom (and wife of our dad) deserves the world! We are blessed that she is our mother!



Courtney Winkleman

I love my mother simply because she taught me and my five siblings good morals. Without her, we wouldn't be as selfless and conscious of the world around us.





Derrick Vann and family.

DERRICK VANN

Nominated by Lisa Willmuth, his son's speech therapist

I know Derrick through his son, Matthew. I have worked with Matthew for over five years as his speech therapist. I've had the pleasure to also get to know the Vann Family. Derrick has a beautiful wife, Saritta, an 11-year-old daughter, Sophia, and a 12-year-old son, Matthew. Matthew has autism and has come a long way from when I first met him. Derrick is usually the person that brings Matthew to his therapies. No matter how many hours he has worked during the day, he still finds time to make sure Matthew makes it to his therapies. In addition, he makes it a point to ask the therapists questions about Matthew's day. Although Matthew may have limited verbal skills, his facial expressions and body language speak volumes when he looks at Derrick. When you see the entire family together, it's as if a series of individual puzzle pieces becomes complete. His positive attitude and demeanor are contagious.

I find Derrick to be an inspiration. I can't remember a day that I didn't see him with a smile on his face. No matter what life throws at him, he always leads by example. Most recently, he had to make the difficult choice to move out of the country for a job. I am certain this frustrated and upset him, but he never showed signs of distress. He always seemed focused on the task and goal ahead – to help support his family. Whether it is helping his son when he has a breakdown or squeezing in time to have a tea party with his daughter, he always meets the mark and makes time.

I know in my heart and mind Matthew's growth is because of the examples set for him. I honestly believe Matthew is such a happy, lovable boy because his father is a great example of unconditional love.



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Chris Simmons and family.

CHRIS SIMMONS

Nominated by Linda Oliver, mother-in law

Chris raises Ava, 4, and Oliver, 1, while still working full-time at Hank's Seafood in Charleston. He takes care of all the needs of the kids until 11:30 every day, when he takes Ava to daycare at Children's Discovery Center and leaves for his job after his mother comes to the house at 2 to babysit Oliver. He is a great hands-on dad who has always changed diapers, cleaned the breast pump for Teresa and cooked - anything a mother has done in the past, he does without being asked. He sees what needs to be done and just simply does it. He is the best young father I have ever seen. He and Teresa (marketing coordinator at East Cooper Medical Center) get the kids out on weekends for family time at the beach, playgrounds, Aquarium, Children's Museum and parties. He recently took Ava to see Peppa Pig at one of the theaters.





Matthew Strouse and family.

MATTHEW STROUSE

Nominated by Donna Strouse, mother

Matthew is raising his two children on his own. His wife left him and the children and moved back to Iowa. He bathes them, makes sure they brush their teeth, does the laundry, gets out school clothes and gets them to school, all while holding down a full-time job. He spends time taking them to the park, reading or just playing a game. He takes them to the doctor and makes sure the kids are fed. He does this all gladly and never complains. The children are his number one priority.

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BARRY WILKINS

Nominated by Samantha Wilkins, wife

Barry is a dedicated husband and loving father to 4-year-old triplet daughters. He works full-time but always has time for his family. Since the day the girls were born, he rolled up his sleeves and jumped right in. He changed diapers, got up in the middle of the night for feedings and comes home from work "ready to go." He has adapted to life in a house full of females and has embraced the chaos.

In March of 2013, Barry happily donated one of his kidneys to his daughter, and they just celebrated three years of health! He rarely complains and knows how to get us all out of a funk if needed. He is hilarious and finds the funny side of many stressful situations. He is a very dedicated father (and husband) and never feels that it "isn't his job." Barry is an amazing man. His family loves him and is very proud of him! We think he's the best!



Barry Wilkins and family.







Jon Nelson and family.

JON NELSON

Nominated by Melissa Nelson, wife

My husband, Jon, works hard and sometimes (OK, most times), I don't give him credit. Though he doesn't work hard for the credit, it's just who he is; it's in his DNA. In fact, he never stops working. He compromises his own health and safety to put others first. Jon puts forth more effort and energy into everything in his path, from relationships and "IT stuff" to talking me off a ledge to spending quality time with our miracle twins.

Though I lost my father too soon, I am the lucky one as I see Jon's tender parenting mirror my own dad's – and they never met. That tender way is a quality unmatched by many. He is patient and nurturing in a way that makes our family feel safe in even the scariest of situations.

He tells me, "Circuses are in tents," when I tell him, "Things are intense." His humor has a way of lightening a situation but not making light of a situation. That light has a way of shining during the darkest days or the daily stresses of two teething 19-month-olds, a dog with cataracts, a demanding wife, work challenges and more. This man never buckles under pressure. I have yet to see him crack. He manages to be our family's calm – our strength – and he never loses faith.

And the greatest of all is seeing the love of a father through my children's eyes.





BY KALENE MCCORT

time-honored saying that parenthood is the hardest job in the world. It's one that lacks a salary but pays you double in sweet moments shared and memories

E'VE ALL HEARD THE

made. From the first unsure baby steps to college gradua-

tion, parents revel in the incredible journey that only

children can provide.

Throughout Mount Pleasant, there are many hard-working moms and dads that make juggling career and family life look pretty darn easy. In the spirit of Mother's Day and Father's Day, we thought it fitting to share some advice from these busy working parents who have perfected the art of running successful businesses and raising tiny humans. See how these professionals contribute to the bustling business world by day and still manage to squeeze in a reading of "Goodnight Moon" come bedtime.



Dr. Amanda Seay and David Seay are the masters of multitasking. With her successful dental practice and his equally thriving real estate development and brokerage company, they still manage to put family first. With four children, life in the Seay home is one filled with laughter, faith and discovery.

"If David knows I am working toward a career milestone, then we figure out together how I am going to get there and how he can help me accomplish this while working around our family's core values," said Amanda. "I do the same for him. It keeps us both grounded but still pushing and developing ourselves to be the best we can be. Excellence doesn't happen by accident, and, if we want to be great at parenting or in our careers, it takes careful planning."

The Seays practice what they call carefree timelessness – a conscious effort to truly savor the moments with their children. Whether it's taking a neighborhood stroll, cooking together or telling imaginative stories, the little things become big things in the grand scheme of life.

"With a million messages and distractions coming at us each day, it is hard to find basic moments of just experiencing time with the ones you love. We work hard to protect it," said David. "Pray hard, work hard, love hard. Fitness together as a family is a great way for any family to get started on the right path. Make it happen."



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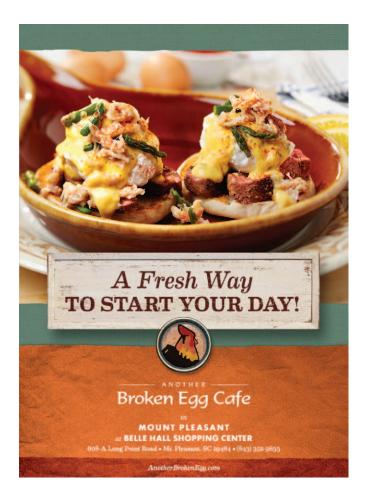
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As cultural affairs and tourism officer for the town of Mount Pleasant, **Ashley Richardson** makes sure our community flourishes. Her two daughters, Cora, age 4, and Elise, age 2, give her plenty of reasons to keep our neigh-

borhoods great for the enjoyment of future generations.

"My husband, Brett, and I keep an open line of communication about expectations and responsibilities," said Richardson. "We don't have a typical work schedule, since Brett starts his shift at Boeing at 5 a.m., and I sometimes have night and weekend commitments."

Never too proud to ask for assistance when needed, Rich-



The Richardson children.

ardson gets by with a little help from her friends.

"A strong support system is critical," said Richardson. "We have family nearby, and I'm lucky to be able to call on a friend, colleague or neighbor when we need help. My mother-in-law babysits frequently, allowing us to have date nights."

Richardson also stresses the importance of not letting computer screens and iPhones dictate your home life. Family dinnertime in the Richardson household is reserved for conversation and healthy face-to-face interaction.

"Work can be consuming and social media can be addicting," said Richardson. "Unplug when it's family time. The emails, voicemails and Facebook posts can wait. I have to remind myself to do this often."

Wes and Alicia Bishop own and operate More Space Place, a company that provides top-of-the-line home furnishings to make your abode that much more cozy, chic and functional.

When not helping customers decide on cabinetry, they

can be found getting in some much needed bonding time with their 4-year-old daughter, Lily.

"It is quite challenging balancing family life and work life for any small business owner, especially within the first few years of starting up. I would say that the key term for me is to delegate," said Wes. "As the owner, everything ultimately points to me, but I cannot do it all. I feel that I've been very fortunate to find trustworthy, hardworking individuals to help build a solid team within my company."

Like the reliable staff Wes is surrounded by at work, he counts on his parents and in-laws to add to the dynamic of life off the clock.

"Family is very important to us, and with both sets of grandparents within an hour of each other we are having family outings and dinners on a weekly basis," said Wes.

The Charleston area lends itself to lots of activities to do as a family. The Bishops stay busy with beach bike rides on Sullivan's Island, trips to the Mount Pleasant Farmers Market and visits to the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry and the South Carolina Aquarium.

"The most rewarding aspect of being a father for me is experiencing the wonder and magic of life through the



The Bishop family.

eyes of my 4-year-old daughter," said Wes. "As we get older, the more complicated life can get, but to be able to go back to the simplicity of life as a child can be a very refreshing point of view. Lily shows me every day to keep it simple, don't take it personal and stay positive."





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Michele Hensel Marketing Manager/Weight Loss Consultant Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center

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For Sarah Key, co-owner of Pleasant Kids Resale Boutique, being a mom directly influenced her career in children's retail.

"Motherhood definitely inspired me to open Pleasant

Kids Resale Boutique," said Key. "Children grow so quickly, and it seems that you are constantly buying them new clothes, shoes and toys."

With 6-year-old daughter Sydney and two 3-year-old twin boys, Jackson and Seth, Key certainly knows the effort that goes into keeping your kiddos looking fresh in clothes that are both durable and within budget.

"Having three kids contributed to the idea of being able to help other families by offering 'like-new' baby gear, clothing and toys at very affordable prices," said Key.

Since opening her shop, with co-owner Alysha Brown, she has provided a place for parents to bring the items their children no longer use and has also given them a chance to pick up a few new treasures.

"I try very hard not to do too much work at home and be family focused," said Key. "There comes a point when you just have to turn the work off, put your electronics away and have quality family-time every night."



Sarah Key and her children.

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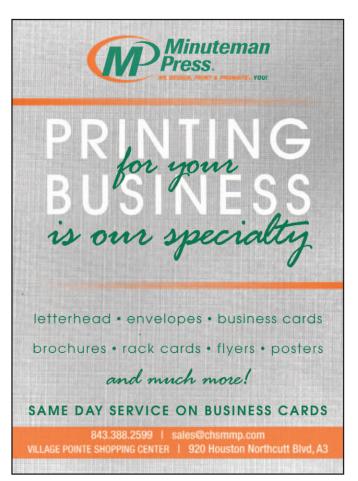
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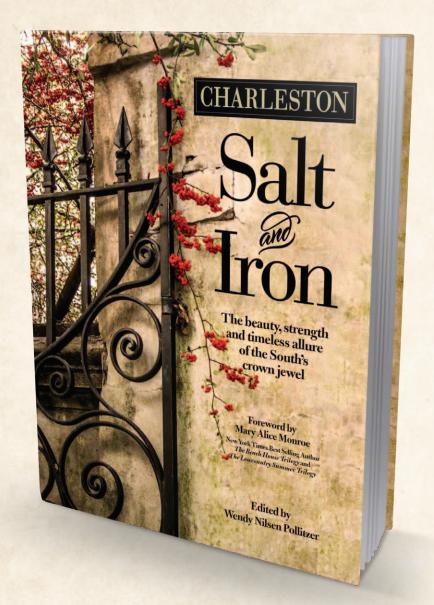
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POLLITZER HIGHLIGHTS THE JUXTAPOSITION OF CHARLESTON

By Pamela Brownstein



HEN THE IDEA CAME to compile a book to capture the mix of contrasts that embodies Charleston, author Wendy Nilsen Pollitzer

soon realized two things: The project would be a major undertaking, and it carried a tremendous responsibility.

"Charleston Salt and Iron: The beauty, strength and timeless allure of the South's crown jewel" is the result of a year-and-a-half worth of work that Pollitzer poured into this hard-cover coffee table book filled with more than 140 images from local photographers and 40 essays from an eclectic array of artists, chefs, musicians and philanthropists.



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"This book is a combination of people I know and people I've admired from afar for a long time," said Pollitzer, who was born and raised in Mount Pleasant.

For example, the essay by Mike Veeck, former owner of the Charleston RiverDogs, is meaningful to Pollitzer

because her first job after graduating from Clemson with a degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management was with the local baseball team.

"Mike taught me how to have fun at work. I'll never forget that lesson," she said.



Another contributor, Mary Alice Monroe – the bestselling author who lives on the Isle of Palms – has been a friend and mentor since the two met while Pollitzer was working with the Loggerhead Sea Turtle Conservation Program at Hunting Island State Park.

"She was the only person I wanted to write the forward for 'Salt and Iron,'" Pollitzer said affectionately.

A book launch was held at Second Sunday on King Street on May 8. Mother's Day was a fitting date since Pollitzer dedicated "Salt and Iron" to her mother, Shirley Nilsen, who works as the manager of community relations at East Cooper Medical Center.

Mount Pleasant ties run deep for Pollitzer. Her parents have lived here for more than 40 years and her brothers, Chance and Joey, still reside here. She has been best friends with Sully Witte, editor of the *Moultrie News*, since first grade.

"From Whitesides to Wando, I learned unity and diversity here," Pollitzer said. "I wanted to really demonstrate with this book what makes Charleston special – the relationships that are formed."

Currently the community manager for Relay For Life, Pollitzer lives in Beaufort with her daughters, Abbie, 12, and Julia, 11, and continues to instill in her girls the love of the Lowcountry she experienced growing up in Mount Pleasant, especially on the water through boating, fishing and swimming. Today, Pollitzer enjoys stand-up paddle boarding because "it gets me close to the water and allows time for reflection. That's where I get the most accomplished ... where my ideas are born."

Previously, Pollitzer wrote about the history of the Isle of Palms in 2005 and Port Royal in 2006 as part of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series. In 2014,

she released "South: What it means to be here in heart or in spirit," which featured essays from well-known South-



Wendy Nilson Pollitzer with her two children: Julia, 11, and Abbie, 12.

erners – including Pat Conroy and James Carville – and earned a Gold Award for Best Regional Non-Fiction from Independent Publishers.

Her latest work marks a personal and professional achievement, a labor of love and a tribute to the remarkable place she calls home.

Pollitzer said, "Salt and iron are the elements of Charleston. These two distinct terms define Charleston's character and its people. Salt and iron symbolize black and white. They symbolize ease and sophistication. They symbolize natural beauty and historic significance."

At A Glance

"Charleston Salt and Iron," edited by Wendy Nilsen Pollitzer, published by Lydia Inglett, Ltd., can be purchased online at www.starbooks.biz or at local retailers for \$39.95. Featured contributors include author Mary Alice Monroe; Lt. Gen John W. Rosa, USAF (Ret.), president of The Citadel; Hank Futch, bassist for the Blue Dogs; Mike Veeck, former owner of the Charleston RiverDogs; Julian Smith, director of the Cooper River Bridge Run; and Lowcountry artist Jonathan Green.





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T LAST, THERE'S A PRODUCT sinister Bond villain Auric Goldfinger would have felt completely at home with, and it's created right here in Mount Pleasant.

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24-karat gold.

Available in two styles, the Winston and the Churchill, at \$55 and \$125, respectively, they comprise the offerings in the Gold Cut line from local cigar manufacturer/distributor Cigar Row.

These high-end, gold-flecked stogies are a real attention getter, and Cigar Row founder and owner Dave Brown admitted that they've garnered more media coverage than



blockbuster sales. Nonetheless, they're an integral part of the story about how a guy who set out in life with no real career path in mind became a force to be reckoned with in the special world of cigar culture.

A northerner by birth, Brown found his way to the Lowcountry by enrolling at the College of Charleston. He fell in love with the city and the region, though he never finished his degree. A lifelong top tier tennis player, he felt he had to take a shot at the pro tour.

Just getting on that tour was accomplishment enough in itself, but, after two years of constant travel and play alongside the biggest names in the sport, he decided that touring wasn't a good fit for him.

The superstars, he recalled, traveled with their entourages of friends, family and road staff. Essentially, they took their home lives along with them from stop to stop around the world. Aspiring talents such as Brown couldn't afford that luxury, and life on the road was often a lonely and isolated existence.

When he quit the tour, Brown returned to Charleston with no idea what he might do next. Answering a classified ad, he took a job at a West Ashley cigar store, mainly because the ad stated "no experience required." And that's where he found his calling.

The more he learned about cigars, their history and their unique culture, the more passionate he became about them. He loved the experience of working at a retail store where many of the same customers came in day after day to enjoy a smoke and the camaraderie of their fellow cigar buffs.

Nonetheless, he felt that staying at the store limited his horizons.

"It was a little West Ashley community," Brown said.
"No one from as far away as Mount Pleasant was ever going to come there. Period."

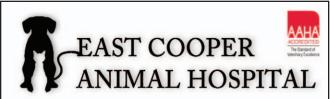
Brown went into business with a friend, and his love affair with cigars continued to blossom. He eventually bought the entire company and began distributing cigars himself. Many of his customers were major resorts, which he serviced with the same cigars anyone could buy at a good local store. He soon became aware of a secondary market for his line, the special events – weddings, anniversaries, bachelor and bachelorette parties and more – held year-round at these resorts.

One way to tap into these special events was to offer a customized service, an expert putting on a show rolling cigars on the spot for partygoers. Brown at first resisted, considering this "a novelty act." But before long, he learned how to hand-roll cigars himself and began taking advantage of these lucrative events.

Brown began fielding questions from party guests about where they could buy his excellent cigars. He had to inform them that they couldn't. He didn't have any manufacturing capacity beyond the two hands he used to roll the cigars at their events.

It didn't take long for Brown to recognize this new market. His small company had already built a reputation by showing up at events — plenty of other rollers weren't that reliable — and providing both a good show and a great end





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product. Now his challenge was to create his own cigars and offer them through special orders after each event. The result was the London Cut line, hand-rolled, bourbon-aged Dominicans available in a four-cigar sampler for \$50 and in variations up to a \$265, 20-cigar gift box that includes a fifth of top-tier bourbon.

But there was something else Brown yearned to create: a quality, eminently smokable gold cigar. The idea wasn't all that new. Other cigar producers had offered gold cigars that were really only good as expensive, glittery souvenirs. Actually trying to smoke them would have been a huge disappointment.

Brown was convinced that he could make a true smoker's cigar from pure edible gold, and that's just what he did. Of course, even his own technique was flawed at first, resulting in an off-putting price tag of more than \$200 per cigar at retail, a price he was ultimately able to bring down



Dave Brown, at one time a professional tennis player, found his true calling when he went to work at a West Ashley cigar store.

by refining his infusion formula.

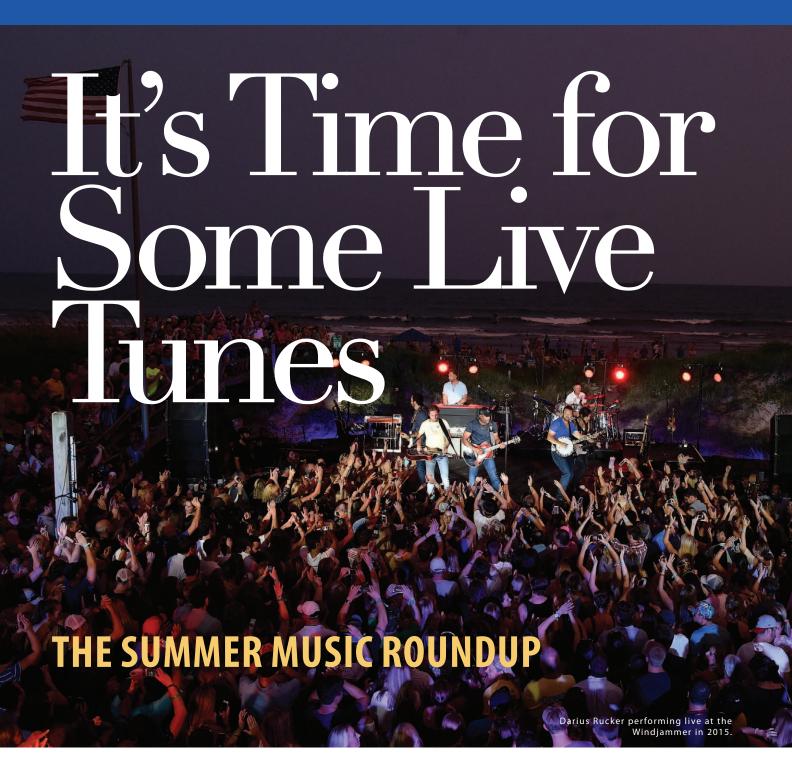
"At our current price points," Brown said, "our cigars are no longer out of people's reach. We can talk to event planners for occasions such as bachelor parties where 50 dollars or more is not a crazy amount to pay for a unique gift to commemorate a special occasion."

Today, Cigar Row's London Cut and Gold Cut products occupy the lion's share of Brown's attention. Yet he always finds time to be active as a speaker and mentor with the Harbor Entrepreneur Center, a non-profit training center and incubator for start-ups and small-to-mediumsized businesses throughout the

Charleston region.

Now that he's conquered the cigar market for serious gold lovers, perhaps Brown might consider creating a martini-laced cigar with its own catchy name. Maybe something like the "007."





VERY SUMMER NEEDS A soundtrack. Lucky for us, the coming months in the Lowcountry will offer plenty of moments to embrace a jam or two. From Volvo Car Stadium hosting arena-filling acts to The Windjammer providing us with intimate sets from some of our old-time favs, the

forecast for this concert season BY KALENE MCCORT calls for musical highs and scattered guitar solos. From Isle of Palms to Daniel Island, the amount of pure talent soon to be gracing

area stages is unmatched. Here's a rundown of where you should make appearances this summer. We hope to spot you in the crowd.

VOLVO CAR STADIUM • DANIEL ISLAND

Chris Stapleton has sauntered onto the country scene with the kind of gusto akin to any true outlaw. Possessing a whiskey-soaked vocal tone and bar ballads that tell of daily struggles, he shines in a genre consumed by overproduced pop. With the recent death of legend Merle Haggard, it's fair to say that Stapleton offers up a sort of essence we crave. He'll be bringing his guitar-playing



wanting to hear more. The Scottish electronic darlings, **Chvrches**, will join Death Cab for a night that's sure to



self to Daniel Island on **May 21**. With breakout hits "Tennessee Whiskey" and "Might as Well Get Stoned," he seems to be providing folks with music refreshingly rich in its unencumbered authenticity.

British siren Ellie Goulding possesses an otherworldly

vibe at times. Her unique voice pairs well with bass and treble; her work has become sort of a staple in clubs across the globe. Catch her ethereal act on **June 7**.



The 1975, whose sound and aesthetic often bears a striking resemblance to INXS, will rock out on **June 14**.

Death Cab for Cutie, the thinking man's alternative rock band, will play **June 15**. I remember the first time



I heard their single "I Will Possess Your Heart" seep from my car's radio. Haunting in its simplicity, it left me make you feel all the feels.

On June 19, relive your pop punk youth with Weezer and Panic! At the Disco. The living personification of



nerdy-cool, Weezer will have you dusting off those dark-rimmed glasses you used to rock freshman year. "Undone-The Sweater Song," "Buddy Holly" and "Beverly Hills" will always rank high in my repertoire of songs you can't help but belt out. Deep down, frontman Rivers Cuomo could arguably be considered one of the most underrated musical geniuses of our time. Their fellow tour buddies, Panic! At the Disco, will deliver plenty of opportunities for you to theatrically dance along with their very own brand of Vegas pop-rock.

Barenaked Ladies gave us those catchy hits like "One Week," "Old Apartment" and "If I had a \$1,000,000." One of the first bands to blend together a fair amount of corny kitsch with decent musical chops, these comedic crooners take the stage **July 1**.

It wouldn't be summertime in Charleston without performances by our beloved Darius Rucker. **Hootie and the Blowfish** will be playing **Aug. 5** and **6**.

Train will roll into Daniel Island on **Aug. 17**. From "Hey, Soul Sister," to "Drops of Jupiter," this is your chance to hear all of those guilty-pleasure tunes that







dominate radio airplay, live and in person.

PARTY AT THE POINT, CHARLESTON HARBOR RESORT AND MARINA

Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina, located in Mount Pleasant, is an ideal spot to take in a sunset while listening to some exceptional live music. The Party at the Point Concert Series has become a summertime staple, attracting locals looking to take in some acts along with the scent of salt air that wafts off the harbor. The number of solid bands taking the outdoor stage will have you wishing for an endless summer. Sink your toes in the sand, sip on a cold brew and prepare for some of these greats to fill your ears with those spine-tingling riffs you just can't get enough of. All events are just \$7, making this affordable fun for everyone in your crew.

The **Dead 27s** will be serving up their soulful rock 'n' roll on **May 13**. Their feel-good hit, "Don't Want to Live My Life Without You," comes off with the ease of an undulating wave making its way toward shore.

Dangermuffin's easy breezy sound originated in Folly Beach. Now the boys have gained traction within the festival circuit. Bringing joy and that laid-back bit of



beachy bohemian to each tour spot, there's nothing like seeing them in their element. Proving to be so much more than just another jam band, Dangermuffin lures listeners in with skilled musicianship, fusing together reggae influences with a bit of bluegrass. They will be joined **May 20** by the **Trongone Band** – a Richmond, Virginia-based group whose spot-on harmonies and honky-tonk keyboard action will have you grinning.

Scarlet Begonias: (A Tribute to The Grateful Dead) will rock out on June 10. Come shake your bones and lose yourself in hits like "Truckin'," "Friend of the Devil" and "Sugar Magnolia."







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Sol Driven Train, the Charleston-based six-piece band, has won the hearts of locals with their tunes about life in the Lowcountry. "Watermelon," an ode to that juicy piece of produce available seasonally, is pretty sweetly satisfying. They play June 3 with Fowler's Mustache – another local band that has jammed heavily with countless gigs in Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island since 2009. Their Southern rock vibe is delicately seasoned with just the right amount of psychedelic tendencies.

The **Blue Dogs** have been a loyal part of the Charleston music scene for over two decades and will be throwing down their Americana sound on **June 24**.

The Party at the Point Summer Concert Series is set to wrap up on July 1, with Banana Pancakes: (A Tribute to Jack Johnson.) We really couldn't think of a more appropriate closer to cap off balmy days, filled with choppy surf and tan lines.

THE WINDJAMMER, IOP

The '90s are alive and well at **The Windjammer**. This venue on Isle of Palms offers beach views and plenty of chances to embrace the nostalgia full force. We all remember when **Eve 6** dominated MTV with their video for "Inside Out." On **June 7**, the boys will be bringing



their charttopping selves to this beachside bar. Order a daiquiri and "spin around to a beautiful oblivion."

Sister Hazel is back with their three-day festival.

Chances to get up close and personal with the band during sunset happy hours and a Lowcountry boil will take place **June 10** to **12**. Don't miss a pre-party on **June 9**, with free Bud Light and soda.

The loud, gritty, high-energy Cowboy Mouth will be performing June 17 and 18. Known for encouraging plenty of audience participation, these native Louisianans aren't afraid to get rowdy. Delivering unfiltered sermon-like speeches backed by power chords and kick drums, these Southerners will have you on your feet.

Consider this list a solid jumping off point to days filled with good times, great tunes and unforgettable memories. We hope to see you getting down under that Carolina sky. From the intimate sound checks to the powerhouse encores, each moment of these events are meant to be savored. With so many refreshing acts, your thirst for live entertainment is bound to be quenched.

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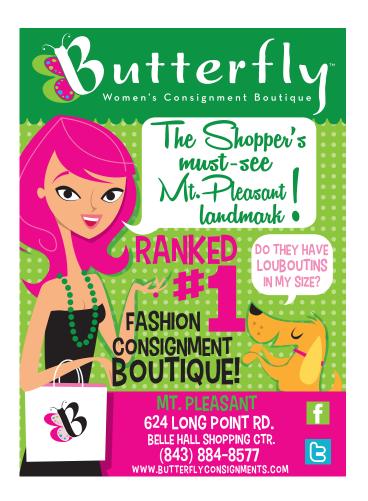
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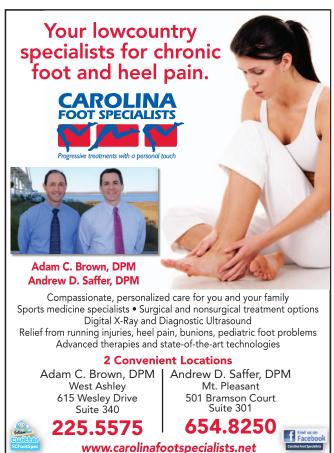
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PARADISE IN A CAN

Don't Drill Lowcountry, Shepard Fairey and Holy City Brewery crush it

OUNT PLEASANT-BORN artist Shepard Fairey's most recognizable work is the iconic "Hope" poster he designed for Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, and the medium for one of Fairey's latest efforts brings to mind another of the 44th president's famed slogans: "Yes We Can."

BY DANIEL BROCK

In March, Holy City Brewing announced that a partnership with

environmental group Don't Drill SC had landed a Fairey print as the artwork on a limited-edition can series for the brewery's new session IPA, Paradise.

Fairey's work, "Paradise Turns," depicts a pair of beachgoers casually lounging under an umbrella as the tide approaches. An air of menace is introduced by a forest of oil derricks looming in the background, and an inscription in the top left corner reads, "Enjoy paradise until the tide turns."

Fairey said the piece was inspired by old photos of derricks on beaches at Playa Del Rey and Long Beach in California. A Google search of those images boggles the

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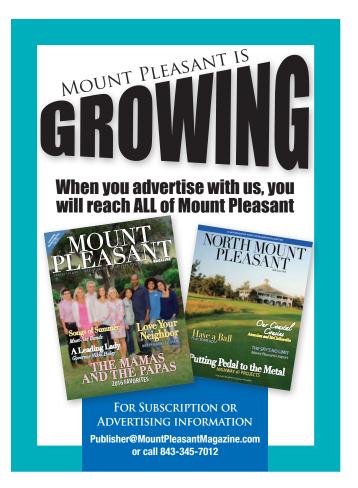
"Beyond just the environmental hazards of oil spills and climate change, the idea of trouble in paradise is also about our lack of foresight in transitioning away from oil, which is finite, to energy sources which are renewable," Fairey said. "The tide will turn, and the question is whether we will be technically equipped to adapt, or will the things oil provides, that we take for granted, halt catastrophically?"

The cans were originally intended to fuel Don't Drill SC's fight against drilling off the coast of South Carolina. When the Obama administration reversed course on allowing offshore drilling along the Southeast coast this spring, the mission changed somewhat.

"It's more of a victory beer now," said Chris Brown, a Holy City Brewing co-owner and the brewery's production manager.

A limited series of cans – about 1,000 altogether – featuring Fairey's artwork will be available through May. Later this summer, Holy City will change artists and beneficiaries, with John Staniforth and the Coastal Conversation League, respectively, coming on board.

This isn't the first time Holy City has taken a cause to



its cans. A portion of proceeds from the brewery's popular Angel Oak Pale Ale – which featured a striking image of the centuries-old tree – went to the Lowcountry Open Land Trust conservation group.

"The goal from day 1 has been to support the community we live in," Brown said.

Industry wide, craft brewers appear to be trending toward cans. In Charleston, for example, Gil Shuler recently designed the first line of cans for Palmetto Brewing, while Cooper River Brewing, which opened last fall, is readying for its initial can release.

Proponents of the aluminum containers tout benefits that include faster cooling, protection from light and portability.

"Cans make sense here anyway," Brown said. "We're near the beach and boating and water, places where you can't have glass."

As for the beer that the Fairey cans will adorn, Brown said its a blend of warrior, mosaic and citra hops.

"Coming into spring, we wanted to do something light," he said. "It's a good beer for Charleston. It has a lot of flavor and low alcohol by volume -4.1 percent - so you can drink more than one or two without getting full."

Sounds like Paradise.

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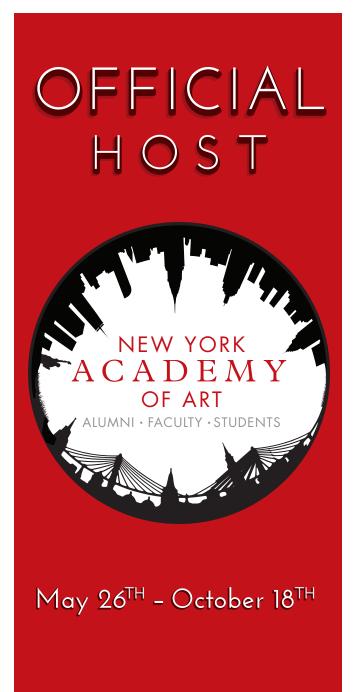
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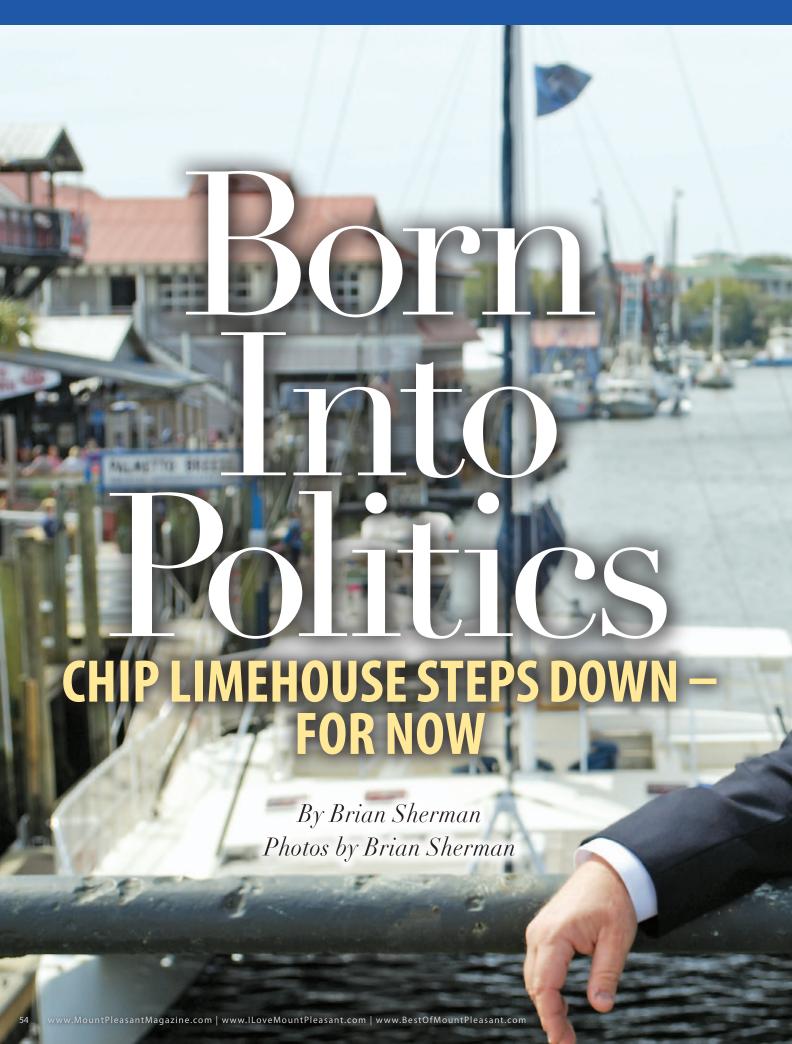
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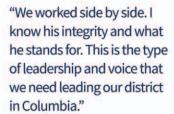
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a congressional page in the nation's capital. When Strom Thurmond's driver was feeling under the weather, the job of transporting the longtime U.S. senator around Washington went to a teenager from Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Limehouse would wake up early to attend classes at the Library of Congress and stay out late driving the legendary lawmaker wherever he wanted to go. The experience, he said, was priceless.

"I got an education like no other," said Limehouse, who graduated from College Preparatory School in Charleston and later from the University of South Carolina.

Limehouse put his political experience to good use during the 1984 presidential campaign, making phone

calls and knocking on doors for Ronald Reagan and also for Thurmond and Carroll A. Campbell Jr., the congressman who later served as governor of South Carolina.

"I was a foot soldier in the Reagan Revolution," Limehouse said with obvious pride.

He threw his own hat into the political ring in 1992 at the age of 26, losing his bid for a seat in the state Senate. He also ran an unsuccessful campaign for the U.S. House

when Tim Scott was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 2013. He came out on top 11 other times, however. In 1994, he earned the distinction of being the first Republican to represent District 110 in more than a century, and voters in Mount Pleasant and Charleston returned him to office with great regularity – every two years from 1996 through 2014.

When 2016 comes to an end, he'll be spending his time as a commercial real estate broker rather than doing double duty as a public servant.

"Twenty-two years is enough," he commented. "I've been thinking about it the last several terms. It's time for someone new and younger to take over."

Limehouse, one of five members of the House who currently represents at least a part of Mount Pleasant, can look back on an array of legislative accomplishments during the past 22 years. Most important, in his opinion, is that he was the prime sponsor of the South Carolina Infrastructure Bank Act, which was passed in 1997. The

Infrastructure Bank provided much of the funding for the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge and also helped pay for work on Hungryneck Boulevard, Bowman Road and Highway 17.

"The Infrastructure Bank has had a major role in funding most of the new roads in Mount Pleasant in the past 15 years," he said. "We've done an outstanding job of making transportation work in Mount Pleasant."

Limehouse, currently a member of the board of directors of the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank, pointed out that during his time in the House, he has worked closely with Mount Pleasant's Town Council and Mayors Cheryll Woods-Flowers, Harry Hallman, Billy Swails and Linda Page. He added that the idea for the Infrastructure Bank came from his father, one-time chair of the

> South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission.

"We do it by bonding, rather than pay as you go," Limehouse explained. "The bridge cost \$635 million. If have cost \$1.2 billion. We wouldn't have had the money to build it."

Though helping to build the bridge between Mount Pleasant and Charleston might be Limehouse's most lasting legacy, he helped pass

we had waited, it would

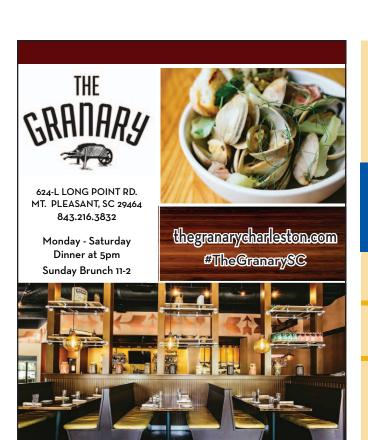
several other pieces of legislation affecting Mount Pleasant and the Lowcountry. For example, he played a key role in the state appropriating \$4 million for the Medal of Honor Museum at Patriots Point, he obtained the seed money for the construction of the Kruger Smith Building at Memorial Waterfront Park and he was instrumental in getting \$6 million from the state to reconfigure the once-dangerous intersection of Highways 41 and 17.

Statewide, Limehouse helped pass Megan's Law, which makes information on sex offenders available to the public, the Sexually Violent Predator Act and legislation protecting eagles, turtles, dolphins and various species of fish.

In addition, Limehouse served as chairman of the Charleston County Aviation Authority and played a role in convincing Boeing and Volvo to locate facilities in South Carolina. He helped choose the contractor, the architect and the design for the soon-to-be-completed renovation of Charleston International Airport.



After 22 years in the South Carolina House of Representatives, Chip Limehouse is retiring from politics and returning to work as a full-time commercial real estate broker.





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"The dome was my idea. That was my baby 100 percent," he said. "That's what sets the building apart."

"I'm very proud of the airport," he added. "All the blood, sweat and tears were well worth it."

Limehouse also contributed to the health of the Lowcountry economy by negotiating the sale of 970 additional acres of land to Boeing.

"That eventually will bring another 5,000 jobs to this area," he predicted.

Does Limehouse look back on his career in the House and wonder about legislation that might have been or ideas that failed to materialize? Not really.

"As a state representative, I maximized the use of my power to help my district. I'd put my work up against anyone's. The results speak loud and clear," he said. "I worked as hard as possible. I have no regrets."

He added that during his more than two decades in the Legislature, he was able to do what was best for the constituents in his district, as well as what worked for the people of South Carolina as a whole.

"You have to have a balance, but you have to look out for your district first," he said. "You can do both. They're not mutually exclusive. But if you want to get re-elected, you better look after your district."

As he prepared to leave the realm of public service for the first time in over two decades, Limehouse voiced his opinion on a few issues that Republicans and Democrats have been unable to get together on, both in Columbia and in Washington. He said entitlements and welfare must be cut and that an increase in the gasoline tax is necessary to build and repair roads and bridges, both in South Carolina and across the nation. He suggested that a federal infrastructure bank similar to the one he helped establish in the Palmetto State would work well.

And, he said, he's grateful for the support he's received over the years from the residents of his hometown.

"I appreciate the people of Mount Pleasant for making me their state representative for the past 22 years," he said. "I love Mount Pleasant. I couldn't have had a greater district to represent."

Does he have any thoughts of returning to the political arena?

"I have an open-door policy, but I don't have any plans to get back in right now," he said. "If anyone asks for my help, I'll be happy to lend a hand. I'll do what I can to make it a smooth transition."









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N A RECENT TRIP WITH

her family to Muir Woods, a national redwood forest in San Francisco, Toni Knorr struggled to keep up with her three young nephews. After more than 40 years of wearing high heels during her

demanding career as a hotel executive, Knorr has painful

bunions on both feet. Surgery, the best option, requires several weeks

BY AMY MERCER

off your feet, which is difficult for a career woman.

Dr. Rahn A. Ravenell of Coastal Podiatry said Knorr's situation is not uncommon, but he added that people should know that foot pain is not normal at any age.

"We have found that proper early intervention with foot injuries and pain results in much better outcomes," he said.

Born and raised in Charleston, Dr. Ravenell said he knew he would go into medicine when he attended

a health career fair at a pre-medicine summer program at Duke University. After graduating magna cum laude from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, he went on to obtain his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine. During this time, he worked at a local shoe store, fitting runners with shoes and performing basic gait analysis to fit runners with orthotic inserts for their shoes.

"I learned the importance of proper overall body mechanics and how the foot and ankle are vitally important in achieving this," said Dr. Ravenell.

Dr. Ravenell and his wife, Dr. Tamika Ravenell, opened their Mount Pleasant office in 2013. Their practice specializes in pediatric foot care, flatfoot surgery, bunion surgery, heel pain and neuromas. The most common injury they treat is plantar fasciitis (heel pain), which is an inflammation, irritation and swelling of the ligament that typically comes from an overuse injury. Repetitive

motions, no matter how ordinary, can cause small micro tears that occur each time you use your plantar fascia. When the micro tears do not heal properly, fasciitis/ fasciosis (ligament degeneration) can occur.

"Don't suffer in silence. Catching heel pain early can mean the difference between healthy feet and chronic discomfort," Dr. Ravenell said.

High-heeled, pointed-toe shoes have a narrow toe box that crowds the toes and can cause numerous orthopedic problems, leading to discomfort or injury to the toes,

ankles, knees, calves and back. These shoes distribute the body's weight unevenly, placing excess stress on the ball of the foot and on the forefoot. This uneven distribution of weight, coupled with the narrow toe box, can lead to discomfort, bunions, hammertoes and other deformities.

To relieve the abusive effects of high heels, women should limit the amount of time they wear them and alternate these shoes with good quality sneakers or flats for part of the day. Low-heeled shoes (one inch or lower) with a wide

shoes (one inch or lower) with a wide toe box are the ideal choice for women. An ample toe box that can accommodate the front part of the foot is as important as the heel in determining fit.



Dr. Rahn A. Ravenell of Coastal Podiatry.

Coastal Podiatry is located at 180 Wingo Way, Suite 201, in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.mtpleasantfootdoc.com or call 843-856-5337.

A study conducted by the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society found that:

- > Nine out of 10 women wear shoes that are too small for their feet.
- > Eight out of 10 women say their shoes are painful.
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T'S BEEN NEARLY 27 YEARS SINCE A major hurricane swept through the Lowcountry, but that doesn't mean you should ignore the probability that another Hugo-like storm will visit the Charleston area sooner or later.

Lowcountry Hurricane Protection & Shutters can enhance the look of your home and at the same time prepare you for the next big weather event.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

Established by local resident J.D. Cooper in 2006, the company offers

a wide range of options that allow you to customize every

window in your home, from decorative wood shutters to hurricane shutters made of aluminum and stainless steel that offer protection from winds of up to 150 mph.

Cooper, who grew up in Mount Pleasant, explained that hurricane shutters alleviate the pressure brought by a storm that has the potential to cause extensive damage to a home.

"Hurricane winds exert a positive force or pressure against a vertical surface of a home, such as a wall or steeply pitched roof," he said. "As the wind flows over or around the home, it exerts a negative force or suction on the walls or roof. The combination of pressure and suction can cause uplift, possibly stripping roof coverings and sheathing or, in extreme cases, destroying the entire roof."

Cooper, who has seven employees, launched the company in 2006 and in 2008 started manufacturing aluminum products. In 2012, he started crafting wood shutters made of cedar, mahogany and extira - a wood composite - in his shop in Mount Pleasant. Cooper said Lowcountry Hurricane Protection & Shutters makes most of the shutters it sells and installs, though a few models are manufactured in Florida.

"We are one of the only businesses around Charleston that manufactures and retails our own shutters," he

pointed out. "Most of our competitors are retailers. We are the manufacturer, and we sell directly to the customer."

Two of Cooper's most popular decorative products are Bahama shutters and Colonial shutters. Bahamas are hinged at the top of the window, can be closed easily when bad weather is on the way and feature louvers that won't block your view. Colonials fold in from either side of the window to provide solid protection from the elements.

Another popular option aimed more at privacy and aesthetics than at violent weather is the porch Bahama, which hides your porch from neighbors and also protects

against sun, wind and rain.

Other possibilities include aluminum roll-down shutters, which can be opened or closed with a manual crank or a handheld remote: accordion shutters. and other weather issues; storm panels, made of galvanized steel panels; and fabric shield, a Elightweight, translucent option.

which add security to your home, as well as protection against wind and aluminum or clear Lexan

Customers of Lowcountry Hurricane Protection & Shutters can be assured that all the manufacturing and installation work will be done by company employees rather than by subcontractors. Cooper, who concentrates on sales and administration, helps out in the field occasionally these days. And he personally measures each job, providing the client with a detailed quote that indicates the price of every possible option for each window in the house.

"I get great satisfaction going to a house that has nothing on the windows and completely changing the look of the home," he said.

Lowcountry Hurricane Protection & Shutters is located at 488-C LaMesa, off Long Point Road, in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.lowcountryshutters.com or call 843-822-5519.



The porch Bahama is a popular option at Lowcountry

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Summer Style Petit Panache Fashion Camp

ETIT PANACHE FASHION CAMP, TO be held on Saturdays in May and Monday through Thursday starting June 13, is a collaboration of designers, instructors and professional seamstresses who will be teaching courses on pattern making, draping, fashion sketching, sewing and many other classes dealing with fashion.

Teachers will be instructors from various universities as well as nationally recognized fashion designers from New York, Los Angeles and other parts of the country. The camp has gleaned support from fashion editors from *The New York* Times, The Washington Post and Vogue. Guest designers will travel to Charleston to meet with students, and students will travel to design showrooms, fabric houses and retailers to learn about what's trending and to meet models.

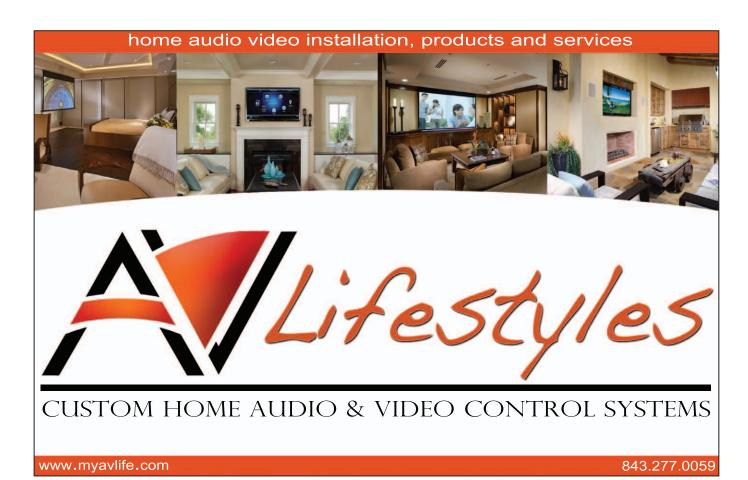
Founder Ann Cooper currently designs eight collections of women's and children's apparel, with showrooms in New York, Atlanta, Dallas and Los Angeles. Her collections have been sold to Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman and Nordstrom, as well as more than 500 other stores in the United States and Europe.

"For a long time, I have wanted to offer girls the opportunity to learn more about fashion, sewing and more and to empower them to create projects that they can wear," said Cooper. "I hope the camp and classes will help build self-confidence and awareness of their personal skills. I feel girls today are very attentive to what they wear and how they accessorize their outfits. The ability to sew their own outfits gives them their own 'fashionista' look. At the end of the camp, the students will put on their own runway show and model the garments that they made in the camps."

Classes will be offered in Mount Pleasant, Charleston and West Ashley.

For more information, visit www.petitpanachefashioncamp.com, email petitpanache@yahoo.com or call 843-670-9903.







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HE EAST COOPER PAINT &
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workmanship and outstanding
customer service began in 1963, when
the late Sidney Ballentine founded the
business.

After he retired in 1983, his son, Stephen Ballentine, continued his father's legacy. And Stephen Ballentine's son, Marty,

is the third-generation owner/operator of East Cooper Paint & Body Shop, located on Broadway Street in Mount Pleasant. The father-and-son team proudly continues the company's tradition as of one of the Lowcountry's most successful collision repair facilities.

Originally located in a small building next to the former Boulevard Diner, East Cooper Paint & Body was built from the ground up with a simple business philosophy.

"My father believed that quality repairs and customer service are first and foremost, and he instilled those values in me. Now my son is carrying on that same tradition," said Stephen Ballentine. "We not only fix cars – we fix customers."

When Sidney Ballentine started the business in 1963, Mount Pleasant had two policemen and two stoplights. Times have certainly changed, and so has East Cooper Paint & Body Shop.

"We now have nearly 20 employees, but our core values have never changed: customer service and quality repairs," Stephen Ballentine pointed out.

Ballentine offered further thoughts about his profession: "Today, the automotive collision industry is governed by the insurance companies and their policies. However, we never lose sight of the fact that we work for our customers, and their best interest is always first and foremost with us. We always have been family owned and operated. We treat our employees like our family – they are the backbone of

our business – and they, in turn, take care of our customers like family. Our employees fully understand our mission to provide a quality product and excellent customer service."

Stephen Ballentine became involved in the family business when he got out of the Marine Corps in 1972 and took over operations when his father retired in 1983. His son has worked in the industry for over 23 years, both at East Cooper Paint & Body Shop and at other shops.

"As many father/son working relationships go, ours was a rocky road to say the least," Stephen Ballentine said. "But about five years ago, we both made a serious effort to affect a change in our lives, and, with the help of business consultant Al Katz, we were able to move forward with

a comprehensive plan for a transition of ownership. From that point on, there has been no looking back."

Currently, Marty
Ballentine is the vice
president and business
partner. Brian Hoerner has
been with the company for
three years and was recently
promoted to director of
operations. Future plans



East Cooper Paint & Body Shop is run by Marty Ballentine, left, and his father, Stephen.

have Marty taking over full operations, and Stephen joked that he "will be put out to pasture somewhere, hopefully somewhere with white sand and crystal clear blue water."

East Cooper Paint & Body Shop continually strives to provide the best service possible for its customers. As for doing business in Mount Pleasant, Stephen Ballentine said: "Even with all of the growing pains the town is going through, it is still beautiful and one of the best places in the country to live and raise a family. We are blessed to call Mount Pleasant home."

East Cooper Paint & Body Shop is located at 429 Broadway St. To learn more, visit www.eastcooperbodyshop.com or call 843-884-2155.



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Mount Pleasant boasts some of the finest golf courses in the Charleston area:
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and Charleston National Golf Club.

RiverTowne, Snee Farm and now

BY JOHN TORSIELLO PHOTOS BY MARK WILLIAM PAUL Dunes West are all owned by James Feeney, who

purchased Dunes West in March of this year.

"It just made sense and you don't often get a chance to own three courses within such close proximity of one another," said the businessman and avid golfer.

Indeed, Rivertowne and Dunes West are located only a few miles from one another off Highway 41, while Snee Farm, which is maintained as a private facility, is a bit further away off Highwy 17.

Feeney said he doesn't anticipate any major changes at Dunes West but does see "some synergy" among the three clubs, especially RiverTowne and Dunes West.

"Dunes West has so much to offer – the golf course, an athletic club, tennis, swimming, boat storage and boat launch, and it's a great place for weddings," he pointed out.

Dunes West, designed by Arthur Hills, plays anywhere





from 6,859 yards down to 5,208 yards from the forward markers. Water comes into play on seven holes, and the fairways are fairly large and forgiving. The greens are mildly undulating and guarded by bunkers, both sand and grass.

At RiverTowne, director of golf Pete Dunham reported that work was finished on a green-side bunker renovation project this winter, putting in "Better Billy Bunkers," as well as reshaping several bunkers and eliminating a few. Said Dunham: "The goal was to make the course more playable for the higher handicap players while improving the drainage and playability of the bunkers. We are hoping for a great spring and summer."

RiverTowne is Arnold Palmer's first signature course in

the area. The club for several years hosted Annika Sorenstam's event on the LPGA Tour and is situated among scenic marshlands and live oaks, with 13 holes routed along the Wando River and Horlbeck Creek. Tree-lined fairways provide generous landing areas to set up approach shots to multi-tiered greens guarded by bunkers and water. The club boasts a superb practice facility, impressive clubhouse and a dining area and bar.

Snee Farm Country Club is located on the 200-year-old Snee Farm Plantation. The private club is home to a George Cobb-designed championship golf course, a newly renovated clubhouse, a full-service restaurant and bar, a fitness



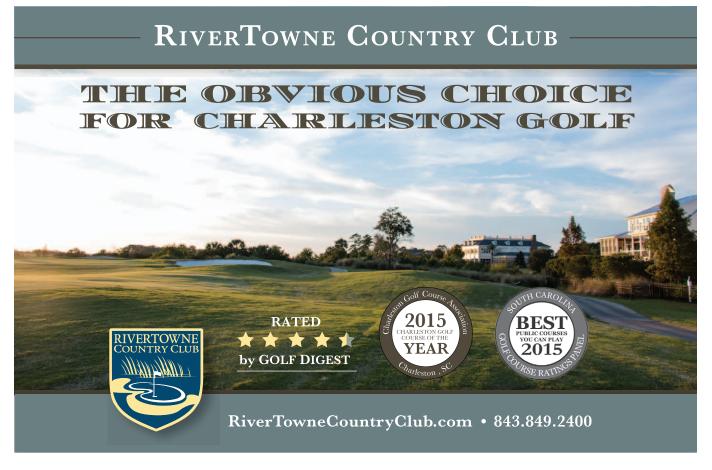
room, 18 tennis courts and two newly renovated swimming pools. Snee Farm has the only dual club golf membership in the Charleston area with RiverTowne Country Club.

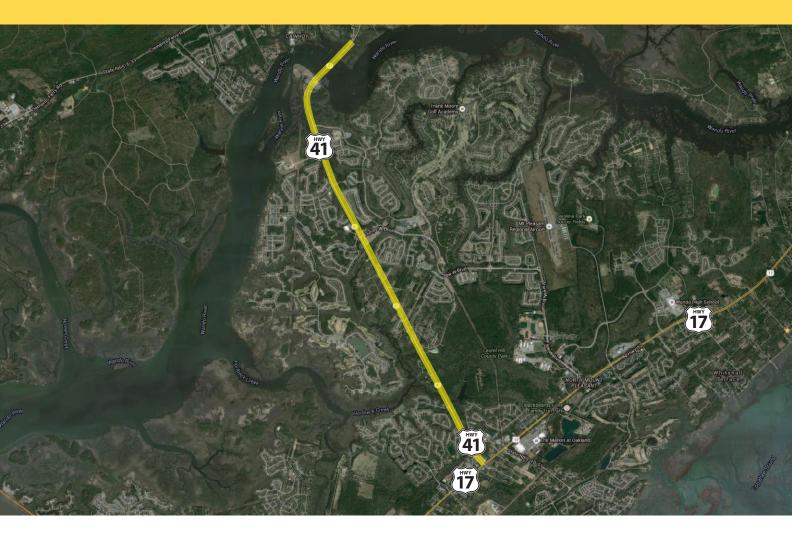
Charleston National Country Club was conceived as an exclusive club, along the lines of Augusta National Golf Club. The course was pretty much built when plans were altered dramatically after Hurricane Hugo roared into the area in 1989 and totally altered the landscape. The developers decided to switch gears and make their club a public one, while building attractive communities on much of the rest of the property. The course was carved out of property near the Intracoastal Waterway, through natural wetlands and lagoons and a pine and oak tree forest. The result was

a championship caliber golf course with some of the best views on the Southeast coast.

Charleston National boasts a VIP membership program that head golf professional Chase Wells said is "the most affordable way to play in Mount Pleasant." There are no monthly dues, just a small yearly fee, and members pay when they play. Usually, VIP rates are 35 to 45 percent off normal rates.

"Our Rees Jones Pub has been renovated and is now much more friendly to the eye," said Wells. "We really enjoy hearing that our locals consider Charleston National Golf Club their favorite place to play. I continually hear that we have the nicest greens in town compared to any other courses open to the public."





Moving Forward

SOMETHING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN ON HIGHWAY 41

By Brian Sherman



A flyover might someday help alleviate traffic issues at the intersection of Highways 17 and 41.

OMETIME IN THE YEAR 2021, construction is expected to be completed on all or part of Highway 41 between Highway 17 and the Wando River, alleviating a traffic issue that is almost certain to worsen long before it gets better in the next five years.

Questions remain, however, as to how extensive the work will be, with options ranging from adding two lanes on just a part of the road to building a flyover at the intersection of 41 and 17 and doubling the width of the north-south corridor all the way to the Berkeley County line. Ultimately, the decision will be based on how much money four separate entities – the town of Mount Pleasant, Charleston County, the state of South Carolina and the federal government – choose to invest in making life more pleasant for drivers who use the state highway.

According to Mount Pleasant Councilman Paul Gawrych, a member of the Council's Transportation Committee, it will cost between \$35 million and \$40 million to four-lane the 4.6-mile road. Add in the flyover, and the price tag is likely to top the \$100-million mark.

At the north end of that stretch of two-lane asphalt, the state and federal government are in the process of replacing the Wando River Bridge, at an estimated cost of \$58,573,000. The 55-foot-high structure is expected to be completed in the fall of 2017, taking the place of a bridge built in 1939.

Regardless of the cost and which government entities participate, the town of Mount Pleasant is moving forward with plans to four-lane and add bike lanes and sidewalks on



Photo by John Kurc

Mount Pleasant Town Councilman Paul Gawrych, left, and State Sen. Larry Grooms check out the progress on the new Wando River Bridge.

at least the 1.5-mile stretch of Highway 41 that runs from Highway 17 to Joe Rouse Road.

"We're not going to back off," Gawrych said. "This is the most challenging infrastructure project in this town. But the good news is that we have two years to build our bank toward paying for this road."

Two years is the time it will take to design the project, a job that will be handled by the county, in cooperation with the town.

Mount Pleasant Town Administrator Eric DeMoura said that if the town is forced to tackle the road improvement

project on its own, it will spend more than \$10 million to four-lane the highway from 17 to Joe Rouse Road.

"That won't fix the entire problem, but only states can take on this kind of project," DeMoura said. "Cities and towns don't have that kind of money."

"It's not our road, but it's our citizens," he added. "But whether the state will participate is the million-dollar question."

It appears unlikely that the town of Mount Pleasant will have to fly solo. Elliott Summey, chair of the Charleston County Council, would like to put a referendum on the ballot in November that would establish a half-cent sales tax to raise money for Highway 41 and other projects. Meanwhile, State Sen. Larry Grooms, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee since 2007, is confident that money eventually will flow from Columbia to the Lowcountry to help with traffic issues in North Mount Pleasant.

"The state will participate. We just don't know at what level," said Grooms, whose district includes parts of Mount Pleasant, Daniel Island, Goose Creek and Moncks Corner, as well as rural areas.

"The project is moving as quickly as it can right now," he

continued. "The environmental process will determine if the project is a five-lane divided highway or a three-lane divided highway or something else and if there will be a flyover at 17 and 41. These are questions that have to be asked and answered. We must determine the alternatives to get the maximum amount of traffic relief."

"We'll use as much state money as we can," he added. Grooms pointed out another issue that will be considered: How widening the road, which runs through the African-American Phillips Community, will affect people who have lived along Highway 41 for generations. The area near Horlbeck Creek was founded by freed slaves in the 1870s. Grooms said financial compensation, relocation and building parks and playgrounds all are possibilities.

"If we damage the community, we need to see what we can do to make it whole again," he commented.

Grooms, a member of the Senate Transportation Committee since 1997, said the best option for Highway 41 includes participation by all four government entities.

"The quickest route to bring the project to completion would need to include federal, state, county and town dollars," he said. "That would ensure that the job would be done in the quickest amount of time."



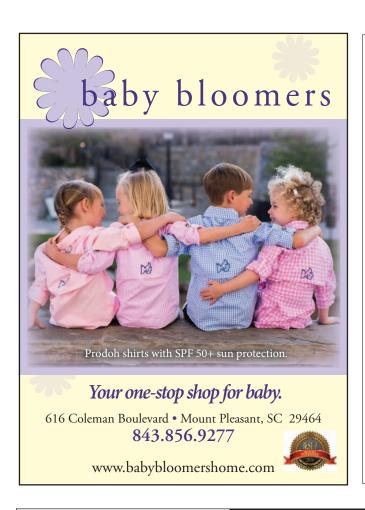
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According to Summey, if the half-cent sales tax is on the ballot in November and voters give it the thumbs up, it will bring in \$1.5 billion over the next quarter century. He said some of that money would be dedicated to green space and mass transit but that most of it would go for roads in Mount Pleasant, Charleston and North Charleston.

"We have a laundry list of projects we want to fund, but we need to be

for another \$500,000 to be dedicated to the Highway 41 project. Charleston County has contributed \$1.2 million, and another \$2 million in federal funds will arrive in 2018.

The town will start on interim improvements "that will help some" in about four months, according to Mount Pleasant Mayor Linda Page. Turn lanes will be added at Joe Rouse Road, at a cost of approximately \$750,000.



State Sen. Larry Grooms, left, and Mount Pleasant Councilman Paul Gawrych agree that the town, county, state and federal government should work together to improve Highway 41.

specific and list the projects we're going to be completing. If we ask the voters to pass the sales tax, they need to know what they are getting," Summey commented.

Summey said the sales tax option would be the fairest way to raise money for road work because renters and visitors would help property owners pay for the improvements.

"Thirty-five percent of the money would be generated by tourists," he added. "We wouldn't be putting all the burden on ourselves."

Summey said Highway 41 should have been widened "seven or eight years ago."

"We can't point fingers. That gets you nowhere," he said. "We need to identify the problem and determine how do we get to a solution."

The town of Mount Pleasant already has put \$1.15 million into the project, and the town's fiscal 2017 budget calls

The 2014 South Carolina
Department of Transportation
Advanced Project Planning Report
predicted that by the year 2035,
22,000 vehicles per day would use
Highway 41 between Highway 17
and Joe Rouse Road, while 13,900
vehicles per day would use the road
north to the Berkeley County line.
Page said Highway 41 would soon
reach its capacity with one lane in each
direction.

"A two-lane road fails at 19,000," she said, pointing out that the town will continue to grow along 41. "It's going to reach its capacity real soon."

The mayor said it's important to understand the traffic patterns in Mount Pleasant and to do everything possible to keep motorists moving in the right direction.

"One thing a community needs to do is to study and understand the



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Mount Pleasant Magazine and In Good Taste

volume of traffic, when and what we can do for the burden of peak hours," she pointed out. "There's lots you can do, like syncing traffic lights. And in some cases, roundabouts are more effective than traffic lights. You also have to understand when large employers such as East Cooper Hospital are letting in and letting out."

Though it would more than double the price of the Highway 41 project, Page said a flyover at Highways 41 and 17 should be considered, and Gawrych agreed that the Council should take a serious look at that scenario as well.

"My mind is open to all options," he said. "But I want to make sure our citizens have a say. We started that process last week," he said, referring to a public meeting held March 23 at the Park West gymnasium.

Page, Gawrych, DeMoura, Summey and Grooms all agreed that the town, county, state and federal government should work together to take care of the necessary improvements on State Highway 41.

"It's not a solo act. It's more like an orchestra," Page concluded.



Quality Business and Client Service Tony Pope State Farm

WENTY-SIX YEARS AGO, TONY
Pope opened his own State Farm
Insurance agency in Summerville. His
goals were to provide reliable insurance
coverage at a fair price with impeccable
customer service. His office was so
successful that State Farm selected him to be the first multioffice agent in South Carolina,

BY ANNE TOOLE

gave him the opportunity to open his Mount Pleasant office in 2012.

Pope became involved with State Farm shortly after graduating from the University of South Carolina. After a few years on another agent's team, he opened his own agency in 1990.

"Following in the footsteps of my grandfather and father, I always knew I wanted to run a business," Pope explained. "In college, I majored in Insurance and Economic Securities and was very fortunate to find an opportunity working for a State Farm agent at the age of 22. I still love what I do and look forward to coming to work every day."

Pope credited much of his agencies' success in the insurance business to his experienced staff.

"We have 22 outstanding team members," he said. "Their attention to detail and prompt, friendly service is one thing that really sets us apart. Another big part of what we do is give back to the community. Not only does it help our team get involved and build relationships with our clients, but it allows us to help make a difference in people's lives right here in the Lowcountry."

His agencies have supported hundreds of organizations over the years. Pope served five years on the Charleston Regional Development Alliance Board and is a member of the Mount Pleasant Business Association and a board member of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce. He also supports East Cooper Meals on Wheels, Wando High School, the Mount Pleasant Recreation Department, Mount Pleasant Rotary, East Cooper Montessori Charter

School and East Cooper Breakfast Rotary.

When Pope opened his Mount Pleasant agency four years ago, he worked hard to ensure that quality business and client service would be an extension of his award-winning Summerville office. All five of his Mount Pleasant team members live in the Mount Pleasant community.

"It is an honor to take care of those in need when tragedy strikes. We offer competitive rates, one-of-a-kind, round-the-clock service and convenient access. We want what is best for our customers, so we take the time to find out what their needs are and find a product that fits those needs," Pope explained. "The Mount Pleasant community is a desirable place

to live, work and play, and we are here to help our clients do exactly that."

to live, work and do exactly that." (is what Tony Pope State help renters and small health insurance ople's mutual funds. For the same than th



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Safety First North Mount Pleasant Has a New Fire Station

HE POPULATION OF THE
north side of Mount Pleasant is
exploding, as the beauty and culture
of the area lure people to East Cooper
and its environs. Among the many
reasons Mount Pleasant is such a
popular landing spot for so many people – aside from its
rich history, friendly locals and

outstanding cuisine – is the genuine

BY HELEN HARRIS

care and hospitality among residents. Growth and change are welcomed and embraced, but is the community fully prepared for the safety needs of an evergrowing population?

The town of Mount Pleasant is making sure that the answer to that question is yes.

Keeping a close eye on the changing needs of Mount Pleasant residents, the town has established Station 6 to help protect those who call the north side home. Fire stations play a critical role in maintaining residents' safety and enhancing their well-being, even in non-emergency situations.

Mount Pleasant Fire Chief Herbert Williams elaborated on the significance of Station 6: "The new fire station will ensure the same level of fire protection and service that the rest of the community receives," he noted. "It will become a vital part of the surrounding area, with interaction of citizens, firefighters, police officers and involvement with Wando High School."

Currently housed in a temporary location, Station 6 will have a permanent address in middle to late June at 1301 Carolina Park Blvd., across the street from Wando High School. The facility will be led by Senior Capt. Glen Bayles.

The approximately \$2.4-million facility spans an

estimated 9,400 square feet and initially will open with four firefighters per shift – with the capacity to accommodate seven per shift when that becomes necessary. Station 6 also will house a Mount Pleasant Police substation, providing additional protection for the residents of North Mount Pleasant.

This boost in the number of public safety employees in North Mount Pleasant is bound to foster peace of mind. Aside from interacting with these employees in an

> emergency, North Mount Pleasant residents will be able to rely on firefighters and police officers in nonemergency circumstances as well.

"The area will receive outstanding response to emergency and non-emergency events," Williams commented. "The citizens of Mount Pleasant, having established open relationships with fire safety and law officials, will be key in promoting safety and building trust."

The town of Mount
Pleasant now serves the
town with seven fire stations
— and Fire Department
personnel are not ruling out
the potential need for more
in the future, especially if
the town's growth continues
along the path it has







Fire stations such as Station 6 play a key role in maintaining residents' safety and well-being.

followed in recent years.

"If growth continues, we will review the needs and the demands on service from both fire and police, and, if another station is needed, we will approach the town's leaders with that information," Williams remarked.

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ROPER ST. FRANCIS MOUNT PLEASANT HOSPITAL

By Barbara Millen Patrick

network of hospitals, doctors, nurses, therapists and other professionals. But one hospital East of the Cooper is designed to be more accessible, a part of the community and a place where health care is simplified for residents.

Just five years old, Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital is setting a new standard. A spacious facility located in the northern part of Mount Pleasant, patients and visitors are greeted by the sound of quiet, which belies the bustle of activity in the emergency room, surgical suites and birthing suites. It is peaceful and calming, helping to reduce the anxiety many feel when they step foot in a hospital.

The staff is a finely tuned collection of professionals who work in sync with each other, much as the musicians in a symphony orchestra strive for that perfect

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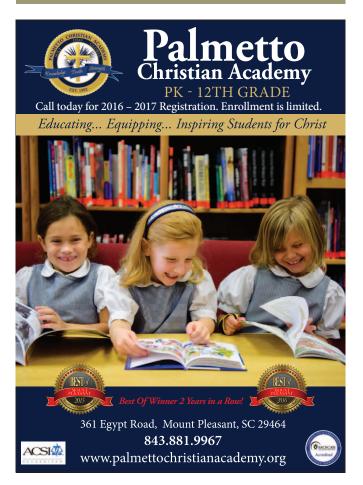
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Anthony Jackson is new to the job of CEO of Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital, but he's already making a difference.

performance. The doctors, nurses and support staff never miss a beat as they work tirelessly through their shifts.

"There is the expectation that the staff is proficient, but, equally important, they have a passion for what they do," said Anthony Jackson, the CEO of Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital, adding that "this organization is extraordinary."

Jackson has been on the job only since January but is already orchestrating new ways to make this "top performing" hospital even better.

"People who have experienced our services won't go anywhere else," Jackson said. "We are beginning to see significant volume growth as a result."

His focus is on building awareness through holding town hall meetings that provide information on services the hospital offers and also ascertain the needs of the community. In addition to high-quality medical care, the hospital offers wellness classes and a healthy lifestyle program.

Although relatively new, Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital has already achieved the honor of being named one (of only three – Roper St. Francis' other two flagship hospitals were also listed) of the top 100 hospitals in the nation for overall performance by Truven Health Analytics.

Jackson is proud of this achievement but not content to rest. He credits the staff and the leadership of Tavia Buck, who served as interim CEO. He is driven to maintain this level of quality care and to find new ways to engage the community.

"There's so much more to do," he said. "We hope to open a cancer center here in the future and have plans to

develop a Joint Center of Excellence on campus."

As CEO, Jackson is enthusiastic about his new position and the prospect of enhancing Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital's services, and he's delighted to be back in the Charleston area. A native of Aiken, he started his career studying to be a radiologic technologist at Trident Technical College. While there, he became an X-ray tech at Roper Hospital, leaving to join HealthSouth Corporation, where he spent 25 years in the diagnostic, acute care and rehabilitation divisions.

The lure of Charleston brought Jackson and soon his family – wife Kayren, daughter Brittney and son AJ – back to the Lowcountry. The job keeps him busy, but even a CEO takes some time off. He enjoys playing "at" golf and observed that one "can learn a lot about a person playing golf." And music may be one of his great loves and a talent as well.

"I enjoy playing a little bass guitar," he admitted. Jackson sees a great future ahead for Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital. He is genuinely interested in each member of his team and values their dedication and ideas.

"Embrace, engage and enjoy," he said. 🌡

ROPER ST. FRANCIS MOUNT PLEASANT HOSPITAL



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with life. In our fast-paced world, pressures can pile up, causing us to feel rundown or at times generally depleted. Feel the need to recharge? One new establishment in Mount Pleasant has the cure for fighting off those aches and

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anxieties that surface at the end of a long day.

Elements Massage, located at 1153 Oakland Market

Road, offers services that will

With reasonable prices, experienced professionals and an environment guaranteed to leave you feeling rejuvenated, this is one local spot you're going to want to frequent again and again.

"It's very rewarding to have a business that helps people heal and makes them feel better," said owner Lisa Lindquist, who runs Elements Massage with her husband, Bill. "The ability to provide jobs for people in a

welcoming and beautiful studio is also incredibly satisfying."

Since opening in April, this beacon of relaxation has welcomed a steady stream of guests looking to gain some relief. Unlike establishments that incorporate other services into the mix, Elements focuses strictly on the art of massage – proving that they see the importance of doing one thing and doing it well.

"We wanted to get into the wellness business, given that we are both pretty active, playing golf and tennis, and we want to stay that way," said Lindquist.

The Lindquists have experienced firsthand the benefits of getting massages regularly, which prompted them to open up a location where others could reap the same reward.

"We have a sister-in-law who was trained in massage

therapy in Germany, where it has a decidedly more medical focus," said Lindquist. "She has been instrumental in our learning about this business."

The advantages of incorporating massage into your self-care regime can be rather monumental. From easing tension in overworked muscles to elevating mood, the benefits of massage are vast.

"My husband in particular has a number of injuries sustained while playing sports in college that have been improved very much by massage therapy," said Lindquist.

From the athlete looking to ease the pain to the

busy mom seeking muchneeded TLC, Lindquist
encourages all to come out
and experience the top-notch
work offered at Elements.
Couples massage, hot
stone massage and prenatal
massage are just several of
the varieties from which to

In addition to guests being pampered in a relaxing space, Lindquist makes sure the studio's surroundings are conducive for therapists to do their very best work.

element

Lisa Lindquist runs Elements Massage with her husband, Bill.

"Elements was founded by a massage therapist, so part of our culture is to provide an environment where we take care of the therapist's needs," said Lindquist. "We do so with hydraulic beds, larger rooms, a spacious break room and flexible scheduling."

In the rare case that you aren't 100-percent happy with your experience, Elements offers a solution.

"We have a guarantee that you will be completely satisfied with your massage or the next one is on us," said Lindquist. "If you are still not satisfied, we will refund your money for the first massage."

Elements Massage is located in The Market at Oakland. To learn more, call 843-352-9111 or visit www.elementsmassage.com.

Learning

Making Waves in Education Oceanside Collegiate Academy

MAGINE GRADUATING FROM HIGH school with two years of college credit already completed. Imagine doing that and still having time as a high school student to focus on a passion such as sports, music, arts or a job shadow. Scholarship opportunities

BY ANNE TOOLE

could blossom. Once in college, there could be time for collegiate

athletics or arts programs or an internship. A four-year college degree could be completed in two years. A higher-level degree could be attained years ahead of schedule. Now imagine you are the parents helping foot the bill for college. The possibilities are endless.

For 600 ninth- through 12th-grade students and their parents, their imaginations will become reality when the 2016-2017 school year begins.

Oceanside Collegiate Academy will make waves when it opens its doors at full capacity in Carolina Park. It is a public, state-funded charter school with a model unique to Charleston County but soundly proven in similar schools across the country.

OCA offers a variety of scheduling options based on a split schedule in which students attend classes for half of the day and participate in extracurricular activities the other half. Community service hours also

are required. Students graduate with a high school diploma and can earn up to 60 hours of transferable college credit.

Dr. Marvin Arnsdorff, the school's chairman of the board, first learned about the unique model when he provided business consulting services for a charter school management group.

"I didn't even know there was such a thing," he said.
"It was such an outside-of-the-box approach to education. It would be somewhere students like my own daughter would thrive. I was inspired, and I did something about it. Now here we are, ready to open for the upcoming school year."

OCA operates on a "whole-school" educational plan.

Learning is not compartmentalized into subjects such as English, Math and Science. Rather, the subjects are all interrelated and are taught as such.

"The educational opportunities continue through extracurricular activities and service," Dr. Arnsdorff explained. "There is a relationship between academics and athletics in a job setting. Or, for example, if you want to be a veterinarian, the split schedule would allow you to work for one or perhaps spend time at an equine center."

While nearby Wando High School is rightfully regarded as one of the top high schools in the nation, OCA's comparatively small student body, rigorous academic program, split schedule structure and "whole-school" educational plan offer a vastly different option.

"What better opportunity for kids and parents to get

two free years of college if they apply themselves," Dr. Arnsdorff said. "That's the best investment a parent can make."

The majority of OCA's students live in Mount Pleasant, but its small, rigorous and unique dual-enrollment program has attracted students from 21 municipalities in South Carolina.

"The students enrolled here work hard in their studies and want to go to college with a purpose or want to go to college and have time to participate in other activities," Dr. Arnsdorff said. "OCA's mantra is that academics come first, character comes second

and extracurriculars come third."

OCA's students will learn, grow and contribute to the community in ways previously unavailable to students in Charleston County.

"That this school is opening at full capacity says something about the need," Dr. Arnsdorff beamed. "It's incredible how engaged the parents and students are. They want options and opportunities, and that's exciting to me."

OCA will be located adjacent to the Mount Pleasant Recreation Department fields at Carolina Park. For more information, visit www.oceansidecollegiateacademy.org.



Dwelling

Living the Lowcountry Lifestyle Riverside at Carolina Park

ESTLED AMONG A MEANDERING maze of quiet sidewalks, under the shade of oaks, pines and palmettos, and along the banks of the Wando River is a blossoming neighborhood called Riverside. As the premier neighborhood in Carolina Park, it has been carefully planned to allow residents to embrace the natural ambience and live a Lowcountry lifestyle in a friendly and welcoming community.

"There are so many aspects that make Riverside a unique place to live," said Haley Cuzzell,

BY ANNE TOOLE

community sales manager at Carolina Park. "It is planned for 545 homes on 545 acres. The lots are large – roughly one-fourth to one-half acre each – and the remaining acreage allows for privacy, green spaces, walking trails and more."

Most lots back up to protected wetlands, ponds or a natural wooded setting. Lush landscaping allows bike paths

and sidewalks throughout. Residents will enjoy Carolina Park's fabulous amenities, including a pool, playground, tennis courts and gathering spaces, and will also have access to Riverside's private amenities, a future private pool overlooking the Wando River, a crabbing dock, a kayak and paddle board launch and 20-acre Bolden Lake.

"This neighborhood promotes laid-back, Lowcountry living with an active, outdoor neighborhood lifestyle," Cuzzell said. "Because Carolina Park as a whole is a new neighborhood, everyone here is new also, whether they're from Mount Pleasant or from out of town. The neighborhood is designed to make it easy to make friends."

Another aspect that sets Riverside apart is the high-quality architecture, Cuzzell said. Riverside's eight preferred builders have been carefully selected for their reputation, workmanship

and customer service. While home buyers have more than 60 floor plans from which to choose, options are limitless because each plan can be modified. Buyers also have the option to completely custom build their home from scratch, using a preferred builder and architect.

"People have a vision for what they want, and what's unique about Riverside is that these home buyers can think outside of the box. Most production builders don't let you modify the plans," Cuzzell explained. "In Riverside, if there's a plan a home buyer likes but they want the bedrooms to be larger or they want to add something special, like double porches or even small

things like some barn doors or fixtures they saw on Houzz or HGTV or Pinterest, they can easily do that. Choosing a floor plan and modifying to exactly what you want makes the custom-build process more efficient."

Emphasis is placed on highquality materials and finishes, energy efficiency, durability and the latest technology. Homes are built on crawl spaces, with the option of an attached or detached

garage. As a natural gas community, gas ranges, cooktops, tankless water heaters and gas fireplaces are benefits inside the home, while the gentle flicker of gas lanterns adds to the neighborhood's ambience.

"This is both front- and back-porch living – a sense of privacy and community," Cuzzell said. "It's a walkable setting. Schools, a new library, fire station, retail shops and more are being built right here in Carolina Park. It's close to shopping, the beaches and downtown, with quick and easy access to Highway 17."

Riverside homes range from the high \$500s to more than \$1 million. Sales are handled through Carolina One New Homes. For more information on Riverside, contact Haley Cuzzell or Patty Lynn Connell at the Carolina Park Sales and



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NORTH MOUNT PLEASANT

Neighborhood Directory

ITH NORTH MOUNT Pleasant's growth comes a variety of lifestyles offered in the growing number of neighborhoods available north of the Isle Of Palms connector. There are 33

neighborhoods listed in the North Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Directory. The 2015 stats and facts published on the following pages include sales prices ranging from \$202,000 to \$1.5 million. The numbers also reflect price per square foot – with \$269 being the highest – for homes sold in each neighborhood and median price per neighborhood.

The North Mount Pleasant real estate market continues to be active and show strength in 2016. January through March saw an 11.5-percent increase in sales over the same period in 2015. Last year, 269 homes were sold at an average price of \$395,000. This year, 300 homes were sold, at an average price of \$397,000.

The building of the new Wando River Bridge and the widening of Highway 41 and Clements Ferry Road will add value to properties that feed into Highway 41. Although it's not in North Mount Pleasant, the development of 9,000 acres at Cainhoy Plantation, which borders Clements Ferry Road, will encourage further development in North Mount Pleasant along Highway 41 and past the new bridge.

The heart and soul of Mount Pleasant may be in South Mount Pleasant, but the future clearly starts north of the Isle Of Palms Connector. Together, this is a great town to call

This information was compiled by Doug Holmes.



SUBDIVISION	# HOMES SOLD	PRICE RANGE	MEDIAN PRICE	AVG PRICE PER SQ FT
Alston Point	5	\$565K-\$840K	\$610K	\$195
Brickyard	50	\$328K-\$1.5M	\$454K	\$179
Candlewood	6	\$230K-\$410K	\$319K	\$181
Carolina Park	140	\$391K-\$829K	\$534K	\$203
Carol Oaks	6	\$265K-\$375K	\$354K	\$164
Carriage Hill Landing	5	\$241K-\$289K	\$273K	\$166
Chadbury Village	8	\$250K-\$306K	\$291K	\$185
Charleston National	41	\$310K-\$1.1M	\$383K	\$166
Copahee View	5	\$202K-\$436K	\$310K	\$194
Cottages at Copahee	13	\$283K-\$445K	\$333K	\$166
Darrell Creek	17	\$456K-\$1M	\$610	\$187
Dunes West	149	\$263K-\$1.5M	\$534K	\$172
Fulton	5	\$610K-\$700K	\$660K	\$269
Hamlin	66	\$385K-\$1.2M	\$562K	\$183
Horlbeck Creek	6	\$368K-\$595K	\$425K	\$200
Ivy Hall	25	\$250K-\$320K	\$285K	\$178
Laurel Grove	8	\$285K-\$345K	\$296K	\$172



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SUBDIVISION	# HOMES SOLD	PRICE RANGE	MEDIAN PRICE	AVG PRICE PER SQ FT
Lieben Park	12	\$242K-\$378K	\$318K	\$140
Linnen Place	6	\$320K-\$400K	\$354K	\$174
Oyster Point	48	\$376K-\$618K	\$515K	\$197
Park West	154	\$249K-\$1.5M	\$430K	\$165
Planters Pointe	49	\$238K-\$570K	\$393K	\$166
Porchers Preserve	11	\$458K-\$548K	\$483K	\$158
Quail Hollow	6	\$270K-\$345K	\$300K	\$197
Ravens Run	6	\$575K-\$1.2M	\$795K	\$210
Rivertowne	112	\$335K-\$2.1M	\$490K	\$186
Romain Retreat	8	\$440K-\$849K	\$580K	\$250
Snee Farm	44	\$200K-\$760K	\$397K	\$196
Somerset Oaks	8	\$305K-\$410K	\$346K	\$145
Tupelo	63	\$265K-\$473K	\$391K	\$162
Waters Edge	13	\$323K-\$367K	\$340K	\$196
West Point	5	\$230K-\$318K	\$295K	\$221
Wexford Park	5	\$379K-\$408K	\$392K	\$213



Feeling Good

A Critical Relationship Patients Come First at Park West Primary Care

instead of quantity.

ECAUSE TECHNOLOGICAL advances, economics and policy adjustments have transformed the relationship between doctors and their patients, providing health care services has evolved into a more patient-centered

approach, with emphasis on quality

Considered to be the gatekeepers of a person's health care team, primary care providers have a deep understanding of a patient's individual needs, which helps them make

> informed decisions about the whole person. MUSC has responded to

the demand for primary care physicians and currently offers

14 primary care locations throughout the Lowcountry, including one in North Mount Pleasant.

BY AMY MERCER

Park West Primary Care, located in the Shoppes at Park West, has three physicians on staff: Drs. Carrie O. Alexander,

Kristi M. Lentsch

and Colleen James. They specialize in internal and family medicine and treat men, women and adolescents with diabetes, hypertension and obesity, depression and anxiety and many other health issues. Preventive care is also an important aspect of the practice.

Dr. James said she believes the relationship between a patient and a physician is critical.

"I use a team approach with my patients and ensure that they are involved in the decision-making process," she said. "I feel this is more effective than the less personal paternalistic approach of telling patients what they need to do."

MUSC Health Primary Care has established a system that focuses on the individual experience. Patients who choose an MUSC primary care provider also enjoy the

added benefit of their provider's relationship with and access to MUSC specialists, when needed.

Dr. Alexander, who has been practicing medicine for 15 years, said she was drawn to work at MUSC because of this network of doctors. She refers to primary care physicians as the "quarterbacks of health care" and said she likes to get to know her patients as people.

"At our office, you won't feel like a number," she said. "We greet our patients with a smile, and we work together as a team to get all of your concerns addressed before you leave."

Dr. Lentsch completed her residency at MUSC and has been practicing at Park West Primary Care since 2010.

"MUSC has a great reputation and has been rated the top health care system in the state, and I wanted

Drs. Carrie Alexander, Colleen James ande Kristi Lentsch.

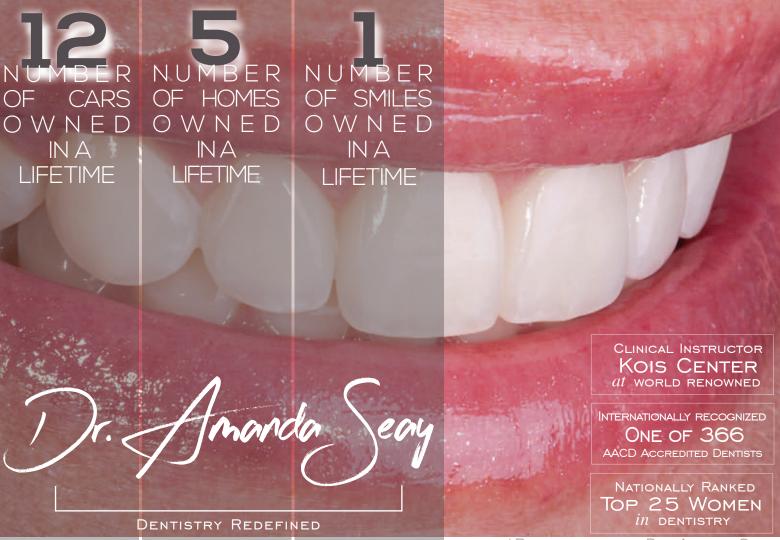
to work for the best," she said. "I chose my office specifically based on the community. I live in Mount Pleasant and wanted to work where I live. I continue to stay here now because I love my patients and the people I

work with."

Dr. Lentsch said she wants to create an environment where patients feel comfortable talking to her so that problems can be solved and they can work as a team to manage chronic conditions.

"Many physicians choose to work in primary care because we enjoy the patient-physician relationship," Dr. Lentsch said. "I think it is the foundation of our practice that allows us to provide a higher level of care when we have an established relationship with our patients."

Park West Primary Care is located at 1113 Park West Blvd. To learn more or to make an appointment, call 843-876-1445 or visit MUSChealth.org/primary-care.



*Photography by Dr. Amanda Seay

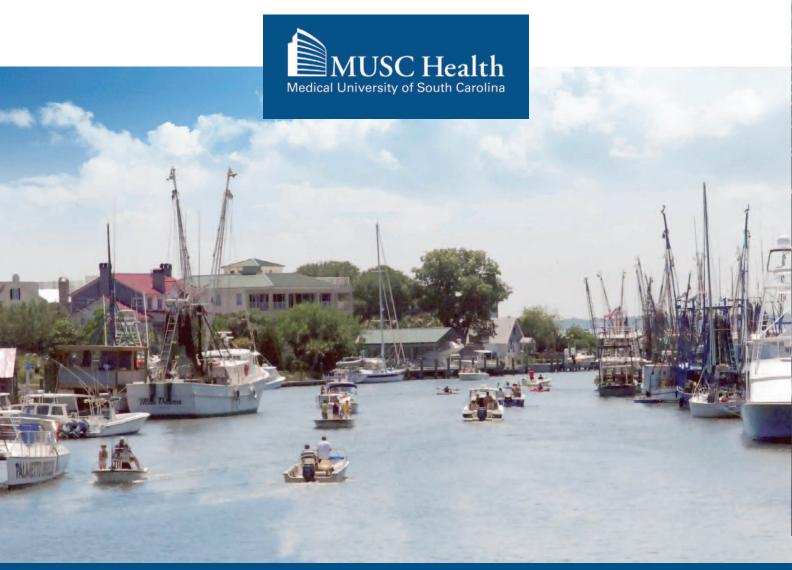
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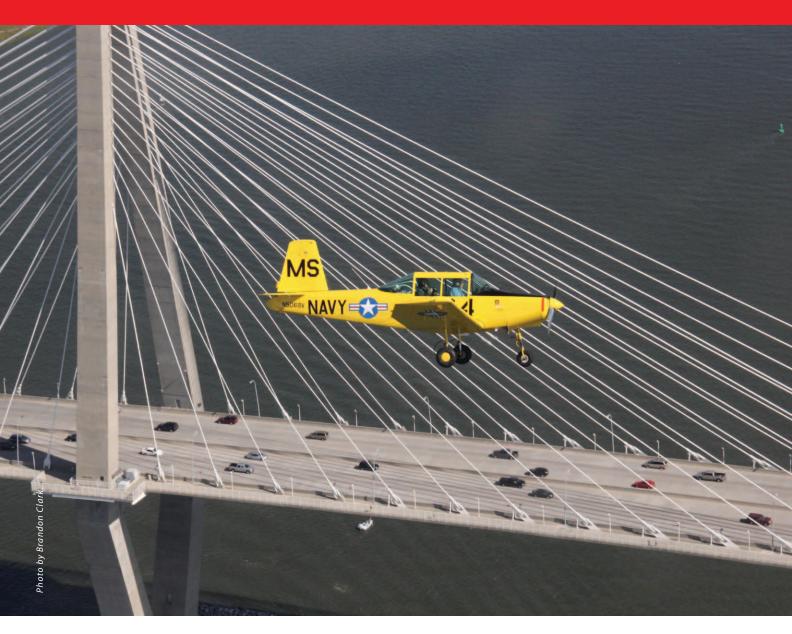
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They'd Rather Be Flying

ECPA AND THE MOUNT PLEASANT AIRPORT

By Brian Sherman

I park my car no more than 100 yards from what passes for an airport terminal, reveling in the realization that I won't have to pull out a credit card when I leave the premises. I won't be hassled by an overzealous TSA agent, nor will I have to decide which bags to check and which to carry on – there's no room for either on this trip. And when I walk through the front door, there's no sign of seemingly thousands of harried travelers rushing to their connecting flights, gulping down a final bite of fast food or desperately seeking the comfort of one last earthbound bathroom break.

Instead, I encounter a small group of men, sipping coffee, trading tales of the wild blue yonder, philosophizing about a hobby that has all but consumed their lives and simply enjoying one another's company.

ELCOME TO THE

Mount Pleasant Regional Airport, a 3,700-foot-long, 75-foot-wide runway, six hangars, a few other buildings and three flight schools, all located on a

300-acre site just west of the Carolina Park soccer fields and bounded on one side by a road named for a local aviation legend. The airport's brain is the Charleston Aviation Authority; its heart is the East Cooper Pilots Association,

a tightknit group of men and women who enjoy a meaty conversation, get a kick out of helping others and, most of all, love to fly.

The Association has been around since 1996, 10 years after the airport was established in what was then a rural area north of Mount Pleasant. Its first president, Mike McCurdy, a former police officer in Mount Pleasant and on the Isle of Palms, took the helm of the organization in 2004 and again in 2016. He said between 25 and 35 people usually attend ECPA meetings, though membership seems to be a difficult concept to define.





"The dues are \$20 a year, but we don't really keep track," he explained during an interview at Craft Flight Training & Simulation, his flight school at the Charleston International Airport.

McCurdy, a flight instructor since 2002, has no real interest in establishing stricter membership guidelines – you don't have to be a pilot to join – but he does want to raise the organization's awareness in the East Cooper community. The Association already contributes by participating in Relay For Life, which raises funds to fight cancer, and also helps out with Boy Scout and Girl Scout events. Members have even joined search parties for avian residents of The Center for Birds of Prey who have lost their way.

And, on occasion, members are called on to carry out a



more important job.

"Some people, usually radiation patients, can't take long flights, so we carry them on shorter hops," said Pat Waters, longtime treasurer of the organization, grandson of legendary military icon Gen. George Patton and my guide and pilot during a short flight around and above East Cooper. "A pilot might bring the patient from Jacksonville to Charleston, then another one takes the patient from Charleston to Raleigh."

"It's just fun and it makes you feel good," Waters said. On the social side, members of the East Cooper Pilots Association participate in the South Carolina Breakfast Club. The organization has been flying into small airports in South Carolina and surrounding states every other Sunday since 1938. They eat a large breakfast together and



sit around talking about airplanes, aviation or any other subject they find interesting. The Mount Pleasant Regional Airport hosts the Breakfast Club once a year, in November.

McCurdy refers to such events as fly-ins, but he said ECPA members also enjoy a few fly-outs as well.

"A bunch of us will get in our planes and fly to Jekyll Island, Georgia," he explained. "There's a really nice hotel there with an unbelievable brunch. Anywhere from five or six to 10 or 12 of us will go, some in their own planes and some who hitch rides with others."

Last year, ECPA members participated in a poker run, flying into six different airports, each time picking up one playing card. The pilot who returns to the starting airport with the best poker hand wins.

McCurdy, an Isle of Palms policeman at the time, started flying after Hurricane Hugo swept across the Carolina coast in 1989, mostly to take his mind off the devastation wrought by the large and violent storm.

"I needed therapy so I started flying," he said. Waters, now 75, has been flying since he was 16.

"I love the mechanics of aviation. It's only you and God. It's peaceful, away from life's issues. People drive and talk on the phone. When you are flying, all you are doing is flying."

Waters flies his bright yellow Varga for fun, but he also owns a Comanche that he uses when he leaves the Mount Pleasant area. He sometimes travels on business as a member of the board of the General George Patton Museum and Center of Leadership in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and he also serves on the board of Roper Hospital and is District 1 commissioner for the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission.

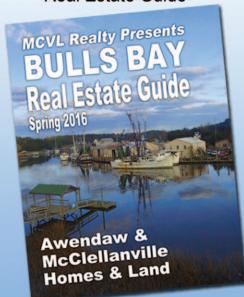
Like many other members of the East Cooper Pilots Association, Tommy Teasley can claim a connection to the area's aviation history. His 1947 Piper Club Special was the property of the late Woody Faison, whose name graces the road from Highway 17 to the airport. Teasley obviously enjoys relating a story about the aviation legend. Faison, who passed on to that great runway in the sky shortly before his 90th birthday, was still teaching pilots to fly at the age of 89. On one occasion, his plane, with a student aboard, lost an engine, so he calmly landed it on the beach at Dewees Island.

Why does Teasley, 68, continue to fly?

"I just love it. I love the history of airplanes and the history of aviation," he explained, adding that "I'll keep flying until I'm 100."

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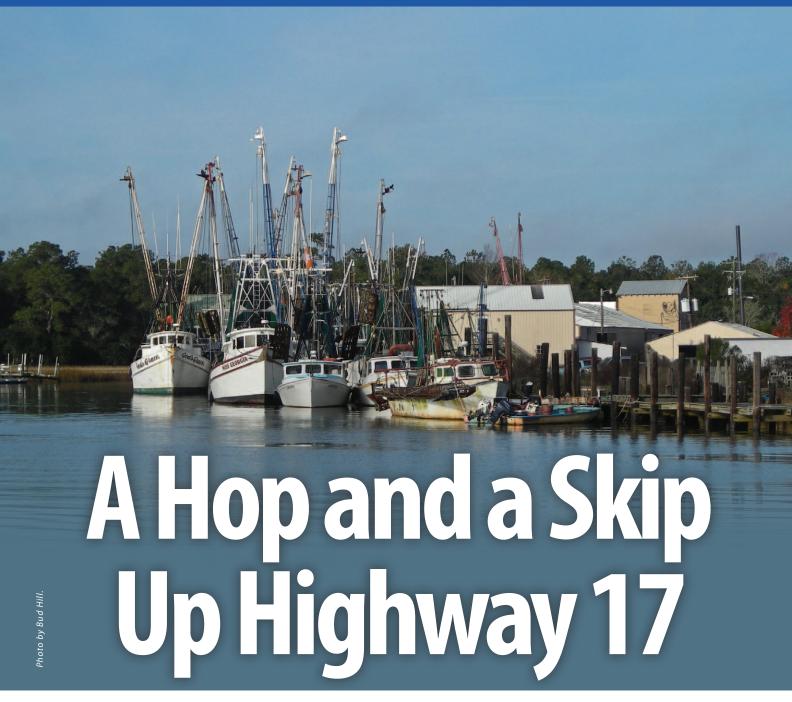
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AWENDAW AND MCCLELLANVILLE

HOSE OF US WHO LIVE IN

Mount Pleasant are fortunate to be

surrounded by other coastal communities. It's easy to have the larger ones – Myrtle Beach, Beaufort – on the radar, but what about our smaller neighbors to the north: namely Awendaw and

McClellanville? Spring and summer are the perfect months to take a leisurely afternoon and turn it into a fun-filled adventure

right up Highway 17. And don't be deceived by these sleepy towns: Both Awendaw and McClellanville offer distinctive attractions, local history and interesting tales to share with interested visitors.

AWENDAW

Our closest neighbor to Mount Pleasant – and downright cozy with North Mount Pleasant residents – is Awendaw, a haven for nature lovers and for those who crave an education about the coast of South Carolina. While

locals sometimes joke that Awendaw and North Mount Pleasant are becoming interchangeable, the truth is that Awendaw retains its character with an assortment of interesting stops for your drive up the highway.

STUFF TO DO AND SEE

In June 2016, Charleston Zip Line Adventures will open to the public and promises an array of fun for the

whole family, to the tune of climbing walls, sky bridges and zip line opportunities for young and old visitors alike. According to owner-operator Andrea Canberg, "The park was designed so that visitors of all ages can enjoy an exciting, fun, adventure experience in the outdoors, creating lasting memories with their friends and families."

Those who love music will want to show up for a concert at Awendaw Green, one of the area's best-loved live venues in the great outdoors. Awendaw Green was dreamed up by North Mount Pleasant resident and musician Eddie White and has continued to attract an abundance of talented acts and loyal fans since its inception in 2009.

Another Awendaw gem, The Center for Birds of Prey, is worth the day trip on its own. Now in its 25th year, a visit to the Center offers a glimpse

at more than 100 birds – quite the treat for a birdwatcher. Visit The Center for Birds of Prey on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday and spend a family-friendly day immersed in all things avian. Enjoy an expertly guided walking tour and experience birds of prey in untethered flight. Special bird walks focused on migratory rarities like the Painted Bunting are also available during May and June.

WHERE TO EAT

SeeWee Restaurant, a local favorite, is a must when you're passing through Awendaw at mealtime. Billed as a seafood restaurant but revered for other items on the menu – try the onion rings and fried green tomatoes – you can't

go wrong. Oh, and the hush puppies are to die for, so make sure to save room for the main course.

MCCLELLANVILLE

If you've never been to McClellanville, make plans to visit right away. About 30 minutes from North Mount Pleasant, between Awendaw and Georgetown, this community is reminiscent of a bygone era in the South – beautiful

homes, neighborly residents and a way of life that we just don't find much these days. As Bud Hill, longtime resident and director of the McClellanville Museum, put it to me, "Kids and dogs are turned loose in the mornings and return home safely in the afternoons."



Above: Charleston Zip Line Adventures in Awendaw promises an array of fun for the whole family. Below: A visit to The Center for Birds of Prey is well worth the trip to Awendaw.



STUFF TO DO AND SEE

Since the cornerstone of McClellanville's culture is shrimping, the town is known as a seafood capital. An annual celebration of these matters, known as the South Carolina Lowcountry Shrimp Festival, is now in its 40th year. Taking place each May, this celebration of fun and fresh ocean fare supports the town's local schools, including Cape Romaine Environmental Education Charter School, or "CREECS" for short.

On quieter days, visitors

will love the opportunity to explore the "remnants of rice culture," according to Hill. Take a stroll around Hampton Plantation, the original home of Archibald Rutledge, or Santee Coastal Reserve, which offers the chance to hike alongside old rice fields.

History buffs will also want to see the St. James-Santee Episcopal Church, known now as "Brick Church," since it was the first church fashioned of bricks, and the McClellanville Museum, located right by Town Hall, which is a treasure trove of the community's rich Southern history.

If you're the artsy type, make sure to stop in the Mc-Clellanville Arts Council, also located in the downtown business district. The building comes across as a place for



Shrimping is the cornerstone of McClellanville's culture

painters, poets and pianists alike and, according to Hill, who said the Council strives to "bring in art and photography, teach classes to adults and children and sponsor cultural events."

WHERE TO EAT

Situated right in he heart of the town's modest but lively business district is T.W. Graham & Company, a cornerstone of town culture with plenty of delicious items to choose from, including fresh, local seafood such as blue crabs, clams and shrimp. Open for lunch and dinner and named for a McClellanville native, Thomas William Graham, you haven't truly visited McClellanville until you've dined at T.W.'s.

With a Facebook page that boasts they are "home of the famous fried crabs," Buckshot's Carry-Out and Joe's Catering Service is the place to have your fill of a Southern soul food buffet, both land and sea. So come hungry, y'all. They'll cater your events, too.

Grab a yummy breakfast or lunch at a fair price at the McClellanville Diner, located right along Highway 17. The menu offers lots of options for the early part of the day, from omelets to cinnamon French toast or pancakes, plus local seafood baskets and po'boys.



Update or Redecorate Augustus & Carolina

OCATED ON BEAUTIFUL FRONT

Street in historic downtown Georgetown, Augustus & Carolina has been serving the Georgetown, Myrtle Beach, Mount Pleasant and Charleston region since 1995. With more than 65,000 square feet of showroom space divided between three floors, Augustus & Carolina offers

a myriad of options to help you furnish your home. Whether you

are looking to update,

BY JORDAN SCANLAN

redecorate or completely furnish an indoor or outdoor space, Augustus & Carolina has you covered.

Owners Kathryn and David Kossove purchased the store in 2005 and restored the building to its 1940s charm with the addition of several well-deserved updates. Appropriately, the store offers a variety of storied antiques, linking the rich history of the building itself to modern design and style. Augustus & Carolina

also offers a vast selection of oriental antiques, featuring pieces David collected while living in China for several years.

If you are looking for the perfect outdoor setup to bask in the coastal beauty of the area, Augustus & Carolina has one of the largest showrooms of outdoor furniture on display in the region. Whether for your porch, balcony, sunroom, deck, patio or outdoor kitchen, Augustus & Carolina offers an abundance of ocean-rated furniture to personalize your favorite spot outside. From wicker, cast and aluminum seating and dining sets to fire pits, sculptures, fountains, rugs, lighting, grills, bars, bar stools, umbrellas and retractable awnings, the choice is yours -Augustus & Carolina has it all.

Interior designers on staff await your arrival, ready to help you update or redecorate based on your personal

style. Offering the best brands available, as well as one-ofa-kind items, the team at Augustus & Carolina guarantees that your new space will reflect your own taste and personality. Whether you are looking for beach casual, weathered, contemporary, traditional, oriental or unique, the selection is endless, or so it seems. Many pieces are fully customizable and available through special order. No matter where you live, the items you choose can be shipped and delivered.

Augustus & Carolina also offers a selection of thousands

of options for those who appreciate the beauty of fine, hand-loomed rugs. Additionally, fine antique rugs from all over the globe are in stock, and many them are works of art. Machine made rugs also are available.

In addition to offering fine furniture and exceptional rugs, Augustus & Carolina has one of the largest selections of unique lighting in the Southeast. The way a home is lit can

Owners Kathryn and David Kossove.

entirely alter your perspective and the feel of your space. Stop by and explore the vast array of table lamps, floor lamps, sconces and chandeliers.

With many products imported directly from manufacturers around the world, prices could not be better. If you are moving, redecorating or just need a few pieces to spice up your home, Augustus & Carolina is the place to discover how you can create the home of your dreams.

Augustus & Carolina has been locally owned and operated since 1995. It is only a short drive from Mount Pleasant, so take a day trip and explore!

Augustus & Carolina is located at 822 Front St. in Georgetown. To learn more, visit augustusandcarolina.com or call 843-545-9000.



Local Visionaries our 2016 WOMEN IN BUSINESS





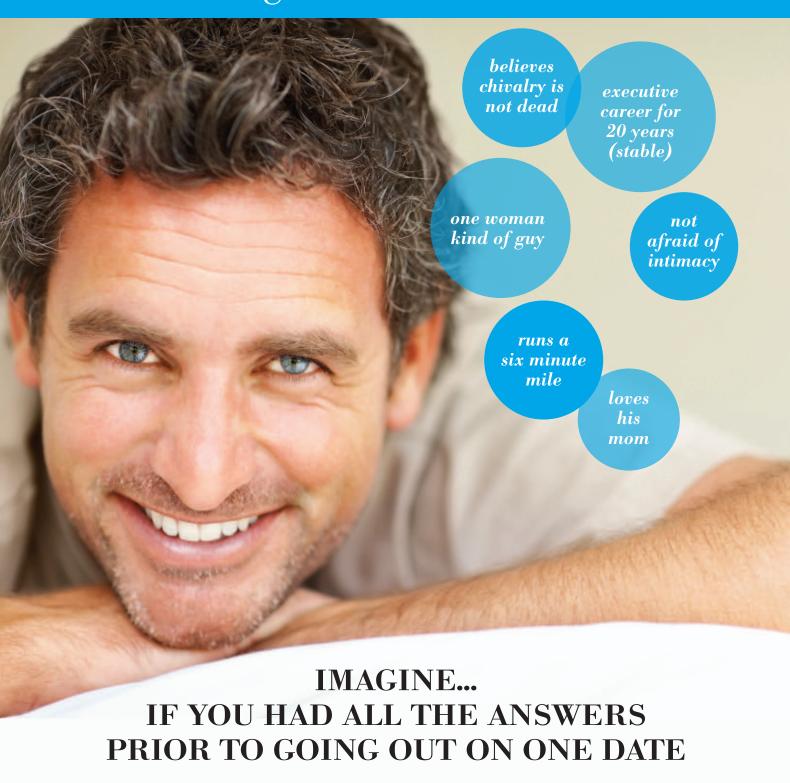




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Looking Good

Light Up the Room AesthetiSpa Cosmetic Skin & Laser Center

AINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS
with her patients at AesthetiSpa
Cosmetic Skin & Laser Center is
something Dr. Christy Cone takes
seriously. As the medical director
and physician of "Charleston's
Best Medical Spa" for three years

running, Dr. Cone, a South Carolina native, acknowledges

BY DENISE K. JAMES

how a personable approach has been instrumental

in the spa's success. Pairing customer service with cutting edge technology, AesthetiSpa keeps patients looking and feeling beautiful for life.

"We take the time to listen to our patients," Dr. Cone pointed out. "They know they're getting the best care as well as a fair assessment of what will work for their skin."

A self-proclaimed people person, Dr. Cone decided to combine science, her favorite subject in school, with a passion for helping

others and pursue a medical career. She earned a bachelor's degree in Biological Science at Clemson University, graduated with honors, then obtained an MD at MUSC, becoming board-certified in family medicine with a specialization in aesthetic medicine. Today, AesthetiSpa boasts more than 12 years in the Lowcountry community, thanks to the dedication of Dr. Cone and her staff.

The spa offers myriad aesthetic and cosmetic treatments, both brand-new and time-tested, including Botox, Dysport and Xeomin injections; dermal fillers; laser hair and vein removal; skin tightening; microdermabrasion; chemical peels; facials; and much more. According to Dr. Cone, focusing on what she and her team do best – that is, nonsurgical cosmetic treatments – sets AesthetiSpa apart from local competition and ensures the medical team's expertise when caring for patients.

"AesthetiSpa was founded on three principles: honesty, safety and personal care," she said. "We do thousands and

thousands of procedures each year, and we spend time understanding our patients before even considering an individual treatment plan."

Dr. Cone reiterated that even with all of the technology available today, the cornerstone of skin care still goes back to the tried-and-true methods of protection and prevention. That said, AesthetiSpa's emphasis on skin care education has brought the spa many loyal patients, all sporting healthy, beautiful skin.

"We teach our patients how to protect their skin at home, which is first and foremost if they are going to maintain the results of any treatment," she explained.

Of course, an extraordinary operation also requires an extraordinary group of people, and the staff at AesthetiSpa is committed to working as a team and being "experts who love patient care and love the cosmetic medical field," as Dr. Cone put it.

"My clinical team is comprised of registered nurses and aestheticians who have been with me for years," she mused. "Meanwhile, my administrative staff is phenomenal and wonderful with customer service."

Those interested in learning more about AesthetiSpa can attend a "SPArty," a fun gathering each month that educates potential and existing patients on products, procedures and current technology.

"It's amazing, the options we have now and the changes since almost 13 years ago when we opened," said Dr. Cone. "We're living in a great era; the trend in cosmetic medicine is toward nonsurgical options, and, as technology continues to advance, we'll have many more ways to keep looking our best."

Learn more about AesthetiSpa at www.aesthetispa.com. You can also visit the spa at 710 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., # 315 or call 843-849-9925.



Head to Toe Fashion Vivi & Kate

VENTURED INTO LOCAL BOUTIQUE Vivi & Kate to speak with owner Elizabeth Raub without making an appointment. To my delight, I didn't need to call ahead - Raub was every bit as warm and welcoming as a local business owner ought to be, and, by

BY DENISE K. JAMES

the time we parted ways, I felt we'd become friends – plus I was

wearing an awesome new bracelet.

Raub, a native of Maryland with an undergraduate degree in English and a self-proclaimed "Jill of all trades,"

did not start out owning a ladies' clothing boutique or even studying fashion. She attended The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, and was introduced to the Lowcountry during an internship at Magnolias in downtown Charleston. Like so many others, she fell in love with the area and decided the South Carolina coast would make a perfect place to put down roots for herself and her daughter, Genevieve. Incidentally, her mother had recently relocated to Beaufort and opened a clothing boutique.

"I was staying home with Genevieve and working as a freelance writer and editor when my mom, who owns Grace &

Glory, told me she envisioned another store, so we opened Vivi & Kate together," Raub explained.

Open for two years this summer, Vivi & Kate, named for Raub's daughter and another granddaughter, is thriving with customers from East Cooper and beyond who frequent the boutique for its generous selection of designer brands and exceptional customer service.

"Business has been good," Raub commented. "We have a loyal, supportive clientele, and it's been nice to get to know the locals."

A stroll around Vivi & Kate will reveal its wide selection of styles and brands; the shop specializes in items that are "comfortable, look good and feel good," according to Raub. Colorful tops, pants that range from casual to work-ready and numerous accessories, from jewelry to scarves, adorn the space. I was particularly drawn to a pair of white boot-cut jeans, perfect for summer, and Raub pointed out that the shop has earned the reputation of being a pants emporium.

"We have a great selection of pants," she mused. "We make sure to stock a variety of pants that are flattering and fit well."

Popular pants brands found at Vivi & Kate include

Lisette and NIC+ZOE; other apparel brands include Joules, Jude Connally and Katherine Way.

As for accessories, Raub puts emphasis on quality jewelry handmade in the United States. Designers on hand the day I visited included Ken Attkisson - who is based in North Carolina – as well as Tat2 Designs and Evelyn Knight. Raub pointed out that she understands the respect that Lowcountry residents have for local artisans, and she hopes to attract more regional jewelers.

Admiring her sleek, dark jeans, brown boots and stylish blouse, I asked Raub whether her personal style has played into what she purchases for Vivi & Kate.

"Yes and no," she replied. "I buy according to the needs of my customers. I do focus on items that are classic and comfortable with clean lines, which describes my own taste as well."

"Because we're a small business in a tightly knit community, we want people to feel good when they shop here," she concluded. "We strive to be welcoming and helpful – never pushy. We want to be a place where you can find something, take it home and love it!"

Vivi & Kate is located at 423 Hibben St. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.viviandkate.com or call 843-352-7331.





Photos courtesy of the office of Gov. Nikki Haley.

LEADING LADY

A Chat with Gov. Nikki Haley

HO DOESN'T LOVE A success story? Many of us turn to magazines, television, film and even family or friends for those inspiring tales of triumph – especially as women and especially when we need a boost when the going gets tough.

South Carolina's first female governor, Nikki Haley, is a fine example of one such success

story – not just for women but also in the field of public service. Haley, who has been in office since 2011, is consistently in the spotlight thanks to her candor. Whether you tend to vote Republican or Democrat, it's hard not to give her credit for being a strong woman.

Mount Pleasant Magazine caught up with Haley for a few questions during her visit to East Cooper for the Volvo Car Open in April. She was happy to share her opinion that "women bring a lot to the table" in both business and politics.



MOUNT PLEASANT MAGAZINE: Describe what or who first piqued your ambition as a child or young girl.

GOV. HALEY: I started doing the books at age 13 for our family business – then I realized in college that wasn't necessarily ordinary. [laughs.] At 13, I learned the value of a dollar. My family knew not to celebrate on occasions we had money because sacrifice would come again.

My parents also told me that whatever you do, be great at it and to make sure people remember you. Because of them, I understood the concepts of service and hard work. There wasn't one day that they didn't tell me we were lucky to be in this country and to have opportunity.

MPM: Did you face discouragement during your younger years? How did you overcome it?





DECO DIAMOND TWO-TONE, DIAMOND DIAL ON GOLD METALLIC ALLIGATOR STRAP

For Graduation, Mother's Day, or just because.



GH: We were Indian, and we were looked upon as being different. Growing up was hard. I didn't fit in anywhere racially. But our parents stressed the idea of unity and to find similarities with others, not differences. I still believe in that concept, to unite and not divide.



Gov. Haley with American Red Cross volunteers at Team South Carolina

Day in Sumter.

MPM: What is your background? What gigs during the early years helped you?

GH: I had great jobs. I did my parents' accounting, then I was assistant to a chiropractor while I attended Clemson. Then I did an internship with Liberty Insurance's Audit Department. I learned to understand numbers through that experience – and I learned to understand people through working with the chiropractor. Today, as governor, I deal both with people as well as benchmarks and goals.

MPM: What was your first experience with public service, and what impression did it leave?

GH: I was not interested in politics in high school or in college. But I did notice, through the family business, how many of our dollars the government was taking. And I became interested. Once I ran for office,

the only option was to win. I remember knocking on doors with the kids in the back seat, getting to know the district.

MPM: What advice do you have to offer our readers who are considering public service or simply pursuing a personal dream?

GH: Two things: We need women as leaders and as public servants. Women bring a lot to the table. When you feel fear, push through it and realize how strong you are. And trust your gut. Never second-guess yourself.



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Remember, it doesn't have to be new to be awesome!







Getting Ready to Work The Center For Women's R4W Program

ETTING
a job is about
more than
just sending
out resumes;
it's about
having the
skills, vision and confidence to make
it happen. The Center for Women
focuses on these aspects of the job
hunt in

BY ERIN DANLY

its free six-week course – Ready for Work (R4W). The program starts regularly throughout the year and helps women prepare to enter or re-enter the workforce by giving them the "soft" skills they need to pursue the career they want.

R4W, which started as a pilot program in July 2014, was created to help a wide variety of women, said Leigh Ann Garrett, program and events manager at the Center for Women.

"We've worked with female veterans. We've worked with domestic survivors. We've had women participate who have master's degrees," she said.

No matter how different women appear on the outside, the objective is the same: To help them identify and achieve their goals.

The Center for Women partners with local organizations to work with a group of women with similar interests or challenges, such as teens or women over 50, and the course content is tweaked to address each group's unique

challenges. The program wouldn't run without dedicated volunteers, experts in fields such as human relations and career development, who give their time and knowledge.

Though the time commitment is very manageable – two hours, one day per week, for six weeks – the women get a lot done in that time, including preparing resumes, doing mock interviews, filling out applications and choosing appropriate interview outfits. But R4W goes far beyond that.

"There are other places you can get your resumes reviewed, but it starts and ends there," said Garrett.

In the R4W program, women also learn about the power of nonverbal communication and first impressions, personal goals, how to overcome fears and how to build confidence.

Diane Sancho, who went through the program in late 2015, was happy to discover that it went beyond simply helping women find a job.

"It was more introspective," she explained. "We identified strengths and weaknesses and how we would describe ourselves. We focused on what we want people to know about us – what we're proud of."

Sancho, who has her master's in Social Work and had been out of the workforce for a year after 30 years in administrative positions, credits the program for helping her discover what she truly wanted to do.

What she wanted, she realized, was to be an entrepreneur. Sancho now



runs her own business, South of Broad Eldercare Services, offering resources and counseling services for caregivers to those with dementia. It was not something she had seriously considered before R4W.

"I thought about it, but I never really believed I could do it," she said. "I credit the Center for Women for giving me the confidence that, yes, this is something I can do."

Women entering the program often have low confidence, and one of the goals of R4W is to rectify that. Leila Shebaro, an Americorps Vista volunteer who manages the R4W program at the Center, considered the source of that lack of confidence.

"Many women have been told that they're not good at their job, or they're discriminated against, or they're pulled away from the workplace and have a hard time getting back in," she said. "An experience that shattered the way you view yourself leaves you with a lot of self-doubt."

Participants work on building confidence from week 1. The volunteers foster a cooperative and safe environment where walls break down and friendships form quickly. Week 1 is such a positive experience, they can't wait to come back for week 2.

When the women "graduate" from the program, they get a certificate of completion as well as complimentary membership to the Center for Women, where they can take advantage of the other programs and networking opportunities the Center offers. Garrett and Shebaro also reach out to past participants to ask them to be mentors. In the future, they want to track past participants and measure success rates. For now, they are happy to watch success stories in the making.

"Most of the time you can literally see the transformation," said Garrett. "You see a woman at the start who's not very interested in being there, and, over the six weeks, the smile comes to her face, and her posture changes. By week 6, she's ready to conquer the world."

"Women are just incredible. They are amazingly capable and powerful and dynamic and intelligent," said Shebaro. "That's what I think is so gratifying about Ready for Work – all we do is remind women that they can accomplish what they want to accomplish. Having the opportunity to send that message every day is very rewarding."

To participate in Ready for Work for free or to volunteer, contact Leila Shebaro at leila@c4women.org or at the Center for Women at 843.763.7333, ext. 206.



About Our Cover

HERE'S NOTHING LIKE GETTING TOGETHER WITH THE ladies. Whether it's a girls' night out, a girls' night in, a ladies-only networking event or a cover shoot for *Lowcountry Women in Business* magazine, it's a great occasion to meet some inspiring women, share ideas and have some fun.

My dear friend and trusted photographer Jenn Cady of Jenn Cady Photography captured several of the Lowcountry's finest businesswomen in this year's shot. From left to right and top to bottom, meet Jennifer Crider, Carolina Lanterns & Lighting; Kimberly Powell, The Woodhouse Day Spa; Pam Bishop, Carolina One; Jan Clouse, Carolina Lanterns & Lighting; and Gina Schirmer, Schirmer Insurance Group. Of course, these ladies are only a few of the awesome collection of locals you'll meet inside the pages of this magazine.

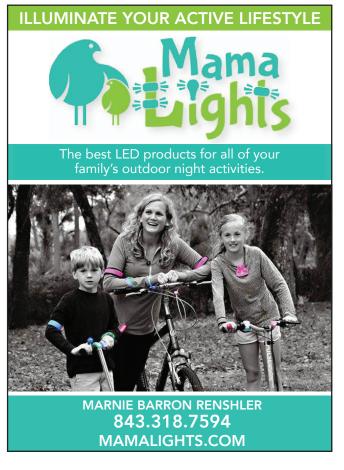
It wasn't easy to get these five busy ladies – seven including Jenn and me – into one spot on a weekday. Even being a seasoned editor, I had to send out multiple emails to

all of them, Jenn included, going over what everyone would wear, where everyone would meet and what time. A few days prior, Jenn and I met with Kimberly Powell, owner of The Woodhouse Day Spa, to figure out where the ladies would pose for the photo. Luckily, there were plenty of options, and my appreciation goes out to Kimberly for sharing her space and hosting this shoot.

Thanks for reading our 2016 Lowcountry Women in Business.

DENISE K. JAMES

Managing Editor





isionaries

AROLINA LANTERNS WAS BORN when Jan Clouse was snubbed. While building her new home in 1998, she thought that gas lanterns flanking the front door would add the ideal finishing touch. At a local lighting store, the sales associate told Jan that gas lanterns would be more than her \$3,500 budget and turned away to assist another customer.

Clouse doesn't accept "no" for an answer and searched until she found someone who could make gas lights not only for her home but for

other houses as well. She bought all the copper lanterns she could and sold them out of the back of her car. From that humble beginning, Clouse has grown her company over nearly two decades to become

the premier lighting company in the Lowcountry and beyond. Most of her 18 employees are ALA certified Lighting Specialists, offering a new standard of customer service.

"I went to Staples," she said. "I named the company on the spot and had business cards printed."

Clouse said she "groveled" to bring those first customers on board and many of those well-known builders have remained loyal. Today's clients, who have expanded beyond Mount Pleasant to Kiawah Island and even Turks and Caicos, tend to want whole home lighting designs.

Starting with a space in the Mount Pleasant Antique Mall, she stepped up to larger locations as her clientele expanded, ultimately purchasing and renovating the current location at the corner of Chuck Dawley Boulevard and Bowman Road.

Clouse's daughter, Jennifer Crider, has followed in her mother's footsteps.

"I worked in shipping for several years," Crider said. "It's an interesting business."

It has proved to be a useful skill since Crider joined this family owned and operated business 11 years ago. Currently she is preparing to open a new retail outlet, the Carolina Lighting Clearance Center, just off Clements Ferry Road. It will be a separate entity, offering lighting fixtures at affordable prices from a select group of vendors.

"One of my projects today includes negotiating shipping, both products coming in as well as delivery to customers," she said.

As vice president of operations and partner in the Carolina Lanterns Clearance Center, Crider's skills perfectly complement her mother's visionary thinking and sales expertise.

Clouse speaks highly of her daughter's hands-on capabilities. Crider handles the day-to-day operations, fielding advertising strategies, hiring new employees and seeking more efficient shipping options – literally whatever the day



Jan Clouse Jennifer Crider

Carolina Lanterns 1362 Chuck Dawley Blvd. Mount Pleasant 843-881-4170 www.carolinalanternsandlighting.com

brings across her desk.

Clouse has earned her place in the local and national business community. She has gone from being a "fish out of water" to being a board member of the Charleston Trident Homebuilders Association. The list of honors and awards is long, but she is especially pleased to be included in *Southern* Living's 50th Anniversary celebration.

Clouse said, "I'm relentless. I love making sales calls." But she does know how to relax: "I like walking, working out, dinner with friends and reading."

In addition to her ever demanding role at Carolina Lanterns and its new Clearance Center, Crider has a domestic side and enjoys canning, running, boating and spending time with her husband, Charlie, and son, Hayden.

With Jan Clouse and Jennifer Crider as the guiding lights, the future of Carolina Lanterns is indeed bright.



Kate Walker Mary Lee Busick

Mainstream Boutique 644 Long Point Road, Unit 1 Mount Pleasant 843-936-3324

www.facebook.com/mainstreamboutiquemtpleasant

as a small business owner. She'd worked hard to earn her nursing degree and loved her job, but, when her best friend opened a Mainstream Boutique in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Kate began to dream. Fast forward a few years, and Walker is now the owner of not one but two boutiques that sell casual women's clothing. She opened her first Mainstream Boutique in

BY AMY MERCER

2013 in Florence, South Carolina, where she lives with her husband

and son. Kate knew from the start that she wanted to open two or three stores and recently open a second location in Mount Pleasant's Belle Hall Shopping Center with the help of her mother, Mary Lee Busick.

When Walker started researching locations, her mother said, "If you open a store in Charleston, I want to do it with you." The two have a great working relationship and bring different strengths to the business. Busick worked for years in marketing and communications and loves promoting the store, while her daughter gets excited about buying, managing store operations and working with the staff.

Mainstream Boutique is a franchise, and there are currently 78 boutiques across the country, with a flagship store in Apple Valley, Minnesota. Walker said the pros of owning a franchise are many, but what she enjoys most is the freedom to customize her store to fit her customers' needs.

"I choose all of the inventory and make the buying decisions. The company encourages owners to put a personal spin on their individual store," Walker said.

Mainstream Boutique Mount Pleasant opened on Oct. 1, 2015, the same day as a massive flood.

"Not even a hurricane could hold us back!" Walker laughed. "We were standing there in our rain boots, sending home our staff, but, thankfully, people still came out to shop."

Busick rented a condo nearby and was able to manage the store while Walker commuted from Florence. (Busick will move from her Florida home to Daniel Island in June.) Now that the water has receded, mother and daughter are happy to report steady sales and a growing customer base. It took about a year of preparations to open the store; Walker and Busick worked hard to get the details just right.

"Mom made the dressing room curtains and was key in choosing the décor," Walker pointed out.

Walker described the selection at Mainstream Boutique as trendy and unique. They also have accessories and a selection of shoes.

"When clients come to us, they find quality products, a unique selection and a good price. But what's most important is their experience. We offer a personal touch – because when you run a small business, good customer relationships are really important. It's what keeps you going."

AN YOU HEAR THE WOOF-WOOF? Old MacDonald's farm it is not but rather the popular Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming that has opened in Mount Pleasant to the chorus of cheerful barking. This upscale neighborhood pet store is the dog-diggity for the most refined pets.

Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming carries the vibe of a doggie Tiffany's, with calming brown tones accented with hot pink and chandeliers.

"Our store has a different feel than others in Mount

Pleasant," explained Cameron Reid, co-owner of Woof Gang

Bakery & Grooming. "We are super friendly and have a happy store. You will love bringing your pet here."

The retail store offers all-natural dog foods, durable toys, a senior section and the very popular treat table.

"Our senior section carries products geared toward older dogs that may need soft treats," explained Reid. "We have treats that help with memory, joints and for the heart that many people really want for their older dogs."

In addition to the gourmet dog treats, Woofgang Bakery & Grooming, located in Crickentree, offers full-service dog grooming.

"We have an incredible groomer with a lot of experience," said Leigh Reid Hope, co-owner and Reid's mother. "We are so excited over this business. The business is a family affair for us, and I am so proud of my daughter. We have only been open a short time and we are doing great. We can't wait to meet more of the four-legged residents that live in our town."

Many people already know that Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming, part of a franchise, is recognized as the 11th largest pet retailer in the country.

"I can't say enough good things about this franchise," boasted Hope. "It is a high-end dog store, and we worked hard to find the perfect location. We believe we have found it in Mount Pleasant."

Reid agreed and has great enthusiasm for her first business, but being a young woman in business has its challenges.

"I look a lot younger than I am, and people didn't always



Cameron Reid Leigh Reid Hope

Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming Mount Pleasant 843-388-5167 www.woofgangbakery.com

take me seriously," Reid shared. "I've learned to stand up for myself and not get pushed around. I've really enjoyed the experience so far, and it's really good working with my mother. She has over 30 years of experience in the business world and has pushed me in the right direction."

Hope has owned another business for decades and also has raised four children as a single mother.

"While I went through my divorce, it was nice having a career to fall back on. It is important to love what you do. Prior to owning my business, I was torn between being at work and needing to be home with the children. Owning a business was a great solution because I was able to make my own hours. A person can definitely sleep better at night when they are able to put their family first."



Pam Bishop

Carolina One 628 Long Point Road Mount Pleasant 843-814-1622 www.pambishop.com

to enter a career of real estate, she knew more than a little bit about her choice. Her father, brother and even nephew had all enjoyed success in her home city of Fort Lauderdale with the family business, and Pam felt that real estate might be the right choice for her as well.

"My father, Harlan Drum, started Drum Realty in 1952," she remembered. "It's still in Fort Lauderdale and is managed by a third generation of our family. Real estate was the centerpiece of my environment. Being the youngest of four children, I understood success in business and in life required dedication to hard work."

Bishop and her husband met at Reinhardt College and were married two years later in Fort Lauderdale. Thanks to multiple relocations with her husband and three children, she realized what it was like to move, settle again and create a comforting new home – and she felt that she would able to relate to the clients' concerns when it came to moving.

"I had the opportunity to assist a top-producing agent," she commented. "He suggested and encouraged that I go full-time. It became apparent that my family's real estate background made it a good choice. I started full-time as an agent with Presson & Stromon Realtors."

In 1986, the family moved to Mount Pleasant and, according to Bishop, their "love for the area was immediate and continues to this day, though it was a smaller town then."

Today, her career with Carolina One, which has spanned more than 20 satisfying years, has brought her plenty of challenges, accolades and enjoyable moments with the community. She credits the opportunity to "help people make the Lowcountry their home" as the reason she has enjoyed her career. She described helping potential buyers find the right place to live and the right house as a fulfilling challenge. Even during the housing market downtown, Bishop felt that the situation gave her further insight into the local market conditions.

"People are moving here now for all the area has to offer – good schools, great dining, shopping, beaches and a great climate," she commented.

Bishop's business motto has always been to treat others in the way she would like to be treated, and she hasn't strayed from it since beginning her career in real estate. Her distinctions include being a Certified Residential Specialist, an honor earned by only 4 percent of the top Realtors in the nation. Recently she received her SRES – Seniors Real Estate Specialist – certification as well. She also is an Accredited Buyer Representative. In addition, she continues to be a frequent Realtor of Distinction in the Charleston Trident Association of Realtors, a consistent member of East Cooper Top Producers and the recipient of Carolina One's Lifetime Achievement Award, plus numerous other achievements including CTAR Realtor of the Year in 2007.

Because Bishop believes in giving back to the community, she has been able to garnish accolades and recognition from her peers in the real estate market. She has served on the board of directors for the Charleston Trident Association of Realtors and worked with the Realtor Housing Fund, also known as RHOF. On a more personal note, she and her husband are members and stewards of St. Peter's Anglican Church and regularly host small groups and Bible study.

"I knew when I started my career in real estate that my reputation would always be important to me," Bishop said.

"

to go to law school," said Summer Eudy, managing partner of the Good Law Group. But Eudy is anything but cliché. At the University of North Carolina, she double-majored in Political Science and Exercise and Sports Science and even considered going to physical therapy school before following her heart to the Charleston School of Law.

"Nobody in my family is a lawyer, so I wasn't trying to follow in anyone's footsteps," she said. "Law school just appealed to me."

While her thoughts of physical therapy school never came to fruition, Eudy's exercise and sports science background helped her get into the type of law she practices today.

"I do a lot of personal injury cases," Eudy explained. "Of course it's important to know about anatomy and physiology, but there are a lot of cases where the injury is disputed. Having a degree in that allows me a deeper understanding and ability to fight for my client."

Eudy began her career doing plaintiff's work for a small practice, where she met her future business partner, Joe Good. She then spent three-and-a-half years doing civil defense work before partnering with Good to form the Good Law Group LLC in 2013.

"Those experiences helped shape me as a lawyer, because I got to see both sides of the aisle by representing individuals as well as corporate and government entities," Eudy said. "It helped me decide what kind of firm I wanted to establish. And I can use what I learned to benefit my clients."

Today, Eudy represents clients in all realms of civil litigation, including personal injury, business litigation, employment and construction defect litigation, as well as family law and criminal defense cases.

Good Law Group LLC is located in a unique building – a renovated 1970s bank – which sits right on Shem Creek, at the corner of Coleman Boulevard and Mill Street. The home of Good Law Group LLC has been a staple on Coleman Boulevard for many years, and now it is getting a facelift. Eudy and her clients really enjoy the cottage that houses the firm and the easy parking. Eudy designed the interior of the office to be chic but rustic and intentionally



Summer Eudy

Good Law Group
122 Coleman Blvd.
Mount Pleasant
843-277-8373
www.goodlawgroupllc.com

unlike a typical law office.

"It makes our clients feel relaxed when they meet with us, and that is helpful considering they are generally facing a stressful situation when they come to our office," she said.

Eudy is inspired in her career to seek out the right and the wrong and protect people's rights.

"In one of my early cases, I represented a young woman who was wrongfully marked by the police as 'at fault' in a terrible car accident in which she lost her life. I got to know her parents; they became my friends," she smiled. "We had a good outcome in the case, but my biggest accomplishment was proving the accident was not her fault. That meant so much more to her parents than the money. And that was worth everything to me."





Nancy Meyer



Nicole Wallen

Barre Evolution
320 W. Coleman Blvd.
Mount Pleasant
843-654-9045
www.barreevolution.con

i N c t ii

HEN NANCY MEYER AND

Nicole Wallen joined forces to open Barre Evolution in 2010, there were no other barre studios in Charleston.

"People thought you had to be

a ballerina," Wallen joked.

Meyer had recently moved with her family from New York City, where she'd worked i

BY AMY MERCER

York City, where she'd worked in marketing, and met Wallen in a

barre class at Wallen's Pilates studio. The two entrepreneurs saw the opportunity to combine their strengths and open the first Barre Evolution studio. Part of their success lies in the fact that they have a shared vision and a similar passion. They both come from business backgrounds and agree that

while the work is intense – 12-to 14- hour workdays – they would never go back to a 9 to 5 job.

"The secret is that there is no secret," Wallen laughed.
"Running a successful business is recognizing that it's not about you. It's about our clients and the health and strength of the business."

The biggest challenge of being a female-owned business is managing people, and part of what distinguishes Barre Evolution is their commitment to the ongoing development of their staff.

"We work hard to figure out the most effective way to motivate our instructors without being discouraging," said Meyer.

After teaching dance for 10 years, instructor Jess Ross came to the Barre Evolution Method two years ago.

"I love working for BE because they let me be the best version of myself," she explained. "I am the happiest when I am teaching. Watching clients grow stronger, become more flexible and do something they couldn't before is one of the most rewarding parts of my job."

As women and moms, Meyer and Wallen have a greater understanding of the changing needs of their staff and strive to work around these needs, including pregnancy and family emergencies.

"You might not get this flexibility in a workplace run by a man or larger corporation. As a result, we have had a very high retention rate with instructors," Meyer said.

A lot has changed in the last six years, and there are now four Barre Evolution studios, including a Greenville location. Their latest studio opened this spring in North Mount Pleasant, and, while continued growth is part of their plan, the women are committed to maintaining the boutique feel.

"We work hard to foster a community of women that is diverse and supportive," said Wallen. "We love seeing how impactful barre and Pilates can be in people's lives. Our students feel better about themselves, and they reward us every day by coming back and bringing their friends."

TIPS FOR ENTREPRENEURS:

- Location is key! Spend time to research your location. Spend time and money to be an expert in your field. Continue your education so you can innovate.
- Be prepared to reinvest everything you make in the first few years so you won't have to take on debt.
- Don' be afraid of change. Tweak your business plan as needed. Don't stick with something if it isn't working.
- Hire good people. Don't hire teachers just because they have the cute "girl next door" look. Be picky and wait for the smart and genuine candidates to come calling.
- Don't skimp on hiring a CPA, attorney and bookkeeper. These people are your best business advisors.

RANSFORMATIONS OCCUR

daily at Butterfly Women's Consignment Boutique – turning an outfit from drab to dramatic or turning expensive brands into affordable items.

On a bright Thursday morning, the store in the Belle Hall Shopping Center bustles with activ-

ity. Owner Amanda Rosen assists two women dropping off high-

end clothing for consignment while a friendly employee helps other customers find the right dresses in the right sizes. Racks of colorful clothing, from casual items to evening wear, fill the intimate boutique. One whole wall features an irresistible collection of shoes, while fashionable accessories are on display throughout the store – most notably Chanel and Louis Vuitton handbags.

Rosen, polite and professional with a slight accent revealing her British roots, has owned Butterfly Consignment for the past seven years. She believes passionately in the motto behind her business as a "store where every woman matters."

"The most rewarding part of my job is that we are, on all levels, able to support women," she said.

Clients get paid for consigning, customers benefit from a huge selection of designer brands at discount prices and even clothes that are not sold go to ECCO – East Cooper Community Outreach – to help those in need. Amanda emphasized the main philanthropic drive behind her store is a focus on women and their families. The business has supported girls in Kenya, sponsored scholarships and is willing to work with any local community outreach groups that share the goal of educating and empowering women.

Originally from England, Rosen has lived in Mount Pleasant for 18 years with her pilot husband. Her daughter, 14, will be attending Wando High School in the fall, and her son, 12, will go to the University School.

"I like that this is a small enough community that I have access to a myriad of experiences for our family to embrace and enjoy the area," she said.

Rosen relies on her staff of five to help her business run smoothly.

"The women are all fabulous. They allow me flexibility to fully participate in my children's lives," she said with gratitude.

If a woman brings in items for consignment, Rosen and her staff will assess each garment to make sure there are no



Amanda Rosen

Butterfly Women's Consignment Boutique 624-H Long Point Road Mount Pleasant 843-884-8577 www.butterflyconsignments.com

stains or imperfections and will agree on the prices. If an item is sold within 60 days, the money goes directly to the client. Butterfly Consignment accepts merchandise seasonally, without appointment, and is always seeking couture house, designer label and top mall brand clothing in all sizes. Designer accessories including purses, jewelry, shoes and hats also are welcome.

While she believes in quality clothes and personal style, Rosen admits that as a busy parent and small business owner, her lifestyle is far from glamorous – but she prefers it that way.

"I just try to be part of the fabric of everyday life that makes Mount Pleasant a great place to live," she said. 20

I OMEN in business



Kimberly Powell

Woodhouse Day Spa Charleston 725 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. Mount Pleasant 843-203-1772

www.charleston.woodhousespas.com

OODHOUSE DAY SPA

Charleston is celebrating its first year anniversary, and owner and regional developer Kimberly Powell is feeling both reflective and inspired.

"As I look in the rear view mirror, I'm so grateful and proud of my amazing team, who truly carried me through some very tough days," Powell said. "Yet, as I face the dashboard, I am motivated and inspired by Charleston's entrepreneurial spirit and just want to hit the accelerator and explore unpaved roads."

And that's exactly what she's doing. There is already a great deal of interest by potential new Woodhouse Day Spa

owners in Hilton Head, Savannah, Columbia and Greenville – areas which fall into Powell's territory. Powell herself owns 12 locations in all throughout the Southeast, including Mount Pleasant's, the largest Woodhouse Spa in the country at 9,000 square feet.

"I wanted to invest not only in the people of Mount Pleasant but the real estate as well. I'm here to stay, I want to give back, and it's important to me to be a part of this community in a meaningful way," she commented.

To that end, Powell is a member of the Chamber of Commerce leadership circle, The Center 4 Women, The Women of Renaissance Group and the Mount Pleasant Business Association and sits on the board at Thrive, an organization that protects victims of domestic violence. Woodhouse Day Spa Charleston donates to countless charities, and Powell has been involved in charity work all of her adult life.

Having met her Beaufort-born husband, Keith, in the Lowcountry in 1985, they both share a genuine love and respect for the area and its majestic landscape. They have co-owned Summit Industrial Flooring, based in the Midwest, for over 26 years. They recently launched Summit Garage Solutions in Charleston, providing high-end garage cabinetry and flooring solutions to help make your garage an extension of your home.

Powell's admiration of Lowcountry culture runs deep. She has always loved the art of sweetgrass basket making and Gullah art and history. Inspired by the candles in her spa and her respect and appreciation for sweetgrass basket weaving, she decided to launch a luxury candle line inspired by Charleston. The Chandèl candle line will represent the rich fragrance and sophistication of the Lowcountry, combined with the artistry and cultural significance of the sweetgrass basket. The candle scents are being created by renowned candle maker Frederick Bouchardy, and Kim and her business partner, Cara Florence, will be taking preorders beginning in May.

"This is my love letter to the Lowcountry, a place that has been very good to me since meeting my husband here at 15 years old," Powell explained.

Despite multiple business endeavors, it is clear that the spa is her baby. April 18 was the official end to her first year, and it appears as if things are going well. She received the 2015 Woodhouse Day Spa Horizon Award for best new spa and has just broken the record for the highest gross sales in a first year.

When asked how she did it, Powell was quick to answer: "Every day I just got up and focused on two things — my team and my guests, in that order. I just knew if I took care of people, they would take care of me. I'm beyond proud and protective of my Woodhouse family. They are everything."

R. CASEY ADKINS WAS HAPPY to trade in cold, wet winters for the sunshine and warm temperatures prevalent in the Lowcountry, but there's a more important reason she left Indiana for South Carolina – the opportunity to work in an audiology practice that is more about health care than retail.

Dr. Adkins, a native of Woodford County, Kentucky, moved to the Lowcountry in June 2015 to join Dr. Mary Anne Larkin at Advanced Hearing Care in Mount Pleasant. A graduate of the University of Kentucky, she earned her Doctor of Audiology degree at Purdue University in Indiana.

"I was tired of the cold. I had to chip the ice off my windshield every morning," she commented. "The Charleston area has been a welcome change in my life. Every person I've met is open and welcoming. It's a close-knit community, and there's lots of things going on, such as farmers markets and oyster roasts."

As much as she enjoys the weather and the Southern hospitality, Dr. Adkins is more appreciative of the chance to build a patient base and help her patients make the most of their hearing.

"The most important thing we do here is reconnect people to what's most important in their lives. It's different for everyone," she explained. "For some it might be morning meetings at work, while for others it's hearing their grand-kids or feeling involved at a party or a noisy restaurant."

Dr. Adkins cited several ways she and Dr. Larkin help their patients hear better. They offer hearing devices, of course, but patients and their family members also can participate in an active listening training class. Physical therapy for the ears and brain – basically teaching people how to be better listeners – also is available two or three times a month at the Advanced Hearing Care office on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard.

"We do whatever we can to improve the overall quality of our patients' lives," Dr. Adkins said. "One of the reasons I came to Advanced Hearing Care was because of the full-spectrum program Dr. Larkin has built. It's important for people to have realistic expectations. Nothing is going to restore their hearing to normal, but we can work together to build a customized treatment program to optimize their hearing and communication abilities."

Advanced Hearing Care maintains its longtime connection to the community by holding free educational seminars on hearing at senior facilities such as Sandpiper Village and The Palms of Mount Pleasant. Drs. Larkin and Adkins also offer free hearing screenings to residents and to any



Dr. Casey Adkins

Advanced Hearing Care 900 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. Mount Pleasant 843-606-5658 www.advhearing.com

other adult member of the community.

Dr. Adkins pointed out that loud noise can affect a person's hearing, adding that smoking, cardiovascular issues and diabetes also can affect your ability to hear. She said changes in hearing sometimes indicate that there are other health issues. For example, after testing a patient's hearing, she sensed that something wasn't quite right, especially considering that the patient's father was just a year older when he died of a heart attack. She called his cardiologist, who soon discovered the man's heart blockage.

"Your ears are definitely a window into other things going on in your body," Dr. Adkins said. "That's another reason why you should see a Doctor of Audiology."

Dr. Adkins lives on Johns Island with her fiancé, Seth, and Ollie, their boxer mix. Her October wedding is scheduled for the Charleston Tea Plantation.



Kathie Livingston

Nature Adventures Outfitters Shrimp Boat Lane Mount Pleasant 843-568-3222 www.kayakcharlestonsc.com nown locally as "Woods Woman" and "Kayak Lady," Kathie Livingston not only loves what she does but shares that love with others.

"As a child, I lived outdoors. I was always on my horse, hiking in the woods, camping outside. My mother and sisters would literally pay me to wash my hair," the owner of Nature Adventures Outfitters laughed.

Livingston studied Resource Planning and Ecology at the University of Michigan before moving to South Carolina in 1988. She worked as director of the Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Commission

and as a naturalist for the National Audubon Society at Beidler Forest.

Eleven years later, she opened Nature Adventures Outfitters, which is dedicated to helping others experience the great outdoors: kayak, canoe and paddle board rentals and instruction, camping equipment rentals, paddlefit classes, hiking tours, overnight expeditions and more.

"I want to get people unplugged and connect them to nature. It is so important to relate to our natural world and see the bigger picture of how our relationship to the environment is interrelated to our very existence," she said. "Every decision we make affects so many dynamics for not only us but for future generations."

While running the business requires her to spend more time indoors than she would prefer, Livingston credits her excellent staff of biologists, naturalists and operations managers for sharing with 24,000 clients annually the same knowledge and respect for the Lowcountry that she has had for 28 years.

"I have been blessed in being able to do what I love to do, and to work doing it," she said. "Watching people connect to nature, see a dolphin or a thousand-year-old bald cypress tree always brings a smile and amazement to their face. That I can help people experience things like that is the best part."



Meredith **Nelson**

PrimeTime Fitness
1558 Ben Sawyer Blvd.
Mount Pleasant
843-883-0101

eredith Nelson has a varied and extensive history in the fitness industry. Starting in the 1980s and carrying 30 extra pounds, she gradually developed a love of all things active – especially running, weightlifting, yoga and cycling. She also gets her thrills putting others through a grueling indoor cycling class, weight-training workout or boot camp. Ask her about weight loss and she'll talk for hours – after all, she's been there and lives it every day.

Nelson opened PrimeTime Fitness on Sullivan's Island in 2000. With a masters in Rehabilitation Counseling, her original goal was to incorporate fitness into the lives of

those with disabilities. She continues to provide a haven for anyone, regardless of age or ability, to pursue their fitness

goals. After 15 years of offering the residents of Sullivan's Island a place to go for all their fitness needs, PrimeTime Fitness relocated to Mount Pleasant in December 2015.

PrimeTime Fitness is unique in that it offers big-gym fitness with boutique individualization. Group fitness classes, personal training, indoor cycling, boot camps, yoga and more fill up the schedule, but the trainers know each person by name. Some members prefer to do their own thing, without the guidance of a trainer, and that is encouraged at PrimeTime as well, with members having access to the facility between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. Anyone can feel comfortable walking in the front door – from the seasoned athlete to the novice exerciser.

"Building on success is critical for retention, so we celebrate even the smallest accomplishments along with our clients and members," Nelson said. "We also listen to the ideas, suggestions and even criticisms of our members in our efforts to provide the experience they are looking for."

If Omera in business

r. Gina Courson is a chiropractor who received her undergraduate degree in business from the University of Georgia and her doctor of Chiropractic degree from Life University in Atlanta. Courson is certified in physiological therapeutics and cold laser therapy. She has practiced in Mount Pleasant for 15 years and shares two offices of Accurate Chiropractic with her husband. She is member

of the South Carolina Chiropractic Association and Junior League and volunteers with various charitable organizations around the country. She enjoys outdoor activities and playing with her Great Danes.

Courson said that each year more than 15 million Americans choose chiropractic care for safe, natural and effective relief from back pain, neck pain, headaches, extremity pain, poor overall health, low energy levels and more. Because chiropractic treatments are primarily applied to the spinal region, many individuals incorrectly assume that chiropractors treat only back and neck ailments. While they do quickly and effectively eliminate back and neck pain, it's not the only goal. The objective is to restore and optimize health.

"When evaluating and treating patients, we take a holistic approach which includes identifying and correcting the cause or causes of the patient's health ailment. Chiropractors believe that correcting the cause of the problem provides significant long-term benefits over only treating the symptoms."

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"Our treatments are safe because we only use natural and noninvasive methods of care. Research consistently shows that care from chiropractors is among the safest care available and is light years ahead of traditional medical care in terms of safeness," she explained. [2]



Dr. Gina **Courson**

Accurate Chiropractic 3373 South Morgans Point Road, Suite 307 Mount Pleasant 426 W. Coleman Blvd. Mount Pleasant 843-971-8814 www.mtoleasantchiro.com

> If Omen in business

hen she was 23 years old, Charleston native Windi McKeithan took a leap of faith and decided to buy two children's wear shops in Mount Pleasant.

Armed with a fashion merchandizing degree, good taste, an eye for

Armed with a fashion merchandizing degree, good taste, an eye for upcoming trends and an entrepreneurial spirit, the businesswoman grew her trio of small businesses – Ragamuffin Children's Boutique, Stride Rite Shoes and Radical Rags – into a success story.

This spring she's celebrating 32 years in business.

"I had been a buyer for junior sportswear, and I decided to try out the world of children's fashion, and I ended up falling in love with it," she said.

The entrepreneur said one of her favorite things about her job is building lasting relationships with customers.

"I'm definitely a people person and love the great relationships I have with our customers. Customers that used to shop for their children now come in with their grandchildren. It's such a blessing for us to dress the newest generations of their family."

McKeithan said her days stay filled with helping customers, placing orders, meeting deadlines and "personally handpicking everything that comes into the stores." Although tedious, she said "Owning these stores doesn't feel like 'work' to me. I'm so thankful."

She credited her continued success, in addition to her own hard work, to her support system: her husband and children, her staff and a higher power.

"My husband and children are always by my side. My mom worked here for many years. Every one of the ladies that work here is amazing and they all love what they do. We have the best time working together and helping our customers. When you love what you do, it shines through!" 🛛



The Ragamuffin Children's

Boutique Stride Rite Shoes

210 Coleman Blvd.

843-884-4814



Dr. Rachael Click

Preferred EyeCare Center 1118 Park West Blvd., Suite 5 Mount Pleasant 843-856-4775

r. Rachael Click knew opening her own practice was going to be a challenge, but she didn't want to do it any other way.

"I started from scratch because I had a lot of good ideas for patient care. I also knew that if I didn't do it, someone else would," she said.

In 2007, Dr. Click moved from Indiana to Mount Peasant and opened Preferred

EyeCare Center in Park West the following year. She knew that the area was going to grow and looked forward to being a part of her patients' health care team for years.

Park West has grown dramatically since that time, and Dr. Click recently expanded her business to accommodate the growth and take advantage of the latest technology in eye care.

"There are great advances in eye care, and we've recently added technology that is unique to the Lowcountry and enables us to take a picture of the back of the eye to detect a problem more efficiently. Photos can be taken without having your eye dilated and can replace dilation in healthy eyes."

Preferred EyeCare Center offers a treatment plan that includes a vision assessment and 13-point health evaluation.

After eight years in business, Dr. Click has doubled the size of her practice and is not slowing down.

"As a small business owner, you have to be driven to do the work. You have to juggle the roles of HR and CFO and marketing," she said. "These things are essential to being a successful business owner, but it's the impact on people's lives that continues to inspire me." 20





r. Cynthia Garner always wanted to be in the health care field. She chose dental school over medical school because she was drawn to the artistic aspect of cosmetic dentistry.

"In my profession, you have to have an aesthetic vision for each patient. To make that vision a reality, you work with your hands like an artist to

shape veneers or carve teeth from wax. For bridges, crowns and veneers, I choose materials, colors and shapes to craft

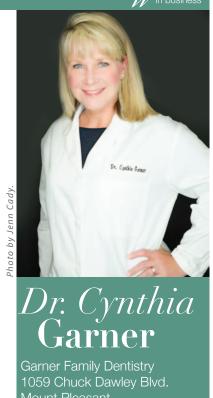
something that is customized to each patient and makes their smile brighter while ensuring their occlusion functions properly," Dr. Garner explained.

Following dental school and advanced training at Temple University, she began practicing dentistry in Omaha, Nebraska, where she met and married Lt. Col. Alan Garner, a native of the Isle of Palms. She continued to work as a managing dentist and associate with different practices during her husband's military career.

When he retired, they moved back to the Lowcountry, where an opportunity opened for Dr. Garner to buy a practice of her own. She has now been practicing dentistry for over 20 years.

Dr. Garner owns Garner Family Dentistry, where the constant goal is providing outstanding dental care. She stays on the cutting edge of dentistry through comprehensive hands-on courses with Spear Education and active membership in the Seattle Study Club, an international network of dentists.

"What inspires me most in my career is the difference dentistry can make in someone's life," Dr. Garner said. "I love helping people improve their health and feel better about their appearance. To see someone truly excited about their smile and feeling good and out of pain is truly rewarding. It is why I love what I do and why I am so thankful for the privilege of caring for my patient families."



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Garner Family Dentistry, LLC 1059 Chuck Dawley Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

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I Omen in business



Nancy Swift

Swift Appliance 625 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. Mount Pleasant 843-388-7283 www.swiftappliancesc.com ancy Swift is quick to tell you that Swift Appliance is a family business. Her father was in the lumber business in New Jersey, and she learned the many different facets of running a business from him. With an associate degree in Fashion Merchandising plus a Marketing degree, she began working in retail and said her job at Nordstrom was a "wonderful retail experience." Their emphasis on customer service has been instrumental in guiding her through owning her own business.

In New Jersey, Swift's husband was a general contractor who was not only adept at building but at installing appliances. When they decided to move the family to the Charleston area, he suggested that she run a business. She saw a niche for a locally owned appliance store and, in July 2012, Swift Appliance officially opened for business in Mount Pleasant.

"When a customer comes in, I have a checklist," Swift said. "You have to feel customers out to guide them to the right purchase."

Swift works to assess the customer's needs and explained that "listening is important."

"A small retailer can be more accommodating," she said, adding that it is important for her customers to feel that they've not only paid a fair price but that she is accessible if issues crop up.

"My customers always receive exceptional customer service, product knowledge and the best price," she said.

Swift is best on the sales floor and genuinely enjoys the challenge of helping her clients find the right appliances for their lifestyles. Not only does she head a thriving business, but she is especially proud that a second location will open soon in Murrells Inlet. And they'll keep it all in the family, with her son in charge.



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If Omen in business

ack in 2008, Tracy MacKellar's teenage daughter made an observation at her high school dance that would lead to a new life purpose – and a career in fashion – for the two of them.

"She noticed some students hadn't gone to the dance because they had nothing to wear," MacKellar explained. "We wanted to do something about it, so we reached out to family and friends to collect donated dresses."

The response from the community was "overwhelming," according to MacKellar, and, with that, Couture Girls Closet was born, a nonprofit boutique that migrated from their family living room in

California to a 1,500-square-foot space.

"Even before the nonprofit experience, my husband and I have always had our own businesses," MacKellar explained. "We owned a pharmacy in California."

Eventually, MacKellar and her family moved to the Lowcountry, and the concept for Couture Girls Closet moved with them. The boutique is now locally operated by The Assistance League, and MacKellar, true to her new love for fashion, opened MODE in Mount Pleasant in July of 2015, following research on Entrepreneur.com. She liked how MODE specialized in fashion for all women, carrying nothing over \$50 and sizes 0-24.

Since last summer, business at MODE has been smooth sailing, and MacKellar enjoys offering "designer fashion for less" to local ladies. Her future plans for MODE include opening a second location, likely in Summerville, as well as a third in West Ashley. But she assured me that she's taking it slowly, building clientele and reputation in the community through hard work.

"My advice to other women hoping to open a clothing boutique is to do the research," she emphasized. "Know your demographics, your price points and location. Also, get a great manager. Personalized customer service is important."



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Justice Noto Coleman Blvd.

Mount Pleasant

www.southernbelleschildren.com

843-881-1741

he path to a satisfying and successful career is not always straight or easy to navigate. Susie Molony, owner of Southern Belles: A Children's Clothier, knows this all too well. After leaving her career in hospital pharmacy to get married, she became a stay-at-home mom who felt the need to fill her time and spent years building what was once a hobby into a thriving Mount Pleasant favorite.

Her hand-painted designs on children's clothing and accessories grew from being just gifts for friends to being sold at local and then national craft markets.

When traveling to national shows wore on her, Molony pursued a local storefront so she could spend more time with her family. She worked her way up from subleasing a small corner of a children's store to purchasing a children's clothing store. Southern Belles has been in the same location in Northcutt Plaza for more than 20 years.

"Owning your business is not for the faint of heart. It requires a great deal of time and energy," she said. "But I truly love what I do, and I get great joy from helping customers buy for their children. I try to offer something for every need and every occasion, making sure there's a price point to fit every wallet."

Aside from her array of children's clothing, gift items, shoes and more, Molony gives credit to her customers as the reason her store has been a favorite for more than two decades.

"Southern Belles has been successful not only because of my hard work and that of my employees, but also because of our wonderful customers' loyalty and support," Molony said. "Southern Belles has been voted Charleston's Best Local Children's Shop for the past 11 years. I never take that for granted. It's a huge honor that I cherish."



ine years ago, Rachael Geib's dream came true when she opened SalonSalon of Charleston, located on Houston Northcutt Boulevard in Mount Pleasant.

"I always wanted to be a hair dresser. My grandparents were barbers in the service," Geib explained. "For my whole life, it has always been my passion. I worked hard to get where I am, and I love what I do."

Geib and SalonSalon's seven employees specialize in hair, makeup, nails, pedicures and waxing. But Geib has steered her business to be much more than just a place to go for beauty treatments.

"Being part of the community is so important to me. We volunteer with the March of Dimes, Pet Helpers, Alzheimer's, Susan G. Komen, the Shriners and more," she said. "Part of what makes us so successful is that we give back to the community that gives so much to us."

SalonSalon will even be providing free hair and makeup to the lucky winners of a wedding giveaway for the book launch of local author Mary Alice Monroe's "A Lowcountry Wedding," which was released in May of this year.

Most of all, Geib finds inspiration through her work.

"All of us have been there; if your hair's not good, you get down and out," she laughed. "I am a therapist, a counselor, a friend, a sister, a mother. It's a great feeling to be able to brighten someone's life." \(\mathbb{Z}\)



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Gail Holdcraft

Bakies 426 W. Coleman Blvd., Sweet C Mount Pleasant 843-881-2364

www.bakiessc.com

id you ever meet someone who is both left- and right-brained?
Soon after finishing her degree in accounting, Gail Holdcraft started making cakes. While working for former Charleston Mayor Joe Riley's father after graduation from college, Holdcraft had one of her first opportunities in custom baking. She prepared a cake for the daughter of a co-worker and learned an important lesson.

"The cake decoration came out neon, and I gave the decorator pale yellow," she remembered. "I realized that if I was going to continue baking, I had to do my own decorating."

Holdcraft soon landed a position at Johnson & Wales and, as an employee, was able to take culinary courses.

That combination of interests – accounting and cake – has stuck with Holdcraft; she now runs Bakies in Mount Pleasant in addition to helping out with her sister's CPA firm. She is thankful for the support of employees, family and friends.

"My sister comes here and makes icing, and I go there and help with taxes," she pointed out. "Another friend is our baker, another mans the front and takes orders, another is our word person and helps with weddings and email, another helps with custom cookies, and our Wando student and my husband help wherever needed."

Holdcraft admitted that "long hours and hard work" are vital to running any small business, so entrepreneurs should pick something they love. For Holdcraft, the opportunity to meet – and bake for – several generations of the same family is particularly rewarding.

"It's great to be the family baker," she mused. "To bake cakes for a little one's birthday party and then their wedding day is cool."



If Omera

r. Nicole Dahlkemper is originally from Pennsylvania and enjoys the outdoors, whether it is in the mountains or on the beach. She loves spending time with her dogs – Kirby, Sully and Ditka – reading, yoga, kayaking and giving back to the community. She volunteers her time at the local East Cooper Community Outreach Dental Clinic and also travels to various

countries to provide dental care, including the Dominican Republic and Ecuador. She most recently returned from

Peru on a mission trip with Dental Community Fellowship, where her group provided more than 900 dental services in a week. She was excited to visit Machu Picchu and climb to the top of Huayna Picchu.

Dr. Dahlkemper graduated with honors from Allegheny College with a bachelor's in Biological Neuroscience and Psychology, finishing in the top of her class. She earned her DMD from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine in Cleveland.

"I can't think of a community I would rather be in. My patients are truly wonderful people who make my job more fun. How could I not love having a business here?" said Dr. Dahlkemper.

Water's Edge Dentistry offers a full array of dental services to improve the health of your mouth and the beauty of your smile. Services range from routine cleanings to full-mouth restoration and everything in between. Dr. Dahlkemper provides TMJ therapy with the most advanced nonsurgical techniques and even treatment for sleep apnea and snoring.

"Our team attends numerous continuing education classes annually to increase knowledge and stay on top of the newest advances made in the dental field," she explained. "Our office alleviates patients' fears by providing a relaxing environment, free of judgment, where patients can feel confident in their care."



Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper

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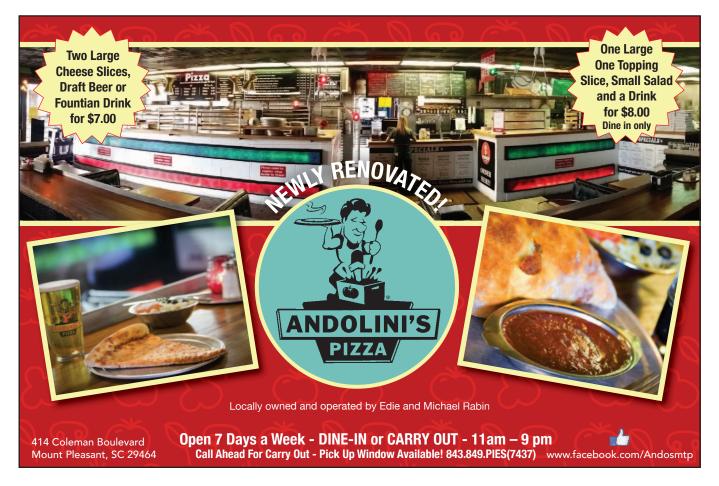


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PENING HER OWN BUSINESS was something Melissa Koger Watson always knew she wanted to do one day when the timing was right.

The president and principal designer at Spartina Cabinetry and Design Consultants, LLC, comes from a long line of business owners, so she knows the drive it takes to get the job done.

After graduating from Converse College with a degree

BY ANNE HARRIS

in Interior Design, Watson spent time in commercial and resi-

dential design in Atlanta and Charleston. She eventually settled in Charleston, where she was born and raised, and started working for a local company doing kitchen and bath design.

"Kitchen and bath was always one of my loves in design," she said.

Throughout her career, Watson also obtained professional membership in the National Kitchen and Bath Association and became an allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

It wasn't too long before the stars aligned and Watson was able to make her dreams of owning a business come true. Spartina Cabinetry and Design Consultants was opened nine years ago.

As for what she loves most about her job, Watson said, "engaging the client in all aspects of the design phase. I enjoy getting to know them personally and listening to their wants and needs. It's always rewarding to see the end product and have a satisfied client on the project."

Relationships are important to Watson in all areas of her

Melissa Watson

Spartina Cabinetry and Design Consultants l'On Square - 152 Civitas Mount Pleasant 843-971-4882 www.spartinacabinetry.com

life, and she credits her family and her church in aiding her success.

"The full and constant support of my family has always been in place," she said.

Watson also concentrates on building relationships within the community, serving on local boards and getting involved in regional kitchen and bath boards as time allows.

As a creative type, Watson is constantly looking for inspiration and said finding it feeds her soul. She enjoys cooking, travel, art and fitness and reads voraciously.

But its clear her biggest inspiration remains the people she works with each day. As she said, "I have such wonderful clients from all over that motivate me every day. I am truly passionate about what I do."



Michele Hensel

Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa 1205 Two Island Court Mount Pleasant 843-971-2860 www.lowcountryplasticsurgery.com

UCCESS COMES FROM HARD WORK, life balance and the willingness to invest in others. Michele Hensel has committed to live out these positive attributes by creating something more than just a local business.

At a young age, Hensel saw that achievement didn't come easy. She watched her father as he struggled in the working world and wanted more for himself and his family. He eventually took a chance and decided to open his own restaurant. Those were amazing years for Hensel. She witnessed her father build his dream, and, after many years of hard work, that dream became a financial success. This experience provided the foundation for how Hensel runs her business today.

Knowing that she wanted to pursue something within the medical field and help others, the Georgia native's first career path was to become a registered cardiovascular invasive specialist. At the time, there were relatively few of these specialists trained to assist cardiologists, and the technical aspect of the position appealed to her. She graduated from the Georgia Heart Institute and took her first job as a newly minted RCIS in Charlotte, North Carolina. But Hensel wanted to use her creativity as well.

"I started a gift basket business on the side after I made a few Valentine's Day baskets, and they were a hit around the hospital; people wanted more," she remembered.

Hensel started creating gifts for other occasions as well – holiday and thank you baskets soon followed the Valentine batch, and eventually she found herself running a thriving gift business.

"Although I never had a background in marketing – never went to school for it – I've always understood the importance of selling myself," she mused. "No one is going to sell your talent but you. You have to show people what you have to offer and believe in it."

In 2002, while still working in the cardiac cath lab, Hensel took a travel assignment with Memorial Hospital in Savannah, Georgia, and, while visiting a friend in Charleston, met her husband, Dr. Jack Hensel. For three years, the couple lived between Savannah and Charleston because they were engrossed in their separate careers. He was starting Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center in Mount Pleasant and she was busy with her work in Savannah.

They were married in 2006, and Hensel eventually launched her current business, Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa, where she has helped transform patients from where they are to where they want to be. Every day she is in the business of changing lives. Because of her hard work, her use of cutting-edge services and her efforts to create an atmosphere of comfort, the patients of Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa continue to rave about their experiences.

Hensel continues to be inspired by her father's example; she is creating a lasting legacy for her community, family and children.

"Being a woman who runs her own business, I fully believe that women can have it all – career and family," she said. "We just have to understand how to divide our time and create a level of balance. My motto is to surround myself with those who are wise, believe wholeheartedly in what I do, love my family with every beat of my heart and work every day at creating something that will give others a new perspective in their own lives."



Dr. Emily Curry

Sweetgrass Eyecare 3070 Highway 17 North, Suite 201 Mount Pleasant 843-352-9977 www.sweetgrasseyecare.com

medical field.

OT EVERY YOUNG CHILD HAS the opportunity or interest to watch surgeries be performed, but, for Dr. Emily Curry, owner of Sweetgrass Eyecare, those fond memories inspired her to pursue a career in the

"My dad was a private practice veterinarian, and my siblings and I grew up in that practice just as much as we grew

up in our house," she said. "As a child, I saw my father perform a lot of small animal surgeries, and it was captivating to me."

Dr. Curry has been fascinated with the human eye since high school. After working in the optometric field in college, she knew that becoming an optometrist was her dream. She earned a bachelor of arts in Biochemistry from Otterbein College and went on to graduate first in her class with a doctorate of Optometry from The Ohio State University.

She came to Charleston in 2007 as a clinical director and then worked for other private practices before opening Sweetgrass Eyecare in Mount Pleasant two years ago.

"Private practice is where my heart is, and, after having two of my three children, I knew that the next step was starting my own," Dr. Curry said. "Not only does owning my practice allow me to practice eye care the way I dream of, but I also hope that my children will have the same sort of childhood memories that I have of my dad's clinic."

While being able to set high standards of eye care and acting as a role model for her family are two perks of owning an optometry practice, Dr. Curry finds joy in helping people.

"I absolutely love seeing patients, not only examining the health of their eyes but listening to their vision problems and working with them to find a solution," she explained.

She credits her patients as the reason she and her staff strive to stay on the cutting edge of optometry by learning new techniques and employing advanced technology. Sweetgrass Eyecare offers the latest in refractive technology, contact lenses, eyewear and ocular health detection. While she is an expert in all of these services, she especially enjoys refractive surgery and fitting specialty contact lenses.

Most of all, Dr. Curry finds inspiration in her career as an optometrist through her patients.

"I love my patients, and it humbles me that they choose to come to Sweetgrass Eyecare for their vision needs," she smiled. "Vision is such a precious sense, and I love being able to help people see the best they are capable of seeing."

22





Franne Schwarb Chari Karinshak

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HE MOUNT PLEASANT AND
Charleston real estate markets are ever changing, and lately the two have been in high demand. Having an experienced and knowledgeable Realtor on your side, whether you are a buyer or seller, is essential to getting the most out of your sale or purchase.

For many people, the decision to rely upon the Charles-

BY STACY DOMINGO

ton Fine Homes Team at Coldwell Banker United, Realtors

turned out to be the right choice. Led by Franne Schwarb and Chari Karinshak, this team with more than 30 years of experience has found great success in the past five years.

"The Charleston market is still figuring out how to react

to teams. We think two heads are always better than one," said Schwarb.

"We complement each other's personalities by lending support or constructive criticism when necessary," said Karinshak. "Franne and I bring a unique perspective to the table for each transaction because we are from different generations and backgrounds. Our honest communication and trust in one another plays a key part in our success."

Schwarb and Karinshak are women in a professional field that has always had a female presence.

"Historically, women have been in real estate since its inception in the late 1700s, but mostly in clerical roles. They didn't become agents and brokers until the 1880s. I don't think we changed the profession but instead bring different perspectives," shared Schwarb. "As in any profession, you have to earn respect from your male and female counterparts. Knowledge is power."

Karinshak agreed and added, "Helping others make a major purchase in their life is a serious responsibility, not to be taken lightly. Women just beginning in the real estate profession should know that real estate is a life-consuming job choice. Flexible hours are key to meeting the ever changing needs of clients."

Today, the method for buyers to find their new home begins with the Internet, and Realtors such as Schwarb and Karinshak have adjusted.

"When I started in real estate, I chose the homes I showed my clients," explained Schwarb. "Today, my clients often go online and tell me what they want to see."

As part of the platinum level Coldwell Banker United, Realtors 'A' relocation team, Schwarb and Karinshak are usually the first to introduce newcomers to the Lowcountry. This team never forgets their goal of providing a smooth transaction, from contract to closing, by always working for their clients.

"We are honest, dependable and hardworking women who value a client's time and opinion," explained Karinshak. "Our years of experience and knowledge of the area will put our clients at ease and make for a less stressful experience. We are passionate about our business and it shows."

The ladies of the Charleston Fine Homes Team are members of the East Cooper Top Producers Club and achieved the International Diamond Society level in 2014 within the Coldwell Banker network. They are members of the Coldwell Banker Previews International, which means they are certified to participate in their luxury marketing program. Additionally, Schwarb and Karinshak are Realtors of Distinction and achieved the Coldwell Banker International Sterling Society in 2015.

operating an insurance agency is second nature. She is CEO of Schirmer Insurance Group LLC, in Mount Pleasant.

Originally from Greenville, South Carolina, Schirmer comes from a family insurance background that exceeds 62 years, beginning with her grandfather, Gene Adams, a 40-year Nationwide Insurance agent. A high school file clerk and receptionist in the insurance office, she said with satisfaction, "The summer job was always secure."

In 1983, after graduating from Winthrop University with a degree in Foreign Politics and a minor in Spanish, she married Mount Pleasant native Sam Schirmer.

"My grandfather and my grandmother baited Sam just enough to spark his interest in insurance and encouraged him to interview with Nationwide, and that was the beginning of our Lowcountry insurance life together," she said.

After five years in commercial banking and real estate, she worked privately doing interior design and renovation projects while assisting her husband with building and growing Sam Schirmer Nationwide Insurance Agency – and setting about raising a family.

"The three children added the icing to the cake, bringing major joy and consistent activity to our lives," she said.

Schirmer has engaged in every aspect of parenting, from teaching academics to coaching sports. She also acted as Booster Club president, PTA president and board member for the Charleston Collegiate School for a number of years.

In 2009, when the couple's youngest child started high school, Schirmer returned to the insurance business full-time and with vigor. She began the foundation work to open an independent insurance agency, and, in 2011 partnered with her oldest son, Sass Schirmer, to open the doors of Schirmer Insurance Group.

Today, Schirmer Insurance Group focuses on the individual insurance needs of its clients and finds solid solutions based on the planned, as well as the unexpected. The agency offers a variety of carrier options and a full line of insurance products. They gladly share their knowledge of personal and commercial property insurance guidelines within the coastal region.

Since its inception in 2009, the company has doubled in size, according to Gina Schirmer, and obtained a "full fledged" sales team, marketing team and human resources department. Finding the right fit within the company is a passion for Schirmer, as she values happy employees who



Gina Schirmer

Schirmer Insurance Group

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www.schirmerinsuranceagency.com

will keep the clients happy as well.

"We are very service and relationship focused," she explained. "We strive to have an environment that stays on top of sales and service."

One way the company keeps that service promise is through a new digital platform that sends automated emails to clients and prospective clients. As for sales, the company has achieved five acquisitions since 2009 and maintains an "internal structure that allows for growth," according to Schirmer. Her daughter, Grayson, who obtained her insurance license in January 2016, recently came on board for marketing and social media.

"We're all about relationships," Gina Schirmer emphasized. "We encourage everyone on the team to engage with the community and give back. We want our clients to feel satisfied after speaking with us."



Edie Edelson-Rabin

Juanita Greenberg's Nacho Royale 410 W. Coleman Blvd. Mount Pleasant 843-329-6224 www.juanitagreenbergs.com

T'S SAFE TO SAY THAT EDIE EDELSON-Rabin has a lot on her plate. She's the owner of Juanita Greenberg's Nacho Royale in Mount Pleasant and a partner in its downtown location and Andolini's Pizza in Mount Pleasant with her husband Michael.

After waiting tables in Atlanta, she moved to the Lowcountry in 1991 to work for a

friend's growing local restaurant group. At the same time, her boyfriend – now husband – owned an Andolini's Pizza in New Hampshire and wanted to open one in Charleston.

"We were dating and eventually I went to work for him. I said I wanted to buy the restaurant," she laughed. "We

dated for five years, and it was only after we got married that he sold it to me."

Shortly after opening downtown Charleston's first Andolini's in 1992, the couple opened Juanita Greenberg's Burrito Palace in 1994, which moved to its current location on King Street four years later. Andolini's Pizza eventually grew to five locations, some of which were sold to other entrepreneurs. Juanita Greenberg's Nacho Royale is celebrating its fifth year of serving great margaritas and Mexican food on Coleman Boulevard in Mount Pleasant.

As a mother of two teenage girls, Rabin strikes a balance between raising her children and keeping up with the operations of three restaurants.

"I would be considered the 'detail person' of daily operations. I leave the management to the restaurant managers, who do it best," she said.

Instead, Rabin spends her time ensuring things are running smoothly at all three locations and keeping her team enthusiastic in what they do.

"I make my rounds to each location. Each restaurant needs different attention for different reasons. I love being able to pop in, say hello and make sure things are clean – that kind of thing. We're a family. I check up on them to make sure everyone is happy."

With more than 25 years working in the industry, Rabin loves what she does.

"The energy of the restaurant business is non-stop," she said. "I love being around the good people who work here and the customers, too. There's never a dull moment. It makes it fun."

T WAS A FATEFUL JOG IN THE DARK that turned a light bulb on in Marnie Renshler's head, illuminating a five-year path that led to starting her own business, Mama Lights.

"I had just had my second child, and the only time I had to go running with my neighbor was at 4:30 in the mornings. One morning, my neighbor stepped on a pine cone in the dark and broke her foot," Renshler

BY ANNE TOOLE

said. "I shopped for a light we could wear to help us see on our seen – but there were no compre-

runs – and to help us be seen – but there were no comprehensive websites where I could find exactly what I needed that was also of good quality."

Over the years, Renshler scoured the Internet and tried a variety of options; some lights were too dim, some didn't stay in place well and couldn't be safely relied upon.

Renshler, who sold medical devices at the time, happened to meet with a client who mentioned to her the concept of LED lights for use in the medical field and beyond.

"He told me 'People are going to light up everything they possibly can in the next 10 to 15 years," she said. "And that really resonated with me. More than just the right light I needed for jogging, LED lights can be useful in so many applications, and that could help increase safety and even be fun."

Renshler recently left her 20-year sales career and decided to work for herself instead by selling LED light products of all varieties.

"I am what they call an affiliate Internet marketer, and I work through Amazon," she explained. "I run my website, mamalights.com, and choose the LED products that meet my standards. I market these products for the distributors on my website so that people looking for them can choose the best product for their needs in one place, and the items are sold and shipped from Amazon to your front door."

Renshler has branched out from selling only LED lights for safety and active wear; her website offers LED options for children, pets and gear, and even LED lights for events



Marnie Renshler

Mama Lights www.mamalights.com

and fun activities.

"I sell products that are useful or fun that people otherwise wouldn't know to look for," she said. "It's much more than the standard LED safety products you may think; there are LED umbrellas, rechargeable LED collars and leashes for dogs and even toy footballs to play with at night."

She is most excited, though, about sharing her passion for safety and fun with others.

"I get to go to schools and talk to children about fun ways to be safe," she beamed. "I talk to anyone who wants to listen about ways that LED can improve their lifestyle. It has improved mine and keeps my children and me safe. I love that I can do the same for others."

[2]





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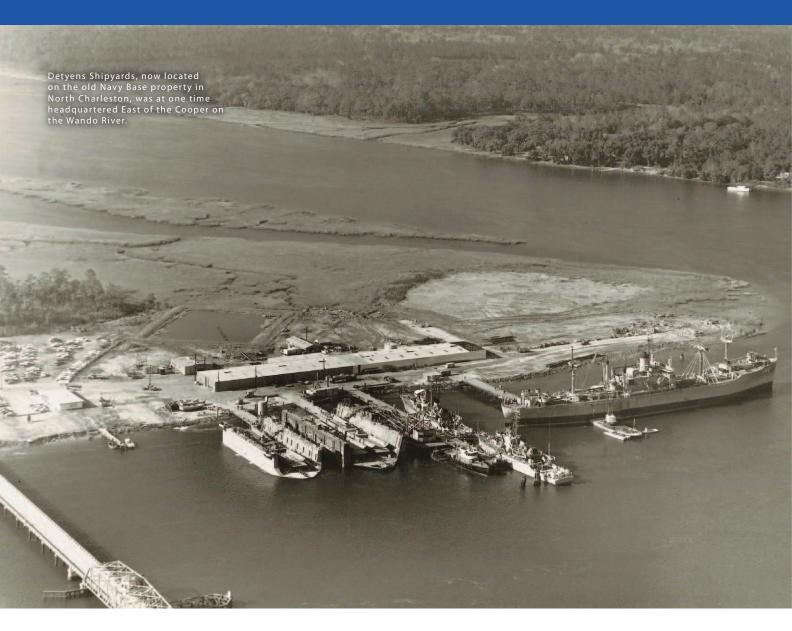
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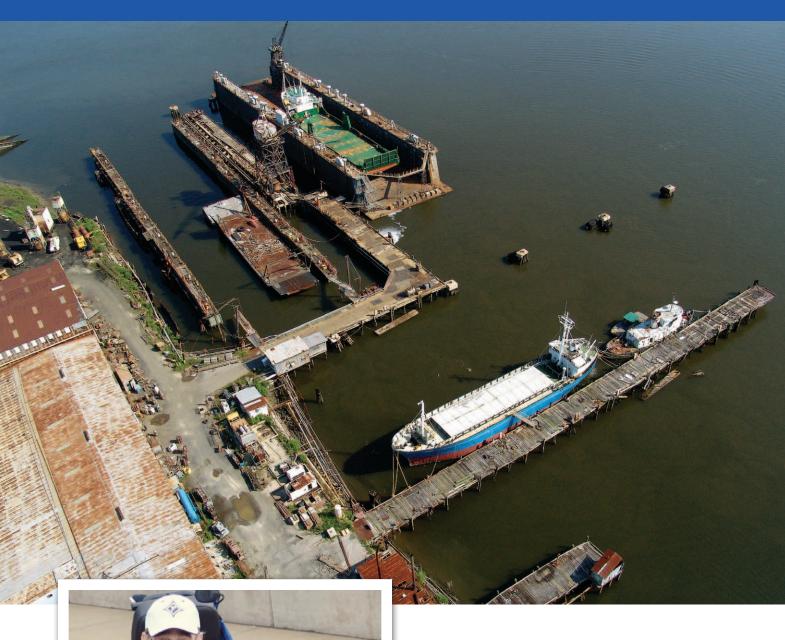
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Do Unto Others...

D. Loy Stewart and Detyens Shipyards

By Brian Sherman





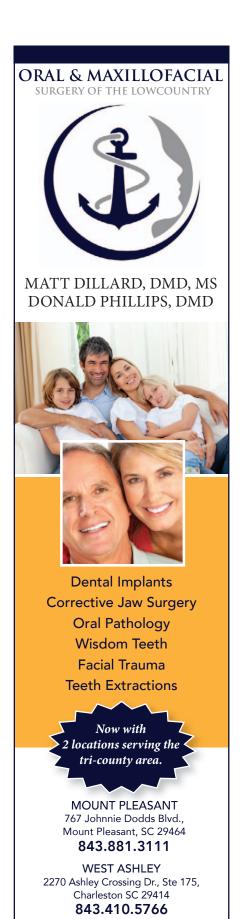
D. Loy Stewart.

HE MAN WHOSE VISION AND

business acumen were the catalyst for creating the largest commercial shipyard on the East Coast is more passionate about helping others than he is about his accomplishments in the business world.

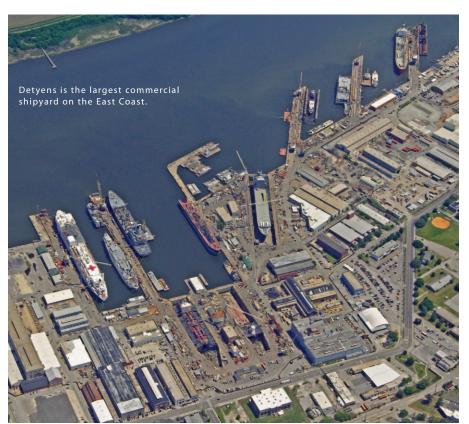
A Mount Pleasant resident since 1973, D. Loy Stewart was at the helm of Detyens Shipyards, Inc. until 2004, when he turned the day-to-day operations of the company over to his son, Loy Jr. Now serving as chairman of the board, at the age of 68, he still shows up for work every day, and he still strives to make life a little easier and a little more fun for his employees, his customers and the many other people whose lives he has touched.

Stewart was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, in 2002, and the debilitating disease has stolen his ability to walk and greatly diminished his capacity to speak. It has not,



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however, affected his determination to help his fellow human beings.

The shipyard, now located on the old Navy Base property in North Charleston, was at one time head-quartered East of the Cooper on the Wando River. Stewart, who lived in Snee Farm, was one of the founders of East Cooper School, which closed its doors in the early 1990s, and he also coached and sponsored several youth baseball teams.

He started his career with Detyens in 1973, attributing at least part of his business success to fate.

"You have to be in the right place at the right time and know the right people," he explained. "Or marry the boss' daughter."

Which is exactly what he did. When he returned to the United States in 1973 after a four-year stint in the Navy that included time at a communications station in Northern Ireland, he had the opportunity to go back to work for Milliken & Co. in Upstate South Carolina. Instead, with a degree from Furman, where he

met his future wife, Judy, he chose to accept a job with the shipyard established by his father-in-law, William J. Detyens, in 1962.

"There was no one else in the company with a college education," Stewart said. "But he didn't know what to do with me, so I started out as a helper in the yard. I didn't know what was going on."

Nevertheless, after four months in the yard, Stewart's father-in-law offered him the job of personnel manager, an opportunity he was all too happy to explore.

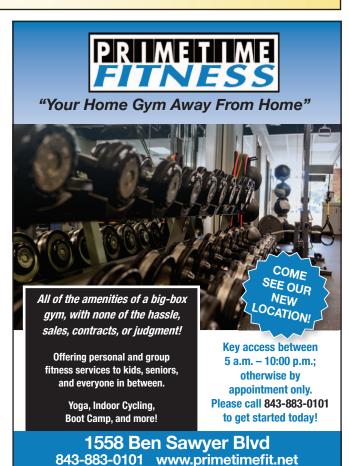
"Anything to get out of the grease and grime," Stewart explained.

Not long after, Stewart became the company's treasurer. And, in 1982, when Detyens turned 65 and decided to retire, he sold the shipyard to Stewart and company President W.R. "Red" Starke. They borrowed \$6.8 million – at a whopping interest rate of 17 percent – to seal the deal. Seven years later, on Nov. 13, 1989, Stewart offered his partner \$1.75 million for his share of the company, plus other

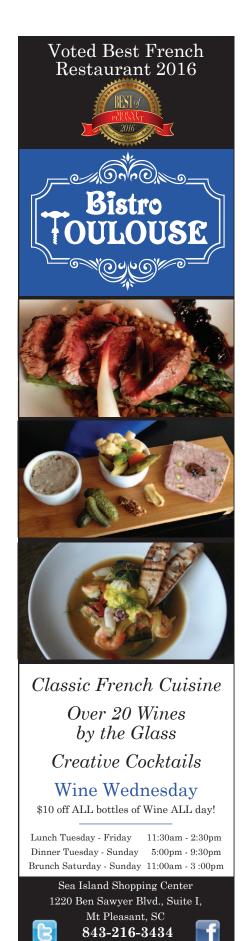


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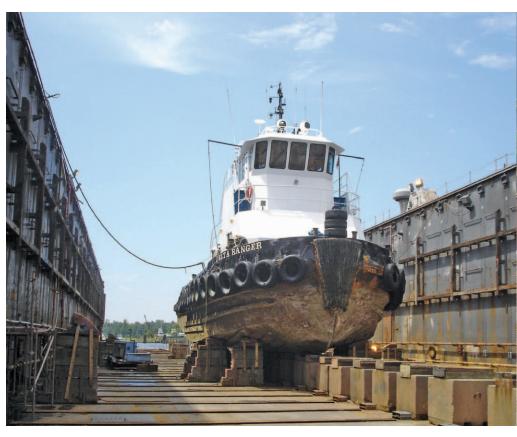








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assets. He was prepared to sell his stake in Detyens Shipyards if Starke refused the offer – sort of.

"Red was 65. I gambled that he wouldn't want to buy me out," Stewart said. "We did \$22 million in sales in 1989 and \$44 million the next year and never looked back."

And he's never stopped trying to help others succeed, whether by offering money, advice or both. His original objective was to have a positive effect on the lives of 10 people, a goal he has far exceeded.

"I bet on the who, not on the what," he explained.

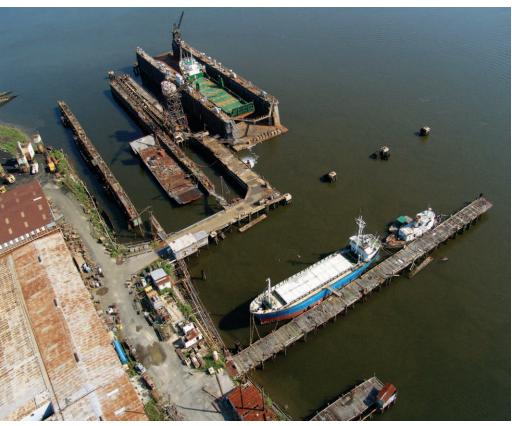
For example, Stewart cited the case of Matt Wilson, an artist from Greenville who now lives in Park Circle in North Charleston. Stewart put him on the payroll as the company's resident artist and provided him with a shop where he can work his magic. Now he makes metal models of the ships that visit Detyens regularly for repairs and maintenance. Jim Shultz,

who also has a shop at Detyens, fashions metal reliefs of the drydock for the company's customers.

These two artists are producing a few of the "pickles" Stewart provides for his customers. He explained with a story about a sandwich shop that included a pickle with each sandwich it sold. One day the restaurant's owners decided they would be better off if they charged 50 cents for the oncefree pickle. As a result, the eatery lost a lot of business.

The moral of the story, according to Stewart, is "Just give them the pickle."

He follows his own advice by providing his customers with other extras besides models of their ships and of the drydock. He also gives Detyens T-shirts to crew members and newborn clothes emblazoned with the Detyens logo to employees or customers who welcome youngsters into the world. In addition, Stewart's customers can learn how to hit a golf ball farther from three-time



World Long Drive Champion Sean "The Beast" Fister.

Though he is proud of the free "pickles" he provides for his customers, Stewart thinks his greatest accomplishment was establishing the Detyens Medical Center, an on-site facility that offers free health care and generic prescriptions for the company's 500 employees and their families.

"Many people who work here had no family doctor, and they were going to the emergency room, which ran up our insurance bill," Stewart said. "No other company in this area does that for their employees."

The medical center was established by Dr. Robert Freeman, who also runs the Harvest Free Medical Clinic, a nonprofit that moved from its original location on Midland Park Road in North Charleston to the Detyens property in 2006. Stewart's wife, Judy, suffered from multiple sclerosis, and Dr. Freeman visited her virtually every day for a year-and-a-half. She passed

away in 2012.

"I was talking with Dr. Freeman one night, and I asked him, 'If we move the Harvest Medical Clinic to our facility, will you set up a medical center for our employees?" Stewart said. "That's the best thing we ever did."

Though ALS has robbed Stewart of his ability to walk and talk, it has done little to mute his sense of humor. He enjoys offering visitors a small book titled "What Men Know About Women," which, upon further investigation, turns out to be a cover wrapped around 24 blank pages.

According to the ALS Association, the disease usually is fatal within two to five years. Fourteen years after being diagnosed with ALS, D. Loy Stewart is still playing an important role at Detyens Shipyards, Inc.

"The Lord left me here for a reason," he said. "Keeping the young guys from screwing the company up too much."



In Good Taste

The Dixie Cup for Grown-Ups Booze-Infused Ice Cream New Specials Everyday! IFE AT THE seashore lends itself to an abundance of day at Sullivan's or IOP. clever novelties, ranging from swan-shaped floats to drink tumblers that mimic a Lowcountry sunset. Now, another item that speaks to our whimsical summertime has gained Featured Southern Classics traction around East Cooper - namely booze-infused ice cream. Naysayers who are wrinkling their noses at the

Kaufmann, one of the Shelter's owners, customers particularly enjoy the margarita and mojito popsicles after a

"In the summer, we put the popsicles and ice cream in the glass



case behind the bar so people see it," he said.

SHELTER KITCHEN + BAR

The Shelter, one our favorite Shem Creek spots, is currently carrying a few choice flavors from SnoBar brand, developed by local radio personality "Slammin' Sammy" and popular for the year it's been on the menu.

idea of this chilly confection, perhaps picturing a shot of something icy and medicinal, clearly haven't been introduced to the bevy of delicious flavors available at our friendly restaurants. Interested in trying

something new on a hot afternoon?

Allow us to present a few options.

Flavors of the SnoBar brand include Brandy Alexander, Pink Squirrel and Green Grasshopper for ice cream, as well as margarita, cosmopolitan and mojito ice pops. According to Ryan

SESAME BURGERS & BEER

Sesame Burgers & Beer in Mount Pleasant has always been a favorite stop for many beach-goers and locals who are in the mood for something sweet. In fact, you might say this restaurant was serving "adult" ice cream concoctions before it was

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cool – pun intended. According to Bradford Amirault, director of operations, each shake begins with a loving helping of Breyers ice cream,

before the bartender adds other fixings such as vodka, amaretto or fresh fruits. Shakes are popular year round, he said, with a predictable increase in sales during summer. And check often — new shakes appear on the menu from time to time.

"We have a standard menu but we change it up," Amirault said. "Recently we tried a shake made with William Wolf pecan whiskey, and that was a lot of fun."

MY FATHER'S MOUSTACHE

Just a merry jaunt from Sullivan's Island, My Father's Moustache Eatery & Pub has been carrying booze-infused ice cream since last fall, and owner Rob Walker is interested in seeing how it fares during the balmier months. The flavors, all offered by J.B.'s Proof in Columbia, South Carolina, include chocolate bourbon, vanilla moonshine, coconut rum and mint julep. According to Walker, the mint julep and coconut rum varieties are popular, as are the custom cocktails made with the ice cream.

"We do drink concoctions as well as selling the ice cream in single serving cups," he noted. "Drinks have included chocolate martinis, floats made with

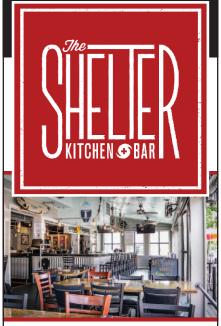


a Coke and vanilla moonshine ... whatever complements the flavor."

LAURA ALBERTS

For those who are truly looking to indulge in a first-class dessert, head to Laura Alberts on Daniel Island, where owner and operator Karen Elsey supports the local circuit with offerings made by Cirsea ice cream. According to Elsey, the bourbon caramel ice cream served with a house-made butter pecan cookie has remained a cherished option – and it's worth checking back this summer for others.

"We may replace these offerings to reflect seasonal flavors in the future," said Elsey. "They have been well-received, and we are always happy to support local food purveyors."



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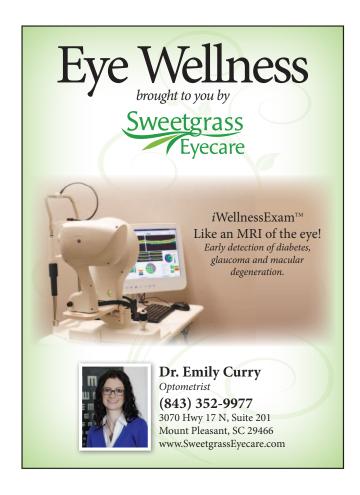
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- May 6 Machine Funk (A Tribute to Widespread Panic)
- May 13 The Dead 27s with BYOG
- May 20 Dangermuffin with Trongone Band
- May 27 Memorial Day Kickoff with the Dave Matthews Tribute Band
- June 3 Sol Driven Train with Fowlers Mustache
- June 10 Scarlet Begonias (A Tribute to The Grateful Dead)
- June 17 Sibling Rivalry with The Steppin Stones & The High Divers
- June 24 The Blue Dogs with Whiskey Run
- July 1 Season Finale with Banana Pancakes (A Tribute to Jack Johnson)







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A Haven from the Ordinary Shelter Kitchen + Bar

it, Bob Dylan promised it and now
Mount Pleasant can claim it in the
form of an enticing restaurant and bar.
The Shelter Kitchen + Bar provides
patrons a haven from the ordinary with
a laid-back atmosphere and good food and drinks.

On any given day, the large outdoor seating area is

BY PAMELA BROWNSTEIN

filled with customers who flock to this popular hangout near

Shem Creek.

The Shelter is locally owned and operated by Ashley

Berry, her brother Thomas, longtime friend Ryan Kaufmann and his father, Dave.

"As locals, we just wanted a place where you could sit outside that had affordable drinks and friendly service," said Ashley, who was born and raised in Mount Pleasant and has a master's in International Business.

What started as an idea between close friends in January 2012 quickly became reality when an ideal property became available in April. The restaurant opened in September.

Inside, the corrugated metal walls are covered with a mix of colorful paintings, beachinspired signs and chalkboards

displaying seasonal beers or daily specials. Strings of lights, intermingled with little wooden buoys, hang from the ceiling and around the bar. Ashley described the playful concept behind The Shelter as "dive bar meets beach bar; industrial meets rustic."

The mouthwatering menu features a variety of appetizers, burgers, sandwiches and entrees, with an emphasis on Southern staples and regional cuisine.

"We use fresh products, such as bread and coffee, from local businesses. And as much as possible our produce and seafood comes from local sources," said Ashley.

Now a dish off the delicious menu can be enjoyed at home thanks to The Shelter's convenient delivery service. For those with relatives visiting or with hectic family schedules, just call or order online – anytime from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the weekdays and 4 to 10 p.m. on the weekends – and specialties such as local fried shrimp or Lowcountry boil can be delivered right to your door.

The Shelter also offers full-service catering for all events, from small corporate luncheons to wedding receptions. Ashley, who oversees the catering, said she enjoys working with clients through the entire process – from planning to preparation to the final product.

No bar would be complete without live music, and bands perform a mix of rock, alternative, reggae and bluegrass on the weekends.

The business currently employs 50 to 55 people, according to Ashley, including 12 bartenders, 16 to 18 servers and many talented chefs and kitchen staff.

Ashley attributes the success of The Shelter to hard work and the support of family, friends and their loyal following of locals and tourists.

"We've built a place that we're proud of, so it's rewarding when people choose to hang out here or when visitors tell us that they make sure to come back each time they're

in town," she said. "That's the ultimate compliment."

The Shelter is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. The kitchen serves food until midnight during the week and until 1 a.m on weekends. Don't miss their popular Saturday and Sunday brunch, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Shelter is located at 202 Coleman Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more about the restaurant and its catering capabilities, visit www.theshelterkitchenandbar.com or call 843-388-3625.

Your Favorite Cuisine on the Scene The Golden Spoon Awards

T MOUNT PLEASANT MAGAZINE, we can't help but notice how excited our readers get about food – our restaurant reviews are some of the most widely read content; our *In Good Taste* magazine is thriving; and we get an incredible response whenever we give away anything food-related on social media or ask for your favorite recipes.

That's why last year we introduced the Golden Spoon Awards as a way for local restaurants to hear good news from the locals. Basically, it's a way to say "I love you" to your favorite restaurants and let them know they've given you a good experience.

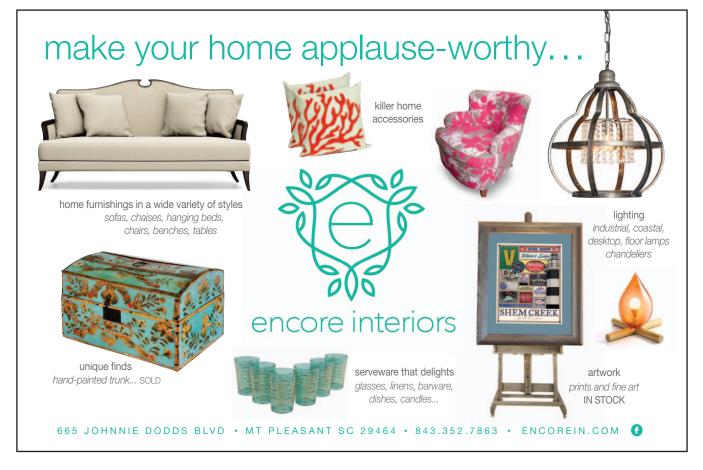
The 2017 Golden Spoon Award results will be published in our September/October issue this year. That gives you plenty of time to get out in the warm weather, enjoy your favorite meal anywhere in the tri-county area and tell us all about it.

The awards consist of five different categories: ambience of the restaurant; quality of service; quality of cuisine; selection of beers, wines and cocktails; and overall restaurant value.

Each category is represented by a spoon – hence the appearance of five spoons in our nifty new logo for the awards. The more spoons a restaurant has, the better. You'll also have the opportunity to write a short blurb describing your experience.

We are looking forward to hearing more about your favorite restaurants, and we urge you to share the news of the Golden Spoon Awards with your friends outside of East Cooper, since we're extending the opportunity to win to any restaurant in the tri-county area.

VOTE NOW at GoldenSpoonAwards.restaurant.



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A Room TO View At Steven Shell Living

CCORDING TO STEVEN SHELL,

it is important to design a room to view – not a room with a view. Thinking outside the box is not enough – living outside the box is better. Art, music, literature, architecture, design and nature are

all inspirations for furniture designer Steven Shell.

Creating and designing unique pieces of furniture is what Shell does, and now Steven

BY STACY DOMINGO

Living in Mount Pleasant is the only retail location for this international designer.

"We offer one of the most customizable furniture lines on the market," said Shell. "We understand the desire for the unique, giving our customers the opportunity to finish each piece we offer in over a million ways."

As a London-born antiques dealer, Shell has traded antiques in Eastern Europe, Great Britain, Spain and the United States, and all these places have had an effect on his designs. His current Eclection 2016, can be viewed online, along with top sellers such as Putney, the Burlington sideboard, Orleans console table and Dalston long sideboard with glass.

"Whether it is the most intense blue of the sky on a

crystal clear day or a mystical bird interpreted by a 1930s textile designer, my influences are limitless. I stay open to the infinite possibilities so that I may share my take on them with you," shared Shell. "My furniture is for people who appreciate the unexpected."

As one of the largest hand-painted furniture manufacturers in the world, the handcrafted furnishings,

most of them made of mahogany, are created by master artisans in Indonesia, following Shell's designs. Shell is a member of the Sustainable Furnishings Council.

"We manufacture all of our furniture so we're able to maintain strict environmental guidelines. All of our woods are sourced from sustainable forests," said Paul Tinkler, manager of Steven Shell Living in Mount Pleasant.

Clients have come to expect quality furniture at Steven Shell Living. The drawers are constructed using dovetail joints to ensure their durability, while finishes and distressing are

applied by hand to give each piece an individual beauty.

"We are cutting edge, but our styles are also neutral enough to use in any home," Tinkler explained.

More than 750 items leave Steven Shell Living each week for homes and businesses in the Charleston area.

"We are proud that many local businesses showcase our pieces," said Tinkler. "We are also really proud that this is a family business and that my father-in-law chose Charleston to live and to open his only retail store here. He loves the area."

Honesty, integrity and gratitude are part of every piece of furniture sold by Steven Shell Living.

"We will continue these virtues as we keep dreaming of new ways to push the boundaries

of creativity, to be passionate in every new piece we create and to never forget how we got here," Shell said. "Life happens; you may as well be comfortable."

The Contract of Co

Steven Shell has traded antiques in Eastern Europe, Great Britain and Spain, as well as in the United States.

Steven Shell Living is located at 642 Coleman Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, call 843-216-3900 or visit www.StevenShell.com.

Our Mount Pleasant Neighbors

E'RE SPENDING A LITTLE TIME WITH SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORS TO HELP YOU GET

to know them better. Get to know *us* better by liking us on Facebook at *www.facebook.com/MountPleasant-Magazine*. If you want to appear in Facetime or to suggest someone you find interesting, please email the name and contact information (email and/or phone number) to Facetime@MountPleasantMagazine.com.



Canan Erdogan Pehlivan

Lives in: Lovely Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Istanbul, Turkey.

Education: Charleston Southern University - Bachelor of science in Business Management.

Employment: Mediterranean Shipping Company.

Favorite reading: "A Novel of Rumi" by Elif Shafak

Favorite music: Earth Wind & Fire.

Activities: Going to the local beaches with friends; enjoying the beautiful parks and outdoor areas Mount Pleasant has to offer, especially walking the Pitt Street Bridge; having fun at Shem Creek happy hours with my co-workers and friends.

Interests: Sports; health; travel; and exploring.

Likes: Dogs; food; HGTV; spending time with family and friends.



Julia Walter

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Danville, Kentucky.

Education: BA, Mary Baldwin College; culinary

degree from Johnson & Wales.

Employment: Personal chef as well as a chef at High Thyme Cuisine.

Favorite reading: Cookbooks and Southern literature.

Favorite music: Widespread Panic; Grateful Dead; country; old school

Activities: Being out on the water; walking on the beach; bike rides.

Interests: Music; Kentucky basketball.

Likes: Spending time with friends.



Dana Finch

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Rostock, Germany.

Education: Bachelor's in Transportation.

Employment: Container shipping.

Favorite reading: Whatsapp messages from my friends and family from Germany.

Favorite music: Everything that makes me feel good. I love Norah Jones, and my favorite German band is called Silbermond.

Activities: Yoga; traveling; biking; outdoors.

Interests: Spending time with my husband and son; trying new restaurants; walks on the beach; picnics in the park; shopping.

Likes: Long breakfasts on the weekend; hanging out on our back porch; hot coffee; seeing my son smile; fresh air on a sunny morning.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Enjoy the little things in life. ... for one day you'll look back and realize they were the big things."



Elizabeth Raub

Lives in: Sullivan's Island, South Carolina.

From: A small town in rural Maryland.

Education: Bachelor's degree in English.

Employment: Shopkeeper at Vivi & Kate, a Mount Pleasant women's boutique.

Favorite reading: Non-fiction mostly – history, theology and graphic novels.

Favorite music: Bluegrass and folk.

Interests: God; guns; and the *New York Times* crossword puzzle. I recently started birding.

Likes: Sunshine; old pickup trucks; walks in the woods.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

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