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MOUNT PLEASANT

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2016

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MAGAZINE

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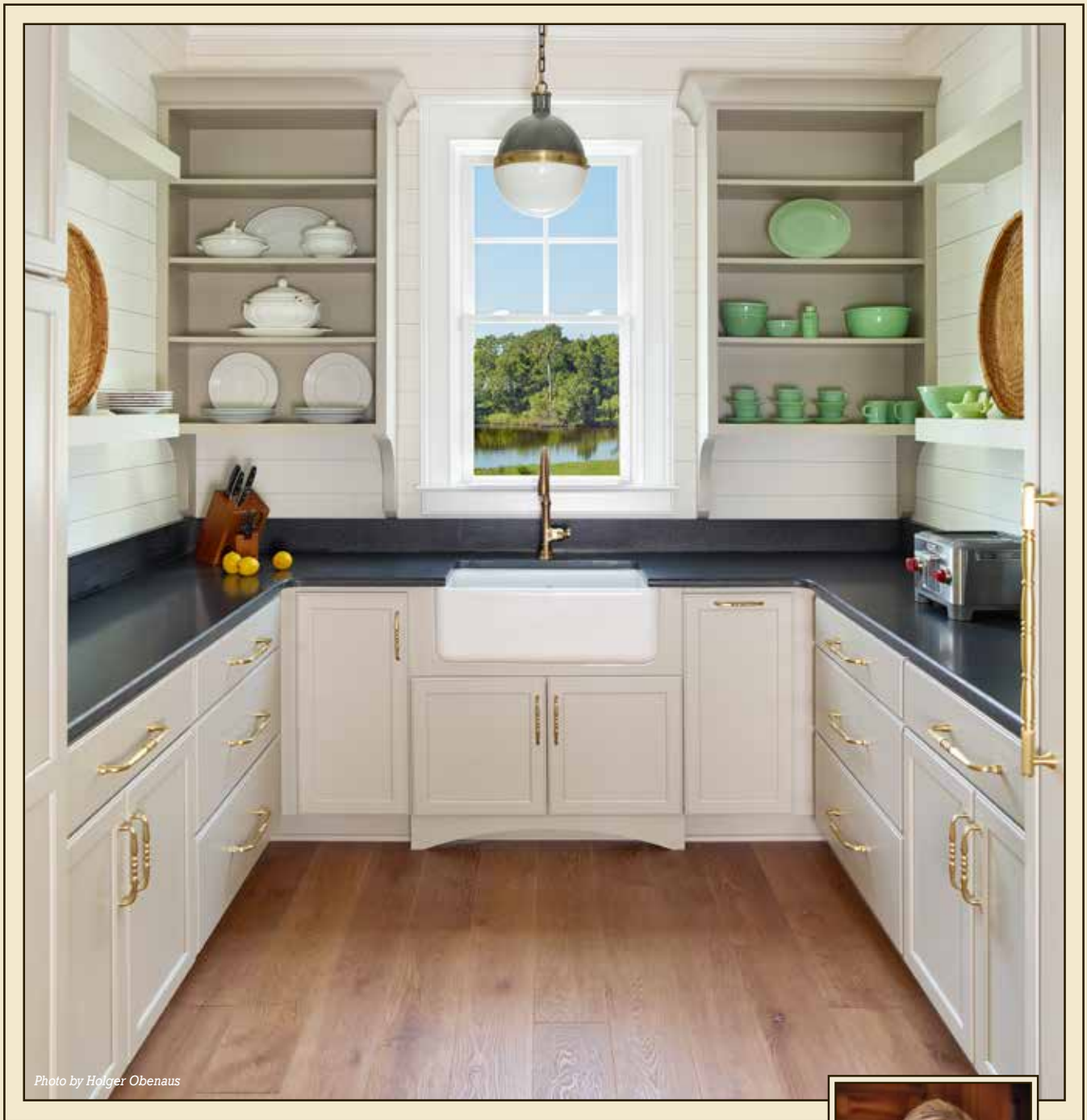


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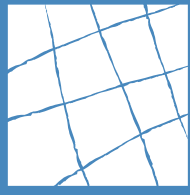
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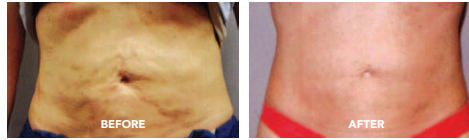
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Publisher's Note

MOUNT PLEASANT

MAGAZINE

Vol. 6, Issue 6
November/December 2016

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I FEEL THE HOLIDAYS BRING OUT THE BEST IN ALL OF US. I just wish we all could retain appreciation for what we have and the desire to help people 365 days a year instead of the short period of time surrounding the holidays. Let's face it – giving our time and resources to support a worthwhile idea or someone in need rewards the giver.

Publishing *Mount Pleasant Magazine* brings me joy, and it's one of the ways I feel I'm giving back to our community. It isn't a job to me – as a matter of fact, it's not even close to the conventional definition of a job. Yes, we are a business. We make money and we pay local, state and federal taxes. But all of us here at *Mount Pleasant Magazine* genuinely enjoy expressing our craft through the pages of our publication. We love telling our 80,000+ readers how much we enjoy living in Mount Pleasant. Around our office, every time one of our magazines goes to the printer, it feels like Christmas.

I can hear you saying, "Really Bill? Do you and the team REALLY feel like it's Christmas all year long?" The unequivocal answer is yes, that is the way all of us feel here at *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.

Take this issue as an example. After publishing an article written by Santa Claus himself, who wouldn't feel upbeat? I was surprised he even had time to contribute; as I'm writing this, he and his helpers are busy getting ready for their busiest time of the year. I know our readers will really like hearing what Santa had to say about moving to Mount Pleasant for the off-season.

We've also published articles about local business that give back. This year's Biggest Hearts stories will brighten anyone's mood. Meanwhile, honoring the brave, wounded and fallen in the The Medal of Honor Museum article should inspire anyone to stand proud. Another article explains how local churches are bringing people together to worship, and it shows where Mount Pleasant's residents' hearts are.

This is the kind of content we strive to bring our readers. Wouldn't you feel excited if your mission was to tell people how much you enjoy the town you live in? I like to think of it as our way of giving back.

I'm also happy to announce another way that I'll personally be giving back. I will be part of the Mayors' Commission on Homelessness and Affordable Housing, which includes Mayors Linda Page and John Tecklenburg. I'm looking forward to supporting this worthwhile effort. One of the side benefits of giving your time to a worthy cause is that you surround yourself with giving people. Isn't that one of the treasures in life – having associates and friends who are thoughtful, thankful and giving? 🐾

Enjoy your holidays and this issue of *Mount Pleasant Magazine!*



— BILL MACCHIO
Publisher





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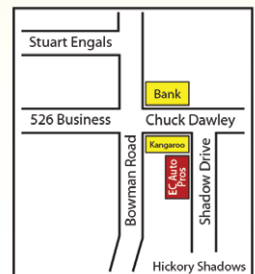
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From the Editor

“Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.”

-Jill and Sy Miller

THE CONCEPT OF peace, while it appears often in our holiday rhetoric, is something we all have to work on a little more – not just in November or December. But when we’re bombarded with negative images from society – mass shootings, terrorism, poverty – how do we keep from becoming bitter?

Y’all know how I am when something crosses my mind; I’ve been thinking about this peace that we all need. And I’ve come up with a theory that it has to start from the ground up. There’s no way we can feel good if we focus on what the ENTIRE world needs. If we scale it way back to what our neighbor needs, we begin to build the foundation of peace.

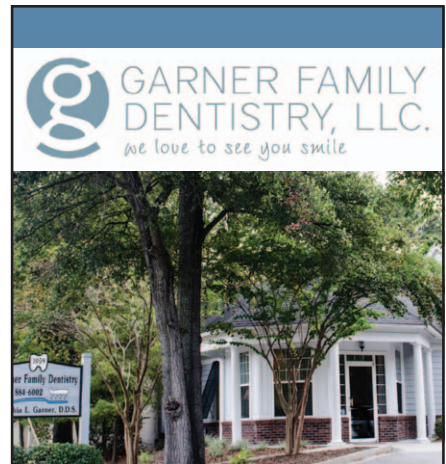
Take, for example, the businesses profiled by Anne Toole and Brian Sherman in our annual Biggest Hearts feature. These businesses are reaching out to the community to make it better, providing help and hope to individuals and families who need assistance. As for the youngsters who are already learning to be great citizens, check out Stacy Domingo’s feature on church youth groups. It’s inspiring how these teens are proactive about making our corner of the globe a more compassionate place.

Elsewhere in the issue is an array of diverse content, sure to make you feel proud of where we live. There’s Brian Sherman’s feature on the upcoming Medal of Honor museum; Samantha Sullivan’s profile of a local doctor who pens books for kids – even an essay by St. Nick himself on the reasons he spends his summers in East Cooper.

We’re always talking about the feeling of community that we have on this side of the bridge, particularly when someone asks what we love best about Mount Pleasant. So let’s use the very thing that we love to our advantage. Let’s reach out to neighbors and acquaintances to make their days easier. Let’s knock on their doors rather than sending messages on Facebook. And when we exclaim “peace on Earth” during the holidays, let’s start with our own backyards, the earth that is nearest to us.

On behalf of everyone at *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, we wish you and yours a peaceful and joyous season. 🍷

Yours,
DENISE K. JAMES
Editor



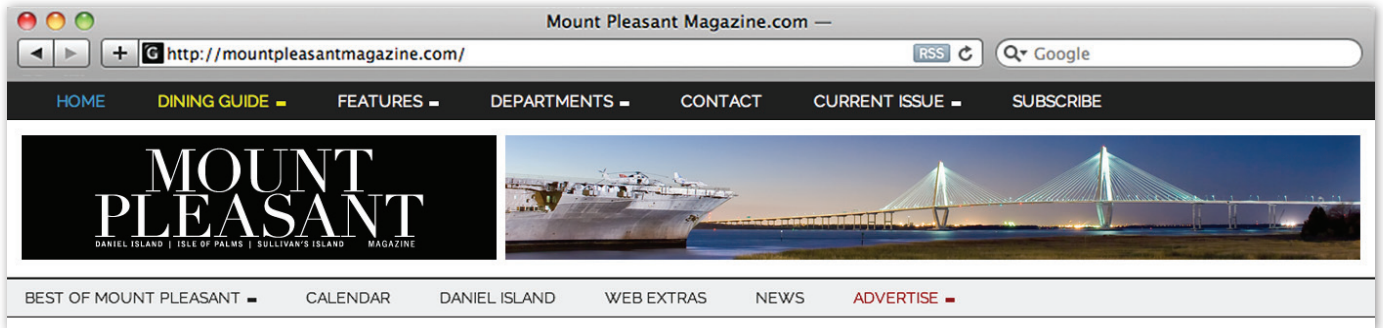
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VISIT WWW.MOUNTPLEASANTMAGAZINE.COM FOR MORE THAN WHAT YOU SEE IN THE PRINT MAGAZINE: more stories, more photographs and more fun stuff in general.

After the gluttony of the holidays, there's no excuse not to participate in **Charleston's Health & Wellness Expo**, Jan. 9 and 10 at the Gaillard Auditorium. Our sister publication, **HealthLinks Charleston**, is helping host the event. Find out more at charlestonphysicians.com/expo.

It's winter now, but don't forget to take adorable photos of your pets for the next pet issue in the summer! You can submit photos and stories about your dog or cat (or pig or rat, for that matter) at mountpleasantmagazine.com/petphotos.



And definitely check out our Web Extras page online at mountpleasantmagazine.com for even more photos of our **Food & Fashion 2016** spread! These gorgeous people and gorgeous restaurants outdid themselves.

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Our Contributors



Jenn Cady, a photographer and visual branding expert, was recently selected as second best people/headshot photographer in the world by *Shoot & Share*. She has shot for *People*, *Glamour*, *Cosmo* and *Seventeen* magazines. Jenn lives in Mount Pleasant with her husband and two children.



Charleston based photographer **Rick Walo** focuses on commercial and editorial assignments for his Lowcountry clients. He enjoys getting his clients involved in the photographic process by making sessions fun and collaborative. Rick's work can be seen in *Mount Pleasant Magazine* and its supplements as well as *Charleston Style & Design*. He is also a featured photographer for Web-based *The Daily Meal*.

A writer, photographer, marketer and lover of all things creative, **Kalene McCort** brings a fresh perspective to every medium she pursues. Having called Florida and Colorado home, she feels lucky to now reside on the Carolina coast. Her work has appeared in *Ebysian*, the *Orlando Sentinel*, the *Sun-Sentinel*, *Chicago Tribune*-owned *Metromix*, *The Sanford Herald* and The University of Colorado's *Research Innovations* magazine.



Rachel Maile is a sophomore at Academic Magnet High School. In addition to writing, she enjoys music, reading and hanging out with her two dogs, Zeus and Percy.

Barry Waldman is chief thinker and doer at Big Fly Communications, helping small businesses create great public relations and marketing. He specializes in conjuring words and images that leap off the page and dance the cha-cha with readers. Barry and his wife are owned by a cat named Tater who allows them to live with her on James Island.



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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NOVEMBER

5TH SHESTRONG TEEN SUMMIT

When: Nov. 5, 2016

Time: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Location: CofC School of Professional Studies

Join the Center for Women for SheStrong! Current 9th-11th grade young women will be engaged in hands-on workshops, collaborative art projects, music and some exciting keynote talks that are designed to inspire them to become confident about who they are and wish to become. Ticket price: \$16 - includes lunch

Visit for more information and tickets: [C4Women](#).

9TH-10TH HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS FUN RUN & WALK

When: Nov. 9-10, 2016

Time: Begins at 6:30 – plan to arrive early

Location: James Island County Park

This event is a two-mile run/walk and is an awesome way to get a unique preview of the Holiday Festival of Lights before it officially opens on Nov. 11. After the walk, guests can enjoy all that the festival has to offer. General admission is \$12 per person. **Register online at:** [www.ccprc.com/1184/Holiday-Festival-of-Lights-Fun-Run-Walk](#)



10TH-13TH DISNEY ON ICE

When: Nov. 10-13, 2016

Time: Showings range from 1 p.m.-7 p.m.

Location: North Charleston Coliseum

Guests are taken on an awesome adventure with Tinkerbell and experience firsthand many cherished Disney tales. Prices range from \$15 to \$81, depending on seating. **For more information and to buy tickets, go to:** [www.northcharlestoncoliseum.com/events/detail/disney-on-ice](#)

11TH-Jan 1ST HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

When: Nov. 11, 2016 – Jan. 1, 2017

Time: Sunday - Thursday:

5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Location: James Island County Park

This famed annual event features more than 700 light displays throughout a three-mile-long drive. It was named by *USA Today* as one of one of the “10 Best Holiday Light Shows in America” and has everything from sweet shops to carousels. Admission is \$20 per vehicle. **Find out more at:** [www.ccprc.com/1546/Holiday-Festival-of-Lights](#)



Until Apr 8TH SOUTH CAROLINA STINGRAYS

When: Several games a

month until April 8, 2017

Time: Varies

Location: North Charleston Coliseum

Come support your local hockey team, the South Carolina Stingrays, during the height of the hockey season!

For more information and to buy tickets, visit: [www.stingrayshockey.com/games](#)

11TH-12TH YALLFEST

When: Nov. 11-12, 2016

Time: Event times vary

Location: Charleston Music Hall

The Charleston Young Adult Book Festival, a beloved annual event, includes many literature-related discussions, games and fun with bestselling authors. Featured authors this year include Sabaa Tahir and Eoin Colfer. **For more information and to buy tickets, go to:** [www.charlestonmusichall.com/event/yallfest](#)

24TH 39TH ANNUAL TURKEY DAY RUN AND GOBBLE WOBBLE 5K

When: Nov. 24, 2016

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Starts and ends in Marion Square

Is there a better way to spend your Thanksgiving morning than by giving back to local charities by participating in the Turkey Day Run? The run starts at Marion Square, loops around the Battery and then heads back to Marion Square along King Street. It's an awesome way to connect with people and tour downtown Charleston. **Register online at:** www.turkeydayrun.com

25TH -Dec 23RD CHARLESTON HOLIDAY PROGRESSIVE DINNER

When: Nov. 25-Dec. 23, 2016

Time: 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Location: Circa 1886 Restaurant

For the 31st year in a row, Charming Inns and Circa 1886 Restaurant are hosting evenings where diners will travel to three different locations by carriage. The dinner will start with appetizers at Historic Kings Courtyard Inn, proceed to a three-course meal at Circa 1886 Restaurant and finish with dessert at Rutledge House Inn. Admission is \$100 per person. **Find out more and make a reservation at:** www.circa1886.com/events/31st-annual-progressive-dinner

30TH -Dec 18TH WHITE CHRISTMAS

When: Showings run from Nov. 30-Dec. 18

Time: Varies

Location: Dock Street Theatre

Based on the classic film, follow along as Veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis chase after two beautiful sisters on the way to their Christmas show in Vermont. Hilarious and heartwarming, it is sure to add some holiday cheer to your winter. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$67, depending on age and seating. **For more information and ticket purchases go to:** www.charlestonstage.com/shows-and-tickets/the-shows/40-white-christmas

DECEMBER

2ND & 9TH CHRISTMAS 1860

When: Dec. 2 and Dec. 9, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Location: Edmondston-Alston House

Tour the historic Edmondston-Alston House while celebrating a traditional Christmas as it would have been in the Victorian Era. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. **For more information and ticket purchases go to:** www.edmondstonalston.com/visit/special-events

3RD ISLE OF PALMS HOLIDAY STREET FESTIVAL

When: Dec. 3, 2016

Time: 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

Location: Isle of Palms Front Beach

Enjoy fun for the whole family and kick off the holiday season Lowcountry style – on the beach! This festival will include live music, kiddie rides, balloon art, face painting, delicious food, a Santa Claus appearance plus more!



3RD CHARLESTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA: HOLIDAY SWING

When: Dec. 3, 2016

Time: 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Location: Charleston Music Hall

Want to get into the holiday swing of things? Going to one of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra's two showings would do the trick. Conducted by Charlton Singleton, it is sure to please. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$55. **Buy tickets online at:** charlestonmusichall.com/event/charleston-jazz-orchestra-holiday-swing/ **for the 5 p.m. showing, and** charlestonmusichall.com/event/charleston-jazz-orchestra-holiday-swing-2 **for the 8 p.m. showing.**

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4TH WINE UNDER THE OAKS AT BOONE HALL PLANTATION
When: Dec. 4, 2016
Time: 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Location: The back lawn of Boone Hall Plantation.

Wine Under the Oaks at Boone Hall Plantation has grown to become one of the most popular Christmas holiday events in the South Carolina Lowcountry. This year's ticket price includes complimentary wine samples as well as "bubbles," live music by famed musician Tom Scott and nibbles. **For more information go to:** boonehallplantation.com/wine_under_the_oaks

4TH CITY OF CHARLESTON HOLIDAY PARADE
When: Dec. 4, 2016
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Broad Street at Barre Street

Hosted by the city of Charleston and the Charleston Fire Department, this festive parade will start at Broad Street, travel along King Street and end on Calhoun Street at Meeting Street. **Find out more at:** www.charleston-sc.gov/index.aspx?NID=1073

8TH -17TH GOVERNOR THOMAS BENNETT HOUSE HOLIDAY TEA AND TOUR
When: Dec. 8-17, 2016
Time: Varies
Location: Gov. Thomas Bennett House

Experience the charm of the South by enjoying tea, treats and a guided tour at Gov. Thomas Bennett's home. Tickets are \$45 per person. **Find out more at:** www.governorthomasbennetthouse.com/

9TH -11TH CHARLOTTE BALLET PRESENTS: NUTCRACKER
When: Dec. 9-11, 2016
Time: Varies
Location: The Gaillard Center

This renowned show should definitely be a part of your holiday season. Coordinated by Artistic Director Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux, enjoy this production of the classic holiday favorite featuring the Charlotte Ballet, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and more than 100 dancers. **For more information and to buy tickets, go to:** www.gaillardcenter.com



10TH 39TH ANNUAL KIAWAH ISLAND MARATHON
When: Dec. 10, 2016
Time: 8 a.m.
Location: 1 Sanctuary Beach Drive, Kiawah Island

Experience all of the beauty of Kiawah Island by running through East Beach Village, and witness amazing views of the island's beautiful marshes, homes and forests. **Register online at:** www.kiawahresort.com/recreation/kiawah-island-marathon

10TH HOLIDAY FARMERS MARKET AND CRAFT SHOW
When: Dec. 10, 2016
Time: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Location: Farmers Market Pavilion - Mount Pleasant

If you're looking for fresh produce and eclectic holiday finds, the annual Farmers Market & Craft Show is the place to go! Enjoy live entertainment and a wide variety of activities, such as face painting and jump castles. **Find out more at:** www.comeonovermp.com/index.aspx?nid=114

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10TH FAMILY YULETIDE IN THE STABLEYARDS

When: Dec. 10, 2016

Time: 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Location: Middleton Place

The Family Yuletide in the Stableyards of Middleton Place is the perfect opportunity to create and shop for holiday trinkets. Natural items from the plantation will be provided for crafts as well as seasonal refreshments. Ticket prices are up to \$15. **Find out more at:** www.middletonplace.org/visiting-middleton-place/events-calendar/312-december-10-family-yuletide-in-the-stableyards.html

11TH 21ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LIGHT PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING

When: Dec. 11, 2016

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Coleman Boulevard - Mount Pleasant

Over 100 holiday-themed floats will parade down Coleman Boulevard. A fireworks display and lighting of the town of Mount Pleasant Christmas Tree will kick off the parade. **Find out more at:** www.comeonovermp.com/index.aspx?nid=115



15TH A SKYLARK VOCAL ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS

When: Dec. 15, 2016

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Gaillard Center

This is your opportunity to get in the holiday spirit by taking advantage of this free, annual concert of classic carols. **Find out more at:** www.skylarkensemble.org



15TH THE TENORS

When: Dec. 15, 2016

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Gaillard Center

This is your once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the award-winning group The Tenors. Clifton Murray, Victor Micallef, Remigio Pereira and Fraser Walters will perform live. The group's album, "Under One Sky," debuted at #1 on Billboard's "Classical Albums" chart, and the group has appeared on stage with performers such as Elton John and Paul McCartney. **Find out more at:** http://www.charlestoncvb.com/events/the-tenors-10998/?search=&end_date=02/01/2017&category=&start_date=11/10/2016

17TH THIRD ANNUAL NEXTON COCOA CUP 5K

When: Dec. 17, 2016

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Nexton Community

Join the "fastest 5k course in greater Charleston" by running through Summerville's Nexton community. The first five overall finishers will medal, as well as the top three in each age group. There will be an exciting after-party, complete with food, drinks and DJ Natty Heavy. **Register online at:** www.nexton.com/cocoacup

17TH THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

When: Dec. 17, 2016

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Sottile Theater

A cherished holiday favorite – sing along as you watch actors and dancers perform your favorite songs of the season. Tickets are up to \$12. **Find out more at:** chambermusiccharleston.com/index.php/classic-kid-concerts

**Holiday Market
& Craft Show**

DEC. 10

Farmers Market Pavilion
11 am – 4 pm

**Tree Lighting &
Christmas Light Parade**

DEC. 11

Coleman Boulevard
5:30 pm

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JANUARY

9TH - 10TH CHARLESTON HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO
When: Jan. 9-10, 2017
Time: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Location: Gaillard Auditorium

The goal of this event is to connect with and serve the Charleston community to promote health and wellness. **For more information, go to:** www.charlestonphysicians.com/expo

17TH CHARLESTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - HOLIDAY POPS
When: Dec. 17, 2016
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: The Gaillard Center

Orchestrate an appearance at the Gaillard Center to enjoy the annual Charleston Symphony Orchestra holiday celebration. Ticket prices range from \$12.50 to \$98. **For more information and to buy tickets, go to:** www.charlestonsymphony.org/FY17-Season/17Concerts/Pops/Holiday/index.html



13TH - 15TH CHARLESTON MARATHON
When: Jan. 13-15, 2017
Time: 11 a.m., Jan. 13
Location: Throughout Charleston

Burn off those holiday-time calories by participating in either the marathon, half-marathon, bike ride, youth marathon or Shrimp and Grits 5k. The official marathon starts on Jan. 14, but be sure to register by the 13th at the Charleston Convention Center or online. The event will feature way more than just the marathon; it will also include a festival, entertainment, kids-fun area and T-shirts and medals for all participants. **For more information and to register go to:** www.charlestonmarathon.com

31ST 4TH ANNUAL CHARLESTON ROSE BALL
When: Dec. 31, 2016
Time: 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Location: Johnson Hagood Stadium

Celebrate New Year's Eve in style at this annual, upscale ball held by Charleston After Dark and IceBox Bar. Prepare for a festive night full of entertainment, charm and food. Space is limited, so be sure to purchase tickets as soon as possible. **For more information and ticket purchases go to:** charlestonroseball.com/countdown-to-new-years-eve-2016/

31ST NEW YEAR'S EVE 2016 DINNER
When: Dec. 31, 2016
Time: TBA
Location: Circa 1886 Restaurant

Commemorate the arrival of 2017 with a delicious and festive six-course dinner at Circa 1886 Restaurant. Tickets are \$140 per guest. **Find out more at:** www.circa1886.com/events/new-years-eve-2016

23RD PILOBOLUS - SHADOWLAND
When: Jan. 23, 2017
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: The Gaillard Center

Looking for a show that combines dance, music, circus and shadow acts? This unique performance, created by Pilobolus, is the place to find it. A collaboration between Steven Banks, a talented writer, and David Poe, a popular musician/composer, this surreal performance is definitely something you won't want to miss. **For more information and to buy tickets, go to:** www.gaillardcenter.com



29TH 34TH ANNUAL LOWCOUNTRY OYSTER FESTIVAL

When: Jan. 29, 2016

Time: 10 a.m-5 p.m.

Location: Boone Hall Plantation

The Lowcountry Oyster Festival is the world's largest oyster festival and has been named one of the "top 20 events in the Southeast" by Southeastern Tourism Society. Highlights include the legendary oyster shucking and oyster eating" contests, live music on the main stage, wine, a selection of domestic and imported beers, a children's area and a food court showcasing a variety of local favorite restaurants to satisfy everyone's taste. **For more information, go to:** www.charlestonrestaurantassociation.com/lowcountry-oyster-festival

FEBRUARY

1ST AMERICA'S GOT TALENT AUDITIONS COMING TO CHARLESTON

When: Feb. 1, 2017

Time: TBA

Location: Embassy Suites and Convention Center

Got talent? Prove it as the popular NBC show, "America's Got Talent," comes to the Charleston area for the first time to kick off its 12th season. Auditions are open to anybody of any age, but be sure to sign up. Who knows, you may soon find yourself with the \$1 million and headlining a show in Vegas that is awarded to the best act. **Find out more and sign up at:** www.americasgottalentauditions.com/audition-cities/charleston



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A Toast Beneath the Trees

Wine Under The Oaks 2016

DOWN SOUTH, IT'S FAIR TO say we enjoy our adult beverages. Wine plays a major role in most every social occasion. Whether we are sipping a refreshing white on an old porch swing or warming up with a bold, hearty red around the fire, good times are bound to ensue. Every winter,

BY KALENE MCCORT

East Cooper hosts what could be considered the grand mecca of vino. Wine Under The Oaks attracts locals and visitors eager to get a taste of music, culinary treats and, of course, plenty of that fermented goodness we all know and love. This year the event will take place on Dec 4, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and promises to draw plenty of foodies looking to kick off the holiday season in style. Come on out to Boone Hall Plantation and experience an event unlike any other.

SOUNDTRACK

Past Wine Under The Oaks' have always provided a soundtrack to match a day of sipping and sampling. In prior years, live entertainers such as Spyro Gyra and Booker T. Jones have ignited the stage with their performances as smooth as a chardonnay's oaky finish. This year, Grammy-award-winning saxophonist Tom Scott will bring his musical stylings to Boone Hall Plantation. If you've owned a radio or TV in the last 40 years, chances are you've heard Scott's work. From collaborating with well-known musical icons to writing scores for film and television blockbusters, his varied career knows no bounds. His body of work has been sampled by a roster of diverse artists who continue to top the charts. Everyone from Madonna to Bruno Mars has woven his work into their recordings – creating a multilayered sound of past and

present that delights the ears.

Scott and The L.A. Express will take guests on a musical journey of dips and grooves, as varied as the bounty of wines uncorked that day.

SIP

The main attraction summoning folks to gather on this brisk winter afternoon is definitely the wine. This year, Boone Hall Plantation will welcome a number of wineries



Photo courtesy of Boone Hall Plantation.

and wine distributors ready to fill your glass with some of the best regional and faraway blends. If you happen to fall for a bottle you just can't live without, be sure to visit The World of Wines retail tent to take home a brand at a discounted price. And enjoy complimentary 'bubbles' courtesy of Biltmore Estates.

SEE

Artwork from legendary local artist Jonathan Green will be on display as well. Take in his captivating scenes of Gullah life in breathtaking depictions of the Lowcountry. His work delights the eye and calls to the onlooker to



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come in for a closer look. Escape into cool blue waters and fields of gold, while pleasing your taste buds with crisp Riesling or silky Cab.

And be sure to participate in the silent auction, where proceeds will go directly to the Red Cross.

Ever wonder what goes into those mouthwatering dishes you enjoy at local restaurants? Now you can get an inside look at the prep and process with local chef demos. Check out the portable kitchen where The Culinary Institute at Trident Technical College and The Charleston Restaurant Association will be flipping, sautéing and frying.

In addition to the day's events of eating and drinking, attendees can get in the holiday spirit by visiting the many gorgeously decorated dwellings at Boone Hall. Vibrant wreaths, oversized trees with twinkling lights and an array of different shades of blooming poinsettias hug every corner of this real-life working plantation. Stroll through the plantation mansion to get a glimpse of ornaments woven out of local sweetgrass and decorations bursting with real, live fruit.

SAVOR

Pairing wine with food can bring your culinary

experience to new heights. A dozen of Charleston's finest restaurants will be on hand serving up some of the most delicious food South of the Mason-Dixon Line for purchase. With fresh seafood options and innovative tapas, these outstanding eateries know how to satisfy. Enjoy discounted dishes from Water's Edge, The Granary, Five Loaves, Crave, Cru, Burtons Grill, Langdon's, Charleston Fish House and many others.

SAMPLE

In addition to wine, included in your ticket price is the opportunity to taste of some of the finest grub in town. Satisfy your sweet tooth with complimentary desserts provided by Cypress of Charleston. Feast on some oysters from Crosby's Seafood. A variety of breads and spreads will also be served up courtesy of Harris Teeter. Boone Hall Farms and The Wine Shop will be serving fare as well. 🍷

For more on Wine Under The Oaks and to purchase tickets, visit boonehallplantation.com/wine_under_the_oaks. We hope to see you under those moss draped live oaks, enjoying the dry, sweet and everything in between.



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Off Duty in East Cooper

SANTA THE SANDBIRD

By S. Claus

Photos by Jenn Cady

WHAT'S HAPPENED IN YOUR LIFE OVER THE past five years? Quite a lot, I'd venture.

Well, same here. Five years ago, one of the intrepid reporters for this very publication tracked me down at home at the North Pole. Normally, I would have ducked him and directed my PR elf, Manny, to call him back or just issue a press release. I get enough publicity every

December when I zip around the world dropping off Christmas presents to each and every kid who's been nice and not naughty over the past year. But the caller was from Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, and I'd developed a soft spot in my heart for that booming little town by the sea.

I told that inquiring newshawk that my experiences during my visits to Mount P. had always been positive, and I even suggested that if I were planning a vacation, the town would be pretty high on my list of potential getaway stops.



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Now that suggestion has become reality, and in a way that I never would have envisioned. Let me explain.

First, don't forget that living and working at the North Pole isn't exactly a walk on the beach – pretty good analogy, don't you think? By the time I set off on my annual world tour, the Pole – I like to call it Memorial Waterfront Park North – is dark 24 hours a day. By June, of course, the sun never sets, but try working on your tan when an Arctic heat wave staggers up to only around 60 degrees.

But I digress. Truth to tell, once my yearly Christmas journey is completed, I'm at loose ends for at least a few months. Technology has arrived at the Pole, and, thanks to high-speed computing, robotics and 3-D printing, most of my elves have moved into supervisory positions. I'm more or less like the CEO who spends much of his time on the golf course, except that the permafrost where I live makes it kind of hard to grow a green or dig a cup. Mrs. Claus likes our new arrangement because it frees her up to knit, bake and watch reality shows on our satellite TV. (She's lobbying for "Real Housewives of the Arctic Circle.") So the wife is happy at the North Pole, but she's not opposed to the occasional vacation elsewhere.

Long story short, last year I decided to turn over a new palmetto frond, so to speak. I'd make an unannounced visit to Mount Pleasant and see if it was as inviting as I'd said it was when I was asked five years ago.

Getting there wasn't as easy as it was when I simply hopped into my sleigh, snapped a brisk command to my eight tiny reindeer (plus Rudolph, of course) and cleared myself for takeoff. We had to slip into Fairbanks unnoticed to catch the first of four flights that would carry me to Dixie. Lucky we'd had all that experience dropping off toys without being spotted!

By the way, that's one thing that would make Mount Pleasant even more popular – a few direct flights from far-flung cities into Charleston International Airport. Or maybe it's best that it's tough to get there – keeps the riffraff away!

I'd booked myself a room at the Holiday Inn down by the Ravenel Bridge so I could wake up every morning and look out to see that shimmering span framing the entrance



to the busy harbor. Tired from my trip, I slept in and wandered down to the lobby around noon.

I was astonished to see 100 or more men and women lined up to enter the dining room. They were all at the hotel for something called the Mount Pleasant Business Association. Non-members were welcomed, so I plunked down my admission fee and joined the chow line. My plate piled high with a tasty meal, I settled in to enjoy a guest speaker and maybe make a few new friends.

I was enjoying a pleasant conversation with an attractive woman at my table – I believe she was an actuary – when a

gregarious gentleman across from me called out, "Hey there. You in the whiskers. You're new around here, aren't you?"

Cautious about revealing my identity, I quickly made up a story.

"The beard's for the annual Ernest Hemingway look-alike competition in Key West. I thought I'd take a few days off en route to see what your town is like."

Next thing I knew, this fellow – his name was Bill – had rearranged the seating and pulled up alongside me, talking a mile a minute. I didn't catch his line of work, but he sure knew a lot about Mount Pleasant.

Between the main course and dessert, he'd set me up with David Kent, a Realtor® who only works with buyers, and a broker from The Mortgage Network to find me a "getaway" home I could enjoy as a "sandbird." I didn't dare tell him how spot-on that label was!

This Bill guy was a real cheerleader for Mount Pleasant, but, when it came down to the nuts and bolts of setting myself up as a warm weather resident, his colleague Denise was a treasure trove of information. Denise offered to walk me to my car, which was slightly embarrassing because I didn't have one. I'd taken Uber from the airport.

"No problem," she said, steering me to Enterprise to rent some wheels.

Then she started to reel off a list of "the best of" in Mount Pleasant, from doctors to lawyers to skate stores to a veterinarian – but I'll bet that doc doesn't treat too many caribou cousins in his practice. Bill phoned her while we

drove, eagerly urging Denise, “Don’t forget Bricco Bracco or Okra Grill. The guy’s gotta eat. He’d love sunset on the deck at Red’s Ice House, the tequila assortment at SOL and just about everything at Tavern & Table.”

Well, I know I’m a pretty hefty guy, but I hadn’t traveled 4,000 miles just to escape Mrs. Claus’ cuisine. I suggested that as an amateur oenophile, I’d like to find a selection of good wines. Then “as dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,” like we say back home, I was driven up Coleman Boulevard where I found an excellent merlot and a very nice chardonnay at Bottles Beverage Superstore. Along the way, my two guides regaled me with tales of how great their town had become and how many new attractions it offered.

I’ll admit I was impressed. I’d always been fond of their historic town East of the Cooper, but, during my Christmas Eve visits, I’d never had time to catch up on how much it had changed for the better.

By the time they’d dropped me off back at the Holiday Inn, I had six pages of scribbled notes on my pad and a ton of great ideas about how to enjoy Mount Pleasant. There was golf at RiverTowne Country Club, kayaking with knowledgeable guides at Nature Adventures

Outfitters and so much more. And forget about doctors and dentists. If I develop any issues, Mount Pleasant’s top drawer health care professionals will have the answers.

Before the sun set that evening – and, believe me, South Carolina sunsets are a real treat for a guy from the North Pole – I was convinced. Mount Pleasant was the place for me to spend those lazy, crazy days of summer I’d missed during all those long, dreary years in the frigid North.

I bought myself a nice place – exactly where, I’d prefer to keep secret, although I’ll hint that it’s south of Awendaw and west of Sullivan’s Island. I added a hot tub from Atkinson Pools and Spas so I can unwind and called in C&C Myers to tune up my air conditioning unit.

I’m really happy to have found a “sandbird” home away from home right here in Mount Pleasant. But I often wonder about the two people who helped make it all possible. I never got their full names when they zipped off to do whatever they do for a living. They didn’t leave anything behind except a copy of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. Not even a little Christmas gift. Or a silver bullet. Oh – they did leave me a brochure for the Mount Pleasant Senior Center. I guess my youthful rosy cheeks and hearty “Ho, ho, ho” didn’t fool them at all. 🏠

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SANTA SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

Ever been to Mount Pleasant Towne Centre in December? Or to Northwoods Mall? Or the Mall of America, for that matter? Then you've certainly seen me – or at least a reasonable facsimile of me.

Let's face it; it's been a long time since I was able to fly around the world spending hours in department stores chortling "Ho, ho ho!" while noting wide-eyed kids' Christmas wish lists. Just think about how the population has grown since I started showing up at public places with tots on my scarlet-clad knee.

When it all became too much for me to handle by myself, I shanghaied some of my more personable elves to jump into Santa outfits and fill in. But then our Christmas toy production line would fall behind. And these days, there's nothing worse than not churning out enough action figures or iPads in a timely fashion.

So I've reluctantly turned my head when "Claustrepreneurs" started offering training in how to be Santa when Santa is occupied elsewhere.

One of those I kind of like is the Professional Santa Claus School of Denver. They've been on the job 34 years now, offering comprehensive education and training, courses, classes and conferences in how to be a Santa. Of course, being in Colorado, an occasional graduate may be just a little bit more laid back than some others!

Then there's the School4Santas, with "campuses" in Tampa and Los Angeles, claiming more than 3,000 students and training Mrs. Claus impressionists as well. This school even offers a Princess cruise focused on all things St. Nick.

For the tech-forward, prospective Santas can log onto The Santa Claus Conservatory, an online school headed by longtime West Coast Kris Kringle Ed Taylor. Its curriculum even includes a course on how to bleach your beard for that snowy white North Pole look.

And I can't neglect www.santasuitexpress.com. Their dazzling array of outfits even includes one in blue for celebrants of Chanukah, one holiday that stresses me out a bit because it's eight nights long!

I know there are plenty more places where even a neophyte layman can emulate the one and only Santa Claus, but I'll leave them for others to research.

As for me, I'm just going to hang around Towne Centre this holiday season, maybe sit back with an adult beverage and watch somebody else bring all that other good cheer.



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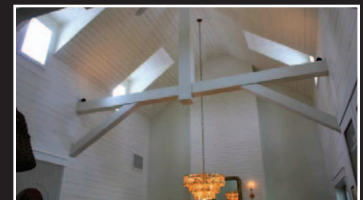
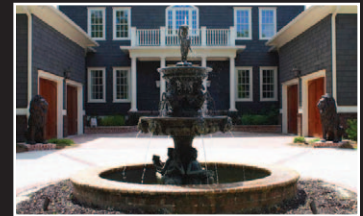
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Celebrate *the* Season

DIVERSE HOLIDAYS IN THE LOWCOUNTRY

By Kalene McCort

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE red and green become the shades that dominate the season. In the coming months, chestnuts will be roasting, lights will be twinkling and carolers will be caroling. Who knows, perhaps there will even be another Starbucks cup controversy. As wreaths go up on storefronts and drivers strap fresh evergreens to their hoods, I begin to ponder all the other holidays and traditions that arrive as leaves begin to fall.

While I grew up celebrating Christmas, with homemade ornaments, I remember my fascination with Chanukah. I'd spend some of those eight nights with my Jewish friends, savoring latkes (potato pancakes), lighting

menorah candles and playing games of dreidel, where the winners took home milk chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil. Recounting the days of having the privilege to join in on a holiday celebration different from my own got me thinking of all the winter holidays that don't involve old Saint Nick. Here in the Lowcountry, there is quite a cross section of seasonal holidays celebrated with pride and enthusiasm.

Chanukah commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the second century B.C., after the Jews successfully rose up against their Seleucid oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt.

"The Jewish history of Charleston dates back to the late 17th century, and our Holy City includes lots of



Chanukah commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the second century B.C., after the Jews successfully rose up against their Seleucid oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt.

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Jewish firsts, including the first Hebrew Benevolent Society and the first Hebrew Orphan Society. And the sanctuary at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (KKBE) is the second oldest synagogue building in the United States and the oldest in continuous use,” said Mark Swick, community liaison in the College of Charleston Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program. “In that context, it is thrilling to continue to celebrate Jewish life in a city that has done so for so long. There are now nearly 10,000 Jews in the Lowcountry, and, with any luck, that population will continue to grow.”

With celebrations taking place throughout the season, the streets of Charleston become enveloped in tradition, shining a light on this culture rich with customs.

“While Chanukah is technically a minor holiday within the Jewish calendar, it is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the survival of the Jewish religion and people, and to do so joyously within our community as well as with our non-Jewish friends and neighbors,” said Swick.

Chanukah in the Square will take place Dec. 29, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., in Marion Square. Customary foods such as latkes, doughnuts and chocolate coins or gelt will be served, in addition to kosher hot dogs. The event will conclude with the lighting of the menorah and recitation of the traditional Chanukah prayers.

“In addition to celebrating at home with my fiancée and lighting candles over Facetime or Skype with family and friends, Chanukah in the Square is my favorite chance to celebrate the holiday,” said Swick. “We have a tradition during the event of inviting local Holocaust survivors to light the candles on the menorah, and this year we will be joined by media personality Dr. Ruth, who is herself a survivor of the Holocaust.”

Kwanzaa originated in Africa and gained popularity in the 1960s. Celebrated in the Lowcountry for well over 30 years, it continues to bring joy to a multitude of generations. This year’s festivities got underway early with an Oct. 1 event celebrating the Kwanzaa Forever stamp in Marion Square.

The holiday itself consists of a seven-day festival dedicated to unity, self-determination, cooperative economics, collective works and responsibility, purpose, creativity and faith. Varied celebrations, such as an Ancestor Remembrance Day at McLeod Plantation, will take place throughout the Lowcountry.

“The lighting of the city of Charleston kinara at Marion Square is a symbolic movement of what is to come, the village coming together,” said Brenda J. Peart, social media manager for Lowcountry Kwanzaa. “Immediately after, we go to the ecumenical service, which signals the opening

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of Charleston's Lowcountry Kwanzaa observances."

While traditional food served up as part of the celebration varies from household to household, some

and resurgence.

Oftentimes when people hear "witch," their minds flood with images of "The Crucible" or the film "Practical Magic." There's a lot more



According to Brenda J. Peart, Kwanzaa is more than food, drums and dance – it's an exchange of ideas which ignites others to move forward.

fare includes catfish, collards, mac 'n cheese, jerk chicken, gumbo, plantains, candied yams and fritters. From soul food to exotic curries, the menus pull from different regions, creating a diverse feast. The table is often decorated with mazo: fruits and vegetables symbolizing the bounty of the harvest.

"That collective energy is magical," said Peart. "It's more than food, drums and dance. It's an exchange of ideas which ignites others to move forward."

"It's checking in with the 'family' and supporting each other through the end of one year into the next," said Peart. "Kwanzaa isn't just seven days; it's a way of life."

For pagans and Wiccans, wintertime is filled with reflection

to this ancient religion, and little of it has anything to do with broomsticks and black cats.

Yule, also known as winter solstice, was originally celebrated by the Germanic peoples to mark the rebirth of the sun and the start of winter.

The ceremonial yule log was the focal point of the solstice festival. Once carried into the house and placed in the fireplace, it was decorated in seasonal greenery, doused with cider or ale and dusted with flour before being set ablaze by a piece of the yule log from the previous year.

Gifts of clove-spiked apples and oranges were laid in baskets of evergreen boughs. The apples and oranges represented the sun, while the boughs were symbolic of immortality. Modern-day Wiccans

still practice these rituals but with slight modifications. Handmade crafts, usually composed of natural elements, are often shared. Homes are decorated with red, green and white

aspects of paganism because it's very uncommon but also very diverse."

There are covens throughout South Carolina that observe a variation of holidays but often



Yule, also known as winter solstice, was originally celebrated by the Germanic peoples to mark the rebirth of the sun and the start of winter.

decorations – colors that date back to Druidic traditions.

"My Wiccanism is really just about my own connection to my concept of a deity and the way I think this religion reflects on my beliefs about the cycle of life and death and the spiritual and personal growth in between," said a 31-year-old female Wiccan, who requested that her identity be kept anonymous.

Mulled wine, honey cakes and yuletide pork pie are just a few of the delicacies served up during the holiday.

"In regards to Wiccan holidays in general, I practice Samhain pretty religiously each year because it's the witch's New Year and that means a lot to me," she said. "It really is how I mark the passage of time. And I think there are a lot of misunderstood

behind closed doors.

"It's hard to find two people with an identical practice, and, to be frank, some of the people who practice can be a bit out there," she said. "It's hard to balance my rational belief in science with a belief in spirit and magic. But I suppose that's not too different from any religion."

"I love my religion because I feel like it connects me to a core part of my being – something older than my body or even time itself and something essential that I'm unable to perceive with a solely analytical mind," she said. "It's like a homecoming."

In whatever way you celebrate the winter season, we wish you good tidings and joy from *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.

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



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Trash to Treasure

AND A BONANZA FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

WITH A MAJOR ASSIST from Gary Santos, an array of useful items that might be rotting in a landfill today are instead being put to good use.

One day five or six years ago, Santos, port manager for Inchcape Shipping Services and a Mount Pleasant councilman, noticed workers unloading a refrigerator and a coffee pot from a cruise ship docked in the port of Charleston. He asked where the appliances were headed, and, when he discovered that they were going to be thrown away, he came up with an idea that has made a big difference for charitable organizations across the Lowcountry.

“We have a homeless shelter that can use this stuff,” Santos remembered telling the workers.

The equipment was loaded onto a truck and delivered to Crisis Ministries – now known as One80 Place – which serves the homeless in Charleston. In the past five years, other groups have benefited from Santos’ idea, including My Sister’s House, Windwood Farm and the Connie Maxwell Children’s Home in Greenwood, South Carolina. Santos has expanded his reach as far as Black Mountain Home in North Carolina, which received much-needed bed frames and mattresses that, under different circumstances, might have ended up in a landfill.

Santos also has directed used but still usable mattresses to Windwood Farm Home for Children, the Maxwell Home and Habitat for Humanity. Usually around three

years old, almost all of them come from Carnival cruise line ships, Santos said.

“For some of those kids at the Maxwell Home, it was the first time they ever owned a mattress,” he commented.

Santos also has salvaged deck furniture; cups, saucers, plates, bowls and dishes; two freezers; coffee machines; paint; Bibles and even teddy bears, which were given to the MUSC hospital.

“Instead of going to the dump, they make kids smile,” Santos said.

Clothes are another big item. Santos pointed out that ships stop in Charleston from all over the world. When crew members fly home, they don’t like to check their bags because of the expense, so they leave their clothes behind. Carnival pays to clean and fold them, then they end up where they’ll do some good. Recently, Santos drove out to Lowcountry Orphan Relief on the old Navy base property in North Charleston to deliver a few boxes of clothing.

Photo by Brian Sherman.



Gary Santos, left, recently delivered a few boxes of clothing to Lowcountry Orphan Relief in North Charleston. With him was one of the organization’s employees, Danielle Jones.

Most of the merchandise comes from Carnival ships, Santos said, though he added that other companies have helped as well. Many donated items are stored in the Port Authority warehouse until Santos can find a place that needs them.

Santos, a youth sports coach for 37 years, said he inherited the desire to volunteer his time and efforts to give back to the community from his parents.

“You can’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands,” he said. “You’ve got to throw something back. It helps me sleep well at night.”

Making Lives a Little Brighter

CAROLINA LANTERNS & LIGHTING

BECAUSE JAN CLOUSE'S BUSINESS brings light to homes in the Lowcountry and beyond, it's only fitting that she also makes life a little brighter and a little more hopeful for her neighbors in need.

Clouse, the owner of Carolina Lanterns & Lighting, has been offering her clients a wide range of indoor and outdoor lighting options since she launched her business in 1999. She has shared her success with the East Cooper community, providing financial support as well as countless volunteer hours to help local organizations ranging from Camp Happy Days to the Red Cross.

Clouse knows what it's like to struggle in the business world; she started out selling copper lanterns from the trunk of her car. That's one reason she's all too happy to respond to the needs of her fellow Lowcountry residents.

"We have so many things we're blessed with. You have to give back. You can't always take," said Clouse.

She enjoys sharing the fruits of her success. For instance, last year, she hired a Santa Claus to spend an afternoon and evening at the Carolina Lanterns & Lighting location at the corner of Chuck Dawley Boulevard and Bowman Road in Mount Pleasant. For a small or large donation, people could have their picture taken with Old St. Nick. Clients and other area residents brought their children and pets by for a photo, and, in the process, raised around \$500 for an organization that works to improve the lives of children with cancer and their families.

Camp Happy Days, headquartered in Charleston, has helped more than 1,500 children from across the state of South Carolina since its inception in 1982. In addition to

the camp, the organization offers family counseling and financial assistance, holiday giving and other programs "that help relieve worries and strengthen family bonds."

Clouse said she plans to bring Santa back in December this year to raise additional funds for this worthy cause. Her philanthropy doesn't stop there, however; she's an equal opportunity giver. Her business also donates lighting products to Habitat for Humanity, which builds homes for low-income families who participate in the process.

"We donate any time the Charleston Trident Home Builder's Association is involved," Clouse pointed out. "They just tell us what they need and what color."



Jan Clouse hires a Santa Claus each year to appear at Carolina Lanterns & Lighting to raise funds for Camp Happy Days.

Photo courtesy of Carolina Lanterns & Lighting.

Clouse even spent a day helping to build a home on Johns Island. In addition, Carolina Lanterns has provided lighting products for "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," the television program that renovates homes for families that have suffered a recent or ongoing hardship.

One of her favorite ways to give back to the East Cooper community is working with the Red Cross, especially helping families that have lost all or part of their home to a fire. She said it

costs around \$1,250 to sponsor a family that has suffered through such a loss, and Carolina Lanterns has helped out by stepping up to the plate at least a couple of times. Experienced in easing people's pain, trained Red Cross volunteers know that if your home burns to the ground, some of the things you might need right away include prescription medicine, eyeglasses, clothing and, of course, a place to stay. For other necessary items, the Red Cross provides families with a \$500 Walmart gift card.

Clouse also participates in one of the Red Cross' biggest local fundraisers, a tour of Old Village homes.

"It's for such a good cause," she commented. "This is all near and dear to my heart." ❄️

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FOR 26 YEARS, WONDER WORKS specialty toy store has served as a springboard for fostering children's imaginations in order to give back to the community.

"It's a store, but it's so much more," said owner Christine Osborne. "Wonder Works is a platform for the youth in the community and their philanthropic spirit. It reaches well beyond just selling girl scout cookies."

BY ANNE TOOLE

An occupational therapist by trade, Osborne and late co-owner Dan Morrisey felt from the beginning that it was important to emphasize a giving and caring nature. Their employees – known as magic makers – have a twinkle in their eye and help every customer feel that they are in a wonderful place – they leave happier than when they arrived. The magic makers also keep a keen eye out for children who want to foster their skills and actually help them do so in an entrepreneurial way.

William Manzi, for example, is an 11-year-old who came up with an idea to make fishing lures and sell them to raise money for a cardiac program at MUSC in honor of his grandfather.

"He told us about his idea. We gave him advice on how to make it more marketable, gave him ideas for packaging and display, and we gave him the opportunity to sell it in our store," beamed Osborne.

Manzi's Lowcountry Lures is just one of many philanthropic businesses fostered with the help of Wonder Works: Abby's Friends, Hugs for Harper, Keys for Hope; and Lemon-Aidan also give back to charities that support

causes from fighting cancer to helping the homeless.

"We have found that you never tell a child no, because you never know what door that will slam for the rest of his life. Always help them with ideas because they're more encouraged to continue doing it in the future and become an inspiration to others. If you foster their entrepreneurial spirit from the beginning, you are equipping them with tools to succeed in life and a passion to help others," she said.

Wonder Works hosts two major charitable events annually, with many of these children-started businesses in attendance: Wonderfest, which kicks off the Cooper River Bridge Run, and the largest free family festival in Charleston.

Elfstravaganza will be held Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wonder Works' Mount Pleasant location. Partnering with Belle Hall Shopping Center, the town of Mount Pleasant, Harris Teeter and License to Play, Wonder Works offers countless free activities and holiday treats. Fifteen national toy companies will give kids and adults the opportunity

to try the season's hottest new items, and, in Wonder Works fashion, every child will leave with a free toy.

"Just one child can make a difference. We don't know if the next child who walks through our doors might be the next Bill Gates," Osborne explained. "But the more we can foster learning – teach them to look an adult in the eye and ask 'would you like to purchase this because the money goes to this cause that is important to me' – the more we teach them to take the next step."

Visit Wonder Works specialty toy store for the hottest trending toys as well as local children's philanthropic products in Belle Hall Shopping Center. Experience the magic. 🧝



Wonder Works hosts two major charitable events annually, with many children-started businesses in attendance.

Photo courtesy of Wonder Works Toys.

Paying it Forward to a ‘Sister Salon’

SALON SALON OF CHARLESTON

GIVING BACK IN A BIG WAY is not always something you plan. Rachael Geib, owner of Salon Salon of Charleston, credits much of her business’ success to giving back to the community by volunteering locally with Susan G. Komen, the March of Dimes, Pet Helpers and more. But just a few months ago, the stars aligned and Geib found herself driving to a small town in Michigan to help someone she barely knew have a chance for a new life.

BY ANNE TOOLE

Geib had been anticipating opening a second salon,

but, due to personal circumstances, she decided not to. She did, however, have all of the equipment necessary to open a second salon in storage. A chance conversation with her roofing contractor was all it took for Geib to figure out what to do with her \$15,000 worth of salon equipment.

“He told me a story about his sister in Michigan, who was a wonderful woman and fellow salon owner. She had always been a giving person and was very involved in her church, and one day she wound up in the hospital with lung disease – out of nowhere. She was put on a waiting list for a double lung transplant and had to sign papers for disability. Life as she knew it basically stopped,” she

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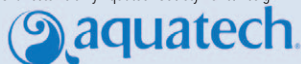
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explained. “But then a miracle happened! As quickly as she had been put in the hospital, suddenly her lungs were fine, and she was looking at a second chance at life.”

Geib was so moved by the story that she traveled to the small town of Hudson, Michigan, to meet with the woman, Belinda Robbins. Geib got to see her salon, Make-N-Waves, which was a bit outdated, and made an offer to Robbins.

“I said, ‘I will give you all of my equipment I have in storage if you let me come in here with a crew, gut it and bring it up to speed,’” Geib said. “My request was that she give me the reigns to make the decisions and decorate for the redo, and it would be like a ‘sister salon’ of Salon Salon of Charleston.”

Soon after the two met, Geib, Robbins’ brother and a

few friends loaded up the equipment and made the trip to Michigan. Over their two-week stay, the team gutted the salon, installed new floors, painted it, installed the new

equipment – all paid for from their own pockets – and gave the salon a second chance at life as well.

“It was a small town, and word spread quickly about what we were doing. The local paper there even ran a big article about Charlestonians sharing love, but, if anyone deserved this, Belinda did,” said Geib. “She had gone from a waiting list for a lung transplant and on disability to beating her lung disease.

What better way to wake up every day than to be able to go to your place of business? She calls me daily and is still in awe of what we did for her. It makes my heart feel good.”



Salon Salon credits their success to giving back to the community by volunteering with Susan G. Komen and other organizations.

Photo courtesy of Salon Salon.

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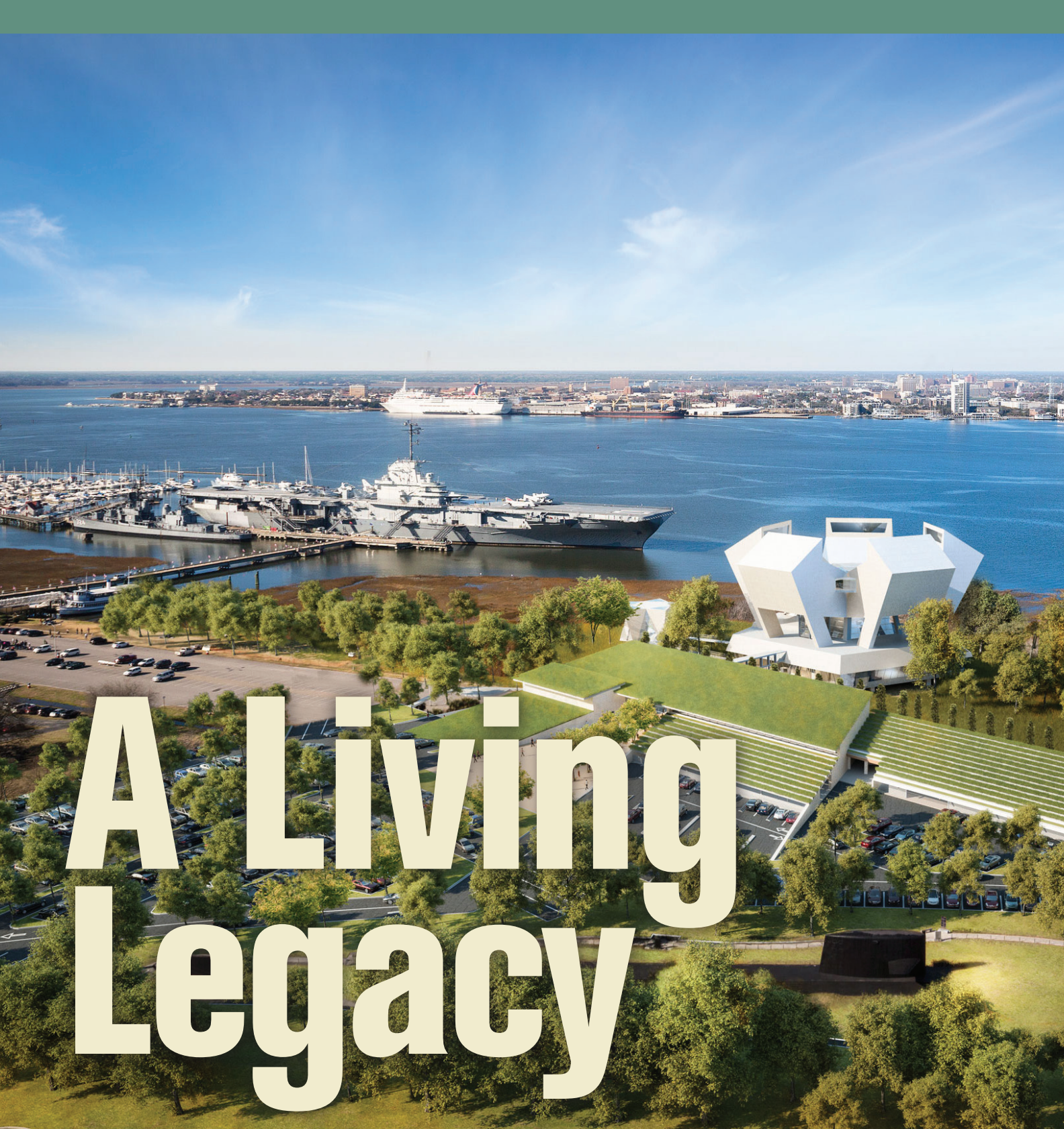
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A Living Legacy

MUSEUM WILL HONOR NATION'S HEROES

By Brian Sherman



The National Medal of Honor Museum will be built at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant, just a stone's throw from the USS Yorktown.

WOUNDED THREE times, unable to walk and facing an overwhelming enemy force, Capt. James E. Livingston carried on the fight, leading Marines from three different companies in a brutal battle that helped turn the tide of the Vietnam War. Two years later, he was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest accolade possible for a member of the American armed services.

A retired general and a Mount Pleasant resident, Livingston is fighting a different battle these days. As one of 77 living recipients of the nation's most coveted honor and a member of the board of the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation, he's trying to help raise enough money to complete the National Medal of Honor Museum on a 7.1-acre plot of land at Patriots Point before the 12 remaining soldiers who earned the medal during World War II and the Korean War pass away.

"They're not going to be with us much longer," said Livingston.

The youngest living recipient from the Korean War is 85; the oldest from World War II is 96. The Website of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society documents why it's important to build the museum as expeditiously as possible. Four servicemen who earned the ultimate honor



Photo courtesy of Gen. James E. Livingston.

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The National Medal of Honor Museum will serve as a testament to the courage and determination of those who went above and beyond in the service of their country.

have passed away in the past year: Marine Pvt. Hector A. Cafferata Jr., Army Sgt. Santiago J. Erevia, Army Cpl. Tibor Rubin and Army Pvt. George T. Sakato.

Livingston said he is optimistic that construction on the three-building, 107,000-square-foot complex will begin in 2017 and take around 18 months to complete. The five-story museum will include a 240-seat auditorium; a store; a chapel; conference, classroom and meeting space; a small café; a 140-seat chapel; and administrative offices. The entire project is expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$110 million, most of that money coming from private donations large and small, according to Livingston. He said by the end of 2016, the state of South Carolina will have contributed \$5 million, while the town of Mount Pleasant is spending \$1.5 million to change the route of Patriots Point Boulevard.

The museum eventually will replace the Medal of Honor Museum currently located aboard the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point. Livingston said Congress is expected to act to designate the new facility as the National Medal of Honor Museum.

“We’ll move everything possible from the Yorktown location to the National Medal of Honor Museum,” Livingston said.

The museum will serve as a testament to the courage and determination of the nation’s Medal of Honor recipients, but it also will offer an array of exhibits and programs aimed at educating the public on subjects including the need for a standing Army; the history of the medal; and the role U.S. presidents have played in

awarding the medal. Most importantly, according to the museum’s website, “We want visitors to understand the meaning and price of freedom and appreciate what it means to put service above self.”

The Character Development Program will be aimed at promoting courage, patriotism and sacrifice among middle and high school students, while the museum’s Citizen Honors Program will recognize Americans who aren’t in the military but “have made a difference in the lives of others through a singular act of extraordinary heroism or through a continued commitment of putting others first.” Since 2008, the program has honored a total of 36 people, always on March 25 – Medal of Honor Day.

Besides wanting to complete the museum before the rest of the World War II and Korean War recipients are gone, Livingston cited another reason for his dedication to bringing the project to reality.

“I want to leave the legacy of the Medal of Honor behind to the young kids of this country,” he said. “I want them to have a unique experience. I want them to feel they want to give something back to their country.”

Actor, director and musician Gary Sinise is the national advisor and spokesman for the museum.

The Medal of Honor Museum will sit on land owned by the state of South Carolina and leased from Patriots Point at a cost of \$1 a year. The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation has an option to lease another six acres adjacent to the museum property, at fair market value, according to Patriots Point Executive Director Mac Burdette. It’s possible, Burdette said, that both Patriots

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Construction on the three-building, 107,000-square-foot complex will begin in 2017 and take around 18 months to complete.

Point and the museum will turn a profit if the six acres of land is subleased to a commercial developer. At the very least, the Museum Foundation will be able to determine what is built next door.

“It’s important for the state of South Carolina to have the museum,” Burdette said. “A lot of other places wanted it.”

“Patriots Point will get a percent of the revenue generated by commercial development on the six-acre property. The museum will make some money, but not a huge amount,” he added. “But someone might pay a premium to lease that land, and both Patriots Point and the Medal of Honor Museum will receive revenue.”

Livingston, a native of the small Southeast Georgia town of McRae, earned the Medal of Honor in 1968 at the Battle of Dai Do, a strategically important village in Vietnam. His mission as commanding officer of a company of 185 men was to retake the village from the enemy and rescue another company that had been cut off from the rest of the battalion. All but 35 of his men were killed or wounded, and he himself was hit twice by shrapnel and again by a shot from a 50-caliber machine gun. Nevertheless, he continued the fight, leading what was left of the two companies to help a third company that was engaged in a fierce firefight in a neighboring village.

He spent three months at Tripler Army Medical Center in

Hawaii recuperating from the injuries he sustained at Dai Do.

Livingston later learned just how monumental his task had been – 800 Marines were up against 10,000 North Vietnamese soldiers.

“It was one hell of a fight,” he commented. “Most of the guys believed in what they were doing. If we had not won that battle, the war would have been strategically over. Dong Ha probably would have been overrun. That was their target. We stopped them with 800 Marines.”

Livingston earned a degree in Civil Engineering at Auburn University, though he admitted that “The only thing I used it for was to blow things up.” He spent 34 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, including several tours of duty in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s. He retired in 1995 and put down temporary roots in New Orleans, where he and his wife remained until 2004, leaving the city just six months before it was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

They moved 29 times before landing in Mount Pleasant, then once more when they relocated from Dunes West to Tides, near the Arthur Ravenel Bridge. Livingston has no regrets about the path that took him from rural Georgia to Vietnam, The Philippines, London, Hawaii and other stops in the United States and abroad.

“If my country asked me to do it again, I would,” he said. 🍍

This portrait of Patton, painted by Polish artist Boleslaw Czedekowski, hangs in Pat Waters' house.



Czedekowski

A LASTING *Impression* PAT WATERS REMEMBERS HIS FAMOUS GRANDFATHER

By Brian Sherman

IN REAL LIFE, ACTOR GEORGE C. SCOTT looks nothing like the colorful and controversial World War II general he portrayed in “Patton,” the award-winning 1970 movie. One Mount Pleasant resident does exhibit a marked resemblance to the iconic Army officer, however, and for good reason. George Patton “Pat” Waters is the grandson of Gen. George S. Patton Jr.

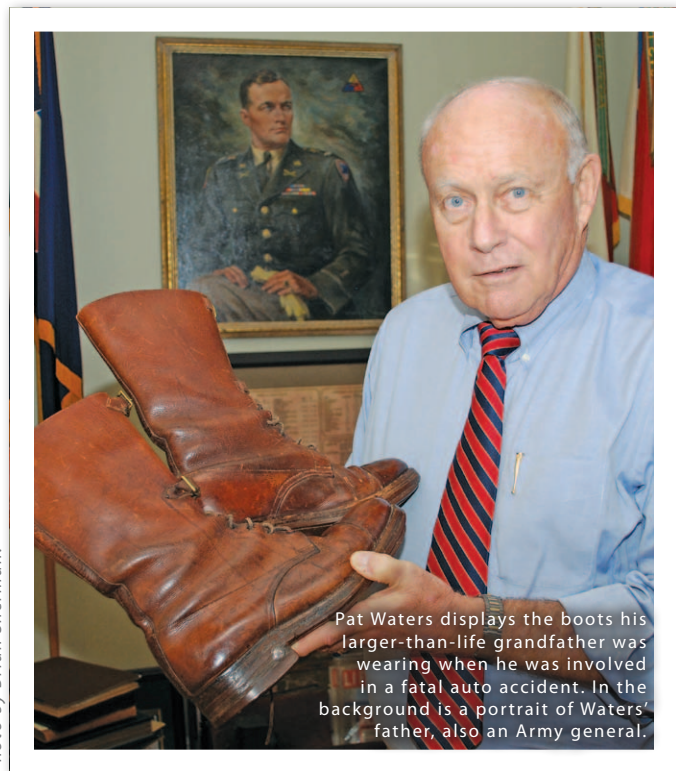
And Waters, though he knew his larger-than-life grandfather for only 15 days, garnered some valuable lessons from the general that served him well later in life.

“I learned commitment – doing for others and not just for yourself,” he said. “Despite what you see, he was a humble person. This may be in conflict to what people saw in Patton. He gave all the credit to the men who served under him and did the job. He was a genuine person.”

Waters, now 75, has lived in Mount Pleasant for the past 24 years. He met his grandfather only once, late in the summer of 1945, when the general stayed with Waters and his family during a 15-day victory tour at the close of World War II. In his combat uniform, he left a lasting impression on young George, who wasn’t quite 5 years old.

“He scared the hell out of me,” Waters remembered.

Patton’s Army footlocker also arrived, and inside were Christmas presents for the four grandchildren he was meeting for the first – and only – time. Among the gifts, Waters recalled, were a Mauser rifle, pistols, a blood-stained German uniform and helmets once worn by enemy



Pat Waters displays the boots his larger-than-life grandfather was wearing when he was involved in a fatal auto accident. In the background is a portrait of Waters' father, also an Army general.

soldiers, one of them distinguished by a bullet hole.

“Patton said this was the helmet of a hero,” Waters pointed out. “He said he had died for his country, so he regarded him to be a hero, despite the fact that he was also a German.”

Pat Waters, left, and his older brother John, center, met their grandfather only once, during a 15-day victory tour in the United States. Patton left the dog, Ajax, with Waters' family when he returned to Europe.



Photo courtesy of Pat Waters.

After his 15-day tour, Patton returned to Europe. Not long after, in

December 1945, he was scheduled to come back to the United States, but

his plane had mechanical issues, so he went hunting instead. His driver

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Pat Waters and his dog Max look over press clippings about Pat's iconic relative. He keeps the scrapbook in a room in his Mount Pleasant home that is dedicated to his famous grandfather.



Photo by Brian Sherman.

lost control of the staff car, and the resulting accident claimed the life of an American war hero.

“The sad thing is that he didn’t get to know his grandchildren. And he didn’t get to thank the American

women who produced the men and women who went over there to fight,” Waters said.

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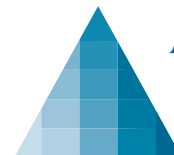
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Waters' father, John Knight Waters, was also an Army lifer. As a lieutenant colonel during World War II, he was captured at the Battle of Kasserine Pass and spent "two years, two months and 10 days" in a prisoner-of-war camp. He served in Korea as well and rose to the rank of general.

When it came time for George Patton Waters to serve his country, he chose to do so in the Navy rather than the Army and in relative anonymity, going by the name George Waters and insisting, when asked, that his nickname, Pat, "was just a good name." Eventually, his shipmates aboard the USS Braine discovered that his father, grandfather and uncle – Patton's son – were all generals.

"It was more my dad than my grandfather," Waters said. "I didn't want to follow in his footsteps. I wanted to make it on my own."

Waters spent five years in the Navy, about six months of that time near Vietnam aboard the Braine, a destroyer. His dreams to become a naval aviator were dashed by his less-than-perfect eyesight, so, "fascinated by radar," he was trained as a combat information officer, retiring in 1970 as a lieutenant. Prior to his military career, he attended Norwich University in Vermont and graduated from Pfeiffer College near Charlotte with a business degree.

When he left the Navy, Waters went to work at Coca-Cola as an administrative assistant. Three hundred sixty four days later, he left the corporate world behind, borrowed some money and started his own business.

"It's better to be in business for yourself," he said, then went out and proved it by establishing a successful land development company in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, area.

He retired in 2005, and his son still runs the business. That doesn't mean, however, that Waters spends his time in a rocking chair on his back porch. Though he once shunned the spotlight of being the grandson of an American military icon, that is no longer the case. He is a member of the board of directors of the General George Patton Museum and Center of Leadership in Fort Knox, Kentucky. When he visits the museum, usually around four times a year, he now flies commercial, even though he is a private pilot and a longtime and active member of the East Cooper Pilots Association, which is based at the Mount Pleasant Regional Airport.

A room in his Mount Pleasant home dedicated to his grandfather features a portrait of the general painted by Polish artist Boleslaw Czedekowski. Patton sat for the portrait shortly after the Germans surrendered in May 1945; the artist finished it after Patton passed away.

Waters has collected a wealth of other Patton memora-

Photo courtesy of Pat Waters.



Patton's footlocker arrived in the Waters home in 1945, complete with war-related gifts for his grandchildren. Patton's dog, Willie, was there as well.

effort to convince the Polish government to let the community of Szubin build a Hall of Remembrance there. The camp is currently the site of a reform school for kids who have committed crimes; they would provide the labor to build the memorial.

He also visited Flossenburg, Germany, around five years ago with nine survivors of the Nazi concentration camp built there in 1938. He was afraid that his fellow travelers would resent him because Patton used Germans to help

run the country after the Nazis were defeated, but, as it turned out, his concerns were entirely unfounded.

bilialia, including newspaper clippings, photos, flags and the boots the general was wearing when an auto accident took his life. A small St. Christopher medal is embedded in the side of the heel of each boot, and dirt and stones from Mannheim, Germany, where the accident occurred, are still stuck to the soles.

Only the shoelaces are not authentic, which Waters regrets.

"The laces are not original. They cut the originals off to get the boots off his feet after the accident," he explained.

Waters has also visited a camp in Poland where his father was held as a POW during World War II in an

run the country after the Nazis were defeated, but, as it turned out, his concerns were entirely unfounded.

It seems, according to Waters, that his familial relationship with Gen. George S. Patton has been much more a blessing than a curse. He recalled meeting a man not long ago who told him: "I'm only here because of your grandfather. He kept us moving. If we had stopped, I would have died."

"I guess I look a little like him," Waters concluded. "It's an honor. You get to meet people who admired him. The opportunity you have is to express the gratitude he had for the 400,000 men who served with him." 🐾

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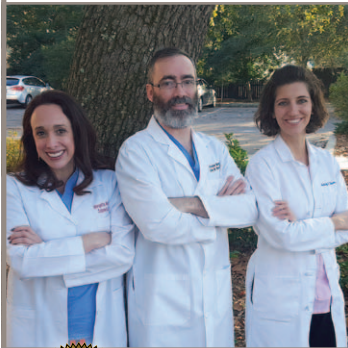
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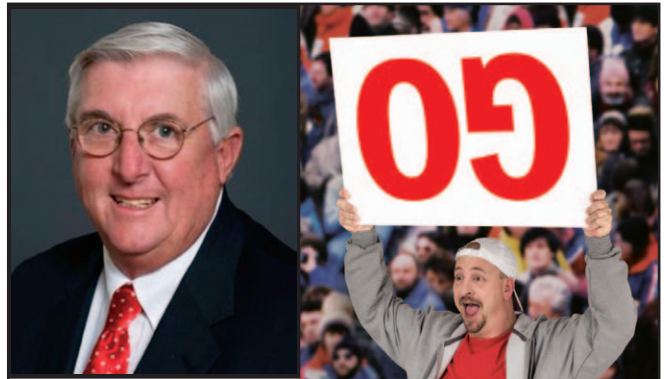
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Photo courtesy of Dr. Peter Cotton.

Bedtime Stories Brought to Life

LOCAL PHYSICIAN PENS CHILDREN'S BOOKS

ALMOST 50 YEARS AGO, IN A tiny town in England, a gastroenterologist named Peter Cotton told his children a bedtime story. “I was trying to teach my children how not to cross the road, because what happened to Fred the Snake was that he inevitably got squished by a car,” explained Dr. Cotton, now a resident of Mount Pleasant. Fortunately, it all ended well for Fred; he gets taken to

the hospital and a very nice doctor looks after him and says he needs some special thread that only comes from under a rhinoceros. A character known as Jungle Jim retrieves the thread and sends it to the hospital, and Fred is mended and goes home happy.

Dr. Cotton’s children became quite fond of Fred, often referring to him as “Fred Fred” after he got split in half. Years later, when they started having children of their own, they begged their father to revive the tale of Fred, and he happily obliged. After a few updates and edits, the family decided that this was a tale worth sharing with the world.

BY SAMANTHA SULLIVAN



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Dr. Cotton ultimately partnered with local publisher The Fig and The Vine in 2011 to publish “When Fred The Snake Got Squished and Mended.”

This story was just the beginning of Fred’s saga; three more stories about the friendly snake followed: “When Jungle Jim Came to Visit Fred The Snake,” “When Fred the Snake Goes to School,” and “When Fred The Snake and Friends Explore Charleston.” These books follow Fred and his friends through their various adventures. The last book takes place in Charleston and includes some of the most beloved and iconic spots in town – in fact, the crew of animals takes a well-deserved trip across the Ravenel Bridge to East Cooper.

In order to make the books’ vibrant illustrations come to life, Dr. Cotton invited his illustrator, Bonnie Lemaire, to explore the Lowcountry.

“When I wanted to do the Charleston book I said ‘You better come to Charleston so you know what you’re illustrating,’ so she came down to Charleston with her purple hair and green shoes and her very nice husband and small child in the spring this year. She took photographs and then went back home and drew these illustrations.” Dr. Cotton explained.

Prior to the Fred tales, Dr. Cotton was no stranger to the writing world, though he has spent the majority of his time practicing medicine.

“I’ve written close to 1,000 medical publications, and I’ve written 15 books about the medical world. I like writing, and I’m good at writing so I’ve written a bunch of other different things. But sometimes getting things to rhyme isn’t easy,” Dr. Cotton joked.

His medical expertise is what ultimately led him to the Charleston area. Upon leaving England in search of a career that would allow him to teach and further his

research, he wound up at Duke University while he was on one of his lecture tours. After being “made an offer he simply could not refuse,” he relocated to Durham, North Carolina, where he married his current wife.

After eight fulfilling years at Duke, Dr. Cotton’s boss decided to relocate to Charleston and take a position at MUSC, urging Dr. Cotton to join him.

“I’m very glad that I moved here. That’s 22 years ago now,” the doctor said.

When he arrived at MUSC, Dr. Cotton began building up the gastroenterology program and teaching classes. He continues to teach and do research and considers himself to be only semi-retired.

Meanwhile, the Fred books became his side project and an outlet for him to release his creativity and continue writing. At this point, they have garnered quite a bit of attention and created a following.

“One award I got was from a children’s organization. They said the original Fred book is a great way of teaching kids about crossing the road and also that hospitals are not scary,” Dr. Cotton said.

Fred’s story not only influences children in the Lowcountry; it’s about to be introduced in China as well.

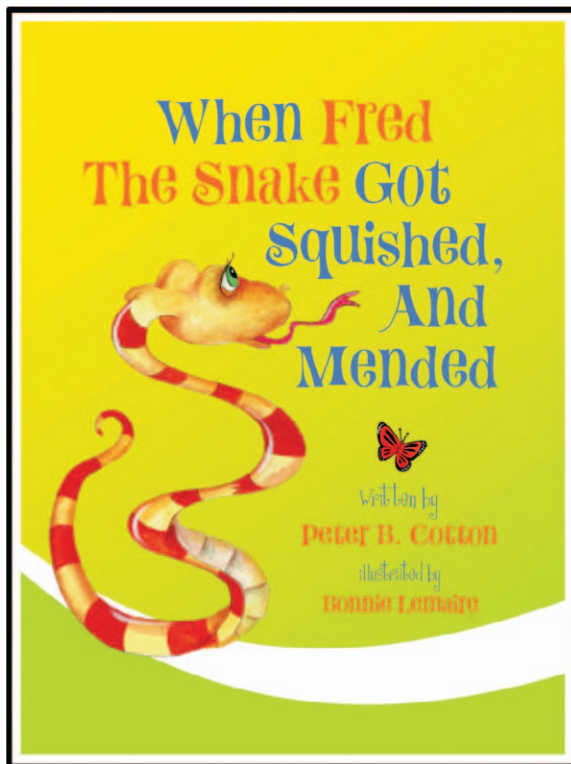
“I’ve done a fair amount of work in China over the years, and a book I wrote about my life has been published in Chinese. So one of my doctor friends in Hong Kong translated [the Fred books] into Chinese, and they’re working on the publication right now,” Dr. Cotton said.

From school signings to readings at Barnes & Noble, Dr. Cotton hopes to use Fred to further educate and entertain children. The next installment of Fred’s adventure is already in the works. It’s about his day at the beach, and it’s expected to be published sometime next year. 🐍



Photo courtesy of Dr. Peter Cotton.

Dr. Cotton’s illustrator, Bonnie Lemaire, left, traveled to Charleston so she could get a feel for the Holy City.





Spiritual Growth

**CHURCH PLANTING IN
EAST COOPER AND BEYOND**

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED how a church comes into being – not necessarily the building that houses the church but the congregation, leaders and mission that come together to create a spiritual journey for all involved?

If you engage in regular worship at a local church, there's a good chance your own church was "planted" by another. This phenomenon, known appropriately as "church planting," has taken root more than ever in East Cooper.

"When a church has been established for a long time, it might not attract newer members," said Chad Moore, senior pastor at the Church at LifePark in Mount Pleasant. "When you plant new churches, you reach a group of people that hasn't yet been reached."

LifePark, about six years old and located near Park West, is one example of church planting in the area; not only did it begin as a plant of First Baptist Mount Pleasant, it's helping new churches get placed as well.

Just how many churches can one church sprout? Ask Steve Wood at St. Andrew's Church in Mount Pleasant, who came to East Cooper as an associate pastor for St. Andrew's – he's now the head pastor – and has helped start enough new churches for an entire diocese, of which he is now the bishop.

"We're part of the Anglican Church of North America, which came from the Episcopal Church – but 16 years ago this diocese did not even exist," said Wood, pointing out that the Mount Pleasant campus of St. Andrew's now has an office dedicated to planting churches, as well as numerous parish members who are passionate about planting.

Even St. Andrew's is not just one campus nestled inside the Old Village of Mount Pleasant. The church has sprouted three more locations in the Lowcountry – Park Circle, downtown Charleston and Goose Creek. Each campus, ac-

ording to Wood, delivers the St. Andrew's message – with different pastors at the helm – and shares the St. Andrew's style of worship.

"Because St. Andrew's was healthy, we started three satellite churches as well as other churches for our diocese," Wood said. "We now have the reputation of being a church planting diocese. There's a huge need to plant and establish churches and to help struggling churches as well."

I asked how the leaders of St. Andrew's typically aid a struggling church; Wood replied that it's necessary to "meet with the leaders, understand the church's purpose or mission and try to get the church refocused on it."

Sometimes, though, a church has simply reached the end of its existence. When that happens, it's optimal for a new church to receive any resources that are left over.

"Every church has a life cycle," affirmed Moore. "For example, First Baptist Awendaw could not continue as a church, thus its resources were given to First Baptist Mount Pleasant – then First Baptist Mount Pleasant grew LifePark, as well as the Church at Sewee Bay."

A similar passing of the torch occurred when Unity Baptist Church, formerly on Whipple Road in

Mount Pleasant, bestowed its resources upon LifePark's newest plant, King's Cross Church.

"LifePark is now a church planting church," Moore pointed out.

Both Moore and Wood spoke about the "call" that a spiritual leader feels to begin a new church and how that call helps other leaders decide who will guide a fledgling congregation. Moore and Wood each came to the Charleston area to lead their respective churches and now find it fulfilling to help other pastors do the same with new plants.

"Chip (Robinson) was an associate pastor here (at LifePark) and felt called to pastor a church," said Moore. Now he's leading King's Cross."

"When it comes to church planting, we consider the



Photo courtesy of the Church at LifePark.

This was the first Sunday service at the Church at LifePark in 2010.

demographics of an area, density and the leader's vision," said Wood. "The right leader will feel compelled to pastor a certain church."

Wood said his diocese will consider a church planting project once "50 people are willing to form a congregation." Though most of these early members are likely to

live in the area where the church will take root, a few may come from established congregations. Both Wood and Moore cited leaders and members moving from a more established church to a less established church.

"Church planters believe we're all on the same team," Moore remarked. "It's not like big-box stores; there's no competition. It's all for the Gospel. And we want others to reach those we can't reach."



King's Cross Church is meeting at Jennie Moore Elementary School until their sanctuary is built.

Photo courtesy of King's Cross Church.

Once the leadership and congregation are in place, a fledgling church officially exists – whether it's meeting in a school cafeteria, a private home or a laundromat.

"A church is not a building," Moore emphasized. "It's a community of people. Sometimes the location of a

church is temporary, and sometimes it's permanent."

King's Cross, as one example, is meeting at Jennie Moore Elementary School in Mount Pleasant until their sanctuary is built. And St. Andrew's City Church – based on the peninsula – meets inside the Music Farm! Yet another new church in Mount Pleasant, City Life Charleston, is meeting at Dunes West.

"We are off to a very exciting start," said Robinson of the

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"It's hard work, establishing a new church," Wood mused.

"We've learned a lot from our mistakes. You often end up meeting somewhere other than a church building, and it's not always convenient. But it's like a start-up – a lot of investment and energy goes into it."

Wood, who still leads worship at the Mount Pleasant campus of St. Andrew's, visits the satellite campuses regularly and supports the growth of the diocese. Meanwhile, Moore has enlisted the support of LifePark for King's

Photo courtesy of City Life Charleston.



A church in Mount Pleasant, City Life Charleston, is meeting at Dunes West.

Cross as well as City Life Charleston – and looks forward to planting other congregations in the future.

"Church planting has been the most exciting thing I've done in ministry; I really like people," Wood enthused. "But it's hard. People get attached to the church they've been a part of, and it's a sacrifice to

move on and form a new one. But the New Testament says to send out your best missionaries."

"We decided to plant King's Cross for two main reasons," said Robinson. "Because we believe strongly that the good news about Jesus changes everything, and because we know that even the fastest growing churches in our area aren't keeping pace with the population growth East of the Cooper." 📍



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Photo courtesy of Christ Church.

Teens from Christ Church Luke Tyner, Ryan Quick and Matthew Tyner visit a local veteran during the Valentines for Veterans program.

Positive Lasting Effects

YOUTH MINISTRY IN MOUNT PLEASANT

COMMUNITY SERVICE IS A responsibility that local churches take seriously, and often the driving force behind this philanthropy are church youth groups. *Mount Pleasant Magazine* interviewed three local churches to find out what areas of need in the local community have been deemed important enough to

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

warrant the time, energy and efforts of these youth groups.

At Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, the youth

ministry has participated in the Hands of Christ Ministry, serving approximately 185 schoolchildren in the East Cooper area. Every year, school uniforms are distributed, and meaningful relationships are formed.

St. Benedict Parish hosts a Homeless Awareness Night that allows its youth group to experience firsthand the difficulties the homeless suffer every night. From there, the youngsters get together and decide on a specific plan of action to help those who have no place to call home.

Meanwhile, the youth ministry at Christ Church participates in Valentines for Veterans. Each year, they



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gather Valentines and distribute them at the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Administration Medical Center. More importantly, they spend time with the heroes who have served our country.

We enjoyed getting to learn about these three youth ministries and anticipate the positive lasting effects these programs will have in the East Cooper community.

MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You may have seen posters or fliers around East Cooper highlighting the Hands of Christ Ministry, while those who truly need help may have received an invitation from their public school.

Hosted and operated through church youth volunteers at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, the Hands of Christ Ministry provides school uniforms and supplies for children in grades 4K through the 8th grade. The shoppers, middle and high school students participating through the church, are paired with a child so they can find the uniforms that fit best.

“The Hands of Christ Ministry starts in July with the youth ministry gathering donations,” explained Chris Sarkowski, director of School Ministries at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. “Our youth members are all over the place to make this happen. Then, with the assistance of some

congregation members, the youth are paired with children. This year, we served about 185 children in the East Cooper area.”

Each student receives two shirts and two pair each of pants, underwear and socks. Those who are already receiving free or reduced lunch are notified at



Photo courtesy of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church.

MPPC teen Christina Lee with a young recipient during the Hands of Christ ministry.

the end of the school year that they are qualified to come out on the designated day for shopping. Others may find out about the event through word-of-mouth or the posters and fliers placed around the community.

“By linking the shopper and student, it starts a relationship, and the child meets someone who truly cares

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about them,” shared Sarkowski. “Our youth discover that we are called to serve God and neighbor and that means to take care of one another.”

To learn more about Hands of Christ Ministry or Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, visit www.mppc.net.

ST. BENEDICT PARISH

Homeless Awareness Night takes place once a year at St. Benedict Parish, and it is definitely a one-of-a-kind lesson in having youth church members understand what takes place every night in their community.

“Junior high and high school students are allowed to participate,” explained April Johnston, director of Youth Ministry at St. Benedict Parish. “Our teens are allowed to bring one box to sleep on and one bag of items that they may need, which includes blankets or pillows but absolutely no electronics. They then sleep on church property for one night, regardless of the weather elements, which allows them to truly experience what many teens experience in silence.”

On previous Homeless Awareness Nights, it rained the entire night, and on another the temperature was 37 degrees. Last year, approximately 40 students participated, and St. Benedict Parish expects about the same number this year.

“After they spend the night, the students come together to develop a service project on how they feel it best to serve our homeless community,” said Johnston. “We live in

a sort of bubble here East of the Cooper, but our youth are quick to act once they see what is out there.”

In the past, Homeless Awareness Night has resulted in a coat drive, a blanket drive and, recently, gathering items for the blessing bags that contain quarters to do laundry, soap, fruit cups and other items

“Last year, our youth ministry distributed over 100 blessing bags,” Johnston said. “Young people are amazing



Photo courtesy of St. Benedict Parish.

Teens from St. Benedict Parish participating in Homeless Awareness Night in 2014.

in their service. They are service driven because they see the fruit that comes from it.”

To learn more about Homeless Awareness Night, the resulting service projects or St. Benedict Parish, visit stbenedictparish.org.

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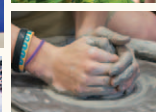
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CHRIST CHURCH

The youth ministry at Christ Church has participated in the Valentines for Veterans program for several years.

“It is part of the outreach, Missions of Love, where the goal is not to just send cards to the veterans but to place the youth in the environment where they can build a relationship with the veterans,” explained Robin Quick, director of Ministry to Children, Youth and Families at Christ Church. “Church members sign all of the cards and then, on a chosen day, the youth deliver them to the patriot’s ward at the VA.”

The patriot’s floor at the VA is the assisted-living floor. Many residents there have received more than one visit from youngsters at Christ Church.

“Initially, we thought the youth could play games with the veterans but quickly realized that the people we were visiting just wanted to tell their stories, to sit down and



Photo courtesy of Christ Church.

Teens from Christ Church Parish learn to build relationships with local veterans through the Valentines for Veterans program.

have a conversation,” said Quick. “This is especially true about the young men that participate in Valentines for Veterans. The veterans enjoy sharing their military stories as well as speaking about their families.”

Through Christ Church, a group of about 20 students, often escorted by their entire families, delivers the cards.

“If the resident’s door is open, then we are free to go in and deliver a greeting card, usually a game or deck of cards, a smile and our appreciation for their service to our country,” said Quick. “I think when the residents see the kids, they really perk up and smile. It’s wonderful when the veterans share their photos, and it’s clear that many do not receive visitors. Although I think it is more rewarding for the youth as it is humbling for them to meet these American heroes.”

To learn more about Valentines for Veterans or Christ Church, call 843-884-9090 or e-mail rquick@christch.org.

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GLAM SQUAD

MOUNT PLEASANT LOCALS SPIFF UP PAGEANT CONTESTANTS

THE FIRST-EVER MISS AMERICA Pageant was held in 1921, and, for close to a century, the popular event continues to remain a staple in pop culture. While times have changed and styles have evolved since the early 20th century, the enterprise has continued to provide young women with a platform to shine,

BY KALENE MCCORT

grow as individuals and give back to charities close to their hearts. Behind the silky locks, winning smiles and flawless makeup, you'll find the work of an uber-talented Mount Pleasant-based duo. Jenn Cady and Kim Coleman create eye-catching looks that can best be described as winning.

For Cady, Miss West Virginia 1994, the pageant brings about a wave of nostalgia. Her road to getting the crown in her home state and later competing in the Miss America Pageant was not something she necessarily saw coming. Still, she cherished her time as a contestant and now savors her time as a professional within the industry – offering up her styling and photography services to an array of young women.

“You have a greater chance of having a son play in the NFL than you do having a daughter compete in the Miss America Pageant,” said Cady. “Each state contestant is only allowed to compete once in their life at a national level. We provide their best look.”

Working amid the chaos of backstage pandemonium is something Cady and Coleman have perfected. The powerhouse twosome is part glam squad, part therapy team, calming all those pre-show jitters with words of wisdom and touch-ups. As owner of Vanity Salon, Coleman averages about 200 weddings a year and is well-equipped to handle just about anything that comes her way.

“The vibe backstage is hectic,” said Cady, reflecting on her time working the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Pageant. “We have only one hour to complete hair and makeup for six contestants. If the girls are held in rehearsal, that time is reduced. One of the nights we only had 30 minutes to do both. We truly rocked it! We were one of the first teams to have everything done, and all six of the girls looked flawless.”

Cady and Coleman embrace each project they take on with a level of professionalism and passion that’s contagious.



Photos courtesy of Jenn Cady.

These two revel in making others look and feel beautiful.

“We have combined forces, and we have been selected as the hair and makeup artists for six states at the Miss America Pageant,” said Cady. “We are also official national photo sponsors for six states. Photos from these sessions have been featured on *E News* and in *USA Today* and *US* magazine.”

“The girls are great!” said Coleman, reflecting on her time styling the teen contestants. “They have all been super grateful for everything. They are there for an individual competition but leave as a sisterhood. The bond they all share is pretty amazing.”

The bond Cady and Coleman share is pretty special, too. The two take a yearly trip to New York City to glean inspiration, while keeping each other accountable and motivated.

“I love working with Kim because we are like-minded,” said Cady. “We are eager businesswomen who like to stay ahead of trends, and we are eager to constantly advance in our craft, branding and future opportunities. We make things happen as a team.”

In recent years, pageants have received some unwarranted criticism from those who consider them to be

somewhat superficial. Cady and Coleman believe this misconception has no validity, and they hope to combat the myths that surround the industry.

Cady pursued a career as a country music artist for a time in Tennessee and credits pageants for instilling in her the drive and confidence to follow her dreams.



While plans we make and goals we set sometimes change, Cady insists the pageant world prepares you for life’s challenges.

“People think pageants are irrelevant and that the girls are not intelligent,” said Cady. “Each and every contestant has to have a platform in which they are serving the local

community.”

While there is certainly a focus on making sure the hair looks flawless and the lips are glossed, these contestants prove time and again that they aren’t afraid to get out there and do some hard work. They volunteer tens of thousands of hours to Children’s Miracle Network and a variety of other nonprofits. The pageants also provide contestants collectively with millions of dollars in scholarship money so they can pursue careers in health care, engineering or whatever path they choose.

A Concept by Jenn Cady



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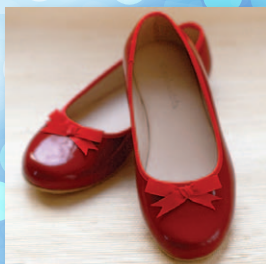
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“The most rewarding aspect is getting to know the Miss America contestants personally, creating their best look and then seeing them compete on stage,” said Cady. “Seeing them compete, you feel as if you are watching your own child or a very close friend compete in one of the biggest moments of their life.”

If you want to look pageant worthy, even if you have no plans to snag a tiara any time soon, visit Coleman at Vanity Salon in Mount Pleasant. Need a head shot that’s sure to impress? Contact Cady. With years of experience and expertise, these ladies have the skills to get you ready for your close-up. 🍍

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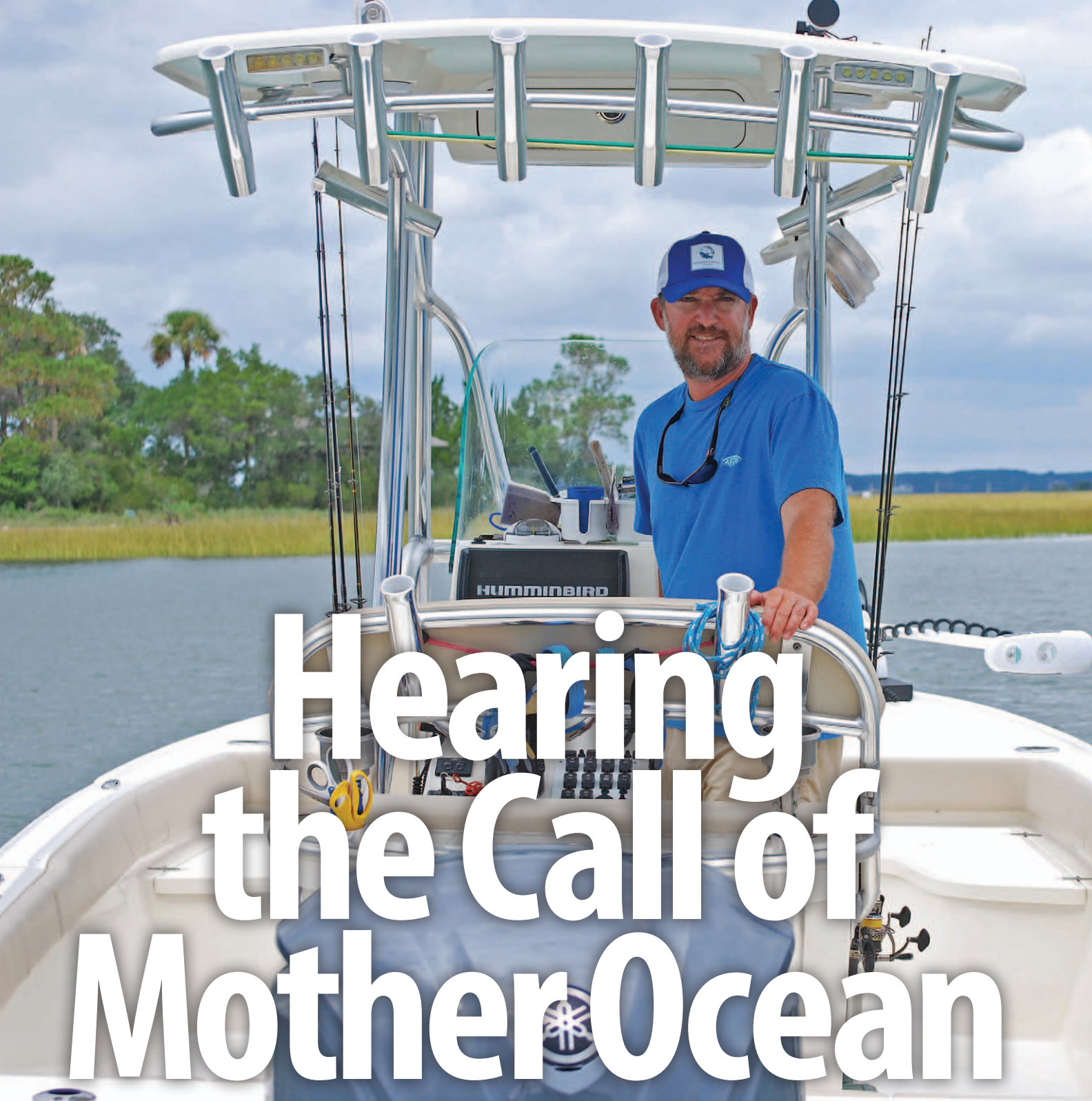
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Hearing the Call of Mother Ocean

FISHING GUIDES IN THE LOWCOUNTRY

Story and photos by Brian Sherman



CAPTAIN J.R. WAITS HAS BEEN a professional fishing guide for two decades, while Captain Hunter Allen has been working the waters of coastal Carolina for four years. Waits owns two boats, the larger vessel big enough to handle six anglers seeking fun, relaxation and the thrill of the sport of fishing around the Lowcountry's beaches and jetties and in Charleston Harbor. Allen plies his trade in an 18-footer, mostly sight fishing in shallow water and rarely working with more than one or two clients at a time.

They have something important in common, however, besides the fact that they are fishing fanatics who begin the majority of their 200 or so excursions a year at the Isle of Palms Marina. They both earned college degrees, then later discovered that they would rather make their living on the water than in an office building.

"I go under the bridges on my commute rather than over them," said Allen, the owner of Lighter Breeze Charters.

Allen grew up in the Columbia area, but, since his family owned a home on Sullivan's Island, he spent extensive time along the coast. He earned a degree in Finance at Wofford College and spent a few years in commercial property management before abandoning his desk job and moving his place of business to the great outdoors.

"The whole time I was working in an office, I was always thinking about what was happening on the water," he said. "And I wanted to be my own boss."

James Raymond Waits, owner of Fish Call Charters, echoed that sentiment, adding that "I love to do stuff outdoors, and I love to make people happy. People rarely come on board with a bad attitude. They're always happy to go fishing."

Waits grew up on the Wando River, north of Mount Pleasant, and earned a masters degree in Geology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Unable to find a job in the Lowcountry to match his education, he decided to earn his living doing what he has been doing most of his life: fishing.

Waits said from April to October, he serves his clients in his 24-footer, fishing for tarpon, bull redfish, shark and cobia. In the winter, he guides in a 17-footer, usually looking for redfish, sea trout and flounder. He can take six people out in "Trophy Hunter" but only three in "Fish Call."

"I need the larger boat in the summer because that's

Captain J.R. Waits earned a Geology degree. Unable to find a job in the Lowcountry to match his education, he decided to make his living doing what he has been doing most of his life: fishing.



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Captain Hunter Allen plies his trade in an 18-footer, mostly sight fishing in shallow water and rarely working with more than one or two clients at a time.



Captain J.R. Waits owns two boats, the larger vessel big enough to handle six anglers seeking fun, relaxation and the thrill of the sport of fishing.

when I take out more families and groups,” he explained.

Allen, on the other hand, works in shallow water most of the year, seeking redfish and speckled trout. He can take no more than three fishermen with him, but, in many cases, he fishes with only one client at a time.

“That style of fishing works best with two people,” he explained. “It’s more of a team effort. I find the fish, and the angler is on the front of the boat casting. It’s kind of a

team sport.”

So why should a fisherman hire a guide? Wouldn’t it be just as easy for locals to take their own boats out on the water and more economical for visitors to the area to rent a boat and fish on their own?

Probably not, according to both Waits and Allen, who insist that finding fish is both an art and a science.

“The fish will change what they’re doing,” Waits




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pointed out. "They might be biting at different tides or different times of the day. I know the correct tackle and bait to use, and I know where the fish are biting."

And, because 20 years of experience has given him a unique insight as to where the fish will be and when, he said his clients usually don't call until the day before they are ready to take to the water. He usually doesn't even decide what time they will leave the marina until the night before. On occasion, he can't make that determination, though. For example, a businessperson might want to take his clients fishing after a meeting, and the time of that meeting will dictate when business ends and the fun begins.

Allen agreed that hiring a guide is the best option for locals and visitors alike.

"With years of experience, we know where the fish go in and out of the marshes at every stage of the tides," he explained. "We develop patterns of where the fish are going to be. And once the fish are located, we know which bait and techniques to use, based on information about the weather and the tides that you would only know if you're on the water day in and day out."

Are Lowcountry fishing excursions ever canceled because of the weather? That rarely happens, according to Waits and Allen. If it's raining, the client usually decides whether to fish or stay home, and they both agreed that 90 percent of the time, rain without lightning means the show goes on.

Waits explained that in the winter, the water temperature is lower and so is the metabolism of the fish, so they eat less. However, when the temperature

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dips, the water is clearer because the algae dies off, and schools are generally larger.

“When the water temperature is in the 60s, there might be schools of 20. When it’s in the low 50s, there might be 500 or more redfish in a school,” he said. “And it rarely ever gets too cold here to fish.”

Allen pointed out that most of his clients fish for the sport rather than for their dinner, so he encourages catch and release, especially for redfish and trout. Despite the increased popularity of fishing in the Lowcountry – in part a result of the area’s booming population and its enhanced status as a vacation destination – he doesn’t expect coastal Carolina’s waters to be fished out any time soon. He doesn’t want to take any



Most of Allen’s clients fish for sport rather than for dinner, so he encourages catch and release, especially for redfish and trout.

chances, however.

“If there are no fish out here because I killed them all, then it would be part my fault,” he said.

Waits said some of his clients have been fishing with him for 17 or 18 years, while Allen added that repeat business is also a major reason for his success.

“People don’t have to catch the most or the biggest fish. They just have to enjoy fishing with you to come back again and again,” Waits said.

“I tend to be fairly laid back, which can be hard to find in a fishing guide,” Allen added. “You hear stories about people having bad days because their guide yelled at them or was too intense. I try to keep things very calm, educational and entertaining.”

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CHANCE ENCOUNTER IN THE WILDERNESS



By Sarah Carmical

Photos provided by Sarah Carmical.





HOW MANY TIMES HAD I been here? How many times had I stared out through the branches under the stars? Sitting in the tree stand, I checked my phone: 9:47. How much longer would I wait for that phantom, that big boar I had hunted for seemingly months on end?

Luckily, I stumbled across the landowner while out riding my horse a while back.

“You see what those hogs have done to my field?” he asked with indignation. “I know someone who can take care of that,” I replied with a wink.

I am starting to fidget. I lean my head back against the pine tree and close my eyes. In that instant, clear as an oncoming train, I hear an animal laying tracks through the grass to my left. Less than three seconds – I switch off my safety, point the gun into the sky and turn on the red light. Leveling the stock to my cheek, I look through my scope and there he is: a big black boar trotting on a diagonal toward me. Pull the trigger. No hesitation. I

was not going to miss this moment again – a moment of judgment, precision and exhilaration all embodied by the squeeze of a trigger.

After the recoil knocks my gaze from my scope, I am again peering through the red haze created by my accomplice, my .308 Savage. Had I even breathed? Had my patient fortitude paid off? There lay my prey, my prize boar who terrified my dreams and taunted me relentlessly on foot or horseback. Always seeing his signs – teasing tracks and obnoxious rooting. There were times I would catch a glimpse of a shadow moving through the field or between the trees, then he would vanish without a trace. Now I have him!

I make my way down from the tree stand across the 60 yards to stand guard over my game. Tribal dancing to celebrate shooting my first boar, I think now of my next adventure, that of cleaning the carcass. It dawns on me I have never field dressed a boar before. What is a girl like me going to do with a 205-pound pig?

Going back through my memories of the previous months, I think of the deer I had gutted and cleaned. The



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very first one, shot by my hunting partner in this same field after we had camped out all night to find a beautiful eight-point buck. He shot and I found the body. Together we cleaned and packed it with ice.

This is my first year as a hunter, and I hungered to learn every bit of information. Recalling what I could from dressing the deer, I go to work on the pig. Starting at the groin and sliding the knife through to the chest, I begin the grueling task of cleaning my prize.

Once you look on the inside, the body is like a treasure map, each organ having its own texture and place. I savor using my hands to explore this uncharted territory, secrets for me to discover. Fifty-five minutes and a couple jagged edges later, I have removed all the vitals. Inspecting Phantom – the name stuck and will forever be a character in my memory – I wonder where my bullet pierced his hide. I check the chest cavity inside and out. No holes. I check the shoulders and the back. Not until I look at the pictures on my phone do I realize that I shot him square between the eyes! Secretly I give myself 007 status.

It registers in my brain I had been cleaning him in the beam of my dying headlights. I had not left my jeep running and the battery was calling it a night. Peace out hunter – you wanted to do this on your own. In the dark, with still a formidable animal in front of me, I realize it's time to call in reinforcements.

Finally, clean and crawling into bed about 2 a.m., I smile and drift off to sleep. Phantom is tucked in as well, in a bed of ice in a 155-quart cooler, ready to be taken to the processor. I hope this to be just the start of my hunting adventures.

Having hunted for only two years, I am still eating up every opportunity I get.

“When are you coming to North Carolina to visit?” mom would ask.

“After January 1,” I would reply. I could not stand to miss a minute.

I have hunted in wind and rain, all night and all day, sometimes back-to-back. I have not eaten because I was in the woods all day or fell asleep against a tree on the ground. I have dragged deer and pig, checked traps and run with dogs with nothing but a knife in hand to end the struggle of a hog fighting for its life. I have had more setbacks than success, but I believe that every experience in the woods is valuable, and you make gains for the next outing. I crave the wild outdoors, scouting out the tracks and reading the signs of a buck scrape or the fresh dung of a wild boar. Every moment is filled with anticipation of the unscripted battle that could take place at any moment. I love all animals and hunting is the vehicle that allows me to have an up-close-and-personal experience with a wild being.

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IN THE LOWCOUNTRY, WE LIKE TO maintain an active lifestyle. From walking the Ravenel Bridge to kayaking in one of the many local waterways, we revel in being outdoors while staying fit. In 2017, just as folks start to make those lofty New Year's resolutions, a Health and Wellness Expo that's sure to inform, entertain and inspire will take center stage. On

BY KALENE MCCORT

Jan. 9 and 10, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., The Charleston Convention Center will be teeming with industry professionals ready to share workout secrets, fitness regimes, health info and the latest dietary trends.

The man behind the Expo is Cooper River Bridge Run Director Julian Smith. A former marathoner and a cancer survivor, he anticipates this event will attract health enthusiasts from all over the region.

"The Charleston Health and Wellness Expo is a local event that should draw folks from the tri-county," said Smith. "Local business and corporate participants should draw a large crowd. I am expecting 3,000 the first year."

From what supplements you should incorporate into your diet to what protein-packed meals should dominate your kitchen this winter, this Expo is sure to provide a wealth of knowledge.

"There will be health screenings, flu shots and experts in the medical field," said Smith. "Doctors and health care professionals will be on-site to answer health-related questions. It is a way to start your year out by finding the latest in health and wellness."

Get expert advice from local dietitians regarding meal prep, vitamins and just what habits should be part of your daily routine. Unwind with a session provided by

a licensed massage therapist or uncover the benefits of antioxidant-rich goji berries.

"I started running as an enjoyment to clear my head and have a healthy heart," said Smith, who has completed The Cooper River Bridge Run an impressive 10 times and continues to maintain a healthy diet. "Mostly ran 5k and 10k races."

Smith has often held similar Health and Wellness Expos in conjunction with marathons he has directed locally and in Asheville. He anticipates this upcoming event to be quite a success. Wanting to show all that reaching the quality of life they desire is an attainable goal, he is offering the two-day event absolutely free.

"The goal of this event is to connect with and serve the Charleston community to promote health and wellness by providing information about the services that are available to assist citizens in their daily lives," commented Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg.

In addition to reaping the benefits of free health food samples, you'll take home helpful cooking tips and maybe even a referral for your next physician. From stress-relieving essential oils to

super foods sure to give you that extra push, what you encounter at The Charleston Health and Wellness Expo could transform your daily routine.

Whether you want to cross the finish line at the next local marathon or simply explore the many options that exist in the health world, a visit to The Charleston Health and Wellness Expo is a must. Keep those New Year's resolutions in check and make a promise to live your best life. Cheers to green smoothies and protein pancakes! 🥞

For more information, visit CharlestonPhysicians.com/expo.



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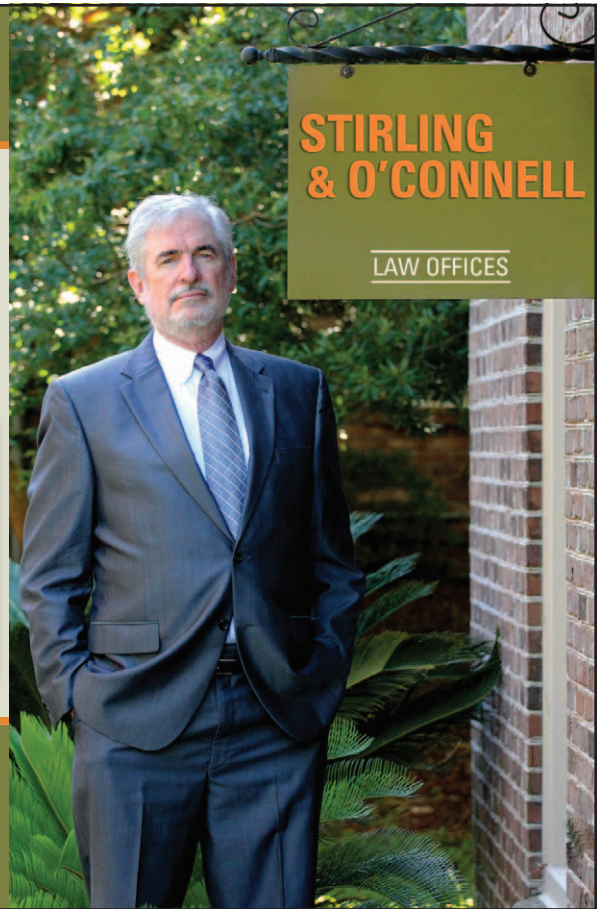
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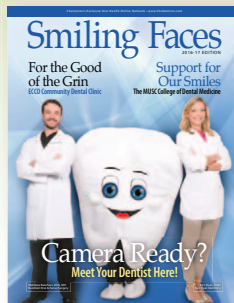
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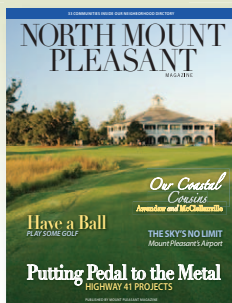
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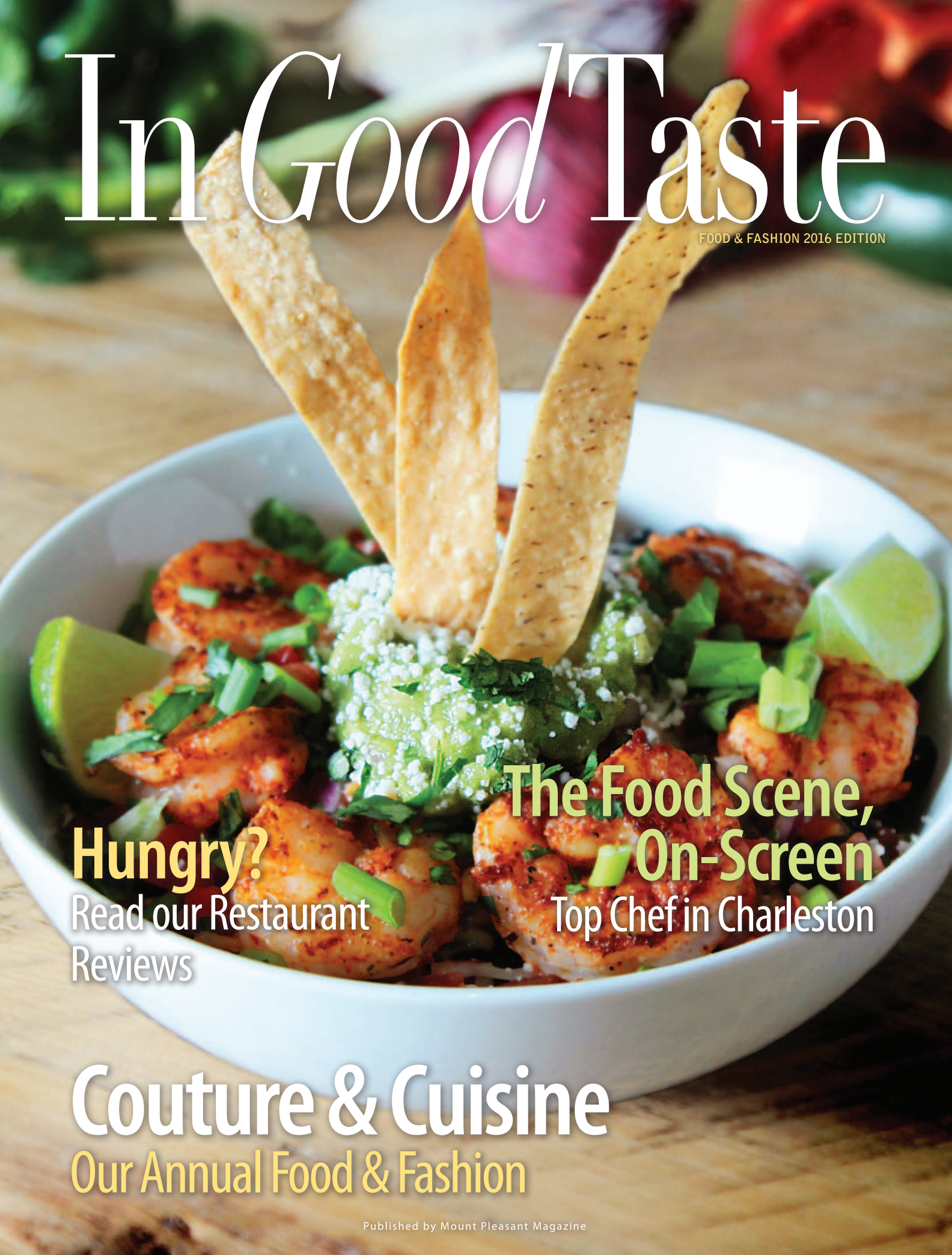
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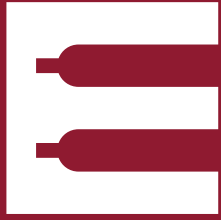


Photo by Paul Cheney/Bravo Media.

THE LOWCOUNTRY ON TOP CHEF

By Denise K. James

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Top Chef Judges Tom Colicchio and Padma Lakshmi at a challenge that took place at The Wreck of the Richard & Charlene in Mount Pleasant.



Photo by Paul Cheney/Bravo Media.

UNLESS YOU'VE been staying inside your house, cooking your own meals and avoiding all forms of media,

you probably know that Charleston is on the international food map. Scores of people from a variety of locations – from tourists to chefs – come to the Lowcountry to sample our cuisine, open new restaurants and enjoy rubbing elbows with the industry's finest.

As of this winter, we've taken yet another step to being *the* location for amazing food; we've hosted the television show Top Chef. A sensation of the Bravo Network and a favorite amongst foodies and chefs alike, Top Chef has filmed in many choice locations for the culinary arts. They can now add Charleston to the list, because, as Matt Reichman, vice president of current production at Bravo mentioned, "they know what's hot on the food scene."

We caught up with Reichman for a few questions pertaining to the show.

The season debuts Dec. 1 at 10 p.m. on Bravo.

Mount Pleasant Magazine: How, specifically, did the Lowcountry end up on the Top Chef radar?

Reichman: One of the great things about Top Chef is that the producers of the show are a tight group. Doneen Arquines, for example, executive producer on Top Chef for the production company Magical Elves, started as a production assistant during the first season. Other producers are veterans of the show as well. They all love food and food culture and know what is hot on the food scene. We've wanted to do the show in Charleston for a few years. Sean Brock has been on our show before, and the city was definitely on our radar. The city itself plays a character in the show, not only the food culture but the history. We needed a place with an identity.

Mount Pleasant Magazine: Describe how a restaurant is selected to be

one of the locations. Describe how a chef is selected.

Reichman: There are a few criteria. Foremost, is the chef doing something special with food? Is it important to the city's cultural identity? Can the chef hold interest? And can the restaurant support production? Not every place has all of this. For example, being at McCrady's on the peninsula, where George Washington once dined, is entertaining for viewers and provided multiple story layers.

Mount Pleasant Magazine: Which parts of this season have been a favorite?

Reichman: There are a couple things we're excited about. We did a luncheon honoring Edna Lewis, a well-known food matriarch for Southern cuisine. We also sent chefs to home-cooked meals in historic homes. The homes included those of BJ Dennis, Carrie Morey and others.

Mount Pleasant Magazine: Has the fact that Charleston is still a fairly small place (despite its cosmopolitan feel) affected this season of Top Chef, and how so?

Reichman: I think that the cities always get excited we're there. In Charleston and the surrounding areas, locals helped us get access to certain places. We got to see cool things, not the typical tourism checklist. From a small town standpoint, Charleston is hospitable and gracious. There's a fraternity, you might say, of chefs here as well. When we're in New York or Los Angeles, it's harder to focus. Charleston is a nice size. The city that we've been to that most resembles Charleston, geographically and

population-wise, is New Orleans.

Mount Pleasant Magazine: Do you see any variation between the specific areas of the Lowcountry – Mount Pleasant, downtown, Johns Island – as far as cuisine/menu/style?

Reichman: We covered a lot of ground. We shot at all those places. We tried to find backdrops that support the creative and show all the things happening in the Charleston food scene, from outdoor casual to barbecue to fine dining. When you're on King Street, there are some beautiful restaurants and steakhouses. Out on the islands it's more casual, like eating shrimp with your hands.

Mount Pleasant Magazine: Where did you spend time in Mount Pleasant and East Cooper?

Reichman: We shot at the Wreck of Richard and Charlene – it's one of those special outdoorsy spots I mentioned! What we wanted to do was play off the pirate theme and the coastal geography. That's how we are on the show; we try to get off of the beaten path. We also shot at Whole Foods in Mount Pleasant and Boone Hall Plantation. And the chefs lived together in a house at Isle of Palms.

Mount Pleasant Magazine: How has the Charleston food scene helped drive enthusiasm for the episodes of Top Chef shot here?

Reichman: What's happening in Charleston is happening across the country – getting into the heritage behind foods. It's at the top of everyone's radar. We were very happy to capture it at peak. 🍷



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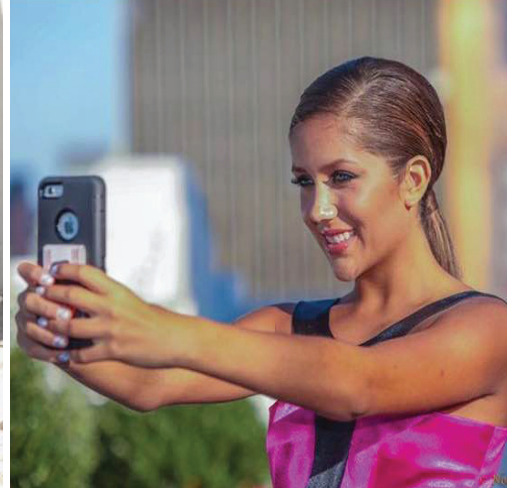
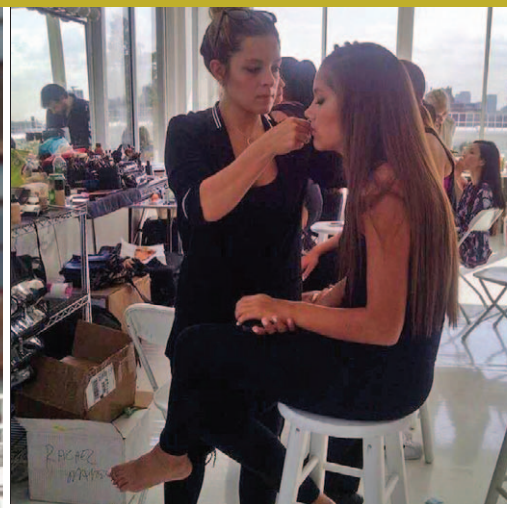


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On the Catwalk

LOCAL MODEL TAYLOR CRISTO AT NYFW

T

BY DENISE K. JAMES

THE FASHION WORLD IS SIX months ahead of the rest of us – good news, of course, if you’re already yearning for spring 2017 clothing. Warm weather styles hit the runways in New York City back in September, along with local model Taylor Cristo, one of the earliest faces of *Mount Pleasant Magazine’s*

Food and Fashion.

Cristo, a senior at Porter-Gaud and a native of East Cooper, modeled clothing for Southern designer Storm Dorris in Manhattan’s spring shows, propelling her own modeling experiences to new heights.

“New York Fashion Week was an amazing experience and one I will never forget,” she commented. “*Mount Pleasant Magazine’s* Food and Fashion was my first modeling job and the beginning of my career.”

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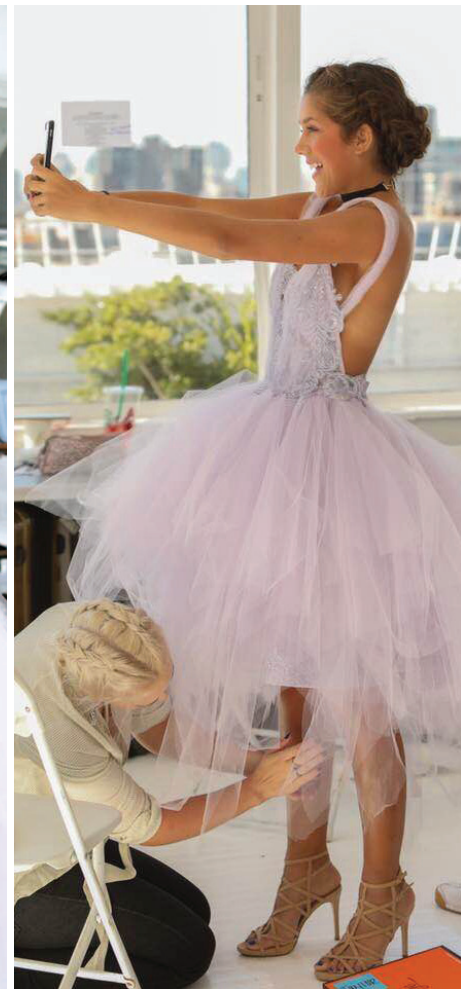
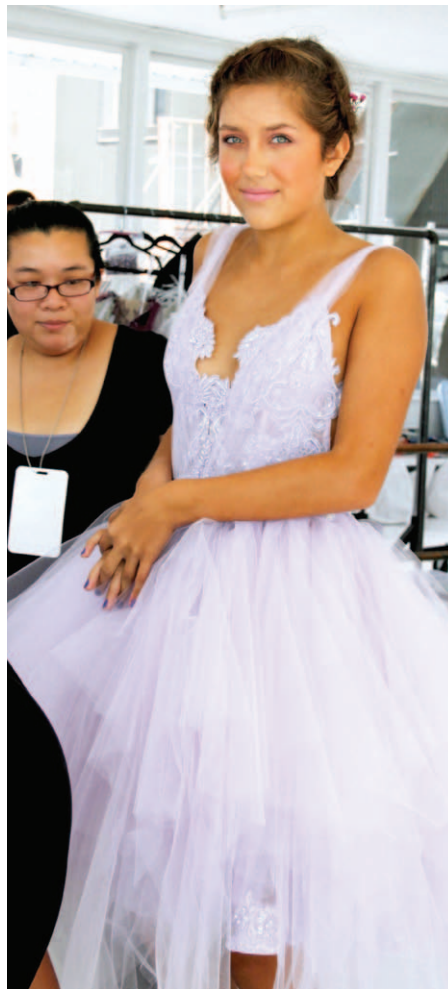
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Cristo said that in addition to *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, she feels immense gratitude to other locals in the industry – specifically Jenn Cady Photography; her agency, 3BBM; and the casting company for Storm Dorris, known as AMCONYC. She also appreciates Blush Boutique of Mount Pleasant for offering the opportunity to model their apparel, which was her first gig.

Preparation for her big walk on the fashion runway took awhile, and Cristo said that she had to attend “many” walking workshops designed to teach models the appropriate gait. But most of her preparation was done at home – not just maintaining a proper diet and working out but also watching YouTube videos of other models walking. Once she actually arrived in the city, there was still plenty of work.

“Getting from place to place was difficult,” she admitted. “Getting to shows and fittings was hard. I rode in an Uber for the first time and walked through Brooklyn by myself. I’d been to New York before, but I was younger then, and the time constraints and people everywhere made it hard to navigate.”

Nevertheless, Cristo relished the experience and recounted how pampered she felt backstage. Massage chairs, hair and makeup artists plus manicure and pedicure technicians helped ease the nerves of the young models.

“We were even able to get our feet massaged because we were walking in heels all day,” she remembered.

As for the glamour of being a model on the catwalk, Cristo said that “photographers were everywhere,” and even industry veterans such as



Miss J from “Project Runway” and former supermodel Kim Alexis were present at shows. Outside, eager paparazzi waited to snap photos of the fashion models in front of the post office; Cristo and a few other newbies felt more than validated as the bright flashes went off. And there were other perks as well.

“I went to Black Tap Cafe with another model – we walked all the way there,” Cristo said. “There’s a black carpet out front and people have to wait to get in, but we didn’t have to wait because we walked in fashion week.”

Cristo said that her plans for the future include walking for Storm Dorris again in the February 2017 shows. She’s also gearing up for college and earning a law degree and has her sights set upon her goal in the modeling industry.

“Ultimately, I want to do commercial print modeling,” she explained. “And I’d like to be a lawyer.”

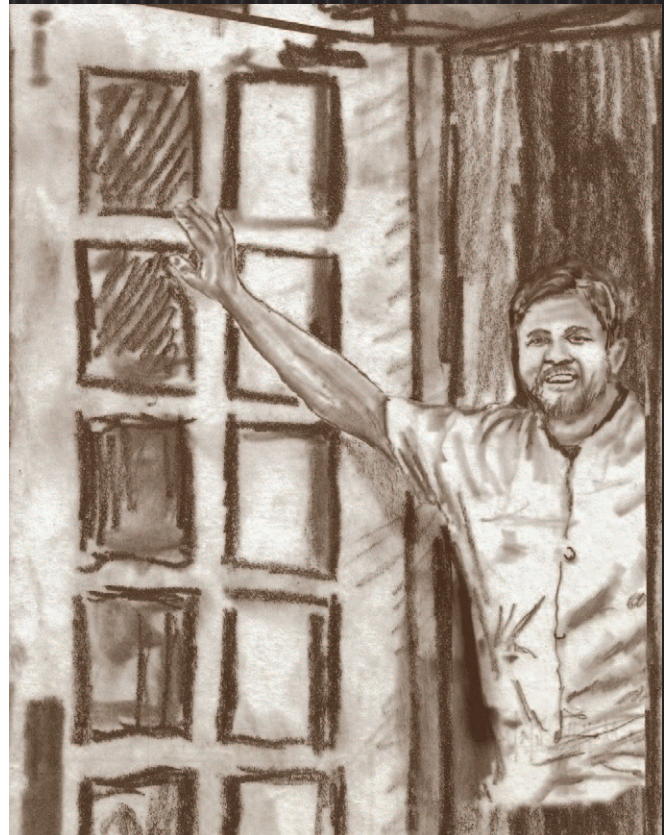
Though Cristo said that much of Fashion Week was spent alone, the camaraderie among herself and other first-time models was palpable after each of the shows.

“I got backstage and a lot of the girls would be crying and hugging each other because it was their first time,” she said. “It was cool to realize for myself, ‘I’m in New York and I just walked in Fashion Week.’” 🍷



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Food & Fashion 2016

This year flew by, didn't it? And we're happy to report that despite Hurricane Matthew trying to crash the meal, Food and Fashion 2016 happened without TOO many complications. My gratitude goes out to my co-director, Jennifer Burke, my photographers, Jenn Cady, Rick Walo and James Stefiuk, the restaurants that hosted our crew, the number of models who took time from their busy schedules and the retailers and stylists that made everyone shine. Much like the rest of our magazine, it's a team effort to bring Food and Fashion together. We hope you enjoy the fruits of this year.

Denise K. James • Editor

Directors: Jennifer Burke and Denise K. James.

Cover: Baja Bowl with Grilled Santos Shrimp at Mex 1 • Sullivan's Island.
Photo by Rick Walo.

The Refuge: 1517 Palm Blvd. • Isle of Palms
Photographers: Jenn Cady (fashion), Rick Walo (food)
Retailers: MODE • Accessories: ZAGS

Elements Social Bar: 1440 Ben Sawyer Blvd. • Mount Pleasant
Photographer: Rick Walo
Retailers: WORN, Parrot Surf Shop, Apricot Lane, Vivi & Kate

Bistro Toulouse: 1200 Ben Sawyer Blvd. • Mount Pleasant
Photographers: Jenn Cady (fashion) James Stefiuk (food)
Retailers: WORN, MODE • Accessories: ZAGS, Diamonds Direct
Stylist: Vanity Salon

Mex 1: 2205 Middle St. • Sullivan's Island
Photographers: Jenn Cady (fashion), Rick Walo (food)
Retailers: LivinLifeMan, MODE, Apricot Lane
Accessories: LivinLifeMan, Apricot Lane • Shoes: Phillip's, Apricot Lane
Stylist: Vanity Salon

Pier 41: 1039 S.C. 41 • Mount Pleasant
Photographers: Jenn Cady (fashion), Rick Walo (food)
Retailers: Vivi & Kate, WORN
Accessories: Diamonds Direct
Stylist: Vanity Salon

Congress: 1035 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. • Mount Pleasant
Photographers: Jenn Cady (fashion), Rick Walo (food)
Retailers: Apricot Lane, Vivi & Kate, Parrot Surf Shop
Accessories: Henry & Eva • Stylist: Vanity Salon
Shoes: Apricot Lane, Phillip's, Parrot Surf Shop

Lexi Rettmeyer, a student at Trident Technical College, wears a plum tank by Scrapbook, jeans by Denimocracy and an "On the Mediterranean" shawl by ZAGS. She is joined for coffee and dessert at The Refuge in Isle of Palms by Kelly Durette, wearing a burgundy sweater dress by Olive & Oak and a denim jacket by Tractr. Outfits provided by MODE.





Above: Local Charleston Salt Oysters with a Banyuls Mignonette. **Below:** Chef's Daily Salad Special with local sweet Bay Farms lettuce with a Maryland style Jumbo Lump Crab Cake; both available at The Refuge on Palm Boulevard in Isle of Palms.





Left: Marcus Amaker, an independent graphic designer and the poet laureate of Charleston, wears a striped shirt by Brooks Brothers and Gap jeans provided by WORN. Keith Powell, owner of Summit Industrial Flooring, wears a denim collared shirt by RVCA, pants by Billabong and shoes by O'Neill, all provided by Parrot Surf Shop.
Below: The men are joined at Elements Social Bar by Kimberly Powell, owner of Woodhouse Day Spa, wearing a flared sleeve shirt with shoulder cut-out by Elan and pants by Kancan, provided by Apricot Lane. Jordan Amaker, director of marketing for Lowcountry Local First, wears a white V-neck dress with black leather trim by Julia Jordan, provided by Vivi & Kate.





Above: Roasted garlic and rosemary hummus with Greek olive tapenade. **Below:** The Element panini with prosciutto, salami, ham, provolone, spinach and vinaigrette; both available at Elements Social Bar on Ben Sawyer Boulevard in Mount Pleasant.





Above: Scott Holmes, a CBS Television actor currently performing in "My Fair Lady" at Woolfe Street Theater, directed by Keely Enright, wears a plum blazer by Angelico, provided by WORN. Joining him is Emily Taylor, territory manager for Grace Direct, wearing a cinched waist, Chambray dress provided by MODE and an orange sand dollar shawl by ZAGS. Emily's ring was provided by Diamonds Direct. **Below:** Duck breast with toasted farro, duck confit mushrooms and greens, prepared by Bistro Toulouse.





Warm squash salad with arugula, sage pesto, pumpkin seeds and blue cheese espuma. It is paired with a dirty martini. Both available at Bistro Toulouse on Ben Sawyer Boulevard in Mount Pleasant.



Above: Kelly Durette, co-owner of LivinLifeMan, wears a charcoal Step Into Sunshine Love Junkie shirt, Tractr High Rise pants and a denim Trucker hat. She shares a drink with Ashley Jones, owner of Painted Lady, wearing an olive Active USA bomber jacket, a Feminine Lace Tank, and Tractr Skinny Jeans. **Below:** Mother and daughter duo Samantha and Ashley Sullivan, pose outside of Mex 1. Ashley wears a plum Elan dress and Toms shoes from Phillip's, while Samantha wears an En Crème vest, patterned Tea n Rose shirt, Flying Monkey jeans and shoes from Apricot Lane. Outfits provided by Apricot Lane.





Above: Bangin' Shrimp Taco with lightly fried shrimp, spicy Bangin' Sauce, shredded cabbage and cilantro, drizzled with Mex 1 'Sweet Heat' sauce.
Below: Cabo salad with crisp romaine mix, topped with Tijuana steak, corn and black bean salsa, bell peppers, crunchy tortilla strips and jack cheese – served with chipotle ranch. Dishes available at Mex 1 on Sullivan's Island.



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Amey Nicoll, owner of Encore Interiors, poses at Pier 41 wearing a royal blue, knee-length dress with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch sleeves by Nic & Zoe, provided by Vivi & Kate. Her long necklace is provided by Diamonds Direct.



Above: Lorenda Feist, insurance investigator at Sentry Insurance and co-owner of Melodic Entertainment, enjoys appetizers while wearing a Black Tape dress from Vivi & Kate. Across the table sits Anastasia Meyer-Jones, coach for Girls on the Run at Philip Simmons, who wears a patterned dress by Katherine Way, provided by Vivi & Kate. Doug Nicoll, D.R. Horton land acquisitions manager for Charleston, wears a button-down shirt by Robert Graham, provided by WORN. To Doug's right is his wife, Amey. **Below:** Lobster roll on a brioche bun, tossed in uni butter and garnished with pickled celery hearts and cucumbers, sesame seeds and scallops, prepared by Pier 41.





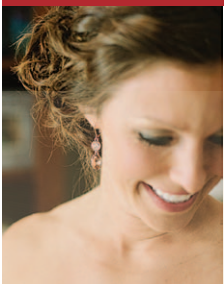
Left: Sheuli McKee, marketing executive for a biotech firm, dazzles in an En Crème romper and thigh-high Bamboo boots provided by Apricot Lane. She also showcases a Henry & Eva Garb Signature Clutch at Congress. **Below:** Carla Smith, real estate agent with Weichert Realtors Palmetto Coast, poses with her son, Romello Young. Carla wears a deep violet Julia Jordan dress provided by Vivi & Kate, Walking Cradles shoes provided by Phillip's Shoes and a Henry & Eva Garb Signature Clutch, while her son, a freshman at the Charleston County School of the Arts, wears a short sleeved Vissila shirt and pants and shoes by Vans, provided by Parrot Surf Shop. Sunglasses provided by Henry & Eva.





Left: Pork Belly with mole verde, red vein sorrel, pickled red onions and pepitas. **Right:** Fresh Mozzarella that is hand-pulled daily with pistachio pesto, arugula and grilled bread. Both available at Congress on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard in Mount Pleasant.

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Recipes



Enjoy these recipes this holiday season!

TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD

Cocktail by Mex 1

The Tequila Mockingbird is a tasty play on a margarita with a combination of tequila, blackberries and raspberries and blood orange liqueur, with a slight kick at the end from the serrano pepper.

INGREDIENTS

1.5 oz. blackberry, raspberry and serrano infused tequila (see recipe below).
1 oz. Solerno blood orange liqueur.
1 oz. fresh squeezed lime juice.
.75 oz. agave syrup.
Splash of soda water.

PROCESS

To build the cocktail, make sure you have your cocktail shaker, collins glass and fresh cut lime and salt for garnishing. In your shaker, add ice, the infused tequila, Solerno, lime juice, agave syrup and soda water and give it a good shake. Take your collins glass and swirl the lime around the rim of the glass and dip it in the margarita salt. Pour the cocktail into the collins glass, garnish with a lime and enjoy with friends!



To make the infused tequila. Take 2 to 3 quarts of raspberries and blackberries and 2 to 3 serrano peppers and add to a 1 to 2 gallon jar. Add enough tequila (1 to 2 liters) to cover the ingredients. Let this sit for a minimum of 5 days, up to 10 days. For a spicier version of the drink, let the peppers sit the

whole 10 days or pull the peppers early for a slightly less spicy drink. Once the tequila is ready, strain the ingredients into another jar or large bowl, remove the peppers and very lightly press on the fruit to get some of the juice out. The finished product will be good for a few months. ■

MINI BEEF WELLINGTON AND SEARED SEA SCALLOP

Entree By Homegrown Hospitality Group

INGREDIENTS

8 oz. teres major.
2 sea scallops.
10 baby portabello mushrooms.
1 package goya empanada dough.
2 tbsp demiglaze.
3 tbsp jar red pepper jelly.
2 tbsp cider vinegar.
1 jalapeno.
Dried or fresh cranberries.
1 egg, whisked.
1 cup oil (for frying).
Salt and pepper.

PROCESS

Remove silver skin and cut the ends off beef; slice 1½ inch thick rounds. Season beef rounds with salt and



pepper. Sear in a very hot pan, 30 seconds each side.

Separate empanada sheets; lay out on a table to thaw.

Cut dough with a 3-inch cookie cutter to make smaller rounds.

Place beef medallion on one piece of empanada dough.

Rub egg wash on the second piece of dough and place on top. Using your fingers, press the top piece of dough around the beef. Crimp the edge with a fork and trim off excess dough with a paring knife.

Fry in oil and drain on paper towel.

Sauté sliced mushrooms.

In a small bowl, add jelly, vinegar and small diced jalapeño and dried cranberries.

Season scallops with salt and pepper. Sear 1 minute on each side.

Slice scallops length ways into threes.

PLATING

Lay mushrooms down in a small ring. Lay scallops down on top of mushrooms.

Place mini wellington on top of scallops. Drizzle with jelly sauce. ■

ROASTED BRUSSELS SPROUTS WITH PANCETTA

Side Dish by Congress

This is a favorite of ours, particularly because the sprouts can be par-cooked ahead of time and finished just before service. This makes it ideal if you're bringing it to grandma's house!

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. Brussels sprouts, trimmed & halved.
¼ lb. raw pancetta, ¼" diced.
1 shallot, ¼" diced.
3 tbsp vegetable oil.
Kosher salt and black pepper.
¼ cup parsley, chopped.
¼ cup aged balsamic vinegar.
Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

PROCESS

On high heat, add 2 tbsp oil to a 12"



skillet and place Brussels sprout halves face down, letting them sit for about 3 minutes to caramelize and get a nice char.

Transfer the pan to the oven for an additional 5 minutes to roast.

Spread the sprouts on a sheet pan to cool. They can be refrigerated until you're ready to finish and serve.

Return the skillet to medium heat. Add 1 tbsp oil and pancetta. Sauté until the fat is rendered and the pancetta is crispy. Add the shallot and sweat it down for about a minute.

Toss your Brussels sprouts in the pan and season with salt and pepper.

Once the sprouts are heated through, turn off the heat add the parsley and balsamic vinegar. Give it a good stir, serve and enjoy! ■

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Let Freedom Ring Liberty Tap Room and Grill

AN EATERY IN MOUNT PLEASANT is serving up freedom, one decked-out burger at a time. Liberty Tap Room & Grill, located at 1028 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., has solidified itself as a beacon of food paradise, offering patrons a varied menu and 48 quality beers on tap. Happy hour specials and game day prices – now that’s something you can sink your teeth into.

BY KALENE MCCORT

“Our goal is to give every customer who walks in our door courteous and responsive service and provide quality food that we are proud to bring to the table,” said Lauren Butler, marketing assistant for Homegrown Hospitality Group. “We strive to provide every guest with great hospitality every time.”

Laid-back and outfitted with 16 TVs to watch all the sporting events on your radar, Liberty Tap Room is the ideal choice for football fans. Witnessing your favorite team attain victory

while enjoying crispy calamari or perfect wings brings game day to a whole new level.

“On Saturdays and Sundays during football games we offer our full Happy Hour Menu, featuring \$6 and \$8 appetizers: beer-battered onion rings, Liberty nachos, chicken wings and more,” said Butler. “Some of our drink specials include \$3.50 pints of Liberty brews, \$4 pints of New South brews and \$4 well liquors.”

While the cocktail selection leaves nothing to be desired, Liberty also knows how to keep the kiddos satisfied. Offering an array of kid-friendly options, they truly are a place where the whole family can enjoy an afternoon of delicious fare in a relaxed environment.

Chicken fingers, mac ‘n cheese and a classic PB & J are all offered to tykes, along with a fun word search and coloring sheet to make their dining experience enjoyable.

The food options for the adults continue to exceed expectations amongst patrons, who just can’t get enough of the quality and flavor dished out daily.

“Nothing says Liberty Tap Room & Grill like our signature wood fire grilled wings, or try our freedom burger, a certified Angus beef burger with cheddar, applewood smoked bacon and fried egg that’s served with hand-cut fries,” said Butler. “Pair this with our very own Liberty ales and your taste buds will thank you.”

In the Lowcountry, brunch is a sport of its own. Liberty Tap Room & Grill recognizes this fact and has geared up

with some tasty creations. Each Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., you can join them for breakfast burritos and innovative omelets. Wash down an array of star-studded options with a spicy Bloody Mary or mimosa. There’s even a “Manmosa,”



Photo courtesy of Liberty Tap Room & Grill.

consisting of Blue Moon, champagne and orange juice served in a pint glass, for those who savor a slightly different spin on the classic. A must try has to be the Strawberries and Whipped Cream French Toast, which is guaranteed to awaken your taste buds.

Whether you are joining them for brunch, lunch, dinner or drinks, Liberty Tap Room & Grill knows how to impress. A visit to Liberty is sure to bring about endless smiles and pure contentment. Enjoy an ice-cold craft beer and let freedom ring! 🍷

For more on Liberty Tap Room & Grill, visit www.libertytaproom.com or call 843-971-7777.

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BY ANNE TOOLE

Owner Anja Stief personally oversees every Charleston catering event, from the early planning stages through the post-event follow-up. With no formal training in culinary arts or event planning, Stief credits her decades of success in the industry to her German heritage and growing up in a large family.

“My German upbringing has never hurt me here,” she said. “We hold ourselves to a high standard, where a family setting and local, fresh food is important. Having grown up in a big family, planning parties and events has been part of my life forever.”

Dish & Design’s Rob Haan brings a career’s worth of experience to the company as an exceptionally innovative chef and experienced creative event planner.

The team at Dish & Design is dedicated to bringing passion to every event they cater. They strive to provide impeccable service, exceptionally prepared and presented food and new and unique experiences. They have even added a mobile kitchen to their options, allowing them to cook on-site in uncommon and sometimes breathtaking settings.

“The mobile kitchen allows us to ensure high quality and perfect presentation,” Stief explained. “Straight from the grill or oven to you separates us from others who prepare food hours in advance. It is self-sustained and can

go almost anywhere to provide fresh, affordable food.”

In addition to spectacular food and presentation, Stief personally ensures that the journey planning the catering event is a success. Even the inevitable last-minute changes – planned or unplanned – are managed to appear seamless to guests.

“That’s the secret to our success,” Stief said. “Our personal touch. A successful event is in the details, and Dish & Design is there every step of the way to help turn each catering event into a memorable occasion.”

This holiday season, Dish & Design offers traditional



Thanksgiving menus for corporate and private clients, ranging from a private dinner for five to corporate meals to serve 1,000 people. Set menus and appetizer packages are available, and staff can assist in custom menu planning as well.

“Why wait until Christmas to get together for a special meal, whether it’s with family, friends or co-workers? It’s the holiday season – such a fun and exciting time around here

with lots of parties and holiday cheer, and we can help with them all,” Stief commented.

November and December are the most popular times for companies to say “thank you” to their employees or clients with a meal. The Dish & Design staff can assist with full-service catering and events throughout the season.

“Plan early and stress less,” Stief recommends. “Corporate and private events are our specialty, and holiday weekends book up fast. We see it every year, and being ahead of schedule is so important. We want to see the hosts enjoying themselves, too. We’re here to help however we can.” 🍷

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One is the Tastiest Number

Mex 1 Opens on Sullivan's

WALK INTO MEX 1 Coastal Cantina in West Ashley and feel the beach vibe wash over you – the sunset wall behind the bar, bathed in soft oranges, yellows and reds, combined with the signage and surfboards, the light Mexican fare and the margaritas to die for. You could swear the smell of the ocean is in the air.

BY BARRY WALDMAN

Well it is, because you're actually at the new Mex 1 on Sullivan's Island, on the main strip where Station 22 used to be. Mex 1 owners Dave and Chrissy Lorenz, and Roddy Smith, have opened a second Mex 1 location. If you like the beach shack ambience of the West Ashley restaurant, you'll love the same authentic Baja Mexican fare at their new authentic beach location.

The Sullivan's Mex 1, unveiled to a hungry island at the beginning of September, offers what made the restaurant popular in West Ashley, with the ocean town thrown in.

Dave Lorenz, a veteran of iconic eateries Sticky Fingers and Jack's Cosmic Dogs, recommends that you enjoy the "Bangin Shrimp Taco" – lightly fried shrimp atop crunchy cabbage. The spicy, creamy "bangin" sauce is balanced by a sweet agave-cilantro drizzle.

Or, said Lorenz, order the "Grilled Mahi Baja Bowl," packed with steamed brown rice and seasoned black beans made in-house, drawing out a grilled mahi mahi seasoned with a signature spicy Baja rub. Top it with pico, jack cheese, guacamole, green onions and fresh cilantro.

Of course, you'll wash it down with a margarita – and not one of those over-stuffed margaritas in a gorilla glass that oozes sour mix. At Mex 1, it's a house recipe featuring 100-percent blue agave tequila infused with fruit, which you can witness comingling in Mason jars

right behind the bar. The pineapple habanero margarita is a customer favorite.

Mex 1 was named for the highway that traverses the narrow Baja California peninsula of western Mexico. The fare, colors and music are light, exuberant and fresh, the food and atmosphere you want greeting you after a day on the waves. Even at the West Ashley location, you can stop in and find surfers in their board shorts as well as guests in work attire.

The restaurant business is often where dreams – and fortunes – go to die. It's a daily grind that requires perpetual attention to the big picture and the smallest details. So when the Lorenz' and Smith made the leap five years ago in West Ashley, they knew they had to deliver constantly.

"The core of our business is consistent, craveable food and the cleanliness of our operation," said Dave.

This even meant giving up a day's receipts to clean, organize and train staff to demonstrate to the employees the importance of focusing on the small details.

The booming hospitality industry in the Lowcountry

has made this a tough time to recruit and retain quality food service employees. Mex 1's owners envision a corporate entity with multiple locations, providing numerous opportunities for new hires. Dave said the owners realize that to build a great company, they need great people, and to keep great people, they need to treat their employees well. Both Lorenz and Smith learned this lesson from past restaurant experiences.

Lorenz said Mex 1 will never sacrifice quality for a few extra bucks.

"Profits result from quality, not the other way around," he remarked. 🍹

To learn more, visit www.Mex1CoastalCantina.com or call 843-882-8172.



Bangin Shrimp Tacos are among the most popular items on the menu at Mex 1.

Photo courtesy of Mex 1.



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Mount Pleasant Town Councilman Will Haynie, left, talks with Deputy Director of Public Services Andy Weis. In the background, town employees work to reduce the pile of brush, trees and leaves collected after Hurricane Matthew.

Photo by Brian Sherman

“We’re Finding Our Rhythm”

REFLECTING ON HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE

By Mount Pleasant Town Councilman Will Haynie

IT'S TIME FOR A BRIEF MEMOIR OF MY first year as one of your new Mount Pleasant town councilmen. I'd like to thank the voters for entrusting me with this responsibility. I assure that is something I will never forget.

I had toyed with the idea of running for

office at other times in my life, but, in 2015, I finally took the plunge. Serving as an elected official in a place you absolutely love is a rare opportunity. But first, you have to get elected, and, to do that, you have to run, and you have to have a single focus. My wife, Suzette, who teaches fifth grade at Jennie Moore Elementary, and our children were not only supportive but understanding. Sometimes during

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the campaign, the trash didn't get taken out and the dogs didn't get their daily walk with me. Running for local office has to be a total family effort.

I had been around politics before as press secretary for a North Carolina congressman who had a geographically large district. I had seen a campaign up close and personal. I found the intensity of the 12-man race for Town Council in 2015 to be much higher than I expected. Social media played a big role in adding to that intensity, and sometimes it wasn't pleasant. The world is full of keyboard warriors who snipe at candidates, possibly from the safety of their parents' basement. You just never know, but you have to tune out the negativity and stick to your message and your purpose.

It was a tiring campaign – seven formal debates, forums, fundraisers, drop-ins and such. Mount Pleasant, for all its size, is still a tightknit community. People like to see and speak to local candidates. That's a good thing, but it takes time. The period immediately after the election reminded me of the days right after completing final exams in college. I experienced complete mental, physical and emotional exhaustion. Fortunately, I had a positive result to show for it.

My response to those who have asked what it's like because they are considering running is, "Whatever you think it's going to be like, I guarantee you that it will be different – and much harder."

Because I had served on a congressional staff, I was familiar with how little the average citizen, even a fairly engaged one, knows about upcoming votes in Washington. It is entirely different at the local level. I have described being on Mount Pleasant Town Council as like being on the Lowcountry's biggest and most controversial homeowners association. When there's a proposed development to be voted on, lots of people know all about it. Engagement among the citizenry in Mount Pleasant is high. Not only do residents show up at meetings, but they do not hesitate to contact you as a Council member to let you know how they feel. Town Council deals with a \$100 million budget, recreation programs and facilities used by

over 10,000 people and more miles of streets and drainage than I can count.

But this past year, what the TV satellite trucks and large crowds showed up for at monthly Council meetings were the land use decisions. These decisions about population growth and development are more critical now than ever because we've become the fastest growing town east of the Mississippi River, and we must properly manage growth while maintaining the quality of life and coastal ambience that make our town so desirable in the first place.

I've asked colleagues who serve on councils in other towns what it's like to operate as a municipality that isn't the fastest growing town east of the Mississippi. I imagine they debate the naming of dog parks and budget items. In Mount Pleasant, our big decisions are about how fast, how high and how far our town will grow. As chairman of the Public Services Committee, which deals with drainage, garbage collection and grounds maintenance, I get my share of calls from residents. However, the issues that people stop me in the grocery store to discuss have to do with traffic, development and changes to the place they call home.

Teamwork on Council is key to getting anything done. Mount Pleasant has a strong council/weak mayor form of government, so it takes a majority of the eight councilmen plus the mayor to pass anything. You learn quickly how to count to five. You learn quickly who you can count on. These relationships are important if anything is to get done, especially if you want to help lead the town rather than just manage it.

With four new councilmen elected last cycle, there has, of course, been an adjustment period for everyone. But we're finding our rhythm. It reminds me of the sports teams I played on growing up, where it took some time for everyone to come together. But when that happens, things change. From my perspective, that's where we are now. As a town councilman, I feel that we can keep moving in the right direction and that Mount Pleasant will continue to be the best place in the world to live. 🍷



Above: Councilman Will Haynie. Below: Haynie talks with Deputy Director of Public Services Andy Weis.



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A Sharper Image

Somerby of Mount Pleasant

SOMERBY OF MOUNT PLEASANT is focusing on five overlapping areas as it strives to sharpen its image in the East Cooper Community and make life more interesting, more meaningful and more fun for its 240 or so residents.

The acronym SPARK stands for Spirituality-Purpose-Activity-Knowledge-Relationship, according to Executive

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

Director Lisa Kinsella, but she pointed out that

all five areas are related. For example, Dr. Richard A. “Dick” Bilas, a retired college professor who lives at Somerby, presents lectures on economics to fellow residents. But he’s also a Eucharistic minister affiliated with St. Andrew’s Church in Mount Pleasant who gives communion to residents on Sundays.

So does that fall under the category of Spirituality or Knowledge? Or maybe even Activity? It really doesn’t matter, Kinsella pointed out, as long as residents at Somerby are staying active in mind and body, interacting with their neighbors and living rather than aging.

“Just because this is a retirement community doesn’t mean that everyone here is retired,” she said.

Others besides Dr. Bilas have found purpose at Somerby. Richard Laulor has taken on a project aimed at honoring those who have served our country in the armed forces. Using three different websites, he provides and receives information about World War II veterans. There’s also a special place at Somerby where plaques honoring one-time soldiers and nurses who live there decorate the walls.

“The Wall of Honor is not just about you,” said Director of Lifestyles Mark Summerville. “It’s about your children and your grandchildren as well.”

Those who call Somerby home have the opportunity to do much more than learn about economics and the wartime exploits of their fellow residents. Hannah

Heyward visits regularly to teach the ins and outs of art, while on the spiritual side, the facility provides a shuttle to five local churches on Sunday, and Unity Church of Mount Pleasant and St. Benedict Catholic Church hold services at Somerby. There’s Bible study once a week, meditation on a regular basis and traditional food during the Jewish holidays.

Residents can attend exercise classes or work out on their own, both inside and out. Somerby’s fitness trail includes a range of easy exercises, and residents look forward to a beach walk once a month. They also go on excursions to local restaurants and take “mystery rides,” where they don’t know where they’re going until they get there. Destinations include McClellanville, Awendaw, Mepkin Abbey, Summerville and downtown Charleston.

Somerby’s gourmet dinners, hosted by Kinsella, with wine pairings presented by Director of Dining Services Hylton Van Tonder, are a special treat. Only nine residents are chosen at random to attend in the private dining room. Kinsella said one object of the dinner is to allow residents to get to know their neighbors better. They talk about subjects such as where they grew up, how they met their spouse and what their first kiss was like.

Musical groups visit Somerby to offer another form of entertainment, but sometimes the fun is provided by the residents themselves. For instance, three of them recently put together a comedy show that included a stand-up routine by 92-year-old Jack Bunzel. The former professor at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University brought laughs from his audience for an hour and 20 minutes.

“Everyone has a purpose,” Kinsella pointed out, laughing as well. 🍷

To learn more about Somerby of Mount Pleasant, located in Park West in north Mount Pleasant, visit somerbyseiorliving.com.



Dick Bilas, a retired college professor who lives at Somerby, presents lectures on economics to fellow residents. But he’s also a Eucharistic minister who gives communion to residents on Sundays.

Photo courtesy of Somerby of Mount Pleasant.

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Handling Life With Care

Two Men and a Truck

ON THE FACE OF IT, prominent local moving company Two Men and a Truck might sound like kind of a fly-by-night operation – a couple of burly, unshaven guys in a rickety old van who might or might not understand that your priceless possessions are, to you, really priceless.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Two Men and a Truck is a national franchise founded in Michigan in 1980.

For the past 20 years, its Lowcountry affiliate, based in North Charleston, has been ably headed by the husband-and-wife team of Chris and Christine Swanson.

It's a one-stop shop for everything a residential or commercial move might require, and it operates locally, within South Carolina and throughout the United States. The company's first rule is integrity and the proof of that is reflected in its customer ratings. Virtually all their respondents rated their service a 5 out of 5, and the tiny remainder never dipped below a 4.

Two Men and a Truck also stands by what the company calls "The Grandma Rule," which means they treat everyone the way you would want your grandmother to be treated.

Two Men and a Truck is a well-established business with a history of handling moves with the utmost professionalism and care. It's what happens when a company isn't on the job strictly for financial gain. Throughout the year, but especially around the Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays, their staff and their vehicles are on the road providing much-needed assistance to a host of Lowcountry not-for-profits.

One of those is The Salvation Army, celebrating its

110th year serving the Charleston area. According to the Army's Major Thomas Richmond, "They help us all year round, and their biggest contribution is their help with the annual Angel Tree Parade we put on with MUSC."

The major said Two Men and a Truck provides invaluable assistance in loading and transporting the Christmas gifts collected by the medical university's personnel to the North Charleston Coliseum and unloading them to make them ready for their needy recipients.

"We couldn't do it without them," Richmond added. "That's not all. Throughout the year, whenever we might call on them for help, they are there for us."

Ronald McDonald House is another charity that relies on Two Men and a Truck. Among the services that the Swansons provide is delivering and unloading all their holiday decorations, then returning to load and remove them after the first of the year.

Two men and a Truck also assists Wando High School in its annual fundraising drive and has been a soft touch for help and sponsorship of numerous recreational league teams from Hanahan to Fort Dorchester and beyond.

Four years ago, when Hurricane Sandy devastated large portions of the New Jersey shore, their trucks rolled to points as far afield as Hilton Head to pick up and deliver needed essentials such as water and clothing.

Add in the work that Two Men and a Truck does year in and year out without fanfare for other organizations, including Lowcountry food banks, Water Missions International and more, and a picture emerges of a business that truly believes in community service.

And, it turns out, they actually don't just have two men and they have way more than one truck! 🚛

To learn more about Two Men and a Truck, call 843-242-7444 or visit www.twomenandatruck.com.



Photo courtesy of Two Men and a Truck.

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Carefully Balancing the Issues

Pearce Law Firm

WHEN DIXON PEARCE first opened Pearce Law Firm, he was fulfilling his vision to help clients through the real estate closing process. The year 2017 marks 10 years since he started the business, and, while the past decade has been a roller coaster for real estate matters, Pearce credits excellent service, quality work and a dedication to problem solving for his firm's longevity in Mount Pleasant.

BY ANNE TOOLE

A Lowcountry native, Pearce has spent his post-graduate life in Mount Pleasant, where his wife, Susan, was raised. He obtained a bachelors degree at the University of South Carolina in Business Administration, majoring in Real Estate, and, following two years in real estate development and sales, he returned to the university's law school to become a real estate lawyer.

"I spent seven years practicing civil litigation – mostly construction litigation cases involving stucco homes – which was a good experience that has served me well in my real estate practice," Pearce said.

In 2000, Pearce joined a local firm and began his career in residential real estate closings, later becoming a partner before pursuing his dream to own his own firm.

Today, Pearce Law Firm handles mainly residential real estate matters, such as purchases, sales and refinances, and a small amount of commercial transactions. Pearce's team includes an associate attorney, three legal assistants

and a receptionist.

"Buying and selling real estate can be quite cumbersome, and it's my job to be a problem solver to make the logistics of everything going on come together on a certain date and at a certain time," Pearce explained. "That is the fun part for me, figuring out how to manage a closing through some practical issues, the likes of which cannot be predicted. We joke that working in real estate closings is usually more entertaining than some reality shows on television."

In addition to the anticipated yet unpredictable curveballs that can be thrown in the midst of a real estate closing, Pearce and his team carefully balance a myriad of other issues: legal and ethical duties, contractual issues, title insurance issues, hazard and flood insurance issues, and lender regulations and policies. These all must be dealt with in any given situation.

"After 16 years of experience in real estate closings, though, we have learned a few tricks and can usually overcome whatever

obstacle is thrown at us," said Pearce. "Clients appreciate it greatly when you sort everything out for them and they complete their move in or sale as scheduled, and the Realtors and lenders do, too. That is what drives us; doing a good job for our customers and helping them have as smooth a real estate transaction as possible."



Left to right - Front row: Patty Humphrey, Debbie Barrineau and Nicole Love. Back row: Kelley Sassard, Dixon Pearce and Ryan Patterson.

Photo by Rick Walo.

If you are in need of real estate closing services, visit pearce-law.com, or stop by to see them at 1476 Ben Sawyer Blvd. in Mount Pleasant.



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A Cut Above Diamonds Direct

EARTHA KITT WAS SPOT ON when she remembered to “mention one little thing: a ring,” in her hit song, “Santa Baby.” The holidays are one of the most popular times of the year to give jewelry, and the experts at Diamonds Direct are ready to help customers find the perfect gift for that special someone this season.

While the Mount Pleasant location of Diamonds Direct has been open since January, the company

BY ANNE TOOLE

has been selling quality diamonds to the public at wholesale prices since 1995.

“The founders of Diamonds Direct spent over 30 years in the wholesale diamond manufacturing business. They saw a need for more reasonable pricing for the end consumer and chose to do the right thing for those customers by eliminating the middleman,” said Victoria Dyer, marketing director for the Mount Pleasant location. “It’s a different concept than the majority of jewelers. People come here for the pricing and selection, but they buy because of the passion, commitment and personal relationship our diamond experts build with them.”

While Diamonds Direct offers the largest selection of diamonds and engagement rings in the Southeast, its company culture is designed to maintain an incomparable level of customer service that one might find at a small, local jeweler.

“Customers get all the perks of a large company in terms of pricing and availability, but, at each location, they receive a personalized, luxury experience that makes them feel comfortable and at home. Our diamond experts treat all customers equally and with the same amount of attention, whether they are getting a ring cleaned or

buying an engagement ring,” Dyer explained.

Diamonds Direct maintains a goal to be their customers’ first stop on their journey through life’s many milestones.

“We love becoming part of our clients’ lives and educating and guiding them on making a purchase that will last a lifetime,” Dyer smiled. “Engagement rings, wedding bands, wedding day gifts, push presents, anniversaries – we walk our customers through them all.”

More than just diamonds, Diamonds Direct specializes in engagement, wedding and fashion rings, necklaces,

pendants, earrings and bracelets, with a wide variety of stones from nationally recognized – and some exclusive – brands, including Tacori, Christopher Designs, Simon G., Verragio and Kirk Kara.

To accommodate the busy holiday season, Diamonds Direct will be open on Sundays between Thanksgiving and Christmas. They will also be hosting a holiday trunk show the first week of December, featuring entire lines of jewelry from 12 designers across the country and special pricing on

almost everything in the store.

“A lot of people get engaged over the holidays, but many customers are looking for smaller gifts at affordable price points,” Dyer said. “Pearls and diamond studs or pendants are especially popular during the holidays. Tacori fashion jewelry also makes a great gift because the pieces can coordinate. You might get a ring now and the matching earrings or bracelet later for a birthday or anniversary.”

The diamond experts at Diamonds Direct are ready to educate and guide holiday shoppers to help them find the perfect gift for their loved one at an affordable price. Visit 1911 Highway 17 North in Mount Pleasant to learn more about this unique company.



Artwork courtesy of Diamonds Direct.

It's Only Rock and Roll, But They Love It

Shem Creek Music Center

WHETHER YOU'RE buying your first guitar or simply adding to your collection, the friendly and knowledgeable staff at Shem Creek Music Center can help you find

the perfect fit.

Shem Creek Music has been a hot spot on the local music scene since 2004. Family-owned and managed by owner Phil Thomas, the staff of trained musicians provides a safe and fun environment for all ages and ability levels.

BY CHARLIZE BURNS

The store has a vast assortment of new and used acoustic, bass and electric guitars, strings and accessories. Check out the huge selection of Reverend, Martin, Breedlove, Blueridge and Ibanez guitars, and you'll also find Marshall and Eden amplifiers, other high-end brands and vintage. They also offer budget-friendly guitars.

The Shem Creek Music experience reaches far beyond retail. Unlike in a big-box store, the staff wants you to learn, laugh and stay awhile. Browse the endless rows of vinyl records and vintage rock and roll T-shirts, or swoon at the gorgeous guitars lining the walls.

The shop offers private guitar lessons for kids and adults and is open to the public seven days a week, all year long.

"It's really cool and special to us when we see a kid succeed. Our substantial lesson department, headed up by nationally known guitarist and songwriter Eddie Bush, shepherds the students to a higher level than anyone else in the state," said Scottie Frier, guitar sales manager and guitarist for popular local band, the Travelin' Kine.

In the back of the store, you'll find a sound-controlled acoustic listening room where patrons can try out several fine acoustic guitars and discern the subtle differences in the voices of the fine woods used in their construction.

Under the watchful eye of shop manager and master guitar technician "Dano" D'Amelio, Shem Creek Music repairs all guitars.

"We can take an old guitar or drum kit and give it life again," said Patrick Drohan, who oversees the Percussion Department and is also the drummer of the Atlas Road Crew, currently on tour in the United States and Europe.

"People count on us," said Donnie Polk, sales associate, tech assistant and local pro player. "Phil gives out his cell phone number to every customer. If you need your strings changed out before a show the next day, he'll meet you anytime, anywhere to help."

Thomas and his staff enjoy cultivating the next

generation of musicians. Their goal is to help Charlestonians find a new passion or start fun family traditions through music.

For instance, Bruce Berg has opened a record department with an unmatched collection of LPs for sale – the latest vinyl releases, rare collector albums and thousands of new and used records. His 40-year tenure in the retail and wholesale record business in the Long Island, New York, area has given him

unparalleled knowledge of the industry.

Shem Creek Music has a vibrant event schedule, with record release parties, in-store performances and more. A popular event is the Sunday afternoon Shem Creek Sessions, which often feature Eddie Bush and the Mayhem and on-stage demonstrations of the latest cutting-edge gear.

"This has become one of the bigger local music hangouts," said Frier. "You never know who's going to be here."

Shem Creek Music is home to many big names, such as Hootie and the Blowfish's Mark Bryan, Eddie Bush, The Stop Light Observations and up-and-coming bands such as Jump Castle Riot. 🎸



Photo courtesy of Shem Creek Music.

To learn more, visit www.ShemCreekMusic.net or call 843-884-1346.

For Ladies and Gentlemen

Henry & Eva

START AND FINISH YOUR holiday shopping at just one store in Mount Pleasant: Henry & Eva. Step inside and see an array of gorgeous, handcrafted knives, outdoor products, women's jewelry, décor and gifts that are truly one-of-a-kind.

Wesley and Jeff Kennedy opened the shop two years ago in the Moultrie Plaza on Coleman Boulevard. After decades in the scrap metal business, Jeff started the concept as a knife store with the biggest selection in South Carolina. With Wesley's 25 years of retail experience, they expanded the inventory to make it a space where both men and women feel at home.

The name "Henry & Eva" lends itself perfectly to the store's unique balance between the masculine and feminine vibes of the boutique. The vintage photos of Henry and Eva on the wall behind the register tell a story that dates back to before Jeff and Wesley were born. Henry was Jeff's grandfather, an avid outdoor enthusiast. Eva was Wesley's beautiful and mysterious great grandmother, whom Wesley never met but feels a deep, unexplained connection to.

Anyone of any age on any budget can walk in, feel welcomed and enjoy a personalized shopping experience. You'll see lots of independent, smaller brands and designers, with almost everything in the store made locally or regionally.

Finding a great gift for the man in your life can be challenging. Whether you're searching for a hunting knife, a pocketknife or an oyster knife, Henry & Eva has an enormous selection. With two huge display cases and hundreds of options, you'll discover the perfect, one-of-a-kind design. Woody handmade knives are all unique, with different woodwork and metal detailing on each of the handles.

Other men's gift ideas include leather goods and Field Notes, flashlights, gadgets, man cans (candles that have a masculine scent like campfire, dirt or coffee) and more. If he's the adventurous type, find tons of everyday carry and travel gear. For the fashion-forward dude, pick out a colorful Garb Designs bowtie with a unique twist: A geologist handcrafts the fabric from real geologic patterns observed under a microscope, like a grain of sand from Folly Beach. That's something you won't find anywhere else in the local market.

For women, you'll find countless gift ideas, from the luxurious leather and cowhide Canoe brand bags,

to luscious felted soaps, three-wick candles, funky coasters, retro-inspired wall art, journals, scarves, mugs and dozens of beautiful jewelry designs. A map of Charleston, Savannah or Asheville made into a jigsaw puzzle also makes a great gift.

Everyone can appreciate the witty greeting cards, wine glasses and bestselling sassy socks from Blue Q that are sure to make anyone crack a smile.

The number one priority for Jeff and Wesley is building personal relationships with their customers. The shop was voted one of the best retail customer service experiences in the 2016 Best of Mount Pleasant competition. One or both of them is always there, so Jeff, Wesley and their friend and associate, Kim Kistler, encourage you to stop in any time to say hello and begin your holiday shopping.

You can find Henry & Eva online and on social media @HenryAndEva, but the best way to enjoy the store is in person. The warm atmosphere and unparalleled level of service and attention to detail is what makes this shop stand out from all the rest. For more information, call 843-388-4253.



The name Henry & Eva lends itself perfectly to the store's unique balance between the masculine and feminine vibes of the boutique.

Photo by Halger Obenaus.

BY CHARLIZE BURNS

The Basketball Diaries

Rob Masters Remembers

WHEN ROB MASTERS walks into a surgical suite as a trauma consultant, he brings a wealth of knowledge about the high-end stainless steel and titanium prostheses his employer, Synthes, has crafted for the repair of shattered human bodies, specifically their hips, wrists and ankles.

BY BILL FARLEY

“It’s a 24/7 type of job,” Masters said. “Terrible car crashes and other violent accidents that grievously injure people have no timetable. That’s why I’m always ready and on call.”

When Masters enters that surgical suite, he also brings a lifetime of preparedness, much of which he learned on the basketball court.

Folks who have lived in the Lowcountry for a few years won’t take much prompting to recall that Masters was a star shooting guard for a Porter-Gaud team that went to the state finals. To this day, Masters is convinced they would have captured the title if another of their outstanding players, Mark Pearson, had not been out with a torn ACL.

Masters went on to play for three years at the College of Charleston under the tutelage of legendary coach John Kresse. But the basketball story that he believes helped chart the course of his life began many years earlier.

Masters, who grew up on Sullivan’s Island, started shooting hoops at the age of 3. By the time he was 5, he was participating in recreation leagues, coached by his dad, who played ball at the College of Charleston and Baptist College – now Charleston Southern University. When he was 10, he was a starter on his school’s team and at 13 became eligible for AAU play.

“That changed everything,” he recalled. “AAU basketball was played all summer long. So together with my school teams, the sport became a year-round commitment.”

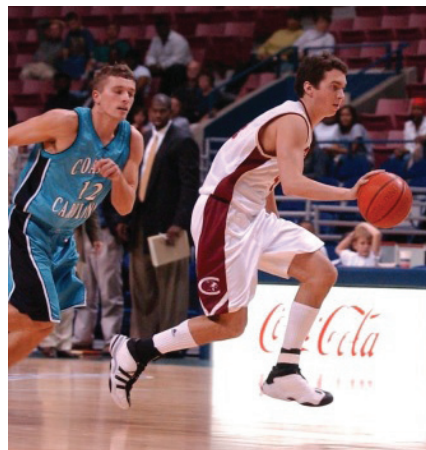


Photo courtesy of Rob Masters.

Commitment isn’t the only lesson Masters soaked up on the basketball court.

“I learned discipline, teamwork, respect for my coaches’ authority and putting the team before myself. Those are a few reasons why playing a sport can benefit any kid,” he explained.

At the College of Charleston, his basketball career taught Masters even more about sports and about life.

“I was lucky enough to attend on an academic scholarship, which meant I had to keep my grades up. Many of my teammates weren’t from as fortunate a background as my own and knew that staying in school and playing ball was their only chance for a better life,” he said.

“No matter who we were or where we came from, the challenges were the same,” Masters added.

There were rewards as well, some of them obvious, such as the team’s trips to other cities and to compete in tournaments in Alaska and Hawaii.

“We were in Hawaii five days,” Rob remembered, “and think I was on the beach for 20 minutes.”

Some rewards weren’t immediately obvious, but friendships with young men he otherwise might never have met

have stood the test of time. He remains close with many of his former teammates, and three of them served as groomsmen at his wedding.

Now married to wife Megan and the father of a 3-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Masters believes his basketball career helped prepare him for life.

“The discipline that underpinned everything in basketball has helped me strike a balance between my work life and my home life,” he said.

Masters said basketball might not be the right choice for every person, but a positive sports experience can do more than keep a young man or woman busy, off the street and out of trouble. It can form a solid base for the rest of their lives. 🏀

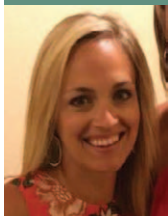
For tickets to basketball games at the College of Charleston this season as well as a full schedule, visit www.cofcsports.com/tickets.

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Our Mount Pleasant Neighbors

WE'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: 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.



Megan Stevens

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Huntington, West Virginia.

Education: Marshall University.

Employment: Nonprofit communications director.

Favorite reading: "The Nightingale," by Kristin Hannah.

Favorite music: Classic rock; folk; reggae.

Activities: Cooking; reading; going to the beach; church; Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS).

Interests: Spending time with my family and friends; trying new restaurants; decorating.

Likes: Coffee; shopping; HGTV.

Favorite quote: "You just can't live in that negative way. Make way for the positive day." - Bob Marley



Archie D. Willis II

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Education: Christ Our King/Stella Maris; Bishop England; University of Minnesota.

Employment: Owner - McAlister-Smith Funeral Home.

Favorite reading: Lee Child - The Jack Reacher novels.

Favorite music: Bluegrass; old time country.

Activities: Collecting WWII and military memorabilia.

Interests: All things military and veteran.

Likes: Travel; history; my grandsons.



Harold Holt

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Charleston, South Carolina.

Education: BA in History from the College of Charleston.

Employment: The Cassina Group Real Estate.

Favorite reading: Current affairs; history novels; the Bible.

Favorite music: The Grateful Dead; Bob Marley; 70s music.

Activities: Surfing; boating; SUP; golf; tennis.

Interests: Traveling; reading; live music; college basketball; pro and college football.

Likes: My pets; the ocean; the news; spending time with my friends and family; any kind of sweets.



Christy Collins

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Wingate, North Carolina.

Education: BA in English from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Employment: Owner of CC BLOOM, LLC; High Thyme Cuisine.

Favorite reading: "The Magus" by John Fowles.

Favorite music: Bette Midler; Citizen Cope; Led Zeppelin; Adele; Al Green.

Activities: Kayaking; gardening; bicycling.

Interests: Playing with my springer spaniel, Ellie Mae; trying new restaurants throughout Charleston.

Likes: To make people smile and laugh!

Favorite quote or philosophy: "The earth laughs in flowers." - Ralph Waldo Emerson, and "I believe in pink. I believe in kissing, kissing a lot. I believe in being strong when everything seems to be going wrong. I believe that happy girls are the prettiest girls. I believe that tomorrow is another day and I believe in miracles." - Audrey Hepburn

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2016-17 HOME SCHEDULE

- FRI. 11/4 Allen University (Free Exhibition)
- FRI. 11/11 The Citadel
- ESPN GILDAN CHARLESTON CLASSIC ***
- THU. 11/17 Boise State
- FRI. 11/18 Mississippi State / UCF
- SUN. 11/20 TBA
- SUN. 11/27 USC Upstate (Kids Day)
- THURS. 12/1 Navy (Hero Day)
- SUN. 12/4 Davidson
- SUN. 12/11 Anderson University (N. Chas. Coliseum)

CONFERENCE PLAY

- THURS. 1/5 Towson
- SAT. 1/7 Hofstra
- SAT. 1/14 William & Mary
- THURS. 1/19 UNCW (Whiteout Game)
- SAT. 1/21 James Madison (Hall of Fame Weekend)
- SAT. 2/4 Elon (Homecoming)
- THURS. 2/9 Northeastern
- THURS. 2/23 Delaware
- SAT. 2/25 Drexel (Senior Day / Basketball Alumni Weekend)

*ESPN Gildan Charleston Classic tickets are not included in season tickets. | All home games are played at TD Arena.



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