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See story page 18



Jenny Peterson at Mohonk Mountain House, in the Catskills, New Paltz, New York



Lindsey and Margot Chambers at Lake Warren State Park in Hampton, SC

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Spayed/neutered: Yes
Declawed: No
ID: 73705a

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NEWS

“We want people when they come to historic sites like plantations to get the whole story, not just the glorified story of large houses and hoop skirts.”

— Joseph McGill Jr., founder of the Slave Dwelling Project

Honoring our Ancestors

Juneteenth celebrations at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens

by Jenny Peterson | News Editor

Juneteenth acknowledges the date of June 19, 1865 and the issue of “General Order No. 3,” which informed the people of Texas that all enslaved people were now free. The date was dedicated as a federal holiday by President Biden in 2021.

On Friday, June 21, Magnolia Plantation & Gardens will mark the occasion with a “Campfire Conversation,” from 7 p.m. – 8 :30- p.m. with a deep dive conversation centered on slavery and its legacy. It will be held by Joseph McGill Jr., founder of the Slave Dwelling Project, and moderated by George H. McDaniel, director of interpretation at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens.

On Saturday, June 22, attendees at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens can expect a day filled with learning, reflection and celebration to honor and recognize the emancipation of those who were once enslaved—including hundreds of men and women who worked the very land at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens.

A local gospel group, Oh Happy Day, will give a special musical performance. The inspirational and educational musical experience will take attendees on a journey through the history of gospel music, showcasing its unifying power from slavery to freedom. This group’s combination of narration and soul-stirring music will create a memorable and uplifting experience for the entire family.

There will be living history stories with a reenactment of Harriet Tubman’s journey and demonstrations on brickmaking, cooking and sweetgrass baskets.

Food vendors on Saturday will include

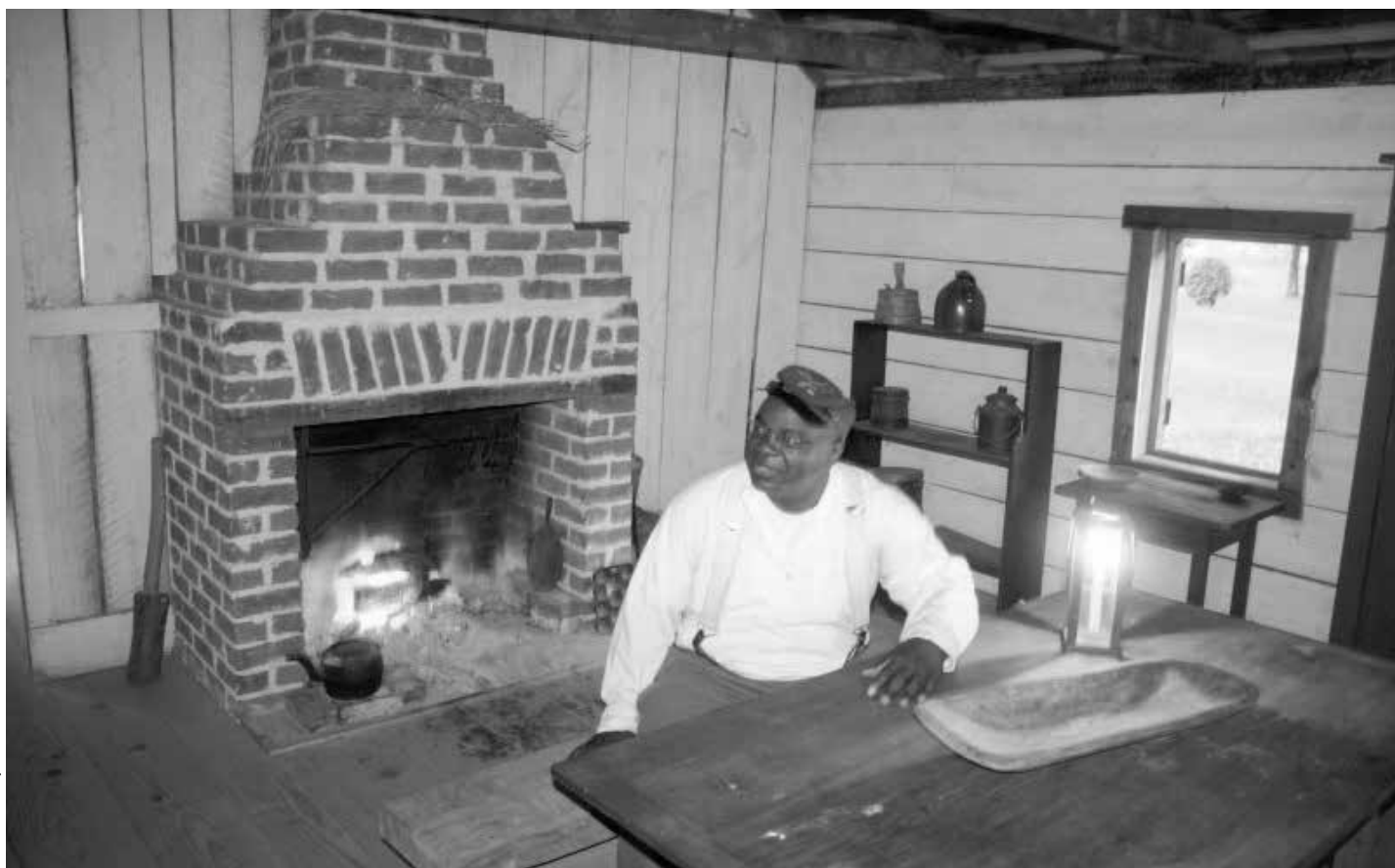


Photo by Joe Felder

Joseph McGill Jr., founder of the Slave Dwelling Project will lead a “Campfire Conversation” Magnolia Plantation & Gardens on June 22.

This Little Piggy BBQ and James Brown’s Famous Boiled Peanuts. McGill, who along with former Magnolia marketing director Herb Frazier co-authored the book *Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery*, will be on hand signing copies of his book at the event. The day will conclude at 3 p.m. with a special address from McGill.

On Sunday, June 23, there will be a

special class in which students will be given an opportunity to craft their own sweetgrass basket (additional tickets required).

“We want people when they come to historic sites like plantations to get the whole story, not just the glorified story of large houses and hoop skirts...we want them to learn about what made all that possible—chattel slavery,” said McGill.

“We want people to know that enslaved people were still human despite what the laws and the people who enslaved them thought of them as we demonstrate their humanity and their agencies.”

This is the second year that the Slave Dwelling Project has worked with Magnolia Plantation & Gardens on holding special Juneteenth programming. The

continued on page 5...

non-profit, based in Ladson, holds living history presentations, arranges overnight trips to sleep in slave cabins as part of an educational experience and holds talks and seminars to discuss the history of slavery across the nation.

"The partnership between Magnolia Plantation & Gardens and the Slave Dwelling Project is of deep significance. This collaboration aims to educate visitors about the plantation's history, including its ties to slavery and the contributions of the enslaved to the Magnolia Plantation. By working together, both organizations hope to foster awareness, understanding and dialogue surrounding this important chapter in American history," McGill said. "Any opportunity that we get to honor our enslaved ancestors, we welcome with open arms. The fact that Magnolia is going that extra mile, I think that's a lovely thing."

Throughout the year, Magnolia Plantation & Gardens offers a "from slavery to freedom" tour for attendees to get a snapshot of life over the plantation's 350-year history. McDaniel said that Magnolia is proud to honor Juneteenth with special programming.

"By lifting up and celebrating Juneteenth, we recognize and faithfully remember the countless souls across the centuries who were enslaved. In doing so, we give voice to those who have long been voiceless and celebrate their humanity," McDaniel said. "Their

vibrant legacies have left an indelible mark on American culture, and we are honored and humbled to acknowledge those magnificent gifts."

McDaniel adds, "James Baldwin once wrote, 'The great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us ... history is literally present in all that we do.' Magnolia's history is inextricably linked to slavery. The enslaved built this place. They lived here and they died here. Therefore, it is important for us as an institution to celebrate and honor Juneteenth. In doing so, we acknowledge the painful history of slavery and the scar that it has left upon this land. We also celebrate and lift up the lives of the over 550 named individuals we have identified who were enslaved at Magnolia and those many more for whom we do not know names. We give voice to those who have long been left voiceless and recognize their important contributions to this world in which we live. Their vibrant legacies—through food, music, storytelling, and even the beautiful gardens here at Magnolia—have left an indelible mark on American culture and we are honored and humbled to pay tribute to their legacy through celebrating Juneteenth."

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens is located at 3550 Ashley River Road. Visit www.magnoliaplantation.com for more information. To learn more about The Slave Dwelling Project, visit www.slavedwellingproject.org.



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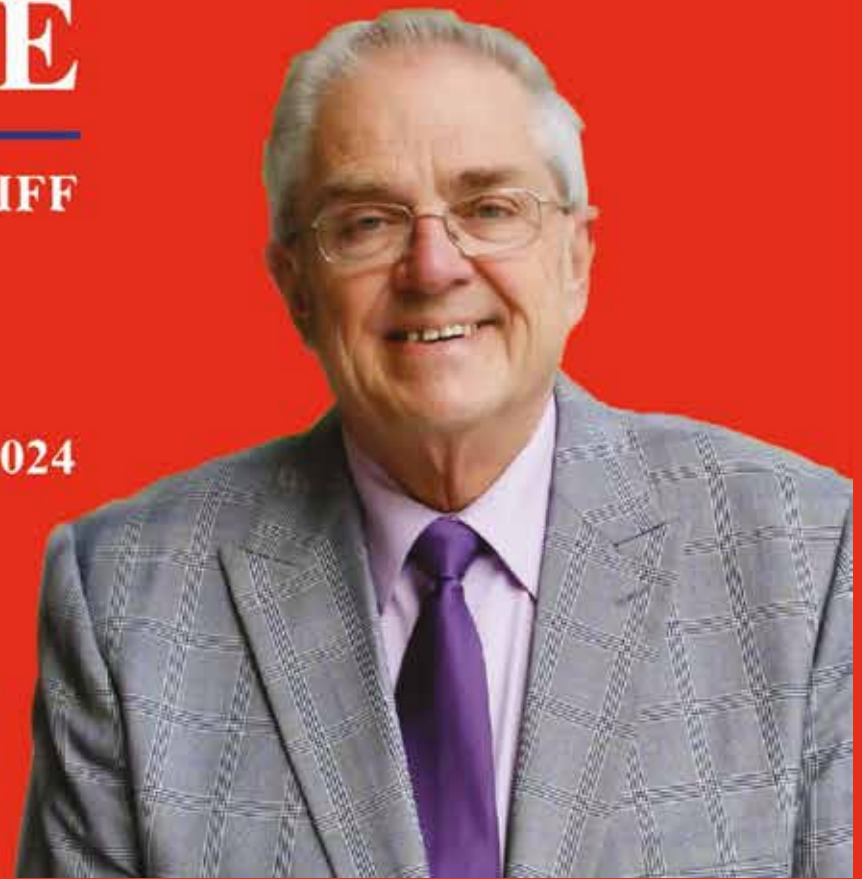
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As a public safety professional with 49 years of experience in Charleston County, I am excited to announce my candidacy for Sheriff, as a Republican Party member.

I have served in various public safety roles, including the **North Charleston Fire Department, N. Charleston Police Department, Charleston County Police Department, St. John's Fire Department, St. Paul's Fire District, Mt. Pleasant Fire Department, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, and Folly Beach Department of Public Safety.**

My top priority as Sheriff will be to **ensure the safety of all communities in Charleston County.** I am committed to working with municipal, county, and state officials to ensure that public safety agencies have the policies, funding, and resources necessary to effectively handle emergency services related to acute incidents and chronic issues such as **homelessness, mental health, and civil unrest.**

I strongly believe in **collaboration and teamwork**, and as Sheriff, I will ensure that law enforcement, fire service, and EMS work together as a cohesive team to protect our community from criminals. We will invest in **crime prevention programs, increase patrols, and collaborate with other law enforcement agencies** to maximize our resources and effectively address public safety concerns.

I also recognize the importance of **providing safe and secure learning environments for our children.** As Sheriff, I will work with school officials and law enforcement agencies to provide **increased security measures and resources to our schools**, including school resource officers and emergency preparedness plans.

Finally, I understand that mental illness and substance abuse issues are often at the root of criminal behavior. Therefore, I am committed to investing in **prevention and treatment programs** to address these underlying issues. I will work with community leaders and mental health professionals to develop programs that **support mental health and address the root causes of crime.**

I hold a **Master's Degree in Public Administration (University of Charleston/University of South Carolina), Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice (Shaw University), and an Associates in Public Service (Trident Technical College),** I have the knowledge and expertise necessary to serve as Sheriff with integrity and professionalism.

I am committed to ensuring the safety of our community, and I ask for your support in the upcoming **Republican Primary Election (June 11th, 2024).** Together, we can work to make Charleston County a safer place for everyone.

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The following were taken from actual incident reports filed last month by the City of Charleston Police Department.

These are not convictions and the names of businesses, complainants, and suspects have been left out to protect the innocent. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty ... of course.

APRIL 24

EMBEZZLEMENT

A loss prevention officer at a big box retailer reported that an employee defrauded the business of more than \$943 by failing to scan items or voided items from transactions for customers in order to not have them pay for items. All the transactions were paid for with cash. In one instance, 18 items of merchandise were presented at checkout. Four items were scanned and three items were voided.

APRIL 25

LARCENY BY FALSE PRETENSES

A manager of a West Ashley restaurant called police after a man described to be in his 30s walked out on his approximately \$79 tab after being asked to leave due to his behavior. The incident happened around 5:30 p.m. According to the report, the man arrived alone and his behavior reportedly made other customers uncomfortable. When the manager asked him to pay for his tab and leave, the man said he would leave but he wasn't going to pay his tab. He left in a vehicle that the manager took a photo of to identify the make, model and plate. The vehicle was also on cameras outside the business. Restaurant management stated they were interested in prosecuting the suspect to the fullest extent of the law.

APRIL 25

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

A 29-year-old woman was arrested for DUI after officers observed a vehicle with temporary tags swerving on a bridge from downtown Charleston into West Ashley, striking a raised curb outside the entrance to a hotel. Officers pulled the car over outside a nearby diner. According to the report, the woman "had a dazed appearance" and "was slow to react." She was also smoking a cigarette and would blow smoke directly in officers' faces. The woman provided officers with a bill of sale and an application from the DMV for her temporary plates. Officers noted the woman had an extremely strong odor of alcoholic beverage emanating from her person and breath, bloodshot eyes and slurred speech. When asked if she had anything to drink that night, said she "only had one Smirnoff." The woman failed several field sobriety tests and was arrested. She blew a .12 % blood alcohol level, which is over the legal limit.

APRIL 26

LARCENY BY FALSE PRETENSES

An employee of a discount retailer said she was swindled by a trio of suspects who convinced her to pay for their purchases of VISA gift cards through an app on their phones (not using cash or a debit card, as is the rule). The employee said the suspects "convinced" her that paying for their cash cards via a phone app was an authorized payment and had her "select" on their phone "cash" to authorize the transfer. According to the report, "The employees realized the mistake after the suspects left with a total of \$1,437.00 on three separate gift cards." Camera footage shows the suspects arriving and leaving along with their vehicle make and model. The case is ongoing.

APRIL 28

ASSISTING OTHER AGENCIES

Officers on patrol noticed a vehicle with expired vehicle tags on the road and ran a quick background check on the plate and learned that the vehicle was involved in a shoplifting incident, actively wanted by the Mount Pleasant Police Department. Officers conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle, which was occupied by a 29-year-old male driver and female in the passenger seat. Officers noted a smell of marijuana emitting from the passenger side and saw a leafy substance on the floorboard. After a probable cause search, officers found a retailer bag with 10-20 pairs of sunglasses inside. In the trunk of the vehicle, officers found multiple shopping bags of brand-new clothing with store security tags still attached. The driver was taken into custody.

APRIL 29

PURSE SNATCHING

A woman reported that a man she knew from Facebook, whom she purchased several items from in the past, asked her on a date and after their date, he drove them to the parking lot of a closed business and demanded she pay him \$200 that she owed him for the items. The woman said she would pay him to leave her alone, and during their conversation, he insisted she go to her bank immediately to pay him, and then took her keys from her and drove away. The stolen keys included keys to her home and business. The case is ongoing.

MAY 12

FLIM-FLAM

A woman and her son reported that a man the woman met online, who she never met in person, swindled her out of \$65,000.

The woman's son became involved after learning about his mother's wire money transfers to a man who identified himself as "Mark William," who was purportedly in his 70s and living abroad in the U.S. Army with a mission to "keep peace per the United Nations," according to the report. The woman believed it to be a romantic relationship and transferred money to the man, who said he was unable to access his own funds due to his status abroad and also asked for money for his son who he said was living abroad in the military stationed in Germany and needed money for medical bills. The woman sent transactions through Amazon gift cards, Venmo and Zelle applications and wire transfers.

MAY 15

SHOPLIFTING

A gas station employee said a man walked into the store, walked to the drink cooler and stuffed two Coca-Cola bottles into his shorts and walked out of the store. There is video surveillance of the incident as well as the vehicle the man fled in as well as a cell phone photo the employee was able to capture. Officers located the vehicle nearby, but it was unoccupied and there was no sign of the Coca-Colas. The investigation is ongoing.

MAY 16

ANIMAL SERVICE RESPONSE

Officers were called about two possible coyotes running through a neighborhood. Officers did not locate coyotes, but another call came in nearby stating that there were two white and grey husky/wolf hybrid dogs at large. The dogs were captured and taken to a local animal shelter and their owner was contacted, who said it was not the first time the dogs had gotten loose. She was given a citation and a court date.

MAY 20

BURGLARY/BREAKING & ENTERING

Officers were called about a burglary in progress where a male had kicked in the front door of an apartment and was fleeing on foot with a television over his head. Officers were unable to locate the suspect, but found the TV in the ditch a quarter mile away and returned it to the apartment. Officers noted the door was indeed kicked in with a footprint on the lower half of the door. The tenant said she believed she knew the suspect, but the case is ongoing.

APRIL 24

DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS

Officers on patrol in West Ashley noticed a vehicle make an improper lane change and ended up citing a woman for drug paraphernalia in her vehicle. Officers reported that after being pulled over, the woman began to cry and had trembling hands. The woman said she did not have proof of insurance. The woman agreed to a search of her vehicle and told officers that there was a crack pipe inside a drawstring

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A&E

“This program has grown into something beautiful that brings our community together and also makes kids feel celebrated and special.”

— Andrea LaFalce, Assistant Branch Manager of West Ashley Library

Letting Little Artists Shine

New Library program celebrates the works of talented young artists

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

The recently re-opened West Ashley Library has undergone a slew of cosmetic improvements and technological upgrades courtesy of a slice of the \$108.5 million referendum that was passed by Charleston County voters back in 2014. The money was earmarked to upgrade all the 13 existing libraries in the Charleston County system as well as plans to build five new libraries, each of them more than twice the size and up to nearly seven times the size of the modest South Windermere location, which was built in 1964.

Prior to the 2014 referendum vote, the now 60-year-old branch was nearly on the chopping block. But an outcry from the community saved it from the wrecking ball.

In December of 2022, the West Ashley branch was closed to the public and underwent some major and much-needed renovations. A little more than two years later, it reopened with a new, airy, open floor plan, designated working and reading spaces, and a streamlined computer and printer area. One of the most notable upgrades was a much-improved children’s area with a life-size dollhouse and string lights on a paper mâché tree sprouting out of a corner.

Now, as of last month, that kids’ section is also receiving some new artwork to go along with all the upgrades. These colorful masterpieces, which rotate monthly, have been created by local students in 1st-5th grades as part of a new monthly art

initiative, celebrating and showcasing the work of young artists.

“When we were gearing up to reopen after our renovation, a special gallery space seemed like a good idea,” says Assistant Branch Manager Andrea LaFalce. “Now this program has grown into something beautiful that brings our community together and also makes kids feel celebrated and special. I hope it helps them know that they are supported and that they can achieve great things.”

Each month, the West Ashley Branch Library releases a new theme and offers a limited number of packets for pickup. According to LaFalce, there are eight spots each month, but there are plans to increase this number by a few as interest continues to grow. The packets contain a welcome letter, instructions, a canvas fitted to the library’s exhibit space, and basic art supplies to get the kids started. Although, they are welcome and encouraged to use their own materials says LaFalce.

The packets also contain two copies of an invitation (more can be requested if needed) to a gallery reception evening, which is a special evening where family, friends, and the public are invited to preview the new works of art and celebrate the featured artists’ accomplishments.

“We strive to make our youth space an inviting space for our community. Artwork

continued on page 13...



Photo by Lindsey Chambers

Scarlett Schuetze, Evie Tucker, and Nathan Campbell were among the eight student artists to participate in the first month of the West Ashley Library’s new youth art program

is very much celebrated here, and we like to display all of the drawings, paintings, and more that kids make," says LaFalce.

The first reception was held on Wednesday, May 1 and the theme was "Sunflowers." The work of eight artists was on display all month in the kids' section of the library, and there was cheese, grapes, cookies, lemonade, and other refreshments for the dozens of parents, grandparents, friends, and members of the media who showed up to celebrate the young artists.

"We had some interesting takes on that theme, including a view from above, a view of the flower's roots, and a girl wearing a sunflower dress," says LaFalce, adding that the theme for the June exhibit is "What does Summer Mean to You?"

This month's artists will be celebrated during a reception on Friday, June 3 from 5-6:30 p.m. Once the June display is up, LaFalce says the next round of packets will be made available, and that theme will be "Design your Dream Treehouse." The artwork is framed before it is hung on display and kids may return once an exhibit is over to pick up their work.



Photo by Lindsey Chambers

Isabella LaFalce points to her artwork, entitled "The Two Sunflowers Above"

The West Ashley Branch Library is located at 45 Windermere Blvd. For more information, call (843) 766-6635 or visit www.ccpl.org/branches/west-ashley.



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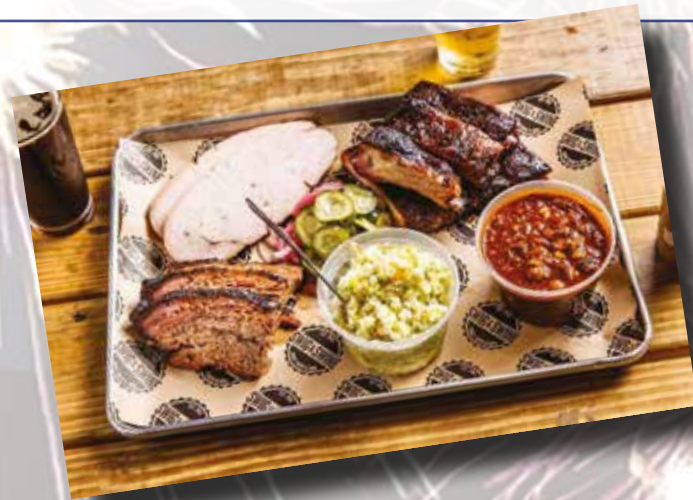


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AGES 7-14

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(\$50 St. Andrew's PSD Residents/\$75 Non-St. Andrew's PSD Residents)

REGULAR REGISTRATION: **July 8th - July 21st**
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LATE REGISTRATION: (Based on availability): **July 22nd - July 26th**
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DINING

“Frothy Beard does a really good job of supporting the community. So, when the conversation started about us being one of their non-profit partners, it kind of grew from there.”

— Courtney Plotner, CEO & President of Association for the Blinds & Visually Impaired

Feast of the Senses

Frothy Beard’s “blind” dinner experience raises funds and awareness for the Assoc. for the Blind & Visually Impaired

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

Frothy Beard Brewing Company has always done a lot for the community and for local charities. But last November, the West Ashley-based brewery set out to create a new way to work with the local non-profits that the partnered with. Operations Manager Michael Biondi said that in the past, they would do one event with a charity, and he wanted to create a lasting relationship and build several events around the organization’s causes.

“I put out a call for interviews with any group that would be willing to work with us over a two-month time frame where we focus weekly on events to create the biggest impact and bring unique experiences to our fanbase and the community,” he says.

According to Biondi, the response was truly heartwarming, with more than 40 groups expressing interest. After careful consideration, Frothy Beard decided to partner with the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired of South Carolina (ABVI). With their office just around the corner from the brewery on Carriage Lane in West Ashley, they have collaborated to create several weeks worth of events kicking off in June. These events are not just about raising funds and awareness, but also about fostering a sense of community and understanding.

“I’m excited to work with them to bring some fun events that showcase what they do and the different things we who are sight privileged probably never

thought about before,” says Biondi.”

“Frothy Beard does a really good job of supporting the community. So, when the conversation started about us being one of their non-profit partners, it kind of grew from there,” says ABVI President and CEO Courtney Plotner.

Biondi says working with ABVI has “opened up his eyes” (pun intended) to the visually impaired community and how life is much different from that of a sighted person. As a result, he has implemented changes at his establishment.

According to Plotner, ABVI has been working on training the brewery’s staff on how to assist people with vision impairments that come into their establishment.

“We have wheelchair accessibility at our facilities, but I never thought about a lot of the other issues that people face in the community,” admits Biondi “Over discussions with [ABVI], I learned how we could be more accommodating to visually impaired individuals and I learned a lot.”

During June and July, Frothy Beard will host a handful of activities designed to create awareness and raise funds for ABVI, including two “Feast of the Senses: Blind Dinner Experiences” where guests will experience a meal without relying on their vision. The first one will be held on Wednesday, June 12, and the second on Wednesday, July 17. Each will have two seatings, 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60 and include dinner, dessert, and a



flight of beer (gratuity is included).

“Without giving too many details that will be spoilers for the evening fun ... guests will experience the evening by highlighting their other senses as if they were sightless, from interacting with others, trying to navigate their meal and beverages and enjoying the evening,” says Biondi. “We will serve each person their meal and give directions at each interaction but then it is up to the participant to figure the rest out. I think that each person will really enjoy the experience in itself and learn a lot as the evening goes on.”

Other Frothy Beard events involving ABVI are a special Trivia Night, featuring a round of questions based on ABVI’s Mission on Thursday, June 6, a “Blind” Yoga with Lowcountry Power Yoga on Saturday, June 22; and a Field Day, where teams of four will compete in a series of challenges on Sunday, July 7.

Plotner says more than anything she hopes that these events help people

better appreciate the challenges people with vision loss deal with on a daily basis, but also have a better understanding that, while it’s challenging, it’s not the end of your life.

“I think as a society we kind of take aging, vision loss, and the challenges that come with it—isolation, lower quality of life—for granted. We just Accept it is as a function of aging rather than taking it head one,” says Plotner. “Blindness can affect anyone regardless of gender, race, or socioeconomic standing.”

Frothy Beard Brewing Company is located at 1401 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. Suite 1. For more information, call (843)-872-1075 or visit www.frotheybeard.com. The Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired of South Carolina is located at 1 Carriage Lane, Building A. For more information, call (843) 723-6915 or visit www.abvisc.org.

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- SUN: BRUNCH - 10 AM-3 PM**



A Peach of a Beer

More brewers turn to the classic southern stone fruit for summer seasonals

and are hit-or-miss, in my snobby opinion.

I have no interest in listing the many fruit and vegetable beers that you should avoid. Literally, there are too many to mention. As a rule of thumb, I'm very picky about most of these beers. Specifically, avoid anything made with blueberries unless it comes from Belgium. Beers with watermelon should be smashed with Gallagher's giant hammer.

With the growing trend toward farm-to-brewery, there are numerous great breweries using herbs and spices, fruits and vegetables in their beers. Think of Fonta Flora in North Carolina and Lazy Magnolia in Mississippi, just two who do this well. Locally, Edmund's Oast is stellar in this category, particularly their Apricot-Peach Sour. Another local peach of a brew that is worth seeking out is Freehouse Brewing's stalwart Sourlina Peche.

But so many breweries' fruit beers are just plain bad.

That said, Dogfish Head Brewing

has always been a master at using fruit, vegetables, spices, and herbs. DFH has some of the most wonderful creations in the realm. And, while a few of their strange concoctions fail, most are quite delicious due to a tendency to allow only the essence of the addition to shine through and not devastate the underlying beer.

The seasonals Black & Blue (a Belgian ale with blackberries and, oddly enough, blueberries) and Red & White (a Wit made with Pinot Noir juice) are both excellent. Also available, Seaquench Ale, a Kölsch, Gose, and Berlinerweiss combo beer brewed with lime peel, black limes and sea salt.

Piercing Pils is a gem of a little lager, more specifically a Czech Pilsner. Saaz hops stand out, expected for this style, but what pushes this beer beyond the standard pils crowd is the addition of white pear tea and pear juice. It's not a perry (pear cider), but hints of the succulent fruit hit on the tongue and sides of the mouth.

But, more importantly for the summer months, Dogfish Head Craft Brewery offers Festina Peche, a delightful, 4.5 percent alcohol by volume (ABV) Berliner Weisse-style ale with just a hint of peach. Much like the malt, the fruit plays a supporting role to an overall tart, delightfully acidic and almost sour beer. Perfect for summer days, this one will pair with nearly anything you can grill up this summer.

The Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) has separate categories for 'Fruit Beer' and 'Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer' but with both, the key is that the "The fruit should compliment the original style and not overwhelm it. The brewer should recognize that some combinations of base beer styles and fruits work well together while others do not make for harmonious combinations." I couldn't agree more. Enjoy the brews ... Cheers.

Living in South Carolina, you know it's summertime when you see baskets and bags of peaches popping up at farmers' markets and grocery stores. The fleshy and fragrant fruit is a sure sign that summer is here. Peaches seem to have become a fashionable fruit for inclusion in summer's seasonal beer offerings.

Not to say that adding fruit, vegetables, or the essence of either is new to the brewing world. It is not. Belgian brewers especially have been adding all types of things to their beer for ages, especially seasonal fruit. It's just this year, peach seems to be the choice.

It seems that every mid-major brewing company in this country has a fruit or vegetable beer in their lineup. And, I must be honest; these types of beers are a mixed bag. While I have sampled some of the finest 'beers with additions' in the land, most that make use of fruit or vegetables in the brewing process are far from stellar



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Melodies & Spaces

A West Ashley musician's journey to opening a studio space

by Joan Perry | Contributing Writer

was out of my usual West Ashley rambling territory, walking through Charleston Place Hotel a few years ago, when I paused along with other visitors to enjoy the most beautiful piano music in the lobby.

Jo Kokri-Bhatt was at the piano in her role as house pianist at that time, playing 4 - 5 days a week.

I soon learned that she is another exceptional individual we can claim as our own for West Ashley, and that always makes me happy. If you sense a distant soundtrack as you go about your daily activities, it may be because not only is she a gifted musician and singer herself, but Jo has been sharing her gifts as a teacher through Homeworks Studio since 2010, inspiring musicians and spreading the joy of music in Charleston.

Her family wasn't particularly musical, but as many families do, they arranged for piano lessons. Jo decided firmly at the age of six that she was going to be a professional pianist. I hid a smile as she described her parents nudging her towards a more practical career, since I might have done the same with my kids. Luckily for us, she loved music more than anything, and stayed the course.

Growing up in Spartanburg, she was in school bands, orchestra and regularly won musical awards. Jo studied music and business at University of South Carolina and

was immediately recruited by Steinway to use her gifts to sell pianos. She moved to Charleston in 2016. You've probably heard her play at weddings, corporate and private events, churches or regularly at the Hall's Sunday Gospel Brunch. She has electronic equipment on hand to DJ events.

Jo's personal tastes are varied. She enjoys Joan Baez, Stevie Nicks, select Rap and Country and from Beethoven to electronic music.

Jo is deeply connected to the Lowcountry community. She had lived and worked for a while on a farm, learning organic farming and now supports the Green Heart Project Community Garden. She is involved with Waves 4 Women - Surf Therapy, the Sisters in Song networking group inspiring and connecting women in music, and Quest in Recovery. When I walked down the West Ashley Greenway to see her, she had already been active for hours walking the bridge as part of a support group.

Jo, or Ms. Jo as she is often called by her students, has been welcoming aspiring musicians between the ages of 5 to 95 inside her home for many years. One of her favorite things now is teaching adults. She explained that while a child might be exploring a new hobby or encouraged by parents to broaden their horizons, an adult

comes motivated and excited to learn. Along with voice, piano and clarinet, she can get students started on a variety of instruments, give support with reading music and performing, and works with other musicians who specialize in different instruments.

"I am grateful for having inspiring music teachers throughout my life who were outstanding in every way. I want to do that for my students." Students come and go through the year according to school schedules and recitals are held in the fall and spring.

Because Jo is a performer herself, she is able to support students through the stress of performance anxiety. She enjoys the dual world of musician and teacher. "I believe music should be joy based and I hope to help students reach inside, find out and celebrate who they are and what they are capable of."

This month she welcomes progress and her long time dream of adding studio space in her own backyard. As we visited, contractors were busily preparing the space.

Stay healthy my friends and wave at me as I wander. Contact me with suggestions for upcoming topics at westashleywanderer@gmail.com.



For more information on classes, samples of music and services, musicians hoping to partner and the upcoming studio open house on Saturday, June 8. visit: www.homeworksmusicstudio.com.

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All Hail The Class of 1959

St. Andrew's Parish High School celebrates its 65th Class Reunion

Nothing brings on the stories, memories, and fun like high school senior class reunions.

The St. Andrew's Parish High School Class of 1959's 65th reunion hit all the marks — two days of food, drinks, laughter and camaraderie. Friday's social, hosted by Joe Allen and Saturday's fun, hosted by Mary Alice Elsey Vann. All the festivities punctuated with a scrapbook compiled by Linda Fox Irwin to enjoy.

In the Introduction to *Byrnes Downs*, I suggest that the concept of six degrees of separation—a person is only six or fewer social connections away from each other—does not apply to St. Andrew's Parish. Here it is more like two degrees. My recent invitation to join The St. Andrew's Parish High School Class of 1959's 65th reunion is the perfect example.

The back story. I met Fran Mellette while waiting in line to be seated for lunch at TW Graham in McClellanville. Fran grew up in West Ashley and suggested I speak with her father as he grew up in West Ashley in the 1940s and 1950s. I called Bill, we had a delightful conversation. Bill was in the Class of 1959.

Next thing I know, I received an email from Hugh Hiott, who helped with the history of Melrose and Shalimer (subject of previous *West Ashley Flashback* columns). Hugh was in the Class of 1959. Then I was invited to Joe Allen's for the Friday soiree for the Class of 1959. The alumni graciously accepted me into their festivities. I learned that many had read "West Ashley" or were featured in some way in the book. What an honor to glean more stories, pictures and perspectives about the early suburban days in St. Andrew's Parish.

There were 126 graduates in the Class of 1959 and close to 30 alumni gathered to celebrate together this year

due in large part to the efforts of Linda Fox Irwin. What a testament to community, friendship and school spirit. Conversations contained the continued fond memories of:

1) Bernard Hester, the beloved teacher turned principal, who inspired so many students during his tenure.

2) The musical productions featured in last month's *West Ashley Flashback* — these stories are never ending.

3) Favorite teachers with the notation that Mrs. Kline, who taught SC History, was still living.

4) The hallowed ground of the "Senior Steps" and "Senior Lawn" — places where no underclassman dared to tread (underclassman entered the side door at the school).

5) The senior trip to New York City in June of 1959 — a twelve hour train ride.

6) Crossing ditches to meet friends who lived in adjacent neighborhoods like Avondale, Ashley Forest and St. Andrew's Homes.

7) Paying a quarter to see a movie on Saturday at the Ashley Theater in Avondale.

8) Enjoying one of Mrs. Little's hamburgers while listening to the jukebox at the Magnolia Drug Store (the restaurant Mex 1 occupies this space today). Time just flew by.

Kudos to your school spirit and camaraderie: Joe Allen, Donna Farrell, Linda Fox, Nancy Carter, Mary Alice Elsey, Cal and



Class of 1959 senior class trip to New York City. (Photograph from Class of 1959 scrapbook. Courtesy of Linda Fox Irwin)

Pam Hoffman, Bobbie Doscher, Hugh and Denise Hiott, Ralph Shrivalle, Ada Carter, Bill Mellette, Mary Lou Pendarvis, Weezie Weekley, Kenneth and Salley Davey, Herb Koger, Bobbie and Cecil Boniford, Bobbie's sister - Joann, Kiki Angelos, John Furlow, Brenda Henderson, Buster Searson, Betsy

Burke, Marlene Seigmann, and John Weatherford. May all your reunions continue to be fun

St. Andrew's Parish High School stories? Contact Donna Jacobs at westashleybook@gmail.com.



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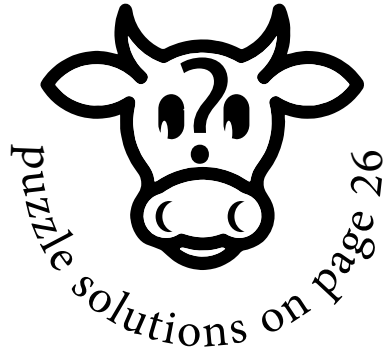
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	2	5		4		1		3
2				6	1			8
				7		9		1
3			8		5	2		6

TRIVIA BY GREY MATTER GAMES

1. REST IN PEACE

What was the name of the filmmaker who is best known for eating only McDonald's every day for 30 days in the documentary Super Size Me, who died last month at the age of 53?

2. VOICES

What famous actor is the voice of Garfield in the new animated feature film?

3. SEQUELS

It was announced last week that Wake Up Dead Man is the title of the third installment of what popular movie franchise, due out in 2025?

4. COUNTRY MUSIC

Although it was recently recorded by Beyoncé on her new album Country Carter, what Dolly Parton classic just topped Rolling Stone's list of the 200 Greatest Country Songs of All Time?

5. CELEBRITY COUPLES

Stranger Things actress Millie Bobby Brown secretly married the son of what famous rock star last month?

6. ACTORS & ACTRESSES

What famous actress is in an ongoing battle with OpenAI over the unauthorized use of her voice?

7. MOVIES

Currently on the festival circuit, what is the name of the new film based on former President Donald Trump that his campaign has issued a cease and desist to try and stop its release?

8. COVER GIRLS

What 69-year-old celebrity is featured on one of this year's popular *Sports Illustrated* Swimsuit issue?

ACROSS

- 1. Hubs
- 5. Circle fragments
- 9. Each day
- 14. "Smallest" particle
- 15. Type of salmon
- 16. Snow house
- 17. Fool
- 19. Permit
- 20. Frighten
- 21. Tautest
- 23. In the way
- 25. Make happy
- 28. Type of tree
- 29. Our star
- 32. Most recent
- 33. American Sign Language
- 34. Period of discounted prices
- 35. Computer symbol
- 36. Undue speed
- 38. One single time
- 39. Depression
- 40. Tear
- 41. Leased
- 43. East southeast

- 44. Craggy peak
- 45. Paupers
- 46. Resolves
- 48. Killer
- 50. Strike
- 54. Took a chance
- 55. Evenings
- 57. Bay window
- 58. Withdraw gradually
- 59. Anagram of "Sent"
- 60. A clearing
- 61. Turn on a pivot
- 62. Detest

DOWN

- 1. Young woman
- 2. Ear-related
- 3. Deep sleep
- 4. Rash
- 5. Air hero
- 6. Damaged by decay
- 7. Hymn singers
- 8. Informal musical gathering
- 9. Microscopic alga
- 10. Lace tip
- 11. Misfortunes
- 12. Plunder
- 13. Ouch!
- 18. Loans
- 22. Yelled
- 24. Oust
- 25. Coast
- 26. Shoestrings
- 27. Expiate
- 29. Father Christmas
- 30. Gastric woe
- 31. Requires
- 33. Viper
- 34. Composer
- 37. Plane crews
- 42. Cast out
- 44. Walk unsteadily
- 45. Office
- 46. Belief system
- 47. Stage
- 48. Crumbling earthy deposit
- 49. Murre
- 51. Bright thought
- 52. Canvas dwelling
- 53. Being
- 54. Canine
- 56. North northeast



at the Pavilion in Shadowmoss (meets in the Clubhouse if it's raining). Meet new people and have some fun! All skill levels welcome.

The Sampler Guild of Charleston
All skill levels welcome. Meets on the 4th Monday of every month at 10am. Old St. Andrews Parish Church in Fellowship Hall, 2604 Ashley River Rd. For more information, contact nancythechief@gmail.com

Soap and Candle Making Workshops
Call for details. Pluff Mud Mercantile, 2408 Ashley River Rd. (843) 872-6022.

West Ashley Quilting and Sewing
Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 460 Arlington Dr. from 10am-noon and the 4th Tuesday of the month at Five Eighth Seams, 1888 Raoul Wallenberg Blvd. from 10am-2pm for open sew. Find on Facebook or contact cgb7507@gmail.com.

West Ashley Writer's Group
Established in 1999, this is the longest running writer's group in the Charleston area. Writers of all types and genres are welcome. Free. The group meets on Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 7-9pm. Message the group here to receive the Zoom link: <https://www.facebook.com/westashleywritersgroup>

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Bees Landing Recreation Center
1580 Ashley Gardens Blvd. (843) 402-4571. www.charleston-sc.gov. Call ahead for more info. Bricks 4 Kids, StoryTree Theater, Little Nature Lovers, Busy Bees Ballet, Monthly Art Workshops.

• **Cards & Coffee.** Fridays, 1pm-4pm. Free.

• **MahJongg.** Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm. Free.

• **Bridge.** Wednesday, 10am-12pm. Free.

• **Acoustic Music Group.** Thursdays, 2pm-4pm. Free.

Bees Ferry Library
3035 Sanders Rd., (843) 805-6892, www.ccpl.org. This library offers a variety of events and activities for children, teens, adults, and seniors including children's story-time, computer classes, crafting events and more.

Charleston County Parks
The Charleston County Parks system offers a variety of activities, classes, and even summer camps. Check their website for more information: www.ccprc.com.

Hurd/ St. Andrews Library:
1735 N. Woodmere Dr., (843) 766-2546, www.ccpl.org
This library offers a variety of events and activities for children and teens, including crafts and month-long challenges.

West Ashley Farmers Market
Wednesdays from 3-7pm in Ackerman Park. The market will continue every Wednesday through the Fall.

SPORTS & RECREATION

St. Andrew's Family Fitness Plus:
1642 Sam Rittenberg Blvd., (843) 763-3850, www.standrewspark.com. info.

Offers a variety of activities for adults and children.

St. Andrew's Parks & Playground:
1095 Playground Rd., (843) 763-4360, www.standrewspark.com.

• **Afterschool Program** – Only \$85 per week. St. Andrews Playground, 1095 Playground Rd.

• **2024 Fall Youth Sports Registration** – Baseball (ages 5-14); Softball (ages 7-12), Cross Country (ages 7-18), Volleyball (ages 7-14). Early Registration: June 24-July 7, Regular Registration: July 8-July 21, Late Registration: (Based on availability): July 22-July 26. Register Online at www.standrewspark.com.

• **Outdoor Pool** – Looking to join a pool for the summer? Join the Forest Lakes Community Pool! Registration is open now! Membership Pricing: Single -

\$119; Couple- \$144; Family - \$169. Pool season is Memorial Day thru Labor Day. Pool park rentals available all summer! The pool is located at 1822 Gun Club Rd. Register at www.standrewspark.com or call (843) 763-4360.

• **Pickleball** – Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am-12pm, \$2 per person. Bring your own equipment or borrow. All skill levels welcome. St. Andrews Parks Gymnasium, 1095 Playground Rd.

• **Summer Camps** – Register online at www.standrewspark.com (http://www.standrewspark.com/) or in-person at 1095 Playground Road or 1642 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. For more information, contact Jacob Rossignol at jrossignol@standrewspark.com or 843-763-4360.

West Aquatic Center
www.ccprc.com
5156 Highway 165 Hollywood, SC 29449. (843) 762-6160.

• **H2O Balance & Flexibility** – 4 Week Session, Mondays & Wednesdays: Monday, June 3-Wednesday, June 28, 10:15-11:15am. This refreshing approach to aquatic fitness capitalizes on the supportive environment of the water to increase balance and flexibility while promoting increases in range of motion and joint stability. Participants must be comfortable in 4' 6" deep water. Fee: \$64, ages 16 & up. Register online at www.ccprc.com.

• **H2O Moves 4.5** – This deep water suspension fitness program is held in 4.5 feet of water. The non-weight bearing format is gentler on the body enabling participants to reap the benefits of cardio exercise without jarring, land-based movement. Two aquatic chair lifts available for accessible pool entry/exit. Pool depth is 4.5 feet with zero depth entry. Fee: \$64, ages 16 & up. Register online at www.ccprc.com.

SENIOR

Waring Senior Center:
2001 Henry Tecklenberg Dr. (843)

606-7877, www.lowcountryseniorcenter.com for more info. The West Ashley Senior Center offers a variety of fitness classes including yoga, Tai Chi, synergy, dancing, and strength training, for all levels, and art classes. Available for both members and non-members.

OUTDOOR

Caw Caw Interpretive Center:
5200 Savannah Hwy. (843) 795-4386. Register online at www.ccprc.com. Caw Caw offers a variety of children's walks through the forest and along the waterways, where they learn about animals and their habitats.

• **Sankofa African Rice Party** – June 1 from 11am-12:30pm. Join food historian and documentarian Julian Gooding as he shares the history and recipes of enslaved Africans. This knowledge of rice cultivation made Charleston one of the richest cities in the world. Thanks to the generous support of the Charleston County Parks Foundation, this program is free. Registration is strongly recommended. Ages 16 & up. Register online at www.ccprc.com.

• **Early Morning Bird Walks** – Wednesdays & Saturdays in June from 8:30-10:30am. Advanced registration required. Join us for these regular bird walks. The trek through many distinct habitats will allow you to view and discuss a variety of birds, butterflies, and other organisms. Fee: \$9 per person.

• **Homeschool in the Parks: One Drop** – Friday, June 21 from 10-11:30am. Follow a drop of water through the water cycle and learn about South Carolina's watersheds. A portion of the program is spent in an air-conditioned classroom. Fee: \$7, ages 7-12 years. Register online at www.ccprc.com.

• **Walking on History** – Saturday, June 8 from 10:30am-12:30pm. Walk and learn about the Stone Rebellion, the largest uprising of people who were enslaved in the

British colonies, that took place in 1739 within a 15-mile radius of Caw Caw. Trails are unpaved. Program speed is moderately slow. Fee: \$10, ages 15 & up.

Charleston Parks Conservancy
www.charlestonparksconservancy.org

• **Talking' Trees with BartlettTree Experts** – June 5 from 12-1:30pm. Learn how to plant your first tree or get tips on your backyard forest from Bartlett Tree Experts. Free to attend, light lunch included, must register in advance. Charleston Parks Conservancy office, 720 Magnolia Rd., Suite 25. RSVP at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org.

• **Spring Music Series at Magnolia Community Garden** – June 13 from 5:30-7:30pm. An evening of live music, food trucks, and good vibes. Free to attend. Featured artist: 40 Mile Detour. 720 Magnolia Rd. RSVP at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org.

• **Early Morning Bird Walk at West Ashley Greenway** – June 15 from 7:30-9:30am. Guided bird walk with Holy City Birding. Meet at the western end of the Greenway at McLeod Mill Rd.

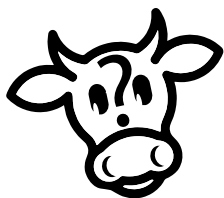
• **Full Moon Yoga Social at Magnolia Community Gardens** – June 21 from 6-8pm. Join Holy Cow Yoga Center for a unique evening of holistic rejuvenation and community connection, illuminated by the radiant glow of the full moon. \$25 includes 1 hour yoga and a mocktail. This event is especially curated for individuals embracing the "sober curious" lifestyle. Purchase tickets at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org.

Charles Towne Landing
www.southcarolinaparks.com
1500 Old Towne Plantation Rd., Charleston, SC 29407. (843) 852-4200.

Stono River County Park
3580 McLeod Mill Rd., www.ccprc.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

L	O	C	I	A	R	C	S	D	A	I	L	Y	
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S	C	A	R	E	T	I	G	H	T	E	S	T	
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G	L	A	D	D	E	N	E	L	M	S	U	N	
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

4	7	8	9	2	6	3	1	5
1	3	2	4	5	8	6	7	9
6	5	9	1	3	7	8	2	4
7	6	1	5	8	3	4	9	2
9	4	3	6	1	2	5	8	7
8	2	5	7	4	9	1	6	3
2	9	4	3	6	1	7	5	8
5	8	6	2	7	4	9	3	1
3	1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Morgan Spurlock
2. Chris Pratt
3. Knives Out
4. Jolene
5. Jon Bon Jovi
6. Scarlett Johansson
7. The Apprentice
8. Gayle King



by Captain Geoff Bennett
Charleston Charter Fishing

starting to be large enough to net and use. If little fish keep picking at your live shrimp, switch over to a D.O.A. 3" artificial shrimp. Their Glow/Gold Rush Belly color has been quite productive.

Anglers targeting flounder have been reporting good numbers being caught. Work mud minnows or finger mullet along the bottom around structures. Move the bait gently along and when you think you have a bite pause a few seconds before setting the hook. We've been picking up quite a few flounder with mud minnows under a popping cork as well.

My favorite summertime fish is the ladyfish. With the warmer water temps, ladyfish will fill our waters. These exciting fish will readily eat bait under a popping cork and make your drag zing. Their acrobatic jumps and hard runs make these fish very entertaining. You'll find them often in some of the same spots that you find trout. See you on the water!

Since 2009, Capt. Geoff Bennett has operated Charleston Charter Fishing providing light tackle charters. Clients choose from a full menu of artificial and live bait fishing options with charters tailored to their desires. USCG licensed and insured, Capt. Bennett is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable charter to anglers of all skill levels and ages. For more information, call Capt. Bennett at 843-324-3332, visit his website at www.charlestoncharterfishing.com or email him at captain@charlestoncharterfishing.com.

Looking for Ladyfish

Also, anglers targeting flounder have been reporting good numbers



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