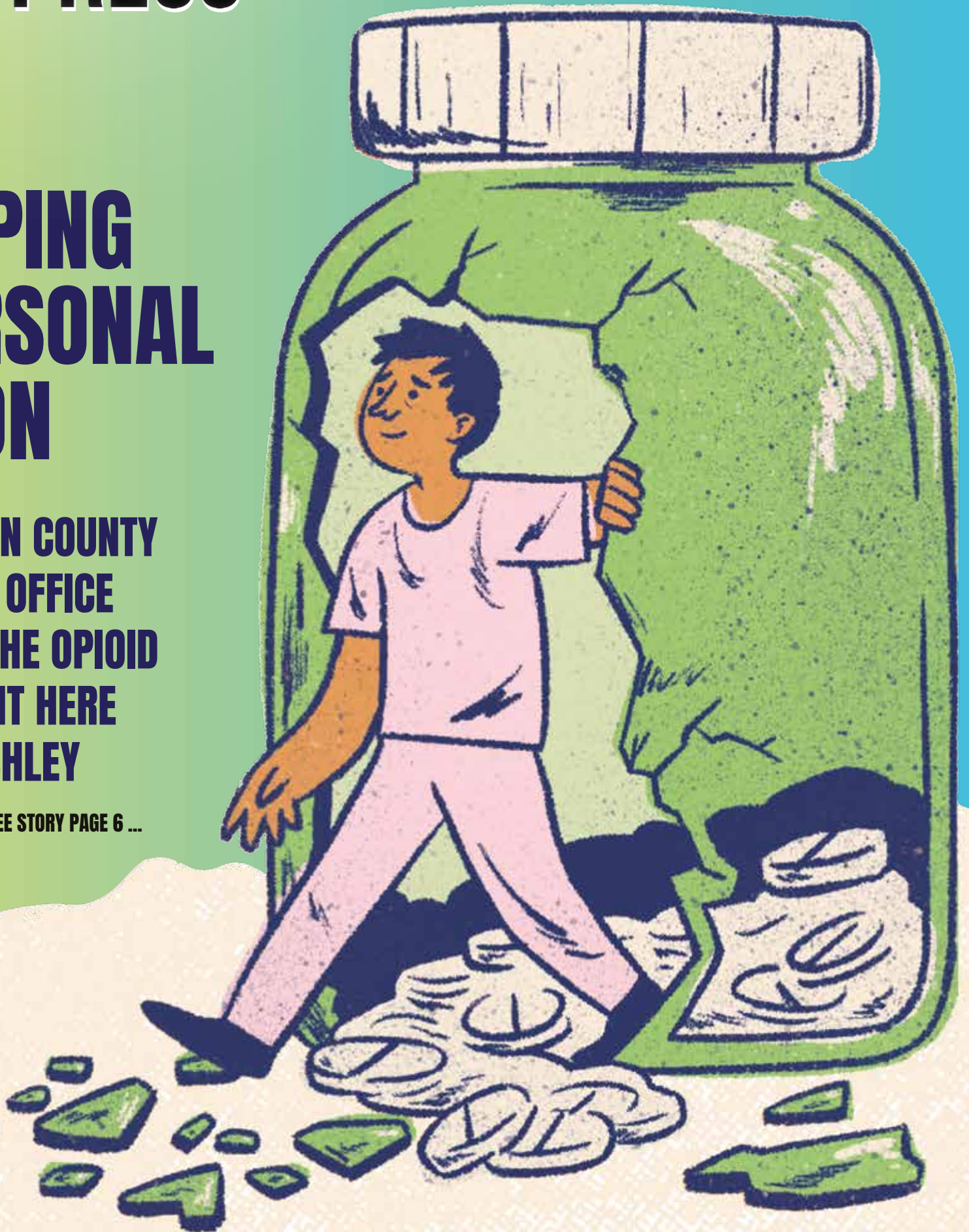


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SEE STORY PAGE 6 ...





Gary Crossley at the Keukenhof Gardens in Lisse, Netherlands



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LACIE

Lacie is in the Business Ambassador program. Community businesses partner with Charleston Animal Society to showcase available animals and help them get adopted! She is currently being housed at Pounce Cat Café located at 283 Meeting Street in Downtown Charleston.



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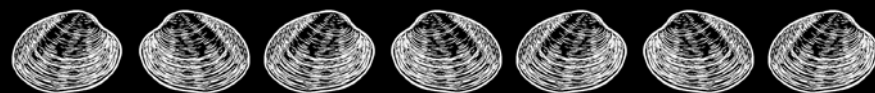


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NEWS

“The guiding light for us was that we could have a truly comprehensive neighborhood school that the community could be proud of.”

— Ryan Cumback, Executive Director of High Schools with the CCSD

Moving on Up

Former WAHS Principal Ryan Cumback takes on new role with CCSD

by Jenny Peterson | News Editor

Longtime educator and West Ashley High School (WAHS) Principal Ryan Cumback is taking an administrative role the next school year and said leaving the school he’s served for the past 15 years (five years as a teacher, five years as assistant principal and five years as a principal) is bittersweet.

The good news is that he won’t be going far: he’s taking the role as Executive Director of High Schools with the Charleston County School District overseeing and supporting area high schools, including WAHS. He said in his 18 total years of experience in education, he’s never been more confident in the school’s staff and direction.

Cumback, 42, brought fresh energy to the high school. Under his leadership, enrollment has increased by more than 400 students—and more than 20 additional teachers—at the public high school. Cumback said he personally hired 75 percent of the staff at the school. Wildcats sports teams won four championships over the past year, including track and field and tennis. The West Ashley High School girls’ soccer team made huge strides.

Cumback guided the school through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and formed partnerships with local colleges, including the College of Charleston and Trident Technical College to offer students dual enrollment classes on the college campuses. Cumback also worked to expand AP class options. This year, Julia Royall, a French teacher, was recognized as a Top 5 Teacher of the Year Finalist in Charleston County.

“We put a huge focus on campus safety, which includes discipline and making sure students knew what the expectations were that they were here to learn,” Cumback said. “The guiding light for us was that we could have a truly comprehensive neighborhood school that the community could be proud of.”

The community and school pride is clear in the families Cumback sees regularly in the grocery store who stop to chat.

“If I go to Home Depot or, or Lowe’s on

the weekend, there’s a zero percent chance of being able to walk through there without seeing a family, which is great,” he said. “I love it and genuinely feel like the students, the parents and the staff are very appreciative of what’s taken place here.”

Interviews for candidates for the new principal position will be finalized in July following a recommendation from a panel that includes parents, community members, school board members and other principals in the school district. Cumback said he’s ready to support principals in the district, tackling issues all high schools face like smartphone use, attendance and vaping.

“One of the things that all schools are struggling with is finding different ways to engage the students when there are so many other tools out there that are very engaging for them, whether it’s social media or their phones. It is 100 hundred percent possible. You have to make every single one of your daily lessons for 180 straight days be super engaging, where the kids don’t even have the desire to reach for that phone,” Cumback said. “It goes back to hiring the right teachers and the right staff.”

During the summer, West Ashley High School will host the Charleston Educator Symposium with around 800 teachers, administrators, district staff and vendors on site over three days. Then, it’s back to planning for the upcoming school year.

Cumback said he’s excited to get started in the new role and notes that the right principal can be transformative for a growing public high school like West Ashley.

“The impact that this position can have on the students and the staff on a day-to-day basis is obviously very high, but also it impacts the whole West Ashley community. I liked that pressure. I liked the challenge of taking something that had an enormous amount of potential and finding ways to showcase it,” Cumback said. “And I’ll still be at the Home Depot and the Lowe’s talking to families and I’ll still be at the games.”



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Escaping a Personal Prison

Charleston County Coroner's Office Takes on the Opioid Crisis right here in West Ashley

by Joan Perry | Contributing Writer

There have been 15 confirmed unintentional drug-related deaths in West Ashley between January and June of this year. The numbers for Charleston County are much higher (233), but last year, in 2023, we lost 34 of our West Ashley friends and neighbors to this curse.

In my monthly column for this paper, I usually feature fun topics that spike my personal curiosity in this West Ashley Wanderer column. But these numbers were so shocking, that they got my attention. So when I saw that Charleston County Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal and Harm Reduction Specialist D'artagnan Brownlee were coming to the Waring Senior Center to talk about the issue on Wednesday, June 12, I registered to attend.

The topic was personal to many of the attendees. Hugs were shared

and eyes teared with personal pain. Local resident Pat Clifford confided that on her regular driving route from Charleston to Ohio, she noticed Narcan on restroom walls. She wondered if there might be a time when she might be the only person available to lend a hand to someone in crisis and wanted to be able to help. Andrea Searson has a full and lively circle of family and friends of all ages. If she was ever in a situation where one of them needed her help, she wanted to be level-headed and prepared.

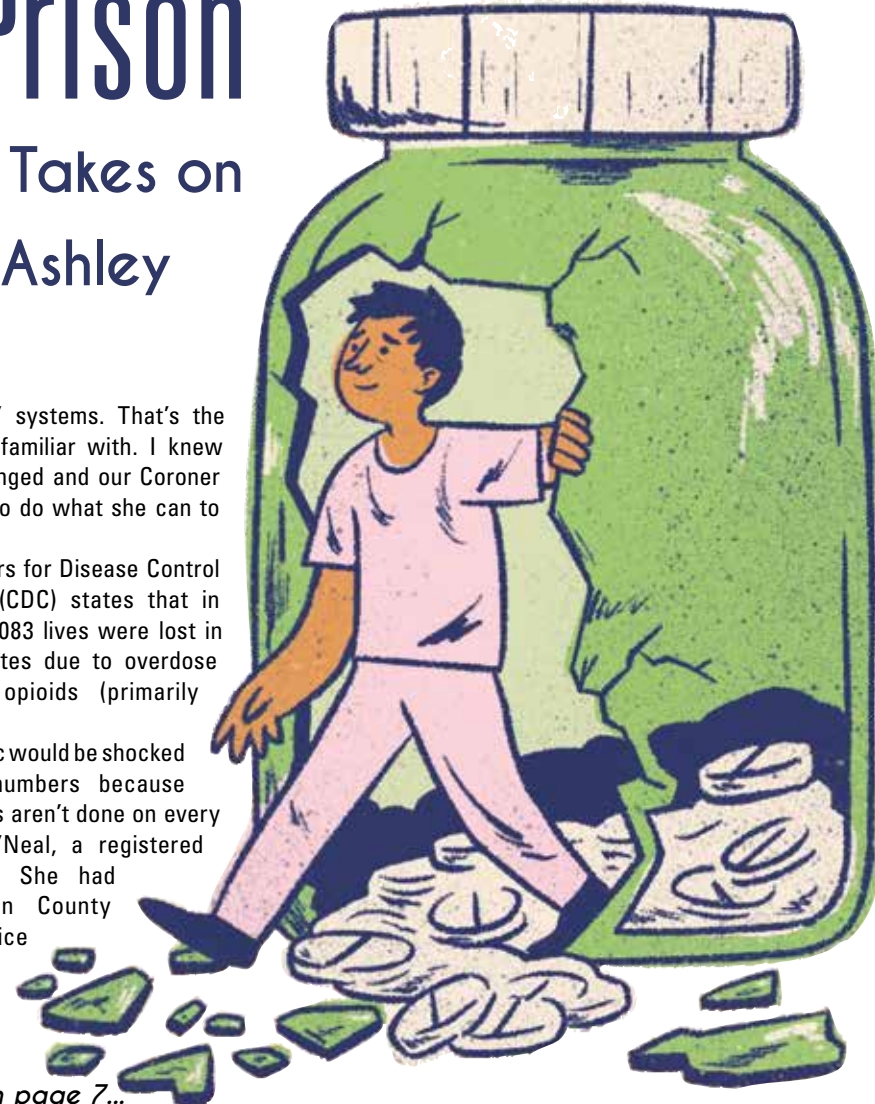
"If we all took that attitude, maybe it wouldn't be so bad," said Searson.

Long before I was writing the West Ashley Wanderer column, I was a nurse. I occasionally had to give injections of Narcan as an antidote to tiny babies born sluggish after a mom gave birth with a dose of pain medication still in

the little ones' systems. That's the Narcan I was familiar with. I knew things had changed and our Coroner is determined to do what she can to save lives.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) states that in 2023 alone, 81,083 lives were lost in the United States due to overdose of synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl).

"The public would be shocked at the real numbers because toxicology tests aren't done on every case," said O'Neal, a registered nurse herself. She had the Charleston County Coroner's Office designated as a Narcan Distribution



continued on page 7...

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Charleston County Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal and Harm Reduction Specialist D'artagnan Brownlee teach how to administer injections of Narcan.

site and is taking the message on the road.

According to O'Neal, 77 percent of the drug-related deaths in the Charleston area involve Fentanyl. The potent synthetic opioid is cheap, easy for dealers to make, and is often used to cut drugs for an extra boost. The tiniest amount of Fentanyl can be lethal to many people. She said that dealers are constantly mixing drug recipes, deliberately staying ahead of current testing.

It was very personal to be given a Narcan inhaler kit to take home.

Narcan (Naxolin) is an opioid antagonist and, for this purpose, is given out as an easy-to-administer nasal inhaler. A sample was passed around the group. The simple instructions are to insert the inhaler into a nostril, tilt the head back, and press the plunger. It won't hurt and may save a life. Narcan has a stronger affinity to the opioid receptors in our brain and quickly acts to replace the opioid. The kits come with two inhalers. If one doesn't work promptly, you're safe to use the second one as it has no harmful effects. If it appears to be working, roll the person to their side in case they vomit.

The common symptoms of a drug overdose might be any of the following: skin that's pale and clammy to touch, limpness, blue/gray fingernail beds, and being unable to speak or awaken. O'Neal described the common snorting or snoring sound from people who might not usually snore. Ultimately, breathing stops, and the heartbeat slows and stops. It is advised initially to try to rouse them and rub their sternum vigorously. Check for breathing, call 911 and stay with the person.

In this situation, respirations are most

crucial. Use the Narcan inhaler if you have one handy, or place them on their back, tilt head to clear the airway and start rescue breathing.

"Spread the word. Push for legislation to better handle drugs coming into our country and increase punishment for dealers."

I felt full of gratitude that O'Neal and Brownlee took on this cause as they continue to work overtime to spread awareness and make Narcan available to the public. Narcan is available without a prescription from most pharmacies, EMS, Law Enforcement and the Coroner's Office.

At the end of the coroner's presentation, she gave all the attendees the follow-up assignments of locking up and securing any prescription pills we might have, turning in unused medication for proper disposal, or using a Deterra Drug Deactivation & Disposal System to deactivate opioids, and never to accept a pill from someone else.

Every August, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) commemorates Overdose Awareness Week and International Overdose Awareness Day (Aug. 31) to remember the individuals, families, and communities who have all been impacted by overdose.

Breaking an opioid addiction takes time and professional help. Addiction to an opioid is a chronic medical condition with potentially fatal consequences. If a friend or family member is dealing with an opioid use disorder, offer to help find treatment.

For information or referrals, there is a 24-hour helpline: 843-722-0100 or <http://cc.charlestoncounty.org>.



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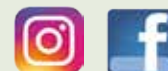
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not have a valid driver's license. The Florida tag on his vehicle was also expired.

**MAY 22
SHOPLIFTING**

The manager of a drug store called officers to report that two suspects stole sunglasses and allergy medication valued between \$150-\$200. Cameras captured the theft as well as the suspects' vehicle's license plate. The case is ongoing.

**MAY 22
SEXUAL EXPOSURE**

A man was issued a citation for indecent exposure after he was seen dancing naked on his balcony multiple times in front of construction workers at a local apartment complex. The foreman called officers at 2:30 p.m. and said the man, who had a ponytail and arm tattoos, had come out onto his balcony 10-12 times over the course of an hour—and there was camera footage to prove it. Officers spoke with the man who admitted to dancing naked on his balcony to music and he was issued a citation for indecent exposure.

**MAY 22
SHOPLIFTING**

The manager of a retail store reported that three female suspects had stolen 60 Polo shirts and 5 Polo shorts with a total value of \$6,450. The manager followed the women outside in an attempt to get the items back, but was unsuccessful. The manager was able to get the vehicle's license plate and photos of the suspects. The case is ongoing.

**MAY 23
THEFT FROM VEHICLE**

A West Ashley man called officers to report that someone had stolen \$90,000 worth of speakers, amps and audio equipment from his SUV that was parked at an apartment complex. The man said he received a text message from one of his neighbors stating that someone broke into his vehicle, with the driver's side window shattered. The man provided officers with 40 pages of receipts and invoices to prove the amount stolen.

**MAY 28
SHOPLIFTING**

The manager of a retail store reported that a couple stole 59 candles worth \$1,610 by placing the items inside shopping bags and exiting the store.

**JUNE 2
LARCENY BY FALSE PRETENSES**

A woman reported that she was scammed by an acquaintance who claimed to work for a travel agency and was arranging her trip to Mexico. The woman stated that she made more than \$5,500 worth of payments to the woman directly through various cash app platforms purportedly for flights, hotels and other lodging. She said the acquaintance then told her that her trip had to be canceled and that she would be reimbursed by the travel agency within 30 days. The woman then blocked her as a contact. When the woman called the agency directly, she was told that no such plans were ever booked under their agency. The company has opened up their own fraud case in the matter.

**JUNE 4
ALL OTHER LARCENY**

A man reported that someone had stolen his boat, valued at \$7,000, that was parked on a trailer at an apartment complex and that someone was attempting to sell it on Facebook Marketplace. The man said the listing states the boat is being sold separately from the motor. It is priced at \$2,000, but a "package deal" is being offered if it is bought with a motor that the seller was offering separately. The profile that is advertising the boat is out of Goose Creek. Photographs of the boat, as well as screenshots from Facebook Marketplace were collected as evidence. The case is ongoing.

**JUNE 5
FLIM-FLAM**

A man reported that he received a call from someone claiming to be a lieutenant with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office stating that there was an outstanding warrant for his arrest for missing jury duty and he needed to pay \$5,000. The man said he did not get a summons in the mail but believed the suspect, as the man "used language that made him sound like a

legitimate Deputy." When the man became skeptical, someone else in the background of the call told him that if he hung up, they would kill him and his family. The man became worried about his and his family's safety and agreed to pay \$500 to them through a crypto currency. The incident was reported to the FBI's cybercrime website.

**JUNE 27
DRUNKENNESS**

Employees at a West Ashley grocery store reported that a man was refusing to leave the men's restroom as the store was closing. Officers went into the bathroom and found a 26 year-old man with a half-drunk bottle of malt liquor who appeared intoxicated and had soiled himself. The grocery store placed him on trespass notice.

**MAY 22
GENERAL INFORMATION**

A West Ashley woman called police about a suspicious person walking through front yards. The woman said she was driving away from her home when she saw two suspects, a man and woman in their 30s or 40s, with the woman wearing "80's style clothing," possibly a tutu. The woman said she was afraid for her children who were home alone and she exited her vehicle with her firearm and shot once at the ground. The woman said the suspects fled into nearby woods. Officers were unable to locate any suspects.

**MAY 22
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

Officers arrested a 33-year-old man for DUI after officers were alerted about a vehicle driving recklessly. Officers located the vehicle and said the driver almost hit a patrol car making a turn. The driver also did not stop for blue lights and continued to accelerate. Once the vehicle was pulled over, the man did not follow officers' order and appeared confused. Officers could smell the odor of alcoholic beverage on his breath, observed glassy bloodshot eyes and slurred speech. There was also an open can of beer in the vehicle. The man was arrested for DUI and failure to stop for blue lights. It was discovered that the man had two previous DUI convictions in Florida and did

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A&E

Tiny Dancer, Big Dreams

Young performer heads to Joffrey Ballet School's Summer Intensive in Miami

by Lorne Chambers | 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 July 4th, Scarlett Hiers will turn 9 years old. And sure, there will be fireworks and flag-waving, birthday cake and presents. But that's not even close to the most exciting thing this All-American gal will be celebrating in July. Scarlett was recently accepted into the prestigious Joffrey Ballet School's Summer Intensive, an elite program that admits only a select group of young dancers aged 8-18 each year.

Scarlett and her family will be heading to Miami this month, where she's looking forward to honing her technique with a week of rigorous training. Scarlett loves training. Yes, she loves the stage and the spotlight, but she also enjoys the work that goes into getting to perform in front of other people.

"I want to learn new skills. I think it's really fun to learn," says Scarlett, when discussing what she's most looking forward to at the Summer Intensive in Miami.

When she was two-and-a-half years old, she began taking lessons at Charleston Dance Center (CDC) in West

Ashley. In 2022 she competed on CDC's Just Dance! Mini Mini Team, helping the team win first place at all four dance competitions, including Nationals. This year she enjoyed taking Lyrical, Broadway Bound and Acro and performing in their Year End Performance

"She is very determined," says her mother, Ghislaine Hiers. "It didn't always come naturally to her. She had to work at all the skills she aquired."

Scarlett's hard work is really paying off. Not only was she accepted into The Joffrey School for her Jazz and Contemporary dance, but she hopes to apply again and get accepted for her ballet next year. Scarlett was also recently honored by the Charleston County School District and last month participated in its Summer SMAART (Students Mastering the Academic Arts) Program. This two-week summer initiative offered instruction in dance, drama, music, and visual art for those who have been identified by the district as talented and gifted.

According to her mother, Scarlett trains six days a week, between 15-20 hours, including elite dance training at The Dance Conservatory of Charleston in West Ashley, where she takes Ballet, Pre-point, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, and Tap. Scarlett performs in the Conservatory's yearly performances

of the Nutcracker and their spring performance, both at the College of Charleston's Sottile Theater. She will also perform in an educational presentation of the Nutcracker at the Galliard Auditorium this winter.

Scarlett plans to enter the Conservatory's pre-professional program in the future and has recently started taking aerial hoop classes at Amorous Dance in West Ashley. She has found a new love for this unique class. She also takes tumbling classes at Pack Athletics in West Ashley.

Along with dance, Scarlett also loves pop music, including artists like Olivia Rodrigo and Taylor Swift (her favorite T-Swift song is "Cruel Summer," in case you were wondering). As a 3rd grader, Scarlett recently choreographed her own performance for her school's talent show, dancing to Alessia Cara's "Scars To Your Beautiful." She also began taking music lessons (guitar and vocal) with local singer-songwriter Hollyn Belle. Scarlett has even picked out the playlist for the family car ride to Miami later this month.

"Dad's driving, so half the time we're going to listen to Taylor Swift and half the time whatever he wants to listen to," says Scarlett, who, in addition to training, is looking forward to checking out South Florida's famed beaches.



Photo by Juliannadphotography

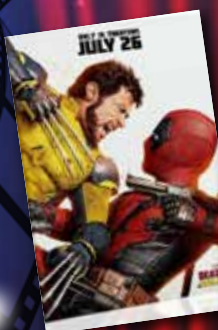
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A Pollinator Paradise

New large-scale art installation on the West Ashley Bikeway aims to wow and educate

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

“TuxedoKat” is more than a moniker, it’s a state of mind for North Carolina-based artist, producer, and entrepreneur Katlyn Cornelius. She has adopted the name as kind of her artist alter-ego, if you will, often speaking of TuxedoKat as if it is something autonomous, separate from her. Yet, it is an intrinsic part of her.

“[TuxedoKat] is free-flowing imagination mixed with unrelenting ambition. It is tangible works of art and opted-in experiences. It is choosing to feel it all and feeling sorry for none of it,” she states on her website. And when Cornelius talks about her artwork, she often refers to it as the work of TuxedoKat. She specializes in glass art, commercial art design, large-scale sculptures, upcycle arts, art-based mindfulness workshops, and community building through producing public art.

Cornelius (a.k.a. TuxedoKat) was in town recently to unveil her new sculpture “Pollinator Paradise” which was commissioned by the Charleston Parks Conservancy (CPC) after seeing her work on display in 2023 at Artfields, a 10-day festival in Lake City, SC, where the entire small town is transformed into a city-wide art gallery with hundreds of piece of are displayed in more than 40 venues around its downtown.

TuxedoKat’s rainbow glass sculpture, Meta Towers, was on display at the Lake City Library during the competition. CPC reached out to TuxedoKat and invited her to Charleston to tour its Community Gardens on Magnolia Road in West Ashley as a potential location for a public art installation.

“CPC mentioned wanting to create a space that would capture the attention of walkers and drivers by the West Ashley Bikeway, as well as offer a gathering and educational feature,” recalls TuxedoKat.

While there, the artist says she learned about the importance of bees to humanity. In the “pollinating” area of the garden, where specific flowers were planted to attract pollinating bees, she became captivated by a beautiful echinacea flower bush with colorful magenta petals surrounding a blossoming cone. Imagining herself as a tiny object beneath the towering flowers, TuxedoKat became inspired.

“This was the moment when the idea for the giant coneflower, Pollinator Paradise, sprang to life,” she says.

CPC chose to work with TuxedoKat largely because the organization was captivated by the style she implemented with Meta Towers, where the sides of the

towers glowed with illuminated pieces of broken and crushed glass from recycled items like glass bottles and thrifted, unwanted items such as plates and vases. TuxedoKat says she placed each piece in a mosaic fashion, creating a spectrum gradient of glass while coordinating the internal lighting to complement the glass colors. Since, this glass technique was highly desired by the CPC for their new sculpture, TuxedoKat decided that the cone of the Pollinator Paradise sculpture would be made with pieces of glass, while the petals and structure would be fabricated from metal.

TuxedoKat says her husband, David, who has over a decade of experience in selling and estimating large commercial signage, played a crucial role in the Pollinator Paradise project. He teamed up with Sign Art, a company in Concord, N.C., to assist his wife in making the sculpture large enough to create the feeling of being “as tiny as an ant” for the observer while admiring the large structure.

David’s expertise guided the project through the design, fabrication, and installation phases. Additionally, the sculpture was engineered to withstand hurricane-force winds, ensuring its durability and longevity.

TuxedoKat hopes Pollinator Paradise will be a statement piece that captivates with its rich textures, unconventional mediums, and visual allure from afar. As visitors approach and move beneath the petals, they discover intricate patterns that are perfect for photoshoots.

“The sun illuminates the colors of the broken glass in the cone, which includes amber, orange, yellow, red, green, and gold. At night, shining a light onto the cone illuminates the glass, making it perfect for fun nighttime and light painting photography,” says TuxedoKat. “We hope people will dress up and take pictures with the sculpture at various times of the day—day, night, and during the magic hour.”

Pollinators Paradise will undoubtedly attract all sorts of photographers. If the subject is positioned just right in front of the sculpture, the camera can capture an angle that makes the subject appear larger than the sculpture, creating a perspective illusion as if they are holding it in their hands, says TuxedoKat.

Besides being a beautiful work of art and a great backdrop for a photoshoot, TuxedoKat says Pollinator Paradise also aims to educate visitors whose curiosity will draw them closer.



“Beyond its aesthetic appeal, this sculpture serves as a tangible reminder of the vital role that pollinators, especially bees, play in our ecosystem,” she says. “By creating captivating artwork centered around pollination, we hope to spark conversations and raise awareness about the importance of protecting these essential creatures and their habitats.”

TuxedoKat hopes this is just the beginning of more art installations along the West Ashley Bikeway. She thinks the sculpture is large enough to be considered a Roadside Attraction, similar

to the world’s largest ball of string. “This would be the world’s largest coneflower! We hope it creates buzz for the local businesses in the area,” says TuxedoKat. “Art has always been an activating force for individuals, spaces, and communities. Investing in art can be challenging because it requires funding to create and may not generate direct financial returns once installed. However, setting aside the business perspective, the power of public art lies in its ability to inspire those who encounter it.”

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DINING

The Ex Factor

New West Ashley hot spot All My Exes brings classic cocktail club vibes to Avondale

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

Ever since the closing of Caroline's Aloha Bar (previously Voodoo Tiki Bar & Lounge), Avondale had been dealing with a bit of a void in the craft cocktail department. We pretty much had all the other bases covered — a neighborhood dive bar in Gene's Haufbrau, an acclaimed brewery in Charles Towne Fermentory with an Asian Fusion restaurant in Bok Choy Boy inside, a wine bar in Avondale Wine & Cheese, a sports bar in The Roost Bar & Grille, a brunch-centric spot in Ruby Sunshine, and a fast-casual sushi and ramen spot in Poke Burri/Lifting Noodles. Across the street, there are restaurant-oriented, family-friendly options like Triangle Char & Bar and Mellow Mushroom, a proper coffee shop in Highfalutin Coffee Roasters, an oyster bar in Pearlz, and now, there's even a high-end restaurant and bar with Bearcat. But up until last month, there was no cocktail-focused bar. Enter Jersey girl Stephanie Sievers, whose new cocktail lounge, All My Exes, is more than filling that void; it's helping Avondale.

"I knew from hanging out in West Ashley that it was full of people who would appreciate a nice classic cocktail but would also appreciate the emphasis on community and warmth," says Sievers. "Location-wise, I also like the idea that we can be the go-to for the surrounding neighborhoods but can also be the perfect last stop on the way home from a night downtown."

When the Oak Barrel Tavern ended its nearly decade-and-a-half long run late last year, Sievers thought the small space, which is squeezed between the much larger The Roost Bar & Grill and F45 Fitness along Savannah Highway, was the perfect spot. Since All My Exes officially opened its doors last month, Sievers's assessment has been proven to be spot on.

"It can be daunting to open up in a strip with iconic, quality establishments that have been here forever, but the reception has indicated that we were right in hoping we'd be welcomed as something new that is still complementary to the existing businesses," says Sievers.

Before opening her first bar, Sievers

worked in the restaurants and bars business for years in high school and college. But later, while living in New York City and working in the educational publishing industry, she realized how much she loved and desperately missed the Food & Beverage world.

"I love speaking to people and feeling as if you're making someone's night better or more memorable," she says. "So I came down to Charleston, knowing it was the city of hospitality, to get back into it."

It was here in the Holy City where Sievers really honed her skill and speed, gaining an education in cocktail creation and the ins and outs of running a bar. She worked in a wide variety of establishments in the Lowcountry, from golf courses to dive bars, from high-volume beach bars to high-end craft cocktail clubs. Taking a little inspiration from each place, Sievers took aim at opening her own place. She envisioned it as a bar with high-quality, artful cocktails that had the same welcoming and fun energy as the casual neighborhood hangouts she'd worked in and frequented as a customer. West Ashley's popular Avondale Business District had the right vibe—hip but not pretentious.

"We're so grateful for the incredibly positive reception from everyone in the area. There are people who walk over from their homes in the neighborhood behind us with their kids to treat themselves to a cocktail, and there are people who work Food & Bev downtown but live in the area who regularly enjoy our after-hours happy hour deals when they get off work," she says. "I honestly think it's the most fun and friendly clientele of any establishment I've worked, so thank you to the people of West Ashley for that!"

The inside of All My Exes is hardly recognizable from its beer bar predecessor. Its modern, sleek aesthetic includes an all-black bar top, black bar stools, black cocktail tables, and black and gold light fixtures. The large mural on the wall provides pops of neon pink and blue, giving the interior a fun and stylish vibe. The mural was painted by local artist Kylie Mason, who is also a bartender at All My Exes.

While the place looks vibrant and has a good energy, it's the actual cocktails that are



the star of the show. All My Exes extensive cocktail menu, spans from classics to inventive.

"Our beverage director Jen (Jackson) is the mind behind our cocktail program, and she's a powerhouse," says Sievers. "Early in the process, I'd say something like, 'I'd love one that changes color,' and she immediately cooked up what became one of our most popular cocktails, the Switch Hitter." It doesn't just change color, it possesses a beautiful ombre that mimics the gradient of colors in All My Exes' original logo. And besides that, despite its deep colors, it manages to be light, refreshing, super herbal, and floral.

"All of our signature cocktails have been extremely popular, but I think the Queen in the North, our signature espresso martini using amaro and a caramel rim, has been the standout among guests so far," says Sievers.

While impressive in its current state, Sievers says All My Exes' cocktail program will never be set in stone. She plans to feature monthly specialty cocktails and advises to keep an eye out this month for "The Empress." According to Sievers, the bar's commitment to fresh ingredients means it'll be changing its food and drink menus to incorporate what's in season.

Speaking of food, All My Exes also boasts a small but mighty food menu, which includes a number of small snacky items, as well as heartier offerings, such as flatbreads, fresh bruschetta, and charcuterie boards.

"I'm incredibly proud of our food menu, considering we're a cocktail bar," says Sievers. "I lived in Spain for a while, and a typical Spanish establishment will always serve you snacks with your drink, so you'll notice that inspiration in our offerings of chips, olives, Marcona almonds, and the fact that plain chips or jalapeno chips are free of charge during happy hour."

Sievers is quick to point out that All My Exes has been a team effort from the very beginning and that she has relied on her talented staff not only to help make her vision a reality but to help inspire the vision in the first place.

"Our staff is small and has worked together for many years, so we all collaborated, but again it's the case of me having vague ideas and my way more talented staff blowing my mind with what they create."

All My Exes is located at 825 Savannah Hwy. Suite B. For more information, call (854) 222-3836 or visit

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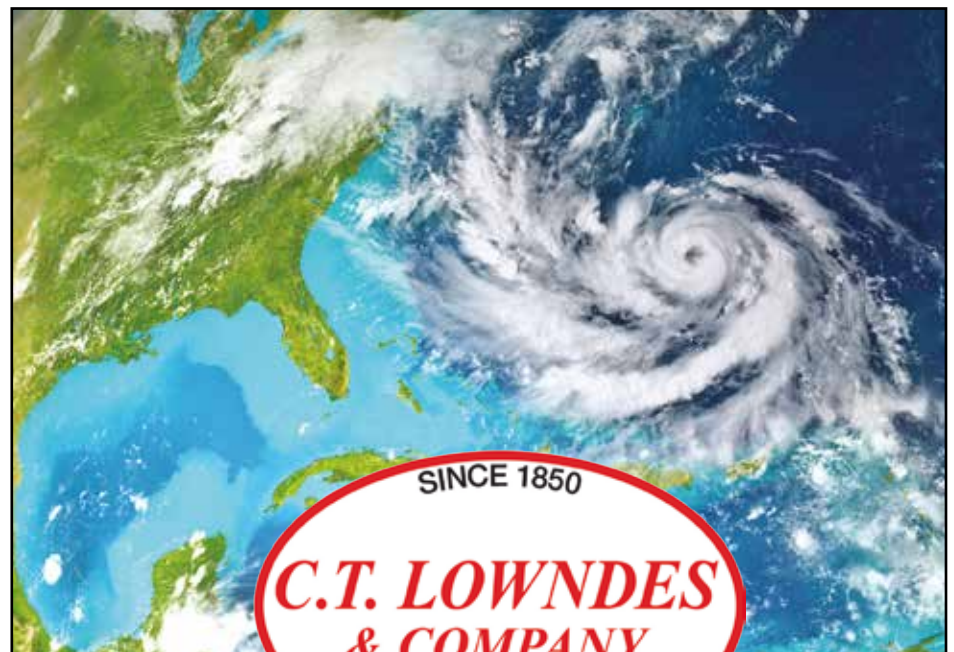
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As Temperatures Rise, Gravities Drop

Three "light(er)" beers for the summer months

At no time in the modern history of beer have more sessionable yet flavorful beers been available. This is a great thing. We just passed the first day of summer, a.k.a. the summer solstice, and things are definitely beginning to heat up. If it's hot outside, and you want to imbibe on some tasty brews, I recommend you keep the alcohol by volume (ABV) of those beers at a lower range.

If one were to Google search for low-alcohol beer, several things will pop up. The Wikipedia page for low-alcohol beer offers such versions as "light beer," "non-alcoholic beer," "small beer," "small ale," and "near-beer." Now, small beer and small ale are interesting, and I covered them before. The other options, light beer and non-alcoholic or near-beer are a whole different animal. What you typically get with light beer is low alcohol and low taste. What you get with near-beer, supposed low-to-no alcohol and a mild 'beer' taste. Both options are a waste

of time, in my opinion.

What we want are great tasting beers on the lower-gravity end of the spectrum. It's quite rare to find beers below 4 percent ABV, and once you get into the upper 5 and over 6 percent range, you no longer have a sessionable brew on your hands. So we're looking for the sweet spot of beers that fall into the 4-5 percent ABV range.

Numerous palatable, if not fantastic, low-gravity beers now exist. Most of these beers are comparable to your average American macro light lager in alcohol content (e.g., Bud Light and Coors Light are both 4.2 percent ABV).

My old standard go-to used to be Levitation Ale from Stone Brewing Company. Classified as a red or amber American ale, often called a hoppy red, Levitation is 4.4 percent ABV. Perfect! Checking in at 45 IBUs (International Bitterness Units), this red ale hits the upper end of the standard American Pale Ale range, the lower end of

that expected for a classic American IPA.

Levitation shows Orange-Amber in the glass and is very hop-oriented in the smell, spicy citrus for the most part. Although a nutty note is present as well, it's medium to full-bodied and offers more hops than nearly any other American amber on the market, especially given the low alcohol content. Citrus and orange rind flavors dominate, with a caramel malt backbone holding the bitterness in check. This beer is more hop-flavored and juicy than biting or bitter.

These days, however, red ales have sadly fallen out of fashion, and Levitation is no longer available on the reg at your local grocer. So now I'm more likely to reach for Terrapin Brewing Company's Recreation Ale. Straddling the line between American Pale Ale and IPA, this beer leans toward the easy-drinking side with a lighter mouthfeel and less flavor than the Stone offering. But five varieties of lively, citrus hops keep it interesting, rising above the poundable

macro light offerings. At 4.7 percent ABV and 47 IBUs, this laid-back refreshing can of beer is a perfect choice for just about any summer activity.

Another one that I gravitate to this time of year is Bell's Brewing's Light Hearted Ale, a clever little take on Bell's solid year-round IPA Two-Hearted Ale. This little brother session ale is aromatic, balanced, and incredibly easy-drinking and clocks in at just 3.7 percent ABV. It's not a substitute for a big IPA, but nonetheless, this ale has proven to be a surprisingly enjoyable summer treat. An added bonus is Light Hearted only has 110 calories per 12-ounce can. So, if you're trying to cut back to fit into that old swimsuit this year, that's the same exact calories as a Bud Light. But a world of difference in flavor.

Balanced, hoppy, tasty and delicious—this trio of ales are what low gravity American craft beer should be. Few beers are this smooth, clean and yummy. Enjoy the brews ... Cheers.



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COMMUNITY

In The Club

Garden Clubs were the social network for women in the late 19th and early 20th century



leave Byrnes Downs. Others will take their places, but the Byrnes Downs Garden Club will go on and on and on. It is through our Garden Club that we want to continue to make and to keep Byrnes Downs a beautiful and delightful place, so that it will always enjoy an enviable reputation as a good place in which to live."

It's a mighty lofty opener, but in some ways, she set a standard that the neighborhood has followed. The last dated material in the "Book" is from 1954. It is possible the Garden Club ended around this time, but the neighborhood association that formed four decades later is still vibrant and continuing to make Byrnes Downs a "delightful" place to live.

This scrapbook was the inspiration for my book Byrnes Downs published by Arcadia Publishing in 2008. At the time of publication, the only thing that was known about May T. Rossiter was gleaned from the scrapbook. Intrigued and fascinated by her broad smile seen in the photograph in the scrapbook, I diligently inquired about her for the entire time I researched Byrnes Downs to no avail. Who was this woman who numbered each page; decorated the pages with ink illustrations of either a simple line around a newspaper article about the Garden Club or a flower, a bee, a sketch of the entrance columns, a street sign; cut every article out of the newspaper; photographed the area as it was developing; and wrote in detail about the Club?

I would begin to find out during the launch party for Byrnes Downs when her former neighbors came, introduced themselves and told me briefly about her.

A subsequent meeting and interview gave me more insight into this woman. She moved from Erie, PA with her ailing father to 45 Timmerman Dr. She was described as sophisticated, classy, and a lover of big hats. One was always welcome in her home. When the Club was formed she was very active. She started the "Little Helper's Club" for the neighborhood boys and a separate Garden Club for the neighborhood girls.

Then I met Francis Hanahan, the daughter of Elizabeth Hanahan, and the larger local story of May T. Rossiter began to take shape. Elizabeth and May were friends and colleagues. Francis shared newspaper clippings, pictures and stories. A bit of a backstory, Elizabeth Hanahan ran the Golden Acorn, a gift shop in the former grocery store building across from Bootle's Guest Home on Savannah Highway. Elizabeth was also a real estate agent working for William M. Means. This firm was involved in the development of Moreland. In 1947 an announcement ran in The News and Courier that William M. Means was pleased to announce May T. Rossiter's association with the firm.

May's father had operated one of the oldest realty firms in Erie, PA. His profession interest must have rubbed off on his daughter. He chose to retire to Charleston

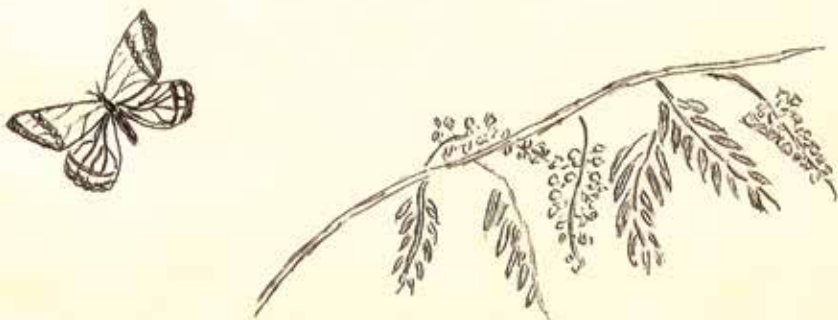
as he had visited in his youth and developed an affection for Charleston. She was quoted in the article as saying: "As a pleasant place to live, Charleston is unsurpassed, and if everyone believes in its future as strongly as I do, there is no question about it! ... Charleston has a long period of healthy expansion ahead of it." A continued search of the newspaper archives produced when May and her father, Louis T. Rossiter, purchased their home in Byrnes Downs (1945); her activities in the real estate business as well as other community activities; when her father passed away in 1954; real estate ads showing her working into the late 1950s; that she lived in the Sergeant Jasper Apts during the late 1950s; and when she passed away in December of 1975 in Erie, PA.

Garden Clubs were the social network for women in the late 19th and early 20th century. May T. Rossiter and many other Garden Club historians like her produced scrapbooks that are amazing resources and many are even works of art. They are capsules of time that shed light on the comings and goings of the new suburban life in St. Andrew's Parish.

Information about the garden club history in your neighborhood Contact Donna Jacobs at westashleybook@gmail.com.

May T. Rossiter was the Historian for the Byrnes Downs Garden Club from 1949-1951. She took it upon herself or was charged by the club to organize a scrapbook to document the formation of the club and its activities. In her typed "Forward" to this scrapbook, dated 1949-1950, she wrote:

"The purpose of this Book is to preserve for future reference all matters of interest which in any way pertains to the Garden Club of Byrnes Downs; in other words, a History of the Club's activities, so that all may know we are and always hope to be a real live organization. That through our assembly, we will benefit ourselves and each other, and thus stimulate an interest in gardening, and in time hope that Byrnes Downs will become known as one of the Garden Spots in the Garden City of the World, for that is the reputation already attained by the City of Charleston, South Carolina. None of us at present are native born Byrnes Downians. Folks have come from the four corners of the earth to make this their home. Some will



One example of the ink illustrations from the Byrnes Downs Garden Club Scrapbook. (Courtesy of the Special Collections College of Charleston)



May T. Rossiter
Historian

May T. Rossiter's photograph from the Byrnes Downs Garden Club Scrapbook. (Courtesy of the Special Collections College of Charleston)

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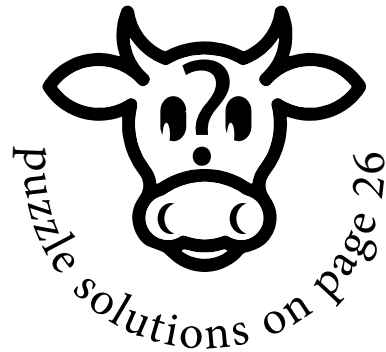
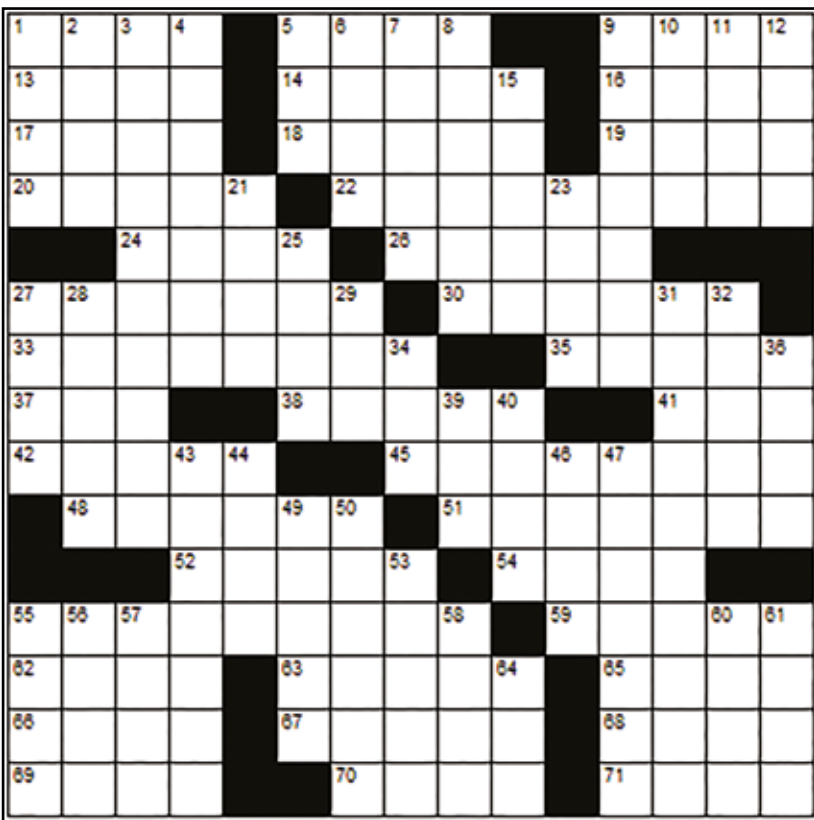
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TRIVIA

1. BOX OFFICE

What is the name of Kevin Costner's new epic Western that he spent millions of his own money to make?

2. CELEBRITY COUPLES

Katherine Schwarzenegger, the daughter of Arnold Schwarzenegger, is expecting baby number three with what famous actor?

3. SPORTS

The Atlanta Hawks drafted had the first overall pick of the NBA Draft last month, selecting Zaccharie Risacher from what country?

4. MUSIC

Seth Binzer, a.k.a. Shifty Shellshock, the frontman of what band, died of an overdose last month?

5. WEATHER

Hitting the Caribbean late last month, what was the name of the first hurricane of what is expected to be an active storm season?

6. GEOGRAPHY

With 446, what city has the most bridges in the United States?

7. REST IN PEACE

What baseball legend—former Rookie of the Year, 24-time All Star, 2-time MVP, and World Series champ—died last year at the age of 93?

8. CLASSIC ROCK

What classic rock band will start a residence at Sphere in Las Vegas once Dead & Company ends their run in August?

ACROSS

- 1. Potato
- 5. Unidentified flying objects
- 9. Crease
- 13. Arm bone
- 14. A type of writing tablet
- 16. Cab
- 17. Dormitory
- 18. Rose dye
- 19. Greek goddess of discord
- 20. Stairs
- 22. Godsend
- 24. Welt
- 26. Cranium
- 27. Traditional
- 30. Boil
- 33. Terrain
- 35. Coming up
- 37. Finish
- 38. Honor
- 41. Earlier
- 42. View
- 45. Accumulated
- 48. Safe to eat
- 51. Master
- 52. Light refractor

- 54. Riot spray
- 55. Conversion of organic debris
- 59. Committee
- 62. Balm ingredient
- 63. Paved outdoor area
- 65. Durable wood
- 66. 365 days
- 67. Horse
- 68. Terminates
- 69. Male offspring
- 70. Celtic language
- 71. Freudian topics

DOWN

- 1. Lather
- 2. Scheme
- 3. Having gained nothing
- 4. Most moist
- 5. Employ
- 6. Current
- 7. Haven
- 8. Smells
- 9. Sneakiness
- 10. Noble
- 11. Angle between leaf and branch
- 12. Overlook
- 15. Empower
- 21. Cumberbund
- 23. Wingless bloodsucking insect
- 25. Capital of Peru
- 27. C C C
- 28. Spear
- 29. Crow cry
- 31. Encouraging
- 32. Keen
- 34. Henpeck
- 36. Birdbrain
- 39. Butt
- 40. Small amount
- 43. Kiddies
- 44. River in Spain
- 46. Half-moon tide
- 47. Fugitive
- 49. Speech defects
- 50. Property
- 53. Metric unit of length
- 55. Small islands
- 56. Margarine
- 57. Complain
- 58. Perishes
- 60. Prefix meaning "Within"
- 61. Not more
- 64. Flowery verse



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.

Square Dancing
Belles & Beaus Square Dancing Club invites you to a FREE Open House Fun Night on Friday, July 25th from 6:30 to 8pm at Holy City Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3075 Bees Ferry Rd. An experienced square dancing instructor "caller" will walk you through the square dancing basics. If interested, call 843-556-3578 or 843-801-0998.

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, July 1-Wednesday, July 31, 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: \$80, ages 16 & up. Register online at www.ccprc.com.

• **H2O Moves 4.5** – 4 week session - Tuesdays and Thursdays July 2-July 30th, 10:15-11am. 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: \$72, ages 16 & up. Register online at www.ccprc.com.

• **Inclusive Swim Night** – Saturday, July 27 from 6:30-8:30pm. People with disabilities and their families are invited to an unforgettable night. Come cool off and take a dip in the pool. Fee: \$7, any age.

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.

• **Early Morning Bird Walks** – Wednesdays & Saturdays in July 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.

• **Understanding the Rice Culture:** Saturday, July 13, from 11am-12:30pm. To talk about land in the Lowcountry is an automatic talk about rice, who grew it, where it came from, and how the cultivation changed the landscape in ways that are still evident today. Fee: \$10, ages 16 and up.

Charleston Parks Conservancy

www.charlestonparksconservancy.org

• **Early Morning Bird Walk** – Saturday, July 20th from 7:30-9:30am. Charles Donnelly from Holy City Birding, along with the seasoned bird enthusiast Layton, will be your guides. Enjoy complimentary coffee from Highfalutin Coffee Roasters. Carr-Richardson Park, 1071 Bender St. Free, but please RSVP to events@charlestonparksconservancy.org.

• **Honey Harvest Workshop** – Monday, July 8 from 5-7pm. Learn how to extract honey with the Conservancy's award-winning beekeepers, whose honey won Best in Show at the 2024 Bee Expo. 720 Magnolia Rd., Suite 25. Free, but registration is required. RSVP at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org.

• **Preserving the Harvest: A Food Preservation Workshop Series** – Thursday, July 11 from 5-7pm. In this hands-on workshop you'll learn multiple methods of food preservation to make the most of your harvest. 720 Magnolia Rd., Suite 25. Free, but registration is required. RSVP at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org.

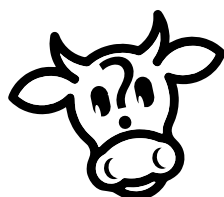
Charles Towne Landing www.southcarolinaparks.com 1500 Old Towne Plantation Rd., Charleston, SC 29407. (843) 852-4200.

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

The West Of Free Press Community Billboard is freelisting for events taking place in West Ashley. Please submit all happenings to publisher@westof.net.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Horizon
2. Chris Pratt
3. France
4. Crazy Town
5. Beryl
6. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
7. Willie Mays
8. The Eagles

Fishing as Hot as the Weather



by Captain Geoff Bennett
Charleston Charter Fishing

July is one of the most productive months of the year for fishing. The combination of traditional targets like redfish and trout and summer seasonal species like shark, ladyfish and Spanish mackerel make for a very active fishery. Anglers can expect lots of different opportunities during all tides!

Fishing for redfish has been great. The large schools of redfish have now broken up but you can still find pods of ten to twenty fish especially on the flats. Putting a scent trail in the water and an easy meal in front of redfish is a tactic bound for success. We usually put cracked blue crab or live mullet on the bottom with enough weight to hold it stationary. Use circle hooks in size 3/0 combined with a heavy test line and hold on!

As for trout, popping corks paired with

live bait is the way to go. We have been using mud minnows as pervasive little fish will steal live shrimp right off your hook. Choose a popping cork that you can easily throw and see. Oval corks weigh more and cast farther. Orange can be easier to see than green or yellow when there is chop on the water. Throw your cork in an area with current and you will be catching loads of trout.

Spanish mackerel are plentiful and are often best found at first light. If you find schools of fish busting bait on the surface, toss reflective casting jigs and reel them quickly through the school. Move your boat gradually around the school; running through a pod of fish will put them down. If you know fish are present but not up top, try trolling Clark Spoons at different depths and different speeds. 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.



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- Couple Membership- \$144
- Family Membership- \$169



2024 POOL SEASON

Memorial Day – Labor Day

(Only open on weekends when schools are in session)

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or call (843) 763-4360 for more information



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