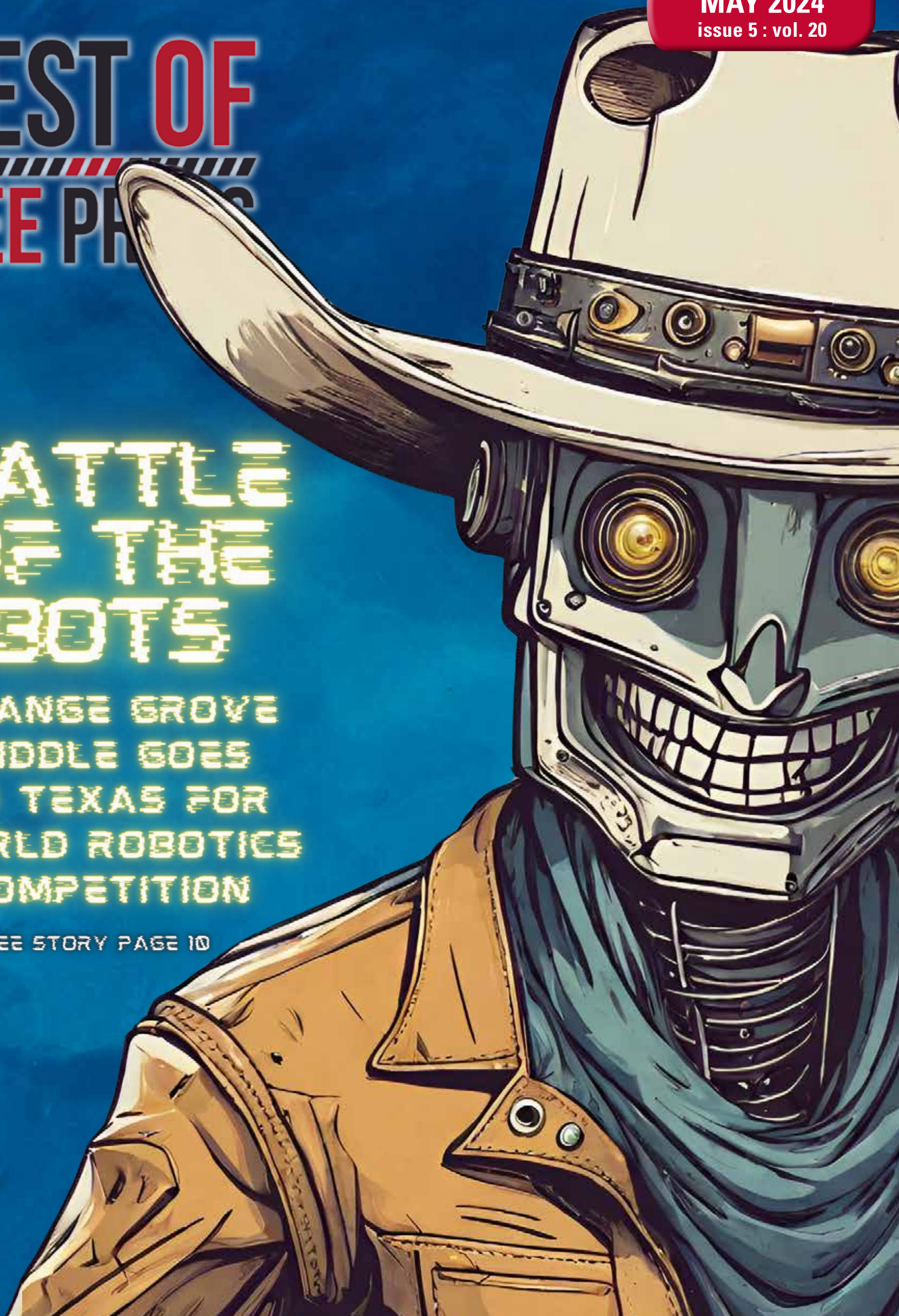


# WEST OF FREE PRESS

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COMPETITION

SEE STORY PAGE 10





**Courtney Lohmann and Ryan Albertson  
in Istanbul, Turkey**



**Joey Clark in Falmouth, Jamaica**



**Mary Ergul at the V&A museum  
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## BEAUTY

**SEX:** Female  
**AGE:** 7 years 2 months  
**BREED:** Terrier Mix  
**COLOR:** Blue  
**SIZE:** Medium  
**SPAYED/NEUTERE:** Yes  
**BREED:** Terrier Mix  
**ID:** 72395a



## DANIEL

**SEX:** Male  
**AGE:** 6 years 2 months  
**BREED:** Domestic Medium Hair  
Mix  
**COLOR:** White  
**SIZE:** Small  
**SPAYED/NEUTERE:** Yes  
**DECLAWED:** No  
**BREED:** Domestic Medium Hair  
Mix  
**ID:** 70298a

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# NEWS

“It’s hard to see this as anything other than a massive improvement!”  
— Ross Appel, City of Charleston Councilmember

## Demolition Leading to Major Upgrade

### Wappoo Road and Savannah Highway intersection improvements break ground

by Jenny Peterson | News Editor

A post by City of Charleston councilmember Ross Appel, who represents West Ashley, announced an exciting update to West Ashley’s curb appeal—the demolition of a title loan shop in an outdated strip mall at a prime corner of Wappoo Road and Savannah Highway. It has nearly 1,000 Facebook likes and counting.

“Bye-bye ugly title loan shop. Better things coming to this important intersection in West Ashley,” Appel posted. “Bikeway/Greenway connection with safety enhancements, pocket park, and new mixed-use development!”

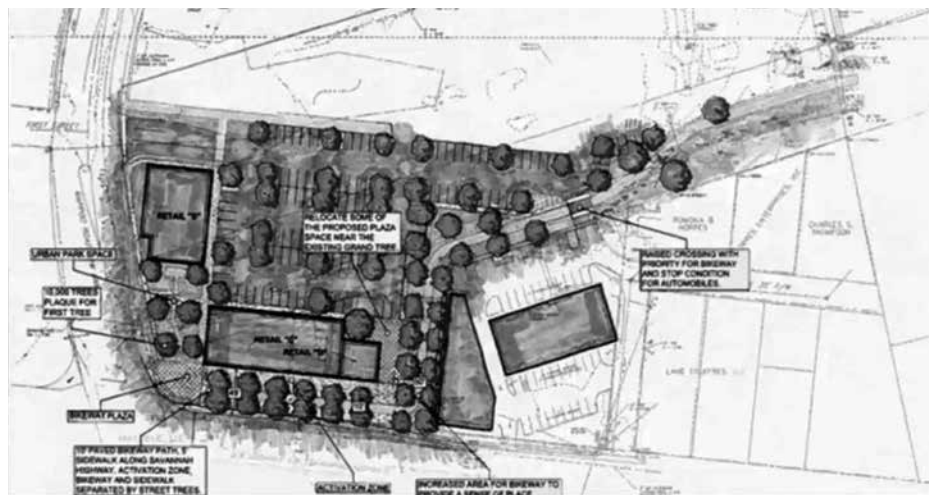
Appel added what the development will not have—no apartments, car washes, or amusement parks—indicating that the retail and commercial uses to come would be a step up from the types of businesses typically seen on Savannah Highway.

“It’s hard to see this as anything other than a massive improvement!” Appel posted.

West Ashley’s major corridors have been the topic of improvements on both the city and county fronts for years, both in traffic patterns and quality of businesses.

The DuPont | Wappoo Community Plan, which encompasses the Wappoo Road/Savannah Highway corner, has been a years-long (and possibly even decades-long) collaboration and planning process between the county and city with input from hundreds of residents, business owners, stakeholders and representatives from non-profit organizations and governmental agencies.

The overall Dupont/Wappoo community plan is to beautify intersections, connect the West Ashley Greenway and Bikeway, ensure the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists and give the area a unique and memorable character. Renderings show Savannah



Highway lined with Palmetto trees.

Charleston County selected the Wappoo/Savannah Highway intersection to be improved and funded by the 2016 Half-Cent Sales Tax. According to the county’s website [www.savannahhighway.com](http://www.savannahhighway.com), construction is set to take place in 2025.

Proposed improvements outlined for the site include removing a concrete island along Wappoo Road to provide a dedicated right-turn lane onto Savannah Highway; adding an 8-foot sidewalk along the eastern end of Wappoo Road to provide a connection between the West Ashley Greenway and the West Ashley Bikeway and add decorative, stamped crosswalks and “mast arm traffic signals” to increase pedestrian visibility and enhance aesthetics.

According to the county, at its most recent community meeting and request for feedback, there were 76 comments regarding the Wappoo/Savannah Highway plan that were addressed when coming up with the plan that include:

#### Access to the West Ashley Bikeway

The plan for the Wappoo Road/Savannah Highway intersection includes connection of the West Ashley Bikeway to the West Ashley Greenway. The West Ashley Greenway is part of the City’s Park system where the city has leased an eight mile linear park on a long-term basis to provide recreational and transportation trail opportunities for the public.

#### A dedicated left-turn signal at the Wappoo Road and Savannah Highway Intersection. (SCDOT is not in support)

Appel announced that SCDOT was not in support of adding additional turn lanes coming out of Wappoo Drive onto 17 and the county’s update on the project noted that results of an analysis revealed “only one of SCDOT’s four criteria were met,” which was that “more than two vehicles were consistently observed having to wait for the next green signal to complete the

left turn during peak hours.” However, the project design team further evaluated the intersection and determined that the left turn delays can be reduced by adjusting the signal timings at this intersection. These signal timing adjustments will be refined, coordinated with SCDOT and the City of Charleston, and proposed to be implemented as part of the project.

#### Flooding concerns at the intersection of Savannah Highway & Wappoo Road

According to the county, large-scale drainage improvements are outside the Savannah Highway/Wappoo Road scope. The improvements are funded by the Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax (TST) Program and the South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR), which limits spending to transportation-related infrastructure improvements. However, “as part of the design process, the project team will complete the City of Charleston stormwater permitting process to ensure there are no negative impacts to the project area,” the county states.

The idea is that the city and county will continue to improve West Ashley’s aesthetics, marching up Savannah Highway. With the Dupont/Wappoo community plan and exhaustive feedback on what’s to be done with the vacant Sumar Street site that once housed a Piggly Wiggly, it’s clear the city and county are on a mission to change the “face of West Ashley.”

This demolition is the beginning of that plan coming to fruition. Stay tuned.

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an additional \$2,500 to remedy that. The woman drove to a local bank and withdrew the money, but instead of returning to the grocery store to deposit the money, she drove to police headquarters and handed her phone to the front desk clerk, at which time the caller hung up.

**MARCH 29  
BURGLARY / BREAKING &  
ENTERING**

Police responded to a call from a local business regarding theft of nearly 20 used tires. Surveillance video showed a truck entering the parking lot, and an employee saw the truck driving off about 15 minutes later with the bed filled with tires. The employee ran to the back and saw that a shed was open and tires were missing. The employee hopped in a vehicle and caught up with the truck and spoke to the occupants. The employee told the two men in the truck that the tires were not free and needed to be returned. The men agreed, then drove off. The officer who responded to the scene noted a sign that clearly stated the tires are property of a recycling company and to not enter the shed area.

**APRIL 2  
IMPERSONATION**

A woman called police after a debt collection agency called her to say she owed nearly \$7,500 to a national cell phone company. The location was the woman's former address, and she concluded that someone had opened a phone account in her name. She had contacted the phone company and opened a fraud investigation, and the company told her the impersonator had provided personal information such as her family members' names. She remembered that the apartment complex at her old address had used her "junk email account," and she believes that account was compromised and that is how the offender obtained her personal information.

**APRIL 3  
SHOPLIFTING**

Police responded to a boating business that reported the theft of more than \$1,700 in equipment. According to the store manager, two men had entered the store and selected 11 tools and a cooler, put the tools into the cooler, and walked

out without paying. The store contacted its other area locations and another store called back later to report the two men had attempted to steal from them as well.

**APRIL 3  
ANIMAL SERVICE RESPONSE**

A police officer responded to a home after a neighbor called to report two cats at large. The neighbor had called previously complaining that the cats had entered his yard and harassed his dog. He requested that a citation be issued. The cats' owner was issued two warnings and was advised about the Animal at Large ordinance.

**APRIL 6  
DRUNKENNESS**

A ride share driver flagged down police at an apartment complex around 3 a.m. after neither he nor two men who lived in the complex could awaken his female passenger. The officer shook the woman by the shoulder with no result, and then she began to wake up when the officer tapped lightly on her cheek. The woman was nonsensical, seemed not to know where she was, and when asked who the current president is, she said there was no president. She stated that she had been drinking with friends since about 1 p.m. The officer called EMS, who cleared her, then the officer charged her with public intoxication and released her to her apartment and her roommate's care.

**APRIL 6  
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS**

Police responded to a call to assist the fire department, who were at a parking lot where a woman had set a small pile of clothes on fire and was said to be throwing things. One of the officers recognized and spoke to the woman, who said the clothes had been found in the woods and the owner was undetermined. The other officer said the woman indicated she lit the clothes on fire because they had mildew. The fire department extinguished the fire, and police arrested the woman and charged her with violating the open fire/burning ordinance. At the police station, a glass pipe was seized and submitted to be destroyed.

**APRIL 21  
POCKET-PICKING**

Police responded to a national clothing

retailer after a woman reported her wallet had been stolen. The victim had been shopping in the shoe department and had placed her purse in her shopping cart, with the zipper unsecured. She said she was approached by a woman who asked questions about items before knocking an item off a top shelf in the victim's direction. The victim bent over to pick up the item, losing sight of her purse. The woman left and the victim noted that the interaction seemed strange. Shortly thereafter the victim noticed her wallet was missing from inside her purse. As she called to cancel her credit cards, one bank told her a card of hers had been used at a retail store to purchase about \$1,000 in goods. The victim reported the theft to store employees, who told her a supervisor was not available for her to view surveillance footage until the next day. The victim told police that she never lost sight of the woman who knocked over the item and she thinks the woman was meant to distract her while an accomplice stole the wallet.

**APRIL 23  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT / FIREARM**

Police were dispatched to a call regarding a hit-and-run crash and a disturbance involving a firearm. The man with whom police initially spoke said the suspect was completing a food delivery when she struck his vehicle. She reportedly also pointed a gun at the man's father and struck him with her vehicle. The man driving the vehicle said the woman parked her car diagonally and he parked in an adjacent spot with his driver side next to hers. He said the woman handed a bag of food to a woman in the building, then returned to her car. The man opened his driver door and the woman began reversing, ultimately hitting his door. The man got out of the vehicle and the suspect began yelling. He said the woman grabbed a semi-automatic handgun from her lap and continued to yell. The man's father, who had been in the passenger seat, had joined the son at the woman's driver side door, and the woman put her hand out her window and stole a phone from the father's shirt pocket and threw it at them. The son said she then racked the handgun and pointed it at the father; the father said he did not see a gun, nor did he see a gun pointed at him. The woman from the apartment said she came outside when she heard a crash; she named the suspect from her food delivery receipt.

**MARCH 26  
BURGLARY / BREAKING &  
ENTERING**

Police were called to a possible burglary in progress after a woman called police saying her husband told her someone had tried to break into their home. The officers searched the home and found no one inside, and the woman confirmed nothing had been disturbed. Security camera footage showed a man biking up the driveway carrying a brown paper bag. He is shown attempting to open the front door, then trying to open the garage door. Police found a paper bag similar to the one the man had carried; it contained a screwdriver, a tie-dye t-shirt and a hand cloth. That afternoon, the woman called police again to report that a pair of sandals, a collared shirt and a sweater vest were missing from the laundry room.

**MARCH 25  
FLIM-FLAM**

A woman told police a scam phone caller had requested she pay more than \$10,000 to remove an outstanding warrant for failure to appear. The woman had received the phone call while working and had driven to her home and taken \$9,000 from a safe, then drove to a grocery store and sent the money to the caller via an ATM. Another person called her after the initial call and told her she had violated a gag order and needed to send

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### YEAR BORN 2012-2010

May 7th 6:30pm-7:30pm

May 9th 6:30pm-7:30pm

May 14th 6:30pm-7:30pm

May 16th 6:30pm-7:30pm

Drayton Soccer Complex

### YEAR BORN 2009-2006

May 14th

2009-2008 6pm-7:30pm

2007-2006 7:30-9pm

May 16th

2009-2008 6pm-7:30pm

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## GIRLS

### YEAR BORN 2015-2014

May 8th 6:30pm-7:30pm

May 10th 6:30pm-7:30pm

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### YEAR BORN 2013-2012

May 9th 6pm-7:30p

May 11th 10am-11:30am

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### YEAR BORN 2013

May 13th 6pm-7:30pm

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### YEAR BORN 2011-2006

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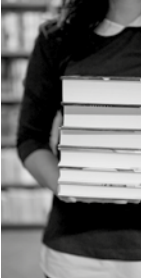
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# SCHOOLS

## Battle of the Bots

### Orange Grove Middle Goes to Texas for World Robotics competition

Special For West Of Free Press

After a huge win earlier this year at the FIRST Tech Challenge State Championship, the Orange Grove Middle School Hurricanes earned a spot at the FIRST World Championship in Houston, Texas. Last month they traveled to compete against 224 teams from across the world representing nearly 30 countries. The team was comprised of four Orange Grove middle students and four high school students (all Orange Grove alumni).

In FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), teams are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots in order to compete in head-to-head challenges. Guided by adult coaches and mentors, students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles, while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and working as a team. Each competition season comes with different gameplay, challenges, and rules. This season, students are tasked with building a robot that can pick up 3-inch "pixels" and deliver them to a 22-inch high "backdrop." The robot had to be able to reach up and suspend itself off rigging that is 22 inches off of the ground while being able to drive under trusses that are 12 inches high.

In March, the team was selected as the 2024 Inspire Award Winner at the State Championships, the top award given out to the best all-around team in all the categories of Design (Function and Form), Promote (Promoting FIRST Robotics), Connect (Connect with STEM community), Innovation (Inventive

problem solving), Think (Engineering process), Control (Sensors) and Motivate (Outreach to the community) and qualified them to attend the World Championships.

"It shows how our team's hard work and dedication really paid off with us winning this prestigious award," said Cora Wilson, who flew with her seven teammates, four coaches, and their robot to Houston for the FIRST World Championship, which began on April 17.

"Unfortunately, we did not perform as well as we had hoped in the robot matches," said Hurricane's coach Michelle Comen. "We encountered some very tough opponents and had weaker alliance partners. Consequently, we did not make it to the semifinals. Nevertheless, I am still very proud of the team. Based on our scores, our rank in the world was in the top 2.5 percent."

One of the judges recognized the team with the Woodie Flowers Gracious Professionalism award. Each judge was only allowed to select one team out of the 224 who competed from around the globe. And Emily Daniels won the Dean's List Award. She was one of 10 chosen from 150 candidates. Additionally, she's the first from South Carolina to receive this award.

"Getting to meet teams from all over the world with similar interests and collaborating with them is a unique experience that we will cherish for the rest of our lives," said Hurricane's team member Zoey Annibale.



Photos by Trey Hopkins



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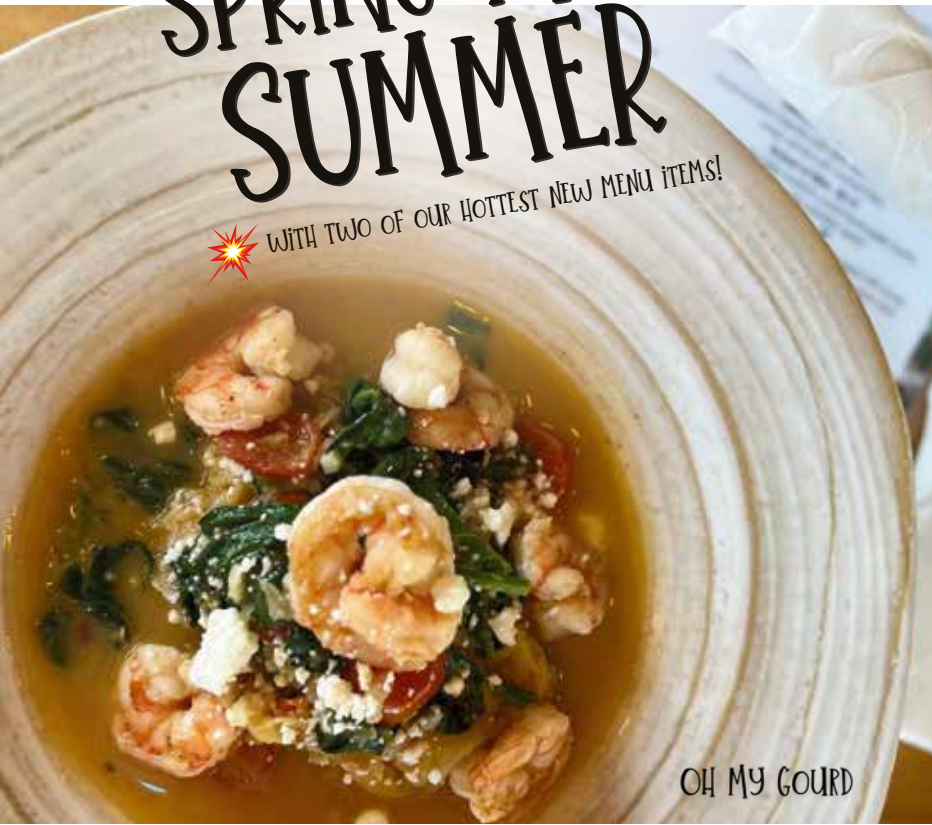
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# A&E

## Awakening Dark Forces

Erode the Dream summons the mystical and mythical Genrevolta at Tin Roof for a special one-night-only show on May 18

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

For old music heads around town, the name Genrevolta carries some serious heft. A band that was so unconventional that it became almost mythical around the local music scene. Remembered as much for their raw, visceral live shows as for the music itself, Genrevolta was part punk/indie rock and part performance art. And then, like all true mythical creatures, it was gone and only the legend remained.

Over the years, there have been the occasional rumors and whispers of sightings here and there, but Genrevolta always seemed to disappear into the ether before we could get a good glimpse.

"I remember going to see them 20 years ago when they used to play Big John's and Cumberland's," recalls West Ashley resident Jonathan Stout. Like so many music fans of a certain age, Stout has plenty of Genrevolta stories. The difference is he also has the receipts, or in this case, the photographic evidence. Stout, a musician himself, is also a renowned local photographer who goes by the moniker BadJon. Not known for snapping genteel images of colorful houses along Rainbow Row or church steeples poking through the blue skies of Charleston, Stout uses his lens to document Charleston's more underground scene and those characters who dwell in the dark corners of dive bars, under the fluorescent lights of local tattoo shops, and the smoke-filled stages of some of Charleston's more infamous rock clubs.

Last year, after Stout's metal band Serpent Church dissolved, he began exploring other musical outlets. In late 2023, he and fellow local Gen X rockers Ryan Martin (lead guitar), Robbie Weise (bass), and Steven Wilson (drums) got together and began to hash out some ideas. The quartet honed in on a grungier sound than their previous projects, with straight-ahead punk passages broken up by atmospheric washes of guitar noise. With a heavy sound that Stout describes as "grunge" or "post-grunge," Erode the Dream was born. Stout, who plays rhythm guitar, says the only thing the band lacked was a true frontman/vocalist. That's when fellow local photographer Steve Aycock told Stout about Mauricio Sánchez Rengifo, a Colombian-



born architect and visual artist who goes by Masáre. Folks in West Ashley probably know Masáre best from his large-scale and highly-visible murals on the side of the old Krispy Kreme building in Avondale, which was most recently home to D.B.'s Cheesesteaks.

Back home in Colombia, Masáre played in two bands, one a progressive rock outfit, the other a more experimental, industrial electronic project. So, when he and the rest of Erode the Dream guys got together, it was clear there was a musical kinship. As a member of the band, Masáre brings the seasoned vocals of an old-school metal frontman who's not afraid to wail, in English or in Spanish.

"He sings like Layne Staley from Alice in Chains," says Stout. "And then I have this weird stoner vibe with a loud playing style. Everybody brings a little something different

to the band, and it all kind of works together."

According to Stout, once Masáre and the band made some adjustments and got a couple of songs under their belts, they started to lay some tracks and record some tunes. On April 16, Erode the Day released their self-produced and recorded debut single, "The Waiting." Stout and company enlisted the services of Eric Rickert of Big Animal Studios to mix and master their recording, which is now available on all streaming outlets.

After playing together for several months and recording a few songs, Stout says that Erode the Dream was ready for their first live show. He reached out to Tin Roof owner Erin Tyler who was more than eager to get Erode the Day on stage and let Stout put together a three-band lineup.

"Starting at Tin Roof just made sense," says Stout, adding that when putting a show

together, he couldn't think of anyone better to headline than his old buddies from his headbanging days, the ever-elusive, ever-evolving Genrevolta. The art-rock band came out of hiding last month to play a pop-up performance downtown at Hed-Hi Studios, where artist Kevin Taylor was debuting some of his new work.

While the May 18 show at Tin Roof will be the first gig ever for Erode the Dream, it is also the first club show in several years for Genrevolta. Local band Spartina will round out the three-band bill.

**Genrevolta, Spartina, and Erode the Dream will play Saturday, May 18 at Tin Roof, located at 117 Magnolia Road. Tickets are \$10, \$15 for under 21. For more information, visit [charlestontinroof.com](http://charlestontinroof.com).**

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# DINING

*“I firmly believe the basis of our success has been our commitment to genuine hospitality and our commitment to our communities.”  
— Anthony DiBernardo, Swig & Swine, owner*

## High on the Hog

Swig & Swine celebrates 10 years with \$10 pork plates this Memorial Day

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

Ten years ago this month, owner Anthony DiBernardo bet on himself and set out to pursue his dream of owning his own restaurant that showcased his love for smoking meat. He teamed up with a couple of experienced Charleston restauranteurs and renovated a former car wash and tire shop along Savannah Highway, turning it into a humble barbecue spot serving everything from pulled pork, ribs, and house-made sausages to smoked turkey, chicken, and brisket.

A few years later, DiBernardo doubled down on his bet and bought out his partners, becoming the sole owner of what was quickly becoming one of the most popular and fastest-growing barbecue restaurants in the Southeast. Southern Living recently named Swig & Swine to its list of the Top 50 BBQ Joints in the South. It was awarded the Legendary BBQ Restaurant of the Year by Certified Angus Beef at their annual conference and DiBernardo himself was named Restaurateur of the Year during the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association’s 2021 Stars of the Industry awards.

Now, with five locations (not counting a satellite kitchen at Commonhouse Ale Works in Park Circle), DiBernardo has little time to reflect. But late last month, while on a flight to New York City to participate in the 4th Annual Jeff Michner Foundation BBQ Benefit in Queens, the hardworking pitmaster had a moment to share some of his thoughts on the wild ride that has been the last decade.

“Never in a million years did I think it would turn out this way,” he said about the

success Swig & Swine has seen in recent years. Already in 2024, DiBernardo has opened new restaurants in Myrtle Beach and Monks Corner to go along with existing ones in Mt. Pleasant, Summerville, and the original spot in West Ashley, which will always hold a special place in his heart.

“The O.G. will always be the place I slept on a cot for months and the one where my parents told me how proud they were of me. So yeah, it will always hold a special place,” said DiBernardo, who also lives in West Ashley and, where he presumably sleeps in an actual bed. But with how busy he stays, it’s a wonder he has time to sleep at all. Beyond opening and running five restaurants while balancing family life, DiBernardo is also devoted to giving back. His recent trip to New York was to raise money for the family of a fallen brother in BBQ who died young, leaving behind a wife and child. Locally, he helped launch the hugely popular Holy Smokes BBQ Fest, which raises money for Hogs for the Cause to help families affected by pediatric brain cancer. Swig & Swine has also helped raise funds for Surfers Healing, Camp Happy Days, Toys For Tots, Ronald McDonald House, Charleston County schools, and many, many more organizations and causes.

For DiBernardo, giving back is just part of the recipe for success, along with hospitality and making darn good barbecue.

“I firmly believe the basis of our success has been our commitment to genuine hospitality and our commitment to our communities,” he said.

Before getting into the restaurant game, DiBernardo cooked aboard a nuclear



submarine in the U.S. Navy. So it’s only appropriate that Swig & Swine celebrate it’s 10 year anniversary on Memorial Day. On Monday, May 27, Swig & Swine is offering \$10 pork plates all day to commemorate 10 years in business.”

While the brand continues to grow and find success, it doesn’t mean it has always been easy. Like many restaurants across the country, COVID-19 hit Swig & Swine hard. But DiBernardo and his team pushed through and came out the other side stronger than ever.

“Walking away was never an option,” said the former submariner-turned-

restaurateur. “The commitment I feel to our now 170-plus team members to continue pushing the brand to be the best it’s ever been keeps me in the game. Being able to support my family and providing a means for others to support theirs is still the one thing that means the most to me.

So, what will the next 10 years look like for Swig & Swine? If the last decade was any indication, then betting on Swig & Swine and DiBernardo is probably a smart move.

DiBernardo remains humble about what he’s accomplished and hopeful about what’s ahead. “I hope the next 10 years will be full of happy guests and team members.”





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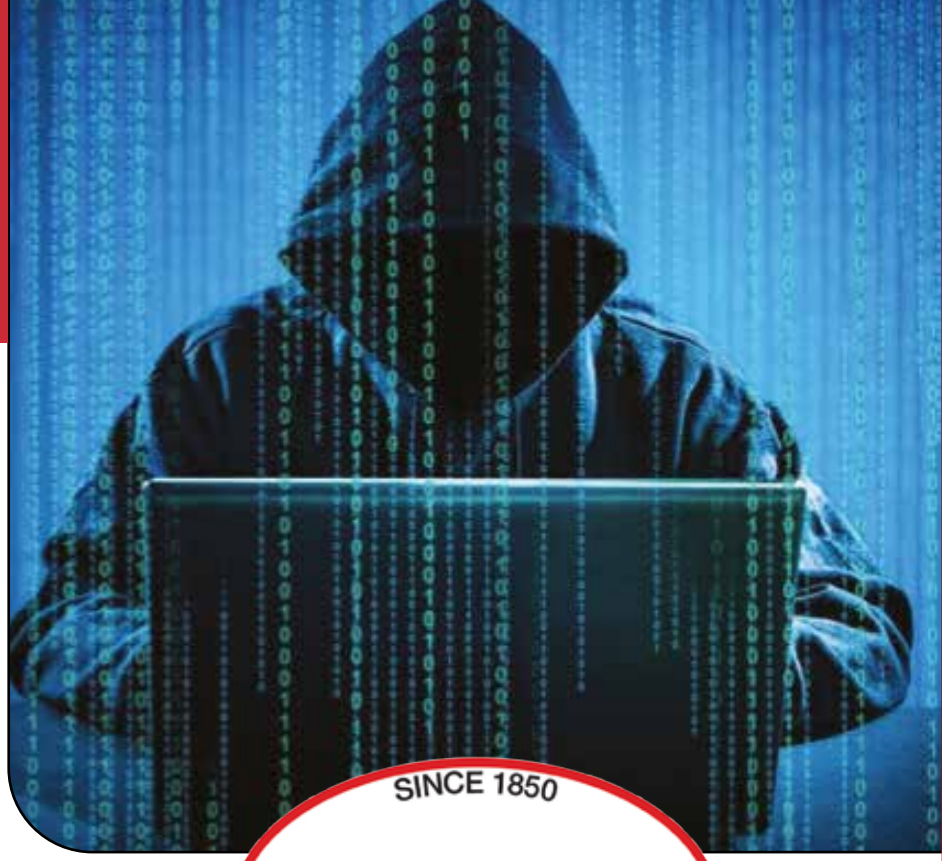
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# The Lovely Days Of May

Lagers and ales for your springtime pleasure



The spring equinox has come and gone, and all is abloom in the south. As we continue on through May, the hint of summer is juxtaposed with the last grasp of winter. As pollen clogs the drains and coats the cars, a rare foray into late night 40 temps isn't unheard of this time of year. Ah, seasons.

I digress...the days of spring are aggressively making themselves known. And to join these wacky weeks, several more flavored beers seem appropriate. Big IPAs are a favorite of spring, as the bitter and flower notes just seem to fit with all things blooming and alive; April showers bring May flowers. I'm presently loving Hop Cakes, an imperial IPA from NoDa in Charlotte as well as several big IPAs from the West Coast.

Saison is also a great choice now, and many examples are on shelves. Although these beers were historically brewed in the winter to be enjoyed all summer, their complex nature, and earthy, yeasty, sometime fruity and yet spicy components would be a shining pick for days like these. If you've never had Ommegang's Hennepin, it is a must for your spring selections.

While I can't recall a specific 'spring'

style of beer, the classic Bavarian release of this month is Maibock, or "May Bock," a lighter, hoppier, version of standard bock. I do love a good, traditional bock. But sometimes, these big lagers are quite...heavy.

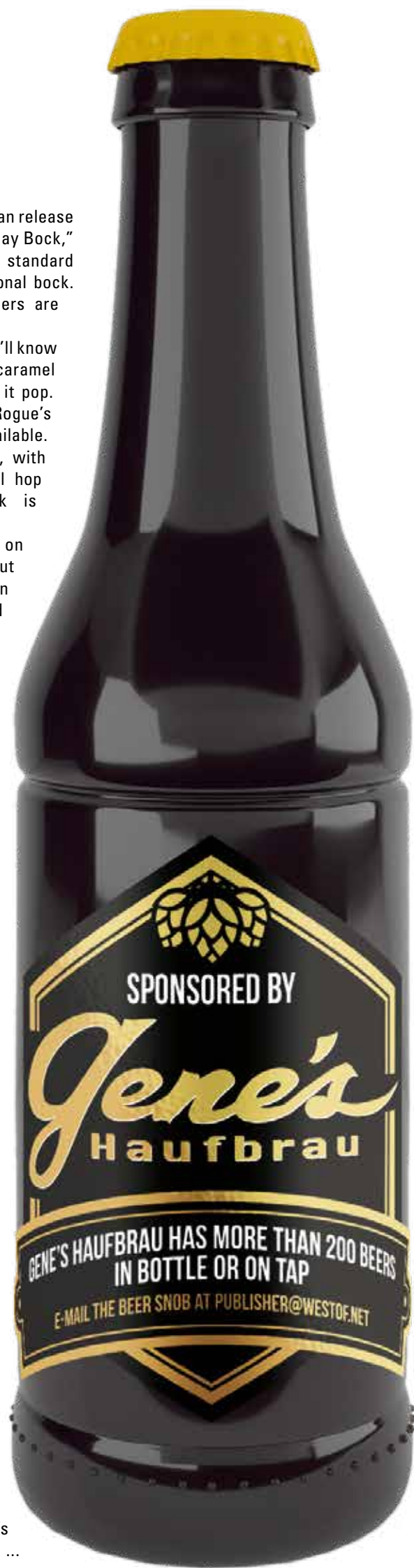
An ideal spring pairing, you'll know it's a bock due to the breadly, caramel malts, but German hops make it pop. Quite good, yet a bit strange, Rogue's Dead Guy is the most widely available. More in the malt department, with hints of dark fruit and herbal hop notes, Smuttynose Maibock is stronger but delicious.

To take a slight twist on the beers of May, I'll throw out two other options. Staying in Germany, but going for ale and heading north to Düsseldorf, altbier is big yet crisp, and finishes clean. These can be malty, nutty and flavorful, yet with a bitter and clean finish.

For altbiers you might find in your local shop, a classic version comes straight from Germany in the Uerige Sticke, out of Düsseldorf. If you're lucky, Coast will again brew their excellent ALTERior Motive, a great American example of the style.

Crossing the Rhineland from Germany into Belgium, I recommend for your May days, the Tripel style is a boozy and beautiful spring beer. The strongest of the beers mentioned above, Tripels are dangerously alcoholic, yet as with many brilliant Belgian beers, you may never notice until it's too late.

Belgian Tripels tend to be quite spicy, often fruity and tangy, and wonderfully alcoholic. Tripel was originally used to signify three times the malt used in a particular beer, compared with basic Belgian ales. Many indigenous Belgian versions are widely available, with Westmalle and Val-Dieu being favorites. On the other hand, several North American versions are excellent, and if you want a fresh Tripel, you can't go wrong with those from Allagash, Boulevard and Unibroue. Here's to May, here's to spring. Enjoy the brews ... Cheers.



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# COMMUNITY



## Rotary Club of West Ashley Turns 75

by Joan Perry | Contributing Writer

The premise of this *West Ashley Wanderer* column was that as I wander around our neighborhood I might happen upon interesting things to feature ... and I have!

As a child, my wandering territory was wider. When I was seven years old, my parents packed up seven small children and answered a call for my father to serve as headmaster in an elementary school in rural tribal northeast India. After he built the school desks, painted the blackboards and installed all of us barefoot with little chalkboards in hand in the school, my father determined that he should go into the town of Shillong and connect with some of the businessmen in the area. He joined the Shillong Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club was all men at that time, but on occasion, they would invite the wives and families and lay out a dazzling buffet of Indian treats. We desperately wanted to go but were shy kids and tempted to hide behind the drapes and sneak out a hand to grab sweets off the buffet table. My father was determined to instill manners, and as we complained that we didn't know what to say to Rotarians, he half-jokingly responded, "Just ask them where they were born and why."

Today's Rotary Club is not my father's club, but the goals of service and connection remain unchanged. I walked up the Bikeway to meet members of the Rotary Club of West Ashley — Charleston, in the new Mulberry Food Forest where they had recently completed a service project planting fruit trees and bushes. As they talked about community engagement and service, the

"why" was clear, but in my father's honor, I had fun asking them where they were born.

President-elect Lisa Geoffroy, shared that the Rotary Club of West Ashley — Charleston (formerly Rotary Club of St. Andrews) is celebrating almost 75 years since being chartered. With 65 members, close to 35 attend Thursday weekly lunch meetings at Bessinger BBQ, which member T. O. Sanders - Sanders Law Firm, LLC, declares, "The best food and most fun of any club in town, and that's a fact!" Recent speakers have included Governor McMaster, Henry Tecklenburg, Anita Zucker, Luther Reynolds, and will soon welcome Mayor William Cogswell.

The club raises funds to give to local nonprofits, and members participate in service projects throughout the year. Dave Ensor - HLA Inc., described providing and serving lunch at the HOPE Center each Christmas as one of his favorite projects. More than 350 meals are served at this festive event each year.

Will Connor (Connor Engineering) had happy memories of selling Christmas trees, charity golf tournaments at Kiawah and booths at the Fair, but his favorite project is the annual competition for students scholarships. The scholarships are from a long-ago endowment and awarded annually. One year more than \$50,000 was granted to students attending state schools and the students and parents joined Rotarians at a regular meeting.

Like my dad, Emma Hart's (The Best Rentals), father Greg Hart was a Rotarian as well. When he retired, he encouraged



her to take his place. Emma was born in Charleston but says joining the club helped her connect with the community in ways she never had before.

Dave Ensor has been a member for seven years. He talked about making friendships that he anticipates lasting forever. The club holds social activities from time to time at West Ashley establishments, which are a good time for prospective members to get a feel for the club. A popular annual oyster roast is held at Truluck Island.

I first met President-Elect Lisa Geoffroy (Carolina One Real Estate), in the midst of the pandemic when she coordinated local donations of lunches to area hospitals and first responders, so I knew she practiced the service part. Lisa joined Rotary when she moved to the area to connect to the

community and give back. She explains that just as West Ashley is, the club is in a growth phase and welcomes new members.

Lisa shared the club's current major fundraiser where you can enter to win \$50,000 towards a Hendrick Charleston Vehicle of choice. Early bird drawings offer a chance to win \$2,500. Each ticket costs \$100, but only 1,500 raffle tickets will be sold. The proceeds support Trident Literacy, My Sister's House, Fisher House, Water Mission and the Lowcountry Food Bank. Those are all charities I support, so I just bought my ticket at: [www.westashleyrotaryraffle.com](http://www.westashleyrotaryraffle.com).

**Stay healthy my friends and wave at me as I wander. Send ideas for upcoming columns to [westashleywanderer@gmail.com](mailto:westashleywanderer@gmail.com).**

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# A Flair For the Dramatic

Mr. Hester's musicals are still talked about today among St. Andrew's High alumni

It's spring, the time when memories of the musical productions organized by Mr. Bernard Hester and the students of St. Andrew's Parish High School are present in the conversations of the generations of alumni who participated in these fun times.

Over the years there have been a few West Ashley Flashback columns featuring these musicals- each musical was the cultural event of the spring season in St. Andrew's Parish. Bernard Hester was the faculty sponsor of the Dramatic Club. Known to his students as "Fess," short for Professor, Mr. Hester honed his directing skills through his acting in Footlight plays. His summers would be spent in New York City taking in the latest shows on Broadway. He would return to Charleston with ideas and enthusiasm for organizing large-scale productions.

Hester's enthusiasm was infectious and during the spring of most school years the members of the Dramatic Club, later known as the Players' Club, would entertain the community as if they were on Broadway.

"We were 'Glee' before there was 'Glee'" recounts Stella Milton Kears. "Showtime" (1945), "Curtain Time" (1947), "Road Show" (1955), "Encore" (1956), "Two on the Aisle" (1957), "Showtime on Broadway" (1963), "Broadway Melody" (1964), "New York, New York" (1965) and "Show Business" are just some of the names of programs produced during Hester's tenure as faculty advisor to the club.

Open a dialogue with any St. Andrew's Parish High School alumni about Mr. Hester's musicals and adoration is what you hear. His students have fond memories and great stories of their time under his leadership and tutelage. With his guidance, the students came up with the ideas, choreographed the numbers, designed costumes, practiced, smiled and put on quite a show in the school auditorium. They were huge successes with the student's enthusiasm for "Fess," and the whole experience was reflected in each production.

In addition to the students who sang and danced on stage, there was a whole production staff: stage assistants, spotlight controllers, scenery constructors, ushers, musicians, and program designers. It might have been hard to find a student not involved in each show at some level. Every alumnus has a personal story about these musical revues, and the memorabilia fill the scrapbooks of many of them. There are tattered programs with signatures and comments of the cast, programs with Hester's direction notes, photographs, newspaper articles, reviews, and tickets. Words like "capacity audience," "elaborate costumes," "precision dancing," and "well-polished show" were used to describe the shows.

The community anticipated these shows in the spring and the students delivered, thanks to Mr. Hester. And now the memories and pictures live on to tell the story.



Delores Pearson strikes a pose during the dance routine "Paris After Dark" in the 1955 "Road Show" revue. (Photograph courtesy of Barbara Blank Gilchrist & published in "West Ashley")



Dancers kick up their heels in "Broadway Melody" in the 1955 "Road Show" revue. (Photograph courtesy of Barbara Blank Gilchrist and published in "West Ashley")



Luther Bootle loved documenting school activities. This was the cast for one of the Dramatic Club musicals. The photograph is undated but Luther attended in 1941, 1942 and 1943. He was the photographer for the "Pelican" in 1943. (Photograph courtesy of Ina Bootle)



The entire cast for one of the musicals. Year & title unknown. (Photograph courtesy Tom Fowler)

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by Captain Geoff Bennett  
Charleston Charter Fishing

my go-to is the chartreuse and black. Vary retrieve speeds as you work these lures along grassy banks and over shell rakes. When a fish strikes, reel quickly before raising your rod tip. Hard to do sometimes when a violent explosion erupts around your lure! Once the topwater bite starts to fade, suspended twitch bait lures are a good choice to continue the fun.

Sharks have filled our waters with multiple species like bonnetheads, black tips, and sharpnose, which are all easily accessible. You'll start to see the fins of sharks as they cruise along river banks and also find them feasting along drop offs in the harbor and inlets. Blue crab, live shrimp and cut bait all work well on these predators. I favor 7/0 circle hooks. Just put the rods in the holders and wait for them to whip over!

See you on the water!

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It's a perfect time to be fishing! Our waters are now full of bait and fish are actively eating. All summer seasonal species have arrived and when added to our traditional gamefish, provide a whole array of options for an angler. If you haven't started fishing yet, let's get going!

Consider making the most of live bait when focusing on redfish. Menhaden are a great choice whether fished cut or alive. We've been catching some nice redfish by casting chunks of menhaden under docks. You'll need to use enough weight to hold your bait steady so it doesn't slide around on the bottom and get snagged. I use pinch-on split shot that can be easily changed, just add or remove these weights as needed.

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- 1. Metal fastener
- 5. Interruption
- 9. Ways to walk
- 14. Be aware of
- 15. Mouselike animal
- 16. Review
- 17. Wet
- 19. Suffering
- 20. Our planet
- 21. Giving off
- 23. Amounts per unit size
- 25. Floorshow
- 28. Arrange (abbrev.)
- 29. S
- 32. Lets up
- 33. Consumed
- 34. Backside
- 35. Birthday dessert
- 36. Attempts
- 38. Bumpkin
- 39. Passed with flying colors
- 40. Top
- 41. Soothsayer
- 43. Paddle
- 44. 54 in Roman numerals
- 45. Superficial amount

- 46. Growing old
- 48. Manta's cousin
- 50. Intimate
- 54. Forays
- 55. Massacred
- 57. Acquiesce
- 58. Reflected sound
- 59. Anagram of "Dear"
- 60. Merchandise
- 61. Exploit
- 62. Alone

### DOWN

- 1. Domicile
- 2. Dwarf buffalo
- 3. Arouse
- 4. Was later in time
- 5. Avenue (abbrev.)
- 6. Truthful
- 7. Lacquer ingredient
- 8. Reflect
- 9. Food shredder
- 10. Auspices
- 11. Computer symbol
- 12. Zest
- 13. Secret agent
- 18. Thither
- 22. Boring
- 24. Chick

- 25. Chocolate source
- 26. Manila hemp
- 27. He makes bread
- 29. Belch
- 30. Expensive fur
- 31. Direct
- 33. Assist
- 34. People given to foolish talk
- 37. River bottom
- 42. Farm
- 44. Focusing glass (plural)
- 45. Two-handed grass cutting tool
- 46. Allied
- 47. Condiment
- 48. Kind of palm
- 49. Novice
- 51. Black-and-white cookie
- 52. Marine mammal
- 53. Poi source
- 54. Small piece of cloth
- 56. Atlantic food fish



## SUDOKU

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

## TRIVIA BY GREY MATTER GAMES

### 1. NAME GAME

Oscar-winning actress Emma Stone said recently that she would prefer to be called by her real first name, which is what?

### 2. BOX OFFICE

While Dune 2 is still raking in millions, what is the name of Zendaya's new tennis movie that just hit theaters?

### 3. HIP-HOP

The estate of Tupac Shakur has sent a cease-and-desist and is threatening to sue what artist for using AI-generated fake vocals of the deceased rapper in a recent song?

### 4. BROADWAY

What classic work of literature by F. Scott Fitzgerald is now a Broadway production?

### 5. TELEVISION

Telling the supposed true story of a female stalker, what was Netflix's top show last month and had a 100% score on Rotten Tomatoes?

### 6. SEX

Who has teamed up with Stormy Daniels's ex-husband Mike Moz to launch a new porn site?

### 7. DRUGS

What famous stoner musician wrote a song called "Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die"?

### 8. ROCK 'N' ROLL

What was the name of the founding member of the Altman Bros. Band who passed away last month at 80 years old?



@ 843-974-5422 for details.  
<https://www.pdlstudio52.artspace.com>

**Mahjong Game**  
 Weekly Mahjong game with a \$5 PIE. Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Meets 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](mailto: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 Walenberg Blvd. from 10am-2pm for open sew. Find on Facebook or contact [cgb7507@gmail.com](mailto: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**

West Ashley Farmers Market Returns Wednesday, April 24 from 3-7pm in Ackerman Park. The market will continue every Wednesday through the Fall.

**Bees Landing Recreation**

**Center**  
 1580 Ashley Gardens Blvd. (843) 402-4571. [www.charleston-sc.gov](http://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](http://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.

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

**SPORTS & RECREATION**

**St. Andrew's Family Fitness Plus:**  
 1642 Sam Rittenberg Blvd., (843) 763-3850, [www.standrewspark.com](http://www.standrewspark.com). Offers a variety of activities for adults and children.

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

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

• **Charleston United Fall 2024 Evaluations**

Boys & Girls evaluations held between May 2-18, visit website for specific times for each age group. All Evaluations/Tryouts are Free. Drayton Soccer Complex, 3183 Ashley River Road. For more info and to pre-register, visit [www.charlestonunitedsoccer.com](http://www.charlestonunitedsoccer.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](http://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 Road.

• **Summer Camps** – Register online at [www.standrewspark.com](http://www.standrewspark.com) (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](mailto:jrossignol@standrewspark.com) or 843-763-4360.

**West County Aquatic Center:**  
 5156 Highway 165, Hollywood, SC 29449, (843) 762-6160 or (843) 795-4386, [www.ccprc.com](http://www.ccprc.com). Check website for activities and events.

**OTHER**

Volunteer Coaches Needed St. Andrew's Parks and Playground is looking for volunteer coaches and team sponsors. Go to [www.standrewspark.com](http://www.standrewspark.com) for more information on how to become a volunteer coach or sponsor.

**OUTDOOR**

**Caw Caw Interpretive Center:**  
 5200 Savannah Hwy. (843) 795-4386. Register online at [www.ccprc.com](http://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.

• **Drawn to Nature: Observing Birds** – Saturday, May 4th 10am-12pm. Explore new artistic techniques, develop your observation skills, and connect with the natural world through nature journaling. The program route is a loop and benches are available along the trail route. Program speed is moderately slow to medium. Fee: \$7, ages 8-18.

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

• **History Walk** – Saturday, May 11th from 10:30am-12:30pm. Learn about how the enslaved community played the most significant role in the development of the modern-day landscape. Fee: \$10, ages 15 & up.

• **Nature's Soundscape:** How to Really Tune In – Thursday, May 23rd 9am-3pm. Master naturalist advanced training opportunities provide exposure and skill development in areas such as natural history, natural resource management, and nature interpretation. Listening to natural sounds can open new doors to experiencing the natural world, and every habitat has its own unique sounds. In this course, you'll hone your auditory skills to enhance your connection to the natural

world. Accessible parking, restrooms, water fountains and picnic tables. Program speed is moderately slow and will require periods of standing and gazing upwards. Fee: \$50, ages 18 & up.

• **Tones at Twilight** – Fri., May 24th 7-8:30pm. Have you ever wondered about sounds from the natural world? Join a master naturalist instructor to figure some of them out. Listen for owls, frogs, and other creatures awake during twilight hours. Accessible parking, restrooms, water fountains and picnic tables. Speed is moderately slow. Trails are unpaved. Fee: \$10, ages 12 & up.

• **Understanding the Rice Culture** – Saturday, May 18th, 11am-12:30pm. To talk about land in the Lowcountry is an automatic invite to talk about rice, who grew it, where it came from and how cultivation changed the landscape in ways that are still evident today. Fee: \$10, ages 16 & up.

**Charleston Parks Conservancy**  
[www.charlestonparksconservancy.org](http://www.charlestonparksconservancy.org)

**Charles Towne Landing**  
[www.southcarolinaparks.com](http://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](http://www.ccprc.com).

**SENIOR**

**Waring Senior Center:**  
 2001 Henry Tecklenberg Dr. (843) 606-7877, [www.lowcountryseniorcenter.com](http://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.

**ARTS, CRAFTS, MUSIC, GAMES, CLASSES**

**Art Classes** Instruction in Oils for all levels; morning and evening classes and workshops. The Studio, 2408 Ashley River Rd. Unit N (843) 766-5664.

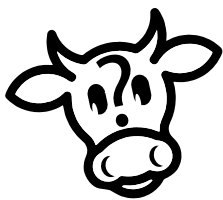
**The American Needlepoint Guild**  
 All skill levels welcome. Meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10am. Old St. Andrews Parish Church in Fellowship Hall, 2604 Ashley River Rd. For more information, contact [nancythechief@gmail.com](mailto:nancythechief@gmail.com).

**The Embroidery Guild of America**  
 All skill levels welcome. Meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2:30pm, but come early and stitch with them. Old St. Andrews Parish Church in Fellowship Hall, 2604 Ashley River Rd. For more information, contact [nancythechief@gmail.com](mailto:nancythechief@gmail.com).

**Jewelry Classes**  
 Treat yourself or a friend to a hands-on jewelry making class and create your own rings, earrings, necklaces and bracelets with Pat at PDL Studio 52. Learn the basic techniques to saw, file, solder and polish to create your personal piece of jewelry. All classes and special workshops are offered with flexible scheduling for individuals and small groups. Discounts available for multiple class sessions. My West Ashley studio is well equipped with all the tools and equipment you will need to create your unique jewelry masterpiece. Call Pat

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**

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

**TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. Emily
2. Challengers
3. Drake
4. The Great Gatsby
5. Baby Reindeer
6. Kanye West
7. Willie Nelson
8. Dickey Betts



ST. ANDREW'S PARKS & PLAYGROUND

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