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SIGNALS IN THE DARK

Caw Caw Interpretive Center highlights the hidden role of fireflies in the Lowcountry

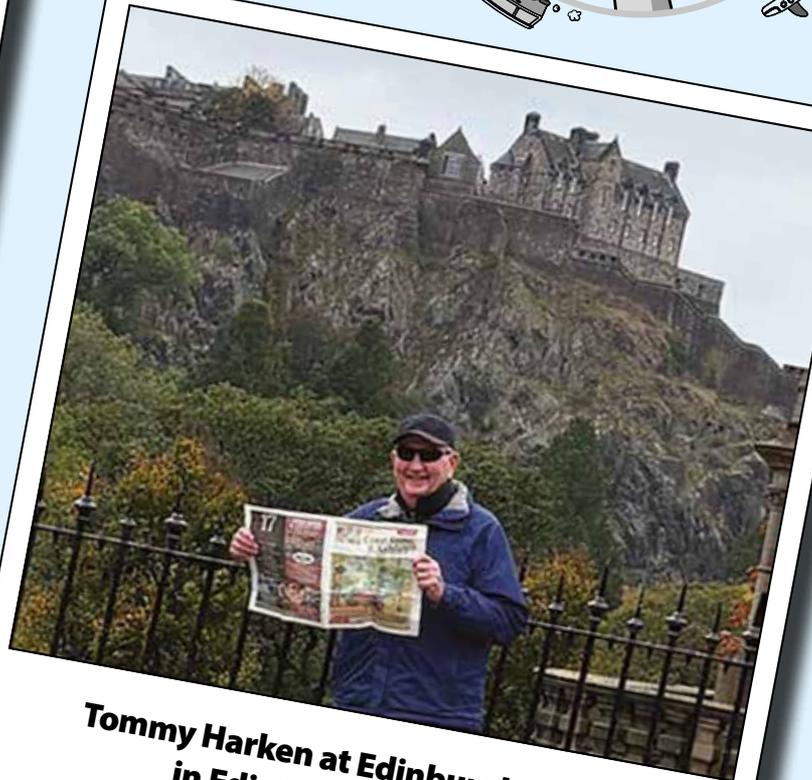
See story on page 6 ...

Also inside ...

Snackin' & Yakkin' with Big Ben Kennedy, Dip into The Lick, Dirty Sodas land in West Ashley ... and more!



Lorne Chambers in Narrowsburg, New York



Tommy Harken at Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland



Gary Crossley in Oak Island, North Carolina

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RORY

Rory 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 Cafe located at 283 Meeting Street in Downtown Charleston.



PETS OF THE MONTH



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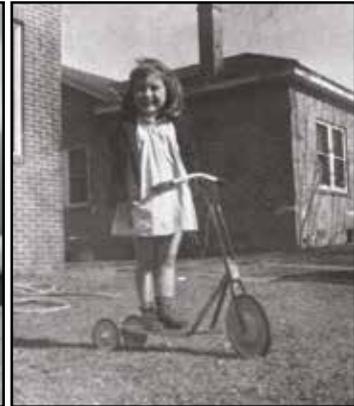
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NEWS

Citadel Mall Gets a Checkup

MUSC takes significant step toward expanding West Ashley footprint with acquisition of more mall space

by Matt Poust | Contributing Writer

The Medical University of South Carolina has taken a major step toward expanding its presence in West Ashley after its Board of Trustees approved an \$83.5 million acquisition of key parcels at Citadel Mall during a Dec. 12, 2025 meeting.

As part of the purchase, MUSC will acquire the vacant 120,816-square-foot former Sears store, approximately 330,000 square feet of inline mall space, and more than 2,000 parking spaces for employees and staff. The move builds on the existing 126,000-square-foot MUSC Health West Ashley Medical Pavilion, which has operated at Citadel Mall since December 2019 and has already outgrown its original footprint, according to an MUSC representative.

“As we looked to expand our services, it became clear that the most financially

viable option was to purchase the mall,” the representative said.

While specific services planned for the newly acquired space have not yet been finalized, officials indicated the expansion could allow for the relocation of operating rooms and clinics currently housed at Rutledge Tower downtown. That shift would help make room for the new comprehensive cancer hospital project approved by the MUSC Board of Trustees in April 2025.

Currently, surgical subspecialties offered at the West Ashley Medical Pavilion include orthopedics, neurosciences, ophthalmology, pain management, digestive health, and heart and vascular services.

“The acquisition of Citadel Mall presents a unique opportunity to gain more space for research facilities while expanding

education and clinical care for patients in and near West Ashley,” an MUSC representative said. “These new facilities will remain within commuting distance of downtown MUSC, helping alleviate critical parking challenges on the peninsula.”

Though a definitive redevelopment timeline has not been announced, planning efforts are underway. Fencing is expected to be installed around purchased areas in the coming months, along with adjustments to employee transportation and parking schedules.

As the acquisition begins to reshape Citadel Mall, several department stores are expected to remain unchanged for now, including Belk, Dillard’s and Target, along with outer-parcel businesses such as the cinema, a sporting goods retailer and a

national pet supply store. While other inline tenants may not be immediately affected, no formal announcements have been made, and many are believed to be operating under short-term leases.

The project comes amid broader regional growth for MUSC Health across the Lowcountry. Recently opened facilities include new pavilions at Clements Ferry and Kiawah. Two additional hospital projects are also underway, including a new medical center in Indian Land and another in Nexton that will include a Hollings Cancer Center component.

With this latest investment, MUSC continues its long-term strategy of expanding care beyond the downtown peninsula while reshaping one of West Ashley’s most recognizable commercial corridors.

The Stories Keep Coming

West Ashley History Series extends its run with fresh talks this spring

from Staff Reports

Turns out West Ashley history lovers aren’t ready to pack up their notebooks just yet.

After drawing steady crowds and plenty of post-lecture conversations in the aisles, the popular *West Ashley History Series* at the Hurd/St. Andrews Regional Library is sticking around a little longer. Organizers with the Charleston County Public Library recently announced an extended spring lineup, adding several new Thursday evening programs that dig even deeper into the stories, legends, and everyday moments that shaped St. Andrew’s Parish.

Held weekly from 6-7 p.m., the free talks

have quietly become one of West Ashley’s best midweek gatherings. Some folks come for the research, others for the nostalgia, and plenty just to hear a good local story told well.

The next round kicks off Thursday, April 2 with *St. Andrew’s Parish: Common Questions, Curiosities, Urban Legends*, a session that promises to unpack some of the rumors and long-told tales that still circulate around kitchen tables and neighborhood Facebook groups. On Thursday, April 9, *Moreland, Once Known as Pleasure Grove – the Prettiest Spots About Charlestown* explores a landscape

many pass every day without realizing its deeper roots.

Education takes center stage later in April. *Exploring the Early Schools of St. Andrew’s Parish* on Thursday, April 16 looks at how early classrooms helped shape the community, followed by *A School for Maryville* on Thursday, April 23, a program expected to resonate with residents who have long ties to the historic neighborhood.

The extended series wraps Thursday, May 7 with “*Small Farm on the Ashley River*” – *A Time Before Avondale*, offering a glimpse of life along the river before today’s bustling restaurants and

storefronts arrived.

As with previous talks, the programs are free and open to the public, and organizers say newcomers are just as welcome as longtime history buffs. If the first round proved anything, it’s that West Ashley doesn’t just live in the present. It carries its past proudly, one story at a time.

The West Ashley History Series will be held April 2, 9, 16, 23, and May 7, from 6-7 p.m. at the Cynthia Graham Hurd/St Andrews Library, located at 1735 N Woodmere Dr. For more information, call (843) 766-2546.



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Signals in the Dark

Caw Caw Interpretive Center highlights the hidden role of fireflies in the Lowcountry

by Hanalzi Potempa | Contributing Writer

At dusk, the marsh begins to flicker with scattered pulses of green light, each flash part of a silent conversation between species. More than just a seasonal magic, fireflies play many roles in South Carolina's coastal plain ecosystem.

From freshwater wetlands to maritime forests and old rice fields, their glow often reflects environmental conditions and the overall health of the landscapes they inhabit.

As we enter the season when these beloved insects begin to light up the night, Caw Caw Interpretive Center in Ravenel is hosting an event centered around fireflies and their story. *Signals*

in the Dark: A Firefly Story, taking place on Friday, March 27, is open to attendees of all ages who want to experience the wonder of fireflies in one of the few places in Charleston County where they are still visible.

Caw Caw Interpretive Center is a low-impact wildlife preserve. Kristina Wheeler, Natural History Interpretation Specialist for Charleston County Parks, spends much of her time at the center.

"This is a unique park where you can journey from the past to the present and explore the notion of heritage to habitat," says Wheeler. "Rich in natural, cultural and historical resources, Caw Caw was once part of several rice plantations and home to enslaved Africans who applied their technology and skills in agriculture to carve the series of rice fields out of cypress swamps."

Wheeler was inspired to create the firefly event because she has always loved fireflies and wanted to "shine a light" on their often-overlooked role in coastal plain ecosystems.

She notes that while the synchronous fireflies at Congaree National Park have captured national attention, that synchronized flashing is just one specialized behavior. Most fireflies do not flash in unison, as each species has its own unique light pattern and habitat preference.

"Along the coastal plain, including places like Caw Caw Interpretive Center, these species thrive in marshes, damp fields, and forest edges where dark skies and healthy soils support their life cycle," says Wheeler. "By understanding that firefly diversity goes far beyond synchronized displays, we can better appreciate—and protect—the quieter, scattered light shows happening right in our own backyard."

Wheeler explained that fireflies are highly sensitive to changes in soil moisture, soil quality, pesticide use, and artificial light. Their responses to these changes can reveal a great deal about the health of an ecosystem.

"Because their larvae live in damp soil and leaf litter for up to two years, their presence signals healthy wetlands, intact forest edges, and low levels of chemical disturbance. When fireflies disappear, it often reflects habitat degradation," says Wheeler.

Fireflies also serve as important predators, feeding on soft-bodied invertebrates such as snails, slugs, and worms—species that could otherwise become overpopulated. In this way, they help maintain ecological balance.

Adult fireflies glow to warn predators that they contain chemicals that make them taste bad or unsafe to eat, but they are still part of the food chain. Animals like birds, spiders, amphibians, and reptiles may still eat them, especially during their larval stage.

During that larval stage, fireflies play another key role. As they live and move through soil and fallen leaves, they help

... continued on page 7

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... continued from page 6

break down dead material and recycle nutrients—an especially important function in the wet, nutrient-rich soils of the coastal plain.

Beyond their ecological and biological roles, Wheeler shared that fireflies also hold strong sentimental and cultural meaning across the South.

“The attention drawn to synchronous fireflies at Congaree National Park has highlighted how rare intact habitats have become. Coastal plain populations - even the quieter, non-synchronous species - remind us that preserving dark skies, wetlands, and native landscapes benefits both biodiversity and community heritage,” says Wheeler.

The Signals in the Dark: A Firefly Story event offers both beautiful views and eye-opening education.

“You’ll not only watch for fireflies glow over the marsh at dusk, but also learn how these tiny lanterns signal healthy wetlands and play a vital role in our coastal plain ecosystem,” says Wheeler.

Along the way, visitors will learn about their life cycle, behavior, and the science behind their bioluminescence, while experiencing their twinkling display lighting up the night.

The program follows a flat, looped trail at a moderately slow pace, with benches available along the route for resting and observation. Accessible parking,

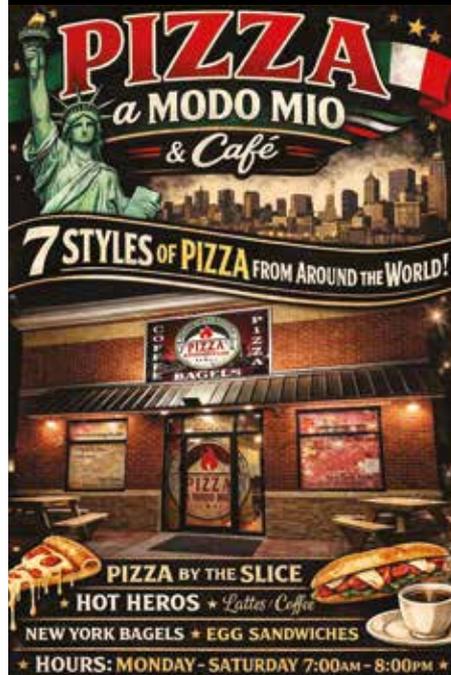


restrooms, water fountains, and picnic tables are also available at the site.

In their brief flashes, fireflies offer more than beauty—they reflect the health of the landscapes we depend on and the importance of protecting them.

Signals in the Dark: A Firefly Story, will take place on Friday, March 27. Caw Caw Interpretive Center is located at 5200 Savannah Hwy. The cost is \$12, and space is limited. To reserve a spot, call (843) 795-4386 or visit www.ccprc.com.

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Agreement Targets West Ashley Sewer Overflows

Utility and environmental group reach agreement focused on sewer repairs and transparency

from Staff Reports

A new agreement between Charleston Waterkeeper and Charleston Water System could bring long-term improvements to sewer infrastructure across West Ashley, an area that has dealt with periodic sewage overflow concerns for decades.

Sanitary sewer overflows, often called SSOs, happen when wastewater escapes aging pipes and enters streets, marshes, or nearby waterways. Many of the problem areas trace back to portions of the former St. Andrews Public Service District system, which Charleston Water System inherited in the mid-1990s after years of infrastructure challenges.

The newly announced agreement focuses on speeding up inspections and repairs, increasing monitoring in high-risk areas, and giving residents better access to information when overflow events occur. Quarterly public updates will track progress on pipe replacements and maintenance work throughout West Ashley.

For homeowners, one of the more tangible changes could be a proposed grant program aimed at helping replace older vitrified clay sewer laterals, which can crack or fail over time. Charleston

Water System officials say they plan to recommend funding for the program, which would offer reimbursements to qualifying residents if approved by the utility's board.

The agreement follows earlier legal pressure tied to the federal Clean Water Act, but both organizations say the goal now is collaboration rather than conflict. Environmental advocates have pushed for stronger protections for local waterways, while utility leaders emphasize that millions of dollars have already been invested to modernize the aging system.

Charleston Water System says it has closed failing treatment plants, eliminated illegal bypasses, and reduced stormwater infiltration that once contributed to overflows. Despite those improvements, heavy rainfall can still strain parts of the network, something officials hope future investments will address.

For West Ashley residents, the agreement may not bring immediate visible changes, but leaders say it represents a long-term commitment to protecting neighborhoods, marshes, and rivers that define the community's landscape.



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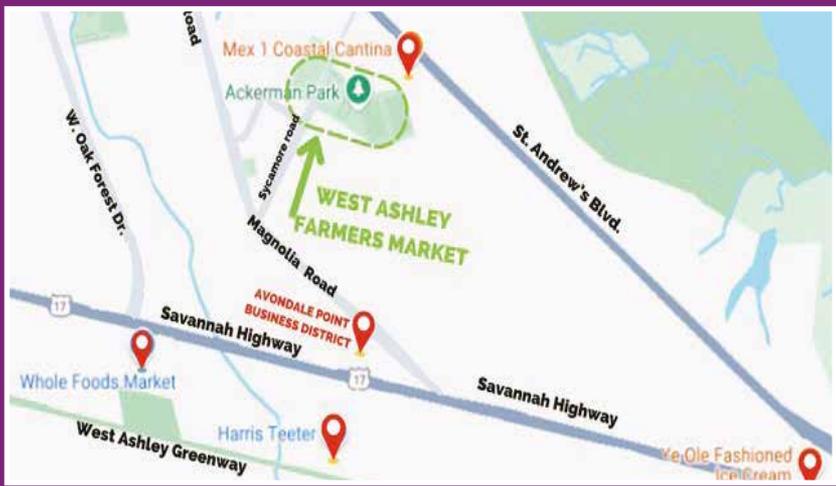


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The following were taken from actual incident reports filed last month by the City of Charleston Police Department. These are not convictions and the names of businesses, complainants, and suspects have been left out to protect the innocent. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty ... of course.

FEBRUARY 1 DUI / NARCOTICS

A late-night crash along Dogwood Road turned into a multi-car mess when a driver plowed into several parked vehicles outside an apartment building. Officers noted the driver had slurred speech, balance issues and an admission of "7 to 8 vodka drinks." During the stop, the suspect reportedly said, "I'm drunk" and "I shouldn't have driven." A search of the vehicle revealed suspected narcotics, which the driver described as "probably cocaine." While being transported, officers diverted to a nearby hospital after the suspect began drifting in and out of consciousness, later telling staff, "I'm pretty f***ed up."

FEBRUARY 2 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

Officers responded to an apartment off Boone Hall Drive where a couple argued over car keys and a phone shortly after one party returned home from a 48-hour hospital shift. The dispute escalated into shoving as each tried to reclaim personal items. No injuries were reported, and neither person wished to press charges. The argument ended with one party leaving on a motorcycle while the other stayed behind with their infant child.

FEBRUARY 3 WEAPON LAW VIOLATION

A morning disturbance at a Savannah Highway hotel parking lot drew officers after a man was seen ducking between vehicles while holding a handgun. Police ordered the subject to the ground at gunpoint and detained him without incident. Investigators later discovered two spent shell casings and damage to a nearby vehicle. The investigation remains ongoing.

FEBRUARY 3 SIMPLE ASSAULT

Police met with a complainant along Keble Road who claimed three individuals forced him into a vehicle after beating him earlier in the day, then drove him to his father's workplace. Officers documented the incident and referred the case for further investigation.

FEBRUARY 4 INTIMIDATION

Employees at a Savannah Highway business reported a former worker returning months after being fired and making threats. During a verbal disturbance, the suspect allegedly shouted, "I'll kill y'all, I'll kill all y'all," and later posted videos online ranting about violence while filming a nearby sign. Officers advised staff to save any threatening posts for investigators.

FEBRUARY 4 PHONE THREATS

A property manager told officers a heated phone call over a trash complaint escalated when a tenant allegedly warned, "Y'all and the board need to quit ... or I will blow your brains out." The caller requested documentation for a potential restraining order but declined to press charges.

FEBRUARY 4 DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Late at night along Arbor Trace, officers responded to a suspected burglary in progress and found a heavily intoxicated man fumbling with a stranger's door handle. The homeowner said she had never seen him before. The suspect admitted drinking earlier at a nearby tavern and was arrested for causing a public disturbance.

FEBRUARY 5 EMBEZZLEMENT

Managers at a West Ashley sandwich shop reported money missing from a safe after noticing irregularities in daily deposits. The only employee with access allegedly failed to respond to calls or texts after nearly \$500 disappeared. Surveillance footage is being reviewed as investigators attempt to determine when the cash went missing.

FEBRUARY 5 DRUG / NARCOTICS VIOLATION

A traffic stop near Hazlewood Drive and Orleans Road turned into a drug case after officers noticed the smell of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. The driver admitted marijuana was stored beneath the radio and that torn baggies once held cocaine. Roughly nine grams of marijuana and a grinder were seized, and the vehicle was towed due to multiple suspensions and no insurance.

FEBRUARY 5 BURGLARY / BREAKING & ENTERING

Residents of a West Ashley apartment complex returned home to find a large television missing and a bag containing cash disturbed on a bedroom shelf. There were no signs of forced entry, and neighbors reported seeing nothing unusual. Crime scene technicians responded, but investigators were unable to recover prints after the occupants handled items inside.

FEBRUARY 5 DUI / WEAPON LAW VIOLATION

During speed enforcement near the Highway 61 split, officers stopped a vehicle

traveling more than 25 mph over the limit. The underage driver admitted drinking and failed several sobriety tests before registering a breath sample well above the legal limit. An open alcoholic beverage sat in the cup holder, and the driver informed officers there was a rifle in the trunk, which was seized for safekeeping.

FEBRUARY 6 BURGLARY / BREAKING & ENTERING

An apartment along Hazlewood Drive was found ransacked by a tenant preparing to move out. Six pairs of Air Jordans, hygiene products, and kitchen items were missing, along with an air-conditioning unit. Officers found no forced entry and discovered a security camera unplugged inside the residence.

FEBRUARY 6 DRUG / NARCOTICS VIOLATION

During a consensual encounter in an Orange Grove Road apartment complex parking lot, officers smelled marijuana coming from a parked car. The driver admitted having "just a little bit" and disclosed a firearm under the seat. Roughly four grams of marijuana were seized, and the firearm was secured without charges filed.

FEBRUARY 7 DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A disagreement over a haircut inside a large West Ashley retail store escalated when a customer allegedly grabbed scissors from a barber's station after becoming irate. Employees locked the metal gate as multiple shoppers watched. Officers detained the suspect, who was later arrested for causing a disturbance.

FEBRUARY 8 DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Responding to reports of gunshots near Ashley River Road, officers detained an intoxicated woman yelling profanities at police and bystanders. During the investigation, she repeatedly shouted threats like "don't swing me cuz I will beat the ... out of you." After a witness ruled her out as a suspect, she was arrested for disorderly conduct due to her disruptive behavior.

FEBRUARY 8 DUI / NARCOTICS VIOLATION

While securing a crime scene near Ashley River Road, officers watched a driver plow straight through police tape. The driver showed signs of heavy impairment and admitted, "I like to get high and smoke weed." A search revealed marijuana and later, during booking, jail staff discovered additional pills concealed on her person.

FEBRUARY 10 SIMPLE ASSAULT

At a motel on Savannah Highway, officers met a man who had been pepper-sprayed by his sister after a verbal

argument escalated. Video footage supported her claim of self-defense. The man was later taken into custody on an unrelated outstanding warrant.

FEBRUARY 10 SIMPLE ASSAULT

Officers found a shoeless woman with a blood-stained shirt near Orleans Road after she claimed she was punched while leaving a gas station. Despite canvassing nearby businesses, investigators were unable to corroborate the incident.

FEBRUARY 11 DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Outside a library, officers encountered a heavily intoxicated woman sitting with her head between her knees. She insisted she'd had "only half a glass of wine," despite a nearly full vodka bottle found in her bag and alcohol hidden inside a water bottle.

FEBRUARY 11 PUBLIC INTOXICATION

Officers found a man lying on the ground in the rain along Savannah Highway, flailing his arms and unable to explain where he was headed. When asked for directions to his destination, he reportedly replied simply, "left."

FEBRUARY 12 TRESPASS

Security cameras at a Savannah Highway car dealership captured a man pulling on vehicle door handles after hours. When confronted, he told officers he "used to work here" and just wanted somewhere to sleep because he was homeless. He was cited and ordered to leave the property.

FEBRUARY 13 EXTORTION / BLACKMAIL

A West Ashley resident told officers someone they met on a dating app demanded money after exchanging explicit messages. The suspect allegedly warned, "Don't make me angry," and continued raising payment demands even after receiving a gift card.

FEBRUARY 14 INTIMIDATION

Employees at a Savannah Highway fast-food drive-thru reported a vehicle circling the building multiple times while the driver shouted racial slurs. One worker said the driver raised a firearm in an intimidating manner before leaving toward another nearby restaurant.

FEBRUARY 19 INTIMIDATION

A dispute between neighbors escalated after a dog attack led to retaliatory behavior involving a speaker blasting high-pitched barking noises toward another home. Both parties accused each other of harassment during a heated exchange.



A&E

“When someone is willing to delve a bit deeper into topics beyond their products or talents, it truly reveals their passion.”

— Ben Kennedy, host of *Snackin’ & Yakkin’*

Snackin’ & Yakkin’

New local podcast shares a bite with the people behind the city’s creative scene

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

Before the microphones even warm up, local comedian “Big” Ben Kennedy is already cracking jokes and passing around snacks. It’s the formula—part icebreaker, part psychology—behind *Snackin’ & Yakkin’*, a new Charleston-based podcast that offers relaxed, funny, and genuinely human interactions with people shaping the Lowcountry’s creative and culinary communities.

Recorded in West Ashley, *Snackin’ & Yakkin’* is a new Charleston-based podcast hosted by Kennedy, a quick-witted, warm, and larger-than-life host who shares snacks with guests as an easy icebreaker into conversations about creativity, career paths, personal stories, and building something meaningful in Charleston. With a great voice, infectious energy, and an unmistakable smile and laugh, he sets a relaxed, genuine tone that shows he’s having just as much fun (if not more) than his guests.

“I believe the shared snacks just make conversation easier,” says Kennedy. “The real focus is the people, the ones doing cool things in the Lowcountry that deserve to be talked about.”

The show is also a true family operation. Kennedy’s support system and “great loves of his life” don’t just cheer from the sidelines — they work behind the scenes. His wife and son swap as producers, while his young daughter proudly serves as the show’s enthusiastic, super-huggy, one-person greeting committee, making guests feel welcome the moment they walk in.

According to Kennedy, *Snackin’ & Yakkin’* was initially conceived as a counterbalance to his day job as a paramedic.

“It was meant to provide a comedic contrast to the tragic nature of my work,” he says, adding that the first iteration of the show was a podcast featuring Kennedy and another comedian. “We would try different snacks and engage in conversations. However, after his commitments made it difficult for him to maintain the show, it transitioned into a snack experiment and taste test show for me to do solo.”

After becoming bored, uninspired, and tired of being in his garage talking to no one, Kennedy decided to let the show go.

About six months later, he faced a dilemma: either sell the equipment or give the show one last chance. Having been a stand-up comedian since 2000, Kennedy had taken an extended break to focus on family and a career in EMS. However, during those six months after ending the show, he decided to try out some open mic nights in town.

It was then that Kennedy met some young, talented aspiring comedians in the area that reminded him of his 22-year-old self, when he first started comedy.

“Back then, our primary goal was to gain recognition from local news or FM radio shows. But in today’s world, the news cycles are too vast to pay much attention to local news outside of political and crime stories,” says Kennedy. “Additionally, FM radio shows are largely syndicated from other cities, so many comedians are forced to focus and try to make a name using their own social media platforms.”

But these days, with the advent of YouTube and podcasting, Kennedy believed he could create a local television and radio show that would showcase the talents of these local individuals.

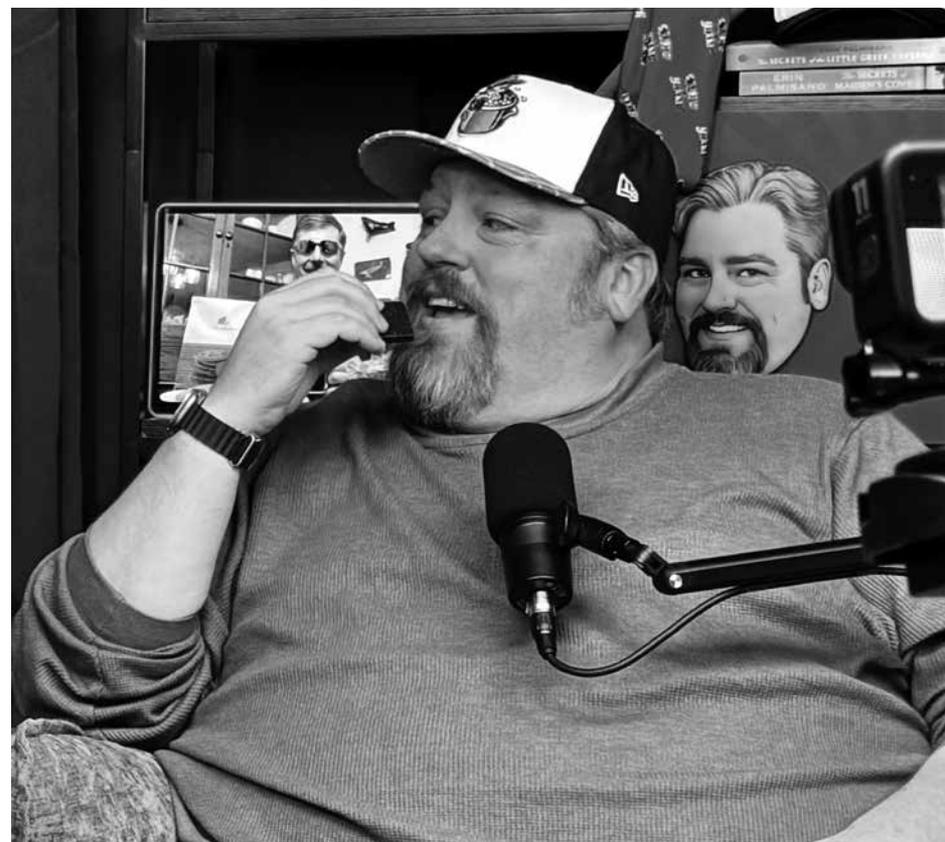
“So, I got out of the garage, rented an office space in West Ashley to serve as my studio, and started this version of the show,” he says. “What began as featuring local comedians has now expanded to include local small business owners, culinary creatives, sports figures, musicians, and more.”

As for the snackin’ part of *Snackin’ & Yakkin’*, Kennedy says he always asks the guests their favorite snacks and drinks, and makes sure to provide them.

“When I’m in the company of local culinary creatives, I even offer to buy their food for us to enjoy together, although none of them have ever allowed me to pay for it,” he says. “Some of the snacks I’ve shared include vegan cookies, boneless chicken wings, Vegemite and Triscuits, and even boiled peanuts.”

Popcorn has been the most popular snack, appearing in five out of the 40 episodes so far.

While still a relative newcomer to the podcast game, Kennedy’s experience as a comic makes for quick-witted and playful banter, putting his guest at ease on the mic. Additionally, his desire to make people laugh,



***Snackin’ & Yakkin’* releases new episodes every Monday and is available to watch on YouTube and listen on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and all major podcast platforms.**

not only on stage but in every aspect of his life, shines through as a host.

“Personally, I find that if I can stand up in a room full of strangers and discuss just about anything and everything, then sitting down in a one-on-one conversation becomes less intimidating,” he says.

While the show is quite funny, it’s Kennedy’s humor that disarms the guests, allowing them to put their guard down and often talk about their creative process in a way that is honest and refreshing.

“When someone is willing to delve a bit deeper into topics beyond their products or talents, it truly reveals their passion,” says Kennedy. “By sharing more personal stories and insights, they create a more engaging and captivating experience for listeners, viewers, and potential customers.”

While he’s moved the studio out of his garage and into a proper recording space,

Kennedy is hopeful that this isn’t as far as the podcast will go. He says his ultimate goal is for the show to be his full-time job. However, even if that never materializes, he says he would still be delighted to continue serving as a platform for the people who shape the culture of the Lowcountry.

“I love witnessing people achieve their dreams,” says Kennedy. “I am a huge fan of others and wholeheartedly support their success. If my show manages to become a one-hour segment of someone’s journey to success and the realization of their dreams, then it would truly be an honor.”

Snackin’ & Yakkin’ is always open to hearing from locals who want to be part of the conversation. Charleston-area creatives, business owners, and community members interested in appearing as a guest—as well as those who may be camera-shy but would like to support the show by sponsoring an episode—are encouraged to reach out.

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No Filters Needed

Magnolia Plantation to host beginner-friendly photography workshop series

from Staff Reports

If you're curious about finally learning what all those camera buttons do, you will have a chance to sharpen your skills this month. Magnolia Plantation & Gardens hosts a three-part *Introduction to Photography* series on Saturdays, March 7, 14, and 21, from 9-11 a.m. The hands-on workshop will be led by local award-winning photographer Jim Miller and is designed for beginners as well as those looking to move beyond automatic camera settings.

Participants will explore photography fundamentals such as exposure, composition, and lens choices while learning how to confidently adjust settings like ISO, shutter speed, and aperture. The class also introduces basic photo-editing concepts and practical techniques for creating more visually compelling images.

The course aims to demystify photography for everyday users, whether they're working with a mirrorless camera, a DSLR, or even a smartphone. Students

are encouraged to bring their own cameras and an open mind as sessions build on one another throughout the three-week series.

Miller, a longtime Lowcountry nature and travel photographer, has spent more than four decades along the South Carolina coast and frequently shares his expertise through workshops and community presentations.

The classes will take place at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, located at 3550 Ashley River Road, with complimentary garden admission included for participants. Space is limited, and advance registration is recommended.

Introduction to Photography will be held March 7, 14, & 21, 9-11 a.m. at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, located at 3550 Ashley River Road. For more information or to register, visit www.magnoliaplantation.com.



Local award-winning photographer Jim Miller leads a three-part photography workshop at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens this month



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Real Thick Rock & Roll

Canadian hard-rock band Sparrow Blue brings high-energy riffs and classic influences to The Tin Roof

from Staff Reports



West Ashley's Tin Roof will get a dose of loud guitars and old-school rock swagger on Friday, March 20 when Canadian band Sparrow Blue rolls into town for a high-energy set.

Hailing from St. Albert, Alberta, the six-piece outfit leans into what they call "Real Thick Rock & Roll," a bluesy, riff-heavy sound that nods to bands like Led Zeppelin, Lynyrd

Skynyrd, and Mountain without feeling stuck in the past. Frontman Des Parks leads the charge alongside guitarists Jon Dombroski and Chad Plamondon, drummer Liam Holm, percussionist Russell McCann and bassist Caden Doyle. Together, they blend vintage rock muscle with a road-tested modern edge.

The West Ashley stop comes as Sparrow Blue continues expanding into U.S. markets

after years of touring across Canada. Their latest album, *No Lies, No Tricks*, recorded at the band's own "Blue Room" studio, helped push the group onto bigger stages and into a packed touring schedule that has kept them on the highway for much of the past few years.

For Sparrow Blue, live shows are where the music really comes alive. The band has shared bills with Finger Eleven, The Sheepdogs, The

Trews and Default, building a reputation for raw, high-volume performances that feel more like a late-night barroom rock show than a polished arena spectacle.

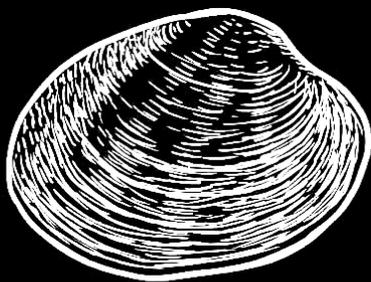
That approach fits well with Tin Roof, a longtime West Ashley venue known for its up-close stage and energetic crowd. Touring acts often stop through the space while building momentum, giving local audiences a chance to catch rising bands before they outgrow the room.

For Charleston-area fans who still crave big riffs and gritty vocals, Sparrow Blue's debut at The Tin Roof could be one of those nights that flies under the radar but leaves a lasting impression.

Doors are expected to open in the evening, with supporting acts and set times to be announced closer to the show. Tickets and event details are available through The Tin Roof's event calendar.

The March 20 bill also features a pair of regional openers. Charleston-based blues-rocker Mike Freund brings a gritty, hard-earned sound, shaped by years in the Lowcountry music scene, blending soulful songwriting with electric barroom energy. His albums *Toe the Line* and *And Now You Know* helped build a loyal local following, while more recent acoustic releases showcase a quieter side to his writing. Rounding out the lineup is Whiskey Revelation, a Southern rock outfit from Little River, SC that mixes country roots with loud, unapologetic stage presence. Born from the earlier Southern Country Outlaws project, the band leans into classic Dirty South influences and high-volume live shows.

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CTF James Island Massachusetts Brewery Takeover • 5-9pm
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- MARCH 28** Nook Tiny Cafe • 5-9pm
- MARCH 29** Lowtide Brewing • 1-8pm

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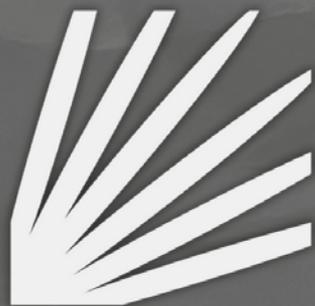
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DINING

“You have to have symmetry between the bar, the front of the house, and the kitchen. We’ve nailed that.”

— Christopher Betros, owner of The Lick

It’s 9 a.m. on a Friday, and The Lick, West Ashley’s swankiest new dining spot, doesn’t even open its doors for another seven hours. But head chef Chris Johnston is an early riser. He’s already hard at work this morning, preparing for the weekend rush that will have a line forming outside before the doors open at 4 p.m. and carry straight through Sunday brunch and into the next week.

There are trays of Chef Johnston’s crave-worthy milk bread already proofing on the racks. Several burners are fired. He walks by and stirs the pots while discussing scheduling and other day-to-day issues with owner Christopher Betros, who’s also at the restaurant early. He’s busy placing wooden spacer blocks between the tables, making sure each one is exactly the correct distance apart. It’s this sort of attention to detail that makes The Lick, a newcomer to the local dining scene, the hardest table to score in West Ashley, maybe in all of Charleston.

Betros’s phone keeps buzzing as friends and family text, asking if he can help them score a reservation this weekend. There isn’t much he can do. There are 20 bar seats and only so many tables in the intimate space, and those tables can only turn so many times each night. Resy is already chock-full of booked reservations, and there are even more people on the virtual waiting list. There have literally been lines out the door most evenings as people try to get in and experience what all the buzz is about.

His phone buzzes again and Betros smiles. He knows that there are worse problems to have.

“I’m excited about the response,” says Betros, a longtime West Ashley resident. He’s also excited to bring something like The Lick to this part of town. He sees it as something that could help elevate the food game for the area.

“We’ve never had a culinary voice in this town. All the big investment money that was coming in was targeting downtown, Mt. Pleasant, or the islands. West Ashley was very much forgotten,” he says. “West Ashley will be forgotten no longer.”

Betros, who comes from a corporate background, almost accidentally became a restaurateur. A few years ago, he was looking for a real estate opportunity and inquired about purchasing the building that housed O’Brion’s Pub & Grille in Mt. Pleasant’s upscale neighborhood I’on. He ended up buying the restaurant, too, a turnkey situation



he couldn’t pass up. He invested his own capital in revamping the space, turning the pub into something much more than just a pub.

“I basically took the best part of O’Brion’s and made the investment for the building to match the neighborhood around it,” says Betros. He’s done it again. But this time, it’s for the part of town he’s called home since before Hugo.

“I had a concept in my head from a recent trip I took to Ireland,” he says. “I was sitting in this swanky tequila bar at the bottom of my hotel in Dublin, and I thought, ‘I want to do something like this,’” he says. “A

Dip into The Lick

South Windermere’s stylish new spot aims to reshape West Ashley’s culinary identity

by Lorne Chambers | Editor



place that you feel something as soon as you come through the door. I want you to walk in and want to be here. It’s a destination.”

Betros sees The Lick less as a restaurant and more as a full sensory experience.

“I want you to be delighted by what you see, what you smell, what you taste, and what you feel when you walk through the door.”

The Lick, which officially opened last month in the space that previously housed YoBo Cantina, has also been completely revamped, from the ceiling to the floor. It’s unrecognizable from its predecessor. Every detail, from the barstools to the wall mirrors,

feels deliberately curated.

Like the space itself, The Lick’s menu is small but mighty, with everything from a swanky burger or French dip and fries to a \$140 Wagyu ribeye.

“We have a menu where you can come in after work, sit at the bar, and have a glass of wine and a beautiful bowl of bolognese, a very soul-warming selection after a hard day’s work,” says Betros. “Or if you want to come celebrate and have some wine and cocktails, live it up, and split a tomahawk with your buddies, you can do that, too.”

... continued on page 23

Johnston says that when they began forming the menu, they simply asked one question over and over: Why not?

"We basically just asked, 'Why not?'," he recalls. "Can we have the best steak in Charleston? Why not? How about the best bolognese in Charleston? Why not? Can we offer the best-looking bowl of oysters in Charleston? Why not?"

Betros often talks about dining at The Lick as an "experience" more than a meal. But, of course, the food is central to the success of any restaurant. That's why he went out and hired Johnston, a classically-trained chef, who has run nine other restaurants from Chicago to Baltimore before landing in the Lowcountry. For the last several years, he has been working locally in the catering industry. The two met and found that they shared a similar work ethic and vision for what a restaurant should be.

"The most appealing thing and hardest thing to find in this industry is freedom in your own space and the chance to work with like-minded people," says Johnston.

"If it wasn't for Chris (Johnston), we wouldn't be as successful as we are so far," says Betros, who learned from his time in corporate America that hiring good people and letting them do their job is a recipe for success. Betros gives a lot of credit to managing partner Chad Frierson, who has been in the business for a quarter of a century.

"He manages the daily grind that it takes to create and execute these amazing experiences. And I'm very lucky to have him," says Betros. "You have to have symmetry

between the bar, the front of the house, and the kitchen. We've nailed that. They complement each other well. We have a good bar program. The wine list is solid, and the cocktails are out of this world."

Experienced beverage professional Beth Bishop, who recently worked at Paddock & Whiskey before joining The Lick team, handles the bar and front of the house.

"We hired people who are professionals in their field. Everybody is excited to be here. Our senior staff has decades of experience," says Betros. "We all bought into the concept. We bought into the culture. We're building something special here."

The keyword in that last sentence seems to be "building" because it's an active verb, suggesting The Lick is still evolving.

A couple of weeks after opening—amidst the Valentine's Day weekend crunch and the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition being in town—The Lick began serving Sunday brunch. It also recently started offering weekly dinner specials.

"We have some more tricks up our sleeves that I can't talk about yet," promises Betros.

Johnston likens the roll-out to cooking.

"When you build a sauce, you season along the way. Every step matters," he says. "It's about process."

The Lick seems to be paying attention to every step in the process.

The Lick is located at 10 Windermere Blvd. To make reservations, visit www.resy.com. For more information on The Lick, visit lickwind.com, follow them on Instagram at [@lick_wind](https://www.instagram.com/lick_wind), or call (843) 974-3462.



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Dirty Sodas, Good Clean Fun

Southside 17 expands into neighboring space,
adds a trendy soda bar and arcade

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

The interior of Southside 17 is reminiscent of the sportsbook inside a Vegas casino. There are score tickers streaming underneath a wall of TVs, and even the bar's logo is a riff on the iconic "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign. There's the Bellagio Burger and a Lucky 17 sandwich on the menu. So, it should not be surprising that owner Doug Allison is not averse to risks or taking a gamble on a new concept. For the last 15 years, Allison has opened some of West Ashley's most innovative bars and restaurants.

"No risk, no reward. I live my life that way," says Allison, reflecting on the last two decades, which took him from his home in the Washington D.C. area to the Lowcountry, where he launched a successful juice and energy drink distribution company and a string of popular restaurants and bars. Allison has never been afraid to take a leap of faith in business or in life. In addition to Southside 17, he owns 17 Prime, West Ashley's first upscale steakhouse. He also started Ireland's Own/Jägerhaus Pub before selling it in 2024, as well as CHS Golf, which he just recently sold.

In just the last year or two, Allison has sold three of his businesses, opened an upscale restaurant, gotten married, sold his house, and moved to a new house in Avondale. Now, he's rolling the dice again in taking over the space next to Southside 17 that formerly housed GNC in the Riverland Market Shopping Center on the corner of Main Road and Savannah Highway.

The new spot will be an extension of Southside 17 but will have a completely different feel and concept from the rest of the already popular bar and restaurant. While Southside 17 is draped in muted tones and dark wood, the new space has a lighter, brighter feel, with pinks, blues, and pastels. It will soon be home to West Ashley's first "Dirty Soda" bar.

If you're unfamiliar with dirty soda, it's a lot more wholesome than it sounds. It's essentially soda, but louder. Dirty sodas layer cream, flavored syrups, and candy-colored aesthetics onto classic fountain drinks. Part nostalgia, part modern social-media buzz, the dirty soda trend is bringing back the old-school soda fountain while swapping traditional floats for highly customizable concoctions.

Allison says he was visiting his daughter and grandson in Florida recently when he went to Swig, a national chain of soda shops specializing in dirty sodas, when he got the idea to bring the concept back home to West Ashley.

The new soda bar at Southside 17 will also have a small accompanying menu geared



The Dirty Soda trend finds its way to West Ashley with a new soda fountain and arcade at Southside 17

towards kids who might want to use the space for birthday parties or just hang with some friends. In addition to ordering anything from the regular Southside 17 menu, there will also be a special menu for kids' parties that includes snow cones, personal pizzas, chicken nuggets, French fries, hot dogs, cotton candy, and other kid-friendly options. Patrons on the bar side of the restaurant will also be able to order dirty sodas anytime and, if they so desire, add a spirit of their choice or a High Rise CBD seltzer to their concoction.

According to Allison, they're still working out some of the dirty soda menu, but that many of them will have locally-inspired names, like the Palmetto Punch, which is grape soda with coconut syrup and fresh lime; the Lowcountry Sunset, which is sparkling water and lemonade with mango syrup, and fresh lime; The Sweet Caroline is Sprite with coconut and blue raspberry syrup; or the Pineapple Fountain, which is Diet Coke with pineapple syrup and vanilla cream. There's also a Folly Fizz, Coastal Coop, and Kiawah Kicker. Customers are also encouraged to create their own concoctions.

At Prime 17, Allison says they sell a lot of zero-proof cocktails, and this now gives Southside 17 a zero-proof option for customers who are maybe not drinking alcohol.

"It's offering another thing to the customer, because of the growth of this side of West Ashley, Hollywood, Ravenel, and this part of Johns Island, there really isn't anywhere doing an arcade or a place to have a birthday party. There are lots of families in these neighborhoods: Hunt Club, Grand Oaks in West Ashley, or even Gift Plantation and Grimball Gates here on Johns Island.

"I thought there was a need for a kids' play area. And dirty sodas are hot right," says Allison. "Will I be selling dirty sodas in five years? Who knows. But I do know that we have a place for kids to come and for parents to bring their kids that safe and clean and something that's different and unique."

The grand opening of the new Southside 17 Dirty Soda bar and arcade will be held Sunday, March 15, from 1-5 p.m. at 3632 Savannah Hwy. For more information, call (843) 641-7043 or visit www.southside17.com.

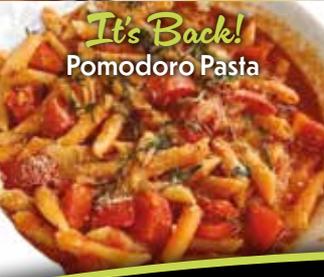
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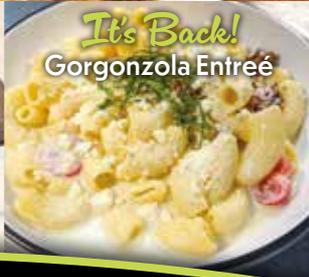
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COMMUNITY



Flipping through the Pages

Old newspaper columns give insight to West Ashley interests from a bygone era

Facebook. Instagram. X. TikTok. These are the mechanisms of modern social networking. Jump back a few decades (maybe eight or more), and the daily newspaper was the mechanism for learning about the social workings of the community. *The News & Courier*, *Charleston Evening Post* as well as community newspapers like *West Ashley Journal* (a "suburban weekly" that ran for about three years in the early 1960s) and *The West Ashley News* (unsure of the scope of this one but there was an issue in June-July of 1955) were the repositories for engagement announcements, wedding photos and details, birth announcements, club news, and information on social events.

One particular column that ran in *The Charleston Evening Post* from 1938-1950 was entitled: "Notes of Interest Across the Ashley."

Initially, Helen R. Roberts gathered these "Notes," and in 1939, Lillian D. Chamberlain took over the reins, with her name as the byline until 1950. The keyword search of *The Charleston Evening Post* produced 356 results, with the first column seemingly published March 9, 1938.

Enjoy another glimpse at what both Roberts and Chamberlain found "INTERESTing" across the Ashley. (West Ashley Flashback's first glimpse was published in June of 2023.)

• **March 9, 1938:** "Gardens across the Ashley have begun to take on new beauty." -opens Robert's first column. She describes the gardens of Henry J. Mann and T.C. Hunley in Windermere, A. G. Goodwin in Wappoo Heights, J.E. Porter in Ashley Forest and then several on James Island. Bridge luncheons, church meetings, students returning home for spring break, visiting guests, and a birthday party rounded out the happenings.

• **May 11, 1938:** Mrs. Marshall Shingler entertained the Thursday Morning Club with a luncheon. Mrs. Emily Ravenel of St. Andrew's Parish was Miss Betty Shingler's

guest for the day.

• **August 31, 1938:** Summer travel was coming to a close while ... "Heavenly blue morning glories have been noted on a few fences and trellises this summer." A few of the mentions of locals returning from travels: E.B. Chamberlain, noted ornithologist and museum curator, returned from Europe; The J.M. Oliver family of Ashley Forest were at Edisto beach while the Hortons of Ashley Forest left for New York city - Mr. Horton was transferred for work; Miss Rose Rodgers, Carolina Terrace, had been with her aunt in Clearwater, FL.



Nancy Campbell (nee) Vick balancing on her scooter in the yard in Windermere (Photograph courtesy of Nancy Vick)



Nancy Campbell (nee) Vick ready to eat a piece of her red and white birthday cake (Photograph courtesy of Nancy Vick)

• **September 16, 1949:**

"Fall seems definitely to have arrived and St. Andrew's parish is settling down to the usual round of activities. Community street

corners are filled with children as they wait for school buses and quiet prevails in the developments from 8:30 until 2 p.m." What a lovely way to open this September column that continued with garden club activities, PTA meetings, The Book

Shelf Club, and the

travel adventures of various residents.

The final column appears to have run a year later on September 16, 1950: "Despite the heat, 'Across the Ashley' is taking on the appearance of fall..." Once again school activities, garden club meetings, vacations, church meetings, the Book Shelf Club, and the welcoming of new residents rounded out this apparent final column.

Any "Notes of Interest" from early St. Andrew's Parish? Contact Donna Jacobs at westashleybook@gmail.com.



Ralph Peebles on the piano performing with his musicians (Photograph courtesy of Martha Peebles Attisano)

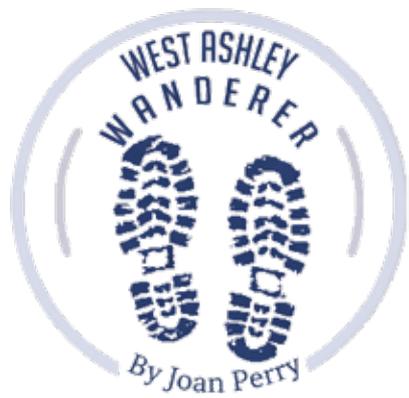


Easter Egg Hunt at Stono Park (Photograph courtesy of Carole Earhart)

• **January 21, 1939:** Now Lillian D. Chamberlain's perspective on what is interesting. "The various developments across the Ashley continue to grow, new homes springing up almost daily. Among the new families in Ashley Forest are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Savitz of Hickory street and Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Moorner and Robert Irvin, Jr. of Cherry street." And the Micheal family of Ashley Forest were being transferred to Honolulu!

Fast forward ten years and things were still "INTERESTing" across the Ashley.

• **January 22, 1949:** Curious about "The Book Shelf Club"? They had met on Wednesday at the Ashley Forest home of Mrs. T.C. R. Legare. A report was given by Mrs. Thomas V. Hannaford of the meeting at the Charleston Free Library where Mr. Samuel Gaillard Stoney presented a book review of "The Age of Adam". From the book club in the parlor to the tour of the outdoors - Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Sprunt spent two days on an Audubon wild life tour on Bull's Island prior to leaving for Florida where they will conduct additional tours.



A Grave Discovery

Finding Geddes Hall Cemetery, is like stepping back in time

Jealousy isn't an attractive trait, but the enthusiasm of our West Ashley Historians as they share their excitement about every new discovery has made me sad that I didn't have such inspiring, enthusiastic history teachers when I was in school.

Our neighborhood team of history detectives includes Charlie Smith, Diane Hamilton, Donna Jacobs, Kenneth G. Marolda, Ina Bootle, and Grant Mishoe. They meet monthly and call each other in between to share exciting nuggets of information they've discovered. They regularly present on topics related to West Ashley at the Hurd/St. Andrews Library on 1735 N. Woodmere Dr.

Trotters Restaurant is their regular hangout, so when I asked Charlie Smith if he had anything of interest for this month's West Ashley Wanderer column, we met at the famous Savannah Highway soup & salad bar, and he caught me up on recent information they had uncovered about the small overgrown cemetery on Pebble Road, just off Stinson Drive.

We headed there after lunch. I immediately spotted a couple of tombstones, while Charlie pointed out others tucked under the wild vegetation. The names on the tombs will mean most to the West Ashley "Binya" crowd of locals.

From Charlie's notes:

Locally referred to as the "Geddes Hall" or "Pebble Road" Cemetery, the small burial ground in the DuPont Community of Geddes Hall has recently been found to have a much earlier history than anyone knew. The cemetery existed 20 years before the Geddes family bought what became known as "Geddes Hall" from the heirs of John Godfrey IV.

In his will of 1784, the fourth John Godfrey

stated: "... also I give at the Sandy Bay, twenty foot square for a Buering [sic] place for my last wives [sic] fammiley [sic]". The exact location of the cemetery is shown on a 1797 Purcell plat, which depicted the lands of two of the four heirs of Richard Godfrey IV. They were his son, John Godfrey IV, and daughter Elizabeth Godfrey Rivers.

When John Godfrey IV wrote his will in 1784, he divided all of his properties between his four surviving children, Susannah, Benjamin, Elizabeth Godfrey Quarterman, and John Godfrey V, should he [John Godfrey V] "be allowed to come in this State of South Carolina to live".

John Godfrey V was only recently documented as a member of the British "Colleton Militia" during the American Revolution. He is listed on the "Accounts of Stoppage" as being a refugee patient at the British Hospital in Charleston for the last quarter of 1781. There seems to have been a serious question in 1784 as to whether John Godfrey V would be banished by the Legislature from the new "State of South Carolina".

Also, in his 1784 will, John Godfrey IV made provision for another cemetery for his children and their descendants under an "old pear tree" at another of his properties. He made it clear in the will that the Sandy Bay cemetery was reserved for the children descended from his last wife, Patience Elizabeth Hutchins Dela Chappelle Godfrey, and her first husband, James Dela Chappelle, who had died in 1760. The only surviving child of record that has been identified from this marriage is a son, John Gabriel Dela Chappelle, who served the American cause in the South Carolina Continental Regiment of Artillery, under Capt. John Wickly. [Note: If this is the case, this cemetery may be eligible for at least a headstone or memorial stone for him through the VA.]



Charlie Smith at the Geddes Hall a.k.a. Pebble Road Cemetery

In the first quarter of the 19th century, the Sandy Bay properties belonging to the heirs of Elizabeth Godfrey Rivers and to the heirs of her brother, John Godfrey IV, were conveyed to John Geddes, later a State Representative, State Senator, Intendant of the City of Charleston, and Governor of South Carolina. These conveyances included the house that came to be known as "Geddes Hall", even though it had been built prior to 1797 by Mary Lining, a daughter of Elizabeth Godfrey Rivers. Several other large parcels, also belonging to or once belonging to the Godfrey family, were later conveyed to John Geddes. All of them together eventually became known as "Geddes Hall", though they had all once been owned by the Godfrey family.

There are likely no pre-Civil War Geddes family members buried in the Pebble Road cemetery. The original 1784 2x20 cemetery plot apparently did not convey to John Geddes with the larger property and may never have been conveyed to his family. The early 19th-century Geddes

family members were mostly buried at First (Scots) Presbyterian Church.

The original 1784 20x20 Godfrey Dela Chappelle plot was informally expanded in the 19th century by Geddes's descendants to its present size of 4/10ths of an acre. The parcel was first legally defined when the neighborhood surrounding it was re-platted in the mid-20th century for a housing development by the widow of Gilbert Geddes DuPont, Mrs. Minnie Lee Warren Platt DuPont Cole. There are many unmarked graves in this cemetery, both in the original plot and in the expanded area. The burials in the extended portion of the cemetery date from the late-19th to the mid-20th century and are all Geddes descendants.

Stay healthy my friends, and wave as I wander. I'm not always haunting cemeteries.

Send ideas for upcoming columns to: westashleywanderer@gmail.com.

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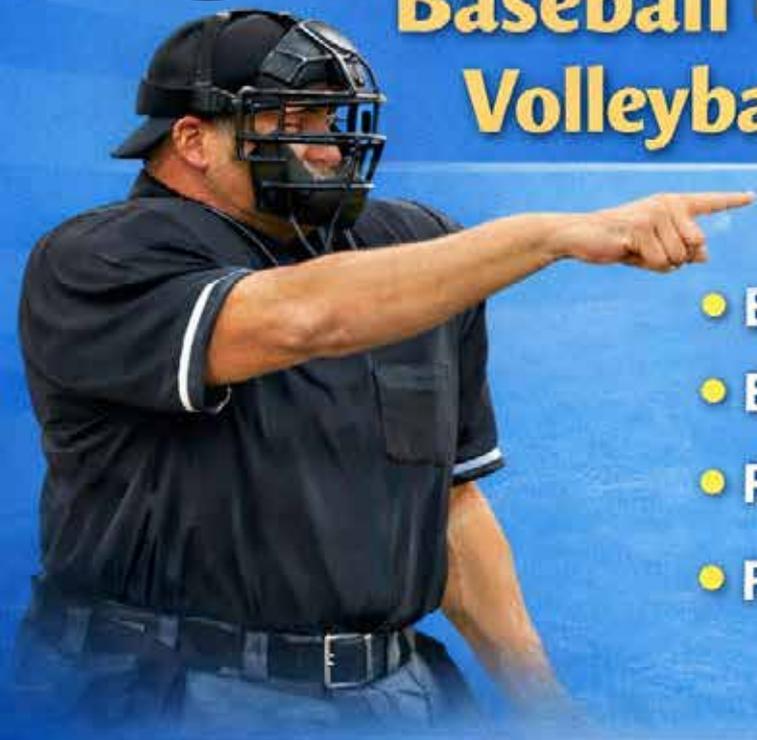
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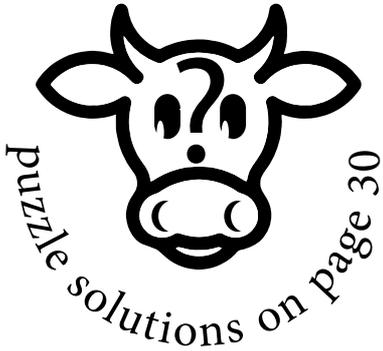
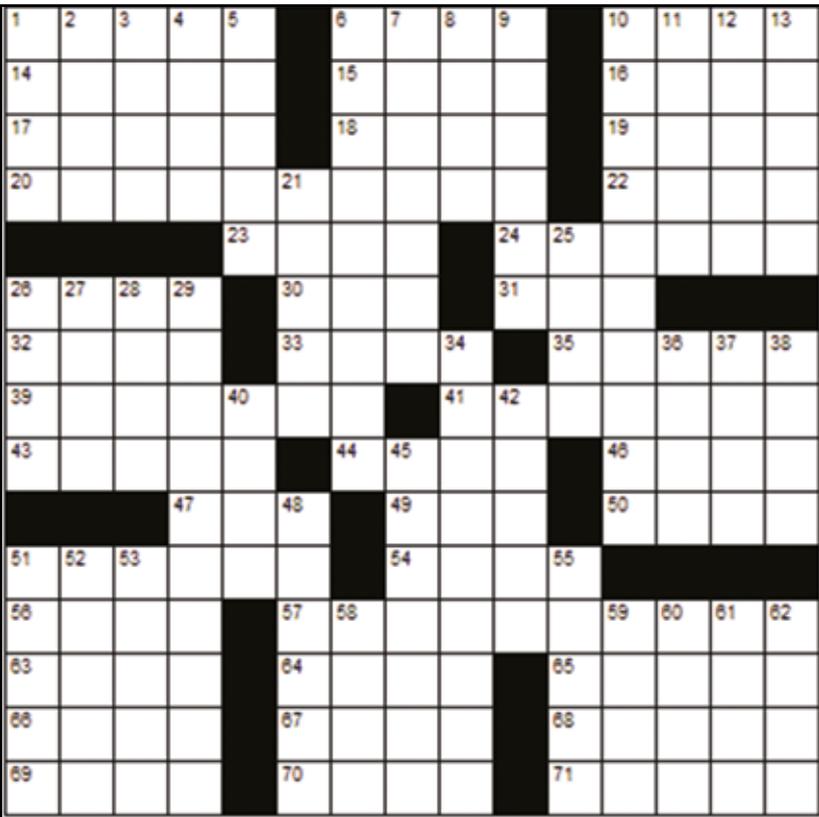
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TRIVIA

- 1. ANIMALS**
A pooch named Penny won Best in Show at the 150th annual Westminster Dog Show last month. What breed was she?
- 2. SPORTS**
The Seattle Seahawks defeated the New England Patriots 29-13 in Super Bowl LX. Who was named the game's Most Valuable Player?
- 3. HOST WITH THE MOST**
Who will host the Academy Awards for the second consecutive year later this month?
- 4. ACTORS & ACTRESSES**
Robert Duvall passed away last month at the age of 95. He was nominated for seven Oscars but only won one for what 1983 movie?
- 5. MUSIC**
What musician won the Grammy last month for Album of the Year, marking the first time a foreign language album won the award?
- 6. SPIRITS**
What historic Kentucky distillery was just sold to a California wine company for \$775 million dollars?
- 7. REST IN PEACE**
What South Carolina native, civil rights leader, and former presidential candidate died last month at the age of 84?
- 8. OLYMPICS**
What country finished with the most medals at the 2026 Winter Games in Milan?

- ACROSS**
1. Copper and zinc alloy
 6. Stair
 10. Resorts
 14. Hawaiian veranda
 15. Blacken
 16. Desire
 17. Another time
 18. Employ
 19. Harness part
 20. Deadly nightshade
 22. Writing styluses
 23. Component of steel
 24. Alter
 26. Office fill-in
 30. Half of two
 31. Not hers
 32. Jewish month
 33. Detective _____ Wolfe
 35. Hemlock spruce genus
 39. Disc brake part
 41. Wanted
 43. Alpha's opposite
 44. Not barefoot
 46. Geek
 47. Image format
 49. Large flightless bird
 50. Pinup's legs

51. Betting parlor
 54. Religious offshoot
 56. "Oh dear!"
 57. Having no master
 63. Essence
 64. A Great Lake
 65. American symbol
 66. Wicked
 67. Close
 68. Illicit sexual relationship
 69. Declare untrue
 70. Sunbathes
 71. Flavor
- DOWN**
1. Spill the beans
 2. Anger
 3. Nitpicky to a fault
 4. Travel on water by wind
 5. Red Sea peninsula
 6. Sailing ships
 7. Not fatter
 8. Deserve
 9. Sermonize
 10. Exceeding
 11. Primp
 12. Growing old
 13. Feeling
 21. Pilotless plane

25. Strikes
26. Mexican sandwich
27. Type of cheese
28. Not female
29. In a prissy manner
34. Mileage counters
36. Fertilizer component
37. Bacterium
38. Combines
40. Hurt
42. Elicit
45. Revolutionary mercenary
48. Arouse
51. Like many a superhero
52. Not dead
53. Lustrous fabric
55. Delicacy
58. Environs
59. Holy man
60. Freudian topics
61. Slattern
62. Arid



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

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>

PARKS & RECREATION

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, Senior Activities, Monthly Art Workshops, and more.

- **Zumba Gold.** Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 9:30-10:30am. \$5/class.
- **Indoor Pickleball.** Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 10:30am-1:30pm. \$2/ residents, \$4/ non-residents.

Charleston Parks Conservancy
720 Magnolia Rd. Suite 25
www.charlestonparksconservancy.org

- **Early Morning Bird Walk:** Charles Donnelly from Holy City Birding will guide you through the diverse bird species of Charleston while leisurely strolling through the park. Demand is high so RSVP early. Upcoming dates in west Ashley: Saturday, March 21- West Ashley Greenway MP7-8; Saturday, April 18 at West Ashley Park, Saturday, June 20 at Carr Richardson Park. Register on the website.
- **Flower Field Day – Pick Your**

Own Bouquet – A guided hands-on experience designed to highlight the beauty and abundance of Magnolia Park's spring cut flower garden. Flowers are priced at \$2 per stem. Complimentary bubbles and specialty drinks from Flower Power Coffee will be available for purchase. RSVP encouraged but not required. Saturday, March 28 from 10am-1pm. Magnolia Park & Community Garden, 720 Magnolia Rd.

• **Spring Community Garden Picnic & Seed Swap:** Gardeners, neighbors, and friends are invited to come together to share food, stories, and excitement for the upcoming gardening season. Bring a favorite dish to share. Event is free and open to the public. March 21 from 12-2pm. Magnolia Park and Community Garden, 720 Magnolia Rd.

• **Walk in the Park: Weekly Walking Group:** Meets at the western end of the west Ashley Greenway at McLeod Mill Rd. Mondays, 9am, starting March 16. RSVP on the website.

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.

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 Library:
45 Windermere Blvd., (843) 766-6635, www.ccpl.org
This library offers activities for children and adults from story-time to nature club, to crafting to adult book club.

St. Andrew's Family Fitness Plus:
1642 Sam Rittenberg Blvd., (843) 763-3850, www.standrewsparks.com. info.
Offers a variety of activities for adults and children.

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

- Afterschool Program: Only \$85 per week.
- **Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt:** Bring your own flashlight and

egg eggs in the dark! Friday, March 27, 6pm. \$10 Per Child • Age Groups: 2-4, 5-6, 7-8, & 9-10. Fun activities start at 6 pm, Egg hunts start at 7 pm. 1095 Playground Road. www.standrewsparks.com or in person at 1095 Playground Road. Questions: jrossignol@standrewsparks.com

• **Youth Tennis Clinics:** Serve up some fun! Our youth tennis clinics are perfect for players of all skill levels looking to build skills, confidence, and a love for the game. Led by Tennis Director Coach Phil Burke, these sessions focus on fundamentals, footwork, and fun — all in a supportive, high-energy environment. Register in person at 1095 Playground Road. or online at www.standrewsparks.com

• **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.

SENIOR

Waring Senior Center:
2001 Henry Tecklenberg Dr. (843) 606-7877, www.lowcountrysenior-center.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.

- **Birds of a Feather:** Come explore Caw Caw while enjoying wine, beer, and live music and the beauty of this park. Food truck fare available for purchase on-site. Ages 21 and up. Fee: \$20pp in advance or \$25 on site.
- **Gator Tales:** Thursday, March 26, 10am-noon. Join a guide as you search for alligators and separate fact from fiction to learn why these large reptiles carry the special title of "keystone species". Ages 12 and up, fee \$12.

• **Homeschool in the Parks** – The Return Flight: Friday, March 20, 10-11:30am. Each spring thousands of birds take to the skies on incredible journeys! Explore the science and wonder behind these epic migrations. Ages 7-12, fee \$7.

- **Junior Naturalist – Feathered Friends:** Saturday, March 28, 10am-noon. Bring your curiosity and engage all of your senses while exploring natural habitats at your county parks! Ages 8-12, fee \$10.
- **Signals in the Dark – A firefly Story:** Friday, March 27, 7-9pm. Why do fireflies flash? What role do they play in our ecosystems? Get answers to these questions and more as we search for their twinkling display lighting up the night. Ages 12 and up, fee: \$12.
- **Tea Farm Creek Canoe Trip:** Friday, March 6, 10am-1pm. Paddle into Tea Farm Creek alongside a trained naturalist to witness firsthand how human history impacted the landscapes around us. Ages 12 and up. Fee: \$50. See website for more info.
- **Where the Wild Things 5K Run/Walk:** Saturday, March 7, 8:30am. Walkers, joggers, and runners of all ages are invited to explore your wild side on the scenic nature trails at Caw Caw. Fee: \$38 for the 5K, \$5 for the Kids Dash. All ages. Register on website.

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

- **There's still a "Lot" to Learn** – Step inside the shelter at the Structure 2 excavation and discover what archaeologists have unearthed, thus far, a the site of Charles Towne's most dynamic lots. March 13, 14, 21, 27, and 28 from 11am-12pm.
- **Toddler Time at the Animal Forest** – Bring your toddler to the Animal Forest and watch their eyes light up when they see the animals! Program is designed for ages 2-4. March 3, 17, April 7, 21 from 11-11:30am. Registration is recommended. Free with park admission.

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

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens
3550 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29414, (843) 571-1266. www.magnoliaplantation.com

• **Birding Tours:** March 8 and 22, April 4 and 18, May 9 and 23, from 7:30-9:30am. Birding tours are back! Beginner and intermediate birders will see resident and migrating birds, including Anhinga, herons, ibis, ducks, hawks, owls, and Wood Storks at this birding "hot spot", as you stroll through swamps, ponds, a mixed pine and hardwood forest, and the Ashley River with birder Robert Heise. Fee \$35.

• **Easter Egg Hunt:** March 28, 1-4pm. The event is included with admission and is free for Magnolia members. Hop on over to Magnolia for the 17th annual Easter Egg Hunt, where the whole family is invited to spot eggs and make sweet memories under the ancient oaks.

Drayton Hall
3380 Ashley River Rd., 843-769-2600

- **Candlelight Tours:** March 7, 5, 5:30, 6, 6:30, & 7pm. Create an unforgettable historic experience with a candlelight tour of one of America's most iconic colonial estates. Fee \$50 for members, \$55 for non-members. Register in advance.

Middleton Place
4300 Ashley River Rd., 843-556-6020

- **Aromatic Candle dipping** – Amber: March 27-March 31, 12-2pm. Embrace seasonal candle dipping! This five-part candle dipping series captures a unique scent each month. Guests are invited to dip their own specialty amber-scented candle in this drop-in style program. Free with general admission and free for members.

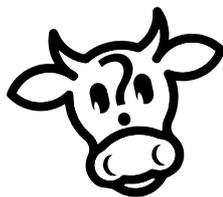
• **Indigo Dying in the Stableyards:** Saturday, March 14, 12-2pm. In this drop-in style program, you will discuss the indigo plant, the labor it took to grow, harvest, and process it, as well as the importance of indigo and what it was used for. Guests will dye a square of fabric to take home with them. Free with general admission.

West Aquatic Center
West Aquatic Center/ Hollywood Town Hall is located at 5156 SC-165, in Hollywood. www.ccprc.com for more info.

** Please check with the individual clubs, groups, and events for updates, as some of these events may have changed.*

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Doberman pinscher
2. Kenneth Walker III
3. Conan O'Brien
4. Tender Mercies
5. Bad Bunny
6. Four Roses
7. Jesse Jackson
8. Norway



Spring Into Action

Time to break out your rods and reels and get ready for a great fishing season

from Staff Reports

Chilly days are quickly fading away with temperatures rising well into the 60s and sometimes pushing into the 70s. Warmer water temperatures will wake the fish up and get them feeding. Trout should be ready to go in mid-March. It's time to break out your rods and reels and get ready for a great season!

Having spent the last few months lying low and avoiding dolphins, redfish are now focused on eating instead of simply surviving. Low tide will be the best time to target large schools of redfish that can number in the hundreds. These fish are still skittish, so a quiet and subtle approach is quite important. On many days, it pays to stay in one spot when you find a school and wait for them to come to you instead of scaring them away.

As these reds are nervous, I'll try to disturb them as little as possible by minimizing my casting. This is a great

time to fish with bait on the bottom. I'll put a chunk of frozen mullet or blue crab on a size 3/0 circle hook and just let it rest until the redfish swim over it. Make sure the barb of your hook is fully in the bait, and the point is cleanly exposed. Place your rod in the rod holder and get ready for it to whip over once the circle hook sets itself!

As trout begin to feed, popping corks cast along grass banks and over oyster beds will be a good bet with mud minnows attached. I usually pair an 18"-24" fluorocarbon leader with a size 1 circle hook. While there is no shortage of options, I use oval-shaped corks that are heavier and can cast further. When using a popping cork, do your best to keep slack out of your line, and when that cork drops under, just reel without lifting the rod tip. You'll find that the circle hook rarely misses as long as your line is tight.

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.

Elegance on the Ashley

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