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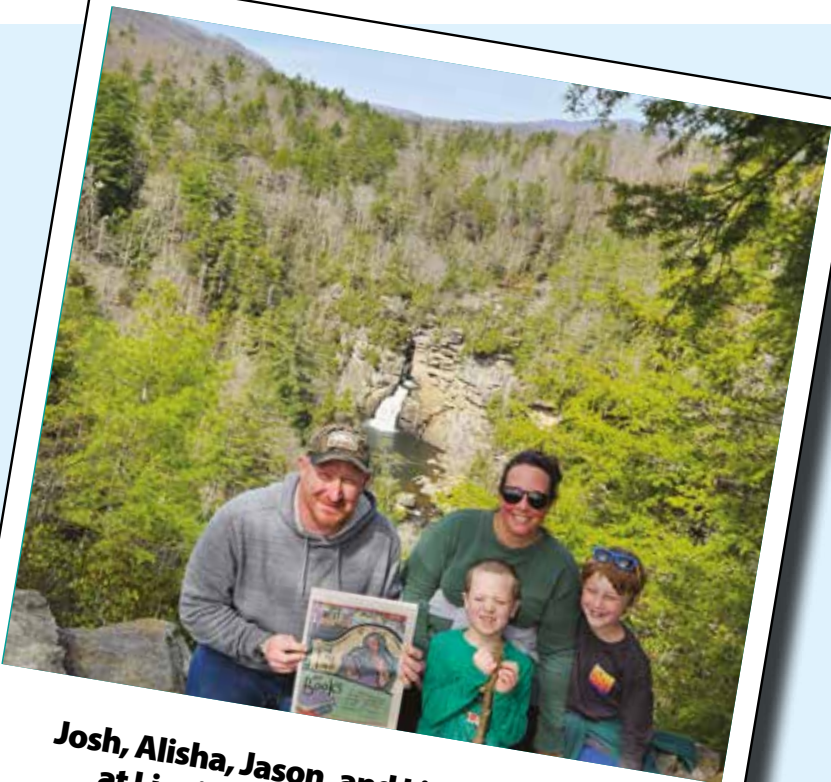
Do you  
Believe  
in  
Fairies?

Hidden  
Worlds Await Along  
Magnolia's Garden paths

... See Story on page 6

Also inside ...

Orange Grove ... and more!



**Josh, Alisha, Jason, and Liam Singleton  
at Linville Falls in North Carolina**



**Jesús and Becka Murga at Ichkabal Mayan Ruins  
in Quintana Roo Mexico**



**Lindsey Chambers at Dinosaur Valley State Park  
in Glen Rose, Texas**

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## ROSEBUD

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# PETS OF THE MONTH



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# WEST OF FREE PRESS

### WISER TIME PUBLISHING, INC.

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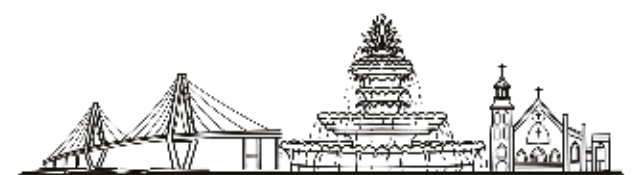
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# NEWS

“Robotics has changed my life, and it is really cool that my passion is meeting my dream of going to Europe.”

— Miriam Hopkins Orange Grove Robotics team member

## Local Robotics Teams Go International

Orange Grove students to represent Charleston in the Netherlands this month

from Staff Reports



**Orane Grove Elementary Hurricanes**

A group of West Ashley students is taking their talents overseas this month, representing Charleston on an international stage in one of the world’s fastest-growing STEM competitions.

After standout performances at the South Carolina state level earlier this year, robotics teams from Orange Grove Charter School have qualified for the FIRST Tech Challenge European Premier Event, set for June 17–20 in Eindhoven, Netherlands. The trip marks a major milestone for the school’s robotics program—and a rare opportunity for local students to compete against teams from around the globe.

The two teams, known as the Hurricanes and Cyclones, will join 94 other teams representing countries from across Europe, Asia, and beyond. Their journey begins with travel to Amsterdam before heading to the competition site in Eindhoven.

In the FIRST Tech Challenge, students design, build, and program robots to compete in fast-paced, head-to-head matches. The program emphasizes not only engineering and coding skills, but also teamwork, communication, and creative problem-solving—qualities that have helped Orange Grove’s teams stand out.

This year’s game, called “Decode,” challenged teams to build robots capable of collecting small “artifacts” and launching them into scoring areas. More advanced designs incorporate cameras and sensors that allow robots to recognize patterns and complete tasks in a specific sequence for additional points.

Orange Grove’s Hurricanes team recently earned the third-place Inspire Award at the state championship, one of the competition’s highest honors, recognizing excellence across multiple categories, including



**Orane Grove Elementary Cyclones**

robot design, innovation, and community outreach. The Cyclones also delivered a strong showing, finishing as third-place Alliance Semi-Finalists and previously capturing a Design Award at a regional qualifier.

For the students involved, the upcoming trip is about more than competition.

“Robotics has changed my life, and it is really cool that my passion is meeting my dream of going to Europe,” said team member Miriam Hopkins.

That blend of academic challenge and real-world opportunity is part of what has fueled the program’s growth. The teams include both current Orange Grove middle school students and high school students who began their robotics experience at the West Ashley campus, creating a pipeline that continues to build year after year.

In addition to the competition, students will

have the chance to attend an international innovation fair featuring leading European technology companies—offering a glimpse into future careers and industries that many are already beginning to explore.

“Robotics with my team is a new adventure every day,” said team member Zoey Smalls. “Seeing all of our hard work and dedication finally paying off is such an incredible and rewarding feeling.”

Before they can take that next step, however, there is still work to be done here at home.

The teams have been raising funds to help cover the cost of international travel, equipment transport, and lodging. Community members and local businesses interested in supporting the effort can make donations through the school’s website, with proceeds going directly toward helping the students make the trip.

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# Do you Believe in Fairies?

Hidden worlds await along Magnolia's garden paths

by Hanalei Potempa | Contributing Writer

This summer, step into a world of wonder as a magical, whimsical fairy village comes to life at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens.

The *Fairies & Flowers* exhibit will feature more than 20 handcrafted fairy dwellings tucked throughout the gardens. Along winding paths and beneath canopies of blooms, these enchanting homes shimmer with mystical details, hidden treasures, and storybook charm—inviting visitors to slow down and look a little closer.

Carrie Seiden, Education Programs Director at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, shared that this will be a brand-new experience created in partnership with more than 30 local artists, along with students from the West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies, all collaborating to bring fairy magic to life.

Seiden explained that Magnolia strives to introduce fresh and

imaginative exhibitions that weave creativity and storytelling into the natural landscape, always guided by the question: "How can we build upon nature?"

The fairy exhibition was inspired by the beloved fairy village at the Florence Griswold Museum in Connecticut, with additional guidance from the museum's Director of Education, David Rau.

Seiden commended the Florence Griswold Museum team for their generosity and support, stating "they are helping us bring that same fairy magic to the Charleston area!"

The development of the exhibition has been a true community effort, with local artists, students, and groups coming together to craft each tiny dwelling with extraordinary care, detail, and imagination.

"We are really, really grateful to have so many people—established artists, students, community

groups—creating installations for our gardens," Seiden says.

Seiden shared that the goal of the exhibit is to enhance the natural beauty of the gardens by encouraging visitors to slow down and rediscover a sense of wonder—appealing to both children and adults alike.

"We're very proud of our historically significant gardens. They are just so beautiful," Seiden says. "We're hoping that by having the installations to look at it slows them down a bit."

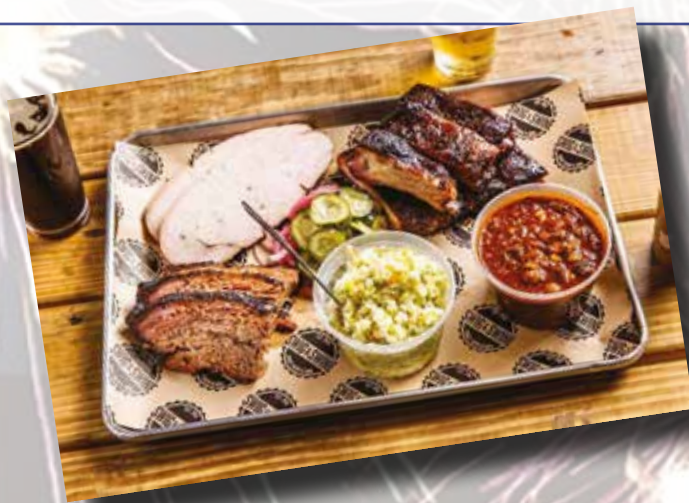
Visitors can look forward to a variety of whimsical designs—from a fairy bed and breakfast to a charming fairy café—along with countless hidden surprises waiting to be discovered in

*continued on page 7 ...*



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every nook and cranny.

Following in the footsteps of the Florence Griswold Museum, each artist will incorporate a hidden element into their installation, transforming the experience into an interactive treasure hunt.

As Seiden notes, "it'll be more engaging for kids and adults to seek and find and to look really closely."

The overarching theme of the fairy village, "It takes a village," ties each dwelling together into one interconnected story, creating not just a collection of tiny homes, but a cohesive fairytale woven through the gardens.

"We want people to walk away with a fun, memorable day spent outdoors at Magnolia and in our gardens," Seiden says. "And we also hope that people will leave with ideas of their own and maybe feel inspired to create gardens that are full of whimsy at home."

The exhibition opens Memorial Day weekend and continues through mid-July. Admission is included with general garden entry, and guests can follow along on social media for pop-up events, artist meet-and-greets, and hands-on crafting sessions where children can create their own fairy wands—adding an extra layer of magic to



the experience.

"Our gardens are just extraordinary on their own. But then putting these little fairy gardens in there," Seiden says. "I just think that it'll look like they were meant to be there, that they were always there, that somebody just came along the path and saw a fairy village that existed at Magnolia all along."

*Fairies & Flowers will be on display through Sunday, July 12 at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, located at 3550 Ashley River Road. For more information, call (843) 571-1266 or visit*

[www.magnoliaplantation.com](http://www.magnoliaplantation.com).

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

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**WEDNESDAYS:** Music Bingo 7-10pm

**THURSDAYS:** Team Trivia 7-9pm

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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.*

**MAY 1  
DRUG / NARCOTICS VIOLATION**

A man who had reportedly just been trespassed from a Sam Rittenberg Boulevard grocery store earlier in the morning was arrested after allegedly wandering right back onto the property near the adjacent coffee shop parking lot. Officers reportedly found a used syringe and straw in his pockets, and jail staff later allegedly discovered an additional powdery substance hidden in his person during a strip search.

**MAY 4  
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**

A student at a West Ashley middle school reportedly brought a knife to campus during afternoon dismissal. The student voluntarily alerted a teacher, and officers later recovered a souvenir-style knife with "Dollywood: Love Every Moment" etched into the handle. School officials handled discipline internally.

**MAY 4  
CDV-AGGRAVATED ASSAULT / FIREARM**

Police responded to an Ashley River Road apartment complex after reports of a violent domestic dispute involving both a firearm and knife. Officers found evidence of a physical altercation inside the apartment, including damage to walls and furniture. EMS evaluated at least one person at the scene.

**MAY 6  
DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

While officers investigated a DUI in the parking lot of a Savannah Highway Mexican restaurant during Cinco de Mayo festivities, another disturbance broke out nearby when a man allegedly threw glass into the woods. Police said the suspect admitted to tossing the glass and apologized before being cited for littering and released.

**MAY 6  
INTIMIDATION**

A West Ashley woman told police she had been harassed for years by another woman she knew from high school. According to the report, the alleged harassment included repeated calls, social media messages, banging on doors, and threats involving the victim's child.

**MAY 7  
SIMPLE ASSAULT**

Hospital staff at a West Ashley medical facility reported being assaulted by an intoxicated patient brought in for treatment. Police said the man allegedly broke free while being restrained and shoved an employee into a wall. Because the suspect was heavily sedated afterward, he was not immediately arrested.

**MAY 7  
LARCENY BY FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE**

Employees at a Sam Rittenberg Boulevard rental car business contacted police after a customer allegedly failed to return a rented SUV. The gray Mazda CX-50 was supposed to be returned in early March but remained missing more than two months later.

**MAY 7  
DRUG / NARCOTICS VIOLATION**

During a felony traffic stop near Ashley River Road, officers reportedly located nearly nine grams of suspected marijuana inside a vehicle connected to a wanted subject. No firearm was found during the search.

**MAY 8  
TELEPHONE CALLS, OBSCENE, HARASSING**

Police conducting a welfare check at a West Ashley apartment complex instead found themselves dealing with accusations involving kidnapping, human trafficking, and Supreme Court conspiracies. Officers said a man and his roommate claimed the man's mother had repeatedly contacted police and employers for years over disagreements related to his lifestyle.

**MAY 8  
SIMPLE ASSAULT**

Police arrested a man after a disturbance at a Hazelwood Drive apartment complex allegedly escalated into a fight involving a wig being ripped off and punches thrown. EMS treated both parties at the scene before the suspect was transported to jail.

**MAY 11  
SIMPLE ASSAULT**

A woman was arrested after allegedly climbing through a bedroom window and confronting another woman she found sleeping inside her boyfriend's home. Police said the suspect later retrieved a knife while continuing the confrontation.

**MAY 11  
SIMPLE ASSAULT**

A man reported being assaulted by a bartender at an Ashley River Road bar after a verbal disagreement involving the man's female friend. The customer claimed the bartender suddenly pulled his chair out from under him, causing him to fall backward and strike his head.

**MAY 12  
INTIMIDATION**

Employees at a Sam Rittenberg Boulevard fast food restaurant contacted police after a man repeatedly visited the business asking for a young employee by name before eventually handing her a handwritten letter. The note reportedly referenced the employee "blushing," the man's condo ownership, and included the line: "My motive is hot to touch you."

**MAY 12  
SIMPLE ASSAULT**

A department store employee told police he was punched after asking a customer to show a receipt at the store's exit. Surveillance footage reportedly showed the customer shoving the employee into a metal detector before striking him.

**MAY 12  
TRESPASS**

Police arrested a woman after she allegedly returned to a Sam Rittenberg Boulevard department store despite previously being trespassed from the property. Employees said she screamed at shoppers before violently shaking an occupied electric shopping cart.

**MAY 12  
EXTORTION / BLACKMAIL**

An 18-year-old West Ashley resident told police he was targeted in an online sextortion scam after exchanging messages and nude photographs with someone he met through TikTok. The suspect allegedly threatened to accuse him of sending explicit photographs to a minor unless money was paid.

**MAY 13  
DRUG / NARCOTICS VIOLATION**

Police responded to a West Ashley hospital after nurses reportedly discovered multiple narcotics hidden inside a patient's belongings. Officers recovered suspected methamphetamine, pills, powder substances, and a bottle of fake urine concealed beneath the woman's clothing.

**MAY 13  
INTIMIDATION**

A West Ashley resident told police he has been repeatedly harassed by a group of teenage boys along the West Ashley Greenway. One teenager allegedly threatened to "run your ass down and hang your dog from the tree."

**MAY 13  
DRUG / NARCOTICS VIOLATION**

Police arrested a man outside a Sam Rittenberg Boulevard shopping center after witnesses reported he repeatedly inhaled computer duster until passing out against a wall. Officers reportedly found the man slumped over with an almost-empty can of MAXPRO duster in his lap.

**MAY 13  
TRAFFIC ARREST**

A driver with a suspended license was cited after allegedly striking a pedestrian while attempting to turn near the intersection of Wappoo Road and Savannah Highway. The pedestrian declined medical treatment and did not wish to pursue charges.

**MAY 13  
TRAFFIC ARREST**

A driver with a suspended license was cited after allegedly striking a pedestrian while attempting to make a right turn near the intersection of Wappoo Road and Savannah Highway. According to police, the pedestrian had a walk signal when the driver rolled forward and made contact with her in the crosswalk. The woman reportedly pushed herself off the vehicle and threw a water bottle at the truck before both parties left the scene. The pedestrian declined medical treatment and did not wish to pursue charges, though officers cited the driver for driving under suspension and operating without insurance.

**MAY 14  
ANIMAL SERVICE RESPONSE**

Animal control officers issued a cruelty citation to a West Ashley woman after reviewing video footage allegedly showing her repeatedly whipping a dog with its leash. According to the report, the footage showed the woman striking the dog multiple times while lifting it partially off the ground by its collar. The dog could reportedly be heard whimpering during the incident. When officers later visited the apartment, they reported the dog appeared healthy. The woman allegedly admitted to striking the animal and was issued a city ordinance citation.

**MAY 14  
SIMPLE ASSAULT**

Police responded to an Ashley Hall Plantation Road apartment after a family argument involving accusations of choking, fighting, and unwanted houseguests spiraled out of control. According to the report, a woman visiting relatives allegedly became involved in multiple physical altercations over the course of several days, including accusations of choking another person in self-defense and threatening to have people "show up and fight." Despite conflicting statements from those involved, officers documented the incident and later placed one person on trespass from the residence.

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# SCHOOLS

“Tori Hopkins dedication to supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally makes a lasting difference in the lives of so many.”

– Anita Huggins, CCSD Superintendent

Last month, Charleston County School District (CCSD) announced the recipient of its first-ever School Counselor of the Year Award, recognizing excellence in school counseling practice and the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program that positively impacts student success.

On Monday, May 2, CCSD officials surprised Tori Hopkins, School Counselor at C.E. Williams (CEW) Middle School – North Campus, who was selected through a competitive nomination and review process involving school leaders, counseling professionals, and higher-education representatives.

The CCSD School Counselor of the Year award was created to honor a school counselor who demonstrates exceptional leadership, advocacy, innovation, and measurable impact across the three domains of school counseling: academic achievement, college and career readiness, and personal/social development.

“Tori Hopkins exemplifies the heart and impact of school counseling,” said Superintendent Anita Huggins. “Her dedication to supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally makes a lasting difference in the lives of so many. We are incredibly proud to recognize her as our School Counselor of the Year and grateful for the compassion, leadership, and commitment she brings to her school

## District Honors West Ashley Counselor

### C.E. Williams Middle School’s Tori Hoplines named first-ever CCSD School Counselor of the Year

from Staff Reports

community each day.”

Hopkins’ school counseling philosophy is grounded in the belief that every student deserves to feel seen, supported, and capable of success. Over the past three years, she has built and sustained a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program centered on collaboration, leadership, equity, and student advocacy.

“Ms. Hopkins exemplifies the very best of school counseling through her data-driven, student-centered approach and unwavering commitment to advocacy, relationships, and systems that ensure every student is supported and successful,” said CEW North Principal Maite Porter.

As a leader within her school, Ms. Hopkins serves on the Student Support Team, Attendance Team, and Multi-Tiered

System of Supports (MTSS) Team, where she collaborates with staff to identify student needs, implement interventions, and monitor progress using multiple data sources, including attendance, behavior, and student support data. She also led professional learning for faculty and staff on utilizing Panorama Student Success data to strengthen schoolwide decision-making and intervention planning.

“School counselors play an essential role in supporting the academic, social, emotional, and postsecondary success of our students,” said Heather Anderson, Director of School Counseling Services. “This recognition celebrates the collaborative impact school counselors have on students, schools, and communities, and we are honored to recognize Ms. Hopkins as our inaugural School Counselor of the Year.”



CCSD School Counselor of The Year, Tori Hopkins (left), and Heather Anderson, Director of School Counseling Services (right)

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# Rookie Teacher of the Year

Drayton Hall Elementary's Kaitlin Ashby receives first-year honor from district from Staff Reports

Charleston County School District (CCSD) Superintendent Huggins and staff surprised four first-year teachers with Rookie Teacher of the Year awards. Among them was one West Ashley educator, Kaitlin Ashby of Drayton Hall Elementary School, who received the honor of Primary School Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Along with Ashby, fellow winners included Allison "Allie" Zaubi of North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School, Collin Sitton of Morningside Middle School, and Shannon Broussard of R.B. Stall High School.

The CCSD 2026 Rookie Teachers of the Year represent the top first-year teachers in early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school. Each teacher was nominated by their principals for exemplifying the district's vision for teachers who truly embody the best of their school.

This year, CCSD recognized 41 nominated Rookie Teachers of the Year.

After being selected by the schools, the rookies wrote essays describing how they would meet the needs of their students and their families. These applications were rated by a team of veteran educators who had the difficult job of choosing the top Rookie Teachers of the Year.

"To be recognized as an outstanding first-year teacher is a remarkable achievement," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "Our rookie teachers bring fresh energy, passion, and dedication to our classrooms each day. They are not only an asset to our district but also a powerful reminder of the bright future of the teaching profession."

"In our work through the Induction and Mentoring Program, it is incredibly



*Kaitlin Ashby of Drayton Hall Elementary School was named Primary School Rookie Teacher of the Year*

rewarding to see beginning teachers grow into outstanding educators and emerging leaders," said Gayle Morris, Executive Director of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership Development. "I could not be more proud to honor the four recipients of the Rookie Teacher of the Year award. New teachers navigate many challenges in their first years, and it is a privilege to recognize their success. We look forward to the lasting impact they will continue to make across the district as they grow in the profession."

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# A&E

While Spoleto Festival USA and its little sister Piccolo Spoleto may not have much scheduled west of the Ashley River this year, West Ashley still found a place on the festival stage thanks to the young singers of the Drayton Hall Elementary Bobcat Chorale.

The student chorus performed Tuesday, May 26 at Grace Church Cathedral downtown as part of the 2026 Piccolo Spoleto Music Series, offering audiences an evening of lullabies and dream-inspired songs from around the world.

Held inside the historic cathedral on Wentworth Street, the free concert featured music in English, German, and African languages, with selections ranging from familiar classical melodies inspired by composers like Brahms and Debussy to contemporary choral arrangements designed to showcase the warmth and imagination of children's voices.

The performance invited audiences into what organizers described as "a world of dreams," blending gentle harmonies, global influences, and nighttime-themed songs into a program intended to appeal to all ages.

For many in attendance, the concert also served as a reminder that some of the Charleston area's strongest arts programming often begins in local schools and community music programs. While the larger Spoleto and Piccolo festivals tend to spotlight internationally known performers and downtown venues, events like the Bobcat Chorale concert highlighted the role young local artists continue to play within the broader cultural celebration.

# Bobcat Chorale Brings Young West Ashley Voices to Piccolo Spoleto

## Drayton Hall Elementary students performed dream-inspired concert at Grace Church Cathedral

from Staff Reports

The Drayton Hall Elementary Bobcat Chorale has become known for its spirited performances and commitment to music education, and Tuesday's appearance gave the students an opportunity to perform as part of one of Charleston's most recognized annual arts festivals.

Audience members filled the cathedral pews as the students delivered a program centered on comfort, imagination, and the universal connection of music across cultures. Donations were accepted at the door, though admission to the concert was free.

Though West Ashley may not always land the spotlight during festival season, the evening proved the community was still well represented — this time through the voices of local elementary school students singing beneath the soaring ceilings of one of Charleston's most iconic churches.



Local musician Josh Rowe won the 2026 Souther Roots Smokin' Showcase.

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# DINING

“My vision for Fox and the Falcon was to create a wine bar that I wanted to go to.”  
— Ryan White, Fox and the Falcon owner

## Fox and the Falcon Takes Flight

New stylish wine bar Fox and the Falcon opens in Avondale

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

A hip new gathering place just opened in West Ashley. Fox and the Falcon gets its name and inspiration from two creatures long associated with the vineyard landscape. High above the vines, falcons help protect ripening grapes by keeping flocks of hungry birds at a distance. Along the ground, foxes quietly patrol the rows, helping control rodents and other pests. Though they move through different worlds, both play a role in maintaining the delicate balance that allows vineyards to thrive.

That sense of balance is at the heart of Fox and the Falcon. The stylish new wine shop and bar was created by

Ryan White as a gathering place where great wine, good conversation, and a spirit of discovery come together. It's a place to slow down, share a bottle, explore something new, and enjoy the connections that make wine culture so enduring.

“Opening a wine bar had been a dream of mine for over a decade,” says White. “It was an idea that had been in my head for quite some time. I was getting to a point in life where I wanted to work for myself, and I didn't want to look back and wonder what if?”

Although this is white's first foray into the food and beverage business, he says he didn't want to regret not chasing that dream. So he started looking at spaces to see if it made sense, and he found a perfect corner spot in the Avondale Business District along Savannah Highway.

“My vision for Fox and the Falcon was to create a wine bar that I wanted to go to,” says White. “A neighborhood spot where people can grab

a glass after work, or spend the evening exploring different wines with some small bites. We wanted it to be a cozy place where you can have a conversation in a comfortable atmosphere”

White says he's not trying to reinvent the wheel as far as wine bars go, but wanted to give customers a chance to try a wide array of quality wine by the glass, so they may possibly expand their horizons and find something different they might love (and maybe take home a bottle).

Fox and the Falcon offers several seating options: lounge on one of the couches, grab a seat at the bar, take a table up front with a view, or use the community table with a larger group.

“The vibe we were going for is comfortable and inviting, using warm colors and soft lighting. A place where you can catch up with a friend, or converse with the people around you at the bar,” says White.

In addition to a wide selection of wine, Fox and the Falcon also has a

handful of local beers and non-alcoholic wine options as well. As far as food goes, there is currently a small menu featuring charcuterie boards and a few small-plate options. White says there are plans to expand food offerings to include some pressed sandwiches and salad options.

“We definitely want to host some small events and tastings,” says White. “We have a long list of ideas that we can't wait to roll out.”

**Fox and the Falcon is located at 829-B Savannah Hwy. For more information, call (843) 805-9520 or visit [www.foxandthefalcon.com](http://www.foxandthefalcon.com).**



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# Cultivating Connection

Parks Conservancy celebrates the official opening of the Ashleyville-Maryville Food Forest

from Staff Reports

The Charleston Parks Conservancy celebrated the opening of the Ashleyville-Maryville Food Forest with a May 16 ribbon-cutting, revitalizing a historic West Ashley green space with roots in agriculture and community gardening to create a long-term neighborhood asset that provides free produce for residents.

The Ashleyville-Maryville neighborhood and the site selected for the food forest share a long history tied to agriculture and community gardening dating back to the 1800s. Before sitting vacant, the property along the West Ashley Bikeway served as farmland and later as a neighborhood-led community garden. Today, the revitalized space includes fig, peach, lemon, and grapefruit trees; blackberry and strawberry plantings; shiitake mushroom logs; herbs; and pollinator-friendly plantings designed to provide free, seasonal organic harvests for residents while supporting biodiversity and long-term sustainability.

Remarks during the ribbon cutting were provided by Jason Kronsberg, executive director of the Charleston Parks Conservancy; Wendell Gilliard, South Carolina state representative; neighborhood representatives; Conservancy board members; and project sponsors.

"Parks are some of the most visible and accessible public spaces in a neighborhood," said Kronsberg. "This project shows how they can also become places that feed people, teach new skills, and bring communities together."

The project builds on the success of the Mulberry Food Forest, launched by the Conservancy in 2024 as the first public food forest of its kind in South Carolina. The Ashleyville-Maryville Food Forest expands that model into another Charleston neighborhood while reinforcing the Conservancy's vision for parks as active public spaces woven into daily community life.

The site also features the Harvest Hub, a free-standing educational resource with tools and information to help visitors learn how to harvest from and care for the food forest through future workshops and volunteer opportunities.

The Ashleyville-Maryville Food Forest proposal was brought to the Conservancy by community member Tyler Corsello in late 2024 and progressed through design, City review, community engagement, infrastructure and site preparation, and a fall 2025 installation before culminating in the ribbon-cutting celebration. Key project partners include the City of Charleston, which provided the land, the Ashleyville-Maryville Neighborhood Association, and Bank of America and the Volvo for Life Fund, whose grant funding supports the project.

"At Bank of America, we believe that economic opportunity and community health are inseparable," said Mark Munn, President, Bank of America Charleston. "Investing in



a place like the Ashleyville-Maryville food forest provides pathways to opportunity. It is the kind of investment that empowers our communities and guides our work across the Lowcountry."

***The Ashleyville-Maryville Food Forest is located off of the West Ashley Bikeway on 5th Avenue. For more information, visit [www.charlestonparksconservancy.org](http://www.charlestonparksconservancy.org).***



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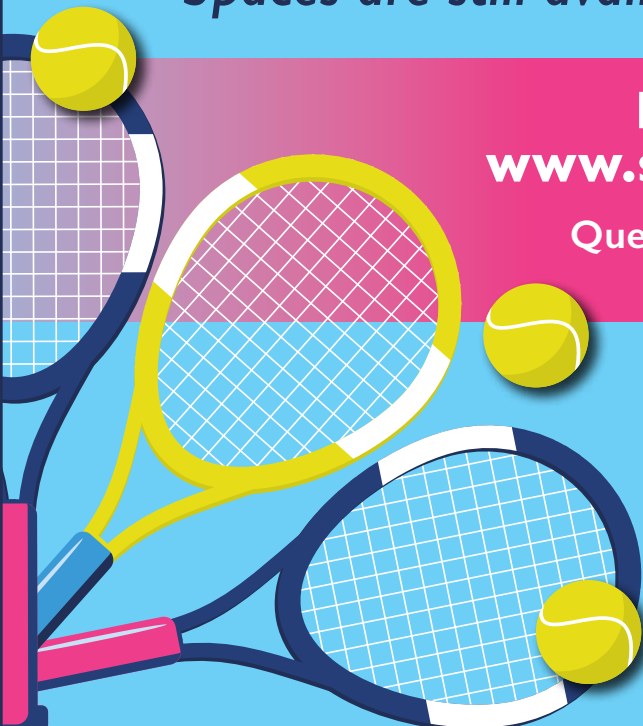

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# COMMUNITY

“To be in a place with so much history and being entwined with the community is overwhelming.”  
— Joshua Singleton, St. Andrew’s Parks Foundation president



## Leave Your Mark

Community members are buying inscribed bricks to support St. Andrew’s Parks



**Former St. Andrew’s Parks & Playground athletic director Joshua Singleton now leads the park’s Legacy Foundation**

I’ve long been jealous of people whose names are inscribed in the bricks on King St. How did I miss that opportunity?

I’ve considered taking a black marker into town on a Second Sunday to write my name on a brick for a photo op. When I walk that stretch around Society Street, I spend more time looking at my feet than the traffic. I’ve found friends’ names, alongside Jimmy Buffet and Shepard Fairey.

My home is West Ashley now, so when St. Andrew’s Parks & Playground offered inscribed bricks. I jumped right on it.

I was soon invited to a reception at Home Team BBQ. My brick donation included me as a donor to the new Legacy Foundation. Free BBQ, right? Along with other supporters, I got a glimpse into what St. Andrew’s Parks & Recreation means to our community and saw firsthand the respect and affection families had for President of the park’s freshly minted Legacy Foundation, Joshua Singleton.

Married to wife Alisha, the couple have two sons, Jason and Liam. Originally from Loris, SC, Joshua had been Athletic Director at SAPP since 2018 and is well familiar with the meaningful history the park shares with families in our neighborhood.

The park was started in 1945 by a group of parents on Playground Road. St. Andrew’s Parks & Playground is South Carolina’s oldest active park district hosting some active

families for as many as four generations.

“To be in a place with so much history and being entwined with the community is overwhelming,” said Singleton.

The staff is all hands on deck for popular upcoming summer programs and camps. Camp spots for children ages 5 to 12, filled within 45 minutes of registration opening in March.

“Considering all our programs on Playground Road (Athletics, Afterschool, Summer Camp, and Tennis) we have over 5,100 annual participants,” said Singleton.

I loved hearing about the history of the park, the overwhelming success of their

programs and the black and white pictures of past programs including a popular Boxing Program.

Excited about building for the future, Joshua is hopeful that the new Legacy Foundation will allow them to revamp and grow the scholarship program. They’ve already awarded more scholarships this year than ever before. They’d like to add programs, welcome more participants and eventually dream of building a new gym.

So join me, make a donation or buy a brick for \$75 and make a difference in our community.

They have already placed their 4th order of inscribed bricks since the program recently

reactivated. We walked around, admiring mine of course, and reading the inscriptions on bricks, from thanking favored coaches at the end of a season, in memory of loved ones, for particular students or to surprise or honor friends and family members, and a fun, “Look Alive, Kyle!” sports shout out.

**For more information on how to support the SAPP Foundation or order your brick visit [www.standrewsparksfoundation.com](http://www.standrewsparksfoundation.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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# Returning to the Rodeo

Rodeos were part of the culture in St. Andrew's Parish

Who remembers the rodeo in West Ashley?

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit a friend who lives in Drayton on the Ashley. As I entered the neighborhood, I thought about the *West Ashley Flashback* from 2017, where I relayed Norma Flood Hancock's story about the rodeo. Time to pull this fun story out of the archives and share again.

Calf roping, barrel racing, bronc busting, and bull riding are exciting events at a rodeo. For most of us this evokes thoughts of the more western section of our country; however, rodeos were once part of the culture in St. Andrew's Parish, west of the Ashley River.

In 1958, Ollie Flood, Jr, J E Warren, and Ollie's brother Charles Flood formed the Charleston Rodeo Club. Previously, this group had functioned as the Boots and Saddle Horsemen's Club of Charleston County. Charles Flood, President of this group, was interviewed for a March 1958 *News & Courier* article. In this article, he expressed hope that the Boots and Saddle club would eventually have enough members to host a rodeo.

The love of riding and roping was strong with these men and thus the dream of staging their own rodeo was an easy one to make come true. In two short years, the men had pulled together and built an arena on leased property near Pierpont on the Ashley. In August of 1960, the Charleston Rodeo Club held a two-day grand opening at this new arena located eight miles from Charleston on Highway 61. In addition to bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, and barrel racing, the grand opening included two unique events: wild cow milking, a team event for two men, and a trick horse act.

For Ollie Flood's daughter, Norma, these are very fond memories. Rodeo activities were a family affair. Her father was involved in all aspects of the club and was a calf roper in his own right. Her mother, Amelia



*Frankie Flood on the Palomino he rode for calf roping competitions and Norma Flood on the Marsh Tacky she rode for barrel racing competitions at the Charleston Rodeo Club arena on Highway 61. (Photograph by Thomas Clifton and shared courtesy of Norma Flood Hancock)*

May Clifton Flood (known affectionately as Wedgie), sold tickets for the rodeos held at the new arena. Wedgie's brother, Thomas S. Clifton, photographed the competitions. Norma routinely competed in the barrel racing events on her Marsh Tacky, and her younger brother Frankie competed in calf roping on his Palomino.

At the annual show held after the grand opening of the new arena in November of 1960, Frankie won first place in the calf roping division according to an article that ran under *City News* in the November 28, 1960 edition of *Charleston Evening Post*.

By June of 1965, the owners of the property had visions of development. The Bees Ferry Company submitted a plat for Section I of Drayton on the Ashley subdivision and the arena succumbed to the bulldozer.

**Have horse riding stories? Contact Donna Jacobs at [westashleybook@gmail.com](mailto:westashleybook@gmail.com).**



*George Hull on the bull. Did he hang on or fall off? (Photograph by Thomas Clifton and shared courtesy of Norma Flood Hancock)*



*Great action shot taken by Thomas Clifton and shared courtesy of Norma Flood Hancock*

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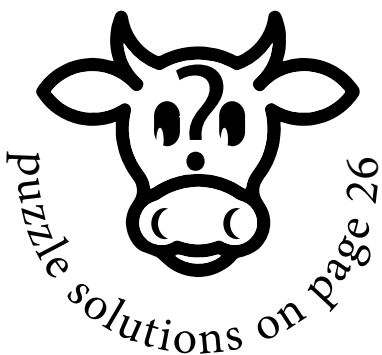


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	9		8					5
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1								
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## TRIVIA

### 1. LATE NIGHT

What media mogul is the host of Comic's Unleashed, the new show CBS is airing in Stephen Colbert's former late-night spot?

### 2. POLITICS

What former star of reality show The Hills is running for mayor of Los Angeles?

### 3. MUSIC

Who became the first artist to hold all three top spots on the Billboard 200?

### 4. POLITICS

What long-time Kentucky senator lost his primary bid last month after clashing with President Trump?

### 5. SPORTS

What MMA legend ended a nine-and-a-half-year absence last month by submitting her opponent with her signature armbar in just 17 seconds?

### 6. BEER

What legendary beer brand is being discontinued after 177 years?

### 7. TELEVISION

What's the new AMC vampire show that features Ann Rice's classic blood-sucking character as a modern rock star?

### 8. MOVIES

What small-budget horror film, directed by 26-year-old Curry Barker, has grossed over \$100 million despite costing less than \$1 million to make?

### ACROSS

- 1. Highly skilled
- 6. Manila hemp
- 11. Metric unit of capacity
- 12. Pours
- 15. Countenance
- 16. Eternally
- 17. Evil spirit
- 18. To provide maintenance
- 20. Black bird
- 21. See the sights
- 23. Apiece
- 24. Assists
- 25. Initial wager
- 26. Skin disease
- 27. Carpenter's tool
- 28. Strong cleaners
- 29. Dog with a wrinkly face
- 30. Not younger
- 31. Too keen
- 34. Team
- 36. Falsehood
- 37. Ages
- 41. Kick
- 42. Digestive juice
- 43. Kitchen or bathroom \_\_\_\_\_
- 44. Electrical distribution system

- 45. Labyrinth
  - 46. Fizzy drink
  - 47. Petroleum
  - 48. In an exposed manner
  - 51. Make lace
  - 52. Woven together
  - 54. First-aid item
  - 56. Robber
  - 57. Go-between
  - 58. Clothe
  - 59. Scope
- ### DOWN
- 1. Payment to an ex
  - 2. Argument
  - 3. Greek letter
  - 4. Clothespins
  - 5. Tall woody plant
  - 6. Consultant's offering
  - 7. Kind of nut
  - 8. Unot of land
  - 9. A rotating disk
  - 10. Coat electrolytically
  - 13. Dealer
  - 14. Stitches
  - 15. Critical
  - 16. Converted to Christianity
  - 19. Happen again

- 22. Echo
- 24. House location
- 26. Mimicked
- 27. Beer
- 30. Curved molding
- 32. Tank
- 33. Was laid up
- 34. Run very fast
- 35. Worked patchwork
- 38. Carousing
- 39. Moderate in tempo
- 40. Glide over ice
- 42. Bread makers
- 44. Leaves
- 45. Flowing tresses
- 48. Egyptian river
- 49. Teller of untruths
- 50. Eastern discipline
- 53. Armed conflict
- 55. Lair



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**FITNESS & RECREATION**

**Bees Landing Recreation Center**

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  - **Indoor Pickleball** — Mon., Wed. & Fri., 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (\$2/ resident, \$4 non-resident)

**St. Andrew's Parks & Playground**

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- **Youth Tennis Camp** — June 1-August 7, Register at www.standrewspark.com, contact Phil Burke (843) 763-4360.
- **'26 Fall Youth Sports Registration** — Baseball (ages 5-14), Softball (ages 7-12), Cross Country (ages 7-15), Volleyball (ages 7-14), Early registration June 22-28, \$55 PSD residents/ \$85 non-PSD residents. Regular registration June 29-July 12, \$70 PSD residents/ \$100 non- PSD residents. Late registration (based on availability) July 13-17, \$90 PSD residents/ \$120 non-PSD residents.

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**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

**Charleston Parks Conservancy** Visit [www.charlestonparkconservancy.org](http://www.charlestonparkconservancy.org) for more information.

- **Flower Field Day:** Pick Your Own Bouquet— June 20, 10am-12pm, Magnolia Community Garden, 720 Magnolia Rd., \$2 per stem. RSVP encouraged.
- **Early Morning Bird Walk** — June 20, 7:30–9:30 a.m., Carr-Richardson Park, 1071 Bender St., advanced registration required

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**ccprc.com**

- **Early Morning Bird Walks** — Wednesdays & Saturdays 8:30-10:30am, \$12, all ages
  - **Understanding Rice Culture**— June 13, 11am-12:30pm, \$12, ages 16+
  - **Beginner Nature Photography for Master Naturalist** — June 18, 9:30am-4pm, \$50, ages 18+
  - **Mystic Moths** — June 27, 8-9:30pm, \$20, ages 12+
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- **Archaeology Explorers: Hands-On Discovery Morning** — Various dates in June, 11am & 2pm
- **Dining Detectives: Ceramic Mending Game** — June 6, 10-11am
- **Great Guns on the Ashley** (Artillery Demonstration) — June 6 & July 4 1-3:20pm
- **Artifact Glow & Tell: Lighting Up the Science of the**

**Past** — June 13, 10-11am  
• **Canvassing for Clues: Artifact Seek & Find** — June 20, 10-11am

**Magnolia Plantation & Gardens**

3550 Ashley River Rd., (843) 571-1266, [www.magnoliaplantation.com](http://www.magnoliaplantation.com)

- **Speaker Series w/ Genya Watson** — June 17, 6:30-7:30pm, Free w/ pre-registration
- **Gullah Doll Making Class** — June 13, 3-5pm, \$65
- **Living Legacies: A Juneteenth Commemoration** — June 19, 10am-4pm, Included w/ admission

**Drayton Hall**

3380 Ashley River Rd., (843) 769-2600, [www.draytonhall.org](http://www.draytonhall.org)

- **Celebrate Carolina Day** — June 28, Free, pre-registration is required

**Middleton Place**

4300 Ashley River Rd., (843) 556-6020, [www.middleton-place.org](http://www.middleton-place.org)

- **Art of Needle Felting Workshop** — June 4, 6-8pm, \$95, \$90/member

- **Museum Shop Artist Pop-Up, Carolina Artworks** — June 4, 1-4pm
- **Colonial Indigo Dyeing in the Stableyards** — June 13, 12-2pm, Free w/ admission
- **Museum Shop Artist Pop-Up, shells & Hand Painted Creations** — June 26, 1-4pm

**SENIOR PROGRAMS**

**Waring Senior Center**

2001 Henry Tecklenburg Dr. (843) 606-7877  
Offers yoga, Tai Chi, strength training, dance classes, art classes, and social activities for members and non-members.

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

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

**Art Classes**

Instruction in oils for all skill levels. Morning and evening classes and workshops. The Studio, 2408 Ashley River Rd., Unit N, (843) 766-5664

**Jewelry Making Classes**

Learn to create rings, earrings, and pendants while mastering basic jewelry-making techniques. Flexible scheduling and small groups. PDL Studio 52, pdlstudio52. artspan.com, Call Pat (843) 974-5422.

**Mahjong**

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Shadowmoss Pavilion (Clubhouse during rain) \$5 PIE. All skill levels welcome.


**West Ashley Writers Group**

4th Wednesday, 7–9 p.m. (Zoom) <https://www.facebook.com/westashleywritersgroup> Free. Writers of all genres welcome.

**Needlework & Sewing Groups**

- **American Needlepoint Guild** — 4th Tuesday, 10 a.m./ contact nancythechief@gmail.com.
- **Embroidery Guild of America** — 2nd Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
- **Sampler Guild of Charleston** — 4th Monday, 10 a.m.

**Charleston-based & New England-born food truck serving chowder, clam cakes, stuffies, Cape Cod reubens, shrimp rolls and more at our favorite places.**



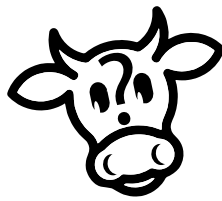
CO-HOG

FOR OUR FULL SCHEDULE, FOLLOW US ON  
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CATCH US POPPING UP AT THESE SPOTS THIS MONTH!

- JUNE 5** Town of James Island Market 6-9pm
- JUNE 6** Lowtide Brewing • 5-9pm
- JUNE 11** Charles Towne Fermentory Garden • 5-8pm
- JUNE 13** Sea Island Farmers Market 9:30am-1:30pm
- JUNE 18** Charles Towne Fermentory Garden • 5-8pm
- JUNE 27** House of Brews • 4-7pm

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**



**SUDOKU SOLUTION**

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

**TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. Byron Allen
2. Spencer Prattr
3. Drake
4. Thomas Massie
5. Ronda Rousey
6. Schlitz
7. The Vampire Lestat
8. Obsession

# Hey Ladies!

In addition to redfish, flounder, and trout, the lively ladyfish have entered the fray



should thread a size 3/0 circle hook through the hole where the flipper fin used to be, ensuring the hook point is fully exposed. There is no need to keep the rod in your hands, as it is often more effective to leave it in a rod holder. Once the rod begins to bend, resist the urge to pick it up until the drag starts screaming.

We are also finding consistent trout action on artificial lures, which offers an excellent alternative to traditional popping corks. Small plastics that mimic baitfish are getting crushed, with the Z-Man 3 3/4-inch StreakZ in Smoky Shad being an exceptional choice. When paired with a 1/8-ounce jighead, these lures work best when moved slowly through the water column. Anglers should note that trout will usually strike when the lure is lifted in a steady jiggling motion.

The flounder bite is picking up momentum as well. While we have been catching many fish using mud minnows under a popping cork, the traditional method of fishing finger mullet along the bottom near structure remains a prime technique. It is important to move the bait slowly and wait a few seconds after feeling a bite before



setting the hook.

Finally, ladyfish are becoming increasingly present as the water temperatures rise. These lively fish are incredibly entertaining due to their hard runs and acrobatic jumps. They will readily strike bait under a popping cork and are often found in the same spots as trout. One of my favorite summertime species.

*Since 2009, Capt. Geoff Bennett has operated Charleston Charter Fishing,*

*offering light-tackle charters. Clients choose from a full menu of artificial lures, live bait, and fly-fishing options, with charters tailored to their preferences. 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 [www.charlestoncharterfishing.com](http://www.charlestoncharterfishing.com), or email [captain@charlestoncharterfishing.com](mailto:captain@charlestoncharterfishing.com).*



## ST. ANDREW'S PARKS & PLAYGROUND

# 2026 Fall Youth Sports Registration

Register Online at [www.standrewsparks.com](http://www.standrewsparks.com)

**Baseball**  
AGES 5-14

**Softball**  
AGES 7-12

**Cross Country**  
AGES 7-15

**Volleyball**  
AGES 7-14

EARLY REGISTRATION: **June 22 - June 28**

*(\$55 St. Andrew's PSD Residents/\$85 Non-St. Andrew's PSD Residents)*

REGULAR REGISTRATION: **June 29 - July 12**

*(\$70 St. Andrew's PSD Residents/\$100 Non-St. Andrew's PSD Residents)*

LATE REGISTRATION: (Based on availability): **July 13 - July 17**

*(\$90 St. Andrew's PSD Residents/\$120 Non-St. Andrew's PSD Residents)*

We are always looking for volunteer coaches and team sponsors. Go to [www.standrewsparks.com](http://www.standrewsparks.com) for more information on how to become a volunteer coach or sponsor.



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