Your Community Magazine

BRYAN COUNTY MAGAZINE

HOME & GARDEN ISSUE



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May/June 2024


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CONTRIBUTORS

1. Leidy Lester is a freelance photographer from Bogota, Colombia, with 8 years experience. She has traveled and worked all over the United States. One of her proudest achievements is the work she did with models and highly experienced photographers in Las Vegas.

2. Erich Perez and his wife, Dr. Misty Seale are owners of iHeart Dental in Rincon. Erich's other role is founder and president of Kronos Media Productions and K&R Studios in Rincon. They specialize in videography and photography as well as sound and recording. Erich and his wife are avid Jeep enthusiasts and have 5 American Bulldogs. You can check them out at @gods.of.dogs on Instagram.

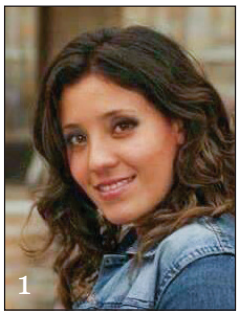
3. Stephen Prudhomme is a native of New Jersey who lived in Savannah and Rincon for 25 years before moving to Pikeville, TN, with his wife and son. He's written sports, features, news and business for a number of newspapers and magazines over nearly 40 years and likes table tennis, Frisbee and running.

4. Cindy Reid has been a freelance writer for over 15 years. She has been published extensively in *Effingham Magazine*, *Pooler Magazine*, and other lifestyle magazines. A native of New York's Hudson Valley, she embodies the saying "I wasn't born in the South but I got here as soon as I could." She can usually be found on a beach, a boat or at a pier at sunset.

5. Claire Sandow is a freelance graphic design and marketing professional who lives in Savannah with her husband, daughter and cat. She received a Mass Communication degree from Georgia College & State University. In her spare time, she enjoys pursuing her many hobbies, including knitting, crocheting, quilting and running.

6. Laura Zielinski is a freelance graphic designer specializing in print design. With more than 17 years experience, Laura enjoys shaping stories through meaningful design. When she's not working, she loves spending time with her husband Keith and their three beautiful children, Alli, Matt and Claire.

7. Mabel, morale officer, enjoys roaming the backyard, sitting for hours on the back porch and coming to the office to greet visitors and encourage the staff. Mabel loves getting treats and taking long naps in her mommy's office in the afternoons.


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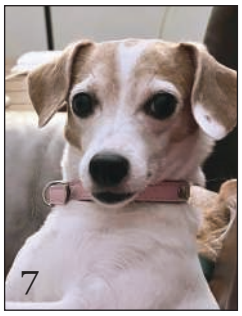

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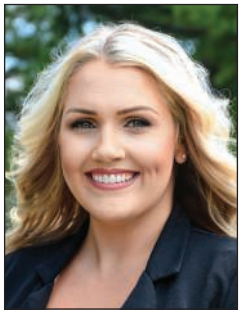

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Jan Southern, DPA
CEO/Publisher



Morris L. Southern
Chief Operations Officer



Christie Wilson
Director of Advertising



Penny Redmond
Distribution

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Your Community Magazine
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PUBLISHER
Jan Southern
Jan@JDelSURMarketing.com
912-318-8645

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER
Morris L. Southern
Morris@JDelSURMarketing.com

CLIENT SERVICES
Christie Wilson, Director of Advertising
Christie@JDelSURMarketing.com

DESIGN
Laura Zielinski

DISTRIBUTION
Penny Redmond

***Bryan County Magazine* is proudly produced by:**

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135 Goshen Rd Ext., Suite 251,
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(912) 295-5406
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Write and tell us what you think. *Bryan County Magazine* welcomes all letters to the editor. Please send letters via email to Jan Southern at Jan@JDelSURMarketing.com. Letters to the editor must have a phone number and name of contact. Phone numbers will not be published.

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Bryan County Magazine welcomes story ideas from our readers. If you have a story idea or photo essay you would like to share, please submit ideas and material by emailing Jan Southern at Jan@JDelSURMarketing.com.

Stories or ideas for stories must be submitted by email. Only feature stories and photo essays about people, places or things in the Bryan County area will be considered.

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Home & Garden Issue


Jan Southern

Spring has arrived at *Bryan County Magazine*. As the weather changes and the azaleas bloom, we invite you to peruse the **Home & Garden** issue of *Bryan County Magazine*! This issue is full of advice to make your surroundings more welcoming and recreational activities to help you savor each day in the beautiful Coastal Empire.

Now that the April showers have moved out, you might have noticed that your roof needs some maintenance. For local homeowners and commercial buildings, Mike Cannon—founder and owner of Michael's Roofing—is a name synonymous with honesty, integrity and dedication. He has been operating in the region for more than 40 years, driven by faith and family. Read his story on page 10.

The sun and warmth of spring might make you think about starting a garden. We have some expert advice from the team at Blackcreek Nursery to help you put down roots for a successful planting season. I can't wait to implement some of these tips in my own yard!

Spring is a great time to venture out in the community. The newly renovated Richmond Hill Library has a welcoming space for community gatherings and a wide selection of reading material available for checkout. This summer, they will host a series of programs for children, teens and adults to nurture the love of reading. Read more on page 40.

We also caught up with the Richmond Hill Soccer Club, which fields more than 60 recreational and competitive soccer teams covering ages 5-adults. This program has grown over the years and currently supports about 1,000 players. Under the leadership of executive director Charlie Morgan, they are thriving! Flip to page 20 to read more.

We hope this issue inspires you to make the most of spring and prepare for a fun summer.

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CEO/Publisher
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When it comes to health insurance, Melissa knows her stuff. She has been in the health insurance industry for 15 years, an independent insurance agent for five years and the sole proprietor of Stille-DeWitt Health Brokerage since 2020. As a specialist in Medicare, the federal health insurance program for recipients over and under 65, including those who have Medicare through Social Security Disability, Melissa can help navigate the sometimes difficult and complicated program. She also works with people utilizing the Health Insurance Marketplace® and some group insurances.

Not everyone's needs are the same, therefore their plans and options will be different."I do as much fact finding for individuals as I can because my clients range from 20 to 90 years old, and each one is different," Melissa says. "I ask questions about doctors, prescriptions, anything relevant to learn my clients specific health care needs so I can make the best match."

Insurance is complex and can be stressful for many people. Melissa will work with you to answer common questions such as:

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Health insurance rules, regulations and policy changes are constantly evolving on every level from federal to state and even county by county.

"I care about each and every one of my clients and I do a review of everyone's health policies every year, because there are so many changes annually, to ensure you are getting the best possible policy for your current needs," Melissa says.

Her commitment to her clients continues even after you enroll in a health care plan. "If you get a bill that you don't understand, call me, text me a picture of it and together we will figure it out."

Melissa gives every client her cell number—it is even in all of her advertising so that every one, even future clients can feel comfortable reaching out to her. She lives locally and has an office in Effingham, but for the quickest response call her cell—(912) 239-7119.

"I look forward to getting your call and helping you determine your best health care options."

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ABOUT THE COVER



Mike Cannon—owner of Michael's Roofing—brings honesty, integrity, and dedication to all aspects of his business and his life.

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HOME &
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MIKE CANNON & FAMILY

A Legacy of Dedication to Our Area

Story by Cindy Reid | Photography by Erich Perez



Honesty. Integrity. Dedication to giving customers the very best product and service possible. Call it old school. Some—most—say it has disappeared. To those we say, meet Mike Cannon. There are two things you can count on—the quality of a roof from Michael's Roofing, and the word of founder and owner Mike Cannon.

"I am most proud of my faith," says Mike, "In my belief in Jesus Christ because we wouldn't be where we are without him, and other than that, I am most proud of my word. My daddy taught me you are only as good as your word. If you can't keep that, what else have you got?"

Michael's Roofing is the leading residential and commercial roofing service provider throughout Savannah, Georgia, coastal South Carolina and much of the surrounding areas. Mike stands squarely behind his company's work. In fact, his name is on every roof. "When I was new at it, I would take chalk and write 'Michael's Roofing' on the black felt."

Today the company has the roofing felt printed with their name on it. When you have a roof from Michael's Roofing, they are proud to claim it.

A Local Business

Being a locally owned, family-run business means the dedicated staff at Michael's Roofing knows you, knows your needs, and works with you to address your specific situation. Customers deal directly with a team member, from the initial estimate to the completed roof. Homeowners are treated as if they were Mike's own family. From new roofs to skylights, the work will be done correctly, in a timely manner, resulting in a safe and dry home.

Being the only local roofer who is certified by Owens Corning, GAF and CertainTeed guarantees you superior product quality, top-notch workmanship, and strong warranties. In addition to craftsmanship, Michael's Roofing offers a wide selection of roofing choices, from shingles and slate to metal, in a variety of aesthetically pleasing colors that will enhance the value of your property.

> "I am most proud of my faith—in my belief in Jesus Christ...and other than that, I am most proud of my word."

Their commercial work encompasses everything from warehouses to large buildings. Michael's Roofing wants your business, but more importantly they want your satisfaction. After decades in business, they have established long term relationships with their clients who inevitably become repeat customers. Their many referrals from existing clients are their ultimate compliment.

Choosing a Licensed Roofer

Mike wants people to be cautious when hiring a roofer. Even if they don't choose him, he urges customers to select a licensed and insured company. "We just want to reach out to our community and warn against unlicensed out of town roofers posing as locals," he says, "Anyone with an ID can walk in the door and buy a business license, which is not the same as being a licensed roofer and usually they don't have workers comp or liability insurance."

Licensed roofers carry insurance coverage such as liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance. This protects the customer against any liability for costs related to workers damaging your property or getting injured on the job. Mike advises customers to insist on seeing insurance documentation. "You can put anything you want in an ad, so companies claim 20 years experience, which they usually don't have," he says.

Because Michael's Roofing is a licensed roofing contractor you can trust they have up to date knowledge in the best practices in roofing installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement. They will get the work done right the first time, something you can't say about unlicensed roofers.

Community Ties

Being an integral part of their community is crucial to Mike's business and work ethic. "We have been here





all our lives. Grew up here, started our business here. Heck, my kids graduated from Effingham county schools."

After more than 40 years, Mike still gets up on a roof and swings a hammer. He says, "I get up on roofs because every roof is as important to me as the first roof. I get out there and work with my crew. I believe if you tell a homeowner you are going to roof their house then you should show up to their house."

The core crew at Michael's Roofing has been with him a long time. "My crew, bless their hearts, I can't say enough about them," he says, "My personal crew has been with me since they were kids, some 20 to 25 years now." They often perform the specialty and sheet metal craftsman work because, "I know they can do it and do it very well," says Mike.

And it really is a family business. Mike's wife Lisa worked alongside him in their home office for years until God sent Crystal. She became Mike's right AND left hand. Her dedication and loyalty to Michael's Roofing over the last 15 years has been a true blessing.

Today, Mike's daughter Sheree and granddaughter Marissa work alongside her in the office as the business continues to grow.



> "We strive to make the name Michael's Roofing synonymous with exceptional quality, craftsmanship, and customer service."

Humble Beginnings and Hard Work

Mike says his drive comes from his humble beginnings. "I came from poverty and didn't want my kids and grandkids to go through what I did." As a teenager he worked for his cousin's company Cannon's Roofing and Remodeling. "My cousin Jimmy would pick me up from school and I would pick up roofing trash. That was the first job I ever had that paid me money."

He quickly learned on the job and at the young age of 21 he set off on his own. "I used my first name and started 'Michael's Roofing'. Pretty soon I was the fourth largest company in Savannah."

Being a business owner meant Mike put in the long hours. "I used to get up at four AM and pick the crew up, work all day till pitch dark, and drive everybody home. Then I would work at home till midnight returning phone calls and putting together contracts. Get up in the morning and go at it again." That was the grind six days a week for 18 years before he felt comfortable enough to ease up on the grueling schedule.

Mike's advice for business owners: Keep your word. Honor your agreements. Be loyal to your crew. If you clock in and out or think of your business as a job, you won't be successful. At the end of the day take care of the business and the business will take care of you.

Hatch

You can't talk about Michael's Roofing, or Mike, without talking about his dog Hatch. The name derives from the roofing hammer tool, called a hatchet, but everyone knows him as Hatch.

"He's our mascot," says Mike. Hatch has been on plenty of roofs himself, including one memorable day where he slid off of a pollen covered roof, only to bounce up and play frisbee with the neighbors next door. He goes to work every day, sitting in the front seat of Mike's truck. And Hatch gets his own breakfast at Chick-fil-A every day—a breakfast sandwich and sweet tea in a pup cup.

And rumor has it that Hatch sleeps in bed alongside Mike and wife Lisa. Granddaughter Marissa says, "He would share a bowl with that dog!" Mike laughs and says, "Customers know me as 'the man with the dog!'"

Family Man

Mike's family includes Lisa—his wife of 27 years—3 daughters and 9 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Mike jokes, "I used to like my children and grandchildren but now I have a great grandbaby who is my favorite!"

A close family, his daughter Brandy went to work with him from a young age. "I would take her to work with me, put a rope around her waist and tie her off to a tree or chimney so she wouldn't wander off and she would have a coloring book to keep her busy. Every morning she would stand by the truck ready to go."

Today he spends most of his free time outdoors working around the house or hunting and fishing at his farm in Sylvania. He and Lisa enjoy riding their motorcycles or jet skis and spending time with their grandkids.

Legacy

Knowing they have helped their community means the world to Mike and Lisa. Lisa says, "Over the past four decades, homeowners have been sending us handwritten letters, thanking us for taking care of them and their roofing needs. Every letter is kept in a file, and every personal note copied and saved in scrapbooks."

Handwritten letters have now evolved to online reviews which are cherished just as deeply, printed and saved just the same. This is done in hopes that the future generation of Michael's Roofing understands the true meaning of honesty, integrity, and dedication

The Bible verse Proverbs 22 (KJV) verse—*A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches*—is very meaningful to Mike because, "we strive to make the name Michael's Roofing synonymous with exceptional quality, craftsmanship, and customer service. Everything we do—installing your roof, working with your insurance company on storm claims, and the behind the scenes of our business—reflects that goal."

Get in Touch

If you'd like to reach out to Michael and his team for an estimate call (GA) 912.748.6888 or (SC) 843.689.9939 or visit their website www.michaelsroofingsavannah.com. ■


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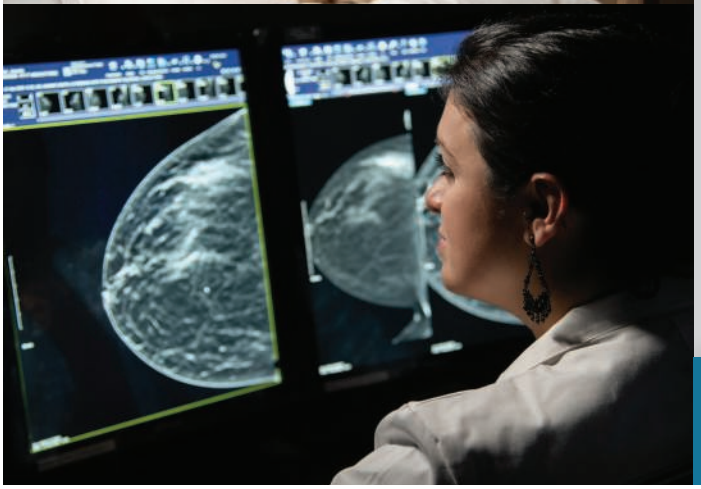
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Sept./Oct.:	*Anniversary Issue/**Best of Pooler***
Nov./Dec.:	*Shop Local/Holiday Issue*

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KICKING INTO HIGH GEAR:
Richmond Hill Soccer Club Thrives Under Leadership of Former Professional Player

Story by Stephen Prudhomme | Photography by Erich Perez





In this country, the days of soccer being a niche sport and players arriving for practice and games in minivans have largely ended. An explosive growth fueled by the success of the women's national team and the formation of professional leagues has kicked soccer into the company of cool sports.

Around the country, teams and leagues are forming, providing a growing pool of talent to compete at a world class level and subsequently add to soccer's cool quotient. It all starts at the local level and with such programs as the Richmond Hill Soccer Club (RHSC).

The club, the ninth largest in the state and the third largest as far as recreation players, has been around for 10 years and features recreation and competitive squads for youngsters and adult teams. There are 50 to 60 youth recreation teams and 10 competitive teams. Four teams make up the adult sector. Games are played at DeVaul Henderson Park in Richmond Hill.

Richmond Hill Soccer Club

RHSC is a non-profit club offering recreational, developmental and competitive youth soccer to foster character, community and love for the game of soccer. The club—as stated on its website—promotes technical and tactical soccer skills, physical and mental development, self-confidence, teamwork and respect of self and others. Its mission is to push each player to reach his or her full potential while providing an optimum experience. Its goal, pardon the pun, is to serve as many players as possible in Richmond Hill and the surrounding areas with a first-class soccer club experience.

> "RHSC's goal, pardon the pun, is to serve as many players as possible in Richmond Hill and the surrounding areas with a first-class soccer club experience."

Although RHSC serves Savannah, Fort Stewart, Hinesville, Jesup, Pooler, Hunter AAF, Effingham County and other surrounding areas, the majority of its players are local. "It's truly a community club," said executive director Charlie Morgan. "Ninety-five percent of the players are local."

Charlie Morgan: An Executive Director with Soccer Credentials

Morgan, 61, has been the executive director since 2020. His soccer resume is an impressive one, both as a player and coach.

Growing up in Atlanta, Morgan started with youth soccer and continued to play through high school. "I always wanted to play soccer as a kid," said Morgan, a defender on the pitch.

Morgan played at Georgia State University for two years before transferring to Clemson University. That proved to be a good move. The Tigers won the national championship in 1984. While many soccer players head to the sidelines following college, Morgan wasn't one of them.

He played pro indoor soccer for seven years, competing for teams in Cleveland, Atlanta and Kansas City. "It was a fantastic feeling to fulfill a dream of playing professional soccer," Morgan said. "It was a magical feeling to get paid to play a game you'd play for free."

Morgan wasn't quite ready to hang up his cleats. He played semipro before embarking on a managerial career that included serving as an assistant with the Clemson University men's team, coaching the Atlanta Magic in the United States Indoor Soccer League, and working as assistant coach and head coach with the Atlanta Ruckus.

In 1999, Morgan transitioned to a different level of soccer and became director of coaching for a youth team in Peachtree City and remained there for three years. He took the same position with the AFC Lightning in Peachtree City for two years before being hired as athletic director and soccer coach at Frederica Academy on St. Simon's Island. The partnership was a successful one. Over the next seven years, he led the boys' and girls' teams to 13 state titles. "It was a fantastic opportunity," Morgan said.

In 2015, Morgan came to Savannah and coached the Savannah United youth soccer team for two years. He went back to Atlanta and coached youth soccer clubs until 2020, when an opportunity came to return to coastal Georgia. "A friend in Savannah told me about the executive director position," said Morgan, who still coaches a team and heads up the day-to-day operation of the club.

Big Time Talent, Small Town Feel

Under Morgan's direction, the number of club players has increased twofold in the past two to three years. He attributes the growth to professional soccer becoming popular in this country and getting top notch coaches; individuals coaching



Academy and Select teams are paid and licensed through the United States Soccer Federation. Despite having some 1,000 players, RHSC retains a small town feel.

"We're not too big to get to know the players," Morgan said. "It's still a small town. I interact with the kids all over town. It's a great thing. I like being part of a child's life."

One of the 1,000 or so players Morgan has interacted with in town and on the field is Wyatt DuBois, 15, a freshman at Richmond Hill High School. DuBois has played for the Richmond Hill Soccer Club for seven years. He's a member of the Select 16-17 team coached by his father, Dana.

"I enjoy playing for my dad," said DuBois, a central midfielder. "He helps me a lot. I've gotten a lot better because of him. He's a little tougher on me, but that's what you expect."

DuBois started out on a Recreation team, qualified for an Academy squad and was subsequently chosen to play on a Select team. He said he's enjoyed being part of the club at all three levels.

"I like the environment and teams I've played on," he said. "We worked well together. On the select team, we've improved so much from the start."

DuBois just completed his first season on the junior varsity team at Richmond Hill High School. He said his experience playing on a Select team made it easier to compete in high school. DuBois and the club have thrived under Morgan's leadership.

"A lot of the stuff he does out of his own funding," DuBois said. "The club used to be at rock bottom. Now we're on the rise. He's been a huge help."

Soccer, the teen noted, has been a big part of his life. He said he likes how the game works and how the ball is moved around. As a central midfielder, DuBois helps out on offense and defense and enjoys distributing the ball.

Remarking he'd like to play in college, DuBois understands how tough it is to compete at that level and said he'll try his best to make it. Even if he falls short of that goal, DuBois won't abandon the pitch. "I'll keep playing soccer when I'm older," he said. "It's really fun."

DuBois' father can attest to the lifetime appeal of soccer. As with Morgan, he started as a player and then moved into the coaching ranks.

DuBois competed in soccer as a youngster and continued through high school and college, playing goalie at Husson College, in Bangor, Maine. He said his ultimate goal was to coach, and he got his chance with a YMCA rec team in Ohio.

> "Charlie came in at a rough time, during Covid. His demeanor has helped. He has great patience. It's all about the kids and making them better."

Upon moving to Richmond Hill, he found out about RHSC through a friend and enrolled Wyatt in the Recreation program. DuBois became acquainted with his son's coach and was brought on as assistant coach for the fall season and subsequently coached a team in the spring season. That led to a coaching position in the Academy program followed by his current position as coach of the Select 16-17 boys' team. DuBois has coached the team for five years.

"The boys are great," said DuBois, who serves as board treasurer and also helps coach some of the girls' teams. "They're all my kids. The families are amazing."

The club, DuBois noted, tries to keep things simple by making soccer fun and teaching players the right way to do things on and off the pitch.

"We teach them to be good people and learn life skills," he said. "It's not always just about wins. I'm seeing improvement every year."

His Select team competed in the Georgia Soccer Fall League against squads from Tifton, Atlanta, Millidgeville and others during a 10-game schedule and finished second in a November tournament.

"We're still learning," DuBois said. "We played three solid games and were a little burned out by the time we got to the championship game. The boys played well." Of the 19 players on his team, 11 are playing junior varsity and two varsity in high school, according to DuBois.

Teaching the Basics

DuBois recognizes not all the club players aspire to play in college or beyond. That's why the club's philosophy is to start with the basic skills at the Rec level and focus on the fun aspects of the sport and teaching life skills. "The Recreation program (U6-U14) has grown dramatically," DuBois said. "Every Saturday the fields are full of games."

For those players who want to continue in the sport, the Academy and Select (U13-U19) programs build on the basic skills while offering more challenging competition. DuBois said 30 boys and girls are in the Academy program, which offers play (U6-U9) against outside teams. The Select teams, he added, go farther to compete against other travel squads.

DuBois, like his son, credited Morgan with the vibrancy and growth of the club.

"Charlie came in at a rough time, during Covid," DuBois said. "His demeanor has helped. He has great patience. It's never an ego thing with him. It's all about the kids and making them better. Are they enjoying it? Charlie's brought an acceptance to everyone. He's brought in good coaches and comes to the meetings and training sessions. Charlie's always helping out." ■


capelli
RICHMOND HILL



GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY & JUNE

From Blackcreek Nursery & Garden

As we transition into the gardening months of May and June, your to-do list for the garden is brimming with tasks. The threat of frost and freezes is long gone, making it the perfect time for your garden to flourish with color and life.

Gardenias, Hydrangeas, Butterfly Bushes, Lantana, and an array of plants are now blooming, attracting butterflies, bees, and dragonflies. While the warmer weather brings forth blooms, it also brings challenges such as damaging insects, heat stress, and weed growth. Here are some valuable tips to ensure your garden looks its best with minimal effort!

Planting

Despite the approaching summer, it's never too late to plant in southeast Georgia, as long as you focus on three crucial factors: water, mulch, and nutrients.

Watering Needs: During the warmer months, plants require more water. Regularly monitor both newly planted and established plants. Supplement with irrigation as needed, ensuring all sprayers or drip lines are functional. If hand watering, ensure water reaches the plant roots effectively.

Mulch: A natural mulch like straw, bark, or leaves offers numerous benefits. It beautifies the garden, suppresses weeds, maintains root moisture, cools the soil, and enriches the soil with essential nutrients. Avoid synthetic mulches as they lack these advantages.

Nutrients: Provide your plants with a balanced diet by using the right fertilizer based on their specific requirements. Grass fertilizers are not good for bedding plants! Liquid fertilizers require regular applications, while granular fertilizers offer immediate or extended benefits. Always follow label instructions to prevent over-fertilization.



Weeds in the Garden

Weeds are a significant threat to garden health, competing for resources and potentially causing harm. Natural weed control methods, such as generous mulching and using biodegradable materials like cardboard, are recommended over herbicides. If opting for chemical control, choose organic products carefully and follow label instructions to minimize harm to plants, pets, and pollinators. Even organics can be harmful to pollinators if not used according to the label.

Insects

With summer comes a variety of insects, both beneficial and harmful. Different insects require specific control methods. Beneficial insects such as ladybugs and dragonflies play a vital role in pest control and should be preserved. For pest control, consider natural solutions like oils or insecticidal soaps that are safe for plants and pets.

It is important before you spray any chemical that you know for sure what you're spraying for. You may think you're spraying for an insect when you may have a fungal problem. If you don't know, ask a professional.

“By following these tips, you can maintain a thriving garden throughout May and June, filled with colorful blooms, buzzing pollinators, and healthy plant growth.”

Pruning

May and June are ideal for pruning shrubs, trees, and plants, allowing them to recover before the colder months. It's essential to know which plants should not be pruned after June, such as those that bloom on last year's growth. Here are a few plants that you don't want to prune after June.

- Old-fashioned hydrangeas bloom on last year's growth so prune after they bloom but not after June. Panicle hydrangeas always bloom on the current year's growth, so those are ok.
- Blueberries and some blackberries produce berries on last year's growth, so you can prune lightly but not heavily after June.
- Camellias are another plant you don't want to prune after June. They start to set bud in mid-summer and pruning them now can keep them from blooming this next season.

Irrigation Evaluation

As summer approaches, it's crucial to assess your irrigation system. Ensure timers are working correctly, replace faulty components, and plan watering schedules to provide adequate hydration to your plants.

By following these tips, you can maintain a thriving garden throughout May and June, filled with colorful blooms, buzzing pollinators, and healthy plant growth.

Happy gardening! ■





BRYAN COUNTY Happenings

PEMBROKE, GA



WILDCATS BASEBALL



EASTER EGG HUNT & PICNIC



Richmond Hill Kiwanis Club & Diversability Inc. on their Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic for children with exceptional needs along with Richmond Hill Fire Department

OLD PEMBROKE HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUES TO OFFER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The old Pembroke High School (The Dingle Building), currently closed to the public, continues to offer learning opportunities for future generations. The INDS 4446: Interior Design 5, guided by Professor Beth McGee, from the Georgia Southern University School of Human Ecology on their services learning project for design recommendations for the Dingle Building.





GEOVISTA 60 YEAR CELEBRATION



THE HILL GIVES BACK EVENT



L to R: Andre , Board of Directors Operation Kid Forward, Brooke Coll, event co-founder, Nisha Giustino, President Of Operation Kid, Heather Kersey: Director of Programs and Services, Family Promise and Vernon Donovan, VP, Operation Kid Forward

EASY IDEAS TO STRETCH YOUR RETIREMENT BUDGET: Ways Seniors Can Save on Enjoyable Activities





Retirement may mean you have unlimited time to enjoy each day, but it doesn't mean you have a budget to match.

You probably already know staying active is essential for aging with grace, so instead of letting limited funds keep you at home, explore some ways you can enjoy your leisure time without breaking the bank.

Hit the Gym

Many fitness centers offer special rates and programs for older adults. Hitting the track or joining a group fitness class are easy ways to socialize while getting some exercise. The discounted membership is also an investment since staying fit is important for physical and mental health.

Enjoy Early Dinner Deals

You can still enjoy dining out occasionally, especially if you take advantage of lower-cost meals designed with older adults in mind. Many specials are for meals earlier in the day, which is consistent with a growing trend toward earlier dining.

According to Yelp, the number of people eating from 4-6 p.m. has grown 9% (up to 26% from 17% in 2019). Eating earlier promotes better digestion, and earlier meals are often lighter portions for smaller appetites. For example, Cracker Barrel's Early Dinner Deals feature smaller portions served from 4-6 p.m. on weekdays. Menu items include a variety of homestyle favorites like chicken n' dumplins, meatloaf, catfish and more.

Check Out the Library

Your local library is filled with hours of free entertainment, but it's not just the kind you'll find from getting a library card. You can undoubtedly find a book that covers any genre or interest you can name, but most local libraries also offer programming tailored to special interests and the sessions are typically offered for free or at a low cost. It's an easy, affordable way to pick up a new skill, meet a favorite author, learn about a topic that intrigues you and more. Other resources to explore include your library's DVD collection and internet access if you don't have a computer at home.

Nurture a Garden

Tending a garden may seem like a seasonal activity, but you can make it a year-round hobby. Researching and planning is a good way to carry your gardening enthusiasm into the cooler months and you can start seedlings indoors to extend your growing season. While you're digging into this low-cost pastime, remember the results of your efforts, such as fresh fruits and veggies, can help cut your grocery costs, too.

Mind Your Money with DIY

Saving money at the grocery store is just one way you can make DIY projects work for you. There are dozens of other examples of ways you can put your skills and interests to use by passing time doing something you enjoy while benefiting your bank account.

If you like to tinker with cars, figure out what repairs you can handle yourself and avoid hefty service fees. Crafting and sewing might mean you have ready-made gifts for special occasions and a way to repair or repurpose damaged clothing instead of discarding it.

Ask About Discounts

You may be surprised by how many places offer discounts for older adults that they don't readily advertise. In some cases, you'll find the information on their website or signage, but other times, you may find it easier to just ask. When you're booking an appointment or checking out, inquire about discounts for older adults, including any restrictions, age requirements, the amount of the discount and other pertinent details. Sometimes the discounts are offered on certain days or for specific services, or they may require you to join a loyalty club to access the discounts.

When dining out, many restaurants offer a variety of loyalty perks. Rewards members at Cracker Barrel can earn points, or "Pegs," on qualifying restaurant and retail purchases. Members can also take advantage of bonus birthday, anniversary and surprise rewards throughout the year.

Sponsored by Cracker Barrel

PUT A SPRING IN YOUR STEP WITH A VISIT TO SPRINGFIELD

Effingham County Seat Features Plenty of Unique Businesses and Southern Charm

Story by Claire Sandow







Springfield has a captivating Southern charm that's just a short drive from Chatham and Bryan Counties. The city has developed into a quaint and friendly destination for a weekend of shopping, food, entertainment and of course, local food.

The community is the Effingham County seat and boasts a population just under 3,000 residents. Established in 1799 and named after a mineral spring, the city was incorporated in 1838. The most pivotal decision that shapes its current form was made in the late 1980s with the expansion of Highway 21, then known as the Savannah River Parkway. The original route was proposed to pass directly through downtown Springfield, widening Laurel Street to four lanes. To preserve the city's historic buildings, city leadership decided that a bypass would be a better option.

"Having the bypass built around the city was the best thing that could have been done because it created the environment that we have now," says Erin Phillips, Springfield Planning and Development Director.

However, the rerouting of the highway had some initial drawbacks. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Laurel Street businesses experienced a decline as drivers used the bypass to reach the northern part of Effingham County rather than driving through downtown.

In 2010, a group of downtown Springfield business owners created a merchants' association to find solutions for the challenges facing their businesses. They banded together to market their establishments to a larger audience and attract people to the area. To fundraise, they held car shows, sold concessions at Old Effingham Days and founded their biggest legacy: the annual Springfield Fall Festival. The proceeds generated from events would go toward group ad purchases and coordinated marketing campaigns to bring guests to their businesses.

The Springfield Downtown Development Authority was established in 2016 and built upon the progress made by the merchants' association and the Springfield Revitalization Corporation to revitalize the historic downtown while preserving its character. Some of the goals of the DDA include promoting business growth downtown, offering façade grants and supporting downtown events.

> "With so many businesses across a few blocks, Springfield is a perfect day trip destination with Hallmark movie charm."

Laurel Street is the city's main thoroughfare and is home to numerous locally owned businesses. One of the city's first revitalization projects was to embark upon a streetscape project to improve Laurel Street's walkability by improving the sidewalks, adding landscaped islands and streetlights and more organized street parking.

"It really creates a better environment to feel more comfortable as a pedestrian and makes a positive impact on the businesses who are dependent on the pedestrians," says Phillips.

This increased support has drawn more people to invest in Springfield. The Co-Op Business Center opened last year, housing the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce and creating office space for entrepreneurs. Within the last few years, several building facades have gotten facelifts. An old gas station has been converted into a restaurant and a former HVAC company building has become home to an event space and photography and videography company. There has also been interest in new construction and adding some second-floor apartments above businesses.

"We are finally seeing people that want to build new structures downtown, which we haven't seen in decades," says Phillips. "We've been working on our ordinances and our guidelines and things so that the new infill development can look like it fits in."

Shopping

Springfield is an antique lover's paradise. You'll find Aunt Tinkie's Antiques and Thrift Shop, Antique, Unique, & Shabby Chic and Miss Mable's Mercantile within a few blocks. For some more modern finds, boutiques like Carlson & Co. are a great place to find a cute outfit.

Food

Diverse dining options have continued to open their doors in Springfield. Central Station Bakery & Eatery serves

sandwiches, salads and sides alongside signature cakes and cheesecakes. Paddles Coffee serves breakfast, lunch and pastries that complement their coffee creations. As the city has grown, more restaurants have started serving dinner. Flaco's House fills a niche for authentic Mexican tacos, tortas, quesadillas and more, and Stoner's Pizza Joint slings pies that have made them a fixture around the region.

The Great Outdoors

Ulmer Park is Springfield's green space and a popular gathering place for special events. A new walking trail surrounds the perimeter of the park, and plans are in the works to add a new playground, new bathrooms, additional parking options and resurfacing for the tennis and pickleball courts.

"Eventually we're going to build a large pavilion or amphitheater there," says Phillips. "We're still workshopping how big it needs to be and what sort of impact it's going to have on the community. It's something that we're really excited about."

Not far from the heart of downtown Springfield is Ebenezer Creek, a perfect place to paddle a kayak and enjoy some breathtaking views of cypress trees, Spanish moss and tranquil waters.

Special Occasions

With the addition of event venues like the rustic yet modern Moncrief Square and the colonial-style 13 Stars Tavern, Springfield can set the stage for a wedding, corporate event or private party. Daisy Mae's is also a popular space for small luncheons, bridal or baby showers.

Nightlife

Much like historic Savannah, you can take your beverage to-go in parts of downtown Springfield. Between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, take advantage of the city's sip and stroll ordinance in sections of Laurel Street and around Ulmer Park.

The Mars Theatre is one of downtown Springfield's crown jewels. Built in 1945, the theatre thrived with daily showings and a central location in the county. But the rise of television led the theatre to close in 1957. Throughout the 1990s, the Springfield Revitalization Corporation worked to raise funds to restore the theatre to its former glory. In 2007, the group of devoted Springfield citizens partnered with the city to begin renovating the venue while preserving its mid-century charm. Today, the theatre shows first-run movies, classic films and hosts a vibrant roster of musical talent.

On the first Friday of each month, Springfield welcomes food trucks to the streets. Select first Fridays are designated First Friday Family Nights, featuring live music, showings at the Mars Theatre, kids' activities and scavenger hunts that encourage guests to support local businesses.

Festivals & Events

Every November, the Springfield Fall Festival attracts guests downtown with live music, vendors and family activities. In April, the Old Effingham Festival features American Revolution and Civil War reenactments and demonstrations of historic crafts, and the Springfield Century



Ride guides avid cyclists through a route that highlights several historic Effingham County communities. The Springfield Fall 5K Series showcases the beauty of downtown Springfield with creative themes and routes that start and end at Ulmer Park.

History

History buffs won't want to miss the Effingham Living History Museum, which displays Native American artifacts and historic pieces dating from the American Revolution and the Civil War. The museum is housed inside an old jail that was built in 1934.

With so many businesses across a few blocks, Springfield is a perfect day trip destination with Hallmark movie charm. Take a stroll through town, peruse the shops, grab a delicious meal or catch a show! ■







Business Listing

SHOPPING
Aunt Tinkie's Antiques & Thrift Shop
Easy Pickins' on Laurel Street
Miss Mable's Mercantile
Unique, Antique & Shabby Chic
Carlson & Co.
Motique Motor Driven Art & Antiques
The Liquor Cabinet
Local on Laurel Spirits
Peachy Tees
Old Town Market
Snooks Bargain Spot
Wright Wicks Candle Co.
Boutique at Quick RX

DINING
Flaco's House
Stoner's Pizza Joint
Central Station Bakery & Eatery
Paddles Coffee
Woods Seafood
El Ximador
Stacks Hamburger Stand
Bambinos Pizza
Simply Southern

EVENT VENUES
Daisy Mae's
13 Stars Tavern
Moncrief Square

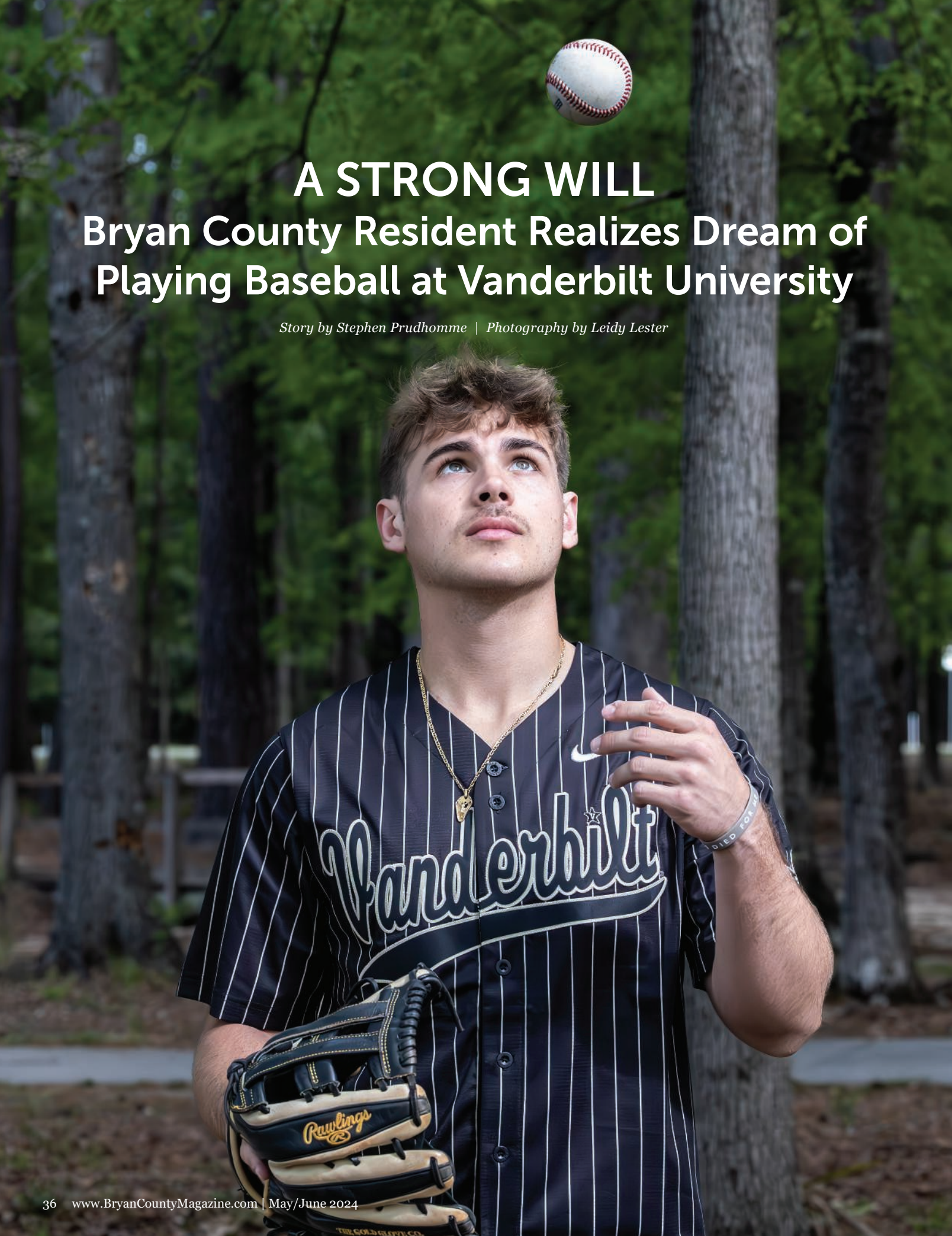
FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY NIGHTS
May 3 – Downtown Beach Party
June 7 – Movie Night Out
July 5 – Independence Extravaganza
August 2 – Back to School Bash
September 6 – Classic Country Celebration

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS
Effingham County Fair – October 2024
Springfield Fall Festival – November 9
Christmas Tree Lighting – December 6

A STRONG WILL

Bryan County Resident Realizes Dream of Playing Baseball at Vanderbilt University

Story by Stephen Prudhomme | Photography by Leidy Lester



Will Hampton played football as a youngster and was a defensive lineman on a team at Richmond Hill Middle School that won a championship when he was in eighth grade. At a solid six-foot-two and 195 pounds, the Calvary Day School senior looks as though he'd still be right at home on the gridiron.

Hampton is even more comfortable around home plate. Having switched from football to baseball, the left handed first baseman is one of the top hitters in the state and earned a scholarship to Vanderbilt University, where he'll be part of a storied program while receiving a quality education and pursuing his dream of playing professional baseball.

Hampton, 18, is showing why he was recruited by Vanderbilt and a number of other colleges, batting over .400 during his final year of high school and well over .300 in previous years. He had scholarship offers from Vanderbilt, Georgia State and Baylor and said he would have likely received offers from other larger schools if he had waited longer to make a decision. Although Hampton said he liked Georgia State's program, the chance to play at Vanderbilt was too good to pass up.

"I've always dreamed about playing at Vanderbilt," said Hampton, who signed in August 2022. "I never thought I'd make it there. It's everything I wanted and more. It's a great program to be part of. It gives me the best opportunity to compete further than college."

Vanderbilt hitting coach Mike Baxter said they generally don't speak about incoming signees on the record until they arrive on campus in the fall. He did note Hampton is a great kid and they are excited for him to be part of the program.

Hampton's mother, Melissa, said her son fell in love with baseball as a child and never missed a practice or game. As a mother, Melissa noted, she knew he had a God-given talent.



> "Will knows the hard work will begin in August at Vanderbilt. He believes all things are possible through God and is taking it one day at a time."

A Faith Foundation

Faith is important in the family's life. Melissa said she and her husband raised Will and his siblings to put God first. Will would draw inspiration from Bible scriptures if he didn't produce in a game, according to his mother. A lack of production was rarely a problem, resulting in Will earning a coveted scholarship to Vanderbilt.

"Vandy was his dream school and ours, too," Melissa said. "He was so excited to be asked. We all had tears of joy."

Describing her son as driven, Melissa said he believes he can make the starting lineup. "Will knows the hard work will begin in August at Vanderbilt," Melissa said. "He believes all things are possible through God and is taking it one day at a time."

That mindset also applies to playing baseball beyond college. "If Will had the opportunity to make it to the MLB," his mother said, "he would take the offer anywhere."

Hampton's father, Will, gave his son some advice that applies to baseball as well as life. He told him to aim for the fences, everything will be alright, and don't ever look back but look forward. The elder Hampton didn't stop there.

"God gave you a talent," he said. "Use it to the fullest. You will have bumps in life, but that builds character. I will always have your back."

Finding His Way to Baseball

Football was Hampton's first love. He started playing when he was 5 to 6 years and continued to the age of 8, when he switched to baseball and competed in Little League.

"I enjoyed baseball more," said Hampton, who played wiffle ball and football before taking up baseball. It touched me in a different way."

In high school, Hampton played first base and pitched. "First base is my spot," said Hampton, who refers to himself as a power hitter who also puts the ball in play,



hits a lot of doubles, and doesn't strike out much.

Calvary baseball coach Phillip Lee described Hampton as an extraordinary leader on and off the field. He added his work ethic is second to none and his competitive nature is exciting to experience each day.

Hampton has played for Calvary since eighth grade and earned all-region and all-state honors going back to his freshman year. According to Lee, he's excelled on the mound, first base, the outfield and at home plate.

"Because of his flexibility and willingness to play multiple positions, Will became such a high recruit for Vanderbilt," Lee said. "They loved seeing him being able to play multiple positions at a high level as well as swing it with some of the best in the country."

Strong Work Ethic

Lee said Hampton's work ethic, competitiveness and determination will help him succeed at the next level and potentially beyond. As the stakes rise, he noted, so does Hampton's level of play, making him a leader at Calvary.

"He has absolutely left a positive impact on others throughout this program and campus," Lee said, "and his legacy at Calvary Day School will forever be remembered."

Hampton isn't the first player from the Savannah area to sign with Vanderbilt. Carter Holton is from Effingham County and is a pitcher for the Commodores.

"I think Will is going to fit in great with this program," Holden said. "He will get to learn a lot and have experiences here that he will never forget. He's going to grow as a baseball player and person in his time at Vanderbilt."

Caden Keller is a high school pitcher who lives in Effingham County. Although he's never faced Hampton in a game, they played on the same summer travel team and worked together in the batting cage.

"He's never an easy out," Kessler said. "If there are runners on second and third, you don't want to see him on deck. Will has a great approach and hunts fastballs early in the count. He gets up there and knows what he's looking for."

Kessler added that Hampton has really good power, noting you don't want to leave it over the plate, and is great defensively as well.

Hampton stood out on a summer team against some of the top players in the country, Kessler said, and he expects him to excel in college and beyond.

"He'll do just fine and will adjust well to playing at Vandy," Kessler said. "His work ethic will help him. I see him going a long way. Will has major league ability. He has a great mindset and is ready to go to war at all times. He's not going to give up to anyone."

A Solid Education

Even if a major league career doesn't work out, Hampton will still have a quality education from Vanderbilt, which combines an excellent baseball program with a academics about as well as any school.

"It's a high ranked school on education," said Hampton, who has a 3.7 GPA and is undecided on his major in college. "It's hard and will be a struggle, but I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Before he hits the books, however, Hampton will be hitting the diamond and ball as he prepares to make the big jump from high school to Division I college.

Hampton said everyone at that level is good, and the pitchers have 90 mph.-plus arms. To prepare for hitting against that kind of pitching, Hampton is working on "being short on the ball" on a pitching machine. "It'll be an adjustment getting used to the pitching speed," he said. "I'm getting used to it on the pitching machine. I want to start as a freshman."

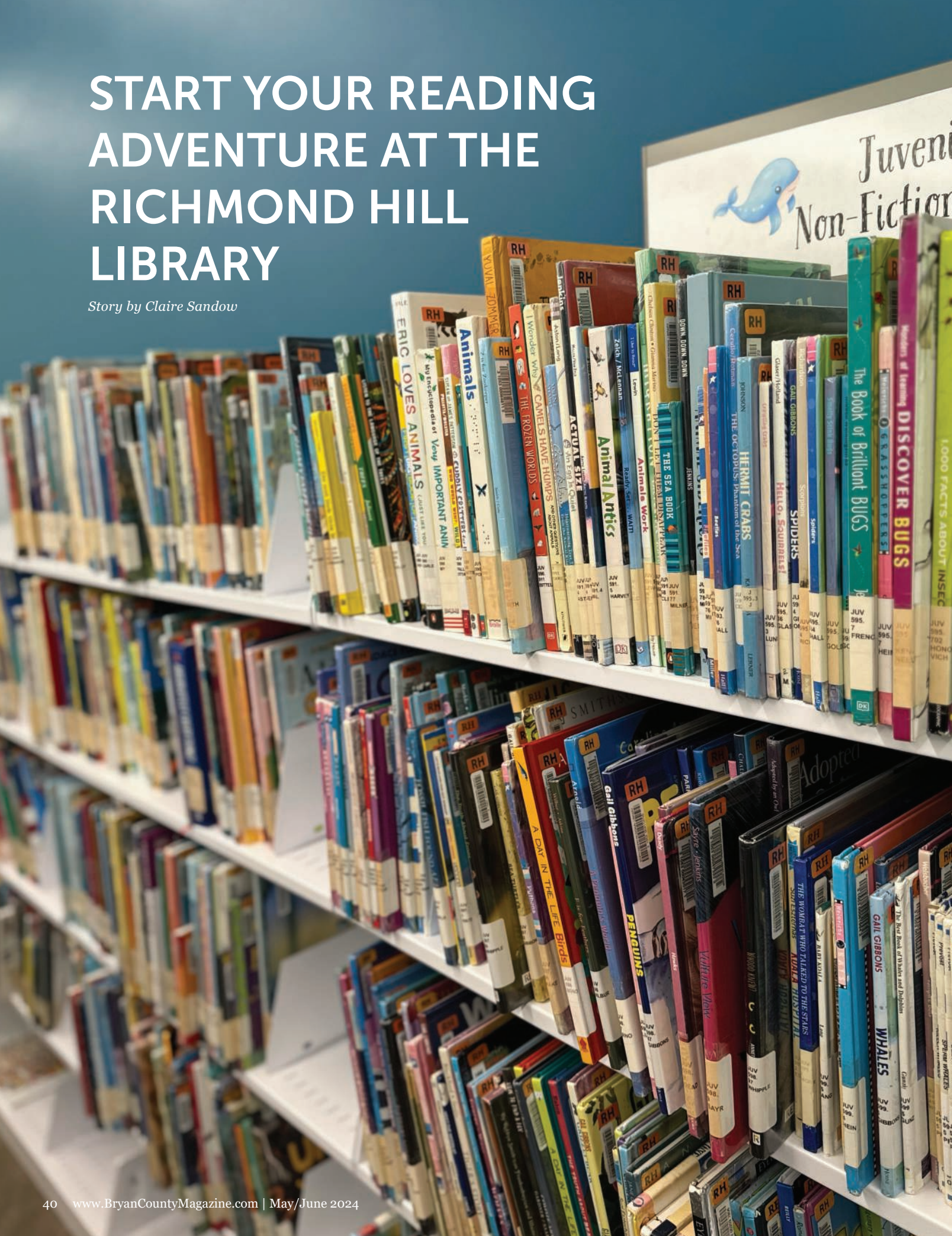
Hampton will play his last year of summer travel ball before heading to West Palm Beach and competing on his college team and "getting reps." He said he'll have to play three years in college before he's eligible for the major league draft.

"Playing in the major leagues is the goal," Hampton said. "My goal is to be drafted after my junior year. With my experience at Vandy, I will have a great opportunity. I like the Braves, but I'll play for any team. It doesn't matter to me." ■



START YOUR READING ADVENTURE AT THE RICHMOND HILL LIBRARY

Story by Claire Sandow



Libraries are a pillar of every strong community, and the Richmond Hill Library is no exception. The library offers free and low-cost programs and services for all who live or work in Bryan County as part of the Statesboro Regional Library System, which also has locations in Statesboro, Swainsboro, Claxton, Metter and Pembroke.

The Richmond Hill branch recently reopened after a 2000 square foot renovation that includes a community meeting room, a new children's area, study rooms and a nursing room. With vibrant blue walls and shelves filled with thousands of books for readers of all ages, the new branch has so much to offer.

"I'm most excited about the children's area," says Belle Ranisate, assistant manager of the Richmond Hill Library. "It's so much bigger and brighter and it's such a welcoming, fun space for children to experience."

Families on the go and senior citizens also benefit from the addition of a drive-through window service, where patrons can pace items on hold and pick them up without leaving their vehicles. "If you don't have time to come in and chat with us for a few minutes, the drive-through is a wonderful tool," says Ranisate.

PINES

The Statesboro Regional Library System is a member of the Public Information Network for Electronic Services (PINES), a statewide library system that covers hundreds of Georgia libraries across 146 counties. As a PINES library, patrons can request books, movies and other materials from any other library in the PINES system which can be delivered to your home library at no cost to you. A convenient app for iPhone and Android devices allows patrons to search the catalog, place holds, renew items and build reading lists.

Any Georgia resident can get a PINES card free of charge. There is no minimum age to get a library card, but a parent or legal guardian must sign the application for children under 18.

Children's Programming

The Richmond Hill Library hosts preschool story time on select Tuesday mornings featuring songs, books and crafts. On select Mondays, preschoolers can pick up a craft project to take home. Children can also attend special bilingual story times to learn phrases in Korean and Spanish.



Students from Richmond Hill High School host STEM Scholars, a program held on select Saturdays to share the love of science and technology with children ages 5-11. "It's a really fun partnership





we have with the high school to bring STEM into the library," says Ranisate.

Summer Reading

Every summer, kids are challenged to nurture their love of reading. The Richmond Hill branch is planning a series of special programs that align with this year's theme, "Adventure Begins at the Library." Readers will track their progress through the Beanstack app and for every ten books read, they earn a reading badge.

Beginning June 1, patrons will enjoy learning about cultures and destinations with challenges akin to "The Amazing Race."

"Each Saturday, we're going to have stations set up for families to come in and complete. Each week will connect to a different country: families can complete the challenge together and get entered into a raffle to win a prize." says Ranisate. "We're doing a lot of stuff throughout the summer to get people into the library by showcasing different cultures and books that inspire travel and adventure."

Friends of the Library

A thriving Friends of the Library group supports the library through its volunteer efforts. They host a monthly used book sale on the first Saturday of each month to raise money for library programs. The books are sourced from discards from library collections and donations from the public. They also have a monthly meeting to plan for future projects.

Access to Technology

Patrons can use computers to access the Internet, spruce up resumes or do schoolwork. Printing is 15 cents per page for black and white and 50 cents per page for color. Other services offered for a nominal cost include faxing, scanning, exam proctoring and laminating.

While there are many computers available onsite, patrons can also check out Chromebooks to take home. "Sometimes you just want to be able to work at home, and that's a big help for some of our families," says Ranisate.

Digital assets are also available with a library card. Download the Libby app, create an account with your library card number and select Georgia Download Destination as your library. Georgia









Download Destination includes thousands of ebooks, audiobooks and magazines for all ages that can be checked out from the comfort of home.

The children's digital selection is expanded through eRead Kids, a collection of 15,000 ebooks and audiobooks for young readers. These books can be accessed through the Boundless app.

Meeting Space

Members of the public can reserve meeting and study rooms for programs that serve an educational, cultural civic or recreational purpose. Fees vary based on meeting space and duration.

Additional Checkouts

There are more than just books available at the library! Check out a Georgia State Park Pass that gives patrons free admission to any of the participating Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites, including Fort McAllister, Skidaway Island State Park and Wormsloe State Historic Site.

Venture out beyond the Coastal Empire by checking out resources that offer free admission to the Center for Puppetry Arts, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Zoo Atlanta and other educational destinations.

The Richmond Hill Library is located at 9607 Ford Ave. and is open Monday-Friday from 9am-6pm and 9am-2pm on Saturdays. Stop by or use the drive-through to find your new favorite book or to plan your next family adventure! ■

Upcoming Events

Preschool Story Time with Karen
May 14 and 28 | 10am
June 11 and 25 | 10am
July 16 and 30 | 10am

Preschool Playdate
May 31 | 9:30am

STEM Scholars
May 11 and 25 | 11am

STEM Toy Lab
May 7 | 4pm

Smokey Bear Reading Challenge
May 13-24
Celebrate the 80th birthday of forest fire prevention mascot Smokey Bear by reading books about fire safety and protecting the environment. The first 50 readers to complete the challenge will receive a swag bag. On May 18 at 10:30am, some park rangers (and Smokey himself!) will pay a visit to the library.

Summer Reading Performances:
TaleWise
June 5 | 2pm
TaleWise performers make science fun for young learners by demonstrating experiments like combining Mentos and Diet Coke and other chemical reactions.

Tember's Tales
June 12 | 2pm
September Cardiff is an author and puppeteer who puts on family-friendly shows using magic, ventriloquism and storytelling.

Chad Crews
June 26 | 2pm
Chad's fun program will help kids develop a love for reading through magic tricks, music and live critters.

Follow the library on Facebook for dates and times for more upcoming programs like:

- Bilingual Story Time (Spanish and Korean)
- STEM Challenges
- Art Across the Globe
- Adult and Teen Crafting
- Morning Coffee and Bingo for Seniors
- Travel Trivia



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UNITED WAY OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE'S *WOMEN WHO RULE* EVENT FEATURES WOMAN OF THE YEAR CAROL BELL AND DYNAMIC PANELISTS

United Way of the Coastal Empire is proud to announce that this year's Women Who Rule event—presented by Step One Automotive Group—honored community leader and United Way supporter Carol Bell as the 2024 United Way "Woman of the Year."

The annual luncheon—chaired this year by Diana Morrison of Ad Specialty—was held Tuesday, March 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Savannah Convention Center.

Championed by United Way's WOMEN UNITED®, this popular annual event raises funds for the Women United Transportation Fund, which supports residents across our region who need dependable transportation.

"Each year, an average of 2,000 women and caregivers in Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty counties receive support in the form of gas cards, bus passes, and even minor car repairs thanks to this effort," said Diana Morrison, Women Who Rule Chair. "More than 30 women have volunteered their time and talents for the 2024 Women Who Rule Committee, and I am thankful for every one of them!"

Carol Bell: Woman of the Year



Carol Bell, a Savannah trailblazer, as honored for her long history of dedicated service to United Way as she was the first African American board chair in 1998 and has continued to give, advocate, and volunteer to support the organization ever since.

She broke barriers in 1976 as the first African American female manager for the City of Savannah, retiring in 2011 as Central Services Director and transitioning to become a City Councilwoman.

Carol's extensive community involvement spans leadership roles in various organizations, including the Governor's Children and Youth Coordinating Council, the United Negro College Fund's telethon, and esteemed groups like Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Links, Savannah Chapter. The Woman of the Year award was presented by SERVPRO of Savannah.

Diana Morrison: Event Chair



Diana Morrison is a dedicated local business leader who has devoted 36 years to helping businesses create customized promotional products through her firm, Ad Specialty Services.

Along with her business responsibilities, Diana is dedicated to community service. She has been involved with United Way for decades, having served on the board of directors for nine years. She was a founding member of the Women United Committee and Women Who Rule event and remains actively engaged today by serving on the organization's Marketing Committee.

Diana is a member of many area organizations and is a proud Rotarian. She is also a graduate of Leadership Savannah and Leadership Southeast Georgia.

Women Who Rule Event

This year's event also featured three outstanding community leaders as panelists. Guests enjoyed a conversation with Chatham Area Transit Authority Chief Executive Officer Faye DiMassimo, State Transportation Board of Georgia Vice Chairman Ann Purcell, and United Way of the Coastal Empire 211 Director Ariane Wallace.

For more information, visit www.uwce.org/women-who-rule.



UNITED WAY OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE

The mission of United Way of the Coastal Empire is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.

United Way is a volunteer-driven organization serving Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty counties that involves hundreds of community leaders, professionals, and other volunteers in every aspect of our business including fundraising, marketing, and funding decisions, to ensure that donations are truly making a difference.

Thanks to the Herschel V. Jenkins Trust Fund and other income, most of the operating expenses of the organization are covered, allowing more donor contributions to go where they're most needed in service to the community.

For more information, please visit www.uwce.org.

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

BRYAN COUNTY EVENTS

5/10: First Annual Gridirion Reverse Raffle and Auction
6:30-10pm | Belhaven

5/11: Mother's Market
11am-2pm | Richmond Hill City Center

5/11: Mother's Day Market
3-6pm | J.F. Gregory Park Pavilion

5/15: Spring Football Game Richmond Hill vs Effingham County
8am | Richmond Hill High School

5/17: SD Gunner Fund 2024 Aloha Charity Golf Open
6:30-8:30pm | Richmond Hill Golf Club

5/18: Richmond Hill Farmers Market
3pm | JF Gregory Park

5/25: 2024 Summer Bash
3pm | JF Gregory Park

5/31: Happy GiveMore! Charity Tournament
8am | Richmond Hill Golf Club

6/1: Cars and Coffee
9-11am | Richmond Hill History Museum

6/1: First Saturday Makers Market
3pm | JF Gregory Park

6/8: World Ocean Day Market
3pm | JF Gregory Park

6/15: Father's Day Market
3pm | JF Gregory Park

6/22: BBQ Weekend Market
3pm | JF Gregory Park







SUNDAY 9 JUNE

TOM TRIPLETT PARK
POOLER
10AM TO 4PM

- [x] Farmers Market
- [x] Vendors
- [x] Food Trucks
- [x] Kid Zone
- [x] Cultural Activities











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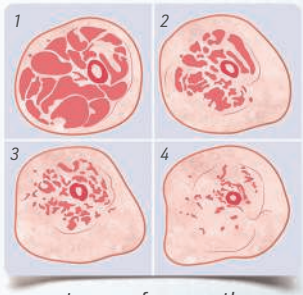




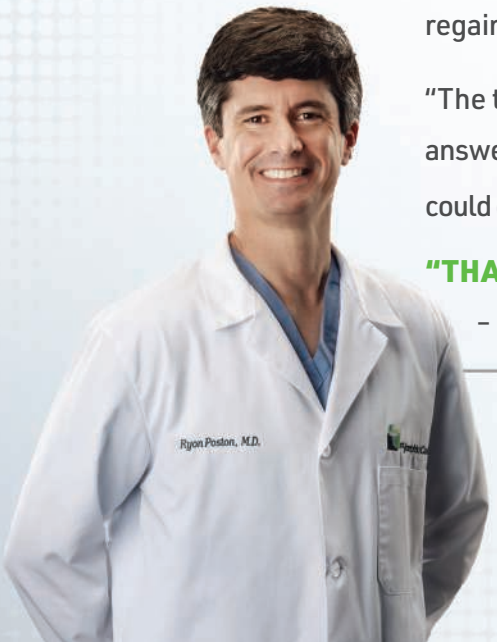
A sudden onset of weakness in her limbs and hands began interfering with two of Elaine's biggest joys: painting and bike riding. Additional symptoms, including slurred speech and severe trouble swallowing, led to electromyography (EMG) and muscle biopsy testing, which revealed necrotizing autoimmune myopathy – a rare autoimmune condition attacking the muscles.

Under the care of Dr. Poston, a neurologist, Elaine was treated with intravenous immunoglobulin and other lifesaving drugs. Immunosuppression and regular follow-ups with Dr. Poston and multiple St. Joseph's/Candler specialists helped Elaine regain her strength and return to the pursuits she loves.

"The team of specialists at St. Joseph's/Candler found answers and solutions to help me regain my strength so I could get back to doing the things I love to do." – Elaine Lee



stages of myopathy



"THAT'S WHY I CHOOSE ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER"

– Ryon Poston, M.D. – Neurologist

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