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FALL 2010 Vol. 10 No. 3

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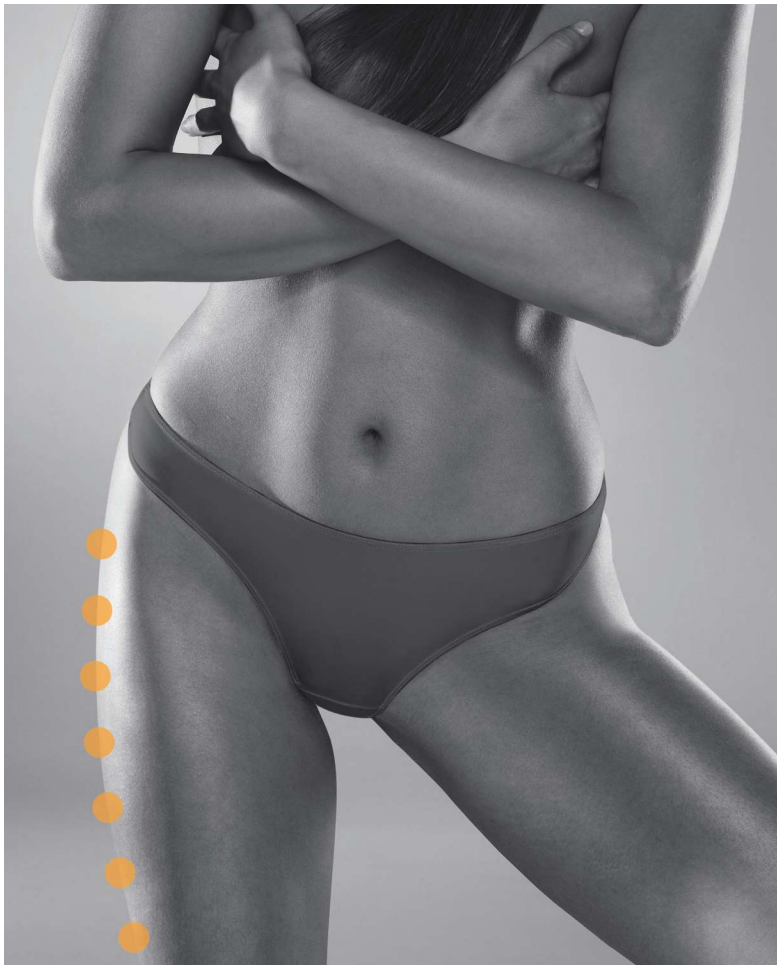
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Pink Power

Rally for the Cure Engages Community, Leads U.S. in Rally Fundraising

ON THE COVER: Deb Violette is one of a legion of volunteers with the Ballantyne County Club Rally for the Cure, which raises money to fight breast cancer.



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Alejandra Grepels: Depending on individual physiology and consistency, you loose one dress size in 4 – 6 weeks. Best and long lasting results can be achieved by only 3 sessions of 30 min. a week during a certain period of time. This way your body is smoothly and gently formed in a desired form without the jo-jo effect.



Alejandra Grepels
 Studio Manager Ballantyne

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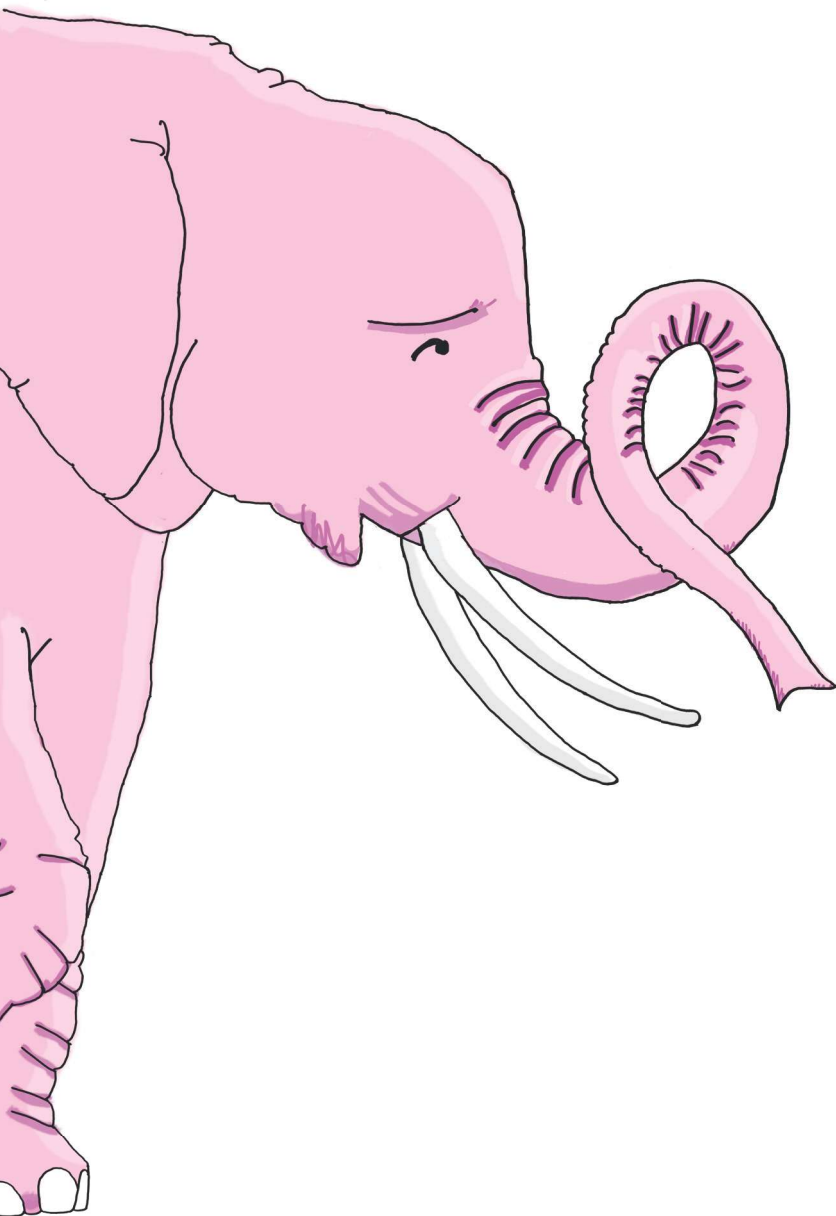
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Ballantyne: Pretty (and Powerful!) in Pink



OF ALL THE FIRSTS BALLANTYNE can justly boast, the Ballantyne Country Club Rally topping every Rally for the Cure in the nation for not just one, but the past two years, is a fundraising distinction that merits this issue's cover story. With most everyone today touched at some point by cancer, the quest to push this dreaded disease aside and behind the human race forever has taken on new meaning and purpose to people at every age and stage of life.

In "Pink Power," we celebrate the determined band of women at Ballantyne Country Club who have created an innovative pink ribbon campaign as part of a drive that last year raised \$156,000 (By the way, you can order one of their special ribbons by e-mailing pinkbow4rally@gmail.com). Here in Ballantyne Corporate Park, we support breast cancer awareness every October by turning the lights pink on the Frennette and Hall buildings, named in honor of two of Charlotte's most dedicated oncology warriors, Drs. Gary P. Frennette and James B. Hall.

We continue our salute to commitment in this issue with an inside look at Ballantyne's "A+ Parents," who play a huge, if unsung, role in contributing to our schools' top-notch ratings in the region. You'll meet busy moms and dads, many of whom work fulltime, yet manage to devote hundreds of hours a year to run a PTA, sponsor extracurricular activities like chess clubs or boost athletic endeavors at their children's schools.

In keeping with these parents' investment in their children's future, our personal finance article profiles two Ballantyne families and shares tips from local financial experts on how parents can save for retirement and college education without breaking the bank.

We also get into a fall foliage, mountain mood by taking our first "One Tank Trip" to The Historic Orchard at Altapass near Spruce Pine. Set along the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, this family-run, 102-year-old apple orchard has evolved into an Appalachian cultural experience, replete with hayrides, Butterfly Conservation

Center and foot-stompin' bluegrass music. And, as Mother Nature is changing her outfit, we decided to do the same in "Style Points," showcasing fall fashion trends expected to be big in Charlotte — velvet, camel, and mixed textures.

With the cooler weather also comes a heartier appetite, and what better way to satisfy a game-day craving than with a grass-fed, hormone-free beef hamburger stacked to the max with all the fixings you like from Big Daddy's Burger Bar in Ballantyne Commons East.

Those more inclined to romance than red meat can indulge their passion by following our Date Night couple, Colin Ricks and Debbie Hyde, as Colin unexpectedly pops the big question at their favorite dining spot, Global Restaurant in Toringdon. For local history buffs, we explore the rich heritage of Providence Presbyterian Church, where it launched one of the city's most commonplace names and Sunday worship has been celebrated in the same Greek Revival-style sanctuary for 152 years.

Now that we're into the third issue of our lifestyle-centric design, I'd like to pay it forward to you, our readers. As publisher it's truly an honor to be part of such an amazing community and share as much as I can about its fascinating people and worthy endeavors through these pages. If you have any comments or suggestions

to contribute to our mission, please shoot me an e-mail at jjbissell@ballantynemagazine.com.

JJ Bissell
Publisher, Ballantyne Magazine

Correction - At Ballantyne Magazine we are committed to accuracy. In our Summer 2010 issue, we should have said that the Charlotte City Council, not the Principal Financial Group, appointed Larry Huelsman to the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority.

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WIRE

What's happening in and around Ballantyne



1st Annual Tri! Ballantyne a Sellout

Over 380 people participated in the 1st Annual Tri! Ballantyne and Kids Tri! Ballantyne triathlons, sponsored by the Morrison Family YMCA.

The adult event consisted of a sprint triathlon that included a 300-yard pool swim, 12.7-mile bike ride and 5K run through the Ballantyne community on July 10. It sold out in advance.

On July 9, over 100 emerging triathletes from age six to 14 participated in the Kids Tri! Ballantyne. The competition featured a 50-yard to 150-yard swim based on age group, a three-quarter mile bike loop and a half-mile run to a one-mile run, also based on age group.

More than 100 volunteers assisted with this new athletic event. The \$7,500 raised will go to support local families in need of financial assistance for programs such as summer camp and after-school care at the Steele Creek YMCA.

Jill Mackenzie enjoys the new Tri! Ballantyne triathlon.

NEWS CUES



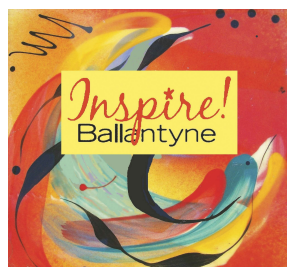
Candidate Forum, Chili Cook-off Oct. 9

The Ballantyne Breakfast Club hosts its second annual Ballantyne Area Candidate Forum and Chili Cook-off on Saturday, October 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the North Community House Field (corner of Community House Road and Ballantyne Commons Parkway).

According to Ray Eschert, president of the club, this year's event promises to be even bigger and better, with over 20 candidates for Congress, state legislature, county commission and judicial seats, as well as more cook-off participants, including the sheriff's department, the Ballantyne chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Steve Moore Chevrolet and the Morrison Family YMCA.

"This is the only political rally in all of southeast Charlotte," says Eschert, noting that the goal of the event is to build recognition among political officeholders of the Ballantyne voting constituency and the issues that concern those who live and work here.

Candidates will arrive at the staging area at 10:30 a.m. for the forum, followed by the chili cook-off, which features free samples from over 20 groups and restaurants. This year, a representative from Johnson & Wales University will serve as cook-off judge. The family-friendly event is free and open to the public. The club asks attendees to show their support for the community by bringing a canned food donation to the Second Harvest Food Bank. More info: www.ballantynebreakfastclub.com.



Inspire! Ballantyne Masquerade & Art Gala Oct. 22-24

The 3rd Annual Inspire! Ballantyne Masquerade & Art Gala is the weekend of October 22-24. Proceeds benefit the annual giving campaign at the Morrison Family YMCA.

The festival kicks off Friday with a gala from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Providence Country Club. The gala will feature live entertainment, heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and a mix of both silent and live auctions. Auction items will consist of local art pieces and items from some of Ballantyne's favorite businesses. Dress is semi-formal, and masquerade attire is encouraged but

July 4th Bike Parade Draws Crowd

Several hundred families joined Ballantyne Village and the Ballantyne Rotary Club for the July 4th Bike Parade. The ride was held on July 3 since the holiday fell on a Sunday this year.

Fire Station 32 led the parade with decorated bikes and strollers. The most patriotic, most creative and best bikes of the day won prizes. The Highway 17 Rotarian Band performed, and Kilwin's and Smoothie King handed out ice cream and smoothies. Mrs. North Carolina, Cynthia Griner, attended the parade with her family.



optional. The gala is open to adults age 21 and over.

Inspire! Ballantyne events — which include art booths and music — follow on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday afternoon from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The activities are at the Morrison Family YMCA and open to the community. To learn more, visit www.ymcacharlotte.org/morrison/programs/specprogram/inspire.aspx.

UPS Ballantyne Stores Sponsor Race for the Cure

Jay Patel, owner of the UPS Charlotte co-op, has announced that the three Ballantyne-area stores will serve as local presenting



Jay Patel

continued on page 16

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■ continued from page 14

sponsor for the 2010 Charlotte Race for the Cure on October 2 in uptown Charlotte. The UPS locations in Ballantyne Commons East, Blakeney Crossing and Weddington also are forming three separate teams. There are still spots open.

For more information or to register for a team, contact Nick Patel at the Ballantyne UPS Store, Jay Patel at the Blakeney UPS Store or Navin Armin at the Weddington UPS Store. Or, visit www.komencharlotte.org.

Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge Hosts Autumn Cooking School

This fall the popular Saturday Cooking School returns to the Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge:

Saturday, September 11: *Autumn Entertaining with French Bistro Flair.* Learn how to prepare great dishes perfect for the fall.

Saturday, October 16: *Unmasked Miracle Fruit.* Learn the art of cooking “tricks with treats when sour is sweet.”

Saturday, November 20: *Get to the Root of It.* Focus on dishes with the season’s best ingredients, such as parsnips, carrots, potatoes and rutabagas.

Each session features a continental breakfast and lunch. Upon completion of the cooking school, attendees receive a recipe folder. Cost per session is \$65. To reserve a spot, call 704-248-4100.

Hotel Offers Packages with Panthers’ Tickets

The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge is offering a special Carolina Panthers’ home football package this fall. Spend one night and receive one ticket per registered adult to the football game. Additional nights can be reserved at the next, best available rate. Tickets will be assigned “best available” as received in Sections 101 and 229. Pricing starts at \$379 for double occupancy during preseason and \$409 for double occupancy during regular season. For reservations, call 704-248-4000 or visit www.theballantynehotel.com/FootballTicketPackages.cfm.

Breakfast Club To Review Area Accomplishments

The final 2010 meeting of the Ballantyne Breakfast Club is Saturday, December 4 and will feature a presentation from The Bissell Companies showing the growth accomplished during the year.

Also sharing the platform will be business leaders who have made Ballantyne their new corporate home, along with representatives from the Ballantyne chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and the Morrison Family YMCA.

The meeting is at the Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge starting at 9 a.m. Attendees gather at 8:30 a.m. to enjoy complimentary coffee and refreshments served by the hotel. All meetings are free, and the public is invited to attend. Details: www.ballantynebreakfastclub.com.

SwimMAC Sends Team To National Championships

SwimMAC Carolina sent 21 swimmers to the 2010 ConocoPhillips National Championships in California in August to compete for national titles and spots on the USA 2010 Mutual of Omaha Pan Pacific Championship Team.

SwimMAC notables included Olympic gold medalist Cullen Jones, world record holder Nick Thoman, national champion Justine Mueller and reigning NCAA champion Josh Schneider.

Members of SwimMAC Carolina’s Team Elite, the reigning 2009 AT&T Short Course National Team Champions, and four exceptional high school swimmers, including Kip Darmody and Anderson Sloan from Providence High School, joined them.



Photo courtesy of SwimMAC

SwimMAC Carolina is a USA Swimming, competitive swim club, some of whose members practice at the pool at Charlotte Latin School. SwimMAC Carolina is the first USA Swimming Club recognized as a U.S. Olympic Committee Professional and Post Graduate Training Center, and also has a well-known swim school that serves thousands of children and their families. To learn more, visit www.swimmaccarolina.org.

THE YOUNGER SET



Endhaven Elementary Thanks Ballantyne Rotary Club

Students and staff at Endhaven Elementary School signed a giant thank-you card and presented it to Randy Peterson, representing the Ballantyne Rotary Club, and Peg McIver, assistant principal of the school. The club donated computer cords, a Flip video camera and backpacks filled with school supplies to the school.

BIZ BUZZ

Brannon Cashion Named President Of Addison Whitney

Addison Whitney, an inVentiv Health company headquartered in Ballantyne, has named Brannon



Brannon Cashion

Cashion as president of the global brand-consulting firm.

Cashion will oversee the growth of Addison Whitney's branding services, with primary responsibility to lead in developing new strategies. Cashion joined Addison Whitney in 1996 after working as a research analyst at Commodities Corp., a division of Goldman Sachs. Cashion most recently was senior vice president responsible for client relations, new business development and operations management at Addison Whitney. To contact him, visit www.addisonwhitney.com.



Newk's to Open Two More Locations

Justin A. Karas, CEO of Karas Hospitality Inc., has announced that the first Newk's Express Café in Charlotte, located in Blakeney Crossing, has been so successful that the company will soon open two more locations.

An uptown Newk's Express

Café is planned for October at Trade and Tryon streets in the former Grand Central location, while a SouthPark location will open next March.

Newk's Express Café has a fast, casual format featuring fresh ingredients and affordable prices. Karas has also insisted the Blakeney eatery be involved in charitable endeavors, which includes a "Newk's Fighter of the Month" dinner for a cancer patient and his or her family. In July, the restaurant closed one afternoon to stage a fair for inner-city

African-American Youth Win Pride Scholarships

Nine local African-American youth recently received Pride Entrepreneur Education Program (PEEP) Scholarships made possible by a \$20,000 donation from Fifth Third Bank.

Three of the recipients are graduates of South Mecklenburg High School. Their higher-education plans are: Cadesha Lambert, CPCC, associate in arts degree, human services technology; Chelsea Ball, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, hospitality and tourism; and Andrew Lovett II, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, music education.

The students are attending universities and colleges that will help prepare them for successful careers and entrepreneurship. "We are pleased to partner with PEEP to help mentor and guide African-American youth in reaching their educational goals," says Bob James, president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank's North Carolina affiliate. "We commend PEEP for its leadership role in bringing together education, corporate and community entrepreneurs to provide young people with the motivation and inspiration to help realize their dreams."

This is the third year that Fifth Third Bank has provided the scholarships.



kids. Ninety-eight percent of the staff participated. Karas, a Mississippi native who moved here at the suggestion of college friends, is the youngest member of the board of directors of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Restaurant Association. For more information, visit www.karashospitality.com or www.newkscafe.com.

Bissell Development Ranks 10th in Local Commercial Space

According to the July 25 issue of the Charlotte Business Journal, Bissell Development LLC was 10th among Charlotte's commercial real estate developers with 1,635,073 square feet of developed space. The ranking is based on developed space in the Charlotte area from 2005 to 2009.



Ballantyne Resident Creates Largest Twitter Job Board

In 2009, Ballantyne resident Gary Zukowski founded TweetMyJOBS, which has become the largest Twitter job board in the world. With 9,406 vertical job channels segmented by geography, job type and industry, TweetMyJOBS connects employers and recruiters with targeted job candidates instantly any time a new job is posted to the service.

His company also offers TweetMARK, a service that provides companies with a custom Twitter account

to promote their brand on Twitter. TweetMyJOBS has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, Fast Company, Businessweek and on radio and television networks, including CNN and NPR.

Zukowski, president of TweetMyJOBS, has over 21 years of management, technical and business-development

experience working for Fortune 500 organizations, as well as starting his own information technology company, EasySoft Solutions. He is considered an expert in recruiting using social media.

Zukowski is also well known locally for his years of volunteer work running the Endhaven Elementary

and Ballantyne Elementary chess clubs. To learn more about TweetMyJOBS, call 877-718-1880 or e-mail info@TweetMyJOBS.com.

Manus Named Supt. of The Golf Club at Ballantyne

W. Kyle Manus has been appointed superintendent of The Golf Club at Ballantyne. With 10 years of experience in golf-course maintenance, Manus will supervise and coordinate activities of golf-course crews and contractors charged with preserving the grounds and ensuring that the turf stays in top playing condition.



Kyle Manus

Most recently, Manus was superintendent at The Golf Club at Briar's Creek, a top course recognized by Golf Digest and Golf Magazine in Johns Island, S.C.

NOW OPEN!

Essex Street Offers New York-Style Deli Choices

Essex Street Restaurant and Deli is now serving at the Village at Robinson Farm (Rea Road at Williams Pond Lane). The New York-style deli features classics like corned beef, cabbage and potato pancakes, plus hand-sliced Nova lox, chopped liver and New York bagels. Open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Details: 980-207-0885.

Ballantyne Corporate Park Wins Top Honor

The Bissell Companies announced that Ballantyne Corporate Park has won the International Suburban Office Park of the Year award from The Building Owners and Managers Association International.

Regarded as the most prestigious and comprehensive program in the commercial real estate industry, the award recognizes quality in office buildings and rewards excellence in every facet of office-building management, including community impact, tenant/employee relations programs, energy-management systems, emergency preparedness, building personnel training programs and overall quality indicators.

"Since its inception, we have tried very hard to create in Ballantyne Corporate Park a special place for companies and people to locate," says Ned Curran, president and CEO of The Bissell Companies. "In doing so, we have tried to establish an environment where people want to come to work and where employers will therefore want to locate."

Currently, Bissell Development is constructing the six-story, 150,000-square-foot Everett Building and is planning for an additional 1.7 million square feet of Class A office space in the Corporate Park. To learn more, visit www.bissellcompanies.com.





BALLANTYNE AREA CANDIDATES FORUM 2010 CHILI COOK-OFF

Sponsored by Ballantyne Breakfast Club

DATE: Saturday, October 9, 2010

TIME: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

LOCATION: North Community House Field

Intersection of North Community House Road & Ballantyne Commons Parkway

The event will provide local political candidates the opportunity to address the public in a fun and festive environment. The Ballantyne Breakfast Club encourages the public to come out and meet their candidates at this *free* community event. The chili cook-off will feature 15-20 community groups and restaurants offering *chili samples*. A representative from Johnson & Wales University will judge the cook-off with winners announced during the event. Bring the kids and join us on October 9th to mix and mingle with your local candidates!

Second Harvest
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*Please show your support for the community by bringing a
canned food donation for Second Harvest Food Bank.*

■ continued from page 18



Toringdon Welcomes Carolina Dance Capital

Carolina Dance Capital (formerly Weir Dancin') has opened a new dance instruction studio in Toringdon, around the corner from Hickory Tavern. Owned by Fritz, Annette and Nina Schulte, and Allyson Weir, Carolina Dance Capital provides instruction in a family environment in all facets of dance. The studio caters to ages two and up,

ranging from beginner to pre-professional. Classes include ballet/lyrical, tap/jazz, hip-hop and more. For more information, call 704-841-7762 or visit www.carolinadancecapital.com.



Creole's Louisiana Kitchen Debuts in Ballantyne Commons East

Creole's Louisiana Kitchen is open for lunch and dinner in Ballantyne Commons East

continued on page 22

Nutrishop Arrives in Ballantyne Commons East

A Nutrishop Sports Nutrition and Weight Loss Center has opened in Ballantyne Commons East, next to Libretto's. John Vasquez, who has more than 20 years of experience in the health-food industry, co-owns the store with Heather Stefanelli.



Nutrishop offers anything that falls under the umbrella of health and nutrition, with an emphasis on customizing its inventory for local clientele. Individual attention to customer needs is a specialty. Clients receive free nutrition plans with every purchase and free follow-ups as well.

The staff will allow customers to try samples of protein powders, pre and post workout, before they buy. In addition to the latest vitamins and supplements, Nutrishop offers anti-aging products, including natural hormone therapies. A grand opening event is planned for October. The store is open Monday to Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 704-544-0076 or visit www.nutrishopusa.com for more information.

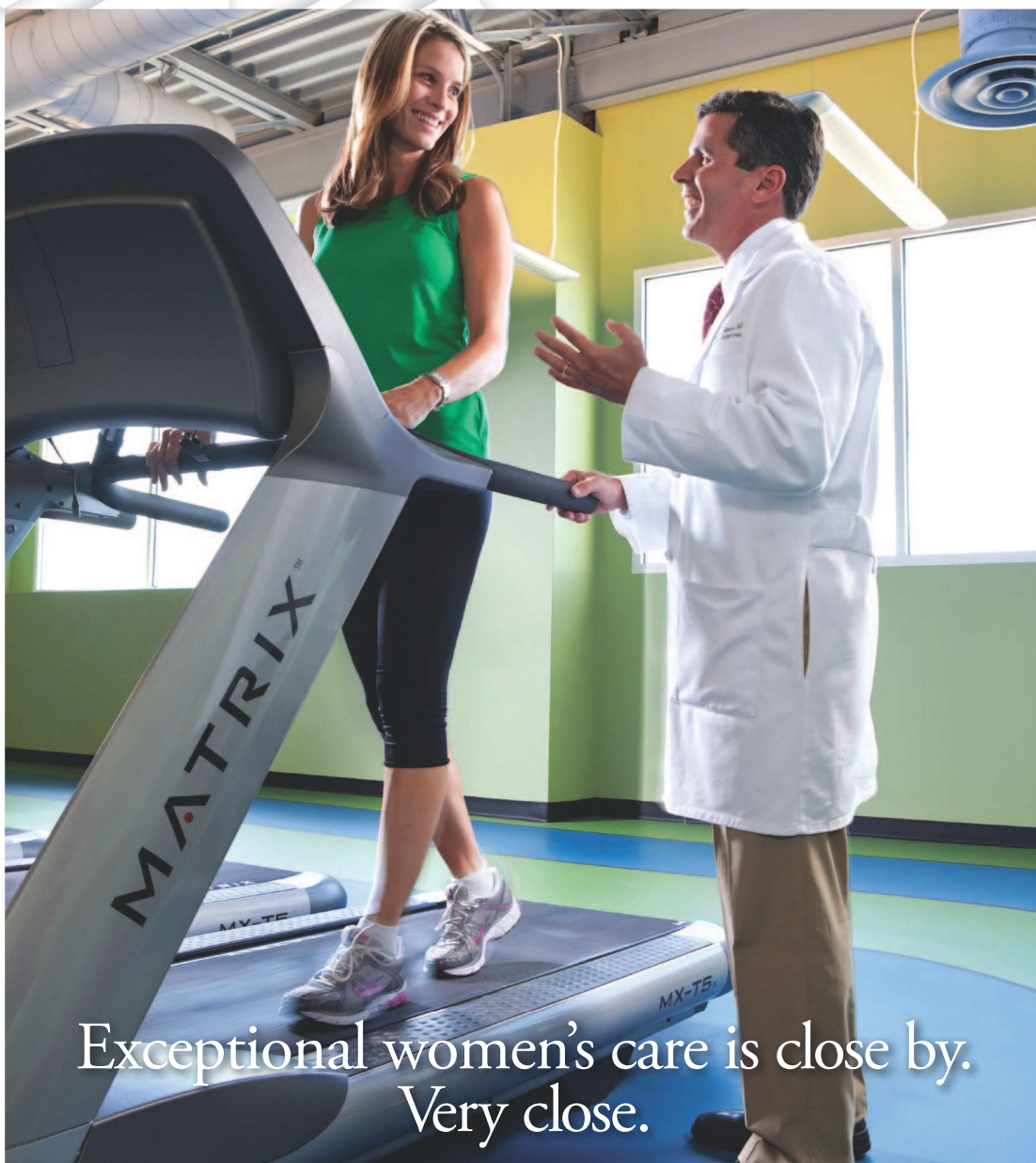
HYPOXI Studio Comes to Toringdon

HYPOXI, a method for targeted and long-lasting body shaping, has opened a Ballantyne studio in the Toringdon Shopping Center, next to Ballantyne Family Jewelers.

The HYPOXI treatment, which includes both vacuum and compression therapy, is a method that promotes blood circulation. The combination of therapy and training takes place via a series of devices that facilitate the application of high and low pressure as well as exercise to desired body areas, in accordance with individual requirements. The studio also features HYPOXI Dermology, a method for firming and rejuvenating the skin.

HYPOXI GmbH, headquartered in Salzburg, Austria, is the world's leading supplier of devices for targeted body shaping, and operates more than 2,000 studios worldwide. The Ballantyne studio is open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, call 704-540-2370 or visit www.hypoxistudio-ballantyne.com/aktionen/index.html.





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■ continued from page 20

at the former site of Nikko's. Hamilton Stolpen, who also owns P.J. O'Reilly's Pub in the Shoppes at Ardrey Kell, chose to feature Cajun culture and food because his wife is originally from New Orleans and the two lived there before coming to Charlotte.

The cuisine is distinctly Louisiana-style Cajun, which features seasoned but not spicy dishes such as New Orleans barbecue shrimp, fried okra and pickles, crawfish bites, jambalaya and étouffée. Popular New Orleans sandwiches include catfish, oyster and sausage po-boys.

Stolpen says Louisiana State University and New Orleans Saints games will be televised live in the eatery's large bar. Customers can dine in or take out, enjoy outdoor seating and a children's menu.

The restaurant is open Sunday to Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to the last customer. To learn more, call 704-544-5213 or visit www.creoleskitchen.com.

SWEET CHARITIES



Toys for Tots Golf Tournament Sept. 27

Charlotte's third annual Toys for Tots Golf Tournament



Urban Active Fitness Features Cardio Movie Theater

The workout center, Urban Active Fitness, is now open in Toringdon. The three-story, 42,000-square-foot facility features a cardio movie theater, racquetball court, women's-only workout area, indoor track and pool, children's playroom, advanced personal training, tanning beds and smoothie bar.

Urban Active is open Monday to Thursday 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. and weekends 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information: 704-247-9090, www.urbanactive.com.

is Monday, September 27 at Cedarwood Country Club, located on Pineville-Matthews Road across from Raintree. Proceeds from event sponsorships, as well as collected toys, will be donated to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program, now in its 60th year.

Founded in 2008 by Jack Burke of Burke Communications, the tournament is now organized by A Big Heart Foundation Inc. a new nonprofit organization. Title sponsor this year is SSI Schaeffer.

Corporate sponsors include Burke Communications, The Carolina Trail, Century Contractors, Horizon Lines, Republic Services, Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP and Sugar Ridge Hotel. Major team sponsors this year are American Community Bank, the UNC Charlotte 49ers, Cunningham Associates, Custom Home Pubs, Europa Sports Products, Greer &

Walker LLP, Learning Express, Pioneer, SGL Carbon, and Wells Fargo.

Hole sponsors and silent-auction donors are also being sought. For information and registration, visit www.ToysForTotsGolf.org or call A Big Heart Foundation at 704-377-2600.

Oct. 8 Golf Event at Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge

A Purpose for Life Foundation will hold its second annual golf tournament and barbecue on Friday, October 8 at the Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, starting at 1:30 p.m. The event includes 18 holes of golf followed by a family barbecue, prizes, a silent auction and Red Cross blood drive. The Purpose for Life Store will also be on hand so participants can purchase products designed for the foundation.

Proceeds go to provide financial, social and emotional

resources for local families of children with cancer, as well as CureSearch, a research organization for pediatric cancer. To find out more, visit www.aPurposeForLife.org.

2nd Annual Golf Tourney Sept. 27 at TPC Piper Glen

The Ballantyne Rotary Club invites participants to sign up for its second annual golf tournament on Monday, September 27 at the TPC Piper Glen course. Registration begins at 9 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 10 a.m. The cost is \$130 per player or \$500 per foursome, and includes lunch and prizes. Sponsorships are also available.

Proceeds support Ballantyne schools and scholarships, the International Food Project with OFCB Ministries of Bayonnais, Haiti and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Charlotte. For details, contact Tournament Chair Andy Belk at 704-543-1290, Players Coordinator Tim Dargusch

at 704-236-0829, Sponsors Coordinator Harold Howell at 704-989-7724, or e-mail ballantynerotary@gmail.com.



Sept. 25 is Isabella Santos Foundation 5K Race

The Isabella Santos Foundation 5K Run for Kids Cancer is Saturday, September 25 at 8 a.m. in the Ballantyne

Corporate Park. This is the third annual race to establish funds for local children's cancer charities such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Ronald McDonald House.

The event also raises awareness and funds for Neuroblastoma, the cancer that Isabella Santos has been fighting for three years. Sponsors of the family-friendly event invite the public to bring strollers and wagons and join in the race.

To register, visit www.active.com/running/charlotte-nc/race-for-isabella-5k-2010. To create your own fundraising page go to www.firstgiving.com/isabellasantosrun. To read about Isabella's courageous battle, visit www.caringbridge.com/visit/isabellasantos.

Club at Longview Members Raise \$10,000

In June, The Club at Longview hosted its second annual Hundred Holes for Charity match. This year, four members — Chris Kowalewski, Brian Headrick, Nick Page and Will Shupe — each played 100 holes in one day, raising \$10,000 to benefit Give2thetroops, a charity that sends care packages to soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

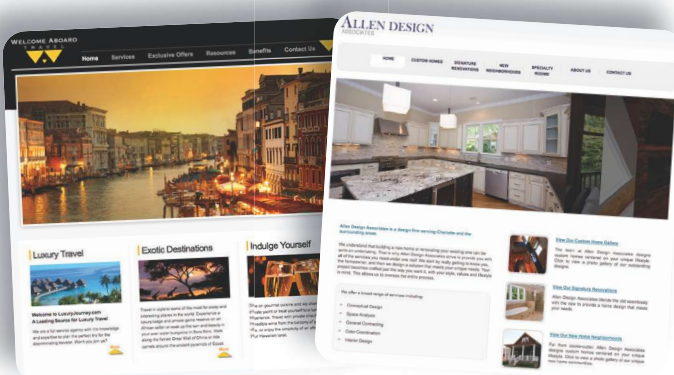
Fellow club members sponsored the players on a per-hole basis and donated golf equipment and balls to the charity. For more information, visit www.theclubalongview.com and www.give2thetroops.org.



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Birdies for the Brave Tourney Nov. 3

This year's Birdies for the Brave golf tournament at the TPC Piper Glen course is Wednesday, November 3. Last year the tournament raised \$43,000 for the nonprofit created by Phil Mickelson and his wife Amy to support troops injured in combat. The goal this year is \$50,000.

The tournament starts at 10 a.m. with a silent auction. Play follows at 1 p.m. A dinner banquet with keynote speaker and awards follows. Sponsorships and donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

The tournament now carries special significance for staff at TPC Piper Glen, several of whom have sons who recently served in Iraq: Matthew Flowers, son of

Catering Manager Karen Flowers, and Mace Saltarelli, husband of accountant Rose Saltarelli. Her nephew, Dominic Dambrowski, also just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq.

In addition to Birdies for the Brave, TPC Piper Glen staff takes part in Operation Shoebox. Last year, their boxes went to Mace Saltarelli and Matt Flowers' units in Iraq. The year before, their boxes went to two soldiers overseas whom the staff knew, Maj. Chris Hill and Sgt. Chris Hill (both by the same name), an uncle and nephew, stationed only 10 miles apart in Iraq.

For more information, contact Colleen Carow at ccarow@heritagegolfgroup.com or 704-846-1212, ext. 235. To learn more about the nonprofit, visit www.pgatour.com/birdiesforthebrave.



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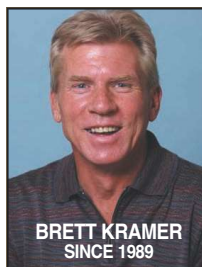
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PEOPLE TO KNOW

Meet Our Community's Fascinating Personalities

Photos by Ray Sepesy



IN EACH ISSUE, we feature three of the many interesting people who call the Ballantyne area home. Our Q&As range from retailers, business executives and other professionals to full-time homemakers, former pro athletes, retirees — and everyone else in between. Just like the demographics of the community, our Ballantyne Faces hail from Charlotte, the Carolinas and all over the world,

This time, you'll learn about a business development executive who admires former NFL coach Tony Dungy, the "CEO of Fleming Household Affairs" who dreams of a swank Paris getaway and a developer who passionately follows the pro hockey team in his native Montreal.

Meet Paul DeMore, Nikki Fleming and Doug Baumgartner.

PAUL DEMORE

Birthplace: Syracuse, N.Y.

Job: Global director, channel business development for PTC, a public software company based in Needham, Mass. PTC creates software to optimize product-development strategies and processes. Customers include Harley-Davidson, Ingersoll Rand, Caterpillar and Dell, DeMore says.

Favorite College Teams: St. Bonaventure Bonnies, his alma mater; and the Alabama Crimson Tide, his wife's alma mater

Biggest Pet Peeve: When people drive in the center lane on Johnston Road and then cut you off before getting on I-485.

What do you like most about your job? The people and partners at PTC are great. They are all innovative, hard working and fun. Also, the company provides tremendous opportunities for its approximately 5,000 employees. Over the past 13 years, I have had the opportunity to travel the world, manage regional and global teams and build some great relationships along the way.

Do you live in Ballantyne? Yes. Before moving to Ballantyne we had a great condominium in SouthPark. Ten years ago we decided to come to Ballantyne, have kids and get a dog. Ballantyne has become a great place to raise a family and have some fun.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant? When we are with the kids, we like to go to Cantina 1511. When my wife and I go out together or socially with friends, we prefer Jade.

What is your favorite outdoor activity? Golf, and it has quickly become a family favorite as well. We are members at Ballantyne Country Club.

Describe your dream vacation. It would be a two-week family vacation on a private island without Internet access that included unlimited golf, a great spa and countless children activities so my whole family would enjoy it. I have never taken a two-week vacation so let me know if you can get me one.

see PAUL on page 29

NIKKI FLEMING

Birthplace: Columbia, S.C.

Job: "CEO, Fleming Household Affairs"

Favorite College Team: UNC Charlotte 49ers

Biggest Pet Peeve: People making things too complicated. Give me the simple life!

What do you like most about your job? What's not to like? Cooking, cleaning, paying monthly bills, scheduling appointments, maintaining the household social calendar, changing Pampers and catering to my family's every desire while also being responsible for remembering EVERYTHING! Need I say more?

Do you live in Ballantyne? No, but I live in Marvin, which is only about seven minutes away. As a young adult, right after college, I remember driving through Ballantyne Country Club and falling completely in love and thinking to myself that I would love to live in the immediate area one day, and I now do.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant? Villa Antonio. LOVE IT, LOVE IT, LOVE IT! The food, the atmosphere and most of all the service. And, where else can you eat that good for lunch for less than \$10?

What is your favorite outdoor activity? Leisure walking. I enjoy it around my neighborhood, but prefer the beach at Hilton Head, which is my favorite place to visit.

Describe your dream vacation. Going back to Paris, for at least two months, on a private plane along with my darling husband and unlimited spending money. Being a private shopping guest of the House of Chanel and Valentino's, while

see NIKKI on page 29

DOUG BAUMGARTNER

Birthplace: Montreal, Canada

Job: Owner and president, York Development Group, a commercial real estate company.

Favorite College Team: None. Cheers for the “Bleu, Blanc et Rouge” of his beloved Montreal Canadiens, a pro hockey team.

Biggest Pet Peeve: Following drivers who: back into parking spaces, back up on interstates, stop to cross lanes and cut in at the last minute (I-485); and slow golfers

What do you like most about your job? Taking a piece of dirt and creating something. I like to see the end result, seeing patrons frequent the property.

Do you live in Ballantyne? Yes, since 1999. I'm all about getting the most out of life and Mr. (Smoky) Bissell's Ballantyne vision exemplifies that for 80 percent of your day-to-day life. For the other 20 percent, there's the coast, mountains and a hub for an airport.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant? Anything at the Ballantyne Quad. Outside of that, Don Pedro (Pineville) has a great selection of tequilas.

What is your favorite outdoor activity? Golf at Ballantyne Country Club (not done enough) and working out at Ballantyne Village Y (probably done too much); although, it's a great way to start your day.

Describe your dream vacation. I might have just had it — renting a renovated farmhouse in Provence, France with family, exploring the towns that dot the countryside and soaking in great weather by the pool with plenty of

see DOUG on page 29

■ PAUL - continued from page 26



What is the title of the last book you read? "Quiet Strength" by

Tony Dungy. Looking at all the challenges he has had over the years, he never took his eyes off his faith or family. I respect him for that.

What news source provides you the daily news? I enjoy reading The Charlotte Observer

cover to cover in 10 minutes. I also read The New York Times online to monitor world events.

What are your favorite websites? I go to www.google.com first to find everything. I also go to www.Syracuse.com to see what is going on in my old hometown, including how much snow they get in winter to remind myself why I moved to Charlotte in 1993.

What charitable organizations are you involved with? Why?

We are active members of St. Matthew Catholic Church, where I currently serve as an Eucharistic minister. I just completed a three-year board term with the Morrison YMCA. I also coach my children's soccer and basketball teams at the YMCA. In the past, I drove a van for the Uptown Men's Shelter bringing people to and from Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous meetings. I have learned that helping people in any small way can be very rewarding and you usually

learn something about yourself in the process.

Tell us what gadget or toy you wouldn't live without. My BlackBerry.

If you play golf, name three people you would like in your foursome at The Golf Club at Ballantyne? Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan and George "The Animal" Steele. This way I don't have to worry about anyone hitting into us or going too slow in front of us.

■ NIKKI - continued from page 27



staying at the Ritz in the Coco Chanel Suite. Having daily spa appointments, eating at all

of the best restaurants and taking private side trips to the countryside, vineyards, Provence and the South of France. Did I mention sans children? You can't have a dream vacation hearing, "Mommy, can I?" or "Mommy, will you?"

What is the title of the last book you read? "Linden Hills."

(It's contemporary American fiction by Gloria Naylor.)

What news source provides you the daily news? WAXN-TV (Channel 64) with Erica Bryant.

What are your favorite websites? www.talbots.com, www.katespade.com, www.amazon.com, www.neimanmarcus.com, www.ebay.com, www.realsimple.com, www.jlcharlotte.org.

What charitable organizations are you involved with? Why? Junior League of Charlotte, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Jack and

Jill of America (South Charlotte chapter), the March of Dimes, Foundation for the Carolinas and Carolinas Healthcare Foundation for Levine Children's Hospital. I am involved because I absolutely love to serve. I believe that serving others is one of the greatest gifts that a person can share and it is not a right, it's a responsibility.

Tell us what gadget or toy you wouldn't live without. Not a gadget, but my planner. After having my third child, and with the schedules that my husband and I both have, I find it is so much harder to remember everything. Oh, how I long for the

days when I was a spry college student that didn't even need a planner to stay on top of things. Wow, those days are long gone!

If you play golf, name three people you would like in your foursome at The Golf Club at Ballantyne? I don't play golf, but I love to have luncheons and teas. If I had the opportunity to have three people with me for high tea at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, it would be with three women I truly admire (other than my mother, of course): Oprah Winfrey, First Lady Michelle Obama and Diahann Carroll.

■ DOUG - continued from page 28



rosé and pastis (a liqueur).

What is the title of the last book you read?

"Huckleberry Finn." My daughter is reading it so I have to know what I'm talking about when she asks questions — but I prefer The Hockey News myself.

What news source provides you the daily news? CBS MarketWatch, The Wall Street Journal and The Charlotte Observer.

What are your favorite websites? www.HABSinsideout.com (news on the Montreal Canadiens through The Montreal Gazette) and www.iTunes.com.

What charitable organizations are you involved with? Why?

Morrison YMCA, because the organization does so much for the community, both immediate and abroad. The people who work there make you want to be a better person.

Tell us what gadget or toy you wouldn't live without. PS3 (PlayStation 3) and any

EA Sports National Hockey League game.

If you play golf, name three people you would like to include in your foursome at The Golf Club at Ballantyne? Dan Marino, The Molson brothers (owners of the Montreal Canadiens) and any president of the U.S., past or present. Bill Clinton might have the best stories.

GLOBAL GLEAM

New GM Adriaan Radder Keeps Polish on The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge

By Tony Mecia Photos By Shane Baskin



Adriaan Radder

ADRIAAN RADDER HAS MANAGED some of the most luxurious hotels around the world, from Saudi Arabia to Holland to the Bahamas.

Now, he's taking what he's learned over the last 25 years and channeling it into making The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge an even more attractive place for guests. Radder, who took over as general manager in May, says there's no reason the hotel can't continue to be one of the top luxury resorts in the world — but that it's not resting on its reputation.

"When you're No. 1, the hardest part is to stay No. 1," he says. "It's a lot easier to shoot for No. 1 than to stay there. Even though it's a great hotel, it can always be better."

The hotel has been the most visible face of the Ballantyne area since it opened nearly 10 years ago. On any given day, there's a flurry of activity, from wedding receptions to corporate meetings to charity dinners, in addition to hotel guests and locals dining and hitting the spa and golf course. It regularly hosts celebrities when they come to town, though the hotel doesn't like to name names. The hotel has won awards from Starwood Hotels & Resorts for having the highest guest satisfaction scores in its category the last two years.

With Radder running the hotel's day-to-day operations, it's gaining a veteran of luxury resorts whose career has spanned the globe.

"This is all I do, all I've ever done, and all I know to do," he says.

Radder, 55, grew up in the Netherlands. His parents ran a bakery, but he quickly decided as a boy that the lifestyle of rising before dawn to bake bread wasn't for him.

As a teen, he took a job at a small restaurant, working as a busboy, waiter and bartender. He loved it. He learned that he enjoyed working in a happy environment.

"When people go out, they're in a good mood. They're there to have fun," he explains. "I like creating a fun experience."

He later branched into hotels. He found them more interesting, because there are so many more parts of the operation.

Now, after stints at Marriotts and Ritz-Carltons and Paradise Island's One&Only Ocean Club (which was featured in the James Bond film "Casino Royale"), Radder says living and working in Ballantyne feels just as comfortable as it did in some of those stunning locations.

From sitting at the pool to playing golf, guests



"At the end of the day, hotels aren't selling products," Radder says.

"They're selling experiences."

can relax in privacy at the hotel. That's an advantage his hotel will always have over the high-rise luxury hotels in uptown Charlotte, he says.

Personal and professional connections drew Radder here. His wife, Kim, is from South Carolina. Coming here also represents a chance to work again with H.C. "Smoky" Bissell, whom he got to know 25 years ago while managing a Marriott in Jacksonville, Fla. Bissell had an ownership stake in that Marriott, and The Bissell Companies Inc. owns The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

Radder's most important job as general manager, he says, is overseeing the hotel's 430 employees — making sure they have the training and tools they need to make guests feel special. At the end of the day, he says, hotels

aren't selling products. They're selling experiences. And having the best, well-trained and well-equipped employees can enhance those experiences.

But as the hotel has aged, it's also time to update parts of it, he says. At the top of his list: changes to the spa and restaurant. He says the spa offers strong service and he looks forward to further developing it as a world-class spa.

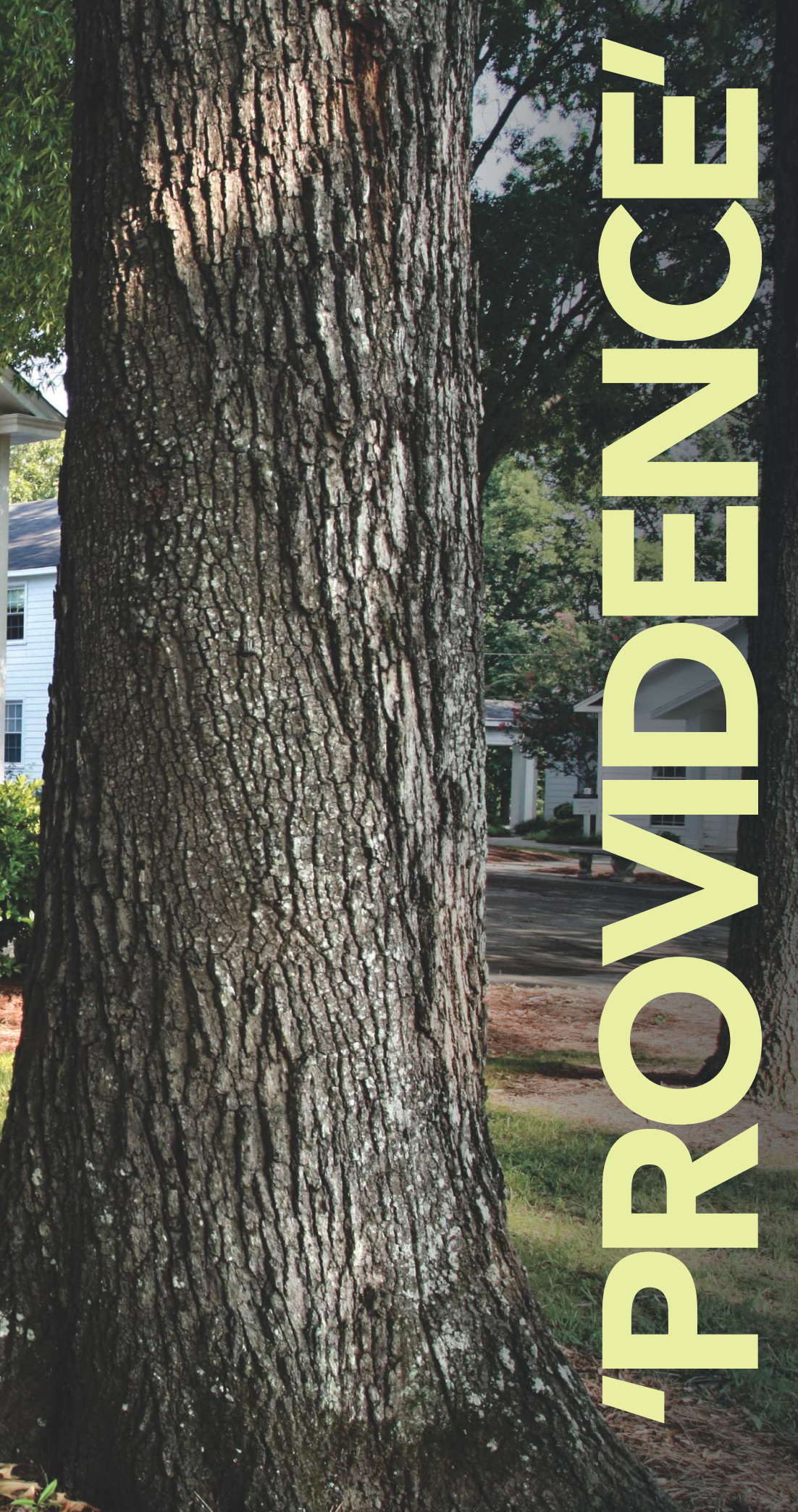
The Gallery Restaurant, he says, offers a good, traditional experience, but needs to be freshened up to keep pace with guests' changing expectations. He's discussing the scope of both projects with his bosses.

Still, Radder applauds the hotel owner's interest in spending money to keep The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge a world-class destination, even in tough economic times. Just last year, the hotel added an outdoor pool and bar and two tennis courts.

"Usually when times are hard, people start cutting corners," Radder says. "There are no cutting corners here."



Providence Presbyterian's sanctuary is 152-years-old.



Church Spurs Common Charlotte Name

By Carol Gifford
Photos by Steve Lyons

Editor's Note: *Writer Carol Gifford joined Providence Presbyterian Church earlier this year and shares the institution's interesting role in local history.*



Katelyn Gordon is a new associate pastor at Providence Presbyterian, a church organized in 1767.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Quite frankly, everything, when it refers to "Providence," in southeast Charlotte. Providence, which means under the foresight, care and protection of God, is the name of the major road from Uptown to South Carolina, and it graces churches, schools, neighborhoods, businesses and shopping areas.

The passel of "Providence's" resulted from Providence Presbyterian Church, located near the corner of Providence Road and Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Founded by Presbyterian Scots, the church was part of one of seven colonial Presbyterian settlements in the Carolinas. Today, it has an active



Most of the shutters on the sanctuary's triple-hung windows are original.

congregation of almost 900 and is very involved in mission and service work.

The church's 152-year-old sanctuary used for worship services and its nearly 250-year-old cemetery, also in use, are

listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Providence Presbyterian is one of the oldest structures in South Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

The solemn church grounds, tucked away thanks to a 1994

traffic change, make Presbyterian Church "a refuge, a quiet place apart in the middle of hustle and bustle of modern life," says Senior Pastor Walt McCanless.

The Church's Origin

"How did a small country church manage to flourish for over 200 years?" asks Nathan Gilbert, Providence Presbyterian church historian. "The fact that the church is still here is based on a lot of luck — and well, God's providence. For most of its history, it was a backwater church serving a small farming community."

The church survived trying times, including the Revolution, Civil War, World War I and II and desegregation. Colonial-era Providence parishioners worshipped in a tent, and today

parishioners occupy one of the region's oldest buildings. Perhaps the church's name influenced its longevity.

"Providence is deeply woven into Presbyterian theology, along with predestination," says Gilbert, a native Charlottee. "Providence still stands, proving God's plan will not be thwarted by any powers acting in direct opposition."

From 1725-1768, an estimated 200,000 Irish Protestants — most of them Presbyterians — arrived in America through New York and Philadelphia. Known in Northern Ireland as the Ulster Scots, the Scotch-Irish migrants gathered in "societies" to worship God, and headed south.

According to church history,



LEFT: Located in the church's cemetery is Craighead Rock, named for "Son of Thunder" Alexander Craighead, who used it as a pulpit.

BELOW: This cherry table in the church foyer was the original communion table.



The church's 152-year-old sanctuary and its nearly 250-year-old cemetery are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

the name Providence came from a 1730 church outside Philadelphia known as "Lower Providence." The Presbyterians brought the plain metal "Providence 1730" namesake plaque, still located in the church archives. They organized Providence Presbyterian in 1767.

One of the most significant events in its history occurred in 1994, when the church did an about-face while remaining in its current location. It's the reason why newcomers to Charlotte may not be aware of the church.

The city of Charlotte rerouted Providence Road (N.C. 16) to deal with increasing traffic, but built the road expansion behind Providence Presbyterian, preserving the church's grounds and turning the church 180 degrees.

"You used to drive right by the church on Providence Road," explains McCannless, who has served the church for 15 years. "Now everyone driving on (the new) Providence Road sees our backside. Because our old sanctuary doesn't have a steeple, most people don't even know what our campus is. Some think it's a school."

Sanctuary Built in 1858

A church, as any member of a congregation will tell you, is not its building but the people who worship together. Nonetheless, Providence Presbyterian's simple and austere sanctuary is a storied, South Charlotte landmark.

The building of the church took place over time. Providence Presbyterian's early meeting house was a tent, later replaced by a log house, both on the church's cemetery side.

By the 1830s, church membership started to decline when people began moving to



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Providence Presbyterian has an active membership of about 900.

“The first time I attended Providence Presbyterian, I was immediately drawn to the historical architectural elements,” says Ellen Estes, an 18-year member of the church.

new cotton lands in Alabama and farther south. “Just the building of our historic sanctuary was itself a leap of faith,” Gilbert says. “Our forefathers went ahead and built a new church — a new building that was significantly larger than they needed.

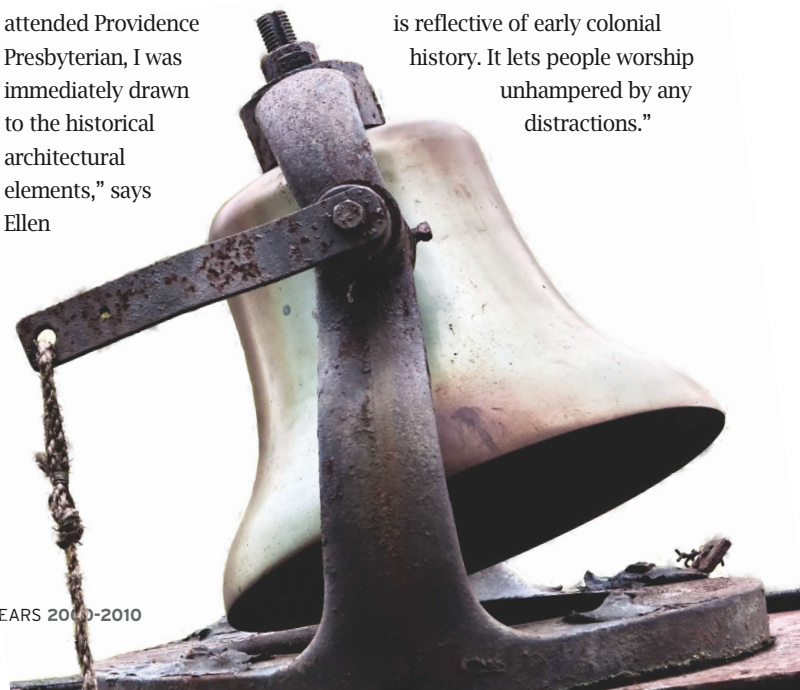
“It must be a sign of God’s providence that the sanctuary was built during the prosperous antebellum years,” he explains, because following the Civil War, the community was so poor it could not even afford to pay for a full-time minister for the next 80 years.

In 1858, church members and their slaves built the new sanctuary across the street from the cemetery on a base of bedrock, stone rubble and brick.

Its frame consisted of oak posts and beams, topped by hand-fitted trusses secured with pegs. The cost was \$2,800.

“The first time I attended Providence Presbyterian, I was immediately drawn to the historical architectural elements,” says Ellen

Estes, an 18-year member of the church from Matthews. “The eclectic Greek Revival with its puritanical, plain and simple interior without adornments is reflective of early colonial history. It lets people worship unhampered by any distractions.”



Slaves Attended Services

The tall, airy upstairs gallery/side balcony flanked each side and was designed to accommodate slaves, who made up about a third of the church membership at that time. Previously, the “colored members,” as they were referred to in church records, sat in loft ceilings that were too low to allow them to stand. They entered by climbing up outside ladders and going in a window. The sanctuary still required slaves to enter through separate entrances, but once inside, they could stand comfortably.

The columns holding up the galleries are made of multiple boards with beveled edges glued together. The interior walls, shiplap paneled, were whitewashed. There is a board-

and-batten ceiling and pine floors.

Light floods through 18-foot, triple-hung windows; many of the windowpanes are original wavy blown-glass panes. The windows are protected by large exterior shutters, most of them original. With cross ventilation and high ceilings, the sanctuary was cool — or cooler — before the advent of air conditioning.

“When it was really hot, we would open the windows from the bottom and let the windows down from the top,” recalls Lee Rea, an 82-year-old church member who was born and still lives on a section of the Rea family farm on Rea Road. “Everyone had a little funeral fan to try to catch a breeze. In the fall, the wasps would come in to hibernate. Sometimes the preacher would get to preaching and a wasp would start buzzing

around and land and sting him. That would test your faith!”

The size of the building exceeded the number of members so pews were built and installed on an as-needed basis. All the downstairs pews are original; each one from a single pine board, hand-planed and fit into the wall and braced by a center division.

Carpeting was added in 1912 by insistence of the women members who didn’t like the cold drafts coming through the openings in the floor boards. The women paid for the carpet by holding bake sales.

Prominent Charlotte Names

The church’s location dovetails with many events in colonial history and counts among its founders and early

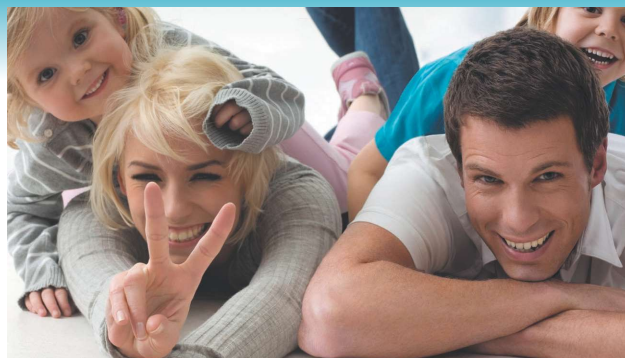
members, several old family names in Charlotte.

The earliest grave in the cemetery is John McKee’s (of the McKee family for whom the nearby road is named) in 1764, three years before Providence Presbyterian was established. It includes more than 2,000 plots, of which 1,087 are occupied, some with Revolutionary War soldier and slave remains. A joint Providence Presbyterian and Mecklenburg County project in 2004 helped identify and recognize the slaves’ section.

“Don’t say anything to anyone about anyone else,” McCanless jokes. “They could be related!”

The congregation includes descendants of the David Rea family, which donated the land for the church.

“My fourth great grandfather,



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John Rea, wanted to donate the land for the church," Lee Rea says. "He died when the church was first settled, and the land donation had to wait until his son and heir, David, turned 21 and could execute the deed."

Three members of Providence Presbyterian Church were signers of the 1775 Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Independent, Practical People

The Presbyterian farmers, clannish, contentious and suspicious of authority, worked hard and had an unshakeable faith in God's grace. English missionaries described Scotch Presbyterians as "ignorant, mean, worthless, beggarly Irish Presbyterians, the scum of the earth and the refuse of mankind."

But they were also known to be practical, fearless and self-reliant with an inherent sense of justice, hating tyranny and resisting oppression. Presbyterian beliefs and characteristics framed the area's role in the Revolutionary War, prompting British Parliament members to call Presbyterian churches "sedition shops," and charge their clergymen as "ringleaders of the rebellion."

In 1767, most of the 1,600

white "taxables" in Mecklenburg were Presbyterians. One British Colonel claimed "the counties of Mecklenburg and Rowan more hostile to England than any others in America."

Three members of Providence Presbyterian were signers of the 1775 Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from England. Although the Meck Dec document's authenticity is in question, an 1820 letter in church archives recounts the signing, saying the document was the forerunner of the national Declaration of Independence.

Presbyterians clung stubbornly to their beliefs even after colonial times.

Providence Presbyterian holds the dubious distinction of being a church unwilling to baptize a future president. James K. Polk was born to Samuel and Jane Knox Polk. His mother was a devout Presbyterian and his father a free-thinker, but one willing to yield to his wife's wishes and take her to the Providence meeting house for

church each Sunday. Samuel and Jane brought their infant son to be baptized around the 1790s. When James Wallis, the Providence minister, asked them to affirm their religious belief, Samuel refused, and the minister would not proceed with the baptism.

James K. grew up to be president, but possibly stemming from the controversy of his earlier baptism, he never joined a church and was not baptized until he was near death, and then by a Methodist minister.


Providence Presbyterian Today

"We've worked very hard to preserve our history, but we are not trapped by it," McCanless says. Church members build houses for Habitat for Humanity, take mission trips abroad and closer to home, assemble food packets for Stop Hunger Now, house homeless individuals for two weeks each year and offer a Counseling Center that offers scholarships for those who need help but can't afford it.

The church is committed to maintaining the historical character as well as the natural beauty of the church and its campus. Keeping the old sanctuary in good repair takes a lot of upkeep, McCanless says, because it is used frequently for worship each week and, despite lacking a center aisle, for weddings, funerals and special events.

That's one reason, he notes, Providence Presbyterian is also looking at building a new sanctuary, a controversial issue, even in a church which allows members to openly debate all church matters, as required in Presbyterian doctrine.

"Our sanctuary is a great artifact but I'm not proud that this building has been adequate for us for 150-plus years," says Rea, a lifelong member. "We should honor and revere our past but the church needs to look forward and live in the future."

In resolving the sanctuary debate, these Presbyterians will be looking for another act of providence. 



Providence Presbyterian's sanctuary dates back to 1858. Members likely added this handrail later, after the church grew.

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PINK POWER

BCC Rally for the Cure Engages Community, Leads U.S. in Rally Fundraising

By John Byrnes



MEETING WITH EVEN a fraction of the members of the Ballantyne Country Club (BCC) Rally for the Cure 2010 Committee is overwhelming. They laugh, they joke. Their energy is contagious.

But then they get serious. Don't let the pink fool you. These women mean business.

What began as a small 2003 BCC golf event attended by 30 people that raised \$1,080 has blossomed into a registered 501(c)(3) charity that hosts a week of September events that paint the town pink and has led the nation in Rally for the Cure fundraising for the past two years. What's more, the BCC Rally has expanded to engage and support the community at large, graduating from a club-only event to a Ballantyne-wide celebration that annually invites surrounding area residents onto the BCC's pristine grounds.

"To be focused on one

charity has actually allowed us to grow and branch out," explains Maria Logan, BCC Rally chair and board president. "We're more involved with the community than ever before."

"It's been a crescendo effect," says Janet DeCillis, BCC Rally board member and marketing chair. "More and more people are involved every year."

"There is something for everyone to get involved with — whether you play golf or tennis or tie a bow," adds Terri Williamson, board member, business partnerships captain and website lead administrator.

That's an understatement.

This year's rally week, Sept. 17-25, features a ladies' tennis event, a family day, a ladies' golf and luncheon event and an evening gala. Through 2009, BCC Rally raised more than \$370,000, which all supports Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Of the funds raised, 75 percent stays local, supporting the Susan G. Komen Charlotte affiliate to raise awareness, provide support to survivors and fund mammograms and treatment to uninsured and underinsured women with breast cancer. The other 25 percent supports national breast cancer research. In 2008 and 2009, BCC Rally led the nation in Rally fundraising, amassing \$114,000 and \$156,000, respectively.

"None of us realized when we first started and it was this golf event that it would turn into something that has an effect on all of Charlotte. It's not just South Charlotte. It's not just Ballantyne," Williamson notes. "It's nine surrounding counties that Susan G. Komen funds support with money we raise. It reaches a huge circle in the Charlotte community. In the beginning we didn't have any comprehension of that. We had

The Rally for the Cure's Pink Bow Campaign raised \$12,000 in 2009.



During Rally for the Cure, pink bows proliferate in Ballantyne and nearby areas.



Sue Dockstader (from left), Beth Freudenthal, Jeanne Puckett, Carol Aaron, Lee Lustig, Maria Logan, Janet DeCillis, Jean Rottmann and Terri Williamson are among the Rally's leaders.

"None of us realized when we first started and it was this golf event that it would turn into **something that has an effect on all of Charlotte,**" Terri Williamson says.

no idea the money we raised went that far."

Barracudas and Pink Bows

And it's not just the scheduled events that raise money and awareness. Sponsorships, now fittingly called "partnerships," grew \$30,000 from 2008 to 2009 alone. The Ballantyne Barracudas swim team raised more than \$500 in June by selling pink snow cones at a swim meet. Post-event photo albums are sold, and BCC Rally Pink Pages are issued, convenient handbooks that list businesses that support the event and are distributed to more than 1,000 BCC member households.

"We use the Pink Pages as a reference when we need to use a business for a service," DeCillis says.

There's also the highly visible Pink Bow Campaign, run by meticulous Carol Aaron, who's been known to visit neighborhoods under the cover of darkness, fluffing and trimming errant bows. Leading up to BCC Rally week and left on display until the end of October, pink bows, \$5 each, are sold and hand-tied by Rally members to donor mailboxes.

Like the rest of the BCC Rally team, Aaron is humble about her contributions. "She thinks it's just this little piece of Rally," Williamson says about Aaron.

"The pink bows first were tied on trees for golf registrants before it evolved to mailboxes," DeCillis recalls. "You received your bow and thought, 'What do I do with it?'"

That's until Aaron received a pink bow tied to her mailbox

by Williamson. "I told Terri, 'I want to head that up next year,'" Aaron says.

In 2007, pink bow sales netted \$800. When Aaron first got involved in 2008, bows topped nearly every BCC mailbox and sales totaled \$5,000. Last year, word got out. Pink bows spread in south Charlotte to Bridgehampton, Highgrove, Kensington and Rosecliff. Ardrey Kell High School students also sold some. Bows raised \$12,000.

"That's when it started to get interesting," Aaron says.

Knowing she couldn't hand-cut many more bows, Aaron turned to Pink Bow Campaign member and BCC Rally Publicity Captain Sue Dockstader, who does business in China. The duo designed easy-to-assemble bows with their own fabric, bright pink and decked with breast cancer

awareness ribbons. "We wanted to come up with something that you couldn't buy at Hallmark," Dockstader notes.

Even the search for a bow manufacturer spread the Rally message overseas. "I received a call from a girl in China and it was 1 a.m. there," Dockstader remembers.

"She said, 'My colleague's mother recently died of breast cancer and now my colleague herself has been diagnosed with breast cancer so this is important to us.'"

"We're having a global impact," DeCillis says.

This year, the BCC Rally bow campaign will spread its pink ribbons even farther, hoping to blanket the city with 10,000 bows by involving new

neighborhoods and businesses in the campaign.

"When I joined Rally, I thought I'd just sell a couple of bows," Aaron says. "But you come in and you feel this energy and think, what can I do now?"

Reasons to Rally Abound

The real meaning of the BCC Rally isn't lost on the participants, either. "For those of us who haven't had breast cancer, we get our motivation and drive from our fellow committee members who have had breast cancer," DeCillis says. "When we see children noticing pink bows on mailboxes and asking their moms if they've had their mammograms, we know we're successful."

Lee Lusting, board member and founding member of the event from 2003, explains, "Having a survivor across the table from you makes it all very real. It makes you stop in your tracks."

For Jeanne Puckett, a member of the board of directors, a sponsorship lead captain and a nearly 13-year breast cancer survivor, the BCC Rally is "a celebration of another year" and a way to spread awareness about early detection. "It's the opportunity to pay it forward because that's what was done for me," she says.

Attending last year's grant reception for the Charlotte affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure was inspiring for the team, too.

This year, the BCC Rally bow campaign will spread its pink ribbons even farther, **hoping to blanket the city with 10,000 bows** by involving new neighborhoods and businesses.

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"The announcement that money that had come from Susan G. Komen Charlotte was providing free mammograms in the Charlotte region made me feel good," Dockstader says. "We've had a direct influence on people's lives with the money we've raised here."

Says Logan, "The cost is so high; it encourages us to raise even more money to provide mammograms to the uninsured."

Puckett is frank: "We have a great time doing this and want to raise money, but the neighborhood does more than think about itself," she says. "We're trying to reach women who are under- and uninsured and make a difference in their lives. We're not doing this to be No. 1. We really have a heart to



BCC Rally for the Cure sells pink bows for \$5 each.

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Of course, it doesn't hurt to be No. 1 in fundraising. And these women relish the challenge.

No. 1 and Not Backing Down

An Arizona-based Rally with access to three golf courses long held the No. 1 fundraising spot in Rally's 13-year history. That is until 2008, when the BCC Rally first broke the record.

"It gives us credibility when we're reaching out to sponsors to say we've been No. 1 for the past two years," Logan says.

"We were prepared for a flat year in 2009. We didn't think our fundraising would increase. We were even more shocked when we managed to exceed our previous goal and increase the amount we raised again,"

continued on page 46



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"These women bring so many awesome skills to the table from past work experiences and what they know how to do," Maria Logan says. "When we come together as a group, **we can really pull off some amazing things.**"

■ continued from page 44

Dockstader says, quickly adding, "The ranking is secondary."

"In your heart of hearts, of course you want to succeed," Aaron adds.

"It's nice to have that No. 1," Puckett says with a gleam in her eye.

Logan is mum on the goal she's mentally set for this year.

"Success isn't in the dollar amount," Aaron says with a smile.


"But at the end of the day..." Logan says, her voice trailing off as she smiles back.

"The generosity of the people who attend is mind-blowing," quickly adds Jean

Rottmann, six-year BCC Rally treasurer and a captain for 2010. "It bolsters your faith in people and the cause."


And it bolsters their faith in each other.

"These women bring so many awesome skills to the table from past work experiences and what they know how to do," Logan says. "When we come together as a group, we can really pull off some amazing things."

"It's a great opportunity to give back to the community and do a small part in something that's very big," Dockstader says. "And it shows that no matter how small and insignificant you are in the world, you can make a difference — even one bow at a time." 

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The Ballantyne couple dated almost five years before Ricks popped the question.

RING

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED as we were putting together the latest installment of Date Night, our popular feature that explores Ballantyne's entertainment and dining scene.

We'd selected the perfect local couple — Charlotte natives Colin Ricks and Debbie Hyde — and interviewed them to determine where they like to go for their ideal Ballantyne date. Bowling was on tap, as was dinner at Global Restaurant Bar & Lounge, the couple's favorite restaurant.

As we were scheduling their special date, bowling fell by the wayside and the restaurant took front and center. "Why" on both counts becomes clear when you realize that Colin

surprised everybody by asking Debbie to marry him.

Not long before Date Night, he popped the question at none other than Global. "I had no idea that was coming," Hyde says. "It was a huge surprise."

It was a surprise to us, too, at Ballantyne Magazine, but we know a good story when we see one. For this installment of Date Night, we decided to focus on the special evening that Colin orchestrated for the big proposal and re-enact a few of the key moments in the pictures you see with the story. Here's how Date Night became Engagement Night.

The couple had been dating almost five years but had talked only casually about marriage. In fact,



Colin Ricks and Debbie Hyde light up when they visit their favorite area restaurant, Global Restaurant Bar & Lounge.

Colin Surprises Debbie with ‘Will You Marry Me?’

By Sean O'Connell

STONE

“We were leaving for Cabo the next morning, and a couple hours before we were supposed to leave for dinner, we realized that Colin’s passport had expired,” Hyde remembers.

RIGHT: Hyde and Ricks, both Charlotte natives, have lived in Ballantyne for years.



on the night Ricks proposed, Hyde’s mind was a million miles away — in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

“We were leaving for Cabo the next morning, and a couple hours before we were supposed

to leave for dinner, we realized that Colin’s passport had expired,” Hyde remembers. “So that’s what I was focused on. I was freaking out about it because we weren’t going to get to fly to Mexico.”

Ricks hoped to use the passport distraction to his advantage, knowing that Hyde would be so preoccupied with replacing the official document that she wouldn’t be expecting a marriage proposal. First,

however, he had a serious obstacle to overcome.

“In the back of my mind, I was thinking, ‘How in the world am I going to convince her to still go to the restaurant?’” Ricks recalls. “She was upset.

But ultimately, it was the kind of situation where it was 6:30 p.m. on a Friday, there wasn't much that we could do about the passport ... and so why not just stick with the plans instead of sitting around and being miserable? She eventually decided that was a fine idea. We were a little bit late, but we eventually made it to the restaurant."

Ricks had known all along

that he wanted to propose to Hyde at Global. The Ballantyne restaurant known for fine food originating from around the world had become a second home to them over the years.

"It was the first place that came to mind," he says. "We had been going there for years, ever since we moved to Ballantyne. We love the place. It has great food. And when I decided to propose in



The evening Ricks proposed he was relieved when they finally left for the restaurant.

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“Colin got down on one knee, and said all the right things,” Hyde recalls with a laugh. “And then he surprised me with all of our family members, our parents and really close friends (joining us). It was really neat.”

Hyde had no idea what her longtime beau Ricks had planned the evening before they left for Mexico.

Charlotte before our trip, I couldn't think of any place I'd rather do it.”

“Ever since the first time we ate there, Bernard has always walked out to the table, talked to us, and made us feel at home,” Hyde adds. “We have just come to love it.”

She means Bernard Brunet, Global's executive chef who studied and worked in his native France before moving to the U.S. and launching Global with his wife, Shannon, a native of Boone.



GLOBAL RESTAURANT BAR & LOUNGE

3520 Toringdon Way
704-248-0866

Hours

*Bar/Wine Room
and Patio*

Monday to Saturday,
3 p.m. to close

Dining Room

Monday to Saturday,
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Website

www.global-restaurant.com

Insider Info

Biggest Draw: For the couple, it's the pan-seared shoulder beef tenderloin, which is served — according to the menu — with Fingerling “à la Lyonnaise” and Cab/Sauv Danish Blue Cheese sauce.

For everyone else, it's the restaurant's intimate setting, as well as the service provided by head chef Bernard Brunet and his staff.

See and Be Seen: Global likes to say it's more than a restaurant. It's a destination. That's especially true for the venue's wine events and culinary and social gatherings.

The night of the proposal, the restaurant staff did something different that caught Hyde's attention immediately. “They seated us in the restaurant's private area,” she remembers. “That's kind of unusual for us. So at that point, I was kind of like, ‘Oh, what's going to happen?’ We've never been seated in there, and they were telling us we were going back there because the restaurant was crowded. It didn't matter. I was still in a really bad mood because we still had no passport for Colin.”

The grumpiness didn't last, however. Ricks and Hyde savored one of the restaurant's signature “Appetizer Towers,” which includes samples of scallops, cured beef and eggplant spring rolls from the menu. Atop the tower, acting as a napkin holder, was Hyde's engagement ring.

Hyde and Ricks enjoy many dishes at Global. Their favorite is the pan-seared shoulder beef tenderloin.



The rest of the evening was a blur of fine food and wine handpicked by Brunet.

“Colin got down on one knee, and said all the right things,” Hyde recalls with a laugh. “And then he surprised me with all of our family members, our parents and really close friends (joining us). So that was another great surprise. It was really neat.”

The rest of the evening was a blur of fine food and wine handpicked by Brunet. Hyde says they left several items at the restaurant as they rushed home to pack. The passport problem was solved the next day after an extended stop at a Dallas, Texas passport agency.

And though the couple is now immersed in wedding plans, Hyde says they're already looking forward to their next trip to Global, where she says they'll likely order their favorite dish, the shoulder beef tenderloin.

Perhaps on their first anniversary? 🍷

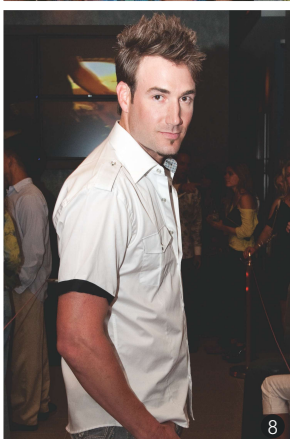


ROCK AND RUNWAY FASHION SHOW

Nearly 300 people turned out July 31 for the Rock and Runway Fashion Show at the Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne hotel.

Hosted by Greg Hussey of Vertigo Productions, attendees enjoyed a fashion show presented by LA East, located in Blakeney and owned by Bob and Melissa Thomas. Nathan Davis of Carmen! Carmen! provided hair styling, and DJ Kommotion, entertainment.

1. Alexi Pasut (from left), Leah Cantor, Laura Looney
2. Rob McDowell, Michael Barber, Rita Miles
3. Ashley Bigger
4. Angel Cato
5. Tyreece Bryant
6. Back row: Ryan Robb, Leah Vachon, Joey Vachon. Front row: Gabby Shives, Brooke Dawkins
7. Kia Brigham, Kevin Foxworth, Ashley Walker, Ariel Caraballo
8. Chapman Harkrader
9. Lindsay Derr
10. Elaine Klein, Greg Hussey, Kim Gray



HOOPTEE CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

An array of sports stars and others teed up July 6-8 to support HoopTee Charities Inc., a nonprofit founded by Charlotte Bobcats President Fred Whitfield. The group provides youth activities in the Carolinas.

The 8th Annual HoopTee Celebrity Golf Classic featured a "modified scramble best net ball" competition at The Golf Club at Ballantyne.



1. Golfers warm up at the 8th Annual HoopTee Celebrity Golf Classic.
2. Former Charlotte Hornets point guard Muggsy Bogues drives to the course.
3. Craig Hetherington (from left, Weeden & Co.), Andy Formato (Weeden & Co.), Michael Jordan (NBA Hall of Famer and Charlotte Bobcats owner), Fred Whitfield (Bobcats president and founder of HoopTee Charities), Todd Trimmer (Weeden & Co.); Charles Oakley (Retired NBA)
4. Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson (retired NFL) gives an interview about HoopTee Charities.
5. Alonzo Mourning, a former NBA star with the Miami Heat and Charlotte Hornets, takes a few swings.
6. Fred Whitfield, Charlotte Bobcats president and HoopTee founder, greets golfers.
7. Retired MLB players Tony Womack and Jacob Brumfield share stories.
8. Paul Mabe, Brian Mitchell (retired NFL) and Jacob Brumfield (retired MLB) pause during tourney action.
9. Barry Fabyan, Clifton Coble, Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Marshall Hilliard, Joe Hallow

TANKSLEY FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNEY

Golfers of all stripes came out June 18 to help the Adam Faulk Tanksley Foundation raise money for pediatric cancer research.

Golfers enjoyed a four-person, captain's choice tournament at The Ballantyne Hotel and Lodge, complete with lunch, awards and prizes.

Proceeds supported the new Developmental Therapeutic Research Facility at Levine's Children's Hospital in Charlotte.

1. Bill Yandell (from left), Dawn Barnard, Tommy Ford
2. Linda Lemmons, Judie Kellett, Austin Lindsay
3. Adam Tanksley
4. Mack Johnson, Rick Sneed
5. Sharon Tanksley, Adam Tanksley, Alyssa Tanksley, Mike Tanksley
6. Eric Brodeay, Tom Campbell, Scott Fisher, Brian Flanagan
7. Scott Dirkshneider, Germaine Marois
8. Mike Newman, Nelson Creel
9. Golfers enjoy a tasty lunch at the charity event.





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Fuel & Convenience Store

- Exxon On The Run

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- Lowes Foods
- Total Wine & More – Coming Soon

BURGER BONANZA

Big Daddy's Creations Draw Big Following

By Sean O'Connell Photos by Ray Sepesy

BURGER KING GETS CREDIT for inventing the catchphrase, "Have It Your Way." The fast-food franchise used the slogan for a series of memorable television commercials in the 1970s. Three decades later, though, the concept of made-to-order burgers has been perfected by the ingenious, experimental chefs at Big Daddy's Burger Bar in Ballantyne.

"Earlier today, I had a person order a burger with crispy onion straws, caramelized onions, eggs, avocado, guacamole, garlic mayo, barbecue sauce ... the guy just kept on going," says Adam Long, head chef at the burger joint at 15105-A John J. Delaney Drive. "I've built some burgers



Big Daddy's doesn't blink when customers pile high the toppings.

that are several inches thick. I'll tell customers, 'I don't know how you are going to eat it, but you are welcome to try.'"

And you are more than likely going to enjoy it, because Big Daddy's prides itself on a dedication to quality that has helped the eatery establish a powerful Ballantyne fan base.

A Ballantyne resident, Long helped open the Big Daddy's restaurant on East Boulevard but has been the head chef at the

Ballantyne location since it opened in October 2009. He estimates the chefs serve nearly 1,000 burgers on a weekday in the restaurant. On the weekend, that total easily jumps to 1,200.

Grass-Fed Beef, Careful Grilling

Long says there are multiple secrets to Big Daddy's flavorful burgers. The restaurant maintains a strict ratio of 75 percent beef,

25 percent fat in their all-natural, grass-fed ground chuck. Burgers are made daily and seasoned to order. They're seared on a flat-top grill set between 350 and 400 degrees because, as Long puts it, that "locks all of the flavor in."

"A lot of the other burger places around town won't serve a burger unless it's well done," Long says. "We will do medium. We will do the (state) required, 155-degree internal temperature. We're proud of our product, and we have no problems serving a medium burger because we want

to showcase what we have."

What they have, plain and simple, is variety. Meats made into burgers at Big Daddy's include turkey, ground chicken and ground pork, which is relatively new to the Big Daddy's menu. It can be found in the restaurant's Banh Mi burger, which was added to the "Favorites" list nearly six months ago. Served on a bolillo roll, it's seasoned with Asian spices and comes with mayo, cucumber, daikon and carrot slaw, cilantro and chile sauce.

BIG DADDY'S BURGER BAR

Hours

Monday-Wednesday:
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Thursday-Friday:
11 a.m. to midnight

Saturday: 8 a.m. to midnight
Sunday: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday
breakfast: 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

15105-A John J. Delaney Dr.
704-919-2700

www.bigdaddysburgerbar.com




Chef Adam Long estimates Big Daddy's serves about 1,000 to 1,200 burgers daily at its Ballantyne location.

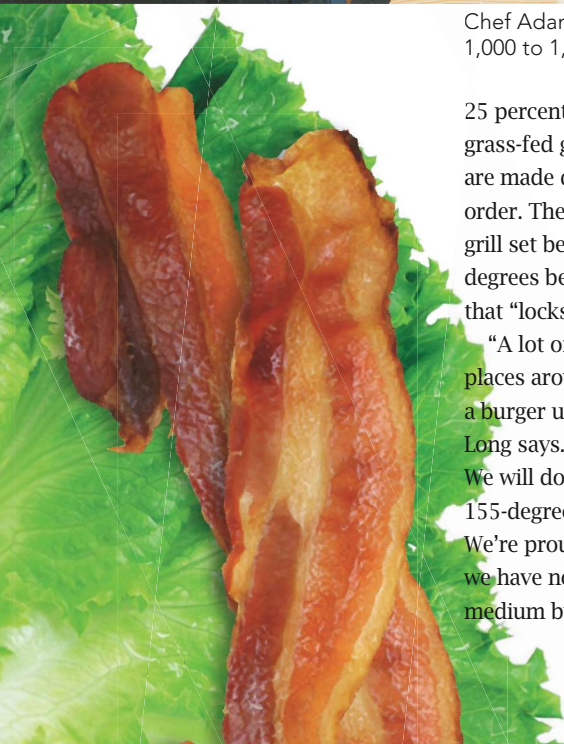


Basic to Exotic Toppings

Yet, Long says, most people still enjoy ordering a basic burger and adding whatever options they see fit. Premium toppings range from rosemary ham to pineapple and chili. Cheese options include feta, pimento and a homemade mozzarella. Condiments like orange-honey mustard or Baconnaise can be added as well.


In today's health-crazed culinary culture, how can a restaurant whose primary focus is hamburgers pack daily crowds? "We have a very good product for a very good price," Long says.

Sounds like Daddy's knows best. 



MONEY MATTERS

Investment & Insurance Resources



WITH THE ECONOMY STILL recovering, it's more important than ever to make wise financial decisions.

Such decisions involve everything from having adequate insurance and retirement investments to planning ahead for major expenses, such as a new home or college education for your children.

To learn more about professionals in the Ballantyne area who can assist with financial planning, insurance and investment opportunities, you're invited to read on.



John Hamrick, Derek Hernquist and Pat Donovan

Integrative Brings Hedge Fund Tactics to Discount Brokerage

When Derek Hernquist brought his family to Ballantyne in 2006, he devoted his time to managing his own portfolio, along with those of a few friends. A former board member, chief operating officer and trading desk manager at Online Trading Inc., Derek had spent the prior three years automating the strategies that had performed best in his 15 years in the investment profession. Soon, Pat Donovan, a math whiz and former colleague, joined him, along with another self-taught trader, John Hamrick, to launch Integrative Capital LLC.

The three registered investment advisors used their experience to create a hybrid approach that blends sophisticated analytical tools with old-fashioned street sense. This integration of art and science gives clients a balance between active trading and long-term investing, and access to the types of global strategies used by top hedge fund managers.

Located in the Ballantyne One Building at Ballantyne Corporate Park, Integrative Capital structures portfolios for long-term growth while taking a proactive role in minimizing portfolio drawdowns. Clients enjoy the ability to hold their account with a discount broker and maintain daily access to their funds, which gives them a major advantage over investment in hedge funds.

The partners, all of whom are thrilled to call Ballantyne home, invite you to dig into the educational content at their website, www.integrativecapital.com, and see how they track portfolio moves in their client letter "IC Weekly." This commitment to transparency is key to building long-term empowerment for its clients.

To learn more, contact Integrative Capital at 704-401-5282 or john@integrativecapital.com.



Robert Yatko

Robert Yatko Helps Families Insure Their Financial Well-Being

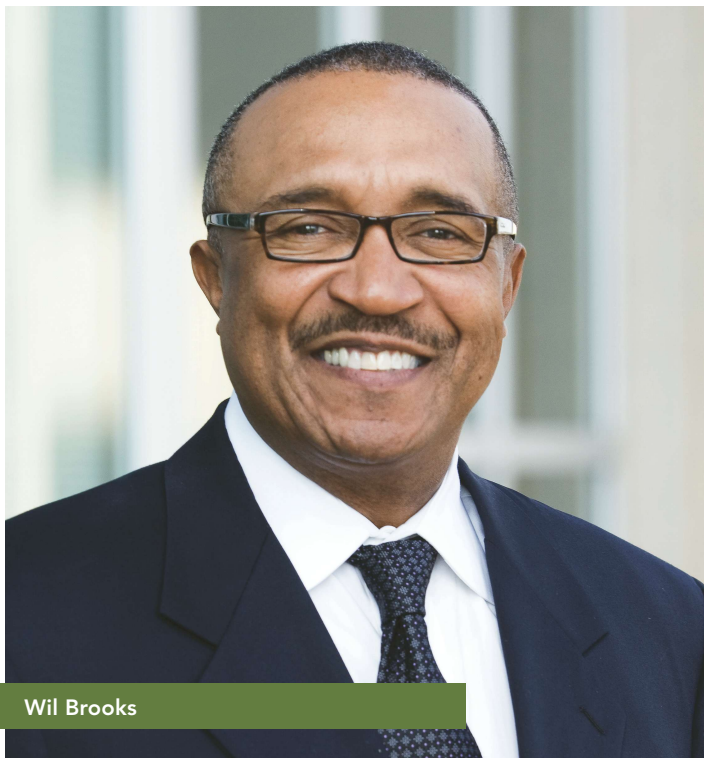
A successful financial future is the goal that Robert Yatko, a registered representative of New York Life Securities LLC, strives to help families achieve.

During economic uncertainty, he advises people to rediscover a bedrock principle of financial security: Guarantees matter. Guarantees you can count on for life. New York Life boasts a 165-year track record, and remains one of the few financial firms today with a Triple A rating.

When it comes to young families, Robert believes protection is the foundation of any financial plan. Although he advises clients to take advantage of employer-sponsored insurance, that insurance package is usually not portable, which is why he is a strong proponent of permanent life insurance. The younger you buy permanent insurance, such as whole or universal life, the longer it serves as a savings tool, with the added value of providing protection throughout your lifetime.

Helping clients manage 401(k) rollovers is another of Robert's areas of expertise. With many people changing jobs, he advises re-engaging with your money and controlling how it is invested. For clients in mid-life, his watchword is "diversification," meaning that while you should have a portion of assets deployed in equities to achieve long-term growth, you also need a secure side of the asset equation with permanent whole-life policies or fixed annuities guaranteed to provide money in the event of market troubles.

Robert invites you to contact him for a free consultation at 704-512-8231 or rayatko@ft.newyorklife.com. You'll be on your way to building a solid financial foundation with The Company You Keep®.



Wil Brooks

Wil Brooks' State Farm Agency Offers Personal Service, Comprehensive Products

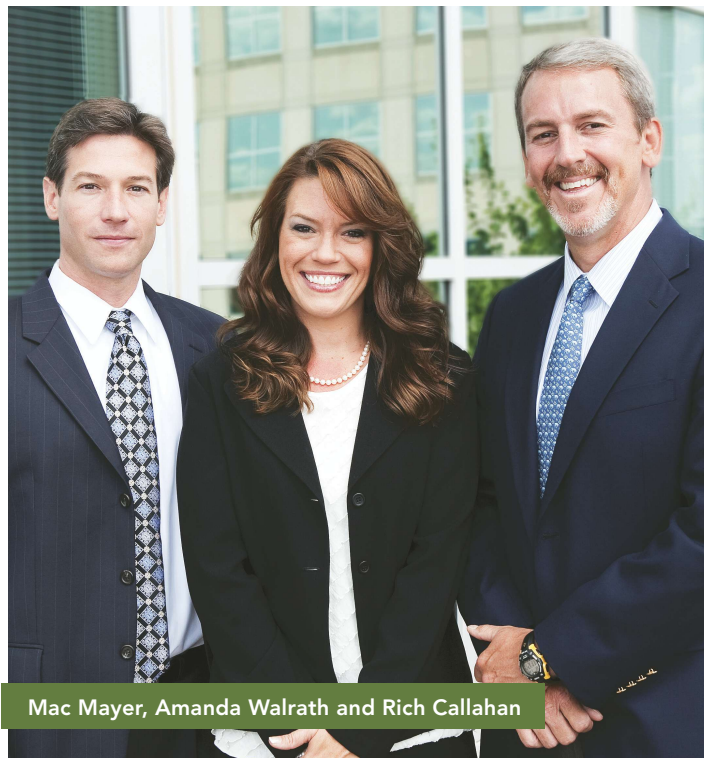
With the State Farm name backing it, the Wil Brooks State Farm Agency in Ballantyne benefits from being part of the nation's largest insurance company for homes and autos. State Farm is also one of the nation's leading life and health insurance companies. And in the past decade, State Farm has opened its banking and investment products to the public, prompting it to say it offers "the best of both worlds."

People in Ballantyne know and trust Wil Brooks because he and his agency put roots down here over 10 years ago and Wil has been actively involved in this community. Since his agency is individually owned, Wil provides personalized service, with one agent handling your account through the years. Wil and his seasoned staff help his clients with all of their insurance and financial-services needs, whether they're buying a home, car or planning for college education, retirement or long-term health concerns.

The breadth of insurance and financial products available today from State Farm is impressive. If a client wants to explore mutual funds for retirement planning or a 401(k) rollover from a previous employer, Wil can handle that. If they want to set up a health savings account to offset a major health care concern, he can handle that too.

Because the Wil Brooks Agency is still an exclusive State Farm agent, it is backed by State Farm's comprehensive resources and product quality. That's an advantage his agency has over some independents. Simply put, Wil and his staff are experienced at helping policyholders manage their everyday risks, plan for the future and recover from the unexpected.

For a free family insurance checkup, contact Wil at 704-542-0825 or wil@wilbrooks.com.



Mac Mayer, Amanda Walrath and Rich Callahan

Ballantyne Residents Anchor New UBS Office in Corporate Park

Financial advisors Rich Callahan, Mac Mayer and their registered client service associate, Amanda Walrath, recently moved from UBS SouthPark to anchor the new UBS office in Ballantyne. All three are raising their families here and play an active role in the community, so they share the perspective of clients in this area.

Rich, Mac, and Amanda have over 55 years of combined experience in the financial services industry. Prior to joining UBS together, they began their partnership at Salomon Smith Barney.

Their approach to investing starts with a comprehensive financial and wealth-management plan that encompasses asset allocation, retirement planning, income planning, insurance and estate planning, business lending and wealth-preservation strategies.

Rich and Mac both recently added the title of "Wealth Advisor," earned by a select number of UBS financial advisors who undergo extensive training to better manage the complex needs of high net-worth households.

Amanda's experience and background ensure that clients enjoy efficient execution. The team's focus is on providing a superior level of personalized service to their clients.

Rich, Mac and Amanda welcome you to visit them between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the UBS Ballantyne office in the Harris Building at Ballantyne Corporate Park.

Or you can reach Mac at 704-343-4030 or Mac.Mayer@ubs.com; Rich at 704-343-4087 or Rich.Callahan@ubs.com and Amanda at 704-343-4034 or Amanda.Walrath@ubs.com. To learn more about UBS, visit www.ubs.com.



Jim Cantalupo



Jimmy Allison

Ballantyne Location Ranks Number One Among Merrill Lynch Offices in U.S.

Only four years after opening, the Ballantyne Merrill Lynch office has been ranked first among 640 Merrill Lynch offices across the country.

Located in the Hixon Building in Ballantyne Corporate Park, the office attained the top spot based on a company survey of 14 corporate attributes. The reason for this honor is the extraordinary quality of the operation's 28 financial advisors, all of whom were handpicked by Manager Jim Cantalupo for their relationship-management skills and specialized professional designations earned through advanced post-graduate coursework.

This unusual pool of talent has developed a uniquely collaborative approach that enables them to provide a wide array of financial services that engenders deep client relationships. Specialized designations in the office cover a broad spectrum, including Certified Financial Planner, Certified Financial Manager, Certified Investment Management Analyst, Retired Charter Analyst and Chartered Retirement Specialist.

This deep expertise makes the Ballantyne office adept at servicing the needs of senior executives of publicly traded companies via a financial advisor who specializes in company stock options. The office is also conversant with managing the investments of physicians and physician groups, as well as entrepreneurs and small to medium-sized business owners.

Also, since Merrill Lynch is a Bank of America corporation, clients have the added benefits of one of the strongest corporate cash management systems in the world, great commercial lending facilities and a wide array of retirement-plan options for businesses of all sizes.

The process with new clients begins with a comprehensive financial review. To learn more or set up an initial consultation, Jim Cantalupo invites you to contact him at 704-577-6699 or Jim_Cantalupo@ml.com.

Advisor Jimmy Allison Creates Financial Road Maps for Clients

For Charlotte native James "Jimmy" Allison, assisting others is about creating road maps that help prepare them for their future.

As a financial advisor with HF Financial, an industry leader in the Charlotte market for 75 years — Jimmy thrives on tailoring strategies to help his clients reach their financial goals by working as a team, incorporating his entrepreneurial background and building valuable partnerships. These are qualities that enabled Jimmy to help develop Carolina Premier Wealth Management, a strategic alliance with Carolina Premier Bank.

Jimmy believes in the principles of integrity, conviction, accountability and service to others. Prior to his career in financial services, he spent 13 years in his family business, eventually becoming owner. He has parlayed his years of business experience into helping small business owners and families develop financial strategies. In addition, Jimmy speaks at area schools to help educate parents and students about college grants and scholarships.

Jimmy takes pride in working with clients to address concerns they have and to prepare a sound strategy to help them determine: future financial goals, monthly cash flow, insurance needs, college-savings needs and asset allocation — always focusing on tax efficiency and minimizing "money erosion."

Jimmy's goal is to give each client overall peace of mind while guiding them to a secure future. To reach him, call 704-999-8508.

Jimmy also offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services Inc., a member of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. HF Financial, a general agency of Mass Mutual Life Insurance Co., is located in SouthPark at 6000 Fairview Road, Suite 400, and can be reached at 704-557-9600.

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SAVVY STRATEGIES

Experts Weigh in on Saving for Your Children's College Education

By Nan Bauroth Photos by Shane Baskin

TROY AND LADONNA ELKINS are blessed with three sons ages 18, 15 and 9. Amy O'Keefe has one daughter three-years-old. Like many Ballantyne families, they share the goal of giving their children the best college education money can buy. But every year that price tag mounts, and in economic uncertainty, the burden of saving for higher education and funding retirement can weigh on any family's finances.

To get an idea of what families face, in-state schools run around \$18,000 per year,

while private universities can set parents back a staggering \$40,000 — and that doesn't include cars, clothes, and all those pricey digital devices college students can't live without.

The cost of underwriting one sheepskin is daunting enough, but multiply it by three, and you're talking real money. We asked top-notch local experts — an attorney, CPA/Certified Financial Planner, two insurance providers and a financial advisor from a leading brokerage firm — to

provide their best advice to parents. Read on to learn more about the Elkins and O'Keefe families and to see what the advisors have to say about funding college for your children.

The Elkins Family

Life for Troy and LaDonna Elkins revolves around the athletic pursuits of their sons: Troy Jr., a freshman in college; Kalen, a sophomore at Ardrey Kell High School; and Jadon, a fifth grader at Elon Park Elementary. The

devoted parents never miss their boys' football games, basketball games or track meets if they can help it. This fall that means one weeknight they'll be rooting for Kalen at Ardrey Kell, and on Saturday afternoons, watching Troy Jr. on the university gridiron.

"It's important for us to be there," LaDonna says. "They want to see Mom and Dad. I would hate for someone to tell me my son made an awesome play and I missed it." Troy Sr. echoes her sentiment. "I played my best games in high school



Life for Troy and LaDonna Elkins revolves around the athletic pursuits of their sons: Troy Jr., a freshman in college; Kalen, a sophomore at Ardrey Kell High School; and Jadon, a fifth grader at Elón Park Elementary.

THE ELKINS FAMILY

when my parents were there,” he recalls. “I feel like our sons need us there at all costs.”

This depth of parental commitment extends to ensuring their sons receive a college education. The couple started saving for Troy Jr. when he was only in the fifth grade — no surprise given that LaDonna is a Defined Contribution Plan administrator with 22 years of experience who owns her own TPA (third party administrator) firm, LD Consulting. The company specializes in

handling daily activity and annual reporting for 401(k) and other defined contribution retirement plans.

The athletic gene in the family comes from Troy Sr., who is a basketball coach at J.M. Robinson Middle School. He also owns Phenom22 Global Sports, which provides athletics-skills training for youth and an online recruiting tool for college coaches to preview young athletes. Troy Sr. played basketball and ran track at Hastings College in Nebraska, and played semi-pro

football in Charlotte.

“Starting to put money aside that early for Troy Jr. was a conscious decision,” LaDonna says. “Our first priority for our sons has always been academics. Everybody wants a free pass, hoping their child will get a scholarship, but that only foots a portion of the bill” in many cases.

The couple is open to any strategies to save on parallel tracks for college education and retirement. “Ultimately you do the best you can with what you have,” says Troy Sr.

“Sometimes you may struggle, sometimes not. You have to put something aside for a rainy day, but you also have to live.”

For the Elkins family, living includes downtime at Myrtle Beach. When father and sons want to get away from it all here, they go fishing at Lake Wylie or Ballantyne Corporate Park. “Hixon Pond in Ballantyne Corporate Park is one of our favorite places,” says Troy Sr. with a smile. “We just throw our line in. We’ve been doing it for years.”



Amy O'Keefe is one of those female dynamos who thrives on living life to the fullest.

THE O'KEEFE FAMILY

The O'Keefe Family

Amy O'Keefe is one of those female dynamos who thrives on living life to the fullest. In addition to mothering her young daughter, O'Keefe serves as a regional manager for Excelsior Benefits, a national insurance intermediary that designs and implements benefit plans for group clients.

For most women, those two responsibilities would be enough. But not O'Keefe, who also sits on the board of the Morrison Family YMCA, and co-owns Dolcetto's Wine Room in the Piedmont Towne Center near SouthPark. Oh — and just for fun, she's taking lessons at the Dana Rader Golf School.

O'Keefe's determination to push herself to the max began in high school, when she implored her parents to obtain her working papers at 15 so she could lifeguard at the Harris YMCA. "By the age of 17, I was teaching swim lessons and helping manage the pool," she says. Her involvement on the Morrison Y board came about through insurance contacts with board members Mike Thompson and Bill Jackson. "I rely on this community for my income, so what a great way to give back," she says. "To see the way the Y changes lives is gratifying."

When it comes to building financial security, O'Keefe's habits date to childhood when family members gave savings bonds at birthdays or holidays. She has already begun a college savings fund for her daughter. "Education is critical because it lays the groundwork for the rest of your life," she stresses. "When you work, trusting and deciding who will have the most impact on your child throughout the day is infinitely important." Even though her daughter isn't

yet in grade school, O'Keefe is deliberating which educational savings vehicles will best serve her long-term goals.

Meantime, she spends evenings with her daughter practicing workbooks and flashcards. "She loves puzzles," O'Keefe says, "But her favorite thing to do is listen to music. She begs me to play songs, so I put her in the stroller and go for long walks while we listen together. She's even assigned a special song to every member of our family, including me." And what would that be? "Uncle Cracker's 'Smile,'" she replies with a laugh.

Meet the Advisors

Experts interviewed for this story provide financial information that many parents would benefit from in funding their children's education. Here's a closer look at the financial advisors:

Wil Brooks, owner and agent, State Farm Insurance (Toringdon).

Paul Bass, attorney, The Law Office of Paul H. Bass PLLC (Fountains at Ardrey Kell), which concentrates on estate planning, corporate/commercial and real estate.

Roberta Cianfrone, CPA/Certified Financial Planner, senior tax manager, Blair, Bohlé and Whitsitt PLLC (Providence Park, I-485 and Providence), which provides individuals, corporations and organizations with tax, accounting, assurance and advisory services.

Doug Woodruff, financial consultant, Charles Schwab (SouthPark).

Stephen Ratcliffe, wealth management advisor and Certified Financial Planner for Northwestern Mutual (SouthPark).

Tips on Funding College Education

1 Create a Financial Security Net

The experts advise parents to do this before saving for retirement or college.

WIL BROOKS: "Get a minimum \$500,000 term life policy (20-year), and consider a mortgage disability policy to make the house payment if a parent becomes disabled."

"Single mothers should ask their child's father to purchase a minimum \$250,000 term life policy (20-year) on himself with her as owner and the child's guardian as beneficiary. This is often done as part of the divorce settlement."

PAUL BASS: Don't name minor children as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. "The insurance company won't write a check to

a minor. They'll have to ask the court to appoint a legal guardian to manage property acquired or inherited by a minor child if the value exceeds \$1,500." To avoid this, parents can create a trust for minor children in their will, which can serve as a contingent beneficiary of life-insurance proceeds. A trust enables parents to place controls over use of funds and have them managed until a child is older — 25, or whatever age a parent deems best.

Don't name your mother or father as guardian of your small children. Consider your parents' ages in light of your children's ages and possible needs. "True, they raised you right, but this position will last until the child is 18 and, if a child becomes disabled, it could last longer. It may be wiser to consider a

sibling instead."

Parents who personally guarantee a lease in a business they own or co-own should take out a term life policy to pay off the full cost of the lease over its term if they die. "That way your estate is not hit with the default, which would impact assets left to provide for children."

2 Funding for Retirement Versus a Child's College Education

The experts agree: Retirement must be your first priority.

STEPHEN RATCLIFFE: "There is an emotional and a financial decision to be made. The emotional decision is, 'I want to pay for my kids' education.' But if by doing that, you jeopardize your retirement, and you have to retire, either for health reasons or are terminated, and money is

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FINANCIAL ABC'S TEACHING CHILDREN THE VALUE OF A DOLLAR

Piggybanks are making a comeback. In uncertain economic times, parents have a renewed interest in making sure their youngsters don't think money grows on trees. Fortunately, Ballantyne-based Carolina Premier Bank has developed two ways to help parents educate children in financial management.

For starters, the bank offers a Tree Frog Savings Club for children from birth to age 12. It pays an impressive 10 percent APR (Annual Percentage Rate) on balances up to \$250, and comes with a cardboard "Moonjar" savings bank, coin holder and passbook. To encourage saving, the bank awards club members prizes such as stickers when they reach specific transaction levels. Little ones can also practice making deposits at a teller window scaled to their size.

Once children hit 13, Carolina Premier Bank knows they become more serious about the green stuff, so the bank offers a unique New Carolinian checking account to introduce them to financial responsibility. The account includes free checks and an ATM card with limits starting at \$29 (parents or guardian must co-sign), plus online banking without bill-paying access so they can learn to balance their statement, monitor spending and set up e-mail balance alerts.

To earn higher levels of access to funds via Point of Sale/ATM, teens must attend seminars held by the bank that cover age-critical topics such as identity theft and debit card dos and don'ts.

Caryn Johnson, chief operating officer of Carolina Premier Bank, who runs the seminars, says it's critical for teens to know how to manage money responsibly before they leave for college. "We heard about kids heading off to school who didn't know how to handle their finances, so we decided to help them learn how to use a checking account and debit card so they wouldn't get into trouble once they were on their own," she says.

Johnson has firsthand experience with this issue because she and her husband have two teenage sons. "We've found the ATM card has several plusses: It allows a teen with a job to get gas or food without carrying a lot of cash. Before, our sons felt they might need \$50 or \$60 all the time and it disappeared pretty fast," she says. "But now that they always have access with the ATM card, they save more money because they tend not to take it all out."

The seminars Johnson conducts were designed with the help of a high school summer intern, so topics are age relevant. "Kids need to realize they can damage their credit from actions in college that will prevent them getting a car loan or mortgage," she notes. "We hold roundtable discussions and then encourage teens to ask the same questions of their parents about how they manage their finances. Most of my values about money came from my parents, and we believe parents must be the ones communicating those to their children as well."



not there to fund your retirement, no one will give you a loan. Whereas, if a child is of age to go to school and money isn't there, they can still go to college and have the rest of their life to pay a loan off."

ROBERTA CIANFRONE: "Some parents feel they are bad parents if their kids have to take out student loans, but that's not the case. If parents must go that route, when the economy rebounds or they have more cash flow, they can always help pay off those loans."

3 Best Sources to Tap in Addition to Student Loans

DOUG WOODRUFF: "529 Plans and Coverdell Educational Savings Accounts (also known as "ESAs") offer an additional tax benefit. You can put in \$50 or \$100 per month in a systematic way." There are many 529 Plans, but the North Carolina, state-sponsored plan carries additional income-tax benefits.

Consider custodial accounts. "You set aside money in the child's name, and other family members or friends can contribute, as in a 529." The catch is that the minor owns the assets, so at 18 they could gain access and blow the money. (Bass notes there are ways around this by having a custodian move assets to North Carolina's 529 Plan, though legal restrictions apply.)

ROBERTA CIANFRONE: Think about a home equity line. "You're not touching retirement savings. A second plus is that depending on your tax situation, the interest may be deductible. An equity line may give you a tax benefit, whereas interest paid on a loan from your 401(k) is non-deductible personal interest."

The American Opportunity

Tax Credit, which in 2010 offers up to \$2,500 for qualified education expenses. "Higher income limitation phaseouts now apply, so more families can benefit. I counsel clients how to balance 529 distributions with other savings they take out to maximize the benefit from both the 529 and tax credit."

"If you're not eligible to claim the credit based on your income, consider not claiming the personal exemption for your child, and having the child claim the education credit on their return, assuming they have income and pay taxes."

STEPHEN RATCLIFFE: Tap the cash value of a permanent life-insurance policy. "You can either take a loan or a distribution. If you want to eventually put that money back into the policy, you can take a loan. If you don't want to replenish it, then you can take a distribution and not pay it back; however, this option will reduce the policy's death benefit."

4 Funding by a Parent-Owned Business

PAUL BASS: Hire your teenage children and have them open a 401(k). Legal issues, such as how the company is structured and plan type, must be addressed first, however. "Depending on the answers, they could choose from a number of retirement vehicles. The kids could contribute, with that money growing tax-deferred, and when taken out, there is no penalty for qualified education expenses."

Consider tuition reimbursement. "Each family-owned company can set up tuition reimbursement, which in 2010 is up to \$5,250 per employee. The company writes it off as an expense and it is

not treated as income to the beneficiary."

5 Dipping into a 401(k)


The experts agree: Do this only as a last resort.

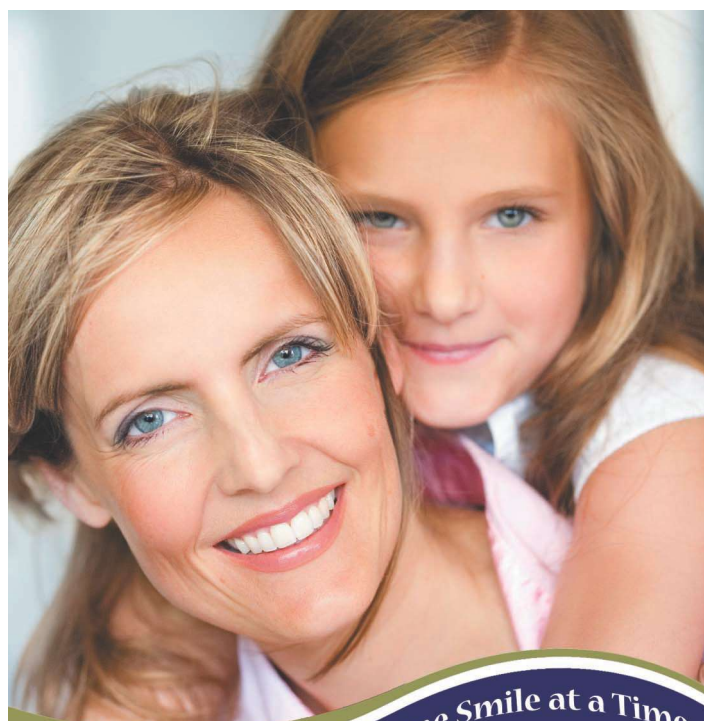
ROBERTA CIANFRONE: "If you leave your job or are terminated, you usually have only one or two months to repay the loan. If you can't, it goes into default. The loan plus current interest is then treated as a taxable distribution to you, and you owe taxes on it. This creates a negative ripple effect on your finances."

"Another downside is that depending on the plan's provisions, you're prohibited from making additional contributions until the loan is repaid, for a period of time, say 12 months. Not only are you taking money from your retirement account, the loan limits your ability to contribute additional dollars. If your employer is matching, you're losing out on that free money."

DOUG WOODRUFF: Contributing the max you can to a 401(k) is crucial to retirement saving. "Not only do you get tax benefits, but the return from the matching. If your employer matches 50 cents on the first six percent of contributions, in the first year that's like getting a guaranteed 50 percent return, which is hard to come by."

6 Gifts from Family and Friends

WIL BROOKS: "Make education saving a family affair. When birthdays and holidays approach, encourage family and friends to use all or part of the money they would spend on a gift for your child toward a contribution to their 529. Send an e-mail with all the information they need to do that." 



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PERFECT TRIO

Editor's Note: *The author is the editor of the style blog, Hanger Envy, www.hangerenvy.com, and is a personal style consultant based in Charlotte.*

EACH YEAR DOZENS of fall trends fill the runways in New York and fashion editors list their "must-haves." But those must-haves aren't really all that necessary in Charlotte. You don't need leather shorts; you don't need a floor



LEFT: Ralph Lauren's fall collection features this dramatic velvet gown. Photo courtesy of Ralph Lauren.
ABOVE LEFT: Diane von Furstenberg's fall runway show showcased mixed textures. Photo courtesy of Diane von Furstenberg.
ABOVE RIGHT: Camel was the main trend at Michael Kors' fall presentation. Photo courtesy of Michael Kors.

PUNCH UP YOUR FALL WARDROBE WITH VELVET, CAMEL, TEXTURES

By Samantha Carpenter

length fur coat and you really don't need 14-inch heels. What you do need are trends that fit your style and your life. This fall the three trends that stood out on the runways as realistic must-haves were: velvet, camel and mixed textures.

Velvet Roars Back

Velvet is back in a big way. We saw it cropping up every now and

then last year. There was a dress here and a top there, but that was nothing compared to the amount of velvet on the runways of New York Fashion Week.

Nearly every designer had it in his or her collection, which shows how universal this trend is going to be. Designers showed velvet jackets, velvet gowns, velvet pants and velvet shoes. There is no need to go out and buy a head-to-toe

velvet ensemble, but you should look into adding some velvet to your fall look.

A great option for getting a little velvet into your wardrobe is a blazer. A blazer is a piece that can be used in a lot of different ways. Wear yours over a silk top with jeans to a nice dinner or over a cocktail dress to keep warm once the temperature drops.

A velvet blazer is also a big trend

for men this fall. The silhouette is a bit different, but the luxe look is the same. Look for a navy or dark hunter green blazer to update a man's look.

Another way for women to inject some velvet into their closet is by adding a dress. A velvet dress can be incredibly flattering when the fit is right. The fabric doesn't cling like jersey and cotton and highlights curves in a great way when it



ABOVE LEFT: A tiered chiffon skirt paired with a chunky knit equals a spot on look for fall. Photo courtesy of Diane von Furstenberg.



ABOVE RIGHT: Whiskey-colored leather accessories make camel feel even more luxe. Photo courtesy of Michael Kors.

RIGHT: A sheer blouse is given weight with an embellished cardigan. Photo courtesy of Diane von Furstenberg

COMBINING FABRICS WITH DIFFERENT TEXTURES AND SHEENS ADDS INTEREST TO YOUR LOOK.

catches light. Rather than going the super-safe route and buying a black velvet dress, look for one in a rich jewel tone.

Camel Coats Everywhere

I love it when a classic is trendy all of a sudden. Camel coats were everywhere during the fall shows on both women and men. There is something so rich about a perfectly tailored camel coat. If you don't currently have a camel coat in your wardrobe, this fall is the time to

invest in one.

When searching for a camel coat, look for a classic silhouette that fits like a glove. Think about Mad Men and the impeccable tailoring on the cast. A simple, single-breasted option with a waist belt is the best bet for women. The length should hit about mid-thigh, which will keep the right proportion and keep you warm as well.

Men should look for a double-breasted coat that hugs the shoulders and falls straight.

A camel coat isn't the trend to find on the cheap. It is something in which you need to invest both time and money. The fabric should be durable, warm and feel great to the touch.

Not only did camel coats make a splash on the runways, but camel itself was evident in many forms, including pants, skirts and turtlenecks. Camel wool trousers would be a great addition to anyone's closet. Women can wear them to work with a great blouse

or with a delicate top for a special occasion. Men can pair them with a shirt and tie for a day at the office or with a sweater for a night out.

The great thing about this caramel-colored classic is that it is essentially a blank canvas. You can dress it up with jewelry and a fancy top or go casual by pairing it with a cotton tee.

Textures Give Luxe Feel


Mixing textures is the fall trend that combines the others.

Combining fabrics with different textures and sheens adds interest to your look. Rather than adding complexity to your outfit by piling on jewelry or layers, just choose pieces that have different textures. This trend, like camel, has a luxury feel. And the greatest part: you can pull off this trend without spending a single dollar. Use what you have in your closet to create a new outfit.

Take a silk top and wear it with tweed trousers and a cashmere cardigan. Try wearing a chunky sweater belted with a wide suede belt and a velvet skirt. Mix and match to your heart's content. To really achieve this trend to its full potential, be sure that the fabrics have contrasting feels. Mixing cashmere and Merino wool won't give you the same look as mixing velvet and silk.

Men can indulge in this trend by introducing herringbone, tweed and other classic fabrics into their wardrobe. A tweed blazer with an Oxford-cloth, button-down shirt and jeans is an update on a classic look.

Mixing textures can also be used when it comes to your jewelry and accessories. Wear a Lucite bangle with a leather cuff. Try mixing a rhinestone necklace with a delicate chain. It is all about experimenting and finding the combinations you love.

These three trends will keep you looking modern and stylish through the fall and winter in the Queen City. If you remember them when you head out for fall shopping and find the pieces that fit your style, you can assemble that contemporary look that's uniquely you. 



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Parents

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Critical Difference in Ballantyne Schools



EVERY THURSDAY Debbie Reicht gets up at the crack of dawn to arrive at Endhaven Elementary School by 7 a.m. to run the Endhaven Cougars Chess Club. That's what you call parental commitment — especially since she's been doing it for six years. Her dedication is even more impressive once you know that at 8:15 a.m. when the club is over, Reicht starts her real day running Southern Comfort Zone, a Ballantyne heating and air conditioning business she and husband Peter own.

"In winter when it's cold and dark, it's hard to drag myself out of bed," Reicht admits. "But then I think of those smiling little faces, so eager to play chess. That's what makes me roll out at that hour. They'll run up and hug me telling me how they just won a game. Their fervor is contagious. I just love it."

Reicht's involvement began when the first of her three sons, ages 15, 13, and 9,

continued on page 79



Debbie Reicht's son (left) is a member of his school's chess club. Reicht (above, blue shirt) runs the club with other parent volunteers, including Kim Snider (above, far left) and Blessy Marin.

FROM FOUNDING TO NOW, PARENTS HIGHLY INVOLVED AT CHARLOTTE LATIN

It all started with a chat over a neighbor's brick wall by two dads who felt so strongly about their children receiving the best possible education that they decided to found — and fund — a school focused on classic instructional methodologies. Forty years later, Charlotte Latin School, an independent learning institution that serves children in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade, stands as a living testament to the power of what totally committed parents like Frank R. Thies Jr. and Robert V. Knight Jr. can accomplish.

Joined by their wives, Janet R. Thies and Betsy K. Knight, along with Carol G. Belk, Patrick N. Calhoun, Thomas C. Creasy Jr., Alan T. Dickson, Cameron and Catherine S. Faison, Dr. John R. Pender III, W. Howard Pitt Jr. and John B. Stedman, these founding mothers and fathers began talking in the aisle of the A&P grocery store, and eventually formalized their meetings in the Faisons' garage.

After hours of planning and raising pledges, they purchased 52 acres on Providence Road, near what is now I-485, from local developer Charles C. Ervin, who personally carried the loan until the school could afford to pay principal. At that point, the parents' dream began to take final form.

That same dedication to children flourishes today in Charlotte Latin School parents like Mike McGarry, who is heavily involved as a volunteer

in the Athletic Booster Club, which supports his two daughters' endeavors on the playing field.

"While leadership and responsibility are taught in the classroom, they are practiced on the athletic teams," McGarry observes. "Our mission is to support athletics and athletes by providing funding for extras needed." That can include anything for an individual team or even opportunities for the school's coaches to receive additional education. The club's most recent contribution was to build an extra training room.

The club's recognition

of the need for parental support for student athletes, however, extends beyond the independent school's borders. Not long ago, parent volunteers raised \$10,000 for a Mississippi high school that lost all of its athletic equipment during Hurricane Katrina.

Last February, booster club members donated \$5 to Haiti relief for every student athlete who attended a school game as a spectator, which encouraged school spirit. "We have a coach who grew up in a Haitian orphanage," explains McGarry, noting that they raised \$6,000 during that drive. "Efforts like these are natural extensions of what the school teaches our children." That call to serve others is included in

the school's mission statement.

McGarry says he devotes so much time and energy because it fills a need he has. "Working in finance, the last thing I usually want to do is join a board and serve as treasurer," he says. "But the Athletic Booster Club is completely for fun. I enjoy participating with the kids and athletics."

Through the years, the continuity of parental commitment at the school has become generational. That includes Thies and Knight, who have continued to serve on numerous school boards. Now grandfathers, the two men have the pleasure of watching their grandchildren at Charlotte Latin School reap the fruits of their paternal labor of love.



The Athletic Booster Club's "Chain Gang" dads at Charlotte Latin School are among many parents who volunteer at the private school. These dads work the football team's yardage markers. From left: Scott McGinnis, Jim Shaffner, Bruce Tomlin, Paul Ryskiewich and Dave Myers.



Parents Megan and Christopher Kubala coach their son David and his Science Olympiad team at Hawk Ridge Elementary.

■ continued from page 77

became intrigued with the game, and she agreed to assist parent Gary Zukowski, who now runs the chess club at Ballantyne Elementary. Today, the Endhaven club boasts 140 children who also participate in weekend competitions in and out of state. Reicht volunteers 10 to 20 hours per week and gives credit to three other volunteer chess club mothers: Kim Snider, Blessy Marin and Ify Kalu.

Reicht's dedication to her children and others is a key reason why Ballantyne's schools excel, say local principals. While some may argue that higher income levels here account for the success of local schools, talk to any

principal and they'll assure you: it's the committed parents who make the difference.

"Parental involvement in schools establishes a partnership between the school and the home," asserts Kathleen Fox, principal of J. M. Robinson Middle School. "Research has found a clear alignment between parental involvement and students' academic success."

Steve Drye, principal of Elon Park Elementary, concurs. "There's no way this school would be where it is without parent involvement," he says. "We've had a core group of parents since we started, especially in our PTA, who has always stepped up. And it's not just the money they've raised. The tremendous number of

volunteer hours is a major factor in our success."

Coaching the Science Olympiad Team

Megan and Christopher Kubala were busy Ballantyne parents drawn into their children's school when they offered to coach the Science Olympiad team at Hawk Ridge Elementary. "Our son David has a passion for science, so we thought this would be a terrific opportunity to get more hands on," Megan says.

From January to May, the two traded off one afternoon after school every week helping the "Glider Kids," researching aeronautics to help the team build balsa-wood planes. "We'd never done this before, but our kids got so much out of it," she

continues. "The most amazing thing was to see intellectual pursuits rewarded." The couple loved it so much they've volunteered to do it again this year.

At Ardrey Kell High, Steven Babcock is one of many parents who commit countless hours during the autumn to the Mighty Knights Marching Band Booster Club. "We're known as the 'Pit Crew,'" he laughs, explaining that before each game or competition he and 15 other dads become logistics experts, staging heavy stationary instruments like keyboards and bass drums. "We rush it out on the field, then off the field, breaking it down and stowing back in the band room."

Babcock also belongs to



Parents at J.M. Robinson Middle School work on scenery for "Beauty and the Beast."

the Athletic Booster Club to support his two sons. "By participating in their activities, you raise better kids," he says.

Arts Events Draw Parent Volunteers

Hundreds of volunteer hours by parents can go into one event, such as the junior production of "Beauty and the Beast" at J. M. Robinson Middle School, an event that featured five shows over three days. Laura Porzenski, president of the school's Fine Arts Council, points to LuAnne Alion, costume mistress, and Michele Senatore, who managed myriad aspects of the production.

Porzenski, whose sixth grader was involved, organized a related "Tea Party" with

continued on page 82

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SMALL BALLANTYNE ROTARY CLUB HAS BIG IMPACT ON SCHOOLS

So few people, so much time — that seems to be the mantra of the Ballantyne Rotary Club. Judging by the contributions this organization is making to children here, you'd never guess the young club only has 30 members, most of whom work. Despite their personal and professional commitments, however, these men and women have enthusiastically backed increasing efforts to support schools in the community.

The past year alone, the club offered to sponsor the Endhaven Cougars Chess Club's inaugural city-wide tournament, as well as the Fourth of July Bike Parade at Ballantyne Village.

The club also held a Literary Essay Contest at Polo Ridge Elementary, "Making Dreams Real," awarding the school \$5,000

worth of books and materials for talent development, as well as money toward a school beautification project.

Members also

gave \$750 worth of computer cables and a Flip video camera to Endhaven Elementary (in addition to \$500 donated for the chess tourney), and stuffed 50 backpacks with school supplies for Ballantyne Elementary.

At Ardrey Kell High, the club sponsors the Interact Service Club (the youth equivalent of Rotary), and hosts an international foreign exchange student each year. The club's major event, though, is an annual fundraiser now dubbed the "Teacher's Cup," a basketball tournament held in March at Ardrey Kell with Ballantyne school teachers competing against each other.

Students and parents loved the new fundraiser so much last year that over 1,000 came to root for their personal favorites. To top that off, club members are now planning their first golf tournament this fall.

So, how do only 30 people manage to accomplish all this? "We are very energetic," says Patrick McCoy, the club's incoming president. "A lot of members have children, so we have a passion to help kids. It's a natural fit to get involved in all eight public schools within the Ballantyne community in any way we can."

According to Ineke van der Meulen, former club president, one of the greatest attributes of the group is its diversity. "Our membership roster spans male and female, ages 25 to 65, and includes people from Bulgaria, Pakistan, Brazil, Kenya, and local Charlotteans." She invites anyone interested in the club to visit one of its Friday luncheon meetings at the Tournament Players Club in Piper Glen. To learn more, visit www.ballantynerotaryclub.org.



Ballantyne Rotary Club sponsors events to support the schools.



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Parent Sarah Garcia works with students in Ballantyne Elementary's photography club, which she founded.

■ continued from page 80

100 percent of proceeds going to Haiti relief. Servers were dressed as utensils, and the room decorated with large-than-life teapots borrowed from a Make-A-Wish Foundation event. "We parents have skills, desire, and energy — assets we can bring," she says.

Sometimes parents decide to leverage a talent they have. Sarah Garcia, a professional photographer, started a photography club at her children's school, Ballantyne Elementary. Two years later, 45 children come once a week for her instruction and encouragement. "We have our

own photo gallery in the school where kids display shots of their classroom showing all the good things going on here," Garcia notes.

Principals like Dr. Rhonda Gomez at Endhaven Elementary know they can count on parents to jump in, even if it's a new activity. When Gomez discovered the school had 38 different countries represented, she asked Josie Villarroel, whose daughter attends the school, if she would be willing to organize a Multicultural Fair.

Fair Attracts Over 100

"I thought it was a great idea," says Villarroel, a native of the Dominican Republic

PTAS CHANGE WITH THE TIMES, INCLUDE CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

So much for bake sales and wrapping-paper drives. The new, new PTAs in Ballantyne schools hold capital campaigns instead. Monies raised go predominantly for new technology, even in elementary schools.

But PTAs mean far more than extra school funding.

Lisa Kelly, president of the Ardrey Kell PTO (they just changed their national affiliation to save cost), says one of the biggest benefits of getting involved in your children's PTA, especially at the high school level, is the ability to glean ideas from other parents on everything from the best classes to take to inside tips on the college-application process.

"There are so many pluses in it for parents," Kelly believes. And she ought to know — she served as PTA president at McAlpine Elementary, Endhaven Elementary, and then Community House Middle School before taking the post at Ardrey Kell. She also works as a Realtor® for Allen Tate. Yet, Kelly finds time and energy for the PTA jobs because "I want to do what I can to help students and make a difference in my children's school."

In her experience, another advantage of PTA involvement is learning what's going on in the community and what teens here are

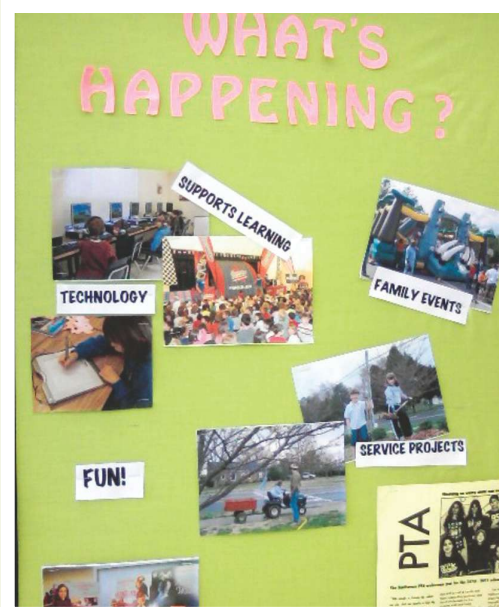
doing as they get older.

Shane Yokley, former Ardrey Kell PTA president and now volunteer coordinator at the school, agrees. "Definitely get involved so you will know who your kids' friends are, and understand the dynamics of the whole school community. For me, just knowing who my children are hanging out with has been critical."

Volunteer opportunities abound at every grade level, so each PTA sends a sign-up sheet home with students on the first day of school. With school budget cutbacks, the needs keep growing. For instance, at Ardrey Kell they are always in search of volunteer test proctors.

Nadine Baccellieri, president of the Community House Middle School PTA, suggests the best way for parents to get started volunteering is to join a booster club related to their child's elective sports or other program. "A parent can tailor their volunteer efforts to their desire," Kelly notes.

Today's PTA has also adapted to the schedules of working women. "We do more functions in the evening," says Kim Winters, president of the Endhaven PTA. "We now hold our general board meetings before



PTAs are an integral part of Ballantyne schools.

programs instead of the mornings, so parents can be there. And our book fair is always open one day in the evening to offer working parents a volunteer opportunity."

Even if they work, most PTA presidents in Ballantyne don't view their role as a burden. As Baccellieri observes, "I love it. I love being at school and seeing what goes on. It's my way of giving back."



Endhaven's Multicultural Fair drew this mother-daughter pair.

who has also been a Spanish translator in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools system. Under her direction, different grade levels created posters describing the currency, geography, culture and food in Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Poland, Germany, Iran, Colombia, Nigeria, South Korea, South Africa and the U.S. Over 100 children and their extended families, some in native dress, attended the event.

"We hung flags in the hallway, and it was wonderful to see kids point to one and tell you that was where their parents were from," Villarroel recalls. "There are a lot of challenges in schools as far as resources, so to be successful, they need involvement — it has to do with commitment and community."

In the end, the extraordinary commitment of Ballantyne parents makes a real impact on their children's educational bottom line. Reicht maintains that when Endhaven chess club players move to middle school, they often demonstrate enhanced mathematical and analytical skills, which results in being higher achievers and taking advanced placement classes.



Josie Villarroel, founder of the multicultural event.

Sharon Demare, principal at Ballantyne Elementary, shares the conviction that parent-driven activities can add academic value. "Strong connections and communication between the home and school are critical, leading to success and higher achievement for students with highly involved parents or guardians." 📖

Schools Cite Needs, SMART Boards Most Requested

If you visit the public schools in Ballantyne, you will see a wealth of activities being run or supported by parents. Their time and expertise help their youngsters and others

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enrich themselves through extracurricular activities.

Here is a list of the clubs at local schools that draw the most parental involvement, as well as a list of items most needed by each school. All but one school noted the need for "SMART Boards," the interactive white boards that connect to a computer and act like touch screens.



Ballantyne Elementary

- Photography Club
- Ballantyne Bear Blast Carnival
- Chess Club

Greatest School Needs: SMART Boards, document cameras, novel sets

J.M. Robinson Middle School

- Fine Arts Council
- Science Olympiad
- Eighth Grade Celebration
- Dance and Yearbook Signing

Greatest School Needs: SMART Boards, computer upgrades

Ardrey Kell High

- Mighty Knights Marching Band
- Booster Club
- Choral/Theater Booster Club
- Athletic Booster Club

Greatest School Needs: Technology, parent volunteers

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Elon Park Elementary

- Odyssey of the Mind
 - Character Recognition
 - School Newsletter
- Greatest School Needs:** SMART Boards, library materials, math games



Endhaven Elementary

- Chess Club
 - Multicultural Fair
 - Booster-thon
- Greatest School Needs:** SMART Boards, computer upgrades



Hawk Ridge Elementary

- Science Olympiad
 - PTA Science Coordinators
 - Neighborhood Book Clubs
- Greatest School Needs:** SMART Boards, computer upgrades

Polo Ridge Elementary

- Odyssey of the Mind
 - Polo Fest
 - Girls on the Run Club
- Greatest School Needs:** SMART Boards, computer upgrades



Community House Middle School

- BRAVO (band and orchestra)
 - Booster Club
 - Fine Arts Booster Club
 - Athletic Booster Club
- Greatest School Needs:** SMART Boards, document cameras

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Apple of One's Eye

Orchard Cultivates Conservation, Tunes, Treats on the Parkway

By Sean O'Connell

Photos courtesy of The Historic Orchard at Altapass



123 miles - 2 hrs. 20 min.

BALLANTYNE IS OUR HOME. But sometimes we have a craving to hit the open road and experience something fresh, different and inspiring outside the borders of 28277.

"One Tank Trip," Ballantyne Magazine's latest lifestyle feature, wants to help our readers as they explore new adventures within driving distance of our beloved neighborhood. And whenever possible, we'd like to take you off the beaten path to discover something unique. Now, who wants to go on a trip?

Several things happen in Ballantyne when the temperatures drop. We dig out sweaters from the bottoms of our closets and give over our Saturdays to college football and tailgate parties. And our minds drift north and west toward the Blue Ridge Parkway, where majestic forests change every shade of red, yellow, orange and purple as autumn opens its color palette to thousands of nature seekers.



Altapass offers visitors a window to the past as well as a snapshot of modern agricultural techniques.
And autumn is when most people drop by.



TOP LEFT: Youngsters have plenty to do at the orchard.

TOP RIGHT: Visitors can choose among 40 kinds of apples.

ABOVE: Carson family members bought the 383-acre orchard 17 years ago.

Needless to say, we are not alone.

"Saying that we experience an uptick in visitors come autumn is an incredible understatement," says Skip Carson.

Carson, together with a stable

of family members, owns and operates The Historic Orchard at Altapass on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Located between Linville and Little Switzerland at Milepost 328.3, Altapass offers visitors a window to the past as well as a

snapshot of modern agricultural techniques. And autumn is when most people drop by.

"We open our doors in May," Carson says. "We close around the second week of November. I will do 10 times the business in October



Friendly folks at the orchard include lunch wagon operator Pamela Gaines.

that I'll do throughout the whole year. That is the difference that the leaves make up here."

Another draw, of course, is Carson's apples, which ripen in the fall. But the apples and colorful foliage aren't the only reason travelers set their GPS for Altapass — and have been doing so for nearly two decades.

Tastings with Zing

"When you walk in the door, Charlotte is going to make you taste her fudge," Carson tells Ballantyne Magazine. "That's not something you have a choice about. She is relentless."

He's talking about one of his employees, a colorful and candid woman named Charlotte Edwards.

"We had no idea what kind of a character she was," Carson says with a laugh. "She claims that she hates her husband. Now, they've been married 65 years. And one day she looked at me and she said, 'I've had it. I'm going to set fire to the house and leave by the light of it.' But she makes the best fudge in the world. She has found a calling late in life, and it is this fudge. And she loves interacting with our guests."

Visitors to Altapass, in fact, are encouraged to taste just about

everything on the premises, from apple butter to jams and jellies. The homegrown products have been luring tourists to the orchard for decades. But Carson and his crew are relatively new to the scene.

They bought the 383-acre orchard 17 years ago after seeing an ad in a newspaper classified section saying the land was for sale.

"The thinking was that if the wrong people bought this place, we'd be looking at condominiums for a two-mile stretch straddling the Blue Ridge Parkway. And we didn't want that to happen," Carson remembers. "We're not opposed to development. But we didn't think it needed to happen right here."

The family had no experience with the agricultural industry. Skip enjoyed a prosperous career selling computers throughout the Southeast. His cousin, Bill Carson, was a rocket scientist who helped put men on the moon in the 1960s.

Shortly after purchasing the land, the Carsons were approached by a local developer and offered three times what they had just paid for the property.

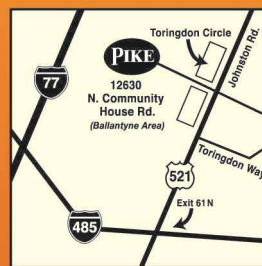
"That scared us," Skip recalls. "Because that was a lot of money,

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"There may be more music talent per square mile in this part of the country than **anywhere else in the world.**"



and we realized that one of our ancestors somewhere down the line might be tempted, and our efforts would then be thwarted."

That's no longer possible, thanks to the team's decision to deed part of the property over to the forest service through a conservancy trust. Through that process, Carson learned that the balance of the property was the oldest orchard still in production in the state. He also learned that the orchard is one of the most

active, historically, on the entire Blue Ridge Parkway."

"Over the last 17 years, we have been learning more and more about what has occurred in this area," Carson says. "And we realized that there was a lot more here to preserve than just land and the beauty of the view."

40 Types of Apples

The orchard grows what Carson calls North Carolina mountain apples, harvesting 40

types of apples on about 4,000 trees. Do you appreciate local? The Carsons sell everything they grow to people traveling up and down the parkway and to local residents. Nothing is shipped to wholesalers; they sell from their barn.

But apples aren't the only thing being cultivated at Altapass.

"We began collecting oral histories," Carson says. "People's family stories, various aspects of the history of this place and of

TOP LEFT: Musicians Patty (from left) and Bob Tatum entertain visitors.

TOP RIGHT: The orchard draws people to a Fourth of July picnic.

BOTTOM LEFT: A Blue Ridge Parkway ranger discusses local wildlife.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Visitors take a ride around the farm and learn its history.

the history of this area. And we've found them to be so fascinating that we thought they ought to be shared with our visitors. So we

started doing hay rides where we tell the stories. Obviously we can't tell them all. But we take people out for about an hour ... and tell them the history of this place."

The sharing of oral histories spurred another movement. Local musicians started coming to Altapass with their own compositions which, like the orchard itself, harken to the history of the region.

"I didn't grow up loving bluegrass and country music," Carson says. "But we quickly came to appreciate the value of the music of this part of the country. It seems like everybody up here plays something, and most of them play it pretty well. ... There may be more music talent per square mile in this part of the country than anywhere else in the world."

So the Carsons started inviting

local musicians to play concerts five days a week at Altapass. The concerts are free, though a tip jar is passed, with the collection going to the entertainers.

Clogging, Conserving

Live music, local history, hay rides, homemade fudge and, of course, apples. Do you need yet another reason to visit The Historic Orchard at Altapass?

"If Bill is here, he's probably going to try and teach you how to clog dance," Carson says.

"He claims he can do it in two minutes. But we've timed him, and it never works out. But if you've ever wanted to see a rocket scientist dance, this is the place to come."

OK, we're sold.

But even more motivation




to support the orchard stems from the Carsons' contributions to local conservation along the parkway.

As a result of the work at Altapass tracing back the purchase of the land nearly two decades, more than 2,000 acres have now been preserved from development, Carson says. Property rights that once belonged to individuals recently have been sold to the state's conservation networks and conservancy funds.

"If you think of what we did years ago as a seed, maybe that seed is growing a little bit up and down the parkway, where private land that borders the parkway is now being preserved and people are opting not to go for the big bucks," Carson says. "We feel,


and more and more people are beginning to feel, a sense of urgency about doing something the help preserve this parkway.

"If we had it to do over again, we might not do it, though," Carson adds. "We had no idea how much work was going to be involved. Bill is fond of saying it's easier to put men on the moon than it is to grow apples. He says there are fewer variables."


But Skip admits he receives a welcome jolt of energy every August and September, when repeat customers start showing up. "There's definitely something about having the live music playing and seeing people walk around bins of apples," he says. "There's a mix that happens up here that is somewhat inexplicable. Sometimes we wonder what we are doing right." 

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SWEEP YOUR CHIP

Go Back to Basics to Lower Your Score

By Marc Lapointe, Senior Instructor, Dana Rader Golf School



ARE YOU WASTING SHOTS within 10 yards of the green? Chipping is one of the most important short-game shots to perfect, especially under pressure. Keeping the ball low and rolling on the green is not spectacular, but helps maintain consistency. Controlling the distance of your chip shots is a sure way to lower your score. Follow the next three steps to improve your chipping.

Photos by Ray Sepesy



Step 1 – Set Up

Position yourself with the golf ball toward your back foot, while placing more weight on your front foot. Your hands should be in front of the club head and slightly down on the grip. You can use different clubs ranging from a sand wedge to an 8-iron, depending on how far the hole is from where you are off the green. Use a sand wedge or pitching wedge for a short distance to the flag, less than 40 feet. Use an 8- or 9-iron when the ball needs to roll 40 feet or more.

Step 2 – Club Speed

Keep a consistent, smooth speed throughout your swing, but don't swing slowly. Most golfers have been told not to decelerate on a chip shot. This fear often produces a

short and slow backswing followed by a fast and long follow-through. This type of follow-through is done by flipping the wrist at impact and scooping the ball up in the air, making it difficult to control the distance. Speed up your backswing and maintain the same speed throughout the shot.


Step 3 – Technique

Sweep it, don't scoop it. Your follow-through should always brush the grass and finish close to the ground. Just as demonstrated in the picture, the club head is much lower in the follow-through than in the backswing. A proper set up and a steady speed is the only way to maintain the hands in front of the club head through impact and guarantee solid

contact. Using a broom will help you get the right feel for the sweep. Brush the grass by maintaining a firm pressure toward the ground with your hands placed in front of the broom.

Spruce Up Your Game

If you have procrastinated over the summer and need to clean up your golf game, this fall is the perfect time to get out your broom and start sweeping! The next time you are on the edge of the green, go back to the basics with this simple chip shot and improve your score. Keep the ball low, and rolling... into the hole!

To view my "Sweep your Chip" video, go to www.danarader.com/news_tips.cfm. 

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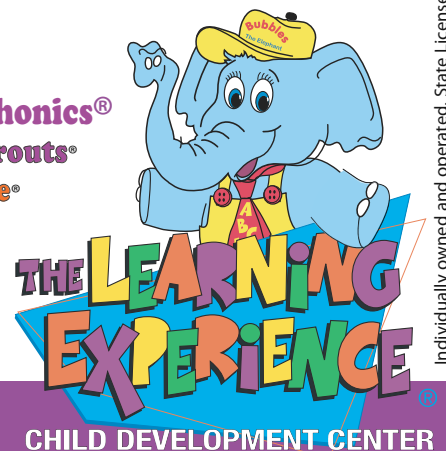
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See Ardrey Kell High and Its Neighbors

Photo by JJ Bissell



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