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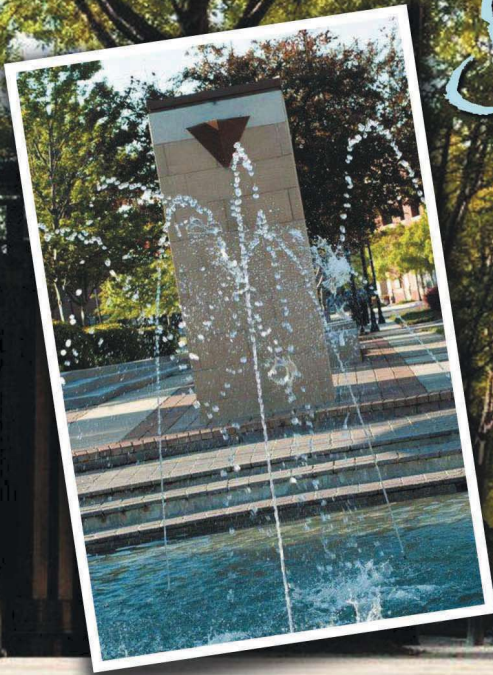
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Melinda

Breast Cancer | 2008

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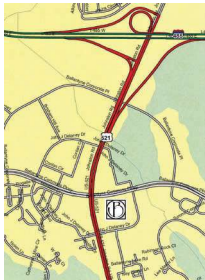
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32 Learning Boost

Tutors help children move up the education ladder.



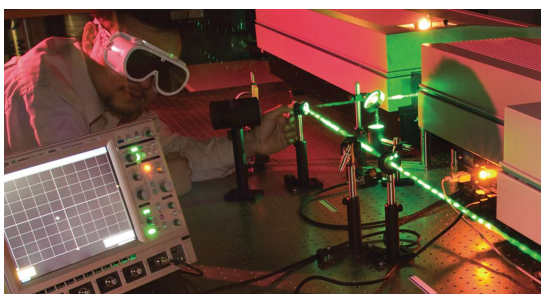
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The community arts scene grows, shows potential.



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78 Flash Drive

Automakers deliver digital dashboards, green features.



FEATURES



Growing Historic Farm Goes 'Agri-Tourist' the 38 Legacy

ON THE COVER: Kevin Hall, with the help of his family, is transforming the Hall Family Farm into a destination. Photo by Jessica Milligan.



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DEPARTMENTS



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Catch up on the news, people and events in Ballantyne.

FACES 27

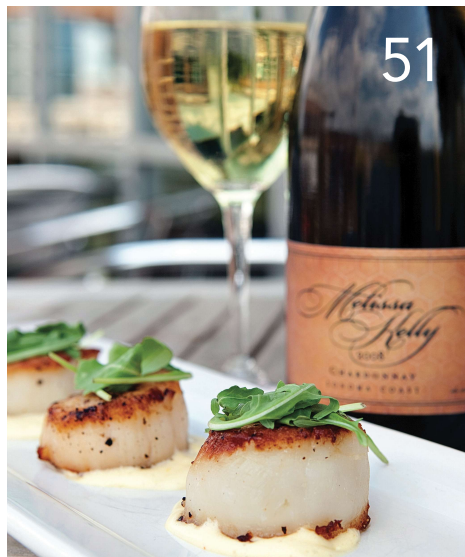
Who loves saltwater fishing? Who dreams of the Virgin Islands, and who wants to tee off with the Dalai Lama? Meet these local personalities.

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Yo! It's yoga and yogurt for this couple's memorable blind date.

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FALL 2011 Vol. 11 No. 3



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Energy Edge

From Companies to Cars, Ballantyne Powers Forward



FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, BALLANTYNE HAS BEEN on the front end of the business curve, riding the trajectory of America's hottest growth sectors, from health care to technology.

In this issue, we spotlight the newest trend — a surge of companies in Ballantyne Corporate Park involved in the quest for energy. Clearly, Charlotte is evolving into an energy hub, and we're happy to report Ballantyne is attracting a high wattage share of that sector's investment in the region.

In "Powering Up," we explore three companies engaged in energy technology that are increasing their presence here — SPX, a global engineering-solutions firm; Babcock & Wilcox, a premier nuclear energy concern with 150 years of experience in the business; and Mitsubishi Nuclear Energy Systems, which recently inked a deal to invest \$4.1 million and hire 135 engineers with average salaries of over \$100,000 during the next five years.

The decision of these firms to either relocate or expand in Ballantyne is a continuing sign of our ability to achieve richer diversification within the business population, helping ensure prosperity for all who work, live and play in our community.

In tune with this issue's energy buzz, we bring you our first feature on total mobility. In "Flash Drive," we highlight the coolest new-car technology and digital dashboards, starting with America's latest plug-in device — the Chevy Volt. While researching this article, we ran across a best-kept secret Ballantyne connection — SPX turns out to be Chevrolet's partner for providing the Volt's home-charging devices. I'd also like to extend special thanks to Ballantyne resident Ed Ferris, Charlotte district sales manager for Chevrolet, for arranging a Volt from Atlanta for our use.

As we all know, fueling up takes many forms, so in our cover story, "Growing the Legacy," we share the remarkable story of our neighbors at the nearly century-old Hall Family Farm. A fourth

generation is leveraging the property's rich history to transform it into an agri-tourist site that, among other contemporary twists, features the latest in strawberry "plasticulture" technology.

Those seeking sustenance a bit further afield will want to check out "One Tank Trip" as we motor to scenic Saluda in western North Carolina — 2,000 feet high and home to the steepest mainline train track in the country. Visit on the right day and you can go whole hog at the Charlie Ward Memorial Pig-Out.

Closer to home, we pop the cork at three of Ballantyne's top wine boutiques and discover the distinct ambience each has to offer lovers of the grape. And in our perennial search for true

love, we daringly turn our popular Date Night feature into "Blind Date Night," persuading two good-natured singles to meet up for a quirky "Yoga & Yogurt" romantic encounter.

All this and more awaits you in this issue — not the least of which is a snapshot of the local arts scene, featuring a Ballantyne-area filmmaker whose work is turning heads.

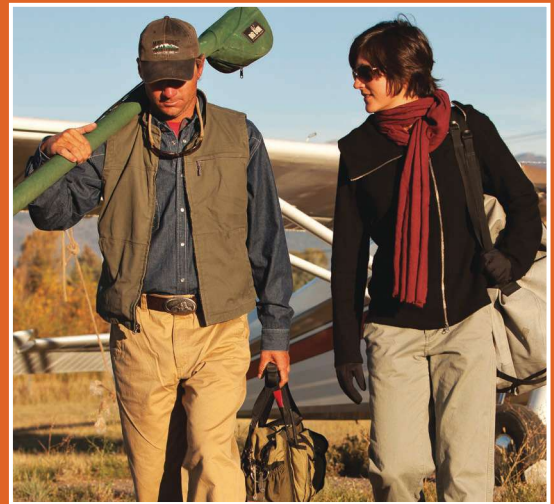
As we near the end of our second year of the magazine's fast-forward design and direction, we're proud to announce that our Winter 2010-2011 cover with those delectable chocolate-covered strawberries just won first place for Best Cover Design from APEX (Awards for Publication Excellence). Larry Preslar, creative director for SPARK Publications, designed the cover. Larry, please take a bow!

Ultimately, though, we judge our success on the value we provide you, our readers, so let me know how you feel about Ballantyne Magazine as we expand our visual and verbal horizons.

JJ Bissell

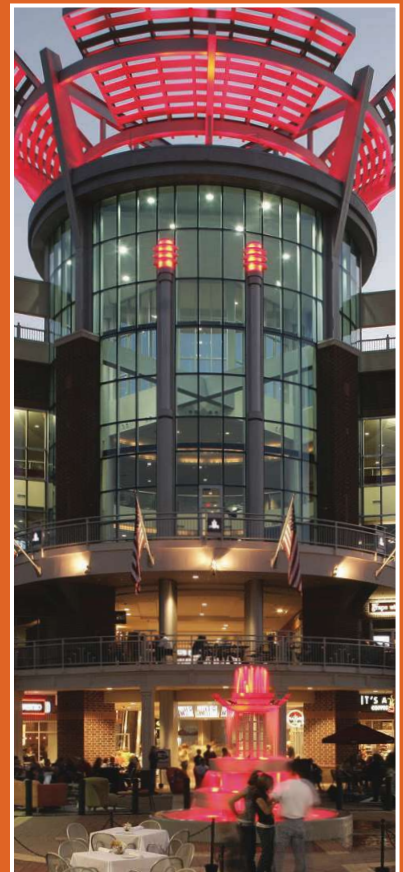
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Clearly, Charlotte is evolving into an energy hub.



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& MATTHEWS

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WIRE

What's happening in and around Ballantyne

Dale Beatty, injured in Iraq while serving with the N.C. National Guard, enjoyed last year's Birdies for the Brave tournament.

Birdies for the Brave Tourney Nov. 2

The annual Birdies for the Brave golf tournament is Nov. 2 at Firethorne Country Club, due to the re-grassing of the TPC Piper Glen greens. This year marks TPC Piper Glen's seventh year hosting this event. Last year the tournament surpassed the goal of \$50,000, raising nearly \$53,000.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit six groups that support the military, and are backed by PGA Tour players: Homes For Our Troops and Special Operations Warrior Foundation supported by Phil Mickelson; Wounded Warrior Project supported by Frank Lickliter, Nick Watney, Boo Weekley and Jason Gore; Operation Homefront supported by Corey Pavin; United Through Reading supported by Rory Sabbatini; and The Navy SEAL Foundation supported by Frank Lickliter II, Jerry Kelly and Vijay Singh.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. with a silent auction and food. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the event will host the Dennis Walters Show. Walters, who is paralyzed from the waist down, dazzles his audience with precision golf and trick shots, and is accompanied by his dog, Bucky. Opening ceremonies begin at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. A dinner, guest speakers and awards follow.

For more information on the event, contact Colleen Carow at ccarow@heritagegolfgroup.com or 704-846-1212, ext. 235. Learn more about the nonprofit at www.birdiesforthebrave.org.



NEWS CUES

Barbecue, Heritage Event Sept. 17

The Historic Log Cabin Barbecue and Heritage Day Celebration is 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, September 17. The event features craft demonstrations of bygone days, antiques, handiwork made by the original women of the area, local artisans, potters, woodworkers, a bake sale of homemade goodies, barbecue, chicken and hot dogs.

Proceeds go toward the cabin restoration. The Historic Log Cabin, also known as the Lower Providence Community House, is located at 9735 Community House Road, across from Community House Middle School. Details: 704-905-8334.

**Gallery Chefs Cook With Kids**

Gallery Restaurant's Chef de Cuisine J. Kelly Morrow and Executive Sous Chef David Moore recently visited Rainbow Station, a local provider of education programs for children up to age five and after-school and education-based summer camps for children up to age 14.

The chefs visited in July to make delicious snacks with the children. For the second year in a row, the chefs enjoyed cooking with the kids and look forward to returning soon. Learn more about the organization at www.rainbowstationcharlotte.org.

Wellness Center Opens in Park

The Morrison Family YMCA, in partnership with the Ballantyne Village YMCA, recently opened a YMCA Corporate Wellness Center in the Ballantyne Medical Two Building, Suite 150, Ballantyne Corporate Park.

The new facility is open to all tenants of the park and includes free shower facilities. Other available services include massage, Pilates Reformer, weight management, metabolic testing and wellness coaching. For more info, call 704-716-8300 or email ymcacorporatewellnesscenter@charlotteymca.org.

**Catch Mix at Six On Wednesdays**

The "Mix at Six" Fall Music Series, held on Wednesday evenings in Ballantyne Village, runs through Oct. 5. The event takes place from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., with music starting at 6 p.m.

This season's charitable beneficiary is Carolina Breast Friends. VIP tickets, which grant guests complimentary drinks and appetizers throughout the evening, are available for \$15 per person per night. All ticket proceeds go to the charity. Details: www.mixatsixballantyne.com.

Kids' Konsignment Sale Sept. 15-17

Weddington United Methodist Church will hold its major Kids'

**Cricket Club Forms, Looks for Home**

The Charlotte Ballantyne Cricket Club formed in the summer of 2011 to promote cricket and find a home for the club so it can compete in Ballantyne against the Carolina Cricket League and South Carolina Cricket League.

The club, which already has 15 active members, played 12 games against teams in these leagues this summer.

According to Anu Dixit, who works for AXA Equitable in Ballantyne Corporate Park, the Asian population in the Ballantyne area can be seen playing cricket on tennis courts during week nights or on public school grounds during weekends.

Cricket, which is played in over 100 countries, is a contest between bat and ball. Often compared to American baseball, it can take days to finish a game.

The club is seeking a home ground of between four and five acres and a smaller practice facility for next year. The club also plans to promote cricket in the Ballantyne area by organizing spring and summer camps next year for youngsters ages six to 12.

The club recently held an event during international week at Chesterbrook Academy in Ballantyne to educate children about the game. To learn more about the club, email cbcccricket@gmail.com or visit www.ballantynecricket.org.

Konsignment Sale Thursday, Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 16 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 17 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Shoppers can also pay to shop early from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14 by paying \$15 at the door.

The sale will take place at the church's Family Life Center at 13901 Providence Road in Weddington. Bargains will be available on everything related to children, including clothes, furniture, toys and strollers.

Cash and checks will be

accepted. Proceeds benefit women's and children's charities in Union County. For more information, visit www.weddingtonchurch.org/kidskonsignment.

Forest Hill Site Opens this Fall

The Forest Hill Church expansion at the Morrison Family YMCA will open this fall. Forest Hill Church funded the expansion in exchange for the ability to use the space as a satellite location for Sunday worship services when the Y is closed.

Highlights of the facility addition and retrofit area include an expanded group exercise room with over 4,000 square feet, additional space for dance and kids' fitness, an additional preschool classroom, an indoor track and new multi-purpose area space for fitness; two new basketball gymnasiums and a bigger athletic training center for Crossfit, personal training and boxing.



Community Event Debuts Oct. 8

Ballantyne Festival, a daylong, fun-filled event for the community, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8 at the

Morrison Family YMCA, 9405 Bryant Farms Road.

Sponsored by the Ballantyne Breakfast Club, this free, family-friendly event will kick off with the annual Ballantyne Area Candidates Forum & Chili Cook-off from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet candidates running for office in the Nov. 8 general election and sample chili from a variety of community groups.

Following the chili cook-off, ongoing activities include live music, food, hayrides, pumpkin carving and more. The event will conclude from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a Broadway at Ballantyne performance, featuring students from local schools and local musicians showcasing tunes from Broadway favorites. More info: www.go-ballantyne.com.



Marriott Courtyard Redesigns Lobby

Courtyard by Marriott Ballantyne is redesigning its lobby space to provide a better guest experience. The new "living space" will provide flexibility to work or relax while providing a place to connect with guests.

Flexible seating options range from a communal table in the middle of the action to more private media pods with high-definition televisions, to a more intimate, semi-enclosed lounge area. The lobby also includes a home-theatre setting centered on a 50-inch TV.

A signature element of the new lobby is the exclusive Courtyard GoBoard, a 52-inch LCD touch screen packed with local information, maps, weather and news. Guests can navigate using the touch screen to find restaurants, local attractions and directions; guests can also connect to free Wi-Fi.

The Bistro, Courtyard's new dining concept, provides a casual, comfortable venue to enjoy higher quality, healthier menu options for breakfast and light evening fare, including snacks and beverages. The Bistro will brew Starbucks coffee, and The Market offers a 24/7 shop for snacks, beverages and sundries.

The lobby redesign will be completed this fall. To learn more or make reservations, call 704-341-0041.



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Hotel & Lodge Offers Autumn Array

From offering tastings of fine wine and scotch to presenting a new look at The Spa at Ballantyne, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge serves up a bounty of fall events the public may enjoy.



Tastings at Gallery Restaurant:

They feature tastings on Saturdays at 6 p.m. with complementing fruit, cheese and lavosh (an unleavened flat bread). Cost is \$20 per person depending on the varietal. Reservations recommended: 704-248-4100. Here are the themes:

Sept. 3 - Unique Blends

Sept. 17 - Sake

Oct. 1 - Oktoberfest

Oct. 29 - Blood Reds

Wine Society: Once a month on Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., discover the distinct flavors of wine with complementing appetizers at The Wine Society of Ballantyne. This monthly event is social and educational. Cost is \$25 per person. Reservations recommended: 704-248-4100 or htapper@theballantynehotel.com. Upcoming events are:

Sept. 10 - Obscure Varietals

Oct. 15 - Blood Reds

Spa Mixer: Thursday, September 29, Teal Diva and Teal Toes will host its annual Teal Next Year Spa Mixer at The Spa at Ballantyne during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

There will be mini spa services available, including teal paint changes, to help raise awareness for ovarian cancer. Details: www.tealthereisacure.org.

Scotch Society: Celebrate the nuances of scotch with appetizers at The Scotch Society of Ballantyne. Held on a Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., this monthly event is entertaining and informative. Cost is \$25 per person. Reservations recommended: 704-248-4100 or htapper@theballantynehotel.com. Upcoming events are:

Sept. 24 - Flight #7 (selections from The Macallan)

Oct. 29 - Flight #8 (selections from Glenmorangie)

Cool Weather BBQ: On Saturday, October 15, the Cooking School presents Cool Weather BBQ. The school runs from 10:30 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. Attendees will learn professional tips and tricks for smoking, grilling, rubs and sauces for regional and international styles of barbecue.

Under the direction of Chef de Cuisine J. Kelly Morrow and Executive Sous Chef David Moore, the school offers an engaging, educational and interactive class for epicureans of all levels. Cost: \$75 per person. Reservations required: 704-248-4100.

Thanksgiving Tradition: Join The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge for a favorite tradition with its Thanksgiving Brunch on Thursday, November 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy a bountiful array of seasonal specialties. Cost: \$55 per person, \$28 for children ages 5-12, and complimentary for children ages 4 and under (pricing does not



Photo by Indigo

include tax and gratuity). Private dining rooms are available for larger groups. Reservations required: 704-248-4100.



Spa Completes Makeover: The Spa at Ballantyne recently completed substantial renovations to enhance its arrival experience. Improvements include new décor featuring earth tones, more spacious locker-room and lounge areas and additional facility upgrades. The spa also has an all-new menu inspired by the four elements — earth, water, air and fire. Based on Native American elemental philosophy, each treatment category aligns with a corresponding element (for example, massage represents earth). More info or an appointment: 704-248-4141 or visit www.spaballantyne.com.

Winter Wedding Special: The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge is offering a winter wedding package in November 2011 and January, February and March in 2012.

For \$99 per person, the package features a wide range of amenities: a cocktail hour with hand-passed hors d'oeuvres, three-course seated dinner with two hours of open bar, complimentary on-property wedding ceremony room (subject to availability) and in-house wedding specialist to assist with planning.

The package also includes: choice of upgraded Chiavari chairs or chair covers with sashes; complimentary ivory linens; exclusive upgrades including silver charger plates, printed menu cards and printed place cards; deluxe suite with complimentary welcome amenity and rose petal turndown service for bride and groom on wedding night; and more.

Pricing does not include service charge and applicable taxes; certain minimum requirements apply. More information: 704-248-4031, email weddings@theballantynehotel.com or visit www.theballantynehotel.com.

Tour Traces Cornwallis Route

Fifty people attended a local history tour last spring sponsored by the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution. The tour's purpose was to retrace the route of Lord Cornwallis's march to, and retreat from, Charlotte during September and October 1780. Much of this route has been rediscovered by recent historical research (portions are still uncertain).

The tour began and ended at Providence Presbyterian Church. Commentators included: Charles Baxley, John Allison, George Slaton, Nathan Gilbert, Jim Williams, Bill Anderson, Tom Phlegar, Larry Barden, Hugh Dussek, Tony Zeiss and Dan Nance.

There were also appearances by Brigadier General William Davidson (Tom Phlegar) and Colonel Thomas Polk (Jim Williams).

Golf Club Enhances 8th Hole

The Golf Club at Ballantyne recently completed improvements to its 8th hole. Players now experience a more approachable putting surface with more pin locations and increased playability. To reserve a tee time, call 704-248-4383 or visit www.golfballantyne.com.

BIZ BUZZ

Corporate Park Wins Honor

Ballantyne Corporate Park won the School Tools Golden Giver Award on WSOC-TV in July. The award recognizes the park's annual school-supplies collection, which benefits Classroom Central



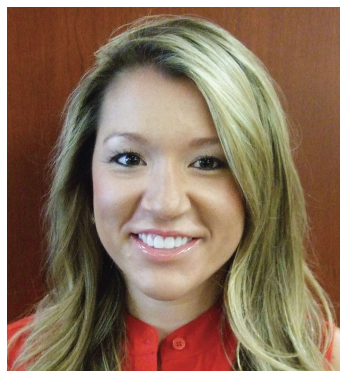
Bluegrass Comes to Harrison United

"Harmony On The Hill" Bluegrass & Gospel Concert is Saturday, Oct. 1 at 4 p.m. at Harrison United Methodist Church, located at Old Lancaster Highway at Providence Road West.

The concert features The Lemonds Family Bluegrass & Gospel Band, The Cockman Family, Balsam Range and The HIM'S, which includes the church's lead pastor, David Beam.

The outdoor event is open seating, and concertgoers should bring their own chairs and blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Proceeds support the church's mission ministry. To purchase tickets, visit www.iTickets.com.

and Communities in Schools. With the support of businesses in the park, the community collected over 11,000 packs of colored markers in 2010.



Top Sales Award Goes to Bradley

Jamie Bradley of M/I Homes recently won the MAME Award from the Home Builders Association of Charlotte as the top seller of new homes in the Charlotte region.

In a difficult economy, she sold 40 homes in 2010, closing on homes totaling nearly \$11 million for M/I Homes Charlotte. These homes were in the M/I Homes' community of Ardrey Woods,

which has an average sales price of \$280,000. Typically, the winner of this award sells homes priced at \$500,000 or more.

According to the association, Bradley is the first woman to win the award in at least five years. She also ranks among the top five new home consultants for M/I Homes nationwide and has been named to M/I Home's 100% Club for customer service.



Cole Joins Aloft At Ballantyne

Jennifer Cole has been appointed director of sales for the hotel Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne. Cole was most recently a wedding specialist

at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. In her new role, she is responsible for overseeing sales at Aloft with the goal of maximizing occupancy and revenues for the hotel.



Perinatal's Tate Opens Office

Perinatal ComfortCare has opened its headquarters in Ballantyne Corporate Park. The nonprofit assists families whose unborn baby has a serious illness that will likely result in death shortly before or after birth. Perinatal ComfortCare support is provided at no cost to families.

Tammy Tate, chief executive officer, founded Perinatal ComfortCare, in Greenville, S.C. in the fall of 2007. It was originally named Carolina Perinatal Support Network.

Since its founding, the program has supported more than 60 families in Greenville, as well as in California, Texas, Florida and Canada. Tate is a registered nurse with 30 years of experience in high-risk obstetrics, and holds a degree in counseling.

"Despite the adverse prenatal diagnosis, many families will choose to continue their pregnancy, and in doing so, find themselves facing this journey with little or no support or guidance," Tate says. "Our mission is to offer compassion, education and expert guidance..."

To learn more or volunteer, call 704-910-5953 or visit www.perinatalsupport.com.



Parker Named 'Rising Star'

Dr. Vicki Parker has won the Rising Star award from the Charlotte chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners. The award goes to a member who has demonstrated entrepreneurial creativity and determination in successfully managing a business less than five-years-old.

A speech language pathologist with a concentration in neuroscience, Parker has worked in the field for nearly 30 years. Her office is at 11030 Golf Links Drive, Suite 204 in Ballantyne.

She is founder of The Brain Trainer, an evidence-based brain training and speech therapy center in Charlotte. Clients include children and adults with cognitive and communicative difficulties, including reading or math struggles, ADD/ADHD, autism and Asperger's, and language and speech disorders. The center also serves successful students and professionals who want to gain an edge at their work.

Check Out Fall Chamber Meetings

The Ballantyne chapter of the Charlotte Chamber will hold its membership luncheons this fall on October 6, November 3 and December 1 at The Ballantyne

Hotel & Lodge. To register for a meeting, go to www.charlottechamber.com. Fee is \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door subject to available space, and \$45 for nonmembers of the chamber. Registration: www.charlottechamber.com/events or 704-378-1351.

Fitness Together Adds PACK

This September Fitness Together, a one-on-one personal training studio in Ballantyne, is introducing PACK: Small Group Personal Training.

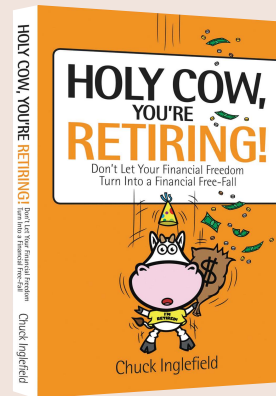
Clients who are part of a PACK train in a group of two to four, under the guidance and supervision of a Fitness Together trainer. Each workout includes modifications or "scalings" for each exercise to ensure an appropriate training level for each member of the PACK, regardless of varying fitness levels.

Fitness Together offers PACK in response to clients who prefer the interaction, additional accountability, synergy and reduced expense of PACK training. The training debuted in May at other area Fitness Together locations and has been met with a great response. More info: www.FitnessTogetherCharlotte.com, or call Diane at 704-341-8802.



HR Firm Debuts New Website

Employers Advantage LLC, a company that provides HR services in Ballantyne, Fort Mill, Charlotte and Lake Norman, has launched a new website, www.employersadvantagellc.com.



Inglefield Publishes Retirement Book

Chuck Inglefield has published his first book, "Holy Cow, You're Retiring!" which answers financial questions people face when planning for retirement, offering tools to keep retirees in control of their financial destiny. The official launch will be held at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge in September. The book is being distributed by Inglefield Retirement Solutions. For more information or to purchase a copy, visit: www.holycowyoureretiring.com.

employersadvantagellc.com.

Owner Deanna Arnold, a certified professional in Human Resources, provides HR services for small organizations that don't have an HR person, or might have an office manager but may have issues that go beyond his or her scope. Specialties include employee relations, compliance and employment law issues and concerns.

Contact her at 980-422-7953 or darnold@employersadvantagellc.com.

Ardrey Crest Adds Neighborhood

M/I Homes Charlotte has opened a new neighborhood in the community of Ardrey Crest to

appeal to the area's changing and varied demographics. More than half of the area's residents are families without children at home, according to new research from Nielsen Claritas.

"We've built in amenities designed to please this underserved demographic, while also appealing to families with children at home," says Tamara Lynch, vice president of sales and marketing for M/I Homes Charlotte.

Ardrey Crest is located on Wade Ardrey Road just off Ardrey Kell Road near the high school. Homes are Energy Star-qualified, with prices starting under \$225,000. Details: www.mihomes.com/charlotte.com, 704-544-1009 or salescharlotte@mihomes.com.

Calhoun Building: LEED Certified

Bissell Development has been awarded LEED Gold Certification for the Calhoun Building in Ballantyne Corporate Park. The recognition brings to over one million square feet in the park with that certification. Other buildings meeting the standard are Irby, Hayes, Harris, Boyle and Everett.

LEED is the nation's best-known program for design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Certification of the Calhoun Building was based on green design and construction features that positively impact the project and the broader community, including expansive views and natural light, higher levels of indoor air quality, a reflective roof to reduce heat absorption, low-flow water fixtures and use of 100-percent recycled steel materials.

NOW OPEN!



Ballantyne Village Welcomes Café

Terrace Café Charlotte just opened its second Charlotte location, in Ballantyne Village next door to the theatre.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner menus are the same as the popular SouthPark location. Breakfast bestsellers include Red Velvet Waffles, S'mores French Toast, Eggs Benedict and omelets approved by a YMCA nutritionist. Popular lunch items include the Mighty Corn Beef and Turkey Sandwiches, along with 10 salad choices.

Terrace Café changes its dinner menu with the seasons. Perennial favorite entrees are Fennel Pollen Dusted Red Grouper, Marinated Domestic Lamb Chops, Terrace Fried Chicken and Oven Roasted Salmon in a bourbon mustard glaze.

Homemade soups, quiches and lunch specials are announced daily on the restaurant's Facebook page and via Twitter. More info: 704-369-5190 or visit www.terracecafecharlotte.com.



Ballantyne Corners Adds Genghis Grill

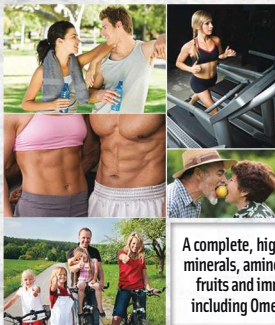
Genghis Grill Mongolian Stir-Fry recently opened at Ballantyne Corners next to Skillet's. The eatery is based on a build-it-yourself stir-



Verizon Opens in Ballantyne Village

A new Verizon Wireless cellular sales store has opened in Ballantyne Village at 14825 Ballantyne Village Way #170, next to Massage Envy. Open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. More info: 704-544-6708.

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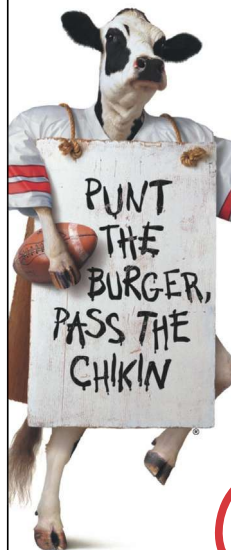
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stir-fry bowl where the vegetables and proteins are cooked on a large flat top grill with the use of sticks. A wide variety of proteins, including turkey, ham, sausage, beef, calamari and other seafood, are available, along with vegetables.

Customers can also choose from 12 sauces and special order Korean garlic chili paste or Chinese-Korean hot sauce on the side to increase the heat. The grill also has a full bar. Details: 980-236-1427 or visit www.genghisgrill.com.



Massage Envy Now a Full Spa

Massage Envy in Ballantyne Village celebrated its fifth anniversary by undergoing a renovation and re-opening in mid-August as a spa. The event included free chair massages, purpletini drinks, aromatherapy

and giveaways. The spa features signature facials, hot stone therapy, deep muscle therapy, and customized massages. Details: 704-369-5220 or www.massageenvy.com.

Café Really: Upscale, Casual

This new breakfast, lunch and dinner restaurant focuses on upscale but casual American, southern-style cuisine.

Signature dishes include Strawberry Cheesecake French Toast, Fried Green Tomato BLT, Lamb Sliders, Grilled Blackened Mahi and Roasted Cornish Hen.

Breakfast items are available until 4 p.m., and all luncheon salads and sandwiches are available at dinner in addition to a full dinner menu. Café Really offers wine and beer, including 14 brews on tap, along with a children's menu that includes Silver Dollar Pancakes. More info: 704-541-7880 or www.cafereally.com.

Duckworth's To Join Quad

Duckworth's Grill & Taphouse plans to open its second location this fall, in Ballantyne Quad. The popular restaurant known for its craft beer selection is recognized for steaks and ribs, pizzas and wings, as well as Philly Cheese Steaks and hand-cut fries.

H2 Laser Opens At Lenox Salon

H2 Laser & Skin is now open in Suite 12 of the Lenox Salon, located at 12335 North Community House Road in the Toringdon Market shopping center.

H2 Laser offers the new high-speed LightSheer hair removal treatment that is virtually painless. For a free consultation or to learn more about specials on treatment options for men and women, call 980-213-8996 or visit www.h2laserandskin.com.

Walk Lane in the Cedar Walk complex at the corner of Ardrey Kell and Marvin roads. The center caters to students year round who are in need of enrichment and remedial help in math, sciences, history, language arts and foreign languages. Classes are also offered for EOG, EOC, AP, SAT and ACT test preparation. More Information: call Debbie Bodenarain at 707-542-2042 or email academicadvantage08@gmail.com.



Eatery Serves Up Greek Cuisine

This family-owned restaurant focuses on healthy, fresh Greek-American cuisine. Signature dishes include the gyro cooked fresh on a spinning gyro machine, souvlaki, chicken gyro sandwiches, Greek-style potatoes (not fried) and specialty dips such as Tzatziki, tomato/feta, Greek almond bean hummus and tuna. The menu also offers a wide-range of traditional American sandwiches. Details: 704-541-2122 or www.ikosgrill.com.

New Tenants to Join Ballantyne Corners

According to Doug Baumgartner of York Development Group, Yoffler's Café, Tay Shoe Repair and Think Chocolate have signed leases in Ballantyne Corners, located at Ballantyne Commons Parkway at North Community House Road.

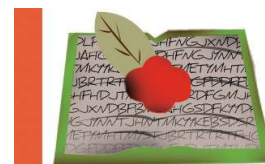
Plans call for all three to open this autumn.

Baumgartner also notes that

continued on page 22

Smashburger Holds Opening

Smashburger hosted a Grand Opening VIP Event June 11 to mark its Charlotte debut in StoneCrest Shopping Center. Local media personalities, community leaders and others sampled Smashburger's Charlotte-specific menu, featuring Carolina burgers, banana pudding milkshakes and Brunswick smashfries. Pictured, Warren Cooksey, Ballantyne's district representative on Charlotte City Council, performed the "ceremonial smash" to celebrate the chain's burger concept. More info: www.smashburger.com.



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Center Adds Pre-School Focus

This fall the Academic Advantage Tutoring Center will offer a new pre-elementary program based on Howard Gardner's multiple intelligence method of learning. The curriculum will include Spanish, science, math, drama, art, dance, reading and writing.

The tutoring center also recently moved to 11054-A Cedar



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BALLANTYNE | wire

■ continued from page 20

York Development Group has signed a lease with Publix Super Markets to open on Highway 521 at Doby's Bridge Road, just south of Ballantyne, in early September.



Restaurant Delivery Service Opens

Carolina To Go is a new Charlotte restaurant delivery service serving south Charlotte and Ballantyne. The company delivers food to your home, office or hotel from restaurants that don't usually deliver.

Carolina To Go is designed for people who don't want to fight traffic, wait for a table — or just feel like relaxing in the comfort of their home without having to cook. Restaurants without delivery service can participate, or customers can order online by going to www.CarolinaToGo.net.



8145 Ardrey Kell Road, Ste 103 Charlotte, NC 28277
704-246-6538

Indian Restaurant Offers Variety

Spice South Indian Cuisine recently opened in The Fountains at Ardrey Kell in Suite 103.

A wide variety of dishes from multiple regions of India are on the menu, including specialty dishes from the clay oven, such as Khaas Seekh Lamb Kebab and Fish Hariyali. Signature dishes include Spice South Chicken Curry, Butter Chicken and Tikka Masala. Details: 704-246-6538 or www.spicesouth.com.

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Mellow Mushroom Coming Soon

Mellow Mushroom, an Atlanta-based restaurant, will open in Ballantyne Village later this fall. The restaurant serves fresh, stone-baked pizzas in an eclectic, art-filled environment, and now has over 100 locations.

GrÉco Comes To Blakeney

GrÉco Fresh Grille is now open in the Blakeney shopping center next to Brixx Pizza. The menu focuses on fast Greek fare, including gyros, kebabs and fresh salads. Already a hit: the Tzatziki sauce made of yogurt, cucumber and garlic that go on the gyros, which are offered with your choice of lamb, chicken or shrimp. Another favorite is the tuna salad with capers, black olives, red onion, parsley and celery. Details: 704-542-7770 or visit the grille's Facebook page.



Self-Serve Yogurt Shop Opens

Yo Fruitty Frozen Yogurt is now open in Ballantyne Commons East near Firestone. This self-serve concept strives to offer healthy treats. Open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 11 p.m. Details: 704-541-3789.

Marvin Site Welcomes Kohl's

Kohl's department store will open this fall in Marvin Town Centre, located at the intersection of Rea and Tom Short roads. Derek Jones, leasing

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agent for Raley Miller, notes that there is another 14,000 square feet of small shop space available. The other anchor tenant in the development is CVS. More info: call 704-321-1000 or email derekjones@raleymiller.com.

Hello Beautiful Salon Arrives in Quad

Hello Beautiful Salon has opened in Ballantyne Quad. The salon is owned and operated by Becky Hafner, an experienced colorist. In addition to cutting and styling, services include color correction, multi-dimensional highlights, Coppola Keratin Treatments and Hotheads Hair Extensions. More info or appointments: 704-540-3636.

including three who live in Ballantyne, were honored on June 17 at the annual American Diabetes Association's Father of the Year awards.

One of the Ballantyne dads, Chris Little, director of variable operations at Hendrick Automotive Group, made history as the biggest Charlotte fundraiser ever, at \$106,000. Little, the fourth-place Father of the Year fundraiser in the U.S., will be featured by the ADA in a full-page USA Today ad later this year.

The other two Ballantyne dads are Rick Puckett, executive vice president and chief financial officer at Snyder's-Lance Inc. and Bert Scott, president of U.S. Commercial Markets, CIGNA Corp.

For 11 years, the Father of the Year event has been one of the top fundraisers in Charlotte, raising more than \$2.3 million to fight a disease suffered by more than 165,000 people in the area. This year's gala drew 400 friends, family and colleagues and raised \$379,000, a fundraising total that placed Charlotte second in the country.

SWEET CHARITIES

Guliani's Raises Money for Autism

Guliani's Fine Jewelry in Blakeney held a "Diamonds and Denim" event last spring that raised money to benefit the Charlotte chapter of Autism Speaks.

Attendees saw models wearing the latest designer jeans and shoes from Denim Affair, Belly Elan and Seventy-Two Shoe Boutique while enjoying wine and hors d'oeuvres from 131 Main Restaurant. They also met up-and-coming fashion designer Benedetta Bella.

Guliani's Fine Jewelry also raised \$564 for the Charlotte chapter of Autism Speaks with a gold party, donating 20 percent of the proceeds of any gold that attendees sold to the jeweler.

Mix at Six Supports High School Band

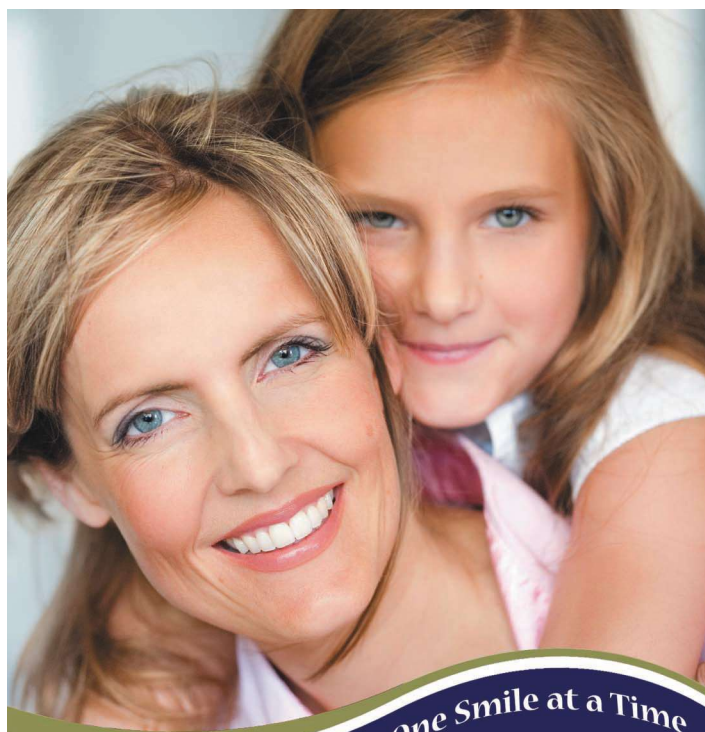
Ballantyne Village's Mix at Six, a seasonal music series, raised nearly \$1,700 for the Ardrey Kell Band Booster Club.

The six-week series hosted Charlotte bands in the central Village Plaza on Wednesday evenings. Guests attending the event enjoyed either patio dining with one of the participating restaurant sponsors or the VIP section, which overlooked the featured band and provided complimentary drinks and appetizers.

"Ardrey Kell's Jazz Band

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Photo by Tom Ouma Photography

Rotary Club Hosts Triathlon

The Mecklenburg County-South Rotary Club recently completed its second annual Gold Rush Triathlon to benefit A Child's Place and rotary's Polio Plus programs. The event was at the Charlotte Latin campus and Mecklenburg Aquatic Center.

The club focuses on children's causes and has a long tradition of serving Charlotte charities. Over 160 athletes participated in this year's triathlon, which also served as the ninth event of the TrySports Triathlon series.

The club also recently installed new officers: William Woodruff, president; Frank Henry, president-elect; Beth Trotter, president nominee/service projects chair; Seth Marlowe, secretary; Jack Schmoll, treasurer; Alan Davidson, immediate past president/membership chair; Debra Corbett, club administration chair; Clay Ferguson, club trainer; Tennyson Shifley, public relations chair; Patrick O'Brien, Rotary Foundation chair; and Joni Stanley, sergeant-at-arms.

The Meck South Rotary Club is the parent of the Ballantyne Rotary Club. Learn more at www.mecksouthrotary.org.

performed at Ballantyne Village early this spring, and after experiencing the talented youth of the Ballantyne community, we wanted to give back and support their program," says Jessica Henson, marketing director for Ballantyne Village.

Booster club president Laura Hendler says all monies earned through Mix at Six will go directly to assist with the purchase of equipment, instruments and sheet music.

The Ardrey Kell band program is one of the largest in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools with over 250 students participating in marching band, color guard, jazz band and three

concert performance bands.

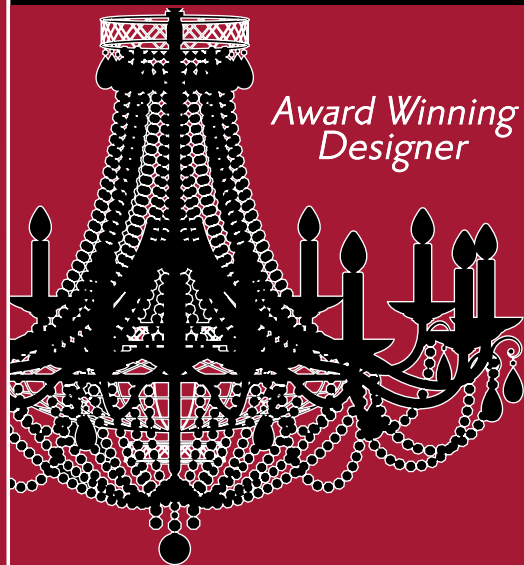
Julia Howse Donates Hair

Julia Howse, now a fourth grader at Hawk Ridge Elementary, recently donated eight inches of her hair to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a charitable organization similar to Locks of Love.

Although Howse was apprehensive about losing the long hair she loved, knowing she would be helping someone else gave her the courage to do it. To learn more about the organization, visit www.beautifullengths.com.

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Rally Holds Summer Events, Gears Up

The Ballantyne Country Club Rally for the Cure held several fundraisers over the summer, gearing up for their main push in September.

BCC Rally consists primarily of a weeklong series of events each September to raise money and awareness for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. To find out how your community group, school or business can be part of the BCC Rally, visit www.bccrally.org. Here is a quick look at a few of the summer events as well as other rally news:

Retailer Hosts Fundraiser: Skatell's Manufacturing Jewelers hosted an evening event at its Pineville store in May, celebrating the organization's continued connection with the BCC Rally.

A glittering array of gems was on display, with a percentage of the sales proceeds donated to the cause. Mike and Donna Ealy, owners of Skatell's Manufacturing Jewelers, have been involved with BCC Rally for the past six years.

Their one-of-a-kind custom pieces for the group's silent auction and their limited edition keepsake pieces designed specifically for the rally have contributed significantly to the organization being named the highest earning rally event in the nation for three consecutive years.

Last year Skatell's donated 50 unmarked jewelry boxes that were sold off at the BCC Ladies Luncheon for \$50 each, without the



buyer knowing what was inside. Each buyer received at least a semi-precious stone, ready to be mounted into a ring, pendant or other piece of jewelry. Five lucky women "won" a finished piece with values into the hundreds of dollars.

Swimmers Raise Funds, Awareness: In June, Ballantyne Country Club's swim team, the Barracudas, held their second annual



Sno-Cone fundraiser for BCC Rally. During their biggest meet of the year against Olde Georgetowne, they wore pink swim caps and raised about \$400.

The event was made possible with the help of Coach William Keith and his team of coaches and volunteers.

Men's Golf Event Sept. 22: This year the BCC Rally is adding a men's golf tournament to its list of fundraisers. The inaugural BCC Rally Men's Pink Ball Tournament will be held at Ballantyne Country Club on Thursday, Sept. 22 at 1 p.m. Registration details can be found on www.bccrally.org.

Order Your Pink Bow: To get a pink bow to display on your mailbox, at work or school, and support the BCC Rally this fall, contact Carol Aaron at pinkbow4rally@gmail.com or visit www.bccrally.org.



Skatell's staff provided a warm welcome at its fundraiser for the BCC Rally. Among them were (from left) Andrea Hook, Laura Ealy, Erin Kemenczky, Donna Ealy and Michael Ealy.

HI, NEIGHBOR!

Meet Three of Ballantyne's Fascinating Personalities

Photos by Ray Sepesy

FACES gives you a snapshot of intriguing people who live and/or work in the Ballantyne area. They come from all walks of the community and many parts of the world. In this edition, you'll find who hails from Maine and loves saltwater fishing, who loathes laziness and dreams of traveling around the British Virgin Islands with friends, and who would like to have author Sue Monk Kidd, Oprah and the Dalai Lama in her foursome at The Golf Club of Ballantyne. For an introduction to Brent Howison, Debra Moffitt and Brian Quincannon, you're invited to turn the page.



BRENT HOWISON

Birthplace: Portland, Maine.

Job: President, The Remi Group, a provider of programs to help organizations manage equipment maintenance and save cost.

Favorite College Team: University of Maine (his undergraduate alma mater)

Biggest Pet Peeve: "When I hold a door open for someone and they don't say 'thank you' or even acknowledge the gesture."

Do you live in Ballantyne? I moved to the Ballantyne area in 2005; the same year we moved The Remi Group there. I wanted to leave uptown for a more family-oriented setting where I could still be close to work and have access to retail, restaurants, golf and other amenities.

What is your favorite outdoor activity? I like playing golf at Firethorne Country Club and The Golf Club at Ballantyne. I prefer saltwater fishing off the coasts of Maine and North Carolina, but with three children under the age of four, I'm usually fishing in a pond in the Ballantyne Corporate Park!

Describe your dream vacation. Two solid weeks at a tropical beach destination with great golf courses, fishing excursions, cigars, seafood, good wine, lots of sunshine and family and friends.

What is the title of the last book you read?

"Moonwalking With Einstein" by Joshua Foer. It was a gift from my parents. They probably thought the memory techniques would help me remember to call them more often. It's an interesting read.

What news source provides you the daily news?

Fox News, Bill O'Reilly in particular.

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

Friendship Trays, Operation Christmas Child and Toys for Tots. Helping an elderly person in need or a less fortunate child just seems to be an especially worthy cause to me.

Tell us what gadget or toy you wouldn't

live without. Without question, the iPhone. I can't be without email and text messaging for too long.

Name the three people you would include in your foursome at The Golf Club at

Ballantyne? Tom Brady, Donald Trump and Larry David.



DEBRA MOFFITT

Birthplace: Bedford, Ind.

Job: Author, "Awake in the World: 108 Practices to Live a Divinely Inspired Life" (Llewellyn Worldwide).

Favorite College Team: Indiana University (her alma mater).

Biggest Pet Peeve: "I find it off-putting to call a place and get an automated response. A human voice and real interaction is irreplaceable."

What do you like most about your job? My book was just released and I love traveling around the country, and internationally, to meet people at workshops and events. I love the flexibility of setting my own schedule.

Do you live in Ballantyne? I moved to Ballantyne from the Swiss Alps because a man I went to high school with heard I was writing in Switzerland and wanted to do the same. He found me in a little mountain village above Lugano, brought me back here and we married. How's that for a fairy tale!

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant? I really love Indian food. Nirvana has sumptuous naan and good, fresh selections. Plus, it's close to home.

What is the title of the last book you read? I just finished "The Time Traveler's Wife." It's an entertaining read with an interesting concept. The character travels between past and present, just like we do in our minds.

What news source provides you the daily news?

I tune into different things to get different perspectives. I switch between Internet news and TV, including BBC, CNN, Fox, TF1 (French channel), Indian channels and other international channels.

What are your favorite websites? I like

www.goodreads.com to learn about what good books to read. I also like www.beliefnet.com, which is a nationally recognized site on spirituality. I also have a blog there called "Awake in the World."

What charitable organizations are you involved with? I'm on the faculty of The Sophia Institute in Charleston, S.C. It has world-class, inspirational programs by presenters such as Joan Borysenko, Marianne Williamson and Andrew Harvey. It has brought me together with kindred spirits who also wish to bring positive change to the world.

Name the three people you would include in your foursome at The Golf Club at Ballantyne? Sue Monk Kidd (author), Oprah and the Dalai Lama. I don't know if we would play well, but the conversations would be lively and deep.

BRIAN QUINCANNON

Birthplace: Winston-Salem.

Job: Business banking manager with a major financial institution in Charlotte.

Favorite College Team: University of South Carolina (his alma mater).

Biggest Pet Peeve: "I don't have much tolerance for laziness in any aspect of life."

What do you like most about your job? I enjoy it because it gives me the opportunity to work with some of the most successful entrepreneurs in our area.

Do you live in Ballantyne? We have lived in Ballantyne since 2002, and were attracted to the area because of its many offerings, including the great restaurants, golf courses, the Morrison Family YMCA — and what we quickly found to be wonderful neighbors.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant? Firebirds. I love the sesame-encrusted salmon with fried spinach.

What is your favorite outdoor activity? I enjoy anything if it is on the beach — a long walk or run, any variety of water sports with our three kids or simply sitting in a chair with a drink of choice.

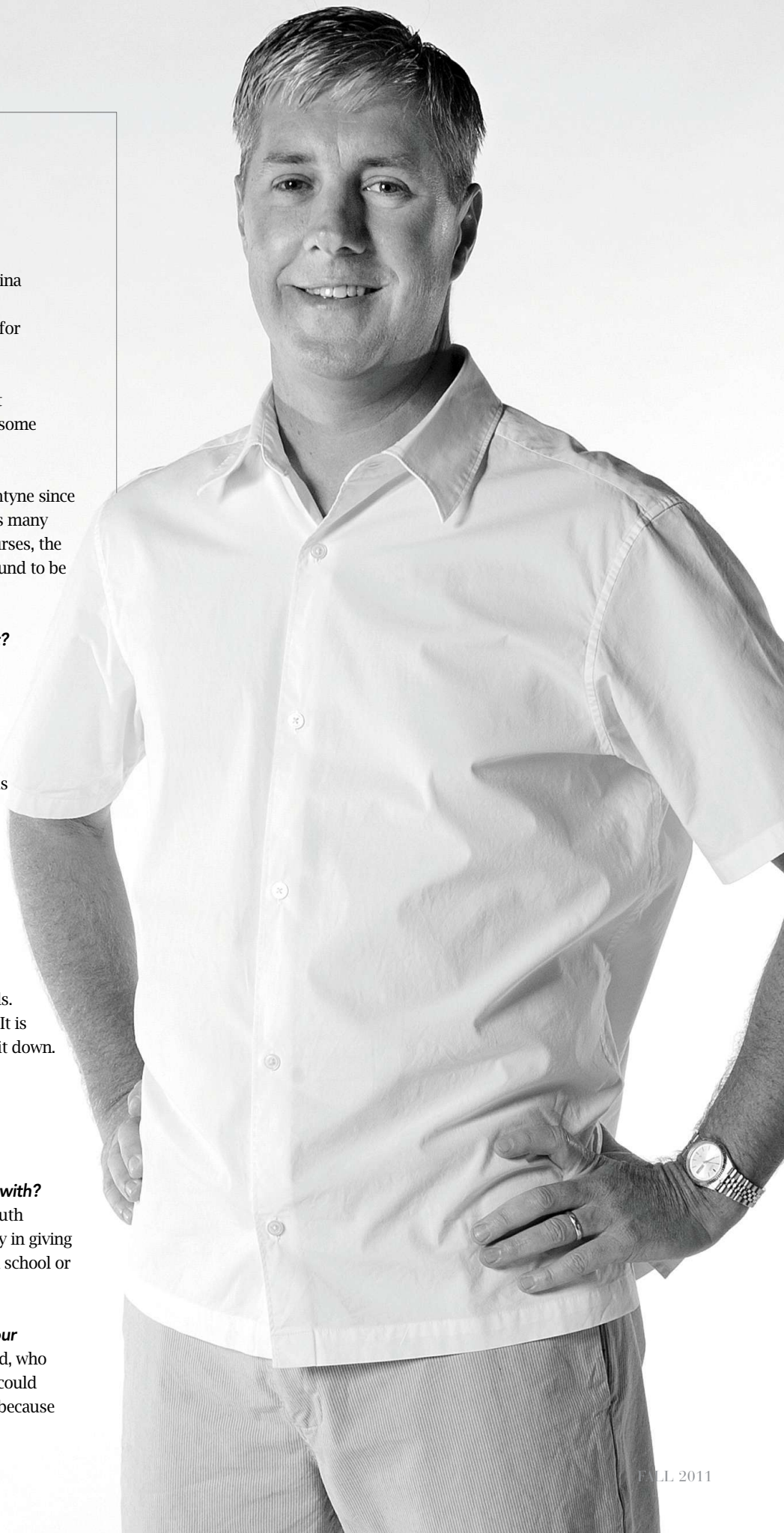
Describe your dream vacation. We have some friends convincing us to charter a boat to travel around the British Virgin Islands for a week. Sounds like a winner!

What is the title of the last book you read? My wife got me hooked on the Stieg Larsson novels. I just finished "The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo." It is one of those mysteries so addictive you can't put it down.

What are your favorite websites? www.thecharlotteobserver.com, www.cnn.com and www.gogamecocks.com.

What charitable organizations are you involved with? Junior Achievement, Habitat for Humanity and South Charlotte Recreation Association. I believe strongly in giving back to the community whether it benefits kids in school or sports or other outreach initiatives.

Name the three people you would include in your foursome at The Golf Club at Ballantyne? My dad, who passed away in 2006; Butch Harmon, because we could always use a little instruction; and Phil Mickelson because he's my favorite.





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Learning Boost

PARENTS HIRE TUTORS TO MOVE CHILDREN UP EDUCATION LADDER

By Nan Bauroth Photos by Shane Baskin, Blackbox Studios

ELIZABETH CABUGASON AND HER HUSBAND have stressful jobs as software developers, so when their daughter Colleen needed homework help, tempers would fray, leading to yelling and tears. They sought help from a professional learning center.

"Ever since, our after-work lifestyle has changed," Cabugason says. "Colleen is self-sufficient at doing her homework. She likes Kumon (Math & Reading Center) because she gets attention from the teachers. She's been there five years, and in the fifth grade was performing high school math."

The Cabugasons' experience mirrors that of other Ballantyne parents who are turning to learning centers to boost their child's academic success. Tutoring no longer carries the stigma that's it's strictly for the academically challenged. With larger class sizes, fierce competition for college and both parents working, children often need more individual attention than the family can

provide, to either master the basics or reach their potential.

"Parents are usually the first to know their child might need help, but parents must also be a detective," advises Jackie Pace, executive director of Huntington Learning Center in Tower Place.

Parents who spot a problem — or opportunity for enrichment — recognize the value of tutors who are experts in core learning concepts, subject material or study skills, and can enhance a child's confidence. The real win-win, though, is that most children like today's tutoring sites, a turnabout from the "stigma" mentality years ago.

Although most learning centers offer tutoring in reading, writing and math for students Kindergarten through grade 12, each learning center has its own specialty or approach.

For instance, Kumon is based on a self-learning method designed by a Japanese math teacher to help his son overcome



Tutoring centers most often provide help with reading, writing and math, but each has its own specialty or approach.



Maddie Cincera discusses a math word problem with her Mathnasium instructor.

difficulties with math. “He found that mere practice of 15 to 20 minutes a day of problems with difficult concepts develops a solid understanding of math or reading fundamentals,” says Alka Garg, director and head instructor at Kumon, located in the Blakeney Professional Center.

Gregg Nelsen’s son is an example: “When he began there, he was a mediocre student, but three years later is at the top of his class,” Nelsen says. “No way he would have gotten into

AIG (Academic or Intellectually Gifted) classes without Kumon.”

Gauging Strengths, Weaknesses

Today, all learning centers begin with a diagnostic test to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses, and develop an individualized study program. Teacher-to-student ratios are low — one-on-one up to four-on-one, although each student works on their own lesson. Facilities are open year-round, with summer

one of their busiest times.

Sima Kalia enrolled her daughter last summer at Huntington Learning Center to enrich her reading skills and boost her scores the two points she needed to qualify for honors classes. “They diagnosed the exact problem,” Kalia recalls. “I am happy with what they have done. At present, they’re teaching her speed reading and she is up to 600 words per minute. My daughter likes it and tells me, ‘I can do it now.’”

Learning centers serve children from public, private and religious schools, as well as homeschoolers whose parents can’t teach physics or calculus. Most tutoring is done on facility premises with proprietary materials. However, Early Bird Learning offers its services in the child’s home. Marci Raniszkeski, founder and president, has a network of 200 tutors in every subject, including foreign languages, and provides tutoring labs at private schools.

Vicki Frenette has utilized

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Above: Kumon instructor Alka Gragg helps Conrad Nelson with vocabulary and grammar.

Right: Aryan Pal (right) gets a "high five" from Kumon's Katie Honeycutt after he demonstrates his knowledge of the lesson. Courtney Hewitt looks on.

Marci's services for six years for her daughters. "I like the convenience of tutoring in the home," she says. "Amanda and Sabrina work with Marci once a week for an hour each. She has taught them tools they were not getting, such as organizing homework, memorization tips and prep for exams, giving them confidence in expanding their knowledge. They love it."

No More Fear of Math

One of the biggest demands today is for math help. At Mathnasium in The Fountains at Ardrey Kell, former math teacher Krista Adams has created an environment so positive that students mostly come via word of mouth.

"We teach number sense — how math concepts relate to each other," Adams says, explaining that students may not get enough practice of basic concepts in school. "We see a lot of partial mastery. I tell kids they're not bad at math. They come here to practice math. The more they practice, the better



they get and skills are mastered." Julie Cincera started her daughter Maddie at Mathnasium during the summer and continued through the school year. "My husband and I tried to help her, but she would spend hours and still not get it. The tutors at Mathnasium are unbelievable. They explain a concept and it's the most amazing thing — she doesn't have to study the rest of the night. She can't wait to go there every day after school."

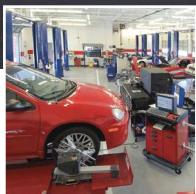
At the Tutoring Club in Hunter's Crossing, Director Glenn Blanco sees the same rush for math help starting in middle school, but especially with high school students. Last spring over 60 students from local high schools showed up, worried their grades would suffer. "They tend to wait until the end — a few as late as May," says Blanco.

Instead, he suggests students

continued on page 36

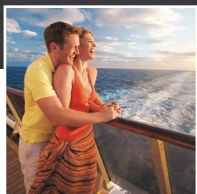
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■ continued from page 34

seek tutoring at the first sign of trouble, usually their initial report card in November. “If they come in for two hours a week then, we can get them up to speed and maintain them all year long.”

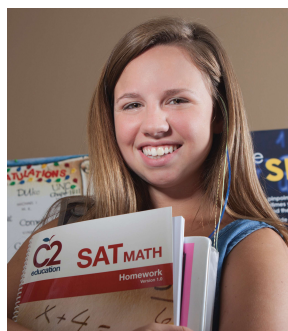
By supporting a wide range of charitable endeavors at local schools and the Morrison Family YMCA, Blanco has given the Tutoring Club a neighborhood feel with a loyal following. Parents post positive comments online, such as this one from Lisa Paul, whose son needed help with reading and math. “After six months in the Tutoring Club, he is now reading at fifth-grade level and writing essays with ease. We are so pleased with the staff, results and new-found confidence my son has attained.”

Aiming for College

Ultimately, the goal is getting into the best college possible, so college planning has become a major growth area for learning centers. At C2 Education in The Arboretum, Program Director Katrina Cho does a lot of college counseling and SAT prep courses.

She advises parents to begin the process in the 10th grade, and in her initial conference with them, explains the most important thing is a student’s GPA, followed by their SAT score. “For Ivy League schools a child must also show leadership, so we work on a plan for extracurricular activities starting in the 10th grade as well.”

Cho stresses the role both parents play in the tutoring process, no matter the child’s age. “The student is always the most important person in the room during our monthly conferences, but I insist both parents be present. Students think it is mom’s job, but when dad shows up, kids love it,



Top Left: Mathnasium owner Krista Adams leads elementary students in multiplication bingo.

Above Left: Student Katie Scanlon has worked with tutors at C2Educate.

Above Right: Amanda and Sabrina Frenette (from left) enjoy a lesson at Starbucks with Marci Raniszkeski of Early Bird Learning.

Far Right: Raniszkeski (left) tutors Gabriella Russell at her home in Ballantyne.

because they know he cares.”

When parents ask what results they can expect, she responds, “If you both will turn the TV off for 20 minutes a night and read while your child reads or does homework, then I guarantee results. We try to make a strong team here — parents, the student and the teacher.”

Saleem Barakzai credits C2 Education for his son Syem’s recent acceptance by UNC-Chapel Hill. When the family moved here from England two years ago, Syem faced a different educational system and struggled to achieve good grades at Providence High. “He could not have done it without the support of Cho and all the tutors, who are excellent,” Barakzai says. “C2 Education was worth every penny.”

Gary Lang, director of Newpoint Learning Center in StoneCrest Professional Center, also counsels many parents concerned about their child

getting into a good college.


Founded by Davidson Learning Center, a fully accredited supplementary learning center, Newpoint has some tutors with master’s degrees and one with a Ph.D. in physics. Lang feels on-site tutoring works best because students see their peers, which motivates them, especially when they become a junior in high school.

“The light bulb of college comes on, so we sit down with student and parent and discuss their options,” says Lang. “I explain that in a tough economy, an SAT score of 1250 almost ensures entry into a North or South Carolina state school, which can offer substantial tuition savings. The average SAT score at Providence High is 1070, so if your child can achieve 1250, the child won’t have to seek the schools — colleges will come looking for them.”

Jo Ann Zendan, whose

daughter Gabrielle is a senior at Providence High, sought Lang’s advice a year ago. “After Gabrielle took the SAT to see where her weaknesses were and how we could build off that, we saw Gary in May and started her at Newpoint after school and through the summer,” she recalls.

“When Gabrielle saw how much better she felt and helpful they were, she continued. They’ve taught her tips to finish all the questions on the SAT on time, and her math score has jumped 110 points. It’s been a wonderful experience and built her confidence.”

Many other parents are saying similar things about how tutors have helped their children. No longer something to be ashamed of or to hide, tutoring has become an attractive option for children who need anything from the basics to advanced challenges. It’s a go-to solution for many Ballantyne-area parents. 

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Kevin Hall and his wife, Lara, are transforming the Hall Family Farm into a destination. They're pictured with their children (from left): Sabrina, Stephanie and Daniel. The children hold a Hall family photo from the 1970s. Kevin is the boy in the middle of the photo.

**NEW
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HISTORIC HALL
FAMILY FARM AS
AGRI-TOURIST
SITE**

JUST AROUND THE BEND ON PROVIDENCE ROAD WEST off Highway 521 lies a stretch of cropland that to those cruising by seems lost in time. Identified only by its unpretentious clapboard sign, the Hall Family Farm stands in bucolic contrast to the new houses situated a stone's throw across the road in Ballantyne Country Club.

Growing the Legacy

By Nan Bauroth

Contemporary photos by Jessica Milligan,
Old images courtesy of the Hall family

This near century-old working farm, still in the hands of a family whose roots run deep in the Piedmont, is one of the few living links to the rich heritage of the area. But what makes the story of the Hall Family Farm even more intriguing is that Kevin Hall, great-grandson of the original owner, is in the process of transforming his family's legacy into an agri-tourist site.



J.K. Hall and his wife, Maude, are surrounded by their 11 children.



J.K. and his bride began life in 1899 during the impoverished Reconstruction era, starting out with only two hens, a rooster and a few household goods.

style white house dating back to 1955. Together with nephew Kevin, his wife, Lara, and their three children, Jo Ellen and her brother Tim are helping convert the farm jointly owned by them and their siblings into a destination where residents can pick ripe strawberries, enjoy hayrides and purchase sweet corn, melons, tomatoes and pumpkins grown on the land (see "Farm to Table" page 42).

Arrival in America: 1780s

According to Jo Ellen, keeper of the family flame, the first Hall arrived in America in the 1780s, settling in Pennsylvania. Descendants gravitated south to the Yadkin Valley around the 1820s. Calvin Hall, born in 1820, was the first to move here to Pleasant Valley, located just south of Ballantyne near Black

Horse Run on Highway 521. Calvin and his wife, Mazy, had a son, Dennis, born in 1852, and in 1878, Dennis and his wife, Olivia, became the parents of John Kistler Hall Sr.

In the history great-grandson Kevin has compiled on the farm's website (www.hallfamilyfarm.com), he explains that J.K. and his bride began life in 1899 during the impoverished Reconstruction era, starting out with only two hens, a rooster and a few household goods. Despite the lack of opportunity, over time J.K. managed to save a "vast fortune" of a thousand dollars, and began purchasing land in this neck of Lower Providence (now known as Ballantyne) to farm cotton. His holdings eventually grew to 600 acres, most of it on the north side of Providence Road West where Ballantyne Country Club

Originally purchased in 1915 by John Kistler Hall Sr. (known as "J.K."), the 40 acres on which the Hall Family Farm currently sits is the last remaining portion of what was once a 600-acre property amassed by the hardworking Hall. He and his wife, Maude Potts, apportioned those 600

acres among their 11 children, one of whom was Leitner Shurley Hall.

Leitner and his wife, Elizabeth, had six children, each of whom inherited a share of his property. Today, Jo Ellen Hall, the only one of the children to stay close to home, still lives in the ranch-



J.K. and Maude Hall once owned approximately 600 acres, much of it where Ballantyne Country Club is today.

now resides.

"During this period J.K. became landlord to a small community of tenant farmers," explains Kevin, noting this was a common practice, and that most of the sharecroppers were African-American descendants of slaves. J.K. provided mules, equipment, housing, seed and land, while tenants supplied the backbreaking manual labor. Fields were cultivated a row at a time with mule-drawn plows; the cotton was hand-picked and then transported via buggy or mule-drawn wagons to the cotton gin in Pineville.

Leitner Shurley Hall, born in 1914 in a small farmhouse on what is now Endhaven Lane, grew up on his parents' farm. Named for a favorite schoolteacher in Pleasant Valley, Leitner

passed away last spring at the age of 96 and is buried in the family plot at Harrison United Methodist Church with four previous generations of Halls.

Kevin recalls his grandfather sharing memories of life on a southern cotton farm during the Great Depression. "He cut and split pine into four-foot 'stove wood' to sell to the mill in the winter, walked behind a mule and plow all day long, loaded natural pit gravel into a wagon to maintain the roads and hand applied arsenic-laced molasses to cotton bolls to kill the destructive boll weevils," Kevin says. One of his grandfather's most vivid memories was the day he watched a favorite mule drop dead in the field after acquiring tetanus from a splinter.

Army Gets Nod Over Farm

The hardships of farm life prompted Leitner to enlist in the Army in 1936. He arrived in Charleston by train, only to have J.K. show up and try to buy him out, a common custom in those days by farmers needing their sons as labor. But Leitner stood his ground and was shipped to Oregon, where among other duties he painted the home of General George C. Marshall. After meeting Elizabeth, who was selling popcorn at an amusement park, the two returned home here and never left.

However, Leitner still didn't want to farm, so after running a small country store on Highway 521 just south of Pineville, in 1941 he beat out a hundred

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FARM TO TABLE IN BALLANTYNE'S BACKYARD

For five years, agronomist Tim Hall tried to persuade his nephew Kevin to turn the Hall Family Farm into an “agri-tourist” operation with pick-your-own strawberries.

By 2006, Kevin and his wife, Lara, both engineering graduates of Virginia Tech, were finding job opportunities in the manufacturing sector a tough go, so they took him up on his idea. Now, five years later, with Tim’s help, Kevin and Lara are transforming the Hall Family Farm into a destination providing fresh produce and a taste of farm life for children and adults.

Tim grows the vegetable crops, including sweet corn, lettuce, tomatoes, collard greens and melons. “My contribution to Hall Family Farm has been the addition of modern drip-irrigation-based farming methods, and the pick-your-own strawberry operation,” says Kevin.

He notes that North Carolina has been a pioneer in the latest technology of annual strawberry “plasticulture,” a process in which the crop grows through a mix of plastic and dirt. Plasticulture also keeps away weeds. Last spring the farm produced 40,000 pounds of the ripe red berries despite severe hailstorms that damaged some of the crop.

Lara’s role is expanding the marketing side of the business by adding hayrides, a strawberry-string maze, school-bus tours, scouting-badge opportunities and a growing array of local products in their tent store, including honey.

Since strawberries require pollination, a neighbor keeps his hives on the farm in return for selling the golden nectar his bees produce. Kevin and Lara’s three children, who attend Ballantyne-area public schools, help out during strawberry season, when all hands are on deck.

This fall, the Hall Family Farm will expand its offerings again with the opening of a giant pumpkin patch and related autumn farm activities.

Kevin says it’s not uncommon for descendants of longtime local families to show up during strawberry season and share memories they have heard from ancestors about days gone by on the Hall Family Farm. For Lara, the greatest reward of all their hard work is meeting the people. “We always see new faces, and our goal is to give local residents a wonderful experience at a great price.”

applicants for the only opening on the Mecklenburg police force and served the next 27 years as a patrolman and sergeant. “One of my parents’ famous stories involved the time a bootlegger my father was arresting tried to strangle him, prompting my mother to bite the attacker so hard he showed up in court wearing a huge bandage,” Jo Ellen

recalls with amusement.

After retirement, Leitner and Elizabeth spent a quiet life on the farm, supplying family and friends with fresh produce every summer. “He was a solid father who instilled in his children the highest standards of morality and respect for the law,” Leitner’s obituary says.

The couple was especially



Daniel Hall, 5, cradles fresh ears of corn from the farm.



Hall Family Farm sells its produce as well as honey supplied by a neighbor.


“The Hall Family Farm was created with a lot of hard work and wise decisions by my father and grandfather.”

— Jo Ellen Hall

proud of their children, all of whom graduated from college with master's degrees: Tom, firstborn and father of Kevin, is a consulting engineer who owns a 220-acre farm in Culpeper, Va. with brother Bill; Tim, who is an agronomist with the N.C. Department of Agriculture; Bill, who lives in Annapolis, Md.; Barbara, who resides in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.; Judy, who lives near Independence, Va.; and Jo Ellen, who spent her career as a public assistance fraud

investigator with Mecklenburg County. Jo Ellen is particularly beloved by the congregation at Harrison United Methodist, where she served as organist for 42 years.

Although the original family farmhouse and barn dating to the 1800s was razed to construct Ballantyne Country Club, the family managed to save many items from it, including the mantel. They also moved the old cotton house to the current farm. Given that all but 40 acres of the original Hall Family Farm have been sold, Jo Ellen is happy that at least two roads have been named in their honor: Calvin Hall Road (off S.C. 160 near Highway 521), and John K. Hall Road in Ballantyne Country Club.

As to what she would like people to remember about her family, she replies: “The Hall Family Farm was created with a lot of hard work and wise decisions by my father and grandfather. They were pretty thrifty people who managed to make a lot with very little.” 

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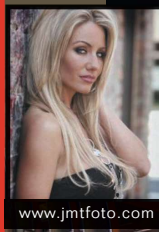
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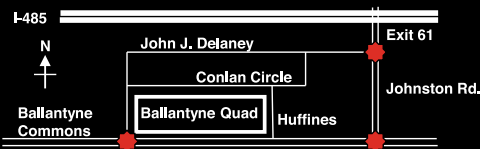
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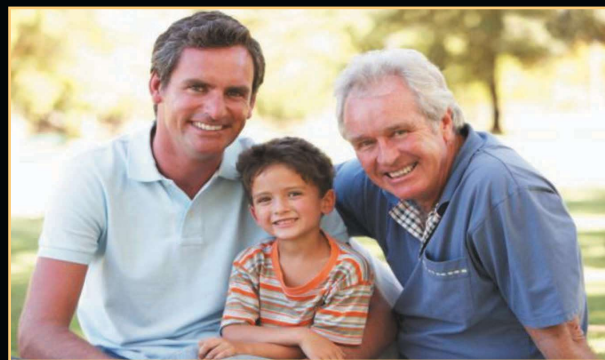
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Yoga & Yogurt

OFF-BEAT OUTING MAKES
GREAT BLIND DATE

By Sean O'Connell
Photos by Shane Baskin, Blackbox Studios

THE ALLITERATION WAS TOO MUCH TO RESIST. Yoga and yogurt: A match made in heaven — or at least, in Ballantyne.

Mind you, our Date Night feature has taken local couples to some creative spots around south Charlotte, from drinks at Global Restaurant Bar & Lounge and dinner at Miro Spanish Grille in StoneCrest Shopping Center to late-night bowling at The Sports Connection on Ardrey Kell Road. But we've never done yoga. We've never included yogurt. And most important, we'd never featured a couple on a blind date.

This month, we tried all three. George Delano and Erin Wilk

worked for a Charlotte franchise of It's Just Lunch, which pairs people on blind dates. "I love meeting new people and trying new things," she said.

Which was great because neither had ever tried yoga before, nor in all honesty, had trepidation heading into the date. They were open to the experience. "I go to the gym all of the time, but I had never tried yoga," Delano told us. "I had no idea what to expect."

The evening began with a 90-minute yoga session at the YMCA Corporate Wellness Center in Ballantyne Corporate Park, followed by a much-needed cool down at Yoforia, a popular yogurt

just met and were just getting to know each other, Delano said yoga threw them into the fire and helped them get to know each other faster.

The YMCA Corporate Wellness Center is new to Ballantyne Corporate Park and offers private yoga and Pilates Reformer lessons for singles, duos and trios for YMCA members. The center offers shower and locker room services to tenants of Ballantyne Corporate Park. Massage services are available to members and the community at-large, said Tuesday Mize, director of Ballantyne Village YMCA and YMCA Corporate Wellness Center.

methods of yoga."

Wilk was very impressed by the session. "I thought the teacher was very knowledgeable," she said. "I feel like I got out of it what you are supposed to get out of yoga."

She went on to call the new studio "a hidden gem" for the Ballantyne area, a great space that more people need to learn about.

"They've done a really good job. I really enjoyed the people there. Everybody was so incredibly friendly and nice," Wilk said.

Delano, meanwhile, said the first difference he noticed between yoga and weight training is the core strength that one



Above: Wilk and Delano had never gone out before Date Night brought them together.

Right: The couple listened to their yoga instructor at the YMCA Corporate Wellness Center.

"I go to the gym all of the time, but I had never tried yoga. I had no idea what to expect."

—George Delano



were our helpful volunteers for this month's feature, which routinely explores entertainment and dining options in our neighborhood. Each brought his or her own sensibility to the experience. Delano works in promotions and likes new ideas. Wilk, now in banking, once

store in the area. While a little shaky at first, this blind date turned into a pretty sweet deal.

Ideal Ice Breaker

Delano and Wilk received a one-on-one yoga session with one of the trainers at the YMCA's new facility. For a couple who had

"It was very, very intense and intimate," Delano said of the yoga experience. "We got to know each other pretty quickly through the different stretches. Our trainer didn't run us through a full workout, but we went through a couple of different

needs to be able to pull off yoga stretches. "It's actually impressive that some people can have that amount of core strength," Delano said after the workout.

One obstacle they overcame was pure splits. "That didn't work out too well for me," Delano

said with a laugh. "It was like a standing-straight-up split, too. It wasn't like we were lying on the ground. So there was no way that was happening for me."

Near the end of their session, Wilk and Delano once again tore down the physical barriers between them by participating in stretching exercises that required them to sit Indian style and face-to-face, then bend in a seesaw technique.

"It was a very interesting way to get to know someone," Delano said. "But to put it this way, I thought Erin was a very, very personable girl. There were no awkward silences. There was



Near the end of their yoga session, Wilk and Delano once again tore down the physical barriers.



Above: Delano and Wilk treated themselves to a make-your-own yogurt sundae.

Below: The couple tried a variety of yoga methods.



nothing awkward about the things that we had to do. We both were so open to the things that the yoga instructor was telling us to do. Neither of us has an awkward bone in our bodies, really. So it was interesting, but it worked.”

Perfect Cool Down

From yoga, it was on to Yoforia, located at 6432 Rea Road in Piper Glen Shopping Center for what Delano called a “healthy yet still refreshing treat.”

Yoforia is a trendy new yogurt shop that allows patrons to mix their own toppings, coming up with crazy combinations. Here, Delano and Wilk realized they shared similar tastes, both ordering pomegranate and original yogurts topped with kiwi, lime, strawberries and Sour Patch Kids.

“It was delicious,” Delano said. The yogurt flavors and



Delano and Wilk realized they had more in common than just liking the same yogurt flavors.

toppings were just the first of several commonalities that Delano and Wilk would realize that they shared. On the drive over, Delano noted that Wilk had a University of Virginia sticker on her car's

bumper. They began talking about Wilk's tiny hometown of Wintergreen, Va. As it turns out, Delano goes camping there with friends on a regular basis. They started trading names of

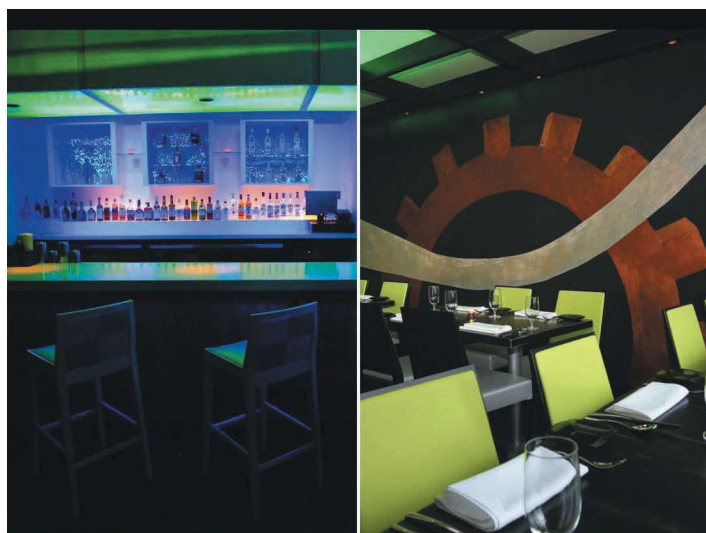
people they knew from the area. Coincidentally, Delano knew of, and played sports with, most of the same folks Wilk went to high school with.

“He said, ‘Yeah, I played with a lot of kids who went to Nelson County High School,’” Wilk recalled. “And I replied, ‘Um, I went to Nelson County High School.’ Then we talked about a boy that I knew named Jacob Allen. And he was like, ‘Jacob Allen is my best friend.’

“Isn't that kind of crazy?” Wilk asked.

Perhaps needless to say, they're planning on meeting again. They may even duplicate this blind date, primarily because it worked so well.

“Although it sounded a little odd, yoga and then Yoforia, it was perfect,” Delano said. “It was absolutely perfect.”



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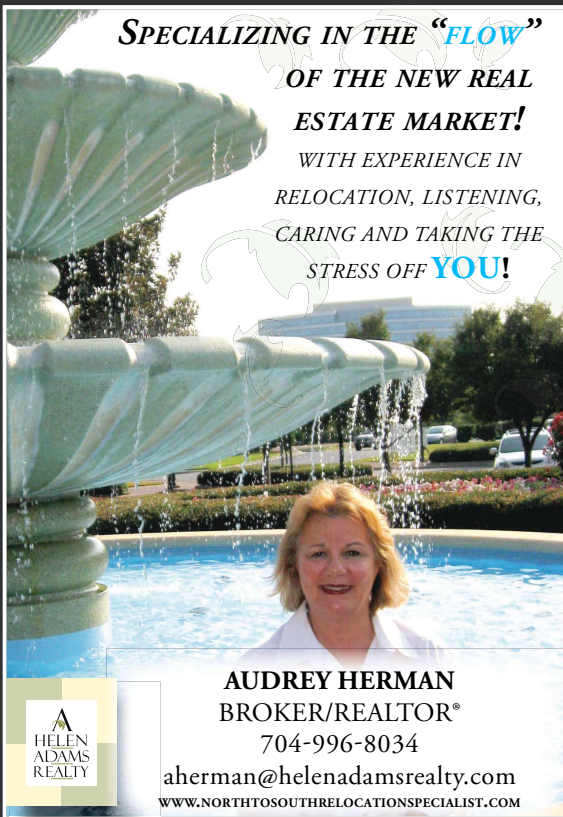
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UNCORKED

Local Wine Boutiques Offer Diverse Experiences

By Sean O'Connell Photos by Jessica Milligan

WHEN IT COMES TO WINE, the vine's the limit and only your refined palate can lead the way to robust, satisfying flavors.

Do you prefer red, white or a blend? Are you partial to California, French, Italian, Spanish or homegrown North Carolina wines? And what is your ideal price point? Some refuse to spend more than \$15 on a bottle of wine, while others start at \$50 and increase from there.

Local retailers such as Harris Teeter and Total Wine have outstanding selections if you want a quick bottle to accompany a specific culinary dish, stock a personal-sized refrigerator in your home bar or get a party flowing.

But a benefit of living in



Ballantyne is our access to inviting wine boutiques, each offering a specialty you can't find anywhere else.

We wanted to get to know the people behind these established Ballantyne wine shops, to learn why locals frequent them and what they find when they arrive. We learned that while each shop specializes in the wines of the world, each also promises something authentic to the tastes and predilections of their respective owners.

Let's tour Ballantyne's top wine shops and learn a thing or two about the crushed grape.

Where Everybody Knows Your Name

Remember "Cheers," NBC's long-running sitcom? The premise centered on barkeeper Sam Malone (Ted Danson) and

his many loyal, beer-drinking patrons. Charles Watson, owner of Cru Wine Shop in Toringdon, wants his shop to be "Cheers" for Ballantyne's wine-drinking community.

"We want them (customers) to feel a sense of camaraderie," he says. "We have people who come in as complete strangers who'll immediately start talking to each other, having a good time. We have music on the weekends, and tastings that help inform our patrons about the wines they could be drinking. ... We have a broad spectrum of people who walk through our door, and we want everybody to feel welcome."

In discussing the rare wines Cru carries, Watson says, "It's kind of the difference between shopping at Walmart and going to a flea market. Walmart, or a big-box wine shop, will carry basically everything that you are looking for. But when you go to a flea market, everybody has a little bit of everything there."

In addition to discovering unusual wines Watson hand selects, patrons at Cru will enjoy plenty of face time with an owner who loves interacting with customers. A self-described "born salesman," Watson says it's his mission to find out what you want to drink, as opposed to

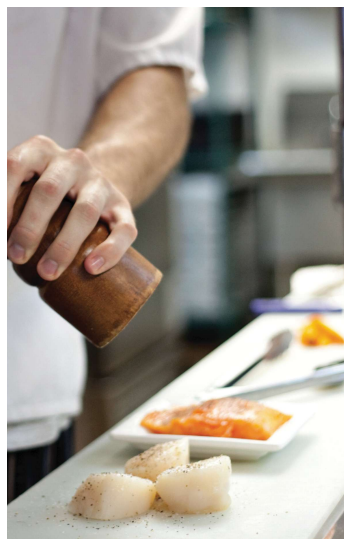


Above: Cru Wine Shop serves up a fig and prosciutto flatbread with a balsamic reduction.
Left: Charles Watson, owner of Cru Wine, enjoys interacting with customers.
Below: A wide variety of hand-picked vintages are a staple of Cru Wine.





Below, Left: D'Vine Wine Café serves seared scallops with a baby arugula, a garlic sabayon — and, of course, a great wine pairing.
Right: D'Vine's Artic Char consists of farro cakes, baby carrots and a blood-orange glaze.



what he'd like to sell you. "I want you to be satisfied when you walk out that door," he says.

Food, Wine: Perfect Pair

Terry Miller, proprietor at D'Vine Wine Café in Ballantyne Village, wants you to be satisfied, but his goal is slightly different.

At D'Vine, Miller's primary focus is pairing the perfect wine with the ideal food item. "We really are about food, wine and spirits," he explains. "Our philosophy from day one has been that wine goes with food and food pairs with wine. And the minute we started planning

this place, the question became, 'How do we bring that out?'"

It's an answer Miller continuously arrives at with his executive chef, Ashley Wilkes, and sous chef Anthony Gomenis. Together, the D'Vine culinary team collaborates on quarterly seasonal menus and creates wine dinners that perfectly illustrate the complementary nature of wine and food. "We're very focused on tying things together," Wilkes says. "It's never just a hodgepodge of food."

The specific attention to food and wine pairings sets D'Vine apart. "Most places just pick out food and serve wine,"

Miller says. "We very carefully taste our wines ahead of time, then plan a wine dinner to take notes, compare and figure out which wines will create a 'wow pairing' over five courses."

Such focus has created a splash in dining around Ballantyne. "A lot of our reps have said, 'Nobody goes to the lengths you guys go to in this town to do wine dinners that are so focused on that 'wow' experience when you put food and wine in your mouth. That probably differentiates us from everybody else,'" Miller notes.

The menu at D'Vine offers a variety of ways to achieve the "wow" experience. There are small plates for the tapas feel of sharing foods with friends. There are flights of wine that enable you to swill wines as you hone your palate. And then

there are main entrees.

"Not to brag, but our chefs are the best-kept secret in the area," Miller says.

Adds Wilkes, "I feel like we are putting in the hours to make sure that our food is in a perfect harmony with the wines that we offer."

Tuscany in Ballantyne

At Arooji's Wine Room and Ristorante in Ballantyne, atmosphere is the key. The eatery specializes in Tuscan cuisine and wines that pair nicely with your ordered dish. But it's the authentic Italian architecture and design to the south Charlotte restaurant that helps set it apart from its neighborhood competitors.

"It's beautiful and inviting," Arooji's manager, Joel Robbins, says of his restaurant's warm interior. "We don't want you to feel like you are in south Charlotte. We don't want you to feel like you are on the border



of South Carolina. We want you to feel like you have traveled somewhere else."

Arooji's has been in the Promenade on Providence shopping center for eight years. Steve Arooji, the owner, drove the restaurant's design, opting for earth tones and arches that lend a European vibe.

"We want a romantic feel to the restaurant. We want to cater to couples," Robbins adds. "Our appetizers are big enough to share. Most of our salads are big enough to share. And with our pastas, most people will split one and leave room for their wine."

The restaurant even has an intimate VIP room tucked back in the corner that's ideal for private parties or romantic dinners.

"Everybody loves this room.



Everybody asks for it," Robbins says. "I can't explain how many times we have had people propose in that room."

And while he lists Arooji's succulent Italian dishes and vast array of wines — with an emphasis on Tuscan wine brands — as reasons for the restaurant's success, he also says the location has helped



Top Left: Romantic dinners are commonplace at Arooji's Wine Room.

Above, Left: Whether it's sweets, salads or appetizers, couples often split dishes at the restaurant known for its Tuscan cuisine.

maintain a steady flow of loyal customers. "This area is something special," he says. "This area is booming."

Arooji's recently expanded, taking over the flower shop that bordered it on the right. The restaurant's VIP room, in fact, was the flower shop's temperature-controlled storage facility until Arooji converted it. Now, memorable wine experiences blossom in the space. 

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MAKING STRIDES

AFTER FINISHING COLLEGE MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, Joe Keller put his filmmaking dreams on hold.

He got married. They had a kid. They moved to Charlotte, settling off Rea Road in 2007, and he took a job as a project manager for a software company. Let's face it: Making small-budget independent films doesn't pay the bills when you have a family. "Life gives you detours," Keller says.

But in the back of his mind, Keller never let go of his passion for film, which he had nurtured years earlier in college and grad school. He loved the collaborative energy of working on films, the different skills he had to draw on, and the connection he could make with an audience. So in 2008, with the support of his wife, he decided to give making movies a try.

In 2009, he won a \$3,000 emerging artist grant from the Arts & Science Council, which helped him buy a camera and other equipment.

"It really gave me the leg up to get back into it whole hog," Keller says. "It was the monetary support I needed as well as the community support to give me that push to say, 'Yeah, we acknowledge you as an artist. We want more from you. Go do it.'"

That was the push I needed."

The Ballantyne arts scene needs a similar shove. While the area is not known as a hotbed of art and culture, Keller's experience shows that there are artists in

our midst. The 23-minute film he wrote and directed, "Artifacts," has been invited to be shown at film festivals in Myrtle Beach and Pasadena, Calif. It's about a philandering photographer forced

to address his poor life choices, and Keller hopes to parlay it into financial backing for more films.

Increasingly, painters, potters, dancers, musicians and other artists are springing up in Ballantyne. They say it holds a lot of promise for developing a vibrant arts scene, and that the area is making big strides. They point out that establishing a wide range of artistic offerings in communities such as Pineville and Matthews were years in the making. In contrast, because Ballantyne is so young, few arts endeavors have had the chance to take root. But that's starting to change.

Focusing on Kids

Rick Crowley remembers when he first saw Ballantyne, in 1997. His Realtor® drove him and his wife through the area, which at the time had little more than a few subdivisions and the four obelisks at the intersection of Johnston Road and Ballantyne Commons Parkway. The Realtor® told him that the area was going to be a boomtown, and that it might be a good place to buy a house and set up his ceramics studio.

"We were laughing," Crowley says. "We said, 'There's nothing here, dude!'"

He opened his studio in



Ballantyne-area filmmaker Joe Keller received an emerging artist grant, which helped him make his first movie.

BALLANTYNE ARTS SCENE GROWS, SHOWS POTENTIAL

By Tony Mecia Photos by Jessica Milligan

Pineville, where he found rents more reasonable. But as Ballantyne grew, he saw more potential there. Besides Dish It Out at StoneCrest and a painting studio on Park Road, there were no art studios in the area, and Crowley figured people would sign up for classes in droves.

He started working at the Morrison YMCA, offering ceramics classes. But he found that many adults didn't make time for art, preferring instead to focus on fitness and their kids. "There's such a stress on lifestyle," he says. "It seems like there are so many health clubs, people doing alternative hobbies and leisure activities — I just don't think there's enough emphasis placed on art."

Parents, though, are willing to sign up their kids for art classes, Crowley says. This spring, he left the Y to focus on a new venture



The **Realtor®** told him that **the area was going to be a boomtown**, and that it might be a **good place** to buy a house and **set up his ceramics studio**. "We were **laughing**," Crowley says. "We said, '**There's nothing here, dude!**'"



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Left: Rick Crowley, a ceramics artist, has taught classes for kids for many years in Ballantyne.
Above: Ballantyne parents are apt to sign up their youngsters for art classes, not themselves.

called Arts Delivered!, which offers afterschool art programs at schools, including Endhaven and Ballantyne elementaries and Community House Middle School.

Other schools in the area are being enriched with the arts, too. In the last two years, the British American School of Charlotte has won yearly \$2,000 grants from the Arts & Science Council to bring dancers, musicians and speakers to its annual International Week, when students learn about other cultures. This year, the school hosted an African drumming troupe, says school admissions and marketing director Kathleen Conroy. After watching the performance, students had the chance to drum for themselves.

"You have to keep students interested and make it fun so it's something they want to learn more about," she says.

ASC spokeswoman Krista Terrell says her organization doesn't typically fund many arts projects in the Ballantyne area because it receives few requests. Compared to uptown and other parts of Charlotte, there are fewer

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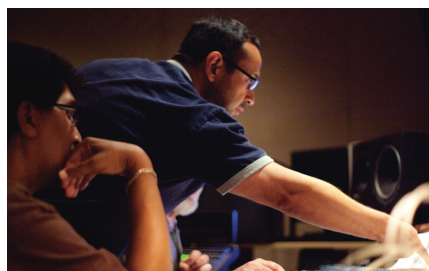
■ continued from page 59



Left: Seeing a void in the local arts scene, Josh Diaz helped found the Ballantyne Chamber Orchestra two years ago.

Below Top: Violinist Jose Bas (from left), violists Laci Wargo and Scott Garrett and cellist Mary Sinski (also pictured at left).

Below Bottom: Diaz and Ken Knox, lead singer for the band "Chairman of the Board."



nonprofit arts organizations, as well as fewer venues for art.

Nonetheless, opportunities are opening up for kids. In the spring, the Morrison Y opened the Ballantyne Arts Center, which seeks to offer a consolidated place for arts organizations to hold classes. It will also be home to an arts-themed preschool. Compared to 10 years ago, there are far more children's art classes available in the Ballantyne area, including classes in dance, pottery and even cooking.

Adults Underserved

But when it comes to arts opportunities for adults, there's not enough supply to meet demand, local artists say.

"It's not that there's not a thirst for the arts or a desire for the arts," says Josh Diaz, managing director



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The chamber orchestra begins its five-concert season Oct. 7. Programs include music by Claude Debussy and Antonin Dvorak.

Last year, at its peak, the Ballantyne Chamber Orchestra drew 350 people to concerts at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church.

of the Ballantyne Chamber Orchestra. "It's just underserved."


Local artists say there are several reasons why. Because Ballantyne is so young, it hasn't had the time to nurture the leadership necessary to offer comprehensive artistic experiences. Nearby towns Pineville and Matthews are older and have their own political leadership that has placed an emphasis on the arts, and the ASC worked with those communities in 2005 and 2006 to develop and implement cultural action plans.

Because Ballantyne is part

of Charlotte, it doesn't receive the same attention. Most of Charlotte's emphasis on the arts — including new museums, performance halls and the like — has been centered uptown.

Diaz helped found the orchestra two years ago because he saw a void. The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and Opera Carolina haven't played in Ballantyne, and he perceived that the area needed high quality classical music. Listening to contemporary music at a bar is fine, but Diaz thought the area demanded more.

Last year, at its peak, the Ballantyne Chamber Orchestra drew 350 people to concerts at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church. This year's five-concert season starts Oct. 7, with programs featuring music from classical composers Claude Debussy and Antonin Dvorak.

Diaz says he's hopeful that the Ballantyne arts scene will continue to grow. The area certainly has the resources and the interest. "Over time come things that normal communities have, such as the arts," he says. "Folks have to really embrace it, understand it and participate." 

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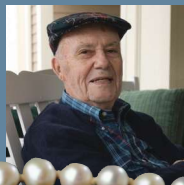
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Ripped from Runways

Freshen Up Your Wardrobe with Autumn Accents

By Laura Hill Photos by Ray Sepesy

SUMMER TEMPERATURES MAY STILL BE LINGERING, but it's time to sprinkle some of fall's most coveted fashion into your wardrobe.

This season, blend inspired classics like trenches and wide-leg pants with bold graphic prints, hues and accessories for style that will stop traffic on your way to work or play. Ballantyne boutiques have packed their racks with these trends, so update your look with local finds ripped from the runways.

Go-To Glam

A lady in red is all the rage on the runways, so break out the crimson shades when you hit the town for an elegant evening, whether it's Asian pear martinis at Cosmos or a wine-paired meal at Gallery Restaurant.

But if the surrounding autumnal palette doesn't have you seeing red, go for tailored skirts with a high slit or sheer blouses for a flirty twist on traditional glam gear. These two simple trends pair nicely with reptile or patent leather pumps and extra-long earrings that dust the shoulders.

- Necklace with feathers, Golden Stella, \$35, Bevello
- Red and gray shirt, Arynk, \$90, Bevello
- Trouser jeans, !iT, \$93, Denim Affair
- Brown clutch, \$45, Bevello
- Spike heels, Sam Edelman, \$220, 72 Shoe Boutique



- Stone necklace, Lori Snyder, \$68, 72 Shoe Boutique
- Green and red print tank, Jack, \$50, Bevello
- Red jeans, Citizen, \$159, Bevello
- Brown flats with leopard print backs, Via Spiga, \$165 72 Shoe Boutique

Work It

For on-the-job attire, add some tribal touches to your everyday urban jungle. Pair an exotic print with skinny trousers and geometric accessories for an ensemble that thinks outside the cubicle.


An emphasis on the waist with fitted skirts and dresses is classically chic, but give them a twist with an unexpected leather jacket, a surefire must-have for the season. From skirts to shirts to leggings, leather has found a whole new level of effortless cool. Just maintain this timeless staple's sophisticated edge by not overdoing it.

- Earrings, Moon & Lola, \$68, Bevello
- Gray top Greylin, \$98, Bevello
- Print skirt, Arynk, \$85, Bevello
- Handbag, Melie Bianco, \$94, Bevello
- Light tan sling-back shoes, Sam Edelman, \$120, Bevello



Casually Speaking

Those floor-sweeping maxi dresses haven't worn out their welcome just yet. Flowing yet form-fitting skirts are returning just in time for the leaves to fall. Transition yours with boots, a denim jacket or even a luxe faux fur vest. You'll love the bohemian look that still manages to suit the South.

For added casual elegance, conventional stripes, polka dots and tartan plaids have gotten a modern makeover, ensuring they'll be go-to basics for anything ranging from a low-key Panther tailgate with neighbors to alfresco shopping with girlfriends. Take it a step further with wide-leg trouser jeans or jewel-tone pants, a bright idea for fearless fashionistas. 

- Jean jacket, Superdry, \$98, Bevello
- Black maxi dress, French Connection, \$218, Bevello
- Clutch, Melie Bianco, \$98, Bevello
- Gold belt, \$42, Bevello
- Wedge leopard shoes, Nicole, \$129, 72 Shoe Boutique



MAJOR ENERGY-RELATED COMPANIES DRAWN TO BALLANTYNE

By Tony Mecia

Photos courtesy of Babcock & Wilcox

Harnessing the power of the sun, a Babcock & Wilcox solar receiver is undergoing commercial performance testing.

Powering





Up

IN THE MIDDLE OF A LACKLUSTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY, any announcement of new jobs is welcome news. And when companies repeatedly say they're hiring and paying high wages close to where you live, even better. That's what's happening now in Ballantyne, where three companies in the energy sector have announced expansions or relocations in the last year or so.

The latest was in May, when Mitsubishi Nuclear Energy Systems said it would open an engineering center and hire 135 engineers and other professionals in the next five years — with average salaries of more than \$100,000.

This followed announcements in 2010 by SPX (a global industrial manufacturing firm with energy clients), which plans to add 180 jobs as it builds a new office tower, and by Babcock & Wilcox (a nuclear energy company), which moved more than 100 workers to a new corporate headquarters in Ballantyne last summer and said this spring that it's taking even more space. In total, that means hundreds of new jobs in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

The announcements from energy-

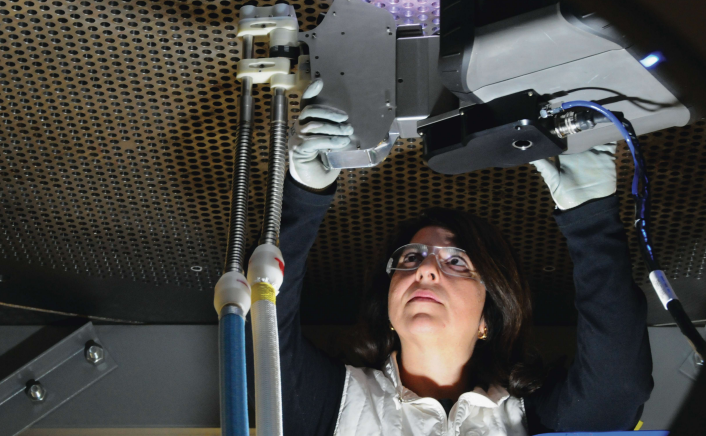
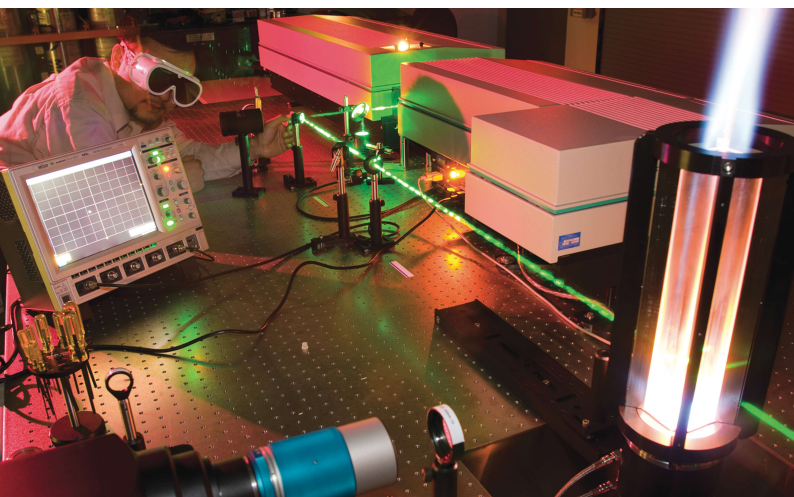
related companies are also leading some to wonder: Is Ballantyne becoming an energy center?

Regional Trend

To a large degree, Ballantyne's success in attracting new energy jobs reflects a larger trend playing out throughout the Charlotte region. Economic developers in recent years have made a big push to attract energy companies, and those companies are flocking to Charlotte and settling in locations including uptown, southwest Charlotte and Ballantyne. Energy jobs tend to be stable and high-paying. Many of the companies that create them are connected to Duke Energy's efforts to build nuclear power plants.

For Ballantyne, the influx of new energy jobs represents another way that the area's economy is becoming more diverse. When office space in Ballantyne became available in the late 1990s, many of the first tenants were technology companies, reflecting the tech boom of the time.

Since then, the area has continued to grow, and it has attracted companies in sectors as diverse as media, food, health care and finance



Above: A worker installs a robot on a steam-generator mock-up. Babcock & Wilcox has designed and manufactured commercial nuclear power equipment for more than 40 years, providing nuclear heat exchangers, nuclear plant services and more than 200 nuclear steam generators worldwide.

Left: Babcock & Wilcox conducts emission testing at its research and development center in Ohio. The company's headquarters is in Ballantyne.

— in addition to retail shops.

Adding energy companies rounds out the mix, says Todd Paris, chairman of the Ballantyne chapter of the Charlotte Chamber. "It helps build a better community, as opposed to having just one industry represented," he says.

Paris adds that energy companies are moving to

Ballantyne for the same reasons that other companies do: quality of life.

"The amenities offered in Ballantyne are a good fit for a lot of companies, but certainly not every company," he says. "If you're looking for more of a family community where you have access to a variety of residential

price points and short commutes, the live-work-play mantra of Ballantyne is alive and well."

Duke: Energy Magnet

The roots of Charlotte's energy-sector boom lie with Duke Energy. In the 1970s, Duke was seen as a national leader in nuclear energy, says Tony Crumbley,

vice president of research for the Charlotte Chamber. The partial meltdown at Three Mile Island in 1979 slowed enthusiasm for nuclear power. But now it's experiencing a revival. Nuclear plants are becoming viewed as an environmentally friendly source of energy compared with coal plants.

Plenty of companies are moving

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to Charlotte to collaborate with Duke on nuclear projects. The region has also attracted other companies that do everything from manufacture solar panels to consult on renewable energy.

The chamber and Charlotte Regional Partnership have focused on recruiting energy companies, along with firms in sectors including film, health care, defense, tourism and finance. In recruitment materials, they tout Charlotte as "The New Energy Capital." Since 2007, companies have announced more than 5,300 new energy-sector jobs, according to the Charlotte Regional Partnership.

"There's been phenomenal growth — primarily engineering jobs, high-paying jobs," Crumbley says.

Ballantyne is sharing in that growth.

The biggest and best-known energy-related company in

Ballantyne is SPX, which relocated its headquarters here from Michigan in 2002. This year, the company was ranked No. 427 on the Fortune 500 list, with \$4.9 billion in revenues. The company manufactures a wide range of industrial products and makes about one-third of its revenue from the energy sector.

When it first moved to Ballantyne, it had about 40 workers. Now, it has more than 250, and construction has started on a nine-story headquarters, expected to open in 2013, that could house more than 500.

Easier Collaboration

Jane Ballard, SPX's vice president of human resources, says the company enjoys having energy-sector companies in the region, because their presence makes

continued on page 71



Photo courtesy of Strategic Power Systems

RECENT BALLANTYNE ENERGY-SECTOR EXPANSIONS AND RELOCATIONS:

Mitsubishi Nuclear Energy Systems

What it does: Designs, builds and services nuclear power plants.

What it's doing: Announced in May that it's opening an engineering center in Charlotte. Expects to hire 135 engineers and other professionals (average wage: \$102,000/year) in next five years.

Babcock & Wilcox

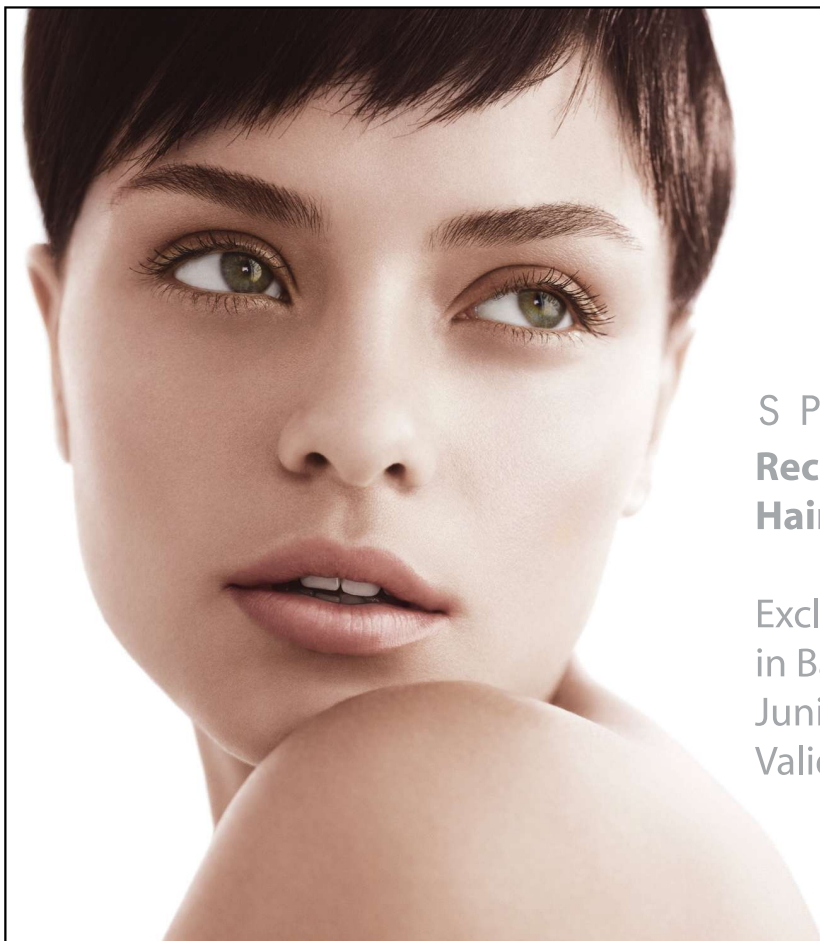
What it does: Offers technology and services to power companies.

What it's doing: Relocated headquarters to Ballantyne in summer of 2010. Announced in spring that it's doubling the space it leases, because it expects to grow beyond its 120 Charlotte workers.

SPX

What it does: Fortune 500 company that manufactures industrial products; energy companies are major clients.

What it's doing: Announced a \$70 million expansion in November. Is building a nine-story office building in Ballantyne. Plans to add 180 jobs (average wage: \$83,000/year) on top of the 250 already here.



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collaboration and innovation easier. The area has also been a good fit for SPX because of its affordable housing, excellent schools, proximity to the airport and interstates and access to a wide variety of services and amenities, she says.

Smaller companies, too, cite similar positives to being in Ballantyne.

"Ballantyne is an ideal location for us from a business standpoint," says Regina Carter, director of business and employee communications for Babcock & Wilcox, which has 120 Charlotte employees, mostly in Ballantyne. "The development of so many amenities here is very important to us from the standpoint of attracting and retaining employees."

She also cited the ease of access to Charlotte's airport.

The firm, which supplies technology services to energy companies, said in May that it's doubling its space in Ballantyne. The company plans to continue expanding, Carter says. "We look forward to growing and flourishing along with the Ballantyne community," she notes.

Sal Della Villa, chief executive of Strategic Power Systems, says his company could be located anywhere. But it chose Ballantyne because it wanted a reasonable long-term lease in an area that was a good match for its workers. The company's headquarters has 35 employees. SPS is a niche engineering-services company that measures the reliability of gas- and steam-turbine-powered plants across the globe.

"It's a beautiful work environment, it's comfortable for the employees, and we can expand inside this area very easily," Della Villa says. "It's a great place to be." ■

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The Charlotte Wine Dinner, presented by SPX Corp., featured a menu from Zebra Restaurant and fine wines from Silver Oak Cellars. The June 3 benefit for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was at the Lounge at Phillips Place. The event raised over \$210,000 through sponsorships, the "Wine Wall" and a live auction.

The Wine Wall featured 50 bottles of wine with hidden labels, which could be purchased for \$100 each. After the meal, guests unwrapped their chosen bottles to find out if they had selected the Château Lafite Rothschild, valued at \$2,500. Other bottles ranged from \$50-\$1,000. The live auction featured items such as Super Bowl tickets and a Charlotte Bobcats' experience package.

1. Dana & Jordan Gross
2. Lynne Dalton (from left), Connie Nuttall, Kristin Perotta, Anne Bryant, Jean Benham
3. Jeff & Paula Conway
4. Mary Margaret Vogel, Mimi Fitz, Stephanie Welborne
5. Ken & Malinda Gill, Susan & Chris Kearney
6. C.J. & Kristen Kearney
7. Allison & Jonathan Hickman
8. Elizabeth Foard, Joe Rossi, Mary June & Brian Cowman



GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Denim Affair, located in the Blakeney Shopping Center, and Boutique on Feet, a local online retailer, hosted the Summer Fling Girls' Night Out July 17. It was a night of favorites in denim, fashion and accessories paired with summer drinks and food.

More than 50 women attended this night of shopping and mingling. Denim Affair raffled a belt buckle from Twisted Sisters Apparel, and Boutique on Feet raffled a handbag and "jewelry cocktail."

Denim Affair and Boutique on Feet will be hosting more events together in the coming months, so stay tuned!



1. Debbie & Lindsey Inman (from left), Lo Patania
2. Erin Wunder, Michelle Hilton
3. Adrienne Easton, Su Kelley
4. Caren Allman, Kristen Better, Michelle Kaloz
5. Jean Sharpe
6. Jacqueline Pounds
7. Cameron Mayer, Wendy Culp, Erica Gold

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MOVIES IN THE PARK

On June 17, Movies in the Park attracted a big crowd to Brixham Tent in Ballantyne Corporate Park. Nearly 500 participants enjoyed free popcorn, bottled water and a showing of "Despicable Me."

July's visitors enjoyed "How to Train Your Dragon," while those who came out in August watched "Tangled," to top off the summer films. The family-friendly events were sponsored locally by CrossPoint Church.



1. Hunter (from left), Jackson & Lauren Widener
2. Kirsten Hickman, Ryan Qualiana
3. Sam & Emma Lilly Henderson
4. Alex, Monica, Maria, Mia, Manolo, Minola & Reimy Rodriguez
5. Mackenzie Dickson, Olivia Kerna
6. San & Sun Soth, Nina & Alexia Chan
7. Michelle, Mark, Lacy & Jenna Cole
8. The Simmons family

CANTY'S CHAMPIONS GALA

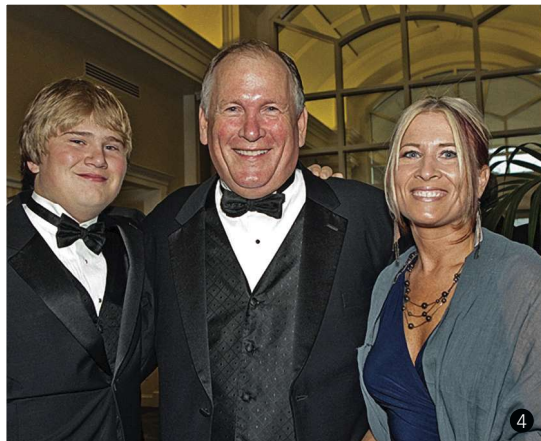
The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge hosted "The Champions Gala," an inaugural black-tie fundraiser for The Chris Canty Camp of Champions on June 17.

The Chris Canty Camp of Champions is a free youth football camp that ran June 15-17 at Charlotte Latin School.

Adam Schefter, an ESPN football reporter and analyst, was the keynote speaker. Event honorees included Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Rodney Monroe and Bishop George Edward Battle Jr.

Canty is a Charlotte native and Charlotte Latin School alum who plays for the New York Giants. He is the founder of the Chris Canty Foundation.

1. Juanita White, James Moore
2. Chris (from left), Shirley, Joe & Sekou Canty
3. Eryn Gradwell, Cara Capuano, Evelyn Warren
4. John, Darrell & Aundrea Gibbs
5. Curtis, Michael & Deloris Alexander
6. Kershiena Dickey, Tony Hemmingway
7. Joe & Sarah Ruback
8. Alan, Alicia, Kaleb & Zach Tyson, Mark Badenhop, Sarah Roberts



TOMMY BAHAMA PARTY

Guests mingled in style for a good cause at Ballantyne After Dark's Tommy Bahama Party at Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne on May 20.

The event included a Tommy Bahama fashion show, live entertainment, Tommy Bahama rum-based cocktails, food provided by Texas Roadhouse, raffle prizes and more. A portion of the event's proceeds benefited the Charlotte chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, dedicated to finding a cure for diabetes and its complications through research.



1. Stacey Simms
2. Theresa Minton (from left),
Cindy Flemming, Laurie King,
Terri Mire
3. Denise Boyd, Kim Lee
4. Charles Gardner
5. Dana & Blake Gastelum
6. Dave Waldman, Ruben
Gutierrez, Verena Martin
7. Jacqueline Cross, Kim Sprott,
Charles Gardner, Jessica
Sanchez
8. David Lipscomb, Todd &
Barb Morris, Krista Rees
9. Leia Vachon



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By Nan Bauroth

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Juice 'er Up: The Chevy Volt

The groundbreaking Chevrolet Volt arrives this September, giving the term “plug-in” a new meaning.

Powered by electric charge, the vehicle can switch seamlessly to an onboard gas-driven generator that keeps the battery energized during extended driving. The neat trick is that you can charge the car overnight in your garage on a standard 120-volt outlet, and then go about 35 miles — ideal for people commuting short distances or doing cross-town driving.

If the car runs out of juice while you're cruising around, no problem. The nine-gallon gas tank kicks in without you even feeling it, powering a gas engine that keeps the batteries charged another 344 miles. “You can drive from here to Los Angeles in the Volt without a charging station,” asserts Ed Ferris, Chevrolet district sales manager for the Charlotte metro region, who lives in Ballantyne.

Last summer he drove the Volt for two weeks, including several long-distance trips, with nary a problem. “The gas engine always keeps the battery charged a minimum of 20 percent,” he says.

While at home, Ferris plugged the Volt into his standard garage electrical outlet overnight. A full charge takes 10 hours, but you can install a dedicated 240-volt line that will fully charge the Volt in four hours (see page 80). According to General Motors, you can commute free of gas and tailpipe emissions for as little as \$1.50 per day — the same annual cost as an ordinary household appliance.

Although the Volt was born out of a desire to kiss the fossil fuel-belching internal combustion engine goodbye,



Photo by Shane Baskin, Blackbox Studios

people who have gotten behind the wheel are impressed for reasons other than energy savings. "I did 60 test drives with dealers, managers and local Chevrolet customers and

everybody was surprised how quiet the Volt is and how well it handles," says Ferris, explaining that without the traditional transmission, there's no gear shifting, which results in an

incredibly smooth ride.

In addition to its gee-whiz electric engine, the Volt features GM's high-end steering system from the Corvette and Cadillac CTS, the braking performance of

The Chevy Volt can travel 35 miles on an overnight charge. The car will go an additional 344 miles when it draws on its gas engine to charge the battery.

SPX PROVIDES HOME CHARGING STATIONS

The Chevy Volt has a direct connection to Ballantyne. SPX Corp., headquartered in Ballantyne Corporate Park, is the automaker's chosen partner for home-charging installations and support.

As such, SPX is providing a one-stop-shop with several options for Volt owners to upgrade to 240-volt capacity, or participate in home-charging incentive programs. For more information, visit www.homecharging.spx.com.



a Corvette and a high-strength steel body. The car's dashboard has a fast-forward feel with two LCD screens that provide voice-activated "infotainment" options and alerts on the recharge and refill ranges. You also can download the OnStar RemoteLink (7) app to get real-time charge data, set up charge alerts or remote lock/unlock and start.

According to Ferris, the target market for the Volt is early technology adopters — those who will pay \$600 for an iPhone on day one, as well as anyone interested in energy savings. "I encourage people to see it for themselves. It's an innovative automobile with a fabulous ride," he says. To learn more, visit www.chevrolet.com/volt.

Digital Dream: The Audi A-7

Based on its evolutionary design, the new Audi A-7 with its sleek coupe silhouette has a definite wow factor.

Add Audi's industry-first MMI Touch handwriting recognition system to its 2012 interface with Audi Connect, its real-time information using Google Earth navigation with voice recognition, Google local search and Wi-Fi connectivity for up to eight devices — and you're talking a digital gearhead's dream.

Audi's MMI Touch works with Audi Connect by consolidating the audio, navigation and telephone functions into an elegant interface, making it easy to enter information with a stroke of your finger.

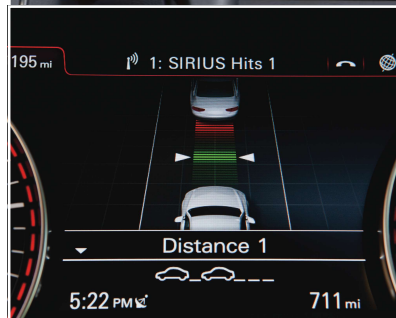
In addition to the eight-inch display that pops up when you start the car, the A-7 has a five-inch LCD for the driver and optional heads-up display that projects critical information on the windshield. You can use the touchpad with soft keys for navigation, or voice activation if you prefer. Two USB ports enable you to see everything on your iPod and store 20 gigs, or about 2,800 songs, on the car's hard drive.

"Customers love the new MMI Touch," says salesperson Richard Reynolds at Audi of Charlotte, trained in the automaker's latest

digital bells and whistles. "If you can talk, you can use this car," he says. "It's very user friendly."

Another big lure is that the Audi A-7 serves as a T-Mobile hotspot, making the automaker the first-to-market with a factory-installed option featuring integrated mobile broadband connectivity that enables passengers to surf the Internet, download videos and get email. Since MMI Touch supports more than one Bluetooth-compatible cell phone, driver and passengers can easily switch between multiple phones and their listings, as well as contacts stored

Audi A-7





Lincoln MKX



in the MMI system.

"The people loving this are between 35 to 60 and big on high tech," Reynolds says. He already has one customer in Ballantyne who has purchased the A-7 fully loaded with every digital and advanced driver assistance option. Get full details at www.models.audiusa.com/A-7.

Wired for Safety: Mercedes CLS-Class

Mercedes-Benz has long been a standard bearer for luxury on wheels, but along the way it also pioneered safety features that go the extra distance. This year is no different.

The 2012 CLS-Class, with its sculptured body, boasts several remarkable features that testify

to the protective instinct. The first is Night View Assist PLUS with Pedestrian Detection, which projects infrared beams interpreted by a camera. Similar to night-vision cameras worn by the troops in Afghanistan, this amazing system displays a clearer, supplemental view of the road in front of you on a central screen on the dashboard. It helps you identify pedestrians and other living objects such as cyclists and some animals, so you can avoid hitting them in the dark.

The most awesome new safety technology, though, is the company's next generation of adaptive cruise control, Distronic PLUS. Mercedes-Benz led the way in this space-age technology that is transforming cruise control

into an onboard automatic pilot. If traffic ahead stops, Distronic PLUS can bring your car to a halt, then resume automatically once traffic clears.

Now, in another leap forward, the 2012 CLS-Class integrates Distronic PLUS with a system called PRE-SAFE Brake that deploys radar-based sensors to help detect an impending collision in front and apply full braking power to mitigate severity of a crash.

Mercedes-Benz also offers PRE-SAFE, the first system that detects actions indicative of an imminent crash or rollover, and

automatically tightens front seat belts, adjusts the front passenger seat and closes windows and sunroof to protect occupants. For even more protection, you can get Lane Keeping Assist, which will help steer your car back into its own lane if you disregard its alerts. Check out the new CLS-Class at www.mbusa.com/CLS.

In SYNC: The Lincoln MKX

The Lincoln MKX is one of the reasons Ford has become Detroit's Comeback Kid. Early on, the company recognized the desire of owners to extend their digital



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lifestyle into the driver's seat with laptops, mobile phones, digital cameras and MP3 players.


Ford's answer is MyLincoln Touch Driver Connect Technology, a smart interface that provides more connectivity and information at the touch of a finger — known in marketing parlance as “simplicity.”

Powered by SYNC from Microsoft, MyLincoln Touch centers on an eight-inch color-coded touch screen and five-button interface on the steering wheel that lets you control phone, navigation, climate control and entertainment.

The Lincoln MKX also features two additional four-inch screens on either side of the speedometer — the left shows vehicle information, the right presents a mini-view of the larger touch screen. Individual drivers can personalize screens and instrument panel by voice command or tapping a touch screen. You can upload favorite pictures as wallpaper or request to play your favorite artist or song.

MyLincoln Touch will also now read text messages aloud and let you reply with a few scripted responses. New as well: real-time local weather maps.

Chris Turner, Lincoln specialist at Keith Hawthorne Ford, who lives in Ballantyne, says another popular technology is Ford's MyKey. It allows owners to program a key fob with speed and audio-volume limits for teenage drivers. One woman in Ballantyne loves the Lincoln MKX so much, she bought a second one, Turner says.

“The MKX is the best-selling Lincoln because it is the most functional and best size handling SUV of its class,” he notes. To see more about the car, go to www.lincoln.com/crossovers/mkx. 

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Jeff Walters, founder and CEO of Ballantyne Wealth Management Group, seeks to create a different atmosphere in the investment world. What exactly does that mean? He looks to partner with his clients in an important way. Because Ballantyne Wealth Management Group operates as a fee-based firm, he waives that fee if a client loses money in any given year.

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

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Jeff is a registered investment advisor and the principle of Ballantyne Wealth Advisors LLC, a registered investment advisor firm. He has

earned the esteemed RFC credential, which stands for Registered Financial Consultant. He is also a member of The Financial Planning Association and host of the syndicated radio show, "Managing Your Wealth," which can be heard on local stations.

Jeff resides in the Charlotte area with his family. He is actively involved in his community, serving as a soccer coach and chairing the board of 1 John 4:7-8, a foundation dedicated to helping those who are struggling

and in need.

Jeff invites you to contact him for a free consultation at 704-927-5844 or jwalters@ballantynewealth.com. You can also learn more about his firm at www.ballantynewealth.com or on its Facebook page (Ballantyne Wealth Management Group).

brokerage firms.

Josh Garbert, whose Edward Jones office is located at 8430 Rea Road in the Village at Robinson Farm (next to Cosmos Café), has lived and raised his family in the Ballantyne area for over 10 years. He is proud to have established his business in a vibrant and dynamic community.

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of the few financial firms today with a AAA 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

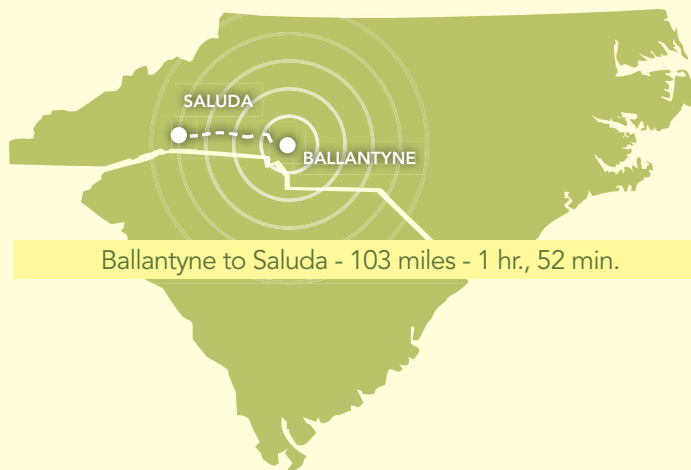
long-term growth, you also need a secure side of the asset equation with permanent whole-life policies or fixed annuities guaranteed to provide money in the event of market troubles.

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 New York Life — The Company You Keep.

kick back

**FIND BEAUTIFUL VISTAS,
QUAINT SHOPS IN SALUDA**

By Mary Elizabeth Robertson



Ballantyne to Saluda - 103 miles - 1 hr, 52 min.

AS THE LEAVES BEGIN TO CHANGE and the stifling heat gives way to a refreshing breeze, a small town that once was a stop on the road to stardom awaits your arrival. Prepare for barbecue, quaint shops, even a waterfall or two.

Leave behind the heavy traffic on Interstate 85 South and head west on U.S. 74 to the foothills of western North Carolina. There, you'll find the tiny town of Saluda, whose brush with glamour about a century ago brought writers and other celebrities when their train stopped there. It was known as Pace's Gap back then, after a family who owned multiple inns in the area.

No matter its name, Saluda always has been a small town. Founded in 1878, fewer than 600

people live there today. What the town lacks in urbanity it makes up for in scenery, weather and hospitality. "It has a very distinct personality, its own style and charm. It's a three-block-long Main Street with shops on one side and train tracks on the other side," says Melinda Young, tourism director of Polk County.

Sitting at 2,000 feet high, Saluda is a summertime mecca. The population swells by thousands of vacationers, many of whom also visit in autumn to check out the leaves. Visitors generally stay in vacation homes in the area or at one of Saluda's bed and breakfast's.

The Saluda Inn and Wine Cellar is an 1800s-era home that has been converted into an 18-bedroom inn. Of its many amenities, perhaps the most



Left: Main Street features shops and restaurants in buildings that date to the late 1800s.

Above: Local musicians entertain at the Saluda Inn and Wine Cellar.



Left: Pearson's Falls is one of many attractions near Saluda.
Below: This helper locomotive, a coal-fired steam engine, used to help passenger trains climb the Saluda Grade.

Photo courtesy of Marc Blazar

"It's a prideful town about its railroad. It brought passengers from the Lowcountry and became prosperous before the Great Depression."

— Cathy Jackson, Saluda Business Association



Photos courtesy of Clark Thompson

Paralleling Main Street is perhaps the biggest landmark in Saluda. "It's a prideful town about its railroad. It brought passengers from the Lowcountry and became prosperous before the Great Depression," recalls Cathy Jackson, vice president of promotions for the Saluda Business Association. The train came through from July 1878 to December 2002.

Steep Track

In 1877, the Spartanburg & Asheville Railroad hired Charles William Pearson to survey a suitable route over the mountain near his property and into Pace's Gap, says amateur historian and store owner Clark Thompson. Pearson, a captain in the Confederacy, lived near the bottom of the mountain on a

continued on page 90

fascinating is the basement. What might normally be the subject of ghost tales, the underground area has been transformed into a wine-cellar operation that offers food and tastings.

The Orchard Inn, meanwhile, beckons with its wide front porch and library that contains historical books.

Pearson's Falls

But Saluda is much more than porches and relaxation. Many visitors enjoy area waterfalls, especially Pearson's Falls, located three miles south of town toward

Tryon. The 90-foot-high cascade of rushing water is part of a 268-acre forest that features more than 200 species of plants, including rare wildflowers. Access to the falls is via a moderate, quarter-mile trail. For hours the falls are open, go to www.pearsonsfalls.org and click on "Planning."

Back in town, Main Street offers a variety of shops, most of which are housed in original buildings from the late 1800s. Visitors may peruse gifts, artwork and original jewelry that spill out onto the sidewalks.

Green River Adventures

recently added itself to the diverse attractions on Main Street. Those looking for a whitewater way to explore Saluda can do so aboard an inflatable kayak. Green River Adventures also hosts trips throughout the Southeast, western North Carolina and Costa Rica. These trips are designed to take more experienced whitewater rafters into different settings to have fun and develop their rafting skills. For more information on Green River Adventures, visit www.greenriveradventures.com.





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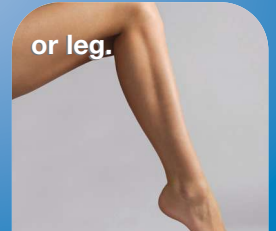
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■ continued from page 88

large tract, which includes what we know today as Pearson's Falls.

Pearson recommended building up the mountain rather than through streams, and the first train negotiated the steep grade on July 4, 1878. Today the track remains the steepest mainline track in the country, Thompson says. A 2.0 percent grade is generally considered steep for a rail line, and this track's maximum grade ranges from 4.7 percent to 5.1 percent, based on different accounts, he adds.

The railroad brought growth, and in 1881, residents obtained a city charter that renamed the town "Saluda," in honor of an Indian chief for whom a local river and mountain range are named. Saluda means "corn river" in Cherokee, and the town comprises seven hills whose elevations range from 2,096 feet to 2,200 feet.

Over the years, people traveling to and from Charleston and other locales came through Saluda. Townies would gather at the train station to gaze at the folks who stopped in. Among the luminaries they spotted were the Ann Landers of her day, Dorothy Dix, and novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald.

In 2011, Saluda is celebrating its 130-year existence with events scheduled throughout the year. One such occasion is the Coon Dog Day.

"It's a zany, kooky time to come out," says tourism director Young. The annual festival is in early July and features live music, a parade and Coon Dog Day Race Festival. Hop Foster serves as the parade's master of ceremonies, a role he's had since the event's inception 48 years ago. Coon Dog Day also features



Photo courtesy of Marc Blazar

Above: As part of Coon Dog Day, people and their dogs participate in a parade.

Right Top: The Saluda Inn and Wine Cellar is an 18-bedroom establishment.

Right Bottom This is one of the many quaint rooms at the Saluda Inn.

In 1881, residents obtained a city charter that renamed the town "Saluda," in honor of an Indian chief for whom a local river and mountain range are named.



Photos courtesy of Joni Mahaffey-Rauschenbauch



Photo courtesy of Melinda Massey Young

This family-owned general store opened in 1892.

a dog competition, food and craft vendors and a square dance on Main Street.

Annual 'Pig Out'

Also as part of Saluda's 130th birthday the annual "Town BBQ" in September has been renamed the "Charlie Ward Memorial Pig Out." Charlie Ward owned Ward's Dairy Bar and Grill until his family sold it in 2007. Ward died in 2008 and his family later bought it back and restored the grill in 2010. Ward's widow, Judy, now operates the eatery while her cousin, Clark, owns the adjoining

HOW TO GET THERE, WHERE TO EAT

Directions from Ballantyne

Take I-85 South to Gastonia/Spartanburg.
Take Exit 10B and merge onto U.S. 74 West/Andrew Jackson
Highway toward Kings Mountain/Shelby.
Merge onto I-26 West.
Take Exit 59 toward Saluda.
Turn left onto Holbert Cove Road.
Continue to State Road 1142.
Continue onto Ozone Drive and a right onto Main Street.

Restaurants

Lake Lanier Tea House,
351 East Lakeshore Drive, Landrum, S.C.
Green River Bar-B-Que on Main Street over the bridge in Saluda.


Thompson's Store.

Thompson's Store is a family-owned general store that has been around since 1892. Clark Thompson lives in Pensacola, Fla. but is behind two websites celebrating his hometown — www.saludamemories.com and www.thompsons-store.com.

Thompson remembers the old train that used to run through town. The passenger train that climbed through Saluda was known as the "Carolina Special." It had to use a helper locomotive, or a coal-fired steam engine, he remembers, to climb the mountain. The train would travel to and from Charleston, Asheville and even Cincinnati, Ohio.

Another classic reminder of times past is Saluda's High Bridge. Built in 1927, the bridge served as the major way west to Hendersonville. Now a new bridge stands nearby with the old one preserved for the community to enjoy. On Fridays after 4:30 p.m., people bear right on the bridge to visit West Main Street and enjoy the Saluda Tailgate Market. Locals gather to sell a variety of organic produce, herbs, lamb, chicken and cheeses.

Some Saluda families trace their ancestry back to the 1800s while others are recently rooted to the area. The business association's Jackson has lived in Saluda for nine years. She finds the city's population is made up mainly of three demographics — natives, retirees and professional artists.

Some visit Saluda as a respite from home to enjoy the temperate climate and beautiful vistas. Others simply get lost and stumble upon it. Either way, Jackson understands how many folks seem to find their way back. "It's just like walking back in time," she says. "It makes people feel slower. The pace is slower and no one is in a hurry." 

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By Marc Lapointe, Senior Instructor, Dana Rader Golf School

TIRED OF THE CHUNKY, CHILI DIP IMPEDING YOUR GOLF game? I have the technique to cure it once and for all. Nothing is more frustrating than a good drive or a good approach shot followed by a shot that strikes the turf before hitting the ball.

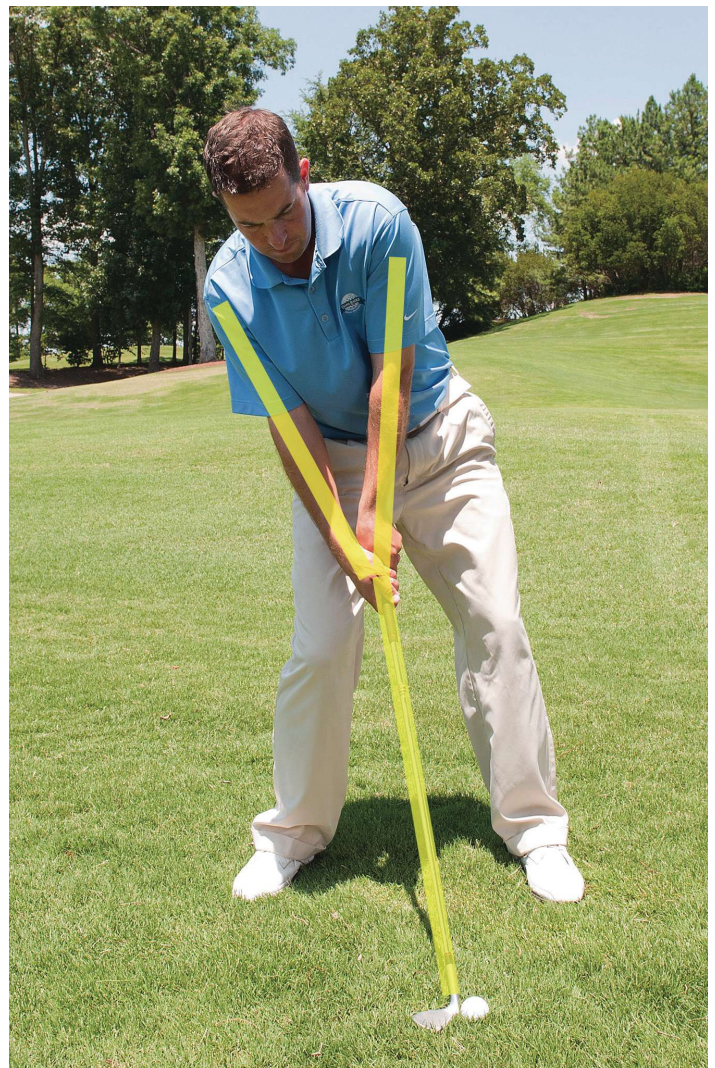
Most golfers who struggle around the green to pitch the

ball up in the air, especially from the rough, have typically been told to accelerate through the shot. Accelerating through the shot can be just as bad as decelerating through the ball. Neither one is good. A wristy and quick acceleration through the ball is a sure way to chunk your shot.

Follow these three simple steps to improve your game around the green.

First, make sure your weight is at least 60 percent toward your front foot, with your shaft leaning slightly toward the target. A narrow stance will also help you make better contact with the ball.

Second, keep the speed consistent through impact with good arm extension toward the target instead of speeding up at the ball. The acceleration through impact will cause you to be wristy. As shown in the picture (see next page, upper right), when the club accelerates through impact, chili dipping is more likely.



Set-up: Put your weight on your front foot (left) and create a "Y" with your arms and the club shaft. Picture at right shows an improper set-up because weight is on the back foot.



YES: Maintain your "Y" through impact for a solid shot.




NO: Your weight should not be on your back leg.



Third, use this drill (see bottom left) to get the feel for your balance and speed through impact. Drop your back foot six inches behind the front foot. You should feel little weight on your back foot (my back foot is on the toe; see bottom right). From there, make your normal swing and feel a consistent speed through impact and a good extension toward the target.

If you are still flipping your wrist and accelerating through

impact, you will quickly lose your balance. Trust the loft on your wedge to get the ball up in the air. A proper set-up on your front foot and a good extension toward the target is all you need. You don't have to scoop the ball up by using your wrist or speeding up at the ball.

This fall, use this tip to say au revoir to chili dipping and put more fun into your game. 

Check out the video version of this tip at www.danarader.com/news_tips.cfm.

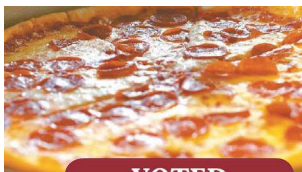


YES: Drop your back foot, on the toe, about six inches behind the front foot. Your weight is on your front leg.

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BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Behind the Green Construction Fence

Photo by JJ Bissell

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