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magazine



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**FALL
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BABY!**

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WHO,
WHO**
IS LIL' URHO?

DOWN-HOME
HIP
**SAXAPAHAW,
REALLY?**



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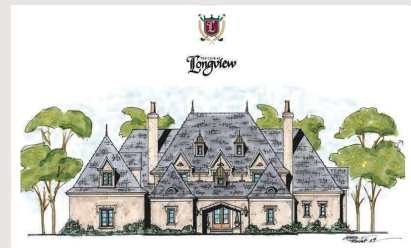
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Michael M.

FEATURES



House College rivalries spawn friendly sparring partners. Divided 56



ON THE COVER:

Parents start 'em young when it comes to university loyalty.

Photo by Shane Baskin.

Flying High

Principal David Switzer helps Ardrey Kell students soar.

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Community Zest

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Alfresco living is year-round proposition for these families.

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28277 is a busy burb. Get news, business happenings and upcoming events.

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What do visiting Haiti, escorting Dan Dierdorf and meeting Muhammad Ali have in common?

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Let cheeky trends for autumn enliven your wardrobe.

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From HoopTee to Movies in the Park, see folks out and about in Ballantyne.

ONE TANK TRIP 86

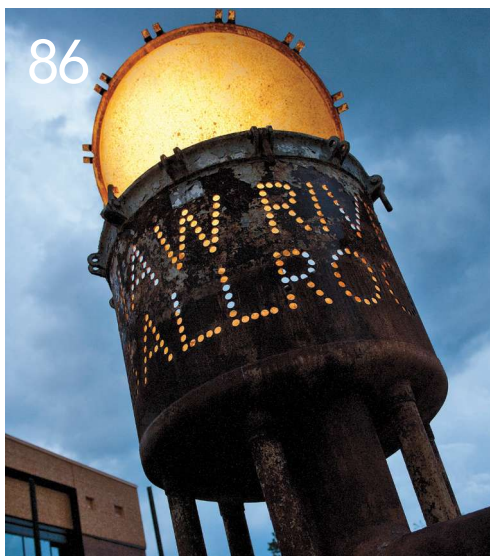
Can you say "Saxapahaw"? Former mill village offers down-home hip.

TEE IT UP 93

Say bye-bye to blow-up holes with these tips from Tom Cannarozzo.

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"Who, who, who" is Lil' Urho? Ballantyne takes raptor under its wing.



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Living with Gusto

Community Building Ranks High in Ballantyne



WITH SO MUCH EXCITEMENT SURROUNDING the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, we thought it an ideal time to explore how Ballantyne has evolved over the past decade. In “Community Zest” we share our finding that above all else the trendsetting people who live, work and play here have a passionate commitment to community building on all levels, personal, social and business.

That being said, those who call Ballantyne home haven’t left loyalty to their alma mater behind. In our cover story, “House Divided,” we report on the funny family feuds that erupt during the pigskin season between spouses sporting rival school colors. As a

cultivated a following for their Southern twist on traditional favorites that feature fresh, local ingredients. Examples include the Redneck Cheeseboard, bacon-wrapped trout with stewed butter beans and orange-fennel slaw, and their oh-so delicious fried blueberry pie.

Another way to experience the New South is with a visit to Saxapahaw, the hottest little town you never heard of. In One Tank Trip we give you the inside scoop on this 150-year-old former mill village two hours up the road that is garnering national attention for its rural renaissance. In one block — no stoplight — you can dine at a gas station on five-star locavore cuisine, hear top-rated indie rock bands and browse an art gallery popular with the hip Chapel Hill crowd. I guarantee that everyone you meet who lives there will become an instant friend for life.

For many families, fall signals the return to school, so we profile the intrepid David Switzer, principal of our own Ardrey Kell High School, which Newsweek named this year to its list of “America’s Best High Schools.” As an educator who also has 20 years in the Air Force and Air National Guard, including two tours in Iraq and three in Afghanistan, Switzer possesses a unique perspective on how to navigate our young people through their final years before college.

No matter your stage of life, we hope this issue will inspire you to go deep into this community by getting involved in some way. As those who’ve made this commitment will attest, you will leave a lasting legacy in your little corner of the world.

JJ Bissell
Publisher, Ballantyne Magazine

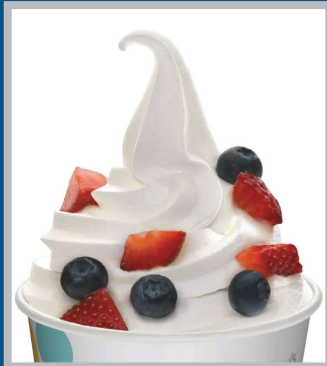
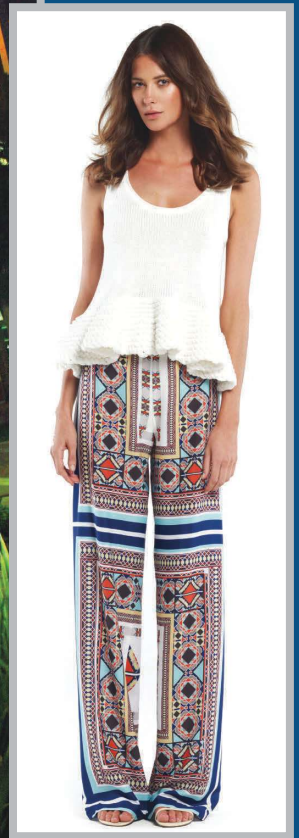
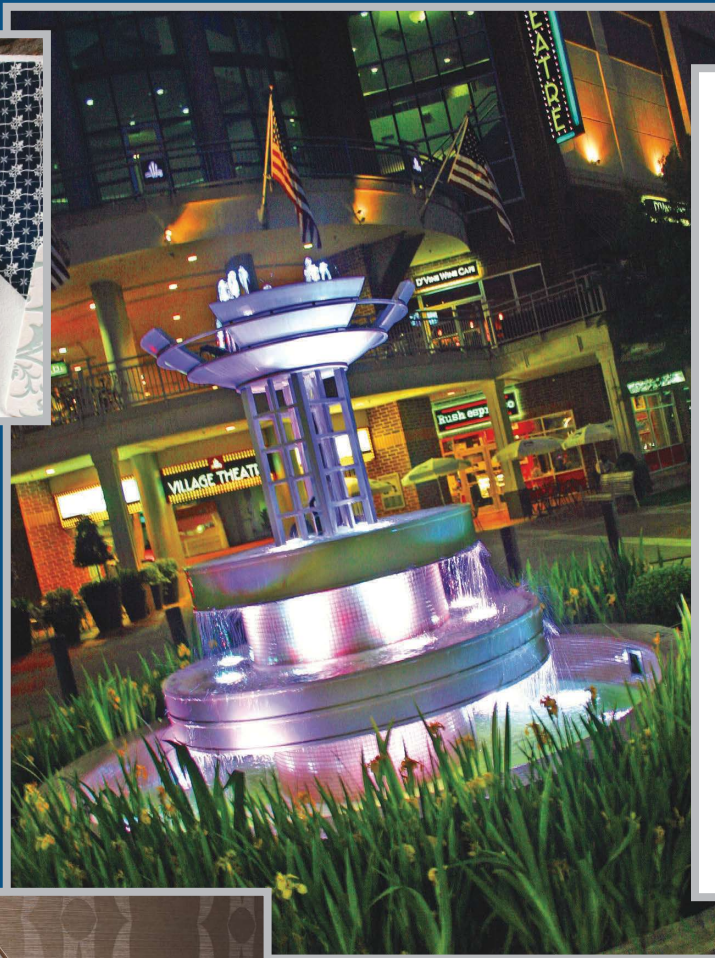
Another way to experience the New South is with a visit to Saxapahaw, the hottest little town you never heard of.

student at the University of Georgia, I would caravan to the big game in Jacksonville between the Bulldogs and Florida Gators. But as you will learn, such undergrad school spirit often survives into marriage, with each parent even recruiting children to root for their side.

Ballantyne’s emphasis on the ties that bind is also the theme of our first all-family Date Night, where one couple and their children enjoy a day of disc golf, trail walks with their dog and a picnic in Elon Park, just 10 minutes from home. Since the warmth of Indian summer can extend here into October, the backyard should also be designed for outdoor living to the max, so we showcase two families’ creations that include big-screen TVs, pizza ovens and fireplaces perfect for toasting s’mores under the autumn stars.

When it comes to roots in the Ballantyne community, New South Kitchen & Bar holds bragging rights. In Fab Fare we profile this inventive restaurant tucked away in the Arboretum Shopping Center, where owner Chris Edwards and his wife, Sue, have long

Correction - At Ballantyne Magazine we are committed to accuracy. In our summer 2012 issue we omitted Nan Bauroth’s byline in our One Tank Trip story on Bryson City.



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Wire

What's happening in and around Ballantyne



Dennis Walters (swinging club) and his Super Dog Bucky will entertain at the Birdies for the Brave golf tournament.

Birdies for Brave Event Oct. 29

The eighth annual Birdies for the Brave golf tournament will take place on Monday, Oct. 29 at TPC Piper Glen. Proceeds benefit nine military homefront groups supported by PGA Tour players.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. with a silent auction, and lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event features Dennis Walters, who is paralyzed from the waist down, and performs precision golf and trick shots accompanied by Super 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. Details: Colleen Carow at 704-846-1212, ext. 235 or ccarow@heritagegolfgroup.com. Learn more about the nonprofit at www.birdiesforthebrave.org.

NEWS CUES



Ballantyne Festival Oct. 6 at YMCA

The annual Ballantyne Festival hosted by the Morrison Family YMCA, Ballantyne Breakfast Club and Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce is Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Morrison Y.

The free, family-friendly event kicks off at 9 a.m. with a parade, followed by games, crafts, entertainment, dancing and food vendors. The festival runs until dusk.

The event also features the annual Candidates Meet & Greet Chili Cook-Off from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Over 20 political candidates running for national, state and local offices will be there to meet the public.



Hall Family Farm Adds Corn Maze

The Hall Family Farm is adding a five-acre Corn Maze to its pumpkin-patch activities for the fall. The maze will open on weekends in September and expand to weekdays during the month of October. Details: www.hallfamilyfarm.com.

Light Factory Features 'Artifacts'

"Artifacts," a film produced by Ballantyne independent filmmaker Joe Keller, was featured in the Light Factory film showcase in May and June. Keller received an emerging artist grant from the Arts & Science Council in 2009. Learn more: www.groundedpictures.com.



Joe Keller

Community House Hosts Festival, Lectures

The Community House Fall Festival is Saturday, Sept. 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the historic log cabin. The event features booths with jewelry, fashion accessories, candles, garden art, hand-painted glassware and handmade wooden children's toys.

Big Bob Gibson will provide barbecue sandwiches and plates. Hot dogs will be available for children. There will be seating inside the cabin for meals, and a homemade bake sale.

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.

The Community House also hosts its fall lecture series on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. Topics include "College Countdown" with Lee Bierer on Sept. 23 and "How to Decorate for Christmas" with Susan Kooiman of Peppermint Forest on Oct. 28. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Proceeds from the festival and lecture series go toward cabin restoration. Women of the club meet at 10 a.m. on the third Monday of every month, and all in the community are welcome to join. Details: www.lowerprovidencelogcabin.org.



Y Hosts Zumbathon, Sells Golf Tickets

The Morrison Family Y holds its sixth annual Zumbathon on Friday, Sept. 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Brixham Tent in Ballantyne Corporate Park. The Latin-influenced, full-body dance/exercise class is free. Reserve space at 704-716-4680.

The Chiquita Classic, a PGA national golf tournament, is Sept. 24-30 at Longview Country Club. All proceeds from tickets purchased at the Morrison Y or Ballantyne Village Y will benefit the YMCA 2012 Community Support Campaign.



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As featured on the Matt & Ramona Show
107.9 the LINK



Music Series Returns to Ballantyne Village

The Mix at Six fall music series is Wednesday evenings in Ballantyne Village from Sept. 5 through Oct. 10. Each event is 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 give guests complimentary drinks and appetizers throughout the evening, are available for \$15 per person per night. All ticket proceeds will be donated to the charity. Details: www.ballantynevillage.com/mixatsix.

Smokies Win Championship

The Ballantyne Smokies won the 2012 Southern Collegiate Baseball Championship on July 28. They defeated the Carolina Chaos 12-2 on the Smokies' home field at Ardrey Kell High School. Details: www.ballantynesmokies.com.

Celebrate Autumn at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge

From sipping wine to savoring Thanksgiving Brunch, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge serves up a host of engaging events this fall.



Enjoy California's Wine

Crush: Gallery Restaurant will celebrate the annual crushing of the grapes with Paso Robles on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature Paso Robles wines paired with small bites, as well as educational information. Cost is \$40 per person. Reservations: 704-248-4100 or cjohnson@theballantynehotel.com.

Take a 'Cue Class: Chef de Cuisine J. Kelly Morrow and Executive Sous Chef David Moore of The Cooking School will feature a barbecue theme

using local beef from Baucom's Best on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$85 per person (plus 20 percent service charge). Advance reservations required: 704-248-4100.



Club Honors Veterans,

Active Military: The Golf Club at Ballantyne invites veterans and active military to play for half price off the regular rate on Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11. Please present a valid ID. Reserve a tee time: 704-248-4383 or www.golfballantyne.com.

Reserve Now for

Thanksgiving: Gallery Restaurant serves up its



traditional Thanksgiving Brunch on Thursday, Nov. 22 from noon to 4 p.m. The meal features an array of seasonal salads, decorative displays, carving stations with regional accompaniments and decadent desserts. There will be live music from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$59 per person, \$29 for children, ages 5-12; and complimentary for children 4 and under (pricing does not include tax and gratuity). Private dining rooms are available for larger groups. Reservations required: 704-248-4100 or www.gallery-restaurant.com.



Brightmore Community Taking Deposits

Liberty Senior Living is now accepting deposits for Brightmore of South Charlotte, a \$40 million senior living community to be constructed on approximately 17 acres at 10021 Providence Road West.

Brightmore will offer seniors lifestyle choices, including independent

living, assisted living and skilled nursing. The community will also offer dining venues, a market, beauty salon, fitness center and pool.

Brightmore will not require an initial entry fee to become a resident. To learn more, contact Brigitte Rinaldi at 855-833-8511.

THE YOUNGER SET

New Principal Named for Polo Ridge

Nizy John has been appointed principal at Polo Ridge Elementary School. Prior to this position, she served as assistant principal at Ballantyne Elementary School. Before that, she was assistant principal at David Cox Road Elementary for six years.

John, a native of India, earned her master's degree in school administration, curriculum and



Nizy John

instruction at the College of William and Mary. John began meetings with parents in July. Contact her at 980-343-0749.

BIZ BUZZ



Bradley Jacobs (right), chairman and CEO of XPO Logistics, is congratulated by gubernatorial candidate and former Charlotte mayor Pat McCrory prior to cutting the ribbon at XPO's new national operations center in Ballantyne.

XPO Opens National Operations Center

XPO Logistics Inc. a third-party transportation logistics provider, celebrated the opening of its national operations center at 13777 Ballantyne Corporate Place, Suite 400 in Ballantyne Corporate Park on July 9. The company plans to create more than 300 jobs over three years.

"We are continually impressed by the talent pool in this region," says Troy Cooper, senior vice president of finance for the firm.

"Now that we have a state-of-the-art facility in Ballantyne to service our customer and carrier relationships, we plan to accelerate our recruitment. We're building an infrastructure to support our company's increasing scale in North America."

XPO Logistics offers freight brokerage, freight forwarding and expedited services, and is currently hiring for positions that include carrier procurement, sales, recruiting, training and human resources. Info: www.xpologistics.com/work-for-us.



Paula Tompkins

Creative by Nature Home Honored

Creative by Nature Home has been named one of Home Accents Today's 50 Retail Stars for 2012. Businesses selected have demonstrated success in their marketing areas, strength in merchandising, display and/or advertising, and have a positive presence in their local communities.

Founded in 2009, Creative by Nature Home is located in the Blakeney Shopping Center and is owned by Paula Tompkins. More info: 704-542-7570 or www.cbnhome.com.

Agents Join Allen Tate Co.

Allen Tate Co. announced that agents Jason Rosselot and Anthony Frantilla have joined the Ballantyne office. Reach them at 704-541-6200.



Jason Rosselot



Anthony Frantilla

TRADEKING™ «Be One

Trade King Merges with Zecco

TradeKing and Zecco, two online brokerages, merged their businesses in June. The new firm has a combined client base of 500,000 accounts with several billion dollars in client assets, says a company release.

TradeKing, a nationally licensed online stock and options broker that touts low-cost trading fees, is headquartered in Ballantyne Corporate Park. A pioneer in integrating new financial social media as part of its online equities, options trading and fixed-income trading platform, TradeKing has received several discount broker awards from top industry sources, and in June was rated best in customer service by SmartMoney Magazine for the third consecutive year.



Keli Fayard

Pastry Chef Joins Hotel & Lodge

Keli Fayard has joined The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge as executive pastry chef. With 16 years of experience, Fayard is renowned in the pastry industry. She has appeared on the Cooking Channel and Food Network's Cake Challenge.

Property Services Promotes Hillis, Green

Bill Hillis has been promoted to property manager for Bissell Property Services. Hillis has played an integral role in the success of the property services team over the past four years, and recently received his master's degree in business from Queens University of Charlotte.

Bissell Property Services also promoted Debbie Green to assistant property manager. Green, who joined the property services team in 2007, recently passed her Accredited Commercial Manager exam and is pursuing her Certified Property Manager designation this fall.



Bill Hillis



Debbie Green

Honda Finance Earns LEED Gold Status

American Honda Finance Corp. received LEED Gold certification for its facility in Ballantyne Corporate Park. The local United States Green Building Council chapter held a LEED ceremony at the AHFC office on June 14. LEED stands for "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design."



Emily Scofield, executive director of the USGBC Charlotte region chapter, presents Dean Hardesty, regional manager at American Honda Finance Corp., with the LEED Gold certification.

Photos courtesy of Bissell Cos.



Clifton Coble, Bissell Cos. (from left); Gary Freigberger, CB Richard Ellis; Roger Cope, AHFC; Andrew Laing, USGBC Charlotte; Mariano Bonilla, AHFC; Emily Scofield, USGBC Charlotte; Misty Beller, USGBC Charlotte; and Dean Hardesty, AHFC.

inVentiv Moves HQ to Ballantyne

A national provider of medical management services to consumers and the health-care industry, inVentiv Medical Management recently moved its corporate headquarters from Augusta, Ga. to a 9,500-square-foot space in in the Everett Building in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

The headquarters will support the company's business development efforts, while core clinical staff and operations will remain in Georgia. InVentiv Medical Management offers physician-directed, nurse-supported, technology-enabled, medical management solutions to a variety of clients: third-party administrators, self-funded or fully insured plans, employer groups, managing general underwriters, insurance carriers and others.

"Moving our headquarters to Charlotte will help us be more accessible to our clients and ensure that we remain nimble to their business needs," says Marc Palmer, company CEO. Info: www.inventivMM.com.

Ballantyne Chamber Sets Fall Meetings

The Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce will hold its membership luncheons this fall on Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6 at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

To register for a meeting, go to www.charlottechamber.com. The fee is \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door subject to space availability, and \$45 for non-Charlotte Chamber members. Registration: www.charlottechamber.com/events.

Photos courtesy of Bissell Cos.

Pair Join Principal Financial Group

Sharon K. Drake and Stacey M. Duke have joined The Principal Financial Group's North Carolina Business Center, located at 14045 Ballantyne Corporate Place, Suite 500.

Drake will serve as a financial services representative. Reach her at 704-214-3766 or drake.sharon@principal.com.

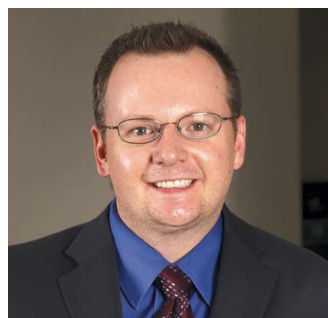
Duke will serve as senior marketing coordinator for financial advisors and the business center, as well as assisting with operations and customer service. Contact her at 980-235-0501 or duke.stacey@principal.com.



Sharon K. Drake



Stacey M. Duke



Christopher Phelps

Dentist Adds Waxhaw Office

Dr. Christopher Phelps is now treating patients at his new Carolinas Dental Center office in Waxhaw, 2514 Cuthbertson Road, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and at his Carolinas Dental Center of Matthews office on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and most Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Waxhaw location provides an array of advanced services and accepts dental insurance. Details: 704-243-8920 or www.carolinasdentalcenter.com.

Rader, Cole Rated Top Golf Teachers

Dana Rader, founder and owner of Dana Rader Golf School, and Julie Cole, managing partner of Dana Rader Golf School, have again been named among Golf Digest Woman's 50 Best Women Teachers in the United States.

This biennial ranking of female golf instructors voted by their peers placed Rader at No. 3 and Cole at No. 23 out of approximately 1,600 female Class A PGA of America and LPGA Teaching and Club Professional members.



Dana Rader (left), Julie Cole

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The process offers patients a long-lasting, esthetic alternative to silver or plastic fillings and crowns, as well as eliminates the need for uncomfortable impression molds. Details: 704-543-1102 or www.blakeneysmiles.com.



Free Cancer Wellness Program Offered

The Blumenthal cancer program has collaborated with Carolinas HealthCare System and the Morrison Family and Ballantyne Village YMCAs to provide a Cancer Wellness Program for the community.

The free eight-week program, which is funded by the "24 hours of Booty" organization and led by a registered nurse and Y exercise specialist, is geared toward helping cancer survivors manage treatment side effects, both during treatment and recovery.

The program is offered at the YMCA Corporate Wellness Center located in the Medical 2 Building in the Ballantyne Corporate Park.

M/I Homes Expands Offerings

M/I Homes Charlotte has purchased Ardrey Court, a small community with seven homes across the street from the Ballantyne Village YMCA. Home plans include open family rooms, upstairs lofts, simple lines throughout and front-load garages. Info: 704-340-3860.

M/I Homes Charlotte is also adding 30 new homes in Ardrey Woods, a neighborhood off Community House Road that features a pool, playground and nature trails. Home plans range from 2,182 to 3,205 square feet. Details: 704-542-4762 or www.mihomes.com/charlotte.



Gabriele Willert

Weichert, Realtors® Welcomes New Associate

Realtor® Gabriele Willert has joined the sales team at Weichert, Realtors®-Rebhan & Associates. She will serve buyers and sellers in the Lake Wylie, Fort Mill, Tega Cay, Ballantyne and South Charlotte areas. Willert, who relocated from Europe, speaks English, French and German. Reach her at 704-553-7777.



Rett Turner

Rett Turner Joins Bissell Cos.

Rett Turner has joined the Bissell Cos., as a senior associate in Office Leasing Services. Turner will focus on the Ballantyne and SouthPark portfolios. Prior to Bissell, Turner worked at CB Richard Ellis, where he was an office-listing broker. Contact him at 704-248-2078 or rturner@bissellcompanies.com.

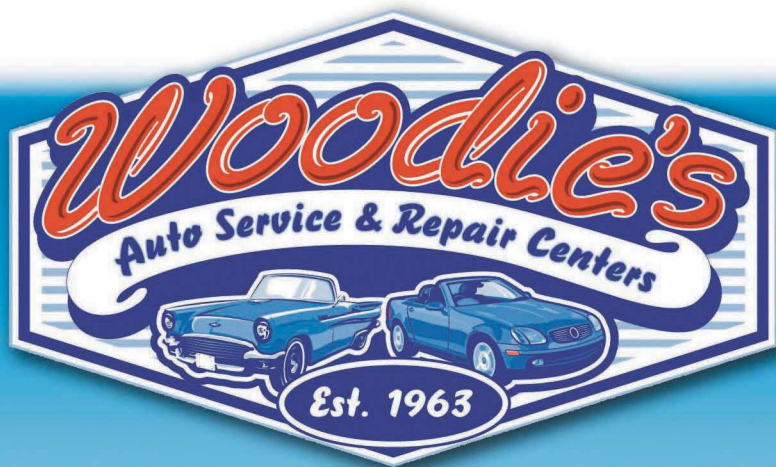
Indian Catering Now at Ballantyne Hotel

The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge and Bombay Grille have formed a partnership to provide authentic Indian catering for weddings. A selection of wedding reception and luncheon catering packages are available. Weddings also may be held at the hotel in conjunction with a reception. Info: 704-248-4035 or weddings@theballantynehotel.com.

New Church Leadership at Harrison UMC

Pastors Phillip Cole and Rhonda Hartweg were appointed by the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church to join the Harrison United Methodist Church in Pineville in July.

Associate Pastor Tim Webster continues to serve as director of international and senior adult ministries. Previous church leadership, Senior Pastor David Beam and Associate Pastor Gayle Montgomery, received new appointments in the Western North Carolina Conference. Learn more: www.umc.org.

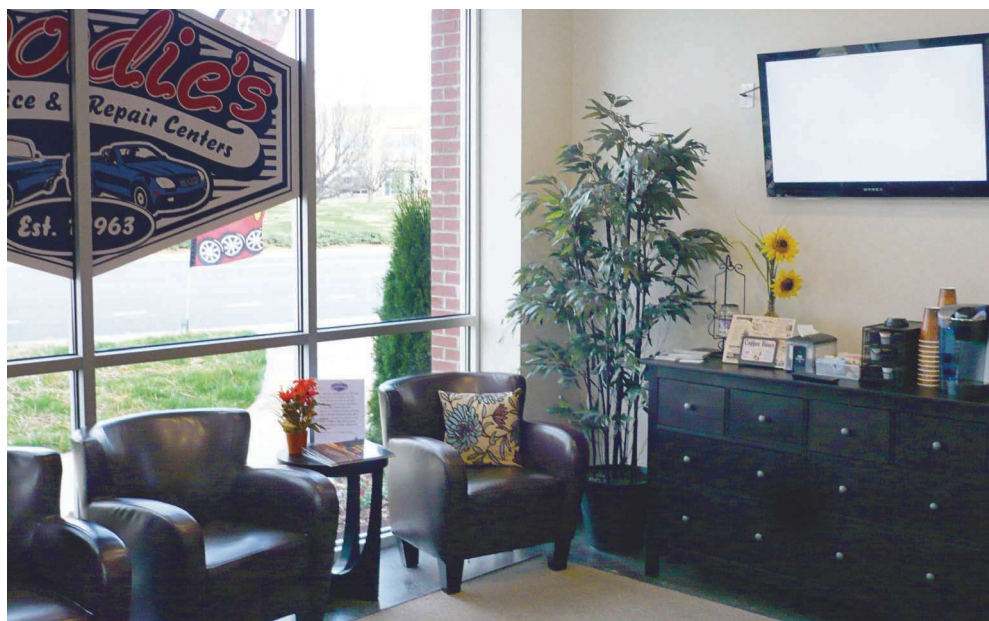


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NOW OPEN

Abraham Joseph FINE JEWELERS

Jewelry Designer Joins Ballantyne Village

Abraham Joseph Fine Jewelers is now open in Ballantyne Village. Owned by Abraham Pamukcu, a native of Turkey who has dedicated his career to creating exquisite fine jewelry, the new store sells a collection of diamonds, fine gemstones and semi-precious stones.

The store also includes a master bench jeweler, CAD design expertise, model casting, diamond and gemstone setting, jewelry appraisals and repairs. Details: 704-369-5710 or www.ballantynenvillage.com/abrahamjoseph.

Yofflers Café Debuts at Ballantyne Corners

Now open in Ballantyne Corners, Yofflers Café provides breakfast, lunch and dinner, along with a variety of coffees and espressos, self-serve frozen yogurt with toppings, 18 flavors of gelato made of organic milk and 10 types of cheesecakes. Patio seating and free Wi-Fi are available. Details: 704-543-5123.

café

Yofflers

FROZEN YOGURT

Effie's Café Opens In Corporate Park

Effie's Café & Grill is now serving on the first floor of the Harris Building in Ballantyne Corporate Park. Effie's features a breakfast menu with light fare, including crepes, breakfast sandwiches and omelets, as well as a full coffee bar. Lunch includes fresh salads, sandwiches, wraps and a hot daily special. Sit-down dining, takeout and catering are available. Details: 980-919-9462.



Restaurant Wins Best Overall

Newk's Express Café recently received seven of Charlotte magazine's "Best of the Best" awards, including Best Overall Restaurant. Newk's will open its third location on Dave Lyle Boulevard in Rock Hill this fall.



Ballantyne Village Welcomes Shop

TCBY Frozen Yogurt will open in September at Ballantyne Village. TCBY owner Samuel Batt owns 12 TCBY locations in the Carolinas, with the Ballantyne Village store being his ninth in the Charlotte area. Details: www.ballantynenvillage.com/TCBY.

Bakery Moves To Ballantyne Quad

Decadent Designs will move in early September from Robinson Corners to Ballantyne Quad. The boutique bakery prepares cakes, pastries and dessert items, as well as wedding and designer cakes. The new location will also sell gelato and coffee. Details: 704-542-7797 or www.decadentdesignsbakery.com.

Furniture Showroom Now in Pineville

Good's Home Furnishings, a high-end furniture showroom, is open in Pineville at 11735 Carolina Place Parkway.



Owners Randy Good and Scott Lever, who have a showroom in Hickory, offer a wide selection of brand names, including Bernhardt, Bradington Young, Century, Ekornes, Four Hands, Habersham, Henredon, Hickory White, Hooker, Kingsdown, Lexington, Lillian August, Maitland Smith, Paula Deen, Rowe, Sherrill, Stanley, Taylor King, Theodore Alexander and Vanguard.

The showroom also features a signature Young America shop selling youth furniture that is American made and GreenGuard certified to be a healthy choice for growing children and the environment.

Customers also can receive complimentary custom testing for North Carolina-made Kingsdown bedding, researched by Duke and Johns Hopkins, for help with chronic pain. Info: 704-910-4045 or www.goodshomefurnishings.com.

Boutique to Carry Fashion-Forward Designs

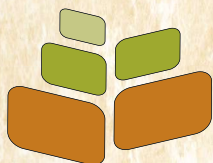
Blend, a women's clothing, jewelry and accessories boutique, is now open in Ballantyne Village. The shop features fashion-forward brands such as Bec & Bridge, Ramona LaRue, LNA, Mother Denim, Chan Luu, Citizens of Humanity, KAIN Label and MYNE. Info: www.ballantynenvillage.com/blend.

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Mantra Stylists Join Modern Salon

Modern Salon & Spa in Ballantyne Village is now offering services with Mantra stylists. Mantra stylists are licensed and experienced stylists who have graduated from the Modern Salon Education Program. A haircut and style with a Mantra stylist is \$26. Details: www.modernsalonandspa.com.

Chiropractor Targets Pain Conditions

Ballantyne Chiropractic Wellness is now open in Ballantyne Village. Dr. Cheri Snipes utilizes medical technologies such as cold laser therapy and spinal decompression to treat chronic pain conditions.

Such conditions include herniated or protruding discs, headaches, neck pain, peripheral neuropathy and overuse syndromes, such as golf elbow, tennis elbow and carpal tunnel syndrome.

Snipes has post-graduate training from the Functional Medicine Institute, enabling her to help patients with chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia and auto-immune disorders. No appointment necessary. Learn more: 704-369-5700 or www.ballantynechiro.com.

Grill Offers Indian, Indo-Chinese Fare

Persis Grill is now open in Ballantyne Quad. The restaurant offers authentic homemade Indian cooking and Indo-Chinese fare. Signature dishes include Vegetarian, Chicken or Goat Biryani, Appolo Fish, Goat Sukka and Chicken Tikka Marsala. Details: 704-817-8198, or www.persisrestaurant.com.

Plastic Surgeons Arriving This Fall

Criswell & Criswell plastic, reconstructive and cosmetic surgery



is opening a location in Ballantyne Village in fall 2012. For four years, board-certified plastic surgeons Dr. Bryan Criswell and his wife, Dr. Kara Criswell, have provided Charlotteans with facial rejuvenation, liposuction, abdominoplasty, breast enhancement and non-surgical skin care. Information: www.criswellandcriswell.com.



Restaurant Opens in Robinson Farm

Toast Café of Ballantyne is open in the Village at Robinson Farm at 8430 Rea Road. As at Toast Cafés

in Davidson and Dilworth, the new breakfast, brunch and luncheon eatery features a made-from-scratch menu with favorites like Avocado, Bacon, Tomato & Parmesan Omelet and Strawberry & Cream Cheese Stuffed French Toast. Catering is available. Details: www.toasthousecafe.com.



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Kennedy Law Associates recently opened an office in Ballantyne Village to help families in transition. Legal services include separations, divorces, child-custody issues, alimony, child-support determinations, marital property division, spousal support claims, custody modifications, relocations, premarital/postnuptial agreements, domestic violence issues and other domestic matters. Info: 704-369-5600 or www.kennedyfamilylaw.com.



Cycling Center Offers Spinning Classes

Flywheel Sports, an indoor cycling center, is now open in Blakeney next to Yoga Flex. Cycling classes are offered in amphitheater-style seating so every rider has an unimpeded view of the instructor, with large flat-screen TVs at the front.

Individual performance data is stored in the client's Flywheel account. The studio is equipped with showers, and each ride comes with complimentary towels and cycling shoes.

The FlyBarre method blends circuit training, yoga, Pilates, strength building and stretching into an hour workout. Learn more: 704-209-7612 or www.flywheelsports.com.

Southern Cuisine Comes to Café

The Terrace Café of Ballantyne introduced a new dinner menu, featuring southern cuisine such as Bourbon Glazed Salmon, Strawberry Salad, Spicy Crawfish Dip and Country Ham Sliders. View the full menu at www.terracecafecharlotte.com.

Robinson Farm Welcomes Pizzeria

Charlotte-based Hawthorne's New York Pizza & Bar recently opened its fifth area location in the Village at Robinson Farm. The authentic New York-style pizzeria features classic Italian-American fare, appetizers, sandwiches and pastas, plus gluten-free and kids' options. The Ballantyne location is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, with later hours in its bar. Details: www.hawthornespizza.com.

SWEET CHARITIES

Golf Event Raises Over \$130,000

The Morrison Family YMCA's 12th annual charity golf tournament raised \$131,120 for the Y's Community Support Campaign. Over 50 local corporate sponsors contributed to the June 4 event.

Founder of Komen To Keynote BCC Rally

Nancy G. Brinker, founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, will be the keynote speaker at the BCC Pink Bow Gala Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 29 at Ballantyne Country Club. BCC Rally is a weeklong series of events held in September to raise money and awareness for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Tickets go on sale August 1 at www.bccrally.org.



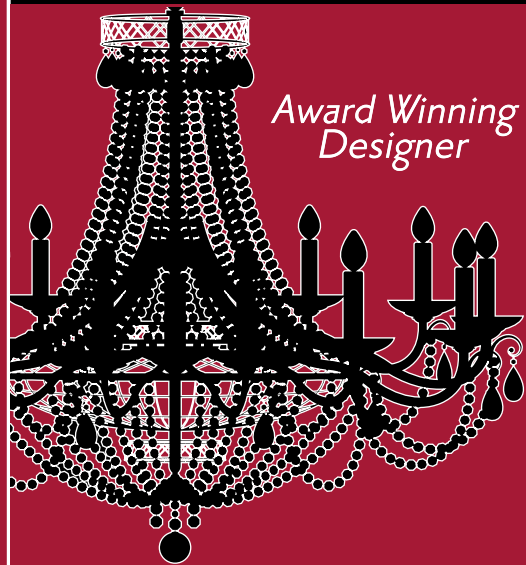
Nearly 30,000 Pounds Of Food Donated

Ballantyne Corporate Park's annual Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina Food Drive collected 28,934 pounds of food. Carlisle Cos. contributed a generous donation of 20,000 pounds. The food drive ran May 7-11.

Kari & Co.

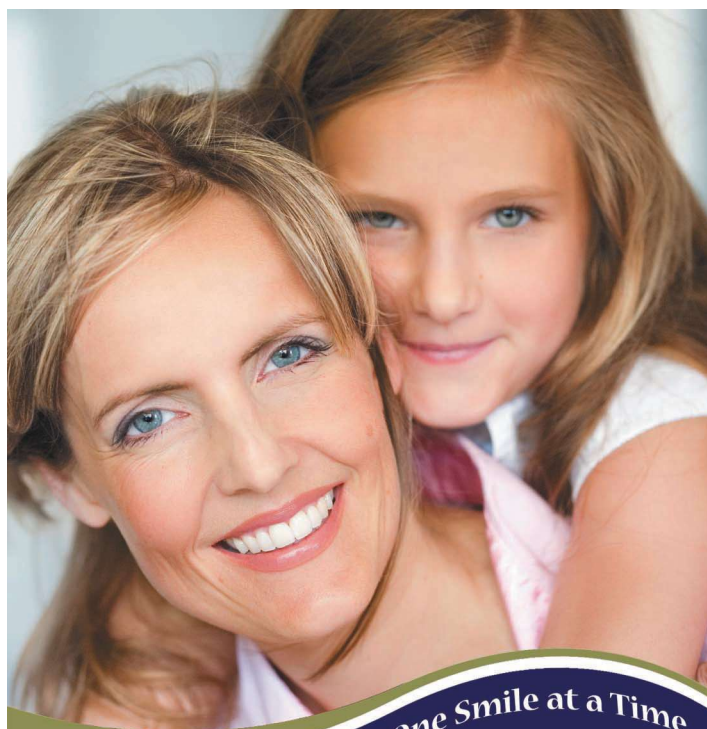
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Rotary Members Aid Haiti

Ballantyne Rotary Club members Tom Harman, Ineke Van der Meulen, Axel Lindenbeck and friends traveled to Bayonnais in Haiti last April to dedicate a successful international project to reinforce and widen a main road that had been washed out, and to build a new home for a family displaced by the road project.

Members also visited the newly formed Rotary Club de Bayonnais and presented its president, Kenold Decimus, with a gavel, T-shirts and Rotary pins. The group was hosted in Bayonnais by OFCB ministries, which schools and feeds 1,800 students isolated in the Haitian mountains.

To offer help or to partner with the Ballantyne Rotary Club, call Harman, the international service chair, at 704-543-4001.

This fall the club will hold its annual golf tournament on Monday, Oct. 8, with proceeds going to the Haiti project and other efforts.

Details: www.ballantynerotary.golfreg.com or John Blair at 704-841-9800.

Santos Foundation Carries On with 5K Run

Isabella Santos, the seven-year-old daughter of Ballantyne residents Erin and Stuart Santos, died June 28 of pediatric cancer. But the foundation established in honor of her heroic battle against neuroblastoma for the past five years is continuing its mission to raise awareness and funds to find a cure.

The foundation's signature event — the fifth annual Isabella Santos Foundation 5K Race for Kids Cancer presented by United Support Services Inc. — is Sept. 22 in Ballantyne Corporate Park at 8 a.m.

Last year the race drew 720 participants and raised almost \$70,000. Monies raised have enabled the foundation to provide financial assistance to over a dozen local Charlotte families with children who have cancer, as well as to the Ronald McDonald House, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Community Blood Center of the Carolinas and Band of Parents.

Registration: www.isabellasantosfoundation.org. Corporations or small businesses interested in a sponsorship can contact Jeff Laughton at jeff@isabellasantosfoundation.org or Toni Huff at toni@isabellasantosfoundation.org.





Charlene Edwards



Kanetra Jamison



Alison Thornburg



Teena Allen


ANSWER Scholarships Go to Area Moms

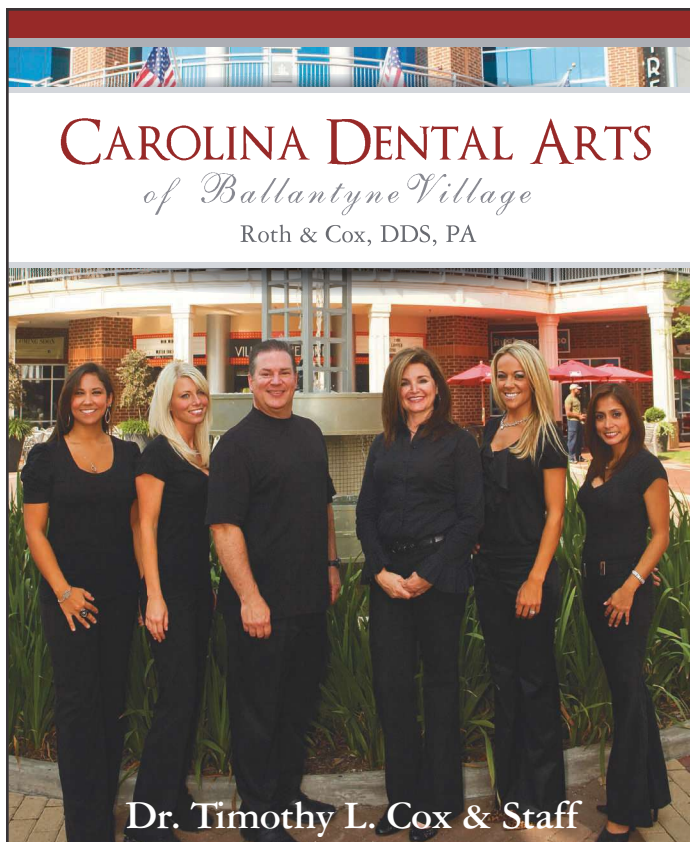
The ANSWER Scholarship Endowment, a Ballantyne-based charitable endeavor founded by Susan Andersen, has awarded college scholarships to seven area mothers for the upcoming school year, to aid them in earning a four-year college degree or an associate degree.

Andersen created the fund as a way to strengthen local families. Recipients must be raising school-age children, show demonstrated need for scholarship aid and be earning their first college degree. Most recipients either work full or part-time while attending college.

Recipients from Charlotte this year include Charlene Edwards, a freshman at Pfeiffer University, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration; Kanetra Jamison, a rising senior at Johnson C. Smith University seeking a bachelor's in social work; and Alison Thornburg, who is re-training to become a registered nurse at Carolinas College of Health Sciences, and is the endowment's Levine Scholar, an award made possible with a gift from the Leon Levine Foundation.

Another area recipient is Teena Allen from Indian Land, S.C., a sophomore at Winthrop University working toward a bachelor's in social work with a minor in sustainability.

To learn more or donate: 704-544-1988 or www.answerscholarship.org. 



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NEIGHBORLY GESTURE

Meet this Trio of Ballantyne Personalities

Photos by Ray Sepesy



OKAY, WHO HAS BEEN to Haiti on a mission trip, escorted Dan Dierdorf and met Muhammad Ali?

It's not one lucky soul, but three. Each of our Ballantyne "Faces" can cross one of these accomplishments off their bucket list.

Find out exactly who did what when you meet Byron Nickens, Jessica Klomprens and Jill Goodrich.

Faces provides a quick look at intriguing personalities who either live or work in the Ballantyne area. Byron, Jessica and Jill are like many we've highlighted before; none of them are natives of the Queen City. They have all made Charlotte their home by choice.

See what they say about their adopted community and what makes their lives interesting and rewarding.

BYRON NICKENS

Birthplace: Washington, D.C.

Job: Claim representative for 27 years with State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co.

What do you like most about your job?

Helping customers recover from the unexpected.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Andre Hairston's Cardio Craze class at Sports & Fitness on Ardrey Kell Road. I am addicted!

Do you live in Ballantyne?

Yes, nine years this September at the Kenilworth/Amberleigh subdivision off Providence Road West.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

Jade in Ballantyne Village. It has the best sushi in town.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

A round of golf with my buds. I love the Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge course.

Describe your dream vacation.

My wife and I lounging on the white-sand beaches of South Africa with a safari thrown in for good measure.

What would your theme song be for walking into a room?

The theme from "Shaft" with the names changed to protect the innocent.

What is your favorite news source?

The Washington Post. I learned to read with a newspaper as a child and have not stopped the morning ritual.

I would be rather caught dead than wear ____.

A matching outfit with my wife.

What charitable organizations are you involved with? Why?

The Men's Shelter of Charlotte. We are all a few missed mortgage payments from being homeless. The Bible teaches us to love our neighbors as we would ourselves. Everyone needs a hand at some point in life.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

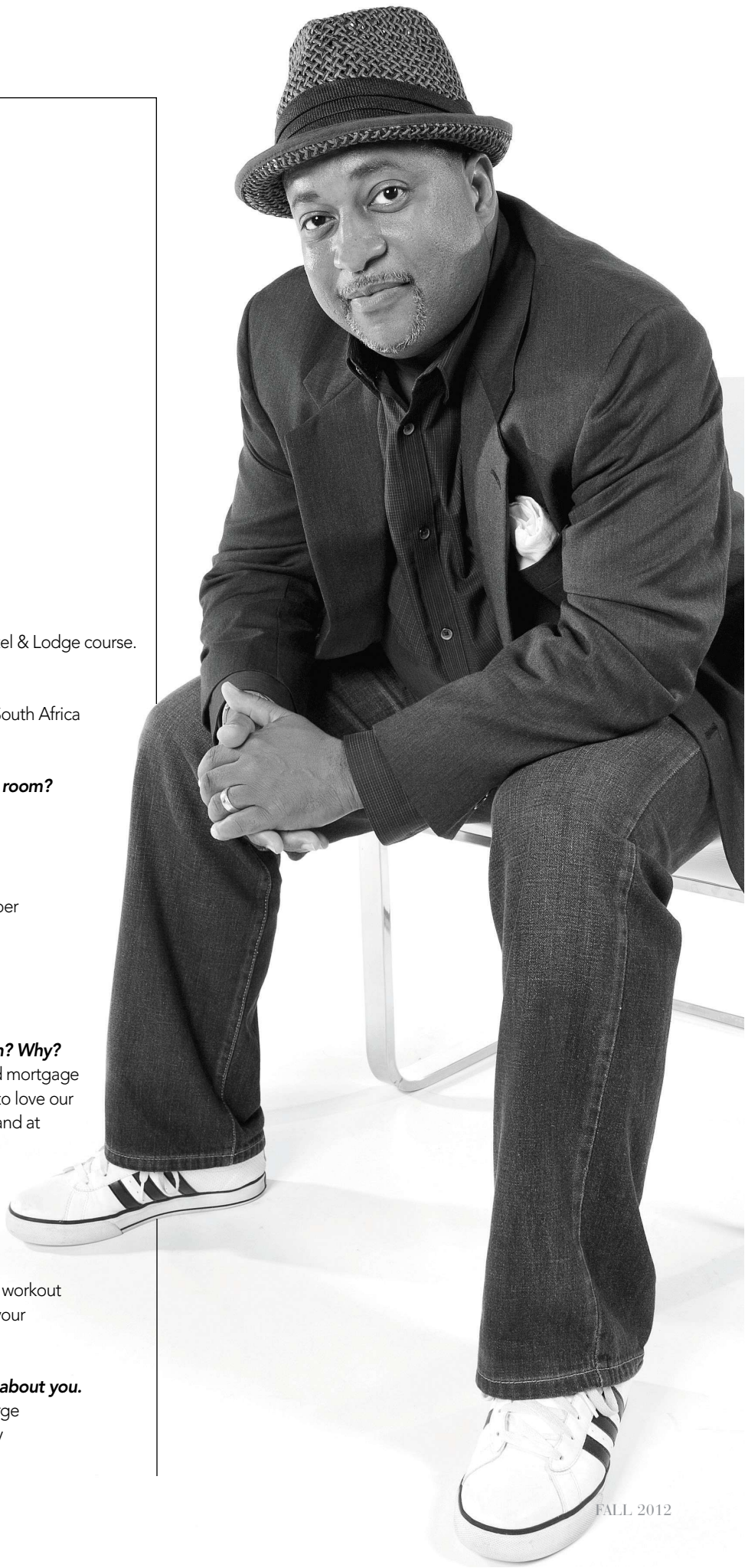
Leaving drawers slightly open with clothes sticking out.

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

The FIT-TRAIL in Ballantyne Corporate Park. It's a great workout that takes only 30 minutes, and works every muscle in your body. The trail is totally shaded, and best of all, free.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I was visited by Muhammad Ali after he defeated George Foreman in 1974 at my home in D.C. He was dating my mom's friend, and she arranged a surprise visit.



JESSICA KLOMPARENS

Birthplace: Akron, Ohio.

Job: Assistant to the CEO, Babcock & Wilcox Co.

What do you like most about your job?

This position has provided more experiences and opportunities than I could have imagined. I also work with an amazing group of people.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Red wine, jalapeno pimento cheese and dark chocolate-covered pretzel thins from Trader Joe's. Not necessarily all at the same time.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

Yes, currently in a townhome, but my husband and I are looking for a home in Ballantyne to settle down and start a family. We are often teased because we rarely venture outside of the Ballantyne area. We both work in the Ballantyne Corporate Park and feel like everything we need is right here. We even got married here — why leave?

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

Cantina 1511. It's where my husband and I had our first date, not to mention the table-side guacamole is to die for!

Describe your dream vacation.

An over-water bungalow in Bora Bora. It just can't get much better than that.

What would your theme song be for walking into a room?

The Ohio State fight song. I'm a huge Buckeye fan.

What charitable organizations are you involved with? Why?

I head the United Way campaign at Babcock & Wilcox and am involved with Young Executives for Success, a volunteer branch of Dress for Success. I realize I am very fortunate to be where I am today; however, there are no guarantees that where I am today is where I will be tomorrow.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who constantly focus on the negative.

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

Zeitouni Grill. My family is Lebanese, so I grew up eating some pretty amazing Middle Eastern food. Zeitouni is the best I've found in all of Charlotte.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

When Dan Dierdorf was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, I was the person who got to escort him across the field at the hall of fame game and across the stage at the enshrinement dinner. It was my 15 minutes of fame.



JILL GOODRICH

Birthplace: Cheverly, Md.

Job: Youth sports coordinator, Morrison Family YMCA.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

I do. I live in the "older" neighborhood of Thornhill, just behind StoneCrest Shopping Center. It's conveniently located, full of trees and a wonderful place for our children to grow up.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

I love an easy morning jog or yoga on my back deck. I also enjoy toiling in my vegetable garden, taking a long walk with my dog in the 'hood, riding bikes on the greenway with my kids, spending the day at the U.S. National Whitewater Center — too many to list! I love the outdoors!

Describe your dream vacation.

Spending several months traveling through countries in Africa, taking in the sights and sounds, living among the locals, experiencing one adventure after another. I would bring along my four kids but not my husband.

What would your theme song be for walking into a room?

The song "Imagine" comes to mind — I am really a peace-loving, tree-hugger at heart.

I would be rather caught dead than wear ____. A turtleneck or high heels.

What charitable organizations are you involved with? Why?

One group I have been involved with recently is the Food Recovery Group, which serves to pick up leftover food and deliver it to a charity in need. Also, a mission to Haiti following the 2010 earthquake opened many possible doors to becoming a catalyst for volunteer work in the Port-au-Prince area. I hope to return soon.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Televisions in restaurants (sports bars excluded). Dining should be about the food, company and conversation — not being "plugged in."

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

Big Rock Park in Thornhill. It's a great place to bring the kids to climb on the rocks and explore the woods, walk a dog or just go for some solitude.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

One of my secret ambitions has been to work for a covert organization like the CIA, serving in an international terrorism unit as a researcher and analyst. The reality of it at my age, with four young kids in suburban Charlotte, is unlikely. Or, is it the perfect cover? (fade out to the "James Bond" theme).





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Flying High

Principal David Switzer Wants Ardrey Kell Students To Soar

By Tony Mecia
Photos by Shane Baskin

BY JUNE 2010, DAVID SWITZER'S duties with the military had taken him all over the world — to each of the 50 states, Europe, Central and South America and Asia. But that night, sitting in a tent in the middle of Afghanistan, he received word of what would become one of his most satisfying missions.

His bosses at his job back home in Charlotte wanted to talk to him about a new assignment: taking over as principal of Ardrey Kell High School, just a five-minute drive from the home he shared with his wife and two children.

In nearly 20 years in the Air Force

and Air National Guard, Switzer served as a navigator on C-130 cargo planes, helping direct their routes. For the last two years, he has been charting an ambitious course for Ardrey Kell to make it one of the top high schools in the state. By all accounts, he is succeeding in helping build the young school's reputation as a powerhouse in academics, athletics and other parts of the student experience.

"My main goal is to build a school that the community is proud of and involved in,"





Despite joining the Air National Guard as a college freshman, and later flying in the Air Force, David Switzer always knew he would become an educator.

Switzer says. "I want them to say, 'This is the best.'"

The school's test scores are high, extracurricular clubs are flourishing and the school is finding success on athletic fields. This year, *Newsweek* included Ardrey Kell in its annual list of "America's Best High Schools" — and ahead of all other Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

"I don't stress about this job. I get to go home at night and see my family. I can always go home and be okay."

— Ardrey Kell
Principal
David Switzer

He Knows Heavy Burdens

As principal, Switzer juggles the competing needs of 2,400 students, their demanding parents, 170 staff members and his school-district bosses. It sounds like a heavy burden, but Switzer shrugs off that talk. He has dealt with heavier burdens. You want to talk about stress? How about working in close quarters in a large plane traveling hundreds of miles an hour, thousands of feet above hostile territory? Or completing two tours in Iraq and three in Afghanistan? Or finishing a master's in education from a tent city in Saudi Arabia?

continued on page 37

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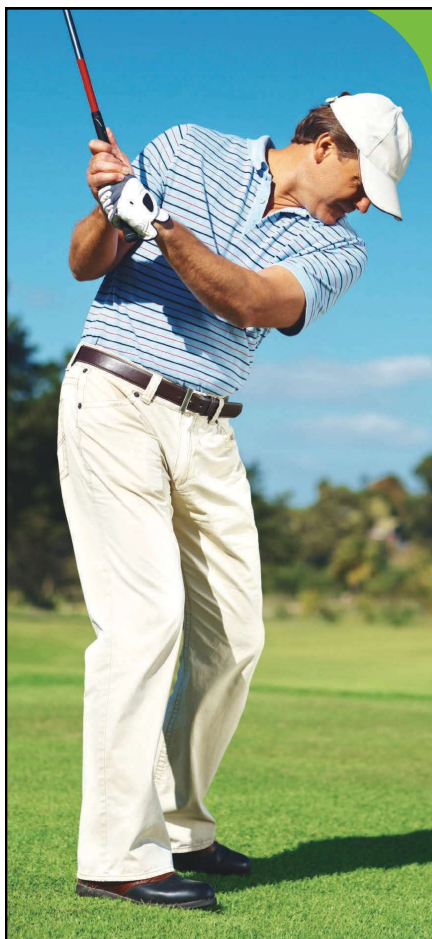
The Y has programs to fit your needs any time your child is out of school – After School, Teacher Workdays and Holidays.

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Ardrey Kell parents credit David Switzer for bringing stability and leadership to a school that had had a high turnover of principals.

■ continued from page 35

And doing it all while away from his family.

Here, he conquers stress by hitting the Morrison Family YMCA at 5 a.m. five times a week, or by spending time with his family.

"I don't stress about this job," says Switzer, 42. "I get to go home at night and see my family. I can always go home and be okay."

Switzer grew up in St. Albans, W.Va., just outside of Charleston. His mom was a teacher. His dad was a former Catholic priest turned social worker. From an early age, the two impressed within him the desire to help others.

He says he always knew he wanted to teach. When he graduated from high school and went to Concord College, he figured he'd be a baseball star — until he realized he couldn't

hit a curveball well enough. He studied teaching and joined the Air National Guard his freshman year to help pay the bills.

Becoming a Flyboy

At graduation, he seized what he considered a once-in-a-lifetime chance to fly planes, went to flight school and started in the Air Force on active duty. But he always knew he'd return to teaching. He took a job at Myers Park High teaching social studies, while still balancing time in the reserves. The schedule required him to leave work Thursday afternoons twice a month to go fly, returning Sunday nights.

While balancing his time with the military, he earned his master's and became assistant principal, then principal at Northeast Middle School in Mint Hill before taking the top job at Ardrey Kell.



In nearly 20 years in the Air Force and Air National Guard, Switzer served as a navigator on C-130 cargo planes.

Parents credit him for bringing stability and leadership to a school that had had a high turnover of principals since it started in 2006. They say it's hard to fluster him and that he approaches tough situations with thoughtfulness, clarity and

a sense of humor.

Although the school is high performing — more than 97 percent of students scored at grade level or higher on end-of-year tests — parents say

continued on page 38

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Switzer focuses on more than academics.


"He's making Ardrey Kell a place for every kid, whether it's an academic high achiever or an athlete or an artist," says parent Anne Vail, who worked alongside Switzer on the School Leadership Team. "He's really trying to build a school where every kid has a place."



"He's really trying to build a school where every kid has a place."

— Parent Anne Vail

At graduation this year, Switzer left graduates with two main messages. One, be thankful. And two, "don't dance so fast that the music won't last" — that is, savor your life and the time that you have.

"In the end, when it's all over," Switzer says, "you want to make sure you made a difference in what you're doing." 



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COMMUNITY ZEST

Cultivating Shared Interests,
Purpose Spurs Ballantyne

By Nan Bauroth

WEDDINGS BY THE FOUNTAIN, baptisms on the parking deck, a Fourth of July Parade. When Bob Bruner, principal owner of Ballantyne Village, opened his retail-shopping complex in 2006, he hoped it might eventually serve as a town center for residents in the newly constructed area of Ballantyne. But he never imagined how quickly the courtyard at Ballantyne Village would become a social focal point for the burgeoning population.

“Our original plan was to create the plaza so we could block it off for street parties,” explains Bruner. “But it’s surprised me how many activities we’ve been asked to stage — from bar mitzvah’s and Sweet 16 parties, to car shows, auctions, an Ardrey Kell High School jazz band performance and even a fresh produce market. We’re a true village.”

This rapid metamorphosis in Ballantyne has been driven by the mindset of people who gravitated here in the past 10 years. Creating a community feel was an absolute must because the majority of residents were new to the area and in search of connections.

“We wanted to be somewhere that had a sense of community,” says Sue Dockstader, whose husband’s job relocation to Rock Hill six years ago brought the couple from California. “We were coming from the West Coast and had teenage children, so we were seeking an area that had a ready-made community. Ballantyne had that feel for us.”

Y, Breakfast Club: Key Roles

That ready-made feel, however, didn’t happen by accident. Several key players emerged early on to sow the first seeds of community. One primary force was the Morrison Family YMCA, which opened in 1999.

“The Ballantyne community was built almost overnight, so there was no de facto local pharmacy or hardware store where people met and made decisions,” says Steve Bowers, community vice president of the Morrison Y. “The intent of volunteers that led our board and staff from the beginning was the belief that the Y could serve as a convener, a place for residents to meet, grow partnerships and friendships.”

Bowers remembers meeting in a tiny office when the Y was only 10,000 square feet to address this challenge.

“We asked ourselves how we could start traditions in our community that a hundred years later people would still be doing, and could recall their parents and grandparents doing. One idea we came up with was our 5K race. We wanted to hold the race in Ballantyne Corporate Park because it was designed as a hub, a place where people did more than business.”

The first year, the race drew 220 participants. Last spring, 2,000 people took part in what has become a signature event in Ballantyne. “We had 15 schools enter teams led by principals, teachers and PTA groups,” Bowers reports. “We also had seven companies and six community groups sponsor teams. It’s now a cradle-to-grave event, with



The courtyard at Ballantyne Village has become a highly sought community spot for events, such as the Fourth of July Parade.



Kim Weihs samples Fire Station 32’s entry in Ballantyne’s annual chili cook-off. Pictured with her are Tommy DeFrancisci (from left), Rob Brisley and Jeff Nixon.



Michele Stout (from left), Maria Pontuso and Suzi Crane staff the Firebirds’ booth at the Ballantyne Business Bash.

people of all ages coming out to be part of the community.”

Another leader in the effort to inspire a sense of community was Ray Eschert, who in 2001 formed the Ballantyne Breakfast Club.

“Ballantyne was new ground and an area where a lot of people were moving, so I wanted to create a forum where residents could learn what was going on and exchange information from local business leaders, elected officials and service providers,” he says. “Our mission today remains the same.”



Kids enjoy the Adam Faulk Tanksley Fun Day.

“I AM A TEACHER,
SO I READ A LOT
AND DISCOVERED
THAT BALLANTYNE
HAD STRONG
SCHOOLS.”

— BALLANTYNE RESIDENT SARAH VRABEL

At the outset, club meetings focused on the public schools, given the rapidly expanding population and concern by parents that their children receive a quality education. Over time, the emphasis in the club, now 500 strong, has shifted to roads and infrastructure. But the club's most prominent idea to bring the community together was the launch of an annual candidate forum and chili cook-off that has matured into a daylong Ballantyne Festival held each October at the Morrison Y. This year's event is Oct. 6.

Schools a Unifying Force

David Huss, a Realtor® with Allen Tate Co., moved to Ballantyne with his family in 1991. “We’ve watched the world grow up around us,” he observes, noting that the commitment by parents to top-notch community schools has been a driver of continuous growth in the local housing market.

Chris and Sarah Vrabel are a case in point. They chose to relocate here recently from California over San Diego and Boston. “We weighed the pros and cons of where to raise our family,” says Sarah. “I am a teacher, so I read a lot and discovered that Ballantyne had strong schools.”



John and Annette Siverling tour an area home with longtime Ballantyne Realtor® David Huss.



Adams Stevens, headmaster of the British American School, leads one of three private schools in the area.

In just a decade, Ballantyne has developed a reputation for the quality of its public high school, middle school and five elementary schools. In addition, Ballantyne offers private-school options that include Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte Latin School and the British American School of Charlotte, which caters to the needs of an increasing number of international families relocating here.

According to Adam Stevens, headmaster of the British American School, the student body of 150 represents 13 different nationalities.

“When people relocate here from other parts of the world, their first concern is where they can educate their children,” he says. “It’s school first, then housing, followed by discovering this wonderful community.” Several students have parents who live in Ballantyne but spend their working days in different parts of the globe running companies overseas.

Since opening in 2004, the British American School has embraced the community by hosting a WorldFest each spring that raises money for charities selected by students. The school also partners with Charlotte United Soccer Group, and the well-known German school, which offers German language lessons at school facilities on weekends.

Seeking an Integrated Lifestyle

Another reason for the swift assimilation within Ballantyne is the fast-forward attitude of the people who move here. Ballantyne’s

continued on page 44

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Soyoung Son enjoys outdoor dining, a popular local activity.



Babcock & Wilcox has found Ballantyne's amenities have helped the company attract and retain employees.

■ continued from page 42

concept as a multi-use, planned community built for a technology-driven economy appealed to a new generation seeking work/life balance.

The desire for an integrated lifestyle married perfectly with the design of Ballantyne Corporate Park and nearby residential and retail environs, prompting companies seeking innovative thinkers to set up shop here.

Gary Trainor, CEO of Infinisource, a human capital management firm that recently relocated from Michigan, says the airport hub via I-485 and community amenities were key criteria, but also a desirable pool of workers. "The area has attracted the professional talent we need for our recruiting requirements," he says. "We are very pleased with the caliber of candidates in Ballantyne."

Recruiting the best minds was also a critical variable when Babcock & Wilcox, a leader in nuclear energy, relocated its headquarters to Ballantyne Corporate Park in 2010. "Ballantyne



The Morrison Y's annual 5K in Ballantyne Corporate Park attracted approximately 2,000 participants in 2012.

CREATING A COMMUNITY FEEL WAS AN ABSOLUTE MUST BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS WERE NEW TO THE AREA AND IN SEARCH OF CONNECTIONS.

is an ideal location for us from a business standpoint, and the continued development of so many amenities here is very important to us from the standpoint of attracting and retaining employees," says Regina W. Carter, director of marketing and communications.

The continuous boom in Ballantyne Corporate Park has also spawned entrepreneurs and small businesses needing to network. The result is the Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, which started in 2007 and today numbers 900 members. Each June the chapter holds its annual fund-raising event, the Ballantyne Business Bash, that attracts hundreds of people.

Giving Back to Build Community


The final factor bonding Ballantyne residents is their passion

for giving back. Although the population here is largely educated and affluent, the real common thread is a commitment to charity.

These good works appear in every aspect of people's lives — at work, at home and at play. For instance, Ballantyne parents whose children suffer serious illnesses often become hard-core activists in their hope of finding a cure. The Isabella Santos and Adam Faulk Tanksley foundations are but two of the innumerable charitable groups that local residents, neighbors, friends and companies unite to support.

BCC Rally, a breast cancer fundraiser hosted by Ballantyne Country Club, is another example. In 2004 a small group of Ballantyne women golfers held a tournament, raising \$1,000 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Only four years later BCC Rally had catapulted to the number one Rally for the Cure event in the nation — a position it still holds by raising \$180,000 in 2011.

The community's compassion is also evident to outsiders. "I know some people who came to look at houses when our pink bows were on the mailboxes," reports Dockstader, current president of the BCC board. "They told us they moved into this neighborhood because they thought this must be a great community if everyone was showing that kind of support for a charitable cause."

In the end, the bonds of those who work and reside in Ballantyne have woven themselves into the fabric of the area's being, making it not only a dynamic community open to newcomers and innovative thinking but a place with traditions and heart. 

Elaine Eschert

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Born and raised in Charlotte, Peter Grant works in Ballantyne as a community coordinator with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. He has been a police officer for 16 years.

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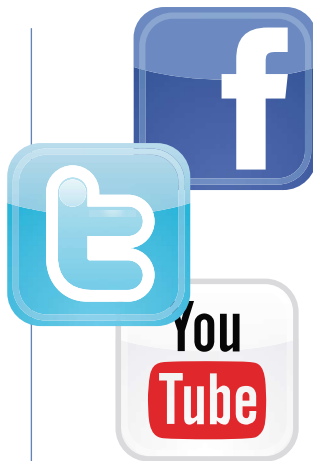
By Peter Grant

PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS SOUGHT OUT WAYS to be more efficient, communicate more effectively, be faster and reach others. With technological advancement over the years, we have succeeded in every aspect of that desire. A click of a button allows us to communicate with an undisclosed number of people. We do it daily without thinking if we should, or what the cost is to us as individuals.

The onset of the Internet, smartphones and social-media outlets has left few places in this world that one might consider private. You can look up nearly anyone you want online, search for people on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Myspace etc.), or even YouTube. With the exception of organizations that do gather the majority of our public information, most personal information is put out there by individuals themselves.

There was a time when our biggest concern about going on vacation was making sure the mail was stopped, the newspaper was canceled and someone mowed the lawn. Piles of newspapers at the end of the driveway, a full mailbox, an unkempt yard and a car that has not moved in days — those were the signs that let the roving burgler know you were out of town. It screamed, “Look at me, I’m an empty house with valuables inside.”

Now, people have access to your home phone number with a simple click of a button. They can (and will) call your house to see if you answer or an answering machine picks



With the exception of organizations that do gather the majority of our public information, most personal information is put out there by individuals themselves.

up, not to mention calling at different times of the day. They leave a package on your front door step, just to see if you pick it up. They will ride by to see what lights are on and if they change each day

But you do not realize that you have made it even easier for them. Nowadays, you do not even have to leave your home. Unknowingly, you will send crooks all the information they need, and not just from vacation, but also from your daily activities. People are so quick to constantly update where they are and what they are doing that they often don't think about who reads it.

There are safeguards that you can take such as security

settings, limiting your friend group and only texting/emailing one person. But exactly how safe is that 3G or 4G network you are using?

There is no need for the world to know where you are at every step of your life, especially when you are on vacation (until you return). Tell a family member and/or a neighbor to watch your house while you are gone in case of an emergency. It is unnecessary to post it to Facebook, Twitter, Myspace or YouTube. Giving strangers access to your location at any given time opens yourself up to becoming a victim of a crime. Keeping yourself safe is the priority. Leave the bragging for when you get back. 📱



The onset of the Internet, smartphones and social-media outlets has left few places in this world that one might consider private. You can look up nearly anyone you want online, search for people on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Myspace etc.), or even YouTube.

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Family FLAIR

Weekday Excursion to Elon Park a Big Hit

By Michael J. Solender Photos by Shane Baskin

MICHAEL AND CYNDI CROSBY have been on more dates together than many couples their age. That's because they started much earlier than most. Both are Charlotte natives and have been married 15 years, but they began their relationship when they were

in middle school at the former Smith Junior High (now Smith Language Academy), where they met in Spanish class.

"There was a spark between us for sure," said Cyndi, 38. "We continued to date on and off through high school but kind of



Meet the Crosby family (from left): Kaley, Cyndi, Riley and Michael.



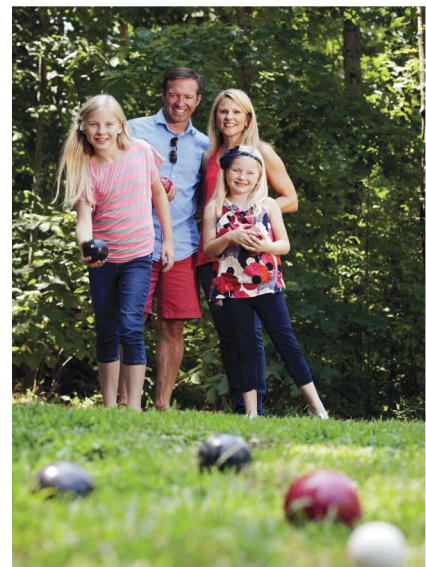
The family savors a picnic of ham sandwiches, veggie wraps, fruit and more.

drifted apart during college and lost track of each other.

"In 1996, a friend of mine told me she saw Michael working at the Chick-fil-A on Woodlawn, and I decided to go over there for a sandwich," she continues. "Michael came out from behind the counter

during the busy lunch rush, and we chatted for about 10 minutes. Five weeks and several dinner dates later, we were engaged."

Michael, 40, is now a Chick-fil-A franchisee with one store in Baxter Village in Fort Mill and another seasonal unit at Carowinds. The



Cyndi and Kaley (far left) capture the Date Night bocce ball contest.



Cyndi and Kaley enjoy time together.



Even Mom and Dad get a quiet moment together.



Cupcakes, too! Riley (left) and Kaley like the picnic's finishing touch.

couple recently moved from their Ballantyne home just south of the border to the new Indian Land, S.C. subdivision of Barber Rock.

Cyndi keeps busy working at the new house and looking after daughters Kaley, 11, and Riley, 7. The girls will attend Indian Land middle school and elementary schools, respectively, this fall.

The Girls: 'Perfect Age'

"Before we had our girls, dating was primarily about dining out," says Michael who characterizes himself and his wife as "foodies." "Our very first date after reconnecting was at the Blue Marlin on East Boulevard (the restaurant is now Cantina 1511). We're always exploring different types of cuisine and new restaurants."

These days, more often than not, an afternoon or evening out for the Crosbys includes their daughters. "The girls are just at the perfect age to go out and have fun with," says Cyndi, who indicated one mandatory element for a successful family date is planning an activity where everyone can be involved.

The Crosbys hit the proverbial home run with their recent all-family outing at Ballantyne's Elon Park. Not even a 10-minute drive from their home, the park off of Ardrey Kell Road is a frequent destination for the Crosbys. The park offers plenty of walking trails, two challenging disc golf courses, plenty of shady spots for a picnic and is pet friendly — welcome news for the family's black lab, Zoey, who joined in the fun on the weekday picnic and sporting excursion.

"It's a really fun and inexpensive way to spend time together as a family," notes Cyndi. "We can pack an easy



Michael and Riley win the disc golf competition. Cyndi and Kaley plot their revenge.

picnic, bring a Frisbee or two for the golf course and our bocce ball set, and we are ready for a great time." Cyndi estimates the cost for the entire outing at less than \$20.

Elon Park is a gem of an outdoor recreational facility. The park is open year-round dawn 'til dusk and is maintained by Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation. Tall pin oaks are interspersed among the cedar and pine trees. A gazebo stands watch over the small pond that is home to wood ducks, egrets and the occasional heron.

The park also offers plenty of shade. The Crosbys had their pick of spots to settle into on this lazy Friday afternoon, as they had the park almost exclusively to themselves

Friendly Foes

The first order of the day was a bit of friendly competition that saw Mom and Kaley take on Dad and Riley on the Mule

Trail short disc golf course. Leaving the longer and more difficult Angry Beaver course for another day, the Crosby family dual lasted until the final hole, where Dad and Riley edged out Mom and Kaley.

Bragging rights were short-lived, however, as the team of Mom and Kaley came storming back in the bocce ball match to slip by a strong effort by Dad and Riley. The family decided to leave things all square; "who rules" would be resolved another day.

Between the disc golf and bocce ball, the girls worked up an appetite and were ready to eat as Cyndi found the perfect spot to spread out. Ham and cheese sandwiches reenergized the youngsters, and Michael and Cyndi dug into veggie wraps with hummus, lettuce and tomato. Fresh strawberries, cupcakes and pink lemonade rounded out a feast that even Zoey approved of.

After giving Zoey a good run and watching the clouds form all sorts of fun shapes, the Crosbys were ready to put this date into the books. Cyndi had just one other item that needed attention.

She managed to surprise Michael with a discrete smooch as they were packing up. Date successful!

Kiley asked this writer to "fuzz over" the mushy part of the outing. Hearing that request, both Michael and Cyndi shared a good laugh.

After all, what would Date Night be without a goodnight kiss? 🍷

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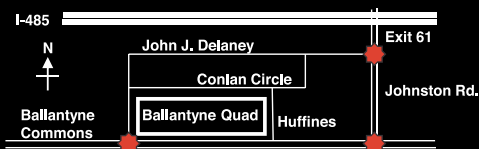
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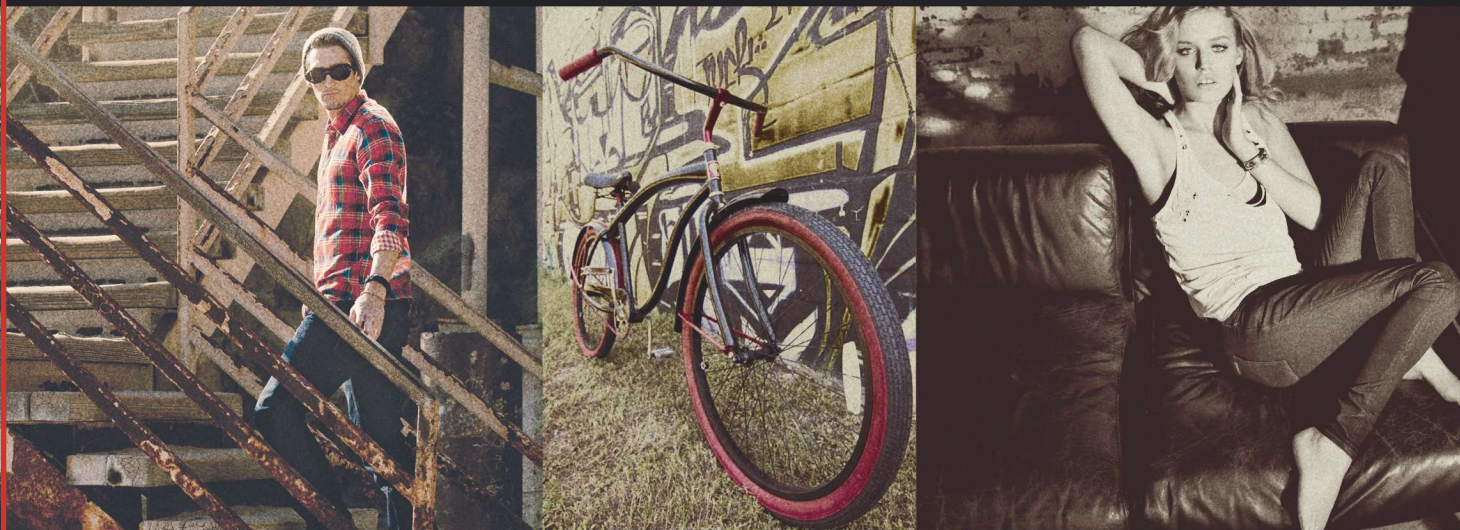


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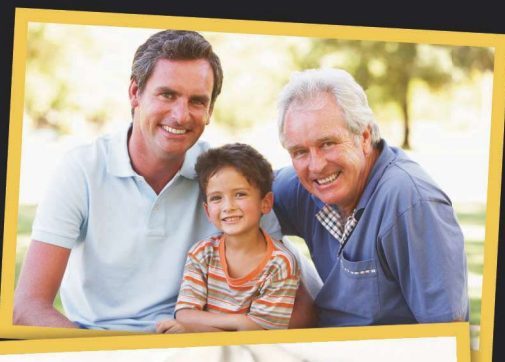
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COLLEGE RIVALRIES SPAWN FRIENDLY SPARRING PARTNERS

By Sam Boykin

Photos by
Shane Baskin

ESPOH

Over 32 years of marriage, Rick and Cill Kelly have kept their dualing university loyalties alive and well.



DIVIDE

THE KELLYS: ALABAMA VS. AUBURN

On game day, they go their separate ways. Rick Kelly settles into his man cave upstairs, while his wife, Cill, takes her position in the den. Other than the occasional verbal jab or gloating boast, they stay in their own corner, each glued to the TV. Between them is a deep and vast divide paved in burnt orange and crimson.

It's a divide that goes back much further than their 32-year marriage. It goes back to 1893, to be exact, when the University of Alabama and Auburn University first faced off on the gridiron. There's been bad blood between the two teams ever since. The intense rivalry comes to a head every November during the Iron Bowl, during which some 100,000 rabid fans show up to support their team and trash the other. (Alabama currently leads the series with an overall record of 41-34-1.)

In what can only be described as a mixed marriage, Cill cheers for Auburn, and Rick is a hardcore Bama fan, both pulling for their respective alma maters. Theirs is truly a house divided. They even have a license plate mounted over the door in the garage of their Marvin home that says so, with Auburn on one side and Alabama the other, and a jagged lightning bolt down the middle separating the two.

"That's just the way it is," says Cill of the longstanding spousal rivalry. "We're both big sports fans and both passionate about our teams."

Cill grudgingly admits she's losing the "kid" battle. "We have three kids, and one of the first things they all learned was the Alabama fight song," she says. "In our family, during each kid's 13th birthday dinner, they had to declare their loyalty to a team, and all three picked Alabama.

Not a single child of mine has elected to pull for Auburn. My husband has brainwashed them all."

"That's not true," counters Rick. "They all picked Alabama by their own volition. Besides, they look good in Bama red."

It wasn't supposed to be this way, says Cill. She and Rick met at Enterprise High School in Alabama, and they soon became sweethearts. As graduation neared, Cill says there was never any doubt she was going to go to Auburn, as most of her family was loyal to the university and its fighting Tigers.

Rick says many of his family members had also attended Auburn, including his father and sister, and he grew up going to Auburn games. But ultimately, on the advice of his high school counselor, Rick chose Alabama because of its strong business program.

The pair continued to date off and on during college. True love won out, and they married shortly after graduation. But that didn't stop them from locking horns, especially in the early days. "When he was younger, he didn't take losing lightly," says Cill.

"She's a better sport than I am," admits Rick. "When you grow up in Alabama, the rivalry is pretty intense, and there's not a lot of sportsmanship, and I used to be real competitive. But I've matured a bit. I can handle it better if we lose."

But their Auburn-Alabama rivalry is not the only one in the Kelly brood. Rick and Cill's oldest daughter went to UNC Chapel Hill, where she earned a law degree, and the other went to the University of South Carolina, where she was a cheerleader. And now their son, a senior at Marvin Ridge, is deciding where he will go to college.

"Talk about a house divided," said Cill with a laugh. "It's amazing we talk at all."

With football season upon us, the latest incarnation of "Family Feud" — also known as college sports rivalries — is alive and well.

These three Ballantyne-area couples demonstrate three truths: you can love your team, love each other, but yes, you will be tested. Trash talk, memorabilia stockpiles and cajoling the children to support your team are all fair game. Let the contests begin.



Above: The Kellys even take their respective alumni passions on the road. **Right:** At home, mom Cill is outnumbered by the Bama contingent (from left) son Ty, hubby Rick and daughter Katey.



When Greg and Ashley Brown first started dating, he joked about whether it was okay that he went to USC.

THE BROWNS: SOUTH CAROLINA VS. CLEMSON

While the Kellys' rivalry goes back decades, Greg and Ashley Brown's is relatively new, though no less heated. The newlyweds united recently in holy matrimony, but their home is divided into two separate camps; although, one is slowly encroaching on the other.

Greg graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1998, and is a hardcore Gamecocks fan. For years he kept his bachelor pad awash in garnet and black with USC memorabilia filling nearly every room.

But that has slowly started to change, and like many newly married men, Greg is learning resistance is futile.

"It was my house first, so there's more USC stuff around, especially in my man room. But Ashley has been trying to overtake everything with adding orange, and I'm not too happy about it."

Orange is the official color of Clemson University, Ashley's alma mater (class of 2001), and USC's biggest rival. "When I moved in, I brought all my Clemson memorabilia, and I've slowly infiltrated the man room," she says with obvious glee.

Similar to the Alabama-Auburn standoff, the Carolina-Clemson rivalry dates back to the late 1800s, and the two South Carolina universities have since 1909 clashed every November in the "Palmetto Bowl" showdown, which is the longest uninterrupted football series in the South.

While there's a long and storied past to the rivalry, Ashley and Greg both arrived at their respective schools with little connection to it. Greg's family is from

Pittsburgh, with no previous affiliation with USC, and Ashley's father went to Florida State, and she grew up in Atlanta.

After college, Ashley was happy to land a job but not in Columbia, USC's home turf. "That was pretty hard for me to do being a Clemson fan," she says. "I really didn't like USC."

Meanwhile, Greg had bought a home in Matthews, and was busy turning it into his own private USC kingdom. The two connected via a dating website. While they were compatible in many ways, they couldn't help but notice that they proudly proclaimed allegiance to opposing universities with a long and bitter rivalry.

"When we first started dating, Greg joked if it was okay that he went to USC. I told him I'd have to think about it."

She eventually relented, and the couple married in April, even incorporating both of their teams' colors into the ceremony. While they're still in the honeymoon phase, neither is about to give an inch when it comes to their school. Both have season tickets for their team, and on game day they go their separate ways and reconnect later that night, usually for some good-natured trash talking.

But it's not all fun and games when the schools meet. Last year the Palmetto Bowl was at USC, and Ashley accompanied Greg, dressed in her full Clemson regalia. "So I'm in the middle of Gamecock seating, and it was really hard to take. I was ready to leave. It was a horrible experience."

This year the game will be played at Clemson, but Greg refuses to go. "I just don't want to deal with the fans," he says. "We're both love our teams, but I think it's safe to say I dislike Clemson more than she dislikes USC."



Above: When Greg and Ashley married, she began to infiltrate their home with Clemson memorabilia.



Right: The couple even compete on behalf of their alma maters in the bean bag game of cornhole.



Meredith and Joey Bates graduated from rival schools in 2001 and married five years later. They now enjoy enlisting daughter Livi and son Charleston to support their universities.



THE BATESES: N.C. STATE VS. NORTH CAROLINA

Opposing factions in the Bates' Ballantyne household comprise one of North Carolina's most bitter and longest-standing rivalries. Joey Bates is an alumnus of N.C. State in Raleigh, while his wife, Meredith, graduated from UNC Chapel Hill. The famed Carolina-State rivalry is as much a part of the South as sweet tea and barbecue, as the Wolfpack and Tar Heels have squared off in countless historic showdowns.

Joey grew up disliking Carolina, a sentiment that only intensified when he started going to State. Meredith, meanwhile, like the rest of her family, was a hardcore Carolina fan, and there was never any question where she would go to college.


The two both graduated in 2001, and met shortly thereafter through mutual friends. Despite being on opposing sides of a heated rivalry, they hit it off, and married in 2006.

But they still go head-to-head on game days. When the couple first married, Meredith sewed together State and Carolina flags. The victor gets to display the flag in the front yard, with his or her team prominently displayed — along with bragging rights for the rest of the day.

The battle also wages on in the family's bonus room, where Carolina blue memorabilia dominates one side, and State red the other. "Thankfully all her stuff is behind the couch — or what I call the visitors' section — so when I'm watching the game I can't see it," Joey says.

And now both Joey and Meredith are strategically positioning themselves in the hopes of swaying their kids to pull for their team. Joey says he's already started on his 2-year-old son, regularly dressing him in State gear. But fate may have intervened with the couple's infant daughter, who was born in March.

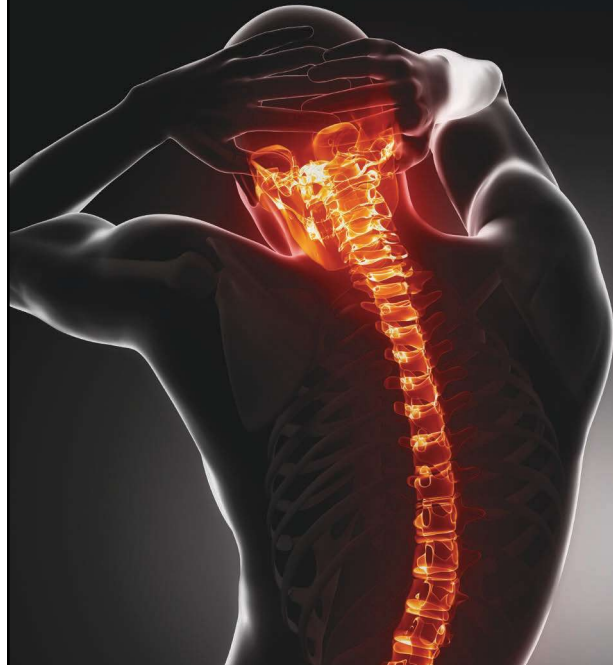
Meredith was in the hospital on the same day as a big State-Carolina basketball game. "That was probably the only time in our marriage when we actually watched a game together," says Joey.

The couple started a running joke that whatever team won the game would decide where their daughter would go to college. In the end Carolina pulled out a last-minute 69-67 victory. "It hurt, but I had to admit defeat on that one," Joey says. 



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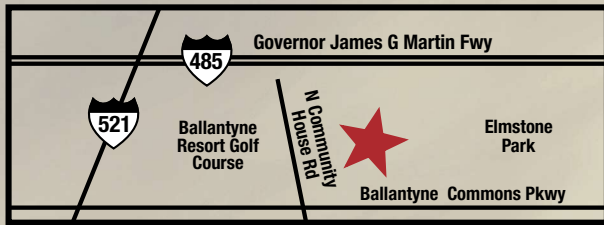
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The small plate selection of pulled pork spring rolls is spiced up with piquant green tomato chow-chow.

Fresh Approach

New South Kitchen & Bar Gives Favorite Dishes Enticing Twists

By Amy Rogers, Photos by Ray Sepesy

AN HEIRLOOM TOMATO ISN'T ALWAYS THE SHOWIEST one on the shelf, but the enjoyment to be found inside its humble skin can surprise and delight you. New South Kitchen & Bar is a lot like that tomato; its location at a suburban shopping center doesn't begin to hint at the pleasures within.

"The menu is strongly 'ingredient driven,'" explains Chris Edwards, who owns and operates the restaurant with his wife, Sue. "People want something new that feels familiar, so we play up what's local. We can add a twist to a dish — or add a new ingredient." He cites an example: "Now, people are willing to try pork belly, but it's been on the menu for over a year."

A chalkboard at the entrance to the comfortable dining room displays the names of the farms in Waxhaw, Weddington, Lincolnton and Mooresville that provide local ingredients. Another placard lists the independent breweries supplying beers and ales.

Rather than offering appetizers and entrees, the menu sorts items according to size.

"Small Plate" selections number about a dozen. Pulled pork spring rolls show off their spiciness when teamed with a piquant green tomato chow-chow. A romaine salad that's grilled is a nice variation. And there are two cheese offerings: a more traditional artisanal plate that arrives with nuts, fruit and crostini, and the cleverly modern "Redneck Cheeseboard" featuring house-made pimento cheese.

"Big Plates" showcase time-honored favorites such as shrimp and grits, fried chicken and grilled sirloin with a red-wine demi-glace. Some dishes proudly boast that "new twist" Chris described: A bacon-wrapped trout is accompanied by stewed butter beans and orange-fennel slaw. A bountiful salad of local greens, apples, country ham, and chicken takes on extra Southern attitude when crispy fried okra jumps into the mix.

Desserts are simple and straightforward. Since good blueberries are easy to get most of the year, fried blueberry pie with vanilla ice cream is a mainstay. So is chocolate mousse. But recently Sue experimented with a red velvet cake so mouth-watering that the family is urging her to put it on the menu.

She also develops the restaurant's wine list, along with a pleasing selection of creative cocktails that are served in the pleasantly lit bar. A "Dirty Blue Bird" or "Yahoo Martini," anyone?

Longtime Charlotteans may remember the Edwards family's earlier restaurant, Dakota's. Although it operated successfully for years, customers would typically wait for a special occasion to visit. So in the summer of 2007, the owners decided to close, re-tool, and re-open as the more relaxed New South Kitchen & Bar. "We took the old and made it new," says Chris.



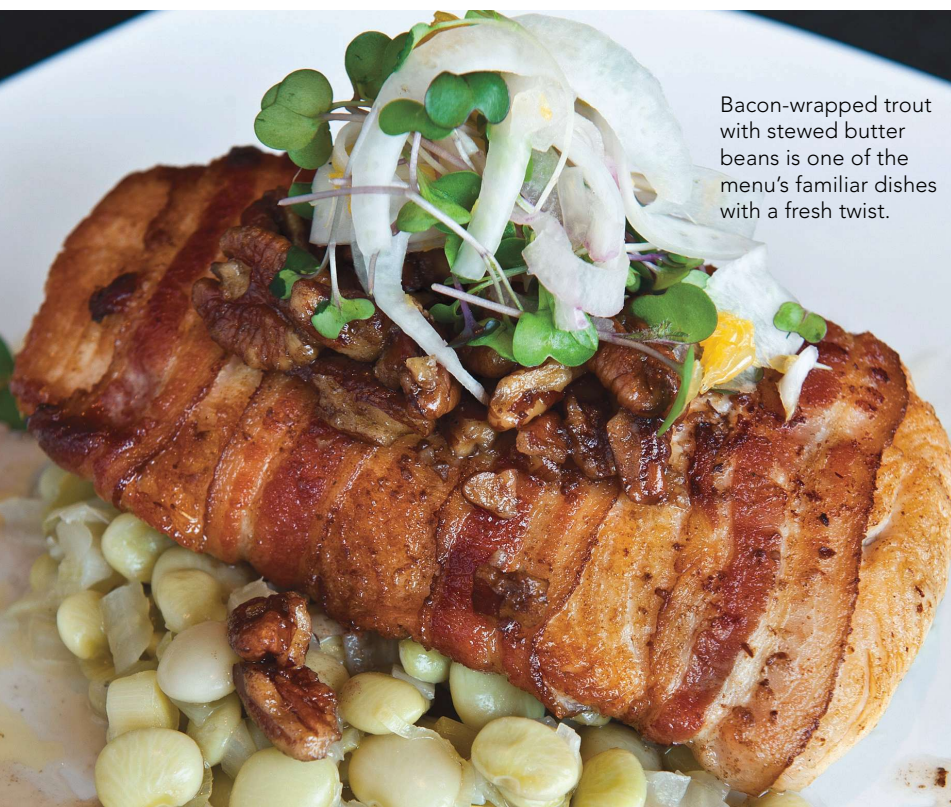
Fried blueberry pie with a dollop of vanilla ice-cream is a popular dessert.



New South Kitchen & Bar offers casual, contemporary dining in the Arboretum Shopping Center.



Not only does the menu evolve seasonally, it shifts daily to reflect the chefs' creative impulses — and diners' expectations.



Bacon-wrapped trout with stewed butter beans is one of the menu's familiar dishes with a fresh twist.



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Change continues to be a good thing. Not only does the menu evolve seasonally according to the availability of fresh ingredients, it shifts daily to reflect the chefs' creative impulses — and diners' expectations. "With the Food Network and cooking segments on TV news shows, consumers have become much more informed," Chris says.

For New South Kitchen's willingness to offer gluten-free versions of many items, it has earned "featured restaurant"

status from Triumph Dining, which publishes annual listings of approved eateries.

Even so, there's nothing more satisfying than staying true to what you do best, especially as a family. Eldest daughter Kate, 22, helps out as a server when she's home from college. Twins Taylor and Kelsey, 18, both work as hosts. Their father sums up what makes it all succeed so deliciously: "Buy good ingredients, have good preparation — and get out of the way." 



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Mark and Melissa Belcher remade their outdoor space mainly for their children, but they take pleasure in it as well.

Outdoor EXUBERANCE

Alfresco Living is Year-Round Proposition for these Families

By Michael J. Solender



Top: Jim and Margaret Foster enjoy the tranquility of al fresco dining. **Left and Middle:** Jim loves to cook in the 800-degree, wood-burning pizza oven, as well as on the Big Green Egg grill. **Right:** Ashley Robinson (from left), Katie Foster and Molly Foster like hanging out at the pool.

EXTENDING LIVING SPACE INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS is a popular trend that continues to capture the imagination of homeowners. Two Ballantyne-area families, the Fosters and the Belchers, graciously shared with the magazine their visions for alfresco living and how they've brought them to life.

Visitors to Jim and Margaret Foster's Carmel Estates East home are welcomed by nature's tranquility from the moment they walk into the front door of the two-story Georgian Revival style home. The light from the Fosters' screen porch cascades into the heart of their home, spilling out from the family room's bank of east-facing windows.

The impeccably designed and outfitted outdoor living space sounds a clear call for the entire family, especially the Fosters' three teenage girls who take full advantage of the porch and the adjacent open-air living area, complete with a custom pool, Jacuzzi, kitchen, dining area and more.

When you experience the peacefulness

of the private backyard, it is difficult to imagine the space was once a severely sloping hill requiring nearly 40 truckloads of dirt removal before making the property level.

The Fosters, owners of Selwyn Avenue Pub, are longtime Charlotte residents. They bought the home 17 years ago just before their oldest daughter was born. Originally five bedrooms with three and one half baths, the home didn't fully accommodate the Fosters' outdoor lifestyle and desire for frequent casual entertaining.

Central Entertainment Spot

"We came to the conclusion a few years back when our girls started to get older that we wanted each to have her own room and bath," Jim says. "Additionally we wanted to provide a central place for entertaining and dining that was welcoming for their friends and could easily accommodate a large number of people. As we planned our remodel, outdoor living space played a very large role and was important in our plans."

The remodel took seven months after almost a year of planning, and was completed in 2011.

Ultimately the Fosters added 2,600 square feet to their home and created a backyard oasis that only a downpour can dampen.

Light beige travertine with gold veins provides solid decking and a cool-to-the-touch cushion for bare feet. The renovated backyard showcases a large saltwater pool where almost one third of the area nearby is a tanning deck. The rectangular pool is crowned with a step-up level, fieldstone-ringed Jacuzzi, where a spillway flows endlessly into the main pool.

Outside dining was clearly a priority for the Fosters, starting with ample granite counter space. The area is even wired for cable should they take in a ballgame, but there may be no need to divert attention from the real action, which are the fire-breathing cooking options available to Jim, resident keeper of the flame.

First up is the extra large Big Green Egg, a to-die-for cooking accessory for many a grill. Jim says this baby will

easily smoke a 25-pound turkey. One look inside after he pops the lid reveals almost enough space for a small convertible.

800-Degree Pizza Oven

Adjacent to the Big Green Egg is an extra large nine-burner gas grill that Jim calls his tool of choice for quick meals like steaks and burgers. Right below is built-in refrigeration. Slide down the countertop a step and there is the same Chicago pizza oven that Chef Mario Batali uses. Jim can fire up some mean pies in minutes in this wood-burning oven where 800 degrees is the norm.

Storage drawers are built under the countertops, and a trash drawer is stowed away out of critter reach.

Frontgate patio furniture surrounds the back with a chat table, multiple chaises, umbrellas and loungers.

Pool management is a breeze for



Bottom Left: The Belchers enjoy having an additional family room outside.

Top, Right Top: Melissa and Mark cool off in the pool and spa.

Right Middle, Right Bottom: Sipping libations by the pool and fireplace is a great way to relax.



Margaret with a smart remote specific to the pool (see page 72). With a touch, she can stop the spillway and start the fountains, control the water temperature and even program the pool lighting to offer a seemingly endless array of colors or themes. Pull out the smartphone, punch in a few commands on a special app and silent outdoor speakers snap to life playing music from the kids' "Spotify" account.

But nearby, the screen porch — a year-round gathering place with a large dining table, big-screen TV, granite countertops, refrigerator and wet bar — almost didn't happen.

"I was reluctant to break up the sight lines from inside the house outside," says Margaret. "When our contractor at Tri-Square Construction showed me how fine and unobtrusive the screen was, and lobbied for a screen porch, I finally relented and am really glad I did." Infrared heaters in the ceiling keep the Fosters toasty even on the coolest winter evenings.

"We couldn't be happier with how things turned out," says Jim, "We truly have the perfect layout for our way of living."

Seeking a Family Room

For Mark and Melissa Belcher, engineering a remake of their outdoor living space at their

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COOL GADGET: THE POOL REMOTE

Today's backyard pools come with many sophisticated high-tech options, from programmable light shows and fountain displays to imbedded self-cleaning systems and temperature and pump controls. One way to stay on top of poolside management is through the pool remote control.

Remotes range from temperature, lighting, spa and circuit controls to comprehensive management that involves a phone and audio/video system interface, saltwater chlorination regulation, self-cleaning controls and more. Most remotes are waterproof, and some even float.

Intellitouch Systems by Pentair offers touch-screen navigation, remote control monitoring of the pool and email alerts when things are amiss. These systems don't come cheap, however, as the Intellitouch systems range from \$499 to well over \$2,000.



The Belchers' son Mason and daughter Grace give the pool a good workout, while Mom and Dad chill out.

Highgrove home in Ballantyne was all about adding an additional family room. He is a stay-at-home dad, and she's an executive with Bank of America. They wanted a magnet to keep their two children close to home enjoying outdoor activities, whether entertaining friends or just relaxing themselves.

"We built our home in 2005/2006," says Mark. "We did have a large outdoor fireplace built at the time; though, the rest of the back was modestly landscaped with five large oak trees and a wood deck."

The space the Belchers enjoy today was designed and built over four and a half months in 2008 in a project managed by Metro GreenScape. It offers a dramatic combination of hardscape and landscape elements alongside a custom pool with fountain features that provide pleasant falling water sounds suggestive of grand European gardens.

Waterslide Twists and Turns

The children, daughter Grace, 9, and

son Mason, 15, take full advantage of a 24-foot glass mosaic, tile-lined waterslide that twists alongside the retaining wall, sloping gently as it delivers its precious cargo softly into the pool.

Mark smiles broadly when discussing this particular feature. "We needed to do something from a design standpoint to maintain support for the retaining wall, the slide was just the right element and something the kids and their friends simply love," he recalls.

The free-form pool is spacious and has two large fountain features where water cascades in a two-foot drop. A round Jacuzzi with a spillway fountain flows into the pool. The spa is surrounded by Tennessee fieldstone, the same accent stone found in the fireplace and fountain features. Natural brick pavers make up the decking, and handsome, slate-like blue stone rims it, adding a casual elegance to the design.

Whimsy touches the landscape as Mark's flea-market find, a giant rooster, acts as an

unofficial lifeguard, overlooking the pool from a shady spot under tall trees toward the back of the lot.

"We knew most of the features we wanted to have in our outdoor living space," says Melissa, who noted that some ideas came from the popular HGTV show, "Amazing Backyards." In addition to the pool, an outdoor-shaded, back-porch area was a priority, she says.

Cozy Space, S'mores

The Belchers have achieved success with that as the former open and unshaded deck was transformed into a cozy outdoor family room with comfy indoor/outdoor couches, chairs and a big-screen TV that plays host for many fall movie nights for the family. A high-tech fan spins unobtrusively from the tongue-in-groove, stained pine ceiling.

Nearby, the large outdoor fireplace is perfect for ghost stories or just reliving the day's activities. There are always plenty of fixings for s'mores on hand; it is a rare evening fire that doesn't feature the sweet and chocolaty treats.

"Perhaps the biggest surprise for me," says Melissa, "is how much time we actually spend out here. Even during the hottest days in the summer, the porch is comfortable, and we can use the pool often right through December." ☐



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Shakespeare in Love

And you thought playing dress-up in grandma's closet was fun? Try mixing grandma's garb with a Shakespearean sonnet. That takes playing dress-up to a whole new level. Elements of lace, real furs, double-layered coats (many resembling tapestries), muted pastels and florals — all mixed together — create ladylike loveliness. Consider incorporating antique accessories along with deep reds into your look. Oxblood red is said to be one of this season's swankiest colors. Polish: Essie in "Wrapped In Rubies."



Fall Fun

Check out these Cheeky Trends for Autumn

By Missy, pinkpistachio.com



Bigger is Better

It's a sweater. No, it's a coat. Either way, as this trend dictates, bigger is definitely better. Oversized outerwear complements oversized shirts and sweaters in earthy hues with subtle vibes of color. Now if you'll excuse me, which way is west? These boots are asking to march along the Oregon Trail.

Smarty Pants

By now, we're all accustomed to color blocking and mixing patterns. Fall gives permission to go ahead and mix the two. Try it with a preppy collegiate look. This season you'll see contrasting or embellished removable oxford collars (or in this case a menswear bowtie), polka dots to animal prints, black and white combos and rich jewel tones (particularly royal blue). Who says your inner "smarty pants" can't also be fashionably forward?





Shimmer and Shine

Throw close-minded caution to the wind. If it's shiny, metallic or leather of any kind, you're bound to be on point. Get ready to see glitter and glam on flashy accessories as well as clothing. Mix leather on leather (even if it's lacquered), either monochromatic or as a pop of bright bold orange. Both say, "I'm kinda tough with a side of sassafras." If you're not one for applying full-on glitz to your garments, try embellished makeup as a subtle nod to the trend. Eye Shadow: Revlon Diamond Lust in "Night Sky."



WANT THESE LOOKS?

from SouthPark for providing the clothing, shoes and accessories featured. Pieces pictured not from Nordstrom include antique carpet bag, pearl necklaces and pleather leggings. For specific clothing details, please visit www.pinkpistachio.com.

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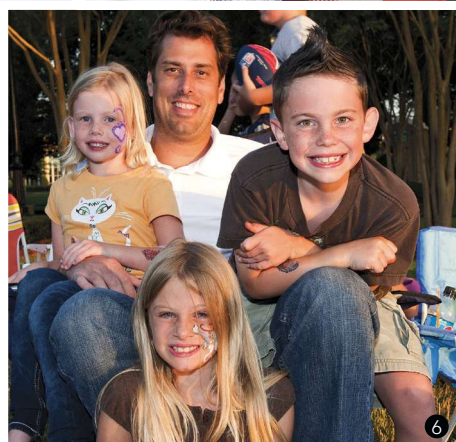
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CHURCH HOSTS MOVIES IN THE PARK

Families and friends gathered together on June 20 to kick off Movies in the Park, held at Brixham Tent in Ballantyne Corporate Park. Close to 500 guests enjoyed free popcorn, bottled water and the featured movie, "The Adventures of Tintin."

July's guests enjoyed the showing of "Mr. Popper's Penguins," and August featured "Hugo," to close out the summer series. Next Level Church sponsored the events.

Photos by Ray Sepesy



1. LaDonna and Sarah Baldwin

2. Lily, Ian, Rachael and Robby Stanley

3. Susan McKeighon, Jenn Kendrick, Zoe Kendrick, Allison Kendrick, Ella Rose Norris, Lauren Siniard


4. Jayesh and Ojas Nilak

5. Mackenzie, Kristin, Madeleine and Chris Steele

6. Cora, Todd, Peyton and Harrison Gummel

7. Taylor, Chris, Nicole and Teaban Amrhein

8. Onyx, Ortega, Kandyce and Khloe Thomas



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BUSINESS BASH ATTRACTS HUNDREDS

The Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce held its fifth annual Ballantyne Business Bash on June 7. The event allowed dozens of businesses to network in a casual, outdoor lunch setting.

Hundreds of attendees mingled in the Brixham Tent in the Ballantyne Corporate Park, enjoying music, food and raffles.

Photos by Ray Sepesy



1. Amanda Degifico, Amanda Kramer, Kim Katopodis
2. Crystal Starks, Chick-fil-A Kid Cow, Andrew Greer
3. Dennis Chriss, Michael Shearer, Emily Gaudy
4. Sonya Carter, Yasmine Ortiz
5. Susan Webb, Maggie Pardon
6. Alana Manns, Sophia Gaither, Kim Scott, Jennifer Fulton
7. Kathy Dunlap, Stephanie Witherspoon, Stacy Milbourne
8. Nikki Zimmerman, Steve Zimmerman, Siobhan Nestor
9. Katie Estes, Michelle Russell
10. Danielle Albetta, Ed Doughty, Ksenia Tyutrina, Connor Brown

PROS GET IN SWING FOR HOOPTEE

Professional athletes grabbed their clubs and swung for charity on July 12 at the 10th Annual HoopTee Celebrity Golf Classic, held at The Golf Club at Ballantyne.

HoopTee Charities Inc., founded by Charlotte Bobcats President Fred Whitfield, is a nonprofit that provides underprivileged youth of the Carolinas with activities and opportunities for success.

Photos by Ray Sepesy

1. Matt Carroll, Don Williams, Bruce Bowen
2. Dell Curry, Tim Black
3. Brian Mitchell, Mike Phillips, Fred Whitfield, Jonathan Stewart, Stephen Curry
4. Howard Schiffman, Curtis Polk, Dwight Bush
5. Anthony White, Brooks Robinson, Nick Valentini, Larry Blythe
6. Ruvell Martin, Mike Hill
7. Steven Myers, Reggie Gaither, Ray Jones
8. Michael Gabelli, Dennis Lauderback
9. Clifton Coble, Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Rick Cammer, Rett Turner, Brian Schleicher
10. Robert Weinerth, Ray Vrsack



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CIGAR DAVE SHOW VISITS BALLANTYNE

The Cigar Dave Show held a Charlotte Live Broadcast Invasion on June 23. The event included door prizes, specials on food, drinks and (of course) cigars, as well as a live radio broadcast with Cigar Dave.

Attendees gathered on the driving range at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge for the event. While Cigar Dave broadcasted for two hours, guests ate, drank and mingled while sampling a Romeo by Romeo y Julieta cigar.

Photos by Ray Sepesy

1. Matt Anderson, Rob Norris, Brad Winstead
2. Erik Stukbauer, Daniel Lowery, Hunter Beck, Gunnar Goodway, Kyle Scruggs
3. Mike Latimer, Andy McManus, Keith Colson
4. Jason Gray, Jen Deming, James Jones
5. Mike Blansett, Thom Masters, Dave Victor
6. Doug Duncan, Frank Clark
7. Chris Brooks, Shelley Donalies
8. Bryce Nelson, Lance Nelson, Scott Nedderman, Andy Dulan, Dave McGriff



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CAN YOU SAY 'SAXAPAHAW'?
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BUBBLES WITH BUCOLIC CHIC

By Nan Bauroth



IT'S THE HOTTEST LITTLE TOWN YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF — Saxapahaw — pronounced with a lingering southern drawl, as in “Sax-a-puh-HAW.” If you're lucky, you might stumble across it while you're moseying along a country road near Chapel Hill, thinking you missed something when you blinked, and turning back to see what, precisely, all the fuss is about on the other side of the river.

That much ado about something turns out to be worth a visit. This once sleepy mill town on the banks of the Haw River in Alamance County is suddenly on the national map.

The New York Times and Washington Post have taken notice of Saxapahaw's rural reincarnation, championing it as a model for transforming small American towns on the brink of extinction. Saxapahaw is a 21st century village that leverages historical preservation, local food sources, the beauty of nature and architectural sustainability all in one charming, highly livable package.

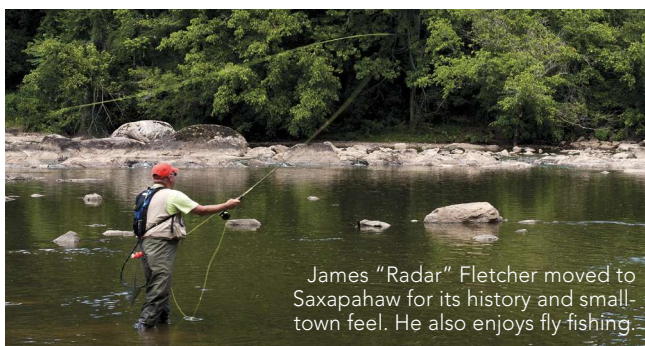
The heart and soul of this picturesque hamlet is the Saxapahaw Rivermill, a splendidly restored cotton mill and dye house perched beside the tumbling waters of the Haw River. Thanks to the determination of the Jordans, a local family whose forebears played an integral role in the textile mill's turbulent modern history, this antebellum brick factory built by slaves in 1848 is finding new life as ultra-green living spaces for an environmentally conscious generation.

The decision to revitalize the mill in a town that has suffered several near-death experiences was the dream of John Jordan Sr. Around the time that his family sold the mill to Dixie Yarns



The Saxapahaw Art Gallery displays work from many artists, including Jean Serasani, pictured with one of her pieces. She moved to the area from Miami.

Photo by Steve Exum



James “Radar” Fletcher moved to Saxapahaw for its history and small-town feel. He also enjoys fly fishing.



The Saxapahaw General Store offers local produce.



Paul and Shelley Gregory bring veggies to the town's farmers market.



The Saxapahaw Rivermill is a restored cotton mill and dye house along the Haw River.





Brothers Mac Jordan (far right) and Carter Jordan pose with their father John Jordan (holding a portrait of his father U.S. Sen. B. Everett Jordan) and John's brother, Ben Jordan.

Saxapahaw is a
21st century
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leverages historical
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beauty of nature
and architectural
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one charming,
highly livable
package.



The Hall River Ballroom is a three-story, 10,000-square-foot event venue in the former mill's dye house.

Photo by Steve Exum



Guitarist Johnny Waken of Jimmy Magoo and The Good Life plays in Saxapahaw with The Paperhand Puppet Band.

Photo by Steve Exum



Enjoying the scenery of the Haw River is local pastime.

in 1977, he bought the adjacent property, including 600 acres and 66 mill houses, envisioning his hometown as a bedroom community for people working in Chapel Hill or Carrboro.

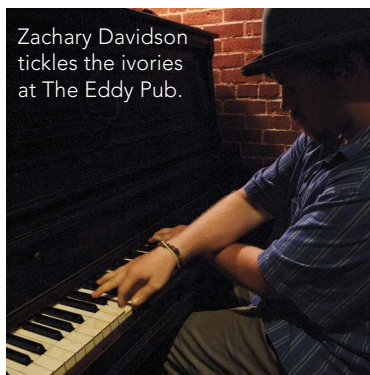
"Some people thought I was crazy, but to me Saxapahaw was the pearl of great price," Jordan observes, citing the Biblical parable about selling all one has to purchase something of great value.

Reinventing Historic Buildings

Then, in 1994 after a tornado tore the roof off the mill, Jordan seized the opportunity to buy the mill back, and with the expertise of his son, Mac, an architect, started reinventing the historical buildings. Last summer, Jordan Properties' solar and geothermally powered

“One Sunday night we’ll have 40 old-time pickers playing ‘I’ll Fly Away,’ and the next night some indie rock star like Gillian Welch, with 700 people squashed in here.”

— Heather LaGarde



Zachary Davidson tickles the ivories at The Eddy Pub.

mill. Today, up to 2,000 people attend each week, with 400 bands competing for 17 slots.

The LeGardes’ next move was more ambitious: Reimagining the upper mill’s ugly dye house into the Haw River Ballroom, a three-story, 10,000-square-foot music and event venue. They repurposed dye vats into uplighting and rebuilt two mezzanines to create a perfect sight line to the stage. “One Sunday night we’ll have 40 old-time pickers playing ‘I’ll Fly Away,’ and the next night some indie rock star like Gillian Welch, with 700 people squashed in here,” Heather says with amusement.

High Locavore Style

In 2008 the LeGardes persuaded Jeff Barney and Cameron Ratliffe to take over the Saxapahaw General Store, which may qualify as the only five-star convenience store where you can dine in high locavore style, seated amid bait worms with a view of gas pumps. “The store remains a marvel of nature, in and of itself,” admits Barney, chef of this foodie mecca in the middle of nowhere. “I’m astonished at the business we do and the distance people come for a dining

lofts overlooking the river began selling for \$300,000 to \$600,000.

The prices reflect the artsy, eco-oriented crowd attracted to Saxapahaw for its bucolic chic. What gives Saxapahaw its true originality, however, is the eclectic culture where farmers in overalls rub elbows with artists at community farm suppers.

“I love watching people’s jaw drop when they arrive here,” says Heather LeGarde, who moved in 2004 from Manhattan with husband Tom, a former UNC Chapel Hill and NBA basketball player, and settled on an old dairy farm close by. “The juxtaposition is a huge draw for those who want more space and beauty, but not the high end urban stuff.”

Inspired by the Jordans’ plea to help build the community, the couple started a free summer farmers market and music series on Saturdays where people could gather by the river on a grassy slope beside the upper



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A boy dons a giant mask made by the Paperhand Puppet Intervention in Saxapahaw.

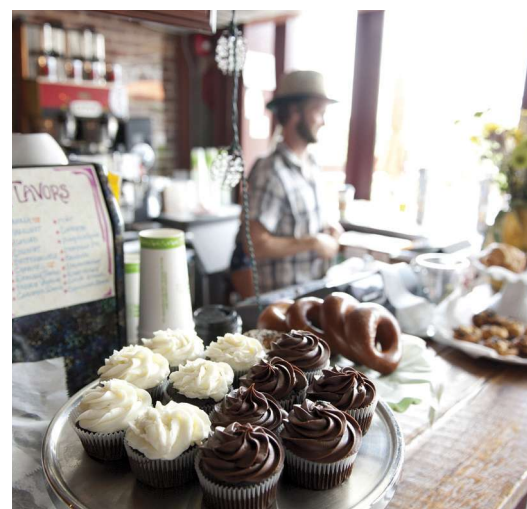


Left: The Saxapahaw General Store offers high locavore cuisine and specialty foods.

Below: The store's goat burger with roasted tomatoes, aioli and manchego cheese is a popular choice.



Photo by Steve Exum



Left: Paddling on the Haw River can be a relaxing activity. **Above:** Cup 22 is an Internet cafe with free Wi-Fi and ping pong tables for children.

experience here on a rhythmic basis.”

Barney and Ratliffe emphasize seasonal locally grown, organic food on breakfast, lunch and dinner menus. Their goat burger is a favorite, as are dinner entrees like Veal T-bone in Fig Reduction with Smoky Grits and Collards, or Pan Seared Scallops over Creamy Applewood Bacon Succotash with Root Vegetables. Desserts range from rustic fruit tarts, or galettes, to homemade Moon Pies and Almond Joys. Bottles of local wine and microbrews to complement the cuisine are available at convenience-store prices.

The Saxapahaw General Store has been so successful that its owners have paired with Doug Williams and Claire Haslam to open The Eddy Pub on the top floor of the upper mill. The decor retains the original brick walls and wooden beams, with furnishings fashioned of factory artifacts, such as an antique spring-loaded yarn storage bin that doubles as a seating area. The packed pub offers waited table service inside and on the deck — an ideal spot at sunset — with internationally influenced dishes like Shepherd's Pie with a Moroccan influence.


The gentrification of Saxapahaw has encouraged other businesses to open in the upper mill, including the Saxapahaw Artists Gallery, a contemporary exhibit space

What gives
Saxapahaw its true
originality is the
eclectic culture
where farmers in
overalls rub elbows
with artists at
community
farm suppers.

spotlighting 60 regional artists, and Cup 22, an Internet café with free Wi-Fi, caffeine fixes, smoothies and ping pong tables for children.

Also new is the Flying Beagle Bookshop, which sells quality secondhand books of many genres in a cozy, reading-room setting. Co-owner Eric Barker notes they carry books of local historical interest, such as "The Bridge," a comic novel by Doug Marlette, creator of the Kudzu comic strip, exploring his millworker roots. Visitors can also peek at the studio of Paperhand Puppet Intervention, which designs and creates giant puppets, masks and stage sets for pageants and parades that the company stages.

This autumn Saxapahaw will hold its Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 20 at the new River Amphitheater, with three entertainment stages running day into night, and fall produce for sale. It's not uncommon for former mill workers to show up on these special days and marvel at the transformation of the buildings where they once labored.

For John Jordan Sr., who was present before and after the transformation, that's a worthy epitaph. "There's an old saying here that you should leave the woodpile higher than when you found it. My one and only goal has been to leave this earth a better place." 

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Take I-485 East to I-85 North toward Greensboro. Continue on I-85 and take Exit 147 (N.C. 87). Turn right on N.C. 87 toward Pittsboro and follow the road 10.4 miles. Turn left on Church Road, which leads you across the Haw River into Saxapahaw.

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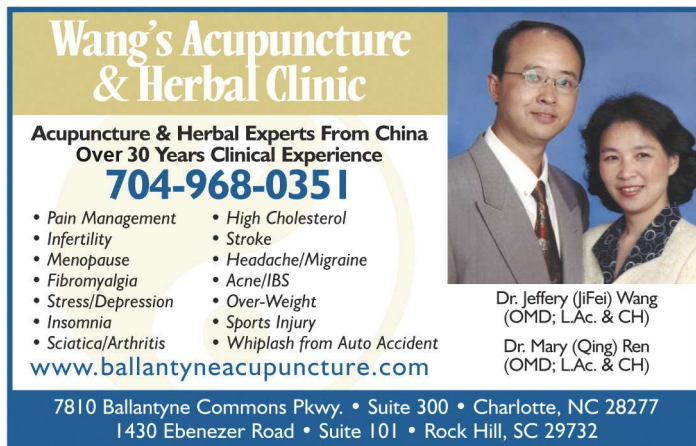

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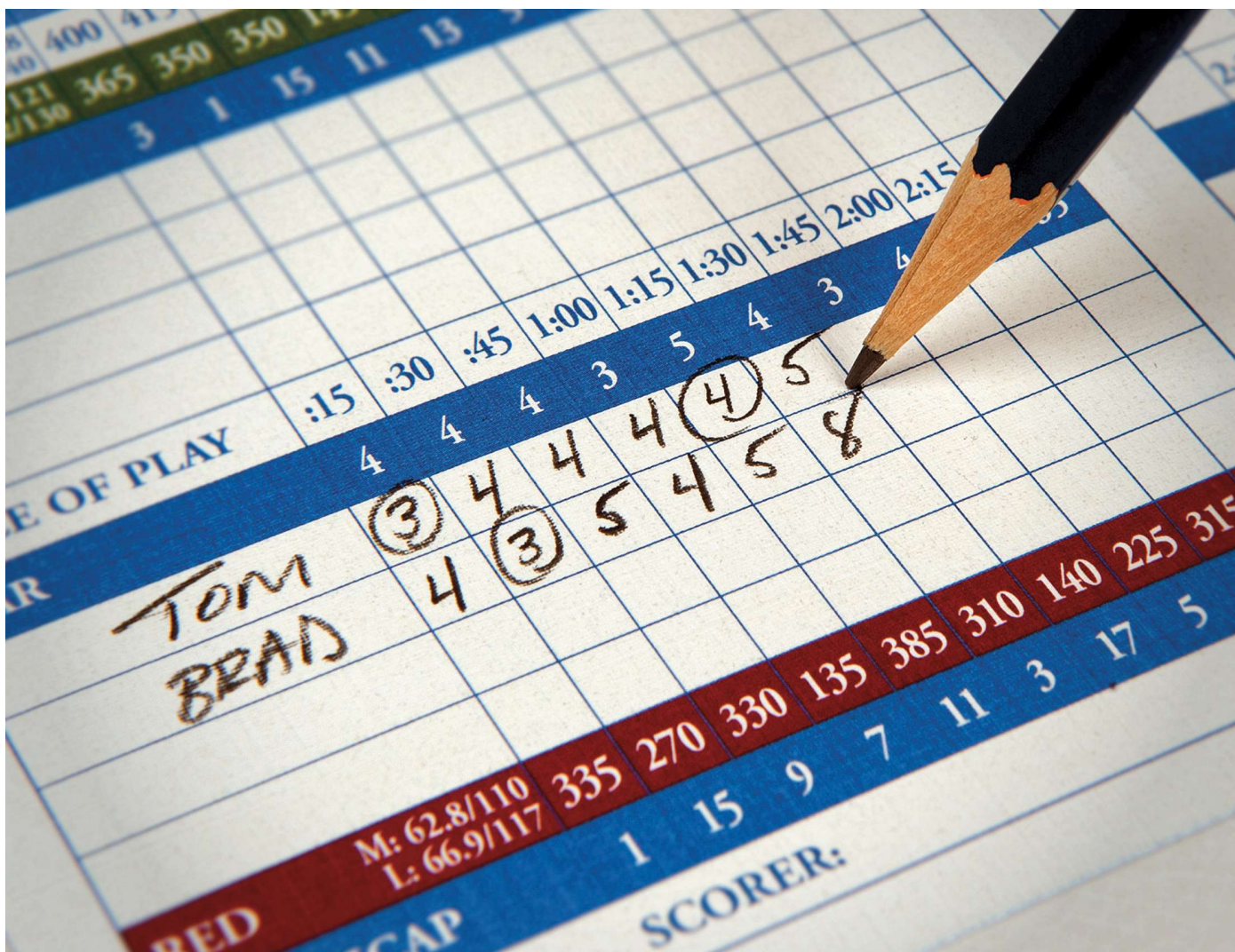
Dr. Mary (Qing) Ren
(OMD; L.A.C. & CH)

Bye-Bye **Blow-up** Holes

Lower Your Score Without Changing Your Swing

By Tom Cannarozzo, PGA Class A Teaching Professional, Dana Rader Golf School

Photos by Ray Sepesy



"Brad" experiences a blow-up hole when he needs eight strokes to complete a par-four hole.

ELIMINATING THE "BIG NUMBERS" on your scorecard is vital to reducing your handicap and shooting lower scores more consistently. I have three simple solutions that will take care of those blow-up holes without rebuilding your golf swing.

Golf is a game of misses. Plan for them.

Stop playing for the career shot. Just because you hit a six iron 170 yards during your last

practice session does not mean that is how far you will hit it every time. Learn how far your average shot is and play for that distance. Most golfers never leave room for error — which is why they are often in an impossible predicament, scrambling for a bogey or worse.

Improve the quality of your misses.

If golf is a game of misses, then the extent



Tom Cannarozzo

and direction of the miss is important. The best players not only plan for misses, but they also work on their game and practice to improve the extent and predictability of their miss hits.

Take an on-course lesson to help identify your biggest weaknesses and then work to improve your ball control. The best instruction occurs on the course, where the game is played.

Develop your course-management skills.

Create a set of standards to help with decision-making and management of the course. Here are two rules that will help you eliminate at least two or three shots from your next round.

Rule #1


If you aren't sure you can execute the shot 60 percent of the time, don't try it.

Most golfers identify an aggressive target and take a conservative swing. Pick a conservative target and take an aggressive swing.

Rule #2

Only take one risk per hole.

If you take a risk off the tee and find your ball in the rough, pitch the ball back into play. Never compound the problem by making bad decisions.

If you're interested in improving your ball control and lowering your scores without rebuilding your golf swing, feel free to call me at 704-542-7635 to schedule an on-course playing lesson today. 

The yellow and red arcs represent two choices a golfer has on this shot.

The red trajectory is the aggressive selection, which can often lead to a high-stroke score. The distance is 172 yards to the flag, and the shot has to clear two hazards, water and a bunker.

The yellow trajectory is the more conservative option. It is 160 yards to the target, the middle of the green, and extends only over the water hazard. Choosing an iron that ensures the golfer can cover 160 yards is also recommended.

SEE THIS TIP IN ACTION.

Click the icon to watch.



Check out the video version of this tip at www.ballantynemagazine.com and www.danarader.com.



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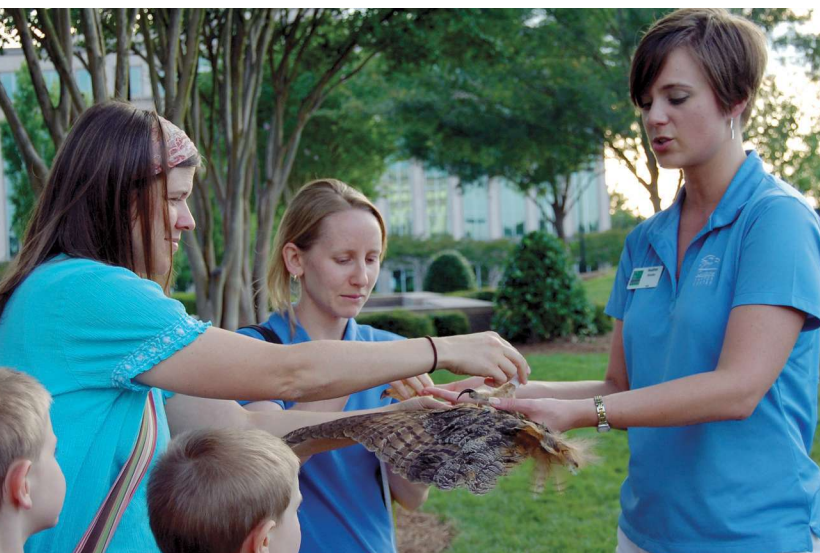


'Who, Who, Who' is Lil' Urho?

Great Horned Owl Rescued, Returned to Ballantyne

By Jodi Helmer

WHEN THE CAROLINA RAPTOR CENTER took in the great horned owl on March 8, it weighed just 423 grams. Still a ball of white fluff, the nestling was too small to fly or hunt and his chances of survival in the wild were slim.



Heather Moeller (right), philanthropy manager at the Carolina Raptor Center, teaches people about the young owl just prior to its release.

"It should have been in a nest, underneath its mom," explains Dave Scott, a veterinarian at the Carolina Raptor Center, one of the few nonprofit organizations in the nation that rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned birds of prey. The center is located in northern Mecklenburg County not far from Latta Plantation.

Ryan Newell, the landscape superintendent for Bissell Land Services, found the raptor near Hawkins Pond in the Ballantyne Corporate Park. After he notified the center of the distressed bird, a volunteer rescued the week-old great horned owl and transported him to the Huntersville facility, where the owl was placed in an incubator in the treatment center.

Rehabilitate, Release

In 2011, the center took in 835 raptors. As with other birds of prey that come to the facility, the staff launched efforts to rehabilitate the orphaned great horned owl with a goal of releasing it when it was old enough. To increase the odds of a successful release, veterinarians mimicked its natural habitat and taught it important survival skills.

"We fed him pieces of rats and mice using tweezers and a puppet made of a deceased owl," Scott explains. "Imprinting is so important at that age; the owl needed to be taught what it should eat, how it should look and even how its future mate should look."

After a week in the incubator, the great horned owl was moved to

a flight cage where it could stretch its wings. Under the close watch of veterinarians, its skills were assessed. One thing the caregivers watched for was silence in flight, which is essential for an owl to sneak up on its supper. An exercise known as "mouse school" was the final test.

Before for the great horned owl could be released, it had to prove it could hunt. It was released in a dark building with several live mice. At the end of the test, all of the mice were gone and the owl tipped the scales at 1,330 grams.

After 90 days at the center (and a cost of \$1,040 for care), the great horned owl was ready to be returned to the wild. It was released on June 7 during a ceremony at Ballantyne Corporate Park.

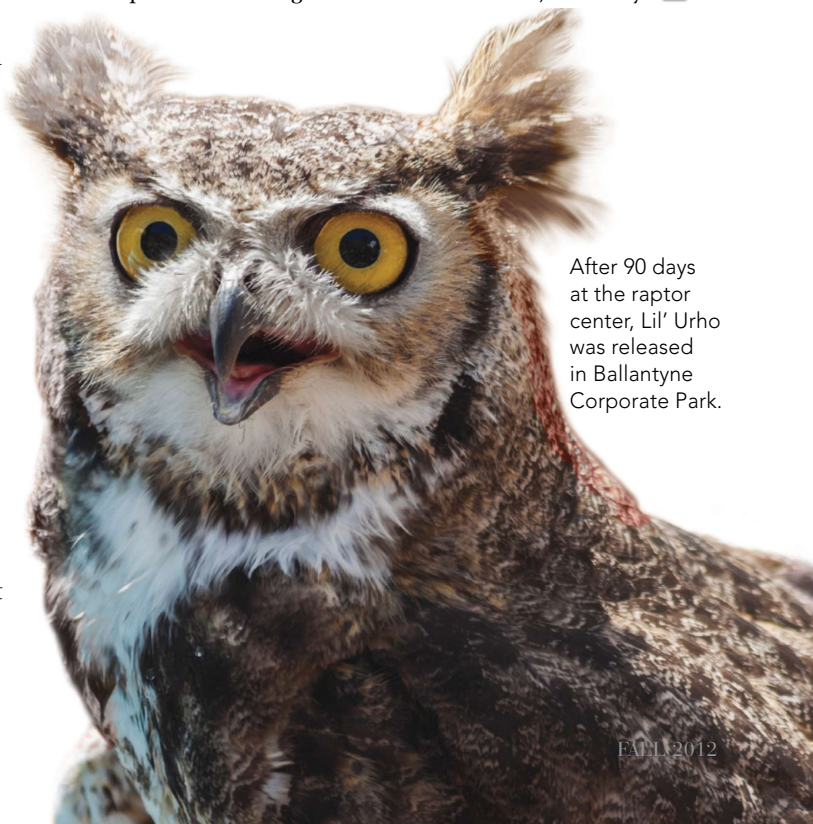
Balancing the Ecosystem

"Releasing the raptor back in Ballantyne, where it was found, helps balance the ecosystem in the area," explains Bret Estridge, a board member at the raptor center and a project manager for Balfour Beatty, the construction firm overseeing the development of SPX Corp.'s headquarters in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

Scott adds, "Mother Nature knows best and we wanted to follow her lead. There are ecological and biological reasons to release the bird back in Ballantyne."

Although caregivers at the raptor center didn't name the great horned owl, attendees decided he should be called Lil' Urho.

"We hope it'll have a long life in its natural habitat," Scott says. 🦉



After 90 days at the raptor center, Lil' Urho was released in Ballantyne Corporate Park.

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