

magazine

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32
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Summer 2014 Vol. 14 No. 2







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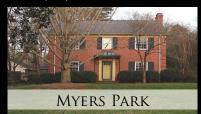
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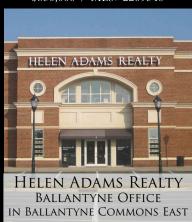
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FEATURES



ON THE COVER:

Ballantyne resident Ben Bickett, 5, enjoys his swimming lessons at Charlotte Aquatics. Photo by Ray Sepesy

Kids with a Cause

The Firefighter Life

Station 32, on Bryant Farms Road, protects Ballantyne and beyond.

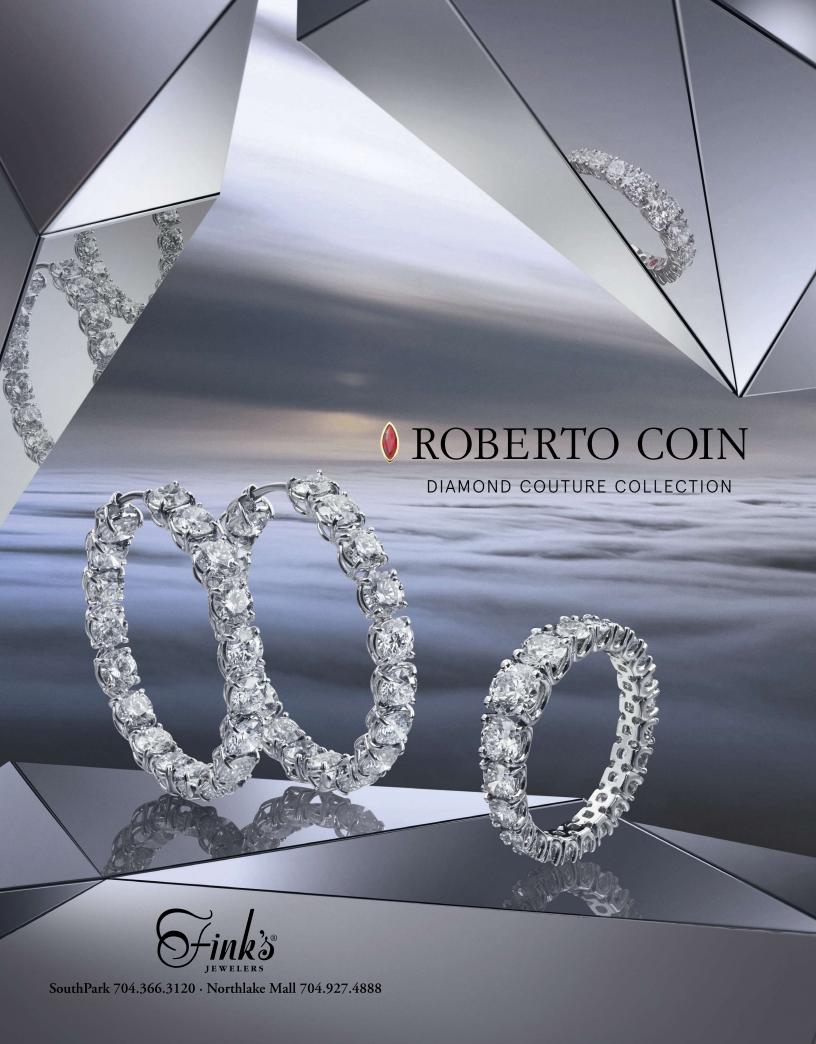


Sports Fan's Dream ESPN's new SEC Network will provide

around-the-clock programming.

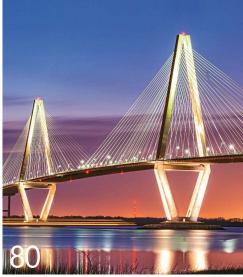


BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2014



DEPARTMENTS





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EXPERT DIRECT56 Get in the swim on what to know about lessons and teams at the pool.
STYLE POINTS

WHO KNEW?
SOCIAL SEEN
GOING HOME
TEE IT UP
EYE LEVEL





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Summer 2014 Vol. 14 No. 2

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2014

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Barefoot in the Grass **Relishing Summer**

SOME OF THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE NEVER CHANGE, and that includes the pleasures of summer. Although each generation puts its own spin on traditions like camp, building sandcastles or the neighborhood Fourth of July bike parade, summer ultimately conjures up similar fond memories for us all.

In our summer issue we celebrate one of these classic rites of passage by turning to William Keith, family activities center director at Ballantyne Country Club and swim coach at Ardrey Kell High, for expert tips on swimming lessons for children. He believes learning to swim is not an event, but a life skill, so the sooner little ones get in the swim, the better.

With the days growing longer, we all seem to have more time to enjoy life, which may be why we anticipate summer so much.

The arrival of June also brings Father's Day with its annual conundrum of what to give dad. Since the proverbial way to a man's heart is through his stomach, we thought he would appreciate an old-fashioned favorite with newfangled twists. In Style Point's "Let's Be Frank," we show how you can put on the "dawg" for dad (or for any summer occasion) by dressing up the bun with a Mexican, Greek, Chicago or other culinary flair.

When it comes to vacations, I've often found the best escapes are close to home, so we showcase Charleston, which in summer offers a myriad of ways to chill out, including some of the South's top foodie haunts. For those who prefer to hang out here, our Fab Fare gives you a taste of the Middle Eastern cuisine at Zeitouni Mediterranean Grill, a popular spot for its tabbouleh, fattoush and flash-fried falafel.



For most youngsters, summer means three months without a care, but some young people in Ballantyne will be devoting themselves to a charitable endeavor near and dear to their heart. In "Kids with a Cause" we share stories of six remarkable elementary and middle school students determined to raise money this summer in the hope of making the world a better place.

Certainly, our world here in Ballantyne is a better place thanks to the willingness of firefighters at Station 32 to lay their lives on the line for us 24/7. In "The Firefighter Life" we go behind the trucks and ladders at this community's number one emergency response unit to gain insight into what makes these courageous

> men and women tick. As firefighter Vince Wolfe told us, "What people consider their worst possible day is game day for us."

Come Aug. 28, game day at the ESPN Regional Television office and ESPNU headquarters in Ballantyne Corporate Park will take on new meaning as ESPN launches its Southeastern Conference Network (SEC). In "Sports Fan Dream," we give you the inside scoop on the multimillion-

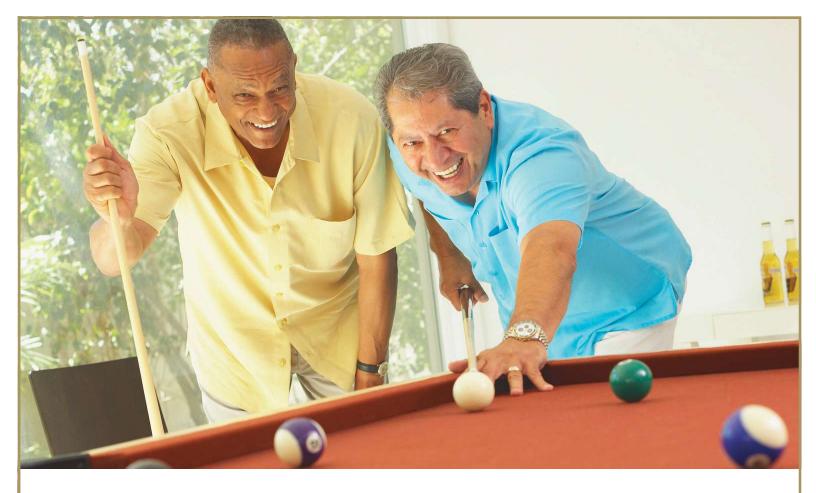
dollar renovation underway to bring 45 SEC football games, 100 men's basketball games, 60 women's basketball games and 75 baseball games to life on TV — and give those of us in Ballantyne another reason to cheer for our area and hometown.

With the days growing longer, we all seem to have more time to enjoy life, which may be why we anticipate summer so much. We hope this issue gives you fresh inspiration to kick back and go barefoot in the grass.

JJ Bissell

Publisher, Ballantyne Magazine

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE **SUMMER 2014**



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Life unhurried.

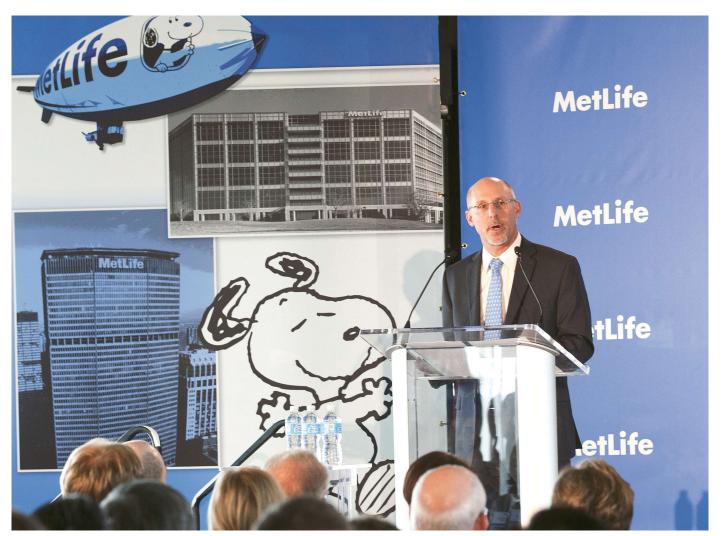


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What's happening in and **around Ballantyne**



Executive Vice President Eric Steigerwalt speaks at MetLife's grand opening.

MetLife Celebrates Grand Opening

MetLife recently held the grand opening of its new U.S. Retail headquarters in the Gragg and Woodward buildings at 11225 North Community House Road in Ballantyne Corporate Park. The headquarters consolidates the majority of MetLife's U.S. Retail employees in one location.

"We chose Charlotte for its great talent, strong partners and vibrant community," says Eric Steigerwalt, executive vice president, U.S.

Retail, MetLife. The company continues to hire and train employees, with a goal of bringing approximately 1,300 new jobs to Charlotte by 2015. To date, MetLife has filled more than 900 positions, including more than 700 local hires.

MetLife is a global provider of insurance, annuities and employeebenefit programs in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Info: www.metlife.com.

SUMMER 2014 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE

NEWS CUES



Waverly is a multi-use development planned for the intersection of Providence and Ardrey Kell roads.

Whole Foods to Anchor Waverly

Crosland Southeast and Childress Klein Properties have signed a lease agreement with Whole Foods Market for Waverly, their proposed multi-use, pedestrian-friendly development at Providence and Ardrey Kell roads in South Charlotte. The supermarket is slated to open in late 2016.

Restaurants and outdoor dining are

planned for the remaining retail space. In addition, the project will provide two five-to six-story buildings offering Class A office space, separate medical office buildings, 375 upscale apartments and 150 single-family and town homes. The project is anticipated to be built over the next couple of years. Info: www.waverlyclt.com.



Summer Concerts Return

Free summer concerts at Blakeney, StoneCrest and Promenade on Providence return for 2014.

The Music Series at the Village Green is at Blakeney through the end of September on Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Details: www.shopblakeney.com.

The Music at the Green Concert Series featuring live bands at Promenade on Providence runs every Friday and Saturday night until the end of September. Info: www.promenadeonprovidence.com.

Concerts at StoneCrest will be held Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. through September. Info: www.shopstonecrest.com.



Y Hosts Tri!, Survival Events

The 5th Annual Tri!
Ballantyne is Saturday, July 12
at the Morrison Family YMCA.
The event consists of a
300-yard pool swim, 12.7-mile
bike ride and a 5K run through
the Ballantyne community.

The Y will also stage the Kids Tri! Ballantyne for 6 to 14-yearolds at 2 p.m. on July 12.

Registration for both events is at www.ymcacharlotte.org/ morrison. The community is welcome to attend the events and cheer participants, as well as take part in the Tri! Fest activities from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The 3rd Annual C2 Survival Race has been moved to Saturday, Sept. 13 at Camp Thunderbird. Participants test their limits over a three-plus mile, extreme terrain trail with obstacles and challenges. The event benefits the YMCA Annual Campaign. Registration is open online at www.ymcacharlotte.org/steelecreek.



Summer Sizzle at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge

From engaging culinary experiences to spa delights, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge serves up summer treats.

Gallery Restaurant has introduced a new menu representing the best of the season, starting with an all-day plated brunch menu on Saturday and Sunday. New dinner entrees include grilled salmon with quinoa and seasonal vegetables as well as Carolina bison.

Gallery Bar presents Liquid Arts, a program featuring handcrafted savory cocktails such as "Aroma" and "Explore" by seasoned mixologist Greg Voss.

Beer and wine tastings through the summer will be at Gallery Restaurant on Fridays beginning at 6 p.m. Each event includes complementing local cheeses and lavosh.

Tasting dates are: June 6, Summer Cocktails; June 20, The Range of Rose; July 4, Varietals from Spain and Portugal; July 18, Orange Wines; Aug. 1, North Carolina Wines; and Aug. 15, North Carolina Beer.

The Scotch Society of Ballantyne will hold monthly events on Fridays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Gallery Restaurant, featuring a sampling of Scotch with small plates. Dates are: June 27, Unique Barrels; July 25, Macallan; and Aug. 29, Our Favorite "Glens."

Afternoon Tea is served Tuesday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. year round. The following special teas will be available this summer during Afternoon Tea: Astrological Teas (based on birthdays); Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Tea, Thursday, June 5 through Sunday, June 8; Summer in the Carolinas Tea, Thursday, June 19 through Sunday, June 22; and Mad Dogs and Englishmen Tea inspired by the British Raj period, Thursday, July 24 through Sunday, July 27.

Reservations are recommended for the tastings, afternoon tea and Scotch Society events at 704-248-4100.

The Spa at Ballantyne has also introduced a new menu with a Gentleman's Favorites selection and new day spa packages. For more info, go to www.spaballantyne.com.

The Golf Club at Ballantyne: Outings to Remember

If you want to have fun on the links this summer, check out events and specials at The Golf Club at Ballantyne.

Saturday, June 14 from noon to 2 p.m. nationally syndicated radio host Cigar Dave will broadcast outside at the Golf Pavilion. The event features an a la carte menu as well as cash bar.

Special golf offers are noted below. Please mention the respective offer when reserving tee times at 704-248-4383.



Father's Day: On Sunday, June 15, dads play for half price with one paid round of golf at the daily rate.

Family Month: The club invites families to play its course. Children ages 16 and under receive a complimentary round of golf with one paid adult round throughout July, Sunday through Thursday.

Bring a Friend Promotion: Also in July, golfers can purchase one round at the regular price and get a second round at half price, Sunday through Thursday.

Community Service Providers Month: Teachers, police and firefighters play 18 holes free with one paid round throughout August, Sunday through Thursday. Participants must present a valid employment identification in the pro shop.

Patriot Golf Day: Friday, Aug. 29 through Tuesday, Sept. 2, the club will accept donations to benefit Folds of Honor, an organization that provides post-secondary education for children and spouses of military men and women killed or disabled while serving and protecting our country. Based on donation amount, participants will receive giveaways ranging from buckets of range balls to weekend rounds of golf.

SUMMER 2014 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE 1

Koi Tour June 21

The Piedmont Koi & Watergarden Society hosts the 2014 Charlotte Pond Tour on Saturday, June 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The tour begins with two koi ponds in South Charlotte and features nine overall throughout



the city. Tickets: \$5 per person. Participants will receive a \$5 gift card to Hwy 55 Burgers, Shakes & Fries. Details: www.charlottekoiclub.com.

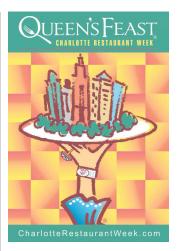


Last year the Village at Robinson Farm Market was a popular spot.

Farmers Markets Now Open

The Village at Robinson Farm Market is now open two days a week, Saturdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The market will continue through November with monthly seasonal produce and transition to Christmas trees for the annual Turkey Trot race. Jason Stone of Unity Farms runs the market. Other vendors include Duke's Bread and Cloister Honey.

The Meeting Street Market at Elon Park Elementary School is also open again every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The market sells farm-raised, grass-fed and finished meats, eggs and farm-fresh vegetables and produce, as well as crafts, cheese, breads, baked goods, prepared foods, honey and olive oils. Details: 704-287-6181 or kristinwmccabe@yahoo.com.



Restaurant Week: July 18-27

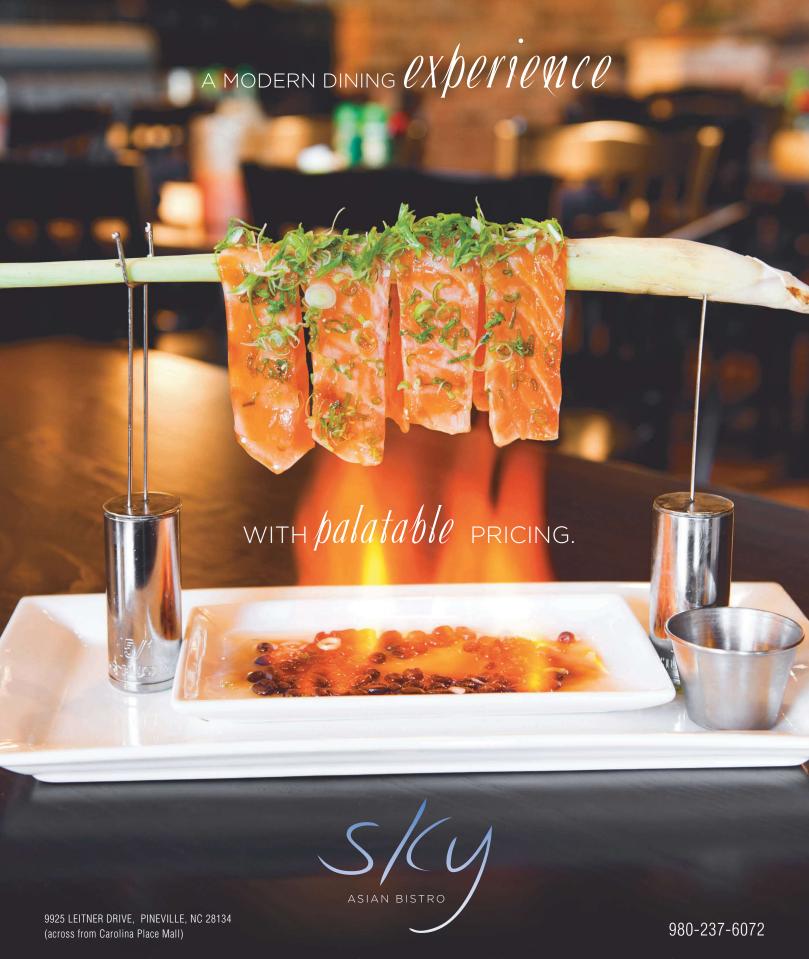
The 2014 Queen's Feast: Charlotte Restaurant Week will run from Friday, July 18 through Sunday, July 27, offering diners three or more dinner courses for \$30 per person. Reservations are recommended. Beginning late June, you can find details at www.charlotterestaurantweek.com.

Breakfast Club Meets June, August

The Ballantyne Breakfast Club will host two meetings this summer, one in June and the other in August. Both are on Saturdays.

The June meeting has a surprise agenda; the August meeting will focus on schools. Meetings are at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge starting at 9 a.m. The social hour begins at 8:30 a.m. with complimentary coffee and refreshments. Meetings are free, and the public is invited. Dates and details: www.ballantynebreakfastclub.com.

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE



PRIVATE DINING - EXTENSIVE WINE LIST - SIGNATURE THAI & NOODLE DISHES DRINK SPECIALS - SUSHI

THE YOUNGER SET

School Garden Dedicated

A dedication ceremony was held in May for the Endhaven Elementary School Arts Garden. A grant from the Arts & Science Council, in cooperation with the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, enabled the school to build the garden.

On its Facebook page, the council lauded the school's teachers, noting that Katherine Hutchens, Dee Chinault and Robin Cogan "worked with students and Bechtler Museum of Modern Art staff to create a tree sculpture made from plywood and plastic water bottles, mosaic stepping stones, mosaic sculptures for the new garden beds and an outdoor musical sculpture. They are based on Niki de Saint Phalle's mosaic artwork. An outstanding job by some of our wonderful teachers!"

Students Hold Operation Sandwich

Fourth graders at Providence Spring Elementary participated in the school's eighth annual Operation Sandwich, a weeklong service project in which the students spend their mornings making sandwiches for the homeless served through the Urban Ministry Center in Uptown Charlotte.

The students made approximately 3,750 sandwiches. Students, teachers and parents also staged a talent show, bake sale and silent auction to raise money.





BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE **SUMMER 2014**



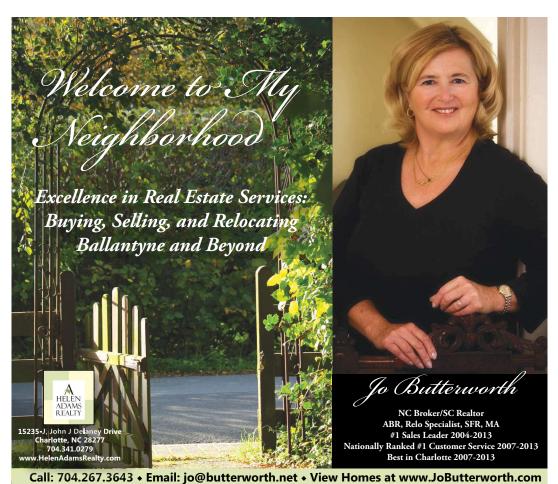
Jay M. Robinson student Aman Singh won first place in the Shakespeare Recitation Competition.

Middle Schoolers Win Honors

Six Jay M. Robinson Middle School students who competed at this year's Shakespeare Recitation Competition at Wingate University received honors.

Aman Singh took home first place for middle school students; Nia Alexander and Niyahnee Thomas were finalists; and Cori Ferguson and Caitlin O'Brien were named honorable mention. The students were coached by Dion Beary and Mark Buzzee, teachers at the school.

The school's quiz bowl team also won the middle school title at the North Carolina Association for Scholastic Activities Quiz Bowl Tournament, held at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in March. Members of the team are Joseph Chong, Ankit Jajoo, Joey Jegier, Kaela Sanborn, Ahana Sen and Ross Whipkey. They posted a 7-0 record.





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SUMMER 2014 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE

BIZ BUZZ



Horizon Senior Managing Director Eddie Rollins (from left), Horizon Investments CEO Robbie Cannon and MMI Board of Governors Chair Emeritus John Moninger.

MMI Recognizes Horizon

Horizon Investments LLC, a leader in the development of Exchange-Traded Fund strategies for all stages of the wealth cycle, has been recognized as the "Emerging Investment Manager Exhibiting the Greatest Innovation, Growth and Partnership" by the Money Management Institute (MMI).

Horizon, which is based in Ballantyne, employs a multidisciplined, tactical approach in seeking investment opportunities in the global market. Details: www.horizoninvestments.com.



Realtor® Earns Service Award

Tracy Jones of Helen Adams Realty's Ballantyne office has won the Quality Service Certified Platinum Award. The Realtor® earned 100 percent on client service satisfaction in 2013 as measured by Leading Research Corp. Info: www.helenadamsrealty.com.



Local Dentist Recognized

Dr. Deborah J. Aten has been inducted as a fellow of the International College of Dentists, an honorary organization for the recognition of outstanding and meritorious service to the profession and community. She specializes in implant and cosmetic dentistry at Aten Family and Cosmetic Dentistry in Ballantyne. Info: www.atendentistry.com.



Local Chamber Hosts Summer Events

The Ballantyne Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber has its annual Ballantyne Business Bash, Power Up Luncheon and next membership luncheon on tap over the next several months.

The Business Bash is Thursday, June 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Ballantyne Corporate Park at the Brixham Green Tent. The event features entertainment, food, networking and free items from corporate sponsors. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 online at www.ez-tixx.com or \$15 at the event.

The chapter is also seeking applications from small businesses and entrepreneurs to compete for \$25,000 at its Power Up Luncheon on Thursday, Aug. 7. Applications should identify issues faced in growing and creating jobs and discuss successes and challenges along the way. Chapter members select the winner, who receives a prize package and the opportunity to compete in a November grand finale that names an overall Charlotte Chamber winner. Twitter: #CLTPowerUp.

The chapter's next membership luncheon is Thursday, Sept. 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Ballanytne Hotel & Lodge. Registration: www.charlottechamber.com. Fee is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door subject to space availability. Info: cwalker@charlottechamber.com.

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE **SUMMER 2014**

Eschert Again Wins

For the seventh year, Elaine Eschert, broker/owner of Golden Properties Realty in Ballantyne, has again received the "5-Star Best in Client Satisfaction Award" by Five Stars Professionals. Those who receive this award represent less than 7 percent of agents evaluated in the local market.



RiverSource Recognizes Antonich

Mark Antonich, a certified financial planner whose office is located in Blakeney, recently received the 2014 Premier Protection Award from RiverSource Life Insurance Co.

The award recognizes
Ameriprise Financial advisors
who have reached outstanding
benchmarks for helping clients
achieve their goals through
RiverSource life and disability
insurance policies. Reach him
at 704-944-2080 or visit
www.markantonich.com.

Global Makes OpenTable List

Users of the OpenTable restaurant app recently voted Global Restaurant Bar & Lounge a 2014 Diner's Choice "Fit for Foodies" restaurant. For more on Global, go to www.global-restaurant.com.

Alliance President Honored

The Mortgage Bankers Association recently presented David Porter of Alliance Credit Counseling in Ballantyne a Hall of Honor Award.

The award recognizes corporations and individuals who support the military community on both a national and local level. "Providing financial counseling to the brave men and women of our military and their families is an honor and a priority," Porter says.

Alliance Credit Counseling is a nonprofit national financial coaching and education organization. Contact: david@knowdebt.org.



Boyd Speaks at Fitness Expo

Yusuf Boyd, a certified athletic trainer and owner of the BIOMechaniks training facility in Ballantyne, was a presenter at the Australian Fitness & Health Expo, Australia's largest fitness convention. Boyd is also a former NBA athletic trainer with the Memphis Grizzlies.





Kevin Fry

Dale Jennings

People on the Move at Bissell

Kevin Fry has been promoted to information technology manager at Bissell Cos.

Dale Jennings has joined Dana Rader Golf School as director of sales and marketing. The school is based at The Golf Club at Ballantyne, a Bissell property.

PREMIER

Premier Partners With Speedway Benefits

Premier, a healthcare improvement company headquartered in Ballantyne, has developed a supplychain partnership through its Premier REACH program with Speedway Benefits, a startup company owned by Humpy Wheeler.

Speedway Benefits aims to reduce costs and improve the quality of grassroots racetrack concessions for approximately 1,000 small racetracks nationwide. The partnership includes services from Value 4, Premier's largest non-healthcare member, which focuses on customized solutions for foodservice operators.

Flag Pole Installed

The Village at Robinson Farm recently had a pole for a U.S. flag installed at the corner of Rea Road and Williams Pond Lane. Boy Scouts troops and veterans interested may contact Jennifer Stanton at 704-321-7832.

Brock Wins Contest

Lily Brock, project manager at Addison Whitney in Ballantyne Corporate Park, won a makeover contest sponsored by the Progresso soup company. In early May, Brock received a head-to-toe makeover, \$1,000 gift card, four-day, three-night hotel stay in Los Angeles and two tickets to a taping of E!'s "Fashion Police" television show.



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Golf Club: Certified Wildlife Site

The National Wildlife
Federation has recognized
The Golf Club at Ballantyne
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habitats nationwide.

The club accomplished this by creating a garden space that improves habitat for birds, butterflies, frogs and other wildlife. Info: www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.



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Networking Group Meets Aug. 26

Ballantyne Briefings, a local networking group, meets Tuesday, Aug. 26 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne. Featured speaker is Kim Reynolds, media and community relations manager for Publix Super Markets in the Charlotte Division. Info: Allen Starrett at ars@starrettlawfirm.com or www.fb.me/ballantynebriefings.





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SUMMER 2014 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE 2

OPENINGS

Retailer Opens First Carolina Site

The Olive Tap, an Illinois-based extra virgin olive oil retailer, has opened its first Carolina retail location, in Ballantyne Commons East Shopping Center. Olive Tap features a wide variety of gourmet olive oils, balsamic vinegars and other artisan products. Info: Pete Barnes at 980-237-3573.

Pre-School Now Enrolling



The Primrose School, a private preschool, is now open at 15933 Lancaster Highway. The school offers a curriculum for ages 6 weeks to 5 years, blending teacherguided and child-initiated activities with a special emphasis on character development.

Founded in 1982, Primrose Schools provide an educational child-care experience in more than 275 schools in 19 states. Info: www.primroseschool.com.

Real Estate Firm Opens in Ballantyne

Savvy + Co. Real Estate is now open in Ballantyne Village at 14825 Ballantyne Village Way. The second Charlotte office of the firm features an open-concept, high-tech environment where clients can relax



with a cup of coffee while negotiating a home sale or purchase. Details: 704-438-9800 or www.savvyandcompany.com.

Village Adds Blow Dry Bar

Salon 1890 Blow Dry Bar, a new concept in the area, is now open in Ballantyne Village. The salon offers quick hair and 1890 BLOW-DRY-BAR

make-up services for individuals with busy schedules, including "touch up's" between appointments during the day, after working out or before meeting someone for dinner or cocktails. Info: 704-496-9412 or www.1890salon.com.

Baby Store Now In Promenade



Gingersnap Baby is now

open in the Promenade on Providence. The specialty baby gear and product store features healthy, safe and functional products for babies and parents. Featured lines include Nuna, Zoe organics and Under the Nile. Details: 704-845-0921 or www.gingersnap-baby.com.

New Sushi Spot Near Mall





Thai, red curry shrimp and Singapore rice noodles. The restaurant has a bar, sushi bar and private banquet room. Info: 980-237-6072, www.skyasianbistro.com.

SWEET CHARITIES



Relay for Life Set for June

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Ballantyne is Friday and Saturday, June 13-14, at the Morrison Family YMCA. The annual fundraising event involves teams that camp out at the Y track with the goal of keeping at least one team member on the track at all times during the night.

Last year the event raised \$30,000 above its goal, a total of \$90,000. The goal this year is \$100,000. To learn more or donate, call 704-553-5386 or visit www.relayforlife.org/ballantynenc.

24 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2014

Rotary Club Prepares Meals

Rotarians from Meck-South prepared 600 food trays for distribution to the homebound at Friendship Trays, a nonprofit meals-on-wheels program serving Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Meck-South meets on Fridays at 7:30 a.m. at Another Broken Egg Cafe. Info: www.mecksouthrotary.org.

Tanksley Tourney June 16

The Adam Faulk Tanksley

Foundation is hosting a golf tournament on Monday, June 16 at Providence Country Club with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$250 per player or \$1,000 per team. Money raised supports finding a cure for childhood cancer. Info: 704-502-9337, stanksley@chompchildhoodcancer.org or www.chompchildhoodcancer.org.

Church Shows 'Faith in Action'

On May 18, Harrison
United Methodist Church
cancelled services, and church
members of all ages worked
on projects for local groups
such as the Charlotte Rescue
Mission, Pineville and Sterling
Elementary schools, Urban
Ministry/Moore Place and Love
Inc. This is the second year that
Harrison United Methodist has
held a "Faith in Action Sunday"
service initiative. Info:
www.harrisonumc.org.

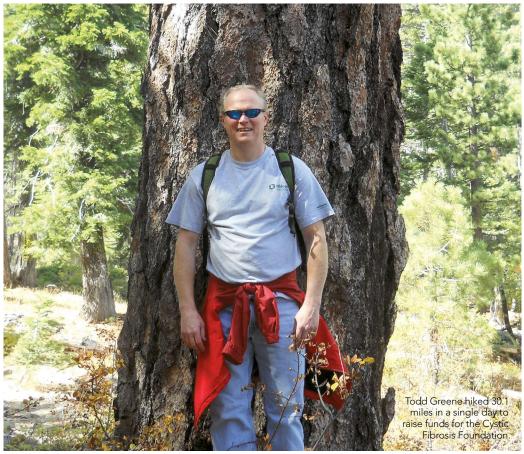


Members of Meck-South Rotary recently supported Friendship Trays. Wil Brooks (front row, left) organized the event.



Volunteers from Harrison United Methodist build beds for the Beds Equal Dreams ministry.





Lilly Named a Father of Year

Kevin Lilly, general counsel and secretary of Ballantyne-based SPX Corp., is one of five area dads named 2014 Father of the Year by the National Father's Day Council, which honors fathers for their outstanding commitment to their children and the values of fatherhood.

Lilly and other area winners will be honored June 20 at Charlotte's 14th annual Father of the Year Awards fundraiser, which benefits the American Diabetes Association.

Lilly and his wife, Kathy, live in Ballantyne and have two children, Matt, 30, and Meghan, 27, and two grandchildren. Lilly is active with the Misty Meadows Mitey Riders therapeutic horseback riding program in Weddington and works with Teach for America and Loaves and Fishes.

Greene Hits Trail for CF

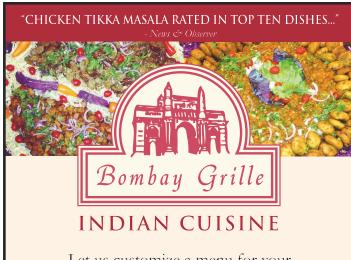
Todd Greene, a founding partner of Brader Greene, a Ballantyne CPA firm located at The Fountains at Ardrey Kell, recently participated at the Xtreme Hike, raising money to fight Cystic Fibrosis (CF). After training for three months, he hiked 30.1 miles on the Appalachian Trail in a single day. His effort raised \$3,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE **SUMMER 2014**



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Photos by Ray Sepesy



OUR FACES ALL LOVE
BEING OUTDOORS — a
fave summer pastime in
Charlotte. Can you guess
— who is the swimmer,
who is the runner and
who is the self-proclaimed
"tennis freak"?

You'll also discover who's yearning for a return to St. Maarten, who is hopping the big pond to see the Highland Games and who lists a swing to Australia, New Zealand and Singapore as a dream vacation.

Per tradition, our featured personalities either live and/or work in Ballantyne. They open up about their guilty pleasures, their favorite restaurants and what they wouldn't be caught dead wearing.

Velour, anyone? Meet Neeta Kirpalani, Steve Maney and Marie Collins.

NEETA KIRPALANI

Birthplace: Asheville, N.C.

Job: Manager, Premier Inc.'s corporate development and strategy team.

What do you like most about your job?

Working cross-functionally with leaders across the company to design, lead and implement creative ways to drive change and develop pragmatic solutions. Our team is largely responsible for evaluating inorganic growth opportunities (mergers, acquisitions, partnerships, etc.).

What's your guilty pleasure?

Definitely dark chocolate. I'm always on a quest to try different types. My recent favorite includes a blend of cherries and chilies.

Do you live in Ballantyne?

No, I live in the Myers Park area, but Premier is headquartered in Ballantyne, so I'm very familiar with the area.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant? I enjoy Jade's sushi bar. Excellent food

and a great atmosphere.

Describe your dream vacation.

This is a hard one; I really love globetrotting and traveling. But if I had to choose, I'd love to visit Australia and New Zealand for a few weeks and then end the trip with a few days in Singapore.

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

"Chicken Fried" by the Zac Brown Band. A great reminder of my Southern roots.

What is your favorite news source?

I read the Wall Street Journal, New York Times and Modern Healthcare magazine.

I would rather be caught dead than wear

Jeggings or Uggs, or to be wearing them both at the same time — I can't even imagine!

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

I'm an alumnus of Leadership Charlotte (Class 33) and remain active with the organization. I am also active with the Wake Forest alumni association in Charlotte.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Simple grammar mistakes drive me crazy. For example, using "your" instead of "you're," or using the incorrect version of "their," "there" or "they're."

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I went skydiving a couple of years ago. I'm not someone who often tries extreme sports, so it was definitely a bit out of character. And while I enjoyed it, I think once was enough!





STEVE MANEY

Birthplace: Bergen County, N.J. **Job:** Morning show host on Kiss 95.1.

What do you like most about your job?

Waking up early stinks, but hearing listeners tell their crazy life stories is the best!

What's your guilty pleasure?

Wait — this is a G-rated magazine, right?

Do you live in Ballantyne?

Yes, with my wife, Amanda, and 1-year-old son Dean.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

We love 131 Main.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

I'm a tennis freak. I also love walking my son and dog through the neighborhood.

Describe your dream vacation.

We had a blast in St. Maarten — need to go back with a big group of friends!

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

"Maniac," duh!

What is your favorite news source?

Twitter. News finds you now; you can't go one second without a story showing up on your timeline.

I would rather be caught dead than wear

Something from Vineyard Vines, like my co-host Drex!

What charitable organizations are you involved with?

"The Drex and Maney Kids" at Levine Children's Hospital. Also, Ronald McDonald House.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who turn and don't use a blinker. C'mon, people!

What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

The Green Line near Piper Glen is a great spot.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I took figure-skating lessons when I was younger wanted to learn to skate.

MARIE COLLINS

Birthplace: Birmingham, Ala. **Job:** Executive administrator to Mark Eason at Firebirds Wood Fired Grills.

What do you like most about your job?

The great team of people I work with. I have never worked with a company that is so peoplefocused, and it truly makes a difference! (I have been with Firebirds for more than 13 years.)

What's your guilty pleasure?

Doritos (nacho cheese) and a Snickers bar — yum!

Do you live in Ballantyne?

Yes. I moved to Charlotte 14 years ago and have always lived in this area.

What is your favorite Ballantyne-area restaurant?

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill! My favorite dish is the chicken pasta, but the wood-grilled salmon is a close second. With most meals, I have a side of tortilla slaw, one of those items that keep me wanting more.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Lately, it is swimming. I just joined the Mecklenburg Swim Association Masters, and I love it. The U.S. National Whitewater Center is also one of my favorite places.

Describe your dream vacation.

I am a travel lover. This summer I am taking my parents to Scotland to celebrate their 40th anniversary with their first international trip. I have always wanted to see the Highland Games, so this is a dream come true for all of us.

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

"I Gotta Feeling" by the Black Eyed Peas. That song just makes me smile every time I hear it. But I have been told that my song should be "Stir It Up" by Bob Marley because I am always getting into something.

What is your favorite news source?

Flipboard. It provides news from different sources in one convenient location.

I would be rather caught dead than wear____

A romper or velour jumpsuit — well, velour anything.

What is your biggest pet peeve? Mumbling.

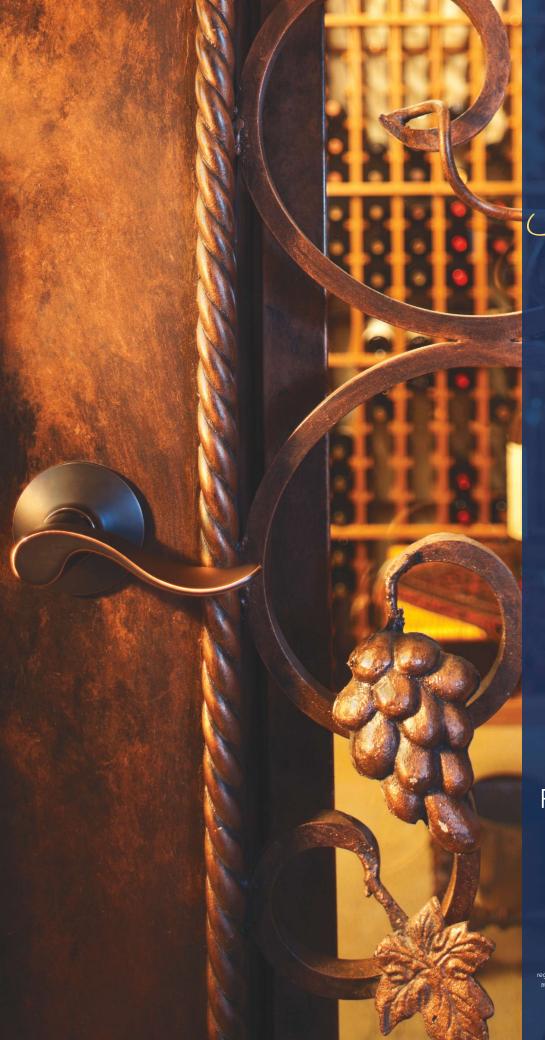
What is a hidden gem in Ballantyne?

The store, fab'rik. It offers cute boutique styles but reasonable prices.

Share something that someone would never guess about you.

I do not own a hairbrush, but I do own more shoes and purses than anyone should ever have.





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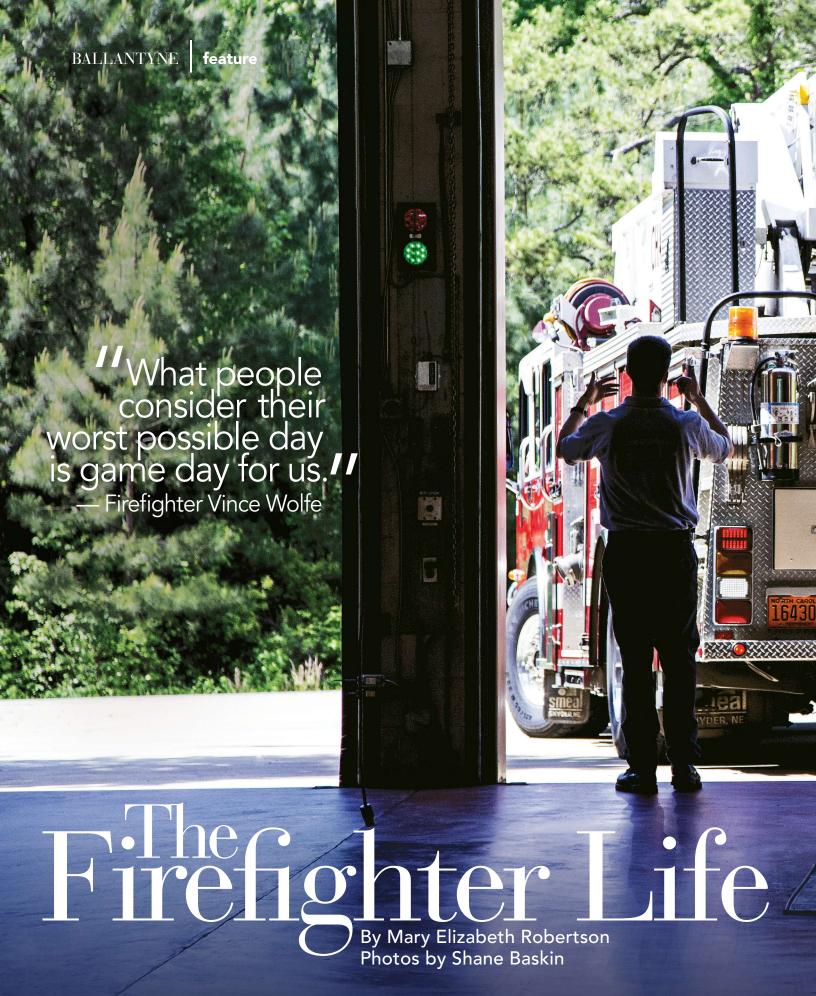
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STATION 32 PROTECTS BALLANTYNE AND BEYOND

hey have cut holes in roofs and put fires out while standing on the edge of their truck ladder. They often show up first to emergency calls, offering services as firefighters and EMTs — and shoulders to cry on. But when the fireproof suits and helmets come off, and the ashes are washed away, the

firefighters of Ladder 32, the firehouse that protects Ballantyne and beyond, go home.

They get time away from Fire Station 32, located on Bryant Farms Road and home to the North Carolina Regional Response Team 7, which deals with hazardous materials during state emergencies.



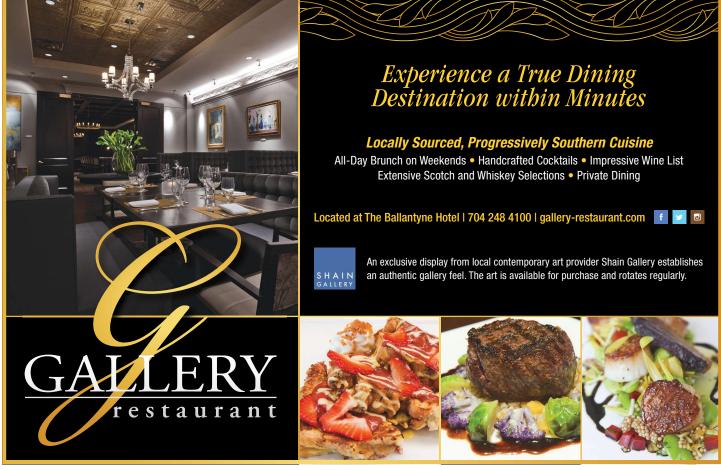
Their schedules are challenging. On average, the firefighters work one 24-hour shift followed by 24-hours off. They then work another 24-hour rotation and take 48 hours off. Another 24-hour shift is followed by another day off; then, one more day of work is required before they take four days off.

On those days off, many firefighters work two and three jobs to support their families.

Vince Wolfe teaches fire training at Gaston College, South Piedmont Community College and Cleveland Community College. Beyond teaching and working at Ladder 32, he likes spending time with his family.

Left: Most firefighters hold parttime jobs to make ends meet. Matthew Fullam repairs furniture. **Right:** Fire Station 32 is home to the North Carolina Regional Response Team 7, which deals with hazardous materials.





FOURTH GENERATION

"I'm a fourth-generation fireman," Matthews-based Wolfe says. "I've been married for 10 years and have three boys."

Wolfe's children are 10, 8 and 3. The family spends a lot of free time playing baseball.

He teaches his boys what he knows about the sport but says he's not that good it. "We try to stay local," he says of games "They play in the Mint Hill area."

Across town, in the Steele Creek community, Capt. Matthew Fullam spends time with his family whenever he is not at the station or working part time at a furniture store.

"I fix La-Z-Boy furniture," he says. "There are some guys that build houses; many of the firefighters mow grass or do landscaping. A lot drive trucks."

Fullam is married with two children, ages 6 and 8. He and his son are involved with Cub Scouts, and the whole family is active at Forest Hill Church. On the rare date night he and his wife get, they enjoy Japanese food with friends.

Date nights with spouses are a favorite among the firefighters. Judge Manning and his wife of four years enjoy going to Mellow Mushroom in Ballantyne. But those date nights can be tough to squeeze in, as Manning also works at another fire department in Indian Trail and at a third parttime gig as a truck driver.

He and his wife also enjoy spending time at the U.S. National Whitewater Center or Andrew Jackson State Park, which is closer to their home in Indian Land. "We try to be outdoorsy," Manning says. "We like to bike and canoe."

The couple is also active at Ridge Church in Matthews, where they help with Sunday School.



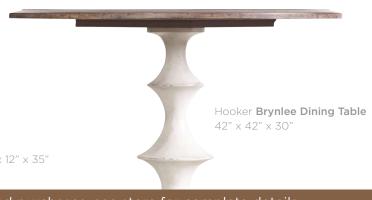
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Michael Parker (left) and Judge Manning serve themselves dinner at the firehouse.

FIREHOUSE

For all the firefighters, family time is a priority though, it doesn't always mean quality time with their own family. "You can call the station a second family," Wolfe says, "but it's a first family. We eat (and) sleep together."

Wolfe said it is hard to let frustrations of his firehouse family get the better of him. "If I get irritated, I still have to get on the truck with them," he says.

The love of their firehouse family is evident. "It takes a certain mindset to do this job," Fullam notes. The other men agree.

"What people consider their worst possible day is game day for us," Wolfe says.

The firefighters tell stories

of a game day years ago when Wolfe had to climb to the top of the Engine 32 ladder because they needed to cut a hole in the top of a roof to get to a fire. Fullam was operating the ladder, which is an unnerving activity for him, he says.

Another day, as a home was on fire, Wolfe fell down a flight of stairs. He jokingly claims he was pushed.

They laugh about the stress of those critical days. "You can laugh about it as long as you are OK," Wolfe says.

Some days, the firefighters of Ladder 32 answer a call and the outcome is not what they want. "A big part of the job is separating your emotions," Fullam says. "We're going to see people on their worst day."



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Above, Below: In addition to his job at Station 32, Judge Manning drives a truck and works at another fire station. In his spare time, he and his wife enjoy outdoor activities.

While the firefighters receive stress-management training, Fullam says, most of the emotional processing stems from talking things out with each other, their Ladder 32 family.

These men have a fairly

simple answer for why they show up to work ready to walk into places most people run out of.

"It's the thrill of it," Wolfe says. "It's different stuff every day. I like getting out and helping people."





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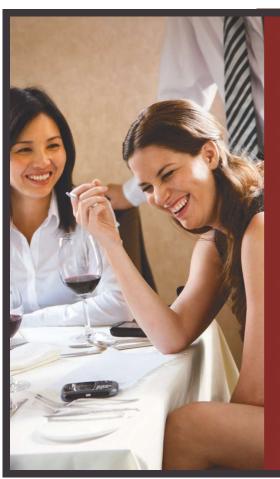
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SPORTS FANS MANUAL TO THE SPORTS OF THE SPO

BY SAM BOYKIN





NETWORK TO PROVIDE

WHETHER YOU'RE ORIGINALLY FROM THE SOUTH or a transplant, it's hard to miss the fact that in this part of the country people follow college sports with an intense fervor bordering on fanaticism — but in a good way. Come game

PROGRAMMING 24///

day, passionate fans can be found glued to the TV brandishing their team's colors and cheering with a zeal that's hard to match. This hallowed tradition makes ESPN's new Southeastern Conference (SEC) Network all the more exciting.



"THERE'S A LARGE ARMY OF PEOPLE WORKING TOWARDS PUTTING THIS ALL TOGETHER."

— STEPHANIE DRULEY, SEC NETWORK'S VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTIONS







The network is based in the Ballantyne ESPN Regional Television and ESPNU facility. The 38,000-square-foot building on Rushmore Drive is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation that includes new state-of-the-art studio space, control

rooms and production facilities.

The network has also rented 12,000 square feet of space across the street for additional administrative and production services.

When the multi-phase renovation is complete, the main facility will have



three studios — one dedicated to the SEC Network, one to ESPNU and a third that either network can use. The new facility brings yet another innovative and high-profile project to the Ballantyne

continued on page 48

46 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2014



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SEC NETWORK FEATURES WELL-KNOWN TALENT

Brent Musburger started his career in the early 1970s doing National Football League (NFL) play-by-play for CBS Sports. He soon began covering other sports, ranging from horse racing to tennis to strongman contests. He eventually rose to prominence as host of "NFL Today" and later went to work at ABC as a top broadcaster, most notably for college football.

Canada native Jesse Palmer attended the University of Florida, where he played quarterback from 1997 to 2000. He next played professionally for the New York Giants and

later for the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes. Palmer was cast in 2004 as the bachelor on "The Bachelor" reality show and started his broadcast career the following year as a color commentator on the Fox Network.

Sports broadcaster Joe Tessitore's career began at TV network affiliates in Dallas, New York



Jesse Palmer



Brent Musburger

and Connecticut. He eventually moved to ESPN, where he called boxing, college football and college basketball. He's currently the play-by-play broadcaster for ESPN's prime-time college football games on Saturday night and studio host for ESPN's daily "College Football Live."

Before he became a noted television and radio sports personality,

Paul Finebaum was an award-wining columnist and investigative reporter for the Birmingham Post-Herald. He started making radio appearances in the mid-1980s in Birmingham and soon developed his own show. The Paul Finebaum Radio Network debuted in 2001, and three years later, Sports Illustrated named his show one of the top 12 sports radio shows in the United States.



The Ballantyne Corporate Park is home to these ESPN operations.

■ continued from page 46

community, one that's generating national attention.

"There's a large army of people working towards putting this all together," says Stephanie Druley, SEC Network's vice president of productions. "There are many tentacles working simultaneously. Every ESPN department has played a role."

Aug. 14 Launch

The network is scheduled to launch Aug. 14, and the 24/7 programming is a sports fan's dream, with more than 1,000 events in its first year. This includes 45 SEC football games, more than 100 men's basketball games, 60 women's basketball games and 75 baseball games.

In addition, Druley says the network will feature original studio shows, live events and special content from many of the 14 schools within the 11-state SEC footprint. The SEC-ESPN deal runs though 2034 and is one of the longest broadcast contracts in U.S. sports.

In addition to around-the-clock sports coverage, the new SEC Network is creating about 100 new jobs, including some notable on-air talent.

48 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE



Anthony "Booger" McFarland (left) and Marcus Spears are among the announcers on the SEC Network.







WHEN THE NETWORK LAUNCHES IN MID-AUGUST, THERE WILL BE ABOUT TWO WEEKS OF PRESEASON PROGRAMMING.

Sportscasting icon Brent
Musburger and noted
commentator Jesse Palmer, a
former college and National
Football League quarterback,
will serve as the lead
broadcast team. The pair will
call one of the three football
games that air every Saturday
during the season.

Joe Tessitore, known for his television work in college football on ESPN and ABC, will host an original program called "SEC Nation," a traveling football pregame show that will originate from a different SEC campus each week.



Stephanie Druley



THE SEC AND ESPN: A QUICK OVERVIEW

The Southeastern Conference formed in 1932 and consists of 14 member institutions: Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, LSU, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas A&M, and Vanderbilt.

The league currently sanctions championship play in nine men's sports and 12 women's sports. Since 1990, the SEC has won 149 national team championships for an average of more than six per year.

ESPN, which began in the late '70s, has televised the SEC since 1982.

ESPNU, which covers college athletics, launched from Ballantyne's ESPN Regional Television office in 2005. The new SEC Network and ESPNU facility is located at the 535-acre Ballantyne Corporate Park, which includes more than four million square feet of Class A office space.





























50 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2014

Joining him will be Heisman Trophy winner and former Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, who will work as an analyst.

'SEC Nation' Debuts Aug. 28

The show will debut before the Texas A&M-South Carolina game in Columbia, S.C., on Aug. 28.

Other noted SEC Network football analysts include former LSU defensive All-Americans Anthony "Booger" McFarland and Marcus Spears, along with former quarterback Greg McElroy, whose Alabama team won the 2010 Bowl Championship Series title.

The network will also feature a television simulcast of radio legend Paul Finebaum's daily show. Finebaum, considered the "voice of the SEC," rose to fame as the 20-year host of "The Paul Finebaum Show," which was heard nationally on Sirius XM.

"The quality of this group speaks to the overall quality of the network," says Druley. "We're very proud of the talent we have here."

When the network launches in mid-August, there will be about two weeks of preseason programming that will provide fans a broad overview of what to expect. Then things really kick into high gear with the Texas A&M-South Carolina game Aug. 28.

Druley says the network will provide top-quality content that showcases SEC programs and some of the nation's best student-athletes. Moreover, the network is attracting many talented people to the area, including Druley herself. "We love being based here in Ballantyne," she says. "I think it's a wonderful place to call home."





SUMMER 2014



Flaunting Flavor

Zeitouni Grill is a Mediterranean Delight

By Amy Rogers Photos by Ray Sepesy



Everything is prepared fresh, using traditional family recipes handed down by Wassim Zeitouni's mother and uncles.

IN A PLACE WHERE NEARLY
EVERYTHING IS NEW, at a time when
most things happen in a hurry, slowing
down to enjoy one of the world's oldest
cuisines can be a welcome change
of pace. Stepping inside Zeitouni
Mediterranean Grill in Toringdon
Market is less like dining in the suburbs
and more like visiting an eatery in
a cosmopolitan city. And that's a
good thing.

Zeitouni is the family name of the restaurant's Lebanese owners, and it means olive. Like its namesake fruit, the small dining spot looks unassuming but packs a lot of flavor. The cuisine is casual, but it's not fast food. The restaurant is busy but not rushed. Often, there's a line while customers waiting



Wassim Zeitouni

for tables rub elbows with people picking up take-out orders. Proprietor Wassim Zeitouni cautions with a smile, "We make you wait 10 or 15 minutes." It's worth it.

Everything at Zeitouni Grill is prepared fresh, using traditional family recipes handed down by Zeitouni's mother and uncles.

Flash-fried Falafel

The falafel are handmade from fava beans seasoned with cilantro, parsley, garlic and a mix of spices imported from Lebanon. They are flash-fried instead of deep-fried, which makes them crispy outside and tender inside.

Za'atar is a toasted flatbread topped with chopped tomatoes, feta cheese, fresh herbs and mint. Light and crisp for a simple lunch, za'atar is most often served for breakfast in Lebanon, Zeitouni explains.

The sesame-seed paste known as tahini is a versatile ingredient in both ancient and modern Mediterranean dishes. Blended with chickpeas, garlic and lemon, it forms a thick hummus enjoyed as a spread for bread and vegetables. Stirred with oil and spices,



tahini becomes taratour sauce, a creamy dressing for shawarma-style roasted meats. Combined with smoked and peeled eggplant, it transforms a humble vegetable into the exotic baba ghanoush.

Chicken marinated and grilled on skewers is known as shish tawooq. A favorite when served with rice, it's even more delicious with house-made pickled vegetables.

Tabbouleh, Fattoush

Salads are a mainstay of Mediterranean meals. Tabbouleh, a blend of cracked wheat, tomatoes, onions and abundant green herbs is the most popular, along with fattoush, a chopped vegetable array topped with pita chips.

Unlike some Arabic-speaking countries, wine and beer are generally accepted in Lebanese culture. Almaza is a Pilsner-style beer that pairs nicely with the laid-back cuisine. Winemaking in Lebanon dates back more than 2,000 years, and the restaurant features several wines made from French grapes blended with indigenous varieties.



Homemade, flash-fried falafel is crisp on the outside and tender on the inside.

Baklava flavors vary, featuring combinations of pistachios, walnuts or cashews layered in leaves of phyllo dough. The pastries' honeyed sweetness is perfectly balanced with strong Turkishstyle coffee with a hint of cardamom.

People visit this restaurant for the food, not for the ambiance, and Wassim Zeitouni is perfectly comfortable with that. "This is not about fancy chairs and fancy walls," he says. Hundreds of reviews on social media sites such as Yelp and Urbanspoon attest to customers' loyalty. Some fans even proclaim they happily drive from 50 miles away or more.

What they have discovered is this: Spending time in search of authentic flavors and experiences can reveal delicious surprises in unexpected places. And some of them can be as close as your own neighborhood.

Zeitouni Grill

Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Toringdon Market (near Earth Fare)

3419 Toringdon Way, A-124 704-752-4245 www.zeitounigrill.com



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Get in the Swim

Now is Prime Time for Lessons, Teams for Kids

Children should

techniques, while

understanding

swimmer is ever

completely safe

in the water.

learn survival

and safety

that no

By William Keith

NOTHING SAYS SUMMER QUITE LIKE A DAY AT THE POOL, especially for children. So many memories are made poolside. While pools are always places to have fun, teaching children to swim can often be a daunting task for parents. Balancing fun with water safety will always lead to the most enjoyable pool experience for parents and for children. Here are a few tips.

Exposing Kids to Swimming

When to start? This question is often the most challenging for parents of young children. The best answer remains simple: the sooner the better.

While stroke instruction may not occur until later, comfort in the water is valuable to children of any age. It's important to remember that learning to swim as a child is similar to learning to walk. Not every child develops skills in the water at the same rate; the sooner they are exposed to the water the more comfortable they become. Swimming is great for cardiovascular health even in infants and toddlers.

Water safety is key.

Children in swim lessons must be taught the importance of water safety in the most stress-free environment possible. Children should learn survival and safety techniques, while understanding that no swimmer is ever completely safe in the water.

There is never a substitute for parental supervision, especially in the water. Lifeguards are in place to keep all swimmers safe, but parental supervision is always the first line of defense.

Lessons: What to Expect

The best lessons for children occur individually or in small groups. Children should have lessons limited to approximately 30 minutes in length. The best results happen in comfortable water temperatures, so starting lessons for young children in June is ideal. Beginning in June also allows for continued teaching throughout the summer. As a parent you are there to support the instructor and offer comfort to the child. However, it's important to remember that the best instruction happens when the child is focused on the instructor. You should be in view to younger children, but not involved in the lesson.

Learning to swim is not an event; it's a life skill. It's important to cultivate the swim-lesson process as



consistently as possible and make it fun. The risks posed by drowning are not limited to the warmer seasons. Year-round lessons (even as limited as twice per week) build skill development and are vital to children under 5 who are just learning long-term skills retention.

Charlotte is a wonderful area to be a swimmer. Not only is there top competitive swimming for Olympic-caliber athletes, many clubs and neighborhoods have summer swim teams that provide a taste of the sport in a fun, social environment. Those teams offer the ability to learn advanced strokes, build proper technique and experience the joy of swimming. For most competitive swimmers, the love of swimming began with participation on summer swim teams.

Charlotte is a top swimming city in the country; explore what it can offer your child! \square



"School's out!"

often means three months for a child to indulge in pleasure by lazing around the pool, hanging out at the movies or just plain doing nothing. But for some Ballantyne youngsters with a big heart, summer vacation is a chance to devote time to a mission that has meaning and purpose in their life.

The energy, passion and commitment such youngsters bring to their chosen cause often surprises their own parents. These children set financial goals that far exceed those an adult would set. They plan events that would daunt the skill of professional organizers. They envision eradicating a problem entirely. They dream big.

This story shares a glimpse of eight students from Ballantyne elementary and middle schools whose service projects are an inspiration for the entire community.



HANNAH DUDLEY

The British American School of Charlotte Youth Trip to Burundi with Samaritan's Feet

On a mission trip to Haiti with her youth group last year, Hannah Dudley had an experience that reminded her of what she had seen on a visit to Burundi. "It was sad to see the children who were similar to those in Burundi, and I wanted to do something," says the daughter of Eric and Michele Dudley.

So Hannah committed to raising money through babysitting and sale of fair trade coffee to join 12 other Charlotte youth this summer on a Samaritan's Feet trip to Burundi. There, she will wash people's feet and outfit them with shoes to avoid footborne diseases. The trip holds extra meaning because Jean-Marie Nshimiymana from Bujumbura, Burundi has lived with her family for two years while studying at CPCC.

www.SamaritansFeet.org



Jean-Marie Nshimiymana and Hannah Dudley

CALEY COUGHLAN

Jay M. Robinson Middle School Jeremy's Jump for Special Needs Children

Caley Coughlan, daughter of Charles and Jill Coughlan, began volunteering at the age of 12 with the Friendship Circle of Charlotte. She was paired with Jeremy Cantor, a 40-year-old in a wheelchair who was unable to walk or talk but loved to blow kisses. "We went bowling every week, and I knew he was having fun even though he couldn't tell me in words," she says.

After Jeremy passed away, Caley was heartbroken, so she started "Jeremy's Jump," a jumpathon at Sky High Sports in Pineville to raise money for special needs children to attend camp. Last November she raised \$7,000. She plans another Jeremy's Jump this November. "Hopefully it will be an even better turnout with the help of the community!" she says.



www.JeremysJump.com

Hopefully it will be an even better turnout with the help of the community!

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■ continued from page 60

LUKE FOWLER

Endhaven Elementary Wigs for Kids

Luke Fowler has grown his hair for a year so he can donate it to Wigs for Kids. This is the second time Luke, the son of Jamie and Dee Dee Fowler, has done this for cancer patients. In 2011 he was inspired after his mother donated her hair to Locks of Love. "I wanted to do it too because I knew that someone else would get hair so they would not have to be bald and feel bad about the way they looked," he says.

People in restaurants have mistaken him for a girl, and it was rough at camp when two boys teased him. "But I didn't stop because I knew someone needed this hair." Luke plans to cut his hair in June.

www.WigsforKids.org





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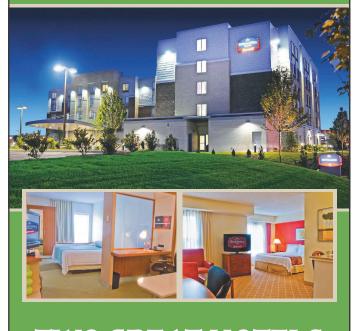
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ANNA GRACE EVANS

Polo Ridge Elementary Yard Sales to Fund School of Hope

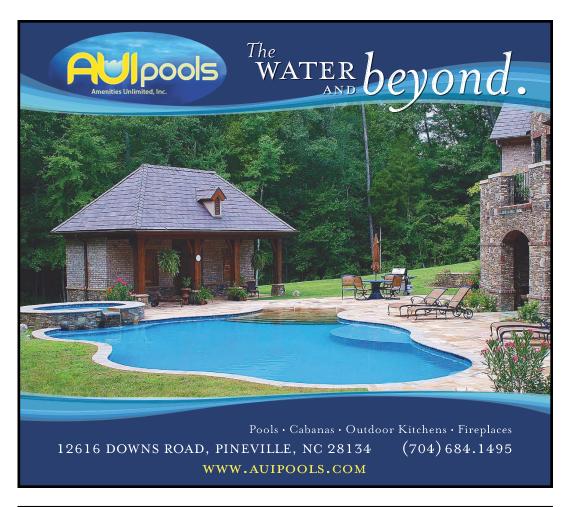
Anna Grace Evans, daughter of Ray and Ashley Evans, is holding yard sales in Ballantyne this summer to raise \$42,000 to provide schooling for 100 Haitian children in Minoterie.

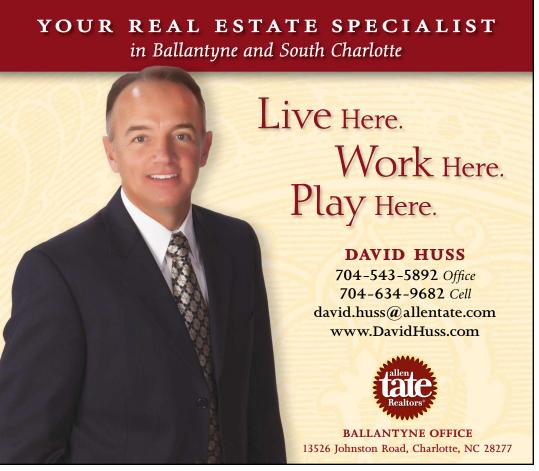
After she and her family visited the village last
Thanksgiving on a mission trip, the plight of the children weighed on her heart. "When I came home, I wondered why I am not doing anything when I have all this stuff and they don't have anything?" she says.

One day while putting on a shirt that was too small, she realized that instead of giving it away she could sell it and the money could sponsor a child. The School of Hope, which includes one meal a day, costs \$35 per month per child.

www.BallantynetoHaiti. com/child-sponsorships









HANNAH KERLEY

Community House Middle School Blanket Blessings for Children with Cancer

Hannah Kerley was so determined to start a new girls' service club at school to make blankets for children with cancer that she found a sponsor and got approval from the principal in one day. Now in its second year, Blanket Blessings has donated 70 no-sew fleece blankets assembled by Hannah and 20 fellow students to Levine Children's Hospital. The club also has delivered blankets to the homeless.

"We hope to keep them warm," says Hannah, the daughter of Mike and Lynn Kerley. "Thank you to everyone for showing up to help every week, for donating fleece and money to buy fleece, for spending time embroidering, creating logos and websites and for sharing this dream with me!"

www.BlanketBlessings.webs.com

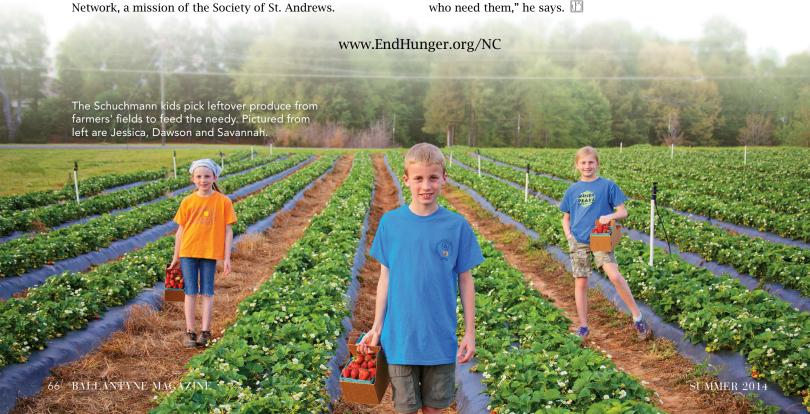
JESSICA, SAVANNAH & DAWSON SCHUCHMANN

Elon Park Elementary | Crop Gleaning

The past three summers Jessica, Savannah and Dawson Schuchmann are first out of bed some mornings. The children of Chad and Amber Schuchmann are eager to glean crops in the fields of local farmers for delivery to shelters or distribution centers, such as operation Reachout in Monroe. Notices of fields available for picking are sent by the Gleaning Network, a mission of the Society of St. Andrews.

Jessica's favorite crop is tomatoes. "Sometimes I get hot, but I like knowing food is not going to waste," she says. Savannah likes to clean strawberries. "I like knowing that I am out there helping someone have dinner," she says.

Dawson thinks it is fun to pick corn. "I like digging my hands into the dirt and taking vegetables that go to people who need them." he says.





Let's Be Frank

Hot Dogs are Great To Celebrate Father's Day, Summer

Story and photos by Missy at pinkpistachio.com







Guac Dog Avocado, salsa of choice, cilantro, lime juice, salt and pepper



Sliced tomato, red onion, pickles, banana pepper, mustard

"Dogs for Dad" — complete with all the fixings — are the perfect way to celebrate Father's Day.

But let's be frank, special occasion or not, these gourmet dogs can be

enjoyed all summer long.

Here are serving suggestions: Serve your hot dogs on toasted buns. They're easy to toast. Just butter and place under a broiler,

set on high, until golden brown. For beverage flair, pair your puppies with an icy-cold Dad's Old-Fashioned Root Beer.

Check out these "fun in a bun" ideas.



Mac 'n' Cheese Dog

Prepared mac 'n' cheese, parsley, salt and pepper



GREEK DOG

Mixed greens, small heirloom tomatoes, onion, Kalamata olives, feta, oil and vinegar



MANGO SALGA DOG

Diced mango, pineapple, jalapeno, red onion, cilantro, lime juice, salt and pepper



Rockin' & Reelin'

Pineville's Concert and Movie Series Now in 16th Year

CONCERTS IN THE PARK ARE A RITE OF SUMMER. From the Hollywood Bowl to Tanglewood, America's love of listening to music under the stars has become a warm-weather tradition from sea to shining sea. In Ballantyne, though, many people are not aware they can get their summer concert fix in their own backyard at the Rockin' & Reelin' Summer Concert and Movie Series at Pineville Lake Park.

Now in its 16th year, this free series from May through September treats fans to many popular music genres, including country and classic rock. The piece de resistance is a night with the Charlotte Symphony Pops on July 1.

The series also includes three evenings of family-friendly movies and an exciting new addition to this year's bill — an outdoor theatre performance of "Aladdin Junior" by Matthews Playhouse on July 24.

"When we started the series, we wanted to invite the people of Pineville to experience cultural entertainment outside," says Kristy Detwiler, director of Pineville Parks and Recreation, which funds the event with the cultural and tourism tax the town accumulates from local hotels. Each year the series grows in popularity as word



spreads. "Once people come, they are hooked," Detwiler notes. "They call us for the schedule before it is set."

A big reason people get hooked is the setting. Pineville Lake Park has an enormous green expanse of lawn with a lake as a backdrop. The covered stage, which Detwiler had constructed to lure the Charlotte Symphony, proved a classic example of if you build it, they will come. "My main goal was to have the Charlotte Symphony on it because they play in all the other small towns in Charlotte," she says. "No sooner had I completed it than they contacted me and asked about coming to Pineville."

Pineville Lake Park also has restrooms, and in case of rain, movies are moved into the Belle Johnston Community Center, named in honor of a Pineville woman who donated money toward its construction.

This year Detwiler is planning to invite food vendors from Food

Truck Fridays in South End. Most concertgoers arrive with a picnic basket, comfortable lawn chairs and a blanket, and settle in before dusk for the evening performance. Children can romp at playground facilities located at one end of the park, and parking has never been a problem, Detwiler says. Once the main lot is full, attendants direct cars to a lot at a nearby church or elementary school, so concertgoers rarely have to walk more than a block or two.

For Detwiler, the best part about the concert series is seeing what a grand time people have. "I just enjoy seeing the families come out and spend an evening together," she says.

This free concert and movie series — held on various weekends from May through September — treats fans to many popular music genres.

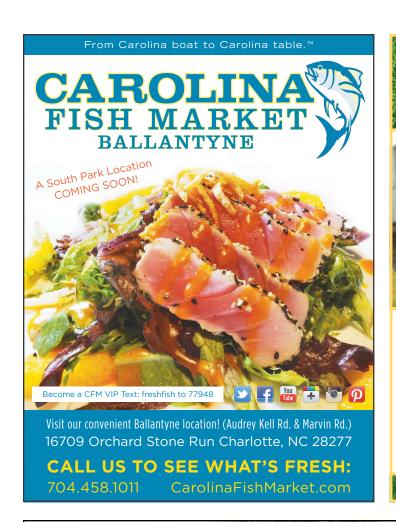




2014 SCHEDULE

June 6	"Frozen"					
June 20	Too Much Sylvia (beach/variety)					
July 1	Charlotte Symphony					
July 11	"The Goonies"					
July 24	"Aladdin Junior" (by Matthews Playhouse)					
July 25	Key West Band (Jimmy Buffett)					
Aug. 8	"The Nut Job"					
Aug. 22	Dixie Still (country)					
Sept. 26	Bad Romeo (classic rock)					

SUMMER 2014 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE 71





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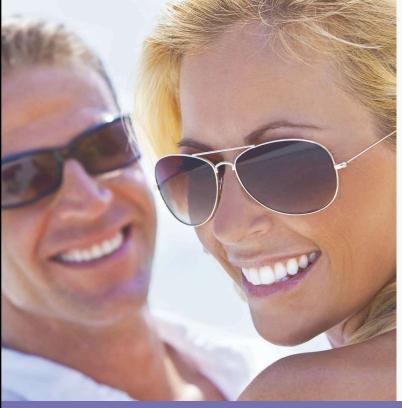
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On April 11, Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne held its Spring Fling to celebrate the season and support a great cause.

The event featured music, food, fashion and drink specials. Attendees enjoyed the festivities and brought food donations for Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

Photos by Hayley Watson

- 1. Candice Rushing, Sheena Steele
- 2. Penny Luckadoo, Danielle Alford
- 3. Karen Mangeney, Jill Reynen, Colee Haisten
- 4. Model: Rogan Homen
- 5. Mike Press, Lerone Langston, Eric West
- 6. Kirk Fanelly, Kristen Miller
- 7. Model: Natasha Farrell
- 8. Ty Lawrence, Sahnye Styles
- 9. Bethany Adams, Tiffany Twitty, Brandi Carter
- 10. Linda Calin, Michelle Watson, Aretha Fulmer
- 11. Donna White; Chase, Zack, Robin Morgan
- 12. Hal Hoffmann, Kim Parsons, Eileen Kleinman, Maria Rozhin, Erik Insko, Cyndee Everman, Taura Vulcano, Larry Gast, Pam Huggins







HOPE GALA DRAWS CROWD

Hundreds of guests honored the memory of Hope Stout at the annual Celebration of Hope Gala in support of the March Forth with Hope Foundation. The event was March 1 at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

Hope's parents, Shelby and Stuart Stout, founded the nonprofit in Hope's memory to raise money for families battling life-threatening diseases. The jungle-themed event included a cocktail reception, dinner, silent auction and dancing.

Photos by Hayley Watson

- 1. Sydney Barnes, Joe Ruppert, Parker Pounds
- 2. Stuart and Shelby Stout
- 3. Todd and Melinda Hicks
- 4. Kevin and Erica Donnalley
- 5. Sandra and Chris Spivey
- 6. Philip Walton, Kayla Donnalley, Mary Bryson
- 7. Julia Lee Payne, Greg and Angie Sellers, Karen and Billy Simmons
- 8. Josh Edenn, Paulette Davis
- 9. Sharon and Jerry Gregory
- 10. Chris and Maria Lopez
- 11. Mike and Karen Torti, Keith and Michele Weidman, Lucia Stetson, Simon and Sheri Newman













































ELWOOD'S HOLDS GOLF TOURNEY

Elwood's Barbecue & Burger Bar hosted the inaugural Swing for Sarcoma Charity Golf Tournament April 23 at The Golf Club at Ballantyne. The restaurant held a live auction at Elwood's immediately following the tournament.

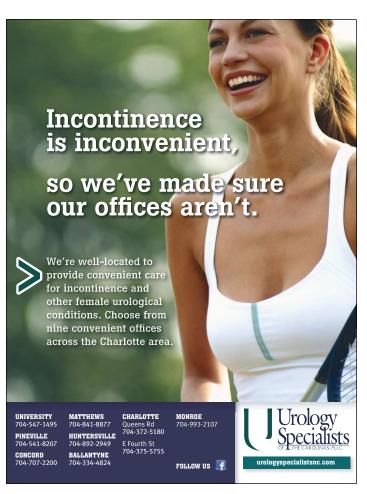
More than 75 golfers participated, raising more than \$11,000 for the Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research.

Carolinas HealthCare System (Levine Cancer Institute), Babson Capital, Wiki Wiki Car Wash, Charity Grow, Dixon Golf, Carolina Premium Beverage, Trey Bates Design, Sysco and Adams Beverages/Empire Distributors were generous sponsors that helped make the outing successful.

Photos by Mary-Alice Warren

- 1. Dennis Livingston, Wayne Robinson
- 2. Hank Thurmond, Joe Takacs
- 3. George Mabry, Adam Schauer, Cameron Chambers
- 4. Millisa Bodkin, Christina Thompson
- 5. Rick Ollman, Pete Tyler
- **6**. John Jackley, Matt Henrich
- 7. Susan Udelson, Lauren Chemplavil
- 8. Matt Himan, Danny Doran
- 9. James Chemplavil, Blake Geoghagan
- 10. Geof Takacs, David Deterding, Bryan Zeiss
- 11. Colby Moore, Will Kaplan







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NEW EVENT BENEFITS ST. JUDE

Over 300 guests showed their support to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at the inaugural St. Jude Evening of Hope. The event was at the Foundation for the Carolinas on March 1.

Rich and Kathy Hagen, committee chairs and a St. Jude patient family, along with a committee of 12 investment professionals, organized the gala to create awareness and support for the hospital.

Guests enjoyed cocktails, heavy hors d'oevres, a silent auction and jazz. The event raised over \$325,000.

Photos by Lindsey Armstrong

- 1. Scott and Kris Evans
- 2. David Suarez, Andy Mueller
- 3. Ronnie Hagen, Michael Brown, Donato and Courtney Montanaro, Wilam Willemstein
- 4. Corey Sunstrom, Stephanie Wheeler
- 5. Allard Luchsinger, Amy and Mike Chiodo
- 6. Kathy, Joseph, Isabella and Rich Hagan
- **7**. Andrew and Morgan Tucker
- 8. Christine Nelson Sperow, William Sperow
- 9. Kevin and Gabriel Delo
- 10. Jef Floyd, Heath Cook
- 11. Thad and Megan Walton, Lisa Wilson, Sheryl Reynolds, Blake Whitman
- 12. Dave Dusseau, Matt and Heather Westin
- 13. Frances Matsis, Ashley Mangione











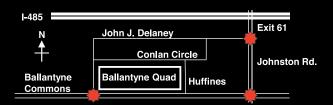




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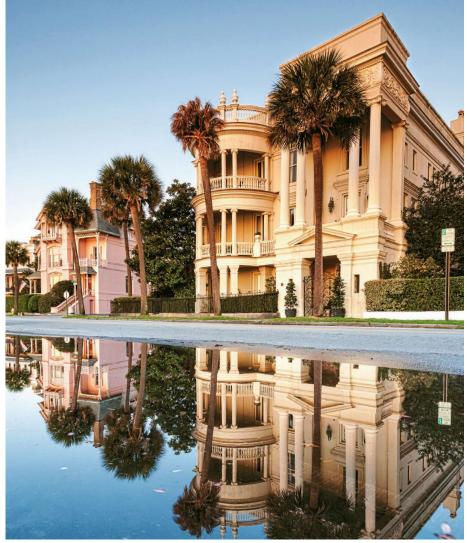
The South's Canal)ame





BALLANTYNE

going home



Visitors enjoy strolling by the city's well-preserved homes on the waterfront.



Sweetgrass baskets (left) are one of the region's prized crafts made by indigenous Gullah people.



Historic architecture in Charleston includes much more than homes.

is a one-ofa-kind city having so much to offer in terms of history, culture, culinary excellence, entertainment and outdoor activities."

> – Ballantyne physical therapist Ryan Klomparens

A Living Museum

Like the sweet tea its residents inspired in 1890, Charleston is steeped in its own historical brew. Klomparens suggests kicking your day off with breakfast at the Okra Grill, Charleston Café or the Variety Store and then visiting a museum. One of the best but often overlooked is the

continued on page 84







Like the sweet tea its residents inspired in 1890, Charleston is steeped in its own historical brew.



■ continued from page 82

Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon, where guides share tales of derring-do by revolutionary patriots.

His top picks for lunch include Fleet Landing, the Market Pavilion, Ted's Butcherblock or Cru Café, which offers Lowcountry dishes in an 18th century Charleston single house, which is a distinctive style of home particular to the city's narrow lots. Afterward, you can meander the streets and feast on the architectural tour-de force, from Georgian and Federal to Greek Revival, Italianate and Queen Anne. Take special note of the ornate earthquake bolts fashioned into lion heads and stars.

Charleston is also known for its fascinating graveyards. Ghost tours come alive after dark, offering an unusual summer evening connecting with the city's more colorful characters.

Top: The historic Charleston City Market is a top tourist attraction. **Middle:** The famous Pineapple Fountain at Waterfront Park is on the Charleston Harbor.

Bottom: Boat tours take sightseers to Fort Sumter.



continued on page 86



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■ continued from page 84

Charleston Harbor

During hot weather Charleston Harbor is the place to catch the breeze. Klomparens suggests walking, running or cycling - if you're in good shape - over the Cooper River Bridge, an engineering and visual marvel that connects Charleston to Mount Pleasant, Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island.

Summer is also an ideal time to catch the Friday night sunset boat tour to Fort Sumter. On the Fourth of July, take the Charleston Water Taxi to to Patriots Point for the best seats to watch the fireworks.





Tiers of shellfish make up the Seafood Castle at Hank's Seafood.



Southern Foodie Haunts

Charleston's culinary scene has long been a draw for its inventive style and memorable dishes. Begin your mouth-watering tour at the Hominy Grill with a Charleston Nasty Biscuit served with fried chicken, cheddar and sausage gravy. For lunch it's Husk, where Chef Sean Brock is famous for his Husk Burger, a twostory affair of bacon-infused chuck patties smothered in American cheese and topped with a dollop of Brock's incredible sauce. For healthier fare, try the Butcher & Bee's pulled-squash sandwich, rated by Food & Wine as one of the best sandwiches in the

continued on page 89

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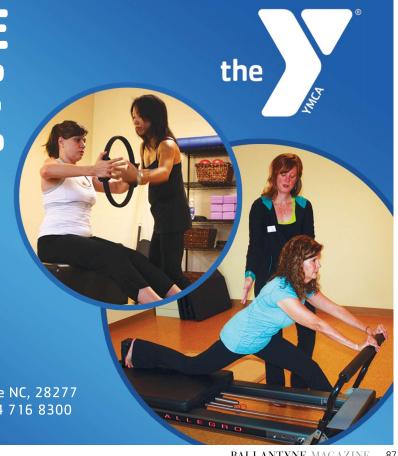
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NOW PRE-SELLING MEMBERSHIPS





A seasonal special at Circa 1886 is snapper with reezy peezy, kale chips and shallot jam.

■ continued from page 87

country. If pickled peaches are on the menu, order a double helping.

For dinner, foodies love the shellfish bonanza known as the Seafood Castle at Hank's Seafood. During the '70s, the restaurant's building housed a rowdy disco named the Garden and Gun Club, from which the magazine stole its name. For your final big night, reserve a table at Circa 1886, a horse-stable-turned-fine-dining-restaurant in Wentworth Mansion's garden.



The Fried Green Tomato Stack at Fleet Landing features taragon crab salad and is a lunchtime fave.



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going home

With long summer nights, you also have time to catch the nightly live jazz at the Charleston Grill or visit the Rooftop Terrace. Both are part of Belmond Charleston Place. Meanwhile, at High Cotton, order the Charleston Cocktail, a local concoction of vodka, Madeira, sweet tea, lemonade and mint-infused syrup.

Shopping to Drop For

King Street retains its status as the city's Fifth Avenue. Lower King is for antique lovers, Upper King for contemporary design aficionados. Like many aspects of Charleston, the street boasts multi-generation families, including Berlin's, which has furnished well-dressed Charlestonians for 125 years, and Ben Silver, a haberdasher's dream with custom bowties and jewelry-quality blazer buttons.



The George C. Birlant & Co. antique store is run by fourth-generation owners.

George C. Birlant & Co., run by fourth-generation owners, is the town's respected purveyor of 18th and 19th century furniture, silver, china, crystal and brass. It's worth a stop just to glimpse the store's grand Charleston Battery Bench, cast by hand and engraved with flora and fauna motifs indicative of Lowcountry wildlife and sporting lifestyle.

Other notable shops include M. Dumas, a "Town and Country clothier" operated by the third generation of Dumas men, and Croghan's Jewel Box, a treasure trove of heirloom silver, estate jewelry and gifts, whose third-generation owners



LOWCOUNTRY DEVOTEE: RYAN KLOMPARENS

Ryan Klomparens, a physical therapist with Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine Associates in Ballantyne Corporate Park, grew up in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. After graduating from high school in Charleston, he earned a graduate degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. He has an older sister and an identical "mirror image" twin brother.

His wife, Jessica, is the assistant to the CEO at Babcock & Wilcox in Ballantyne Corporate Park. "We are celebrating our second anniversary in June and have a teacup Yorkie named Pasha who is like our child," he says.

Getting There

Drive I-77 South to I-26 East at Columbia, S.C. Take I-26 East to Charleston. In town, walk, bike or take a rickshaw.

Luxury: Charleston Place or Market Pavilion.

Family-priced: Courtyard Marriott and Embassy Suites in the historic district or Holiday Inn Express on Meeting Street.

Must See

The Medal of Honor Museum aboard the USS Yorktown.

Dining

Anson, Slightly North of Broad, Fig, Cypress, Coast Bar & Grill, Blossom, Pearlz Oyster Bar.

Nightlife

Windjammer for bands; Charleston Place for live jazz; Biergarten.

Misses Most

Fresh seafood, boiled peanuts and being on the water.

Mementoes

Croghan's silver Celebration Cup is a rite of passage for native Charlestonians. while silver Charleston Rice Spoons — a tradition harkening to the plantation age — make popular wedding, housewarming or holiday gifts. Another favorite are sweetgrass baskets, one of the region's prized indigenous Gullah crafts fashioned by artisans at Charleston City Market.

Local Tip

Please don't honk your horn!

continued on page 92





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SUMMER 2014 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE ■ continued from page 90

are sisters Mariana Croghan Hay and Rhett Croghan Outten.

Of course, no shopping tour would be complete without a visit to the 285 vendors at the historic Charleston City Market.

Whatever your idea of the perfect summer vacation, Charleston never disappoints. This ability to exceed expectations may explain why year after year the city remains on the top 10 list of most travel magazines in the country.



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No **Bunk**

Here's How to Exit a Greenside Trap with Ease

By Nancy Harvey, Master Instructor, Dana Rader Rader Golf School Photos by Ray Sepesy

WITH A GOOD SETUP and some simple, progressive drills, you can get out of greenside bunkers (or sand traps) with ease.

First, let's talk about a fundamentally sound setup. Start with a square clubface and a square stance.

Yes, you read that correctly. If an open clubface, open stance and a swing that cuts across your body were the best way to get out of a greenside bunker, every slicer would be the world's best bunker player.



A sound setup consists of a square clubface and a square stance.



Nancy Harvey

Ok, now that we covered that, let's finish up a sound setup. Clubface and square stance. Sixty to 70 percent of your weight is on your front side (the side closest to

the green). The handle of the club points at your belt buckle. Now take a ¾ swing hinging the club with your wrists and finishing in a full follow-through.

Try this succession of drills to raise your game coming out of greenside bunkers. I'm a big believer that practice and success breeds confidence.

Line Only

Draw a line in the sand that starts in the middle of your feet and goes past the club. Practice hitting the line. You need to be able to enter the sand where you want to. The line allows you to see your divot, where it starts and where it exits.

Sand Tee

Place a ball in front of the line on a little sand tee. Practice hitting the line, and the ball will splash out.

No Tee

Place the ball in front of the line with no sand tee. Hit the line; the ball will splash out.

No Tee, No Line

You are now on your way to better greenside bunker play and more saves in the sand. 🖺



The first drill is to practice hitting a line drawn in the sand.



The second drill involves placing the ball on a sand tee and striking the line.

advertiser index

Advertiser	Page Number	Advertiser	Page Number	Advertiser	Page Number	
AAA Cleaner & Tailor	78	Dermatology Practice of the Carolinas 42 Primrose School of Ballantyne		Ballantyne		
Allen Tate Co		Diamonds Direct	BC	Pure Barre		
Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne		Duckworth's Grill & T	aphouse79	RE/MAX Executive Realtors®		
Ameriprise Financial, Jo	osh Garbert93	Fink's Jewelers		RJR Insurance		
Aten Family Dentistry .	72	Gallery Restaurant	37	Rooster's Men's Gro	ooming Center79	
AUI Pools		Golden Properties		Ruth's Chris Steak H	louse	
Ballantyne Acupuncture	e	Good's Home Furnis	hings	Salon 1890 Blow Dr	y Bar76	
Ballantyne Business Ce	nter	Handsmill on Lake W	/ylie12	Sky Asian Bistro		
Ballantyne Commons E	ast 5	Helen Adams Realty		Starrett Law Firm: Tr	rusts,	
Ballantyne Corporate P	ark/Bissell Cos28	Helen Adams Realty,	Jo Butterworth 19	Estates & Busines	ss Law76	
Ballantyne Country Clu	b27	Holt Family Dentistry		Staybridge Suites at	t Ballantyne	
Ballantyne Jewelers	IFC	Homewood Suites by	y Hilton Charlotte	sweetFrog		
Bentley Charlotte		Ballantyne		Ted Goldsmith, Rea	altor®	
Bombay Grille	27	Lohoff-Gaida Consul	ting LLC43	Terrace Café	91	
Brightmore of South Cl	narlotte11	Malak Jewelers	67	The Club at Longvie	ew1	
British American School	of Charlotte 27	Massage Envy		The Gracious Home	e92	
Carolina Bone and Joir	nt54	Marriott Hotels - Res	idence Inn63	The Olive Tap	49	
Carolina Dental Arts		Marriott Hotels - Spri	nghill Suites	The Range at Ballar	ntyne88	
Carolina Fish Market		Mercedes Benz of Sc	outh Charlotte3	Tile Collection		
Charlotte Dental Arts	IBC	Mixed Pet Veterinary	Hospital,	Trek Bicycle Store	91	
Chick-fil-A at StoneCre	st54	StoneCrest			of the Carolinas 76	
Criswell & Criswell Plas	tic Surgery	Morrison Family YMC	CA87	Walnut Creek	83	
Dana Rader Golf School	ol72	Oasis Pools		Wil Brooks, State Fa	arm	
David Huss, Realtor®		Oxi Fresh of the Card	olinas	York Development.		
Decadent Design Bake	ry78	Premier Sotheby's Int	ernational Realty 33			



SUMMER 2014 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE 9



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Could be! Just follow the simple specs below and email us your nominees. Eye Level features the sights, scenes and joys of Ballantyne. Images may depict nature, activities, friends, family, landmarks — anything with a compelling local flair. Send your high-resolution images (300 dots per inch or higher) to news@ballantynemagazine.com.

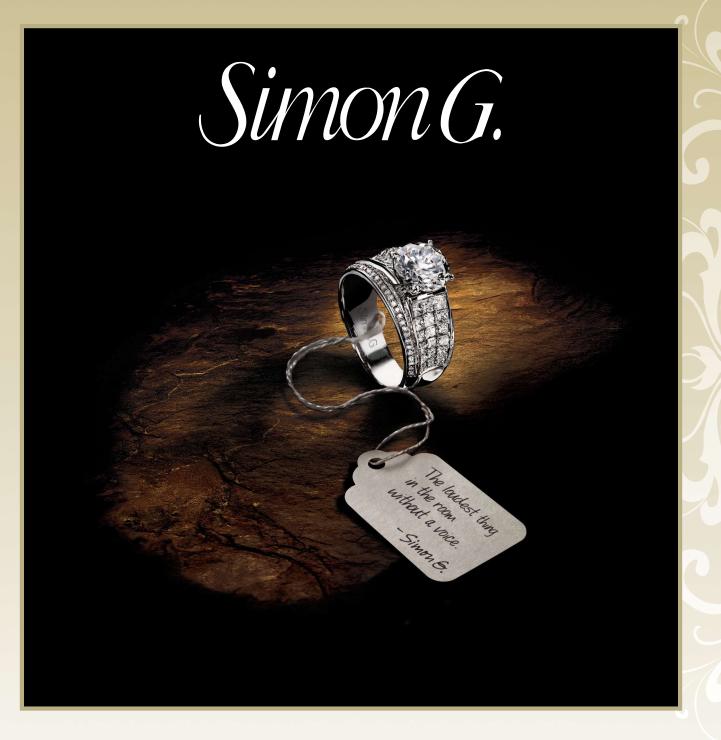
96 BALLANTYNE MAGAZINE SUMMER 2014



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