

Daniel Island News

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March 27 - April 2, 2025

CHARLESTON OPEN

A LEGACY GROWS

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ROBERT PRANGE/GETTY IMAGES/WTN

Local tennis star and World No. 10 Emma Navarro returns to compete in the Credit One Charleston Open as the tournament celebrates its 25th year on Daniel Island.



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Revamped and reimagined: Ristorante LIDI reopens with new chef

Bold flavors, fresh look, new menu

MARIE ROCHA-TYGH

marie@thedanielislandnews.com

For more than a decade, Ristorante LIDI has been a beloved dining destination, known for its inviting atmosphere and Italian-inspired cuisine.

Now, after a month-long renovation, the restaurant has reopened with a fresh new look and a bold culinary vision.

With a revamped interior, a refreshed menu, and the addition of acclaimed chef Randy MacDonald, LIDI is ready to welcome both longtime patrons and new guests into an elevated dining experience.

Greg Keating, LIDI managing partner, says the makeover included the floors, renovated bathrooms, and painted services in the restaurant.

"We closed on Saturday, Feb. 8, for renovations and reopened on Feb. 28. We had not done any big renovation since opening. In honor of us hiring Randy MacDonald, our new chef, we felt it was the right time to

create a new look and feel for the restaurant."

MacDonald says he's adding some delectable delights to the menu and putting his own spin on old favorites. "Things like our porcini ravioli that is served in a truffled mushroom broth with pea shoots and truffles pangrattato – fancy name for seasoned breadcrumbs. And our octopus dish, just some things that haven't been done at LIDI, at least for a while, plus some revamped classics like meatballs, but my recipe, as well as adding some old school pasta dishes with fresh pasta like shrimp puttanesca and wild boar Bolognese."

MacDonald wants to make LIDI a better, more appealing place to eat. He and the entire staff are focusing on freshness and attractive plating, looking at every plate that goes out in an effort to help build a more trusting clientele and improve business.

MacDonald has been in the restaurant business for almost 40 years, working in free standing restaurants, hotels, and private



MARIE ROCHA-TYGH

Chef Randy MacDonald is putting his signature touch on classic Italian favorites at LIDI.

clubs. He was based in Kentucky before starting work at the Daniel Island Yacht Club in June 2022.

"I hadn't been on the island since my

daughter nearly killed us both while teaching her how to drive – and she is now 32 years old! I have to say I've had nothing but warm receptions, met friendly people, and received gracious southern hospitality. I hope to be an adopted part of the DI community for a long time to come," MacDonald exclaimed.

Daniel Island resident Mike Roller always enjoyed Chef Randy's delicious meals when he was a member at the Daniel Island Yacht Club. "We were thrilled to learn he'd be staying on the island when he moved to LIDI. The ambiance of the restaurant still has room to improve but the food is some of the best Italian in Charleston. The pasta in particular has been perfect, definitely freshly made."

Manager Travis James is excited for customers to experience LIDI's fresh new vibe. "We're creating this new place that's good quality and great service. Somewhere you want to go, somewhere that you want to be on a Friday or a Monday night. The food is fantastic! We've added a lot of staff to help the service experience...A lot of smiling faces and everybody's super excited to be here working."

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Featured Agent Of The Week

This week’s featured agent is Brian Connolly! Brian brings energy, expertise, and a personal touch to every client relationship.

A proud dad to Ava and Brooksie, he’s spent the last year and a half trading tee times for time on the sidelines—supporting his kids at the softball field, baseball diamond, and basketball court. His love for family and community shines through in both life and work.

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Police make drug-related arrests

ELIZABETH HORTON
news@thedanielislandnews.com

The following incidents were taken from the City of Charleston Police Department's crime reports within Team 5, which covers Daniel Island, Clements Ferry Road, and parts of Cainhoy, between March 1-15.

DRUG/NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS

While patrolling on March 2, officers observed a vehicle traveling with expired tags. According to the incident report, the driver began making sudden turns to avoid the police car, then parked at a residence off Euclid Drive.

A male exited the vehicle, stood by the home's front door, and then returned to his truck. He repeated this cycle several times, then drove away from the property.

Due to the suspicious behavior, officers attempted to intercept the vehicle. The driver parked in the

middle of the road, exited the truck, and popped the hood. He told the police that the vehicle was overheating; however, officers noted that it appeared to be functioning normally.

After detecting the odor of marijuana, a search of the vehicle was conducted. The officers recovered six grams of marijuana and a white substance consistent with crack cocaine. A blue tool bag in the back of the vehicle held hundreds of small capsules. Miscellaneous tools were scattered throughout the vehicle.

A National Crime Information Center check revealed that the individual had an outstanding warrant from the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office and was driving with a suspended license. He was transported to the Berkeley County Detention Center.

On March 13, an officer was patrolling the area of Clements Ferry Road and Reflectance Drive and observed a driver who failed to use a turn signal and turned into

an incorrect lane. The license tag had an expired decal displayed. A vehicle stop was initiated.

Due to the odor of marijuana in the car, a search was conducted. Numerous items of contraband were found, including empty bags that formerly contained marijuana, a grinder with remnants of marijuana, a supply of marijuana, three firearms, over 250 rounds of ammunition, silver and gold pill bottles containing pills later identified as MDMA, or ecstasy, oxycodone hydrochloride, the muscle relaxer cyclobenzaprine, a wallet with IDs from multiple states, and credit cards.

An inquiry revealed that the suspect had a warrant in Atlanta, Georgia, had an active protection order, and was federally prohibited from possessing a firearm. He was arrested and lodged at Hill-Finklea Detention Center.

WIRE FRAUD

A resident of Etiwan Park Street



advised that on Feb. 19 he wired \$14,480 from his account to a company in Montgomery, Alabama, to purchase a 1970 Chevrolet C10 pickup truck. The vehicle was originally scheduled for delivery on Feb. 27, then rescheduled to March 1. The vehicle was never delivered, and both the driver and salesperson had disconnected their phone service. A police report was filed on March 3.

HIT-AND-RUN COLLISION

On March 1, an officer was dispatched to Hopewell Drive in response to a hit-and-run collision. The complainant stated that he went inside a store in Point Hope, and when he returned to the parking lot, he noticed that the left rear

of his vehicle had been damaged. The officer made contact with a manager of the store, who played back video of the incident, which was in direct view of the two cameras outside of the front door. A 6-foot, 5-inch male was observed exiting a pickup truck and walking into the store. After leaving the store, the subject backed across the parking lot and collided with the complainant's vehicle and fled the scene.

The video did not clearly capture the tag on the vehicle. The complainant was advised and provided with an accident report.

FORGERY

On March 4, Team 5 met with the manager of a restaurant located on Island Park Drive. An ex-employee took a check from the business, made it out to himself, and cashed it in the amount of \$2,000, dated Feb. 20. The offender had resigned from his position and had given two weeks' notice, with March 2 scheduled as his last day. The manager advised that he will be filing fraud charges.

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The Daniel Island News

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Office 843.856.1999
225 Seven Farms Drive, Suite 108
Daniel Island, SC 29492

Publisher/Managing Editor:
Suzanne M. Detar
843.345.1563
sdetar@thedanielislandnews.com

Associate Publisher:
Patrick Villegas
843.224.9272
patrick@thedanielislandnews.com

Ad Director:
Ronda Schilling
843.330.1981
ronda@thedanielislandnews.com

Graphic Designer:
Jan Marvin
jan@thedanielislandnews.com

The Daniel Island News is published weekly and distributed free throughout Daniel Island and down Clements Ferry Rd. to residences, business establishments and at various distribution points on Daniel Island, Mt. Pleasant, and Cainhoy. The entire content of The Daniel Island News is copyrighted 2025 by The Daniel Island Publishing Corp., LLC. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission from the publisher.

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Appreciating your progress?



unconventional wisdom

STEVE FERBER

Earlier this month, 17-year-old Mirra Andreva – the fastest rising star on the WTA circuit – won back-to-back tennis tournaments. And she did it in grand fashion, defeating in consecutive matches the world No. 1 and world No. 2. No small feat.

But a line in her victory speech is what drew the world's attention. After thanking her family, her coaches, tournament staff, sponsors, and fans, she then said, "I would again like to thank myself for fighting until the end and for always believing in me and for never quitting."

At first listen, the words seemed a touch brash. But Oluwatosin Adesoba, writing for vocal media, framed it well: "Self-acknowledgment is not about arrogance or self-indulgence; rather, it is about fostering a deep appreciation for who you are."

SELF-APPRECIATION IS ESSENTIAL

"In any learning process, appreciating is es-

sential," writes Robin Zander in her piece for tinyhabitsacademy.com. "Striving is a great attribute. But it is also important to acknowledge with compassion or gratitude where you are right now. The appreciation of progress comes (from) noticing progress."

Back to Adesoba: "It's easy to focus on our shortcomings. However, recognizing and appreciating yourself is essential for personal growth, self-confidence, and overall well-being. (Often we are) so focused on where we want to be that we forget to acknowledge the progress we've already made. Celebrate your achievements, even the minor ones."

CELEBRATE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

In a Psychology Today column, psychiatrist Benjamin Cheyette and pediatric neurologist Sarah Cheyette emphasized the importance of appreciating – and celebrating – our achievements, no matter the size.

They explain: "Once a task is completed well, it's not just the external rewards and consequences that matter. It's also the internal sense of satisfaction and pride. Knowing that you can and did do well is important."

The Cheyettes add, "The celebration of achievement and the positive emotion you feel is

The Daniel Island News ■ March 27 - April 2, 2025

what tells your brain, 'This is why it was worth it to put in all that hard work. It's this feeling that I'm going after.'"

THE ANTIDOTE TO CRITICISM

You're certainly familiar with the standard scenario: we set a goal and attach a timeframe, yet once we fall behind, self-criticism takes center stage. "The antidote to criticism is appreciation," says Yancy Wright, writing for the Foundation for Conscious Living. "Appreciation leads to joy, and daily practice can help sustain lifelong joy." Adds Wright, "The inner critic cannot operate at the same time as creative flow."

WHICH SELF WILL DO THE TALKING TODAY?

Writing for nowwithpurpose.com, Azalea (no last name) maintains that "a 'thank you' to ourselves is way overdue." She took the bold step of crafting a letter to herself in which she thanked Azalea for her strength, persistence, resilience, and integrity and for "never caving into the pressure of perfection."

It is commonly said that we're our own worst critic and that, too often, we slip into self-judgment, self-criticism, and self-indulgence. But another path begs our attention: self-care, self-trust, self-compassion, and self-appreciation, all of which inevitably lead to building self-esteem and self-confidence.

Which self will do the talking today?

Turn an obstacle into an opportunity

DOUG DICKERSON

dickersonleadership@gmail.com.

A story tells of an ancient time when a king placed a boulder on a roadway. He hid and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock.

Wealthy merchants walked around it. Many blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but no one moved the boulder.

Then, a peasant carrying a load of vegetables approached the boulder. He laid down his burden and after pushing and straining, he moved the boulder to the side of the road. As he picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road. The purse contained gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many never understood. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve one's condition.

What do you do with the boulders and challenges you find on your road? How do you handle adversity? What are the consequences of your decisions?

YOU CAN IGNORE THEM

Some of the king's wealthiest merchants first approached the boulder in the road. Being people of wealth and means, you would think that if they couldn't move the boulder themselves, at the least, they could pay someone to do it for them. The first group left the boulder right where it was, opting not to get involved or be bothered. Many complained and blamed the king for the poor road conditions.

The wealthy merchants represent self-absorbed leaders who only think of themselves. They leave the problem to someone else.

Leaders, remember that your actions today can bear consequences for others tomorrow. You can leave a clear path for others or leave obstacles you find for others to deal with later.

YOU CAN DO THE HEAVY LIFTING AND REAP THE REWARD

The peasant comes down the road and finds the same boulder blocking his path. He works hard and moves the boulder.

The peasant in the story represents a servant leadership mindset. He knows that it is in his best interest to move the boulder for his own passage

and for those coming behind him.

In his book, *High Road Leadership*, John Maxwell writes, "When you do what's right, you're not only taking the high road with others. You are taking the high road with yourself."

The happy ending to the story is that the king left a note and a purse filled with gold coins – the reward for the person who moved the boulder from the road.

While the servant leadership mindset is not about what you get in return for your actions, it demonstrates that good things come to those who put others first. When you take the high road, you make the road better for everyone.

Do women's sports deserve more attention?

The top professional women's tennis players are set to take to the court at the Credit One Charleston Open and fans around the world will be watching on TV. But overall, women's sports receive less attention than men's due to a variety of reasons. Unequal media coverage is often attributed as a factor in the lower popularity and attention given to women's sports. Take our women's sports survey and share your comments at survey-monkey.com/r/WomenSports by Sun., March 30, at 5 p.m.



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KIDS SAY

Who's your favorite tennis player and why?

Compiled by Rose Monahan
Daniel Island School student



Nadal because
he's the best in
the world.

Hudson, age 7
Charleston



My favorite tennis
player is Djokovic
because he inspired
a lot of people to
play tennis.

Sadie, age 10
Charleston



Emma Navarro
because she lives
here.

Emily, age 6
Daniel Island



Serena Williams
because she went
to the Olympics.

Elle, age 10
Daniel Island



Serena Williams
because she's the
greatest tennis
player.

Charlotte, age 6
Charleston



Serena Williams
because she's really
good.

Fallon, age 11
Daniel Island



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I am from Delaware.

How long have you been in
the business?
I have been cutting for 11 years.

What do you love most about
this profession?
My favorite thing about my profession
is the ability to connect with people
and help my community look and
feel better.

If you could choose any other
career—what do you think you
would do?
I would like to be involved in the
fashion or photography industry if I
wasn't a barber.

What is your favorite time of
the year?
My favorite time is the spring when the
flowers bloom or back up north it was
fall when the trees changed colors.

If you were stranded on an island
what one thing would you take
with you?

If I was stranded on an island I would
bring a large drum of medical grade
isopropyl alcohol.

What is your favorite food?
My favorite food is gyoza.

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Spring real estate market is here

Buyers cautious, taking time to find right house



Renee Reinert
Carolina One

In February, 15 homes sold on Daniel Island, with the total sales for the month reaching \$29,655,000. As of March 9, there were 96 homes listed for sale: 58 active listings and 38 under contract.

The most expensive home sold in February at \$4.75 million was 469 Lesesne Street in the Parkside neighborhood. The least expensive home sold was a two-bedroom condo at 300 Bucksley Lane, which sold for \$425,000.

Renee Reinert with Carolina One said although there may be a low inventory of homes for sale, it doesn't mean

buyers will buy just any home that is available. "We still see low inventory," Reinert said. "Buyers are still cautious and taking their time to find the right house and are willing to wait for the right house." Reinert also noted that the sales volume of homes this February is actually more than \$10 million lower compared to February 2024. "You have heard about prices softening," she said, "so I thought it would be interesting to see the volume sold this February as compared to last February. I found that the number of properties (sold) did not vary very much at all, however the price of the homes did."

Homes sold in February

- 300 Bucksley Lane #106 - \$425,000
- 2326 Daniel Island Drive - \$640,000
- 1713 Doldridge St.- \$1,125,000

Month	DI Homes Sold Per Month				Total Value of Homes Sold Per Month			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	32	21	24	15	\$31,722,900	\$30,478,015	\$39,768,900	\$31,004,275
February	21	12	18	15	\$26,962,940	\$12,278,500	\$44,064,646	\$29,655,000
March	38	19	25		\$47,581,769	\$33,002,153	\$37,717,567	
April	34	25	27		\$45,284,139	\$41,784,300	\$56,836,000	
May	34	36	36		\$52,184,737	\$54,607,975	\$70,444,400	
June	30	30	30		\$44,261,525	\$56,576,160	\$60,970,500	
July	14	25	40		\$29,707,500	\$36,919,032	\$64,952,400	
August	22	22	25		\$35,597,327	\$33,646,299	\$45,617,000	
September	30	26	19		\$44,069,749	\$41,327,400	\$29,435,000	
October	16	31	22		\$22,021,005	\$49,493,910	\$40,804,500	
November	12	10	23		\$14,639,805	\$14,627,000	\$38,841,400	
December	10	19	17		\$7,903,422	\$27,809,500	\$30,153,400	
YEAR TOTALS	293	277	306	30	\$401,936,818	\$432,550,244	\$559,605,713	\$60,659,275

- 102 Jordan Court - \$1,150,000
- 1040 Barfield St. - \$1,100,000
- 283 Beresford Creek St. - \$1,275,000
- 1738 Trewin Court - \$1,260,000
- 142 Corn Planters St. - \$1,550,000
- 1809 Beekman St. - \$1,780,000

- 409 Spartina Lane - \$2,050,000
- 1519 Wando Landing St. - \$2,450,000
- 720 Island Park Drive #108 - \$2,600,000
- 34 Hazelhurst St. - \$3,100,000
- 608 Bermuda Isle St. - \$4,400,000
- 469 Lesesne St. - \$4,750,000

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SHELBY ROGERS: TV COMMENTATOR PG. 14



EMMA NAVARRO RETURNS PG. 16



WHAT'S NEW AT THE COCO 2025?



PGS. 12-13

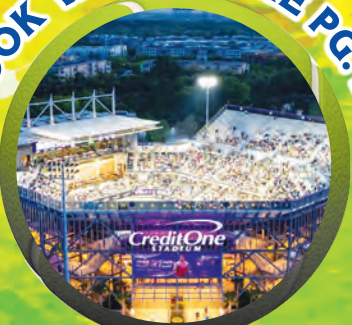
PETER AYERS: THE COACH BEHIND THE CHAMPION PGS. 18-19



MEET THE TOP PLAYERS PG. 21



LOOK WHO'S HERE PG. 23



PLAY TO WIN TICKETS PG. 25

GAME. SET. MATCH!



WHAT'S NEW AT COCO 2025

PATRICK VILLEGAS

patrick@thedanielislandnews.com

Whether you know it as the Family Circle Cup, the Volvo Car Open, or the COCO, there's lots of new stuff underway to celebrate the 25th anniversary of tournament tennis on Daniel Island this weekend.

Let's get started!

YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS!

Tennis great John McEnroe made this four-word phrase famous during a Wimbledon rant, and to put it mildly, he, ahem, disagreed with an umpire's call on whether his ball was in or out.

You see, back in Mac's day, camera replays were not advanced enough to clearly tell if a tennis ball was on the line

or out of bounds. It all rested on the eyes of a human being.

Technology is a lot better now.

Both hard and grass courts have embraced the technology that integrates super-duper computers and cutting-edge cameras to instantly, and correctly, make tough line calls.

Curiously though, clay courts, like the ones at Credit One Stadium, have kept it old school, still relying on human peepers and the forensic-like dusting of clay skid marks to make or break a controversial ruling.

Until now.

"Charleston will be the first using Electric-Line Calling," COCO communications director Arielle Alpino said.

This year, the Credit One Charleston

Open will be the first clay court venue to utilize electronic-line calling in a WTA tournament. Just like the ball-watching tracers at Wimbledon or the U.S. Open, the technology will help confirm if a ball is in or out, with the result shown on video screens around the arena for both the fans and players to see.

And if you're wondering, the electric-line calling system is not just for the COCO finals or for use only inside Stadium Court. Alpino said the tech will be used "for all clay court matches in the tournament," including Althea Gibson Court and all the surrounding side courts on the concourse.

COASTLINE LUXURY LOUNGE

If you'd like to sit and eat in the lap of

luxury while enjoying the slip and slide of sneakers at the baseline of Stadium Court, then round up three friends and check into the Coastline Lounge.

Plush rows of extra seating will be new this year, positioned in front of the Stage House baseline, for fans looking to dine on fine food with a front row and shaded view.

"It's a premium view of Stadium Court with a menu of elevated Lowcountry cuisine," Alpino said.

Think a corner booth at a fancy steakhouse – with a private table for four and access to an exclusive menu from Executive Chef Theo Copanezos. As of press time, Alpino said a couple of tables were still available for Monday's session to enjoy, noting the menu items, cocktail

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY
CHARLESTON TENNIS LLC



25-YEAR CELEBRATION INCLUDES A CLAY COURT CAMERA DEBUT, MORE IN-STADIUM MATCHES, AND A SEMIFINAL AFTERPARTY

delights, and champagne bar will not be available anywhere else on tournament grounds.

CENTER OF ATTENTION

This upcoming weekend on Saturday, March 29, and Sunday, March 30, is Family Weekend, which will again include two days of tennis fun, music, and celebration for kids of all ages as qualifying matches for the tournament get underway.

The weekend will include face painting, balloon art, and photo opportunities with favorite movie characters, plus plenty of tennis-filled interactive games to test everyone's racquet readiness at the Kids Zone.

And get this: for the first time in tournament history, qualifying tennis matches

will be at the center of attention - literally.

"We are going to move our qualifying matches into the stadium," Alpino said.

Normally played exclusively on the side courts, this is the first year fans can sit inside the main arena to watch additional qualifying matches and cheer on rising stars as they battle it out to make it into the main draw.

Family Weekend tickets start as low as \$10, and children 16 and under are free.

\$70 FOR DOWNTOWN EATS

If you are a foodie, it might be the deal of the tournament.

The Greenhouse by BHC is another luxury lounge and bar that will be located on the Grand Lawn, providing top-notch eats from the likes of chefs from Charles-

ton Place, Charleston Grill, Meeting and Market, and The Palmetto Cafe.

Handcrafted cocktails at the Greenhouse bar are open to all attendees for purchase during the matches, and if you've got a hankering to nosh and nibble all day, a \$70 ticket can give you unlimited access to flavors associated with downtown Charleston.

"Purchase a ticket, and you can eat throughout the day and sample," Alpino said.

DON'T STOP THE PARTY!

Everyone at the Oscars and Saturday Night Live knows the real fun starts when the show ends and the afterparty begins.

To celebrate 25 years of professional tennis in Charleston, an afterparty will be

held once all the semifinal action ends on Saturday, April 5.

The 25-Year Party on the Oaks Deck will feature drinks, Lowcountry cuisine, and dance music from DJ Boogi, with a chance to meet and greet attending tennis tournament ambassadors including the likes of tennis greats Tracy Austin and Daniel Island's Shelby Rogers.

"It's one of the ways we are celebrating 25 years in Charleston, a little party out on the Oaks Deck," Alpino said, adding there is so much to do as the nine-day tournament kicks off.

"Tennis is the star of the show, but the fan experience is very well-rounded. We really have a packed schedule."



Shelby Rogers calls the shots as a Tennis Channel analyst

EMMA SLAVEN

Emma@thedanielislandnews.com

Shelby Rogers may have hung up her racket, but she certainly hasn't stepped away from the game she loves.

The Charleston native and former WTA pro has traded in her tennis whites for a microphone, serving up expert analysis as a commentator for Tennis Channel. And this year, she's bringing her insight and charisma back home to the Credit One Charleston Open, not as a competitor, but as part of the broadcast team.

Rogers officially retired after the 2024 U.S. Open, closing out a 15-year career on the WTA Tour. The decision wasn't easy, but it was inevitable.

"I've had three knee surgeries and played for almost 15 years on tour, and my body was just ready to be done," she said. "It became increasingly difficult to train and compete at a high level. I'm grateful I could choose when I retire – many athletes don't get that."

But retirement didn't mean leaving tennis behind. Far from it.

"I knew I didn't want to disappear from the sport," Rogers said. "Tennis has given me so much, and I'm so passionate about the game. I wanted to give back in any way I can."

During her career, Rogers explored broadcasting while recovering from injuries, making guest appearances on Tennis Channel. Beyond commentary, she's also an advisory board member for LYVECAP, an investor and athlete advisor for Firefly Recovery, and a mentor for Voice in Sport.

"I love being on TV. I love talking about tennis. It's something that comes fairly easily for me since I've done it my whole life."

Now working as an independent contractor, Rogers takes on commentary gigs part-time, offering her expert take on matches and the minds of players on court.

"I think it's really cool for the audience to hear that kind of perspective," she noted.



PROVIDED BY SHELBY ROGERS

From left to right: Tennis Channel hosts Dani Klupenger, Nick Monroe, and guest Yvonne Orji break down the action alongside Shelby Rogers, who has traded competing on the court for calling the game as a Tennis Channel commentator.

"You can observe and paint any picture you want when you're talking about the players, but what they're actually thinking is near impossible to know unless they tell you. Fans want that inside look."

At first, she wasn't sure how she'd feel attending tournaments post-retirement, but the shift has been refreshing.

"People kept telling me, 'You're so relaxed, you're so happy!' And it's true,

it's just a different kind of stress now," she laughed. "Now I can watch matches from a fan standpoint instead of just scouting my next opponent."

As the COCO approaches, this will be Rogers' first time at the Charleston courts not as a player, but as a commentator calling the action.

"I'll be there doing just about everything – helping out Bob Moran and Ben Navarro,

working the Tennis Channel calling matches on TV, interacting with the fans, and helping out with some of the events leading up to the tournament."

She's particularly excited about experiencing the tournament from a new angle.

"I'm hoping to get a little more time with the fans. Before, I was still focused on playing and preparing, but now I get to interact in a different way and enjoy the tennis alongside them. Every year the tournament gets better, and I just want to add value in whatever way I can."

While broadcasting is a natural fit, Rogers knows it's not for every retired player.

"Some players find it interesting because it's something they know really well and can talk about, but I also know plenty of players who don't want to be in front of a camera at all," she said. "They don't want to have to be 'on' with energy and be a TV personality. Some players want a break from tennis, and that's understandable."

For Rogers, though, the transition has been fulfilling.

"I want to keep growing this game. I want more people's eyes on the sport, more opportunities for the next generation. I don't mind being in front of the camera and giving my opinion."

As she settles into her new career, Rogers is embracing the opportunities that come with it.

"Being able to speak into something that has meant so much to me and hopefully inspire someone else has always been really rewarding to me. As I step into more of a mentor role, I'm meeting new players, younger players, even soccer players and a lot of other sports. There's a lot of overlap in this lifestyle and helping that next generation is a huge passion of mine."

PROVIDED BY SHELBY ROGERS

Behind the scenes with Shelby Rogers and Chanda Rubin – two former WTA pros now serving up the inside scoop as Tennis Channel commentators.



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From Daniel Island debut to WTA champion

Emma Navarro's stardom continues to rise

PHILIP M. BOWMAN
sports@thedanielislandnews.com

She was just 17 when she stepped out onto the stadium court to play in a tournament that has morphed into today's Credit One Charleston Open.

While Emma Navarro might have been unknown and unheralded, her talent and potential were unlimited.

Navarro was a junior at Ashley Hall when she collided with German tennis player Laura Siegemund at the then Volvo Car Open on an April night in 2019, which was her debut in a main draw of a WTA event.

While she was well known in tennis circles, she wasn't a household name just yet.

She checked in at World No. 565 when she tested the green clay on Daniel Island, up from World No. 763 just six months earlier.

Siegemund won, but it was the first step in an amazing tennis journey up the WTA rankings ladder.

"I'm obviously disappointed that I lost, but I'm super happy with how I played, and

it was definitely a good intro to the pro tour and a good pro debut," Navarro told reporters after the match.

"The atmosphere was amazing. Everyone, a bunch of my school friends came out, tennis friends, and everyone was so supportive," Navarro added. "And it was better than I could have ever imagined out there."

Much has changed in Navarro's tennis world since her Daniel Island debut six years ago.

She won the NCAA singles title as a sophomore at the University of Virginia in 2021. She would become the first NCAA singles champ to reach the semifinals of the U.S. Open.

Navarro continued to climb up the WTA ladder and finished 2023 as the World No. 32 player, and then cemented her status as an elite player last year, finishing at World No. 8, which has been her best ranking so far. She's currently ranked No. 10.

Navarro, who turns 24 on May 18, has become a fixture at the Grand Slam events, compiling a 19-9 record on some of tennis'

most hallowed venues.

Navarro owns a 6-2 record against Australian Open foes and reached the quarterfinals to begin 2025.

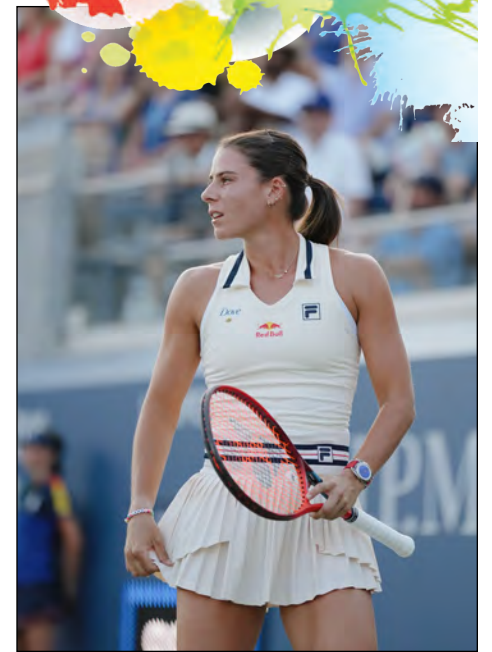
Navarro is 4-2 at Roland Garros and reached the Round of 16 last spring. She also was a member of the U.S. Olympic team that competed in Paris last year.

Navarro has been effective on the manicured grass at Wimbledon, with four victories against two losses. She reached the quarterfinals last summer.

Finally, she's returned home to her native New York City to play in three U.S. Opens. She's 5-3 in the Big Apple and reached the semifinals in late summer last year.

Navarro is concise and a competitor. She also is a champion.

She won her first 500-level crown in March when she topped Emiliana Arango of Colombia, 6-0, 6-0, to culminate an impressive run at the WTA 500 Merida Open Akron in Mexico. She became only the fifth player this century to win a tourney title by double-bagel domination.



FWRD SOCIAL

Since her Daniel Island debut on stadium court in 2019, Emma Navarro's world ranking and rising stardom continues to surge on the eve of the 2025 Credit One Charleston Open.

Her first title came in 2024 when she won the Hobart International crown. The tourney was a 250-level event that led up to the Australian Open.



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THE COACH BEHIND THE CHAMPION

DI'S PETER AYERS ON GUIDING TENNIS STAR EMMA NAVARRO TO THE TOP

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PETER AYERS

EMMA SLAVEN
emma@thedanielislandnews.com

Great athletes don't rise alone. Behind every champion is a coach who sees the potential before the world does, someone who sharpens her strengths, challenges her limits, and fuels her belief.

For world No. 8 tennis star Emma Navarro, that person is Peter Ayers.

For nearly a decade, the Daniel Island-based coach has been the steady hand guiding Navarro from junior competition to the sport's grandest stages.

Now, as Navarro prepares to take on the Credit One Charleston Open as one of the WTA's top players, Ayers opens up about their journey and his role in shaping one of tennis's most promising stars.

"It's been a privilege, honestly," Ayers said. "Day in and day out, to watch her go about her craft on a daily basis, so intentionally and methodically, patiently, persistently – it's a beautiful thing."

Ayers, a former professional tennis player himself, knows the game from both sides. He had a successful junior career, playing collegiately at Duke University, and competed on the ATP Futures and Challenger tours. While he modestly downplays his professional playing days, his experience has profoundly shaped his approach to coaching.

"Just the experience of spending a life in sports – not just in tennis, but in multiple sports – and having a lot of great influences and great coaches in my life, I think, is what lit the fire to do the kinds of things that I'm able to do now."

Ayers and Navarro's story began when the former world No. 922 player first saw an 11-year-old Navarro play. Fate played its part when he later joined LTP Tennis, a training facility owned by Emma's father, Ben Navarro, and Charleston Tennis LLC.

Though Ayers had previously worked with top-tier players, moving to Daniel Island meant starting from scratch, but he found a prodigy in Navarro, and together they forged an extraordinary partnership.

"We're right at nine years together this spring," he said. "I'm just so grateful to have had the opportunity to start with a player and have a vision and to be able to carry it through to this extent."

What makes their partnership so successful? Ayers said it all boils



Tennis coach Peter Ayers has been a guiding force in Emma Navarro's journey over the last nine years, shaping her game, mindset, and resilience as she rises through the ranks of professional tennis.

down to patience and trust.

"There's going to be great moments, and there's going to be moments that test you," he said. "I'm very proud of the way that we've met the moments that have tested us the most and been able to come through them even stronger than we were before."

Navarro's development has been a team effort, with Ayers playing a key role in refining her game while collaborating with other specialists.

"She has a wonderful physical trainer who's helped show her the path to becoming the best athlete she can be. We've worked together to bridge that gap between what you can do in the gym and how you can apply it on the court," he explained. "You know, it's not only about keeping her healthy and her body right but helping her tap into elements in her body that I don't think she even knew were there."

On the court, Ayers has helped Navarro, now 23, harness her strengths rather than emulate other players. "What Emma's done so well is focusing on becoming the best version of herself and not get-

Though Ayers had previously worked with top-tier players, moving to Daniel Island meant starting from scratch, but he found a prodigy in Navarro, and together they forged an extraordinary partnership.

ting caught up in doing things that may end up making you a lesser version of somebody else."

One of the most rewarding aspects of coaching for Ayers has been seeing Navarro progress through each level of competition.

"One thing about Emma's journey is that it's been methodical, it hasn't been rushed," he said. "From junior to collegiate to professional tennis, going regional to national to international competition – she's worked through every step to earn her place."

Watching Navarro grow from an 11-year-old aspiring athlete to competing on tennis's biggest stages is a privilege reserved for the most influential figures in her life. "Just to sit here and know that I've watched Emma play on center court in all four Grand Slams is a pretty spectacular accomplishment," Ayers said. "Those memories of seeing her take those courts... I'll carry with me forever."

While he shies away from taking credit for any particular aspects of Navarro's game, Ayers acknowledges his role in shaping her tactical approach.

"I would like to think that going way back, I saw an opportunity for her to play at the highest levels of the game and have been able to, through some trial and error, show her a path that could help get her there," he said. "Sometimes, it's dealing with a specific way of hitting a shot. Other times, it may just be a specific way of seeing how to play the game, how to structure a point, how she can best use what makes her special, and applying that to interacting with the person on the other side of the net."

Among all the things Ayers is proud of, it's Navarro's resilience that stands out the most. "I marvel at how gracefully Emma meets every challenge," he said. "It's not easy. And I think that it is truly, truly special."

As the Charleston Open approaches, Navarro and Ayers will once again be on home turf, where their journey began nearly a decade ago. With Navarro continuing to rise through the ranks, her coach remains ambitious.

"There's goals, and then there's dreams," Ayers said. "I wouldn't want to speculate too much, but I know she has some very big dreams in terms of what she can accomplish on the biggest stages in the world. I think her goals center around trying to get a little bit better each day, trying to become the best player she can be."

Tennis coach Peter Ayers works with tennis pro Emma Navarro during a practice session.



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JESSICA PEGULA



MADISON KEYS



QINWEN ZHENG



EMMA NAVARRO



PAULA BADOSA

Elite showdown in Charleston: A must-watch tennis spectacle

PHILIP M. BOWMAN

sports@thedanielislandnews.com

The 2025 Credit One Charleston Open will showcase an amazing cast of characters – and champions.

This year's version of the iconic tournament, dubbed as "Where the Court Meets the Coast," is star-spangled with nine Americans and star-studded with so much talent that 10 of the top 20 players in the world will be in town.

The top five players who will battle in Charleston include Jessica Pegula, Madison Keys, Qinwen Zheng, Emma Navarro, and Paula Badosa.

The field also includes five past champions and three Grand Slam winners, making it one of the most must-watch tournaments in its 25-year run in Charleston.

Keys joins Danielle Collins (2024), Belinda Bencic (2022), Veronika Kudermetova (2021), and Daria Kasatkina (2017) as past Charleston champions who are seeking another Daniel Island clay-court conquest.

Keys, Jelena Ostapenko, and Sofia Kenin are entrants who have been crowned champions at Grand Slam events.

Here are capsules of the top five players scheduled to play in Charleston.

JESSICA PEGULA UNITED STATES WORLD NO. 4

Pegula, who is making her seventh appearance in the main draw and 11th overall in Charleston, will be the highest-ranked player on the WTA Tour and highest-ranked American in Charleston.

Pegula won two singles championships last year, including Toronto and Berlin, to finish the season ranked in the top 10 for the

third straight year.

Also in 2024, Pegula joined Rosie Casals (1970), Evonne Goolagong Cawley (1973) and Serena Williams (2013) as the only women in the Open Era to reach the championship at the Canadian Open, Cincinnati Open, and U.S. Open in the same season.

She picked up the seventh title of her career and first of 2025 when she won the ATX Open in Austin, Texas, in early March. She is 15-5 this season.

She said it: "I'm always excited to return to Charleston for the Credit One Charleston Open. This tournament holds a special place in my heart, with wonderful memories from my two semifinal appearances and time spent in the Lowcountry over the past decade. I can't wait to kick off my clay season in Charleston and play in front of a home crowd at Credit One Stadium."

MADISON KEYS UNITED STATES WORLD NO. 5

Keys turned 30 in February, and two of the constants in her life seem to be winning and playing in Charleston. This will be her 12th appearance on Daniel Island, in a season that began with Keys winning her first Grand Slam, the Australian Open.

The Rock Island, Illinois native owns eight WTA career singles titles and has been a U.S. Open finalist, a two-time Australian Open semifinalist, a Roland Garros semifinalist, and a two-time Wimbledon quarterfinalist.

Keys, who is 20-10 in the COCO, was champion of the Charleston clay in 2019. She reached the finals in 2015, the quarterfinals in 2013 and 2023, and the semifinals in 2018.

She said it: "Charleston has always felt

like home to me, and I can't wait to be back at the Credit One Charleston Open. It's a tournament I hold close to my heart... not just because of the results I've had there, but because of the amazing atmosphere. The fans, the city, the entire tournament feel like family. I'm excited to return and hopefully add to the special memories I've made there."

QINWEN ZHENG CHINA WORLD NO. 9

Zheng has been impressive since 2022, when she was named the WTA Newcomer of the Year. She reached the quarterfinals in Miami and was three wins away from her fifth title leading up to the Credit One Charleston Open.

In 2023, she won singles titles in Palermo and Zhengzhou and added titles in Tokyo and Palermo the following year.

She's been a finalist in five other tournaments, including the WTA Finals, Wuhan, and the Australian Open in 2024.

Zheng won a gold medal in singles at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

EMMA NAVARRO UNITED STATES WORLD NO. 10

Navarro is one of the WTA's fastest rising stars, moving from World No. 58 to No. 8 in a year. The highlight of an impressive 2024 included her first WTA title at Hobart in January. She never slowed down as she played in the Paris Olympics and reached the semifinals at the U.S. Open.

She shone in each of the Slams, reaching the third round of the Australian Open, the fourth round of Roland Garros, and the

quarterfinals at Wimbledon.

She picked up her second WTA title earlier this year with a double-bagel win in the championship of the Mérida Open Akron.

She said it: "I'm excited to return to my hometown tournament, the Credit One Charleston Open. Competing in front of my home crowd means so much to me. Last year has brought many career highlights and cherished memories, and the fans from Charleston have been with me every step of the way."

PAULA BADOSA SPAIN WORLD NO. 11

Badosa, who seemed to be recovered from a season-ending injury in 2023, has found it hard to stay healthy early in 2025.

Badosa reached the Round of 16 in Miami this week in the lead-up to the Credit One Charleston Open but experienced pain so bad she seemed to be on the verge of tears. She was forced to withdraw.

The former BNP Paribas Open champion also withdrew from the Indian Wells event because of an apparent lower back injury.

The 26-year-old Spaniard retired from an earlier tournament, the Mérida Open in Mexico, as well.

When healthy, she's among the best. Badosa reached the quarterfinal of last fall's U.S. Open. She reached World No. 2 before being slowed by injuries.

She said it: "I'm really looking forward to returning to Charleston. This tournament means so much to me, especially with my past results there. I feel healthy and strong again, and I'm excited to build on the momentum from this season as I get ready to compete in Charleston again."

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Look Who's Here: From aces to encores at 161 Seven Farms Drive

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There's only one spot in Charleston where tennis champions, rising athletes, and music superstars share the same stage – Credit One Stadium on Daniel Island.

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CREDIT ONE STADIUM

Built in 2001 to host the Family Circle Cup, Credit One Stadium has evolved from a dedicated tennis venue into one of Charleston's most sought-after entertainment hubs. A \$42 million renovation completed in 2022 expanded seating capacity from 7,000 to over 11,000 and introduced state-of-the-art facilities, including a four-story Stage House, VIP suites, and a rooftop restaurant.

The stadium seamlessly transitions between hosting the WTA 500 Credit One Charleston Open each April and a high-energy concert series throughout the summer and fall.

As COCO celebrates its 25th year, top players like Emma Navarro and returning champion Belinda Bencic will take the court. Meanwhile, this year's concert lineup will feature 25 shows with artists like Keith Urban, Avril Lavigne, and Dave Matthews Band.

"Our 2025 Concert Series is set to be our biggest yet, featuring 25 shows across a diverse range of genres," said Bob Moran,

longtime COCO tournament director. "With a mix of first-time performers and returning favorites, we continue to bring world-class live entertainment to Daniel Island."

LTP DANIEL ISLAND

Just steps from the stadium, LTP Daniel Island provides top-tier training for racquet sports enthusiasts.

"LTP is the premier racquet sports facility in the area, offering tennis, pickleball, and padel with top-level coaching and training programs," said Moran, who is also president of Charleston Tennis LLC. "Whether for recreational play or elite development, LTP provides an unmatched experience for racquet sports enthusiasts of all levels."

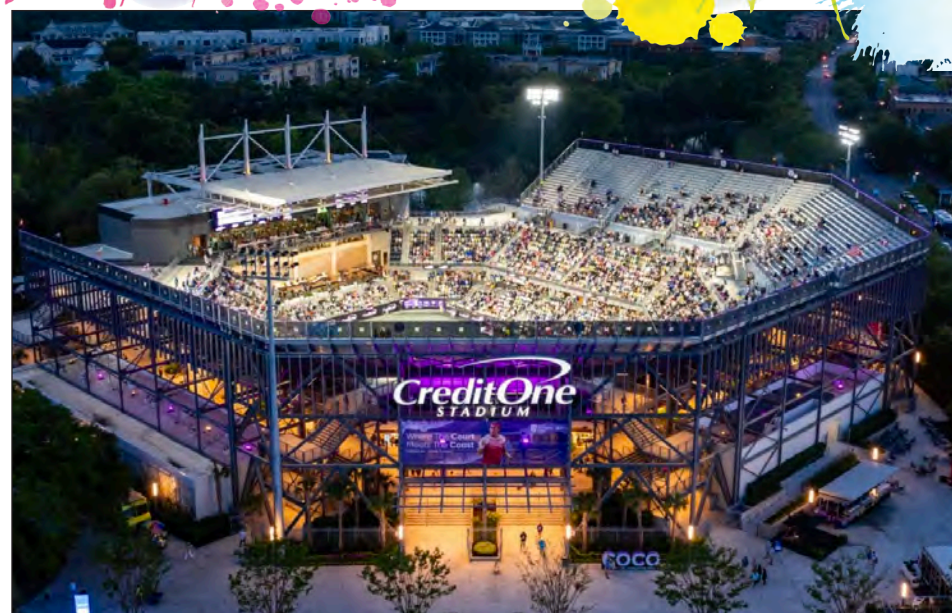
LTP's facilities include six lighted hard courts, four quick-start courts, and 13 lighted clay courts. With programs for juniors, adults, and professional players, it caters to all levels of the sport.

LTP ACADEMY

LTP Academy is a premier tennis academy offering a full suite of programming for tennis athletes of all levels.

"LTP Academy is an innovative school dedicated to both academic and athletic excellence. Students split their day between rigorous academics and high-performance athletic training, allowing them to pursue their sports passions while maintaining a strong educational foundation," Moran said.

The academy offers specialized programs for juniors, professional player development, and adult clinics, establishing itself as a top-tier institution for aspiring athletes.



PROVIDED BY CREDIT ONE STADIUM

161 Seven Farms Drive is home to Credit One Stadium, which welcomes world-class tennis pros and music legends to grace the same stage.

BEEMOK SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

At the heart of this tennis empire is Beemok Sports and Entertainment, which manages Credit One Stadium and focuses on creating exceptional hospitality, entertainment, and sports experiences.

"Beemok Sports and Entertainment is dedicated to creating unparalleled experiences for fans and athletes alike," said Moran, president of the company. "Through marquee events like the COCO, the Cincinnati Open, exceptional venues such as Credit One Sta-

dium and The Riviera, and premier racquet sports facilities like LTP, we are dedicated to shaping the future of sports and entertainment on a global scale."

From championship tennis to live music under the stars, Moran said the businesses at 161 Seven Farms Drive maintain Daniel Island's reputation as a premier entertainment destination.

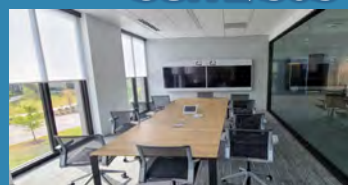
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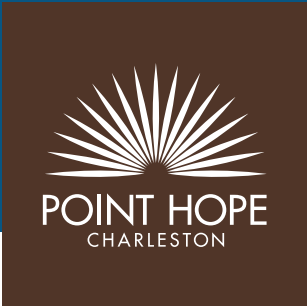
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PLAYERS

1. Jessica Pegula
2. Madison Keys
3. Qinwen Zheng
4. Emma Navarro
5. Paula Badosa
6. Daria Kasatkina
7. Diana Shnaider
8. Danielle Collins
9. Amanda Anisimova
10. Ekaterina Alexandrova

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE PLAYERS

- A. Always travels with books, and her favorite is "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom.
- B. Studying at North Carolina State, where she is majoring in exploratory studies.
- C. Won in Charleston, then the Volvo Car Open, in 2017.
- D. Used to train on Daniel Island and is also the top seed in this year's Credit One Charleston Open.

- E. Won the gold medal in singles at the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- F. Has one dog named Miley.
- G. Got married in Charleston in December 2024.
- H. Attended Ashley Hall and the University of Virginia.
- I. Speaks Russian, English, and Czech; likes to bake cakes; and admires Serena Williams.
- J. She won the Credit One Charleston Open in 2024 and is defending her title this year.



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From Daniel Island to Magnolia Lane

Young golfer prepares for a masterful trip to Augusta National

PATRICK VILLEGAS

patrick@thedanielislandnews.com

Hello, friends.

It's almost Masters Week.

And if you are still looking for a rooting interest, a golfer to cheer on at Augusta National, then scribble this name down: Eloise Fetzer.

She's 11 years old. And a fifth grader at Daniel Island School.

"I don't have any nerves; I'm just excited," she said.

Fetzer is not eligible to win a green jacket – yet.

But she will compete for a prized trophy, swinging and putting on the same hallowed grounds and greens of Augusta National at the 2025 Drive, Chip, and Putt National Finals the Sunday morning before Masters Week begins.

The free nationwide contest encourages kids ages 7 to 15 to learn more about the game of golf, while testing their mettle in a friendly competition to see who can drive the farthest, chip the closest, and putt the purest.

"I think my strongest is my chipping and my putting," Fetzer said, "but I feel confident in all of them."

Sponsored by the PGA, the USGA, and the Masters Tournament, thousands and thousands of children since 2013 have arrived at their local course with a driver, putter, and wedge in hand to have fun in the sun with the hope of hitting a few good shots in their age division to advance to the subregional, regionals, and then, maybe, the Masters.

The truth is, it's a statistical anomaly just to get a badge to enter the gates as a regular Joe at Augusta, much less an enveloped invitation to bring your golf bag and play.

Unless you are Eloise Fetzer.

This will be her second trip down Magnolia Lane. At the ridiculous age of 7, she was a first-time finalist.

"It was awesome," Fetzer said.



PATRICK VILLEGAS

Eloise Fetzer, with her father Kevin and mother Emily, stands on the practice green at The Daniel Island Club. Eloise practices daily to gear up for the national finals of the Drive, Chip, and Putt competition.

"They give you Monday practice round tickets; there's a gala for you; you meet the chairman of the club, and then we just try to have fun – I mean, you are at Augusta National."

Last year, Fetzer's family moved from Chicago to Daniel Island. She was kind enough to bring along her caddy.

"Golf is her passion," said her father, Kevin Fetzer. "It's what she loves to do the most. She plays in

tournaments all year long, but the Drive, Chip, and Putt tests your nerves just as much as anything. You are only hitting six golf shots at Augusta National. You hit two drives, two chips, two putts, and it's over. You play a real round of golf, these kids are so talented, they can recover from a bad shot.

"There, you can't."

With her parents at her side, Fetzer practices two to three hours daily on the range and putting



PATRICK VILLEGAS

Eloise Fetzer practices her chips at The Daniel Island Club to prepare for the 2025 Drive, Chip, and Putt National Finals. She will compete against nine other girls in her age division at Augusta National live on national television.

greens at The Daniel Island Club. The trio will often play a few holes for fun to strengthen the family dynamic – until competitiveness creeps in.

"(Dad) usually wins, and I get second," Fetzer said. "But the other day, Mom won!"

So what's it like to participate at a Masters-sponsored event?

"Kudos to Augusta, the Masters; they thought of everything," Kevin Fetzer said. "They put all these families all over the country, give them their room and board for the weekend, pay for their flights, or whatever way they are going to get there that Saturday. They have a practice session if the kids want. They have all the gear. They have all the balls stamped with the Masters logo, which says 'Tour Ball.' There's not a detail that's left."

In fact, when Fetzer attended in 2022, all 80 kids who advanced to the finals signed a billboard that was placed inside the room of the annual Champions Dinner for all the legendary Masters winners to see.

"I'm excited because I have

done it before, and I know what to experience," she said. "We are just practicing the shots that we are going to have in Augusta."

Indeed, Fetzer is ready.

The mental confidence is there.

So is her tournament-issued golf bag and Masters green-colored golf shirt.

In a few days, she will walk up to the fabled 18th green and, like Arnold, Jack, Tiger, Phil, and Scottie before her, will plant her feet on the same creeping bentgrass, grip her putter, tap her ball, and aim for the traditional Sunday pin location on arguably the world's greatest golf course.

"When she had that experience at 7, to see what's that like, that hooked her," her father said. "It's all she wants to do, and to her credit, she has worked her butt off to do it. We told her, whatever happens that day, you have already won. You have already won."

The Golf Channel will broadcast the Drive, Chip, and Putt National Finals on Sunday, April 6, at 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Corey Steed dashes to gold, breaks multiple track records

PHILIP M. BOWMAN

sports@thedanielislandnews.com

Philip Simmons High School sprinter Corey Steed could appreciate the blue skies and pleasant temperatures as he prepared for the Bob Jenkins Coaches Classic Elite qualifier, which was contested March 22.

But the swift senior could have done without the wind and breeze that swept across the track at Cane Bay High School.

Steed ran a blistering, albeit wind-aided, 10.57 seconds in the 100-meter dash and 21.11 in the 200-meter dash to capture gold in both events in a meet that featured 24 teams from the Lowcountry.

His performance overwhelmed the sprint field. He won the 100, beating silver medalist Ryan Campbell of Ashley Ridge by .32 of a second. In the 200, he topped silver medalist Dennis Green of Cane Bay by a whopping .66 of a second.

Steed broke a 15-year Cane Bay Stadium record with his time of 21.11. A few hours earlier, Steed set the PSHS record with his clocking in the 100.

The March 22 event was one of seven qualifying venues for the Coaches Classic Elite, which will be contested April 15 at Spring Valley High School in Columbia.

It will be one of the last major meets before the region and state championships.

Both Philip Simmons and Bishop England fared well and qualified numerous athletes for the elite meet.

Cane Bay won the boys' meet with 84 points; the Iron Horses placed second with 77 points; Wando High claimed third with 73, and Bishop England ninth with 26.

In the girls' championship, Wando topped

Fort Dorchester 91-82.5 to win the event. Lucy Beckham High School was third with 68, and Philip Simmons was fourth with 65.5 points. The Bishops were seventh with 39 points.

Philip Simmons' Pierce Walker was the other Daniel Island area athlete to bring home a gold medal, winning the 3,200-meter run in 9 minutes and 41.87 seconds.

Trey Hensley finished third in the pole vault for the Iron Horses while the 4x100- and 4x800-meter relay teams also earned bronze medals. Members of the 400 relay team included Jeremiah Richardson, Cameron Richardson, Cameron Steed, and Corey Steed.

The 3,200 relay team included Brian Stambaugh, Grady Castiglia, Stone Sweatman, and Joseph Wright.

Bishop England's Marc Brahim also had a big day. He finished in second place in the 1,600-meter run and sixth in the 3,200. Brahim's sister, Nora, also brought home a silver medal in the 1,600.

Olivia Allen scored in four events for the Bishops, placing fourth in the 100 and 200 dashes while claiming eighth in the 400.

She also was a member of the bronze medal 4x400-meter relay team that included Caroline Wilson, Avery Lobb, and Caroline Cook.

The Bishops 4x800-meter relay team of Lobb, Wilson, Addy Wood, and Kallyn Long also bagged a bronze medal.

Laura Perry and Avah Mallek had a big effort for the Iron Horse girls. Perry placed third in the 3,200 run and fourth in the 1,600. Mallek finished sixth in both the 800 and 3,200. Ashley Roush was second in the pole vault while Julia Reilly claimed bronze in the triple jump and fourth in the long jump.

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Aw, shucks! Daniel Island teen crafts custom oyster tables

EMMA SLAVEN

emma@thedanielislandnews.com

Most 13-year-olds spend their free time playing video games or riding bikes with friends. But for Chase Delpino, spare time means something different – it means building.

From the garage of his Daniel Island home, Delpino has turned a shared family pastime into a business, crafting and selling custom oyster shucking tables by hand.

Building the tables from scratch, Delpino's inspiration comes from a lifelong love of oyster roasts.

"My dad and us always eat oysters on our table that he built," the Daniel Island School student said. "I've also been trying to think of a way to earn money and learn something new at the same time."

Designed with practicality and community in mind, Delpino's first designs included a Philadelphia Eagles-themed table and another painted deep blue with the Palmetto State flag.

"I would describe them as a cool design that actually makes eating oysters more of a gathering. It's a fun way to spend time together doing something that is very unique to where we live," he said.

Each table takes time and skill to construct. "I start with a piece of plywood and add smaller pieces of wood to cover the outer layer. Then we cut holes into the middle using a jigsaw to make room for the bowls and trash can. This process takes



about four to five hours. After that, we paint it and put multiple coats of paint on, which usually takes about two hours in total over a day or two."

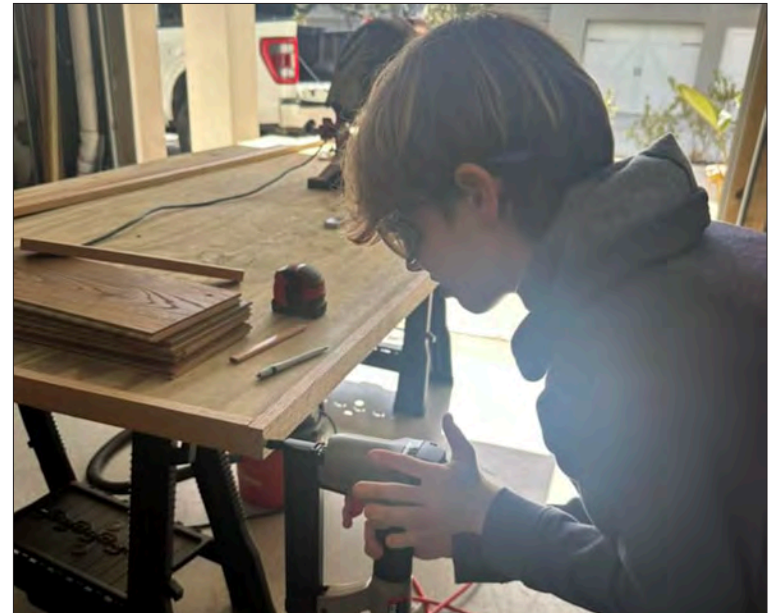
Thanks to his father, who works in construction, Delpino has access to quality wood from a local lumberyard.

The eighth grader said he started building oyster shucking tables so others could enjoy the same experience he loves: gathering around

with family and friends, cracking open shells, and savoring fresh oysters. "I like mine with butter, but we also use cocktail sauce and hot sauce," he said.

While he hasn't officially named his business, "Chase's Oyster Tables" is a strong contender. His creations, selling between \$300 to \$350, can be fully customized to match his customers' tastes.

"I offer every design and any design that the customer asks for,



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY KARA DELPINO

Chase Delpino turned his passion for oyster roasts into a business, crafting custom shucking tables with unique designs, including sports team logos and the South Carolina state flag.

including the state Palmetto Flag, Clemson, Gamecocks, NFL teams, or just a custom color."

Recently, Delpino made his first sale, an achievement that left him eager for more. "I sold my first table last week and it felt really good. The man I sold it to was really nice – he seemed to appreciate that I made it and even gave me a tip for my work!"

Since then, interest in his tables has been growing. "I have made two and sold one, but multiple people have asked me to make them one. I'm hoping to have a few ready for Father's Day. It would be

a great gift to give."

Delpino plans to save his earnings while also using some to enjoy dining at local spots on Daniel Island. For those interested in a custom oyster shucking table, contact him at 843-607-9014 or via his mom, Kara Delpino, on Facebook.

For the young entrepreneur, this venture isn't just about making money – it's about learning and taking pride in his work.

"I like that I can be creative and build something from scratch and learn a new skill. I also enjoy making money that I can save and know I earned it myself."

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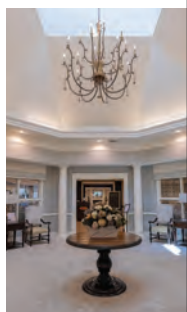
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Mankiewicz to revise TRC site plan

Here are the developments before the various City of Charleston boards and committees this week, as well as results, if any, from the prior week's items specific to Daniel Island and the Cainhoy area. More detailed agendas and results can be found at charleston-sc.gov/agendacenter.

UPCOMING: TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

March 27: Mankiewicz Expansion - Phase 1 - Proposed revisions to previously approved TRC site plan on 16.06 acres at 1020 Clements Crest Lane. Owner: Jessen Lane LLC. Applicant: Reveer Group LLC. Contact: Michael Delventhal, michael.delventhal@mankiewicz.com.

RESULTS: TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

March 20: Daniel Island Self Storage Revisions - Site plan revisions to previously approved TRC plans for storage facility on 21.77 acres at 460 Seven Farms Drive. TMS: B2750000179. Owner: The Daniel Island CO. Applicant: Thomas & Hutton. Contact: Brian Riley, riley.b@tandh.com. **Results:** Open pending delivery of Stormwater and

DIGITAL EXTRA

FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

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Zoning reviews.
March 20: Lifestyle Communities At Point Hope (third review) - Site plan for proposed private road, parking, and utilities to serve 449-unit mixed-use site on 27.9 acres at 1260 Clements Ferry Road. TMS: B2620000028. Owner: Lifestyle Communities. Applicant: Thomas & Hutton Engineering. Domonic Jones, jones.d@tandh.com. **Results:** Open pending delivery of Zoning review.

March 20: Thomas Island Subdivision - Concept plan for Proposed 52 lot conservation development on 21.07 acres at 100 Sands Preserve Drive. TMS: B2750000004. Owner: Clouter Creek Reserve LLC. Applicant: Seamon, Whiteside & Associates, Inc. Contact: Zak Wortman, zwortman@seamonwhiteside.com. **Results:** Revise and Return.

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Play Basketball Trivia Presented by Cara Schaafsma of Carolina One Real Estate.

1. Which men's team holds the record for the most NCAA Tournament championships?

- A) North Carolina
- B) Duke
- C) UCLA
- D) Kentucky

2. In 2023, which women's team won their first-ever NCAA Tournament championship?

- A) LSU
- B) Iowa

- C) South Carolina
- D) UConn

3. Purdue's Mackey Arena is known for its electric atmosphere and loud crowd. In 2023, the arena set a new record for highest decibel level during a game. What was the recorded noise level?

- A) 115 dB
- B) 120 dB
- C) 126 dB
- D) 130 dB

4. What is the lowest-seeded men's team to ever win the NCAA Tournament?

- A) No. 11 UCLA in 2021
- B) No. 8 Villanova in 1985
- C) No. 10 Syracuse in 2016
- D) No. 7 UConn in 2014

5. Which South Carolina women's basketball player had her number

retired this past season?

- A) Tiffany Mitchell
- B) Sheila Foster
- C) A'ja Wilson
- D) Aliyah Boston

6. In 2018, the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, or UMBC, made history as the first No. 16 seed to defeat a No. 1 seed in the men's tournament. Which team did they beat?

- A) Duke
- B) Virginia
- C) Gonzaga
- D) North Carolina

7. Who is the only player to win the NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player award four times?

- A) Bill Walton (UCLA)
- B) Cheryl Miller (Southern California)
- C) Breanna Stewart (UConn)
- D) Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (UCLA)

8. Which city will host the 2025 NCAA Women's Final Four?

- A) Dallas, Texas
- B) Phoenix, Arizona
- C) Tampa, Florida
- D) Minneapolis, Minnesota

9. What is the record for the most points scored by a team in a single NCAA men's tournament game?

- A) 149 (Loyola Marymount)
- B) 135 (UNLV)
- C) 128 (Duke)
- D) 121 (Kentucky)

10. Which women's team ended UConn's historic 111-game winning streak in the 2017 NCAA Tournament?

- A) Mississippi State
- B) Baylor
- C) Notre Dame
- D) South Carolina

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING ARTISAN MARKET

Waterfront Park on Sat., March 29, 1-4 pm. Local artisans and crafters, live music, local food vendors, interactive art displays, and children's activities. Free. Children and furry friends are welcome. A portion of proceeds from all vendor sales and raffle tickets will be donated to Charleston Waterkeeper.

\$2,500 ACE SCHOLARSHIP

The ACE Scholarship is awarded by The Exchange Club of Daniel Island each year to a graduating senior who lives in the 29492 zip code and is designed to honor those students who have overcome obstacles in their lives or academic challenges. Applications are available at local high schools. Essays must be submitted with the student transcript and the application form signed by the school guidance counselor. Due date: March 31.

DRAGON BOAT CHARLESTON PADDLING CLASSES

Dragon Boat Charleston's FREE paddling classes, also known as PATH (Paddle, Achieve, Thrive & Heal), begin April 1. Three-week program with two classes each week on Tues. and Thurs., 5:30-7 pm. Instructions, life vests, boats, paddles, and an accompanying safety boat are provided. This DBC program is for cancer survivors, fighters, supporters, and friends. Classes held at Britebank Park, 185 Lockwood Drive, downtown Charleston. RSVP, Andi Ganz Seiderman, at path@dragonboatcharleston.org.

DI EGG HUNT & COMMUNITY DAY

A fun afternoon filled with an egg hunt, games, face paint, balloon art, a DJ, a chance to snap a picture with the Easter Bunny, community vendors, and more! Sun. April 6, 1-3 pm, at Smythe Park. Egg Hunt starts at 1:30. Hosted by Point Hope Presbyterian Church & Daniel Island Young Life and sponsored by the Daniel Island

Community Fund. Register at sc117.younglife.events/2025egg hunt.

FINE ARTS SHOW & SALE

Saturday, April 26, 10-4 pm, at DI Recreation Center, 160 Fairbanks Oak Drive, with 18 local artists showcasing their original work. Art will be available for purchase.

PINWHEELS IN THE PARK CHILDREN'S FAIR

Sat., April 26, 11am-2 pm at Daniel Island Waterfront Park. Free and fun for the entire family! April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and this event honors the safety of children everywhere. Sponsored by the Daniel Island Exchange Club and The Daniel Island Community Fund. Rain or shine. Jugglers, stilt walkers, balloon art, a tattoo station, a magician, a musician with a guitar to play children's songs, and more. Free popcorn. Family-friendly games. The event aims to raise awareness by advocating for children's safety and envisioning a world where all children grow up safe, nurtured, and free from abuse. For more information, visit dixchangeclub.org.



PAT TILLMAN RUN

The Pat Tillman Honor Run, a 4.2-mile run/walk, April 26, at Credit One Stadium on Daniel Island, honoring American hero Pat Tillman and supporting the Tillman Scholars Program. tillmanruns.com

ECCO FOOD DRIVE

Drop off canned goods, pasta, rice, and other non-perishables at Edward Jones (8:30-4), 895 Island Park Dr Suite A2 or the DI News (8-6), 225 Seven Farms Dr., Suite 108.

LOWCOUNTRY STREET GROCERY

Fridays at Guggenheim Terrace, 11 am-4 pm.

REGULAR MEETINGS

AA MEETINGS - CLEMENTS FERRY

King's Cross Church: Mon. and Fri. - 7:30 pm.

Women's only meeting: Tues. - 8 pm. 2011

Clements Ferry Rd. 843-723-9633.

AA MEETINGS - DANIEL ISLAND

Providence Church: Mon. - Fri., 7:30 am. Church of the Holy Spirit: Speaker Mtg. Sat., 7 pm; 12 Step Mtg. Wed. 7:30 pm.

AL-ANON Al-Anon, a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics, meets every Thurs., 7 pm at Providence Church on Daniel Island.

BONE HEALTH TRAINING CLASS

Tues. at 11 am., Thur. at noon Pilates/Balance/Strength class for Bone Health. All ages and levels. The class is \$10 and is being held at the DI Rec Center. Contact: 843-216-6366.

COMMUNITY YOGA Mindful flow yoga. All levels, mats and blocks provided. Thurs., 9-10 am at DI Recreation Center. Teresa Donohue dicommunityyoga@gmail.com.

CRAFTERNOONS Crafternoons with Edie every 1st Fri. of the month from 1-3 pm at the Daniel Island Library. Tim Boyle at 843-471-2952 or timothy.boyle@berkeleycountysc.gov.

DANIEL ISLAND GOP CLUB 3rd Mon., 8am, Daniel Pointe Retirement Community. Free.

DI INSHORE FISHING CLUB Monthly, 3rd Tues. of month. Family friendly. Call/text Bill at 919-418-3220, danielislandfishingclub.com.

DANIEL ISLAND LIBRARY EVENTS

Capt. Daniel's Pipers Recorder Grp: Tues. 1:30-2:30 pm; Needleworkers: 2nd & 4th Tues., 11:15 am; Deepthinkers Discussion Grp: Wed., 10:30 am - noon; Social Bridge Club: every Monday 1-4 pm.; Writers Group: 1st Wed., 4:30-6 pm.

DANIEL POINTE CHAPEL Non-denominational Christian worship services in the Theater of the Daniel Pointe Retirement Community at 1:15 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sun. each month. 514 Robert Daniel Drive. Deacon Ed Dyckman at dyckman.edward@gmail.com and 843-367-5647.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE Duplicate Bridge, ACBL sanctioned. DI Rec Center, 160 Fairbanks Dr. Weds, noon-3 pm. Space limited, reservations required, 843-224-6778/843-209-1471.

EXCHANGE CLUB OF DANIEL

ISLAND 4th Tues., 5:30 pm, Daniel Pointe Community Center, 514 Robert Daniel Dr., dixchangeclub.org.

MASTER GARDENER Q&A Certified Clemson MGs are available at the DI Library on the first Monday of each month, 4-6 pm, to answer gardening questions and provide information sheets. Soil samples, at least two cups in a sealed plastic bag, are tested at Clemson University for \$6 per sample, payable by check or credit card only.

RECORDER GROUP Join Captain Daniel's Pipers at the DI Library every Tue. 1:30-2:30 pm. All welcome regardless of your level of playing. Richard Foreman, eflat3@gmail.com.

REPUBLICAN LADIES OF DI meets 1st Friday of the month. 8:30 am at Daniel Island Village, 455 Seven Farms Drive, in the Community Room. Free. 714-337-6944.

ROTARY CLUBS Daniel Island is home to an active Rotary Club that gathers most Weds. mornings at 7:15 am. Their sister club, the Cain-hoy Rotary Club, meets 1st and 3rd Tues. at 6 pm. A new lunchtime Rotary meeting will launch in March 2025. Details to come. Mary Jo Romeo, maryjo.rotary@gmail.com.

SOUTH BERKELEY DEMOCRATS Meets at 4 pm on 3rd Sun., Daniel Pointe Retirement Community. berkeleydems.com.

TAI CHI CLASSES DI Library Tues., 10 am & Fri., 9 am.

THE INFINITE JUKEBOX A bi-monthly multimedia discussion group for music lovers. All music genres including: Country/western, baroque and electronia. 2nd & 4th Thurs. at the DI Library from 11 am - noon.

WILLINGWAY'S "CONTINUED CARE GROUP" helps families struggling with alcohol/drug abuse. Meetings are at Holy Cross Church, Mon., 6:30-7:30 pm. Rhett Crull, 843-323-7111.

Email details about local events to sdetar@thedanielislandnews.com. Remember to include date, time, location, and contact info.

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Charleston, SC 29407
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Furniture, area rugs, home decor, new cane chairs, quality kitchen items including Kitchen-Aid heavy duty mixer in like new condition. Sat. 3/22 and 29, 10am to 2pm. Everything must go. 3005 Haswell St., #1316, DI; Cash or Venmo.

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Unfurnished Homes
3076 Linksland Rd., MP.....\$4195
3BR/3BA; approx. sqft. 2672
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3BR/2.5BA; approx. sqft. 2038
2118 Country Manor Dr., MP.....\$3995
4BR/3BA; approx. sqft. 2049
142 Tupelo Bridge Dr., MC.....\$2750
4BR/2.5BA; approx. sqft. 2436
3194 Morningdale Dale, MP.....\$3595
3BR/2BA; approx. sqft. 1497

Furnished Home
1320 Pherigo St., MP.....\$4995
4BR/3.5BA; approx. sqft. 1850

Unfurnished Townhomes
1186 Dingle Rd., MP.....\$3195
4BR/2.5BA; approx. sqft. 2400
1402 Camp Rd. #2H, Chs.....\$2350
3BR/2BA; approx. sqft. 1200

Your Key to Daniel Island & Cainho Living

Furnished Home
1403 Elfe St.....\$4495
3BR/2.5BA; approx. sqft. 1338

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The Daniel Island News Classified Ad Line Rates

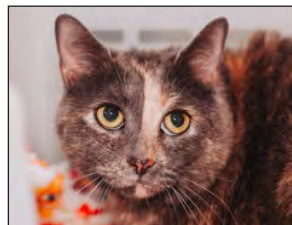
- \$10** Up to 20 words
- 5¢** Each word after 20
- \$1** Bold (up to 5 words)
- \$1** Italics (up to 5 words)
- \$5** Stroke around the ad
- \$7** Logo (black & white only)
- \$7** Picture (black & white only)
- \$10** Reverse image (black background with white text)

To place an ad: email
katherine@thedanielislandnews.com
or call 843.856.1999

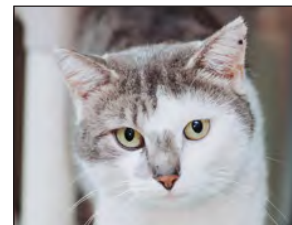


Adopt one of us and become our family

All of the animals featured on this page are located at 2455 Remount Rd., North Charleston and are available for adoption. For more information, call 843-747-4849 or visit charlestonanimalsociety.org or jaspca.com or e-mail: info@charlestonanimalsociety.org.



I'm Sweetie, a 4-year-old small female domestic shorthair mix.



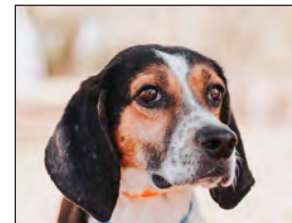
I'm Adam, a 2-year-old small male domestic shorthair mix.



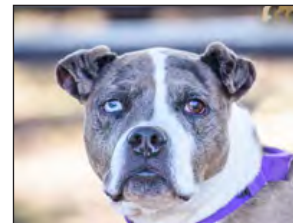
I'm Pearl, a 1-year-old small female domestic shorthair mix.



I'm Abbott, a 2-year old large male retriever mix.



I'm Cassian, a 6-year-old medium male Coonhound mix.



I'm Marnie, a 9-year-old small female terrier mix.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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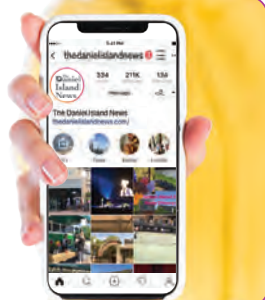
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ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in more than 80 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 1.5 million readers. Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

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1-2:30



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