

The Daniel Island News

Your weekly paper - Promoting the power of community • Independently operated since 2003

April 3 -9, 2025

WHO WILL BE THIS YEAR'S COCO CHAMP?

LEVELING THE FIELDS

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RUNEY INDUCTED INTO HOF

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BUTTERFLIES ON

THE BRINK

page 34

CREDIT ONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Madison Keys returns to COCO this year as the World No. 5. She is off to an amazing start to the season, winning her first Grand Slam at the Australian Open in January.



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Church of the Holy Spirit plans \$4M expansion

EMMA SLAVEN
emma@thedanielislandnews.com

For nearly two decades, the Church of the Holy Spirit has been a cornerstone of faith and community for its congregation on Daniel Island.

Now, it's ready to grow with a major campus expansion backed by a \$4 million capital campaign called Make His Love Known.

With packed worship services, a preschool waitlist of 50 to 60 children, and various community groups using its facilities, leaders say the church has simply outgrown its space.

"We long to see our community transformed by the love of Jesus, but we've come to the realization that we need a transformed campus if we are going to see a transformed community," senior pastor Rev. Jonathan Bennett said.

The expansion will add 6,000 square feet to its Parish Life Center,

providing more classrooms and offices and a larger, open-concept lobby with an upgraded kitchen.

The contemporary worship space will allow for 80 more attendees, and the traditional church will include a new restroom and stained-glass windows. Outside, the courtyard will be leveled and expanded for bigger gatherings.

But their vision doesn't stop on Daniel Island. The church is tithing a portion of funds to support a school in Honduras, a diocesan campground, and a new church plant in Cainhoy.

Originally built as a satellite campus of the Sullivan's Island Church of the Holy Cross, the Church of the Holy Spirit became independent, and now, Bennett said it needs a bigger facility to match its growing role.

"Our campus was built to be a satellite church, not an independent church in its own right."

One of the biggest develop-



PROVIDED BY JONATHAN BENNETT

Renderings of the planned Church of the Holy Spirit expansion showcase a larger Parish Life Center, enhanced worship spaces, and new community-focused features. The completion is set for early 2027.

ments is the expansion of the Holy Spirit Island School preschool. "We would love to meet the needs of all these families, and with this building campaign, we will add enough classrooms to do this, as well as be able to offer a kindergarten class for the first time," Bennett said.

The four-year pledge campaign

will be supported by church members and contributions from the Daniel Island community, either accepted as a one-time or a recurring donation.

Groundbreaking is planned for early 2026, with the goal of opening in early 2027. During construction, worship services, the

preschool, and the in-house music school, the Daniel Island Music Academy, will continue as usual.

Since 2006, the church's current center has been a key part of the Daniel Island community, hosting groups like the Daniel Island Historical Society, the Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, the Daniel Island Community Association, the Daniel Island Garden Club, and the American Red Cross. Its doors have helped launch other congregations before they had their own spaces, and it also offers Kids Club summer camps each year.

Rev. Bennett sees the expansion as an investment in the future.

"With a growing island and church community, we have so many opportunities that can't be realized within our current space constraints. It's time to transform and expand our campus so we can meet the needs of the Daniel Island community and be a center for community life for the next 20 years and beyond."

For more information on donations, visit the Building Fund at holyspiritdi.org/give.



Open House

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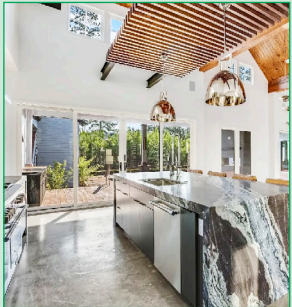
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Trash day moves to Wednesdays for select Clements Ferry residents

EMMA SLAVEN

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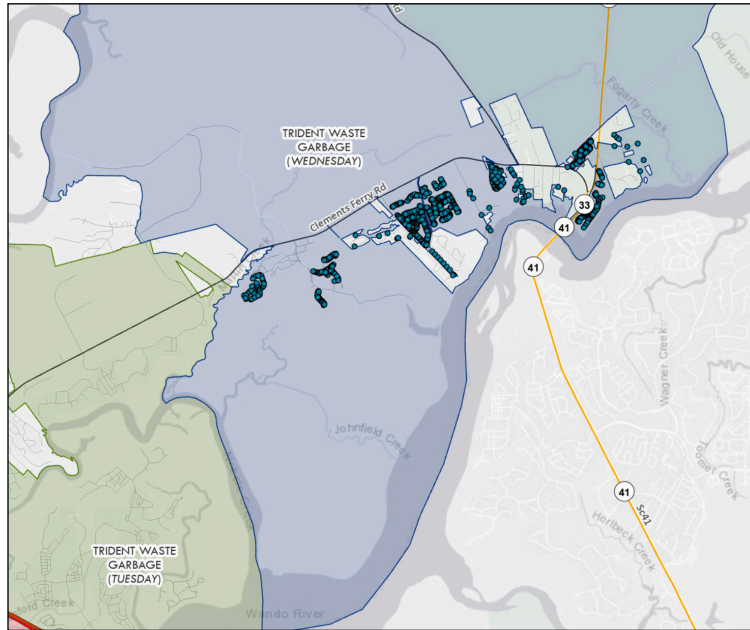
Select residents along Clements Ferry Road will see a change in their garbage and yard waste collection schedule beginning in April.

Trident Waste will take over collection services from Capital Waste, shifting the pickup day from Tuesday to Wednesday for 1,070 residents.

The change affects residents living in the area between Point Hope and Cainhoy homes near Fogarty Creek. This includes all homeowners in Point Hope, the Peninsula, Nelliefield, St. Thomas Point, the Oak Bluff subdivision, and homes along Reflectance Road.

Residents on Daniel Island will not be affected.

Bay Sheehan, communications coordinator for the City of Charleston, explained the reasoning behind the change: “We made the decision to move the 1,070 residents to Wednesday to allow for continued



PROVIDED BY CITY OF CHARLESTON

Trident Waste has taken over waste collection for Clements Ferry residents living between Martin Creek and Fogarty Creek. Starting in April, Trident will move its trash pick-up day for those residents to Wednesdays.

growth in the area from all the new construction that is happening.”

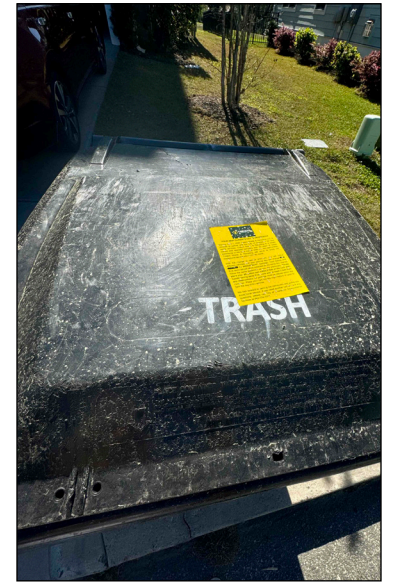
Trident Waste already serves approximately 16,300 residents on

Johns Island and outer West Ashley. Sheehan noted that Trident Waste has a strong track record in waste collection.

“Service will be more reliable and there will be less missed collections,” he said. “Trident Waste has more trucks and employees who will be able to fill in if a truck breaks down.”

To ensure a smooth transition, the city has placed notification stickers on garbage cans for those residents who will be affected by the change and has sent announcements through the City of Charleston newsletter. Additionally, residents are encouraged to download the Charleston TrashTracker app to receive automatic notifications about service updates.

The city is looking to enhance waste collection efficiency with this transition to Trident Waste. By making this change, officials hope to accommodate the area’s growth and provide reliable service for residents.



EMMA SLAVEN

Stickers were placed on dumpsters to notify affected Clements Ferry residents of the trash pickup change to Wednesdays starting in April.

“Our goal is to improve efficiency and to better serve you!” the city newsletter stated.

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ENRIQUA “RIQUA” GREEN-GADSDEN

Where are you from, originally?
 I was born in Charleston, South Carolina at St Francis hospital, born as a premature baby three months early. I went to elementary school and attended Blessed Sacrament Elementary with A/B honor roll until I moved and was raised in Charlotte, North Carolina attending middle school until graduating from David W. Butler high school.

How long have you been in the business?
 I've been licensed since June 2012, working actively in the shop environment for the last year plus on Daniel Island.

What do you love most about this profession?
 The one thing I love most about this career is the one on one interaction with individuals and the freedom of being able to be a full-time mother of my two girls.

If you could choose any other career—what do you think you would do?
 I would choose NO other career because I love the career/profession that I'm in now. I just would love to continue advancing in my career and maybe become a shop owner.

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 gozo.

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Why every girl deserves a chance to play and lead

MELYSSA JASKIEWICZ

Finally! Girls in sports on TV with actual marketing and promotion! The Credit One Charleston Open is massive, heavily promoted, known globally, and broadcast on live TV. But it wasn't always this way.

Growing up in the 80s and 90s, you didn't see girls playing sports on TV. That meant millions of young women didn't even know it was an option.

They didn't dream of becoming pro athletes because it wasn't sitting in front of them. Ask any 7-year-old boy what they want to be when they grow up, and at least 80% of them will tell you a pro "fill-in-the-blank" player.

When young girls don't see themselves represented in sports, they don't realize what's possible. Visibility matters.

It's not just about creating professional athletes; it's about instilling the belief that sports are an option. That belief sets the tone for what's possible.

THE POWER OF THE DREAM

We all know the stats – only a small percentage of athletes make it to the big leagues – but that's not the point.

The dream, the hope, keeps kids in sports.

It teaches them discipline, resilience, and teamwork.

Even if they never go pro, the lessons learned on the field, court, or track shape who they

become.

SPORTS AS A LEADERSHIP PIPELINE

Women make up 51% of the population, yet only 24% of C-suite executives are women. The staggering fact? Ninety-four percent of those women played sports. They didn't become professional athletes, but sports taught them how to lead, be part of a team, and get back up when they fall. These aren't just perks. They're the unintentional life lessons sports instill.

Playing sports teaches young girls how to navigate challenges, make quick decisions, and work collaboratively – critical skills that translate directly into leadership roles. If we want more women in positions of power, we need to start by getting more girls into sports.

LEVELING THE FIELDS

So what if we flipped the script and taught those lessons intentionally?

That's why the organization, Leveling the Fields, exists – to get more girls into leadership roles using sports as the catalyst. The skills that make a great leader are the same ones learned through sports. However, in South Carolina, there are 63,311 boys in youth sports and only 35,214 girls. Why? Cost, options, and access.

All girls are good at something, but not all girls are good at the same thing. We can't just hand them all a soccer ball and call it a day. Exposure is key. Just like every parent hopes their child

finds their "thing," we need to give girls the opportunity to discover theirs.

BREAKING BARRIERS BEYOND THE GAME

LTF wants to help every girl find her thing without worrying about transportation to practice or money for equipment. This isn't just about sports; it's about opportunity, confidence, and empowerment.

Over the last year, I've heard story after story from people who were hired because of their sports background and from employers who specifically seek out former athletes. The data is clear: the benefits of sports go beyond leadership. Girls who play sports are less likely to do drugs, become pregnant as teens, or end up in abusive relationships.

WHAT DID SPORTS TEACH YOU?

The impact of sports isn't just anecdotal; it's backed by research and personal experience. So ask your boss, your colleagues, and yourself: What did sports teach you? And more importantly, how can we make sure every girl gets the same opportunity to learn?

If you would like more information on LTF, please visit us at levelingthefields.org to learn, volunteer, or donate.

Melyssa Jaskiewicz is the founder and executive director of Leveling the Fields.

Readers share lessons learned from playing women's sports, weigh in on TV coverage

The top professional women's tennis players take to the court at the Credit One Charleston Open and fans around the world have been watching on TV.

In 2024, NCAA superstars Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese sparked basketball fans' national enthusiasm and helped garner 18.7 million viewers for the championship game – 4 million more than the men's title game.

We asked our readers to share what they've learned from sports and also to weigh in their views about sports coverage.

Below are comments we received from our readers:

TELL US ABOUT WHAT PLAYING SPORTS TAUGHT YOU (OR THE WOMAN/GIRL IN YOUR LIFE) GROWING UP.

- Discipline and perseverance
- Teamwork, you can be competitive and respectful, in the end it's still a game – not life/death.

• I played girls basketball growing up and it teaches you a lot about teamwork, leadership, etc. I do not watch women's sports honestly because they are not as exciting Women's basketball is not profitable but honestly the NBA is not much fun to watch either. I do watch the Olympics and World Cups.

• Team work, resilience and grit. How to work with others.

DO YOU WATCH WOMEN'S SPORTS ON TV? WOULD YOU WATCH MORE IF IT WAS AVAILABLE?

• ESPN and the ABC affiliates show women's games. Women's sports are not as profitable as male sports or as fun to watch in my opinion.

• Sadly I am a female and women's sports just are not as fun to watch.

• Women are inferior athletes to men. Period. That a very good high school boy can beat a professional woman in any sport. Tired of women's sports being shoved down my throat.

Next week's question: Your wedding memories

Spring is the beginning of wedding season, with planning for those summer nuptials in full swing. Today traditional weddings can give way to unique celebrations. Hometown ceremonies are replaced by destination extravaganzas. Gift registries morph into nonprofit fundraisers. And guest lists can range in the hundreds to just a pair of witnesses. What kind of wedding did you have? Share some special, or funny, memories from your own wedding – or one you attended. Let us know at surveyMonkey.com/r/Weddings or use the QR code by Sunday, April 6,, at 5 p.m.



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KIDS SAY

If you could be a professional athlete, what sport would you play and why?

Compiled by Rose Monahan
Daniel Island School student



I would play soccer because I like the sport.

Evy, age 7
Daniel Island



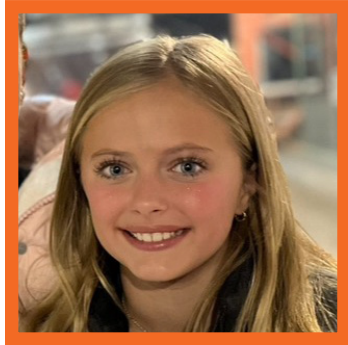
Football because it is very athletic and tough.

Charlie, age 10
Daniel Island



I'd do gymnastics because it is a fun sport and I enjoy it.

Emily, age 7
Daniel Island



I would do gymnastics because I have been doing it since I was little.

Parker, age 10
Daniel Island



Soccer because I like playing it.

Luka, age 11
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I would play volleyball because it looks like fun.

Lauren, age 11
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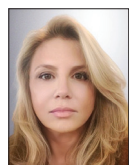
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2024 Top Producer DIRE



New Clements Ferry furniture store features functionality and sustainability



meet the merchant

MARIE ROCHA-TYGH

Tired of driving over the bridge in search of high quality furniture? Avoid traffic and visit Luonto Furniture along Clements Ferry Road for high-quality, designer furniture.

Pentti Viitala founded Luonto Furniture in 1964, starting by re-upholstering and selling sofas door to door in a small Finnish town. The company became a family affair, and by the 1990s, expanded globally.

The Luonto showroom, open since November 2024, specifically chose the Charleston area as its first U.S. location because of the growing residential community and its accessibility for customers.

"The Clements Ferry corridor represents an exciting opportunity

to be part of a developing neighborhood while still being centrally located to serve Daniel Island, Mount Pleasant, and other surrounding communities," brand and marketing manager Justin Kaufman said.

Luonto focuses on functionality, quality, and convenience. Sofas can transform in seconds to comfortable sleepers. One couch even turns into a bunk bed!

"As a factory showroom, we offer a unique experience that goes beyond traditional furniture retail. Our expertise in space-saving, functional furniture sets us apart," Kaufman said. "This means customers don't have to choose between waiting months for custom furniture or settling for mass-produced alternatives. Sofas and sleeper sofas are built for real life, offering space-saving solutions without sacrificing comfort or style."

Kaufman said his favorite part of



MARIE ROCHA-TYGH

Functional, space-saving, and sustainable furniture is the focus of Luonto Furniture, located off Clements Ferry Road.

business is seeing customers discover how functional and sustainable Luonto furniture can be.

"Many people are surprised by how effortlessly a modern sofa can convert into a spacious, comfortable bed or how modular seating can adapt to different spaces," he

said. "Helping people find smart, space-saving solutions that improve their homes is incredibly rewarding. We specialize in modular seating, innovative sleeper mechanisms, and high-quality materials that are built for everyday use."

Mary Kate Hampton values the

versatility of her modular Luonto furniture, which is ideal for hosting overnight guests.

"We have a few pieces from them, and they're used a lot," she said. "They're great for seating and for sleeping spaces for guests and kids' friends. I like their sustainability and quality approach, too."

Sales and marketing manager Paige Bishop loves the hundreds of options available to bring clients' unique styles to life.

"One of the things I love about Luonto Furniture is how you can fully customize your sofa," she said. "It's a complete design experience. You get a piece that fits your style and works perfectly for your space."

Luonto Furniture is located at 104 Jessen Lane and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, visit luonto.com.

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF TENNIS ON DANIEL ISLAND

MADISON KEYS LOVES CHARLESTON PGS. 12-13



FAMILY WEEKEND FUN PGS. 14-15



MUSIC AT THE COCO PG. 18



REFLECTIONS ON BEING A PRO PGS. 20-21



MEETING STREET SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PG. 23



CHARLESTON OPEN CHAMPIONS INCLUSION PG. 25



MEET NAVARRO'S DI PHYSIO PG. 27



COCO PLAYERS STAY WITH LOCAL FAMILIES PG. 28



Madison Keys' Charleston story: Tennis triumphs and wedding bells

PHILIP M. BOWMAN
sports@thedanielislandnews.com

There is tennis love. And there is true love.

Madison Keys has experienced the bliss of both in Charleston.

Keys was a participant in the Credit One Charleston Open's media day on March 31, where she talked about her success on the clay courts of Daniel Island and her recent victory at the Australian Open in January.

And she spoke about the love and celebration of life she experienced two months earlier here in the Lowcountry. She married her Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, beau, Bjorn Fratangelo, a former player on the men's ATP Tour who just happened to be her coach.

The Nov. 23 wedding, held at a Kiawah River wedding venue, included tennis pals Jessica Pegula, Taylor Townsend, Jennifer Brady, and others in attendance.

"11.23.24. Best weekend of my life. I love you @bjornfrat," Keys posted on Instagram.

Back in Charleston, for the first time since the big day, she expounded on the loves of her life.

"It's always been one of my favorite places to come to," said Keys, who entered the COCO as World No. 5 on the WTA rankings ladder. "I mean, I love the food, I love the city. I love all the history. I'm from the Midwest, and Bjorn is from Pittsburgh, and in November, neither of those places are great places to be. We really just wanted a place

that our friends and family could also come and enjoy because it was going to be near the holidays and all of that, and a lot of our friends and family haven't been here. It just kind of felt like it was the perfect kind of meeting point for all of us."

Like a typical newlywed, she uses busy to describe her professional and personal life.

"It's been busy, but it's been good," said Keys, who turned 30 in February. "It's not all that different. We were kind of laughing that we left the home, that we lived together, got married, and then we came back home, and it was kind of like, 'Oh, we have to go to practice on Monday.'

"So, we haven't had time to

See **KEYS** on **PAGE 13**



FILE/DOUG PINKERTON

Madison Keys celebrates after winning the 2019 Charleston Open. Charleston is a special locale for Keys. She got married in the Lowcountry in 2024.

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Keys loves Charleston

From KEYS on
PAGE 12

actually have a honeymoon or anything. But it's been nice. It's been really great. And, I obviously really enjoy having Bjorn, you know, every single week and actually getting to see each other."

Keys reached her first final on Daniel Island 10 years ago and won her first COCO title in 2019.

"I think this was one of my first; this was one of my first biggest tournaments that I ever got to play," Keys said. "I think I was 16, my first time that I played here, and it's kind of all blurred together at this point. But I just always really love coming here and the crowd support, the fans, and everything.

"It's just, you know, one of my favorites,"

DOUG PINKERTON

Madison Keys returns a ball during a practice session at the 2025 COCO.



she continued. "So, safe to say, getting married here, playing tennis here ... yeah, I definitely would like to say that it's a second home."

Winning the first Grand Slam of her remarkable career just a few weeks ago also ranks high on the list of her memorable moments.

"It's something that I've always, obviously, dreamed of," Keys said. "And it was always my massive goal, so to have finally been able to achieve that... I think that there's definitely, there's kind of a monkey off of my back. But then in the same breath, it's like, 'I think I can do that again, or at least put myself in the position to do that again.'"



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PETER FINGER PHOTOGRAPHY

With legs like these and that racket, the court is covered!



DOUG PINKERTON

Ava, Hudson, and Andrew College take a break from tennis action to enjoy Orlando's Pizza during Family Weekend activities at the Credit One Charleston Open.



PHOTOS BY DOUG PINKERTON

Left: Kathryn Huang practices an overhead swing.
Middle: Anna Kalinskaya signs an autograph for Reagan & Kennedy Stiebner.
Right: The family of Callie, Ashley, Violet, and Marshall Judy explore the COCO grounds with oversized balls and rackets.



AT THE COCO



PETER FINGER PHOTOGRAPHY

This classic Volvo stationwagon ensures you can travel with plenty of tennis balls. Guess how many?



DOUG PINKERTON

Tennis legend Tracy Austin - she's still got game!



PHOTOS BY DOUG PINKERTON

Left: Sofia and mom Marcella Berman stroll the COCO grounds.

Middle: Reagan Windholtz and her mother Jessie enjoy the magic of the butterfly lady.

Right: Declan Goulette hits a ball off the USTA PlayTennis! Fan Zone Reaction Wall.



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A grand slam for the senses

Eats and beats at the Charleston Open

EMMA SLAVEN

emma@thedanielislandnews.com

Picture this. The Lowcountry sun soaking into your pores, the crisp pop of a perfect serve echoing across the court, and the irresistible aroma of barbecue and fresh lemonade drifting through the air.

Welcome to the Credit One Charleston Open, where world-class tennis meets an equally top-tier lineup of food, drinks, and live music.

Whether you're a die-hard tennis fan or just here for the atmosphere, organizers say this year's Open promises an unforgettable culinary and musical experience.

A CULINARY GRAND SLAM

No one plays their best on an empty stomach, and Credit One Stadium is making sure no fan goes hungry with a mouthwatering lineup of local flavors.

COCO Row is the heartbeat of the tournament's dining scene, featuring Charleston favorites like Verde, Orlando's Brick Oven Pizza, Playa Bowls, Bodega, and Mpishi, along with its brand-new sushi concept, Rally & Roll.

Mpishi chef Andy Clay brings over 25 years of international cuisine experience to Daniel Island, and he plans on sharing his Mediterranean and Middle Eastern-inspired dishes at the COCO. For the third year, Clay will be preparing a special VIP dinner for the players, while fans can enjoy a mix of wraps, rice bowls, and sushi rolls.

Owner Allison Clay is excited to expand their presence this year.

"This will be our second year operating a concession booth, but this time, we have two!" Allison said. "Our Mpishi booth will serve crowd favorites like the Thai chicken wrap, while our new concept, Rally & Roll, will offer freshly made sushi and rice bowls. Both at the stadium and in the restaurant, our dishes are fresh and delicious!"

For those looking for a more mobile feast, the Food Truck Village might be a must-visit, featuring fan favorites like Life Raft Treats, Mr. Popper's Popcorn, Motley Chew, Bangin' Vegan Eats, King of Pops, Chick-fil-A, Daddy's Breakfast & Espresso, and Kona Ice.

Whether you're craving Bangin' Vegan Eats' flavorful plant-based sandwiches, Mot-



PHOTOS BY CREDIT ONE CHARLESTON OPEN

Above: Great food meets live music at The Oaks Deck and Ultra Lounge, featuring top Charleston artists like Dylan Swinson, Lauren Hall, Kylie Odetta, Drew Dangerfield, and Jake Willis. Below: Tennis fans can take a break in the shade and refuel with brick-oven pizza, açai bowls, smoothies, fresh salads, wraps, and hand-rolled sushi.

ley Chew's creative burger twists, or nostalgic ice cream flavors from Life Raft Treats, there's something for everyone. Don't skip Lowcountry Lemonade, a tournament favorite made with hand-pressed lemon juice.

Classic stadium bites include a Bavarian pretzel and a cold beer, while the Charleston Dog, topped with heirloom tomatoes and bacon jam, offers an elevated take on a ballpark favorite.

Over at the Michelob Ultra Lounge, chef Theo Copanezos serves up a smash hit with his gourmet Smash Tacos, including gyro, chicken Caesar salad, and chorizo and potato chip tacos. Next to Althea Gibson Court, Lôleo Juice Bar offers fresh-pressed juices, mushroom and matcha lattes, skinny cocktails, and gluten-free menu items.

Leonella Gonzalez, co-owner of Lôleo, is ex-

cited to serve up smiles on the court.

"This is our first year at the Charleston Open, and we are thrilled to be part of such an empowering event that celebrates women and wellness," Gonzalez said. "We love connecting with the community and sharing our passion for creating food that fuels the body and mind, helping everyone feel their best throughout a full day of exciting matches."

You can't come to the COCO without indulging in some barbecue, and Home

Team BBQ delivers with their famous chopped brisket sandwich, pulled pork, and pimento cheese with pork rinds.

Those seeking a luxury experience can visit The Greenhouse by Beemok Hospitality Group, an upscale, garden-inspired lounge featuring a curated tasting menu from the chefs behind The Charleston Place, Sorelle,



and The Riviera Theater. Open to all for drinks, the full-day culinary experience is available at an additional cost. Be sure to try the tournament's signature drinks here: The First Serve and The Spike'd Stunner.

"Dining out might just be the official sport of Charleston, so incorporating the BHC food and beverage properties at this year's tournament felt like a natural fit," said Becky Hubbard, managing director of The Charleston Place. "Our chefs and bartenders had a lot of fun dreaming up specials that went along with the tennis theme, and we're excited to give everyone a taste."

LIVE MUSIC LINEUP

What's a great meal without some music?

Throughout the tournament, The Oaks Deck and Ultra Lounge will feature live performances from top Charleston artists, including Dylan Swinson, Lauren Hall, Kylie Odetta, Drew Dangerfield, and Jake Willis.

Willis, director of Daniel Island Music Academy, performed with DIMA students on opening weekend, with additional original and cover performances from his band, the Willis-Bruenner Trio, to play throughout the rest of the week.

"My favorite part of these events is people enjoying hearing songs they don't expect from a cover band and jamming along, playing in the beautiful weather," Willis said. "And of course, with DIMA, getting to see the kids enjoy the experience of playing in such a fun environment!"

Country artist Drew Dangerfield, playing at the Ultra Lounge April 3-5, is excited for his first time performing at the COCO.

"I grew up playing tennis in Mount Pleasant, so I'm excited to be part of this. I think live music just elevates everything, especially at an event like this. The best part is getting to meet and connect with people."

For the full music schedule, visit creditcharlestonopen.com/fan-hub/.

GAME, SET, FEAST!

Whether you're craving sushi, barbecue, or gourmet tacos, the Credit One Charleston Open offers it all. Add craft cocktails and live music, and you've got an ultimate fusion of sports, food, and fun. Grab your tickets, bring your appetite, and get ready for what organizers hope is an unforgettable experience.

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FILE/PETER FINGER PHOTOGRAPHY
Danielle Collins greets her dog on center court after winning the 2024 COCO. She says traveling with her dog helps her relax as she journeys and plays in various cities. Also pictured, Bryan Kipp.

EMMA SLAVEN

Emma@thedanielislandnews.com

From the outside, life as a professional tennis player seems like a dream – glamorous travel, packed stadiums, and the thrill of competition.

But behind the highlight reels and trophies lies a relentless grind that few truly understand.

What about the parts we don't see? The grueling travel schedules, the mental toll, the sacrifices made for a shot at greatness?

At the Credit One Charleston Open, we asked WTA players one question:

"What's one thing about being a pro tennis player that most people don't realize, and how does it impact your life?"

Their answers pull back the curtain on life beyond the court—where the real challenge isn't just winning matches, but surviving the grind of the tour.

BELINDA BENCIC

"Tough question to start with! I mean, people obviously see the parts of tennis on TV, but I think it's definitely harder to be a professional tennis player than what is shown. Of course, during the matches, you can see the emotions and how people are fighting very hard, but I think it's more of the practice and commitment every day that you have to do and the work, sweat, and tears.

"Everything you do behind the scenes, people don't see so much of. Maybe they think everything is very glamorous on



DOUG PINKERTON
Navarro is getting used to being recognized and says she is "lucky to have people that are very grounding around me."

DARIA KASATKINA

"I think for most people it's the magic of how we appear from one tournament to another. You know, one day they're watching us on TV, and we're playing in Dubai; the next week we're suddenly in Indian Wells; and the next week we somehow magically appear in Miami. So they don't understand that we actually need to travel, and there are everyday problems, too, that people don't see or don't fully understand, like how tough it actually is to travel from one tournament to another, especially when it's overseas in different countries.

"We also struggle with things like being sick, being tired or overwhelmed, or if our baggage didn't arrive, and we have to somehow manage to practice without running

shoes. These kinds of things always stay behind the scenes but affect us quite dramatically, because we're also playing every week and it's difficult. This is also kind of what I'm showing on the (YouTube) vlogs so that people



PATRICK VILLEGAS
Jessica Pegula knows something about long days - the World No. 4 arrived at the COCO Monday, having reached the finals in the Miami Open.

the outside, that we travel to other cities and everything, but we don't really see much from the places we go to, so that's probably another myth. I would definitely love to see more (when traveling), but sometimes we're just outside the whole day, and then we go back to the hotel and do that for a week and then go to the airport and go to the next tournament."

EMMA NAVARRO

"I guess more people recognizing me, especially in Charleston. It's a little bit unnatural having a bunch of people know who you are, and you don't know who they are. That line can get a little bit blurry. People think they know you more than they do. So that's just been something I've had to kind of get used to, but I've learned to just embrace that part of it. I'm really lucky to have people that are very grounding for me around me. They make me feel like just a regular Emma, so that's really nice to have."

JESSICA PEGULA

"I would say how long the days are. Long days at tournaments over and over again can be time-consuming, so you really don't get that much time to explore a city or go do things that you want to do. I think sometimes people think that we're traveling, and it's fun, and all this stuff, which it is, but there are times where you don't even really go out to the city because you didn't have time. You have practice and commitments, or timing didn't work out, and then you're tired. There are so many factors that can come in, so I would definitely say the long days.

PATRICK VILLEGAS

BEHIND THE RACKET:

WTA PLAYERS ON THE REALITIES OF LIFE ON TOUR



PATRICK VILLEGAS

Qinwen Zheng says that the tennis season is longer than people imagine.

"I remember when my sister first started coming to tournaments with me. She'd be exhausted. And she wasn't even doing anything. She'd be like, 'I need to go take a nap; I need to get out of here; there's too many people, we've been at the courts for like seven hours....' Plus, maybe there's a rain delay, and I don't know when I'm going to play. I would say all of those things within a really long day are something people probably don't realize how hard it is to do every week."

DANIELLE COLLINS

"You know, we're very privileged to be able to do what we do for a living, and we get to have some really cool experiences, but the tournaments can be hard and challenging. This is a performance-oriented job with a lot of physical and mental demands. Some of the tournaments you're not always looking forward to. I think that's normal in any job.... I can understand some of the younger players that want to play every day, you know, the energy behind that, but I think once you get to a certain age, you're kind of like, 'Whew!' It's nice to have a day off now and then between these matches.

"You have weeks you look forward to; you have weeks that you don't, but I think across the board, this is a week that people really look forward to. I wish there was a way that we could have this tournament for like two or three months, but I just try to cherish it as much as I can.



DOUG PINKERTON

Belinda Bencic practices at the COCO during family weekend. She says most fans do not see the practice, work, sweat and tears that go behind the scenes.



DOUG PINKERTON

Daria Kasatkina says "We also struggle with things like being sick, being tired or overwhelmed, or if our baggage didn't arrive, and we have to somehow manage to practice without running shoes."

not seeing your family or friends is something people don't understand and how hard it may be, but we make it work and try and balance it out."

QINWEN ZHENG

"We travel a lot more than what you think. Usually when preparing for a tournament, we need to go sometimes a week before or a few days before, so it's like we're always on the road. Plus, the tennis season is so long, so you don't get much time to take a good break or good rest."



DOUG PINKERTON

Madison Keys, pictured here practicing at the COCO on Sunday, says that she's learned to take time to keep her body healthy as she gets older.

MADISON KEYS

"It's important to keep your body healthy. I think as you get older, you know yourself a little bit better, you mature, and in a lot of ways, tennis gets easier as you get older because you just kind of know what to expect, and you know how to handle things better.

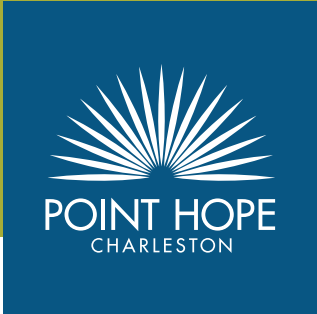
"I think a lot of us have been able to find teams that have really helped us keep our bodies healthier for longer....It's always a matter of, 'Can I keep my body healthy? Can I stay quick? Can I still play six, seven matches in a row? Can I keep the pace on the ball that a lot of these younger players have?' So I feel like a lot of us being able to keep our bodies healthy and continuing to stay quick and recover has been the biggest thing. And as you get older, you're really just trying to navigate having all of the years on your body."

AMANDA ANISIMOVA

"I feel like most people probably would expect that we're not home often. We're traveling all the time, and we miss out on a lot of things in our personal life. But at the same time, we choose this profession, so it's kind of expected. But it does get pretty tough. I think being on the road a lot and



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Meeting Street Schools benefits from COCO partnership

MISTY JO NEILSON
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The Credit One Charleston Open has selected Meeting Street Schools, a network of South Carolina schools that offers underserved students life-changing educational opportunities, as its official nonprofit partner.

Meeting Street Schools began in 2008 with just 33 young learners in a downtown Charleston church and now serves 1,700 students across four campuses: three in Charleston County and one in Spartanburg. The schools were founded on the principle that all children can excel in the classroom and provide an environment where students are nurtured, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential.

“We’re just so honored for the opportunity to showcase the incredible work happening in our schools,” said Josh Bell, president of Beemok Education, a portfolio of education initiatives that includes Meeting Street Schools.

“Education is one of the most powerful ways we can transform our communities, and Meeting Street Schools is one of the ways we’re changing the landscape of education in South Carolina.”

Bell said students and teachers will take field trips to the tournament and are excited to watch live professional tennis and to appear on court alongside players to participate in coin flips and receive recognition for their academic achievements.

“The tournament selected this nonprofit organization because of the transformative opportunities it provides hard-working students,” said Bob Moran, president of Beemok Sports & Entertainment, parent company of the Credit One Charleston Open.



“Our award-winning tournament attracts players from across the globe, and this partnership will expand students’ worldview through interactions with these athletes,” Moran said. “Not only will we welcome students to Daniel Island to experience world-class tennis, but we also will bring some of these top players to their neighborhoods and classrooms, creating meaningful connections and inspiring the next generation.”

The tennis connection is not new to Meeting Street Schools, where students from LTP Academy on Daniel Island can be found volunteering in classrooms and serving as student mentors. “It’s been a great partnership that we’re excited to expand upon this year,” said Bell.

The funds raised by the alliance will help pay for enrichment programs and classroom libraries that Bell said will “spark a love of reading and learning” in all Meeting Street Schools. The partnership will also increase community awareness of the schools’ volunteer offerings and the new Teaching Fellows program for recent college graduates who want to make a difference through education.

The Credit One Charleston Open and Meeting Street Schools are both part of the Beemok portfolio, a collection of businesses and organizations spearheaded by Ben and Kelly Navarro that strive to make the

Lowcountry a better place to live, work, and play. This new collaboration celebrates both organizations’ shared commitment to excellence and to enhancing the Charleston community.

“We work really hard to create life-changing outcomes for students in our schools and help them achieve at high levels,” Bell said. “So this recognition is really special, and we’re thrilled about it.”

PROVIDED

Meeting Street Schools, a network of four South Carolina schools, has been selected as the official nonprofit partner of the Credit One Charleston Open. Meeting Street Schools will receive enhanced visibility, funding for classroom libraries and enrichment programs, and unique student experiences for students, including on-court opportunities and athlete visits.

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Charleston Open champions Special Olympics, wheelchair tennis

EMMA SLAVEN

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As world-class tennis takes center stage on the main court, another historic match will take place on one of Credit One Stadium's secondary courts.

For the 15th consecutive year, the Charleston Open is hosting its Special Olympics tennis clinic, making it the longest-running event in the Women's Tennis Association Foundation's Special Olympics Series.

"Charleston is one of six stops in the WTA Foundation Special Olympics Series, where the WTA Foundation, WTA tournaments, and WTA players unite to support Special Olympics," King said. "This is the 15th year that the Charleston Open has highlighted Special Olympics, the longest-running event in our series."

On April 2, Special Olympics athletes from local and regional branches took to the courts and participated in a clinic led by WTA alumni and former Charleston Open tennis finalist Vania King.

King, alongside current WTA players, guided the athletes through drills and games, and the day ended with a Special Olympics athlete having the honor of performing a ceremonial coin toss before a WTA match.

Organizers said the event was not only a fun day on the courts, but it also aligns with the broader mission of Special Olympics to provide year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

"The idea of hosting a tennis clinic for Special Olympics athletes began over a decade or two ago," said Jack Barker, a former Special Olympics tennis director and a current member of the United States Tennis Association Southern Adaptive Committee.

"It was to create awareness of what the athletes were capable of doing while at the same time trying to recruit a bigger population to play tennis in the area."

Charleston Open marketing director Arielle Alpino said the intention of the clinic is to give local athletes a continuing opportunity to develop their physical fitness while also showing off their courage and court skills to their families, other athletes, and the community.



South Carolina boasts one of the largest Special Olympics programs in the country, and the Charleston Open has played a key supporting role. The clinic has grown over the years, transitioning from an LTP, or Live to Play, program to a partner of the sport.

"Being able to bring awareness to Special Olympics tennis and athletes through our partnership helps the broader audience recognize that we are all unique in our own ways and that tennis' positive benefits impact all of us," King said.

The clinic featured adapted drills and equipment, including developmentally appropriate tennis balls designed for slower speeds to enhance playability. Athletes also had the opportunity to rally with WTA players to foster lasting connections and, hope-

fully, create memorable experiences.

"We hope that this clinic and all the ways we engage in our partnership will continue to foster positive relationships between athletes and tennis, encourage WTA players to continue to support the partnership, and encourage the tennis community to get involved in supporting the Special Olympics," King said.

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS AT THE COCO

For the first time in the tournament's history, wheelchair tennis will take center stage with an exhibition match on Friday, April 4, at noon.

"The inspiration behind introducing wheelchair tennis to this year's Credit One Charleston Open comes from a growing

PROVIDED BY ASHLEY SMITH

Clemson University's varsity wheelchair tennis player McKenna Woodhead will play at COCO's first-ever wheelchair tennis exhibition.

commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in sports," said COCO fan experience manager Ashley Smith. "We are dedicated to expanding the reach of tennis, ensuring it is a sport that is accessible to athletes of all abilities."

The exhibition will feature McKenna Woodhead and Delaney Hopkins, two standout players from Clemson University's varsity wheelchair tennis team.

Woodhead, a senior at Clemson, has been a trailblazer in the sport, overcoming significant challenges to compete at the highest level of the sport.

Woodhead recently won the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's National Championship for the Singles C Division and has learned to play with her racket taped to her hand due to limited hand function.

"Some challenges that wheelchair tennis players face are often related to equipment, awareness, and travel logistics or expenses," Woodhead said. "Increased awareness can inspire more investment in the sport to help different wheelchair tennis programs and athletes grow. The wheelchair tennis exhibition match will bring recognition to the amazing sport and athleticism of such adaptive players, hopefully inspiring the next generation of athletes!"

Credit One Stadium will be fully wheelchair accessible for the event, and COCO's organizers hope the exhibition will send a powerful message.

"We want to demonstrate that tennis is a sport for everyone," Smith said. "This inclusion not only highlights the incredible skill and determination of wheelchair tennis athletes but also encourages greater awareness and respect for adaptive sports. Our hope is to show that barriers in sports can be broken, and everyone has a place in the tennis world."

PROVIDED BY VANIA KING

Special Olympics athletes take to the courts at the Charleston Open, practicing volleys, perfecting their serves, and rallying with WTA players during the clinic.



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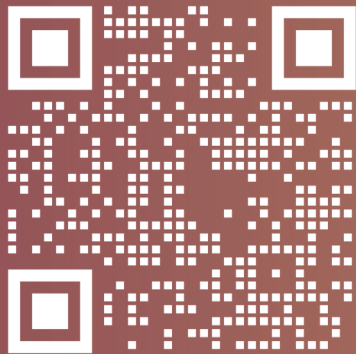
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Physio on the fly: DI mom helps Navarro stay healthy

PATRICK VILLEGAS
patrick@thedanielislandnews.com

As last Sunday morning’s charity pro-am was winding down on the back courts of Credit One Stadium, rising tennis star Emma Navarro stepped off the green clay and made a beeline to Kelly Shannon, who was sitting on a bench a few yards away from the action.

Shannon is a Daniel Island mom of two girls, ages 9 and 6, who four years ago moved back to Charleston from the Washington D.C., area “to start my little physical therapy company.”

When one networking connection led to another, Shannon found herself meeting with a local tennis player out of the University of Virginia who was looking to add a physio to her team to amp up her professional career. Her name was Emma Navarro.

“Somebody that I know that I

worked with recommended me, so we met, and it kind of evolved,” she said.

Shannon, who has a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from MUSC, is now one of two physical therapists working with Team Navarro, crisscrossing oceans and continents along with Navarro’s coach, fitness trainer, and playing partner.

Their job is to support Emma’s health, strength, and conditioning as she continues her ascent to the top of the tennis world.

“It’s been fun,” Shannon said. “When I first started with her two years ago, maybe she was ranked 140. She had just been out of college, maybe less than a year at one point. Now she is in the top 10.”

With Navarro’s recent success and advancement through later rounds of big-time tournaments, the team has been staying on the road longer.

Despite the travel grind, Shannon said the team is focused on maintaining a daily routine for Navarro, making sure it’s balanced and regimented to help her stay on a consistent schedule of eating, exercise, practice, play, and sleep.

“It’s a lot to maintain strength on the road,” Shannon said. “Basically, before she ever steps out on court, she goes through an hour-long warm-up routine, goes through all her mobility, muscle activation, strengthening stuff, and dynamic stretching so she is ready to enter the court and get pumped up,” Shannon said.

Once a match is over, there’s more practice, more stretching, and a focus on body recovery and injury prevention “with hands-on treatment to keep the muscles happy and have them feeling pretty good.”

Shannon estimates she travels 16

to 17 weeks out of the year – taking in the opportunity to appreciate historic venues like the lawns of Wimbledon in London, where “the grass is neat,” and the U.S. Open in the Big Apple, which has the vibe and “New York City-energy to it.” Even the smaller tournament towns like Tyler, Texas, and Homberg, Germany, have made an impact on her.

“Every Grand Slam has something special about it, but I do like the smaller tournaments. Smaller towns are more fun to navigate, especially in Europe.”

With the latest tournament held here this week in Charleston, Shannon said it’s a nice break to be back home. “I have two young kids; and one of the harder things for me (on the road) is my family life, but my husband is extremely supportive.”

Shannon spends stretches of time with her family when she alternates



PROVIDED
Daniel Island mom of two, Kelly Shannon, travels with rising tennis star Emma Navarro across the globe as one of her physical therapists to help keep her health and body in tip-top shape.

tournament travels with another physical therapist. And during the weeks when she is on the road, she is confident knowing her husband and girls are with her in spirit as they rally and cheer Team Navarro on.

“They are some of her biggest fans,” she said. “Emma has been a great role model.”

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Daniel Island couple opens up home to traveling tennis players



PATRICK VILLEGAS

Great Britain's Olivia Nicholls (right) and Slovakia's Tereza Mihalikova (left) recently stayed at a guest family's home on Daniel Island to relax before heading back to the players' downtown hotel before the COCO got underway.

PATRICK VILLEGAS

patrick@thedanielislandnews.com

The doubles team of Great Britain's Olivia Nicholls and Slovakia's Tereza Mihalikova, along with one of their coaches, had just finished an eight-hour drive into South Carolina from Florida to compete at the Credit One Charleston Open.

They were at dinner recounting to a member of their Daniel Island host family the highlights of their trip to the Palmetto State.

All were giddy, grinning from ear to ear.

They didn't reminisce about their exciting semifinal run two weeks ago at Indian Wells or how they advanced to the Round of 16 at the Miami Open.

Instead, they couldn't stop talking about the fun detour they took to Orlando, Florida, to enjoy a day of thrill rides at a Harry Potter amusement park inside Universal. There wasn't any talk of forehands or backhands, instead, just laughs of what it was like to sip a taste of the wizard's sweet, creamy, non-alcoholic drink.

"Butterbeer!" Nicholls, the only British player in the group, shouted out.

The trio had just driven to Daniel Island to stay at the home of Tory and Andrea Sullivan, at least for a day or two, before moving on to the players' hotel in downtown Charleston.

The Sullivans welcome tennis players, who are far away from their home state or country, to stay and relax at their family residence, offering players sleeping rooms closer to the stadium, an opportunity to grab some

rest and downtime from the week-to-week tournament grind - and maybe, a quick trip on a golf cart to tour the island.

"We made friends with them, and they like staying at the house," Andrea Sullivan said of the doubles duo. "They like staying in a family environment, like being at a house, cooking their own foods, and they love our dogs!"

Sullivan said three years ago at the LTP Mount Pleasant tournament, there was a call to members to see if anyone might be able to house a player who had just graduated - and needed a room for the competition.

"I said, 'Tory, we've got three rooms, why not!'"

That first house guest then led to the housing of another player in need of a room. Which led to another. And then another, and then another.

"Their housing situation wasn't ideal. We knew that," she said, "But no one should be sofa-surfing when you're in a tournament, you should be ready to play!"

The Sullivans said they will continue to leave their door open for incoming athletes in the future. They have heard about the not-so-glamorous life of being a nomad on tour, and they hope by providing up-and-coming athletes a quiet home away from home, it might give them additional rest and some extra zzz's to help them advance to the next round.

"We are open to doing it again," she said. "It also gives us a chance to invest in them and root for them at the tournament."



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PLAYERS

- 1. Billie Jean King
- 2. Jessica Pegula
- 3. Chris Evert

- 4. Madison Keys
- 5. Martina Navratilova
- 6. Belinda Bencic
- 7. Steffi Graf
- 8. Danielle Collins
- 9. Monica Seles
- 10. Emma Navarro

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE PLAYERS

- A. Holds a record eight titles at the Family Circle Cup, the most in the tournament's history.
- B. The 2022 Charleston champion and Olympic gold medalist; she returned to professional tennis in 2025 after wel-

coming her first child in March 2024.

C. Captured the 1997 Family Circle Cup title during her comeback after a nearly three-year hiatus following an on-court incident in 1993.

D. Won the 1986 Family Circle Cup, a year before securing her first Grand Slam title at the French Open.

E. Won the inaugural Family Circle Cup in 1973, the first women's tennis event to offer \$100,000 in prize money.

F. The 2019 Charleston champion and 2025 Australian Open winner; she is actively involved in philanthropy through her initiative "Kindness Wins," promoting kindness in sports and beyond.

G. Defected from Czechoslovakia in 1975, becoming a U.S. citizen and winning the Family Circle Cup in 1982.

H. A Charleston native, she won the 2025 Merida Open Akron championship, 6-0, 6-0.

I. The 2024 Charleston champion and 2025 Australian Open finalist; she was a standout collegiate player, winning two NCAA singles titles at the University of Virginia.

J. Ranked World No. 4 and 2025 Austin champion, she is the daughter of Terry and Kim Pegula, owners of the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres.



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PSHS Iron Horse track teams gallop full steam ahead

PHILIP M. BOWMAN
sports@thedanielislandnews.com

If the recent Berkeley County Track and Field Championships are any indication, expect the Philip Simmons High School track and field teams to expand their empire to include the entire Palmetto State by the time the season concludes in May.

The Iron Horse girls were convincing with a 184.5-150.5 victory over Stratford High in a meet that was contested on March 26 at Cane Bay High School. Hanahan was third with 95 points.

Stratford edged the Iron Horses 169.5-164.5 to win the boys' crown. However, the Iron Horses were golden, capturing the top position in eight of the 18 events contested. Cane Bay came in third with 138.5 points.

The Iron Horse girls dominated in the distance events and medaled in all three relay races to win con-

vincingly.

Laura Perry won the 1,600-meter run in 5 minutes, 10.39 seconds, and Avah Mallek was third as the two combined for 16 points. The Iron Horses were impressive in the 3,200-meter run as Keziah Varner grabbed a gold medal in 12:07.63, while Anna Alomar was third for another 16 points.

Ashley Roush won the pole vault, clearing 3.33 meters, while Julia Reilly picked up silver medals in the long and triple jumps.

The Iron Horse 4x800-meter relay team captured first place, while Matea Payer was third in the 800-meter run as the Iron Horses placed four runners in the top six spots in the event to score 18 points in the event.

The Iron Horse girls were second in the 4x100-meter relay and third in the 4x400-meter relay in addition to winning gold in the 3200-meter relay to finish with 24 points in the

relays.

Ashlynn Johnson and Illyana Pannell captured bronze medals in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, respectively. Lilah May placed second in the high jump, and Chloe Woods earned a bronze medal in the javelin.

In the boys' meet, Iron Horse sprinter Corey Steed was the star of the show, capturing gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter dashes with respective times of 10.54 and 21.64. He also was the anchor of the winning 4x100-meter relay team, which clocked in at 42.43.

Joseph Wright won the 800-meter run in 2:02.31 and was second in the 1,600-meter run to teammate Pierce Walker, who recorded a time of 4:25.73.

Brian Stambaugh claimed gold in the 3,200-meter run in 10:04.60. The other golden performances included Matthew Yaun in the javelin and the 4x800-meter relay team.



PROVIDED

Pierce Walker runs earlier this year in the Coach's Classic. He raced to first place last week in the 1,600-meter run at the Berkeley County Track and Field Championships.

BE's Runey inducted into SC Athletic Administrators Hall of Fame

PHILIP M. BOWMAN
sports@thedanielislandnews.com

Bishop England High School's Paul Runey has cemented his place in state history when it comes to longevity, success as a coach, and his leadership as an athletic director.

Now, he's at the stage of his career where he's hall of fame material.

Runey, who was inducted into the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014, was recently inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Hall of Fame.

The South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association is the formal organization for the state's athletic directors.

"It's a big honor, a big honor for the school," Runey said. "It was unexpected, but much appreciated.



RILE/MCCABE

Paul Runey

It's an honor for the school. I don't think there are too many schools that have two athletic directors in this hall of fame."

Bill Warren, who replaced Runey as AD a couple of years ago, is a member of the hall of fame as well.

Runey is in his 51st year at BE

and served as the school's athletic director for 25 years.

He helped the school transition from its downtown campus to Daniel Island, a move that helped the Bishops become one of the state's top athletic programs. It wasn't unusual to find him taking tickets to flipping burgers to laying sod at a new football stadium during his tenure.

Runey coaches the girls' basketball team and will begin the 2025-26 season with 829 career wins and needs 33 victories to become the Palmetto State's all-time winningest girls' basketball coach.

BISHOP ENGLAND SOCCER

The Bishop England boys' soccer team is flourishing under second-year coach Brandon Costa.

The Bishops began this week's action with a three-game winning

streak and an 8-2 record. They were on top of the Region 6-AAAA standings with a 5-0 record heading into the April 1 game against Beaufort High School.

The team's only losses were against Lucy Beckham and Daniel High schools, with both defeats coming on shootouts.

Costa is in his second year at the school, where he helped build BE's strong tradition. He was a goalkeeper for coach Ed Khouri and was a member of three state championship teams from 2007 to 2009.

He played collegiately at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and then began a coaching career that included stops as an assistant at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Erskine College, Wando High School, and the Charleston Soccer Club.

The Bishops were 7-6 last spring and reached the second round of the Class AA playoffs before being eliminated by Academic Magnet in a two-overtime loss, one of a handful of losses that were close encounters.

This spring, the team has out-scored foes 23-7, with junior Gabe Williams leading the squad with four goals while Lucas Loor added three scores.

Junior keeper Joed Rentas has 36 saves.

The Bishops lead the league with May River in second place at 4-1. Hilton Head is currently in third place with a 2-2 region mark.

The Bishops beat May River at Jack Cantey Stadium on March 18 and travel to Bluffton to play the River Sharks on April 4 in a game that will go a long way in deciding the region championship.



BASKETBALL TRIVIA

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Welcome to the ultimate college hoops trivia showdown, Part 2! Think you know your Cinderella stories, buzzer-beaters, and legendary champions? Put your college hardwood knowledge to the test and see if you can cut down the nets as the trivia champion!

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

1. How many schools from South Carolina made the 2025 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and which schools are they?

- A) 2 – Clemson & Wofford
- B) 2 – South Carolina & Furman
- C) 3 – Clemson, College of Charleston, and Wofford
- D) 1 – South Carolina

2. Which school became the first No. 15

seed to reach the Elite Eight in the men's tournament?

- A) Florida Gulf Coast
- B) Saint Peter's
- C) Princeton
- D) Oral Roberts

3. What is the name of Purdue's basketball arena?

- A. Franklin Field
- B. First Citizens
- C. Mackey Arena
- D. Credit One Field House

4. Who is the all-time leading scorer in NCAA women's basketball history?

- A) Kelsey Plum
- B) Brittney Griner
- C) Caitlin Clark
- D) Chamique Holdsclaw

5. Who hit the famous game-winning

shot for Villanova in the 2016 men's national championship?

- A) Jalen Brunson
- B) Kris Jenkins
- C) Ryan Arcidiacono
- D) Josh Hart

6. The South Carolina women's basketball team won its first NCAA championship under Dawn Staley in what year?

- A) 2015
- B) 2017
- C) 2019
- D) 2021

7. Which coach has won the most NCAA Women's Tournament championships?

- A) Pat Summitt
- B) Geno Auriemma
- C) Tara VanDerveer
- D) Kim Mulkey

8. Who was the last men's team to go undefeated and win the national championship?

- A) Indiana (1976)
- B) Kentucky (2015)
- C) Gonzaga (2021)
- D) UCLA (1995)

9. Which women's player won the Most Outstanding Player award three times?

- A) Candace Parker
- B) Diana Taurasi
- C) Chamique Holdsclaw
- D) Breanna Stewart

10. Which school won the first-ever NCAA Women's Tournament in 1982?

- A) Louisiana Tech
- B) Tennessee
- C) University of Southern California
- D) UConn



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Fishing a worm hatch leads to a successful trout catch



fishing trends

GREG PERALTA

Every spring, around the time of the new moon, something called the worm hatch occurs. However, it is not really a “hatch.” It is a spawning cycle for small marine worms. It makes for good fishing, especially early in the morning or late in the evening.

If you look into the water and see a bunch of one-inch worms swimming wildly about in the water, you are in a worm hatch. This can be really good or really bad for fishing.

Redfish and trout gorge on the tiny worms. Get to the hatch early and fishing will be nonstop. Get

there late and the fish are full and no longer feeding.

When fishing a hatch, it is important to match your lure to the size and shape of the worms. Redfish and trout are so focused on the one-inch worms they will rarely eat a lure that does not mimic the tiny marine worms. Thankfully, a Z-Man Finesse TRD on a 1/10th ounce NedLockZ jig does a good job of imitating marine worms, especially if you cut a bit off the lure to have it match the size of worms you see in the water.

Cast the lure into the hatch and let it sink. More times than not, a redfish or trout will eat it as it falls. Once the lure hits the bottom, lift the rod tip and let the lure fall again.

Worm hatch action is either red hot or dead cold.

On Friday evening, Brody, the amazing fish-finding and stock-trading dog, and I stumbled upon a worm hatch. Trout were feasting upon the hapless little worms. I trimmed about an inch off the back of a Finesse TRD and cast it to the hatch area. For about 20 minutes, the action was nonstop. As the trout got full, the bite slowed down and then stopped.

If you venture out in search of a worm hatch, be ready with a smaller lure and bring bug spray. Lots of bug spray. Trout and redfish are not the only things biting. The gnats are awful.

PROVIDED BY CAPT. GREG PERALTA

Brody and Captain Greg find non-stop action fishing a worm hatch. This nice-sized trout is convincing proof to confirm his fish story!



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Butterflies on the brink



daniel island nature notes

FRANK CONWAY

I am sure that back in Sullivan's Island Elementary School or the now-defunct East Cooper School in Mount Pleasant, I heard the scientific name for butterflies and moths, Lepidoptera. But, as one beloved teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Tuten, frequently pointed out, "You boys are simple and silly." I might have missed how important butterflies are while shooting staples at friends with my pencil when my science teacher wasn't looking. Forty-three years later, I wish I had paid more attention. These insects are critical to how our natural world functions, and many of them are in real trouble today.

MONARCH POPULATION GRIM

There are over 17,000 kinds of butterflies, and it is difficult to speak generally about them. Please accept that some are doing better and some are doing worse than the average butterfly. Much like bees, their role in pollination alone makes them critical to

our natural world. Bees are highly efficient pollinators, but butterflies pollinate a wider range of plants.

One need look no further than our most recognizable butterfly, the monarch, *Danaus plexippus*, to see the gravity of their plight. The migrations of monarchs are well-known. Millions of these beautiful creatures move annually between the western U.S. and Canada to coastal California (western monarchs) or from eastern Canada and the U.S. to, primarily, the mountains of central Mexico (eastern monarchs). Some remain in Florida year-round. There seems to be little biological difference between the two monarch populations, just a geographical one.

Rather than by counting individuals, as in bird counts, butterfly counts in Mexico are done by counting the number of hectares occupied on their wintering grounds. This number is then multiplied by an assumed number of specimens per hectare. A hectare is roughly 2.5 acres and, according to Monarch Joint Venture, the factor assumed is between 20 and 30 million butterflies per hectare. While not an exact science, this method provides the best estimate we currently have for total population.



PHOTO BY JENNY CONWAY

As a little girl, Claire Conway, the daughter of columnist Frank Conway, is enchanted by a monarch butterfly. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed listing monarchs as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The trend in that population is grim, and last December the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing monarchs as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Over the last 30 years, the eastern monarch population estimate has fallen from 6.23 hectares to 1.8. Habitat and food loss, climate change, and pesticides are cited as the most likely causes. For some unknown

reason, wintering numbers doubled last year from 0.9 hectares up to 1.8. There is always hope!

HOW TO HELP

The monarch alone would take more than a newspaper column to discuss, but there are many informative online resources. If one wants to help our monarchs, please see The World Wildlife Fund or Monarch Joint Venture. Insectsofiowa.org also has a great photo-based butterfly identification tool for any North American variety.

The single biggest help to the monarch is probably to plant milkweed. According to a 2023 article in Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, milkweed is the only plant on which monarchs can lay their eggs and on which their caterpillars can feed. Imagine that – a species entirely reliant on a single plant.

Unfortunately for the monarchs, milkweed is not particularly attractive, is not sought after for landscaping, etc., and is frequently mowed and sprayed along roadways, in fields, and in other places where it grows well.

Reducing that practice and minimizing pesticide usage could have huge benefits for the monarchs, and they need all of the help they can get.



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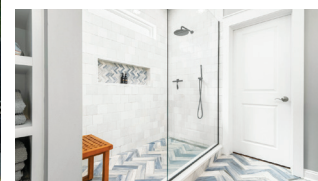
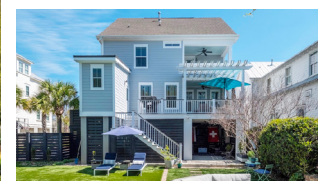
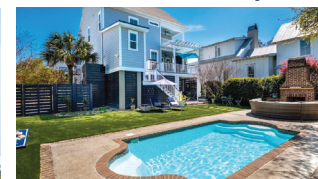
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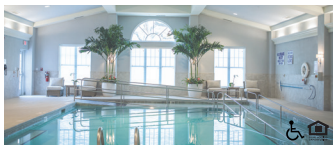


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Kentucky Derby Lane project in Point Hope to add 151 single-family homes

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

April 3: Point Hope POD 4 Phase 3 - Proposed preliminary plat and road construction plan for future 151 lot single-family development on 106.7 acres at 1100 Kentucky Derby Lane. TMS: B2620000028. Owner: Pulte Home Company. Applicant: Thomas & Hutton Engineering. Contact: Brian Riley, riley.b@tandh.com.

April 3: Daniel Island Club Tennis Facility - Revision to a previously approved site plan for padel courts at 715 Island Park Dr. Unit 101. TMS: B2710000025. Owner:

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Daniel Island Club. Applicant: Thomas & Hutton Engineering. Contact: Brian Riley, riley.b@tandh.com.

RESULTS: 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:** *Open pending delivery of stormwater comments.*

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RED SHIRT FRIDAY | POST-GAME FIREWORKS
MAGNET SCHEDULE GIVEAWAY

REV
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

NUCOR[®]
NUCOR STEEL BERKELEY

OPENING WEEKEND
SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH
GAME TIME 6:05PM
SATURDAY SHOW AT THE JOE
COMEBACK 52N REPLICA JERSEY GIVEAWAY

MUSC Health
Medical University of South Carolina

OPENING WEEKEND
SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH
GAME TIME 5:05PM
MUSC FAMILY SUNDAY | KIDS RUN BASES POST-GAME
RIVERDOGS YO-YO GIVEAWAY

2025 OPENING WEEKEND

SCAN FOR TICKETS

RIVERDOGS.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS

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/2025egghunt.

DANIEL ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

Field trip to Elizabeth Stuart Design, 215 Coleman Blvd. on Mon. April 7. Carpool will leave Publix parking lot at 9:45. Lunch at Post House Restaurant. RSVP by April 2 to Carolyn Goff, gooffcb@earthlink.net.

ROBERT DANIELL'S BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Hip, hip, hooray! It's Robert Daniell's birthday! Join the Daniel Island Historical Society on Sat. April 12, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, at Waterfront Park as they celebrate the 379th birthday of our island's namesake. Cake and refreshments and a performance by Captain Daniell's Pipers, a local recorder group. FREE. All welcome.

DI HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE

Program: "Whiteness in gray: Free non-white men in the confederacy" by Dr. David Dangerfield, assistant professor of History at the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie. Tues. April 15, Church of the Holy Spirit on DI 7 pm. The lecture will explore a group of Lowcountry families who negotiated their ambiguous racial statuses and citizenship by serving in the Confederate military. FREE. dihistoricalociety.com.

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 dixexchangeclub.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.

GATHERING ON THE GREEN

Live music featuring Southbound 17. Sat., April 26, 5-8 pm at Point Hope Village Green. Food and games. Parking and admission are FREE. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs! Leashed dogs are welcome. pointhopecharleston.com.

NEW LINEN DRIVE FOR ONE80 PLACE

Providence Church, 294 Seven Farms Dr. A table and large container are conveniently located on the back porch of the church for drop off of new linens through April 30.

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 dcommunityyoga@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. Daniell'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., dixexchangeclub.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 Daniell'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 Cainhoy 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.

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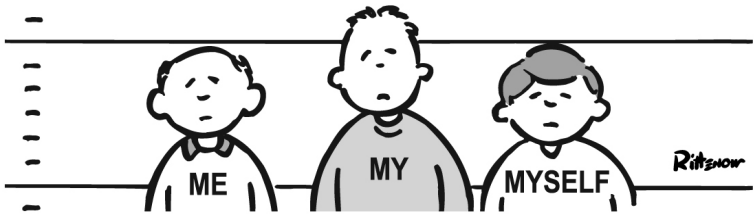
Let's Have
Some FUN

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Grammar
Matters

by Patty Gibbons Saunier

Picking Them Out of a Lineup



Which word is the best example of the grammar term?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Reflexive pronoun: | me | my | myself |
| 2. Interjection: | worry | while | Wow! |
| 3. Infinitive: | to forgive | will fight | am fortunate |
| 4. Gerund: | she'll | skiing | shaken |
| 5. Article: | always | an | around |

Answers: 1. myself 2. Wow! 3. to forgive 4. skiing 5. an

DANCE WITH ME

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil R. Manausa

ACROSS

- 1 Dancer's support
6 Damon or Dillon
10 Now hear ____!
14 Supped at home
15 Fulda feeder
16 Oscar-winning Helen
17 American Ballet Theater Giselle
20 Nepal neighbor
21 Describing Darth Vader
22 Pinup's limb
24 Dernier ____
25 Coppelia: see 17 Across
31 Spinnaker
35 British streetcar
36 Miscellany
37 Actress Saldaña
38 English class no-no
39 Some friendship tokens
41 ____ time: never
42 Squeal
43 Shindig
44 Chow ____
45 Oates novel
47 Prince Desire: see 17 Across

- 49 Cyclops had one
51 Gun advocacy grp.
52 Coffee bar order
57 Beethoven's Third
62 Merry Widow: See 17 Across
64 Owl's cry
65 12th Hebrew month
66 Stop
67 Bookie's concern
68 1st "New Yorker" editor, Harold
69 Where Pluto reigned

DOWN

- 1 Barnyard bleats
2 King in "Volsungasaga"
3 Stink
4 Hazard
5 Iago, to Othello
6 Chess pieces
7 Tots up
8 Actress Garr
9 Hypnotic condition
10 Doctorate preceder
11 Caligula actor
12 Apropos of
13 Fuss
18 Key of Mozart's

- "Turkish" sonata
19 Spruce or pine
23 ____ Beach, CA
25 Commence
26 Dicken's Heep
27 French toast
28 Qty.
29 Kind of exam
30 Envelops with mist
32 Montezuma, for one
33 Greek order
34 Late Hotelier Helmsley
40 Buttressed
41 Latin conjugation starter
46 Deserves
47 "Swan Lake" role
48 CUNY college
50 Word of consent
52 Resound
53 Not barefoot
54 Goad
55 Barn adjunct
56 Burden
58 Very draftworthy
59 "If ____ a Hammer"
60 Lawsuit
61 City on the Skunk
63 Golfer Ernie

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 3194 Morningdale Dale, MP.....\$3595
 3BR/2BA; approx. sqft. 1497

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 603 Merrifield Ct., MP.....\$3295
 3BR/3.5BA; approx sqft. 2200
 1402 Camp Rd. #2H, Chs.....\$2350
 3BR/2BA; approx. sqft. 1200

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 3BR/2.5BA; approx. sqft. 1338

Unfurnished Townhome
 200 River Landing Dr. #B104.....\$2495
 1BR/1.5BA; approx. sqft. 11100

Unfurnished Condominium
 260 Seven Farms Dr. #303.....\$2795
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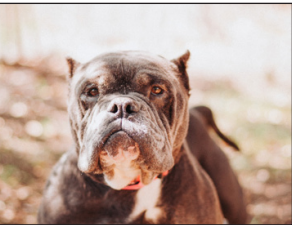
- \$10 Up to 20 words
 5¢ Each word after 20
 \$1 Bold (up to 5 words)
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 \$7 Picture (black & White only)
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I'm Pippa, a 5-year-old me-
 dium female bulldog mix.



I'm Scotty, a 6-month-old
 medium male retriever mix.



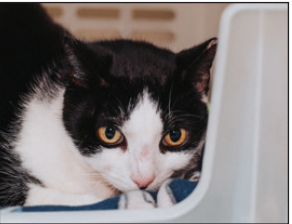
I'm Mellie, a 1-year-old me-
 dium female terrier mix.



I'm Fay, a 2-year-old small
 female domestic shorthair
 mix.



I'm Sun, a 3-month-old small
 male domestic shorthair mix.



I'm Carley, a 6-year-old small
 female domestic shorthair
 mix.

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SUNDAY
1-2:30



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