Your Community Magazine

POOLER MAGAZINE



Whitney Gilliard
Child Advocate

HEALTH & WELLNESS ISSUE

January/February 2020

Around Town

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Giving Kids an Outlet
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Thomas Carver



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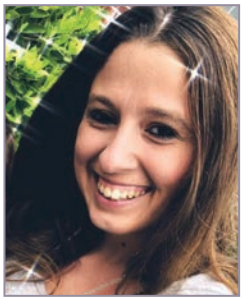
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MEET THE TEAM



Jami Brannen

is originally from Effingham County and now resides in Pembroke. Jami is a busy mom to two teenage girls and two fur babies. She has been the owner of A Shot in Time Photography since 2009 where she specializes in engagements, weddings, events, families, and her favorite subjects of all – children. In her spare time she loves to hang out with her girls, travel and attend drag racing events with her dad.



Laura Castongia

is married with four children and 5 cute little fur babies. She resides in Effingham County. She has over 8 years of photography experience with a portfolio that includes sports, weddings, engagements, award ceremonies, special events and family life photography. She loves spending time with her family and attending her sons' ballgames in her spare time - but even then, she always has a camera ready for those very special candid moments in life.



Kelly Harley

is a writer and social media strategist for businesses navigating the world of online marketing. She founded Social Creative, a social media management company dedicated to helping businesses effectively use social media. Kelly believes every one and every business has a story worth sharing. From her early days as a television news reporter, her experience in storytelling and social media spans nearly 15 years. Kelly is married with two children and lives in Bloomingdale.



Michelle Holloway

is a lifestyle photographer who studied photojournalism and public relations at Northern Arizona University, where she was awarded the Scripps Photojournalism Scholarship. During her time at NAU, she worked as a staff photographer for the Lumberjack school newspaper. She moved to Georgia with her husband three years ago after he accepted an engineering position with Gulfstream. They have since welcomed two beautiful children into their family.



Rick Lott

has been photographing for over 45 years, starting in journalism and finally retiring from being a non-profit director. His passion now is capturing wildlife with his camera.



Cindy Reid

is a graduate of Mills College in Oakland, CA. She spent most of her career working with authors in the retail book business before becoming one herself. She has a daughter who lives in the state of Washington. A native of New York's Hudson Valley, Cindy now makes her home on St. Helena Island.



Katrice Williams

is a married mother of two. She graduated from Georgia Southern University with a Business Administration Degree. Interestingly enough, at the time, she also had an interest in writing. She and her family moved to Pooler in 2003 from the Atlanta Metro Area. She later decided to pursue her writing interests. Katrice appreciates the Lord Jesus Christ and the many blessings that He has bestowed upon her. She loves spending time with her family.



Kathryn Vandenhouten

is a freelance writer who enjoys meeting new and interesting people. She earned her English degree at Georgia Southern University and enjoys hiking and photographing the scenery and the wildlife. She now lives in Rincon and loves spending time with her husband, Sean, and two children, Turner and Emery.



Jan Southern, DPA
Owner/Publisher
Jan@JDelSURMarketing.com



Lea Thornton-Allen
Operations Manager
Lea@JDelSURMarketing.com



Shelly Mock
Sales Coordinator
Shelly@JDelSURMarketing.com



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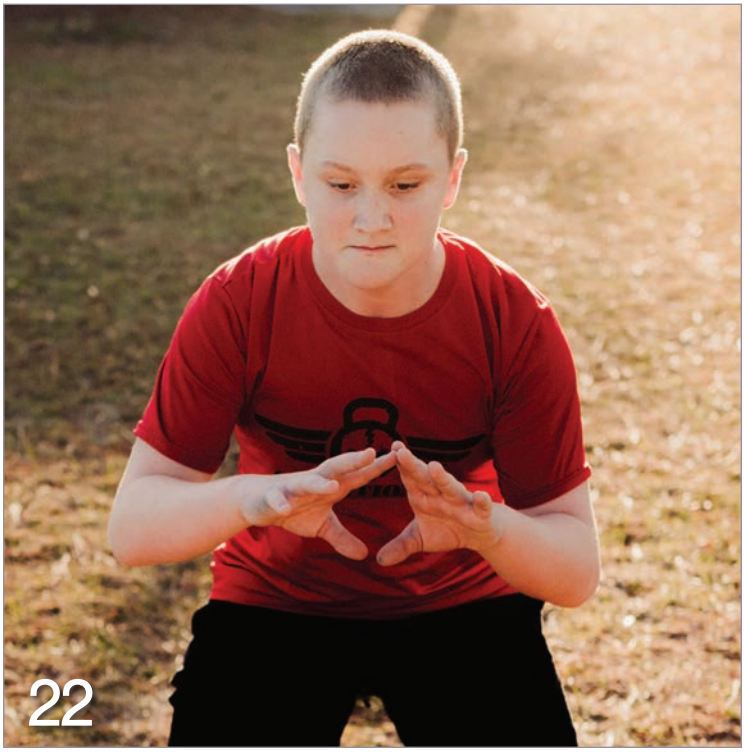
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ABOUT THE COVER

Spend a moment with Whitney Gilliard and you are in the presence of energy, laughter, and a heart of gold. Read more about Whitney, her story, her family, and why helping foster kids is her mission and passion. Page 10.

Cover photo by Amy Brown Photography







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Jan Southern
Owner/Publisher
Jan@JDelSURMarketing.com

Lea Thornton-Allen
Operations Manager
Lea@JDelSURMarketing.com

Penny Redmond
Distribution

Shelly Mock
Sales Coordinator
Shelly@JDelSURMarketing.com

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writer/editor,
Michael Brown

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Stories or ideas for stories must be submitted by email. Only feature stories and photo essays about people, places or things in the Pooler area will be considered.

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It's a Brand New Decade


Jan Southern

Not only is this a brand new year, it is a brand new decade! How's that for pressure to make a stellar New Year's resolution for 2020? No pressure, right? The truth is, fewer than half of Americans make New Year's resolutions, and those of us who do, give up after just a few months. It is understandable. Change is difficult, and we all have lives, families, careers and a million other things on which to focus our attention.

For me, each new year brings renewed optimism. I just love a fresh start, don't you? In this issue of *Pooler Magazine*, we feature people in the community that share this optimism. These are individuals who have transformed their health and have given this gift to others, taken up a new career or given time, energy and resources to lift children up and guide them toward their own bright futures.

We celebrate achievements in our community, whether personal or for the greater good. And we share them with you in hopes the stories provide you with some optimism and hope for a great year, whatever your aspirations may be.

So as we head into this new decade, my resolution is to continue to focus less on what I should do, and instead, be mindful of all that is good in the world and celebrate all we have accomplished individually and as a community.

Happy New Year!

Jan Southern

Owner/Publisher
Pooler Magazine

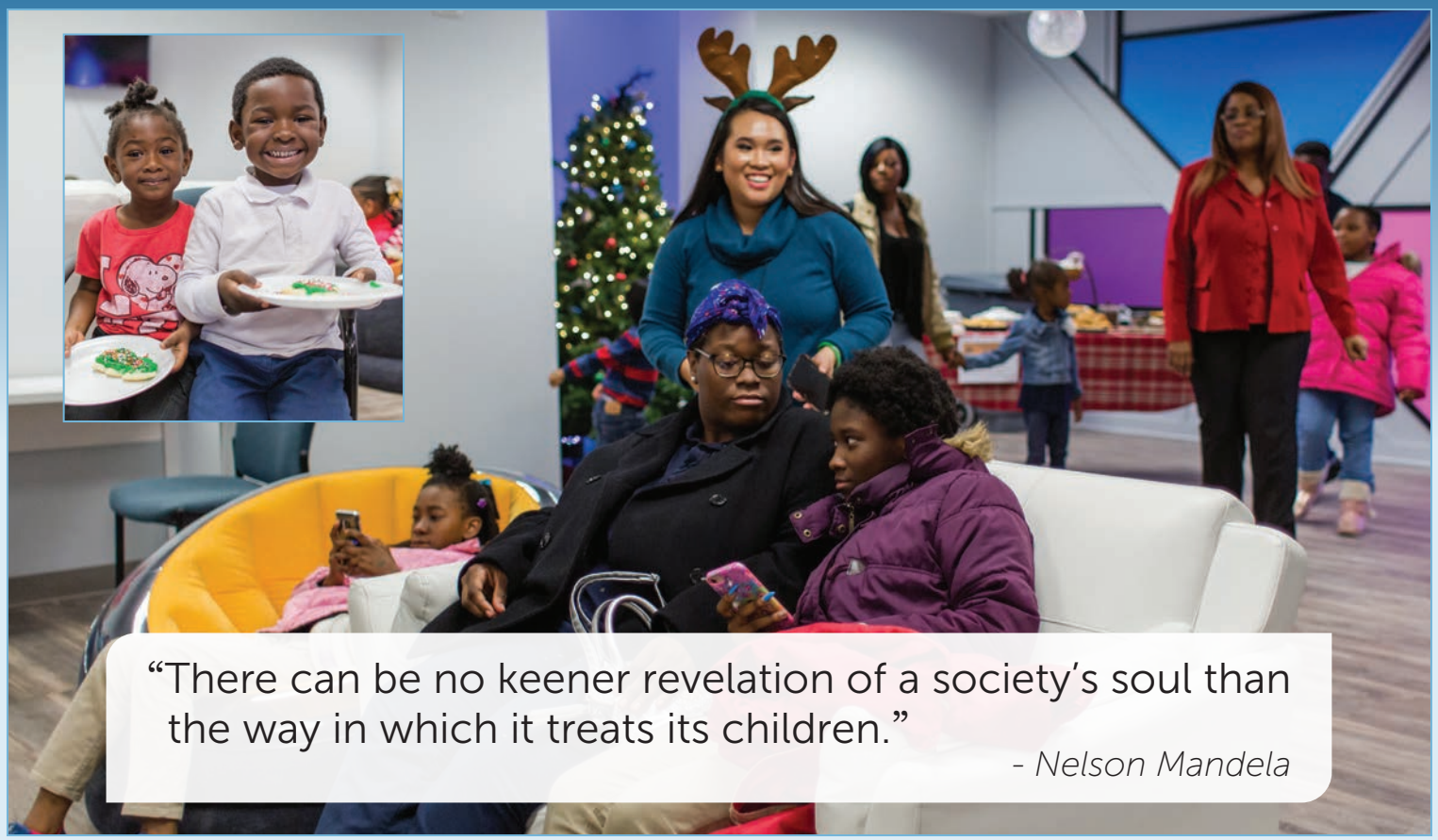
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WHITNEY GILLIARD:
Child Advocate & Founder of Gilliard and Company

Story by Katrice Williams | Photos by Jami Brannen





"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

- Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela had it right when he said those words. Children are a nation's greatest asset. And though everyone knows the importance of nurturing and caring for the youngest and most vulnerable among us, most people don't know the realities of children living in "the system."

According to the American Society for the Positive Care of Children, there are over 437,000 youth in America's foster care system. We'd like to believe most of these children are in foster homes with loving foster parents, but that isn't usually the case. Thousands of children are living in group homes, mental facilities, and detention centers instead of homes.

Whitney Gilliard knows the horrors of being in these facilities versus living with loving foster parents, and she wants people to know the realities of the foster care system. Even more, she wants to change that reality for the better.

She and her husband, Maurice, co-founded **Gilliard and Company** to do just that. Their mission is "Meeting the Needs of Foster Care." The non-profit organization is a transitional housing program for youth aging out of foster care, and it's a cause close to Whitney Gilliard's heart. She has lived through some of the worst situations imaginable, but she is now using those experiences to help others.

When she was just five years old, Gilliard was sexually abused by a family friend who lived with her grandparents. The abuse continued for years until she finally ran away when she was 14. Unfortunately, she ran right into the arms of another predator, who she met via social media. She was then arrested for running away, and spent the next few years institutionalized in various facilities.

Even though Gilliard had been a victim of sexual assault and neglect, she says she was treated more like a prisoner. From juvenile detention centers to residential treatment facilities, she spent much of her adolescence as a mental patient instead of as a child.

To make matters worse, when she was finally placed with her first set of foster parents, her new foster mother got cancer, and so Gilliard was without a guardian yet again. She was heartbroken, but she never stopped hoping and praying.

Gilliard's lucky break finally came when she met Bill and Rosemary Wright. They took a chance and fostered a traumatized teenager, and their love and guidance changed the trajectory of her life. She finally got what every child deserves: loving caregivers and a safe and comfortable home.

For so many years, she thought her circumstances were her fault; she felt like she had no voice. Now it is her life's mission to give children in the foster care system that voice she felt she never had.



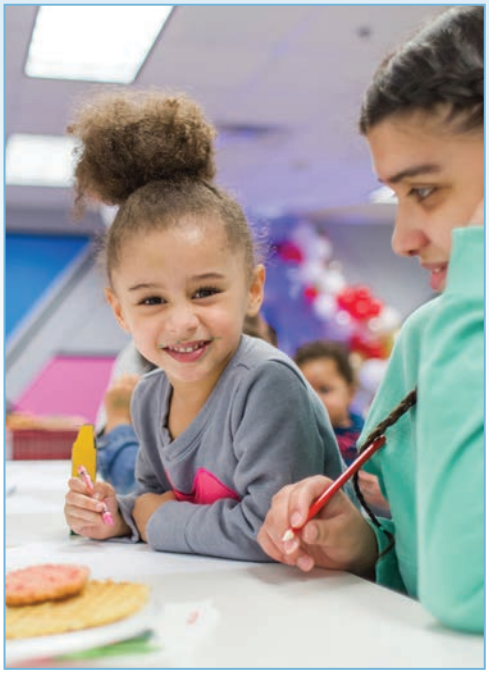
Gilliard is well aware that she is one of the lucky ones. She knows thousands of foster children like her will never get that happy ending.

"Leaving foster care, you sign out when you're eighteen. That hour, when you sign out, it doesn't matter if you have no place to go," explains Gilliard. "Foster homes are very scarce in our location, even here in our community, so wherever they're at, even if they got discharged from a juvenile detention center—Literally, you sign on a piece of paper and you're done. You're on your own."

The statistics do not bode well for those who age out with nowhere to go:











Approximately one in four of them will be incarcerated within two years of leaving the foster care system, and only half of them will graduate from high school.

This is why she created Gilliard and Company. "They end up homeless," she says. "A lot end up committing suicide. That's why we do what we do." There is an urgent need to help these young adults and all children in the foster care system, and she is fulfilling that need in Pooler and the surrounding areas.

G&Co's Independent Living Program (ILP) provides transitional living assistance to young adults ages 18 to 21. They provide all expenses for apartment-style housing, with a staff that assists with daily challenges like seeking higher education and connecting with employers in the community. The program guides them to achieve success and independence.

This Independent Living Program is invaluable to youth leaving the foster care system. Marisa Pierce, Director of ILP, explains that society may label 18-year-olds as adults, but they are not always fully functioning adults at that age. "We are raising them like they are children," she says.

Some of them struggle with low literacy and high emotions, but Pierce and Gilliard both believe they are making a difference. From helping with job applications to seeing them employed and learning to live independently, it's a rewarding experience to see how far they've come.

In addition to the Independent Living Program, Gilliard also saw a need for a safe space in the DFCS building as well. She explains that children often get removed from their foster homes for a variety of reasons. Most children will spend that time at a government office waiting to be placed somewhere else.

"Instead of waiting in a government office building and sleeping on a desk for hours at a time—a kid can stay there twelve hours—let's give them a room where they're comfortable," Gilliard says. So she created HavINN. It's a trauma intervention room in DFCS where a child can stay during their transition within foster care. There, the child can sleep and relax in a comfortable setting rather than waiting in an office.



G&Co also provides other ways for people to help this cause. Anyone can go to the website and donate money, write cards, give gifts, become a mentor or volunteer.

The biggest need right now is monthly donors, who can sign up for as little as ten dollars a month. It may not seem like a lot, but monthly donations are essential in keeping these programs running smoothly.

She knows not everyone is able to become a foster parent, but she urges the community to help in any way they can. She welcomes anyone with a heart for service to help her cause. "If you have an opportunity to be a mentor, please do it," she pleads. "If you have an opportunity to foster, please do it."

She also has a message for those who never got adopted and for those who are dealing with the trauma of abuse: "It's a bad day. It's not a bad life," she says. "You have the opportunity to make life how you want it. Just because you're not fostered or adopted, it doesn't mean you're less of a person."

"If you have an opportunity to be a mentor, please do it. If you have an opportunity to foster, please do it."

When asked how she survived all of the abuse and the years without a family, Gilliard doesn't miss a beat. "God," she says, without hesitation. "Even today, it's God." She still lives with PTSD and night terrors from the trauma, but prayer helps her. "I have a very strong, solid faith," she adds. "I wouldn't be able to get through this if I were able to talk to my God."

She may have experienced trauma in her past, but she is choosing to turn her test into a testimony of what she is capable of. She plans to pursue a clinical degree in trauma therapy, so she can counsel abused children. More immediately, she wants to expand G&Co from the small niche of foster care and provide even more programs aimed at tackling poverty, homelessness, and food security.

Whitney Gilliard has made an incredible impact in the community. She has dedicated her life to advocating for children who don't have a voice, and with any luck, Gilliard and Company will continue to help children and positively impact our area for years to come.

For more information, visit www.gilliardandcompany.org.



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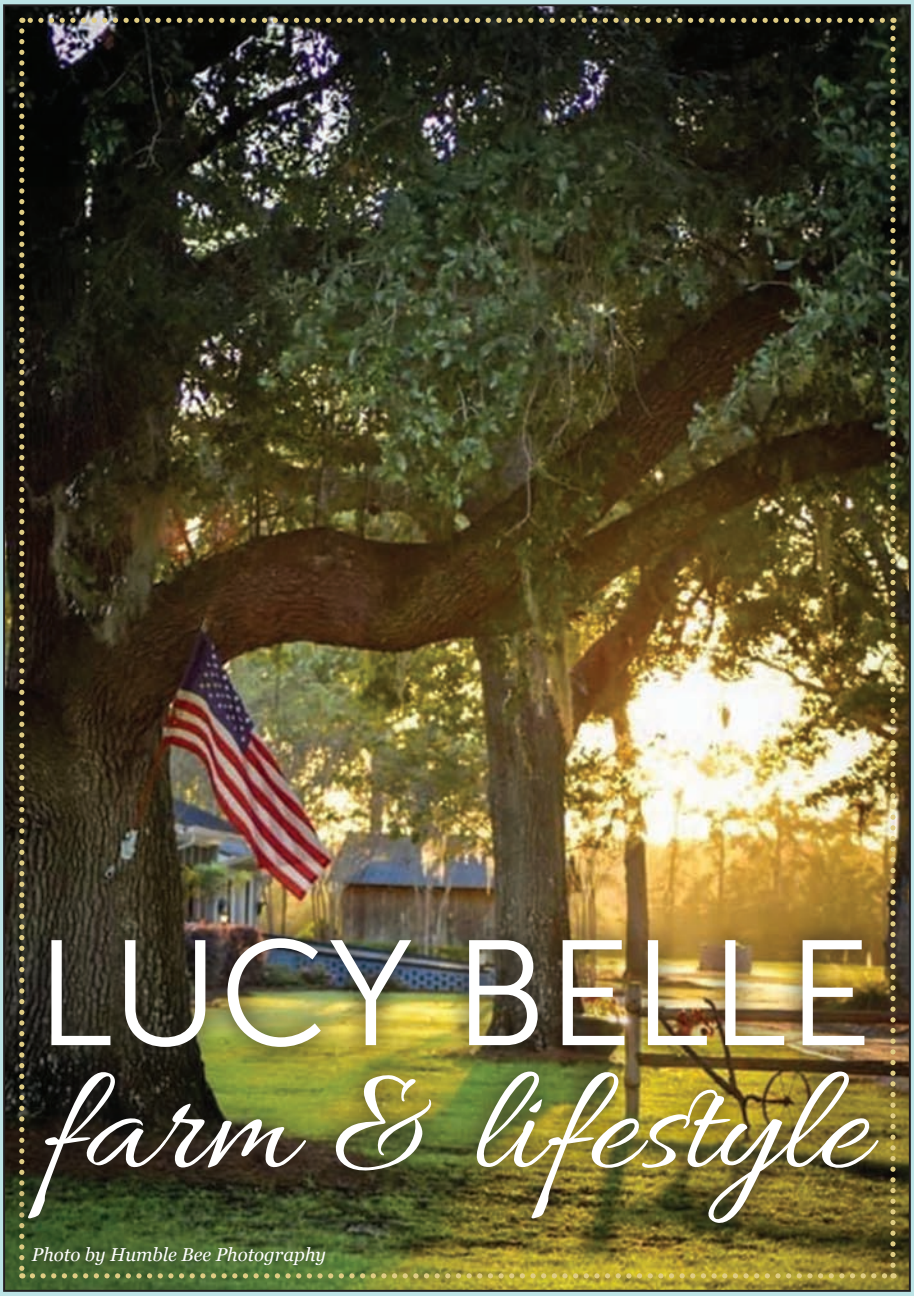
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LUCY BELLE *farm & lifestyle*

Photo by Humble Bee Photography

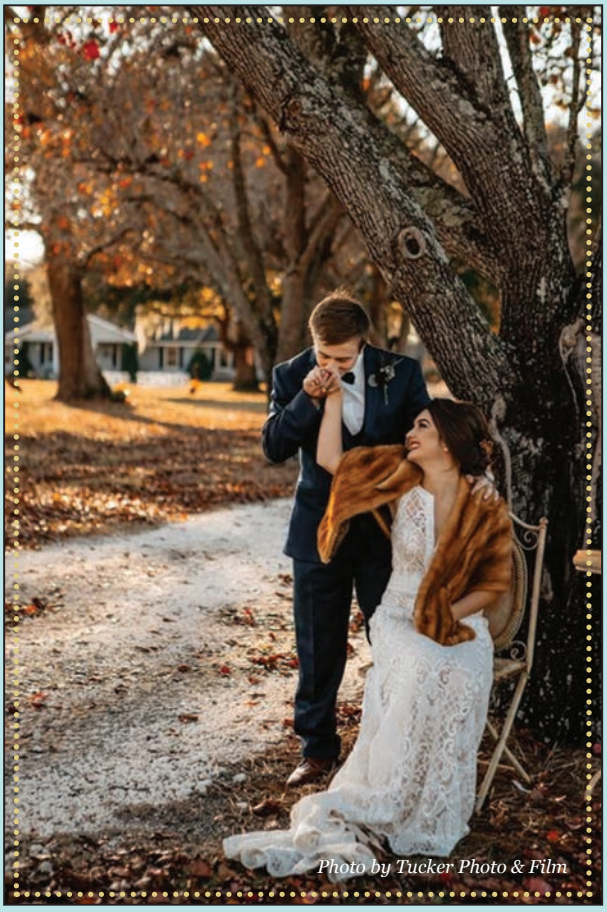


Photo by Tucker Photo & Film



When you drive into the long tree-lined driveway, a sense of peace comes over you. This is Lucy Belle Farm. A captivating expanse of tranquility located just 30 minutes from downtown Savannah, Pooler, Rincon, Springfield, Hinesville, Claxton and Statesboro, it is the ideal space for weddings, special occasions, showers and family reunions where memories of a lifetime are made. Farm owner Sarah Williams says, "There is something magical about this property. It's gorgeous, elegant country living within minutes of the city."

Family Homeplace

Sarah, a graduate of Savannah Country Day School and Emory University, never had any doubt she would make her home in Coastal Georgia. "Before I moved to the country, I had always lived in a city or a suburb." But when her family found the farm almost twenty years ago, Sarah says they fell in love with the land and knew it would be a perfect place to raise her children. Within months, she sold her house on Isle of Hope, her parents sold their home on Dutch Island and her grandparents moved from North Carolina to join them, making it a true family compound. It was an idyllic place where they enjoyed many happy years. But as time went by, changes were inevitable.

After working at their family business, G & C Fertilizer, for 15 years with her father "Mr. Eddie," Sarah left the business to take care of her mother, who eventually passed away from early on-set Alzheimer's. By this time, her grandparents had also passed away, her children were grown and



Photo by Wendolyn Wells Photography



Photo by Humble Bee Photography



Photo by Humble Bee Photography

Sarah, her husband and her youngest son were living in her parents' home on the property.

New Beginnings and a New Name

With her former home empty amid beautiful scenic landscapes, Sarah agreed to let friends use the property to host weddings and other events. But it wasn't long before Mr. Eddie convinced her to turn the farm into an events business. Sarah had one condition—to make the large hay barn into a party venue. Mr. Eddie was skeptical at first, but not after it quickly became a popular event space. At the same time Mr. Eddie renovated an existing barn on the property and made it the ultimate man cave and home. Sarah says, "If he's on the property, he loves to give guests the grand tour, perform a card trick or two, drink a beer, and tell a good joke."

> "There is something magical about this property. It's gorgeous, elegant country living within minutes of the city."

"Within one week of my being born, my great-grandfather began calling me Lucy Locket and the name stuck. Everyone in my family calls me Lucy, so when a friend of mine suggested 'Southern Belle' as the new business name, 'Lucy Belle' immediately popped into my head." says Sarah, "So the farm became Lucy Belle Farm."

Lucy Belle Events

Today, Lucy Belle Farm includes multiple indoor and outdoor event spaces for parties, ceremonies, events and receptions. There is a beautiful Coastal Georgia home, an enclosed barn, a party house, a European style patio and pergola on site.

They work within your budget and offer all services through the farm or preferred vendors. "We take care of everything for


LIFE IS
BEAUTIFUL
Lucy Belle Farm

a chance to spend time with family and friends" says Sarah. From bar services, caterers, musicians, officiants, florists to photographers, they have you covered. Tables, chairs, linens, centerpieces, signage, chalkboards and decorations are on-site, and they handle set up and clean-up. They have a fabulous staff, picturesque areas for photo ops and three friendly dogs, Max, Andy and Remy!

They recently partnered with Sarah Wright of Everlasting Memories to assist in wedding and event planning and booking. Sarah Wright and her coordinator, Amanda McIntyre, have been in business in Coastal Georgia and South Carolina for over 12 years and their experience and reputation are outstanding. It was also important for Sarah to partner with a group that enjoys working with all people because, "My motto at Lucy Belle Farm is that EVERYONE is welcome. We want people to come to our venue and relax and enjoy their special occasions."

Lucy Belle Lifestyle

"I want people to enjoy life every day. I believe all people are wonderful—and I tell them!" Sarah has merchandise with her famous saying, "You are wonderful!" because "I don't want people to forget it!" Visit www.thelucybellelife.com, which highlights the Lucy Belle lifestyle and where you can purchase Lucy Belle Farm merchandise, visit Sarah's blog and find tips on how to make life more fun. Sarah says," I love sharing our lifestyle with other people—even if only for a day. "

> "Whether people come for the sunset, a cocktail, an event or some quiet time, we always want them to have that moment where they are just so glad to be alive, in this place, at this time!"

Community & Family

Sarah continues to volunteer and participate in civic organizations throughout the area. One of the first women inducted into Savannah's downtown Rotary Club years ago, Sarah sees it as an honor and a duty to give back to her communities. She continues to be a member of numerous local chambers (she recently finished her reign as the President of the North Bryan Chamber of Commerce), the Statesboro BNI Chapter, a sponsor of Pride and Tybee Equality Fest, a member of the Savannah Wedding Vendors, Statesboro Wedding Vendors and the Low Country Wedding Vendors groups, and more.

Her oldest two sons are grown: Chris is a speech pathologist and Charles will begin practicing at a Savannah law firm this summer. Her third son, Jack, is a senior at Georgia Southern and her youngest son, Eli is a senior at Savannah Christian. Always busy, Sarah is working on a wedding etiquette book and has a few other irons in the fire.

But her heart is at Lucy Belle Farm. "Whether people come for the sunset, a cocktail, an event or some quiet time, we always want them to have that moment—that moment where they are just so glad to be alive, in this place, at this time!"

To make an appointment to visit the farm, call 912-484-1449 or email *lucybellefarmga@gmail.com*.





For more information about **Lucy Belle Farm,** visit www.lbfarm.net. For more information about **Lucy Belle Lifestyle,** visit www.thelucybellelife.com



Pooler Around Town





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CONDITION 75

Giving Kids an Outlet and a Can-Do Attitude

Story by Kelly Harley | Photos by Michelle Halloway



It's Saturday morning, and 12-year-old Payton Stafford isn't sleeping in like many kids his age. Instead of rolling out of bed, watching cartoons and hanging in his pajamas, he's at Giles Park in Rincon running drills and working out. Condition75 gives Payton the ability to become a better athlete, stay active and have fun.

A Workout Like No Other

Condition75 is like conditioning and boot camp rolled into one. Payton's parents are the founders and launched the initiative in early 2019 to give children an outlet, especially during the summertime. "So often kids want to be on video games and inside. Condition75 gives them the chance to be outside," says Melissa Stafford, co-founder of Condition75. "They also meet new people, learn new skills and learn respect. We have our regulars who come every Saturday, but once a week we have at least one new kid."

"Everyone is always enthusiastic and always ready to work out," says Payton. "We do a lot of competitions, and we make each other better. It doesn't feel like we are working out; it feels like we are having fun."

Payton is much like his parents when it comes to athletics and staying active. His father, Shane Stafford, is the head coach of the Rincon Colts, and his mother is a personal trainer. It's no surprise that Payton loves running the drills. He's played football for the last six years, and Condition75 helps him in his position and with his speed and agility. Kids run, do pushups and sit-ups, run obstacle courses and much more.

> "So often kids want to be on video games and inside. Condition75 gives them the chance to be outside."

"To me, the best part of it is that the children continue to come out and grow. They grow physically and mentally, and they push themselves past where they thought their minds could go. Seeing a child succeed because they did it is the most rewarding part of all of this," says Melissa.

A Family Affair

Melissa says one of the reasons Condition75 is successful is because of the support of the parents. "Parental support is essential and plays a big role. These parents invest in their children and bring them out every weekend. A lot of times, parents will stay the entire time and encourage their children."

One of those parents is JaNina Murrell. She started bringing her twin sons to Condition75 to improve their skills and become better athletes (one plays football and the other plays soccer). Her enthusiasm didn't go unnoticed, and she was recruited to serve as one of the Condition75 coaches. She is one of seven coaches who has a passion for making a difference in the lives of the children. "I love doing this and watching the kids get better. It's my mission to help these kids improve."









Condition75 Starts January 11

Where: Giles Park in Rincon
When: Saturdays from 9 -11 a.m.
Who: Ages 5 to 18
Cost: Free
To Sign Up: call (912) 704-8129





JaNina and Melissa both agree they see kids come out of their shells after participating. Payton serves as a mentor to younger kids, and JaNina's son went from being an introvert to one of the biggest motivators on the team.

Every Child is Welcome

One of the best things about Condition75 is there is no fee to attend. Any child between the ages of 5 and 18 who lives in Effingham County can show up on Saturday mornings. Not only was Condition75 created for kids to get outside, but it is a way to get kids involved in sports whose parents or guardians may not have the financial means to enroll them in activities. "We pass gear down once kids outgrow it to those who can't afford it. We want to make sure that every child has the chance to be involved no matter their financial status," says JaNina.

"While it may be hard, it's not intimidating. We have every sport represented; we even have dancers and kids that are in the band," says Melissa. "If you have the dedication and drive, we will give you the tools. It's not easy, but you will get better, make new friends, and will have something fun to do on Saturdays."

Combating Childhood Obesity

Childhood obesity is a serious problem in the United States. Not only does it put children and adolescents at risk for poor health, but it can also affect a child's self-confidence. The Center for Disease Control reports 13.7 million children and adolescents (2 to 19) are obese. At Condition75, kids aren't allowed to call each other names or bring each other down. Instead, they must always support one another and be a team.

"The parents and the coaches push all of us. They don't push us hard enough where it's not fun, but they do give us the tools to get better," adds Payton. One of the ways the coaches succeed in that is by making sure the kids believe in themselves. They are never allowed to use the word "can't." If someone is heard saying it, the entire team pays the price. The consequence could be burpees or pushups.

"If children are going to get better and realize their true potential, we must instill a positive, can-do attitude," says JaNina. One of the ways the coaches do that is by selecting a Beast of the Week. Every week the kid they agree gave it his or her all or did something outstanding gets the honor. "This gives them self-confidence, and it's amazing to see the kids root each other on," says JaNina.

> "If children are going to realize their true potential, we must instill a positive, can-do attitude."

The Future

Around 30 children come out each Saturday for Condition75, and in 2020, coaches want that number to grow. The more lives they can touch, the better. They would ultimately like to become a non-profit organization and secure funding to offer scholarships.

"We see what fitness and being active brings to a child's life. It sets into play a healthy lifestyle that will benefit them as they get older. When you feel better about yourself, everything else falls into place. We want these kids to live a full life. If it's a skill thing, we can help. If it's a confidence thing, we can help. If it's a

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Whole Tooth Team

Meet the team:

Dr. Ruby Barkley graduated from Effingham County High School in 1994, and Georgia Southern University with a B.S. in Biology in 1998. Dr. Ruby attended the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry where she earned her Doctor of Dental Medicine.

Upon graduation in 2002, she completed a one-year general practice residency where she was trained in the surgical placement of dental implants, IV and oral sedation dentistry and the treatment of medically compromised patients while completing rotations in anesthesiology, oral surgery, and the ER. She has been a practicing dentist in the area for 16 years and opened her own practice three years ago. Dr. Ruby says, "I enjoy doing dentistry because I get excited about taking something worn out and fixing it up like new! "

She lives in Effingham County with her husband, Quinton & two children, Coley, and JT. Dr. Ruby says "I love outdoor activities; camping, fishing and bird watching. I also love antiques and auctions. My favorite outfit is jeans and a sweatshirt!"

Dental Hygienist **Laurie Fahey, RDH** has been an RDH for many years. She says" My true passion is serving people. When I'm not at work, I enjoy helping with my grandchildren, visiting with family and friends. My favorite mottos are 'It is what it is' and 'Life is Good'!"

Assistant: **Dana Doggart** lives in Richmond Hill, GA with her fiancé and daughter Maddy. She loves outdoor activities and spending time with her family and friends. Quote to live by: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. In all things acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths." -Proverbs 3:5-6



Assistant **Nicole Burke** has been a dental assistant for 27 years and enjoys helping patients. She is newly engaged to a wonderful man, Larry Hodges, who is a Captain in the Fire Service. She says, "Be the reason someone smiles today!"

Front Office Administrator **Jessica Brown** lives in Effingham County with her husband Daniel and daughter Joli. She says, "I have been in the dental field for 10 years. I love our office and I enjoy working with these wonderful ladies that care so much for our patients!"

Office Manager **Melissa Capwell** is married with five beautiful children: Kyle, Cameron, Peighton and stepdaughters Kristen and Brooke. She has been in the dental field for 15 years and says, "I look forward to coming to work each day and helping others."

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Snowy Egret against the Winter reeds – Photo by Rick Lott

7 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION SUCCESSFUL

Sometime in the next few weeks 60 to70 % of us will make a New Year's resolution - and by mid-February 80% will have given up on those resolutions. Changing a habit is not for the faint of heart.

Our habits are formed by what we think, and what we think repeatedly creates our beliefs. Beliefs and habits are the neuropathways our subconscious brain developed to ensure we survive. Our subconscious does not know if what we teach it is true. If you teach someone green is blue, they will fight to keep that belief. Many of us trained our subconscious to keep us safe in our childhood but now those beliefs don't serve us. We want to change, be healthier, give up sugar, spend less time on Facebook or start a business. If these are new habits our subconscious is going to put up a fight. Be prepared to win the first round with these 7 steps.

1. Define your why. Be specific until you get it to one sentence.

a. How will making this change affect my life?

b. How will it affect others in my life?

c. Who will I be if I make this change?

d. What will my life look like if I don't make this change?

e. What belief do I have that has kept me from making this change?

Your primary reason for wanting to change must be a higher value in your life then not changing. Change is about exchange. For example, you must value the results of eating heathier even if it takes more planning or you think it is more expensive then grabbing some fast food.

2. Small hinges swing big doors.

a. I will eat 1 less sugary item today

b. I will chew my food more slowly working towards 30 chews per bite

c. I will turn off the TV or put my phone away while I eat

d. I will reduce my Facebook time by 10 minutes

e. I will write 1 goal for my new business

3. Stay Aware: If you take a misstep, ask yourself why. Be curious.

"I wonder why I ate that cookie just then?" "Was I stressed?

*"Was it habit?" "Do I feel satisfied or less than sat*isfied?"

4. Keep Self-Talk Positive.

"I know what choices I can make next time". "I am worth the effort" " I am capable."

5. Journal Daily.

Write down what is going well. Record your thoughts and feelings about the choices you made.

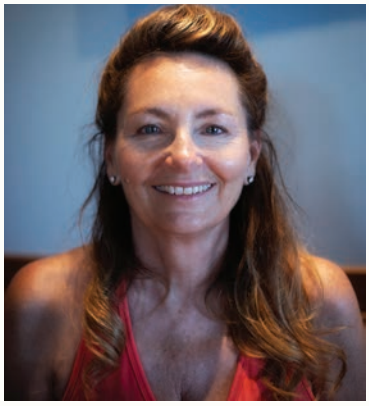
6. Accountability and Support.

Connect at least once a week with the same person. Someone who will be supportive, celebrate each victory no matter how small, hold you accountable without judging you, and challenge you to keep moving forward.

7. Consistency Over Time.

It can take 90 days to see changes. Give yourself time to allow your new habits to form and replace the old ones.

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JAN. 17, 2020

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165 Isaac G Laroache Dr.
Pooler

FEB. 21, 2020

Free Family Fun Night

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YMCA of Coastal GA

FEB. 22, 2020

Pooler MOPS 3rd Annual Touch a Truck

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

200 Preston Stokes Dr. Pooler

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Brewer Land Surveying is a full-service land surveying firm located in Pooler and licensed for operation in Georgia and South Carolina. Owner J. Craig Brewer is a licensed Land Surveyor with over 14 years of professional experience. Experience, attention to detail and customer service are the keys to the success of Brewer Land Surveying.

Although the company has grown over its 10 years in business, their focus remains on the individual customer. Craig says "We serve everyone, from the homeowner who needs a residential survey, to commercial developers and design professionals. We work with architects, engineers, attorneys, real estate professionals and mortgage companies. No job is too small for us."

Their areas of focus include Commercial and Residential Land Surveys, Topographic and As-Built Base Map creation, ALTA-NSPS Land Title Surveys, as well as FEMA Flood Elevation Certificates, Boundary Surveys, Foundation Surveys, Subdivision Plats, GPS Control Points, Route Surveys, Wetland and Marsh Jurisdiction Line Mapping and Aerial Photography Control. "Every survey is unique to the property and environmental factors surrounding the property. "says Craig, "and because we have the experience, we know what to look for and how to manage complex issues."

Fun Fact- Three of the four U.S. Presidents on Mount Rushmore were land surveyors. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln surveyed colonial or frontier territories prior to serving office.

Craig and his team at Brewer Land Surveying are ready to work with you on your project, residential or commercial. "Please contact us to discuss your needs. There is no charge for estimates," says Craig, "We welcome the opportunity to earn your trust and provide you with the best service in the industry."

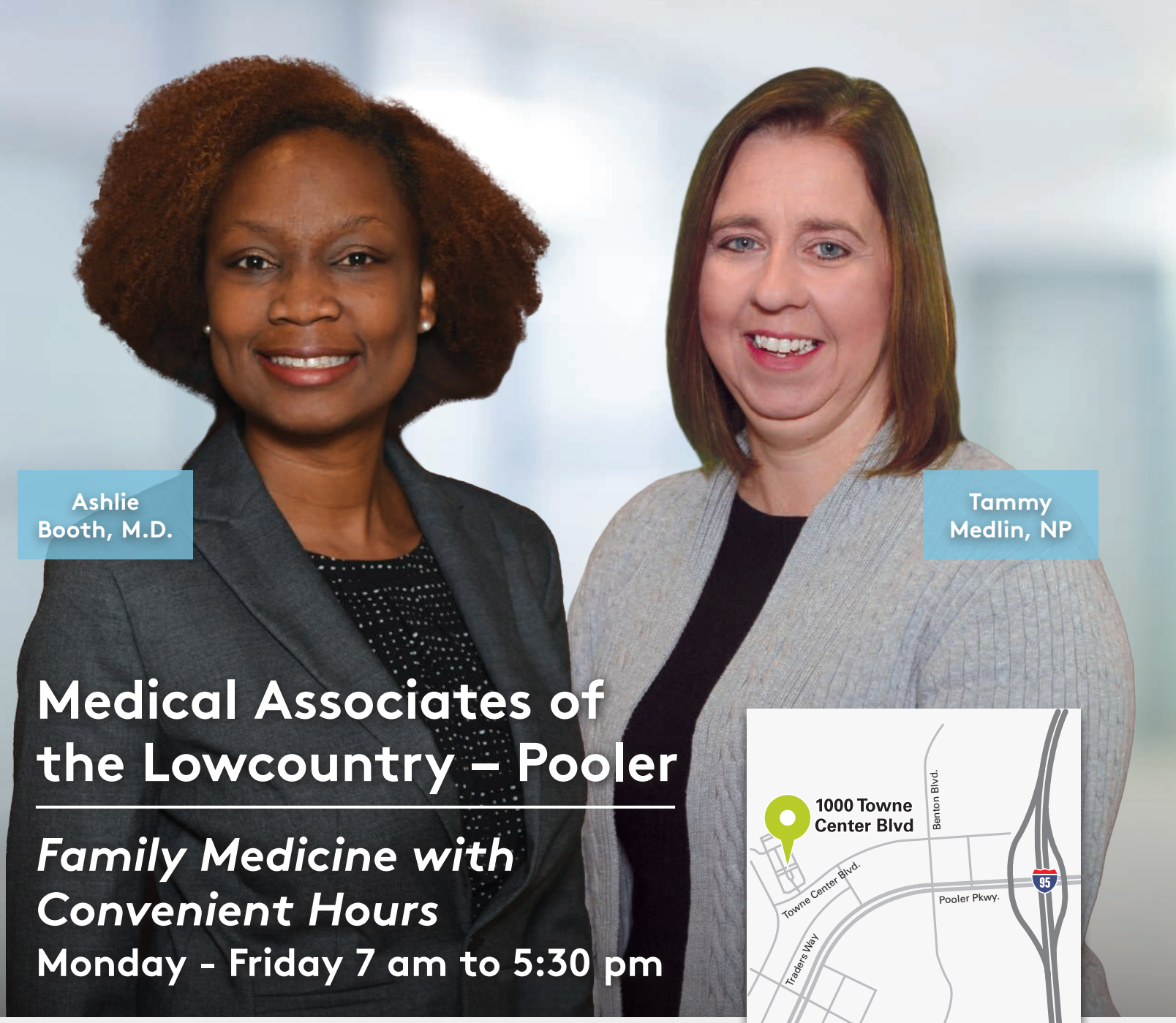
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Craig is licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor in the states of Georgia and South Carolina. Craig has over fifteen years of experience as a land surveyor. His areas of focus include Commercial and Residential Land Surveys, Topographic and As-Built Base Map creation, Construction and Industrial surveys, and ALTA-ACSM Land Title Surveys.

Craig has also written product reviews for Professional Surveyor Magazine.

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Wiley's Home Center has proudly been providing the greater Rincon area with old fashioned customer service and quality products for over thirty years. In April of 1987, Wiley and his wife Rosalyn opened the doors to a 20,000 square foot furniture and appliance facility called **Wiley's Home Center** and in 1988, the successful business added 15,000 additional square feet of floor space. "In this day and age being a family owned business has its challenges, but we are very blessed with a very supportive community." says Detra Thomas, company CEO. "And hat's off to the greatest staff. They can handle it all- and do so in the best way possible. They provide the outstanding service behind the sale."

"We are recognized and known for our nice furniture, for carrying the best quality product that will last you and your family for generations." Detra says, "We are a story of longevity, from our business to our furniture. Everything is custom made and although it may take longer to create, and you may pay a little more, it is an investment."

> "Our furniture doesn't wear out; it gets handed down!"

"Our furniture doesn't wear out; it gets handed down!" she says.

Because they are continually restocking, they are currently having a store wide sale. Detra says, "Our showroom is always fresh because we have new items coming in all the time. To make room, we have markdowns throughout the store. Come down and shop our warehouse sale!"

Seasonal Changes

Summer is over and the holidays will soon be upon us. As we approach the fall and winter months many of us like to 'nest' and make changes in our home. "This time of year, customers are looking to make their homes more inviting, and they are looking to make their families more comfortable, over the holiday season. "says Detra. "At Wiley's Home Center we can provide you with everything from a new bed for you or your guests, to a new dining room table for Thanksgiving dinner."

Trends

Styles ranging from traditional to modern & chic, from new trends to classic décor, Wiley's inventory has it all. What they don't have they can special order, and everything possible can be tailored for your décor. You may be looking for the shabby chic and the farmhouse look, which although is not new it is still by far the most popular home style seen in years, or perhaps you have that look and want to update it with a different color palette. Detra says, "The farmhouse look is all about soft colors, whites, greys beiges and rustic woods, but we are starting to see a few colors coming back, some blues and burgundies. We would be happy to help you find just the right pieces to bring out the best in your home décor."

Detra says, "From our floor to your door you will find Wiley's provides you with great service through the whole experience."

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Story by Cindy Reid | Photos by Jami Brannen

Thomas Carver Region 3-A East Player of the Year

Calvary Day School senior Thomas Carver was recently named Region 3-A East Player of the Year after completing his fourth year as the Cavs starting varsity quarterback. Thomas was also a star shortstop with the Calvary Day baseball team and a standout guard on their basketball team. "I have been in all sports, but football is my favorite. I think baseball is the most natural for me, whereas football I have to work at, but it is still the sport I enjoy the most", says Thomas. He led the Calvary Day football team to the semifinals, where their season ended with a 43-36 loss to Savannah Christian.

Thomas has been an exceptional player throughout his time at Calvary Day, winning honors and accolades for his playing abilities and sportsmanship. In 2018 he was one of several players named as Honorable Mentions for Savannah Now Best of Preps Football Team and the he was the Savannah Morning News first team pick at quarterback after throwing for 1,993 yards with 18 touchdowns and just two interceptions. Thomas was also picked for the all-region team for 3-A, as voted by the league's coaches as one of the two players named offensive players of the year. (QB Thomas Carver and QB Karon Taylor, Claxton, So.)

On Oct 14, 2019, Thomas was named Optim Orthopedics Player of the week for "Four years of varsity football, three seasons as starting quarterback, where he completed 19 of 26 passes, for a total of 203 yards, and 37 rushing yards, and three touchdowns against St Johns." It was also noted that he was "A team leader who brings energy to the team." And this year, his final year at Calvary Day, Thomas was given the highest honor by being named Region 3-A East Player of the Year.

Pooler Recreation Department

The Carver family have all played competitive sports, his father Chad played basketball at Brewton- Parker, his mother Stacy played softball in high school and his sister Hannah played basketball, softball and volleyball. So, it was only natural that Thomas has been involved with community athletics from an early age.

"The Pooler Recreation Department was a major part of Thomas' development. He played football, basketball and baseball growing up and learned so many valuable life lessons throughout his time there. Chris Kirby and Mike Welch were all instrumental in Thomas' development as an all-around athlete as well as many other coaches including Billy Swinson and Mark Kessler," says Chad Carver.

Thomas says, "I played football, basketball and baseball since I was 5-6 years old." He credits the Pooler Recreation Department with providing him with the opportunity to learn and thrive within their many athletic programs. A standout year was when, "I played on the basketball All Star team- we won regional and went to state when I was around 10 years old."

The Pooler Recreation Department truly embodies their Mission Statement: "To provide the best quality program and activities for the community that are safe, competitive, educational and that create, promote, and enhance a healthy lifestyle, as well as encouraging good sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play." Their youth recreation program is second to none. They offer basketball, soccer, baseball, Tball, football, flag football, pep squad, volleyball as well as gymnastics, dance and tennis programs.

Thomas says he was coached by many good coaches at "Pooler Rec', "especially Billy Swinson in baseball. He says, "Coach Swinson taught me a lot of lessons that have stuck with me, and I learned a lot from basketball Coach Chris Kirby, also a great coach. Thomas says his coaches not only taught the skills for a sport, they also "talked about facing adversity, to never quit, and stay persistent."

Calvary Day School

After many years honing his sports skills at Pooler Rec Department, Thomas started at Calvary Day School and played for the Cavs from middle school through high school. Calvary Day School is a private school located in Savannah and is part of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and has approximately 650 students and 16 varsity sports.

Thomas says, “Calvary has a great family atmosphere. All the teachers want you to succeed. My favorite class is English, because I really like writing, especially essays. My second favorite is history because I enjoy learning about American history.” Thomas will be graduating in 2020 and says, “I want to say thank you to all the Calvary coaches and my teammates, it’s been a fun ride and I hate to see it end.”

Although Thomas’ college plans have not yet been determined, he says “I would really like to play football or baseball in college and major in Business and Marketing. If I don’t play sports in college, I will most likely go to Georgia Southern.”

Hometown Fun

“For fun,” says Thomas, “I am really family orientated. My family lives close together and we do a lot of things together so my favorite thing to do is getting together with family and friends. We watch games, and I follow the hometown teams- the Hawks, the Falcons and of course, the Braves.”



His mother Stacy Carver says, “Most of Thomas’ life has revolved around sports and being a competitor. Once you get him off the fields or court, he’s just a big kid at heart who loves to have fun, laugh and spend time with his entire family. A perfect day for him would be taking infield, as they call it, in the back yard with all his older cousins. Thomas is very much a family guy and will never drift too far from home.”

Thomas says he loves his hometown, because “Everybody knows everybody. And now there is a lot to do in Pooler. Pooler is just a great community!”

For further information:
www.poolerrec.com
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Landmark 24 Homes ____ 7
Low Country Windows ____ 14
Lucy Belle Farm ____ 16
Matt Byrd Homes ____ 4
Medical Associates of the Low Country, PC ____ 40
Miller Coin and Currency ____ 15
Miss Southern Pageant ____ 30
The Mo Southern Collection ____ 46
Queensborough National Bank & Trust Company ____ 48
SD Gunner Fund ____ 45
Whole Tooth Dentistry ____ 27
Wiley's Home Center ____ 41

TEXT "SDGUNNER" TO 24365 TO ENTER

SD GUNNER FUND

Honoring Our Stars (And Stripes)

SD Gunner Fund 17 Gun Salute
17 South Rod and Gun Club

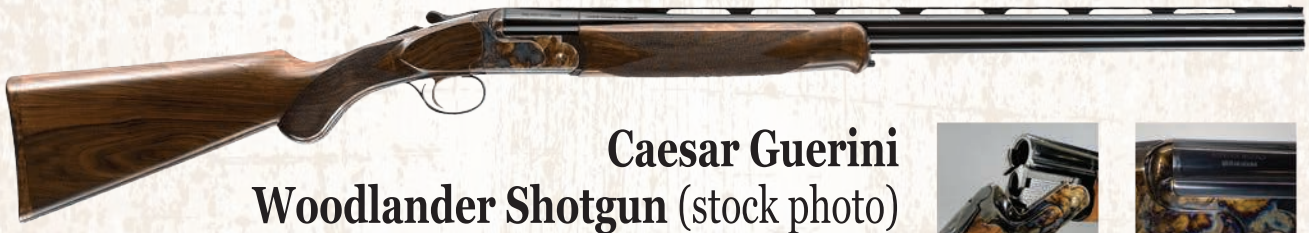
1 TICKET FOR $25
3 TICKETS FOR $50
7 TICKETS FOR $100

2020 RAFFLE

DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON FEB 29, 2020

12:00 pm Check-In *1:00 pm Safety Briefing* *3:00 pm Awards & Food*

★ GRAND PRIZE ★



Caesar Guerini
Woodlander Shotgun (stock photo)
Estimated Value $5,800.00

OTHER PRIZES

Kimber .45 Freedom Warrior (stock photo)



One of only 1100 Made for Friends of the NRA
Estimated Value $1,100.00

Custom Benelli Montefeltro Shotgun (stock photo)



Upgraded Charging Handle & Aftermarket Choke, Grassland Camo Series
Estimated Value $1,300.00

Custom 9MM Glock Pistol (actual photo)



Estimated Value $1,000.00

Raffle Rules: *All tickets will be drawn from one bucket. First ticket drawn will receive the Kimber .45 Pistol. Second Ticket drawn will receive the Benelli Shotgun. Third ticket drawn will receive the Custom 9MM Pistol. Fourth ticket drawn will receive the Cesar Guerini shotgun. All winners must be over 18 years old, and must pass all state and federal purchasing requirements (which will be administered by Willie Puskas @ P.F.I in Richmond Hill) Winners DO NOT have to be present to win.*

YOU MAY PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS AT

17 South Rod and Gun Club | SD Gunner Fund (Richmond Hill) | P.F.I. LLC (Richmond Hill) | Wingman Motorcycle Club (Savannah)

The Mo' Southern Collection

It's Not a Place. It's an Attitude

Morris Southern grew up on a farm in rural southeast Georgia, and more than anything he wanted to see the world. Then he learned about the U.S. Air Force. Case closed. He signed up.

The Air Force didn't disappoint. He saw lots of Europe, the Middle East and Pacific on his way to their second highest enlisted rank, Senior Master Sergeant. Then, his career highlight—acceptance into the ultra-selective USAF Thunderbirds. As Line Chief, he traveled to air shows all over the United States, babying those F-16 fighter jets to insure a safe and spectacular performance.

When Morris finally retired after 22 years, he began a civilian career in (where else?) the aerospace industry. And that led to the birth of a brand.

Early in his Air Force career, fellow airmen started calling him Mo. He didn't particularly like it. Truth be told, he hated it. But he couldn't escape it. He became known as Mo Southern. After retirement, the nickname followed him, where it wound up on his desktop nameplate.

Soon he started getting strange requests. People wanted his nameplate. One of them wanted to put it on his truck. "Why would the name "Mo Southern" have meaning to folks? he wondered. But then he got it. Because it represents everything we, along with our friends and neighbors, love about the South. **Mo' Southern** is more than a brand. It's an attitude.

Having grown up in the rural south, Morris learned about the value and the power of community. More importantly, his travels helped him appreciate the uniqueness of the American South and knew that, in spite of having traveled the world, there was no better place than the American South – with its shared values... love of nature, simple pleasures, the joy of living, love of neighbor and the value of friendship. These things are real, but too often they're lost or under appreciated.

The **Mo' Southern Collection** celebrates the South. Where Magnolias bloom, where farming is an art, and no one is a stranger.

We think it's a privilege to live in the South, and we want to share that idea through our gifts, apparel and style. We're hoping to help you express your own individuality and pride in your Southern community.

And finally, thank you for using some of your valuable time to visit with us. In return we promise we'll continue to be...

...Mo' friendly
...Mo' respectful
...Mo' welcoming

Mo' Southern

MO' SOUTHERN™

It's not a place, it's an attitude.

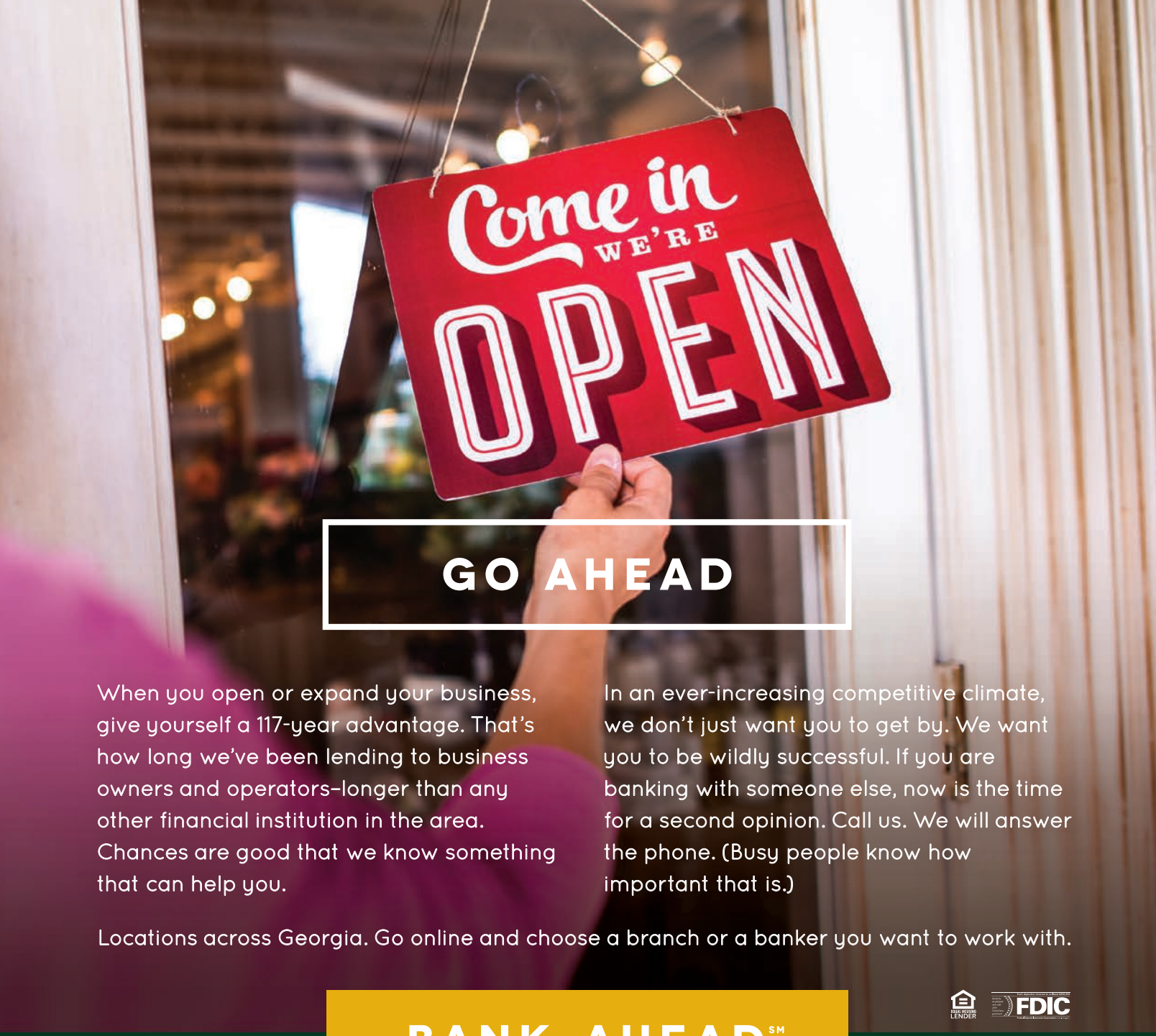
We Celebrate the South.

Where Magnolias bloom,

where farming is an art, and no one is a stranger.

APPAREL | GIFTS | STYLE





GO AHEAD

When you open or expand your business, give yourself a 117-year advantage. That's how long we've been lending to business owners and operators–longer than any other financial institution in the area. Chances are good that we know something that can help you.

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