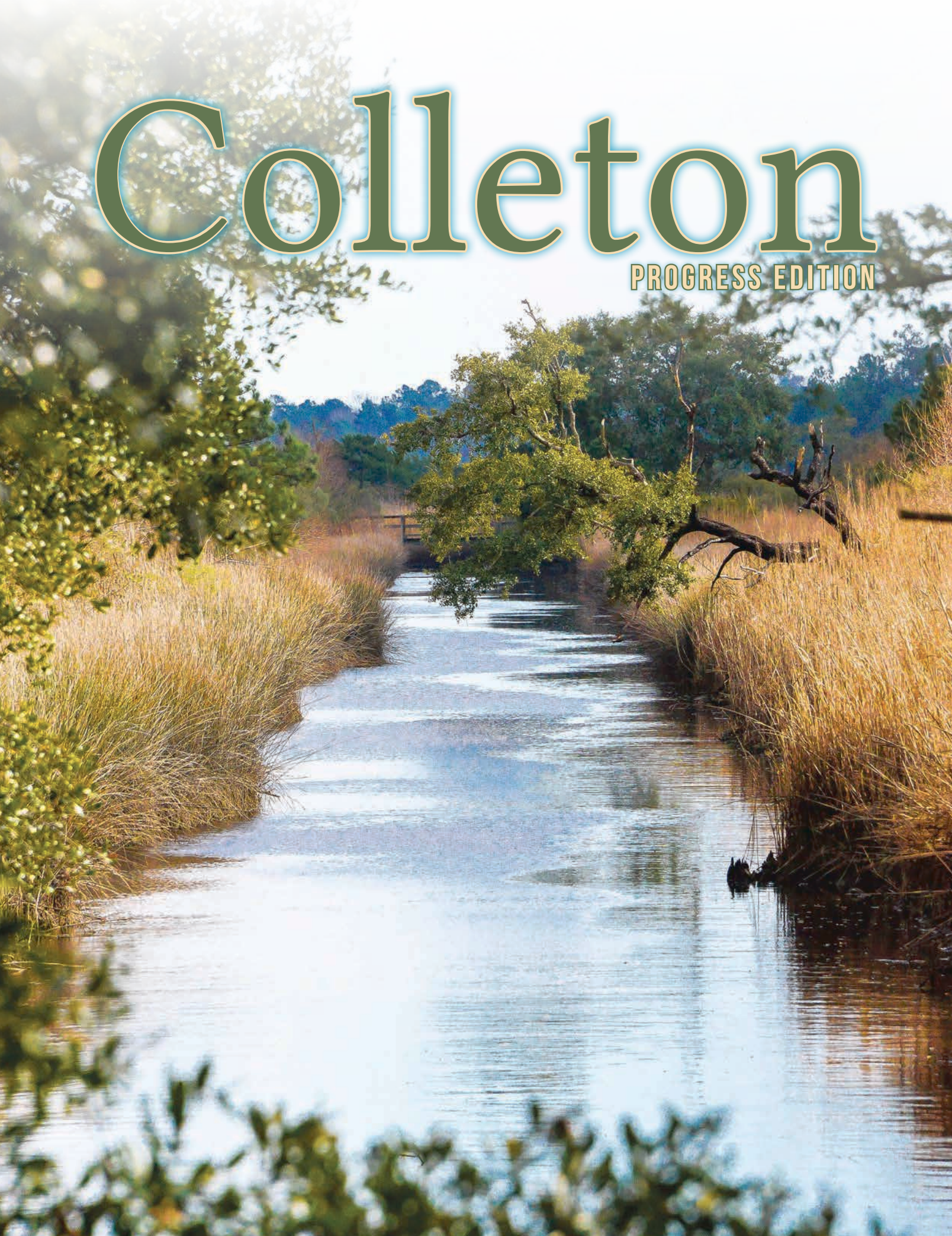


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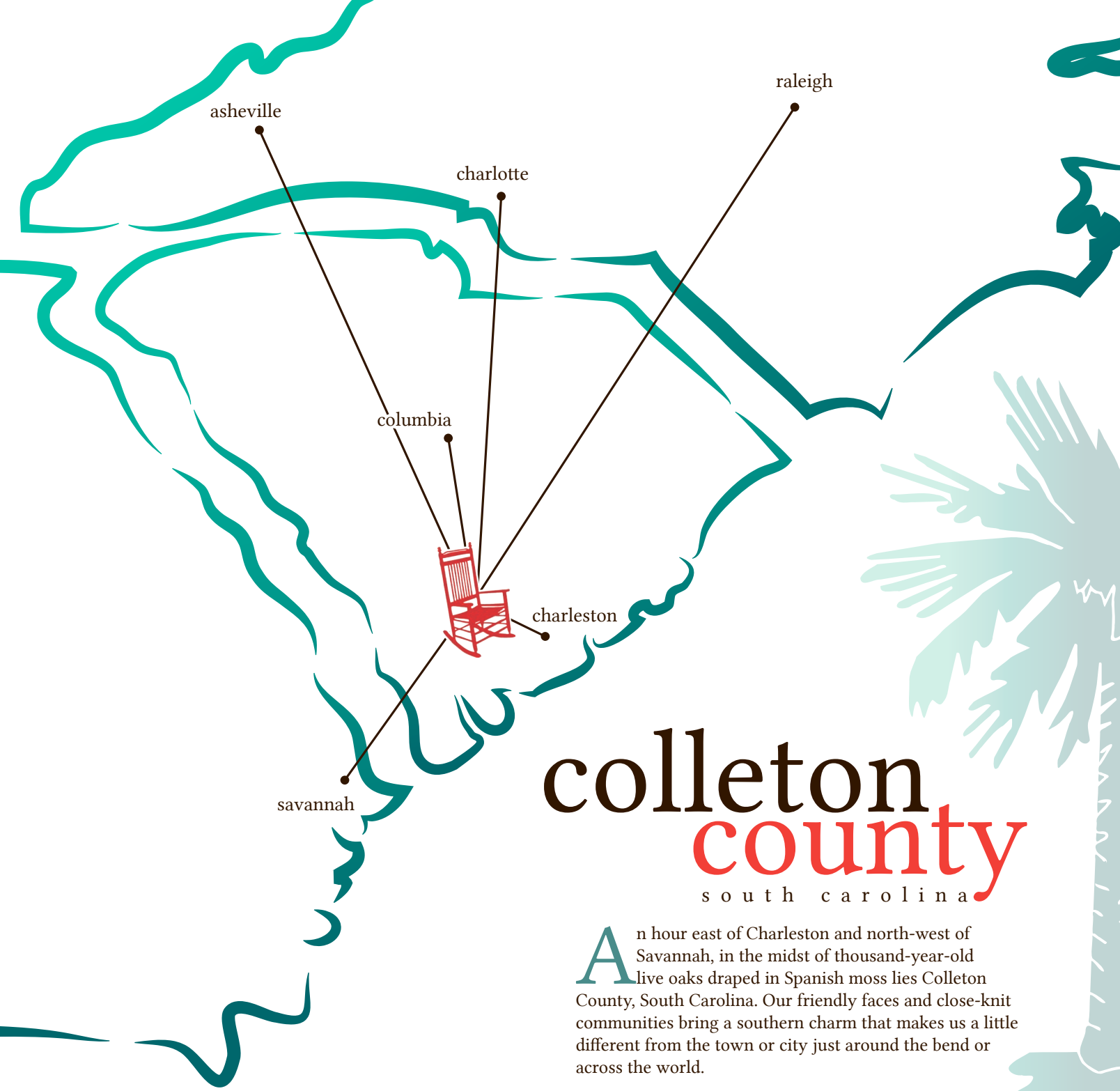
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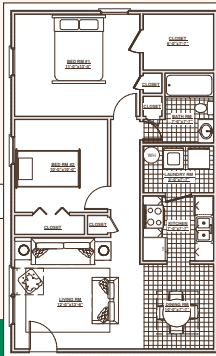
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Michelle Strickland
Tourism Director

The City of Walterboro is where the Lowcountry begins. Come visit our “Front Porch,” where Walterboro’s red rocking chairs are the symbol of southern hospitality.

Spend the day enjoying folk art and fine crafts at the South Carolina Artisans Center. Browse shops in the downtown shopping district on Washington Street. Learn about diverse perspectives of South

Carolina’s past at our history museums. Experience nature in more than 600 acres of the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary.

The city has achieved a balance between being the economic heart of Colleton County and the preservation of its Southern charm. Walterboro has incredible natural resources, wonderful residents, and, best of all, great places to eat and have fun. The ambiance and quality of life combined with easy access to big-city amenities make Walterboro the destination of choice for many businesses.

We’re just a short drive to some of the Southeast’s most popular destinations, including the cultural centers of Charleston (50 miles) and Savannah (68 miles), the golf and resort mecca of Hilton Head (70 miles), and within an hour of many of South Carolina’s famous beach communities. The city of Walterboro is positioned on the road to everywhere, strategically located on I-95, and a short drive from I-26 and I-16.

Visitors who are looking for a day trip or weekend will find Walterboro an attractive escape from the city and a chance to experience well-preserved, small-town beauty.

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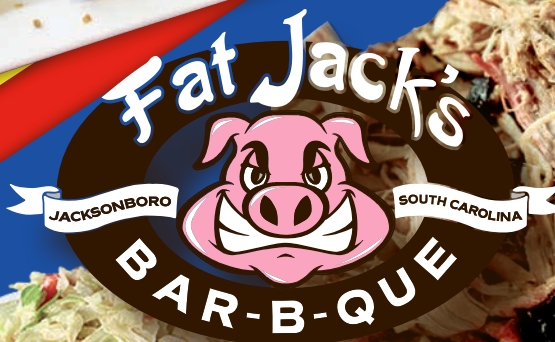
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COMMUNITY PRIDE

Campaign helps build sense of community pride that keeps visitors coming back.

The Walterboro Tourism Commission has made great strides toward putting Walterboro on the map as a tourist destination by marketing the city to tourists through traditional means like broadcast, print, billboard and digital advertising.



However Walterboro has taken its mission one step further with a non-traditional and forward-thinking marketing campaign called Brag About Walterboro.

After several years of using advertising to bring tourists into the city, the Tourism Commission felt there was something more they could do to enhance the visitor experience. The idea is that if residents get on board, bragging about their hometown in an annual event, it will spread into all aspects of their lives. For example, helping with beautification, spreading the word about Walterboro and enjoying all the wonderful things that we sometimes take for granted. Overall, that sense of community pride and Southern hospitality can create a buzz, a positive vibe and an atmosphere that will be apparent to all who visit here. It is that warm fuzzy feeling that keeps tourists coming back for more.

Such a simple concept deserves simple implementation, with simple signs and stickers. By having residents actively participate in the campaign by creating their own message, they develop a sense of ownership in the marketing strategy, which gives it more value.

In the weeks prior to the campaign, the Tourism Commission releases a series of ads in print and social media to highlight examples of how residents can “Brag.” Of course, there are the obvious and superficial things residents could brag about, but the Tourism Commission urges citizens to dig deeper. The result is a set of comprehensive advertisements that represent an array of ages, races and perspectives. The Tourism Commission partners with local businesses, the hospital, school systems and residents to put together several examples to highlight the campaign. The commission also partners with several organizations like the Colleton Memorial Library to put on programming like a drawing contest, and with the Colleton Museum and Farmers Market for a Sign Swap-a-thon.

We want to see people making signs, then trading them with their neighbors. It doesn't matter what you brag about. So put your neighbors sign in your yard, and claim it as your own. After all, we are all collectively bragging about the same core thing — community pride.



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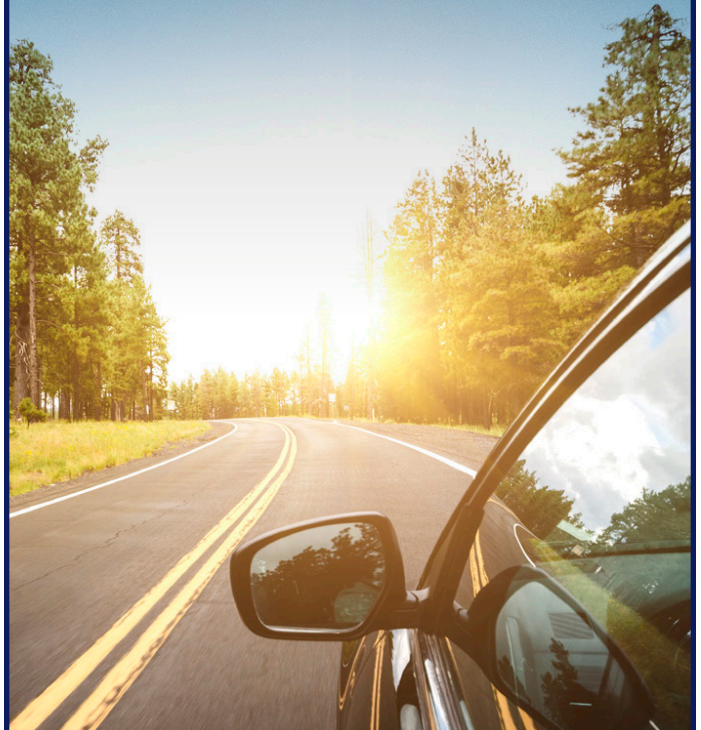


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FLYING TO THE LOWCOUNTRY

Airport expansion planned for this winter will double the terminal's size and provide an improved pilots' lounge and conference room facilities.

Tommy Rowe expects to feel a little cramped soon.

Rowe, the Lowcountry Regional Airport manager, and the airport's other employees will begin spending time working out of a trailer beginning in the fall or winter.

The construction contract for the renovation and expansion of the 37-year-old terminal is expected to be awarded before the end of the year.

John T. Stieglitz III, director of the county's Capital Projects and Purchasing Office, reports that the construction plans are in the planning review process by the county's code officials. "We hope to advertise for bids sometime in the next six to eight weeks," Stieglitz said.

Colleton County Council should see the contract award in either the October or November meeting.

Work should begin approximately a month after the contract is awarded. Stieglitz said he would anticipate the work being completed within 10 to 14 months.

The expansion will double the terminal's square footage and provide an improved pilot lounge and conference room facilities.

The work will also provide space for Colleton County Economic Development Director Heyward Horton to meet with business officials arriving at the airport by air to discuss the possibility of locating operations in Colleton County.

Prior to the start of construction, airport operations will leave the terminal building and relocate into a trailer to be brought to the airport grounds.

A second trailer brought to the airport complex will be used to provide business and charter pilots a place to file flight plans and take it easy while waiting for their passengers to finish their business or pleasure visits before flying off again.

The design firm of Watson Tate & Savory has been employed by the county to handle the design work.

A total of \$1,690,000 in sales tax money was dedicated to the renovation and expansion project when voters went to the polls and approved the county's one-cent Capital Projects Sales Tax.



Walterboro-Colleton County Airport Commission

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EXPLORE DOWNTOWN

Serious collectors and antique novices alike will enjoy an afternoon treasure hunting in Walterboro’s Downtown Antique District.

February 26, 2016 — This week the political media frenzy swirls through South Carolina like a transient storm. Last Saturday the GOP held its presidential primary here and this Saturday the Democrats hold theirs. As pundits dissect this state, wielding the scalpels of scientific polling and demographics, I thought it fitting and proper to provide a glimpse beneath the hullabaloo.

Along Washington Street in the small Palmetto State town of Walterboro, banners on the street lamps proclaim it “The Front Porch of the Low Country.” Walterboro is 40 miles from the ocean, 50 miles from Charleston, and far, far away from northern climes shivering through February squalls. It seems peaceful here, very quiet, quiet enough to catch the slow creaking of an old red wood rocking chair.

Of course you must smile and say hello to each and every one you pass by; they will certainly offer it to you expecting the same in return.

Even though some old storefronts have changed hands over the years, the general atmosphere feels familiar, and so the former Farmers and Merchants Bank is now the Old Bank Christmas and Gifts shop. The fixture clock was almost certainly the town meeting place back in the day.

I had lunch at the counter of Hiott’s Pharmacy down the street. The Coca-Cola dispenser on the counter is a classic and probably worth some money as an antique but they don’t seem to know that — or perhaps they don’t care.

A few old-timers sat with me at the counter and I enjoyed listening to them — accents uncorrupted by the standardized pronunciations one hears today on national newscasts. The Southern accent is strong here but the formality of their manners is even stronger. Tags of “Yes Sir, No Sir, Yes Ma’am, and No Ma’am” punctuated their conversations like dance steps and created a kind of rhythm, a cadence, reminiscent of a high school marching band or a cheerleader squad’s holler-back routine.

Just a peek around the corner leads to the First Baptist Church and its tall white steeple. Each rural South Carolina town must have one of these. If you’ve only seen such churches in photos then you’ve missed the best effect — the majestic old oak tree covered in Spanish moss. Blue sky, white steeple, and green leaves are standard fare in these parts even in February, but wonderful to one visiting from the snowy Rocky Mountains.

The Colleton County Courthouse complements the rest. This is a two-story whitewashed building with two half-spiral staircases at the main entrance. As with most Southern courthouses a granite Confederate statue dominates the grounds. Live oak trees spread their wide branches on either side of the building.

Beneath the small-town quiet, Colleton County has a

combative history commensurate with its South Carolina heritage — the Nullification Crisis of 1832, and a hotbed of Secession.

I chatted briefly with a few folks as I took photos of the courthouse. Around here, although people won’t ignore you they’re not mistrustful. They do understand humor. Carrying my camera and cell phone in one hand, I asked the guard at the courthouse entrance if these items were allowed inside. He answered me with perfunctory precision:

“Prohibited items are knives and pistols and rifles. Do you have these?”

“Well ... not all three,” I deadpanned.

He let out a belly laugh and let me pass through the metal detector as I held my camera and phone to one side for him to see. We’re all just folks.

(Tim Seibel of Colorado Springs, Colo., is a blogger who “dabbles” in travel writing and politics. The post was based on his impressions of the town after a short visit there a few Februarys ago with the purpose of describing the atmosphere of a typical South Carolina town which lies underneath the hullabaloo of South Carolina primary politics. His website is <https://timmanblog.wordpress.com/2016/02/26/february-in-walterboro-south-carolina/>)



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S.C. ARTISANS CENTER

Bring home a work of art from a South Carolina artist for an average of just \$22.

“We’re the best kept secret in South Carolina, particularly in Colleton County and Walterboro,” says Gale Doggette, the director of the South Carolina Artisans Center. “Why? I don’t know.”

Many people “do not know what we are,” and Doggette said the sign outside the Wichman Street building doesn’t help. “What does that sign mean? Are you a museum? Are you a school? What are you?” What the artisan center is, and has been for the last 24 years, is the official retail home for approximately 300 South Carolina artisans.

Another misconception, Doggette said, is that “we are expensive.” Some, Doggette said, “don’t realize we are a retail center.” Others don’t come into the artisans center because “they fear we are too expensive.” Doggette daily tracks the price of an average sale item — just \$22.

For less than \$25, she said, “You get a nice, unique gift. You can give yourself a gift.”

Many don’t realize that the artisan center offers a lay-away plan for local residents interested in purchasing a big ticket item, as well as a bridal registry to enable customers to choose a hand-crafted gift.

The artisans center sees between 20,000-25,000 visitors annually. Between 85-90 percent of those visitors arrive at the center from I-95. County residents account for less than 10 percent of the visitors.

Doggette said, “Two-thirds of people who come into the center, come in to look and not buy anything.” She remembers one recent visitor off the interstate. “She kept picking up things, one thing after another. She could not get enough of the art.” She walked out without making a purchase, Doggette said, but that woman will tell others about the artisan center and that word of mouth should translate into more visitors.

Sometimes, a visitor will become enamored with a work of art but will leave it on the shelf, Doggette said. A few days later, as the visitor comes to regret their decision not to buy the piece, they will get on the phone and make the purchase if the item has not been sold.

Doggette said the artisan center officials are currently pondering the possibility of offering South Carolina artisan products online.

The center was, Doggette said, “the catalysis for the beginning of tourism in Walterboro and Colleton County.” Over two decades later, she said, “It is still the single largest attraction to Walterboro.”



DINING

Walterboro has incredible natural beauty, wonderful residents, and best of all, great places to eat and have fun. Walterboro offers locally owned “diners” that offer the best of Lowcountry cuisine, and many of the nationally recognizable restaurants you already enjoy. Come to Walterboro and see what everyone is talking about.





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TASTE THE HISTORY

The Colleton Museum and Farmers Market and the Colleton Commercial Kitchen offer everything from fresh produce to lunch to dinosaur bones.

Taste the history!

The Colleton Museum & Farmers Market and the Colleton Commercial Kitchen have it all. From fresh farmed produce from local farmers to locally prepared lunch options, gourmet foods to intricate handicrafts, dinosaur bones to Olympic Gold Medals.

Preserving and promoting the historical, natural, cultural and agricultural heritage of Colleton County through the care and conservation of collections, research, interpretation, exhibitions and educational programs is the Colleton Museum's mission.

With three new exhibits and one rotating display going up in the fall of 2017 through early 2018, the museum is leading the efforts to permanently protect the history of Colleton County.

On the other side of the county campus, with 12 kitchen users, the Colleton Commercial Kitchen is helping to grow and support new and existing local food businesses, all of whom sell their products in the Market Place gift shop and cafe. Opened in 2015, the kitchen, a Food Business Incubator, recently won the prestigious J. Mitchell Graham award from the S.C. Association of Counties.

Offering fresh vegetables and fruits, local honey, local crafts, plants, baked goods, prepared food, music and much more, the Colleton Farmers Market is open from May through October on Tuesdays from 2-6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. In November and December, the Market is only open on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (please call to confirm).

The campus is located at 506 East Washington Street in Walterboro and is open on Tuesdays from 12 p.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

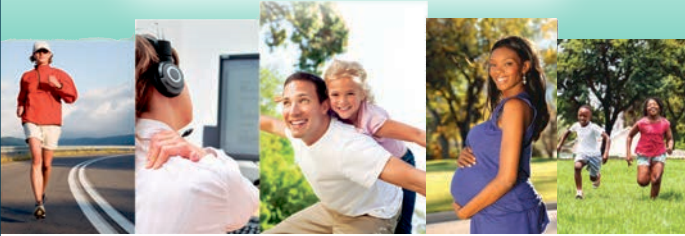
ABOUT THE STAFF

Matt Mardell, Director
Jill Chadwick, Assistant Director
Eartha Cunningham, Events Coordinator
Jennie Meetze, Programming Coordinator
Robin Gunter, Farmers Market Manager
Lori Hiott, Front Desk
Ann Bickley, Volunteer greeter

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FARM FRESH

The Colleton Museum & Farmers Market continues to evolve and grow, incorporating food, fellowship, history and culture into its many community events and outreach.

On a recent visit to a Tuesday afternoon market day, Robin Gunter was behind the counter with Princess, tending to the leashed little dog while her owners perused the produce.

When Gunter was named to replace departing farmers market manager Ted Chewing earlier this year, she said her goal was to make vendors and customers alike look forward to coming to the market and see it as a hub of friendly activity.

“I think things are going pretty well. I’m pleased,” Gunter said of this market season.

“Saturdays have been doing really well. We have had a good turnout of people,” Gunter said. The market is open on Tuesdays from 2-6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. At a meeting prior to the start of the new market season, Gunter said, the vendors voted to change the Saturday hours for the market, switching from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. to 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The switch was made to make the market more convenient for shoppers. “In the summer, people have a tendency to get

out earlier because of the heat, to do their shopping and then get on with their day.”

At the same meeting, vendors decided to keep the Tuesday market unchanged.

On Tuesday market days, attendance is lower because “work comes into play,” Gunter said. The fact that many potential shoppers are at work is the reason the Tuesday market stays open until 6 p.m. “We have a good crowd that comes through about 5:15 p.m.” she said. They can leave work, stop by the farmers market for fresh produce or some of the value-added food products available from vendors, and then head home to prepare dinner.

“We are still looking for vendors,” Gunter said. The market is ready to accommodate both agricultural and craft vendors. Prior to taking over as manager, Gunter and her husband, operating Darbin Dirt Dabblers, were among the vendors populating the farmers market.

“The job is different, but I am so familiar with everyone here and so comfortable with them because I have known them so long,” Gunter said. “Everyone has been so welcoming to me. I just feel like I am back home.”



ROBIN GUNTER

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- Breland Hill Strawberry Barn II**
1002 Bells Highway, Walterboro • 843-549-7560
- Colleton Farmers Market**
506 E. Washington St., Walterboro • 843-835-8882
- Rizer’s Pork And Produce Inc.**
2357 Confederate Highway, Lodge • 843-866-2645
- Keegan-Filion Farm**
1475 Keegan Road, Walterboro • 843-538-2565

SC CERTIFIED

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| Ace Basin Milling | Keegan-Filion Farm |
| Ace Basin Organics, Llc | Kinard Farms |
| Arnold Brothers Farm | Larry Creel Farm |
| B&B Seafood | Lighthouse Winery And Vineyard |
| Baker Shrimp | Magwood Family Lane |
| Beasley’s Sauces | Maple Ridge Farm |
| Breland Hill Strawberry Barn #1 | Mrs. Frank’s Farm |
| Breland Hill Strawberry Barn #2 | Pellum Farms & Nursery LLC |
| Crescent Dairy & Beverages | R & S Produce |
| Fiddler’s Honey/JRM | Rhode Farm |
| Enterprises | Rizer’s Pork & Produce, Inc. |
| Guess Blueberry Farm | The Lowcountry Herb Lady |
| Hawk Haven Cattle Company | Williams Farm PTR |
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EDISTO ON THE WATER

“Having a pod of dolphins breach the surface next to your kayak and hearing them breathe is a spiritual experience that is always exciting, even after 25 years!” – Lindsey Young

Lindsey and Dillard Young of Edisto Watersports & Tackle want to make your trip to Edisto Beach remarkable and memorable – with just the right balance of fun and excitement sprinkled with a little education.

Living along the coast in the Lowcountry is woven into the fabric of their family. Over the past 28 years, the Youngs raised their two sons, Trey and Cal, on Edisto and called the beautiful island home.

The Youngs have owned and operated the charter business located at 3731 Docksite Road since 1990. Edisto Watersports & Tackle offers 3-1/2 hour fishing charters, kayak and paddleboard rentals, shelling excursions to Otter Island, two-hour guided kayak tours on the ACE Basin (beginners welcome), dolphin and sunset guided river tours, as well as bait, tackle and beverages.

USCG Captain Dillard Young loves taking families off shore fishing as well as conducting eco-tours through the ACE. He prides himself on sharing his knowledge and experience with others, while making sure they leave with the supper they caught.

Lindsey, a master naturalist, loves teaching kayaking and educating visitors on the wonders of Edisto and the surrounding ACE Basin. She is an avid bird watcher. She admits she is happiest in her kayak.

“Nature surrounds us here on Edisto,” said Lindsey. “You haven’t truly seen the best of Edisto until you experience it on the water. Fishing, shelling, kayaking and expeditions close to the birds and creatures that inhabit this very special part of the internationally known ACE Basin will become memories you and your family treasure for the rest of your lives.

“Kayaking the many creeks and rivers that surround Edisto Island is a passion best shared with others,” Lindsey said. “Pulling my paddle quietly through the calm water, smelling the pluff mud and salt marsh and watching a sanderling run and peck along the creek’s edge while pelicans and osprey soar overhead are just a few of the reasons I love to kayak. Exploring the beauty of this island while kayaking with friends is a great way to feel one with God, restore my soul and ease my mind.”

Having owned horses and dogs most of their lives, the Youngs consider them an important part of their family. Lindsey recently followed her dream and opened Edisto Kennels at 960 Walwood Road on Edisto Island, where she offers her “guests” bed, bath, and biscuits.

To learn more about Edisto Watersports & Tackle visit them at edistowatersports.net or call 843-869-0663. Edisto Kennels is found at edistokennels.com or call 843-631-0144.

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BOTANY BAY

Hurricane Matthew left a hauntingly beautiful landscape at Botany Bay, offering visitors a different beach experience.

Hauntingly beautiful. Timeless.

Botany Bay, located on Edisto Island, is one of the few natural “boneyard beaches” that remain along the coast. Although Hurricane Matthew caused incredible erosion and tree damage on the barrier island in October 2016, Botany Bay survived – and recently reopened to the public.

The 4,630-acre Botany Bay Plantation was deeded to the state of South Carolina in 1977 by the family of Margaret Pepper. In July 2008, the oceanfront forest, operated by South Carolina’s Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife management area, opened to the public. It soon became one of the most visited, undeveloped, boneyard beaches to still exist.

A self-guided tour of Botany Bay transports visitors to a time gone by – where time almost ceases to exist. Visitors will drive down a long, dirt road covered in mossy oaks to trek across the salt marsh and onto the hauntingly beautiful

beach, where countless treasures await. There they will witness the wrath of Matthew first-hand.

A driving tour across the plantation will take visitors by fields planted in corn and sunflowers, past fresh water ponds where alligators bask on the banks and offer the opportunity to explore the history of the plantation along the way.

Travel across narrow causeways and be surrounded by beautiful views of natural marshes, and drive deep into the forest where wildlife awaits, unspoiled.

It is a trip worth taking.

To visit Botany Bay, take S.C. Highway 174 towards Edisto Beach. Turn left onto Botany Bay Road, located about 8.5 miles south of the McKinley Washington Bridge. Follow the dirt road about two miles, close to where the road comes to a dead end. Turn left at the gate onto the property and stop at the information board for a map.





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30%

of youth report using beverage alcohol within the last 30 days
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FUN YEAR ‘ROUND

There is always something to do in Walterboro, with festivals and events of all types scheduled nearly every month of the year. Celebrate food, music, art and heritage at our world-class events.

The Colleton County Rice Festival is by far the largest event in Colleton County, bringing record crowds of about 40,000 people each year.

Celebrating the county’s history in rice cultivation and agriculture, and featuring the world’s “Largest Pot of Rice,” the Rice Festival is a safe, wholesome family festival that brings a multicultural and artistic atmosphere to Colleton County and the city of Walterboro, fostering pride and civic involvement by all.

The Rice Festival has all the elements that make it fun for the entire family. Central to the festival is an arts and crafts area with a wide array of handcrafted items. The queen of the Rice Festival is crowned in a special pageant and she takes her rightful place of honor in the Rice Festival Parade as it

meanders through downtown as a kickoff event to the festival. A 5K run, rated one of the top races in South Carolina, is another signature event for the festival. And what Carolina Festival is complete without a food court? Sprinkle in activities such as fireworks, music and other entertainment, and you’ve got an event sure to please the entire family.

Explore the streets of our county seat and experience a full schedule of family activities.

Come see why Walterboro is the front porch of the Lowcountry.

For more information, visit ricefestival.org.



EVENTS CALENDER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Super Bowl Cook-Off
Colleton County Arts Council

MARCH

**March of Dimes
Golf Tournament**
Colleton Medical Center

Smoke in the 'Boro
Statewide sanctioned BBQ Cook-off
The Colleton Center

APRIL

Mystery Stroll
USC Salkehatchie Stew

March for Babies
March of Dimes

Taste of Walterboro
Colleton County Rice Festival

Tour de Lowcountry
32-mile metric ride
Colleton County Rice Festival

Colleton County Rice Festival
Downtown Walterboro

Rice Festival Dance
Colleton County Rice Festival

Downtown Walterboro Criterium

MAY

Walterboro Pro Rodeo
Double D Arena

Martini's & Me
Colleton County Arts Council

**Colleton County Historic &
Preservation Society Annual Awards**

Relay For Life
Colleton County Middle School Track

**Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of
Commerce Annual Meeting**

AUGUST

Belk's Annual Kid Fest
Belk

SEPTEMBER

Fall Golf Classic
Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce

**USC Salkehatchie Scholarship Golf
Tournament**
USC Salkehatchie Athletics

**Ireland Creek Bridge Run
1 mile fun run**
Walterboro Rotary Club

**Colleton County Children's Theatre Annual
Production**
Colleton County Arts Council
The Colleton Center

Walk & Wag
Friends of the Colleton County Animal Shelter

OCTOBER

Brag About Walterboro
Walterboro Tourism Commission

Haunted History Tours
Colleton Historical and Preservation Society

Octoberfest
Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce

NOVEMBER

FestiVELO Bike Ride
Colleton Museum & Farmers Market

Veteran's Victory House 5K Run/Walk
Veteran's Victory House

Polo for the Point
The Colleton Center

Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk
Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce

DECEMBER

Rock in the Hoiidays Festival

- **Festival of Trees**
Colleton Museum & Farmers Market
- **Holiday Tour of Historical Homes**
Colleton Historical and Preservation Society
- **Holiday Open House**
S.C. Artisan Center
- **Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting**
City of Walterboro
- **Hanging of the Greens**
Little Library



Rice Run 5K



Relay for Life



Taste of Walterboro

*Events, as well as their dates and times,
may vary from year-to-year.*

Please contact the Walterboro Welcome
Center if you would like more information
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To be added to our events calendar, please
contact The Press and Standard:
editor@lowcountry.com or
call (843) 549-2586

VISIT THE ACE

Donnelley WMA
585 Donnelley Dr.
Green Pond

St. Helena Sound Heritage Preserve
Green Pond/Bennetts Point

Bear Island WMA
Titi Rd., Green Pond

Crosby Oxypolis Heritage Preserve
Walterboro

FISHING & HUNTING

The Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto (ACE) Basin of South Carolina has a largely undeveloped landscape consisting of extensive, diverse habitats, such as saltwater and brackish-water marshes, maritime forests, upland pines, and bottomland hardwoods.

For those who love the outdoors, the Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto (ACE) Basin offers unparalleled opportunities. Hunters, fishermen, hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts can visit the largely undeveloped landscape's extensive, diverse habitats: saltwater and brackish-water marshes, maritime forests, upland pines and bottomland hardwoods. These ecologically important attributes, coupled with management goals that balance conservation of natural resources with economic development and population growth, have made the ACE Basin the focus of national attention.

A number of organizations and local citizens have been instrumental in the conservation of the ACE Basin: the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Ducks Unlimited (DU), Colleton County, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Through these and other organizations, nearly 10 percent of the upland and wetland habitats in the Basin have been permanently protected by purchase and conservation easements.

FISHING

A variety of fishing opportunities exist in the ACE Basin

study area, in habitats that range from black water streams and swamps to intertidal marshes, creeks and the ocean surf. Most of the fishing activity is centered in the Edisto, Ashepoo and Combahee Rivers, but other small streams in the watershed do provide some opportunities, especially for bank anglers. Most recreational fishing is done from small boats, but bank anglers use areas around landings and bridges. Because of the remoteness of the area, travel upstream in the rivers is often difficult due to obstruction by fallen trees.

In general, fishing for specific species is done by boat, while fun fishing is done from riverbank anglers who catch what they can and keep most everything. Fishing licenses must be obtained to fish from a boat, but bank fishing does not require a license.

Estuarine waters in the ACE Basin study area are considered to be among the best inshore saltwater fishing locations in the state. Inshore anglers may fish in the surf of the front beaches of the barrier islands, as well as from bridges, piers, and boats throughout the many rivers and tidal creeks in the ACE Basin study area and St. Helena Sound. Shore-based fishermen catch a variety of species including spot, Atlantic croaker, bluefish,

summer and southern flounders, spotted seatrout, red drum, black drum, pinfish, southern and gulf kingfish, and sheepshead. White and brown shrimp are the species most sought by recreational shrimpers, as well as several different types of small sharks and rays. The blue crab is the only recreationally-caught crab. Silver perch are also frequently caught.

From the free-flowing streams to the tidally influenced sections of freshwater rivers and creeks, anglers target flathead catfish, largemouth bass, striped bass, redbreast sunfish, and black crappie. In addition, several species of sunfish and catfish are often caught.

Freshwater anglers are required to have a South Carolina fishing license to fish in public waters.

HUNTING

The primary wildlife hunted in the ACE Basin study area are white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, mourning dove, eastern gray squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, gray fox, opossum, waterfowl and American alligator.

The white-tailed deer is the most popular species sought by hunters in South Carolina. Trends in deer harvest for Colleton County have remained relatively stable since 1988.

The other big game sought by hunters in the ACE Basin is the wild turkey. In the coastal plains of South Carolina, hunting for turkey occurs during the spring months. Hunting is restricted to gobblers only, but bag limits are liberal with two birds per day or five per season allowed. No special permits are required to hunt turkey in S.C., and the mandatory turkey tags are issued free to individuals with a license and big-game permit. Turkey harvest in Colleton County has increased steadily since 1989.

Squirrel hunting was once the most popular hunting activity in South Carolina, but, today, squirrels are among the most underutilized game animals. Rabbit hunting has also declined in popularity. The switch from small game to deer and turkey has increased demand for available hunting land. A score of hunting clubs that are tightly managed have been formed in the ACE Basin and are a popular means of gaining access to private land.

Waterfowl hunting has been a long-standing tradition in coastal South Carolina and the ACE Basin. The impoundments of the ACE Basin offer ideal wintering habitat for waterfowl. Private lands are not available to most hunters, but Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), such as Bear Island WMA and Donnelley WMA, provide hunting opportunities through the statewide lottery.

The major species of interest to hunters statewide are wood duck, mallard and green-winged teal. Reports from band returns and surveys indicate that the primary species harvested in Colleton County, over a 10-year period, were green-winged and blue-winged teals, wood ducks, widgeons and mallards. At Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, primary harvested species are shoveler, green-winged and blue-winged teal, and widgeon, while at Donnelley Wildlife Management Area, green-winged teal and wood duck constitute greater than 70% of the total harvest.

MARINA

Edisto Island Marina

At 3702 Dockside Road, Edisto Island, SC. Telephone (843) 869-3504. On Big Bay Creek, 200 yards inland from mouth of South Edisto River. Wet slips. No dry stack storagew. Boat ramp. Fuel. No fishing. Ship's store, restrooms, restaurant. Open 8 am to 6 pm, winter; 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., summer.

BOAT LANDINGS

Good Hope Boat Ramp

Edisto River, US 17A (Good Hope Landing Ln.), approximately 2 miles from Cottageville off Route 91, north 3 miles.

Long Creek Boat Ramp

Edisto River, US 17A, approximately 2 miles from Cottageville off Route 91 (Long Creek Landing Ln., Ridgeville)

Sullivan's Ferry Boat Ramp

Edisto River, US 17A, approximately 2 miles from Cottageville off Route 91 (Stump Knocker Cir., Ridgeville.)

Cuckhold's Creek Boat Ramp

Cuckhold's Creek, US 17, 3 miles south of Green Pond to Route 119 (Cuckolds Creek Ln., Green Pond) North to Route 66 West.

Chessie Boat Ramp

Chessie Creek, from Walterboro, Hwy 64 East to Route 317 (Chessy Creek Ln.) South, to Route 458 South.

Mars Oldfield Boat Landing

Edisto River off Hwy 61, Mars Oldfield Ln., west of Givhans Ferry State Park.

Lowndes Boat Landing

Edisto River, Parkers Ferry Rd., Ridgeville, SE of Cottageville.

Price Bridge Boat Ramp

Horseshoe Creek, from Walterboro. Hwy. 64 East to Route 199 (Prices Bridge Ln.) South, approximately 2 miles.

Bennett's Point Boat Ramp

Ashepoo River, US 17 to Green Pond. Route 26 (Bennetts Point Rd.) South through Bear Island Wildlife Management Area.

Brickyard Boat Ramp

Ashepoo River, US 17 to Green Pond. Route 26 (Bennetts Point Rd.) South to bridge over river.

West Bank Boat Ramp

Edisto River. US 17 from Jacksonboro, Route 30 (West Bank Landing Ln.) South approx. 3 miles.

Live Oak Landing

2 miles off Hwy 174, Big Bay Creek, Oyster Row Ln., Edisto Island.

Old Chehaw Boat Landing

Chehaw River, off US 17 at the end of County Road 161 (Old Cheehaw Landing Ln.)

Fields Point Boat Landing

Combahee River, County Rd 161 (Fields Point Ln.) off Hwy 17A



WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary in the City of Walterboro offers visitors the ultimate Lowcountry experience, combining history, culture, recreation and education in a Southern lowlands setting. Soon to come: the Walterboro Discovery Center.

The Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary in the City of Walterboro offers visitors the ultimate Lowcountry experience, combining history, culture, recreation and education in a southern lowlands setting.

A walk through the Sanctuary offers visitors a chance to:

Beaver Pond

The Sanctuary consists of hardwood flats which are defined by a series of streams which braided their way through the area. Wildlife is abundant with native populations of wild turkey, deer, raccoons, beaver, otter, opossum, squirrels, fox, and wildcats. There is a large, year round, population of song birds, as well as wading birds, ducks, and predator birds. The area serves as a stopover for transient and migrating birds.

Woodpecker/Bird Watching

More than 80 species have been observed on a seasonal basis including 50 year round species. Wild turkeys, wood ducks, warblers, wood storks, pileated woodpeckers, bald eagles, accipiters, hawks, falcons, owls, wading birds, kinglets, and a wide variety of other birds including endangered species are regularly observed. Additionally, deer, beaver, otter, flying squirrels, fox, and numerous varieties of reptiles and fish visit the Sanctuary.

Hiking/walking/jogging

Miles of overland trails and boardwalks provide an opportunity for visitors who combine their love of the outdoors with exercise. Crisscrossing the system of braided streams, the

boardwalks traverse the historic Charleston to Savannah wagon road and tie the highland trails together.

Bicycling

A bicycle path follows an existing easement and will become a part of a system which will include residential areas and the historic downtown area.

Canoeing/Kayak Trail

Approximately 1.5 miles of Ireland Creek are navigable by shallow draft boats. The depth and width of the waterway provide an unusual way to enjoy the Sanctuary or to learn to canoe in relative safety.

Charleston to Savannah Wagon Road

The Charleston to Savannah wagon road runs through the heart of the Sanctuary. While the wooden bridges have decayed, the impressive roadbed remains. The bridges have been replaced with boardwalks and the roadbed has become an integral part of the trails. The overland commerce of Colonial times moved over this road. Persons interested in history and archaeology are able to explore and traverse the Old Wagon/Stage Coach Road over which all overland traffic passed between Charleston and Savannah.

New Discovery Center

Plans are in the works for a new addition to the sanctuary: The Walterboro Wildlife Discovery Center. The center will be located on 1.5 acres about 1,200 feet from the West Washington Street entrance to the Sanctuary. The 6,500

sq.ft. building will be converted into Lowcountry educational exhibits with an amphitheater and meeting room, designed for visitors, school groups and the public to learn about the area.

Come see how nature and history come together at the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary. Open from dusk to dawn year round.

Visit online at www.walterborosc.org or call 843- 782-1000.



CITY PARKS

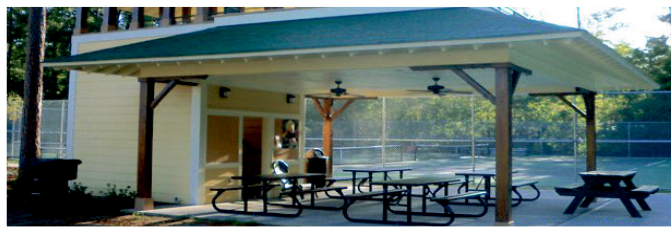
With newly renovated grounds, facilities and equipment, Walterboro’s public parks provide an excellent opportunity for residents to get outside, get exercise and enjoy nature.



GLADYS-WHIDDEN PARK
215 Lakeside Dr.
Open daily from dawn til dusk.



PINCKNEY PARK
505 Hampton St.
Open daily from dawn til dusk.



FOREST HILLS TENNIS CENTER
772 Ireland Hills Dr.
Open daily from dawn til dusk.



SANKEY D. MAREE PARK
211 Gruber St.
Open daily from dawn til dusk.



SHANIYAH BURDEN MEMORIAL PARK
207 McDaniel St.
Open daily from dawn til dusk.



MAYFIELD TERRACE PARK
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COLLETON'S TREASURE

The Edisto River, the longest blackwater river in the U.S. offers everything from canoeing to tubing to camping along its shores.

Longing for a quick get-away where you can refresh your spirit and enjoy much of the natural beauty that Lowcountry living boasts?

The Edisto River Canoe and Kayak (ERCK) Trail is literally on our doorstep and is a “recreational gem” comprised of a series of access sites and points of interest along a 62-mile stretch of the Edisto River — the longest free-flowing blackwater river in the United States and one of the longest worldwide. Bordering Colleton and Dorchester Counties, the ERCK trail starts at Green Pond Church Landing and meanders eastward past Colleton State Park. At the halfway mark, the trail joins Four Holes Swamp and flows past Givhans Ferry State Park before ending at Lowndes Landing.

No matter your ability level, the ERCK Trail offers something for everyone, with plenty of spots to stop for the day or camp for the night.

In 2016, a joint-partnership between Colleton County, Dorchester County and the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (SCNHC) was reached to promote one of South Carolina’s most unique natural assets — the Edisto River. The goal of the joint partnership was to better manage the shared recreational resource through development of a recreation management plan, trail map and a website.

The first step of the newly formed partnership was to develop a new website and map for the ERCK Trail. Funded by the

Colleton County Parks and Recreation Department, Dorchester County Parks and Recreation and the SCNHC, the website (www.ERCKTrail.org) includes downloadable maps, a listing of all access points, the estimated distance between each section, river safety information, and recommendations for camping and activities along the river.

A waterproof, crafted map is available for purchase locally at the Colleton County Recreation Center or via the website, with all proceeds benefiting the ERCK Trail Commission.

One of the goals of the joint partnership is to make the trail more accessible and easier to navigate, which in turn, will have a positive impact on both local economies.

At the heart of the project is Dorchester County Parks and Recreation Director Eric Davis. Growing up as an adventurer, Davis enjoys spending time on the river and hopes the project will allow others to discover the natural beauty of the Edisto River.

“The Edisto River has a long-established history of supporting outdoor recreation and economic growth,” Davis said. “The website and map project is simply building upon this tradition to improve these experiences.”

The ERCK Trail Commission was established by Colleton County in 1989 and since has been the designated authority for the development, preservation and protection of the trail. An effort to define the ERCK Trail Commission as a joint county



commission between Dorchester and Colleton is currently underway.

A trip along the Edisto River — whether by kayak, canoe, tub or boat — offers unspoiled scenery and easy access to two state parks located along its banks. Local outfitters located on the river, such as Edisto River Adventures (www.edistoriveradventures.com), offer the opportunity for everyone to be able to explore and enjoy the Edisto.

For more information on the ERCK Trail visit www.ERCKTrail.org or stop by the Colleton County Recreation Department to purchase your waterproof map.

Fast Facts about the Edisto River

- There are approximately 310 unobstructed river miles from the headwaters in Edgefield and Saluda counties to the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Edisto is considered the longest free-flowing blackwater river in the United States and one of the longest rivers worldwide.

- The Edisto is the only major river in South Carolina that is entirely contained inside the state borders.

- The Edisto River basin produces around 1/5 of South Carolina's timber and forest products and around 1/3 of crops and livestock.

- The Edisto supports several rare, nationally threatened and endangered species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, Southern bald eagle, wood stork, loggerhead turtle and short-nosed sturgeon.

- A total of 87 freshwater species and 120 saltwater species of fish have been identified in the Edisto, which is known by anglers for its largemouth bass, striped bass, redbreast sunfish and black crappie.

- There are around 12,000 acres of rice field impoundments found in the tidal areas of the river system.

(Pictured in the photo is Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks and Recreation Director)



OUR FIELD OF DREAMS

The Colleton County Recreation Center not only features activities and sports for our local youth, it is home to the ACE Basin Sports Complex, which draws teams from across the Southeast.

The ACE Basin Sports Complex draws crowds for weekend tournaments — many of who stay, shop and eat locally.

The Colleton County Recreation Center, located at 280 Recreation Lane in Walterboro, is a hub of activity year-round in the community — hosting local recreational sports teams, Dixie Youth tournaments and travel league games in multiple sports. At the center of the activity is the beautiful, state-of-the-art ACE Basin Sports Complex which draws crowds of locals, visiting teams and families through its wrought iron gates each weekend.

Not only does the ACE Basin Complex provide a top-notch facility for youth baseball, softball, football and soccer games, it has also positively impacted the economy of Colleton County. Drawing hundreds of visitors from across the Southeast on tournament weekends, the complex has contributed to a significant increase

in gross sales in the hotel and restaurant industry since opening in 2012.

Bigger and Better Things on the Horizon

A \$3,220,000 renovation and expansion is on the horizon for the Colleton County Recreation Center.

The project, funded through the Colleton County Capital Projects Penny Sales Tax, will add approximately 12,949 square feet of new construction, including a splashpad, a new fitness facility, basketball court/gym and office space, along with a 16,802-sq.ft. renovation to the current gym, restrooms, administrative office space and assembly rooms.

With so much in the works for the Colleton County Parks and Recreation Department, it is safe to say the future is bright for local athletics and recreation — a homerun on any playing field!

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ANY TIME IS TEE-TIME

Dogwood Hills Golf Course offers something for everyone

Dogwood Hills Public Golf Course, located at 1 Dogwood Lane in Walterboro, offers a challenging nine-hole course situated on a beautiful 141-acre backdrop of magnolias, live oaks, pine trees and, naturally, dogwood trees.

The course abounds in the natural beauty of Lowcountry living, meaning a bad day of golf is better than a good day at work and any time is tee-time. At Dogwood Hills, you'll find several ponds where wildlife abounds and you just might find an alligator or two sunning on the banks. In addition, the course offers a well-stocked pro shop, putting green and a spot to work on your short game.

Not to worry. Should you need refreshments, The Restaurant at

Dogwood Hills is open Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. and offers banquet services for special events. Looking for some friendly competition in your golf game? Dogwood Hills is home to numerous tournaments and fundraisers throughout the year, including Senior Play on Tuesdays and Friday at 8:30 a.m., along with Thursday Night Scramble with a 5:30 tee time.

Playing a round of golf at Dogwood Hills Golf Course is an affordable entertainment option with pricing and packaging available for everyone and for all ages. To learn more about the course, schedule a tee-time or find out about scheduling a tournament or event, call Roy Metzendorf, Dogwood Hills operations manager, at 843-538-2731.

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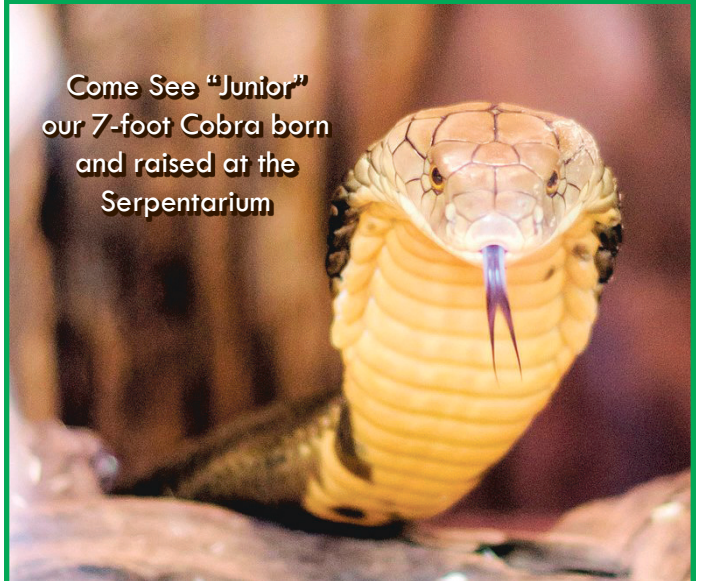
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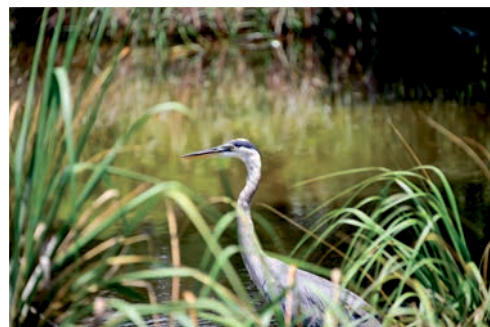
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TEE-ING OFF AT THE BEACH

Tucked away in the center of South Carolina's coastal Low Country resting in the heart of Edisto Island is an emerald emerging from the rough.

The Plantation Course at Edisto, located at 19 Fairway Drive, Edisto Island, offers a beautiful golfing experience — the Edisto way. Laid-back and relaxed, the course is just minutes from the beautiful beach of Edisto. Nestled among huge, shady live oaks and palm trees, the Plantation Course offers something for all golf enthusiasts, regardless of skill level.

On the par-70 course, it will be a challenge to not be distracted

by the natural beauty and wildlife which surround the course. With pelicans, osprey, herons, egrets and alligators calling the lagoons home, the excitement is just around every corner of the 6,130-yard layout.

To learn more about the Plantation Course, call 843-869-0802 or email plantationcourse@bellsouth.net

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INNOVATION

New Tech Network expanding in Colleton County School District – Project and Problem-Based Learning and Health Career Academy putting Colleton’s schools at the forefront.

Colleton County High School (CCHS), located in Walterboro, is a comprehensive high school serving students in grades 9-12. Partnered with Thunderbolt Career and Technology Center, CCHS strives to transform student learning and the teaching profession in provocative new ways by using the best research-based instructional methods, engaging students deeply in meaningful learning, and partnering with local, state and national leaders to ensure that students are well prepared for what lies ahead.

In 2017, CCHS partnered again with the New Tech Network in a three-county coalition, the S.C. Learning Network, to develop a second school of study, the Health Careers Academy. The new academy will develop student awareness in the fields of nursing, emergency medical technician, health informatics, pre-pharmacy and pre-medicine.

As a part of this partnership, the Colleton County School District will complete a whole-school conversion at Bells Elementary School to the Project and Problem Based Learning Model, as well as exploring expansion into one academy at

Colleton County Middle School.

Cougar New Tech, a school within Colleton County High School and the first school in the New Tech Network of project-based schools in S.C., received recognition as a National Demonstration Site in 2016. This innovative 1-to-1 environment provides students with an opportunity to engage in authentic real-world applications daily. The progressive school has also been named a Teacher-Powered School for its commitment to ensure high quality teacher leadership and professionalism in a student-centered classroom. This learning opportunity is open to all students at Colleton County High and promises to continue to transform teaching and learning for years to come.

CCHS has experienced much success over the past few years, garnering a significant increase in student achievement, improving its science performance by 13 percent and its graduation rate by five percent, to surpass the state average for comparable schools.

The CCHS Class of 2017 boasted some impressive statistics and recorded significant academic growth from previous years with 43 students recording a final Grade Point Average (GPA) over a 4.0 and a historic 46-percent of the Class of 2017 holding a 3.0 or greater. In addition, this class was awarded \$1,951,600 in S.C. Education Lottery Scholarships and \$2,902,150 in other scholarships to total over \$4,853,750.

The Class of 2017 boasted a record 183 career and technology completers, including 34 double completers. Four student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent to participate in college athletics and nine students enlisted in the Armed Services. An early member of the Transform SC network of schools, CCHS collaborates with business leaders, educators, students, parents, and policy makers to transform the public education system so that every student graduates prepared for careers, college and citizenship.



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Bells Elementary School	12088 Bells Hwy. Ruffin, SC 29488	843-782-0012
Cottageville Elementary School	648 Peirce Rd. Cottageville, SC 29435	843-782-4528
Hendersonville Elementary School	6089 Hendersonville Hwy. Walterboro, SC 29488	843-782-0027
Forest Hills Elementary School	633 Hiers Corner Rd. Walterboro, SC 29488	843-782-4512
Northside Elementary School	1929 Industrial Rd. Walterboro, SC 29488	843-782-0015
Colleton County Middle School	1379 Tuskegee Airmen Dr. Walterboro, SC 29488	843-782-0040
Colleton County Alternative School	1379 Tuskegee Airmen Dr. Walterboro, SC 29488	843-782-0050
Colleton County High School	150 Cougar Nation Dr. Walterboro, SC 29488	843-782-0031
Thunderbolt Career and Technology Center	1069 Industrial Rd. Walterboro, SC 29488	843-782-4514



COLLETON PREP

Creating leaders on the Front Porch of the Lowcountry

“We look and learn beyond tomorrow because we know our students will live and work in an ever-changing society. While we prepare our students to be successful in college, we also give them the skills and values they will need to succeed in life. We are creating leaders for a changing world.”

Colleton Preparatory Academy is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory school for students in grades K-1 through 12, serving Walterboro, Colleton County, and surrounding areas. The school is proud to be an Advanced Accreditation member of the South Carolina Independent School Association.

WHAT'S NEW? THE LATEST ON PRESCHOOL

CPA has expanded its preschool program, now offering K1-K4 from 7 a.m. through 5 p.m. In the 2017-18 academic year, CPA will have one class of K1's and offer two sections each of K2-K4 to accommodate the growing demand. The preschool will utilize Open Court Curriculum, which adds continuity to the lower-school program. In addition, the K4 classes will

participate in enrichment classes.

The front of the school is also getting a face-lift with a new look currently in the works.

BY THE NUMBERS: THE CLASS OF 2017

The CPA Class of 2017 finished strong with over half of the graduating class with a 4.0 or better, and 99 percent with at least a 3.0 GPA. The average SAT score for the top 30 percent of the class was 1170 with 25 on the ACT. All Class of 2017 graduates plan to further their education in four-year, two-year or technical schools and graduated with college prep diplomas.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Students have the option of enrolling in dual credit courses offered through the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie. With the advent of the Dual Enrollment program, over half of the honor graduates at CPA will earn 36-44 credit hours of college credit and potentially enter college at the sophomore level.

HISTORY

The school opened in 1966 (as John C. Calhoun Academy) and graduated its first senior class in 1968. In 1990, the name was changed to Colleton Preparatory Academy.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

The Lower School (K2-5) enrolls students in a traditional elementary program that uses a variety of experiential learning activities and emphasizes critical thinking skills while teaching students to read, write, and understand mathematical functions and problems.

The Middle School (6-8) includes a departmental program to strengthen basic skills and further develop critical thinking, and develops greater academic responsibility and disciplined work habits. Both Lower and Middle School students enjoy a wide variety of enrichment classes each week, including art, music, library, computer, PE, and health.

The Upper School (9-12) offers honors classes in English, mathematics, science, social sciences, Spanish, U.S. History, U.S. Government, and chemistry.

ATHLETICS

Colleton Prep has a rich tradition of excellence and proven success on the athletic playing fields. Offering baseball, softball, football, men's and women's basketball, volleyball, cheerleading and tennis – there is a team for everyone at CPA. The War Hawks compete in SCISA Region IV-AA in the All-Sport Classification and in Region II-A for football. Since 1979, Colleton Prep has accumulated 29 state championships in the offered sports.

MISSION STATEMENT

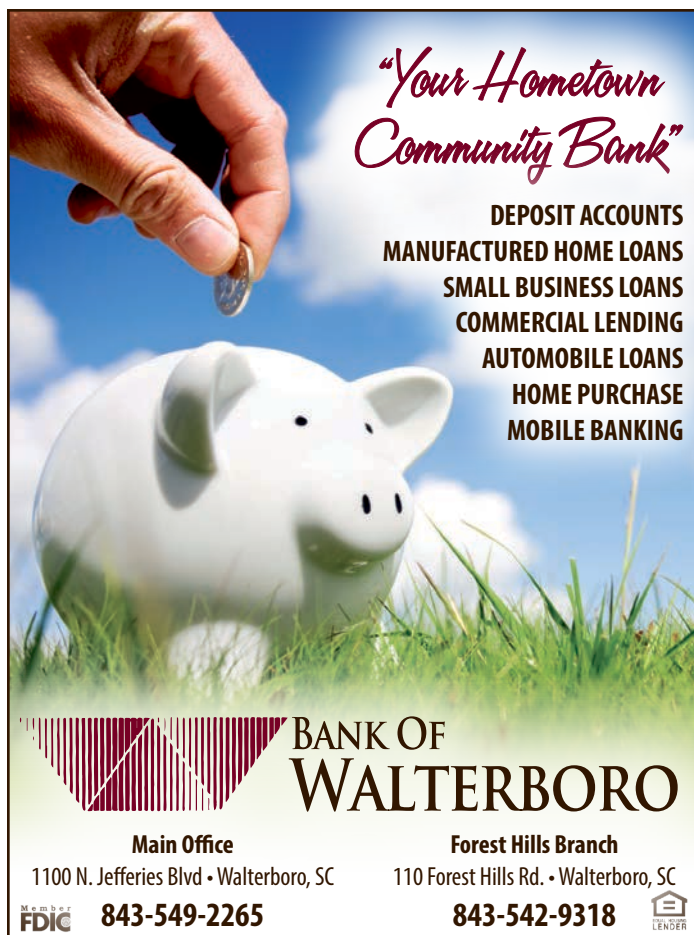
Colleton Preparatory Academy seeks to provide a challenging and traditional college preparatory curriculum that prepares students to meet the academic demands of post-secondary education, as well as to become responsible, productive citizens. Emphasis is placed on rigorous academics, fine arts, interscholastic athletics, technology, and a commitment to service and leadership. Students are encouraged to develop and achieve their full potential in all areas of intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual growth.

VISION STATEMENT

As the Colleton County-Walterboro area grows in population and develops economically, local leadership is essential. Colleton Preparatory Academy provides students the skills to become local, as well as state and national, leaders in government service and business, as well as the sciences and arts.

ACCREDITATION & MEMBERSHIPS

Colleton Preparatory Academy is accredited at the advanced level, the highest evaluation given, by the South Carolina Independent School Association and has maintained that distinction since it was first offered. In 2014 CPA has earned the distinction of becoming an AdvancED school, through the SACS. The Academy has also been a member of the Palmetto Association of Independent Schools, and through that organization has been affiliated with the National Association of Independent Schools.



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As a campus of the University of South Carolina, USC Salkehatchie brings the quality of the university to Walterboro and the surrounding region. Students may earn baccalaureate degrees in nursing and elementary education without leaving their community, and an additional 14 baccalaureate degrees are available through the University's Palmetto College online program. Students take the first two years of coursework at USC Salkehatchie and can complete their program online in the following fields: business administration (accounting), business administration (management), health promotion, health informatics, hospitality management, human services, information science, information management and systems liberal studies, organizational leadership, criminal justice and early childhood education. One of the newest programs offered in conjunction with another university campus is industrial process engineering which begins in fall 2017.

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie boasts an internationally diverse faculty dedicated to providing quality educational experiences to students. Faculty bring expertise in

their fields and a commitment to teaching, research and service that benefit not only their students and the campus, but the greater Walterboro/Colleton County community as well.

USC Salkehatchie is actively involved in the communities we serve. Faculty, staff, and students regularly log hundreds of hours of service to various civic groups and schools located in the region, including the Walterboro/Colleton Chamber of Commerce, Colleton Medical Center, Colleton County Historical Society, FOCCAS (support of the local animal shelter), community youth groups and other civic organizations and clubs. USC Salkehatchie also serves as an educational hub for the cultural and economic development of the region.

The USC Salkehatchie East campus is home to the NJCAA Region X men's basketball and women's volleyball teams. Home games at the Salk Arena are filled with students, faculty and community members cheering for the Indians as they compete on the court.

Visit the East campus at 807 Hampton Street or learn more online at: uscsalkehatchie.sc.edu and palmettocollege.sc.edu.



USC SALKEHATCHIE BRINGS STATE-OF-THE-ART HEALTH CARE TRAINING TO COLLETON COUNTY

The complexity of health care treatment and the advances in technology are enabling universities and medical centers to work collaboratively to create better access, diagnostics and overall better patient care.

USC Salkehatchie and Colleton Medical Center are taking advantage of technology to provide more advanced training for nursing students and medical staff by establishing a high fidelity simulation lab on the Salkehatchie East campus in Walterboro. Partners for this \$450,000 project include CMC and HCA, Colleton County, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation, Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina, and The Fullerton Foundation. The lab will be operational this fall.

With direct access to simulation, clinical time can be facilitated in a realistic and safe learning environment, providing exposure to clinical scenarios students will experience in a hospital setting. Although simulation cannot replace traditional clinical experiences or actual patient care, by increasing confidence, knowledge, and skills, simulation better prepares students for those real-life situations they will later encounter in professional practice. Simulation allows repetitive practice without direct risk to patient safety and provides students an opportunity to work in groups, enhancing teamwork, collaboration and communication skills. Students participate in a debriefing process after each training session, where recorded scenarios are reviewed to reinforce proper



nursing practice and discuss methods for improvement in a non-threatening learning environment.

Established in 2006, the USC Salkehatchie Rural Nursing Initiative is a model partnership program with the USC College of Nursing. Its purpose is to “grow our own nurses” by offering students from the region an opportunity to earn a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN). Since its first graduating class in 2010, the nursing partnership program has successfully graduated and provided local health care organizations with a pool of more than 80 qualified BSN-level nurses, with over half remaining in the area to live and work.

Dr. Craig Ward, a physician in Walterboro and former director of Colleton Medical Center Emergency Department, had this to say about the Salkehatchie nursing program partnership: “Salk’s Rural Nursing Initiative ... is innovative and groundbreaking but most importantly... it is remarkably successful. USC Salk grads are not only our best nurses, they are the heart and soul of our hospital. “



GETTING A JOB

The Colleton Career Skills Center is ready to serve individuals, business, and industry – bringing job seekers and job providers together.

COLLETON CAREER SKILLS CENTER

The Colleton Career Skills Center brings job seekers and job providers together. It is the headquarters for employment services, beginning with unemployment claims and following through the entire scope of the job search and training for the next opportunity.

Lowcountry Workforce Development and SCWorks are on site to help deliver a variety of resources to provide a skilled workforce to Colleton County’s business and industry. Included in those resources are incentive programs to help businesses grow, as well as workforce training programs.

Training is focused on the attainment of nationally-recognized NCCER certifications for the purpose of filling local industry needs. Class offerings include welding, machine tool, CNC, industrial maintenance and commercial driver’s license

certification. Instructors are skilled professionals of Palmetto Training Inc., led by Eddie Jackson. Jackson operates similar schools in Charleston, Orangeburg and Allendale.

Palmetto Training, incorporated in 1985 by Jackson’s father, is the only independent school in South Carolina authorized to give high school credits to its students. Putting people to work is what Palmetto Training Inc. is all about.

The first step is training, pure and simple. Without the proper skills and know-how in a lucrative field, an unemployed or under-employed citizen cannot move forward.

“We do what industry wants to get people trained the way they want them trained – not using some canned curriculum. That way, they will hire our people,” said Jackson. “Part of the training is making sure the students also get all the necessary certifications. Almost all of our programs include a form of

NCCER, OSHA, or AWS certifications ... not just a Certificate of Completion.”

Of course, training is not the only thing offered. Without a job, any new skill set is useless, which is why Palmetto Training, Inc. offers free job placement for all of its graduates. The staff and faculty are always on the lookout for new jobs, and inform students of new opportunities as they become available. Students can also use the school computers for job searches and to apply for their new jobs online.

Again, the proof is all in the numbers. PTI's graduation rate has steadily been over 90%, and of its graduates, over 90% have found jobs in their new field of study. Many have jobs lined up weeks before graduation.

Other classes at the Colleton Career Skills Center include job search training, resume writing, soft skills and intensive one-on-one counseling.

SUCCESS STORY

ERNESTINE CHAPMAN

“Thank God for second chances and late bloomers. Because I think at 45 years old, I'm a late bloomer.” Ernestine Chapman will complete her “blooming” on June 5, when she gets her certificates in welding from Palmetto Training School. It's the culmination of a long road filled with stories that will be familiar to many.

In 1988 she graduated from Walterboro High School. She had a job welding at Besteel. Then she got pregnant, had a baby, lost her job when the plant closed, her relationship fell apart. And by 1995 her whole world had collapsed. So she did what many others do – she turned to the street life. Fell in with the wrong crowd, got into drugs. Her parents put her in hospitals and rehab programs, but “I didn't want to listen to my parents. I had enablers all around me and I knew how to work it,” she said. “But I never stole anything, never robbed anyone. The only damage I did was to myself.” But then she ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong crowd. And ended up in jail.

It took that stint in jail to make her wake up and realize that she wanted more for herself. “When I got in front of Judge Buckner, he said, ‘What is this 44-year-old woman doing in my face? High school education, two years of college. You've got four children. Why? I don't ever want to see you again. And trust and believe, if you keep going down the path that you're going, I will see you again and I'm going to throw the book at you.’”

Chapman never looked back. She decided then and there that she needed to change her life. She spent two years on probation and accepted the help that was offered her there. She went through the drug and alcohol program and actually wanted to quit. She slipped a few times along the way, she said, but “I thank God I'm not on drugs anymore. But it's a fight for me. I had a rough patch. I'd say ‘Oh, my body hurts’. Or ‘Oh, I'm stressed today.’ Then when I'd smoke a blunt, and I could maneuver. But I had to make a choice. I had to make up my mind this is what I want to do. And if you do what you're supposed to do, you can make it.”

Then she got accepted into the welding program at PTS, something she never thought would happen with her track record.

“This program has truly, honestly saved me. Three or four years ago, I was a hot mess. I was on drugs. I was on probation. I gave up,” she said. But when she met PTS instructor Darryl McCraine and owner Eddie Jackson, and her whole life finally came together. “Eddie and Darryl have just been awesome. When I said ‘This is too hard. I haven't done this in 20 years. It's too much.’ They said ‘You can do it. Walk out and cool off. You can do it. You went through all this and you're still here.’”

She's stuck it out, and found she's learned more than welding. She's learned how to write a resume, how to set short-term and long-term goals, what to expect out in the work force – in general, how to manage her life.

“This is not like a technical school. You actually have people come and say ‘How're you doing? You feel like you're where you need to be or you need help with anything?’ Even with personal things. This is more like preparing for a job,” she said. “We used to have a thing where we'd walk in and he'd say, ‘You fired.’ Because if you're out there working for plants, you're not the only one wanting that job. Trust and believe, they always have someone there waiting to take your place. So I don't want to take anything personal with me to the job.” So she's working hard on learning to accept the help offered her, and restructuring her personal life. “At 45, I have to have a routine. I love my routine. It's good for me to do something positive. I don't want to be around negativity. I've got to be committed, got to be determined,” she said.

And she wants to make her family proud: her parents, Effie and Ernest Chapman; her daughter, Katrina, who she describes as her biggest supporter; and her three sons, Ernest, 24, Brantley, 25 and Brandon, 13. Especially Brandon. “He's one of the main reasons. Family means a lot to me. I didn't realize I'd missed out on so many things,” she said, until she took a good hard look at her life. She hopes soon to have her own home, her own job and her own truck. She wants to share with Brandon and her other family members all the things in life that she's missed all these years.

“It's been a long road, a long journey, but it was worth it, because at 45 years old, I've got a 20-20 plan. When I turn 50, I want to have something. I want to own something. I want to make my family proud. I want to make myself proud and say look how far I've come. If I keep taking the right steps and doing the right things, I'll be OK,” she said.

“I asked God to put me on the right track and since, it's been all good things. So I don't ask why anymore. I embrace it. I just say thank God for late bloomers and second chances.”



CHAPMAN



ADULT EDUCATION

The mission of Colleton County Adult Education is to enable the adult learner to enhance academic skills necessary to enter the workforce and retain employment.



Since 2003, Colleton County Adult Education has served nearly 5,000 adult learners. The Class of 2017 Adult Education graduates earned 22 South Carolina Equivalency Diplomas, seven high school diplomas and 142 National Career Readiness Certificates.

“I do not claim to be able to predict the future, but I do maintain I can see it,” said Chris Horvath, Adult Education director. “In our graduates, I sense the amazing things they will do with their lives.”

Each year, hundreds of individuals enhance their lives by participating in the Colleton County Adult Education program. Residents return to school for a variety of reasons: complete high school credentials (High School Diploma or HSED); improve reading, writing, vocabulary, and math skills; learn specific workplace skills for employment upgrade; earn a WorkKeys Career Readiness Certificate at

the Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Level.

Whatever their reason for returning to school, the Colleton County Adult Education program meets their needs. The unprecedented quality of courses offered during day and evening classes make the program one of the best in South Carolina and the United States.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Basic Skills Education Program

Colleton County Adult Education serves hundreds of adult learners every year and the vast majority of those students enroll in the Basic Skills Education Program. Certified and highly qualified teachers work with adult students where they are by building on life experiences. Students practice reading, writing, and math skills for 12 hours during the morning sessions or six hours during the evening sessions each week. Adult learners are encouraged to practice outside of class as often as possible to ensure success in a timely manner. E-learning is encouraged and Adult Ed offers internet-based software specifically designed for the

adult learner at no additional cost to the student. Basic skills education classes assist the adult learner to prepare for the WorkKeys Tests, the HSED tests, and employment requirements. The cost is \$30 per semester.

South Carolina Virtual School Program

Through the partnership with the S.C. Department of Education's Virtual School Program students can take advantage of earning their remaining high school credits. Course offerings include English, math, science, social studies and various electives. Contact Ginger Armentrout (843-782-0018) for more information and for registration requirements and deadlines. Fee: \$150 per course

National Certificate Career Readiness Plus (WorkKeys)

Colleton County Adult Education provides the adult learner the opportunity to prepare for competitive and rewarding employment. Over 250 employers within South Carolina alone require a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) to apply for employment. Certified and highly qualified instructors provide instruction in the areas of applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information. Students can earn a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Certificate based on their test scores. Additionally, students are provided access the Career Ready 101 software specifically designed for preparing students to pass the WorkKeys tests. Colleton County Adult Education has provided over 1,200 adult learners the ability to earn the NCRC.

Classes to brush up on skills before taking the test are also offered. Registration is every Monday morning at 8 a.m. or Tuesday evening at 5 p.m. Whole group instruction, individualized review and practice, computer-based practice, test-taking tips, and more are provided to prepare students for success on the Official WorkKeys Assessments. The cost is \$10 per semester.

High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) Test Preparation

Colleton County Adult Education equips the adult learner to earn the South Carolina High School Equivalency Diploma by passing the HSED tests. Nearly 23 students from the Colleton Adult Education family passed the HSED last year alone. All teachers who assist the adult learner prepare for this challenging seven-and-one-half hour test battery are certified and highly qualified, and have passed the South Carolina State Department of Education HSED Academy. Colleton County Adult Education has assisted hundreds of students over the years earn the S.C. High School Equivalency Diploma which qualifies students to enter both two-year and four-year colleges in and outside South Carolina. Students cannot take the official HSED online or through the mail.

The GED® preparation program will prepares students to take and pass the High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) Test in the areas of math, reasoning through language arts, science and social studies. GED® preparation is essential to help students 17 years and older to succeed in passing the HSED exam. A program can be customized to fit an individual's needs. The cost is \$30 per semester for the HSED classes.

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GROWING INDUSTRY

New industry's move to Walterboro has been a success story

Gary Hyde, general manager of J&L Wire Cloth LLC, says the company's decision to establish a manufacturing facility in Walterboro has been a success story.

"So far we have exceeded our expectations and are pleased with the results," Hyde said.

Earlier this year, J&L opened a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in the former Press Printing building at 387 Mable T. Willis Boulevard after purchasing the 31,000-square-foot building located on 5.1 acres.

The move represented a \$2.5 million investment by J&L Wire Cloth.

Hyde said the company had been considering a plant in the Southeast "because of the market potential in this territory for our products.

"Because everything we do is made of metal, freight is a large consideration as well," he added.

When the search started, the company began to focus on Walterboro.

"Walterboro is conveniently located on the I-95 freight corridor, making it an ideal location to move freight North and South," Hyde explained. "The county and state offered reasonable incentives for investment. The state provides a climate favorable to business in general.

"There have been numerous local officials who have been very accommodating and helpful throughout this process," Hyde added.

The Walterboro facility manufactures galvanized metal shelving and decking for material handling and storage applications.

Hyde predicts more growth at the Walterboro facility. "We anticipate adding additional capital equipment in fiscal year 2018."

MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS

American Peat & Organic Corp.
7902 Green Pond Highway

American Body Building Products/Glanbia
1756 Industrial Road

Badham Chip Mill (Kapstone)
24022 Augusta Highway

Buscot, LLC
220 Anderson Road

Carolina Textile Recycling
68 Anderson Rd.

Carolina Visuals
189 Sunrise Rd., Smoaks SC

Coastal Electric Cooperative
2269 Jefferies Blvd.

Colleton Medical Center
501 Robertson Blvd.

Colleton Software Associates
237 Oakland Dr.

Colleton Tile and Concrete
483 Dorsey St.

Crescent Dairy & Beverages, LLC
181 Crescent Way

Floralife, Inc.
751 Thunderbolt Dr.

IFCO Systems
312 Upchurch Ln.

Interstate Wood Products
372 Upchurch Ln.

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321 Anderson Rd.

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Mable T. Willis Blvd.

JGBR Manufacturing
NEW INDUSTRY
1310 N. Jefferies Blvd.

K&M Tire Distribution
221 Anderson Rd.

Marketing Services International
360 Anderson Rd.

Meter Bearings
20 Anderson Rd.

Novapak Corporation
1950 Industrial Rd.

Palmetto Aero
467 Aviation Way

Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative
2471 Jefferies Hwy.

Paper Converters
1298 Thunderbolt Dr.

Pioneer Boats
208 Upchurch Lane

Premium Packaging
1950 Industrial Rd.

Rockford Manufacturing
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SarlaFlex
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BUILDING COLLETON

Mitchell Construction has been building Colleton businesses since 1936

Since 1932, Mitchell Construction has been building Colleton County. Founded by L.S. Mitchell, the company changed its name to Mitchell & Sons before becoming Mitchell Construction Company Inc. on April 24, 1974.

The company specializes in commercial and industrial construction, historic renovations and construction management in Colleton and surrounding counties. Recent major projects constructed or renovated include the Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative main office, Coastal Electric Cooperative's main office, Forest Hills Elementary, Bells Elementary, Black Street Elementary, Walterboro Ford, Rizer Chevrolet, the Colleton Museum and Farmers Market, Colleton Medical Center's Emergency Department and over a dozen fire stations, including Fire-Rescue on Mable T. Willis Blvd. Mitchell also has the contract to build the new law enforcement center.

Carl Brown took over as president of the company in 1993. A Springfield native, he graduated from Clemson University and has been in construction since 1988. During his tenure,

the company has received The Press and Standard's Readers' Choice Award for Business of the Year several times, been named the Walterboro-Colleton County Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year and received numerous awards from manufacturers.

Brown has served on several local boards, including the City Zoning and Appeals Board and Advisory Board; is a member of the finance committee for St. Anthony's Catholic Church and a former member of the Walterboro Rotary Club and the Colleton Preparatory Academy Board of Directors. He and his wife, Grace Ann Brown, have three children: Jim Brown, 24; Mary Hunter Brown, 21; and West Brown, 12. He enjoys hunting, off-shore fishing, exercising and Clemson football (son Jim is a former Clemson player.)

"Most of our employees have been with us 30-plus years. We are one big family," Brown said. That makes it easy to live up to the company's motto: "We begin projects as friends and end projects as friends."



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COLLETON MEDICAL CENTER

Quality care, close to home

When you or a loved one need healthcare, you want to have access to the best care right near your house. For more than 50 years, Colleton Medical Center has provided that service to the Lowcountry. Located in the heart of Walterboro, the hospital has a long-standing history as a leader in the community with a commitment to patient-centered care. “We are proud and honored to serve the residents of the greater Lowcountry area,” said hospital CEO Jimmy Hiott. “Working together with our hospital employees, medical staff and volunteers, we look forward to continuing our reputation of excellent service to this community.”

While the community has a total population of about 38,000 people, Colleton Medical Center provides care to more than 75,000 patients each year. Because of its location off of two exits of I-95, many people find the hospital during travel emergencies or accidents. Families vacationing in our community during the summer months consistently choose the hospital when their children need medical care.

This is why Colleton Medical Center has experienced more than a 10% growth in ER visits for the past four years in a row. The hospital has responded with consistent investments designed to ensure that it can continue to serve the needs of this growing community now and in the future.

The Emergency Room team alone treated over 37,000 patients in 2016. To better serve those patients, Colleton Medical Center has invested in an ER renovation to be completed in late 2018. The renovation will include an update for all of the patient rooms, as well as some functional changes to the interior that will enable better patient flow. In addition, a new canopy has been added to accommodate Colleton County Fire and Rescue’s vehicles. The staff in the ER is specially-trained in treating emergencies, as well as pediatric hospitalists to treat the children in the community.

In the spring of 2017, Colleton Medical Center received an “A” for patient safety from the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade. The Leapfrog Group, a nonprofit organization committed to driving quality, safety, and transparency in the U.S. health care system, gave Colleton Medical Center the distinguished honor — one of 823 hospitals across the country to receive an “A” for its



commitment to reducing errors and hospital-acquired infections that can harm patients.

“This recognition is a reflection of our continued commitment to our patients and all who are dedicated to providing the highest quality of care for those we serve,” said Hiott. “We are proud to have earned this honor and we strive every day to continue meeting these nationally recognized standards.”

The hospital has also continued to make important upgrades and improvements in technology. Recently, the Ambulatory Surgery Center added a new Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) that is used in a procedure to help reduce the intraocular pressure for patients with glaucoma.

“Our team is made up of members and family members from this community,” said Hiott. “We are truly neighbors taking care of neighbors. Our patients support us as much as we support them; therefore, we are committed to ensure the best quality care whenever you walk through our doors.”

For more information, please visit ColletonMedical.com.



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EMERGENCY

When minutes matter, we're moments away

Cherrie Osburn is no stranger to emergency departments. Over the past four years, she has been battling numerous surgeries and stays in and out of hospitals due to an ATV accident that happened back in 2014.

"I was out one day riding on my four-wheeler, when suddenly I had an accident," Osburn said. "I cannot remember much from the accident but I am thankful for the medical help I have received since my accident."

Osburn came to Colleton Medical Center Emergency Department due to complications from the accident and was greeted by the wonderful staff. "Each member of the ER staff had a way to put me at ease and alleviate some of my worries."

Osburn said, "I feel like I am a fighter! I may have many

more surgeries to go, but blessed with great medical care, I am forever grateful."

Dr. Preston Wendell and Dr. Heather Hinshelwood lead a dedicated team of board-certified ER physicians, physician assistants and registered nurses to care for more than 37,000 patients every year. Colleton currently has a 20-room ER, with four beds dedicated to children. Dr. Scott Luthman and Dr. Donald Black are both dedicated pediatric hospitalists for the ER which allows for specific coverage every night for children. The emergency department also has ER fast-track rooms for patients with minor illnesses and injuries.

For more information, please visit ColletonMedical.com.

ORTHOPEDICS

Comprehensive care from sports medicine to joint replacement

This past March, Tommy Fennell was active. One late Sunday afternoon, Tommy found himself being thrown from his horse. In the midst of being thrown, his leg got stuck and, after a couple times of trying to free himself, he unfortunately fell off the horse and sustained an injury that required surgery.

“The horse starting running around. At first, I thought I could get myself loose without being bucked off, but unfortunately my leg got stuck for a second and I couldn’t get it back around the horse. Then the horse finally bucked me off, landing me on my shoulder,” said Fennell.

A visit to the Edisto Orthopedics and the practice of James Marro, MD, determined what the next steps would be. After xrays were performed, Dr. Marro confirmed that Fennell would have to undergo rotator cuff surgery.

The Colleton Medical staff then scheduled him to receive surgery. “I was nervous about surgery and wasn’t sure what to expect. Dr. Marro and his staff put me at ease and everything worked out so smoothly. They really do treat you like family at the hospital. I even had a visit from Jimmy Hiott, CEO, to check up on me and see how I was feeling. I had rehab in the hospital for a couple of days, and then they set up the therapy appointments I needed at outpatient rehab center. It was just excellent — everyone took such great care of me.”



DR. JAMES
MARRO

Dr. James Marro with Edisto Orthopedic and Sports Medicine has the diagnostic technology and a broad range of orthopedic skills to offer services including total joint replacement, arthroscopy, hand and wrist surgery, and foot and ankle surgery. Many of the surgeries are performed using minimally-invasive techniques with tiny incisions that help patients have less pain and quickly heal and resume their normal activities. Colleton

Medical Center’s comprehensive Physical Therapy Department is also an integral part of recovery and is conveniently located in Walterboro.

Dr. Marro is board-certified by the American Board of Orthopedic surgery. Marro completed his medical degree and residency from New York Medical College in New York and has over 20 years of experience as an Orthopedic Surgeon. He also served in the U.S. Air Force as chief of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. “I am thrilled to be working for Edisto Orthopedics and Sports Medicine,” said Marro. “I look forward to enhancing the care provided to our patients.”

For more information, please visit ColletonMedical.com.

MOMS, DADS & BABIES

Delivering for families in the Lowcountry

Over the past three decades, Walterboro OB/GYN has delivered more than 10,000 babies at Colleton Medical Center and cared for our community’s women from puberty through menopause and every major milestone in between. Dr. Todd Allen and Nurse Practitioner Christy Martin, RN, NP, carry a constant caring and compassionate attitude every day for their patients.

“We are very fortunate to have Dr. Allen in our community and at our hospital,” said Colleton Medical Center CEO Jimmy Hiott. “He has such a great blend of top-notch clinical education and knowledge with a strong passion for providing wonderful care for our community.”

Allen has been a practicing, board-certified OB/GYN since 1996 and specializes in minimally-invasive surgery and adolescent gynecology. He also has a special interest in infertility and

helping women who may have struggled to become pregnant in the past to have a healthy child.

Martin is a graduate of Walterboro High School and the University of South Carolina where she completed both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing. She has been with Walterboro OB/GYN for 16 years and enjoys counseling and caring for teens and young women.



NEW TECHNOLOGY

Dental laser offers pain-free dental procedures

The dental practice of Dr. Shannon M. Pye, DMD, PA, has added a dental laser that provides an anesthesia-free alternative to the traditional drill for hard and soft tissue procedures, one of only three practices in S.C. to offer the new technology.

Solea Convergent Dental's new laser uses a unique wavelength to provide a natural anesthetic effect while the dentist cuts enamel with unprecedented speed and precision. Patients experience virtually painless procedures that take a fraction of the time of traditional methods because there is no need to inject anesthetic or control bleeding — with no needles, no jarring noises, no numb faces and no soreness.

Solea is the first CO2 dental laser system cleared by the FDA for hard, soft and osseous tissue procedures. It was developed in Boston, Mass. by Convergent Dental, based on research conducted at the University of California School of Dentistry. Solea offers a unique wavelength guided by sophisticated computers to deliver virtually painless dental procedures for both teeth and gums from simple cavities to complex surgeries. "We are thrilled to bring this new technology to our practice which will enhance our patients' experience in the dental chair," said Dr. Pye. "The Solea laser offers a completely different and unique approach to conventional dentistry. Approximately 90 percent of the procedures currently performed in our office will now be completed without needles, anesthesia, pain, lingering numbness and anxiety. There is no longer a reason to fear the dentist."

The lack of anesthesia means there is no risk of patients biting themselves because their mouth is numb, so the traditional limit of working in only one quadrant of the mouth per visit no longer applies. Patients can get all their dental needs addressed in a single visit and return to work or home without a numb face and tongue.

"Shannon Pye, DMD, is at the forefront of a dental revolution," said Convergent Dental CEO Michael Cataldo. "People all over the country have been pleasantly shocked after experiencing anesthesia-free and virtually pain-free procedures. The skilled



Dr. Shannon Pye, DMD, and dental assistant Ashley Thomas with the new laser.

practitioners at Dr. Pye's office are now able to deliver that experience to each one of their patients."

A 1989 graduate of Presbyterian College and 1994 graduate of the Medical University of S.C., Dr. Pye completed his residency at Martin Army Hospital in Columbus, Ga. He served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps for five years before opening his practice at 664 Hiers Corner Rd., Walterboro, in July 2002. The practice offers general dental care for all ages. The staff includes Niki Jones, front office; dental hygienists Crystal Jones and Rachel Araneo; and dental assistants Kathy Fracasso-Bowen and Ashley Thomas.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Whether it's support for your existing business or assistance in starting something new, we are here for you.

Come to visit or stay for a lifetime. Many of our visitors do just that. The Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce and our thriving business community are poised for progressive economic development. Where southern hospitality abounds doing business means developing relationships. Community, business and government leaders all work together to foster our economic vitality by ensuring a strong base of small businesses, manufacturing and retail. Industry and corporate executives, as well as new residents, are easily attracted to the array of opportunities to work and live alongside our unmatched natural environment.

We invite you to experience our area and share the benefits of a diverse community that is a melting pot of culture and history, but still maintains the precious quality of life found only in the magnificent natural beauty of the ACE Basin.



Jeremy Ware
President

For New or Existing Businesses:

Take advantage of the networking, exposure and education afforded to members of the Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce. With over 300 members, this organization offers numerous networking and educational events annually while serving as an advocate for business on the local, state and federal levels. In addition, various chamber events, websites and publications such as this one provide exposure for our members to target audiences. To learn how to become a member and invest in your company as well as your community, please contact us. Our office number is 843-549-9595 or email chamberadmin@colletoncounty.org.



WALTERBORO-COLLETON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



REAL ESTATE

Much of Colleton County's charm can be found in its beautiful, historic homes and quaint neighborhoods. If you're looking to buy, sell or relocate, our real estate professionals are ready to help you every step of the way.



Vicki Carl

The first thing I did to prepare for this article was to check the statistics for sales by running a report in the Multiple Listing Service that compares 2016 to 2017. Pen and paper in hand, I was ready to write down how much our market has improved this year. Much to my dismay what I discovered was that our market is relatively flat compared to last year. I couldn't believe what

I was seeing. It seems like the market has been very busy. What I have surmised is that 2016 was a good year in real estate for Colleton County, and we are fortunate to be running about the same with our sales this year. This is a good thing. Of course, it would have been better to see an increase, but we are a small market and there is only so much inventory to sell.

That brings me to inventory. Our inventory of active listings on the market is down. New listings on the market have not kept up with sales. This is going to make growth for our area difficult. Without an increase in listings we cannot increase our sales. We may lose a potential buyer to another area where they can find what they are looking for. This is a very good time for a property owner to sell.

Buyers need to be educated about acting quickly if they find what they are looking for. Our market is steadily becoming a seller's market. In the past, buyers could take their time and, chances are, the house that they want would still be there. But with good market conditions and less inventory, the buyers need to act more quickly. Of course, this is wonderful news for people selling their property. The values are going up and the amount of time on the market is going down. It can't get

much better than that.

Preparing your property to sell is very important. Realtors know what it takes to make your property ready to sell. Listening to them could result in an increase of thousands of dollars in your pocket, from a fresh coat of paint, to decluttering, to curb appeal and more. It all adds up to a quicker sale and more money in your pocket.

Buyers are going to find that interest rates are low. We don't know how long they will continue this way. Each day we fear that we are going to hear that they are on the rise. In many instances, this makes investing in your own home less costly than renting a home.

New buyers in the market frequently want to know the steps of owning their first home. Any of the Walterboro Board of Realtors' offices should be your "go to" place for finding a Realtor that will be more than happy to help educate a buyer with what it takes from start to finish. The best thing a buyer can do is sit down with a Realtor in person. There are websites that a new buyer can go to, but local realtors know what the local programs are offering and how the process of buying a home works locally. Buyers are much more educated than they used to be, and websites are certainly helping with that.

The number one question a realtor asks a buyer is if they have been pre-qualified by a lender for a mortgage. This question used to make buyers feel insulted, but now they understand the importance of this question. Sellers want traffic in their home to be qualified buyers. Buyers want to know what their price range is for purchasing. Often, they are pre-qualified for more than they feel is affordable and that is good to know as

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well – not only what they are qualified for, but also what they are comfortable with budget wise.

Buyers in Colleton County may qualify for 100% financing with a USDA Rural Housing loan. Then there is a VA mortgage for veterans that is also 100% financing. Zero down payment along with low interest rates can make getting a home affordable for a larger pool of buyers. Often a buyer has a good job, good credit, and yet with the economy as it is, they do not have a large pool of money in their savings account. This may also result in negotiating a contract where the buyer asks the seller to pay toward their closing costs and pre-paid expenses. When a buyer asks a seller to help them, that buyer needs to understand that is less a seller is going to receive for the sale of their home; that needs to be considered when determining what they are going to offer as a sales price. The government has put a cap of up to 6% that a seller may help a buyer with their closing costs.

With all of this in mind, it is a great time for a buyer to buy and is a good time for a seller to have a qualified buyer for their home.

For years and years people in the community have been saying that the busy real estate market in the Charleston Area was going to come this way. It is finally happening. A “hot spot” in Colleton County is Cottageville. It is an easy commute to Summerville and Charleston and is where a buyer can find what they are looking for – typically to be away from the hustle bustle of the Charleston area. To top it off property is typically

more affordable in Colleton County.

Colleton County is very fortunate to have a good supply of local Realtors who are educated, caring and ethical and support Equal Housing opportunity for every buyer and seller!

The Walterboro Board of Realtors is very active in the community. This year we had a team in the March of Dimes Walk and the Relay for Life Walk, along with assistance where help is needed throughout the county via our churches and more. Our monthly board meetings include each Realtor bringing nonperishable food items that are donated to local nonprofit charities. Each Realty office is a drop-off point for local citizens to bring donations of nonperishable food that goes to local food banks and more.

The local realtors are the ones that know Colleton County inside and out. Realtors outside of Colleton County are also good in their field, but no one knows the county or the properties that are on the market here better than a local realtor. It is hard for a local realtor to understand why a local property owner would choose a realtor outside of our area to market their property for them.

A member of the Walterboro Board of Realtors is the best choice every time ... all the time.

(Vicki Carl is the president of the Board of Realtors in Walterboro. She can be reached at vcarl1010@aol.com)



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What those who protect the residents of Colleton County do when the sirens aren't blaring and the emergency lights aren't flashing can be as important to a community's well-being as their actions when an emergency arrives..

What those who protect the residents of Colleton County do when the sirens aren't blaring and the emergency lights are flashing can be as important to a community's well-being as their actions when an emergency arrives.

To that end, the Walterboro Police Department, the Walterboro Fire Department, Colleton County Sheriff's Office and Colleton County Fire-Rescue devote much of their workday to educating the public about safety concerns and getting to know the people they serve and what potential issues residents might have.

In the realm of law enforcement, that effort is known as community-oriented policing and under the leadership of Police Chief Wade Marvin, Assistant Chief Kevin Martin and Sheriff R.A. Strickland, community policing has been expanding.

Officers, when possible, are out of their vehicles and developing relationships with community groups, residential and business organizations. You are likely to find an officer visiting with both young and adult city residents. Those efforts seek to build a partnership with the community they serve.



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In this day and age, with social media constantly evolving, law enforcement and fire service agencies strive to embrace the new media as a way to connect with the people they protect.

The city police department has a page on the city's website, www.walterborosc.org and maintains a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Walterboro-Police-Department

The page on the city's website, offer residents an e-mail address to reach city police command officers.

The Walterboro Fire Department's page on the city's website provides information on a number of public safety and fire prevention topics and provides an e-mail address to contact Fire Chief Wayne Lake.

For non-emergency calls the police department can be reached by telephone by 843-549-1811; the non-emergency phone number for the Walterboro Fire Department is 843-549-5731. Colleton County Fire-Rescue, which provides emergency medical services throughout the county and fire protection outside the city limit, has maintained a presence on the internet for years with their www.colletonfire.com.

Colleton County Fire-Rescue, under the leadership of Chief Barry McRoy, has expanded over the years to provide videos and gives users the ability to monitor emergency radio traffic. Among the most recent additions to the website is information on the Zika Virus.

The website has in-depth information about the Fire-Rescue Department, the areas covered and the resources County Council provides to protect the community. Also included are the locations of the fire stations with maps; all of the apparatus and an explanation of its function; sections on public education, the history of the department, general information, how to become a volunteer firefighter, call statistics, employment and frequently asked questions. Videos explain fire safety, how some heart attacks are handled, stroke care and Zika. Included are local evacuation routes, hurricane preparedness and current weather information. There are also many links to obtain additional information on specific subjects. Major incident information is also listed with generic photos.

The non-emergency phone number for Fire-Rescue is 843-539-1960.

The Colleton County Sheriff's Office has a page on Colleton County's website, www.colletoncounty.org, which offers contract information for Sheriff R.A. Strickland and his command staff, as well as related phone numbers including anonymous tip numbers.

The Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/Colleton-County-Sheriffs-Office> offering updates on crime as well as pictures and information on community-related activities sponsored by the office.

The non-emergency number for the sheriff's office at 112 S. Miller St. is 843-549-2211.



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Building Official Inspector
843-782-1005

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843-782-1004

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843-549-2131

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101 Hampton St.
843-549-5791

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843-549-1725

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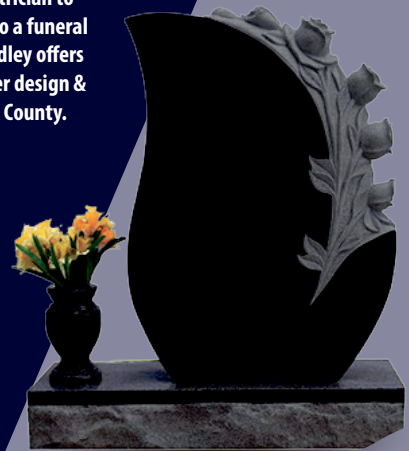
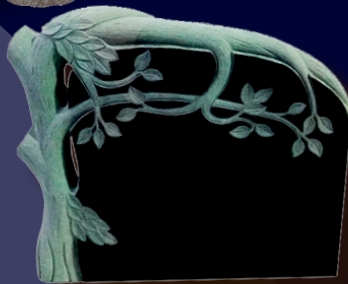
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