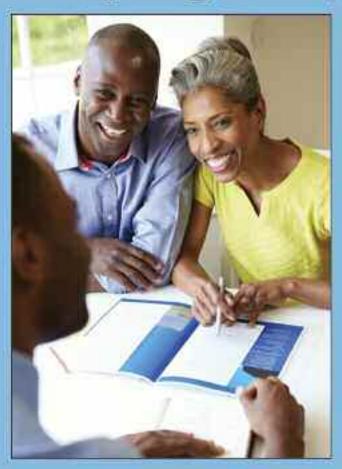


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H/R Director Police	Andrea Anderson Chief Mark Revenew	(912) 748-7261 (912) 748-7333		
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December / January \_\_\_\_\_







Greetings Pooler Community

After an emotionally charged election season, I'm relieved that visions of sugar plums are starting to dance through my head. I am looking forward to packing politics away for a while, pulling out the holiday decorations and celebrating the time of year when family values, traditions and good tidings are foremost on my wish list.

I've been around the block a few times and accept that our lovely holiday tree might take a nose dive and end up in the Christmas pudding. We'll all laugh about it next year. I take pleasure in drinking cocoa from the chipped holiday mug that I unpack each year. It's flawed like its owner, but I cherish what it represents and embrace its imperfections. Just as the sun rises every morning, my old mug will be waiting for me next year and will give me comfort.

There's this world we live in. Like the chipped mug, there are imperfections, but it's the place we all inhabit; a place with thousands of diverse cultures all celebrating unique holiday traditions. Many have moved far from their childhood roots, but all it takes is a song or the sound of a musical instrument from those early years to emotionally transport them home. There are also many like me who keep some version of the chipped cup from their past to remind them of all they hold dear.

No matter how we celebrate, there's always the hope that this will be the perfect holiday. The kids won't get cranky and throw food, the cat won't eat needles from the Christmas tree resulting in an emergency trip to the vet, the turkey and fixings will be divine and everyone will love their presents — even the hideous holiday ties.

Hope is a huge motivator and catalyst for action. It's this powerful little feeling inside us that lies somewhere between wishing and expecting. Life can get messy at times, but we always hope that things will turn out well. The New Year arrives with a new president unlike any before him, leading us into uncharted territory. We are nervous, but hopeful that our divided country will soon get back in the game of living and working together. This is not a perfect world, but when our wishes and dreams don't come true, we create new ones and move forward.

We are a very resilient society and my hope for the future is that we enhance our lives and those of others by carefully listening, showing respect and being genuinely kind.

Merry Christmas, Joyous Holiday and a Happy, Healthy 2017!

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Pooler Today



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## THE READERS CHOICE AWARDS





#### Pride of Pooler 2016

Some Suggested Categories:

Architectural Firm Attorney/Law Firm

Banks/Credit Union

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Bakery

Greetings Pooler Residents! Welcome to the **Pride of Pooler 2016**, brought to you by Pooler Today Magazine. We are proud to provide the Pooler community the opportunity to vote for local businesses that they feel are the **BEST** at what they do. So, please follow the nomination and voting procedures below and help us recognize these outstanding businesses. Only businesses located in Pooler are eligible.

**Make your vote/nominations count**; your ballot must be received by **December 31, 2016**. Votes will be accumulated in two ways: Online or by mail, please see below for details.

Our guidelines and procedures: Winners will be selected by receiving the highest number of votes. The business/organization/person with the most votes in a specific category will receive **The 2016 Pride of Pooler Readers Choice Award** and be acknowledged in the 2017 February/March issue of Pooler Today Magazine. For a candidate to win **The Pride of Pooler Choice Award**, they must receive (5) ten or more

Dry Cleaner

**Florist** 

Financial Advisor

Funeral Home

C-16 C----

Fitness and Training

Emergency/Urgent Care

votes. Only (1) one ballot per person. When you nominate a cit will count as a vote.

#### **How to Nominate Your Favorite Business:**

• Fill out the survey form below and mail to:

Landscape/Lawn Care

Marble, Granite & Tile Co.

Mortgage/Lending Services

Nursery/Garden Center

Nutrition/Health Store

Painter

D----- Cl- - --

Pooler Today Magazine 463 Pooler Parkway Suite 110, Pooler, GA 31322

② Visit Pooler Today online and complete online survey. www.Ayers Group.org, > then go to Readers Choice Award and fill in the online ballot. Here are some sample categories. If you do not see the category for the business you wish to nominate, you are welcome to write it in. New categories may be considered for the 2017 Readers Choice Award.

**That's it** - Thank you for participating as we look forward to unveiling the results next year! For inquiries email **dean@AyersGroup.org**.

If you have additional nominees, you are welcome to list on a separate sheet

Real Estate Agent

Retail Specialty

Wine, Beer & Liquor Store

Restaurants

Veterinarian

Darber/Stylist	Goil Course	rawn shop	
Blinds & Shutters Hair Salon		Pest Control	and so much more, so, tell us what
Carpet & Floor Cleaners	Carpet & Floor Cleaners Heating & Air Conditioning		and who impresses you by nominat-
Floor & Carpet Co.			ing your favorite business. Voting
Day Spa	House Cleaners	Photographer	ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2016.
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## January 1- October 31, 2016



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#### Number of Homes Sold



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#### A Modern Classic of **Southern Cooking: Putting South** In Your Mouth!

By Dianne Carter

Chef Joe Randall at his cooking school, and the dynamic duo, Barbara and Chef Joe sharing memorable meals and fellowship with their guests.

HERITAGE



It is with much sadness for those of us who consider Randall our downhome cooking guru to learn that he will be closing Chef Joe Randall's Cooking School and retiring from his business at the end of 2016.

Known by many as the Dean of Southern Cuisine, Chef Joe Randall has been cookin' up fine southern dishes in Savannah since 1999. Lured by the city's charm and love for traditional southern fare, Randall introduced his talent to the area by preparing a meal for Savannah College of Art and Design President Paula Wallace. The next day he was hired as director of food services for SCAD. His popularity grew and in 2000 he founded Chef Joe Randall's Cooking School where he demonstrates basic southern cooking techniques and shares his favorite cooking tips with clients from around the world. His unique style exemplifies authentic southern cuisine. Using food from the South, the Low Country and Georgia's Atlantic Coast, it doesn't get any better than Joe's mouthwatering Sea Island Smothered Shrimp with Stone-Ground Grits, or a steaming pot of Savannah Red Rice. To show his pride as an African-American chef, Randall has added his signature hand-woven Kente cloth from Ghana to his uniform.

A veteran of the food service industry for more than 50 years, Randall began his career as a cook in the Airforce. In 1966, following his stint in the military, he worked as an apprentice and sous chef and assistant for chefs at hotels and restaurants across the country. Eventually, he rose to executive chef posts at numerous restaurants, including award-winning Cloister Restaurant in Buffalo New York and Baltimore's Fishmarket in Maryland. While there, Randall met and helped groom a young line cook, William McClellan. Inspired by Randall, the first black chef he ever met, McClellan chose to pursue a career as a chef. Today, he owns McClellan's Urban Eatery in Spartanburg, S.C. which features upscale southern cuisine, and travels the country opening restaurants. He also has cooked at events for the two Bush Presidents, and Presidents Clinton

Randall also offered beneficial advice to Mashama Bailey, executive chef at The Grey, a popular, highly respected restaurant in Savannah. "He popped in one day" soon after we opened in 2014 and really liked it, says Bailey. "I am grateful he chose to befriend me."

His vast experience and dedication to professional excellence has earned him the respect of worldwide professional chefs such as television host, Emeril Lagasse and others. Randall has a philosophy about food "keep it simple and make it taste good." Noted for his ability to help others learn

the craft of restaurant operations led to Randall's serving on the faculty

Randall's expertise in southern cuisine is held in such high esteem that he was honored and featured in the Culture Expressions Gallery of the newly opened Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., along with chefs Edna Lewis, Patrick Clark, Leah Chase and Hercules, George Washington's enslaved cook. Randall's cookbook, "A Taste of Heritage: the New African-American Cuisine" and his 40-year-old colander will be on permanent display

A good friend of the late Edna Lewis, the "Grand Dame of Southern Cooking," Randall's mission as chairman of the Edna Lewis Foundation is to fulfill her dream to preserve older cooking recipes and protect Southern cuisine and its heritage in black kitchens. His other professional affiliations have included the American Culinary Federation and the American Academy of Chefs.

Randall's culinary ride has definitely been enhanced by the love and support of Barbara, his wife of 38 years, who retired recently from her job as an administrative specialist assistant at Savannah State University's president's office. The job did not stop her from working nights and weekends at the cooking school for the last 16 years. However, when he first showed her the empty building on Waters Avenue that he envisioned for the cooking school, she said "You've lost your mind. I'm keeping my day job....I hate it when my husband is right." At home, however, Barbara is head chef as noted by the kitchen sign which reads "Barbara's

Kitchen." She jokes that she prefers he not cook in their kitchen because he acts like he has his own personal kitchen crew.

It has been our good fortune that Joe and Barbara Randall chose to make Savannah their home and introduce our community to the nuances and a style of southern cuisine that many of us had never experienced. According to him, it's time for them to move on to the next chapter of their lives. "We truly appreciate all of our loyal and dedicated friends for their patronage and support over the past 16 years," said Randall. "It has been a joyful, wonderful and unforgettable chapter to say the least."

Since 1999, Randall has taught two generations of "food enthusiasts and cooks" at his cooking school. Many of us will be sharing recipes and tips we learned from him to future generations of eager chefs, ensuring that Chef Joe Randall's Cooking School will not be

For those who wish to purchase a collectors edition of this richly diverse cookbook, please contact:

http://www.chefjoerandall.com/book-a-taste-of-heritage/ Here's to a Delicions Tife and Our Best Wishes!





December / January

## CELEBRATION OF PEACE

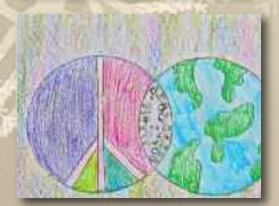


Avy Zhang - Godley Station Laura Simms, teacher





By Neil Yurksitis - Godley Station



Loni Brant from West Chatham Middle Lauren Glover, teacher



By Zephora Pinete - Godley Station



By Matthew Boone - Godley Station



By Hayden Thurman - Godley Station

By Sebrea Jackson - Godley Station

#### Pooler Lions Club Sponsors Celebration of Peace Poster Contest

The Lions Club of Pooler sponsored a "Celebration of Peace" poster contest held on November 15. The contestants were between the age of 11-13 years. This year two schools participated, West Chatham Middle and Godley Station school, and two leading winners won gift certificates for art supplies provided by the Lions Club of Pooler.

The winners of this district event will have a chance of vying for the state competition. The overall grand prize winner will be presented to the international competition, and a \$5000 prize to be presented at the UN next year. Additionally, the winning poster will be made into an international stamp. 23 Merit Award winners will reach receive a \$500 prize. Congratulations to winners Avy Zhang and Lori Brant, and all participants on behalf of the Lions Club and thank you for sharing your vision of Peace.



#### Christmas: The Day God Stepped In

By Reverend John Fender

So often we consider the story of the birth of Jesus as a sweet, simply story for kids. We have this picture in our minds of a humble couple that cannot find a room to stay in, cattle in their stalls, and a baby lying in a manger. The scene seems far removed from the cruelty of the 6 o'clock news or the battles in the Middle East. The scene seems to have little to no connection with my life, my struggles, my past or my future.

We must understand that Christmas is not just a story of a baby being born, but a story of God stepping into a broken world.

The brokenness we experience in this world is a result of that first sin recorded in Genesis chapter three. It was a rebellion against the God who made the world perfect. It was a rebellion that would lead to disastrous consequences: separation from God, physical death, separation in our relationships with one another, and much more. Like the giant waves that result from an earthquake under the sea, so too the effects of that first sin flood into my life.

And for hundreds and hundreds of years the people of God clung to the simple promise that God Himself would come for His people. That promise is first found in Genesis 3:15 which tells us that Jesus will be the seed of the woman who will crush the work of the devil. Genesis 12:3 tells us he would come from the seed/offspring of Abraham and would bless all the nations on earth. Further, the Bible tells us that he would be a "prophet like Moses" to whom God said we must listen (Deuteronomy 18:15). He would be born in Bethlehem of Judah (Micah 5:2). He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). He would have a throne, a kingdom, and a dynasty, or house, starting with King David, that will last forever (2 Samuel 7:16). He would be called "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," "Prince of Peace," and would possess an everlasting kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7).

And finally, in Matthew 1 and Luke 2 we find the glorious news that God has indeed stepped into this broken world to redeem it. God has stepped into this broken world to make all things new. God has stepped into the world to not only save us individually from the consequences of our sin but to transform families and communities, even cities and countries.

So often people will ask, "Where was God when this tragedy occurred?" And part of the answer is that God has not remained in the comforts of heaven but has indeed stepped into the brokenness of this world in the person of the Lord Jesus to begin the glorious work of making all things news. The Christmas story is not just a story about a baby but is a story about a new hope through the One who was born to die. Read the story to your children. Read the story also to your own struggling heart.

Rev. John Fender is the Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pooler, and Chaplin for The Pooler Police Department.



## Toys for Tots Program By The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

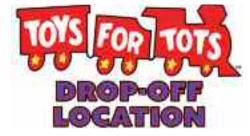
The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.

The objectives of Toys for Tots are to help less fortunate children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas; to play an active role in the development of one of our nation's most valuable resources – our children; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future.

The principal Toys for Tots activity which takes place each year is the collection and distribution of toys in the communities in which a Marine Corps Reserve Unit is located. Local Toys for Tots Campaign Coordinators conduct an array of activities throughout the year, which include golf tournaments, foot races, bicycle races and other voluntary events designed to increase interest in Toys for Tots, and concurrently generate toys and monetary donations.

This year we are pleased to announce that the city of Pooler Toys for Tot drop-off location is at America's Home Place.



#### America's Home Place 1108 East US Hwy 80, Suite 100

(next to Larry's Giant Subs)

Hours Mon. thru Fri. 9 am - 6 pm and Sat 10 am to 4 pm.

Please bring new and unwrapped presents to our local office by **DECEMBER 12, 2016.** 

December / January \_\_\_\_\_



#### Enjoy A Safe Holiday Season

By The National Safety Council

Holiday safety is an issue that burns brightest from late November to mid-January, the time when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes. By taking some basic precautions, you can ensure your whole family remains safe and injury-free throughout the season.

#### Watch Out for those Fire-starters

Turkey Fryers for Thanksgiving and beyond - Many subscribe to the theory any fried food is good – even if it's not necessarily good for you – there is reason to be on alert if you're thinking of celebrating the holidays by frying a turkey.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports there have been 168 turkey-fryer related fires, burns, explosions or carbon monoxide poisoning incidents since 2002. CPSC says 672 people have been injured and \$8 million in property damage losses have resulted from these incidents.

NSC discourages the use of turkey fryers at home and urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments or consider a new oil-less turkey fryer. But for those who don't heed that advice, please follow these precautions:

- Set up the fryer more than 10 feet from the house and keep children away
- Find flat ground; the oil must be even and steady to ensure safety
- Use a thawed and dry turkey; any water will cause the oil to bubble furiously and spill over.
- Fryer lid and handle can become very hot and cause burns
- Have a fire extinguisher ready at all times

#### **Candles and Fireplaces**

About 2,200 deaths were caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries in 2013, according to Injury Facts 2015, and 12% of home candle fires occur in December, the National Fire Protection Association reports. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire.

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle
- Keep candles out of reach of children
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces

- Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year

#### It's Better to Give ... Safely

We've all heard it's important when choosing toys for infants or small children to avoid small parts that can be pulled or broken off and might prove to be a choking hazard. Here are some additional gift-related safety tips you might not have heard about:

- Select gifts for older adults that are not heavy or awkward to handle
- Be aware of dangers associated with coin lithium batteries; of particular concern is the ingestion of button batteries
- For answers to more of your holiday toy safety questions, check us out online at www.nsc.org
- Check out which toys have been recalled

#### Traveling for the Holidays? Be Prepared

Many people choose to travel during the holidays by automobile, with the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation. In 2013, 343 people died on New Year's Day, 360 on Thanksgiving Day and 88 on Christmas Day, according to Injury Facts 2015. Alcohol-impaired fatalities represented 31% of the totals.

- Use a designated driver to ensure guests make it home safely. Alcohol, over-the-counter or illegal drugs all cause impairment
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance being traveled
- Put that cell phone away; distracted driving causes one-quarter of all crashes
- Make sure the vehicle is properly maintained, and keep an emergency kit with you
- Be prepared for heavy traffic, and possibly heavy snow

Remember, when guests are staying in your home, make sure areas have night lights or easy-to-reach lamps in case they need to get up during the night. And, whether you are visiting someone else's home or you have guests in your home, make sure all medications are kept up and away and out of sight from young children.

#### Don't Give the Gift of Food Poisoning

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides some holiday food safety tips. Here are a few:

- Do not rinse raw meat and poultry before cooking
- Use a food thermometer to make sure meat is cooked to a safe temperature
- Refrigerate food within two hours
- Thanksgiving leftovers are safe for four days in the refrigerator
- Bring sauces, soups and gravies to a rolling boil when reheating
- When storing turkey, be sure to cut the leftovers in small pieces so it will chill quicker
- Wash your hands frequently when han



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#### **Pooler Recreation Center** Looking Back On A Year Of Success

Another year draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the year that has past. In 2016, the Pooler Recreation Department has continued to experience growth and expansion throughout the year. With this growth, there has been some exciting moments and milestones reached. Pooler Recreation Center initiated the first season of youth volleyball. While not knowing what to expect, they had a larger than anticipated turnout and the season was a huge success. As a result, volleyball will be offered again Spring of 2017, as well as in the Fall. Another success for the Recreation Center, the 'Kids and Pros' football camp held in the early summer. This organization hosts camps in different areas of the state and the Pooler camp this year set the record for a total number of participants, surpassing Atlanta! With such success, there were a few growing pains, but the program will drive forward with adjustments that will strengthen this great event even more.

Now, in the final month of 2016, the Pooler Recreation Department would like to thank the many people that have contributed to another successful year. It would be impossible to list everyone, but we would like to try and thank each and every one of you. The parents and participants, instructors, sponsors, partners, the community, city officials, and last but certainly not least, the volunteers (without whom none of this would be possible).

Thank you for a great 2016 and look forward to seeing you in 2017!

#### **EVENTS**

Now-December 16

Youth Basketball Practices, Pooler Gyms on Rogers Street December 2-4

Youth Basketball Tournament, Pooler Gyms on Rogers Street

Tumbling Class - Show at Pooler Gym

December 5-16

Tennis Lessons, Dance Classes, and Gymnastics will continue until School is out for holidays

January 3, 2017

All classes resume, youth basketball resumes – games will be 4 to 5 nights per week and on some Saturdays

January 17

Registration for youth baseball, softball, tee ball, volleyball and

spring soccer opens

The Recreation Department programs traditionally follow the school calendar and will break for the Holidays, but will be back in full swing the first week of January. Be on the lookout for the registration periods opening in January for spring programs and events.

If you haven't already, please download the Pooler Rec App, available from both Google Play and Itunes (see above for full details) it's the best way to receive up to date information and announcements.

Between the current programs and classes, scheduled tournaments, special events and high schools sports, Pooler Recreation Department has a very busy and exciting 2017 to look forward to (and just maybe a few new programs or 2...)! Stay tuned.

December / January \_\_\_





Pooler Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Bureau, Juc.

Pam Southard
Executive Director

Happy holidays and greetings from YOUR Pooler Chamber of Commerce. As you can see from the pictures in this article, the chamber is now 326+ members, a tremendous growth since our humble beginnings. Ribbon cuttings and grand openings for our new business members are a regular part of our Chamber agenda, and we are always eager to welcome our new members who bring new and exciting business growth to Pooler.

We always enjoy meeting members of our community and visitors to Pooler. In November, we actually got to spend time with celebrities, Mr. and Mrs. Claus themselves. (See page 16) Although they are not Chamber members (we're working on it), they agreed to be our guests of honor at our Breakfast with Santa/Shop Pooler on November 19th. The event was a huge success. The happy, delighted faces of the children when they saw not only Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, but Ronald McDonald, Pizza Man and the Zaxby's Chicken were heartwarming. All of those attending enjoyed a yummy breakfast of pancakes and sausage. The children (young and old) loved the craft table.

Santa is obviously enjoying Pooler and will be starring in another meet and greet Breakfast with Santa at Chick-Fil-A Pooler on Saturday, 12/10 between 8 - 10:30 am. Check out their website at **cfarestaurant.com/pooler** for details.

Another event of interest to many of you will be our Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on December 15, at the National Museum of the Mighty Eight Air Force Museum 6 - 8 pm. Please join us to recognize the Pooler Officer and Supervisor of the Year and the Pooler Firefighter and Rookie Firefighter of the Year. Call the Chamber of Commerce to reserve your seat, (912) 748-0110.

Also mark your calendars for February 11, 2017 when The Pooler Chamber will be presenting the **Hearts for Heroes Red Tie Gala**. The event will be held at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. Proceeds will benefit Lindsey's Place, a special retreat for young people with special needs.

The chamber continues to encourage businesses to relocate to Pooler. Our city is growing, and with that comes opportunity for employment. Today, Pooler is the hub for commercial development in West Chatham County. And of course, the population of Pooler is also increasing. Retirees are seeing the many benefits that Pooler has to offer. But it does not stop there. Young people and families are seeing the accessibility that Pooler lays at their door steps. With our ideal location, quality of life, low crime rate and a variety of retail, manufacturing and service businesses, Pooler the ideal place to put down roots.

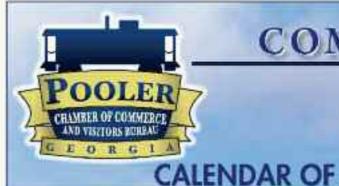
We invite you to visit our website...www.Poolerchamber.com for information and our facebook page...www.facebook.com/PoolerChamberOf Commerce/ for information on upcoming events, new members and other pertinent information. Please stop by our office for coupons and brochures.

With the holiday season fast approaching, the Pooler Chamber of Commerce encourages you to remember the less fortunate. There are many Toys for Tots locations throughout Pooler. And, you may drop off non-perishable food items at the Pooler Police station on Roger's Street or Pooler Parkway. That said...the Pooler Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Ambassadors and staff with you and your family a happy, safe, and blessed holiday.

We hope that you remember the real meaning of Christmas and remember the less fortunate...



Pooler Today



### COME TO

## Events

YOUR OFFICIAL GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN POOLER.

## February 2017 - June 2017

FEBRUARY 11, 2017
HEARTS for HEROES
RED TIE GALA
6:30PM - 11PM
National Museum of the
Mighty Eighth Air Force



MARCH 16th, 17th, 18th
2017
ST. PATRICK'S SHUTTLES
6:30AM-12 midnight
Pick up Molly MacPhersons - Pooler



APRIL 20, 2017
TASTE OF POOLER
5:30PM - 8PM
National Museum of the
Mighty Eighth Air Force

Mighty Eighth Air Force



JUNE 23, 2017
SIP & SAVOR / CASINO NIGHT
6PM - 11PM
National Museum of the



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16 Pooler Today





Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year To You All!



Back in the days when I could still stay up past midnight, I loved to invite friends over for a midnight brunch on New Years. Before leaving for a party, I would start the grits cooking in the crock pot and place a cold breakfast casserole in the oven with the timer set to start cooking it at 11:30 p.m. After we brought in the New Year together, everyone headed over to our house for a hot breakfast and mimosas.

Whether it's after a late night celebration or an early morning breakfast after opening gifts from Santa, this breakfast casserole is sure to please. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

#### South of the Border Breakfast Casserole

6 slices white or wheat bread, cubed

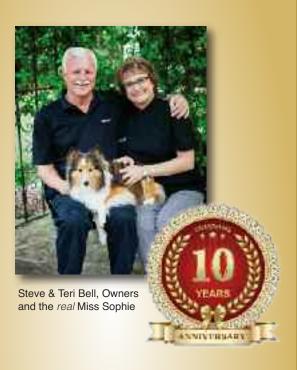
- 1 pound hot ground sausage
- 1 red or green bell pepper, diced
- 6 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 ½ cups milk or half and half
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack Cheese Salsa

Spray a 9X13 pan with cooking spray. Spread bread cubes across the bottom of the prepared pan and set aside. In a medium skillet, cook sausage and bell pepper until sausage is browned. Drain well. Sprinkle cooked sausage and bell pepper over bread crumbs. In a medium mixing bowl, beat together eggs, milk, sour cream, salt and pepper. Stir in cheese and pour over bread & sausage. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight.

To cook: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Uncover and bake for 35-40 minutes or until center is set and top is golden brown. Remove from oven and allow to cool for 10 minutes before slicing. Slice and serve topped with salsa.

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December / January \_\_\_\_\_





Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

And this will be a sign for you you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12

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Thanks again Traci!

-Glenn and Lindy Hill

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## Money Matters



## Forget the Election, Focus on Investment Long Haul By Jill Schlesinger

Defying the polls and odds, Donald J. Trump won the presidential election. As the results became clear on the evening of November 8, financial markets around the world reacted swiftly: Stocks plunged (at one point during the overnight session, U.S. futures were down 5 percent, indicating a more than 800 point wipe out for the Dow Jones Industrial Average), the Mexican peso cratered by 13 percent, the U.S. dollar tumbled and safe havens like gold, U.S. Treasury bonds and the Japanese yen jumped.

Then a strange thing happened: as Trump spoke in the wee hours after capturing enough Electoral College votes to win, markets started to reverse course, as investors seemed to take some comfort in his conciliatory tone. By the

time they rang the opening bell on the day after the election, stocks had steadied and actually closed higher on the session.

So what happened over the course of 18 hours? In the short run, investors may have learned a lesson from the UK Brexit vote. After that unexpected outcome in June, U.S. stocks were down 5 percent in the subsequent two trading sessions, but then they slowly marched back up as investors concluded that it would take a long time to figure the impact of Great Britain's departure from the European Union.

While investors had been concerned about some of candidate Trump's campaign rhetoric on trade and immigration, in the immediate aftermath of the election, it was hard to measure the impact on the U.S. and global economies, as well as what future policies could mean for corporate earnings.

Still, hours after the results came in, I was inundated with reader/listener/viewer questions that went something like this: "What should I do with my retirement account?" The answer for long-term investors is clear: **ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!** 

Unexpected events can create market volatility - both to the upside and the downside, which can lure you into feeling like you should do something. Try to resist that urge by reminding yourself that you are not investing for the next four weeks, four months or even four years - you are trying to build your nest egg beyond those time frames. And even if you were planning on retiring at the end of this year, you aren't likely to pull all of your money from your account at once - you need it to last for decades in the future. In other words, you are not investing to retirement; rather you are investing through retirement.

That's why you have created a diversified port-

folio, based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon - because over the long term, this strategy works. Yes, the unknown is scary and can lead to market volatility, but you have to refrain from being reactive to short-term market conditions. It's not easy to do, but sometimes the best action is NO ACTION.

If you were freaked out when you saw big numbers on the downside, maybe your portfolio has too much risk. If that's the case, you may need to readjust your allocation to better align with your risk tolerance. If you do make changes, be careful NOT to jump back into those riskier holdings after markets stabilize. Conversely, if you were kicking yourself for not being fully invested as stocks swung back to the upside, you might need to hold your nose and get back in.

One last note: battling emotions is something every investor encounters. One way to help you out is to establish auto-rebalancing for your accounts, which can help take fear and anxiety out of the investment process.

Jill Schlesinger, CFP®, is the Emmy-nominated, Business Analyst for CBS News. Jill appears on CBS radio and television stations nationwide covering the economy, markets, investing and anything else with a dollar sign. She translates complicated business and economic news into understandable, relatable topics for everyday viewers and listeners. Jill is also the host of the nationally syndicated radio show, "Jill on Money", which airs over 80 markets. Jill is a LinkedIn Influencer and also writes the nationally syndicated column "Retire Smart" for Tribune Media Services. (Contact Jill Schlesinger, senior business analyst for CBS News, at askjill@moneywatch.com.

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#### After the Hurricane Ten Things You Should Know About Mold

Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma and other respiratory complaints. There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.

If mold is a problem in your home, you must clean up the mold and eliminate sources of moisture. Fixing the source of the water problem or leak will help prevent mold growth.

Reducing the indoor humidity (to 30-60%) will decrease mold growth by: Venting bathrooms, dryers and other moisture-generating sources to the outside, and using air conditioners and de-humidifiers.

Increasing ventilationwill also make a difference, using exhaust fans whenever cooking, dishwashing and cleaning. Make sure to clean and dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.

Cleaning mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely. Absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles, that are moldy, may need to be replaced.

Prevent condensation by reduce the potential for condensation on cold surfaces (i.e., windows, piping, exterior walls, roof, or floors) by adding insulation.

In areas where there is a perpetual moisture problem, do not install carpeting (i.e., concrete floors with leaks or frequent condensation). Molds can be found almost anywhere; they can grow on virtually any substance, providing moisture is present. There are molds that can grow on



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#### A Precious Gift of Life for the Holidays

By Becca Bruni Director of Development & Marketing Humane Society for Greater Savannah

Let the Humane Society help you give a precious gift this holiday season.

Each year in the United States alone, 2.7 million adoptable dogs and cats are euthanized because too few people adopt from shelters. Because space within shelters is limited, staff members too frequently are required to decide which animals will be euthanized. The number of euthanized animals could be reduced dramatically if more people adopted pets instead of buying them. By adopting from a humane society or private animal shelter, rescue group, or from a local animal-control agency, you will help save the lives of two animals – the pet you adopt, and a homeless animal somewhere who can be rescued because of the space you helped free up vital resources.





When you adopt, you adopt a healthy pet animal shelters and rescue groups are brimming with happy, healthy animals just waiting for someone to take them home. Here at HSGS we examine, vaccinate, spay or neuter and microchip all of our pets prior to adoption. In addition to medical care, we also screen animals for specific temperaments and behaviors to make sure each family finds the right pet for its lifestyle. It is a common misconception that animals end up in shelters or with rescue groups because they've been abused or done something "wrong." In fact, most animals are given to shelters or rescue groups because of "people reasons" like a divorce, a move, lack of time, and financial constraints are among the most common reasons pets lose their homes... not because of anything they've done.

Adopting a pet is much less expensive than buying a pet at a pet store or through other sources. For \$9-\$300 your adopted pet is already vaccinated, fixed and micro-chipped! And at HSGS, every adoption includes a free vet visit and 30 days of free pet insurance! That's a steal!

Pets have a way of putting a smile on your face and a spring in your step. Not only do animals give you unconditional love, but research confirms that pets provide us humans with psychological, emotional, and physical benefits. Caring for a companion animal can provide a sense of

purpose and fulfillment as well as lessen feelings of loneliness and isolation in all age groups. Simply put, pets aren't just good friends; they're also good medicine and can improve a person's well-being in many ways.

If you adopt, you won't be supporting puppy mills and pet stores Puppy mills are "factory style" breeding facilities that put profit above the welfare of dogs. Most animals raised in puppy mills are housed in shockingly poor conditions with improper medical care. The "parents" are kept in cages; bred over and over for years, without human companionship and little hope of ever joining a family. And after they're no longer profitable, breeding dogs are simply discarded – either killed, abandoned or sold at auction. Puppy-mill puppies are sold to unsuspecting consumers and pet stores, over the Internet, at flea markets and through newspaper classified advertisements to anyone willing to pay for them. Marketed as from great breeders, well-honed sales tactics keep money flowing to the puppy mills. Buyers never get to see where the pups are bred (a vital step in puppy-buying). Many of the puppies have serious behavioral and health problems that might not be apparent for months, including medical problems that can cost thousands of dollars to treat, if they are treatable at all.





Unfortunately, a lot of people are not even aware that puppy mills exist, so when they buy a pet from a pet store, online or other retail outlets, they are unwittingly supporting this cruel industry. By adopting instead of buying a pet, you can be certain you aren't supporting the cruelty of puppy mills. Puppy mills will continue to operate until people stop purchasing from them. Instead of buying a pet, visit your local shelter or contact a local rescue group, where you will likely to find dozens of healthy, well-socialized puppies, kittens, and adult pets – including purebred – just waiting for that special home. Yours!





28 Pooler Today



#### My Pet World Q&A's

By Marc Morrone

Q: My son recently got a Labradoodle puppy. She is now 4 months old. He has had her since August. He just finished building a dog pen. It is large about 20 feet long. The problem is she won't poop or pee in the pen, which is on a cement slab. She holds it till she is on the lawn. My son puts her poop in the pen to show her, no luck. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

A: Well it is obvious that she regards the pen as her home and she does not want to soil it. So the best thing to do would be to make part of her pen different from the rest of it so she does not feel like she is violating her instincts.

The best way to do this is to get some wooden garden ties that are used for creating borders around a lawn and nail them together to create a square in the pen about 4-by-4 feet. Then fill the resulting square with pea gravel and sprinkle some grass clippings on top of the gravel to entice her.

Most likely she will use it right away and you can then scoop out the poop and hose out the gravel bed. All my dogs used such a set up and they would always gravitate off the lawn to pee or poop in their "dog toilet."

Q: We have two parakeets - a male and female - and they have been together for three years now. I swear that they are in love with each other and their devotion is quite humbling. They never leave each other's side and do everything together. I believe they love each other as we human beings do, but my husband thinks animals cannot love like humans do. What is your opinion on this topic?

A: This is a hot question, as love is not totally understood in humans, let alone in animals. I certainly am not qualified to answer such as question.

However, just about everything I learned about animals was from the works of the late great scientist Konrad Lorenz, who won a Nobel Prize in 1973 for his work on the organization of social behavior in animals.

He kept many greylag geese and jackdaws and often said that some pairs had clearly fallen in love; other scientists took him as being too sentimental about this. His reply to the scientists was: "It is the accurate term for a real phenomenon for which there is no other name. I consider the term appropriate to any species, if that is in fact what they do."

So forget my opinion, Konrad Lorenz would say that your parakeets are indeed in love and as far as I am concerned that is the end of that.

Q: We adopted a hound mix from a rescue group. They take care of the animal getting spayed and neutered. This dog is a sweetheart and just loves people. Though, he has one bad habit - he goes out of his way to mount our legs. Why would a neutered dog do this? I always thought that neutering removes these behaviors?

A: Neutering a dog will remove all testosterone from its body, thus in theory all the behaviors associated with it. However, the timing of it determines the efficacy of the operation. The earlier it is done the greater the likelihood of success since the unwanted behaviors have yet to be established.

In your case, the dog was most likely neutered later in life, and so the mounting behavior he manifests is now a learned behavior and hard wired into his head.

The key here is to never give the dog the opportunity to do it. If he starts just get up and walk away or push him off quickly and with no drama. The whole family has to be consistent - if he tries to do it 10 times and is foiled but on the 11th time he gets to do it, then he will continue to try all the harder.

Some dogs though are chronic in this way. My Cairn Terrier was neutered late in life and he was a habitual mounter. We were able to teach him to leave us alone, but we were never able to stop him from doing it to pillows or whatever other house hold object that he found attractive.

Marc Morrone has kept almost every kind of animal as a pet for the last half-century and he is happy to share his knowledge with others. Although he cannot answer every question, he will publish many of those that have a general interest. You can contact him at petxperts2@aol.com.

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THE READERS

CHOICE AWARDS



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See page 8 for all the details.





## Guten Tag, Shoppers! By Dianne Carter

Pooler is excited to announce that Aldi, a discount supermarket and one of the fastest growing retailers in the U.S., is planning to open a location at the corner of Maxwell Drive and Trader's Way. This comes just months after Pooler approved plans for Lidl, another discount supermarket, to open a location on the other side of Pooler Parkway in the Pooler Marketplace. Both of the chains are German in origin and offer a similar cost-effective approach to grocery shopping.

With nearly 1,600 stores in 34 states, Aldi's strategy is a simple one. While typical supermarkets carry about 30,000 items, Aldi sells only weekly high-quality must-haves that include fresh meats, fruits vegetables and bakery items. The grocery story is full organic and bans all pesticides. Customers can find most of the items on their weekly shopping list at Aldi. Smaller inventory means smaller stores, which results in lower rent and electricity costs. They pass the savings on to the customer.

The grocer also offers ALDI Finds which are premium food and household products only in stores for a limited time. The incentive here is "take it soon before it's gone forever."

Although Aldi's carries some national brand products, more than 90% of the store's products are Aldi exclusive brands which are manufactured by many of the nation's leading food producers. This allows them to provide the same high quality without passing on hidden costs associated with national brands such as marketing and advertising. According to Aldi's, many of their shoppers have found that switching from national brands to Aldi exclusive brands can save them up to 50% on their weekly groceries.

The store also uses the Aldi Test Kitchen to ensure that their products meet or exceed the quality and taste of national brands. The best test, of course, is customer loyalty. People would not keep coming back and the company would not continue to grow the way it is doing, if they didn't sell premium products.

Aldi's strategy also includes streamlining the shopping experience. For example, they implemented an efficient shopping cart rental system. Shoppers pay a quarter for a cart which is refunded when they return the cart. Benefits to this include no stray carts taking up spaces in the lot or causing dents to cars and not having to hire someone to police the carts. Once again, they pass the savings to the customer.

Another cost saving measure is encouraging the customer to bring their own bags or purchase a reusable Aldi bag, rather than adding bag costs to prices. In doing so, they also save resources to protect the environment.

Although a grand opening has not yet been scheduled, keep your reusable bags and quarters close at hand, so you're prepared to head to Aldi for a unique shopping experience unlike anything else in the market.

Check them out online **www.aldius** and if you are interested in a job go to **www.jobhat.com**.





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#### **Identity Theft**

By Veronica L. Voisine, AAMS®, CRPC® Financial Advisor, Edward Jones



Identity theft is a big problem. How big? Consider this: In 2015, about 13 million Americans were victimized, with a total fraud amount of \$15 billion, according to Javelin Strategy & Research. That's a lot of victims and a lot of money. How can you protect yourself from becoming a statistic?

#### Here are a few suggestions:

- ◆ Secure your Social Security number.
- Identity thieves eagerly seek Social Security numbers, so don't give out yours to anyone who asks for it. In fact, as a general rule, be reluctant to give it out at all. Always ask whomever you're dealing with if he or she will accept another form of identification, or at the very least will take just the last four digits of your number. And never carry your Social Security card with you.
- ◆ Shred credit card offers and bank statements. If you're not going to apply for the credit cards offered to you, shred the offers. Identity thieves have been known to go through garbage, fill out credit card offers and take advantage of them. At the same time, shred your bank and brokerage statements, and any other statement containing personal or financial information.
- ◆ Study your credit card bills and checking account statements. Question any credit card charge or checking account activity you don't recognize as

your own.

- ◆ Don't give out your credit card number unless you are initiating a purchase. Many of us shop online. As long as you're dealing with a reputable merchant who uses a secure site, i.e., one that has "https" in the web address, you should be fairly confident that your credit card information is protected. Never give out your credit card number to people or businesses who, unsolicited, try to sell you something over the phone or Internet.
- ◆ Protect your passwords. Do you use a password to log onto your computer? If so, don't share it with anyone, outside perhaps your most trusted family members. Use a strong password, one that doesn't contain your real name or even a complete word that could be used to identify you. Also, it doesn't hurt to periodically change your password, whether it's for your computer login or entry to any of your financial or consumer accounts.

Even after taking these steps, you could still run into identity theft. That's why you need to watch for certain signs, such as the arrival of unexpected credit cards or account statements, denials of credit for no clear reason, or calls or letters regarding purchases you didn't make. If any of these things happen to you, you may want to place a "fraud alert" on your credit reports and review them carefully. Three national credit-reporting companies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion keep records of your credit history. If someone has misused your personal or financial information, contact one of the companies and ask for an initial fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert is free, but you must provide proof of your identity. And the company you call must tell the other companies about your alert.

For more information on placing a fraud alert, visit the website of any of the three companies.





Veronica L Voisine, AAMS®, CRPC®

Financial Advisor

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Is Your Child Too Clumsy?

By Katherine Searight Kirby, P.T., DPT

Bumps, bruises, falls, and spills are all part of a normal childhood. But when is clumsy too clumsy? If you notice specific warning signs in your child, he could have coordination impairments.

Children develop at different rates, so it's best to not compare your child to another. However, if you see that your child is unable to keep up with other kids her age in team sports or on the playground, she may have problems with gross motor coordination.

Does your child struggle with gross motor skills, such as running and crawling, that more than 75 percent of kids his age can complete? Or does he avoid gross motor tasks altogether, because he cannot do them? These could be signs of coordination impairments.

Other warning signs of coordination impairments include:

- Significantly delayed gross motor skills (greater than two months behind for children under 1-year-old, or six months or more behind for children older than one year)
- Frequent falls
- A child who rarely or never extends her arms to catch herself to prevent her head hitting the floor from a fall
- Skips significant gross motor skills, i.e., crawling
- ➡Difficulty climbing onto chairs, rocking horses or bicycles
- Difficulty with a hard gross motor task, such as a baby unable to crawl over an obstacle; a 3-year-old unable to go up and down stairs switching feet, so only one foot is on a step at a time; a 4-year-old unable to ride a bike with training wheels or a tricycle; a 5-year-old unable to skip
- Daycare providers or teachers express concerns

If your child has any of these warning signs, he might suffer from dyspraxia. Children with dyspraxia have difficulty developing and executing motor plans that are fundamental for all coordinated movements.

Physical therapists can help children with coordination impairments learn advance gross motor skills to improve their safety, function, and ability to play with other children.

Physical therapists can identify errors in motor planning and abnormalities in strength, rhythm and gross motor deficits. They can then address abnormalities or deficits and break up gross motor skills so that children are able to learn and catch up with their peers.

Katherine Searight Kirby is a pediatric physical therapist who sees children Ask your primary care physician for a referral to our Pediatric Physical Therapy prove their safety, function and ability to play with other children.

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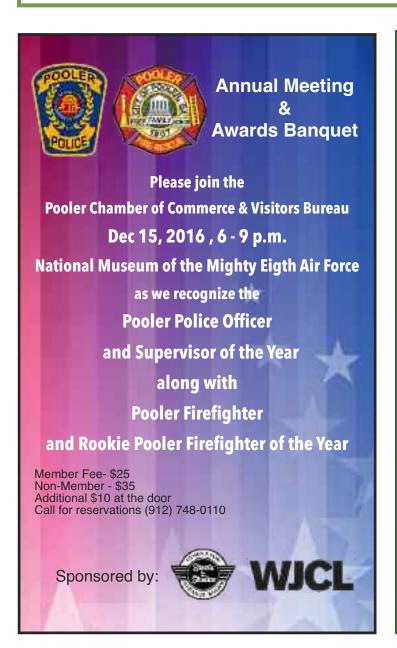
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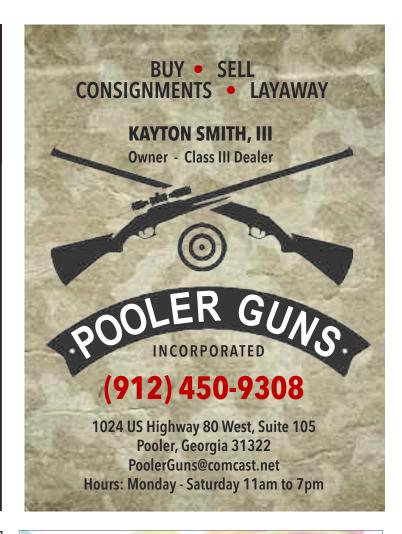
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# Christmas **Underway In Pooler**

The city of Pooler residents came out to usher in the Christmas holiday at Joe Baker Park on November 27. Although the highlight was a Christmas tree lighting, the evening was filled with lots of fun activities for all. Huge crowds enjoyed the live festive music, and the Christmas Story was read to the excited children with hot coco, roasted s'mores, and peppermint sticks.

This year Santa arrived on a very special and high-tech rig provided by our Pooler Fire Department.



Photos courtesy of Rev. John Fender and Michelle Smith

Many thanks to our Mayor Mike Lamb, Jeffrey Hubbard, The Pooler Fire and Rescue Department, Pooler Police Department, Pooler Lions Club, and our local Pooler churches: Pooler Bible Church, First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church of Pooler, Gateway, Rothwell Baptist, and West Chatham Baptist Church for their participation and making this evening a great success!

Ho Ho Ho and Merry Christmas to All!







December / January -



# Pain Relief From Corticosteroid Injections Can Vary Greatly MAYO

By Paul Huddleston, M.D., Orthopedic Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I have osteoarthritis in my spine. About a month ago, I got a steroid shot in my lower back because my doctor said it might help with stiffness and pain in my back and legs. It worked wonderfully, and my symptoms are gone now. How does this medicine work? If the pain comes back, could another one of these shots take care of it again? Or is my arthritis gone?

ANSWER: The injection you received likely contained a corticosteroid medication. These powerful drugs can be very useful in treating many conditions that cause joint pain, including osteoarthritis.

How long the effects of a corticosteroid injection last can vary quite a bit, depending on your health and the severity of your symptoms. If your pain returns, you may be able to get another injection. Because of the possibility of serious side effects, though, the number of injections and how often you can receive them is limited. Unfortunately your arthritis is not gone, even if you're not currently having any symptoms.

A corticosteroid shot helps relieve joint pain by decreasing inflammation in and around a joint. They're used in people who have osteoarthritis because the disease frequently leads to joint pain, tenderness and swelling, especially in the hands, knees, hips and spine. The injections also are commonly prescribed for people who have pain due to other disorders, such as tendinitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, gout, bursitis and rheumatoid arthritis, to name just a few.

Getting a corticosteroid shot usually involves only an office visit to your doctor. Before the injection, the area around the injection site is cleaned. Your doctor may apply an anesthetic spray to numb the area where the needle is inserted. To make sure the needle is placed correctly, your doctor may use ultrasound or a type of x-ray called fluoroscopy to watch where the needle goes inside your body.

After the needle is inserted, the medication is released into the injection site. Typically, these shots include the corticosteroid medication to relieve pain and inflammation over time, as well as an anesthetic to provide immediate pain relief.

How long the pain relief from a corticosteroid injection lasts depends a great deal on your individual health situation. For some people, the effects may last only a week or two, while others may be symptom-free for several months or more.

Corticosteroids can be very effective in relieving symptoms such as joint pain, tenderness and stiffness, but they're not without risks. For some people, the shot may cause a flare of pain and inflammation in the joint just after it's given. In most cases, these symptoms fade within 48 hours of receiving the injection.

Although uncommon, longer-lasting complications can include nerve damage, joint infection, damage to nearby tendons, and thinning of the bones near the injection site. There are some individuals who have temporary pain relief due to the numbing medicine commonly used with these shots, but they don't obtain long-term pain relief. Additionally, people who take blood thinners for the treatment of stroke, heart or clotting disorders may not be able to have the injections safely while on those medications.

There is some evidence that repeated corticosteroid shots do not change the way arthritis in the spine progresses over time. Chronic use of the shots eventually can cause cartilage within a joint to deteriorate, resulting in permanent joint damage. Because of that, these injections are usually not given more often than once every six weeks. It's also typically recommended that people receive corticosteroid injections no more than three or four times a year.

If you notice your symptoms of osteoarthritis returning, review the benefits and risks of a second corticosteroid injection with your doctor to help decide if another shot may be the right choice for you.

(Mayo Clinic Q & A is an educational resource and doesn't replace regular medical care. E-mail a question to MayoClinicQ&A@mayo.edu. For more information, visit www.mayoclinic.org)



# One CAN at a Time

Drop off your Can Food items to the Pooler Fire Department on Rogers Street and Pooler Parkway. Your donations are appreciated and will help those in need this holiday.

40 Pooler Today



## Enterprise Rent A Car Foundation Supports America's Second Harvest Of Coastal Georgia Efforts To Fight Hunger By Mary Jane Crouch

Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation Donates \$7,000 to America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia. On November 22, America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia received \$7,000 from the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation to address food insecurity in coastal Georgia. The donation is part of a program – called Fill Your Tank – that celebrates Enterprise Rent-A-Car's 60th anniversary by providing \$60 million over six years to fight hunger around the globe. The Fill Your Tank program donations made locally are determined by local Enterprise operations.

Beyond donations, Enterprise Rent-A-Car is supporting the Fill Your Tank program with a hunger awareness and local engagement campaign. Hunger is often invisible, and the campaign helps make hunger in our communities more visible.

In presenting the donation, Tyson Bragg, Group Human Resources Manager said, "Enterprise Rent-A-Car is woven into the fabric of the coastal Georgia community, and food insecurity is an issue for our community. This donation to America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia will support those in our community who need a little help to reach their full potential."

Globally, one in nine people doesn't get enough food to be healthy and lead an active life, according to the World Food Programme. Today, more than a third of households served by Feeding America include at least one child. And, according to Food Banks Canada, 13 percent of Canadians live in a state of food insecurity, which means they do not have reliable access to adequate amounts of safe, good-quality, nutritious food.

Mary Jane Crouch, Executive Director of America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, said, "We are so appreciative of Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation's support and commitment to ending hunger and their staff for their volunteerism to making a difference."

About: America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, Inc. America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia serves as a regional food bank, functioning as the food warehouse and distribution center to more than 275 non-profit organizations and churches in our area. Through food relief programs and collaboration with partner agencies, America's Second Harvest distributed more than 13 million pounds of food last year to people in need in our community – children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness and others whose incomes are insufficient to meet their basic needs. To learn more about the fight against hunger in our community, call (912) 236-6750 or visit www.helpendhunger.org.

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### After Hurricane Matthew: Free Local Services - Disaster Assistance

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available to Savannah Residents Affected by Hurricane Matthew

Disaster unemployment assistance is available to workers in Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh and Wayne counties who lost income as a direct result of Hurricane Matthew in Georgia.

The purpose of disaster unemployment assistance is to help workers whose primary incomes are lost or interrupted by a federally declared disaster. It differs from regular state unemployment insurance because it provides benefits to people who are self-employed, farmers, loggers and employees who work on commission.

Individuals in the ten counties approved for disaster assistance in Georgia must first apply for regular unemployment insurance by visiting the Georgia Department of Labor website at **dol.georgia.gov** or apply in person at any Georgia Department of Labor career center.

For locations, visit dol.georgia.gov/locations/career-center.

The Georgia Department of Labor will notify claimants if they are also eligible to file for disaster unemployment assistance.

For more information on applying for disaster unemployment assistance visit the Georgia Department of Labor website at FAQs on Disaster-Related Benefits.

For updates on Georgia's Hurricane Matthew response and recovery, follow @ChathamEMA, @GeorgiaEMA, and @FEMARegion4 on Twitter and visit gemhsa.ga.gov and fema.gov/disaster/4284.

#### Legal Assistance

FEMA is now providing legal assistance to low-income Georgia disaster survivors who need help with home repair contracts and contractors, counseling on landlord-tenant issues or assistance with life, medical and property insurance claims. Individuals who qualify for assistance will be matched with Georgia lawyers who have volunteered to provide free, limited legal help.

Legal assistance can include:

- Help securing FEMA and other government benefits available to disaster survivors.
- Assistance with consumer's protection issues such as price gouging and avoiding contractor scams in the rebuilding process.
- Replacement of wills and other important documents lost or destroyed in the disaster.

• Counseling on mortgage-foreclosure problems.

Toll-free legal hotline to connect disaster survivors affected by Hurrican Matthew with legal aid providers is 866-584-8027. Local residents may call 404-527-8793. The lines are open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

Note: This service is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency not Chatham Emergency Management Agency.

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Don't wait for an insurance settlement to apply for Disaster Assistance through FEMA.

Those affected by Hurricane Matthew only have until DECEMBER 16, 2016 to sign up for assistance.

Call 1-800-621-3362, or visit us at: www.disasterassistance.gov.

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Send us your **Pooler Today Classified**, and begin promoting. Great for garage sales, lost and found, for sale items, babysitters, jobs wanted/needed, services and much more ...

You do not need to be a Pooler resident to place a classified ad in Pooler Today.

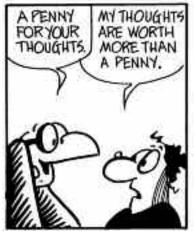
#### **SPECIFICATIONS AND COSTS**

Classified advertisements: Cost: \$25 per issue for 50 words or less.

Pooler Today is a bi-monthly publication and reserves the right to edit the length of submissions and appropriate listings for inclusion. Space is very limited.

Your copy must be received by the 20th of the month (May, July, September, November) for the following months publication.

Please forward your classified copy via email to **dean@AyersGroup.org**. For inquiries, please call us at (702) 767-0508.









December / January \_\_\_\_\_



**Photo by Cierra Ayers** 

# The Queen Sends Her Regards

By Dean Ayers

London is one city that is probably on everyone's bucket list. It has been many years since I first visited and Cierra had never touched down on England's soil so we decided to visit there from Bruges and Amsterdam.

The word chunnel has been in my vocabulary ever since the Channel

Tunnel was conceived in 1994 so this was my chance to test it out. The Channel Tunnel connects France (near Calais) to Folkestone in the United Kingdom via a 31.35 mile-long tunnel under the English Channel's Straits of Dover. The tunnel reaches a depth of 250 ft. at its deepest point and top speed is 99 mph. The hype did not live up to the experience since you never actually see the tunnel and the entire ride is in total darkness.

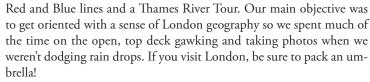
We chose to stay at Park Grand Hotel, a small boutique hotel in

the Lancaster Gate district just a short walk to Hyde Park and Paddington The service was excellent and the staff treated us like family. Their location was perfect for us because we like to walk and ride buses when we travel and we did a lot of both.

The Park Grand was experimenting with a new service that we tested and loved. Each room is provided with a FREE cell phone loaded with unlimited international phone calls, internet service and loaded with apps; directions, sights, restaurants, etc... to make our stay more manageable.

Arriving in the early evening, we inquired about good, local food for dinner. Hotel staff recommended The Swan, a local pub a few blocks away. Keep in mind our visit was during UEFA Soccer Championship so The Swan was crowded and noisy with soccer games on every TV. "When in London..." so we ordered the Frontier-battered Fish & Chips, Cierra's favorite dish and it did not disappoint. I imbibed a few pints and enjoyed the ambiance. No trip to London is complete without a visit to at least one British pub to experience the culture, food and to create fond memories.

After breakfast the next morning in our hotel, we took a brisk walk to Marble Arch where we started a day of sightseeing on Big Bus Hop-On Hop-Off Tour. We purchased the 48-hour ticket that included both the



We got off the Red Tour bus at Piccadilly Circus, London Bridge, Tower of London. Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace, spending more time at the latter. With English blood coursing through my

> veins, it may be the heritage of the "Motherland" that is most fascinating to me. We missed the changing of the guard but loved viewing the Royal Guards and meandering about with the thousands of tourists flocking to this historical palace.

We ate lunch at Covent Garden, the popular theater district. There are numerous options, but we settled on Cote Brasserie. The place was crowded but full of English charm. We dined on a delicious meal of steak & frites, and enjoyed chatting with the staff, who were fun and engaging.

The next morning it was raining lightly as we headed out to Knightsbridge via Hyde Park and

Kensington Gardens. The English gardens that surrounded The Serpentine pond that runs through the park were beautiful. Cierra was eager to view the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain, but small and seemingly hidden, it fell far below our expectations.





We emerged in the rain in Knightsbridge (an area known for its swanky restaurants and luxury shops) and headed straight for Harrod's... surprise. Feeling like Alice in Wonderland, Cierra spent her time admiring resplendent displays of exotic items in the world famous department store. Meantime, I pursued the perfect lunch place. Caffe Concerto is an elegant, pretentious restaurant with servers in

cute uniforms and gorgeous chandeliers. We split an order of smoked salmon tartines that were very tasty and hopped back on the bus in a steady rain. We rode up and down Brompton Road and made another stop at Fortnum & Mason, a historic and luxurious department store



emporium known for its hampers, teas and coffees. By now, Cierra was in fully-charged shopping mode, while I opted for the classy wine bar on the first floor. Smart move by this emporium to provide wary shopping spouses a place to sit and chill.

Tired from walking all day in the rain, we sought out a Hop-On Hop-Off bus and landed back at Marble Arch. Contemplating a busy travel day tomorrow we decided to have dinner on the way back to the hotel at a local Italian restaurant, Taormina. This family-owned, Sicilian restaurant specializes in true home cooking, my Veal Taormina and Cierra's Ravioli Bolognese, were a fine finish to our visit to London. In the morning we take the Eurostar back to Amsterdam before catching our flight home.

Reflecting on our wonderful journey, I've learned that the best parts of traveling are being relaxed, content, entertained and educated by all you experience. Our trip to Europe provided all

those elements and more. A trip such as this is designed for all ages, but travel is one of the greatest gifts you can give to your children. Perhaps it's time for you to start thinking about a family vacation in Europe.





Top to bottom (left page) Hyde Park, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abby. This page (top to bottom) London Bridge, Royal Albert Hall, and Big Ben.



# **CURE - The Gift of Saving Lives and Families**

By Mandy Garola Patient-Family Services Engagement Manager

CURE Childhood Cancer is dedicated to conquering childhood cancer through funding targeted research and through support of pa-

tients and their families.

Football, earlier sunsets, pumpkin spice, and cooler temperatures are all tell-tale signs that fall has arrived in southeast Georgia. Each year around this time, we all tend reflect on the things for which we are thankful. I am thankful for an organization called CURE Childhood Cancer.

When I share with people what I do, they sometimes respond with disbelief. Until you are thrown into the world of childhood cancer, you might not realize just how many local children are currently battling this disease. On average, one in every four elementary schools has a student battling cancer. Other times when I tell people about my position, they are sympathetic. They tell me that they could not imagine being in the trenches with the patients and families day to day. The truth is, childhood cancer is affecting families in our Savannah and Pooler communities. Some days are difficult, but these families need our support. Celebrating even the smallest of victories make the difficult days worth it. I am so thankful to be a part of an organization that has such a drive to cure pediatric cancer and support local families who find themselves facing a painful diagnosis. As a result, I have channeled my inner fourth grader and put together a little fall CURE Childhood Cancer acrostic.

**Three Million Dollars-** CURE was once again able to donate over \$3 million to research projects across the U.S. that are aimed at finding effective treatments for the 20% of the kids who do not survive with current treatment methods.

**Helping Hands-** CURE's volunteers are the heart and soul of the organization. Whether it be by preparing Open Arms lunches, stuffing envelopes, or serving at a local event, the hands of our volunteers allow us to further our mission.

**Annual Donors-** We are so grateful for the supporters who believe in our mission and give money, donations, and time year after year.

**Named Funds-** We love our families, and they love us. We walk through the most difficult journey imaginable with some families. We are extremely grateful when these families choose to partner with CURE by establishing named funds in the honor or memory of their child.

**Knowledgeable Researchers**- Annual research projects are selected by our Scientific Advisory Council, a group of medical doctors and scientists who conduct a thorough review of each research proposal in order to assess scientific merit and alignment with CURE's goals.

**Famalies**- The precious patients and families that we serve are at the heart of everything we do. Our relationship with them extends beyond the length of their child's cancer treatment. They become a forever part of our CURE family.

**Unwavering Courage-** Even the youngest cancer patients display an unbelievable amount of courage as they face treatment head on. They are truly our heroes!

**Loving Caregivers-** We value our relationships with the doctors, nurses, chaplains, child life specialists, social workers, parents, and siblings who serve as frontline caregivers for these young patients. We do our best to show them how much we appreciate them any time we can.

This fall, we hope that you will remember, there is ALWAYS something for which you can be thankful.

To learn more about CURE Childhood Cancer, please visit **www.curechild hoodcancer.org**.

December / January \_\_\_\_\_



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