

From: listmgr@bounces.enflyer.emsvc.net <listmgr@bounces.enflyer.emsvc.net>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
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December 8, 2016

Below: Don't lose your marbles; small town specialties; The money man; Cheese, please; Happy New Year; Let the music play on; Go wild; School daze; Marvelous muscadines; Lowcountry luxury; Winter wine tasting.

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Carolina Adventures

**Marbles Kids
Museum
RALEIGH, NC**

Please, Take the Children

It's the perfect destination for little ones (ten and under) and the adults who love them. The museum is hands-on, minds-on and offers that rare combination of play and learning that makes everyone happy. It's been recognized nationally for creative exhibits and bold approaches to play-based learning. There are themed exhibits, summer camps, and daily programs, plus IMAX educational and feature films, and dozens of special events. Perfect.

Want to introduce your little ones to music? Invite them to dance up and down the "stairs" in Stepnote. With each step, a musical note is heard, accompanied by colorful lights.

Or, visit a new exhibit, Tree Tunes, and watch the young ones create an outdoor orchestra with chimes, xylophones, and bells. It's a percussive musical playground. My piano teacher would have loved them both!

For budding artists, the Art Loft allows kids to unleash their free expression and creativity through painting, drawing and sculpting.

In IdeaWorks, imagination takes over as children design, create and build all kinds of things, from everyday products to vehicles – and more.

Future gardeners will embrace Sun Sprouts, with its real garden.

Dirty hands are a must here, as little ones explore herbs and investigate worm excavation. (No worms are hurt in this hands-on exhibit.)

And what about tomorrow's business leaders? They'll learn smart ways to spend and save with Moneypalooza, a colorful world of high energy and great fun. Think your cuties are too young to learn about earning money, building budgets and spending wisely? It's all in the realm of the possible at this imaginative exhibit.

WOW Factor: You simply can't pass up the opportunity to expose children to intelligently conceived playtime that teaches them important lessons. In a fun-filled environment.

Hint: Dress for the weather. There are two outdoor adventure areas. You can enjoy food at the museum, or bring your own for outdoor seating. Moore Square Park is across the street and is great for a picnic. Visit the Marbles Corner Store for exclusive gear, plus toys, games and gadgets.

www.marbleskidsmuseum.org

Where in the Carolina world are you?

In this southern small town, folks will welcome you, offer directions (or suggestions for dinner), and point you toward two of its favorite attractions – historical sites, and pocketbook-friendly shopping.

Yes, there's something for everyone, and you easily can get here from anywhere.

Where are you?

Carolina Famous Faces

Ben Bernanke **Born Dec. 13, 1953**

He served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System under both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, and presided over one of the most difficult economic periods in recent history. Prior to his appointment, he was Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors and before that served the Federal Reserve System in a number of roles.

Dr. Bernanke also served as a Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University. Married with two children, he was born in Augusta, GA, and raised in the small town of Dillon, in northeastern South Carolina. He attended public schools and according to some reports, earned money before and during college by working at South of the Border, a popular "highway oasis" along Interstate 95. Some reports suggest that he attained the highest SAT score in South Carolina in the year he graduated from high school.

Dr. Bernanke received his B.A. in economics in 1975 from Harvard (summa cum laude) and a Ph.D. in economics in 1979 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Today, he's a distinguished fellow in residence with the economic studies program at the Brookings Institution, affiliated with the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy, which will bring rigorous research analysis to critical questions in vital areas of economic policy.

In 2015 he published *The Courage to Act*, a memoir of his experiences with the Federal Reserve, including his discussion of

Holiday Happenings

Hello Tony,

With the holiday celebrations upon us ... no matter where you live, the

Carolina life and adventures await folks like you from Columbia.

We say, forget the frigid tundra. Photo ops, golf, spas, beach, tennis and trail conditions here are warm and inviting. So expect to pay less and get more as you tour (with Lassie, if you like), the land of "smiling faces" and "beautiful places." Little ones in your life? Great ways to entertain them here.

Watch for an abundance of new discoveries on CarolinaLiving.com, including town profiles and current tax advantages, all guaranteed to make the Kester life happier (and easier on the pocketbook).

Our 2017 wish for you in Columbia:
Good health and abundant prosperity.
Happy travels around the Carolinas!
Finding what feeds your soul.

Leyla & Patrick Mason

Co-Founders

Center For Carolina

Living *Showcasing Carolina Life & Adventures*

P.S. Visit our expanded [website](#) with superlative new content – the best of the Carolinas in every way! Plus, [sign-up](#) today for a Free Guide for exploring where to go now.

[Forward this email to a friend.](#)

Read the New Guide

Updated town information, six fun new Carolina Adventures, and one heck of a good-looking feature showcasing gardens. Order yours today.

[Click here](#) for the official hold-in-your-

the worst financial crisis and economic slump in America since the Great Depression.

More about [Carolina Famous Faces](#).

Carolina Creatives

Austin & Samantha Genke + Alessandra = Boxcarr Cheese

They had me at the website. And then, Rosie's Robiola sealed the deal. Yum. Delicate, creamy, gooey, truffles – all words that, when used together with a cheese description, compelled me to look further.

Located somewhat north of Hillsborough, NC, Boxcarr is the culmination of a mix of talented and committed individuals who settled here to create their cheesy goodness. Co-founders (and brother and sister) Austin and Samantha Genke have influences that span the East Coast, from Florida to New Jersey.

Samantha Genke moved to North Carolina and for the next decade, worked in creameries and learned from some of the best in the business. Austin Genke graduated from the Culinary Institute of America, and for a time, worked in Las Vegas at both the MGM Grand and the Venetian.

In North Carolina, the siblings farm 30 acres, run a food truck and catering business, and have developed an amazing group of cheeses. Today, they continue to draw from their Italian-American roots and are raising their respective families on the farm.

Alessandra, from Northern Italy, works with Samantha in the design and development of the cheese-making process. They traveled to Italy recently to research cheese making and the results are delicious. In addition to the Robiola, you'll want to try their Cottonseed, Lissome, Campo and Feta. The [website](#) offers retail outlets.

More [Carolina Creatives](#).

Happy, Happy New Year!

Ring in the New Year in Southern Style In our Capital Cities.

Southerners love a good party! What better time to get together than bringing in the New Year? Check out the events, special deals and packages. December 31st, 2016

hand Guide to Carolina lifestyle fun and adventure trips, plus real estate tips, tax & cost-of-living advantages, retirement opportunities and town profiles.

Just share your dream goals and we'll help lead you to smart Carolina life and times.

Great Holiday Gift

10% of book price donated to South Carolina Wildlife Fund if purchased online between 12/8 and 12/18/16.

Wild South Carolina 38 Trips for Nature Lovers

*by Liesel and Susan Hamilton
Photography by Tori Steyne*

"This is a great book to have in your car for your travels in South Carolina." – author L.L. Gaddy

A mother-daughter team of Master Naturalists has created a colorful and fully-illustrated field guide to 38 parks, preserves and special places in *Wild South Carolina*, newly published by Hub City Press.

You'll discover the endangered peregrine falcon in the ACE Basin, the breathtaking synchronized displays of fireflies at Congaree National Park, the world's largest showing of spider lilies on the Catawba River, the rare Oconee bells in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the world's oldest cypress-tupelo forest, and many more spectacular sights. Grab a pair of binoculars, a water bottle, and your copy of *Wild South Carolina* to explore the best of South Carolina's natural areas!

Liesel Hamilton has earned her statewide Master Naturalist certification through Clemson University and is pursuing a master's degree in creative writing from George

Famously Hot New Year - Columbia, SC

The state's largest New Year's Eve celebration welcomes Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, known internationally as New Orleans musical royalty, on Dec. 31 for a free, full-length outdoor concert – with direct support by Sister Hazel, beloved Southern folk-rock band – a midnight countdown, and the most colossal NYE fireworks show in the two Carolinas.

Tens of thousands of guests enjoy the vibrant, free Famously Hot New Year event in front of the historic SC State House, as well as the restaurants, hotels, shops and walkability of downtown Columbia, South Carolina – The New Southern Hot Spot. Plan your #FHNY at www.famouslyhotnewyear.com. More about [Columbia, SC](#).

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### **First Night Raleigh, NC**

The festival is known for its iconic Acorn drop at the stroke of Midnight, but there is so much more that makes this party a favorite.

There are nearly 100 performances in more than three dozen locations across downtown Raleigh. For the little ones, a children's celebration is held at the NC Museums of History and Natural Sciences and Bicentennial Plaza. Art, fireworks and a huge ferris wheel add to the festivities. Presented by Artsposure and held from 2pm-midnight. \$10/advance tickets; \$14/day of. 919.832.8699.

[First Night Raleigh.](#)  
More about [Raleigh](#).

Mason University. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina.

Susan Hamilton is a certified statewide Master Naturalist and a former journalist who works with several environmental non-profits in South Carolina. She lives in Columbia.

Tori Steyne received her bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in photography from the University of South Carolina. She lives in Newberry.

Celebrating its 20th year in 2015, Hub City Press is an award-winning publisher committed to well-crafted and high-quality works by new and extraordinary voices from the American South.

Order from:

[www.wildsouthcarolina.org](http://www.wildsouthcarolina.org)

## Golf School

*By Larry Gavrich*

I took my first golf lesson at the age of 13. It would be another 50 years before I took my next one. My first instructor, a 60-something driving range pro in New Jersey, had one thing to say during my 45-minute lesson: "Roll your wrists, roll your wrists, roll your wrists" over and over again. What a nice way to earn \$25, which is what I recall my parents paid for me to listen to that mantra. It took me most of the next five decades to overcome a chronic snap hook off the tee.

Except for one golf instruction session a few years ago, a birthday present from my wife, I have steered clear of golf lessons. Occasionally in some waiting room or another, I'll pick up Golf Digest or Golf Magazine and scan a club professional's advice on how to hit a 50-yard shot into a howling wind, or the best way to blast from a buried lie in a bunker, but that has been the extent of my formal golf instruction over the years. Yet because I have golfing buddies who swear they have benefited from golf instruction, I decided to conquer my fears and

## Tune Into Winter

### At the Omni Grove Park Inn Asheville, NC

Enjoy star-studded musical and comedy acts amid the beauty of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains

The Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC invites travelers to shimmy and shake off winter blues with the return of the popular Winter Concert Series. The Blue Ridge Mountain retreat is serving up live entertainment with the Big Band and Swing Dance Weekend (Jan. 13-15), the 2017 Classic Rock-N-Roll Weekend (Feb. 3-5) and the 2017 Comedy Classic Weekend (Feb. 24-26).

***The historic property is offering weekend packages for each event:***

#### **Big Band and Swing Dance Weekend (Jan. 13-15, 2017)**

Hit the floor in style with this rhythm-filled weekend of Big Band hits and Swing Dancing. Travelers who book The Inn's tailored package will enjoy exclusive activities including an Afternoon Tea Dance and two nights of amazing performances featuring the Andrew Thielen Big Band and The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra. Rates starting at \$772 for the weekend, based on double occupancy.

#### **2017 Classic Rock-N-Roll Weekend (Feb. 3-5, 2017)**

Enjoy a high-energy '70s party at the 2017 Classic Rock-N-Roll Weekend.

Turn back the calendar and turn up the dial with internationally renowned Neil Diamond tribute band Super Diamond Friday evening, and dance all night to classic disco music from Stayin' Alive on

Saturday. Rates starting at \$822 for the weekend, based on double occupancy.

spend 10 1/2 hours over three days at the Mel Sole Golf School in Pawleys Island, SC. [More](#).

*Photo: Mel and Rosemary Sole have run the Mel Sole Golf School at Pawleys Plantation since the early 1990s.*

## Facebook

One of the many appealing aspects of living in the Carolinas is the four-season climate.

You can even enjoy a few winter sports if you like. There are several ice skating rinks and ski resorts in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Our family enjoys Beech Mountain, but Sugar Mountain has its devotees, too. How do you do winter in the Carolinas? Please share with us on [Facebook](#).

## 2017 Comedy Classic Weekend

**(February 24-26, 2017)**

Indulge in a playful weekend full of laughter with the 2017 Comedy Classic Weekend, which brings together an all-star cast of characters including headliner Roy Wood Jr. accompanied by comedians Aaron Kleiber, Michael Palascak, Gina Brillion, Joe List, Greg Warren, and more. Guests interested in learning a

few tricks of the trade will also receive access to Saturday afternoon's Comedy Panel. Rates starting at \$779 for the weekend, based on double occupancy.

Located amid the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains, The Omni Grove Park Inn has delighted guests with luxurious comforts and indulgent hospitality since 1913. Standard rates start at \$189 per night. For more information about The Omni Grove Park Inn or to [book a reservation](#), contact 800.438.5800 or visit .

[Omni Grove Park Inn Winter Concert Series](#)

## Carolina Cuisine

### Muscadine Aspic

OK, I know what you're thinking. Isn't aspic savory – often tomato-based? And although it's southern to the core, doesn't it have as many enemies as friends? The answers are no, and yes.

Traditionally, it's savory, but for this creation by Chef Wesley Fulmer at Motor Supply Co. Bistro, one of Columbia's favorite restaurants, his go-to flavor is the equally southern taste of the muscadine grape. Are you ready for [Aspic of Local Muscadine Grapes](#)? It's the perfect foil for a charcuterie plate.

## Heading your way

- Let's Take a [Road Trip!](#)
- [Carolina Famous Faces](#)
- [Insider Attractions](#)
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## ***Montage Residences at Palmetto Bluff***

Thirty-five exclusive clapboard homes have been gently placed among moss-draped live oaks in the storied South Carolina Lowcountry.

Bound by three rivers and located on the waterfront, this community offers all the luxury of the Montage brand while also giving residents a sense of timelessness and porch-clad neighborly pace.

Starting at \$1.4 million, these move-in ready two- to five-bedroom residences range from 2,200 to 4,200 square feet.

Each fully furnished home features shuttered windows, Savannah brick walkways and chimneys, raised-seam metal roofs, and rooms that open onto wraparound porches.

Plus:

- 32 miles of waterfront and nearby islands to explore
- State-of-the-art stables and equestrian center
- Private cruises available on the recently restored 1913 60-foot motor yacht, Grace
- Access to the adjacent Montage Resort, Jack Nicklaus-designed golf club, shooting club, racquet club, croquet and bocce courts, spa, and world-class dining

**Montage Residences Palmetto Bluff**

## ***Get Your Passport***

Sample your way through North Carolina's Yadkin Valley wine country this winter with the seventh annual Winter Wine Passport. The Passport provides a tasting at each of 10 Yadkin Valley wineries, along with a handcrafted wine charm at each of the wineries. The passport can also be used for discounts at 18 businesses in wine country, including restaurants, shops and lodging.

During food-and-wine weekends, select wineries prepare a dish that either incorporates their wine as an ingredient or pairs well with a certain wine. Recipes provided. This winter's participating wineries are: Adagio, Brushy Mountain, Carolina

Heritage, Elkin Creek, Grassy Creek, Roaring River, Round Peak, Skull Camp, Slightly Askew and Stony Knoll.

The passport price is \$55 for individuals or \$95 for couples. Passports are available at participating wineries and online at [www.SurryWineries.com](http://www.SurryWineries.com).

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*Compiled by Katherine O. Pettit • Designed by Ann Dolin*

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