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September/October 2022



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2. Leidy Lester is a freelance photographer from Bogota Colombia with 8 years experience. She has traveled and worked all over the United States with studios such as Railyard Media. One of her proudest achievements is the work she did with models and highly experienced photographers in Las Vegas.



3. Erich Perez and his wife, Dr. Misty Seale are owners of iHeart Dental in Rincon. Erich's other role is Founder and president of Kronos Media Productions and K&R Studios in Rincon. They specialize in videography and photography as well as sound and recording. Erich and his wife are avid Jeep enthusiasts and have 5 American Bulldogs. You can check them out at @gods.of.dogs on Instagram.



4. Cindy Reid has been a freelance writer for over 15 years. She has been published extensively in *Effingham Magazine*, *Pooler Magazine*, and other lifestyle magazines. A native of New York's Hudson Valley, she embodies the saying "I wasn't born in the South but I got here as soon as I could." She can usually be found on a beach, a boat or at a pier at sunset.



5. Emily Roscher is a lifestyle and real estate photographer, originally from Northern, VA. She found a love for photography as a hobby about 15 years ago, but started up her businesses in the last 4 years. When she isn't behind the camera, she enjoys finding local coffee shops, and exploring new places with her husband and 4 kids.



6. Claire Sandow is a freelance graphic design and marketing professional who lives in Savannah with her husband, daughter and two cats. She is a graduate of Georgia College & State University, where she received a degree in Mass Communication. In her spare time, she enjoys pursuing her many hobbies, including knitting, crocheting, quilting and running.

Jan Southern, DPA
CEO/Publisher

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Christie Wilson
Account Executive

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Penny Redmond
Distribution

9. Mabel, morale officer, enjoys roaming the backyard at home, sitting for hours on the back porch and coming to the office to greet visitors and encourage the staff. Mabel loves getting treats and taking long naps in her mommy's office in the afternoons.

Your Community Magazine
POOLER
MAGAZINE

Have an idea for a story? We'd love to hear from you!
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Write to us and tell us what you think. *Pooler Magazine* welcomes all letters to the editor. Please send all letters via email to Jan Southern at Jan@JDelSURMarketing.com. Letters to the editor must have a phone number and name of contact. Phone numbers will not be published.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Pooler Magazine welcomes story ideas from our readers. If you have a story idea or photo essay you would like to share, please submit ideas and material by emailing Jan Southern at Jan@JDelSURMarketing.com.

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

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PUBLISHER'S THOUGHTS

Best of Pooler Readers' Choice Awards!

All of us at *Pooler Magazine* want to thank everyone who participated in the Best of Pooler Readers' Choice Awards for 2022. It has been a blast watching our community come together and vote for the best individuals, businesses, and organizations in our community.

Voting opened on July 5 and ended August 5. The Pooler community responded with thousands of shares on social media and votes for the favorites from Best BBQ to Best Worship Leader.

Congratulations to Samantha Do of Pooler for being the lucky winner of the \$250 gift card to Tanger Outlet Mall in Pooler.

In this issue we celebrate all the organizations that won in their category and our sponsors of this amazing event.



Jan Southern

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Melissa McBride Stille

of Stille-DeWitt Health Brokerage, LLC

Are you turning
65 and need
help navigating
through your
options?



Melissa McBride Stille Works for Clients—Not the Insurance Company!

Are you turning 65 and thinking about retirement and don't know what to do? "Many people are trying to decide if they should retire and how that would impact their health insurance," says independent insurance agent Melissa McBride Stille, "If someone is 65 years old and wants to stop working, knowing their health care options ahead of that decision is crucial because there are far reaching consequences."

Melissa has been in the health insurance industry for 14 years and is the sole proprietor of Stille-DeWitt Health Brokerage. She says, "DeWitt Insurance Agency has been in business since 1956. When I purchased the agency's health department, I incorporated it into my agency name to keep the continuity within the community." As a health insurance broker specializing in Medicare, she is dedicated to presenting her clients with the best health care options available.

She says at age 65 most people need to think about the pros and cons of Medicare options or continuing insurance through their employer. Don't stress over the paperwork she says, "All you need is to bring me is yourself and your current group benefits. Don't depend on your Human Resources department to help you because they are not insurance specialists. We can do a three way call between yourself, your HR dept and me so I can thoroughly assess your situation. Together we will optimize your benefits while tailoring them to your needs."

Melissa can also facilitate your Medicare application with the Social Security office. "There are many factors, particularly with Medicare Part B." Some scenarios involve penalties but they may not apply to you, that's why working with a Medicare specialist is critical to obtaining the best outcome.

Each client presents individual issues. You may have a spouse who is dependent on your benefits and too young for Medicare. Melissa will help you compare the cost of staying at your current position and using your employer benefits plan, versus retiring and having your spouse obtain health insurance through the marketplace. Perhaps your spouse has a chronic illness or is in an assisted living facility—these are important factors in your decision.

Step By Step Process

- Is Medicare Primary or Secondary
- Open enrollment periods
- Deductibles vs out of pocket
- Spousal Considerations
- All income levels need expert guidance

Melissa also works with Medicare recipients under 65, including those who have Medicare through Social Security Disability and with people using Affordable Care Act Marketplace insurance, and some group insurances.

"I care about each and every client and do a review of everyone's health policies every year because there are so many changes annually," she says. "I like to simplify things and present you with your best options." She gives every client her cell number—it's in all of her advertising so that every client, even future clients, can feel comfortable reaching out to her. She says, "I work for my clients, not the insurance company."

If you have a question regarding Medicare or other health insurance options, give Melissa a call!

Stille-DeWitt Health Brokerage, LLC

Cell (912) 239-7119 | www.StilleYourAgent.com
Melissa@StilleYourAgent.com | 5877 Hwy 21 South, Rincon



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The cover for this issue was designed by Erich Perez of Kronos Media Productions. We asked Erich to photograph our Best of Pooler Signature Cocktail "Pooler Sweet Bourbon Peach Lemonade" and could not be happier with the outcome. Erich is a master at capturing the best qualities, mood and flavor of products with expert set design and lighting. He is also pretty

great at photographing people as you can see from some of the work throughout our pages. For more on our signature drink go to page 66.



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Thursday, September 22, 2022 | 6:00-8:00pm

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Tickets are limited—get yours today!

Call 912-295-5406 with questions about the event

Ray Calico: Best Tattoo Artist

Story by Cindy Reid | Photography by Erich Perez



Ray Calico's art is walking all around us. While some art is found on canvas, Ray's artwork is found on the human body.

At its essence, tattoos are how people mark their bodies with permanent declarations of faith, meaningful design, symbols of love and remembrance.

Being voted Pooler's "Best Tattoo Artist" is a tribute to Ray's beautiful original designs and superior technical execution. From traditional subjects, such as flowers, praying hands and sailing ships, to modern interpretations of neo traditional tattoos, Ray's breadth of creativity and depth of skill make him a true tattoo artist.

Finding His Way to Pooler

Most days (when he's not out fishing), Ray can be found at High Rank Tattoo—the first tattoo shop in Pooler when it opened in October 2020. Originally from East Los Angeles, Ray lived most of his life in California before moving to Georgia, where his mother had relocated a few years earlier. Ray started out in Bloomingdale but soon moved to Pooler.

"I met my wife Cammie right away after arriving in Georgia and we've lived in Pooler for the last eleven years. I'm here to stay," he says. "It's the atmosphere here, which is mostly the people, that I like. It's slower than I am used to but that's okay with me. I like it here."

Always an artist, Ray has been drawing since the

age of five. "I started off with X Men, and as a teenager I was into graffiti. I messed around a little with tattoos but nothing serious. In LA you can't throw a rock without knowing somebody who does tattoos."

After moving to Pooler, Ray continued to draw and—after watching him sketch one day—his wife was inspired to surprise him with a tattoo kit. It was a great fit, but it's been a long trip from that first kit to full time professional tattoo artist.

He says: "I am totally self-taught. When I was first learning, I tattooed myself, for practice, and so I could know how it felt on the other side."

For several years, Ray kept at it, practicing on his own and knocking on doors trying to get into a local tattoo shop. Finally, a shop in Savannah took him

on, and from there he went to Richmond Hill where he worked at Jokerz Ink.

"That is where I met L.A. Pete," Ray says. "L.A. Pete opened High Rank Tattoo in October 2020 and that's where I am now."

The Body Illustrator

"Tattooing has always felt natural to me," he says. "When I am tattooing, I am not at work—I am having fun because it never feels like a job to me."

Ray's artistic style is well-rounded with an emphasis on neo traditional black and grey, or color; and black and grey surrealism. Essentially neo traditional black and grey tattoos



HIGH RANK TATTOOS

POOLER
GA.





more detailed and appear more modern than traditional “old school” tattoo art. They resemble vibrant black and white photographs, with every shade of grey, although some have elements of color.

“I feel like I can execute anything, but I like to do black and grey. People tend to still like the old school look, but a lot of people are gravitating to neo realism. It originally came out of LA so I used to draw it a lot, and you can kind of adapt it to what you want.”

Ray is open to his client’s ideas and choice of styles because he says “There’s not much I can’t do. There are things I won’t do, times when I’ve said no. If a client comes to me with what I think is a bad idea I sit down with them, explain they have their whole life ahead, and tattoos are forever. We can usually talk it out.”

Ray’s clients are a mix of ages and genders because he says there is no typical client. The oldest person he’s tattooed was close to 80 years old.

“It was his very first tattoo. He wanted to share an experience with his three daughters. They all got the same tattoo. I did one right after the other. It was really awesome, really very cool.”

Creating a large tattoo can be time consuming. A very popular size is the ‘half sleeve’ which completely covers one half of the arm, either the upper arm or lower, both front and back like a sleeve. The typical half sleeve takes from four to seven hours. Ray does it in one sitting because the tattooed skin will be too sore and swollen the next day for tattooing.

“I do it at once. We take a small ten minute break every hour so the client can stretch, have a drink of water, something to eat. Then I get right back at it until it’s done.”

He says he likes creating a variety of images and does small stuff every day, including words, in addition to the larger tattoos.

For most who are tattooed, the art is a deeply personal part of their identity. “It’s mind blowing that someone lets me do this on their skin,” says Ray. “I love to see their face when it’s finished and they see it for the first time on their body.”

Grind and Grit

It may seem like tattooing is a recent phenomenon, having spread to all segments of society, but tattooing has been around for many millennia. A

Bronze-Age man—“Otzi the Iceman”—from around 3300 BCE is the oldest known human to have tattoos preserved upon his mummified skin. He had 57 tattoos.

For many eons the tools were basically the same, something sharp enough to penetrate the skin, and something dark to use as ink.

Ray says the first machine he ever built had an ink pen, a Walkman motor, and a guitar string. The technology has advanced much in recent years and today a high quality machine would typically cost \$1,000.

Even with the huge popularity of tattoos, Ray says “Some people still have a negative stigma. It’s just artwork. So many people have tattoos now. I have done work on judges, lawyers, and police officers.”

And he learns something new every day: “Learning this is not easy. It’s hard. You need a job while you’re learning. It takes a lot of time and effort, grind and grit. Not everyone is good, but if you are and you stick around at the end of the day, you’re in the show.”

With no plans to hang it up anytime soon, Ray says, “I want to continue to tattoo until the doctor tells me I can’t do it anymore.” After that he would like to create tattoo products, such as arm rests, inks, and other technical items.

Downtime

When asked where his favorite downtime place is, Ray says, “Our porch. My wife and I sit out there, talk to each other, and just relax.”

Also fishing: “I am a big time fisherman. I enjoy fishing so much I have a fishing license that covers Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida.” Fort Pulaski is a favorite fishing spot, as is Port Royal, SC, or “anywhere where there is a decent amount of salt water. And if it’s legal to keep and is a good eating fish, it’s definitely catch and make dinner,” says Ray.

With probably 50 to 60 tattoos himself, Ray says his own favorite tattoo is the name of his grandmother. He laughs and adds, “But my next tattoo will be a fish.” ♦

www.raycalicotattoos.com | 912.272-5585 | 223 E US Hwy 80, Pooler, Ga

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- 4 Please feel free to walk-in to our office or one of our satellite locations.
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Get the Latest Updates to Your Medicare Plan Choices

Gregory Mitchell, BS, retired Savannah police officer and Air Force veteran and Patricia A. Mitchell, EdS, retired educator, have worked in the insurance industry for over 15 years.

They turned tragedy into triumph—when Patricia's grandmother passed away, her family received a \$39,000 bill from Centers For Medicare and Medicaid Services. The triumph is that Patricia became a leading professional in the insurance industry who helps others avoid the pitfalls of not understanding Medicare and Medicaid choices by explaining the different forms of Medicare and Medicaid that won't leave you and your family broke.

Please RSVP to attend one of our Educational Luncheons by calling or texting 912.667.1650 or 912.667.3949

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Wednesday, Sept. 7 | 2:00-3:30pm
Barnes Restaurant
5320 Waters Avenue, Savannah, GA

Veterans-Medicare, Tricare, VA, Champ VA Educational Luncheon
Friday, Sept. 10 | 11:30am-1:00pm
Barnes Restaurant
5320 Waters Avenue, Savannah, GA

Veterans-Medicare, Tricare, VA, Champ VA Educational Luncheon
Monday, Sept. 12 | 12:00-1:30pm
Old Time Country Buffet
636 Veterans Blvd, Dublin GA

Visit our BOOTH at Veteran Retiree Appreciation Day
Friday, Sept. 16 | 1:00-4:00pm
1020 Hero Road, Fort Stewart, GA

Veterans-Medicare, Tricare, VA, Champ VA Educational Luncheon
Thursday, Sept. 28 | 11:30am-1:00pm
Barnes Restaurant

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The Greater Pooler Area Chamber of Commerce is so proud of the **Best of Pooler** winners, many of whom are Chamber members.

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Fri. - Sat. 11am-2am | Sun. 11am-12am

Wayne Chambers is Featured in Marquis Who's Who

"I still can't believe it", says Wayne, who was recently invited to be included in Marquis Who's Who.

Marquis Who's Who was

established more than 120 years ago with the first publication of Who's Who in America and remains the gold standard for comprehensive biographical data. Each year they present the lives of leaders and achievers from the United States and around the world, with in-depth biographical information accessible via their publications and online library.

"After they nominated me, I was interviewed for four hours about my life and career as a professional artist," says Wayne. His biography will be in their next publication, and he will also be given a plaque commemorating his achievement.

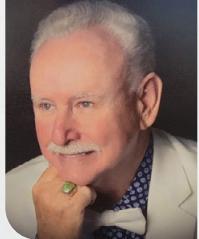
"Soon you will be able to google my name and my Who's Who biography will come right up," he says.

He credits his feature article in *Pooler Magazine* (July 2021) for raising his profile and catching the attention of the people at Who's Who.

Longtime Artist

Wayne was born and raised in Crewe, Virginia, and resided in Richmond, Virginia, where he had a lengthy career with Phillip Morris and was also the Retail Merchants Resident Artist for 15 years. After retirement, he moved to Savannah and devoted himself to painting. Wayne's watercolors include the Low Country marshes, tropical beaches and birds, city garden squares, and Savannah penthouse views.

Many of his paintings depict the iconic houses of Savannah such as the Critz House, the Hamilton Turner House, the Keho House, the Pink House, the Ducan House, the Owen



Thomas Home, and the famous Mercer House (from the book and movie *The Garden of Good and Evil*). A recent painting of Hemlock Falls in Rabun County, Georgia, has been attracting much positive attention and "is something different that I am really happy with," says Wayne.

New Gallery

Wayne is a founding artist partner in a new fine arts gallery the Savannah Gallery of Art, which represents only juried art created by local artists.

"People come from all over the world to visit Savannah and they like to bring a 'piece of Savannah' home with them," says Wayne.

Art in the gallery includes paintings, sculptures, photography, mixed media, ceramic art and more. The gallery is located in downtown Savannah and is open seven days a week.

Art Instruction

Wayne has studied art at the New York Arts Students League and Virginia Commonwealth University, and he has taught art through the Georgia Southern Continuing Education program, as well as privately.

Wayne says, "I have a passion for teaching painting. I have taught people who are complete novices, and with instruction they totally bloom."

Currently, Wayne offers private group and individual lessons at his home studio.

After such a long career, Wayne says it's not stale to him at all, in fact he says: "I paint now more than ever, and it comes a lot easier. It's how I relax!"

Wayne Chambers Studio & Art

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POOLER BIBLE CHURCH: Voted “Best Place to Worship” in Pooler

Story by Jenny Lynn Anderson | Photography by Leidy Lester

Going to church can be downright scary and daunting for some. If you are like many, you may wonder: What do all those symbols mean on the stained glass windows? Why do people raise their hands during the service? Do I have to wear a dress? How can God be 3 in 1, Father, Son and Holy Spirit? What if I don't know the Bible? What if people find out I'm an imposter and a sinner and I don't belong here? What if I don't fit in?

These questions are common and they often keep people away from church. In fact, in recent years, a Pew Research Center survey found the percentage of U.S. adults who regularly attend religious services has been declining.

Come Just As You Are

Jeff Hubbard, lead pastor of **Pooler Bible Church**, and its congregation, meet these obstacles head on and have this simple message for those who are scared: Come just as you are and we will love you. Never set foot in church? No problem! We will welcome you.

This mantra has led the church to be named *Best Place to Worship in Pooler*.

Growth in attendance and spiritual growth have been part of Pooler Bible Church's DNA since it opened in 2011 as a planted church/satellite campus of Bible Baptist Church of Savannah.

The church started in an office complex turned into a church behind Dunkin Donuts

on Pooler Parkway. As it quickly outgrew that location, the church next held worship services for three years at the Pooler Stadium 12 Theater, which holds 297 people.

“This wasn't the most ideal location,” Hubbard jokes. “The problem was the theater switched to zero gravity recliners and as much as everyone thinks it's great to have those kinds of seats, I don't know of many preachers who are that good. Your sermons better be packed full and on point to keep everyone awake,” he adds.

Now, four years later, they are in a storefront space in an office complex that once housed Tiptons Furniture. This space, which is at the entrance of Sangrena Woods, sits atop 15 acres the church has purchased.

In the next year, the church hopes to begin constructing their first building on their property to meet the growing needs of a gospel-centered church in Pooler.

A Welcoming Atmosphere

Just what is the appeal for it being named Best Place to Worship? "There's certainly been growth over the last few years in the Pooler area and we also attract a lot of people who live in South Effingham," explains Hubbard. "But the real reason we have grown is our welcoming, family-style atmosphere. There's something for everyone who walks into our church."

Variety is abundant, explains Hubbard. "You see people in jeans in our church. You see people who wear hats. You may see a woman in a skirt. You may have a homeless person sitting next to an executive. Our congregation 'loves on' everyone who walks in the front door and accepts them for who they are."

Second Generation Pastor

The initial feeling of hospitality the church exudes comes from Hubbard's excellent leadership and humble nature. He is a transparent, genuine guy who is going to wear a comfortable pair of khakis and button up shirt to preach in. No pretense, just friendly and down to earth.

A "second generation pastor's kid," he is the son of Herb Hubbard, pastor emeritus at Bible Baptist Church. Jeff received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Covington Theology Seminary and worked in youth ministry at his father's church for five years before he felt God calling him to become a lead pastor. Now he's leading a wonderful congregation and enjoying every minute of it.

Fellowship and Community

There are ministry programs for everyone at Pooler Bible Church, from babies to centenarians. The children's ministry is led by Shane and Deborah Sullivan and has some amazing children. "He's a retired insurance agent and is a big kid at heart and she is a young, hip Grandma and the children just adore them," adds Hubbard.

"On Wednesday nights, a youth service for middle school and high school students is led by volunteers Pat Dyches and wife Alicia. The worship team band plays and the teenagers get to learn spiritual, gospel-



centered strategies of how to withstand attacks from the world. The kids really get into this ministry because this couple have a heart for teenagers and Pat's teaching style shows he's a relational guy," adds Hubbard.

Besides Wednesday nights, social events like floating trips down the Ogeechee River add to the fellowship as students develop friendships. Adult ministries include community groups that meet on Sunday mornings and cover all age brackets for both single and married people.

In the world today, there's so much loneliness, aloneness and isolation. "People really need fellowship and contact. Satan's biggest attack is to separate us

where you can genuinely grow in your relationship with Christ.

"Our sermons are not packaged as 'skim the surface' messages. We don't preach for entertainment value and stay at that 30,000 foot level. We're going to dig into Jesus' word in the scripture. My job and role is to teach new believers all the way up to mature believers. Just as important, I introduce Jesus to nonbelievers and teach them about our Savior," he explains.

Heartfelt, gospel-focused worship services are amplified by the worship team band which features acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass, drums, keyboard and 2 to 3 vocalists every Sunday. They play contemporary music, gospel hymns and a sprinkle of everything in between.

For those still intimidated about attending church for the first time for fear of being an outsider, Hubbard has these encouraging thoughts. "We're human. We are all sinners. So we try to keep the judgment out. We're all imperfect but if you want to hear the truth of the message of Jesus Christ and you are looking for a place where you're going to be loved, accepted as a sinner, you might just find our church to be a good fit."

Community groups meet at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday followed by church services at 10:30 a.m. Youth students (middle school and high school) meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday nights.

Check out more about why Pooler Bible Church is the best place to worship at www.poolerbiblechurch.com. ♦

The real reason we have grown is our welcoming,

family-style atmosphere. There's something for

everyone who walks into our church.

because when we're not together we're easier to pull away from what our God-given mission is. If we're not in fellowship with other believers, sin creeps in very, very quickly," he explains.

To combat this, the church has developed a deacons family ministry—each deacon keeps up with 10 to 15 families on a regular basis. "The deacons make sure that our congregation is okay and doing well. And what it's created is really a close knit community where everybody feels a part and nobody feels like an outsider," says Hubbard.

Building a Relationship with Christ

More than anything, the 44-year-old pastor desires Pooler Bible to be a place

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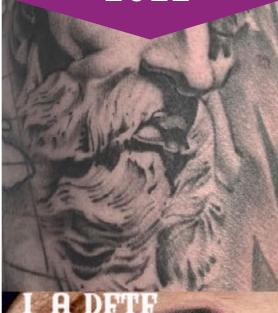
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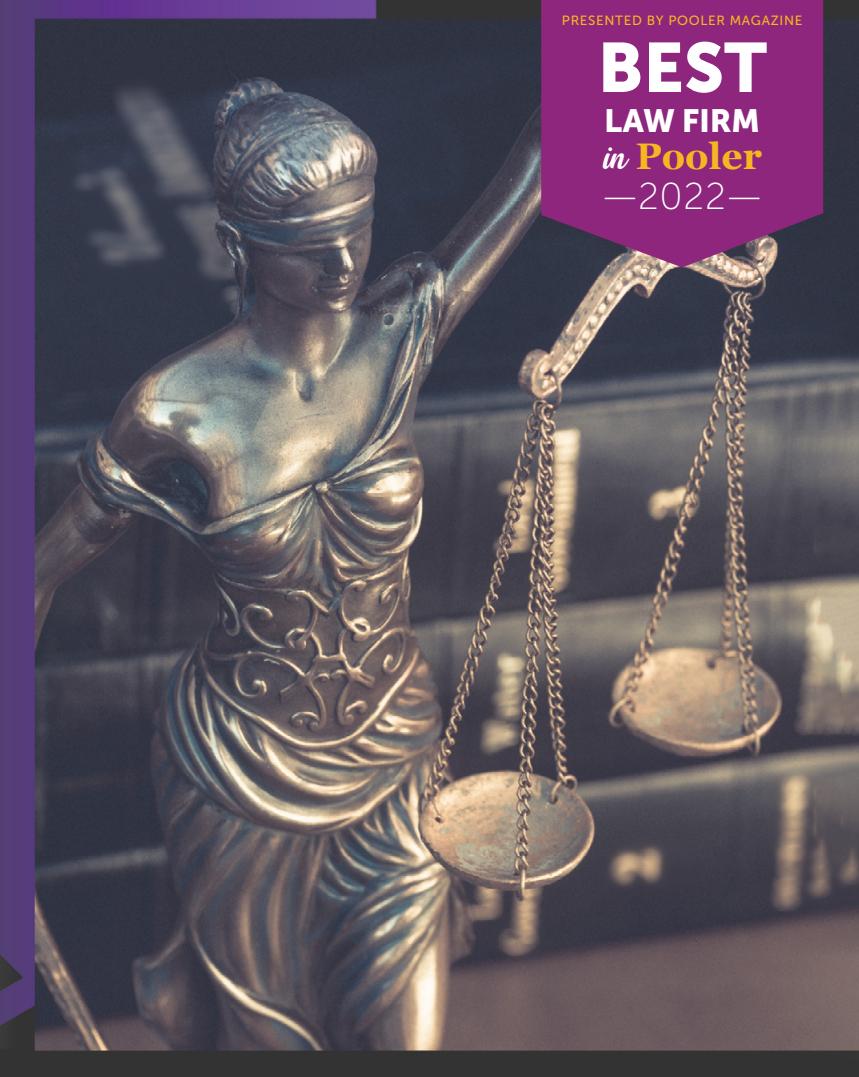
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It's Cooler in Pooler was started by Trisha Cook of The Trisha Cook Team Real Estate Team. The Facebook group has nearly 36,000 follows. Trisha and her team share human interest stories, funny memes and all the good things happening in the Pooler area



"It's Cooler in Pooler was started in 2009 as a way to keep up with all of the exciting growth coming to our area and connect community members. Watching it's growth over the years has been very rewarding!"

- Trisha Cook

Its Cooler In Pooler!
August 18 at 3:40 PM

A post featuring a photo of a concert with people dancing and a band performing. Below the photo is a logo for "TANGER CONCERT SERIES" with palm trees. Text on the post includes "7-9PM AT THE BEER GARDEN PRESENTED BY THE O'SULLIVAN GROUP", "Aug 5 Liquid Ginger", "Sept 9 Rock-A-Licious", "Oct 14 Joe's Piano Bar Dusling Pianos", and "Sponsored by HORNE Law Firm".

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Its Cooler In Pooler!
August 22 at 12:33 PM

A post featuring a photo of several tents set up in a grassy field, likely for a community event. Text on the post includes "WTOC.COM" and "Savannah businesses gather in Tom Triplett Park to help the United Way".

15 Like 4 Comments 2 Shares

Its Cooler In Pooler!
August 11 at 4:04 PM

A post featuring a photo of a movie poster for "E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL" in IMAX. Text on the post includes "EXCLUSIVE MINI POSTERS AVAILABLE WITH TICKET PURCHASE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST", "TICKETS ON SALE NOW ROYALCINEMASPOOLER.COM", and "Royal Cinemas 14 & World's Tallest IMAX".

23 Like 7 Comments 8 Shares

Its Cooler In Pooler!
August 9 at 5:50 PM

A post featuring a photo of a woman eating at a restaurant. Text on the post includes "**Pooler GA location is now open for walk-in customers!!" and "Tin Drum Asian Kitchen - Pooler (Pooler, GA)".

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Its Cooler In Pooler!
August 7 at 10:08 PM

A post featuring a photo of a small white dog with a pink collar sitting at a table. In the background, a man is visible. Text on the post includes "Tin Drum Asian Kitchen - Pooler (Pooler, GA)".

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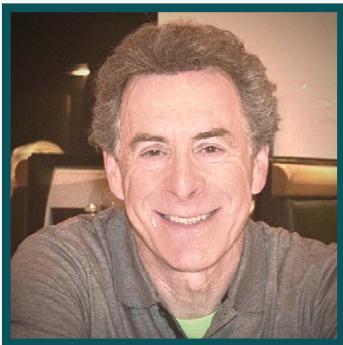
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LET'S TALK FOOD SENSITIVITIES

By Kerri Dodson, MNT, MCHWC, Master Nutrition Therapist



Kerri Dodson, Master Nutrition Therapist, Master Health and Wellness Coach

Many think that food allergies and food sensitivities are the same when in actuality, they are very different. With a food allergy, a person has an immediate response. Think about someone who eats peanuts and has an anaphylaxis response.

Food sensitivities can produce a much less reactive response which can also be delayed up to three days.

Food Sensitivities.

Unfortunately, food sensitivities play a role in many common health conditions. Adverse food reactions are one of the most

commonly misidentified health issues. Chronic health issues such as digestive problems, headache, joint and muscle pain, fatigue, constant runny nose or constant congestion, are all symptoms of our immune system's reaction to foods and additives in our everyday diet. Food sensitivities can also play a role in asthma, IBS, ADD/ADHD, arthritis, obesity and autoimmune diseases.

Some people can easily identify foods they are sensitive to, such as diary. While other times it's a food chemical that is not easy to determine. What makes it difficult, is that any food or chemical, even healthy foods can be reactive. Another issue muddying the water is that it can be several food/chemical sensitivities at once.

Food sensitivities can take up to 72 hours to present any symptoms. This means if you eat eggs on Monday, you may not feel the effects, such as a migraine, until Wednesday. Another issue, it can be several low-grade sensitivities that compound causing issues. To make it even more difficult, it can be dose dependent. Meaning if you eat a little of that food you may not feel the negative effects even though it is still causing damage to your gastrointestinal tract and/or inflammation. It is not until you have eaten a decent amount that you feel the negative effects.

Is Food Sensitivity Testing Really Accurate?

Short answer is yes, as long as it is the appropriate test. Not all tests are created equal. As a Nutrition Therapist, I am trained and have access to some of the most accurate food sensitivity testing.

The one I prefer is the Mediator Release Test. It is the most accurate test available to identify foods, additives and chemicals that are causing reactions. This is a blood draw test that quantifies how strongly your immune cells react to 170 different foods, chemicals and additives. This test measures changes in the ratio of liquids to solids after whole blood exposure to various antigens. Since the changes in the cell volume can be quantified, it can determine just how sensitive you are to that particular food/chemical.

These food sensitivities are damaging to the intestinal lining, can contribute to leaky gut and chronically stimulate your immune system causing chronic inflammation.



How I Use This Testing.

As a Nutrition Therapist, I rarely use this as a stand-alone test. We just cannot remove the sensitive food without healing and repairing the gastrointestinal lining. Almost all of my clients have chronic issues or severe digestive symptoms that also need to be addressed with gastrointestinal testing. Pairing these two tests together allows my clients to heal and have symptom resolution. When that is accomplished, we can then begin the reintroduction process of the sensitive foods to see if they are tolerated.

When you heal the gastrointestinal tract and fix leaky gut, while calming inflammation and immune response, food/chemical sensitivities are reversed. In doing so, my clients heal from their autoimmune issues, we can correct digestive disorders, rebalance the gut microbiome, significantly reduce inflammation and allow them to restore their energy, clear brain fog and get back to feeling incredible.



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Dr. Matthew Allen founded GSD in the early 2000s with just an office administrator and one assistant. Since then, GSD has evolved and grown to be one of our area's leading practices with a team of 5 doctors, 12 hygienists, and 11 assistants.

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GSD Dental Savings Plan options allow patients to accept treatment with confidence, taking the guesswork out of what your dental insurance will pay. If you have a dental plan that really doesn't suit your and your family's needs, take a look at their plans. They currently provide two plans for both Adults and Children centered on their Standard Plan and including an add on Periodontal plan.

They Make It Easy

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3. Attend Your Appointment

GSD will text you reminders for your appointments as well as follow up texts about self-care after your procedure. They can even send you digital invoices so you always know where you are regarding your care.

MEET THE TEAM

The team at Godley Station works every day to provide expert quality care and treatment to their patients.



DR. ALLEN founded Godley Station Dental in 2004. He is committed to helping patients understand their overall oral and facial health while providing them with personalized, state of the art treatment solutions.



DR. HATCH enjoys working with patients to improve their oral health and make an impact on individual's lives every day. She has been a dedicated member of our team since 2013.



DR. DUFFY believes in creating an environment where patients know that they are receiving dental care from someone who truly cares about them as an individual.



DR. FETTERS was selected for the U.S. Navy Health Professions Scholarship Program and served almost six years in the United States Navy as a dentist. Dr. Fetters is passionate about quality dentistry in a relaxed atmosphere.



DR. PATEL has been working in the dental field for the last six years and is passionate about providing quality dental care to his patients and has a particular sweet spot for esthetic cases.

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POOLER LIONS CLUB: Best Community Organization in Pooler

Story by Cindy Reid

It takes a lot to be voted the *Best Community Organization* only because there are so many wonderful service groups in Pooler. For this issue of “Best in Pooler,” the **Pooler Lions Club** received that honor in recognition of their tremendous impact in the community through their many service projects and focus on vision and vision screenings.

Founded in 1917, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest humanitarian service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in more than 45,000 clubs worldwide in 200 countries and geographic areas around the globe.

Locally the Pooler Lions Club was chartered in May of 2011 as a non-profit service organization and currently has approximately 50 members. Lions Club International focuses their global service around five areas of need, issues they “believe present significant challenges to humanity, and we believe it's our turn to meet them.” (www.lionsclubs.org)

Areas of Need/Global Causes

- Diabetes
- Vision
- Childhood Cancer
- Environment
- Hunger

Lions are active! Their motto is “We Serve,” which means doing whatever is necessary to help their local communities. Each local club has the autonomy to choose their service projects and clubs usually have multiple service projects.

Crusade Against Darkness

Lions have been dedicated to serving the blind and the vision impaired for many years. In 1925 Helen Keller attended the Lions Clubs International Convention and challenged Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.” They took up that challenge with a range of services, from vision screening to camps for the blind and vision-impaired.

The Pooler Lions Club conducts free vision screenings to children and adults in many venues. They use the Welch Alyn Spot Vision Screener—a handheld, portable device designed to help easily

detect vision issues on children as young as 6 months old, as well as adults. Both eyes are screened at once from a 3 foot distance and the results are immediately displayed on the computer screen. This computer display allows for early detection of near- and far-sightedness, unequal refractive power, blurred vision, pupil size deviation and eye misalignment. After a screening people are referred to an eye doctor for further care if needed.

Pooler Lions Club President Alex Monteith reports the club conducted 19,000 screenings last year, and he says they have 9,000 screenings already scheduled between now and December. They conducted their first vision screening of the school year at the Angel Learning Center on August 11.



Pooler Lions Club

“We do both public and private schools and facilities,” says Alex. “We also go to health fairs and community events.”

The Pooler Lions sponsor Sight for Students in area schools, which allows qualifying local students to obtain vouchers for free vision care. Used glasses are collected throughout the area and sent to the GA Lions Lighthouse for redistribution.

“There is an underserved population of people who simply don't have glasses that we try to reach,” says Alex.

The Pooler club also contributes funds and volunteers their time to the GA Lions Camp for the Blind & Low Vision located in Waycross, GA.

Alex says, “The camp is for the blind, the legally blind, and those who have

low vision. They have programs for both adults and children, and it also gives caregivers a respite.”

The camp serves around 200 campers a year and is a safe environment for activities such as swimming, adaptive sports, horseback riding, arts and crafts, dance and talent shows, scavenger hunts, fishing, campfires, carnival, and spirit competitions.

The next camp week is “Christmas Camp” held December 9-11, 2022. Visit the website (www.glc.org) for details or contact the Pooler Lions Club.

“Part of our mission is to outreach so we very much want to hear from anyone who may benefit from the experience,” says Alex.

Local Service Projects

In addition to their vision-related activities, the Pooler club also participates in many local service projects on a regular basis. Some of their activities include:

- Volunteering at Loaves and Fishes, an interfaith food ministry in Pooler;
- Assembling 244 hygiene kits for the homeless;
- Sponsoring Blood Drives;
- Recycling 500 pounds of plastic bags to get turned into Trex®;
- Donating school supplies to Pooler Elementary;
- Sponsoring a Spelling Bee for an educational non-profit serving homeschooled students in 2021;
- Working on the garden at a local elementary school;
- Delivering cards and candy to the residents at the Resorts, Legacy, and Oaks senior living centers;
- Creating and delivering 122 hand knitted items to Safe Shelter Center for Domestic Violence;
- Locally sponsoring the Lions Club International Peace Poster contest;
- Helping put up and take down 26,000 flags at the Mighty 8th Museum for Memorial Day

The club's biggest fundraiser is their annual golf tournament—the Chipping for Charity Golf Tournament—held in May at Crosswinds Golf Club in Savannah. Next year's tournament will be held on Saturday, May 13.

The event is a resounding success—last year they raised \$20,000. Other fundraisers include events such as Painting with a Twist, Shane's Rib Shack Bingo Night, and Board and Brush Savannah, among others.

A 501 c3 Organization

Alex reports that the Pooler club was recently approved by the IRS as a 501 c3 organization. "That's good news because now corporations can donate to our fundraisers," he says. "And through the process of applying for the IRS designation we learned a lot about charities and how money is spent. We are all volunteers at the local club level. Our members don't have to volunteer a lot of time, our philosophy is that if we can each give a little it will add up to a lot. Other clubs focus more on fundraisers, to fund worthy causes, and another Lions club runs the GA Camp. Our club is hands-on."

Membership

The only requirement for membership is to: "Be a good moral upstanding citizen." Membership applications are approved by the local clubs board of directors, and have "no basis in religion, race—we are literally open to anyone," says Alex.

He adds: "unless you have personal connections, you are unaware of the challenges and unmet needs in your community. So having a varied and diverse membership helps inform our service mission. We don't know what we don't know, so tell us how we can help."

The club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm at Lovezzola's Restaurant. They welcome volunteers and new members and are always looking for different ways to serve their community.

For more information, email lionsclub2@gmail.com, visit www.poolerlionsclub.org or find them on Facebook for up-to-date news and information. ♦

Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. Since 1917, Lions have strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects, and we extend our service impact through the generous support of our Lions Clubs International Foundation. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit lionsclubs.org.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. Established in 1968, LCIF provides grant funding to support the compassionate works of Lions, empowering their service and addressing the needs of their communities both locally and globally. To donate to LCIF, visit lionsclubs.org/donate.





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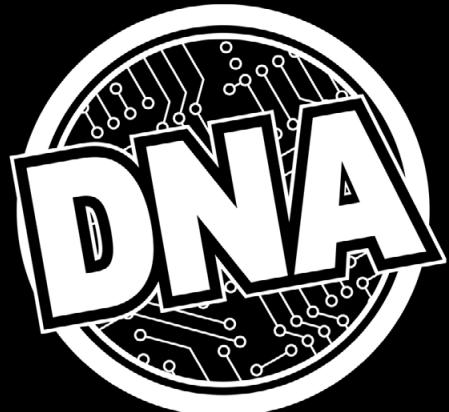
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BEST OF POOLER 2022: OHANA SPINE AND ORTHO CARE:

Best Orthopedic and Jason Auch-ller—Best Nurse Practitioner

With their success in treating patients, and active involvement with the Pooler community, it's no wonder **Ohana Spine and Ortho Care** was voted "Best Orthopedic" and their Nurse Practitioner Jason Auch-ller was voted "Best Nurse Practitioner" by *Pooler Magazine* readers. Fresh off of celebrating their first anniversary in June, the dedicated medical professionals at Ohana are grateful to be honored by the Pooler community.

Ohana Spine and Ortho Care takes pride in what they do. Their goal is to provide everyone with the best care and their top priority is to help their patients return to the high quality of life that they deserve. "Ohana is not just our name, but it is our mission and goal. Ohana means family and that is how we strive to treat every patient. It's who we are, and we are proud of it."

They are a medical clinic for the treatment of interventional spine pain relief, orthopedic injuries, and sports medicine, as well as the everyday aches and pains. Many personal injury attorneys refer their clients to Ohana for expert medical treatment after an accident. Don't suffer needlessly with headaches, back pain, neck pain, ankle, knee, and hip pain when relief is available at Ohana!

Sports injury? Sports physicals? Fracture? These are all treatable issues at Ohana Spine and Ortho Care. Scheduled appointments as well as walk-ins are welcome. And here you won't find a cold waiting room. Instead, they have a comforting and inviting family room. They will listen to you, take your medical history, and perform diagnostic tests specific to your needs. The team at Ohana knows every patient is unique. That's why all their patients have customized treatment plans. As a full-service medical facility, they provide in-house x-rays, casting, splinting/bracing, interventional spine procedures and more.

Meet Their Caring Team

Danielle Gilkey is an intelligent, hard-working entrepreneur and extremely driven, always accomplishing the goals she sets for herself. Danielle is also a caring and devoted mother and wife, always putting the needs of her family and friends above her own. She is an unstoppable force when she sets her mind to something. Her dream goal of opening her own orthopedic and spine medical practice, where she envisioned treating every patient to



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- Joint Injections
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Interventional Spine Procedures

- Epidurals
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- RFA (Radiofrequency Ablation)

Sports Physicals

X-Rays

where they become family has come true. OHANA means FAMILY!

Dominique Jean Servelli, RT(R), is a young, vibrant, and highly skilled entrepreneur. Dominique Jean has worked in orthopedics for five years, where she and Danielle met and were fortunate to join forces in building Ohana Spine & Ortho Care.

"Best Nurse Practitioner" Jason Auch-ller, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, is a Nurse Practitioner with an extensive background in orthopedics, in both post-acute and acute care settings. He is board certified in Family practice and is licensed to practice in both Georgia and South Carolina.

Dr. Richard J. Genato, M.D, Physician, is board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. His interests focus on nonsurgical treatment of musculoskeletal and spinal disorders.

And the newest addition to the Ohana Family, Dr. William Matthew Roberson, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon, AOA, American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) Board Certified.

Focus On Community

At Ohana they believe in having fun and supporting the community. From business groups to youth activities, you'll find the team at Ohana pitching in and helping because that's what they do—they care about you, and they care about their

community. Some of their activities this year included:

- Sponsor of Pooler Patriot's Day September 2022
- Effingham High School's work-based learning program host
- Greater Pooler Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau member
- Rincon Freedom Rings Parade
- Sponsor of the Effingham Lady Rebel Soccer Team
- Adopt-A-Family holiday help
- Local Food Drives

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Francis Morris & Pooler PD: Beyond the Badge

Sergeant Francis Morris of the Pooler Police Department (PD) has been serving as one of Pooler's Finest since 2010. Born in Ohio and raised in Kentucky, Morris moved to the local area in 1995 and has been proud to call Pooler home ever since. It is of little surprise that this man in blue represents the *Best of Pooler*.

"You have to have a heart for the job. It's about making a difference. It's about doing something to give back. It's about changing people's lives," he says.

Duty and Diligence

Morris serves as watch commander. He is also a field training officer, training nearly half of his department over the years. The sergeant loves his profession and has taken pride in being on patrol his entire career.

"Patrol is where it's at for me. My heart is with my guys and with the community," he says. With more than 300 hours of management training alone, Morris strives to embody exemplary leadership skills while training new recruits in a character-driven, principled manner.

"I train them to always be honest, to always be respectful and to always have courage. My focus is to lead people to be better people," he says.

Inspired to Serve

Morris recalls one of the biggest moments in his life that influenced his decision to become a police officer.

"It was an interaction with an officer when I was 16-years-old that I keep near and dear to my heart," he says.

Morris remembers it like it was just yesterday. One morning, Morris and a couple of his friends decided to go to the nearby lake for a swim day rather than go to school. The boys couldn't wait to enjoy their day. On the way there, they heard sirens. Seeing a Kentucky State Trooper behind him, young Morris was utterly terrified and immediately pulled over.

As the officer approached the car and looked in, Morris and his friends were a ball of nerves. The officer informed him that he was speeding. Aware the officer knew it was a school day, Morris explained that they were headed to the lake to go swimming. After obtaining Morris' information, the officer went back to his car for a few minutes. What happened next would change Morris' life forever.



"He comes back to the car, pulls his hat up, winks at me and says, 'You boys have fun ... have a good day,' and he walks away. That interaction with him and how he responded gave me a lot of respect for law enforcement officers," he says.

Appreciating the honor, integrity and respect that the badge represents, Morris prides himself in consistently showing that respect, knowing it makes a world of difference. "When respect is earned, it is given. I believe deeply in that. I always try to treat others with respect and dignity; it doesn't matter who they are," he says.

Making A Difference

With Pooler's rapid growth over the past decade, the Pooler PD team has also grown—going from about 20 officers in 2010 to more than 60 officers presently. The department remains diligent about their service to the city and about their ongoing presence and visibility throughout the community. Understanding that I-95 and I-16 run through the city, officers strive to be prepared to meet any challenges head on, helping to keep Pooler a safe place to live, work and play.

"Our chief preaches the importance of officer presence in both residential and business areas," Morris says.

Gratitude

Morris is grateful to the individuals who have loved and supported him throughout his life. He is incredibly thankful for his fiancée Sherri Lovezzola, who is always there for him.

"I love spending time with her. I met her at Lovezzola's while dining there," he says.

Morris has the utmost appreciation for his department and the entire Pooler team that helps make his job a success—those who sincerely have the city's best interest at heart.

"We honestly have one of the best departments in Southeast Georgia. We look out for each other and help each other strive to be the best we can be. Our city's seal says: 'Pride, Family, Honor'—we stick to that. We're not only co-workers, we're also family. I'm blessed to be in this community. We have a great chief, a great mayor, a great city manager. God is great all the time; without Him, we are nothing." ♦



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RACHEL SMITH: Voted Best Nurse in Pooler

Pooler's Best Nurse, **Rachel Smith** is a nurse practitioner at Vitali Medspa who is well-loved for her expertise in esthetics. Being named Best of Pooler is a testament to her results and her many satisfied patients.

From precisely placing dermal fillers to add volume to a patient's lips or cheeks to administering Botox injections to reduce wrinkles and crow's feet, Rachel has an eye for elevating her patients' natural beauty while incorporating their individual preferences. As a self-described perfectionist, she is laser-focused on the subtle details that give patients a boost.

While the treatments she does the most are Botox and laser hair removal, her personal favorite treatment to administer is carbon dioxide (CO2) laser resurfacing, which is used to treat sun damage, age spots, scarring and wrinkles.

"It makes such a big difference in the quality of patients' skin. It's the treatment that yields the best results," Rachel says.

She has 12 years of experience working in the nursing field with a background in orthopedic trauma care. It was there that she became involved in post-trauma reconstructive procedures that improved patients' physical appearance and well-being. Nursing interested her because she wanted to make a difference and serve her community.

After receiving her nurse practitioner credentials, she turned to the esthetics specialty to further her career with the experience she built in reconstructive care.

"Esthetics is a way to help people feel better about themselves," Rachel says. "It's nice to make people feel more confident."

She has worked at Vitali Medspa since they opened their doors five years ago, and she has built a loyal following of patients who have been with her from the beginning.

"One of my favorite things about my job is the relationships I have formed with people I see often," Rachel says.

Rachel also enjoys the camaraderie she shares with her colleagues. They often collaborate and refer patients to each other based on their specialties.



“One of my favorite things about my job is the relationships I have formed with people I see often.

"We have such a close-knit team, and we are super close and respectful of one another," Rachel says.

Vitali Medspa focuses on providing customized aesthetic treatments like laser hair removal, injectables, medical grade facials and skincare, body contouring, platelet-rich plasma microneedling, skin rejuvenation, vascular treatments, chemical peels, hormone replacement therapy as well as many other medical aesthetic services.

Their highly trained and licensed team is constantly continuing their education to sharpen their skills and offer new non-invasive aesthetic services.

Although their treatments have a medical aspect to them, they strive to create an inviting and relaxing atmosphere. It's not unusual to see a

display of mimosas or macarons at the front desk.

"We try to keep the spa very informal and comfortable," Rachel says.

Outside of work, Rachel enjoys spending time visiting Savannah and traveling with her family. You can see some of the results of Rachel's work on her Instagram page, @rachel_vitalimedspa or Rachel Smith, Nurse Injector on Facebook. ♦

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BY JESSICA & CO. BEAUTY LOUNGE

Voted "Best Salon" & "Best Stylist" by Pooler Magazine Readers

Jessica Sauls and her team brings years of experience, innovation, and vision to her award winning salon **By Jessica & Co. Beauty Lounge**. It's no wonder they have been voted "Best Salon," and stylist Allie Hamilton was voted "Best Stylist," by *Pooler Magazine* readers.

Since opening in 2016, By Jessica & Co. has become the premier salon in Southwest Georgia, with a team of creators and designers who pride themselves on being the best at their craft.

As a full service salon, they offer hair, lash, and brow services. And they are animal friendly and environmentally conscious. Jessica says, "We care about our clients! That's why we use only the best all-natural, organic products for your hair, lashes, and brows."

They are dedicated to giving you haircuts, color, and style that make a statement. Jessica says, "Our stylists are passionate about hair and about transforming you into the best image of yourself."

Each client gets a personalized consultation, professional service, wash, style, and at-home hair care recommendations. They serve women, children, and men (services for men include military cuts, professional barbering, beard, and mustache trims.)

Their eyelash salon is one the best in the area, with easy to maintain lashes that will definitely make your eyes pop! And you will be pleasantly surprised at how easy they are to maintain. Even before applying makeup, you'll see how great your eyes look. Just starting to experiment with lashes? Ask about their most natural service, the popular lash lift and tint.

Finish the look with eyebrow services, utilizing the right color, volume, and shape to guarantee the most natural looking brows. They offer a variety of professional services including ombre powder, microblading, and lamination brows and high-quality waxing services.

"Best Stylist" Allie Hamilton is a master stylist specializing in women's custom cuts and men's military cuts. Known for her attention to detail and color techniques, she

regularly attends hair shows and takes educational classes to ensure her clients get fabulous results. "We have been together since day one, and Allie has a huge following who have been with her for over 20 years. She truly deserves this honor," says Jessica.



Jessica will be receiving a prestigious award herself later this year in Las Vegas, having been named "Top Cosmetologist of the Decade" and honored as one of their "Empowered Women 2022" by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP).

This year Jessica launched J LUV LASHES, partnering with the Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion at St. Joseph's/Candler. Each of Jessica's hand-designed lashes honor someone special, with her mother Mary Claire the inspiration for her mission. With every purchase of these lashes, you can also purchase a pair that will be donated to someone battling cancer.

"I like making things pretty," says Jessica, who wants to make everyone look and feel their very best. She says, "I firmly believe that communication between client and stylist is the key to getting that perfect, flawless look. Come and talk to us so we can create just the right look for you!"

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Cake Corner Bakery Creates Pooler's BEST Baked Treats

Story by Cindy Reid | Photography by Emily Roscher





Nestled just off of Highway 80 in Pooler, there's a charming bakery that creates some of Pooler's favorite baked goods: **Cake Corner Bakery**. Customers are greeted by their sign which changes messages from time to time. At the moment, it says, "The more you weigh the harder you are to kidnap. Eat cake!"

The customers don't need to be told twice. When they step through the bakery's red door, they are greeted by friendly faces and the shelves of mouth watering cakes, cupcakes and cookies on display.

The best selling items include classic red velvet cupcakes, cake squares—slices of yellow cake iced with white buttercream frosting and garnished with a delicate buttercream flower—and their famous seven-layer chocolate cake. The cake is sold by the slice in the shop but can also be ordered as a whole cake.

A Reputation for Quality

Cake Corner has been making custom cakes and sweet treats for all occasions and selling supplies for home bakers for more than 35 years.

The bakery opened in 1985 and was originally owned by Mary Graham and Julia Wilson. They quickly built a reputation of providing delicious and beautiful cakes for all occasions, with word of mouth bringing in new customers.

The current owner, Donnie Dimick, bought the business in 2005 after being a loyal customer for many years, and has carried on the bakery's legacy together with his business partner Talmadge Fries.

Talmadge handles the operations side, while Donnie handles the creative side.

"I love being able to use my creativity to decorate cakes," Donnie says.

Donnie started making cakes 30 years ago when his sister bought him a cake decorating class for his birthday. From there, he was hooked on this delicious three-dimensional artform. He honed his craft working for other cake shops like the bakery at Sam's Club, which helped him learn how to make cakes quickly.

His speed and efficiency is helpful during the bakery's highest volume week: Thanksgiving. Donnie estimates that the bakery fills 300-400 orders in that week alone, working for days to get it all done.

Changing Trends

Cake trends have evolved over Donnie's career. For example, fondant has become more popular in cake designs, but customers sacrifice flavor in the name of aesthetics.

"Customers want the fondant style, but they don't want the fondant taste," Donnie says.

Donnie calls himself "old-school" because he works with classic buttercream frosting, but he is able to work wonders with the medium.

Weddings, Retail, and So Much More

Wedding cakes are a staple of Donnie's business, and he estimates that he has made more than 1,000 of them over his career. They do 8-10 wedding cakes each month and make more than 100 cakes each week for retail sales.

On the weekends, they work on custom orders.

Customers have brought all kinds of requests to Donnie to replicate in edible form. He's made cars, replicas of the iconic armadillo cake from Steel Magnolias and wedding cakes with 6-7 tiers, but one of the craziest designs he's ever made was a cockroach.

Whatever design idea or special occasion brings people to Cake Corner Bakery, Donnie focuses on making a consistent product that creates repeat customers.

"We always try to please the customer. As long as you're focused on that, they always come back," Donnie says. "I've done cakes for baby showers and the

same babies that were born, I've done their graduation cakes. I've grown with my customers throughout their lives from birth to graduation to weddings."

A Labor of Love

Running a bakery is not always as sweet as it seems. There is a lot that goes into operating a business—like long hours that can be physically and mentally taxing and weathering times of uncertainty.

"It's a lot of hard work," Donnie says. "Make sure it's something you love to do. If you don't enjoy it, it's a waste of your time."

I've done cakes for baby showers and the same babies that were born, I've done their graduation cakes. I've grown with my customers throughout their lives from birth to graduation to weddings.

Donnie credits his faith, his family, his employees and his customers for keeping him going over the years. His sister, DeeDee Shearouse, works as a baker, and his parents were also involved with the business. His father, Don Dimick, worked in the bakery until his death in 2020, and his mother, Nancy Dimick, still helps out.

He also has several hardworking staff members, including Susan Doss, who has been working with him for 14 years.

"What keeps me going is the Lord. Without Him I couldn't do all this," Donnie says. "My wife, my business partner, and my workers also motivate me to keep going and not give up. Seeing happy customers also gives us encouragement."

Awards and Accolades

In addition to being named *Best Of Pooler* in both the *Best Cake* and *Best Dessert* categories, Cake Corner Bakery has previously received accolades from the Greater Pooler Area Chamber of Commerce's *Taste of Pooler* in both 2018 and 2019, winning Best Table, Best Dessert and Best Overall each year.

"It's an honor. We appreciate the people who support us," Donnie says.

While Cake Corner doesn't have a website, they consistently receive rave reviews on social media, and they were named a Neighborhood Favorite on Nextdoor.

Find them on Facebook at The Cake Corner, Pooler GA, where they share photos of some of their creations. ♦

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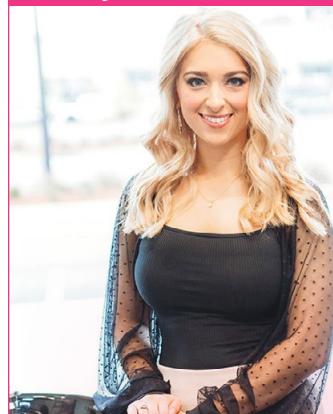
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**BEST
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IAN SCHULTE: Courage, Commitment & Community with Pooler Fire-Rescue

"The only thing I've ever known since I was a small child is a life of service. The only thing I want to do is serve my adopted community because I absolutely love Pooler."

Ian Schulte has been doing just that—serving his community and making a profound difference. The Northern Kentucky native has been on the Pooler Fire-Rescue team since 2018. Ian, a lieutenant at the department, is assigned to its tower ladder company; he also teaches new recruits.

"I'm just a guy trying to do my small part. There are plenty of guys in our department that do a tremendous amount of work—guys that I look up to," he says.

A Life of Service

Ian is no stranger to service. He is a second-generation firefighter, as his dad Paul Schulte was the assistant chief of a fire department in Northern Kentucky—the same fire department where Ian began his career as a firefighter.

"I grew up watching him go to calls. I knew that's what I wanted to do," he says.

Along with being a career firefighter, Ian is a skilled emergency medical technician (EMT). Paul, too, was an EMT, along with Ian's grandmother Eileen, making Ian a third-generation EMT.

"Growing up, all I knew were lights and sirens and helping the world around me," he adds.

Ian feels he is not merely living out that childhood dream but also his purpose in life. "I believe I was put on this earth to be a firefighter. It all comes down to serving a greater purpose than myself. The job allows me to give back in ways I never anticipated. I'm not only having an impact on the community through services I give, whether [responding to] medical calls, building fires or car accidents, but I also help develop the mind frame and skill set of new firefighters," he says.

A Few Good Men

Ian is thankful for the team of quality firefighters he is privileged to work alongside—individuals who selflessly and courageously give of themselves each day to make the community a better place to live—those who run toward the obstacles that others must run from.

of how aggressive we are when it comes to service. We also have some of the most well-designed equipment I've ever worked with," Ian says. He appreciates the initiatives, resources and investments of Pooler's dedicated officials who help make it all possible, including the city manager, mayor and city council.

Ian is looking forward to the ongoing growth and development of the organization that will continuously improve on services for Pooler's rapidly growing community.

"I'm excited for the challenges and the opportunities that may come from that," he says.

Beyond the Call of Duty

As for hobbies, Ian makes custom fire helmet shields. He enjoys working out, studying German and playing with his six dogs.

Ian is the president of a local firefighter fraternity—Black Sheep F.O.O.L.S (Fraternal Order of Letterhead Society). He also leads firefighter training groups and has enjoyed teaching at conferences across the country where firefighters learn the "strategies and techniques

needed for the industry to remain at peak performance."

Ian also received one of Kentucky's most notable honors—membership of the Kentucky Colonels, a charitable nonprofit which "aids the Commonwealth and its citizens"; the Kentucky governor awards the honor to individuals who have made remarkable contributions to society through their service and achievements. Ian continues to go beyond the call of duty, which is why he exemplifies the *Best of Pooler*.

"At the end of the day, I love what I do; I love coming to work and serving the citizens of Pooler. It's an honor and a privilege to be able to serve this community." ♦



"Pooler Fire-Rescue has the highest investing firefighters that I have ever worked with—guys who pride themselves in serving their community in the best ways possible and are willing and eager to do hard work. I love being with like-minded firefighters, officers and leaders who legitimately want to do a good job," he says.

Commitment Counts

Under the leadership of Fire Chief Wade Simmons, Pooler Fire-Rescue is committed to offering citizens a team of reliable professionals who provide dependable fire services.

"The vision that the administration has set forth falls in line with my beliefs in how fire services should be. I'm proud



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Meet Truck#1 "Baby Blue" and Truck #2 "Big Red." Chances are you have already met them in pursuit of the fabulous fare provided by **Chazito's Latin Cuisine**.

The Baby Blue and Big Red trucks are a beacon for foodies from Savannah to St. Louis. It's easy to see (and taste) why they were Voted **Best Food Truck** by *Pooler Magazine* readers. And because Chazito's turns up routinely on every "Best" list in the area, it really wasn't much of a surprise.

When you take your Abuela's (Grandmother) recipes, add a creative touch of your own, and serve it up hot and fresh, you are bound to create a demand for something Pooler and Savannah never knew they needed—excellent Puerto Rican cuisine.

As Chazito's says on their website... "Our food trucks are mad flavor on wheels. Nothing quite compares to the smell of good, Latin cuisine wafting out from a food truck, and let's be honest: Chazito's is in a class of our own." All #truth!

In addition to the two very busy food trucks, Chazito's has two traditional brick and mortar restaurants, Chazito's in Pooler and the new one, 787 By Chazito's in Savannah.

Owner/Chef Chaz Ortiz started his food business in a tent on River Street, Savannah, in 2012 with a limited menu of Pinchos (Kabobs), Empanadas and Plantains, all made from family recipes.

Chaz and his grandfather Doming Ortiz purchased an old Frito Lay's Potato Chips truck and, while working afternoons at Gulfstream, together they started working on revamping the truck into Chazito's Latin Cuisine Food Truck. After working on it in Chaz's driveway for 6 months, they were ready to bring the food to the people.

The first food truck rolled out in 2015, followed by another truck in June of 2016.

Take a look at the menu and you'll see why they quickly grew into a food truck success. (Note: menu items are subject to change.)

Food Truck Classics

- Cuban Sandwich
- Boricua Burrito
- Empanadas
- Macho Yuca Fries
- Nachos
- Wings
- Puerto Rican Plate

Sides

- Crispy Plantains
- Sweet Plantains
- Yuca Fries
- Avocado fries
- White Rice & Beans
- Coconut Mango
- Coleslaw

Sandwiches

- Juan Pepe
- Sloppy Jose
- Tripleta Monster

Chazito's also offer large quantity catering and take-out options, and market items for purchase. See their website for more info on those options.

Find A Truck

Although often found in Savannah's Starland Yard, Chazito's Latin Cuisine food trucks can be found all over. They have been in Savannah, Atlanta, Duluth GA, Charleston Food Truck Festival, Myrtle Beach Food Truck Festival, Midlands Food Truck Festival, Bluffton, Hilton Head, Pooler, Tampa, St Louis, and at many local businesses and churches. The food trucks can also be hired for weddings and other events.

The best way to find one on any given day is to check on social media or on their website: www.chazitos.com.

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The Best of Pooler Signature Cocktail Pooler Sweet Bourbon Peach Lemonade, will be served at the **Best of Pooler** networking event on Thursday, September 22.

A big thank you to Savannah Quarters Country Club for serving our signature drink and a special thank you to Pooler Spirits Warehouse for creating this delicious recipe and being a sponsor of the Best of Pooler Readers' Choice Awards.

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POOLER EVENTS

- 9/2 - 9/4: Farewell to Summer Labor Day Weekend Celebration**
Plant Riverside District, 400 W. River Street
- 9/5: Heritage Day Festival**
9:30AM - 3:00pm
2980 Ebenezer Rd, Rincon
- 9/8: Pooler Patriot Day Kick-Off Mixer**
5:30-7:30pm
1011 Chatham Pkwy, Savannah
- 9/9: Tanger Concert Series**
7:00 - 9:00pm
Beer Garden
- 9/10: Pooler Patriot Day**
4:00 - 10:00pm
Pooler Rec Complex
- 9/17: 2022 Fast and The Furriest 5K9, A "Pawsitively" Unique 5K & Wag Fest**
6726 Sallie Mood Dr, Savannah
- 9/17: Vitali MedSap 5th Anniversary Celebration**
130 Canal Street, Suite 403, Pooler
- 9/22: Best of Pooler Networking Event**
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Savannah Quarters Clubhouse
- 9/30: Phil the Neighborhoods: Tanger Outlets**
6:00 - 7:00 pm
Tanger Outlets
- 10/14: Tanger Concert Series**
7:00 - 9:00pm
Beer Garden
- 10/19: 2022 Economic Outlook Luncheon**
12:00 - 1:30pm
Courtyard by Marriott 419 Pooler Pkwy

Find more events and happenings at
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