April-May 2017 IsleofHopeNews.com



IOH's Only Casualty of WWII

May 29, 2017 is Memorial Day, the day when those who made the supreme sacrifice are remembered. This issue is dedicated to IOH's only casualty of WWII. Respectfully written by IOH resident, Steve Goldberg.



Ebbie Nicholas Paxton, Jr. was born to Ebbie and Lula Paxton on May 9, 1918. He was the first son and third born of his six siblings. The family resided on Rosenbrook Avenue, where the Paxton kids were regularly seen playing together.

Carolyn Beebe, a long-time resident of IOH, said, "My mom told me Ebbie was an easy-going, lovable young man, who was really good friends with my father. I remember that Ebbie owned a motorcycle, and one day I was sitting in between him and my dad on the motorcycle driving around IOH . . . and I was scared to death." Educated in Savannah, Ebbie graduated high in his class at Benedictine Military School in 1936, and in November of 1942 he joined the U.S. Army. After basic training he was sent to the 306th Infantry, 77th Army Division and ordered to the Pacific theater to fight the Japanese at Guam, Leyte and Ie Shima.

In April of 1945, U.S. Forces were preparing for the last battle of WWII—Okinawa. On April 16th, the 77th Army Division was ordered to seize le Shima, a 10-square mile island located 20-miles west of the northwestern tip of Okinawa. There were three reasons for its strategic importance: first, it had three landing strips; second, it was a staging area for Japanese troops and supplies for the Ryukyu Island chain; and lastly, legusugu Mountain, with its 600 feet above sea level and its long-range gun emplacements could easily fire on American troops on Okinawa.

The Japanese began to make intensive preparations for the defense of Ie Shima, in November 1944. In addition to hundreds of concealed caves embedded in Iegusugu Mountain, they built thousands of rifle pits and machine gun and mortar emplacements. They also heavily mined the center of the island with anti-tank and antipersonnel explosives and hundreds of flame fougasse mines. The Japanese battle strategy for Ie Shima and Okinawa was to (1) from defensive positions, ambush the enemy; (2) prolong the war until the American public became tired of it and demanded its end, and hopefully offer the Japanese a conditional surrender.

On the 18th of April, while making his way to the front in a jeep accompanied by a regimental commander, a Japanese sniper killed one of the most renowned war correspondents in U.S. history—Ernie Pyle. He is buried on the southern part of le Shima. His monument is inscribed: At this spot the 77th Infantry Division lost a buddy, Ernie Pyle, 18 April 1945.(continued on pg.15)

Editor's Note

Spring is here (did we even have winter this year?) and a lot is going on. (See the Community Bulletin Board on Page 10 for details about the IOH Pool, IOH Park and Kid's Safety Day.)

Also, I want to say a big thank you to Shirley and Don Haupt and Christopher Roberts for putting together an oyster roast in February that helped raise \$10,000 for Hospice Savannah. Everyone had a blast, and believe it or not, there was a Sammy sighting. As always, we will honor the class of 2017 in our June/July issue.

So if you of have a graduate (college or high school) send us a picture. You can email to chris@isleofhopenews. com. (High resolution digital photos if possible.)

We have some great reads in this issue. I want to thank Dr. Steven Goldberg for the article on Ebbie Paxton -- and of course, The World Famous Crabettes. Lauren and I enjoyed hanging out with Anita Clay, Polly Wylly Cooper, and the rest of the gang.

Finally, we'd like to thank all the Veterans for their service to our country.



The Isle of Hope News is a bi-monthly publication serving Isle of Hope area residents and advertisers. It was started by Isle of Hope resident Ed Yannett in 2011 and mails to 2,400 residents in Isle of Hope, Dutch Island and surrounding areas.



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The Magic of The World-Famous Crabettes

Anita Clay fell in love with the accordion more than 80 years ago when she saw a beggar playing it on the streets of downtown Savannah. She was 12 years old.

"Why did you like it?" I ask. "Was it the sound or the way it looked?"

"I don't know," she answers. But when she pulls it from its sheath it is an amazing looking apparatus. A keyboard on one side and a reed on the other and in between is the part you squeeze. It is also affectionately called a "Belly Baldwin" or "Stomach Steinway." Others call it a squeezebox, but you can't tell the story of The World-Famous Crabettes without realizing this instrument is as essential to the group as its three-founding members Anita, Polly Wylly Cooper and Linda Ann McCall.

Tonight Anita and her lifelong friend Polly Cooper sit side by side and wield these mesmerizing instruments as

the rest of the The World-Famous Crabettes gather round with their multicolored vests (handmade by Anita and "Big" and "Little" Polly) and hats with crabs.

No, the crabs aren't alive, but they used to be. But some complained it was cruel to attach the live

ones to their hats, so the ladies just threw them in a pot, boiled them, and enjoyed a tasty meal. Now they use fake ones.

After an hour or so of sipping wine, eating dinner, laughing, telling stories, and tuning instruments, The Crabettes launch into a rousing number called "Bring Out the Beer Barrell" and it's the most fun I've had - this side of too much bourbon - in a while. The band has two accordions, a clarinet, a gut bucket or washtub



bass, guitar, and slide whistle. After jamming on their instruments for a few minutes they all begin to sing no roar:

Roll out the barrel, we'll have a barrel of fun

Roll out the barrel, we've got the blues on the run

Zing boom tararrel, ring out a song of good cheer

Now's the time to roll the barrel, for the gang's all here (continued on pg.10)

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IOH School STEAM Program

Isle of Hope K-8 School is pleased to announce the official launch of our choice STEAM program to be implemented this August, 2017 under the leadership of our new STEAM Advisory Board.

Every grade level from 1st - 8th will include at least one advanced classroom integrating engaging cross-curricular STEAM content into our new accelerated curriculum. This programwill be available to high-achieving students who meet the entrance criteria consisting of academics, behavior, and scores.

Our Isle of Hope STEAM program has recently earned distinguished state and national awards. We are the ONLY school in Chatham County (public, "specialty", or private) to have earned first place Georgia STEM Education Awards (both 2014 and 2015), the prestigious NASA Student Astronaut Challenge National Championship Award (2017), and more. Come and see your new Isle of Hope neighborhood K-8 school; serving the island since 1899.

We invite all Isle of Hope families to inquire and apply; contact Principal Lawrence Butler and STEAM Coordinator W. Wade Smith via email william.smith@ sccpss.com or by phone 912-395-6555 for a personal tour or more information.













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IOH Business of the Month

1. How long have you been in business? BankSouth Mortgage has been in the Savannah market for the last two years. I have been in the mortgage business here in Savannah for the last 23 years.

2. How did you get started? After graduating from UGA in 1994, I moved back to Savannah, and was blessed to find a wonderful mentor who spent 10 years helping me learn the business and the importance of communication and truly caring about the people that are applying for a home loan.

3. What was your biggest break getting into this business?

Without a doubt, my biggest break has been the fact that I am based in Savannah which is a town based



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on relationships where you can be successful just by doing the right thing.

4. What is your favorite part about the IOH community? Isle of Hope has it all. It is like a little piece of years gone by, and I always loved the family atmosphere, boating community and neighborhood pool. My brother and I swam for the IOH swim team back in the day.

5. What is your favorite part of the day? My work days are dedicated to clients, real estate agents, loan processors and others. After the ride home, I love our family tradition at dinner each night where everyone has to describe the "best part – worst part" of the day. It is a fun way to catch up with the kids and talk through what is going on in their lives. It also brings my focus back on the family for the night.

6. Anything you'd like to say to the IOH community? We would love for everyone in the Isle of Hope area community to know that our BankSouth Mortgage team is thankful for the opportunity to help new families call Savannah and Isle of Hope home.

7. What makes your business special, unique, or different?

At BankSouth Mortgage we really strive to understand our client needs. Local processing and underwriting allow us to provide a very transparent and seamless buying experience. Dedication and support to the local Savannah community is the bank's and our employees' highest priority.

Neighborhood Market Pulse - Isle of Hope and Dutch Island

Welcome to the Neighborhood Market Pulse.

This column, which will appear in each issue of the Isle of Hope News, is designed to keep your finger on the pulse of the real estate market in the Isle of Hope and Dutch Island area. It will work in conjunction with with our online market report at myhomesavannah. com/neighborhood-pulse.

So let's start with a snapshot of how the IOH and Dutch Island housing market performed the 6 months previous to March 28. (This data was pulled on March 28.) If you want to see our full Q1 report visit my blog myhomesavannah.com/blog)

As of March 28, there were 25 homes for sale on Isle of hope. In addition, nine had sold and two were under contract. Two homes also were "contingent" – meaning certain conditions between the buyer and seller needed to be met before the deal would close.

During the same time period, Dutch Island had nine active listings, four home sales, and two contingents. One home was under contract but had not closed yet.

(To see charts with the distribution of sales monthby-month during the previous year go to the bottom of page 10.)

As you probably know, Spring and Summer are the busiest times to buy and sell real estate, and with more interest rate increases expected this year, you should consider buying or selling now rather than later. Lower rates give buyers more buying power and sellers access to more people willing and able to buy their homes. This spring and summer may be the best chance you get in the next year or so to sell at top dollar.

If you have more specific questions or want a more in-depth look at the housing market or value of your home call me at 912-844-9000 or send me an email to edyannett@kw.com.



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Isle of Hope and Dutch Island Number of Sold Homes (Monthly)





Crabettes (cont'd from pg. 3)

This is so much better than seeing The World Famous Crabettes at a show. This is a behind the scenes look at what makes this group tick and how this gang of eclectic and interesting folks have built a sense of community around their love of music – polka, no less – and simply hanging out with each other once a month.

So who are The World-Famous Crabettes? Anita, Polly and Linda Ann formed the band 27 years ago to play for "Big Polly's" (Polly's mom's) 75th birthday party. Polly describes their humble beginnings this way:

"The World-Famous Crabettes began their climb to fame in 1988 at Tybee. It was to celebrate 'Big Polly's' (Wylly-Brooks) 75th birthday. Linda Ann and Anita drove to the beach wearing black pants, white shirts, but no hats.

As Polly had been crabbing, she put the bushel of blue crabs to work by securing them onto three straw hats with rubber bands. The crabs wiggled their legs and snapped their claws, but stayed put.

Anita complained that the crabs were bubbling down her neck and Linda Ann griped when one stuck his sharp leg into her ear, but the evening was a success. Linda Ann played a piano with strings rusted from the salt air and Anita and Polly played, yes, accordions.

The crowd loved it, but many were elderly and had hearing problems! Some wished they did. Someone (Tim Cooper claims the honor)(so does Margaret Wylly) named us The World-Famous Crabettes."

Since then Crabette members have come and gone, but the same funloving and salty spirit that came to life that night still reverberates through their instruments, voices and personalities.

We will experience it again a few days later when we attend their show at Savannah Commons. It's Happy Hour and the residents have gathered in the dining room to hear The World-Famous Crabettes do their thing. Some are dressed to the nines while others wear jeans and sweatshirts. There are couples, parents with visiting kids, and groups of residents sitting together.

The Crabettes open with "Beer Barrel" and smiles break out across the room. Then they launch into "That's Amore" and wind through a string of love-themed oldies since it is close to Valentine's Day. They crack jokes, tell stories, and even invite one of their fans to come and join them in Johnny Mercer's Moon River.

As I look around the room, I see those around me being taken back to their youth with thoughts of their first loves, a spouse that has since passed, or earlier times when they danced to the same songs at the local dance hall. One lady remarks that she and her husband of 65 years, Tom, used to sing these songs to each other. I get the sense that she is not alone as many in the room mouth or sing every word of every song.

This is the magic of The World-Famous Crabettes and their music. They take the same enthusiasm, no – joy – that they've discovered making music together and infuse it into their audience.

And for a moment in time, we all feel young and happy and free. - *Chris Brantley*

Accordians: Anita Clay, Polly Wylly Cooper, Betsy Hollis, Sue Staten, Jane Nesmith-accordian Keyboard:Linda Ann McCall -Singers: Sandy Champion, Ted Eldridge Kathy Sakas, Judy Williams Clarinet: Laura Lawton -Guitar: David Alley, Judy Williams, Jack Diamond Gut bucket Joyce Murless

Future Performance: Summer Breeze-May 13th-2:00 PM, River's Edge, May 20th 2:00, Savannah Square May 5th 4:30 PM.

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Summer Fun That's Educational, Too

For most children, summer is a time to leave classes and homework behind. However, when they return to school in the fall after the long summer break, students can find themselves struggling to catch up.

Skills and knowledge gained throughout the school year fade during the summer months. According to Sylvan Learning, the leading provider of tutoring to students of all ages, grades and skill levels, loss of content retention begins within 24 to 48 hours of learning unless the new information is reinforced or applied immediately. After a month without reinforcement, approximately 80 percent of what a student has recently learned can be lost. According to Sylvan, a break from school is great for recharging your children's batteries, but if they aren't using the skills and knowledge that was learned in the classroom, they could find themselves lagging behind when school starts up again.

For children who have been struggling at school, summer can be their opportunity to catchup on key skills and feel more confident when they head back to class. For students who do well, it's an opportunity to keep their enthusiasm for learning high.

Parents can play a key role in reinforcing learning on an ongoing basis. The education experts at Sylvan Learning have prepared practical tips for integrating

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Dino Papadopoulos, Owner & Executive Director Sylvan Learning

continuous learning into fun, family activities all summer long:

Checklist: Summer Fun That's Educational, Too

• Read with your child.

You can't start too early. You can't read too much. Reading to young children nurtures an interest in language, words and communication. (continued on pg.13)

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Watch for Different Risk Levels of "Muni" Bonds

Are you thinking of investing in municipal bonds? If so, you may have good reason, particularly if you are in one of the higher tax brackets. After all, municipal bond interest payments typically are exempt from federal income taxes, and possibly state and local income taxes, too — although some "munis" are subject to the alternative minimum tax. However, since not all municipal bonds are the same, you'll want to know the differences — especially in terms of risk.

Municipal bonds, like corporate bonds, essentially face two types of risk: interest rate risk and default risk. Interest rate risk becomes clear when market interest rates rise, causing the value of your existing municipal bonds to fall. No one will pay you full price for your bonds when newly issued bonds carry a higher rate — so if you plan on selling bonds before they mature, you risk losing principal. You can largely ignore this type of risk simply by holding your bonds until maturity, at which point you will receive the face value back, provided the issuer doesn't default.

And that brings us to the second type of risk: default risk. Historically, municipal bond default rates have been much lower than those of corporate bonds. But different types of municipal bonds carry different levels of default risk. Here's a quick look at the two main categories of municipals and their risk characteristics:

• General obligation bonds — General obligation bonds generally finance projects of a municipality. A general obligation bond issuer is required to do everything in its power, including raising new taxes, to ensure that interest payments are paid on time and in full. (continued on pg.14)

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Summer Learning (cont'd from pg. 11)

For older kids, reading together can be fun and interesting. Parents can even turn Harry Potter or Twilight mania into a learning opportunity. Read the books together with your children and ask questions about the plot and characters.

• Search for reading activities on the Internet and create a reading list.

to use math skills such as making change, weighing fruits and vegetables, etc.

• Visit the library.

Libraries can recommend books appropriate for your child's reading level and interests, and many libraries offer free children's programs.



There are an abundance of sites that provide summer reading lists for children. At www.BookAdventure. com, children (grades K-8) create personalized books lists from more than 7,500 recommended titles, take quizzes on the books they've read at school or at home, and earn points towards small prizes for understanding the books they've read. The program is designed to motivate students to read more often, for longer periods of time and with greater understanding.

• Plan a field trip.

Plan a trip to an interesting site close to home - an historic site, a museum, the zoo, etc. Research the trip in

advance with your child and discuss it afterwards.

- Find pen pals.
 Encourage your child to write notes and letters to family members and friends as a way of practicing writing.
- Plan a meal together. Helping mom or dad with the regular grocery shopping and meal preparation creates opportunities





Bonds (cont'd from pg. 12)

This requirement helps support the creditworthiness of general obligation bonds. • Revenue bonds — Revenue bonds, which finance schools, hospitals, utilities, airports, affordable housing and other public works, are paid by dedicated streams of revenue. For example, revenues generated by the sewer system pay the interest on a sewer system revenue bond. Because revenue bonds have more restricted revenue streams than general obligation bonds, they are generally viewed to be riskier. To compensate for the added risk, revenue bonds usually pay a higher rate of interest than general obligation bonds. You also have to consider the type of revenue bond involved. Some sectors, such as housing and health care,

may be more volatile, as are some industrial revenue bonds.

The major bond rating agencies — Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch — review municipal bonds to determine their creditworthiness. There are no guarantees, but by sticking with the bonds that are "investment grade," you can help reduce the risk of owning a bond that goes into default. Municipal bonds can be valuable additions to your portfolio. Besides providing income that's free of federal and potentially state taxes, these bonds offer you a chance to help support valuable projects in your community.

This article was submitted by Nicholas Ives, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones.





IOH's Only Casualty of WWII (cont'd from pg.1)

Two days later, on the 20th, Staff Sgt. Ebbie Paxton and an Army chaplain were traveling in a Jeep when it hit a mine. Both were killed. Ebbie was 26-years old at the time of his death. Based on his rank and tenure, he was an outstanding soldier. His promotions came fast and, in time, he actually became a war hero. His numerous medals included two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star for bravery, the American Defense Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Medal, with three campaign stars, a Good Conduct Medal and the WWII Victory Medal (posthumously). His body was returned from Ie Shima to Savannah and laid to rest at Bonaventure Cemetery.

On December 31, 1946, William M. Barbee, an IOH resident, donated the land, now named Paxton Memorial Park. In 1954, more than 200 people gathered for the dedication of Ebbie's monument. According to Noel Wright, Major General P. E. Seawright of the Georgia National Guard presented a eulogy and Rev. Bede Lightener, then principal of Benedictine, delivered the benediction. Also present, were an honor guard from Hunter Air Force Base and a color guard comprised of cadets from Benedictine. IOH's Paxton Drive and Paxton Heights subdivision were named in honor of Ebbie.

Ebbie's monument is silo shaped with the top sheered off to signify a life cut short. It is located on Rosenbrook Avenue, between the IOH Firehouse and the Bluff. Befitting a native son, the monument is only yards from where he lived. The monument reads:



IN MEMORY OF STAFF SGT. EBBIE PAXTON, 306TH INF., 77TH DIV., U.S. ARMY. BORN AT ISLE OF HOPE ON MAY 9, 1918. HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY AT IE SHIMA ON APRIL 20, 1945. DEDICATED: FEBRUARY 14, 1954. ISLE OF HOPE'S ONLY CASUALTY OF WWII.



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