June-July 2018 IsleOfHopeNews.com

# Se of Hope News Congrats Class of 2018



Claire Elizabeth Allen Savannah Christian Prep



**Ethan Barnes** Jenkins High School



Andrew Benson Savannah Christian Prep



Kai Everard Savannah Country Day



Watson Grapengeter Benedictine Military



Anthony Abbott Hart Benedictine Military



Sophie Horan Savannah Arts Academy



Elijah Kenney Savannah Arts Academy



Chloe Mabry Islands High School



Alex Quattlebaum The Habersham School



Gracie Smith Saint Vincent's Academy



Harrison Wayner Savannah Arts Academy





College **Grads** 2018



Faberge Williams, Saint Leo University, Master's Degree

# For Those About to Graduate We Salute – Your Parents door so I spuck back up his debit card the day b

I remember when my first one, Mary Grace, graduated high school. I woke up for months in the middle of the night wondering if I had done enough, counting down the days until she would move onto college. I was happy and sad at the same time.

My wife Lauren and I went to her pre-grad ceremony at Savannah Arts and cried. Then we went to the actual grad ceremony and cried. But that was nothing compared to the day we dropped her off at UGA.

We spent the last 45 minutes sitting on her futon anticipating the moment we would say goodbye. I looked at her and saw fear and uncertainty in her eyes. And I calculated how we would make our exit. But when her tears came so did ours. In the end, we choked them down and left. But I had left some trash outside her dorm

door so I snuck back up hoping she wouldn't see me. I couldn't go through that again.

My wife and I said nothing until we hit 15/78 near Jittery Joe's. I tried to talk but just blubbered. No words came out.

Two years later, I took my son Jack to Georgia Tech. Pulled into the dorm parking lot and he said "I have a social thing, can you come back later so we can unload the stuff." And he was gone. No tears, not a hug, just a boy eager to explore his new world.

I was not surprised. He was always independent, an adventurer. He spent the summer after his senior year in high school in Thailand with a good buddy and then missed his flight home. Called from China and said my phone is losing its charge not sure if we can talk again. (Did I mention he also lost

his debit card the day before he left Thailand? Had about \$3 at the time.) Somehow, he made it back to the US.

MG will be a senior at UGA next year. Each year she comes home less and less, but that's ok, even healthy. My son, well not holding my breath. But thankfully, they are both home this summer. Likely the last time we will all be under one roof for an extended period of time.

Our last child, Will, graduates high school (Savannah Arts Academy) next year so Lauren and I will be empty nesters soon.

But parents, the anxiety you feel about their futures when they leave the nest will likely turn into excitement, and eventually peace as you watch them mature when they go out on their own.

Pat yourselves on the back. You did a damn good job getting them here!



# **Courage Doesn't Always Roar**

By Olivia Irvin

We made it. We are here. We have all worked hard, passed our classes, and resisted the urge to sleep in every day. We have all been there dead tired at two in the morning making the decision to just write the five page paper after realizing dropping out isn't an option, because we aren't cute enough to be a model and are too clumsy to join the NBA.

But my point for today is to not congratulate ourselves on the obvious. We all know that the majority of high schoolers in the nation have made the decision to crack down and study to get to graduation day. They all experienced friday night football games, prom, and homecoming week. I like to think that this year's class and all of the students at Camden are stronger than average- not because of the memories that everyone loves to reminisce about this time of year- but because of those moments we may wish had never occurred.

There is no word to describe many of the events of this school year other



Pictured: Olivia Irvin, Camden County High School Valedictorian Photo Credit: Jill Helton/ Tribune & Georgian

Continued on p. 13



# **Hero of Hope - Ellen Bradley**

This issue, we're starting a new section called "Hero of Hope" to recognize a person who lives on Isle of Hope, Dutch Island or our mailing area and is doing something that is making a huge difference in the lives of others or our community. (If you would like to nominate someone, please send us an email at hero@isleofhopenews.com).

We begin with Ellen
Mathews Bradley. I met
her 14 years ago when I
moved to Savannah and
started teaching in the
Chatham County School
System. Fast forward 14
years, and I got reacquainted with her when we

decided to rent a beautiful cottage she owned on St. Thomas Avenue.

As we talked, I found out she was involved with a wonderful organization, Heads-Up Guidance Services (HUGS). HUGS helps people that are near and dear to my heart — those who need affordable mental health services, particularly high school students. But before we talk about that, let me tell you a little about how Ellen ended up on Isle of Hope.

Ellen's family immigrated to the United States as first-generation Americans with an Italian background.



Her father's family came from Sicily and her mother's from Florence. Her father's family migrated to Savannah starting A.C. Mathews seafood, which some of you will remember. Ellen's maternal grandparents migrated from New York starting a farm in the Brooklet area.

continued on p. 14

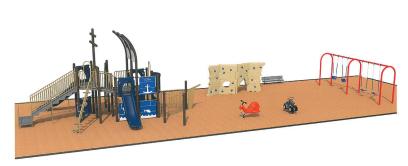


# **IOH Playground Update**

After two years working in partnership with Chatham County, the new IOH playground will be breaking ground this summer.

The Hope for Our Park Campaign, a group of IOH neighbors led by resident Dr. Kathleen Benton, raised just over \$7,000 in contributions from island residents. Those funds were used to leverage thousands of dollars for a Chatham County SPLOST funded renovation for the park.

"We were able to show Chatham County not only the need for a park renovation but also that the community was committed to seeing



this project through," stated Dr. Benton. "We're so pleased that we had such a strong commitment from our neighbors, we could not have done this without their support."

The construction will take place in a July-August time-frame. "If all goes well IOH residents will soon begin to see some changes at the

park," explained Assistant
Superintendent Corey Harper with Chatham County
Parks and Recreation. "We
will need to trim some tree
limbs for the new equipment and all of the old
equipment will have to be
removed because it is no
longer up to code or safe
for kids to play on."

Miracle.

(Continued on p. 10)



# 4 Tips for Raising Kids Who Love Learning

As parents we all want to raise kids who love learning. But sometimes it can feel hard to compete with all the digital distractions our kids experience these days. So we've come up with some ideas and inspiration to help you get your kids learning and loving it!

Here are 4 tips for raising kids who love learning:

1) Make regular family visits to the library where you all sign out books.

How often do you take your kids to the library? How often do you have the WHOLE family go to the library together and have EVERYONE check out books?

Since I'm so busy working, I



Locally owned and operated by Isle of Hope resident Lisa Brantley Yannett

Check out job listings
& complete an online
job application @
www.HorizonStaffing.com

7722 Waters Avenue Savannah, GA 31406 & 400 US HWY 80 West Pooler, GA 31322 912-355-5966

Clerical/Administrative
Accountg/Financial
Ports/Logistics
Industrial/Warehouse
Skilled Labor/Machine Operator

don't often take time to sit down and enjoy a book. But I know that's a mistake. Kids are great imitators... they need to see you reading!

Will you join me on this challenge? Whenever you go to the library with your kids, pick out a couple books for yourself and let your kids see you reading.

2) Play games that challenge the mind.

I often hear parents make jokes and complain about how boring it is playing kids' board games. And I get it... playing Chutes and Ladders over and over and over again can be tough on any parent.

But as your kids get older, you can start playing games that challenge their minds and yours. Games such as Scrabble are perfect for challenging each person at their own level. Some other ideas are



# Education Matters

Dino Papadopoulos, M.Ed. Owner & Executive Director Sylvan Learning of Savannah

Backgammon, Trivial Pursuit, Yahtzee and our family favorite Othello. And of course, you can use a deck of cards for endless hours of challenging play.

3) Read aloud as a family.

My absolute favorite way to spend time with my nephews is reading to them. I'll admit, they both have been reluctant readers and it's been difficult to get them excited about picking up a book and reading. (continued on the next page)



# 4 Tips for Raising Kids Who Love Learning

But together we are able to get lost in all sorts of stories. Library Books: Often we will take turns reading aloud... or if it's a more challenging book, (continued on the next page)

I'll just read the entire story Reading together is the best way to start discussions about even the most sensitive subiects.

4) Watch age-appropriate documentaries together.

Not all screen time is bad. I'm a big believer in making good use of television. Watching age-appropriate documentaries is a fantastic way to get your kids learning about the world around them and developing empathy for others in different circumstances. There are so many great ways to find and watch informative videos and television.

You can use Netflix, YouTube, Cable channels, etc. There are even some TED talks that are great for kids. Let your kids get involved with finding and picking out shows to watch together.

A great way to get started with this activity might be first asking them what You-Tube videos they most like to watch. If you first show an interest in what they're watching, they may be more responsive to watching other videos with you.

Please contact Sylvan Learning of Savannah if you have any questions about our tutors or programs! With our personalized

learning plans, taught by our expert tutors, we deliver real results.

Sylvan of Savannah hopes these ideas help you on your journey of raising kids who love learning. For additional educational resources for children in grades pre-K through 12, please visit http://www. SylvanLearning.com or call 912.355.2267.

#### Camp Villa Marie June 4 to July 27

Children 6 - 12 years of age Go online and complete the registration form for each child attending.

www.campvillamarie.org Registration, Parent Authorization and Health Information forms must be received one week prior to child attending. camp.



# Let Our Family Show YOUR FAMILY The Way Home



5 of the last 6 homes we sold for OVER asking price! 100% or more of List Price! Call me 912-844-9000!







Rare Opportunity!! 2 Isle of Hope Lots For Sale



**1 &2 Isle of Hope Trail** – Bring your Dreams into Reality and Build your own custom home on IOH. Two available buildable Lots. Nestled in the heart of Isle of Hope.

Alert New Flood Map Changes in Savannah Chathan County Learn More at www.myhomesavannah.com/blog/flood-mapchanges-in-chatham-county-savannah/



KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY
COASTAL AREA PARTNERS
Lisa and Ed Yannett

To see these or other listings go to our website :

MYHOMESAVANNAH.COM

Direct: 912-596-4345 or 912-844-9000

Office: 912-356-5001 or 912-232-8580

# **COMMUNITY PAGE**

# 2nd Annual IOH Kids Safety Day June 23, 4:30PM IOH POOL

sponsored by Team Yannett all proceeds go to the IOH Pool









**FUN** 

Bike FREE Giveaway Safety Gear

Ice-Cold Treats

Food

# **Be COOL Join the IOH POOL**



Family Membership: Immediate family members of a single household. \$360

Individual Membership: \$185

Non-Member Water Aerobics & Adult Lap Swim Package \$150



NOTE: All new Family Group or Individual members will be charged a one-time \$100



THE COMMUNITY PAGE IS SPONSORED BY:

Lisa & Ed Yannett

Direct: 912-596-4345 or 912-844-9000 Office: 912-356-5001 or 912-232-8580

www.myhomesavannah.com



**IOH Playground Update** 

(continued from page 5)

The new playground equipment will fit in the footprint of the old park equipment but will be colorful, fun and most of all safe and accessible for all children in the community."

The County is returning the initial funds raised by residents to the Hope for Our Park Committee who will put them to use to purchase and install other park features. "We currently have enough funds for benches and a memorial brick walkway and we would like to raise a bit more to put in a gazebo and some picnic tables," added Amanda Wrona Meadows, a volunteer for the IOH Campaign. "By renovating this greenspace, we can draw new families to the neighborhood and increase property values because it makes our community more desirable. We want to improve on the natural features already there and make it an inviting, beautiful and meaningful space."

The IOH Campaign Committee is extending their brick sale to help raise those additional funds and for IOH'ers that would like to memorialize a friend or loved one. To purchase bricks visit the IOH Go Fund Me website https://www.gofundme.com/iohpark. The sale will end June 30th.

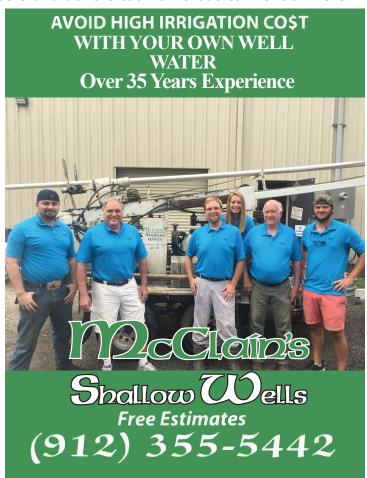
The Committee will also be asking for volunteers to build and install the walkway, benches and gazebo. Volunteers can email abwrona@gmail. com and Amanda will reach out once a "work party" date is set.

"I knew that together this community could bring a new park into fruition,"



Kathleen said. "I can't wait to see our kid's faces when they see their new playground and hear the laughter of families enjoying the heart of our community."

The Hope for Our Park Campaign would like to express their gratitude to Chatham County Commissioner Helen Stone, Steve Proper, Dir. of Chatham Parks and Recreation, Dr. Kathleen Benton, Marian King, Kelli Mills, and a host of other volunteers and donors too numerous to mention here.



### Say Yesto Your Future and Join My Tribe

Are you looking to become your own independent entrepreneur?
Are you dependable, coachable, and passionate?
If so, then let me show you how YOU can have it ALL!

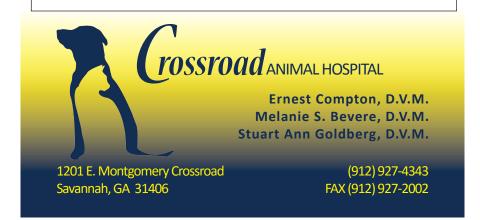
Lisa Yannett

www.successchic.com

lisa@successchic.com

912-596-4345





## **Opening Soon**



Climate Controlled, and Non-Climate Controlled

912-927-9777

2130 Bona Bella Avenue, at Bona Bella & Skidaway Road Opening Late Spring 2018 Managed by Dyches Properties

Get 50% Off Your First Month,
With a 3-Month Prepayment



We strive to enrich the lives of adults with memory loss through fellowship and engaging activities, while providing resources and support for families and caregivers in the Savannah community.

For registered participants, Hope Arbor Respite Ministry operates Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am -2pm. We have music, exercise, games, a hot lunch, and great friendship!

Hope Arbor is \$40.00 per day and participants must be independent in the following: walking, toileting, eating, and enjoy being in a group.



Join us Tuesday mornings at 10:15 for our Caregiver Care Group located in room 226 in the Greenhouse. This is a support group offered for any family caregiver in the Savannah area. Experience fellowship with other caregivers while gaining tools and insights on how to better care for yourself while caring for your loved one.

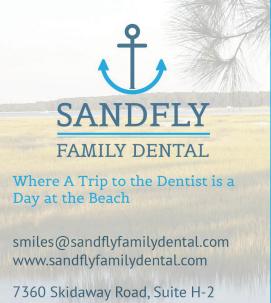
For more info, contact Brooke Chambers at Isle of Hope UMC bchambers@iohumc.com 355-8527

# New Patient Special

\$149 Exam, Cleaning, X-Rays & Get \$100 In-Office Bleaching When You Get Your Teethe Cleaned

Call 912-349-0472 for Details

No Dental Insurance? We have you covered. Ask us about our Premier In-HouseDental Plans!



Savannah, GA 31404



Angela C. Canfield DDS Family & Cosmetic Dentist

# Helping you achieve your goals has always been ours

Congratulations to R. Scott Howard and Chuck Sipple for being named to the 2018 Forbes "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" list.



#### **Ketchum Howard Wealth Management Group**



Scott Howard, CFP® Senior Vice President Senior Financial Advisor 912.598.3811 robert s howard@ml.com

#### The Sipple Buchman Cairns Team



Chuck Sipple, CRPC® Senior Vice President Senior Financial Advisor 912.598.3805 charles\_sippleiv@ml.com

#### **Merrill Lynch** 3 Skidaway Village Square Savannah, GA 31411

Source: Forbes "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" ranking was developed by SHOOK Research and is based on in-person and telephone due diligence meetings to evaluate each advisor qualitatively, a major component of a ranking algorithm that includes: client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations; and quantitative criteria, including: assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion because client objectives and risk tolerances vary, and advisors rarely have audited performance reports. Rankings are based on the opinions of SHOOK Research, LLC, and not representative or invitative of any one client's experience, future performance or investment outcome. Neither Forbes nor SHOOK Research receives compensation in exchange for placement on the ranking, Forbes is a trademark of Forbes Media LLC. All rights reserved. The ranking or ratings shown here may not be representative of all client experiences because they reflect an average or sampling of the client experiences. These rankings or ratings are not indicative of any future performance or investment outcome. Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, a registered broker-dealer and Member SIPC, and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation.

The Bull Symbol and Merrill Lynch are trademarks of Bank of America Corporation

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP® and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ in the U.S. CRPC® is a registered service mark of The College for Financial Planning. © 2018 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. ARJSNNYK | AD-04-18-0064 | 471003PM-0318 | 04/2018

# Courage Doesn't Always Roar

than tragic. Nationally, we've lost homes and lives during hurricane season. We and many of our loved ones were personally affected. There were school shootings that caused widespread concern about gun safety.

However the biggest tragedy to me is the mental health crisis happening around us. It is a bigger issue today than it ever has been before. Now we are constantly inundated with unrealistic expectations from social media, relentless negativity from the news, and seemingly inescapable pressure from peers. This constant flood of tension and information leads to a feeling of hopelessness. This demoralized attitude is settling in the minds of today's youth, but many of us are afraid to talk about it.

I want to make a stand and say that our biggest problem boils down to one word -"stigma." When you imagine a person with mental health issues, there is a stereotype that comes to mind. I have heard words like needy, attention seeking, crazy, or demanding. It is incredibly easy to see the way that we label each other based on skin color, intelligence, body type, income level, and even personal style. But I want to say that depression or anxiety can happen to any of us — and does.

It is estimated that one in four people in the world suffer from some form of mental health illness. Each of you graduating tonight either has or will go through some incredible struggles in your life - struggles vou may not feel equipped to handle. But no one should ever have to struggle alone. Fear of judgement, fear of ridicule SHOULD NEVER cause someone to be afraid to ask for help.

Each of you has the ability to support and encourage others rather than judging when you don't understand. People who feel desperate make desperate and sometimes irreversible decisions. The best way to help the ones we care about is to just be there for them and be willing to listen. It is your

responsibility to each other to have patience and carry one another through life's trials.

If I had not been blessed with an incredibly supportive family and two or three deeply loving friends, I would not be here right now speaking to you after four years of looking forward to this very moment.

I will leave you with this quote-

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I will try again."





# **Hero of Hope - Ellen Bradley**

(continued from page 4)

She grew up on 53rd and 54th street and attended Blessed Sacrament and Savannah High School. After earning education degrees at Armstrong State and Georgia State Universities, she served over 30 years in Savannah-Chatham County Schools, and she was recently honored as an "Armstrong Notable Alumni."

Ellen moved to Isle of Hope from Dutch Island after 30 years. For the last 10 years, she has been enjoying her retirement, her grandchildren, and working as a full time volunteer for HUGS. She is also an active member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Parkersburg Garden Club, and the Savannah Lions Club.

Ellen plays a key role in the HUGS Organization which, since 2009, has made Mental and Behavioral Health Counseling and Addiction Recovery Services available and affordable to all in need. According to a recent Chatham County Mental Health Symposium, our community is in a Mental Health Crisis. Ellen has been a mental health advocate for years and understands the critical need for affordable providers. She works tirelessly on HUGS' Board of Directors fundraising for HUGS, training interns, managing the office, and other various jobs to help the nonprofit fulfill its

mission.

As a public school educator, I see firsthand the dearth of affordable mental health care options for students and families. I see the anxious kids that come from all walks of life. Many times, parents do not have the funds to consistently provide a comprehensive plan of care for kids with mental health issues. That's why I believe HUGS fills a critical need in our community for parents who may not have the resources to get their children the mental health services they need. Ellen is just one of the many HUGS volunteers; there are 27 counselors on their Clinical Team who volunteer over 250 direct services per month.

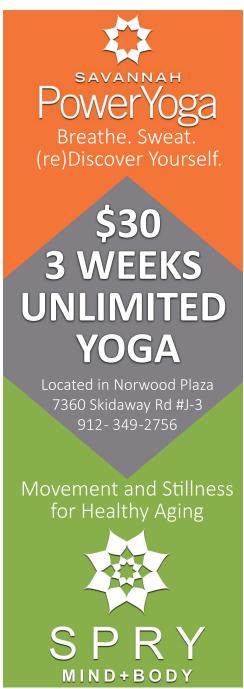
Ellen has announced that, in order to expand their services, HUGS is moving from Wheaton Street to their new location at 5 Executive Circle (off of Abercorn at Television Circle). Much excitement is in the air as they settle into their "new home," a oneof -a-kind Comprehensive Counseling Center, funded by community donations. We are very fortunate to have so many volunteers and supporters willing to give back to our community. I ask that you consider investing in this great cause.

The Isle of Hope News recognizes Isle of Hope resident Ellen Bradley as our initial "Hero of Hope." Thank you

for your service to our community.

Heads-Up Guidance Services (HUGS) is a faith-based, non-profit organization, making professional counseling & addiction recovery services affordable to all in need.

(continued on next page)



# **Hero of Hope - Ellen Bradley**

Andrea Mamalakis Epting, HUGS' founder and Managing Director, explains that there are many wonderful organizations supplying food, clothing, and shelter to our at-risk population, but charitable giving is lacking in the area of Mental Health. When you contribute

to HUGS, you are investing in the lives of people in your community who are struggling to become emotionally healthy, contributing members of society. HUGS' programs are made possible by community donations and dedicated volunteers.

Heads Up Guidance Services (HUGS) 5 Executive Circle Savannah, GA 31406 912.417.4320 PO Box 16026 Savannah, Georgia 31416 www.headsupsavannah.org



#### conventional

- HomeReady
- HomePossible

#### government

- FHA
- VA
- USDA

#### jumbo

- Down payments as low as 5%
- Loan amounts up to \$3 million

#### portfolio

- Signature ARM
- Premier HFLOC

### Kelley Sullivan SENIOR MORTGAGE BANKER

(912) 844-2593 ksullivan@banksouth.com www.SavannahHomeLoan.com NMLS: 213216

#### construction/renovation

- Interest Only Construction/Renovation Loans
- Escrow Holdback Program
- HomeStyle Renovation
- FHA Streamline 203k

#### non agency

- Non-Warrantable Condos
- Bank Statement Loans
- Asset Based Financing
- Near-Miss Financing

#### subordinate financing

- Fixed second mortgages
- HELOC program





Equal Housing Lender. BankSouth Mortgage Company, LLC. NMLS 690971. Terms subject to change without notice. Subject to credit and property approval. Property insurance, and if applicable, flood insurance required. January 2018.

Isle of Hope News 2222 Bull Street Savannah, GA 31401

PRSRT STD ECRWSS U.S. POSTAGE PAID EDDM-Retail

**Local Postal Customer** 

