



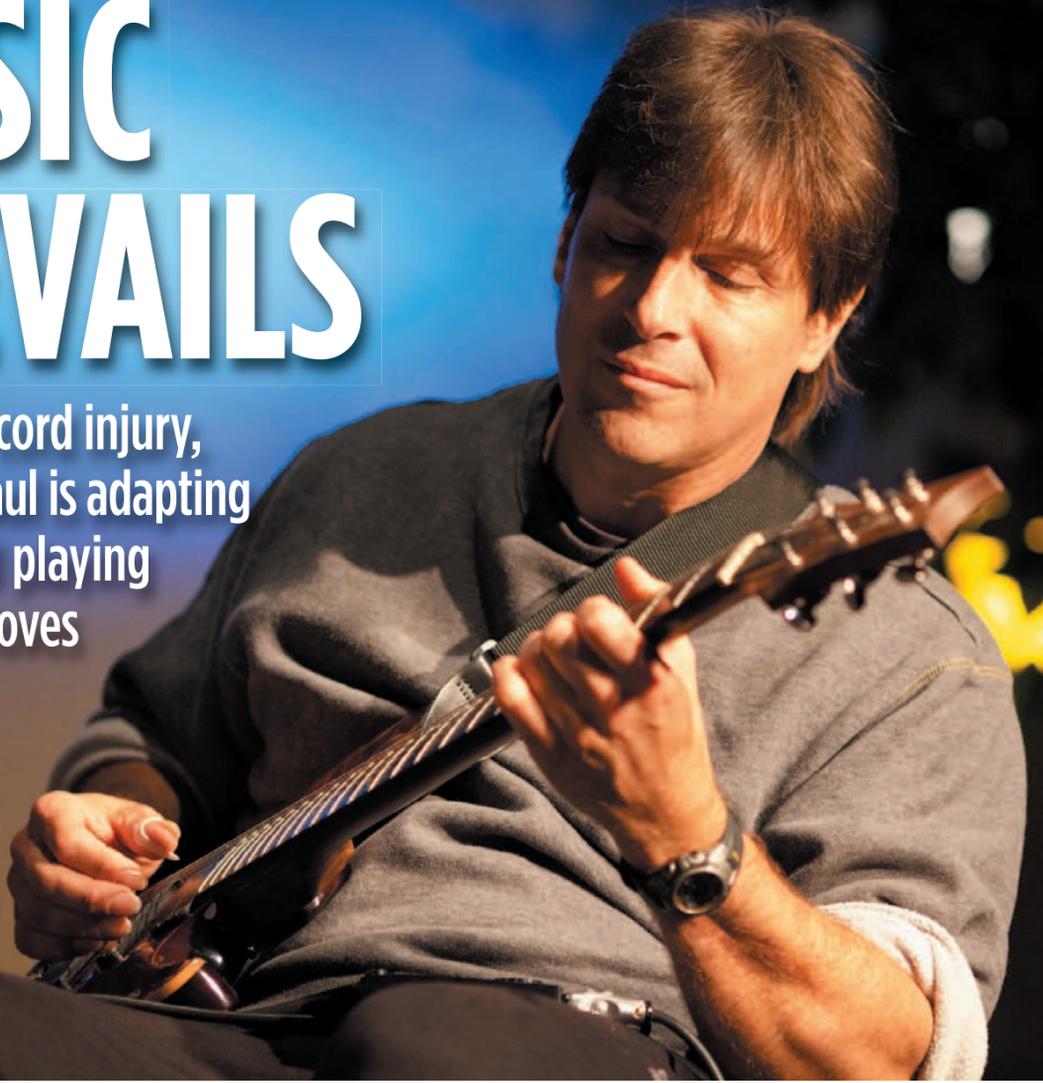
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'Snow White and the Huntsman'
This remake has more sword, sorcery, revenge **2C**

MUSIC PREVAILS

After a spinal cord injury, Christopher Paul is adapting to life and still playing the songs he loves



By JUSTIN PAPROCKI • jpaprocki@islandpacket.com • 843-706-8143

Christopher Paul plays guitar and sings most days in the resort towns of the Lowcountry. He can belt out any one of about 300 hit songs in his repertoire with ease. But it wasn't too long ago that he would run out of breath just trying to sing along to the radio in the car.

In 2000, he suffered a severe spinal cord injury in a mountain biking accident that left him paralyzed. Twelve years after the wreck, he still is in a wheelchair. But he's regained enough strength to perform again. He recently released "Beyond This Place," his first album in eight years.

ON THE WEB
Listen to a snippet of Christopher Paul's new CD, "Beyond This Place," by clicking on this story at islandpacket.com/lowcountrycurrent.

He figures he probably can't play guitar as well as he once could. But that doesn't matter much now. He can still play, still sing. He's still a musician.

"You have to adapt to life. Everybody has things that happen to them and they have to adjust. You realize that you'll have a life, but you'll do some things differently," he said.

Paul grew up in northeastern Ohio. Horses and cows roamed the family farm. The young Chris was more interested in music. He toted around a small plastic guitar at age 3.

By his teenage years he moved on to the real instrument. He grew transfixed with life on

Please see MUSICIAN on 3C

IF YOU GO

Join Christopher Paul at his **CD release party** 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Seaside Vineyard Fellowship on Lady's Island. Make reservations online at www.cpaul.com. Details: 843-525-6115



Please see PLAYING on 4C

Hippies, hipsters got one thing right

As a nation, we have had a complicated history with music festivals. Woodstock was great. Those three days of peace and music in August 1969 produced some memorable performances — Jimi Hendrix's "Star Spangled Banner," Joe Cocker's Beatles' cover — and thousands of American children.

CURRENTLY PLAYING



By PATRICK DONOHUE
Lowcountry Current

Altamont was not so great, unless your hobbies include taking acid, punching Mick Jagger and bludgeoning people with pool cues. Festivals celebrating the anniversaries of Woodstock in 1994 and 1999 fell flat, the latter devolving into the kind of chaos and destruction on its final day typically reserved for post-soccer match riots in third-world countries or Vancouver after the Canucks choke away another chance to bring Lord Stanley's cup back to Canada.

But recently, there has been reason to again believe in the promise of the great American music festivals and its saviors are a pair of unlikely heroes — hipsters and hippies.

Have a cocaine problem, a trust fund, no direction and an ironic handlebar mustache? Then go west, young man — to the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.

Despite Coachella's utterly unlikable clientele, the festival's lineups are annually among the best this side of Glastonbury and apparently having been shot to death 16 years ago doesn't preclude anyone from showing up and performing. At least in holographic form.

Enjoy tent lodging, the backwoods of Tennessee and bands that play the same four

'Beaufort's Got Talent' winner continues to follow music dream

By CATHY CARTER HARLEY
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When "Beaufort's Got Talent" contestants take the stage Friday, they won't have to worry about facing off with the winner from the past two years.

Competing against people of all ages, Logan Gannon, 19, took top honors in the first year of the competition in 2010, when she sang and played guitar to Colbie Caillat's "I Never Told You." In 2011, she sang and played piano to Adele's "Someone Like You." This year she's busy working on her bachelor's

degree in music therapy at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., where she continues to sing in the school's concert choir and is working with a voice coach.

"I wanted to go into a career where I could help people, and I thought, why not combine it with something I love to do?" Gannon said.

"It is a way of reaching people who are otherwise unreachable," she said, noting that she was inspired by her Beaufort High School choir teacher Victor Varner.

Please see TALENT on 4C



Special to Lowcountry Current

Logan Gannon took first place in the past two "Beaufort's Got Talent" events. Above, she plays guitar during the competition. This year's event is Friday at Habersham in Beaufort.

BEAUFORT'S GOT TALENT

The third installment of "Beaufort's Got Talent" is 6-8 p.m. Friday. Contestants for the talent show will compete for prizes from area merchants, and the winner will perform at the fourth annual Habersham Harvest Festival in October. The event features an expanded farmers market, children's activities and food vendors until 8 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAYS SERIES

The **First Fridays** series continues 4-8 p.m. through October with the following events:

- July 6:** Footloose Friday
- Aug. 3:** Summer Games Galore
- Sept. 7:** Rock the Block Back to School Rally
- Oct. 5:** Blues and Brews Festival

Just call me Ms. Always Prepared Crazy Storm Lady

Time to batten down the hatches, Lowcountry. Storm season's a-comin'.

Hurricane season officially starts Friday, and you better believe I'm ready. Bring it, Mother Nature; I'm not scared of you and your torrential downpours, your gusty winds and your threat of coastal flooding.

And your threat of forcing me to evacuate and spend 18 hours stuck on Interstate 95 with about a million of my closest friends? Ha! I laugh in the face of evacuation orders ... then I cry, meekly pack my car and hit the road.

Seriously, though: I feel like hurricane season might be the one time of year when my obsessive, Type A, "plan for the worst so you'll be pleasantly surprised when the

LIFE IS LIKE



By ELLIS HARMAN

Lowcountry Current

world doesn't end" mentality is a good thing. Because even though I completely overreact to anything weather-related this time of year — every time it rains, I check the National Hurricane Center's website, just in case. Stop judging me; there's no shame in being prepared — I'm also nearly 100 percent certain I've got everything I need to weather the

WEATHER THE STORM

Get ready for Hurricane season with The Island Packet and the Beaufort Gazette's hurricane guide, which will be published in Friday's newspaper.



storm (see what I did there? The weather also provides endless possibilities for puns, which I very much enjoy. See? It's all about finding the positive in a horrible, terrifying, please-don't-wash-away-my-house situation).

So no, I'm not at all nervous about hurricane season even though it hasn't even officially started yet and we've already had two named storms. Nope, not a bit — especially because

I had a college roommate named Beryl, and she was B-O-R-I-N-G. There was about as much life in her as there was Tropical Storm Beryl. So if the rest of this season's storm names are equally as nerdy, I think we'll be OK.

And judging by the list of names on the National Hurricane Center's website, the only name that looks at all like it could have a little kick is Rafael. If that storm is anything like the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, we could be in trouble. That turtle had some attitude, which obviously makes him the vastly superior turtle, but I digress.

So when it comes to my prepping, I'm definitely not going overboard this year. Nope. I've got my important documents in a filing box,

ready to grab and go if I have to; my insurance policy is up to date and I've got boards for (most of) my windows. I think it's all under control. No way am I thinking of doing anything crazy like converting my downstairs bathroom into a full-blown hurricane shelter, complete with a vanity filled with canned goods and a toilet converted into a Brita water dispenser.

OK, maybe the toilet-as-a-drinking fountain idea is a little much. But I'm serious about the canned goods. I went to town on the canned foods aisle at Publix. And I don't know what it is about impending natural disasters, but suddenly, if it's in a can I'll eat it.

If the big one hits, I could live for years on my stockpile of Spaghetti-Os alone. And

no, I have no intention of sharing with my neighbor should Hurricane Whoever We're On Now hits. Go get your own, you lazy, ill-prepared bum.

When it comes to hurricane season, I take the "Doomsday Preppers" approach. It's every man for himself, and if you want to survive, you're going to need canned goods, a raft and toilet paper. Lots and lots of toilet paper.

I mean, let's be realistic: Hurricane season is the East Coast's zombie apocalypse. And I plan on surviving.

No, not just surviving. I'll be thriving, and feasting like a queen on all the Spaghetti-Os that Publix had to offer.

Ellis Harman is copy desk chief at The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette. Follow her at twitter.com/LifeIsLikeBlog.



Special to Lowcountry Current

Singer Chris Paul's latest album, "Beyond This Place," is all original music — hopeful songs with a Christian message. It's also his first album with his voice.

MUSICIAN

Continued from 1C

the road. He'd open Jackson Browne's "Running on Empty" album and would envision himself in photos of the band on the road. That life seemed good. He remembers one day walking out from the family barn, snow crunching under his feet. For some reason, it just occurred to him in a moment of clarity: "Music is what I have to do."

He found steady work in Nashville for nearly 20 years. He was a studio musician, a guitarist traveling the country with different bands. His wife, Renee, who worked for a technology company, got a lead on a job in Colorado, where the couple had visited a few times. They moved to Boulder. Paul, who had always been athletic since his days playing football and running track in high school, found plenty of reasons to stay outdoors in Colorado. He hiked and rode his mountain bike frequently. On a Sunday morning, he was cycling near his home when a car hit him head on. He woke up four days later in a hospital bed.

The accident did severe damage to the tendons in his arms, but the nerves weren't damaged. The doctors said he would be able to play guitar again. But it required work. At first, his left hand didn't have enough strength to extend his fingers beyond a loose fist. He remembers tedious hours of attempting to flick beans across a table top, trying to get the strength back.

At the time of the accident

he was working on his second album, "Journey of the Soul." He had taken a break after feeling burnt out and left Nashville to return home. The album was close to being finished. But then the accident happened. He found that he also lost a lot of strength in his diaphragm. It became difficult to sing. He'd only be able to record for short periods. It took him four years to finally release the album.

"I kept telling myself, 'I've got to do this,'" he said. "Music is what helped me through those dark, early times."

Five years after the accident, he moved to Beaufort to be closer to some of his wife's family. He had few connections musically here.

"It was a big gamble," he said. "It was a brave new world."

Instead, he found the community embraced his music. He now plays about six days a week at restaurants, festivals or private parties.

His latest album is all original music — hopeful songs with a Christian message. It's also his first album with his voice. His friends encouraged him to move beyond just instrumentals after hearing him sing during his concerts. He was a bit skeptical. After all, he's known as a cover artist. Who would want to hear his own music?

"It really made no sense," he said. "The people who come to my shows would rather hear 'Free Bird' or 'Red Solo Cup.'"

If anything, "Beyond This Place" offers a bit of inspiration through music. He's happy to play original songs or another cover of Lynyrd Skynyrd or Toby Keith. The fact that he's still playing is what matters most.

"The day-to-day routine of having a life like this can be a struggle," he said. "Having a job like this where I can do something I love was incentive to get through the day."



Special to Lowcountry Current

SWINGIN' MEDALLIONS AT JASPER COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

The Swingin' Medallions return to the Jasper County Farmers Market in Ridgeland with a concert Friday night.

Made famous by their No. 1 hit single, "Double Shot of My Baby's Love," the Swingin' Medallions are South Carolina-bred and they've been playing shows since the 1960s.

"Having the Swingin' Medallions back in Jasper County for the fourth straight year is really great," said Kendall Malphrus, executive director of the sponsoring Jasper County Chamber of Commerce. "Every year they have drawn enthusiastic crowds. They are terrific entertainers."

Bruce Springsteen, who has appeared on stage with the Swingin' Medallions, has called their "Double Shot" rendition "the greatest fraternity rock song of all time."

Concertgoers can expect to not only hear "Double Shot," but other top singles "Hey Hey Baby" and "She Drives Me Out of My Mind," plus favorites from their album like "Wooly Bully" and "Barefootin'."

Gates open at 7 p.m. and the concert starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the gate, \$15 in advance. A portion of each ticket will be donated to the United Way of the Lowcountry. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the concert. There will be drinking wrist bands available for \$10 each for ages 21 and older.

Details: 843-726-8126, www.jaspercountychamber.com

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