

Gaston *Alive!*

Home • Garden • Style • Fun • Food • Happenings

See What's Different About
**Morgan's Shoes
& Bootery** p.10

A Genius Culinary Combination p.12

Transform Your Treasures p.20



Don Conrad
704-813-0306



Thelma Whisnant
704-813-4989



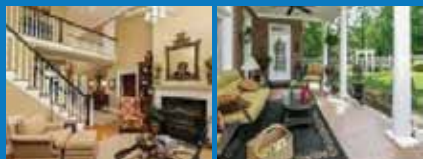
BEAUTIFUL brick home in the gated community of Cramer Mountain with circular drive. Two car garage. Arched entrance into GR with study/office on main floor. Open concept living with all bedrooms on main living area. Large bonus room over garage with walk in storage. Ceramic tile in kitchen and baths. Plenty of usable storage. \$339,000 ml#3009482. Call Don for more details.



EVERYTHING that you would want in a home! This beautiful home sits on 1.64 acres. Gourmet kitchen includes island, 2 dishwashers, 2 Ovens, Viking gas cook top, warming oven, Master suite has office and sitting area, jetted tub and beautiful ceiling in master bath, finished basement with bar, den with fireplace, billiard room, exercise room, wine cellar. Screened porch, terrace for entertaining. \$999,999 ml#2185004. Call Thelma for more details.



2001 CUSTOM built home in secluded Country Club Neighborhood. Open floor plan. Various ceiling heights, columns, granite, hardwood floors, ceramic tile, large master shower, whirlpool tub. Unfinished walk-in attic for storage. Large work shop area connected to over sized garage. Covered back porch, private fenced yard. Heavy moldings throughout. Tray ceiling in master bedroom. Recessed lighting. \$389,900 ml#3002183. Call Thelma for more details.



GRAYSTONE ESTATES. Beautiful 4br, 3ba, 2 half bath, 2 story executive style brick home. Upgrades including granite, stainless steel appliances, custom cabinets, hardwoods & ceramic tile throughout. Perfect home for entertaining with abundant storage & lower level living. Meticulously landscaped yard with new composite deck. \$535,000 ml#3010524. Call Don for more information.



EXQUISITE 4 br, 3.5 bath brick home in the gated community of Cramer Mountain. Hardwoods & ceramic throughout with custom window treatments & plantation shutters. Immaculately maintained inside & out. This home is beautifully landscaped. Perfect for entertaining...a must see! Call Don today for a private showing. \$397,500 ml#3010623. Call Don for more details.

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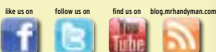
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To-Do list

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Put up shelving | <input type="checkbox"/> Caulk around tub |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Grout tile floor | <input type="checkbox"/> Repair wood on deck |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerwash deck | <input type="checkbox"/> Install backsplash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair kitchen drywall | <input type="checkbox"/> Hang mirror in hallway |
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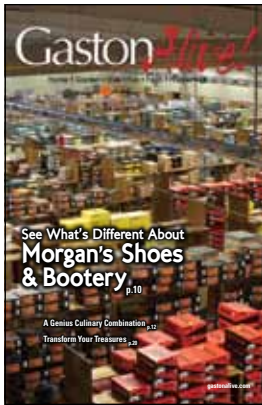
*Pam L. Goode
Publisher
Gaston Alive! Magazine*

Do you know of a great place around town that's a best kept secret? Are you a local resident who wants to nominate a unique story of the greater good of Gaston County? We want to help spread the word. Favorite band, art show, or just someone doing something good.

We at **Gaston Alive!** want to showcase our pick each issue. Submit your story, favorite place or event to info@gastonalive.com. Help us spread the **"Goode News"** by being our **PUBLISHER'S PICK!**

Goode News

about the cover



This month's cover was shot on site at Morgan's Shoes & Bootery. See related article on page 10. Cover photo by Rick Haithcox, production assistance by Pam L. Goode, and cover graphic design by David James.

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NEW AND IMPROVED
PAINTING



Have you ever thought to yourself, “There’s no way they could ever do that”? What is the one betrayal you cannot live with? Who is the one person who you feel is incapable of making mistakes and bad choices? No matter how perfect we deem our lives to be there is always that moment in our life where the expectations, ideals, and fantasies that we have created for a person or a situation collide together and come crashing down.

At some moment it will happen. When you least expect it, the people we respect can betray us with their imperfections.

Whether it is a child who doesn’t follow through with his or her promise, a friend who misleads us, or an employee that violates our trust, it is a moment that redefines the way we view them and the way we view other situations. We take it personally and we hold it against them. We can let that one defining moment change the way we interact with others, cloud our judgment, or affect who we trust.

Life is full of disappointments. It is also full of people who make bad decisions. Just watch the local news or read the newspaper! But it is also full of beautiful words, phrases, moments, and memories. All of us have made decisions that we regret. We are all imperfect. Everything and everyone has beautiful and dark moments. Just remember, a blue, cloudless sky can become a hurricane. A spring breeze can become a tornado. An autumn tree with red, yellow, orange, and green colors can eventually be stripped of everything but its unappealing bark. Everyday life and situations bring on disappointment, but we shouldn’t completely write people off because of it. Easier said than done... agreed! Live and learn best describes it. As we grow older, we grow wiser and less naïve, it gets easier to predict, but not easier to accept.

Let’s face it, the people in our everyday circle can’t be perfect all of the time, and they can’t hold us to a standard of perfection either. I like to say it in this way, “We have to learn how to eat the fish and leave the bones.” In other words, we don’t throw out the entire meal because we have come across a “bone”. Instead, we take the lessons and knowledge that we need from the people we care about, and leave everything else on the plate.

Until next time... live life with no regrets. Mistakes are opportunities. By seeing it this way, you will never disappoint yourself without an opportunity to make a better tomorrow.

Pam L. Goode





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Offering a Variety of Selections, From Work to Play

By Pam Goode



Morgan's Shoes & Bootery specializes in name brand footwear for the entire family. No matter the job or the occasion, we have the shoes for you. Our endless selection of safety shoes and boots cannot be beat. Also, we have a large inventory of scrubs for all your medical field needs.

GA!: Tell us about the history of your store.

Doug: Morgan's is beginning its 20th year of business in Gastonia. The family business began in Asheville over 32 years ago with Discount Shoes Country Casuals. Also, we have a family-owned location in Greenville, NC.

GA!: What makes Morgan's different?

Doug: We offer name brands that are priced 20-25% below suggested retail price. With our multiple widths and sizing up to an 18, Morgan's can fit the toughest feet. We also have a wonderful staff that is knowledgeable and available to help with any questions and fitting needs. Customer service is the most important to us and we want to make sure you and your feet are happy.

GA!: Tell us about your new location.

Doug: We are now located at 2755 East Franklin Boulevard, across from Home Depot. Come and visit us to see our large selections!



GA!: What type of construction was done for the new location?

Doug: We spent the last year and a half preparing for the move, and the endless hours of construction and renovations have surely been worth it. The store sits on four acres and is three times larger with 24,000 square feet. The most unique detail is the collection of 135-year-old doors that have been incorporated onto the dressing rooms and elsewhere

around the store. They were originally on guest rooms at the original Charlotte Motel, which was torn down 20 to 30 years ago.

GA!: What's new?

Doug: We have scrubs for the ladies, but maybe you're wondering what we have for the men? The answer is Carhartt. Morgan's is now one of the largest concept stores on the East Coast for the Carhartt brand. We will offer Columbia outerwear this Fall as well, and we currently have Jack Rogers sandals starting at \$89.99. With the additional space, we will be expanding our scrub line, as well as adding new shoe lines.

GA!: To what do you contribute being in business this long and the success of the store?

Doug: The relationship with the customers. We are in business to serve people, not to sell shoes. In a small business, you're the customer, the employee and the investor. The best advice I could give is to prioritize, from creating the experience to being genuine to the customer. At Morgan's, our mission is a pledge to provide the best selection, prices and customer service for all your footwear needs.



GA!: It was such a pleasure spending hours with Doug and his staff. With 20 years of caring for customers and the community, Morgan's is the perfect example of business done right in Gaston County.



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ChewOnThis

Chef Ashleigh Easterling



Follow Ashleigh's dishes on:

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Grilled Flat Bread Pizza

Grilling is one of my favorite styles of cooking because I love the flavor it gives food. I also love pizza and the creativity you can have with this wonderful food. In my eyes, the two ideas combined is genius. This recipe is simple, easy and fun to prepare with friends and family. As shown: prosciutto, mushroom, caramelized onions and arugula pizza with pinot grigio sausage, as well as pepperoni and mushroom. Both pizzas are topped with fresh mozzarella cheese.

Ingredients:

- Pre-made flat bread or home made pizza dough
(As shown, pre-made naan bread).
- Sauce of choice
- Your favorite toppings (cheese, meats and veggies)

Directions:

Make the pizza dough or use prepared pizza dough. Prepare the grill for high direct heat. Prepare a small bowl with olive oil and brush the olive oil on the crust before placing the bread on the grill. Flip the bread after about 2-3 minutes (or until bread is hard on the side touching the grill). Top the pizza with tomato sauce, cheese, and anything else you wish. Once the cheese has melted and the toppings are nice and hot, remove the pizza breads from the grill and enjoy with a nice side salad.



Chef Notes:

*Your favorite toppings – have items already prepped when you preheat the grill
Typically, I do not shut the grill until the end, when I am ready for the cheese and toppings to melt into the bread or dough.*



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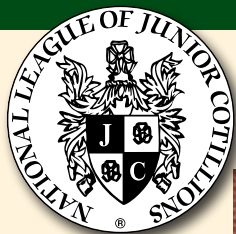


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Publisher's PICK

By Pam Goode

It's not too often you find double trouble in such a way that it's double the "Goode News". We had several submissions for Publishers Pick and this one is just Double the Delight. Many readers are celebrating graduation this month and we at Gaston Alive! Magazine wanted to feature a graduate. In our search we found not one, but two Publisher's Picks.



Forestview High School Seniors, Madison Lea Jackson and Marissa Layne Jackson, daughters of Jody and Christy Jackson, and granddaughters of Michael & Joyce Jackson and Jill Biddy, are quite the pair. These twin girls have already built impressive résumés and they are delightful young ladies. They have BOTH maintained 13 years of

perfect attendance. In addition, they are in the top five of their class, are involved in many clubs, and are members of the Beta Club and Honors Society. They are captains on their volleyball and soccer teams and love being positive role models to their teammates. Marissa won the honor of Senior Class President and Homecoming Queen and Madison won the honor of Prom Queen. They are both very involved in their church, Gastonia First Assembly, and its Kineo Youth Ministry. They also volunteer, work with and tutor kids in the area, and have had the privilege of going on several mission trips.

These are two of the most grateful and humble young ladies you can ever meet. Ask anyone at Forestview High School and they get rave reviews from their peers and staff members. Principal Chad Carper said, "Madison and Marissa are both remarkable leaders due to their incredible work ethic and strong character. Both students have had perfect attendance to school for the past 13 years. They are simply amazing young leaders!"

The twins enjoy spending their free time with their family and hanging out with their friends. They enjoy being active, watching kids, shopping, doing their very best at whatever comes their way and just having fun. They are looking forward to graduating and a very busy summer, which includes beach trips with friends and family, a mission trip, youth camp and preparing for college.



These two have worked very hard to get to this level and their efforts paid off. After acceptance offers from many other universities such as Alabama and UNC Charlotte, and after much anticipation, they have both decided they will attend UNC Chapel Hill in the Fall and will be roommates majoring in Biology. GO TARHEELS!

Congratulations to Madison and Marissa for being the Publisher's Pick for June. We wish much success to both of you and keep up the great work!

Submit your ideas for publishers pick for July to info@gastonalive.com



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Did you know there is a rum distillery in Belmont? Muddy River Distillery is located in the old Spectrum Dyeing Mill on the banks of the Catawba River. Robbie and Caroline Delaney started the company in 2011 and were the first rum distillery in NC and fifth legal distillery in the state. Each bottle of the company's rum is distilled, aged, and bottled in house. Muddy River produces Carolina Rum, which is an award-winning, smooth, silver rum, and Queen Charlotte's Reserve, which is aged in new charred American white oak barrels. Both products are available in local ABC stores and restaurants, and throughout the state.



did you know?

By Caroline Delaney

Robbie, a former construction worker who grew up on a farm in Wake Forest, got the idea to start the company after reading an article on craft distilling. He researched and learned how to distill, and designed and built Muddy River's three reflux column stills. "Everyone thought I was crazy," he says. "Now we have grown from 500 sq. ft. to 6,100 sq. ft. We needed more space for aging barrels." Queen Charlotte's Reserve is aged at least eight months and has sold out three times. "We just didn't know what to expect in the beginning or how much demand there would be." Bourbon and scotch drinkers tend to enjoy Queen Charlotte's Reserve because of its mellow, oaky finish.

Caroline, who is a Gastonia native, runs the sales, marketing and accounting. "Our friends and family are very supportive – they come in and assist us with bottling, which is a huge help," she adds. "It's hard work and long hours, just like any other small business."

Muddy River won Best Spirits in 2012 and 2013 at The Big Sip drink expo in Greensboro, and also beat many breweries and wineries for Best Overall in 2013. In October 2013, Creative Loafing Charlotte awarded them "Best Locally Made Spirits."

Muddy River Distillery's Carolina Rum and Queen Charlotte's Reserve are available in ABC stores. Tell your friends about this local business! See pictures, get drink recipes, and find out more about the distillery from the website: www.muddyriverdistillery.com. Distillery tours are available by signing up on the website's "Take a Tour" page.



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The Home Stylist

By Jodi Kines



Jodi Kines –Jodi has a degree in Interior Design from Winthrop University, and is the owner of Plan-It Design, LLC in Belmont, N.C.
Contact Jodi: jodi@planitdesign.us



Chalk Paint® & Milk Paint: Transforming Treasures

While the idea of upcycling furniture and accessories can be part of a green lifestyle, is usually budget friendly, and often can even incorporate items with sentimental value into your living space, sometimes used pieces need a little refresh to better suit your personal style. The most common way to update is with a fresh coat of paint - bringing new life, character and color to an otherwise lackluster piece. While traditional latex paint has been used to transform many pieces of furniture over the years, recently two other paint products have been getting a lot of attention in the home furnishings scene: Chalk Paint and Milk Paint. Both of these products have gained a lot of popularity and are changing the way many of us transform our treasures. To learn more about each of these products, I spent some time talking with experienced furniture refinisher Jeff Lee at The Vintage Nest in Mt. Holly.

No Prep

The huge advantage of both of these products is neither requires any prep or pre-painting drama. In other words, rarely any sanding or priming is needed, regardless of the material or surface quality (untreated wood requires a clear shellac prior to applying). Jeff suggests simply cleaning the surface with a damp cloth before applying the first coat of paint, eliminating a huge amount of time and effort from the traditional prime and paint process.

Chalk Paint comes premixed in a can and is ready to use. Milk Paint requires a little more prep because it is a powder that you add to water, which allows some control over the consistency of the paint.

Easy, Quick Application

Since I had never used these products myself and I wanted the opinion of a true DIY-er, I reached out to a friend of mine, Dee Kimble, who recently tackled her first





project using Chalk Paint. Dee painted her family's much-used dinette table and four chairs and attested to the product's marketing materials, claiming how simple and easy the product is to use. She said she spent a total of four hours – maybe less – completely transforming all five pieces of furniture and has been very happy with the durability, as her busy family of four uses the table for daily meals, homework, crafting, etc. The drying times for these paints are unbelievable. Chalk Paint dries in approximately 45 minutes, meaning you

could apply two coats to most pieces of furniture in less than two hours. Milk Paint dries even faster in approximately 15-20 minutes! Both require the application of a wax product and some buffing (the most time consuming and labor intensive part of the process, it seems) to enhance the colors and add a slight sheen to the finish.

Adds Character and Color

Jeff gave a wonderful description of each paint's transforming value. He said, "Chalk Paint is a great way to achieve a European Estate, vintage finish while Milk Paint can offer a more farmhouse, weathered, chippy look." Both offer a wide range of vibrant colors that can be mixed to create the perfect custom color needed to coordinate with your space. Also, both products can be lightly (or heavily if you so desire) sanded prior to waxing to achieve an even more distressed look.

Possibilities are Endless

There really doesn't seem to be any surface or material that isn't ideal for these products. They can be used on wood, metal, plastic, glass, walls and floors – even outdoors. The versatility of these paints is truly remarkable, making them ideal for transforming any treasure into the perfect new focal point or accent piece in your space. Jeff from The Vintage Nest even painted a sofa & chair, and not just the frame, but the upholstery, too. The finished product may not suit everyone's taste, but it's a fabulous conversation piece and incredibly unique.

These paint products may seem pricey when compared to their latex counterparts, but they go a long way. Dee commented that she used less than half a quart to put three full coats on her table and four chairs. Plus, you eliminate the need for primer products. Not to mention, when done correctly, both products can elevate the sophistication of a multitude of pieces, giving you a quality, professional-looking finish with handmade character.

The Vintage Nest carries Annie Sloan's Chalk Paint and Miss Mustard Seed's Milk Paint, as well as many examples of each of these paints applied to a variety of materials. Happy Painting!



To contact the Home Stylist for a personal design consultation, email Jodi at jodi@planitdesign.us or via facebook at www.facebook.com/Plan.ItDesignLLC.



Gaston County Restaurant & Dining Guide

LEGEND

BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER
SUNDAY BRUNCH

B
L
D
SB

CATERING
OUTDOOR DINING
BEER/WINE
LIVE MUSIC

C
T
T
T

\$ LESS THAN \$10
\$\$ \$11-\$20
\$\$\$ \$21 AND UP

AmberJack Seafood & Steaks

4253 South New Hope Road, Gastonia
704-824-5502 • www.amberjackseafood.com
\$-\$\$\$ 1 1 1 1 1

Center Street Tavern

115 Center Street, Cramerton
704-823-3000 • www.centerstreettavern.com
\$-\$\$ 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Friends Sports Bar & Grill

16 North Main Street, Belmont
704-825-1401 • www.friendsportsbarandgrill.net
\$-\$\$ 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Glenway Premium Pub

55 Glenway Street, Belmont
704-829-7717 • www.joestouchofitaly.com
\$-\$\$ 1 1 1 1 1

Joe's Touch Of Italy

503 S. Central Avenue, Belmont
704-825-2805 • www.joestouchofitaly.com
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106 N Main Street, Belmont
704-825-8900 • www.jbspizzapad.com
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La Fuente Bar & Grill

3070 E Franklin Blvd, Gastonia
704-866-7744
\$-\$\$ 1 1

Nick's Steak & Taphouse

182 S South Street, Gastonia
704-867-6777 • www.nicksbastonia.com
\$\$-\$\$\$ 1 1 1

Old Stone Steakhouse

23 S. Main Street, Belmont
704-825-9995 • www.oldstonesteakhouse.com
\$-\$\$\$ 1 1 1 1

Riverside Fish House

1341 Dallas Stanley Hwy, Dallas
704-922-8360
\$-\$\$ 1 1

Rodi

245 West Garrison Blvd., Suite H, Gastonia
704.864.7634 • www.rodworld.com
\$-\$\$ 1 1 1 1 1

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1327 E. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia • 704-864-4466
349 W. Charlotte Ave. Mt. Holly • 704-827-4819
www.thesakeexpress.com
\$-\$\$ 1 1

Tequila's Mexican Grill & Taqueria

238 West Main Avenue, Gastonia
704-867-8050 • www.tequilasgastonia.com
\$-\$\$ 1 1 1 1

Thai House

4008 E Franklin Blvd, Gastonia
704-823-1797 • www.thaihouse.us.com
\$-\$\$ 1 1 1 1

The Farmers Fork

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704-820-6030
\$-\$\$ 1 1

The Round Bistro

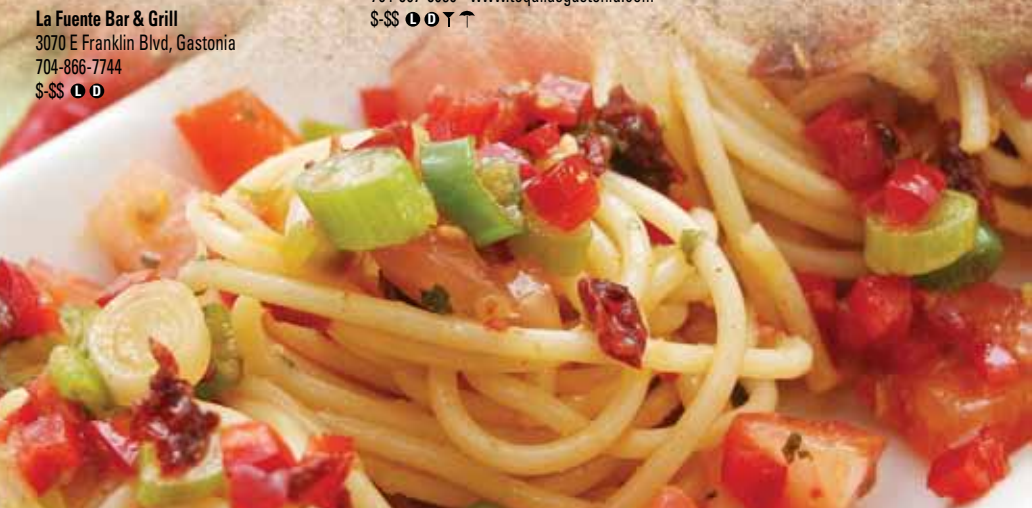
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