

GASTON ALIVE

MAGAZINE

HOME | GARDEN | STYLE | FUN | FOOD | HAPPENINGS

Photographer, Artist,
Rick Haithcox

p6

Gaston County Treasure
Lucy Penegar

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Cooking With Glenn

p12

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

It has started to cool off a little- finally! It is September and that means it's time for Fall festivals. One of the best is coming up-The Mt. Holly Art & Music Festival. The 9th annual celebration of art, music, wine/beer and food happens on Friday, September 23th & Saturday, September 24th, 2016. The festival has become a time-honored tradition in Mount Holly and its surrounding areas with thousands attending.

This year the festival features 2 days of Americana music, an Artist Village, a wine/beer garden, great food vendors and food trucks, and lots of fantastic entertainment! Be sure to put it on your calendar.

It is also back to school time- allow a little extra time to get to work, and watch out for those kids!

Have a great Fall,

David



mounthollyartsfestival.com

featured this month

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PHOTOGRAPHER, ARTIST,
RICK HAITHCOX

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GASTON COUNTY
TREASURE-LUCY PENEGAR

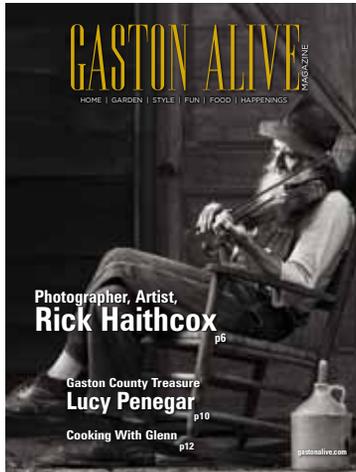
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IT'S FIG SEASON SAYS
GLENN!



HOME | GARDEN | STYLE | FUN | FOOD | HAPPENINGS

on the cover



Pictured is the late Barney Barnwell of the Discovery Channel's Moonshiners fame. Photo taken at his home by Rick Haithcox, see related article page 6. Cover graphic design by David James.

our staff

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Looking For A Job?



Check Out Gaston College's Apprenticeship 321 Program.

The Apprenticeship 321 Program is a flexible education and training program sponsored by Gaston College in collaboration with regional advanced manufacturers to cultivate highly skilled workers for large and small manufacturers.

Apprentices will receive job-specific training and tuition-free education while earning a salary employed by local companies. The company apprenticeship programs may take two to three years to complete.

There will be a priority to recruit and train women. Gaston College is working to continually ensure a classroom and laboratory environment that helps women to better prepare for advanced manufacturing careers.

Successful apprentices will qualify for nationally recognized certifications as journeymen in a skilled trade and an academic credential from Gaston College (a certificate, diploma, or Associate Degree).

Apprentices will also achieve a National Career Readiness Certificate, (bronze, silver, gold, or platinum) a nationally recognized portable work skills credential to add to their portfolio and resume.

Gaston College is the program sponsor for this apprenticeship program, which is registered with the North Carolina Department of Commerce's NCWorks Apprenticeship Office.

What are the advantages of an apprenticeship program?

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Need More Information: Contact Diane Metcalf
metcalfe.diane@gaston.edu or call 704.922.6448.



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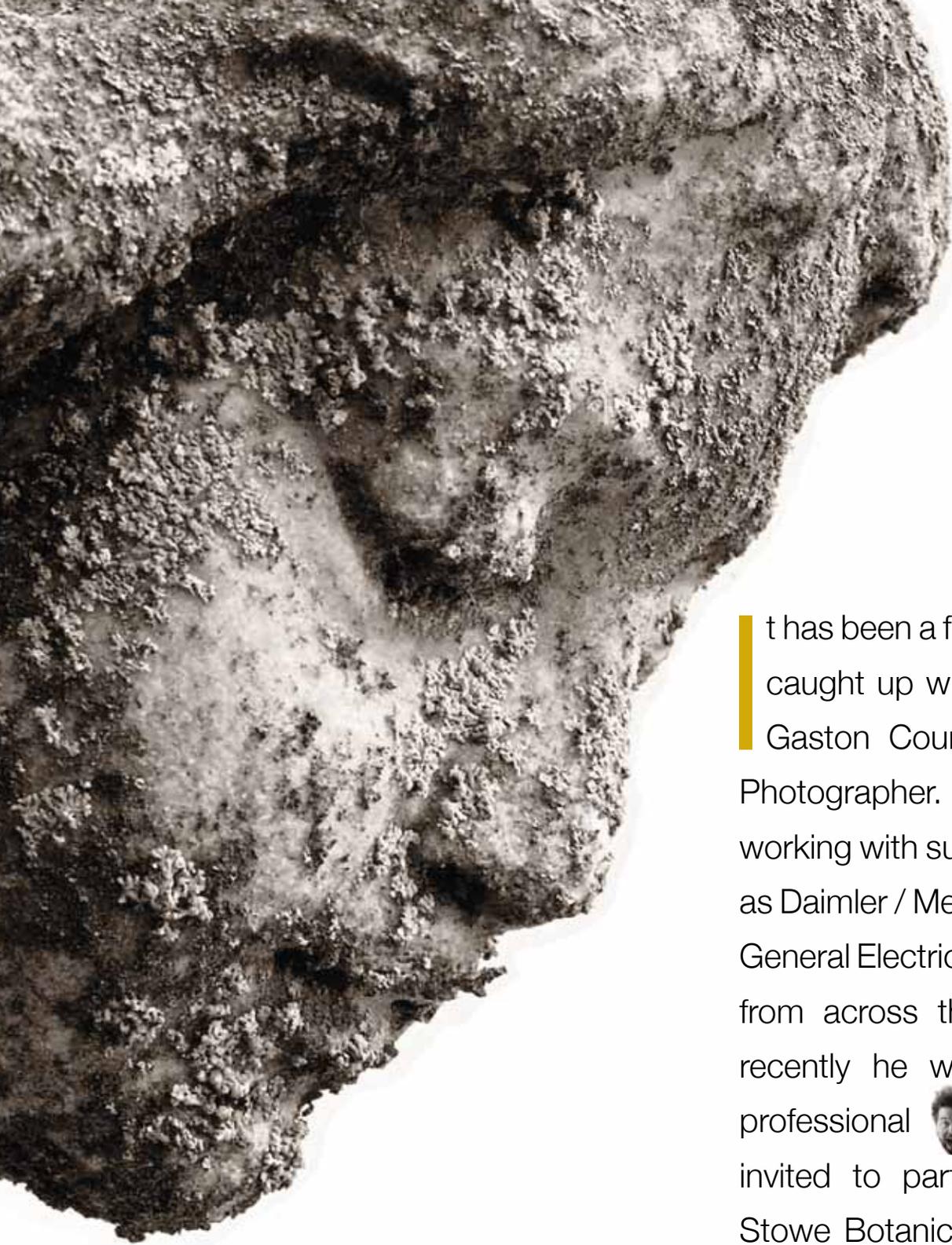
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It has been a few years since we caught up with Rick Haithcox, Gaston County's only Master Photographer. After years of working with such notable clients as Daimler / Mercedes, Taco Bell, General Electric, and ad agencies from across the country, most recently he was one of three professional  photographers invited to participate in Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden's Art & Orchids exhibit.

PHOTOGRAPHER, ARTIST, RICK HAITHCOX

By David Hamrick



GA: Rick, so what is happening in the world of photography?

Rick: With the progression of the digital world, most everyone is a photographer (or so they think), The world of photography has really become quite dumbed down. The biggest thing I see is such poorly lit images being used not only in the portrait world but filtering into the advertising world as well. It amazes me that folks will pay \$1,000.00 a month for a billboard ad but won't spend a few hundred bucks one time for a properly made image to put on it. Gone are the skills of proper lighting and posing.

GA: Tell us about your work with corporate clients...what kind of clients work with you?

Rick: I'm extremely thankful to have some high end clients that truly demand quality imagery for their corporate advertising. Some days, or weeks, are spent on location producing images for national ad campaigns. I recently had an inquiry from a company in Connecticut call about making images of their ships that transport freight from across the big water. They had seen my work for Freightliner and were impressed enough to find me through the marketing headquarters of Daimler Trucks North America.

GA: We know you love photographing moms and babies...

Rick: When not on location, I love photographing people. My awards for my black and white work have driven me to produce striking images for local folks as well as people from far away traveling to my studio for their images. Some have been collected by art galleries and the Discovery Channel picked one up to use on the TV show Moonshiners.

GA: You recently did a series on orchids for Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden-what was that like?

Rick: That began as a personal project that turned into an eight month long studio project. The orchids were all photographed in my studio under controlled lighting and styling. It was great fun to be able to use my own vision and be in my studio with music playing and no interruptions while I was shooting. I ended up with fourteen framed black and white images that were well received by all that have seen them at my studio as well as the attendees at the Garden.

GA: When and why should someone use a professional photographer for their business?

Rick: As far as commercial / advertising goes, anytime images are needed for the purpose of promoting your business. You should really understand the importance of how your product, self or staff are portrayed in any photograph you intend to use. If as an individual, you are looking for timeless images that can hang in your home for years, not go out of style and be handed down for generations, it would serve you well to think about imagery from a true professional who understands the importance of lighting and preparing the images to last a lifetime and beyond.

GA: You have been around for awhile. Do you work from home or have a studio? How long have you been in business?

Rick: If I make it, next year will be my 30th year in business. I'm still located in my Studio on Holland St. in Dallas. I've always worked from my Studio. If I worked from home, I think I would never get any work done.



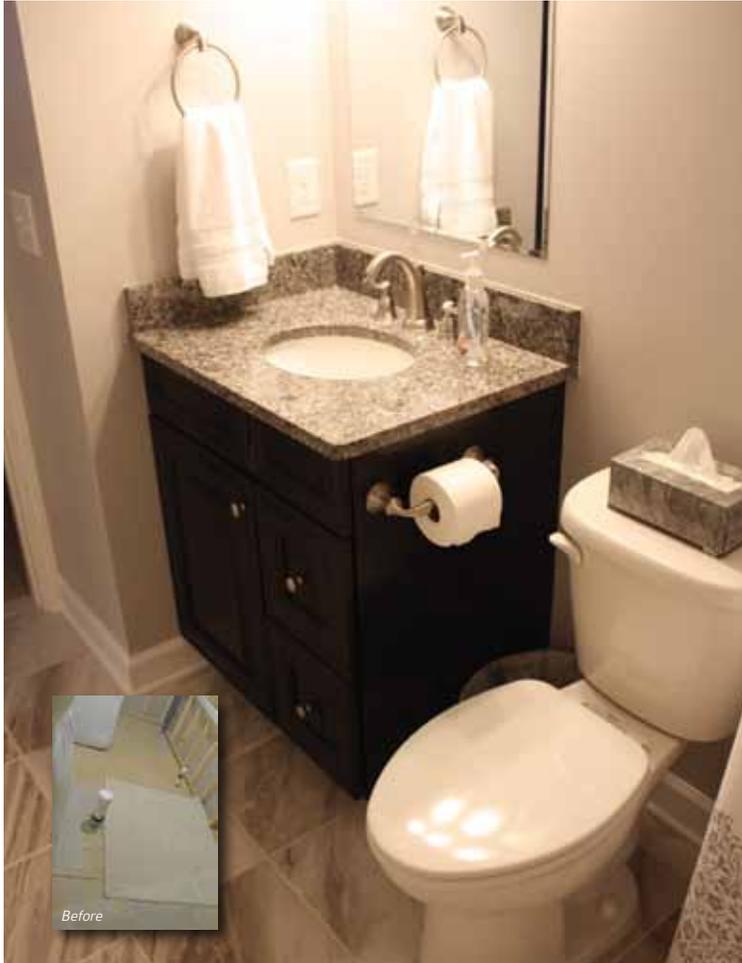
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GA: Your “after” pictures are gorgeous! So you do Kitchen and bath remodeling, as well as outdoor decks?

Greg: Yes, we do all three. Many folks have been in their homes for as much as 20 years, and they are excited about the new color, finishes and fixtures that are part of today’s home decor. From quartz or granite counter tops and ceramic tile or engineered hardwood floors, we do it all. I’ll have to say, the results are dramatic!

GA: If I have a remodel project in mind, what are some things to consider when hiring a contractor?

Greg: I hear a lot of horror stories about homeowners who hired a contractor and ended up not happy in the end. I have had to go into projects and fix the problems that homeowners have to deal with after they thought they had hired a qualified contractor and ends up costing them more money. There are many ways for homeowners looking to do a project to ensure that they get a qualified General Contractor such as:

1. Ask are you a licensed General Contractor (make them show you their certificate) any project over \$30,000.00 requires a licensed general contractor
2. Ask will you be acquiring a zoning and building permit for my project (if not, why) most remodel projects require zoning and building permits
3. Give me 3 previous clients that I can call and speak with about their project and experience with you. (if they can provide odds are they have a good reputation)
4. How long have you been in business, (is your business registered with your home state) This means they should be a legit business
5. Do you have General Liability & Workers Compensation insurance (request a copy of their current certificate) This is very important! This means if they damage something in your home or someone is hurt working on your home the Contractor has a means to take care of and not leave the homeowner left to worry about.
6. I have a quote on my business card that says: “The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is gone”



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MY HISTORIC PRESERVATION JOURNEY

By Lucy Penegar

Publishers Note

Lucy Penegar is a Gaston county treasure. Every time I call her she is in the back of a truck unloading metal, or up a barn working on the roof-there is just no telling! She has a quick smile and an easy going manner, both of which belie her passion for her many historical projects. I first got to know her when she was my office landlady at the Lentz Springs house in Mt. Holly, and it was a pleasure to catch up with her recently.

I have been extremely lucky to have found an interest in historic preservation. It has been a fun but challenging, educational and fulfilling, adventure. I have met talented, dedicated, and innovative people who helped get the preservation movement to where it is now. Preservation has grown from an esthetic, cultural movement to become an economic tool for redevelopment of downtowns and blighted areas. In the process much of the general public has come to realize the importance of heritage and has developed an appreciation for "place".

Our local preservation involvement started with the county's Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. (That's the same year that my family moved into an old house in the country, but that's another story.) The Gaston County Museum of Art & History was a project of the Bicentennial. Our Historic Preservation Commission was a spin-off in 1979. The North Carolina General Statutes enabled counties and towns to become active in the movement. Much of the background work was done by the Department of Archives &



History, the private statewide organization Preservation North Carolina, and the National Park Service.

Gaston County's Historic Preservation Commission members have been dedicated from the outset. We have a couple of "die-hard" members from its beginning which helps with continuity. And we have had some great individuals that have served several terms lending their expertise. Our present chairman is a young attorney, John Russell. I'm afraid that I get far too much credit for what this knowledgeable group accomplishes behind the scenes!



Our Commission works closely with the County Planning Department, the County Parks & Recreation, the Gaston Chamber, the County Museum of Art & History, the County Library, as well as Preservation/NC.

Our Preservation Commission has been involved in many successful projects. It would be hard for me to choose one favorite local project. Several stand out though, like: our comprehensive inventory, our History Happened Here Symposium, and our many local and national register designations. And we have been involved in the saving of several endangered places such as: the Hoffman Hotel (now the County Museum), Gastonia's old 1st Baptist Church (now St. Stephens AME Zion at Unity Place), Gastonia High School (now Ashley Arms), Gastonia Central School, the Lentz-Springs house in Mt Holly, the Gaston Courthouse, the Hoyle Historic Homestead, and the gigantic Loray Mill. Our most ambitious rescue project is the collection of structures in the Dallas County Park that we call the 1890 Heritage Village.

The projects that I personally am most involved with now are the Hoyle Historic Homestead, the Heritage Village, and the Loray.



The Hoyle Historic Homestead is owned by a very active and enthusiastic Board of Directors and is a 501C3 tax exempt organization. This German built corner-post log structure is very unique in the state and the nation! It has been a long process to stabilize the structure, set up a future plan, and get it open to the public. Its large open house is the second Saturday in September with exhibits, vendors, food, music, and tours.

The 1890 Heritage Village has a large part in Cotton Ginning Days the second weekend of October. We have a team of more than 15 volunteers of all ages who dress in costume, depicting the cotton farmer's story as part of our textile history. Every year we see thousands of visitors! We also have a Heritage Christmas in the Village and schedule by appointment through the year for home schooled students, church groups, Leadership Gaston, Commissioners School of Excellence, etc.

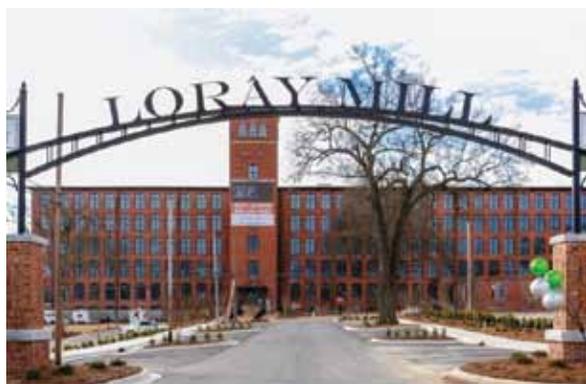


The Loray is continuing to be a focus for me. I have enjoyed giving tours through the process of Preservation/ NC finding a developer, during the mill's renovation, and now showing off the success. It is pure joy to hear the "WOWs" when we walk into the building! Now the Kessell History Gallery is opening there and a movement is in place by Preservation/NC to revitalize the village. I will continue to help where I'm needed as long as my ankles hold out...

It has been a fascinating journey!

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Call Deborah Terry at the Gaston County Planning Department,
704-866-3909
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COOKING WITH GLENN

A FIG AND A FIDDLE

It hard to believe we might finally have broken the back of the dog days of summer and are looking at the sublime pleasure of a fall in North Carolina. Within this cusp of seasons there is also another treat- the glorious fig. September also brings us many bluegrass festivals around the state.

Now you might say 'I don't give a fig for fiddling' so I'll just watch football, but would you know where that expression come from? The phrase not to give a fig comes from the Spanish Fico (Fig) which gave its name to a traditional gesture of contempt made by placing the thumb between the first and second fingers. The gesture was common in Shakespeare's time and was known as The Fig of Spain.

Now honestly if you have figs to give I'll take all of them you have. I love figs. One of my first experiences cooking figs was in Spain. We were actually given figs as a welcome gift by the managers of the property where we stayed while visiting the Priorate region seeking Spanish wine. When visiting foreign lands I always try to cook local so this was the perfect opportunity to combine fresh local figs with the Vin de Table. By simply adding a bit of sugar to the wine and simmering the figs in this mixture till it thickened we created desert. All the great juices of the figs mixed with the sweet wine creating a sublime finish to one of our sultry sunsets in Spain. But I digress...

According to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, August and September are fig season in our fine state. As I saw beautiful figs appearing in our local purveyors isles I knew I would have to re-create some of that magic in Spain.

This is actually a no cook recipe, if you wish to make a wine reduction you can, but the stuffed figs are incredible without.

INGREDIENTS:

- Figs - Medium or larger figs work better
- Goat cheese
- Honey
- Lavender salt - If you don't have any just use a bit of regular salt
- Heavy cream

Method:

Cut the stem off the top of the fig, clean the center of the fig with the tip of your knife leaving a small pocket to stuff with the cheese mixture.

Mix the goat cheese, honey (local of course) with the heavy cream adding just a bit of the lavender salt to cut some of the sweet of the honey and add a floral essence.

Using a pastry bag or simply cutting a corner from a baggie fill the figs with the cheese mixture, arrange on the plate and if desired drizzle with a red wine reduction (or a sweetened balsamic).

This very simple and straightforward presentation of fresh ingredients was an explosion of flavor in your mouth. Every batch I created disappeared and encores were called for another round of fabulous figs.

Till next time, make it your own!
Glenn



LAVENDER SALT



Nothing great is created suddenly, any more than a bunch of grapes or a fig. If you tell me you desire a fig, I answer you that there must be time. Let it first blossom, then bear fruit, then ripen.



-Epictetus - Philosopher circa 68 A.D.

I think Epictetus was on to something here and not just about figs, but about raising kids building friendships, our faith, and maybe even our lives.

Lavender Salt

Easily made by harvesting lavender (or buying) and grinding in a mortar and pestle with coarse salt. Pour the compounded salt onto a plate and spread thinly allowing to dry. Don't be tempted to dry it in the oven as you will remove the lavender oil. Save in a sealed jar for topping cheese and honey or ice cream.

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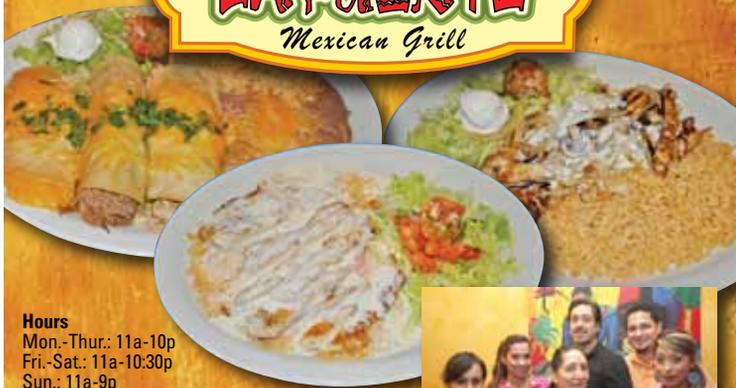
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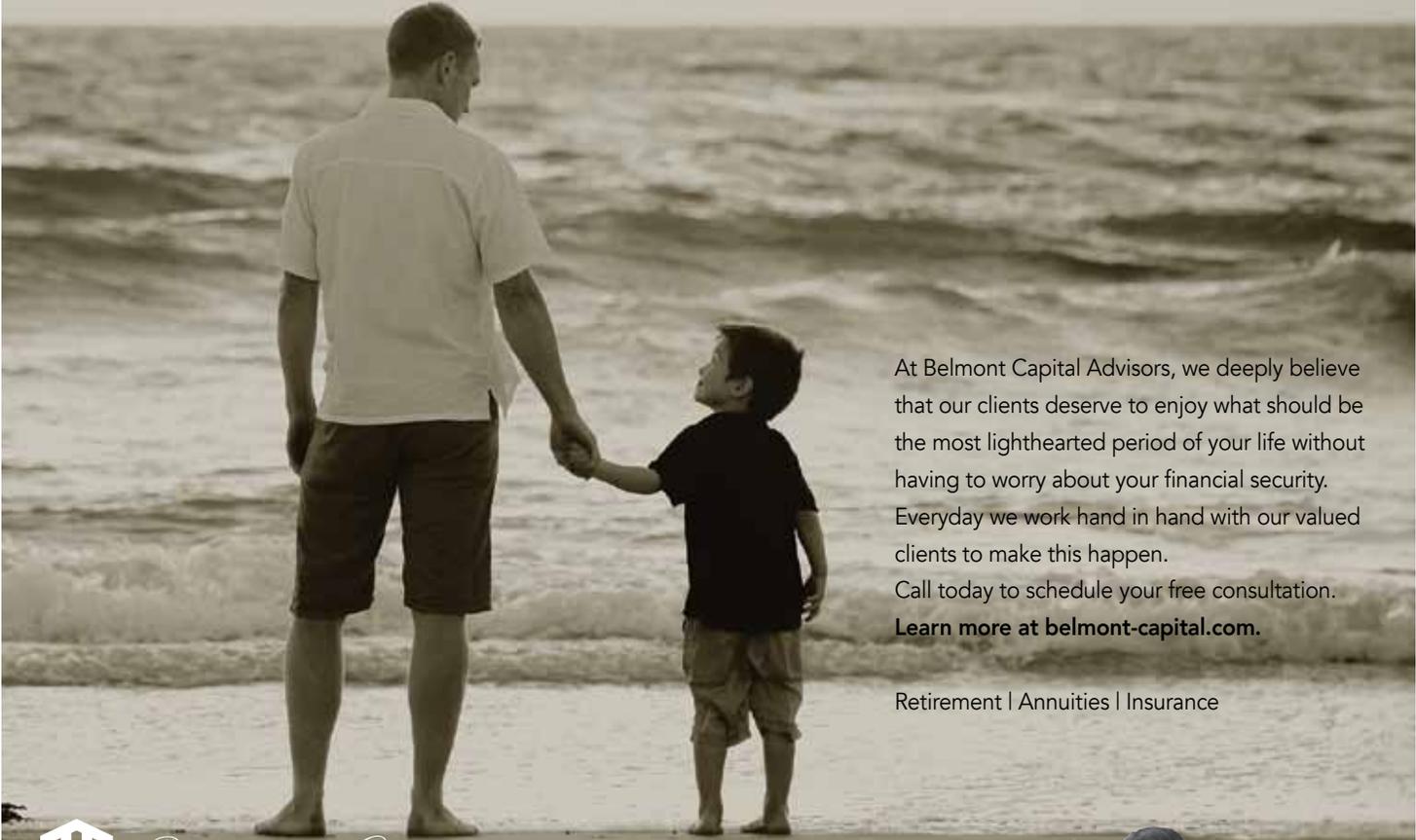
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