

# *Life* AT THE WOODS

MARCH 2020

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE MCCORMICK WOODS COMMUNITY



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# Life AT THE WOODS

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# Save *the* Date



*Dear McCormick Woods neighbors,*

Welcome to another edition of Life At The Woods neighborhood magazine! Within the pages this month, we highlight sponsor, Ashley Brite, owner Anchored Aesthetics here in Port Orchard, the Bergeson Family, young achiever, Savannah Kam-bich, and much more! If you would like to nominate a local resident, non-profit, club, or team, or just have a fun story to share, please email [LATW@n2pub.com](mailto:LATW@n2pub.com) with your suggestions! This publication would be very boring without your involvement!

If you didn't already know, each of our publication sponsors is vetted by us personally to ensure that they provide the highest level of service to this community. If we wouldn't feel comfortable sending one of our family members to them, then they don't get to be a part of the magazine. It's that simple. So then the opportunity arises, we welcome you to consider utilizing any one of our sponsors for their service. Maybe you are in need of one of these services or know someone who is? If so, I am confident that these businesses are not only ready and willing to provide excellent services to you but that you will feel taken care of by them. Even a quick mention that you saw their ad in Life At The Woods magazine reinforces that their advertising dollars aren't going to waste and keeps this publication coming to your mailbox. If you have a business that you want your neighbors to know about, reach out to us and tell us about your experience with them! We hope you enjoy this issue and have a wonderful month of March! See you again next month.

Thank you,

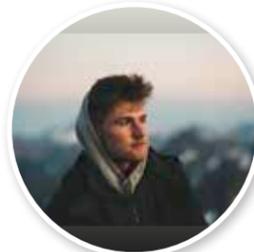
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## We'd Love To Meet You

### Thirsty Thursday — Neighborhood Happy Hour

Are you interested in building strong connections here in McCormick Woods? Do you care about meeting new people and want to learn more about how your neighborhood publication comes together each month?

The *Life At The Woods* publication team would like to officially invite you to join us for our "Thirsty Thursday" happy hour event!

Come for the great food and drink, stay awhile to let your hair down a bit, meet fellow McCormick Woods neighbors, and share what you love about our community. To support this effort, we are planning on making this a monthly occurrence — we'd love for you to join us!

**When:** Thursday, March 12th from 3:30-5 p.m.  
**Where:** McCormick Woods Clubhouse Restaurant & Bar

The **first five (5) residents to RSVP, your first drink is on us! Simply email [LATW@n2pub.com](mailto:LATW@n2pub.com)** and let us know you'll be joining us, then show up on Thursday, March 12, and your first drink is on us — simple!

We will also provide happy hour appetizers to enjoy as we share in community with one another, as well as ideas on how to make our neighborhood even better.

Join us!



Join us at our next neighborhood happy hour; email [LATW@n2pub.com](mailto:LATW@n2pub.com) to sign up and be added to our VIP list.

# MOM'S LEMON MERINGUE PIE



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## resident recipe

Sent in by **Diane Noyes**.

### INGREDIENTS:

#### Lemon Filling

- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1/3 cup cornstarch
- 3 egg yolks

Directions: Mix sugar and cornstarch. Add water and stir constantly on medium/high heat until thickens and becomes clear. Add beaten egg yolks. Stir in 2 tablespoons butter and 1/4 cup lemon juice. Heat for another minute and add to cooked pie shells.

#### Meringue

- 3 or 4 egg whites
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 1/4 tsp cream of tartar
- 6-8 Tbsp. of sugar

Directions: Beat all ingredients together until stiff. Add to top of pie then bake until golden brown at 350!



Do you have a family/favorite recipe you want to share with us? Please submit them to [LATW@n2pub.com](mailto:LATW@n2pub.com).

*Come meet Duke!*

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# MEET THE Bergeson Family!



featured family  
By Piper Wilson.



The Bergesons are a South Kitsap family through and through. Though Kristin, Eric, and Fletcher Bergeson have been residents of Rutherford for three-and-a-half years, they have been involved in the hustle and bustle of South Kitsap their whole lives. You may see the Bergeson family golfing, walking their chocolate Lab, Gurt, playing tennis, or eating dinner at the clubhouse. The Bergeson family is very involved in the community. Eric, better known as Mr. Bergeson, teaches history at South Kitsap High School. You may have spotted Kristen Bergeson at the Tides Tavern in Gig Harbor, where she is the general manager.

Fletcher, a charismatic and talented eighth-grader at John Sedgwick, dabbles in just about anything you can think of. Wrestling, cross-country, golfing, and the school musical are all school activities he has tested out in his middle school career. If you're lucky, you might even get to hear Fletcher's "pizza rap." He not only is a talented young man, but he is a kind-hearted kid, as well. Fletcher enjoys working with his parents to give back to those in need. Throughout his life, he has already done his part to give back through charity work in Mexico, his weekly visit to the family kitchen, a toiletry drive that he personally saw to success, assisting with the SK help-line, Permission to Start Dreaming (a PTSD helpline). Fletcher is excited to start high school and create even more of an impact on his community through opportunities that the high school offers.

The Bergesons are not only invested in their communities, but they also love to spend their time with friends and family. The family of three loves spending their time at local hot spots, Whiskey Gulch, the Tide Tavern, and the Boatshed. This is where Kristin and Eric met! Way back when, Eric was attending Western Washington

University and Kristin was working at the Boatshed. Off and on for two summers, they asked each other out, but it didn't work out until the third summer when they were both single. Eric and Kristin have now spent 20 years together and have loved bringing their family into the McCormick Woods community.

On an average day, you might find the Bergesons together at home, watching *Jeopardy*, reading, watching Manchester United, or playing with Fletcher's bearded dragon, Toothless. Perhaps they will be at the lake, their cabin on Vashon, or anywhere that the sun is shining. The Bergesons, who have a heart for travel, enjoy spending their vacations where the sun shines. They have traveled to San Diego, Italy, Mexico, and Maui. For the Bergesons, what really makes a vacation amazing is who they are spending their time with. Family and friends mean the most to this sweet family of three.

In the three-and-a-half years that the Bergeson family has spent in McCormick Woods, they have enjoyed the community that they've become a part of. From the energy brought by walkers, runners, and bikers to the kindness extended by the clubhouse staff, the Bergeson family thanks McCormick Woods community for bringing them into the family atmosphere. For the Bergesons, living in McCormick Woods and enjoying the safety, recreation, and getting close with their neighbors has been the best chapter of their lives, and they can't wait to see what is up next in their "Life At The Woods."



Do you know an amazing family in the neighborhood? Send your nominations to [LATW@n2pub.com](mailto:LATW@n2pub.com).



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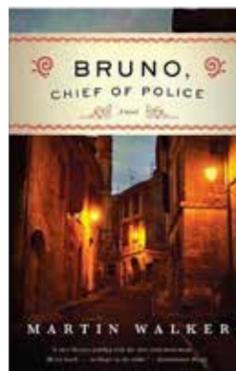
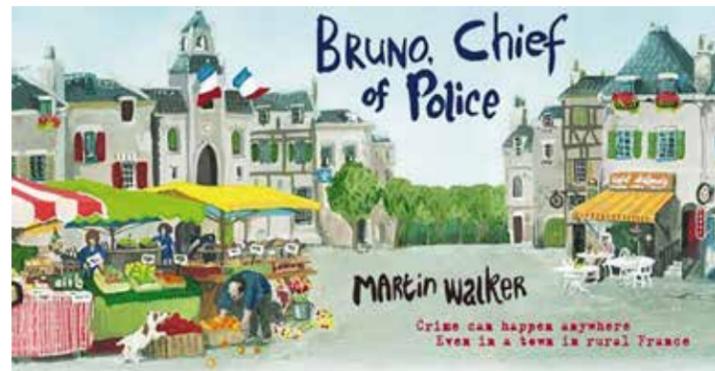
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## resident book review

By Martin Walker.  
Review written by Helen PUNCHES.



# BRUNO

## CHIEF OF POLICE

Benoit Courreges, an orphan and former soldier known to all as “Bruno,” is the chief of police (actually, the only policeman) of St. Denis, a small town in the Perigord region of southern France. Bruno’s preferred method of policing is to talk the offenders into apologizing for their sins and help them find a more constructive way to spend their energy...or to simply overlook small infractions. He has a gun that he never uses, and the back of his police van is full of rugby and tennis gear, a basket of eggs from his own hens, fresh veggies from his garden, a fully outfitted picnic basket, and a few items that might be required in case of a police emergency. Bruno loves his community, its history, its rhythms, its landscape, and its people, and he hopes one day to have a wife and family to share it with him. Unfortunately for Bruno’s romantic dream, the women who ring his bells are the independent, career-driven girls who would consider his idyllic small-town life a little piece of hell.

Sounds like a sweet little story, doesn’t it? Well, on one level, it is. So, why would you want to read it? Because there’s so much more to it, that’s why. In this first book of a series, an elderly neighbor of Algerian birth is murdered, and multiple layers of French police swoop down on the town to investigate what turns out to be a much more complicated situation than just a random murder. In the process, you learn quite a bit about the law enforcement structure in France, which is not much like our own. And you meet some of the high-powered police and government personalities who will continue to appear throughout the series, including the irresistible Isabel. And, of course, you follow the investigative procedures, try to remember what might be important clues, and try to guess who-dun-it.

But while all this is going on, it doesn’t totally consume Bruno’s time. He’s not the “stay on the job 24/7 until the case is solved” kind of cop. He contributes all he’s asked for and quite a bit more, but he still coaches the town’s young rugby and tennis players, hunts with his friends, searches for the region’s famous black truffles with his Bassett hound, oversees the town’s weekly open market day, tends his garden and his poultry, enjoys his morning croissant at the cafe and the region’s fine wines at the table, and cooks beautifully for his friends. It would be worth reading the books just to learn Bruno’s methods of French cooking. But there’s more.

The region in which Walker has set his story is famous for its natural beauty, its many medieval castles, its fine wines and cheeses, its pate de foie gras, and the nearby Painted Caves, which are thought to be about 70,000 years old. In the course of the stories about Bruno and crime-solving, you’ll learn about all these, as well as quite a bit of French history, from pre-history through Roman times, Napoleonic times, the two World Wars, French colonialism, and the current problems with immigration and terrorism.

I discovered Bruno and his neighbors and colleagues at the suggestion of a friend, and I have to admit, I’ve spent most of my reading hours since October binge-reading the whole series. There are 12 books so far, and, I regret to say, I’m now on book 12. What will I do?!

Martin Walker is a highly successful former journalist who now works full-time as Bruno’s creator. He lives with his family in the Perigord region and enjoys many of the same local delights that make his hero so fond of his town. I think you’ll enjoy these books, especially if you need some distraction from stress and hurry and worry. Like Louise Penny’s *Three Pines*, but not like it, St. Denis is a great place to go for rest and recreation – and that great French cooking!

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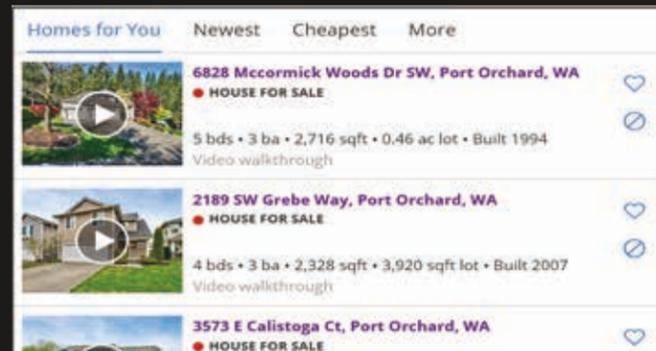
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precious pets

# meet Charles Nathaniel Nugget, or **Chuck** for short!

**Family members?** Rozie, Wilson, Willy, Patricia, Ashley

**Pets name?** Charles Nathaniel Nugget, or Chuck for short

**Type of animal?** English bulldog

**Male or female?** Male

**Age?** Chuck is about 4 years old!

**Where/why did you get your pet?** We got Chuck from a breeder in Oregon. We fell in love with Chuck as soon as we saw him!

**Is there a story behind its name?** For such a cool dog, we thought that Chuck deserved a cool name, and in our opinion, Charles Nathaniel Nugget is a pretty cool name! He also has a gold patch in the shape of a nugget on his back, which is where we got the add-on of "nugget."

**Anything special or unusual about them (talents/quirks)?** Chuck can open a screen door with his paws! He rolls over and puts his paws up for a shake automatically when he sees you have a treat.

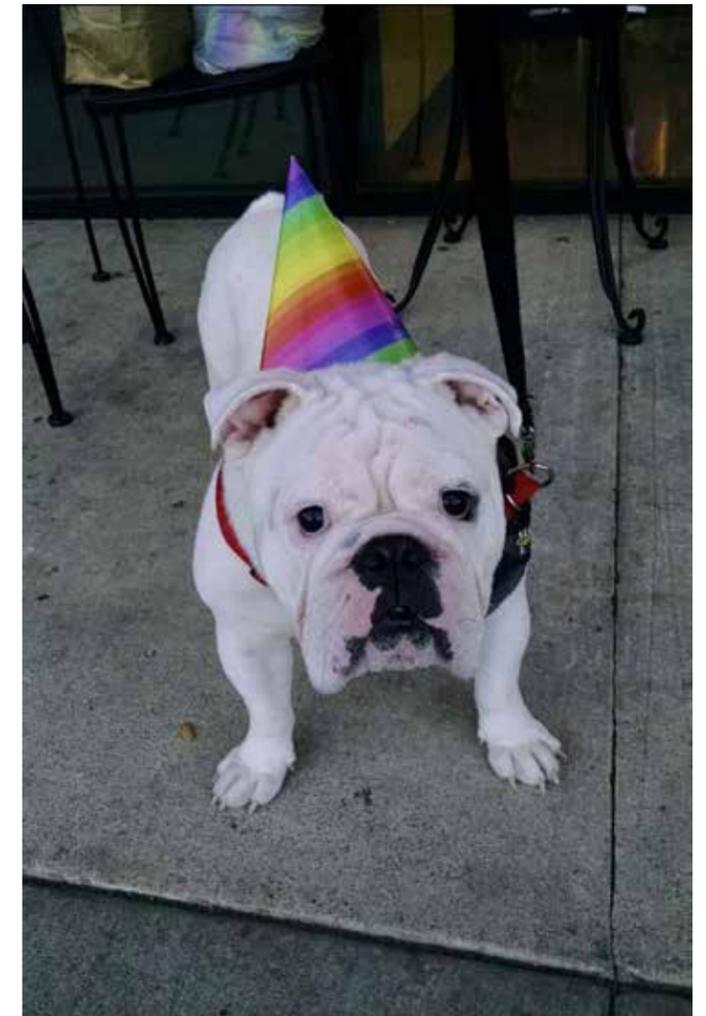
**What do you like best about your pet?** We love how chill Chuck is. He loves to sleep, and when he sleeps, he snores. It is actually quite calming, kind of like white noise. He loves everyone that he meets, which makes him so fun to have around...and you really cannot beat that adorable squishy face.

**Any funny stories?** Chuck *loves* ice cubes and carrots for snacks! He's a healthy little pup!

**How spoiled is your pet?** Chuck is very, very, very spoiled. He gets so many treats, especially after he goes out.



**For all those pet lovers out there!** We can't wait to feature your pet in an upcoming issue! Submit your story and photos to [LATW@n2pub.com](mailto:LATW@n2pub.com).



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young achiever

## Savannah KAMBICH

I have lived in McCormick Woods my whole life. Our family has only moved once, but it was less than one mile away from our first house in McCormick Woods! McCormick Woods has been a great place to grow up!

I am in a family of five. My mom, Stacey, my dad, Ken, my older brother, Jackson, and our dog, Scrappy. I currently attend South Kitsap High School, where my mom also works. I attended middle school at Cedar Heights and elementary school at Sunnyslope.

After high school, my plans are to go to college and study criminal justice.

As a sophomore at South Kitsap, I am a part of the DECA Club, and I was on the school golf team in the fall, I am currently on the basketball team, and I will run track in the spring. I also get to play premier soccer and select volleyball. I can't really pick a favorite sport...whichever one I am playing at the moment is probably my favorite!

I've been playing soccer my entire life, and as I got older, I have tried different sports and have found a love for them all. I started to join different sports because my brother was a part of many different sports teams growing up and it looked like so much fun. My favorite part of being involved with so many different teams is the competition and the great friendships I have made. I have best friends from soccer, track, golf, volleyball, and basketball. Along with the amazing teams that I am a part of, DECA is fantastic club that South Kitsap offers, with great teachers and lots of opportunities.

I love the thrill I get when competing and staying active is a part of who I am. Sports have allowed me to do this while being involved with my school and community, and I am so glad that I have gotten to be so involved in so many different teams. I enjoy DECA because it is a way to get exposed to professional situations and work with other students and teachers interested in business, and it brings a different element of competition into my life.



Last year as a freshman, I made it to states with my 4x400 relay team, almost breaking the South Kitsap school record with Ella Hopper, Evelyn Collins-Winn, and Paxton DePoe. This was such an inspiring experience as a freshman, and it has pushed me to work harder and shoot to achieve new heights such as this in the future. Our 4x400 relay team goal is to return to states and break the school record this year and in future seasons.

I bring strong competitiveness to teams but love to have fun and goof around with my friends. I can be laughing with my friend one second and playing serious the next. It is important to balance the two when playing on a team with your friends so that you stay on track but also enjoy yourself and your time with the team.

I make it a priority to stay on top of my grades and schoolwork. I do this because I know that not only do my grades make me eligible to play, but they also will lead me on a path to success with college and my future in mind. Making sure that my homework is done before I go to bed or when we are on the road is a key part of making sure that I am caught up or on track with school.

I admire every single one of my friends. I am so thankful for them because they support me in everything I do. They are, literally, the best. I am so grateful for the sports that brought me to my friends. I also admire my older brother Jackson. He motivated me to continue to work hard in athletics because that is what I grew up watching him do. His success in sports motivated me to be like him and push for my personal best at every practice and in every game, and in life in general.



Do you know an amazing young achiever in the neighborhood? Send your nominations to [LATW@n2pub.com](mailto:LATW@n2pub.com).



Photo by Miranda Quade Photography.

*anchored*  
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**ASHLEY DONOHOE,**  
LICENSED ESTHETICIAN/OWNER

**sponsor spotlight**

By Kai Curry.

It can be difficult to take time for ourselves. Even when we do, those of us with kids often feel guilty or pressure that we are spending our time doing something else besides being with our families. Ashley Donohoe, owner of Anchored Aesthetics on Pottery Avenue in Port Orchard, set out to help area residents solve this challenge by offering a full range of spa services in a set-up that is also kid-friendly. “Self-care is so important because you can’t pour from an empty cup,” says Ashley. While we might think that not taking time out to look after ourselves is making us better parents, in fact, it can lead to burn-out and frustration, which in turn can impede our parenting.

“When you have to pay for services, plus a sitter (and let’s not even talk about the headache of finding someone you trust with your kids), taking time for yourself to get any kind of pampering goes out the window.”

Ashley empathizes, so she made sure that her spa space includes a room for kids to play while their mothers are getting that much-needed attention. “I wanted to open a spa where women could come and their kids could play in the other room, and they just take those few moments to lay down and be pampered,” she explains.

At Anchored Aesthetics, clients can access a full range of spa treatments, from waxing, facials, and tanning to teeth whitening. Eyelash lifts and tints are available, as well as dermaplaning and professional makeup. Getting ready for a wedding? Ashley’s spa offers a variety of wedding packages, including a pre-wedding makeup trial and bridal party get-togethers. In need of a little something special for a costumed event? Ashley’s team even does special effects makeup! “My team and I pretty much offer it all. We do skincare, no-needle fillers, eyelash extensions, eyelash lifts, full body waxing, tinting, and spray tans.”

Ashley knew from an early age that the traditional four-year college experience was not for her. “I graduated high school and knew regular school wasn’t for me,” she recalls of her teenage days in Metairie, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans. “Book learning was never my thing. I like hands-on. I always wanted to help people and be creative, so this career combined both of those.” In April 2014, Ashley graduated from Aveda Institutes in New Orleans. She then attended Louisiana Tech University for two years “where I got to start my career by working in different aspects of esthetics.” Now, Ashley experiences on a daily basis the joy of watching her clients become rejuvenated. “I get to help women get that sparkle back in their eyes, by something as simple as a good brow cleanup or a spray tan.”

Ashley moved to Port Orchard in 2018 due to the military orders of her sweetheart James Donohoe. It was then that she saw how lacking our town was in a good spa. “There weren’t many eyelash or waxing technicians,” she remembers. “And absolutely none of them were family-friendly, so that’s why I opened my studio.” Engaged to a military man and surrounded by other military men and women, Ashley grew familiar with the particular needs of military families and single or home-alone mothers. “I saw how being a mother trying to find self-care time, especially when your spouse is deployed and you turn into a single parent, was nearly impossible,” she says. A nanny herself to a family with three kids “who have taken me on as extended family,” Ashley (and James) also have two rambunctious puppies, Sugar and Sebastian.

Her experience as a nanny led to Ashley’s interest in getting to know the residents of McCormick Woods: “I chose to partner with this wonderful neighborhood because the family I nanny for lives in the Ridge, so I am constantly in that area, and my business is right up the road. McCormick Woods has lots of families and I wanted to help parents find that time for self-care.”



Photo by Miranda Quade Photography.

The playroom designed for self-sufficient kids to entertain themselves while their mothers are within earshot is a big part of what makes Anchored Aesthetics different from other spas. Yet, the care and expert attention you will receive there as a client is also second-to-none. A quick browse of the testimonials viewable on the website at [www.anchoredaestheticsllc.com/](http://www.anchoredaestheticsllc.com/) will put you at your ease as to whether or not you should entrust your precious pampering moments to Ashley. Current and former clients consistently comment upon Ashley’s professionalism and her superior abilities as an esthetician, as well as on the comfortable atmosphere of the location.

“Anchored Aesthetics is a one-stop-shop...” the website reads. “constantly adding new services and staying up-to-date on the latest trends while also staying affordable!” A stop-in to Anchored Aesthetics in Port Orchard means a convenient and guilt-free appointment where busy parents can kick back and relax, confident that both their needs and those of their children are being met.

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# COUNTRY CLUB OR COUNTRY ROAD

## These SUVs Deliver on All Fronts

Nature-loving American families relish the adventure of off-road driving trails, with online resources offering hand-curated trail maps, reviews, and photos. Not surprisingly, automotive manufacturers are taking advantage of the demand for this special breed of SUVs, which must come loaded with tech and safety features, have space for the kids and their buddies, and fit in the valet line at a charity luncheon... oh, and also be able to climb rocks and descend hills with ease!



With 8.1 inches of ground clearance, our Honda Passport AWD tester, with its i-VTM4™ (Intelligent Variable Torque Management) system and its 3.5L V6, does the job beautifully. Including the all-wheel drive and Elite-level

trim, adding ventilated seats and LED interior lighting, along with an already comprehensive list of features, our tester could be acquired for \$44K. The Passport is considered midsize, slotting between the CR-V and the Pilot in size.



*Motor Trend's* 2020 SUV of the Year is one of several accolades already claimed by the all-new Kia Telluride. This three-row midsize can seat up to eight passengers and hold 87 cubic feet of cargo. The Telluride comes standard with a

3.8L, 291 hp V6. Second-row captain's chairs, rear sunroof, and Harman Kardon surround-sound audio were some of the standout features in our SX tester, and the price tag was still under \$47K.



Hop into the Range Rover Sport and spend up to \$30K more — but this beauty will be first in that valet line and sets the bar by which all others are compared in traversing mud and rocks. The Sport comes with standard four-wheel drive

with a maximum wade depth of 35.4 inches and an optional Terrain Response 2 system for even greater capability. Our HSE tester had the more powerful version of the turbocharged inline-six paired with a mild hybrid system.

Any of these new and powerful SUVs will take you and the whole crew wherever you need or hope to go.

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## tour & travel

By Shauna Osborne

# SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR SPRING BREAK

**Savannah, Georgia**  
It's known for its 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century squares with majestic fountains and serene, Spanish-moss-draped live oak trees.

March has arrived, and with it, spring break for many. As someone who was a teenager in the '90s, the first things that come to mind when I hear the words "spring break" are wild parties, tiny bikinis, and sun-soaked beaches — think MTV Spring Break 1996. You may very well have your sights set on achieving a golden tan, sipping a margarita, and spending endless hours in the sun. However, if a week of crowds and debauchery isn't in the plans for you this month but you still want to get away somewhere warm, consider one of these quieter, less crowded spring-break destinations to decompress.

### St. Augustine, Florida

Founded in 1545, the elegant city of St. Augustine is also the oldest continuously occupied city established by European settlers in North America, 55 years before Plymouth Rock. Known for its Spanish-colonial archi-

tectural style, the historic downtown area is filled with unique shopping, tasty restaurants, and a variety of captivating museums. Broad, sandy beaches offer calm and privacy to vacationers, particularly along the pristine, four-mile shoreline of Anastasia State Park.

### Palm Springs, California

Known for drawing A-list celebrities, such as Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra, since the '50s, Palm Springs is a sunny, glamorous getaway where stunning architecture and luxurious resorts, but not crowds, abound. Rather than the bustle of nearby Los Angeles, vacationers find a quiet, low-key destination here, complete with hot springs, abundant hiking, numerous golf courses and spas, and posh shopping.

### Savannah, Georgia

The sleepy town of Savannah is the oldest city in Georgia and oozes

Southern charm and hospitality. It's known for its 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century squares with majestic fountains and serene, Spanish-moss-draped live oak trees. This historic gem is a mere half-hour from the barrier island Tybee Island, which offers miles of wide, uncrowded, sandy beaches and an amusing pier and pavilion area.

### Charleston, South Carolina

Much like Savannah, the port city of Charleston woos visitors with its historic charm, including cobblestone streets, horse-drawn carriages, and pastel antebellum houses, as well as its heritage steeped in the past, with the Civil War Fort Sumter nearby. The French Quarter and Battery District are not to be missed here, and if beaches are a must, tiny, slow-placed Sullivan's Island is only minutes away, offering pristine sand, fascinating marshland, and a gorgeous, old lighthouse.

## financial fitness

By Shauna Osborne

# women AND FINANCES

March brings about the observation of a very special month: **Women's History Month**. 2020 marks the 100-year anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the United States, after decades of the fight for suffrage. Indeed, the last century has brought many significant social changes for women, including in the financial arena, which places women in a singular position in fiscal decision-making.

Taking a look back over time, we see that although women started out with relatively few autonomous rights in our country – in fact, they were considered the “property” of their husbands as of 1769 – they soon slowly began gaining more control over their lives and finances. The 1800s brought the rights for women to retain property after marriage, bank under their own names, and work as stock-brokers; the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw laws passed that governed fair and equal opportunities in credit, pay, and labor for women. Flash forward to now, when women make up 60% of the workforce, including in corporate America and global business. And we're not only participating in the economy by spending money – we're actively contributing by *making* money as well.

Yet female wage-earners still face considerable and unique financial challenges. The first is, overall, women still make less money than men, even in positions for which they are equally qualified. As of 2017, women earned approximately 80 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earned across every age group. The gender pay gap – while improving as millennial women continue to dominate in higher education and secure higher-paying positions – is still very real.

Additionally, women tend to live longer than men do – on average, about five years longer – which impacts retirement savings as well as money set aside for health care costs as we age. Add to this the fact that women's peak earning age falls significantly earlier on salaries that already started out lower than men's, and that women, almost exclusively, spend time away from their careers to raise children, and it becomes much harder to save throughout our wage-earning lifetime. *What can women, specifically, do to address these gender-based financial challenges?*

**Set goals and plan ahead.** Set necessary yet attainable short- and long-term goals for your money. Focus on paying off debt first, then turn your attention to saving. Studies suggest women should save approximately 1.5% more yearly than men to reach the same savings target by retirement.

**Discuss finances in relationships early and often.** Finances are one of the top stressors in relationships, so stay on top of it by being as transparent as possible from the beginning. Keep educated on and be involved in the day-to-day management of your family's goal setting, budgeting, saving, and investing.

**Address health care now.** If you haven't already, explore your options for long-term health care. Women live longer, have higher rates of chronic health conditions and disability, and are often the caregivers for others with health concerns. Take care of you; the time to plan for your future health care needs is now.



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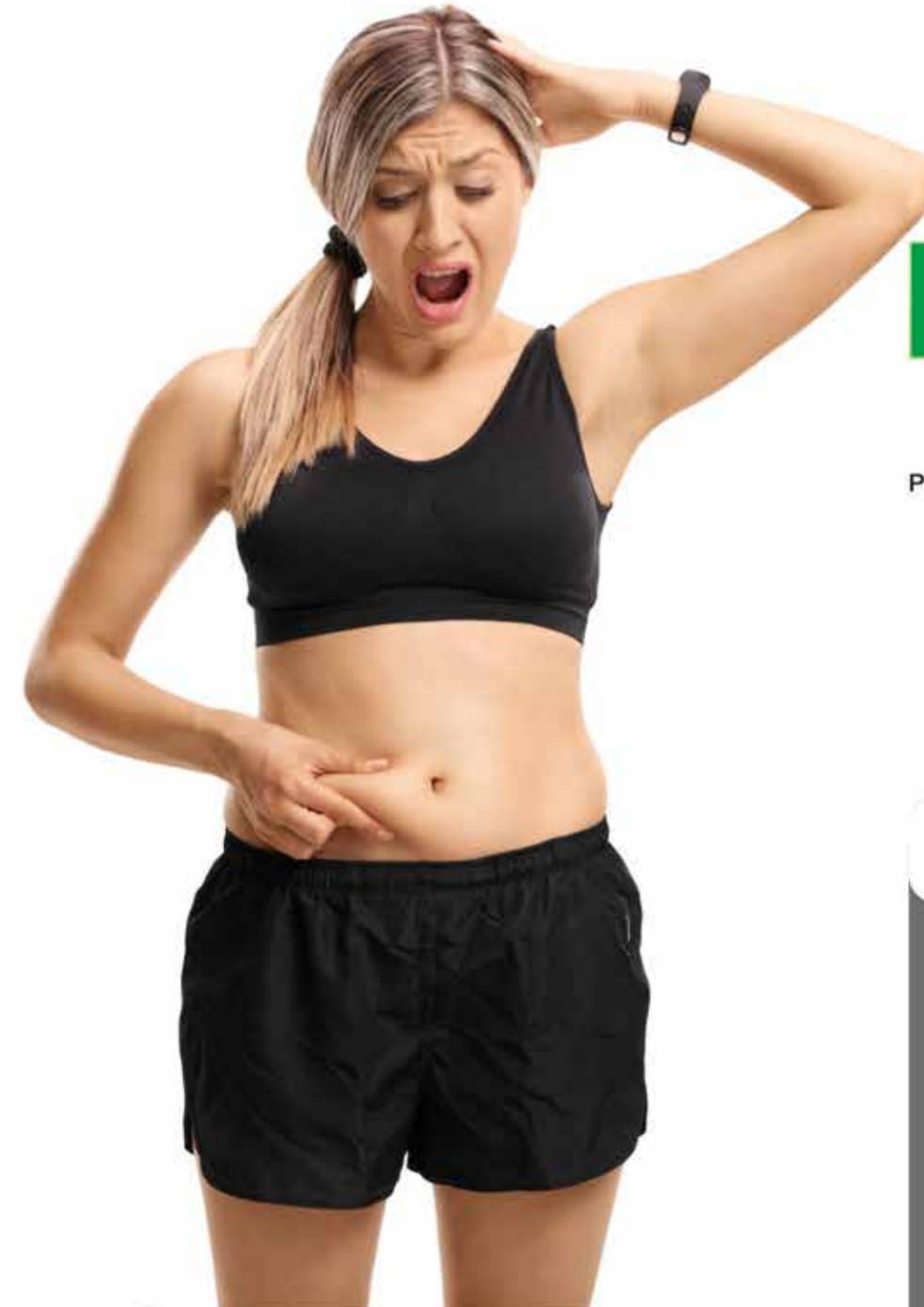
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PRUNING • TRIMMING • REMOVAL • STUMP GRINDING • WOOD REMOVAL • STORM CLEANUP

24HR EMERGENCY SERVICES

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