



Briefly in East Cooper

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Documentary to premiere at Spoleto

"Bin Yah," a film that documents the impact of suburban sprawl on historic African-American communities in Mount Pleasant, will premiere during the Piccolo Spoleto Festival June 3.

The documentary, directed by Justin Nathanson, uses testimonies of residents to explore the culture and history of these communities, the importance of land and the concept of home.

The documentary will also air 10 p.m. June 12, during South Carolina's ETV series "Southern Lens."

The documentary explores how road widening, traffic, gated developments and shopping centers are bisecting close-knit neighborhoods of cousins and kinfolk, established by freed slaves and home to generations of their families.

Many residents are artisans and crafts people, practicing traditional skills including sweetgrass basket making, brought over from West Africa and handed down from mothers and fathers to sons and daughters. Mount Pleasant remains the primary place in the nation where this grass is harvested and "sewn" into coiled basketry.

A trailer can be seen at: <http://binyahfilm.org>.

Piccolo Spoleto goes to the beach

A Piccolo Spoleto improv competition will take place on the Isle of Palms beach in June.

It's half game show and half sporting event in which five improvisers will go head-to-head at 7 p.m. June 7 in scenes based on audience suggestions. The audience will also decide who's the champion.

Tickets are free but must be obtained in advance at the City's recreation department.

Nonprofit Nook hosts workshop

The Nonprofit Nook, owned by Trio Solutions Inc., will hold a workshop 5:30 to 7 p.m. June 18 for nonprofit organizations addressing the importance of Web site availability.

Jessica Monday, president and founder of Trio Solutions, said she knows what it's like working as a nonprofit.

"Before I started Trio Solutions seven years ago I worked for a children's hospital," Monday said. "I just really enjoyed using my professional skills for an organization that had a much bigger mission than just selling products."

Workshop registration costs \$20. Trio Solutions Inc. is at 505 Belle Hall Parkway, Suite 202 in Mount Pleasant.

For more information, visit thenonprofitnook.com or call 843-216-0442.

Breast cancer grants available

The Lowcountry affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure will offer grants up to \$5,000 for qualified nonprofit organizations. Grants are expected to initiate innovative projects to help educate about breast cancer and offer treatment support.

For information about the guidelines for applying for the grant, visit komenlowcountry.org.

Mt. P. police to offer self-defense lectures

The Mount Pleasant Police Department will hold free lectures about situational awareness for women's groups and other organizations to offer strategies about self-defense.

Lectures will be held at the police department and will focus on identifying and avoiding dangerous situations.

Times for the classes have not been released. People interested can call crime prevention officer Michael Meiner at 884-4176.

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