

EDITORIALS

Food trucks add spice

Food trucks in Mount Pleasant are what's on the menu as far as the latest trends. They've grown widely popular.

Only a handful of trucks have made their way to East Cooper.

Stopping at various locations throughout the day, the trucks have developed a following and some customers like the idea.

There are a few brick and mortar restaurant owners who feel these types of businesses should be more heavily regulated.

They've said it is not about competition, but that the regulations should be enforced to ensure everyone is following the same rules.

But call a spade a spade.

It is about competition.

A proposed ordinance limits where these trucks can operate and their hours of operation. Of course, DHEC approval and a town business license is already required.

Town officials have championed their efforts of diversifying the local business climate and environment.

So their willingness to create an ordinance to regulate the trucks is another step in the right direction.

When a restaurant complains about the advantages a food truck owner might have over a restaurant owner it's questionable.

As one food truck owner told the town's planning committee members, he doesn't have the advantage of tables and chairs and air conditioning and bathrooms.

Another said they pay every single required tax except an impact tax.

However, restaurants don't pay gas tax.

Another restaurant owner brought up safety and traffic flow and the potential for a child to be run over. That potential is no different from a child being accidentally run over in a restaurant parking lot.

Food truck owners identified a need and took a chance in the free market.

As one restaurant owner, who also owns a food truck said, "That's the beauty of the free market. If you have an idea, you can run with it."

You can't tell someone they can't do something based on how it would affect what you're doing.

On a good day, a food truck owner will clear only about \$700.

Many of these food truck owners are former restaurant owners.

They're just doing something different and offering an alternative to fast food.

Let this new phenomenon play out in the free market. If it is worth it, people will come.

If it is not, the trucks will disappear.

Not only are the menu options good, but the food comes from local farmers and you can't beat local.

Have no fear.

This is just a different business model.

I don't think we're in danger of losing our favorite restaurants to food trucks.

Order up!



Letters to the Editor

Footprint

Each week I enjoy the Moultrie News and the first thing I look for is the Porches or Sidewalks column.

I find it informative and entertaining although it is rarely about porches or sidewalks. I have among other things learned the importance of minimizing our environmental impact, the importance of supporting the local community and I have learned about the wonders of riding the bus around town. I sometimes finish the column feeling guilty for not riding the bus and burning all that gas while clogging the roadways, just because my car is convenient, flexible and saves time.

Last week's column featured the difficulty Mr. Hamilton's son had in flying home from college in Olympia, Wash., for Thanksgiving. It cost \$1,000 and was a disaster of cancelled and rescheduled flights. This is primarily due to Republicans as I understand it. It is something to be thankful for that the Hamiltons can afford to fly across the entire USA three or four times a year, but it occurs to me that this is an Al Gore class carbon footprint. If young Mr. Hamilton were attending the College Of Charleston he could come home for the holiday on a CARTA bus (or buses), in mere moments, for \$1.75.

Bruce Smith
Mount Pleasant

Allergies

I enjoyed the article by Drs. Jameson and Bianucci in the Post and Courier's Lowcountry Paws that shared a good discussion of some issues to consider when deciding whether to have your cat live indoors or outdoors.

There is one other important consideration in this decision that was not mentioned and that is whether anyone in the house has a pet allergy.

When someone is allergic to their pet, it can cause allergic rhinitis with symptoms such as sneezing, congested,

runny nose, itchy and watery eyes as well as asthma symptoms.

The more time the pet spends indoors, the more allergy causing pet dander becomes airborne which easily spreads throughout the house.

There are some measures that can be taken to try to reduce the impact. It can be helpful to keep the pet out of the allergic person's bedroom with the door closed and considering having a HEPA air filter to decrease the airborne allergen.

In addition it can be helpful to wash the pet regularly, and after holding or petting the animal to wash your hands and change clothes.

There are also many over the counter and prescription allergy medications which can lessen the allergic symptoms.

If the person experiences side effects from medication, has incomplete control with medication, or wishes to achieve more long term control, then allergy immunotherapy also known as allergy shots can be a good option.

Allergy immunotherapy is the only disease modifying treatment which in effective doses can reduce a patient's allergies over time. Allergy immunotherapy can provide relief for allergic pet owners wanting to have their pets spend time indoors.

Jeffrey Dietrich, MD
Allergist/Immunologist
Daniel Island

Billboards

As I exit the Ravenel Bridge onto Coleman Boulevard, it has a nice sense of "Hello this is Mount Pleasant," a nice town to live in.

If I exit the opposite way on to Route 17, I'm greeted with huge billboards, that are an eye sore and so 1950. Mount Pleasant is not South of the Border.

Besides being an eye sore, they're also a distraction. A distraction that is not needed coming off the bridge.

Can anything be done about these billboards?

L. Daly
Mount Pleasant

Same team

It was wonderful to see the editorial titled, "We love those Wando Warriors."

In the column dated Nov. 30, a detailed explanation was given as to the paper's stance on covering all of the wonderful things happening at Wando High School.

We are very proud of all of the teams, organizations and clubs that represent our school because at the heart of each group are wonderful students who genuinely want to excel at whatever endeavor they choose to pursue. Embedded in these organizations are wonderful life lessons of teamwork, esprit de corps and the mantra, "hard work yields success."

It was a bit disheartening to read in her article that there is a "little age-old rivalry that goes on between band parents and football" parents.

We are not sure of the basis for the comment. In the years that we've been here, the band staff and athletic department personnel at Wando have always worked together and feel that we are all part of the same team.

There is a tremendous amount of personal and professional respect between the coaches and directors because of the wonderful people skills instilled in our students on a daily basis.

Both groups are successful and that is a win/win for all.

We will continue to support each other and feel blessed to be able to teach some of the finest young people anywhere in America.

Scott Rush
Director of Bands
Bob Hayes
Athletic Director



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