

WITH A PASSION FOR...

MUSIC

Deakins balances a love for teaching and performing

AUDREY KELLY | Co-Writing Editor

His heart hammers in his chest with vigor. He feels his palms grow clammy with nervous sweat that only makes his heart beat faster. He grips his instrument as tight as possible as the surrounding cheers of the audience ring in his ears from backstage.

"This is it," he tells himself. "This is what you've been dreaming of since you were five," he said again, repeating it only making it more of a reality.

Derek Deakins is about to play the Grand Ole Opry, the music stage he's wanted to be on for as long as he could remember, and yet he still can't fathom that it's real. He's put in the work, dedication and talent, yet how does one guy with a small dream get to live it out so young?

But he shakes that thought out of his head, cracks his knuckles and walks onstage with his band, his eyes taking in the hundreds that have come to hear them play their bluegrass tunes, and sighs.

"I did it," he thinks. "I'm here." Before Deakins taught AP music theory, he had another life -- one of daily travelling on tour buses and weeks without seeing his bed. He was a country musician, living out what any boy from Tennessee with a love of music only fantasizes about -- a life on the road spreading joy through song.

"I went to school at Belmont University studying music education, and on top of that I got a job working with a band that I would perform with occasionally, and that was what helped me get to the Opry," Deakins said.

But he didn't just come up with this love of music out of nowhere. It wasn't as if he picked up a guitar one day and simply decided that he was going to perform in front of thousands one day.

Deakins grew up with a role model -- his grandmother -- who showed him all she knew, from instruments to song writing.

A performer herself, she instilled a passion within him that changed his entire life and taught him everything he knows when it comes



(Above) Music teacher **Derek Deakins** strums a G major on his acoustic guitar. (Right) Deakins teaches AP Music Theory, Guitar, and Orchestra. *photos // Aidan Furlong*

to playing from the heart.

"She just had a way with words and rhythms, and she was always there to support me with anything," Deakins said.

As he got older, his passion progressed, and his grandmother, well known in town, spread word everywhere that her grandson was a performer, and if she had anything to say about it, he would be booked.

Every time he got a gig, she was the first to know, and soon enough, his first album was named in honor of a song they wrote together when he was in fifth grade -- "If I Could Give the World."

And it was through her support that he got the courage to break away from playing other people's songs on their tours and making his own.

And so he did. In 2011, a few years after he and his wife Lisa had picked up their things and moved to Charleston to become teachers, they had an idea -- what if they, with a shared love for music, made their own band?

And so they did. They picked up the phone, called a mutual friend known for her vocal superiority, and created the band now known as Gravel Road Bluegrass, a testament to an old song he and Lisa had written.

It wasn't a hard decision for them. They had spent their being followers, and now they have a chance to create their own art and share their own stories, and they were taking it. They teach together. They write together. They learn together.

Making music is easy for them. When one gets a lyric, the other helps with the melody,

and at the end, they have a song. A song that they made with the one they love, telling a story of whatever they want the world to hear, and this is their happiness.

"Ever since we moved here we got to spend more time together. When you work with somebody who's a good musician and has similar views and ideas it's really a lot of fun to go out together," Lisa said.

With a house full of teachers who perform, it's not hard to assume the contents of their home -- music sheets sprawled across the couches, various instruments hanging on the walls or tucked under the kitchen table and lots and lots of papers to be graded.

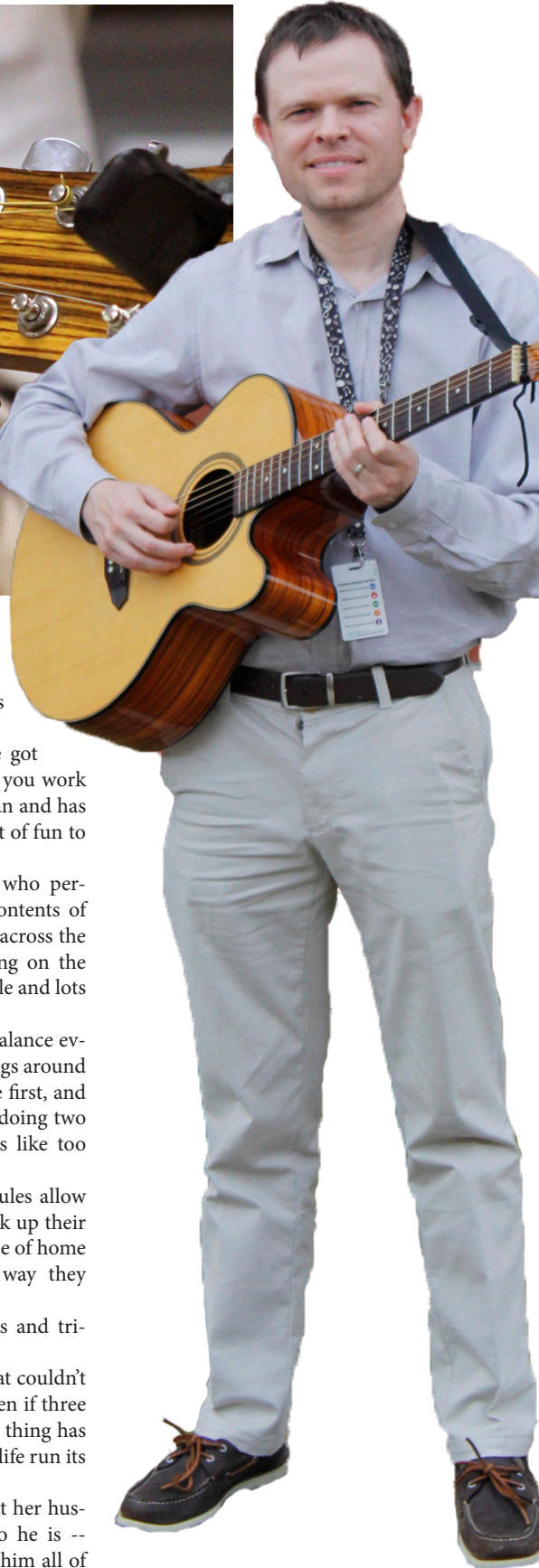
"I wouldn't say it's too hard to balance everything," Deakins said. "I plan the gigs around school because that will always come first, and yes it can get overwhelming but I'm doing two things that I enjoy, so it never feels like too much."

And so, as often as their schedules allow it, the Deakins put up their pens, pick up their guitars and go spread their small piece of home with Charleston through the one way they know how to best -- song.

And yet, with all of his success and triumph, Deakins remains humble.

"I was never too focused on what couldn't happen for us. I always think that even if three bad things happen, at least one good thing has to come along with it, so I tend to let life run its plan," he said.

And when Lisa Deakins looks at her husband, she sees how he became who he is -- through his grandmother, who gave him all of this.



(Above) **Sangster** wedges a block of clay, compresses the clay base onto the pottery wheel and cleans the exterior base of the bowl. Finally, the completed wheel-thrown product before being dried, glazed and fired in the kiln. *photos // Grace Denny*

ART

Sangster starts her own business because of her creative passion

ISABELLA SPULER | Staff Writer

A fresh block of clay sits on the table. A blank slate. A fresh canvas. After countless days and nights of work, white porcelain mugs covered in golden stars sit on the same table. With some imagination, that block of clay had been transformed into a beautiful, functional set of pottery.

For Olivia Sangster, her passion for pottery came unexpectedly.

"I went to school to be a painter actually, but I came out a potter," Sangster said. "I took a pottery class, and I just fell in love with it because it's something that's aesthetic, and it's an artwork, but it's also got a function."

Sangster learned everything she knows about pottery in college. From making her own clay to understanding different firing techniques, she used this knowledge to earn her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics degree from the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. After graduating and teaching for a few years, Sangster decided to turn her therapeutic hobby into a business -- Petrichor and Gold.

"The word petrichor means the smell of the Earth after it rains... it's just a fancy way of saying the smell of clay and then gold because of the gold [in the clay]," she said.

For the past two years, she has sold her porcelain pottery at local farmers markets, on Etsy and she has recently gotten her own space at the furniture store Celadon. All of her unique handcrafted pieces are created for everyday use. Whether it's a mug or a plate, Sangster wants her pottery to be functional.

"I'm one of those people who doesn't like to take something into my home unless I have an absolute purpose and space and need for it, so as a consumer and as a maker, I like to think about that like something that I can display that at the same time has purpose," Sangster said.

Sangster's studio might just be a spare bedroom in her house, but it's where all of her designs and ideas come to life. Her pottery showcases the beauty of simplicity.

"I start everything with a drawing, but



(Left) Art teacher and business owner of Petrichor and Gold, **Olivia Sangster** cleans and smooths the exterior of her ceramic piece. (Below) **Sangster** has established her brand through creating pottery like this mug. *photos // Grace Denny*

usually when I come up with designs, I think about what I would want visually to look at," she said. "I'm really inspired by like Scandinavian design. It's super simple. Simple lines. Very minimal. Everything I do is black and white, and then from there it's like, 'What would I want in my house?'"

"I have designs that I use on multiple things and will do custom and one of a kind pieces per special requests," she added. "I have the same kind of design, but each piece comes out different because it is all made by hand."

Running a pottery business in addition to teaching full time can be a little bit of a challenge. Sangster has to split her weeknights between grading and creating new pieces, and oftentimes the process of making pottery can be time consuming and tedious.

"There isn't much of a balance. It's kind of just like a constant cycle of work and trying to get yourself like excited to do it [pottery]... by the time I get home, I'm tired, but once you start it's kind of one of those things that like you're like, 'This is what I love to do,' and so... it

inspires you to do it," Sangster said. Although pottery can be demanding at times, the joys that come along with the process are well worth it.

"It [pottery] requires a level of precision... it's like a cheaper therapy. It's definitely like a zen experience," she said.

As for the future of Petrichor and Gold, Sangster hopes that one day she'll be able to grow her business and share her love of pottery with an even bigger audience.

"I love clay because I really personally love to teach it. I like to see people be able to take something that is literally a lump of mud and turn it into something that they can then use. There's like a real satisfaction in it... There's something really amazing and transformative about taking you know this really natural material and making something that you can use on a daily basis," Sangster said. "It would be really great to have... a space where I could do that, where I could teach and have like more than just like a third bedroom in my house to make things."



America's gun culture

The Second Amendment is a staple of American debates. With the prominence of mass shootings and an increasingly polarized political scene, what brought the nation here?

ISABELLA SPULER | Staff Writer

The class grows silent as the teacher writes the words "Second Amendment Debate" on the whiteboard. For some students, guns are a part of their livelihood. They've grown up around hunting, and their families have collected guns for years. But other students have seen the heartbreak guns can cause. They know the violence that has torn people's lives apart in a matter of minutes.

With recurring mass shootings and recent debates on gun regulations, it can be hard to decipher when this issue became so divisive.

"Throughout my entire lifetime, it has always been a very contentious issue, so no I wouldn't say it's anything new, sadly," AP U.S. History teacher George Gray said.

From a historical standpoint, Dr. W. Scott Poole, an author and professor at the College of Charleston, believes the Second Amendment has only become a fairly recent point of discussion.

"The Second Amendment may have been the most ignored amendment in the Constitution before the late '70s," Dr. Poole said, "The new focus is really because of the political power of the New Right. In the late 1970s, a number of conservative groups organized against the dramatic social changes that had come in the 1960s."

"So 'the Second Amendment' is an issue... created from the top-down and did not begin as a grassroots movement," he said, "it's been very useful for politicians who want to make working class white voters believe someone is trying to take away their hunting rifles or target shooting pistols rather than, as most gun control advocates hope to do, regulate the sale of military-grade weapons."

Among all of these laws and debates are people who have somehow been influenced

by their surroundings.

"I think there is such a difference in the culture of where people live," said AP Government teacher Misty LeClerc, who has taught at Wando for 16 years. "I think with urban areas when you look at Chicago and gun violence is so prevalent, and they're looking for a way to... decrease it to make their cities safer... you look at a rural part of the country where guns are just part of the culture."

Growing up, Gray was surrounded by a family of hunters. He started hunting with his family when he was in first grade.

"...I've always grown up with them [guns] and... have used them. There's a level of comfort there," Gray said, "People who grow up with it have a different idea versus people who haven't grown up with it."

In addition to modern environmental influences, there have been calls for gun right protections that go back to the days of American settlement.

"Political lobby groups like the NRA have made this a very emotional issue. But there

is more to it. Guns have a symbolic value to many white Americans in the mythology of the 'opening of the west' and the fascination with violence that goes along with it," Dr. Poole said.

Gray sees two impacts on gun culture that have been present since the founding of the country.

"I would say one of the reasons... it continues to become so popular in America is number one... we believe in private property, and people should have the right to defend their private property," he said, "Number two, we have many... people that live in rural areas... if we lived in rural South Carolina help may be 20, 30 or an hour away, so it [a gun] provides you that extra security and protection."

Even though the same principles have existed for decades, students' outright feelings about guns are starting to shift.

"I can tell you that college students have

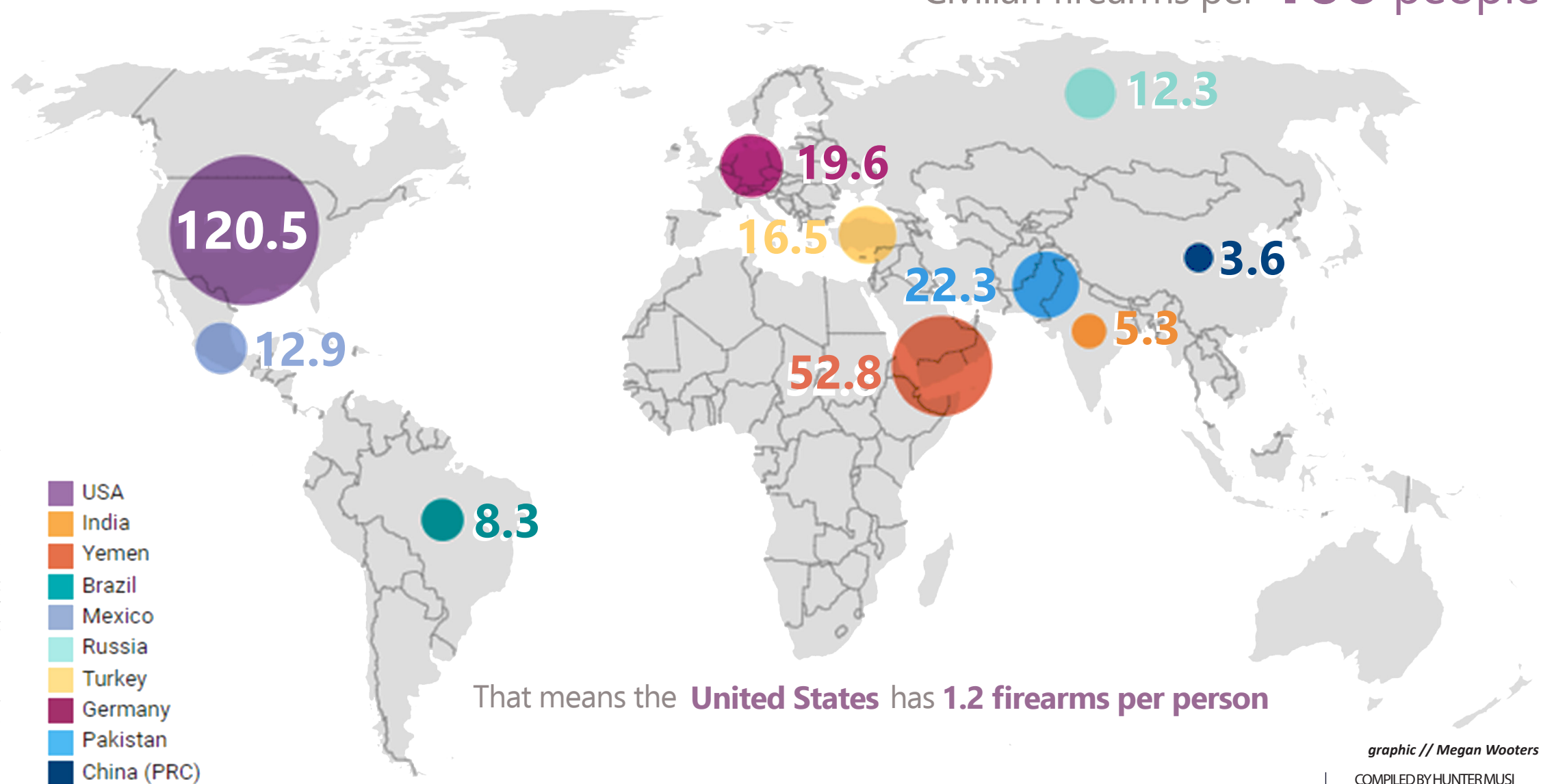
become more vocal about this issue in class over the last half decade, both politically and speaking about their own fears in high school. The many 'active shooter' drills have had an effect on them," Dr. Poole said.

Just like with college students, LeClerc has seen a change in her high schoolers.

"...There's been a switch due to the age and just growing up in a society where you see... mass shootings on television," LeClerc said. "It does feel like they happen probably a lot more than they actually do."

At the end of the day, however, this issue always seem to come back to a person's roots. Most people don't just wake up one day being completely for or against guns. Many are largely influenced by their families and surrounding culture.

"I think your family has the greatest impact on your gun culture... Your exposure to guns for sport versus your exposure to guns for violence," LeClerc said. "I think that is the huge projector on how you're going to feel about the Second Amendment."



That means the United States has 1.2 firearms per person

graphic // Megan Wooters

COMPILED BY HUNTERMUSI

Background checks:

Today, background checks are required to purchase a gun through a Federal Firearms License; this includes all public sales. To clear a background check, one has to clear NICS, a division of the FBI and fill out a type of form called 4473, or Firearms Transaction Record. "Some states do [background checks] themselves, some rely on the federal government," FBI Special Agent Brian Womble said.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation estimated 13.1 million firearms were sold in 2018. Private sellers are not required to perform background checks, record sales or ask for forms of identification, which opens what is known as the gun show loophole. Twelve out of 50 states require universal background checks for all sales and transfers of firearms to prevent the loophole. South Carolina does not.

ASHCOMIRE

Assault weapon bans:

A commonly cited solution to mass shootings has been limiting the ability to gain access to assault weapons. Defined by the federal government as "semi-automatic firearms with a large magazine of ammunition that were designed and configured for rapid fire and combat use," assault weapons were primarily restricted in "The Federal Assault Weapons Ban" in place between 1994 and 2004. Most mass shootings have been committed using weapons outlawed under this law. The bill expired in 2004, and although numerous attempts have been made, the bill has not been renewed. During the decade the bill was enacted, the deaths due to mass shootings did noticeably decrease-- with notable exceptions such as Columbine High School--but the amount of total firearm deaths stayed roughly the same.

HUNTERMUSI

Red flag laws:

A red flag law allows family members or police to petition a state court to temporarily take away firearms from someone who could potentially cause harm or violence. "If someone has been psychotic at times... and then they had shown some propensity to act out on those delusions in the past... it does not make sense for society to allow them to have firearms when they're in that state," MUSC's Dr. Dean Kilpatrick said. There are still hiccups with red flag laws. One of the biggest is the stigma it causes for people with mental health issues. "The more successful programs are the ones that say, 'the purpose of this is to basically help you and help keep you out of trouble... but once you're better you know we'll give [firearms] back,'" Dr. Kilpatrick said. So far 17 states have variations of red flag laws, and more states are considering them.

ISABELLA SPULER

Wando students...

that have no firearms in their house

48%

that have 1-3 firearms in their house

24.3%

that have 4-5 firearms in their house

7.4%

that have 5+ firearms in their house

19.7%

350 students polled
margin of error: 0.57%

COMPILED BY EVA CHILLURA

TRIBAL TRIBUNE

WANDO HIGH SCHOOL • MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C.

VOL. 45, ISSUE 4 • DEC 16, 2019

LIVING THROUGH THE SCREEN

see pages 16-17



what can *you* do to help?

what if

Howard Hogue, known as Beach Santa, received attention from SC Living and went on to found a beach sweep crew along with Susan Hill Smith. photo // Hana Donnelly



get here at 6 a.m. I'm here for sunrise and do my walk whether I'm doing the beach, Ocean Boulevard, Municipal Park, wherever. I'll spend two to three hours doing it in the morning."

Still, he is one person. What difference can he really make?

In all probability, it's greater than you think.

"Last night, I picked up 387 pieces off the beach," Howard said, "137 cigarette butts."

That's just one beach visit -- no more than a few hours. And with such regular visits, results accumulate fast.

To give a better idea of this, Howard was once asked by Linda Rowe, his frequent partner in picking up trash, "how many items am I going to pick up between Jan. 1 and Memorial Day (final Monday of May)?" And I said 30,000. It ended up only 28 items short...

"...of 44,000 items picked up."

One person. What began as a personal project began to attract attention. He was featured in SC Living in December 2017, where he was first dubbed Beach Santa. He was thrilled, not for the recognition, but for the influence.

He also sparked the development of a weekly IOP beach cleanup crew over the summer -- the reporter who first wrote about Beach Santa, Susan Hill Smith, helped organize it following their interview. He participates at these cleanups on top of his solitary excursions. Last summer was the crew's second year of meeting every Monday from 5:30 to 6:30. (Anyone is welcome to come to just one or two cleanups.) Its final meeting was on Labor Day,

power to talk to people -- I get their attention pretty fast."

He wants the effort to be more than just him. As much as he does, there will always be trash on the beach if people keep putting it there. He can't solve the underlying problem himself.

Nobody can do it alone. But why does he want to do it? Why does it matter? His go-to reason for reducing litter is that it can hurt people.

"The plastic will affect sea turtles," Howard said. "Sea turtles kill jellyfish. Jellyfish hurt people."

In a more direct sense, he describes finding a broken glass bottle. He was horrified -- "that could ruin someone's foot," he said. "Young people need to understand that what they're doing, the lack of respect, is going to affect their futures and their future families."

Perhaps that, more than anything else, is why Hogue is so reminiscent of good ol' Kris Kringle -- he works all year to create a safer, cleaner world for the little ones.

"I want this place to be nice for your generation, but [also] for your future generation. I want this place nice for your grandchildren..." he said. "We need to take the steps right now to be responsible, do the right thing."

Beach Santa is making a list and checking it twice -- a list full of straw wrappers and cigarette butts.



(Left) Hogue carries candy canes to hand out during his beach cleanups. (Below) Pictured is the trash that Hogue picks up on his trips to the Isle of Palms beach in hopes of alleviating pollution on the local beaches. photos // Hana Donnelly



Deck the halls, not the beaches

Hogue makes difference in cleaning up the coast

ROSEMARY DELAMATER | Co-Writing Editor

He may not be an actual resident of the North Pole. But with his white beard, jolly temperament, red "uniform" and several boxes of candy canes, it would be an easy mistake to make. But Howard Hogue, otherwise known as Beach Santa, is hard at work all year, not just on Christmas Eve.

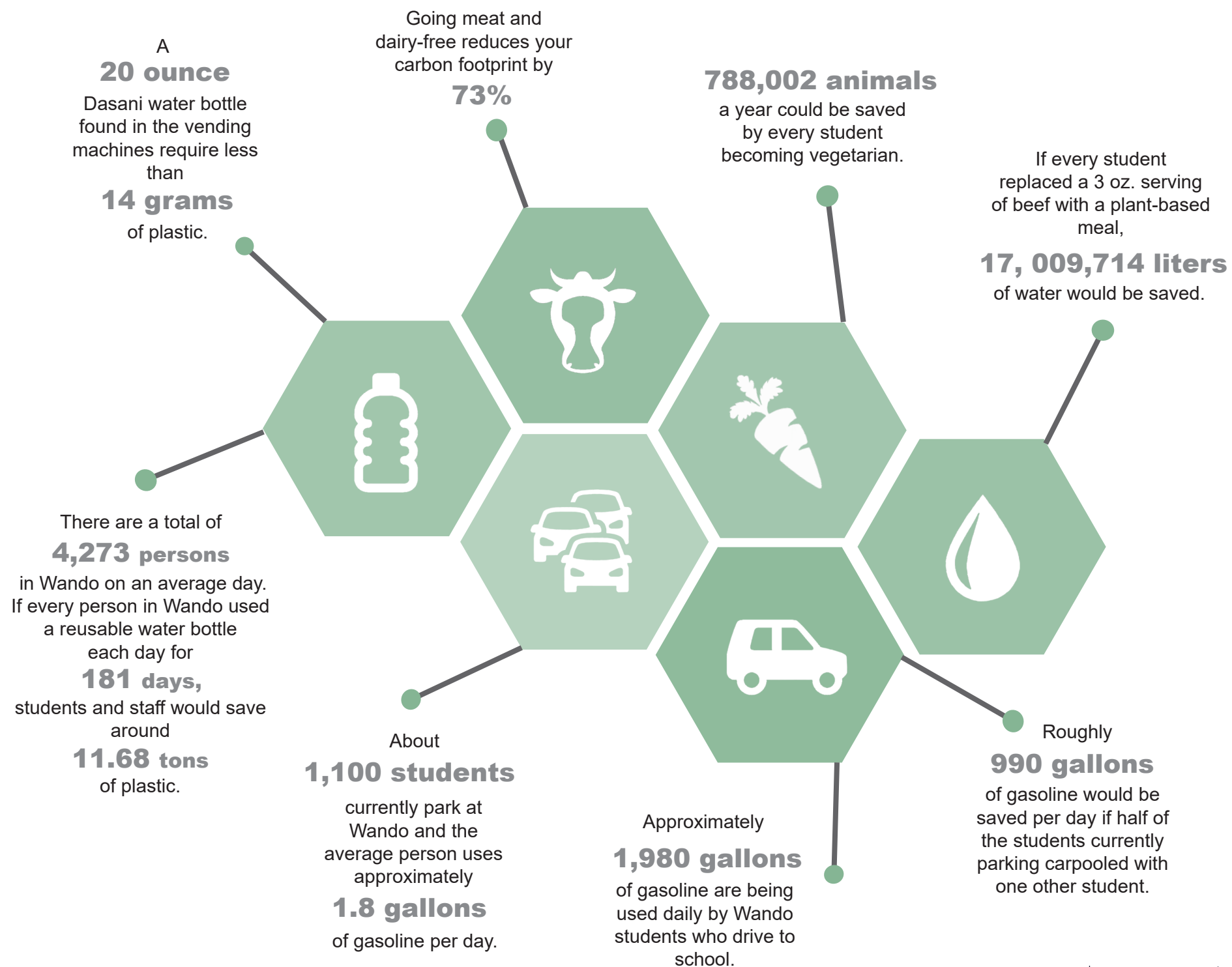
It was never his plan to get so involved with beach cleanup.

"I came down here [from Maryland] three summers ago to come to the beach and enjoy myself," Howard said. "But when I got to the beach, I said to myself, 'there's a lot of litter!' And so I started picking it up, and it got to the point that I couldn't carry it. So I got myself a bucket, and then my back was getting me so I got a grabber."

Howard does this at least twice a week, typically on the Isle of Palms beach. It's no small effort.

"I'll get up at 4:30," Howard said. "I have the car packed at 5:00, leave the house at 5:00,

Howard's goal is not just to pick up trash himself -- instead, "I'm trying to educate people," he said, "being Beach Santa gives me that



COMPILED BY HUNTER MUSI ASH COMIRE ETHAN DIANA



TRIBAL TRIBUNE

WANDO HIGH SCHOOL • MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C.

VOL. 45, ISSUE 1 • SEPT 24, 2019



Diving into **COMFORT**

‘When I dive in,
everything just melts away.’

see page 19

photo // Ted Fairchild

Megan Wooters- Tribal Tribune- Designer of the Year

I have been a part of the *Tribal Tribune* staff for two years and I became Co-Design Editor this year. There's been a huge learning curve in the process of choosing fonts, showing ten new designers the ropes and taking on some of the most important pages of the paper: the front and centerspread. But there's been an even bigger learning curve in trying to create a paper from home when school went virtual. Because all of our programs and pages were on school computers, the design editors and some of the first years got free InDesign and Photoshop trials and worked for days on end to create a 16 page paper, of which I designed 5 pages. Despite all of this year's challenges, I'm extremely grateful to have had the help of my Co-Design Editor and one of my best friends Jill.

On a technical level, I learned to combine pictures on Photoshop, ignore text wrap and import fonts on InDesign and make infographics in Google Sheets and countless other programs. But on a personal level, I grew more than I ever thought I could. As the most non-confrontational and indecisive person I know, newspaper staff helped me learn to stand up for and find value in my opinions, become somewhat authoritative (at least enough to teach other people) and make big decisions, eventually developing my own unique design perspective. But it's not all about me. The best thing about being on newspaper staff is knowing that you're working on something bigger than yourself. Something that will bring the same sense of belonging and family that you felt to hundreds of kids to come after you. Going into highschool, most of my friends went to another school, and because I'm not the best at making new friends, that's how it stayed until joining newspaper staff my junior year. Although it's stressful and always hectic, the *Tribal Tribune* brings together the most unlikely friends that I hope to keep for life.

Page 1: With a passion for music/art- This centerspread highlights two of Wando's teachers who practice their passion both in and out of the classroom. Deakins, who teaches AP Music Theory, Guitar, and Orchestra plays in a band in his free time while Sangster, who teaches beginner art classes, runs her own business to sell her ceramics. I used a photo series to depict the process of making pottery because from outside of the ceramic world, I would never have known how they are made.

Page 2: America's gun culture- This centerspread is part of an 8 page special section on gun violence in America, especially reflecting on Charleston's own Emmanuel 9 incident 4 years after it happened. Because we cover Charleston's history of gun violence, we chose to use this spread to expand the conversation globally through the infographic, but also to get opinions from Wando's own students and share those statistics. To unify the special section, each page had a thin photo on the far left that was relevant to the story on that page.

Page 3: Living through the screen- This front page relates to our main story from that issue on the mental and emotional effects of constant social media use on teenagers. This design is four pictures which have been cut and combined to evoke the concept of viewing one's self through social media and the effects social media can have on self esteem.

Page 4: What can you do to help- This centerspread is a feature on a local man trying to help the environment, paired with an infographic on how everyone can be more environmentally conscious as well. The honeycomb shapes reflect inspiration from nature because the story is about the importance of nature. The complementary colors red and green are opposite on the color wheel to create visual interest.

Page 5: Diving into comfort- This front page uses a striking underwater image which pairs with a feature story of a boy on the swim team. The design elements are simpler and have minimal editing to allow the image to be the main focus.