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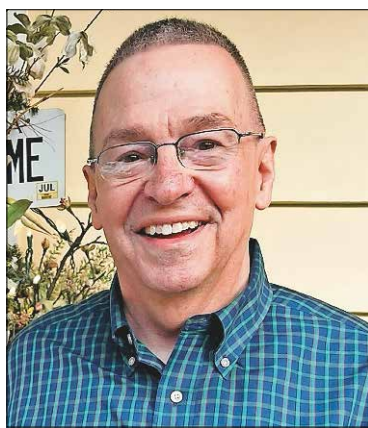
The Irreverent Reverend rides to S'ville on the back of his second book

BY JENNIFER BENT

One doesn't expect a book by a Southern Baptist minister to begin with Chocolate Naked Ladies, but that is indeed how the Irreverent Reverend jumps into his first collection of "teachable moment" stories. And if humor and tears are teachers, this collection of stories and its sequel, *The Irreverent Reverent Rides Again*, will leave readers well-educated, comforted and short of breath from all the silent belly laughter.

As bolstering to the soul as hot soup and toasted cheese, "Dr. Joe" Baroody, Junior's collection of 22 short, true-life tales is full of compassionate affection for his fellow man (and woman) and wonderful reminders that the best wisdom often comes from not taking ourselves too seriously, and that there is a great deal of fun in being a fallible human being.

"He's so accepting and so accessible," said Summerville's own Susan Kammeraad-Campbell, a local publisher who worked closely with



PROVIDED

The self-deprecating Joe Baroody is described as one who defies the stereotype of an ordained Southern Baptist minister.

Baroody in writing the chronicles of his life as a hospital chaplain, therapist, minister, husband, high

school baseball player, dad and grandpa.

Freshly inked from Kammeraad-Campbell's distinctly Southern publishing house, Juggling Board Press, and edited by Disney's Nancee Adams, *The Irreverent Reverent Rides Again* kicked off its new release with a well-attended book signing at Coastal Coffee in Summerville on Saturday, December 17.

Baroody described Kammeraad-Campbell as an enthusiastic writing coach who never seems daunted by the process of creating with the written word. He wrote his two books in pencil, each one taking about two years and two months. Then Campbell would have them read aloud in front of a group of fellow word-crafters, in order to get a sense of their real response.

As much as Baroody is grateful to Kammeraad-Campbell, she ac-

knowledged his gifts, as well, noting that outright, hurt-your-stomach laughter burst forth with the first chapter she saw – a chapter entitled "Bubba."

(We're not going to give it away. You have to read it yourself).

"Joe really connects the divine with being a human being," she said.

There is nothing of the sermon, though, in *"Second Chronicles: The Irreverent Reverent Rides Again"* — no dire warnings and no sense that the author is standing atop an elevated podium. Instead, reading Baroody's memories is like talking to a really good friend — one who's got all the dirt and not only doesn't think less, but likes you even more.

The two books also reveal an author who not only defies the stereotype of an ordained Southern

Please see **REVEREND**, A4



PROVIDED

Babes in Candyland

BY STAFF REPORT

In what's considered the "most special time of year at Summerville Medical Center," facility staff collaborated in creating costumes and making the holidays extraordinary for the babies in Level II Special Care Nursery.

To celebrate the joyous event, the Summerville Medical Center held a holiday photo shoot and visit by Dr. Assaad Merchak disguised as Santa to the Nursery on Dec. 19.

Families were "so excited to welcome their baby during the holidays and celebrate Baby's First Christmas," it was reported.

Summerville Medical Center PR & Communications Director Kelly Bowen added: "Our team knows how tough the holidays can be and try to make it special for the families in our care. This is Summerville Medical Center's sixth year of this holiday tradition. This year's theme is 'Babes in Candyland' with cotton candy, candy canes, candy dots and more."

Dr. Merchak acknowledged this unique time of year and all the challenges it could present for the neonatal unit.

"Being in the hospital is always difficult, and it is even more

Please see **BABES**, A3



COURTESY OF ANN HEATH

Vintage Vixens finish opening season with a flourish

BY RALPH MANCINI
rmancini@journalscene.com

On the heels of wrapping up a successful season with their Dec. 22 "A Southern Christmas" show at The Flortown Players, the Vintage Vixens plan on continuing to support and entertain veterans in 2023, as auditions kick off on Jan. 8.

"I think we are proud to say we've become a non-profit in August of this year. So, we have actually jumped a lot of hurdles in getting everything going and building a performance team," said Vintage Vixens founding member and President Ann Heath.

The team presently consists of 12 performance artists and a team of pin-up girls who fulfill their passion of helping women veterans who

suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Military Sexual Trauma (MSD).

The founding veterans and adjoining board members of the non-profit venture recognize that one in four females in the VA healthcare system communicate experiencing MST, according to Heath. These assault survivors, in turn, statistically exhibit a higher propensity of developing PTSD over their lifetimes.

The symptoms of PTSD can manifest themselves in the form of anxiety, depression, trust issues, isolation and even with the emotional hurdles of overcoming guilt.

During their shows, the Vintage Vixens — dressed in attire from past decades — sing, act and dance to classic choreographed melodies that range from the 1920s through the 1970s.

As for where the Vintage Vixens will appear

in the near future, Heath states: "We have plans to travel wherever we're requested. However, for right now, since we're so new, our efforts are solely based here in the South Carolina area."

In terms of the troupe's growth, the Summerville-based business owner maintains that new members could be welcome into her current group, but they must first fill out a questionnaire and audition in the interest of showcasing their on-stage skills.

Moreover, those who make the commitment of performing as a Vintage Vixen will be expected to attend regularly scheduled rehearsals at the American Legion Post 21 in Summerville.

For more information on the Vintage Vixens, visit the group Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/scvvdolls/>.

Boy Scouts initiative provides S'ville scouts with computers

BY RALPH MANCINI
rmancini@journalscene.com

Scouts Emily Lloyd of Troop 742 and Preston Javorka of Troop 2 were recently awarded with new technology as part of the Boy Scouts of America Coastal Carolina Council's "Computers with a Cause" program.

The Summerville-based students were asked to submit their applica-

tions through the "Computers with a Cause" website (<https://computerswithacause.org>).

Applicants are evaluated on detailed community service, academic success and their need for a computer, among other criteria brought before the awards committee.

The computers were presented at the Coastal Carolina Council BSA Office in North Charleston, which serves nine counties and also includes the Town of Summerville.

"This is exactly what we want to accomplish at 'Computers with a Cause.' Giving these hard-working and deserving scouts who really could benefit from having their own computer really made my Christ-

mas," said Coastal Carolina Council VP of Marketing Bobby Baker, who founded "Computers with a Cause" six years ago.

Troop 2 Scout Master Glenn Justis attended the awards ceremony to receive one of the computers for Javorka, who was traveling to visit family.

Awards will be made available on a rolling basis, according to Baker.

DEBBI EVERITT

Pictured (l-r): Scout Emily Lloyd and her father of Troop 742, Dr. Bobby Baker of CWAC, and Kendra Barrett from the Scout office who helped select the recipients for 2022.

