

LowcountryLife

Noise machine keeps those pesky teens away 6C Get a whiff of this marketing 8C

Soldier Dad

Brian Morel's visit home wonderful, yet bittersweet



KRISTIN GOODE • The Island Packet

Aiden Morel, 6, shares his drink with his dad Brian as his sister Sophia, 7 months, reaches for the cup on March 24 in Phillip's Famous Seafood inside Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. Army Spc. Brian Morel had flown into the airport for an 18-day leave from his deployment in Iraq. It was the first time in seven months that he had seen his family and the very first time he had met his daughter.

By JUSTIN PAPROCKI • jpaprocki@islandpacket.com
843-706-8143

The first time Army specialist Brian Morel held his daughter was in the Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. He took the 7-month-old from his wife's arms and hoisted her above his head — he in the subdued greens and tans of Army fatigues, and she in a pink and white jumper.

"Hi, there," he said, raising his voice an octave. She didn't squirm. Later, he'd recall that he wasn't sure what to expect that first time. He had been searching for feelings about Sophia. He knew what it was like to hold his wife, Sarah. He knew what it was like to hold his 6-year-old son, Aiden. He knew

what it was like to love them. But before March 24, Brian only knew photos of the newborn child with bright blue eyes.

When he lifted Sophia as fellow passengers filtered around him, that feeling changed.

"As soon as I held her, I fell in love," he said.

A TALE OF TWO FAMILIES

Brian Morel, 31, is one of the 600,000 active duty military who have children, according to the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University. More than 40 percent of the total number enlisted have kids. But like the rest of his

Please see SOLDIER on 2C

Christ Lutheran honors preschool director

In 1982, Nancy Conder took a detour in her professional life to benefit her child. In the 26 years since, that detour has benefited hundreds of other children, too.

Nancy had been teaching first and second grades in the public school system in Columbia when she had her first baby girl, Leigh Ann. When she and her husband, Frank, moved to Hilton Head Island, she decided to take a part-time teaching job with Christ Lutheran Preschool. She thought it would be a temporary job, just until her daughter was older.

But she fell in love with the job, and the kids, and the program. Thoughts of leaving fell by the wayside, and when the director position opened up five years later, she took it.

"It's not really a job to me," Nancy



ROBYN PASSANTE
rpassante@islandpacket.com
843-706-8131

says of working at the preschool. "I'm very, very blessed to be able to have something I love to do to go to every day."

That love — for teaching, for the children, and for the preschool's program and philosophy — was behind her push to make sure the school earned accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a feat

IF YOU GO

A Recognition Ceremony for Nancy Conder, director of Christ Lutheran Preschool, will be held during the 11 a.m. worship service today. A reception will follow. All Christ Lutheran Preschool alumni are invited.

they accomplished at the end of February.

"We had been accredited for many years but they recently revamped everything and it was a much, much more difficult process," says Nancy, whose staff worked for a year and a half to meet and document more than 400 criteria within 10 standards set by the national association. Christ

Lutheran Preschool, which serves 61 students between ages 2 and 5, is the first preschool in Beaufort County to earn accreditation under the new standards, she said.

The accreditation was important to her, she says, because the kids are important to her.

"The national accreditation sets day cares and preschools apart. They have a lot higher standards than what state regulations have," she says. "It assures parents that they're getting the best care and education for their child."

Nancy will be recognized today at Christ Lutheran Church's 11 a.m. worship service for her 26 years of service with the preschool, as well as for the recent national accreditation.

Please see DIRECTOR on 2C

Dad's pancakes the best ever?

Is your dad a dud in the kitchen? Are you a father who can fix any fare for your kids? Or are you the Pop who's known for his Pop-Tart breakfasts?

We want to hear stories of dads in the kitchen. What meals are fathers most proud of making for their children?

If you have memories of Dad cooking for the kids, or if you're a father who can share favorite recipes or meal mishaps, please send a short e-mail describing your story to features@islandpacket.com or by fax to 843-706-3070. Submissions must be received by June 4.

WEB EXTRA: ANSWER MAN



We all know of the Seven Deadly Sins. As listed by Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) they are Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Anger and Sloth.

Then there are the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, in the New Testament Book of Revelation. The Columbia Encyclopedia said that "the rider on the white horse has many interpretations — one is that he represents Christ." The rider on the red

horse is War. On the black horse is Famine and Death spurs on the pale horse. Now we have the Three Imps of Frustration for our hectic modern world, namely Frenzied, Frenetic and Frantic.

For the rest of Dennis Adams' "Answer Man" column, go to islandpacket.com.

Dennis Adams is the information services coordinator at the Beaufort County Public Library. He can be reached at 843-470-6505.

INDEX

Books	3C
Bridge	6C
Crossword	7C
Dear Abby	6C
Horoscopes	7C
Social	4C
Sudoku	6C
Travel	5C