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**INTRIGUING
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**2008
SOCIAL
EVENTS
GUIDE**

\$2.95 JANUARY



Christopher Paul soars above his disability with the music he has created and performed since an accident in 2000 left him paralyzed. Paul grew up in Ohio but moved to Nashville at 18, where he stayed for 20 years.

"I started playing (guitar) when I was 12 or 13," he said. He took guitar lessons while in college but much of his musical education came as a street player working with other performers.

He spent 10 years on the road with various country artists at a wide range of venues.

"I've done everything from joints to the MGM Grand in Vegas, even stadium stuff," he said.

Paul and his wife Renee relocated to Boulder, Co., in 2000, in a career move for her prompted by a downturn in the tech sector.

"I was quite impressed with the opportunities and quality of players out there," he said.

But while riding a mountain bike in Boulder, he was hit head-on by a car. His left hand was "pretty well chewed up" in the accident and he sustained a spinal cord injury at shoulder-blade level that left him paralyzed.

"It was pretty much all I had left that I could do, due to my circumstances and limitations, in terms of things you could do for employment," he said of music.

Rather than go back to school to learn a new vocation, he set a goal of completing a CD he had begun recording in Nashville.

"A lot of stuff nowadays is cut and paste on a computer," he said. "All of my stuff is with live players."

His recordings include "Journey of the Soul" and "Higher Ground," instrumentals that cross genres from country to new age.

Because of severe neurological damage to his left side, it took time to regain enough strength in his diaphragm to perform.

Now, "instead of being in a support mode for others," he's creating music that is getting airplay on cable TV's Music Choice, and has been licensed by a variety of corporations and

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Unfettered SPIRIT

Music enables
Christopher Paul to
get back on track.

By Ruth Ragland



Reed's current baby is Hampton Lake. Originally planned as a golf community, the idea for a lakeside development was born out of market research indicating that proximity to a body of water has greater appeal to the target market. Although creating a lake in the Lowcountry presents a unique challenge, Reed went ahead, noting that the cost was about the same as building a golf course.

Reed Development's next projects are in the New River area. The company is also planning several tracts of land overlooking the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, an area that Reed believes will eventually unite Savannah/Hilton Head as a single Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). While some fear that such explosive growth threatens the region's beauty and character, Reed sees it differently. "The Lowcountry does not need no growth; it needs quality growth. I think the best of Greater Hilton Head and Savannah is yet to come."

Perhaps John Reed's vision for the future of our region and the lifestyle that we love is best summed up when he said of his company, "We have a passion... a fun, professional workplace creating a better place for people to live and work." **M**

Intriguing Billy Keyserling continued from page 48

approach to the Keyserling family to honor our father's service to the community with a cancer wing. Our family agreed to a financial contribution and the process was supervised through Duke University's Healing Arts program and Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Our family, like so many families, has lost loved ones to cancer and we wanted to contribute to saving lives."

Billy Keyserling's careers have always included service to the community, first through political involvement and then through real estate. When he moved back to Beaufort and headed his own real estate company, he helped develop the area of Port Royal. He no longer heads his own real estate company, but he is still involved in sales for Coldwell Banker in Beaufort.

His co-workers at Coldwell Banker characterize him as a warm, caring and humorous man. "Billy loves a good story, a gathering of friends and a good laugh," said one.

He's looking down the road to retirement. His five-year plan includes some travel, "I want to see places I've never seen before," he said. "But I want to serve the wider world, maybe something to help the children of the world, maybe something to do with Israel."

His soft-spoken words mask a very determined and pragmatic man – one who knows the world and how much suffering there is in so many places. Knowing Billy Keyserling, you know he will put his energies into service for the wider community – a Keyserling tradition. **M**

Intriguing Christopher Paul continued from page 49

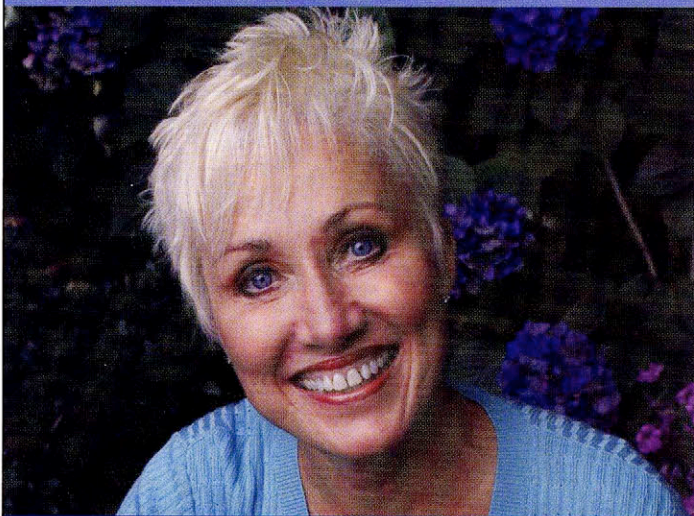
production libraries in the U.S. and abroad, including United Airlines, Muzak and Warner Brothers.

"The snow and a wheelchair don't work together," Paul said of the couple's decision to move to the Lowcountry in 2005.

They've found both the climate and the people "warm and receptive."

"When I moved here there was a lot of trepidation in terms of what I was

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M INTRIGUING PEOPLE

to accomplish since moving here. We've prospered and more than surpassed any expectations I had ten fold."

"Summer hops here," he said of the Lowcountry music scene. "This area is really thriving in that regard and it's been good for everybody. It's a destination spot."

He plays a circuit from Hilton Head Island all the way out to Fripp Island, including regular gigs at Myrtles in Bluffton and the British Open Pub in Sun City.

As to the future, "I would like to do a vocal project here or at least a third instrumental CD with some vocal tracks on it," he said.

Another goal is to find "some type of therapy on the globe that will get me out of this wheelchair," he said. "I see the most promise outside the United States because of religious and political obstacles to overcome here. California has the most progressive approach."

The Centers for Disease Control estimate the cost of caring for people with spinal cord injuries at \$9.7 billion a year.

"People are living a long time under these conditions," he said.

Paul maintains that if researchers had what they needed – about \$5 billion in funding – "they could cure this condition."

"For someone in my circumstances, it's probably not going to be one thing – it would be a combination therapy for the nerves to regenerate and find their proper targets. It's important that everything gets wired back properly," he said.

Paul hopes to see passage of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act.

"It has nothing to do with stem cells," he explained. The goal of the legislation is to "get some funding to establish a network for clinical trials throughout the U.S. to work on spinal cord issues."

On the Net: To hear tracks from Christopher Paul's instrumental recordings visit www.cpaul.com **M**

Intriguing Judge Frank Simon continued from page 50

a high set of professional standards, consistent with his views that lawyers and judges are indeed members of a profession, and bound by appropriate constraints – competence, ethics and otherwise.

He began his legal career in the state of New York after receiving his Juris Doctor and Master of Law degrees from Rutgers and New York University, respectively.

Judge Simon's standards of integrity, restraint, judicial temperament and confidence in not only himself, but the judicial system as a whole, are so significant he was reluctant to purchase a judicial robe upon taking his first seat on the bench.

He said he didn't want to appear or feel superior to anyone.

"I put my pants on the same way as everyone else," Simon said. He was finally convinced that the symbolism of the robe was important, so he does wear one on the bench.

Today, Simon, a Hilton Head Island resident, still looks to his framed copy of the "Top Ten Definitions of What It Means To Be A Judge" for inspiration (to read the list, head to our Web site, lowcountrymag.com).