

# Local Young Man "Does Good"

by Sheri Mizzell

The first day of our Edisto Beach vacation began as any other; we spent the afternoon unpacking, storing groceries, making beds and counting the minutes until we were done so we could hit the beach. Early Sunday evening, we decided to drive to The Point to get some pictures of the sunset, but as we approached the 2500 block of Palmetto Avenue, we knew our plans were about to change. In the distance we saw red and blue lights flashing in the dusk and smoke rolling above the palmetto trees. We were about to have the opportunity to witness one of our own in action.

We pulled the Jeep over and watched in amazement as Bryan Eadon, this 21-year-old young man we've known since he was a baby, ran into the fire without looking back. Moments later, his head popped out of an upstairs window and we saw a spring of water shoot from the window, followed by huge billows of smoke. He was followed by his comrades, all fighting to save this beach home. We later learned that the house had been saved from much smoke damage because Bryan opened that window and shot water out of the house; the action caused a great deal of the smoke to be blown from the house. That's something I didn't know could be done. The fire was contained in the kitchen and caused only minor damage; a job well done by a crew of very competent and well-trained men and women.

Bryan, son of Wayne and Evan Eadon of St.

George, is a "cross-trained" EMT and Firefighter for Colleton County Fire Rescue, stationed at the Colleton County Medic 20 on Edisto Island. Cross-trained means he's been trained in both the fields of fire and rescue; he not



St. George native Bryan Eadon Firefighter and EMT

only puts out fires for a living, he saves lives.

Bryan says that for as long as he can remember, he's wanted to be a firefighter. He never wanted to be anything else. After graduating from Dorchester Academy in 2006, he enrolled in the South Carolina Fire Academy, completing his training in June of 2007. That same year, Bryan enrolled in the Technical College of the Lowcountry in Hampton and completed his Emergency Medical Technician training, becoming a State and National Certified EMT. From the time he could drive, Bryan worked as a volunteer firefighter for

the St. George Fire Department and in 2007 was awarded the Rookie Firefighter of the Year Award by Fire Chief Malcolm Burns.

Bryan now has his first "real" job, working as a firefighter and EMT for the Medic 20 Unit on Edisto Island. He works a shift of 24 hours on and 48 hours off and will be stationed there for the next three months. Colleton County is one of the highest paying counties in the state for fire and rescue salaries; however, one need only witness what these men and women do on a daily basis, sometimes several times a day, to know that they earn every penny and deserve far more.

According to Bryan, the call rang through the fire station at approximately 7 p.m. Sunday evening, a house fire on the 2500 block of Palmetto Avenue. Bryan and three other firefighters responded to the fire, along with the Battalion Chief and a unit from St. Paul Fire Department, and numerous volunteers. Bryan's parents were also vacationing at Edisto and heard the trucks go out. Evan stated her obvious concern over her son's job. "I didn't want to ride by the house because I knew, just like when he played football, he'd be the first one in and if they were pulling anyone out of the house, it would be Bryan. He's very eager to get in there and do his job," she said. True to call, Bryan was the first one up the steps to the house, followed by fellow firefighter, William Lindler. "I knew the fire

was above me because I could hear it; I just crawled my way through and started pouring the water to it," Bryan commented.

Bryan doesn't think twice about the calls he's required to go on nor does he lose any sleep over some of the things he's seen. "I like everything about my job, even the things that might make some people uneasy, it's what I live to do," he stated. Every call is different and every scenario brings something else to the picture. I just never know what each call is going to bring and that's what I find exciting about my job - I just never know what opportunity I'm going to have or what I'm going to learn from call to call. I don't think I'll ever get bored doing this."

As one might expect at such a scene, folks were gathered on the sidewalks, on the lawns and in their golf carts, watching the men and women in action. The children stood in awe of the fire trucks and sirens; the adults expressed concern for the risk of lives, loss of home and property. All were in agreement over the remarkable job accomplished by the Medic 20 Unit. The small group of people we stood with asked us if we knew any of the firefighters. I suppose they overheard some of our remarks about seeing Bryan, trying to figure out which one was him, then our recognition of his walk. We knew we'd spotted him regardless of all the men looking alike in their heavy, cumbersome attire. We very proudly said, "Yes, we know one of those firefighters. He's 'one of ours,'" we told them. "He's from our hometown and he's a great kid!"

The neighbor who first spotted the smoke coming from the house was impressed at how quickly help arrived. "I saw the smoke coming from the side of the house and I saw the young couple running

from under the house. We called 911 and less than five minutes later, engine one, then engine two, then the ambulance, all came flying by. These guys were here before we could blink!" In fact, just a mere hour and a half later, the fire was contained and the crew was back at the station cleaning up their gear and the trucks, readying themselves for the next call. As we left the bystanders to make our way back to our own house, one of the ladies called out to us, "Your boy did good!"

Indeed he had; but Bryan had 'done good' for lots of reasons. He'd done good because of the equally trained men and women who fought beside him that day; he'd done good because of the hometown training he'd received from the likes of Chief Burns and the men and women of the St. George Fire Department and the Colleton County Fire Rescue, and he'd done good because he's doing what he was born to do. It's imbedded in his fiber and he knows without question this is what he'll do the rest of his life.

I asked him the morning after the fire where he saw himself five or ten years down the road, and his answer was simple. "Here, doing this, every day for the rest of my life. Sure, every firefighter dreams of working for the big ones like the New York City Fire Department, but when it

comes down to it, this place is where I want to be. Helping the people I know, the people I see everyday, the friends and families of everyone I know. This is it. This is where I'll be in five, ten, twenty years, right here," he explained.

Colleton's Chief Barry McRoy and Assistant Chief David Greene both had nothing but good things to say about Firefighter/EMT Eadon, and an article being written about him. "We're excited about the idea and we're anxious to see the story," Assistant Chief Greene stated. "Anything that brings some attention to the great work Bryan is doing for us is alright with us."

Our first day of vacation didn't exactly go as planned; we certainly didn't count on watching someone's home burn. But we are very glad we were able to witness our "local boy" in action and we're extremely proud to say he's a result of what our community can and has produced. And just for that, I cooked Bryan a big breakfast Monday morning and it was waiting on him when he arrived bright and early. Little did he know, but the grits, eggs, and bacon were just a bribe - we had a story to do and he was the topic.

He's so humble, his first remark was, "Miss Sheri, what could you possibly say about me?" He just didn't know who he was dealing with.



Edisto Beach Home saved from destruction. Photos by Rebecca Murray

## We Have The PHONE You Need and The PLAN You Need At The PRICE You Need

 <p>Hey, I'm new and improved!</p> <p>the jitterbug j</p> <p>"Simplicity for everyone"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The best phone a cell phone can be</li> <li>24-hour live customer service</li> <li>No binding contracts</li> <li>No pre-paid hassles</li> </ul> <p>Plans start at <b>\$14.99</b> a month</p> <p><b>Sprint</b></p> <p>Ask About Our 30-Day Satisfaction Guarantee On Any New Sprint Contract!</p> <p><b>We Are Still Accepting Alltel-Verizon Payments for Contract &amp; Pre-Paid Customers.</b></p>	<p><b>Sprint</b></p> <p><b>BlackBerry® Curve™ 8330 Smartphone</b></p> <p>New Customer <b>\$29*</b></p> <p>Upgrade <b>\$49*</b></p> <p>Prices with 2-Year Everything Plan with data.</p> <p><b>Bluetooth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full QWERTY Keyboard</li> <li>GPS enabled</li> <li>2MP Camera</li> </ul> <p>Available in Titanium or Red. \$619.99 unactivated</p> <p>*See Dealer For Details.</p>	<p><b>Sprint</b></p> <p><b>Samsung® Exclaim™ Dual-Slider Mobile Phone</b></p> <p><b>\$49*</b></p> <p>With new 2-Year Everything Plan with data.</p> <p><b>Bluetooth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay connected with Sprint One Click access to social networks</li> </ul> <p>\$349.99 unactivated</p> <p>*See Dealer For Details.</p>	<p><b>Sprint</b></p> <p><b>htc SNAP™</b></p> <p><b>\$99*</b></p> <p>With new 2-Year Everything Plan with data.</p> <p><b>Bluetooth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Windows 6.1 and 1-touch access to internet keep you connected</li> </ul> <p>\$449.99 unactivated</p> <p>*See Dealer For Details.</p>	<p><b>Sprint</b></p> <p><b>Samsung® Instinct s30™ with Full Touchscreen</b></p> <p><b>\$49*</b></p> <p>With new 2-Year Everything Plan with data.</p> <p><b>Bluetooth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Web email capable</li> <li>Turn-by-turn directions with Sprint navigation</li> <li>Corporate calendar</li> </ul> <p>\$499.99 unactivated</p> <p>*See Dealer For Details.</p>
--	---	--	--	---

**Check Out Our Great Selection of Pre-Pay Phones!**



Also NOW OFFERING **jitterbug**

**RadioShack** Dealer DO STUFF.

**VAUGHN ELECTRONICS, INC.**

HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 9am - 6pm / Sat., 9am - 3pm

5674 Memorial Blvd. • St. George • 843-563-7774

\* Credit check, activation fee, and 2 year contract required. Limited time offer. Certain restrictions apply. See authorized agent for details. \* For terms and conditions, see www.alltel.com/terms.html

## LIMITED SUPPLY

### 4 BEDROOM 2009 DOUBLEWIDE

\$46,988.00 / \$315.78 Per Mo.



4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1232 sq.ft. of living space, glamour bath, Windzone II const., Good Cents insulation, storm windows, too many options to list! Normal delivery, set-up and tie-down within 100 miles. Payments based on 8% APR, 360 mos. w/10% down.

## SANGAREE HOMES

1853 N. Main Street Summerville 843-875-5050 Toll Free: 1-866-711-5050

