



PHOTO BY GERALD WEAVER

Justin Wyatt

Teenager Shoots for Greatness

Seventeen-year-old Justin Wyatt got his first digital camera for his 14th birthday. He started taking a lot of pictures with it and fell in love with photography.

After he got his driver's license at age 15 and realized he'd need to pay for car insurance, he decided he needed to get a job. That's when his mother suggested that he start his own photography business.

Wyatt put ads in the local rental company Island Getaway's brochures. He also put small brochures of his own out at different businesses. He went out and got a business license.

From that, Wyatt received a lot of calls. He said most of his clients are families vacationing on the island.

Wyatt uses a Canon Powershot digital camera to photograph his subjects. He takes the photos on the beach, and then takes his laptop to the clients' homes, uploads the photos and shows them to his clients. They choose which ones they like, and he prints them on his high quality photo printer at home.

In addition to being a 12th-grade student at Christian Academy, Wyatt works as an assistant at WHHI five days a week. Some of his duties include punching shows, which means, among other things, that he changes the camera angles while people are talking. He also sets up the schedules for the TV programs.

Wyatt really enjoys taking pictures, but he also likes editing them on his computer and hopes to be a graphic designer some day. He plans on going to University of South Carolina Beaufort's New River campus next year for his core classes while continuing to run the photography business and work for WHHI. Then he wants to transfer to Savannah College of Art & Design to major in either photography or computer graphic design.

"Since I'm a creative person, when I was a younger kid I used to draw a lot, and this is my new form of drawing," Wyatt said. "I've always pretty much had a good eye, and editing the pictures is an art form itself. I like perfecting things."

Wyatt moved to Hilton Head Island from Atlanta about six years ago. Other than photography and computer graphics, he likes to play football for fun, and he goes to Christian Renewal Church on Sundays. He was on the "B" honor roll this year, and his favorite subject in school is math.

— Amy Coyne Bredeson

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