

## Riverside at Belfair opens spa to public

Riverside at Belfair will host the grand opening of its Hideaway Spa At Belfair from 9:30 a.m. to noon Aug. 8.

The Hideaway Spa, located inside Riverside at Belfair, will offer custom massages and facials at special pricing to its families and residents, with services also available to the public.

Lara Williams, administrator of Riverside at Belfair, said "Our goal is to provide all of our residents and families, as well as the general public, the opportunity to benefit from the rejuvenating benefits of custom massages and treatments."

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call 422-4570. Riverside at Belfair is located at 60 Oak Forest Rd. in Bluffton behind the Belfair Village shopping center.

Riverside at Belfair is a senior independent living community.

# Local named bridge teacher of the year

Local bridge teacher Kathie Walsh has been named the 2011 ABTA/Master Point Press Teacher of the Year.

The award was made at the recent American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) convention held July 19-22 in Toronto, Canada. Walsh was selected from a group of eight finalists by a committee that considers teaching excellence, innovation, service to bridge and service to the community.

This annual award honors bridge teachers who inspire their students, day in and day out, promoting the game and providing learning and fun in an environment that is both social and competitive.

Walsh is a regular contributor to The Bluffton Sun as its bridge expert.

Walsh began teaching at the Hilton Head Island Bridge Club with 14 students in 2003. Presently she teaches three classes a week at the club and two other classes in the community. Her



PHOTO BY ANDRÉ BOVE-BEGUN

Kathie Walsh, right, 2011 Bridge Teacher of the Year, with Tina Radding, 2010 winner, just after winning the award in Toronto.

class size numbers up to 80 students.

In the winter, the number often exceeds 100. Students feel that they must come early to ensure having space.

In addition to her weekly classes, Walsh regularly runs one-day bridge workshops and teaches bridge on cruise ships.

In 2008, she organized a bridge retreat for 16 students in Tuscany, Italy.

Walsh's students say she is an outstanding teacher who truly exhibits an in depth knowledge of bridge while passing on her love of the game to her students.

As winner of the Teacher of the Year award, Walsh received a plaque and cash award.

ABTA is a professional organization of bridge teachers from the USA, Canada and Mexico. Master Point Press, of Toronto, Canada is the world's largest publisher of books on contract bridge.

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