

BEST AREA GOLF DESTINATIONS

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**(WO)MANLY
PURSUITS**
GENDER BIAS
GOES BOTH
WAYS

**SETTING
THE STAGE**
DADS IN BANDS
ALL SHARE A
SINGLE
HOPE

The Man Issue

HOW CLOTHES MADE A MAN

PLUS: LOOKS TO GET YOU DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

STEVE O'NEIL AND
HIS SON LYLES SHARE
A LOVE OF MUSIC.

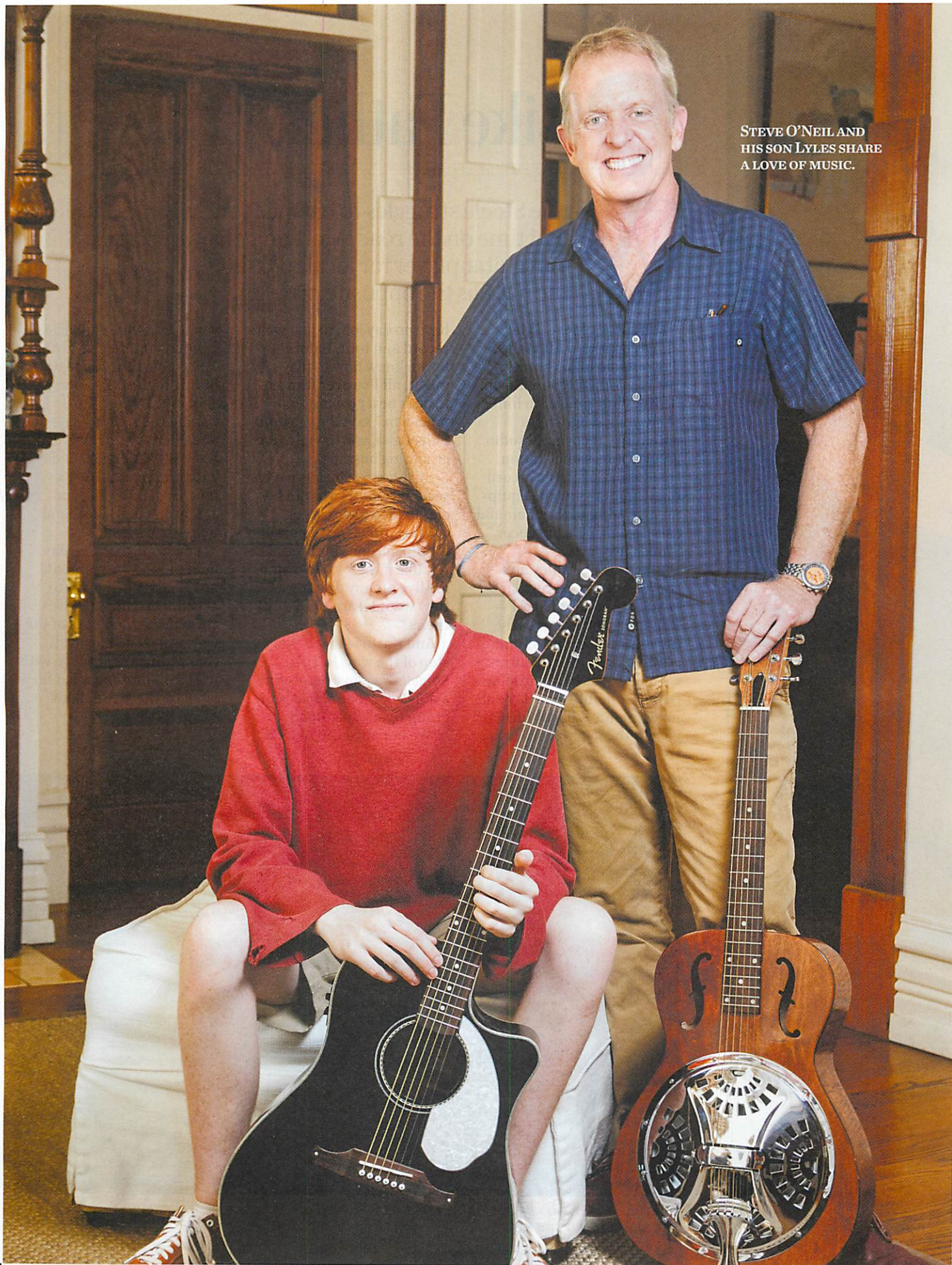


PHOTO: DAVID STRICKLAND



A Grand Finale

Like Shigekawa, Steve O'Neil, guitar player for local acoustic jam band Solar Moonshine, wanted to be there every step of the way for his three sons, Lyles, 17, Ned, 22, and Parker, 28. That meant putting his music career on the back burner for a number of years.

"Playing gigs, coming home at 3 a.m. — even when your kids aren't babies, you still need to get up in the morning and participate," O'Neil says. "As my kids got older, I got into playing out again more. I'm at a stage of the game now where I have no expectations of being in a known rock band. Now when I play out, it's purely for enjoyment."

In the mid-1980s, 10 years before O'Neil met his wife Michelle and started a family, he lived in New York City and played in a rock band based in Boston, Massachusetts, called Three If By Air. One of the guitar players in his group also played with Brad Delp, best known as lead vocalist for the rock band Boston — which helped get Three If By Air some attention.

"We thought we were going to be professional musicians, but it just didn't pan out. We started focusing on different things. I wanted to make more money," says O'Neil, now managing partner at Consensus Energy consulting firm.

While he deferred his dreams of making it big, instead moving to Chattanooga and starting a family, he continued to play music.

"I'd steal time to go play in the basement. I did a lot of writing at that time, and I got a lot better playing guitar because I was solo practicing," he says, though admitting that he missed the social collaboration of being in a band.

When his sons approached their teens, O'Neil decided to form a group, again: Solar Moonshine, which he describes as adaptable.

"We are generally an easy listening group. We have a bass player and drummer; sometimes we have a singer or flutists; we sometimes play as a duet," he says.

Solar Moonshine plays local festivals, parties or clubs only about six times a year. But O'Neil still frequently plays at home — especially when his three sons are there, all of whom have become music-lovers, too. Lyles plays guitar, Ned is studying sound design at



STEVE O'NEIL FORMED SOLAR MOONSHINE WHEN HIS KIDS GOT CLOSER TO BEING TEENAGERS. PHOTO: RAY SOLDANO

SCAD, and Parker, who now lives in New York City, plays guitar, too.

"When all my boys are together, we play music. We just choose easy songs. One might play bass or drums; one might bring an elec-

tronic setup and put sound effects into it. We'll play four or five songs, then they scatter and run off to their friends. But I love it more than they know. Those are my nirvana moments." **CM**