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JANUARY 2024 FOLLY BEACH'S NEWSPAPER ISSUE 1 VOLUME 17

FOLLY'S WONDER WOMAN

Volunteer extraordinaire Vanessa Oltmann named DNR Volunteer of the Year
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LeighAnn Oliger and her daughter Callie in the Bahamas for her 16th birthday



Carrie & John Rosen at the Grand Canyon

CARRY THE Current

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Chuck, Candice, & Bowie at Lake Michigan

THE Folly Current

Folly Beach's Newspaper

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Folly Gets Washed Out

Record high tide and storm surge from Nor'easter batters Folly Beach

by Jenny Peterson | Current Staff Writer

Folly Beach had a near-record 9.86 tide on Sunday, Dec. 17 due to a Nor'Easter storm that battered the East Coast, causing widespread damaging flooding to the Charleston area.

It was the fourth highest tide on record in Charleston, according to the National Weather Service. It was the highest non-tropical high tide recorded.

Despite being updated on the latest weather alerts and knowing that the storm would hit at the unfortunate same time as high tide, "I don't think any of us expected that big a storm surge," said Eric Lutz, public works director for the City of Folly Beach. "We don't get Nor'Easters often. We just had two or three officers on duty in public safety and the normal three-person fire crew."

Lutz said he spoke with Folly Beach Public Safety Chief Andrew Gilreath Sunday morning about whether or not to bring in more public safety officers, but ultimately decided that it wasn't safe for officers who live off-island to navigate roads and bridges leading on to Folly Beach that were becoming more flooded by the minute.

"We had high winds and safety messages about how downtown Charleston was flooded out and navigation all over town was rough. At that point (I said), 'We're just going to have to ride it out. We just decided to hunker down and begin dealing with it the next day,' Lutz said.

As water spilled over Folly Road between Bowen's Island and Crosby's Seafood, leaving seagrass and other debris on the road, the city coordinated with the South Carolina Department of Transportation to close travel lanes to and from Folly Beach for about an hour.

"It was so deep, you couldn't know if a car was going to make it all the way across," Lutz said. "Water was rushing across the road



and it was bringing up the marsh grasses and everything. It came on so quickly, we couldn't deploy barricades or anything."

Thankfully, as the tide went out hours later, the majority of the water went with it. Lutz said there were no distress calls or reports of any power outages.

As the tide went out, the Department of Transportation cleared the stretch of roadway using backhoes and dump trucks to push the debris off to the shoulders to make the travel lanes safe. By 3 p.m., the road to and from Folly was open to traffic again.

Lutz said that only Tabby Drive on the east side of the island remained flooded and closed off to traffic by Monday morning. The public works department had to pump out the water on Tabby Drive over a berm and into the nearby marsh to clear it. Tabby Drive was passable by Monday afternoon, Lutz said.

The public works crew cleaned up debris on the island for the next several days, picking up furniture and carpets that were brought by residents to the side of the road and hiring an electrician to reconnect the Christmas lights at Folly River Park that shorted out due to the flooding.

While there isn't yet a dollar amount on how much the city spent on extra manpower and equipment on the storm's cleanup, Lutz said it will come from department contingency funds.

Ramping up for Beach Renourishment

Folly Beach is set to receive another significant beach renourishment in the spring, and this storm showed the importance of rebuilding the beach more than ever. Lutz said if the spring renourishment had not already been scheduled, the city would likely have

had to discuss interim emergency measures to build back the sand loss, which tore down sand fencing in some areas near the Washout. Lutz said coastal experts were surveying the beach after the storm, calculating the amount of sand loss.

"We lost probably about an average of about 20 feet of dunes," Lutz said. "(Experts) have assured me that (the renourishment project) can account for the extra sand loss because of the storm."

Lutz said that as sea levels rise, residents should prepare for more frequent flooding and help build living shorelines and other measures to help protect their property.

"Things are happening faster and more frequently than they used to," Lutz said. "Thankfully, most people on the island are resilient. I'd be worried if we got another one like that before the renourishment."



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Councilmember Eddie Ellis Announces Resignation

Ellis has listed his home for sale, will serve on council through the end of March

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

On Tuesday, Jan. 2, Folly Beach City Councilman Eddie Ellis sent out a letter to Mayor Tim Goodwin and others announcing that he would be resigning his post on March 30 of this year. The announcement immediately sent a ripple throughout the island. Not even two months after a contentious election for three council seats, it looks like the voters of Folly Beach will have to go to the polls again and choose a new city council member. Ellis' seat was not up for re-election this past year, so a special election will be held in April to fill the remainder of his term, which runs through 2025.

According to Ellis, the timing of his

resignation was not a coincidence. Announcing it when he did and stepping aside on March 30 would allow the special election to piggyback on a previously scheduled election held by the Charleston County Election Commission in April.

"I feel good about leaving. The city is in good hands, I think that the mayor and council are working good together right now and staff is doing a great job," Ellis told the *Folly Current*, citing personal reasons for his leaving office. "I would encourage the voters to elect someone who would bring unity to the island."

While he said he planned to wait to announce his reasoning at next month's

council meeting on Feb. 13, he has recently listed his condo for sale. Ellis confirmed that he does currently hold a 72-day Short-Term Rental (STR) license on the property, where he has personally lived since 2005.

Out of concerns with having an active real estate listing during a time when council is still discussing and voting on items related to STRs, Ellis says the city has contacted the state Ethics Commission for an official opinion on whether he should recuse himself from any votes relating to STRs.

Ellis has served on council since 2004, with the exception of one term. He has owned a landscaping and painting business in the area for 28 years.



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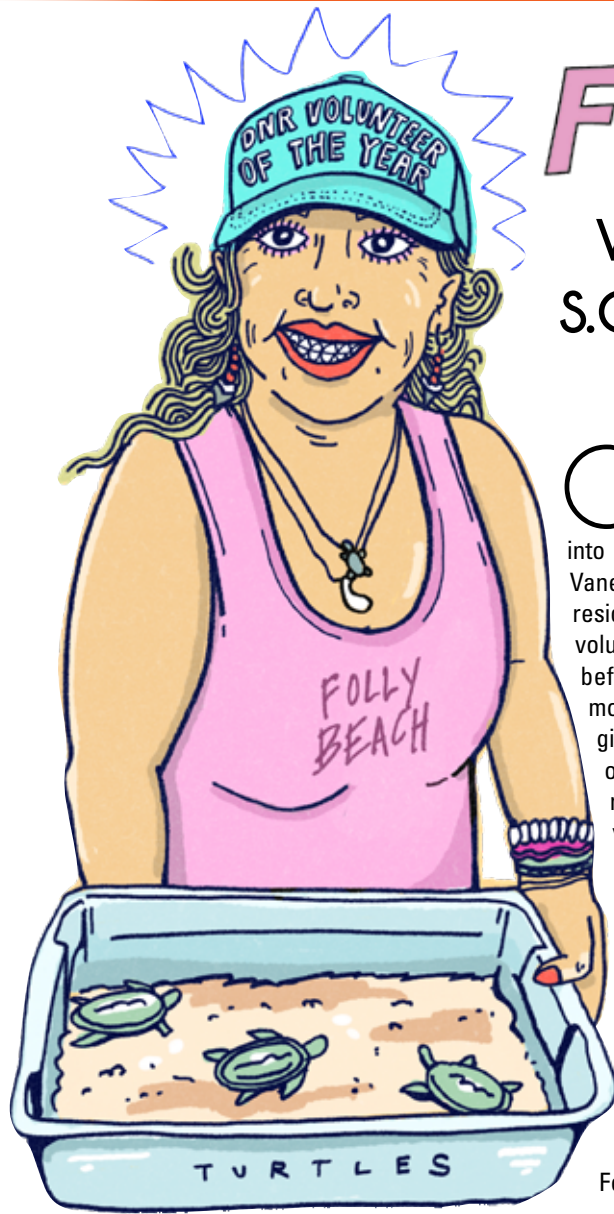
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FOLLY'S WONDER WOMAN

Volunteer extraordinaire Vanessa Oltmann named
S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources Volunteer of the Year

by Jenny Peterson | Current Staff Writer

Countless baby sea turtles hatched on Folly Beach have made it successfully into the Atlantic Ocean thanks to Vanessa Oltmann, a Folly Beach resident and tireless turtle team volunteer who combs the beach before the sun rises every morning during nesting season to give the turtles the best chance of survival. She was recently nominated as volunteer of the year from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for her work with sea turtle conservation.

Oltmann dove headfirst into sea turtle conservation and environmental advocacy when she and her husband moved to Folly Beach nine years ago. Oltmann and her husband had been visiting Folly Beach for 18 years.

"I fell in love with Folly and the festivals and the people. It was just so cool and it's where my first volunteering started," Oltmann said. "I first started working with Surfer's Healing and have been volunteering with them for probably nine years. I met somebody from the aquarium and that got me involved in litter removal."

A lover of nature and sea turtles, Oltmann is a volunteer member of the Folly Beach Turtle Team, which is 55 members strong. Her duties include inventory of turtle nests, reporting any false crawls and digging up nests by hand to inventory the number of eggs or relocate eggs if the mother laid the nest below the high tide line. She also helps with stranded turtles.

"I'm in the company of very special people because when we get up in the mornings and we hit the beach (to look for nests), it can be 100 degrees outside and we're still out there. If it rains, we're out there in the rain. The only time we're not on the beach is if it's thundering and

lightning, but I have sat in my car and waited for the storm to pass and gone back out," Oltmann said.

Oltmann had a record year in sea turtle nesting relocation. She helped discover 13 nests.

"My duty is that once the mother lays the eggs and doesn't come back to the nest, I'm to monitor the nest and I'm to watch it. It's my passion," she said. "I love it. It's one with nature and I'm able to be a part of something that's very magical."

She said discovering nests isn't as easy as following tracks due to false crawls and false nests.

"We're taught how to probe the nest—I used to be a well operator in Georgia. So I already knew how to probe for water; this time, I'm probing for eggs. The egg chamber is actually almost two feet down and I usually dig anywhere from 18 inches to 2 feet," Oltmann said. "I love sea life—I love wildlife and we've got to protect the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 ...

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... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6



earth. This is all we have."

Oltmann's activism extends beyond her work on the Turtle Team; Oltmann is the mind behind the Toby the Turtle cartoon character through the Folly Association of Business (FAB). Toby recognizes local businesses who clean up litter. Oltmann had the idea to get everyone involved in the effort to clean up litter—including kids and the next generation of residents.

"I wanted a cartoon character that would actually draw kids in to want to learn about litter; he's swimming around, he wants you to take care of the water and get the litter out," said Oltmann, who often dresses in costume. "I created Toby, and I made him real. He's a superhero."

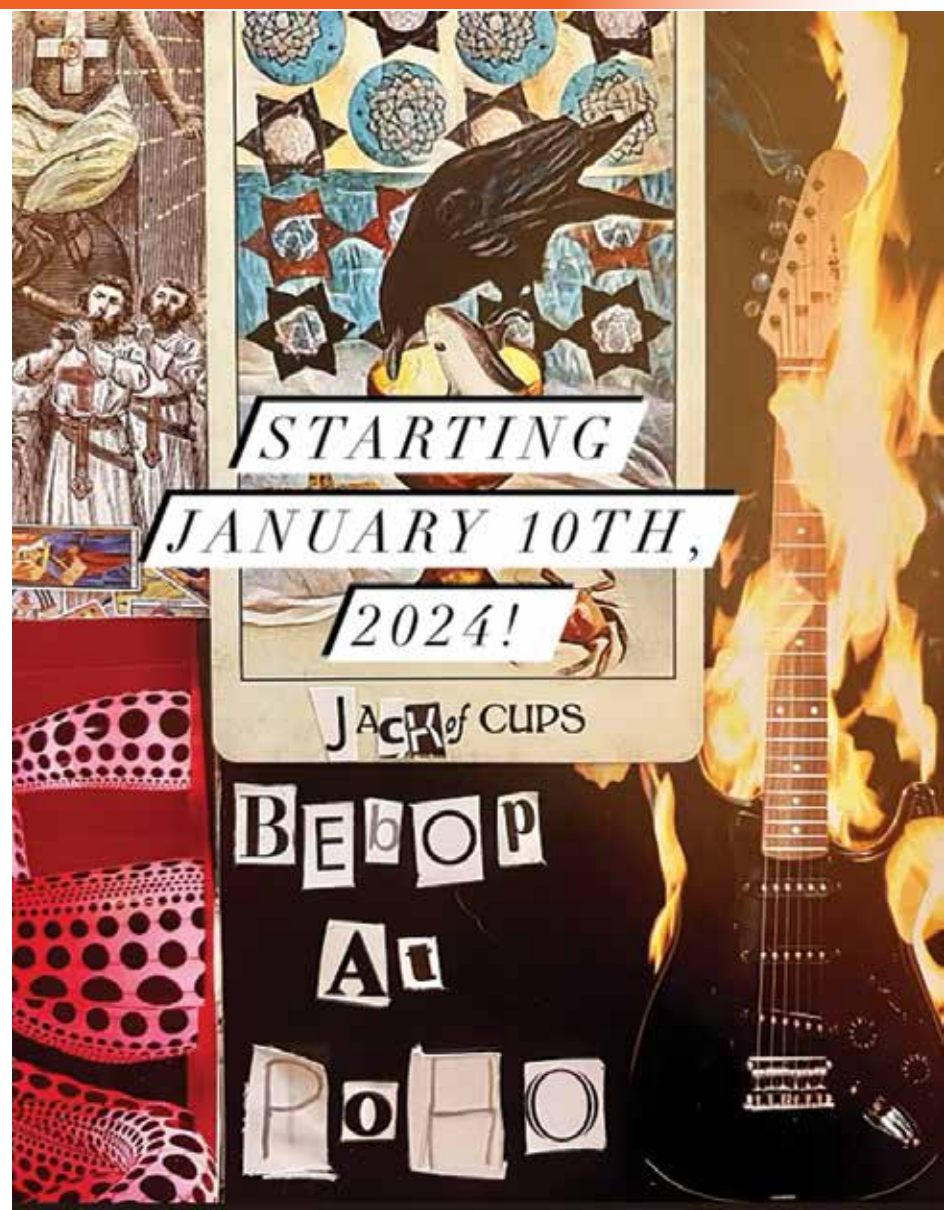
She said Toby has gained so much popularity that kids were yelling his name and waving to him at the recent Folly Beach Christmas parade. He's also a local mascot to bring awareness for the nationwide World Oceans Day.

Oltmann organizes beach sweeps that draw upwards of 100 people to help clean Folly Beach with more than 68,000 pieces of litter collected.

"I tell people what they can do to protect the turtles, like take your beach equipment off the beach because turtle babies can get stuck in them. And cover your holes. Awareness is one of the things that we can do," Oltmann said.

The volunteer of the year nomination was a recognition of the 13 nests that she helped discover and Oltmann said she teared up when she got the letter informing her of the honor.

"I love it because it makes people want to volunteer, too. There is a domino effect and people see me do it, then they want to do it too," she said. "I do it because I love it and because I have the passion. I'd go out there if I could and swim with the turtles. Who knows? Maybe I did in a previous life."



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DECEMBER 1

WEAPONS VIOLATION

Officers pulled over a vehicle traveling 37 mph in a 25-mph zone with three males inside. Officers smelled burnt marijuana and searched the vehicle and occupants. It was discovered that a 15-year-old passenger had a loaded pistol inside the pocket of his hoodie sweatshirt. The teen tried to run away from officers, but he was detained. A burnt marijuana cigarette was also in his pocket. The teen was released in the custody of a family member.

DECEMBER 1

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION/
DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

Officers arrested a 51-year-old woman for public intoxication, disorderly conduct, and exposure after they observed her to be only wearing a shirt talking to a man on the side of the road. The 47-year-old man said they were arguing over him cheating. The woman told officers she drank six cider beers on the beach earlier that day.

DECEMBER 2

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION/
DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

A 47-year-old man was arrested for public intoxication and disorderly

conduct after he was kicked out of a gas station for becoming belligerent with employees, causing an employee to close/lock the door due to safety. The man returned several hours later, still intoxicated, causing store employees to temporarily close/lock the doors once again. The man attempted to leave on a moped and EMS was called to evaluate him before he was taken to jail due to his high level of intoxication.

DECEMBER 4

SIMPLE ASSAULT

A 37-year-old man was arrested for assault after his downstairs neighbor said he threw a caulking gun loaded with nails at him which hit him in the lower back. The man said he and his neighbor have been having a dispute for weeks. The assault happened after the victim asked the man to stop banging on the walls. Officers arrived and noted the offender was so intoxicated he was transported to the hospital for observation before going to jail.

DECEMBER 5

LAUNDRY LARCENY

Officers responded to a larceny call about stolen laundry that was left unattended at a laundromat. According to the report, a man left his laundry on a table next to the front door at 3:30 p.m. and then ran errands and returned at 4:30 p.m. and his laundry was missing. It included several pairs of jeans, a sweatshirt and t-shirts. Police are reviewing security footage.

DECEMBER 6

DUI

Officers arrested a 30-year-old woman for DUI after observing her vehicle going 59 mph in a 35 mile-per-hour speed limit and swerving. According to the report, she attempted to evade officers by turning onto a side street and then pulling into a business and turning off the car and headlights. The woman got out of the car with her dog who she said had urinated

on her, although officers did not observe anything on her clothing. The woman had a strong odor of alcohol coming off her breath and was slurring. She failed sobriety tests and was arrested for DUI, having expired car registration and speeding. A friend was called to come get her dog.

DECEMBER 6

DUI

A 41-year-old man was arrested for DUI after officers noticed a vehicle did not have any lights on and was swerving. Officers asked the man how much he had to drink and he said "a lot," then "not a whole lot" and then "one, one" and then when asked what one drink he had, he said mentioned then name of a place where he had been drinking. There was an open beer in the center console. The female passenger, who the report said was "grossly intoxicated," was allowed to call someone for a safe ride home.

December 14

HARASSMENT COMMUNICATION

The Folly Beach police chief met with an engaged couple regarding harassment from the woman's ex. The couple said the man has been harassing them and their family, spreading lies and misinformation. A Folly Beach officer wrote the man a letter informing him that there is an investigation into the harassment and the chief signed off on it.

DECEMBER 14

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

Officers arrested a 34-year-old man for public intoxication after the manager of a Center Street store said two men were drinking beer and bothering bystanders. When officers arrived, they observed the man throw a beer can underneath a parked car. He was very combative and vulgar with officers and he was arrested. The other man said he did not know the first man and was respectful with officers, saying that the two men were just talking. That man was released from the scene.

DECEMBER 15

RECKLESS DRIVING

A 23-year-old man was arrested after officers noticed he was driving 52 mph in a 25 mph speed limit and made several elusive maneuvers to try and avoid being pulled over. Once his car came to a stop, officers instructed him to get out of the car. The man said he was coming from his parent's house and had not had anything to drink. He also said he did not see officers pulling him over. A search of his car observed an open can of beer in the center cupholder as well as an open case of beer. He was charged with reckless driving with an open container and failure to stop for law enforcement.

DECEMBER 16

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Officers responded to reports of a man who was urinating in public on a Folly Beach residential street and arrested the 24-year-old for disorderly conduct. It started when a man and his wife observed the man urinating outside while holding a case of beer. The couple told him to urinate inside and said the man became aggressive approaching them "in a fighting manner." Officers arrived and approached the man and smelled alcohol on his breath and noticed he had glassy eyes. He admitted to urinating in public and many people came outside of what appeared to be a party and began "hindering the investigation," according to the report. Once officers removed the offender from the party, he became argumentative, stating that officers are biased because the person who complained in the first place was an off-duty officer and his wife. The suspect's father called Folly Beach law enforcement to say that his son has low sodium levels "which causes him to urinate at anytime, anywhere." The offender said he didn't know what his father was talking about.

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Circles in the Sand

Kurt Cohan sand creations are magnificent and temporary

by Miranda Steadman | Contributing Writer



If you mysteriously stumbled upon a massive sand mural on Folly Beach in 2023, Kurt Cohan was probably the culprit.

Cohan has made a spiritual practice out of creating art in the sand at low tide using a landscape rake. After viewing a creation of Cohan's, a friend of his once commented, "Dude, it looks like an alien ship landed right here." His murals have even stretched up to half the size of a football field.

"Everyone is amazed at the size and how symmetrical they are," said Cohan, who uses sticks and string as a geometric compass for his freehanded designs that feature sacred geometry like mandalas.

Cohan's first raking was several years ago on a baseball field back home in Kentucky, where he grew micro greens and vegetables to sell on his urban farm. Two years ago, he lost his mother to lung cancer, and his business closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so he left Kentucky to

travel along the Southeastern shore. Along his journey south, Cohan stopped in Kitty Hawk, Hatteras, Morehead City, Atlantic Beach, Surf City, Carolina Beach, Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach, and Pawleys Island. Cohan has now raked everywhere between here and the Outer Banks. On Folly Beach, Cohan has created sand art on both tips of the island. He enjoys raking at the County Park on Folly, as well as on the out by the Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve. According to Cohan, his ideal spot to create murals on Folly Beach has to be the 13th block of Folly's East side.

"Art is for everybody ... It's a process of creating art for everyone to participate and enjoy," says Cohan, who has even gotten groups together to create murals on the beach.

Cohan says he draws inspiration from ancient symbols such as the Flower of Life, Tree of Life and Metatron. A recent

creation of his was a large-scale Celtic knot. Cohan says he feels a connection to nature while working outside, which he learned from his mother, who was a gardener. But he believes that he inherited his artistic skill from his father.

"Anytime you can sit in nature and create art is time spent healing," says Cohan. Part of his creative process is staying until his art is washed away by the ocean. He finds the impermanence of his art symbolic of the cycle of life.

"Deep in my heart, I just want love and peace for everybody," says Cohan, who hopes to share his magical art with many more Folly beachgoers in 2024. He uses this time spent creating to harness good energy to project into the next year.

You can view more of Kurt Cohan's majestic sand masterpieces on his Instagram page @sacred_sand_art.

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FAB welcomes all of our current and new members of 2024! We are excited to join with our local business owners and operators to promote a vibrant business economy and enrich the quality of life for our residents and visitors. This year we are leveling up our organization by providing enrichment classes, industry leader speakers, local business spotlights and more during our monthly meetings. If you are a Folly Business or a Folly resident business owner that conducts business on Folly we would LOVE for you to join us on January 11, at 6 p.m. at the Tides to learn more!

FAB's next meeting is January 11th from 6:30-7:30pm. Please join us in the bar area for the social happy hour at 6pm if you like. Meeting will be held upstairs. Tides Hotel, 1 Center St. For more information, email secretary4FAB@gmail.com.



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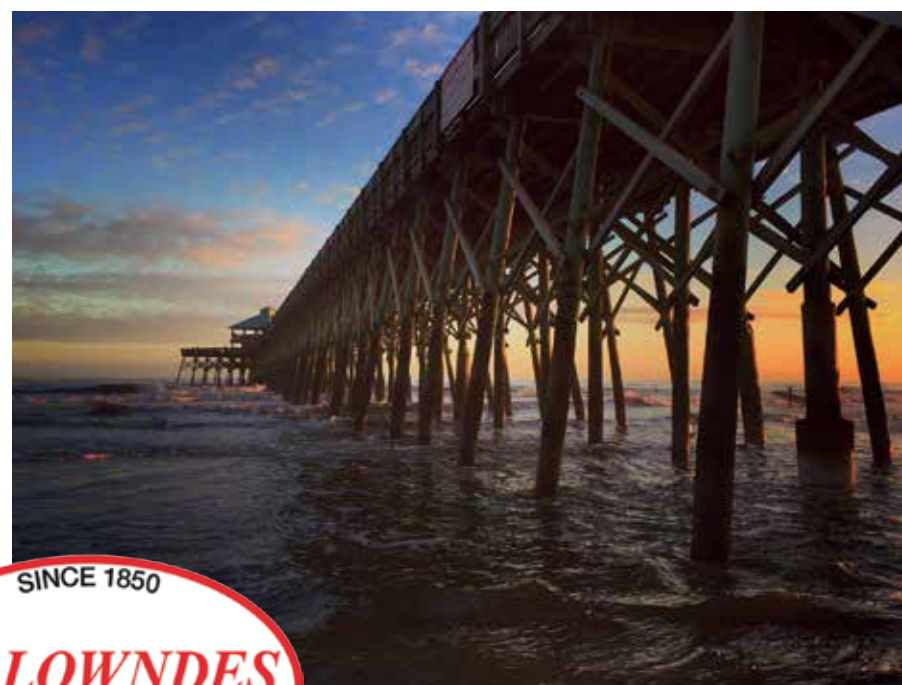
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Civic Club Photo of the Month



"SURFS UP"
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY
 JEFFREY BECTON

The Civic Club strives to support all Folly-loving photographers, both amateur and professional. High-resolution, landscape-oriented photos can be submitted to kathymiller74@gmail.com.




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I would like to thank my clients for making 2023 such a successful year.

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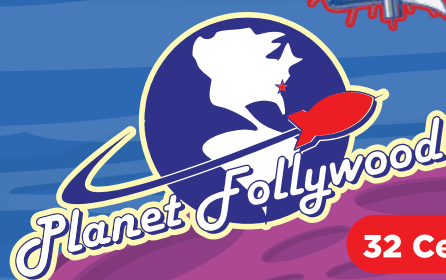
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MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Chico Feo: 6pm Songwriter's Soap-box w/ George Fox
Crab Shack: 6-9pm Sam Rae
Loggerhead's: 2-5pm DJ Lotis
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo
Rita's: 12:30-3:30pm Lola Grace

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

Drop In Deli: 9pm until Honky Tonk
Low Life Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphey
Planet Follywood: 8pm Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

Crab Shack: 6-9pm Ronnie Johnson
Drop In Deli: 8pm Trivia w/ Loda
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Locals Social w/ Blake Zahnd
Planet Follywood: 9pm Mike Martin Band
The Washout: 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Chico Feo: 4pm Paint with a Buzz;
6:30pm Folly Bluegrass Society
Crab Shack: 6-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10:30pm-1:30am Stratton Moore & Friends
Low Life Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Thieves
Planet Follywood: 9pm Karaoke

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

Bounty Bar: 9pm Tom Mackell
Crab Shack: 7-10pm Calhoun's Calling
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Planet Follywood: 9pm Slaton Glover
Rita's: 5-8pm George Fox
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Bounty Bar: 9pm Bonzii
Crab Shack: 7-10pm Ronnie Johnson
Low Life Bar: 8-11pm Folly Buble
Planet Follywood: 9pm Sail Down South
Rita's: 5-8pm Kenley Young
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Bounty Bar: 9pm Sunday Sessions
Crab Shack: 2-5pm Dave Grunstra
Planet Follywood: 9pm Whitney Hanna & Jeff Caldwell
Rita's: 5-8pm Gracie

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Chico Feo: 6pm Songwriter's Soap-box w/ George Fox
Crab Shack: 6-9pm Sam Rae
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Drop In Deli: 9pm until Honky Tonk
Low Life Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphey
Planet Follywood: 8pm Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Crab Shack: 6-9pm Ronnie Johnson
Drop In Deli: 8pm Trivia w/ Loda
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Locals Social w/ Blake Zahnd
Planet Follywood: 9pm Mike Martin Band
The Washout: 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Chico Feo: 4pm Paint with a Buzz;
6:30pm Folly Bluegrass Society
Crab Shack: 6-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10:30pm-1:30am Stratton Moore & Friends
Low Life Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Station
Planet Follywood: 9pm Karaoke

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Bounty Bar: 9pm The Whitney Hanna Show
Crab Shack: 7-10pm Calhoun's Calling
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Planet Follywood: 9pm Piano D Dave

Rita's: 5-8pm Thomas Champagne
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Bounty Bar: 9pm Smudge
Crab Shack: 7-10pm Ronnie Johnson
Low Life Bar: 8-10pm Mac Calhoun
Planet Follywood: 9pm Stratton Moore
Rita's: 5-8pm TBA
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Blu: 2-5pm Bozswells
Bounty Bar: 9pm Sunday Sessions
Crab Shack: 2-5pm Dave Grunstra
Low Life Bar: 8-10pm Sufferin' Moses
Planet Follywood: 9pm Whitney Hanna & Jeff Caldwell
Rita's: 5-8pm Gracie

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

Chico Feo: 6pm Songwriter's Soap-box w/ George Fox
Crab Shack: 6-9pm Sam Rae
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

Drop In Deli: 9pm until Honky Tonk
Low Life Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphey
Planet Follywood: 8pm Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Crab Shack: 6-9pm Ronnie Johnson
Drop In Deli: 8pm Trivia w/ Loda
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Locals Social w/ Blake Zahnd
Planet Follywood: 9pm Mike Martin Band
The Washout: 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Chico Feo: 4pm Paint with a Buzz;
6:30pm Folly Bluegrass Society
Crab Shack: 6-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10:30pm-1:30am Stratton Moore & Friends
Low Life Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Thieves
Planet Follywood: 9pm Karaoke

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

Bounty Bar: 9pm Jeff Caldwell Band
Crab Shack: 7-10pm Calhoun's Calling
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Planet Follywood: 9pm TBD
Rita's: 5-8pm Weigh Station
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Bounty Bar: 9pm Mission Critical
Crab Shack: 7-10pm Ronnie Johnson
Loggerhead's: 2-5pm DJ Lotis
Low Life Bar: 8-10pm Folly Buble
Planet Follywood: 9pm Longshot Gamble
Rita's: 5-8pm Lola Grace

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Bounty Bar: 9pm Sunday Sessions
Crab Shack: 2-5pm Dave Grunstra
Planet Follywood: 9pm Whitney Hanna & Jeff Caldwell
Rita's: 5-8pm Krystal

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Chico Feo: 6pm Songwriter's Soap-box w/ George Fox
Crab Shack: 6-9pm Sam Rae
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Drop In Deli: 9pm until Honky Tonk
Low Life Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphey
Planet Follywood: 8pm Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

Crab Shack: 6-9pm Ronnie Johnson
Drop In Deli: 8pm Trivia w/ Loda
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Locals Social w/ Blake Zahnd
Planet Follywood: 9pm Mike Martin Band
The Washout: 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Chico Feo: 4pm Paint with a Buzz;
6:30pm Folly Bluegrass Society
Crab Shack: 6-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10:30pm-1:30am Stratton Moore & Friends

Low Life Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Station
Planet Follywood: 9pm Karaoke
Rita's: 5-8pm Super Reggae Man

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Bounty Bar: 9pm Big Stoner Creek
Crab Shack: 7-10pm Calhoun's Calling
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Planet Follywood: 9pm Hans Wenzel
Rita's: 5-8pm Thomas Champagne

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Bounty Bar: 9pm Unity Gain
Crab Shack: 7-10pm Ronnie Johnson
Low Life Bar: 8-10pm Mac Calhoun
Planet Follywood: 9pm Thomas Champagne
Rita's: 5-8pm George Fox

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Bounty Bar: 9pm Sunday Sessions
Crab Shack: 2-5pm Dave Grunstra
Low Life Bar: 8-10pm Whiskey Diablo
Planet Follywood: 9pm Whitney Hanna & Jeff Caldwell
Rita's: 5-8pm David Sink

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

Chico Feo: 6pm Songwriter's Soap-box w/ George Fox
Crab Shack: 6-9pm Sam Rae
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

Drop In Deli: 9pm until Honky Tonk
Low Life Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphey
Planet Follywood: 8pm Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

Crab Shack: 6-9pm Ronnie Johnson
Drop In Deli: 8pm Trivia w/ Loda
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Locals Social w/ Blake Zahnd
Planet Follywood: 9pm Mike Martin Band
The Washout: 6-9pm Live Music

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A Forkful of Folly

Taste of Folly returns this month with a weekend of eating and drinking the best the island has to offer

from Staff Reports



The oyster-shucking contest is just one of the highlights at the annual Taste of Folly street festival.

Locals and visitors are all invited to eat and drink their way through Folly Beach's unique culinary scene at the annual Taste of Folly festival this month.

The festivities officially kick off on Friday, Jan. 19 with the annual Taste of Folly Cocktail Competition in the Pavilion Ballroom at the Tides Hotel from from 6-9 p.m. The best mixologists on Folly Beach will showcase their skills, creating a variety of fun and tasty craft cocktails. Ticketholders will enjoy appetizers while sampling custom drinks from Folly Beach restaurants and bars. Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door and include all cocktails in the competition and appetizers. You must be 21 or older to enter. Tickets for this event are limited and likely to sell out, so grab your spot now at www.VisitFolly.com.

Then, the main event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20 with live music, street vendors, competitions, and much more. Savory Saturday will officially be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. but because this is a street closure event, Center Street will be closed to auto traffic from from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and taken over by Folly restaurants who will be serving up their best dishes and showing off their skills through live demonstrations.

As always, there will be a competitive element to the festival. You can participate (or just watch) the Hot Dog Eating Contest, the Oyster-shucking Contest, and then root on your favorite bartender at the Battle of the Mixologists. There will also be the much-loved One-Pot Showdown, the Taste of Folly version of a chili cook-off. Plus, live music, 80-plus art, craft, and fashion vendors, and a robust kids' area. Tickets

for Savory Saturday are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the gate. Free admission is available for Folly Beach residents with a valid Folly driver's license and for kids 12 and under.

For more information about the Taste of Folly festival and cocktail competition and to purchase your tickets now, please go to VisitFolly.com or find it on Facebook or visit www.VisitFolly.com.

Festival Rules: NO GLASS ON CENTER STREET! No Animals, Coolers, Bikes, Skateboards, Scooters, or Backpacks (except diaper bags). Any bags brought may be searched at the discretion of security—no outside beverages. Reusable cups are permitted but must be empty upon entering and exiting the event. Rain or shine event. Service animals are allowed.



**Tasty little bits
of Folly food news**

Blessed BBQ

Our Land of Good Council
hosts fundraiser BBQ

Come out to Father Kelly Hall at Our Lady of Good Council on Saturday, Jan. 13 to watch the NFL playoffs and chow down on some BBQ pork, chicken, sides, drinks and dessert from the OLGC's Men's Club. This fundraiser will allow the club to do the good work that they do in 2024, including helping maintain the parish facilities and conduct fundraisers to support the parish, give to local charities, and help families in need.

Tickets are \$25 and \$12 for 12 and under. Saturday, Jan. 13, from 4-7 p.m. at 105 W. Hudson Ave. Call David Draper at (858) 583-2366 to buy your tickets

Local's Only

Small plates, half-priced
wine, and live music at
Loggerhead's every
Wednesday

The off-season is officially here, which means that it's time to enjoy a little peace and quiet on the island. This year, Loggerhead's Beach Grill will again celebrate locals with its "Locals Social" every Wednesday evening from 6-9 p.m. Sit on the deck or in the cozy dining room and enjoy live music with Blake Zahnd while enjoying a rotating small plates menu, half-off bottles of wine, and \$15 premium wine carafes.

Locals Social is every Wednesday, from 6-9 p.m. at Loggerheads Beach Grill, located at 123 W. Ashley Ave. For more information visit loggerheadsbg.com.

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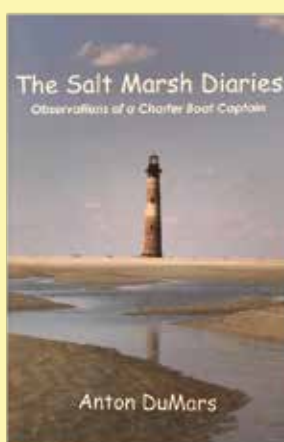
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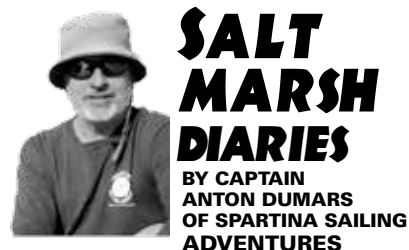


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BY CAPTAIN
ANTON DUMARS
OF SPARTINA SAILING
ADVENTURES

The morning of New Year's Day, 1987, a wind-driven 8.81 tide sloshed waves across Arctic Avenue from numerous pocket beaches. At the washout, ocean water flowed across the road, through yards, then into the marsh on the backside of the island.

Later that morning, I walked down East Arctic from 6th block. Rubble covered the road near the pocket beach on East 5th Street. Next door, beach wrack covered the uneven concrete driveway between two yellow beach-cottages, where Bob and Carol Linville, Sally Beach, and O.D. once lived.

This extreme tide, the 2nd largest non-storm related-tide event on record, exposed some coastal vulnerabilities, prompting passage of The South Carolina Beachfront Management Act.

Eight years prior to the 1987 New Year's Day storm, a study by coastal scientists Fitzgerald, Fico, and Hayes (1979) determined that the Charleston jetties restricted southbound coastal sand destined for Folly Island.

Since the Charleston Harbor jetties were found liable for (some of) Folly's chronic erosion problem, Folly Beach was exempt from much of The Beachfront Management Act.

As a result of this exemption, those numerous pocket beaches mentioned earlier became homesites after beach renourishments started in 1993.

On Dec. 17, 2023 another huge tide event occurred. This marks the highest non-storm related tide event to date. At 9.86 feet, this tide is also the 4th largest tide on record in Charleston, including past hurricanes and

tropical storms.

Though over a foot higher than the 1987 New Year's Day tide, much of the island was protected by a substantial dune field created by numerous aforementioned beach renourishments. After hours of pounding surf, the big tide laid waste to some of the protective dune fields.

This most recent monster tide washed through several beach walk-overs and (again) across the road at The Washout, which is Folly Beach's most vulnerable section along the island's 6-mile strand.

The aptly-named "Washout," a stretch of erosional beach from approximately East 14th block to East 16th block (plus or minus), is the location of a historical ephemeral tidal inlet between Folly Island and Little Folly Island.

The Washout is also a natural sediment bypass area that seldom accumulates enough dry sand to form protective dunes.

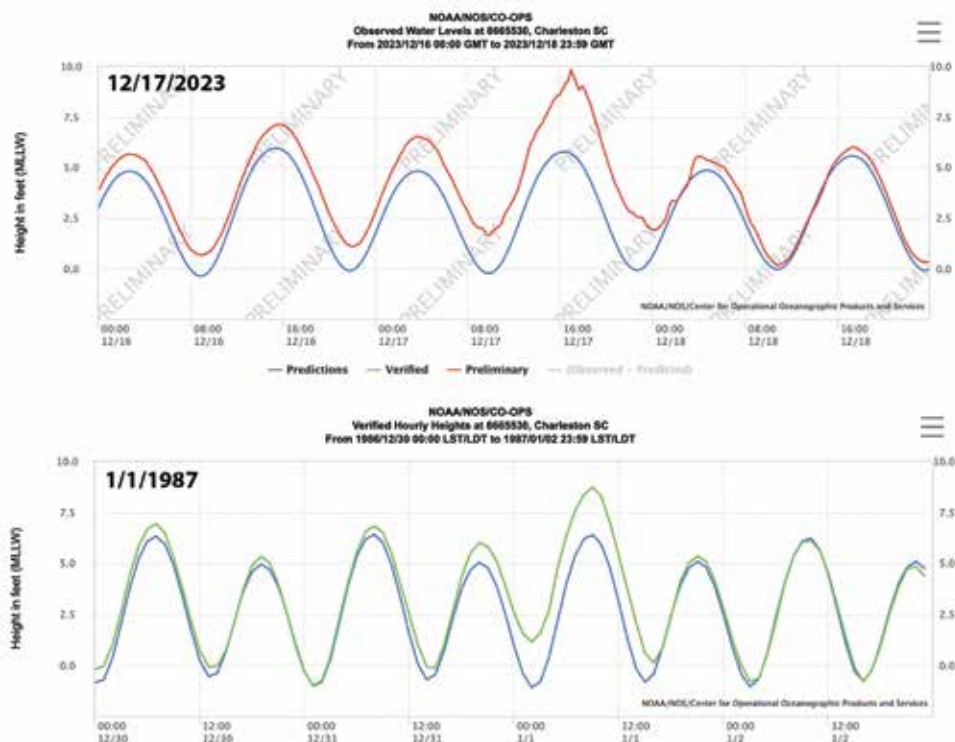
These two tides, occurring thirty-six years apart, may seem like freak occurrences, but this is less the case for the latter event.

In 1987, while early debates of human-driven climate change took place among academics, the general population wasn't considering such vulnerabilities. Nowadays, the effects of climate change, including a warming earth and rising sea level, are coming at us like a locomotive down a tunnel.

To examine climate-related changes occurring in the coastal environment, let's look at the data. According to the National Weather Service Coastal Flooding Database, high tide in Charleston has exceeded 7.5 feet 257 times since 1921. Of those 257 tides exceeding 7.5 feet, 171 (67%) of them have

The Tides They Are A-Changin'

Last month's flooding event was proof



occurred since 2010.

In addition, High tide has exceeded 8 feet 48 times since 1921. Of those 48 tides above 8 feet, 35 (73%) of them have occurred since 2010.

Since 1921, the top ten 7.5-foot and 8-foot tide exceedance years happen to be the last ten years. There's a trend here.

To put things in perspective, Charleston and Folly Beach high tides between 5.5 and 6.5 feet are considered "normal," depending on the moon phase.

One long-time local made this telling

observation: "Twice my yard has flooded from high tides in the quarter century since I've lived here. Both were this year."

The data don't lie. It's reasonable to expect tides to keep getting higher. Tolerance of increased coastal flooding may be the price of living in Paradise.

Captain Anton DuMars, a coastal scientist and longtime Folly resident, listens to the science. To contact Anton, visit saltmarshdiaries.com and email him at saltmarshdiaries@gmail.com.



OUTSTANDING IN HIS FIELD

BY CHARLIE
STONECYPHER

Happy New Year friends and readers! Here we are once again with a fresh start to roll in the new year. This is often accompanied by expectations for one's self and of circumstances that will be vastly improved.

Resolutions are great to think about for getting healthy and making progress but often at the first sign of difficulty they're more likely to fall by the wayside. Also you don't want to go "cold turkey," on day one. For me what has made change difficult is preparing for change: "Well, I plan on losing weight starting the 1st, so I better eat all kinds of junk now before that arrives." Talk about drastic! A few years ago, I shared a quote that I have applied that works well: "Revolutions, not

Resolutions." This year, I want to talk about something similar. It's called Kaizen. But just what the heck is "Kaizen?"

Kaizen is a Japanese term meaning "change for the better," or continuous improvement." (Before I go on, there are many different interpretations I found while researching this so this is more-or-less my current understanding of the term.)

Kaizen is often associated with the business world but I find that these techniques can help with personal pursuits as well.

The 5 steps of Kaizen: (some sources quote 4-10 steps, so check around)

1. Sort: separate workplace necessary items from unnecessary items and remove the unnecessary ones.
2. Create orderliness: Arrange items or

What Is Kaizen?

tools for easy access that makes the most sense.

3. Cleanliness: Keep the workspace clean and tidy.
4. Systemize practices and techniques.
5. Discipline: Keep the effort going, despite that hard day at the office.

Some other things that may help: Involve others but ultimately rely on yourself. Is your partner flaking out on going walking today? Go without them.

Isolating problems or weak areas. If there's a problem, find a solution. Test the solution, Are you happy with the results? If they're positive then adopt that practice. If they're negative then you can keep searching.

Let go of assumptions and expectations. If you expect the world to get on the same page that'll set you back.

Be proactive. Let go of perfectionism and make adaptive changes. Gather information from multiple sources and people with different approaches. Use creativity and finally, never stop improving.

I'd like to close by saying that this practice is much deeper and has many more layers to it, so if it has struck a chord with you, take some time to look into it. I recommend it!

Love and Aloha until next month!

Charlie Stonecypher is the owner of Suncoast Irrigation and Landscaping. They specialize in products that work smart without wasting resources. Contact him at (843) 327-8642 or email suncoastirrigation@gmail.com.



Folly Association of Business's Litter Buster of the Month

As Toby the Turtle & the FAB Litter Committee gear up for another year of sweeps, we would like to acknowledge and give gratitude for the wonderful businesses who received the 2023 Litter Busters for keeping Folly Clean:

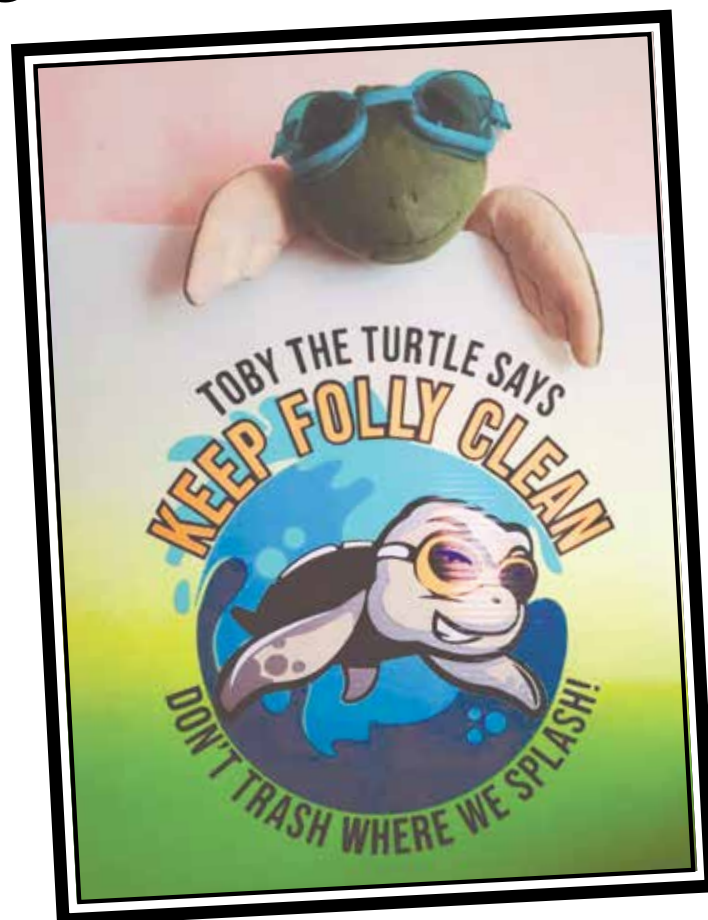
Center Street Coffee, Lunar Light Botancials, Taco Boy, Shaka Surf School, Castaway Island Excursions, Malama Massage Therapy, 3 Mouse Pals Travel Advisor, Lowlife Bar, The Bounty Bar, McKevelin's Surf Shop and to all the 945 + Volunteers that help to Keep Folly Clean and Keep Toby's Mission going.

- This year Toby will be hosting monthly sweeps with the South Carolina Aquarium Conservation Assistants beginning in February 2024 with the exact date to be announced.

- Jan. 1st 2024 @ 3rd West Arctic join Toby's Post Fireworks Sweep from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. all supplies will be furnished

Toby wishes all friends a very Happy New Year 2024 and Keep Folly Clean

FAB's Litter Committee is made up of Folly Beach business owners who volunteer their time to help devise solutions to litter-related problems both on the beach and within the business district. This committee collaborates with city entities and the Folly Green Team on actionable strategies to address these problems. They also help fund the signage that the Green Team places at beach walkovers to remind visitors to dispose of litter properly. As our mascot Toby the Turtle says, "Don't Trash Where We Splash!" If you would like to sponsor a walkover, please email Vanessa at jvolt243@gmail.com.



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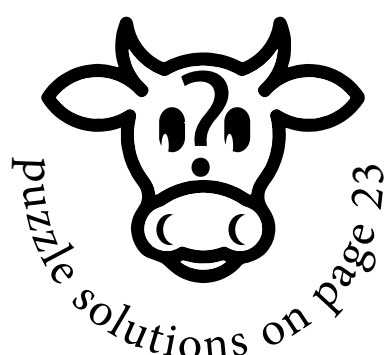
1. Most bad
6. Alliance
10. Flexible containers
14. Deadly virus
15. Teller of untruths
16. Iridescent gem
17. Insurrectionist
18. Be aware of
19. Buckeye State
20. Observer
22. Baseball glove
23. Herd of seals
24. Sleighs
26. Graphite element
30. Highland Games pole
32. Not together
33. Okay to eat
37. Plateau
38. Patriarch
39. Cozy spot
40. Spying
42. Tequila source
43. Spiteful
44. Tried
45. Hindu social division
47. Dung beetle

DOWN

1. We are (contraction)
2. Follow orders
3. After-bath wear
4. Large number
5. Tall Indian palm
6. Light-colored hair
7. Queue
8. Horse feed
9. Goalpost part
10. Throwing sticks
11. Plant louse
12. Ways to walk
13. Coin opening

48. An international trade treaty
49. Having only one spouse
56. River in Spain
57. Beer
58. A piece of flat furniture
59. Den
60. Its symbol is Pb
61. An aromatic flavorful vegetable
62. Hit hard
63. Glimpse
64. Adjust again

21. 2000 pounds
25. Permit
26. Arrived
27. Gorillas
28. Coarse file
29. Bright idea
30. Amorous
31. Away from the wind
33. Surveyor's map
34. Watercraft
35. Adoration
36. Managed with difficulty
38. Cast
41. Type of cereal grass
42. Faucet attachment
44. Dress
45. Secret group
46. Skylit lobbies
47. Frumpish
48. Colloids
50. Minerals
51. Half-moon tide
52. Head of hair
53. Nile bird
54. Blackthorn
55. Canvas dwelling



SUDOKU

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3						5	2	4
5				8	7	4		3

TRIVIA BY GREY MATTER GAMES

1. GEOGRAPHY

What is the former name of Ho Chi Minh City?

2. OLD SCHOOL TV

What prime time '80s soap opera, sometimes called "Dallas' with grapes," centered on a winemaking family in northern California?

3. MOVIES

Who is the only other actor to portray Indiana Jones in a feature film other than Harrison Ford?

4. RELIGION

What religion believes that the waters from the Ganges River cleanse the soul?

5. LITERATURE

What character is the son of the town drunkard in St. Petersburg, Missouri?

6. BUSINESS

Businessman James Church named what company after a pair of symbols he got from the god Vulcan and thought represented power?

7. INVENTIONS

What invention is defined as the transmission of signals by modulation of electromagnetic waves with frequencies below those of visible light?

8. HOLIDAYS

In what month do the French celebrate Bastille Day?

9. MUSIC

What heavy metal band did rapper/rocker/actor Ice-T front in the early 1990s?

10. FAST FOOD

In what state did founder Ray Kroc open the first McDonald's restaurant in 1955?



SPECIAL EVENTS

Taste of Folly Festival

• Cocktail Competition: Friday, Jan. 19th from 6-9pm, \$40 in advanced, \$50 day of (if tickets are still available). Tickets include a taste of all the cocktails made by the beach's best mixologists and appetizers. Limited tickets and likely to sell out. Must be 21 years old to enter.

• Savory Saturday Street Festival: Saturday, Jan. 20th from 10am-4pm. Hot Dog Eating, Oyster Shucking Contests, Server Olympics, One Pot Showdown, 50+ Folly art, craft, and fashion vendors, and a robust kids area. Tickets are \$10 in advanced, \$15 day of. Folly residents will proof of residency are free, kids 12 and under are free. Streets will close at 7am and reopen to traffic at 6pm. For more information and to buy tickets, www.visitfolly.com.

CLUBS, SUPPORT GROUPS, & WORKSHOPS

Chess Club

Saturday, Jan. 27th from 10am-noon. Play chess at the library. All ages and abilities welcome. Folly Beach Library, 55 Center St. www.ccpl.org.

Civic Club

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Community Center, 55 Center St. For more information, contact Eric Lutz at elutz@follybeach.gov.

Exchange Club

Meeting is the 1st Thursday of each month. Dinner program is the 3rd Thursday of each month. Contact May Holmes at 588-9238.

Folly Association of Business (FAB)

If you are a Folly Beach business or representative of a Folly Beach business, please join FAB at the next monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11th at 6:30pm at Tides Hotel, 1 Center St. The social happy hour is at 6pm in the bar area. For more information, email secretary4FAB@gmail.com.

Home & Garden Club

Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month Sept. through May at 1:30pm. Folly Beach Community Center, 55 Center St. For more info, call 588-0093.

Save the Light

Meets the 1st Monday at 6pm every month. For more information, call: 633-0099, www.savethelight.org.

Senior Citizens Club

55 and over are invited. Meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 11am. Contact Pauline Ray at 588-9580.

Women's Guild

Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Our Lady of Good Counsel, Father Kelly Hall, 106 E. Erie Ave. 588-2336.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

After School Club

Kids in grades K-5 are invited on Tuesdays, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 from 4-5pm for art, science, games, and other fun activities. Folly Beach Library, 55 Center St. www.ccpl.org.

Family Movie Night

Held the 4th Sunday of the month at 5 pm. Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St. 588-9414.

Folly Family Storytime

All ages are invited for story time, songs, rhymes, movement, and more! Monday, Jan. 8th, 22nd, & 29th from 10:30-11am. Folly Beach Library, 55 Center St. www.ccpl.org.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Beach Yoga

Check with Serenity Tree Yoga and Folly Beach Island Yoga for weekly schedule.

Christian Meditation

Meets every Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Our Lady of Good Counsel, 106 E. Erie Ave. 588-2336.

Folly Beach Community Yoga

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-11am. Bring your own mat. Donation based class. Folly River Park. For more information, contact Jenifer Mahanes on Facebook: Folly Beach Community Yoga.

Folly Beach Recreation

Pickleball: 8-10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday; 2-4p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday at Pirates Cove, 510 E. Erie Ave.

- Tennis: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday; 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Wednesday, Friday. Registration required. Pirates Cove, 510 E. Erie Ave.
- Soccer: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday. Registration required. Folly River Park, 60 Center St.
- Yoga: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday. Folly River Park, 60 Center St.

Open Water Swimming Meet Up 9 a.m. every Sunday. Meet at the Pier next to the showers.

OUTDOOR

Lighthouse Inlet Bird Walk

Friday, Jan. 12th, from 8:30-10:30am. Fee: \$9. Ages 12 & up. Meets at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, 1750 E. Ashley Ave. www.ccpcc.com for more info.

Sunset Moonrise Beach Walk

Thursday, Jan. 25th, 4:30-6pm. Join a naturalist for a leisurely walk on the beach to admire the southwest end of Folly Island during the twilight hours. Fee: \$9, ages 12 & up. For additional information, www.CharlestonCountyPark.com

Coastal Navigation

Saturday, Jan. 27th from 9am-1pm.. This course introduces you to all aspects of coastal navigation. Gain confidence and skills to feel at ease knowing where you are and how to get to where you want to go. Fee: \$60, ages 16 & up, For additional information, www.CharlestonCountyPark.com

Tides and Currents

Thursday, Jan. 25th, 6:30-8:30pm. Will you get stuck in pluff mud or breeze along to your destination? This course will help you prepare for your next adventure on the water! Fee: \$25, ages 16 & up. Held at Commission Board Room at CCPRC Headquarters. For additional information, www.CharlestonCountyPark.com

RELIGIOUS

BBQ Fundraiser

Watch the football playoffs while you are served BBQ pork, chicken, sides, drinks and dessert from the Our Lady of Good Counsel Men's Club. Tickets are \$25 and \$12 for 12 and under. Call David Draper at (858) 583-2366 to buy your tickets. Profits will go to help maintain the church and local charities. Saturday, Jan. 13th from 4-7pm at Father Kelly Hall, 105 W. Hudson Ave.

Breakfast Buffet

Hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel Men's Club, enjoy a delicious buffet that will benefit the church and local charities. Adults are \$7 and children 12 and under are \$4. Sunday, Jan. 28th from 9:30-11:15am at Father Kelly Hall, 105 W. Hudson Ave.

Christian Meditation Group

Meets every Thursday at 8:30am. Father Kelly Hall, 105 West Hudson Ave.

Faith Formation

Meets every Wednesday at 7 pm. Our Lady of Good Counsel, 106 E. Erie Ave. 588-2336.

Folly Beach United Methodist Church

Worship times: Adult Sunday school at 9am / Worship Service at 10am. Open

communion table is the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome. Come as you are. Nursery and children's Sunday school is provided during worship service. 118 W. Indian Ave., 588-9174.

Girlfriends Bible Study

Meets every Tuesday at 9:30am & 6:30pm. Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St. 588-9414.

Mary's Rosary Guild

Meets the 1st & 3rd Fridays at 10am. Our Lady of Good Counsel, 106 E. Erie Ave. 588-2336.

Men's Bible Study

Meets Mondays at 7pm Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St. 588-9414.

Recovery in Christ

Biblically based; seeks God concerning our habits, hurts, & hang-ups. Meets Thursdays at 6 pm. Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St.

Soup Ministry

Every Monday at 12pm Meets in the Fellowship Hall. Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St. 588-9414.

Women's Bible Study

Meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 am & 6:30 pm. Folly Beach Baptist Church. 77 Center St. 588-9414.

** Please check with clubs, groups, and events for updates, as some of these events may have changed.*

The Folly Current Community Calendar is free listing for events happening on Folly Beach. Please submit all happenings to info@follycurrent.com by the 21st of the month in order to be included in the next issue.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

W	O	R	S	T		B	L	O	C		B	A	G	S	
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SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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3	8	7	9	1	6	5	2	4
5	2	9	8	7	4	6	3	1

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Saigon
2. Falcon Crest
3. River Phoenix (who played a young Jones in Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade)
4. Hindu
5. Huckleberry Finn
6. Arm & Hammer
7. Radio
8. July
9. Body Count
10. Illinois

35th Anniversary

This month, we're celebrating a big one! We've been helping people buy, sell, and vacation on the Charleston Coast for **35 years...** and counting!

Thank you to all the families and friends who have entrusted us with their most important investments and vacation memories.

After all these years, we are still proud to say –
Nobody knows the Charleston Coast better.®

SOLD IN 2023



94 W. 2nd Street | SOLD for \$1,160,000



COV 310 | SOLD for \$1,287,500



1695 E. Ashley Ave. | SOLD for \$2,400,000



0 Weathers Lane* | SOLD for \$80,000



67 W. 10th Street E16 | SOLD for \$50,000



250 Little Oak Island Dr.* | SOLD for \$775,000



COV 419 | SOLD for \$1,300,000



81 Sandbar Lane 27* | SOLD for \$850,000



2262 Folly Road 1J | SOLD for \$399,000



5 Town Park Lane D | SOLD for \$390,000



1025 Riverland Wds Pl. 406 | SOLD for \$412,500

➡
**ADD YOUR HOME
TO THIS LIST!**
Call 843.588.3800
For More Info

* Repped the Buyer



The Folly Team (L to R) Sandra Odom, Jesse Slowikowski, Laurie Hull, Kain Slowikowski, Calli Larson, Jared Maus, Vince Perna & Keith McCann

31 Center Street Folly Beach | dunesproperties.com | Real Estate 800.476.8444 | Vacation Rentals 888.250.8730