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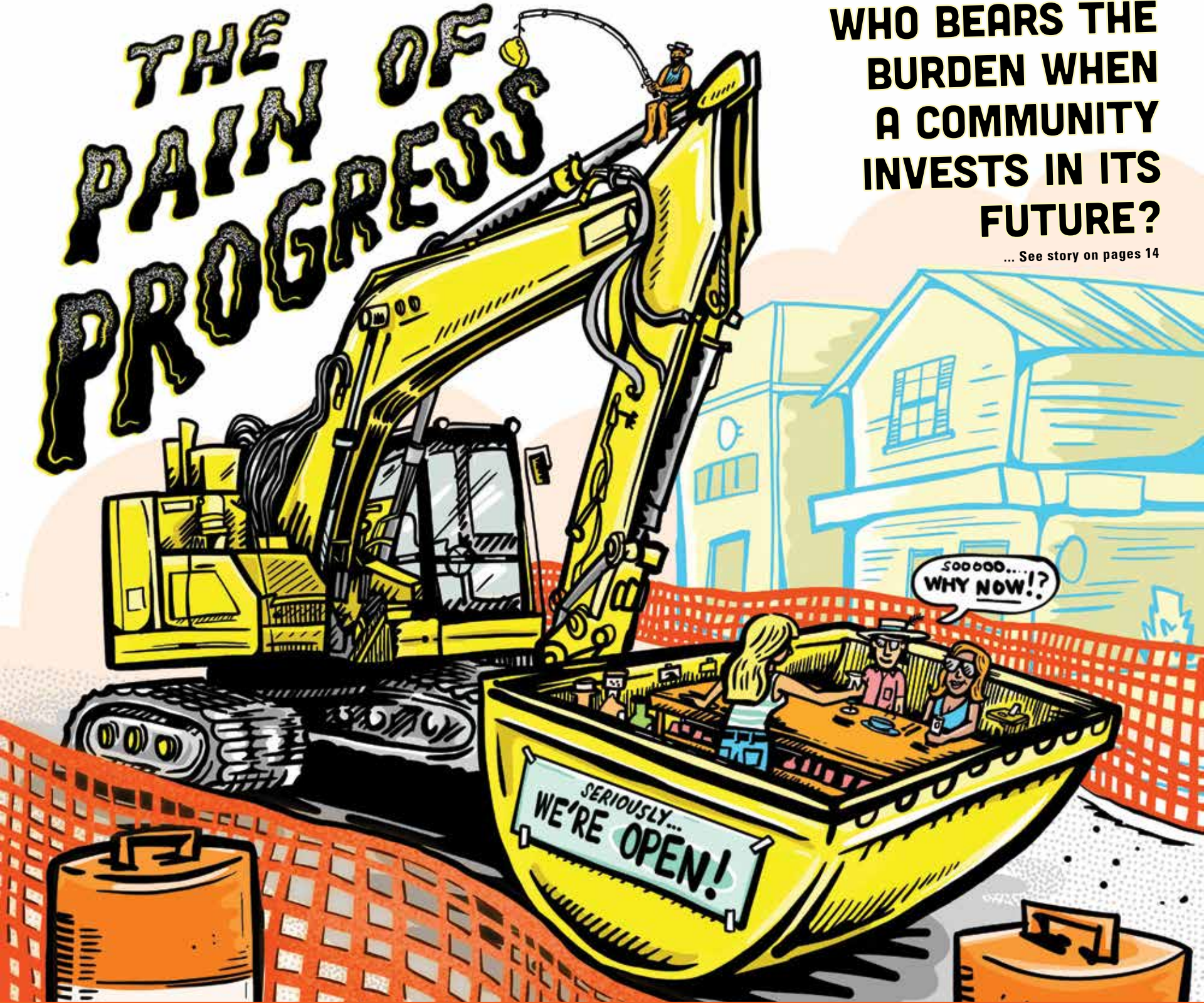
FOLLY BEACH'S NEWSPAPER

ISSUE 08 | VOLUME 19

THE PAIN OF PROGRESS

WHO BEARS THE BURDEN WHEN A COMMUNITY INVESTS IN ITS FUTURE?

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THE Folly Current

Folly Beach's Newspaper

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Arrrrrrrghhh!!!! It's a Pirate's Life

Community mourns the loss and celebrates the life of a true Folly original

by Matt Poust | Contributing Writer

If you've spent much time on Folly Beach over the past few decades, chances are you've crossed paths with Bubba Seal.

Maybe it was the unmistakable pirate's "Arrrrrrrghhh!" echoing from his bicycle as he pedaled through town. Maybe it was his trademark farewell—"Take the rest of the day off." Or maybe you knew him through a plate of butterfly fried shrimp, a neighborhood cookout or an afternoon that somehow turned into an all-night party.

However you knew him, Bubba was one of those rare people who didn't just live on Folly Beach, but became a permanent fixture in its way of life.

Seal, affectionately known as the "Folly Beach Pirate," died July 12 at the age of 71. Though he grew up in Virginia, Bubba found his home on Folly some forgotten time ago, where he spent decades living by what could be drummed up as an easy living philosophy: good friends, good food and good times.

His home on Sandbar Lane, titled properly as "Bubba's Sandbar Lane Social Club," was filled with music playing, friends stopping by and something cooking. If you were lucky, Bubba might even lower you a sample from his balcony using one of his clever makeshift transport methods.

While it would be a futile attempt to tie a career to a man who lived by his own terms, the calling that resounds loudest from those who knew Bubba best was as a chef.

He worked in kitchens throughout the Charleston area, including LoLo's, where a memorial sign was hung in his honor. Friends also recalled his stories of work as a catering chef in Charlotte, where he prepared meals backstage for rockstars including AC/DC, Journey and Elton John.

During his time on Folly, however, the cooking Bubba did was remembered less as a profession and more as an act of fellowship.

His butterfly fried shrimp, crab cakes, chicken wings and ham and bean soup on a cold day became neighborhood favorites. He was even known to empty out a freezer when a party called for it or hurricanes forced those around him to hunker down to ensure no one went hungry.

"My favorite memories are him always greeting my dog Artemus, aka Arte, with a welcoming 'Arrrrte!'"

Carmichael recalled. "He was an excellent cook that lowered us samples of food from the balcony above by Ziplock bag, line and clothespin. Cakes, shrimp, wings—whatever it was, it was delicious. A very clever fella that made an impression on anyone fortunate enough to meet him."

That same creativity showed up everywhere else in Bubba's life.

Discarded items left on curbs around Folly found a way to be repurposed if Bubba found them first. Broken grills, old vacuum cleaners and rundown beach cruisers all found a new life under his hands—the beach cruisers most important as they acted as his main mode of transportation after selling his car early into his stint on Folly.

Even the neighborhood squirrels became a part of his resourceful creativity.

Neighbor Kelly West fondly remembered Bubba's never-ending attempts to outsmart the furry thieves who raided his bird feeder. Pie pans, grease poles, water guns and retrievable tethered tennis ball grenades all had their turn. Watching the daily contest, West said, felt like watching Bill Murray's battle with the gopher in Caddyshack.

Of course when you lead the life of a good time man like Bubba there's bound to be the party. Whether it be with a few glasses of Jacquine's Rum or an all out neighborhood blockfest, Bubba specialized in those as well.

Longtime friend Mark Simon remembered one Fourth of July celebration at Bubba's apartment that lasted until mid-October... Oyster shell tosses, balcony golf, dart tournaments, ring toss competitions, even a swimming pool perched on the balcony, all fueled by good company and more than a few cocktails.

"Bubba, a.k.a. Beverly Seal, Bubba Lowinski, Bond Bubba Bond," Simon referenced humorously. "He held many positions—crab man, cook and first mate of the Chateau El Relaxo Yacht Club. Along with hearts, the mold was broken after this guy left us."

Tying his life's rituals together, it would be remiss not to mention the late great Jimmy Buffett when speaking on the late great Bubba. Buffett's music provided the soundtrack to the highlight reel that was his way of life and it's not hard to draw the

connections as to why — A Pirate Looks At Folly...?

Longtime friends and neighbors Nancy Hildebrand and Johnny Haithcock touched on Bubba's affection for Buffett, recounting the shows caught from local coverbands, the guitar pick that may still be in his wallet from a show caught in Oklahoma, and the toast made with a sixer of LandShark on the day the Tropical Troubadour died.

All things considered, those who knew Bubba best referred to his greatest gift as making sure everyone was welcome.

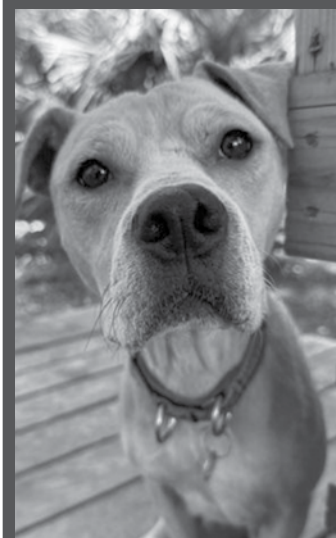
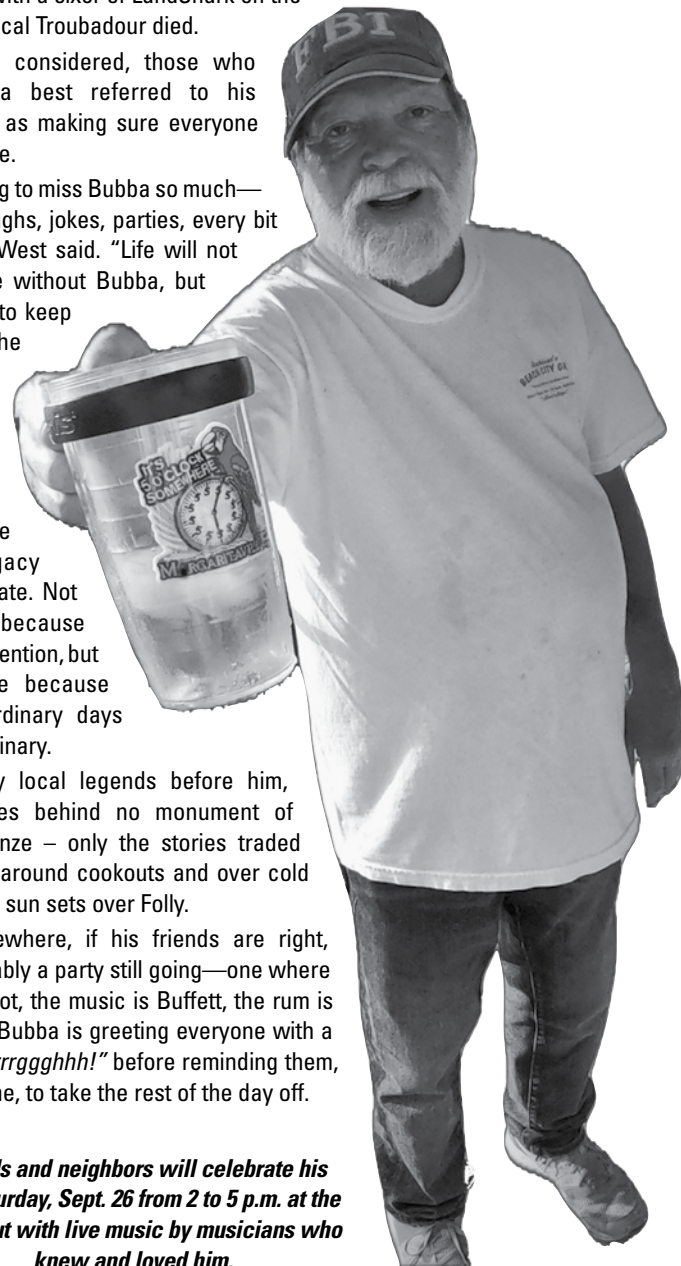
"I am going to miss Bubba so much—the talks, laughs, jokes, parties, every bit of it," Kelly West said. "Life will not be the same without Bubba, but we promise to keep his spirit in the sky alive and well on Sandbar Lane."

Perhaps that's the lasting legacy of Folly's Pirate. Not memorable because he sought attention, but unforgettable because he made ordinary days feel extraordinary.

Like many local legends before him, Bubba leaves behind no monument of brick or bronze — only the stories traded on porches, around cookouts and over cold drinks as the sun sets over Folly.

And somewhere, if his friends are right, there's probably a party still going—one where the food is hot, the music is Buffett, the rum is flowing and Bubba is greeting everyone with a booming "Arrrrrrrghhh!" before reminding them, one more time, to take the rest of the day off.

Friends and neighbors will celebrate his life Saturday, Sept. 26 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Washout with live music by musicians who knew and loved him.



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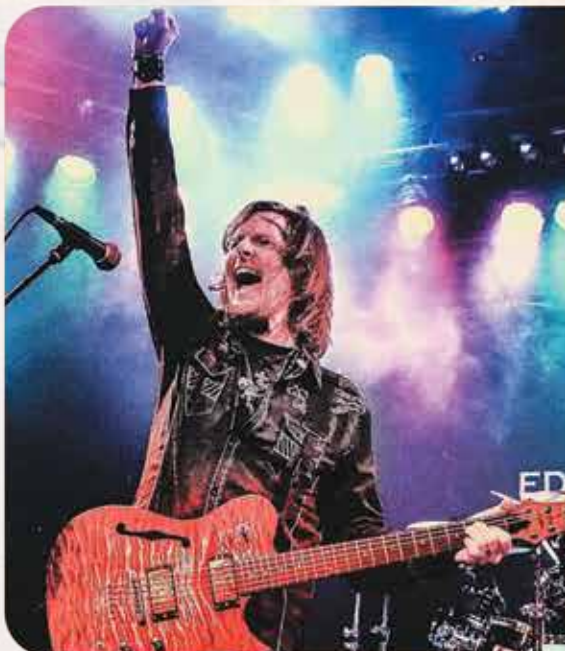
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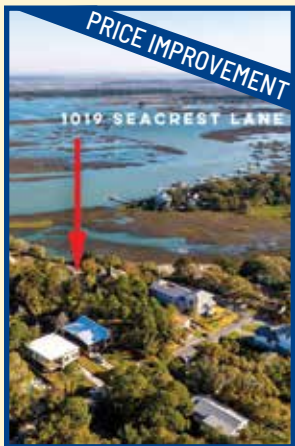
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Getting Crabby with the Feds

Lawsuit seeks federal protections for horseshoe crabs found along SC coast

from Staff Reports

A coalition of conservation organizations is asking a federal court to require the Trump administration to reconsider protections for the American horseshoe crab, a species commonly found along South Carolina’s coastline and one that scientists say is increasingly under pressure from habitat loss and commercial harvesting.

The lawsuit, filed May 28 in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by the Center for Biological Diversity, challenges a February decision by the National Marine Fisheries Service denying Endangered Species Act protections for the species.

Although often mistaken for crabs, horseshoe crabs are ancient arthropods that have existed for more than 450 million years, surviving multiple mass extinctions. Each spring, they emerge from coastal waters to spawn on sandy beaches, where thousands of eggs become an important food source for migratory shorebirds making their annual journey north.

Conservationists say those spawning events have become less common as horseshoe crab populations have declined sharply over the past several decades.



According to the Center for Biological Diversity, populations have fallen by more than 70% in some areas because of habitat loss and increased harvesting. Horseshoe crabs are collected for use as bait in commercial eel and whelk fisheries, while biomedical companies capture the animals to extract their distinctive blue blood, which is used to test medical devices and injectable drugs for bacterial contamination.

The organization says more than one million horseshoe crabs were harvested in the United States in 2024, nearly double the number taken seven years earlier, despite the availability of synthetic alternatives that are already approved and widely used in Europe and parts of Asia.

“Horseshoe crabs have survived meteor impacts and ice ages, but they’re facing their biggest threat yet: us,” said Danny

Waltz, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, in a statement announcing the lawsuit.

The group argues that declining horseshoe crab numbers also threaten other coastal wildlife, including the federally threatened red knot, a long-distance migratory shorebird that depends heavily on horseshoe crab eggs during its 19,000-mile migration between South America and the Arctic.

The lawsuit stems from a 2024 petition submitted by the Center and 25 other organizations requesting Endangered Species Act protections. Federal officials rejected that request earlier this year, prompting the legal challenge.

If successful, the lawsuit would require federal wildlife officials to revisit whether the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act. Such a designation could lead to additional safeguards for horseshoe crabs and their coastal habitat.

For coastal communities like Folly Beach, where healthy beaches support both wildlife and tourism, the outcome could have implications that extend well beyond one of the ocean’s oldest surviving species.

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A Phoenix on the Tide

Cheyenne Twilley and the future of S.C. Coast

by Tom Mullikin | SCDNR Director

Long before dawn spills across the salt marshes of the South Carolina Lowcountry, the tide is already at work. It slips quietly through winding creeks, cradles oyster reefs, carries shrimp boats toward open water, and breathes life into one of the richest ecosystems in North America. Along these shores, where spartina grass bends with the wind and brown pelicans glide effortlessly above the surf, conservation is more than a profession. It is a calling.

The world has celebrated ocean champions such as Sylvia Earle and Jacques Cousteau. These are voices that taught generations to see the sea not simply as water, but as wonder. Every place, though, has its own stewards.

Along South Carolina's coast, one of those voices that now belongs to the world is Cheyenne Twilley. Her story doesn't begin in a boardroom or behind a podium. It begins with survival.

Since childhood, Twilley has spent much of her life navigating an illness that required years of care in pediatric oncology, an experience that would shape the way

she sees the world. She does not view any challenge with fear but always with gratitude. Those who know her speak less about what she endured than about what emerged: a woman whose determination is matched only by her optimism, and whose belief in people is as strong as her love for the coast.

Like a phoenix rising, she transformed hardship into purpose. Today, as Chief of Education, Outreach, and Information for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), Twilley occupies a role that reaches far beyond communications. She serves as a translator between science and everyday life, helping South Carolinians understand that healthy marshes protect homes, thriving estuaries sustain fisheries, and clean beaches are not simply beautiful. These biomes are essential.

Twilley has spent her career building unlikely partnerships. As a coastal resilience planner, she worked alongside scientists, engineers, elected officials, and local communities preparing for rising seas and stronger storms. She founded an international

World Ocean Day cleanup that united volunteers at eight coastal sites across three countries, proving that stewardship can begin with something as simple as picking up a piece of litter and grow into a movement.

Twilley's résumé includes dual master's degrees from the College of Charleston, her current pursuit of a PhD in coastal health science at the University of South Carolina, and leadership roles advancing coastal conservation nationally. But credentials tell only part of the story. Those who have spent a few minutes with Twilley have recognized that conversations quickly turn away from titles and toward people: The child discovering a horseshoe crab for the first time. The family learning why oyster reefs matter. The volunteer who arrives for a beach cleanup and leaves with a lifelong commitment to conservation.

She understands something every great conservationist eventually learns: that people protect what they come to love.

Perhaps that's why Twilley feels so at home in South Carolina. This is a state where blackwater rivers still wind through



ancient cypress forests, where loggerhead turtles return each summer to nest beneath moonlit skies, and where the rhythm of life is still measured, in many places, by the tides. These landscapes have shaped generations of South Carolinians. They deserve champions who understand both their beauty and their fragility.

Twilley is one of those champions. Her life reminds us that resilience is not simply recovering from hardship. It's choosing, daily, to leave the world better than you found it. Along South Carolina's coast, where the marsh meets the sea and every sunrise promises renewal, she is helping write the next chapter of coastal conservation. A story rooted not only in science but in hope.



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The Pain of Progress

Center Street construction raises the difficult question: Who bears the burden when a community invests in its future?

by by Lorne Chambers | Editor

As the Center Street Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements Project nears completion, many businesses are still reeling from lost revenue during a summer mired in construction. Often, visitors to Folly had to navigate a labyrinth of building materials, temporary fencing, and rerouted sidewalks just to get to their favorite breakfast or lunch spot. There has also been virtually no parking along Center Street during the busiest months of the year, forcing some visitors to not even bother coming to Folly at all.

Even still, Folly Beach Mayor Chris Bizzell said the traffic counter on the bridge has logged more cars coming and going this year than at the same time last year. He also pointed out that occupancy rates on Folly home rentals are also slightly up this year despite of the construction, according to AirDNA, a tool that tracks performance metrics using data from platforms like Airbnb and Vrbo.

But Bizzell acknowledges that these statistics do not mean that business is up along Center Street where the construction has been concentrated during the most inopportune time of the year for restaurants and shops who rely on that increase in visitors to sustain them through the leaner, cooler months.

To say it has been challenging for some local businesses is an understatement. Not only are owners already dealing with rising rent, skyrocketing food costs, high gas prices, and inflation, but they've also been asked to bear the burden of lost revenue as a result of the ongoing construction, which has unfortunately lingered longer than most expected.

"We've had days where the sidewalks are basically non-existent. Guests have had to jump through hoops just to get to us," said Perry Freeman, owner of Coconut Joe's on the corner of Center Street and West Ashley Avenue. "It's been our slowest Summer since being open on Folly, and it's not even close."

At the opposite end of Center Street, The Washout has faced similar challenges, with construction significantly hurting business.



"Since our open patio is so close to the street, the dust and noise have scared away many clients. I have personally observed people entering the restaurant only to leave shortly after because the noise and dust were too overwhelming," said owner Greg Marshall, who noted that the impact was much more pronounced during lunch hours than during dinner hours when crews were not working. "Additionally, I noticed many people walking on the other side of the street, bypassing the restaurant altogether as access did not feel inviting."

That's not to say that across Center Street things have been any better for the restaurants and shops on the East Side of the road.

"There's no sugarcoating it; this construction has thrown a wrench into things," said Drop-In owner Kristina Ogden. "Traffic on Center Street

has been a mess, and we know some visitors have shown up ready for a beach vacation only to be greeted by dust, detours, and no place to park."

It's not just the restaurants who have felt the squeeze either.

"We have struggled in the past because our office is outside of the tourist loop," said Richard Brendel, who owns Flipper Finders, a boat tour and kayak rental company located when you first come onto the island. "When you add the construction, the tourists don't know where to go."

Despite this, Brendel said his company has done OK this summer, but noted that most of his business has come from pre-booked online reservations or over the phone.

"I have definitely had less walk-up traffic," said Brendel, who added that he's used this

year to remodel the shop.

Most agree that the project, which has been long planned and long overdue, is vital to Folly's future and will be a major improvement, both functionally and aesthetically. But that hasn't stopped many from venting their frustrations, either online or complaining directly to the mayor and city council, or hanging banners outside their shop that proclaim their still open for business, but openly questioning the wisdom behind doing this kind of work during the busy season.

"On a positive note, I believe the changes will ultimately be beneficial for the business in the long term," said Marshall of the massive project, which involved installing large new underground storm drainage pipes and new stormwater lines and check valves to clear standing water after high tides or downpours, constructing bioretention cells (rain gardens) to absorb runoff, adding permeable parking spaces, and repaving the asphalt, adding pervious PowerBLOCK pavers, reinstalling engraved commemorative bricks, planting additional palmetto trees, and upgrading street lighting.

"It's not glamorous. But we also know this project has been a long time coming, and Folly will be better for it," said Ogden. Like Brendel, she noted that Drop-In's business has been solid this summer, in spite of the construction. "That said, it does make us wonder how much more those numbers could have grown if visitors hadn't been deterred from coming to the island in the first place."

That has not been the case just down the street at Shooobie's Ice Cream, where owner Cody Brooks says the pain has been very real for him and his family.

"This summer's Center Street construction had a significant impact on our business," said Brooks, who, like Freeman and others along Folly's main drag, questions the timing of the project more than anything.

continued on page 15 ...

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... continued from page 14

Brooks also owns The Pineapple Hut, across the street between West Erie and West Cooper avenues. Next to the Pineapple Hut is Surfer Betty, a newcomer to Center Street this year. It has not been summer that co-owner Melissa Anderson was hoping for when she set up her cute boutique trailer just off the sidewalk and opened for business.

"This would be the time of year that we would be squirreling away money. And now we're having to be creative," she said. "This year more than any year it's important to support your local businesses on Folly."

Either deservedly or not, local officials have been forced to endure the brunt of the ire from business owners, many of whom are not pleased with the timing of the project. Whether or not it could have been avoided doesn't seem to matter much to those who missed their one chance to lasso the summer tourist herd when they were here.

"We knew this was going to be about a 16-month project," said Mayor Bizzell, noting that meant one summer was going to be impacted no matter when the construction began. He called it one of the biggest infrastructure projects that Folly has ever undertaken and further explained that the timelines are dictated by the grant source, not by the city.

"When you get the money, it has to be utilized. We're looking at what, \$12 million? Folly Beach can't foot that bill," Bizzell said. "We needed outside funding on that one."

Around \$8 million of that amount was allocated from the South Carolina Infrastructure

Investment Program (SCIIP) and administered by the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA).

"They kind of manage that timeline and how the money is spent and when it is spent," said Bizzell. "So we don't have a lot of latitude to say, 'you know what, we're going to hold this up for 6 months and then come back after the season.'"

This is little consolation to business owners dealing with the pain of progress right now.

"From what I understand, the project needed to be completed over the course of a single summer. Whether that was the only feasible approach or if there were opportunities to lessen the impact on local businesses, I can't say with certainty," said Brooks. "What I can say is that the disruption resulted in a substantial financial loss for us during what is typically our busiest season. Like many small businesses, we rely heavily on the summer months to carry us through the rest of the year."

Coconut Joe's Freeman is even less diplomatic in his criticism, calling it "one of the dumbest, most irresponsible construction jobs" he'd ever seen from a timing and government standpoint.

"Folly leadership has just told us, plain and simple, sorry. They 'sympathize' with me. It's for the 'greater good.' We are 'in this together.' Well, it doesn't feel that way. You don't pay bills with that," said Freeman. "And if it is so, then why aren't they doing anything remotely to help?"

Freeman suggested temporarily lifting the hospitality tax to promote business could have helped. Brooks offered the idea of creating an

impact assistance fund or similar program to help offset some of the losses experienced by those directly impacted by the construction.

"Looking ahead, I hope this experience encourages conversations about ways to better support businesses during major infrastructure projects," said Brooks.

Planet Follywood co-owner DJ Rich has a unique perspective in that he owns a business on Center Street, but also serves on City Council.

"Look, originally it was going to be 18 months. Then it was 14 or 15," Rich said. "Then the company doing the work was like, 'Hey, we can probably do it in nine.' So we all had that in our head, and we got our hopes up. But we always knew this was most likely going to be a 12-16-month project."

Rich said that the contractors ran into some unexpected surprises once they started unearthing the decades-old pipes, which set them back significantly, pushing later into summer than the contractor had originally hoped.

"Of course, they run into issues like redundant water lines, there was a problem with gas lines, plus your typical delays. There's a lot of other factors too, like street festivals and weather that throw the timeline off," explained Rich. "Projects rarely finish on schedule. But this one is actually taking the exact amount of time it was originally predicted to take."

That's not to say that the business owner in him hasn't felt frustrated with the construction. He understands people's anger.

"It's hot. Traffic is backed up. Everybody is hitting their boiling point. There have been times when I've been absolutely furious, like in May when they were out in front of my place for a month," he said. "It does hurt. You do lose business. You have to do the best you can. It's part of life. There's never a good time to do a project like this. Any time you're going to do it, you're going to have losses."

Bizzell also understands the frustration but points out that the long-term benefits for local businesses and to the island as a whole far outweigh the pinch being felt now.

But for many, the problem with the project isn't all about the construction. It's also about the communication between City Hall, the contractors, and the local business community.

"I have heard numerous complaints from businesses about the lack of updates and information regarding how construction would directly affect them," said Vince Perna, president of Folly Association of Business (FAB). "I believe the city failed in its

responsibility to communicate better with both businesses and residents."

"I'm sure it's not one's direct fault, and no one does this on purpose, but it feels like there wasn't good communication between the city and the businesses to be able to map this out better," said Surfer Betty's Anderson.

Bizzell acknowledges that, despite the city's efforts to keep the public informed, some frustrations remain. He says that in addition to posting updates on the city's website and social media channels, officials have provided bi-weekly construction timelines to FAB leaders, held numerous public meetings leading up to the project, and established a City Business Liaison to help answer questions. Ultimately, Bizzell said, the city can provide information, but it can't ensure that people will read it, attend public meetings, or engage with city staff before concerns arise.

"Short term, it might not be the greatest," Bizzell admitted. "But it's one of these things that is a necessary evil. 'If we didn't do it now, we'd be sitting here complaining about flooding.'"

While some are lashing out at the mayor and council over their purported lack of communication during the process, others, like The Washout's Marshall, are trying to stay positive.

"The mayor and his staff have improved their communication regarding the construction schedule. Furthermore, they have been open to feedback throughout the process. We appreciate the more positive tone and actions coming from the mayor and his staff," said Marshall, pointing out that when concerns were raised about the impact of construction leading up to the Fourth of July weekend, work on Center Street halted at 3 p.m. on July 3.

Drop-In's Ogden shares a similar sentiment.

"We're grateful, we're patient, and we can't wait to celebrate the completion with everyone right along with a cold drink and a sandwich."

Bizzell can't wait either. He said the city hopes to have an islandwide celebration in the coming weeks as a way to bring people to Folly, spend money at local businesses, and be happy that we have hopefully mitigated some of the flooding concerns in the island's business district for the foreseeable future.

Someday, visitors strolling Center Street likely won't remember the months of fencing, excavators, and orange barrels. Business owners will. Whether the improvements ultimately justify the difficult summer of 2026 may depend on how quickly customers return after the dust settles.

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JULY 2

A SHOWING BECOMES A STAYCATION

Police responded to a West Arctic Avenue condominium after the owner received several days of notifications that the electronic door lock was repeatedly being used. A property manager discovered food, clothing, electronics, toiletries, and other signs that someone had moved into the vacant unit. The suspected squatter had previously received the door code while viewing properties but had never rented the condo. He returned while officers were investigating and admitted staying there since June 25. Police issued him a trespass notice and later obtained an arrest warrant.

JULY 2

BEACH FIGHT SENDS MAN TO HOSPITAL

Officers responded to an active fight at a public beach access and found one man bleeding heavily from facial injuries. Witnesses said another beachgoer became angry because the injured man was recording video, shouted anti-Mexican remarks, threw his phone and wallet into the ocean, and repeatedly punched him. The victim was reportedly attempting to de-escalate a separate confrontation when he was attacked. He was transported to the hospital with possible nasal and orbital fractures. The alleged aggressor was arrested for second-degree assault and battery.

JULY 4

TOO MUCH SQUAT

An officer stopped a pickup truck on West Ashley Avenue after noticing it had an illegal "squatted" suspension. Measurements showed the front of the truck sat approximately 8 inches higher than the rear, exceeding South Carolina's legal limit. The driver received a ticket for operating a vehicle with an unlawful suspension height. Because police considered the truck unsafe to operate on a public roadway, it was towed from the scene.

JULY 4

SECRET AGENT MAN

Shortly after midnight, officers approached a pickup truck parked in an alley near a Center Street church. The driver said he was waiting for a friend who had gone to a nearby convenience store and then claimed he was an undercover SLED agent whose credentials were in the backseat. Police reported that his speech was slow and slurred and that he offered several confusing and contradictory explanations about his supposed law enforcement career before acknowledging he did not work for SLED.

JULY 4

RED, WHITE, BLUE, AND DISORDERLY

Police were called to a domestic disturbance near Center Street and began searching for an intoxicated man who had reportedly fled with keys needed by his wife. An officer found a man matching the description outside a nearby convenience store. Police said he was unsteady, smelled strongly of alcohol, and refused to provide identification or follow instructions. He was arrested for disorderly conduct and public intoxication. While awaiting transport, the man allegedly shouted profanities and racial slurs in front of police and fire personnel.

JULY 4

BENCH PRESSED

Police were called after someone reported a man passed out on a bench outside a Center Street convenience store. Officers found the man breathing but had difficulty waking him. Once conscious, he

reportedly could barely sit upright or form sentences and instead began screaming. Police also found a bottle of liquor in his possession. He was arrested for disorderly conduct and public intoxication. Because he continued yelling, thrashing around, and refusing to cooperate, paramedics secured him to a stretcher and transported him to the hospital for evaluation.

JULY 8

A CLEAN GETAWAY

A man visited police headquarters to report an argument with his roommate over his habit of smoking inside their East Erie Avenue residence. He said the woman threw his phone across the porch, sprayed him and his bed with water, and then returned with an unidentified cleaning solution and sprayed him again. Officers contacted the roommate, who admitted spraying the substance and showed them the bottle. Police determined through its distinctive aroma that the mysterious chemical weapon was a vinegar-based household cleaner. The woman was cited for simple assault and released.

JULY 15

Not Quite a Tea Party

An officer found a man fast asleep behind the wheel of a legally parked pickup truck in a Center Street parking lot shortly before 4 a.m. Inside were an open 12-pack of Twisted Tea and several open cans that were reportedly still cold and sweating. When awakened, the man appeared confused, smelled strongly of alcohol, and repeatedly reached toward the officer and his flashlight. Police also spotted drug paraphernalia inside the truck. The man was arrested for public intoxication and sleeping overnight in a public place. His truck remained parked at the scene.

JULY 18

GIG ECONOMY

An officer followed a Jeep after observing it weaving along Folly Road. The driver said he was a musician and had performed a gig earlier that evening at a Center Street bar and initially claimed to have consumed two drinks before "bouncing around" afterward. Following field sobriety tests, he revised

that estimate to four or five. Police arrested him for DUI and found suspected psilocybin mushrooms hidden inside one of his shoes, though the barefoot driver did not claim the substance. A breath test later registered a blood-alcohol level of 0.170.

JULY 19

WAITING FOR BREAKFAST

Police investigated a suspicious vehicle occupied by three people outside a Folly Beach restaurant early Sunday morning. Officers reported seeing several open alcoholic beverages and a holstered firearm inside the vehicle. The occupants said they had driven from Aiken to spend the day at the beach and were waiting for the restaurant to open for breakfast. Police noted the restaurant was already open when they arrived. Although the vehicle's owner was cooperative and respectful, he received a citation for public disorderly conduct.

JULY 21

LIFTED LAUNDRY

A woman reported that her clothing had vanished from a Folly Beach laundromat after she left it unattended for four days. The laundromat owner reviewed surveillance footage but could see only shadowy figures and was unable to identify a suspect or obtain a license plate number. The owner also advised the woman that she could not reasonably expect her laundry to remain at the business after being left there from Saturday until Tuesday. The woman acknowledged that her clothes were unlikely to be recovered but wanted the incident documented.

JULY 22

SHRIMP HAPPENS

Police responded to a Folly Road grocery store after a man allegedly bypassed the registers with frozen food and shoved a manager who followed him into the parking lot. Officers quickly located the suspect's vehicle and recovered several bags of frozen shrimp, chicken lo mien, egg rolls, fried rice, and a bottle of lemonade. The man received citations for petit larceny, simple assault, and driving under suspension before being transported to the Charleston County Detention Center.

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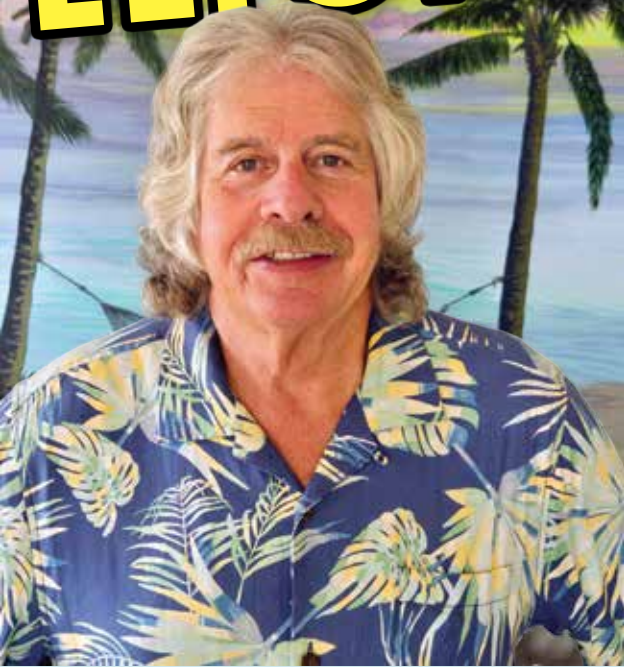
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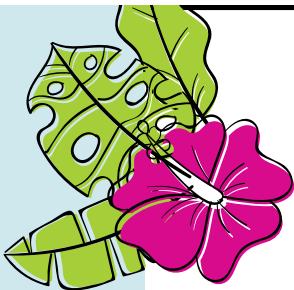
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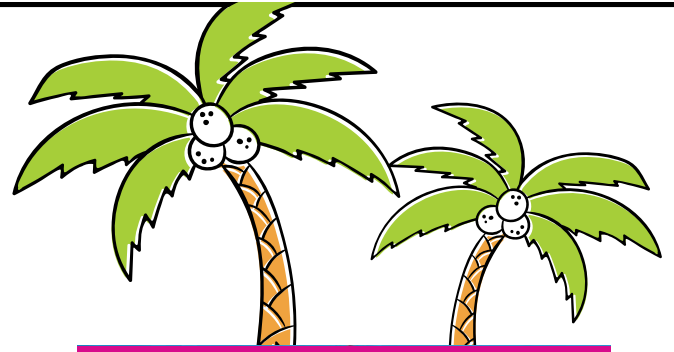
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Women and Waves

Wahine Classic celebrates 24 years of empowering women in the water

by Liv Dennis | Contributing Writer

On Folly Beach, that support begins in the water.

As the sun rose, cars stretched along East Ashley Avenue as surfers carried boards toward the shoreline. Sponsor tents lined the beach, families and friends gathered in lawn chairs and competitors of every age prepared to paddle out at the Washout. By the time the first heats began, cheers echoed from the sand—not just for winners but for every woman and girl who caught a wave.

For one weekend each year, one of the Southeast's most well-known surf breaks becomes something different.

The 24th Annual Folly Beach Wahine Classic returned to Folly Beach July 25-26, bringing together nearly 250 competitors for what organizers say is the largest all-female surf contest on the East Coast and South Carolina's only all-female surfing competition.

"Wahine," pronounced wah-HEE-neh, is a Polynesian word meaning woman, and for nearly a quarter century, the event has lived up to that definition by celebrating female surfers of every age and ability.

"We are in our 24th year and it started as an opportunity to introduce surfing and make surfing more accessible to women," said Nicole Elko, director of the Folly Beach Wahine Classic. "24 years ago, there were hardly any women in the water. Now, of course, there are a lot more women surfers out there."

What began as a grassroots effort by a small group of Folly Beach women has grown into one of the premier women's surfing events in the Southeast. While participation has expanded dramatically, Elko said the mission has remained remarkably consistent.

"It's been a very consistent event, with its mission really not changing over a quarter century," she said.

Today, the Folly Beach Wahine Classic is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing the strength of surfer women through competition, camaraderie and community. Beyond the surf contest itself, organizers emphasize creating an environment where girls and women feel welcomed, encouraged and empowered.

This year's competition showcased that mission through divisions spanning nearly every stage of life.

Among the crowd favorites was the tandem division, where two surfers ride a single board together, often attempting tricks, handstands and other creative maneuvers.

Another highlight was the Teeny Wahine



division, featuring the event's youngest competitors.

"Our youngest competitor is two years old," Elko said. "The parents actually go in the water with the little ones and push them in on waves. It's my favorite."

At the other end of the spectrum were the professional divisions, where top surfers competed for cash prizes, including a \$1,000 first-place award. The event also featured the Goddess division for surfers aged 50 and older. This year's oldest competitor was 75 years old.

Competitors traveled to Folly Beach from across the Southeast and beyond, with surfers representing states including Florida and Virginia, along with competitors from Puerto Rico, Hawaii, California and even Brazil.

While the contest crowns champions each year, Elko believes the event's lasting impact extends well beyond the awards podium.

"There aren't that many women-only surf contests," she said. "There's a real sense of community here."

That sense of community was evident throughout the weekend. Competitors

cheered one another from the lineup, celebrated successful rides with high-fives and offered encouragement after difficult heats. Rather than fierce rivalries, the atmosphere reflected mutual respect among women who share a passion for the ocean.

"It's the only weekend of the entire year that you go to the Washout and there's nothing but girls in the water," Elko said.

For many families, the Wahine Classic has become an annual tradition. Young surfers who once competed in beginner divisions now return to battle in the professional ranks.

"Seeing the girls that have come up through it is definitely the most rewarding part," Elko said. "They came to their first contest in the Push-N-Surf or novice division and now they're signed up for pro."

She said the event becomes much more than a competition for many participants.

"This is a really important part of a lot of girls' lives," Elko said. "It's what they do. It's their extracurricular activity."

The same sense of connection extends to older competitors as well.

"I'm in the Goddess division and we all just have such a special bond," she said.

Although trophies and prize bags await the weekend's winners, Elko hopes spectators leave with something even more meaningful.

"I hope that women, and men, all see that the message here is that you can do it," she said. "Whatever it is, you can do it. It's really to give women that knowledge of their strength, to empower them and let them know not to be afraid."

She said that message extends well beyond surfing.

"Get your feet in the sand and jump in the water," Elko said. "That's an analogy for life. It's not just surfing. You can be whatever you want."

For one weekend each summer, that message comes to life on the shores of Folly Beach. For 24 years, the Wahine Classic has created a place where first-time surfers, seasoned professionals and generations of women can share the same lineup, encourage one another and celebrate the strength found both in the ocean and within themselves.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Tom Crowley & The Speakers
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
Koko’s: 2-5pm Super Reggae Man; 6-9pm Tom Crowley
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm Thomas Obrien; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: 12-3pm Nathan Calhoun; 4-7pm Michael Duff Duo; 8:30-11:30 DJ Smartz
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Dan Marsh
Rita’s: 6-9pm Hollifield
Taco Boy: 7pm until DJ Miketech & Erin Elyse
The Washout: 8-11pm River Mason

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

The Bounty Bar: 9pm The Sunday Sessions
The Crab Shack: 1-3pm Dave Grunstra
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Seitu; 6-9pm Dakota Solo
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm DJ Lotis; 7-10pm Spud Fischer
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy Trio
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Johnny Holliday Duo; 6-9pm Danny May
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Hope
Rita’s: 6-9pm Thomas Champagne
The Washout: 6-9pm Reggae

MONDAY, August 3

The Bounty Bar: 7-9pm Trivia AF
Chico Feo: 6-10pm Songwriters Soapbox
The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Jeff Houts
KoKo’s: 5-8pm Super Reggae Man
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Donnie Polk
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo
Rita’s: 6-9pm Sufferin’ Moses

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Sam Rae
Drop In Deli: 7pm-12am Honky Tonk Tuesday
KoKo’s: 6-8pm Music Bingo
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Kyle Herring
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy
Rita’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark

Wednesday, AUGUST 5

Chico Feo: 6:30-9pm Johnny Holiday
The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Drop In Deli: 7:30-9:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Liam Murphy
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Johnny Knuckles
Rita’s: 6-9pm Krystal and friends
The Washout: 5-9pm Folly Art Village; 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton + Friends
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Bender Funk; 10pm-1am Karaoke
LowLife Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Station
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Eric Vaughn
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Karaoke
Rita’s: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man
The Washout: 7-10pm Dan’s Tramp Stamp Duo

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Moondog
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Bender Funk
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark; 9-11pm DJ Lotis
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Matt Mackelcan
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Travellin’ Kine

Rita’s: 6-9pm Lady Jane
Taco Boy: 7pm until DJ Miketech & Erin Elyse
The Washout: 8-11pm Johnny Holliday & The Silver Lining

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm The Riverfront Rascals
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Bubba Bryant; 6-9pm Gator Food Solo
Loggerhead’s: 2-5pm Sean Ryan Smith; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Super Reggae Man; 5-8pm Liam Murphy; 8:30-11:30pm DJ Saan
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Longshot Gamble
Rita’s: 6-9pm Jack Triebold
Taco Boy: 7pm until DJ Miketech & Erin Elyse
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

Bounty Bar: 9pm Sunday Sessions
The Crab Shack: 1-3pm Dave Grunstra
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Johnny Holliday; 6-9pm Krystal Duo
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm DJ Lotis; 7-10pm Spud Fisher
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy Trio
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Return of the Mack; 6-9pm Danny May
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Piano D
Rita’s: 6-9pm Gracie
The Washout: 6-9pm Reggae

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

The Bounty Bar: 7-9pm Trivia AF
Chico Feo: 6-10pm Songwriters Soapbox
The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Jeff Houts
KoKo’s: 5-8pm Super Reggae Man
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Jaykob Kendrick
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo
Rita’s: 6-9pm Sufferin’ Moses

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Sam Rae
Drop In Deli: 7pm-12am Honky Tonk Tuesday
KoKo’s: 6-8pm Music Bingo
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Kyle Herring
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy
Rita’s: 6-9pm David Sink

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

Chico Feo: 6:30-9pm Johnny Holiday
Drop In Deli: 7:30-9:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Liam Murphy
Rita’s: 6-9pm Gene Butler and Rylie
The Washout: 5-9pm Folly Art Village; 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton + Friends
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Bender Funk; 10pm-1am Karaoke
LowLife Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Station
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Matt Mackelcan
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Karaoke
Rita’s: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man
The Washout: 7-10pm Dan’s Tramp Duo

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Foly Bublé
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Liam Murphy
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark; 9-11pm DJ Lotis
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Eric Vaughn
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Shakin’ Martini’s
Rita’s: 6-9pm Sean Smith
Taco Boy: 7pm until DJ Miketech & Erin Elyse
The Washout: 8-11pm Dan’s Tramp Stamp & The Money Bags

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Jordan Igoe & Friends
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Michael Duff Duo; 6-9pm Tom Crowley
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm Thomas Obrien; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Nathan Calhoun Duo; 5-8pm Liam Murphy; 8:30-11:30pm DJ Smartz
Planet Follywood: 8pm-12am Stono

Rita’s: 6-9pm Lola Grace
Taco Boy: 7pm until DJ Miketech & Erin Elyse
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Bounty Bar: 9pm Sunday Sessions
The Crab Shack: 1-3pm Dave Grunstra
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Seitu; 6-9pm Molly D.
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm DJ Lotis; 7-10pm Spud Fischer
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy Trio
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Bender Funk; 6-9pm Dakota Solo
Planet Follywood: 8pm-12am Hope
Rita’s: 6-9pm Jack Triebold
The Washout: 6-9pm Reggae

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

The Bounty Bar: 7-9pm Trivia AF
Chico Feo: 6-10pm Songwriters Soapbox
The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Jeffs Houts
KoKo’s: 5-8pm Super Reggae Man
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Donnie Polk
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo
Rita’s: 6-9pm Sufferin’ Moses

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Sam Rae
Drop In Deli: 7pm-12am Honky Tonk Tuesday
KoKo’s: 6-8pm Music Bingo
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Kyle Herring
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy
Rita’s: 6-9pm Hollyn Belle

Wednesday, August 19

Chico Feo: 6:30-9pm Johnny Holiday
The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Drop In Deli: 7:30-9:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Liam Murphy
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Johnny Knuckles
Rita’s: 6-9pm Weigh Station
The Washout: 5-9pm Folly Art Village; 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton + Friends
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Bender Funk; 10pm-1am Karaoke
LowLife Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Station
Pinky’s: 6-9pm The Bozswells
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Karaoke
Rita’s: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man
The Washout: 7-10pm Johnny Holliday Duo

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Ashes of Old Ways
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Eric Vaughn
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark; 9-11pm DJ Lotis
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Danny May
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Macelyn Batton
Rita’s: 6-9pm Derick Cribb
Taco Boy: 7pm until DJ Miketech & Erin Elyse
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Ashes of Old Ways
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Return of the Mac; 6-9pm The Bozswells
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm Kenley Young
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Super Reggae Man; 5-8pm Tom Crowley; 8:30-11:30 See Jane Spin
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Wild Current
Rita’s: 6-9pm Krystal and friends
Taco Boy: 7pm until DJ Miketech & Erin Elyse
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Bounty Bar: 9pm Sunday Sessions
The Crab Shack: 1-3pm Dave Grunstra
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Seitu; 6-9pm Tom Crowley
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm DJ Lotis; 7-10pm Spud Fischer
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy Trio
Pinky’s: 1-4pm The Bozswells; 6-9pm Molly D.
Planet Follywood: 8pm-12am Piano D
Rita’s: 6-9pm Gracie
The Washout: 6-9pm Reggae

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

The Bounty Bar: 7-9pm Trivia AF
Chico Feo: 6-10pm Songwriters Soapbox
The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Jeff Houts
KoKo’s: 5-8pm Super Reggae Man
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Jaykob Kendrick
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo
Rita’s: 6-9pm Sufferin’ Moses

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Sam Rae
Drop In Deli: 7pm-12am Honky Tonk Tuesday
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Kyle Herring
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy
Rita’s: 6-9pm Hardened Molasses

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

Chico Feo: 6:30-9pm Johnny Holiday
The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Drop In Deli: 7:30-9:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Liam Murphy
Rita’s: 6-9pm TBD
The Washout: 5-9pm Folly Art Village; 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton + Friends
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Bender Funk; 10pm-1am Karaoke
LowLife Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Station
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Tom Crowley
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Karaoke
Rita’s: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man
The Washout: 7-10pm Johnny Holliday Duo

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

The Bounty Bar: 10pm DysFUNKtion
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Bender Funk
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark; 9-11pm DJ Lotis
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Relay Relay
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Mayson Trio
Rita’s: 6-9pm Weigh Station
Taco Boy: 7pm until DJ Miketech & Erin Elyse
The Washout: 8-11pm Eddie Bush

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

The Bounty Bar: 10pm What’s Up Chuck
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Nathan Calhoun Duo; 6-9pm Michael Duff
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm Thomas Obrien
Pinky’s: 12-3pm Liam Murphy; 4-7pm Gator Food; 8:30-11:30pm DJ Smartz
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Longshot Gamble
Rita’s: 6-9pm Kenley Young
Taco Boy: 7pm until DJ Miketech & Erin Elyse
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Muisic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

The Bounty Bar: 9pm The Sunday Sessions
The Crab Shack: 1-3pm Dave Grunstra
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Seitu; 6-9pm Michael Duff
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm DJ Lotis; 7-10pm Spud Fischer
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy Trio
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Robert C.; 6-9pm Danny May
Rita’s: 6-9pm Lady Jane
The Washout: 6-9pm Reggae

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

The Bounty Bar: 7-9pm Trivia AF
Chico Feo: 6-10pm Songwriters Soapbox
The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Jeff Houts
KoKo’s: 5-8pm Super Reggae Man
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Donnie Polk
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo
Rita’s: 6-9pm David Sink

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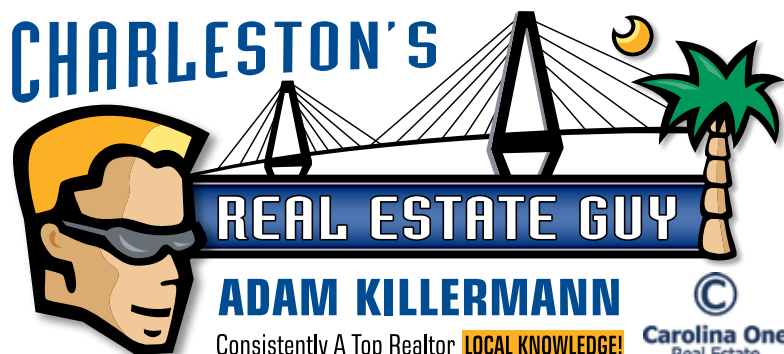
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Here Comes the Walrus

Creative raw bar sets up Sundays at Revelry Brewing

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

When Connor White opened The Walrus Raw Bar inside Holy City Brewing in North Charleston three years ago, he built the concept around one simple idea: fresh seafood served with a healthy dose of creativity.

Now he's bringing that same approach to Folly Beach.

Since launching weekly Sunday pop-ups at Revelry Brewing over Memorial Day weekend, White says the response has exceeded expectations, transforming what is traditionally a slower day into one of the brewery's busiest.

"My favorite feedback we've gotten so far is that The Walrus has made Sundays the new Saturday," White said.

The partnership has been something White had hoped would happen for quite some time.

"I've been trying to get my foot in the door on Folly for a while," he said.

Each Sunday, White and a small crew from The Walrus set up shop in the back corner of Revelry's hidden alley off Center Street, serving fresh oysters alongside an ever-changing menu of specials. Rather than repeating the same offerings each week, White treats the pop-ups as an opportunity to experiment.

"We try to curate a whole new menu every week," he said. "There might be a different specialty dressed oyster, a different oyster shooter. It gives us the creative freedom to really explore the boundaries."

That creativity has expanded beyond the raw bar. Last month, White brought a flat-top grill for the first time, introducing grilled items like a poblano shrimp taco that sold out within three hours.

The rotating menus have also helped create a sense of anticipation among regulars. While the first few weeks drew mostly beachgoers and curious passersby, White says the crowds now include loyal



The Walrus customers making the drive from Park Circle alongside a growing number of Folly locals.

On a typical Sunday, White and two or three members of his team shuck roughly 800 oysters while keeping up with the steady stream of customers.

The relaxed setting at Revelry has proven to be a natural fit, he said.

"It matches so well, our oyster bar fits perfectly into that corner and even matches Revelry's colors," White said.

With the Sunday pop-ups continuing to gain momentum, White says diners can

expect more surprises in the weeks ahead as he continues to test new dishes and seasonal seafood creations.

"It's become a place where we can keep experimenting," he said. "That's what makes it fun."

At least through the end of Summer, The Walrus Raw Bar will be slingin' oysters and fresh seafood starting at 2 p.m. every Sunday at Revelry Brewing, located at 13b Center St. For more information, follow The Walrus on Instagram at @thisis_thewalrus.

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HAPPY AUGUST FROM THE FOLLY ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS!

As another summer season winds down, **thank you to everyone who continues to shop local, dine local, and support Folly Beach businesses.** We know construction and seasonal traffic have made getting around the island more challenging.

A special thank you to everyone who volunteered during the Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration. Your efforts helped make one of Folly's favorite traditions a success while keeping our beach beautiful.

Construction projects continue throughout the island, so please use caution while traveling around Folly Beach as these important improvements are completed.

It's also hatchling season! Help protect our sea turtles by keeping lights off the beach after dark, removing beach equipment before sunset, filling in holes, and always packing out your trash.

Looking ahead, save the date for **Mermaids & Mateys on Saturday, October 3**—another fun-filled day of family-friendly island festivities. More details are coming soon.

FAB's summer break is almost over, and we look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Thursday, September 10, at Tides Folly Beach. Join us at 6 p.m. for happy hour and networking at Pinky's, followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. If you own or operate a Folly Beach business, we'd love to have you join us!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

The Folly Art Village brings local art, food and community to The Washout

The Folly Art Village is a beacon to local artisans, visitors, and residents alike, with community and local artisan exposure as the core motivation. The Village springs to life at The Washout every Wednesday evening. Once the gate opens, the side parking lot of The Washout transforms into a lively gathering place where local artists, makers and food

vendors come together to celebrate the creative spirit of Folly Beach. The Folly Art Village welcomes visitors each week from 5–9 p.m. through the end of the year.

Coordinated by Melissa Dennis, as well as Jessica Willingham and her husband Dallas. The market was reimagined last year with a goal of blending the charm of a neighborhood farmers market with the creativity of an artisan village. The result is a relaxed, family-friendly event where residents and visitors can shop, socialize and enjoy an authentic slice of Folly Beach life.

The market features an ever-changing collection of locally made, handcrafted goods, including pottery, jewelry, photography, candles, glass art, coastal décor, and other unique creations from area artists and craftspeople. Fresh-baked breads, baked goods and other food offerings add to the experience, creating a destination where guests can browse, snack and connect with local makers.

More than just a place to shop, Folly Art Village has become a weekly community gathering. Live music, food and a welcoming atmosphere encourage visitors to linger, while artists and vendors benefit from the opportunity to share their work. New vendors regularly join the lineup, giving returning guests something new to discover throughout the season.

The Folly Art Village is located at The Washout at 41 Center St. every Wednesday from 5-9pm



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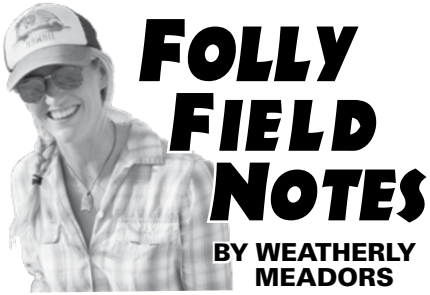
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The Smell of Home

Nutrient-rich pluff mud has a distinctive aroma that is part of the Lowcountry

One of the first things a summer visitor to our island home notices (besides stepping into the permanent sauna of summer of course) is the smell. Salty, fresh, damp, and if you're near the marsh perhaps a hint of rotten egg. Some find it off-putting; I think it smells like home!

The culprit lies below our seemingly endless expanse of salt marsh and meandering waterways: pluff mud. Wander to the edge of a creek at low tide and you'll see the brown silty mud that our ecosystem is built upon.

Pluff mud is primarily made of decaying marsh grass and other organic matter. When plants and animals die, whatever is left eventually sinks to the bottom where the decomposers (think FBI — fungi, bacteria, and insects!) get to work.

Because pluff mud is incredibly dense, oxygen is only found near the

surface. In the absence of oxygen, anaerobic bacteria living in the mud release hydrogen sulfides that produce the classic rotten egg smell. Productivity in action.

I like to think of this nutrient rich mud as my personal spa retreat. The only downside? The residents. (And maybe the idea that it's full of fish poo.) Pluff mud is teeming with life: worms threading through the ooze, fiddler crabs scurrying around their holes, snails leave winding trails across the surface, clams burrow deep, and oysters can be found lining the edges of the marsh grass.

As appealing as this sounds, we don't recommend venturing out into the marsh or mud. Pluff mud texture ranges from silky and soupy to thick and claylike near the marsh. It's a bit like quicksand and the unsuspecting person will sink several feet in softer areas! Sometimes the only way out is to lay down and "swim" your way

into the water. Add sharp oysters to the mix, where even a small cut can become infected, and it's best to enjoy the area from a distance.

Legend has it that pluff mud got its name from early planters who used it as a fertilizer in their fields. It was called "plough mud" and over time the name morphed to "pluff". Personally, I like to think it's because of the sound it makes trying to pull your foot out!

Next time you're crossing the bridge at low tide and catch a whiff of egg, I hope it reminds you of the rich, wild, and diverse salt marsh ecosystem we are lucky to call home!

Found something and want to know more about it? Send a photo to saltmarshadventure@gmail.com for help identifying and a chance to be in the next Creature Feature!



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At the last Folly Beach Exchange Club meeting, we gave away 5 scholarships to 5 super smart students. Winners of our scholarships – Jackson Butler, Brooks Wetmore, Andrew Angermeier, Ty Gervais and Elaina Holsclaw. Please join us in recognizing these talented young people.

We are also just now finishing up our School Supply Drive, so if you have anything for needy children, please drop them off at Planet Follywood or City Hall, but hurry, school starts soon!

Our Pickleball Fundraiser, Volley on Folly is planned for November 14 & 15. Set up is planned for that Friday before at 4pm. Please put this in your calendar to help volunteer. We are also taking donations for our auction and raffle. Proceeds to benefit The Drew Wynne Foundation. Contact us below to join and help in this wonderful community event.



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FACES OF FOLLY

INTERVIEWS BY
PAT "WIGGY" HIBAN

I first met Josh Coates through my wife. She came home one day and was raving about this new massage therapist she found. She likes deep tissue massages and with Josh working for the USC football team for eight years, he had the skills. I eventually went to him myself and we started running into each other outside of Bert's or out on Center Street. Eventually he was referred through our newspaper email as someone to interview, so it was easy for me to reach out and get his thoughts on Folly living.

FOLLY CURRENT: Where were you born and how long have you been tied to Folly?

JOSH COATES: I grew up in Columbia, SC. We would do day trips here growing up. My Sister and Cousin lived here in the late 90s and early 2000s. So I would crash on some couches and occasionally the beach. My wife, Emily, and I both started working down here about 6 years ago, her at Folly Dental and me as a massage therapist at Folly Medi Spa and at Tides Acupuncture on Folly Road. We finally got a small long-term rental here about a year and a half ago.

FC: What's your favorite thing about Folly Beach?

JC: The community. It is still, at its heart, a funky, small town, where everyone looks out for each other.

FC: Share a story you are fond of about Folly Beach.

JC: We had a family celebration here in 2000. I have a big family and we like to celebrate. The party had gotten separated, and my mom called me; in the mania, she had somehow lost her brother, my Uncle Gary, on Center Street.



She said he was in a 'rough-looking bar' and she was worried about the riffraff that he was hanging with. So I went to get her and him at the Sand Dollar. I had to pay a buck to get on the register and when I got in, they had had a few drinks and didn't want to leave!

It was my first time there. Oddly, my friend's band called Throtterod was playing over the speakers. There was another band setting up and they all had long hair and were ready to rock. Out front there were about 10 Harleys and choppers. I immediately felt comfortable there. We stayed there for a while only to come home to find my other Uncle, Mike, dancing on the kitchen table. Folly has a way of allowing those great memories to happen. It's part of why I fell in love with it.

FC: In your opinion, what's the most important issue facing our community today?

JC: I guess how fast this place is growing and changing. That we might lose the Funky and be like some 'other' beach towns.

FC: If you were in charge, how would you fix it?

JC: No one wants to see me in charge, but I guess I'd just keep letting the island draw the Kooks, Artists and Healers here. I'd make sure they felt at home. How would I do that? I'd make the People arguing about the short-term rental cap sit down and come up with a plan they both can agree on. I know there's some of that going on now, and I encourage that to keep happening. I think we can all say we are saddened by the divisiveness, so let's move forward on a coexistence plan. Politics in general needs to go back to finding ways to work together rather than name-calling and fighting. And maybe find a way to help the people who live and work down here get affordable housing/rent.

Pat "Wiggy" Hiban interviews a different "Face of Folly" for this column each month.

If you have an idea of someone you think Pat should chat with, please send suggestions to editor@follycurrent.com.



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(with leg rests!)



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packages to
accommodate couples,
groups, and parties!

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12% discount on
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Hi at
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To book same day, text/call

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BEACH GRILL

LIVE MUSIC, OUTDOOR DINING, & FRESH LOCAL FLAVORS

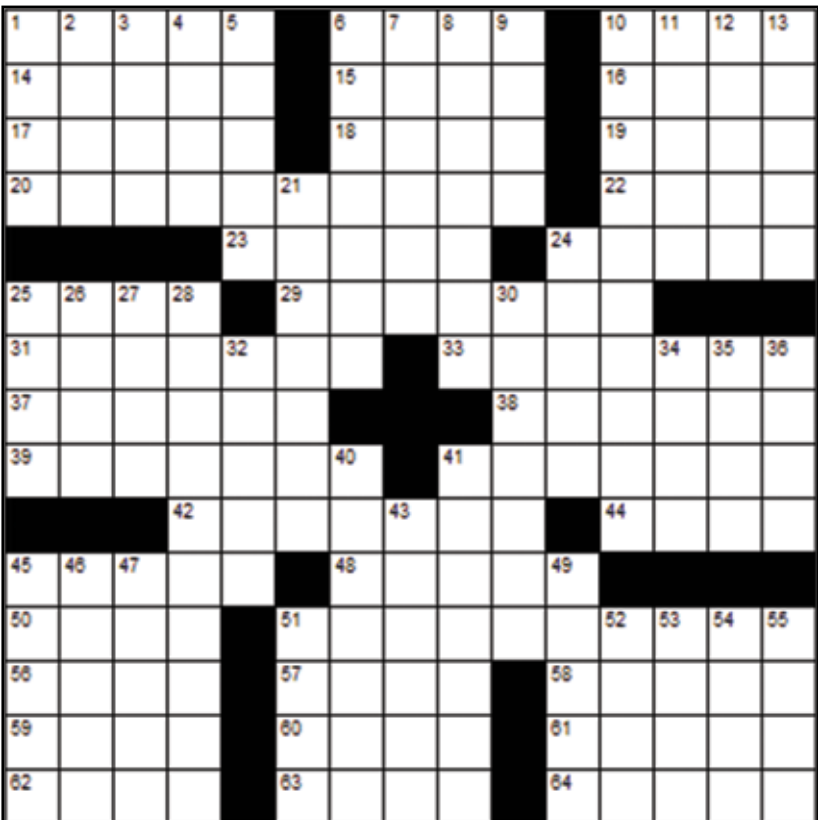


123 W. ASHLEY AVE, FOLLY BEACH • 843-588-2365 • LOGGERHEADSBG.COM



FUN & GAMES

FOLLY CURRENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS

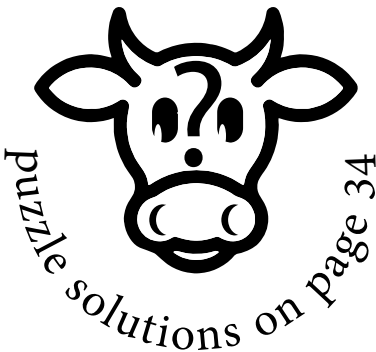
- 1. Castle defense
- 5. Documents
- 9. Arouse
- 13. So extreme a degree
- 14. Conscious
- 16. Assistant
- 17. Behold, in old Rome
- 18. Transparent green gemstone
- 19. Blend
- 20. Bird sound
- 22. States of seclusion
- 24. D D D
- 26. Not earlier
- 27. Film material
- 30. Arrive past due
- 33. Big picture
- 35. Feudal lord
- 37. Estimated (abbrev.)
- 38. Physique
- 41. Chapter in history
- 42. Chairs
- 45. Seller
- 48. Pieces of bread
- 51. Witticisms
- 52. Like many a superhero

- 54. Show sullenness
- 55. Floating swimming board
- 59. Empty
- 62. False god
- 63. Sing like Bing
- 65. Balm ingredient
- 66. Arid
- 67. Therefore
- 68. Office fill-in
- 69. Found on most beaches
- 70. Apollo astronaut Slayton
- 71. Once, long ago

DOWN

- 1. Millisecond
- 2. Ow!
- 3. Inadvertent
- 4. Thereunto
- 5. Apply gently
- 6. Is indebted to
- 7. Christmas song
- 8. 1st American space station
- 9. Japanese warrior
- 10. Bound
- 11. Inactive
- 12. Scarlets
- 15. Gentry

- 21. Juicy fruit
- 23. Confess
- 25. Pierce
- 27. Gorillas
- 28. Instances
- 29. Large flightless bird
- 31. Nondrinker
- 32. Wading bird
- 34. Aspiration
- 36. Hearing organs
- 39. Chemist's workplace
- 40. Plummet
- 43. Titillated
- 44. Sign of healing
- 46. Circular rounded projection
- 47. Be like
- 49. Geologic period
- 50. Charred
- 53. Pilotless plane
- 55. Smooch
- 56. Thought
- 57. Maize
- 58. Wharf
- 60. French for "Names"
- 61. Retained
- 64. Born, in bios



SUDOKU

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

TRIVIA

1. SUPERHEROES

Marvel Studios announced at Comic-Con last month that Ryan Gosling will reprise the role of what cult comic hero formerly played by Nicholas Cage?

2. REBOOTS

Due out in October, a new 5-part series based on Stephen King's first novel reimagines what classic Sissy Spacick 1976 horror film?

3. ARCADE GAMES

What fruit appears on the first screen in the original "Pac-Man" arcade game?

4. VIVA LAS VEGAS

What Egyptian-themed Las Vegas casino features a bright light at its peak that is claimed to be able to be seen from space?

5. AWARDS

What Canadian entertainment awards share their name with a famous pregnant teenage movie character?

6. TELEVISION

What critically acclaimed show led all Emmy nominations this year with 25?

7. COMIC STRIPS

Which Archie character wore a crown beanie and loved hamburgers?

8. POKER

In poker, what is the best possible hand in a game with no wild cards?



CLUBS, CLASSES, SUPPORT
GROUPS, & WORKSHOPS

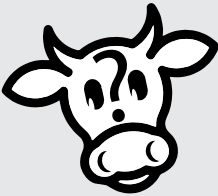
City of Folly Beach Programs:
Free Exercise Classes at the
Community Center
• Wednesdays: **Move to Thrive** (9-
9:45 a.m.) Cardio Circuit (10–11 a.m.)

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

**If you have an idea for programming
by the City of Folly Beach, please
contact City of Folly Beach
Community Coordinator Heather
O'Donnell
at hodonnell@follybeach.org.*

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

M	O	A	T		D	O	C	S		S	T	I	R
S	U	C	H		A	W	A	K	E		A	I	D
E	C	C	E		B	E	R	Y	L		M	E	L
C	H	I	R	P		S	O	L	I	T	U	D	E
		D	E	E	S		L	A	T	E	R		
A	C	E	T	A	T	E		B	E	L	A	T	E
P	A	N	O	R	A	M	A			L	I	E	G
E	S	T			B	U	I	L	D			E	R
S	E	A	T	S			M	A	R	K	E	T	E
		S	L	I	C	E	S		B	O	N	M	O
			C	A	P	E	D		P	O	U	T	
K	I	C	K	B	O	A	R	D		B	L	A	N
I	D	O	L		C	R	O	O	N		A	L	O
S	E	R	E		H	E	N	C	E		T	E	M
S	A	N	D			D	E	K	E		E	R	S



SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1. Ghost Rider
- 2. Carrie
- 3. Cherry
- 4. Luxor
- 5. Juno Awards
- 6. The Pitt
- 7. Jughead Jones
- 8. Royal Flush

Folly Association of Business's Litter Buster of the Month



Around here, we believe if you see trash, you pick it up. It doesn't matter if it's yours or not—we can't ignore it. Every bottle cap, straw, fishing line, or piece of plastic we grab is one less thing that can end up hurting our turtles, birds, and other wildlife.

Folly is a special place, and it stays that way because people care. Next time you're on the beach, grab a few extra pieces of litter on your way out. If we all do a little, it makes a big difference.

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.

Sun n Ski | 3rd West Arctic Ave.



Hot Action

Warm temps have the fishes in a frenzy



August brings warm temperatures, but it also delivers fantastic action on the water. To maximize your success, plan your outings around early morning or late evening windows when fish are most active. By tailoring your tactics to low-light hours and choosing the right setups, you can beat the heat and stay on a steady bite all month long.

When starting at first light, topwater lures are your absolute best option. Plan to arrive at your spot just as the horizon begins to brighten. In the dawn shadows, fish aggressively target surface disturbances, mistaking the rhythmic walk of a topwater

plug for a struggling baitfish. This approach is particularly deadly for both redfish and trout. For maximum action, tie on a Heddon Super Spook Jr. in either chartreuse and black or red and white.

Popping corks are a reliable producer all day long, regardless of the tide phase. They offer unmatched versatility and will draw strikes from nearly every inshore species, including trout, redfish, flounder, ladyfish, and sharks. Using a weighted popping cork helps maximize casting distance. Tie an 18-to-24-inch fluorocarbon leader from the cork down to a size 1 circle hook, and bait up with live shrimp, mud minnows, or realistic artificial shrimp. When the cork pulls under, simply reel until you feel the weight of the fish before lifting your rod tip—no hard hookset required.

When the sun reaches its peak, the shark bite stays red-hot. Sharks remain aggressive even in the heat of the afternoon. To combat persistent bait stealers, rig a whole live menhaden on a 7/0 circle hook. Inshore waters are currently holding plenty of sharpnose, bonnethead, and blacktip sharks. As an added bonus, soak these big baits long enough, and you just might hook into a trophy bull redfish! See you on the water!



Since 2009, Capt. Geoff Bennett has operated Charleston Charter Fishing, offering light-tackle charters. Clients choose from a full menu of artificial lures, live bait, and fly-fishing options, with charters tailored to their preferences. USCG licensed and insured, Capt. Bennett is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable charter to anglers of all skill levels and ages. For more information, call Capt. Bennett at (843) 324-3332, visit www.charlestoncharterfishing.com, or email captain@charlestoncharterfishing.com.

Life looks better here.

Some places have a way of feeling like home from the very first visit. Whether you're searching for your forever home or a vacation retreat our local experts are here to help you find the perfect fit along Folly Beach

Nobody knows the Charleston Coast better.®



Your Folly Beach experts, helping you find your place in the community.



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Kain Slowikowski
843.847.9639



Laurie Hull
843.209.4576



Jesse Slowikowski
843.901.6439



Barbara Atkins
843.801.2177



Keith McCann
843.442.6675



Come see us in our Folly Beach office:
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(800) 476-8444

See current Folly Beach listings at:
dunesproperties.com