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Folly Current

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FOLLY BEACH'S NEWSPAPER

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WHILE RAISING MONEY
FOR PET HELPERS
... See story on pages 19



IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS	3
BEACH BLOTTER	16
DINING	14
A&E	19
FOLLY BUZZ	20
COMMUNITY	26
FUN & GAMES	29



BACK TO THE CAP
Judge's ruling reopens
Folly's bitter STR debate
as city moves to preserve
800-license limit

... page 4



CENTER STREET IS
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
City covers admission
for guests with reserved
tickets as Mermaids
& Mateys hopes to
help Folly businesses
rebound from a summer
under construction

... page 6



HER ISLAND,
HER CANVAS
Folly mourns the loss
of beloved local artist
Osee Koger

... page 9



Chip Kelly at Kelly's Point
in Long Lake, New York



Jan and Jim Smith touring Windmills
in Kinderdijk, the Netherlands

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Sample, Pat and Kim Hiban in Sturgeon
Bay, Wisconsin

THE Folly Current

Folly Beach's Newspaper

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For more than three years, few issues have divided Folly Beach quite like short-term rentals. The debate has touched nearly every nerve on the island: property rights, tourism, neighborhood character, housing, the local economy, and even the question of who gets to call Folly home.

In February 2023, voters narrowly approved a citizen-led referendum capping the number of investment short-term rental licenses on the island at 800. The vote followed years of debate over the impact vacation rentals were having on Folly's residential character, property rights, tourism economy, and future.

But on Aug. 14, Circuit Court Judge Thomas J. Rode ruled that the city's voter-approved ordinance had run afoul of state law, finding that the referendum improperly imposed what amounted to a tax, a power reserved for elected government rather than voters through the referendum process. Rode struck down the city's separate revenue-based STR registration fee, finding that it functioned as a tax rather than a fee for a specific service.

The ruling did not decide whether 800 is an appropriate number of STRs for Folly Beach. Instead, it took aim at the legal mechanism used to put the cap in place.

And just like that, an issue many hoped had finally begun to settle was wide open again.

"We knew the judge was getting close to a decision," Mayor Chris Bizzell said. "But we were a little surprised at how he came to it."

Five days after the ruling, residents packed City Hall for an Aug. 19 special meeting. Council almost immediately entered executive session to receive legal advice from City Attorney Joe Wilson, leaving the packed council chambers waiting for roughly an hour and a half.

When council emerged, it voted 5-1 to authorize an appeal of the ruling and moved toward temporarily halting most new STR licenses while the city determines its next move. Councilman Blair Holladay cast the lone dissenting vote. Councilmember Katherine Houghton was not present.

At a second special meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 26, council approved the moratorium on second and final reading by a 4-1 vote, with Skip Fink, Billy Grooms, William Farley, and Bizzell voting in favor and Holladay again opposed. Councilmembers DJ Rich and Houghton were absent.

The city filed its appeal Aug. 21. "The timeline on these things can vary wildly," Bizzell said when asked when he expected to get a ruling from the appellate court.

Meanwhile, another important vote is coming

much sooner. On Sept. 8, council is expected to consider an ordinance that would effectively reinstate the 800-license cap through council action rather than via a voter referendum.

Bizzell described the move as largely procedural. The city, he said, continues to believe the cap itself is legally sound.

"We need to make sure what we've got is defensible," he said.

CAUGHT BETWEEN THE RAINDROPS

At the center of the lawsuit is Park Lane Partners LLC, a name plaintiffs Chris Cooper and his wife, Elizabeth Spratt Cooper, say has led to misconceptions about who's suing the city. Some on social media have claimed that Park Lane LLC is backed by powerful real estate organizations, while others have gone so far as to suggest they're a lobbying group for Airbnb. None of that is true.

"We're one family with one house," Chris said. "We're not a Trojan-horse corporation sneaking in and buying up a bunch of houses on Folly."

Both Chris and Elizabeth have deep South Carolina connections. Chris grew up in Charleston and has been visiting Folly for the better part of 50 years. Elizabeth grew up in Fort Mill and visited the island when she was growing up and while her brother attended The Citadel.

"We wanted our girls to have a connection to South Carolina and the Lowcountry and feel it was their home, too," Elizabeth said.

The couple bought an older West Side house in 2016 that was already being used as a short-term rental. They continued renting it while using it themselves several weeks a year.

During the pandemic, their relationship with the house changed.

"We reassessed our lives and decided we just wanted to be here more," Elizabeth said. "We wanted to retire here and wanted to have our

continued on page 4 ...

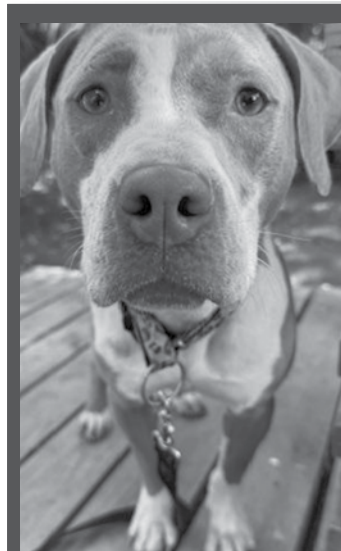
Back to the Cap

Judge's ruling reopens Folly's bitter STR debate as city moves to preserve 800-license limit

by Lorne Chambers | Editor



WAITING GAME: Residents lined up outside Folly Beach City Hall before it opened Monday, Aug. 17, hoping a judge's ruling the previous Friday meant the city's 800-license STR cap had been lifted and new permits would be issued. Instead, the City held off on issuing new licenses as the ruling was stayed and officials prepared an appeal



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... continued from page 3

kids and grandkids have a place here."

According to the Coopers, the older, ground-level home was prone to flooding and wasn't what the couple envisioned as a retirement home. They ultimately decided to rebuild, filing for permits in September 2022.

Then the rules began changing.

The following month, the city imposed a moratorium on new STR licenses as the citizen referendum moved forward. When voters approved the cap in February 2023, the Coopers weren't particularly concerned.

"We were watching the vote and thought, 'Wow, can't believe that' but we said, 'Good thing we had a license,'" Chris recalled.

The new house was completed, but the

couple soon discovered their understanding of their STR status differed from the city's. Because they rebuilt the house, they needed to obtain a new license, even though it was on the same piece of land.

"They gave us a license, but told us we couldn't rent until we got our Certificate of Occupancy," Chris said. "But then they took our license back."

Councilman Holladay has described property owners caught in similar transitional circumstances as being "caught between the raindrops."

"I don't have a strong opinion on the cap or no cap; we just felt like we got stuck," Elizabeth said.

The couple eventually sued. Despite

prevailing in the recent ruling, they don't consider the dispute over.

"Our goal all along is just to get our license back," Chris said. "You don't ever want to fight City Hall. It is a hard thing to do. But we're in it now and we're not going to walk away."

"We have not accomplished our goal," he added. "We still do not have our license."

For Chris and many others on the island, the fight raises a larger question about what kind of beach community Folly wants to become. He worries that increasingly restrictive rules could ultimately make the island accessible only to those wealthy enough to own property here without needing rental income to help support it.

"It was South Carolina's last great, real

beach town," he said. "And now some people are attempting to turn it into another Kiawah or Seabrook. Folly should not be a refuge of the elite."

'THE STUDY WAS THE COMPROMISE'

Even as the lawsuit worked its way through court, Folly had begun another effort to revisit its STR rules.

Earlier this year, the city committed \$50,000 for an independent study examining the ordinance and its impacts, an effort Bizzell has said is intended to bring objective data to a debate long driven by competing claims.

The city expects responses to its request for proposals this fall, after which a consultant will be selected and the scope refined.

"Our intention is to inform any kind of policy changes moving forward," Bizzell said. "Hopefully people see the objectivity that is brought to it."

The current moratorium, he said, helps maintain the status quo while that work proceeds.

"It gives us time to finish the study," Bizzell said.

But Holladay argues that logic raises an obvious question: If the city is waiting for an independent study to determine whether its STR policy should change, why reenact the 800-license cap before seeing the results?

"The study was the compromise," Holladay said in a statement he read at the conclusion of council's Aug. 26 special meeting.

Holladay will be overseas for work during the Sept. 8 meeting and objected to council taking up such a consequential issue before the results of the study were in hand. More broadly, however, he questioned why council should act on the cap while both a moratorium and an appeal are already in place.

"Why would a study even matter if we reinstate a new cap?" he asked.

Holladay has been the lone dissenting vote during council's recent special meetings and urged his colleagues to be patient and not rush to adopt another cap until everyone sees the results of the study.

"Please give all citizens a chance to see the verdict of the study before you decide to simply readopt the cap in a few weeks," he said.

For Bizzell, the study remains valuable regardless of what happens Sept. 8 and can guide future changes to an ordinance that has divided the island for years.

"We're never going to make everybody happy," he said. "But I'm really hoping that this doesn't reopen all the old animosity. Even if they disagree, let's discuss civilly and respectfully. Because we don't need to go down that road again."

Holladay, despite opposing the city's current course, struck a similar note about the community itself.

"Despite the rhetoric, we all love the same place," he said. "We all agree on that one truth."

For now, however, the question that divided Folly in 2023 is back before City Council, this time without a referendum.

The court fight continues. The independent study has yet to begin. And the future of Folly's 800-license cap is, once again, unsettled.

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Center Street is Open For Business

City covers admission for guests with reserved tickets as Mermaids & Mateys hopes to help Folly businesses rebound from a summer under construction

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

After a summer in which Folly Beach's stormwater drainage project disrupted traffic, parking, and commerce along Center Street, the city and local business community are planning a welcome-back party.

The Folly Association of Business will host its annual Mermaids & Mateys festival Saturday, Oct. 3, transforming Center Street into a seaside celebration with live music, more than 80 vendors, costume contests, children's activities, and other entertainment.

This year, however, admission will be free for up to 6,000 people after the City of Folly Beach agreed to provide special funding to cover some of the event costs. City officials and organizers hope removing the admission charge will attract more visitors and direct more spending toward island restaurants, bars, shops, and other businesses affected by months of construction.

"We wanted the business community to know that we see them as a vital part of our community," Mayor Chris Bizzell said. "So I asked Kelly how we can help and celebrate."

Bizzell was referring to FAB Events Coordinator Kelly Travers, who has worked with the city to shape this year's festival into both a celebration and an economic boost for Center Street.

"The money we're giving them means it's free of charge [for those with a reserved ticket]," Bizzell said. "And all that money will come back to our businesses."

In addition to covering admission, the funding will allow brick-and-mortar retail, food, and beverage businesses to receive free vendor spaces on Center Street or an adjoining side street. Businesses can



use the spaces to sell merchandise or showcase signature dishes.

"Our goal for this one-time free event is to drive attendance and boost spending directly into our island businesses," Travers said.

Free ticket vouchers will be required to help organizers manage the crowd, but registration will not guarantee admission. Entry will remain first-come, first-served until the festival reaches capacity.

This year's event will include an Under the Sea Kids Area presented by Good Clean

Fun, featuring mermaids, sand crafts, stilt walkers, free inflatables, games, and other activities. A loot-route scavenger hunt, dunk tank, fire circus, special performers, and family and adult costume contests are also planned.

Tito's will serve as the festival's spirit sponsor, with participating island bars offering mermaid- and pirate-themed cocktails. Mermaids & Mateys will also again partner with the Alzheimer's Association's South Carolina chapter for Paint Folly Purple, encouraging festivalgoers to wear purple and help raise

money for the organization.

"We are hoping a free ticket will drive higher attendance levels and lend itself to our guests spending more in our on-island businesses," Travers said.

Mermaids & Mateys will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. along Center Street on Folly Beach. Admission is free, but advance registration is required. Entry is first-come, first-served up to capacity. For tickets, vendor registration, sponsorship information, and festival updates, go to www.VisitFolly.com.



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Her Island, Her Canvas

Folly mourns the loss of beloved local artist Osee Koger

by Miranda Steadman | Contributing Writer

The Folly community said goodbye last month to a talented and well-loved local artist. Osee Koger, a Folly Beach native whose colorful work became a familiar sight around the island, passed away last month in Ohio, where she was staying while her mother was in the hospital.

Her father, Ricky Koger, announced her passing on Facebook on Aug. 1 and the outpouring of love and sympathy continued throughout the month.

Koger, who typically sold her captivating art on Center Street in front of Mr. John's Beach Store, loved the water. Friend and fellow artist Kelly Kane Wood recalled Osee creating many pieces that captured her spirit, such as mermaids, ocean waves, fish, and crabs.

"Osee liked to capture the Lowcountry. These paintings came easily to her because she lived and saw most of what she painted every single day," Wood said. "Folly Beach was her true home. She was born and raised on this island. She loved capturing in her paintings the wildlife that Folly has to offer such as the ocean, birds, sea turtles, dolphins, crabs, egrets, herons, and butterflies,"

"Anytime she had the opportunity, she would jump off a dock, swim in the creek, or just take a dip in the ocean," she said.

Wood and Osee started selling art together outside in the elements during a chilly Black Friday at Crosby's Seafood. They went on to vend together many more times, including in front of Mr. John's Beach Store.

"I remember swinging by to say hello and check in on her progress when she was working on the mural at Lolo's. I did this on many different occasions. She had several murals around Folly and was proud of her projects," Wood said. "Osee loved to paint. Every piece she made was made with passion and love. She cherished every piece and knowing that her paintings put a smile on someone's face or bring back a Folly Beach memory is priceless,"

Wood and Koger bonded over art; even though their techniques were different. On nights when they would get together and paint, Wood said they would bounce ideas off of each other.

"She would often recommend what colors



I needed and I would tell her to paint faster," said Wood.

Osee inherited her artistic eye from her father, Ricky, who creates illustrations in pen and ink carves tikis out of Palmetto trees

"She'd sit in my lap and critique my drawings," said Ricky, who also sold old surfboards downtown during the early 1970s before he began driving the engine for Folly Beach Fire Department. He did this for 15 years and served with the City of Charleston Fire Department for 25 years.

"Osee and I were always really tight. We were either on our bicycles, fishing, shrimping, or surfing," he said. "Painting was her release, a way to share with the world what she saw and her own personal style. Landscapes,

marsh scenes, Morris Island lighthouse, oak and palm trees, sunsets and waves... She had a unique way of doing these."

It was actually Osee who taught her father to paint.

"We shared that bond. I always said my apple didn't fall far from the tree," says Ricky.

"Osee always wanted to be around her friends, and I am just going to miss her presence," said Wood. "When I see a painting by Osee, I feel love but I also feel sad. She was a friend who left us too soon, and many will miss her."

There will be a celebration of life for Osee Koger on Sunday, Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. at Crosby Seafood, located at 2223 Folly Road.

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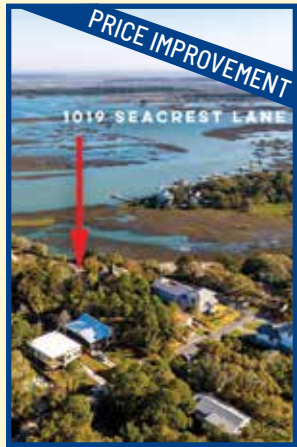
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JULY 25

NO VACANCY

An officer on patrol found a pickup truck parked in the roadway on East Ashley Avenue directly beneath a "No Parking" sign. Inside, a man was asleep behind the wheel with the engine running and an open beer in the center console. Police said he smelled strongly of alcohol and admitted pulling over to drink his beer. There was one other problem: the license plate on the truck belonged to a completely different vehicle. Officers offered him several chances to find a ride or book a room for the night, but when neither option materialized, he was arrested and the truck was towed.

JULY 30

TABLE FOR ONE, BED FOR ONE

Police were called to a Center Street restaurant in the early afternoon for an extremely intoxicated man who had fallen asleep at a table. An officer reportedly called out to him and shook his arm for about 10 seconds before he woke up. Police said the man had bloodshot, watery eyes, appeared confused, stumbled while walking, slurred his words, and smelled of alcohol. Officers contacted his son, who agreed to pick him up at a nearby hotel where the man was staying.

AUGUST 2

WHAT'D HE SAY ABOUT HOT DOGS?

Police responded to an East Ashley Avenue convenience store after employees reported an intoxicated man making threats and hand gestures they interpreted as death

threats. An officer found a man matching the description sitting in a nearby Jeep. When asked if he'd been inside the store, he repeatedly said no before suddenly asking, "What'd he say about hot dogs? That I was causing a disturbance?" Employees identified him as the man involved, and he eventually admitted going inside for a hot dog. Police said he repeatedly changed the last name he gave officers and was arrested for disorderly conduct. Then came another surprise: the Jeep he had been sitting in was reported stolen.

AUGUST 8

TOO MUCH IS JUST ENOUGH

Shortly after midnight, police were approached by someone reporting a man trying to fight people outside a Center Street bar. Officers spotted two men facing off and separated them. One reportedly admitted he'd had "too much" to drink. Police said he had watery eyes, slurred speech, rapidly shifted between sadness and anger, and had no money for a rideshare or sober person available to pick him up. He was arrested for public intoxication. During the arrest, the man repeatedly threatened to harm himself, which officers documented for detention center personnel.

AUGUST 8

A REAL SLAP IN THE FACE

About 90 minutes after the previous incident, officers responded to an East Ashley Avenue convenience store for another confrontation involving an intoxicated man. Police recognized him from earlier in the evening, when he'd reportedly been yelling obscenities at people on Center Street. In the latest encounter, an employee said the man invaded his personal space, yelled at him, and eventually slapped him in the face. The employee struck back but declined to press charges. The man was arrested for public disorderly conduct and transported to the Charleston County Detention Center.

AUGUST 9

TINT HAPPENS

An officer conducting speed enforcement on East Ashley Avenue spotted a sedan with window tint so dark he reportedly couldn't see either the driver or passenger. After stopping the vehicle, the driver volunteered that he didn't have a driver's license because it was suspended. A records check confirmed that, along with multiple failures

to pay traffic tickets, inability to verify insurance, and habitual-offender status. The driver was arrested and transported to the Charleston County Detention Center. The car, at least, caught a break: it was released to the passenger, who had a valid driver's license.

AUGUST 10

SCRAP BOOKING

Police were flagged down near an East Ashley Avenue restaurant about a fistfight in progress. Officers found two men who readily admitted they'd gotten into what they described as a "scrap" over an unknown matter. Both appeared intoxicated and had cuts and scratches to their faces and upper bodies but declined medical treatment. Since the two had driven to Folly together, officers helped separate their travel plans. One received a public disorderly conduct citation and called himself a rideshare. The other was also cited and, after officers couldn't find him a ride, accepted a courtesy trip to the hospital to get checked out.

AUGUST 12

DIAL M FOR MAYBE DON'T

Police began investigating a series of three phone calls made to Folly Beach Public Safety dispatch over the release of body-camera footage from a high-profile criminal case. According to the report, the caller used profanity toward a dispatcher and was told during the second call not to call again unless he had an emergency. He promptly called a third time and allegedly suggested he might come to the department and "mess with" personnel. Police traced the number to a West Ashley resident and obtained a search warrant seeking subscriber information from the phone carrier.

AUGUST 15

THREE WHEELS AND A PRAYER

Police responded after witnesses reported an argument between a man and woman inside an SUV, followed shortly afterward by the same vehicle striking a parked pickup truck on West Indian Avenue. The collision tore the SUV's front passenger-side wheel completely off, leaving it more than 100 feet behind the vehicle. Remarkably, the SUV continued forward on three wheels for at least another 100 feet. Police said the driver smelled strongly of alcohol, had bloodshot eyes, slurred his speech, and admitted consuming several shots and beers

at a Center Street bar. He was investigated for DUI.

AUGUST 15

THREE...TWO...ONE...

Police were flagged down by employees of an East Ashley Avenue restaurant about a heavily intoxicated man causing a disturbance inside. The man and a woman accompanying him were both issued trespass notices and told to leave. Police offered them a courtesy ride, but they declined. The woman was considered sober enough to take responsibility for her companion, but he apparently wasn't finished. From across the street, he continued yelling at restaurant patrons. An officer finally told him he had three seconds to walk away, counted to three, and, when the man remained, arrested him for public intoxication.

AUGUST 22

HELLCAT ON BLOCKS

A man called police after discovering that someone had stolen all four wheels from his Dodge Charger while it sat in a Folly Road parking lot. The vehicle had been parked there for several months because it had an inoperable engine and was uninsured. The victim estimated the black replica performance wheels were worth approximately \$3,000. Nearby surveillance cameras weren't much help because the area where the car was parked had little lighting, leaving police unable to determine exactly when the wheels disappeared or identify a suspect. The owner planned to install another set of wheels and tow the car elsewhere.

AUGUST 22

ONE FOR THE ROAD

An officer stopped a sedan on Center Street after discovering its license plate belonged to an entirely different vehicle. The passenger readily admitted he'd taken the plate from his grandfather's vehicle and put it on this one. But that wasn't the most interesting part. Police spotted an open case of beer between the passenger's legs and an open beer beside him. While the officer was standing at the window discussing the open container, the passenger reportedly picked up the beer and took another drink. Officers then noticed several knives in his waistband and a holstered handgun on his hip. A records check showed he was prohibited from possessing firearms, and he was arrested.



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The Flavor of the Lowcountry

Bowens Island teams up with Southern Flavor Magazine for new fall festival

from Staff Reports

Few things signal the arrival of fall in the Lowcountry quite like oysters, barbecue, and live music.

Bowens Island Restaurant will bring all three together Sunday, Oct. 4, when it hosts the inaugural Flavor Fest in partnership with *Southern Flavor Magazine*.

The new event will take advantage of one of the Lowcountry's most iconic waterfront settings for a day centered around food, music, and the return of oyster season.

Bowens Island will supply plenty of oysters for the occasion, while Charleston Outdoor Catering's Jamie Westendorff will handle the barbecue. Operating out of a small kitchen on St. Andrews Boulevard in West Ashley, Westendorff has become a familiar face on the Charleston catering scene, particularly for his barbecue pork, Frogmore Stew, steamed oysters, and fried fish.

Westendorff is also a longtime supporter of local charitable organizations, frequently donating his time and talents to community events around Charleston.

Providing the soundtrack for Flavor Fest will be local singer-songwriter Coty Lynn. Originally from Detroit, Lynn blends soulful vocals and acoustic guitar with a setlist that moves across decades and genres, along with some original material of her own. She performs in configurations ranging from laid-back solo shows to duos and full-band sets.

For Bowens Island, the festival's centerpiece is nothing new. Located just off of Folly Beach, oysters have been part of the family-run restaurant's identity for generations. Founded in 1946, the no-frills seafood destination has become known for its traditional oyster roasts and views overlooking the surrounding marsh and Folly River.

Flavor Fest brings those old-school Lowcountry traditions together with barbecue and live music for a new celebration of distinctly Southern flavors.

Flavor Fest will be held Sunday, Oct. 4, at Bowens Island Restaurant, 1870 Bowens Island Road.



Local catering legend Jamie Westendorff of Charleston Outdoor Catering will do the barbecue for the inaugural Flavor Fest at Bowen's Island on Oct. 4



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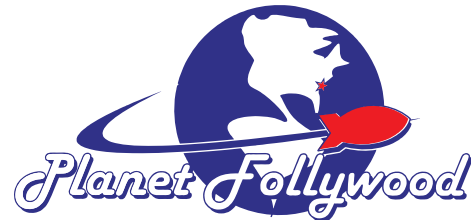
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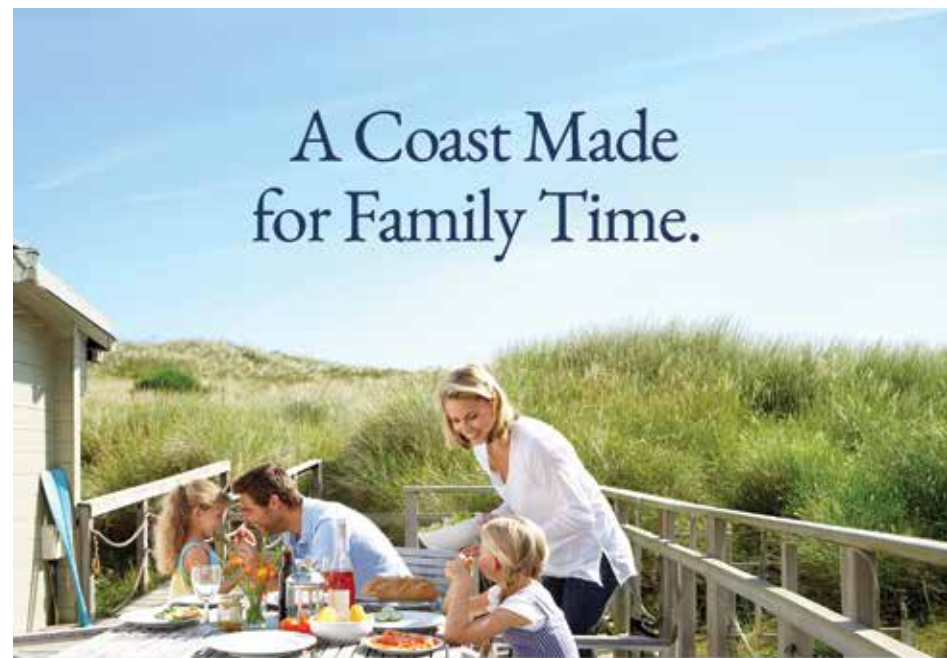


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BABY SAFETY MONTH

At our August meeting, we were honored to make a donation to HALOS, which supports kinship families caring for children in the child welfare system. Our donation will help purchase baby car seats for local families in need.

VOLLEY ON FOLLY NOVEMBER 14 & 15

Our annual pickleball fundraiser, VOLLEY ON FOLLY, returns November 14 & 15, with proceeds benefiting The Drew Wynne Foundation. Registration is sold out, but there are plenty of ways to get involved! We need volunteers and are accepting donations for our auction and raffle. Contact us below to help.

JOIN US!

Our next meeting is Thursday, September 17 at 7 p.m. at 206 West Indian Avenue. Come meet some great people and help us give back to our community!



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The Quest for the Golden Bone

Salty Snout Showdown promises 'beautiful chaos' while raising money for Pet Helpers

by Liv Dennis | Contributing Writer

Dogs will take center stage on Folly Beach Saturday, Sept. 19 for a competition where weird tricks, big personalities, and questionable fashion choices could earn them a trophy.

The inaugural Salty Snout Showdown, described by organizer Pat Hibban as "American Idol for dogs," will bring dogs and their owners to The Washout from 6-9 p.m. for an evening of unusual contests, costumes, celebrity judges, famous hosts, adoptable pets, and plenty of "beautiful chaos."

The first-year event is being billed as "A Slightly Unhinged Dog Contest," was designed to be part dog contest, part adoption drive, and part public party. Proceeds will benefit Pet Helpers, a Charleston-area animal rescue organization, located just off the beach on James Island.

"I want people to just have fun and appreciate dogs," Hibban said.

The idea for the Salty Dog Showdown came to Folly local Hibban after he saw a similar dog contest in Fayetteville, Ark., and thought that Folly Beach could benefit from a similar event.

Hibban said he originally put the idea out there a couple of years ago but struggled to find someone willing to help organize it. That changed when he told his neighbor, local realtor and surfer Carrie Danker, about the idea and she offered to help.

Hibban and Danker began working on the event together about a year ago, developing the concept into what they hope will become an annual event on Folly Beach.

The competition will feature six categories, each designed to highlight a different side of the dogs and their personalities. Dogs can enter individual contests for \$10 each, or owners can enter their dogs in all five for \$50. The Golden Bone, the event's ultimate title, is included free with every entry.

The "Most Like Its Owner" category asks whether a dog truly shares its owner's personality. The "Folly Beach Vibe" category will look for the dog that best captures the island's "salty coastal spirit."



Jackass Star Bam Margera and his wife, model and fitness enthusiast, Dannii Marie will host the inaugural Salty Snout Showdown at The Washout on Saturday, Sept. 19

Then there is "Asinine Dog Tricks," in which organizers encourage participants to embrace the unusual. "Best Costume" gives dogs and their owners a chance to show off their creativity, while "The Boujee Bone" is reserved for the dog that doesn't fetch because "they're fetched for."

Finally, there is "The Golden Bone," the ultimate title of the evening.

While the competition is intended to be entertaining, the event has a serious mission behind it.

Pet Helpers is currently caring for more than 500 dogs and cats, according to Hibban, even though the shelter is designed for about 250 animals.

"They have dogs and cats everywhere, but they can't turn them down," Hibban said. "It's a no-kill shelter, and if someone drops off a dog, they're not going to turn it down."

Hibban said the organization spends about \$200,000 each month to operate, making fundraising a major goal of the event.

Organizers also plan to have 10 adoptable

dogs at the event, hoping the exposure will help them find permanent homes.

For Hibban, Pet Helpers was a natural organization to support because of its ties to Folly Beach. Pet Helpers founder Carol Linville lives on Folly, as does CFO Shauna Shackleton.

The organizers also wanted to give the event enough star power to attract a crowd in its first year.

Hibban said the organizers reached out to Jackass star Bam Margera and his wife, model and fitness professional Dannii Marie, through Instagram, and the pair agreed to host the event.

Dannii had already been involved with animal adoption efforts in the Miami area and had previously visited Pet Helpers, where she donated and, according to Hibban, adopted a cat.

"She was familiar with Pet Helpers, which we didn't know of," Hibban said. "We got lucky with that."

The event will also feature celebrity guest

judges Whit Slagsvol and Roddy Rey of Bravo TV's "Southern Charm," along with popular civic reporter and ADHD advocate Bill Olson.

Hibban said bringing recognizable names into the event was intentional. While he believed he and the other organizers could put on the contest themselves, he thought celebrity hosts and judges would help draw a larger crowd and give the event a stronger start.

The event will offer general admission, known as the "Ruff Section," as well as VIP seating in "The Boneyard."

The Washout owner Greg Marshall and his son, Greg Marshall Jr., have also helped with the event. Marshall Jr. is part of the organizing committee and has helped facilitate the planning.

For Hibban, one of the most enjoyable parts of putting the event together has been the creativity involved in turning an idea into a real event.

"The whole process of kind of making it work and the creativity behind it and putting it all together," he said. "It's like having a big party that you're in charge of but it's for a good cause."

As the first Salty Snout Showdown approaches, Hibban knows there are still plenty of details to work out.

"We've never done it before. We're kind of just winging it," he said. "There's no playbook for it. The playbook is how to have a party."

Still, he already has a clear picture of what success would look like: raising \$200,000 for Pet Helpers, finding homes for all 10 adoptable dogs, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"It's kind of like a wedding, right?" Hibban said. "You don't want anything to go wrong. You just want everything to go smoothly."

The inaugural Salty Snout Showdown benefiting Pet Helpers will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, at The Washout, located at 41 Center St. Tickets are \$25. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.saltysnoutshowdown.com.

Send Summer Out with a Smash

DJ Konflikt headlines
Pinky's Labor Day
beach jam

from Staff Reports

Summer may be winding down, but Pinky's on Folly Beach isn't ready to let it go quietly.

Pinky's Summer Smash, presented by Other Brother Entertainment, will take over the beachfront spot on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7, for nine straight hours of live music and DJ sets, along with cold drinks, beach bites, and all-day specials.

The party gets underway at noon with Liam Murphy, followed by Super Reggae Man at 1 p.m. and The Wild Life Duo at 2 p.m.

The afternoon then shifts toward the turntables, with DJ Ede performing from 3-4 p.m. and DJ Smartz from 4-5 p.m. NXT LVL featuring Dolla will keep things rolling

from 5-6:30 p.m.

Miami-based DJ Konflikt takes over for the Summer Smash headline set from 6:30-8 p.m., bringing his high-energy style to Folly for the holiday weekend. See Jane Spin will close things out from 8-9 p.m.

The all-day event is billed as one last big beach jam before the unofficial end of summer, although organizers are taking a slightly more optimistic approach: "Summer won't stop if we don't."

Pinky's Summer Smash begins at noon Monday, Sept. 7 and goes until 9 p.m.

For more information, visit www.pinkysfollybeach.com.



DJ Konflikt



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

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, SEPTEMBER 2

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, SEPTEMBER 3

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Mike Martin & the Beautiful Mess
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Tom Crowley
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark; 9-11pm DJ Lotis
Pinky’s: 6-9pm TBD
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Travellin’ Kine
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm Hollifield
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Johnny Holliday & The Silver Lining

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Mike Martin & the Beautiful Mess
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Bubba Bryant; 6-9pm Bender Funk
Loggerhead’s: 2-5pm Sean Ryan Smith; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: TBD
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Dan Marsh
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Danny May
Rita’s: 6-9pm Gracie
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Bounty Bar: 9pm Sunday Sessions
The Crab Shack: 1-3pm Dave Grunstra
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Seitu; 6-9pm Layton Meacham
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm DJ Lotis; 7-10pm Spud Fisher
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy Trio
Pinky’s: TBD
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Piano D
Rita’s: 12-3pm Jerry Feels Good; 6-9pm Johnny Knuckles
The Washout: 6-9pm Reggae

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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, SEPTEMBER 8

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, SEPTEMBER 9

Drop In Deli: 7:30-9:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Liam Murphy
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Johnny Knuckles
Rita’s: 6-9pm Hardened Molasses
The Washout: 5-9pm Folly Art Village; 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Skye Paige
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 TBD
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am TBD
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm Lady Jane
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Dan’s Tramp Stamp & The Money Bags

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Unheard Ent. Presents: S Night of Local Hip Hop
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Liam Murphy; 6-9pm Molly D
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm Kenley Young; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: TBD
Planet Follywood: 8pm-12am Louis D
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Danny May
Rita’s: 6-9pm Gene & Rylie
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Bounty Bar: 9pm 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: TBD
Planet Follywood: 8pm-12am Hope
Rita’s: 6-9pm Thomas Champagne
The Washout: 6-9pm Reggae

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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, SEPTEMBER 15

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 Krystal and friends

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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 David Sink
The Washout: 5-9pm Folly Art Village; 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

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: TBD
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Karaoke
Rita’s: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man
The Washout: 7-10pm Johnny Holliday Duo

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

The Bounty Bar: 10pm The Jim Rubush Trio
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Tom Crowley
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark; 9-11pm DJ Lotis
Pinky’s: TBD
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Todd Mayson Trio
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm Green Thieves
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Dirt Nap
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Robert C; 6-9pm Michael Duff
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm Kenley Young; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: TBD
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Longshot Gamble
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Danny May
Rita’s: 6-9pm Sean Smith
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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, SEPTEMBER 22

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 Hardened Molasses

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Drop In Deli: 7:30-9:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Liam Murphy
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Johnny Knuckles
Rita’s: 6-9pm Kenley Young
The Washout: 5-9pm Folly Art Village; 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton + Friends
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Matt MacKelcan
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Bender Funk; 10pm-1am Karaoke
LowLife Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Station
Pinky’s: TBD
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Karaoke
Rita’s: 6-9pm Dereck Cribb
The Washout: 7-10pm Johnny Holliday Duo

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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: TBD
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Wild Current
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm George Fox
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Eddie Bush

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The Bounty Bar: 8:30pm The Riverfront Rascals w/ Matthew Paige
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Liam Murphy; 6-9pm Tom Crowley
Loggerhead’s: 2-5pm Sean Ryan Smith; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: TBD
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Folly Beats
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Danny May
Rita’s: 6-9pm Lady Jane
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Muis

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

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, SEPTEMBER 29

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 Krystal and Friends

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Drop In Deli: 7:30-9:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Liam Murphy
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Johnny Knuckles
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm Weigh Station
The Washout: 5-9pm Folly Art Village; 6-9pm Live Music

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The Girls are Dropping In

Girls Gone Folly and The Drop In team up to support local nonprofit Waves 4 Women

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

A local clothing brand, a longtime Folly Beach watering hole, and a nonprofit born in the waves off the island are joining forces next month for a party with a purpose.

Girls Gone Folly and The Drop In Deli & Bar will host a special fundraising event Friday, Sept. 18, celebrating the release of a limited-edition collaboration T-shirt benefiting Waves 4 Women.

The partnership began after Girls Gone Folly co-founders Katie Kuhn and Savanna Williams connected with The Drop In co-owner Kristina Ogden.

"Being Folly enthusiasts, we were lucky enough to cross paths with Kristina of The Drop In," Williams said. "She approached us with the idea of doing a collaboration to support a local nonprofit, and we immediately jumped at the idea."

"I've been seeing Girls Gone Folly merch around, and Savanna and Katie have always been so supportive of The Drop In, so I reached out about teaming up," Ogden said. "Since they create such fun gear centered around this community, it felt right to make it meaningful — raising money for Waves 4 Women, which supports local women through surf therapy and connection. Folly wouldn't be what it is without this community, and this is our way of giving back."

The evening will include the debut of the new Girls Gone Folly x The Drop In shirt, a 50/50 raffle, and a specialty Tito's-sponsored cocktail. One hundred percent of net profits from shirt sales will go to Waves 4 Women, with proceeds from the specialty drink also benefiting the Folly Beach-based nonprofit.

Girls Gone Folly began as a passion project for Kuhn and Williams, two self-described "beach-loving gals" drawn to Folly's eclectic personality and laid-back lifestyle. What started as a collection of playful trucker hats

has since expanded into what the founders call "Folly-wear," a beach-inspired clothing and lifestyle brand centered around the island and its community.

Giving back is part of the brand's mission, with Kuhn and Williams looking for opportunities to support the organizations and events that give Folly its distinctive character. For this collaboration, Waves 4 Women seemed like a natural fit.

"Waves 4 Women was the perfect match," Kuhn said. "We could all use surf therapy in our life. There are so many components to their work, and we encourage you to attend their sessions and find out more. We are excited to bring the community together, have some fun, and support a good cause!"

Waves 4 Women traces its beginnings to a simple observation in the water off Folly Beach. Its founders spotted another female surfer confidently navigating the waves and began thinking about the challenges women can face entering a sport traditionally dominated by men.

From that idea grew a nonprofit that uses surfing to help women and girls build confidence, connections, and a sense of belonging.

Waves 4 Women describes its approach as "surf therapy," combining professional surf instruction with wellness education and mindfulness. Rather than simply teaching participants how to catch a wave, the program uses the ocean as a classroom where participants can discover their strengths while being supported by a community of other women.

The Sept. 18 event brings those different pieces of Folly together under one roof, pairing the island's creative and entrepreneurial spirit with its connection to the ocean and a little Friday-night fun.



The Girls Gone Folly x The Drop In fundraising event will be held Friday, Sept. 18, from 6-9 p.m. at The Drop In Deli & Bar on Center Street. The event will include a limited-edition T-shirt release, a specialty Tito's cocktail, and a 50/50 raffle, with proceeds benefiting Waves 4 Women.



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A Sense of Place

Artist Chris Frick explores how the Lowcountry becomes part of us

from Staff Reports

For Charleston artist Chris Frick, painting the Lowcountry isn't necessarily about painting what she sees.

It's about what remains after she stops looking.

"I don't paint the landscape itself; I paint what stays with me after spending time there," says Frick, a German-born artist whose newest collection draws heavily from the landscape and atmosphere of the South Carolina coast.

Frick is unveiling the complete body of new work Saturday, Sept. 26, during a private showcase at Villa Hemingway on Folly Beach.

Since moving from Germany to Charleston, Frick says her work has become increasingly influenced by her adopted home and the subtle ways a place can become part of a person over time. That idea provides the thread connecting two bodies of

work, *Lowcountry* and *Place & Figure*, that make up the new collection.

In *Lowcountry*, Frick draws inspiration from the heat, water, marshes, coastal light, barrier islands, and everyday impressions of life around Charleston. But those familiar elements don't necessarily translate into familiar scenes.

Instead of traditional landscapes, Frick works in layers of acrylic, texture, color, and expressive marks. Pieces of the coastal environment may emerge but are often reduced, fragmented, or incorporated into abstraction.

Her *Place & Figure* series takes the idea a step further by introducing the human form into those abstracted environments. Sometimes the separation between person and place is obvious. Other times, the two begin to blend together, reflecting Frick's interest in how our surroundings

gradually influence our identities and our sense of ourselves.

The result is work that occupies the space somewhere between landscape and abstraction, with the Lowcountry providing both inspiration and atmosphere.

The Sept. 26 Folly Beach showcase will mark the first time Frick presents the complete new collection, which is being kept largely under wraps until the event.

Frick maintains a studio on Broad Street in downtown Charleston and is represented locally by Simpatico Gallery, as well as Mary Praytor Gallery in Greenville.

Chris Frick will showcase her artwork at a private event on Saturday, Sept 26 on Folly Beach. To see her work in person or inquire about purchased or commissioning a painting, visit www.chrisfrick.art.



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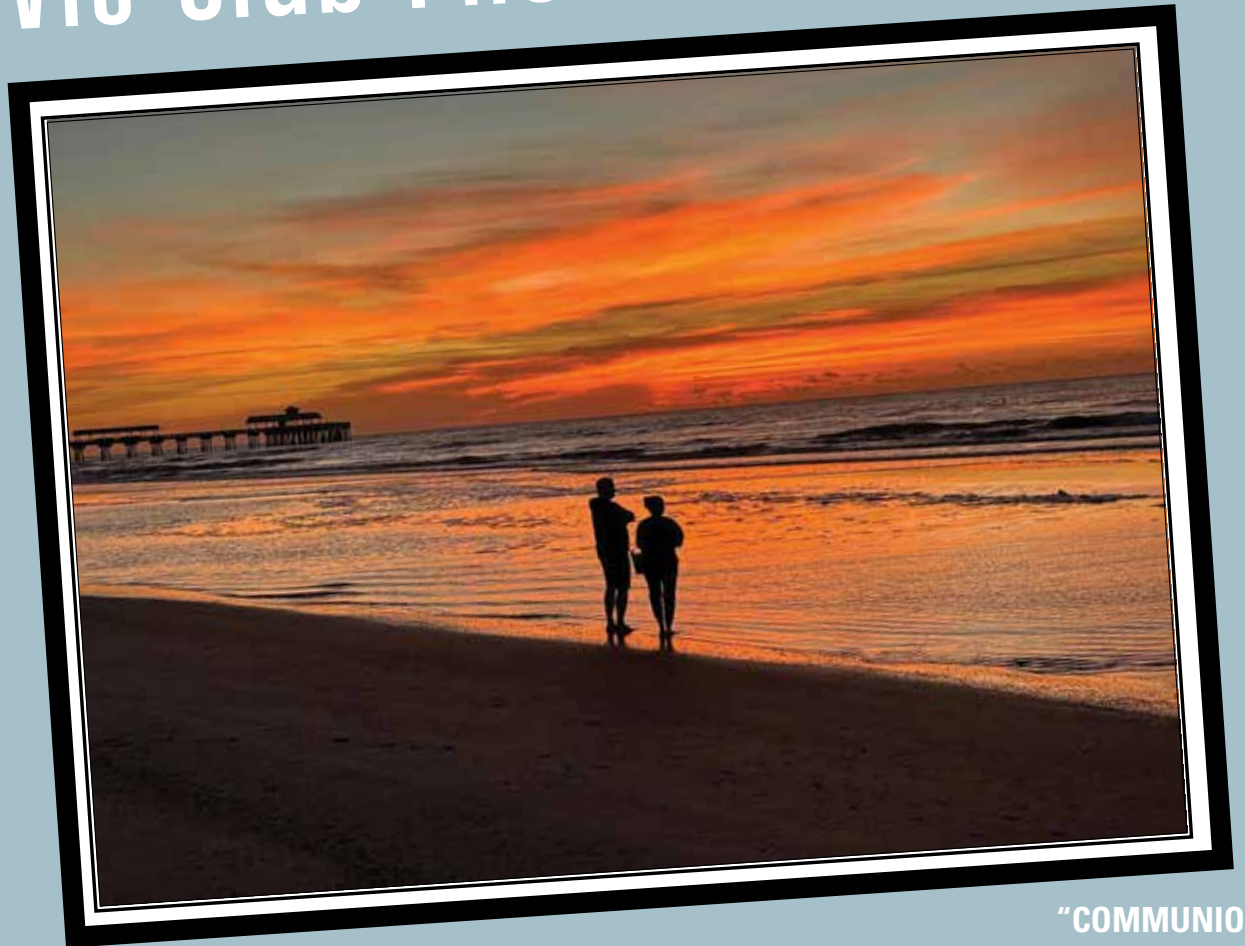
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Civic Club Photo of the Month



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MERMAIDS & MATEYS RETURNS OCTOBER 3!

Mermaids & Mateys returns to Folly Beach on **Saturday, October 3, 2026**, for Swashbuckling Saturday! Gather your crew, dust off your mermaid tails and pirate gear, and get ready to celebrate the sea in true Folly fashion — with a splash of spooky fall fun.

This year, we're celebrating our resilient community following the recent stormwater construction, and thanks to additional funding approved by the City of Folly Beach, **Mermaids & Mateys will be bigger and better than ever — and completely FREE to attend!**

A free ticket voucher system will be in place to help with safe crowd control. **All attendees must register for a free ticket in advance; however, capacity will be limited. Free tickets and more information is available at VisitFolly.com.**

And just like that, our summer break is over. We're excited to get back together and welcome everyone to our **meeting on Thursday, September 10, at 6:30 PM at Tides Folly Beach**. Start the evening at **Pinky's at 6:00 PM for our social happy hour and networking opportunity.**



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Thank you for supporting the Folly Beach business community all summer long! **If you'd like to learn more about the Folly Association of Business or become a member, visit JoinFAB.org.** We look forward to seeing everyone at our September meeting and to another

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INTERVIEWS BY
PAT "WIGGY" HIBAN

Right Where She Belongs

Folly Beach has always had a grip on Tara Glich

I first met Tara Glich during a Folly Beach festival. I remember watching a band and looking over and seeing a happy couple wearing Baltimore Ravens gear. Since I'm a Baltimore-area native myself, I wandered over and started a conversation about our commonality. After that, my wife and I would bump into them all over Folly. When I saw that Tara was interviewed by the Post & Courier about one of the recent drownings on the beach, I had a feeling she had something to say and Faces of Folly would be just the right outlet for it.

FOLLY CURRENT: Where were you born?

TARA GIRCH: I was born in San Antonio, Texas, but my heart quickly found its way to the Lowcountry. Our family moved to Charleston in 1970 when my dad took a position at the VA hospital down here. We eventually relocated to Baltimore in 1976 after he was recruited to work at Johns Hopkins. However, no matter where we lived, our connection to the South remained strong. The roots we planted during those early years shaped the rest of my life.

FC: How long have you been tied to Folly Beach?

TG: I have been tied to Folly Beach for 54 wonderful years. My parents bought our beloved beach house back in 1973, and it became the center of our family's world. We would pack up the car with three children and a dog the very minute school let out in June. We stayed at the beach house all summer long, only packing up the day school resumed in September. After my mother passed away in June, the house now belongs to her three children, keeping her memory alive right here on the sand.

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

TG: My absolute favorite thing about Folly Beach is the sound of the ocean. It has been the soundtrack to my life, providing a sense of peace and continuity through the decades. As I grew older and became a teacher, I spent every possible moment of my vacations

listening to those waves. The ocean's rhythm drew me back so strongly that Marty and I finally moved from Baltimore to Charleston in 2019. It is a comforting constant that always reminds me I am exactly where I belong.

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

TG: Growing up in our beach house all summer provided endless adventures, but crabbing on the old rocks before Hurricane Hugo is my favorite memory. We would tie a little chicken neck to a piece of string and wait patiently for a tug. Pulling up those crabs felt like uncovering buried treasure every single time. Afterward, we would steam them, pick the meat, and proudly sell them to the tourists visiting the island. It was a simple, perfect summer routine that captured the magic of being a kid on Folly Beach.

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

TG: Currently, we have one of the highest rates of drowning in the history of Folly Beach, and it breaks my heart. On Easter Sunday, a beautiful day quickly changed course when a 33-year-old man drowned in the rough, 60-degree surf right behind my house!! It was incredibly traumatic to be a first-hand witness to this. When I saw the volume of help already surrounding him, I gave them room and pivoted to talk to the young boys on the sand in front of me who were puzzled how this could have happened so fast and right in the water they were swimming in too—my training as the owner of MarTar Swim School just kicked in and I helped them understand. After that, I realized that these kids and their parents don't really understand how dangerous riptides and unpredictable currents can be. There isn't enough education out there, and people need to realize that if they cannot swim, they absolutely must wear life jackets—even adults.

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

TG: I would set up life jacket loaner stations at every single public access point on the beach. They're incredibly easy to build, and all we'd need is for folks in the community to donate

the life jackets. It's not a brand-new idea; if you look up the coast at Surfside Beach, they already have a successful loaner board right at their fishing pier. Down in Florida, life jacket trees are all over. Programs like Water Smart Collier have proven that having Coast Guard-approved jackets sitting right there on the sand saves lives!! The Sea Tow Foundation has helped put up over a thousand of these stations across the country. For more water-safety information and resources, I encourage everyone to visit www.stopdrowningnow.com. We don't have to guess if this works—we just need to do it. It's a simple, neighbor-helping-neighbor way to make sure everyone who visits our beach gets to go home safely.



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.



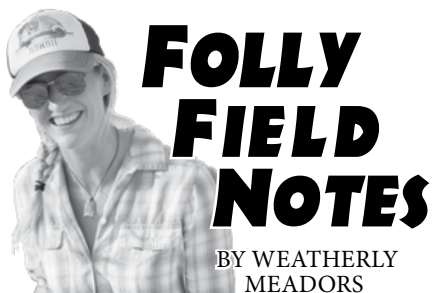
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The Call of the Sea

The ocean has a power that
can be felt all around



FOLLY FIELD NOTES

BY WEATHERLY
MEADORS

The ocean has been calling recently. I walk with the Folly Beach Turtle Patrol, and the last few mornings I've been on the beach at sunrise. The water has been glassy calm, an unending liquid seamlessly morphing into a grey sky. The opportunities are endless when you're looking into the distance.

The first time I went "offshore" was in a too-small boat, trying to make it past some shoals in St. Helena Sound to get back to Edisto Beach. There was a white buoy Dad insisted we go around that was nearly impossible to see when waves got rough (most of the time when we were out there). It was exhilarating.

Ten-ish years ago, a friend needed a hand moving his 30-foot sailboat to the Bahamas, and I climbed aboard ready for a relaxing three or four-day trip watching dolphins in the sunset. Boy was that wrong!

It was February, and the cold North wind settled in before we were out of the Charleston jetties. I didn't know how to sail, and it was trial by fire. Waking up the first morning and realizing we were so far offshore was unsettling. The third night there was a storm while I was on watch. It was pitch-black and impossible to tell how big the waves were until streaks of lightning revealed small mountains ahead. Perfect conditions for learning alone on deck at 4 a.m. By the time we arrived, I had sworn off sailing and vowed to never leave the estuary again.

But it's funny how the mind works. Three months later, I was on a plane so I could sail the same boat back. It was a much nicer trip

going with the Gulf Stream, and the weather was just about perfect. Good thing, since the engine quit soon after departure and we had the honor of truly sailing most of the way.

The Fish Gods were good to us. We caught a nice mahi on a hand line and made fish jerky since the stove had also bit the dust (as far as one can remember). By the end of that trip, the ocean and I were friends again. It's a fickle friend!

(Note: As an extremely seasick person, I can confirm it "goes away" after a few days. It will return as soon as you go into a small bathroom on land. Good luck making it out the door.)

My longest sailing trip was nine days out of sight of land. It's the most humbling experience to be that far away from another person. From shore, the horizon means possibility. From a small boat actually out there, it represents scale. You're tiny. The ocean is in control. The daily routine of life is sleeping, eating, keeping watch, monitoring weather, and staring into the distance for anything that breaks up the view. The power of the water is all around, and the ocean can change from perfect to terrifying at the drop of a hat.

The ocean has a pull on us. For all of time, people have stood on the shore and wondered what was across the water. Curiosity, necessity, and the desire to explore have pushed people into their boats in search of the unknown. Next time you're on the beach take a few minutes to sit and stare into the horizon. Let your mind wander where it will. Funny what walking the beach at sunrise will make you think of.

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Giant Redfish Head to Shallower Waters

September is a Fisherman's dream in the Lowcountry

It's the best times of the year for inshore fishing. Cooler water temperatures, abundant bait, and significantly lighter boat traffic create a perfect environment for success, offering big rewards for anglers willing to focus on fishing.

Redfish and trout begin aggressively striking artificials this month, making soft plastics exceptionally effective. A Z-Man 3.75-inch StreakZ in Smokey Shad paired with a 1/8-ounce jighead is a reliable starting point, though heavier weights may be necessary depending on depth and current. When working a spot, experiment with your retrieve speed, as simply speeding up or slowing down the action can frequently trigger a hesitant strike.

Even with the rise of artificial lures, popping corks remain a go-to tactic for both trout and redfish. Suspending live shrimp, mud minnows, or plastic imitations roughly 18 to 24 inches below the cork yields great results, especially when drifted over shell

rakes and along grassy banks during mid-to-high tide.

Meanwhile, giant bull redfish measuring over 36 inches begin moving out of the jetties and near-shore reefs into local harbors and inlets to feed on large mullet and menhaden. To target these heavy hitters, rig a stout rod with heavy braided line, a 50-to-60-pound leader, and a 7/0 circle hook baited with fresh chunks of cut bait. Position yourself over distinct depth changes and wait for the rod to double over. See you on the water!

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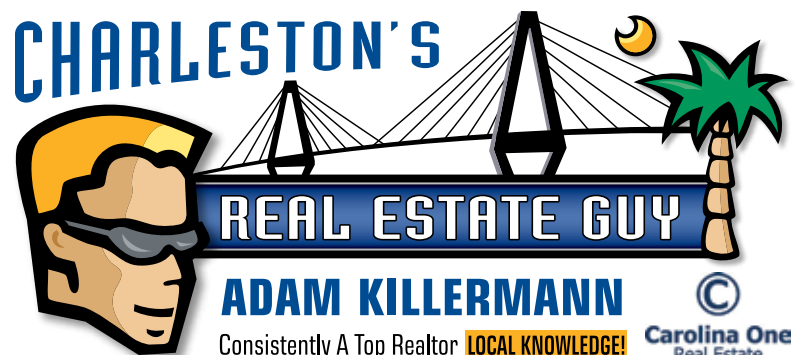
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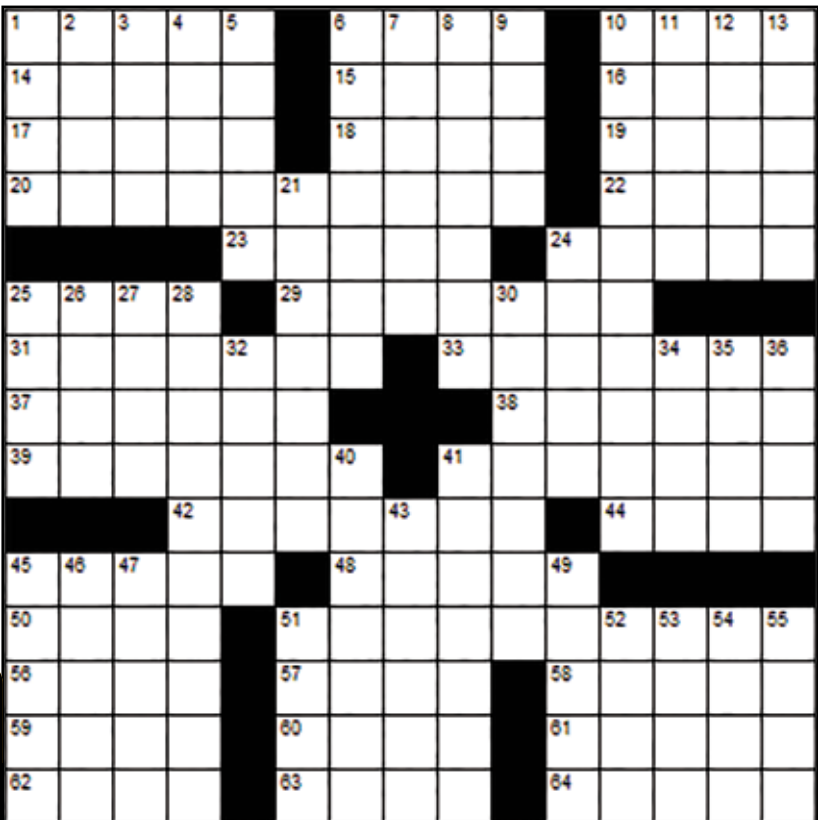


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FUN & GAMES

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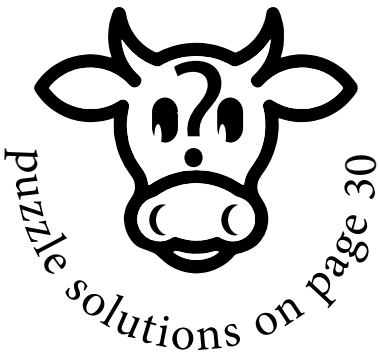
ACROSS

- 1. Protective covering from sunlight
- 6. Supervisor
- 10. Annoyance
- 14. Auspices
- 15. A Great Lake
- 16. Assess
- 17. Stupendous
- 18. Healthy
- 19. Freudian topics
- 20. Foolish
- 22. Uncluttered
- 23. Talking bird of poetry
- 24. Grocery carriers
- 25. Makes lace
- 29. British soldier (18th century)
- 31. Tallies
- 33. Unpredictable
- 37. Roomy sleeve
- 38. Ravel classic
- 39. Break
- 41. Peak
- 42. Cheese dish
- 44. Cravings
- 45. Blacksmith's block

DOWN

- 48. Deadly
- 50. Hurt
- 51. Luster
- 56. Fair attraction
- 57. Harvard rival
- 58. Breathe noisily while asleep
- 59. Angers
- 60. Connections
- 61. Committee
- 62. Neighbor of Vietnam
- 63. Terminates
- 64. Slumber

- 13. Quizzes
- 21. Associate
- 24. Christmas song
- 25. Seafarers
- 26. Asian nurse
- 27. Roman robe
- 28. Sex appeal
- 30. Like a planet's path
- 32. Birth-related
- 34. French for "Head"
- 35. Weightlifters pump this
- 36. Police officers
- 40. Chorus
- 41. Lack of success in baseball
- 43. Released from jail
- 45. Spring month
- 46. Nigerian money
- 47. Not audio
- 49. Speech defects
- 51. Memory unit
- 52. Nitpicky to a fault
- 53. Not any
- 54. Algonquian Indian
- 55. Cry of pain



SUDOKU

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

TRIVIA

- 1. MOVIES**

What is the name of Ridley Scott's new apocalyptic thriller based on a book by Peter Heller?
- 2. REALITY TV**

What sitcom star and outspoken Scientologist critic joins The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills for it's 16th season?
- 3. INTERNET**

Known for his outlandish stunts and disguises, who was just named Rolling Stone's #1 Most Influential Creators list?
- 4. BEAUTY PAGEANTS**

Justus Kelley just became the first mother to win the title of Miss USA. She is from what state?
- 5. TALK SHOWS**

What musician drew the ire of MAGA recently when he guest-hosted Jimmy Kimmel and took some comedic shots at the President?
- 6. COMEDY**

Sacha Baron Cohen has made feature films featuring his characters Borat and Brüno. A new one featuring what other popular character of his?
- 7. REST IN PEACE**

What 80-year-old actor, known for playing Pennywise the Dancing Clown in the 1990 made-for-TV version of Stephen King's It, passed away last month at the age of 80?
- 8. MUSIC**

What member of the Beastie Boys released a solo record entitled Thank You?



CLUBS, CLASSES & COMMUNITY GROUPS

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.)
- Select Thursdays: Sip & Soles Walking Group (8:30-9:30 a.m.) 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Thurs.; Seated Yoga (12:30-1:30 p.m.) Sept. 3rd.
- All exercise classes should be signed up for in advance. Email hodonnell@follybeach.gov.

A Night of Poetry & Spanish Guitar – Friday, Sept. 4, 6-8 p.m.

- Theme: Ocean & Summer Memories
- For nature themed open mic opportunity, email vpanache@gmail.com.
- Refreshments available
- RSVP to hodonnell@follybeach.gov by Sept. 2.
- Folly Beach Community Center, 55 Center St.

Intergenerational Nature Haiku Workshop – Thursday, Sept. 10, 6-8 p.m.

- Ages 8-80
- Taught by Victor Crouch.
- RSVP to hodonnell@follybeach.gov by Sept. 7.
- Folly Beach Community Center, 55 Center St.

Fall Concert Series at Folly River Park Thursday, Sept. 17, 6-8 p.m. Dan Marsh & The Cosmic Sailors Thursday, Oct. 1, 6-8 p.m. The Novatones

Book Club

Discuss "The Sixth Extinction" by Elizabeth Colbert – Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2:30-3:30pm, Folly Beach Library, 55 Center St. (843) 588-2001

Civic Club

3rd Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.
Folly Beach Community Center, 55 Center St.

Design Review Board

3rd Monday of each month, 6 p.m.
City Hall, 97 Center St.

Exchange Club

3rd Thursday of each month, 7pm.
For more information, visit www.follybeachexchangeclub.com
The Hut, 206 W. Indian Ave.

Folly Association of Business (FAB)

Next Meeting is Thursday, Sept. 10, 6:30-7:30pm at Tides Hotel. Optional social happy hour in the Pinky's bar at 6pm.

Home & Garden Club

4th Wednesday of each month (September-May), noon.
Folly Beach Community Center, 55 Center St.
The club is currently accepting jewelry donations for fundraising efforts that support community gardens and beautification projects.

Mahjong at the Library
Fridays, 10 a.m.–Noon. Open play for all skill levels.
Folly Beach Library, 55 Center St., (843) 588-2001

Planning Commission

1st Monday of each month, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 97 Center St. Visit www.cityoffollybeach.com for more information.

Senior Citizens Club

For adults 55 and older.
1st Thursday of each month, 11 a.m.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Cast Off Fishing Tournament

Saturday, Sept. 12, 6 a.m.-2 p.m.
Register at www.ccprc.com
Folly Beach Pier

Family Movie Night

4th Sunday of each month, 5 p.m.
Folly Beach Baptist Church.

Folly Art Village

Wednesdays, 5-9 p.m.
The Washout, 41 Center St.

Folly Family Storytime

Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m., ages 0-5.
Folly Beach Library, 55 Center St., (843) 588-2001

Mermaids & Mateys Festival

Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Center St. A free ticket voucher system will be in place to help with safe crowd control. All attendees must register for a free ticket in advance; however, capacity will be limited. Free tickets and more information is available at VisitFolly.com.

Shark Tooth Sleuthing

Saturday, Sept. 19, 9:30-11:30a.m.,
Folly Beach County Park, \$12, ages 9 & up

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Beach Yoga

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

Folly Beach Recreation Pickleball

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday: 8-10 a.m.
- Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 2-4pm.
- Pirates Cove, 510 E. Erie Ave.
- Tennis**
- Tuesday & Thursday: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday & Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Registration required.
- Soccer
- Saturdays, 9 a.m.-Noon.

- Registration required.
- Folly River Park.

Folly Beach Community Yoga

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., donation-based class. Bring your own mat.
Folly River Park, 83 Center St.

Open Water Swimming Meet-Up

Sundays, 9 a.m.
Meet at the Folly Beach Pier.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Folly Beach Run Club

Saturdays, 10 a.m. Meet at 2nd East Beach Access. All runners and dogs welcome.

Folly Beach Community Garden
Garden plots available for residents, businesses, and restaurants.
24 Michigan Ave.

Lighthouse Inlet Bird Walk

Friday, Sept. 11, 8:30-10:30 a.m. \$12, ages 12+
Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve.
For more information, visit www.ccprc.com

Lowcountry Street Grocery

Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St.

Music on the Pier – Moonlight Mixers

Music begins at 7 p.m.
• September 18 – DJ Bill Shelton
For more information, visit www.ccprc.com.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES & STUDY GROUPS

Christian Meditation Group

Mondays, 8:30 a.m.
Father Kelly Hall.
Faith Formation
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Folly Beach Methodist Church

Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Worship Service: 10 a.m.

Girlfriends Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Folly Beach Baptist Church.

Mary's Rosary Guild

1st and 3rd Fridays, 10 a.m.
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Men's Bible Study

Mondays, 6:45 p.m.
Folly Beach Baptist Church.

Pray at the Pier

2nd Thursday of each month, 5 p.m.
Presented by Folly Beach Baptist Church.

Recovery in Christ

Thursdays, 6 p.m.
Folly Beach Baptist Church.

Revelation Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
Folly Beach Methodist Church.

Soup Ministry

Mondays, Noon.
Folly Beach Baptist Church.

Women's Bible Study

Mondays 6:30 p.m. & Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.
Folly Beach Baptist Church.

Women's Guild

1st Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

** 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

S	H	A	D	E		B	O	S	S		P	E	S	T	
A	E	G	I	S		E	R	I	E		R	A	T	E	
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A	D	D	L	E	P	A	T	E	D		N	E	A	T	
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The Dog Stars
2. Leah Remini
3. Druski
4. Virginia
5. Jelly Roll
6. Ali G
7. Tim Curry
8. Mike D

Folly Association of Business's Litter Buster of the Month



For Hot Pursuit Donuts owners Lesley and Ritchie, Folly Beach isn't just where they do business. It's home, and they believe being part of the community means helping to take care of it.

Keeping litter off the island is especially important because what gets left behind can easily end up on the beach, in the ocean, and around the wildlife that makes Folly so special. As small business owners, they try to do their part while encouraging customers to properly dispose of cups, napkins, donut boxes, and other trash.

"We want the people who visit Folly Beach years from now to experience the same beautiful, welcoming island that made us fall in love with it in the first place," they said. "Enjoy the donuts, enjoy the beach, and please leave nothing behind but footprints."

— Lesley & Ritchie, Hot Pursuit Donuts

Hot Pursuit Donuts | 103 West Erie Ave.



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 fvolt243@gmail.com.

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Dolphin Watching, Morris Island
and Sunset Cruises
DAILY

ECO TOURS
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FULL MOON MARSH CRUISE
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& MORE!

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TOURS
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Italian Restaurant

915 Folly Rd, James Island | 795-8400 | eatatmondos.com

Closer to what matters.

Discover the homes, beaches, and everyday moments that make Folly Beach special. With local experts who know the island inside and out, we're here to help you find the place that feels right for you.

Nobody knows the Charleston Coast better.®



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



Vince Perna
843.425.6414



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:
31 Center St. Folly Beach, SC

(800) 476-8444

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dunesproperties.com