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FOLLY BEACH'S NEWSPAPER

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BENEATH THE MASK

A RENEWED BATTLE OVER
SHORT-TERM RENTALS
HAS EXPOSED AN UGLIER
SIDE OF FOLLY

... See story on pages 10

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A Marker for a Musical Landmark

New historical marker recognizes Folly Beach home
where an American classic took shape

from Staff Reports

Folly Beach has always attracted its share of characters, artists, writers and musicians. More than 90 years ago, one of America's most famous composers was among them.

Now, a new historical marker on West Ashley Avenue makes sure that chapter of Folly history doesn't go unnoticed.

The City of Folly Beach, Folly Beach Historical Society and Folly Beach Tourism and Visitor Promotion Committee unveiled the marker Sept. 25 in front of the Porgy House at 712 West Ashley Ave. The home served as the summer retreat of author DuBose Heyward and his wife, playwright Dorothy Heyward, and became closely connected to the creation of George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*.

Built in 1933, the two-story cottage was the Heywards' Folly getaway during a very different era on the island. The following summer, Gershwin came to Folly to work with the Heywards on an operatic adaptation of DuBose Heyward's 1925 novel *Porgy*.

The collaboration had begun earlier in 1934, but Gershwin spent several weeks that summer on Folly, where the collaborators could work while he immersed himself in the culture and music of the Lowcountry. According to the Library of Congress, Gershwin and the Heywards observed local customs and listened to African American music during his stay, experiences that influenced the work that would become *Porgy and Bess*.

And Folly itself became part of the story.

The Heywards called their island retreat "Follywood," a name that appears on correspondence between DuBose Heyward and Gershwin from 1934. That correspondence is now part of a Folly Beach Historical Society exhibit devoted



Descendants of Samuel Smalls, whom the character Porgy is based on, were in attendance of the unveiling of the new marker marking the Porgy House, where DuBose Heyward and George Gershwin worked on the famous musical Porgy and Bess

to the house and its place in the creation of the opera.

Gershwin stayed in a separate cottage nearby while working with the Heywards. That house was later destroyed by a hurricane, but the Heywards' cottage

survived and became known locally as the Porgy House. City documents prepared as part of the historical-marker project describe it as the surviving Folly connection to the collaboration.

The home retains its original wood

interiors, three bedrooms and a small writer's booth that was added later and used as a workspace. Its survival is particularly notable on an island where hurricanes, development and generations of rebuilding have erased many remnants of early Folly Beach.

The Sept. 25 ceremony also acknowledged an important part of the story that stretches beyond the island. Members of the Smalls family attended the unveiling in recognition of Samuel Smalls, the Charleston man who inspired Heyward's character Porgy.

Speakers at the ceremony included Folly Beach Mayor Chris Bizzell, James Ward of the American College of the Building Arts, Mae Holmes of the Exchange Club, Nancy Moore of the Tourism and Visitor Promotion Committee, Anne Hughes of the Folly Beach Historical Society, community representative Cubby Wilder and a member of the Smalls family.

Porgy and Bess opened in 1935, introducing songs that would become part of the American musical canon, most famously "Summertime." But tucked into the history of the production is a distinctly Folly chapter: a famous composer spending a summer on a still-rustic barrier island, working, listening and absorbing the sounds around him.

More than nine decades later, the house is still there.

And now, anyone passing 712 West Ashley Avenue has a sign telling them why it matters.

Those interested in digging deeper into the story can visit the Folly Beach Historical Society's exhibit, *The Porgy House: A Cottage on an Island in a Culture*, at the Folly Beach Community Center and Library.



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Witches, Costumes, and Community

From carnivals to contests, Halloween traditions come to life this month

by Hanalei Potempa | Contributing Writer

Spooky season has arrived on Folly Beach, and there are plenty of Halloween festivities on the calendar to get the community in the spirit. From decorated houses and a family movie night to a beloved Halloween carnival and a witches' dance, Folly knows how to turn Halloween into a community-wide celebration.

HALLOWEEN EVE

The festivities kick off Halloween Eve, Thursday, Oct. 30, with the Halloween House Decoration Contest and Movie Night at Folly River Park. Now a Folly tradition, the Decorated House Contest began in 2020, when COVID-19 made regular Halloween festivities difficult. But the community had so much fun showing off its decorating skills that the contest stuck around — becoming a beloved Folly tradition.

Community Coordinator for the City of Folly Beach, Heather O'Donnell, shared what she enjoys most about the tradition.

"I enjoy seeing each family's creativity and their vision coming to life. In particular, one family with children had them perform a piece that had to do with their home and yard Halloween Decoration. That was fun to see!"

And if you're wondering who the reigning champion of the house decorating contest is, the answer is: there's more than one!

"We have different categories of the Halloween House competition, so really everyone has a chance to win in a different category," O'Donnell says.

After checking out Folly's most creative Halloween homes, families can head over to Folly River Park for a free Halloween Movie Night featuring E.T.

O'Donnell shared that she always tries to pick a film that will appeal to all ages.



The Folly Beach Civic Club Children's Halloween Carnival will be held at Folly River Park on Friday, Oct. 31 at 6:30 p.m.

"The Folly Family Fun Movie Nights offer people of different generations to come together as a community and enjoy a movie together," O'Donnell says. "I think the movies help promote neighbors getting to know one another through a shared experience and is also welcoming to newcomers or families visiting Folly Beach."

HALLOWEEN DAY ON FOLLY

Then comes the big day. On Friday, Oct. 31, the celebrations kick off at 5 p.m. with the Folly Beach Civic Club Children's Halloween Carnival at Folly River Park, a Folly Halloween tradition dating all the way back to the 1960s.

The carnival offers fun for all ages, with food, games and plenty of Halloween festivities — from hot dogs and chili to a cake walk and costume contest.

"It's a festive atmosphere for all ages. There are a variety of games that will appeal to the littles as well as a basketball toss and spooky graveyard," Amy Ray, president of the Folly Beach Civic Club, says.

The costume contest begins at 6:30 p.m., featuring an entertaining parade of costumes and multiple prizes. There are group and solo contests for different age groups, with prizes including gift cards and special surprises.

After the children's costume contest, the grown-ups get their moment to shine. The Witches' Dance began in 2019 as a grassroots initiative to add an adult-oriented activity to the carnival. Inspired by an international movement seen in places like Germany, the event was designed to function as a flash mob following the children's costume awards.

"When I began it, it was to bring the

adults, primarily women," City of Folly Beach Council Member Dr. Katherine Houghton says. "Anything I can do to serve women in a fun way."

Houghton organizes the coordinated dance, with witches dressing up in costumes and joining together for the performance. Participants can attend rehearsals in person, or, if they prefer to practice at home, video tutorials are sent out. The performance involves a circle formation around a lit cauldron with smoke effects as the lights go down. And when it comes to costumes, the witches go all out, with decorated hats, wands and brooms complete with lights.

"There can be green witches, there can be white, they can be polka dotted," Houghton says. "So what I'm most excited about too is that it's just so creative, a very

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The Witches Dance is a spellbinding Folly tradition where the adults get to play

creative way to have fun and bring people together."

The dance has become a community event in its own right, with families and friends coming out to watch and participate.

"A lot of the women bring like their families, their husbands, their boyfriends, and they're videoing it, and they're just so proud and having fun — it's very joyful."

Anyone can join the Witches' Dance, even without prior practice, by simply jumping in and following along with the group during the event.

For Ray, one of the things that makes

Folly's Halloween celebrations so special is the community effort behind them. She encourages anyone who wants to get involved to reach out and volunteer.

"The Civic Club Halloween Carnival is a Folly tradition that relies on volunteers - residents, businesses, local clubs and the City of Folly Beach coming together to make it work year after year," she says. "There are so many ways to help."

Whether you're decorating your house, grabbing a blanket for movie night, dressing up for the carnival or joining the witches on the dance floor, there's no shortage of ways to celebrate Halloween the Folly way.

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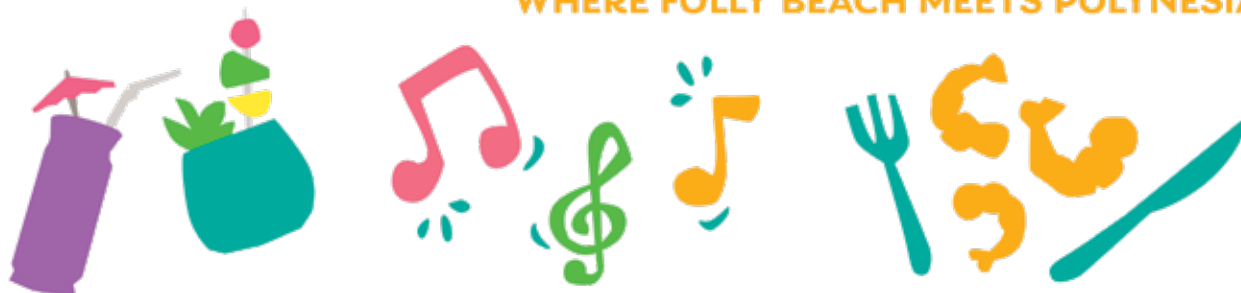
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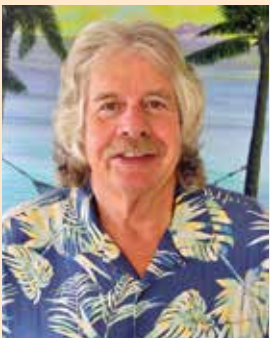


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BENEATH THE MASK

A renewed battle over short-term rentals has exposed an uglier side of Folly

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

For hundreds of years, battles have been fought on the shores of Folly Beach, both literal and symbolic. And our typically peaceful little island has never been a place where people are afraid to speak their minds or fight for what they believe in. But old battle lines were drawn in the sand again this summer when Charleston County Circuit Judge Thomas J. Rode nullified the city's short-term rental (STR) cap, ruling that the citizen-led referendum that created it amounted to an illegal tax because of its application fee structure. City Council responded on several fronts, appealing the ruling, placing a moratorium on new STR licenses, and quickly moving to adopt a similar cap of its own. At the same time,

the city had already begun looking for an outside organization to study the issue and recommend the best path forward.

The flurry of activity reignited a fight many on Folly hoped had finally been settled. Both sides have dug in, and much of the battle has moved online, where the rhetoric has all too often taken an ugly turn. Name-calling, personal attacks, and even threats have fanned the flames, raising the temperature of an already heated debate.

On social media, arguments over the future of short-term rentals have devolved into name-calling and personal attacks. Elected officials and residents have had their motives questioned. Doctored and AI-generated images have been circulated to mock Mayor

Chris Bizzell and others involved in the debate. In some instances, the rhetoric has veered into threats.

All of it is happening on an island that prides itself on being a tight-knit community, a place where the person you spar with online might be in line behind you at Bert's or next to you at the bar at The Crab Shack.

So, how did a disagreement over public policy become so personal? And, perhaps more importantly, how does a community come back from it?

The Folly Current recently spoke to Dr. Michael Lee, a professor of communication at the College of Charleston and director of the college's Civility Initiative, to talk about conflict, social media, and what happens when disagreement begins damaging the relationships that hold a community together.

Perhaps the first mistake may be assuming that conflict itself is the problem.

"Sometimes we need to have fights, and fights can make relationships stronger," said

Lee, who also hosts the podcast *When We Disagree*, which explores how arguments can be constructive and helpful when given the right space and context.

According to Lee, a problem arises when people fail to recognize the difference between debate and dialogue. Debate involves determining what is true or false, weighing evidence, and assessing the credibility of information. Dialogue asks something different of the participants.

"The dialogue is really more about letting go of winning and just trying to humanize," Lee said. "Why are you here on this issue? How did you get to be here on this issue?"

That distinction may be particularly relevant on Folly, where people on opposite sides of the STR debate often say they are fighting for the same thing: protecting the island they love.

They simply have profoundly different ideas about what protecting it means.

Through the Civility Initiative, Lee studies

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... continued from page 10

and teaches ways of navigating disagreement at the national, state, and local levels. The initiative has also begun working with local government officials in South Carolina on civil discourse and what Lee calls “healthy conflict.”

Too often, he said, communities enter contentious discussions without establishing expectations for how those conversations will occur.

“So many times we sort of hope a good conversation happens, but we haven’t actually done anything to enable it to happen,” he said. “We just kind of hold our breath and hope it goes well.”

When the Fight Moves Online

After a flurry of special council meetings following Judge Rode’s ruling, the online rhetoric seemed to ratchet up on social media. On sites like Follitics and FollyBeachPolitics, two local Facebook groups that serve as a sounding board for local issues, several AI-generated memes of Bizzell were posted, including one of the mayor in a Star Trek suit declaring he was here to destroy the island. Others took less comical approaches, including some that inched toward physical threats. Like one poster who suggested catching the mayor in a “back alley” and giving him a “swirly.” While on the surface the post seems like just playful social media trash talk and public venting, the physical act of forcefully shoving someone’s head into a toilet and flushing it would certainly be considered assault by any definition.

As for Bizzell, he’s rolling with the cyber punches as best he can. He knows it comes with the job. A job that, it should be noted, only brings home around \$800 a month. It’s much less for councilmembers, who have also had to endure personal attacks. For Bizzell, however, a line is crossed when online conversations bring his wife into the discussion.

“This past week I’m just tired from it,” he said, but added that he’s not hiding in his house. He said he will continue to be social because talking to people face-to-face is a much more productive form of communication than sitting behind a computer screen and lobbing insults and threats.

“It’s weird about social media; I can have one-on-one interactions with people that are a lot more productive and honest than what we’re seeing on social media. That’s one reason I just kind of discount all that. People absolutely trash me online, but when we’re one-on-one, it’s a little bit more civil and way more productive.”

As for the swirly threat? Bizzell shrugs it off. “If you do that in an alley, it’d really be awful,” Bizzell said.

“There are plenty of folks who are comfortable being vocal behind a keyboard, but not at council meetings or social gatherings,” said Greta Anderson, who moderates the Facebook page Follitics, which has been a part of the local dialogue for more than 15 years.

Dr. Lee said the familiar explanation is “keyboard courage,” people feeling empowered to say things from behind a screen that they would never say face-to-face. But Lee seems to be interested in a potentially more consequential question:

whether online discussions are beginning to replace the personal conversations neighbors once had with one another.

Despite the problems social media poses, Anderson sees Follitics as a useful way for residents to communicate and vent their frustrations. As a moderator, she tries not to steer the conversation or restrict people’s ability to speak openly.

“My responsibility as an admin is to provide a platform for folks to debate their differences. Both sides of the STR issue are passionate, just like people are about most politics, because politics are personal,” she said.

She also sees Follitics as a sort of microcosm of the entire community.

“I think the discourse on Follitics accurately reflects the division in the Folly community right now, and that the comments from what may seem like a few actually represent the feelings of many.”

Roberta Murchison, a moderator for FollyBeachPolitics, doesn’t feel the same way. She blames most of the more inflammatory online rhetoric on people who live “off,” as she puts it, referring to folks who don’t live full time on Folly Beach. She also says she can’t see some of the more incendiary posts on Follitics because she has been blocked from that site, which is why she helped start FollyBeachPolitics to begin with.

“People say we’re really divided, but who’s divided? I don’t really feel like the community—if you call Folly residents the community—is really that divided,” she contends, despite the fact that the public vote on the cap was relatively close, 53 percent in favor to 47 percent opposed.

“The people who are most upset are the people who live off, the realtors, and even James Island, but mostly not even in the state,” she said. “When I look at the local Folly people, there’s probably just a handful.”

Whether they live full time on the island, work here, own property on Folly, or just like to visit the beach, people are passionate about the STR issue. And much of what they consume online comes from these social media sites, which may or may not reflect the community as a whole. But it shapes public perception and affects our relationships.

Lee says part of the issue is that people are exposed to vastly more interpersonal hostility than they were before social media.

“Thirty years ago, we wouldn’t be exposed to that on a day-to-day basis,” he said.

That exposure can shape what people expect when they encounter someone they disagree with. Lee pointed to research where participants were asked to predict how badly a conversation about a contentious subject would go before actually having it. Their expectations tended to be considerably more negative than the conversations themselves.

In other words, watching people tear each other apart online can begin to convince us that talking to someone on the other side isn’t even worth the effort.

Common Ground isn’t Middle Ground

Dr. Lee makes another distinction that could be useful for a divided community: middle ground versus common ground.

Middle ground requires compromise—

each side giving something up to arrive somewhere between their positions. Common ground requires no such agreement.

For him, civility doesn’t mean avoiding difficult subjects or asking passionate people to become less passionate. Nor does it mean that people with deeply held beliefs have to pull their punches entirely.

Instead, part of civility is recognizing that there are things one can say or do that might inflict lasting damage and consciously deciding not to use them.

“You know full well in every relationship you have, there’s something you can say that can end that relationship,” Lee said.

That may be especially important in a community the size of Folly Beach. When a national political fight ends, most of the combatants will never encounter one another. On Folly, today’s opponent remains tomorrow’s neighbor.

How do we Move Forward?

The legal and political questions surrounding short-term rentals aren’t going away anytime soon. Neither, most likely, are the disagreements about what Folly should look like in the future.

Murchison remains hopeful that the Folly community will overcome this issue as it has in the past, like with the beach alcohol ban and other contentious issues.

Anderson is less optimistic when it comes to closing the chasm that has been created by the issue.

“At this point, I worry that some of the wounds caused by this division may take a long time to heal,” she says.

Lee’s work suggests that agreement isn’t necessarily the goal. Learning how to disagree might be. And on an island where nearly everyone involved claims to be fighting for the place they love. There is, of course, another complication when talking about civility and conflict in America. Our history teaches us that conflict can be necessary. Some of the people most celebrated in the American story are those who refused to remain quiet, used fiery rhetoric, and fought against the prevailing order to bring about change. The nation itself was born from revolution.

This history can make restraint feel like weakness and compromise seem like surrender. It can also encourage people to view their personal and political battles in similarly existential terms—seeing every disagreement as another fight to be won by any means necessary.

Folly Beach even has its own small connection to that history, having played a supporting role during the Revolutionary War. Nearly 250 years later, the island is again filled with people passionately fighting over its future.

But Lee’s argument isn’t that people should stop fighting for what they believe in. Civility, as he describes it, is more about knowing which weapons not to use and recognizing that winning today’s argument may not be worth permanently damaging a relationship with someone who will still be your neighbor tomorrow.

That distinction matters even more on an island as small as Folly.

“There is no revolution on Folly Beach without everybody losing,” Lee said.

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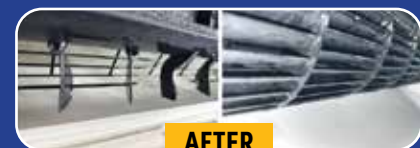


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A Force for Good

Annual run/walk brings lung cancer survivors, families, and supporters to Folly

from Staff Reports

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

Hundreds of runners and walkers will take to the streets of Folly Beach this fall, but for many, crossing the finish line will mean much more than completing a 5K.

The American Lung Association's annual Lung Force Run/Walk returns to Folly Beach on Saturday, Oct. 17, bringing together survivors, families, health care professionals and supporters to raise awareness and funds in the fight against lung disease.

The event begins at 9 a.m. at the Folly Beach Pier and includes a 5K run and walk through the island. Participants can compete for time, take a more leisurely walk or join together as teams in honor or memory of someone affected by lung disease.

"Lung Force is about bringing people together with hope, purpose and a shared commitment to improving the future of lung

health," said Lung Force Run/Walk co-chairs Eleanor Hardy and Elaine Carew. "Whether you're running for someone you love, walking as a survivor or simply showing up to support the cause, every participant is part of our Force."

This year's event will expand its celebration of the lung health community by highlighting local healthcare professionals through the new Charleston Lung Force Medical Honoree Award. The award will recognize a health care professional who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving lung health and advancing the prevention, detection, treatment, or understanding of lung cancer and lung disease. The honoree will be recognized at the run/walk.

Lung Force is a national American Lung Association initiative focused on defeating lung cancer and improving lung health. Money raised through the Folly Beach event supports lung disease research, education and advocacy, including work related to



lung cancer, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other respiratory illnesses.

While the mission is national, Folly Beach has put its own stamp on the event.

Local residents and supporters participate each year as Team Folly, proving that a small island can make a surprisingly large impact. Last year, Team Folly ranked 21st nationally among Lung Force community teams, quite a showing for a sleepy little beach town.

The event also provides a chance to celebrate survivors while remembering those lost to lung disease. Participants are encouraged to form teams with friends, family members and coworkers, fundraise ahead of the event and share the stories behind why they are taking part.

Lung cancer remains one of the central focuses of the Lung Force campaign. The American Lung Association launched the initiative to increase awareness of the disease, encourage early detection and help

fund research into new treatments.

On Folly, however, those big-picture goals take on a distinctly local feel. Instead of gathering in a convention center or navigating the streets of a major city, participants start their morning beside the ocean and make their way through the same streets residents and visitors travel every day.

That setting has helped make the Folly event a community gathering as much as a fundraiser — one where competitive runners can line up alongside survivors, families and walkers simply there to show their support.

And if last year's national showing is any indication, Folly continues to punch well above its weight. For a little beach town, Team Folly has become a pretty big force.

The Lung Force Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 9 a.m. For more information or to register, visit [LUNGFORCE.org/Charleston](https://lungforce.org/Charleston).

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AUG. 24

BURRITO BEHAVIOR

Employees at a local food mart called police about a shirtless man causing a disturbance inside the store. According to the report, the man had to be escorted from the property but continued yelling and cursing at anyone within earshot before throwing his burrito at a parked car and leaving his garbage behind. Police began searching the area and were repeatedly stopped by pedestrians asking if they were looking for a shirtless guy causing trouble. That was a pretty good clue. Officers eventually found him on Center Street, where he explained that he had been yelling at his father on a phone borrowed from a store employee and admitted he was angry when he launched the burrito. After being arrested, police say the man began banging his head against the patrol car windows and threatening officers. His night ended with a trip to jail.

**SEPTEMBER 3
SOCK IT TO ME**

A man apparently decided a pair of Oakley socks from a Center Street beachwear store would look better on his feet than on the store's balance sheet. According to police, surveillance footage showed the shopper removing the white socks from their packaging and leaving without paying. Store employees also recognized him as a recent employee of a nearby Center Street business. An officer went next door, where a manager reportedly identified the suspect from the surveillance footage and provided police with

his name and other information. Police said they were seeking a warrant for petit larceny.

**SEPTEMBER 5
WALK THIS WAY**

An officer clocked a sedan traveling 51 mph in a 35-mph zone on Folly Road and eventually found the vehicle parked at Folly Beach Boat Landing. As the officer approached with blue lights activated, however, the car was empty and two men were steadily walking away toward an area that led to a steep drop and nearby marsh. Police ordered the pair to stop and return. According to the report, the driver smelled strongly of alcohol, had just left a local bar and was wearing a bright green wristband commonly used to identify patrons of legal drinking age. As police prepared to conduct field sobriety tests, a woman reportedly came running from the same direction, yelling and trying to place herself between officers and the driver. Police attempted to remove her from the scene, but she allegedly pulled away and resisted before officers handcuffed her and placed her in a patrol car.

**SEPTEMBER 6
SAND IN YOUR SHORTS**

A little misplaced beach sand allegedly led to a lot more than an uncomfortable towel at the 3rd West beach access. Police were called after two men got into a fight near a chair-rental setup. According to the report, an employee was shoveling sand to anchor rental chairs when some of it may have accidentally landed on another beachgoer's towel. The man reportedly became irate, confronted the employee and eventually head-butted him, dragged him to the ground, kneed him and punched him repeatedly. The suspect had a somewhat different version, telling police the employee had intentionally shoveled sand all over him and he was merely defending himself. Unfortunately for him, two witnesses reportedly backed the employee's version of events, and officers also noticed blood on the suspect's knuckles. He was arrested on an assault and battery charge.

**SEPTEMBER 10
THE CASE OF THE CASE**

An officer stopped a battered Dodge pickup on East Ashley Avenue after noticing extensive front-end damage, a rear window held together with clear tape and the truck

twice drifting onto the fog line. The driver's license turned out to be suspended, but police said he showed no signs of impairment during field sobriety tests. Because the truck's taped-up rear window presented a safety concern, officers decided to have it towed. And that's when the evening reportedly took another turn. During the required inventory search, police found a black eyeglass case containing a glass pipe with burnt residue and a small plastic bag containing a clear crystalline substance. When the officer asked the driver if he knew why he was suddenly being detained, his reported response suggested he did: "because of the drugs." Police said the substance later presumptively tested positive, and the driver was taken to jail.

**SEPTEMBER 10
PICTURE THIS**

Employees at Sunset Cay Marina called police about a man they said was hanging around the property and taking photographs of security cameras. According to the report, employees confronted the amateur surveillance photographer through the marina's Ring camera system and asked him to leave, but he allegedly refused. Police later located the man walking along West Ashley Avenue and informed him that marina management wanted him formally trespass from the property. He was also issued a citation for loitering. Officers then offered him something of a consolation prize: a courtesy ride to Walmart on James Island. Before departure, police made it clear that returning to the marina or violating the trespass notice could turn his next ride into one headed for jail. He accepted the Walmart express instead.

**SEPTEMBER 14
WATCH WHERE YOU LEAVE IT**

A beachgoer returned home after an afternoon near the Folly Beach Pier and discovered her Apple Watch Series 7 was missing from a bag she had left with her belongings on the beach. Fortunately, the watch was considerably less mysterious about its whereabouts than whoever had it. The woman opened Apple's Find My app and discovered the watch had recently pinged from a residence in Mount Pleasant. Folly Beach police contacted their Mount Pleasant counterparts, who went to the address but

received no answer at the door. Officers also noticed several vehicles parked in the driveway but were unable to recover the watch. The owner placed the device into "lost mode," effectively making it useless to whoever had it, and was told to contact police if someone attempted to disable that setting or if the watch provided another active location.

**SEPTEMBER 16
DIAL 'M' FOR MONEY**

A dispute over \$1,300 apparently became a dispute with the police department after a man repeatedly called the non-emergency line seeking help collecting money he said an acquaintance owed him. Officers explained that the disagreement was a civil matter and that police could not resolve the debt. According to the report, the caller nevertheless contacted the department three times, became increasingly agitated and at one point referenced killing the other man before immediately saying he was joking. Police again told him to stop calling unless an actual emergency or criminal violation occurred. That apparently didn't stick. The report says he called two more times in the same manner after the initial report was completed. By then, police were drafting warrants for misuse of public safety communications.

**SEPTEMBER 17
FIREBALL EXPRESS**

A Folly Beach officer heard a vehicle's engine roaring near the 200 block of East Ashley Avenue before watching it accelerate rapidly through a busy 25-mph zone. According to the officer, the vehicle reached an estimated 50 to 55 mph despite heavy pedestrian traffic around nearby crosswalks and roadsides. It then allegedly followed another vehicle too closely before stopping in the roadway and accelerating hard again. Police pulled the driver over and discovered another problem: the vehicle's registration had expired more than a year earlier. During an inventory search before the car was towed, officers found an empty Fireball shooter in the center console. The driver was cited for reckless driving, expired registration and having an open container. He was released, but his vehicle wasn't going anywhere until somebody renewed the registration.

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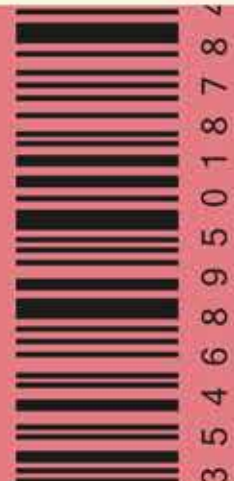
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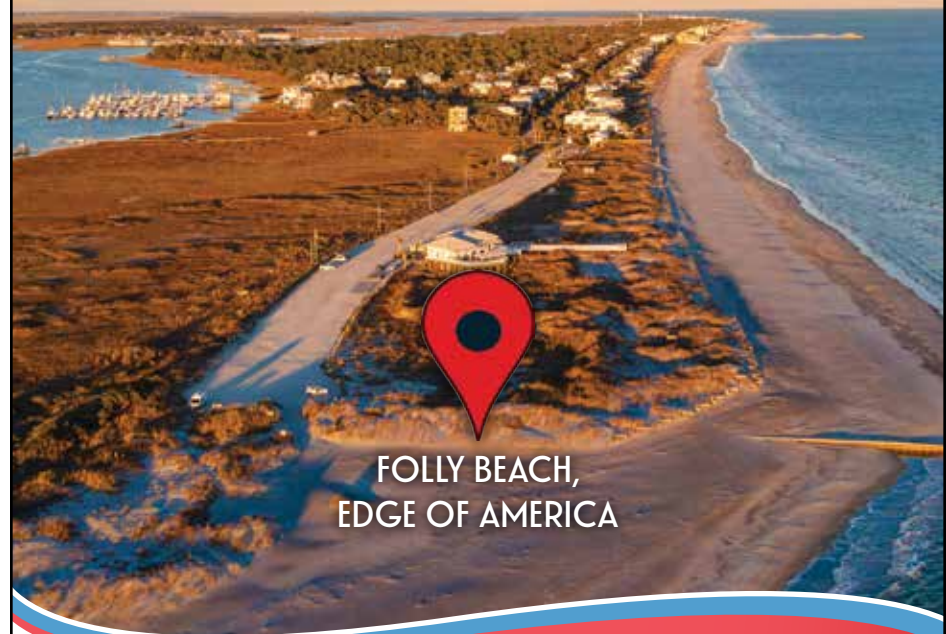


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Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound

Whiskey Diablo returns to the Chico Feo stage on Oct. 23

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

The *Folly Current* recently caught up with Patrick Blake, the head hellraiser for the “gutter country-rock” outfit Whiskey Diablo. Blake has since moved from the Charleston area, but continues to play music and still gets together with his fellow Diablos from time to time.

Known for their raw, high-energy style, together Whiskey Diablo have played more than 700 shows and recorded multiple albums.

Here is part of that conversation as they prepare to return to a familiar stage, when they play Chico Feo on Friday, Oct. 23

FOLLY CURRENT: It's good to see Whiskey Diablo is still at it! How has the band changed since your Charleston days?

PATRICK BLAKE: Thank you sir. Well, the first thing that comes to mind is that we're on time now. WD used to be chronically late with start times. We once unknowingly showed up to the wrong venue in Hilton Head. We started playing the gig and about 40 mins into the set there's a call from the venue we were supposed to be playing with management asking where we were. We finished out the gig we were at and then played the other place the following night 24 hours later.

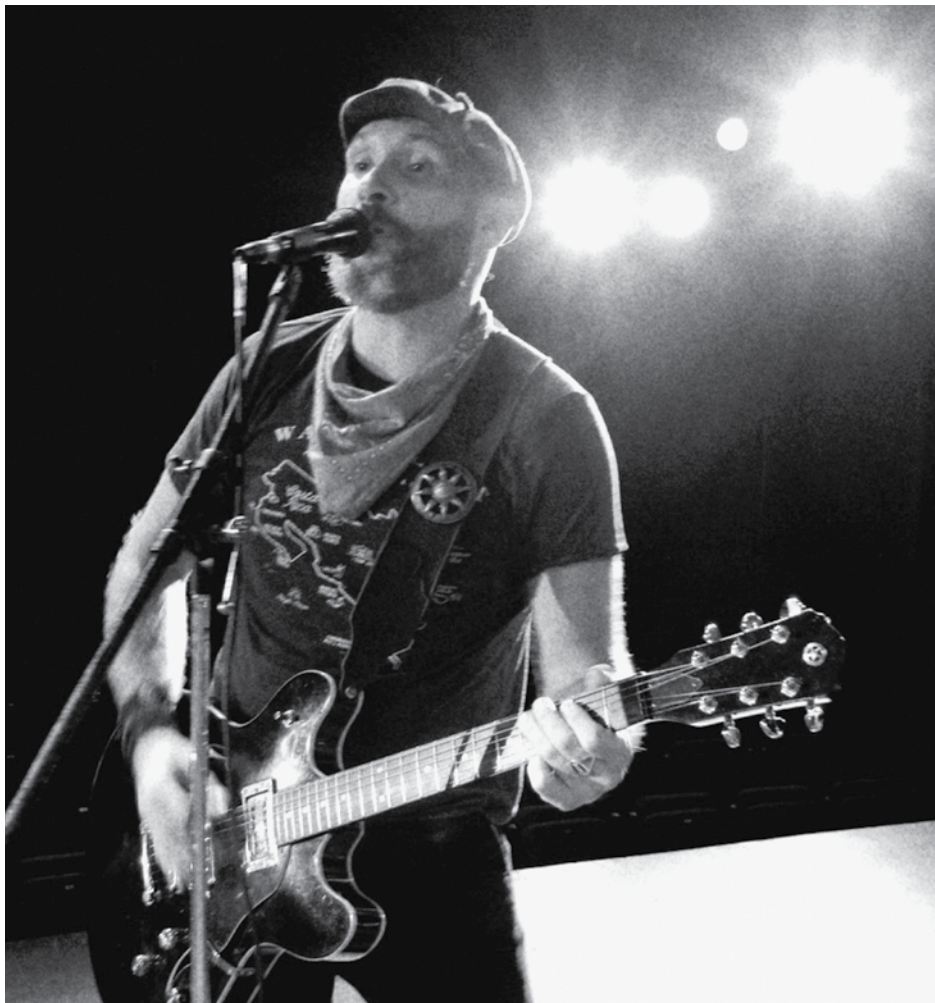
FC: What do you miss most about tearing up Lowcountry stages on the reg?

PB: Probably all of the camaraderie with the local musicians. It's a somewhat eclectic and definitely supportive atmosphere of wildly talented players.

Copious amounts of freebie after hours booze might come in a close second. I definitely do not miss sweating profusely at every single gig.

FC: What does it mean to you to be returning to the Chico Feo stage?

PB: It means that I'll probably see the sun come up the next day after the show. Folly tends to get her claws in ya and not let go!



It also means that I'll be getting a Wu-Tang bowl. Hank and all of the staff at Chico are wonderful. It's a very warm and inviting environment. They put tremendous effort into helping me retrieve a guitar that was stolen after a gig there. I am, however, refraining from table top dancing this time though as we don't want anymore busted guitars.

FC: Where are you now nad what is new in your world? Anything new on the music front— album,tour, side projects, etc?

PB: I'm currently sitting in the recording studio that I built at my home in the Appalachian mountains of Virginia.

Whiskey Diablo is releasing a new single called “Double Down (on a bad decision)” probably at the beginning of November.

I've been working on a duo project with a wildly talented singer Sophia Redwine. She actually did a guest vocal spot on “Double Down”. I'm also starting some recordings with an 18 year old singer / songwriter Shawn Epperson. He's an old soul with a fantastic baritone voice.

Lastly, Whiskey Diablo is about to finally start recording for our elusive third album. Shooting for a release date late next summer or early 2028 as long as the world doesn't completely implode by then.

FC: Anything else?

PB: Go Vote.

Whiskey Diablo plays on Friday, Oct. 23 at Chico Feo, located at 122 E Ashley Ave For more information, visit www.whiskeydiablo.com.

Fright Night on Folly

Just in time for Halloween, Bill Noel returns to Folly with *Wraith*

from Staff Reports

Just in time for spooky season, author Bill Noel and his daughter Angela Cruz are once again littering Folly Beach with fictional dead bodies.

Noel and Cruz's latest novel, *Wraith: A Folly Beach Halloween Mystery*, arrived Sept. 1, giving fans of Noel's long-running Folly Beach Mystery series a suitably creepy read for October. The 30th installment brings back reluctant amateur sleuth Chris Landrum and his considerably more enthusiastic sidekick, Charles Fowler — and this time the island's Halloween decorations provide cover for something much more sinister.

Halloween is already Chris' least favorite holiday when he and Charles encounter a particularly convincing decoration: a corpse

hanging from a gallows in a yard crowded with ghosts, goblins, and other seasonal scares.

Unfortunately for Chris, this one isn't fake.

Charles promptly appoints the pair to investigate, sending them after an appropriately colorful cast of suspects that includes a woman who dresses like a witch year-round, a wheel-chair-bound curmudgeon, and a fellow Halloween hater who travels with a macaw.

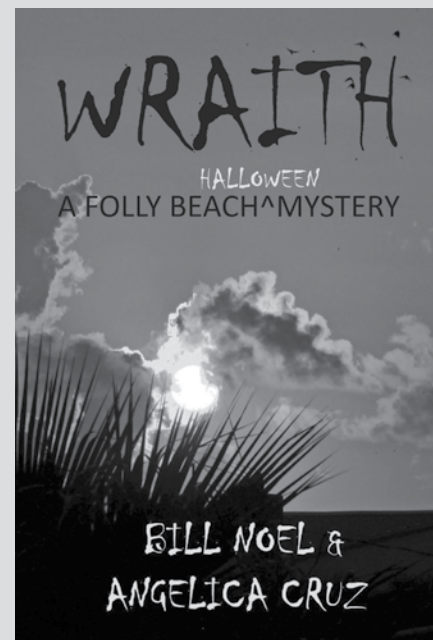
Then more bodies begin turning up.

Each victim is accompanied by a mysterious message branded into leather, leaving Chris and Charles to figure out the connection—and stop the killer before one of those messages is intended for them.

The 346-page mystery continues a series Noel began with Folly in 2007. A retired university administrator and fine-art photographer from Louisville, Kentucky, Noel was approaching 60 when he decided to try his hand at fiction. What began as an experiment eventually grew into a 30-book series built around Folly Beach's familiar combination of colorful characters, local landmarks, and slightly offbeat island personalities.

Wraith gives that familiar setting a seasonal makeover, turning one of Folly's most colorful holidays into the backdrop for another Chris and Charles investigation.

After 30 mysteries, one might think Chris would have learned that when Halloween



rolls around on Folly Beach, it's probably best to stay home, turn off the porch light, and definitely not investigate anything that looks like a dead body.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton + Friends
Folly River Park: 6-8pm Fall Concert Series: The Novatones
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Bender Funk; 10pm-1am Karaoke
LowLife Bar: 8-10pm Weigh Station
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Molly D.
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Karaoke
Rita’s: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man
The Washout: 7-10pm TBD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm Tom Crowley & The Speakers
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Justin Suede
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark; 9-11pm DJ Lotis
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Michael Duff
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Thomas Champagne Band
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm Gracie
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Johnny Holliday & The Silver Lining

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Campbell & Sons w/ Justin Jones
Center Street: Mermaids & Mateys Festival w/ Hlgh Water Honky, Dangermuffin, Macelyn Batten; Lady Jane; Fire Circus; Cam Alexander & Friends
Chico Feo: 8-11pm Dr. T and the Side Effects
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Michael Duff Duo; 6-9pm Tom Crowley
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm Kenley Young; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Liam Murphy; 5-8pm Matt Mack-elcan; 8:30-11:30pm See Jane Spin
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Riley
Revelry Brewing: 6-9pm Live Music
Rita’s: 6-9pm Liam Murphy
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 6-10pm Dog Named Squid & Kind Hearted Strangers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

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 Fisher
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy Trio
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Return of the Mac; 5-8pm Robert C.
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Piano D
Rita’s: 6-9pm Lady Jane

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

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

Rita’s: 6-9pm Hollyn Belle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Drop In Deli: 7:30-9:30pm Trivia
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Johnny Knuckles
Rita’s: 6-9pm David Sink
The Washout: 5-9pm Folly Art Village; 6-9pm Live Music

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

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 Bubba Bryant
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Karaoke
Rita’s: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man
The Washout: 7-10pm Dan’s TBD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

The Bounty Bar: 10pm Johnny Holliday & The Silver Lining
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Return of the Mac
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Matt Mackelcan
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Shakin’ Martini’s
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm Lola Grace
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Malin Wagnon Trio

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm River Mason
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Justin Suede; 6-9pm Matt Mackelcan
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm Kenley Young; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Michael Duff; 5-8pm Tom Crowley; 8:30-11:30pm Jerry Feels Good
Planet Follywood: 8pm-12am Sean Smith
Revelry Brewing: 6-9pm Live Music
Rita’s: 6-9pm Drew Marler
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Johnny Holliday & The Silver Lining

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

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: 1-4pm Zach Q.; 5-8pm Robert C.
Planet Follywood: 8pm-12am Hope
Rita’s: 6-9pm Gracie

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Drop In Deli: 7:30-9:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm 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, OCTOBER 15

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton + Friends
Folly River Park: 6-8pm Fancy power Pop
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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm Big Stoner Creek
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 Matt Mackelcan
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Wild Current
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm Johnny Knuckles
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm The Bozswells; 6-9pm Molly D.
Loggerhead’s: 3-6pm Thomas O’Brien; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: 1-4pm Super Reggae Man; 5-8pm Justin Suede; 8:30-11:30pm DJ Smartz
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Macelyn Batton
Revelry Brewing: 6-9pm Live Music
Rita’s: 6-9pm Gene Butler
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Shakin’ Martini’s

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

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: 1-4pm Liam Murphy; 5-8pm Return of the Mac
Planet Follywood: 8pm-12am Piano D
Rita’s: 6-9pm Jack Triebold

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

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, OCTOBER 22

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm Joe Fisher Band
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Return of the Mac
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark; 9-11pm DJ Lotis
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Bender Funk Duo
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Dan Marsh
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm Krystal and Friends
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Live Music

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Justin Suede; 6-9pm Tom Crowley
Loggerhead’s: 2-5pm Sean Ryan Smith; 7-10pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: 12-3pm Liam Murphy; 4-7pm Gator Food Duo; 8:30-11:30pm DJ Lotis
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Frank Mellow
Revelry Brewing: 6-9pm Live Music
Rita’s: Stranger Things Party: 12-3pm DJ; 6-9pm Deeyayjuzo
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Carolina Kingsnakes

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

The Bounty Bar: 9pm The 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: 1-4pm Michael Duff; 5-8pm Robert C.
Planet Follywood: 8pm-12am Hope
Rita’s: 6-9pm Hollifield

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

The Bounty Bar: 7-9pm Trivia AF
Chico Feo: 6-10pm Songwriters Soapbox
The Crab Shack: 6-9pm Jeff Houts
Planet Follywood: 7pm Bingo
Rita’s: 6-9pm Sufferin’ Moses

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Island Duo
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton + Friends
Folly River Park: 6-8pm Family Fun Movie Night: “ET”
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 Johnny Duo

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm Folly Bubl 
The Crab Shack: 8-11pm Calhoun’s Calling
KoKo’s: 6-9pm Matt Mackelcan
Loggerhead’s: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Pinky’s: 6-9pm Justin Suede
Planet Follywood: 9pm-12am Longshot Gamble
Revelry Brewing: 6pm Jack Fortune
Rita’s: 6-9pm Dereck Cribb
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Eddie Bush

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm What’s Up Chuck
The Crab Shack: 7-10pm Live Music
Folly River Park: 5-7:15pm Children’s Halloween Festival
KoKo’s: 2-5pm Bender Funk Duo; 6-9pm Molly D.
Loggerhead’s: 7-10pm Shane Clark; Halloween Costume Contest Karaoke Party 10pm-1am
Pinky’s: 12-3pm Super Reggae Man; 4-7pm Liam Murphy; 8:30-11:30pm See Jane Spin
Planet Follywood: 9pm-1am Longshot Gamble
Revelry Brewing: 6-9pm Live Music
Rita’s: 6-9pm “Scary-o-ke” with Karaoke Chris
Taco Boy: 7pm-close DJ
The Washout: 8-11pm Dan & The Donuts



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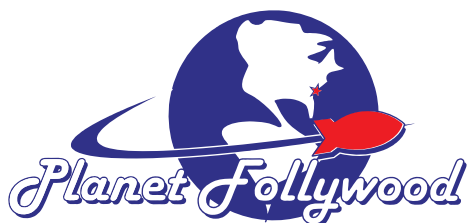
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- \$4.50 Deep Eddy, Beam, Firefly,
Bacardi, Smirnoff &
Jose Cuervo
- \$4 Michelob Ultra, Miller Lite,
Budweiser, Bud Light &
Coors Light Bottles

Happy 75th Birthday to the Exchange Club of Folly Beach!



Our last meeting was a special one, a **75th BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF FOLLY BEACH!** Yep, since 1951 the Exchange Club has been supporting the community, helping with the prevention of child abuse, helping seniors, helping our youth, honoring our veterans, first responders and our city workers! Our special guests were our very own Mayor Chris Bizzell and several Exchange Club members from the region.

OUR OCTOBER MEETING: October 15th at 7pm featuring "One Nation Under God", a program where we serve breakfast for dinner! Special local religious guests are planned.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS for a service day on **October 17!**
Contact us at follybeachexchangeclub@gmail.com

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING: Our Golden Age Dinner where local Senior Widows and Widowers are fed a wonderful **Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19th at 6pm.** Location will be at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. If you know of someone that needs an invite, please let us know.

OUR PICKLEBALL

TOURNAMENT: Volley on Folly has sold out for tournament players. Volunteers and Auction prizes are still needed. The Event is **November 14th and 15th** with set up Friday the 13th at 4pm. Proceeds are to benefit the Drew Wynne Foundation.



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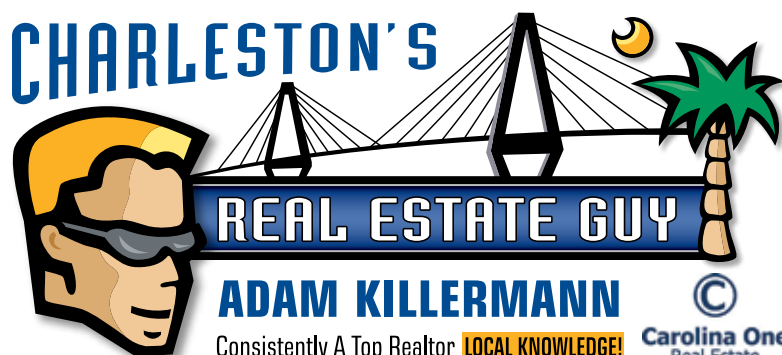
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INTERVIEWS BY
PAT "WIGGY" HIBAN

Down-Island Vibes

Captain Ryan Carroll brings a lifelong love of the water to the Folly River

Captain Ryan Carroll and I first crossed paths when I joined some neighbors for a get-together aboard the Folly Tiki shortly after it launched. Ever since, whenever a large group of friends or family is in town, I book a sunset-and-dolphin cruise. Each trip reveals something new about Ryan, and I quickly realized he would make a great Faces of Folly candidate.

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

CAPTAIN RYAN CARROLL: I was born on Virginia's Eastern Shore in Accomack County, and we moved to Suffolk when I was 8. My sister and I grew up exploring the Nansemond River behind our house—mudlarking, throwing marsh mud at each other, and staying out until dark. When jellyfish were thick, we put on pantyhose and pulled each other around on surfboards. Nothing got in the way of river fun.

When I was old enough, I mowed lawns until I could buy a humble jon boat. A year later, at 15, I saved enough for a six-horsepower engine. We could not go far by land, but we could explore the waterways, and those adventures with my sister and friends started my love affair with the water.

In 2019, after celebrating New Year's in Bocas del Toro, Panama, I anchored in Charleston on my way north to visit friends. I was rebuilding after a difficult relationship and had planned only a brief stop, but Folly became home. I put down roots along the Folly River, became a Lowcountry family man, and eventually created Folly Tiki as a way to share the river's beauty and the island spirit I found in my travels.

FC: What is an experience that has had a lasting impact on who you are today?

RC: Buying my first sailboat changed my life. I had no sailing experience—just hope, positive vibes, and a desire for independence. During the survey, I followed the inspector around asking what each "rope" did. He

was stunned that I had never sailed before. I learned by trial and error, absorbing every lesson I could from the old salty sailors at the marina. Eventually, I even learned that they are called "lines."

Then John Scott invited me to crew on a delivery from Guadeloupe to Virginia. I immediately said yes. Learning to sail offshore, traveling only by wind, and watching sunsets and stars with no land or light pollution in sight was life-altering. That journey gave me the sailing bug for good.

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

RC: The waves, sunrises, sunsets, and ever-changing marsh. Folly's bohemian surf-town character and down-island vibe are rare in the States. It makes me feel at home, and it makes me want to protect this place while sharing its magic with others.

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

RC: Launching the Folly Tiki for the first time is my favorite Folly story. I had carried the idea with me for years, inspired by the island spirit I found in my travels. Watching the boat finally leave the dock and begin bringing people together on the Folly River was a special moment.

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

RC: Hatred-fueled division. Disagreements are dividing our tight-knit community, and Facebook feuds are spilling into relationships across the island.

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

RC: A wise friend and local, Jordan Mills, used to say, "It's all love, baby." That is what

we need more of. We all love this island, and kindness and respect are the way forward. We can have honest opinions and productive discourse without losing sight of one another. It's all love on Folly, baby.

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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Fall Offers Some of the Best Fishing of the Year

Artificial lures become more productive as water temps cool

Fall is here, bringing shorter days, cooler temperatures, and some of the best fishing of the year. So don't put those rods and reels away just yet!

While live bait will continue to produce plenty of fish, artificial lures are becoming increasingly effective as water temperatures cool. It's a great time to get out on the water and enjoy everything the season has to offer.

Redfish—including plenty of bull reds—have been feeding aggressively on cut and live bait fished along the bottom. Mullet are abundant throughout our waters and are easy to catch with a cast net. For redfish, try rigging a mullet on a 3/0 circle hook with a Carolina rig. Use enough weight to keep the bait in place and prevent it from drifting into snags. This setup works well both on the flats and around docks. Once everything

is in place, put the rod in the holder and wait for that reel to start screaming as the fish takes the bait and hooks itself.

Artificial lures have also started producing some excellent trout action, with traditional paddle-tail soft plastics leading the way. I like to pair a paddle tail with a 1/4-ounce Trout Eye jighead and tie it on with a loop knot to give the lure plenty of freedom and action. Experiment with your retrieve speed as you work different areas and look for pockets of feeding fish. If you want to add a little extra attraction, try tipping the jig with a small piece of shrimp. Frozen or live shrimp will both work and can create a scent trail that fish have a hard time ignoring.

Even with artificial lures becoming more productive, don't give up on those popping corks. Live shrimp, artificial shrimp, and mud minnows have all been working well when suspended 18-24 inches beneath a cork on

a fluorocarbon leader with a size 1 circle hook. Redfish, trout, and flounder will readily take these baits as they drift through the water column. Popping corks have been especially effective along grassy banks during the middle and higher stages of the tide. See you on the water!

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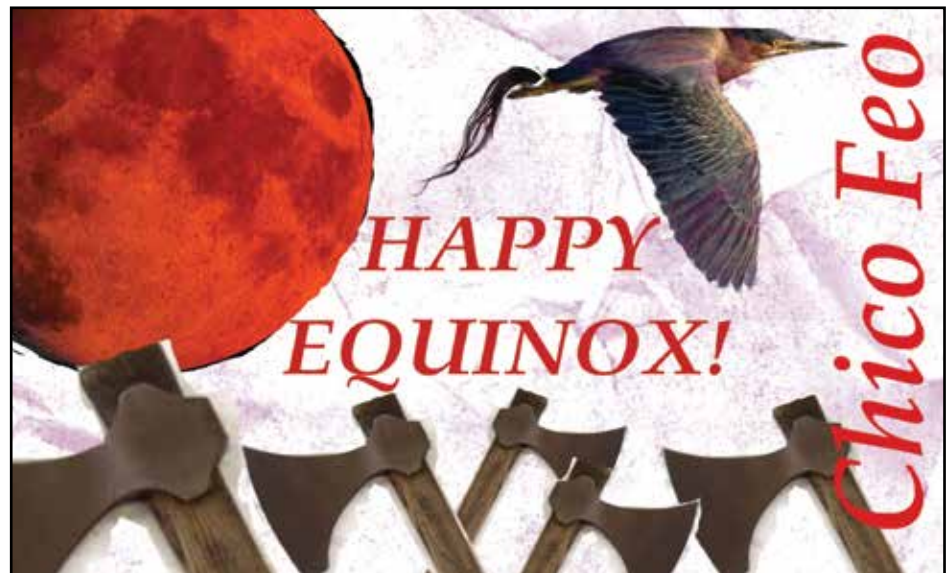
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Fall Colors and Migrations

Coastal South Carolina is an integral part of the Atlantic Flyway

FOLLY FIELD NOTES

BY WEATHERLY MEADORS

When the topic of fall migration comes up many people first think about birds. I don't mean the snowbird type escaping to the South, although I tried to be one of their ranks for many years. Coastal South Carolina is an integral part of the Atlantic Flyway and numerous species of migratory waterfowl use freshwater impoundments as a stopover. Geese cruise overhead in their telltale flying "V". Estuarine species like cormorants and oystercatchers start appearing in greater numbers.

My favorite animals to watch as migration season gets going are the butterflies. As mornings become more crisp in September

we start to see specks of orange fluttering across the creeks while we're out on the water. The most famous butterfly? Monarchs! Monarchs make a truly impressive migration journey. The Eastern Monarch population makes its way from Canada to Central Mexico where they gather in enormous colonies to wait out Winter. In the Spring it takes several generations to complete the trip back North. Individuals lay eggs on milkweed plants, caterpillars transform into adults, and they continue on. Milkweed is a wonderful native plant to add to your garden to support butterflies, BUT it is toxic to animals and humans alike. Caterpillars are able to safely ingest the milkweed toxin. The bright orange and black wings serve as a warning sign to other animals: eat me and you'll get sick!

There are many ways organisms use color to protect themselves from predators. Arguably one of the most fascinating is called mimicry. Right now, the majority of orange butterflies you see drifting past are likely NOT monarchs! Gulf fritillaries have similar orange and black warning coloration, but unlike a harmless mimic, they have chemical defenses of their own thanks to the passionflower vines their caterpillars eat. When multiple toxic or distasteful species share similar warning

coloration, it's called Müllerian mimicry.

How do we tell the difference? Gulf fritillaries are slightly smaller butterflies. Their wings have a greater number of small black spots with nice silver spots on the underside of the wing. In flight, fritillaries have a more rapid (or "frantic") wing rhythm while monarchs have a more graceful flap-flap-float cadence to their movement.

Haven't seen many butterflies this year? Have a walk near the edges of marsh and look for groundsel bushes. These are 5-10ish feet tall on average and are covered in fluffy

white seeds this time of year that give off the illusion of snow. Butterflies love to rest on them! We may not have the bountiful fall foliage of the mountains, but I like our subtle signs of the fall season: changing marsh grass, fluffy groundsel, and orange butterflies floating past!

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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ACROSS

- 1. Personnel
- 6. Platter
- 10. Location
- 14. Female demon
- 15. Jewish month
- 16. Biblical garden
- 17. Fruit of the oak tree
- 18. Opera house box
- 19. Geek
- 20. Companion
- 22. Back talk
- 23. Whichever
- 24. Sound of any kind
- 26. Poles tossed by Scots
- 30. Swindle
- 32. Companionless
- 33. Useful
- 37. Sounded a bell
- 38. Idiosyncrasy
- 39. Only
- 40. Cherished
- 42. A fruit of the gourd family
- 43. Sentry
- 44. Married
- 45. Con game
- 47. Type of snake

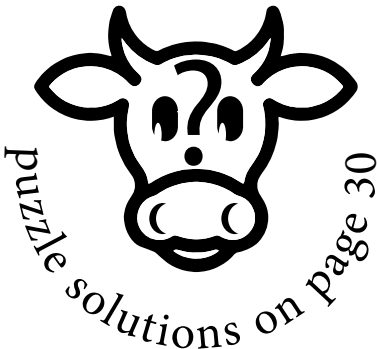
48. Deserve

- 49. It sees small things
- 56. Online journal
- 57. Bright thought
- 58. Hermit
- 59. Turn over
- 60. Raise a stink
- 61. Consumed
- 62. Sole
- 63. Anagram of “Sees”
- 64. Cache

DOWN

- 1. Kill
- 2. Mexican sandwich
- 3. Crazily
- 4. Flame
- 5. Flourish
- 6. Dawdle
- 7. False god
- 8. Kind of palm
- 9. A plain straight neckline
- 10. Allergic (Br. sp.)
- 11. Notions
- 12. To the point
- 13. Stops
- 21. N N N

- 25. Type of cereal grass
- 26. A heavy open wagon
- 27. Winglike
- 28. Osseous tissue
- 29. Winsomely
- 30. Wept
- 31. Difficult
- 33. Contented cat sound
- 34. Not warm
- 35. Balm ingredient
- 36. Extend credit
- 38. Morass
- 41. Our star
- 42. Childhood disease
- 44. Court
- 45. Beauty parlor
- 46. Fairy tale character
- 47. Slow down
- 48. River in Spain
- 50. Mid-month days
- 51. C C C
- 52. Jacket
- 53. Be aware of
- 54. Jury member
- 55. Sea eagle



SUDOKU

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

TRIVIA

1. MOVIES

1. REST IN PEACE

Actor Dennis Haskins passed away last month at the age of 75. He is best remembered for playing the hapless principal on what beloved teen sitcom?

2. MOVIES

What actor portrays To Catch a Predator host Chris Hansen in the new movie Primetime?

3. TELEVISION

Netflix announced last month that it is planning to do a remake of what beloved western?

4. CARTOONS

What is the name of the blue and green van used by the Scooby Doo gang?

5. AIR TRAVEL

The process has begun to rename Nashville International Airport (BNA) to honor what late country music legend?

6. MUSIC VIDEOS

Who won Video of the Year at 2026 VMAs last month?

7. CLASSIC MOVIES

What 1925 horror film based on Gaston Leroux’s novel by the same name was made into a successful Broadway musical?

8. HAPPY HALLOWEEN

What’s another name for a lycanthrope?



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Free Exercise Classes at the Community Center
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• All exercise classes should be signed up for in advance. Email hodonnell@follybeach.gov.

Fall Concert Series at Folly River Park
Thursday, Oct. 1, 6-8 p.m. The Novatones
Thursday, Oct. 15, 6-8 p.m. Fancy Power Pop

Witches Dance – October 19 & 27
• Practice at Community Center for the dance performance at the end of the Children’s Carnival on Oct. 31. RSVP to hodonnell@follybeach.gov.

Family Fun Movie Night –
Watch ET at the Folly River Park. Oct. 29, 6-8pm

Halloween Decorated House Contest –
Oct. 30, 4-5pm

Children’s Halloween Festival & Witches Dance – Oct. 31, 5-7:15pm at the Folly River Park

Author Talk – Oct. 6, 2:30-3:30pm
Q&A and reading from “Releasing Birds” with local poet Lisa Spears

Book Club
Discuss “Praying for Sheetrock” by Melissa Fay Green– Tuesday, Oct. 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, Oct. 8, 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.

Watercolor Class – Oct. 13 & 20, 2-4p.m.
• Discover the joy of watercolor
• Folly Beach Library, 55 Center St.
• Class size is limited so register in advanced by calling (843) 588-2001 or email folly@ccpl.org

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Cast Off Fishing Tournament
Saturday, Oct. 3, 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Register at www.ccprc.com
Folly Beach Pier

Fall Festival
• Saturday, Oct. 24, 3-6pm.
• Community-wide event/ free/ all are welcome
• Carnival food, fun, and games
• Chili cook-off
• Folly Beach Methodist Church, 118 W. Indian Ave. (843) 588-9174

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 Street. In case of rain, the festival will be postponed to a future date. Please check VisitFolly.com for information and updates. 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
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 9:30-11:30a.m., and Saturday, Oct. 24, 10a.m.-12p.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: 2–4 p.m.
• 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
Meet at the Folly Beach Pier. Sundays, 9 a.m.

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, Oct. 9, 8:30-10:30 a.m. \$12, ages 12+
Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve. For more information, visit www.ccprc.com

Lowcountry Street Grocery – Nell Bus
Tuesdays, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St.

Monarch Migration
• Thursday, Oct. 22, 1-3p.m.
• Meets at Folly Beach County Park
• Fee: \$12, ages 9 and up
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.
• **Men’s Group** – Saturday, Oct. 3, 9am. Fellowship Hall
• **Women’s Group Supper** – Monday, Oct. 12, 6:30pm. Fellowship Hall
• **“How to Study the Bible” series** – Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm, with Rev. Karen Diefendorf. Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Call (843) 588-9174 for more information

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.

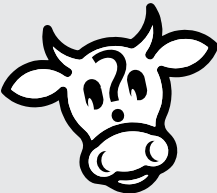
Women’s Guild
1st Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

** 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	T	A	F	F		D	I	S	C		S	I	T	E	
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Saved by the Bell
2. Robert Pattinson
3. Lonesome Dove
4. The Mystery Machine
5. Dolly Parton
6. Taylor Swift
7. The Phantom of the Opera
8. Werewolf

Folly Association of Business's Litter Buster of the Month



3 Gulls Creamery is a charming family-owned ice cream parlor in Folly Beach. It opened in June of 2026 by Rusty and Tavia Fogle, and is named to honor their daughters, Becca, Mary, and Elie. The shop features a laid-back local vibe with indoor and outdoor seating, welcoming to families and groups. 3 Gulls serves 44 flavors of delicious Hershey Ice cream, milkshakes, sundaes, banana splits, soft serve, stuffed milkshakes, and a diverse menu of hot dogs. Coffee will be added to the menu soon!

The Gulls are happy to have landed in Folly Beach, where they have enjoyed supporting local initiatives such as community litter campaigns and beach sweeps to help make Folly Beach a litter-free community. #keepfollyclean



3 Gulls Creamery
105 East Huron Ave.
Suite 2

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.

WELCOME BACK TO FOLLY BEACH!

We can finally say it: CONSTRUCTION ON CENTER STREET IS COMPLETE! After a long road, Folly is looking better than ever, and we are excited to welcome everyone back. Thank you to our residents, businesses, and visitors for your patience and support throughout this whole process. Now let's get out and enjoy Folly! Take the family to dinner, do a little shopping, or visit your favorite local spots, but most importantly, **let's continue supporting the local businesses that make our beach community so special.**

As we enjoy our beach and community, let's continue doing our part to keep Folly beautiful. Straws and stirrers will no longer be automatically provided at local businesses, helping reduce unnecessary waste and protect our waterways and beaches. Need one? Just ask! And if you do use a straw or stirrer, please remember to dispose of it properly.

Mermaids & Mateys is on Saturday, October 3, 10am-4pm. In case of rain, the festival will be postponed to a future date. Please check VisitFolly.com for information and updates. This year's festival is **FREE to attend, but you must register for tickets at VisitFolly.com.**



The next **FAB meeting** will be on **Thursday, October 8, at 6:30 PM at Tides.** Join us at **Pinky's from 6-6:30 PM for social networking** before the meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone and continuing to support our local business community. If you'd like to learn more about FAB or become a member, visit JoinFAB.org.



FOLLY ASSOCIATION of BUSINESS MEMBER DIRECTORY

ACCOMMODATIONS

Beachside Bed & Breakfast
Carolina One - Vacation Rentals
Dunes Properties - Vacation Rentals
Folly Vacations
Tides Hotel
Water's Edge Inn

FOOD & BEVERAGE

3 Gulls Creamery
Chico Feo
Drop In Bar & Deli
Loggerhead's Beach Grill
Planet Follywood
Revelry Brewing
Rita's Seaside Grille
Taco Boy
The Washout
Woody's Pizza

NON-PROFIT

Coastal Family Foundation
Pet Helpers

SHOP & PLAY

Blue Ridge Woodcrafters
Head Homey Vibes
iSMASH
The Raine & Grace Co.
SeoEO Luxury Boat Charters
Shop the Lowcountry.com

MEDIA/ MARKETING

Folly Current
Little Dog Agency

REAL ESTATE/

INSURANCE/

ACCOUNTING/ LAW

Carolina One - Alex Hunter
Dunes Properties
Elton Culpepper Realtor
Insurance Solutions
J. Rosen Law, LLC
Law Office of Nick Thomas
Pat Hiban Real Estate
Sweet Grass Real Estate

SERVICES

3 Mouse Pals
Access Portable Toilets
Access Temporary Fence
Alto Designs
Charlestown Express
CDI Homes
Coastal Roofing Co. Inc.
C.T. Services
Elko Coastal Consulting
Events on the Edge
Faloha
Folly Beach Dentistry
Folly Bus
Gary C Brown Construction
Have Mop Will Travel
Insurance Solutions
Kinetic Stage
Oriana Photography
Southern Cross, LLC
UTH Art & Ding Repair

Still Searching for the Perfect Fit?

Life here is made of simple moments that feel anything but ordinary. Like finding shells along the shore, the right home is waiting to be discovered with the right guidance. Whether you're here for a coastal escape or a more permanent move, our local team is here to guide you with ease and insight.

Nobody knows the Charleston Coast better.®



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



Vince Perna
843.425.6414



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Jesse Slowikowski
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Come see us in our Folly Beach office:
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