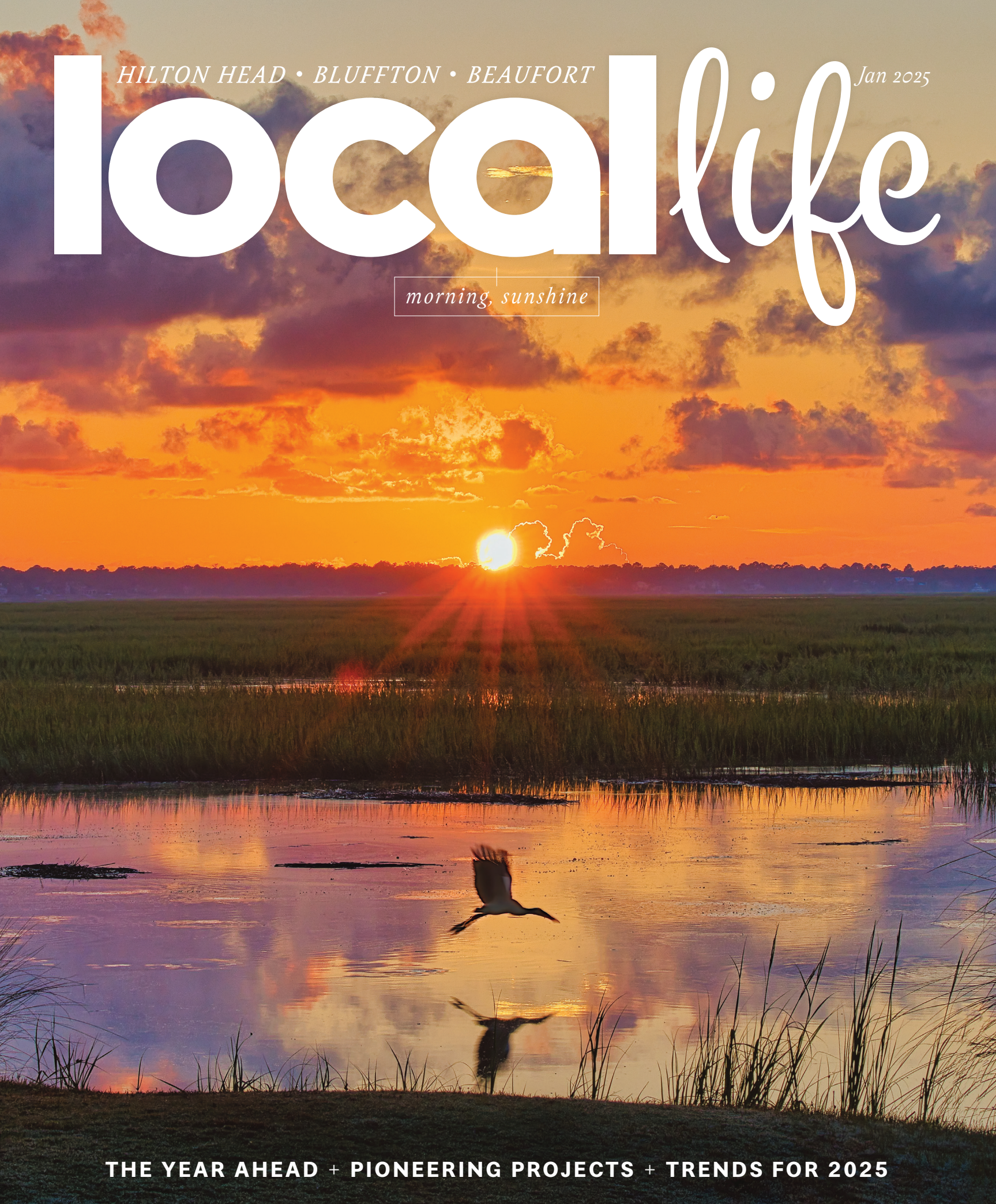

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What are you most looking forward to in 2025?

"Spending more time with my husband, grandkids and family." - LORI



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"Collecting more stamps for my South Carolina State Parks guide." - LANCE



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"Didn't happen this year, so I'll say it again... Cabo!!!" - JEREMY



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"More quiet time. Unless it's Disney." - CHARLES



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"Lots of traveling!" - ASHLAN



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"Disney!" - BAILEY

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"Figuring out how to keep my New Year's resolution for longer than two weeks!" - SHEILA



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"Making memories with my favorite people and dancing at more music concerts!" - REBECCA



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"Leaning into life." - LAUREN



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"Surviving another year of middle schooling." - MARCI



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"Learning a new language." - LISA



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"Traveling to someplace new and spending time with my family." - LEAH



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"Good health and more quality family time." - BRUCE



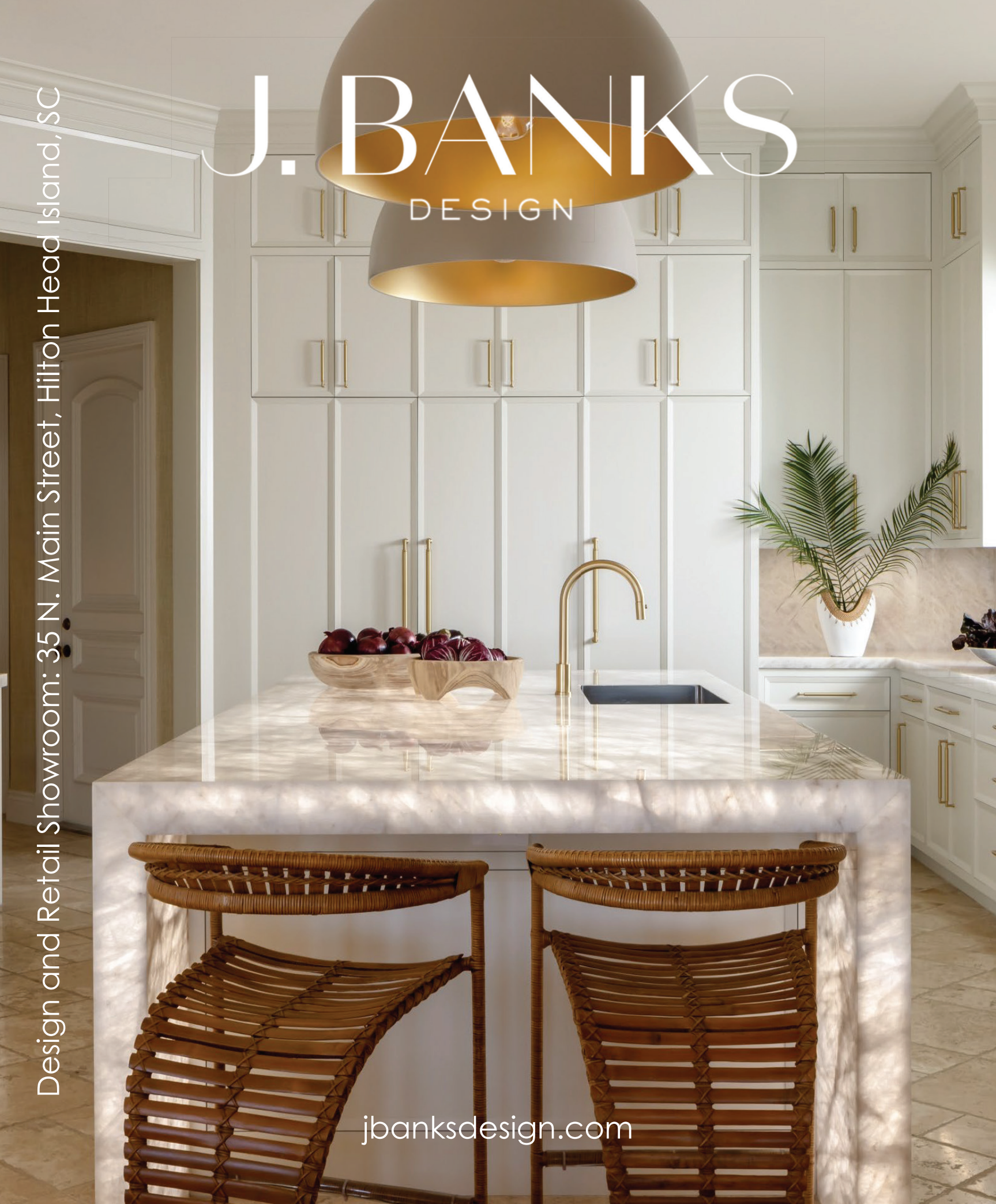
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Jan features

The Year Ahead

Step into the future with "The Year Ahead" issue, your ultimate guide to the hottest trends and innovations shaping the Lowcountry in 2025. From groundbreaking wellness gadgets and must-read books to the movies destined to spark conversations, this issue has something for everyone. Gain exclusive insights from local experts on the year's wellness forecast, and explore the transformative town and city projects set to redefine Beaufort County. We'll also spotlight the 2025 Colors of the Year from top paint brands, reveal home style and real estate trends poised to dominate the market and showcase the latest in fashion and pet trends. Whether you're seeking inspiration or aiming to stay ahead of the curve, this issue is your essential guide to navigating the year ahead with style and insight.

Mocha Mousse
17-1230 TCX

Color of the Year 2025

©LILIIA LYAVA

BROWN IS THE NEW BOLD Pantone, the global authority on color trends, has named Mocha Mousse (17-1230 TCX) as the Color of the Year for 2025. This evocative soft brown, celebrated for its ability to indulge the senses with warmth and deliciousness, embodies a deep connection to comfort, simplicity and the tactile beauty of natural tones. Want to see what other shades will shape the palette of 2025? Turn to **page 102** for a complete guide to the year's most influential colors and ideas for weaving them into your world.

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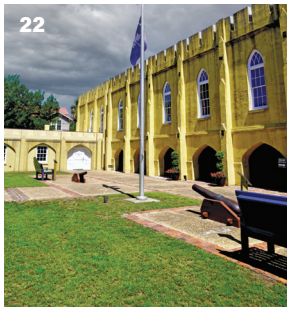
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Celebrating Over 50 Years of Fine Art in the Lowcountry.
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2025 Unveiled

Insights, innovations and inspiration for the year ahead.



TO NEW BEGINNINGS As we enter the new year, the LOCAL Life team is buzzing with excitement and anticipation for the adventures and opportunities that 2025 holds. Pictured bottom row from left are Rebecca Kerns, Charles Grace, Bailey Gilliam, Lori Goodridge-Cribb, Marci Atkins, Jeremy Swartz and Lance Hanlin. Top row: Lauren Alston and Sheila Paz. Here's to a year filled with growth, discovery and finding joy in the extraordinary moments of everyday life. Together, let's make 2025 a year to remember!

It feels like just yesterday that our small team sent out the very first issue of LOCAL Life. Hard to believe that was eight years ago — when "social distancing" might have been the name of a new dance craze, "Zoom" was just the sound a toy car made, and "AI" was merely the slightly eerie voice guiding your GPS. How the world has changed!

Over the years our team and magazine have grown, but our mission remains steadfast: to honor the stories, culture and people that make the Lowcountry truly extraordinary. Every month we weave a theme that captures the essence of life here, drawing connections to the beauty, creativity and charm of this remarkable region.

This "Year Ahead" issue offers a glimpse into the exciting projects and trends shaping the Lowcountry in 2025. Packed with insights and inspired forecasts, it's a local's ultimate guide to the future. Learn about Beaufort County's initiatives poised to redefine infrastructure and community life. Discover the health and wellness trends local experts are buzzing about, and explore the Colors of the Year and home styling predictions from acclaimed designers.

We're also diving into real estate trends from trusted professionals, spotlighting the challenges Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island faces this year and previewing 2025's most anticipated books and films. And, of course, this issue wouldn't be complete without celebrating the distinctive culture of the Lowcountry — from the latest in fashion and furniture to recipes, cocktails and home accessories that embody the spirit of this place we call home.

As we step into a new year, we're reminded that the Lowcountry isn't just a destination; it's a way of life, a shared spirit that binds us all. Sharing that life with you is our greatest privilege. Here's to 2025 — a year brimming with promise, creativity and countless reasons to celebrate.



MONEY MENTORS Have you seen the LOCAL Life Jeep cruising around town? This month we rolled up next to ***Daniel Guerrini, Amy Allen and Thomas M. Dowling*** of Alliance Global Partners of the Lowcountry, a wealth management and financial services firm. Visit their office in The Village at Wexford.

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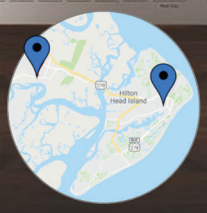
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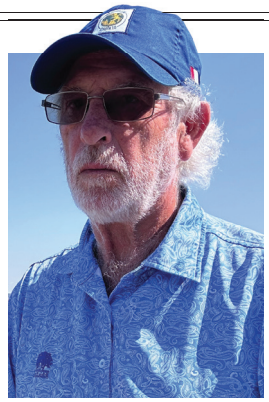
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MEET LOCAL CREATIVES BEHIND THE SCENES



Phil Lindsey *Poet*

OTHER CREDS: Island Writers Network Treasurer **FOR THIS ISSUE:** Local poem, *Free Beer* **HOMETOWN:** Flanagan, Illinois (pop. 850) **CURRENT HOME:** Bluffton **LOCAL SINCE:** 2014 **WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?** Cross **WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?** The Chicago Bears lose every Sunday **WHAT ARE YOU READING?** The most recent Island Writers Network anthology titled *Sea Change*. Available on Amazon! **WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE LOWCOUNTRY?** The diversity of the people living here. **WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN?** The backroads and the cornfields in the summer. **FAVORITE POET AND POEM:** Barry Dickson's poem, "Barry Dickson" **FAVORITE PLACE TO WRITE:** I have a little office off of the bedroom. **FAVORITE LOCAL SPOTS:** Side Hustle, Cheap Seats, R-Bar **2024 HIGHLIGHTS:** The house we lived in when I was in high school is now a VRBO. We had a family reunion there last summer. **2025 GOALS:** I'll think of something.... tomorrow.



Dennis Schmidt *Photographer*

OTHER CREDS: A 40-year career as a newspaper sports editor, magazine editor and publisher of Whitman Sports Vault books — in that order, until retirement. **FOR THIS ISSUE:** Parting Shot, Islander's Beach **HOMETOWN:** Sheboygan, Wisconsin **CURRENT HOME:** New Riverside in Bluffton **LOCAL SINCE:** 2017 **WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?** I'm a huge football fan, college and pro, and grew up going to Green Bay Packers games at Lambeau Field. **WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?** Most of the time, my dogs snoring. **WHAT ARE YOU READING?** LOCAL Life, of course. **WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE LOWCOUNTRY?** The sunrises over the Atlantic Ocean. **WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN?** Family. **FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPHY LOCATIONS:** Islander's Beach, Fish Haul Beach, Skull Creek. **2025 GOALS:** Hip surgery and then climbing to the top of the lighthouse in Harbour Town! **SOMETHING ABOUT YOU MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW:** I'm Summer the golden retriever's dad!

Amos Hummell *Artist*



OTHER CREDS: Lowcountry artist since 1989. **FOR THIS ISSUE:** Local art, "Pro-Crasta-Nation" **HOMETOWN:** Simpsonville, South Carolina **CURRENT HOME:** Hilton Head Island **LOCAL SINCE:** 1980 **WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?** The Great British Baking Show **WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?** Lazy Jazz **WHAT ARE YOU READING?** The Art of Not Trying **WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE LOWCOUNTRY?** Her storybook setting with all characters, great and small. **WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN?** Life on the farm. **FAVORITE ARTIST:** Mother Nature **FAVORITE LOCAL SPOTS:** Marker 13, Benny's, Broughton Street in Savannah **2024 HIGHLIGHTS:** Working with the Sandbox Children's Museum and Crescendo. **2025 GOALS:** Conjuring new art on Chillin' Head Island.



Others who guided our vision toward 2025 ...

PHOTOGRAPHERS Alan Biggs + Phill Doherty + Arno Dimmling + Steve Higgins + Kendall Messick Jeanne Paddison + Mike Ritterbeck + Jerry Siegal + Lisa Staff + Robert Strickland

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In case you missed it ...



Must-try brunch spots

A LOCAL Experience



Instagram exclusive: Ready to brunch your way through Hilton Head? From fluffy pancakes to coastal-inspired delights, these local hot spots are serving up everything you need for the best brunch experience. **@locallifesc**



On the web: Articles our readers are loving at ***LocalLifeSC.com***.

1 Allegiant unveils new **nonstop flights** from SAV to Florida



2 Expert advice for designing the perfect **multi-purpose room**



3 A local chef shares tips for making the **perfect gravy**



2024 Cover of the Year

*The readers have spoken. LOCAL Life's Cover of the Year for 2024 is "Bateau and Snowy Egret" by Hilton Head Island photographer **Marci Tressel**. This stunning image graced the Hidden Gems issue in February 2024. Discover more of her captivating work at Maye River Gallery in Bluffton, or follow her on Instagram (@marcihhi).*



About the Cover

*This month's cover features a breathtaking image of a wood stork in graceful flight over the Colleton River at sunrise near Belfair. The vibrant hues of orange, pink and gold light up the marsh, their reflections shimmering on the still waters below, creating a serene yet striking portrait of nature's beauty. Captured by Belfair resident **Steven Higgins**, a retired physician turned wildlife photographer, this tranquil scene symbolizes fresh beginnings and the enduring bond between the Lowcountry's natural landscapes and our community. Explore more of Higgins' stunning photography at Southern Scenes Photography (southernscenes.shop).*



YOUR SPECIALTY **LENDING TEAM**



Pictured left to right – Back row: Alan Perry NMLS# 866734, Susan Smith NMLS# 278903, Aaron Benton NMLS# 1717095, Gina Cavano NMLS# 1182146, and Jason Goldstein NMLS# 2180858. Front row: Tricia Lowman NMLS# 2440257, David Crowell NMLS# 12620, Kim Capin NMLS# 158295, and Clara Good NMLS# 2169516.

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Coastal Discovery Museum

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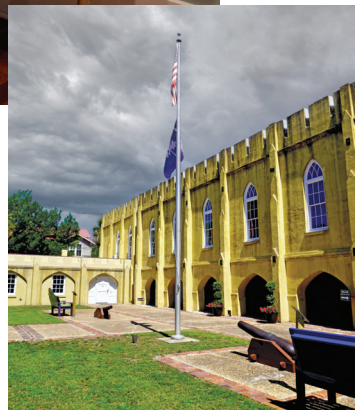
Rainy days are no match for this multifaceted museum, offering exhibits on Lowcountry wildlife, culture and history. Step back in time with displays on Hilton Head's ecological heritage, and explore historic buildings. Through March 23 don't miss the special exhibition "This is Not: Aldwyth in Retrospect," showcasing nearly 70 years of work by the renowned artist, including photography, painting and her epic-scaled collages. When the rain clears, stroll nearby boardwalks, or visit the butterfly enclosure — a year-round favorite.

Details and tips: Open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sundays, with free admission (donations encouraged). Wear athletic shoes or boots, as the parking lot can get muddy on rainy days. Check the schedule for workshops or talks at coastaldiscovery.org, and don't miss the gift shop for locally made treasures to brighten your day.

Dreary day adventures

TOP MUSEUMS TO VISIT ON AN OVERCAST JANUARY AFTERNOON.

January in the Lowcountry is a peculiar time. While much of the nation is buried under snow, we're debating whether to wear a jacket or just stick with a cozy hoodie. It's that magical season when gnats finally give us a break, marshes glow golden in the winter sun, and beach walks feel like a refreshing, windblown reset. But then, inevitably, it happens: the cold, dreary rain arrives just when you've set aside a free day. We get about 10 of these soggy surprises each January. Fear not! This is your perfect excuse to explore some of the fascinating museums around Beaufort County. Here's a guide to five must-visit spots to help you turn a soggy day into an adventure.





©BEAUFORT HISTORY MUSEUM

Beaufort History Museum ***Beaufort***

When the weather turns drizzly, head indoors to this museum, a treasure trove of Lowcountry heritage located in the historic Beaufort Arsenal. This museum guides visitors through Beaufort's rich past, from its Native American roots to its pivotal role in the Civil War. Engaging artifacts, vintage photographs and exhibits bring the area's history to life, making it the perfect spot to explore while staying dry.

Details and tips: Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday–Saturday. Admission is $7 for adults, $5 for seniors and military, free for children under 12. Rain or shine, Beaufort has plenty to offer. After exploring the museum, take a stroll under your umbrella along Bay Street and the Point neighborhood.





©LLOYD WAINSCOTT

Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center **Okatie**

When rain clouds gather, this maritime center becomes a haven of discovery and exploration. This indoor sanctuary takes visitors through the wonders of the Lowcountry's unique ecosystem and maritime heritage. Check out hands-on exhibits and interactive displays, where the touch tank, brimming with live marine creatures, delights kids and adults alike. History buffs and nature enthusiasts will enjoy exploring artifacts and ecological exhibits that unveil the secrets of the Port Royal Sound. And even on a rainy day, the serene views from the dock create a tranquil, reflective moment.

Details and tips: The Center is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, offering free admission (though donations are encouraged). Year-round, visitors can participate in paid programming and workshops that provide deeper insights into the region's natural beauty and history. Before you leave, don't miss the gift shop, where you'll find books, toys and locally crafted treasures to take a piece of the Lowcountry home with you. Visit portroyalsoundfoundation.org to learn more.





©PENN CENTER

Penn Center **St. Helena Island**

When raindrops begin to fall, seek inspiration indoors at this historic and cultural treasure located on St. Helena Island. One of the first schools for those freed from slavery, this landmark now serves as a museum and cultural hub. Visitors can explore exhibits highlighting Gullah culture, African American history and the Civil Rights Movement. Rainy days provide the perfect ambiance for reflection as you immerse yourself in the stories of resilience and heritage that shaped the Lowcountry.

Details and tips: Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday. Admission is $15 for adults for a self-guided tour or $20 for a docent-guided tour. A campus map is $5. Ages 5 and under are free. Don't let the weather stop you from experiencing the beauty of the Center's historic grounds. Pack a raincoat or umbrella and take a meditative stroll around the property.

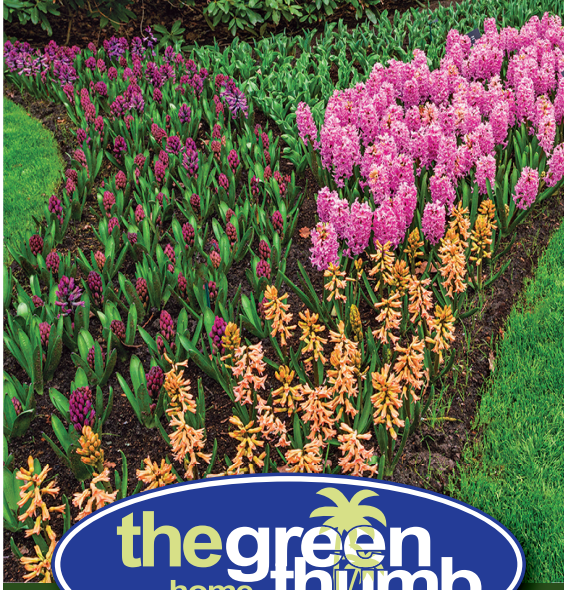


©PARRIS ISLAND MARINE MUSEUM

Parris Island Marine Museum **Parris Island**

Opened in 1975, this museum was established to preserve and share the storied history of Parris Island and the Marine Corps. It chronicles the island's evolution from its early Spanish and French settlements in the 16th century to its designation as a Marine Corps Recruit Depot in 1915. Over the decades the museum has expanded its exhibits to include displays on major conflicts such as World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, offering visitors a comprehensive look at Marine Corps history and culture.

Details and tips: Hours are 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Admission is free (photo ID required for base access). Allow extra time for base security checks, as they can take a few minutes. Don't forget your camera — enjoy a scenic drive through moss-draped oaks on your way to the museum.



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Globally renowned, Korean skincare is at the forefront of beauty innovation. Attain "glass skin" (so-called because the skin is so radiant, it's reflective) with the AGE-R Booster Pro. An updated version of Medicube's Hailey Bieber-approved gadget, it has four modes to improve skin's elasticity, discoloration and texture. The simple step makes a world of difference. ***medicube.us. $480***.



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Turtlenecks, be gone! Show off smooth skin with Solawave's Neck & Chest Rejuvenating Kit. Complete with a red-light therapy mask and specially formulated cream, the duo works to restore skin to its youthful firmness. Say goodbye to blemishes and sun spots. Au revoir, unwanted wrinkles! Hello, confidence. ***solawave.co. $351***.



Keep it moving

UREVO Strol 3 Treadmill

Get active on the clock with a treadmill that can slip under your desk, or rest a laptop on its own table attachment. Its lightweight design means set-up and storage are simple. With maximum speeds reaching over 8 mph, the machine matches all your movements, increasing blood flow and workflow. ***urevo.com. $499***.



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Sutra IR Infrared Thermal Styling Brush

Haircare enthusiasts know "healthy heat" is the stuff of fantasy — until now. Re-evaluate your routine with a tool that won't leave hair wishing for a fairy godmother. Infrared and ionic technologies work to evenly distribute heat to strands while protecting them from frying. Styles that last without damage? Happily ever after, indeed. ***sutrabeauty.com. $110***.



Blessing in disguise

Déesse Pro PRO

Therapeutic LED face masks are nothing new, but PRO by Déesse Pro reinvents the iconic K-beauty treatment. Used by aesthetic professionals and celebrities alike, this mask utilizes six unique wavelength combinations to offer personalized, all-around care. Treat inflammation and acne with blue and green settings, or use traditional red light to boost collagen and cellular renewal for a flawless complexion. ***deessepro.com. $1,700***.



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and Josh Cooke
(Owner, Corner Perk)

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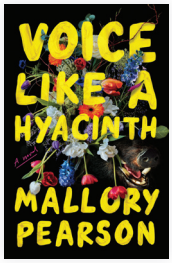
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A new chapter begins

Add these upcoming releases to your 2025 reading list.

***Denise Friday**, an avid reader, is a school social worker at Hilton Head Island Elementary School. She is also the mother of twins. As we step into 2025, she highlights some highly anticipated book releases of the winter and spring.*



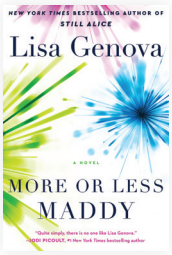
***VOICE LIKE A HYACINTH** BY MALLORY PEARSON | **Release date:** Jan. 7*

A horror story that also is a tale of great friendship. College students Jo, Caroline, Finch, Amrita and Saz are one another's muses and the closest of friends. They are in a cutthroat art department where they are all competing for one solo exhibition at the end of the semester. When one suggests a ritual to help them be their most creative selves, they naively resort to the occult, with devastating results. They soon learn the horrible price to be paid for such a ritual. Love, horror, the occult and art come together in this well-crafted second novel by Pearson.

***THE CHARLIE METHOD** BY ELLE KENNEDY | **Release date:** Feb. 25*

Charlotte Kingston is a college senior and a perfect sorority girl. She is a STEM student in biomedical engineering and an over-achiever. She seeks out fun on a dating app where she engages with two very cute guys. Things heat up quickly when she meets them in person. What are the odds these two are not only teammates on the college hockey team but roommates as well? The secrets pile up real fast. A fun new romance to add to author Elle Kennedy's list.



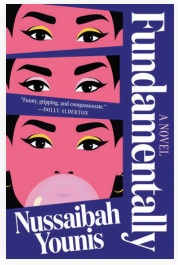


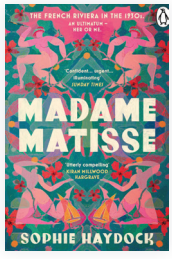
***MORE OR LESS MADDY** BY LISA GENOVA | **Release date:** Jan. 14*

Harvard-trained neuroscientist and New York Times bestselling author Genova has written another moving novel that helps explain complicated brain issues. Maddy is just like any other stressed-out freshman at NYU. Between schoolwork, exams, navigating life in the city and a recent breakup, it's normal to be feeling overwhelmed. But Maddy's latest low is devastatingly low, and she goes on an antidepressant. She begins to feel good, incredibly so, and she soon spirals high into a wild and terrifying mania that culminates in a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, an illness so commonly misunderstood.

***FUNDAMENTALLY** BY NUSSAIBAH YOUNIS | **Release date:** Feb. 25*

Main character Nadia needs to make some changes in her life after a breakup and a fallout with her mother. She gets a job at the UN helping to rehabilitate ISIS women. She meets a fellow Londoner, Sara, who joined ISIS at age 15. They are very similar and form a great friendship. Yet when Sara tells her a secret, Nadia has to make a very hard decision. Younis writes in a hilarious and witty manner that will keep you engaged until the end.





***MADAME MATISSE** BY SOPHIE HAYDOCK | **Release date:** March 6*

Based on the true story of Henri Matisse, this historical fiction novel is set during the 1930s art movement on the French Riviera. It revolves around three very important women in Matisse's life: his wife, Amelie, who has given up everything to support her husband for 40 years, their daughter, Marguerite, who is caught between her parents, and Lydia, a Russian emigree who has fled her homeland and finds work with the Matisses. A drama involving betrayal, glamour, tragedy and, of course, art.



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Voices unbound

South Carolina poetry exploring grief, resilience and renewal.

***Elizabeth Robin**, a retired teacher and award-winning poet, is the acclaimed author of three celebrated poetry collections: To My Dreamcatcher (2022), Where Green Meets Blue (2018) and Silk Purses and Lemonade (2017). As 2025 begins, she offers her top South Carolina poetry book recommendations — thoughtfully chosen to inspire, uplift and enrich the year ahead.*

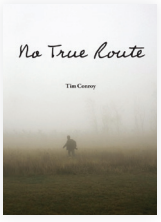


MORE GOD THAN DEAD *BY ANGELO GETER* | Sometimes raw, sometimes hopeful, this first book moves from loss to faith, where "fear plays a sonata/in the key of disbelief//remember/there is gospel in your grief." The title poem "My Wife is Dead" shuffles a rolodex: wife, dead, God, living, until "My wife is god/More God than dead" affirms there is "a place where my wife's smile still lives." The rituals of death described in "Black Grief is a Seance" moves to "Praise," a list of gratitudes that devolves into erasures resembling classified document redactions: unspeakable grief. The boasting in "Black Girl Fly," sardonic humor of "What Not to Say to a Widower," and the pathos and hope in "one voicemail I listen to religiously/to remind me of the heaven in her voice" creates a brilliant collection where the laureate of Rock Hill voices "a freedom song in the key of survival."

WAITING FOR SUNSET TO BURY RED CAMELLIAS *BY MIHO KINNAS*



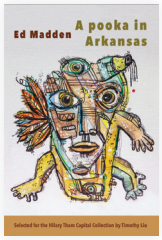
From Japan, now residing on Hilton Head Island, Kinnas displays, in this third book, both worlds with sparse lines and lush landscapes. A 17-page, 14-section poem fills its middle in ekphrastic dioramas, Asian art bending into feminist edges, where "pulled silk whispers." In "Bird" she writes "I pull the horizon closer . . . I let the horizon go." This, Kinnas's poetic vision, a pulling in and spiraling out across seascapes, cities, flowers. No accident her "Three Shrimp Boats on the Horizon" earns a Best American Poetry selection; sparse lines like "Air. Water. Wishes." Weigh each word, thought, connection: a world past language. This is The Kinnas World.

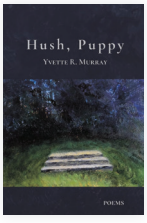


NO TRUE ROUTE *BY TIM CONROY*

A familiar Lowcountry poet now in Florida, Conroy offers a second book of poetry exploring loss in its many forms. His language, direct and plain, proves both the losing and the grieving follow "no true route." "There is hope in our diminishment" says Conroy in "Unstable Air," a theme threading through each page. "I have sought a mountainous view," he remarks in "Journeys," and goes on to chronicle its "roar of brokenness and strength." There is playfulness here, too, in poems like "Panorama," picking out words on a dictionary page, noting "pandemonium follows pandemic."

A POOKA IN ARKANSAS *BY ED MADDEN* | Madden, recent laureate of Columbia, signs books with "There is never only one wolf," this fairytale punctuates this fourth book. In a place where he isn't seen, he learns "what would happen/if you stopped doing your family's work/of shaming you" by "Burning the Fields." That metaphor carries a prose/poem of pasts where "positions are taken, things have started to float." With great virtuosity, Madden can trace beauty and ugliness: "a mockingbird//rattles like a windup toy, a screen door wheezing on its hinges,/all buzz, all sizzle and fry." He finds "Carnivores" in the animal cracker tin, "animals circling the sides/of the empty red square, nothing but dark inside." His shape-shifting title, Pooka, sometimes wolf or bear or cat or buffalo, births a spirit animal without shame: "I am swallowing the animals one by one."





HUSH, PUPPY *BY YVETTE R. MURRAY*

Murray draws in familiar images like stone steps, pant creases and china cabinets, the rich and full culture that is Charleston/Gullah life, and the rituals that sustain people. She divides her first book of 23 poems into "Call" and "Response" sections and has that conversation in celebratory poems like "Accents" and "Line Street," the tragedy in "2:1 Ratio" and "Minstrel Man," and an essential resilience in "Ode to the Ladies in the Front of the Room." Study Murray's simple language, beginning with the book's title, and find multiple meanings packed inside. She, like Gullah, "has the sky in her mouth too."



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Local IQ *January crossword challenge for locals.*

Put your local knowledge to the test with this month's crossword puzzle. Whether you're sipping cocoa, lounging by the fire or finding creative ways to avoid tackling those holiday decorations, it's the perfect activity for a cozy January afternoon.



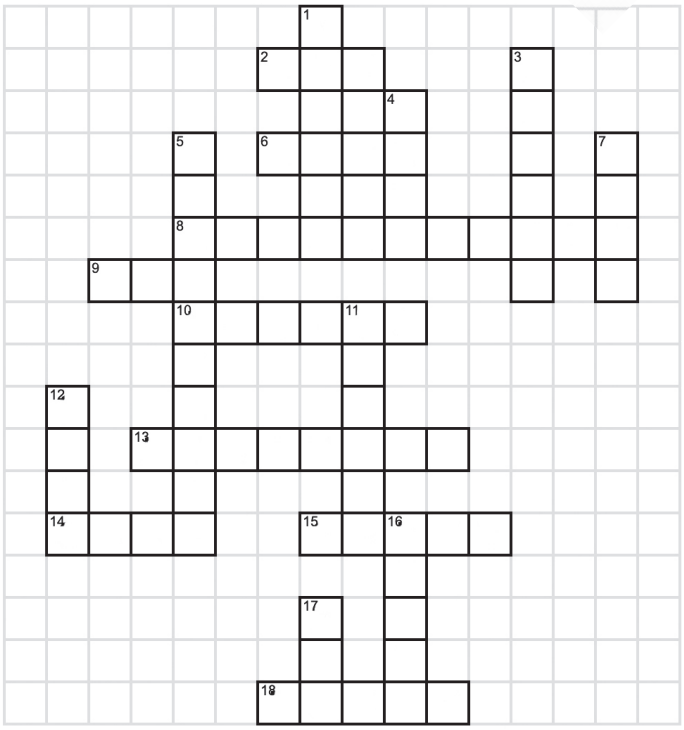
ACROSS

2. Lowcountry river known for its beauty
6. Mode of transportation on island pathways
8. Island park with a giant pirate ship
9. Native tree with iconic Spanish moss
10. Home to alligators, turtles and herons
13. South Carolina's state tree
14. Local sea bird with a distinct call
15. Popular boating destination: Skull _____
18. Beachcomber's treasures: shark _____

DOWN

1. Hilton Head's first settlers: _____ Americans
3. Traditional Lowcountry dish with black-eyed peas: _____ John
4. Island animal known for crossing roads
5. Popular island sport besides golf and tennis
7. A small, sandy elevation along the shoreline
11. Native Lowcountry shellfish, often roasted
12. South Carolina's state dance
16. A snowy visitor to Lowcountry waters in winter
17. Seasonal dessert made with pecans





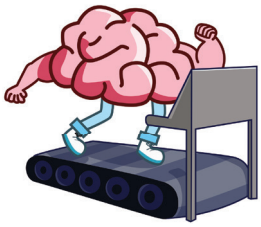
ANSWER KEY

ACROSS
2. MAY
6. BIKE
8. CELEBRATION
9. OAK
10. LAGOON
13. PALMETTO
14. GULL
15. CREEK
18. TEETH

DOWN
1. NATIVE
3. HOPPIN
4. DEER
5. PICKLEBALL
7. DUNE
11. OYSTER
12. SHAG
16. EGRET
17. PIE

Official Mensa® Challenge

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STEP TO IT!

Start the new year on the right foot. Solve this Mensa quiz!

1. Fill in each blank below with a word that has the same meaning as the words on either side but is pronounced differently for each definition.

consisting of a black substance _____ to delay
agreement _____ to shrink
two-wheeled vehicle _____ sulked

2. Jennifer went shopping for birthday presents. She spent half of what she had, plus $5, for a blouse; then half of what was left, plus $5, for a cookbook; then half of what was left, plus $5, for stationery. Jennifer had nothing left. How much did she start with? (Hint: work backwards.)

3. Some letters have been removed from the following words. Fill in the missing letters.

_WKW___ __OPH__E S____GTH

4. In a murder mystery, the Great Detective is found with three suspects: an American journalist, a bilingual French writer and a British TV writer. The threating note says "I know about your crime in Livorno." Who wrote the note?

5. Unscramble the letters in each "pie" segment to the right, then find the missing letter that completes each word. (The missing letter, indicated by the question mark, is the same for each word.)



ANSWER KEY

1. *tarry, contract, moped* ***2.*** *$70 ($70 ÷ 2 = $35 + $5 = $40, leaving $30; ÷ 2 = $15 + $5 = $20, leaving $10; ÷ 2 = $5 + $5, leaving 0)* ***3.*** *AWKARD, LOOPHOLE, STRENGTH* ***4.*** *the Frenchman (The others would have written Leghorn.)* ***5.*** *The missing letter is "X": EXIST (or EXITS), EXTRA, ANXIOUS, MAXIM*

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LEADERSHIP IN ACTION
Ann McBrien, former vice president of CBD Global Healthcare at Procter & Gamble and founder of AM Marketing & Sales Concepts, is deeply committed to making a difference in our community. She serves as development chair and trustee for The Children's Center and is also a trustee for the Heritage Classic Foundation.



©THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

From serving cocktails on Hilton Head's sandy shores to breaking corporate glass ceilings, Ann McBrien's story is one of perseverance, passion and purpose. A native of Champaign, Illinois, Ann first visited Hilton Head Island in 1980 as a summer worker at the Hilton Head Inn, serving drinks for the legendary Pool Bar Jim. It was love at first sight for the island, and though her career would take her across the country, Hilton Head always held a special place in her heart.

Ann joined Procter & Gamble after graduating from the University of Illinois, climbing the ranks to become the company's first female vice president of sales. During her tenure she championed initiatives like opening P&G's first childcare center in partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital. After more than two decades, she retired to pursue entrepreneurship but never lost sight of her passion for education and childcare.

Her involvement in the Lowcountry began serendipitously. A sorority sister introduced her to Larry Brown, then on the board of The Children's Center on Hilton Head. Inspired by its mission to provide affordable, high-quality early childhood education, Ann dove in with her trademark enthusiasm. Since then, she's been a tireless advocate, bringing creativity, resourcefulness and a "can-do" attitude to ensure the center's success.

She sees challenges as opportunities. Her passion for the mission comes from personal experience, and her infectious smile and laugh bring joy wherever she goes. Ann embodies the spirit of an unsung hero, using her skills and experiences to uplift the community and ensure a brighter future for our youngest residents. Through her dedication and leadership she continues to inspire others to join in making a difference.

The Children's Center: A legacy of learning

Founded in 1967, The Children's Center has been a cornerstone of the Hilton Head and Bluffton communities. Its mission is simple yet profound: to provide affordable early childhood education to working families, ensuring every child has a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Operating as a nonprofit, the center offers full-day, year-round care for children from 6 weeks to pre-kindergarten. The center emphasizes a nurturing, inclusive environment that fosters cognitive, social and emotional development. It serves a diverse population, with programs designed to accommodate families from all economic backgrounds.

One of the hallmarks of the center is its sliding tuition scale, ensuring that families only pay what they can afford. This model allows parents to work or attend school, with the peace of mind that their children are in safe, enriching environments. The center also provides meals, educational activities and opportunities for children to develop critical skills during their formative years.

How to help

The Children's Center welcomes volunteers in various roles, from classroom assistants to event helpers. Whether you have an hour to spare or are ready for a long-term commitment, your involvement can make a difference. Visit ***TheChildrensCenterSC.org*** or email ***info@thechildrenscentersc.org*** for more information.

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER



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The hot list

What to watch, read and listen to in December.

STREAMING









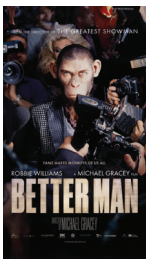
NETFLIX ***Missing You*** *(thriller)* When Detective Kat Donovan's (Rosalind Eleazar) fiancé left her without explanation years ago, some part of her life felt like it went on pause. Reeling from the heartbreak of her father's (Lenny Henry) death as well, Kat gets her life on track to put tragedy behind her. She rips off the band aid and joins a dating app, where a match with her long-lost fiancé (Ashley Walters) stirs up new emotions and conspiracies about what really happened to him and her father. **Release date: Jan. 1**

PEACOCK ***Lockerbie: A Search for Truth*** *(historical)* On December 21, 1988, a flight bound for New York City was bombed over the sleepy Scottish town of Lockerbie, obliterating all 259 people aboard the plane and 11 people below. When the dust clouds settled, the carnage of the terrorist attack came into clear view. Dr. Jim Swire (Colin Firth) reeled with his family as they learned their daughter Flora was among the victims. As Swire scours the UK and beyond for answers and accountability, he reveals an unsettling truth about politics and humanity. **Release date: Jan. 2**

APPLE TV+ ***Prime Target*** *(conspiracy)* We live in an age replete with data – so much so that just 10 numbers can paint a picture of our world without any shapes, colors or lines. Edward Brooks (Leo Woodall), a mathematician turned computer whiz, is on the precipice of a breakthrough discovery involving prime numbers. An NSA agent (Quintessa Swindell) is just as invested in his work, but things take a sinister turn when the two catch on to a much larger pattern they are in the middle of. **Release date: Jan. 22**

ESPN ***Winter X Games 2025*** *(extreme sports)* The world's top extreme athletes return to Buttermilk Mountain in Aspen to compete in the iconic Winter X Games. From jaw-dropping snowboard tricks to heart-stopping ski stunts, this year's event promises edge-of-your-seat action and groundbreaking performances. Whether you're tuning in for the big air, halfpipe or slopestyle events, prepare for thrilling runs and fierce rivalries that define the X Games legacy. **Air dates: Jan. 23–25**

MOVIE THEATERS



Better Man *(biopic)* The way we see ourselves is often at odds with how others see us. In no profession could that be more true than for performers who make a living putting themselves out there. This biopic about British popstar Robbie Williams, who is portrayed as a CGI monkey, merges ideas about who Williams appears to be and who Williams feels like he is. The movie follows Williams's life from being a young child to pop sensation to burnout, to a point where he feels like he has become a better man. **Release date: Jan. 17**

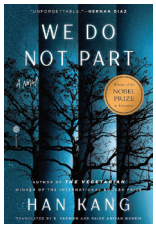


Companion *(romance)* Romantic movies tend to follow a consistent story arc about two people coming together, facing challenges but ultimately finding solace from life with one another. This sci-fi thriller has been touted as a "new kind romance" where Iris (Sophie Thatcher) and Josh (Jack Quaid) engage in a less-than-conventional relationship that might make you question your positive association with the idea of "companionship". **Release date: Jan. 31**

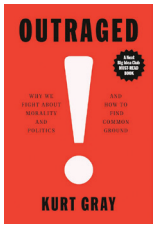


Flight Risk *(action)* An Air Marshall (Michelle Dockery) boards a small aircraft with a fugitive (Topher Grace) to ensure his safe extradition. While flying alone stresses out Deputy Harris, things take a turn for the worse over the wintery Alaskan wilderness as the plane's pilot (Mark Wahlberg) turns out to be a hitman. Chaos ensues in the plane's cabin, with its three occupants struggling to achieve their goal: kill the fugitive, escape custody and survive. **Release date: Jan. 24**

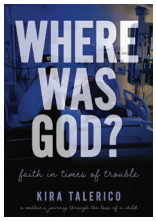
BOOKS



We Do Not Part *By Han Kang (fiction)* Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Han Kang specializes in craft stories that explore the essence of human nature. *We Do Not Part* explores the depths of friendship between two friends, Kyungha and Inseon. When Inseon is unexpectedly hospitalized, she implores her friend to go to her home to care for her pet bird. Kyungha battles a brutal snowstorm to get to her friend's home, and even after she arrives, she continues on a journey through historical trauma that, although taxing, is fueled by her unwavering commitment to friendship. **Release date: Jan. 21**



Outraged: Why We Fight About Morality and Politics and How to Find Common Ground *By Kurt Gray (nonfiction)* With 2024 in the rear-view mirror, we can look back and all agree that the latest election year was a contentious one. It may sometimes feel as though those with whom we disagree hail from polar opposite points of view, but moralist Kurt Gray argues that all political thinking stems from feelings of being threatened. By breaking down political talking points into their moral instigators, Gray sets out to demonstrate the truths that unite us and dispel myths that may have led us astray. **Release date: Jan. 14**

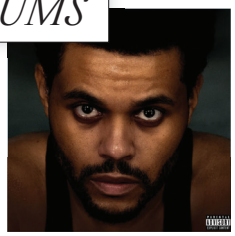


Where Was God? *By Kira Talerico (local)* Local author Kira Talerico endured the worst of all losses: her son, Vinny at age 9. His unexpected diagnosis of AML Leukemia led to hospitalization, and within just a few weeks the Talerico family lost their son. Talerico's confrontation of her grief through the book lays out how she leaned on faith to cope, even when that faith might have been wavering. **Release date: Out now**

ALBUMS



Look Up
By Ringo Starr (Country)
Release date: Jan. 10



Hurry Up Tomorrow
By The Weeknd (pop)
Release date: Jan. 24



Burnout Days
By Flipturn (Rock)
Release date: Jan. 24



Be Myself
By Jonathan David King (local)
Release date: Out now

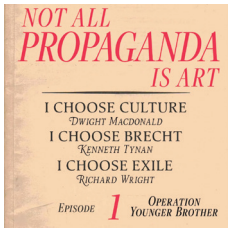
PODCASTS



Scamtown
Subject: True Crime



The Wonder of Stevie
Subject: Biography

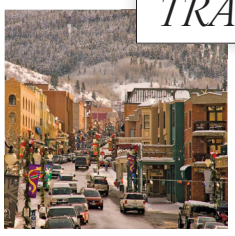


Not All Propaganda Is Art
Subject: History



Not Gonna Lie with Kylie Kelce
Subject: Entertaiinment

TRAVEL



Park City, Utah
High of 37 degrees, low of 14 degrees
Attend the Sundance Film Festival.



Tallinn, Estonia
High of 34 degrees, low of 19 degrees
Warm up in a sauna at the famous Iglupark.

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W. A. Hunter Montgomery, Esq.

Since joining the South Carolina Bar in 2002, Hunter Montgomery has specialized in estate planning and probate law, offering free resources to secure clients' legacies for their families and pets. He enjoys facilitating client support for cherished charities. Actively supporting Bluffton Self Help, Hunter contributes to a community empowered by education, training, and basic needs assistance.

Additionally, he helps organizations focused on Alzheimer's and dementia care, underscoring his commitment to both individual financial security and broader community welfare. Hunter's work reflects a blend of professional expertise and a deep-seated desire to make a positive impact.



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Must-see movies

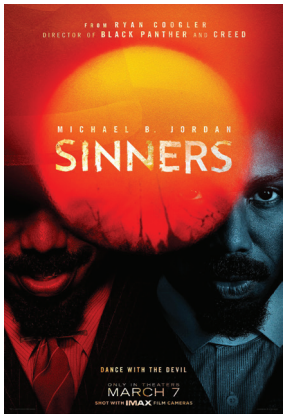
THE MOST ANTICIPATED FILM RELEASES OF 2025



Get ready, movie lovers — 2025 is shaping up to be an unforgettable year at the box office. From the return of beloved franchises to bold new takes on classics, this year's slate is bursting with stories for every kind of film fan. Whether you're looking for heartwarming adventures, action-packed thrillers or groundbreaking sci-fi, each season promises something extraordinary.

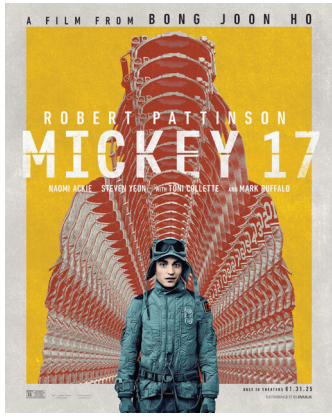
A fiery new chapter:

At Disney's D23 Brazil event in November, director James Cameron unveiled breathtaking concept art for his highly anticipated film, ***Avatar: Fire and Ash***. As the sequel to Avatar: The Way of Water (2022) and the third installment in the groundbreaking Avatar saga, this sci-fi epic is slated for a Dec. 19 theater release.



Winter: A powerful start

In The Grey (Jan. 17): Guy Ritchie directs Jake Gyllenhaal and Henry Cavill in an explosive heist thriller.
Captain America: Brave New World (Feb. 14): Anthony Mackie takes the shield as Sam Wilson in a high-stakes Marvel blockbuster.
Sinners (March 7): Ryan Coogler and Michael B. Jordan team up in this mysterious horror film set in Louisiana.
Back Bag (March 14): Director Steven Soderbergh returns with this suspenseful spy drama featuring Cate Blanchett.



Spring: Sci-fi and family fun

Disney's Snow White (March 21): Rachel Zegler and Gal Gadot star in this vibrant, live-action retelling.
Alto Knights (March 21): Robert De Niro plays dual mob bosses in a gripping crime drama.
Minecraft: The Movie (April 4): Jason Momoa and Jack Black headline a live-action take on the beloved game.
Mickey 17 (April 18): Bong Joon-ho brings Robert Pattinson into a high-concept sci-fi about cloning and colonization.



Summer: Blockbusters and beloved franchises

F1 (June 27): Brad Pitt stars as a retired racer mentoring a rookie in this high-speed drama directed by Joseph Kosinski.
Superman: Legacy (July 11): James Gunn revitalizes the DC universe with an optimistic take on the Man of Steel.
The Battle of Baktan Cross (Aug. 8): An all-star cast, including Leonardo DiCaprio, shines in this crime drama thriller.
Animal Friends (Aug. 15): A live-action/animated comedy starring Ryan Reynolds, Aubrey Plaza and Jason Momoa.



Fall: Frights and drama

The Bride! (Oct. 3): Maggie Gyllenhaal reimagines Bride of Frankenstein with Christian Bale in a hauntingly modern retelling.
Wicked: Part Two (Nov. 21): Closely following the 2024 theatrical release of Wicked: Part One, Part Two wraps up the story.
Zootopia 2 (Nov. 26): Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde return in a long-awaited animated sequel.
Avatar: Fire and Ash (Dec. 19): James Cameron's Avatar saga explores fiery new biomes in this stunning sequel.

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Heather Hinshelwood, MD *is passionate about healthy living and influencing others to make healthier choices to improve their lives. She focuses on non-surgical solutions to joint replacement surgery.*

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What makes them local



GIFTING HAPPINESS
The Celebrations Project, a Hilton Head Island-based nonprofit founded by Libby O'Regan, brings joy to children in need by providing them with unforgettable birthday parties.

adjective. lo·cal | lō-kəl

1: *characterized by or relating to position in space: having a definite spatial form or location* ***2:*** *of, relating to, or characteristic of a particular place: not general or widespread: of, relating to, or applicable to part of a whole* ***3:*** *primarily serving the needs of a particular limited district of a public conveyance: making all the stops on a route*

Building community, one celebration at a time

STORY BY BECCA EDWARDS



LOCAL SINCE 2003
Libby O'Regan is the founder of Libby O Marketing and the Content Lab, a content creation business tailored to support small Lowcountry businesses. A Hilton Head Island resident since 2003, she now calls the area home with her husband, Mick, and their four children: Molly, Jackson, Connor and Hudson.

Local since 2003, Libby O'Regan began coming to Hilton Head as a child like many others. "Our family vacationed here for years, and eventually my parents bought a home here while I was in college. I fell in love with the area and decided to raise my family here." Combining her appreciation for the Lowcountry and her extensive background in building brand awareness and commerce, O'Regan founded Libby O Marketing, a boutique marketing and public relations firm with a handful of local clients, many of which are nonprofits. With a vision to best support our community, she also launched a division called the Content Lab, which is affordable content creation for small businesses as well as The Celebrations Projects. LOCAL Life caught up with O'Regan to discuss her passion for service, the causes closest to her heart and how she's helping inspire the next generation to give back.

Q: What is The Celebration Projects? A: It is our nonprofit and gives children in need the gift of a birthday party. We partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry and other charitable organizations to get connected to children who are experiencing hardship, whether it be financial, physical or mental. We plan a day for them to remember for a lifetime, and all at no cost to the family or guests. It is a simple mission to bring joy to children and families in Hilton Head and Bluffton.

Q: What other nonprofits are you involved with?
A: I am grateful to play a role in helping several local nonprofits on Hilton Head, including Pockets Full of Sunshine, The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry and Friends of Sabina, a boarding and day school in Uganda. I have worked with 10 fundraisers, including Pedal Hilton Head, Epic House Party, Par Fore Kids, the Bill Verity Cup and have helped raise over $800,000 for the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry.

Q: How are you raising your children to give back?
A: It's a difficult balance to give your children what they want versus what they need. It is my husband's and my goal to teach them perspective. In our loft a 7-foot orange neon sign reads, "To whom much is given, much is expected," and we have introduced age-appropriate expectations of service. All four children have volunteered at various fundraising events benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry. Molly is an after-school volunteer at BGCHHI, helping club members with homework and reading. Our kids often help shop and wrap presents for The Celebration Projects, set up for the birthday parties and clean up.

Q: How best do you think other people can give back to our community? A: Our community can be a better place with small gestures. Giving back doesn't have to be herculean. Make a small donation to a local nonprofit of your choice, perform random acts of kindness, and smile and say hello to a stranger.

Q: What is your motto in life? A: In my 20s and early 30s, my motto was "More is More." I wore a necklace with the sentiment around my neck, deeply believing that I had to work harder to achieve more. With a few years into my 40s, I've adopted: "You can do anything, but you cannot do everything" and "Want what you have." These two newer mottos are helping me prioritize what is important and focus on being grateful for what we have and what I have already accomplished. *LL*



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Bonnie J. Rothwell, DMD, AAACD

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2025 wellness forecast

THE LATEST TRENDS, TECHNOLOGIES AND TREATMENTS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

STORY BY SHEILA PAZ



As we step into 2025, the world of health and wellness is abuzz with innovation and transformation. From groundbreaking medical advancements to holistic approaches reshaping preventive care, local wellness professionals are leading the charge into a healthier future. To gain insight into what's ahead, we've gathered ***perspectives from experts across diverse fields***, all dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the Lowcountry and beyond.



Heather Hinshelwood, MD

Q: What new wellness trends do you anticipate for 2025? **A:** I anticipate a continued shift toward proactive health management, with people increasingly seeking non-surgical, restorative treatments to maintain their active lifestyles. Wellness is becoming more about prevention and optimization rather than reaction.

Q: Are there any emerging treatments or procedures you're particularly excited about? **A:** I'm excited about the growth of restorative medicine, including cellular therapies, which provide patients with innovative options to heal naturally and avoid invasive surgeries while addressing the root causes of pain.

Q: What advancements in technology are you looking forward to? **A:** Advancements in non-invasive technologies, like more precise laser treatments and improved spinal decompression systems, will make care even more effective, helping patients recover faster and maintain better long-term health.

Q: Are there any other trends or innovations that you believe will shape wellness in 2025? **A:** The integration of data-driven health tools, such as personalized health tracking and diagnostics, will empower patients to take greater control of their wellness journeys, aligning perfectly with our mission at Fraum Health.

Heather Hinshelwood, MD, is the owner and medical director of The Fraum Center.



Personalized health tracking



Scott K. Schultz, MD

Q: Are there any emerging eye treatments or procedures you're particularly excited about?
A: One notable and unique technology in the cataract surgery space is the advent of the Light Adjustable Lens from RxSight. The light-adjustable lens is a particular lens that the surgeon implants during surgery. This lens technology allows the surgeon to non-invasively adjust its power post-operatively based on individualized results and preferences to improve focus and achieve the highest levels of visual satisfaction possible. We at Bishop Eye provide a cutting-edge, exceptional cataract surgery experience and best-in-class results. Adopting the light-adjustable lens technology has allowed us to achieve higher levels of post-operative visual precision previously unattainable for particular patients. While this lens may not be for everyone, it truly has been highly beneficial, and we are excited about this new technology.

Q: What advancements in eye technology are you looking forward to? **A:** There is significant momentum in the area of glaucoma care and management. Glaucoma is a lifelong disease; appropriate management is critical to preserving vision and preventing blindness. Despite the patient's best intentions, the most significant obstacle to effective treatment is the challenge of remaining compliant with therapy. New pharmaceuticals, treatment modalities, laser technologies and surgical procedures have been emerging to allow patients to achieve their therapeutic goals and help them manage glaucoma more effectively.

Scott K. Schultz, MD, owner of Bishop Eye Center, is an ophthalmologist, laser cataract surgeon and glaucoma subspecialist.



Light Adjustable Lens from RxSight

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

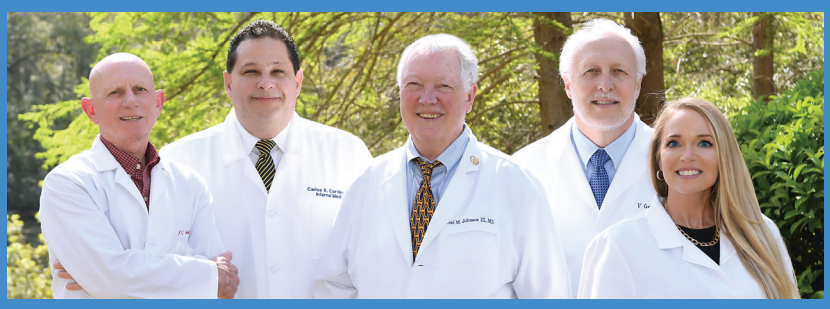


Here's to a Happy & Healthy New Year!

ALWAYS HERE WHEN YOU NEED US

Main Street Medical is a premier urgent care and family practice serving individuals and families in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Led by Joel Johnson III, MD, the team aims to treat all their patients with dignity and compassion by providing comprehensive medical care services that promote a healthy community.

A physician-owned practice, Main Street Medical has a large team of health care professionals able to provide a wide variety of services that include both primary and urgent care. In addition to adult and pediatric care, the team also provides women's care, x-rays, laboratory services, medication assistance, and employment physicals.



(from left) Franics Imbarrato, MD, Carlos Cordero, MD, Joel Johnson III, MD, Van Gauby, MD, Nicole Clegg, MSN, APRN, FNP-C,

MAIN STREET MEDICAL
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Matthew Mastrorocco, DMD



Q: What new dental care trends do you anticipate for 2025? **A:** Patients are more interested than ever in preventative dental care because they know that keeping issues from becoming emergent improves their oral health as well as their overall health. They are staying on top of scheduling their routine hygiene visits, which enables early detection of cavities and gum disease. These preventative care visits include oral cancer screening and education about the link between gum disease and heart disease, diabetes and other illnesses.

Q: Are there any emerging dental treatments or procedures you're particularly excited about? **A:** Dentists are starting to use 3D digital printing to create prosthetics, like crowns, bridges or implants, in-house. Although the turnaround time is faster, our practice still prefers to send our digital intraoral scans to our dental lab because its ceramist can create more natural contours than any in-office printing machine, using more realistic color and anatomy to create better overall aesthetics. However, the technology is improving with both methods.



Q: What advancements in technology are you looking forward to? **A:** Our AI software is improving daily, helping us identify areas of concern on a patient's X-rays. We use it as a second set of eyes. For example, it highlights cracks, failing restorations and possible decay and bone loss, some of which aren't visible to the human eye on a regular X-ray. AI brings attention right to the spot we need to investigate further.

Matthew Mastrorocco, DMD, is the owner and founder of ROC Dental Group of Bluffton and Hilton Head and a dentist at ROC Dental Group.

Kamal Patel, MD



Q: What new wellness trends do you anticipate for 2025? **A:** There will continue to be a growing need for individualized care. What works for one person may not work for someone else. Traditional healthcare, due to limited access to providers and time constraints, cannot accommodate this proactive wellness trend. As a concierge provider, our care is patient-centered and personalized just for them. Using an integrative approach, including nutrition, fitness, supplements, holistic and root-cause measures and modern medical options, enables me to provide comprehensive care to those we serve.

Q: Are there any emerging treatments or procedures you're particularly excited about? **A:** IV hydration is rapidly becoming a desirable option for many. Whether to speed up recovery from a recent illness or injury or to support fitness and wellness goals, this is a highly effective way to deliver the necessary nutrients.

Q: What advancements in technology are you looking forward to in the wellness industry? **A:** With advancing scientific research into anti-aging, we have an extraordinary opportunity to preserve our health and vitality well beyond retirement.

Q: Are there any other trends or innovations that you believe will shape wellness in the coming year? **A:** We will continue to grow aware of how the quality of our food impacts our well-being. This includes pesticides, additives, colorings, processing, refined sugar and vegetable oils, to name a few. I am hopeful that we are turning a corner as a society in taking back our health.

Kamal Patel, MD, is a concierge physician at Lotus Health and the co-founder of Mobile Concierge Care.

Kenneth Horup, DC



Q What new wellness trends do you anticipate for 2025? **A:** Posture is back in style! I anticipate posture braces and kinesio tape to be a new wellness trend in 2025, because it's already beginning. People are paying more attention to the repercussions of daily habits, such as looking down at the phone and typing on the computer. Kinesio tape assists in holding tissue in place, while posture braces encourage your muscle memory to maintain good posture. You may see young celebrities and athletes wearing colorful kinesio tape, posture braces — and even professional athletes. I believe a wave of posture awareness will continue, especially in the younger generations.

Q: Are there any emerging treatments or procedures you're particularly excited about? **A:** I am particularly excited about new nerve treatments that have emerged recently. Various noninvasive equipment, like shockwave and infrared light therapy, has helped heal the body and reduce nerve pain. Class 4 lasers are becoming more common in the musculoskeletal world as they increase healing in a targeted area. I am especially excited to see how new laser treatments affect the nerves, as they have had promising success.

Q: What advancements in technology are you looking forward to in the wellness industry? **A:** I look forward to seeing how technology continues to advance shockwave and softwave therapies in the wellness industry. Both shockwave and softwave therapy promote healing in an area through high-energy pulses. They are effective, non-invasive treatments that help injuries recover faster. I am eager to see how they will advance.



Dr. Kenneth Horup is a doctor of chiropractic and is board-certified in neuropathy at Discover Specific Chiropractic.

Susan Couzens, DMD



Q: Are there any emerging treatments or procedures you're particularly excited about? **A:** For 2025 I am starting to see a focus on hyper-personalization, anti-inflammation and integrative care for healthy aging. We are passionate about making meaningful connections with patients, taking the time that other medical fields may not, and offering the personal touch that helps patients feel truly special. Ultimately, it's about providing a healthy, confident smile that makes patients feel good about themselves, blending wellness with a positive, uplifting experience. This integrative, patient-centered approach excites me most about the future of wellness in 2025. I'm also excited about several technological advancements that will enhance patient care. At Couzens Dental we focus on continual learning, adopting the latest research in periodontal care, and using technologies like wand anesthesia and conscious sedation for comfort. CEREC same-day crowns have evolved, allowing for faster, more efficient procedures — some crowns can completed in as little as an hour, and no temporary crown is needed.

Q: Are there any other trends or innovations that you believe will shape wellness in the coming year? **A:** We will be starting customized mouth bacteria culturing in 2025, enabling more personalized care by addressing the link between oral health and overall well-being, reducing inflammation and lowering the risk of conditions like heart disease. Additionally, 3D smile makeovers will allow us to design personalized smiles that patients love, boosting their confidence and adding a personal touch to dentistry. It's about making patients feel special and giving them a smile they can be proud of.



Susan Couzens, DMD, is the owner of Couzens Dental.

Plastics & Prosecco



WEDNESDAY
January 15 • 5–7 PM

OKATIE MEDICAL PAVILION, 2ND FLOOR
122 Okatie Center Blvd. North

Join us as we introduce Dr. Heidi Harrington and her team at **Beaufort Memorial Plastic Surgery & Aesthetics** and learn about their personalized, compassionate approach to plastic surgery and aesthetic medicine. You will be given the opportunity to tour the office, to enjoy live aesthetic procedure demonstrations and to get a glimpse of the cutting edge technologies Dr. Harrington is using in the operating room to create beautiful, lasting results. Enjoy drinks and light bites, event specials and product giveaways.

Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon
Heidi Harrington, M.D.

ABOUT DR. HARRINGTON:

A board-certified and fellowship-trained plastic surgeon with two decades of experience in plastic, reconstructive and cosmetic surgery, Dr. Harrington leads the hospital's new Beaufort Memorial Plastic Surgery & Aesthetics practice in Okatie.

Prior to joining Beaufort Memorial, Dr. Harrington trained in plastic and reconstructive surgery and aesthetics in Southern California, then spent 12 years in New England working in both private practices and hospitals, launching her own practice in 2018.

Among the many surgical and noninvasive plastic surgery procedures she performs, reconstructive and cosmetic breast, mommy makeovers, body contouring after weight loss, skin cancer reconstruction, facial rejuvenation, and cosmetic injection procedures are her hallmarks.

Serving breast cancer patients is a particular passion for Dr. Harrington, who is skilled in a variety of advanced techniques used in breast reconstruction, including single stage direct to implant prepectoral breast reconstruction.

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PLASTIC SURGERY & AESTHETICS

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memories do matter.

Since 1997 Memory Matters has provided memory care to Lowcountry families with compassion and understanding.

Today, Memory Matters continues that care but has enhanced its services to educate the community, of all ages, on how to keep the brain healthy, and what can be done to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ADRD).

We offer many programs and events that do just that:

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Wednesdays 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM
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Online registration now open
$120 / Registration limited to 24

memory matters
BRAIN BOOSTERS COURSE

ASK A NEUROLOGIST

Memories Do Matter: A Speaker Series
Presented by Dave Ekedahl
Session #1 (1 of 4)
Featuring Dr. Gregory Day, Mayo Clinic
February 28 • Free
Reserve your seat online Jan. 1, 2025



Treasured Memories:
An Evening on The Amalfi Coast
Thursday, May 22, 2025
Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa
5:30 PM until 8:30 PM
Tickets go on sale online Jan. 1, 2025
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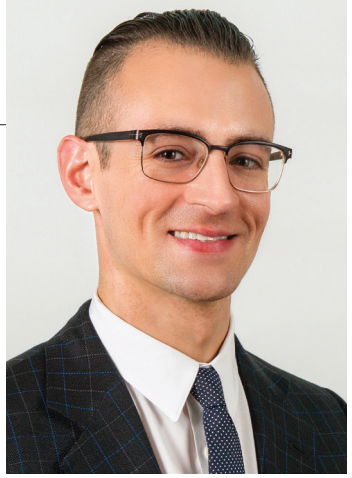
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Gregory Haidemenos, MD

Q: What new wellness trends do you anticipate for 2025? A: As an oncologist, I believe there couldn't be a more exciting time to fight cancer. In the next year, I expect to see more trends that will benefit patients in the Lowcountry, such as improvements in immunotherapy. Immunotherapy is a customized and precise treatment that has proven highly effective in curing certain cancers. It is a therapy that is consistently changing, and we are learning more and more every day. Another big trend that I see for next year is the improvement in cancer screening. The cancer mortality rate has been decreasing for the last decade, and much of that can be attributed to better screening that catches cancer earlier.



Q: What technology are you looking forward to in the wellness industry? A: As for exciting new technology, I look forward to more effective CT scans and 3D mammograms in the next year. CT scans for lung cancer have proved highly effective and are now accessible to more people. 3D mammography for breast cancer is excellent, and we now ask women more questions to assess their familial or genetic risks for developing cancer. If we know that, we can further screen with ultrasound or MRI to catch cancer earlier. I'm very excited about the cancer treatment landscape in the Lowcountry, and it will only get better in the coming years.

Dr. Gregory Haidemenos is a medical oncologist at St. Joseph's/Candler–SC Cancer Specialists. He is board-certified in medical oncology and palliative care and has fellowship training in hematology.

Billy Simmons, DLO



Q: What new wellness trends do you anticipate for 2025? A: When it comes to trends for 2025, there is no shortage of new things to come. Our team has seen a rise in the use of computer-specific glasses for clients, which offer improved visual acuity versus a standard progressive lens or reader. In a world of electronic devices, we can tailor lens choices based on vision demands to deliver optimal results with the least amount of eye strain. With the advancements each year, it is so rewarding to personalize lens and frame designs when working with clients.

Q: What advancements in technology are you looking forward to in the wellness industry? A: The shift to computer-specific glasses has been the most exciting technological advancement we have seen, and it continuously improves. Whether it is the type of computer, monitor position, working distance or professional demands, the advancements we have seen every year allow us to make more personalized lenses.



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Billy Simmons, DLO, ABOC, is a practicing optician at Eyeland Optique.



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Paige Wooten, NP

Q: What new wellness trends do you anticipate for 2025? **A:** I expect to see an increase in the number of people choosing a low-tox lifestyle. People are educating themselves more and more about the dangers of toxic additives in everything from food to cookware and clothing. I think the low-tox trend will continue as we move into 2025.

Q: Are there any emerging treatments or procedures you're particularly excited about? **A:** I am hopeful that hormone replacement therapy, specifically with bioidentical hormone pellets, will continue to be popular and that commercial insurance companies will see the value of this treatment, especially for women.



Q: What advancements in technology are you looking forward to in the wellness industry? **A:** I am quite intrigued by these at-home red-light therapy devices. The tech itself is not all that new, but being able to have an at-home device is.

Q: Are there any other trends or innovations that you believe will shape wellness in the coming year? **A:** I believe that GLP1-RAs will continue to be popular. We've already seen some remarkable results with these drugs that we haven't seen with others. Of course, they all come with side effects that we are still learning about because of their infancy, but I am optimistic, as they really have been a game-changer for some patients.

Paige Wooten is a nurse practitioner at Main Street Medical.

Kayo Perley, MD



Q: What new wellness trends do you anticipate for 2025? **A:** With the advent of 2025, Americans can anticipate several exciting wellness trends that promise improved health. Research is finding that colonic bacteria affect obesity, food cravings, infection, diseases and even mental health in more ways than ever before. Supplements, diets and medical therapies that support "good bacteria" are being investigated, and new treatments are expected to debut in the coming year. Another anticipated trend is a shift in attitude regarding hormone replacement therapy (HRT) in both men and women. Although HRT has historically been discouraged in women over 60 due to health risks, newer studies are promoting the safety of treatment in select populations. Based on a study in 2023, the future looks promising for testosterone replacement therapy as well. Still, please remember to address your medical history with an expert to safely navigate the risks and benefits of any trend affecting your health.

Q: Are there any emerging treatments or procedures you're particularly excited about? **A:** One medical treatment I am eager to report is a new, more discrete way to screen for colon cancer through blood testing. People who are at low risk of colon cancer and had routine colonoscopies in the past or who cannot tolerate anesthesia may welcome the idea of a simple lab test that screens for cancer. It is important to remember that colonoscopies remain the gold standard for diagnosing colon cancer, so first consult your doctor to determine if the blood test is an option for you. I am also excited about the use of genetic testing to treat mental health. These tests can analyze an individual's DNA and predict how he or she will respond to a particular medication. Genetic analysis can be life-changing for people with complex mental health diseases who are frustrated with the (unfortunately) common trial-and-error approach.



Kayo Perley, MD, is a primary care physician at the Novant Health - Medical Associates of the Lowcountry.



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Heidi Harrington, MD

Q: What trend or trends do you see developing in 2025 in the field of plastic surgery and aesthetics? **A:** I think we will continue to see the popularity of facial balancing. This in-office cosmetic procedure aims to create symmetry and harmony in the face using a customized combination of non-surgical treatments such as Botox, dermal fillers and tailored skincare regimens and treatments. As the popularity of GLP1 medications continues, I think we can expect to see a continued rise in body contouring surgeries after weight loss. These surgeries remove excess skin from different parts of the body that often results after large amounts of weight loss. These procedures can improve the shape of your body, leaving you with tighter skin and a more cinched contour.

Q: Are there any new technologies, procedures or treatments you are excited about? **A:** There are multiple technologies and procedures that I am excited to be introducing to the Lowcountry. In 2025, we will introduce Crisalix Virtual Reality (VR) Surgery Simulation. This technology allows me to create an accurate 3D visualization of how a patient will look after a cosmetic procedure. Its real-scale, augmented reality technology is an absolute game-changer. Crisalix helps patients make more informed decisions about undergoing cosmetic surgery — plus, it's fun!

For the brave women facing breast cancer in our community, I am also excited to introduce the option to undergo a single-stage surgery where the oncologic surgeon removes the cancer. Then I immediately reconstruct the breast(s) with either implants or a breast lift or reduction. For these patients, we have introduced SPY-PHI technology (portable SPY Fluorescence Imaging Technology), which allows me to see a patient's blood flow through the skin after their mastectomy. With this, I'm able to do one-stage, direct-to-implant breast reconstruction with the confidence that there is enough blood supply for optimal healing and maintaining patient safety.

Heidi Harrington, MD, board-certified and fellowship-trained in plastic surgery, leads Beaufort Memorial Plastic Surgery & Aesthetics in Okatie.



Patrick Wiita, MD

Q: What new wellness trends do you anticipate for 2025? **A:** I think the technology pendulum is swinging back, away from our earlier obsession with data and back towards a more intuitive relationship with our bodies. In 2025, I can see people getting rid of their wearable tech or at least only using them briefly before tuning in to their body's natural feedback.

Q: Are there any emerging treatments or procedures you're particularly excited about? **A:** I think the GLP1 movement is still gathering steam. As more and more people are using these life-changing medicines, researchers will have access to larger data sets to explore the other ways these medications might be helpful. I think it's likely we will see scientific evidence of improved mental health in people using these medications, either through some direct action in the brain or secondary to generally better health.

Q: What advancements in technology are you looking forward to in the wellness industry? **A:** I'm looking forward to AI being directed to solve real problems in the actual practice of medicine rather than simply being a byproduct of growth-oriented tech startups (looking at you, AI-chatbot therapy). There's an experimental smartphone app being researched at the Sorbonne in Paris that analyzes voice sounds intending to aid the diagnosis of common mental health conditions like depression and anxiety and something that I would incorporate into my practice.

Patrick Wiita, MD, is a triple-board certified in child, adolescent, adult and forensic psychiatry.



Rene Hernandez - Pearson, GA



As a professional drywaller, wearing a heavy toolbelt is a necessity for Rene. But after developing a large lump on his hip, the pain prohibited him from wearing it. So he made the 3-hour drive from his home in Pearson, GA to the Lewis Cancer & Research Pavillion at St. Joseph's/Candler, where his eggplant-sized tumor was diagnosed as a rare and deadly cancerous myxoid liposarcoma.

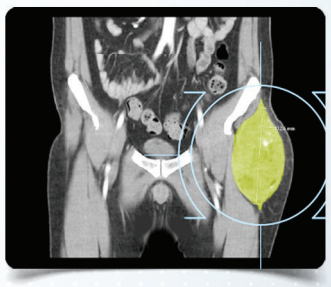
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Charting the course for 2025

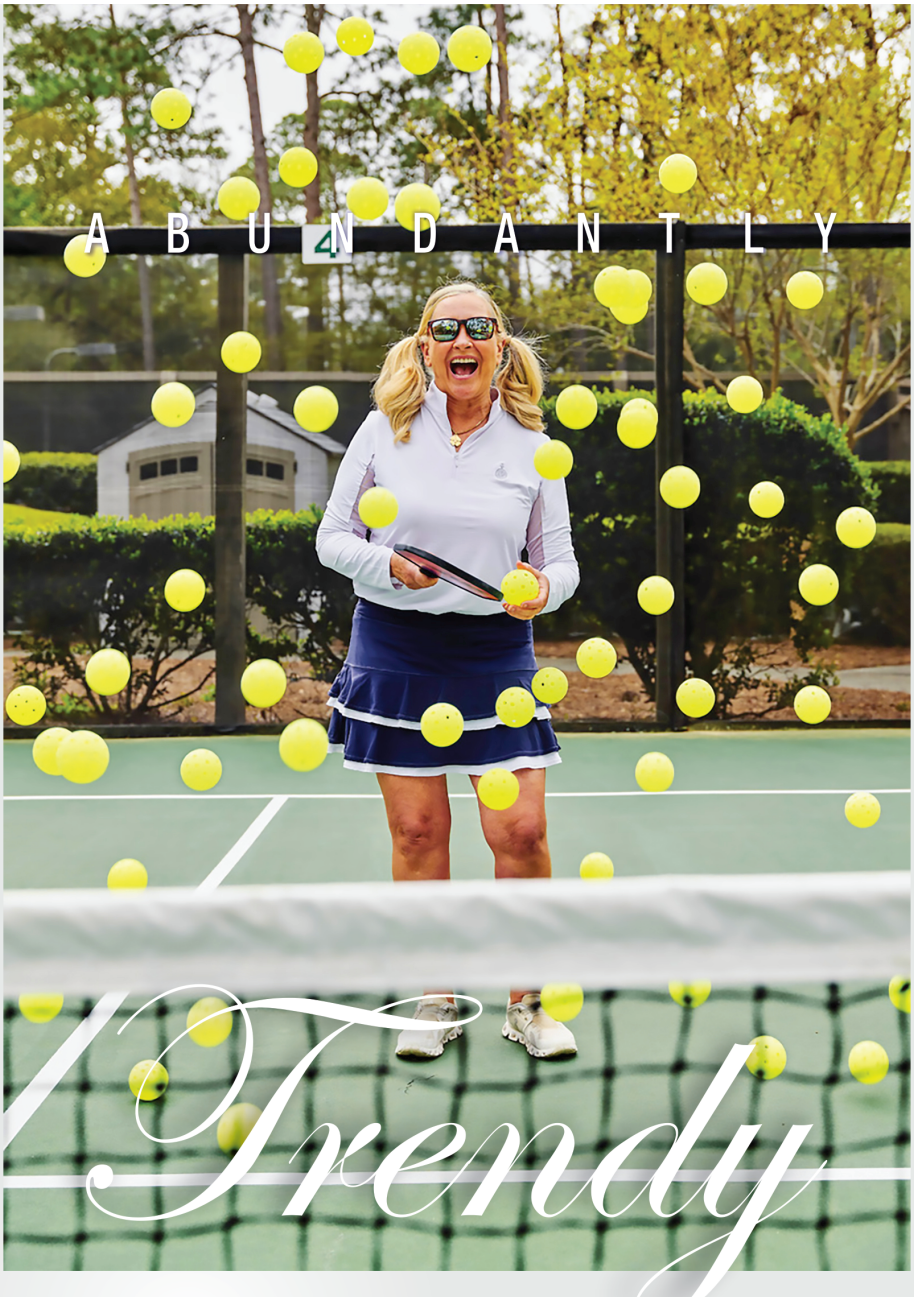
As we step into the rising sun of a new year, we task Lowcountry mayors with sharing their visions for the future.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA STAFF

No one truly knows what the year ahead will bring. But we can make an educated guess.

When you're mayor, that's a big part of the job description. It falls to them to see the roadblocks ahead, and to chart a path around them. Trusting in the evidence before them, the team around them and the experiences they bring to the office, mayors must look confidently to the year ahead as they make decisions that will have far-reaching consequences for their community. Their role demands vision, resilience and a steadfast commitment to the people they serve, balancing tradition with progress as they navigate uncharted waters.

It's a heavy burden, but it's part of the job. It's also what makes a mayor the perfect person to ask what the year ahead might bring. With optimism, determination and a keen sense of responsibility, they hold the key to shaping the future. We gathered mayors from across Beaufort County to find out what they see in the year ahead.



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Alan Perry

MAYOR OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

As a citizen of Hilton Head Island, Alan Perry has had a front-row seat to the island's evolution. His family spent the summers here in the 1960s, when the resort era was in its infancy, before moving here full time in 1972. With his father, Charles, being heavily involved in the community, helping build the Rec Center and serving as the voice of the RBC Heritage, Alan watched the island's pioneers sow the seeds for the community that would one day emerge from the resort.

Those early years among Hilton Head's founding fathers have made him a mayor with a uniquely educated perspective on the island. For one thing, he understands that preservation is what gives the island its soul. He points to 2024 as being a particularly good year for that.

"It was a spectacular year for land acquisition," he said, noting that the Town bought up roughly 32 acres of property. "It really removed additional development opportunities that wouldn't be right-sized for the island."

And while he respects Hilton Head's philosophy of preservation, he also understands that a thriving community must always be moving forward. He points to the talent and initiative that Town staff showed in building consent for the Town Council's bridge vote. He looks to build the island's business community to diversify its job market and foster a younger community. But these things are always balanced against maintaining the island's character.

As an example, he mentions the extensive community conversations that surrounded Muddy Creek and the Jonesville tract. "First and foremost, it brought attention to those areas and those communities. Now it's about getting their input. What is it that they would like to see happen?" he said. "We're in it every day, but we don't live in those locations. So to have those conversations with the residents, to understand what they're looking for, is pivotal in building a



plan that makes the most sense."

That consensus-building and respect for the island's conscious development will serve Perry well in 2025 as the Town embarks on a massive overhaul of the Land Management Ordinance.

"We're rightsizing that to make certain we're going forward in a direction that people are comfortable with. We've gotten away from some of the values that have helped build this community for the last 60 years," he said.

Among changes Perry hopes to see are elements that would keep developers from clear-cutting land, maintaining pervious areas for stormwater and reducing the number of dwellings allowed per acre. But the nature of the LMO means changes will affect nearly every aspect of life in town, making a consensus critical. "There's going to be a lot of community engagement and a lot of discussion to make certain that what we're creating does not have unintended consequences."



PRESERVING PARADISE Elected as mayor of Hilton Head Island in November 2022, Alan Perry brings extensive experience in local government, having served on the Town's Planning Commission and Program for Public Information Committee. As mayor, he presides over Town Council meetings, represents Hilton Head at official functions and engages deeply with community organizations, including chairing the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He enjoys boating and time with family and friends.

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Bring back the beaches

Another massive project that the Town of Hilton Head Island will undertake in 2025 is a total renourishment of the beaches. Just as it did in 2016, the Town will bring in crews to dredge 2.2 million cubic yards of sand from offshore, replenishing what our shores have lost to erosion.

"People will start to see prep work sometime around April," said the Town's Communication Director, Heather Woolwine. "The good thing is, the beaches will remain open. There may be some restrictions, but they're going to work hard to keep restricted areas to a bare minimum."

Running throughout the year, renourishment will occur in three phases. Phase one, covering The Heel, Port Royal, Fish Haul and Pine Island, runs June through October. Phase two, covering Central Island, South Island and South Beach, will begin in September and run through May of 2026. The third phase, which will cover structures on Pine Island, is currently TBD.

To find out more, visit hiltonheadislandsc.gov/beachrenourish2025.

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Established in 2022 by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, with the generous support of Joan and Wade Webster, this award recognizes an individual from Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, or Jasper County who has demonstrated continuing dedication and leadership in a community activity or on behalf of a community organization/ nonprofit. The award recipient will receive a $10,000 grant to bestow to charitable organizations based in the four-county region. The Joan and Wade Webster Community Impact Award will be presented on March 26, 2025 at the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry's Annual Community Meeting.

The Deadline to Submit Nominations is January 21, 2025.

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2025 NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Larry Toomer
MAYOR OF BLUFFTON

It should come as no surprise that, of all the legislative goals he has pursued during his career in Bluffton politics, Larry Toomer's guiding priority has always been the health of our waterways. After all, his family has been plying these rivers for four generations. One of the few remaining ties to the days when commercial fishing ruled the Lowcountry, his family still owns the Bluffton Oyster Company, the last of what used to be a legion of oyster houses up and down the May River.

"Certain things have been going on since I've been on council, like my fight to put the town on sanitary sewers," he said. "We have on our Capital Improvement Program list to have the entire town, every resident, connected."

Toomer hopes that by building those connections, residents along the river will no longer be on septic tanks, which can create severe runoff issues. "If you don't have anything bad on the ground to go in the river, then the rain doesn't hurt. The problem is the stuff that gets washed into the river during a rainfall event," he said. "So, eliminating the source of those contaminants will make a huge difference."

Starting at the river and moving inland, his tenure as mayor has continued his crusade to get everyone in town limits off of septic, mitigating to some extent the impact that Bluffton's massive growth has had on the river.

"It's been a long time coming, but I'm really thankful that Council agrees with me," he said. "Soon I'll be able to say, 'We got that done, let's jump on something else' as a main priority."

And those priorities are numerous. Perhaps no priority will guide Toomer more than addressing the tremendous growth that Bluffton has experienced in the last few years, particularly out beyond Buckwalter Parkway.

"That's one of our big things – preserving land by purchasing land, building more parks and amenities for residents and ultimately controlling growth," he said. "Right now 90 percent of our town is under development agreements, but that doesn't mean we can't make efforts to buy those development rights and try to



slow residential growth until our infrastructure catches up. Our schools are full. Our roads are full. And a lot of it we can't do anything about. But when an opportunity arises to protect property from development, we're on board."

The single biggest sign of this growing push to buy up land is the 37 acres of parkland at New Riverside. Representing a $15 million development, the park will incorporate the space's iconic barn for use as a wedding or event venue and gives a huge amenity to the newest areas of town.

"We have so many residents that live on the west side of Bluffton with no amenities or services," he said. "We're trying to show that they are part of the town... we're not two towns, we are one."



WITNESS TO BLUFFTON'S HISTORY
Larry Toomer, Bluffton's mayor since January 2024, is a 4th generation fisherman and owner of the Bluffton Oyster Company, operating South Carolina's last oyster shucking factory. Raised in the Lowcountry, Toomer has witnessed its transformation and is deeply committed to protecting its natural resources. "My job as mayor is personal," he says. "I have more than 20 reasons — my children and grandchildren — to ensure Bluffton thrives."

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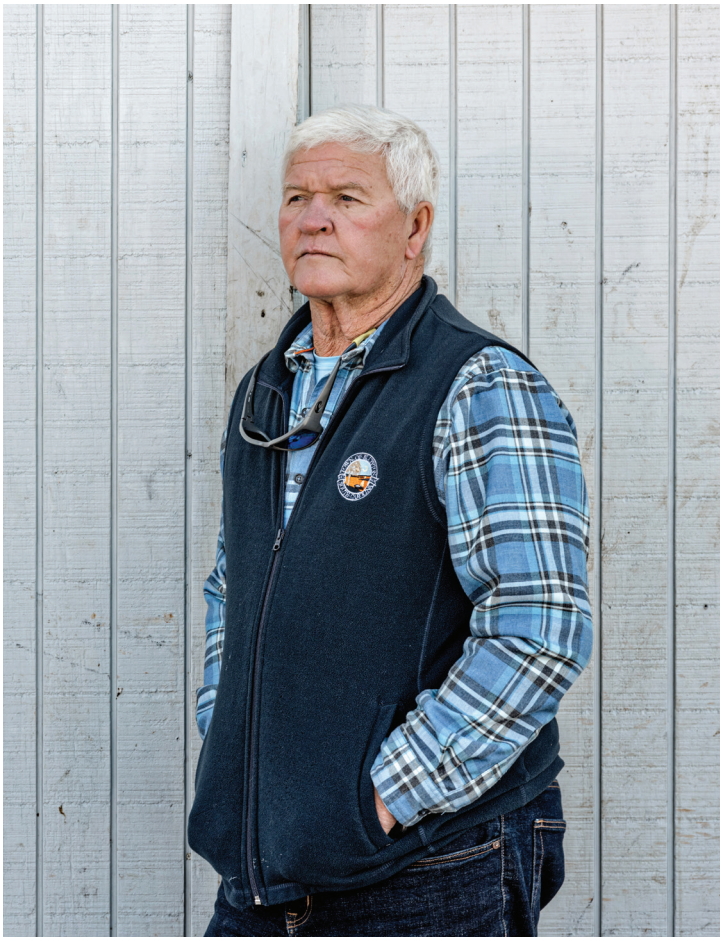
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The best medicine

The single biggest development coming to Bluffton in the near future will obviously be the new full-service, community hospital campus Novant Health will be opening. The company, who recently purchased Hilton Head Hospital and Coastal Carolina Hospital in Hardeeville, saw Bluffton as an ideal spot for its next full facility.

"When I was running for mayor, the three things I heard about most were slowing residential growth, improving our roads and infrastructure and adding medical facilities," said Mayor Larry Toomer. "You'd be shocked at how many people say that there aren't enough doctors and specialists. They have to go to Hilton Head Island or Beaufort. That was something I heard loud and clear... so having a hospital in the middle of town, how great is that?"

In addition to the medical center, which will hold 50 beds with plans to expand to 100, Novant Health is planning several outpatient campuses in Bluffton, including a new free-standing emergency department, surgery centers, imaging services, urgent care, primary care and specialty care.





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Philip Cromer
MAYOR OF BEAUFORT

Growing up in Charleston, Philip Cromer remembers a city that had a genuine sense of place. The antebellum streets of the downtown area have always held their own particular charm, but beyond the historic district, Cromer watched as the soul of the city was gradually watered down by overdevelopment.

"I grew up in Charleston, and Charleston lost a lot of its character. You're seeing that in Chatham County and in some places South of the Broad," he said. "We're going to grow, and we embrace growth, but we want to do it in a way that balances with what is special about our community."

And while he's only been Mayor for a year, Cromer knows more than most what defines Beaufort's character. A city council member for eight years, he chaired the Affordable Housing Task Force, served as the liaison to the Beaufort History Museum and served on the board for the Lowcountry Council of Governments. His involvement in Beaufort affairs started as soon as he relocated to the area in 2014, fueled by a 23-year career as a risk management consultant for the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

Cromer stepped into office with an eye toward managing Beaufort's growth, but within a few months, an engineering report on Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park made repairs an immediate priority. According to the report, the condition of the pilings is a growing concern, and that's with divers only being able to realistically inspect 227 of the 570 pilings due to shoaling. It was recommended that the city initiate preliminary studies and secure funding to begin replacement of the structure. This problem was later exacerbated by public outcry over the Town's leasing of the city marina to Safe Harbor Marinas, which resulted in a lawsuit after Cromer spoke with LOCAL Life.

"We have an issue with the marina, and we're setting up a citizens' committee with elected officials and staff to look at the problem and determine what needs to be done, whether that means renegotiation or otherwise," he said. "It depends on what we find out after the



committee has gathered data and input from a citizens' survey."

Confident that the matter will soon be resolved, Cromer looks forward to moving ahead on the agenda that got him elected last year.

"Our biggest issue is affordable housing," he said. "We also want to work on infrastructure. The transportation referendum didn't pass, which was going to give each municipality $10 million, so we're going to have to find other ways of setting aside money for roads."

He also points to the work the City of Beaufort is doing with the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation to create a commerce park, diversifying the economy to make it less dependent on tourism and the military, as well as efforts made to boost public transportation, from the Palmetto Breeze lines to a trolley system.



DEDICATED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE
Phil Cromer, a Charleston native with 23 years of municipal experience, served on Beaufort City Council (2014–2022) and chaired the Affordable Housing Task Force. A retired risk management consultant and U.S. Army veteran (1974–2004), Cromer holds degrees from USC and the College of Charleston. He and his wife, Amelie, have two married daughters and four grandchildren.



Standing: Heidi Yoshida, CFP®, Michelle Myhre, CFP®, Sarah Huie, CFP®, Kevin Myhre
Seated: Al Cerrati, MBA, John Chiacchiero, MBA

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Getting up to speed

With the first several months of his administration spent dealing with fallout from the disappointing engineering report on Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park, Beaufort Mayor Philip Cromer is looking forward to getting moving on his agenda.

"I really haven't been able to get as much accomplished as I would like with the recent election cycle occupying so much time; however, all incumbents running for council were reelected, and we are looking forward to our planning retreat in January to lay out our strategic goals," he said.

That cautious approach will pay off as the city's comprehensive plan and development code looks to be updated in the future. "We try to update it as necessary to get it more in line with our strategic goals."

One addition Cromer would like to see is a strengthened tree-canopy ordinance that would require developers to maintain a set percentage of specimen trees on a property rather than clear cut. He also hopes to slow down growth so as not to overburden existing infrastructure, noting that that there are currently 2,500 multifamily units currently permitted, with more in the queue.

"As we move on this and other city projects, there's going to be a lot of public engagement and outreach," he said. "We are going to do more listening, understanding, providing options and gaining consensus when we engage in projects impacting our citizens."

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Kevin Phillips

MAYOR OF PORT ROYAL

About 260 miles separate Snellville, Georgia, and Port Royal. Having grown up in the former, and now serving as mayor of the latter, Kevin Phillips sees that distance as trivial, next to what makes the two towns similar.

"It was a great little town to grow up in. It's grown a lot, but it was a great neighborhood," he said. "It was one of those towns where you got off the school bus and stayed out until the streetlights came on. They're very similar in that sense of community but very different in that access to the water."

Arriving in the Lowcountry in 2018, Phillips wasted no time in getting involved. "When I first got here, I picked up a copy of the Island News and saw there was an article about the Leadership Beaufort Program. The deadline to enroll was the next day. I didn't have any friends or connections here, but I went down, interviewed with Connie Hipp, and I was in." Along with introducing him to his wife, Jennifer, the Leadership Programs served as a crash course in Lowcountry life. "It was like gaining ten years of knowledge in about 10 months."

That involvement led him to a four-year tenure on Port Royal's Town Council, culminating in his election as mayor last year.

"It's been a very productive year," he said. "One thing I'm proud of is that this Town Council did something that a lot of people just talk about. Everyone that runs for any office down here, they talk about responsible growth... We see what Charleston looks like, we see what Myrtle Beach looks like, we see what Mount Pleasant looks like, and everybody says, oh, 'we don't want to be that.' So what are you going to do?"

What Town Council did about it was install what Phillips refers to as "guard rails" on Port Royal's growth. The first guard rail was a one-year moratorium on construction of large-scale multifamily apartment complexes to give the planning commission a chance to reevaluate the development code. The next was the strongest tree ordinance in the entire state of South Carolina. Finally, lowering the speed limit in the village itself made this bustling area more pedestrian friendly.



"This year was really focusing on the things that make for Royal special," he said. "I've always been told that when it comes to development, the municipality sets the table, and the development community work around that. You don't want to make it so constricted that nobody can ever build anything, but you want to put things in place that make their building in a way that fits the culture, the history and the climate of Port Royal."

As for the coming year, Phillips points to the $1 million in work being done to repair the boardwalk and improve the causeway to Sands Beach. But the elephant in the room when it comes to Port Royal's future lies at the water's edge, with the long-anticipated renovation of the marina. Phillips made that a priority as soon as he entered office, taking Safe Harbor to task for construction delays and even considering legal options against the developer.

"We've been going back and forth with our partners at Safe Harbor and we've made a lot of headway," he said. "I don't want to speak for them, but I think they're very excited to get started."



LEADING WITH VISION Kevin Phillips, Mayor of Port Royal, blends his love for the Lowcountry with a commitment to preserving the town's charm while managing growth. A former attorney and advocate for vulnerable populations, Phillips focuses on community engagement and projects. Outside of work, he enjoys exploring local gems like Sands Beach and Fish Camp on 11th Street.

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It takes a village

While he's accomplished quite a bit in his first year, Port Royal Mayor is the first to point to his Town Council as the key to building the Town's future.

"Sometimes it's really hard when you enact things like a moratorium on apartment buildings or a really strong tree ordinance because you get really strong pushback from the development community," he said. "I've been really proud of this council for listening to the citizens and having the political will to put things in place to protect and preserve what makes us special."

Together with council, Philips set up ordinances aimed at curbing Port Royal's growth, helping to maintain the village aesthetic as the next round of growth in this small town looks primed and ready to blow.

"This year has been all about putting those guard rails up, and I think 2025 is going to be a really spectacular year," he said. *LL*

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Bullish in Beaufort County

MUNICIPAL PROJECTS TO PROPEL PROSPERITY IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

STORY BY LESLIE T. SNADOWSKY

Beaufort is one of the fastest-growing counties in the South, and its Hilton Head Island, Bluffton, Beaufort and Port Royal town and city managers are all busy keeping up with booming population growth and stimulating economic development.

Amid soft sand beaches, these municipal leaders are tackling affordable housing challenges and forging new bikeways and pathways. Under century-old live oak trees, they are fostering business incubators and accelerators and producing cultural and food festivals. Focusing on native wildlife, they are making hires, advancing historic preservation efforts and investing in infrastructure improvements. On the outskirts of lush marshes, they are buying land, rehabilitating real estate and constructing new parks and outdoor event spaces. And in the shadow of hypnotic sunsets, they are financing road enhancements, sewer and stormwater drainage maintenance and utility upgrades.

It's a delicate balance between man and nature. But the following leaders, who are surrounded by the natural wonders of the region, have made successful civic strides in 2024. And they are getting ready to accomplish even more in the year ahead.



Hilton Head Island

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF 'AMERICA'S FAVORITE ISLAND'

Hilton Head Island Town Manager Marc Orlando loves everything "America's Favorite Island" is famous for – its beautiful beaches, pristine natural environment, golf courses, biking and hiking trails. Orlando said his goal is to enhance the quality of life for all who live in the crown jewel of the Lowcountry. His team's multiple projects, acquisitions and maintenance improvements in 2024 and 2025 have ensured a bright future for residents and tourists alike.



©LISA STAFF

Budgeting for excellence

In June the Town Council adopted a $166.9 million consolidated budget for fiscal year 2025, with no property tax increases. Funding priorities include beach renourishment, growth management, workforce housing, solutions for traffic and transportation, infrastructure enhancements, economic development, resiliency, recreation and public safety.

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION
Marc Orlando, Hilton Head Island's town manager, leads with vision and purpose. Appointed in February 2021, he oversees Town departments, implements policies and manages 250 employees to ensure "America's Favorite Island" thrives.

Workforce housing progress

The Town and OneStreet Residential signed a Workforce Housing Development Agreement in July for 11 acres at Northpoint Circle. It will be developed to include 170 housing units for residents employed on Hilton Head Island. Design and contractor selection will take place in 2025. "It's a major step toward providing long-term housing solutions for the Island's essential workforce," said Orlando. "OneStreet Residential will help us create a best-in-class neighborhood for our Island's workforce while maintaining the high standards of architectural and environmental quality residents expect."

New spaces for town operations

In August the Town purchased the former PNC Bank building for $2.975 million. It sits on 2.3 acres at 4 Office Way near Sea Pines Circle. The Town plans to renovate the 11,000-square-foot building for Town offices. "This building offers an ideal solution for our space needs and provides a cost-effective alternative to new construction," said Orlando. "Moreover, it allows us to protect a key location on the Sea Pines Circle, including the preservation of the on-site pond, and prevents the possibility of the property being redeveloped for higher intensity uses."



©TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

PAVILION UPGRADES
The Town of Hilton Head Island allocated $450,000 for Coastal Discovery Museum improvements, including upgrades to the Mary Ann Peeples Pavilion. The enhancements are part of the 2025 Capital Improvements Program.

Enhancements at Honey Horn

A series of improvements at The Coastal Discovery Museum and other facilities on the Honey Horn property were underway last August, including upgrades to the Mary Ann Peeples Pavilion area and essential tree care for the live oaks on the property. A total of $450,000 was budgeted to replace light fixtures and fans, upgrade the electrical system within the Pavilion and provide additional lighting to accentuate the oaks and illuminate the pavilion's pathways.

Pope Avenue acquisition

In mid-October, the Town acquired 1.29 acres at 69 Pope Ave. for $2.9 million. Built in 1977, the property was home to Aunt Chilada's Easy Street Café. With its proximity to Coligny Beach and Lowcountry Celebration Park, the property most likely will be developed for public parking and open space to support nearby businesses, accommodate beach visitors and enhance the Town's public facilities.

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SAFEGUARDING HISTORY The Mitchelville settlement land acquisition safeguards America's first self-governed town of formerly enslaved people, preserving its history and preventing overdevelopment.

Preserving Mitchelville's legacy

Also in October the Town purchased 26 acres on the Island's north end for $11.745 million. "The land, which is part of the Mitchelville settlement, represents a major step towards preserving this historic neighborhood and preventing future growth that might damage it," said Orlando. "Mitchelville holds deep historical importance as America's first self-governed town of formerly enslaved people. It embodied the promise of freedom and opportunity. Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park continues to preserve and honor the customs and cultures that flourished in this community, and the Town supports that mission."

Pathway and safety improvements

Hilton Head will benefit from pedestrian-safety enhancements along William Hilton Parkway. In October the S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) lowered the speed limit to 40 mph at the request of the Town. The project also included improved crosswalks and pavement markings and the addition of low-level pathway lighting, landscaping and updated signage. There were also new pathway projects around the island. Last fall contractors added an 8-foot-wide asphalt pathway along the south side of Cordillo Parkway between Pope Avenue and the entrance to Shipyard. An ADA-compliant detectable surface was installed, along with signage, crosswalk markings and landscape enhancements.

Stormwater resiliency

Orlando said that in 2024 Hilton Head made major improvements to its stormwater maintenance and resiliency program, including replacing some pump infrastructure to mitigate flooding in the Jarvis Creek area. The completion of a 2024 Repetitive Loss Area Analysis helped affected residents apply for federal funds to help mitigate and prevent flood damage.

Protecting the environment

The Hilton Head Town Council approved an integrated pest-management policy to protect the environment, people and animals on Town-owned or managed properties. Orlando said the Town started phasing out the use of glyphosate products, including Roundup, Ranger Pro and Glyphosate 41, back in April 2023, with a priority placed on playgrounds, dog parks, wetland buffers and the Mid-Island Tract off Union Cemetery Road. He said the policy, approved in October, specifies a set of best practices that require organic solutions and preventive measures.

Economic growth and stability

In November the Town's growing economy led to higher bond ratings from Moody's, one of the nation's leading credit-rating agencies. "The ratings highlight our dedication to maintaining financial stability while delivering essential services and advancing initiatives that enhance and sustain the quality of life for our residents, businesses and visitors," said Orlando.



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BEACHSIDE ENHANCEMENTS Islanders Beach Park will be getting a new playground, upgraded parking and additional features as part of Hilton Head's Capital Improvement Program.

Islanders Beach Park updates

In 2025 Town residents can look forward to improvements at Islanders Beach Park. Plans include a new playground, enhanced parking facilities, new landscaping, expanding the beach recycling program, boardwalk upgrades and storm-water improvements. Orlando said that throughout the Town's beach renourishment project, all beaches will remain open to the public.

Land management overhaul

"In 2025 we are overhauling our Land Management Ordinance," said Orlando. The "enormous project" includes a comprehensive review of all chapters, overall code organization, user-friendliness and amendments to align the LMO with a community-adopted strategic plan.

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Bluffton

A VISION FOR GROWTH AND COMMUNITY IN THE 'HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY'

Bluffton, the "Heart of the Lowcountry," has been ranked by various groups as one of the best cities to live in the U.S., one of the best towns to raise a family in and one of the safest cities in the state. Bluffton has also been ranked one of the most enterprise-friendly cities in South Carolina.

"What I love most about Bluffton is the beauty of the region," said Bluffton Town Manager Stephen Steese. "The nature, the river and our special community. That's why people want to become a part of Bluffton, and I think that's why we've experienced the influx of population growth we've seen."




©LISA STAFF

LEADING BLUFFTON FORWARD
Bluffton Town Manager Stephen Steese oversees Town operations, policy implementation and partnerships that enhance the quality of life for all Bluffton residents.

A hub for innovation

In September the Town of Bluffton, The Don Ryan Center for Innovation (DRCI) and Dolnik Properties broke ground on the first of three buildings dedicated to economic development efforts in Buckwalter Place. These buildings, located adjacent to the Bluffton Police Department, are dedicated to the Town's economic development initiatives providing innovators, startups and small businesses interested in locating to the greater Bluffton area a place to land. The first building will house a second location for the DRCI and be used as an incubator and co-working space for businesses that are starting out or expanding. There will be a childcare center and flexible, rental space for businesses. It's scheduled to open next fall.



©TOWN OF BLUFFTON

BREAKING GROUND ON INNOVATION In September Bluffton partnered with the Don Ryan Center for Innovation and Dolnik Properties to launch economic development efforts at Buckwalter Place.

"This public-private partnership between the Town and Dolnik Properties aims to provide resources and space for Bluffton's innovators, small businesses and startups to thrive," said Steese of the DRCI project. "It's our economic development department of the Town. We have a lot of people who have started businesses and want to take them to the next level. They may be making money, but they don't know what the next steps are or when to open a second location. The Don Ryan Center has incubation and acceleration programs."

Steese said those who seek help at the DRCI benefit from the Town's retiree population. He said many retirees with business acumen become mentors at the Center and work with people who are starting businesses to help them become successful. In total the project's three buildings will include 50,100 square feet of office and light industrial space.



©TOWN OF BLUFFTON

A NEW HOME FOR ENTREPRENEURS The first of three buildings at Buckwalter Place will provide coworking space, childcare facilities and rental options for startups, opening in fall 2025.

"We're trying to do everything we can to make sure we have services where our citizens are," said Steese. "And we're expanding the services within the community including medical, dental, childcare, service industries like plumbers and electricians, as well as offering space for corporate headquarters and technology companies. We've approved about four economic development partnerships at the end of 2024, and we've got a few more in the pipeline including affordable housing development."

Splashing into community fun

Steese also spent a lot of time in 2024 overseeing the development and expansion of parks. That includes the eco-friendly, 4,100-square-foot splash pad at Oscar Frazier Park, located near Old Town. "We opened up the splash pad on Election Day and we had probably 50 kids running around having fun," said Steese. "It's been well received and we'll open it back up in the spring of 2025 with a big kick-off. We're excited to have it as an asset for the community."



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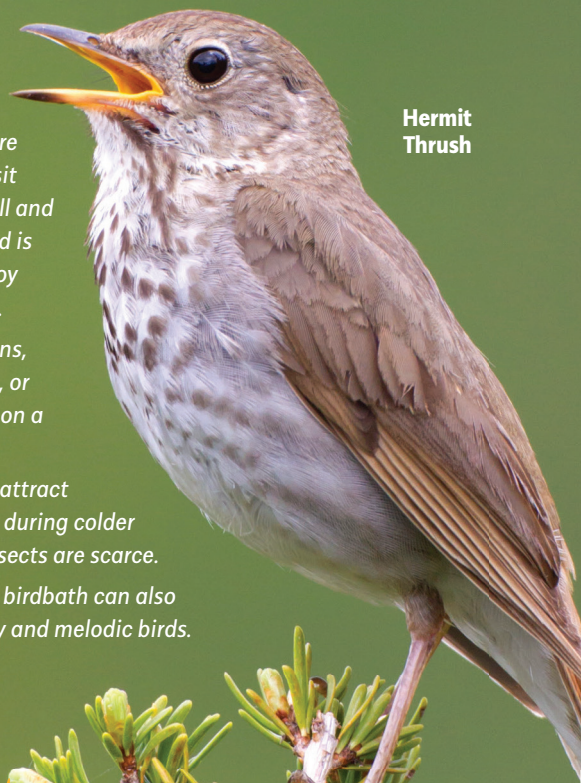
MAKING A SPLASH The splash pad at Oscar Frazier Park debuted in November, offering families a fun and eco-friendly space for outdoor recreation.





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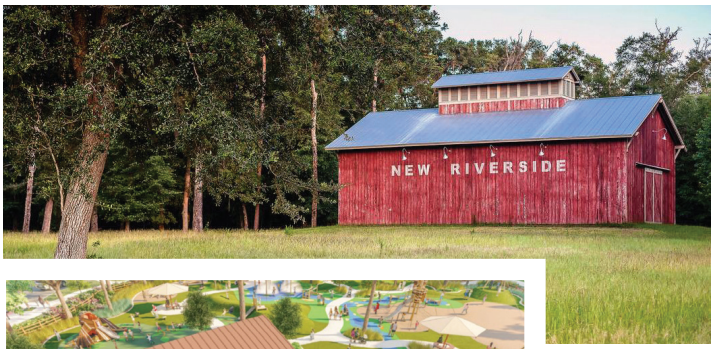
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WELCOMING VISITORS IN STYLE
The historic Squire Pope Carriage House at Wright Family Park is being transformed into Bluffton's new Welcome Center, opening in January.

A warm welcome to history

Bluffton's economic initiatives also led to the rehabilitation of the historic Squire Pope Carriage house in Wright Family Park. It's being transformed into the Town of Bluffton's Welcome Center. It's scheduled to open in January with a community celebration planned for February. "We have a lot of people that come into our Town," said Steese, "and one of the things we wanted was a Town-run welcome center located at the park by the May River."





©TOWN OF BLUFFTON

A PARK FOR ALL SEASONS
Bluffton's New Riverside Barn Park will feature trails, a playground and an event space in the renovated red barn, opening in 2025.

A park for New Riverside

In January Bluffton will debut its New Riverside Barn Park, the first public park in the New Riverside section of Bluffton, the fastest-growing section of the Town. This 37-acre park, with its 2,700-square-foot barn, will offer venue space for private and public events at the intersection of Highways 46 and 170.

"The New Riverside Barn Park project is actually two projects," said Steese. "One is the actual park that will include nature trails, a huge playground for kids of all ages and misting stations for the kids to cool off when they're out there playing. We're anticipating opening that park in early January. We're also renovating the old red barn on the New Riverside traffic circle into an event space for meetings, weddings, anniversary and birthday celebrations. It'll seat around 150, and there will be kitchens, bathrooms, an outside fire pit and a music area. So I think it'll be used a lot for events in the community. We hope to open that by the end of 2025."



PUBLIC NOW WELCOMED The Town's acquisition of Buckwalter Place Park adds a public space with an amphitheater, walking paths and plans for art installations.

Buckwalter's new public space

The Town also bought the "turnkey" extension of Buckwalter Place Park from EviCore. It already has an amphitheater, benches, outdoor bistro furniture, a large field and walking paths. "The Town has taken that park over, and it's now open to the public," said Steese. "We're trying to use the area as an event space for the community and for the events that we produce. In 2025 we'll install some shelters that can provide shade and be used for birthday parties, picnics and events like that. We'll be making some safety improvements, and we're exploring creating a public art garden that will span the walking trails."

Preserving community roots

The Town paid $2.5 million last February for 15.5 acres at 140 Buck Island to develop a park in the Buck Island-Simmonsville neighborhood. "We bought it to stop it from being developed," he said. "We had developers that were looking to put either townhomes or apartments on it. So the Town purchased it to keep development from occurring."

Located in the heart of Bluffton, the Buck Island-Simmonsville community was settled by families, including Gullah descendants, who owned and operated small farms. Steese said the Town plans to work with the community in 2025 to hear what features they want at the new park, complete design plans and initiate construction. He hopes to open the park to the public in 2026.



Beaufort

ANCHORED IN HISTORY, DRIVEN BY PROGRESS



Beaufort City Manager Scott Marshall likes to talk about the "ART" of city government. "The A stands for accessibility, the R stands for responsiveness, and the T stands for transparency," he said. "That's the mantra I'll continue to push in 2025 with staff, and it's something that I strongly believe in in Beaufort. We need to be a body that serves the public, that's close to the public, that's very responsive to the public and is open about the activities that we're engaged in on their behalf."



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FROM SERVICE TO STEWARDSHIP Scott Marshall became City Manager of Beaufort in January 2023. He is a retired U.S. Air Force officer, having served for 23 years, earning the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Housing solutions on the horizon

One initiative that affects the public in Beaufort is housing. Marshall said he's excited about the new Beaufort County Jail, or "Old Jail" adaptive reuse condo project. Construction on the 86-year-old Art Deco-style building, Justice Place, is scheduled to begin in early 2025. "It's a project that was approved through the City and appears to be a pretty solid project," said Marshall. "Affordable housing is an issue all over the county, all over the region, and, in fact, all over the country now. One of the reasons we're involved with the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust consortium is because we believe strongly that there should be some solutions. The trust has an executive director and a board that's willing to actively work on these problems. We're fully supportive of that and are full partners with them."

Marshall said two local affordable housing projects, the 84-unit rental community Pintail Pointe and the 64-unit senior living facility Carrington Manor, a product of the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust, are in the construction phase.

Resilience in action

Marshall said in 2024 the City worked with the Old Point neighborhood to collaborate on drainage project designs, including for the King Street drainage project. The City also received a $11.9 million grant from the S.C. Department of Resiliency (SCOR) to cover the costs of construction for the Charles/Craven streets' stormwater project that will mitigate flooding and drainage issues. Construction is expected to start in early 2025, with an April 2026 completion date.

Parks as community pillars

Also on top of Marshall's agenda is the opening, expansion and renovation of public parks. In January 2024 the City Council approved a $7.1 million Parks and Tourism revenue bond to help fund the first phase of Southside Park's master plan improvements as well as improvements to Washington Street Park. Plans for both parks have been shaped by steering committees that included neighborhood residents, members of City Council and City staff members.



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COME OUT AND PLAY This playground for older kids is one of the new features at Southside Park that's due to open to the public in early 2025.

Groundbreaking at Southside Park took place last February. The first phase of construction includes improvements to the 34-acre park that anchors the Mossy Oaks neighborhood. There will be two age-appropriate playgrounds, new parking, a pavilion, pathways and new infrastructure, including stormwater drainage, landscaping and utilities. "The park will finally begin to realize its potential and become a place to gather, celebrate, play, exercise and enjoy nature," said Marshall. "After the completion of construction, this park will serve as an enhanced amenity for both our Beaufort residents and visitors, all without imposing any additional costs to taxpayers. The construction is predominantly financed through a bond backed by future revenue generated from local accommodations taxes and hospitality taxes."



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SMALL WONDERS, BIG FUN An age-appropriate playground for toddlers is flanked by a picnic area at Southside Park. Improvements also include new parking areas, a pavilion, pathways and new infrastructure, including stormwater drainage, landscaping and utilities.

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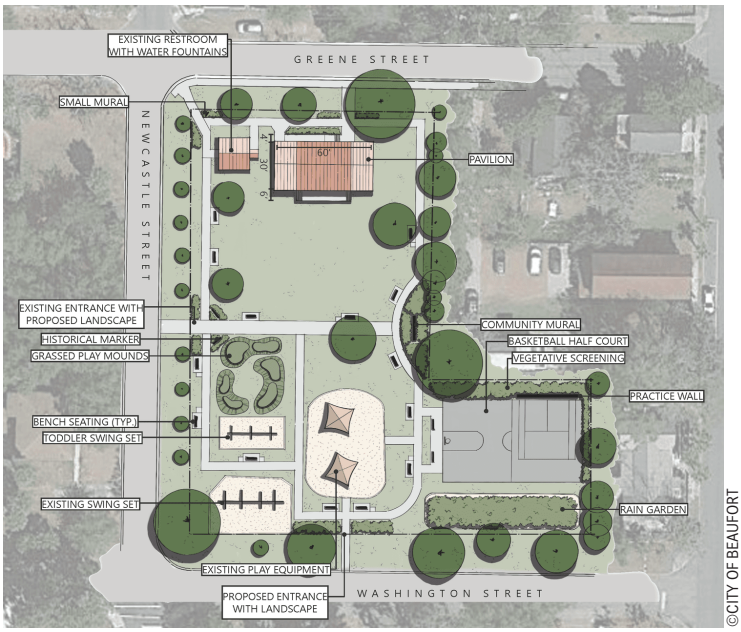
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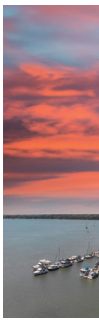


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A PARK FOR ALL At Washington Street Park, located at 1003 Washington St., improvements will include moving the basketball court and making it a multi-use court, a tennis practice court, a rain garden, new landscaping and benches, two murals, a historic marker, stormwater management and associated utilities.

Historic park improvements

At Washington Street Park, located at 1003 Washington St., the new open-air performance pavilion will take center stage. Other park improvements will include a multi-use court, a tennis practice court, a rain garden, new landscaping and benches, two murals, a historic marker, stormwater management and associated utilities. The historic park, located in the Northwest Quadrant neighborhood, was developed in the 1940s when African-American residents donated land for the Beaufort County Negro Recreational Center – the only park in the city at the time for black families and children. The Beaufort County Community Center is composed of the descendants of the original families who founded the park.



Safeguarding the waterfront

Marshall said the City will work to fortify the platform at Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park, a major meeting hub and venue for festivals and concerts for the City. "The latest routine inspection revealed some areas that need to be addressed in terms of the piers that support the relieving platform structure," he said. "There are some structural integrity issues. The platform was built in the mid-1970s, and it only has a 50- to 70-year lifespan. So we need to figure out a long-term solution. We are contracting with an engineering consortium to help us examine the realm of possibilities for long-term fixes."



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PAVILION WITH PURPOSE The new open-air events pavilion at Washington Street Park will feature a simple and natural design that will include wooden columns containing all electronics.

A legacy in the landscape

Marshall said in 2025 the City will develop a park along the water on Boundary Street that will serve as a memorial to the first South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent who were the first African-Americans who were admitted into the U.S. military. "We're planning to build this park in such a manner that there's no way you can drive by it without wanting to see it," said Marshall. "We also want to create a space where there's no way you can go in, and see it and come out of it not understanding the history of the first South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent and their importance to our nation, and especially to our military establishment."



Finding beauty amid growth

Despite the City's bustling economic development boon, Marshall said he still gets to enjoy the beauty of Beaufort. "I like that the pace of life overall is just a little slower here in the Lowcountry," said Marshall. "I enjoy that, not to mention the natural beauty of the area. You're surrounded by it, day in and day out. Any given day that I go to the office, no matter which route I take, I cross at least one or two bodies of water on the way. I can look off to the right or left and see dolphins cresting in the water, and that's something that I don't take for granted."

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Port Royal

AUTHENTIC, QUIRKY AND READY FOR GROWTH

Port Royal prides itself on being "cool coastal and far from ordinary," a sentiment Town Manager Van Willis believes perfectly encapsulates the town and its residents.

"What I truly appreciate about Port Royal is its authenticity," Willis said. "There's a realness and a grit to Port Royal that is hard to find anymore. And I think that's kind of indicative of our personality, which is somewhat quirky."



©LISA STAFF



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LEADING THE WAY Port Royal Town Manager Van Willis oversees the day-to-day administration of the Port Royal government and reports directly to the Town Council. He was born in Savannah and raised in Charleston. He and his family moved to Port Royal in August 2002, when he took the job as the Town Manager.

Digging into infrastructure

While Willis enjoys the unique qualities that set the Town apart from others in the Lowcountry, he also focuses on the mundane tasks at hand, like sewer maintenance. "I would like to make sure that the entire Town is completely sewered," he said. "We still have some gaps, and I think it's essential that we eliminate a lot of the remaining septic systems because of the closeness or proximity of our water bodies. I think it's something that should have happened a long time ago. So getting the Town completely sewered would be very exciting."



A CLEANER FUTURE The Town of Port Royal has prioritized expanding its sewer system to help protect the area's cherished water bodies. Replacing the remaining septic systems is essential to safeguard the environment and ensure the community's long-term health and sustainability.

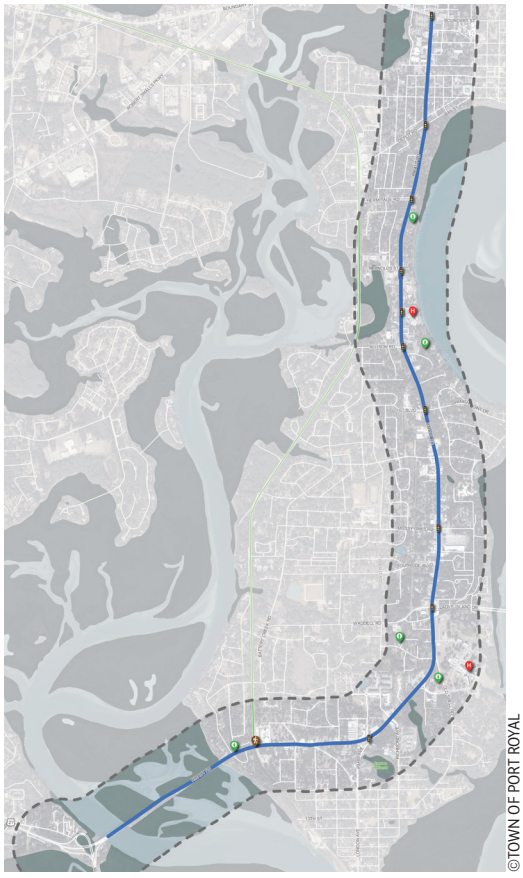
Tackling traffic challenges

In 2025 Willis also wants to provide a long-term fix to what's been described as the most problematic intersection in all of Northern Beaufort County. "The supposed reimagining of Ribaut Road didn't go over very well with our voters and the referendum, but one of the things that we truly have to address in the upcoming year is the traffic congestion at Lady's Island Drive and Ribaut Road," he said. "It has become a major choke point, particularly with the ongoing problem with the Richard V. Woods Memorial Bridge in the city of Beaufort. If that bridge doesn't function well or it gets closed down, every bit of traffic that has to go on and off Lady's Island then goes through Port Royal. We think it's pretty important in the long term to get that addressed. That would improve the quality of life for not only Port Royal residents but for the people who travel to Lady's Island on a daily basis."

Revitalizing Ribaut Road

Willis said the Town engaged a redevelopment commission for Ribaut Road in 2024 and created an overlay — a special zoning designation — to encourage commercial redevelopment of parcels along that corridor. "We rely too heavily on residential property taxes," he said, "so we think it's pretty important to diversify that tax base. That would be a significant improvement for us if we did see commercial development along that corridor. We created a number of exemptions and incentives to make that happen. That's exciting, and they're still looking to tweak that."

Willis said another major component of the Ribaut Road redevelopment would be to address its infrastructure because a significant portion of Ribaut Road does not have sewer infrastructure. He said that's integral to any sort of redevelopment opportunities for businesses and is something the Town will address in 2025 as well.



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REIMAGINING RIBAUT Port Royal engaged a redevelopment commission for Ribaut Road in 2024 and created an overlay to help encourage the commercial redevelopment of parcels along that corridor.





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Marina momentum

Willis is optimistic about future economic development at the Downtown Marina. "We hit some bumps in the road this past year with Safe Harbor, regarding the expansion of Spanish Moss Trail and light industrial dock construction, but we think we are now in a good place with them. The first quarter of 2025 is going to be exciting for both Port Royal and Safe Harbor. I think we'll see the kickoff of this world-class marina, which will attract a significant boating sector and bring some pretty neat vessels to Port Royal, which will certainly be an attraction for everybody in Beaufort County."

Naval Hospital reimagined

Willis said the Town's eye is also focused on the Naval Hospital. "We want to figure out how we can integrate its 120 acres into something that would be a jewel, not only for Port Royal but for all of Northern Beaufort County, and expand what we can offer visitors."



A fresh perspective in policing

Regarding Port Royal personnel, in November Jeffrey Meyers was hired as the Town's police chief. Meyers is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. He comes to Port Royal from Florida, where he was deputy police chief of the Fort Myers Police Department.

"Alan Beach, our former police chief, was instrumental in a very trying transitional period in Port Royal's history relative to the police department," said Willis. "We think that Jeffrey Meyers is going to offer a fresh perspective and really give us an opportunity to address accreditation and some more growth professionally in the department. He has great ideas on recruitment and retention, which are very serious challenges in law enforcement right now."

A NEW CHAPTER
Port Royal Police Chief Jeffrey Meyers was hired in November after former Police Chief Alan Beach retired. Meyers spent 24 years with the South Euclid, Ohio, Police Department and five years with the Fort Myers, Florida, Police Department.



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CHEERS TO LOCAL FLAVOR OktoPRfest in Port Royal features local chefs, restaurants and food trucks serving up German-inspired dishes and a variety of craft, imported and domestic beers.



CRUSTACEAN CELEBRATION More than 12,000 people are expected to attend the 20th Annual Port Royal Soft Shell Crab Festival in April. It's produced by Port Royal's Old Village Association.



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MELODIES ON PARIS Street Music on Paris Avenue takes place in Port Royal in the spring and early fall.

Festivals and fun

Willis said he's looking forward to the 2025 Soft Shell Crab Festival, the next season's installments of Street Music and OktoPRfest in the fall. He said Port Royal is exploring producing some Mardi Gras programming. "I think we'll see some expansion of events, not only down near the port property but also on Ribaut Road," he said. "We own all of our roads, so we can host festivals that most municipalities probably can't undertake because they have other agencies they have to deal with. But we have the ability to say, 'we can shut that down and make it work.'"

Expanding Sands Beach

Willis said in 2024 Port Royal acquired a piece of property that's adjacent to Sands Beach. "We're going to be developing a new park in the upcoming year that will be very complementary to Sands Beach and offer residents and visitors some unique vistas that they should be excited about," he said. *LL*





BLACK, GOLD AND BOLD This striking living room in Long Cove features a black-beamed ceiling complemented by bold custom built-ins in black and gold. Walls adorned with art inspired by Asian calligraphy flow seamlessly into the design, while vibrant pops of red and fuchsia add warmth to the sleek modern-industrial aesthetic.







HOME SHOWCASE

Artistic expression

WHEN A DESIGNER GETS A CHANCE TO WEAVE HER MAGIC ON HER OWN HOME, IT'S NEVER AS SIMPLE AS BLACK AND WHITE.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN + PHOTOS BY LISA STAFF

For years Chrystal Cuddyre has helped others create the homes of their dreams. Her bold, artistic style, predicated on layering different textures against eye-catching monochromatic accents, has infused her clients' homes with vibrant beauty. So when it came to designing her own home in Long Cove, it should have been a no-brainer, right?

"It is much harder to design for myself, and I've heard this same sentiment from other designers," she said. "I think it's because we know what's at stake."

Helping her create her own personal portfolio highlight was Mark Creamer with celebrated luxury home builder ***Palatial Homes Design***.

"The owners wanted something truly unique — an architectural and design statement that stood apart while respecting the ARB guidelines. They envisioned a seamless blend of indoor and outdoor living, where the pool area integrates effortlessly with the interior spaces, all designed on a single walk-out level," he said. "Our goal was to craft a home that was both visually captivating and functionally cohesive, and I believe we achieved that."

Indoors and out, Cuddyre's designer eye and Palatial Homes Design's renowned craftsmanship combined to create a space that dazzles with its visual flair while revealing itself through a layout that takes full advantage of the Lowcountry's year-round indoor-outdoor appeal.

Monochrome masterpiece

The living room serves as a bold declaration of the home's fearless style, setting a black-beamed ceiling above custom built-ins of black and gold as well as bold accent walls papered with art inspired by the flowing lines of Asian calligraphy.

"I've always been drawn to black and white – in my clothes, my work, my art. It's easy to work with because you can always add in other colors," said Cuddyre. "I chose red and fuchsia as our accent colors."

The fireplace is encased in sleek metal panels and accented with exposed industrial bolts, infusing the room with a bold, modern industrial aesthetic.







Global glamour

Seen through the black steel doors of the office, the dining room's gorgeous geometric wallpaper serves as a burst of both color and curves.

"It's wallpaper I found from the Czech Republic," said Cuddyre. "It wasn't quite long enough, so Mark came up with the idea of putting the trim beneath it."

The result turns the wallpaper into something midway between a work of art and an accent wall.

"The owners' design inspiration included a strong palette with vibrant accents and textures. Influences from their time in Asia are evident in the wallpapers, material choices and architectural details, adding a global sophistication to the space," added Creamer. "Bringing those elements together in a way that felt intentional and cohesive was a creative challenge."



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Golden indulgence

While Cuddyre will be the first to tell you that she gave Creamer plenty of input ("I was prolific with my pictures to him," she said) one element of the home in particular, the expansive wine room, was actually inspired by the builder's own home.

"We had actually looked at Mark's house about 4 or 5 years ago, and he had a wine room like this. That was a feature we really liked, so we incorporated it," said Cuddyre. "We don't even drink that much wine!"

While they may not need the functionality, the wine room serves as an artistic statement with its bright gold accents and black trim right in the heart of the home.









Abstract elegance

The primary bedroom serves as an exclamation point to the home's overall artistry, pairing two levels of black trim above a bold abstract brush stroke along the accent wall.

"The ceilings are so high that I had a hard time finding wallpaper," said Cuddyre. To create this wall, she turned to Eazywallz, a website that creates wall murals based on a home's dimensions. It took a little extra work, but it was worth it for Cuddyre to realize her dream home. "It was the focus of my life for about two years. It was a labor of love. Every decision, every trim, every color, every window was my choice."

Comfort meets creativity

Each of the two guest rooms share the high ceilings that run throughout the home, with bold black trim setting an exciting edge to the space's style.

"The distinct styles of the guest rooms were inspired entirely by the owners' vision. Each room reflects their creative input, from the choice of furnishings to the intricate details like custom wallpapers," said Creamer. "Our role was to bring these ideas to life while maintaining the overall integrity of the home's design."

Of course, it turned out to be one of those elements that just works differently when designing your own home. "I found out pretty quickly black trim is a real pain," laughed Cuddyre. "And every room had black trim, black molding and black doors. it was a pain for the painters, but they did an amazing job."

If this Home Showcase has inspired you to redesign your home, Cuddyre would love to help. Visit her website to (chrystalcuddyredesign.com) to learn more. *LL*

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A SLEW OF SECLUDED SPACES COME TOGETHER FOR A MULTI-DYNAMIC OUTDOOR OASIS.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN + PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA STAFF



In a home like this, where the aesthetic leads the way with bold lines, an inspired monochromatic palate and a playful blend of organic and industrial influences, it can be difficult to carry that visual appeal to outdoor spaces. Generally, you're building an outdoor space with an eye on comfort and maximizing natural beauty, which can be at odds with a design so meticulously planned. But when it's done right, as it was here, the outdoor spaces can become a vibrant expression of the home's artistic vision.

"Continuity was key," said ***Mark Creamer with Palatial Homes Design.*** "We mirrored interior design elements, such as the sleek steel finishes, in outdoor features like the fireplace. By maintaining a consistent aesthetic, we ensured a seamless flow between the interior and exterior, enhancing the home's cohesive design."



Grill and chill

Outdoor artwork allowed the bold black-and-white motif of the home's interior to make the transition into the covered grilling area, softened by organic wood tones and the ceiling, stone tile on the floor and an ingenious blend of materials on the fireplace that created an accent wall resembling concrete.

"The exterior fireplace features smooth stucco with a concrete-like finish, giving it a sleek, contemporary edge," said Creamer.



Lounge in luxury

With wide windows that put the beautifully designed living room on display, carrying the look into the sitting area was simply a matter of taking what worked inside and introducing it in subtle ways that created cohesiveness.

"We used a combination of stucco and stone for the outdoor spaces," said Creamer. "Inside we used steel panels for an industrial aesthetic. These elements create a visual dialogue between the indoor and outdoor environments."

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Kitchen couture

BOLD TEXTURES AND A DYNAMIC PALATE ELEVATE THIS SHOWSTOPPER OF A KITCHEN IN LONG COVE.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN + PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA STAFF



If there's one thing that is abundantly clear about the home that designer ***Chrystal Cuddyre*** envisioned for herself, it's that there isn't a dull room in the house. Each space of this Long Cove home breathes in the vibrant artistic motif she created, with each interpreting that motif in different and brilliant ways. This kitchen stands as a sterling example of that ethos.

The showpiece of this space is the boldly monochromatic center island set in Black Swan quartz. As a key element to the overall design of the kitchen, this was a crucial piece of décor to get right. And Cuddyre turned over every stone to find it. Literally.

"We went through the entire marble yard, and I was just about to leave, when the sales person brought this out," she said. "It was the last one I saw."

It was worth the search, as the swirling ribbons of black and white on the counter create an organic counterpoint to the rigid lines of the cabinetry, with patterned wallpaper that breaks the monochromatic theme of the room.

To open the space up, while still allowing for ample storage, Cuddyre had the inspired idea to hang floating shelves across the windows on either side of the range hood. This not only added an eye-catching window dressing element, it allowed Cuddyre to introduce metallic tones to the palate.

"I wanted to frame them, because I thought the windows looked naked without something there," she said, "And having brought that gold accent in through the sink and light fixtures, I decided to pull that onto the frame."

And as one last element in the push-and-pull between rigid forms and organic lines, a resin-topped table serves to pull it all together, introducing organic wood grains while echoing the free-flowing lines of the quartz counters.

"I knew that I wanted a black and white house. I wanted the cabinets to be black and wanted gold accents because I really like bold design," she said. "This was all a gamble, but I'm a designer, and this was my big chance to do something." *LL*

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REST AND RECHARGE
With its neutral tones, inviting four-poster bed and seamless connection to the outdoors, this Palmetto Bluff bedroom is the ultimate retreat for relaxation (or unapologetic naps).



BREEZY RETREAT The attached screened-in porch combines style and comfort with herringbone brick flooring, cozy seating and a fireplace that makes any season feel like the perfect time to unwind.



ROOM OF THE MONTH

Dream big, rest easy

THIS PALMETTO BLUFF BEDROOM MERGES INVITING CHARM WITH MODERN INGENUITY.

STORY BY SHEILA PAZ
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT VANSANT

This Palmetto Bluff bedroom, brought to life by ***Dillard-Jones Builders*** and styled by the creative minds at Tribus Interior Design, is a masterclass in Lowcountry living. A place where comfort meets practicality, it's the perfect blend of natural beauty and thoughtful design. Sunlight pours in, highlighting a soft, neutral palette subtly kissed by haint blue — a classic Southern hue that nods to tradition (and might just keep the ghosts at bay).

At the heart of the room is the breathtaking four-poster canopy bed. Strategically positioned between the windows, it's not just a piece of furniture — it's a statement. With clean lines and understated style, it bridges modern trends with Southern roots. Draped in plush bedding and topped with a handwoven throw, this bed doesn't just invite relaxation — it demands it. From the Roman shades to the finely curated accents, every detail of the room whispers luxury while shouting "stay a little longer."

A porch worthy of daydreams

Step through the French doors and discover a screened-in porch designed for living your best Lowcountry life. The herringbone brick flooring and oversized fan set the tone for breezy comfort, while the cozy seating and double-sided fireplace make it a spot you'll never want to leave. Whether it's your first coffee of the day or your last sip of wine at sunset, this porch is the ultimate retreat — a space where nature and comfort shake hands.

This bedroom and porch combo perfectly captures the magic of Palmetto Bluff — a lifestyle where indoor elegance and outdoor serenity come together to create a space that's as functional as it is beautiful.



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EXPERT ADVICE

Nostalgia meets now

VINTAGE-INSPIRED TRENDS BRING THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT.

The future of home design is looking back — way back. Nostalgia takes center stage in 2025 as retro-inspired trends dominate the furniture scene, merging history with modern flair. ***Megan Gaede****, visual display coordinator and lead buyer for Beaufort's* ***FWDG*** *furniture store, offers insights on incorporating these timeless styles into your home. Whether it's a statement piece or subtle nods to the past, these retro-inspired trends invite you to tell your own story, one beautiful room at a time.*

1. Coastal revival

The Lowcountry's 2025 home style perfectly blends retro influences with coastal charm, creating spaces that feel both nostalgic and fresh. Bold colors, geometric patterns and sleek mid-century modern silhouettes pair beautifully with Southern elegance, offering the perfect balance of personality and sophistication. Reupholstering classic mid-century or Art Deco furniture with bold fabrics transforms timeless designs into conversation pieces, tying together comfort, style and modernity. This bedroom perfectly captures the style, blending retro influences with coastal charm. The woven rattan headboard and bench nod to mid-century design, while bold accents like the geometric and floral pillows add a fresh, modern touch. Coastal blues dominate the palette, complemented by natural textures like linen and wood, creating a serene yet sophisticated atmosphere.



2. Color me bold

Rich, daring colors will define 2025, with deep blues, emerald greens, and burgundy leading the way. These striking hues not only create dramatic interiors but also connect to the Lowcountry's lush natural palette, reflecting the deep tones of its marshes and waterways. Whether used as accents in upholstery, décor, or wall art, or as bold statement pieces like this navy blue cabinet with intricate geometric patterns, these colors infuse spaces with vibrant energy while honoring timeless elegance.





3. Layered in luxury

In 2025 the use of mixed wood tones will bring layers of texture and visual interest to interior design. Pairing darker wood stains with light elements, such as crown molding or accents, creates a harmonious balance that feels both bold and refined. Burl wood furniture, celebrated for its unique grain and rugged charm, remains a standout choice for connecting interiors to the Lowcountry's natural beauty. Take inspiration from this stunning carved wood console, where the intricate golden detailing contrasts beautifully with the natural warmth of the wood. The artistry in the carved floral patterns adds an air of sophistication while celebrating organic textures, making it a perfect example of how mixing woods can elevate a space with both depth and character.

4. Curves ahead

Designs inspired by mid-century modern and Art Deco aesthetics are redefining interiors in 2025, bringing a softer, more organic flow to spaces. Pieces with arched details, rounded silhouettes and graceful curves create an ambiance of warmth and harmony while reflecting a modern sense of style. This sitting room reflects the trend with its soft, organic flow and mid-century inspiration. The rounded rattan bench and subtly curved headboard bring warmth and harmony to the space. Rounded details, like the ceramic lamps and drawer knobs, enhance the room's gentle aesthetic. Natural textures and flowing textiles complete the look.



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As we usher in a new year, there's no better time to brighten your home with thoughtful lighting choices. ***Beverly Serral***, founder of Beverly Serral Properties, BESTNEST Vacation Rentals and Beverly Serral Designs, shares her expert tips to ensure every space in your home shines with purpose and style. Let her advice inspire you to create a home that's not only well-lit but also full of warmth and joy in the year ahead.



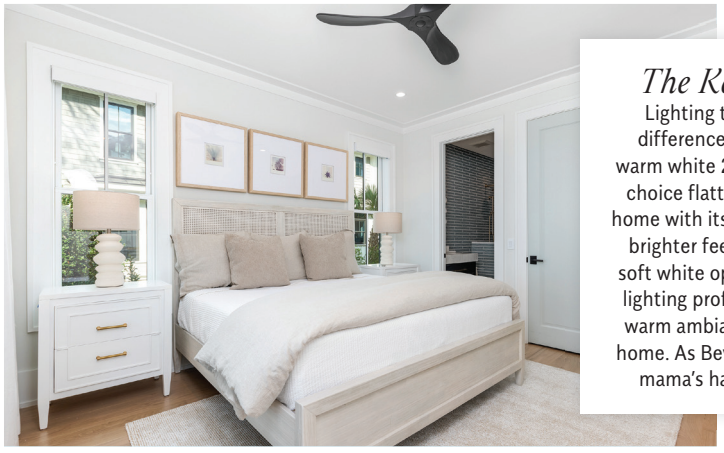
SWITCH IT UP

In this heart of the home, lighting is both functional and aesthetic. Under-cabinet lighting is a must-have, whether you choose halogen, LED, tape lighting or a combination. Extend this design to the tops of cabinets for a dreamy, ambient glow. Convenience is key: place all these lights on a single, well-placed switch. For ultimate versatility, install separate switches for pendants, task lighting and ceiling cans, and add dimmers to every one. This allows for customized lighting for any mood or task.



GLOW LIKE A PRO

Good lighting isn't a luxury; it's a necessity. Overhead lighting has its place, but proper face lighting is essential for grooming and makeup application. Beverly suggests replacing the standard over-the-mirror fixture with sconces that frame the face beautifully. Each sconce should emit the equivalent of at least 100 watts, and dimmers are non-negotiable for adjusting brightness. Want to steal a five-star hotel trick? Install a lighted magnifying makeup mirror on its own dedicated circuit. For late-night trips, motion-sensor under-vanity lighting provides the perfect glow: not too bright, not too dim, just right.



SET THE MOOD

Lamps are the unsung heroes of cozy spaces. Overhead lighting has its place (don't forget those dimmers!), but lamps truly set the tone. Beverly advises using a mix of table and floor lamps to create ambiance and provide task lighting for reading or crafts. Plan ahead: when building or renovating, ensure floor outlets are strategically placed to avoid unsightly cords under rugs. Choose large-scale lamps for a dramatic effect, and always use 3-way bulbs where possible for maximum flexibility.

The Kelvin question

Lighting temperature makes a difference. Beverly's favorite? A warm white 2700 Kelvin. This classic choice flatters everyone and every home with its cozy glow. For a slightly brighter feel, 3000 Kelvin offers a soft white option preferred by many lighting professionals. Either way, a warm ambiance makes for a happy home. As Beverly wisely says, "When mama's happy, well, you know."



SHINE WITH STYLE

A chandelier is more than just a light fixture; it's a statement. Embrace bold colors, textures and sizes to make an impact. Pair with a dimmer to adjust for illumination, mood or both. Thoughtful bulb selection enhances the overall effect — choose intentionally.


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Brighten the cold

CREATE A STUNNING WINTER PLANTER WITH LOW-MAINTENANCE PERENNIALS.

STORY BY SHEILA PAZ + PHOTO BY MIKE RITTERBECK



Barton

As winter settles into the Lowcountry, bringing cool, crisp mornings (and the occasional dramatic overreaction to 40-degree weather), the idea of gardening might lose a bit of its charm. But don't let the season put your green thumb on ice. ***Suzanne Barton***, manager of The Green Thumb, has a solution perfectly suited to our mild winters: creating a winter-inspired planter arrangement.



Why it works

Ever-blooming beauties: For a garden that thrives through the Lowcountry's mild winters, opt for perennials that do well in partial shade and continue blooming season after season. These resilient plants require partial sunlight, making them a perfect low-maintenance yet colorful choice for any outdoor winter arrangement.

Cool and cozy: Capture the essence of January by choosing a color palette that reflects the season's cool tones, accented with subtle pops of warmth. This balanced combination evokes the tranquility and beauty of winter, adding a refreshing touch to your outdoor space.

Square roots: When selecting a planter, a square shape is your best bet for creating a defined focal point. It helps anchor the arrangement and allows the flowers to be arranged at an angle, enhancing visual flow and highlighting the centerpiece.

Design tips

Start with height: Begin by placing the tallest plants, such as lemon cypress or sky pencil holly, at the center or back.

Layer thoughtfully: Fill in with medium-height plants like Heucheras and flax lily, and finish with trailing plants like ivy for depth and movement.

Deer-proof your display: Opt for deer-resistant plants to keep your arrangement intact.

Seasonal rotations: Keep your planter fresh by swapping out perennials throughout the winter for variety and interest. Delphinium's tapering blooms guide the eye upward, giving your arrangement a dynamic, polished look.

1. LEMON CYPRESS
2. FLAX LILY VARIEGATED
3. CYCLAMEN
4. HELICHRYSUM ICICLES
5. HEUCHERA MARMALADE
6. HEUCHERA FIRE ALARM
7. IVY
8. SKY PENCIL HOLLY



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Stirred, not shaken

MAJOR PAINT COMPANIES REVEAL THE RICH, BOLD HUES SET TO DEFINE 2025.

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS

From the cool calm of last year's palette emerges a new wave of warmth and intensity for 2025. The major paint companies' official colors of the year lean into richer, moodier tones — reds, browns and muted purples dominate with shades that feel both comforting and daring. Yet surprises like chartreuse and royal blue add playful vibrancy to the mix. This year's colors encourage a step toward the bold and the beautiful. Perfect for those inspired by fresh starts, these colors balance modern elegance with a touch of intrigue. Whether you're revamping a single space or planning a full-home refresh, the message is clear: embrace change with a splash of daring color.





Dramatic depth

Rumors by Behr Subtle cranberry notes peek through Rumors, a muted red. It recollects crisp air, but its cool tones charm even in warmer weather. Bold walls may intrigue on a first glance, but they whisper unexpected calm.

Mauve moment

Cinnamon Slate by Benjamin Moore Sauntering the line between cool and warm tones, Cinnamon Slate is a mixed shade that is anything but middling. At once exciting and comforting — refined and refreshing — the shade is perfect for any room in need of rejuvenation.



Deliciously dark

Raku by C2 A rich reddish-brown, Raku adds resplendence to interiors. Though intense on the offset, the hue melts into its surroundings to imbue homes with bold decadence. It pairs well with neutrals to emphasize its sumptuous shade.



Peachy keen

Caramelized by Dunn-Edwards

Wander westward with Caramelized, a dusty take on terracotta. Reminiscent of desert floors or wet sand, the paint invites observers to warmer, sun-drenched horizons. In daylight it surprises with a subtle peach note.



Uncharted potential

Mapped Blue by Dutch Boy

Discover the possibilities of Mapped Blue, a hue as versatile as it is timeless. Calling upon ocean exploration, the color can appear stormy next to dark blues and blacks, but styled next to burnt orange it resembles retro chic.



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Enduring elegance

Elderton by Graham & Brown The time-honored neutral is enlivened with cool undertones, yet it still conveys its classic sophistication. Add to offices or libraries for a cozy, contemplative atmosphere, or turn foyers into a worldly entryway. It's a first-class shade that never fades.



Serene green

Quietude by HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams True to its name, Quietude brings peace to its surroundings. A muted seafoam, the shade whisks guests away to the tune of a babbling brook. Invoking creativity or bone-deep relaxation, this hue transports to a more tranquil state of mind.

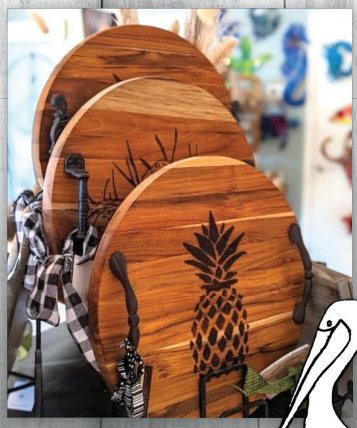


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Tasteful tint **Purple Basil by Glidden** An elegant eggplant shade, Purple Basil infuses rooms with lush sophistication. Its subdued saturation makes it a palatable take on the purple resurgence. Perfect pairings include crisp marble and gold accents, but save room for the pièce de résistance.



Hard-hitting hue **Hammered Black by Krylon**
For a neutral with impact, Hammered Black hits the nail on the head. The spray paint shade looks like tar with an almost metallic sheen. Sharp and industrial, it redefines basic black without making it boring.



Purple pizzazz
Violet by Minwax Whimsical and mystic, Minwax's Violet wood stain enchants viewers with its magical look. Opt to blend pieces into an entirely purple decor à la the color-drenching trend, or transform wooden furniture to embellish rooms with bewitching flair.





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Martini mural

Chartreuse by Sherwin-Williams This year instead of one hue, Sherwin-Williams presents a nine-colored Capsule of the Year, celebrating 25 years of the annual tradition, and Chartreuse is the obvious standout. Lemon yellow and olive green combine to create a color full of zing, whether as an accent or across entire walls.



Knockout navy

Encore by Valspar Commanding attention, Encore is a blue almost oceanic in depth. The showstopper shade has a nautical air to it, inspiring viewers with visions of a salty shoreline or Ralph Lauren cologne. In essence, it's a standing ovation to American luxury. *LL*



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2025 Interior Design Trends

THIS YEAR, LET YOUR HOME REFLECT YOUR PERSONALITY, PASSIONS AND PRIORITIES.

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS



This year home design takes a bold step into the spotlight, celebrating individuality like never before. Gone are the days of rigid rules — 2025 is all about embracing personalization, where classic sophistication seamlessly blends with modern flair. Designers are inspiring homeowners to let their creativity shine, transforming living spaces into true reflections of personal style. To uncover the year's most exciting trends, we explored the industry's most trusted sources, curating only the most inspiring, practical and stunning ideas. Whether you're planning a complete overhaul or simply refreshing a cozy corner, these 2025 design insights will empower you to craft a space that's uniquely and beautifully yours.

Color drenching

In 2025 monochrome gets a bold upgrade with "color drenching," a trend HGTV calls transformative. Saturate walls, ceilings and trim in a single shade, like serene taupe or sandy beige, for a seamless, immersive look. Enhance depth by layering textures within the same color family — think ribbed upholstery, woven rugs and natural wood grains. This cohesive approach creates a unified space that feels both calming and sophisticated.



Look up

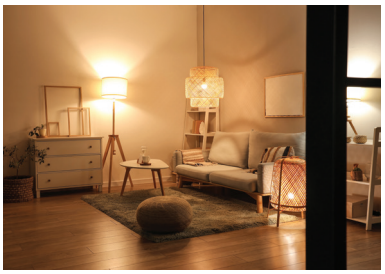
Ceilings, the often-overlooked "fifth wall," are taking center stage in 2025. Bright colors like sunshine yellow add depth and personality, as Patrick O'Donnell of Farrow & Ball told Country Living. Pair bold ceilings with neutral walls, light floors or natural wood tones to let them shine without overwhelming the space. Balance the look with warm-toned rugs and curated decor for a cohesive design. Ready to elevate your space? Eyes up, everyone!

Timeless treasures



Vintage never goes out of style. Art Nouveau and Art Deco pieces remain favorites for their intricate craftsmanship and charm. Anthony Barzilay Freund of 1stDibs told Veranda that antiques bring unmatched elegance to modern homes. Incorporate statement pieces like a carved armoire, wood-inlay desk or bombe chest, and pair upholstered armchairs with ornate wood frames for a cohesive look. Who says they don't make furniture like they used to? They already did! Antiques are here for a stunning encore.

Layered lighting



In 2025 lighting does more than illuminate — it sets the mood. Piero de Marchis of Detail Lighting told Homes & Gardens that multi-functional lighting is key for versatile spaces. Combine ambient lighting for general glow, task lighting for activities like reading and accent lighting to highlight decor or specific areas. A neutral palette of walls, furniture and wood floors lets the lighting take center stage, while clean lines and minimalist furnishings maintain a calm, uncluttered vibe. Layered lighting brings both function and personality to your home.



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Beverage bars

Beverage bars are a must-have for 2025 kitchens, making mornings smoother and happy hours more fun. Dedicate a wall or counter space for your setup, and install compact shelving with cubbies and hooks for storage. Add charm with personal touches like a clock, potted plant or vintage coffee grinder. Keep essentials fresh and stylish in clear airtight jars, and store snacks or sugar in small bowls for a cozy, homey feel. Why limit a happy hour to one? With a beverage bar, the possibilities are endless.



Rug revolution

Transform your space with a bold, patterned rug. Designers Anna Still and Marguerite Johnson told Southern Living that geometric prints and vibrant hues are trending this year. Choose striking designs like circles or grids, or opt for a monochromatic black, white and gray rug for a modern touch. Place it under key furniture, ensuring it's large enough to anchor the room. Pair with a neutral palette to let the rug shine. Who knew a great rug could bring so much joy? Step on it and see! *LL*



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2025 real estate trends

The local market is shifting, as buyers focus on sustainability, efficiency and cutting-edge innovation.

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS



In 2025, homeowners are embracing a blend of comfort and efficiency, transforming their living spaces into sanctuaries of peace and practicality. The era of sprawling mansions is giving way to cozy, more manageable homes, where every square foot serves a purpose. Climate-resilient building techniques have shifted from optional to essential, reflecting a growing focus on sustainability. Meanwhile, smart home technology continues to revolutionize daily living, making homes more convenient and connected than ever before.

To explore these trends in depth, we consulted Lowcountry real estate experts, who revealed what buyers and sellers value most in today's market. Whether you're planning to build a custom home, downsize or enhance your property's value and appeal, these insights offer inspiration for creating a space that seamlessly integrates modern innovation with timeless practicality.

Less is more

Across the nation, homes are shrinking in size this year, as buyers favor cozy cottages over sprawling mansions. In Hilton Head's increasingly dense residential zones, smaller homes may be the perfect fit. ***Beth Drake*** of the Drake Real Estate Team notes that some neighborhoods are already embracing the trend. "In Wexford somebody might have built an 8,000-square-foot home before, and now you're seeing it like 4,400 square feet, so it's much more manageable," she says. These downsized homes offer comfort without feeling cramped, fostering the kind of tight-knit, neighborly communities that Drake describes as having "a good Southern feel."

A smaller home also means less maintenance, freeing up time for meaningful improvements. "Properties that are commanding the shortest days on market and also highest pricing are those that tick the favorite boxes such as updated features and finishes," says ***Beverly Serral*** of Beverly Serral Properties. With less space to manage, homeowners have more resources to focus on upgrades like "fabulous furnishings, features of comfort and convenience, and old-fashioned curb appeal, including landscaping, maintenance and cleanliness." In essence, less mess means less stress.

Five years ago larger homes were in high demand as families spent more time isolated indoors. Today, however, the extra room often sits unused. Realtor ***Susanne Oschner*** observes that homeowners are now rejecting wasted space in favor of functional, shared areas. "Homeowners are not amenable to wasted space but laser-focused on creating gathering spaces," she says. While many new Lowcountry homes still exceed 2,000 square feet, the focus has shifted to prioritizing connection and comfort. Formal dining rooms give way to open kitchens, and indoor-outdoor gathering areas take precedence over isolated rooms. Even in larger homes, the emphasis is on simplicity. "Compared to decades ago, folks are not overdecorating but shifting more toward Feng Shui and calmness," Oschner adds.

LIVING LIGHT The neutral tones, clean lines and natural materials of this living room create an inviting and tranquil atmosphere, emphasizing comfort without excess. Built-in shelving and curated decor illustrate the focus on maximizing smaller spaces, while the open, airy layout highlights the growing preference for connection over compartmentalization.

Incorporating the cozy home trend

FOR BUYERS

Focus on functionality: Look for homes that maximize space efficiency. Features like open floor plans, multifunctional rooms and built-in storage can make smaller homes feel larger and more livable.
Prioritize quality over quantity: Instead of square footage, focus on high-end finishes, updated features and thoughtful layouts that enhance comfort and practicality.
Think long-term: Smaller homes are often more cost-effective to maintain, heat and cool. Consider the financial benefits of reduced upkeep and energy savings when making your purchase.

FOR SELLERS

Update strategically: Invest in renovations that align with what buyers want — open kitchens, upgraded bathrooms and outdoor living spaces. These updates can make your home more attractive and competitive.
Stage for simplicity: Declutter and stage your home with a minimalist, calming aesthetic that emphasizes cozy gathering spaces. This approach appeals to buyers looking for homes that promote relaxation and connection.
Highlight manageability: Market your home's smaller size as a benefit, showcasing how it offers convenience, lower maintenance and the ability to focus on high-quality finishes and landscaping.

FOR REMODELERS

Open up your layout: Remove unnecessary walls to create open, airy spaces that encourage togetherness. Converting formal dining rooms into part of the kitchen or living area is a popular choice.
Invest in smart storage: Maximize every square foot with creative storage solutions like built-in shelves, under-stair storage or hidden cabinetry.
Create outdoor havens: Expand your living space by enhancing patios, decks or screened porches to make the outdoors as inviting as the indoors.
Embrace calm design: Incorporate clean lines, neutral palettes and natural materials that promote a sense of calm and connection to the Lowcountry's serene environment.

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Built to last

Hilton Head Islanders know their home is a paradise, but even paradise isn't immune to the impacts of extreme weather. The Atlantic basin saw 18 named storms in 2024. In the wake of the past year's devastating hurricanes, homeowners are prioritizing climate-resilient construction like never before.

Unlike other Southeastern cities, the Hilton Head region enjoys a unique geographical advantage. As the most inland point along the U.S. East Coast, it's naturally shielded from many climate disasters. ***Robbie Bunting***, partner at Hilton Head Properties, describes this as "a unique advantage."

"Its enviable location keeps it safe from the extreme weather that can wreak havoc elsewhere, as seen in the grand old trees and charming historic buildings that grace the island," Bunting says. The preservation of Hilton Head's timeless beauty is often what transforms visitors into permanent residents. "Buyers and renters alike can't resist the magnetic pull of Hilton Head Island," he adds.

Still, Hurricane Matthew in 2016 served as a powerful reminder that calamity can strike, even here. Climate-resilient upgrades have become a top priority for homeowners looking to protect their properties. Some upgrades, such as fortified impact windows, are now required by law. "That's the new building code. You have to have better impact windows," says Realtor ***Ken Oliver***. "Since Hurricane Matthew, those standards keep getting stronger and stronger."

The growing demand for weatherproofing features has also driven innovation, aligning construction trends with updated safety regulations. Impact-resistant windows are just the beginning. Insulation foam and reinforced foundations are also at the forefront of climate-ready additions. These investments aren't just about safety — they also offer financial advantages.

"Hurricane-rated homes grant not just peace of mind, but they offer a huge credit when talking with insurance companies," explains ***Tanner Sutphin*** of Engel & Völkers. Building with materials like cinder block, for example, can reduce insurance premiums by as much as 75 percent. For many homeowners these upgrades are an investment in both security and long-term savings.

This year's most practical trend is all about prioritizing safety over aesthetics. Even in the idyllic Lowcountry, climate-resilient renovations ensure Hilton Head remains the heavenly retreat its residents and visitors cherish — for generations to come.

STORM-READY STYLE This home's sturdy design, metal roof and modern features reflect the growing trend of building with weatherproof materials to withstand extreme weather. Its elevated structure and impact-resistant windows provide additional protection, ensuring peace of mind for homeowners.

Incorporating the climate-resilent trend

FOR BUYERS

Prioritize resilience: Look for homes with essential climate-resilient features, such as impact-resistant windows, reinforced foundations and upgraded insulation.
Think long-term savings: Focus on properties built with durable materials like cinder block, which can reduce insurance premiums and maintenance costs.
Focus on safety: Ensure the home meets updated building codes designed to withstand extreme weather conditions.
Seek professional guidance: Partner with a knowledgeable real estate agent who understands climate-ready properties and their benefits.

FOR SELLERS

Upgrade key features: Invest in climate-resilient improvements like hurricane-rated windows, elevated foundations and energy-efficient insulation to appeal to buyers.
Highlight safety and savings: Market your home's updates as both protective and cost-effective, emphasizing benefits like reduced insurance premiums and long-term durability.
Stage for durability: Showcase these features in your listing with professional photos and descriptions that highlight their value and contribution to the home's overall appeal.
Focus on peace of mind: Present your home as a safe and secure investment that prioritizes both beauty and resilience in the Lowcountry's unique climate.

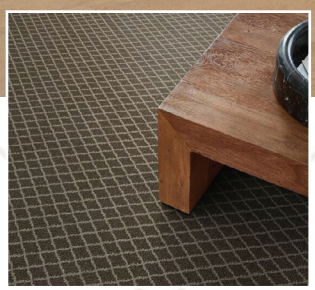
FOR REMODELERS

Fortify your home: Incorporate impact-resistant windows, reinforced walls and upgraded roofing materials to enhance storm protection.
Upgrade insulation: Choose modern insulation solutions that improve energy efficiency while offering added protection against extreme weather.
Plan for water management: Add landscaping and drainage systems to reduce the risk of flooding and water damage.
Invest in durable materials: Use hurricane-rated materials for a stronger, more resilient foundation.
Stay code-compliant: Work with contractors experienced in the latest safety regulations to ensure your renovations meet modern building standards.

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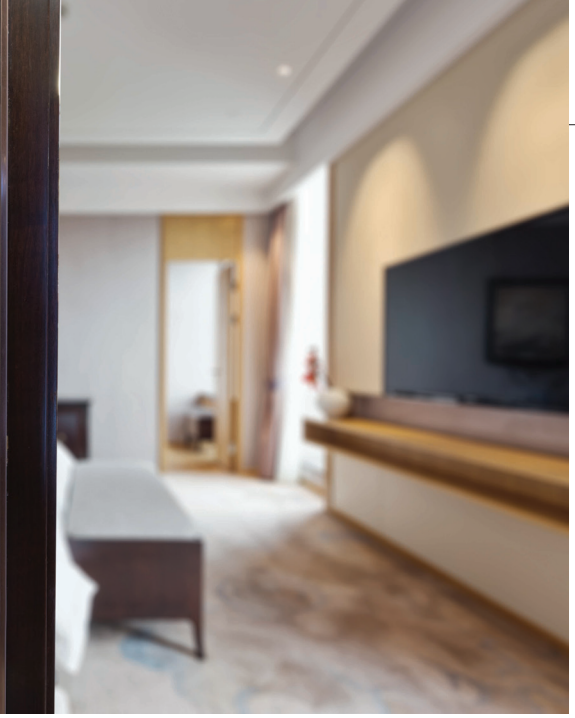
Smart-home devices have skyrocketed in popularity for the unique luxuries they offer. Despite the variety in design, these gadgets typically share a common purpose. "Smart-home features largely fall within two broad categories: (i) security; and (ii) convenience," says ***Tom Reed***, broker-in-charge of The Reed Team. Beyond addressing safety concerns, these systems make daily routines effortless. "Now we can check the weather on our refrigerator as we get creamer for our coffee that began brewing on its own while we were in the shower," Reed explains.

While high-tech amenities can enhance any home, they are especially in demand in the Lowcountry's luxury communities. Realtor ***Richard MacDonald*** highlights this trend among second-home buyers. "It's especially popular with buyers who have second homes, [so they] can monitor their properties from far away," he says. Retirees who frequently travel also favor these systems, as they offer worry-free vacations by ensuring their properties remain secure. On Hilton Head, where life is already serene, smart homes elevate relaxation to an entirely new level.

Beyond comfort, smart technology is making homes more environmentally friendly. Lighting and temperature systems that adjust automatically to occupancy or natural light help reduce energy consumption and electric bills. ***Alison Melton***, managing partner of The Agency, underscores this eco-conscious benefit. "We have so many beautiful homes throughout the Hilton Head area with large windows," she says. "Installing a smart lighting system can adjust brightness based on natural light levels or occupancy, reducing unnecessary energy consumption." Cost-effective, sustainable and cutting-edge, these technologies redefine modern living.

As smart technology evolves, its impact on homes continues to expand. ***Catherine Donaldson*** of The Donaldson Group shares her vision of the future. "As smart technology continues to evolve beyond Alexa, there's a greater interest in expanding it to every room," she says. "Especially with the integration of AI into luxury home technology systems, I think that trend will only accelerate."

Whether it's peace of mind or the perfect bath temperature you're after, smart technology can seamlessly integrate comfort and innovation into your daily life. By embracing this tech-forward trend, the home of your dreams is truly just a button away. *LL*



TECH-SAVVY LIVING
With its streamlined design, a control panel simplifies daily living, allowing homeowners to manage temperature, lighting and security with ease. As part of the growing demand for smart-home technology, this setup enhances both comfort and eco-conscious living, reducing energy consumption while keeping spaces effortlessly functional.

Incorporating the smart-home trend

FOR BUYERS

Focus on future-proofing: Look for homes with existing smart technology, such as voice-controlled systems, security cameras or automated lighting and thermostats. These features save time and energy while offering peace of mind.
Prioritize convenience: Choose properties with integrated systems that allow you to control multiple devices from a single app or hub, streamlining daily life.
Think about security: Smart systems like doorbell cameras, motion sensors and remote monitoring are especially valuable for second-home buyers who want to keep tabs on their property from afar.
Explore eco-friendly options: Homes with energy-efficient smart systems can lower utility bills and reduce your carbon footprint, providing long-term savings.

FOR SELLERS

Upgrade strategically: Add high-demand smart features such as automated thermostats, lighting systems or security cameras to make your home more appealing to tech-savvy buyers.
Market the benefits: Highlight how smart systems enhance safety, comfort and energy efficiency in your home's listing. Mention specific devices or integrations that set your property apart.
Showcase ease of use: Stage your home to demonstrate the convenience of smart technology. For example, program a voice assistant to control lighting or music during showings.
Target specific buyers: Emphasize features that appeal to second-home buyers or retirees, like remote monitoring systems and simplified controls for managing the home while traveling.

FOR REMODELERS

Start with essentials: Incorporate foundational smart technologies like programmable thermostats, lighting controls and home security systems during your renovation.
Think room by room: Expand smart features to every area of the house. Consider kitchen appliances with smart capabilities, smart blinds for bedrooms or automated showers in bathrooms.
Go green: Install energy-efficient smart systems, such as sensors that adjust lighting based on occupancy or smart irrigation systems for the lawn. These additions save money and help the environment.
Plan for the future: Include wiring or infrastructure upgrades to accommodate expanding smart systems and ensure compatibility with the latest technologies.
Blend technology with design: Ensure that devices integrate seamlessly into the home's decor, keeping the aesthetic modern and uncluttered.

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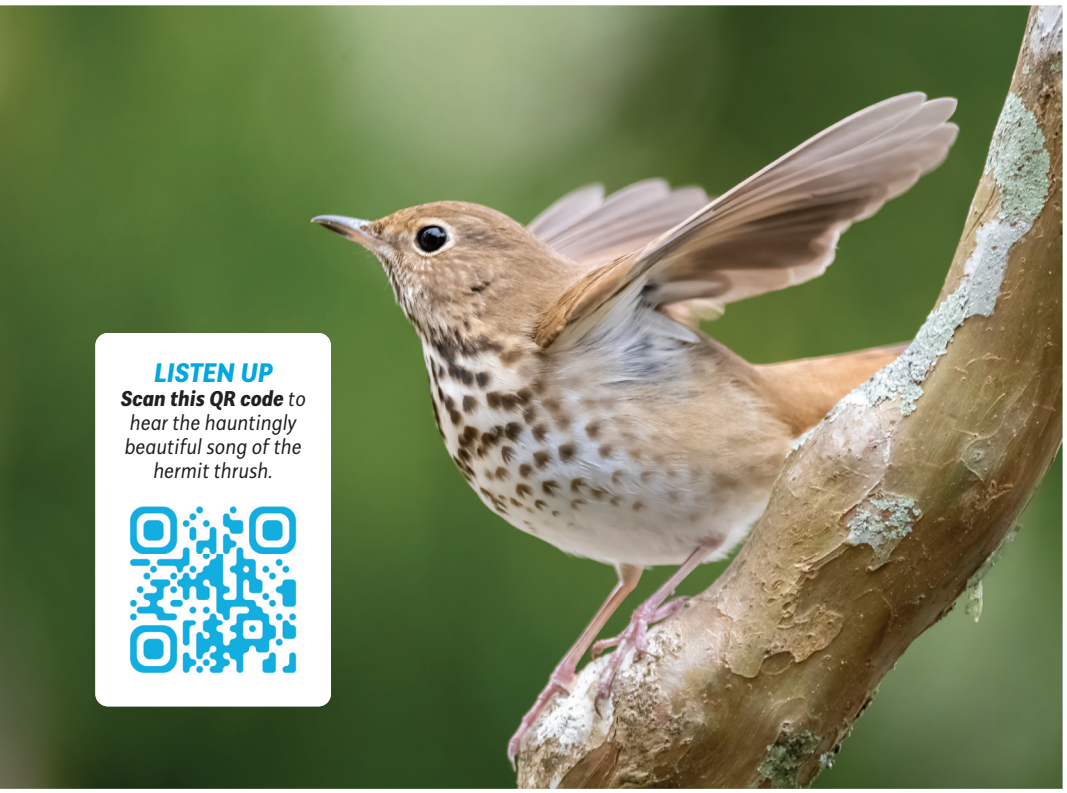
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Hermit thrush

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STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM + PHOTOS BY ALAN BIGGS



LISTEN UP
Scan this QR code *to hear the hauntingly beautiful song of the hermit thrush.*

WINTER'S WHISPER The hermit thrush (Catharus guttatus), a common winter resident in the Lowcountry, graces the region with its presence from late fall through early spring. As winter fades, these birds embark on their journey northward to their breeding grounds, marking the seasonal rhythm of their fascinating migration.

Winter in the Lowcountry brings a subtle shift in the natural world, with seasonal visitors adding a touch of magic to local forests. Among them is the hermit thrush (Catharus guttatus), a modest yet mesmerizing songbird whose haunting melodies and secretive habits captivate local birdwatchers. Known for its understated beauty, the hermit thrush sports rich brown upper feathers, a spotted breast and a signature reddish tail that sets it apart. It is the only North American thrush to winter in the United States, making it a rare treasure for those who take the time to seek it out.

These shy, solitary birds are as captivating as they are elusive. Their flute-like song, a hallmark of their northern breeding season, leaves an indelible impression on anyone fortunate enough to hear its haunting beauty. In the Lowcountry their presence is more understated, marked by soft calls and the gentle rustle of leaves. Yet even in their quietude, they infuse the winter woods with an air of mystery, inviting those who seek them to step closer and listen. LL

Why they're worth the search

Hermit thrushes are shy and solitary, often blending into their surroundings. Their eerie whistle — beginning with a clear note and fading into soft echoes — is unforgettable. You might also hear their faint whisper song in the spring or a low rattle as they shuffle leaves underfoot in search of food. Their foraging behavior, known as "foot quivering," involves flicking leaves or shaking grass to uncover hidden insects — a fascinating sight for those lucky enough to observe them.

Unique behaviors to watch for

When not foraging, hermit thrushes often perch silently, lifting and slowly lowering their tails while flicking their wings. They respond to predators with a repertoire of warnings: snapping their bills, whistling with their wings or uttering low-pitched "tchup" or "quoit" sounds. During courtship males perform intricate flights, chasing females in playful circles. Despite their reserved demeanor, these birds express a vibrant array of behaviors and calls, rewarding patient birders with unforgettable experiences.

Fun facts

- *The oldest recorded hermit thrush lived nearly 11 years.*
- *Males chase females in circles before adopting slower, paired flight patterns.*
- *They're often seen with chickadees, titmice and brown creepers in mixed flocks.*
- *They feast on insects and small amphibians in spring, switching to wild berries in winter.*
- *Nests have been discovered in unexpected places like cemeteries and golf courses.*

Where to see them

"Listen for the hermit thrush's distinctive whistled song in mature forests with dense understory," advises local birder Mary Alice Tartler. "You'll often find them on the forest floor, hopping in vegetation to stir up insects." In the Lowcountry they frequent areas with berry bushes and mixed pine or evergreen woods during winter. Ideal spots include forest trails, pond edges and partially cleared areas opened by fallen trees. Hot spots include Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge, Sea Pines Forest Preserve, Audubon Newhall Preserve, Jarvis Creek Park and Victoria Bluff Heritage Preserve.



Essentials

Prepare your yard to attract hermit thrushes with supplies from ***Wild Birds Unlimited*** in the Festival Centre at Indigo Park, Hilton Head Island.

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- *Nuts & berries suet*
- *Mealworms*
- *Sunflower chips.*

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WILDLIFE WONDERS

Nature's elusive guardians

DECODING THE MYSTERIES OF THE CLEVER AND ADAPTABLE COYOTES AMONG US.

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM + PHOTOS BY JEANNE PADDISON

Coyotes are the charismatic tricksters of the canine world — intelligent, adaptable and endlessly resourceful. These wild dogs thrive in diverse environments, including the Lowcountry, where they roam swamps, forests, and even suburban neighborhoods. Often unseen but ever-present, coyotes play a vital role in the local ecosystem. Living alongside these clever creatures requires understanding and respect for their habits and habitat.

Though they may be elusive, coyotes share the Lowcountry with us year-round. They're especially active during breeding season (January to March), and while they are most active at dawn and dusk, daylight sightings increase during this time. Remarkably stealthy, they travel solo or in small family groups, blending seamlessly into even the most developed areas. Their adaptability allows them to flourish in urban and suburban landscapes, making their presence more noticeable during pup-raising season, from April to mid-May.

To gain a deeper understanding of what it's like to coexist with these fascinating animals, we spoke with Jeanne Paddison, executive director and lead wildlife rehabilitator at Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center (SWRC) in Thunderbolt, Georgia.

"We've had the privilege of raising multiple coyote pups at SWRC and releasing them back into the wild for a second chance at freedom," Paddison said. "Coyotes contribute immensely to our ecosystem by controlling rodent populations, which are abundant in populated areas. As apex predators, they help maintain balance in south Georgia and the Lowcountry. Without coyotes, certain mammal populations could spiral out of control."



VISION OF HOPE A coyote blinded by juvenile cataracts, Calli was cared for by SWRC until she transitioned to a wildlife sanctuary when she was just under a year old. Coyotes rely more on their acute sense of smell and hearing than their vision, allowing them to adapt even with limited eyesight.

Coexistence, not conflict

While "apex predator" might sound intimidating, there's little cause for alarm. Coyotes are inherently shy and non-confrontational, preferring to avoid humans whenever possible. Paddison emphasized their peaceful nature: "Conflicts are rare. On the off chance you encounter a coyote 'escorting' you through its territory, it's merely ensuring you leave its space safely. Once you're out, it will retreat."

Statistics back this up. In 2023 only 146 coyote attacks on humans were reported nationwide, most resulting in minor injuries. By contrast, domestic dogs were responsible for over 19,000 attacks, including 17 fatalities. Coyotes may be wild, but they're far less likely to harm you than man's best friend.

As distant relatives of our beloved pets, they're not so different — just a bit wilder and infinitely cooler.

LOCAL RESOURCES

If you find an injured or orphaned coyote, contact one of these organizations for help:

Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center: *912-596-1237*
Paws Animal Wildlife Sanctuary: *864-683-3190*

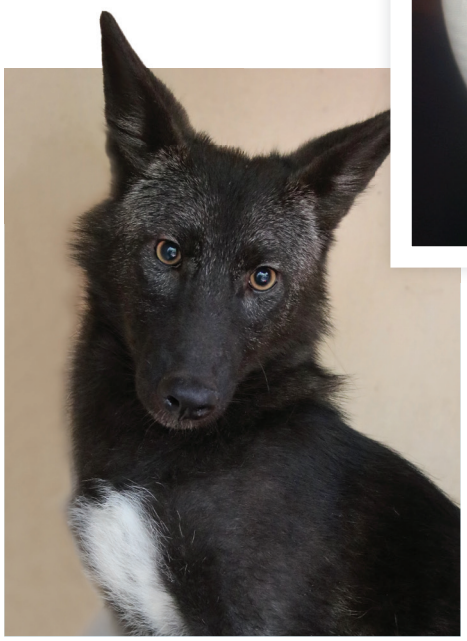
For more information about living harmoniously with coyotes, visit ***projectcoyote.org****.*





ON THE MEND
Hit by a car on the Truman Parkway near Savannah, Birdie's leg was repaired with plates and screws at the SWRC, allowing her to walk again. Coyotes are incredibly resilient animals, capable of surviving injuries and adapting to challenges in their environment.





RARE AND RESILIENT
Raised by the SWRC, Wiley Coyote belongs to the 5 percent of coyotes in Georgia with an all-black coat. Melanism, the genetic mutation causing black fur, is uncommon in coyotes and adds to the genetic diversity of the species.

Fascinating facts

- Coyotes have been ***residents of the Lowcountry*** since the 1970s, arriving after losing their native habitats in the Midwest. Some were also illegally imported for hunting purposes.
- Adult coyotes typically weigh around ***35 pounds*** but can sometimes ***exceed 50 pounds***.
- Their fur varies from ***grayish-brown*** to ***reddish-tan***, with ***all-black*** individuals occasionally spotted.
- Breeding occurs in late winter, and after a 63-day gestation period, females give birth to litters of ***5-7 pups*** in the spring.
- These animals are ***vocal tricksters***, with complex calls that often make a single coyote sound like an entire pack.
- Coyotes are ***opportunistic omnivores***, consuming small mammals, birds, fruit, insects and dead animals. *LL*



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LOWCOUNTRY ALMANAC

January

WINTER'S QUIET BEAUTY
Photographer Phill Doherty captured the charm of a calm, overcast January evening from a dock overlooking the Colleton River. The image invites a sense of quiet reflection, perfectly highlighting the beauty of the Lowcountry in the stillness of winter.

Night & day

As the days slowly lengthen, each sunrise and sunset brings a subtle reminder that brighter, warmer days are ahead.
Sunrise: *7:15-7:22 a.m. (earlier each day)*
Sunset: *5:30-5:57 p.m. (later each day)*

EMBRACE RENEWAL AND REFLECTION AS WINTER CASTS ITS GENTLE CHILL.

January arrives with a whisper of crisp air and the promise of fresh beginnings. Named after Janus, the Roman god of transitions, this month encourages us to reflect on the past while stepping boldly into the future. In the Lowcountry January's blend of cool days and quiet moments offers an ideal time to plan, dream and prepare. With insights from the *2025 Old Farmer's Almanac* and *Grow Great Vegetables South Carolina*, this guide is your companion for embracing the magic of January.

Weather predictions

January in the Lowcountry brings a mix of rainy days and brisk, sunny spells, perfect for dreaming of spring gardens or tackling New Year projects.
Average temperature: 46 degrees (1 degree below average)
Precipitation: 5 inches (1/2 inch above average)

FORECAST BY WEEK
Jan. 1-11: Rainy periods; cool, then warm
Jan. 12-14: Sunny, mild
Jan. 15-22: Overcast, mild
Jan. 23-31: Isolated showers, very cold



Astronomical events

January offers celestial wonders to brighten winter nights:
Jan. 2-3: The Quadrantid meteor shower, with its spectacular fireballs, peaks overnight.
Jan. 7: A perigee moon shines larger and brighter than usual.
Jan. 13: Mars reaches perigee under a full moon, glowing its brightest until 2031.
Jan. 22: Six planets align (Mars, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune, Venus, Saturn). Use a telescope or binoculars to view Neptune and Uranus.

Tides & currents

Stay in sync with the rhythms of the Lowcountry coast. Scan this QR code for the latest tide and current predictions from NOAA.

Gardening



PREP Winter is for groundwork — plan, prune and prep for a flourishing spring garden.
Map out your garden and planting schedule.
Prune fruit trees and bushes for healthier growth.
Pre-sprout potatoes for an early start.

PLANT Sow the seeds of spring indoors or directly in the soil for hardy crops.
Indoors: Crops like brassicas, peppers, artichokes, eggplants, tomatoes, celery, leeks, Asian greens and rhubarb benefit from an early start in seed trays or pots with well-draining soil and good light exposure. Use grow lights to extend daylight hours, and keep the soil moist while maintaining a consistent temperature range.
Outdoors: Hardy crops such as onions, peas, beets, carrots, spinach, chard, radishes, turnips, garlic and shallots can be directly sown into prepared garden beds or containers. Enrich the soil with compost, apply mulch to regulate temperature, and cover crops with row fabric if cold snaps occur.

HARVEST Enjoy a winter bounty of fresh produce from your garden, including kale, leeks, collards, spinach, arugula, mustards, carrots, turnips, radishes, beets, Swiss chard, parsnips, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, bok choy and more.

Best days

Looking for the perfect timing? The moon's phases suggest January's best days for these activities:

Fishing: Jan. 1-13, 29-31
Cutting and coloring hair: Jan. 8-9
Buying a house: Jan. 8-9
Moving: Jan. 10-11
Traveling for pleasure: Jan. 14-15
Visiting the dentist: Jan. 16-18
Getting married: Jan. 19–20
Starting a weight-loss plan: Jan. 19, 24
Brewing or canning: Jan. 21–23
Starting a project: Jan. 30





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— Maureen D., Bluffton, SC

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Survival in the sand

SEA TURTLE PATROL HILTON HEAD ISLAND PREPARES FOR A 2025 SEASON OF RESILIENCE AND RESTORATION.

STORY BY AMBER KUEHN + PHOTOS BY TUDOR PEARCE

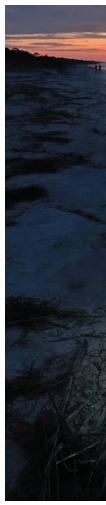




DECADES TO MOTHERHOOD
Female loggerhead sea turtles reach sexual maturity at around 30 years of age, embarking on their reproductive journey after decades in the ocean. Each nesting season a single female can lay multiple clutches. These nests, carefully dug in the sand, become the starting point for the next generation of these ancient mariners.

Each sea turtle nesting season brings a new focus for outreach and awareness, a cornerstone of the Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island mission. Our annual theme reflects the significant efforts and initiatives planned for the year ahead.

In 2024 the theme "Next Generation" celebrated the introduction of STEM-based programming into classrooms. It featured children of all ages as presenters in educational videos showcased at Park Plaza movie theaters and across social media. For 2025 we are embracing "Resilience" and "Restoration" — honoring the ability of sea turtles to persevere against environmental challenges and human impact. We will highlight ongoing efforts to restore Hilton Head's beaches, a vital nesting habitat. This dual focus also recognizes the dedication of our leadership and volunteers in protecting an endangered species and rebuilding their populations.



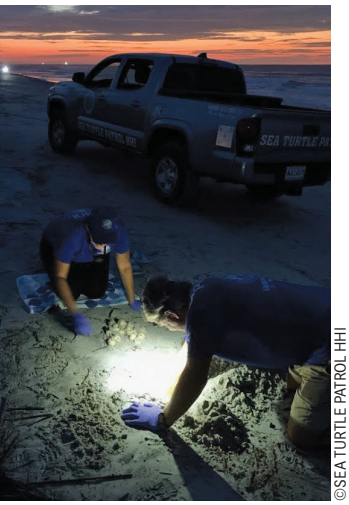
Resilience: A testament to survival

The official South Carolina sea turtle nesting season spans May 1 to Oct. 31, with Hilton Head's first nest typically discovered in early May. During this time STPHHI marks, monitors and evaluates every nest on the island. Additionally, DNA samples are collected to support groundbreaking research in collaboration with Dr. Brian Shamlin's lab at the University of Georgia. Since 2010 this partnership has identified 4,986 individual nesting loggerhead turtles on Hilton Head Island, offering a new glimpse into their life cycles and habits.

Despite predictions for a low nesting density in 2024, the season brought an unexpectedly low total — only 204 nests



Amber Kuehn is the executive director of Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island, a volunteer organization committed to the conservation of sea turtles. Through beach monitoring, nest relocation and community education, the team plays a vital role in protecting these endangered species on Hilton Head Island. Discover more about its mission at ***SeaTurtlePatrolHHI.org****.*



©SEA TURTLE PATROL HHI

across Hilton Head's 20 miles of nesting habitat. DNA analysis revealed that 62 female loggerheads were responsible for these nests, 16 of whom were first-time nesters. Remarkably, five of these newcomers were daughters of loggerheads already in the database, with their mothers now known to be over 60 years old. Even more astonishing, three of these daughters represent the first generation of offspring to return to Hilton Head's shores to nest.

These insights are critical for understanding the health of the loggerhead population. In another 15 years we will gain vital data on the survival rate of female loggerheads that left the beaches of Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina as hatchlings, survived 30 years, and returned to reproduce. While this long timeframe can seem daunting, it underscores the urgency of our work.

Sea turtles possess a remarkable ability to recover, but their resilience is continually tested by human interference and environmental changes. As they face these challenges with quiet persistence, STPHHI remains committed to swift and effective action. From advocating for beach ordinances to educating the community and visitors about conservation, our efforts aim to protect both the turtles and their habitat.



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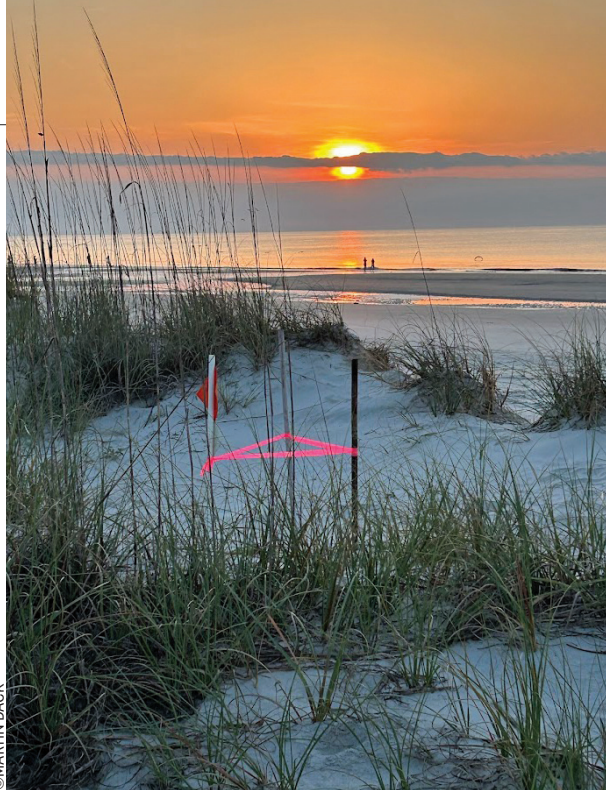


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Restoration: A foundation for the future

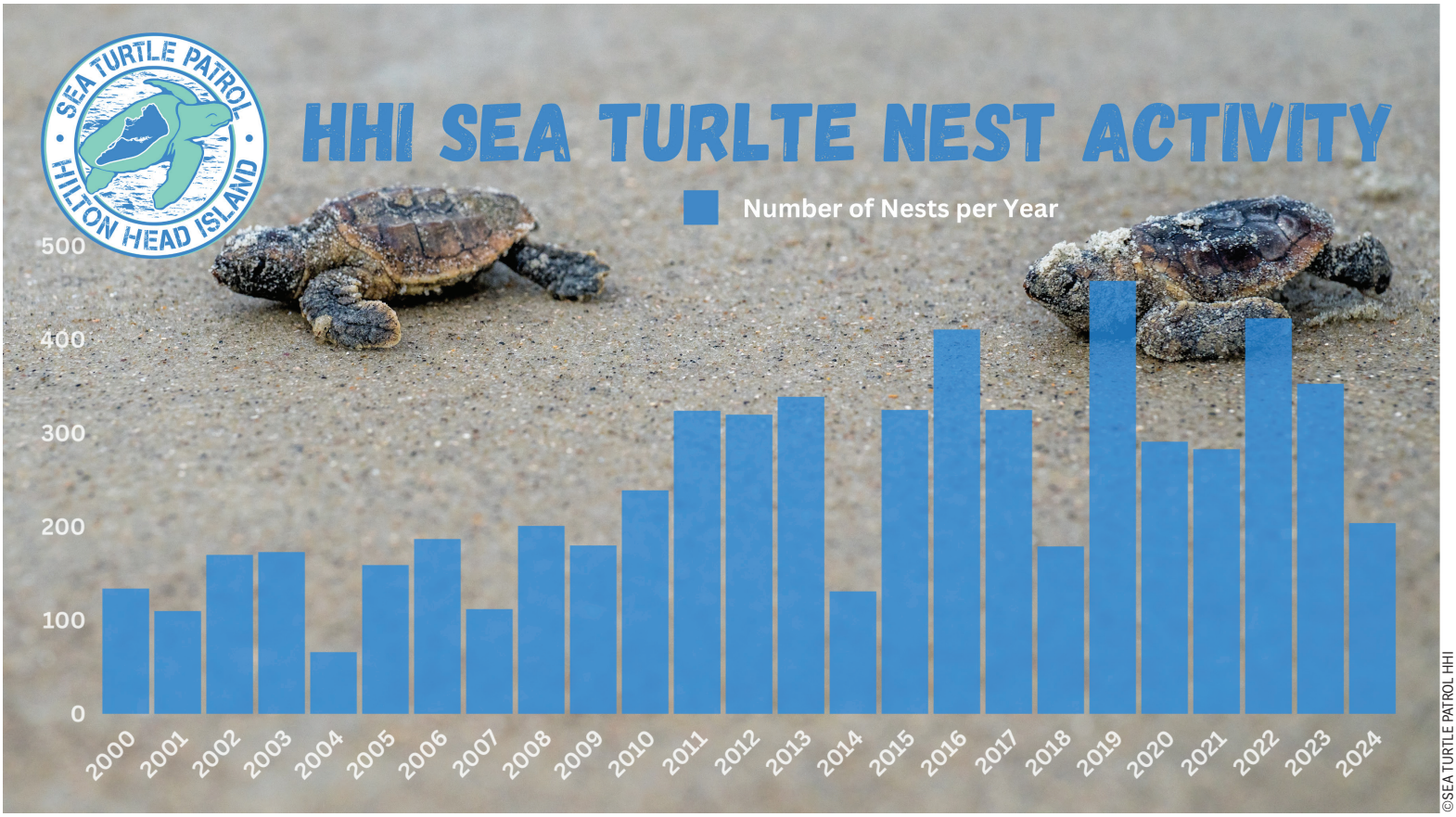
Hilton Head's beaches undergo renourishment every 8-10 years to counteract natural erosion and accommodate tourism. This large-scale effort involves adding sand dredged offshore to restore the shoreline — a process that can disrupt sea turtle nesting. During the 2016 renourishment project, STPHHI managed the sea turtle nesting season by relocating 100 percent of the nests from construction zones and maintaining nightly patrols to monitor activity.

In 2025 with another renourishment project scheduled during nesting season, STPHHI will once again be on the beach every night. If a sea turtle emerges to nest in the construction area, operations will halt temporarily, and the nest will be carefully relocated. This rigorous monitoring is a requirement for the municipality to obtain a permit for renourishment during sea turtle nesting season, ensuring a balance between human needs and wildlife protection.



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KEEPING WATCH Members of the Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island will monitor construction zones nightly during this summer's beach renourishment project. To ensure the safety of sea turtles, all nests within construction areas will be carefully relocated.



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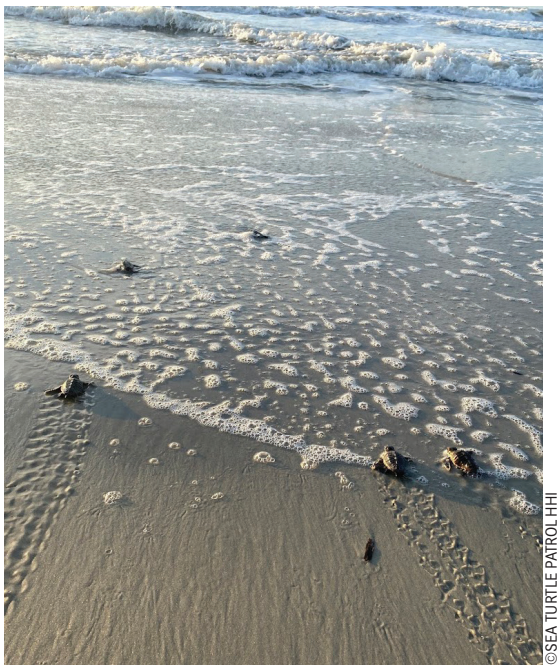
2024 IN PERSPECTIVE Hilton Head Island recorded 204 sea turtle nests in 2024, a significant decrease compared to previous years: 353 nests in 2023 and 423 nests in 2022. Historically, nesting numbers have fluctuated widely, as shown in this graph.

Looking ahead

The resilience of sea turtles and the restoration of Hilton Head's beaches are essential to the success of our conservation efforts. Through our outreach programs, we hope to inspire the next generation, residents and visitors to contribute to the protection of these incredible creatures. By raising awareness of the challenges sea turtles face, we can all take part in preserving the unique natural heritage of Hilton Head Island and supporting the recovery of an endangered species that depends on our environmental stewardship. *LL*

CRACKING THE CODE
Scan this QR code to watch the NBC News feature on Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island's collaboration with the University of Georgia. The report highlights researchers extracting DNA from thousands of sea turtle eggs to advance conservation efforts. Watch the video to learn more about this groundbreaking research.





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FROM SAND TO SEA The journey of a loggerhead sea turtle begins with a determined dash toward the ocean, leaving delicate tracks etched in the sand as a testament to their first steps into the wild.

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Paws and effect

WHAT'S HOT IN THE PET WORLD FOR 2025

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM



The pet industry has seen explosive growth in recent years, and it's showing no signs of slowing down — just like your golden retriever when you say "beach." In fact, the global pet supplement market alone is projected to reach $1.05 billion by 2027, according to an analysis by Grand View Research. That's a lot of fish oil and probiotics, but hey, nothing's too good for Fluffy, right? Here in the Lowcountry we're no strangers to pampering our pets. And as owners become increasingly dedicated to improving the health and well-being of their companions, new trends are emerging across product categories — luxury items, niche pet foods and even pet insurance. Yes, that's right — because if you're not insuring your Labrador, is he even a real family member? ***Here's a closer look at the key trends shaping the future of pet care and a few items you'll want to purchase for your own fur babies.***

Pet probiotics and supplements

Among the many pet supplements that have gained traction, one category stands out: probiotics. Pet probiotics are gaining popularity due to their potential to support digestive health, alleviate food allergies and promote overall well-being. Probiotics for dogs and cats have exploded in popularity on social media platforms like TikTok, where videos mentioning pet probiotics have garnered more than 386 million views. This trend is part of a broader shift in the pet industry known as the "humanization of pets," where owners treat their pets like family members and increasingly share the same food and health practices. Just as many people focus on their own gut health —33 percent of people report consuming probiotics daily — pet owners are now adding gut-friendly products to their pets' diets.



HOT PICK

Native Pet Probiotic Powder Supplement for Dogs

This super-functional, proprietary powder creates a thriving environment for healthy flora while supporting overall gut health and digestive wellness. The probiotic digestive supplement contains four probiotics for a powerful supplement focused on your buddy's digestive tract. Sprinkle the power-packed powder over wet or dry food daily for an effortless way to support your four-legged family member. ***nativepet.com. $17.***

New product categories

The pet product market has traditionally been dominated by familiar categories like food, toys, beds and grooming items. However, a wave of innovation is underway, with entrepreneurs creating new product categories that cater to the evolving needs of pet owners. Take pet wipes, for example. Over the last five years, searches for "pet wipes" have grown by 103 percent, and Amazon now offers nearly 300 brands of these moist towelettes designed for cleaning pets after bathroom breaks. While pet wipes are relatively new, their rapid growth shows how pet care is diversifying. Another emerging product is cat toothpaste. While oral hygiene products for pets aren't new either, the growing popularity of specialty products like cat-specific toothpaste is noteworthy. Searches for "cat toothpaste" have risen 71 percent over the last five years.



HOT PICK

Arm & Hammer Fresh Breath Tuna Flavored Cat Dental Kit

Arm & Hammer has been a trusted name in gentle cleaning for 100 years, and they don't make any exceptions when it comes to the health of your four-legged friends. This set makes it easy to support your cat's oral health, whiten and brighten teeth and keep his smile healthy. ***chewy.com. $9.***

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Bougie pet products

Whether it's frozen yogurt for dogs or color-changing cat litter, luxury pet products are becoming more accessible to the mainstream market. One example is Pretty Litter, a premium kitty litter that changes color based on a cat's urine pH levels. This product not only appeals to health-conscious pet owners but also taps into the convenience of subscription-based models, as Pretty Litter is sold exclusively online through a monthly subscription. The brand has gained significant traction, especially among millennials and Gen Z consumers. Similarly, cat enclosures, fenced-in outdoor spaces for cats, have gained popularity as more owners look to safely allow their pets to enjoy the outdoors. Searches for "cat enclosures" have increased by 79 percent over the last decade, and some high-end models can cost upwards of $1,000.



HOT PICK

PrettyLitter Health Monitoring Cat Litter
Made with highly absorbent crystals, this litter traps and eliminates odor without harmful perfumes. Its lightweight design makes it easy to scoop and pour, and it's low dust. Additionally, the litter changes color when it detects health problems like urinary tract infections, bladder inflammation, urinary stones or blood in the urine. ***prettylitter.com. $24.***

Natural pet food

Pet owners increasingly prioritize the health of their pets' food, with 43.6 percent of pet owners saying they care more about the healthiness of their pet's food than their own. Brands like Because Animals, which specializes in organic, omega-3-rich pet treats, are tapping into this demand for natural, high-quality pet food. Searches for Because Animals have grown 500 percent over the past decade, reflecting the broader movement toward natural pet food brands. Other companies, such as Open Farm, We Feed Raw and Lily's Kitchen, are also gaining traction by focusing on organic and sustainable ingredients in their pet foods.

HOT PICK

We Feed Raw Beef Recipe Patty for Dogs
Start your dog on their ancestral diet today, and see positive results in as little as one week. One of the best-selling single-protein recipes, beef is a highly nutritious source of essential amino acids, vitamins and minerals. It is complete and balanced for dogs of all life stages and is formulated by a Ph.D. nutritionist. wefeedraw.com. Prices vary.



Pet insurance

Another area of the pet industry that's seeing significant growth is pet insurance. Searches for "pet insurance" have doubled over the last decade, and the market is expected to continue its rapid expansion. In 2022 the global pet insurance industry was valued at $9.4 billion and is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.04 percent through 2030. Major insurers, including Lemonade, have entered the space in recent years, offering AI-powered pet insurance to meet the growing demand for coverage. Other pet-specific insurers like Healthy Paws and GoPetPlan also capitalize on the trend.

HOT PICK

Lemonade Pet Insurance Preventative Care Plan
The preventative care plan is $16/month for dogs and $10/month for cats, regardless of your pet's age or breed, and covers 90 percent of your wellness bills up to the specified annual limits. lemonade.com. Prices vary.

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Adopt this Pet: Rover

This Catahoula mix is the perfect balance of adventure and relaxation.

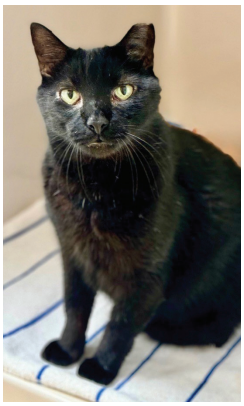


Rover is a 9-year-old Catahoula mix who embodies the spirit of "man's best friend." This affectionate, laid-back gentleman loves long walks, sunbathing and quiet naps. Found as a stray, Rover is housebroken and clearly has experience being part of a loving home. At 73 pounds he's the perfect size for a companion ready to join you on any adventure — event one called "napping." Whether it's exploring Lowcountry trails, relaxing in the yard or simply curling up at your feet after a long day, Rover is always content as long as he's by your side. His playful and gentle demeanor makes him an excellent fit for families, singles or retirees looking for a devoted friend. With Rover every day is sure to be filled with love, loyalty and a touch of adventure.

MORE ABOUT ROVER

Colors: Black/gray/white/tan **Age:** 9 **Weight:** 73 pounds
Likes: Walks, sunbathing and snuggling. **Dislikes:** Early alarms, rainy days and when the snacks run out. **Adopt:** Meet Rover at Hilton Head Humane from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For more information, call ***843-681-8686*** or visit his profile at ***hhhumane.org***.

COOL CAT: Jaden



Jaden, a 6-year-old domestic shorthair with a sleek black coat, is striking. Surrendered to the shelter a year ago, he has charmed his way into the hearts of visitors and feline friends alike. With a charismatic personality, Jaden thrives on his own terms, making him an ideal match for someone who appreciates a pet with a touch of independence. He loves a calm, peaceful environment where his need for quiet moments is respected. While Jaden can be playful and snuggly when the mood strikes, he occasionally channels his "cranky old man" side — especially when young, energetic cats start causing a ruckus around him. If you're looking for a companion who values balance, Jaden might just be your perfect match.

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Style trends for 2025

BY BAILEY GILLIAM

As we look ahead to 2025, local stores and boutiques are offering a preview of the styles and trends set to define the year. From sustainable fabrics and bold color palettes to innovative designs that seamlessly blend comfort with high-fashion, these retailers are leading the way in shaping the local fashion landscape.

We've gathered insights from some of your favorite local shops to highlight the key trends, inspirations and must-have pieces that will take center stage in the coming year.







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Maggie & Me

"2025 is a year of embracing your flaws ... see yourself as the masterpiece you are! Joyfully engage in life's challenges. Find joy in imperfection. Our athleisure room will help you do just that."

– Rebecca Mancini, Maggie & Me



AVAILABLE AT

Forsythe Jewelers

"Trending for 2025 is bolder, chunkier jewelry, reminiscent of the '80s styles. These yellow gold Roberto Coin hoop earrings, chunky link bracelet and necklace represent that era beautifully."

– Rebecca Lovette, Forsythe Jewelers







AVAILABLE AT

Spartina 449

"We're bringing in all the blue stripes in the New Year. The comfortable cotton Lydie Cardigan features a timeless pattern in a custom blue that will be popular this spring. It's that resort look we love while offering versatility in transitional weather."

– Victoria Rogers, Spartina 449

AVAILABLE AT

John Bayley Clothier

"Smart casual continues to be the underlying theme, as more and more people return from remote work to the office. The quarter-zip sweater continues to be an acceptable replacement for the sports coat."

– Jeff Kurtz, John Bayley Clothier



AVAILABLE AT

Outside Hilton Head

"Already planning for women's Fall of 2025, and it will look quite different. The hot color for fall 2025 sounds like a delicious treat. Cranberry, raspberry, huckleberry jam and all like colors in between. Those colors will show up in all the popular outdoor offerings of jackets, fleece, tops and bottoms. What seems old will be new again with Henley tops and high-rise, wide-leg bottoms. Plus, it looks as though the cargo pant will try to make a new showing. Every new season is like opening presents on Christmas! Exciting, fun and fresh."

– Maggie Metheney, Outside Brands







AVAILABLE AT

Eyeland Optique

"There are two trends coming in 2025. The first trend is thin acetate eyewear to match the continued trend into metals. (Think Sophia Loren big!) And the second trend is all shades of green, from deep to neon or radioactive."

– Billy Simmons, Eyeland Optique



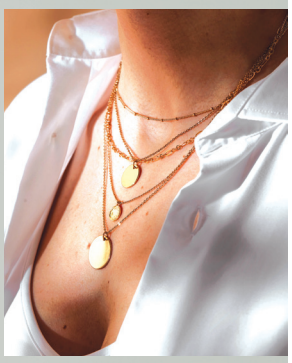
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The Back Door

"When someone begs me to break out my crystal ball and peer into trends that'll storm through next year, I vehemently assert that the same fashion tenets have held strong since the Stone Age. I remind them that, as always, loneliness, lethargy and living on the couch are out, while fast friends, fireside chats and French 75s at dawn will continue to win the day. Any outfit that pushes you out of the house and onto the dance floor is one that deserves its spot in your closet, and naturally The Back Door has more than a few bold pieces designed to do just that."

– Joni Rosser, The Back Door





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Heritage Fine Jewelry

"Layering and wearing multiples will continue to be a big trend in 2025. Stacking bracelets, layering necklaces, wearing multiple rings on each hand or earrings in each ear are great ways to show your individual style."

– Jennifer Lance, Heritage Fine Jewelry



AVAILABLE AT

Evelyn & Arthur

"In 2025 the delight is in the details with clever cutouts, bright colors, tropical prints, chic handbags and statement jewelry."

— Cristy McKenzie, Evelyn & Arthur

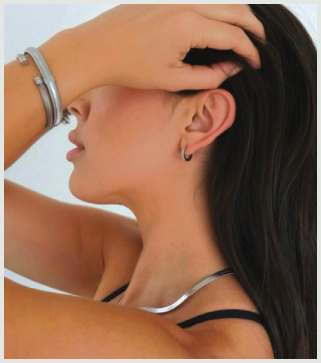


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Island Child

"We are seeing lots of happy colors for a bright new year."

– Senny Powell, Island Child

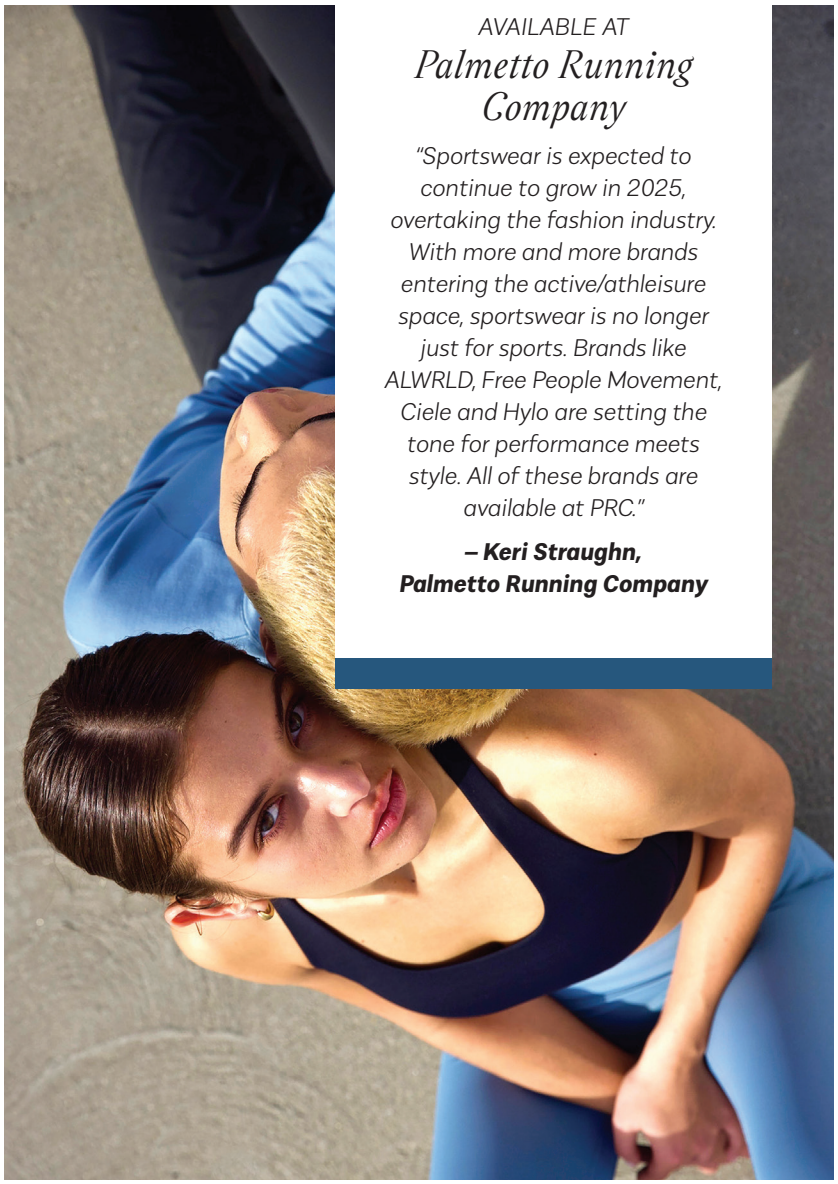


AVAILABLE AT

The Haven Boutique

"Neutrals and silver are going to be on the forefront of 2025 fashion."

– Tracy Moss, The Haven Boutique



AVAILABLE AT

Palmetto Running Company

"Sportswear is expected to continue to grow in 2025, overtaking the fashion industry. With more and more brands entering the active/athleisure space, sportswear is no longer just for sports. Brands like ALWRLD, Free People Movement, Ciele and Hylo are setting the tone for performance meets style. All of these brands are available at PRC."

– Keri Straughn, Palmetto Running Company



AVAILABLE AT

Southern Tide

"What is trending for 2025? You will see women in shorter baby-doll dresses and leaving behind the long maxi dress. 2025 will have a much shorter, more flattering dress for all ages and occasions. A short flutter sleeve, tiered dress with a hint of bold color is on the horizon."

– Sherie Rushing, Southern Tide



AVAILABLE AT

Palmettoes

"A big trend continuing from the fall is the evolution of the shacket for both men and women."

– Dennis Jaworski, Palmettoes



AVAILABLE AT

Brims on the Bluff

"Trending for 2025 that we've seen in the fashion world is mixed patterns. People are loving different colors, textures and patterns together. Corduroy and velvets are also in the top fabrics, while burgundy and blues for colors and prints — definitely cowhide in the lighter tones. It's fun to allow creative styles into the everyday world, and we love seeing the creations our guests are coming up with."

– Lauren Dembeck, Brims on the Bluff

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'We have known **Richard MacDonald** for 10 years since we first moved to Hilton Head. Richard sold our first Hilton Head home in 2017 and was our buyer's agent when we bought our next home. He was also our listing agent on its sale in 2024. We recommend him highly to anyone looking to buy or sell in the area. Richard's knowledge and expertise are both excellent. Richard was always there to help with any requests or questions we had and guided us through the selling process expertly and efficiently. Richard is a pleasure to work with and we will miss his friendship and expertise as we move out of the area. — *Seller, Hilton Head Island, SC*

"We recently had the pleasure of working with **Joey Doyle** from Charter One Realty on the purchase of our vacation property. From start to finish, it was an absolute pleasure! From our initial conversations and throughout the whole process, Mrs. Doyle was professional. She was highly knowledgeable about the local market and made sure we always felt like a priority." — *Buyer, Bluffton, SC*

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Local Love



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An incredibly unique piece, this temple jar features an intricate, hand-painted design of floral decorations and geometric bands.

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HAPPY HOUR

This beautiful Murano-style glassware features a stunning gradient design that is sure to bring a splash of color to your dining table.

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DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

This Royal English Jewelry Box by MacKenzie-Childs is the perfect, elegant place to store all of your precious jewelry and accessories.

Available at Forsythe Jewelers





KICK YOUR FEET UP

Add some sophistication to your space with this cube ottoman by Lexington home.

Available at Coastal Home

FEELING BLUE?

A stunning collection of blue decor to bring a bit of coastal color to your home.



YOUR A STAR

Make a splash this season with a locally made dip bowl featuring an adorable starfish embellishment.

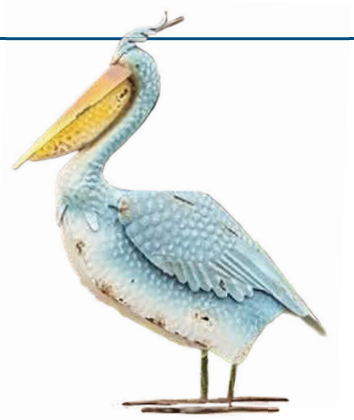
Available at Gifted



PRETTY PATTERN

This oil dispenser is a part of a gorgeous dishware set from Vietri Santorini and features a beautiful navy dotted pattern.

Available at Le Cookery



BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Add a touch of coastal blue to your home with these decorative blue pelicans.

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POUR SOME MORE

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5-MINUTE HISTORY

Hero of two worlds

LAFAYETTE HELPED SECURE AMERICAN FREEDOM AND INSPIRED GENERATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC.

STORY BY RICHARD THOMAS

Richard Thomas is an owner and guide for Hilton Head History Tours and is the author of Backwater Frontier: Beaufort Country, SC, at the Forefront of American History.



GUARDIAN OF LIBERTY A statue of Lafayette stands proudly in the southeast corner of Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C., directly across from the White House.

Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, arrived in Philadelphia in 1777 at the age of 19, eager to join America's fight for independence. Though a young French officer with no combat experience, Lafayette's enthusiasm and willingness to serve without pay impressed George Washington, who quickly became a mentor to him. Lafayette's keen judgment and composure in the field earned him a commission as a Major General in the Continental Army.

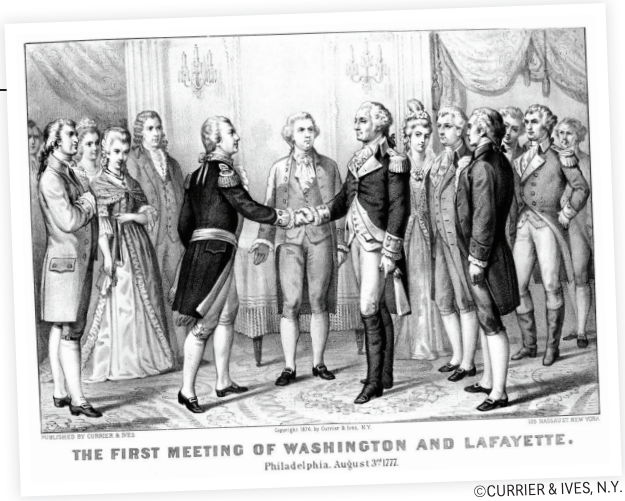
At the September 1777 Battle of Brandywine, Lafayette demonstrated exceptional leadership. Despite being wounded during the British victory, he organized a disciplined retreat that saved the Continental Army from capture. His valor at Brandywine set the tone for his role in the Revolution. During the harsh winter at Valley Forge, Lafayette's bravery and dedication earned him Washington's praise, further cementing their close relationship.

In the Battle of Barren Hill in May 1778, Lafayette again showcased his military acumen by skillfully leading his troops in a strategic retreat, avoiding capture by the British. At the Battle of Rhode Island later that year, his leadership inspired American forces to repel British advances, solidifying his reputation as a key figure in Washington's command.

Lafayette returned to France in 1779, successfully lobbying for vital French support, including troops and naval forces, which proved decisive in the war. During the Yorktown campaign in 1781, Lafayette commanded a division and played a critical role in cutting off British General Cornwallis' escape routes, coordinating with French allies General Rochambeau and Admiral de Grasse. His contributions at Yorktown culminated in Cornwallis's surrender, effectively ending major British military operations in America.

Post-Revolution Lafayette earned the title "Hero of Two Worlds" for his service to both the United States and France. He collaborated with Thomas Jefferson to draft the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen in 1789, advocating liberty and equality during the French Revolution. Although initially a proponent of constitutional monarchy, Lafayette became an enduring champion for liberty and democracy.

In 1824 Lafayette returned to America for his Farewell Tour, an extraordinary journey spanning all 24 states and more than 200 cities. When he visited the Beaufort District, he was met with



©CURRIER & IVES, N.Y.

A REVOLUTIONARY MEETING On August 3, 1777, George Washington met the 19-year-old Marquis de Lafayette, just days after the Continental Congress appointed the young Frenchman as a volunteer Major General in the Continental Army.

heartfelt celebrations and honored as a hero of the Revolution and a symbol of the enduring friendship between France and America. His visit highlighted the region's profound gratitude for French support during the war, particularly the decisive naval assistance that helped secure American independence. Lafayette's legacy continues to inspire, preserved through numerous memorials and the Lafayette Trail, which traces the path of his triumphant tour. *LL*



POSTMARKED FOR HISTORY A 3-cent postage stamp issued in 1952 honored Lafayette's arrival in America, symbolizing his pivotal role in the American Revolution and the enduring friendship between France and the United States.

250 YEARS OF FREEDOM

July 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the Beaufort District's pivotal role in the American Revolution. At the time, the district encompassed all of today's Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties as well as part of Allendale County. To honor Beaufort County's significant contributions to the Revolutionary War, LOCAL Life is partnering with the Beaufort County 250 Committee for a series of articles that will highlight notable figures and key events from 1775 to 1783 and celebrate the courage and determination of the Beaufort District's residents in their fight for freedom from British rule. Numerous anniversary events will commemorate major milestones from the Revolutionary War as they pertain to Beaufort County's history. The first of these celebrations will mark the bicentennial of Lafayette's final visit to America. Beaufort will host this historic observance from March 6–18, ending with a Colonial Ball at Waterfront Park, followed by additional events in Savannah from March 19–21. The Lafayette Bicentennial will pay tribute to Lafayette's remarkable contributions to American liberty, recognizing his vital role as a Continental Army officer and his enduring legacy as a champion of freedom.

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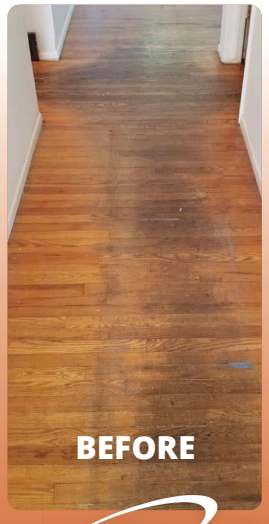
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FEATURED ARTIST



THIS IS NOT: Aldwyth in Retrospect

A SINGULARITY OF VISION

STORY BY CAROLYN MALES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JERRY SIEGEL & KENDALL MESSICK

Once again, I step into the strange, fascinating world of Aldwyth and find myself lost in the labyrinth of the artist's mind. I stand in front of a 6-foot-square collage where a multitude of disembodied eyeballs are peering right back at me. Some are raining down on the vast central oculus, some dripping down off the bottom, others coalescing into frames around famous images like Stonehenge and Man Ray's *Le Violin d'Ingres*. Titled *Casablanca*, the work references the oft-quoted line from that movie, "Here's looking at you, kid." But instead of Bogie, it's the eyes of artists like Degas, Picasso and van Gogh who are doing the observing. And guess who they're looking at...

As in all her collages, Aldwyth has used images clipped from books and other printed materials and pasted them onto sheets of Okawara paper. Dense, complex and always intriguing, each collage explores her ideas about creativity, art history and humanity. It's this same spirit that infuses her bricolages, those 3-D pieces made up of found objects and all kinds of materials she had on hand.

What's more, she punctuates her re-framed vision of the art world with humor. As I stroll through the gallery at the Coastal Discovery Museum, which is hosting her latest exhibition, I find myself laughing out loud. Indeed, this is one show where you'll really want to spend some time at each piece. Rush through, and you'll miss the essence, the unique world view that both disrupts and delights.

In her *Cigar Box Encyclopaedia*, displayed in a row along one wall, she filled 26 of them with cutouts and objects relating to their designated letter. A, for example, reveals oddball juxtapositions: a knight in Armor, playing an Accordion with an Apple pierced by an Arrow balanced on the tip of his helmet, while an Aardvark, Alligator and Armadillos appear at his feet. Then there's the *M* box with its curious quartet of Mona Lisa, Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Marilyn Monroe, along with a Microscope and a real Marble. Above them on the inner lid, an astronaut plants a flag on the Moon, while a guy perched on a Mountain top bends over, drawers around his knees, Mooning the viewer.



Artist with *Casablanca*

©JERRY SIEGEL



Breaking boundaries with boxes

Even the title of the exhibition, *THIS IS NOT: Aldwyth in Retrospect*, plays on the octogenarian artist's wry humor. One of her earlier series of paintings, *This is Not an Egg*, is a take-off on surrealist painter René Magritte's "This is Not a Pipe," in which the item depicted, in this case a pipe, is not actually the thing it represents. Ditto for Aldwyth's egg. This concept that she's playing with is embodied in her bricolage "re-su-mé/re-sume," an anti-resume of sorts, that she'd created to apply for a South Carolina Arts Commission fellowship in 1999. Here the artist demonstrated her out-of-the-box thinking with an unorthodox twist. She encapsulated and compartmentalized paper slips noting prestigious art world milestones like the Venice Biennale or a *New York Times* review that she had NOT achieved. She spiked each non-achievement with pins like taxidermied moths inside hinged wooden boxes, superimposing Xs over them on the glass cover. The judges, who'd required both a work sample and a conventional written resume, did not give her the grant. That, however, turned out to be a good thing.

GALLERY — LOCAL — ORIGINAL ART



"Fleur de Bleu" by Marty Parker

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GO TO YOUR HAPPY PLACES!

Even though the reclusive artist had been rejected, she'd captured the attention of the Commission's visual arts director who suggested her work to Mark Sloan, then director and curator of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art in Charleston. When he ventured down to Hilton Head and entered her small octagonal house at the edge of the marsh, he must have felt as if he were stepping into one of her bricolage pieces. "Every surface was encrusted with cool stuff. Things were dangling from the ceiling and spinning. Then there were these giant collages and wonderful three-dimensional pieces," he recalls. And she had files and files of cut-out pieces organized by subject —arms, legs, animals, figures facing right, figures facing left... He also discovered the house was one large room that she lived and worked in. (She'd removed the walls.) At night she rolled out a foam pad to sleep on and made do with a coffee pot and hot plate. "I think of her as an art monk," he says in awe.

Captivity and escape

The California-born artist had grown up in a Navy family, moving frequently and studying art along the way. But during a dark period dating from an early marriage in 1953 to a man who forbade her "frivolous" art making, especially anything with color, her days were spent as he directed — as wife and full-time mother. In illustration, Sloan, who curated this show and led a tour at its opening, beckons us to view her subversive zebra-patterned needlepoint (a traditional women's craft) stitched "while in captivity." After escaping with her three sons in 1973, she took on various jobs — among them meter maid, real estate agent and courier, delivering artwork to New York for The Red Piano Gallery. Once again, she picked up her paint brushes, later joining The Red Piano's legendary Round Table, a group of artists who met weekly and formed the nucleus of Hilton Head's art colony.

> *Aldwyth turns the art world inside out.*
> — MARK SLOAN, CURATOR

For her watermelon series, composed during that time, she imposed a series of rules about size, structure and line upon the structure of each painting but allowed herself to experiment with color, value and pattern, creating varied compositions within the same parameters. Today it's interesting to see the discipline behind these early pieces and then dive into what at first glance appears to be the wild world of her collages. Now as my eye travels over the expanse of her 2009 large-scale *What's Love Got to do, Got to Do with It?* I note how her placement of objects — nudes from famous paintings and sculptures, classical buildings (i.e. the Parthenon) and modern structures (a bomb shelter), not to mention Dali's Mona Lisa with his trademark mustache and Botticelli's Venus who seems to have traded in her scallop shell for a yellow rubber raft — is really, as Sloan says, a long narrative about what it takes to be a working artist.



Twinkle, Twinkle (Recto Verso)



Watermelon 1975 to 1996

Sloan's tip for deciphering the famous artworks embedded in Aldwyth's work:

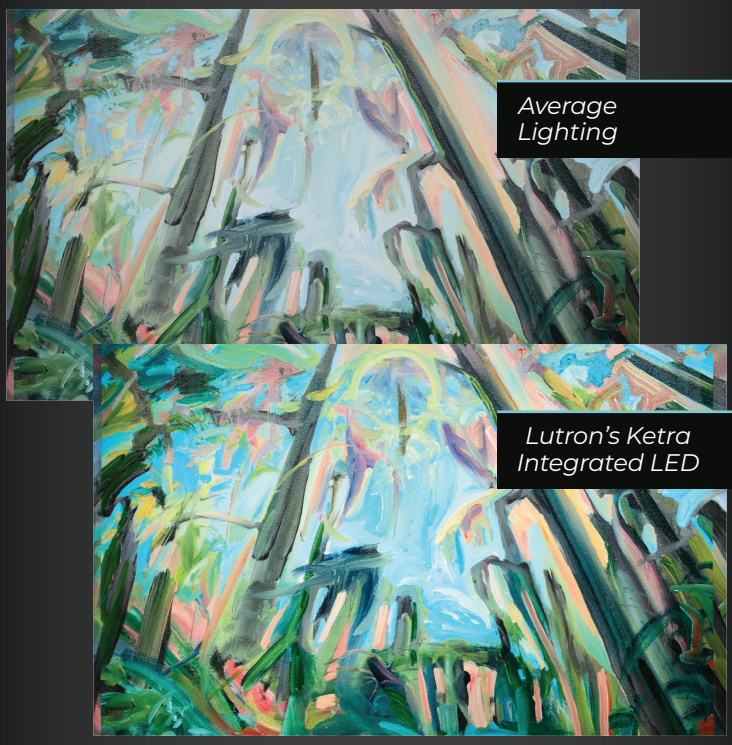
Open Google Lens on your smart phone. Tap the camera icon in the search bar. Then zero in on whatever piece in the collage has piqued your interest. Snap a photo, and Google identifies the subject.



What's Love Got to do, Got to Do with It?

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Older light bulbs have higher UV output than contemporary LED bulbs. **Lutron's Ketra integrated LEDs** emit zero UV and have a long lifespan, making them a safe and convenient option for lighting art. Halogen bulbs produce higher levels of heat and UV rays. If using a halogen bulb, the fixture will require a UV-filtering lens in order to conserve the artwork. Older incandescent bulbs should be avoided altogether. They're bad for the environment, produce a lot of heat, and damage art more severely.

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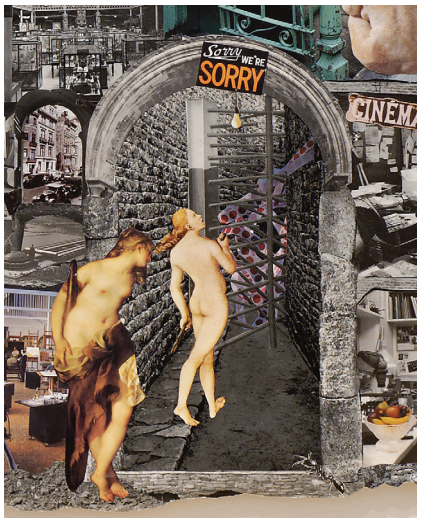
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What's Love Got to do, Got to Do with It? (detail)



Ants!

And what about that black segmented insect that crawls on the edges or settles amid the images in her big collages? Aldwyth sees these *Megaponera foetens*, a kind of stink ant from the rain forests of Cameroon with their sometimes-disrupted life cycle, as her avatar. For as these sub-Saharan foragers munch their way through debris on the forest floor, occasionally one inhales a fungus spore that lodges in its brain, resulting in deviant behavior, with the ant heading skyward up a vine. When it reaches a certain spot, it sinks its mandibles in and dies. But the fungus lives on, sprouting an orange-tipped spike through its host's head and sending down a cascade of spores ready for the next ant to come along and sniff up a spore. As Sloan points out, just as the "spore," the legacy of great artists, has sparked new ideas in her art, Aldwyth hopes her "spore" will spawn new ways of creative thinking in others. LL

See the show

What: THIS IS NOT: Aldwyth in Retrospect
When: Through March 23
Where: Coastal Discovery Museum, Hilton Head Island. coastaldiscovery.org

Unlocking Aldwyth

JOURNEY INTO THE UNUSUAL WORLD OF A UNIQUE LOCAL ARTIST.

Immerse yourself in the world of Aldwyth, a one-of-a-kind artist whose work defies convention and sparks curiosity. From hands-on collage experiences to guided gallery tours and an exclusive documentary screening, the Coastal Discovery Museum offers a variety of events celebrating her creativity and vision. Explore, create and connect with art in new ways. For event details and tickets, visit coastaldiscovery.org, call 843.689.6767, or email info@coastaldiscovery.org.

What: Aldwyth-Inspired Discovery Night
When: 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16
Details: The kick-off for the Creative Collage: A Community Art Experience begins on Discovery Night.

A 20-foot-long piece of Okawara paper, with a collaged border created by curatorial assistant Tori Lusik from recycled materials, stretches across wall of the Coastal Discovery Museum's Sea Island Room. Be among the first to place pieces on this Honey Horn-themed collaborative community project, affixing cutouts of horses, bees, flowers or whatever you've chosen from a table of clipped images. Then create your own collaged cigar box, á la Aldwyth's *Cigar Box Encyclopaedia*, to take home. Tickets are $25.

What: Creative Collage: A Community Art Experience
When: Jan. 17-March 23, during museum hours
Details: Director of exhibitions, Elizabeth Greenberg, invites museum goers to come visit the Aldwyth show and then choose images to add to the community-created collage. Free.

What: Gallery tours
When: 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 25 & 1 p,m., Tuesday, Feb. 25
Details: Learn the stories behind this intriguing artist and her unconventional view of the art world, and discover more about her creative process on curator-led guided tours. Free.

What: Aldwyth Fully Assembled
When: 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11
Details: Come see the PBS documentary *Aldwyth Fully Assembled*, chronicling the one-named artist's creative journey, and meet its award-winning filmmaker Olympia Stone, followed by a Q & A. Drinks and popcorn. Tickets are $10. Free for Coastal Discovery members.



Resumé (open)

Free Beer

Tomorrow. Tomorrow: That always uncircled day on the calendar when one chooses to begin the after-holiday diet, start a daily exercise regime, prepare an outline of the novel that is begging to be released from a sleepless brain.

Tomorrow. Tomorrow: The perfect day to clean and organize the attic, basement, closet, garage and the drawer that exists just to collect junk.

Tomorrow. Tomorrow: A great day to pick up the phone and call Dad to tell him that he might have been right, to call Mom to thank her for everything she did, to call Aunt Gladys and Uncle Charlie to apologize for leaving them off the wedding guest list, to call your family and tell them you love them.

Tomorrow. Tomorrow: The best time to quit drinking, smoking, swearing, snacking between meals.

The sun will come up tomorrow, making it the perfect day to mow the yard, plant some flowers, wash the car, fix the fence, go for a walk.

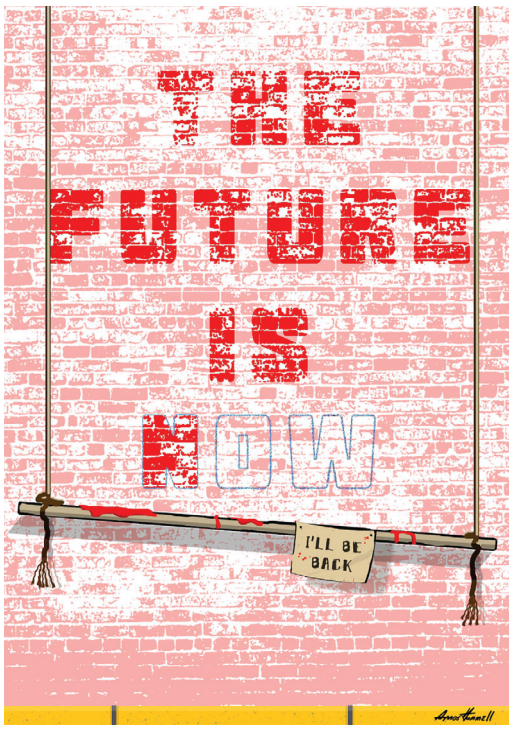
Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of our lives, say the motivational experts. But we know that already. And subconsciously, we are beginning to realize that it may be the last.

The little orphan girl in the red dress says Tomorrow is only a day away. But maybe don't wait for tomorrow. Embrace today.

Because then, tomorrow, you can go to the bar, where the sign over the cash register reads:

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Tomorrow

— Phil Lindsey



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WHAT'S FRESH IN JANUARY?

Turn up for turnips

DISCOVER THE FLAVOR AND NUTRITION OF THIS OVERLOOKED IN-SEASON ROOT.

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM



Turnips are like the underdogs of the vegetable world — often overlooked, yet quietly holding their own with a charming blend of flavor, nutrition and versatility. Think of them as the friend who doesn't get invited to the party but shows up anyway, bringing a dish so good that everyone wonders why they weren't on the guest list to begin with. Whether roasted to crispy perfection, mashed into a creamy sidekick for your main course or tossed into a soup to spice things up, turnips bring a delightful, slightly peppery punch to the table. And don't let their humble exterior fool you — these root veggies are nutritional powerhouses. Packed with vitamins, fiber and antioxidants, they're like the multitasker of the produce aisle, boosting your immune health, aiding digestion and even cheering for your heart health (because turnips, unlike chips, are team players). Oh, and did we mention they're low in calories? That's right — turnips can bring the flavor without making your pants feel snug. So, if you're looking to add some culinary flair with a side of health benefits, keep reading to find out why this underrated root deserves a standing ovation.

LOCAL LIFE TEST KITCHEN

Herb-roasted turnips

Roasted turnips are the ultimate underrated side dish — easy to prepare, incredibly versatile and bursting with flavor. When roasted, these humble root vegetables transform into golden, caramelized bites with a subtly sweet and earthy taste, complemented by the savory blend of garlic, thyme and a touch of paprika. Whether you're looking for a healthy alternative to potatoes or just want to add some variety to your table, this recipe is a perfect choice.

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 pounds turnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon dried thyme (or fresh, if available)
1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
Fresh parsley, chopped (for garnish)

DIRECTIONS [1] Heat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper, or lightly grease it with olive oil. **[2]** Peel the turnips and cut them into 1-inch pieces. Place the pieces in a large mixing bowl. **[3]** Drizzle the olive oil over the turnips. Add garlic powder, thyme, smoked paprika, salt and black pepper. Toss well to ensure all the turnips are evenly coated. **[4]** Spread the seasoned turnips in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet. Make sure the pieces aren't overcrowded, to allow them to roast evenly. **[5]** Roast in oven for 25–30 minutes, flipping the turnips halfway through, until they are golden brown and tender. **[6]** Transfer the roasted turnips to a serving plate. Sprinkle with freshly chopped parsley for a pop of color and added freshness. Serve warm as a side dish to your favorite main course. ***Pro tip:*** *For even crispier turnips, finish with a quick broil for 1–2 minutes at the end of roasting.*





SALAD TO SAVOR To make a refreshing turnip salad, start with thinly sliced raw turnips for a crisp, slightly spicy base. Toss them with a mix of fresh greens like lettuce, radicchio and frisée, and add thinly sliced red onions for a touch of sharpness. For the dressing, whisk together olive oil, freshly squeezed lemon juice, salt and pepper, then drizzle it over the salad. Sprinkle with a handful of toasted almonds for crunch, and serve immediately.

Rooted in wellness

Turnips are so healthy, they might make kale jealous. Packed with vitamin C, folate, phosphorus and calcium, plus turnip greens boasting vitamins K, A and folate, they're like edible multivitamins. Loaded with glucosinolates and flavonoids, turnips offer anticancer, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial benefits. Studies suggest they help regulate blood sugar, manage weight and support liver health. With high fiber and low calories, they're a guilt-free digestive hero. Basically, eating a turnip is a health mic drop.



Harvesting happiness

Turnips are the Goldilocks of the vegetable world — they thrive in the cool embrace of spring and fall but throw a tantrum in hot summer weather. These independent little guys insist on being seeded directly into the ground and are eager overachievers, germinating in just a few days. To keep them happy, plant seeds 1/4–1/2 inch deep, 1 inch apart, and give them plenty of breathing room, with rows spaced 12–18 inches apart. Shower them with consistent water, tuck them in with a cozy mulch blanket, and voilà — within a month, you'll have greens ready to snip. By the second month their roots will be plump, proud and ready to make their grand exit from the soil.





Don't get bitter

Unlike their root veggie cousins, turnips don't exactly age like fine wine — they can go from sweet and tender to bitter and woody faster than you can say "soup pot." To snag the perfect turnip at the market, look for brightly colored bulbs with creamy, smooth skin and a violet ring around the top. Baby turnips, the ambitious little siblings, may skip the violet ring altogether and look like oversized spring radishes. Leafy tops still attached? Bonus points for freshness! But don't stress if they're sold topless — just avoid ones with wrinkled or shriveled skin (nobody wants a raisin turnip). When it comes to firmness, aim for heavy, blemish-free bulbs. Young turnips are small, sweet and perfect for eating raw or tossing into salads, while their older, larger relatives develop tougher skins, a stronger flavor and a slightly bitter edge. Peel those mature turnips, and they'll shine in hearty dishes like mashed sides, soups or stews. Whether young and fresh or seasoned and sturdy, there's a perfect turnip for every dish.



Storage made simple

If you've bought bunched turnips, the first order of business is to decapitate them — gently, of course. Leaving the tops on is a rookie mistake, as those leafy freeloaders will drain the root's moisture faster than the Lowcountry sun dries up a tidal creek at low tide. Store the bulbs loosely wrapped in the fridge's crisper drawer, or give them a cozy spot in a root cellar. For peak sweetness, use them within a few days, but if you're feeling patient (or forgetful), they can last for months with proper care. Planning to freeze them? Get ready for some turnip prep magic: peel, wash, chop into 1/2-inch cubes, blanch for 3 minutes, cool in a cold-water bath and drain. Then pack them up, label like a pro, and freeze for the future. As for those greens, wrap them in a paper towel, bag them up, and pop them in the fridge for a day or two.



From sinuses to salads

Turnips' slight spiciness is like horseradish on its best behavior — less of a punch, more of a playful tickle in your sinuses. Their flavor sits snugly between potato and radish, making them ideal team players in root vegetable mashups or bold flavor pairings (ginger and turnip? A culinary dream duo). Older turnips may surprise you with a mustardy kick, but a little heat transforms that boldness into mellow perfection. If you're feeling unsure about turnips, just think of them as potatoes' eccentric cousins. Mashed turnips? Absolutely! But here's their showstopper moment: they're delicious raw. Embrace your inner radish fan, and slice baby turnips into wedges for crudités, toss them into salads for a crisp, peppery twist, or drizzle them with dressing for an effortlessly fancy snack. Most turnips, though, prefer to bask in the warmth of the kitchen. Roast them for a caramelized sweetness that could rival your dessert, mash them for a comforting side dish, or slice them into sticks and bake for a smugly healthy take on fries. Don't forget about the greens — turnip tops sauté beautifully in butter or oil, bringing the charm of mustard or beet greens with a bit of extra attitude. If they taste too bitter, a touch of acid, fat or sugar— or a quick blanch — will bring them into balance. LL



CALLAWASSIE ISLAND

Rich potato turnip soup

This hearty and elegant soup, courtesy of the talented culinary team at Callawassie Island, brings the flavors of the Lowcountry right to your table. Combining creamy potatoes and subtly sweet turnips, it's a dish that's as comforting as it is refined. Infused with thyme and a touch of garlic, this velvety soup is elevated with crispy crumbled bacon and a drizzle of olive or truffle oil for a luxurious finish. Perfect for chilly evenings or impressing guests, this Lowcountry-inspired creation is truly a warm hug in every spoonful. Serve it with crusty bread and a glass of wine for an unforgettable meal.

INGREDIENTS

1 1/4 lb medium turnips, peeled & chopped
1 1/4 lb Russet potatoes, peeled & chopped
1 medium-sized yellow onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
*2 **thyme** sprigs*
4 cups chicken stock
1 teaspoon kosher salt
3/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 cup heavy cream
6 thick-cut bacon slices
Olive oil or truffle oil



DIRECTIONS [1] Combine stock, turnips, potatoes, onion, garlic, thyme sprigs, salt and pepper in a large pot. Simmer until vegetables are very soft. Remove and discard thyme sprigs. Add cream, and process soup using an immersion blender until smooth. **[2]** Before serving, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Drain bacon on paper towels, reserving drippings in pan. **[3]** Crumble bacon. Serve soup topped with bacon, olive oil or truffle oil. Cracked black pepper is also a nice addition.

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RECIPES OF THE MONTH



Local flavor

DISCOVER THE SECRETS TO COOKING WELL

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM

As we ring in the New Year, resolutions are front and center — whether it's eating healthier, saving money or finally learning to cook without setting off the smoke alarm. Add to that the cooler weather, and it's the perfect time to get cozy in the kitchen and embrace your culinary side. From hearty chowders and smart storage tips to indulgent recipes that still keep your goals on track, we've got you covered, with expert advice from local chefs and creative ideas to make this your most delicious year yet.





THE SEA PINES RESORT

Lowcountry Crab Chowder

Kick off the new year with a bowl of coastal comfort. This Lowcountry crab chowder from chef ***Michael Porter***, resort chef de cuisine at The Sea Pines Resort, is the perfect way to warm up on chilly January days. Packed with jumbo lump crab meat, tender potatoes and a creamy blend of Lowcountry flavors, it's a recipe that feels like a hug in a bowl. Whether you're hosting friends or just treating yourself, this chowder is guaranteed to impress. So grab your apron and let the aroma of Old Bay, garlic and simmering crab turn your kitchen into a seaside escape.

INGREDIENTS

1 medium onion, diced
3 ribs celery, diced
8 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups fresh or frozen corn kernels
1 cup cooked jasmine rice
2 cups heavy cream
2 cups clam juice
*2 dried **bay leaves***
1 tablespoon dry thyme
2 tablespoons Old Bay
2 tablespoons Worcestershire
2 tablespoons hot sauce
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
4-6 baby red potatoes, diced
1 can jumbo lump crab meat
Salt and pepper, to taste
Bacon bits and chives, for garnish



DIRECTIONS **[1]** Heat a large pot over medium heat and add oil and butter. Add garlic, half the onion and celery. Sauté until onions and celery soften, about 5 minutes. **[2]** Add clam juice and heavy cream, and stir until mixed. Add dry herbs, Worcestershire, hot sauce, Old Bay, salt and pepper. **[3]** Add cooked rice and bring to a boil for 8 minutes. **[4]** Blend chowder in a blender until fully incorporated. Once blended, add potatoes, corn and the other half of the onions and celery. Bring to a boil until potatoes are soft, about 10 minutes. **[5]** Garnish with crab meat, bacon and chives.



Cracking the code

DELICIOUS WAYS TO COOK WITH CRABS

Crabs are a Lowcountry favorite, and for good reason — they're versatile, flavorful and perfect for everything from casual meals to gourmet dishes. If you're lucky enough to have some fresh crab on hand, here are a few delicious ways to cook with them.

Steam it up: Steaming is one of the simplest and most popular methods for cooking crabs. Add Old Bay seasoning, lemon and a splash of vinegar to your steam pot for maximum flavor. Pair with melted butter or cocktail sauce for a classic feast.

Toss in pasta: Turn crab into a decadent pasta dish. Toss lump crab meat with linguine, garlic, olive oil and a squeeze of lemon. Top with fresh parsley and Parmesan for an elegant meal.

Roll into sushi: Crab is a star in sushi rolls like the classic California Roll. Use imitation or real crab to create a delicious combination of crab, avocado and cucumber wrapped in rice and nori.

Stir into salads: Fresh crab meat adds luxury to any salad. Toss it with greens, avocado and a citrus vinaigrette, or go retro with a chilled crab Louie salad.

Try a boil or bake: A crab boil is a Southern staple. Boil crabs with corn, potatoes and sausage for a communal feast. Or bake stuffed crabs with breadcrumbs, herbs and cheese for a rich treat.

Experiment with international flavors: Crab pairs beautifully with spices and sauces. Make Singaporean chili crab, Thai crab curry or Indian spiced crab for a global twist on your seafood.

Make a classic crab cake: Mix lump crab meat with breadcrumbs, mayo, mustard and seasonings, then pan-fry to golden perfection. Serve with tartar sauce or a zesty aioli for a satisfying bite.



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CHEF'S FAVORITE THINGS

We asked local chefs their favorite winter ingredients:



CHARBAR CO.
"I love using grapefruit wherever I can because I can pick them locally."
– Chef Tim Nelson





POSEIDON
"Black Arkansas apples play a pivotal role in the winter season whether you're making apple strudel, stuffed french toast or a warm spiced wassail."
– Chef Alan Ford

SKULL CREEK DOCKSIDE
"I really like using blood oranges from Sicily. They have a sweet flavor that is perfect for salads, as well as paired with winter gamey meats such as duck and lamb. Because they have a high juice content, they are easy to use when making dressings or even when cooked into sauces."
– Chef Alecia Angioletti





SIGNATURE CATERING & EVENTS
"Freshly ground nutmeg is my spice of choice for winter. It adds life to butternut squash bisque, it's the perfect scent to warm pumpkin bread, and you can't go wrong with a dash of freshly ground nutmeg on top of hot cocoa."
– Chef Andy Borgmeier

WISEGUYS
"Butternut squash is my favorite vegetable of all time. I use it roasted with honey or maple as a standalone side, a purée for pork, as a base for chicken curry or my favorite shrimp and champagne butternut bisque with roasted nuts; there are loads of applications."
– Chef Craig de Villiers





ONE HOT MAMA'S
"Cranberries. They have a bright color and nice tart acidity balanced by slight sweetness if simmered with sugar and can be used in so many applications like relish, preserves, chutney and craft cocktail garnishes."
– Chef Orchid Paulmeier

FRANKIE BONES
"The height of blood orange season is the winter. I love the brightness and color they bring to a dish, and a fresh citrus pop is welcome in a season known for heavy foods."
– Chef Matt Fedun



ASK THE CHEF

Question:

Dear chef, every time I use a hand mixer, I end up splattering my kitchen with whatever I'm mixing. What am I doing wrong?



Answer:

"You want to keep your hand mixer level with the ground at all times. Don't tilt it, or your sauces will end up everywhere."

– Chef Josh Castillo, Charlie's Coastal Bistro

EIGHT TIPS FOR A SMOOTH MIXING EXPERIENCE

A hand mixer is a trusty sidekick for any home cook, but without the right techniques, it can quickly turn your kitchen into a splattered mess. Whether you're whipping up fluffy cake batter or kneading dough, these simple tips will help you mix like a pro — minus the cleanup drama.

1. Start slow, then go: Always begin at a low speed and gradually increase to the desired setting. This keeps your ingredients in the bowl—and off your walls. The speed you use will depend on the recipe, so check the instructions for guidance. **2. Choose the right tool for the job:** Use the proper attachment for your task. Flat beaters are great for creaming butter or mixing cake batter, while dough hooks are perfect for kneading. Using the wrong attachment can affect your results and your mixer's performance. **3. Secure your bowl:** Keep your mixing bowl in place by setting it on a damp towel twisted into a ring. This simple trick prevents the bowl from sliding or spinning during use. **4. Scrape often:** To ensure all your ingredients are properly combined, pause occasionally to scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl with a spatula. No one likes a pocket of unmixed flour! **5. Add gradually, mix cleanly:** Avoid splatters by turning off the mixer when adding ingredients. Gradually incorporate them before restarting at a low speed. This keeps your countertops cleaner and your batter consistent. **6. Keep an eye on texture:** Monitor your batter or dough as you mix. You're aiming for the desired consistency — smooth, creamy or lightly aerated, depending on the recipe. Stop mixing once you hit perfection to avoid overmixing. **7. Have an exit strategy:** When you're done lift the beaters out of the batter carefully, keeping them below the rim of the bowl to prevent splatter. Give them a quick spin above the bowl before removing to minimize dripping. **8. Finish with precision:** For recipes requiring delicate folding (like whipped cream or meringue), switch to a spatula for the final steps. This preserves texture and ensures even mixing.



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SECRET INGREDIENT

Savoursmiths Crisps

Everyone loves a good chip, but how often do we think of using them as more than just a snack? Enter Savoursmiths, a luxurious British brand redefining the humble potato chip (or "crisp," as they say across the pond). Now available at ***Honey & Thistle***, a British lifestyle shop and wine-tasting room in Harbour Town, these chips are anything but ordinary, boasting indulgent, skin-on potatoes and unashamedly bold flavors.

"What we love about Savoursmiths is that in Britain they use all real ingredients – they're the most flavorful chips I've ever had," said Honey & Thistle co-owner Ginevra Boyes. "They're all the taste with none of the filler. They're naturally gluten-free, MSG-free and non-GMO."

Savoursmiths' commitment to quality shines in every bite. Each crisp is crafted from the family's home-grown British potatoes, hand-picked and small-batch cooked. Its farm-to-table philosophy keeps the skin on to retain nutrients, while all-natural flavorings ensure a pure, authentic taste.

Looking to elevate your snack game? Honey & Thistle's wine steward and certified champagne specialist suggests pairing Savoursmiths Truffle & Rosemary Potato Crisps with Bochet Lemoine Brut Champagne, also available in-store. These crisps aren't just for snacking — they're perfect for charcuterie boards or even indulgent recipes.



CRAVE THE CRISPS Savoursmiths Crisps bring bold flavors and gourmet quality to every bite, perfect for snacking or elevating your favorite recipes.



SAVOURSMITHS

Truffled Spinach and Ricotta Ravioli with Truffle and Rosemary Crisps

This recipe from Savoursmiths gives ravioli a crunchy coating of bold Truffle & Rosemary Potato Crisps, putting a gourmet twist on a comfort-food favorite. Perfect as an appetizer or indulgent main, it's a delicious way to rethink crisps. For more creative uses of Savoursmiths' luxurious flavors, visit savoursmiths.com. Pick up a bag (or bags) at Honey & Thistle in Sea Pines.

INGREDIENTS

Sunflower oil
2 eggs, beaten with a fork
2 (18-ounce) packages of fresh spinach & ricotta ravioli
1 1/2 cups Truffle and Rosemary Potato Crisps, bashed to really fine crumbs
2 tablespoons truffle oil
1/2 cup Parmesan, grated

DIRECTIONS [1] Fill a large, deep saucepan 1/3 full with oil, and heat it until it reaches about 350 degrees. Use a thermometer to check. **[2]** While the oil is heating, put the egg in a bowl, and spread the chip crumbs on a tray. A few at a time, dunk the ravioli in the egg, shake off the excess, then drop into the crisp crumbs to coat. Coat all the ravioli, then get another tray and line it with paper towels. **[3]** About 8 at a time, lower the ravioli into the oil on a slotted spoon and fry for 1-2 minutes, turning until golden and puffed. Lift the fried ravioli onto the paper-lined tray to drain, and continue frying in batches until they are all done. Drain the last batch on the paper, and use more paper to pat the tops so they're really dry. Tip the hot ravioli onto a big plate or platter, drizzle with the truffle oil, then quickly sprinkle with the grated Parmesan, and carefully toss to coat.

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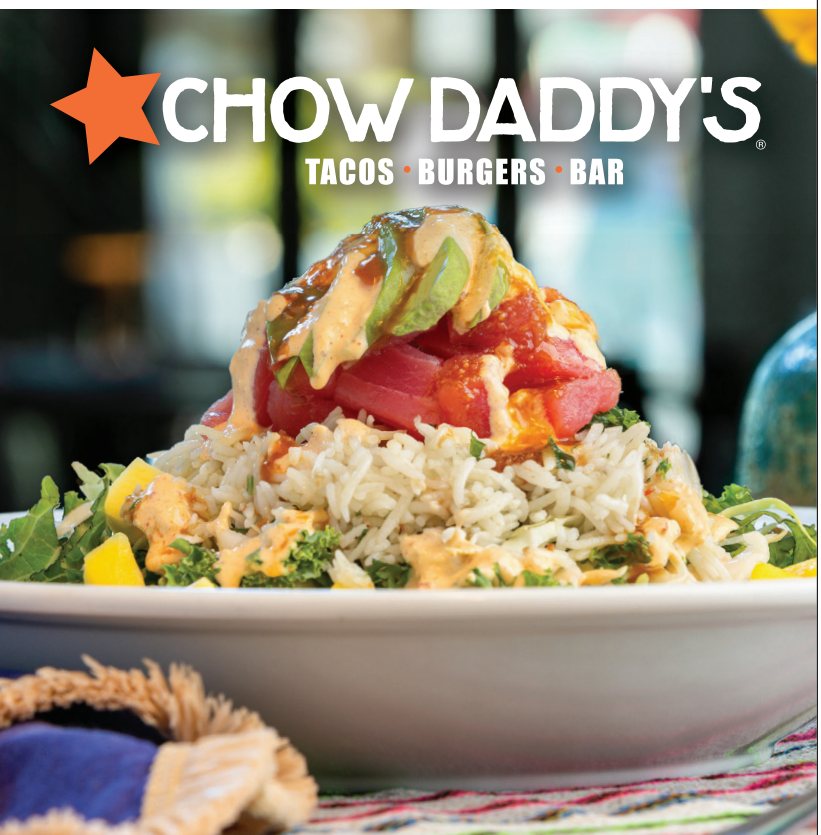
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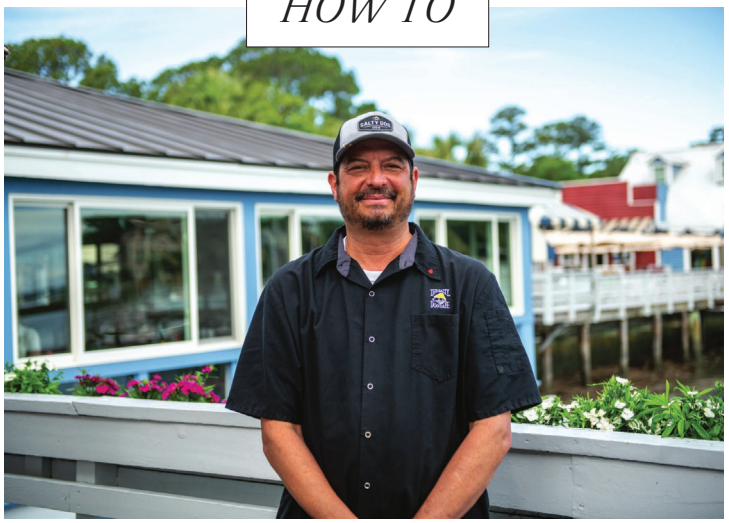
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



HOW TO



Cook fish

Living in the Lowcountry requires one to develop a taste for seafood. But cooking it can be tricky, especially when it comes to delicate fish. Luckily, we live near some of the best seafood chefs in the Southeast. Salty Dog Cafe chef ***Herb Britton*** let us in on some of the best tricks and tips to avoid overcooking delicate fish.



Match the method to the fish

1. "Know the type and thickness of the fish you are cooking," said Chef Britton. Different types of fish are better for different cooking methods. For example, fatty fish like salmon are good for pan-searing and roasting, while lean fish like sea bass are good for grilling and broiling.



Master the perfect cooking temperature

2. The temperature is another important element in cooking fish. "Use a medium heat so as not to dry out the outside and undercook the inside," said the chef. Cooking at a lower temperature also allows for more opportunities to check the fish for doneness. Slow and steady wins the race.



The thermometer trick for perfect fish

3. When checking for doneness, the best way is to use a thermometer. "The internal temperature for fish is about 140 degrees if using a thermometer," said Chef Britton.



Flaking and transparency: Signs of doneness

4. "Look for the fish to start flaking and not be translucent," said the chef. The fish is fully cooked when opaque, flakes apart easily with a fork and feels firm. The desired color depends on the fish. For instance, salmon should be a light pink color when cooked, while cod or haddock should have a white or off-white color. You can also tell if the fish is done by gently pressing down on the top of the fish with a fork. If it feels firm to the touch, the fish is done. If it still feels soft or mushy, it needs to cook for a bit longer.



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GUIDE

Maximize your meals

CHEF-APPROVED TIPS TO CUT FOOD WASTE

In today's world, where food prices are rising and sustainability is becoming more important than ever, reducing food waste has become a priority for many households. Professionals in the culinary world are leading by example, finding creative ways to minimize waste in their kitchens, both at work and at home. From proper storage techniques to transforming leftovers into new meals, here are some valuable tips from two experienced chefs, the director of culinary operations for Michael Anthony's Cucina Italiana, Chef William Overacre, and Holy Tequila's Chef Michael Beeler. Even the most inexperienced home cook can incorporate these values in their kitchens.



1. Proper storage and rotation

Chef Overacre emphasizes the importance of proper food storage and rotation. "I buy in bulk when products are on sale and portion them into reasonable quantities for the household," he says. For example, when buying bulk ground beef, Overacre portions it into 1-pound bags and freezes them, ensuring the meat doesn't go to waste before it's used. Proper rotation, or using the oldest items first, is key to ensuring perishables stay fresh for as long as possible.

2. Turn leftovers into new meals

One of the biggest culprits of food waste is leftover food, often due to cooking too much or overbuying. Chef Beeler, a father of five, explains that in his house they like to re-purpose leftovers into new meals. "If we have leftover protein or vegetables, we turn them into simple dishes like a protein-packed grilled cheese, tacos or sandwiches for lunch," he shares. If leftovers aren't immediately used, Beeler freezes them for future meals so that the effort put into cooking one meal pays off later, with minimal waste.





3. Make the most of expiring produce

Fresh produce, especially fruits and vegetables, tends to spoil quickly. But rather than throwing away what's left, both chefs recommend creative ways to extend their shelf life. Chef Overacre makes "refrigerator soup," a dish that re-purposes wilting or overripe vegetables. These ingredients are simmered together to create a delicious batch of soup, which can then be portioned into containers and frozen for later use. Chef Beeler also makes soup when he has excess produce that's nearing the end of its life. "I joke that we're having 'kitchen sink soup' tonight," he says. This flexible recipe allows him to throw in whatever vegetables are available, along with some stock and protein, creating a hearty and waste-free meal. Beeler also recommends small, frequent grocery trips to avoid overbuying perishables and to ensure that ingredients are used while still fresh.

4. Use every bit of food

Food scraps don't need to be in the trash, either. Chef Overacre freezes vegetable scraps and chicken bones to make homemade stock. "Waste not, want not," he says, underlining the importance of using every part of the ingredients you purchase. Similarly, old bread doesn't have to be thrown away — it can be toasted and turned into breadcrumbs for breading meats or used to thicken soups.

5. Learn new techniques

Both chefs emphasize the importance of creativity in reducing food waste. Chef Beeler suggests experimenting with new techniques like pickling, canning or making stock from frozen veggie scraps. He also points out the value of looking up recipes online when you have excess ingredients. "Google is a great resource when you're not sure what to do with, say, six bell peppers," he notes. For Beeler, the lessons learned in the kitchen revolve around the wisdom passed down from generations. "Grandma figured it all out after years of cooking creatively with what she had," he reflects. Over time, these food-saving practices become second nature, allowing families to reduce waste while enjoying tasty and inventive meals. *LL*





RESTAURANT news&notes

FRESH FOOD + NOW OPEN + HOT PRODUCTS



Now open: Agave Azul

Ridgeland just got spicier! Agave Azul Tacos & Tequila, owned by Tony Vera of Agave Mexican Grill in Port Royal, is now open in Riverwalk Business Park. The menu includes Mexican classics like burritos, quesadillas, tacos and seafood, but the real star is the Molcajete Cielo. This sizzling feast for two combines grilled carne asada, Mexican sausage, chicken, cactus, camarones al mojo and more in a volcanic stone bowl. Pair it with live music and good vibes — check its Facebook for details. Stretchy pants optional.



Trick-or-treat on tap

Lot 9 Brewing Company just dropped the mic — or rather, the mug — on its annual post-Halloween candy-infused beer poll, where fans voted on which candy deserves the honor of becoming a sweet-tooth lover's brew. The contenders? The tangy Smarties Sour, the nostalgia-inducing Candy Corn Blonde and the unapologetically indulgent Coconut Mounds Bar Porter. The winner? The Mounds Bar Porter, proving once and for all that chocolate and coconut are a power couple not to be messed with. But wait, it gets sweeter. Lot 9 asked patrons to donate their leftover candy bars for the cause, with the top donors scoring a brew day with the master brewer. Imagine explaining that to your dentist. Keep an eye on Lot 9 Brewing Company's Facebook page for the release date of this decadent creation.



In loving memory

The community mourns the loss of Branco Raiac, the beloved chef and owner of Flora's Italian Café, who died Nov. 27. Throughout the 20-plus years he served the community, his dedication touched many lives, and many patrons became lifelong friends. Branco was born in Romania and showed an interest in all things culinary from an early age. He started working in kitchens at the age of 14. He honed his culinary skills in Romania while learning the Italian language and art of cooking from visiting Italians. Branco met the love of his life, Flora, in school. When they moved to the U.S. with two young children, he continued perfecting his art. He and Flora owned a successful restaurant in Clufton, New Jersey, for 10 years before moving to Hilton Head. All will miss his quick smile and warm hospitality.

By LAND & by SEA

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South End Seafood gets saucy



South End Seafood isn't just about fresh catches — it's diving into the sauce game. *Swing by its new location at 2 Greenwood Drive on Hilton Head to grab a jar (or three) of its signature creations. Whether it's the zesty Sweet Pepper Apple Relish, the tangy-sweet Carolina Peach Chutney or the tropical vibes of Mango Chutney, these sauces are guaranteed to turn your meals into a flavor fiesta.* ***southendseafood.com****.*



Pinkies up: Afternoon tea is back

Good news, tea lovers — The Cottage Café, Bakery and Tea Room in Old Town Bluffton is bringing back its beloved afternoon tea experience. *Whether you're planning a special celebration, catching up with friends or just pretending you're in a Jane Austen novel for the day, this is the perfect excuse to sip, snack and savor. With over 99 teas from which to choose, there's something for every tea aficionado — from classic English favorites to greens, whites, flavored blacks and herbal blends. Pair your tea with freshly baked treats, and you'll feel like royalty. Reserve your spot at* ***thecottagebluffton.com****.*

Grooby's Too moving to Ridgeland

Big news for deli and bar enthusiasts: Grooby's Too is packing up its signature sandwiches and cocktails and heading to Ridgeland. *After three delicious years in Bluffton, the New York-style deli and bar closed in late October, but owner Stacy Gruber isn't throwing in the towel (or the napkins). The new location at 48 Terrace Drive is set to open within six months. Fans of Grooby's Too can rest easy — your favorite sausage, egg, and cheese on a homemade cheddar biscuit will be back, along with its classic menu. And it's not just about the food; the new space will double as a bar, featuring cocktails, trivia nights, karaoke and other events that'll keep the good times rolling. Follow its Facebook to track progress.*

Moss Creek Village Spirits & Wine parking improved



Big news for wine and whiskey enthusiasts: Moss Creek Village Spirits & Wine has made a bold move ... across the parking lot. *That's right, they've set up shop at 1541 Fording Island Road, Suite 3, in the same shopping center, but with a location promising better accessibility and parking. Now you can snag your favorite bottle without circling the lot like it's a Black Friday sale. Cheers to convenience and top-notch libations! Check it out at mosscreekvillagespiritsandwine.com, or swing by to pick up one of its cute mini sip sets. Each set comes with two mini bottles with a recipe card so you can create your own specialty drinks.*

Try these!

FRESH FINDS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Sticking to your New Year's resolutions has never been this delicious. These fresh, healthy dishes are here to keep your taste buds happy and your goals on track!



ANTS ON A LOG REVAMPED

Who says food trucks can't be fancy? ***SlapTruck's*** Giant Tunisian Ants on a Log is childhood nostalgia with a gourmet twist. Think celery stick on steroids, loaded with Tunisian hummus, harissa, olive-infused feta, pickled sultanas and pistachio-cinnamon pita crunch. It's celery, but made chic.

THAT'S A WRAP

Corner Perk is serving up lunchtime goals with its chicken caprese wrap. Packed with chicken, pesto, avocado, romaine, tomatoes, feta and balsamic dressing, it's like a little Italian vacation — wrapped up and ready to go.





BOUNTIES OF THE SEA

Craving seafood? Dive into ***Red Fish's*** blackened scallops with coconut moilee curry, green peas, spiced veggies and a chili oil drizzle. It's so good, you might forget it's healthy.

BEETS ME

Meet your new favorite salad: The beet salad at ***Alfred's Restaurant***. Beets, spinach, mandarins, tomatoes and candied spiced walnuts, all tied together with a tangy mandarin vinaigrette. Even beet skeptics will be saying, "Where have you been all my life?"





HOOKED ON FLAVOR

Breakwater Restaurant & Bar's seared tuna isn't just a dish — it's an experience. Harissa veggies, baby bok choy, shiitake mushrooms and a dreamy tahini-lemon yogurt drizzle make this a tuna you won't soon forget.

GREEN MACHINE

Looking for a salad that doesn't feel like a punishment? Try ***Kung Fu Cantina's*** Kung Fu salad, a crunchy medley of teriyaki chicken, mandarin oranges, strawberries, sesame seeds and wonton strips, all drizzled with sesame vinaigrette. Crunchy, tangy and oh-so-satisfying.



Rise & Grind.



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The South Island Dine Around Passport is back

Attention, restaurant lovers! The South Island Dine Around Passport is back at SERG Restaurant Group, and it's your ultimate ticket to savoring the Lowcountry's finest flavors while saving big.



Here's how it works: now through Feb. 28, pick up your passport at any participating south-end SERG restaurant, and enjoy half off an entrée when you purchase another. Hot spots include The Black Marlin, Poseidon, One Hot Mama's, Charbar Co. and Nectar, now serving up goodness in its shiny new spot at South Island Square. Each time you dine, collect a stamp on your passport. Gather five stamps, and you'll be entered to win a $500 SERG gift card. That's enough for endless seafood, burgers, and whatever else makes your taste buds sing. Visit ***serggroup.com*** *for more details.*

Hardee Greens opens Hardeeville location

Looking to level up your salads or add some zing to your cooking? Meet Hardee Greens, the local vertical farm that's changing the game with pesticide-free, herbicide-free, guilt-free greens and herbs. *It just sprouted a new location at 45 Randall St. in Hardeeville, so now it's even easier to get your hands on the freshest produce around. Whether you're crafting a masterpiece salad or just trying to pretend you're into kale, Hardee Greens has you covered. Visit hardeegreens.com and get ready to taste the farm-to-table difference.*

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Local Pie launched a new menu.

Top Dawg Tavern & Pizzeria added calzones and strombolis to its menu.

Healthy Habit has a new catering menu.

Southern Barrel Brewing Company has a new menu.

Main Street Island Pub announced a new menu is in the works.

MILESTONES WORTH CELEBRATING

Reilley's Grill & Bar celebrated 42 years of business.

GT International Cafe has been open for seven years.

The ***Southern Peel*** turned 4.

Quick Bites

NUGGETS FROM THE LOCAL FOOD & BEVERAGE SCENE

A new sushi and ***hibachi restaurant*** is opening next to Gr8 Bites in Northridge Plaza.

Lucky Beach Bar + Kitchen and ***The Dunes House*** are closed for the season and will reopen in the spring.

Lemon Island Seafood, The Kitchen and SliderBar Bluffton are now available via DoorDash.

Healthy Habit partnered with ***Pulseology Fitness Club*** so you can start a wellness journey with personalized nutrition and cutting-edge fitness all under one roof.

Cafe Al Dente Takeout Kitchen is now on GrubHub, Cool Delivery and DoorDash.

GIVING BACK

During Souper November, ***The Salty Dog*** sold 3,516 cups/bowls of soup, resulting in 3,516 cans of nonperishable food items donated to The Deep Well Project.

Michael Anthony's Cucina Italiana sponsored a four-course charity wine dinner, "An Evening in Piedmont," benefiting Safe Harbour, a local nonprofit, to the tune of $3,000.

SERG Restaurant Group donated $1,000 to the Susan G. Komen Foundation following its successful Shelling Out For A Cause campaign.

Honey & Thistle donated 10 percent of sales from its Wine Preview Party and Giveback Night last month to Operation Christmas Child.

Fishcamp on Broad Creek donated $12,000 (and a lot of oyster shells) with the help of the Island Recreation Center to The Outside Foundation from its 8th Anniversary Celebration.

The ***Sandbar Beach Eats*** donated half of dinner proceeds on Dec. 5 to Christ Lutheran Preschool.

Lulu Kitchen held a pet supplies drive for local shelter animals last month.

On Dec. 4, ***Forrest Fire BBQ*** and ***Fish Casual Coastal Seafood*** teamed up to donate a portion of sales to the Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center.

During December, ***Burnt Church Distillery*** donated a portion of sales to United Way of the Lowcountry and Bigvision NYC.

Lagerhead Tavern held a multi-week silent auction for the Heritage Cares Foundation and Madison's Miracles, Inc.

Cactus Street Cantina donated $1,117 to the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head Island for November. Ten percent of December bowl sales went to the Outside Foundation. January's charity of the month is the Neighborhood Outreach Program.

Top Dawg Tavern & Pizzeria held a pet food and supply drive last month for Hilton Head Humane.

Dough Boys Pizza Bluffton donated 10 percent of sales one night to Bluffton Middle School.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Tiki Hut winter hours are from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, with live music from 1 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m.

Dos Amigos Mexican Grill and Tequila Bar updated its hours. It is open from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

Kung Fu Cantina has changed its hours to 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 4-9 p.m. on Saturday.



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What would Margaret drink?

***Margaret Pearman** is a certified sommelier under the Court of Master Sommeliers and curates the award-winning wine list at Charlie's Coastal Bistro.*
Here are her sipping suggestions for January:

A fresh take on drinking

Cutting back on alcohol has never been easier or more exciting.



Prima Pavé Rosé Dolce Alcohol-Free Sparkling

Every new year brings the motivation for a lifestyle reset, and for me, cutting back on alcohol — or rethinking how I enjoy it — always tops the list. Those nightly glasses of wine seem to refill themselves, don't they? But 2025 feels like the perfect time for a change. Why? Because it's never been easier — or more exciting — not to drink. Thanks to the health-conscious Gen Z crowd's driving trends, the beverage industry is stepping up its game with high-quality, non-alcoholic (NA) options.

Locally, Nicky Geoffrey, sommelier at Roller's Wine and Spirits, has noticed the shop's NA section growing rapidly to meet demand. "There's something for everyone," she says, highlighting the surge in creative alternatives that deliver on flavor and experience.

Take Leitz Winery in Germany's Rheingau region, for instance. Its "***Eins Zwei Zero***" line leads the pack in NA wines, offering riesling, Chardonnay and pinot noir, along with sparkling riesling. The secret? A meticulous, slow dealcoholization process that preserves the wine's complex flavors and aromas while maintaining its unique terroir. These aren't just substitutes — they're wines in their own right, designed for those who value both health and sophistication.

If your 2025 resolutions include cutting back, going dry in January or simply staying part of the celebration, Roller's has you covered. Prima Pavé sparkling wines are customer favorites for good reason, delivering the festive fizz without the booze.



Not into wine? Burnt Church Distillery's Amethyst line of distilled botanicals is making waves, offering flavor-packed alternatives that shine in cocktails. Try the Lemon Cucumber Serrano in a spicy margarita or the Blueberry Ginger Mint in a refreshing spritzer or cosmopolitan.

For something unique, my personal favorite is the Phony Negroni from Brooklyn's St. Agrestis Distillery. With its perfectly balanced blend of herbs, spices and fruit, it tastes just like the real thing.

Here's to a healthier, happier, and maybe even a sober-ish 2025 — cheers!

Cheers to Dry January

EMBRACE THE SOBER SEASON WITH THESE ZERO-PROOF CREATIONS.

The nonalcoholic beverage scene is thriving this month as Dry January motivates many to discover fresh and flavorful ways to sip and savor — without the spirits (and the next-day regrets). *Whether your New Year's resolution is to drink less, or you're just curious if a fancy mocktail can really make you forget about wine o'clock, these two recipes are here to prove that zero-proof can be 100 percent delightful. Cheers to a hangover-free morning!*

THE SPICE & TEA EXCHANGE

Berry Bouquet Sparkler

Bring the sparkle, and skip the spirit. This zero-proof delight from the team at The Spice & Tea Exchange of Hilton Head Island brims with ripe berry flavors and a hint of citrus, creating a garden-fresh refresher. Top it off with fresh berries and mint for an effervescent finish.



INGREDIENTS
(berry bouquet concentrate)
3 tablespoons Berry Bouquet Herbal Tea
14 ounces water (200 degrees)

INGREDIENTS (sparkler)
3 ounces Berry Bouquet Concentrate
2 teaspoons strawberry monk fruit sweetener
1-2 dashes aromatic bitters
1 1/2 ounces citrus soda (such as Squirt)
1 1/2 ounces sparkling water
Fresh berries and mint, for garnish

DIRECTIONS [1] Prepare the concentrate. Steep the tea in hot water for 10 minutes. Strain and discard solids. Allow to cool. **[2]** In a cocktail shaker or mason jar, combine the concentrate and sweetener. Shake vigorously until the sweetener dissolves. **[3]** Fill a tall glass halfway with ice. Pour in the concentrate mixture, and top with citrus soda and sparkling water. Stir to combine. **[4]** Garnish with fresh berries and mint, and enjoy.

HILTON HEAD HEALTH

Spiced Pear Moscow Mule Mocktail

Add a little sparkle to your winter evenings with this cozy yet invigorating mocktail from the team at Hilton Head Health. A festive twist on the classic mule, it combines the natural sweetness of pear juice, warming spices and the bright, fizzy kick of ginger beer. No copper mug? No worries — a clear Irish coffee mug or even a simple glass works beautifully, letting the drink's gorgeous layers take center stage.



INGREDIENTS



1 1/2 ounces pear juice
1 ounce fresh lime juice
*Pinch of **cinnamon***
Pinch of nutmeg
3-4 ounces ginger beer
Lime wedge and cinnamon stick, for garnish

DIRECTIONS [1] In a glass, mix pear juice, lime juice, cinnamon and nutmeg. Stir well to blend the spices evenly. **[2]** Fill the glass with ice, then top with ginger beer. Stir gently to combine. **[3]** Garnish with a lime wedge (or pear slice), a cinnamon stick and a sprig of mint for a little pizzazz.



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Skyline Park

Walk in a winter wonderland

A LOWCOUNTRY TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO DENVER'S SLOPES, SIGHTS AND SEASONAL DELIGHTS.

Winters in the Lowcountry are far from frightful. With no snow to shovel and mild, sunny days, locals truly enjoy an enviable season. However, even with such ideal conditions, many residents crave a taste of a traditional winter wonderland. Enter Denver: an easily accessible getaway just a nonstop flight away from Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport.

January in Denver strikes the perfect balance of adventure and relaxation. Whether you're carving through fresh powder on nearby slopes, exploring the city's eclectic art galleries or savoring a warm cup of locally roasted coffee, the Mile High City offers something to captivate all craving a winter escape. It's the best of both worlds — a serene, snow-dusted retreat less than five hours from the mild comfort of home.

THANK YOU!



As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for all of you who placed your trust and confidence in us. In 2024, we were truly honored to assist nearly **50** incredible individuals and families with their real estate journeys. Whether you bought, sold, or referred a friend, family member, or colleague, your trust means the world to us. It's because of you that we've been able to do what we love every day, and for that, we are profoundly thankful. We feel blessed to have shared in your successes and milestones, and we look forward to continuing to serve our clients and community with the same dedication and care in the years to come.

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Meow we're talkin'



Airport to city

Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport (SAV) offers both nonstop and connecting flights to Denver International Airport (DEN). United provides a nonstop flight, lasting just over four hours. Alternatively, American Airlines, Delta and Southwest offer one-stop flights with layovers in Charlotte (CLT), Atlanta (ATL) and Dallas (DAL), respectively. Upon arrival at DEN, travelers have several options to reach downtown Denver. The University of Colorado's A Line Commuter Rail connects the airport to Union Station in approximately 37 minutes, with trains departing every 15 minutes during peak hours. A one-way ticket costs $11. Fares for rideshare services (Uber and Lyft) to downtown typically range from $40 to $60, depending on traffic and demand. Taxis are also available at the airport, with a flat rate of $56 to downtown.



Breckenridge



City park sledding

Dress for cold and sunny weather

January in Denver brings chilly temperatures, with daytime highs averaging 45 degrees and lows near 22 degrees. While snow falls about six days during the month, the city sees more sunshine than you might expect, with over 200 hours of bright skies. Visitors should prepare for a mix of crisp winter days and potential snow showers.

- **Layer up:** Start with a moisture-wicking base, add a warm mid-layer (like fleece) and finish with a waterproof jacket.
- **Stay warm:** Insulated boots, wool socks, a cozy hat and gloves are must-haves.
- **Protect your eyes:** Sunglasses are essential for sunny, snowy days.
- **Be versatile:** A stylish scarf and jacket transition seamlessly from outdoor adventures to city outings.

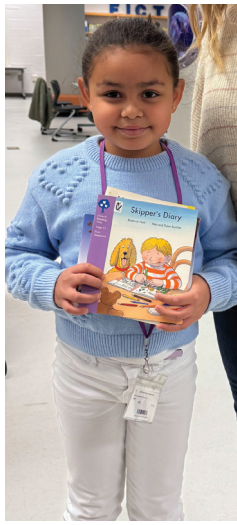


Red Rocks Amphitheatre

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

ROTARY'S LITERACY INITIATIVE





Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts joined forces with United Way and Rotarians to tutor children in a program called Read Indeed.



Collected new books for the Children's Center.



Created a Little Free Library at the USCB Campus.

Rotary Hilton Head Island

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

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Meetings are held on Thursday at 12:30 pm. at USCB Campus
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Denver Art Museum



Steuben's

Hot spots

Explore these iconic Mile High attractions.

• **Red Rocks Amphitheatre:** While best known for summer concerts, Red Rocks is stunning year-round. Take a short hike to admire the snow-dusted rock formations.

• **Denver Art Museum:** Look back into the city's rich cultural scene with exhibits ranging from Western American art to contemporary pieces.

• **Union Station:** This historic landmark is a hub of activity, featuring boutique shops, trendy bars and cozy cafes.

• **Skiing and snowboarding:** World-class resorts like Breckenridge and Keystone are just a short drive away. For closer slopes, try Echo Mountain, which also offers a fun tubing hill.

• **City park sledding:** Looking for a family-friendly snow day adventure without leaving the city? Grab a sled and head to one of Denver's popular sledding spots. Glide down the hills of Ruby Hill Rail Yard or the Ken Caryl Sledding Hill, or visit these favorite Denver parks for some frosty fun: Barnum, Bonnie Brae, Central, George Wallace, Harvard Gulch, Jefferson or Robinson.

• **Ice skating at Skyline Park:** A charming downtown rink surrounded by twinkling lights.

Savor the local flavors

• **Breweries:** Denver is known for its craft beer scene. Don't miss spots like Great Divide Brewing Co. or Wynkoop Brewing Company.

• **Restaurants:** Treat yourself to farm-to-table dining at Root Down, or indulge in hearty fare at **Steuben's**, a retro diner beloved by locals.



Union Station



The Brown Palace

Travel tips

• **Stay hydrated:** At an elevation of 5,280 feet, Denver's high altitude can cause dehydration. Drink plenty of water, avoid excessive alcohol on the first day, and take it easy to adjust.

• **Embrace public transit:** Denver's public transportation system, RTD, makes getting around the city affordable and efficient. The 16th Street MallRide, a free shuttle, is a convenient way to explore downtown.

• **Plan a day trip:** If time allows, take a day trip to nearby Boulder or Golden for more Colorado charm. Boulder offers a vibrant arts scene and hiking trails, while Golden's small-town vibe and the Coors Brewery Tour are worth the short drive.

Stay in style

Denver's luxury hotels offer a mix of elegance, history and modern comfort. The Ritz-Carlton ($419+) features spacious rooms and a renowned spa near the trendy LoDo district, while the Four Seasons ($460+) boasts stunning rooftop views and fine dining. For historic charm, **The Brown Palace** ($269+) and The Oxford Hotel ($289+) provide timeless elegance with modern amenities. The Crawford Hotel ($300+), housed in Union Station, blends vintage themes with convenience, and Halcyon in Cherry Creek ($229+) offers a chic, residential-style retreat.

Allegiant announces two new nonstop routes

Starting May 22, Allegiant Air will offer nonstop flights from Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport (SAV) to Boston Logan International Airport (BOS), with fares as low as $59 one-way, and Dulles International Airport (IAD) near Washington, D.C., with fares starting at $49 one-way. These affordable options make it easier than ever for locals to explore historic D.C. or the vibrant streets of Boston. Visit Allegiant.com for booking and fare details. LL



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Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate

JANUARY happenings

Arts & Culture



Summer, 1976

When: Times vary, Jan. 16-26 **Where:** HHSO Soundwaves
Details: Motherhood, friendship and Bicentennial vibes — this is a must-watch for anyone who's ever had a bestie or a Bicentennial hankering. ***leanensemble.org***







Anything Goes! Member Show

When: Jan. 7-31 **Where:** Art League of Hilton Head
Details: This is your chance to see the wild and wonderful creations of local artists. Spoiler: The reception includes wine. ***artleaguehhi.org***



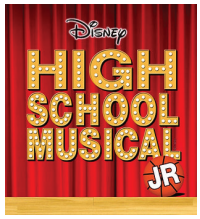




Elemental Alchemy: The Visionary Artwork of Gloria Owens

When: Jan. 5-Feb. 11 **Where:** SOBA Gallery
Details: Dive into Gloria Owens' creative cosmos. Warning: You might leave feeling more inspired than your 2025 Pinterest board. ***sobagallery.com***







High School Musical, Jr.

When: Times vary, Jan. 31-Feb. 2 **Where:** USCB Center for the Arts
Details: Get ready to bop to the top with the Beaufort Children's Theatre's lively adaptation of the Disney Channel classic. Wildcats, assemble!
uscbcenterforthearts.com





Fall Into Art

When: Times vary, now-Jan. 10 **Where:** Sea Pines Community Center
Details: Denise DeMarzo Liotta steals the spotlight, proving winter vibes are for art, too — not just holiday lights.



2024-2025 SEASON | 43RD SEASON
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Orchestra Series

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JAIME AND FRIENDS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025 at 4:00 PM
MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Jaime Laredo, *Conductor and Violin*
Sharon Robinson, *Cello*
Anna Polonsky, *Piano*

Johann Sebastian Bach Violin Concerto No. 1
Gabriel Fauré *Elegy*
Felix Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No. 1
Ludwig van Beethoven Concerto for Violin, Violoncello, and Piano, "Triple"

Laredo played with his trademark shimmering silvery sound, subtle nuances, and natural expressiveness…Robinson added passionate brilliance. Polonsky was the anchor with her solid technique and natural musicality."— Jim Lowe, Rutland Herald


Photo by Christian Steiner

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025 at 4:00 PM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025 at 7:30 PM

John Morris Russell, *Conductor*
Members of the Wolf Trap Opera

Hans Krása Overture

Darius Milhaud *La création du monde*
(The Creation of the World)

Kurt Weill *The Seven Deadly Sins*

Kurt Weill and Berthold Brecht's final masterpiece, *The Seven Deadly Sins,* is a unique "Ballet Chanté" featuring a cast of five exceptional singers and a dancer. These fully staged performances by the HHSO and the illustrious Wolf Trap Opera Company tells a darkly psychological story about the motivations and pitfalls of modern American life.

TIDEPOINTE
a Community



Special Events

HHSO YOUTH CONCERTO COMPETITION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025
at 1:00 PM

ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
50 Pope Avenue, Hilton Head Island

The HHSO Youth Concerto Competition has been attracting the most talented young musicians from throughout the southeastern United States since 2009. In addition to cash awards to all finalists, the first-place winner receives an opportunity to perform with the HHSO.

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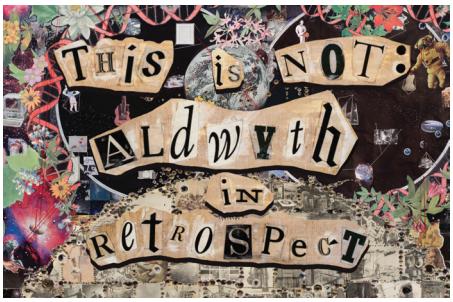
- Virtual medication management and counseling for children ages 4-18 and adults.
- Convenient appointment times after school or work.



Arts & Culture

the COTTAGE

When: Times vary, Jan. 29-Feb. 23
Where: Arts Center of Coastal Carolina
Details: A romantic comedy by Sandy Rustin that tackles love, marriage and enough secrets to rival a reality-TV reunion. It's hilarity, heartbreak and drama, all in one. ***artshhi.com***



This is Not: Aldwyth in Retrospect

When: Now-March 23 **Where:** Coastal Discovery Museum
Details: Rare works by Aldwyth — a Hilton Head legend. Think art with a side of mystery. ***coastaldiscovery.org***



LINKED by Colin Quashie

When: Jan. 11, 2025-Jan. 3, 2026
Where: Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage
Details: Colin Quashie's work tackles history, identity and connections with the kind of imagery that will make you say, "Whoa." (And you should.) ***morrisheritagecenter.org***



The Language of Clay: Catawba Indian Pottery & Oral Traditions

When: Times vary, now-Feb. 22
Where: Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage
Details: This is pottery, but make it history. Every piece is like a ghost of Catawba artisans whispering stories from the past. ***morrisheritagecenter.org***

Charity & Community



Yappy Hour

When: 4:30-6:30 p.m., Jan. 16
Where: Nectar Farm Kitchen, Bluffton
Details: Meet adorable pups while sipping happy hour specials. Warning: You might leave with a new best friend (and we're not talking about your cocktail).
hhhumane.org



Cocktails & Camellias

When: 5-8 p.m., Jan. 31
Where: Coastal Discovery Museum
Details: Fancy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and live music under the stars. Yes, please.
coastaldisccovery.org



CharliFest at Coligny 2025

When: Noon-4 p.m., Jan. 11
Where: Coligny Plaza
Details: Don't miss this annual event honoring Charli Bobinchuck, with performances by talented local artists and delicious food from Coligny restaurants. ***colignyplaza.com***



Snow Day

When: 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 25
Where: Shelter Cove Community Park
Details: Snow + kids who've never seen snow = epic. Add inflatables, and you've got a winter wonderland in the Lowcountry.
islandreccenter.org



MLK Day 2025

The Hilton Head MLK Committee for Justice hosts various community events for this year's Hilton Head MLK Celebration, "Hope in Action: A Path Forward." For details, visit ***hiltonheadmlk.com***.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 11: *Children's Day*
Jan. 16: *Interfaith Service*
Jan. 18: *Hilton Head Service Day Cleanup*
Jan. 20: *MLK Day Celebration*
Jan. 25: *Dine & Dance*
Feb. 1: *Daufuskie Island Service Day Cleanup*







Beaufort Oyster Festival

When: Jan. 9-19
Where: Beaufort
Details: Ten days of shucking, slurping and celebrating South Carolina's seafood stars.
bfthospitality.com

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Food & Drink



Sprout Momma events

Just because it's a new year doesn't mean your tastebuds should suffer. Head to Sprout Momma for one of these special events in January. ***sproutmomma.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oyster Roast: *2 p.m., Jan. 18*
Southern Italian Wine Dinner: *6 p.m., Jan. 23*



Okàn events

Utilizing the vast resources of local farmers, fishermen and other purveyors, Chef Bernard and Ọkàn aim to cultivate relationships honoring the pathways and history of the African-American heritage. Explore the unique cuisine at one of these upcoming events. ***okanbluffton.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Okàn Craft & Cocktail: *6-8 p.m., Jan. 18*
Tiny Bar Concert: *7-9 p.m., Jan. 19*



Windhorse Wine Tasting

When: 5 p.m., Jan. 16
Where: Windhorse Gallery & Marketplace
Details: Sip and sample seasonal selections, and take home three bottles curated at this monthly wine club event. ***beaufortsc.org***

Morgan Wine Dinner

When: 6:30 p.m., Jan. 14
Where: Wise Guys
Details: Don't miss a delicious Morgan wine dinner with guest speaker Wendy Sullivan and executive chef Craig de Villiers. ***wiseguyshhi.com***



Lowcountry Dry Fest 2025

When: Jan. 31-Feb. 2 **Where:** Burnt Church Distillery
Details: Yoga, mocktails and silent discos. Who knew sober weekends could be this fun? ***burntchurchdistillery.com***



Healthy classes for January

Check out one of these weekly Hilton Head Olive Oils & Balsamics classes. ***hiltonheadoils.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Salad Dressing 101: *3 p.m., Thursdays*
Mocktails & Shrubs: *3 p.m., Fridays*



Zunzifest

When: Jan. 14
Where: Zunzibar
Details: Don't miss this annual event where 26 Club members get a free sandwich, and a portion of January sales benefits the Tim Tebow Foundation. ***zunzibar.com***

Gullah Celebration — 2025

FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 1 HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC

Embark on an unforgettable cultural journey at the Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration, a vibrant and immersive showcase of the rich heritage and history of the Gullah people.

DISCOVER South Carolina

- Exceptional Gullah Geechee Art
- Captivating Performances
- Delicious Culinary Experiences
- Engaging Storytelling
- Soulful Gospel Music
- Unique Artisan Markets
- Historical Tours & Golf
- Memorable Musical Dinners



GULLAHCELEBRATION.ORG

Food & Drink



2025 Chamber Restaurant Week

When: Jan. 25-Feb. 1 **Where:** Various locations
Details: Over 80 restaurants are serving prix-fixe menus. Translation: Your taste buds are about to have the best week ever. ***hiltonheadisland.org***



National Popcorn Day in South Beach

When: All day, Jan. 19
Where: The Salty Dog Cafe
Details: Popcorn, toppings and a whole day to get corny with it. ***saltydog.com***

TCL culinary classes

Head to the Culinary Institute of the South for a cooking class, and expand your knowledge of cooking techniques and recipes worldwide. Classes are from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. ***tcl.edu***

UPCOMING CLASSES
Jan. 10: *Mediterranean Favorites: Help Maintain Brain Health*
Jan. 25: *The Simmering Pot: Classic Soupsc*











Culinary events at The Sea Pines Resort

Check out these delicious events during January at The Sea Pines Resort. For a complete list, visit ***seapines.com/events***.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Oyster Roasts: *1-4 p.m., Saturdays, Coast, Oceanfront Dining*
Taste of the Lowcountry Bourbon Dinner: *6:30 p.m., Jan. 8, Sea Pines Beach Club*
The Godfather Wine Dinner: *6:30 p.m., Jan. 10, The Harbour Town Clubhouse*
Tap Takeover: *5-8 p.m., Jan. 21, Fraser's Tavern*
Iron Chef Cook-Off with Master Sommelier Larry O'Brien: *6:30 p.m., Jan. 24*



Tap Takeover at Big Jim's

When: 2-5 p.m., the first Friday of every month
Where: Big Jim's BBQ, Burgers & Pizza
Details: The first Friday of each month brings a tap takeover of three Southern Barrel Brewery draft beers to Big Jim's. ***palmettodunes.com***



South African Safari Wine Class

When: 5 p.m., Jan. 18
Where: Honey & Thistle
Details: Explore the wild winelands of South Africa. Experience the unique beauty of this great land through a guided safari of some of the country's most venerable wine styles. ***honeyandthistlehhi.com***

Long Cove Club

Darius Rucker

INTERCOLLEGIATE

March 3-5, 2025



GOLF

Be a part of the action at Long Cove Club! Spectators are welcome at no charge. For tournament information including parking and the Sonesta Resort booking link, visit the tournament website at www.LongCoveDRI.com.

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Camellias and the Art of Waxing Flowers
Jan. 9 & Feb. 13, 4:30-6 pm Master the art of flower waxing and create your own preserved bloom to take home. $25 pp.

Cocktails & Camellias
Jan. 31, 5-8 pm
Enjoy an enchanting evening in the Camellia Garden, with all proceeds benefiting the museum. $150 pp.

Private Camellia Garden Tours
For an in-depth experience, book a private group tour. Contact: dbrut@coastaldiscovery.org

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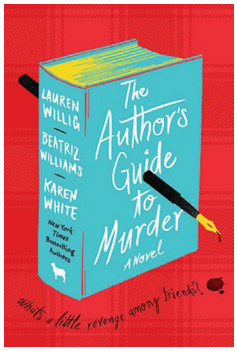
www.coastaldiscovery.org
70 Honey Hill Drive, Hilton Head SC 29926 ☎ 843.689.6767

Lectures & Classes



Restorative Medicine Seminar

When: Noon-1 p.m., Tuesdays
Where: Fraum Center for Restorative Health
Details: A free seminar on how to heal without invasive methods. Bonus: A complimentary lunch that's good for your health and your wallet. ***fraum.com***



USCB Lunch with Authors

When: Noon, Jan. 28
Where: Belfair Clubhouse
Details: Meet Beatriz Williams and Karen White over lunch and hear their behind-the-scenes stories of The Author's Guide to Murder. Guaranteed to inspire both readers and aspiring writers. ***uscbcenterforthearts.com***



Art League Hilton Head Island Classes

Paint, sip, and let your creativity soar. Whether it's watercolors or sea turtle themes, they've got a class for you. ***artleaguehhi.org***

UPCOMING CLASSES:
Paint & Sip: Sea Turtle Themed: *4:30 p.m., Jan. 16*
Beginner Watercolor Painting: *8:30 a.m., Jan. 18*
Oils & Acrylics: Obtaining Luminance and Transparency: *1 p.m., Jan. 22*



Coastal Discovery Museum events

The Coastal Discovery Museum presents a wide variety of classes for any interest. Here are some of our favorites from this month's Discovery Night at the Museum series. ***coastaldiscovery.org***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Camellias and the Art of Waxing Flowers: *4:30 p.m., Jan. 9*
Creative Collage: *5 p.m., Jan. 16*
iPhone Photography: Tips & Tricks from a Pro: *4:30 p.m., Jan. 23*



Beaufort County Library events

Learn a new skill, or read a new book with one of these happenings at your local library. Here's a list of our favorites. ***beaufortcountylibrary.org***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cozy Silent Sip and Read: *11 a.m.-noon, Jan. 11, Port Royal Branch*
Library Plant Swap: *1-2 p.m., Jan. 14, Hilton Head Branch*
Gardening in the Lowcountry: Seeds, Seedlings & Tomatoes: *11 a.m.-1 p.m., Jan. 18, Bluffton Branch*



World Affairs Council Distinguished Speaker Series

Want to know what it takes to make peace in the Middle East or transform India? These global experts bring the scoop. ***wachh.org***

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan. 10: *Mona Yacoubian: Is Peace Possible in the Middle East?*
Jan. 24: *Ajay Chhibber: Making India an Advanced Country by 2047*



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www.honeyandthistlehhi.com

Music & Entertainment



Regular live music venues

Life is better with music, so why not enjoy live music every day of the week? These are some of our favorite local spots with regular live music this month. Check their websites and Facebook pages for details.



DAILY LIVE MUSIC VENUES

Brother Shucker's
Coast, Oceanfront Dining
FISH Casual Coastal Seafood
Frosty Frog
Harbourside
Kind of Blue
Luther's Rare & Well Done
Quarterdeck
Ruby Lee's
Scott's Fish Market
Skull Creek Boathouse
The Boardroom
The Crazy Crab Jarvis Creek
The Jazz Corner
The Salty Dog Cafe
The Sandbar Beach Eats
The Studio
Tiki Hut



OTHER MUSIC VENUES

A Lowcountry Backyard Restaurant (Mondays-Fridays)
Big Bamboo Cafe (Mondays-Saturdays)
Black Marlin Bayside Grill & Hurricane Bar (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
Bluffton Oyster Co. Family Seafood House (Fridays & Saturdays)
Burnt Church Distillery (Thursdays-Saturdays)
Calhoun Street Tavern (Thursdays-Sundays)
Captain Woody's Bluffton (Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays)
Carolina Crab Company (Sundays)
Celeste (Fridays & Saturdays)
Cheap Seats Tavern 2 (Fridays)
Chophouse 119 (Fridays)
Fishcamp on Broad Creek (Tuesdays-Sundays)
Hilton Head Brewing Co. (Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays)
Hilton Head Tavern (Mondays & Tuesdays)
Island Winery (Fridays)
Jarvis Creek General Store (Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays)
Lincoln & South Brewing Company (Wednesdays-Sundays)
Local Pie (Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays)
Nectar Farm Kitchen in Old Town Bluffton (Fridays-Sundays)
Pomodori Too! (Mondays & Wednesdays)
Red Fish (Tuesdays-Saturdays)
Reilley's Grill & Bar (Wednesdays-Fridays)
Rollers Wine & Spirits (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
San Miguel's (Thursdays-Saturdays)
Santa Fe Cafe: (Tuesdays-Saturdays)
Sundown Saloon (Saturdays)
The Rooftop Bar at Poseidon (Wednesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays)
The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa (Every third Friday)
Tio's Latin American Kitchen Bluffton (Fridays & Sundays)
UnCorked Wine, Bar, Food, and Music (Tuesdays-Saturdays)
Zunzibar (Mondays-Thursdays)



Jaime and Friends

When: 4 p.m., Jan. 19 & 7:30 p.m., Jan. 20
Where: First Presbyterian Church
Details: Violin legend Jaime Laredo and the renowned Laredo-Robinson-Polonsky Trio return to the Lowcountry for a concert of favorite concertos with the HHSO. ***hhso.org***

Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar



When: 7:30 p.m., Jan. 17
Where: USCB Center for the Arts
Details: Gospel, musical theater, and original compositions that will stir your soul.
uscbcenterforthearts.com



USCB Chamber Music Season Concert

When: 5 p.m., Jan. 12 **Where:** USCB Center for the Arts
Details: Trumpets, violins and guitars — oh my! Bring the kids to the Youth Concert on Jan. 11. ***uscbchambermusic.com***



South for Winter

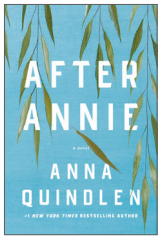
When: 5 p.m., Jan. 12 **Where:** Fripp Island Community Center
Details: South for Winter is a trio that combines elements of classically trained cello, percussions, acoustic and electric guitar, mandolin, poetic lyricism, suitcase stomp and more.
frippfriendsofmusic.com

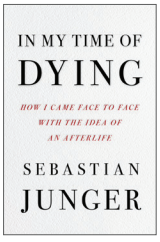
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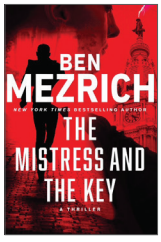

Anna Quindlen


Sebastian Junger


Mezrich Ben







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Markets & Shopping







Farmers and art markets

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Bluffton Farmers Market: *10 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursdays, 68 Boundary St.*
Hilton Head Island Farmers Market: *9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, Coastal Discovery Museum*
Port Royal Farmers Market: *9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Naval Heritage Park*
Forsythe Farmers Market: *9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Savannah*
Beaufort First Friday: *5-8 p.m., first Friday of each month, Downtown Beaufort*
Hilton Head Community Market: *9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturdays, Shelter Cove Community Park*
Habersham Farmers Market: *3-6 p.m., third Friday of each month, Habersham Marketplace in Beaufort*







Winter Artisan Market

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 25-26 **Where:** Tanger 1 in Bluffton
Details: Shop unique finds from Lowcountry artisans while indulging in outlet shopping. Win-win!



Kinross Cashmere Trunk Show

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Jan. 29-30
Where: The Back Door
Details: Luxurious cashmere and a cozy shopping experience — it doesn't get more indulgent than this.
thebackdoorhiltonhead.com



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SAVANNAH EVENTS

Now-Jan. 27: George Clinton art exhibition at SCAD Museum of Art
Jan. 18: Savannah Philharmonic's Guitar Fest at The Lucas Theatre for the Arts
Jan. 21-22: Shen Yun Performing Arts at Johnny Mercer Theatre
Jan. 24: Savannah Animazing Con 2025 at the Savannah Convention Center
Jan. 24-25: Mountainfilm on Tour Savannah at the Savannah Cultural Arts Center
Jan. 25: SCAD Day in Savannah
Jan. 31: Tom Segura at Enmarket Arena

GET TICKETS NOW

Feb. 14: Andrea Bocelli at Enmarket Arena
Feb. 19: Mania - ABBA Tribute at Johnny Mercer Theatre
Feb. 21: Lee Brice at Johnny Mercer Theatre
Feb. 23: 2025 Page Island Oyster Roast
March 22: Rascal Flats at Enmarket Arena

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 1: YMCA's Beast Obstacle Course Event at the Beaufort County YMCA
Feb. 1: Chilly Bean Run at Beaufort Academy
Feb. 1: Freedom Day at Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park
Feb. 1: South Carolina Ballet's Romeo and Juliet at Johnny Mercer Theatre
Feb. 1: 2025 All-You-Can-Eat Oyster Roast at Russo's Fresh Seafood Bluffton
Feb. 2-3: HHSO Orchestra Series: The Seven Deadly Sins at First Presbyterian Church
Feb. 2: PROJECT Trio at Fripp Island Community Center
Feb. 5: All School Play at Hilton Head Preparatory School
Feb. 5: Gullah Celebration + Member Show Reception at Art League of Hilton Head

TO SHOWCASE AN EVENT

Want to see your event here? *Post it for free in our Happenings section at* ***locallifesc.com****. Include a title, date, time, location, description and photos if possible.*

Sports & Outdoors



January races

New Year's resolutions? Check. A great cause? Double-check. Sign up for one of these runs:

UPCOMING RACES

Chamber Waves to Wellness 5K: *9 a.m., Jan. 11, The Beach House Resort*
Oyster Boogie 5K: *8 a.m., Jan. 18, Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park*
Bluffton Frosty 5K: *9 a.m., Jan. 18, Bluffton Oyster Factory Park*
Daufuskie Island Marathon and Half: *8:30 a.m., Jan. 18, Haig Point*





Palmetto Bluff Conservancy events

The PBC team facilitates tours, classes and workshops, programs, research and field trips to promote conservation. Visit ***palmettobluff.com/conservation*** for a complete list of events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brown Bag Lunch: Ducks in the Palmetto State: Waterfowl Trends, Habitat and Research: *noon-1 p.m., Jan. 8*
Brown Bag Lunch: Right Whales – Our Coastal Visitors: *noon-1 p.m., Jan. 15*
Field Trip: Savannah National Wildlife Refuge: *9 a.m.-noon, Jan. 24*



Pickleball Social

When: 1 p.m., Jan. 25
Where: South Beach Racquet Club
Details: A round-robin fundraiser that's guaranteed to serve up fun for a good cause. ***hhprep.org***

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SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025

The Westin Hilton Head Resort & Spa

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2026 BNP Paribas Open — Indian Wells, California
One Week in Barbados for 18
Michael Anthony's Four Course Dinner for 8
Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel & Spa — Italy
2025 Laver Cup — San Francisco, California
Ben Ham Gallery — Private Wine Reception for 12
Comedy Magic Cabaret — Private Show for 70
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bgchiltonhead.org/events

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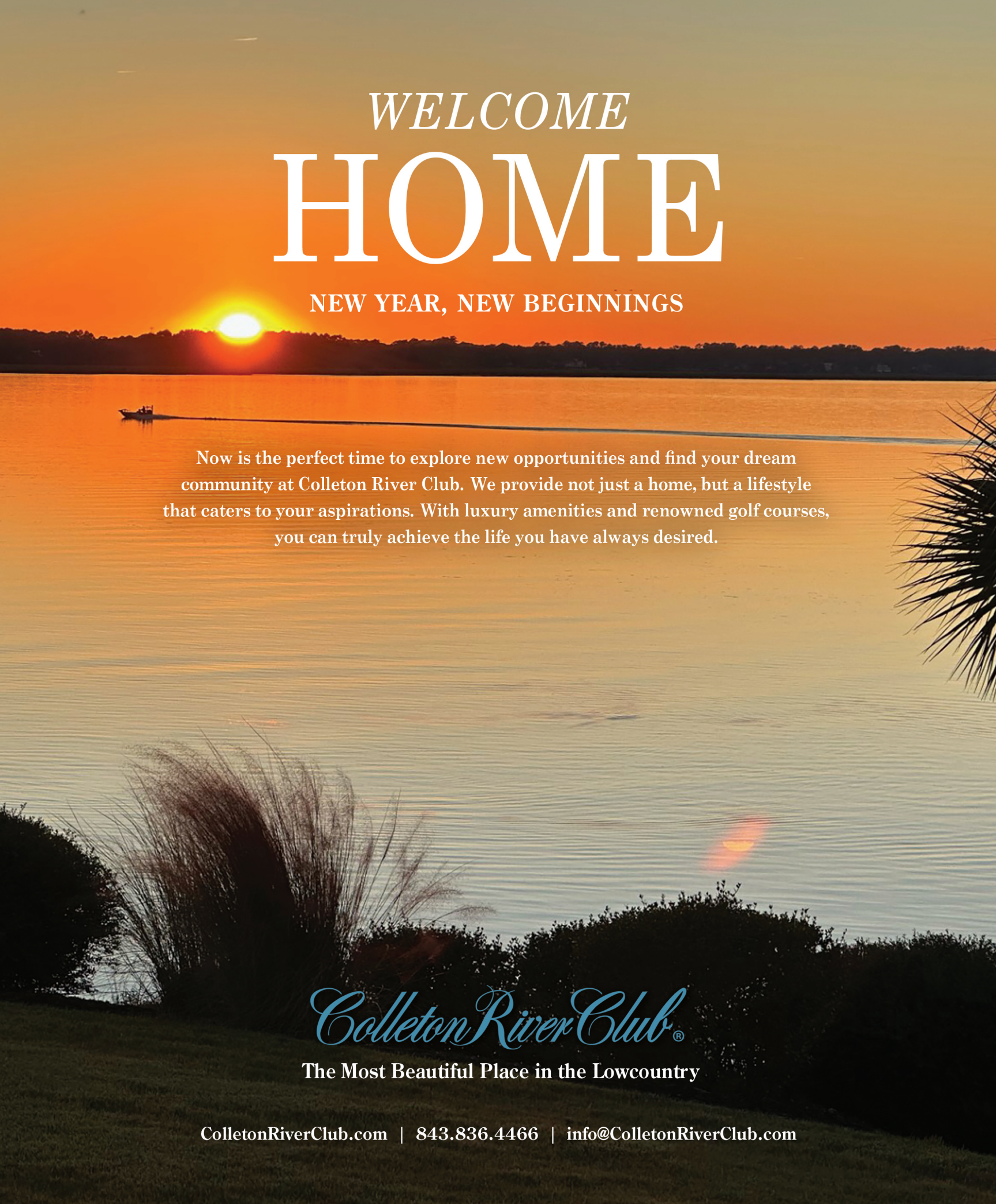
Golden possibilities



Islanders Beach Park, Hilton Head Island

There's a certain magic in the way the sun rises over the Atlantic Ocean, casting the sky in a symphony of golden yellows, fiery oranges and gentle purples. This sunrise captured by Dennis Schmidt at Islanders Beach embodies the beauty of a Lowcountry morning. It's a scene that speaks to the essence of renewal — a quiet promise of fresh starts and boundless possibilities, inspiring hope as a new day unfolds.

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