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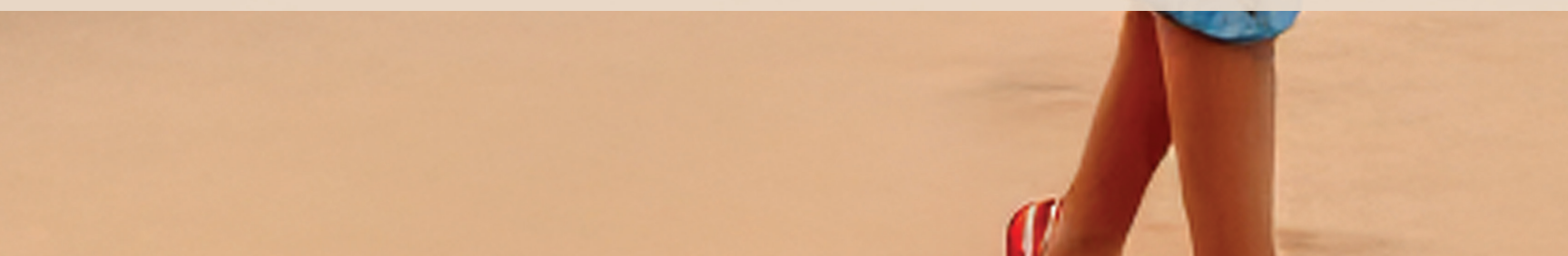
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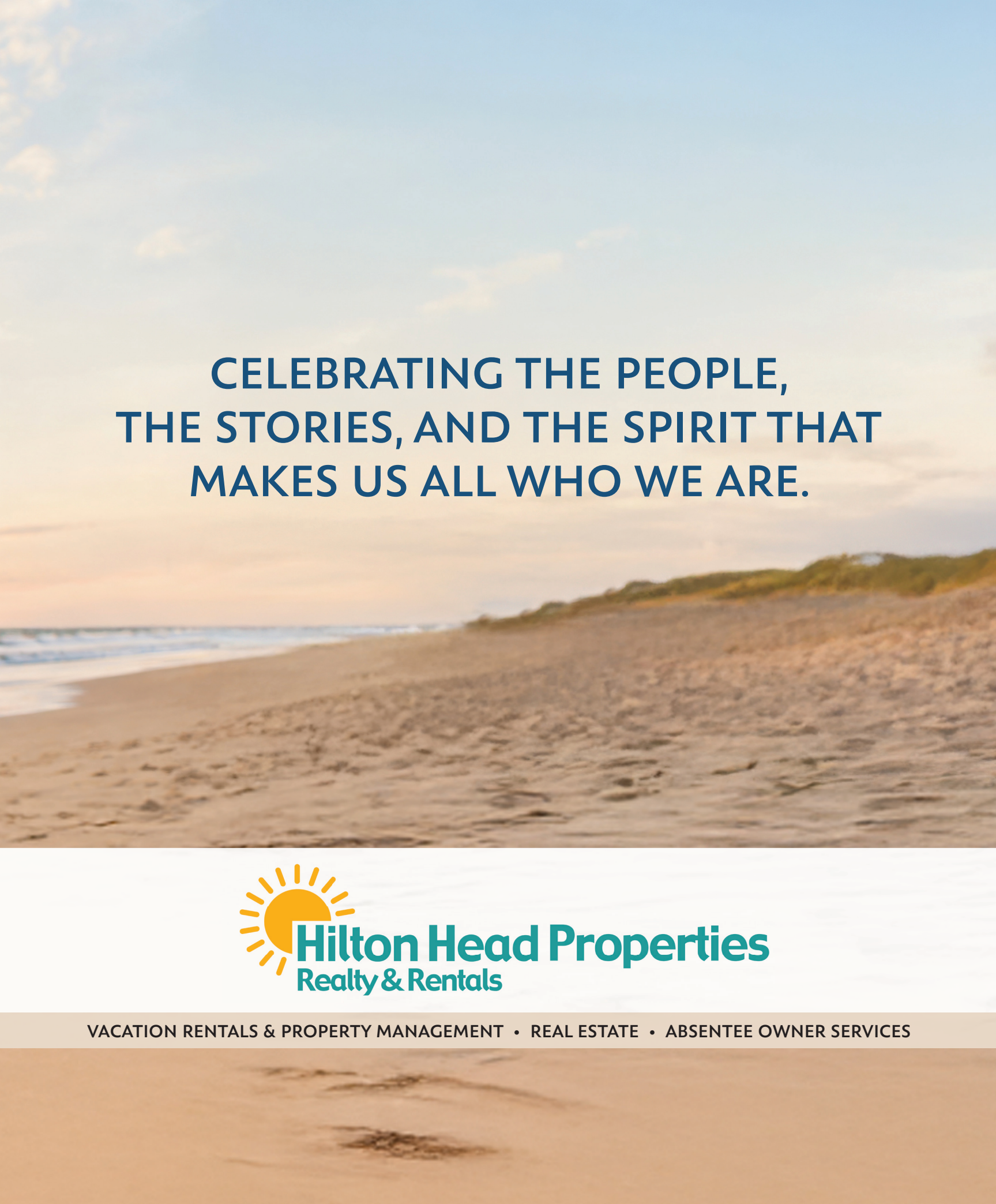


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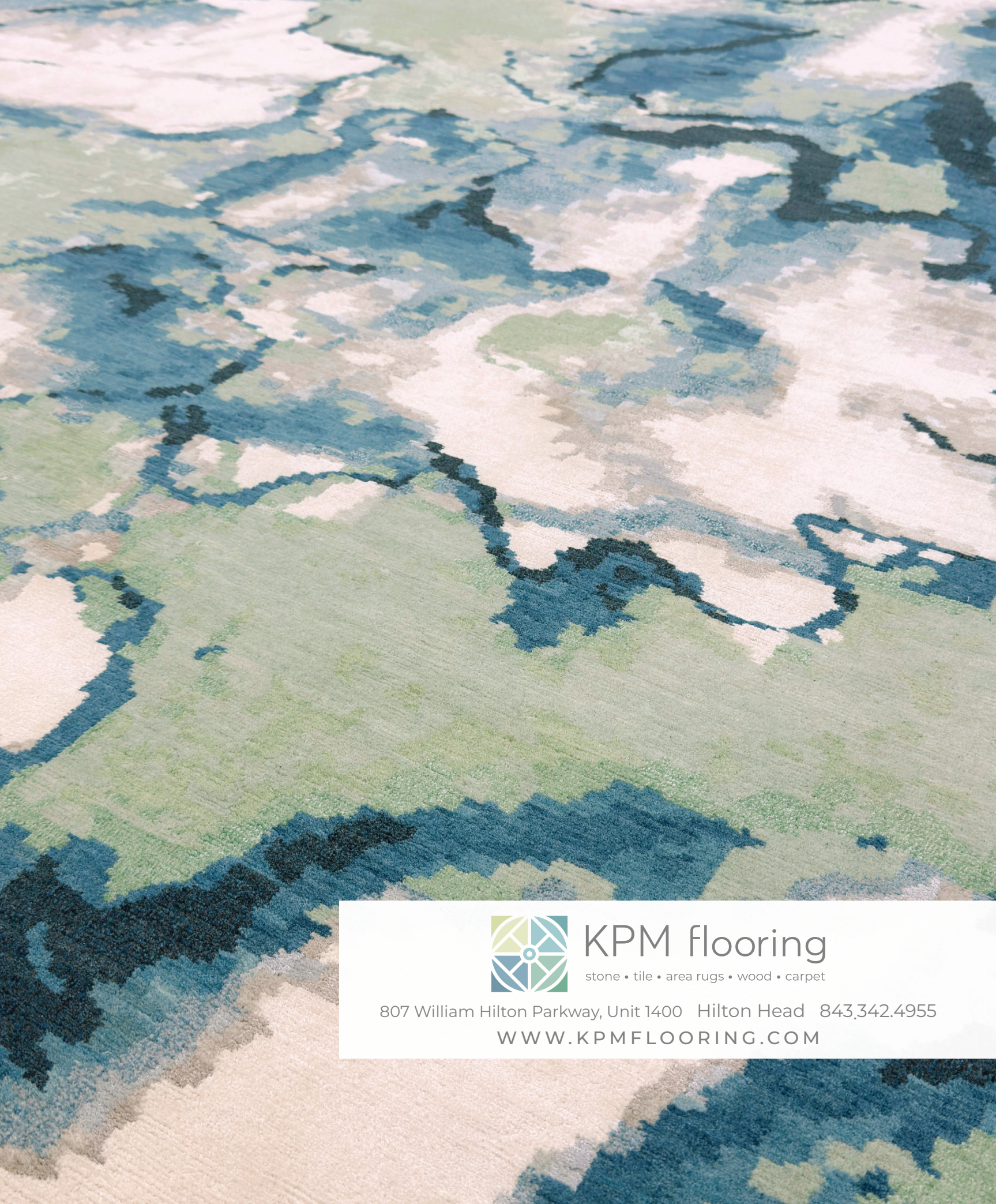
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Who is your favorite superhero?

"Julia Child, superhero of cooking."
- LORI



"Cable from The New Mutants. A little intense, but he always got the job done."
- LANCE



"The Punisher. One of the best revenge stories, and it's served up ice cold."
- JEREMY



"A call goes out to the Mightly Heroes!"
- CHARLES



"Piggybacking off my 4-year-old: Spidey from Spidey and His Amazing Friends."
- ASHLAN



"It's not a bird, a plane or even a frog. It's just little old me, Underdog."
- BAILEY



"Ghost-Spider. (Into the Spider-Verse, anyone?)"
- ALEA



"My hero is my mother, whose love of people, fun and life continues to shape me."
- REBECCA



"Batman, but I was secretly rooting for the Joker."
- KENNY



"Wonder Woman. Those bracelets, boots and that golden truth-telling lasso!"
- LISA



"Iron Man (the movie version). He always seems to have a sense of humor."
- LEAH



"Spider-Man. He's cool, flexible and takes out the bad guys."
- BRUCE



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843-802-2258 + **LocalLifeSC.com**

VOL. 10, NO. 7

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July features



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The Brave Issue

From first responders racing toward danger and veterans whose service never truly ends to defining moments that shaped the Lowcountry and quiet acts of everyday resilience, this issue celebrates courage in all its forms. Meet the people who step forward when seconds matter, uncover stories of sacrifice and perseverance and explore the experiences that remind us bravery is rarely about fearlessness. More often, it is simply the decision to keep moving forward.

RESCUE FROM ABOVE Courage takes many forms, and sometimes it arrives from the sky. The United States Coast Guard trains for some of the world's most dangerous rescue missions, responding when rough waters, distance and unforgiving conditions leave no room for hesitation. Read more about the heroes working every day to protect the Lowcountry on **page 72**.

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Brave enough

Courage isn't the absence of fear. It's what happens next



©LISA STAFF

A LASTING REMINDER Publisher Lori Goodridge-Cribb holds the flag presented in honor of her father's military service. A physician in the U.S. Air Force and a respected cardiologist, he spent a lifetime serving both his country and his patients. Today, with both of her parents buried at Beaufort National Cemetery, the flag stands as a treasured reminder of family, service and remembrance.

When most people hear the word brave, they picture someone charging into danger: a firefighter rushing into a burning building, a soldier on the battlefield or a first responder arriving when everyone else is trying to leave.

Those stories are certainly part of this "Brave Issue." In the pages ahead you'll meet firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, veterans and everyday heroes who have answered the call when courage was required.

But as we assembled this issue, we found ourselves thinking about a different kind of bravery.

The truth is, most of us will never receive a medal or perform a dramatic rescue. Yet every one of us will face moments that call for courage. Sometimes bravery looks like boarding up windows before a storm, learning CPR and hoping you'll never need it, asking for help when you're struggling, checking on a neighbor or taking the first step toward healing after a difficult chapter in life.

Living in the Lowcountry has a way of teaching us these lessons. We live in a place of extraordinary beauty, but also one that demands respect. We watch storms develop over warm coastal waters, navigate tides and waterways and endure summer heat that can quickly turn dangerous. We understand that preparation isn't pessimism. It's confidence.

This issue explores courage from many angles. You'll meet veterans whose service continues long after the uniform comes off. You'll learn about first responders who train every day for emergencies and ordinary people whose quick actions helped save lives. You'll discover organizations dedicated to helping those who serve find connection, purpose and hope.

You'll also travel through the Lowcountry's past, visiting places where bold decisions changed history. From acts that helped advance freedom to stories of sacrifice and perseverance preserved at historic sites throughout the region, you'll see how generations of determined people helped shape the community we call home. You'll also encounter stories that challenge us to confront difficult truths about our shared history, reminding us that courage sometimes means facing the past honestly.

And for those looking to challenge themselves, we've included a collection of destinations within a day's drive, where Lowcountry residents can face fears of heights, darkness, speed, open water and more. The reward isn't just the adventure. It's discovering what you're capable of when fear doesn't get the final say.

What all of these stories have in common is that they aren't really about fearlessness. Fear visits everyone. Courage is the decision to move forward anyway.

Here's to the people who serve, the people who persevere and the people who quietly choose courage every day. Because bravery isn't reserved for heroes in history books. It lives in ordinary moments, whenever we decide to move forward.



LORI GOODRIDGE-CRIBB
PUBLISHER
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"Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway."
- JOHN WAYNE



PAW PATROL
Have you seen the LOCAL Life Jeep cruising around town? This month, we caught up with ***Jonathan and Claudine Vaughan***, the owners of Evergreen Pet Lodge. Stop by their original north-end location at 105 Dillon Road, or visit their new south-end campus at 25 Bow Circle.

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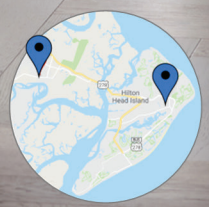
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contributors

MEET LOCAL CREATIVES BEHIND THE SCENES



Susan Diamond Riley *Writer and editor*

FUN FACT: Writes mystery novels inspired by Hilton Head Island and Lowcountry history. **FOR THIS ISSUE:** Poem, *Beneath the Talbird Oak* **HOMETOWN:** Louisville, Kentucky (pronounced "Loo-uh-vull") **CURRENT HOME:** Port Royal Plantation **WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN?** The Kentucky Derby Festival, which spans several weeks leading up to the Run for the Roses. **WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE LOWCOUNTRY?** The kind people, especially the talented and welcoming community of writers and artists. **FAVORITE LOCAL PLACES:** The Coastal Discovery Museum and anywhere with a water view. **WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT LOCAL HISTORY?** Sharing our fascinating and significant hidden history with people who previously thought of the Hilton Head area as nothing more than beach resorts and golf courses. **WHAT ARE YOU EATING?** Summer favorites like fresh tomatoes, corn on the cob and ice cream. **WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?** Unsweet tea. **WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?** Paul McCartney's new LP, *The Boys of Dungeon Lane*. **WHAT ARE YOU READING?** *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr. **CURRENT OBSESSION:** Mahjongg and LEGO. **BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED:** Find joy in each day.

Chris Clayton *Artist and historian*



FUN FACT: A retired rocket scientist who now brings history to life through pastel paintings. **FOR THIS ISSUE:** Local art, *The Ambush* **HOMETOWN:** Manchester, England. I came to the United States in 1967 to work on the Apollo space program. **CURRENT HOME:** Bayshore Villas, Hilton Head Island **WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE LOWCOUNTRY?** The history of this area. When I retired, I became a historian and docent at the Coastal Discovery Museum. I gave lectures and tours about the Battle of Port Royal. **FAVORITE LOCAL PLACES:** I take my dog to the beach every morning. I love the serenity of Port Royal Sound and often imagine all the history that took place in these waters. **ARTWORK YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF:** While I primarily work in pastels, one of my favorite pieces is *Coming Ashore*, created with a silver pen on black pastel paper. It depicts the Civil War invasion of Hilton Head. **WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?** When I lived in England, I joined a student group that hired several famous musical acts. I had the pleasure of introducing both the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. I still love their music, and I also enjoy classical music. **WHAT ARE YOU READING?** Two biographies: Elon Musk and Albert Einstein. **BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED:** I was influenced by two wise women while growing up — my great-aunt and my grandmother. They used to say, "God helps those who help themselves."



Charlie Hardwick
Local business owner

FUN FACTS: Former investment banker and private equity executive with leadership roles at Lehman Brothers, AGW Capital Advisors and FM Capital. Earned an MBA from the Wharton School. Owner of Hardwick Pools of Hilton Head. **FOR THIS ISSUE:** July style **HOMETOWN:** Birmingham, Alabama **CURRENT HOME:** Spanish Wells, Hilton Head Island **WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN?** All the great restaurants and breweries that have opened in Birmingham over the years. **WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE LOWCOUNTRY?** The amazing canopy of trees everywhere. **FAVORITE LOCAL PLACES:** Hudson's and Charlie's. **WHAT ARE YOU EATING?** Summer produce from our garden and locally caught fish on the grill. **WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?** Since it stays light so late this time of year, we love to pack a cooler of beer and head out for an evening boat ride. **WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?** Yacht rock in the summer. **CURRENT OBSESSION:** Designing pools that reflect the beauty of the Lowcountry. **BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED:** Love people. Be yourself. Show up.

Others who answered the call ...

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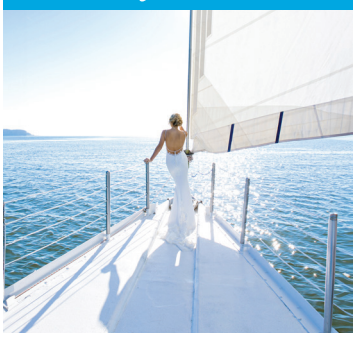
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On the web: Articles our readers are loving at ***LocalLifeSC.com***.

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About the cover



*Photographed by local wildlife photographer **Dr. Jeff Kramer**, the soaring bald eagle on this month's cover perfectly embodies the spirit of The Brave Issue. Once a rare sight, bald eagles now thrive across the Lowcountry, where spotting one above marshes, waterways or even strolling the beach has become a powerful reminder of resilience and freedom. On July 4 The Sea Pines Resort hosts a special bald eagle flyover from the iconic lighthouse across the 18th fairway of Harbour Town Golf Links. To see more of Kramer's stunning wildlife photography, visit jeffkramer.smugmug.com.*

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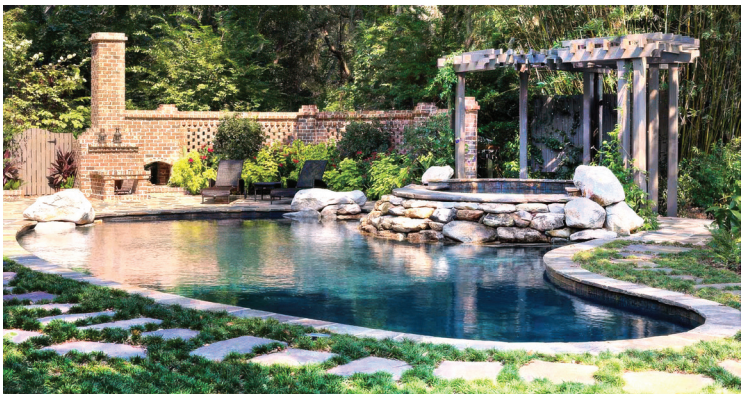
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Community connections

Stories, advice and local expertise from the people helping shape life in the Lowcountry



Welcome home

The Lowcountry has a way of turning visitors into residents. But between hurricane season, intense heat and the ever-present salt air, coastal living comes with a few lessons newcomers often learn the hard way. ***Savannah Hardscapes*** Sales Manager Grant Cook shares five common outdoor living mistakes new homeowners make and how to avoid them. Find more practical tips for settling into Lowcountry life in the June digital issue.



Preparing students for college and life

Hilton Head Island High School valedictorian Elizabeth Markowitz never cared much for history, but the school's ***International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme*** changed her perspective. Built around inquiry, discussion and critical thinking, the program challenges students to become active learners while developing the communication, teamwork and leadership skills they'll carry into college and beyond. Discover how Beaufort County School District's Changemakers initiative is preparing students for lifelong success in the June digital issue.

Natural results

Overfilled lips and frozen expressions may dominate social media, but many patients are looking for something different. At ***Totality MediSpa Hilton Head***, Dr. Nicole Nadel focuses on subtle, natural-looking results that help patients look refreshed without looking altered. Learn why technique, facial anatomy and knowing when to do less can make all the difference in aesthetic medicine. Discover more from Totality MediSpa in the July digital issue.

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WORD ON THE STREET + COMMUNITY TIDBITS + FAST FACTS + LOCAL LANDMARKS



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A place built for reflection

VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK

Overlooking the waters of Broad Creek, Veterans' Memorial Park offers a peaceful place to honor the men and women who served in America's armed forces. Flags wave from a landmark flagpole while memorials, public art and quiet seating areas invite visitors to pause and reflect on the devotion of service members from every generation. Connected to Shelter Cove Community Park by a scenic waterfront pathway, the park serves not only as a place of remembrance but also as a gathering space for the island's annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies. Its intimate setting creates a personal connection to the stories of duty, service and commitment that continue to shape the nation. ***Plan a visit:*** *59 Shelter Cove Lane, Hilton Head Island; open daily. Free admission. Features include a waterfront walking path, public art, memorials and seating areas overlooking Broad Creek.*



Brave places

HISTORIC SITES WHERE COURAGE CHANGED THE COURSE OF LOWCOUNTRY HISTORY

STORY BY MARY BELL

The Lowcountry's beauty is impossible to ignore. Yet beneath that beauty lies something deeper: stories of courage. Across South Carolina and coastal Georgia, historic sites preserve the legacies of soldiers, freedom seekers, educators, civil rights leaders and ordinary citizens who faced extraordinary challenges. Some stood on battlefields. Others built schools, communities and movements that changed lives. Together these places offer more than a glimpse into the past. They invite us to stand where brave decisions were made and discover how those moments continue to shape the Lowcountry today.





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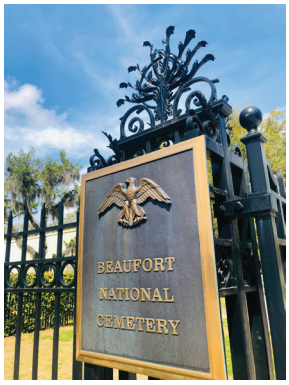
Where Marines are made PARRIS ISLAND MUSEUM

Long before recruits earned the title Marine on Parris Island, the land itself played a significant role in American history. Located aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, this free museum traces the story of the island from its Native American inhabitants and early French and Spanish settlements to its evolution into one of the nation's most iconic military training grounds. Through uniforms, weapons, photographs and thousands of artifacts, visitors gain insight into the history, traditions and service of the Marine Corps, as well as the strategic importance of Port Royal through centuries of conflict. The exhibits also honor the generations of recruits who endured one of the nation's most demanding training programs before answering the call to serve around the world. ***Plan a visit:*** *676 Panama Street, Parris Island; 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Free admission. Visitors must present ID, vehicle registration and proof of insurance for base access.*



The fort that still echoes **FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Rising from Cockspur Island between Savannah and Tybee Island, Fort Pulaski stands as one of the Civil War's most significant landmarks. Built with nearly 25 million bricks and once considered impenetrable, the fort became the site of a military turning point in 1862, when Union forces used rifled cannons to breach its massive walls, forever changing the future of warfare. Visitors can explore the fort's corridors, ramparts and parade grounds while learning about the soldiers who served there and the difficult decisions they faced during wartime. The site also played an important role in the story of freedom in the South after Union forces occupied the fort and the surrounding area. Today the remarkably preserved fort offers a powerful look at the leadership, sacrifice and transformation that shaped American history. ***Plan a visit:*** *101 Fort Pulaski Road, Savannah; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Admission $10 per person; ages 15 and younger free.*





Beneath the oaks, a nation remembers **BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY**

Beneath a canopy of live oaks draped in Spanish moss, Beaufort National Cemetery stands as one of the Lowcountry's most powerful reminders of the cost of freedom. Established during the Civil War and designated a national cemetery by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, the site began as a burial ground for Union soldiers who died in nearby military hospitals following the Battle of Port Royal. Today more than 19,000 veterans, service members and family members are laid to rest here, representing every major American conflict from the Civil War to the Gulf War. Rows of white headstones stretch across the landscape, honoring generations who answered the call to serve. Quiet, dignified and moving, the cemetery offers a lasting reminder that bravery is often measured not by a single act, but by a lifetime of dedication. ***Plan a visit:*** *1601 Boundary Street, Beaufort; open daily from 8 a.m. until sunset. Free admission.*





©NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE

Courage at 30,000 feet **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE**

The National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force preserves the legacy of the American airmen who carried the fight across the skies of Europe during World War II. Dedicated to the Eighth Air Force, whose bomber crews faced staggering odds and casualty rates, the museum combines powerful personal stories with remarkable aviation history. Handwritten letters, uniforms, photographs and archival materials reveal the human side of war, while aircraft exhibits bring the scale of their mission into focus. Visitors can view historic planes, including a B-17 Flying Fortress undergoing restoration, and explore immersive exhibits that honor the determination and service of those who flew dangerous missions over enemy territory. More than an aviation museum, it is a tribute to a generation whose actions helped shape the course of history. ***Plan a visit:*** *175 Bourne Avenue, Pooler; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Adult admission $19; seniors $17; youth (6-12) $11; children 5 and under free.*

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Where freedom took root **HISTORIC MITCHELVILLE FREEDOM PARK**

Tucked between the marshes and shoreline of Hilton Head Island's north end, Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park preserves the story of the nation's first self-governed freedmen's town. Established during the Civil War, Mitchelville became a place where formerly enslaved people built homes, established schools, created local government and laid the foundation for a new life in freedom. Today interpretive exhibits, walking trails and historic markers bring that remarkable story to life, highlighting the determination and vision of residents who transformed opportunity into a thriving community. Recognized as part of the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network, the park stands as one of the Lowcountry's most important sites for understanding the enduring legacy of freedom and self-determination. ***Plan a visit:*** *40 Harriet Tubman Way, Hilton Head Island; open daily from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Free admission. Features include historic exhibits, interpretive trails, beach access, a picnic pavilion, observation gazebo and the Toni Morrison Bench.*





Preserving culture through courage **PENN CENTER**

Founded in 1862 on St. Helena Island, Penn Center began as the first school in the South established specifically to educate formerly enslaved people. Created during the Port Royal Experiment, it provided opportunities for education, leadership and self-determination at a pivotal moment in American history. Students who had once been denied access to education pursued knowledge there, while later generations continued the institution's mission of empowerment and progress. The campus also played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement by hosting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other movement leaders. Today this National Historic Landmark preserves the rich traditions of Gullah culture while honoring those who pursued equality and opportunity despite extraordinary barriers. ***Plan a visit:*** *16 Penn Center Circle W., St. Helena Island; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Self-guided tours are $10, while docent-led tours are $15. Children ages 5 and younger are admitted free.*



Layers of Lowcountry history
BEAUFORT HISTORY MUSEUM

Housed in Beaufort's historic Arsenal building, the Beaufort History Museum brings more than 450 years of Lowcountry history to life through artifacts, exhibits and compelling local stories. Visitors journey from the Spanish settlement of Santa Elena on nearby Parris Island to the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and Reconstruction, exploring the events and people who helped shape both the region and the nation. Along the way the museum highlights stories of leadership, perseverance and service, from Declaration of Independence signer Thomas Heyward Jr. to the formerly enslaved men and women who helped build a new future during the Port Royal Experiment. Few places offer a broader perspective on the determination woven throughout the Lowcountry's past. ***Plan a visit:*** *713 Craven St., Beaufort; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Admission is $8 for adults and $7 for seniors. Active-duty military members and children younger than 12 are admitted free.*



Set on nearly 1.5 acres along the May River, this single-story waterfront estate offers sweeping views, sunrise mornings and the kind of Lowcountry lifestyle that is increasingly hard to find.

Fully renovated in 2024 this home blends timeless craftsmanship with modern ease. Open living spaces, soaring ceilings, custom built-ins, two gas fireplaces, a formal dining area and a chef's kitchen with double islands, panel-ready appliances and a butler's pantry make the home as functional as it is beautiful. A full bar and spacious family room keep entertaining effortless.



A Coveted Myrtle Island Waterfront Estate on the May River

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The primary suite opens to the back porch and overlooks the river, while the outdoor living areas feel resort-worthy, with a pool, hot tub, multiple patios and a fenced backyard made for oyster roasts, Lowcountry boils and long evenings by the water.

Just a golf cart ride from Old Town Bluffton and nearby boat landings, Myrtle Island offers privacy, charm and access in equal measure. It is a hidden gem — and opportunities here do not come along often.



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SELECTIONS BY CHLOE KNIGHT



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Growth rarely happens inside your comfort zone. These app-connected blood flow restriction cuffs help athletes, fitness enthusiasts and recovery-minded users maximize training while using lighter loads. More efficiency, less guesswork and a little extra motivation to keep going. ***smarttoolsplus.com $998***



Pure courage

LARQ Bottle PureVis 2

Not every adventure comes with filtered water. This self-cleaning bottle uses built-in purification technology to help keep water fresher wherever your travels take you. Hydration tracking through the companion app makes healthy habits easier to maintain on the move. ***livelarq.com $129***



Safety signal

ResQLink 400 Personal Locator Beacon

Some adventures deserve a backup plan. Equipped with GPS positioning and a powerful distress signal, this personal locator beacon can summon help when you're beyond cell service. Small enough to carry, important enough to never leave behind. ***westmarine.com $409.95***



Storm scout

Portable Lightning Detector

Living in the Lowcountry means keeping one eye on the sky. This handheld detector provides audible and visual alerts when lightning is nearby, helping beachgoers, boaters and outdoor adventurers make smarter decisions before storms arrive. ***acurite.com $54.99***



Mission ready

Garmin Instinct 3 Solar Tactical Edition

Adventure is easier when you're prepared. This rugged smartwatch combines GPS navigation, health tracking, workout metrics and solar charging into one tough package. From backcountry hikes to everyday challenges, it keeps critical information within arm's reach. ***garmin.com $499.99***



Night guide

Fenix TK25R Tactical Flashlight

Darkness is a lot less intimidating when you can turn night into day. Waterproof, rechargeable and exceptionally bright, this tactical flashlight is built for emergencies, outdoor adventures and anyone who prefers being prepared over being surprised. ***fenixlighting.com $139.95***



Deep dive

CHASING DORY Underwater Drone

Curiosity doesn't stop at the water's surface. This compact underwater drone streams live video straight to your phone, revealing a hidden world beneath docks, boats and waves. Equal parts exploration, education and fun. ***chasing.com $599***



Extra mile

Hypershell X Go

The future of outdoor adventure might just be wearable. This powered exoskeleton helps reduce physical strain while hiking, biking and exploring, giving users extra support when the trail gets steep and the miles start adding up. ***hypershell.tech $999***



Fire watch

Ting Sensor with Fire Prevention Service

The bravest move is often preventing the emergency before it starts. This small sensor monitors your home's electrical system around the clock, alerting you to potential hazards before they become bigger problems. Peace of mind doesn't get much smarter. ***tingfire.com $99***

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Standing back row: Tricia Lowman NMLS# 2440257, Sara Marx, Libby Knapp, Alan Perry NMLS# 866734, Kim Capin NMLS# 158295, Adam Crowell NMLS# 165047, Clara Good NMLS# 2169516, Tanner Ware NMLS# 278238, and Gina Cavano NMLS# 1182146. Not pictured: Susan Smith NMLS# 278903

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Storm smarter

Hidden iPhone tricks, overlooked apps and tech secrets for staying one step ahead

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN

In the Lowcountry weather changes its mind quickly. A sunny afternoon at Islanders Beach can give way to thunder over Broad Creek before the sunscreen dries. Most people know the basics: charge the phone, check the radar, stock batteries. ***Savvy locals rely on a few digital tricks that make storms feel less chaotic and fast decisions a little easier.***



NAVIGATE WISELY
During evacuations smartphone apps provide real-time traffic updates and quick rerouting, while most built-in vehicle navigation systems keep working even if cell service drops. Smart travelers use both, combining live updates with a dependable backup when conditions shift unexpectedly.

THREE APPS TO KEEP CLOSE

Storm prep is easier when good information arrives quickly and clearly. These three apps help cut through noise.



Everbridge: Delivers official local alerts about severe weather, road closures, evacuations and emergencies, often before rumors start flying.

SC Emergency Manager: South Carolina's official emergency app includes evacuation zones, shelter locations and preparedness tools.



Zello: Turns your phone into a walkie-talkie for instant communication with individuals or groups when quick updates matter most.

Read the sky before it speaks

Add a precipitation widget to your Lock Screen, and stop obsessing over percentages. Veteran storm watchers pay closer attention to movement: where storms are headed, how quickly they are building and whether they are growing or fading. In the Lowcountry summer cells often reveal themselves 20 minutes before the first rumble.

Map your way out

When evacuation traffic creeps inland, cell service can get spotty fast. Download off-line maps not just for your destination, but for the route: Hilton Head to Hardeeville, I-95 access points and backup roads if plans shift. GPS still works even when cell service does not.

Know your next stop

Save favorite gas stations, pharmacies, hotels and reliable food stops to Favorites before the storm hits. When traffic stalls and nerves fray, knowing exactly where to stop next feels oddly reassuring.

Build your storm screen

The iPhone's Focus feature shines during severe weather. Create a "Storm" Focus that allows emergency contacts, weather apps and urgent alerts through while muting distractions. Add Flashlight, Notes, Messages and Weather to the Lock Screen for one-swipe access when power flickers or forecasts suddenly turn serious.

Your emergency binder already lives in your pocket

The Notes app may be the most underrated hurricane-prep tool on your phone. Create a pinned note with insurance information, medications, emergency contacts, hotel confirmations, pet records and photos of IDs or passports. Share it with family so everyone stays updated without frantic calls or endless text chains.

Document now, thank yourself later

Insurance claims go smoother when documentation already exists. Walk room to room, and film your house. Narrate as you go: "Living room television, artwork, cabinets, electronics." Open drawers, closets and storage areas. Capture jewelry, tools, furniture and anything difficult to replace. Then upload the video to cloud storage so it survives, even if your devices do not.

Location sharing without the creep factor

Most people think Find My is for keeping tabs on teenagers. During evacuations, boat trips or severe weather, it becomes unexpectedly reassuring. If family members are traveling separately, temporary location sharing helps everyone stop wondering and worrying. Turn sharing on for a day or weekend instead of permanently.

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Beach bag essentials

Five summer reads for lazy afternoons, long weekends and sunny days by the water

***Denise Friday**, a social worker and mother of twins, finds both escape and reflection in a good book. Her July selections capture the spirit of summer with stories of coastal adventures, family drama, unexpected romance and journeys of self-discovery.*



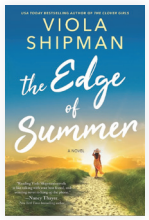
***SUMMER FRIDAYS** BY SUZANNE RINDELL*

It's 1999, and Sawyer has her hands full in New York City, balancing her assistant job in publishing with planning her upcoming wedding to her college boyfriend. While her fiancé is putting in long hours at work with his colleague Kendra, Kendra's boyfriend, Nick, invites Sawyer to meet up and commiserate. An unexpected friendship forms, and the two begin a ritual of exploring Manhattan together every Friday. A sweet love letter to New York City in the summertime.

***SUMMER DARLINGS** BY BROOKE LEA FOSTER*



Heddy Winsome has finished her freshman year at Wellesley and secured a nannying job on Martha's Vineyard for a very well-to-do family. It's the early 1960s, and image is everything. She is intrigued by the beautiful homes and lavish lifestyles, but she soon learns that everyone has secrets and that social circles can change like the tide. A delightful novel exploring the complexities of money, status, privilege and the struggles of those trying to find their place.



***THE EDGE OF SUMMER** BY VIOLA SHIPMAN*

Sutton Douglas grew up believing that all her relatives had perished in a fire and that only she and her mother survived. After her mother's death, a letter reveals that the fire was a lie. While her father is dead, Sutton is told no other family is worth finding. She and her mother shared a love of buttons and sewing, and a discovered button card leads her to Douglas, Michigan, in search of the truth about her past and possibly even surviving family members. Along the way she grows her design business and discovers a place she can finally call home.

***MY MAGNOLIA SUMMER** BY VICTORIA BENTON FRANK*



Maggie is an excellent line chef, but she has to prove herself every day at the world-class New York City restaurant where she works. Just as she may be in line for a promotion to sous chef, she receives a message that her grandmother is in a coma following an accident caused by her mother. She rushes home to Sullivan's Island, only to find much more than she bargained for. A Lowcountry tale of complicated family dynamics, three generations of strong women and the unpredictability of running a restaurant. A charming debut perfect for the beach.



***THESE SUMMER STORMS** BY SARAH MACLEAN*

Unlike her siblings, Alice Storm left home determined to succeed outside her family's dynasty. Yet her father's unexpected death brings her back to the family's private island off Rhode Island, where he has devised a manipulative inheritance challenge. Her mother and siblings must remain on the island for one week and complete a series of tasks in order to claim their inheritance. Toss in a handsome estate manager, and you have a fun romance mixed with family drama, taken to a whole new level.



Chapter chat

*LOCAL Life's **Rebecca Kerns** reviews **Caraval by Stephanie Garber**, the bestselling young adult fantasy trilogy filled with magic, romance, heartbreak, destiny and a world where nothing is quite as it seems. Watch her review on LOCAL Life's YouTube channel: **youtube.com/@locallifesc***



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Local IQ
July crossword challenge for locals

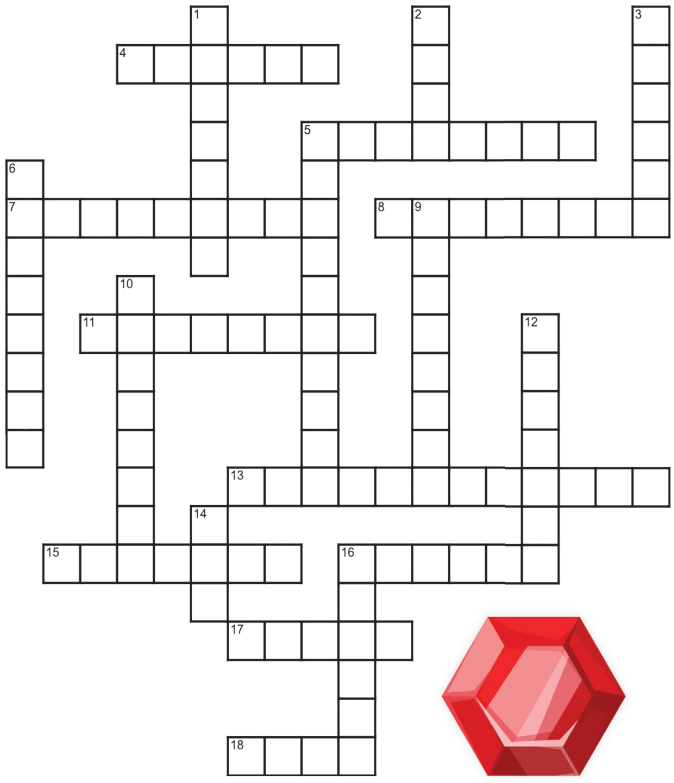
CLUES BY LANCE HANLIN + GRID BY JEREMY SWARTZ

ACROSS

4. Roman ruler honored by the month of July.
5. July birth flower with tall, colorful spikes.
7. Astronaut who took one brave step on July 20, 1969.
8. Summer sky shape formed by Vega, Deneb and Altair.
11. Local city known for its July Water Festival.
13. What Americans celebrate on the Fourth of July.
15. Nickname for the May River Sandbar: ____ Riviera.
16. The Dog Star behind summer's "dog days."
17. Word in the name of America's highest military medal for valor.
18. July's birthstone, said to symbolize passion and courage.

DOWN

1. Hilton Head community with a famous lock system.
2. July's full moon, named for growing antlers.
3. Military gesture of respect.
5. Most common sea turtle species nesting on local beaches.
6. French fortress remembered every July 14.
9. Military wake-up call.
10. Remove faded flowers to encourage new blooms.
12. Swamp-loving tree found in Lowcountry wetlands.
14. Zodiac sign that roars into late July.
16. Family name paired with Baynard at Hilton Head's historic ruins.



Answer key

ACROSS: *4. CAESAR 5. LARKSPUR 7. ARMSTRONG 8. TRIANGLE 11. BEAUFORT 13. INDEPENDENCE 15. REDNECK 16. SIRIUS 17. HONOR 18. RUBY*
DOWN: *1. WEXFORD 2. BUCK 3. SALUTE 5. LOGGERHEAD 6. BASTILLE 9. REVEILLE 10. DEADHEAD 12. CYPRESS 14. LEO 16. STONEY*

Official Mensa® Challenge

IS WISDOM YOUR SUPERPOWER? Be brave and solve this Mensa quiz.



1. First unscramble the letters in each word below, then unscramble the word order to create a Tom Swifty sentence. (Tom Swifty always speaks adverbially. Example: "I just bought a refrigerator," said Tom icily.)

A RDNOWEFLU EW YDA ISIANGL DAIS MOT DAH RBEZELYI.

2. Julia is two-thirds Wayne's age. Three years ago, Julia was half Wayne's age. In three more years, she'll be three-fourths Wayne's age. Neither one is a teenager. How old are Julia and Wayne now?

3. Pink is worth 25 points, blue is worth 30 points and green is worth 35 points. Using the same scoring system, how many points is red worth?

4. Find a six-digit number in which the first three digits are the same, the last three digits are the same, and the sum of the third and fourth digits is three times the last digit. The sum of all the digits is 27.

5. Find a six-digit number in which the first digit is two less than the fifth, the second digit is one more than the fourth and the fifth digit is four less than the last. The sum of the first and fourth digits equals the second, the sum of the third and last digits equals the second and the sum of all the digits is 30.

ANSWER KEY

1. "We had a wonderful day sailing," said Tom breezily.
2. Julia is six; Wayne is nine. 3. 20 points (5 per consonant and 10 per vowel)
4. 666,333 5. 192,837

Mahjong mastery

We're shaking things up this month. Here's your hand mid-game, and it may be time to pivot. Jennifer Kenwell sees three possible ways to play this hand. Which section would you choose, and can you spot all three potential hands?



Answer: Section 2468

What would you do? *To see if you found the same three lines as Jennifer Kenwell of Pink Palmetto Mahjong, watch the video on LOCAL Life's website (locallifesc.com) or visit LOCAL Life on YouTube (@locallifesc).*



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The hot list

What to watch, read and listen to in July

SELECTIONS BY DAISY DOW

STREAMING









PRIME VIDEO ***Elle*** *(drama)* Before she became the fashionable attorney audiences know and love, Elle Woods (Lexi Minetree) was a teenager trying to find her place in the world. When her family relocates from Bel-Air to Seattle, Elle must navigate a new school, unfamiliar social circles and a culture clash that challenges her confidence. Through it all, she discovers that staying true to herself is her greatest strength. **Release date: July 1**

FOX ***2026 FIFA World Cup Final*** *(soccer)* The world's biggest sporting event reaches its climax as the final match of the expanded 48-team FIFA World Cup takes place at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. After a month of dramatic finishes, international rivalries and unforgettable moments, one nation will lift the sport's most coveted trophy in front of a global audience expected to number in the billions. **Kickoff: 3 p.m., July 19**

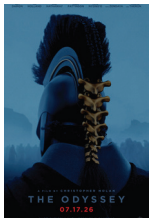
NETFLIX ***72 Hours*** *(comedy)* Marketing executive Joe (Kevin Hart) is feeling the pressure. With younger coworkers gaining influence and his job security slipping, he jumps at the chance for one last adventure after accidentally being added to a bachelor party group chat. What follows is a chaotic weekend in Miami that forces Joe to confront aging, ambition and what it really means to stay relevant. **Release date: July 24**

APPLE TV+ ***The Dink*** *(comedy)* Former tennis phenom Dusty Boyd (Jake Johnson) never imagined he'd end up playing pickleball. After injuries derail his career, he reluctantly enters the fast-growing sport he once mocked. What begins as a last resort becomes an unexpected lesson in humility, competition and second chances. **Release date: July 24**

MOVIE THEATERS



The Invite *(drama)* Joe (Seth Rogen) and Angela (Olivia Wilde) find themselves stuck in a rut. Hoping to reignite a spark in their marriage, they invite their charismatic neighbors, Piña (Penélope Cruz) and Hawk (Edward Norton), over for dinner. What starts as a simple evening quickly becomes an emotional and unexpected exploration of friendship, intimacy and self-discovery. **Release date: July 10**



The Odyssey *(action)* Fresh from victory in the Trojan War, Odysseus (Matt Damon) sets sail for home. But the journey back to Ithaca proves far more difficult than the war itself. Facing mythical monsters, vengeful gods and impossible trials, he embarks on an epic adventure that tests his courage, wit and determination to reunite with his family. **Release date: July 17**

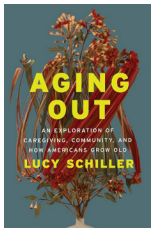


Spider-Man: Brand New Day *(sci-fi)* Peter Parker (Tom Holland) continues to grapple with the consequences of sacrificing his personal life to save the world. As he adjusts to a reality where those closest to him no longer remember who he is, Peter struggles to balance heroism, loneliness and his desire to reconnect with MJ (Zendaya) and Ned (Jacob Batalon). Some secrets, however, may be too dangerous to reveal. **Release date: July 31**

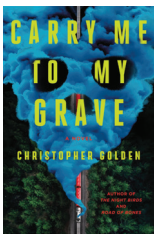
BOOKS & NOVELS



A Real Animal *By Emeline Atwood (fiction)* Lucy is, by most measures, a typical twenty-something. She experiences heartbreak and triumph, uncertainty and growth. But beneath the expected milestones lies a deeper exploration of adulthood's quieter realizations. Through Lucy's observations, Atwood captures the unspoken truths and contradictions that often define life in your twenties. **Release date: July 7**



Aging Out: An Exploration of Caregiving, Community, and How Americans Grow Old *By Lucy Schiller (nonfiction)* As Americans live longer, many older adults are finding themselves increasingly isolated and overlooked. Schiller examines what aging looks like in modern America, exploring caregiving, community, housing and human connection in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The result is a timely look at how society can better support people as they grow older. **Release date: July 14**



Carry Me to My Grave *By Christopher Golden (fiction)* When a woman inherits a remote family home, she uncovers secrets that refuse to stay buried. As unsettling events reveal generations of hidden truths, she is drawn deeper into a legacy of darkness and deception. Golden delivers a chilling blend of psychological suspense and supernatural horror that will keep readers guessing until the final page. **Release date: July 21**

ALBUMS



Little Miss Twain
By Shania Twain (country)
Release date: July 24



Music, Fashion, Film
By Charli XCX (pop)
Release date: July 24



Petal
By Ariana Grande (pop)
Release date: July 31



Pictures of You
By Buffalo Traffic Jam (folk)
Release date: July 31

PODCASTS



Bellied Up
Subject: Travel



Hey Jonas!
Subject: Lifestyle

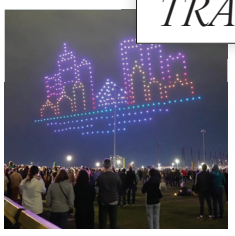


Lore
Subject: Storytelling



The Atlas Obscura Podcast
Subject: Travel & culture

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Community in action

Finding home again

AFTER HARDSHIP AND UNCERTAINTY, ONE LOCAL FAMILY FOUND STABILITY, CONFIDENCE AND A WAY FORWARD

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM



KEYS TO THE FUTURE After experiencing homelessness and uncertainty, Jasmine found stability, hope and, ultimately, a place to call home through Family Promise of the Lowcountry.



SUPPORT THAT LASTS Through shelter, case management and community partnerships, Family Promise helps families rebuild their lives and move toward long-term independence.

When Jasmine looks back on life before Family Promise, one word comes to mind: oppressive.

Uncertainty shadowed every day. Where would her family sleep? How would she move forward? What happens next? Questions outnumbered answers, leaving her exhausted, overwhelmed and running out of options.

"I was drowning and did not know where to turn," she says.

Like many families experiencing homelessness, Jasmine's situation was not the result of one moment, but many. Hardship accumulated. Stability slipped away. Impossible choices became everyday realities. Eventually, sitting with fear and uncertainty, she searched online for family shelters in Beaufort. That search led her to Family Promise of the Lowcountry, a discovery she now sees as the turning point that helped her begin again.

Building stability, one step at a time

Family Promise works with families experiencing homelessness by offering more than a temporary place to stay. Families receive guidance with everything from employment and budgeting to childcare, medical care and permanent housing. The goal is to help families regain footing and move toward lasting independence.

For Jasmine the experience brought structure during one of the hardest periods of her life.

"Living at the Family Promise shelter allowed me to save money, provided structure, taught me budgeting and gave me a safe place to stay," she says. "I had wonderful, wonderful case managers."

What she found was not simply shelter, but breathing room. During an era defined by instability, she found consistency and people who believed life could look better.

"As long as you work the program, it will work for you," Jasmine says.

But shelter life did come with challenges.

"Overall, it's rough to live in a shelter," she says. "But this was a good process."

Hope restored

Slowly, small victories became bigger ones.

Jasmine learned to manage money, build routines and trust herself again. The hopelessness that once shaped her days slowly gave way to confidence and optimism.

"I have a sense of hope, stability and discipline," she says. "I would definitely recommend it to any family who needs it."

Today she has something she once feared might never come again: a home of her own.

"The shelter program helped me get on my feet, and now I have my own place to call home," she says. "I am grateful to Family Promise and my case managers who worked with me to find my way again."

Building spaces that heal

Healing does not happen only indoors.

That idea helped shape improvements to the shelter's outdoor spaces, now with seating areas, green space, vegetable planters and a multipurpose play court that offer families places to gather, exhale and simply feel normal again. Children have room to play. Parents have space to pause. Families rebuilding their lives can experience moments of calm and connection during an uncertain season.

The work, made possible through a partnership with Earthworks Landscape, reflects a shared belief that dignity matters, especially during difficult chapters of life.

For Jasmine, that kind of care and support changed everything.

Take action

Family Promise of the Lowcountry helps families experiencing homelessness achieve lasting independence through shelter, case management and comprehensive support services. Community members can support the mission by volunteering, donating or partnering to strengthen local families. Learn more at ***familypromiselowcountry.org***. *LL*

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What makes them local



HONORING HEROES
Brown is pictured on stage at this year's Concert for the Heroes in May, one of Operation Patriots FOB's signature events honoring those who serve.

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*

Still serving

After overseas deployments, Roy "J.R." Brown found a new mission at home: helping veterans and first responders find connection, purpose and hope

STORY BY BECCA EDWARDS



A MISSION SHARED
Roy "J.R." Brown is pictured with his wife, Stephanie, and their daughters, Elliana and Isabella. Together they have built a life centered on service. Roy and Stephanie are the founders of Operation Patriots FOB, a Ridgeland retreat that provides veterans and first responders with a place to connect, heal and thrive.

Roy "J.R." Brown's connection to the Lowcountry began in 2001, when he attended boot camp at Parris Island. As the founder of Operation Patriots Forward Operating Base (OPFOB), a nonprofit dedicated to creating and fostering positive experiences for veterans and first responders, his service to our area continues to save lives.

"The unfortunate truth is that the government is failing our veterans, and it takes organizations like OPFOB to step in and help," he explained. "OPFOB was born out of a necessity to reduce veteran suicide and create a place where those who serve could find connection, purpose and support."

Q: Why did you enlist? A: Like most Americans after 9/11, I was ready to serve my country, and I found myself in boot camp two months later. I was a canine handler in the Marine Corps, deployed to the Mexican border with a narcotics-detection dog and later deployed to Iraq with an explosive-detection dog. After my four years of active duty, I was ready to re-enlist, when a private security company called Blackwater was heavily recruiting canine trainers and offered me a position. I deployed back to Iraq for the next two years until I was injured in a training accident that ended my contracting career.

Q: How did OPFOB come to be? A: After returning home from Iraq, I faced my own struggles. What helped me most was being outdoors and being surrounded by people who understood my experiences. Later, after losing 18 men I had served with to suicide, I knew something had to be done. We took the model that helped change my life and built OPFOB around it, creating a community where veterans, first responders and their families can find hope, camaraderie and a renewed sense of purpose. OPFOB continues to grow and evolve. Last month, we surpassed 50,000 visits, and one of the statistics that makes us most proud is that we have not lost a single person who has come through our gates to suicide.

Q: What programs does OPFOB provide? A: While outdoor recreation therapy remains at the heart of what we do, we also provide a weekly ministry program, an AA program and peer-to-peer mentorship built around the Post-Traumatic Growth (PTG) model, helping individuals find purpose and growth. We're also excited to have recently launched our Service Dog Program, which pairs eligible participants with highly trained service or companion dogs. In addition, through our Home for Heroes initiative and partnership with Lennar Homes, we're working to provide mortgage-free homes to deserving service members and first responders, creating lasting stability and support for those who have given so much to their communities and our country.

Q: What is your motto in life? A: Si vis pacem, para bellum. Pray for peace, prepare for war. LL



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Local business buzz

What's new, what's next and what's shaping the Lowcountry

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM

July brings another wave of growth to the Lowcountry with new businesses opening, major investments taking shape and long-anticipated projects moving closer to reality. From healthcare and hospitality to education and nonprofit services, these developments reflect a region that continues to evolve while creating new opportunities for residents, visitors and local families.

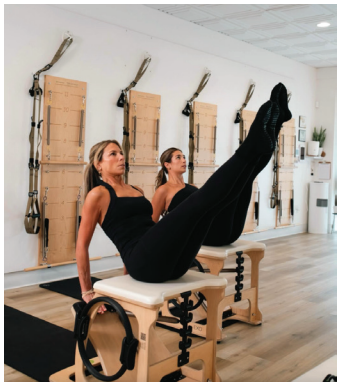




NOW OPEN

Selina King Jewelry *1299 May River Road, Bluffton*

Selina King Jewelry is opening a showroom this summer in Old Town Bluffton. The expanded space will feature the designer's signature collections, custom heirloom consultations and a collaborative design studio with interior designer Amanda Clement.



Pump N Pilates

Main Street Village, Hilton Head Island

Founded in Greenville, the popular studio offers group classes and private instruction focused on building strength, mobility, balance and confidence. Known for its supportive atmosphere and holistic approach to wellness, the new location will serve Hilton Head and Bluffton residents seeking a welcoming place to move, recharge and connect.

MasterCorp

Beaufort Commerce Park, Beaufort

MasterCorp has opened an automated commercial laundry facility serving hospitality, healthcare and retail clients. The investment strengthens Beaufort County's industrial sector while creating new local jobs.

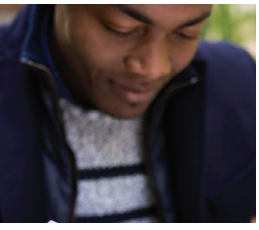




Novant Health Buckwalter Place Primary Care & Orthopedics

400 Buckwalter Place Blvd., Bluffton

Novant Health has expanded its Lowcountry presence with a primary care clinic at Buckwalter Medical Park. Part of a larger campus that includes orthopedic services and advanced imaging, the facility helps meet growing healthcare demand in Bluffton.



Light The Way Foundation

36 Echotango Road, Okatie

This nonprofit supports Beaufort and Jasper county residents facing financial barriers to treatment and recovery. Assistance may include housing, transportation, food, clothing, prescriptions and access to treatment programs.



COMING SOON



The Goddard School Bluffton

Washington Square, Bluffton

Enrollment is underway for this early childhood education center, scheduled to open next spring. The school will serve infants through preschool-aged children and offer priority placement for early enrollees.

The Wave *2 Tanglewood Drive, Hilton Head Island*

Planned for South Forest Beach, this boutique hotel will feature residential-style accommodations with full kitchens, private balconies, a pool, fitness center and lounge. Opening is targeted for 2027.



Bumble Bee Blinds

Mobile service, Hilton Head Island

This mobile window treatment company offers customized blinds, shades, shutters, draperies and motorized coverings through in-home consultations and personalized design services.

Home2 Suites *100 Okatie Center Blvd., Bluffton*

An extended-stay hotel is planned for Okatie Center, adding pet-friendly accommodations with in-room kitchens and flexible living spaces along the growing U.S. 278 corridor.

Juniper Landscaping

31 Mathews Drive, Hilton Head Island

Juniper Landscaping has expanded into the Lowcountry through the acquisition of Hilton Head Landscapes. The partnership brings additional resources and operational support while continuing service for residential and commercial clients throughout the region.







THE ULTIMATE IN PET BOARDING WITH TWO LOCATIONS.

The team behind **Evergreen Pet Lodge** is proud to announce the opening of its second location. The new facility, **Evergreen South**, will be located in the former Red Rover space on the South end, creating both a North and South location to better serve the community.

Designed with local pet families in mind, **Evergreen South** is a state-of-the-art facility offering Royal Suites, luxury suites, and standard boarding for dogs, as well as a dedicated cat cattery featuring luxury and Presidential Suites for feline guests.

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Ready when it matters

In the Lowcountry, knowing what to do before help arrives can make all the difference

STORY BY MADISON MCBRIDE

When a bottlenose dolphin, later identified as Klaus, became stranded in a shallow tidal pool on the north end of Hilton Head Island, beachgoers quickly realized something was wrong.

Known to researchers through the local dolphin catalog maintained by the University of South Carolina Beaufort's Marine Sensory and Neurobiology Lab, Klaus, a 7-foot, 10-inch dolphin, had become trapped in water too shallow to safely navigate as the tide receded.

The danger was not broken bones or dehydration, as some might assume. Dolphins have skeletons that help support their bodies, and Klaus showed no signs of injury. The urgent concern was time: responders needed to ensure his blowhole remained above water and that the incoming tide returned soon enough for him to right himself and swim free.

Fortunately, a visiting beachgoer immediately called the SCDNR Wildlife Stranding Hotline, setting a rescue effort into motion. Responders with the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network, trained volunteers and regional partners, carefully positioned Klaus upright, used a specialized sling to move him closer to deeper water and monitored him as he swam through shallow sandbars before finally reaching open water.

Before sirens sound and emergency crews arrive, crises often begin with ordinary people making quick decisions under pressure. A clear phone call. A calm response. A willingness to act instead of assuming someone else already has.

Bravery does not always look dramatic. Sometimes it looks like noticing something others miss, staying steady when panic creeps in and stepping forward when hesitation would be easier.



©AMBER KUEHN, LMMN VOLUNTEER RESPONSE



©AMBER KUEHN, LMMN VOLUNTEER RESPONSE

RESCUE IN MOTION
Responders with the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network work to stabilize Klaus after the bottlenose dolphin became stranded in a tidal pool on Hilton Head Island in May. To report a stranded marine mammal, call SCDNR's Wildlife Stranding Hotline at 800-922-5431.

Klaus's rescue is a reminder that preparedness is not reserved for hurricanes or worst-case scenarios. Lowcountry emergencies unfold in countless ways: a swimmer swept into a rip current, a boating injury in Broad Creek, a golfer collapsing in July heat, a stranded sea turtle or a neighborhood flooding faster than expected.

Living near the water means embracing beauty and unpredictability in equal measure.

The good news? You do not need to be a first responder to make a difference. Knowing a few essential skills, paying attention and understanding when to act can help protect loved ones, visitors, neighbors and the wildlife that shares this place we call home.



©MADISON MCBRIDE

KNOW YOUR NUMBER Before settling into the sand, note the nearest emergency beach marker, closest lifeguard and nearby landmarks. If trouble strikes, sharing an exact location helps first responders and rescue teams arrive faster.

Make the call, then stay calm

Clear communication saves time and lives

In an emergency, the first and most important thing you can do is call 911. That may sound obvious, but one of the biggest mistakes people make during stressful situations is assuming someone else already called. Never assume.

Whether it is a boating accident, medical emergency, wildlife rescue or dangerous weather situation, making the call yourself ensures responders receive accurate information as quickly as possible. When speaking with dispatchers, stay calm and start with the most important detail: your exact location.

That matters even more in the Lowcountry, where winding roads, beach access points, marshes, bridges and waterways complicate navigation. Saying "near the beach" or "off the dock" is not enough. Be specific.

A simple habit at the start of a beach day can make a major difference: note the nearest beach marker, identify the closest lifeguard and take stock of nearby landmarks. Boardwalk numbers, hotels, public access signs and distinctive homes can help rescuers pinpoint your location faster when every second matters.

After sharing your location, briefly explain what is happening and provide key details, including injuries, hazards, the number of people involved and changing conditions. Stay on the line unless instructed otherwise.

In stressful moments, staying calm may be the bravest thing you do. A steady voice and clear details can turn confusion into action and precious seconds into saved time.

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

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Hope for the best. Prepare for the worst.

Why emergency planning matters before disaster strikes

Life in the Lowcountry comes with a certain unpredictability. Summer thunderstorms roll in without warning. Tides shift. Traffic grinds to a standstill. Hurricanes threaten offshore. Roads flood. Fallen trees block neighborhoods and darken homes for hours on end.

The best time to prepare is before any of it happens.

At home that means keeping essentials ready for a few days without power: bottled water, shelf-stable food, medications, flashlights, batteries, first-aid supplies and important documents stored safely.

On the road a basic emergency kit can make long delays, flash flooding or breakdowns far less stressful. And on the water, preparation matters just as much. Life jackets, weather awareness, communication tools and a basic understanding of tides and navigation should never be optional.

Preparedness is not panic. It is peace of mind. Quiet confidence often begins long before emergencies arrive. The calmest and bravest people in the room are usually the ones who planned ahead.







SAFETY AT SEA Before leaving the dock, make sure essential safety gear is on board, up to date and easy to reach. Life jackets, a first aid kit, distress signals and a fire extinguisher are not just smart to have: they are required by law. Missing equipment can result in fines and, more importantly, leave you unprepared when conditions suddenly change.



THERE IF YOU NEED IT A sign at Coligny Beach Park points visitors to a nearby AED, a lifesaving device designed for everyday people to use during cardiac emergencies while waiting for first responders to arrive.

When seconds matter, step in

Immediate action can save a life

Sometimes help is minutes away. Those minutes matter. Knowing what to do before first responders arrive can mean the difference between life and death, especially during cardiac emergencies, traumatic injuries or severe bleeding. If someone collapses, becomes unresponsive or stops breathing normally, call 911 immediately. Then, step in.

CPR becomes critical when the heart stops beating effectively. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation helps keep oxygen and blood moving to the brain while emergency crews are on the way.

Many public spaces across the Lowcountry — golf clubhouses, recreation centers, schools and public parks — also have automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, nearby. These lifesaving devices are designed for ordinary people to use, offering step-by-step instructions while analyzing heart rhythm and delivering a shock only if needed.

Severe bleeding presents another urgent threat. Dangerous blood loss can happen in minutes, which is why "Stop the Bleed" training has become so valuable. Learning how to apply pressure, pack wounds and respond confidently can stabilize someone long enough for EMS to arrive.

In a place where boating injuries, heat-related emergencies and outdoor accidents happen every day, those few moments of action can matter enormously.



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KNOW THE COLORS Red flags warn of rough surf and dangerous currents, yellow signals moderate conditions and caution, while purple flags alert beachgoers to marine hazards such as jellyfish, stingrays or dangerous fish in the water.

Don't fight the water

Rip current awareness can save your life

Our stretch of ocean may look calm, but beneath the sparkle, danger moves fast. Rip currents are among the most common beach hazards along the South Carolina coast, quietly pulling swimmers away from shore in narrow channels of fast-moving water. Panic, not the current itself, is often what turns a frightening moment into tragedy.

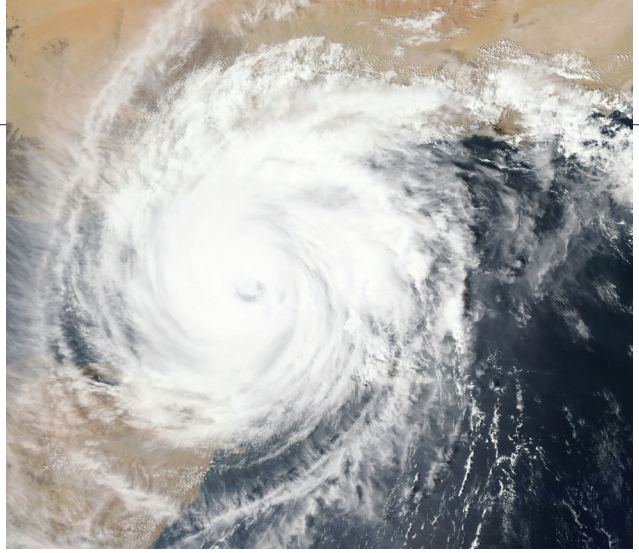
If caught in a rip current, resist the instinct to fight it. Swimming directly toward shore can exhaust even strong swimmers in minutes. Instead, stay calm, float if needed and swim parallel to the shoreline until free from the current's pull before gradually making your way back to shore.

Bravery in the water does not mean fighting harder. Sometimes the smartest and bravest thing you can do is stay calm enough to trust what you know.

Simple habits dramatically reduce risk: swim near lifeguards, never swim alone, and pay attention to warning flags and changing surf conditions. A yellow flag signals caution, while a red flag warns of rough surf and dangerous currents, conditions often linked to rip currents. Purple flags alert beach goers to marine hazards such as jellyfish, stingrays or dangerous fish.

Crowded beaches add another layer of risk. During peak season lifeguards monitor thousands of swimmers, while heat exhaustion, dehydration and water-related injuries rise. Staying near guarded areas and respecting posted advisories can make all the difference.

The beach should feel relaxing, not risky.



Before the skies turn gray

Hurricane preparedness starts long before the season peaks

Living near the coast means accepting one simple truth: storm season is not a matter of if, but when. Fortunately, preparation removes much of the panic.

Hurricanes affect the Lowcountry differently than inland communities. Marshes flood. Roads disappear underwater. Bridges become bottlenecks. Traffic slows to a crawl as evacuation orders ripple through barrier islands.

The smartest hurricane plan starts early. Know where you would go, how you would get there and what changes if your primary route becomes inaccessible. Identify backup evacuation options, and pay attention to official guidance before conditions worsen.

Emergency kits matter too. Water, shelf-stable food, medications, flashlights, batteries, phone chargers, important paperwork, pet supplies, cash and a basic first-aid kit should be packed before watches and warnings begin. And once a storm approaches, resist the temptation to "wait and see."

Preparedness is rarely dramatic. More often, it looks like hotel rooms booked early, charged phones, full gas tanks, neighbors checking on neighbors and fewer things to worry about when the forecast turns serious.



READY TO ROLL When hurricane watches turn into evacuation orders, there is little time to think. A well-stocked "bug-out bag" keeps essentials within reach for a quick, organized departure, helping you leave early and beat the inevitable crawl to the interstate.



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Beat the heat before it beats you

Summer safety in a place that feels hot enough to steam shrimp

Lowcountry summers are beautiful. They are also relentless. By July, humidity hangs thick over marshes, sidewalks shimmer and stepping outside can feel like opening an oven door. Beaches, golf courses, pickleball courts and boat decks turn everyday outings into heat tests.

Hydration becomes essential. Water matters most, but foods with high water content such as watermelon, cucumbers and citrus can help, too. Shade, sunscreen, lightweight clothing, sunglasses and frequent breaks are equally important. Knowing the difference between heat exhaustion and heat stroke can save lives.

Heat exhaustion often shows up as dizziness, nausea, heavy sweating, weakness or fainting. Heat stroke is more severe and requires immediate medical attention. Warning signs include confusion, rapid pulse, dangerously high body temperature and hot, dry skin. In short: if someone seems confused, disoriented or suddenly stops sweating in extreme heat, call 911.

The Lowcountry rewards people who pace themselves. Listen to your body, take breaks and remember: no beach day, boat ride or backyard gathering is worth pushing through dangerous heat. If something feels off, slow down, cool off and take it seriously.



SHADE IS YOUR FRIEND On scorching beach days, an umbrella is more than a luxury. It is a cooling station. Take a long break in the shade at least every hour to hydrate and cool down. A quick dip or cool towel can help lower body temperature fast if heat starts taking a toll.

WHEN BRAVERY CALLS

Preparedness does not mean expecting disaster around every corner. It means paying attention. To weather changing overhead. To a swimmer struggling offshore. To signs of heat exhaustion on a friend's face. To an elderly neighbor who may need help evacuating. To wildlife behaving strangely along the shoreline.

Life in the Lowcountry asks a lot of the people who love it. Heat, storms, tides and wildlife have a way of reminding us that this place is beautiful, unpredictable and occasionally demanding. And when emergencies happen, courage rarely arrives with sirens.

More often, it begins quietly: someone making a phone call, helping a stranger, grabbing an AED, staying calm in rising floodwaters or noticing something others miss. Knowing what to do will not just help keep you safe. It may help you shine when bravery matters most.



FAMILIAR FIN Researchers at USCB's Marine Sensory and Neurobiology Lab have tracked Klaus in the May River since 2015, making the well-known dolphin a familiar fin in local waters.

When wildlife needs rescuing

Helping animals starts with knowing when not to help

The Lowcountry belongs to more than people. Dolphins surface in tidal creeks. Sea turtles nest along the shoreline. Shorebirds skim marshes. Alligators wander close to neighborhoods that continue expanding into their habitat.

Seeing wildlife up close feels magical. Seeing wildlife in distress can feel urgent. But in many situations, the best thing you can do is keep your distance.

Good intentions sometimes create bigger problems. Attempting to move stranded wildlife, feed injured animals or intervene without training can increase stress, worsen injuries and place both people and animals at risk. Instead, observe carefully and call trained professionals.

Take note of an animal's location, visible injuries, unusual behavior and nearby hazards. A stranded dolphin in shallow water, an entangled shorebird or an injured sea turtle may require immediate intervention, but that response should come from trained experts.

Klaus, the dolphin stranded in May, survived because someone noticed something was wrong and made the call. Sometimes courage means stepping in. Sometimes it means stepping back and trusting professionals to take it from there. *LL*

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Overcoming fear through meditation

FIVE PRACTICES YOU CAN TRY TODAY

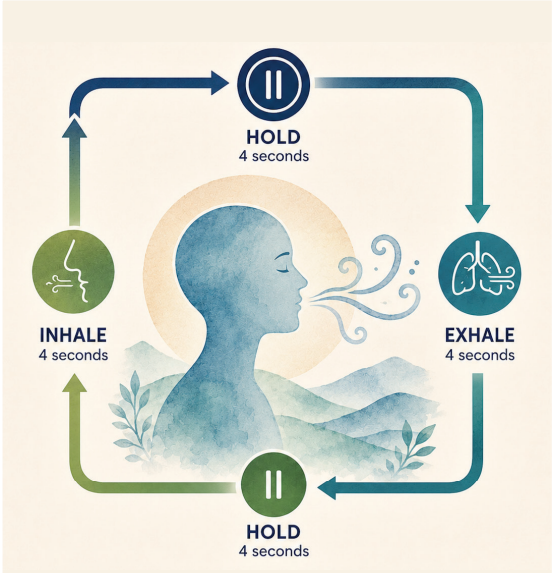
STORY BY MICHELE ROLDÁN-SHAW



A racing mind before your feet hit the floor. Tightness in the chest before a difficult conversation. Sleepless thoughts that seem to replay the same worries long after the house grows quiet. Fear has a way of settling into the body, convincing us danger is closer than it really is.

In small doses, fear serves an important purpose. It helps us sense and respond to threats and is part of how we survive. But fear is not meant to become a permanent state of being. When anxiety lingers or feels overwhelming, speaking with a doctor or mental health professional may be an important step. Alongside that support, simple daily practices can help soothe the nervous system and restore a sense of steadiness. One of the most powerful is meditation.

Meditation is not about making fear disappear entirely. There is no magic switch that suddenly silences worry or uncertainty. Instead, it offers a way to meet fear with greater awareness, steadier breath and a calmer mind. By dedicating even a few quiet moments to ourselves, we begin creating space between what we feel and how we respond. Over time, fear may still visit, but it no longer gets to take the wheel.



Breath meditation

Breathing is one of the body's most remarkable systems because it can happen automatically or by choice, creating a powerful connection between mind and body. Simply slowing down and observing the breath can help quiet physical tension and calm emotional overwhelm. One popular breathing technique, known as "box breathing," is practiced by Navy SEALs to help them stay alert and grounded during stressful moments.

Begin by exhaling fully and emptying the lungs. Hold for a count of four. Then inhale for four, hold for four and exhale for four. This simple 4-4-4-4 cycle is one round of box breathing. Repeat until you feel calmer and more present.



Walking meditation

Fear often creates restless energy in the body, a natural response tied to the fight-or-flight system. Movement can help release some of that tension, and walking meditation offers a grounding way to calm both body and mind.

Walk at whatever pace feels natural, and begin noticing the sensations beneath your feet as they meet the ground. Pay attention to the rhythm of your stride, the movement in your legs and the feeling of air against your skin. You might coordinate your breathing by taking four steps with each inhale and eight steps with each exhale. Rather than spiraling into anxious thoughts, this practice gently anchors attention to the present.

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Grounding meditation in nature

Nature can be a quiet but powerful companion during stressful moments. Whether you step into a peaceful wooded trail, sit beside the water or simply stand barefoot in a patch of grass, the natural world offers subtle reminders to slow down.

Find a comfortable, quiet place outdoors where you will not be disturbed. Sit on the ground or lean against a tree for support. Begin noticing what surrounds you: the rustle of leaves overhead, birdsong in the distance, the hum of insects or the feel of a breeze moving across your skin. Observe the shifting light, the textures around you and your connection to the physical earth beneath your feet.

When distracting thoughts arise, acknowledge them gently, and return your attention to what is immediately around you.



Guided meditation

Sometimes thoughts become so loud or repetitive that quieting them alone feels difficult. Guided meditations can help interrupt the cycle by gently leading the mind toward a calmer state through breathing, visualization, affirmations or relaxation exercises.

Thousands of guided meditations are available online, making it easy to experiment until you find one that feels helpful. Create a quiet, comforting space for the practice, whether that is soft lighting, a favorite chair or simply a peaceful corner of your home where you can settle in without interruption.

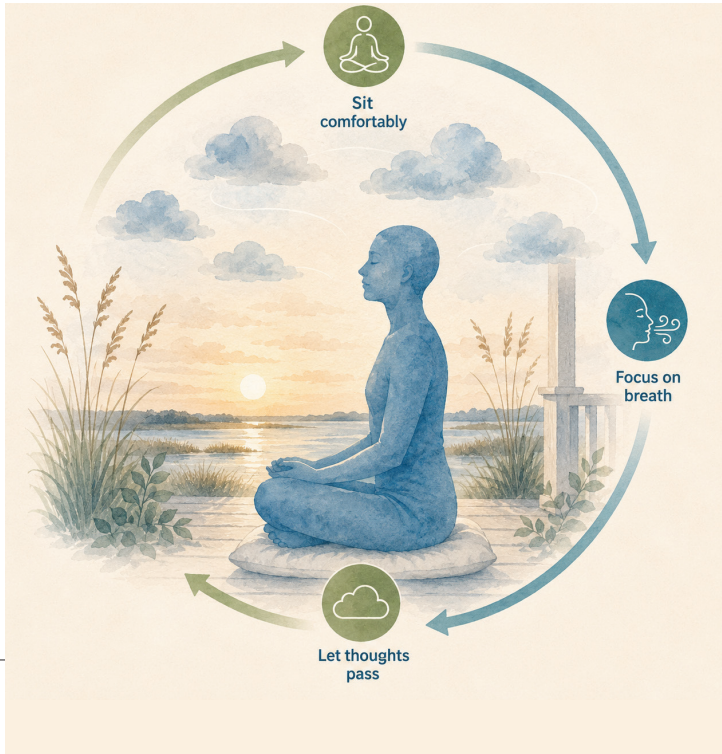
Mindfulness meditation

If you feel ready to face fear more directly, mindfulness meditation can be a powerful way to build inner steadiness. Rather than trying to eliminate difficult thoughts or emotions, mindfulness teaches us to notice them without becoming consumed by them.

Create a consistent routine, perhaps 10 quiet minutes when you wake up or before bed. Sit in a posture that feels comfortable and grounded, then take a few slow breaths to settle into the moment.

As thoughts and emotions arise, simply notice them. Rather than getting caught up in the story, imagine them drifting past like clouds crossing the sky. Fears, worries and distractions may still appear, but the practice is to acknowledge them without judgment and gently return attention to the breath.

Over time, mindfulness does not erase fear. Instead, it helps create a healthier distance from it, allowing you to meet life's uncertainties with greater calm, clarity and resilience. *LL*







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PARTNER CONTENT

'Undetectable injectables' are the new trend. This Hilton Head MediSpa has been doing it for years

DR. NICOLE NADEL SHARES WHY RESTRAINT, INJECTOR TRAINING, AND FACIAL ANATOMY MATTER MORE THAN TRENDS AT TOTALITY MEDISPA HILTON HEAD

STORY BY OLIVIA SIMS

Spend enough time online and you will eventually see it. Lips stretched too full to move, cheeks sitting unnaturally high on the face, and expressions slowly disappearing under excessive filler have made cosmetic work easier to spot more than ever before. Patients are paying attention.

Many clients now walk into aesthetic consultations wanting the exact opposite. They are not chasing dramatic transformations. They want friends to notice they look rested, happier, or somehow healthier without immediately wondering what procedure they had done.

At Totality MediSpa Hilton Head, Dr. Nicole Nadel says natural looking injectables have always been the expectation long before "undetectable injectables" became a trend online.

"Patients never wanted to look fake," Dr. Nadel says. "People want to look refreshed, attractive, and like themselves."

Years of celebrity overfilling, viral cosmetic trends, and visible injector mistakes have made patients far more cautious about who they trust with their appearance.

"Most overfilled faces are not the result patients asked for," Dr. Nadel says. "They usually come from injectors who do not understand restraint, facial anatomy, or when to stop."



LIQUID FACELIFT
Smaller adjustments over time usually create softer, more natural results

How Technique Keeps Filler From Looking Obvious

At Totality MediSpa Hilton Head, providers evaluate facial balance, movement, skin quality, and proportion before building a treatment plan. Dr. Nadel says the best injectable work usually goes unnoticed.

"It means no one can tell you've had anything done," she says. "Your face still moves naturally. Your expressions are intact. There's no heaviness, no overfilling, no loss of character."

Dr. Nadel says many injectors rely on the same placement habits for nearly every patient, even though every face ages differently.

"The average injector repeats the same two or three spots they've been trained on for every patient," she says. "The face ages as a complete unit."



Technique, she says, is often the difference between a result that looks refreshed and one that immediately draws attention.

"Technique is everything," Dr. Nadel says. "The product is just a tool. The outcome depends entirely on the hand holding it."

Patients often take a slower, more conservative approach to treatment. Smaller adjustments over time usually create softer, more natural results than trying to correct everything during a single appointment.

"We make very intentional, often conservative decisions," Dr. Nadel says. "Sometimes that means doing less than a patient expected, or spacing treatments out over time."

According to Dr. Nadel, the same syringe can produce dramatically different outcomes depending on who is holding it.

"One syringe of filler can turn you into Marge Simpson in the wrong hands, or allow you to age gracefully like Anne Hathaway in the best ones," she says.



TRUST & HONESTY
Dr. Nicole Nadel, Totality MediSpa

3 Questions Dr. Nadel Says Every Injectable Patient Should Ask

How long have you been injecting?

Experience matters when natural results are the priority. A skilled injector understands facial anatomy, restraint, and how to avoid results that look overdone. Dr. Nadel adds, "I've been injecting for over ten years. Although experience helps, I've seen a lot of poor techniques from experienced injectors who were never taught well."

Can I review real patients before and after photos?

Reviewing actual patient outcomes helps determine if an injector's aesthetic aligns with your personal goals. Dr. Nadel points out, "If an injector lacks a library of before and afters, that is a red flag."

What happens if I wait or do nothing today?

An experienced injector should feel comfortable recommending a slower timeline, a different treatment, or no injectable treatment at all if it serves the patient better.

Consultations Matter More Than Most Patients Realize

Dr. Nadel considers consultations one of the most important parts of aesthetic medicine.

"A consultation should always be the non-negotiable first step in any aesthetic journey," she says.

Consultations involve much more than deciding where filler or toxin should go. Providers evaluate facial anatomy, aging patterns, lifestyle, skin quality, and long term goals before recommending treatment.

Injectables may not always be the best starting point. Some patients benefit more from laser resurfacing, skin treatments, or medical weight loss before injectable treatment begins. Others may require surgery for optimal correction.

"That level of honesty is how we build long term trust," Dr. Nadel says.

Patients also evaluate injectors during consultations. Dr. Nadel encourages clients to pay attention to provider results and presentation.

"You should look at the staff," she says. "Do they look natural and refreshed, or do they look overdone?"

More patients now want results that leave people wondering why they look healthier or more rested without immediately spotting what changed.

"Patients have seen what happens when treatments go too far," Dr. Nadel says. "They're choosing a different path."

Cosmetic trends will continue to change, but one expectation stays remarkably consistent. People want to look like themselves.

In a world where cosmetic work has become easier to spot than ever, many patients are no longer searching for more filler. They are searching for an injector with the training, judgment, and restraint to know exactly when enough is enough.

To learn more about injectable treatments and consultation options, visit totalitymed.com.




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The courage within

Three local stories reveal what happens when ordinary people are tested by extraordinary moments

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA STAFF

Mark Twain famously said that bravery is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. It's the ultimate act of humanity — drawing on a reserve of strength you didn't know you had in the face of overwhelming dread. Each of us likes to imagine that when the time comes for our own act of heroism, we'll have the fortitude to respond with bravery.

These locals don't need to imagine that situation. They lived it. Each faced the ultimate test, with death just one wrong move away, and came through to the other side on the strength of their own courage alone. Each found their lives changed in different ways by the challenges they faced. But each can say without doubt that in their darkest moments, their bravery never faltered.

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Ralph Feuerman

This World War II hero never saw himself as brave, despite extraordinary acts of valor

If you weren't told that Ralph Feuerman was 101 years old, you would get no indication of his centenarian status by simply talking to him. As spry as men half his age, he shares stories about the colorful paintings that now hang on the walls of his Hilton Head Plantation home, and he is seeming entirely unencumbered by his advancing age.

If anything betrays his 101 years, it's the softening that makes its way around his face as he talks about his time in World War II. In those moments the 80 years since he was just some kid being shipped away to war are laid out plain to see.

"I was brought up at Rockaway Beach a block from the ocean. I graduated high school in June and was already in the Army by August," he said. "It was my first time away from home, so I was ill-equipped, but I learned very fast. I was a kid, and 17 weeks later I was shipped out and landed in Casablanca."

As the D-Day invasion had yet to clear an easy path for incoming Allied troops to land in Europe, Feuerman joined his fellow conscripts on a 40 & 8 boxcar that wound its way around northern Africa and entered through southern Italy.

"There I joined my division, which was a Texas National Guard division called the 36th Infantry Division," he said. "They put a bunch of us New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania kids in with these battle-hardened Texans, and that was scarier than anything."

Or so he thought at the time. Immediately he discovered the terrors of war, from the Battle of Monte Cassino to foxholes on the beach at Anzio, with mortar fire raining down around him. He stepped foot in Rome on the day it was liberated by the Allies, later entering France to witness the immense toll the war had taken on both country and people.

In the Vosges mountains of France, he discovered exactly what war had made him





BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD During World War II, Ralph Feuerman earned the Silver Star after stepping into command under enemy fire and leading his platoon during a critical battle in France on Oct. 19, 1944. More than eight decades later, the 101-year-old Hilton Head Plantation resident fills his days with painting, piano and the quiet joy of life shared with his wife, Laurie.

capable of. Pinned down in their foxholes by a German force atop a nearby hillside, the order came down to take the hill. No sooner did they begin their assault than Private First Class Feuerman found himself without commanding officers, facing certain doom on all sides.

"We couldn't go back, and we couldn't go forward. The lieutenant was wounded, and I don't know where the first sergeant was, but there was shrapnel raining down from the trees," he said. "I just jumped up and remember saying, 'Guys, we're going to die here.' And I ran ahead because there was no running back. I don't know what possessed me."

That moment is one of the last that he remembers from that battle, as it quickly became lost in the fog of what was then called "battle fatigue" but is now referred to as PTSD. In fact, it came as a surprise to him when he received a note from his captain saying he was to be awarded the Silver Star for his actions in the Vosges.

"I don't think I'd call it bravery. I think I was trained to do certain things," he said. "I'd witnessed a lot of death. My best buddy was killed next to me. So at that time, it was the easiest thing to do."

Even now, more than eight decades later, Feuerman still refuses to call what he did bravery. But history — and the Silver Star hanging beside a lifetime of memories — tells a different story.

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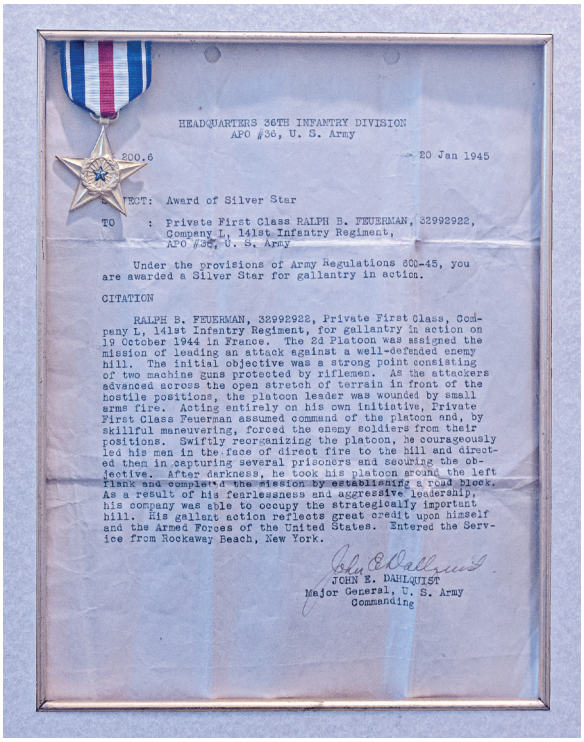
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APO #36, U. S. Army

200.6 — 20 Jan 1945

TEXT: Award of Silver Star

TO : Private First Class RALPH B. FEUERMAN, 32992922, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, APO #36, U. S. Army

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, you are awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action.

CITATION

RALPH B. FEUERMAN, 32992922, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 October 1944 in France. The 2d Platoon was assigned the mission of leading an attack against a well-defended enemy hill. The initial objective was a strong point consisting of two machine guns protected by riflemen. As the attackers advanced across the open stretch of terrain in front of the hostile positions, the platoon leader was wounded by small arms fire. Acting entirely on his own initiative, Private First Class Feuerman assumed command of the platoon and, by skillful maneuvering, forced the enemy soldiers from their positions. Swiftly reorganizing the platoon, he courageously led his men in the face of direct fire to the hill and directed them in capturing several prisoners and securing the objective. After darkness, he took his platoon around the left flank and completed the mission by establishing a road block. As a result of his fearlessness and aggressive leadership, his company was able to occupy the strategically important hill. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the service from Rockaway Beach, New York.

JOHN E. DAHLQUIST
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

Silver Star

While working as an orderly in Worms, Germany, as the war wound down, Ralph Feuerman received the following letter:

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45 you are awarded a Silver Star for Gallantry in Action, RALPH B FEUERMAN, 32992922 Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 October 1944 in France.

The second platoon was assigned the mission of leading an attack against a well-defended enemy hill. The initial objective was a strong point consisting of two machine guns protected by riflemen. As the attack advanced across the open stretch of terrain in front of the hostile positions, the platoon leader was wounded by small-arms fire.

Acting entirely on his own initiative, Private First Class Feuerman assumed command of the platoon and by skillful maneuvering forced the enemy soldiers from their positions. Swiftly reorganizing the platoon, he courageously led his men in the face of direct fire to the hill and directed them in capturing several prisoners and securing the objective.

After darkness he took his platoon around the Left Flank and completed the mission by establishing a roadblock. As a result of his fearlessness and aggressive leadership his company was able to occupy the hill. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Entered the service from Rockaway Beach, New York.

— John E. Dahlquist Major General, U.S. Army

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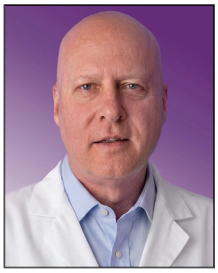
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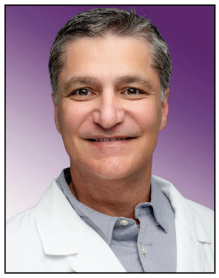
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Justin Bowers

This Bluffton firefighter proved courage doesn't clock out when duty ends

Sometimes the bravest acts look surprisingly ordinary. Opening your home to a child in need, raising a family through foster care and dedicating your life to protecting others all require a quiet kind of courage few people ever fully understand.

It's not always being the one who runs toward danger when everyone else is fleeing. But one day not long ago, bravery took on all three of these forms for Justin Bowers. As a foster parent, he was attending a court date in Ridgeland to secure the adoption of his youngest ward. As a firefighter, he possessed training that could guide him through any crisis. And when everyone around him fled, he stepped forward.

"I was just sitting in the courthouse lobby with my wife and my lawyer when everyone came running out screaming, saying the roof had fallen in. I was thinking maybe it was the truss system, but I didn't hear anything or feel anything shake," he said. "I went in to make sure everyone was OK, but they were pushing everyone out, telling them to stay away."

Because he was off duty, taking time out for this can't-miss court date, he initially complied. But eventually, it was clear the situation called for someone with his training.

"After a couple of minutes, people were still screaming, so I just walked back in," he said. "And about 20 to 30 feet in the air, there were legs dangling from the drop ceiling. I could see the ceiling cracking underneath them."

What was left of the panicked courtroom crowd couldn't figure out a way to get up to the ceiling and check on whoever was in crisis up there. But Bowers, drawing from a mix of instinct and training, spotted an entry behind the judge's bench that could provide access to the attic.





INSTINCT IN ACTION Justin Bowers was attending an important family court hearing when chaos erupted around him. When a worker was electrocuted above the courtroom ceiling, the Bluffton Township firefighter stepped forward without hesitation, using the training and calm under pressure that define his profession. His actions saved a life and earned him the Medal of Valor, the highest honor awarded by the department.

"I'd never been in this courthouse, so I didn't know where anything was, but I found this loft space with a ladder going up," he said. "When I got up there, there was a hallway going down the attic, and I turned a corner to find a guy lying unconscious between the rafters. I could hear the ceiling starting to go."

Still dressed in his finest court clothes and dress shoes, Bowers sprang over the handrail and grabbed hold of the unconscious man, who had clearly been electrocuted while working on the lights. With the help of a bailiff and a tight grip on the victim's belt, Bowers was able to position the man across two rafters so he wouldn't fall through and performed a patient assessment.

"He was responsive to pain, breathing on his own and had a heartbeat, but he was unconscious," said Bowers.

Paramedics arrived soon after, and the worker made a full recovery, but had it not been for Bowers' bravery and training, the situation could have ended in tragedy. Instead, it ended with him being awarded the Medal of Valor, Bluffton Township Fire District's highest honor.

"That's what you're trained to do — respond in a situation like this. It's something that anybody who works here would have done," he said. "But when I walked back in, I had to tell all the guys, 'You're never going to believe this.'"



Standing: Heidi Yoshida, CFP®, Michelle Myhre, CFP®, Sarah Huie, CFP®, Kevin Myhre
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The quiet bravery of a father

Born and raised in Bluffton, Justin Bowers knew he wanted to be a firefighter as soon as he took his first ride-along as part of the Bluffton Firefighters Explorers Post. But his service to the community doesn't end when he clocks out from his shift. As foster parents, he and his wife have opened their home to two children they proudly call their own.

"She told me she was signing up to be a foster parent on our very first date. It finally happened about six months into our relationship, and I had already fallen in love at this point," he said.

A young child was on his way from Columbia to meet his foster parents, and Bowers was excited to give him a home.

"She called me at about 10 at night saying he was on his way, so I went straight to Walmart and bought him a little toy fire truck and a couple of toy motorcycles. I just thought, 'Let's see how it goes,'" said Bowers. "That was about five years ago. We just adopted him this past November."

He was later joined by another young child, whose adoption hearing put Bowers at a Ridgeland courthouse just in time to be a hero and earn a Medal of Valor.



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Sgt. Christopher Partridge and Cpl. Christian Anderson

When a high-speed chase turned deadly, these local officers acted without hesitation





If you were to cast two police officers in a procedural crime TV show, you could do worse than Sgt. Christopher Partridge and Cpl. Christian Anderson. When asked what they enjoy most about law enforcement, each gives an answer that reflects two different perspectives on one of the most important callings a person can answer.

"I enjoy the aspect of taking violent offenders, drug traffickers and wanted individuals off the street who are doing harm to others," said Partridge.

"It's enjoyable to be that person who gets to show up and help someone when they're having the worst day of their life," said Anderson.

Underneath that chemistry lies a deep well of mutual respect and extensive law enforcement experience. Prior to working together, Partridge had served on the SWAT team for six years and had served on other specialized teams within the agency. Anderson had been a patrol officer and driving instructor. As partners on Beaufort County Sheriff's Office's Special Enforcement Unit, their combined experience made them the ideal team.

That was proven undeniably true in November 2023, when their expertise and bravery helped end the threat posed by a violent man in Bluffton. Wanted on felony charges, 34-year-old Anthony Barnhill had already shown that he was not intending to go quietly.

"I was already familiar with him. He'd had a run-in with Bluffton PD not too long before this, and there were allegations that he had brandished a firearm at the officer and threatened his life," said Partridge.

The two partners had just returned from interdiction training the night before when they learned that Barnhill had fled from officers who had terminated the pursuit. Already familiar with the suspect, they sent Anderson down in an unmarked car while Partridge set up the rest of the operation.

"Because of the potential danger to the public, the goal was to get him on foot. (Sgt. Anderson) called me and said he had eyes on the vehicle while

I was trying to get more units in the area," said Partridge. "No sooner did that happen than the suspect hopped in his car and took off, and that's where the pursuit started."

Roaring down Simmonsville Road into oncoming traffic, Barnhill was a threat to public safety. Anderson pursued, urged on by the increasing danger and the suspect's history of violence.

"We're not going to chase the wheels off a car for a blown tail light," he said. "But obviously if there's a danger to the public, we're going to go out and get it."

The chase wove through six miles of Bluffton's streets, turning onto May River Road and up Buckwalter Parkway, as Partridge and other officers joined the pursuit.

"Thankfully, it wasn't as busy as I would have expected for a normal Saturday in Bluffton, especially through the neighborhoods," said Partridge.

As the pursuit made its way through The Farm, with Anderson keeping one eye on the pursuit and one eye on front yards and sidewalks to safeguard the public, he heard shots ring out. Barnhill was making good on his threats. Anderson was forced to end it with the PIT maneuver.

"Our policies are very black and white when it comes to vehicle techniques. You cannot use a PIT maneuver unless deadly force is justified," he said. "Once he shot at me, it rose to that level. As soon as we got away from the houses, I moved in and pitted him."

Their bravery resulted in both being awarded the Medal of Valor, but each gives full credit to training.

"Hope isn't a strategy. When things like this occur, we're trained to be able to take the action necessary," said Partridge. "We don't rise to the occasion as we hope, we rise to whatever your level of training is. And thankfully, we had the training."

WHEN TRAINING TAKES OVER Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Cpl. Christian Anderson was part of a high-risk operation in Bluffton in November 2023 that quickly escalated into a life-threatening pursuit involving an armed fugitive who opened fire on deputies. Working alongside Sgt. Christopher Partridge, who at the time of this article was unable to be photographed, Anderson relied on training, trust and split-second decision-making to help end the pursuit and protect both fellow officers and the public. Their actions earned both deputies the Medal of Valor.

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Understanding the PIT maneuver

The Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) was developed in the late 1980s as a way to bring a pursuit that has reached a dangerous threshold to an end. Essentially, the pursuing vehicle edges its nose into the rear tire of the other vehicle, causing the vehicle's momentum to abruptly pivot around its center and spin in the opposite direction.

Cpl. Christian Anderson used this technique once he determined that the risks of allowing the pursuit to continue far outweighed the risks associated with causing the other vehicle to likely crash.

"He had shown that he was willing to risk the lives of the public and officers, so we knew we needed to end the pursuit," he said. "Plus, Sgt. (Adam) Nass from the Bluffton Police Department was standing 100 yards in front of us, about to throw spike strips. Ten seconds before that, the suspect was shooting at me, so I wasn't going to let him get to Nass."

The maneuver worked, bringing a chase that had wound through busy streets and neighborhoods to a close, ending a threat to the public. *LL*



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Answering the call

Local first responders put themselves on the line when every second matters

STORY BY MADISON MCBRIDE



©HILTON HEAD ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

STANDING READY Before most people begin their day, first responders across the Lowcountry are already prepared for whatever comes next. From structure fires and medical emergencies to rescues on land and water, these everyday acts of courage help keep our communities safe when every second matters.

Before sunrise and long after nightfall, sirens cut through the Lowcountry as flashing lights reflect off still marsh waters. Somewhere nearby, an ordinary day has suddenly become someone's worst moment. A child stops breathing. A house catches fire. A boater disappears offshore. A crash shuts down a crowded highway. In moments like these, hesitation is not an option.

First responders race down narrow backroads, across crowded beaches, through rising floodwaters and toward emergencies most people instinctively run from. At Parris Island Fire and Emergency Services, firefighters define bravery simply as "doing what you have to do even when you're scared." But courage is rarely defined by a single dramatic moment.

Behind every emergency response are thousands of training hours, relentless preparation, personal sacrifice and an unwavering willingness to place others before themselves. Across the Lowcountry, bravery wears many uniforms. Sometimes it arrives in an ambulance. Sometimes by helicopter, patrol boat or fire engine.

These are the people who step forward when ordinary days suddenly become life-changing emergencies.



©LISA STAFF

WHERE DUTY MEETS DANGER From quiet backroads to high-risk emergencies, deputies with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office must be prepared for whatever unfolds next. Serving a region shaped by waterways, growing communities and miles of coastline, their work demands vigilance, adaptability and split-second decision-making every day.

On the front lines

Protecting neighborhoods, highways and growing communities

BEAUFORT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Danger rarely announces itself, and across Beaufort County, deputies are often the first to confront it. In a region defined by winding waterways, rapidly growing neighborhoods and millions of annual visitors, emergencies can unfold anywhere in an instant. Deputies routinely respond to situations that demand calm decision-making under pressure, often arriving first when lives, safety and public order are suddenly at risk.

Their responsibilities extend far beyond traditional law enforcement. Specialized training includes active shooter response, K-9 tracking operations, marine patrol and search-and-rescue missions across the county's vast network of waterways and coastal communities. Advanced resources such as helicopters, drones and marine units help deputies locate missing persons, assist stranded boaters and provide critical support during large-scale emergencies and natural disasters.

On average, Beaufort County deputies respond to nearly 760 calls each day, carrying the responsibility of protecting a community where ordinary moments can quickly turn unpredictable.


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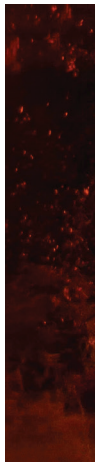
CARE UNDER PRESSURE Delivering emergency care requires more than fast response times. Behind every ambulance dispatch are highly trained paramedics equipped to provide critical treatment long before patients ever reach the hospital, often during the most difficult moments of someone's life.

BEAUFORT COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Some emergencies leave no room for second chances. Every year Beaufort County Emergency Medical Services responds to nearly 21,000 calls, bringing lifesaving care directly to people experiencing some of the most critical moments of their lives. Cardiac arrests. Traumatic injuries. Severe heat emergencies during the height of summer tourism. Paramedics often begin life-saving treatment long before patients ever reach a hospital.

Specialized equipment such as cardiac monitors, chest compression systems and advanced airway devices allow crews to begin critical interventions immediately, turning precious seconds into opportunities for survival. But delivering emergency care in the Lowcountry brings unique challenges. Crowded roadways, extreme heat, rapidly changing weather and heavy tourist traffic can complicate even the most urgent calls. For these paramedics, the distance between life and death is often measured in seconds, and they are asked to make every one of them count.

BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT



Protecting one of the Lowcountry's fastest-growing communities requires a constant state of readiness. Serving 246 square miles from nine stations, Bluffton Township Fire District responds around the clock to structure fires, medical emergencies, technical rescues and hazardous material incidents where seconds often decide outcomes. But firefighting extends far beyond emergency calls.

Firefighters regularly install smoke detectors, lead public safety education programs and help residents prepare long before disaster strikes. When emergencies happen, extensive training becomes everything. Firefighters earn EMT certifications, train for specialized rescue operations and master the advanced equipment required for the region's demanding conditions.

That preparation was recently tested during a Simmonsville Road fire sparked by unattended incense. Although the mobile home was ultimately lost, crews quickly contained the fire and helped ensure every resident escaped safely.



©CITY OF BEAUFORT/TOWN OF PORT ROYAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

SECONDS TO ACT Crews with the City of Beaufort/Town of Port Royal Fire Department train relentlessly for high-pressure emergencies like this one, where quick decisions, teamwork and experience can make the difference between disaster and survival.

CITY OF BEAUFORT/TOWN OF PORT ROYAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Serving communities that range from historic waterfront neighborhoods to major military installations requires extraordinary preparation. The City of Beaufort/Town of Port Royal Fire Department holds an elite ISO Class One rating, placing it among the top one percent of fire departments nationwide. But that distinction is built long before emergency calls arrive.

Firefighters remain deeply involved in the community through fire prevention programs, public education efforts and services such as smoke alarm and child car seat installations designed to keep residents safe before disaster strikes. In 2025 alone, firefighters responded to more than 6,000 calls while completing thousands of hours of live-fire training.

That preparation was recently tested during a Port Royal house fire where flames were already tearing through the roof as crews arrived. Residents were feared trapped inside. Firefighters immediately entered the burning home and conducted an intense search-and-rescue operation that helped ensure every occupant escaped safely.



©BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

INTO THE INFERNO When flames erupt and seconds disappear, firefighters move toward the danger. Crews with the Bluffton Township Fire District train relentlessly for high-risk emergencies like this one, where preparation, teamwork and split-second decisions can mean the difference between devastation and survival.

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SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL

Some of the most dangerous emergencies happen at full speed. Whether responding to major crashes on Interstate 95, assisting stranded drivers along U.S. 278 or managing evacuation traffic when hurricanes threaten the coast, South Carolina Highway Patrol troopers operate in environments where split-second decisions can mean the difference between life and death.

Patrolling nearly 6,000 miles of roadway across all 46 counties, troopers serve as a constant presence on the highways that keep South Carolina moving. During holiday weekends and peak tourist season, heavy congestion, serious collisions and a sharp increase in emergency calls quickly raise the stakes.

But traffic enforcement is only one part of the job. Troopers regularly assist stranded motorists, respond during severe weather and help coordinate large-scale evacuations when dangerous storms move toward the coast, often managing some of the most stressful driving conditions the state experiences all year. For these officers, courage is measured not only in the ability to react quickly, but in the willingness to step into fast-moving situations where danger can arrive without warning.



©SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL

A CONSTANT PRESENCE Whether along U.S. 278, U.S. 21 or Interstate 95, Highway Patrol troopers remain a steady presence on the roads that keep the Lowcountry moving. Their mission extends far beyond enforcement, often placing them on the front lines of emergencies when drivers need help most.



©BURTON FIRE DISTRICT

SERVICE BEYOND THE SIRENS Firefighters with Burton Fire District do more than respond when disaster strikes. Alongside emergency response and advanced medical care, they help strengthen the community through education, prevention and training programs that prepare residents for life's most critical moments.

BURTON FIRE DISTRICT

No two emergencies ever look the same. Since 1973 Burton Fire District has responded to brush fires, hazardous material incidents, vehicle accidents and medical emergencies that demand constant adaptability under pressure. The department has long been recognized as a leader in emergency medical care and was among the first in the region to provide paramedic-level services directly from fire apparatus, allowing advanced treatment to begin immediately at emergency scenes.

But Burton's mission extends beyond disaster response. Through CPR, Stop the Bleed and CERT training programs, firefighters equip ordinary residents with the knowledge to act before first responders arrive. As Fire Chief Harry Rountree explains, "Today's fire service is no longer one dimensional." By teaching residents how to act before help arrives, firefighters are building a stronger and safer community long before the next emergency begins.

SHELDON FIRE DISTRICT

Emergency response looks very different where help may be miles away. Serving a large rural district since 1977, Sheldon Fire District protects communities where long stretches of road, limited infrastructure and fewer nearby resources create challenges many departments never face.

Operating two stations staffed by 18 firefighters and 20 volunteers, crews respond to everything from medical emergencies and vehicle extrications to severe storm damage and structure fires. One of the district's greatest challenges is water. With limited hydrants throughout the area, firefighters rely heavily on tanker operations and careful water management while battling active fires. Long response distances, unpredictable weather and limited backup resources demand quick thinking and constant adaptability.



©SHELDON FIRE DISTRICT

STANDING AGAINST THE FLAMES In rural communities where help may be miles away, firefighters often face extraordinary danger with limited resources and no margin for hesitation. For crews with Sheldon Fire District, moments like these demand experience, quick thinking and the courage to confront overwhelming conditions head-on.



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U.S. COAST GUARD

Long after the beaches empty and the marshes fall quiet, Coast Guard crews remain on watch. Somewhere offshore, a vessel may be disabled. A fisherman may be missing. Weather may have turned an ordinary afternoon on the water into a life-threatening emergency. There are no roads leading to these emergencies.

Coast Guard crews train relentlessly for high-pressure rescues requiring speed, precision and the ability to navigate rough seas, darkness and unpredictable conditions. That readiness was tested earlier this year in Skull Creek when two jet skiers became stranded deep in pluff mud after running aground. A helicopter crew responded immediately, lowered into the remote marsh and safely hoisted both individuals back to shore.



©U.S. COAST GUARD

RESCUE FROM ABOVE Operating in unpredictable conditions far from shore, U.S. Coast Guard crews respond to emergencies that demand speed, coordination and extraordinary precision. For those in trouble on the water, help often arrives from the sky.



©DAUFUSKIE ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

DAUFUSKIE ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

Emergency response looks very different when backup is separated by water. Located on an island accessible only by boat, Daufuskie Island Fire Rescue serves as the community's primary emergency response team and lifeline when emergencies unfold.

Life here revolves around the water, making marine emergency response essential. Firefighters train for swift-water rescues, boat operations and severe weather emergencies that can quickly place residents and visitors in danger. But isolation remains the island's greatest challenge. With one station and a small full-time crew, firefighters rely heavily on creativity, teamwork and fast decision-making when emergencies strike. On Daufuskie, help is not simply minutes away. When the alarm sounds, these firefighters carry more than equipment. They carry the responsibility of serving as the island's lifeline.

WHERE HELP ISN'T MINUTES AWAY Emergency response on Daufuskie Island comes with challenges few departments face. With one station serving an isolated community surrounded by water, firefighters must be prepared to handle everything from marine rescues and structure fires to severe weather emergencies, without immediate reinforcements available.

FRIPP ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Protecting Fripp Island means protecting the environment that makes the island special. Operating from a single coastal station, firefighters balance emergency response with environmental stewardship, protecting residents, visitors and some of the Lowcountry's most fragile coastal ecosystems. Shifting tides, severe weather and limited access points require specialized preparation.

Firefighters train for beach rescues, boating emergencies, hurricane response and structure fires while navigating sandy shorelines and monitoring the Fripp Inlet Bridge. Their mission extends beyond emergencies. Crews also enforce beach fire restrictions and help safeguard sensitive sea turtle nesting areas that make the island unlike anywhere else in the Lowcountry.



©FRIPP ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

ISLAND GUARDIANS Serving one of the Lowcountry's barrier island communities requires far more than traditional fire response. From beach rescues and severe weather emergencies to protecting fragile coastal ecosystems, Fripp Island firefighters stand ready to safeguard both the people and natural beauty that define island life.



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©SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATCHING OVER WILD WATERS From crowded summer boating traffic to marine emergencies and wildlife protection, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources officers serve on the front lines of protecting the waterways that sustain life across the Lowcountry.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Not every emergency call involves people. Across the Lowcountry, officers with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources respond to stranded boaters, injured wildlife, illegal harvesting operations and emergencies threatening the fragile ecosystems that define coastal South Carolina. Their work sits at the intersection of public safety and environmental protection.

During summer months officers patrol crowded waterways, enforce boating safety regulations and respond to marine emergencies, as traffic across local waterways surges. The department also plays a vital role protecting Hilton Head Island's sea turtle population, monitoring nesting areas and helping educate visitors about preserving the habitats that sustain life along the coast. For these officers, service means protecting an entire way of life.

Whether rescuing stranded boaters, enforcing laws on crowded waterways or protecting fragile coastal habitats, these officers work where public safety and environmental protection collide.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND FIRE RESCUE



Protecting one of South Carolina's busiest tourist destinations demands extraordinary readiness. Across crowded beaches, resort communities and heavily traveled summer roadways, Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue responds to emergencies shaped by the constant flow of visitors and the unique challenges of island life. During peak summer season, crowded shorelines and extreme heat can quickly turn an ordinary beach day into a medical emergency.

From the moment a 911 call is placed, the department's in-house communications center helps dispatch crews immediately. Preparation extends beyond emergency response. A dedicated mobile app provides residents and visitors with weather alerts, incident updates and public safety information before dangerous situations develop. On an island built around recreation and tourism, protecting paradise means preparing for the unexpected.



©LADY'S ISLAND-ST. HELENA FIRE DISTRICT

WHEN THE NIGHT IGNITES Serving communities across the Sea Islands, crews with Lady's Island-St. Helena Fire District rely on relentless training, teamwork and extraordinary courage when lives and property hang in the balance.

LADY'S ISLAND-ST. HELENA FIRE DISTRICT

Across the South Carolina Sea Islands, emergencies can take many forms, and sometimes the most important work begins after the flames are extinguished. Serving more than 140 square miles from five stations, Lady's Island-St. Helena Fire District protects one of the region's fastest-growing coastal communities while responding to fires, hazardous incidents and medical emergencies throughout the district.

Fire investigations often begin after the flames are extinguished, and sometimes the answers lie with one of the department's most valuable team members: Buzz, a specially trained arson K-9 capable of detecting flammable accelerants and helping investigators determine whether a fire was intentionally set.



©HILTON HEAD ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

PROTECTING PARADISE From beach rescues and medical emergencies to severe coastal weather and structure fires, Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue stands prepared to protect both residents and visitors when the unexpected strikes.

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BEAUFORT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Long before hurricane warnings flash across television screens and storm clouds gather offshore, the Beaufort County Emergency Management Division is already preparing for what comes next. As part of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, the division leads disaster planning and coordinates emergency response efforts during hurricanes, flooding, wildfires and other large-scale emergencies that threaten the Lowcountry.

In a region defined by waterways and vulnerable coastlines, readiness extends far beyond severe weather. The division maintains 24/7 marine patrol operations, using drones to monitor waterways and assist during boating incidents and search operations.

Specialized resources including OH-58 helicopters, sonar, radar and FLIR thermal imaging technology allow crews to operate effectively in dangerous and rapidly changing conditions, whether responding to natural disasters or assisting in critical search-and-rescue missions.

While most people begin preparing when danger arrives, this division works behind the scenes long before disaster strikes — helping ensure Lowcountry communities stay informed, protected and ready for whatever comes ashore.



WATCHING FROM ABOVE Long before hurricanes make landfall or emergencies unfold on the ground, the Beaufort County Emergency Management Division is already preparing and monitoring conditions. Equipped with specialized aircraft, marine patrol units and advanced search technology, the team works behind the scenes to help keep Lowcountry communities informed, protected and ready when disaster strikes.



©MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

There is no rehearsal when a fighter jet goes down. At Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, firefighters prepare for emergencies unlike those faced by most departments. Aircraft malfunctions. Emergency landings. Fuel fires. Crash rescues. Everything happens fast.

Specially trained crews respond to aircraft crashes, fuel spills, engine failures and emergency evacuations involving some of the military's most advanced aircraft. Preparation is constant. Live-fire simulations, aircraft rescue drills and mass casualty exercises prepare crews for the unimaginable.

BUILT FOR THE EXTREME Wearing specialized protective gear designed to withstand intense heat, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort firefighters train for the kinds of emergencies few departments ever face. Their mission demands technical precision, constant readiness and the courage to enter some of the most dangerous conditions imaginable.

PARRIS ISLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

At Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, service is measured by far more than emergency response alone. Built on discipline, endurance and compassion, the department serves one of the most demanding military environments in the country, with nearly 70% of firefighters having prior military experience themselves. That shared background creates trust when responding to emergencies involving recruits, service members and military families.

As Fire Chief John Powell explains, "Bravery often means making someone's worst day a little less worse." Though proud to have earned Department of the Year honors for both the East Coast and the Marine Corps, firefighters say their greatest reward comes from simply helping others.

That commitment was recently on display when a children's center on base unexpectedly flooded before opening. Although cleanup fell outside their official responsibilities, firefighters immediately stepped in, spending more than an hour clearing water so the facility could reopen for military families. For these firefighters, courage is not always found in dramatic rescues. Sometimes, it is simply found in the willingness to serve whenever someone needs help. LL



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DUTY IN THE FIRE At Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, firefighters face dangerous emergencies with the same discipline and sense of service that define the military community around them. Whether battling intense fires or responding to everyday emergencies, their mission is rooted in protecting others when help is needed most.

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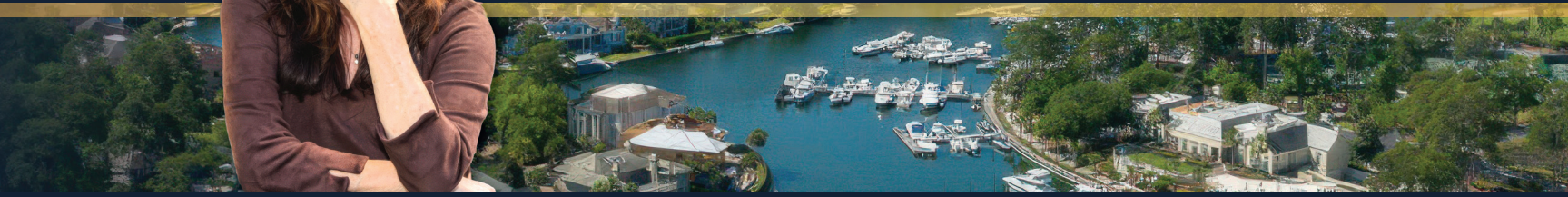
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DARK AND STORMY Lit by a glowing fireplace, the keeping room invites warm nights spent on the couch. While cozy, the space exudes sophistication through its rich blue walls, brass accents and striking floral centerpiece.

HOME SHOWCASE

The landscape within

Inspired by the waterways of Palmetto Bluff, this richly layered home offers a sophisticated take on Lowcountry living



STORY BY ALEA WILKINS
PHOTOS BY
KELLI BOYD PHOTOGRAPHY

Moving from Virginia to the marshlands of Palmetto Bluff, the homeowners of this elegant estate sought a living space that reveled in its new surroundings. Sparkling waterways, salty air and gently waving spartina set the backdrop for the family's arrival in the Lowcountry. To recreate that natural beauty inside, the owners enlisted a team led by Kelly Caron, ASID, of ***Kelly Caron Designs***, Lydia DePauw Architects and Richard Best Custom Homes to create a home that would evoke the outdoors in its look, mood and feel.





CHEF'S CHOICE
Adjacent to the room, a kitchen of white cabinetry and light oak brightens the atmosphere. Home cooks will appreciate ample overhead lighting and the luxury of two islands' worth of counter space.

Across its two stories, each room serves a unique purpose. Though varying in formality — from a polished living room anchored by a grand piano to a cozy set of quilted bunk beds in the kids' loft — the spaces come together to suit every need and occasion. "All of the spaces in the house are defined," Caron says. "They can go to their elegant space. They can go to their casual space, and they can truly live in all of those areas."

Altogether, the home embodies the serenity of the Lowcountry while embracing all the luxuries of local living.

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LOOK OUT Selected by the project's lead architect, Lydia DePauw, sliding glass doors wrap nearly every room of the home in the Lowcountry's stunning surroundings. From the keeping room they provide the perfect transition to the patio, where indoor comforts blend with breathtaking outdoor views.

Beauty in layers

Echoing the allure of the outdoors, the home's interior came together through the artful layering of colors, textures and materials. For Caron the natural first step was establishing the home's palette; an assemblage of blues, greens and earthy tones that mirror the views beyond the windows. Distinctly, Caron notes, the goal was not to follow the lead of bright white beach homes. Rather, she aimed for something richer, alternating between light and dark. "I call those the 'in-between colors,' the deeper, more elegant shades of what a full color is," she says. "It's not just green. It's a softer green or a darker green. It has another hue to it."

When combined, those colors create a continuous flow from interior to exterior, defining each room as its own unique space while connecting seamlessly with the surrounding areas. On the covered porch a sandy wall covering and brick fireplace blend naturally with the coastal surroundings. Flowing into the keeping room, the speckled cream walls give way to a deep blue, distinguishing the space while still grounding it firmly in the Lowcountry aesthetic. Caron says striking that perfect balance is key. "Grounding is really important in a home with big windows, ceilings and rooms that all connect to each other," she says. "You have to have those anchoring colors, finishes and materiality to make it all come together."



ROOTED IN THE REGION In every square inch, this jewel-box powder room is a Lowcountry original. Across the walls, a mural of Spanish moss establishes a serene, distinctly Southern setting, while a custom vanity by Al & Harry's Home Fashions showcases local craftsmanship in grand fashion.





TOP SHELF Tucked into the formal dining room, this wet bar impresses with its bold take on luxury. An indigo hue coats the built-in storage space, while brass finishes embellish the shelves, hardware and pendant chandelier overhead. Whether serving dinner party guests or pouring a nightcap, every moment feels upscale and indulgent.





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Classic by design

To further root the home in its Lowcountry setting, Caron wanted to create a vintage, lived-in charm. Antique brass hardware and cremone bolts, for example, lend a sense of heritage that feels convincingly authentic. Caron points to the wet bar as one of her favorite spaces in the home. "It is completely drenched in a dark blue color, and it's highlighted by the gold light fixture and antique mirror," she says. "They give it more of an heirloom, classic feel, and they also brighten the space."



POMP & POISE Open and bright, interior designer Kelly Caron describes the formal living room as "a breath of fresh air." Its refined, elegant look is created through symmetrical built-in cabinetry, glass paneling and a grand piano.





Built with purpose

Crossing from room to room, one notices each space feels distinct and intricate, teeming with details that reveal themselves the closer you look. In contrast to today's ubiquitous open floor plan, this home's layout is intentionally more defined. "It has rooms with individual purposes," Caron says. The dining room, separated from the living room by a cased opening, retains its sophisticated and intimate atmosphere for elegant meals or close-knit gatherings. The kitchen energizes with bright white cabinetry, while beside it, the keeping room's firelit glow creates a soothing retreat.

Caron's favorite unique space is one she never would have expected. "We call it the 'life management center,'" she says, referring to a multipurpose room that functions as a laundry room, office and back kitchen all in one. Enclosed by a backsplash of handmade zellige tiles and an enviable assortment of potted plants, the design appears too chic to be so functional, yet its value is undeniable. "It's a beautiful space, so those doors can literally be open all the time to the main kitchen, and it can be super utilitarian," she says.

Putting down roots

Like the gentle current of a tidal river, this home settles into a calming rhythm. Each room feels like a resting point; a moment to pause, look out and enjoy the view. As the project's leading inspiration, the Lowcountry's natural beauty influenced one of the home's hidden gems: a jewel-box powder room enveloped in a mural of Spanish moss. "It's the smallest room in the house, but it needed to have the biggest impact," Caron says. Highlighted by a grand vanity custom-made by Al & Harry's Home Fashions, the space captures exactly what drew the homeowners to the area in the first place. "They're very much into family, recreation and embracing the Lowcountry environment," Caron says. "They wanted to find their forever home." *LL*



LOFTY DREAMS After busy days under the Lowcountry sun, this cozy kids bunk room makes the perfect resting place. An alligator pattern adorns the curtains and pillows for just the right amount of whimsy, while the room's calming palette welcomes restful sleep and sweet dreams.

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GET THE LOOK

Spot on

A gifted cheetah ceramic left its mark throughout this Palmetto Bluff home

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS + PHOTOS BY KELLI BOYD PHOTOGRAPHY



Treasures collected over the years add a certain magic to a home, elevating it from simply a living space into a story that unfolds the more you settle in. In this Palmetto Bluff residence, a gifted cheetah ceramic held such significance that it influenced not just one room, but the entire house. "That was our little mascot, and it kind of became a thing," says Kelly Caron, founder of ***Kelly Caron Designs*** and principal designer on the project.

Inspired by the sculpture's dotted coat, Caron and the homeowner carried the pattern throughout the home. In the formal living room a matching set of stools complements the beloved art piece. In the cozy keeping room a trio of throw pillows flaunts the same playful spots. A gray cheetah-print carpet races up the staircase. Those touches, Caron says, fill the home with personality and joy. "It started as a gift to the client, and we embraced it throughout the house," she says. "It's fun and youthful, but it can be done in a classy way."





PRINT PERFECT Though a bold pattern, cheetah print feels just as at home in this formal living room as it does on safari. Decorating a pair of matching stools, the spots subtly pop against the fireplace's dark backdrop, while their neutral palette feels effortless and refined alongside the room's antique brass finishes.



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Outside in

SOFT FURNISHINGS AND CUSTOM DETAILS BRING INDOOR LUXURIES TO THIS SERENE PALMETTO BLUFF LANDSCAPE

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS + PHOTOS BY KELLI BOYD PHOTOGRAPHY



UNWIND IN STYLE When selecting the patio furniture, Caron sought pieces that mirrored those used indoors while standing up to the outdoor environment. For the sofa she gravitated toward soft cushions upholstered in durable performance fabrics. Topped with decorative cheetah-print pillows, the result delivers comfort, practicality and style in equal measure.

For the interior of this Palmetto Bluff home, Kelly Caron of ***Kelly Caron Designs*** let the landscape guide its look and feel. For the exterior, she brought those same indoor luxuries outdoors.

With picturesque water views, the home's outdoor living spaces needed little embellishment to feel beautiful. Instead, Caron prioritized comfort, selecting pieces designed to enhance time spent outside. Plush cushions on the patio sofa invite hours of lounging, while a custom porch swing makes stargazing feel dreamlike. Complete with an outdoor kitchen, entertainment center and pool, the exterior living spaces feel every bit as sumptuous as those inside. From the front door to the backyard, every detail is designed to feel luxurious, stunning and distinctly Lowcountry.





LAID-BACK LOUNGE Surrounded by uninterrupted Lowcountry views, little work was needed to make this backyard a showstopper. To fully take it all in, interior designer Kelly Caron worked with Lowcountry Originals to design a custom chaise porch swing. Overlooking the marsh, it's the ideal spot for an early morning cup of coffee or an impromptu afternoon siesta.

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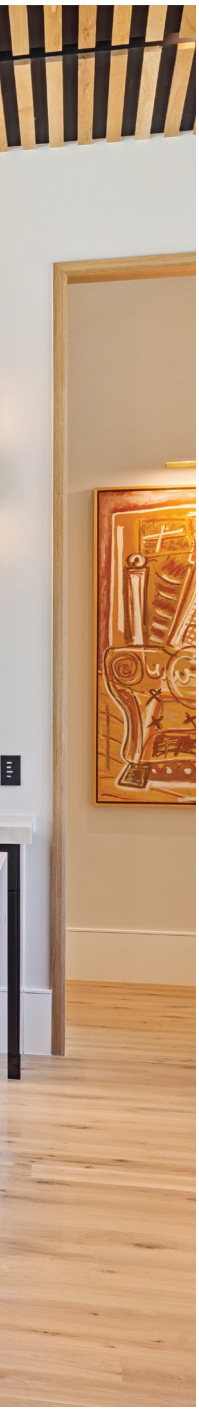
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A SEAT AT THE CHEF'S TABLE
Two oversized islands give this Palmetto Bluff kitchen the feel of a private dining experience, balancing prep, plating and gathering with ease. Woven seating, sculptural lighting and a slatted wood ceiling add warmth and texture to a space designed for cooking and connection.



ROOM OF THE MONTH

Yes, chef

Culinary firepower and refined design bring fine dining to this Palmetto Bluff kitchen

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS
PHOTOS BY ISLAND HOUSE MEDIA

The question arrives as predictably as a summer afternoon shower: What's for dinner tonight? If you're torn between cooking at home or heading out, this Palmetto Bluff kitchen makes a convincing case for staying in. Built by Randy Jeffcoat Builders with striking surfaces by ***Distinctive Granite & Marble***, the space blends restaurant-worthy function with the warmth of a home designed for gathering.

At the center, a dramatic waterfall island wrapped in Fantasy Lux quartzite serves as the kitchen's social hub, inviting prep work, plating and conversation. Lined with woven counter stools, it offers a front-row seat to the action, transforming weeknight meals and lively dinner parties into something a bit more memorable.

Just beyond, a second island expands the room's functionality, creating separation between prep, cooking and gathering spaces in a way that feels both practical and polished. Together the islands evoke the rhythm of a chef's kitchen, where every station has a purpose, but nothing sacrifices comfort.

Above, a slatted wood ceiling introduces warmth and movement, drawing the eye toward a sculptural plaster hood that frames the cooking area like a stage. Oversized pendant lights soften the room's scale, while professional-grade appliances tucked beneath the striking hood make giving everything from quiet breakfasts to ambitious entertaining more prominence.

Clean-lined yet welcoming, the kitchen balances culinary ambition with everyday ease. Whether it's cocktails around the island, an impromptu family dinner or guests staying long after dessert, the space proves one thing: staying in has never looked so good.

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EXPERT ADVICE

In sync

Why exterior Wi-Fi is the key to powerful, fully integrated outdoor entertainment

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS + PHTOGRAPHY BY JASON CLARKE

*A well-connected home should flow seamlessly from interior to exterior, extending indoor comforts to life beyond the back door. In this Rose Hill backyard, a strong Wi-Fi system brings limitless entertainment outdoors. Rather than relying on one central indoor network, **CAV Integrated Home** installed an exterior system to power outdoor TVs, speakers and handheld devices. Operating as its own network, the exterior Wi-Fi improves connectivity, delivering high-speed, uninterrupted entertainment that enhances outdoor living.*



BACKYARD BROADCAST Movie nights, golf tournaments and game-day gatherings all feel fully connected when outdoor entertainment runs on a dedicated Wi-Fi system.

On demand

When engrossed in a favorite film, a season finale or your favorite sports team, few things are more frustrating than a loading screen. With an outdoor connectivity network, the dreaded spinning circle no longer poses a threat. Strong Wi-Fi delivers clear video to the backyard's outdoor TV, a model specifically designed to reduce glare and withstand the elements, which CAV notes is especially important in the Lowcountry's humidity. Together, the system broadcasts every moment in vivid detail, elevating outdoor watch parties without the fear of buffering.

Pitch perfect

Whether lounging on a pool float or catching up with friends around the fire, music sets the mood. By syncing multiple speakers to the exterior Wi-Fi, this backyard setup delivers surround sound that hits every note. Small landscape speakers blend into the greenery as wall-mounted loudspeakers provide high-quality sound while remaining safely out of the pool's splash zone. Every inch of the yard receives clear audio, while thoughtful placement helps prevent excess noise from carrying beyond the property. All that is left is selecting the perfect playlist.



CONNECTED COMFORT A fully integrated backyard means entertainment follows wherever the evening leads. Exterior Wi-Fi helps power speakers, streaming and connected devices across multiple gathering zones, from the firepit to the pool deck.

Fully powered

If your phone seems to die faster when used in the backyard, poor Wi-Fi may be to blame. When devices struggle to maintain a weak connection, they work harder, draining battery life more quickly than normal. For sunbathers playing sudoku on tablets or grill masters following a video recipe, strong Wi-Fi can help preserve battery power for hours of outdoor use. Connected by an exterior Wi-Fi network, the backyard becomes an extension of the home. Living is no longer confined to four walls. Instead, it opens wide.



HIDDEN HARMONY Landscape speakers tucked into planting beds blend discreetly into the scenery while delivering balanced audio across the backyard without overwhelming neighboring spaces.



TURN IT UP Mounted beneath the overhang, weather-resistant outdoor speakers distribute clear sound throughout the yard while standing up to heat, humidity and the everyday demands of Lowcountry living.

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INSPIRATION BOARD

Just add flowers

CREATIVE WAYS TO BRING EVERY OUTDOOR SPACE INTO FULL BLOOM

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS + PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELIZABETH TURNER

When flowers are blooming, the outdoors comes to life. While an expansive garden is sure to enchant, maintenance demands and space limitations can dampen backyard botanical dreams. If you're short on space, ***Earthworks Landscape*** *shares three creative horticultural ideas that can make any home bloom.*



Layer after layer

A garden doesn't need to be overflowing to feel full. Layering flowers of different heights, textures and colors builds depth within planting beds, creating a richer, more balanced look. On the exterior of this Palmetto Bluff home, a combination of bold blooms, soft fillers and dense foliage creates a look that feels effortlessly lush. For creative homeowners, it's also an opportunity to get their hands dirty. Take inspiration from the season, the home's architecture or simply what speaks to you to create a meaningful, one-of-a-kind landscape.



Higher ground

An easy way to elevate outdoor living? Raised planters. In this Rose Hill garden, tall planters bring drama and dimension through their height, helping even shorter plants appear grand. Beyond flowers, raised planters also provide fertile ground for fresh herbs. Fill them with basil, mint or other favorite herbs for a miniature garden that looks beautiful, smells heavenly and tastes just as good as it looks.



Subtle statement

A well-placed planter can transform a simple outdoor space into a paradise. Along the walkway of this Habersham home, a tropical arrangement adds warmth and vibrancy to an otherwise understated setting. Its stone urn, beautifully weathered, feels timeless and elegant, drawing the eye as visitors approach the front door. When curated with intention, small floral touches can make a big impact.











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Soft landing

A CREAMY COASTAL PALETTE THAT TURNS SUMMER CHAOS INTO CALM

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN

July in the Lowcountry can feel like a marathon of movement. Backyard barbecues, beach days, neighborhood gatherings and porch cocktails somehow all happen in the same weekend, usually under skies thick with humidity. By the time you step back inside, home should feel like relief. This palette offers exactly that. Built around Sherwin-Williams Greek Villa and Natural Linen, these colors turn an everyday living room into a soft retreat, warm but not heavy. It feels calm and quietly cooling, like stepping indoors after a sticky July afternoon and finally hearing the air conditioning kick in.



UPPER WALLS AND CEILING

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS GREEK VILLA

Greek Villa is a creamy white that feels warm instead of stark, softening natural light for a bright, welcoming look without glare. Matte ceilings and eggshell walls keep the finish soft, airy and polished.

LOWER WALL

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS NATURAL LINEN

Natural Linen brings the grounding element every bright room needs. Sitting comfortably between beige and greige, it layers beautifully with pale woods and woven textures. An eggshell finish enhances its softness.

Get the look

This room works because every element feels soft, warm and intentional without trying too hard. The palette does not rely on bold contrast or beachy clichés. Instead, it layers subtle color, texture and shape to create a space that feels calm enough to cool down in.

Let contrast whisper. *Greek Villa and Natural Linen prove that depth does not require drama. The subtle shift between upper and lower walls creates gentle definition that feels architectural and polished without overwhelming the room.*

Anchor the room with one warm statement piece. *The rust-colored sofa brings warmth and personality to an otherwise neutral palette. If committing to color feels intimidating, let one upholstered piece carry the energy.*

Layer warm woods. *Pale oak finishes and natural wood tones soften creamy walls and keep the palette feeling grounded instead of washed out. In this room, wood elements quietly add warmth while reinforcing the relaxed coastal feel.*

Mix soft textures to avoid flat neutrals. *Woven rugs, airy curtains, matte pottery, linen-inspired upholstery and natural wood finishes keep creamy tones feeling layered and relaxed, rather than bland or formal.*

Embrace curves and organic shapes. *Notice how the arched doorway, soft-edged lighting and sculptural accents soften the room. Repeating curved forms makes a space feel calmer and more inviting.*

Keep furnishings relaxed but tailored. *Clean-lined furniture with soft fabrics strikes the balance between polished and livable. The goal is refined enough for guests, comfortable enough for an afternoon nap.*

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FREQUENT FLYER

Cuckoo behavior

MEET THE CATERPILLAR-OBSESSED ODDBALL HIDING IN THE LOWCOUNTRY CANOPY

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM



LISTEN UP
Scan this QR code *to hear the unmistakable call of the yellow-billed cuckoo.*

©MARY ALICE TARTLER

HIDDEN HIGH ABOVE The yellow-billed cuckoo is an elegant but elusive Lowcountry visitor, arriving in late April and staying through September. Often tucked into leafy canopies, it gives away its presence more by sound than sight.

If birds had personalities, the yellow-billed cuckoo would be the eccentric neighbor who disappears into the trees, eats alarming amounts of caterpillars and occasionally makes baffling family choices.

More often heard than seen, this summer visitor hides high in the canopies of live oaks and maritime forests across the Lowcountry, freezing statue-still while waiting for prey. Slender and long-tailed, it wears warm cinnamon-brown feathers, bright white underparts and a yellow bill so obvious no one bothered getting creative with the name.

Then the bird turns. Oversized white spots flash beneath the tail, like nature unexpectedly decided polka dots were necessary. Functional? Maybe. Stylish? Absolutely. Even stranger, males and females dress exactly alike, skipping the usual flashy-bird drama.

Master of disguise

The cuckoo prefers stealth, hunching forward to hide its bright belly and practically disappearing into foliage. Spotting one often feels accidental.

Hearing one, however, is another story.

Its unmistakable call sounds like an impatient knock drifting through the trees and often arrives before a summer thunderstorm, earning the bird its nickname: the "rain crow."

Caterpillar connoisseur

Yellow-billed cuckoos are among the few birds willing to eat hairy caterpillars that most predators avoid. During outbreaks, a single bird can devour hundreds in a day and thousands over a season. They also eat cicadas, beetles, spiders, frogs and small lizards, but caterpillars remain the favorite.

Parenting, cuckoo-style

That caterpillar obsession shapes family life. Unlike many birds, yellow-billed cuckoos may breed whenever food is abundant. If caterpillars are booming, so are the cuckoos.

Unlike their infamous European cousins, they usually raise their own young, though they occasionally slip eggs into the nests of other birds. Their nesting cycle is remarkably fast, with young leaving the nest just 17 days after incubation begins. If food runs short, dad may even evict the youngest chick.

In a Lowcountry filled with elegant egrets and photogenic herons, the yellow-billed cuckoo occupies another lane entirely: weird, hungry and wonderfully hard to forget.

Where to find them

"Unlike many backyard birds, yellow-billed cuckoos do not visit traditional seed feeders. However, you can make your yard a welcome center by planting milkweed, which attracts monarch butterflies and helps support the larvae and insects cuckoos love to eat. Cuckoos also appreciate a source of clean water for drinking and bathing. Since they are slightly larger birds, a standard birdbath or dripper near a wooded edge is ideal for attracting them down from the canopy for a drink."

– Mary Alice Tartler, Audubon master birder



©ELARBI TAOUIL

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WILDLIFE WONDER

Nature's cleanup crew

Why vultures may be the Lowcountry's most misunderstood and important birds

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM



HIDDEN BEAUTY A turkey vulture's bare red head helps keep bacteria and decaying material from clinging to the bird while it feeds. Look closer, and its intricate feather patterns and striking colors reveal a beauty that's often overlooked.



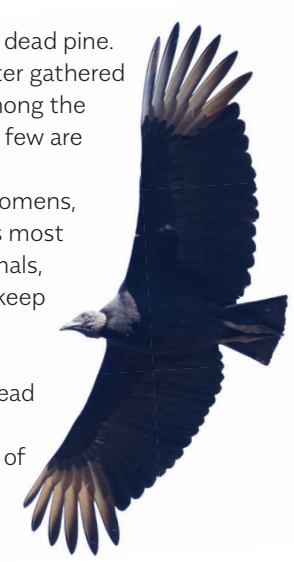
©JEANNE PADDISON

FUTURE FLYER Still growing into its feathers, this young black vulture at the Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center is a future member of nature's cleanup crew, destined to help keep ecosystems healthy.

A dozen dark silhouettes perched in a dead pine. Birds circling high above a marsh. A cluster gathered around roadside roadkill. Vultures are among the most visible birds in the Lowcountry, yet few are more misunderstood.

Often associated with death and bad omens, vultures actually perform one of nature's most important jobs. By consuming dead animals, they prevent the spread of disease and keep ecosystems healthy.

"Vultures are the cleaning lady," says Jeanne Paddison, executive director and lead wildlife rehabilitator at Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center. "They keep the world free of decay and disease. Let them do their job."



The Lowcountry is home to two species: black vultures and turkey vultures. Turkey vultures have red heads, brown plumage and an unsteady, rocking flight pattern. Black vultures have dark gray heads, black feathers and distinctive white wing tips visible in flight.

"They are vultures," Paddison says. "They're carnivores, and they are absolutely amazing. They serve a purpose and have a job, but they get a very bad rap because they're not considered attractive."

The two species often work together when searching for food. Turkey vultures possess an extraordinary sense of smell that allows them to detect decaying animals from great distances. Black vultures rely more on eyesight and frequently follow turkey vultures to a meal.

Their value extends far beyond cleanup. Vultures can safely consume carcasses teeming with bacteria and pathogens, thanks to highly acidic digestive systems that neutralize organisms harmful to most animals. In doing so, they provide a critical public health service.

Unfortunately, their work comes with risks.

"Vultures end up in our care usually because they're hit by a car," Paddison says. "They're eating dead carcasses off the side of the road, which is one of the reasons why they're so valuable."

Among SWRC's success stories were Vera and Vern, two young vultures that arrived with severe injuries. After months of rehabilitation, both were released back into the wild.

Vultures are also more social than many people realize. Black vultures form strong family bonds, live in groups known as committees and often remain



SECOND CHANCE
After arriving at Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center with serious injuries, this young black vulture is recovering with the goal of one day returning to the wild.

with the same mate for years. They gather in communal roosts, share information about food sources and reunite with family members at the end of the day.

Their nests remain largely hidden from human eyes. Rather than building traditional nests in trees, vultures lay eggs in hollow logs, abandoned structures and dense vegetation.

"Not many people have seen an actual egg and chick because nests are well hidden," Paddison says.

The next time you spot a vulture soaring over a marsh, circling above Broad Creek or perched along a highway, don't see a bad omen. See one of nature's hardest workers. It may not be glamorous work, but few animals do more for the Lowcountry while receiving so little credit.

Living with vultures

Roadside carcasses are one of the primary food sources for vultures and one of the greatest dangers they face. After landing to feed, these large birds often need time and space to become airborne again. If you encounter vultures along the road:

- *Slow down and stay alert when approaching feeding birds.*
- *Give vultures space, and avoid intentionally disturbing them.*
- *Never attempt to feed wild vultures.*
- *Secure outdoor trash and pet food that could attract unwanted wildlife.*
- *Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator if a bird appears injured, orphaned or unable to fly.*

Local rehabilitators

If you find an injured, orphaned or trapped vulture, contact:

- ***Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center:*** *912-596-1237*
- ***The Center for Birds of Prey:*** *843-971-7474*
- ***Paws Animal Wildlife Sanctuary:*** *864-683-3190*

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LOWCOUNTRY ALMANAC



July

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM

Night & day

July's long days stretch deep into the evening, bathing the Lowcountry in golden light. Later dinners outside and warm nights are made for porch sitting.

Sunrise: 6:20-6:37 a.m. (later each day)
Sunset: 8:33-8:21 p.m. (earlier each day)

©SHELTER COVE HARBOUR & MARINA

TUESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS Summer evenings shine brightest at Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina, where Tuesday nights culminate in fireworks bursting above Broad Creek at dusk. Families gather for HarbourFest, Hilton Head Island's 37-year summer tradition, as the marina hums with live music, waterfront dining and the unmistakable feeling of summer on the island.

A month of blazing days, sparkling skies and midsummer magic

July arrives in the Lowcountry with heat, humidity and summer in full swing. Afternoon storms offer brief relief before grills fire up, boats return to the dock, and families head back outside. Beach days stretch toward sunset, fireworks light the sky, and ice cream disappears as quickly as it melts. With guidance from the *2026 Old Farmer's Almanac* and *Grow Great Vegetables South Carolina*, this almanac serves as a practical guide to midsummer life in the Lowcountry.

Weather predictions

July delivers the Lowcountry's hottest, steamiest stretch of the year, with sun-soaked days, sticky afternoons and the familiar rumble of pop-up thunderstorms offering brief relief from the heat.

Average temperature: 86 degrees
Precipitation: 4 1/2 inches (2 inches above average)

FORECAST BY WEEK
July 1-10: Mostly sunny, hot and humid.
July 11-15: Sunshine continues with warm, muggy afternoons.
July 16-31: Hot with scattered afternoon thunderstorms, followed by slightly cooler conditions late in the month.

Astronomical events

July 6: Earth reaches aphelion, its farthest point from the sun, a reminder that summer heat has more to do with Earth's tilt than distance.
July 14: A new moon brings darker skies, creating ideal conditions for stargazing and spotting faint constellations, including the Summer Triangle overhead.
July 29-30: The Delta Aquarids meteor shower peaks, joined by the smaller Alpha Capricornids, bringing up to 15-20 meteors per hour and the occasional bright fireball. Look up after midnight for the best show.
July 29: The full buck moon rises, illuminating the night sky. Named for the season when male deer regrow their antlers, this midsummer moon has long symbolized abundance.

Tides & currents

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



In the garden

July is a season of persistence, when heat-loving plants thrive, weeds seem unstoppable, and careful watering becomes the key to surviving the hottest stretch of summer.

PREP July is a month for maintenance and planning. Shade greenhouses with 30 percent shade cloth, hill up peanuts once plants reach 12 inches, harvest spring potatoes about two weeks after tops die back, spread compost, clear spent spring crops, mulch perennials, and begin planning winter cover crops.

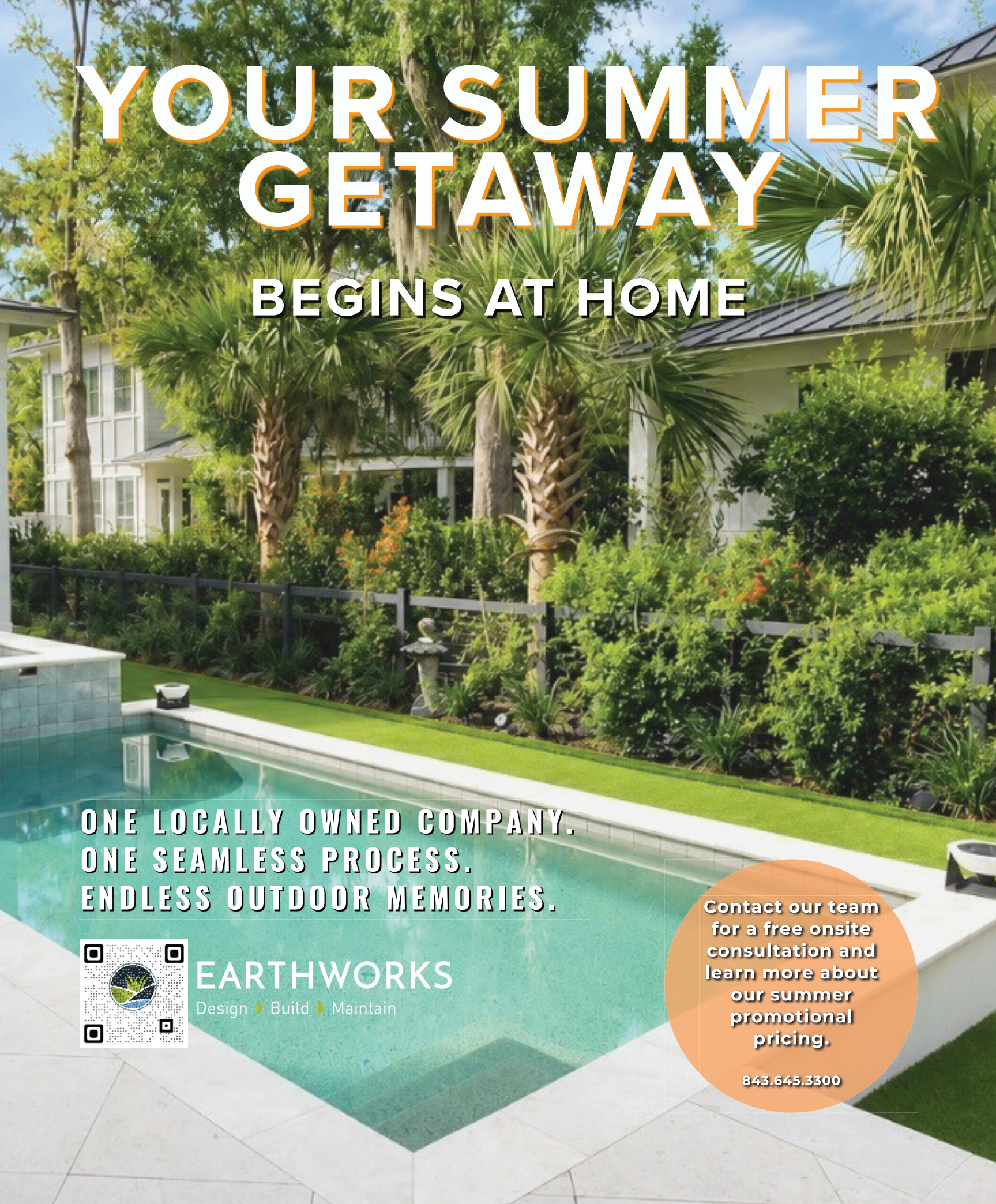
PLANT July favors resilient, heat-loving vegetables that can handle long days and steamy afternoons.
Outdoors: *Sow heat-tolerant lettuces in small batches, and continue planting cucumbers, zucchini, beans, corn and rutabagas. It is also the last call for summer squash before fall planning begins.*

HARVEST July gardens reward persistence with an abundance of fresh produce, including beans, beets, blueberries, cantaloupes, carrots, celery, chard, corn, cow peas, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, lettuce, okra, onions, peppers, plums, scallions, squash, tomatoes, watermelon and zucchini.

Best days

July rewards early starts, moving tides and cooler hours outdoors.

Go fishing or crabbing: Early morning or near sunset, especially during moving tides
Hit the beach: Early morning for cooler sand or late afternoon into sunset
Plan a boat day: Mornings before storms and peak heat build
Go shelling: Early morning at low tide before heat and foot traffic pick up
Enjoy a porch night: After a passing storm, when breezes cool the air


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TROWEL TALK

Too hot to hoe

When temperatures soar, know when to work and when to relax

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS AND SUZANNE BARTON



BEAT THE HEAT July gardening is all about timing. Skip the midday scorch, and tackle outdoor chores in the cooler morning or evening hours, when both you and your plants are under less stress. Find some shade, hydrate, and admire the garden from a comfortable distance.



Lowcountry gardeners already know to watch out for overheating plants this time of year, but The Green Thumb's ***Suzanne Barton*** advises that it's not only gardens in need of extra protection. As summer heats up, Barton shares how local growers can take advantage of the season rather than merely survive it. Instead, it becomes the perfect excuse to sit back, sip homemade lemonade and appreciate all of your hard work.

[LL] What are some best practices for gardening in July? **[SB]** July is the hottest month of the year, so we need to protect both our plants and ourselves with extra care. Always wear sunscreen, a hat and eye protection, and avoid gardening between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. This is the hottest part of the day, and plants, like us, are under the most stress during these hours, so it is not the best time to be out in the garden. Enjoy the shade, then come back later.

[LOCAL Life] Can plants get sunburned? **[Suzanne Barton]** Absolutely. Plants exposed to too much sun are at risk of leaf scorching, which can appear as brown, patchy areas on foliage. Depending on how dry our weather is, you may need to bump up your weekly watering routine, and you can protect extra-sensitive plants with makeshift "canopies." Prop a piece of cloth over poles, gardening tools or even chopsticks to give them a patch of shade. It sounds silly, but it can really save your plants in the long run.



SUNBURNED AND STRESSED Too much Lowcountry sunshine can leave plants looking scorched. Brown, crispy patches on leaves are often signs of leaf scorch, a form of plant sunburn caused by intense heat and direct sun. Extra watering and a simple shade cloth canopy can help sensitive plants recover before the damage spreads.



SQUEEZE THE DAY
When the sun gets fierce, head for the hammock and cool off with homemade lemonade made from backyard-friendly lemons, water and a sweetener of your choice. A handful of herbs from the garden turns a simple sip into summer in a glass.

[LL] What should I do while I wait? **[SB]** Sip on some homemade lemonade! All you need are lemons, which grow easily around here, water and a sweetener of your choice. I prefer agave nectar over traditional simple syrup since it does not require turning on the stove in the heat. Stir everything together, and you have a classic, refreshing drink. Try adding garden-grown ingredients like mint, strawberries or limes for an extra punch.



JULY BIRTH FLOWER

Water lily

Floating in the stillness of ponds and wetlands, water lilies paint an idyllic picture of serenity. July's birth flower, symbolizing peace and tranquility, evokes calm through its delicate blooms, each geometric petal unfolding above the green blanket of lily pads and cool, glass-like water below. In Lowcountry gardens Suzanne Barton's favorite way to appreciate the flower is atop a koi pond. She recommends installing a pond at least three- to four-feet deep to help slow algae growth and keep fish and plant roots cool below the surface. Above, a dapple of pink petals or the flash of an orange fin creates a picturesque moment of calm.



WHAT'S IN BLOOM THIS MONTH?

Summer has arrived in full force. Celebrate the season with these vibrant July blooms, each bringing a fresh burst of color, texture and life to your backyard.



Annuals: *Vinca, lantana, pentas*
Perennials: *Rudbeckia, echinacea, gaillardia, salvia*









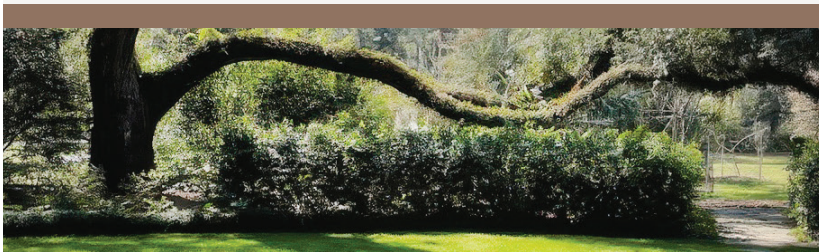
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Fright night

How to help anxious pets stay calm when fireworks rattle the night

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM

For many families vacationing on Hilton Head Island, Tuesday night fireworks at Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina mark the storybook ending to a summer day: sunset over Broad Creek, waterfront music drifting through the air and bursts of color lighting up the night sky. Locals often pause to enjoy the weekly spectacle, too, as HarbourFest hums with the easy energy of summer. But inside many nearby homes with pets, the experience feels very different. Dogs pace. Cats disappear beneath beds. Nervous pets tremble at every crack and boom, overwhelmed by sounds they cannot understand.



SOUND ADVICE Fireworks may light the sky, but many pets experience the night very differently. Familiar comforts, soothing sounds and a quiet retreat can help nervous animals feel safer when the booms begin.

For humans, fireworks are celebration. For many pets, they can feel frightening and unpredictable.

"Fireworks can be extremely stressful on your pets," says Dr. Matthew Tenwolde, owner of Carolina Veterinary Critical Care. "Keep pets at home in a familiar place with lots of toys and soothing music to distract them from fireworks and excessive noise that can cause a pet to become anxious."

Loud booms, flashing lights and vibrations can overwhelm even calm pets, triggering pacing, trembling, barking, hiding, accidents indoors, excessive drooling or frantic attempts to escape. One of the biggest dangers during fireworks season is the number of pets that run away in fear. Nationwide, missing-pet reports spike around July Fourth, as startled animals bolt through open doors, leap fences or slip out of collars in a panic.

"Your pet can become scared, escape and run away during festivities," Tenwolde says. "Make sure he or she is wearing a collar, tags and is micro-chipped."

Even pets that normally stay close to home may panic when startled, making preparation essential. Before celebrations begin, check collars, update contact information, and make sure microchip registrations are current. Keeping a recent photo of your pet on your phone can also prove invaluable, should the unthinkable happen.

Build a comfort zone

Creating a quiet indoor retreat can make a tremendous difference. Choose a room away from windows, and fill it with soft bedding, favorite toys, treats and comforting scents. Some pets instinctively retreat to caves of comfort, disappearing beneath beds, behind sofas or inside covered crates where the world feels quieter and smaller.

Closing curtains and turning on soothing music, a television or white noise can soften outside sounds and flashing lights. If you plan to attend festivities yourself, consider asking a trusted friend, pet sitter or family member to stay with your pet, rather than leaving them alone during peak fireworks hours.



CAVE OF CALM A covered crate can give anxious pets a cozy retreat where fireworks feel a little farther away. Soft bedding, favorite toys and a familiar blanket help create a safe, den-like space when booms and flashes begin outside.



PLAY NOW, REST LATER A long walk, puzzle toy or treat-filled Kong can help burn nervous energy before fireworks begin, giving anxious pets something calming to focus on before the first boom rattles the night.

Start before the first boom

Preparation begins before fireworks light the sky.

"One way to ensure that your dog will be more relaxed and calm during fireworks is to tire them out a bit during the day," says Tenwolde. "Mental stimulation can be just as tiring as physical activity."

A long walk, swim, play session, frozen treat-filled Kong or puzzle toy can help burn nervous energy before evening arrives. Giving pets something engaging to focus on may help distract them once the noise begins. And while reassurance matters, experts caution against forcing pets to confront fireworks or punishing fearful behavior, both of which can worsen distress.

Watch for hidden hazards

Summer celebrations bring more than loud noises. Sparklers, fireworks debris, matches, glow sticks and discarded food scraps all pose risks to curious pets.

"Pets are curious," Tenwolde explains. "Intestinal blockage and gastrointestinal distress can occur if your pet ingests these objects."

Burns, mouth injuries and toxic reactions are also possible. After festivities end, walk your yard carefully before letting pets back outside, checking for leftover debris that may have landed unnoticed overnight.







DANGER AFTER THE DAZZLE Burned-out fireworks, sparklers and party debris may seem harmless after the fun ends, but curious pets can chew, swallow or step on leftover hazards. Before letting them back outside, give the yard a careful once-over.

When anxiety runs deeper

For some pets fireworks are more than a passing fright. Anxiety can last for hours or even days after the final boom fades.

"Don't wait until it's too late to contact your local vet for refills on anxiety medications for your pet," Tenwolde advises.

Prescription medications often require an established veterinarian-client relationship, meaning that emergency clinics may not legally dispense them without an exam. Other calming tools such as pheromone diffusers, anxiety wraps like thunder shirts, veterinarian-approved supplements or white-noise machines also help take the edge off.





MORE THAN A FRIGHT Some pets retreat beneath beds or furniture when fireworks feel overwhelming. If fear lasts beyond the final boom, calming aids, anxiety medication and guidance from your veterinarian may help restore a sense of calm.

If your pet escapes

Despite careful planning, frightened pets sometimes still get loose. If it happens, act quickly. Search your property thoroughly, notify your microchip company, contact local shelters and veterinary clinics, and post clear, recent photos online and around your neighborhood. Leaving familiar bedding, food or unwashed clothing outside may help guide pets home.

"If you find a stray animal, we will be open and have a microchip scanner and can try to help locate the owners," says Tenwolde.

Fireworks fade quickly, but reassurance lasts longer. For frightened pets, comfort often comes from something simple: a quiet room, a familiar routine and the people who help the world feel safe again. LL



Hot ground, burnt paws

WHY JULY'S EXTREME TEMPERATURES MAKE THE 7-SECOND RULE EVERY DOG OWNER'S SUMMER ESSENTIAL

July is typically the hottest month of the year in the Lowcountry, and while many dog owners remember to pack water for summer outings, they often overlook a hidden danger: hot surfaces that can burn a dog's paws in seconds. Sidewalks, asphalt and driveways absorb heat throughout the day, but they are not the only hazards. Beach sand, pool decks, boat docks, patios, artificial turf and wooden decks can all become dangerously hot under direct sun. Before heading outside, try the 7-Second Back-of-Hand Test. Place the back of your hand on the surface for seven seconds. If it feels too hot to keep your hand there comfortably, it is too hot for your dog's paws. Unlike us, dogs have no shoes protecting their feet, and their paw pads can blister or burn quickly when exposed to extreme heat.

WARNING SIGNS OF BURNT PAWS

Even on what feels like a normal summer day, surfaces exposed to direct sunlight can become dangerously hot. If your dog has been walking on hot surfaces, watch for these signs:

- *Limping or hesitation while walking*
- *Constant licking or chewing at the paws*
- *Red, irritated or darkened paw pads*
- *Blistering or peeling skin*
- *Visible damage or missing portions of paw pad tissue*
- *Signs of pain or discomfort after being outside*

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Keep summer outings safe with a few simple precautions:

- *Walk early or late. Morning and evening hours are much cooler.*
- *Avoid midday heat. Surfaces heat rapidly between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.*
- *Stay on grass when possible. Natural surfaces tend to stay cooler.*
- *Test every surface. Sand, pool decks and docks can be just as dangerous as pavement.*
- *Use protective booties. Especially helpful for beach trips and long outdoor adventures.*
- *Plan shorter outings. Less time on hot surfaces reduces risk.*



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JULY

Style

Cool confidence

LIGHTWEIGHT LAYERS AND COASTAL-INSPIRED LOOKS FOR THE LOWCOUNTRY'S HOTTEST DAYS

PHOTOS BY LISA STAFF
STYLED BY BAILEY GILLIAM

Summer in the Lowcountry demands a little bravery. The heat is relentless, the days are long, and plans rarely stay indoors. Local boutiques are embracing the season with breathable fabrics, soft coastal colors and versatile pieces made for life between the water and the dinner table. Whether you're spending the afternoon on the dock, meeting friends for cocktails or savoring a summer evening long after sunset, these looks bring comfort, confidence and style to every part of a Lowcountry summer.



Coastal classic
Hilton Head Island resident Charlie Hardwick wearing ***John Bayley Clothier*** *(shirt, belt, pants)*

Ready for anything

July fashion is built for days spent outdoors. From beach mornings and farmers markets to waterfront dinners and evening strolls, this month's finds celebrate the season with bright colors, practical accessories and a healthy dose of Lowcountry personality.





Shade in style

A straw hat from ***Brims on the Bluff*** proves sun protection doesn't have to be boring. Adorned with distinctive embellishments around the brim, it adds personality and artistry to any outfit while providing welcome shade during long days outdoors.



Beach day blues

Island Child has everything little ones need for a day in the sun. Blue swim trunks for boys and a coordinating one-piece swimsuit for girls bring classic beach-day style, while a matching silicone tote complete with castle-building molds turns every stretch of sand into an opportunity for adventure. It's a collection made for saltwater, sunshine and summer memories.

Ocean sparkle

Inspired by the colors of the water, this Gabriel & Co. teardrop pendant necklace from ***Forsythe Jewelers*** centers on a brilliant blue topaz framed by sparkling diamonds. Crafted in 14-karat yellow gold, it offers just the right amount of color and shine, whether paired with a casual sundress or an evening ensemble.





Seaside statement

Spartina 449's Nadia Sleeveless Blouse and matching Admiral Josie Shorts bring a burst of color to summer dressing. Featuring an eye-catching orange, blue and pink print against a buttercream backdrop, the coordinated set feels cheerful, polished and unmistakably coastal. The linen-cotton blend keeps things cool, while the drawstring waist ensures a comfortable fit from brunch to boardwalk.

GET THE LOOK

Coastal versatility

The best summer wardrobes aren't built around having more clothes. They're built around having the right ones. This look centers on a versatile dress that can be worn multiple ways, proving that a handful of thoughtfully chosen pieces can go a long way. Paired with a lightweight sweater, natural textures and versatile accessories, the result is a collection of looks equally suited for bike rides around town, waterfront lunches and evenings spent outdoors.



LAYERED APPROACH
A navy button-front sweater from ***Palmettoes*** brings versatility to the ensemble. Worn open over the dress, buttoned as a top or knotted at the waist, it completely changes the look while adding just enough warmth for breezy evenings along the coast.

TWICE AS NICE
This Free People piece from ***Maggie & Me*** is the ultimate summer multitasker. Featuring a soft blue print and a smocked bodice, the versatile design can be worn as a flowing strapless dress or transformed into a skirt with a simple adjustment. Comfortable, flattering and easy to style, it's the foundation for countless warm-weather outfits.

NATURAL TEXTURE
This handbag from ***Spartina 449*** combines woven detailing with bamboo-inspired handles for a look that feels right at home in the Lowcountry. The structured shape keeps it polished, while the removable strap offers additional styling options.

Summer switch-up

Hilton Head Island resident Christina Mulshenock wearing Maggie & Me (dress/skirt), Palmettoes (sweater), Eyeland Optique (sunglasses), Gifted (necklace), Spartina 449 (handbag) and Outside Hilton Head (sandals)

One look, many possibilities

Versatile pieces create more options, stretch your budget and make getting dressed a little easier. This month's ensemble demonstrates how a few simple changes can transform a look. Using the same dress, sweater, necklace and accessories, we present three outfits suited for a variety of summer occasions.

Double duty

Pull the smocked bodice down to transform the dress into a flowing maxi skirt. Button the sweater and wear it as a top for a completely different look that feels tailored and put together. Moving the necklace outside the sweater creates a focal point while adding texture and contrast. It's a simple styling trick that turns one outfit into another.



Dress for success

Wear the strapless dress as intended to showcase its flowing silhouette and coastal-inspired print. Drape the sweater over your shoulders, tie it around your waist or keep it nearby for cooler evening breezes. Paired with the woven handbag and statement necklace, the look is perfect for summer gatherings, dinner dates and evenings by the water.



Casual charm

For a more relaxed approach, knot the bottom of the sweater to create a cropped silhouette that balances the volume of the skirt. Leave a few buttons undone, and let the necklace take center stage. The result is playful, comfortable and ideal for shopping, sightseeing or an afternoon spent exploring the Lowcountry.

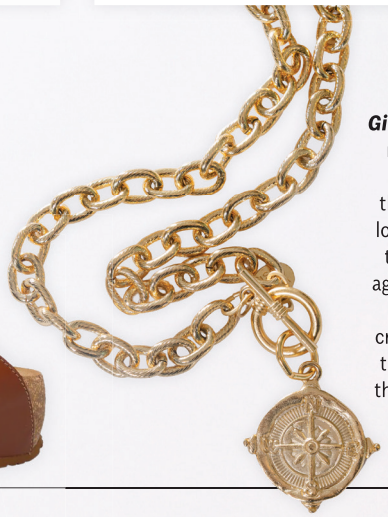




FRAME OF MIND
These sunglasses from ***Eyeland Optique*** provide the finishing touch. Their classic shape complements the outfit's relaxed coastal palette while adding a little personality, whether worn on your face or perched atop your head.

WALK THE WALK
These brown leather Taos sandals from ***Outside Hilton Head*** are designed for days that don't follow a schedule. Comfortable enough for exploring and polished enough for dinner, they bring practicality and style to every version of the outfit.





GOLDEN TOUCH
Gifted's coin-pendant necklace serves as the visual anchor throughout all three looks. The warm gold tones add contrast against the cool blues of the outfit while creating a focal point that works, whether the dress is worn as a dress or a skirt.

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Local Love



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This hand-painted, steel-based entertaining tray from MacKenzie-Childs is the perfect piece for summer picnics, backyard cookouts and dinner parties on the screened porch.

Available at Forsythe Jewelers

SHRIMPLY THE BEST

Bring a touch of coastal charm to your home this summer with this tea towel available in whimsical shrimp or lobster designs.

Available at Marsh on the May





DICE TO MEET YOU

This Oh My Mahjong set comes in red, white and blue, making it ideal for a fun-filled Fourth of July game night.

Available at Gifted

TWO FOR TEA

Clean up kitchen spills in a flash with this set of ultra absorbent tea towels. They are quick-drying and available in a variety of colorful summertime patterns.

Available at Le Cookery



STARS AND STRIPES

Celebrate the Fourth of July in style this summer with this collection of red, white and blue decor.



PERFECT PICNIC

This charming Parisian Picnic Basket is insulated, spacious, and perfectly sized for evenings filled with Lowcountry sunsets, ocean breezes and simple pleasures.

Available at Hilton Head Oils and Balsamics

HOME OF THE FREE

Honor America this summer with this ceramic beer stein. Pyramids offers several styles, featuring the history of the American eagle and military branches.

Available at Pyramids





RED, WHITE AND BBQ

Decorate your table this Fourth of July with this set of tablecloth and napkins in a festive red, white and blue pattern.

Available at J. Banks Design

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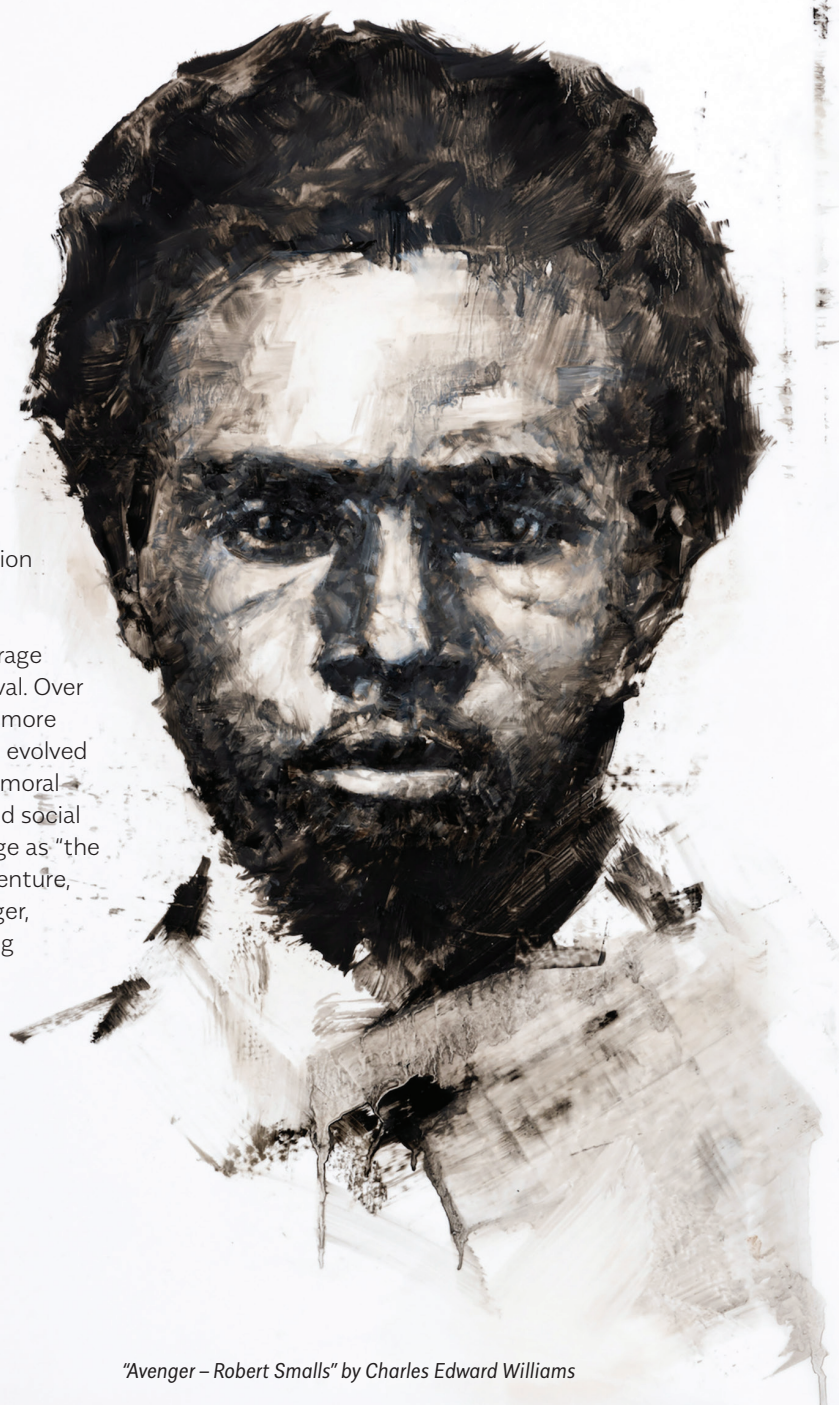
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Brave by necessity

THE DEFINING MOMENTS OF COURAGE THAT SHAPED THE LOWCOUNTRY

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, at the Forefront of American History.



"Avenger – Robert Smalls" by Charles Edward Williams

For centuries the South Carolina Lowcountry, especially the southern parishes between the Edisto and Savannah rivers, stood at the edge of European civilization and in constant contact with the wilderness beyond. In this demanding environment, courage was often necessary for survival. Over time, as settlements became more stable and organized, courage evolved from physical endurance into moral resolve, political conviction and social vision. Webster defines courage as "the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear or difficulty." The following episodes represent some of the most significant examples of courage in Lowcountry history, not because other acts were less brave, but because these moments profoundly shaped the region's destiny.



HONORING A HERO
The Robert Smalls Monument at Tabernacle Baptist Church honors the Beaufort native whose daring 1862 escape aboard the Planter helped advance emancipation, expand Black military service and establish him as a lasting symbol of courage and leadership.

Breaking the bonds of slavery

The Lowcountry's greatest example of moral and personal courage during the 19th century was undoubtedly ***Robert Smalls***. Born enslaved in Beaufort, Smalls was the mixed-race son of a household slave and grew up with unusual privileges as a companion to his master's son. Working as a boat pilot, he mastered the waterways of the South Carolina coast and developed strong maritime skills. Rebellious by nature, he was eventually sent to Charleston, to avoid punishment in Beaufort, where he found employment on the docks and later aboard the Confederate transport ship, Planter.

Smalls learned the harbor channels, security procedures and routines of the ship's officers until he became the vessel's pilot. Together with the other enslaved crewmen, he devised a daring escape plan. On a night in May 1862, while the white officers were ashore, the conspirators gathered their families from a Charleston dock and boarded the Planter. Smalls donned the captain's coat and hat and imitated his mannerisms as the ship passed Confederate checkpoints in the darkness.

Successfully clearing the harbor, the Planter surrendered to a Union warship outside Charleston Harbor and proceeded to Port Royal. There Smalls turned the vessel over to Federal authorities, along with valuable intelligence and artillery.

Smalls's courage had enormous consequences. Impressed by his intelligence and initiative, Union commanders employed him as a pilot in local waters. Soon afterward, he traveled to Washington to lobby President Lincoln's administration and Congress for the enlistment of formerly enslaved African Americans into Union military service. Authorization was granted in August 1862. Smalls became a symbol throughout the North of Black capability, initiative and patriotism, helping transform public attitudes and advancing the cause of emancipation and military equality.





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The European colonization of North America

One of the earliest examples came with the Spanish colonization of the region under Spanish admiral and explorer ***Pedro Menéndez de Avilés***. In 1566 Menéndez established the colony of Santa Elena on Parris Island, making it the capital of Spanish La Florida. Sailing into Port Royal Sound, called Rio Santa Elena by the Spaniards, he traveled inland to the village of Chief Orista near present-day Coosawhatchie. Orista recognized Menéndez's interpreter, a former French cabin boy who had been captured by the Guale Indians. After diplomatic feasting and negotiation, Orista sent an emissary to help select the colony's location at the tip of Parris Island, where marshes and deep water provided natural protection.

Menéndez built Fort San Salvador and soon departed northward to establish a mission at Chesapeake Bay. Returning months later, he found Santa Elena struggling with shortages and deteriorating relations with nearby tribes, forcing him to sail to Havana for reinforcements and supplies.

By 1569 drought and hardship threatened the colony's survival, compelling Menéndez to return to Spain for more settlers and financial support. Delayed by legal matters, he finally returned in 1571 with his family, making Santa Elena his principal residence. In 1574, he again traveled to Spain to recruit colonists and prepare to command a major fleet believed destined for action against England. Before he could return, however, he died suddenly.

Leadership at Santa Elena deteriorated afterward into corruption and internal conflict. Relations with local Indians collapsed, and in 1576 native attacks forced the evacuation and destruction of the settlement. Though rebuilt the following year to deter French occupation, the colonial capital shifted permanently to St. Augustine. By 1587 mounting English threats caused Spain to abandon Santa Elena. Menéndez's persistence in maintaining a fragile outpost on the frontier represented extraordinary endurance under constant hardship and danger.



COLONIAL AMBITION Spanish admiral Pedro Menéndez de Avilés established Santa Elena on present-day Parris Island in 1566, creating one of Europe's earliest settlements in what would become the United States. Facing isolation, drought, political turmoil and conflict with Native tribes, Menéndez fought to keep the fragile frontier outpost alive, cementing Santa Elena's place as a pivotal chapter in Lowcountry history.



FRONTIER OF COURAGE Beginning in 1566, Spanish captain Juan Pardo led 150 men through the unexplored interior of the Southeast in search of a route to Mexico, establishing forts and relying on fragile alliances as he crossed unfamiliar and dangerous terrain far from coastal support.

Exploring the hostile interior

Another remarkable example of courage was shown by ***Juan Pardo***, one of Menéndez's captains. Shortly after Santa Elena's founding, Pardo led 150 men into the unexplored interior in search of an overland route to Mexico. Traveling along Indian trails through present-day South Carolina and western North Carolina into eastern Tennessee, Pardo encountered numerous tribes and established a chain of small forts and garrisons to secure the route. Two larger forts were eventually constructed near major Indian towns.

In 1567 Pardo returned to the coast to defend Santa Elena from a rumored French attack and later resumed his inland expedition. His ultimate fate remains unknown. The sheer determination required to venture deep into unfamiliar wilderness, dependent on uncertain alliances and isolated from support, demonstrated immense bravery.

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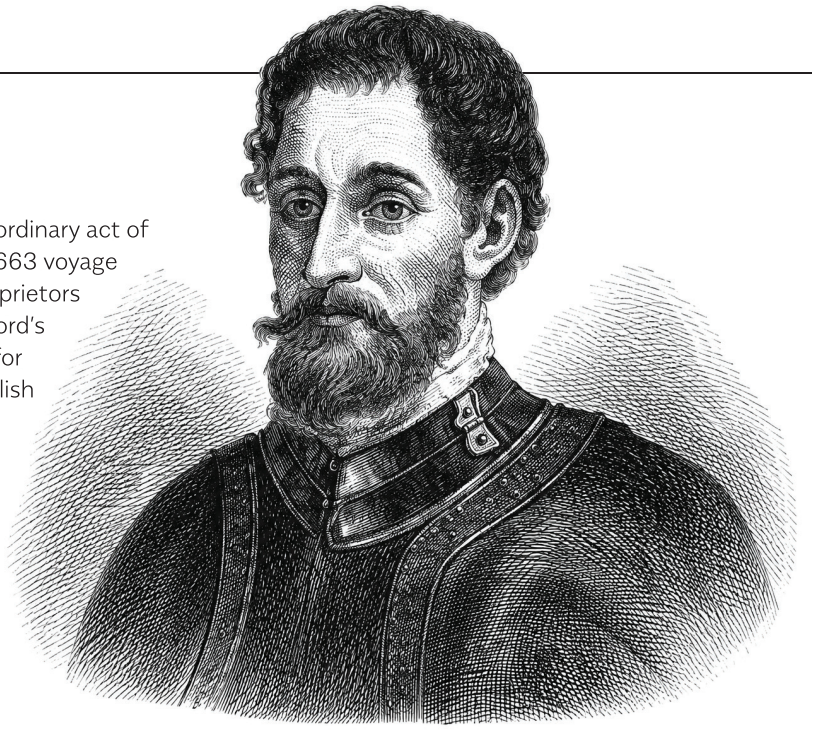
Living among natives in the wilderness

About 80 years later, English colonization produced another extraordinary act of personal courage through ***Henry Woodward***. After William Hilton's 1663 voyage identified Port Royal as a favorable site for settlement, the Lords Proprietors dispatched William Sandford to survey the waterways. During Sandford's visit to Chief Orista's village, the chief proposed exchanging his son for an Englishman who could live among the Indians and teach him English customs and language. Dr. Henry Woodward, the ship's surgeon, volunteered. Alone among people whose language he did not know and whose intentions could never be guaranteed, Woodward remained behind while the expedition sailed away.

Woodward's experience became even more dangerous when Spanish raiders captured him in 1667 and imprisoned him at St. Augustine. There he learned the Spanish-Indian trading system before being freed when English privateer Robert Searle raided the city the following year. Taken by Searle because of his medical knowledge, he was later marooned on the island of Nevis.

Two of the three ships in the English colonizing expedition of 1669, blown far off course by storms, stopped there to replenish fresh water before proceeding to Carolina. After describing his saga to the captains, Woodward was invited to join the ships, which then proceeded to Port Royal Sound, where one of them landed at Lady's Island. The second ship had been forced by storms to land near Bulls Bay, north of what became Charles Town, yet its survivors made their way to the new colony months later.

During the months at Lady's Island, the Lords Proprietors of Carolina persuaded the expedition leaders that its proximity to the Spanish was dangerous and urged them to join the settlement formed only weeks earlier in 1670 at Charles Towne Landing. Woodward became an important liaison between the colony and Indian tribes, opening trade networks across the southern frontier and emerging as one of the most influential figures in early Carolina. He is often regarded as the colony's first permanent English resident.



AMONG UNFAMILIAR WORLDS In 1663, Dr. Henry Woodward volunteered to live among Chief Orista's people near Port Royal Sound, surviving imprisonment, exile and hardship before becoming a key figure in early Carolina and one of its first permanent English settlers.



NO RETREAT In 1711, Colonel John Barnwell, known as "Tuscarora Jack," led English and Yemassee forces against fortified Tuscarora strongholds during one of Carolina's most dangerous conflicts. Facing heavily defended villages and constant risk, Barnwell's bold leadership helped secure the fragile colony during a volatile chapter of Lowcountry history.

Ending the uprising against the English colony

During the early 18th century, the frontier demanded military courage on a large scale. One notable figure was ***John Barnwell***, known as "Tuscarora Jack." In 1711 Barnwell led approximately 500 men, including 300 Yemassee warriors allied with the English, northward into Tuscarora territory during the Tuscarora War.

The Tuscarora occupied the coastal plain and foothills between the Neuse and Roanoke rivers and possessed powerful fortified villages, including Fort Narhantes, a sophisticated star fort reportedly designed with French assistance. Confronted with these formidable defenses, Barnwell initially planned siege works and trenches. The Yemassee leaders, however, favored swift assault tactics and questioned the delay. One warrior pointed out an unguarded entrance and asked why they should not simply charge the fort. Barnwell recognized the opportunity and led a direct assault that broke through the defenses, killed more than 100 defenders and captured the fort.

The fort was destroyed, but on the retreat southward Barnwell was attacked again, resulting in the deaths of more than 50 Tuscarora warriors and the capture of approximately 250 women and children who were taken to Charles Town and sold into slavery. Though brutal, the risky expedition altered the course of the war and paved the way for later sieges that ended Tuscarora resistance by 1713. Barnwell's leadership under dangerous conditions helped secure the survival of the Carolina colony during one of its most vulnerable periods.



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A RACE FOR SURVIVAL Wounded and alone after the 1715 attack on Pocotaligo Town, militia captain Seymour Burroughs fled through the marsh and swam downriver to warn Port Royal of the coming uprising, helping save countless lives before the settlement was destroyed.

Confronting the anger of the Yemassee

Only a few years later, the colony faced an even more devastating threat during the Yemassee War of 1715. ***Seymour Burroughs***, a militia captain from Port Royal, accompanied Indian traders and Commissioner of Indian Affairs Thomas Nairne to Pocotaligo Town in an attempt to calm rising Yemassee anger over treaty violations and trader abuses.

Following negotiations and a ceremonial feast on April 14, 1715, the English delegation believed tensions had eased and retired to sleep. Before dawn on Good Friday, however, the Yemassee attacked the camp. Nearly everyone was killed immediately. Burroughs, despite suffering severe head wounds, escaped into the underbrush and swam downriver to Barnwell's plantation on Port Royal Island, where he warned settlers of the uprising in time for residents of Beaufort and Port Royal to flee aboard a large vessel in the Beaufort River. From the ship, cannon fire repelled repeated Yemassee attempts to capture the refugees. The settlement was destroyed.

The fate of the others was cruel. Two traders were killed quickly, but Thomas Nairne was tied to a post and tortured over three days before dying. The Yemassee War plunged the colony into chaos. Although a treaty was signed in 1717, raids continued for another decade.

In 1719 Burroughs's wife and several companions were captured by a Huspaw raiding party allied with the Yemassee near St. Augustine. Most captives were killed before arrival, but Mrs. Burroughs survived. Seymour Burroughs pursued the raiders all the way to St. Augustine, arriving before they did, only to be imprisoned by the Spanish as a suspected spy. Once his wife arrived and identified him, both were released and treated as guests by the Spanish commander. Burroughs's actions embodied endurance, perseverance and deep resolve, despite repeated tragedy.

Invading the Yemassee refuge in Florida

The final decisive blow against the Yemassee threat came through the daring actions of ***John Palmer***. He had already gained notoriety for his attacks on Yemassee forces at Pocotaligo Town in 1715, including the ambush later that year at Bloody Point on Daufuskie Island.

In 1728 acting governor Arthur Middleton ordered Palmer to conduct a punitive expedition against Yemassee refugees near St. Augustine, whose raids had terrorized South Carolina settlers for years. Before the expedition departed, the Yemassee attacked a lookout post at Daufuskie Island commanded by Capt. Barnabas Gilbert. Gilbert alone survived the massacre and was taken prisoner to St. Augustine, cementing the location's grim name, Bloody Point.

Palmer was forbidden from directly attacking Spanish forces because doing so risked an international incident. The Yemassee, aware of this protection, abandoned their villages and established a town directly beneath the guns of Castillo San Marcos. Approaching secretly at night, Palmer launched a dawn attack that routed the defenders, killed 30 warriors and captured 14 more. For three days his men besieged the fort while plundering and destroying nearby villages with impunity.

When Spanish authorities requested that the siege be lifted, Palmer demanded provisions for his return journey, which were granted. Though colonial officials later questioned the expedition's effectiveness, Yemassee raids abruptly ceased afterward, Spanish prestige among their Indian allies declined sharply, and English alliances with the Lower Creek strengthened. Palmer's raid effectively ended the Yemassee War.



THE LAST SANCTUARY Castillo de San Marcos, the great Spanish fort at St. Augustine, sheltered Yemassee refugees during the 1728 conflict. Believing the Spanish guns would protect them, they settled nearby until Colonel John Palmer's surprise dawn raid helped bring an end to years of frontier warfare.



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Defying conventional norms to create a new paradigm

In the 20th century, courage in the Lowcountry increasingly took the form of challenging social and economic conventions rather than confronting wilderness or warfare. Few individuals demonstrated this more clearly than ***Charles Fraser***.

While studying at the University of Georgia and later at Yale Law School, Fraser explored the South Carolina and Georgia sea islands and searched for timber resources for his father's business. In 1950 a group of investors, including Fraser's father, purchased 20,000 acres on Hilton Head Island primarily for logging operations. Fraser, however, recognized something more valuable in the island's maritime forests and live oaks.

Influenced by ideas he encountered in law school and by observing the environmental damage caused by conventional development, Fraser envisioned a residential and resort community that preserved rather than destroyed the natural landscape. His philosophy held that "man would live as part of nature, not apart from it."

Nearly every aspect of his proposal contradicted prevailing development practices of the mid-20th century. Rather than clear-cutting forests, he preserved mature trees. Rather than imposing rigid urban patterns, he designed communities that blended into the environment. Developers, regulators and financiers regularly opposed or doubted his ideas, forcing Fraser into nearly 15 years of struggle to bring his vision into reality.

Through determination and unwavering belief in his concept, Fraser ultimately transformed Hilton Head Island through the development of Sea Pines Plantation. His work reshaped resort and residential planning not only in South Carolina but across the world. What began as a controversial experiment became one of the most influential models of environmentally conscious development in modern history. Fraser's success reflected a different but equally important form of courage: the willingness to challenge accepted norms and persevere through years of criticism and unconcealed opposition in pursuit of a transformative vision. *LL*





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THE VISIONARY Seeing potential where others saw timber, Charles Fraser championed a radically different approach to development on Hilton Head Island. His commitment to preserving the island's natural beauty helped transform Sea Pines into a model for environmentally conscious planning around the world.



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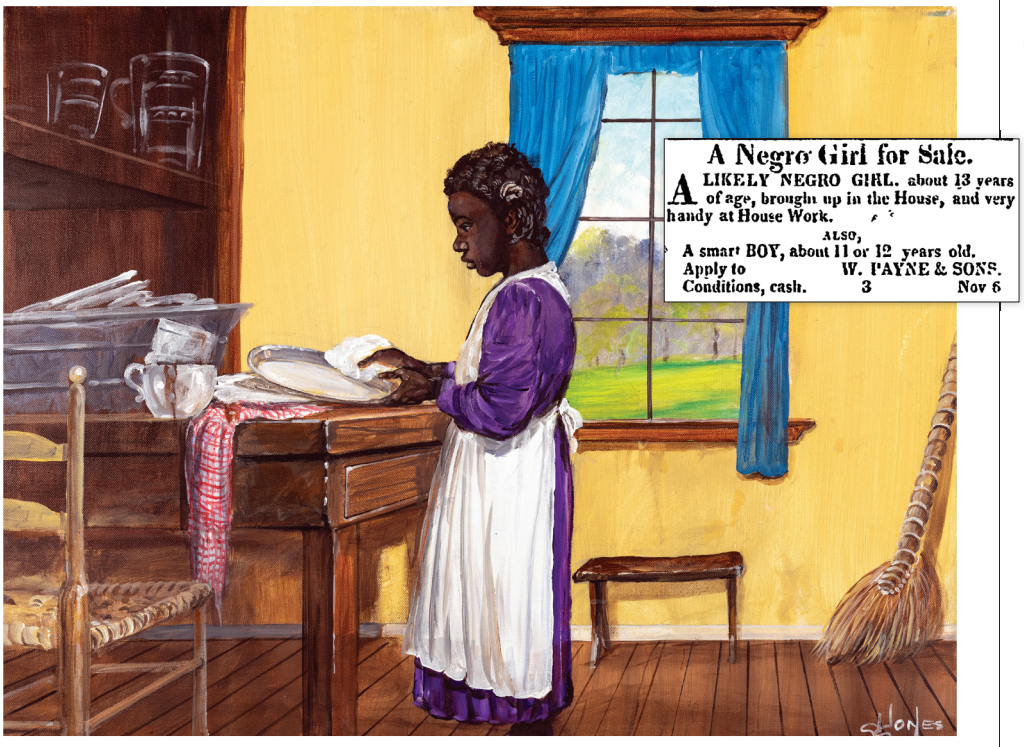
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SOUTHERN COAST AND HARBORS Think of the legendary Robert Smalls, of Beaufort, SC, who disguised his dress, commandeered the Confederate ship, *The Planter*, out of Charleston during the Civil War and joined the Union. Decades earlier, this enslaved man for sale had the same valuable skills.

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Boat Pilot





CHILDREN FOR SALE A girl, 13 years old, currently separated or about to be separated from her family. Also, a boy of 11 or 12 years old is offered for sale.

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A Likely Girl

A hard truth

MARGARET SEIDLER'S PAYNE-FUL DISCOVERY

STORY BY CAROLYN MALES + ARTWORK BY JOHN W. JONES

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018. Margaret Seidler couldn't stop screaming. The pain went right to her heart, shaking her from head to toe. A concerned neighbor and a stranger walking on the sidewalk in front of her Charleston house reached out. "Was she okay?" No, she was not.

In the wake of the Mother Emanuel murders of nine parishioners in 2015, Seidler, a conflict resolution and organizational leadership consultant, had teamed up with former Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen to lead the Charleston Illumination Project. The project, a series of monthly listening sessions around the city, was designed to promote healing and build trusting relationships between law enforcement and residents. During that time she'd become friends with Mother Emanuel survivors, and she and her husband, Bob, had begun attending Mt. Zion AME Church. In fact, on this very morning, nearly three years after the murders, the Seidlers had just attended the church's sunrise service. But in the hours that followed, what she learned about her family would change her life. And what she would do with that knowledge would challenge some of the long-held history of her beloved city.

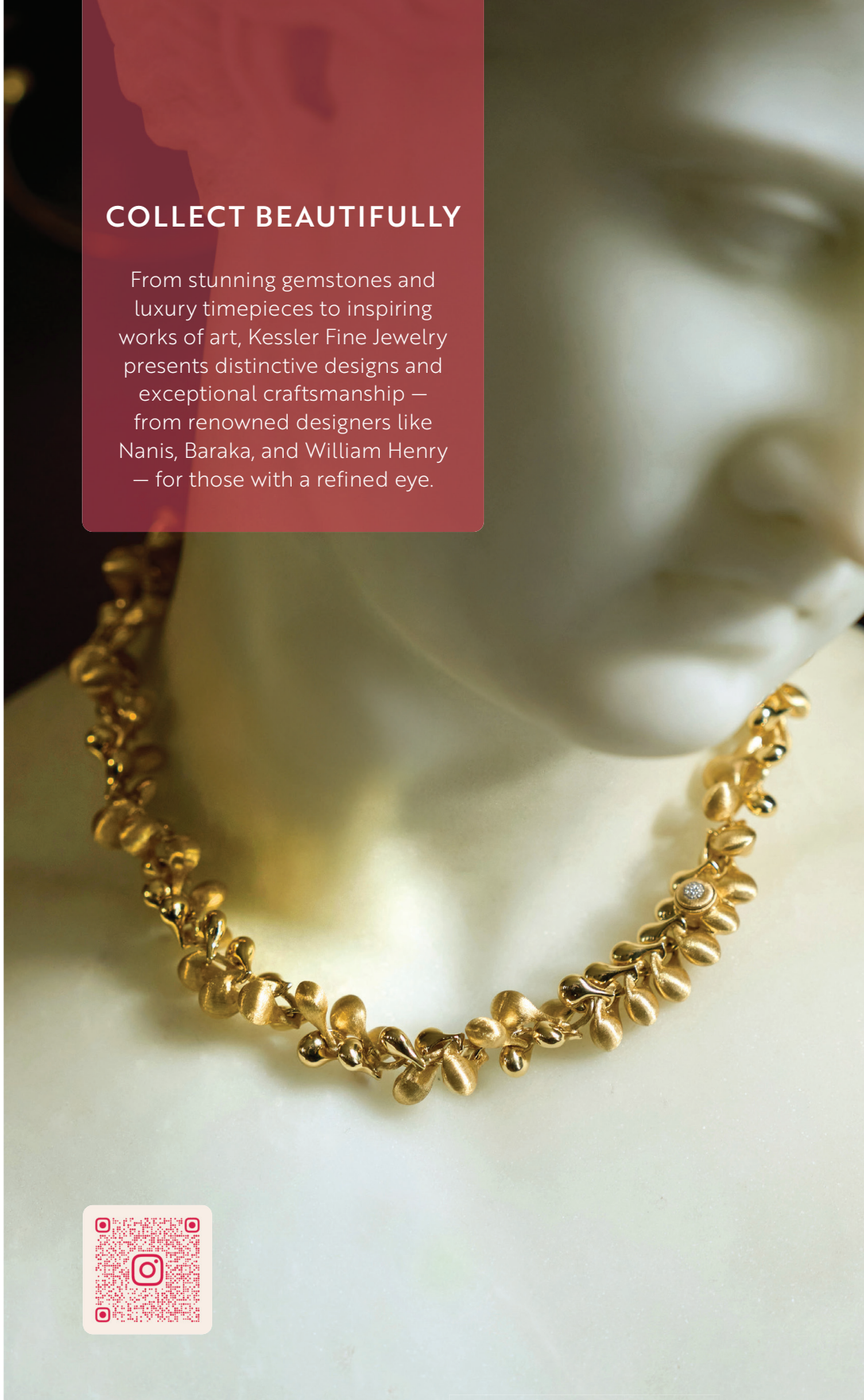
The revelation came during an online search into her ancestry. A few weeks earlier, she'd learned that a DNA test had linked her to Pearlstine Simmons Scott, a cousin of African descent who had reached out to her. Until then, Seidler had believed she was descended from poor German immigrants who arrived in America in the 1850s.

Working from her grandmother's handwritten notes, Seidler found an entry for her fifth-great-grandfather, John Torrans, an Irish immigrant and partner in a shipping firm with an office on Bay Street. The company transported European Huguenots and ... her blood ran cold as she read on ... captive Africans to the colonies. The latter, auctioned and sold from the Cooper River wharves, made Torrans and his investors wealthy men. Charleston society rewarded him with status and respect until his death in 1780. Learning the horror of this truth embedded in her own DNA, she'd let out those screams.

More disturbing discoveries

Should she continue? Some warned her to "get past this history," accept that it happened three centuries ago, and move on. Because of her background in conflict resolution, Seidler was no stranger to difficult conversations. She knew that, as she continued her research with the help of historians and archivists, she would uncover even more uncomfortable truths. "I had a choice," she says. "Either hide it or share it. And I chose to share it with a purpose: to bring about racial healing."

It was the discovery of her fourth-great-grandfather, William Payne, who had married a Torrans daughter, that brought both her family's and Charleston's role in the domestic slave trade into focus.



From 1803 until his death in 1834, William Payne & Sons was one of the largest and most lucrative property brokerages in the country. The property it sold, however, included not only land and buildings but also nearly 10,000 human beings. After the international slave trade was banned in 1808, domestic trafficking soared to meet labor demands fueled by the booming cotton economy. Wm. Payne & Sons ran advertisements in daily newspapers, detailing each enslaved person's traits and skills. "Looking at those ads," Seidler says, "was heartbreaking."

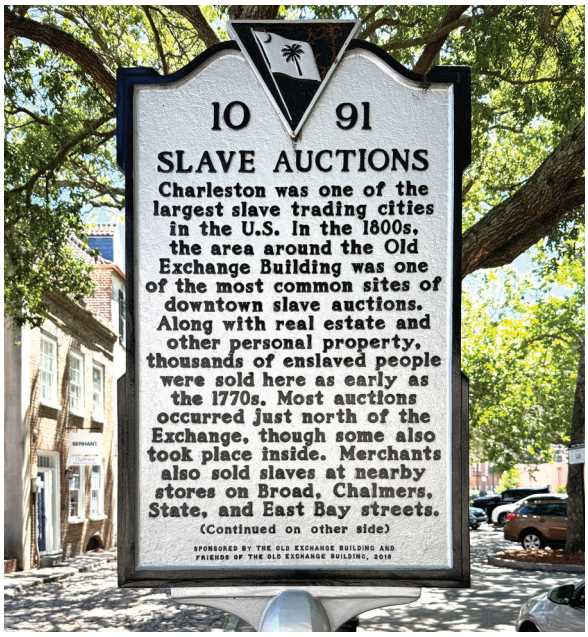
The result of her research is the book *Payne-Ful Business: Charleston's Journey to Truth*, a look at the city's history told through her own coming to terms with her family's past. A team of historians, journalists, artists and researchers helped shape the narrative. But Seidler did not want the book to be filled with images of shackles and chains. Instead, she and artist John W. Jones chose to illustrate each Wm. Payne & Sons advertisement with Jones's painted portraits of the people advertised for sale. They are portrayed as skilled workers engaged in their trades: a poultry woman, "sold to satisfy a mortgage," scattering feed to chickens; a young shoemaker "of good character" attaching a heel to a sole (offered, it should be noted, alongside an advertisement for Madeira wine); a seamstress and washerwoman hanging wet clothing on a line while her small daughter sits nearby, both "sold through no fault of their own as their mistress has no use for them." The accompanying narrative offers insight. Jones makes us see them.



Margaret Seidler and John W. Jones

Beneath the cobblestones

SEEING CHARLESTON HISTORY THROUGH DIFFERENT EYES



That's how I find myself standing at 34 Broad Street in Charleston with Seidler, Jones and our spouses, studying a historic marker on the facade of a modern financial institution. The plaque, which Seidler and her team had lobbied for, tells of the structure's once-hidden past. Here, from 1803 to 1834, William Payne sold men, women, boys and girls from a holding pen behind his office on the ground floor while his wife, Maria Margaret, and their four children lived on the two floors above. Prospective buyers stopped in to inspect the "merchandise" and perhaps close a private sale. Those not purchased on the spot were sold at public auction.

As we stand there taking this in, Broad Street bustles with locals and visitors heading to galleries, shops, restaurants and offices. Like many people, I once thought these crowds were a modern phenomenon, a reflection of the Holy City's booming tourism industry. But Seidler asks us to imagine what this stretch looked like before the Civil War. "Historians will tell you that these streets were highly congested because there were so many people being sold on the sidewalks." She ticks off a list of downtown vendues, or sales sites, she found in old advertisements: buildings on both sides of Broad and East Bay; the corner of King and Broad; St. Philip and Wentworth streets, now part of the College of Charleston campus, where someone was sold in front of the house where they had been enslaved. The list goes on. I ask Jones what he feels standing on this spot. "Surreal," he says, shaking his head.

We continue walking, stopping at a pink building a few doors down at No. 24, where another plaque commemorates domestic slave-trade auctions. By 1808, with the international slave trade outlawed and Virginia tobacco planters selling enslaved workers after their depleted fields could no longer support profitable harvests, domestic trafficking expanded dramatically. The firm of James Jervey, Morton A. Waring and Alonzo J. White, located here, conducted the largest slave auction in American history: a four-day sale of 770 people from the estate of John Ball Jr. in 1835. (In 1998, Edward Ball would write his award-winning book *Slaves in the Family,* chronicling his own effort to trace the complex web of Ball family history.)



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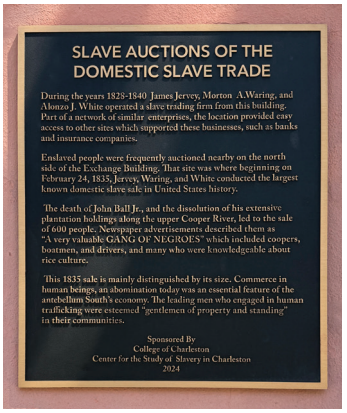
The waterfront and wharves

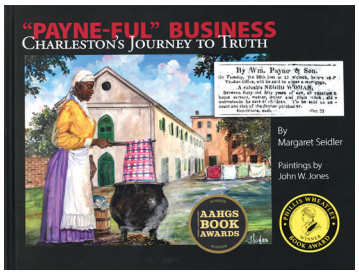
It's tempting to pause at the corner of East Bay and Gillon streets simply to admire the beauty of the live oaks, the cobblestone streets lined with brick buildings, the historic Old Exchange Building and the promise of Cooper River views just beyond. On this sunny day, visitors stroll by, some stopping to give the historic marker a quick read, as I once did. But once again, Seidler asks us to stop and consider what happened in these few blocks and on the wharves just beyond our sightline. Captive Africans, frightened and debilitated by brutal voyages across the Atlantic, were torn from their families and faced an uncertain future as they were sold into bondage. This was also the site of the massive 1835 Ball estate auction. Here, enslaved Americans, fearing dangers that might lie ahead, stood on auction blocks as buyers placed bids. Seidler points to the opposite corner just north of us, where William Payne's vendue office once stood. Today, it's a parking lot.

The Old Slave Mart Museum

Our final stop is the Old Slave Mart Museum, formerly Ryan's Mart, on Chalmers Street. By 1856 Charleston's streets had become so congested and noisy with auctioneers' rapid-fire calls and the crowd's boisterous bidding, the city banned outdoor slave auctions. Sales moved indoors and into private yards. Ryan's Market offered buyers and sellers an enclosed venue shielded from the scrutiny of abolitionists, whose growing opposition had become another concern for the city. In addition to sales and showrooms, the complex included a four-story jail and an outdoor holding pen. Seven years later the Union Army's bombardment of Charleston brought about its closure. "In the past, when people spoke of Charleston from 1800 to 1865, they talked about the Civil War," Seidler points out. "They were not talking about the domestic slave trade." Today, the museum offers a wealth of exhibits and information about this once-hidden chapter of South Carolina history.







Dig deeper

Learn more about Margaret Seidler's book *Payne-Ful Business: Charleston's Journey to Truth,* and explore related South Carolina history at payne-fulbusiness.com.

John W. Jones

GIVING FACES TO THE PAST



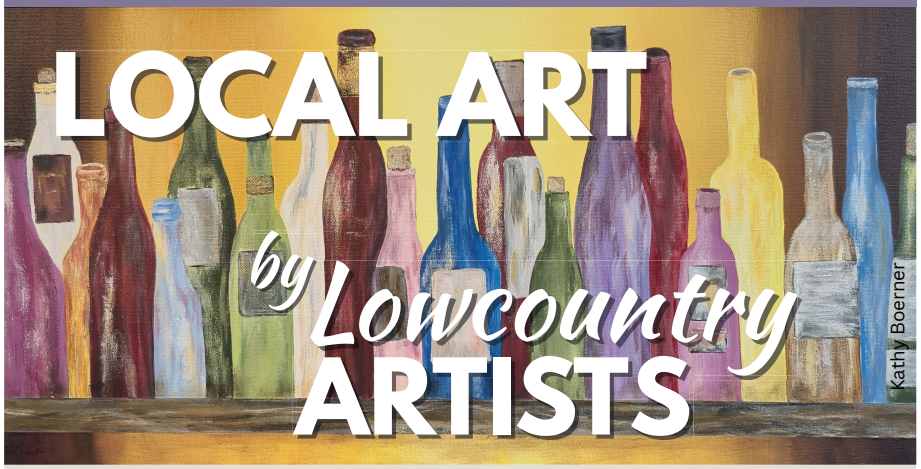
Molly

Molly. Her eyes haunt me. There's a terrible history etched into her face: the "R" burned into her cheek and the memories of what she's seen and experienced. Her left ear is also missing part of its lobe, another vestige of her treatment. But this 16-year-old runaway has a defiance in her stance that says, I will be free.

The ad, offering a $20 reward for her return, attests to her determination. Sixteen years old, she had been sold to four different owners, the last being Aaron Ross, whose "R" initial was burned into her cheek and inner thighs. It doesn't say whether this was done at the workhouse, a jail where runaway slaves and other "discipline problems" were brutally punished before being returned or sold, or whether Ross had it done on his plantation.

The ad further warns that Molly would likely adopt an alias and try to run to the place where she was raised: Johns Island or Beaufort.

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Today this most recent portrait by artist John W. Jones sits in the upper-story window of the Old Exchange & Provost Dungeon Museum, overlooking the site where she may have stood on the auction block below. Before Molly, Jones gave faces to more than 60 others for the book *"Payne-Ful" Business* and its traveling art exhibit. After a stint in the Army followed by a long career as a freelance illustrator for clients such as Time-Life Books, Westinghouse and NASA, Jones turned his attention to several painting series: Lowcountry Gullah life, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (the Union Army's first African American regiment) and the Buffalo Soldiers, African American regiments formed after the Civil War.

[LOCAL Life] How did you feel about working on this project?

[John W. Jones] I was raised back in the 1950s and '60s and remember the civil rights era. As a small child, I got a glimpse of scars on my great-grandmother's back. She must have been about 102 years old. When I asked her about them, all she said was, 'That was a long time ago.' This was up in Ridgeway, where there were still cotton fields and an old plantation house in the woods. No one talked about slavery back then because of the negativity and because they were embarrassed. But it's part of our history, and you can't change it, so you might as well embrace it.

My mother did a lot of the kinds of jobs you see depicted in *'Payne-Ful' Business* — sewing, washing clothes in an old iron pot and working by candlelight. Even after we moved to Columbia, we didn't have a bathroom in our house until I was 13. My father worked at Crafts-Farrow State Hospital, a psychiatric institution for Black patients. Some of the patients there farmed the land, so we always had something to eat from their harvests: peas, tomatoes, potatoes and okra.

[LL] In your first book, *Confederate Currency: The Color of Money*, your illustrations showed how Confederate banknotes promoted the slave-driven economy.

[JWJ] I was working at a blueprint company in North Charleston back in the 1990s when a customer came in with a Confederate note and asked me to scan and enlarge it. As I worked, I took a really close look and, oh my, I saw it had a small image of enslaved people picking cotton engraved on it. So I began doing more research and started documenting these images as they appeared on Southern state currencies. None of the illustrations depicted the negative side of slavery. Instead, they promoted the prosperity generated by the slave labor system of the plantation economy.

[LL] And for *"Payne-Ful" Business*?

[JWJ] Margaret and I call ourselves "accidental historians." She found the truth about the domestic slave trade through tracing her lineage, and I found mine by researching a Confederate note. For our book, Margaret would send me an ad offering an enslaved person for sale, and I'd make a sketch. Then she'd send it back to me, and I'd make changes. Along the way, her historians had to "say grace" over every illustration. I completed the final paintings in acrylics.

For Molly, I wanted to show some pain in her eyes because I know that little Black girl had to be hurting. She's defiant because she's still running away. That's what impressed me. She was not giving up.



[LL] What do you want readers to take away from your books?

[JWJ] I hope people begin to understand what slavery was really like. This is something that is documented and irrefutable. I hope they will try to understand Black Americans' pain when we talk about slavery. It's been part of my own life's work to bring these stories to life. *LL*

See the art

John W. Jones's work is on display at **Gallery Chuma**, located at 188 Meeting Street in Charleston. Gallerychuma.com, 843-722-1702.







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Daufuskie Loyalists battled Hilton Head Patriots
in our first civil war, neighbor versus neighbor
kin against kin, as if strangers, until that autumn day.
The Royal Daufuskie Militia reached the final plantation
on Hilton Head's Skull Creek, smoke and ashes in its wake.

I've orders to burn all Patriot homes Captain Martinangele
told the lady standing solo before him. Your husband fights
for the wrong side he said with averted eyes.

Mary Ann Talbird, belly heavy with her first child, stared. Defiant.
Are you sure, brother? The home of your wife's dear sister?
Loyal to a king, sworn to orders against family and friends,
he faced his militia. Men, our orders say nothing of the contents within.

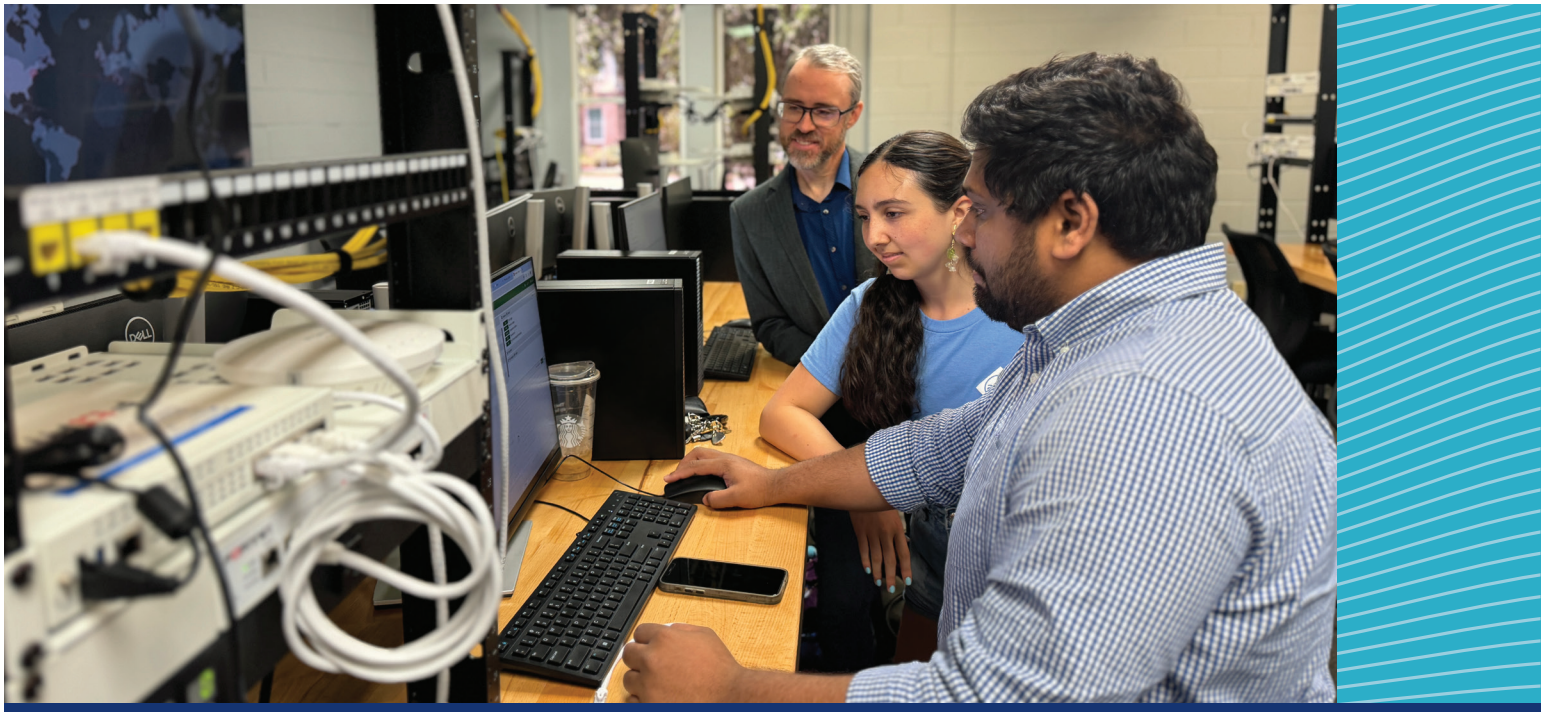
Beneath an ancient live oak the Tory invaders emptied her home.
All earthly belongings, items large and small, placed by her side
in the protection of the draping branches. Tiny leaves mottled
the flickering light of the relit torches. House fully ablaze
Captain Martinangele nodded to his sister-in-law, and led
his men to the still waters of Skull Creek, home to Daufuskie,
two adjacent islands divided by more than Calibogue Sound.

— Susan Diamond Riley

LOCAL ART & POETRY



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WHAT'S FRESH IN JULY?

Worth cracking open

BALLPARK SNACKS, BOILED PLATES AND PEANUT-BUTTER SANDWICHES ONLY TELL PART OF THE STORY BEHIND THE SOUTH'S FAVORITE LEGUME

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM



Few foods feel more Southern than peanuts. Around the Lowcountry they show up steaming in roadside pots, rattling in paper bags on long drives and cracked open on porches after long days in the sun. Around here peanuts are less a snack than a ritual, woven into summer afternoons that seem in no hurry to end. But peanuts are more than salty comfort food. They are one of the South's most important crops, steeped in history, packed with nutrition and surprisingly versatile in the kitchen. Stemming from ancient roots in South America, peanuts have spent thousands of years earning their place at the Southern table.



ROADSIDE RITUAL Boiled peanuts are more than a snack here in the Lowcountry. They're road-trip fuel, porch companions and a salty rite of passage, all rolled into one shell.

LOCAL LIFE TEST KITCHEN

Boiled peanuts

Living in the Lowcountry is practically an invitation to develop an opinion about boiled peanuts. Best gas station or roadside stand? South Carolina or Georgia? Cajun or plain? Soft enough to slurp or still a little firm? Few snacks feel more familiar than a warm bag eaten one shell at a time on a long drive home. The good news: making them yourself is easier than you might think. You'll need raw or green peanuts. Raw peanuts are air-dried and shelf-stable, while green peanuts are freshly harvested with more moisture still inside. Ask a seasoned peanut boiler, and many will swear green peanuts are the gold standard, but either will get the job done. The secret is patience, salt and letting them soak up flavor.

INGREDIENTS

2 pounds raw peanuts in the shell or 3 pounds green peanuts
1 1/2 cups kosher salt, divided
2 gallons water

DIRECTIONS [1] In a large stockpot, dissolve 1/2 cup kosher salt in 2 gallons water. Add raw peanuts, and place a plate or bowl on top to keep them submerged. Soak 8 hours or overnight. Skip this step for green peanuts. **[2]** Drain soaked peanuts and return them to the pot. Add 2 fresh gallons water and the remaining 1 cup kosher salt. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low and cover. Simmer gently, adding water as needed to keep peanuts submerged. **[3]** Cook until soft, briny and flavorful, about 5 to 8 hours for raw peanuts or 2 to 3 hours for green peanuts. Start tasting early. A perfect boiled peanut should feel tender all the way through, never crunchy in the center. **[4]** After about 3 hours for raw peanuts (or 1 hour for green peanuts), taste and adjust. Want more salt? Add in 1/4-cup increments. Too salty? Add fresh water. **[5]** When tender, remove from heat and let cool in the cooking liquid for about 1 hour (20 to 30 minutes for green peanuts). This extra soak deepens flavor and gives them that roadside-stand taste. **[6]** Drain and enjoy warm, room temperature or straight from the fridge. Store refrigerated for up to 10 days, or freeze for several months.



SMOOTH OPERATOR Creamy, nutty and endlessly versatile, peanut sauce brings rich flavor to noodles, grilled shrimp, chicken and vegetables with just one spoonful.

A long road south

The peanut's story began thousands of years ago in South America, likely modern-day Peru or Brazil, where ancient cultures decorated pottery with peanut designs and placed the legumes in tombs as offerings for the afterlife. European explorers later carried peanuts abroad, traders spread them across Africa and Asia, and enslaved Africans introduced them to North America in the 1700s.

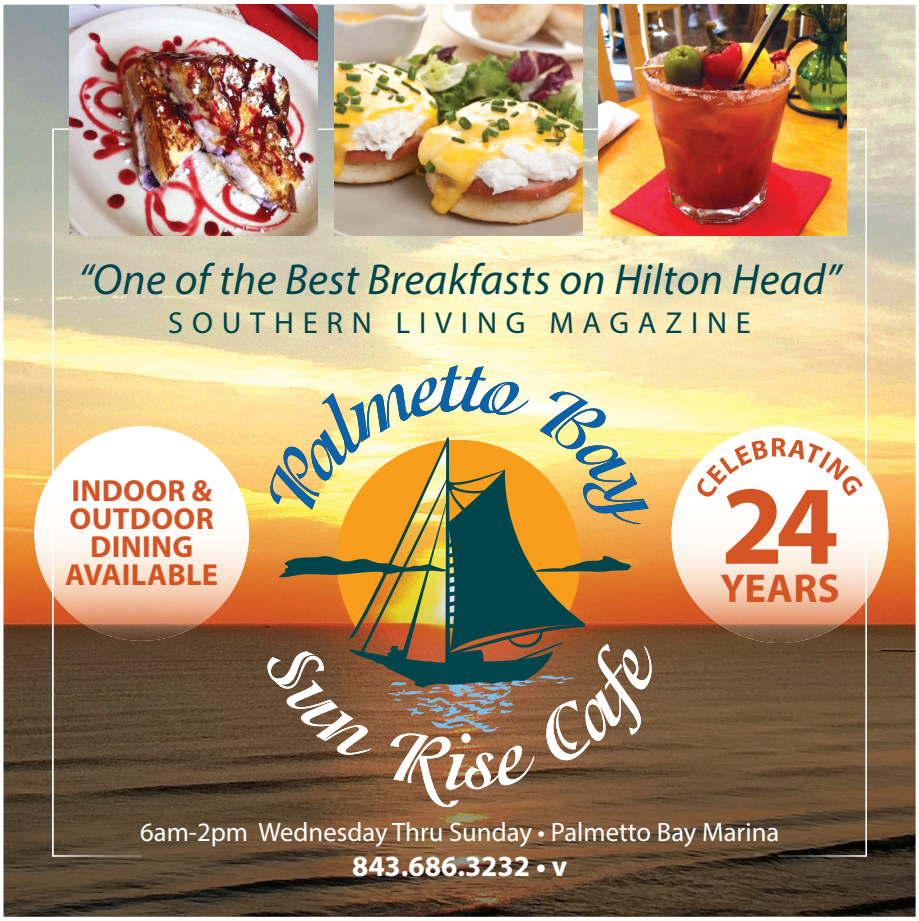
For years peanuts were simple fare, fed to livestock or eaten in poorer communities. After the Civil War, returning soldiers helped spark demand for roasted peanuts, while circuses and baseball games turned them into a national snack. Around 1900, new farming machinery and the boll weevil crisis pushed Southern farmers toward peanuts, thanks in part to George Washington Carver, who encouraged growing them instead of cotton. Soon after, peanut butter debuted at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition and quickly became a pantry staple.

Know your peanuts

Not all peanuts are created equal. The ones blended into peanut butter are usually different from the jumbo shells cracked open at the ballpark. While all peanuts come from the same plant species, decades of cultivation have produced four main types grown in the United States. Runner peanuts dominate production and are prized for their uniform size, making them ideal for peanut butter and candy. Virginia peanuts are the oversized, extra-crunchy "ballpark" variety. Spanish peanuts are smaller with red skins and deeper flavor, while sweet Valencia peanuts, often packed three to a shell, are favorites for boiled peanuts and natural peanut butter.

TRY GROWING THESE

Runner: *Georgia Green, TUFRunner 297*
Virginia: *Bailey, Gregory, Wynne*
Valencia: *Georgia Red, Georgia Valencia*





Digging deeper

Peanuts love the Lowcountry. Warm temperatures, sandy soil and long growing seasons make the region an ideal place for home gardeners willing to try their hand at this underground crop. According to the Clemson Cooperative Extension, peanuts are best planted between April 1 and May 31, with early May offering the sweet spot once the soil has warmed.

Unlike most garden crops, peanuts flower above ground but fruit below it. Low-growing plants send small yellow blooms into action, producing slender "pegs" that burrow into the soil where peanuts mature beneath the surface. They thrive in full sun and loose, well-drained soil with a slightly acidic pH. Because peanuts are legumes, they naturally return nitrogen to the soil, meaning too much fertilizer can hurt production rather than help it. Depending on the variety, harvest arrives in about 90 to 150 days, when yellowing foliage signals that the crop below is ready to dig.



SWEET INDULGENCE Rich caramel, crunchy peanuts and creamy cheesecake turn familiar pantry flavors into a sweet-and-salty showstopper.

Beyond PB&J

Few ingredients work harder in the kitchen than peanuts. They can be roasted, salted, boiled, candied, blended into sauces, folded into desserts or scattered over salads and stir-fries for crunch. Peanut butter remains the reigning comfort-food classic, but peanuts also thrive in savory dishes, from rich African stews and Thai peanut noodles to old-school Southern peanut soup.

Part of their appeal is versatility. Peanuts move easily between salty and sweet, rustic and refined, comforting and unexpected. Around the South, they carry a heavy dose of nostalgia too, whether it's a warm sack of boiled peanuts from a roadside stand or the oddly satisfying tradition of dropping salted peanuts into an ice-cold bottle of Coke. However they're served, peanuts remain one of the South's quiet comforts, proof that familiar foods have a way of sticking with us.

Small but mighty

Peanuts punch well above their weight nutritionally. While one of the most common food allergies means they are not for everyone, those who can safely enjoy them get a snack packed with staying power. Peanuts deliver plant-based protein, fiber and healthy fats that help fuel long afternoons, curb hunger and keep energy steady. Just one ounce contains about 7 grams of protein, along with heart-healthy unsaturated fats linked to cardiovascular wellness. They also supply magnesium, potassium, folate, vitamin E and antioxidants that may support overall health.

Researchers believe peanut allergies may sometimes develop when first exposure happens through the skin rather than food, prompting the immune system to misidentify peanut proteins as dangerous. Early dietary exposure, however, may help build tolerance. For those without allergies, peanuts prove that good things really can come in small shells. *LL*



FARMER'S COKE Born somewhere between farm fields, country stores and dusty job sites, the tradition of peanuts in Coke dates to the 1920s when workers poured salted peanuts into glass bottles for a snack they could enjoy without touching it with dirty hands.





LOCAL LIFE TEST KITCHEN

Meemaw's peanut brittle

Some recipes are measured with cups and teaspoons; others are measured with instinct. My grandmother ***Lydia Gilliam's*** peanut brittle belonged to the second category. Meemaw poured hot candy onto wax paper to cool into crisp golden sheets and somehow always knew when it was ready, despite never owning a candy thermometer. Over time, I learned her instinct had a temperature: about 300 to 310 degrees, the sweet spot for brittle with the perfect snap.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup light corn syrup (white syrup)
1/2 cup water
1 cup raw peanuts
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS [1] Line a baking sheet, marble slab or countertop with foil or wax paper, and lightly grease with butter or cooking spray. Once the candy is ready, you will need to move quickly. **[2]** In a heavy saucepan over medium heat, stir together sugar, syrup and water until dissolved. Bring to a boil. **[3]** Add peanuts a handful at a time, stirring gently. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until the syrup deepens to a rich golden color and reaches 300 to 310 degrees (hard crack stage) or the peanuts begin to crack and smell toasted, about 15 to 20 minutes. **[4]** Remove from heat immediately. Stir in baking soda, butter and vanilla. The mixture will foam and lighten in color. Give it just a few quick stirs. Do not over mix. **[5]** Immediately pour onto the prepared surface. Let it spread naturally, then carefully pull or tilt the brittle thinner with the back of a spoon or buttered hands if needed. Thin brittle equals better crunch. **[6]** Let cool completely, about 20 to 30 minutes, then break into jagged pieces. Store airtight for up to one week, if it lasts that long.

MEEMAW'S TIP

No thermometer? Watch the peanuts. *When they start to crack inside the syrup and the candy turns deep golden and smells nutty, it's usually ready. Just don't wander away from the stove. Brittle waits for no one.*

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Local flavor: Backyard barbecue edition

RECIPES, TIPS AND LOCAL FLAVOR FOR THE PERFECT SUMMER COOKOUT

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM

There's something about a backyard barbecue that feels like summer at its best. Maybe it's the smell of food sizzling on the grill, the sound of laughter drifting across the yard or the simple pleasure of gathering friends and family around a picnic table. Barbecues are more than just a meal. They're a tradition, bringing people together over smoky flavors, favorite recipes and long afternoons spent outdoors. In this month's Local Flavor, we're celebrating all things backyard barbecue, from crowd-pleasing recipes and grilling tips to the secret ingredient that can elevate your cookout from ordinary to unforgettable.







THE SPICE & TEA EXCHANGE

Honeyed BBQ pineapple bowls

This month's recipe comes from ***Todd Ernst***, owner of The Spice & Tea Exchange, who knows a thing or two about building bold flavor. His Honeyed BBQ pineapple bowls bring together sweet, smoky and tropical flavors in one colorful dish that feels tailor-made for summer entertaining. Tender chicken is coated in Ernst's signature Honey BBQ Rub, tossed with peppers and coated in a glossy pineapple-infused sauce before being served over rice. For extra backyard barbecue flair, serve it in hollowed-out pineapple halves, and prepare for guests to ask for seconds.

INGREDIENTS

1 to 1 1/2 pounds boneless chicken breast, cubed
2 teaspoons Honey BBQ Rub Seasoning
1/3 cup low-sodium soy sauce
1/4 cup chicken broth
3 tablespoons Pineapple Sugar
1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
1 teaspoon toasted sesame oil
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 teaspoons fresh ginger, grated
2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon Sriracha
2 tablespoons neutral oil (vegetable, canola or grapeseed), divided
1 red bell pepper, sliced
1 green bell pepper, sliced
2 teaspoons cilantro
2 cups cooked jasmine rice
2 teaspoons toasted white sesame seeds
Green onion, sliced for garnish
2 pineapples, halved and hollowed

DIRECTIONS **[1]** Place cubed chicken in a bowl, add Honey BBQ Rub Seasoning, and toss to coat evenly. **[2]** In a separate bowl, whisk together soy sauce, chicken broth, Pineapple Sugar, rice wine vinegar, sesame oil, garlic, ginger, cornstarch and Sriracha. Set aside. **[3]** Heat a large skillet or wok over medium heat and add 1 tablespoon oil. Add chicken and sear for 5 to 8 minutes, turning occasionally until cooked through and lightly golden. Transfer to a plate. **[4]** Return skillet to medium heat, and add remaining oil. Add bell peppers and cook for about 3 minutes, until slightly tender. **[5]** Return chicken to the skillet, and pour in the sauce mixture, whisking once more before adding since the cornstarch may settle. **[6]** Let sauce simmer for 3 to 5 minutes until thickened and glossy. Stir in cilantro. **[7]** In a small pan over low heat, toast sesame seeds until lightly golden. **[8]** Spoon over jasmine rice, and garnish with sesame seeds and sliced green onion. For a fun presentation, serve inside pineapple halves.



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WHAT THE PROS LOVE

We asked local chefs and restaurateurs to share their favorite thing to bring to a backyard barbecue:



RUSSO'S FRESH SEAFOOD
"I typically bring a Horiatiki Greek salad (tomatoes, red onion, cucumbers, feta, Kalamata olives, red wine vinegar and olive oil). It's an easy, cool and refreshing summertime dish that highlights the season for local tomatoes and cucumbers."
— Charles Russo

NUNZIO RESTAURANT + BAR
"To complement the barbecue standards, I would bring a caprese salad (freshly sliced beefsteak tomatoes, sliced mozzarella, extra virgin olive oil, salt and pepper). It's so easy, so simple and a must with lots of fresh basil. It's a refreshing dish that perfectly suits the summer season."
— Chef Nunzio Patruno





THE SEA PINES RESORT
"My go-to, if it's true barbecue, would be paying homage to my North Carolina roots. I would bring red slaw (a twist on coleslaw with a vinegary, peppery kick) and a platter of deviled eggs that I like to kick up with a bit of wasabi."
— Chef Benjamin Harris



PALMETTO BAY SUNRISE CAFE
"Potato chips, because they're in a bag! But really, I'd have to say a pickle relish tray or tarragon vinegar slaw because I like my barbecue tangy, not spicy. Plenty of napkins as well."
— Leslie Stewart



CHEZ GEORGES BISTRO & BAR
"I like to bring German potato salad. It pairs well with a lot of other dishes, and good sides are often overlooked at a picnic."
— Chef George Casalicchio

HUDSON'S SEAFOOD HOUSE ON THE DOCKS
"We have 14 chickens, so we usually have eggs to spare — deviled eggs."
— Andrew Carmines



A sauce worth sharing



Every home cook has that one signature recipe — the dish friends request time and time again, the one that makes an appearance at family gatherings or the meal they can prepare by memory alone. Our Signature Dish feature celebrates those recipes by spotlighting a favorite dish from someone in the community each month. After sharing the recipe and the story behind it, that person nominates someone else to keep the tradition going. This month's recipe comes from ***Charlie Drawdy***, a lifelong local and Realtor, who was nominated by Babbie Guscio.



CHARLIE DRAWDY

Charlie's famous fat-filled vermicelli sauce

A lifelong local with a passion for cooking, Charlie Drawdy developed this rich and indulgent vermicelli sauce after enjoying a similar dish years ago at the historic Pirates' House in Savannah. Inspired by the original, he began experimenting in his own kitchen, adjusting the recipe over time until it became distinctly his own. The result is a creamy, comforting pasta dish packed with bold flavor and just enough decadence to earn its unforgettable name. While Charlie proudly considers himself something of a shrimp-and-grits expert, this indulgent recipe has become one of his most requested specialties among family and friends.



INGREDIENTS

4 ounces vermicelli noodles, uncooked
1/2 teaspoon olive oil
3 tablespoons butter
*1 teaspoon **basil***
1/2 teaspoon garlic, crushed
1 small can sliced mushrooms
3 ounces cream cheese
1/4 cup white Zinfandel wine
1/4 cup whipping cream
1 tablespoon salt
4 ounces spaghetti sauce

DIRECTIONS [1] In a small pot over low heat, add olive oil, butter, basil, garlic and mushrooms. Sauté gently while placing the cream cheese on top of the mushrooms and covering the pot, allowing the cheese to melt. **[2]** Once the cream cheese has fully melted, add the white Zinfandel and allow the alcohol to cook off. **[3]** Stir in the whipping cream, spaghetti sauce and salt. Cover and let simmer, stirring occasionally, until the fat rises to the surface and the sauce thickens slightly. **[4]** Meanwhile, cook the vermicelli noodles according to package directions. Serve immediately with the sauce spooned generously over the top.

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SECRET INGREDIENT

The secret agent of smoke

Why cumin is BBQ's ultimate hidden weapon

STORY BY STEVEN STEMPEL



*When most people think of barbecue seasonings, staples like brown sugar, paprika, garlic and black pepper usually come to mind. But according to **Steven Stempel**, owner of the new event venue Venue on Park Lane and a longtime restaurateur, one of the most powerful flavor boosters in the spice cabinet often goes overlooked: cumin.*

When I think of bold barbecue flavors, my mind goes straight to the usual suspects: brown sugar, paprika, garlic, onion powder and black pepper. But there's one secret weapon in the spice rack that consistently makes people stop mid-bite and ask, "What did you put in this?" That ingredient is cumin.

Used correctly, cumin doesn't make your pulled pork taste like tacos. Instead, it acts as a flavor amplifier, tying together smoke, spice and meat in a way that creates incredible depth and complexity.

To understand why cumin works so well on the grill, it helps to look at history. Cumin has been part of human cooking for thousands of years, dating back to the ancient kitchens of the Fertile Crescent, the Mediterranean and the spice markets of India. For generations, people have paired this earthy seed with fire and meat, making its warm, aromatic profile feel deeply familiar and universally appealing.

Part of cumin's magic comes from a naturally occurring compound called cuminaldehyde, which gives the spice its distinctive aroma. On its own, cumin can taste sharp and earthy. But under the slow heat of a smoker or the high heat of a grill, it transforms beautifully. It bridges the gap between wood smoke and the natural richness of meat, especially fattier cuts like pork shoulder and brisket.

When added in small amounts to a traditional barbecue rub, cumin acts as an anchor. It balances the sweetness of brown sugar, cuts through the richness of rendered fat and adds a savory depth that makes flavors feel more complete. Most people won't identify cumin immediately. Instead, they'll simply wonder why everything tastes better.



To use cumin on the grill

If you want to experiment with cumin as your secret ingredient, here are four ways I like to use it:

1. Lowcountry pork rub upgrade. Pork fat loves cumin. When smoking pork butt or ribs, add about a tablespoon of ground cumin to your usual paprika-and-brown-sugar rub. It balances sweetness while helping develop a darker, more savory bark.

2. Texas brisket booster. Traditional Texas brisket relies on a simple salt-and-pepper "Dalmatian rub." Adding just a small pinch of finely ground cumin enhances the brisket's natural beefy, umami flavor without overpowering its classic bark.

3. Better homemade BBQ sauce. When making a tomato- or vinegar-based barbecue sauce, a touch of toasted cumin adds complexity and depth. It transforms a basic sauce into something richer, more layered and far more memorable.

4. Chicken's best friend. Chicken can sometimes disappear beneath heavier smoke flavors. A rub combining cumin, coriander and brown sugar creates an aromatic profile that pairs especially well with fruitwoods like apple or cherry.

The key is moderation. Cumin should act like a background musician, not the lead singer. When it quietly blends into the smoke, seasoning and meat, that's when the magic happens. And when dinner ends with everyone asking for seconds, you know you got it right.



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Elevate a backyard barbecue

Simple ways to turn a casual cookout into a memorable gathering

HOW TO





A successful backyard barbecue isn't about having the fanciest grill or an over-the-top menu. It's about creating an atmosphere where friends and family can relax, connect and enjoy great food together. According to local entertaining expert ***Carrie Hirsch***, the secret is keeping things simple while focusing on the details that make guests feel comfortable from the moment they arrive.

Keep the menu easy. Skip the temptation to overcomplicate things. Choose two or three main proteins, and pair them with simple, crowd-pleasing sides. Burgers, barbecue chicken and grilled vegetables are always dependable choices, while classics like coleslaw, pasta salad, baked beans, chips and fresh watermelon help round out the spread. To make hosting easier, prep ahead by forming burger patties, marinating meats and chopping toppings the day before. One important summer reminder: any mayonnaise-based side dish should stay chilled in a bowl or tray of ice to prevent spoilage in the heat.

Create comfortable gathering spaces. Guests naturally gravitate toward spaces where they feel comfortable, so make sure there's plenty of seating and adequate shade. Arrange serving tables, coolers and food stations where people can move easily, and don't overlook entertainment. Lawn games like cornhole, bocce, badminton and ring toss help keep guests of all ages engaged. Hirsch also recommends setting out a small basket with sunscreen and bug spray, a thoughtful touch guests always appreciate.



CARRIE HIRSCH

Watermelon & feta bites

Cool, refreshing and easy to prepare ahead of time, these bites from local entertaining expert Carrie Hirsch make the perfect addition to any summer cookout.

INGREDIENTS

72 watermelon pieces, cut into 1-inch squares, 1/2-inch thick
8-ounce package feta cheese, cut into 1-inch squares, 1/2-inch thick
1/2-ounce package mint leaves, stems removed and finely minced
3 tablespoons honey
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon lemon zest



INGREDIENTS (garnish)

Honey, for drizzling
6 mint leaves, finely chopped

DIRECTIONS [1] To make the pesto, combine honey, lemon juice and lemon zest in a small bowl, and mix until well incorporated. **[2]** Arrange 36 watermelon squares on a serving platter. Place a small dollop of pesto on each watermelon square, then top each with a feta square. Add another small dollop of pesto on top of the feta, then finish with the remaining watermelon squares. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. **[3]** Just before serving, drizzle with honey, sprinkle with chopped mint, and spear each stack with a toothpick.

Set up a self-serve drink station. A dedicated beverage station keeps guests from crowding the kitchen and allows everyone to help themselves throughout the party. Fill a decorative tub or cooler with ice, water, soft drinks and other beverages, then keep a second cooler nearby stocked with extras for easy refills. The less time you spend playing bartender, the more time you spend enjoying the party.

Master the grill. Before cooking, clean and lightly oil the grill grates to prevent sticking. Create two heat zones: one hotter side for searing and a cooler side for finishing thicker cuts more gently. Cook chicken first, followed by burgers, and toast buns just before serving. A meat thermometer is one of the best grilling tools you can own. Chicken should reach 165 degrees, while burgers should reach 160 degrees. For extra insurance against dry or undercooked chicken, Hirsch recommends partially cooking chicken in the oven for about 20 minutes before finishing it on the grill.

Set the mood. Sometimes the smallest details leave the biggest impression. Build a playlist filled with summer favorites, hang string lights for evening ambiance, and place battery-operated candles around seating areas. As the sun begins to set, those simple touches help transform an ordinary cookout into something far more memorable.

Focus on what matters most. The biggest hosting secret has nothing to do with recipes or decorations. "Spend time with your guests instead of trying to make everything perfect," Hirsch says. The best barbecues aren't necessarily the most elaborate. They're the ones where everyone — including the host — gets a chance to relax, enjoy good food and simply have fun. *LL*



FROM SCRATCH

Golden harvest

A colorful mix of sweet corn, ripe tomatoes and fresh herbs captures the flavor of summer

STORY + PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEA WILKINS



Corn on the cob is almost as essential to summer meals as a pitcher of iced tea. Sweet, starchy and delicately earthy, it's the seasonal vegetable that's just as good plain as it is slathered in butter. In this salad LOCAL Life publisher ***Lori Goodridge-Cribb*** pairs locally grown corn with ripe tomatoes, red onion and fresh basil for a bowl built around summer's bounty. A light dressing of basil-infused olive oil and white balsamic vinegar enhances its natural flavors, and when served with dinners hot off the grill, it's a refreshing, colorful side that's as beautiful as it is delicious.



Watch & learn

*Watch Lori prepare this dish "From Scratch" on LOCAL Life's YouTube Channel **@LocalLifeSC**.*



Summer corn salad

INGREDIENTS

8 ears sweet corn
1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
2 cups grape tomatoes, halved
1 bunch fresh basil, chopped
3 tablespoons basil extra virgin olive oil from Hilton Head Olive Oils & Balsamics
3 tablespoons lemon cucumber white balsamic vinegar from Hilton Head Olive Oils & Balsamics
Salt, to taste
Black pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS [1] Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add corn and cook for 3 minutes. Immediately place in an ice bath to stop the cooking process. **[2]** Cut corn off the cob. Slice red onion, tomatoes and basil. Mix together in a large bowl. **[3]** Dress with olive oil, vinegar, salt and pepper to taste. Lori recommends serving with rosé from Rollers Wine & Spirits.

BITE THAT'S JUST RIGHT

A quick blanch brings out sweet corn's golden yellow hue while maintaining its fresh snap. To Lori, it's an extra step that makes all the difference in achieving a crisp, colorful bite.





CORN OFF THE COB

A quick pass with a sharp knife transforms sweet summer corn into the foundation of this colorful salad. Removing the kernels after blanching helps preserve their crisp texture while capturing the peak sweetness.



locallife

PRESENTS

From Scratch

an online video cooking series featuring publisher Lori Goodridge-Cribb

COMPANY'S COMING. The table needs setting. The oven is warming up. And LOCAL Life publisher Lori Goodridge-Cribb is right there with you. Each month on From Scratch, Lori invites readers into her kitchen to share a seasonal recipe made for gathering. She believes the best memories happen around the table, and she is happy to show you exactly how she brings it all together. For July, she is preparing a wonderful summer corn salad.

To see Lori in action and watch every episode of "From Scratch," scan the QR code or visit LOCAL Life's YouTube channel at @LocalLifeSC.

Follow the recipe on the left, then head to LOCAL Life's YouTube channel at @LocalLifeSC to watch the full episode. You will pick up smart kitchen shortcuts, simple hosting ideas and a few well-earned stories from Lori's years of cooking for family, friends and anyone lucky enough to pull up a chair.

RESTAURANT news & notes

FRESH FOOD + NOW OPEN + HOT PRODUCTS

BY BAILEY GILLIAM

A taste of what's ahead

The Lowcountry dining scene is serving up plenty of news this summer. Beloved establishments are preparing for a return, new restaurants are getting ready to open their doors, and local favorites continue to evolve alongside the communities they serve. Here's a taste of what's coming soon and what's making headlines around the region this month.

COMING SOON





The Chocolate Tree

507 CARTERET STREET, BEAUFORT

One of Beaufort's most beloved sweet shops is preparing for a long-awaited return. *The Chocolate Tree, a downtown fixture since 1980, is expected to reopen this fall after closing unexpectedly last year. Renowned for its handmade tiger paws, English toffee, chocolate turtles, peanut brittle and other confectionery favorites, the shop has delighted generations of locals and visitors alike. After ownership matters within the founding family were resolved, founder Pat Green and her son, chef and chocolatier Tim Green, began work to bring the business back to life. In addition to updated equipment and a refreshed interior, plans include reviving popular traditions such as candy-making classes and all-you-can-eat nights. While some changes are in store, the time-honored recipes that made The Chocolate Tree a Lowcountry favorite will remain exactly the same.*



Good Soul Southern Kitchen

70 MARSHLAND ROAD, HILTON HEAD ISLAND

A new restaurant is preparing to bring Southern comfort and hospitality to Marshland Road. *Good Soul Southern Kitchen plans to open in the former Roastfish & Cornbread building, giving the location a fresh chapter while honoring its community roots. Details remain limited, but anticipation is already building among residents eager to see the space return to life. Additional information, including menu offerings and an opening date, is expected in the coming months.*

NEWS & NOTES



Remembering Chuck Hyatt

The Hilton Head Island dining community is mourning the loss of Chuck Hyatt, founder of Harold's Diner and the larger-than-life personality behind one of the island's most recognizable restaurants. For more than two decades, Hyatt helped shape Harold's into a local institution known for its quirky signs, sarcastic humor and "Food with Attitude" philosophy. Though visitors often mistakenly called him "Harold," Hyatt's presence was woven into every aspect of the diner, from the decor and menu to the playful banter that became part of the experience. Friends and staff remember him for his quick wit, unmistakable personality and ability to make people laugh. His legacy lives on through the restaurant and the loyal customers who made Harold's a beloved Hilton Head tradition.





Happy hour on the water

Outside Brands is offering a new way to toast summer with Happy Hour Cruises aboard the Ohana. The adults-only excursions depart from Shelter Cove Harbour on Wednesday and Thursday evenings through mid-August, taking guests on a 90-minute cruise through Hilton Head Island's waterways. Along the way, passengers can enjoy scenic views, possible dolphin sightings, a complimentary welcome drink and a selection of charcuterie. Additional beverages are available for purchase, making the cruises an appealing option for date nights, girls' nights out or a relaxing evening on the water.

NEWS & NOTES



Radici earns Italian hospitality distinction

Radici Italian Chophouse in Bluffton has earned the prestigious Marchio Ospitalità Italiana, also known as the Italian Hospitality Seal, becoming the only restaurant in South Carolina to currently hold the designation. Awarded by the Italian government and Italian Chambers of Commerce Abroad, the certification recognizes restaurants that meet rigorous standards for authenticity. Evaluators review everything from imported ingredients and wine selections to culinary training and adherence to traditional Italian cooking methods. The distinction reinforces Radici's commitment to delivering a genuine Italian dining experience.



Southern Coney expands offerings

Southern Coney & Breakfast has expanded its footprint with a new retail section designed for customers on the go. The addition features grab-and-go salads, pastries, sweet tea, pies and other take-home favorites, along with milkshakes, flavored Red Bull infusions and specialty beverages. The new space gives customers a convenient option for picking up beach-day provisions, grabbing a quick meal or browsing while waiting for a table.

Quick Bites

NUGGETS FROM THE LOCAL FOOD & BEVERAGE SCENE

NEW LOCATION:

Lemon Island Seafood *has relocated to 5609 Lowcountry Drive in Ridgeland.*

ROMANTIC RECOGNITION

Chophouse 119 *was named one of South Carolina's 10 most romantic restaurants by OpenTable.*



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A LOCAL LEGEND

Lincoln & South Brewing Company's Mr. Lincoln Hero blurs the line between cheesesteak and smash burger in the best possible way. Double CAB smash patties, caramelized onions, house cheese, pickles, lettuce, tomato, mayo and red wine vinaigrette are stacked on an Amoroso's roll for a sandwich that's every bit as bold as its namesake.



PHILLY FAVORITE

A Hilton Head staple for decades, ***Plantation Cafe & Deli*** continues to win over cheesesteak lovers with its signature Philly. Thinly sliced steak, grilled peppers, onions, mushrooms, American cheese, banana peppers and Italian dressing create a classic combination that's stood the test of time.



CHICAGO-STYLE INDULGENCE

SliderBar's Wagyu Italian Beef brings a taste of Chicago to the Lowcountry. Slow-roasted Wagyu beef, sweet peppers and hot peppers are tucked into a roll for a rich, juicy sandwich that's worth keeping extra napkins nearby.



AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

Gruby's NY Deli pays tribute to Italian deli tradition with The Godfather. Layers of prosciutto, Genoa salami, mortadella, provolone and roasted red peppers deliver big flavor and plenty of New York attitude.



HOAGIE HEAVEN

Panini's on the Waterfront keeps things simple with its Chicken Cheese Steak Hoagie. Loaded with chicken, onions, tomatoes and melted mozzarella, it's a satisfying lunch best enjoyed with a waterfront view.



COMFORT ON A ROLL

Giuseppi's Pizza & Pasta proves that some classics never go out of style. Its Meatball Parmesan features hearty meatballs smothered in marinara and topped with a trio of cheeses before being baked to bubbly perfection.



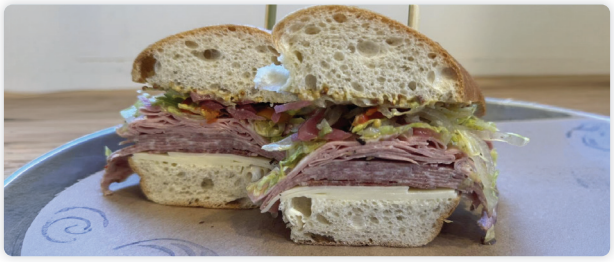
DISTILLERY FAVORITE

The Philly Cheesesteak at ***Daufuskie Island Distillery*** sticks to the essentials: hot steak, melted cheese and an authentic Amoroso roll. Sometimes that's all you need.



LOADED UP

Fat Baby's Pizza & Subs lives up to its name with the Fat Baby, a towering combination of ham, capicola, roast beef, Genoa salami, turkey, Swiss and provolone, finished with fresh vegetables, oil and vinegar and house-made horseradish sauce.



THE CURE

Sister Sister Deli's aptly named creation layers pistachio mortadella, Genoa salami, soppressata, provolone, marinated sweet peppers, pickled red onion and garlic aioli on an Auspicious hoagie roll. It's the kind of sandwich that quickly becomes a craving.

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What would Margaret drink?

Margaret Pearman, *a certified sommelier with the Court of Master Sommeliers, curates the acclaimed wine list at Charlie's L'Etoile Verte. For July, she shares a taste of Portugal's Douro Valley and the courage behind its world-famous wines.*

Courage on the cliffs

Along Portugal's Douro River, generations of winemakers have turned impossible terrain into liquid gold

One of my bucket-list trips became a reality this May when my mom and I cruised Portugal's Douro River. One glance at the steep, vineyard-covered slopes made it clear why the region is a UNESCO World Heritage site. As I sat on the deck and sipped the first of many white port and tonics, I found myself wondering how anyone managed to build vineyards into these mountainsides.

Terraced vineyards have shaped European wine regions for thousands of years, transforming steep hillsides into productive farmland. Early growers discovered that rivers moderated temperatures and reduced frost, while the challenging terrain forced vines to send roots deep into the soil, producing grapes with greater complexity and character.

The work remains demanding today. Workers navigate narrow stone paths and steep inclines, often carrying harvested grapes by hand because machinery cannot reach many terraces. Constant maintenance is required to prevent erosion and preserve centuries-old stone walls.

As our ship glided down the river, we passed a vineyard named Inferno, a fitting reminder of both the valley's intense summer heat and the dangers faced by those who harvest its grapes. Perhaps that is why every sip of Douro port feels so well earned.

My summer cocktail inspired by the trip is light, refreshing and dangerously easy to enjoy more than once.

MARGARET PEARMAN

White Port & Tonic

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 ounces Kopke Fine White Port
4 ounces premium tonic water
1 lemon slice
1 sprig fresh mint
Ice

DIRECTIONS Fill a wine glass with ice. Pour in the white port and top with tonic water. Gently stir to combine. Garnish with a slice of lemon and a sprig of fresh mint.

BRAVERY IN EVERY BOTTLE

Raise a glass to the brave souls who harvest grapes on the steep terraces of Portugal's Douro Valley, where every bottle begins with a climb.



High spirits

TWO COCKTAILS INSPIRED BY THE DARING WORLDS OF FLIGHT AND ADVENTURE

From the early days of aviation to the winding roads of postwar Europe, the Aviation and Sidecar have long been associated with adventure, innovation and the courage to venture beyond the familiar. While the originals earned their place in cocktail history, these updated versions prove that some classics can get even better with a Southern twist. By swapping traditional ingredients for exceptional Southern-made spirits, these storied drinks gain new layers of character while staying true to their roots. The result is a pair of cocktails that honor the past, celebrate regional craftsmanship and breathe new life into two legendary drinks.



Sidecar

Legend says the Sidecar was born near the end of World War I for an army officer who arrived at a Paris bar in a motorcycle sidecar. Copper & Kings Butchertown Reserve Brandy from Kentucky replaces traditional cognac here, bringing warm vanilla, oak and spice to the drink's bright citrus backbone.

INGREDIENTS

*2 ounces **Copper & Kings Butchertown Reserve Brandy***
3/4 ounce Cointreau orange liqueur
3/4 ounce fresh lemon juice
Sugar, for rim
Orange slice, for garnish

DIRECTIONS Run a lemon wedge around the rim of a chilled coupe glass, and dip into sugar. Fill a cocktail shaker with ice. Add brandy, orange liqueur and lemon juice. Shake vigorously until well chilled, and strain into the prepared glass. Garnish with an orange wedge.

Aviation

Born during the dawn of flight, the Aviation nods to an era when leaving solid ground felt thrilling, glamorous and genuinely risky. Crème de violette gives the cocktail its signature lavender hue, while maraschino and citrus keep it crisp and elegant. Hilton Head Island-made Bulrush Gin adds bright botanicals and a clean coastal backbone.



INGREDIENTS

*2 ounces **Bulrush Gin***
1/2 ounce maraschino liqueur
1/4 ounce crème de violette
3/4 ounce fresh lemon juice
Brandied cherry, for garnish

DIRECTIONS Fill a cocktail shaker with ice. Add gin, maraschino liqueur, crème de violette and lemon juice. Shake vigorously until well chilled. Strain into a chilled coupe glass, and garnish with a brandied cherry.



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HIDDEN GEM

Teufelhunden Tavern

INSIDE A HIDDEN HILTON HEAD SPEAKEASY WHERE MARINE CORPS HISTORY, TRADITION AND CAMARADERIE LIVE ON

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN + PHOTOGRAPHY BY ZACHARY GREEN





The toast begins with a small piece of wood from Belleau Wood resting in the bourbon and sand from Iwo Jima in hand. Beneath a flag that once flew over the battlefield at Belleau Wood in France, Marines from different generations gather to share stories, honor those who came before them and raise a glass to a legacy that endures. It's a ritual unlike any other on Hilton Head Island, and it takes place in the most unexpected of places.

Tucked behind a secret entrance inside a private Port Royal Plantation home is Teufelhunden Tavern, a speakeasy-style gathering place created by U.S. Marine veteran ***Zachary Green***. Part museum, part tavern and part tribute, the space is dedicated to preserving Marine Corps history while creating opportunities for veterans and friends to connect through storytelling.



What began as a passion for military history gradually evolved into an extraordinary collection of rare recruiting posters, artifacts, books, uniforms and memorabilia. Green spent decades acquiring pieces connected to the Marine Corps, particularly those tied to the legendary Battle of Belleau Wood during World War I. When his family relocated to Hilton Head Island in 2021, he finally found the perfect place to bring the vision to life.

Just a short drive from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, the tavern has become an unlikely gathering place for Marines visiting the Lowcountry. Historic recruiting posters line the walls. Rare artifacts fill display cases. A handcrafted mahogany bar pays homage to Tun Tavern, the Philadelphia birthplace of the Marine Corps. The scent of cigars drifts through the room while conversations unfold over bourbon, wine and stories shared among friends.

Not open to the public, the private, invitation-only space remains one of Hilton Head Island's best-kept secrets. While the collection itself is remarkable, Green believes the real value lies in the connections it creates. Join us for a rare look inside Teufelhunden Tavern, where every artifact tells a story, and every toast honors a legacy.





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The curator

Teufelhunden Tavern founder, Zachary Green, sits in his grandfather's chair and holds an original Marine Corps campaign cover dating to 1917. More than a century old, the hat represents the direct lineage of the campaign covers still worn by Marine Corps drill instructors today. For Green, preserving history is about more than collecting artifacts. It is about honoring the service and sacrifices of those who came before him while ensuring their stories continue to inspire future generations.



Guardians of history

Original World War I helmets line a display honoring units of the famed Indianhead 2nd Division, including the legendary 5th and 6th Marines. At the far right sits a helmet representing the 3rd Infantry Division, the "Rock of the Marne," displayed in honor of a childhood friend who served with the division during the Iraq War. The 3rd Infantry Division fought in the same Château-Thierry sector as the Marines at Belleau Wood and earned its legendary nickname by holding the line along the Marne River in 1918. Below are examples of trench art crafted from battlefield materials, along with an original 1918 edition of The New York Times featuring one of the earliest reports on the Battle of Belleau Wood.



Family legacy

At the center of this room is Green's grandfather's leather chair, a piece dating back to his service as a district attorney during Kentucky's Prohibition era. Nearby, his great-grandfather's curio cabinet houses original World War I artifacts, Marine Corps uniforms and lead toy soldiers. Together with antique firefighting communications equipment, the display reflects a family legacy of military service, public service and civic duty spanning multiple generations.



A Marine's story

This handcrafted display incorporates spent .50-caliber cartridge cases from the iconic M2 Browning machine gun, affectionately known to Marines as "Ma Deuce." Replica artillery and mortar rounds represent weapon systems Green worked with during his own Marine Corps career. While much of the tavern focuses on Marines from the past, this display offers a personal glimpse into the experiences and memories that shaped its founder.

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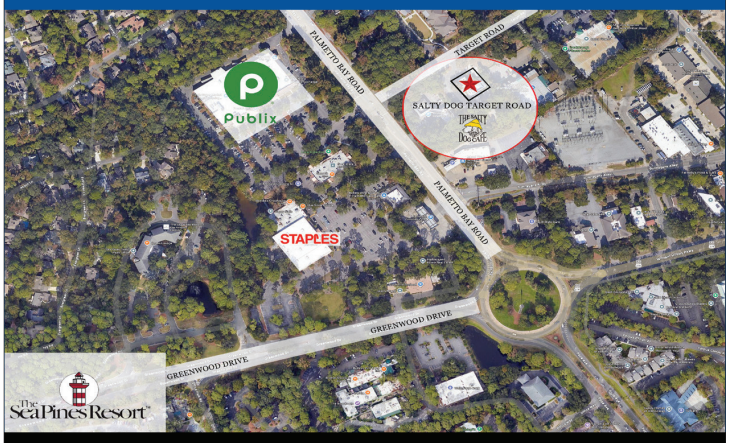
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Where the Corps began



Marine Corps tradition traces its origins to Philadelphia's historic Tun Tavern, where the first Marines were recruited in 1775. Teufelhunden Tavern pays tribute to those roots with a handcrafted mahogany bar, cigar humidor and gathering space designed for fellowship. More than a place to display artifacts, it serves as the social heart of the collection, where stories are shared, friendships strengthened and traditions passed from one generation to the next.



The legend of the Devil Dogs

This original early 20th-century Marine Corps recruiting poster commemorates the Battle of Belleau Wood and the legendary "Devil Dog" nickname that inspired the tavern's name. The artwork captures the fighting spirit, courage and determination associated with the Marines who fought there and remains one of the collection's most treasured pieces.

Artifacts from the front

Throughout the tavern are dozens of original recruiting posters, wartime artifacts and an authentic replica World War I Marine uniform, complete with period gear. Together the displays offer a glimpse into the appearance, equipment and experiences of Marines who served more than a century ago.







A tradition unlike any other

Every Marine who visits Teufelhunden Tavern is invited to participate in a ceremonial toast. Standing on original floorboards from the home of legendary Marine Lt. Gen. Lewis "Chesty" Puller, guests raise a glass of bourbon infused with a small piece of wood from Belleau Wood, while holding sand collected from Iwo Jima. Afterward, they sign a board that serves as a living record of Marines from every generation who have shared in the experience.



Beneath sacred colors

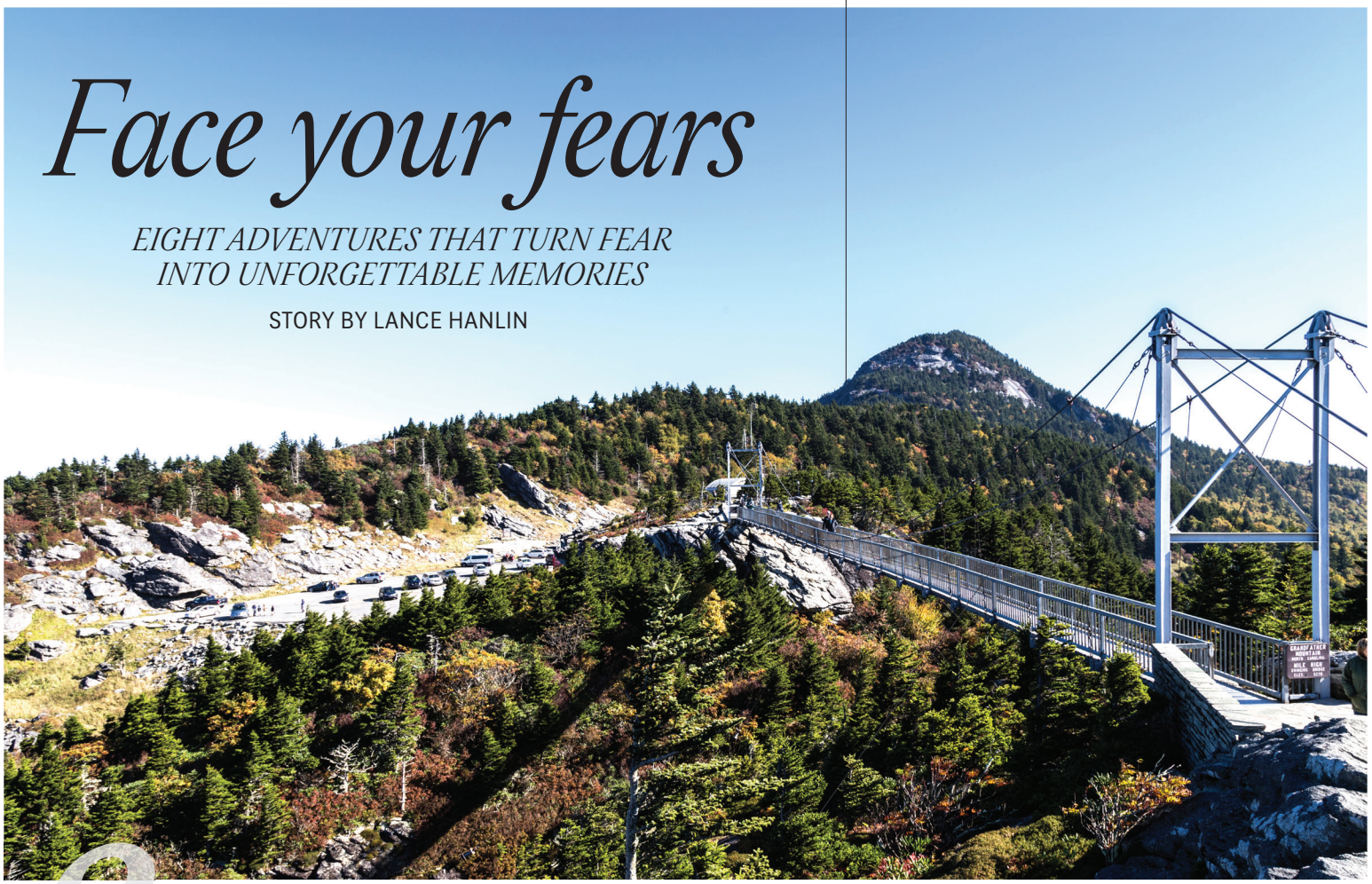
Suspended above the tavern is an American flag that once flew over the Belleau Wood monument in France. For Marines the battlefield remains hallowed ground and a defining chapter in Corps history. The flag serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifice and courage of those who fought there in 1918. Beneath its folds, Marines from different generations find common ground, united by a legacy forged at Belleau Wood and carried forward by every generation since. LL

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EIGHT ADVENTURES THAT TURN FEAR INTO UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN



Some fears are worth facing, especially when the reward is a mountain view above the clouds, a once-in-a-lifetime adventure or a story you'll tell for years. From swaying bridges and underground caves to alligator-filled swamps and zip lines high above the forest floor, these destinations offer Lowcountry travelers a chance to trade comfort for confidence.



THE FIRST STEP IS THE HARDEST

Mile High Swinging Bridge

LINVILLE, N.C.

Fear: Bridges

Suspended at an elevation of 5,282 feet, this famous bridge stretches across an 80-foot chasm atop Grandfather Mountain. Built in 1952 and later reinforced to accommodate modern crowds, the bridge is completely safe, but that doesn't stop your pulse from quickening when the wind picks up. Beyond the bridge, a network of trails and scenic overlooks give visitors even more opportunities to soak in some of the most spectacular mountain views in the Southeast.

Drive there: 340 miles from Hilton Head Island (6 hours)



INTO THE BLUE

Dry Tortugas National Park

FLORIDA KEYS

Fear: Open water

Seventy miles beyond Key West, Dry Tortugas is surrounded by open water in every direction. The journey itself is part of the adventure, whether you arrive by ferry or seaplane. Visitors rave about the crystal-clear seas, colorful coral reefs and historic Fort Jefferson, one of the largest masonry forts in the United States. The remoteness can feel intimidating at first, but many travelers say it's exactly what makes the experience unforgettable.

Fly there: Connect to Key West from SAV or HHH (typically with one connection), then board a ferry or seaplane for the 70-mile journey to the park.



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CURVE APPEAL

Tail of the Dragon

TENNESSEE-NORTH CAROLINA BORDER

Fear: Speed

With 318 curves packed into 11 miles, this legendary mountain road attracts drivers and motorcyclists from around the world. There are no intersecting roads, traffic lights or driveways; just an uninterrupted ribbon of pavement winding through the Smoky Mountains. The challenge isn't going fast; it's maintaining focus through every twist and turn. For driving enthusiasts, few roads have earned a bigger reputation.

Drive there: 450 miles from Hilton Head Island (8 hours)





DEEP BREATH

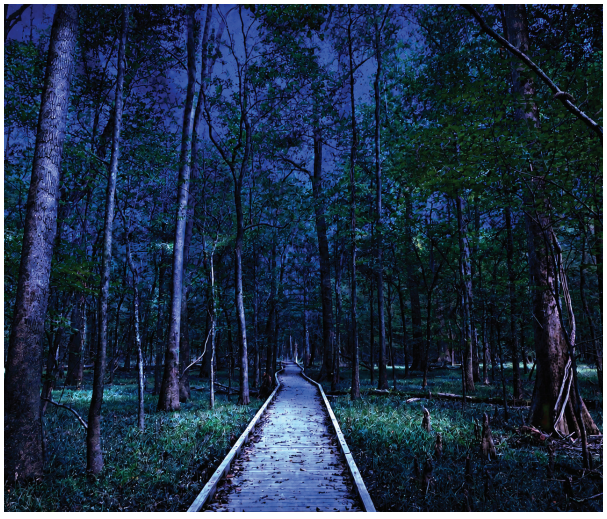
Mammoth Cave National Park

SOUTH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY

Fear: Confined spaces

The world's longest known cave system contains more than 430 mapped miles of underground passageways. Guided tours lead visitors through massive cathedral-like chambers, twisting tunnels and narrow passageways carved by water over millions of years. For many visitors, stepping underground becomes a lesson in overcoming anxiety and a reminder that courage often starts one step at a time. Above ground, scenic hiking trails offer a chance to decompress after your subterranean adventure.

Get there: Drive 610 miles from Hilton Head Island (9 hours), or fly into Nashville and rent a car for a 1.5-hour drive.





INTO THE NIGHT

Congaree National Park

CENTRAL SOUTH CAROLINA

Fear: Darkness

After sunset, South Carolina's only national park (open 24/7) becomes a world of owl calls, rustling leaves and star-filled skies. Ranger-led night walks help visitors experience the forest through sound rather than sight, creating an atmosphere that feels both mysterious and peaceful. During late spring and early summer, synchronized fireflies put on one of nature's most spectacular light shows. It's a reminder that darkness isn't always something to fear.

Drive there: 145 miles from Hilton Head Island (2.5 hours)


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HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Fryingpan Mountain Lookout Tower

CANTON, N.C.

Fear: Heights

Climb 97 open metal steps to one of the highest observation towers in the East. Originally built in 1941 as a fire lookout, the tower rises above the Pisgah National Forest at more than 5,300 feet in elevation. The structure sways slightly in the wind, adding to the thrill, while panoramic Blue Ridge views stretch for miles in every direction. On clear days visitors can see mountain ridges rolling endlessly toward the horizon, making the climb well worth the butterflies.

Drive there: 330 miles from Hilton Head Island (6 hours)





GATORS AND SNAKES AND BEARS, OH MY!

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA

Fear: Wildlife

Alligators, snakes and black bears call this vast swamp home. Paddling through the Okefenokee puts visitors in the heart of one of America's last great wildernesses, where every bend in the water feels like stepping into a nature documentary. The blackwater channels wind through cypress forests draped in Spanish moss, while herons, egrets and turtles appear around nearly every corner. It's a rare chance to experience the Southeast much as it looked centuries ago.

Drive there: 140 miles from Hilton Head Island (2.5 hours)



TAKE THE LEAP

The Gorge Zipline

SALUDA, N.C.

Fear: Falling

Known as one of the steepest and fastest zipline adventures in the country, The Gorge sends riders soaring above a rugged mountain canyon at speeds approaching 50 mph. The course features multiple zip lines, sky bridges and rappels, with sweeping views of the Green River Gorge below. The hardest part is stepping off the platform. The easiest part is smiling afterward.

Drive there: 280 miles from Hilton Head Island (5 hours)

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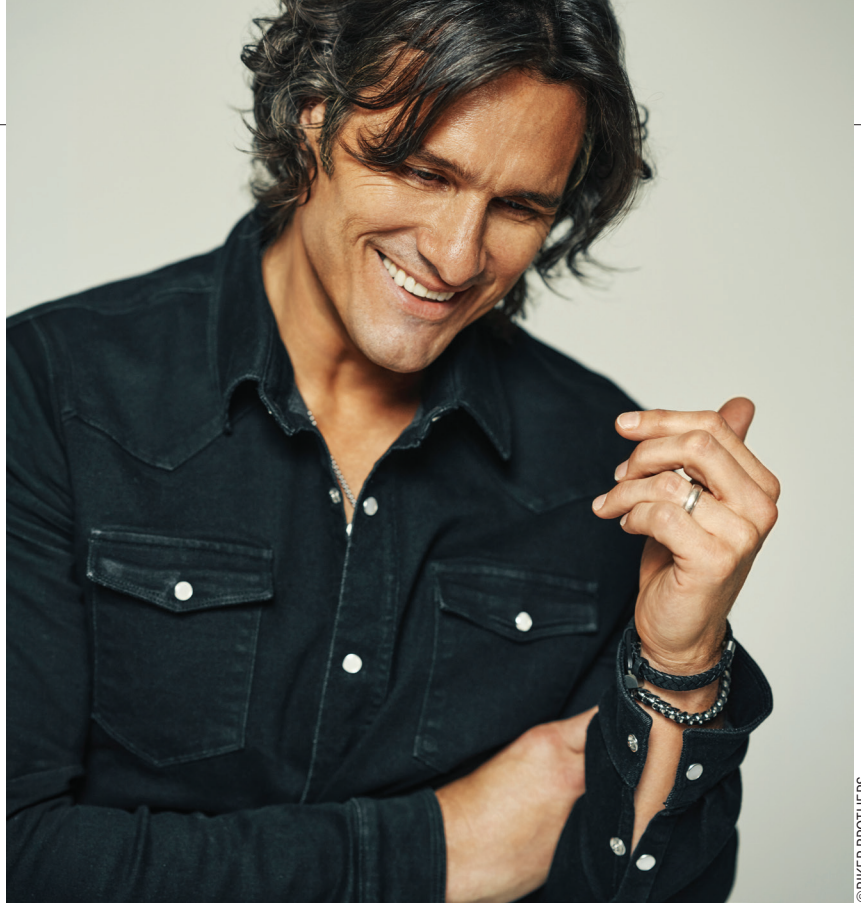
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Country meets the coast

Joe Nichols and Tyler Reese Tritt bring chart-topping hits, Southern charm and summer energy to this year's Beaufort Water Festival

STORY BY MARY BELL

For one summer night Beaufort's waterfront will trade quiet harbor views for guitar riffs, country anthems and thousands of fans gathering for one of the most anticipated events of the year. On July 18 the annual Beaufort Water Festival returns to Waterfront Park with Concert in the Park, featuring country music veteran Joe Nichols and rising artist Tyler Reese Tritt for an evening that promises big performances, waterfront views and the kind of summer memories the Lowcountry does best.



©RIKER BROTHERS

BRINGING THE HITS With a career spanning more than 20 years, Joe Nichols takes the stage at Beaufort Water Festival's Concert in the Park on July 18, bringing a lineup of country favorites and plenty of Southern charm to the waterfront.



©JESSICA CRANS

COUNTRY AT FULL VOLUME From *Brokenheartsville* to *Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off*, Nichols has spent more than two decades building a career filled with crowd favorites. This July he takes the stage in Beaufort for one of the summer's biggest festival performances.

A country veteran takes the stage

For Nichols, whose career spans more than two decades and includes hit songs like *Brokenheartsville, Gimme That Girl* and *Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off,* the performance marks his first visit to Beaufort, though not his first appreciation for South Carolina.

"I love South Carolina, top to bottom," Nichols said. "I love the coast. Gosh, some of the most beautiful country is over there. And the people of South Carolina — always that Southern hospitality. Love everything about that. It's a great state, a beautiful state."

A longtime fixture in country music, Nichols said performing for devoted country fans remains one of the most rewarding parts of life on the road, especially in Southern communities where audiences bring an energy all their own.

Currently touring alongside country legend Hank Williams Jr., Nichols said sharing the stage with artists who helped shape the genre has been one of the highlights of his career. More than 20 years after launching his own success, he continues balancing fan favorites with newer material while making sure every performance feels fresh.

"We try every night to make the new stuff sound as familiar as possible and the old stuff sound as fresh as possible," he said.

This year also marks the 21st anniversary of *Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off,* a song Nichols immediately recognized as something special when he first recorded it — though he admits he never expected it to have the staying power it still has with audiences today.

Concertgoers can expect a setlist filled with familiar hits, a few surprises and the same relaxed confidence Nichols has built his career on.

"Hopefully we'll go a little deep with new stuff and throw in a couple of curveballs people aren't anticipating," he said.

A rising voice in country music

While Nichols brings decades of chart success and veteran stage presence, Tyler Reese Tritt represents country music's next generation, blending traditional influences with rock and pop elements as she continues carving out a style distinctly her own.

"I'd say it's '90s country meets rock, but I also have a little bit of that country-pop flair thrown into it," Tritt said. "It's a perfect blend."

Like Nichols, Tritt will also be experiencing Beaufort for the first time, something she said immediately excited her when festival organizers first reached out.

"They reached out, and I looked up the festival," Tritt said. "It just seemed like the perfect fit, and I was like, 'Yep, that's what we're going to do.'"

While she has performed on stages across the country, community festivals remain especially meaningful to Tritt because of the nostalgia they bring.

Growing up, she looked forward each year to attending the North Georgia State Fair, memories that continue shaping the way she views festivals today.

"It's so nostalgic now when I go to play other fairs and festivals because it feels like you're back home," she said. "You get the same feeling all over again — all the smells, the sounds, everything."

That sense of familiarity is one reason smaller festivals continue to stand out, even in an industry often focused on bigger venues and larger crowds.

"It feels more like home, honestly," Tritt said. "I like the big venues and major festivals too, but there's something different about these smaller community festivals. They're family-oriented, and I absolutely love that."



©ANGELEA YODER

COUNTRY'S NEXT CHAPTER Rising country artist Tyler Reese Tritt brings her blend of '90s country, rock and modern country-pop to Beaufort Water Festival's Concert in the Park on July 18, joining Joe Nichols for one of the festival's biggest nights.

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Carrying on a family tradition

Music has always surrounded Tritt, but growing up around the industry gave her a front-row seat long before she ever stepped on stage herself. After years spent watching her father, country star Travis Tritt, perform, she realized during high school that she wanted to pursue a career of her own while staying true to the person she is.

One lesson from her father continues guiding her as her career grows.

"Stay authentically you," she said. "Stay genuine and true to who you are because people will try to change you or make you sound like something you're not."

For Tritt, one of the most rewarding parts of building her career has been the connection she forms with audiences each night.

"Seeing people react to new music and getting to experience that shared love of music together is amazing," she said.



©TRAVIS TRITT

RUNS IN THE FAMILY Growing up around country music legend Travis Tritt gave Tyler Reese Tritt a front-row seat to the music industry, but today she's building a career and sound distinctly her own while carrying forward a family legacy rooted in country music.

More than just a concert

Though they are at very different stages of their careers, both artists share the same goal when stepping onto the stage: giving audiences an unforgettable night and a chance to leave the outside world behind for a few hours.

For Tritt, success is simple.

"Maybe they've had a tough week or something heavy on their heart, and for a little while they can just let go and enjoy themselves," she said. "If people walk away saying they had a really good time, then I've done my job."

Nichols feels much the same way.

"I hope they're talking about coming back to another show," he said. LL



©SK DESIGNS

CHAOS MEETS COMPETITION Equal parts athletic challenge and comedic entertainment, the Beaufort Water Festival's annual Bed Race brings teams, costumes and plenty of unexpected splashes to one of the festival's most crowd-pleasing events.

Let the festivities begin

From waterfront concerts and family-friendly competitions to air shows, parades and longtime local traditions, the ***2026 Beaufort Water Festival*** returns July 17-26 with 10 days packed full of entertainment and community celebration. In addition to the featured events each day, visitors can also enjoy the Festival Arts & Crafts Market at Waterfront Park throughout the week, making it the perfect excuse to arrive early, browse local vendors and soak in the festival atmosphere before the main event begins.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 17
Opening Ceremony, Parris Island Marine Band with fireworks, 7 p.m., Waterfront Park

SATURDAY, JULY 18
Raft Race, 8:30 a.m.-Noon, The Sands, Port Royal
Bocce Tournament, 8 a.m., Waterfront Park
Badminton Tournament, 9 a.m., Waterfront Park
Children's Toad Fishing Tournament, 10 a.m.-noon, Downtown Marina Seawall
Concert in the Park with Joe Nichols and Tyler Reese Tritt, 7 p.m., Waterfront Park

SUNDAY, JULY 19
River Rally, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., local waters
Children's Day, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Waterfront Park
Ski Show, 1 p.m., Waterfront Park
Teen Dance (ages 13-17), 6-9 p.m., Waterfront Park

MONDAY, JULY 20
Motown Monday with Deas-Guyz, 8 p.m., Waterfront Park

TUESDAY, JULY 21
Caribbean Night with Ragga Lox, 8 p.m., Waterfront Park

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
Talent Show, 7 p.m., Waterfront Park

THURSDAY, JULY 23
Lowcountry Supper with The Whistlers, 6-7:30 p.m., Waterfront Park

FRIDAY, JULY 24
Meet & Greet with Air Show Pilots, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Beaufort Executive Airport
Bed Race, 5 p.m., Corner of Bay & Harrington
Rockin' the River with the Hot Red Chili Peppers and Chris Jones, 8 p.m., Waterfront Park

SATURDAY, JULY 25
Water Festival Grand Parade, 10 a.m.-noon, Downtown Beaufort
Non-Profit Expo, noon-4 p.m., Waterfront Park
Air Show, 1-4 p.m., Waterfront Park
Commodore's Ball with The Catalinas, 8 p.m., Waterfront Park

SUNDAY, JULY 26
Blessing of the Fleet & Parade of Boats,12:30-2 p.m., Waterfront Park

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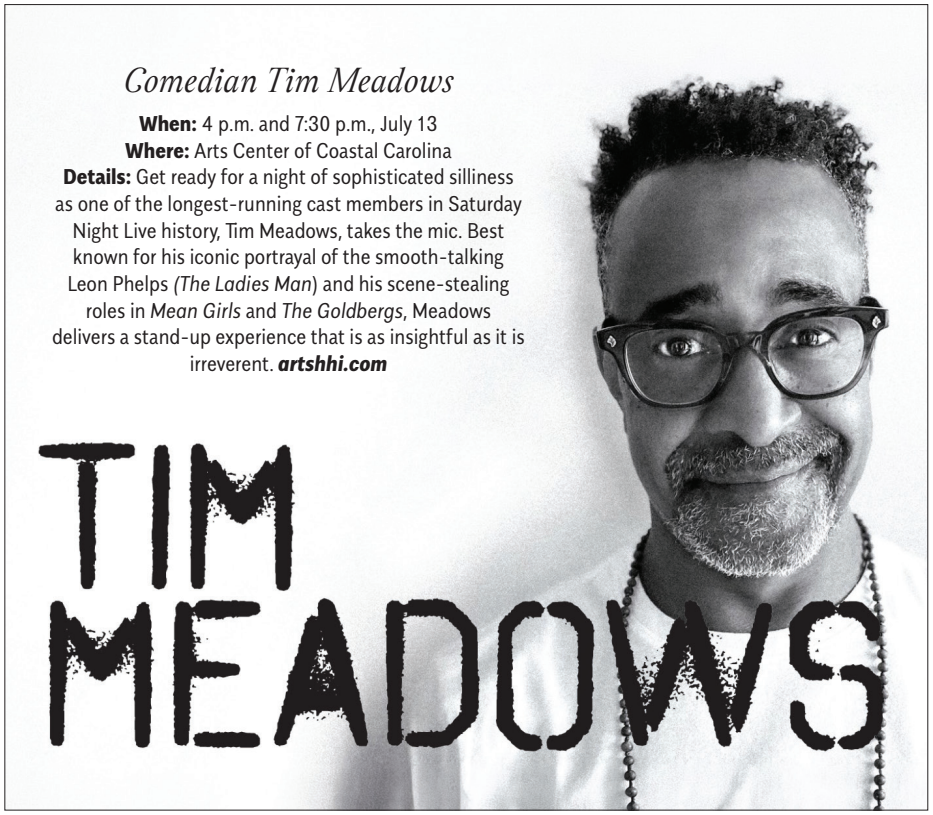
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JULY happenings

Arts & Culture



Comedian Tim Meadows

When: 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., July 13
Where: Arts Center of Coastal Carolina
Details: Get ready for a night of sophisticated silliness as one of the longest-running cast members in Saturday Night Live history, Tim Meadows, takes the mic. Best known for his iconic portrayal of the smooth-talking Leon Phelps *(The Ladies Man)* and his scene-stealing roles in *Mean Girls* and *The Goldbergs*, Meadows delivers a stand-up experience that is as insightful as it is irreverent. ***artshhi.com***



Mean Girls: The Musical

When: Times vary, now-Aug. 9
Where: Arts Center of Coastal Carolina
Details: Fetch is officially happening. Packed with sharp humor, powerhouse vocals and high-energy choreography, this Broadway hit brings all the drama, laughs and unforgettable one-liners of the cult-favorite film to the stage. Whether you know every word or simply need a fun night out, this is one show that totally rules. ***artshhi.com***

OTHER ARTS & CULTURE EVENTS

Now-July 24:
A Feathered Focus at Art League of Hilton Head Gallery
Now-July 26:
Conceptual Threads at Coastal Discovery Museum
Now-Aug. 31:
John Meckley at Beaufort Art Association Gallery
Now-Oct. 23:
All Creatures Great and Small at the Sea Pines Community Center
July 9-26:
The Toxic Avenger Musical at Coligny Theatre
July 18-19:
Da' Gullah American Revolutionary Experience at May River Theater
July 25-Aug. 2:
SSTI presents Oklahoma! At Beaufort High School



Quiet Contemplation with Expressive Flair

When: Times vary, July 5-Aug. 1 **Where:** SOBA Gallery
Details: Slow down and soak in an inspiring collection where bold expression meets quiet reflection. Featuring vivid paintings by Virginia Cassidy alongside handcrafted jewelry by Doris Jones Vargas, this thoughtfully curated exhibit invites visitors to experience creativity in two striking forms. Don't miss the artist reception from 4-6 p.m. on July 10 for an even closer look behind the work. ***sobagallery.com***

OTHER EVENTS
Now-Aug. 31: *Summer Art Exhibition at Fair Winds Bar & Grill in Rose Hill Plantation*



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Charity & Community



HarbourFest

When: Now-Aug. 18
Where: Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina
Details: Summer on Hilton Head isn't complete without HarbourFest. This beloved waterfront tradition turns Tuesday nights into a family celebration with fireworks over Broad Creek, live entertainment, carnival-style games, face painting and the iconic Cappy the Clown spinning hats kids race to collect. Come for the views, stay for one of the island's favorite summer traditions. ***sheltercovehiltonhead.com***



Summer Jams

When: 6-9 p.m., July 7, 14, 21 & 28 **Where:** Shelter Cove Community Park
Details: Think of it as the ultimate summer block party. Hosted by the Island Recreation Association, these themed evenings bring together bounce houses, family games, music, face painting and plenty of festive energy before ending with a fireworks show that lights up the night sky. Pick your favorite theme, or make a tradition of attending them all. ***islandreccenter.org***

EVENT LINEUP
July 7: *Beach Party Theme*
July 14: *Animal Adventure*
July 21: *Christmas-Hanu-Kwanzaa-kkah in July*
July 28: *Grand Finale Glow Party*



Party in the Park + Car Show

When: 6-8:30 p.m., July 9 & 23
Where: Lowcountry Celebration Park
Details: Classic cars, cold drinks and live music make for a pretty great summer evening. Bring the whole family for this laid-back community gathering featuring performances by The Southern Heat Band, bounce houses for the kids, local vendors and more. ***islandreccenter.org***

OTHER CHARITY & COMMUNITY EVENTS

July 11: *Renegade Paws Rescue Adoption Event at Petco*
July 18: *Slide Out of July at Buckwalter Place Park*
July 17-26: *70th Annual Beaufort Water Festival*
July 24: *May River Shrimp Festival*
Thursdays: *Movie Nights at Shelter Cove Community Park*

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Lectures & Classes



SOBA art classes

Looking for a creative outlet this month? The Society of Bluffton Artists is offering hands-on classes designed to help artists of all skill levels learn new techniques, experiment with fresh mediums and leave with something worth hanging on the wall. Visit online for the full schedule of workshops and classes. ***sobagallery.com***

UPCOMING CLASSES

Beginning Acrylic Painting: *1-4 p.m., July 20 & 27*
Beach Scene Watercolor Class: *1-4:30 p.m., July 22*
Brusho Palm Trees Watercolor: *1-4 p.m., July 28*
Paint a Vibrant Landscape: *9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., July 29-30*

Jingle Mingle Christmas in July

When: 10 a.m.-noon & 5:30-7 p.m., July 24
Where: Greenhouse Studios
Details: Attend a wreath or floral centerpiece workshop, enjoy a holiday preview and indulge in some seasonal refreshments at this Christmas in July event. ***blufftonflorist.com***





Coastal Kingdom Day

When: 10 a.m., July 25
Where: Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center
Details: Perfect for curious kids and animal-loving adults alike, this interactive event brings the wonders of the Lowcountry ecosystem up close. Meet native coastal creatures, learn about local wildlife and enjoy a hands-on experience that makes discovering the natural world even more fun. ***portroyalsoundfoundation.org***

OTHER LECTURES & CLASSES

LIBRARIES FOR KIDS INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:
July 20: *Author Series: Donna Wyland*
HILTON HEAD AUDUBON EVENTS:
July 18: *Birding 102 at Jarvis Creek Park*
COASTAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM EVENTS:
July 9 & 23: *Sweet Basket Workshop*
BEAUFORT COUNTY LIBRARY EVENTS:
July 8: *America 250- Declaration of Independence Reading at the Bluffton Branch*
July 17: *Native Plants of the Lowcountry at the Hilton Head Branch*
July 22: *Tell Your Story! Writing Workshop at the Hilton Head Branch*
PAT CONROY LITERARY CENTER EVENTS:
July 10: *Author Event: Meg Waite Clayton*
July 30: *Author Event: Paul Attaway*
ART LEAGUE OF HILTON HEAD EVENTS:
July 10: *Painting in Pastel*
July 16: *Glowing Citrus: An Oil Workshop*
July 28: *Sea Turtles: Drawing the Ocean's Gentle Giants*
TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND'S "MONEY TALKS" EVENTS:
July 14: *Know Your Numbers: Business Accounting and Tax Essentials*
July 28: *Money Matters: Balancing Business and Personal Finances*

Markets & Shopping





FARMERS AND ART MARKETS

Enjoy the local flavors of the Lowcountry with some of these regular farmers' and art markets:

Bluffton Farmers Market:
10 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursdays, 68 Boundary St.
Farmers Market at Coastal Discovery Museum:
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:
4-7 p.m., Fridays, Habersham Marketplace in Beaufort
Farmers & Fishermen Sunset Market at Savannah Harbour:
4:30-8:30 p.m., 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays, Hutchinson Island
Side Hustle Brewing Co. Farmers Market:
1-5 p.m., third Sunday of each month, Side Hustle Brewing Co.
Second Saturday Shop & Stroll:
10 a.m.-2 p.m., second Saturday of each month, The Shops of Paris Avenue
First Thursday Artisan Alley:
4-7 p.m., first Thursday of each month, Shops at Sea Pines Center
Sip and Shop Local Artisan & Makers Market:
5 p.m., July 25, Burnt Church Distillery

Spartina 449 Warehouse Sale

When: Times vary, July 10-12 **Where:** Bluffton High School
Details: If you love scoring a great deal, clear your schedule. Spartina 449's highly anticipated annual warehouse sale returns with major discounts on the brand's signature handbags, apparel, jewelry and exclusive event-only finds. It's one of the biggest local shopping events of the summer, and the best pieces won't stay on the racks for long. ***spartina449.com***



Gabriel & Co. Trunk Show

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., July 16-17
Where: Forsythe Jewelers
Details: Add a little sparkle to your summer at this exclusive two-day jewelry event featuring Gabriel & Co.'s signature Bujukan collection. Browse beautifully crafted pieces, meet the experts from Forsythe Jewelers, and enter for a chance to win a coveted Bujukan bracelet while discovering your next favorite accessory. ***forsythejewelers.biz***

OTHER MARKETS & SHOPPING EVENTS

July 8: *Branches Birthday Bash & Market at Branches*
July 18: *2026-2027 Back to School Expo at Tanger Outlets Hilton Head*

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The great room is a showpiece, where soaring ceilings, rich wood floors, and a striking tabby fireplace frame expansive marsh vistas. A beautifully appointed kitchen features a coffered ceiling, oversized island, Sub-Zero refrigeration, Wolf appliances, and a private prep kitchen designed for effortless entertaining.

Privately situated, the primary suite captures tranquil marsh views and includes dual dressing areas and a spa-inspired bath. Guest suites offer ensuite baths and generous walk-in closets, while a separate carriage house above the three-car garage provides a private retreat with its own entrance, kitchenette, bedroom, and full bath.

A screened porch overlooks the ever-changing marsh landscape, creating an ideal setting to enjoy wildlife, coastal breezes, and spectacular sunsets. Thoughtful details, including a climate-controlled wine room, handcrafted tabby accents, and custom finishes throughout, reflect the exceptional quality of the home. Every space has been carefully curated to balance comfort, functionality, and timeless design, resulting in a residence that feels both sophisticated and welcoming.

Sophisticated, timeless, and deeply connected to its surroundings, this is a rare opportunity to own a newly built residence within one of the Lowcountry's most private and naturally beautiful communities. Here, life unfolds at a slower pace, shaped by the rhythms of the marsh and the unmistakable beauty of the Lowcountry.



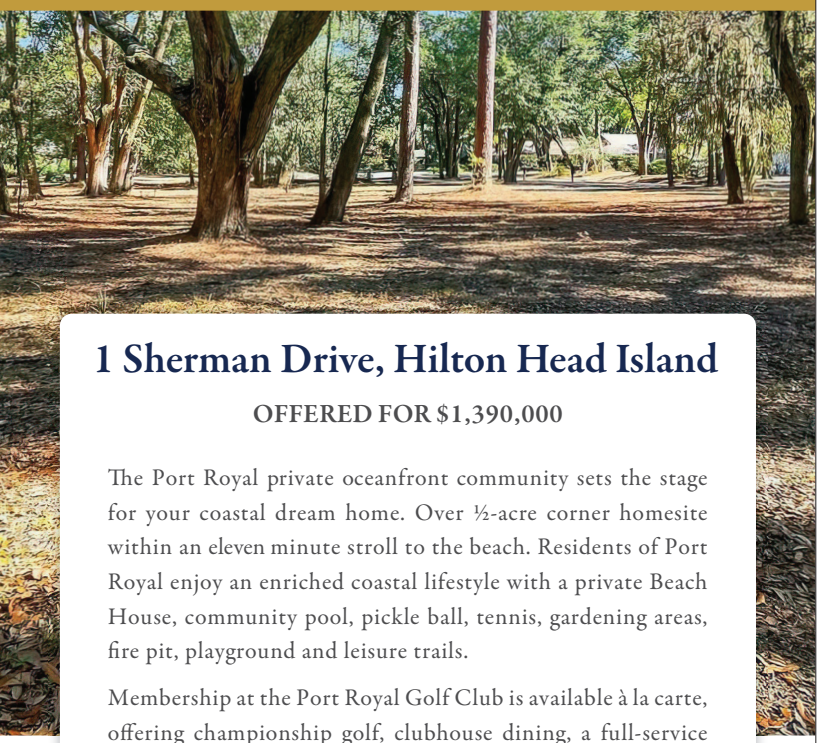
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Food & Drink





Cooking School at Michael Anthony's

When: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., select dates **Where:** Michael Anthony's Cucina Italiana
Details: Whether you're looking to sharpen your kitchen skills or simply enjoy an afternoon surrounded by great food, Michael Anthony's popular cooking school offers hands-on classes and demonstrations led by experienced chefs. It's part lesson, part lunch and entirely delicious. Visit online for full menus and additional class offerings. ***michael-anthonys.com***

UPCOMING CLASSES
July 6: *Knife Skills (Hands-On)*
July 7: *Italian Summer (Hands-On)*
July 8: *Destination Crustaceans (Hands-On)*
July 9: *Mediterranean Lifestyle Cooking Demo*
July 10: *Italian-American Favorites Cooking Demo*



Sip the 45th Parallel: Oregon, Burgundy, Rhône

When: 4 p.m., July 15
Where: Nunzio Restaurant + Bar
Details: Take your palate on an international journey with an afternoon devoted to three legendary wine regions. Taste exceptional Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Syrah while Chef Nunzio pairs each pour with thoughtfully crafted bites designed to showcase the flavors of each destination. ***nunziohhi.com***

OTHER FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

July 8: *Pints & Puzzles Competition Night at Lot 9 Brewing Co.*
July 12: *Barre to the Bar at Shellring Ale Works*
July 13: *Apératif Wine Hour with Curated Cheeses - Ceretto at Chez Georges*
July 16: *Cigar Night at Shellring Ale Works*
July 19: *World Cup Finals Watch Party at Hail Mary's Spirits & Sports Bar*
July 24: *Serial Killer Speakeasy at Venue on Park Lane*

WEEKLY FOOD EVENTS

Tuesdays: *Battles & Bread at Wine Time Bluffton*
Tuesdays & Saturdays: *Chef's Table at Okàn*
Wednesdays: *Pasta Night at Wine Time Bluffton*
Wednesdays: *Wine Tasting at Wine Time Washington Square*
Wednesdays & Thursdays: *Outside Hilton Head Happy Hour Cruises at Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina*
Thursdays: *The Art of Tiki Cocktails Class at Hilton Head Distillery*
Thursdays: *Featured Wine Tasting at Wine Time Bluffton*
Fridays: *Friday Uncorked at Windhorse Gallery & Marketplace*
Sundays: *Mimosas & Melodies at Windhorse Gallery & Marketplace*



Culinary events at The Sea Pines Resort

Skip cooking and let someone else do the pairing this month. From craft beer tap takeovers to laid-back pint nights, The Sea Pines Resort is serving up a calendar full of casual gatherings perfect for unwinding with great food, cold drinks and even better company. ***seapines.com/events***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tap Takeover: *5-8 p.m., July 17, Fraser's Tavern*
Pint Night: *5-9 p.m., Thursdays, Fraser's Tavern*



Hilton Head Olive Oils & Balsamics events

Learn how to make the perfect salad dressing, olive oil blends or try some new dishes at one of these upcoming events. ***hiltonheadoils.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sourdough Happy Hour with Joe: *July 10*
Salad Dressing 101: *July 9, 16, 23, & 30*
EVOO Masterclass: *July 13 & 20*



Rollers events

For those who appreciate a well-stocked bar cart, Rollers Wine & Spirits offers plenty of reasons to stop by. From casual tastings to guided wine education, these weekly events make it easy to discover a new favorite bottle while learning a little something along the way. ***rollerswineandspirits.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grapevine Academy: *5:30-7 p.m., July 22*
Tasty Tuesday Wine Tasting: *5-7 p.m., Tuesdays*
Thirsty Thursday Wine Tasting: *5-7 p.m., Thursdays*





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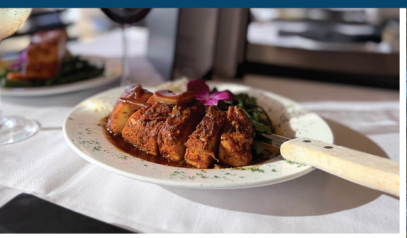
DINING / TREATS
Bistro 17 • Daily Café • ELA'S On The Water
Frosty's Ice Cream • Hilton Head Social Bakery • San Miguel's
Top Dawg Tavern & Pizzeria • Scott's Fish Market
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

SERVICES
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Salon Shelter Cove • Memory Lane Portraits • Luxury Nails

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TOURS, FISHING & WATER SPORTS
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Harbourside III • Trident Villa Rentals







Located mid-island, mile marker 8, across from Palmetto Dunes, 14 Harbourside Ln.
ShelterCoveHiltonHead.com

Music & Entertainment



Summer A Cappella Camp

When: 6-8 p.m., July 27; Aug. 3, 10 & 17 **Where:** Church of the Palms, Okatie
Details: Ever wanted to sing in harmony but never knew where to start? Shore Notes invites women 18 and older to join this free, no-pressure summer camp where fun comes first and experience isn't required. No auditions, no sheet music stress, just a chance to meet new people, build confidence and make beautiful music together before the final Aug. 27 performance. ***shorenotes.com***



Jazz in the Park

When: 7 p.m., July 7 & 21
Where: Lowcountry Celebration Park
Details: Pack a blanket, grab a chair and settle in for an evening of smooth sounds under the stars. Hosted by the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, this free outdoor concert series brings top local talent to the park, featuring performances by the Junior Jazz Foundation All Stars and the Eric Jones Quartet this month. ***hhso.org***



Gregg Russell Summer Concerts

When: 8-9:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday **Where:** Harbour Town
Details: Some summer traditions never go out of style, and Gregg Russell's nightly concerts beneath the Liberty Oak remain one of Hilton Head's most beloved. For generations families have gathered to sing along, laugh and experience a little nostalgic magic that has become a signature part of summer in Harbour Town. ***seapines.com***

OTHER SEA PINES CONCERTS
July 10 & 24: *Rick Hubbard's Great American Kids Show*
July 15: *Island Vibes Concert Series*
July 17 & 31: *DJ Alan Family Show*



Lights Out presents A Tribute to Frankie Valli & More

When: 7:30 p.m., July 21
Where: USCB Center for the Arts
Details: If you love the unmistakable sound of The Four Seasons, this one belongs on your calendar. Lights Out delivers soaring falsettos, flawless harmonies and a high-energy performance packed with classic hits, audience interaction and just enough nostalgia to have you singing the whole drive home. ***uscbcenterforthearts.com***



Sunset Celebrations

When: 7-10 p.m., Fridays
Where: Shelter Cove Community Park
Details: Few things pair better than a summer sunset and live music by the water. Shelter Cove's popular Friday night concert series keeps the weekend vibes going with performances from some of the Lowcountry's favorite bands. Bring a chair, gather your crew, and make it your new Friday tradition. Full lineup online. ***welcometosheltercove.com***

UPCOMING LINEUP
***July 3 & 10**: Cranford & Friends*
***July 17:** Deas-Guyz*
***July 24:** Target & the Headliner Horns*
***July 31**: Deas-Guyz*

OTHER MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

***July 31-Aug. 1:** Guitarist Jubu Smith at Ruby Lee's*



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TIM MEADOWS

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NOW – JUL 24

Performance and Visual Art Camps!

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Sports & Outdoors



Palmetto Bluff Conservancy Events

Nature lovers, history buffs and curious minds will find plenty to explore with the Palmetto Bluff Conservancy's lineup of educational programs and outdoor experiences. From guided marsh excursions to fascinating local history talks, these events offer a deeper look at the natural and cultural landscape that makes the Lowcountry so special. Visit online for the full schedule. ***palmettobluff.com/conservation***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Explore PBC: Hog Island Hard Marsh: *9-11 a.m., July 8*
Brown Bag Lunch: Revolutionary War in Beaufort County: *12-1 p.m., July 15*
Brown Bag Lunch: Eastern Wild Turkey: *12-1 p.m., July 22*



Turtle Talks

When: 7:30-9 p.m., Mondays
Where: Lowcountry Celebration Park
Details: Sea turtle season is in full swing, and this popular weekly program offers a fascinating look at the incredible creatures nesting right here on Hilton Head's beaches. Learn how local volunteers protect hatchlings, discover ways you can help, and gain a new appreciation for one of the island's most beloved summer visitors. ***seaturtlepatrolhhi.org***

OTHER EVENTS

Put the Beach to Bed: *7-8 p.m., Tuesdays at Sonesta Resort Hilton Head Island, Wednesdays at The Beach House Resort and Sundays at The Dunes House*

OTHER SPORTS & OUTDOORS EVENTS

July 11: *Auto Island Caffeine and Fuel Monthly Cruise-Ins at Auto Island Bluffton*
July 16: *Kiwanis Club of Bluffton Putt Putt Golf at Lighthouse Lagoon Minature Golf*
July 17: *Lawn Tennis Party at Sea Pines Racquet Club*
July 18: *Behind the Bloom with Family Plants at The Greenery*
July 19: *Stand Up Paddle Board Yoga at Bluffton Oyster Factory Park*
July 29: *Full Moon Shore Explore at Sea Pines Beach Club*



JULY RACES

Sign up for one of these July races to support a good cause and stay in shape.

Palmetto Dunes Turtle Trot 5K:
8 a.m., July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 at Dunes House

Sea Pines Dolphin Dash 5K:
8 a.m., July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, Sea Pines Beach Club

Annual Freedom 5K:
9 a.m., July 6, Fripp Island Golf & Beach Resort

PRC Summer Pub Run:
6:30 p.m., July 8, 18, 22 & 29, locations vary

YMCA Color Run:
9 a.m., July 11, The Wardle Family YMCA

Project SC One Mile Challenge:
5:30 p.m., July 24, Bluffton Middle School

May River Sunset 5K Hawaiian Shirt Run:
9 a.m., July 25, Bluffton Oyster Factory Park



Keep The Broad Creek Clean Water Festival

When: 5-7 p.m., July 21
Where: Shelter Cove Community Park
Details: Protecting local waterways has never been more fun. Hosted by The Outside Foundation, this family-friendly festival brings together environmental organizations from across the region for an evening of hands-on activities, interactive exhibits and opportunities to learn how small actions can make a big difference for the health of Broad Creek and beyond. ***outsidefoundation.org***



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SAVANNAH EVENTS

Now-Aug. 1: *Grease at The Historic Savannah Theatre*
July 9-Aug. 1: *Après SCAD at Savannah College of Art & Design*
July 14-15: *Phish at Enmarket Arena*
July 17: *After Dark House Party at the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum*
July 18: *Bulls, Bands & Barrels at Enmarket Arena*
July 25: *Sips on Stiles at Enmarket Arena*
July 25: *Salute To Sunset Party On The 1877 Tall Ship ELISSA at the Rousakis Riverfront Plaza*



Sparkle Hour by Kessler Fine Jewelry

When: 5-7 p.m., Thursdays
Where: Kessler Fine Jewelry
Details: Why settle for ordinary happy hour when you can add a little sparkle? Sip handcrafted cocktails, enjoy elegant bites, and browse Kessler's stunning collection of fine jewelry during this stylish weekly gathering designed for those who appreciate beautiful things and a touch of luxury. ***plantriverside.com***

SAVE THE DATE

August 1: *Back to School Fun Day at Oscar Frazier Park*
August 3: *Divas Through Time at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina*
August 4: *Jazz in the Park at Lowcountry Celebration Park*
August 5: *Grapevine Academy: Wines of Tuscany at Roller Wine & Spirits*

TO SHOWCASE AN EVENT

You may be able to post your event for free in our Happenings section. Head to ***locallifesc.com***, click "Contact Us," and include a title, date, time, location, description, a link to the webpage and photos if possible.



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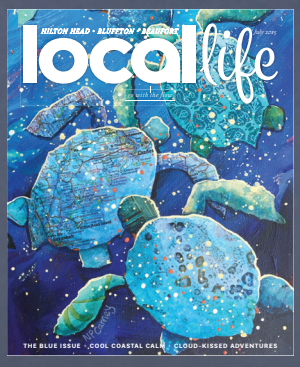
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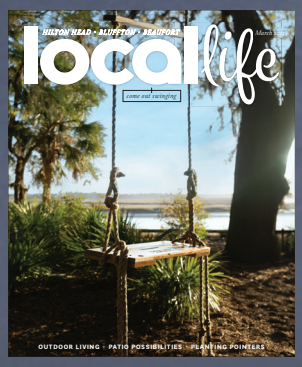
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While continuing to recognize local First Responders



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First Interact Scholarship Service Award-Lizzy Markowitz received a one time Interact Scholarship Service Award.

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Worked with the three Interact Clubs (Hilton Head High School, Heritage Academy, Hilton Head Prep) on the Island to deliver baskets of health snacks to First Responders.

Rotary
Club of Hilton Head Island

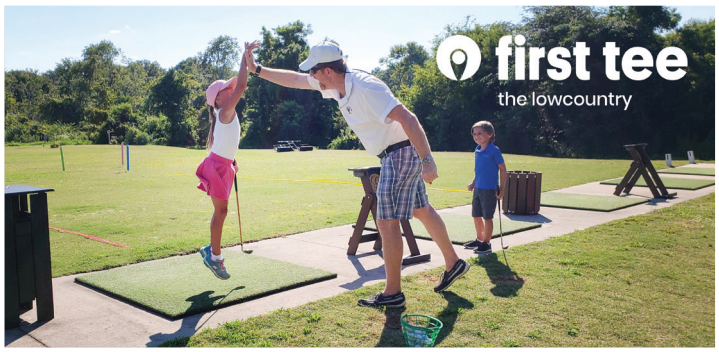
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151 Gumtree Road, Hilton Head Island · firstteelowcountry.org/about/facility



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59B New Orleans Road, Hilton Head Island · 833.386.6644 · FunOnHHI.com



THE HILTON HEAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA brings world-class music to the Lowcountry, blending timeless artistry with a vibrant, contemporary spirit. From soaring symphonic works to intimate chamber performances, the HHSO engages both longtime patrons and new audiences, creating unforgettable musical experiences. **LOCAL Life Insider Tip:** Enjoy a pre- or post-concert meal at one of the nearby waterfront restaurants.

7 Lagoon Road, Suite 100, Hilton Head Island · 843.842.2055 · HHSO.org

Whether you're a foodie looking to explore new culinary delights or a family seeking fun and engaging activities, these carefully curated selections of restaurants and activities have something for everyone.



KAYAK HILTON HEAD Whether experienced or a first-time family group, going on a dolphin kayak tour will likely be a highlight of your vacation. Many dolphins are known by name. Founded in 2001, Kayak Hilton Head's knowledgeable and experienced guides have been showing guests a great time on the waters of Hilton Head for 25 years. **LOCAL Life Insider Tip:** The early morning tours are our favorite! Reservations recommended.

18 Simmons Road, Hilton Head Island · 843.684.1910 · kayakhiltonhead.com



THE SHOPS AT SEA PINES CENTER Discover one of Hilton Head's most charming collections of boutiques, galleries and dining. Shopping meets community with signature happenings like the Farmers & Makers Market and First Thursday Artisan Alley bringing the entire center to life. Stroll, browse, and experience a true Lowcountry gathering place. **LOCAL Life Insider Tip:** Time your visit with the Farmers & Makers Market or Artisan Alley for the full experience.

71 Lighthouse Road, Hilton Head Island · 843.363.5699 · theshopsatseapinescenter.com



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Two shows on Labor Day Weekend: September 5 & 6





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The next frontier



Page Field, Parris Island

A Marine glider trainee awaits takeoff in a Schweizer LNS-1 training glider at Page Field on Parris Island in May 1942. Captured by photographer Alfred T. Palmer, the image preserves a little-known chapter of World War II history, when the Marine Corps explored the promise of glider warfare after early airborne operations overseas revealed its potential. Though the program was ultimately abandoned in June 1943, it reflected a familiar form of courage: the willingness to embrace uncertainty, test new ideas and venture into the unknown.

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