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local life



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The distinctive insight of Dividend Assets Capital (DAC) is our core belief in rising income for investors through consistent, rising dividend growth. Legendary Hall of Fame hockey player Wayne Gretzky, the Great One, once said, “A

good hockey player plays where the puck is, a great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be.” By focusing on companies that consistently, over time, increase their earnings and dividend payouts, we believe we are playing where the pay raise is going to be.

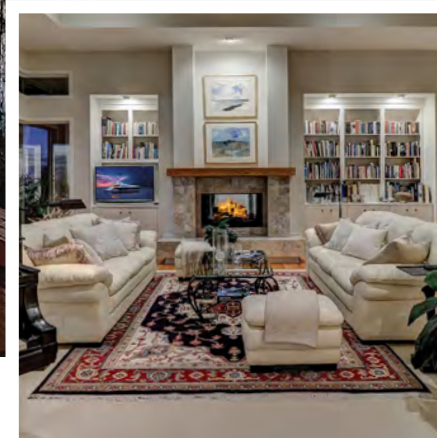
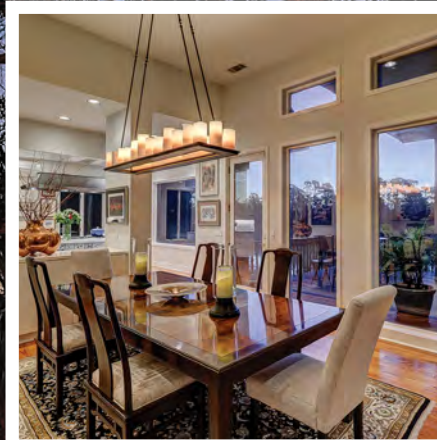
It is DAC’s goal to meticulously develop investment strategies to meet a variety of goals, desires, and investment-time horizons based upon dividend income, growth, and total return. For example, for clients seeking higher yields, we may suggest Energy Infrastructure Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) for a portion of their portfolio. We select MLPs that have a history of increasing distributions, have healthy balance sheets and have geographic diversification with their pipelines, storage and processing facilities.

At Dividend Assets Capital, our team of dedicated professionals strive to serve our clients. We are 100% employee owned and based here in the Low Country. Please contact us to speak with one of our investment professionals about our income and income growth strategies.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. All investment programs have certain risks that are borne by the investor.

*The turnover rate for each portfolio may be either higher or lower depending on the investor’s risk tolerance, objectives and cash needs.

Investors in Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) should consult with their tax advisor regarding the tax consequences and filing requirements of investing in MLPs. Investors should be aware that any changes in the current tax law could potentially result in future and retroactive consequences and should consult their tax advisors regarding any tax law changes.



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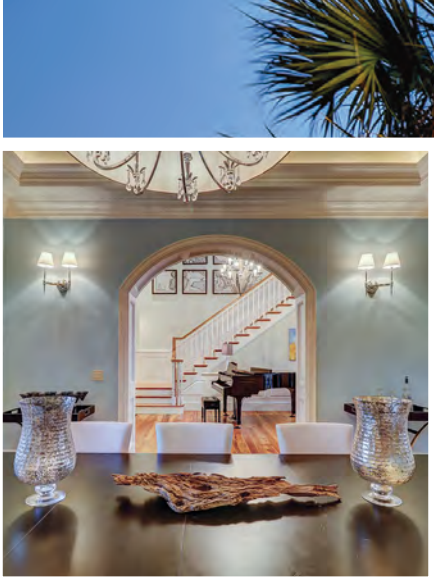
The team leverages years of industry expertise with a true passion for Hilton Head Island, the surrounding area, and everything it has to offer.



28 RIVER BEND DRIVE **Okatie** **\$859,000**

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31 RIBAUT DRIVE Ribaut Island \$2,899,000

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the team

MY MOST MEMORABLE HOLIDAY GIFT WAS...

"... A creepy live tarantula
from my sister, Deb."
- LORI



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"... Verbot. Huge lunchbag letdown."
- LANCE



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"... GoBots Command Center.
Waaay before Transformers were cool."
- JEREMY



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"... My first drum set. 'All Right Now'
never sounded so good!"
- CHARLES



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"... A brick. Because I was caught snooping, my
mother replaced my tape recorder with a brick."
- LAURIE



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"... A gold diamond necklace
from my boyfriend."
- ALLISON



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"... My first two wheel bicycle... cuz
a girl needs her freedom!"
- LISA



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DEC *features*



LOOKING FOR AN UPGRADE?

Whether you are on the go, in your office or at home, new technology gadgets can introduce great time-saving advantages into your day, as well as make life easier. Look for this image throughout this issue for great tech gadgets, then find even more online at LocalLifeSC.com.



90 High Tech in the Lowcountry

The great democratization of the internet has given everyone a chance to do what they want, where they want. With that kind of freedom, more and more technophiles are calling the Lowcountry home.

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How Bluffton's Jared Jester came to rule the marine space, one app at a time.

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USCB professor Brian Canada, a video game designer, is proof that play can be hard work.

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Facebook groups give the growing Lowcountry a small-time feel

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The edgy innovation — and cool products — of local technology startups

Ben Ham
BEN HAM
GALLERIES



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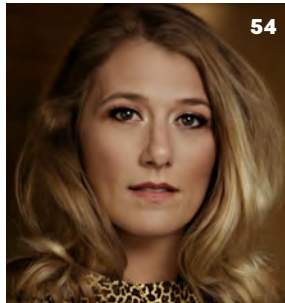
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Secret Garden

You'll go bananas for this sensational award-winning local landscape. The vividness and magnitude of plant color for this time of year is amazing!



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Porchin'

Have a seat on a historic porch at Pineland Plantation



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the importance of technology



©PHOTO BY LISA STAFF

"The only constant in the technology industry is change."

- MARC BENIOFF

Much of this special holiday issue is dedicated to technology. Our lives are impacted by it on a daily basis, even when we don't realize it. Technology helps save time, energy and space in our minds!

I will be the first to admit, I am no tech whiz. But in the age of ever-evolving technology, I try to embrace the new tools, gadgets and apps available. Directions are not my thing. I would be lost without the Google Maps app. And, boy do I love Alexa! She came into our home long before she became the "it" gadget. She is perfect for playing music, adding items to my grocery list, and the occasional "I love you." I just love to hear how she responds.

Technology has impacted the publishing world, too. It was very different back in the early days of my publishing career. Pages were sketched out and after all of the pages were completed by hand, we would package them up and send them off to the printer by airplane

or through the mail. Today, everything is digital and instantaneous. Each page is created on the computer, proofed and approved digitally, and uploaded to our printer's website to be turned into the print magazine you hold in your hands.

As much as we hope you love the printed LOCAL Life magazine, our website is taking on a life of its own and goes even deeper on stories including video. LocalLifeSC.com will bring you new features, recipes, story updates and fresh content that celebrate what makes the Lowcountry so special. Be sure to check out our behind-the-scenes videos from some of this month's photo shoots and other online exclusives at LocalLifeSC.com.

In this issue, in addition to a lot of stories about different technologies, there are interesting features for the non-techie. One of my favorites of this issue is our holiday fashion shoot (Page 54). Special thanks to Jay Wiendl, Chris Bracken and the team at Sonesta Resort for being such fantastic hosts! And as always, I highly recommend all of the recipes, especially the candy cane martini (Page 77). We hope you will enjoy this December holiday issue in the company of family, good friends and fine food.

May your holiday season be filled with prosperity and happiness. From our family to yours, happy holidays!



HOLD THE PHONE, OR NOT

Lori's favorite gadget at the moment? Apple AirPods.

To adjust the volume, change the song, make a call, or even get directions, just double-tap to activate Siri. Just 15 minutes in the case gives you 3 hours of listening time. \$160.

"They're amazing! I can listen to music while doing chores without the cord getting in the way and I now have an excuse when people catch me talking to myself!"



SHARP DRESSED MEN Sonesta Resort general manager Jay Wiendl and director of sales and marketing Chris Bracken with the LOCAL Life jeep.

Lori

LORI GOODRIDGE-CRIBB

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lori.goodridge@wearelocallife.com

PUBLISHER'S NOTE Thank you for taking the time to read this magazine. If you got this in the mail, you are on our current mailing list. To ensure continued delivery, free of charge, you must fill out a free subscription card (Page 16) and drop it in the mailbox.



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contributors

MEET OUR WRITERS + PHOTOGRAPHERS + PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES



Celia G. Carroll

When Celia G. Carroll was a junior in high school, she was talked into doing the local beauty pageant with her friends. Being a bit of a girl on the fringe, Celia signed up for something entertaining to do, because what else do you do in a Southern small town? She filled out the contestant packet, not taking it too seriously, and also not realizing they were going to read what she wrote in that packet while on stage at the pageant. While the other contestants filled in the favorite hobby section with things like travel, reading and community service, Celia said her favorite thing was lunch. It was her favorite time of the day to bring her goodies to share and hang out with friends. To this day, Celia gets excited about a good lunch. And, by the way, she did win second runner-up, a \$300 scholarship check and the title of "Miss Lunch Queen." It's a title she carries proudly.



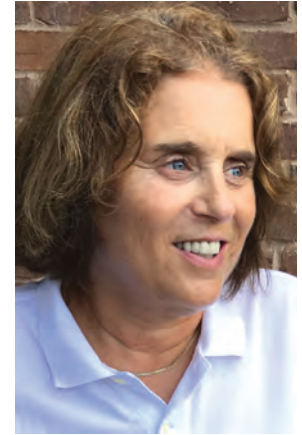
Luana Graves Sellars

Laura Graves Sellars was a true New Yorker in all sense of the description. But once she moved to Florida, she realized that she was a misplaced Floridian who knew that snow and nor'easters were not meant for her, especially after attending the Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Her double degrees in journalism and black history, with a minor in business, from SIU was the beginning of what she calls her "potpourri career." It included working as a national media buyer, a conference speaker, music promotor and manager, and an account manager in radio sales. Most recently, Luana is the owner and administrative director of two large capacity preschools in Florida. The divorced mother of two daughters, Luana is a world traveler, yet has spent most of her life coming to Hilton Head for holidays and considered the island home.



Debi Lynes

Debi Lynes has an extensive career exploring the relationship between the physical environment and its influence on health and wellness. She has combined her 30 years of experience as an interior designer and 15 years in private counseling to hone her practice and is now respected as an expert in her fields. Debi also is a well-regarded television host of "Lynes on Design," airing for 10 years and "Healthy Living," on air for the last eight years.



Hilary Kraus

Hilary Kraus first started visiting Hilton Head Island in 1982 when her parents relocated here from suburban Cleveland. (No, you don't have to tell her stories about "back in the day when there was only one grocery store here." She remembers.) Hilary became a full-time resident of Hilton Head in 2010 after crisscrossing the country for many years working at daily newspapers. She settled in Spokane, Wash., where she worked as a sportswriter, copy desk editor/designer and eventually a feature writer at the Spokesman-Review. Hilary has worked as a freelance writer and copy editor at various publications in Beaufort County.

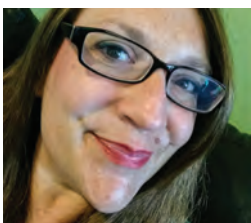


Dean Rowland

Dean Rowland has been a writer and editor ever since he left Ohio University decades ago with a journalism degree tucked in his pocket, stopping along the way at newspapers of all sizes and as the corporate editor of an international magazine publishing company. The New Jersey native, former Colorado/Wyoming resident, martial artist and six-year Bluffton/Charlotte/mountain resident lives where he wants to live and does what he wants, which is write with an open and inquisitive mind.

Deborah Lamp

Deborah Lamp is the owner of Flowers by Sue on Hilton Head Island. She worked in corporate America for more than 30 years in the human resource department for civil engineering firms. Deborah moved to Hilton Head from Colorado when both her daughters settled on the island. Deborah has always been an incredible entertainer and host for many years of dinner parties and festivities. She has a passion for home design and floral.



Amy Bredeson

Born in Chicago, Amy Coyne Bredeson's family moved to the Lowcountry when she was 3 years old. She graduated from Hilton Head Island High School in 1994 and earned her bachelor's degree in print journalism from the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Bredeson has worked for newspapers and magazines in the Lowcountry for almost two decades. She is a volunteer with the nonprofit Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance and an advocate for children and adults with special needs.



Find additional images and outtakes from these and other contributors online at LocalLifeSC.com.

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Sitting: Tricia Lowman, Brian Neumann NMLS# 174105, David Crowell NMLS# 12620, Kelli McBeth NMLS# 1090669

Standing left to right: Sara Marx, Torrey Glass NMLS#71570, Marissa Kuehn, Sam Cavanaugh NMLS# 1293151, Susan Smith NMLS# 278903, Libby Knapp, Kim Capin, Tanner Ware NMLS# 278238, Bec Cunningham, John Critchlow, Mariah McKenna NMLS# 1084746, Chris Cardamone



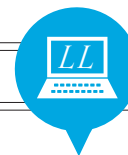
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Holiday foods that could harm your pets

The holiday season may be about fun and family, but it is also about food. If you share your home with some four-footed family members, they will no doubt be begging at the table, and guilting you into sharing the leftovers from the holiday feast. While there is nothing wrong with sharing a bit of ham or turkey, other staples of the holiday season could upset your pet's stomach, or even land you and your pet in the veterinary emergency room. Find common holiday foods that should be off limits for your pets on our website.

How to give the gift of tech

It's the middle of the gift-giving season and you're staring down a shopping list of people who are difficult — if not impossible — to shop for. Sometimes, tech is the best bet for the gift challenged. Christina Gomez, also known as the "Gadget Gal," has you covered. Home automation and wireless sound gifts top her list.



Ask a tech guy

Got a technical question? Henrik de Gyor may have the answer. de Gyor is an active podcaster, start-up advisor and writer. He is also a tech consultant for Bluffton. tech and provided LOCAL Life answers for a few common tech questions.



Look for this symbol for extra online content.



About the Cover

The weather outside may not be frightful, but Christmas in the Lowcountry can be so delightful. Our cover features a tree beautifully decorated by three family members — mother Deborah Lamp of Flowers by Sue, daughter Tammy Novak of Island Financial and daughter Kelli Corn of Kelli Corn Weddings and Events. Photographers Mark and Lisa Staff built the set and the lighting and captured the image before sunrise on a local dock. **You can purchase the tree in our Holiday Gift Guide on Page 65.**

online video

LOCALLIFESC.COM



BACK TO SCHOOL

Behind-the-scenes video of Hannah Weitekammer's photo shoot at Hilton Head Elementary (Page 36). The multi-faceted fourth grader is already a black belt in Taekwondo.



LOCAL LANDMARK

Walk through the front door of Hilton Head Island's "Little Blue House," a space Louise Cohen has dedicated to protecting and preserving Gullah stories and artifacts. Read more on Page 138.



DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Check out our stunning fashion shoot on Page 54, then see how it came together through several videos taken during the hours-long shoot at Sonesta Resort.



TAKING FLIGHT

Check out our story on CrossFlight Sky Solutions (Page 107); then watch video of co-founder Joe Friesen flying one of the company's drones on our website, LocalLifeSC.com.

To go behind the scenes and stay connected to LOCAL Life, follow and interact with us on social media!

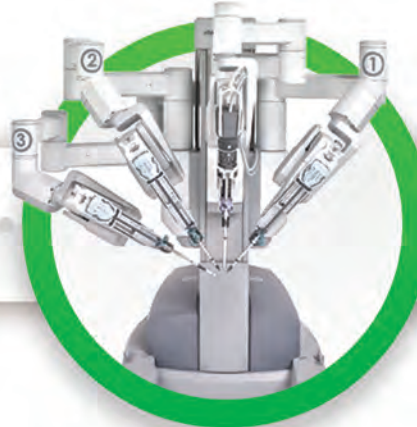


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2007 | 1st da Vinci Robot added
43 Total Procedures



2012 | 2nd da Vinci Robot added
746 Total Procedures



2013 | 3rd da Vinci Robot added
1,215 Total Procedures



2016 | 4th da Vinci Robot added
3,419 Total Procedures

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DECEMBER *local blend*

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



NOT-SO-SILENT NIGHTS The Lowcountry's most impressive holiday lights display is at Shelter Cove Towne Centre. Check it out from 5:30-9 nightly, through Dec. 30.



What's the bright idea?

The tradition of lighting the tree with small candles dates back to the 17th century and originated in Germany before spreading to Eastern Europe. The small candles were attached to the tree branches with pins or melted wax.

'Tis the Season!

HOLIDAY DISPLAYS LIGHT UP THE LOWCOUNTRY

An iconic holiday movie scene occurs in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," when Clark Griswold finally succeeds in lighting the family Christmas lights, all 25,000 of them (not counting the Santa, eight tiny reindeer and the "Merry Christmas" sign). Once lit, the Griswold house is so bright that the lights blind the neighbors. The closest thing the Lowcountry has to that experience is the 'Tis the Season light display at Shelter Cove Towne Centre. The lights — all 30,000 of them — shine brightly from 5:30-9 nightly, through Dec. 30. In addition to the lights, many activities are planned, including visits from Santa, horse and carriage rides, a tiny skating rink, free movies in the park, a kids zone, live music and more. See **Page 24** for more on local lights.

We asked project manager Sarah Davis what it takes to put on such an elaborate holiday display. She said, for starters:

30,000
LIGHTS

4 MONTHS
TO PLAN

5 WORKERS
TO ASSEMBLE

800 HOURS
TO COMPLETE

\$75,000
IN COST

Leave Santa something naughty (and nice)

There are only so many mince pies a man can eat. Yes, they're delicious, but Santa is sure to be even more generous if you opt for one of these original recipes from Bluffton chef and caterer Geist Ussery of Geist & Company.



Nice

Almond Crunch Cookies

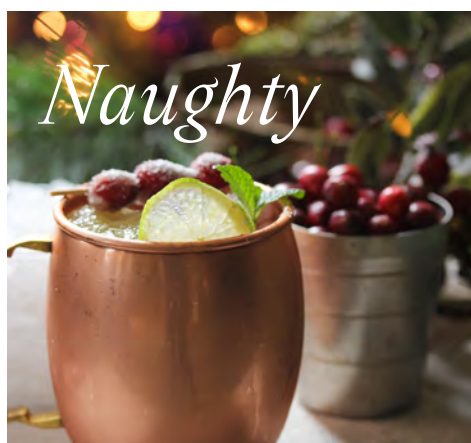


INGREDIENTS

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup shortening
¾ cup granulated sugar
¾ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. almond extract
1 ½ cups uncooked regular oats
1 ½ cups toasted corn cereal (like Chex)
4 oz. almond bark

DIRECTIONS

[1] Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Beat cup of shortening with an electric mixer until creamy; gradually add sugars, beating well. [2] Add eggs and almond extract; beat well. [3] In another bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt; stir until blended. [4] Add flour mixture to sugar mixture mixing until just blended. Slightly crush corn cereal, only to the point there aren't large pieces (but not too small, you'll lose the crunch) Carefully stir in oats and cereal. [5] Using an ice cream scoop, drop dough on a cookie sheet 2 inches apart. [6] Bake at 325 degrees 12 to 14 minutes. [7] Cool for 2 minutes on cookie sheet before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.



Naughty

Cranberry Mule

INGREDIENTS FOR GARNISH

12 oz. fresh cranberries
½ cup simple syrup
½ cup granulated sugar

DIRECTIONS

[1] Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Place a wire cooling rack on top of the lined baking sheet, and set aside. [2] In a large bowl, measure in the simple syrup. Toss the cranberries in the simple syrup, removing them with a slotted spoon, then place on the wire cooling rack. [3] Refrigerate for 30 minutes, or until the berries are sticky. When the berries are sticky, measure the sugar into a large bowl. Toss the cranberries in the sugar until coated, then transfer back to the wire cooling rack. [4] Coat all the cranberries, then refrigerate for an additional hour before using.

INGREDIENTS FOR DRINK

2 oz. unsweetened cranberry juice
3 oz. ginger beer
1 ½ oz. spiced rum
1 oz. simple syrup
Ice, for serving



DIRECTIONS

[1] Place a handful of ice in a copper mug. Combine the cranberry juice, ginger beer, rum and simple syrup in a cocktail shaker. [2] Shake until combined, then pour over ice. [3] Serve with sugared cranberries as garnish, and enjoy immediately.



Where to catch the Old Elf

The Elf on the Shelf may be a good little tattler — um, messenger? — but every kid knows that if you want to request your Christmas gift, you need to go to the Jolly Old Elf himself: Santa Claus. Here are a few locations you can catch him before he embarks on his worldwide tour on Christmas Eve.

Shelter Cove Towne Centre

5-7 p.m., Friday and Saturday through Dec. 23

Village at Wexford

3-6 p.m., Saturday through Dec. 23

Harbour Town

6:30-7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2 and 23

Bluffton Christmas Parade

10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2



Holiday Playlist

Every holiday party needs a good soundtrack, but sometimes finding the perfect blend of timeless and fresh can be tricky. We'd rather you spend your time off eating Christmas cookies and just generally basking in the yuletide cheer, so we pulled together 12 songs for your seasonal playlist needs.

Compiled by Charles "Jingle Drawers" Grace.

"It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

- Andy Williams

"Let Me Sleep (It's Christmas Time)" - Pearl Jam

"Peace on Earth/The Little Drummer Boy"

- Bing Crosby, David Bowie

"Decorations" - Bob Rivers

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"

- Perry Como

"Christmas Time Is Here" - Vince Guaraldi Trio

"Skating" - Vince Guaraldi Trio

"Blue Christmas" - Elvis Presley

"The Christmas Song" - Nat King Cole

"I Have A Little Dreidel" - Barenaked Ladies

"Here Comes Santa Claus" - Gene Autry

"Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" - The Jackson 5



Local holiday light displays

'Tis the Season at Shelter Cove Towne Centre isn't the only holiday lights display in the Lowcountry worth checking out. Here are a few other notable twinkling spots!



©PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB TIPTON

Harbour Town

The beautifully decorated 30-foot Christmas tree and two dozen animated light displays are sure to get you into the holiday spirit.

Shelter Cove Harbour

The King Neptune statue, the Harbourfest stage and the surrounding trees are lit for your viewing pleasure. Hilton Head's official Christmas tree is nearby at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina.

Hilton Head Fire & Rescue Station 3

Next to First Presbyterian Church, this fire station is back in full force after taking last year off due to Hurricane Matthew damage.

Jim and Carolyn Neely's house

More than 40,000 white and colored lights illuminate this Port Royal Plantation home, visible from U.S. 278, across from Hilton Head Fire & Rescue Station 3.

Reilly's Grill & Bar

The restaurant and parking lot are covered in Christmas lights and nearby trees are full of illuminated ornaments.

Coligny Plaza

Lights and animated displays have turned this popular shopping center into a holiday village.

Cahill's Market

Fresh Christmas trees, wreaths and poinsettias compliment the lights surrounding the Bluffton restaurant.

The Promenade

Many businesses and restaurants are decorated, making for a magical evening stroll. Cross the road to Calhoun Street for even more holiday magic.

GET JOLLY

This month's holiday happenings: **Page 144.**



©PHOTO BY MIKE RITTERBECK

Adopt this Pet: Thomas

LOVABILITY METER



THIS GUY WANTS TO MEET UNDER THE MISTLETOE

Looking for a stocky, dark and handsome guy who isn't afraid of commitment? If so, you're sure to fall for Thomas, an 8-year-old Labrador mix temporarily living at the Hilton Head Humane Association. With George Clooney-like graying hair, Ryan Gosling-like white teeth and the wise brown eyes of Morgan Freeman, this jolly gent is easy to look at. Plus, he's got a best friend type of personality.

Katie Leasure, an adoption facilitator at HHHHA, had this glowing review: "He is a sweet, lovable guy," she said. "He has no problem getting along with everyone and he loves his treats! He always greets you with a smile."

Not only do animals give you unconditional love, but they have been shown to be psychologically, emotionally and physically beneficial to their companions. Give yourself that gift this holiday season. The adoption fee for qualified owners is \$100.

MORE ABOUT THOMAS

Breed: Lab mix

Age: 8 human years

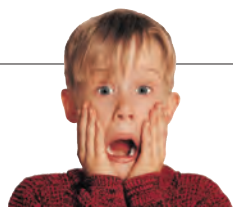
Weight: About five Weiner dogs

Likes: Spinning before lying down, panting, belly scratches

Dislikes: The word 'colonel.'

"Why in the frick is it spelled like that?" - Thomas

Adopt him: Hilton Head Humane Association, www.hhhumane.org, 843-681-8686



Catch an outdoor holiday movie!

Experience the magic of projector light, the glow of the screen against the twilight sky and the sheer excitement kids (and adults alike for that matter) get when watching a movie outside in the fresh air this holiday season. Catch an outdoor holiday movie at these locations:

Harbour Town

7 p.m., Saturdays

Movies are shown under the Liberty Oak. Sit on the benches and roast marshmallows in the nearby fire pit.

December 2

"The Santa Clause"

December 9

"Home Alone"

December 16

"A Christmas Story"

Shelter Cove Towne Centre

6 p.m., Thursdays

Movies are shown on a 20-foot screen in the park. Bring your beach chairs and blankets. Pet friendly.

December 7

"The Polar Express"

December 14

"Elf"

December 21

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

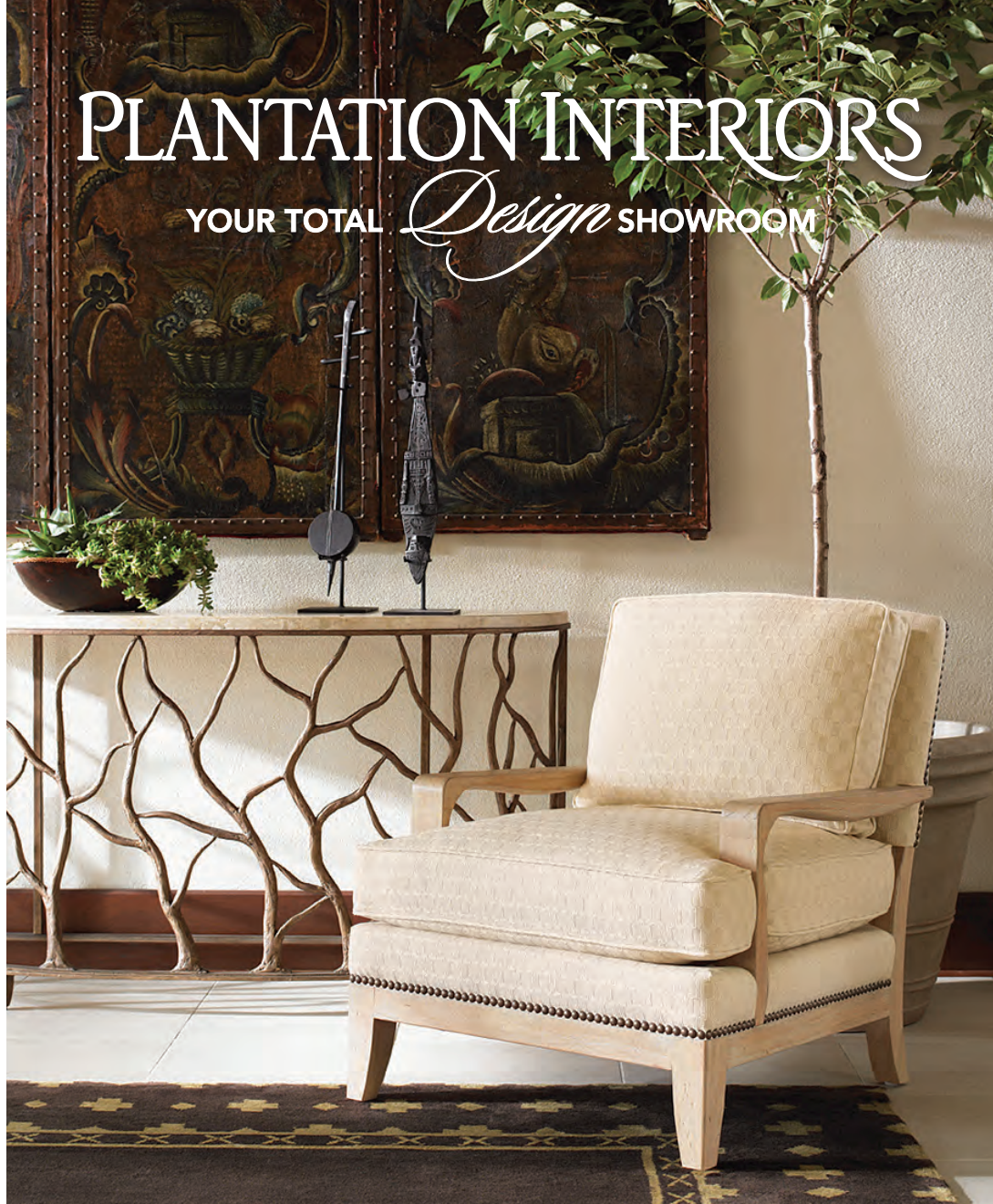


Sitting Santa

Handmade Santa created by local artist Lynda Hawley. Available at Pretty Papers. \$200

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TECHIES' GIFT GUIDE

Whether you're looking for the highest rated tech gifts this season or just need a nudge in the right direction, we've re-researched some of the best selling and most popular tech gifts that will be on everyone's list this year.



GADGETS FOR ADULTS



The Busy-body

OJO Shopping for any ultra-cool adults? Check out this electric commuter scooter with a top speed of 20 mph. It plugs into any wall outlet and covers 25 miles per charge. \$1,950



The Purist

GRAMAVOX VERTICAL TURNTABLE

Any vinyl lovers would cherish this high-performance turntable that plays your records vertically through built-in, dynamic, full-range stereo speakers. \$550



The Technophile

MICROSOFT HOLOLENS Know a technophile? Consider the world's first self-contained holographic computer. No wires, phones or connection to a PC needed. \$3,000



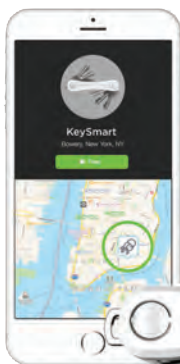
The Paranoid

TRACKR PIXEL A coin-sized tracking device that attaches to all of your valuables — suitcases, backpacks, wallets, keys, even pets. It's the perfect stocking stuffer. \$25



The Professional

CROSS PEERLESS TRACKR PEN Want to impress your boss? Gift the world's first trackable pen, which uses Bluetooth and Crowd Locate technologies. \$250



The Forgetful

KEYSMART PRO A better way to organize and carry your keys along with peace of mind knowing that they're never lost, thanks to Tile smart location technology. \$60



The Creative Type

CIRCUIT MINT EXPLORE AIR 2

Create holiday cards on your computer, tablet or smartphone and then print on this smart cutting machine. \$229



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SMART GIFTS FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Here are nine tech gift ideas that will be sure to bring joy to those lucky techie tots on your list.



GADGETS FOR KIDS



The Warrior

GALAXY ZEGA BATTLE TANKS Use an iPhone or iPad to control your ZEGAs as you battle with friends in your living room, office or nearly anywhere. \$150



The Creative

CRAYOLA EASY ANIMATION STUDIO Personalize and animate 10 characters. Compatible with most smart devices. \$21



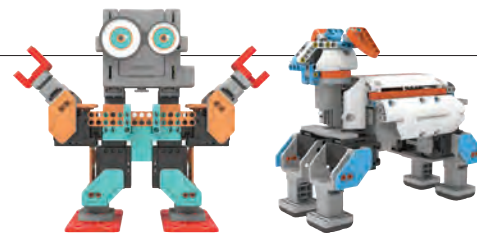
The Daredevil

ATOM ELECTRIC H.4 SKATEBOARD Skate up to four miles with a max speed of 9.3 mph on this electric board from Atom Longboards. The maximum recommend rider weight is 155 pounds. \$300



The Whizkid

VIEW-MASTER VIRTUAL REALITY This kid-friendly device will surround you with stunning 360-degree environments so you feel as if you are really there. \$29



The Builder

UBTECH JIMU BUZZBOT/MUTTBOT Build and program your own robots with easy-to-assemble snap-in pieces. Control via Bluetooth and smartphone. \$150



The Caregiver

SPIN MASTER LUVABELLA A slightly creepy looking doll with true-to-life facial expressions and personality. Cover her eyes for a game of peek-a-boo, tickle her tummy and toes to make her giggle. \$100



The Pilot

SPHERO STAR WARS BB-8 DROID Guide your BB-8 with a smartphone or tablet. This droid recognizes and reacts to your voice and records holographic videos. \$150



The Princess

DANCE CODE BELLE Create dance routines in an app for Disney's Belle to perform in real life. Empowers kids to create choreography for the ultimate dance partner. \$100

The Intellect

COGNITOYS DINO This Cloud-based, Wi-Fi enabled smart toy engages children in intelligent conversations, plays games, tells stories and more. \$60



A photograph of a middle-aged couple smiling and looking at each other in a rural setting. The woman is leaning over the man's shoulder. They are both wearing casual clothing. The background shows a field and trees under a clear sky.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED?

It's a question we begin to ask ourselves as the years roll by. Whether the realization hits in a flash or over time, one day we understand that what we do during our lifetimes forges our legacy once we're gone.

So why not leave a legacy that makes an impact? You can, through a charitable gift annuity with Community Foundation of the Lowcountry.

Charitable gift annuities are a way to support the causes you care about once you're gone, while receiving a steady stream of income, along with possible tax benefits, during your lifetime.

Leave a legacy of giving and be remembered for the good you did. Call us at 843.681.9100 to find out how easy it is to establish a charitable gift annuity.



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Cadillac Wins 'Best Of Show'

The coveted "Best of Show" and "People's Choice" honors were awarded at the closing event of the 16th annual Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival & Concours d'Elegance, held at the Port Royal Golf Club. The top honor at Sunday's Concours d'Elegance, "Best of Show," was awarded to a 1934 Cadillac Victoria Convertible Coupe owned by Steven Plunkett of London, Ontario, Canada. Attendees at the event chose a 1953 Chevrolet 3100 Good Humor Ice Cream Truck as their "People's Choice" winner. That car is owned by Barry and Deborah Fodor of Ashland City, Tenn.



Zion Chapel, Fort Mitchel Added to National Register

For historic landmarks around this great nation, there is no higher honor than being placed on the National Parks System's National Register of Historic Places. Across the entire state of South Carolina, one of the original colonies and cradle of the Civil War, you'll find just over 1,400. To that, you can add two right here on Hilton Head Island, as the NPS has added both Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery and Fort Mitchel to the register, recognizing their unique role in our nation's history. The Heritage Library has recently embarked on an ambitious project to transform Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery into a learning center and history park. They offer tours of Fort Mitchel at 10 a.m. every Thursday and Zion Cemetery and Baynard Mausoleum at 10 a.m. every Friday. For more information, visit heritagelib.org.

Programs for Exceptional People



MISSION: "To promote independence, social interaction and employment opportunities for adults who live with intellectual disabilities."

HISTORY: Programs for Exceptional People (PEP) started more than 20 years ago as the vision of six local families. The founders were committed to providing a supported therapeutic environment where their adult children could learn, work and play. PEP was incorporated on Dec. 11, 1995, and has a campus-like setting at 10 Oak Park Drive on Hilton Head Island. Earlier this year, it opened a satellite facility at 163 Bluffton Road.

WHO IT HELPS: Members participate in daily structured activities that promote personal growth and accentuate strengths. PEP's experienced staff and core of volunteers act as educators, facilitators, job coaches and role models. PEP contracts locally with both Beaufort and Jasper counties to provide an individualized program of opportunities that promote access to the greater community. It is licensed by the state of South Carolina to provide services for adults who reside in Beaufort and Jasper counties. Eligible individuals who participate in PEP's licensed activities have a primary diagnosis of an intellectual disability.

HOW TO HELP: PEP is a 501(c)3 organization, and is required to register annually with the South Carolina Secretary of State's office. Per PEP's most recent tax filing, 90.4 percent of all organizational expenses are used for programs. PEP receives less than 60 percent of its annual operating budget from established governmental sources. The remainder is realized through donations, work contracts and revenue generated from its micro-businesses. Gifts of time, talent and monetary resources are appreciated. Donated items of value are welcomed. *LL*

MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS FOR EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE:

Call executive director Steve Maglione at 843-681-8021, email smaglione@pephi.org or go to pephi.org.

[1] Programs for Exceptional People's recreation and leisure program attended the Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival & Concours d'Elegance. Pictured, from left: Michael Meeuwse, Megan Whitherly, John Baker, Scott Riley, Michael Doyle, coordinator Trey Hennessee, Gary Kashishian and Nick Jacoby. [2] Katie Usefara, Catherine McDermott and Robert Hamilton display ceramic art pieces they fired in one of the program's kilns. [3] Lindsay Persoon is a PEP ceramic artist. She is displaying a turtle she created at the Bluffton Farmer's Market. [4] Corey McCall is one of PEP's ceramic artists. He is displaying the group's work at the Bluffton Farmer's Market. [5] Shawn McEvoy is one of the hard-working members of PEP's lawn crew. [6] Robert Hamilton is one of the hard-working members of the PEP's lawn crew.





Licenses and IDs are Changing

If you want to use your South Carolina driver's license or identification card to pass airport security, enter secure federal buildings, or visit military installations, you soon must change it to a REAL ID license or ID. After a long reluctance, the Palmetto State is complying with a federal law requiring driver's licenses that are harder to forge in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks. Gov. Henry McMaster signed a bill into law earlier this year requiring the new licenses after years of hesitation from lawmakers who did not want to be forced into following a federal mandate. Instead of a REAL ID license or ID, you can use a valid U.S. Passport or other federally accepted identification.



Train Play Set Coming to Oscar Frazier Park

The Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Leadership Class of 2018 plans to raise funds for and install a train play set in Bluffton as its class project. Arriving in the Spring of 2018, The Imagination Train will be located at the Oscar Frazier Park playground in the heart of Bluffton. Kids will be able to climb, ride, discover and "drive" the train to new places in their imaginations. A train was chosen as the signature installation piece because Oscar Frazier, the park's namesake and Bluffton community leader, was known for operating a BBQ restaurant out of a train caboose.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

After reading the November issue of LOCAL Life (inspired by art), local resident Jenn McEwen sent us the following letter. McEwen is the Culture and Arts Network Director for the Town of Hilton Head Island. LOCAL Life welcomes letters to the editor and comments to our website. **Write to lance.hanlin@wearelocallife.com**

What makes it local

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

HILTON HEAD ISLAND IS ART EVERY DAY.

BY JENN MCEWEN



“Being local on Hilton Head Island is having the privilege of living with all of this culture.”

Paint. Pottery. Music. Theatre. History. Dance. From bluegrass to ballet, art is happening on Hilton Head Island 365 days a year. The possibilities here are endless and the intense passion that the community has for its arts and culture assets is unmatched. We can see it in the extensive arts coverage in the November issue of LOCAL Life, where page after page highlights the work of the hundreds of artists who call this island home. Painters, dancers, poets, chefs, musicians, sculptors, actors and photographers. The beauty of the island is an inspiration and the strength of the community is a support beam for these brilliant and imaginative minds.

Around every corner is a reminder of the rich history of this island, home to stories that are uniquely American with deep history tracing back to before the Revolutionary War. We are home to priceless history of the first self-governed freedman's village at the Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, site and home to the beautiful food, art, faith and families of the Gullah culture. We are lucky that we can

learn more about Gullah culture at the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island or by sitting and having a conversation with one of the many Native Islander families that are still working and living here. At the Coastal Discovery Museum, we can experience the crossroads where the environment, art and history all meet. At the Heritage Library, we can learn about the deep history of our cemeteries and forts or look up the genealogy of the families that trace their roots back generations to the first settlers. Being local on Hilton Head Island is having the privilege of living with all of this culture.

This month, let's challenge ourselves to dive into the culture scene on the island. Take the Gullah Heritage Tour, see a play at Lean Ensemble Theater, or stop in for the Island Writers Network Open Mic Night at Mikki's Café. Soak up the beauty of our world-class symphony and then rock out at the Boardroom. While it would be impossible to list every art, history, or culture activity on this island in the space of this page, there is something here for everyone. LL



#BEACHLIFE

Jenn McEwen with her daughter, Audrey, at Burkes Beach.



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smile at someone, it
is an action of love,
a gift to that person,
a beautiful thing.”*

– Mother Teresa

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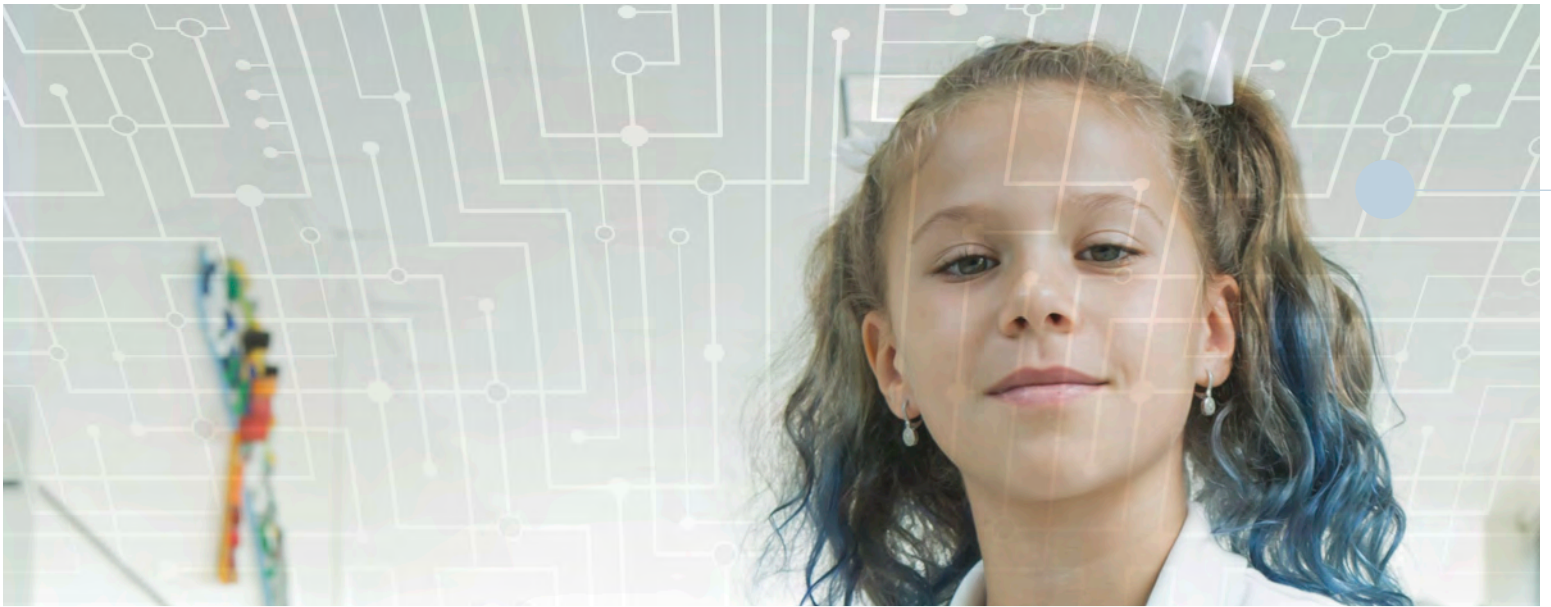
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Technology

The Next Generation

BUILDERS, CODERS, TINKERERS AND DREAMERS. TODAY'S YOUTH ARE LEARNING THE ROPES IN A WHOLE NEW WAY.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN + PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK STAFF

Think back to the jobs you were trained for during your formative years. How many of those jobs simply don't exist anymore? How many switchboard operators and file clerks have seen their jobs vanish over the last few decades, as surely as the light bulb put lamplighters out of business?

The fact is, the job market is in a state of constant flux, spurred on by technological achievements every day. Today, however, it's experiencing a radical shift as automation creates entirely new fields even as it guides former professions into the history books. Ask any journalist or travel agent and they'll tell you all about how the internet forced their respective industry into a place where they had to adapt or perish.

Our educators are doing the same. They're not just training our youth for the best jobs right now, they're training them to chase whatever careers may some day emerge.

Our educators aren't just training children to code, they're showing them how a code works, and more importantly why it works. They're also showing our children that learning the skilled trades, those careers that require a human's intuition and creativity, are some of the best ways to get ahead in the future. Whatever that future may look like.

Meet three area students being trained in the many tools and techniques they'll use to build the future.



Hannah Weitekamper

*IN A CLASSROOM
TUCKED AWAY IN THE
LABYRINTHINE HALLS
OF HILTON HEAD
ELEMENTARY, HANNAH
WEITEKAMPER STANDS
AMID A FLURRY
OF ACTIVITY.*



At her feet, swirling and careening in a chaotic swirl around the tile floor of the room, dozens of robots have turned the class into a scene right out of "Star Wars." These are Dot and Dash robots, and behind their every movement is a meticulously planned program written by students just like Hannah.

Likening the programming of these robots to playing a xylophone, she describes in marvelously simple terms a complex series of instructions that would surely baffle those of us who grew up in a time where programming robots generally wasn't on the curriculum: "If you code it to do something, it will do it."

Among the students in her computer class, Hannah has shown a remarkable ability to not only code, but to teach others as well. And if you imply that she's one of the best coders in class, she'll shrug it off with effortless humility. "I don't think of myself that way. I think others can do better as they go on, and I think that they just have it in themselves."

Coding seems to be just another skill set to conquer for this multi-faceted fourth grader, who is already a first-degree black belt in Taekwondo ("You want to know a secret? I sometimes make boys cry," she said in a conspiratorial whisper), avid swimmer and accomplished tennis and soccer player.

In fact, among her studies coding wasn't even her first passion.

"I was into other kinds of things like reading and social studies," she said. "I had to get used to it, so it was the third year I got into it. It took a while to get into it."

And now this budding programmer has not only learned coding to the point she's helping lead her class in writing programs and sending robots whizzing around the room, she's looking to take things a step further in the future.

"I want to go to Clemson for engineering, and just do coding for fun." LL





Jacob Torres

WHILE HE SPENDS HIS TIME AT SCHOOL IMMERSED IN HIS STUDIES, IT'S WHEN HE GETS HOME THAT FOURTH GRADER JACOB TORRES' TRUE EDUCATION BEGINS.



"My favorite part of going home is my dad. He teaches me a lot above my grade level," Jacob said. "Right now, he's teaching me about physics. He opened my mind to a new perspective. Technically, time travel is already possible. We can't go backward in time, but we can go forward."

It's heady stuff for a kid his age, but Jacob's inquisitive young mind seems to take it all in stride. Now in his second year learning the ins and outs of computer coding, he's already shown a tremendous level of skill in writing looping codes and debugging – that is to say, figuring out why a code isn't doing what it's supposed to do.

"It's really helping me learn more about computers and technology, and how to code better so I get a good education and job," he said.

For Jacob, coding not only gave him an outlet for his creativity, it also lets this avid gamer see the work that goes into creating games like Call of Duty and Battlefield. "You have to think about what you want the player to do. The screen just sucks you in."

Of course, a kid who goes home and learns the intricacies of physics and special relativity isn't going to just limit his interest to 1s and 0s. Born in Florida to a family from a wealth of different backgrounds, he's become interested in tracing his lineage and the flags that represent each country. "My ancestors came from Colombia and Great Britain, so I really like to study their flags, as well as Australia and Germany."

This well-rounded approach to his education presents itself in what Jacob does with his coding skills, as well. Namely, art. "The most incredible thing I ever did in coding was paint a dragon," he said.

And now, with the many skills this young coder brings to bear, he's looking to eventually make his way to Georgia Tech to continue creating the code that will write the future. *LL*

Beau Bischoff

*BEAU BISCHOFF DOES
NOT LIKE DOING
THINGS THE EASY WAY.*



Which is good, because when you're attempting to cut nearly 60 pieces of quarter-inch thick sheet metal into a three-dimensional self-portrait, there really are no easy ways. There are just ways that present varying degrees of difficulty.

Drawn into metalworking two years ago, this May River High School junior quickly demonstrated an aptitude for not just the technical applications of welding, but the artistic applications as well. His skills caught the attention of his teacher, Brad Childress.

"I had no clue two years ago I wanted to get into welding. It was a brand-new school, and they had welding as an option, so I selected it because I thought it would be fun," he said. "Then last year Mr. Childress started talking about Skills USA."

Skills USA is a national competition of technical prowess in fields ranging from metalworking to cosmetology. Beau entered last year confident in the entry he'd created, a Tim Burton-esque bust of a creature with one eye sewn shut and an open mouth full of intricately wrought teeth. Each piece of which, it's worth noting, was created from scratch.

"The sculpture really stood out. I've always been interested in art; I've always had an eye for detail," he said. Indeed, looking at photos on the cracked screen of his iPhone, the sculpture is incredibly advanced for someone so young. Despite the buzz surrounding it at Skills USA, Beau's creation didn't even place.

That just made him want to work harder.

His latest creation for this year will be a self-portrait, beginning with a small 3D model cast in red plastic. The long process from start to finish originated with a full scan of his head using an Xbox Kinect. From there, files of the scan will be used to cut 1/4 inch slabs of metal into sections of the finished piece, to be cut on a plasma table. From there, the sections will be stacked and welded together, then ground around the edges to create what one assumes will be a very heavy work of art.

It's a varied set of skills that Bischoff hopes to one day utilize as an architect. Currently taking engineer and welding courses at MRHS, he hopes to attend Clemson as he pursues architecture as a career (with a side business in, naturally, metal work).

"CATE (Career and Technology Education) classes are incredible," he said. "For people who don't want to work in an office for the rest of their life and actually want to build something, this is a great life. A lot of CATE students look forward to school because they get to go into the shop and make things." *LL*



Q+A

Celebrity Connection: Ken Anderson

STORY BY DEAN ROWLAND
PHOTO BY MARK STAFF

SO WHAT IS A LEGENDARY NFL QUARTERBACK WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS YOUTH AND ADULT LIFE IN THE MIDWEST DOING ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND? LIKE MANY OTHER MIDWESTERNERS, KEN ANDERSON IS LIVING THE GOOD LIFE IN RETIREMENT.

The Cincinnati Bengal — the league MVP in 1981 and four-time pro-bowler — played and coached from 1971 to 2010. Even though the Bengals lost, 26-21, to the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XVI, he set records in the game for the most completions and completion percentage. At retirement, he held a number of NFL records and still holds 31 Bengal milestones today.

Anderson first visited the island in 1976, and he and his wife, Cristy, bought a home at Palmetto Hall Plantation in 2001, where they live full time. The couple has two daughters, a son and a host of grandchildren.

On the island he enjoys playing golf, bike riding, yard work, the beach and socializing with a large group of friends.

The 68-year-old doesn't have a favorite football team, but he does root for teams that have players and coaches he knows.

Here are excerpts from a conversation he had with LOCAL Life:

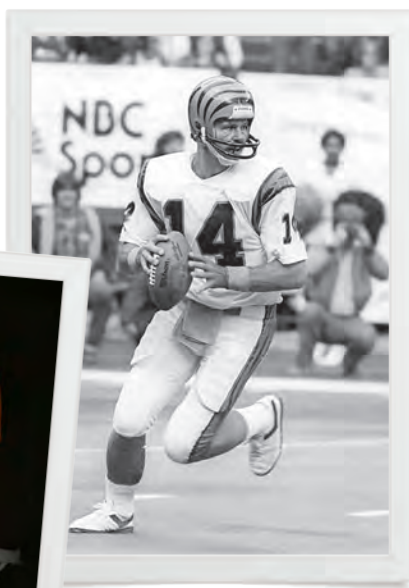
THE MAN BEHIND THE FACEMASK:

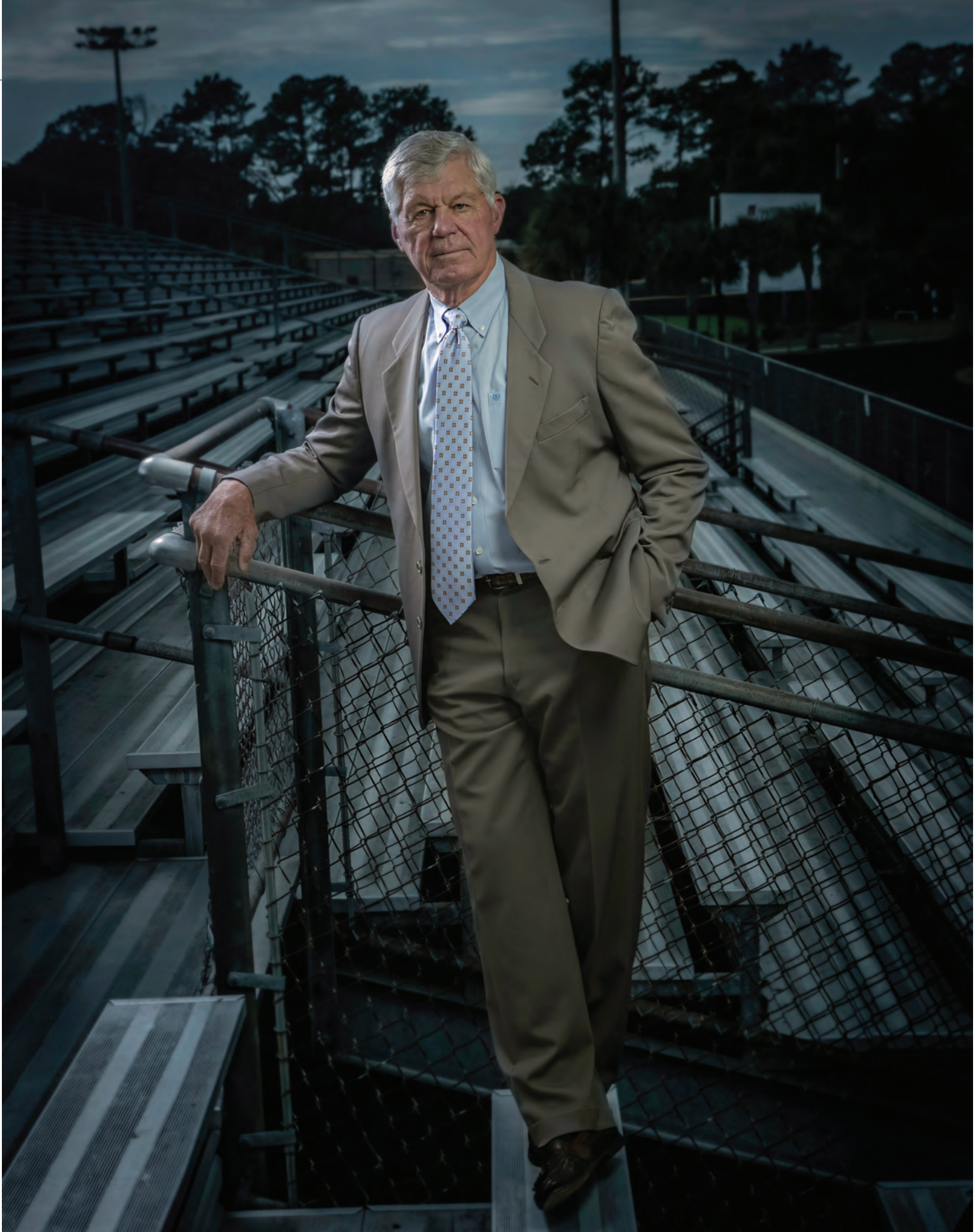
How did playing in the NFL help make you the man you are today? [Ken Anderson] I think it was a lot of the influences I had. Paul Brown had a tremendous influence on my life because he was my coach for my first five years. Bill Walsh was my offensive coach and brought attention to detail. Coach Forrest Gregg toughened up our team not only physically, but mentally. And Lindy Infante was the offensive coordinator for Forrest. I had had a tough time, and Lindy came in and we worked on things and learned how to resurrect yourself. . . . I think football is the ultimate team sport where everyone has to do their job to be successful.

Of all of your NFL accomplishments and records, which one is the most special? [KA] I think it was in 1975 when I won the Man of the Year award, now the Walter Payton Man of the Year. It recognized your accomplishments on the field, as well as off the field. At that point, I was very involved with Easter Seals in Cincinnati.



Find additional images
of Ken Anderson online at
LocalLifeSC.com





KEN ANDERSON spent his entire professional career playing for the Cincinnati Bengals and later returned as a position coach.

Did you accomplish everything you wanted to as a Cincinnati Bengal? [KA] No, we did not win a Super Bowl, we got there but came up 5 points short.

Given your longevity (16 years as a player), are you in good physical and mental health?

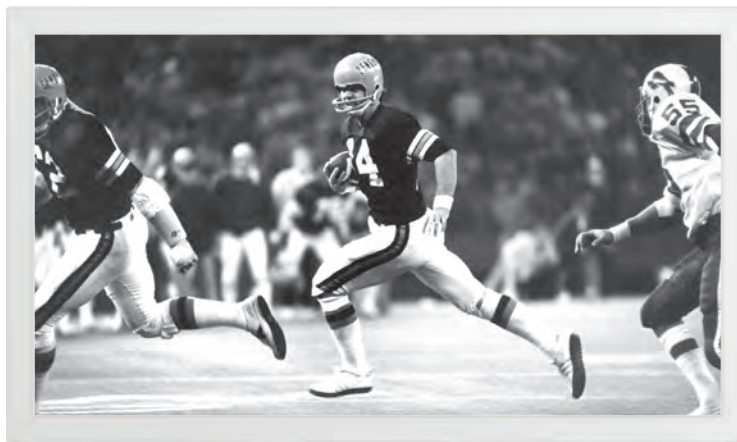
[KA] I am. I get around pretty good. I don't have any aches or pains on a daily basis. Mentally, I think I'm OK, but you should ask my wife that question. She might disagree with me on occasion. Nothing that I'm aware of though. . . . I have agreed to donate my brain for study to see if they can learn anything from me. I'm very concerned about the safety issue. . . . Anything I can do to help the game and help it survive I'm willing to do.

You stayed in football as a player and a coach from 1971 to 2010. Do you miss it? [KA]

Not really. I don't miss Sundays. I like to watch football, but I can't tell you when I've watched a full game from start to finish. . . . In retirement, I don't wake up in the morning and say, 'Oh my gosh, what am I going to do today?' My days are full.

You were born, raised and worked in the Midwest. Why live on Hilton Head?

[KA] No. 1, it's within an easy day's drive to Cincinnati, so if my children or grandkids need us, we don't have to get on a plane. No. 2, I played in that championship game when it was minus 59 degrees with the wind chill. I don't like cold weather. We don't have that in Hilton Head. I like the change of seasons. I enjoy the golf, the beach. Even though we get a lot of visitors, Hilton Head is a small town, which I like.



Describe your lifestyle on the island now. [KA]

I like to wake up early and read the newspaper. I really enjoy the mornings. I like to play golf three days a week, and my wife and I like to walk and bike ride. I typically will spend a couple of hours outside working on my yard. We also go out to dinner a couple times a week, but we like to be home too. My wife loves to cook; I like to grill out.

When out and about, are you recognized here? [KA]

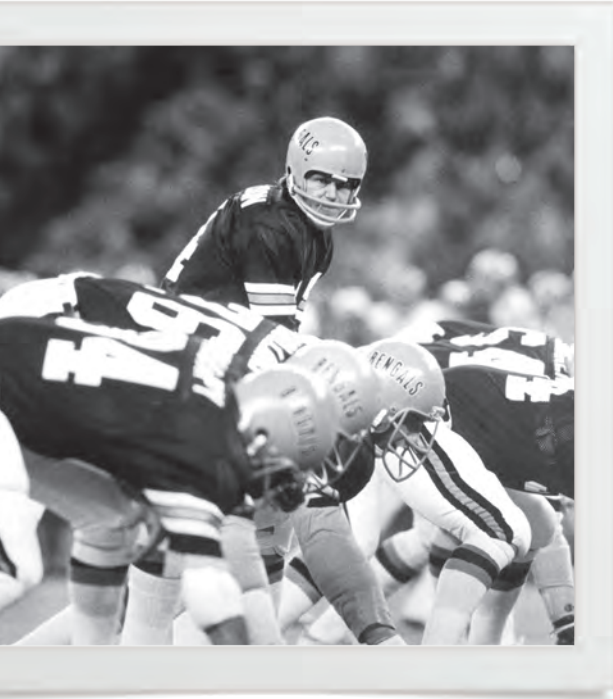
Not a lot. Most of our friends know me from my coaching days, so they call me "Coach," which is kind of fun. We have so many good friends down here. . . . we have our golfing friends, our not-golfing friends, we have wine-drinking friends.

What brings you happiness at the age of 68? [KA]

I'm happiest when my kids come down and bring the grandkids. My daughter asked our 6-year-old granddaughter on their last day visiting, what do you want to do? She said, 'I want to go to Dunkin' Donuts with Grandpa and then go to the pool and have a golf cart ride.' That ain't a bad day. //

SCRAMBLIN' MAN

Because Bill Walsh was his quarterbacks coach, Ken Anderson is considered to be one of the first quarterbacks to run what would become known as the "West Coast Offense."



THE QB'S PICKS

Kenny Anderson and his wife, Cristy, enjoy their retirement life at home on the island's north end in Palmetto Hall Plantation. She does the cooking, and he does the grilling.

But they also have a large host of friends with whom they socialize, and typically will dine out three times a week.

Geographically, their favorite hot spots for dining cover the entire island, as do their culinary preferences.

"I don't know if there's one," he said. "It depends on what we're doing. One of our favorite things to do on Sundays is to ride our bikes to the (Skull Creek) Boathouse."

They also peddle down to Up the Creek for lunch. Other restaurants on their favorites' list include Hickory Tavern, Main Street Café, Red Fish, and Rock-fish Seafood and Steaks at Bomboras, which is the epicenter for Bengal fans on game days.

"One of our neighbors is a co-owner of Tio's, the Latin-American restaurant," he said "We love Captain Woody's, where Russell Anderson is the owner." LL



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SHORT & SWEAT:

5 REASONS TO TAKE YOUR WORKOUT OUTDOORS

STORY BY JEN EDWARDS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE RITTERBECK



BURN BABY BURN Jen Edwards has 20 years of experience as an Athletics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA) certified fitness trainer and is the creator and owner of SWEAT Boot Camp in Hilton Head and Bluffton.

The positive effects of exercise on health and well-being are widely known, but did you know there are specific mental and physical benefits to exercising outside vs. inside? Before you hop on the treadmill to complete your usual indoor routine, consider heading to one of the Lowcountry's scenic parks or beaches for your workout. Here are five reasons why:

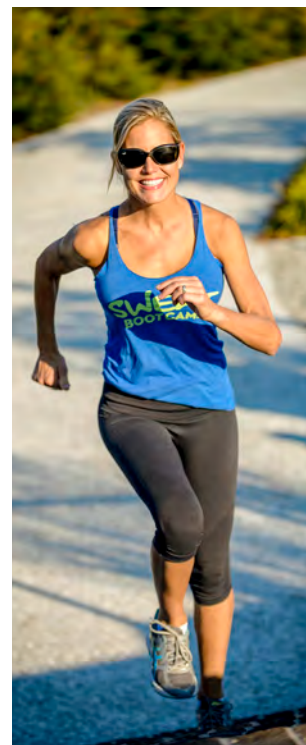
1. You'll increase your endurance. Time flies when you're having fun, or when you're enjoying the Lowcountry sights and sounds around you. Chances are you'll tend to exercise for longer with the distractions of dolphins swimming in front of you, island sunsets painting colors in the sky or white egrets soaring by. Longer workouts will translate into better endurance.

2. You'll reduce stress. Many people spend their days indoors, staring at screens. Getting outside to sweat is an opportunity to unplug from technology like texts, emails and phone calls, and be alone with your thoughts and nature. Your outdoor workout is a perfect time for reflection and relaxation.

3. You'll burn more calories. Your body gets used to the workouts you do very quickly. When that happens, you stop seeing results and plateau. The ever-changing Lowcountry landscape keeps your body guessing as you run, power walk or bike through sand, grass and trails. Wind resistance can also add an extra element of challenge. How many times have you ridden your bike on the beach in one direction, only to turn around to head back, against the wind?

4. You'll get a burst of Vitamin D. Of course, too much sun on unprotected skin is not healthy. Some vitamin D is important for your health and will help to keep your bones strong, decrease your risk of autoimmune diseases and heart disease, and help prevent depression.

5. You can exercise anytime you want. The outdoors is always open and available to host your next workout. There are no gym hours or class times to worry about. You can also go on vacation and know you'll be able to stay fit anywhere, at any hour. That convenience makes you more likely to stick to a regular routine.



The Short & Sweat article series is meant to inspire you to become healthy and fit, while making the most of the beautiful Lowcountry. Each article will feature a new Short & Sweat workout you can do at a local outdoor public venue using only your own body and the environment around you. With year-round pleasant weather, amazing beaches and parks and plentiful wildlife, there's no better location to take advantage of outdoor fitness than Hilton Head and Bluffton.



For more workout
ideas and variations visit
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THE WORKOUT: 10-MINUTE SHELTER COVE CIRCUIT

Located mid-island, overlooking Broad Creek, Shelter Cove is an outdoor park that's perfect for a quick circuit to tone you from head to toe. **Perform each of these drills for 60 seconds of work, followed by 15 seconds of rest. Repeat the circuit for a 10-minute workout.**



TRY THIS:

1. PICNIC TABLE PUSH-UPS Perform push-ups on a picnic tabletop (easier) or bench (harder). Pay attention to keeping your body in a straight line from the top of your head to your feet. Engage your abdominals and focus on squeezing through your chest and shoulders.



TRY THIS:

2. CARDIO STAIRS DRILL Sprint from the top of the stairs to the bottom with a fast run or power walk. The extra incline will work your glutes and hamstrings as you burn fat and calories.



TRY THIS:

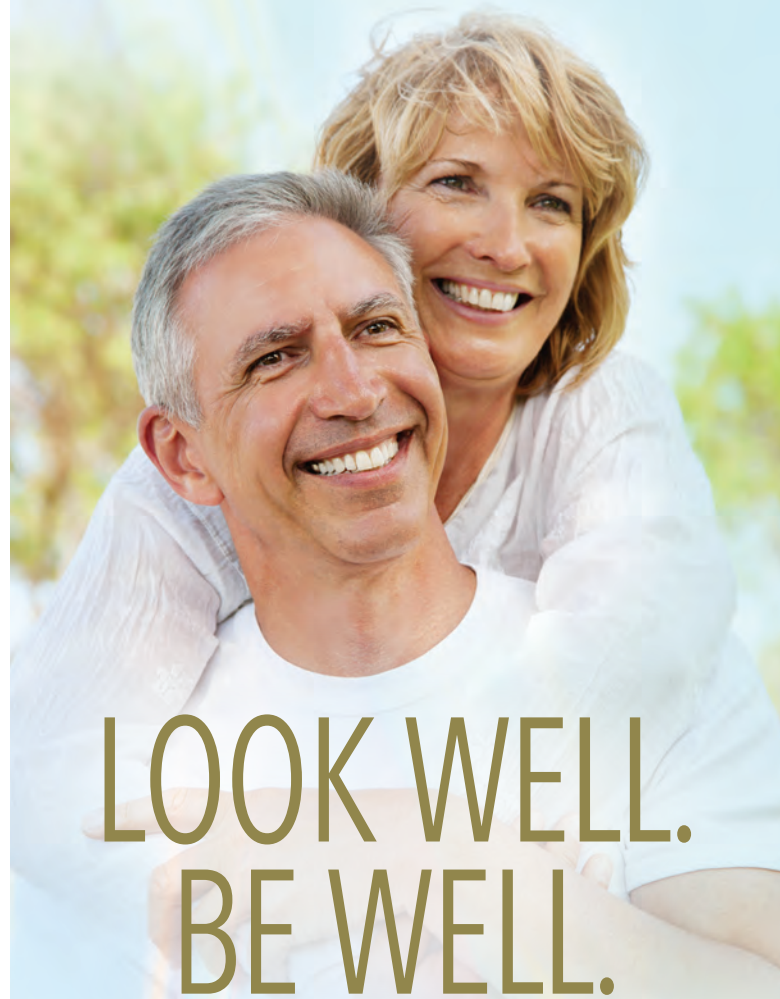
3. SIT-UPS IN THE GRASS A plush, grassy field is the perfect spot to perform a set of sit-ups. With knees bent, arms are out to your sides (easier) or finger tips behind your head (harder) as you roll your torso up and down to work your core.



TRY THIS:

4. STEP-UPS ON THE PAVILION Alternate stepping up with your right foot and left foot on a raised surface. This exercise tones your quadriceps, glutes, and hamstrings while increasing your heart rate and improving endurance. *LL*

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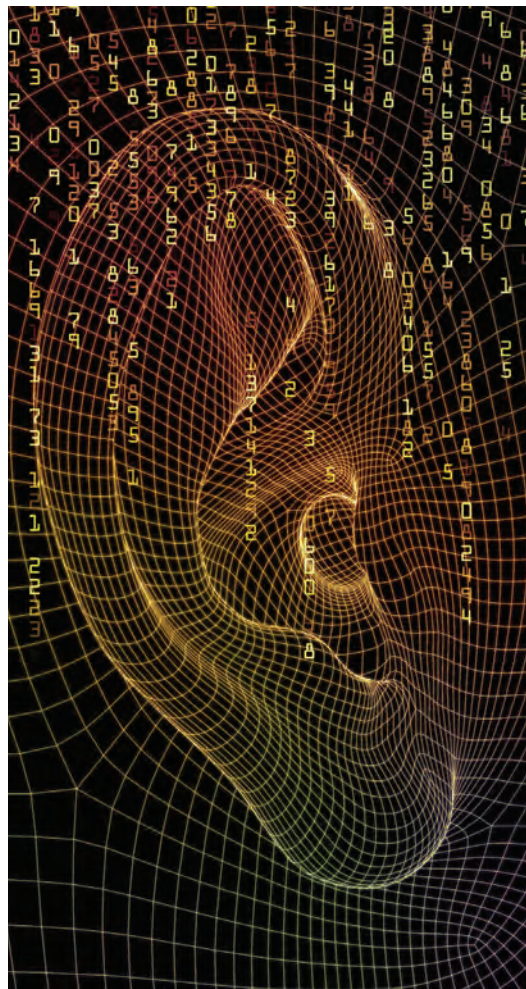
SHARKBANZ 2 The world's first active shark deterrent wearable. The device uses patented magnetic technology developed by marine biologists to deter predatory shark species. \$44



Have you heard?

HIGH-TECH DEVICES BRING HOPE TO THE HARD OF HEARING

STORY BY DEAN ROWLAND



You may have heard the new technology in audiology staggers the imagination. Or maybe you haven't heard, or maybe you can't hear very well at all.

Does this sound familiar? "Usually friends tell them that they're asking them to repeat themselves quite a bit, so friends and family notice it sooner than the patient," said Dr. Tracy Brande, an audiologist at Hilton Head ENT & Sinus Center. "It tends to be gradual, so they don't realize what they're missing because their brain thinks that's normal. And they might have trouble with background noise."

Dr. Debi Lynes, owner of Lynes on Design on the island and a counselor, can relate to that symptom.

"I honestly didn't know I had symptoms, but I felt like when I went to a movie or was watching TV, I would often times struggle for clarity of what I was hearing," said the 64-year-old Lynes. "I felt like I heard OK, but sometimes I would be like, 'what just happened?'"

"I'm a psychologist, and I listen to people all day, and especially with adolescents, they tend to talk really low with their heads down," she added. "I found that I was leaning in so close that I could sense them thinking, 'Give me my 18 inches of personal space.'"

A year ago, Lynes scheduled a routine hearing test, and was told she most likely would need hearing aids within five years.

She decided to be proactive and ordered a pair of high-end, high-tech hearing aids for \$6,000. She said it has comfortably enhanced her lifestyle.

"It's improved my communication with my nine grandkids, because I can hear the damn kids, and I hear

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with clarity," she said. "It has vastly improved my life."

She has a hearing control app for her iPhone called TruLink, and she can directly stream phone calls and music with pristine sound quality and no background buzzing or whistling.

"The direction that hearing aids have been going in are made for iPhones, some Androids, where you can stream your phone directly into your hearing aid," Brande said. "That helps with cellphone calls, but it allows you to turn your phone into a remote microphone, and that would be good for a meeting. Somebody could put their phone next to the speakers and have it streamed to them."

That's another benefit for Lynes who said she attends a lot of professional conferences.

"I would struggle," she said. "I can now put my phone up there and turn it on the microphone, and it will activate a microphone in my ears and, additionally, it will tap in and transpose it on my computer. It's pretty groovy."

The nearly undetectable hearing aid device itself wraps around the top of the ear. It's attached to an ultra-thin wire with a custom-sized chip that serves as the speaker, which is inserted into the ear canal.

"The app on your phone allows you to use your phone as a remote control for the hearing aid," Brande said.

Today's hearing aids are color matched to hair color to mask their appearance in public.



"Unless you're bald, you really don't see it," Brande said. "If someone is looking at you directly from behind, they might be able to see a little bit of it."

She said the industry's technology makes advances every two years, as research and development keeps delivering "newer, better, faster computer chips."

Brande added the best part of her job as an audiologist is when one of her clients has severe hearing loss, gets fitted for an aid, and their hearing dramatically improves.

"Their faces light up," she said. "It makes you feel really good, like you're doing something really valuable." LL

EAR-VOLUTION

Hearing aids and other assistive listening devices have come a long way since the first rudimentary attempts at improving hearing.

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1



2



3



4



5



6



7



SMART WATCHES

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[2] KARIOS HYBRID The world's first mechanical smartwatch hybrid. It will keep you informed whether it's an email, incoming call or text message. It also pushes out notifications from apps and boasts a stop watch, elapsed time counter and a GPS-enabled automatic world time display function. \$2,549

[3] FITBIT IONIC This smartwatch can store and play more than 300 songs and access popular apps, and the PurePulse heart-rate tracker gives you data to help optimize your workouts. \$300

[4] SAMSUNG GEAR S3 CLASSIC Combines timeless design with the latest in mobile technology, including a smart display, water resistance, mobile payments, LTE connectivity and built-in GPS. \$350

[5] APPLE WATCH SERIES 3 Make calls and send texts with just your watch; stream music from your wrist; ask Siri to set a reminder, send a calendar invitation or give you directions, all without your phone. \$400

[6] MONDAINE HELVETICA 1 This watch is limited to 1957 watches, a nod to the year Helvetica was created. Unique touches on the special edition include an engraved "1 of 1957" on the side of the case and red typographic details on the sub-dial (displaying the date, activity and sleep tracking) as well as accenting on the back of the case. \$1,000

[7] TAG HEUER CONNECTED MODULAR 45 This Swiss-made beauty is interchangeable with an Haute Horlogerie mechanical module, offering a vast choice of materials, colors and combinations. It is a luxury smartwatch which can be completely tailored to suit your mood. \$1,700

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MAKEUP Maria Noel **LOCATION** Sonesta Resort Hilton Head Island



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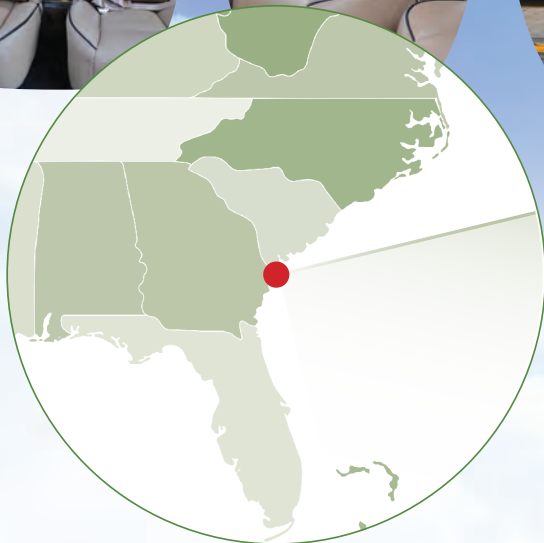
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What's old is new

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The 1960s were an age of fashion innovation. Slim fits, narrow cuts and clean lines define mod fashion. But mod fashion is crazy and all over the place, and it's hard to pin down one all-encompassing "mod" look. With that in mind, LOCAL Life stylist Roxanne Gilleland selected these items to begin your transition to '60s chic. Fabrics include tartan, wool, silk and plaid and colors are dark, moody and sophisticated. All items are available at local shops and boutiques.



Turn back the clock.

1. Barbour Tartan Boucle Scarf (Available at Outside Hilton Head) 2. Jack Black The Grand Tour Collection of TSA-approved travel products 3. St. Louis Rey Reserva Especial Titan Maduro Cigars 4. Leatherman Wave Multi-Tool (Available at Outside Hilton Head) 5. Barbour Tartan Hip Flask with Cups (Available at Outside Hilton Head) 6. Jack Black Signature Scent Collection 7. Peter Millar Great Glen Windowpane Soft Wool Jacket 8. Peter Millar Multi-Season Merino Flat-Front Trousers (All other items available at Knickers)

Shers

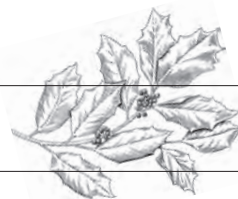


Classy, colorful, trendy.

1. Woven Bead Choker with adjustable tassels 2. Embroidered, hard case Henna Minaudière 3. Sequin Printed Plaid Dress
4. Wool and silk twill Cut-Out Dress 5. Retreat Wristlet/Clutch 6. Around the Moon Cuff 7. Firefly Bellflower Tassel Earrings
(Dresses available at Worth. All other items available at Spartina 449)



Holiday Gift Guide



December is finally here, and that means it's time for some serious gift giving. This year, we've collected a list of items that all the different people in your life will enjoy. Best of all, each one of these gifts can be found locally.

Brackish Bow Ties \$195

Handcrafted to reflect the natural beauty of each feather, our ties offer a memorable yet sophisticated look.

Coastal Provisions
coastalprovisionsco.com



Pavilion Paisley Square Scarf \$44

Your most versatile wardrobe piece yet

Spartina 449
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Blue Heron Hilton Head Nautical Chart \$150

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Copper Penny
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Unique, intricate hand beaded necklaces *Starting price \$100*

Made in Bali by artist, Kim Erixson

Antiques & Garden Collectibles Shop at The Greenery
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By Chris Williams, Artist in Residence at Palmetto Bluff

Outside Hilton Head

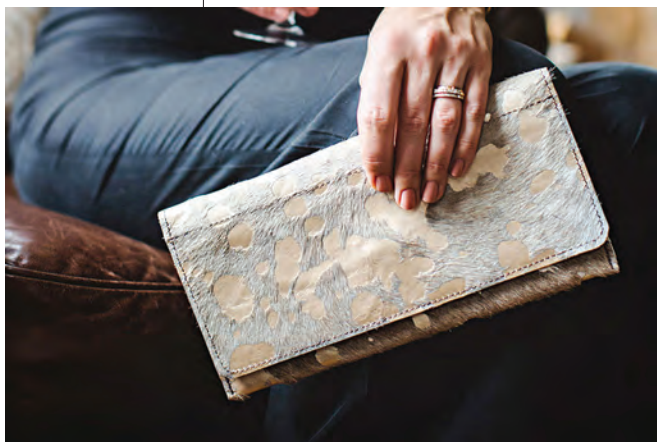
outsidehiltonhead.com

Satchel Savannah Elizabeth Envelope Clutch \$190

In Acid Wash Hide

Traveling Chic Boutique

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Beachcomber Corduroy Pant Crimson with Leg Lamp \$168

Classic 14 Wale Corduroy Pant

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Oval Bowl \$630

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Find additional images
of Nick Unangst online at
LocalLifeSC.com

Beyond the menu

A CONVERSATION
WITH NICK
UNANGST

STORY BY ROBYN PASSANTE
PHOTO BY LLOYD WAINSCOTT

Thirty-seven years ago, Nick Unangst took a side job as a cook in an Italian restaurant in St. Louis to help pay his way through college. By his senior year he quit school, realizing he was already doing what would become his life's work.

Today, Unangst is corporate chef for SERG Restaurant Group, overseeing the menus and kitchens of eight of the group's 12 eateries, including the newly opened Skull Creek Dockside.

We recently caught up with Unangst to chat about food trends, tastes and more.

What's the biggest mistake you've ever made in the kitchen? [Nick

Unangst] When I was at Skull Creek Boathouse, the Town of Hilton Head had ordered sandwiches for 50 people for a luncheon, and I had put the wrong date down. They called me and asked where the sandwiches were, and I said, 'I'll be there next week.' They said, 'No, it's today.' I said, 'Oh. Well then I'll be there today.' We went all hands on deck; we were 45 minutes late, but we got it done. A chef's worst nightmare is forgetting a party. It's a cardinal sin. But lesson learned.

MAN BEHIND THE MENUS

Nick Unangst is corporate chef
for SERG Restaurant Group.





What's the biggest misconception about chefs? [NU] People are afraid to cook for chefs, but chefs eat worse than anybody. We're eating a chicken finger on the run; we're eating whatever right before it goes in the trash. It's not like we're sitting around eating steaks and lobster and shrimp and chicken. Sometimes we don't even get a chance to eat. But everybody's OK with that; it's just the way it is.

What's your favorite style of cuisine to cook? [NU] Italian or Mediterranean. I like the simplicity of it, and the quality of the ingredients speak for themselves. The older I get, the more my tastes change. When you're younger, you're OK with big gloppy, gloopy plates of stuff with tons of components, and as you get older you can't eat that way anymore, so you tend not to cook that way anymore.

Do you have a favorite ingredient? [NU] Fresh ground black pepper, and garlic in moderation. I used to use so much garlic it would be coming out of my pores. I went to Italy a couple years ago and I realized they don't really use that much garlic. They use everything in controlled doses, so there's more harmony on the plate. So I think garlic has its place, but I've cut way back on it. It's like being tickled rather than being punched in the face.

What do you like to cook in your own kitchen? [NU] I love eggs; breakfast is one of my favorite meals of the day, and I don't get it that much. Usually it's a V8, banana, half a sandwich, maybe some oatmeal, nothing real clever. So when I'm off, I'll do eggs and ham and fried potatoes.

Is there anything you make for others that you would never care to eat? [NU] When we get the request for vegan.

Tofu is not your jam, Nick? [NU] Actually, one of my failed dishes at Skull Creek Boathouse was a faux fish sandwich. I treated tofu like a fillet of flounder, I did a beer batter on it, fried it, put lettuce, tomato, pickles and tartar sauce on a toasted bun. And when you closed your eyes and ate it, you had no idea it was tofu. It could have been a mild fish sandwich. I thought 'This is gonna be great! This is gonna put me on the map!'.... The only day anybody bought it was the day after we took it off the menu.

What is the next big food trend coming our way? [NU] I think goat's going to be the next big protein, because it's really sustainable. It's fast growing, it's inexpensive, and it tastes good, especially in the hands of somebody who knows how to prepare it.

Is it being served at your restaurants? [NU] It's not on any of our menus right now. I'm trying to get my partners to embrace some of these things; they're not as chefy as I am. But I think in another five years, you'll see goat popping up more. LL

EAT MORE CHOWDAH!

We asked Nick Unangst for a great recipe and he delivered in a big way, providing the famous Skull Creek Boathouse Seafood Chowder recipe, scaled down for home use.



SCB Seafood Chowder

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. unsalted butter
1 ½ cups flour
1 ½ quarts half and half
1 quart chopped sea clams (may use canned)
2 ½ cups yellow onion (diced small)
2 ½ cups celery (diced small)
2 cups potatoes (peeled and diced medium)
1 ½ cups clam consomme
1 ¼ tsp. sugar
2 ¼ tsp. black pepper (fresh ground)
2 ½ tsp. Kosher salt

STEP 1: Sauté celery and onions in butter until soft and translucent, add flour to make roux. Slowly add half and half, stirring constantly to avoid lumps. Add rest of ingredients except the potatoes and bring to a boil. Reduce and simmer for 10 minutes.

INGREDIENTS

¼ pound fresh local shrimp, chopped
¼ pound fresh scallops (Bay or Chopped Sea)
¼ pound fresh local white fish (grouper, flounder, bass, etc.)

STEP 2: Steam potatoes to just tender, steam shrimp, white fish, and scallops and add with potatoes before serving, garnish with fresh chopped parsley. Enjoy!

Healthy holiday recipes with Hester Hodde

STORY BY BECCA EDWARDS + PHOTO BY CELIA G PHOTOGRAPHY

Becca Edwards is a wellness professional, freelance writer, and owner of b.e.WELL+b.e.CREATIVE (bewellbecreative.com)



COUNT MEMORIES NOT CALORIES

Hester Hodde's healthy holiday recipe ideas will delight everyone in the family from roasted brussels sprouts to savory sauteed kale.



Hester Hodde truly enjoys the art of cooking — from carefully selecting nutritious staples and carefully measuring ingredients, to the joy on friends' and family members' faces as they bite into her food. Hodde believes cooking is a creative outlet that allows us to savor life and spread joy to others, especially during the holidays. Sharing some of her favorite recipes, Hodde will get you in the spirit of the season while still toasting to your health.



Lentil and Brown Rice Soup

INGREDIENTS (Serves 6-8)

5 cups vegetable or chicken broth
3 cups water
1 ½ cups lentils
1 cup brown rice (Example: Lundberg's Wild Blend with brown and wild rice)
2 pounds canned small diced tomatoes
3 carrots, peeled and cut into ½-inch pieces
2 stalks of celery, chopped into ½-inch pieces
3 cloves garlic minced
½ teaspoon dried basil
½ teaspoon dried oregano
½ teaspoon dried thyme

DIRECTIONS: Combine ingredients in a stock pot. Bring to a boil, cover and lower to a simmer. Simmer for 45 minutes. When soup is cooked, stir in ½ cup fresh parsley chopped, 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar, Kosher salt and ground black pepper to taste. *Option: Add chopped chicken. (Note: This freezes well and makes a nice gift.)



Roasted Brussels Sprouts

INGREDIENTS (Serves 6)

1 pound Brussels sprouts trimmed and halved from top to stem
¼ pound turkey bacon chopped
2 cloves garlic peeled and minced
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
2 tablespoons chicken or vegetable broth
Kosher salt and ground black pepper
Freshly grated parmesan cheese

DIRECTIONS: Heat oven to 425 degrees. Cover a heavy duty rimmed baking sheet with foil. Toss sprouts and garlic with olive oil and spread on the sheet, turning the cut sides of the sprouts down. Roast for 25 minutes. Mix broth and vinegar in a measuring cup. Remove pan from oven and drizzle sprouts with broth mixture. Sprinkle with parmesan. Roast 5 more minutes.

Savory Sautéed Kale

INGREDIENTS (Serves 4)

¼ cup olive oil
3 cloves garlic peeled and sliced into slivers
¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
1 large bag of kale stemmed and chopped
½ cup vegetable stock
Kosher salt and pepper
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

DIRECTIONS: Heat oil in a large sauté pan over medium high heat. Sauté garlic and red pepper flakes for one minute. (Note: Do not let the garlic brown or it will be bitter.) Add kale and stock to pan and turn heat up to medium high. Cover and cook for 5-7 minutes until soft but still green. Remove cover and cook until liquid is evaporated. Season with salt, pepper and vinegar.

Zesty Spice Rub for Broiled Fish

INGREDIENTS (RUB)

1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon dried basil
1 tablespoon fennel seeds
½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons fresh lemon zest from 2 lemons (save lemons to juice for fish)
Mix with ¼ cup olive oil to make a paste.

DIRECTIONS: In a spice grinder, combine the ingredients and grind. Mix with olive oil to make the paste.

INGREDIENTS (FISH)

4 fish steaks or thick filets (Example: Swordfish)

DIRECTIONS: Spread zesty spice rub over fish. Broil on each side 4-5 minutes per inch.



Honey Broiled Citrus Fruit with Coconut or Vanilla Yogurt

INGREDIENTS

3 red grapefruits
4 naval oranges
½ teaspoon cinnamon
4 tablespoons honey
2 containers of Greek coconut or vanilla yogurt

DIRECTIONS: Zest the oranges and set zest aside. Peel the oranges and grapefruit, removing the pith and seeds. Cut the fruit into ½ inch discs and place on a foil-covered baking sheet. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle cinnamon over top. Broil until honey is bubbling. Place fruit discs on dessert plates and dollop with yogurt. Sprinkle with orange zest.



THE GUEST LIST

Hester Hodde has kept a record of all her dinner parties with the guests and menus since 1985. *LL*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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and a very Happy New Year.

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New chef puts fresh spin on an old favorite

ALEXANDER'S IS BACK WITH A NEW LOOK AND MENU.



Find additional images
of Sean Carroll online at
LocalLifeSC.com

STORY BY AMY COYNE BREDESON
PHOTO BY LLOYD WAINSCOTT



FIRE IN THE HOLE Alexander's new menu pays tribute to many classic favorites such as stuffed flounder, shrimp and grits, and Wiener schnitzel, with seasonally inspired cuisine, locally caught seafood and many locally sourced ingredients.

After closing due to damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, Alexander's Restaurant & Wine Bar reopened in March under new ownership, with a fresh look and new menu.

Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort bought the upscale Hilton Head Island seafood restaurant, refurbished the building and hired Sean Carroll as the new chef de cuisine.

The Harley Davidsons that once adorned the restaurant have been replaced with beach-themed art created by local artists. The menu includes some of the classic Alexander's dishes, such as Wiener Schnitzel and stuffed flounder, as well as new dishes that reflect more of Carroll's style.

"Making food that tastes really good is super important," Carroll said. "Even if I'm doing the simplest thing, like a crab cake, I want it to be the best crab cake that it could possibly be. . . . You're only as good as your last dish. So, putting your all into everything you do is extremely important, and I take it very seriously."

Carroll gets excited about using seasonal items in his dishes - heirloom tomatoes and fresh corn in the summer, gazpacho in the fall and pasta in the spring.

One of Carroll's favorites, especially when it gets cold outside, is the braised beef short rib with Crème fraiche whipped potato, baby spinach, roasted tomato, "red eye" bordelaise and a beer-battered onion ring on top.

"When you eat it, it kind of just warms you up on the inside," Carroll said.

For dessert, Carroll suggests his Granny Smith apple cobbler. The menu also features desserts by Hilton Head Social Bakery.

Carroll uses locally caught seafood and many locally sourced ingredients in his cooking. He gets the majority of the seafood from Lowcountry Shellfish in Charleston. Along with high-quality local seafood, Carroll said the company provides him with information on the boat, who caught the seafood and where it was caught.

"Naturally, some of the people who have been coming for years, were initially apprehensive," Carroll said. "But I have turned them into believers."

Carroll said guests have responded positively to the new menu. One patron gave the following review, which can be found on the restaurant's website: "Alexander's is back! We've eaten here several times since the re-opening, and each time has been delightful. The new chef is



SOUTHERN ROOTS Sean Carroll is from Williamsburg, Va., graduated from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Atlanta and went on to work at The Inn on Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C., before coming to Hilton Head Island.

creative, and everything is cooked perfectly. A good combination of new menu items and old favorites."

Originally from Virginia, Carroll moved to Georgia to attend Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Atlanta. After school, he worked for restaurants in Atlanta, Augusta, Ga., and Asheville, N.C. When Carroll was offered a position at Alexander's, he and his wife fell in love with the Lowcountry, and he took the job.

Carroll has always enjoyed preparing food for people and loves being able to wow them with his skills.

"You certainly can't be in this industry and not love what you do," Carroll said. "I love it because everybody has to eat, and if people are going to eat food, I want them to eat my food. I enjoy it because it gives me the opportunity to showcase some kind of artistic skill while also fulfilling the need of feeding somebody." *LL*



HAVE YOUR CAKE

The blackened crab cake (left) at Alexander's features giant white beans, roasted tomato, shiitake, and lobster remoulade.

Got a great recipe?
LOCAL Life wants it.
Email all the ingredi-
ents, the instructions
and a photo of the
dish to lance.hanlin@
wearelocallife.com

Holiday Recipes from local restaurants

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH FRIENDS,
FAMILY AND THESE FESTIVE RECIPES

HUDSON'S SEAFOOD HOUSE ON THE DOCKS

Oyster stew

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. fresh oysters
½ lb. butter
1 onion
1 fennel
1 shallot
5 stalks of celery
2 qt. heavy cream
½ tsp. mustard seeds
½ tsp. fennel seeds
1 tbsp. celery salt
1 tbsp. crushed red pepper
½ tsp. dill
½ cup minced garlic
¼ fresh parsley
salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS: Small dice onion, fennel, shallot and celery. In a sauce pot, melt butter on medium heat. Add garlic and cook until golden brown. In the same pot, add all diced vegetables along with the rest of ingredients except heavy cream and oysters. Cook vegetables until onions are translucent and then add heavy cream and oysters. Turn it to high heat and bring to a boil. When it comes to a boil cut the heat off, add parsley and salt and pepper.

THE PEARL KITCHEN & BAR

Roasted Butternut and Spaghetti Squash Au Gratin

INGREDIENTS

1 large butternut squash, peeled, seeded and ¾ inch cubed
1 spaghetti squash, split symmetrically and seeded
1 large shallot, minced
Garlic, minced
¼ lb. butter
⅞ cup all-purpose flour
6 sprigs thyme, wrapped in butcher's twine
2 sprigs sage, wrapped in butcher's twine
2 qt. heavy cream
1 cup bread crumbs
3 cups fresh Parmesan
½ cup chopped parsley

DIRECTIONS: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Toss butternut squash in butter, salt and pepper. Roast cubed butternut squash until tender, but not overdone. Roast spaghetti squash until tender but not overdone, and scoop out the squash from the skin. Reserve. In a large saucepan, sweat shallots, garlic and herbs until translucent. Add flour and make a roux. Add heavy cream and 2 cups Parmesan, and heat until thickened. Add salt and pepper to taste. In a sprayed 15x10 baking dish, place squash and spread evenly. Pour cream and Parmesan mixture over squash then cover with remaining Parmesan, bread crumbs and parsley. Cover with foil and bake at 425 degrees for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake until golden brown.





MICHAEL ANTHONY'S CUCINA ITALIANA

Panettone bread pudding

INGREDIENTS

4-6 cups one inch squares of Panettone (firmly packed)
 1/2 cup chocolate chips
 1/2 cup orange liqueur (Gran Gala or Grand Marnier)
 8 extra large egg yolks
 1/4 cup honey
 1 teaspoon pure vanilla paste
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/2 cup sugar
 2 cups heavy cream, warmed
 4 cups milk, warmed
 Powdered sugar, for garnish

DIRECTIONS: Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Grease a rectangular baking dish (11x7x2) and set aside. Place the Panettone squares in the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with the chocolate chips and drizzle with the orange liqueur. In a large mixing bowl, combine egg yolks, honey, vanilla, cinnamon and sugar. Whisk the mixture until light and fluffy. Add the warm cream and milk. Whisk until well blended. Pour the mixture through a fine strainer into a large pitcher. Pour the custard over the Panettone squares and set aside for about 15 minutes to allow the bread to be thoroughly soaked with the custard.

Cover the dish with foil. Bake at 325 degrees for approximately one hour or until the custard is just set. A toothpick, when inserted, should come out clean. Remove the baking dish from the oven and allow to cool on a wire rack to room temperature.

When ready to serve, cut the pudding into squares and dust with powdered sugar. Top with a dollop of gelato, whipped cream or crème Anglaise.



CAPTAIN WOODY'S

Candy cane martini

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 oz. Smirnoff Peppermint
 1 oz. Bailey's Irish Cream

DIRECTIONS: Mix ingredients. Shake. Top with whipped cream and candy cane sprinkles. *LL*



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RESTAURANT news

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The Pearl wins Taste of the Season award

The Pearl Kitchen & Bar won the People's Choice Award for Best Cuisine at Taste of the Season, held Nov. 17 by the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce at the Country Club of Hilton Head. The Bluffton restaurant served pan-seared diver scallops with romesco, gouda grits, and toasted almonds. **Holy Tequila** was the runner-up for their prime rib taco and Fallgarita. More than 30 chefs and restaurants were at the event.

Juice Hive earns national recognition

The Juice Hive and Health Emporium

in Bluffton has received national recognition for two of its featured items.

The Juice Hive's **Shiso Leaf Kimchi** and **Low Country Kimchi** were both named finalists in the 2018 Good Food Awards national food competition. The contest recognizes food producers based on both taste and sustainability criteria. Both items were top scorers in this year's pool of more than 2,000 entries.



Grab Group opening off-island restaurant

Coastal Restaurants and Bars, a restaurant group that owns eight eateries on Hilton Head Island, recently announced plans to open a family-style seafood restaurant off-island. The restaurant will be in Port Royal, where the 11th Street Dockside was located. The yet-to-be-named restaurant will feature an oyster bar and expanded outdoor seating. The restaurant building has been empty since it was damaged in a 2015 fire. The new restaurant hopes to open in the spring.



Charbar finishes 20th at World Burger Championship

Charbar Co. ranked 20th out of 38 contestants at the World Burger Championship held Nov. 9-13 in Orange Beach, Ala.

The restaurant entered its **Wine Jam Wagyu burger**. Ingredients include caramelized yellow onions, balsamic vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, Port wine, Pancetta, basil, Boursin cheese and bone marrow butter on a toasted brioche bun. The restaurant qualified for the competition by winning the state burger title earlier this year. Finishing 20th automatically earned Charbar an entry into the 2018 competition.



Sprout Momma now offering takeout lunch

Good news for fans of **Sprout Momma**. The mother and son artisan bakery on Cardinal Road on Hilton Head is now offering "grab and go" breakfast and lunch meals. Choices include sandwiches, salads and several vegan options, in addition to its popular baked goods. Breakfast service starts at 7 a.m. followed by lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays. The bakery recently hired Caitlin Anderson, who worked in the Publix bakery the past 15 years.

hot tech

FOOD & BEVERAGE



AMAZON DASH WAND Uses Alexa to help you find recipes, convert cups to ounces, buy and reorder essentials, find nearby restaurants and more. Say it or scan a barcode and it's added to your shopping cart. \$20

JUNE OVEN Uses an HD camera and the latest advances in artificial intelligence to instantly identify common foods you put inside and recommends custom cook

programs. It also preheats three times faster than a standard oven. \$1,495



MR. COFFEE SMART OPTIMAL BREW Brew a cup from anywhere. Schedule or adjust brew time and set up reminders through your device so coffee is fresh and hot whenever you want it. \$150



PHILIPS AIRFRYER Allows you to prepare healthier versions of your family's favorite foods by frying them with a tablespoon or less of oil and draining excess fat while cooking. \$300



DROP SCALE This sleek scale covered in heat-resistant silicone can weigh in ounces or grams. A touch button on the front allows you to interact with the app without ever tapping your device with floury fingers. \$80



WACACO MINIPRESSO NS A portable espresso machine that helps you prepare amazing shots, with a quality close to that of a traditional machine. Compatible with Nespresso capsules, \$60

BEN & JERRY'S EUPHORI-LOCK I'm terribly sorry, but there is no "u" in "my pint." \$10

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frankieboneshhi.com
1301 Main Street, Hilton Head Island
843-682-4455

HUDSON'S SEAFOOD HOUSE ON THE DOCKS

Seafood The Carmines family owns a fishing fleet and oyster farm. As a result, much of their seafood originates from local waters. Most tables feature incredible views of Port Royal Sound. This place is an institution. \$\$
hudsonsonthedocks.com
1 Hudson Road, Hilton Head Island
843-681-2772

OKKO

Asian Specializing in contemporary Japanese and Thai cuisine. The atmosphere is sleek and upscale. Watch the hibachi chef prepare your meal to order from a selection of fresh meats, seafood and vegetables. \$\$
okkohhi.com
95 Mathews Drive, Suite C,
Hilton Head Island
843-341-3377

RUBY LEE'S

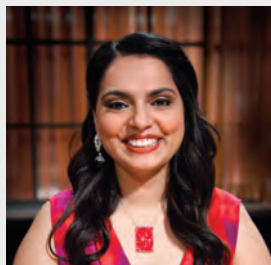
Southern A hotspot for sports, blues and soul food. Owned by Hilton Head's former high school football coach, Tim Singleton. Great Southern-style food at an affordable price. \$\$
rubylees.com
46 Old Wild Horse Road,
Hilton Head Island
843-681-7829
19 Dunnigans Alley,
Hilton Head Island
843-785-7825

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skullcreekboathouse.com
397 Squire Pope Road,
Hilton Head Island
843-681-3663



MANEET CHAUHAN HEADLINES CELEBRITY CHEF DINNER



Celebrity chef, restaurateur, author and television personality **Maneet Chauhan** is headlining the Celebrity Chef Tour Dinner on Feb. 22 at Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort. The event is part of the 2018 Hilton Head Island Seafood Festival. Chauhan is the executive chef and co-owner Chauhan Ale and Masala House in Nashville, Tenn. To purchase tickets and for more information, go to HiltonHeadSeafoodFestival.com.

STREET MEET

American The menu at this family-friendly tavern is full of surprises — from its award-winning hot dogs to

healthy options such as the Power Bowl and the Skinny Bowl. It's also the unofficial headquarters for Cleveland Browns fans. \$\$
streetmeethhi.com
95 Mathews Drive,
Hilton Head Island
843-842-2570

WISE GUYS

American, Steakhouse Unique to the island for its contemporary, sophisticated and urban feel. Each steak is prepared in a Montague Steakhouse broiler, which sears the meat at temperatures up to 1,800 degrees. \$\$\$
wiseguysshhi.com
1513 Main St.,
Hilton Head Island
843-842-8866

HILTON HEAD - MID ISLAND

ALEXANDER'S

Seafood One of the island's most beloved restaurants, now operated by Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort. Fresh local seafood and a great early bird special. \$\$\$
alexandersrestaurant.com
76 Queens Folly Rd., Hilton Head Island
843-785-4999

ALFRED'S

American European-trained executive chef Alfred Kettering combines some of the most appealing elements of classic American and Continental cuisine. \$\$\$
alfredshiltonhead.com
807 William Hilton Pkwy, Suite 1200,
Hilton Head Island
843-341-3117

ELA'S BLU WATER GRILLE

Seafood Exceptional water views, fresh catch seafood, prime cut steaks and a sophisticated atmosphere. Family owned and operated. \$\$\$
elasgrille.com
1 Shelter Cove Lane, Hilton Head Island
843-785-3030

FISHCAMP AT BROAD CREEK

Seafood The pet-friendly patio of this waterfront eatery offers a full bar, backyard games and live music. A good time will be had by all. \$\$
fishcampshhi.com
11 Simmons Road,
Hilton Head Island
843-842-2267

THE FRENCH BAKERY

Bakery In addition to their loyal customers, the Belka family provides bread for many local restaurants, golf clubs, hotels and Whole Foods. \$\$
frenchbakeryhiltonhead.com
28 Shelter Cove Lane,
Shelter Cove Towne Centre
843-342-5420

HAROLD'S DINER

Diner The owner and head chef love to give customers a hard time as part of the entertainment. Harold's serves up one of the best burgers on the island. \$
641 William Hilton Parkway,
Hilton Head Island
843-301-0895

JANE BISTRO AND BAR

American Anne Sergent, executive chef and owner, offers a classic menu with an urban twist. Try the toasted pecan cranberry chicken salad and coconut cake. \$\$
janehhi.com
28 Shelter Cove Lane,
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843-686-5696

LUCKY ROOSTER KITCHEN + BAR

American, Southern An American bistro with Southern soul. The menu is small and focused, but offers a large variety of refined comfort foods and adventurous dishes. \$\$
luckyroosterhhi.com
841 William Hilton Parkway,
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OLD OYSTER FACTORY

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oldoysterfactory.com
101 Marshland Road,
Hilton Head Island
843-681-6040

POSEIDON

Seafood The most popular restaurant in booming Shelter Cove Towne Centre. Great lunch and dinner menus with late night events on the Rooftop Bar. \$\$
poseidonhhi.com
38 Shelter Cove Lane,
Shelter Cove Towne Centre
843-341-3838

RUAN THAI CUISINE

Thai Authentic central Thai cooking at its best. Made-from-scratch recipes have been passed down through generations. The Shrimp Pad Thai is amazing. \$\$
myruanthaihut.com
811 William Hilton Pkwy,
Hilton Head Island
843-785-8575
1107 Main St., Hilton Head Island
843-681-3700
26 Towne Drive, Bluffton
843-757-9479

SANTA FE CAFE

Southwestern Authentic Southwestern cuisine. After dark, dine under the stars in the open-air climate controlled rooftop cantina. The Painted Desert Soup is fantastic. \$\$
santafehhi.com
807 William Hilton Parkway,
Hilton Head Island
843-785-3838

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seagrassgrille.com
807 William Hilton Pkwy, Suite 1000,
Hilton Head Island
843-785-9990

HILTON HEAD - SOUTH END

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annieohhi.com
124 Arrow Road, Hilton Head Island
843-341-2664

THE BIG BAMBOO CAFE

American A South Pacific themed cafe across from the beach specializing in local seafood and salads. Live music with a great beer selection. \$\$
bigbamboocafe.com
1 N Forest Beach Dr, Suite 210,
Coligny Plaza
843-686-3443



PINOT ENVY WINE DINNER PLANNED



ELA's Blu Water Grille is hosting a special five-course dinner paired with a selection of Pinot wines at 6 p.m. on Dec. 13. Wines include Pighin Pinot Grigio, Masi Masianco Pinot Grigio, Craggy Range Martinborough Pinot Noir, Foley Santa Rita Hills Pinot Noir and Domaine Carneros Pinot Noir. Foods include clams, mussels, calamari, tuna carpaccio, applejack Chilean sea bass and beef tenderloin. The cost is \$90 per person. For more information call 843-785-3030.

THE BLACK MARLIN BAYSIDE GRILL

Seafood, Steakhouse Featured on the Food Network. Great selections of fresh local seafood. Dine inside or out on the expansive covered patio. \$\$
blackmarlinhhi.com
86 Helmsman Way, Hilton Head Island
843-785-4950

BULLIES BBQ

Barbecue Lean pork, chicken and brisket slow-smoked over hickory and mesquite woods. The hot slaw must be tried. \$\$
bulliesbbq.com
3 Regency Parkway, Hilton Head Island
843-686-7427

ELA'S
ON THE WATER

Join us this holiday season!

OPEN FOR LUNCH M-F 11-2 | DINNER DAILY @ 5
SUNDAY BRUNCH 11-2 | CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

ONE SHELTER COVE LANE | HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC
843.785.3030 | WWW.ELASGRILLE.COM





CAPTAIN WOODY'S

Seafood A neighborhood bar and grill specializing in shrimp, clams, oysters and signature fish sandwiches. \$\$
captainwoodys.com
6 Target Road, Hilton Head Island
843-785-2400
17 State of Mind St., Bluffton
843-757-6222

CHARBAR CO.

Burgers Award-winning gourmet burgers. Additionally, it features specialty craft beers and music memorabilia spanning the decades. \$\$
charbar.co
33 Office Park Road, Suite 213, Hilton Head Island
843-785-2427

CHARLIE'S L'ETOILE VERTE

Seafood, American A family owned and operated restaurant that specializes in fresh seafood, lamb and steak. The menu is written by hand each day. \$\$\$
charliesgreenstar.com
8 New Orleans Road, Hilton Head Island
843-785-9277

CHOW DADDY'S

Southern Offering sensational, amped-up Southern food in a relaxed, casual setting. Southern comfort meets unpretentious sophistication. \$\$
chowdaddys.com
14B Executive Park Road, Hilton Head Island
843-842-2469
15 Towne Drive, Bluffton
843-757-2469

COAST

Seafood, American Located at Sea Pines Beach Club. Rated a "Top 100 Best Al Fresco Dining Restaurants in America" by OpenTable. \$\$\$
coastcoceanfrontdining.com
87 N Sea Pines Drive, Hilton Head Island
843-842-1888

DARREN CLARKE'S TAVERN

Steakhouse Professional golfer Darren Clarke teamed up with an experienced New York City restaurateur to create this one-of-a-kind establishment.

Steaks are imported from the mountains of Montana. \$\$
darrenclarkestavern.com
8 Executive Park Road, Hilton Head Island
843-341-3002

DELISHEE YO

Healthy Organic meals, freshly pressed juice and clean snacks make this a favorite for the yoga, fitness and health community. \$
delisheeyo.com
32 Palmetto Bay Road, Hilton Head Island
843-785-3633

LOCAL PIE ANNOUNCES TUESDAY SPECIAL



Local Pie is offering half off its 10-inch pizzas from 4-9 p.m. on Tuesdays. The special is only valid for dine-in customers of its Hilton Head Island location. Local Pie serves up Neapolitan-style, wood-fired pizza and has won the "Hilton Head Best Pizza" award two straight years. For more information, call 843-842-7437.

FAT BABY'S PIZZA AND SUBS

Pizza A place that captures the spirit of a classic, 1970s neighborhood pizza joint. Fresh, fast, homemade and really, really good. \$\$
fatbabyspizza.com
1034 William Hilton Parkway, Hilton Head Island
843-842-4200

HINOKI

Asian Celebrating 16 years of serving locals great sushi,

sashimi and other Japanese specialties. The interior is peaceful and serene, with cypress wood (hinoki) throughout the restaurant. \$\$
hinokihhi.com
37 New Orleans Road, Hilton Head Island
843-785-9800

HOLY TEQUILA

Mexican Gourmet tacos, salads, quesadillas, burritos and smalls plates all around \$10, with a full bar offering mixologist-inspired cocktails and over 50 kinds of tequilas. Be sure to order the Street Corn before your main course and the churros after. \$\$
holYTEQUILA.com
33 Office Park Road, Park Plaza
843-681-8226

JAVA BURRITO CO.

Mexican A family-owned and operated Mexican grill and coffee bar. The burrito bar sources organic and local food. Everything tastes ultra-fresh. The coffee is some of the best on the island. \$\$
javaburritoco.com
1000 William Hilton Parkway, Suite J6, The Village at Wexford
843-842-5282

THE JAZZ CORNER

Jazz Club, American An authentic big city nightclub atmosphere. Live music seven nights a week with some of the world's best jazz musicians taking the stage. The food is world class as well. \$\$\$
thejazzcorner.com
1000 William Hilton Parkway, Suite C-1, The Village at Wexford
843-842-8620

LIVE OAK

Southern, Seafood Located in the beautiful Plantation Golf Club in Sea Pines. Southern-inspired cuisine and regionally-sourced produce and products. Floor-to-ceiling windows provide awesome 270 degree views. \$\$\$
liveoaklowcountrycuisine.com
100 N Sea Pines Drive, Hilton Head Island
843-842-1441

LOCAL PIE

Pizza Neapolitan-style wood-fired pizza baked crisp and thin in 900 degree custom pizza ovens. Everything is locally sourced. The daily specials are bold and adventurous. \$\$

localpie.com

55 New Orleans Road,

Hilton Head Island

843-842-7437

15 State Of Mind St., Bluffton

843-837-7437

A LOWCOUNTRY BACKYARD

Southern The travel website "Only in Your State" ranked the shrimp and grits the best in the state of South Carolina. We feel the Charleston Fried Green Tomato BLT is even better. \$\$

hhbackyard.com

32 Palmetto Bay Road,

Hilton Head Island

843-785-9273

MICHAEL ANTHONY'S

CUCINA ITALIANA

Italian An island favorite for over 15 years. An authentic Italian eatery similar to ones found in the Italian neighborhoods around Philadelphia, where the Fazzini family moved from. \$\$\$

michael-anthonys.com

37 New Orleans Road,

Hilton Head Island

843-785-6272

OMBRA CUCINA RUSTICA

Italian Chef Michael Cirafesi has collected many awards and accolades for his classical Italian cuisine. Antique brick and reclaimed barn wood timbers give the restaurant a Tuscan farmhouse feel. \$\$\$

ombrabhi.com

1000 William Hilton Parkway, Suite G2,

Hilton Head Island

843-682-5505

ONE HOT MAMA'S

Barbecue Known for their pit-to-plate meats, smoked low and slow. A family-friendly place run by Orchid Paulmeier, a finalist on the Food Network Star reality series. Great "meat and 3" lunch offerings. \$\$

onehotmamas.com

7 Greenwood Drive,

Hilton Head Island

843-682-6262

PALMETTO BAY SUNRISE CAFE

Breakfast, American Serving the island's most popular breakfast all day long. Benedicts, omelets, quiche and baked dishes are out of this world. Early bird special from 6 to 8 a.m.



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Jorge Covarrubias
Executive Chef



Holy Tequila represents a new breed of "Mexican" food that incorporates new American flavors, nontraditional gourmet ingredients, and pairs them with authentic preparation methods centered around a wood burning grill.

By using higher-quality, locally-sourced products, Holy Tequila is redefining the standard for a Mexican food experience. The menu features a variety of gourmet tacos, tortas, quesadillas, salads and signature plates.

Additionally, the bar offering features Mexican-inspired, hand-crafted cocktails, Mexican & craft beer, a curated list of Spanish wines, and over 50 premium tequilas ranging from blancos to añejos, reposados and mezcals.



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Located in Park Plaza

843.681.TACO(8226) HOLYTEQUILA.COM

Great sandwiches for lunch as well. \$\$
palmettobaysunrisecafe.com
 86 Helmsman Way,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-686-3232

POMODORI

Italian A family owned and operated Italian eatery. Casual yet sophisticated dinner offerings of traditional favorites, as well as fresh seafood options and antipasti plates. Best bolognese in the Lowcountry. \$\$
gopomodori.com
 1 New Orleans Road,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-686-3100

RED FISH

Seafood, American A blend of house made spices, tropical fruits and vegetables are combined with Lowcountry specialties at this local favorite. The restaurant uses produce from its own farm. \$\$\$
redfishofhiltonhead.com
 8 Archer Road,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-686-3388
 32 Bruin Road, Bluffton
 843-837-8888

ROCKFISH SEAFOOD & STEAKS AT BOMBORAS

American, Seafood An Ohio family owned and operated restaurant near Coligny Beach, offering fresh and local Lowcountry ingredients paired with craft beers and wines. Great happy hour. \$\$
bomborasgrille.com
 5 Lagoon Road,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-689-2662

SALTY DOG CAFE

Seafood Hilton Head's most famous restaurant. Serving seafood, salads and sandwiches at an incredible waterfront location. Eat inside, out on the deck or at the expansive outdoor bar. \$
saltydog.com
 232 S. Sea Pines Drive,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-671-2233
 1414 Fording Island Road, Bluffton
 843-837-3344

SAGE ROOM

American Considered one of the island's best restaurants. Fine dining in a casual atmosphere with unique appetizers, diverse cuisine and innovative nightly specials.

You can't go wrong with anything on the menu. \$\$\$
thesageroom.com
 81 Pope Ave., Suite 13,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-785-5352

THE SEA SHACK

Seafood Fresh seafood made to order and served on paper plates in a diner-like atmosphere. Blackboard specials change daily but fried favorites are always on the menu. Locals and loyal visitors keep this place hopping. \$\$
seashackhhi.com
 6 Executive Park Road,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-785-2464

SIGNE'S

Bakery, cafe A Hilton Head Island tradition for more than 36 years. Specializing in Southern-style baked goods made fresh daily. Perfected breakfast recipes, savory salads and sandwiches and heavenly desserts. \$\$
signesbakery.com
 93 Arrow Road, Hilton Head Island
 843-785-9118

THE SMOKEHOUSE

Barbecue, Southern Serving up its famous, award-winning barbecue on the island since 1999. It offers a diverse lunch and dinner menu, including many specialties such as ribs, wings and chili. Terrific happy hour. \$\$
smokehousehhi.com
 34 Palmetto Bay Road,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-842-4227

TRUFFLES CAFE

American A diverse menu featuring incredible soups, salads and sandwiches, signature chicken pot pie, house-breaded fried shrimp, pasta, ribs, steaks and scrumptious desserts. \$\$
trufflescafe.com
 71 Lighthouse Road,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-671-6136
 91 Towne Dr., Bluffton
 843-815.5551

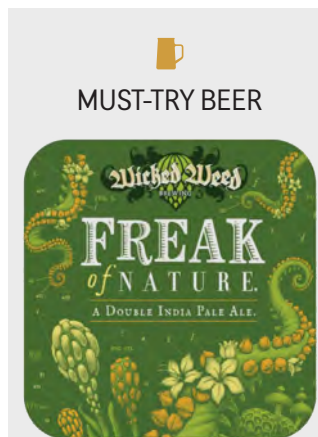
VINE

American Tucked away in the corner of Coligny Plaza, this cramped and loud dinner spot is one of the highest rated restaurants on the island. The food is unique and not for the unadventurous. The Caprese salad is locally famous. \$\$\$

1 N. Forest Beach Drive,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-686-3900

WATUSI

Breakfast, American The interior mirrors a warm, cozy living room where families and friends can gather and enjoy food, coffee and tea in a casual home-style setting. \$\$
islandwatusi.com
 71 Pope Ave., Hilton Head Island
 843-686-5200



Freak of Nature DIPA

Those looking for one of the hottest winter brews around should check out Freak of Nature DIPA from Asheville's Wicked Weed Brewing Company. The double IPA offers up loads of hops flavor with a moderate amount of biscuity malt. Its alcohol is noticeable (8.6 ABV), but not offensive. The more you drink, the more the juicy character develops. The people around you may become more interesting as well.

BLUFFTON

BLACK BALSAM & BLUE

Pizza, Italian Making the very best New Jersey tomato pies on earth is an unyielding passion for co-owners Jeremy MacNealy and Hillary Lovell. They've been using the same sourdough starter since 2010. \$\$
blackbalsamblue.com
 1534 Fording Island Road, Hilton Head Island Bluffton
 843-837-2583

BLUFFTON BBQ

Barbecue, Southern This is not fast food; it's slow-cooked for at least 12 hours. It is served until the food runs out, and then there's always beer. Possibly the Lowcountry's best barbecue with an awesome Old Town location. Owner Ted Huffman is a local legend. \$\$
 11 State Of Mind Way, Bluffton
 843-757-7427

THE BLUFFTON ROOM

American Simple American cuisine prepared with the finest available ingredients in an intimate and vibrant atmosphere. Well-crafted cocktails, gracious service and tableside preparations evoke the feeling of the classic dinner party. \$\$\$
theblufftonroom.com
 15 Promenade St, Bluffton
 843-757-3525

BUFFALO'S

American The most popular restaurant in Palmetto Bluff, offering patrons picturesque views of the May River as they enjoy a menu featuring market fresh salads and sandwiches, pastries and fresh spun ice cream. \$\$
palmettobluff.com
 1 Village Park Square, Bluffton
 843-706-6630

CAHILL'S MARKET

Southern, Chicken Experience a taste of some true Southern comfort food in a relaxed country atmosphere with hanging baskets, colorful blooms and family-style dining. Their menu changes daily, but one item you can count on is the scrumptious fried chicken. \$\$
cahillsmarket.com
 1055 May River Road, Bluffton
 843-757-2921

CLAUDE & ULI'S BISTRO

French, Seafood Chef Claude Melchiorri applies his classic French training and international experience in preparing local seafood, meats and produce. The result is exquisite dishes at affordable prices. \$\$
claudebistro.com
 1533 Fording Island Road,
 Hilton Head Island
 843-837-3336

THE COTTAGE

Cafe, Bakery Serving up scrumptious food with a side of old-world Southern charm. Dine indoors or out on the porch of this cozy, restored 1868 cottage in the art-rich historic district

of Old Town. \$\$
thecottagebluffton.com
38 Calhoun Street, Bluffton
843-757-0508

FARM BLUFFTON

American Open for lunch and dinner. The culinary team is continually evolving the menu, taking inspiration from the seasonal bounty of local produce, cultural traditions from around the world and contemporary culinary ideas. \$\$\$
farmbluffton.com
1301 May River Road, Bluffton
843-707-2041

HOGSHEAD KITCHEN AND WINE BAR

American Open daily for lunch and dinner. The food is upscale, yet moderately priced. You can have anything from a burger to a five-course tasting menu expertly paired with wine, and all things in between. \$\$
hogsheadkitchen.com
1555 Fording Island Road, Hilton Head
843-837-4647

JIM 'N NICK'S BAR-B-Q

Barbecue, Southern Open for lunch and dinner. Classic pulled pork or Carolina-style pork? There isn't a wrong answer at this Bluffton favorite. Don't leave without eating a cheese biscuit. And good luck eating just one. \$\$
jimnicks.com
872 Fording Island Road, Bluffton
843-321-4175

MAY RIVER GRILL

Seafood, American Open for dinner. Chef Charlie Sternburgh serves up truly memorable food featuring fresh ingredients culled from local rivers and farms. Ever try sautéed calf's liver? You should. \$\$
mayrivergrill.com
1263 May River Road, Bluffton
843-757-5755

THE PEARL KITCHEN & BAR

Seafood, Steakhouse Serving dinner nightly. This romantic, boutique-style eatery fits in perfectly with its Old Town surroundings. Everything is bright, fresh and interesting. Seafood is the star here, but the steaks are great, too. \$\$\$
thepearlbluffton.com
55 Calhoun St., Bluffton
843-757-5511

POUR RICHARD'S

American Serving dinner. The menu changes nightly. Chef Richard Canestrari and pastry chef Ally Rogers have developed a strong local following, serving upscale food in a bar-like atmosphere. \$\$\$
pourrichardsbluffton.com
4376 Bluffton Parkway, Bluffton
843-757-1999

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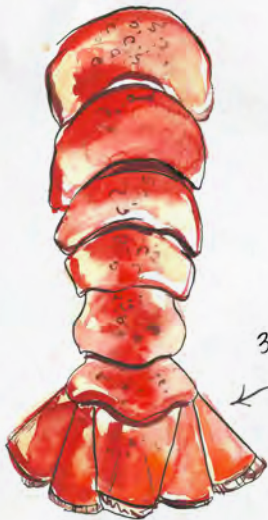
How to Eat a Lobster



1. Twist off arms
(one at a time)



2. Twist tail section away from the body.



3. Break off fins
and discard.

4. Use fork/knife to push
meat out front of tail section.
Result?! A yummy, clean tail section!

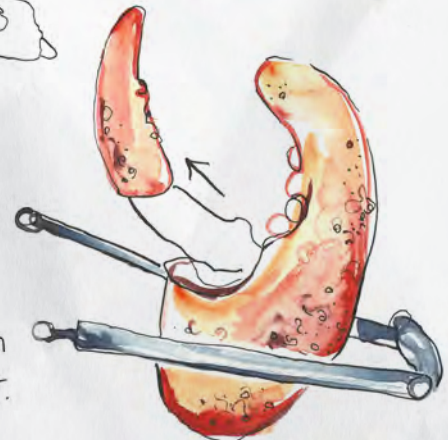


5. Use a claw cracker
to crack each knuckle.

6. Use that tiny fork they
gave you to push meat
out of the knuckles.



7. Crack middle of claw,
break off bottom section
and ease claw meat out.



*Be careful not to get shell in your meat!



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High *in the*

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE SOME DAYS THAT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE LOWCOUNTRY WAS A SLEEPY LITTLE SLICE OF SOLITUDE, ALL BUT CUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

It was a time when Charles Fraser had to rig up a car horn to his office phone, lest he miss a call when he was out showing off this new development called Sea Pines.

Fast forward a few decades, and our area is a hub for high-tech industry. The great democratization of the internet has given everyone a chance to do what they want, where they want. With that kind of freedom, more and more technophiles are calling the Lowcountry home. And they've brought the great digital revolution with them.



Tech

Lowcountry

SAY WHAT?

technophile: tech-no-phile
noun: a person who is
enthusiastic about new
technology.





FLYING INTO THE FUTURE

It should come as no surprise that some of the hottest technology you'll find in our neck of the woods is coming from Gulfstream, the Savannah-based aeronautics powerhouse.

Its latest innovation is the Symmetry Flight Deck, a bleeding-edge blend of technologies that offers what the company calls "a transformation flying experience." Please fasten your seat belts, we're entering some seriously geeky headwinds.

First up, the company has reduced the number of switches up to 70 percent through the use of touchscreen controls, giving pilots a little more room to maneuver and streamlining the flying experience.

It also introduced the third generation of its celebrated Enhanced Vision System (EVS). The system uses imagery, from a nose-mounted infrared camera that cuts through fog and rain to deliver a crystal-clear view of the runway to a Heads Up Display (HUD) in the pilot's forward vision.

Its third-generation build gives pilots stellar night vision with four times the resolution of the EVS II.

But if you ask the wizards at Gulfstream what the company is most proud of, it will point to the Active Control Sidesticks (ACS). "Gulfstream is the first business jet manufacturer to use ACS, which increases safety by ensuring that any movement in the control stick by the flying pilot or autopilot can be seen and felt by the non-flying pilot through the side stick on the opposite side of the flight deck," said Sean Coughlin, corporate communications officer for Gulfstream.

Gulfstream was the first civilian aircraft manufacturer to embrace the new technology, which does away with the traditional yoke in favor of a single stick, allowing for more room in the cockpit and giving pilots easier access to instrument panels. Previous generations of this control scheme had a notable drawback in their lack of feedback from the aircraft or the other pilot – essentially keeping the pilot from "feeling" what the plane was doing.

The ACS system lets the pilot see and feel this feedback, providing full tactile control of the aircraft. This cutting-edge flight deck can be found on Gulfstream's newest aircraft, the G500 and G600.



HIGH TECH HIGHER ED

As you'd imagine from a place that has "Technical" right in the name, Technical College of the Lowcountry has become a hub of cutting-edge education.

You'll find subjects such as computer networking, avionics, computer assisted design, industrial electronics and more among its high-tech programs. The tools that TCL professors are using are straight out of the future.

Take, for example, the welding simulators created with the latest immersion technology to give students a virtual step toward a career using this in-demand skill. Another area where TCL is utilizing virtual reality is the Criminal Justice Program, with its Firearms Training Simulator giving students a chance to gain familiarity with a host of weapons. This simulator also is available to local law enforcement agencies for continuing education. TCL has even made the college experience virtual, with TCL College Online offering nine fully online career and transfer programs.

But the high-tech advancement at TCL that will one day save lives is the new suite of manikins, now used by the nursing program. A year ago, the nursing program at the college purchased two "Essential Bleeding," simulators, two second generation Essential simulators and one SimJunior high-fidelity simulator, an investment of nearly \$500,000. These high-tech simulators go well beyond Resuscitation Annie, replicating everything from high blood pressure and bowel sounds to area-specific bleeding and lung trauma. The result is a training manikin that gives nursing students the full ER experience, sharpening their skills and preparing them for every scenario.





LET THE SUN SHINE

Aiming to capitalize on our state's sunny weather, Palmetto Electric recently set up a unique set of solar arrays as part of its Community Solar project.

Essentially, Palmetto Electric Cooperative customers could buy shares in the energy produced by solar arrays at two sites: New River and Ridgeland. For a \$75 fee and \$13 per share, customers get to reap the benefits of solar power without having to put panels on their home. As you can imagine, in an area like ours with abundant sunlight and strict HOA regimes, shares sold out quickly.

According to Palmetto Electric, one share produces an average of 150 kWh per month, roughly averaging a \$15 credit to shareholders' electric bills.

At the time of this writing, the two sites had generated 358 MWh megawatts of power thus far, offsetting 106,122.6 pounds of coal and 210.5 barrels of oil and saving 240.8 trees.

While shares are currently sold out, interested customers could be put on a wait list by visiting <https://www.palmetto.coop/community-solar>.



*Left to Right: Front Row: Jennifer Farmer, Ed Brown, Allison Olweiler
Back Row: Eric Cleaves, Lori MacDonell, Joy Gentile, Jacqueline Alcock, Mike Kristoff, Nick Kristoff*

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GET YOUR QUARTERS

You may not realize it, but the video game industry has grown immensely since the halcyon days of the coin-operated 1980s.

Now commanding a billion-dollar industry, video games have become a viable art form in their own right. The production values behind some of today's most popular games rival Hollywood blockbusters, with jaw-dropping visuals and compelling storylines to match.

However, there is a growing movement within the games industry giving more power to smaller independent game developers powered by the Steam platform. This online marketplace lets hardcore and casual gamers alike sample home-brewed video games created by small outfits, usually for a fraction of the price.

Dr. Brian Canada of USCB (profiled on page 98) is one of those indie developers, and rather than unleash the next first person shooter or racing game, he's taking a more local approach.



His first game, still under development, is called "Bugs 'N Boo Hags" and draws heavily from the local lore surrounding former Beaufort County Sheriff Ed McTeer and his run-ins with root magic.

"It's a throwback to '80s and '90s arcade games. Your character is modeled on Sheriff McTeer and you're trying to combat witchcraft," said Canada. The game combines the old-school pixel art and platforming action of Donkey Kong with a more modern tower defense style of game as you attempt to paint doorways haint blue while dodging palmetto bugs, mosquitos, fire ants and the dreaded Boo Hags.

Canada showed off early builds of his game at Penny Arcade's PAX South gaming convention, and is hoping to have the final version ready to play soon.



TAKE A BYTE OUT OF CRIME

As you've probably pieced together by now, we're big fans of the Lowcountry's tech-forward thinking and ingenuity. But you know who probably isn't? Criminals.

That's because they know that our area's commitment to technology has resulted in one of the most sophisticated tools in the Beaufort County Sheriff Office's arsenal: its state-of-the-art Forensic Services Laboratory.

This advanced facility gives BCSO an advantage in several different areas. Its forensic chemistry section investigates controlled substances and ignitable liquids, helping investigators identify drug residue and analyze burn patterns to determine arson cases. Its forensic biology section runs DNA analysis, helping to identify criminals or their victims with as little as a tiny spatter of blood.

It even has the capability to investigate computer crimes with its Digital and Multimedia Evidence section and identify latent fingerprints. Each facet of this high-tech facility makes the job of keeping Beaufort County safe that much easier.

"It's proven to be incredibly successful in identifying criminals," said Bob Bromage of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. And turnaround time is considerably less than a state or federal laboratory can produce."



DEAL ALERT!...



DO YOU READ ME?

Area businesses owners looking for a high-tech foot in the digital door now have a way to find customers where they live – on their phones.

GeoTxT services, recently launched locally by entrepreneur Dan Monroe, lets small businesses target potential customers through a series of promotional text messages that will blanket a particular area of their choosing for upwards of two hours. Consider it like the high-tech version of towing a banner behind a plane.

"It's based upon location," Monroe said. "The sphere is around 200 feet wide. You just give me your latitude and longitude and tell me where you want that delivered."

GeoTxT is currently set to send text messages to Verizon customers in two-hour bursts. Monroe chanced upon the technology when he bumped into its inventor over lunch. The technology has already proven itself with larger clients such as Costco, but Monroe saw the opportunity to position it as a tool for small businesses. He secured the licensing rights and began testing it out locally.

A case study for a local restaurant is being planned for the area around the Hilton Head Plantation traffic light and the bridges. So if you received a text in late October letting you know about tonight's specials, you were part of a case study for an intriguing new piece of technology. *LL*

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS...

Merry Christmas!



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Smooth sailing

*HOW BLUFFTON'S
JARED JESTER
CAME TO RULE THE
MARINE SPACE,
ONE APP AT A TIME.*

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LLOYD WAINSCOTT

It was more than 15 years ago that Jared Jester received the phone call that would change everything.

"I was taking a train up to D.C. with my son. As I was trying to board, I got a phone call from this guy with Chaparral boats, which I knew nothing about at the time, asking how much it would cost to build a website," Jester said.

Jester's fledgling business, Jester Communications, had been focused on the World Wide Web from a design perspective. It was built on the artistic foundations he'd established while attending Savannah College of Art and Design. In those pre-smartphone days, when Wi-Fi was far from ubiquitous and looking something up online meant sitting at a desk and tying up a landline, Jester had no way to quickly and easily gauge how much a large company might pay for a website.

Plus, he had a train to catch. So he made something up.

"I threw a number at him with the sole intent of getting off the phone. And that was it," Jester said. Upon his return, Jester dialed into the internet to find that his bid, which was substantially higher than what he generally charged, had been accepted. (He would learn later that his bid had been something of a lowball, as it turned out).



A SEA OF OPPORTUNITY Bluffton's Jared Jester built the first iPhone app for the marine industry and his company later developed the award-winning mobile tool, Bolster.



SENDING A MESSAGE Jester has built a solid reputation, working with some of the largest manufacturers in the world.

Landing the job not only allowed Jester to hire his first employee, it became his introduction to the marine industry. Soon he was building websites for the largest boat manufacturers in the world. When the iPhone launched, he was among the first to see its potential.

"I stood in line for the iPhone, was enamored with it, and realized this is the future. So we built an app for Chaparral. It wasn't with their permission, but we had access to their content, so we went ahead and built it," he said. "It was the first iPhone app for the marine industry."

More apps followed, including the first app to win an Award for Innovation at the famed Miami Boat Show. Despite the recession hitting the marine industry especially hard, Jester persevered. Eventually, his company would develop the app that would change it all.

"Coming out of that (the recession) we realized we had a product that would work for other industries as long as there was a manufacturer-to-dealer network," he said. "Ultimately, we called it Bolster."

Targeting industries outside the marine space, Bolster grew from being a product showcase to a one-stop app for dealer training, certification and inventory management, among a slew of other features. "It's more robust now," Jester said.

And for a guy who had become used to 80-hour workweeks as he grew his company from a communications firm to a renowned app developer, Bolster represented a chance to scale back his time commitment. Jester Communications was sold to Minnesota-based Acumen & Dickenson in June, which now means Jester has a slightly less harrowing 50-hour workweek.

"It's like being part-time, honestly. Having to acclimate to that has actually been pretty difficult," he said. "The hats that I had to wear all those years: HR, payroll, accounting... the stuff they didn't teach you at art school, I don't have to wear those hats anymore."

With the sort of drive and ambition he's demonstrated, this lightened load means even bigger things for Bluffton's resident tech mogul. *LL*

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Game On

USCB PROFESSOR BRIAN CANADA IS PROOF THAT PLAY CAN BE HARD WORK.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN + PHOTOGRAPHY BY LLOYD WAINSCOTT



GAME ON Dr. Brian Canada gives his USCB students the opportunity to make their own video games.

For nearly as long as there have been video games, there have been ways to make them educational. To a certain generation, Number Munchers was as much a part of their math curriculum as times table. And without Oregon Trail, thousands of young students would have completed their education without a full appreciation for the dangers facing early American settlers.

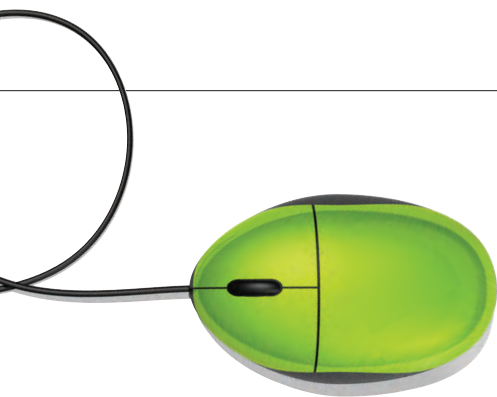
Dr. Brian Canada at the University of South Carolina Beaufort is taking this rich tradition of interactive edutainment a step further by giving his computational science students the opportunity to make their own games. Through hours of diligent tinkering and coding, these students are teaching others what they've learned while developing their computers skills.

It came about after the notion that Canada had to guide his comp-sci students into building the "official game of USCB." The project resulted in a slew of Sand Shark-inspired games, such as a side-scrolling space shooter where you're a shark fighting against a swarm of bees representing SCAD.

"When I went to revisit that project for next year's class, I came to the realization that my students seemed to want to get their general education classes out of the way so they could focus on computational science," Canada said. Instead, Canada tweaked the project to promote tangential learning, drawing inspiration from their liberal arts and humanities classes.

"One student had already earned a history degree, so they built a battle simulation game based on the Civil War," Canada said. The game, called Tug of Civil War, saw the blue and the gray engaged in a tug of war match with the rope representing the churning tides of the war.

Other games, inspired by his students' USCB education, followed over the next couple of years. A psychology student programmed a game based on various mental



LOCAL FOLKLORE

Canada introduced a video game with a local twist. "Bugs 'N Boo Hags" is inspired by the history and folklore of the South Carolina Lowcountry.

illnesses. Another student, inspired by the philosophy of ancient Greece, made a game called Socratic Method, where gamers control a pixelated Socrates dodging exclamation points and guiding students.

"They're all created expressly for entertainment, but designed to promote self-directed education," Canada said. "You're not just learning how to code. You're learning about how to be a well-rounded person."

Developed on Greenfoot software, the games present an approachable way to teach students the Java programming language that powers many of the back-end systems used by banks and other secure outlets online. The flipside is that the games require a special browser and are not readily playable by the general public.

However, if you'd like to see what Canada's students are up to, visit a display at the Santa Elena History Center in Beaufort, where four games are featured. Outlining the area's history as the first European colonial capital in the new world, these games let you race Jean Ribaut to plant your country's flag first, map out your new territory, cut down trees and forage for food as a new settler, and even serve as governor as you develop the settlement and collect taxes for the king of Spain.

"It hooks you in to the history around here," Canada said.

The theme for this year's games will be based around the university's first-year reading program. With students being required to read the book "Hidden Figures," Canada is planning on guiding students through creating games navigating the difficulties and hardships faced by millions in the U.S.

"The game I'm going to ask the students to make is one that allows you to input the parameters of who the player is: race, nationality, immigration status, native language, gender, orientation, etc., in order to help students develop empathy," he said. That's always the goal of his games, but, "This project will really help hammer home this point." LL

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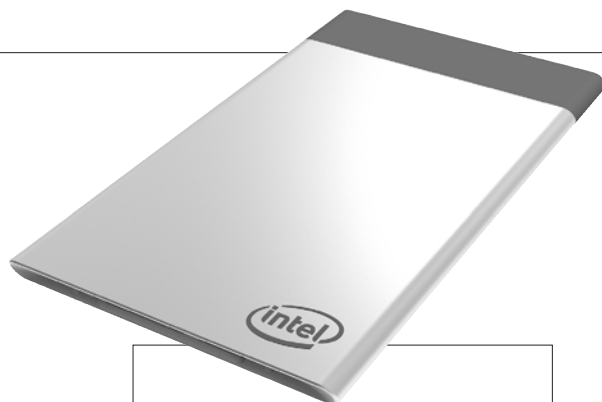


DEVICES FOR WORK OR PLAY

You no longer need to make compromises when buying a device for work and fun. It's more than possible to buy something that works equally well for both. From super-light devices to those which double up as a laptop, here are a few devices worth checking out.



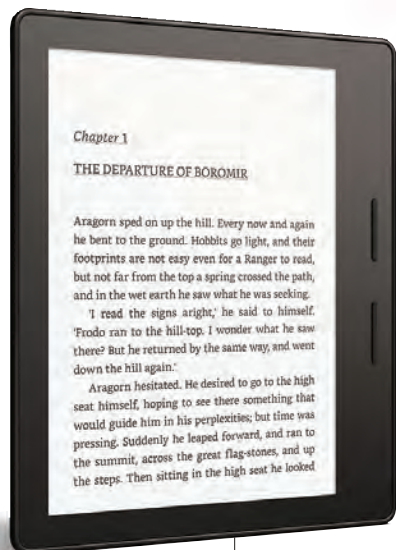
TABLETS & COMPUTERS



INTEL COMPUTE CARD A credit card-sized device that's basically an entire PC. It includes an integrated system-on-chip, RAM, storage and wireless connectivity. \$150



RAZER PROJECT VALERIE The world's first automated triple display laptop. Constructed to be incredibly powerful yet mobile, this laptop gives you easy access to three eye-popping 4K displays. \$3,700



AMAZON KINDLE OASIS The first waterproof Kindle has built-in Audible. Pair via Bluetooth to move seamlessly from reading to listening. It also offers an adaptive front light that automatically adjusts the brightness of the display. \$250



DELL XPS 13 2-IN-1 Dell has retained most of what's great about its XPS 13 laptop, while turning it into a solid 2-in-1 package. It's thin, light and incredibly mobile. \$1,000



MACBOOK PRO This legend offers an all-new design, an OLED "Touch Bar" that replaces the function key row, and the Touch ID sensor borrowed from Apple's iPhone. \$1,799



APPLE IPAD
The latest version of this popular device boasts a gorgeous 9.7-inch Retina display in a thin, durable aluminum design that weighs just a pound. \$329



PERSONAL ASSISTANTS



GOOGLE HOME MINI Small and mighty, this offers better sound quality than the Echo Dot. The lack of an audio out could be a deal breaker for some. \$49

LENOVO SMART ASSISTANT

It looks like an Echo and uses Alexa. The big difference between this device and its more popular competitor is better sound quality. \$200



AMAZON ECHO

Better and less expensive than the first version. It has a new speaker, a new design and is available in six styles including fabrics and wood veneers. \$100



AMAZON ECHO SHOW

Everything you love about Alexa, and now she can show you things. Watch video flash briefings, Amazon Video content, see music lyrics, security cameras, photos, weather forecasts and more. \$299



MATTEL ARISTOTLE

This device was aimed at children from infancy to adolescence and was set to hit stores in 2018 but Mattel pulled the plug on development after parents and child advocacy groups raised concerns about the impact the artificial intelligence device could have had on children's privacy, development and well-being.



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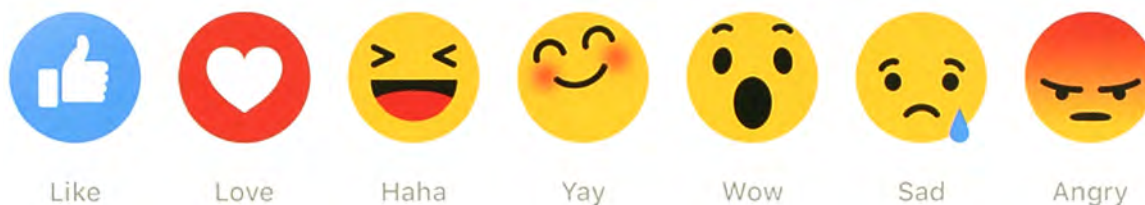
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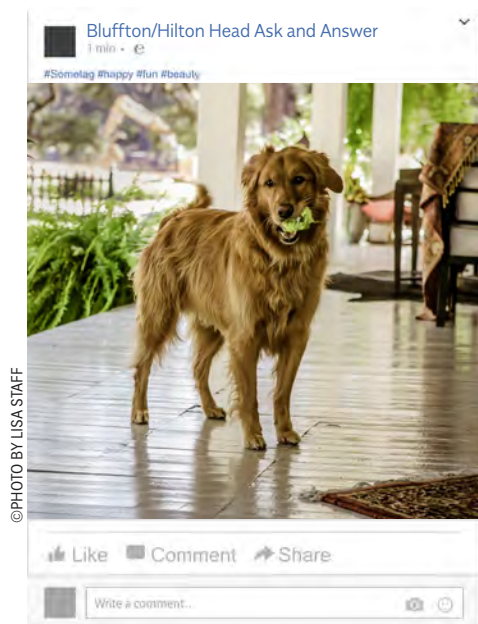


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gives the Lowcountry a small-time feel

STORY BY LUANA M. GRAVES SELLARS

THE BLUFFTON/HILTON HEAD AREA IS HOME TO NEARLY 58,000 FULL- AND PART-TIME RESIDENTS. AND WHILE OUR POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW, OUR SMALL-TOWN FEELING AND NEIGHBORLY CONNECTIONS REMAIN STRONG.



With the help of Facebook, a local group page has made that possible. In a world where selfies and “this is what I had for dinner” pics are popular, the Bluffton/Hilton Head Ask and Answer page has become a great source of information and a neighbor-to-neighbor connection that reminds us of traditional community values. A closed group of 10,000-plus strong, it’s where people can ask locals just about anything. And as long as it’s not promotional, you can join.

The page has become an excellent source for information during traffic jams, inclement weather, power outages and the occasional what-kind-of-creature-is-this question. In the middle of the night, for example, first-time parents can receive a sudden contact list of experienced parents filled with advice, bringing the perfect amount of positive support and direction.

Part-time residents have a constant connection to their second home, while full-time residents can look out for each other with food and clothing donations when a house gets struck by lightning. If your pet goes missing, turn to Ask and Answer.

During Hurricane Matthew, Facebook proved to be an important tool to keep residents informed and tethered to home while evacuating. This year during Irma, the community shared storm-tracking models, evacuation plans and hotel suggestions, which made handling the stress of the storm easier.

Aside from being an informational resource, humor and simple conversations often make their way onto the page. One post stated, “There’s a mouse on my son’s bed and what do I do about it, (which, by the way, turned out to be a plastic toy tiger).” Another member claimed, “I lost my guppy in my fish tank,” generating more than 55 replies and an article in “The Packet.”

Convenient and immediate, the Bluffton/Hilton Head Ask and Answer group takes advantage of today’s instantaneous and convenient way of reaching out to others.

But as technical as we’ve become, it’s clear that human interaction and our need for interdependence will always remain the same. *LL*

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THE FUTURE, FOR NOW

With the pace of smart-phone evolution moving so fast, there's always something waiting in the wings. No sooner have you spied the latest handset, then there's anticipation of something else, the next big thing. With that in mind, these phones top our list at the moment.

hot tech PHONES



APPLE IPHONE X An all-screen design with a 5.8-inch display. It charges wirelessly, resists water and dust and has a fantastic camera. Face ID lets you unlock and use Apple Pay with just a glance. \$1,000



PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI MATE 9 Featuring a sleek and stylish Porsche design, this full-black smartphone packed with state-of-the-art technology is certainly a feast to the eye. \$2,160



MUJJO TOUCHSCREEN GLOVES

Work with almost every touchscreen. Use any touch-screen device while keeping your gloves on. \$30



GOOGLE PIXEL 2 Probably the best Android phone on the market. Squeeze the body of the device and Google Assistant appears. Also, you can be one of the first to test out the latest Google inventions, like Google Lens. \$649



ASUS ZENFONE AR

The first phone that lets you use Google Tango AR and Google Daydream VR. It can also take 23-megapixel photos and 4K videos. \$600



HOME



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NEST CAM IQ OUTDOOR

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three

Local Tech Start-ups

*EDGY
INNOVATION
AND COOL
PRODUCTS*

STORY BY ELLEN LINNEMANN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK STAFF

With no sign of technology startups slowing down, South Carolina finds itself at the forefront of the booming business. Here at home, there's no better indication than the Don Ryan Center for Innovation and at the Beaufort Digital Corridor.

According to the most recent Cyberstates report, released in April, more than 200 new tech firms launched in South Carolina last year, almost a 4 percent increase from the previous year and double the national average.

"Technology in the Lowcountry is thriving, and we've been thrilled to have helped a number of tech startups launch successful businesses while also contributing to the economic development of the region," said David Nelems, executive director of the Don Ryan Center for Innovation.

The center, which focuses on nurturing and growing startup companies, has graduated 29 companies from its business incubator program in Bluffton.

"By providing startup and early-stage tech companies the resources they often need to take their ideas to the next level, we are not only able to help enhance the region's overall economic development, but we are helping the Lowcountry take its place as a leader in the growing technology industry, all while helping great technology ideas become successful companies," Nelems added.



1

CROSSFLIGHT SKY SOLUTIONS

CrossFlight Sky Solutions is among the success stories. The Hilton Head Island based business specializes in aerial imaging and innovative videography using drone technology. With the growth of drones and their capabilities, the company co-founders noticed there was little presence of drone providers here and decided to be the first in the area to start a drone service company. Jerry Whittaker's knowledge on the subject stems from 35 years as an air traffic controller, and the last 10 as an FAA consultant in Washington D.C.

Armed with a great idea and perfect timing, the two turned to the Don Ryan Center for Innovation's business incubator program to help get their business off the ground. Now, as a graduate of the incubator program, they are meeting regularly with prospective clients, beginning to fly missions and offering innovative products such as 2D, 3D and elevation maps that truly make a website come alive.

"Recently we filmed a large school eclipse event and captured the whole thing from the air," Joe Friesen said.

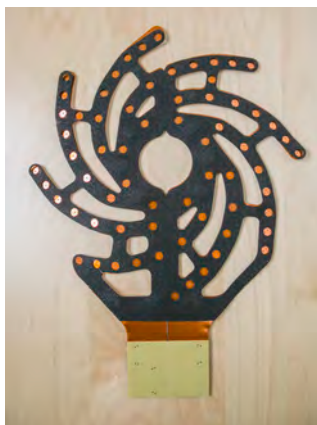
Another client hired CrossFlight Sky Solutions to document a lake it is building through an aerial time-lapsed record of the project from beginning to completion.

The company also is committed to bringing more high-tech innovation to the region, as it strives to partner with local school districts and tech/vocational colleges to grow their aviation programs.

EYE IN THE SKY

Joe Friesen is an FAA certified UAS pilot and is co-founder of CrossFlight Sky Solutions.

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MODULAR TILES
Fractal technology
boosts long range
hearing



DUTY VEST
Smart clothing assists
military and search and
rescue teams



2

WAVE SCIENCES

Wave Sciences also is making a big splash in the Lowcountry.

The company develops embedded and textile-based directional audio technology with applications in the hearing aid, human-machine interface, and health condition monitoring markets.

Wave Sciences Corporation already has been awarded four patents for its innovative technology and inventions – including a garment that pairs with an existing hearing aid to let the hearing impaired person hear better in noisy places.

The company has future plans to create machine-washable versions of the company's hearing garment invention.

"Technology companies such as ours know that we are welcome here, thanks to the number of programs available to help us launch our ideas, also provide the resources it takes to grow a successful tech company," said Keith McElveen, Wave Sciences founder/CTO. "Another major benefit of being a tech company in the Lowcountry is that the pool of technical talent is growing and if one needs to recruit from out of the area, the Lowcountry is seen as an incentive to employees and their spouses."

David Nelems and his team at Don Ryan Center for Innovation provide plenty of nurturing.

"As the technology sector continues to grow here, there is no doubt that the area will continue to be home to countless new innovations and inventions, as well as continue to attract 'techies' from all over the country," Nelems said.

For more information about launching a tech business in the Lowcountry, as well as business growth resources and services throughout all industries, visit www.donryancenter.com.



DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Keith McElveen is president of Wave Sciences, an internationally recognized leader in audio and video forensics and C4ISR technology.



3

TURBOBID

While many of today's tech companies fall under the definition of startups, sometimes the launch of a great technological idea can stem from recognizing a need in an existing business model. Such is the case with TurboBid, which specializes in construction estimating software.

Its founders owned a contracting company and were not satisfied with the software that was on the market, so they created an application to help them accurately calculate project costs.

The software worked so well, they created a version they could market and sell to other contractors. Within a short period, they were able to move away from contracting and launch TurboBid as its own tech company.

"Our experience being a tech company in the Lowcountry has been nothing short of outstanding and the local resources offered here to help businesses such as ours succeed is absolutely second to none," said Andrew Ruffner, vice president of sales and marketing at TurboBid.

Ruffner credits Don Ryan Center for Innovation for the company's growth. He added there are plans to expand by moving into estimating software for additional industries such as HVAC, general contracting and landscaping, as well as a cloud mobile app created for service contractors. *LL*

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Bill Ruffner and his son, Andrew, are the faces behind TurboBid, a company that specializes in construction estimating software.

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Keep it simple:

*DESIGN AND
AUTOMATION
COME TOGETHER IN
THIS SMART LODGE*

STORY BY DEAN ROWLAND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT ELLIOTT

The confluence of state-of-the-art technology and a rustic hunting lodge on a 1,200-acre farm in Rocky Ford, Ga., boggles the mind. They seem unsuitable together, like a strange brew of alchemy.

The combination flows seamlessly. If this smart home had an IQ, it would qualify for Mensa International.

"The homeowner can remotely log in to his house and grant anyone access from wherever he's at in the world," said Charlie Dray, project manager for Custom Audio Video in Bluffton, which designed and installed all of the smart home systems, devices and products.

Before getting into details about the technology inside the spacious four-bedroom, six bathroom, 5,251-square-foot home, let's take a look at what builder Jamey Cartee spent a year constructing.

The custom-built home has "timber construction on the front porch, timber beams on the inside in the great room, and a large vaulted tongue-in-groove wood ceiling," Cartee said. "It looks like a mountain-lodge-type home."

Reclaimed wood on the property site was used to build custom cabinetry, and for the doors and on the kitchen island.



NIGHT AND DAY The theatre includes a fiber-optic ceiling with LED lighting that replicates the solar system.

The owner of St. Andrews Builders in Statesboro, Ga., was originally handed blueprints from a pre-fab design, which was treated as merely the starting point for construction. For starters, the owner also wanted to add an entertainment/media room to the original design.

"We modified those blueprints pretty significantly to accommodate some of the things he wanted, such as the theater," said Cartee, who has been a builder for 26 years. "Custom Audio Video handed us a plan, and we worked hand-in-hand with those guys to put things in place that they needed to accommodate their equipment and their seating."

Cartee followed Custom's design and extended the roofline over the garage space, then built a step-down with different tier levels for seating.

"The client blew it out of the water and made all kinds of changes and additions to make it into a phenomenal log cabin," said Sandy Benson, Custom's owner. "We got involved at that point with the client, builder and one of our designers, Jason Clark, wanted a full-blown theater with acoustical panels, etc. It was a really nice project."

The newly created home theater measures 18 1/2 feet by 26 feet and is loaded with top-of-the-line products and features.

Dray said a video wall was built in the theater room that features five TVs, including a 70-inch and 50-inch screen. There's also a 120-inch drop-down projector screen for movie watching.

"Depending on the entertainment mode, the programmed system would turn off all five TVs at the



CONNECTED WITH NATURE This 5,251-square-foot, custom-built smart home features four bedrooms, six bathrooms and is on a 1,200-acre farm in rural Georgia.

push of a button, go to five pre-set channels and the lights would dim.”

The sound explodes inside the acoustically-paneled space with a Bowers & Wilkins CT7 system for the main speakers, and the CI600 series for surround-sound and Dolby Atmos speakers. Fifteen-inch subwoofers with a matched amplifier provides the bass response.

The elaborate speaker system and subwoofers are concealed with a false front wall and transparent cloth.

If family and guests in the room, which seats eight, gaze upward at the ceiling, they’ll be dazzled by a Starfield fiber-optic ceiling with LED lighting that replicates the solar system.

In the rest of the fully-integrated smart home, function, convenience and aesthet-

ics dictate the overall strategy. There are local video sources, six audio zones and a Lutron lighting system.

The advanced fully automated Control4 system integrates with the Carrier Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and security systems.

“The whole goal of these systems is to simplify the system so that you’re not utilizing 17 remotes or having to go right to the unit and press a button,” said Benson, who was recently honored by Dealerscope as one of the industry’s Powerful Women in Consumer Technology. “We had to work closely with, not just the builder, but with electricians, HVAC companies and other disciplines, which have to be coordinated with what we’re doing, especially when it involves lights, shades, HVAC controls, etc.” LL



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Smart homes make life easier

TODAY'S SMART HOMES ARE SMARTER THAN EVER, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUILD A NEW HOME TO MAKE IT A GENIUS.

STORY BY DEAN ROWLAND

"A smart home is where you can pretty much control everything, from your lighting, your media system and your climate all from the convenience of your smart devices, like phones and computers," said Christina Gomez, aka "The Gadget Gal" at Play & Gourmet in Bluffton. "Your home network, the internet and Wi-Fi are the backbone of the system. Everything runs off of the network."

The entire system is app-based, and manufacturers are designing and delivering ready-to-use smart-living products.

One of the hottest advances in smart-home technology are kitchen appliances.

"Just about everything is going to Wi-Fi connect," said Betsy Miller, a sales specialist at Billy Wood Appliance on Hilton Head. "There's an app so you can program your appliances remotely. For instance, GE (General Electric) has a new refrigerator with a Keurig option on it with a cartridge that snaps into

place. And you can pre-heat the water from your phone. So you don't even have to get out of bed."

"You can pre-heat your oven from the grocery store or start a load of dishes from your phone," said Gomez, who has a Facebook review blog. "It's one of the biggest trends out there right now."

Two of the country's biggest manufacturers - Whirlpool and GE - have been gaining traction with their affordable Wi-Fi-connect products.

Another popular development is advanced voice control, such as Amazon's Alexa, who controls lights, thermostats and just about anything else just by talking to her.

Today's smart living marketplace also is booming in the do-it-yourself industry. Keep in mind the convenience of having retailers like Play & Gourmet and Billy Wood Appliance do the set-up work for you.

"The Nationals" Silver Award • 414+ Lighthouse & Finalist Awards • Small Business of the Year
Pinnacle Award Finalist & Merit Winner • Numerous "Best Builder" awards • Beaufort Civitas Award

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"Where we and other integrators come into the picture is we can consolidate all the apps into one platform," Gomez said.

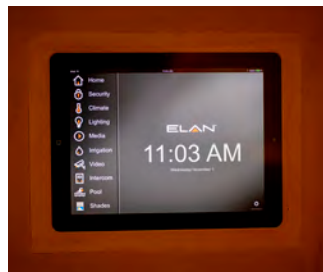
Some of the newest products on the market recommended by these two retailers are:

LG washer. This 5-cubic-foot, top-load washer with a stainless steel drum and Smart-ThinQ technology will notify you on your smart phone when the cleaning cycle ends. It also responds to voice commands with Google's Assistant and Amazon's Alexa. Each wash cycle combines up to six different wash motions and uses about 30 percent less energy and 50 percent less water than regular washers.



Lutron smart lighting. This state-of-the-art system replaces those unsightly switches on wall plates with a personally customized lighting design. Screwless wall plates, stylish keypads and integrated switches also provide more accurate fan control and motorized shades and blinds. When sitting down to watch a movie, lights automatically resort to preferred settings where some lights might dim, others don't. Other programmed settings can provide lighting at a certain time of day or connected to your alarm clock.

Ring. This hi-tech, home security system can monitor every inch of your property with its video doorbell and stick-up video cams placed strategically throughout the house. The flush-mounted hardwire video doorbell features high-definition (HD) video, two-way talk and customizable motion zones. Homeowners can see, hear and speak to anyone at the front door from their phone, tablet or PC. The HD security cameras provide two-way audio, LED spotlights and a siren alarm.



ELAN home system. All smart-home devices are conveniently controlled and automated by one platform, which also boasts voice control. This system allows homeowners to see, hear and respond to visitors at the front door from the backyard, accept a

delivery while still at the office, in the car or out of the country. ELAN also has reinvented home entertainment with complete control and unparalleled convenience. One interface connects across multiple devices by remote, touch panel, personal tablet or smart phone.

Miele range. Cooking in the oven has never been easier, thanks to the many features of this 48-inch range with six powerful burners and a griddle. The revolutionary Moisture Plus feature automatically applies additional moisture



to ensure optimal results in baking and roasting. Other product features include self-cleaning, rapid pre-heating, wireless roast probing for cooking-time accuracy, individualized automatic programming, residual heat utilization, a stainless steel body to ensure cool surfaces, a rotisserie and convection baking.



©PHOTO BY MIKE RITTERBECK

THE GADGET GAL

You can call her "The Gadget Girl" but Christina Gomez prefers the working nickname "The Gadget Gal".

Either way, she'll load you up with information about hi-tech smart home products and devices, systems, integration and most everything else at Play & Gourmet in Bluffton.

The Jamestown, N.Y., native has been working at the retail store for four years, when management decided to market her technology knowledge and gender about 1 1/2 years ago. The reason was simple: She began working there as a purchaser and really got to know the hi-tech products that were on the market.

"I'm actually a rarity in my field, in regards to AVs and the technology side, which is predominantly male-driven," Gomez said. "We wanted to find a way to capitalize on that, and that's how the 'gadget girl' came about... It was a natural growth for me." LL



The Gadget Girl offers advice for tech holiday gifts at LocalLifeSC.com

GE Café refrigerator. This 22.2- to 27.8-cubic-foot French door product features a built-in Keurig K-cup brewing system with a hot-water dispenser. A kitchen app activated by your smart phone or computer provides hot water remotely any time of day. LED lighting shines bright throughout the interior and under fresh-food doors, and temperature-controlled, full-width drawers deliver optimal temperatures to your favorite foods. Additionally, filtered water and cube/crushed ice are activated at the touch of a button. LL





Sunfire at Palmetto Bluff
13 Foot Honed Turkish White Marble
Mystic Gray Leathered Perimeter Countertops

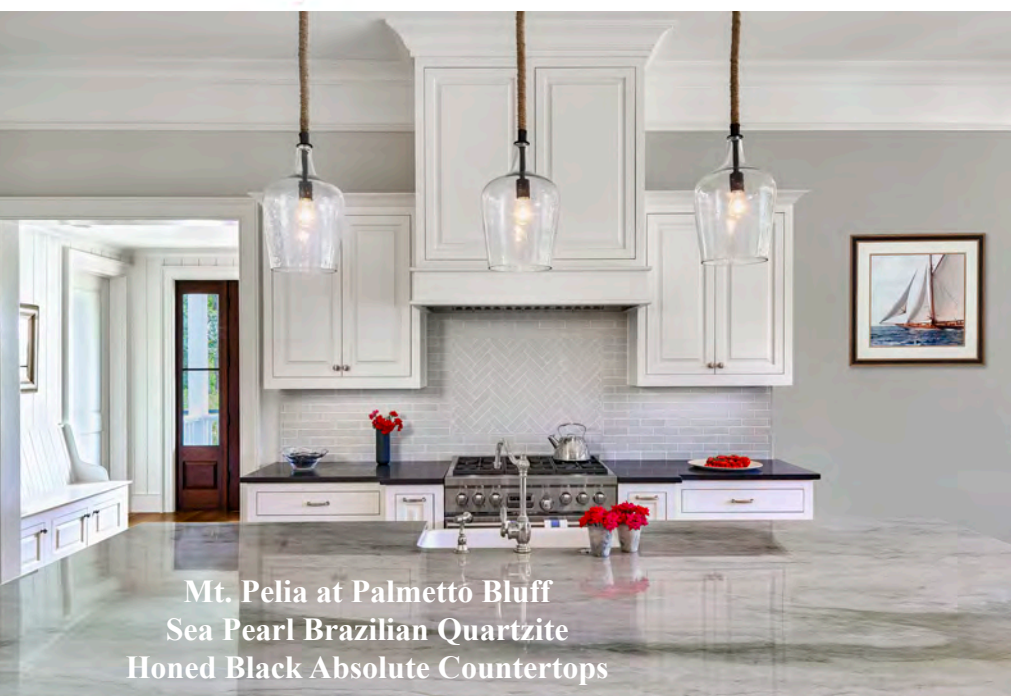


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Secret Garden

STORY BY KAREN GEIGER + PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE RITTERBECK

Karen Geiger is a landscape designer and the woman behind Creative Gardening, LLC

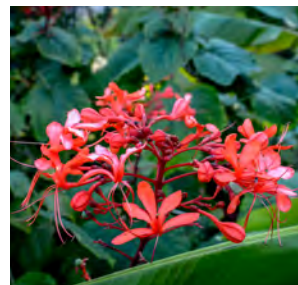
GO BANANAS FOR THIS ENCHANTED OASIS

What do you get when you take a landscape designer with a flair for the dramatic and let them loose on their own private residence? This month, LOCAL Life gets a sneak peek inside a sensational award-winning garden. The vividness and magnitude of plant color and greenery grabs your attention as you approach this property. Long sweeps of curvy beds filled with a plethora of flora surround and nestle the house. Looking out the kitchen window, it feels like you are in an enchanted and magical oasis dotted with fun and interesting plant varieties.



LEFT (top to bottom)

Tibouchina Princess Flower gets loaded with these purple flowers set against the fuzzy gray green leaves.



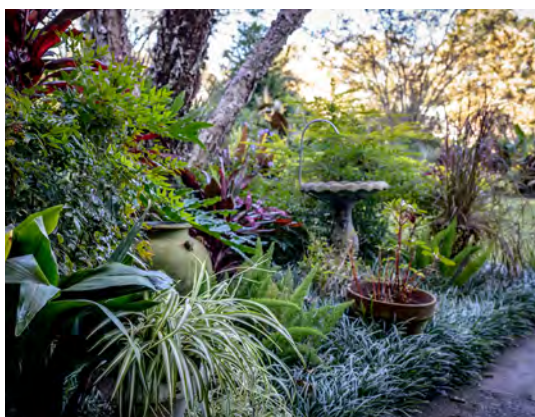
This Clerodendron is a perennial showstopper with its long season of bright orange blooms.



Great textures abound with the Fiddle-Leaf Fig and Duranta complimenting the unique flowers of the white Angel Trumpet.



ABOVE Dazzling colorful sweeps decorate the front lawn. Plantings include Coleus, Red Fountain Grass, Mexican Petunia, Cannas, along with vertical accents of bananas, elephant ears and Sky Pencil Holly.



TOP What a winning combination of red Pentas, purple Alternanthera and chartreuse Duranta in the background. **BOTTOM** The entrance is a delightful mix of hidden treasures, textures and interest. Nandina, Cast Iron, spider plant, foxtail fern, Liriope and Ti plant all create this potpourri of garden jewels.



ABOVE Cuphea ignea or Cigar plant is an excellent butterfly and hummingbird attractor. The orange tubular flowers linger long in our growing season. **LEFT** What a delightful and whimsical addition to a garden. Bananas! In addition to the fruit, the flower of the banana shown here is also edible.

What's growing in your backyard?

Got a great garden or backyard? LOCAL Life would love to feature it in an upcoming issue. We won't print your name, address or any personal information — just photos of your amazing property. Email your information to lance.hanlin@wearelocallife.com



Find additional
images from this
photoshoot online at
LocalLifeSC.com



Salt Marsh

WHERE LIFE BEGINS

STORY BY AMY COYNE BREDESON + PHOTOGRAPHY BY LLOYD WAINSCOTT



WORTH ITS SALT Salt marshes occur along much of the coast where the twice-daily tides alternately flood and drain vast low-lying areas just inland from the ocean.

DISCOVER ONE OF THE MOST PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS ON EARTH, RIGHT HERE AT HOME.

Ever wonder why the salt marsh smells like rotten eggs or why the ocean looks so dirty in the Lowcountry?

Get the answers to those questions and more on a Salt Marsh Discovery tour at the Coastal Discovery Museum on Hilton Head Island.

Participants get their shoes a little muddy on the tour, but it's worth it to be outside enjoying the beautiful scenery and learning about the local ecosystem.

On a recent Friday morning, docent Jim Reeves led tour participants out into the marsh at Jarvis Creek, pointing out fiddler crabs, Atlantic ribbed mussels, periwinkle sea snails and other creatures.

"I like to talk softly because we are standing on nature's nursery," Reeves said in a whisper. "This is the salt marsh. This is where life begins. If you and I are going to enjoy the birds, the alligators, do I dare say our very own existence, (it all) depends upon what happens here in the salt marsh because this is where life begins."

Reeves pointed out the spartina grass that is so important to the ecosystem. He said there are only a few plants that can tolerate salt water, and spartina is one of them. Also known as cordgrass, spartina is a food source for periwinkles, which climb up and down the stalks of the plant, cleaning the residue left over from the receding high tides.

Oysters are also vital to keeping the water clean. According to Reeves, one oyster can filter between 30 and 50 gallons of water a day.





A CLOSER LOOK After exploring the marsh, Jim Reeves took participants down to a dock, where they had a chance to reel in crab traps and examine several blue crabs.

So, if the oysters and other creatures are filtering the water, why does it smell and look so gross?

According to Reeves, the horrible smell of the salt marsh comes from the combination of the cordgrass that washes up with the tides, the salt water, the heat of the sun and the decay of the plants.

"What you're smelling is the smell of death/life," Reeves said, adding that the combination "creates a condition that's just perfect ... for what I like to call primordial soup."

People often compare Lowcountry waters to the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean. Reeves said the water there is beautiful, but there's nothing living in it.

"Our salt marshes are just filthy, filthy with life," Reeves said. "And that's what makes our salt marsh particularly special."

Reeves said the salt marshes of the Lowcountry are unique because they are the only marshes on the East Coast that have no freshwater flowing in or out.

After exploring the marsh, Reeves took participants down to a dock, where they had a chance to reel in crab traps and examine several blue crabs.

Museum CEO Rex Garniewicz, who has only lived in the area for the past few years, said he was surprised to learn that 50 percent of Beaufort County is made up of salt marshes and that half of the salt marshes in South Carolina are in the county.

"It's fascinating to me to learn about all the creatures that live here," Garniewicz said. "You could spend the rest of your life learning about the salt marsh and still not know everything." LL



TAKE A TOUR OF THE SALT MARSH

The Salt Marsh Discovery tours at the Coastal Discovery Museum are held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. every Friday. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children ages 4-12. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 843-689-6767, ext. 223, or by visiting www.coastaldiscovery.org.

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GOPRO HERO6 Automatically sends your footage to your phone where the app turns it into an edited video. A new chip delivers vastly improved image quality. \$499



PLYNT POCKET This portable device turns your phone into an instant camera, printing stickers of anything from your device or social networks. Attach your phone and print in seconds. \$150



POLAROID POP A digital instant camera that brings back iconic Polaroid photos with white borders. It shoots and prints 3-inch by 4-inch instant photos using inkless Zink photo paper. \$200



CANON EOS M100 Simply line up the shot you want and watch it focus almost instantly. Equipped with phase detection, this device offers fast, smooth and precise autofocus that stays locked onto your subject, even if it is in motion, for both photos and videos. \$599



BIKI The world's first bionic unmanned underwater drone that looks and moves like a fish. It quietly moves through the water at just over 1 mph and weighs less than three pounds. Two powerful LEDs light up the underwater world for a camera that shoots 4K video. \$999



COBRA CDR 900 Never miss a moment again while driving with this HD dash cam. Wi-Fi functionality allows the user to connect and stream live and recorded footage directly to the user's device to instantly view and share footage. \$300

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Walk and Wine:

ROSÉS AND THE SOUTH END OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

STORY BY BECCA EDWARDS

Becca Edwards is a wellness professional, freelance writer and owner of b.e.WELL+b.e.CREATIVE (bewellbecreative.com).

Bike paths, boardwalks, trails and beaches supersaturated with the enticing sights, sounds and smells of Hilton Head stretch before as you walk and talk about topics both big and small. Worries and calories melt away. After several miles, reward yourself with local fare, paired with drinks and laughter. Put on your walking shoes or hop on a bike and come along for the ride. *LL*

Try this route:

COLIGNY BEACH LOOP

- [1] Begin at Charlie's L'etoile Verte (8 New Orleans Road).
- [2] On New Orleans, turn right and continue to Charles Fraser Park.
- [3] Turn left onto Pope Avenue.
- [4] Continue to the Coligny Circle and head toward Coligny Beach Park.
- [5] Walk out onto the beach and turn left, continuing until mile marker 70.
- [6] Turn around and continue back, taking the beach path at marker 51.
- [7] Turn left onto South Forest Beach Road, right onto Cordillo Road, left onto Pope Avenue, and right onto New Orleans Road, returning to Charlie's.

Points of Interest: Fraser Park and Coligny Beach

Must Order at Charlie's: Billecart Salmon Brut rosé with thepâté maison and Hugel Gentil with the orange-ginger chicken salad

TOTAL MILES: 8

Try this route:

SPANISH WELLS LOOP

- [1] Begin at Jump and Phil's Bar and Grill (7D Greenwood Drive, Suite 3).
- [2] Cross Greenwood Drive, keeping the traffic circle to your right.
- [3] Pass by Starbucks and get on the bike path, crossing over Palmetto Bay Road onto Target Road.
- [4] At the Target Road-Arrow Road intersection, veer right and then turn left onto the nature trail.
- [5] End at Palmetto Bay Road and head toward the Cross Island Bridge, passing the toll, and eventually turning left onto Spanish Wells Road.
- [6] Continue straight on Brahm's Point Road until the end.
- [7] Return back to Jump and Phil's by going over the Cross Island and down Palmetto Bay Road.

Points of Interest: Cross Island Bridge view and Spanish Wells Point

Must Order at Jump and Phil's: Kendall-Jackson rosé, mac 'n cheese bites and grouper bites

TOTAL MILES: 10.5





Try this route:

SEA PINES LOOP

[1] Beginning at the Sea Pines Beach Club (87 North Sea Pines Drive), turn right onto North Sea Pines Drive toward Hilton Head Preparatory School.

[2] Turn left onto Lawton Road and then zigzag onto Lawton Canal Road to enter into the Sea Pines Forest Preserve on your right.

[3] Follow the main road and walk around Lake Mary. Return back and turn right at marker 17, toward the Vanishing Swamp Trail.

[4] Once the Vanishing Swamp boardwalk ends, turn left and continue along Boggy Trail until you end at Greenwood Drive.

[5] Turn right on Greenwood Drive, left onto Plantation Drive, and right onto Lighthouse Road, continuing to Harbour Town.

[6] Take a stroll along the harbor and even to the top of the Harbour Town lighthouse before beginning your return back to Lighthouse Road.

[7] Follow the Fraser Circle around, turning at the continuation of Lighthouse Road.

[8] Turn left onto North Sea Pines Drive to return back to the Sea Pines Beach Club.

Points of Interest: Sea Pines Beach Club, Sea Pines Forest Preserve, Lawton Stables, Harbour Town lighthouse and scenic and informative nature trails

Must Order at Coast: Hogwash rosé, half pound of the chilled peel-and-eat South Carolina shrimp, local oysters and sweet chili and benne seed calamari

TOTAL MILES: 8.5

WANDER WOMEN

Pictured, from left:
Katharine Loeb
Sidney Pierson
Emily Palazzo
Leisa Cram



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Airline: United
Availability: Year round

Chicago

©CHOOSE CHICAGO

Winter in the Windy City

STORY BY BY EDWARD THOMAS



©NATASHA J PHOTOGRAPHY



TOP Mickey leads the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival.
BELOW Christmas Tree on North Michigan Avenue.

If you think of Chicago only as a place to vacation in summer, then you are missing out on a lot – especially in the weeks leading up to Christmas and New Year's.

I may be partial to visiting Chicago while wearing a parka, but my first trip to the Windy City was to visit my newborn granddaughter in February, and after checking out her bright eyes and beaming smile we had a grand few days of terrific restaurant hopping, shopping and nightlife.

Of the several trips to Chi-Town since then, most have been in colder weather. But no matter hot or cold, every trip has been enjoyable.

Speaking of Windy City, if you had always thought the moniker was due to the brisk breezes blowing off Lake Michigan, you're wrong. Origins of the nickname are actually derived from newspaper columnists in the late 1800s poking fun at boastful local Chicago politicians who they termed: "full of hot air."

Chicago likes to think it matches New York City as the perfect pre-Christmas destination, and in several ways it exceeds. This is because of its more compact and inviting downtown shopping area called the Magnificent Mile, which has more than 400 stores and shops plus four vertical malls.

LIGHTS FESTIVAL

The Magnificent Mile Lights Festival is considered the most popular Chicago holiday event. The tradition celebrates the "season of giving" with more than one million lights that are hung from the hundreds of festive trees lining the boulevard.

This year, the celebration started on Thanksgiving weekend and includes two additional weekends during December, with music and festivities throughout the day. The evening parade is a show-stopper. It is led by Mickey and Minnie Mouse from Walt Disney World Resort, accompanied by a sea of festive floats and a cast of well-know characters. A fireworks show above the Chicago skyline caps the festivities.

The most venerated shopping venue is Macy's on State Street, formerly known as Marshall Field & Company department store. This landmark served Chicago for more than 150 years with highest quality apparel, accessories and home goods throughout its eight separate floors. Beautiful Christmas window displays draw crowds each day and evening until New Years.

Today, Macy's on State Street is the second largest department store in the country with an ever-changing array of items at many price levels, from brands known internationally to those by emerging designers, including many Chicagoans.



TOP Atrium of Macy's on State Street.
BELOW 900 North Michigan Shops

A good tip before you start shopping is to download a voucher for a Visitor Savings Pass from the city's Visitor Bureau website: ChooseChicago.com.

Also, don't focus so much on shopping that you miss the landmark building's notable architectural features, in particular the fifth floor Tiffany Ceiling - the largest unbroken example of Tiffany Favrite glass in the world - containing more than 1.6 million pieces of iridescence that shimmer in a mosaic of bright blues, gold and ivory.

Macy's also manages to keep its shoppers on site with some unique dining options including The Walnut Room. This plush, high-ceiling eatery opened 110 years ago and still offers tea service as well as fine-dining lunch options. The original Circassian Walnut paneling and Austrian chandeliers from early 1900s add an exquisite sense of elegance. If you hadn't guessed it by now, the building has been designated a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in June 1978.



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TOP Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza on Washington Street. **BOTTOM** Chicago's Field Museum's T-Rex.

OTHER HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS

If you are traveling with youngsters, don't miss the Winter Wonderland at Navy Pier, (Dec. 1-Jan. 7). There is an ice skating rink, Ferris wheel, carousel plus huge inflatable slides. Giant snowflakes and thousands of icicle lights dangle from the ceiling.

One last venerated downtown Chicago Christmas tradition is Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza on Washington Street. Here the plaza is transformed for 37 days into a picturesque European Christmas village, chock full of candy-cane striped wooden huts that host vendors displaying authentic gifts and foods. There are handmade holiday ornaments that you won't find elsewhere plus handmade toys, cuckoo clocks and other carved gifts from Eastern Europe. Visitors enjoy sampling a variety of meats and baked goods from Germany, Austria and several nearby nations while being entertained by Christmas choirs, dance troupes and local brass bands. Very quaint. Very fun. *LL*

BEYOND DECEMBER

Beyond New Year's Day, there still is a lot of cool things to enjoy in Chicago:

Ice Skating

If you like ice skating or have thoughts about trying it out, Millennium Park's McCormick Tribune Rink is a treat. Tucked between some soaring buildings, the rink is one of the few ice skating venues in the city with free admission. Your only cost will be skate rentals, unless you bring your own. As you glide over the ice to holiday music, you can enjoy the remarkable architectural scenery.

Dinosaur and Mummy Exhibits

Chicago's Field Museum is renowned as one of the world's great museums. It is a treasure trove of natural history including the incredible T-Rex dinosaur fossil "Sue." Docent-led tours help first-time visitors. The Ancient Egyptian and Chinese displays are marvelous, and there are plenty of permanent interactive displays to keep the entire family captivated.

Watch Professional Hockey

If you are a sports fan and have never watched a professional hockey game live, you are missing out. The Chicago Blackhawks play at the United Center on the city's near West Side. You'll discover attending a Hawks' game is a unique experience. Before each game begins, the fans are already at fever pitch. Then opera singer Jim Cornelison begins a roaring rendition of the national anthem, joined by an organist and several military veterans on a red carpet inside the rink. Throughout "The Star-Spangled banner, the crowd cheers wildly. As one sportswriter once wrote, "It's probably the loudest building on the face of the earth at that particular moment." And the unabashed excitement never wanes. Tickets aren't that easy to score, but they can be available through a variety of ticket sources like StubHub, Seat Geek or Ticketmaster. Also check out the Blackhawks website.



Suggestions from a Local...

LOCAL Life asked **Lisa and Patrick Koehl** to share a few hidden gems from the Windy City. Patrick was born on Hilton Head Island and is the son of local residents Mary Louise and Dexter Koehl. Patrick and Lisa now call Chicago home but return to the island every summer with their children.

The two spots visitors frequent most in Chicago are the neighborhoods around **Wrigley Field and the North Side** and the **Downtown Loop/ Michigan Avenue** area.

Wrigley/ North Side

EXPLORE:



There are always a lot of bars around the Wrigley Field ballpark, home of the Cubs. But, during baseball season, we would suggest going a few blocks west (a five-minute walk) to avoid the craziness of game day to a neighborhood known as **Southport Corridor**. Some lively places to eat are like **Coda DiVolpe** (cdvolpe.com) and **Corridor Brewing** (corridorchicago.com).

WHERE TO EAT:



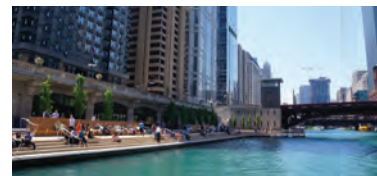
As for a hole in the wall in the area that locals love, you could buy meat and veggie empanadas at **Cafe Tola**, 3612 N Southport Ave. It's considered the best empanadas in the city (cafetola.com).

AFTER HOURS:

Another nearby spot is **Green Mill Jazz**, 4802 N. Broadway Ave., where Al Capone was said to hang out. It's noted as one of the best jazz clubs anywhere (greenmilljazz.com).

Loop/Michigan Avenue

EXPLORE:



Once warmer weather is here and the shopping appetite is satisfied, we would suggest a walk up and down the **Chicago Riverwalk**. It is being called the city's "second lakefront" and contains restaurants, places to relax, boat and kayak rentals and great views of the breathtaking architecture that rises from the river's edge.

Take an **architecture boat tour**. It's a favorite once you have had your first experience. (cruisechicago.com/architecture-tours).

WHERE TO EAT:

Chicago Cut Steakhouse at 300 N. LaSalle Drive is a terrific nearby spot to stop in for lunch or make reservations for dinner. In a city known for its great steakhouses, many feel this is currently the best. It has a great ambience and views overlooking the river. The prime fillet melts in your mouth. But it is definitely expensive.

Two local favorites are **Green Street Meats** in the West Loop (greenstreetmeats.com) and nearby **Au Cheval** (auchevalchicago.com). This is a neighborhood that has been booming in recent years and has some of the best places for burgers and good food at reasonable prices.

More great, reasonable a food is at **Revival Food Hall** (Revivalfoodhall.com), a 24,000-square space at 125 S. Clark St. with food stalls that cater to all tastes to grab and go.

AFTER HOURS:

If you are in the Loop and want to have a cocktail, the rooftop bar at the **Wit Hotel** is one of the coolest spots in the city. "Travel & Leisure" magazine ranks it among the top the rooftop bars in the world. (withotel.com).

Pack your bags for **CHICAGO.**



**SAVANNAHSM
HILTON HEAD**
INTERNATIONAL



AIR CANADA 

 **allegiant**

American Airlines 

 **DELTA**

jetBlue

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Hilton Head
Island to Savannah

Duration: 31 miles
(44 minutes)

Rediscover the Hostess City

STORY BY CAROLYN MALES



Atlanta had gone up in flames one month earlier and Sherman's Union troops continued on their "March to the Sea," leaving a path of plunder and smoldering ruins in their wake. In December, as war drums echoed in the distance, the mayor of Savannah sent the citizens packing and prepared to surrender. On arrival Sherman, it is said, was so entranced by Savannah's stately houses, wide streets, and grid of 24 leafy squares, that he spared it. Or perhaps it was that he'd recognized the value of its busy cotton port and naval supply center. Whatever the reason, the town was saved.

Today Savannah still dazzles, with its remaining 22 squares rimmed with grand mansions and live oaks, its restored civic and commercial buildings, and its old warehouses repurposed into hotels, restaurants, galleries and stores. On Telfair Square the dramatic Moshe Safdie-designed Jepson Center for the Arts stands catty-corner to its sister Telfair Academy, an 1818 Regency-style mansion. (telfair.org)

A few blocks away, an 86-foot-high steel-and-glass lantern heralds the Savannah College of Art and Design's adaptation of an 1853 railroad depot into the SCAD Museum of Modern Art. (scadmoa.org)

The city celebrates the season in December by draping its large historic district in pine roping, holly, magnolia leaves and lights. This time of year you can peek behind the doors of inns and private residences on a self-guided Holiday Tour of Homes on Dec. 9. (dnaholidaytour.com)

But no matter what the month, walking around yields architectural delights at every turn. But if you'd rather explore with a guide, there are dozens of tours to suit any interest: history, architectural, ghost and vampire (Savannah is a favorite haunted hangout), pub crawls, cemetery, civil war, ecology, river, photography, movies, military, wildlife and more. *LL*

WHAT TO DO:

SAVANNAH AFRICAN ART MUSEUM Enter a magical world of spiritual and ceremonial art at this impressive private collection of art spanning 22 countries and 130 cultures from West and Central Africa. Masks, pottery, sculpture and ceremonial garments dating from the 19th and 20th centuries fill two stories of this light-filled mansion. Guides offer insights into symbolism, rituals, crafting and tribal customs. Thomas Square Neighborhood. Thurs-Sat. (912-421-8168 or visit.saam@gmail.com)



AMERICAN PROHIBITION MUSEUM Savannah's winding waterways provided the perfect cover for rum running in the 1920s, so it's fitting that the country's only museum dedicated to Prohibition ended up here. Embark on an entertaining journey from the pre-Civil War temperance movement, through the theatrics of Billy Sunday and the hatchet-wielding Carrie Nation, then on to the result of the 18th amendment ban - moonshiners, flappers, gangsters, leading to unintended consequences - rising income tax, re-emergence of the Ku Klux Klan and even the roots of NASCAR. If you've worked up a thirst, a speakeasy at the end serves Prohibition-era cocktails. City Market area. Open daily. (americanprohibitionmuseum.com)



PIN POINT HERITAGE MUSEUM Located 12 miles from downtown Savannah, this old seafood processing plant offers a unique look into a historic Gullah-Geechee community. For more than half a century, the A.S. Varn & Son Oyster and Crab Factory was the economic heart of this small salt marsh village. Take a guided tour through four restored buildings to learn how shellfish were processed and to hear the voices of the folks who grew up here (including Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas), telling stories about traditions, religion, and family life. Thurs-Sat. (912-355-0064 or chsgeorgia.org/phm)



"I beg to present you as a Christmas Gift, the City of Savannah."

— General William Tecumseh Sherman's telegram to President Abraham Lincoln, December 22, 1864

WHERE TO EAT:



THE GREY Savannah is famous for restoring old buildings and the Grey, an 1938 Art Deco former Greyhound bus station, is a perfect example with its sleek décor and local art. Chef Mashama Bailey has won kudos for her Southern Coastal cuisine with dishes like Ossabow Pork with charred cabbage and Chicken Country Captain with curry and rice. For less formal fare, The Grey's street side Diner Bar offers a bar menu of meats and cheeses, sandwiches and sweets, along with wine and cocktails. Look for the special events held in The Yard. Historic District. (thegreyrestaurant.com)



THE VAULT KITCHEN AND MARKET Once a bank building, this hip Asian fusion spot serves up creative fare like spicy Banker's Shrimp Tacos with kimchi, Deposit Box Duck tacos, Miso Salmon, Crying Tiger grilled steak, and Wicked Tuna sushi. Starland District. (vaultkitchen.com)



MRS. WILKES DINING ROOM This Savannah institution has been described as "Thanksgiving dinner without the turkey." And no wonder. Steaming dishes of fried chicken, meatloaf, red rice, collards, mac and cheese, butter beans, gumbo, muffins and yams (dishes depend upon the changing menu) are served up family style to tables of 10. A not-to-be-missed experience, but do be prepared to stand in line (no reservations are taken), share a table with others, and pay cash. Historic District. (mrswilkes.com)

WHERE TO STAY:



BOHEMIAN HOTEL Sitting atop a 46-foot bluff overlooking the Savannah River, this 75-room brick hotel was built to resemble the old cotton warehouse buildings that still line Factors Row. Taking its cue from the city's maritime history and its current art scene, this luxury property mixes British campaign furniture, driftwood and brass along with contemporary paintings and edgy touches. Dine at the hotel's Rocks on the River or head up to the rooftop indoor-outdoor bar, Rocks on the Roof, to sip martinis and eat tapas while watching container ships drift by. (bohemianhotelsavannah.com)



HAMILTON-TURNER INN One of the country's most romantic inns. With seventeen charming rooms featuring custom bedding, plush furnishings and stylish baths, plus an attentive staff, this elegant inn is Savannah hospitality at its best. Historic District. (hamilton-turnerinn.com)



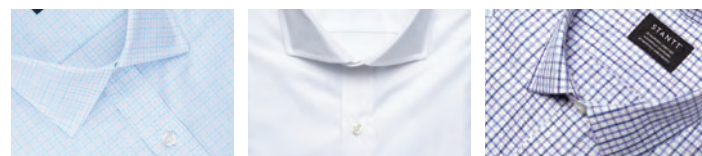
RIVER STREET INN In the days of King Cotton, Savannah was the world's second largest cotton seaport. Ballast from ships provided the building material for this 200-year-old riverside building that once housed bales of cotton for sampling, grading, and export. Today the reconverted warehouse features a five-story wooden staircase in an atrium with ballast and cobblestone walls. The period-furnished rooms, some with balconies, offer city or river views at moderate prices. Member of Historic Hotels of America. (riverstreetinn.com)

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ROAD TRIP

Hilton Head Island
to Biltmore Estate

Duration: 305 miles
(4 hours, 52 minutes)



December the most magical time to visit Biltmore

When George Vanderbilt opened his home to family and friends on Christmas Eve in 1895, a tradition began that is carried on to this day at the largest privately-owned house in the United States. Each holiday season, the 250-room French Renaissance chateau in Asheville, N.C., transforms into an unforgettable yuletide vacation destination filled with wreaths, garlands and the sparkle of thousands of ornaments on more than 55 magnificent Christmas trees. This year's theme, "A Vanderbilt Christmas," runs through Jan. 7, 2018. The mansion offers a daytime experience (\$65), a candlelight evening experience (\$85) and many special events throughout the holiday season. *LL*



TOP The Tapestry Gallery **BELOW** The Library



The Banquet Hall Tree



TOP The Banquet Hall **BELOW** The Banquet Hall Fireplace



hot tech

TRAVEL



INCASE NOVICONNECTED This smart travel roller is equipped with a built-in power bank that delivers enough power to charge a MacBook, iPad and iPhone, transforming every terminal, station or port into a personal power hub. \$300

BOSE SOUNDSPORT FREE HEADPHONES Get clear, powerful sound from Bose's

first truly wireless in-ear headphones. They're engineered to stay in place and stay comfortable. The volume-optimized EQ

and digital signal processing make music sound full and balanced at any volume. \$250

BEATS STUDIO 3 WIRELESS HEADPHONES These popular headphones improve on the previous model by adding Apple's W1 chip, more advanced noise cancellation, redesigned internals and longer battery life. Pairing with nearby iPhones, iPads and Macs is effortless and immediate. \$350

BOSE SOUNDLINK MICRO SPEAKER Small but powerful, super rugged and waterproof. Strap it to your bike, your backpack or your cooler. It includes an IPX 7 rating, 6-hour battery life and Bluetooth connectivity. \$110

AIRBAR A sleek, lightweight device that attaches to the bottom of your laptop display, plugs in via USB and instantly enables touchscreen functionalities on your regular laptop. Use the device with anything from an oven mitt to scroll through a digital recipe to a paintbrush to give your kids a virtual art lesson. \$79

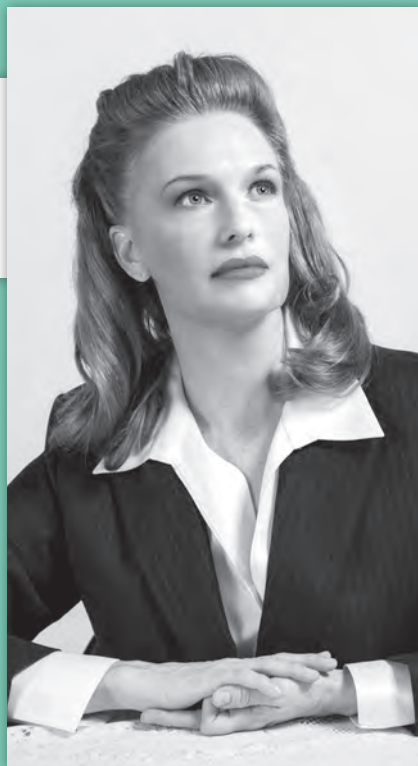


LEAN ENSEMBLE THEATER

Peggy Trecker White is
Katharine Hepburn in

Tea at Five

by Matthew Lombardo
directed by Ian McCabe



hilton head preparatory school
MAIN STREET THEATRE

3000 main street,
hilton head island

December 14-16 7:30 pm
December 17 2 pm matinee

\$40 evenings • \$35 matinees
\$15 students/active military
group rates available

843.715.6676
LEANENSEMBLE.ORG

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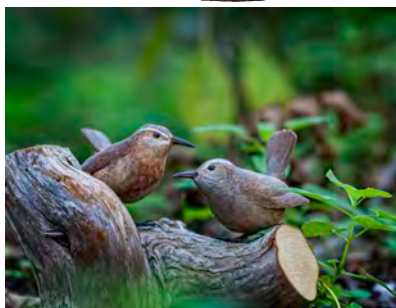
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More to discover

STORY BY AMY COYNE BREDESON
PHOTOS BY LLOYD WAINSCOTT

*NEW LAB
AT COASTAL
DISCOVERY
MUSEUM
OFFERS A FUN,
EDUCATIONAL
EXPERIENCE
FOR ALL AGES*

For a fun, interactive lesson on the creatures of the Lowcountry, take a trip to the new Tom Peeples Discovery Lab at the Coastal Discovery Museum on Hilton Head Island.

See up close a variety of native creatures - fish, horseshoe crabs, hermit crabs, frogs, even an alligator.

"It's been better than I ever expected," museum curator of education Dawn Brut said. "It's so great for people to be able to come in and get their hands on the stuff."

One thing visitors might not want to get their hands on is the new indoor beehive, built and installed by local beekeeper David Arnal. A pipe on the outside of the building allows bees to fly in and out of the hive. Arnal takes care of the beehive as well as other hives on the property. Don't forget to grab a jar of Honey Horn honey in the museum shop on the way out.

According to the museum's website, the building that houses the discovery lab was originally built around 1900 as a home for the property's supervisor.



Find additional
images from this
photoshoot online at
LocalLifeSC.com



The lab, which opened a little more than a year ago, is now used primarily for school programs. Over the past year, between 6,000 and 8,000 students have visited the lab, Brut said. Children from various area schools and summer camps take field trips to the lab throughout the year.

The lab features microscopes for conducting experiments, games, crafts and other activities to get kids and adults interested in the local environment. Six life-size stand-up images of turtles demonstrate how large various species can grow. Brut said most sea turtle nests found along the South Carolina coast are from loggerhead sea turtles. She added the average adult female loggerhead turtle's carapace (top shell) is between 31 and 43 inches long.

"It's very popular and I think very successful," Brut said. "It's a fun educational experience."

There is no fee to visit the lab, which is open to the public only at specific times, depending on the season. Make sure to call or check the museum's website in advance. Groups interested in field trips to the lab should contact Brut at dbrut@coastaldiscovery.org or at 843-689-6767 (ext. 228), as far in advance as possible. For more information on the discovery lab or other programs at the museum, visit www.coastaldiscovery.org.

"Our vision includes inspiring people to care for the Lowcountry so that they'll go home and act or spread that message, and really be an example on a global scale," Brut said.

The building was named in honor of former Hilton Head Island mayor Tom Peebles in recognition of his foresight in preserving Historic Honey Horn and helping develop a public-private partnership between the Coastal Discovery Museum and the town of Hilton Head Island. *LL*

HOW MANY CREATURES CAN YOU FIND?

3 species of fish
1 whelk
5 hermit crabs
5 white shrimp
12 grass shrimp
15-PLUS horseshoe crabs
1 snake
1 alligator
1 toad
3 frogs
2 lizards
THOUSANDS of honey bees



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The Lowcountry's Gullah storyteller

*LOUISE COHEN HAS
DEDICATED HER LIFE
TO COLLECTING,
PROTECTING AND
PRESERVING GULLAH
STORIES AND
ARTIFACTS.*

STORY BY LUANA M. GRAVES SELLARS +
PHOTO BY MARK STAFF

Generally soft spoken and quiet in her demeanor, when her passion for the Gullah culture ignites, Louise Cohen brings the voice and character of her ancestors back to life. It was only within the recent past that Cohen's calling motivated her to follow her dream of documenting, preserving and sharing the Gullah culture.

Known island-wide as the Hilton Head storyteller, Cohen, 73, passionately and tirelessly breathes life into Gullah stories, while fighting to keep the history and culture of Hilton Head's native islanders alive. As the curator of the Gullah Museum, Cohen dedicates her life to collecting, protecting and preserving Gullah stories and artifacts for future generations.

The Gullah Museum is in a house that was handed down to Cohen from her uncle, William "Duey" Simmons. Known as the "Little Blue House" on Gumtree Road, the house is part of a collection of buildings that will eventually be part of a campus.

Cohen works tirelessly toward her vision for the museum: to demonstrate how life on Hilton Head was for native islanders before outside influences came across the bridge; and how Gullah traditions continue to live on today.

Cohen was born on Hilton Head and is a direct descendant of slaves who were brought to Sullivan Island and eventually held at Rose Hill Plantation, where her great-great grandparents, Cesar Kirk Jones and Moriah Jones, are listed in a frame on the wall of the plantation. They refused to stay in bondage and were visionaries who made a daring escape with their three children across the Harbor River to Hilton Head in search of freedom.

The mother of four, grandmother of five and great-grandmother of two, Cohen is building a legacy of dedication and commitment to traditions and culture by involving her family in her work at the museum and in raising funds to keep the museum alive. *LL*

FAST FACTS: LOUISE COHEN

- The South Carolina Department of Education has nominated Cohen to be included in the **African American History Calendar** representing the month of March and highlighting the work she's done preserving Gullah culture.
- A recipient of a **Commendation** in March 21, 2017, from Mayor David Bennett and the Town of Hilton Head, Cohen was recognized for being a long-standing resident of the island, her work in restoring Gullah houses and for her dedication to the island's culture.
- In April 2017, Cohen was bestowed with an **honorary doctoral degree** in Humane Letters from the University of South Carolina Beaufort.
- Also in April 2017 in Chicago the National Civil Rights Library awarded Cohen its **Community Service Award** for her dedication to Gullah preservation.
- From 2007-2013, Cohen was among the first Commissioners to serve on the **S.C. Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission**.
- Recognized often for her preservation work, Cohen has been nominated twice for the **Civitas Lifetime Leadership Award**, was the 2010 recipient of the **Governor's Award** from the S.C. Palmetto Trust, a **Community Service Award** from NIBCAA, the co-recipient of an **Honor Award** from the National Trust for Historic Preservation of the Little Blue House and under Hilton Head Mayor Drew Laughlin, was recognized as the **Citizen of the Month** in February 2014.





JULIE VOS

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Pretty Papers
and gifts

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HILTON HEAD ISLAND
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Taste of the Season - Photos by Thomas Love

The Pearl Kitchen & Bar won the People's Choice Award for Best Cuisine at Taste of the Season, held Nov. 17 by the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce at the Country Club of Hilton Head. Find more images of the event online at trmediaworld.com.



Katie Manley and Margaret Uremovich.



Nick Bergelt, Brandon Burke, Andrea Roberts and Ricky Phelps



Alex Nightingale, Matt Valentino and Sarah Ricker of The Pearl Kitchen & Bar.



Kevin Lawless, maker of the special convection oven used to cook the meatball, holds the official certificate.

World's Largest Meatball

Photos by Thomas Love
The Italian-American Club of Hilton Head created the world's largest meatball during the Italian Heritage Festival. Find more images from the festival online at trmediaworld.com.



The record meatball weighed 1,707 pounds, 8 ounces.



Concours d'Elegance

Photos by Arno Dimmling

More than 500 vehicles made their way to Hilton Head Island for the Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival & Concours d'Elegance. Find more photos online at photosbyarno.com.





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DECEMBER calendar

When it comes to festive activities, no month is more packed than December. Here are our top picks for fun, along with other days of national and international interest. **Cut this page out and stick it to your fridge!**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
THINGS TO DO NEARBY						
<p>Jacksonville Area Jaguars vs. Colts (Dec. 3) Harlem Globetrotters (Dec. 8) Jaguars vs. Seahawks (Dec. 10) Janet Jackson (Dec. 12) Trans-Siberian Orchestra (Dec. 14) Jaguars vs. Texans (Dec. 17) Jim Gaffigan (Dec. 30)</p> <p>North Charleston Coliseum Bill Gaither (Dec. 1) Kansas (Dec. 1)</p> <p>Savannah Civic Center Ron White (Dec. 2) Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (Dec. 21) Shen Yun (Dec. 23)</p> <p>Colonial Life Arena (Columbia) The Great Xscape Tour (Dec. 7) Janet Jackson (Dec. 16) Harlem Globetrotters (Jan. 12)</p>					<p>Winter Wonderland Festival Rollin' Jay Moore World Aids Awareness Day Eat a Red Apple Day</p>	<p>Bluffton Christmas Parade Movies on the Harbour: "The Santa Clause" National Fritters Day</p>
 3 Party in the Park Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Circle of Caring Gala Advent begins	 4 Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra Wear Brown Shoes Day Santa's List Day	 5 Farmer's Market at Sea Pines Center Bathtub Party Day Repeal Day	 6 St. Nicholas Day Mitten Tree Day Put on Your Own Shoes Day	 7 Movie in the Park: "Polar Express" Holiday Jazz SoundBites Farmers Market of Bluffton Pearl Harbor Remembrance	 8 Gullah Soul Christmas Fest of the Immaculate Conception National Brownie Day	 9 Movies on the Harbour: "Home Alone" Christmas Card Day
10 Holiday Hook Up 2nd Sunday of Advent Human Rights Day	11 Green Monday	 12 Hanukkah starts Farmer's Market at Sea Pines Center Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	 13 Poinsettia Day Ice Cream Day Violin Day	14 Movie in the Park: "Elf" Farmers Market of Bluffton International Monkey Day	15 Hilton Head Choral Society Movie on the Green: "Elf" Audubon Christmas Bird Count	16 Movies on the Harbour: "A Christmas Story" Wreaths Across America National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
17 3rd Sunday of Advent Pan American Aviation Day Wright Brothers Day	 18 Bake Cookies Day International Migrants Day National Roast Suckling Pig Day	 19 Farmer's Market at Sea Pines Center Look for an Evergreen Day Oatmeal Muffin Day	 20 Hanukkah ends Go Caroling Day Crossword Puzzle Day	 21 Movie in the Park: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" Farmers Market of Bluffton Winter Solstice	 22 National Date Nut Bread Day National Flashlight Day Forefather's Day	 23 Gregg Russell Christmas Concert Super Saturday Jingle Jingle Run Festivus
24 Christmas Eve 4th Sunday of Advent New Year's Eve New Year's Ball Drop 31	 25 Christmas Day National Pumpkin Pie Day	 26 Kwanzaa starts Boxing Day Washington's Birthday	 27 Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day National Fruitcake Day	 28 Farmers Market of Bluffton Card Playing Day	 29 Pepper Pot Day	 30 Bacon Day National Bicarbonate of Soda Day



THE ONLY “DOG DAYS” AT THE CYPRESS BELONG TO YOUR DOG

As man's best friend, I only want the best for my owner, and we sure got more than the best when we moved to The Cypress! When we bought our home, they customized it just for us (new carpet and paint for him, a doggy door for me). There's plenty of room for me to explore around the 100-acre campus, and we've met so many new four and two-legged friends on our adventures around the three-hole Cypress Club golf course. There's lots of time to play in Central Bark dog park since The Cypress maintains our home and yard, and I've never felt safer than on our campus within gated Hilton Head Plantation. Of course there's still plenty of time to get in my naps while he is busy at the Clubhouse or is out attending activities and trips with his new friends. And the best part is the food. When he's feeling generous, he'll sneak me a delicious snack from one of the on-campus restaurants. (I'm always excited to see a Cypress doggie bag!) The Cypress even has a healthcare center on campus if he needs it (and I hear it's much nicer than a visit to the v-e-t). Yep, The Cypress life is far from “ruff,” come see for yourself... even if you're a cat person.



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DECEMBER happenings



©PHOTOS BY THOMAS LOVE



DEC 2

BLUFFTON CHRISTMAS PARADE

When: Dec. 2 at 10 a.m.

Where: Calhoun Street to Red Cedar Elementary School in Old Town Bluffton

FYI: Road closures begin at 8 a.m.

Information: www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/christmas-parade or 843-706-4500

Santa Claus is Coming *THE BLUFFTON CHRISTMAS PARADE RETURNS*



Riding on top of a fire engine, Santa will make his way down Calhoun Street at the annual Bluffton Christmas Parade on Dec. 2. Dancers, high school marching bands, local dignitaries and everyone who's anyone in Bluffton partakes in the annual event. During the parade, Collins Group Realty will collect new and unwrapped toys in partnership with Bluffton Self Help and the Bluffton Police Department. Donations will be collected as the department's float makes its way on the parade route. Toys also can be dropped off at boxes at various cross streets throughout Old Town.



DEC 1

WINTER WONDERLAND FESTIVAL

When: Dec. 1 from 4-8 p.m.

Where: Shelter Cove Community Park

Cost: Free, donations welcome

Information: www.sheltercove-townecentre.com or 843-681-7273

WINTER WONDERLAND FESTIVAL

The Winter Wonderland Festival will be at Shelter Cove Community Park from 4-6 p.m. on Dec. 1. The evening will feature carnival games, a children's parade, golden candy cane hunt, Coca-Cola Refresh Crew, an appearance by Santa Claus, and more.



Santa, Treats and Holiday Fun at the Village of Wexford

A gingerbread trail complete with treats, Candy Cane Lane, sponsored and decorated by EXIT Realty Hilton Head, Santa House and photos, complimentary photo opportunities with Santa from 3-6 p.m. Storytime and crafts with Santa at 2:45 p.m. Hot chocolate and kettle corn from 3-6 p.m. Oilerie of Hilton Head Island holiday samplings of hot cider, popcorn, candy and an olive oil and balsamic vinegar contest.

DEC 23

HOLIDAY EVENTS AT THE VILLAGE AT WEXFORD

When: Through Dec. 23

Where: Shelter Cove Community Park

Information: www.villageatwexford.com



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Copper Penny Hilton Head Island

Holiday Jazz Celebrations at the Jazz Corner



*TRADITIONAL
HOLIDAY MUSIC WILL
GET A GLASSY TWIST
WHEN A SERIES OF
PERFORMANCES
COME TO THE JAZZ
CORNER THIS MONTH.*

A Motown Holiday Spectacular featuring Deas Guyz

When: 8 p.m. Dec. 1 and Dec. 3
Where: The Jazz Corner
Cost: \$15 music charge
Reservations: 843-842-8620

A Holiday Celebration featuring the John Brackett Quartet

Brackett will be joined by bassist/vocalist Maggie Evans, seven-string jazz guitarist and CEO of Bennedetto Guitars Howard Paul and percussionist Fuzzy Davis
When: 8 p.m. Dec. 2
Where: The Jazz Corner
Cost: \$10 music charge
Reservations: 843-842-8620

A Rat Pack-Style Salute to the Holidays Featuring Bobby Ryder's Quintet

When: 8 p.m. Dec. 8- 9
Where: The Jazz Corner
Notes: \$10 music charge
Reservations: 843-842-8620

The Justin Varnes Quintet Presents Duke Ellington's "The Nutcracker Suite"

When: 8 p.m. Dec. 15-Dec. 16
Where: The Jazz Corner
Notes: \$15 music charge
Reservations: 843-842-8620

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH JAZZ

Hilton Head Island's Jazz Corner will ring in 2018 with a special extravaganza featuring the Noel Freidline Quintet with singer and actress Maria Howell. The show includes a multi-course dinner, concert, a toast, and party favors. Beverages, gratuities and taxes are separate.

DEC 31

**NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA
WITH THE NOEL FREIDLINE QUINTET
FEATURING MARIA HOWELL**

When: Dec. 31, 5 p.m. early seating;
9 p.m. late seating
Where: The Jazz Corner
Cost: Early seating is \$75 per person;
late seating \$135 per person
Reservations: 843-842-8620



SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS COME TO HHI

Voices filled with the traditional sounds of the holiday season will fill the halls of the First Presbyterian Church on Dec. 15 when the Hilton Head Choral Society presents the "Sounds of Christmas" concert.



DEC 15

"SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS" PRESENTED
BY THE HILTON HEAD CHORAL SOCIETY

When: 8 p.m. Dec. 15

Where: First Presbyterian Church

Cost: \$15-\$40. Preorder tickets online or by phone. A limited number of tickets may be available for sale at the door.

Information: www.hiltonheadchoralsociety.org or 843.341.3818.

NEWSIES

When: 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays Dec. 6-31; check online for Sunday show times

Where: Arts Center of Coastal Carolina

Notes: Tickets are \$59 for adults and \$46 for children

Tickets: 843-842-ARTS or <https://tickets.artshhi.com>



Time to Seize the Day: Newsies Comes to Hilton Head

Inspired by the 1899 newsboys strike, Newsies tells the story of charismatic Jack Kelly, a leader of newsboys who dream of a life better than the streets of New York City. Disney's Tony Award-winning hit has music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Jack Feldman and book by Harvey Fierstein. The performance lifts the story straight from the news pages in which they were based.

Happy Holidays

843-706-2296

7 Plantation Park Dr, Unit 4, Bluffton, SC | www.hospicecarelc.org

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LEAN ENSEMBLE THEATER TAKES 'TEA AT 5' WITH SCREEN LEGEND *Katharine Hepburn*

THE TALENT Peggy Trecker White stars as Katharine Hepburn in Lean Ensemble Theater's production of Matthew Lombardo's *Tea at Five*.



BY CAROLYN MALES + PHOTO BY THEFRENCHGUY PHOTOGRAPHY

"I am Scarlett O' Hara." Katharine Hepburn is pacing the floor, telephone in hand, her beleaguered agent on the other end of the line. "I want Scarlett O' Hara. I need Scarlett O'Hara." She hangs up with a threat. "If I don't play Scarlett O' Hara, you won't be playing my agent anymore."

It's 1938 and Kate is 31 years old. She's passionate. Determined. And perhaps a bit desperate. Despite her growing fame and her best actress Oscar for "Morning Glory," she has had seven flops in a row. "Box Office Poison," theater owners thunder. "Katharine of Arrogance" gossip columnist Louella Parson snipes. Kate sets her jaw.

Give her the lead in "Gone With the Wind" and she'll show them. Washed up actress? She's been there before. Rotten theater revues - her friend Dorothy Parker's famous quip about Kate running "the gamut of emotions from A to B" in "The Lake." Not to mention Schubert firing her for "insufferable bossiness" as well as for being "unattractive." Yet, those slings and arrows only strengthen her resolve.

In between witty rants and sips of tea, she tells how she learned to project that famous voice, becoming Katharine Hepburn, iconic actress. And oh, does she have stories. There's how her politically active parents shaped her into a force of nature; the pain of her brother's suicide - suicide being the Hepburn curse;

DEC 14-17

TEA AT FIVE WITH KATHARINE HEPBURN

When: Dec. 14-16 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.

Where: Hilton Head Preparatory School Main Street Theatre, 3000 Main St., Hilton Head Island

Cost: \$40 evening performances; \$35 matinees; \$15 students/active military. Group and discount rates available

Tickets: www.leanensemble.org or call 843-715-6676

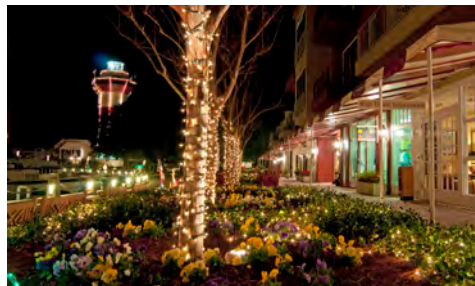
Lionel Barrymore's attempt to seduce her on his own version of a "casting couch."

Fast forward to 1983. Kate is now 76. Three more Oscars grace her shelves. Her voice is creakier and she is a tad crankier. And she now slips a generous portion of scotch into her tea as she recounts her sparring matches with Spencer Tracy - a kind of foreplay for the oddball couple during their 27-year liaison. With impish delight she tells of intimidating neighbor Stephen Sondheim who annoys her with his late night piano playing. . . More stories follow, some poignant, some funny, spiced with clever, often self-deprecating observations.

Meet both these Kates in Lean Ensemble Theater's production of Matthew Lombardo's "Tea at Five," directed by Lean Ensemble member Ian McCabe. The Ensemble's Peggy Trecker White takes a star turn as the unrepentant and indomitable legendary actress in this lively one-woman show. *LL*

SEA PINES RINGS IN HOLIDAYS IN HARBOUR TOWN

From festive lights to traditional polar bear dips, the Sea Pines Resort will bring its annual holiday spirit to Hilton Head throughout the month.



HARBOUR TOWN LIGHTS

8 p.m.-midnight through Jan. 1

Christmas light viewing, a sky-high Christmas tree and live entertainment. Donations of canned goods or unwrapped children's toys to benefit Deep Well are welcome and can be dropped off by the Liberty Oak stage.

MOVIES ON THE HARBOR

7-9 p.m., Under the Liberty Oak

Dec. 2: "The Santa Clause"

Dec. 9: "Home Alone"

Dec. 16: "A Christmas Story"

The resort will provide benches and fire pits for roasting marshmallows. Complimentary admission with a canned food donation for the Deep Well Project.

GREGG RUSSELL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7:30-9 p.m. Dec. 23 at the Liberty Oak stage

The longtime island entertainer will treat concertgoers to holiday songs, complete with a visit from Santa.

HOLIDAY FUN IN HARBOUR TOWN

5:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 27-30

Gather around the Liberty Oak for holiday movies and marshmallow roasting starting at 6 p.m. Movie admission is complimentary with a canned good donation to the Deep Well Project. Train rides will tour the harbor for \$5 per passenger.

17TH ANNUAL POLAR BEAR SWIM

10-11 a.m. Dec. 31

Harbour Town Pool

Before you ring in the New Year, join other brave polar bears by taking an invigorating dip in the Harbour Town pool. Hot chocolate and refreshments will be available.

DEC 1

HOLIDAY JAZZ SOUNDBITES PRESENTED BY THE HILTON HEAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

When: 7 p.m. Dec. 1

Where: 2 Governors Road in Sea Pines

Cost: \$45 per person and include music, food and drinks

Tickets: SoundBitesHolidayJazz.BrownPaperTickets.com or 843-842-2055



HHSO Soundbites Kicks off Holiday Season with Jazz

Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra (HHSO) musicians will perform seasonal favorites on Dec. 1, during a special SoundBites performance. The Holiday Jazz concert will feature Paul Lott on trumpet, Pete Berquist on bass, and Steve Primatic on keyboard. WellFed will serve a holiday menu. SoundBites is a new HHSO program that performs concerts in private homes, offering an alternative symphonic musical experience and giving the audience a "backstage" and close-up perspective.

HHSO Holiday Concert Brings "Joy To The World"

Under the baton of John Morris Russell, festive holiday music will be brought to life when the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra rings in the season with a violin soloist Phoebe Liu. The 16-year-old virtuoso will be joined by local singing groups at "Joy to the World" concert on Dec. 3-4. Groups include the Hilton Head Dance Theatre, the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra Chorus, the Hilton Head Seahawk Singer, the May River Schola Cantorum and the Savannah Children's Choir.

DEC 3-4

"JOY TO THE WORLD," PRESENTED BY THE HILTON HEAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

When: 5 p.m. Dec. 3; 8 p.m. Dec. 4

Where: First Presbyterian Church, HHI

Cost: \$30/\$45/\$55.

Information: www.hhso.org or 843-842-2055

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Small, Medium(s) and Large: Ab-Originals, Southwest Suite & Cave Art



December 11th - December 31st

DECEMBER'S FEATURED ARTIST:

Larry Hughes

Opening Reception:

5 - 7p.m. Friday, December 15th



Holiday Boutique

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 22



A collection of hand-made treasures, artsy crafts and
small paintings on display and available in the Center for Creative Arts building,
next to the SoBA gallery.

**Holiday
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SOBA
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BIRDS FEATURED AT COASTAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM

The Coastal Discovery Museum is going to the birds this month with two programs featuring our feathered friends. Experienced bird watchers will lead winter birdwatching walks at the Pinckney Island Wildlife Refuge on Dec. 6, 14, 20 and 28. Several species of shore birds can usually be seen in the salt marsh, while many species of wading birds could potentially be seen around the marsh and freshwater lagoons. Reservations are required. Learn how ecology of the fish and bird species are tightly intertwined when local wildlife photographer Robert Rommel presents "Fish-Eating" birds on Dec. 13. The talk will examine the behaviors and adaptations that the birds of the area use to hunt fish. Reservations are required.

WINTER BIRD WATCHING HOSTED BY THE COASTAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM

When: 7:30-9:30 a.m. Dec. 6, 14, 20 and 28
Where: Pinckney Island Wildlife Refuge
Cost: \$12 per person ages 12 and older
Reservations: 843-689-6767 (ext. 223)

"FISH EATING BIRDS"

When: 3 p.m. Dec. 13
Where: Coastal Discovery Museum
Cost: \$7 per person ages 12 and older
Reservations: 843-689-6767 (ext. 223)

A Holiday Hookup & Retail Market

Lowcountry Girls will host a Holiday Hookup, a retail holiday market on Dec. 10. The event features local retailers and restaurants, a mimosa bar, a DJ, silent auction and more. The CH2 VIP hour from 11 a.m.-noon will include a mimosa station, food and beverage samples, swag bags and a head start on holiday shopping.

DEC 16

HOLIDAY HOOK UP HOSTED BY LOWCOUNTRY GIRLS

When: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 10
Where: Sonesta Resort Hilton Head Island
Cost: CH2 VIP hour is \$15 from 11 a.m.-noon. The event is free from noon-6 p.m.
Info: www.LowcountryGirls.com or 843-384-3796

"Small, Medium(s), and Large" Featured at SoBA Arts Gallery

As the featured December artist Larry Hughes will present his "Small, Medium(s), and Large" show on Dec. 11-31 at the Society of Bluffton Artists (SoBA) gallery. An opening reception is from 5-7 p.m. on Dec. 15 at the gallery. The show is comprised of works including "Ab-Originals," "Southwest Suite," and "cave and rock art." Hughes creates art in various sizes and mediums, from crayon art and alcohol inks to watercolor, acrylic and mixed medium.



"War Party" by Larry Hughes

DEC 11-31

"SMALL, MEDIUM(S), AND LARGE"

When: Dec. 11-31; Opening reception is 5-7 p.m. Dec. 15

Where: Society of Bluffton Artists (SoBA) gallery

Information: www.sobagallery.com or 843-757-6586.



LEADERSHIP CLASS INVITES YOU TO PARTY IN THE PARK

The 2018 Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber Leadership Class is building an iconic piece a playground equipment, an Imagination Train, in Oscar Frazier Park. To kick off the project, they are throwing a "Party in the Park" on Saturday, December 3, from 1-4 p.m. Featuring food from Melly Mels, Gullah Fried Sweets, bouncy houses, snow cones, music by Shane Marstiller, cornhole, face painting and more. Free admission.

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www.hhhumane.org

Meow we're talkin' 



DEC 15-17

RED PIANO ART GALLERY POP-UP SHOW AT PALMETTO BLUFF

When: Noon-6 p.m. Dec. 15; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 16-17

Where: Palmetto Bluff, 744 Old Moreland Road, Bluffton

MOVIE ON THE GREEN FEATURING "ELF"

When: Movie at 6 p.m., Santa 4:30 p.m.

Where: The Crossroads in Palmetto Bluff's Moreland Village

Cost: \$20 per car

POP-UP ART AT PALMETTO BLUFF AND MOVIE ON THE GREEN

Two events at Palmetto Bluff will benefit the local Honor Our Heroes Foundation, which provides life assistance to members of the armed services and veterans. The Red Piano Art Gallery will take its art on the road this month, hosting a pop-up show in Palmetto Bluff on Dec. 15-17. The show will feature renowned Southern artists Mary Whyte, Betty Anglin-Smith, Rhett Thurman, Michael B. Karas, Dean Mitchell, Stephen Scott Young, Milt Kobayashi and more. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Honor Our Heroes Foundation. Bring blankets and beach chairs for a showing under the stars of "Elf" on Dec. 15 in The Crossroads in Palmetto Bluff's Moreland Village. Hot toddies and snacks will be provided. Santa will make an appearance before the movie begins. The \$20-per-car charge collected at the main gate will be donated to the Honor Our Heroes Foundation.

JINGLE JINGLE RUN

Those aren't elves jogging around the Hilton Head Hospital campus. They're festively dressed runners in the Jingle Jingle Run. The 26th annual Jingle Jingle Run and Health Walk is Dec. 23. The route winds around the Hilton Head Hospital campus and Main Street. Runners dressed in their seasonal best will receive a T-shirt, jingle bells and a candy cane. The awards ceremony features a visit from Santa, refreshments, music and door prizes. Holiday prizes are awarded to the top three overall male and female finishers, plus the top three in each age category. A percentage of proceeds will benefit The South Carolina Chapter of the TEARS Foundation.



JINGLE JINGLE RUN

When: 9 a.m. Dec. 23

Where: Hilton Head Hospital Campus and Main Street

Notes: 5K and Kids Fun Run

Information: www.bearfootsports.com



New Year's Ball Drop

Ring in the New Year at Harbour Town at 7 p.m., then do it again at midnight. Hilton Head Island's annual ball drop will be from its iconic candy-striped Harbour Town Lighthouse. Refreshments, entertainment and live music will begin at 6 p.m. Two countdowns will be at 7 p.m. and the official hour of midnight.

HARBOUR TOWN NEW YEAR'S BALL DROP

When: 6 p.m. - 1 a.m., Dec. 31

Where: Harbour Town, 149 Lighthouse Road

Information: www.seapines.com/events

UNITED WE WIN.

United Way of the Lowcountry is working to help “at risk” children succeed throughout Beaufort and Jasper Counties – including Hilton Head Island and Bluffton.

Remarkable Success Story

UWLC’s Early Grade Reading Initiative, **Read Indeed**, provides one on one in-school tutoring for Pre-K-3rd grade students to help them read on grade level by 4th grade. (Statistics show students not reading on grade level by 4th grade are more likely to fall further behind and are also more likely to drop out of high school.)

With the help of more than 300 volunteers and AmeriCorps members, **Read Indeed** is at 12 sites, helping 800 LOCAL children. **Read Indeed** is producing measurable results and helping to set children on a path to success. 95% of students in Beaufort County who participated in the program increased their reading scores.



Local Partnerships

United Way of the Lowcountry also partners with several local agencies who specialize in improving the lives of “at risk” children in poverty and those suffering from neglect and abuse. **UWLC helps meet the immediate needs of our community and works to create lasting positive change.**



United Way of the Lowcountry, Inc.

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www.uwlowcountry.org
or text LOWCOUNTRY to 30306

Mail Donations to:
UWLC, Box 202, Beaufort, SC 29901

TOYS FOR BLUFFTON KIDS: BLUFFTON POLICE HOLDING ANNUAL DRIVE

Unwrapped toys for children up to age 14 will be collected through Dec. 11 at the Bluffton Police Department, Harbor Light Insurance and Brightway Insurance. The Bluffton Police Department annual drive has provided gifts for hundreds of local children since 2014.

This year, the police department is partnering with Bluffton Self Help. Toys collected will be displayed at the non-profit Santa's Warehouse where families who preregistered can choose gifts for their children up to age 14. In addition, Bluffton School Resource Officers choose families that receive a donation of toys.



BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TOY DRIVE

When: Through Dec. 11

Drop-off locations: Bluffton Police Department, 101 Progressive St.; Harbor Light Insurance, 97A Towne Drive in Belfair Plaza; Brightway Insurance, 50 Burnt Church Road, Suite 200-C.

Info: www.townofbluffton.sc.gov



SoBA Holiday Boutique: Need a creative or unique gift?

The Society of Bluffton Artists (SoBA) will have their works for sale during its fifth annual Holiday Boutique through Dec. 22 at the gallery's Center for Creative Arts building. Prices range from \$15 to \$350 for jewelry, cards, holiday decorations, small paintings, floral arrangements and fiber art.

SOBA FIFTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday through Dec. 22

Where: Corner of Church and Calhoun streets

Information: <http://sobagallery.com>

SHOP AROUND THE PLAZA

When: Through Dec. 24

Where: Coligny Plaza

SHOP & WIN AT COLIGNY PLAZA

It's Christmastime in Coligny, and shoppers can enter for the chance to win \$1,000. Shop Around the Plaza will return this year through Dec. 24. Shoppers can take a picture of their receipt and upload it to www.ChristmasAtColigny.com, or bring a copy to Coligny Plaza offices, above Island Girl shop. The \$1,000 winner will be announced on Dec. 26.



Young Entrepreneurs Host Holiday Market

Local teens will get to show off and sell their crafts, art and creations on Dec. 8-10 in the center court kiosks at Coligny Plaza during the Holiday Market For Young Entrepreneurs. A panel of judges reviewed the applications, and selected a handful of young artisans, ages 18 and under, to decorate a kiosk and display and sell their works.

HOLIDAY MARKET FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

When: Dec. 8-10

Where: Coligny Plaza, Hilton Head Island

Information: www.colignyplaza.com/events/

There's a place for calm in advertising.

For Halloween I chose a referee uniform. Somebody said the idea fit better than the shirt. Seems they think I'm steady and consistent. Sort of the calm in the middle of the storm. OK, it surprised me a little. It's just the way I know to do things. But if that's what the team says, well they seem to know what they're talking about most of the time.

Everybody here brings something different to the work. It fits together because of what we have in common. It adds up to more because of what we have that's different.

Apparently I bring a lot of the "steady."

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The Hilton Head Island – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce startup of the year welcomes Local Life to this dynamic community.

LOWCOUNTRY REAL ESTATE marketplace

Million dollar dream homes

Looking to live in luxury? LOCAL Life is offering readers an exclusive passport to the most exquisite and unique real estate listings available in the Lowcountry. For December, we present "The Super Eight."

We feel these luxury properties — located in Hilton Head Plantation, Sea Pines Plantation, Spanish Wells and Palmetto Dunes — are the epitome of opulence. We're calling this section the Lowcountry Estate Marketplace.

If you are looking to purchase an amazing Lowcountry home, these eight properties should be at the top of your list.



43 Bridgetown
Wexford Plantation
Offered By Karen Ryan

Lowcountry Estate Marketplace



31 Ribaut Drive, Ribaut Island, Hilton Head Plantation

Within the private enclave of Ribaut Island is a property that enraptures the heart and soul! Watch from the pool as yachts sail the intercostal waterway to ports unknown. Relax on the terrace as the setting sun paints amazing portraits in the sky every evening. \$2,899,000

Eric & Hillary Dollenberg 843.816.6489
www.EricDollenberg.com



4 Jessamine Place, Sea Pines

Newer style home just a short walk from the best beach on Hilton Head Island! 8th row home has all of the exceptional features one could want... gourmet kitchen, generously sized bedroom suites, open and inviting living areas. Numerous upgrades including paver driveway, beautifully landscaped outdoor living and swim area, complete with heated pool, outdoor kitchen and fire-pit and an oversized 3 car garage. Newer top of line HVAC's and foam insulation. \$1,599,000

Eric & Hillary Dollenberg 843.816.6489
www.EricDollenberg.com



24 Heritage Road, Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island

Superior home for a sophisticated homebuyer is the essence of 24 Heritage Road. The architecture of this lovely home can go cozy traditional or modern with the open spaces, solid beams and tall windows. 4 BR/ 4.5 BA, media room and wine room and outdoor shower. All this conveniently in between Harbor Town and the best beaches in the area. Must see to appreciate. \$1,395,000

Susan Ochsner 843.816.6388
www.YourHiltonHeadAgent.com



26 Sandhill Crane, Sea Pines, Hilton Head Island

6200 square feet of oceanfront elegance including two master suites, and two living areas, a hardy plank beach deck allows for an amazing beach access and dining area. Cedar closets, Texas limestone, a two-car garage, brick walkway to the beach, fountains, and stone work around the pool are among the countless beautiful extras and features. With 6 terraces three fireplaces and three fountains, it could not be reproduced at any price. \$5,450,000

Susan Ochsner 843.816.6388
www.YourHiltonHeadAgent.com



Lowcountry Estate Marketplace



16 Widewater Road, Spanish Wells, Hilton Head Island SC

This incredible residence shows like new with every imaginable upgrade! Beautiful touches such as travertine tile and gorgeous views of Broad Creek flow throughout the home. Its elegant yet comfortable open floor plan boasts gracious living and dining rooms, a gourmet kitchen open to the family room, a beautiful master suite, and separate offices. The ideal outdoor oasis features expansive patios, a freeform pool, a jacuzzi and dockage. \$4,250,000

Mark Mayer 843.816.0693
www.MarkMayer.evusa.com

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176 Mooring Buoy, Hilton Head Island

Spectacular home overlooking the gorgeous views of the 11-mile lagoon and multiple golf views of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course. This Palmetto Dunes 5 bedroom/ 6 full and 2 half-bath home is a short stroll to the Atlantic Ocean. Two fully-equipped kitchens, wine cellar, two fireplaces, elevator, laundry/mud room by pool area. Two bedrooms have a private, separate entrance. Granite counters, stone and hardwood floors. \$1,825,000

Philip A. Schembra 843.785.2452
www.SchembraRealEstate.com

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12 Brams Point, Spanish Wells

Direct waterfront home w/dock permit. Master w/large master bath w/marble floors, double vanities, Jacuzzi, walk-in shower & his/ her walk-in closets. DR, LR & foyer w/Travertine marble wainscoting; FR w/wet bar, fireplace; 1st floor office w/solid cherry paneling; upstairs den; 3 car side entry garage w/extra storage room & workshop; hardwood flooring on almost all floors. Screened in pool w/outdoor kitchen area; elevator; 2 HVAC units w/8 zones. \$2,545,000

James Wedgeworth 843.384.7825
www.JamesWedgeworth.com

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27 Seabrook Landing, Hilton Head Plantation

New, waterfront home w/ incredible living spaces. Picturesque views from upper and lower back decks, pool, & spa. Bright, open concept living on 1st floor. State-of-the-art kitchen w/ Thermador appliances. 2 guest suites on 1st floor each w/ private bath. Hickory floors throughout. 2nd floor boasts large master suite w/ great views, huge walk-in closet, double door walk-in shower, & double vanities. 2nd bedroom upstairs, as well as study. 1st & 2nd floor laundry rooms. \$1,995,000

James Wedgeworth 843.384.7825
www.JamesWedgeworth.com

CHARTERONE
REALTY

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HOLIDAY CHEERS

Pictured from left; Gina Schirmer, Kaitlin Owens, Ross Jones, Hawkins Schirmer and Grayson Schirmer Jones. The furry friends are Dennis and Millie. Find more photos, videos and history on this historic property on our website. Geist Ussery also provides a recipe for Charcuterie skewers, all at LocalLifeSC.com

©PHOTO BY LISA STAFF

Don't forget to unplug

Technology has many wonderful benefits. Unfortunately, our world may be developing an unhealthy attachment to it. We don't need statistics to tell us how dependent we've become on our smart devices and social media accounts.

Sometimes we need to be reminded — **technology has a power-off button.**

We leave you this month with one such reminder: an image of family and friends enjoying each other's company. The porch is part of Pineland Club Plantation, one of the most beautiful places in the Lowcountry.

It was once part of Cotton Hill, a 13,000-acre plantation purchased by 12 Northerners just after the Civil War for the excellent hunting in the area.

They constructed the lodge on the foundation of the original plantation house, which was burned by General Sherman. Later, the plantation became known as the Pineland Club. It was the first chartered hunting club in South Carolina.

Bluffton caterer Geist Ussery spiced up this porch party with the perfect holiday cocktail.

Holiday Fizz

(4 beverages)

INGREDIENTS

4 rosemary sprigs
16 fresh cranberries
1 bottle of bubbly, chilled
2 oz. cranberry juice

DIRECTIONS

Pour 1/2 oz. cranberry juice into the bottom of each champagne glass. Top with chilled bubbly (Veuve Clicquot if you can swing it). Place 4 cranberries on each rosemary sprig for a skewer.

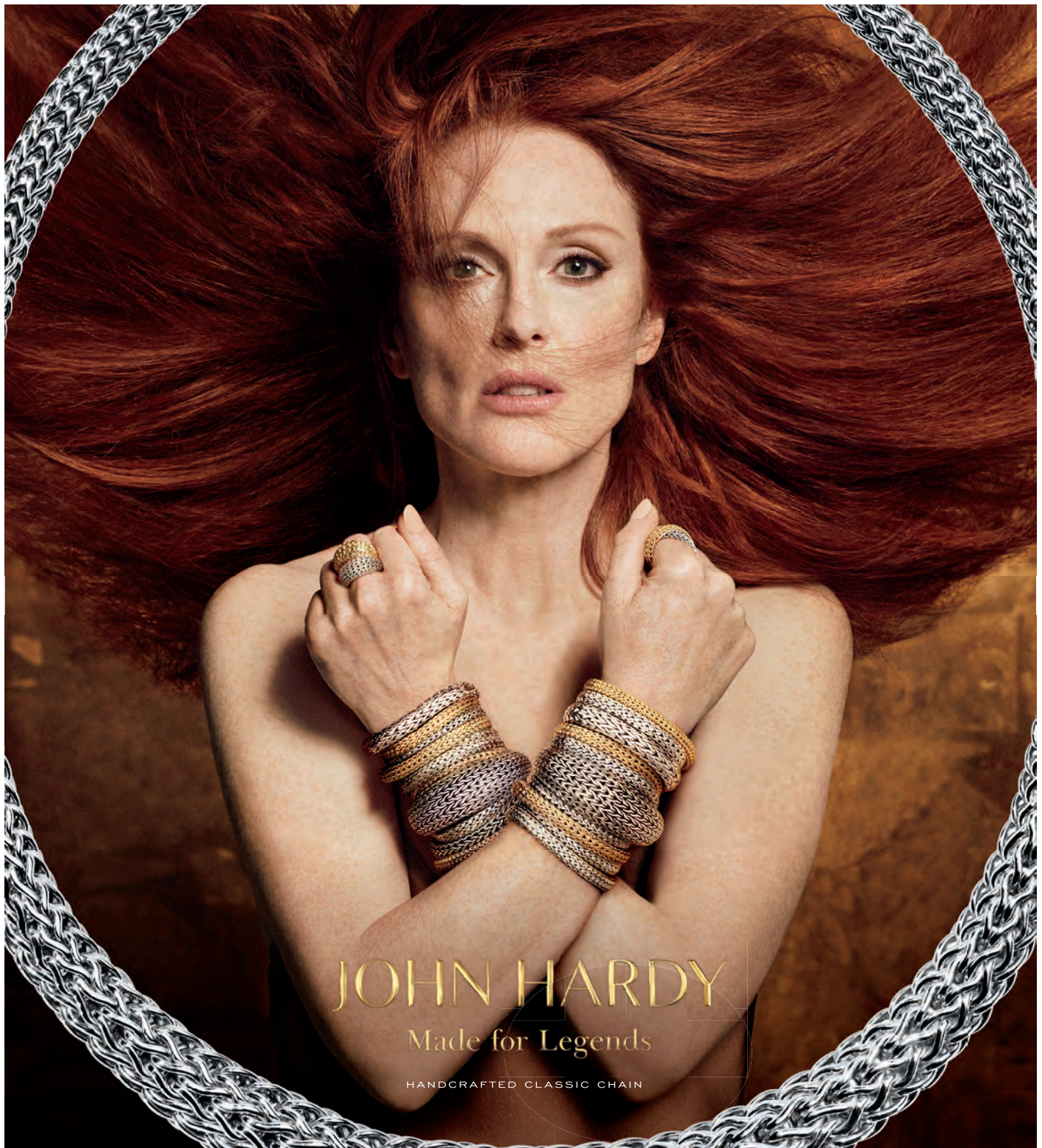
Drink and be merry!





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