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FOLLY BEACH'S NEWSPAPER

ISSUE 2 | VOLUME 18

Through all the Snow and Ice,
 Folly's Heart still Shines Bright

See snow pics on page 6 ...



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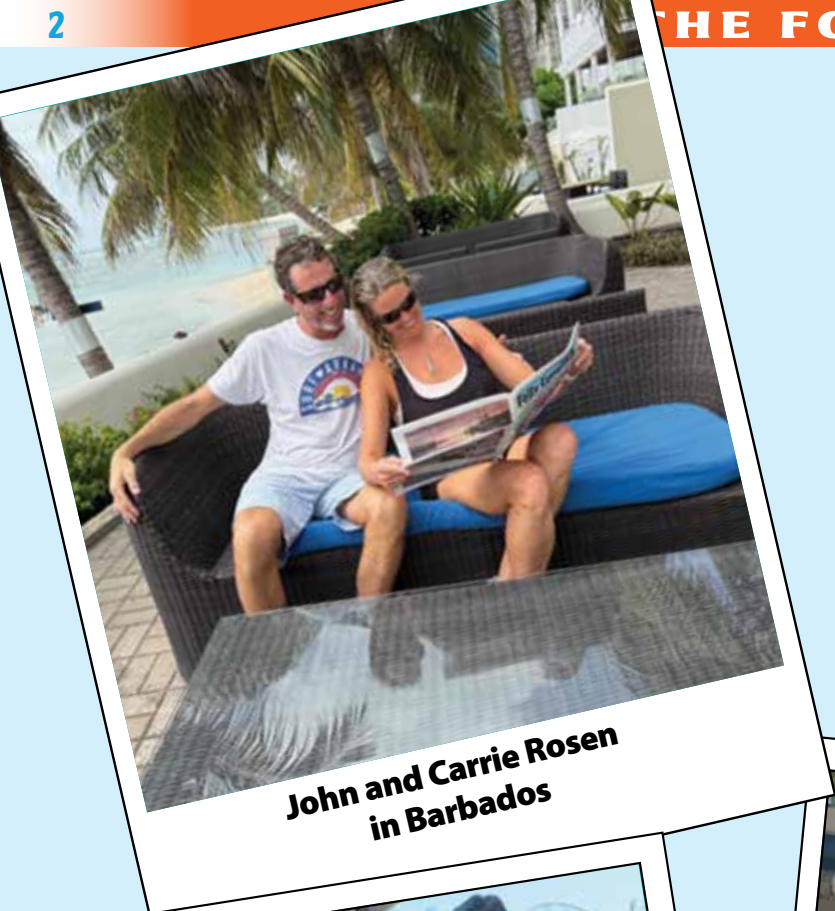
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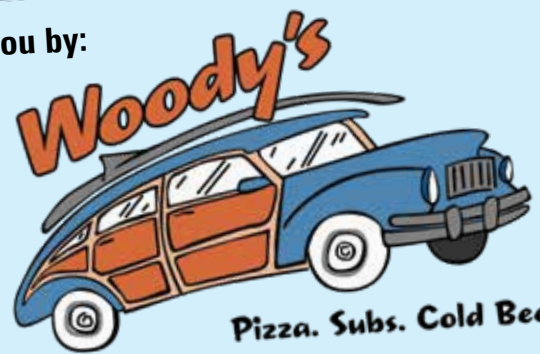
**Leigh and Rich Pettus
in the Galapagos Islands**



**Ted and Rosi Rawson at The Soggy Dollar
in Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin Islands**

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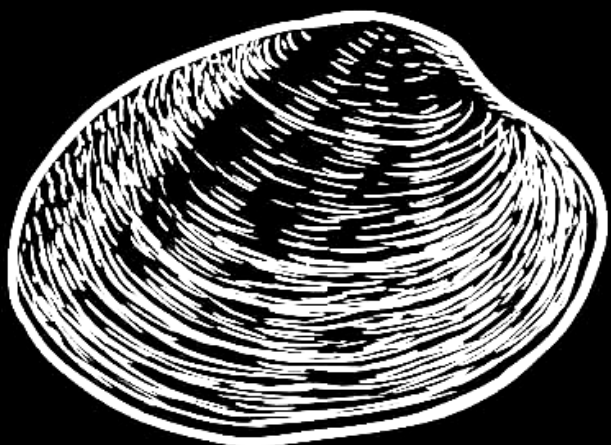


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Stumbling into the New Year



Folly Beach says good-bye to 2024 with a few “flops” ... and not just flip-flops

by Jenny Peterson | Current Staff Writer

It's been a tough month for Folly Beach, and not just because January stretched out into five calendar weeks this year

A much-hyped but ultimately failed New Year's Eve drone show in lieu of traditional explosives went out with a fizzle as drones inexplicably began falling from the sky. Then, a local pizzeria's annual Meatball Drop, a quirky but beloved tradition on Folly, was halted by Folly Beach Public Safety for impeding on the public right-of-way. Of course, there was the island's annual Flip-flop Drop, too, which actually went off without a hitch but, in a way, served as a symbol for an evening full of flops.

Then 2025 arrived and things started looking up until a rare snowstorm postponed the island's signature

January street event, Taste of Folly. It

was moved twice due to weather—first rain, then snow and ice. But Taste of Folly was rescheduled for Saturday, Feb. 1 (after press time), so maybe the black cloud is finally passing over our little island. But let's look back at what went wrong on a New Year's Eve on Folly that was unforgettable for all the wrong reasons.

On Dec. 31, 2024, thousands of people gathered along and around Center Street to witness what was going to be the area's first drone show, a new technological concept to

replace traditional explosive pyrotechnics that are quieter, more environmentally-friendly and customized, with unique designs transforming in mid-air.

The Folly Association of Business (FAB) spent considerably more money to hire Lightyear Drones to produce the drone show than it would a typical fireworks company. Those who were lucky enough to be outside on Dec. 30 were able to witness the rehearsal test launch show that included several nods to Folly Beach with beachy scenes and animals.

On New Year's Eve, everyone waited with bated breath as the drones were launched at 7 p.m. over the Folly River. The first drones whizzed into the sky, illuminating a Morris Island lighthouse, and then the design transformed into a dolphin.

And then, the sky went dark.

Puzzled revelers were left scratching their heads over if the show would return to the skies. When the show didn't return after around ten minutes, word got out that there was a problem and the show would not go on.

Onlookers missed out on one of the more traditional celebrations for the new year. A few personal, rogue fireworks were launched a few minutes later over the Folly River, which turned out to be an unwitting consolation prize.

The evening news soon reported on a most unfortunate event: a person was struck by a falling drone, sustaining minor injuries.

Kelly Travers, the FAB Event Coordinator, said that “upper-level windshear” on New Year's Eve led to the failure of the show, forcing the “ultimate decision to ground the display.”

“The formal investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is ongoing. This display was fully insured, and we do sincerely regret the minor injury that was treated and released onsite,” Travers said. “All large displays do come with risk and we will be carefully considering how we move forward

with future displays.”

She added that the organization interviewed several companies before deciding on Lightyear Drones, working closely with the company on the location, requirements, permits, security, and insurance.

While the lack of a proper light show was disappointing, revelers made the most of the evening, popping into Center Street bars and restaurants to await other Folly-specific New Year's Eve traditions: The Flip-Flop Drop, where a lighted flip flop descends from a fire truck outside the Tides Hotel when the clock strikes midnight, and the rag-tag Meatball Drop, held outside Woody's Pizza on Center Street. (editorial note: Since New Year's Eve, Woody's has sold and is under new ownership).

That's when another kerfuffle occurred—namely, Public Safety's involvement in stopping the Meatball Drop from being held outside the restaurant, where it has taken place for the last 20 years. Folly Beach Public Safety has deemed the location over the Center Street sidewalk to be unsafe and declared the Meatball Drop an unpermitted special event that negatively impacted the public right-of-way.

“I, along with three of the previous community coordinators, were merely attempting to get (the former owners) to comply with the City of Folly Beach special event ordinance (needed for anything that) impacts public resources or are on public property, such as the right of way, sidewalk, or spilling out into the street as the event had done,” stated chief Andrew Gilreath, director of Public Safety, adding that there have been issues, concerns, and conversations about the popularity of the event since the year 2018.

“One of my staff went to the restaurant well in advance to let them know the event was non-compliant, and they chose to try and have it anyway,” Chief Gilreath stated. “Quite honestly, the least of (the former owner's)

worries was us not allowing him to continue. He could have faced thousands of dollars in fines over the years in addition to this year. (Officers) instead allowed (the owner) a way to host the event in a different manner that was a less egregious violation of the ordinance.”

The public safety involvement in the “Meatball Drop” did not result in any official police reports or arrests, but did not escape criticism on social media.

Finally, just over two weeks later, the scheduled Taste of Folly, also organized and executed by FAB, encountered a very rainy day forecasted for Saturday, Jan. 18's Salty Saturday, so FAB postponed the street event to the following Saturday, the original rain date pre-approved by City Council. Then, less than a week later, Folly Beach, like the rest of the Southeast, was blanketed in snow from the streets to the shore in what meteorologists called the rarest of winter storms. Snow stayed on the roads and beach for nearly a week, closing Charleston-area bridges, roads and businesses.

While the snow was a marvelous and rare photo opportunity, it forced another postponement of one of the season's largest street events, another blow to the FAB event organizers.

Thankfully, the pivot was quick and FAB rescheduled their “Savory Saturday” event for the following Saturday, Feb. 1 (after press time), to celebrate the delicious food and cocktails offered by local bars and restaurants, but it was not without its challenges. Travers had to scramble to procure vendors, volunteers, bands, barricades, and all the other things that was originally reserved for two weeks prior. It was welcome news for many local businesses that lost money from having to close due to the storm.

While there's never a dull day on Folly Beach, here's hoping that 2025 brings more tops than flops.



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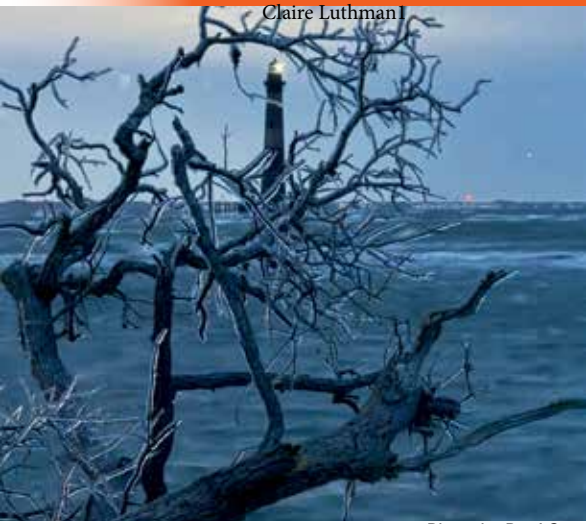
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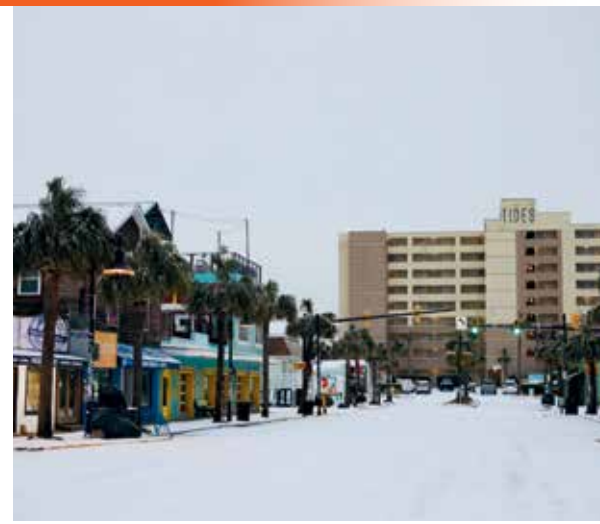


Photo by Claire Luthman



Photo by Lorne Chambers



Photo by Phillip Gilliam



Photo courtesy of Bert's Market

Snow Daze on Folly

Locals refuse to let a little cold weather get in the way of their good time



Photo by Steve Pedersen



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Photo by Sarah (Wetmore) Butler



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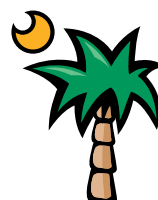


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Brave the Cold, Warm the Heart

America's biggest pants-free run for a cure returns to Folly Beach on Feb. 15

Special to The Current

In February, thousands of bold, pants-less participants will hit the streets in dozens of cities across the U.S. for the annual Cupid's Undie Run, a one-of-a-kind fundraiser for the Children's Tumor Foundation (CTF). On Folly Beach, the Cupid Undie Run returns on Saturday, Feb. 1. This unforgettable event raises awareness for Neurofibromatosis (NF) and funds vital research to combat the rare genetic condition that causes tumors to grow all over the body.

Neurofibromatosis affects 1 in 2,000 births, which is about 4 million people worldwide. Anyone can be born with NF across all populations, and it affects everyone differently. NF can cause a wide range of systems, including blindness, deafness, bone abnormalities, disfigurement, learning challenges, disabling pain, or cancer.

From a single run in Washington, D.C. in 2010, Cupid's Undie Run has grown to a joy-filled, national fundraising phenomenon with tens of thousands in the fight against NF. In addition to Folly Beach's Cupid Undie Run, there are 37 other cities, from Boston to Orlando, New York to Los Angeles, and dozens

of cities in between. Fearless fundraisers will run and walk while wearing eye-catching outfits, everything from superhero undies to laugh-out-loud costumes.

The day kicks off at noon with music, mingling, and a drink (or two) at Loggerhead's Beach Grill, followed by a "brief" one-mile(ish) jog on the beach around 2 p.m., and then returning to Loggerhead's for an epic dance party to top it all off, celebrating the best costumes and top fundraisers. Participants are encouraged to let their personalities shine, whether it's in their favorite undies, PJ's, or a creative costume.

This year, Cupid's Undie Run is fueled by the support of two companies: National Underwear Partners Woxer and Pair of Thieves, both back for a second year to help make Cupid's Undie Run a success in its effort to end NF.

"We feel incredibly fortunate that through our Good Fits program, Pair of Thieves has been able to provide critical support for a myriad of important causes," said Cash Warren, founder of Pair of Thieves. "Cupid's Undie Run is all about having fun while giving



back to those in need, and that aligns perfectly with our brand values."

"I can't imagine a more perfect pairing than running in your underwear and giving back to a cause as important as ending NF," said Alexandra Fuente, Woxer CEO & Founder. "We are thrilled to be a part of Cupid's Undie Run, joining forces with the incredible team at Pair of Thieves and the dedicated and admirable Children's Tumor Foundation. We

encourage our Woxer community to embrace the cause and sport their boxer briefs to support ending NF!"

Join the party, make a difference, and help bring us closer to a world without NF. The 2025 Cupid's Undie Run will be held Saturday, Feb. 15, 12-4 p.m. at Loggerhead's Beach Grill, located at 123 W Ashley Ave. Register today at www.cupids.org.



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DECEMBER 31 TRAFFIC STOP

Officers arrested a 33-year-old man for driving with a suspended license and expired registration after officers pulled him over for an expired tag. The man initially said that he did not have his driver's license and presented officers with his passport. When officers asked to clarify what he meant about his license, he stated, "My driver's license was taken away." Both the vehicle tag and the man's name and date of birth was run through dispatch for a records check, and it was discovered that his driver's license had been "suspended indefinitely" as of April 2024 and that he was arrested in November 2024 for driving with a suspended license. After reviewing his driving record, which showed an extensive amount of "failure to pay" traffic ticket violations and suspensions over the past two years, he was placed under arrest. A friend was allowed to come to the scene to take possession of the numerous musical instruments in the trunk of the vehicle before it was towed.

JANUARY 1 DISORDERLY CONDUCT/OPEN CONTAINER

While on special event patrol the night of New Year's Eve, an officer watched a man walk out of a Center Street bar holding a plastic cup that contained a yellow beverage consistent with beer. Officers asked the man to dump out his alcohol, and he acknowledged officers by shaking his head yes and waving at officers, yet he walked by a trashcan, looked back at officers, and kept on walking with the full cup. Officers contacted a 52-year-old man, who had slurred speech, glassy eyes, and was unsteady on his feet. He was arrested for disorderly conduct.

JANUARY 2 PUBLIC INTOXICATION

At 12:45 a.m., following New Year's Eve event, officers observed a man who appeared to be intoxicated in the roadway on Center Street. The man was with a group of people, and officers ordered him to get on the sidewalk. The man returned to the sidewalk but then veered back into the roadway, unable to keep up with his group. Officers approached him, and members of the group became boisterous and were told

to back away. The man was escorted to the police station, where he called the situation "extra" and said that he was "only about a foot or two in the roadway." When officers reminded him that he failed to follow a simple order regarding his own safety, he seemed to understand, and instead of arresting him, the man was issued a summons citation for public intoxication. He was allowed to contact a sober friend for a ride home.

JANUARY 3 TRAFFIC STOP

Officers pulled over a vehicle for an expired decal and after "a generous amount of time," the driver could also not show proof of insurance coverage. The driver was issued citations for expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle and his vehicle was towed.

JANUARY 4 THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE

A woman called to report that her car had been stolen. The woman said she invited friends on her boat for the day and when they all got off the boat, she believes the son of her friend took her car keys from her coat and stole her vehicle. She said the son had done things like that in the past with other people. The vehicle information was run through dispatch and the vehicle was seen leaving the island about a half an hour after the boat got back to the dock. A "be on the lookout" was issued to the surrounding agencies and the vehicle was entered as stolen.

JANUARY 4 TOWED VEHICLE

Around 2:30 p.m., an unoccupied vehicle was towed after the owner of a local moped rental company reported it was parked in front of their driveway in front of a clearly visible "no parking" sign and was obstructing access, preventing the company from moving any of their rental vehicles. It was towed away from the scene.

JANUARY 5 HIT-AND-RUN

Officers on patrol arrested a 50-year-old woman after observing her back into a parked, unoccupied vehicle and drive away. The woman was stopped and arrested for leaving the scene. When asked why she was

attempting to drive away from the scene of an accident, she told officers she thought she had hit a trashcan. There was damage to both vehicles, including damage to the front left side and wheel area of the vehicle the woman hit. When asked if she had anything to drink, the woman said she had one drink and one shot several hours before. Officers were able to contact the owner of the struck vehicle, who was given an accident report to save his insurance company. The woman's vehicle was towed.

JANUARY 13 DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION

Officers on patrol observed a vehicle with an expired registration. Officers ran the vehicle information, which showed the tag was suspended and also registered to a different make and model vehicle—another vehicle was also listed as suspended. The 27-year-old driver was placed under arrest for driving under suspension, failure to surrender plates, and improper vehicle license.

JANUARY 19 PUBLIC INTOXICATION

At 1:30 a.m., while sitting stationary in a patrol car in the median of Center Street, officers observed an intoxicated male walking in the roadway, unsteady on his feet and swaying. Officers instructed the man four times to get out of the roadway for his own safety, to which he responded, "I'm not in the road; I'm on the curb." The man then approached the patrol vehicle and stood in front of the driver's side door, preventing officers from getting out of the vehicle. When officers asked for his ID, he ignored officers, began walking away, and fell into a nearby flowerbed as officers were attempting to place him in custody. The man became unruly, pushed off the patrol vehicle, and attempted to turn around while being handcuffed. He had to be further restrained and was resisting arrest when officers reminded him how many times they asked him to get out of the roadway. He admitted they asked him multiple times and then said, "I was a d*ck to you, and I am a d*ck." The man eventually became cooperative and apologized, and officers allowed him to contact a sober friend who picked him up from the scene. He was cited for public intoxication and resisting arrest.

DECEMBER 19 THEFT

A woman walked into police headquarters to make a report regarding items that were stolen from the beach, specifically her keys, and added that she believed she was being scammed and overcharged by a locksmith. Officers pointed out that the woman paid for the service and had agreed to the price so that nothing could be done for that complaint but that a police report would be filed, and her keys were listed as stolen.

DECEMBER 20 TRAFFIC STOP



Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that had expired registration, and the female driver was unable to provide proof of registration or current proof of insurance. The woman attempted to call her insurance provider, but the company stated that she did not have a current policy. She was cited for expired registration and operating an uninsured vehicle, which was towed.

DECEMBER 28 VANDALISM

Officers responded to a residence where a man and woman noticed that their car tire was slashed multiple times. The residence does have a security camera, but a large tree blocked the view of the vehicle during the vandalism. They denied having any issues with anyone in the area, and we're unsure who committed the act.


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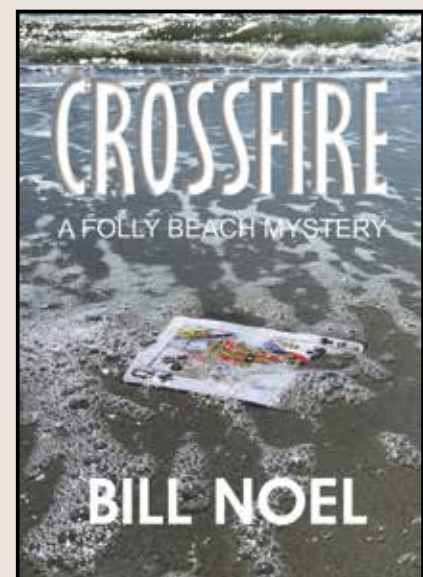
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A New Folly Beach Mystery

Bill Noel's latest thriller *Crossfire* is now available

from Staff Reports



Officially released on Jan. 17, *Crossfire* is author Bill Noel's latest installment in the Folly Beach Mystery series.

Crossfire follows the adventures of protagonist Chris Landrum, who receives a troubling call from his best friend, Charles, about the murder of a mutual acquaintance. Their challenge doubles when a second murder occurs, and the only things the victims have in common are weekly poker games.

Will Chris and Charles be able to solve the crimes before they're added to the list of victims? They're betting their lives on it, and the bad news is the odds are stacked against them.

Crossfire is available to order online through www.amazon.com.

The Long Road to 'Suffering'

Malin Wagon releases long-awaited debut album

by Miranda Steadman | Contributing Writer

Local music man Malin Wagon admits that some lyrics and melodies in his songs on his newly-released album *Suffering* date back to writings of his from the '90s. At that time, he was a coming-of-age songwriter in Birmingham, AL. Years later, in March of 2021, *Suffering* was recorded live at Fairweather Studio just off of Folly Beach.

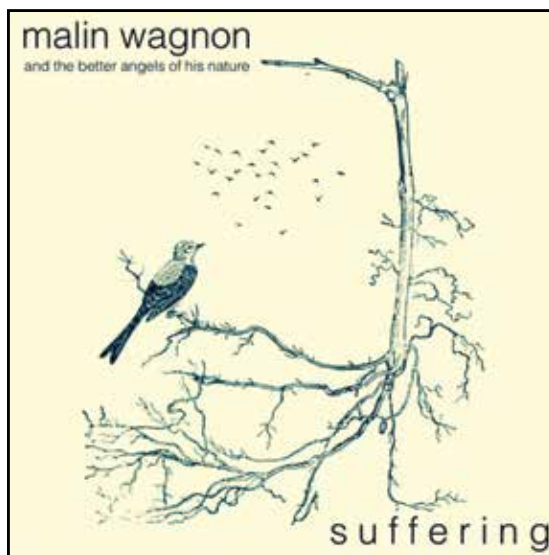
The studio is owned by local percussionist and Bert's Market proprietor Omar Colon. It would be almost another four years after that, and *Suffering* was finally completed. Released at the end of last year, the long-awaited debut album is chockful of heartfelt songs and great musicianship that speaks to listeners through reflective, existential lyrics and moving instrumentals.

"Omar played a huge role in our recording process ... he was the sixth member of the band, our conductor, producer, and psychoanalyst," Wagon says.

Drawing inspiration from *The Basement Tapes* by Bob Dylan and *The Band* as well as *Cowboy Junkie's The Trinity Sessions*, Wagon says he chose to record all instruments and vocals on *Suffering* simultaneously at Fairweather Studio. All the musicians involved gathered around two microphones while recording the songs. Although Wagon says he felt pressure and found the recording process to be intense, the studio atmosphere at Fairweather formed a fitting nest for the folky-roots album they created there.

Local percussionist Marshall Hudson of the Charleston-based band *Susto* plays drums on *Suffering*. Wagon claims that Hudson had some revolutionary thoughts that helped steer the direction of the album.

"They got ahold of these songs I wrote and started pushing it in different directions and took it into areas I could have never predicted," says Wagon.



Whitt Algar of *Sideshow Americans* plays the mellotron on most songs on *Suffering*. The mellotron is an organ-like keyboard that uses magnetic tape spools to generate realistic acoustic sounds. Wagon jokes that Algar sounds so good that "He makes me sick." Algar helped Wagon transform the title track, "Suffering," into an emotionally-driven, retrospective tune about Wagon's childhood.

Regular musical collaborator and bassist Alan Shmitt joined Wagon on recording *Suffering*, along with guitarist Jeff Davis, who contributed on electric guitar and lap steel. Davis plays a profound guitar solo in the blues song "Shelter of Arms," and his rare skill of playing lap steel sets a beautiful tone for the album's opening titled "The Elevator Game."

"He really killed it," says Wagon of Davis' sound on the track. Wagon tells the story of how he wrote the song after he had a dream in which Black Sabbath's Ronnie James Dio recognized him.

Although asking a songwriter to pick their favorite song is akin to asking a parent to choose their favorite child, Wagon obliges

when asked what's his favorite track on *Suffering*.

"If I had to pick one, I'd probably pick 'The Flood,'" he says thoughtfully. "It's a good example of the height—when everybody's hitting all cylinders."

James Anderson of *Staggers & Jags* plays fiddle while Cory Jarrett of *Sideshow Americans* plays banjo on "The Flood," which was written about perhaps the most famous flood of all, the one that involved an arc, a man named Noah, and a lot of animals.

Wagon's wife, Kevin Wagon, sings harmonies and backup vocals on the love song "Sky's For Flying."

"She has a very natural ear for music," says Wagon about the collaboration.

While he wrote the song "Caulder Run" after moving to Charleston in 2001 and being awakened by the tide after a long night of drinking on Folly Beach, the tune "A Glass of White" was written about Wagon's friends going through a divorce and their self-medication of various substances. Algar plays piano in that tune while Wagon strums an acoustic guitar and Davis soothes with his lap steel. "The Tipping Point" is a darker, brooding number, which Wagon says many listeners can relate. The closing song of *Suffering*, titled "High," weaves a tale of Wagon's love/hate relationship with marijuana.

Wagon regularly plays eclectic sets at The Drop-In Bar & Deli in a trio they call Baeyoncé along with percussionist Stratton Moore of satirical pop band Sexbruisse? and bassist Buzz Busby.

Malin Wagon's album *Suffering* is now available on all streaming platforms. He will perform with Unity Gain at The Bounty Bar on Saturday, Feb. 8. For more information, visit www.malinwagon.com.

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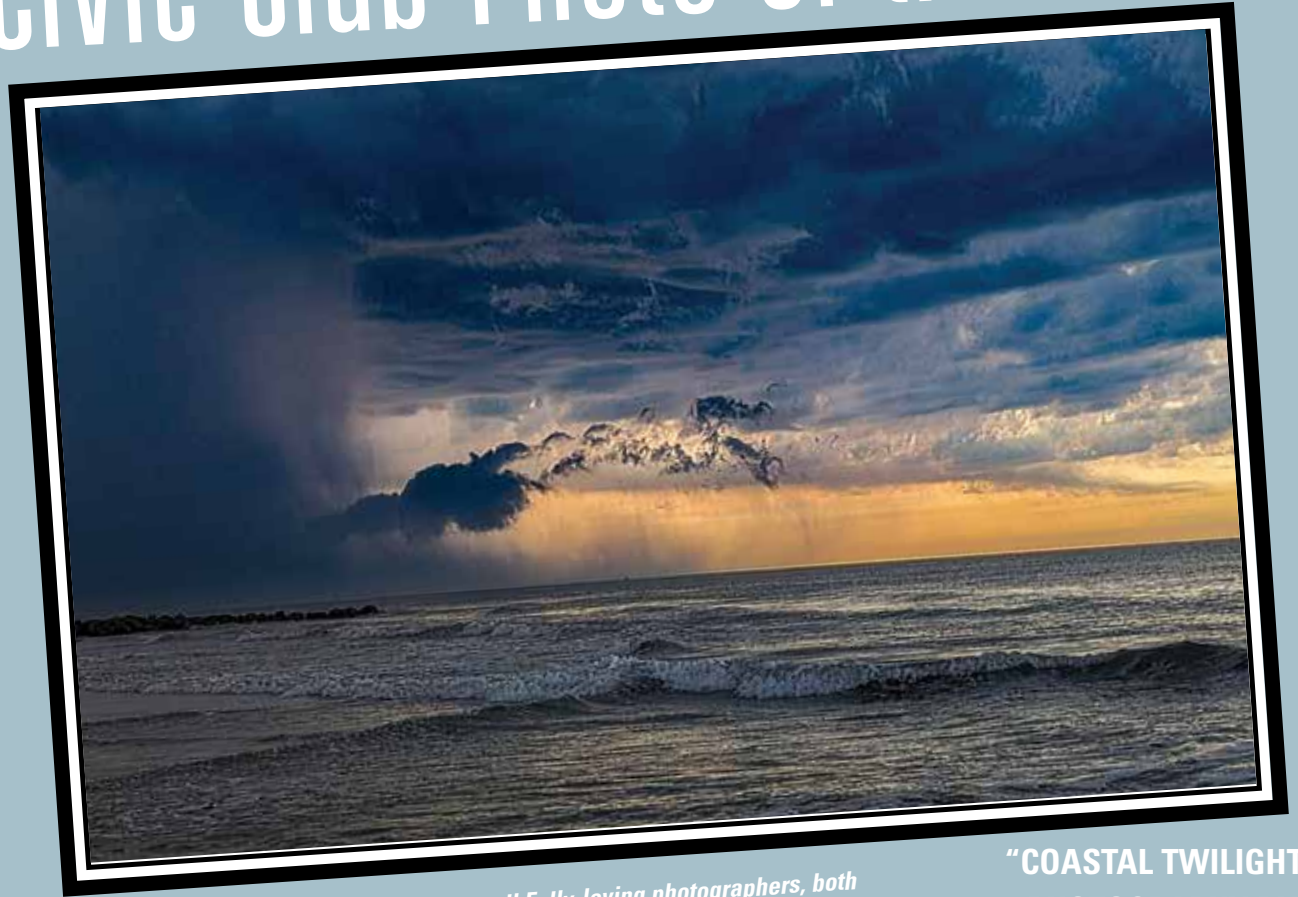
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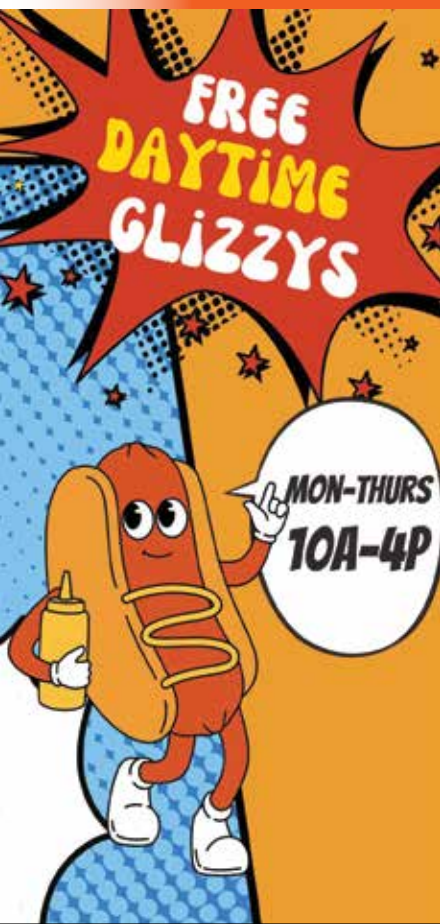
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LowLife Bar: 4-7pm Rootastic
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Slaton Glover
Rita's: 5-8pm S.C. Girls
Sand Dollar: 9pm-12am The Riverfront Rascals

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

The Bounty Bar: 9pm Sunday Sessions
Chico Feo: 4:30 pm Strat Cat & Friends
Drop In Deli: 12:30-2pm Hip Hop Brunch with DJ Dougy
Planet Follywood: 7pm Skye Paige
Rita's: 5-8pm David Sink

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Chico Feo: 6pm Songwriters Soapbox
Planet Follywood: 7pm Adult Bingo

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Drop In Deli: 7pm Honky Tonk Tuesday
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy

Rita's: 4:30-8pm Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Drop In Deli: 7:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Blake Zahnd
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Live Music TBA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton+
Planet Follywood: 8pm Karaoke

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm Johnny Holliday & The Silver Lining
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton+
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Thomas Champagne
Rita's: 5-8pm Gracie
Sand Dollar: 9pm-12am Molly Durnin

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm Unity Gain
Drop In Deli: 9pm Comedy Night
LowLife Bar: 4-7pm Rootastic
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Piano Dave
Rita's: 5-8pm Krystal
Sand Dollar: 9pm-12am Molly Durnin

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

The Bounty Bar: 9pm The Sunday Sessions
Chico Feo: 4:30pm Strat Cat & Friends
Rita's: 5-8pm Lady Jane

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Chico Feo: 6pm Songwriters Soapbox
Planet Follywood: 7pm Adult Bingo

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Drop In Deli: 7pm Honky Tonk Tuesday
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy
Rita's: 4:30-8pm Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Drop In Deli: 7:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Blake Zahnd
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Live Music TBA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton+
Planet Follywood: 8pm Karaoke

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm Jeff Caldwell Band
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton+
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Blake Zahnd
Rita's: 5-8pm TBD
Sand Dollar: 9pm-12am Safety 3rd

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm Mike Martin & The Beautiful Mess
LowLife Bar: 4-7pm Rootastic
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Longshot Gamble
Rita's: Bluegrass Fest: 12-1:15pm Mud Minnows, 1:30-2:45pm River Front
Rascals, 3-5pm Highwater Honky
Sand Dollar: 9pm-12am Safety 3rd

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

The Bounty Bar: 9pm The Sunday Sessions
Chico Feo: 4:30pm Strat Cat & Friends
Planet Follywood: 7pm Skye Paige
Rita's: 5-8pm David Sink

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Chico Feo: 6pm Songwriters Soapbox
Planet Follywood: 7pm Adult Bingo
The Washout: 6-9pm Live Music

Planet Follywood: 9pm Karaoke
Rita's: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Drop In Deli: 7pm Honky Tonk Tuesday
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy
Rita's: 4:30-8pm Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Drop In Deli: 7:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Blake Zahnd
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Live Music TBA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton+
Planet Follywood: 8pm Karaoke

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm S'way & The Apostrophe
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton+
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Shakin' Martini's
Rita's: 5-8pm Robert Chew
Sand Dollar: 9pm-12am TBA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm Folly Beats
LowLife Bar: 4-7pm Rootastic
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Piano Dave
Rita's: 5-8pm Lola Grace
Sand Dollar: 9pm-12am TBA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

The Bounty Bar: 9pm The Sunday Sessions
Chico Feo: 4:30pm Strat Cat & Friends
Planet Follywood: 7pm Skye Paige
Rita's: 5-8pm George Fox

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Chico Feo: 6pm Songwriters Soapbox
Planet Follywood: 7pm Adult Bingo
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton Moore & Friends
Planet Follywood: 9pm Karaoke
Rita's: 6-9pm Super Reggae Man

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Drop In Deli: 7pm Honky Tonk Tuesday
LowLife Bar: 6-9pm Liam Murphy
Rita's: 4:30-8pm Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Drop In Deli: 7:30pm Trivia
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Blake Zahnd
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Live Music TBA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton+
Planet Follywood: 8pm Karaoke

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

The Bounty Bar: 9:30pm The Whitney Hanna Show
Drop In Deli: 10pm-1am Stratton+
Loggerhead's: 6-9pm Shane Clark
Planet Follywood: 8-11pm Folly Beats
Rita's: 5-8pm Weigh Station
Sand Dollar: 9pm-12am Casual Suspects

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A Real Slice of Folly

It's a family affair for the new owners of popular Center Street pizza shop

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

From a tiny Center Street storefront, Slice of Folly has been slinging piping-hot slices of cheese and pepperoni to visitors and locals for the last eight years. For a large part of that time, local twin teenagers Thomas and Henry Hastings have been right there, making the pizzas, serving customers, and helping do all the little things that go into running a pizzeria in a busy beach town.

Their parents, Matt and Sarah-Hamlin Hastings, say they never really planned on owning a restaurant, and they surely never thought their youngest boys' summer jobs would end up being a family business. But that's exactly what happened last year when the Folly couple had the opportunity to buy the busy Center Street pizza shop.

Although they purchased the business in August of 2024, the Hastings largely kept their venture quiet, even amongst friends and extended family. With the help of Thomas and Henry, who knew the business well, the couple spent the last several months tweaking some things and ironing out all of the kinks. Then, last month, they revealed to everyone that they were the proud owners of Slice of Folly.

"We wanted to learn the equipment and see what works and what doesn't," says Sarah-Hamlin. "We wanted to be able to serve a consistent product every time, so when people come in, they know what they're getting and that it's going to be good."

According to Sarah-Hamlin, they needed

to get back to the basics with what Slice offered, which meant cutting certain things from the menu, like subs and salads. They wanted to just focus on the pizza.

"As we get some of our processes upgraded, as we transition into the summer, we're excited about exploring specials, promotions, and things that will keep Slice fun," says Matt. Sarah-Hamlin adds that the boys have been experimenting with weekly specials, like the Double-Pep & Hot Honey pie or the controversial Pickle-Bacon-Ranch pizza that people either loved or thought was blasphemous.

Besides twins Thomas and Henry, the Hastings have two other sons, one who graduated from USC and now lives in Utah and another who currently attends Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. All bring different talents and have roles within the business.

"It's been very cool. A real family affair," explains Sarah-Hamlin, an interior designer and owner of Fritz Porter Design Collective, a boutique textiles and hand-crafted furniture showroom located in North Charleston. She says her husband Matt is the numbers guy and she used her expertise in revamping the design of the tiny pizza shop and led a redesign of the company's colors and logos. "It really wasn't a dream. But we love pizza, love eating out, and love Folly."

While owning a pizzeria wasn't necessarily Matt and Sarah-Hamlin's

dream, Matt says they did desire to one day own a family business that involved their sons.

"What we didn't anticipate, but makes it even better, is that our boys are who led us to Slice," says Matt. "All of them have worked summers at Folly through the years. Our son Henry's first summer job was at Slice back when he was 15. His brother Thomas followed suit, working at Slice, and Coconut Joes last summer. Charlie has been a lifeguard on Folly for several summers, and our oldest, Jack, worked at Taco Boy all during high school and college. So we know the summer crowds and their eating habits well!"

The pizza industry may be relatively new to the Hastings, but pizza is not. Sarah-Hamlin is from Charleston but met Matt, a

native Virginian, while the two were living in New York. The couple spent many years in New York and Connecticut, two of the best pizza regions in the country (calm down, Chicago!). Then, several years ago, they decided to move south to Sarah-Hamlin's hometown of Charleston. Eventually, they moved out to Folly Beach full-time.

"Since acquiring Slice in August, we're focused on every aspect of the business, which, of course, starts with our cheese. I'd love to make our own Mozzarella, but our small space makes that difficult," says Matt. "We're ordering the best cheese and most expensive cheese available. We're committed to the cheesiest experience for our customers and, of course, perfecting the 'no flop' crust that all New Yorkers insist on."



Slice of Folly is located at 16-B Center St. To place an order, call (854) 803-8011 or visit www.sliceoffollypizza.com.



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Kickin' it with Kolton

Get to know local bartender and artist Kolten Miller

If you have been to Rita's Seaside Grill, you've probably had a drink made by Kolton Miller. My wife Kim and I love to sit at the bar and eat with him. He's an amazing bartender. He's the one that used to have really long hair. I mean, like really long hair. He's cut now so you'll have to identify him as the guy who's always smiling and laughing with both patrons and coworkers. And if you don't know him from Rita's, you may have seen his amazing landscape paintings of the Lowcountry marsh, worked out next to him at Gold's Gym, or hung out with him at Bark Park with his brother's border collie, Bandit.

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

Kolten Miller: I'm from Greenville, S.C. My family and I used to come to Folly for vacations while I was growing up. I've been working here for a decade now.

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

KM: The carefree culture and the way it's a classic American vacation beach. By that I mean it's vintage and wholesome. Things like the fishing pier, the boutique shops and the unique bars and restaurants all make it that way.

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

KM: I don't have a singular story but I love hanging out on the beach after a busy shift with my co-workers. Just relaxing and looking at the amazing sunsets. How much more Folly can that be?

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

KM: The lack of long term housing. It's unaffordable for the island's working community to rent, even if there were

something for us to choose from (which there isn't). I've witnessed the repercussions of this first hand and it saddens me.

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

KM: The city could provide it. Maybe there's a city lot that can house newly built apartments only for workers, maybe you could incentivize landlords to rent long-term instead of short-term, or maybe you incentivize us to pay higher rents by giving us a stipend.

Every month, local entrepreneur and author Pat "Wiggy" Hiban interviews a different "Face of Folly" for this column. If you have an idea of someone you think Pat should chat with, please send suggestions to editor@follycurrent.com.



Thanks to all who attended this year's **Taste of Folly Cocktail Competition**. Top honors at the Cocktail Contest were awarded as follows:

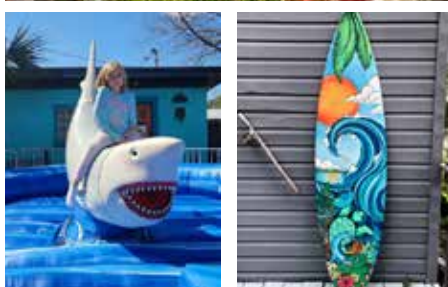
- 1st place: Blu "Peach on the Beach"
- 2nd place: Coconut Joe's "Center St Cider"
- 3rd place: Drop-In "Irish Coffee"

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Next up from FAB, the annual **Sea & Sand Festival**, Folly's longest-running festival at 33 years, is back. **February 22-23**, will be a weekend full of family-friendly events from the **Folly River Park to the beach**. The Sea & Sand weekend will include an artisan street closure event on Saturday starting at 10am featuring **delicious food and drinks** from Folly restaurants, plus **live entertainment**, tons of **arts and crafts vendors**, **kids' activities**, and lots of fun for all ages. Residents enjoy **free admission** to the event. Then on Sunday, it's a little healthy competition on the beach with the **Sandcastle Building Contest**.

Sponsorships are still available for the event and more details can be found on VisitFolly.com

If you're a business that would like to contribute to what FAB brings to Folly Beach, consider joining the organization! Get more info at JoinFAB.org OR join us for our next monthly meeting on Thursday, February 13, at Tides Hotel. Cocktail mixer in the Blu bar starting at 6pm, followed by the 6:30pm meeting in the 2nd-floor ballroom. Hope to see you there!



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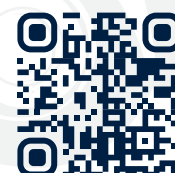
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BY CHARLIE
STONECYPHER

Hello Friends, as I'm writing this there is still snow on the ground outside my house. Don't get me wrong, we had a blast throwing snowballs, sliding down slopes on our boogie boards, (they work great!) building snow statues, (they didn't resemble people so much,) etc.

Then the reality of not being able to get to some appointments and me wiping out walking onto an ice patch and nearly breaking my arm and ribs) hit. Still, I'm grateful for the rare chance to be in some snow. Right away I started getting questions from people about plant material that didn't get covered in time and so on.

Well, that really depends on a lot of factors and a reminder that I'm not an expert. I'm just a curious human being that will try to share tidbits I've learned

or am still learning.

According to our in state source Clemson Extension service:

"Once our plants begin to thaw out, we may be able to tell if they made it, but things that die back to the ground could re-sprout in spring. Normally evergreen shrubs and trees can also lose leaves and look dead, but they may flush back out. It is always acceptable to remove dead or broken limbs/branches. Avoid heavy pruning until the end of February or early March."

I've personally seen this happen a bunch. For example, I have a Meyer lemon tree that got hit hard a few years ago, lost all of its leaves and even died back practically to the main trunk, and later that spring snapped back with lots of growth.

The snow that's laying around the plants can even insulate them, warming the soil underneath, of course there's the downfall of heavy snow and ice breaking branches. Mulching prior to cold weather would appear to help insulate as well. I always like to water at the roots before a freeze as the cold temperatures can dry a plant out fast.

More from Clemson: "The signs of cold damage can be confusing, since some damage may not be evident until months later. Leaves and tender shoots subjected to freezing temperatures appear water-soaked and wilted. These tissues will usually turn black within a few hours or days."

As far as what to do to help the plant along until spring, other than cutting obvious broken branches and occasional watering when they dry out, we're all kind of playing the waiting game.

Keep in mind there are so many plants with different needs and in different circumstances it's impossible to say exactly other than, be vigilant, do research on the plants you're concerned about and always keep an open mind! Good luck! Love and Aloha!

Charlie Stonecypher is the owner of Suncoast Irrigation and Landscaping. They specialize in products that work smart without wasting resources. Contact him at (843) 327-8642 or email suncoastirrigation@gmail.com.



Look Out for Details on Our Spring Bocce Tournament!

* Golf Tournament canceled due to a scheduling issue *

The Folly Beach Exchange Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Join us for our next meeting on February 20. **Thank you for your support!**

The National Exchange Club is the oldest service organization in the US. Our core values are community, country and family.



206 W. Indian Ave.
Contact us on Facebook
501c4



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Folly Association of Business's Litter Buster of the Month

The Best Rentals – 81 Center Street

At The Best Rentals, we're proud to be a family-owned and locally operated vacation rental company serving the beautiful shores of Folly Beach, Edisto, and Hilton Head. Our love for the community drives us to not only provide wonderful vacation experiences but also to protect the precious environment that surrounds us. We believe in leaving nature as we found it, and that's why we regularly organize beach sweeps to keep our coastlines clean and inviting.

We encourage our guests to leave only footprints behind during their beach adventures, reminding everyone that litter can lead to serious environmental issues that are completely avoidable with a little mindfulness. Our commitment to this cause has even earned us the Toby the Turtle Litter Buster award, an honor and testament to our dedication to keeping our beaches pristine.

Together, let's ensure that we don't trash where we splash!

— Melissa Carr, Vice President, The Best Rental

FAB's Litter Committee is made up of Folly Beach business owners who volunteer their time to help devise solutions to litter-related problems both on the beach and within the business district. This committee collaborates with city entities and the Folly Green Team on actionable strategies to address these problems. They also help fund the signage that the Green Team places at beach walkovers to remind visitors to dispose of litter properly. As our mascot Toby the Turtle says, "Don't Trash Where We Splash!" If you would like to sponsor a walkover, please email Vanessa at jvolt243@gmail.com.



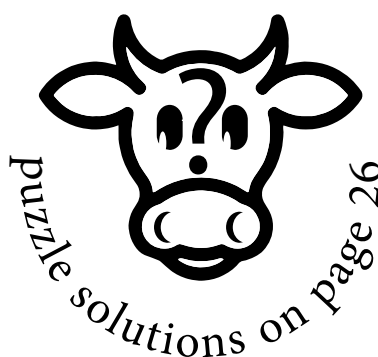
Charleston Crab House
Waterfront Dining

charlestoncrabhouse.com
843-795-1963

FUN & GAMES

FOLLY CURRENT CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



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	8						3		
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9		4							
2		6							

TRIVIA

1. MOVIES

What movie leads all Oscar nominations this year with 13?

2. TELEVISION

What new Netflix series is a gritty Western created by Peter Berg, the man behind Friday Night Lights?

3. SPORTS

What 73-year-old college football National Championship and Super Bowl-winning coach is returning to the NFL as the new head coach of the Las Vegas Raiders?

4. ANIMALS

Where is the only place on their body dogs have sweat glands?

5. MUSIC

What washed-up Country Music star had a disastrous performance at the Liberty Ball, a post-inauguration event?

6. THE OSCARS

What comedian is hosting the Academy Awards next month?

7. NAME GAME

Natalie 'Nadya' Suleman is the focus of an upcoming docuseries based on her life. What is she better as?

8. CLASSIC MOVIE QUOTES

In which movie did Bette Davis utter the famous line, "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night"?

ACROSS

- 1. Neighbor of Vietnam
- 5. Fraud
- 9. Haughty response
- 14. A bushy hairdo
- 15. Several
- 16. Eagle's home
- 17. Violent vortex
- 19. Legend
- 20. Grill
- 21. Dunk
- 23. Postponements
- 25. Plans for meetings
- 28. Whichever
- 29. South southwest
- 32. Sell off
- 33. Picnic insect
- 34. Head
- 35. Nights before
- 36. Daisylike bloom
- 38. Away from the wind
- 39. Writing styluses
- 40. Falsehood
- 41. Overseas
- 43. Explosive
- 44. Not her
- 45. High ground
- 46. Dissipates

DOWN

- 18. Movables
- 50. Sieves
- 54. Fire starter
- 55. Shower
- 57. Spear
- 58. Europe's highest volcano
- 59. A Great Lake
- 60. Not over
- 61. Profound
- 62. Put away
- 1. Young sheep
- 2. At a distance
- 3. Black-and-white cookie
- 4. Substantiality
- 5. Supersonic transport
- 6. Stallions
- 7. Illicit sexual relationship
- 8. Pliable sheet of tissue
- 9. With caution
- 10. Approaches
- 11. Spheres
- 12. Anger
- 13. Golf ball support
- 18. Sleighs
- 22. Very attractive women

ACROSS

- 24. Convinced of their powerlessness
- 25. Highly skilled
- 26. Assumed as fact
- 27. Occurrence
- 29. Beauty parlor
- 30. Place
- 31. Noxious plants
- 33. Consumed
- 34. Leeches
- 37. Smirked
- 42. Confer happiness on
- 44. Batsman
- 45. Bearish
- 46. Terpsichore
- 47. Gladden
- 48. Extended family
- 49. Posterior
- 51. Military stronghold
- 52. Threesome
- 53. Type of duck
- 54. Influenza
- 56. Short sleep



St. For more info, contact Pauline Ray, Garden Club President.

Save the Light

Meets the 1st Monday at 6pm every month. For more information, call: 633-0099, www.savethelight.org.

Senior Citizens Club

55 and over are invited. Meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 11am. Contact Pauline Ray at 588-9580.

Women's Guild

Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Our Lady of Good Counsel, Father Kelly Hall, 106 E. Erie Ave. 588-2336.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Family Movie Night

Held the 4th Sunday of the month at 5 pm. Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St. 588-9414.

Folly Family Storytime

Monday, Feb. 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th at 10:30am. Read stories and sing songs. Ages 0-5. Folly Beach Library and Community Center, 55 Center St.

Lowcountry Street Grocery

Find the bus "Nell" popping up on Center St. every Tuesday from 11am-2pm. Bring your own bags. For more info, contact the Folly Beach Civic Club. Folly Beach Library and Community Center, 55 Center St.

Taste of Folly Savory Saturday: On Feb. 1st, Center St. will be closed for a street festival where Folly businesses will serve up their best dishes and exhibit their skills through live demonstrations. Also enjoy hot dog eating and an oyster shucking contest. Listen to live local bands, shop 70+ art, craft, and fashion vendors, and have fun in the kids area! Tickets are \$10 in advanced (\$15 at the door) and Folly residents and children 12 and under are free. www.visitfolly.com for tickets and more info.

Yoga for Kids

A blend of playful activities, storytelling, and yoga poses to nurture physical fitness, mindfulness, and creativity in a supportive environment. Tuesday, Feb. 4th from 10:30-11am. Folly Beach Library, 55 Center St.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Beach Yoga

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

Folly Beach Community Yoga

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-11am. Bring your own mat. Donation based class. Folly River Park. For more information, contact Jenifer Mahanes on Facebook: Folly Beach Community Yoga.

Folly Beach Recreation

Pickleball: 8-10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday; 2-4p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday at Pirates Cove, 510 E. Erie Ave.
Tennis: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday; 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Wednesday, Friday. Registration required. Pirates Cove, 510 E. Erie Ave.
Soccer: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday. Registration required. Folly River Park, 60 Center St.
Yoga: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday. Folly River Park, 60 Center St.

Health & Wellness Fair

For seniors and their families looking for resources, come on out to the Folly Beach Baptist Church to learn about nutrition, home healthcare, blood pressure checks, senior living options, PT/OT, senior club, and more. Thursday, Feb. 6th from 9-11:30am. For more info: 843-408-3269, hodonnell@follybeach.gov, cityoffollybeach.com. FB Baptist Church is located at 77 Center St.

Open Water Swimming Meet Up

9 a.m. every Sunday. Meet at the Pier next to the showers.

Pilot Exercise Program

Starting mid-February. Wednesdays 10-11am Cardio Circuit, Thursdays

2-2:45pm Zumba, 3-3:45pm Core & More, and once a month on Wednesdays 1:30-2:30pm Restorative Yoga. Held at the Folly Beach Community Center. Email hodonnell@follybeach.gov to sign up.

Save the Light 5K Run/Walk

Half marathon and 5K. Race day is Saturday, Feb. 8th. Open to all levels, ages 10 and up. www.ccprc.com for more info and to register.

OUTDOOR

Join the Folly Beach Community Garden

Residents, non-residents, & business owners are welcome! 4X8 containers \$100 annually. 24 Michigan Ave. Call or text Sep Thieringer at 908-642-3467 or email sechdama@aol.com.

Lighthouse Inlet Bird Walk

Friday, Feb. 14 from 8:30-10:30am. This walk focuses on the incredibly diverse northeast end of Folly Island—the Heritage Preserve that protects maritime forest, beach, dune, and marsh habitats for wildlife. Fee: \$9, ages 12 and up. www.ccprc.com for tickets and more info.

Seabirding at Folly Beach Pier

Winter months bring a variety of oceangoing that can be hard to find during other times of year. The Pier offers an amazing vantage point for spotting sea ducks, seabirds, loons, grebes, and more. Fee: \$7, ages 12 & up. Friday, Feb. 21st from 8:30-10am. www.ccprc.com for tickets and more info.

RELIGIOUS

Christian Meditation Group

Meets every Monday at 8:30am. Father Kelly Hall, 105 West Hudson Ave.

Faith Formation

Meets every Wednesday at 7 pm. Our Lady of Good Counsel, 106 E. Erie Ave. 588-2336.

Folly Beach United Methodist Church
Worship times: Adult Sunday school at 9am / Worship Service at 10am. All are welcome. Come as you are. Nursery and children's Sunday school is provided during worship service. 118 W. Indian Ave., 588-9174. Save the Date: Tuesday, Mar. 4th Shrove Pancake Supper (all are welcome)

Girlfriends Bible Study

Meets every Tuesday at 9:30am & 6:30pm. Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St. 588-9414.

Mary's Rosary Guild

Meets the 1st & 3rd Fridays at 10am. Our Lady of Good Counsel, 106 E. Erie Ave. 588-2336.

Men's Bible Study

Meets Mondays at 7pm Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St. 588-9414.

Recovery in Christ

Biblically based; seeks God concerning our habits, hurts, & hang-ups. Meets Thursdays at 6 pm. Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St.

Soup Ministry

Every Monday at 12pm Meets in the Fellowship Hall. Folly Beach Baptist Church, 77 Center St. 588-9414.

Women's Bible Study

Meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 am & 6:30 pm. Folly Beach Baptist Church. 77 Center St. 588-9414.

** Please check with the individual clubs, groups, and events for updates, as some of these events may have changed.*

**If you have an idea for programming by the City of Folly Beach, please contact City of Folly Beach Community Coordinator Heather O'Donnell at hodonnell@follybeach.org.*

CLUBS, SUPPORT GROUPS, & WORKSHOPS

Book Club

Discuss "Crying in the H Mart" by Michelle Zauner. Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 2:30-3:30pm. Folly Beach Library and Community Center, 55 Center St.

Civic Club

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Community Center, 55 Center St. For more information, go to www.follycivicclub.org.

Coastal Wildlife Interactive Talk & Lecture

Hands on fun and educational experience for learners of all ages. Saturday, Feb. 22nd 3-4pm. Optional scavenger hunt afterwards, weather and interest dependent. RSVP to hodonnell@follybeach.gov.

Exchange Club

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month- next meeting Feb. 20th. Contact EXC on Facebook or Billy Grooms at bgrooms@gmail.com for more info.

Folly Association of Business (FAB)

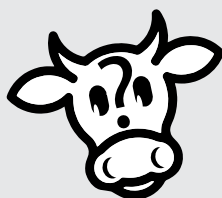
If you are a Folly Beach business or representative of a Folly Beach business, you're invited to attend the next meeting on Thursday, Feb. 13th at 6:30pm. Happy hour social in the bar area at 6pm. For more information, email secretary4FAB@gmail.com or visit JoinFAB.org.

Home & Garden Club

Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month Sept. through May at 12pm. Folly Beach Community Center, 55 Center

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Emilia Pérez
2. American Primeval
3. Pete Carroll
4. Paw pads
5. Billy Ray Cyrus
6. Conan O'Brien
7. Octomom
8. All About Eve



33rd Annual SEA & SAND FESTIVAL

February 22 & 23, 2025

Folly's longest-running festival returns with a weekend full of family-friendly events. From the Folly River Park straight to the beach, the Sea & Sand weekend will include an artisan & food-focused street closure event, as well as some healthy competition in the sand on Sunday.



Salty Saturday - Street Closure Event
Saturday, February 22 | 10am-4pm
Center Street

Sand Castle Building Competition
Sunday, February 23 | 10am
Beachfront at The Tides

For More Information
and to Purchase Tickets,
PLEASE SCAN HERE



Admission is **\$10 in advance** or **\$15 the day of**.
Folly residents and kids 12 and under are free.



NO GLASS ON CENTER STREET! No Animals, Coolers, Bikes, Skateboards, Scooters, or Backpacks (except diaper bags). Any bags brought may be searched at the discretion of security—no outside beverages. Reusable cups are permitted but must be empty upon entering and exiting the event. Service animals are allowed.



DUNES PROPERTIES FEATURED LISTINGS



82 Mariners Cay Dr | \$599,000



Marsh Winds 1G | \$525,000



119 E Indian Ave 1 | \$1,150,000



218 E Huron Ave | \$1,875,000



2 McDonough Rd B11 (Boat Slip) | \$32,250



413 E Indian Ave | \$1,500,000



118 E Ashley + 110 E Cooper | \$2,695,000



712 W Ashley Ave | \$2,950,000

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The Folly Team (L to R): Jesse Slowikowski, Sandra Odom, Kain Slowikowski, Vince Perna, Laurie Hull, & Keith McCann

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