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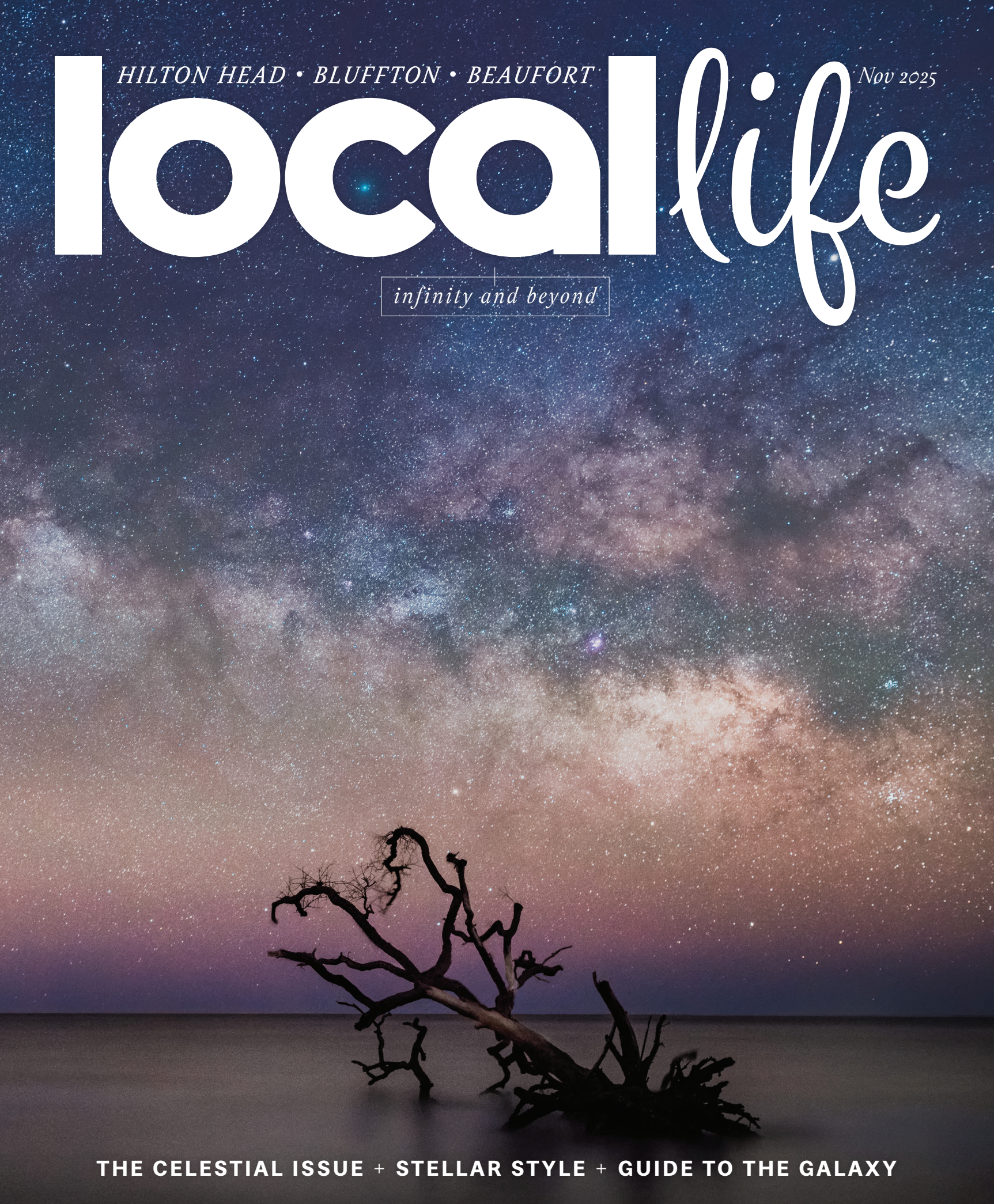

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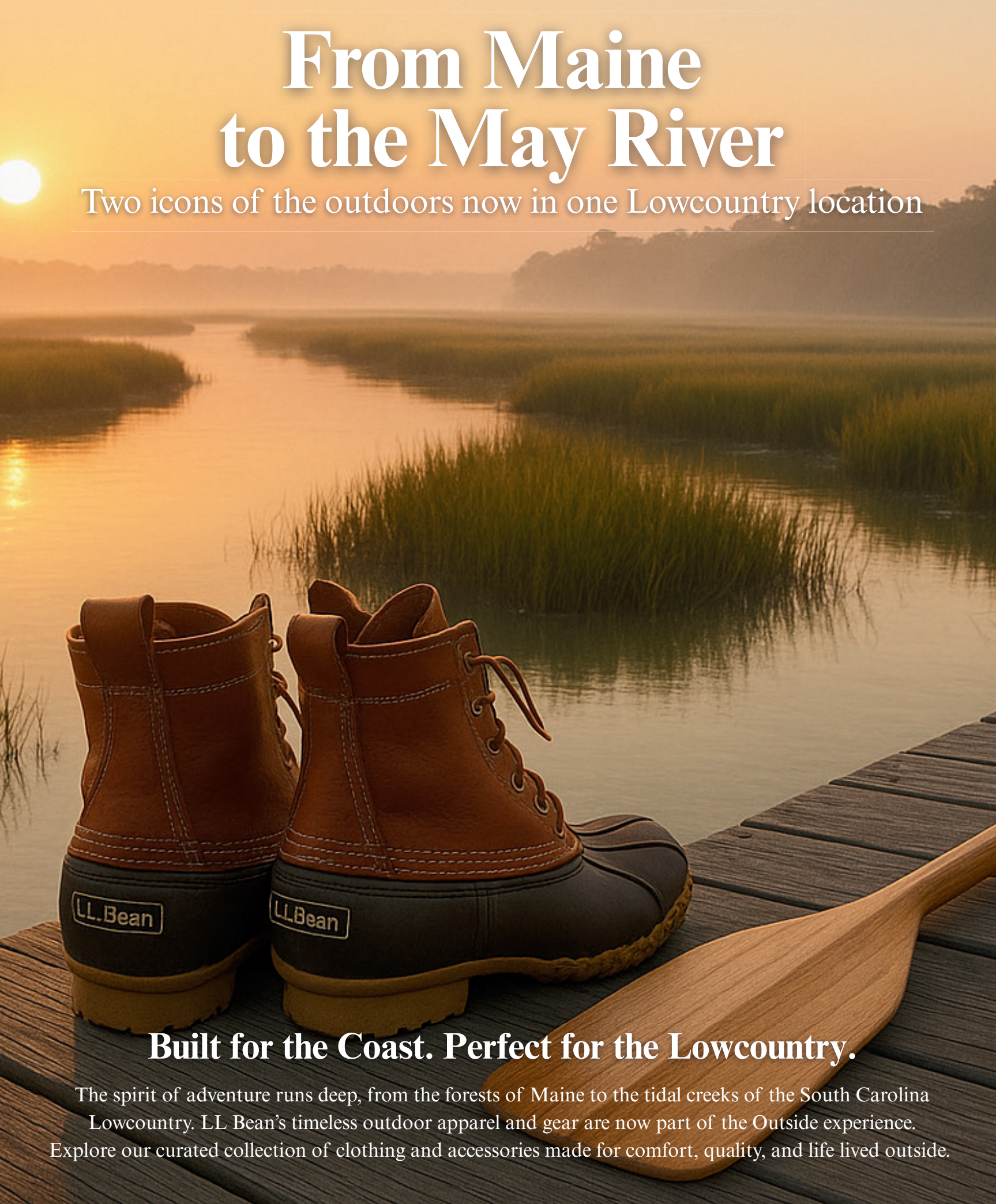

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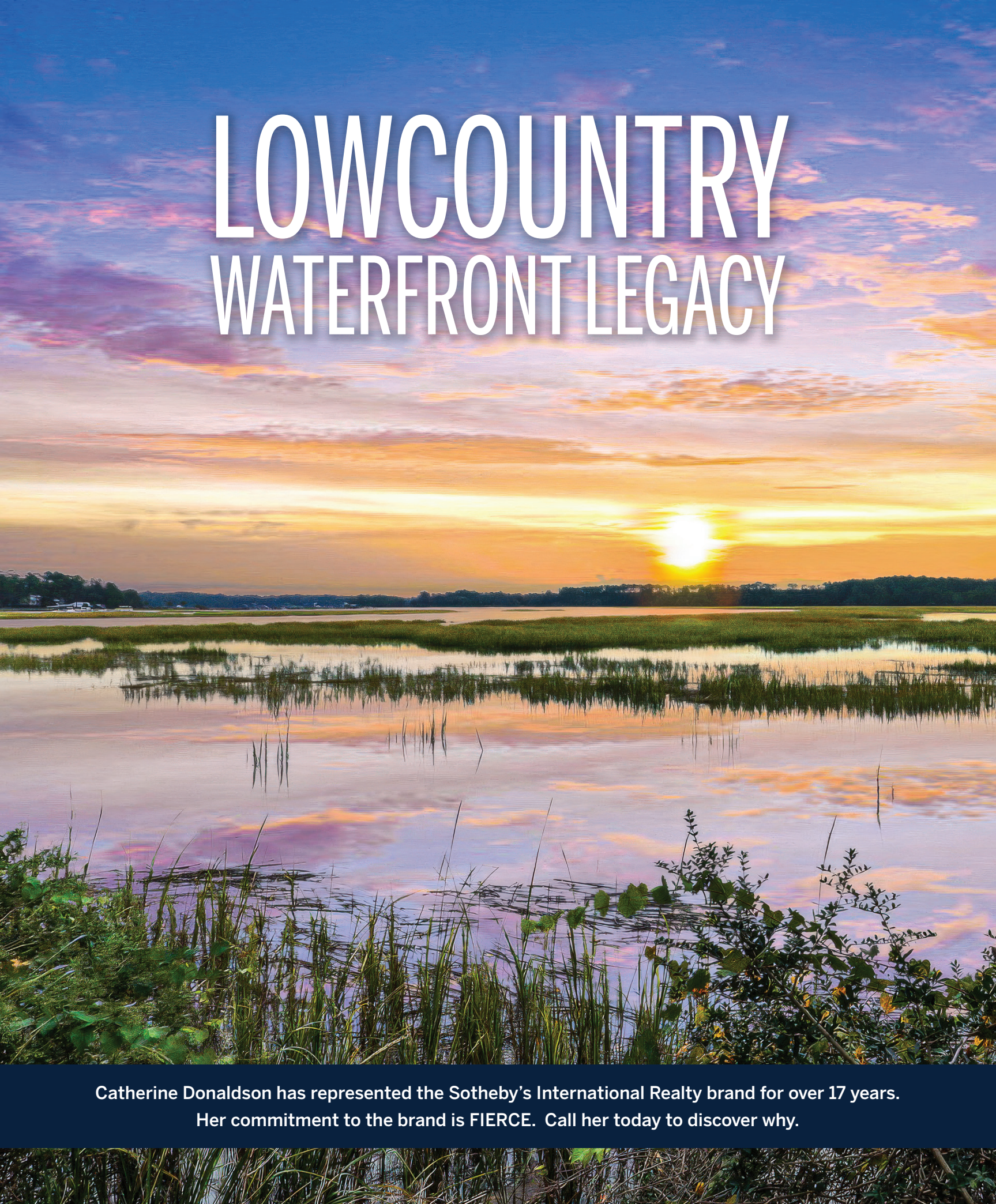

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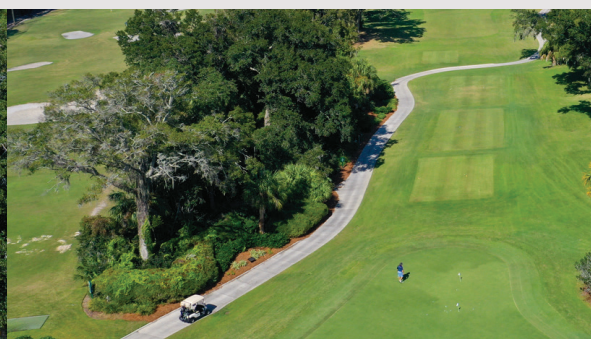





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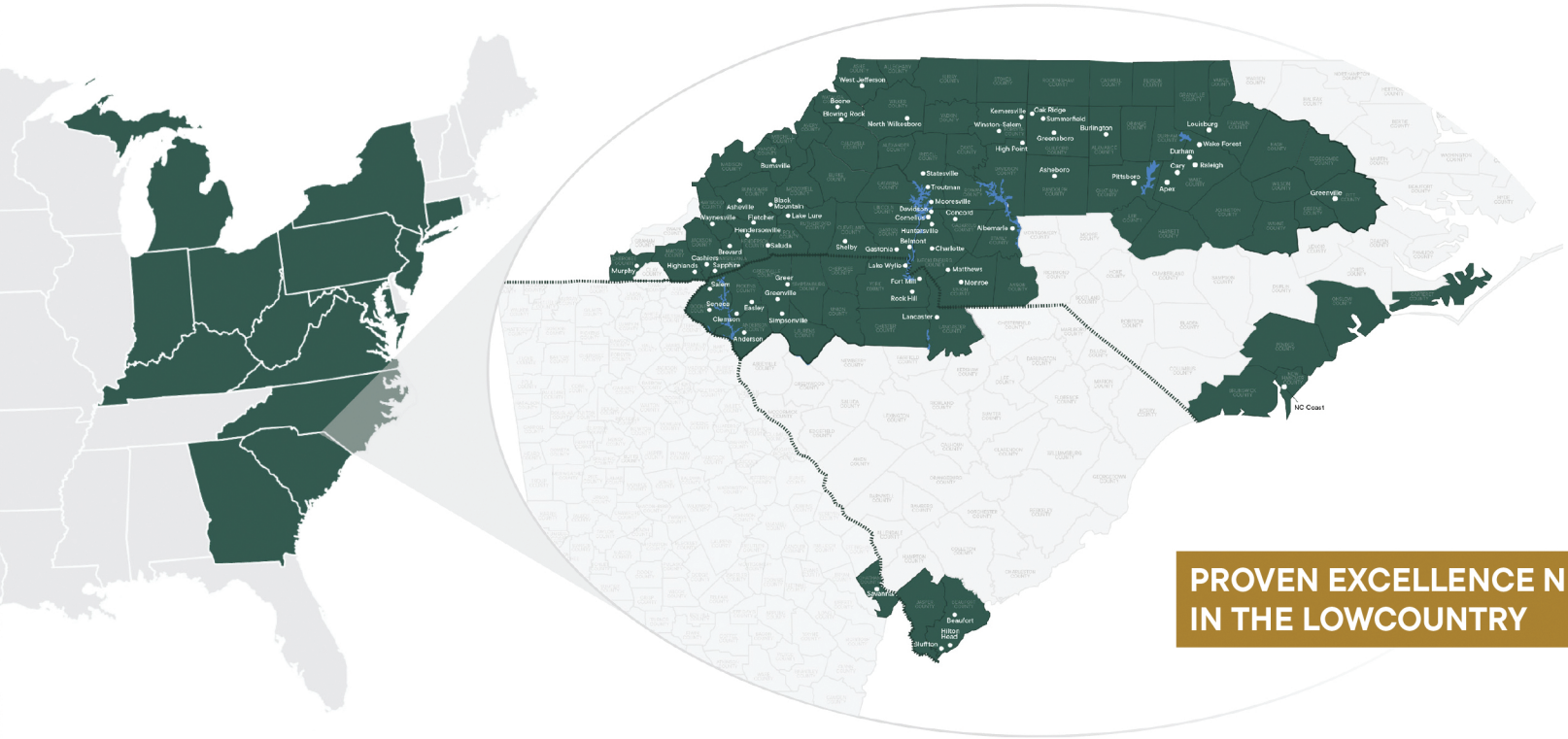

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What's the most memorable thing you've ever seen in the night sky?

"I remember clearly seeing my first shooting star." - LORI



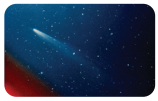
"An over-the-top Fourth of July fireworks show in Idaho Falls." - LANCE



"Oh nothing, nothing at all... Seriously it was nothing." - JEREMY



"Comet Kohoutek. Due back in 75,000 years." - CHARLES



"SpaceX rocket launches while living in Arizona." - ASHLAN



"A total solar eclipse. Super cool to see it get completely dark in the middle of the day." - BAILEY



"The Milky Way from Sleeping Bear Dunes." - ALEA



"Seeing the International Space Station glide above me one clear night was pretty spectacular." - REBECCA



"Watching a meteor shower over the Gulf." - KRISTIN



"I never get tired of the beautiful colors of a Lowcountry sunset over the water." - LISA



"SpaceX launching." - LEAH



"The Nevada desert on a pitch-dark clear night." - BRUCE



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Nov features

The Celestial Issue

As much as the Lowcountry glows during the day, it shimmers differently after dark. When the sun sinks behind the pines and the air turns still, the horizon softens, and the heavens come alive. On a clear night you don't need a mountain summit or a desert plain to feel small beneath something vast. The beaches, marshes and open fields of our coast offer a front-row seat to the universe, a reminder that wonder doesn't always require distance, only attention.

© ZACH GRETHER

SLEEP UNDER THE STARS Photographer Zach Grether captured this breathtaking image, *Follow Me*, beneath the dark skies of Hunting Island State Park. He suggests reserving a campsite if you plan to stargaze there, since the park closes at night, and campers enjoy rare after-hours access to its pristine beaches and wide-open skies. Find more of Zach's local stargazing tips on **page 118**.

26
Starry nights
Five places on HHI where the stars truly shine

30
Stellar stories
Books that reach for the stars and bring the reader along

100
Between the tides
Exploring the moon's quiet pull on local life

106
The original GPS
The art of finding direction by the stars, Lowcountry-style

112
Eyes on the heavens
What to watch for in the night sky this season

122
Look up, Lowcountry
How to spot the space station soaring above our coast

126
UFOs in Dixie skies
Unexplained sightings that still have the South talking

130
Local horoscope
Your celestial forecast, straight from the Lowcountry skies

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Nov contents

20
Publisher
Most of us move through our days with our eyes on the ground, forgetting that above the live oaks and salt marsh lies an entire universe waiting to be seen. On a clear, crisp night all you need is a dark spot and the willingness to look up.

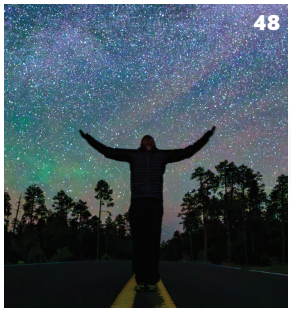
22
Contributors
The dreamers, artists and stargazers who illuminated this Celestial Issue

24
Links
Exclusive articles and extras waiting online at locallifesc.com



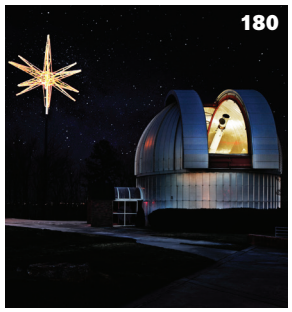
72
Get together
Step inside a Berkeley Hall home built for gathering.











36
Blend
The hot list: What to watch, read and listen to in November

42
Business
What's new, what's next and what's making waves

44
Wellness
Moonstruck: Fact or folklore? Local experts weigh in

48
Faces
Meet three locals with their eyes on the heavens

74
Living
Transform your master bath into a royal retreat

88
Pets
Adopt a pint-sized pup with a Pupperoni addiction

90
Outdoors
Lure the hard-to-find purple finch to your feeder

132
Style
Exploring the beauty of our solar system through fashion

138
Shopping
Local treasures for a holiday table that shines

140
History
The Revolution reached Lowcountry waters first

142
Culture
Five photographers who turn the night sky into art

156
Eats
Acorn squash is nutty, sweet and perfectly Lowcountry

178
Libations
How the moon's pull guides the wines we love

180
Destinations
Planetariums and observatories worth the drive

186
Happenings
November's top festivals, events and performances

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Mark Boedges *Last Of The Evening Light* 21" x 36" Oil

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A coastal life guided by lunar tides and celestial light

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."
- NORMAN VINCENT PEALE



FULL MOON MAGIC Publisher Lori Goodridge-Cribb strikes a pose beneath October's Harvest Moon. Long before electric lights, its glow helped farmers work late into the night, gathering their crops before the chill of winter set in.

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The moon has always had its say in the Lowcountry. It tugs at the tides, shifting the sand beneath our feet, feeding the marsh and guiding fishermen who still watch the water as closely as the weather. Its pull shapes the rhythms of life here, from the shrimp tucked into tidal creeks to the oysters that thrive because of its cycles. Without it, our coast and the way we live alongside it would be unrecognizable.

The night sky offers a different kind of tide, one that pulls at our sense of wonder. Most of us get caught up in the day-to-day, forgetting that above the live oaks and salt marsh is a whole universe just waiting to be noticed. We don't need to travel to the desert or a mountaintop to see it. On a crisp fall or winter night, when the sky clears and the humidity drops, all it takes is a dark spot and a little patience. Constellations begin to take shape, and faint stars shine brighter. If you're lucky, you might even spot the International Space Station as it streaks by overhead.

Stargazing, like fishing a tide or walking a moonlit beach, grounds us. It reminds us that our lives are part of a larger story. That story was written in the sky long before us, and it will stretch on long after. In a world that often feels noisy and fast, looking up can be the pause we didn't know we needed.

That is what this Celestial Issue is really about: slowing down, paying attention and letting the sky put things in perspective. Whether you're a lifelong sky-watcher or someone who rarely looks past the streetlights, we hope this issue encourages you to step outside on a clear night, take a breath and find your own place among the stars.

Clear skies,

LORI GOODRIDGE-CRIBB
PUBLISHER
lori.goodridge@wearelocallife.com



Written in the stars

I'm an Aquarius through and through, which means I see the world a little differently. We're the dreamers and the big-picture thinkers, always asking questions and rarely content with the ordinary. At times unpredictable, but always chasing new ideas, Aquarians like me tend to live with one foot on the ground and the other reaching for the sky. Astrology or not, it's always fun to see how the zodiac stacks up. Do these traits sound like you or someone you love?

Aries (March 21-April 19):
Bold, energetic, headstrong
Taurus (April 20-May 20):
Grounded, dependable, comfort-loving
Gemini (May 21-June 20):
Curious, witty, adaptable
Cancer (June 21-July 22):
Nurturing, protective, sensitive
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):
Confident, charismatic, generous
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):
Practical, detail-oriented, thoughtful
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):
Diplomatic, charming, fair-minded
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):
Passionate, perceptive, determined
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):
Adventurous, optimistic, blunt
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):
Ambitious, disciplined, devoted
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):
Independent, visionary, unconventional
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):
Imaginative, empathetic, intuitive



ROLLING INTO RELIEF Have you seen the LOCAL Life Jeep cruising around town? This month we rolled up next to the crew at Discover Specific Chiropractic. From left: ***Tristan Horup, Dr. Ken Horup, Chantal Horup, Paige Baltimore and Drew Kender***. The team is ready to help if knee pain, foot pain, balance issues or those pesky numb-and-tingly hands and feet are slowing you down.


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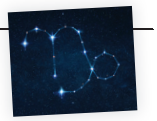
MEET LOCAL CREATIVES BEHIND THE SCENES



Jacquelyn Markham *Poet*

OTHER CREDS: Ph.D. and master's in poetry and creative writing from Florida State University. Latest book: *Warrior Rainbow*, Finishing Line Press, 2023. **FOR THIS ISSUE:** Local poem, *Wolf Moon* **ZODIAC SIGN:** Capricorn **HOMETOWN:** Manistee, Michigan **CURRENT HOME:** Beaufort **LOCAL SINCE:** 2004 **HOBBIES:** Playing flute, painting, photography **WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?** *Barefoot in the Park* and *The Way We Were*. I often watch foreign films on Hoopla, especially French. **WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?** Tab Benoit, Susan Tedeschi and the latest blues music. **WHAT ARE YOU READING?** Joy Harjo's *American Sunrise*, Cassandra King Conroy's *Tell Me a Story* and my friend Quitman Marshall's latest nonfiction, *Swampitude: Escapes with the Congaree*. **WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?** Hugo spritz. And of course, Beaujolais. **FAVORITE STARGAZING MEMORY:** A night sail on a 30-foot sailboat from St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands, to Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Never have I seen a sky of stars like that night!





Mackenzie Lionberger *Writer*

OTHER CREDS: Indiana University 2025 graduate **FOR THIS ISSUE:** Navigating the stars, spotting the ISS, planetarium road trip, meteor shower and lunar eclipse guide, hot tech **ZODIAC SIGN:** Capricorn **HOMETOWN:** Damascus, Maryland **CURRENT HOME:** Hilton Head Island **HOBBIES:** I recently got back into running. **WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?** Because it's finally fall, I am doing my annual rewatch of *Gilmore Girls*. **WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?** *Man's Best Friend* by Sabrina Carpenter **WHAT ARE YOU READING?** *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley **WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?** Berry Cosmo **WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE LOWCOUNTRY?** The beaches are hands-down my favorite part, and running here is easy when the view is perfect. **FAVORITE STARGAZING MEMORY:** Summer nights on the back porch of my grandparents' house at Lake Hartwell where my grandma taught me the constellations.





Terry Beylotte *Artist*

OTHER CREDS: Public speaker, entreprenuer, co-founder of Art 4 Hope and Advanced Artists of Allendale **FOR THIS ISSUE:** Local art, *Shante's Moon* **ZODIAC SIGN:** Sagittarius **HOMETOWN:** Adam's Run, SC **CURRENT HOME:** Charleston **LOCAL SINCE:** I grew up in the Lowcountry and returned this year. **HOBBIES:** Fishing, pottery, various types of collecting **WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?** *Orphan Black* on Netflix **WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?** An eclectic mix of Phil Collins, Morgan Whallen, Jelly Roll and Prince. **WHAT ARE YOU READING?** *Emotional Intelligence* by Daniel Coleman **CURRENT PROJECT:** A beautiful scene of sunlight peeking through Spanish moss hanging from the most regal oak trees. **WHAT INSPIRES YOUR ART?** First and foremost, the perfection I see around me that derives from the hand of our awesome creator. Secondly, a deep emotional connection to the scenes, people and their stories. **FAVORITE STARGAZING MEMORY:** After years of light pollution, that first time back in the Lowcountry, lying in the grass at night and looking up to see heavenly bodies I hadn't seen in so long. Emotion washed over me, and I teared up. **FAVORITE CELESTIAL BODY:** The full moon. A symbol of light through the darkness, of new beginnings and so much more.

Others who reached for the stars this issue ...

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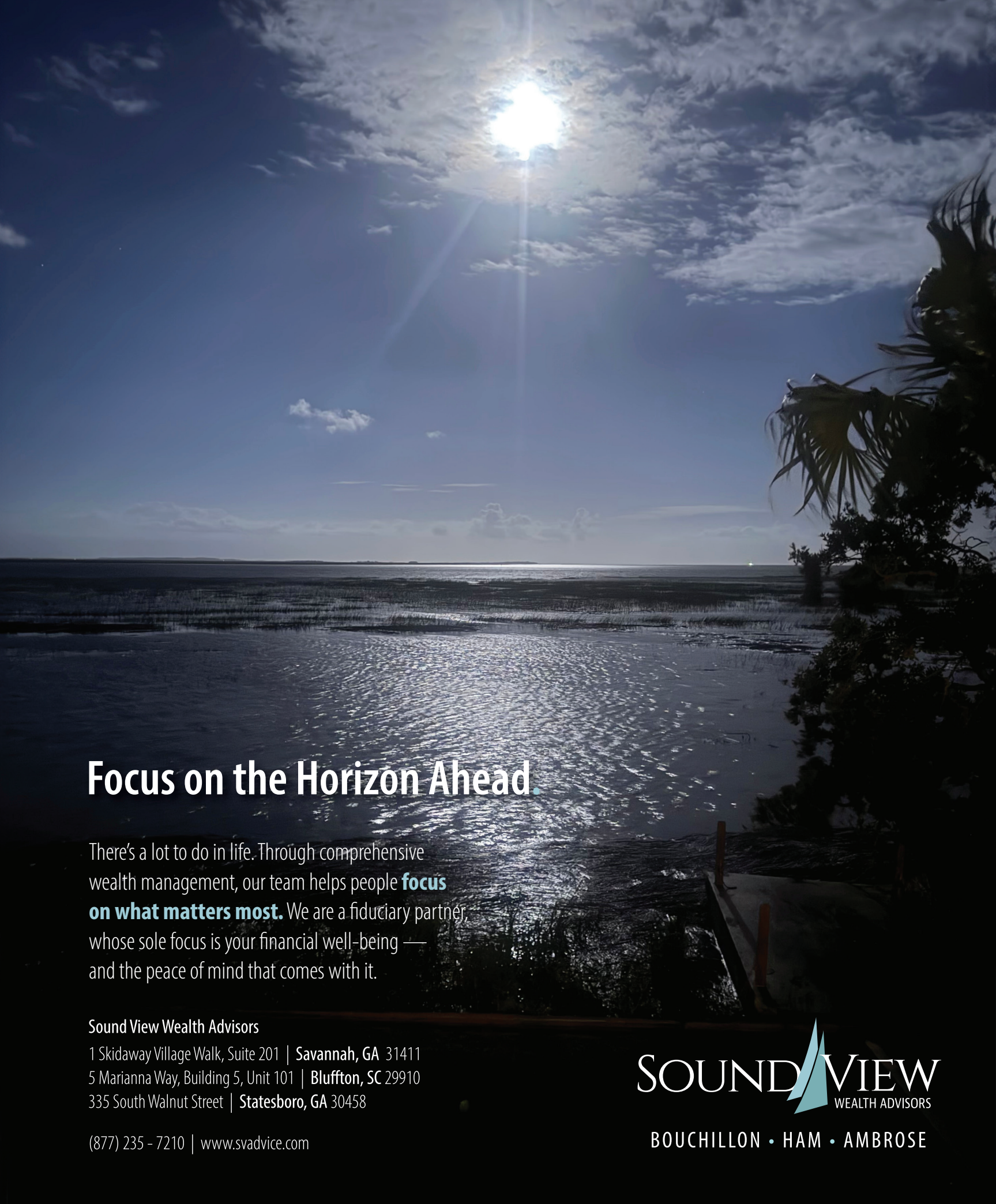

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2. Turn your gourds into décor with pressed flower pumpkins 
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About the cover



*This month's cover features "The Last One," a breathtaking photograph captured by **Zach Grether** at Hunting Island State Park."There's something about the way the horizon transformed the color of the sky as it rose over a dark ocean that makes this one of my favorites," Zach said. "If you don't normally shoot over the ocean, you'll never get this low-level marine haze that changes the color of the sky. The timing of the shoot, when the Milky Way core was just above the haze line, allowed it to appear perfectly clear. That's what makes the image for me." See more of Zach's work at zgrethphoto.com.*



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Corryne Jackson, Beth Drake, Hampton Drake, and Lauren Dooley



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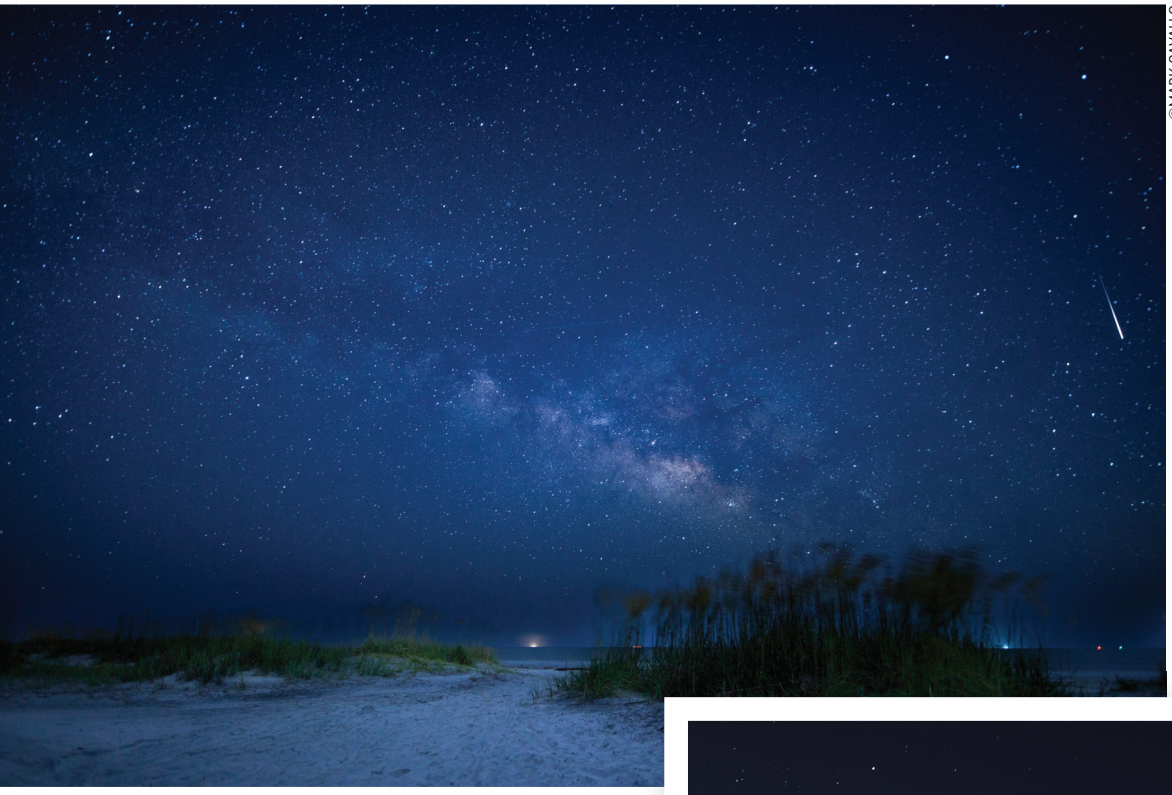

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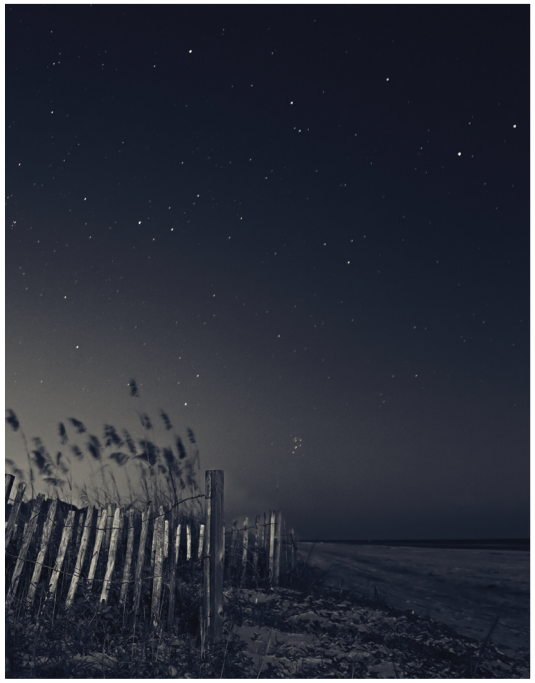
Starry nights

THE FIVE BEST PLACES TO STARGAZE ON HILTON HEAD

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN

When the sun goes down, Hilton Head still has plenty of glow from neighborhoods and resorts, which can make stargazing a challenge. The beaches are a natural front-row seat to the night sky, but not every access point is open after hours. While the shoreline itself is open around the clock from the ocean to the high-water mark, getting there isn't always simple. To help, here are five easy-to-reach spots that offer some of the island's best views on a cool, clear November night.



The Southern skies

SOUTH BEACH At the very heel of Hilton Head near Braddock Point, the night feels still, and the skies stretch wide. It's one of the island's most peaceful places to look up.

Pros: Public parking areas and paths in Sea Pines lead to a dark, tranquil shoreline. After hours the only sound is the surf. The southern horizon opens beautifully across sand and ocean, and the dunes create striking silhouettes for night-sky photography. Before or after your stargazing session, the Salty Dog Café offers a cozy stop, especially in November, when tourist crowds have thinned.

Cons: Access requires a Sea Pines pass. Some paths are narrow, winding or raised and can feel tricky in the dark, so bring a red flashlight for safe footing. While the skies here are darker than many island spots, faint galaxies and clusters may still be softened by a slight glow.

The people's planetarium

COLIGNY BEACH By day it's Hilton Head's busiest beach, but after dark Coligny turns into a wide-open theater for the stars. The vibe is lively, eclectic and never quite the same twice.

Pros: Easy access makes Coligny a stargazer's friend. The shoreline is always open, the sky views are big and clear, and you are just steps from restaurants and bars. It is an ideal spot for dinner before or a nightcap after. Bring a wagon for your gear since the walk from the lot can feel long with full arms.

Cons: The crowd is unpredictable. One night you will see families strolling on the sand; another night it might be bar hoppers heading home or fishermen camped by the surf. Sometimes it feels lively, sometimes a little sketchy, but always entertaining. The people-watching can rival the stars.



©TIM JAMES

Stargazing in style

SEA PINES BEACH CLUB If you like a little comfort with your constellations, the Beach Club is your spot. Clean, well-kept and easy to reach, it offers one of the island's most convenient setups for an evening under the stars.

Pros: This is stargazing with amenities. Coast, the Ocean Lounge, bathrooms, showers and changing rooms are all close by, and parking is usually simple after dark, even in busy summer months. Sea Pines' rules limit exterior lighting, making constellations, planets and bright stars easy to spot. A short walk from the main club area reveals quieter patches of darkness.

Cons: Access comes at a price. Non-residents pay $9 at the gate or $50 for an annual Pelican Pass. As a resort facility, it has its share of ambient light, which dims faint stars. For deeper sky views you'll need to venture farther from development.

The wild card

MITCHELVILLE/FISH HAUL For a rugged, natural experience, head to Hilton Head's northeast corner. The Mitchelville/Fish Haul area feels wilder than most island beaches, and that raw edge makes the sky seem even bigger.

Pros: Secluded and largely undeveloped, it offers true darkness, with wide stretches of sand, tidal flats and driftwood that frame the stars beautifully. Once you've walked past the marsh paths, the view opens up, making it one of the island's best spots for casual, no-frills stargazing.

Cons: Park facilities close at dusk, so you'll need to leave your car along the road and walk in. The area can feel less secure after dark, so it's best to go with friends. There are usually no beach mats, which makes hauling gear tougher, and the paths are uneven, with roots and the occasional critter. This area is best suited for stargazers who enjoy a bit of adventure with their astronomy.



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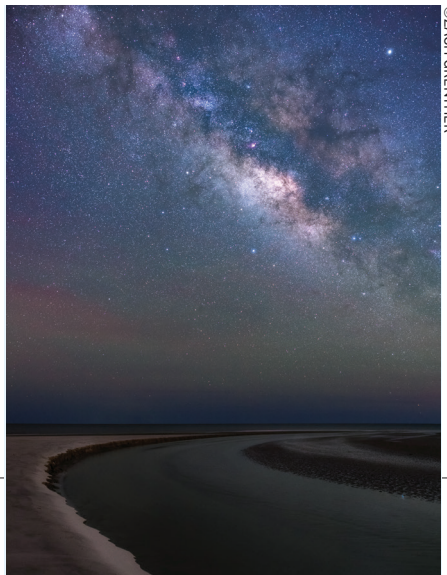

©ZACH GRENTHER

The hidden horizon

BURKES BEACH At the end of Burkes Beach Road you'll find a quieter, less-developed stretch of sand that locals love for its space and solitude.

Pros: Public access makes it easy to reach, and at low tide the beach opens wide for unobstructed views. The stretch between Burkes and Singleton is especially good, free of houses and street lights so the stars shine brighter. On the right night you can even pick out distant galaxies and clusters.

Cons: The small lot by the access closes at night, so you'll need to use nearby street parking. The last trek through soft sand is a workout with gear, though a folding wagon makes it easier.

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Lunar light

Moon Table Lamp

Why wait for moonrise? This glowing lamp brings lunar calm to your living room, bedroom or reading nook. A soft, silvery glow turns any corner into a tranquil retreat. ***vakkerlight.com, $142***



Time in orbit

LED Moon Phase Simulation Clock

Track time the celestial way. This LED clock cycles through the moon's phases as it keeps you on schedule, reconnecting your mornings to the night sky. A simple but stunning addition to any desk or nightstand. ***sharperimage.com, $64***



Steady as the cosmos

Tripod X

Blurred photos are a thing of the past. Built with a motorized self-leveling feature and housed in a travel-ready case, the Tripod X keeps your night-sky shots sharp and steady. Perfect for professional photographers or anyone who wants brag-worthy star captures. ***edelkrone.com, $2,990***



Sky on your wrist

Citizen Campanola Cosmosign CTV57-1231

High-precision 14-plate printing is used to create a scientifically accurate star map of 1,027 heavenly bodies and 166 galaxies and nebulae. It's a microcosm of the celestial sky on your wrist, a window into the far reaches of time and space. ***citizenwatch-global.com, $2,923***



Sleep under the stars

Planetarium Projector

Drift off under your favorite constellations. This night light from Sharper Image projects a celestial canopy across your room, creating the ultimate bedtime vibe. It's part art, part comfort and all starlight. ***sharperimage.com, $96***



Light up the night

True Night Vision Binoculars

Get closer to the stars without squinting. These high-tech binoculars by Sharper Image bring crisp clarity to night skies, whether you're camping, stargazing or just exploring the backyard after dark. A handy gadget you'll never regret packing. ***sharperimage.com, $143***



Signal from the stars

Garmin InReach Messenger

Stay connected even when your cell service fades away. This satellite messenger lets you send texts, share your location and trigger SOS alerts, so you can hike, camp or stargaze with peace of mind. ***garmin.com, $250***



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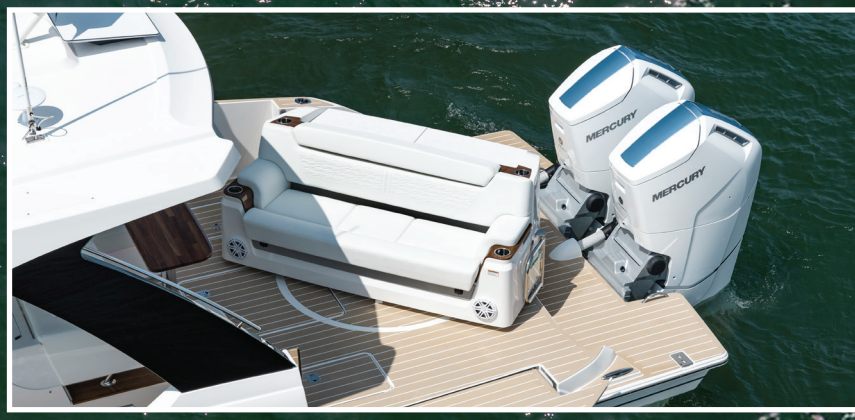

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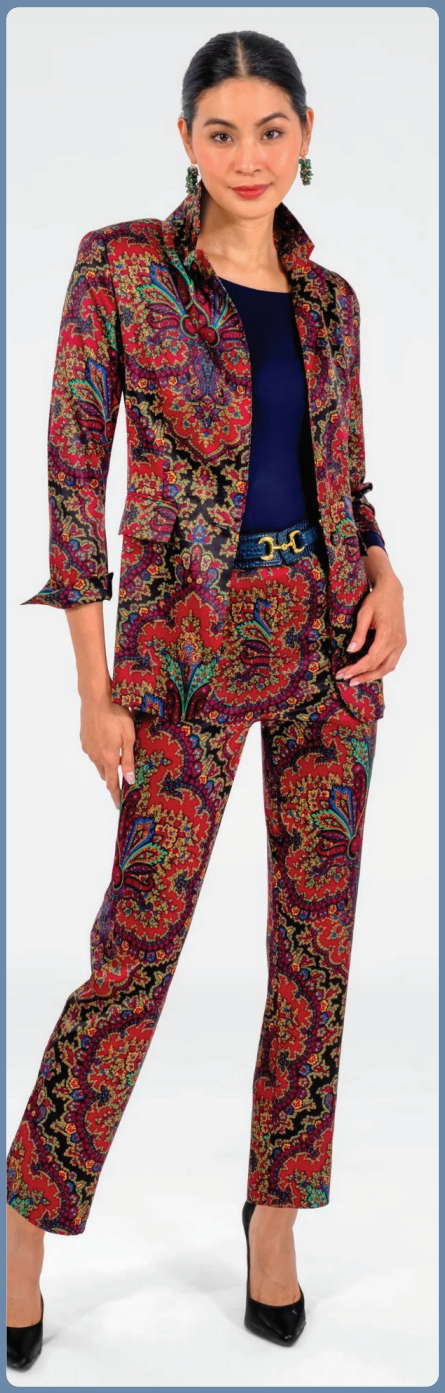

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Out of this world reads

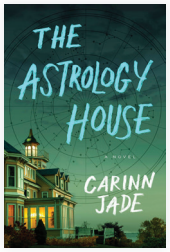
Five stellar stories that explore courage and connection

***Denise Friday**, a school social worker at Hilton Head Island Elementary and mother of twins, finds both joy and reflection in a good book. For the Celestial Issue, she turns her gaze skyward with a collection of books that journey through space, time and the depths of the human heart.*



THE MARTIAN *BY ANDY WEIR*

Astronaut Mark Watney becomes one of fewer than 20 people to walk on Mars. When a dust storm forces his crew to evacuate, they assume he's dead and leave him behind. Stranded and unable to reach Earth, Mark relies on his sharp wit, scientific know-how and pure MacGyver-style ingenuity to fight for survival. A clever blend of science fiction and dark comedy, The Martian is a brilliant testament to human resilience against impossible odds.



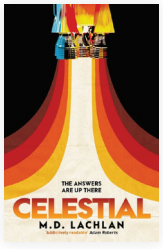
THE ASTROLOGY HOUSE *BY CARINN JADE*

Margot, a new partner at a busy law firm, thinks she's found the perfect getaway for herself and her stressed-out friends. Stars Harbor Astrological Retreat promises rest, stunning views and nightly astrology readings. But as Margot's brother, his wife, and their friends settle in, hidden secrets begin to surface. The host seems increasingly strange, and what was meant to be a relaxing weekend soon turns deadly.



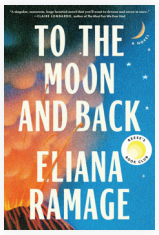
ATMOSPHERE: A LOVE STORY *BY TAYLOR JENKINS REID*

Joan Goodwin, a physics professor, becomes one of the first female astronauts in NASA's Space Shuttle program in the 1980s. The novel follows her grueling training, the challenges of being a woman in a male-dominated field and her secret love affair with a fellow astronaut. The story is so heartfelt and the characters so vivid, you'll forget you're reading fiction.



CELESTIAL *BY M.D. LACHLAN*

Ziggy Da Luca isn't an astronaut; she's a linguist. But when NASA recruits her for a 1977 moon mission to decode strange markings found on a mysterious hatch discovered by the Russians, she can't refuse. What the crew uncovers inside the hatch defies imagination. A must-read for fans of smart, suspenseful science fiction.



TO THE MOON AND BACK *BY ELIANA RAMAGE*

Steph Harper has one singular dream: to be the first Cherokee astronaut to walk on the moon. At 6 years old, she and her sister fled domestic violence with their mother to the Cherokee Nation, searching for safety and belonging. Spanning three decades, this powerful debut novel follows Steph's pursuit of her dream, the bonds that shape her life and the sacrifices she makes to earn NASA's approval.



Chapter chat

*LOCAL Life's Rebecca Kerns, an avid reader, shares her take on **Atmosphere: A Love Story** by Taylor Jenkins Reid in "Rebecca's Reading Room Chat," a video book series inspired by Denise Friday's book recommendations. Watch it now on LOCAL Life's YouTube channel: **youtube.com/@locallifesc***

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Starstruck streams

A constellation of six overlooked films, each orbiting a different kind of viewer

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN



When you look up at the night sky, it's easy to imagine stories written in the stars. Some films take that wonder and turn it into noisy spectacle, but the real treasures are the ones that slip quietly past most watchlists. These cosmic tales are stranger, more intimate, more haunting. They ask what it means to hope across a void, to measure life against infinity or to drift when there's no way home. Each of these overlooked gems pairs with a certain kind of stargazer. Find the one that matches your orbit, press play, and let the universe unfold.

THE COLD FRONTIER The 2013 science fiction film ***Europa Report*** captures deep-space exploration with rare authenticity, pairing the grandeur of Jupiter's icy moon with the grit of a cramped spacecraft. Smart, suspenseful and quietly beautiful, it is a convincing portrayal of life far beyond Earth.

For the cosmic romantic

The Midnight Sky (2020)

Personality: You believe in distance, longing and messages across voids.

Why you'll love it: George Clooney directs and stars in this contemplative post-apocalyptic drama. As a lone Arctic scientist races to reach a returning spaceship, the film meditates on grief, connection and the fragile hope that survives across space.



CELESTIAL SCALE

Gravity pull: *Heavy with emotion, anchored by loneliness and longing*

Cosmic clarity: *Bleak Arctic horizons mirrored against glowing star fields*

Meteor shower vibe: *Best watched on a quiet night under a real sky*

Stream it: *Netflix*

For the scientifically curious

Europa Report (2013)

Personality: You trust the data, love realism and want surprises grounded in science.

Why you'll love it: A private mission to Jupiter's moon Europa turns fatal, but the story focuses on methodical exploration, claustrophobic tension and scientific wonder rather than spectacle. Often overlooked in favor of flashier titles, it offers convincing depictions of deep-space travel.



CELESTIAL SCALE

Gravity pull: *Relentless pressure of science versus survival*

Cosmic clarity: *Icy moons, deep voids and unsettling close-quarters realism*

Meteor shower vibe: *A midnight watch with notebook in hand*

Stream it: *Hulu, Tubi, Disney+*

For the mind-bender

Coherence (2013)

Personality: You thrive on paradox, ambiguity and plots that twist inside out.

Why you'll love it: Shot for less than $100,000, this indie thriller uses almost no special effects, yet became a cult classic. A dinner party unravels when a passing comet fractures reality. The film leans on dialogue, silence and shifting loyalties rather than special effects.



CELESTIAL SCALE

Gravity pull: *Light on visuals, heavy on existential vertigo*

Cosmic clarity*: One dimly lit house, faces flickering with doubt*

Meteor shower vibe: *Perfect stormy-night viewing with headphones*

Stream it: *Peacock, Prime Video, Tubi, Pluto TV*

For the genre hybrid lover

Cargo (2019)

Personality: You like sci-fi that mingles with philosophy, myth and human strangeness.

Why you'll love it: Part of India's quiet wave of indie sci-fi, Cargo imagines souls recycled aboard a spaceship run like a cosmic HR department. Quirky, humane and strangely hopeful, it's a film most American audiences never heard of.



CELESTIAL SCALE

Gravity pull: *Gentle reflections on life, death and the afterlife*

Cosmic clarity: *Stark cabins lit with mystic hues*

Meteor shower vibe: *A late-night detour into something spiritual*

Stream it: *Netflix*

For the poetic visionary

Sunshine (2007)

Personality: You're drawn to beauty, sacrifice and cosmic metaphor.

Why you'll love it: Danny Boyle's thriller was largely overlooked at release but has since grown in stature as a cult favorite. It follows a crew sent to reignite the dying sun, balancing dazzling spectacle with existential stakes.



CELESTIAL SCALE

Gravity pull: *Humanity weighed against the infinite sun*

Cosmic clarity: *Blinding flares, shimmering voids and radiant imagery*

Meteor shower vibe: *Best on a wide screen with curtains drawn*

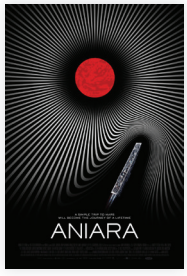
Stream it: *Hulu, Disney+*

For the cosmic outsider

Aniara (2018)

Personality: You see beauty in despair, the sublime in chaos.

Why you'll love it: Based on a mid-20th century Swedish epic poem, Aniara rarely reached mainstream audiences but resonates with those who find poetry in bleakness. The film sends a passenger ship adrift with no way home, unraveling into ritual, distraction and despair.



CELESTIAL SCALE

Gravity pull: *Heavy, slow and brutally human*

Cosmic clarity: *Neon-lit corridors against infinite dark*

Meteor shower vibe: *A solitary midnight watch, likely sleepless after*

Stream it: *Disney+, Hulu, Prime Video*

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Local IQ

November crossword challenge for locals

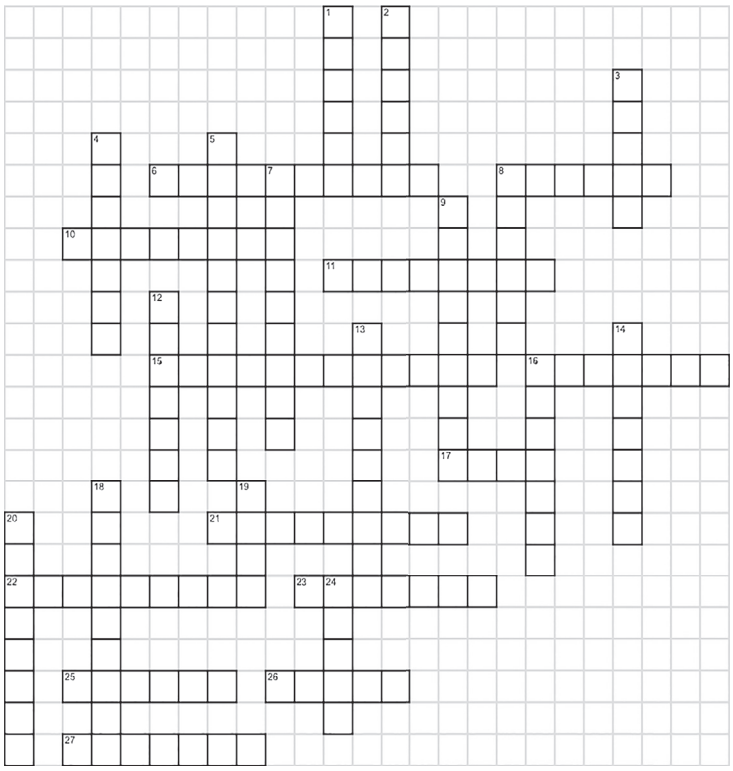
CLUES BY LANCE HANLIN + GRID BY JEREMY SWARTZ

ACROSS

6. Shuttle destroyed in 1986 disaster
8. First U.S. space station, launched in 1973
10. Bread cubes baked inside or out of the bird
11. Rocky wanderer orbiting the sun
15. Rover that landed on Mars in 2021
16. Pie flavor that defines November
17. A star's dazzling final eruption
21. Classic side of green beans and crispy onions
22. First human to walk on the moon
23. Planetary probe that left the solar system
25. Beagle balloon soaring in Macy's parade since 1968
26. NFL team hosting Thanksgiving since 1934
27. Famed mission control city

DOWN

1. Legendary coach who handed out turkeys
2. Space telescope launched in 1990
3. Golden-yellow November birthstone
4. Hilton Head's glowing November beach parade
5. Zodiac sign represented by the Archer
7. Cosmic measure equal to about 6 trillion miles
8. The brightest star lighting up Earth's night sky
9. Poultry mash-up of chicken, duck and turkey
12. The mighty giant of the solar system
13. Tangy holiday sauce of ruby-red berries
14. Soviet satellite that shocked the world in 1957
16. North Star guiding sailors for centuries
18. Local festival celebrating art and culture
19. Drink mix linked to Gemini astronauts
20. Satellite internet constellation
21. The celestial hunter chasing the Seven Sisters



ANSWER KEY

ACROSS **6.** CHALLENGER **8.** SKYLAB **10.** STUFFING **11.** ASTEROID **15.** PERSEVERANCE **16.** PUMPKIN **17.** NOVA **21.** CASSEROLE **22.** ARMSTRONG **23.** VOYAGER **25.** SNOOPY **26.** LIONS **27.** HOUSTON **DOWN** **1.** MADDEN **2.** HUBBLE **3.** TOPAZ **4.** LANTERN **5.** SAGITTARIUS **7.** LIGHTYEAR **8.** SIRIUS **9.** TURDUCKEN **12.** JUPITER **13.** CRANBERRY **14.** SPUTNIK **16.** POLARIS **18.** CRESCENDO **19.** TANG **20.** STARLINK **21.** ORION

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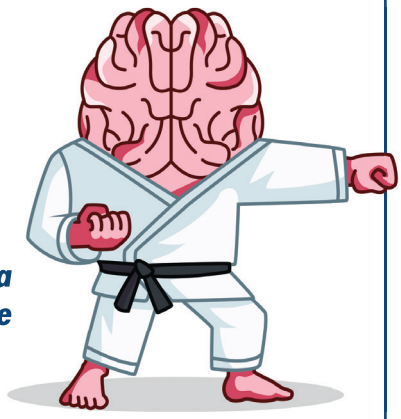
Answers are available on LocalLifeSC.com/Mensa

MASTER OF THE MIND

Chop to it! It takes a strong mind to solve this Mensa quiz!



1. An interesting idea is written in a simple substitution code below.

XIBU HPFT VQ DPNFT EPXO FYDFQU QSJDFT

2. Find the number that best completes the sequence below.

19 37 55 73 9?

3. Matthew had $2 to spend. He wanted to buy jelly beans and licorice sticks. He paid $1.50 for 5 jelly beans and 20 licorice sticks. For the same amount he could have bought 10 jelly beans and 10 licorice sticks. How much did each item cost?

4. Change two letters in the name of a magazine on comestibles to find what we would all like to be.

5. Which of the words below is least like the others? The difference has nothing to do with vowels, consonants or syllables.

BANK BEAR FAIR FIND

ANSWER KEY

1. *What goes up comes down, except prices. (Code: X = W, I = H, B = A, etc.)* ***2.*** *1 (Two series: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and the same sequence reversed.)* ***3.*** *Jelly beans cost 10¢; licorice sticks costs 5¢.* ***4.*** *Food and Wine - good and wise* ***5.*** *FIND (All the others have more than one meaning.)*

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The hot list

What to watch, read and listen to in November

SELECTIONS BY DAISY DOW

STREAMING









PEACOCK ***All Her Fault*** *(mystery)*
When Marissa Irvine (Sarah Snook) drops her son, Milo, at a new friend's home, she gets a few precious hours to herself. Her peaceful afternoon soon turns into a waking nightmare when she goes to pick him up. A strange woman claiming to be the mother tells Marissa she has no knowledge of her son. Marissa embarks on a desperate mission to find Milo; all the while, lies from naysayers try to get her off course. **Release date: Nov. 2**

APPLE TV+ ***Pluribus*** *(science fiction)*
Imagine if everyone around you didn't just seem happy but was chemically made to be that way. That's the reality for Carol Sturka (Rhea Seehorn), a novelist who finds herself in a world that feels like something out of a science fiction book. While Carol's contempt of the world around her grows, a series of odd notes around her home makes her think she's not the only one sick of the way things are. **Release date: Nov. 7**

NETFLIX ***The Beast In Me*** *(thriller)*
Aggie Wiggs (Claire Danes) cannot get back into her old routines, following the death of her son. When a new neighbor moves in (Matthew Rhys), her writer's instincts kick in as she notices odd discrepancies of how he presents himself and how he truly is. Aggie begins to investigate Nile's role in the disappearance of his wife and soon finds herself a little closer to danger that she bargained for. **Release date: Nov. 13**

NBC, PEACOCK ***Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*** *(live parade)*
For decades the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has been one of the nation's most anticipated and watched holiday celebrations. Watch as colossal balloons float above the streets of New York City. Enjoy dazzling floats, and sing along with live performances by popular artists. **Start time: 8:30 a.m., Nov. 27 (encore at 2 p.m.)**

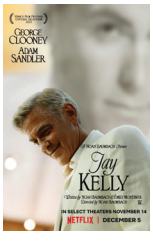
MOVIE THEATERS



Wicked: For Good *(fantasy)* A follow-up to last year's blockbuster, "Wicked: For Good" brings the audience back into the world of Oz. Now that Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) has cemented a reputation as the Wicked Witch of the West, her once wholesome relationship with Glinda (Ariana Grande) is strained, leaving the rest of Oz to choose sides. When a teenager from Kansas blows onto the scene, things start to change in unforeseen ways. **Release date: Nov. 21**

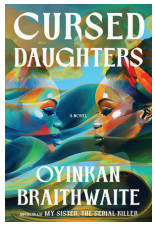


Die, My Love *(thriller)* At times, Grace (Jennifer Lawrence) and Jackson's (Robert Pattinson) relationship seems on the up and up. And true of all relationships, they have their rocky patches, right? As Grace reels from postpartum depression that morphs into psychosis, the duo find themselves locked in an inescapable reality, verging on nightmare. **Release date: Nov. 7**

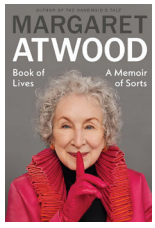


Jay Kelly *(comedy)* Movie star Jay Kelly (George Clooney) lives, by all accounts, a dream life. He's got the career, the fame, the fortune, but something about it all rings hollow when his daughter (Grace Edwards) announces her plans to go to France for a summer rather than spend it with him. Alongside longtime manager Ron (Adam Sandler), Jay takes a look at his life, wondering how moments when he was acting felt so real and why the most real moments always felt like he was playing pretend. **Release date: Nov. 14**

BOOKS & NOVELS



Cursed Daughters *By Oyinkan Brithwaite (fiction)* Eniiyi is born to fit into her family's superstitions about her. She was born the same day her mother's cousin died, and her uncanny resemblance to the deceased meant she was often considered to be a reincarnation. Other family superstitions bog Eniiyi down, making her think that love is not in the cards for her. When characters and events in her life seem to contradict her family's superstitions, Eniiyi has to decide whether she will follow the path she's predestined for or one she wants to make for herself. **Release date: Nov. 4**

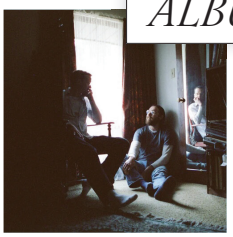


Book of Lives *By Margaret Atwood (nonfiction)* The author of "The Handmaid's Tale" and "The Testaments," Margaret Atwood is known for her provocative fiction writing. But to be in the headspace to create such poignant worlds for readers to enter, Atwood often put herself in new spaces, tense political situations and quiet retreats. Sharing tales of her upbringing in Canada and later-in-life ventures in Germany, Atwood's memoir shines a light on how she came to be the writer she is today.
Release date: Nov. 4



Bus No. 7 *By Mary J. Nestor (local)* Chance coincides with fate on bus No. 7. An innocuous misplaced phone leads to a thrilling mystery tying together a hospital orderly, ambitious intern and mischievous cat. Loose ends become entangled in this hard-to-put-down mystery. **Release date: Out now**

ALBUMS



Small Talk
By Whitney (pop)
Release date: Nov. 21



Another Miracle
By Of Mice and Men (indie)
Release date: Nov. 14



Dreams to Dream
By Jake Owen (country)
Release date: Nov. 7

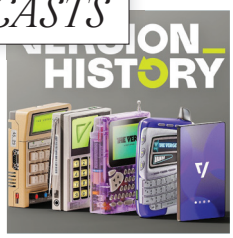


Her Lovin
By Zach Deputy (folk)
Release date: Out now

PODCASTS



Black Box Down
Subject: True crime



Version History
Subject: Technology



Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me! *Subject: News*



The Deca Tapes
Subject: Science fiction

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Unsung heroes

Purpose found in paradise

WHEN ROY CHIULLI TRADED BOSTON WINTERS FOR ISLAND LIFE, HE DIDN'T SLOW DOWN. HE SIMPLY REDIRECTED HIS ENERGY TOWARD SERVING OTHERS

The Lowcountry thrives, thanks to countless volunteers whose efforts often go unnoticed. *These unsung heroes are the driving force behind local nonprofits, making a difference in the lives of many. Each month we'll feature one of these inspiring individuals to highlight their contributions and raise awareness for the organizations they support. Know someone deserving of recognition? Email* ***info@wearelocallife.com,*** *and help us honor the heroes among us.*

STORY BY SHEILA PAZ



©HILTON HEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FROM PROPOSALS TO PURPOSE Roy's gift for writing has made a lasting impact. His efforts earned him the 2023 Volunteer of the Year honor at Volunteers in Medicine Hilton Head Island for helping secure more than $1.1 million in funding.

When ***Roy and Joan Chiulli*** packed up their life in Boston to escape the long winters, they thought Florida might be the answer. But after a few weeks surrounded by concrete and crowds, they knew it wasn't for them. A detour to Hilton Head Island, inspired by passages in Pat Conroy's novels, changed everything. Within 20 minutes of arriving, they knew they'd found home.

By 2015, with their youngest child off to college, the couple traded city streets for live oaks and salty air. Roy kept working remotely for an aerospace company, writing proposals for Air Force contracts. Once he retired, those same skills found a new purpose, helping others.

Having volunteered at a food pantry back in Boston, Roy searched for something similar on Hilton Head and found Sandalwood Community Food Pantry. His grant-writing expertise quickly caught the eye of Nannette Pierson, the executive director. Before long he was helping Sandalwood secure critical funding and lending his talents to other nonprofits. Today his volunteer résumé includes eight local organizations, and counting.

One of his favorite roles is with Programs for Exceptional People (PEP), a nonprofit serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Every Friday morning Roy reads aloud to small groups at PEP. The stories often spark lively conversations about life, books and, sometimes, their dogs.

Roy also assists Executive Director Nancy Sulek with grant proposals for the organization's key initiatives, including its literacy, music, exercise and transportation programs. Since 2022 his work has helped PEP raise roughly $500,000, including a recent grant from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, to purchase a new van for members.

It's not just his writing that makes an impact. "Most volunteers come for their class and leave," Sulek said. "Roy stays all day. He's there from 9 to 2:30, connecting with everyone."

Roy's dedication hasn't gone unnoticed. In 2023 Volunteers in Medicine Hilton Head Island named him Volunteer of the Year for helping the clinic secure more than $1.1 million in funding.

"I never imagined I'd be busier in retirement than when I was working," Roy said, with a laugh. "But the work feels more meaningful now. These are neighbors helping neighbors."

At Sandalwood alone, his grants have brought in about $600,000 in the past three years, money that goes directly to feeding local families in need.

Whether he's drafting proposals, reading to friends at PEP, or stocking shelves at Sandalwood, Roy shows what a life of service can look like in the Lowcountry: full of purpose, community and heart.



©PEP

TIME WELL SPENT Every Friday Roy spends the day at Programs for Exceptional People, reading and connecting with clients who look forward to his visits. Most volunteers assist for one class, but Roy stays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Empowering exceptional people

Programs for Exceptional People (PEP) is a local nonprofit devoted to helping Lowcountry adults with developmental, physical and intellectual disabilities live fuller, more independent lives. Weekday programs blend literacy, art, music, exercise, cooking, STEM and job training, all designed to build confidence, skills and friendships. The organization also provides much-needed respite for caregivers, giving families time to work or recharge while their loved ones are supported, active and engaged. To learn more about volunteering or donating, visit ***pephhi.org****.*



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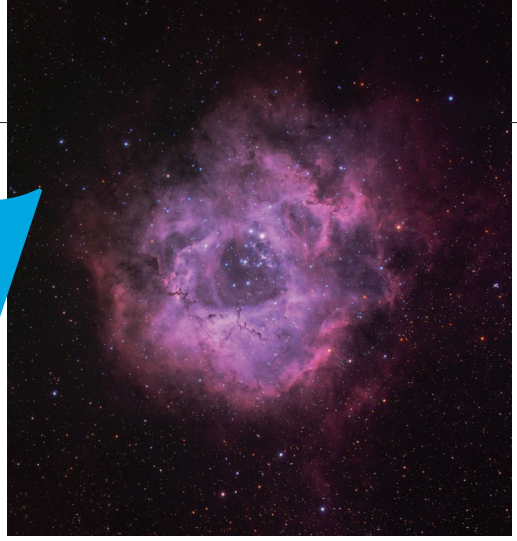
What makes them local



STELLAR BLOOM This image by Gwynne shows the Rosette Nebula, a sprawling cloud of gas and dust in the constellation Monoceros.

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*

Starman

Local astrophotographer Bill Gwynne brings the universe a little closer, one stargaze at a time

STORY BY BECCA EDWARDS



©LISA STAFF

LOCAL SINCE 2015 Bill Gwynne (aka Bill the Sky Guy) leads stargazing sessions every Monday at Marriott SurfWatch and every Wednesday at Marriott Grande Ocean. For a more personal experience, he offers private viewings through his powerful 18-inch telescope. He also shares tips, techniques and advice for budding astronomers on his website, billtheskyguy.com.

Bill Gwynne has a zest for all things celestial, especially astrophotography. "It is very complicated and time-consuming to do well, but watching the image come to life makes me feel like I've somehow touched the universe," Gwynne said. "It gives me a sense of my place in the cosmos." Local since 2015, Gwynne moved to the Lowcountry from Cincinnati for a new adventure and the area's beauty and quiet grace. Now he provides adventure, beauty and grace to all those who stargaze with him.

Q: How did your fascination with stargazing begin? **A:** I'm a child of the '60s. It wasn't hard to get excited about the Apollo program and the moon landing. So it was natural to want a telescope to explore space, and my folks bought me one from Sears.

Q: How has your passion for astronomy grown over the years? **A:** As I got older, I had more disposable income and was able to buy larger and better telescopes. A bigger scope gathers more light and allows you to see both fainter objects and with more clarity. I now own six scopes, ranging in diameter from two inches to 18 inches.

Q: How can people stargaze with you? **A:** I do two stargazes a week for the Marriott Vacation Club timeshare network. We look at the moon and planets, and also star clusters, galaxies and nebulae, as well as a couple of notable supernova remnants. I have a good mental catalog of things that are fun to look at in a variety of observing conditions, from bright moonlight to dark skies, for adults or kids. The stargazes are ostensibly for Marriott guests only, but I'm available to do private stargazes with my "BAT" (big astronomical telescope) by appointment.

Q: As a music producer, do you think there is some correlation between reading music and reading the night sky? **A:** Being detail-oriented serves me well in tracking down and photographing an object in the sky for eight hours or more, or choosing the proper microphone and placing it in the perfect spot to record an instrument, or navigating through a complex 40-track recording to get it down to a final stereo mix that people can play and enjoy. My band, Tower of Funk and the Choosy Mothers Horns, is an example of a complicated music mixing project I've done recently.

Q: Why do you think people are drawn to astronomy? **A:** Because it deals with such large, expansive concepts, astronomy engages our natural senses of wonder and curiosity while also satisfying our innate desire to learn and explore. When you come to some kind of understanding of just how immense the universe actually is. The Milky Way galaxy consists of hundreds of billions of stars and is only one galaxy among billions

Q: If someone wanted to get into astronomy, what advice would you give? **A:** You can start by getting one of those phone apps like SkySafari or StarMap and teaching yourself to navigate the sky. Start with what you know, and branch out from there. A good set of astronomical binoculars on a tripod is a great way to get started. *LL*



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Local business buzz

What's new, what's next and what's making waves across the Lowcountry

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM

The Lowcountry never sits still, and neither do its businesses. Each month brings fresh reasons to shop local, discover new favorites and cheer on the people shaping our community. ***Here's the scoop on what's buzzing now and what's about to make waves.***



NOW OPEN

A reason to smile

Old Moreland Dental *New Riverside Village*

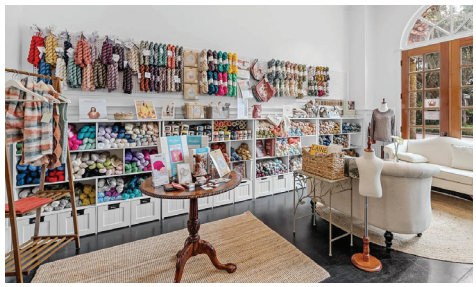
Dr. Jeffrey Solomon opened Old Moreland Dental with one goal: to make the dentist's chair feel a little less intimidating. His boutique practice focuses on cosmetic and comprehensive care, using the latest technology in a calm, spa-like setting. From a full smile design to a regular checkup, the experience is meant to be as comfortable as it is thorough.

Yarns worth spinning

MarshWiggle Knitting

Habersham Marketplace, Beaufort

If yarn and needles make you feel at home, MarshWiggle Knitting is your new happy place. Tucked into Habersham Marketplace, this shop stocks natural fibers, tools and patterns for every level of maker. It is also a gathering spot where knitters and crocheters can swap tips, join classes or simply sit and stitch together.





Power, posture, performance

OsteoStrong Bluffton *Pinellas Drive, Bluffton*

For anyone looking to move better and feel stronger, OsteoStrong just opened in Bluffton. The wellness center uses short, guided sessions on specialized equipment to help improve bone density, muscle strength, balance and joint health. The best part is that it takes less than 15 minutes a week.

Press play on comfort

Fusion Audio + Video *Persimmon Street, Bluffton*

Fusion Audio + Video brings custom sound, lighting and home theater systems to Bluffton. Think porch speakers for a Saturday cookout, lighting that sets the mood at dinner or a movie room that rivals the cinema. Its team handles the details so you can just hit "play."



COMING SOON



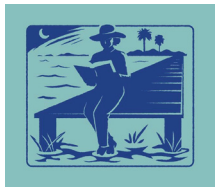
New Riverside Barn & Lawn

Riverside Barn Park, Bluffton

Booking now for 2026, the New Riverside Barn & Lawn will open in February as Bluffton's newest venue for weddings and events. The space includes a 200-guest barn, a wide lawn, music pavilion, fire pit courtyard and wagon-wheel chandeliers. Add in modern touches like Wi-Fi, professional lighting and a caterer's kitchen, and you have a setting built for celebrations both big and small.

The Bluffton Bookshop

Bridge Street, Old Town Bluffton



Set to open in winter 2026, The Bluffton Bookshop will add an independent bookstore to Old Town. Just steps from the May River, it promises shelves of carefully chosen titles, a cozy spot to linger under the live oaks and a space where readers of all ages can connect.

Currents - A Lilly Pulitzer Signature Shop

The Promenade, Bluffton



Opening Nov. 6, the owners of Currents and S.M. Bradford Co. are debuting a new boutique that brings Lilly Pulitzer's iconic prints, breezy silhouettes and resort-inspired style to the heart of Old Town. It promises to be a must-visit destination for fashion lovers looking to brighten their wardrobes with timeless, tropical elegance.





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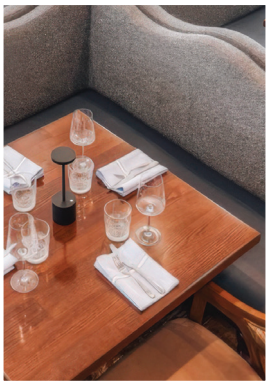

- Newly renovated Clubhouse interiors and expanded gathering areas
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Moonstruck: Fact or folklore?

SEPARATING SUPERSTITION FROM SCIENCE UNDER THE LOWCOUNTRY'S FULL MOON

STORY BY AUDREY GEIB



ONCE IN A BLUE MOON Photographer Robbie Bischoff caught this rare sight of a super blue moon rising above Garden City Beach as seen from across the creek in Murrells Inlet. A super blue moon combines a supermoon's size and brightness with a blue moon's rarity, an event that graces the sky about once every decade.

©ROBBIE BISCHOFF



A DIAGNOSIS FROM THE SKY The word lunatic comes from luna, Latin for moon, and was once used as an official medical term. For centuries doctors blamed phases of the moon for fits of madness and seizures.

On nights when the full moon climbs above the salt marsh, the Lowcountry feels different. Silver light dances over tidal creeks, Spanish moss glimmers like tinsel, and familiar whispers return. Teachers brace for restless classrooms. Emergency responders swap stories of busy nights. Ghost-tour guides swear the streets stir with unusual energy. Folklore insists that the moon can tug at our moods just as it pulls the tides.

The belief isn't new. In fact, it's etched into our language: "lunatic" comes from luna, Latin for "moon," and once meant "moonstruck." In medieval Europe, the moon was thought to cause periodic insanity. Ancient physicians linked epilepsy to lunar phases, and myths of werewolves flourished. Even today the lore lingers.

"I think this has been a common concept and sort of an urban legend in a lot of ways," said Dr. Gabriela Farkas, a psychiatrist on Hilton Head Island.

When researchers dig into the data — crime reports, hospital admissions, birth records — the results are consistently inconclusive. No uptick in emergencies. No surge in births. No wave of lunacy.

So why do we still believe?



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BORROWED LIGHT The moon has no light of its own. What we see is sunlight reflecting off its surface, and only about 7 percent of that light bounces back to Earth.

Seeing what we expect

Farkas points to confirmation bias, a psychological pattern that makes us notice what we expect to see.

"When you have a hammer, you see everything as a nail," she explained. "If you have this idea that it's a full moon and people get crazy, then if you're working in an emergency department, you're going to think, 'Oh my God, we're so busy.' When, in fact, you may have been just as busy five days ago, but you didn't attribute it to any external circumstance."

It's a trap of perception. A scattered morning feels more scattered if you've already blamed it on the moon. A classroom seems more unruly when you arrive expecting chaos. A hectic night in the ER feels like proof of lunar lunacy because you were looking for it.

Confirmation bias is powerful because it feeds itself.

"If the person believes that the full moon will impact them, then it's probably going to," Farkas said. "Whereas someone else, who doesn't even know it's a full moon, is obviously not going to make that connection."



©REID MCCALL

WHEN BIG FEELS BIGGER A supermoon happens when the moon's orbit brings it closer to Earth at the same time it is full. To the eye, it looks about 14 percent larger and 30 percent brighter.

A light touch

Still, the moon is not entirely powerless. Its most direct influence comes down to light.

"I always notice when it's a full moon because there's more light coming into my room in the middle of the night," Farkas said. "You're supposed to have this dark room, but when the moon is full and there are no clouds, there's more light outside that may show up in your bedroom, so your sleep may be a little lighter or a little more restless."

Modern studies support her explanation. A 2013 paper in "Current Biology" found participants slept an average of 20 minutes less during full moons. A 2014 followup found a similar 25-minute reduction. That disruption doesn't spark lunacy but can lead to subtle shifts: shorter tempers, unsettled moods, an edge that makes the world feel a little stranger.

Closer to nature

Generations ago, before electricity, the moon's light mattered more. Farmers and fishermen lived by its rhythm. Families went to bed when the fire burned out. So a bright moonlit night meant more activity, and the fatigue that followed could easily be mistaken for a shift in temperament.

"When we lived closer to nature, we probably had a much higher impact from these things on our bodies," Farkas said. "These days we can easily override them with artificial sources of light. I think we've sort of lost this connection to nature, in general."

In that sense, lunar lunacy may be a remnant of a more elemental life. While artificial light dulls the moon's physiological impact, its cultural and symbolic power remains intact.

Why it lingers

If science doesn't support the myth, why does it persist? Perhaps because it offers a story, a way to make sense of restless nights, rowdy students or a stretch of bad luck. Perhaps because it connects us, however loosely, to a time when the moon truly did govern human rhythm. Or perhaps because the full moon is simply too captivating not to believe in.

Belief, like the moon itself, has a pull of its own. Here in the Lowcountry it's hard not to look up at that glowing disc rising over the marsh and feel, at least for a moment, a little moonstruck. *LL*

NAMES OF THE FULL MOON

Across cultures and centuries, people have given each month's full moon its own character. Many of the names we use today come from old European and Native American traditions, tied to the rhythms of farming, hunting and weather. Here are a few you'll see shining over the Lowcountry each year:

Wolf Moon (January): *Named for the howls heard in midwinter nights.*
Snow Moon (February): *A nod to the coldest, snowiest time of year.*
Worm Moon (March): *Marks the thaw when earthworms reappear.*
Pink Moon (April): *Not actually pink, but linked to spring's wildflowers.*
Flower Moon (May): *A celebration of peak blooming season.*
Strawberry Moon (June): *Coincides with the berry harvest.*
Buck Moon (July): *When young deer begin growing new antlers.*
Sturgeon Moon (August): *Prime time for catching the big fish.*
Harvest Moon (September): *Extra bright, helping farmers work late into the night.*
Hunter's Moon (October): *Lights the way for autumn hunts.*
Beaver Moon (November): *Signals the time to set traps before swamps freeze.*
Cold Moon (December): *Marks the longest nights of the year.*



COMMUNION AMONG THE CRATERS On July 20, 1969, just after Apollo 11 touched down, astronaut Buzz Aldrin took communion on the lunar surface. He poured wine, broke bread and read scripture, turning the first moon landing into both a landmark of science and a moment of quiet human ritual.



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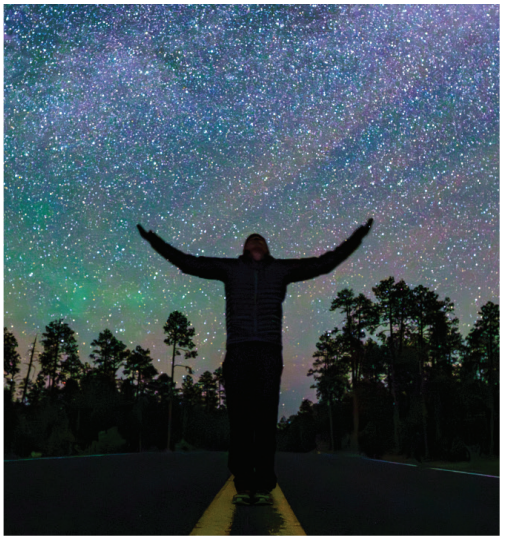








TAMAYA SEXTANT
1712

Find additional images from these photo shoots online at **LocalLifeSC.com**

Stargazers among us

From backyards to blue water, these three locals follow the light above

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA STAFF

There are few things that have inspired mankind to dream more than the stars. Before our scientific knowledge gave them form, helping us understand that these twinkling lights are actually distant suns, only visible when our own recedes, they were simply magic. Tossed across the heavens, impossibly bright against the backdrop of night, they were our first reminders that we are not the sum total of the universe. There is more beyond your reckoning, these stars promised.

As we advanced, we followed these stars to voyage outward beyond our own shores. We studied them and discovered the heavenly patterns each follows across the years. We would pierce the veil of our own planet's gravity, allowing us to come face to face with their celestial designs.

They have watched over us as we built civilization. And while our electric lights may dull their shine, they will always be there. They will always fascinate us. And as they watch over us, we now introduce three locals who are always watching back.

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Reid McCall

This former Bluffton resident uses astrophotography to capture the cosmos from his Mount Pleasant backyard

Before a star can shine, it must be formed. And there are few greater wonders in the heavens than the birth of a star, gases and dust that swirl through space in vast, colorful forms, coalescing in clouds, pillars and spirals before they collapse into creation.

Reid McCall isn't just fascinated by these distant miracles. He's produced photos that let him share that fascination.

"When you're looking at the Triangulum Galaxy, it's 60 thousand light-years wide and 3 million light-years away. The light photons hitting my camera took 3 million years to get here", he said. "When you tell people that, their brain just shuts down. They just can't understand that size. I've had people say, 'that's not possible.'"

It is possible, and McCall has the photos to prove it. A dedicated hobbyist, he has been capturing images of distant nebulae for decades, using sophisticated photographic equipment and a healthy dose of patience.

"The picture of the Orion Nebula was my most complex ever. It required over 1,000 images stacked together using PixInsight, which is the same software used by some engineers working on the James Webb and Hubble Telescopes. You end up with a picture made up of about two weeks of data," he said. "It's almost like I aimed a camera at it and kept the lens open for 50 hours."

Swapping out different filters to capture the colors of the various gases within a nebula, he will sit outdoors for multiple nights at a stretch, leaving the exposure open anywhere from five seconds to 10 minutes on each shot. The high-tech mount for the camera is aligned with Polaris, making adjustments throughout the night to keep the nebula in frame.

His photos bring these invisible artworks into focus: dazzling shots of nebulae, galaxies, stars and clusters shared on his Instagram (@images.of.space). Shooting from the



WESTERN VEIL NEBULA, NGC 6960

Size: 35 ly **Distance:** 2,400 ly
Taken: September 2023 **Telescope:** TMB 92ss

The Veil Nebula is supernova remnant from a star that exploded around 10,000 years ago. Like galactic 4th of July fireworks, this target gets a lot of wows. The red and blue hues are made up of light-years-long streams of hydrogen and oxygen gas.



CAPTURING THE INFINITE From his backyard in Mount Pleasant, former Bluffton resident and marketing executive Reid McCall captures distant galaxies, nebulae and star clusters with stunning precision. By night he channels his creativity into astrophotography, using advanced tools like PixInsight and narrow-band filters to reveal cosmic details often hidden by coastal light pollution. Through his *Images of Space* Instagram page and online astronomy communities, he hopes to inspire curiosity and remind others that wonder is always overhead.

backyard of his Mount Pleasant home, with occasional forays west for clear shots out in the desert, this "fun little hobby," as he calls it, began in 2001, when he bought his first scope and camera.

"I was super disappointed in what came out. I was just getting blurry blobs, and I soon realized the tech to get the photos I wanted was too expensive. So I just did visual astronomy for years," he said. Fortunately, a client heard about his hobby and offered to sell him some equipment. Even though what he was offering consisted of rare scopes and mounts that go for thousands of dollars, the client was just looking to buy a guitar. A deal was struck, and McCall's passion for astrophotography began in earnest.

"Today the cost of everything has come way down. What would have cost me tens of thousands of dollars in 2001, you can do now for a few grand. It's a lot more attainable," he said.

But it's worth it. Not just for the photos that McCall is able to capture, but for the sheer inspiration those images impart.

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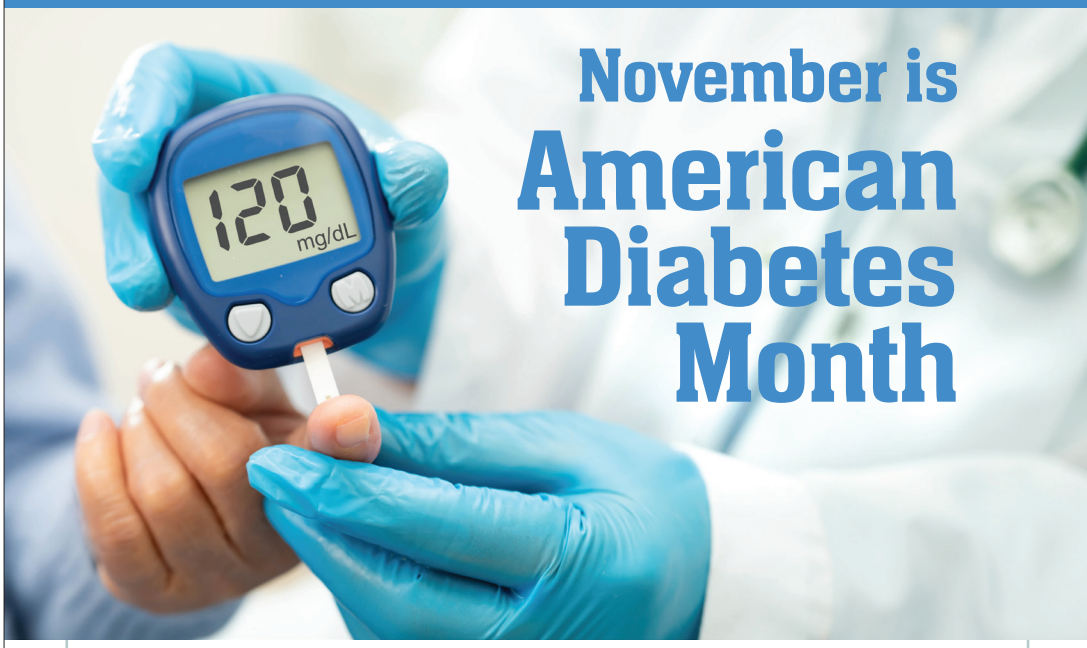

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"When I look at my pictures, after I get done with the color and technical part of it, I just stare at it and say, 'I can't believe it. I just took a picture of something older than any nation, religion or anything on Earth that we can relate to.' For me it's very relaxing. All these problems we think we have, we're just a blip. We're just starting to find our place in this galaxy and in this universe. The fact that we even exist at all is a wonderful miracle. Every human is part of this grand celestial dance. The elements that make up our bodies were forged inside stars billions of years ago. We are literally made of stardust, and we can go out at night and gaze back at the starlight. We're nature standing up and looking at itself."



Shoot for the stars

The extraordinary photos that Reid McCall takes of far-off galaxies and nebulae require more than just a camera and patience. Just because you're gazing at the stars doesn't mean you're immune to the effects of Earth, and he has learned over the years the best way to work with local conditions to capture the best image.

"You're always going to get better data if you shoot in the desert, but technically speaking you could shoot a photo of a galaxy in downtown New York," he said.

That's not to say it wouldn't be difficult. Even shooting in Mount Pleasant where he lives, a place that offers far less light pollution than the Big Apple, can be difficult.

"I have trees everywhere, so a lot of it hinges on how long that object will be clear of the trees," he said. "Here it's very humid, so in the summer you get a lot of haze that accentuates light pollution. I prefer to shoot in the winter here because the atmosphere is still and clearer."



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Cosmic wonders, captured from home

Astrophotographer Reid McCall turns his backyard into a window to the universe

From his backyard in Mount Pleasant, photographer Reid McCall has journeyed farther than most travelers ever could; across light-years, through galaxies and into the birthplaces of stars. Using a pair of telescopes (the TMB 92ss and TMB 130ss) and an extraordinary amount of patience, McCall has spent countless nights capturing deep-space objects from the comfort of his own yard.



GREAT ORION NEBULA, MESSIER 42

Size: 24 ly **Distance:** 1,344 ly
Taken: January 2025
Telescope: TMB 130ss

This is the most complex image I've produced, both in acquisition and processing. A total of 1,170 individual images (subs) with exposures ranging from five seconds to three minutes were captured from my backyard over two weeks. I spent another two weeks processing the subs into this final image.



TRIANGULUM GALAXY, MESSIER 33

Size: 60,000 ly **Distance:** 3,000,000 ly
Taken: December 2024 **Telescope:** TMB 130ss

Photographing another galaxy is always awe-inspiring. The pink and red regions are immense nebulae, much like the targets we capture within our own galaxy. M33 is the third-largest galaxy in our Local Group, behind the Milky Way and Andromeda.



BUBBLE NEBULA, NGC 7635

Size: 7 ly **Distance:** 7,100 ly
Taken: October 2024 **Telescope:** TMB 130ss

This image is the result of 50 hours of exposures, needed to tease out faint details in the bubble's delicate structure. One of the most striking nebulae in the sky, the distinctive "bubble" is formed by the powerful stellar winds of a massive central star.

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SOUL NEBULA, IC 1848

Size: 125 ly **Distance:** 7,000 ly
Taken: October 2024 **Telescopes:** TMB 92ss and TMB 130ss

A favorite target to shoot every fall, the Soul Nebula's intricate dust pillars and active star-forming regions become sharper with each year's additional data, leading to longer and more detailed integrations over time.



ELEPHANT TRUNK NEBULA, IC 1396A

Size: 20 ly **Distance:** 2,400 ly
Taken: October 2024
Telescope: TMB 130ss

The Elephant Trunk Nebula contains several fascinating star-forming regions, notably the two stars in the circular cavity near the top whose stellar winds have cleared the surrounding dust. The bright outer rim is illuminated and ionized by the massive star HD 206267, located just east of the nebula.



HERCULES CLUSTER, MESSIER 13

Size: 145 ly **Distance:** 25,000 ly
Taken: September 2024
Telescope: TMB 130ss

It's fascinating to stare at hundreds of thousands of stars concentrated in one region just 145 light-years across. Imagine what your sky might look like if you lived on a planet orbiting one of these suns. Globular clusters are among the oldest features of the universe, dating back 8 to 13 billion years.



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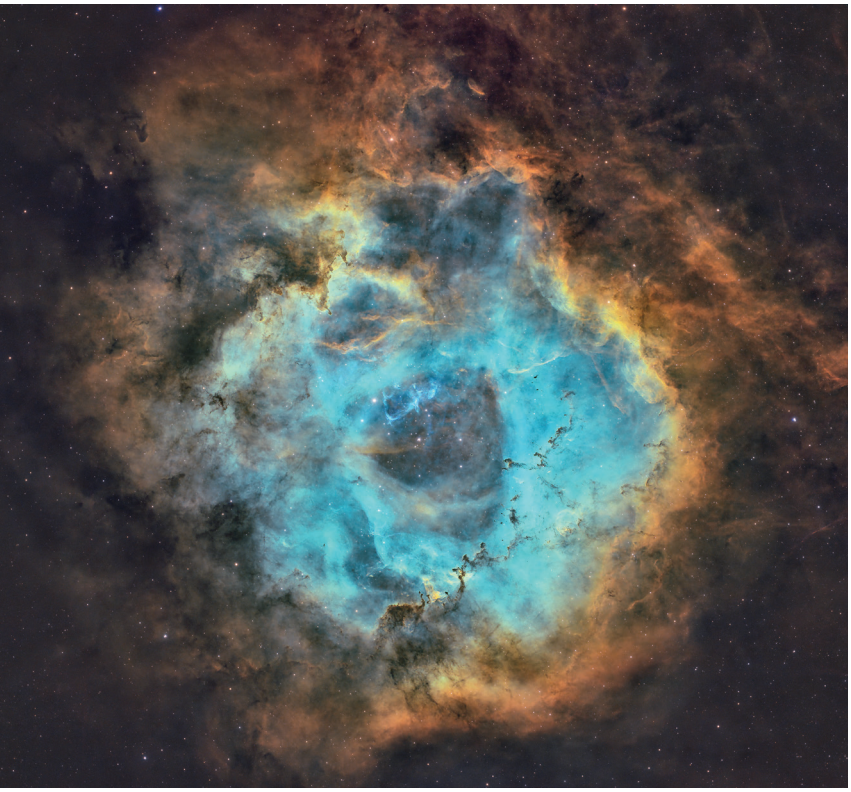
MELOTTE 15

Size: 15 ly
Distance: 7,500 ly
Taken: October 2023
Telescope: TMB 92ss

Melotte 15 is a unique open star cluster located within the Heart Nebula, companion to the Soul Nebula. In this and similar color-mapped images, the cyan-blue areas represent oxygen gas, while the orange and yellow regions correspond to hydrogen and sulfur gases.



ROSETTE NEBULA, NGC 2237

Size: 130 ly **Distance:** 5,200 ly **Taken:** September 2024 **Telescope:** TMB 130ss

The Rosette is special to me because it was the first target I used to learn PixInsight, the software I still use to process astrophotography images. I'll never forget the first time I saw it appear on my computer screen — my jaw dropped, realizing it was possible to capture something so incredible from a backyard.

DUMBBELL NEBULA, MESSIER 27

Size: 1.44 ly, **Distance:** 1,360 ly **Taken:** September 2024 **Telescope:** TMB 130ss

The Dumbbell Nebula formed during the final stages of a Sun-like star's life, when it expelled its outer layers after running out of fuel. The star expanded into a red giant before its core collapsed, ejecting its atmosphere into space. The resulting cloud glows with light from the remaining white dwarf at its center.



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Zach Grether

This aerospace engineer finds art and advocacy in the Lowcountry's night skies

When you're taking the kind of ethereally gorgeous nightscape photos that Zach Grether takes, you approach the shot with a mix of right-brain creativity and left-brain technical prowess. You take stock of your camera's settings and accessories, perfectly calibrating each to the amount of light and the desired shot. You cast your eyes upward, pairing the composition of the surrounding landscape with whatever hidden details may reveal themselves in the sky when you're done.

Or, as he puts it simply:

"There's a lot of just positioning yourself in the universe and figuring out what the sky is going to look like," he said.

That zen-like simplicity masks an immensely deep level of photographic knowledge. An aerospace engineer by trade, he still looks at his photography as more of an enriching hobby than anything else, but with the sort of technical perspective only an engineer could have.

"My wife got me my first camera when we were living out west, just your basic starter kit from Costco, but the next thing I knew, I was buying lenses left and right and absorbing everything I could. As an engineer, I really needed to understand the manual side of cameras, and it just became a beast. I couldn't stop eating," he said. His growing photographic obsession soon found its muse. "As an aerospace engineer, and just a kid that loved space in general, I was kind of drawn to the stars out west. It just takes an hour or so to get outside of the lights where you can start to really see what's out there."

Practicing his art along forgotten backroads that connect empty towns near the New Mexico-Arizona border was made easier by the famous "dark zones" in the area where light pollution from nearby cities is essentially nonexistent.

"You pull over and turn the car off, and you let all the lights settle and give your eyes a few minutes to kind of adjust, and get out. You look up, and it's just like, it's indescribable," he said. "I am definitely a big advocate for DarkSky International and what they do. I really wish there



were more dark sky areas. There's all the stuff that, for some reason, we feel like we need to light up. It really does affect bird migration and turtles and everything else."

And it makes it far more difficult to take the photos Zach takes. But then, the engineer in him seems to relish the challenge. One of his most famous shots, which wound up going viral when SpaceX got wind of it, actually captured one of the aerospace giant's rockets streaking across the Hunting Island sky and through the silhouette of a beached tree's branches. Writing about it for PetaPixel, Grether went deep into the process of capturing it. Gathering data for an ISO invariance test, the ISO 6400 on his old Sony a7III would look different than it would on his newer Canon 5D Mark II. Setting the time-lapse app to shoot 30 one-second exposures each. Then, noticing the streak of the rocket across the sky, improvising to capture a five-minute time lapse of its arc through the heavens.

"There's just being out there and just getting lucky a lot of times, but there's a lot of work involved," he said. "There was a Reddit comment on a story about that shot where someone said, 'Thank God someone knew what they were doing when they were out there.' Thank you. I didn't respond to it, but that's the best comment I've ever gotten."



CHASING DARKNESS Zach Grether is an aerospace engineer by day and a nightscape and fine-art landscape photographer by night. He and his family live in Margaritaville and keep a condo in Shipyard. His Milky Way and coastal night-sky images have appeared in National Geographic and international contests. Through his website (zgrethphoto.com), he's blended artistry with advocacy, using exhibitions and education to raise awareness of light pollution.





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Capturing the stars

There is far more technical wizardry that goes into Zach Grether's awe-inspiring photos of the night sky than we could possibly fit into one story. But he's happy to at least share what goes into each photo.

"It's a combination of things. It's definitely a problem that you have to solve. You've got to know what kind of star you want. You want to show star trails? Do you just want to show points of light? Do you want to show the Milky Way? What time of year is it? Because that's going to decide where the Milky Way is in the sky, or whether or not you have the moon washing the sky out. And then as a night-scape photographer, you need to have some sort of landscape to incorporate into the image. So just getting somewhere unique and having that line of sight with the sky, and having everything lined up correctly is the second part of it, and that's just kind of creating the image in your head," he said. "The execution is definitely the harder part. It's a combination of figuring out how to get everything in focus properly. How do you manage your gear's capabilities? How do you make sure that the stars are stars and not trails? There's quite a bit to it. But once you actually understand the problems that you have and how the camera works, the components that are involved, it becomes really easy. Especially, once you start doing it a couple of times."

There's more to it, but those interested in learning more can find the story he wrote about his SpaceX photo on PetaPixel.

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Wonders of the night

An engineer's eye meets an artist's soul in these luminous portraits of the night sky



A CANYON LAKE MORNING
Canyon Lake, Arizona

My first major nightscape project was a 12-image panorama and actually my second attempt at capturing something unique at the lake. I had gone out there the previous month and knew there was something special. I just needed to step back about 20 feet to capture more of it.

Zach Grether has always been drawn to the night. As an aerospace engineer, it's no surprise that his curiosity about what lies beyond our atmosphere extends naturally to the stars themselves. He received his first DSLR camera as a birthday gift in 2011, and within four years his night-scape photography had earned national attention. His work has been featured by the Oprah Winfrey Network and *The Sun Magazine*, and one of his images was named among National Geographic's Best Night Sky Pictures of 2013. Realizing that most Americans live in light-polluted areas where the Milky Way is often invisible, Grether began capturing the night skies around his Arizona home. The resulting images from his time out west reveal a mastery of light, patience and perspective, proving that even from Earth, the cosmos is within reach.



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BRIDGING EARTH AND SKY
Roosevelt Lake, Arizona

I've always had an affinity for images with strong leading lines such as roads, paths and bridges. I had been out shooting all night, driving farther and farther away from the Phoenix city lights, stopping to photograph something, then driving some more. Just as I was about to turn around, I saw the bridge in the distance and instantly knew what I wanted to do. Luckily, at 3:30 a.m., there was zero traffic, and I was able to time it perfectly.



GALACTIC RAINBOW
Magdalena, New Mexico

I had been shooting nightscapes for a few months, practicing my craft, when I had to take a business trip to Albuquerque. I decided to drive through the night and stop in one of the darkest places in the United States to see what I could capture. The interesting part of this night is that it became one of the most active nights for aurora activity in years, with visibility all the way down to where I was. When I saw red in my camera preview, I actually thought my sensor was broken, so I packed up and kept driving. It wasn't until I got close enough to Albuquerque to regain cell service that I started getting messages asking if I knew about the solar storm.

THE JAIL
Salt River Canyon, Arizona

I had been working on improving my light-painting skills when, while driving through the canyon on a photo expedition, I remembered a small derelict shack up on a bluff. I had only seen it briefly from a distance but decided to stop and see what I could create. It ended up being a series of stacked images that brought out different details of an otherwise ordinary little shack. Using just a headlamp, I lightly painted the outside in one image, used higher-intensity orange light to create a candlelit effect inside, and finished with a normal capture of the night sky.




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Roy Prescott Jr.

This Hilton Head native blends modern seamanship with a centuries-old method written in the stars

Last month Roy Prescott Jr. found himself 100 miles offshore at the helm of a 38-meter Westport yacht with a massive lightning storm moving in.

"We were trying to make it ashore before it hit, but we wound up right in it. There were huge bolts of lightning striking all around the ship. You drive this boat with a computer screen – it's very tech-forward – and if we'd been unlucky enough to take a hit, we'd have been grounded," he said. "That can happen, where you get hit and it works its way off land. If you're offshore and can't see land and all of your electronics are out, it isn't pretty."

Fortunately, Prescott had one thing going for him. Even if the storm took his GPS, his electronics and all the modern navigational trappings the boat holds, he'd simply need a glance at the night sky to know exactly where he is. One of the few captains who still uses celestial navigation, he has been a dedicated disciple of an art form that's as old as sailing itself.

A seasoned sailor and native of Hilton Head, his love of the sea would take him offshore in 2013 as he began working on boats up in the Great Lakes. He's built his career jumping from one boat to the next, from 50-ton passenger yachts up to 1,600-ton ships. A few years ago, while serving as first mate on a yacht owned by "someone on the Forbes list," he was given leave to further his education.

"I ended up securing approval for testing for a 1,600 ton master license, which is a pretty rigorous examination. It was a couple of years of learning navigation, ship stability, domestic and international maritime law, but celestial navigation was my favorite part because I'd heard about it my whole career," he said. "It's a lot of trigonometry, to be honest. I never thought I'd have the opportunity to drive multi-million-dollar yachts by being good at math."



Latching onto a book that he calls his bible, Nathaniel Bowditch's "American Practical Navigator," he dove into the ancient art of allowing the stars to guide you.

"Bowditch was an early navigator from Salem, Massachusetts. It's amazing the amount of knowledge in this book," he said. "Using Bowditch, you can figure out the lines of your position using these graphs and find your distance. That's my favorite part of using the sextant, just knowing this one tool in my hand can help me figure out wherever I am on Earth."



STEERED BY STARLIGHT Roy Prescott Jr., a Hilton Head Island native and seasoned yacht captain, is one of the few mariners who still practices celestial navigation, the ancient art of steering by the stars. Though he spent much of his early career unaware of its full complexity, he later mastered the method and now champions its enduring value. With STCW and NMC USCG 1600GT Master credentials, Roy has captained five motor yachts across the Mediterranean, Atlantic, Caribbean, Great Lakes and U.S. coasts.

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And a star to sail her by

Roy Prescott Jr. is one of very few captains who can still navigate by the stars. It's an art form that began with the earliest sailors, and one that came very close to being forgotten.

"The United States Naval Academy had decided at one point cancel celestial studies because it was so outdated. You can use GPS now, and you have all these high-tech systems, right? But someone thankfully realized they were putting all these cadets out into open ocean, and if the satellites get taken down, what happens?" he said. "So they've implemented that program again, and it's taken hold."

Because of this unique knowledge, he has become an in-demand captain with a list of clients he absolutely cannot discuss due to non-disclosure agreements. But you can guess that, whoever they are, they like to take full advantage of their craft.

"People who buy yachts don't buy them to stay in one place," he said. "I've done the Mediterranean, Spain, Gibraltar, the Canary Islands. I've done all the islands in the Caribbean, the west coast of Florida and into the Keys, up the Intracoastal into Cape May. I piloted the second-largest motor yacht to ever transit the Erie Canal. That trip took two weeks."

He'd tell us more, but legally he can't.

"I'm on an NDA right now. That's part of the job. I wish I could post about the places I go on Facebook, but I'm not allowed," he said. "I'll just say that I'm really happy with what I do." LL

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BOSTON SPIRIT Picte Wood sourced from a deconstructed Jim Beam rickhouse forms the dining table, bringing Boston edge to a Lowcountry setting.

ROOM OF THE MONTH

Get together

Where kitchen meets living room and past meets present, this great room in Berkeley Hall is meant for gathering

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS + PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT HOLMES

Welcome, one and all, to a room built to be shared. Encompassing the kitchen, living area, dining table and a breakfast nook, this expansive multipurpose room leaves a seat for everyone. Morning cups of coffee brighten with the company of another early riser. Home-cooked meals are savored more when served around a full table. Built to connect, the great room of Jeff and Deb Baron's home in Berkeley Hall achieves this goal two-fold. Not only do friend groups mingle, but mementos of their previous home in Boston blend with their new roots in the Lowcountry. Connecting past with present, neutrals serve as the perfect background while packing personality of their own. Spacious, modern and full of heart, it's a great room, indeed.

When designing the space with the team at May Residential, the Barons embraced their new surroundings. Large windows appear on either end of the great room, and 10-foot sliding glass doors lead to a backyard patio that basks in the southern sun. On the inside, furniture sourced from up and down the East Coast speaks to the couple's history. The dining table, handmade from the wood of a deconstructed Jim Beam rickhouse, brings Boston's edge to the Palmetto State. Meanwhile, the chandelier overhead comes from just around the corner. Lowcountry Originals in Bluffton carried the sculptural light fixture that depicts feathered palm leaves, an homage to the couple's new home. These subtle nods allude to their journey without knick-knack clutter, thoughtfully honoring their past while saving space for new memories.

Between the meaningful decor, playful neutrals bring the room together. Curved armchairs add personality with a wood frame wrapped around the back, mirroring the oversized wood beams on the ceiling. The glass coffee table serves as the perfect pedestal for literature and florals, and the cabinetry glows like a trophy case. Standing out from the cream walls, the natural stone fireplace draws attention without distracting from the rest of the room. It beckons the eye to look around but never stray too long — there's more to explore and enjoy in this great room. Altogether, it resembles a fresh start for the couple down South, but its history fills it with heart. It welcomes guests to come on in and stay awhile. Here, there's room for everyone.

SUNNY SIDE Rise and shine with a breakfast nook that lets the light in. Even on gloomy days, the wicker chairs and metallic chandelier take on a sunny disposition.

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Fit for a queen

RICH IN MARBLE, ORGANIC GLAM AND A TOUCH OF SPARKLE, THIS OWNERS CLUB MASTER BATHROOM IS ITS OWN ROYAL RETREAT

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS

In its polished glory the bathroom may be the most regal room in the home. It's a private kingdom built to unwind, refresh and empower its occupant. After all, it holds the porcelain throne. Designed for comfort of the highest order, this Owners Club at Hilton Head master bathroom by ***Group 3 Designs*** *surrounds its guests in marble, wood and metallic accents, delivering the royal treatment at every turn.*



CROWN JEWEL

The Schonbek Amadeus chandelier reigns overhead, scattering light like royal regalia. Its glittering crystal base and golden arms echo the glamour of a fairytale ballroom, while sconces, recessed cans and LED strips ensure flattering illumination at every angle.



GOLDEN TOUCH

Ornate Victorian faucets from Newport Brass gleam against the white backdrop, their decorative curves recalling heirloom finery. Like jewelry for the bath, they're designed to be admired as much as used.



HEIRLOOM HANDLES

Classic Brass St. Georges knobs, etched with subtle patterns, add a vintage flourish to the clean cabinetry. The effect nods to Regency-era elegance while keeping the room grounded.



STONE THRONE

Inspired by Renaissance Italy's Calacatta marble, sweeping stonework climbs the walls to the ceiling, setting the tone of classic opulence. Its natural veining in soft grays and tawny notes commands attention without overwhelming, establishing both grandeur and serenity.



FIT FOR ROYALTY This Owners Club bathroom is a masterclass in balance, where bold marble meets warm wood, shimmering fixtures and refined accents. From the glittering chandelier to the woven tray, every detail is crafted with regal precision, creating a retreat that is as breathtaking as it is serene.

©JOHN MCMANUS



SOFT LANDING

An arching orchid from Pyramids Gifts & Home Furnishings breathes life into the bathroom. Its elegant shape softens the marble's crisp lines while maintaining the space's air of refinement.



FRAMED IN MAJESTY

Custom mirror trim in dual-tone wood enhances the marble's depth while creating a striking mirror-on-mirror effect. When lit by side sconces, the frame glows warmly, adding organic character to the otherwise polished space.



NOBLE NEUTRAL

Cabinets in Benjamin Moore's Berber White strike a subtle contrast with the marble, their creamy finish pulling together the brass accents and natural stone tones. The result is soothing and spa-like, a reminder that luxury can also invite comfort.



TEXTURE & TREASURE

A handwoven Calasio tray from Pyramids Gifts & Home Furnishings corrals perfumes and bath essentials. Its geometric weave introduces tactile contrast against smooth marble, proving that even small details can elevate the everyday.



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STORY BY ALEA WILKINS + IMAGES PROVIDED BY FUSION AUDIO + VIDEO

The Lowcountry is best experienced unplugged, but even the most idyllic locations can be enhanced with touches of technology. Weather-rated televisions take watch parties outside. Multi-room speakers and lighting envelop your living space. Smart cameras protect homes and reassure owners while they're away, whether they're across the street or across the globe. But with so many versatile gadgets on the market, deciding which is right for your home can feel like a system overload. Audio/video experts have the answers. For an overview of what an AV professional can do for you, ***Fusion Audio + Video*** *explains how technology works smarter, not harder, so you can focus on life off-screen.*



THE GOOD LIFE, INDOORS AND OUT A weather-rated TV and hidden speakers turn a screened porch into an open-air theater. Inside, a golf simulator with plush seating makes practice feel like play, and custom lighting with surround sound brings a new pulse to billiards night.







MOVIE NIGHTS DONE RIGHT In this home theater every detail, from the sound calibration to the reclining leather seats, is designed for an immersive experience. With a little planning, the best seats in the house can actually be in your house. No tickets, crowds or sticky floors. Just lights, camera, comfort.

[LOCAL Life] I want to add tech to my home. Where do I begin? [Fusion Audio + Video] The first step is to identify what functions matter most to you. Is peace of mind your priority? A secure network and surveillance system may be the answer. Love hosting? Whole home audio and outdoor entertainment can redefine how you gather. By identifying your lifestyle goals, an AV expert can work with your builder or designer to tailor solutions that add lasting value to your home. And the sooner you reach out, the better. Wiring and infrastructure choices made during construction or renovation save time, money and stress later.

[LL] Are there any potential issues I should be aware of? [Fusion AV] Coastal humidity, storms and spotty service can wreak havoc on basic Wi-Fi setups. AV experts design enterprise-grade networks with backups and redundancies to keep everything running. For the outdoors, AV experts can help select and install speakers, weather-rated televisions and lighting scenes that blend with your design and stand up to the coastal environment.

[LL] If I'm away from my home, how can I ensure everything is still operating correctly? [Fusion AV] Smart cameras, alarms and remote monitoring keep watch around the clock, but the real value comes in how they are designed and supported. An AV integrator ties everything together, so you can check in instantly from your phone, receive alerts and feel confident no matter where you are in the world.



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Photography by Tom Jenkins

INSIDE THE DREAM

Color with confidence

Bold accents wake up the blue guest suite of the 2025 HGTV Dream Home

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN + PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY HGTV

Each month we're taking you inside a different space in the ***2025 HGTV Dream Home*** at Berkeley Hall. Designed by Court Atkins Group, built by Shoreline Construction and styled by HGTV's Brian Patrick Flynn, the house is filled with rooms that make it easy to relax and enjoy the moment. This time we step inside the blue guest suite, a calm space at first glance that surprises with playful bursts of color.



The power of contrast

Wrapped in rich blue from floor to ceiling, this guest retreat begins with a soothing base. Then the accents step in. A golden linen headboard glows against the cool walls, while pillows in coral, denim and mustard pile on personality. The bed instantly becomes a centerpiece, proof that fearless choices can make a room sing.

Skylights above pour in natural light and frame wide views of Lowcountry skies. Woven bamboo shades make it simple to shift from bright morning to mid-day nap. Beneath the windows a built-in seat doubles as storage and a perch. Piled with patterned pillows and a cheerful throw, it's a spot made for curling up with a book or keeping an eye on the Tom Fazio fairways just outside.

Rattan nightstands with scalloped skirts add texture, while swing-arm sconces make bedtime reading easy. Overhead, a round wood mirror softens the angles and ties in a coastal note. The mix of comfort and character leaves guests feeling both spoiled and at ease.



Artful storage

On the opposite wall a navy dresser takes the practical role and makes it stylish. Brass pulls and tapered legs bring a hint of mid-century polish, while the framed Josef Albers prints above pack a vibrant punch. A vase filled with golden branches pulls the mustard tone across the room, keeping the palette lively.

And then there's the horse. A vintage sculpture mounted on the wall keeps watch with a slightly mischievous grin, adding the kind of detail that makes you pause and smile.

Two black bistro chairs flank the dresser, sturdy enough for seating but just as handy for books or vinyl. A record player perched on top begs you to drop the needle and fill the space with music. At the foot of the bed a pair of woven ottomans make slipping off shoes or propping up tired feet feel easy. Every element plays its part, creating a room that's equal parts practical and memorable. LL

GET THE LOOK

- *Paint: Sherwin-Williams Delft (SW 9134)*
- *Kiyana Steel Plug-in Swing Arm Sconce ($202)*
- *Tilly Upholstered Bed ($949)*
- *Sleep Number i8 Smart Bed ($2,000)*
- *Sleep Number Create Your Perfect Comforter ($123)*
- *VELUX Solar Powered Skylights with Shades ($1,679)*
- *Crosley Cruiser Plus Record Player ($68)*



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Material: Fantasy Lux Quartzite
Builder: Randy Jeffcoat

Cosmic comfort

A space-themed room takes off with a starry black-and-white foundation

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN

Some color pairings feel like they were written in the stars. Black and white is one of them. Crisp and bold, the combo brings just enough drama without overwhelming the room. Add a splash of golden yellow and a pop of cosmic blue, and suddenly the whole space feels alive. Star decals climb one wall, a chalkboard begs for galaxies to be sketched across its surface, and what you're left with is a room that fuels imagination during the day and feels cozy once the lights go out.



CHALKBOARD

RUST-OLEUM SPECIALTY CHALKBOARD BRUSH-ON PAINT

If you've ever wanted to draw on the wall, here's your permission slip. A coat of chalkboard paint transforms a blank wall into a playground for rockets, planets or doodles of the family dog. Go with a matte finish so chalk lines really pop. You'll find it at most hardware and home improvement stores, available in quarts or gallons.

STARRY BACKDROP

BEHR SWISS COFFEE (12)

This warm, creamy white is the perfect partner for a black chalkboard wall. It softens the contrast and gives star decals and artwork plenty of breathing room. It is cozy without tipping yellow. Pick an eggshell finish for just the right glow. It wipes clean easily but does not look shiny.

Get the look ...

The magic here is not only in the paint. It comes through in the little touches layered on top. Warm wood floors keep the room grounded. Soft neutrals on the furniture and bedding create calm, while color comes in through accents that feel playful, not forced.

Want to bring it home? Start with one chalkboard wall for your galaxy, and coat the others in Swiss Coffee to keep things bright. Hang sheer curtains to catch the light and give the windows a dreamy frame. A low bed with colorful pillows becomes a launch pad for story time, and a dotted quilt keeps the orbit theme going.

Storage is simple with a white dresser that also works as display space. Add a rocket toy, a helmet or anything else that sparks imagination. A metal chair with a patterned throw creates an easy reading spot. On the floor, mix a fluffy rug with a chunky knit pouf. Both are perfect for lounging, sketching or building forts. And don't forget a stuffed sidekick in a bold color. That little pop of blue ties the whole palette together and makes the space feel lived-in.

The end result is playful without feeling overdone. It is a room where kids can grow, dream and chart out constellations on their very own chalkboard sky.

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Tie up the season beautifully

Celebrate fall colors and textures with a handmade harvest wreath

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN + PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISSY MOZELESKI





This holiday season give your home a local touch with a harvest wreath inspired by the beauty of the Lowcountry. Skip the store-bought version, and gather what's around you, like dried flowers, seed pods and graceful grasses to create something that feels both natural and uniquely yours. ***Chrissy Mozeleski***, owner of Helena Hills Farm in Hardeeville, shares her simple five-step method for crafting a wreath that brings the season's warmth and charm to any space.

STEP 1: Gather your materials

You don't need much to get started, and you might already have some of it at home:

- *Grapevine or wire wreath base*
- *Dried flowers, seed pods and fall foliage such as sunflowers, strawflowers, grasses, eucalyptus or berries (or whatever catches your eye on a backyard walk).*
- *Floral wire and snips*
- *Hot glue gun for lightweight accents*

STEP 2: Prep your stems

Trim stems to about three to five inches. Group smaller blooms or grasses into minibundles to make arranging easier later.

STEP 3: Build your base

Start with greenery or grasses, working your way around the wreath in one direction. Secure each bundle with floral wire, overlapping slightly for a full, natural look.

STEP 4: Add your blooms and texture

Now for the fun part. Tuck in your dried flowers, seed pods and colorful accents. Play with spacing; clustered sections look lovely if you're going for a more organic design. A dab of hot glue will help secure delicate pieces.

STEP 5: Show it off

Hang your wreath on the front door, above the mantel, or use it as a table centerpiece. Keep it indoors or under a covered porch to make it last longer. Each time you pass it, you'll be reminded of the season's quiet abundance and the beauty of something made by hand.



FARM-FRESH CREATIVITY

Helena Hills Farm is a new U-pick flower farm in Hardeeville, perfect for gathering inspiration or a handful of blooms before or after a trip to Savannah. Owner Chrissy Mozeleski offers workshops throughout the fall and winter that blend art, flowers and a little Southern charm. Learn more at ***helenahillsfarm.com***.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Nov. 7: *Decoupage Floral Pumpkins*
Nov. 22: *Wildest Blooms – Floral Design Class*
Nov. 23: *Petals & Pumpkins – DIY Bloom Bar*
Nov. 24-26: *Dried Flower Pumpkins*
Nov. 28: *Pressed Floral Frame*



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A grateful season

Autumn dahlias, marigolds and the art of living beautifully

STORY BY KIM EPLEY + PHOTO BY AMIA MARCELL

***Kim Epley**, artistic director at The Studio at Farmer Blue, designs using flowers from her 12-acre Seabrook farm. This month her autumn arrangement honors gratitude and the graceful rhythm of the Lowcountry seasons.*



November invites us to slow down, breathe in the crisp Lowcountry air and take stock of what matters most. On the farm the fields glow in copper and gold as dahlias reach their crescendo, and marigolds bloom like tiny suns across the rows. This month's arrangement captures that fleeting radiance, the warmth before winter's rest. Designed with locally grown dahlias, marigolds, Japanese anemones and bittersweet orange, it celebrates the balance between abundance and stillness, beauty and impermanence, with just a touch of whimsy. The palette feels both earthy and ethereal, with bronze, peach, ivory and flame tones that mirror nature. It's a reminder that gratitude grows from presence, not perfection.



In the arrangement

1. Dahlias
2. Marigolds
3. Japanese anemones
4. Bittersweet orange

Why it works

Earth meets sky: Golden marigolds and dahlias ground the design, while bittersweet orange and anemones lend lift and lightness, creating an interplay of rootedness and air.
Farm-grown authenticity: Every bloom was grown right here in South Carolina soil. Using what's in season connects your home to the land and to the natural rhythm of Lowcountry life.
Texture in motion: Dahlias bring sculptural precision, while amaranthus and fern add gentle movement that echoes November's shift between fullness and rest.
Gathered elegance: The design feels natural, not formal. It's an easy celebration of color, air and gratitude, perfect for a Thanksgiving table or an entryway console.

Home styling tips

Let nature lead. Choose blooms that reflect what's truly in season, such as dahlias, marigolds and anemones, for an arrangement that feels fresh and alive.
Work in layers. Start with supporting florals, add your showstoppers like dahlias, weave in airy stems such as bittersweet orange and anemones, and finish with cascading texture from amaranthus or grasses.
Choose warm vessels. A low brass compote, ceramic bowl or woven basket complements autumn's tones and brings a relaxed sense of elegance.
Add candlelight. Surround your design with taper candles in amber, cream or bronze glass. Their soft glow completes the cosmic warmth of the season.
Tend with care. Re-cut stems every few days, and refresh the water daily. Dahlias reward gentle attention with surprising longevity.





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MAN'S BEST FRIEND HAS ALWAYS HAD A PLACE IN THE HEAVENS

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM



On a clear Lowcountry night, when the breeze carries a hint of salt and the tide glimmers, look up. Beyond the palms and live oaks, you might spot Orion, the Big Dipper or passing airplanes. But if you linger a little longer, you'll find man's best friend shining among the stars. Nearly half of the 88 official constellations are animals, with several of them being dogs. Faithful, guiding and forever by our side, these celestial canines have earned their place in the heavens and in the hearts of stargazers everywhere.

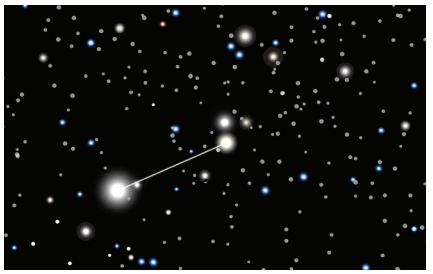
The big dog

Canis Major Known as the "Greater Dog," this constellation is the top dog of the night sky. To the Greeks, it was Laelaps, the magical hound of Zeus, or Orion's loyal hunting companion chasing a hare. To find Canis Major, trace Orion's belt downward until you reach Sirius, the Dog Star, the brightest star of all, marking the hound's gleaming neck. On a cool winter night over the marsh, Sirius sparkles like a reflection on the May River.



The little dog

Canis Minor Smaller but no less devoted, the "Lesser Dog" shines with its own legends. Some said it was Maera, the faithful dog of Icarus, while others saw the jackal-headed Anubis guiding souls to the afterlife. Draw a line east from Orion's belt to find Procyon, its brightest star, glowing softly above the horizon on crisp evenings.



The hunting hounds

Canes Venatici These lesser-known pups belong to Boötes the herdsman, whose hounds Asterion and Chara chase the Great Bear, Ursa Major, across the northern sky. Thanks to a translation mix-up long ago, Boötes's club became a pair of dogs, and the story stuck. Look for them between the Big Dipper's handle and the golden light of Arcturus in spring, best seen from a quiet dock when the air is still.



The dog stars

Sirius and Procyon The brightest duo in the heavens, Sirius and Procyon have long marked the changing of the seasons. The ancients called Sirius the "Scorcher," believing its rise brought the dog days of summer. Here in the South those sweltering days still make dogs stretch out in the shade, proof that some legends live on.





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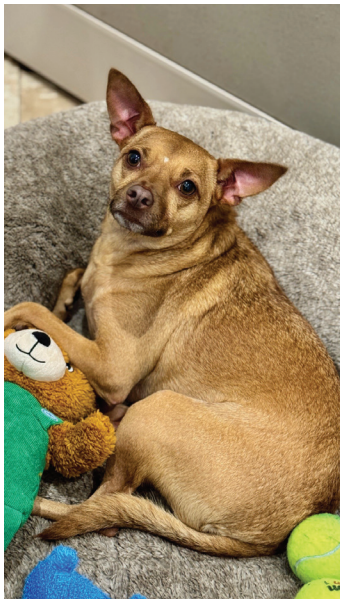
STORY + PHOTOGRAPHY BY SASSA ENSCOE



Ramona may be small in stature, but she's mighty in charm. Found as a stray, Ramona arrived unsure of the world, but has slowly learned that love comes with gentle hands, soft voices and an endless supply of Pupperoni. She's shy at first, but give her a quiet moment and a squishy plush toy (bonus points if it's bigger than she is), and she'll be melting into your lap in no time. Her favorite activities include snuggling, hoarding toys in her bed like treasure and gazing lovingly at her chosen humans. Ramona would thrive in a calm, predictable home with someone who understands that trust takes time, but the rewards are endless.

MORE ABOUT RAMONA

Colors: Tan **Age:** 4 years **Weight:** 20 pounds **Likes:** Pupperoni, stealing oversized plushies, cozy naps, quiet companionship **Dislikes:** Loud environments and too much chaos **Adopt:** Meet Ramona at Hilton Head Humane between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 843-681-8686 or view her profile at ***hhhumane.org***.

COOL CATS: Felt



Felt is a 7-year-old American Shorthair with the kind of presence that turns heads and the confidence to match. With a sleek tuxedo coat and mesmerizing green eyes, she's as regal as she looks, and yes, she expects to be treated accordingly. Originally adopted in 2019, Felt returned to the shelter after her owner moved into assisted living. She's handled the transition with grace (and a little attitude), and she's now seeking a new human to rule over with affection, humor and just a dash of sass. She'll happily accept pets and cozy naps by your side, but don't expect her to tolerate nonsense; queens have boundaries, after all. She may look slightly miffed in her photo, but that's just her resting queen face. In reality, she's affectionate, playful and will slow blink her way right into your heart.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Purple finch

THIS BOLD WINTER VISITOR BRINGS COLOR, CHARACTER AND A LITTLE CHAOS TO LOCAL FEEDERS

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM + PHOTOS BY MARY ALICE TARTLER



LISTEN UP
Scan this QR code *to hear the call of the purple finch.*

RASPBERRY ROYALTY The male purple finch, cloaked in berry-stained plumage, is a rare winter jewel in Lowcountry backyards. From mid-October through late April, these colorful travelers occasionally stop in for food and refuge from the chill of northern forests.

Among the more colorful winter visitors to the Lowcountry, the purple finch is both a visual treat and a bit of a wildcard. They don't always show up, but when they do, their rich, raspberry-colored feathers light up the landscape. The males earned a vivid comparison by naturalist Roger Tory Peterson, who called them "a sparrow dipped in raspberry juice." Once you see one, you'll know exactly what he meant.

The females, while less flashy, have a striking beauty of their own. Their bold facial markings, crisp brown streaks and bright white eyebrows give them a look of confidence and seem almost stern, but in the best possible way. Because these finches don't migrate on a predictable schedule, their visits are hit or miss. Some winters they're plentiful; other years they vanish entirely, choosing to spend their season elsewhere. If you're hoping to attract them, a feeder filled with black oil sunflower seeds is your best lure.

While they may look refined, purple finches are surprisingly rowdy at the feeder. They eat with enthusiasm, scattering shells and shoving for position like kids at a birthday party. And they're discerning eaters too. Studies show they prefer thinner sunflower seeds over thick ones. Their sturdy beaks aren't just for seeds, though. They'll sample buds, berries and even sip nectar by biting into the base of flowers. In doing so, they unintentionally help pollinate, one of the few finches to double as part-time florists. Their menu includes dandelions, crabapples, poison ivy berries (yes, really) and the occasional insect, making them both messy and marvelously useful guests.

Socially, purple finches have big personalities. Around feeders you'll see plenty of squabbles, with neck stretching, beak pointing and dramatic pecking that looks straight out of a soap opera. Their courtship rituals are equally entertaining. The males puff up, hop around awkwardly, sing a soft tune and present a twig or blade of grass as if offering flowers. If the female approves, he caps it off with a short vertical flight and a skyward pose that looks a lot like bird yoga. All in all, the purple finch is a bold, beautiful, slightly unpredictable winter visitor. When they grace the Lowcountry with their presence, they bring not just color but character, a reminder that even the quieter months can surprise us with a flash of life and a touch of joyful chaos.

How to attract them

"Offer them their preferred foods, such as black-oil sunflower and nyjer seed, in tube or hopper feeders. Providing a reliable source of water, especially a heated bird bath in winter, will make them feel at home. If you spot this striking bird at your backyard feeders, you are indeed lucky. Your eye must catch the raspberry color of the male. The female is drab brown with a prominent white eyebrow. Purple finches are stockier than their relatives, house finches. Look for the thick, conical bill, built to crush seeds. The tail is the most obvious difference between a purple finch and a house finch. There is an obvious, pronounced notch in the tail."

– Mary Alice Tartler, master birder



GRACEFUL AUTHORITY The female purple finch may lack the flashy hues, but her crisp markings and confident presence command attention in the backyard.

Essentials

Get everything you need for backyard birding at ***Wild Birds Unlimited*** in the Festival Centre at Indigo Park on Hilton Head Island.

FOOD & ACCESSORIES

- *Black oil sunflower or nyjer seeds*
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LOWCOUNTRY ALMANAC

November

A TIME FOR GATHERING, GIVING THANKS AND SAVORING THE GLOW

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM



©STEVE EBERHARDT

GLOW YOUR OWN WAY On Saturday, Nov. 22, Coligny Beach will shine with the Hilton Head Island Lantern Parade. From 5:30 to 8 p.m. neighbors and visitors will carry handmade lanterns from Alder Lane to Celebration Park, where music, food and fellowship bring a glowing finish to what has quickly become one of the island's most beloved traditions.

Night & day

The days shrink quickly now, with earlier sunsets made even sharper by the time change on Nov. 2.

Sunrise: 7:05 a.m.-7:40 a.m. (later each day)
Sunset: 5:17 p.m.-6:32 p.m. (earlier each day)

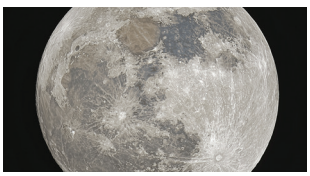
November settles in with cool mornings and crisp nights. Dolphins cut through the creeks chasing the last mullet runs, while flocks of ducks and geese sweep overhead before pausing in ponds and waterways on their way south. In the woods deer grow restless at dusk, yaupon and holly brighten with red berries, and camellias begin to open against a backdrop of live oaks shedding their leaves. Festivals and fall gatherings crowd the calendar, giving the month a rhythm of gratitude and connection. Guided by the *2025 Old Farmer's Almanac* and *Grow Great Vegetables South Carolina*, consider this your field guide to making the most of it.

Weather predictions

Late autumn settles in for good, and the shift is clear by mid-month. Cooler days and crisp evenings arrive, with a mix of sunny stretches and chilly rain.

Average temperature: 55 degrees (1 degree above average)
Rainfall: 2.5 inches (1/2 inch below average)

FORECAST BY WEEK
Nov. 1-3: Sunny, warm
Nov. 4-10: Sunny, then rainy; cool
Nov. 11-20: Sunny, then rainy; chilly
Nov. 21-30: Sunny; chilly, then turning warm



Astronomical events

The sky puts on a show this month, if you're willing to bundle up.

Nov. 4-5: The Taurids meteor shower peaks, famous for bright, slow fireballs.
Nov. 5: A full super moon, the Beaver Moon, rises. The name comes from beavers busily preparing for winter.
Nov. 17-18: The Leonid meteor shower streaks across the sky, radiating from Leo.
Nov. 20: A new moon darkens the night, perfect for stargazing.

Tides & currents

*Stay in tune with the coast's natural rhythm. **Scan this QR code** for up-to-date tide and current predictions from NOAA.*

In the garden

The garden winds down, but there's still plenty of green to keep you busy.



PREP Make notes on what thrived and what struggled. Test your soil and spread lime if needed, set out row covers for frost, and work in compost before mulching empty beds.

PLANT Shorter days mean slower growth, but you can still sow hardy greens like collards, lettuce, kale, spinach, radish and arugula. Cover-crops such as rye, Austrian winter peas and wheat help feed the soil for next spring.

HARVEST November's kitchen garden offers arugula, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, carrots, celery, cilantro, chard, Chinese greens, collards, kale, leeks, lettuce, mustards, parsnips, scallions, spinach and turnips. Perfect for hearty soups and Thanksgiving sides.



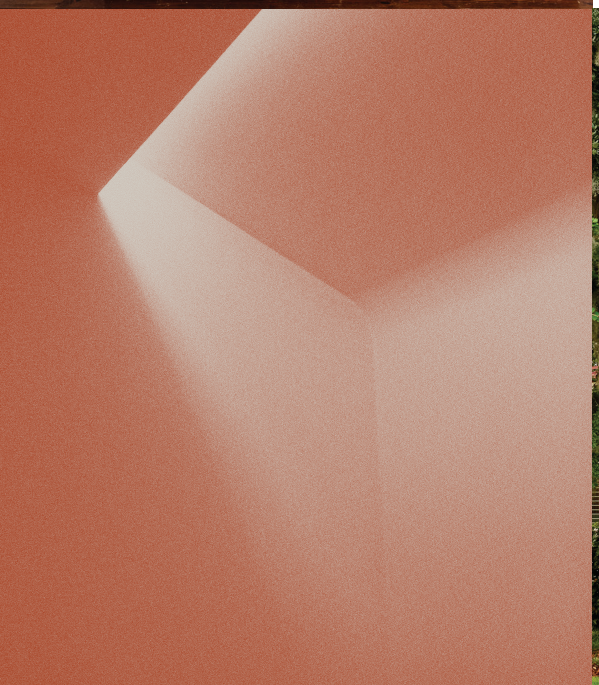
Best days

The moon has a way of tugging at more than the tides. Let it guide your plans this month:

Go fishing: Nov. 1-5, 20-30
Make jam: Nov. 1, 28-29
Vote: Nov. 4
Bake bread: Nov. 12-13
Go camping: Nov. 20-22
Give thanks: Nov. 27







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Cold remedies

HOW TO PROTECT OR CURE PLANTS EXPOSED TO OVERNIGHT FROST

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS AND SUZANNE BARTON



SWEET SURVIVAL Frost might look harsh, but some veggies thrive in the chill. Cabbage, kale, broccoli and other hardy greens turn starch into sugar when temperatures drop, making them taste sweeter after a cold snap. Think of it as nature's way of adding a sprinkle of seasoning.



COLD CASUALTY Not every plant appreciates a frosty wake-up call. Tender crops like squash collapse after freezing, their cells ruptured by ice. If stems turn mushy, it's best to clean up the damage and try again next season.

FROZEN BUT FORGIVEN Frost isn't always fatal. Many established shrubs, trees and perennials can bounce back with patience. Give them shelter from harsh winds, avoid fertilizing, and let time do the healing. Spring will reveal what survived.



Nothing disrupts the holiday season like feeling under the weather. Plants, too, can catch a cold, and when left exposed to the elements, frost settles over gardens like the flu. While frost cloth and other protections help before the temperatures drop, even the most prepared gardeners may find their blooms in need of some TLC. For a remedy as fail-proof as chicken noodle soup, ***Suzanne Barton***, manager of The Green Thumb, says a little love and patience go a long way. Some veggies even enjoy a cold plunge. She also shares advice for any house-party guest looking to share their garden's bounty this holiday season, ensuring every friend and flower is taken care of.

[LOCAL Life] Can I save plants accidentally left out in the frost? [Suzanne Barton] Our first frost usually hits in December or January, but it's best to start preparing now so there are no surprises. If your plants do happen to get caught in an overnight frost, they may be salvageable with some care and patience. Move potted plants to a sheltered location, either indoors or near a south- or west-facing wall, that will block the harsh winds and keep the soil a little warmer. If the soil seems dry, water sparingly, but never fertilize. Fertilizing forces the plant to expend its energy on new growth when it should be focusing on healing. Be patient and let the plant cure itself. Sometimes you may need to wait until the spring to assess the extent of the damage. The only caveat here is if the plant turns mushy. This can happen to herbaceous plants (like tropicals or perennials) that have frozen, which causes their cells to burst. If your plant is mushy, clean it up and look for new growth in the spring.

[LL] Are there any plants that benefit from the frost? [SB] Yes, some produce tastes better when exposed to frost. Cabbage, broccoli, carrots and turnips all get a little sweeter in the cold, along with hardy greens like kale, spinach, collard greens and Swiss chard. These veggies are high in starch and, because of an evolved defense mechanism against the frost, their starch converts to sugar when the weather cools. Sugar lowers the freezing point of the water contained in the plant's cells, so when the temperature drops, the starch converts to sugar to protect the cells from getting too cold and bursting. It's a win for the produce and for us – lightly sweet veggies make for delicious seasonal meals.

[LOCAL Life] My newly planted canna lilies were very prolific this year. Should I dig some of the bulbs up to share in the fall or the spring? [SB] If you're trying to give the lilies away as gifts this season, you can dig them up now, but since they were newly planted, I'd recommend waiting until the spring. When you dig late in the growing season, the bulbs won't have time to establish themselves again before it gets too cold. In the spring you can dig them up when you see new growth. To make sure the bulbs are healthy, check for three to five eyes on the bulbs. This indicates the best chance for vigorous growth and they'll have plenty of time to establish themselves in the ground before it gets too hot again next summer.



Frost control

Smart seasonal tips from Lowcountry Gardening, a guide written and produced by the Lowcountry Master Gardener Association



When cold temperatures are forecast, protect your plants by watering them well at the roots; moist soil holds more heat than dry soil. For additional protection, cover the plants with fabric or lightweight blankets. Frost cloth works especially well since it resists water in addition to providing thermal protection. If purchased on a roll, you can cut the exact size and shape for your plant. Never use plastic! Make sure the plant cover extends and is secured to the ground to create a small dome of insulation. Cold fronts often come with stiff winds, so tie down covers. Remove the covering when it begins to warm up.

Frost-damaged foliage should be removed from plants, such as farfugium (tractor seat plants), split-leaf philodendron and gingers to discourage fungi and disease. You'll be surprised how quickly farfugium grows when it warms up. Other established plants should rebound in the spring.

Excerpted from Lowcountry Gardening, written and published by the Lowcountry Master Gardener Association. Grab a copy of this handy guide to all things Lowcountry gardening for $5 at The Greenery, Bruno Landscape & Nursery, The Green Thumb or the Master Gardener booth at the Bluffton and Port Royal farmers markets. For more information, head over to ***LowcountryMGA.org****.*



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Getting Lucky

A dramatic neighborhood rescue turned a local dolphin into a media star, but for USCB researchers, she's been a familiar fin for more than a decade

STORY BY CAROL WEIR



©BTFD/STEPHEN COMBS

TEAM EFFORT Rescuers carried Lucky to safety using a marine tarp. All work was done under the authorization of the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network and led by LMMN executive director and SC coordinator Lauren Rust, with assistance from volunteer Amber Kuehn and the Bluffton Township Fire District.



©ALYSSA MARIAN, USCB

A dramatic rescue in a Bluffton neighborhood gave a local dolphin a moment of national fame — but researchers at USCB have known and followed her for years.

A nearly 8-foot-long female dolphin, known as "Lucky" to the team at the Lowcountry Dolphin Conservation Program at USCB's Marine Sensory and Neurobiology Lab, was rescued from a shallow tidal lagoon in the private Hampton Lake community in July after she became stranded. Officials believe Lucky swam through a culvert connecting to the May River at high tide during a storm surge. When the tide receded, she became trapped in 2 to 3 feet of water.

Neighbors, firefighters and members of a nonprofit for marine mammals worked together to rescue her and release her into the May River, where the USCB team has been collecting data about her and other dolphins for over a decade.

On July 12, a passerby in Hampton Lake noticed the dolphin in distress and told a neighbor familiar with wildlife rescue. This neighbor contacted the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network, the federally authorized entity for marine mammal rescue in South Carolina.

USCB researchers identify Lucky by her uniquely notched dorsal fin.

The rescue

Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network dispatched a team from Charleston, joined by volunteer Amber Kuehn, who also heads Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island.

They called the Bluffton Township Fire District for help with transporting the nearly 500-pound wild dolphin out of the lagoon. The rescuers guided Lucky onto a marine tarp and then carried her up an embankment. They then loaded her onto a utility trailer provided by Kuehn and released her off a private deep water dock on the May River.



©USCB

SCIENCE ON THE RIVER USCB's Dr. Eric Montie and his lab manager Alyssa Marian conduct dolphin surveys in the May River and have been observing Lucky since 2015. Montie's Lowcountry Dolphin Conservation Program at USCB's Marine Sensory and Neurobiology Lab is one of the Lowcountry's longest-running scientific studies.

The rescue went viral, reaching millions of viewers through traditional news outlets and social media. Lucky appeared on ABC World News, in Firehouse magazine and in regional and local news.

Lucky's followers

Since then, Lucky remains on the radar of the dolphin program, directed by biology professor Eric Montie. The program runs one of the Lowcountry's longest-running scientific studies. Montie and his staff and students also conduct long-term acoustic monitoring of the May River estuary as part of the Estuarine Soundscape Observatory Network in the Southeast (ESONS). Researchers are learning to distinguish vocalization patterns, particularly whistles and burst pulses, between resident and migratory dolphins.

"Over the years we've recorded everything from the constant crackle of snapping shrimp to the complex courtship calls and choruses of fish, as well as the vocalizations of bottlenose dolphins," Montie said. "It's not far-fetched to think that one day we might identify Lucky's presence through her unique acoustic signature alone."

Following Lucky's rescue, the team has observed and photographed her in the May River near the headwaters and Palmetto Bluff, where she is frequently sighted.

"We spotted her swimming and behaving normally," said Alyssa Marian, who has managed Montie's dolphin survey program since 2020. "She does have some new scarring on the tip of her dorsal fin."







©ALYSSA MARIAN, USCB

LUCKY'S LEGACY Lucky is a year-round resident of the May River and the mother of three calves, including this one.

Marian says the new injuries appear to be healing well.

Lucky seems unimpressed by her notoriety and has returned to spending time with other year-round May River residents, including many females with calves. Researchers call these "nursery groups." Lucky is a Tamanend's bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops erebennus, formerly Atlantic bottlenose dolphin), which is the only dolphin species found in the South Carolina Lowcountry.



©USCB

SYMBOL OF SUSTAINABILITY Lucky is the symbol of Montage Palmetto Bluff's sustainability program, which includes conservation measures in the resort's guest rooms, dining facilities, grounds and the May River Golf Club. A card placed in each guest room explains the resort's support for Montie's dolphin research.

Surveying the scene

Montie first sighted Lucky in 2011 and began monthly dolphin surveys in 2015. He and his team of faculty members and students easily recognize Lucky, based on distinctive notched markings on her dorsal fin — scarring they think may have been caused by a boat strike.

Lucky has been documented raising three calves. Fortunately, no calf followed her into the lagoon during the incident. Of the 140 dolphin surveys conducted by Montie and his team since 2015, Lucky has been seen on 74 of them.

"This is more than any other dolphin in our catalog," he said.

Twice a month Montie and his team travel the May and Chechessee rivers, counting adults, calves and newborns, as well as deploying and retrieving underwater acoustic recorders. This labor-intensive research by boat is expensive, and community support has been vital to allow it to continue.

Eco-luxury in action

Since 2019 Montage Hotels & Resorts has donated $36,000 toward Montie's dolphin research. This support falls in line with the resort's mission of environmental conservation and preservation. Lucky is the five-star resort's eco-representative and serves as a symbol for Montage Palmetto Bluff's sustainability program, which includes more efficient laundry practices, paper straws and to-go boxes at its dining outlets, and conservation practices at Palmetto Bluff's May River Golf Club (a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary).

"By partnering with Dr. Eric Montie and his team at USCB, Montage Palmetto Bluff will have a better understanding of the behaviors and needs of the [Tamanend's] bottlenose dolphin in the tidal estuaries and rivers that make up the Lowcountry," Montage Palmetto Bluff said in a statement.

Other community support for Montie's bottlenose dolphin survey program comes from Port Royal Sound Foundation, the Coastal Discovery Museum's Adopt-A-Dolphin program and Pritchards Island Research.

"It is truly a community effort that keeps everything going — fuel, boat and truck maintenance, and support for students," Montie said.

Who you gonna call?

Dolphins aren't just part of the Lowcountry's ambiance, they're protected by strict federal laws. That means if you come across a stranded dolphin, you should never attempt to handle it yourself. Only trained experts with federal authorization can provide care. Dr. Montie and his team are among those experts, conducting their work under a National Marine Fisheries Service permit. If you see a dolphin in distress, call:

Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network Stranding Hotline: *843-633-1132. Teams respond to strandings all along the South Carolina coast.*

NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Stranding Hotline: *National, 877-433-8299*

If you're unsure or can't get through, call local authorities (such as the Bluffton Township Fire District or Beaufort County Sheriff's Office), and they will connect with the authorized responders. LL



©USCB

NATURAL ENCOUNTERS Lucky frequents the headwaters of the May River near Palmetto Bluff. Montage Palmetto Bluffton naturalist Cassie Critchlow (left) often spots her near the resort during nature walks.



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Life between the tides

HOW LUNAR RHYTHMS SUSTAIN THE LOWCOUNTRY'S MARSH, WILDLIFE AND WAY OF LIFE

STORY + PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUDREY GEIB



Every day the moon pushes and pulls the Atlantic, carving out beaches, guiding fish and shaping the lives of those who call the coast home. Tides rise and fall because of the gravitational forces of the moon and sun. Roughly every six hours the ocean swells inland and then retreats, creating a predictable pattern of high and low tides.

The severity of these shifts depends on the moon's phase. During a full or new moon, the sun, moon and Earth align, producing the highest tides, known as spring tides, which happen roughly every 15 days. A king tide is an unusually high spring tide that occurs a few times a year when the moon is at its closest point to Earth (perigee) and/or when the Earth is at its closest point to the sun (perihelion). Conversely, when the moon is in its first or third quarter, the sun and moon pull from different angles, creating the month's lowest tides, called neap tides.



RISE AND FALL These two photos, taken just steps from Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks, capture the swing between high and low tide. In the above photo Skull Creek pushes right up to the rocks, lapping at the shoreline, with hardly any marsh grass in sight. Hours later, the photo to the left shows a completely different landscape: the water has drained away, exposing oyster beds, mud flats and long fingers of spartina grass. It's a striking reminder of how quickly the tides reshape the Lowcountry's edges and why locals keep one eye on the water when planning their day.

Shifting sands

For beach goers, tides might mean a shorter walk across sand or a wider stretch for biking. But for the animals of Hilton Head, the daily rhythm is essential.

Amber Kuehn, local marine biologist and executive director of Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island, said every high tide carries in nutrients and small creatures, while every low tide pulls material back out, constantly refreshing the marsh.

Without this flushing, marsh crabs couldn't open their burrows to release gases and aerate the soil, a process that fuels the growth of Spartina grass. The tide also carries out dead reeds from the grass which wash onto beaches, where sand piles around them to form dunes that protect the island.

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SAND, SURF AND CYCLES These two photos from Coligny Beach highlight just how much the tides change the shoreline. At high tide the ocean waves roll in strong and steady, perfect for splashing and body surfing, but leave little room for beach chairs. By low tide the ocean has pulled back, revealing wide stretches of hard-packed sand that locals love for long beach walks and bike rides. Same spot, two completely different beach experiences, all shaped by the moon's pull.

Beachgoer's tide chart

Even for casual visitors, tides can shape the perfect beach day. At low tide wide expanses of firm sand invite walking, biking or shell hunting. At high tide the water presses close, leaving less space for chairs, umbrellas and play.

"A lot of people don't realize just how different the beach looks at high versus low tide until they see it for themselves," said Nick Cargo, lifelong local and owner of Cross Island Bike Rental.

Staying aware of tide schedules prevents towels from getting washed out and helps families plan better. Cargo said a little preparation goes a long way: waves are best just after high tide, while skim boarders find their stride at low tide on long stretches of glassy sand.

Fishing by the tides

For charter captains Donovon McCoy and John Werner, tides determine where and how they fish.

"Redfish are our bread and butter," McCoy said. "You can catch them every day of the year, just in different ways."

The key is moving water. When the tide is coming in or going out, bait moves with it, and where bait goes, the fish follow.

"You definitely want some current," he explained. "Whenever the tide is slack, you can still catch fish, but it's not as good."

Werner agreed, noting that slack tide makes fishing harder because less food is carried to the fish. Moon phases also matter; full and new moons bring dramatic spring tides with stronger currents, while neap tides are calmer and easier to fish since anglers aren't battling large swells.

"Those are fun times to fish because you're not competing with all those big currents," Werner said. "You get a lot more time to fish certain things, more than you would if it were a really big tide, because there is not as much water moving."

Nature's fishermen follow the same cues. Dolphins, for instance, often wait at the marsh edge during an outgoing tide, snatching up young fish as they are flushed out of their hiding places within the grass.

The heart of the Lowcountry

The steady rise and fall of the tides is what keeps Hilton Head's ecosystem thriving, sustaining everything from marsh crabs to dolphins. Werner described it in human terms, comparing Spartina grass to skin and oyster beds to bone structure, with the tides themselves serving as the heartbeat.

"Two high tides and two low tides a day," he said. "It's a self-cleansing environment. That's the most amazing thing about Hilton Head. That's the heart of it, the heart of everything around here. It's tides."

Whether you're casting a line, setting up a beach chair or watching the marsh grass sway, the tides are always in motion, and life in the Lowcountry moves with them.

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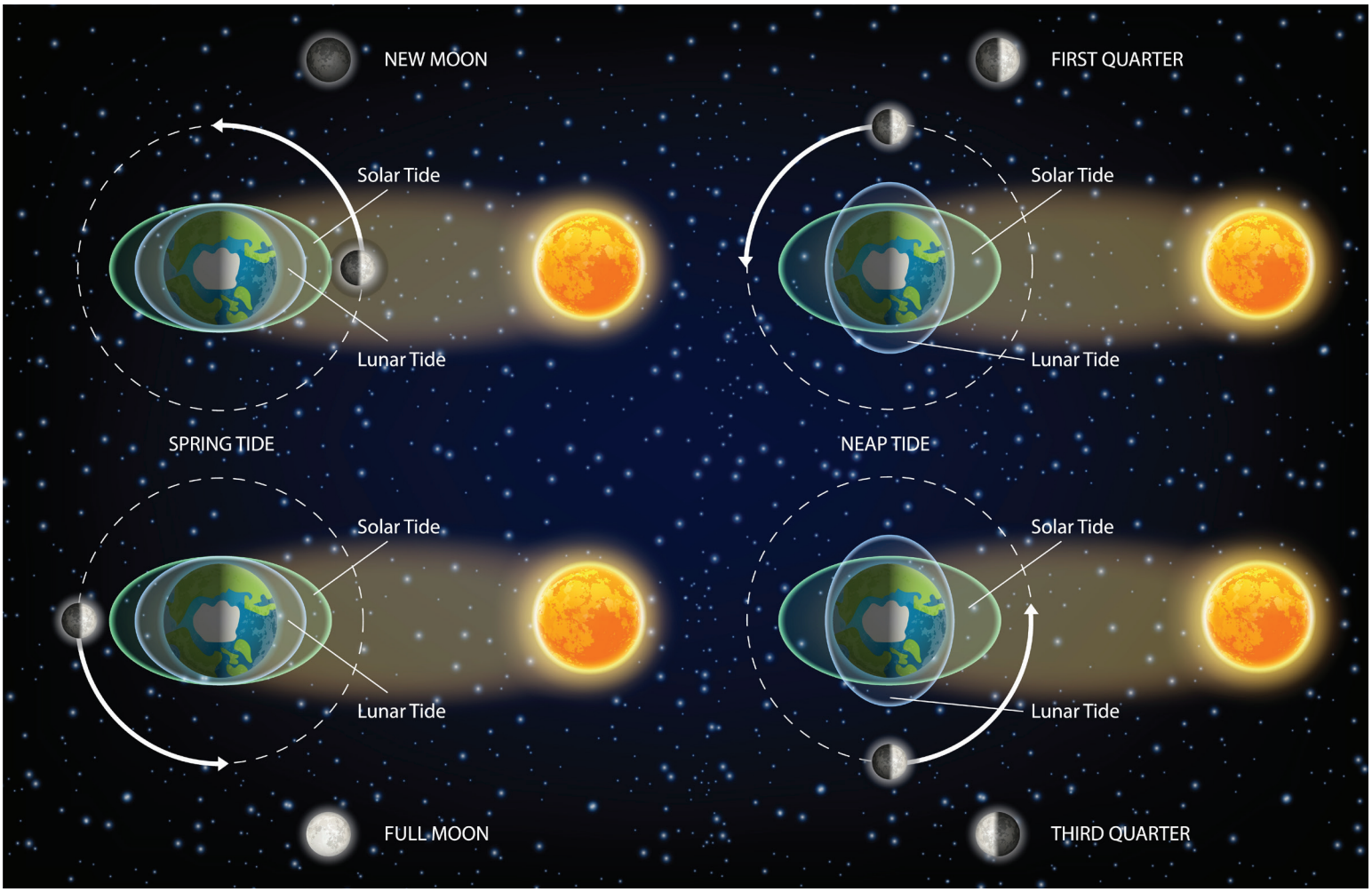

HOW TIDES WORK This image illustrates how the alignment of the sun, moon and Earth shapes our tides. During a new or full moon, their gravitational pull combines to produce spring tides with the most extreme highs and lows. At the first and third quarter moons, the sun and moon pull from different angles, resulting in neap tides when the difference between high and low is at its smallest. These repeating cycles drive the daily rhythm of the ocean, constantly reshaping coastlines and sustaining life in tidal marshes.

KNOW YOUR TIDES

The moon's pull doesn't play favorites. Some days it tugs a little harder, other days not so much and the results shape everything from fishing trips to beach walks. Here's a quick look at the main players in the tide cycle, each with its own rhythm and impact on Lowcountry life.

Spring tide

What it is: *A tide with extra-high highs and extra-low lows.*
Why it happens: *The sun, moon and Earth line up during a full or new moon, and their pull stacks up.*
When it shows up: *About twice a month (roughly every 15 days).*
Tide tidbit: *The word "spring" has nothing to do with the season; it comes from the Old English springan, meaning "to rise."*

King tide

What it is: *The big one. The highest tide you'll see all year, a super-charged spring tide.*
Why it happens: *The moon swings in close to Earth (perigee), and sometimes the Earth cozies up to the sun (perihelion). The timing lines up, and the water climbs.*
When it shows up: *Once or twice a year, often in fall or winter.*
Tide tidbit: *King tides can swallow entire stretches of beach and flood waterfront lots and restaurants.*

Neap tide

What it is: *A tide that barely flexes, with only a small difference between high and low.*
Why it happens: *The sun and moon pull at right angles during the first and third quarter moons, canceling each other out a bit.*
When it shows up: *Twice a month, alternating with spring tides.*
Tide tidbit: *Neap tides make for calmer currents, handy for fishing or paddling when you'd rather not fight the flow.*

Flood tide

What it is: *Water moving in, pushing higher on the shore and into the marsh.*
Why it matters: *Redfish slip into the grass to feed, and kayakers can glide into spots that are bone-dry at low tide.*
Tide tidbit: *On warm summer evenings, watch for "tailing redfish." Their fins flick above the grass as they root around for food.*

Ebb tide

What it is: *Water draining out, exposing mud flats and oyster beds.*
Why it matters: *Dolphins often line up at creek mouths during an ebb, snatching fish flushed out of the marsh.*
Tide tidbit: *The word "ebb" comes from Old English ebba, meaning "receding."*

Slack tide

What it is: *The brief pause between high and low when the water seems to stand still.*
Why it matters: *With little current, it's not the best time to fish, but it makes swimming and paddleboarding easier.*
Tide tidbit: *Locals sometimes call it "dead tide" because the water looks almost lifeless.*







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During the 1800s enslaved people in the South looked to Polaris, the North Star, as a guide to freedom. Because it holds steady in the northern sky, Polaris pointed the way toward safe territory and the promise of a new life.

FROM THE LOWCOUNTRY TO THE OPEN SEA, POLARIS AND THE CONSTELLATIONS POINTED THE WAY

Long ago, directions weren't glowing on a screen in your hand but were scattered across the heavens. Long before GPS, the first "map" wasn't downloaded. It was written in light. For thousands of years, constellations, planets and stars guided explorers across oceans, including the very voyages that shaped the world we know today.

Reading the sky

Picture yourself on a wooden ship at night, the black water stretching in every direction. The only light comes from a dome of stars overhead, the salt air clinging to your skin, the steady creak of timbers beneath your feet. That sky was once a sailor's only guide.

From Europe to the South Carolina coast, navigators trusted age-old methods to find their way. The most reliable guides were Polaris, also known as the North Star, and the Big Dipper. To find Polaris, look for the two stars at the edge of the Big Dipper's bowl. They point directly toward it. Once spotted, Polaris gave sailors the confidence to hold their course.

They also discovered a clever trick. By measuring the angle between the North Star and the horizon, they could determine latitude. Along the Lowcountry's flat coast, with wide-open views of the horizon, this method worked especially well.



TOOLS OF THE TRADE Introduced in the 1700s, the octant and later the sextant measured the angle between a star and the horizon to determine latitude.



Standing: Heidi Yoshida, CFP®, Michelle Myhre, CFP®, Sarah Huie, CFP®, Kevin Myhre
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CELESTIAL COMPASS One of the most recognizable constellations in the night sky, the Big Dipper forms part of Ursa Major, the Great Bear. Its scoop-shaped pattern has long served as a celestial pointer, with the two stars at the edge of the bowl leading directly to Polaris, the North Star.



sextant

From octant to sextant

As voyages grew more ambitious, sailors needed tools that could keep up. In the 1730s they began using the octant, shaped from one-eighth of a circle, to measure the angle between a star and the horizon. That simple reading revealed a ship's latitude and gave navigators a better sense of where they stood on the ocean.

By the late 1700s, the sextant refined the process. Shaped from one-sixth of a circle, it paired star sightings with maritime tables for pinpoint accuracy. The sextant proved so dependable that ships still carry them today. Even with GPS, modern vessels such as Navy ships and local sailboats keep one on board as a backup.



CROWN OF STARS Shaped like a bold "W" or "M" in the night sky, Cassiopeia is easy to spot opposite the Big Dipper. In Greek mythology she was a vain queen, but to stargazers she serves as a dependable seasonal marker.

Stormy skies

The Lowcountry's wide horizon made for excellent stargazing, but weather was an ever-present obstacle. Charleston bustled as one of the busiest ports in the 1700s, yet its sailors faced fog, sticky humidity and sudden storms that could blot out the heavens.

Hurricanes made things even more treacherous, sometimes hiding the stars for days. Unlike drivers today, sailors could not pull off to wait out the weather. They pressed on, trusting that Polaris would eventually break through the clouds to guide them home.

Shared star maps

Just as you might groan at a GPS that sent you to the wrong side of town, sailors sometimes misread the sky and ended up far off course. To prevent others from making the same mistakes, they began sketching navigational charts of the night sky.

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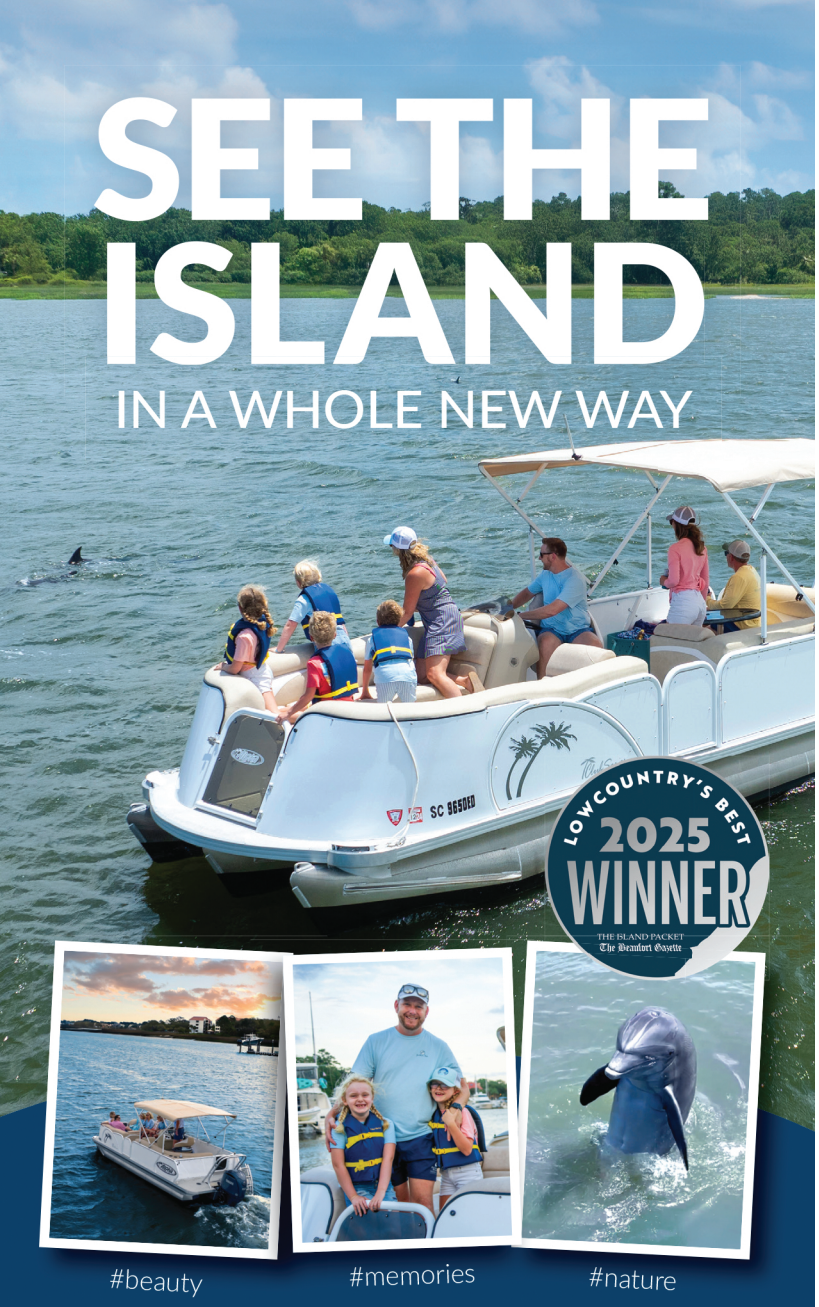

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STARS TO SPOT

Big Dipper: *Look for its scoop shape. The two stars at the edge point directly to Polaris.*

Polaris (North Star): *Almost fixed in place. Its height above the horizon equals your latitude.*

Orion: *Best seen in winter, marked by the three-star "belt."*

Cassiopeia: *A "W"-shaped constellation opposite the Big Dipper, often hanging over the marsh.*

WINTER'S GUIDE
Known as the hunter, Orion is one of the most striking constellations in the winter sky. Its three-star "belt" is easy to spot, and from it you can trace the hunter's shoulders and feet.

These charts became living documents, passed from ship to ship and voyage to voyage. Each revision added hard-earned lessons and clever tricks that improved navigation across the globe.

"You can still go and get a navigational chart today. You trust it because it's been around for a long time and people have used it for a long time," said Gary Senn, director of the Ruth Patrick Science Center in Aiken.

Senn's background in marine biology and science led him to a career blending maritime studies with STEM opportunities for students and teachers. His work echoes the wisdom of old sailors: use the tools that work, but never forget the stars.

Still shining

Technology may keep advancing, but the night sky has not changed. The same constellations that guided explorers now shine over the marshes, beaches and creeks of the Lowcountry. For centuries sailors put their faith in those patterns of light, trusting them across unknown seas.

Next time you are stretched out on the sand after sunset, look up. Those same stars are still there, silent and steady, ready to guide you, too.



STARGAZING TIPS

***Stars rise in the east and set in the west**, which helps with orientation.*

***Measure the angle between the North Star and the horizon** to estimate latitude.*

***Head to the beach for the best view.** The Lowcountry's flat coastline makes it one of the region's most spectacular observatories.*

***Check the moon phase.** A new moon gives the darkest skies, while a full moon can wash out fainter stars.*

***Give your eyes 20 minutes to adjust to the dark, and avoid bright lights.** A red flashlight is best if you need one.*

***Look for bright planets** such as Venus, Jupiter and Mars, which often shine as steadily as stars.*

***Bring binoculars** for a closer look at the moon's craters, star clusters and even Jupiter's bands.*

***Aim for clear, cool nights with low humidity,** which offer the sharpest skies. LL*

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Eyes on the heavens

Local experts share how to make the most of this season's celestial show

STORY BY MACKENZIE LIONBERGER + PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL THE SKY GUY

Nothing caps off a Lowcountry evening quite like gazing up at a dark sky scattered with stars. For those who love to look up, there's plenty to see in the months ahead, and even more in the 2026 celestial year. From meteor showers and lunar eclipses to the constellations that guide us through the seasons, the night sky has a way of pulling us back to wonder.



BIRTHPLACE OF STARS The Great Orion Nebula (M42) is a brilliant cloud of gas and dust in the constellation Orion. It's a vast stellar nursery where new stars and planets are taking shape. Bright and easy to find, it's one of the true showpieces of the night sky, revealing layers of color and detail even through small telescopes. Look for it as the middle "star" in Orion's sword, first visible late in the evening by late autumn and shining high through the crisp winter months.

A local guide to the galaxy

"Most people think space is incomprehensible once you leave Earth," said Bill Gwynne, a local astrophotographer known as Bill the Sky Guy. "It's not. It's absolutely comprehensible. But you have to spend time with it."

Gwynne grew up during the 1960s space race, a time when the entire world seemed to be looking up. He remembers watching Apollo 11 soar toward the unknown on television, a moment that didn't just introduce the world to space but introduced him to his life's passion.

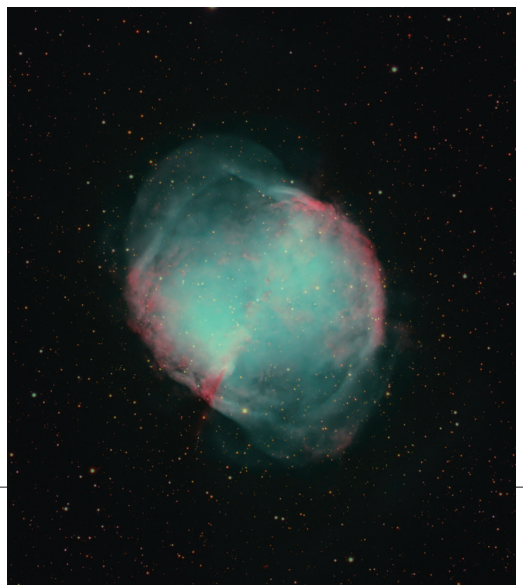
After receiving his first telescope at age 10, he began identifying planets, constellations and faraway wonders that would fuel a lifelong curiosity. Today his mission is sharing that excitement with others. Each week he leads stargazing sessions for more than 150 guests at the Marriott Vacation Club properties, giving context to what they see above. It's more than pointing out stars; it's about understanding the universe.

"You don't need gear. You need curiosity, patience and binoculars," Bill said.

Stargazing tips from the pros

If you're planning to catch a meteor shower, head away from artificial light. The farther you are from the town, the clearer the view. The beach or a quiet rural area makes the perfect backdrop. Go after midnight when meteors are more frequent, and choose a moonless night so its glow doesn't wash out the show.

For a lunar eclipse, patience is key. The event unfolds over roughly two and a half hours, so carve out time to take it in. The best part is that anyone on the moonlit side of Earth can enjoy the sight.



THE DUMBBELL NEBULA M27, known as the Dumbbell Nebula, is a glowing shell of gas and dust cast off by a dying, sun-like star about 1,360 light-years away in the constellation Vulpecula. Discovered by Charles Messier in 1764, it was the first planetary nebula ever recorded and remains one of the most photographed. Through binoculars or a small telescope, its soft green hue and hourglass shape make it an unforgettable sight. It's best seen from late summer through early fall.







Photos Courtesy of May Residential

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When it comes to constellation spotting or casual stargazing, do a little homework beforehand. Learn a few star patterns so you know what to look for. Bring a few friends, a blanket or chair, binoculars and maybe a telescope. Just don't bring it to the beach, where sand can wreak havoc on the optics. Above all, stay curious, and take it slow.

"Wonder within context. That's where the magic lives," Bill said.



A GALAXY ON EDGE NGC 4565, known as the Needle Galaxy, is a razor-thin spiral galaxy about 40 million light-years away in the constellation Coma Berenices. Seen edge-on from Earth, its glowing disk slices cleanly through the darkness, creating one of the most dramatic profiles in the heavens. Catch it between April and June when it's highest above the horizon.

How to capture the night

Photographing the stars might sound like something best left to professionals, but it's easier than you'd think. With a little preparation and patience, the results can be out of this world.

"Keep an open mind, stay curious, and enjoy the process," said Lyndi Leary, a professional photographer in Bluffton.

For meteor showers she recommends a wide-angle lens around 16mm, a high ISO and a sturdy tripod with a remote shutter. For lunar eclipses, reach for a long lens around 400mm, use a low ISO, and focus manually to capture the moon's shifting stages. Set your focus before it gets too dark to avoid struggling in the shadows.

"Bug spray, a good friend and a six-pack of beer is the best formula for night photography," said Leary.

Look up and take it in

With a full calendar of celestial events ahead, there's never been a better time to slow down and reconnect with the sky. Whether you're tracing Orion over the marsh, catching a meteor streak above the beach or simply marveling at the moon, every night offers a reminder of the universe's quiet beauty.

Make sure to look up. You won't want to miss it.



LAGOON OF LIGHT The Lagoon Nebula (M8) in Sagittarius glows as a vast cradle of star birth, where newborn suns illuminate and sculpt the surrounding clouds into delicate swirls of pink and gold. Technically visible to the naked eye as a faint smudge within the Milky Way, this shimmering nebula rewards binoculars or small telescopes with breathtaking texture. Best viewed on clear summer nights.

SAVE THE DATES

The months ahead promise a steady parade of cosmic wonders, from fiery meteor showers to glowing supermoons. Whether you're watching from the beach, the marsh or your own backyard, these are the Lowcountry nights worth staying up for.

Nov. 4-5: Taurids Meteor Shower: *A minor shower with about five to 10 meteors per hour. The Taurids are slow-moving and bright, often producing impressive fireballs.*

Nov.16-17: Leonids Meteor Shower: *Peaking around Nov. 17, the Leonids can produce up to 15 meteors per hour under dark skies. Their long, fast streaks make them easy to spot over open water.*

Nov. 20: New moon: *With no moonlight to interfere, this is one of the darkest nights of the year and ideal for deep-sky viewing.*

Nov. 21: Uranus at opposition: *Uranus will be directly opposite the sun, making it brighter and easier to view through binoculars or a telescope.*

Dec. 4: Cold Moon (supermoon): *The final full moon of the year rises big and bright. Known as the Cold Moon, this one will also be a supermoon, appearing slightly larger in the sky.*

Dec. 13-14: Geminids Meteor Shower: *The Geminids are one of the most reliable meteor showers of the year, with dozens of bright streaks per hour. The show peaks late at night and lasts until dawn.*

Dec. 21-22: Ursids Meteor Shower: *A quiet but lovely finale to the year's meteor showers. With the moon out of the way, it's worth staying up to catch a few before midnight.*

Jan. 3-4: Quadrantids Meteor Shower: *A brief but brilliant display that can produce up to 40 meteors per hour. Best viewed after midnight from a dark beach or marsh.*

Jan. 13: Full Wolf Moon: *The first full moon of the year glows high in the winter sky, illuminating the marshes and sea oats with soft silver light.*

Feb. 8: New Moon: *A prime opportunity for deep-sky viewing. Look for Orion, Canis Major and Gemini shining bright over the horizon.*

Feb. 20: Full Snow Moon: *A crisp, cold moon that reflects beautifully off the water. Perfect for moonrise photos along the beach.*

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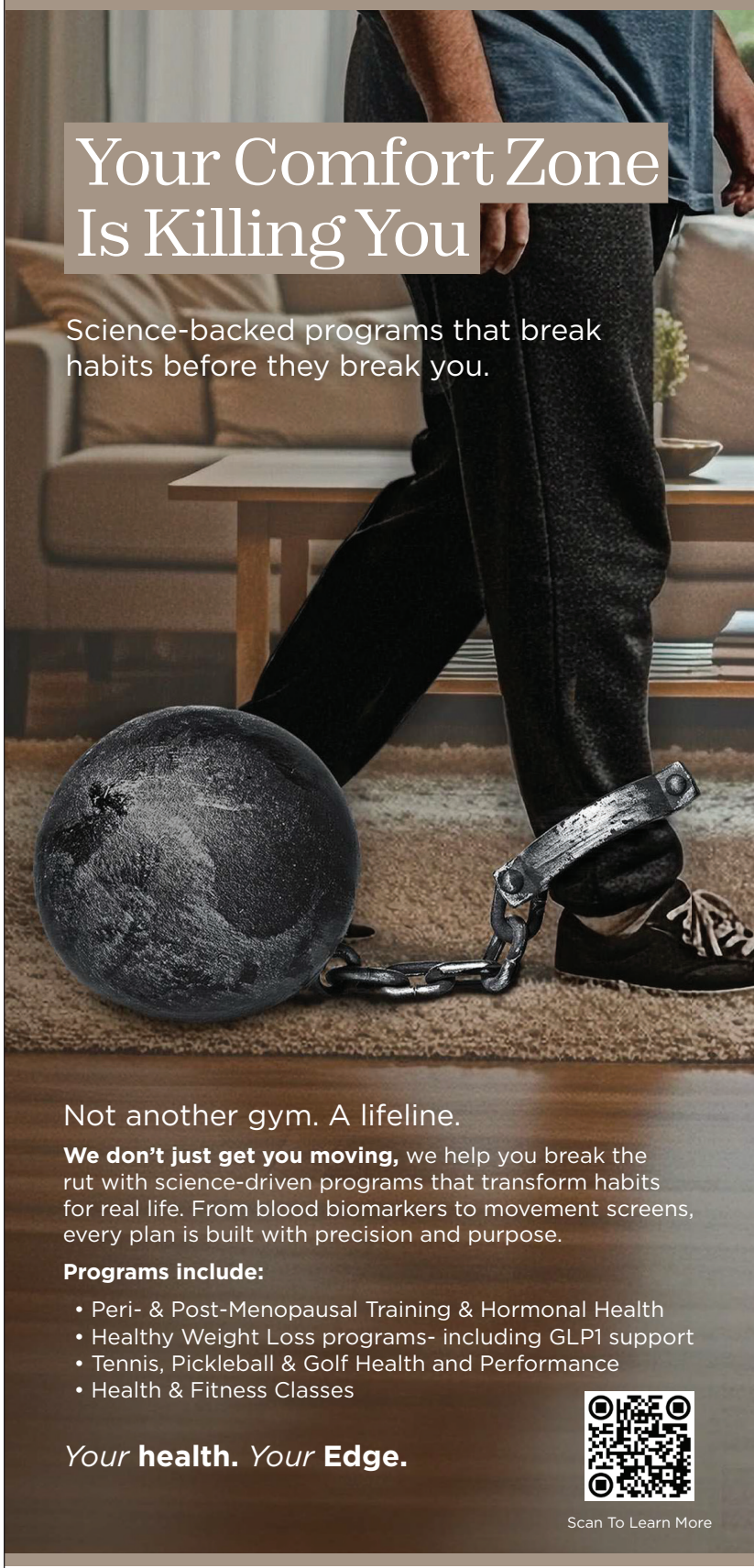

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App-solutely stellar

You don't need a telescope to explore the cosmos; just your phone and a clear Lowcountry sky. These apps make it easy to identify constellations, track planets and time your stargazing perfectly. Turn off your phone's brightness, and use red-light mode to protect your night vision. Then head to a dark stretch of sand, and let your screen be your guide to the galaxies.



Best for effortless navigation

Sky Guide: Simply point your phone at the sky, and Sky Guide instantly labels stars, planets and constellations in real time. It even works offline, perfect for those quiet nights at the beach when cell service fades. You also can set alerts for upcoming celestial events, such as meteor showers and eclipses.



Best for learning on the go

Star Walk 2: This app turns stargazing into a guided experience. Its 3D models of constellations and mythological overlays make it ideal for families and beginners. It also adjusts to your exact location, giving you an accurate sky map for the Lowcountry.



Best for telescope users

SkySafari: If you have a telescope, SkySafari is your cosmic copilot. The app offers deep-sky object catalogs, observing tips and even telescope control for certain models. It's packed with detail yet surprisingly easy to use, whether you're looking for Jupiter's moons or the Needle Galaxy.



Best for visual wow factor

Night Sky: Night Sky combines augmented reality with smooth animation, letting you "walk" through the stars right from your screen. It's great for casual observers who want an immersive experience. It includes notifications for International Space Station flyovers, often visible from local beaches.



Best for satellite spotters

Heavens-Above: This old-school favorite is perfect for those who love tracking more than just stars. Heavens-Above lists visible satellites, ISS passes and even Starlink trains, all tailored to your local coordinates. A simple, data-driven app for serious sky watchers.



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Lowcountry nights

TWO BREATHTAKING STARGAZING EXPERIENCES THAT REVEAL THE BEAUTY OF OUR SKIES

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN + PHOTOGRAPHY BY ZACH GRETHER



Follow Me

The beaches of Hilton Head and Hunting Island rank among the Southeast's most popular daytime destinations, but after sunset they reveal a completely different kind of beauty. Under a blanket of stars, the familiar shorelines transform into places of calm and quiet wonder. Nightscape and fine-art landscape photographer Zach Grether has spent years capturing that serene drama. He shares two of his favorite local spots for breathtaking views of the night sky and a bit of inspiration for anyone ready to try their hand at nightscape photography. The Lowcountry sky always rewards those who take the time to look up.



Toppled

SLEEP UNDER THE STARS Spend a night or a few at one of Hunting Island's 100 scenic campsites. Located near the northern end of the park, the campgrounds are just steps from the Atlantic Ocean, offering the perfect setting to hunt for shells and sharks' teeth by day and trace constellations across the sky by night. Learn more at ***southcarolinaparks.com***.

Into the wild sky

Hunting Island State Park

Hunting Island is one of the darkest public places along the South Carolina coast, making it a stargazer's dream. The trick, Grether says, is access. "It helps to get a campsite, since the park is closed at night. That way, you're already inside the boundaries when the stars come out."

Once you're there, keep your lights to a minimum. "Don't use a flashlight unless you absolutely have to," he says. "If you do, switch to the red-light option so your eyes can adjust to the darkness. Usually, the moonlight and ambient light are enough."

Grether's haunting photograph *Toppled* captures the park's driftwood-strewn shoreline beneath a blazing Milky Way. Another favorite, *Follow Me*, reveals a dreamlike view along the boardwalk leading to the lagoon observation area.

"Most of my images end up vibrant," he says. "But this one feels quieter. I find it easy to just stare and get lost in thought."

For the best results, plan around the moon's schedule. Avoid full-moon nights unless you want the moonlight to illuminate your foreground. "You'll get your clearest skies when the moon is below the horizon," Grether says. "There are plenty of apps that can help you track moonrise and moonset times."



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Out To Sea

The cosmic coastline

Burkes Beach, Hilton Head Island

Closer to home, Burkes Beach provides a more accessible yet equally captivating experience. "I just park along Burkes Beach Road, and walk up the public access path," Grether says. "There are side paths near the marsh that can give you great landscape perspectives."

The challenge here is light pollution. Hilton Head's glow and the nearby lights of Savannah limit visibility, but the results can still be spectacular with the right timing. "Always shoot away from direct lights and opposite the nearest city's light dome," Grether advises. "Light pollution is the number one killer of night-sky photos."

Grether's image *Out To Sea* captures the Milky Way rising to the east, above the folly between Burkes and Singleton beaches.

"I knew the folly would give me strong leading lines if I could time it right," he says. "What I love most is the air glow along the horizon. Some people think it ruins the shot, but I love how it makes the sky feel alive."

Tips from the photographer

If you're ready to try night photography, Grether recommends learning the "500 Rule." Divide 500 by your lens's focal length to find the longest exposure you can use without turning stars into trails. A 14mm lens allows for roughly 35 seconds.

"Shoot wide open, around f/2.8 or f/4.0, and adjust ISO between 3200 and 6400," he says. "Turn off auto focus, and use distant lights, like shrimp boats or ships, to focus manually. Once you find your focus, don't touch it."

And most of all, enjoy it. "There's no rush," Grether says. "The stars move slowly. Take your time. You'll see meteors, satellites, even Starlink constellations. The sky is alive and beautiful to behold." *LL*

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Look up, Lowcountry

HOW TO CATCH THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION GLIDING ACROSS OUR NIGHT SKIES

STORY BY MACKENZIE LIONBERGER + PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY NASA



FAST FLYER The ISS circles Earth about once every 90 minutes, which means astronauts see 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets every day. The station travels at 17,500 mph (Mach 23), fast enough to zip from Hilton Head to California in under 10 minutes.

The Lowcountry makes a great backdrop for skywatching. On a clear night you can stretch out under the stars and pick out constellations and planets, or maybe even catch something unexpected. That bright "star" gliding overhead? It might just be the International Space Station, cruising silently across the sky.



GLOBAL EFFORT The ISS is one of the most ambitious international projects in history, involving contributions from 17 countries. The ISS usually hosts seven astronauts at a time who live and work there for months on end.

Space Station 101

At first glance the ISS looks like a star. But unlike stars, it doesn't twinkle, and it moves with surprising speed. Traveling at 17,500 mph (Mach 23), the station orbits Earth in a steady free-fall. It's about the size of a football field and the result of an international effort involving 17 countries that came together for science, research and Earth observation. Construction began in 1998 and wrapped up in 2011, although new modules and projects have kept it evolving over the years.

The ISS often surprises first-time spotters by becoming one of the brightest objects in the night sky, outshone only by the sun and moon. The catch is you only get a few minutes, usually three to six, before it slips beyond the horizon.

"Curious George is not just a monkey. Curious George is a little bit of all of us, because we're all curious, we all want to know and are especially intrigued by the heavens," said Ken Brandt, director of the Robeson Planetarium and Science Center in Lumberton, N.C., and astronomy lecturer at USC Beaufort.



SCIENCE ON BOARD Experiments on the station cover everything from studying how plants grow in microgravity to testing materials that might help future Mars missions. The station is a constant work in progress. Construction began in 1998, but new labs, modules and solar arrays continue to be added.



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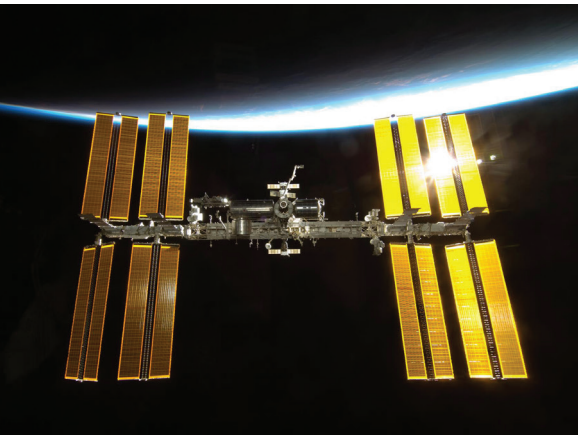
SHINING BRIGHT The ISS is often the third-brightest object in the sky, after the sun and moon. Its steady light is powered by enormous solar panels. At 357 feet end-to-end, the station is about the size of a football field.



PLENTY OF MILEAGE The ISS has racked up more miles than any car, plane or rocket in history; billions and still climbing. Over its 25 years in orbit, more than 280 astronauts have called it home.

What to watch for

Winter is prime time for ISS spotting in the Lowcountry. The skies tend to be crisp and clear, making the bright streak of the station even easier to pick out.

"The best chances are within two hours after sunset and before sunrise," Brandt explained. "That's when the station is still catching sunlight while the ground below is dark."

Some folks mistake it for a plane because of its steady glow, but unlike aircraft, the ISS doesn't blink red or green. Watch for its solid, bright path moving smoothly from one side of the sky to the other.

The best viewing spots are wide open places with clear horizons. Our beaches are perfect. Pack a chair or blanket, bring along a thermos of coffee if it's late or early, and settle in for the show. If you'd like a heads-up, NASA's Spot the Station app will send alerts with the exact times and directions to look. It also tracks other satellites such as the Hubble telescope and China's Tiangong Station.

"The ISS is such a fleeting moment and kind of a special moment that we always stop everything and have people observe," said Cale Shipman, a member of the Low Country Stargazers club.

Based in Charleston, the Stargazers share their passion with the community, helping neighbors connect with the night sky. Shipman has spent decades chasing celestial sights, but he still marvels at the ISS.

"Maybe it's the human element that touches and connects us on the ground with the astronauts and the ISS," he said. He's even caught glimpses of resupply missions and the station's solar panels through his telescope. "It is like history in the making in front of your eyes."

Tips for spotting the ISS

Timing is key: *Look within two hours after sunset or before sunrise when the station reflects sunlight against the dark sky.*

Know what you're seeing: *The ISS shines with a steady white glow. Unlike planes, it won't blink red or green. Unlike stars, it doesn't twinkle.*

Watch the speed: *The station crosses the sky in just three to six minutes. Don't blink, or you'll miss it.*

Pick the right spot: *Head for wide-open horizons. Beaches, piers or clear fields in the Lowcountry give the best vantage points.*

Get a heads-up: *Download NASA's "Spot the Station" app and sign up for alerts with exact viewing times and directions. While you're at it you can track other satellites gliding across the Lowcountry sky.*



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UFOs in Dixie skies

THE SOUTH'S MOST CURIOUS CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

STORY BY LANCE HANLIN

When people think UFOs, their minds usually drift to desert heat and tumbleweeds. Roswell grabs the headlines. Nevada has the dusty roadside museums. But down South, the stories take root in darker soil. Trade cactus for cypress and sand for kudzu, and you'll find strange lights weaving through the moss and whispers that never quite die out. Some encounters left behind weathered markers. Others left entire towns buzzing. Whether it was swamp gas, sleepless imagination or something unearthly, the South has its share of mysteries written across the night sky.





©JASON GLEAVES

VISITORS ON THE RIVER An artistic rendering of the night Parker and Hickson say they were taken aboard a craft from beyond.

The Pascagoula incident

October 1973. Two shipyard workers headed out for a night of fishing on the Pascagoula River in Mississippi. They came back with a story that would shake the town and, later, the nation. Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker claimed they were lifted aboard a glowing craft by three gray, claw-handed beings. After a round of tests and prodding, they were set back on the bank as if nothing had happened. They ran straight to the sheriff's office, still trembling. Investigators called it stress. Others called it imagination. But the story has held water for 50 years, and there's now a historical marker by the river to prove the legend never really left.



While fishing

Pas men 'forced' aboard UFO here



RELATED READING

"Pascagoula: The Closest Encounter" by Calvin Parker
"UFO Contact at Pascagoula" by Charles Hickson and William Mendez

ON SCREEN

"Alien Contact: The Pascagoula UFO Encounter" (Plex, Tubi, YouTube)
"Files of the Unexplained: Pascagoula Alien Abduction (Netflix)
"Pascagoula 73" (The Roku Channel)

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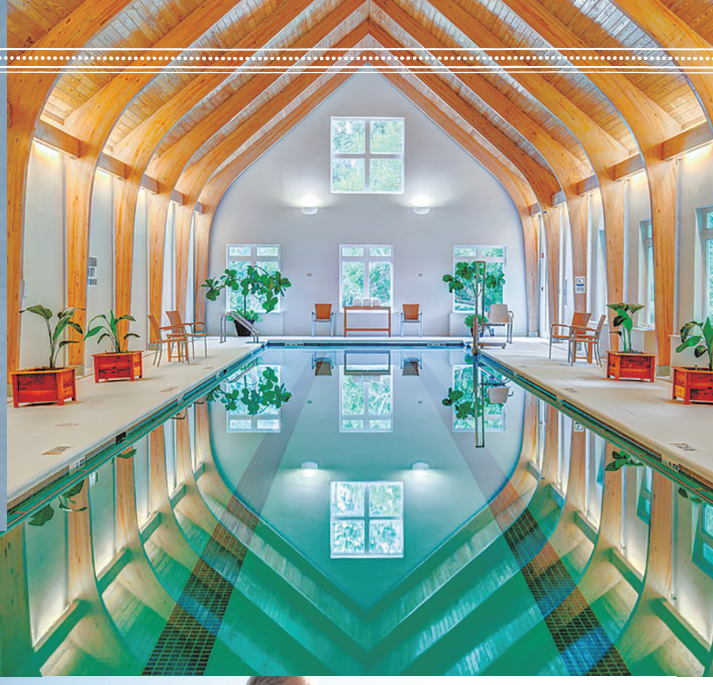





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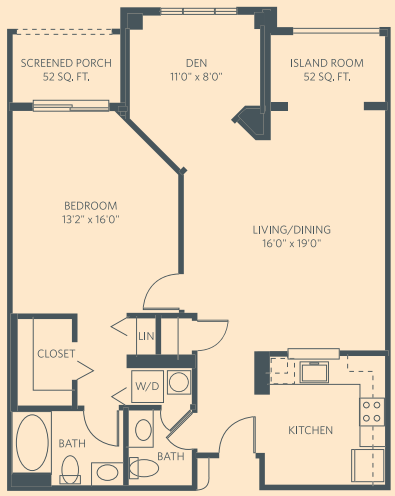

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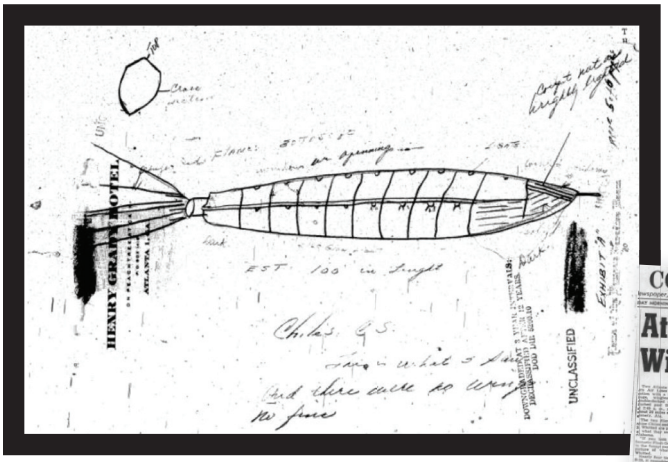


©THE PROJECT BLUE BOOK ARCHIVE / U.S. AIR FORCE

CIGAR IN THE SKY Clarence Chiles sketched what words couldn't capture: the blazing, windowless craft that streaked through the Alabama night.

The Chiles-Whitted incident

July 1948 brought a sight pilots still debate. Clarence Chiles and John Whitted, both veterans of the skies, were flying a DC-3 near Montgomery, Alabama, when a fiery, cigar-shaped object tore past their cockpit window. No wings. No windows. Just light and heat. The Air Force called it a meteor, but the men swore it was something else, a craft unlike anything built on Earth. Their account still appears in nearly every serious history of UFO sightings.

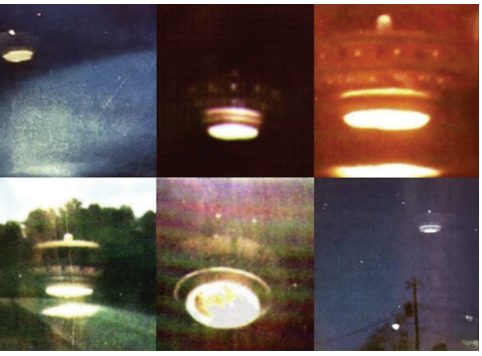
FRONT-PAGE MYSTERY The Atlanta Constitution splashed the Chiles-Whitted sighting across its front page the next morning.


CONSTITUTION
CITY Edition
Atlanta Pilots Report Wingless Sky Monster
WCON Brings FM Treat To Listeners
Urge To Kill Spurs Shooting Of Georgian
PILOTS' DRAWINGS OF MYSTERY CRAFT

©THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

RELATED READING
"The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects" by Edward J. Ruppelt
"The UFO Experience" by J. Allen Hynek

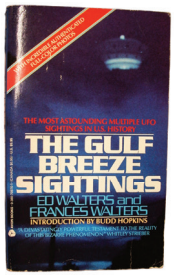
ON SCREEN
"Project Blue Book: Declassified – The True Story of the Chiles-Whitted Incident" (YouTube)



HOAX OR HISTORY? In the late 1980s, Gulf Breeze turned into ground zero for UFO fever after Ed Walters' now-famous photos of glowing discs spread worldwide.

The Gulf Breeze UFO flap

Late 1980s, Gulf Breeze, Florida. A local contractor, Ed Walters, began sharing photos of disc-shaped craft hovering over his neighborhood. For months the small beach town was swarmed with UFO hunters, TV crews and true believers. Then someone found a model in Walters' attic made from two Styrofoam plates and drafting paper. Skeptics called it a hoax, but plenty of locals swore they had seen the lights themselves. Real or not, Gulf Breeze became the South's unofficial UFO capital for a time, glowing brighter than any porch light along the panhandle.



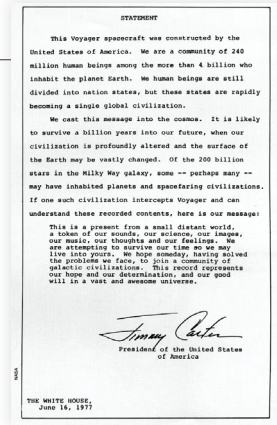
RELATED READING
"The Gulf Breeze Sightings" by Ed and Frances Walters
"UFOs Are Real: Here's the Proof" by Ed and Frances Walters
"Aliens in America" by William J. Birnes

ON SCREEN
"UFO Hunters" (Apple TV)
"UFO Cover-Up?: Live!" (YouTube)


ENCOUNTERS WITH UFOs
Gulf Breeze UFOs: Science or fiction?
Observers: Seeing is believing

LIGHTS OVER THE GULF The Pensacola News Journal's March 11, 1990, front page captured the height of the Gulf Breeze craze.

©PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL


STATEMENT

This Voyager spacecraft was constructed by the United States of America. We are a community of 240 million human beings among the more than 4 billion who inhabit the planet Earth. We human beings are still divided into nation states, but these states are rapidly becoming a single global civilization.

We cast this message into the cosmos. It is likely to survive a billion years into our future, when our civilization is profoundly altered and the surface of the Earth may be vastly changed. Of the 200 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy, some -- perhaps many -- may have inhabited planets and spacefaring civilizations. If one such civilization intercepts Voyager and can understand these recorded contents, here is our message:

This is a present from a small distant world, a token of our sounds, our science, our images, our music, our thoughts and our feelings. We are attempting to survive our time so we may live into yours. We hope someday, having solved the problems we face, to join a community of galactic civilizations. This record represents our hope and our determination, and our good will in a vast and awesome universe.

Jimmy Carter
President of the United States of America

THE WHITE HOUSE,
June 16, 1977

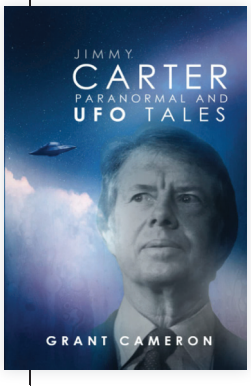
A MESSAGE TO THE STARS In 1977 President Carter sent a three-paragraph message aboard the Voyager Golden Records, a hopeful note to any civilization that might one day find it, blending humility with humanity's enduring wish for peace.



EYES ON THE HEAVENS Years before his presidency, President Carter witnessed an unexplained light over Leary, Georgia. The moment sparked a lifelong fascination with what lies beyond, fitting for a leader who would later champion science and space exploration.

The Jimmy Carter sighting

Before the White House, Jimmy Carter was just another Georgian staring up at the night sky. In 1969, in the small town of Leary, he spotted a bright light as intense as the moon hovering silently, shifting from white to blue to red before drifting away. Intrigued, he filed a formal report with the International UFO Bureau, describing every detail. Later he laughed about it, saying he didn't believe in little green men but stood by what he saw. The sighting followed him into the national conversation, making Carter part of both political and extraterrestrial history.



RELATED READING
"Jimmy Carter: Paranormal and UFO Tales" by Grant Cameron
"The Presidents and UFOs: A Secret History from FDR to Obama" by Larry Holcombe
"UFOs and the National Security State" by Richard M. Dolan

ON SCREEN
"Ancient Aliens: Aliens and the Presidents" (History)
"Unsolved Mysteries: Something in the Sky" (Netflix)

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Lowcountry horoscope

The tides shift, the stars whisper, and the season carries change for every sign

WISDOM FROM MISS CELESTINE

Pull up a chair, Sugar, and listen close to what the stars are whispering. November marks a turning point in the Lowcountry, when oyster roasts light up the nights, sweaters slip out of hiding, and the marsh settles into its softer autumn glow. The skies remind us this is a season of change, not just for the tides but for each of us. ***Take a deep breath, keep your eyes wide, and let Miss Celestine reveal what this month and the months ahead may hold for your sign.***



ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

You thrive on momentum, but November calls for measured steps. Work projects could feel more complex than usual, requiring patience rather than speed. Use this season to practice restraint and build stronger partnerships. Over the next few months collaboration will bring better results than charging ahead alone.



TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Your craving for comfort grows stronger this month, and the season provides plenty of chances to indulge. Host friends for oyster stew, or enjoy a slower evening on the porch. The coming months highlight financial opportunities. If you budget wisely now, you'll enjoy a more relaxed holiday season and start the new year from a place of strength.



GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Your social calendar is filling quickly, and November offers plenty of invitations and chances to mingle. Just be careful not to scatter your energy too thin. Say yes to what truly excites you. The months ahead bring growth through learning. A class, workshop or travel experience could spark something big.



CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Home is where your energy is best spent this season. November pushes you to create spaces that feel secure and welcoming. This could be as simple as a garden refresh or a family gathering. Over the next few months, you may find yourself rethinking your role within your household. Leadership will come naturally if you lean into your nurturing side.



LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Spotlight is never far from you, and November places you right in the middle of celebrations. You will shine at tailgates, oyster roasts and community events. Keep generosity at the center because it will open doors in the months ahead. A new leadership opportunity may come your way soon, one that requires both charm and substance.



VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

This is a month to organize and plan. Your practical side will make holiday prep feel manageable while others are stressed. November also highlights a need to balance work and play. Over the next few months, your attention to detail could lead to a professional breakthrough, but only if you allow yourself time to rest and recharge along the way.



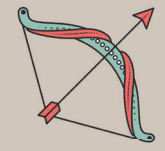
LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

November tests your balance as responsibilities mount. Work, family and holiday prep all compete for your attention. The challenge is learning to say no without guilt. Over the coming months, focusing on personal health and self-care will restore your equilibrium and prepare you for new opportunities in the spring.



SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This is your season, and your energy is magnetic. People will be drawn to you without effort, making November an excellent time for meaningful conversations and mending old rifts. The months ahead bring deeper transformation. A secret or truth may surface, and while it could feel disruptive at first, it will ultimately clear the way for stronger bonds.



SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Adventure calls louder than ever, and November offers chances to explore both near and far. A weekend trip or new hobby could ignite your spirit. Over the next few months, your outlook broadens. Educational or travel opportunities could reshape your goals in powerful ways. Keep your schedule flexible to take advantage of them.



CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your focus sharpens on long-term goals. November is the right time to set budgets, revisit investments and map out career milestones. The months ahead reward your discipline, but they also ask you to pause and enjoy life in the moment. Relationships will deepen if you let your guard down during the holiday season.



AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Community is your guiding light this month. Volunteer at a local event, join a group effort, or simply lend a hand to a neighbor. Over the next few months your network expands in unexpected ways. These connections may introduce new projects or opportunities that feel aligned with your larger vision.



PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Your intuition runs high this month. Pay attention to quiet moments by the water or under the stars, because they bring clarity. November is a good time to begin a creative project that has been floating in the back of your mind. In the months ahead your imagination will serve as a powerful tool for both healing and progress.



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— Cal B. (Patient)

"I DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT MY FEET ANYMORE. I JUST ENJOY LIFE."

— Jim C. (Patient)

Planets and possibility

EXPLORING THE BEAUTY OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM THROUGH FASHION

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA STAFF + STYLED BY BAILEY GILLIAM

The stars have spoken, and this season's style forecast is truly out of this world. Inspired by the planets that light up our night sky, we're taking you on a fashion journey through the solar system, from Mercury's metallic shimmer to Neptune's deep, dreamy blues. Each look translates cosmic color and texture into something beautifully wearable, capturing the wonder of the heavens in down-to-earth style. ***Like the Lowcountry sky on a crisp November night, these outfits glow with a little magic.***

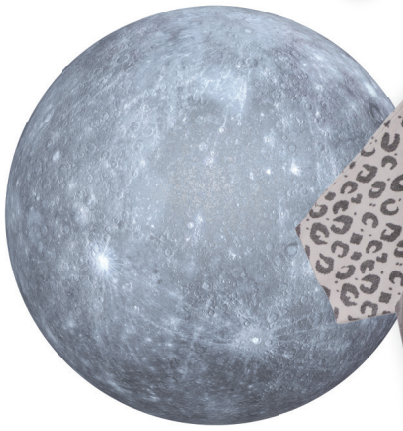




THE SUN

*Bold, radiant and full of confidence, this look from **Palmettoes** brings solar energy to your wardrobe. A rusty red-orange jacket pairs with bright yellow suede loafers that feel like sunshine for your feet. Khakis and a textured belt keep things grounded in earthy tones.*

***Main character energy:** Every second the sun releases more energy than humanity has used in all of recorded history.*





MERCURY

*Fast and fearless, this look from **Currents** captures Mercury's metallic edge. Gray denim with rhinestone accents reflects the planet's cratered surface, while a reversible sweater with chevron on one side and cheetah print on the other mirrors its extremes. Silver sneakers and a circular pendant add shine and movement.*

***Speed queen:** A single day on Mercury lasts nearly 59 Earth days.*



VENUS

*Smooth and polished, this Venus-inspired look from **Southern Tide** captures the planet's dreamy glow. Gray slacks and a blue-gray belt ground the look, while a tan button-down and deeper tan sweater echo the honeyed tones of Venus' cloud-covered skies.*

***Glow goddess:** Venus spins in the opposite direction of most planets, so the sun rises in the west and sets in the east.*



EARTH

*Grounded in texture and tone, this look from **John Bayley Clothier** celebrates the colors of home. Deep navy denim mirrors the ocean, a dark green polo recalls forests, and a textured blue half-zip evokes the play of clouds over land and sea. Brown suede shoes complete the look with grounded accent. Like Earth itself, it's balanced, rich and full of life.*

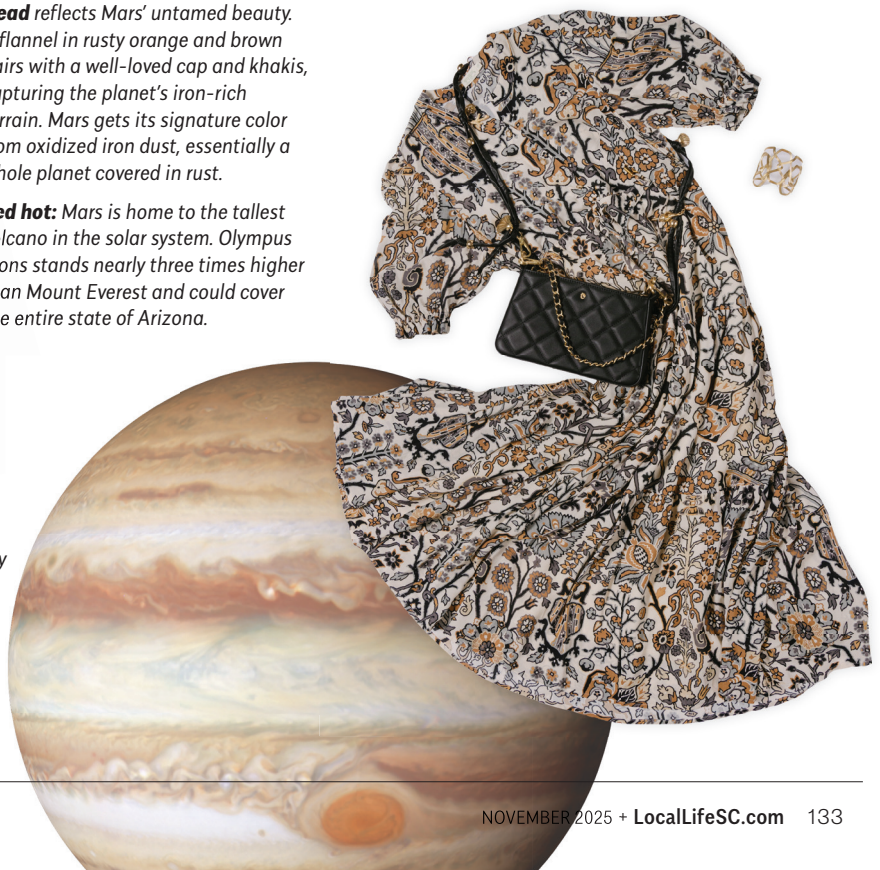
***Home sweet home:** Earth is the only known planet where fire and water coexist naturally. It's also the only place where you can watch the sunrise and moonrise from the same beach.*



MARS

*This rugged look from **Outside Hilton Head** reflects Mars' untamed beauty. A flannel in rusty orange and brown pairs with a well-loved cap and khakis, capturing the planet's iron-rich terrain. Mars gets its signature color from oxidized iron dust, essentially a whole planet covered in rust.*

***Red hot:** Mars is home to the tallest volcano in the solar system. Olympus Mons stands nearly three times higher than Mount Everest and could cover the entire state of Arizona.*



JUPITER

*Vivid and full of movement, this Jupiter-inspired look from **Spartina 449** swirls with bold energy. A long dress in cream, tan, black and stormy blue-gray captures the planet's dramatic cloud bands. Gold jewelry adds warmth, while a sleek black leather bag rounds it out. Jupiter's complex colors come from swirling gases and ancient storms that never stop moving.*

***Big mood:** Jupiter's Great Red Spot is a storm that has been raging for at least 350 years and is big enough to fit three Earths inside.*



SATURN

*This look from **Evelyn & Arthur** channels Saturn's colors with cream pants and a matching tank layered beneath a soft gray sweater. A gold scarf adds a subtle shimmer, while a bold necklace of concentric rings pays homage to the planet's signature feature. Saturn's soft palette of creams, grays and golden hues mirrors the way sunlight filters through its icy layers of clouds.*

***Ring leader:** Saturn's rings stretch out more than 170,000 miles, while remaining only about 30 feet thick.*

URANUS

*Refined and original, this Uranus look from **The Back Door** captures the planet's serene blue-green glow. A navy button-down dress patterned with circular prints pairs beautifully with a soft blue-green sweater and matching purse. The palette is calm, confident and unmistakably cool.*

***Trendsetter tilt:** Uranus spins on its side, likely the result of a massive collision long ago, which gives it seasons that last more than 20 years each.*



NEPTUNE

*Mysterious and cool, this Neptune look from **Maggie & Me** layers ocean-inspired blues. Shimmery denim pairs with a soft sky-blue top and navy sneakers for a look that's calm yet confident. A long, puffy vest in deep blue feels like wrapping yourself in the night sky before a storm.*

***Deep blue dream:** Winds on Neptune can reach 1,200 mph, faster than the speed of sound on Earth.*

PLUTO

*Small but plucky, this Pluto-inspired look from **Jean-Pierre Kliffa** mixes soft neutrals and cozy textures. Dark khaki leggings and a cream half-zip layer under a light jacket with gold accents. A brown scarf and tan bucket bag add warmth, creating a look that's quietly beautiful.*

***Small but mighty:** Pluto has a giant heart-shaped glacier stretching across its surface, discovered by NASA's New Horizons spacecraft.*

Star power, Lowcountry flair

This month's handpicked pieces bring the cosmos to your closet. From lunar pendants to galaxy-inspired accessories, these finds let you wear a little wonder every day.



1. Celestial crown

Brims on the Bluff's signature teal Osprey hat gets a cosmic twist with hand-stitched gemstones that shimmer like distant stars. A handmade crystal hatband adds celestial sparkle, a perfect mix of ruggedness and otherworldly flair.

2. Lunar elegance

Forsythe Jewelers' 18K yellow gold crescent moon pendant by Sethi Couture captures the moon's gentle light in one timeless piece. Subtle, radiant and full of meaning.

3. Down to earth

Currents' globe-inspired beaded crossbody bag captures Earth's oceans and continents in dazzling detail. Finished with a gold chain strap, it's equal parts art piece and conversation starter.

4. Otherworldly wonder

Eyeland Optique's CORAZON sunglasses are pure space couture. Their bold, geometric layers create a futuristic yet wearable look, perfect for stargazers with style.

5. Little dreamer

Island Child's boys' set pairs a cream shirt dotted with tiny moons and stars with soft navy corduroy pants. Sweet, comfortable and full of imagination.

6. Starry touch

Gifted's touchscreen gloves blend practicality with art. The palms work with your phone, while the backs feature Van Gogh's Starry Night. Form meets function under one brilliant sky.

SHOPPING

Moonwalkers: Step into stellar style

This season's short boots are reaching for the stars. Whether you're strolling through town or chasing moonbeams, these locally found pairs mix cosmic cool with everyday comfort. Step up your fall look and let your style orbit new heights.



1. Available at ***Maggie & Me***
2. Available at ***Outside Hilton Head***
3. Available at ***Palmettoes***
4. Available at ***The Back Door***



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HARVEST TIME

Capture the warmth and brightness of a fall harvest with this plant-based room mist in the scent Wild Nectar.

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BAKE OFF

Take your Thanksgiving baking to the next level with Emile Henry bakeware. Crafted in France from Burgundy clay, it offers exceptional heat retention and even baking.

Available at Le Cookery





PICK OF THE PUMPKINS

These fall-themed dipping bowls are perfect for Thanksgiving entertaining and sure to bring warmth and charm to every table.

Available at Hilton Head Oils and Balsamics

BELIEVE IT OR NUT

These acorn salt-and-pepper shakers are the perfect seasonal addition to your Thanksgiving table.

Available at J. Banks Design



A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

Make your Thanksgiving table stand out with this collection of Thanksgiving- and fall-themed décor and kitchenware.



FEELING CRABBY?

Celebrate the beach this year at your Thanksgiving table with this beautiful wooden bowl featuring two metal crab ornaments.

Available at Finch and Co.

GOBBLE 'TIL YOU WOBBLE

Add a touch of holiday charm to your Thanksgiving table with these die-cut placemats featuring a festive turkey design.

Available at Cassandra's Kitchen





A BERRY GOOD TIME

No Thanksgiving table is complete without cranberry sauce. Serve yours in style with this decorative cranberry dish.

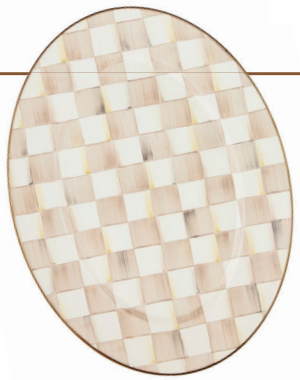
Available at Gifted

SPARKLE AND SHINE

Bring some festive sparkle to your Thanksgiving table with these glittering napkin holders.

Available at Marsh on the May





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5-MINUTE HISTORY



REVOLUTION BY FIRE In this illustration by LOCAL Life designer Charles Grace, the Patriot fire ship Inverness blazes toward the British sloop HMS Nelly during the Battle of Yamacraw Bluff in 1776. Set adrift on the Savannah River, the burning vessel ignited the Nelly and three more British ships, forcing the squadron to retreat.

Gunpowder, rice and fire ships

NAVAL CLASHES IN THE BEAUFORT DISTRICT BROUGHT THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TO LOWCOUNTRY WATERS LONG BEFORE BRITISH TROOPS MARCHED INLAND

STORY BY RICHARD THOMAS

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

In the early years of the Revolutionary War, while battles raged in the northern colonies, British presence in the Lowcountry was minimal, limited to small garrisons in Beaufort and Savannah. It wasn't until the capture of Savannah in 1778 and Charles Town in 1780 that the full land-based fury of the war reached the Beaufort District. Before that, the British Navy was ever-present, and several clashes took place at sea and along the waterways; events more naval than army in nature.

The first incident was the Philippa Affair of July 1775, when 16,000 pounds of gunpowder and other munitions were seized from the armed schooner HMS Philippa. More than 300 militiamen from the Beaufort District and Georgia, supported by three Patriot vessels (including a heavily armed schooner), participated in the action off Bloody Point on Daufuskie Island.

Next came the Battle of Yamacraw Bluff (also known as the Battle of the Rice Boats) in March 1776. At the time, the British Army was besieged in Boston and desperate for provisions, so a Royal Navy fleet sailed south to purchase rice and supplies. In late January three warships and three transports anchored off Tybee Island awaiting

escort into Savannah. Royal Governor James Wright ordered the ships loaded, but the Patriot-controlled Assembly forced him out of the capital. Wright and other Loyalists took refuge aboard the warships.

Delays followed, and more Royal Navy vessels arrived in February to support the mission. On March 2 the British ships formed a column at the seaward end of the channel toward Savannah. Col. Lachlan McIntosh, with 300 Georgia militia and four cannons on Yamacraw Bluff, sent two parley groups to negotiate. The first was refused. The second, led by Capt. Rogers, ended in violence when an insult provoked Rogers to fire, sparking a four-hour gun battle.

Meanwhile, upriver, Patriot merchant ships loaded with rice were attacked by four British warships that had bypassed the fight via the Back River. The Patriots countered with force: 600 Georgia militia, more than 100 Beaufort District men and 400 additional troops commanded by Gen. Stephen Bull of Beaufort. They turned the Patriot ship Inverness into a fire ship, setting it ablaze and cutting it loose. Inverness drifted into the HMS Nelly, and the flames spread to three more British vessels, forcing the squadron to retreat.

Twelve Patriot rice boats attempted to escape down the main Savannah River channel but were intercepted by British ships at the river's mouth. Their rice cargoes were seized and sent north to feed British troops in Boston. Casualties were light, but the scale of the Patriot mobilization marked the largest military effort yet involving South Carolina militia.

In the months that followed, encounters between British vessels and Patriot privateers became frequent in the waters off Beaufort, Hilton Head and Daufuskie. Having only a few ships in its Navy, South Carolina relied on privateers. Among the most notable was Capt. Jack Stoney, who had recently settled on Hilton Head along Broad Creek. With his armed merchant schooner, Saucy Jack, Stoney captured or plundered numerous British merchant ships in Port Royal Sound and at the mouth of the Savannah River.

These clashes foreshadowed the growing intensity of naval action along the Carolina coast, culminating in the large British fleet sent to capture Charles Town in the summer of 1776. That campaign will be the focus of December's issue. *LL*

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Heavenly visions

CAPTURING THE NIGHT SKY

Bill Gwynne (Bill the Sky Guy)

Eta Carina Nebula

I was in a remote part of Africa in the Namib Desert when I photographed the Eta Carina Nebula, one of the brightest nebulae in the Milky Way. There are scientists who have spent their entire careers studying the goings-on in this Southern Hemisphere showpiece. The image you see is the result of more than 100 four-minute exposures that I shot over five nights. When you zoom in, you can see a lot of interesting things: the Keyhole Nebula (a dark area, made of dust and gas), glowing clouds of hydrogen from the radiation emitted from its embedded bright stars, an open star cluster and, in the center of it all, a star that is ready to bust into a supernova explosion.

STORY BY CAROLYN MALES

The starriest skies I'd ever seen were far from home. The first time was at an observatory12,500 feet above sea level at Lake Titicaca in Bolivia when the roof slowly slid open, revealing a vast panorama of stars shimmering in the darkest of skies: planets, nebulae, galaxies, the Southern Cross. The Milky Way deemed Mayu, a celestial river or sacred path between worlds by ancient Andeans. This cosmic tapestry was more expansive than I'd ever imagined. Then years later, while camping in the Sahara, once again I stood awe-struck as I took in the cosmos from an African vantage point, perhaps seeing it just as our ancestors had millennia ago before lights and urban living dimmed the stars. Both times the best images I left with were memories, not photos.

Capturing a crisp, beautiful night shot, as these five photographers have done, calls for technical skill combined with a good eye for composition. The long exposures needed require patience and a willingness to wait multiple seconds or minutes until the shutter finally clicks. That, in turn, means carting a tripod to stabilize the camera, preventing the blur that one would get from hand holding it. And, of course, traveling away from "civilization" to seek dark places where ambient light does not wash out the heavens offers the most spectacular views.

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Ruth McCully

Molokai's Star-filled Sky

I shot this image on a November night at 4 a.m. on the island of Molokai, the least visited island in the state of Hawaii. While everyone else was asleep, I stood outside in the cool night air, listening to the occasional bird call. The skies were clear and cloudless, with no moon, which allowed for the stars to shine clearly and brightly. Below, the stars were reflected in the water of the pool. I loved how this tree was silhouetted against the sky with the clouds to the right of the tree just above the horizon and the glow of the lights on the horizon that enhanced the tree's silhouette. As I witnessed the mystery of the heavens and majesty of the universe, I was overcome with a sense of peace as well as exhilaration. I was so taken by the moment that I stayed there for three more hours to watch the birth of a new day. I remember saying out loud, "thank you!" It is a night that I will always remember.

Jamie Anderson

Driftwood Beach at Night

Over the years I took many photos of this tree, which stood on Jekyll Island's Driftwood Beach. At one time this was a picnic area with tables under the oak trees. Then, as the sea eroded the beach and infiltrated the forest, the trees died out. But the salt in the water preserved their trunks so they can stand like this for many years. Lighting up the sky above its branches are the inner bands of our galaxy, the Milky Way. The brightest spot is its inner core. Our entire solar system, with the sun in one of the outer bands, is no bigger than one of those bright stars. Standing here on this beach at night is a serene experience when you realize how relatively small we are. At times, when I was out here alone, it could be a little spooky. Last September, after withstanding some major hurricanes over the years, Hurricane Helene finally toppled this tree.



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Kendra Natter

Celestial Guardian

I was standing on the quiet shores of Tybee Island, Georgia, at 9:30 p.m. in late September when I shot this photograph. After the last stragglers had departed, I had wandered the deserted beach alone, searching for an ideal place to set up my tripod and camera. Suddenly I came upon a pair of empty lifeguard chairs, which towered over me — a perfect spot! As the night deepened, a void of darkness descended. Lulled by the rhythmic sounds of gentle waves lapping upon the shore, I relished the cool ocean breeze, which kept me alert. Poised and expectant, I scanned the crystal-clear night sky. Before long, the Milky Way appeared — as if out of the ether — perfectly aligned behind the lifeguard stand. An endless array of stars scattered across the Georgia sky, coupled with a hint of the sun's last light, fading slowly along the horizon. This celestial marvel took my breath away. Spellbound, I pondered what other unseen mysteries lie hidden in the vast expanse of space, acting as a guardian who protects us from harm.





Jeff Keefer

Midnight Moon Rising

I was alone on the beach near Sea Pines Beach Club around midnight, when I was struck by the long tails in the clouds. The bright moon, which was almost full, lit them up against the purplish sky, creating an interesting mix of colors and contrasts. For this photograph, I was focused on getting a good image of the clouds and needed a long exposure to show those patterns. The lights on the horizon to the right are boats headed to the Savannah Harbor. I am in awe of Mother Nature, and I often say a little prayer "please let me capture this the way you have it in the sky" as I press the shutter.



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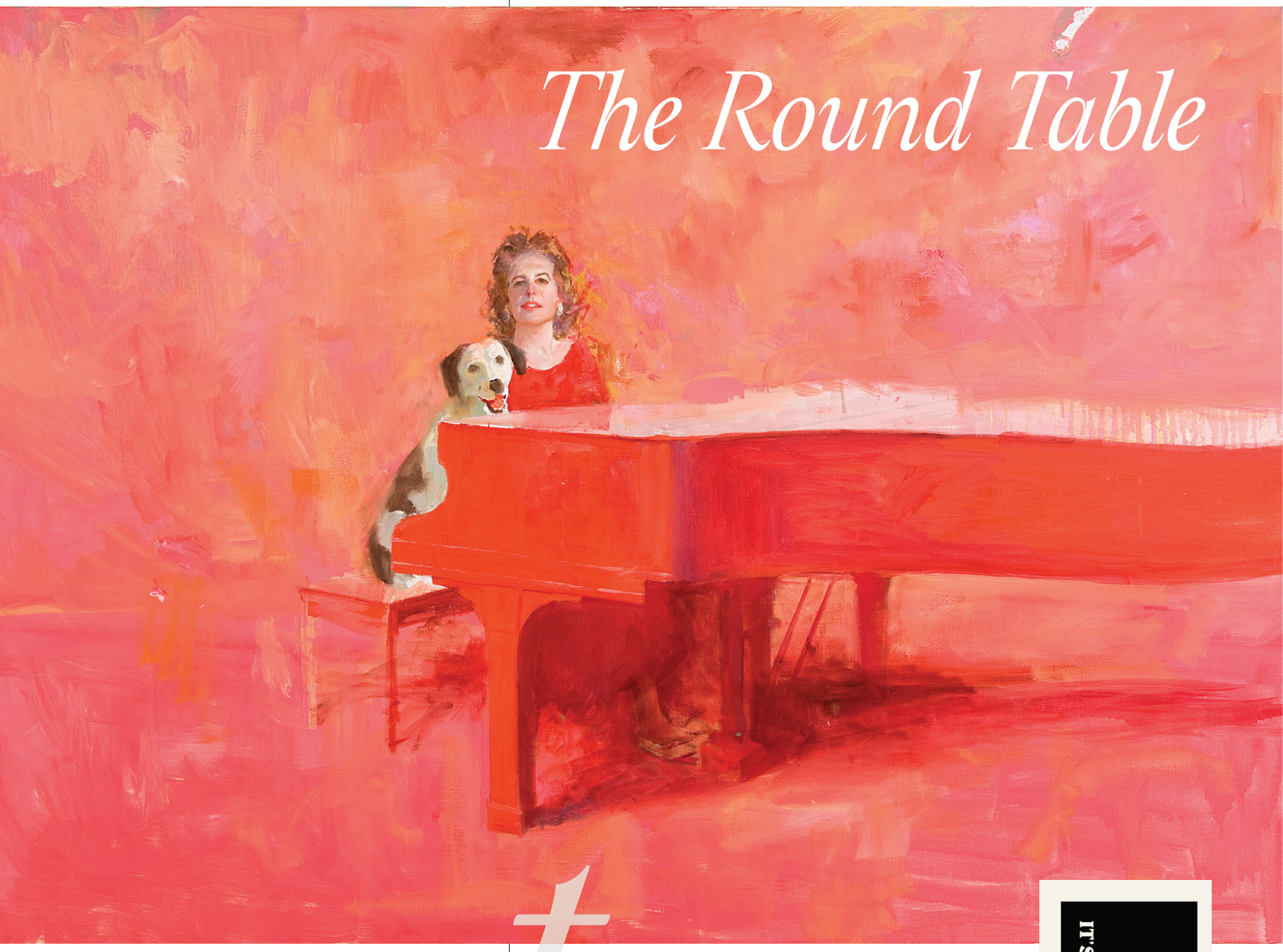
The Round Table



Portrait of Louanne LaRoche and Escher · Coby Whitmore

STORY BY CAROLYN MALES

The Coastal Discovery Museum's new exhibition features 15 artists from the legendary Round Table that met at The Red Piano Gallery from 1970 to 1995. Come with us as we join those pioneer artists who formed the basis for today's dynamic visual arts community on Hilton Head and beyond.



Thursdays, 10 a.m.

Oh, to have been a fly on the wall. Or maybe, in this case, the lizard on the glass slider in "the room where it was happening." In those early days of Sea Pines, before the Harbour Town lighthouse was built and when wild pigs still roamed Hilton Head's forests, Walter Greer came from Greenville to Sea Pines to paint Lowcountry landscapes of marshes and beaches. As he put brush to canvas, he had visions of an artists' colony, a place where artists could meet up to talk, share resources and collaborate.

By the 1970s, after Allen and Mary Palmer opened their Red Piano Gallery on Cordillo Parkway, that dream had become a reality, as artists from New York and beyond came to settle on the island. Noting all the artists stopping by each day, Mary, along with Lynne Palmer, her gallery director, came up with an idea. Why not set aside a time and place for a group of artists to hang out together?

Manhattan had had its Algonquin Round Table in the 1920s and '30s, where the literati exchanged witticisms, gossip and news. Now Hilton Head would have its own Round Table, where a select group of artists (you had to be invited to join) could gather around the table in the gallery's kitchen and exchange ideas, talk about what they were working on and catch up on the latest art news. That first wave included famed illustrators Coby Whitmore, Joe Bowler, Joe DeMers and Ralph Ballantine, with their portfolios of magazine covers, product ads and other commercial work, who were now pursuing fine art careers.

They would be joined by gallery owner-illustrator-musician Allen Palmer and the man who sparked this arts community, Walter Greer. Along the way a galaxy of talented artists would pull up chairs. Among them: illustrator George Plante, Aldwyth (who would later become renowned for her bricolage and epically scaled mixed-media pieces), painters Elizabeth Grant, Ray Ellis, Tua Hayes, Marge Parker, Danielle DeMers, Katy Hodgman (also, arts writer for *The Island Packet*) and Louanne LaRoche. Over the years the composition of the Round Table would change, but it would remain a magnet for the arts community.







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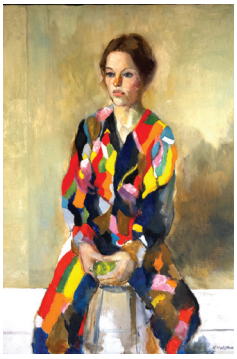
Joe Bowler



Marge Parker



Katy Hodgman



Louanne LaRoche

Somewhere in the 1980s, the lizard showed up. He would splay himself on the glass slider and cast his reptilian eye on the lively camaraderie below. Wreathed in a haze of smoke (cigarettes were popular in those days), over coffee served in mugs each artist had adorned, this informal "club" would assemble each Thursday morning at 10. Joe Bowler would launch the informal discussion, reading aloud art critic Ted Wolff's latest column in *The Christian Science Monitor*. Then they were off, peppering the conversation with opinions (everyone had them) — all interspersed with good-natured ribbing of one another. Aldwyth, back from treks to New York and Washington, would come armed with brochures from the latest shows, more fodder for consideration. Sometimes she and Joe Bowler, both known to plant themselves on opposite sides of the political spectrum, would verbally spar about current events. Occasionally outsiders would be welcomed in to discuss upcoming events like Evening of the Arts fundraisers and Art League exhibitions. Afterwards the discourse might spill over into lunch at the Ralph Ballentine-designed CQ's or the old Gaslight Restaurant off Palmetto Bay Road.

Escher, The Red Piano Gallery mascot

Painter Louanne LaRoche, who became owner of the Red Piano in 1980, continued the Round Table tradition. But she also brought in a new member, albeit one who'd never wielded a palette knife — Escher, the canine gallery mascot. Named after the mind-bending Dutch graphic artist, Escher made it his mission to escort visitors from the parking lot to the entrance. How to describe Escher? A "Lab-atian," says LaRoche, who'd rescued this amiable Lab-Dalmatian mix from a local shelter.

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See the exhibition

What: It's Thursday! Artists of the Round Table
When: Nov. 12-March 23; Opening reception 5-7 p.m., Nov. 13
Where: Coastal Discovery Coastal Discovery Museum
Details: Works from 15 of The Red Piano Gallery's artists on display. coastaldiscovery.org

Meet the artist

What: Louanne LaRoche Talk
When: 4-5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4
Where: Coastal Discovery Coastal Discovery Museum
Details: A wine reception with artist Louanne LaRoche, The Red Piano Gallery's owner from 1980-95, offering her personal view of the Round Table and the work of the artists on exhibit, followed by a Q & A. Tickets are $10. coastaldiscovery.org



Allen Palmer

Escher instinctively knew when it was Thursday. He'd cock his ear at the sound of a car pulling up, and he'd be out the door, pointing each member to the stairs that led up to the round table. But he saved his most enthusiastic welcome for his favorite, Joe Bowler. LaRoche would have to grab his collar to keep him from tackling the painter and smothering him with wet kisses. After all, Bowler and Escher were the best of pals, especially since Joe kept a bowl of dog treats by his coffee mug. Those biscuits must have looked mighty tempting because Ray Ellis, mistaking them for people snacks, once picked one up and ate it.

Then there was the banishment. Escher's enthusiasm had been too much for a visiting child, so LaRoche had exiled him to a temporary time-out at home. Confinement was clearly too big a cross to bear, especially on a Thursday. He soon executed a nifty escape from his "prison" on Water Oak, bounding through swamps and The Sea Pines Forest Preserve to get back on his post, muddy and wet, at The Red Piano's front door.

Later, another LaRoche rescue, Bubba, a pit bull-Boston terrier, came trotting behind Escher, seeking his own spot by the table.

The Red Piano

Louanne LaRoche is playing the theme from *Romeo and Juliet* on the original Red Piano, the 1898 baby grand that had been the gallery's centerpiece and inspiration for its name. Today the Steinway's vintage sound, courtesy of aged felts and strings, offers echoes of the past. It's a couple of months before the Coastal Discovery show opens, and I'm wandering around LaRoche's house admiring her collections of skeletons and shells, African carvings and ceramics, along with a trove of works from the artists of The Round Table — among them, a Coby Whitmore painting of LaRoche at the red piano with Escher by her side, a George Plante original painting for the poster of the gallery, not to mention the old dial telephone "bejeweled" by Aldwyth with mementos from LaRoche's life — childhood dominoes, scraps of zebra-patterned fabric, Algerian money and a Coca Cola bottle cap spirited away from a camping trip in the Sahara.

Aldwyth



When the Palmers opened the gallery in late 1969, they placed the piano, which they'd had painted red, a color symbolic of their love for "hot jazz," in the main gallery. Here they hosted champagne receptions and jazz nights. Attendees might find famous guest musicians like Marian McPartland tickling the ivories or Martin Mull strumming the guitar. Legend has it that snakes, perhaps drawn by notes from Allen Palmer's clarinet, would slither up the outdoor stone patio, to give a listen. (They didn't seem to offer any opinion on the artwork, however.)

A few years later Libby Ellis, bought the gallery, sans piano, which the Palmers had taken with them, and renamed it The Wallace Gallery. Through name and ownership changes, the Round Table continued to meet. Then in November 1980, when LaRoche became owner, she bought back the piano from the Palmers, reinstalled it and reinstated the iconic gallery name. The banter around the table would fall silent after LaRoche sold the business in 1995.

In later years The Red Piano Gallery changed ownership a few times and finally relocated to Calhoun Street in Bluffton. Today gallerists Ben and Lyn Whiteside have a new red piano gracing their rooms of fine art, but the gallery name, along with its mystique and memories of the old Round Table, remain. *LL*


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—Jacquelyn Markham

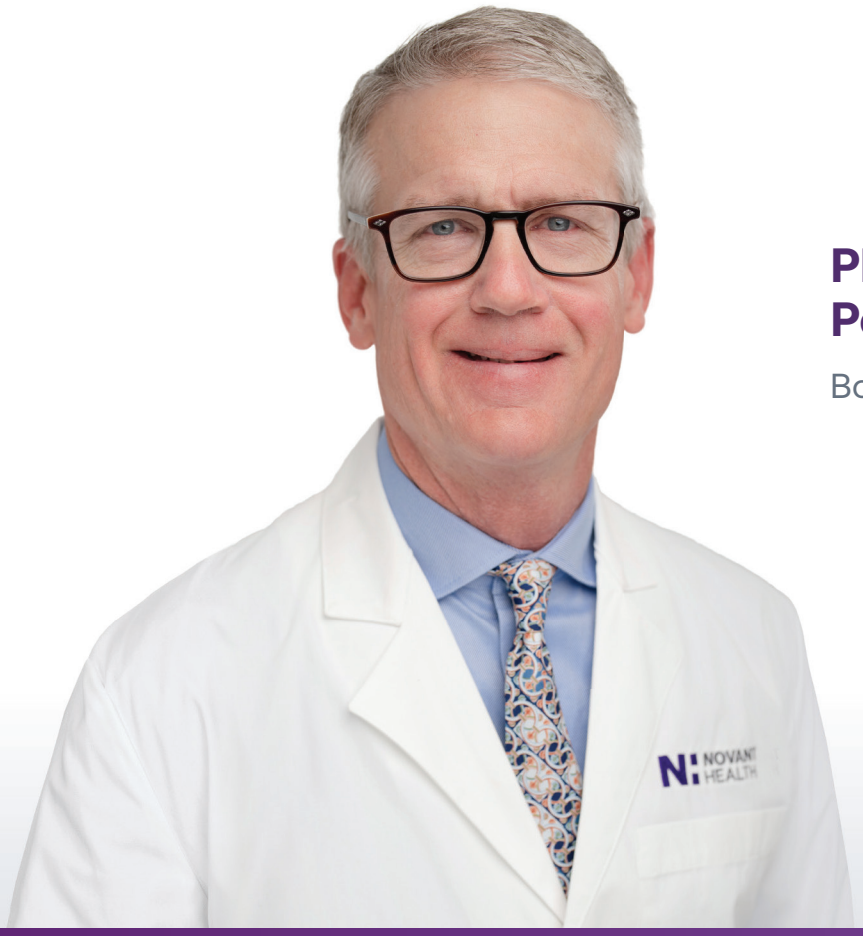
VERSES ON DISPLAY Discover more of Jacquelyn Markham's poetry, along with works by other local voices, at *The Beautiful Game*, a poetry exhibit on view through Nov. 17 at the Island Rec Center on Hilton Head Island.

TERRY BEYLOTTE: REDEMPTION On view through Nov. 7 at the Art League Gallery, Redemption showcases the powerful journey of emerging artist Terry Beylotte. From comic book sketches in childhood to canvases painted in confinement, his work reflects resilience, transformation and hope. Incarcerated at 16, Beylotte discovered painting through a program at Allendale Correctional, later co-founding Art 4 Hope and the Advanced Artists of Allendale. Largely self-taught and influenced by mentors like Art Cornell and the Nagel family, he developed a style that blends expressive color with layered symbolism. "Art became my freedom and my redemption," he says.

> *"I find the moon is an awesome expression of the divine feminine, a symbol of gestation and birth and the cycle of life expressed through the awesome power of the woman."*
> ***— Terry Beylotte, artist***



Shante's Moon by **Terry Beylotte**



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WHAT'S FRESH IN NOVEMBER?

Acorn squash

A SWEET, NUTTY TASTE OF LOWCOUNTRY FALL

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM



With its deep green ridges, golden flesh and nutty shape, acorn squash is a quiet hero of fall. Subtly sweet, smooth and endlessly versatile, this cool-weather crop shines in everything from simple roasts to elegant holiday sides. While often overshadowed by butternut or pumpkin, acorn squash brings its own depth to the table, especially in November, when its comforting flavor and sturdy texture make it a natural fit for Thanksgiving feasts. Whether stuffed, sliced or puréed, it's an ingredient that makes a fall meal feel like home.

SEASON'S EATINGS In the Lowcountry acorn squash is more than a side dish; it's a sign that sweater weather and cozy suppers have finally arrived. Its sweet, nutty flavor brings warmth and comfort to the table, one roasted half at a time.



A mysterious history

Acorn squash may look humble, but it's anything but ordinary. Although squash has been cultivated by indigenous peoples for thousands of years, the specific variety we know as acorn has a slightly mysterious past. Some say it originated with the Arikara tribe of the Dakotas, while others credit Danish settlers who brought seeds to Iowa in the late 1800s. What is certain is that the Iowa Seed Company first introduced it commercially in 1913 and briefly renamed it the Des Moines squash to boost sales. More than a century later, its ridged shell and rich autumn hues make it one of the most recognizable and photogenic members of the squash family.



MICHAEL ANTHONY'S CUCINA ITALIANA

Italian Sausage & Mushroom Stuffed Acorn Squash

Chef Will Overacre serves up a hearty fall favorite that hits all the right notes: savory, sweet and satisfyingly rich. Each roasted squash half is stuffed with Italian sausage, mushrooms, onions, spinach, rosemary and cranberries, then finished with a buttery Parmesan-panko topping for the perfect crunch.

INGREDIENTS

2 acorn squash, halved lengthwise and centers scooped clean
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided
Ground black pepper, to taste
8 ounces mild Italian sausage
1/2 cup yellow or white onion, diced
1 8-ounce package button mushrooms, sliced
1 large handful baby spinach
1/4 cup dried cranberries
1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, chopped
2 tablespoons butter
1/3 cup shredded Parmesan
1/3 cup Panko breadcrumbs

DIRECTIONS [1] Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or tin foil. Place cleaned and seeded acorn squash halves, cut side up, on a baking sheet. Brush with 1 tablespoon of olive oil, and sprinkle 3/4 teaspoon salt and pepper to taste evenly over the four squash. Turn over so that the cut side is down. Place in the oven and roast for 25 minutes. **[2]** Make the filling by heating a large skillet to medium-high heat. Add sausage, and crumble while cooking until brown and cooked through. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to drain. **[3]** Add 2 tablespoons of olive oil to the pan, then add onions. Cook for a few minutes or until softened, then add the mushrooms. Cook for about 7 more minutes or until soft and brown. Add spinach and stir until wilted down. Add cranberries, rosemary, cooked sausage, 3/4 teaspoon salt and black pepper, then stir to combine. Remove from heat and set aside. **[4]** Melt butter in a small bowl, then add Parmesan and panko. Toss to combine. **[5]** When the squash is done roasting, remove the pan from the oven, carefully turn them over, and scoop the filling into the four halves evenly. Top with panko mixture. Place back in the oven to roast for 15-20 minutes or until the topping is golden brown. Serve immediately.







Superfood in disguise

Acorn squash isn't just delicious, it's also loaded with nutrients that make it a stealth superfood. Rich in vitamins A and C, it supports immune function and skin health, while its high fiber content aids digestion and keeps you satisfied. You'll also find potassium for healthy blood pressure and magnesium for muscle and nerve function. With a low calorie count and high nutritional value, acorn squash proves that comfort food can be good for you too.



Grow your own

In the Lowcountry, timing is everything. Plant acorn squash once the frost risk has passed, typically late March through early May for a spring crop or early August for fall. It prefers well-drained soil with a pH between 6.2 and 6.5. Sow two or three seeds per hill about an inch deep, spacing hills 3- to 5-feet apart and rows 6- to 8-feet apart. Keep the soil evenly moist, and use drip irrigation to avoid wetting the leaves. Fertilize before planting and again when blooms appear. Mulch with pine straw or black plastic to retain moisture and control weeds. Harvest when the skin turns dull and hard, leaving a bit of stem attached for best storage.

Pick of the patch

When shopping, pick squash that feels heavy for its size, ideally between one and three pounds. The skin should be smooth and matte, not shiny unless waxed, and free of soft spots. A dark green rind with a few orange patches signals ripeness. Too much orange means it's overripe, which can make the flesh dry and stringy.

From counter to cutting board

Acorn squash keeps best in a cool, dark spot around 50 to 55 degrees and can last for a month. Refrigerate only cut or cooked squash, wrapped tightly and eaten within four days. Leaving a bit of stem helps reduce moisture loss. To prep, start with a sturdy knife. Slice from the stem to the point, not straight across the middle. For easier cutting, pierce the skin with a fork, and microwave the squash for two minutes before slicing. Once halved, shave a small piece off the bottom of each half so it sits flat on a baking tray, then scoop out the seeds and stringy pulp. Don't toss those seeds; roast them for a crunchy snack. Even the blossoms are edible if you're lucky enough to find them.

So many ways to squash it

Mildly sweet, nutty and just earthy enough, acorn squash pairs beautifully with brown butter, maple syrup, sage or warming spices. Chef Benjamin Harris of The Sea Pines Resort likes it with fennel and coriander, flavors that bring out its subtle sweetness. Leslie Stewart of Palmetto Bay Sunrise Café prefers brown sugar, honey and a ladleful of fall soup for cozy comfort. Roast it, bake it, steam it or microwave it. This squash can handle it all. Baking halved squash at 375 degrees for about an hour brings out the best texture and flavor. For caramelized edges, turn up the heat for the last 15 minutes. Microwaving halves for 13 minutes is a solid shortcut that preserves taste and texture. Boiling, on the other hand, tends to wash away flavor, so it's best avoided.

A tale of two squash

The difference between summer and winter squash comes down to timing. Summer squash, like zucchini, is harvested young, with tender skin and a short shelf life. Winter squash, such as acorn, butternut and spaghetti, ripens longer on the vine, developing a hard rind and sweet, dense flesh that stores well. Acorn squash bridges the gap between the two. It's botanically a summer squash but behaves like a winter one in the kitchen. LL

CERTIFIED SOUTH CAROLINA

Roasted Squash with Butter and Sesame

This simple recipe from Crescent Farm in Clinton, South Carolina, is proof that acorn squash doesn't need much to shine. A touch of spiced butter, a sprinkle of sesame seeds and a little salt transform it into a dish that tastes like November.

INGREDIENTS

8 tablespoons unsalted butter
4 teaspoons ground cinnamon, garam masala or other wintery spices
2 1.5-pound acorn squashes (halved, seeds removed and cut into 12 half-moons)
2 teaspoons kosher salt
2 teaspoons sesame seeds

DIRECTIONS [1] Heat oven to 425 degrees. While heating, heat the butter in a small skillet over medium heat and thoroughly whisk in the cinnamon. Remove from heat. **[2]** Place the squash, flesh side up, on a roasting pan. Baste them with half of the butter mixture, and season with 1 teaspoon of the salt. **[3]** Bake for 35 minutes, or until the squash begins to brown at the upper corners. **[4]** Heat the remaining spiced butter, baste each squash slice, and then sprinkle generously with toasted sesame seeds and the remaining 1 teaspoon of salt.



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Local flavor: Thanksgiving edition

A guide to cooking smarter, eating happier and savoring every bite

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM

Gratitude tastes a little different in every kitchen. For some, it's the crunch of Grandma's green bean casserole. For others, it's the scent of cinnamon and cloves rising from a pie that only graces the table once a year. In this Thanksgiving edition of Local Flavor, we're celebrating the dishes that make the holiday more than just a meal. Local chefs, restaurants and home cooks are sharing their most treasured sides, secret family recipes and creative twists on the classics.

Whether you're team sweet potato or mashed, fresh cranberries or from a can, Stove Top or scratch-made, Thanksgiving is about more than tradition. It's about connection. It's the laughter over second helpings, the stories passed around the table and the comfort of cooking for the people you love. This season, take a moment to savor every bite, every laugh and every memory made in the glow of good company. In the Lowcountry, gratitude isn't just something we feel. It's something we serve.



HILTON HEAD OLIVE OILS & BALSAMICS

Balsamic-roasted turkey thighs

Not every Thanksgiving needs a giant, all-day-roasting, feed-the-neighborhood turkey. Sometimes smaller really is smarter, and just as delicious. These balsamic-roasted turkey thighs from the team at Hilton Head Olive Oils & Balsamics are a flavorful, fuss-free alternative that still feels festive. Made with aged dark balsamic and garlic olive oil, then finished with a surprising cherry balsamic glaze, they're tender, juicy and full of rich, savory depth.

INGREDIENTS

2 turkey thighs (bone in, skin on)
2 tablespoons garlic extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons 25-Year Aged Dark Balsamic
Salt and pepper, to taste
4 tablespoons cherry balsamic sauce

DIRECTIONS [1] Heat oven to 350 degrees. Pat the turkey thighs dry, then place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper for easy clean up. **[2]** Brush with oil, then season with salt and pepper. Set the oven timer for 50 minutes and place the turkey into the oven. **[3]** After baking for 20 minutes, brush the turkey with balsamic and return to the oven. Repeat this step again in 15 minutes. **[4]** With 15 minutes left on the oven timer, top the turkey with cherry balsamic sauce and return to the oven. **[5]** Bake for the remaining 15 minutes, or until the internal temperature reaches 170 degrees.

LOCAL LIFE TEST KITCHEN

Homemade cranberry sauce

Tart, glossy and perfectly sweet, homemade cranberry sauce is the unsung hero of the holiday table. Forget the canned version. This simple recipe comes together in minutes and delivers bright, fresh flavor with a hint of citrus. Whether you spoon it over turkey, swirl it into yogurt or spread it on leftover sandwiches, it's a taste of the season you'll want long after the holidays are over.

Pro tip: *Make it a day ahead. Cranberry sauce only gets better overnight. Try it the next morning on biscuits, pancakes or even a turkey sandwich.*



INGREDIENTS

*12 ounces fresh **cranberries** (about 3 cups)*
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup orange juice
1 teaspoon orange zest
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
Pinch of salt



DIRECTIONS [1] In a medium saucepan, stir together cranberries, sugar, water and orange juice. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, then reduce to medium-low. **[2]** Let it simmer for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the cranberries begin to burst and the sauce thickens. **[3]** Stir in orange zest, cinnamon and a pinch of salt. Taste and adjust sweetness if needed. **[4]** Transfer to a serving bowl, and let cool to room temperature. The sauce will thicken as it cools.



LOCAL LIFE TEST KITCHEN

Giblet gravy

No Thanksgiving feast is complete without a rich, silky gravy to tie everything together. This classic giblet version transforms simple turkey drippings into pure comfort. It starts with that little bag of surprises found inside the bird, simmered to tender perfection and chopped for extra depth and flavor in every spoonful. Spoon it generously over turkey and mashed potatoes, or drizzle it on stuffing.

INGREDIENTS

Giblets (neck, heart, liver and gizzard) from one turkey
4 cups water
1 medium onion, chopped
*1 **celery stalk**, chopped*
1 bay leaf
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 cup butter
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
2 cups turkey drippings (or chicken broth)
1 boiled egg, chopped



DIRECTIONS [1] In a medium saucepan, combine giblets (except the liver), water, onion, celery, bay leaf, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for about 1 hour. Add the liver and cook for another 15 minutes. Remove giblets and chop finely. Strain and reserve the broth. **[2]** In a separate pan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in flour and cook until golden brown, about 3 minutes. **[3]** Gradually whisk in the reserved giblet broth and turkey drippings. Continue whisking until smooth and thickened. **[4]** Stir in the chopped giblets and the chopped boiled egg. Taste and adjust seasoning. **[5]** Pour over roasted turkey and mashed potatoes while warm.

***Pro tip:** For deeper flavor, replace some of the broth with dry white wine, or add a splash of sherry before serving.*

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CHEF'S FAVORITE THINGS

We asked local chefs to share their favorite Thanksgiving side dishes



CACTUS STREET CANTINA
"Being Australian, Thanksgiving was new to me and quickly became my favorite holiday because of the food. Sweet potato casserole is my favorite. It's sweet and savory and topped with marshmallows. Need I say more?"
– Lauren Jordan

SERG RESTAURANT GROUP
"Growing up, my mom made homemade egg noodles and cooked them in chicken or turkey broth. We put these on mashed potatoes. This is strictly a Midwest thing, and the main reason people come to my house for Thanksgiving."
– Chef Nick Unangst





ONE HOT MAMA'S
"I love shoepeg corn pudding. It's so simple but decadent, with the sweet corn, silky custard and buttery, melt-in-your-mouth richness."
– Chef Orchid Paulmeier



POSEIDON COASTAL CUISINE
"Coming from a different culture and finding out you can combine turkey with cranberry sauce blows my mind. That sweet and tangy flavor is stuck in my head forever."
– Chef Rafael Diaz

SKULL CREEK BOATHOUSE
"Coming from different cultures growing up, turkey tinga tostadas were a favorite. It's shredded turkey simmered in a smoky chipotle-tomato sauce, served on crispy tostadas topped with crema, lettuce and avocado. It's a great way to use leftover turkey, too."
– Chef Jesus Lopez





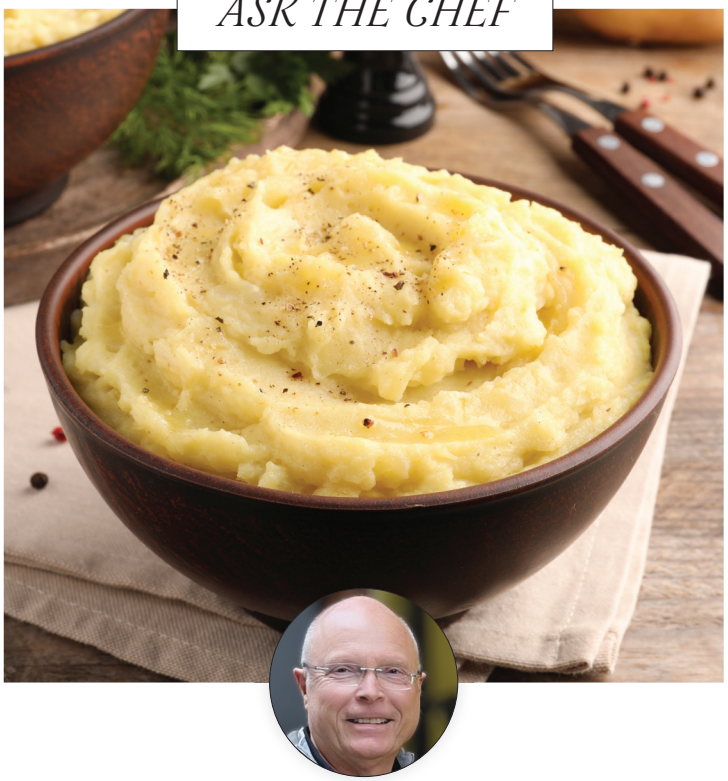
NECTAR FARM KITCHEN HILTON HEAD
"Fresh sauerkraut pierogi; the family would all get together to make them. Everyone had a role: rolling, stuffing or poaching in butter with onions. Delicious, and a great time making them with the whole family together."
– Chef Corey Adams

Question:

Every Thanksgiving, I somehow mess up the mashed potatoes. They're either lumpy, gluey or taste like they lost a fight with a stick of butter. Everyone else makes it look so easy. What's the secret to getting them right?

— Mashed and Confused in Moss Creek

ASK THE CHEF



Answer:

Dear Mashed, You're not alone. As ***Price Beall****, owner of Truffles Café and Chow Daddy's, admits, "I mean, everyone around you seems to know how to cook, and then there's something as simple as mashed potatoes, and even that can go wrong." The trick, he says, is all in the temperature and texture. "If you don't warm the milk before adding it, it totally changes the texture. I couldn't tell you the science behind it, but something happens to the starch. Cold milk makes them kind of ... off."*

Beall also offers a word of caution for anyone wielding a mixer. "If you over-whip them, they turn into paste. You can rice them, mash them, whatever, but it's funny how easy it is to mess up something that seems so basic." His final secret? "Now we use buttermilk, and warming it makes all the difference. It just gives you that extra creamy result."

So keep it simple, treat your spuds with care, and remember: if they don't turn out quite right, that's what gravy is for.



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HOW TO



A healthier helping

ENJOY YOUR THANKSGIVING FAVORITES WITHOUT THE FOOD COMA

Thanksgiving is built around gratitude, gathering and, let's be honest, eating. It's one of the most food-focused days of the year, and while that doesn't have to mean deprivation, it also doesn't have to mean overindulgence.

According to Beaufort Memorial clinical dietitian Abigail Lynch, there are plenty of ways to make your holiday meal just as festive and satisfying without the post-dinner guilt.

"It's OK to eat your favorite food," Lynch says. "Just be mindful while eating and enjoy it. When planning a holiday meal, I recommend picking a few favorites and keeping things simple, balancing protein, complex carbohydrates, healthy fats and plenty of vegetables."

Thanksgiving doesn't have to be a balancing act between feast and regret. A few thoughtful choices can make your meal every bit as memorable; just a little lighter on the plate and easier on the waistline.



The main event

You don't have to give up stuffing or sweet potatoes to eat healthier. A few smart swaps can lower sodium, fat and calories without sacrificing flavor.

Lighten up with yogurt: Replace buttermilk or sour cream with low-fat plain yogurt to cut back on saturated fat.

Go low-sodium: Choose reduced-salt broths, canned vegetables and even turkeys. Some are brined in salty solutions.

Season smart: Fresh herbs like rosemary, thyme and sage add depth, while a squeeze of lemon or lime brightens flavor without extra salt.

Add whole grains: "Try using whole-wheat bread in your stuffing or whole-wheat pasta in a casserole," Lynch suggests. "It adds fiber and lowers the overall calorie count."

Add color: Thanksgiving tables tend to lean brown and beige, so add some brightness. Roasted carrots, Brussels sprouts, cranberry-orange salad or purple cabbage slaw bring vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, not to mention beauty, to the spread.





Don't skip dessert

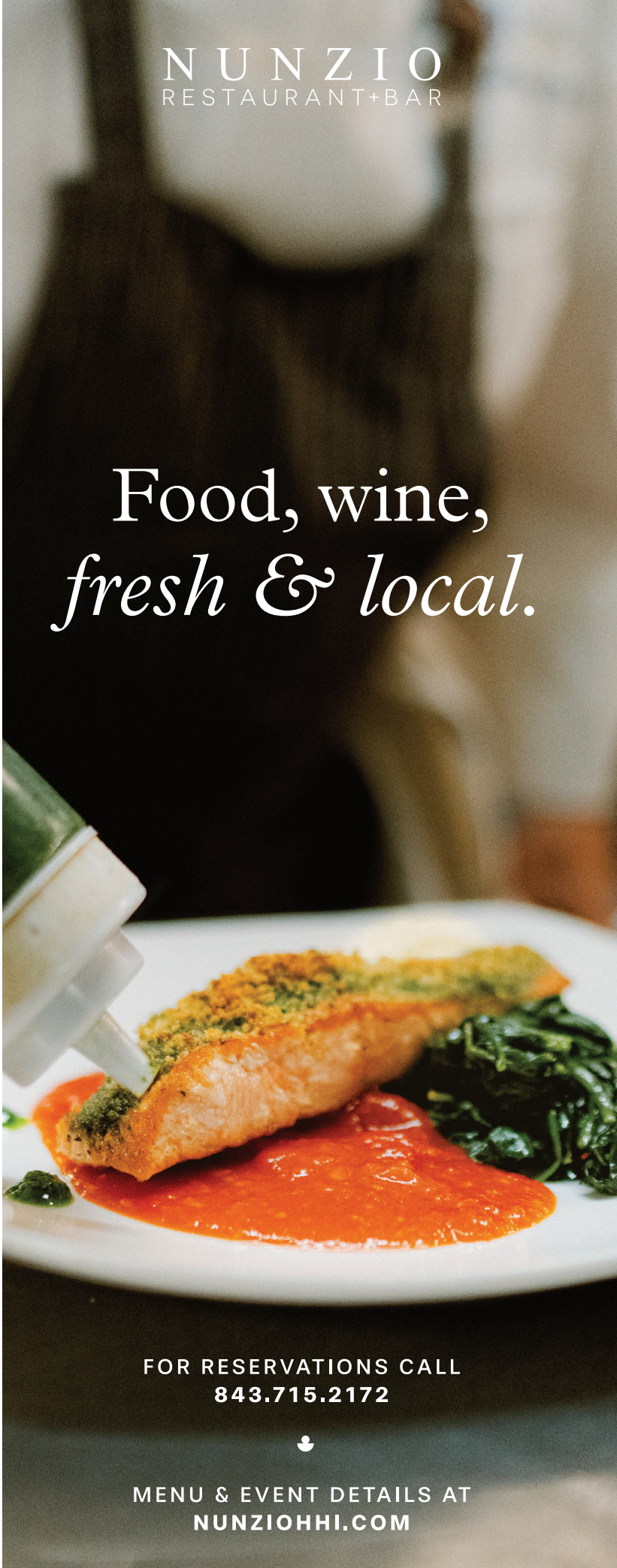
Dessert is part of the fun, so keep it on the menu. Just make a few mindful tweaks.

Make your own cranberry sauce with real berries and a drizzle of honey or maple syrup.

Use applesauce, mashed banana or pumpkin purée to replace part of the butter or oil in baked goods.

Try coconut milk instead of heavy cream for whipped toppings or creamy soups.

When it comes to pie, go for pumpkin. It's lower in calories than most and offers a healthy dose of fiber and vitamin A.



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GUIDE

Thanksgiving wine pairing



Turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, and that's just the first plate. With such a wide variety of flavors competing for attention on the Thanksgiving table, choosing the right wine for the table can feel like its own kind of juggling act. But according to ***Kevin Cleary***, executive chef and founding partner at Wine Time, it's actually simpler than you might think. "Since there are so many dishes on the Thanksgiving table, I like to go with wines that are very versatile and pair well with lots of foods," Cleary says. "They also need to be bold enough to stand up to all the different flavors going on." Here's Kevin's expert breakdown for navigating Thanksgiving, one delicious glass at a time:

Start sparkling



Nothing sets the tone for celebration like bubbles, and according to Cleary, sparkling wine is a perfect place to begin. "It's always good to start with a sparkler," he says. "Champagne is the first choice, of course, but a Franciacorta from Italy works great too. It's made from the same grapes and by the same method as Champagne, but it's just a touch fuller and softer. It really works with everything." A crisp glass of bubbles is not only festive, it also acts as a palate cleanser for the rich foods to come.



White wines with personality

When it comes to white wines, Cleary recommends staying away from anything too lean or too heavy. The sweet spot? Wines with balance. "Viognier is a great choice. It has some body but also nice acidity to balance things out," he says. "I also love a Chardonnay with just a touch of oak, but not too much. You want something with texture that can handle the sides but won't overpower the turkey." Both varietals offer enough complexity to pair with creamy casseroles, buttery mashed potatoes and even savory herb stuffing.



Red wines for every palate

For those leaning red, Cleary says you can stick to the classics or surprise your guests with something unexpected. "Pinot Noir, Beaujolais and Zinfandel are all classic Thanksgiving matches," he says. "But I also love thinking outside the box. Barbera from Italy is one of my favorites. It's a fantastic food wine with great acidity, and it pairs beautifully with so many different dishes on the table." And for those with a sweeter tooth? "Go for a Lambrusco Dolce," Cleary suggests. "It's a sweet, sparkling red wine that works surprisingly well with a lot of Thanksgiving flavors. It's a crowd-pleaser, for sure."

Don't forget dessert



When it's time for pie, don't forget the wine. Cleary's picks for dessert pairings are rich, luxurious and perfect for sipping slowly. "To finish off the meal, I love a ***Sauternes*** or a Tokaji," he says. "Both have that honeyed sweetness that complements pumpkin pie, pecan pie or even just a bite of dark chocolate."

Thanksgiving is a celebration, and wine should enhance the meal, not overcomplicate it. Whether you go bold with reds, stick with sparkles or try something new like Barbera or Lambrusco, the key is choosing wines that bring balance to the table. "You don't need a different wine for every dish," Cleary says. "Just pick bottles that are versatile, interesting and meant to be shared. That's what Thanksgiving is all about."

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FLAVOR FIX

Spice up your stuffing

Every Thanksgiving table has one: a dish so rich with nostalgia, flavor and family tradition that it practically deserves its own holiday. We're talking about stuffing, or dressing, depending on where you're from. Technically, stuffing is baked inside the bird, while dressing is cooked in a separate dish. But in most households, the name depends more on geography than culinary accuracy. In the South you're likely to hear it called dressing, regardless of how it's cooked. In the North and Midwest, stuffing is the go-to. But semantics aside, everyone agrees on one thing: this savory side is the true centerpiece of the Thanksgiving meal. No matter what you call it, there are so many options to spice it up. If you're stuck in a stuffing rut, here are a few ideas from local pros.



Tried, true & thyme-honored

The basics (bread, broth, onion, celery and herbs) form a solid foundation. But from there, it's an open canvas for creativity. "Stuffing has to be number one on my list," says Chef Adam Marshall, executive chef at Nectar in Old Town Bluffton. "The contrast of all the different textures, along with the herbaceousness of thyme and sage working in harmony, is truly something I look forward to every year." Marshall likes to add ingredients that bring both flavor and texture to the table. "Adding cranberry raisins can add a nice acidic balance to such a heavy side dish," he says. "If you want even more texture contrast, toasted walnuts can also be a great addition!"



Stuffed with surprises

At Skull Creek Boathouse, WiseGuys and Frankie Bones, Chef Brad Blake, culinary operations director, takes a playful approach to Thanksgiving sides. "As far as dressing goes, the variety that stems from the classic sage is endless," he said. "Shellfish, sausage, fruits... every year we do a traditional one, then we play with a new flavor profile to have fun." One of the easiest ways to upgrade your stuffing? Add high-impact ingredients like sausage, shellfish or fruit to give it personality.



Fruitful thinking

At The Spice & Tea Exchange, their seasonal take embraces both savory and sweet: "A classic stuffing combo of sausage, onion and celery with seasonal, sweet-tart flavors of apple and cranberry," they shared. "Whether you call it stuffing or dressing, this full-flavored side dish will delight on weeknights as well as on Thanksgiving." The same goes for the crowd-favorite version shared by Le Cookery: "Our apple and sausage stuffing is loaded with vegetables, fruit and savory sage sausage. It's a classic for a reason."

More ways to dress it up



Whether you stick to your family's tried and true recipe or like to shake things up, stuffing is more than just a side. It's the dish that sparks debates, invites seconds and often steals the show. Whatever you call it, give it the love it deserves. As Chef Adam Marshall of SERG says, "It can be one of the most versatile side dishes on the table. Don't be afraid to get creative."

Ready to branch out? Try one of these fresh takes on the holiday classic:

Cornbread stuffing with chorizo and roasted poblanos for a spicy Southern twist.

Wild rice and mushroom stuffing with caramelized shallots and fresh thyme for a gluten-free option.

Focaccia stuffing with roasted garlic, olives and Parmesan for an Italian-inspired side that feels like a feast on its own.

Oyster dressing made with fresh local oysters, sautéed celery and onions, buttery breadcrumbs and fragrant herbs; a true taste of Lowcountry tradition. *LL*



FROM SCRATCH

Homestyle butternut squash soup

WARM SPICES AND A SECRET INGREDIENT BLEND THIS CLASSIC FALL SOUP INTO A RICH, NUTTY BOWL OF GOODNESS

STORY BY ALEA WILKINS + PHOTOGRAPHY BY LILY WHITENER



Soup season has officially arrived, and nothing embodies late fall quite like butternut squash. Hearty, golden and lightly sweet, the vegetable lays the perfect foundation for velvety broths. Savory seasonings kick it up a notch, and bright toppings — plus LOCAL Life publisher ***Lori Goodridge-Cribb's*** secret ingredient: peanut butter — round out the flavor profile for a soup that is rich and well-bodied. Dress up with garnishes like pomegranate seeds and pistachios for an elegant first course to holiday dinner parties, or soak up the creamy goodness with some crusty bread for a comforting meal all on its own. Despite its decadence, the soup is surprisingly easy to make. Coming together in a quick 30 minutes, it simplifies the Thanksgiving menu and satisfies a peckish family in a pinch. Warm, nutty and absolutely delicious, butternut squash soup is a fall favorite for a reason.

Watch & learn

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



WARMTH IN EVERY SPOONFUL Golden, velvety with warm spices, this easy-to-make butternut squash soup gets its nutty depth from peanut butter and a creamy finish that makes it both elegant enough for entertaining and cozy enough for a weeknight supper.

INGREDIENTS

1 medium to large butternut squash
1 sweet onion, chopped
6 cups chicken stock
1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
1/4 cup heavy cream
Salt and pepper to taste
Toppings: *Pomegranate seeds, Pistachios, Sour cream*

DIRECTIONS [1] Roughly chop a peeled butternut squash into about 1/2-inch cubes. Chop onion. **[2]** To a large pot, add butter, olive oil, squash and onion over medium-high heat. Season with salt and pepper. Sauté for five minutes, then add chicken stock, reserving one cup to adjust consistency. Use less stock for a creamier soup and more for a lighter soup. Simmer until squash is fork-tender. **[3]** Use an immersion blender, or carefully transfer soup to a blender or food processor. Blend to desired consistency. **[4]** Once blended, stir in nutmeg, peanut butter, heavy cream, cinnamon, salt and pepper. Sprinkle with desired toppings and serve.



CREAM OF THE CROP Heavy cream turns this butternut squash soup silky smooth, adding richness that makes every bite feel like fall comfort perfected.



Squash the struggle

Much like a pumpkin, squash has a tough outer skin that can be tricky to cut when raw. An easy fix is to pop it in the microwave whole a few minutes, just until the skin feels warm to the touch. When it comes time to peel, Lori swears by the ***Kuhn Rikon Swiss Peeler****, which you can find at Cassandra's Kitchen Store in Bluffton.*




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RESTAURANT news&notes

FRESH FOOD + NOW OPEN + HOT PRODUCTS

BY BAILEY GILLIAM

Savor what's fresh

The Lowcountry dining scene is buzzing with fresh flavors and new places to discover. From Beaufort to Bluffton to Hilton Head Island, chefs and restaurateurs are cooking up exciting concepts, cozy revamps and creative bites worth exploring. Whether you're in the mood for something casual, brunch-worthy or elevated, there's a new spot coming to tempt your taste buds.

NOW OPEN





©BYE BYE BIRDIE FOOD & SPIRITS

Bye Bye Birdie Food & Spirits

Beaufort Town Center, Beaufort

Say hello to Bye Bye Birdie Food & Spirits, Beaufort's newest dining destination in the former Wet Willie's space at Beaufort Town Center. The once-rowdy venue has been transformed into a warm, modern retreat filled with natural wood, greenery and inviting lighting. The open floor plan creates an airy, social feel perfect for date night or drinks with friends. Locals are already raving about the food, atmosphere and friendly staff, making this stylish newcomer one to watch.

COMING SOON





©PURE CAFE AND BAKERY

Pure Café and Bakery

Robert Smalls Parkway, Beaufort

When Sunny Summers Café closed its doors, the community felt the loss, but something sweet is on the way. Pure Café and Bakery, from the team behind Cappy's Allergen Friendly Bakery, will soon open in the same spot. Known for their gluten-, nut-, dairy- and soy-free treats, Cappy's has long been a farmers market favorite. Now they're bringing their allergen-friendly magic to a permanent café where everyone can indulge safely. Expect baked goods that taste as good as they make you feel.



©THE BELLEAU WOOD TAVERN

The Belleau Wood Tavern

Marina Boulevard, Port Royal

Port Royal will soon welcome a new gathering place built on pride and tradition. The Belleau Wood Tavern, founded by Marines Zachary Green and Roy Dakroub, will break ground Nov. 10; the 250th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. Opening in spring 2026, the tavern will honor the legacy of the Corps and the heroes of World War I's Battle of Belleau Wood. Expect classic pub fare, Marine memorabilia and a warm, welcoming space for service members and civilians alike.

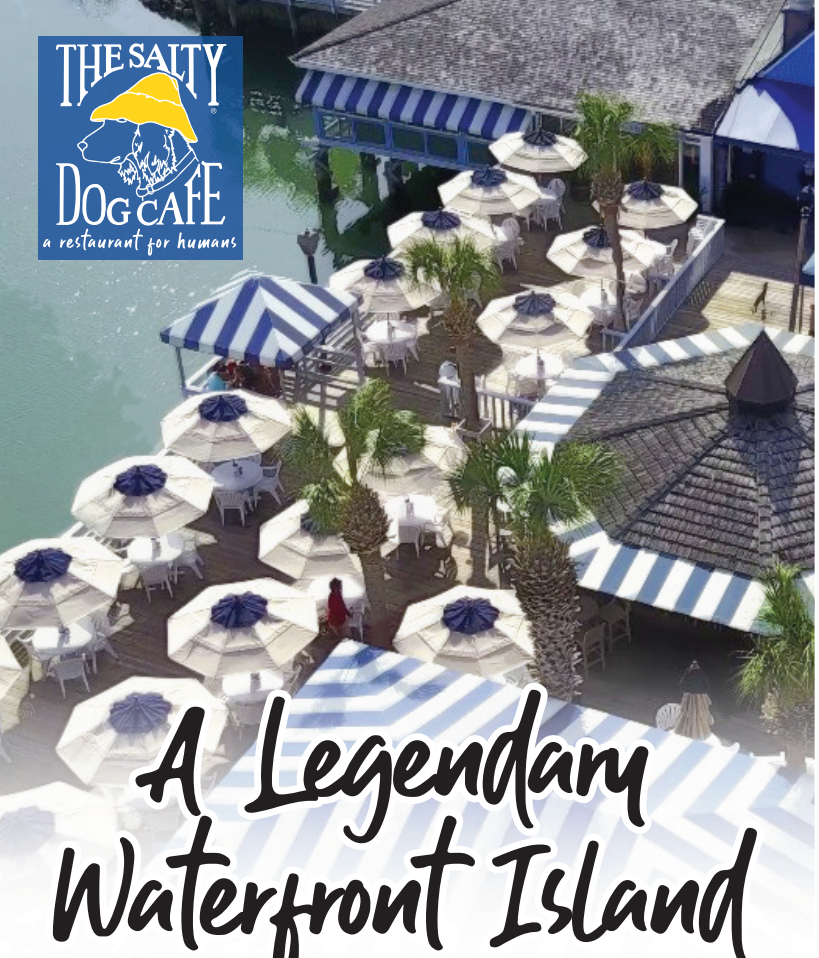
The Olive Branch Café by Urban Brew + Co.



Ribaut Road, Beaufort

Beaufort favorite Urban Brew + Co. is expanding with a fresh Mediterranean twist. The Olive Branch Café will take over the beloved former Athenian Gardens space later this year, bringing together Urban Brew's cozy coffeehouse charm and a new menu celebrating Mediterranean flavors. Owner Kaitlynn Vassalle says the goal is to honor the building's legacy while creating something new and welcoming. Expect the same warm service and quality ingredients, now paired with scratch-made dishes inspired by olive groves and coastal kitchens.





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COMING SOON



©BIG T'S TACOS

Big T's Tacos

Food truck

Get ready for birria bliss. Big T's Tacos is rolling through the Lowcountry soon with a menu full of cheesy, savory goodness. Think quesabirrias, pizzadillas, birria egg rolls and loaded fries; all packed with rich, slow-cooked beef and flavor that hits hard. Whether you're a longtime birria fan or just taco-curious, this truck promises a delicious detour from the ordinary. Follow them on social media for the first stop.





©THE PURPLE COW

The Purple Cow

South End, Hilton Head Island

Hilton Head's sweet tooth is about to be satisfied. The Purple Cow, known for its over-the-top cakes and playful desserts, is opening a storefront on the island's south end this month. The exact location is still under wraps, but fans can expect the same creativity and whimsy that made the original such a hit. Until then, you can text 843-681-CAKE to place an order and get your sugar fix before the doors officially open.

What's new around town

From a chef-driven revival to an evening café expansion, the Lowcountry's dining scene is buzzing with fresh flavors and familiar faces. Here's what's cooking this month.

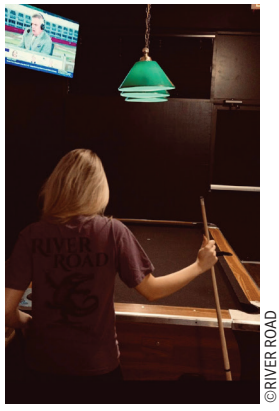


©POURRICHARDS843.COM

A new chapter for Pour Richard's

*Richard Canestrari and Ally Rogers, the talented duo behind the former Pour Richard's is back with a fresh idea: **2 Chefs No Magic**, a chef-driven catering and private dining service. Their approach is simple: real food made by real chefs, no smoke and mirrors. Expect refined comfort dishes using seasonal, locally sourced ingredients that bring the restaurant experience home. Perfect for intimate dinners or special events, their menu celebrates honest cooking with a Lowcountry touch. **pourrichards843.com**.*





©RIVER ROAD

River Road Café expansion

*Bluffton's **River Road Café** is stretching into the evening with a new concept right next door. Simply called River Road, the dinner and bar extension offers creative plates, craft cocktails and a relaxed, easygoing vibe. Open 4-10 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, it's the kind of place where you can shoot pool, catch a game or just linger over a cold drink with friends.*





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Quick Bites

NUGGETS FROM THE LOCAL FOOD & BEVERAGE SCENE

Cupcakes 2 Cakes has closed its brick-and-mortar location, but fans can still follow them online for future updates.

Local Pie's New Riverside location is set to open this month.

Hilton Head Brewing Company unveiled sleek new can designs, but it's still the same favorite brews inside.

Burnt Church Distillery's Johnny Fever earned a gold medal at the 2025 New York World Spirits Competition.

Craving comfort food at home? **The Smokehouse** and **Firemost Pizza** are now available on DoorDash.

GIVING BACK

LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE STEPPING UP IN MEANINGFUL WAYS

Throughout October, **Burnt Church Distillery** donated a portion of sales to Hilton Head Humane and Bigvision Community.

Charbar Co. contributed one dollar from every roll and bowl sold to Pledge the Pink.

Cactus Street Cantina pledged ten percent of all bowl sales to Sea Turtle Patrol.

Wine Time Bluffton supported Lowcountry Legal Volunteers through its Buck-a-Bottle and Buck-a-Battle program.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

NEW OFFERINGS AND CHANGES

The Grind Roasters, The Kitchen Café, City Java & News, Morgan River Grill, School Grounds Coffee, The Loycal Cup, Madison's in Port Royal, Harbour Town Bakery & Café, Red Rooster Café, and Healthy Habit all rolled out new fall menus.

The G-Free Spot now serves gluten-free everything bagels from the **Original Sunshine Bagel Company**.

Holy Tequila, Captain Woody's Bar and Grill, and **1711 Taphouse** introduced new lunch menus.

Fish Casual Coastal Seafood and **The Fillin' Station** have refreshed their offerings.

Ruan Thai Cuisine now serves an early bird dinner from 4:30 to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Café Al Dente's early dining menu has returned.

The Sour Loaf Co. launched a line of dry pancake mixes.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

THE LATEST OPERATING HOURS

Starbird is now open from 4 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 4 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Southern Sweets Beaufort is now closed on Sundays.

Maynard's Ice Cream & Café fall hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, and closed Monday.

TRY THESE

New. Now. Delicious.

The menus may change, but these standout dishes deserve a permanent spot. Get them while they're hot.



THE PEAR-FECT SALAD

The Quarterdeck is celebrating fall with a fresh new salad. Mixed greens and sweet gem lettuce are tossed with blue cheese, spiced walnuts, shaved pears and a champagne-fennel vinaigrette. Crisp, elegant and totally seasonal.

NACHO AVERAGE BREAKFAST

Griddle & Grits just leveled up breakfast with their new Breakfast Nachos. Piled high with your choice of protein, eggs, sausage gravy and melty cheese, it's everything you love about brunch, on a chip. Pro tip: get it with chorizo.





CRUNCH TIME

SliderBar Bluffton is serving up the Autumn Crunch: two juicy patties topped with grilled jalapeños, smoked provolone, applewood bacon, cinnamon-dusted apple chips and house-made muscadine BBQ. Bold, smoky and packed with fall flavor.

NICE RACK

The Marinated Rack of Lamb at ***Chef Frank's Bistro*** is a fall feast on a plate, tender, flavorful lamb served with golden beets, baby spinach, Brussels sprouts, tomatoes and pearl potatoes, all finished with a rich natural jus. Elegant, hearty and perfectly seasonal.





SOUP'S ON

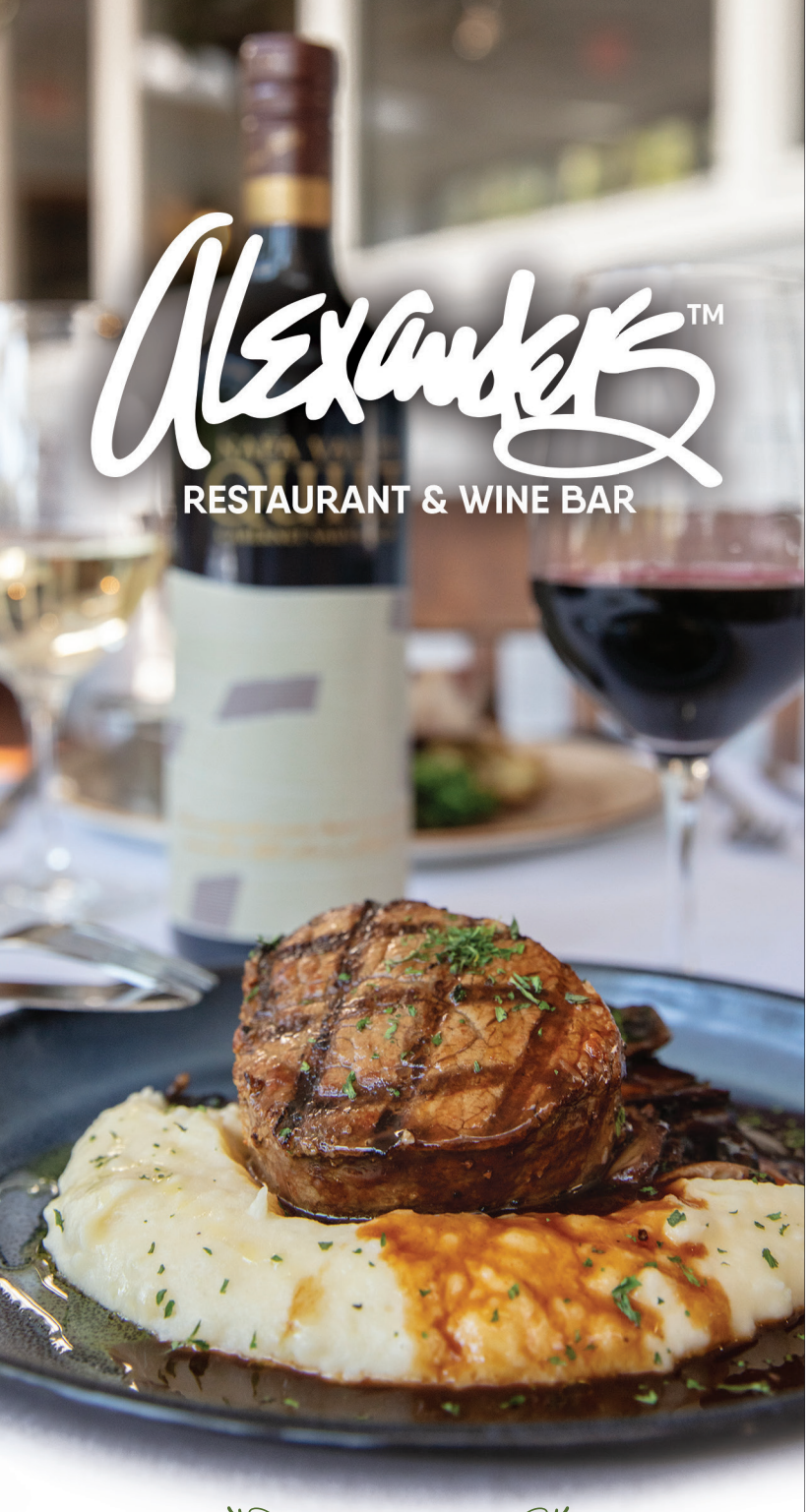
Breakwater Restaurant & Bar is welcoming fall with a cozy new special. Hubbard Squash Bisque is topped with brown butter sage popcorn, charred scallion oil and crispy sage. It's rich, comforting and the perfect way to ease into sweater weather.

FALL ON A PLATE

Lulu Kitchen is kicking off its new fall menu with Chef Scott's Salmon served with buttered cabbage, roasted apples, chestnuts and a Dijon beurre fondue. It's a flavorful and cozy way to welcome the season.







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WWMD

What would Margaret drink?

Margaret Pearman, *a certified sommelier with the Court of Master Sommeliers, curates the acclaimed wine list at Charlie's L'Etoile Verte. She offers her November picks inspired by the rhythms of the vineyard and the perfect pairings for the Thanksgiving table.*

Harvesting by the moon

How lunar cycles shape vineyard practices and influence what ends up in your glass

Biodynamic winemaking takes the idea of organic farming a step further, weaving together ecological, ethical and even spiritual principles into vineyard life. The vineyard is treated as its own living, self-sustaining ecosystem. This philosophy dates back to the 1920s when Austrian scientist Rudolf Steiner began teaching it.



LUNAR POUR In biodynamic winemaking, many growers prune during a waning moon to encourage stronger root growth and harvest around a full moon when grape flavors and aromas are believed to be at their peak.

What sets biodynamics apart is its attention to the rhythms of the cosmos, especially the phases of the moon. Just as the moon pulls the tides, it's believed to influence the flow of water and sap within plants. Growers follow a biodynamic calendar that designates "fruit," "root," "flower" and "leaf" days, with each one said to favor different vineyard tasks, from pruning to harvesting. Some even mark certain days as the best times to uncork a bottle and enjoy.

Cristom Vineyards in Oregon's Eola-Amity Hills has built its reputation on this mindful approach. The winery embraces organic and sustainable practices while letting the lunar calendar guide key decisions. Pruning often happens during the waning moon to strengthen root systems. Harvest might align with a full moon when grape flavors and aromas are believed to be at their peak. Composting and soil care are synced to the new moon, boosting microbial activity and soil vitality. Even bottling is sometimes timed to lunar phases with the idea that it enhances a wine's stability and expression.

Excellent Thanksgiving table wines



Cristom Mt. Jefferson Cuvée Pinot Noir

Cristom's flagship pinot, made from all of the estate's vineyards, is layered with baking spice, earthy forest floor and bright red fruit. It's an easy pairing partner, able to complement everything from roasted turkey to stuffing. Around $45.

Cristom Eola-Amity Chardonnay

Lively with zesty lemon curd and framed by subtle oak, this Chardonnay recalls the finesse of a fine French Burgundy. It brings freshness and elegance to the table without overwhelming the meal. Around $30.



A toast to turkey day

This cranberry mule mixes perfectly with football, parades and pie

STORY BY BAILEY GILLIAM

Thanksgiving isn't just turkey and stuffing. It's NFL football buzzing in the background, giant cartoon balloons sailing past Al Roker and pop stars lip-syncing their way through the Macy's parade. It's boxes of Christmas decorations dragged from the attic, a holiday playlist competing with the clang of pots and pans, kids sneaking pie before dinner and uncles snoring in recliners with their belts undone. Someone snaps the wishbone, someone forgets the rolls, and when the kitchen finally goes quiet, a copper mug of this mule recipe from ***The Spice & Tea Exchange*** *is the toast the holiday truly deserves.*



THE SPICE & TEA EXCHANGE

Cranberry Mule

The original Moscow Mule may have been a happy accident, but this version is all intention. It's a tart-meets-sweet sip that plays beautifully with turkey, gravy and all those Thanksgiving sides.

INGREDIENTS (cranberry apple tart simple syrup)

2 tablespoons cranberry apple tart herbal tea
4 ounces water at 200 degrees
1/2 cup cranberry orange sugar

DIRECTIONS Combine tea and hot water; steep 10 minutes. Strain into a small saucepan, discard tea, then add sugar. Heat on medium-low, stirring until dissolved. Cool.

INGREDIENTS (cocktail)

2 ounces vodka
3/4 ounce cranberry apple tart simple syrup
1/2 ounce fresh lemon juice
4 ounces ginger beer or ginger ale
Garnishes: cinnamon stick, lime or orange slices, fresh cranberries

DIRECTIONS Add vodka, simple syrup and lemon juice to an ice-filled mule mug. Stir. Top with ginger beer or ginger ale. Garnish with a cinnamon stick, citrus and cranberries.



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Reach for the stars

PLANETARIUMS AND OBSERVATORIES WORTH THE DRIVE

STORY BY MACKENZIE LIONBERGER



©FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER

Big city, bigger universe

FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER PLANETARIUM, ATLANTA

Drive time: 4 hours, 48 minutes (285 miles)

Fernbank is one of the Southeast's largest planetariums, and it delivers a show to match. Open to the public, its programs cover the full spectrum, from kid-friendly journeys through the solar system to mind-bending explorations of black holes and distant galaxies. The experience is sleek, professional and visually stunning, making it a highlight for any stargazer. Since it sits in the heart of Atlanta, you can easily pair your visit with world-class museums, shopping and dining for a full weekend getaway.

On a clear night in the Lowcountry, it's easy to lose yourself beneath the stars. As the tide rolls in, constellations shimmer overhead. You might spot Jupiter glowing low in the east or trace Orion's belt as it stretches across the horizon. Those moments are magical, but when you want to experience the universe in high definition, a road trip to one of the Southeast's planetariums or observatories is well worth it.

These destinations are built to make the invisible visible. As Tom Martinez, director of the Charleston Planetarium, puts it, "You're able to basically travel to the planet itself, almost as if you were going in a rocket." From historic telescopes to state-of-the-art dome theaters, each stop offers its own way to explore the cosmos. Here are some of the best options for anyone ready to look a little closer at the night sky.



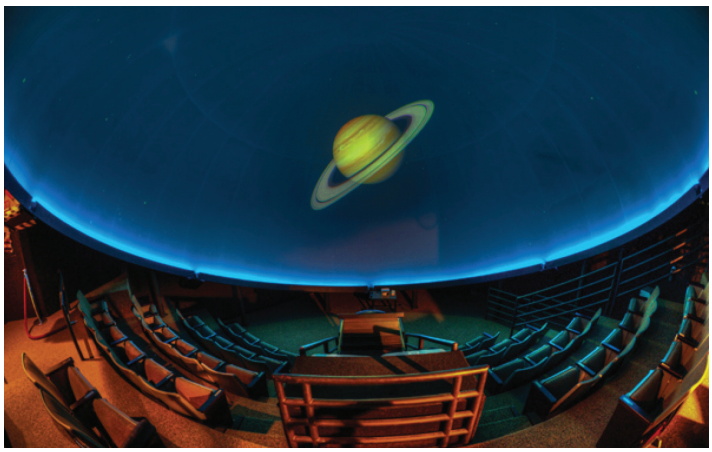
©CHARLESTON PLANETARIUM

Blast off in the Holy City

CHARLESTON PLANETARIUM, CHARLESTON

Drive time: 2 hours (100 miles)

Just a short trip up the coast, the Charleston Planetarium makes a welcoming entry point into the world of stargazing. Open to the public, it's especially inviting for families with young children or anyone new to astronomy. The shows weave science with storytelling, so you leave with both knowledge and a sense of wonder. Sweeping projections of planets, constellations and galaxies fill the dome, while friendly staff are on hand to answer questions and guide the experience. It's an easy, approachable way to start exploring the night sky.



©DUPONT PLANETARIUM

Double vision

DUPONT PLANETARIUM & RPSEC OBSERVATORY, AIKEN

Drive time: 2 hours, 30 minutes (140 miles)

Located on the USC Aiken campus, this stop offers two stellar experiences in one visit. The DuPont Planetarium hosts public, ticketed shows, mostly on weekends, covering everything from the life cycle of stars to the mysteries of black holes and the wonders of our solar system. After the dome show, you can step next door to the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center Observatory, where knowledgeable staff will guide you through views of the night sky using powerful telescopes. On a clear evening you might catch Saturn's rings, the craters of the moon or even a distant nebula with your own eyes.



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©I.P. STANBACK MUSEUM & PLANETARIUM

A cultural constellation

I.P. STANBACK MUSEUM & PLANETARIUM, ORANGEBURG
Drive time: 2 hours, 45 minutes (155 miles)

Operated by South Carolina State University, this 40-foot planetarium seats 82 and features a full-dome Warped Media projection system with more than 20 scientific shows to choose from. Just steps away, the museum adds another dimension with two galleries showcasing African and African-American art, artifacts, fine art and photography. Together they create a blend of science and culture that's both thought-provoking and visually inspiring. Shows and museum access are open to visitors, though schedules can vary, so it's best to check ahead before planning your trip.



©SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM

History meets the heavens

BOEING OBSERVATORY,
SC STATE MUSEUM, COLUMBIA
Drive time: 3 hours (160 miles)

Part of the South Carolina State Museum, the Boeing Observatory invites the public to explore both the past and the stars. Its crown jewel is a 1926 Alvan Clark refracting telescope, a historic instrument that still delivers crisp views of the night sky. While you're there, you can dive into hands-on science exhibits, catch a show in the planetarium and wander through galleries that showcase everything from dinosaurs to South Carolina history. With so many attractions under one roof, it's an easy and rewarding road trip for families.



© BRYAN POLLARD

Campus nights, cosmic sights

MELTON MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY,
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA

Drive time: 3 hours (160 miles)

Run by USC's Department of Physics and Astronomy, this observatory sits on the historic Horseshoe and opens to the public on clear Monday nights from 9 to 11 p.m. Its 16-inch Cassegrain telescope offers crisp views of the heavens, giving students, researchers and visitors alike a chance to explore the night sky. On a good evening, you might catch Jupiter's moons, Saturn's rings or even the faint glow of a nebula. The experience is simple and low-key but also deeply rewarding for anyone with a curious eye turned upward.



©FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

Family stars and city lights

DOOLEY PLANETARIUM,
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY, FLORENCE

Drive time: 3 hours, 30 minutes (190 miles)

Dooley Planetarium is a community favorite, thanks to its wide range of programming. Some shows keep things simple with bright visuals and easy-to-follow explanations for kids, while others dive into deeper astronomy topics that intrigue older audiences. Under the dome the night sky expands above you in vivid detail. Admission is free, though shows are only offered on select Sundays during the academic year, so planning ahead is essential. After your visit Florence's downtown restaurants and shops provide the perfect way to wrap up the evening.



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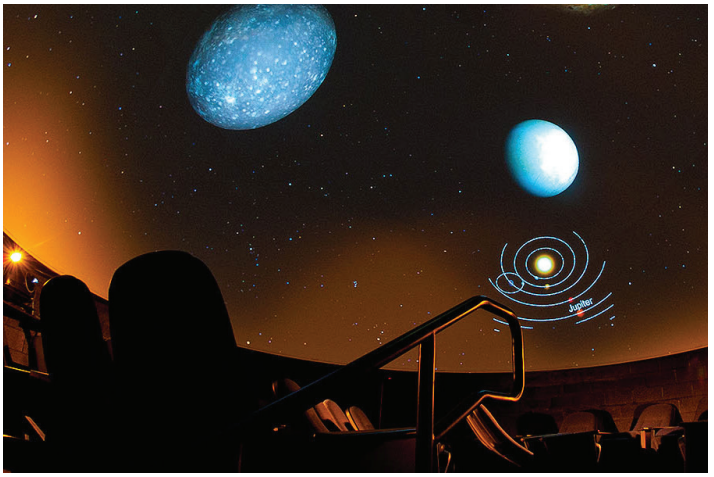
©MUSEUM OF YORK COUNTY

York County's cosmic connection

SETTLEMYRE PLANETARIUM, MUSEUM OF YORK COUNTY, ROCK HILL

Drive time: 3 hours, 45 minutes (210 miles)

The Settlemyre Planetarium is part of the Museum of York County, which means your visit goes far beyond stargazing. Inside the dome, shows bring constellations and galactic phenomena to life. Afterward you can wander through exhibits that trace the universe's timeline, then step outside to explore the museum's trails and green spaces. It's an ideal stop for families who want a mix of education and fresh air. Check the museum's online calendar for current show times.



©CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Tiger Town's hidden galaxy

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY PLANETARIUM, CLEMSON

Drive time: 4 hours, 45 minutes (270 miles)

Smaller than many of the state's planetariums, Clemson's version shines, thanks to the enthusiasm of the university's physics department. While it is primarily a teaching facility, the planetarium opens its doors to the public a few times each semester for free or low-cost shows. Dates can be irregular, so be sure to check the schedule before making the trip. If your visit happens to fall during football season, it makes a perfect counterbalance to the roar of Death Valley, offering a quiet and thoughtful journey into the stars.



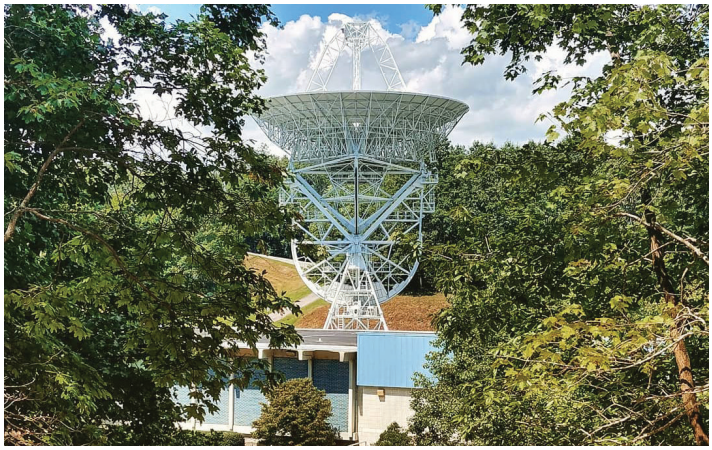
©ROPER MOUNTAIN SCIENCE CENTER

Mountains of science, skies of wonder

ROPER MOUNTAIN SCIENCE CENTER, GREENVILLE

Drive time: 4 hours, 45 minutes (285 miles)

Roper Mountain is one of South Carolina's largest science centers, and its planetarium is a true centerpiece. The dome's advanced projection system makes each show feel larger than life, surrounding you with galaxies, planets and cosmic wonders. Public programs run regularly, and there's plenty more to explore once the lights come up. Depending on the season, you can wander through interactive science exhibits, walk shaded nature trails or step into the butterfly garden. Just minutes from downtown Greenville, the center makes an easy pairing with dinner or a leisurely stroll along Main Street.



©PISGAH ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NASA's mountain stargate

PISGAH ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PARI), ROSMAN, N.C.

Drive time: 5 hours (300 miles)

If you're up for a longer road trip, PARI is worth every mile. Once a top-secret NASA tracking station, today it blends serious science with public education. You won't find casual walk-in hours here; visits happen through guided tours, scheduled programs and special events. Massive radio telescopes rise out of the Blue Ridge landscape, giving the place an otherworldly feel. Programs range from hands-on skywatching and science workshops to kids' camps, making it both a playground for curious minds and a hub for real research.

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NOVEMBER happenings

Arts & Culture



The Nutcracker

When: Nov. 14-23 **Where:** Seahawk Cultural Center
Details: For 40 years Hilton Head Dance Theatre's Nutcracker has marked the official start of the holiday season. With elegant choreography, lavish costumes and the familiar strains of Tchaikovsky's score, it's as magical for newcomers as it is nostalgic for longtime fans. ***hiltonheaddance.com***



Frozen

When: Nov. 26-Dec. 28 **Where:** Arts Center of Coastal Carolina
Details: Let it go, and let yourself be swept up in the magic. This Broadway-style adaptation of Disney's hit movie brings Anna, Elsa and the kingdom of Arendelle to life with soaring music, dazzling sets and heartwarming performances for the whole family. ***artshhi.com***



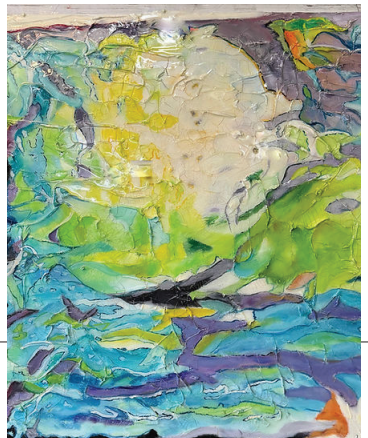
Elf the Musical Jr.

When: Nov. 21-23
Where: USCB Center for the Arts
Details: The Beaufort Children's Theatre brings Buddy the Elf's boundless holiday spirit to the stage. Laughter, music and candy canes abound in this family favorite that reminds us all to spread Christmas cheer. ***uscbcenterforthearts.com***



November Palmetto Bluff Artist in Residence

When: Nov. 13-15 **Where:** FLOW Gallery + Workshop
Details: This month's featured artist is Arun Drummond, whose richly textured oil paintings feel as alive as the landscapes that inspire them. Stop by to view or purchase his work, or join one of his hands-on workshops. ***palmettobluff.com***



Between the Stillness and Disappearance

When: Nov. 1-Dec. 19 **Where:** USCB Center for the Arts
Details: Charleston abstract artist Deborah Sisco invites viewers into an emotional landscape shaped by her family's journey through Alzheimer's. Her layered, evocative works balance loss and light, a deeply personal reflection on memory and meaning. The opening reception is from 5:30-7 p.m. on Nov. 6. ***uscbcenterforthearts.com***





Art League of Hilton Head Gallery events

Check out the latest local art this month at one of these Art League of Hilton Head events. ***artleaguehhi.org***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Art Beyond Limitations & Expectations: *Times vary, Nov. 11-15, (Opening reception: 5-7 p.m., Nov. 12)*
Art League of Hilton Head's Studio Tour: *Times vary, Nov. 8*
Gallery of Gifts: *Times vary, Nov. 18-Jan. 3, (Opening reception: 5-7 p.m., Nov. 19)*



The Roommate

When: Through Nov. 9
Where: HHPS Main Street Theater
Details: Lean Ensemble brings wit and heart to this story of two women (one messy, one meticulous) whose unlikely friendship changes them both. A funny, touching look at reinvention and midlife surprises. ***leanensemble.org***



Reefer Madness

When: Through Nov. 16 **Where:** May River Theatre
Details: This hilariously over-the-top musical spoofs the 1936 propaganda film that tried to scare teens straight. Expect big laughs, catchy songs and a wink at the absurdity of moral panic. Leave your seriousness at the door; this one's pure camp. ***mayrivertheatre.com***

THE outside FOUNDATION

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This fall, 1,060 students from 11 schools paddled the Lowcountry's waterways over 35 Kids In Kayaks program days. More than half of these 7th graders have never been kayaking through our local salt marshes! Help us make this memorable connection to nature accessible to every child!
Donate today at outsidefoundation.org/donate



We get kids outside & protect and preserve our local environment.

COME SEA US this Holiday Season

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES • FUN HOLIDAY GIFT ITEMS



PORT ROYAL SOUND FOUNDATION
Sharon & Dick Stewart MARITIME CENTER
310 Okatie Highway, Okatie SC
843.645.7774

Find out more at PortRoyalSoundFoundation.org

Grateful Gatherings Begin at Wine Time

Find your holiday favorites from bottles and gift baskets to fresh, seasonal bites and wines by the glass.

Stop in this November to sip, shop, and share the joy.







wine time BLUFFTON

Old Town Bluffton:
6 Promenade St. Unit 1003,
Bluffton, SC 29910

wine time ARTISAN KITCHEN & WINE BAR

Washington Square:
25 Minetta Ln. Unit 100,
Bluffton, SC 29910

(843) 619-3579 • winetimebluffton.com
@winetimebluffton

Arts & Culture





SOBA Holiday Market

When: Times vary, Nov. 3-Dec. 28
Where: SOBA Gallery
Details: Shop gifts galore and more at The Society of Bluffton Artists' annual holiday market. ***sobagallery.com***



It's Thursday! Artists of the Round Table

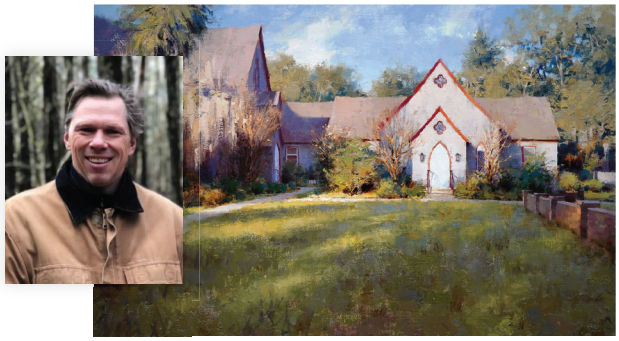
When: Nov. 12-March 23
Where: Coastal Discovery Museum
Details: Step back to Hilton Head's early art scene through the work of the island's pioneering painters. This exhibit celebrates the "Artists of the Round Table," who gathered at The Red Piano Art Gallery from the 1970s to 1994. Don't miss the opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 13. ***coastaldiscovery.org***

OTHER EXHIBITS

Four Sketchbooks a Year: 25 Years of Beaufort County Graduates of the SC Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities: *Now-Jan. 4, 2026*

Mark Boedges' Art Show

When: 5-7 p.m., Nov. 7
Where: The Red Piano Art Gallery
Details: Experience the quiet poetry of the landscape through the eyes of Mark Boedges, one of America's leading plein-air painters. His masterful use of light transforms everyday scenes into timeless studies of atmosphere. The opening reception offers an intimate evening with the artist and his newest collection. ***redpianoartgallery.com***





Evening of the Arts

When: 6:30 p.m., Nov. 20
Where: Hilton Head Christian Academy Performing Arts Center
Details: Cheer on the next generation of performers as Hilton Head Christian Academy students in grades 5-12 take the stage. This uplifting night of music and talent showcases the creativity blooming in our community. ***hhca.org***

HHSO
Inspiring, enriching and uniting the Lowcountry

HILTON HEAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
JOHN MORRIS RUSSELL, MUSIC DIRECTOR



MUSIC for EVERYONE

44TH SEASON

2025-2026 *Orchestra Series*

All concerts are at **First Presbyterian Church**
540 William Hilton Parkway (Business Route 278)

MARCUS ROBERTS PLAYS RHAPSODY IN BLUE



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

John Morris Russell, *conductor*
Marcus Roberts, *piano*
Marcus Roberts Trio

Boys, Arnold & Company
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

HOLIDAY POPS



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025

THE CYPRESS of Hilton Head

FORSYTHE JEWELERS • SINCE 1927

Hilton Head BMW

BLUFFTON HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025, 7:00 PM

St. Gregory The Great Catholic Church Parish Life Center, Bluffton

bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

John Morris Russell, *conductor*
Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra Chorus
Michael Preacely, *baritone*
Brooklynn Thatcher, *violin*
(2025 Youth Concerto Competition winner)

The Lowcountry's cherished Holiday tradition.

Orchestra Series subscriptions and tickets are available now. Visit hhso.org or call (843) 842-2055.

THE LEAGUE OF THE HILTON HEAD ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS

SWING FORE THE SYMPHONY



Join us for this premier golf tournament at MOSS CREEK on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025**

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE!

CALL Terry Hicks at 843 415-5336 or EMAIL thicks4@aol.com

PRESENTING SPONSOR
GENESIS

30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
PROFESSIONAL THEATER IN THE HEART OF HILTON HEAD



NOV 26 - DEC 28 TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC!

Inspired by the Academy Award-winning film, "Frozen" brings to life the tale of Arendelle's royal sisters, Anna and Elsa. When Elsa's hidden ice powers are unleashed, she flees, casting an eternal winter over her kingdom. Anna, with the help of Kristoff, Sven, and Olaf, embarks on a perilous journey to find her sister and save their home. Featuring beloved songs and new music, this stage adaptation is a magical celebration of sisterhood, acceptance, and the true meaning of love.

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND'S
HOLIDAY KICK-OFF!

Join Us!
Nov 15
12:00 – 3:00PM
AT THE ARTS CENTER!

FREE FAMILY FUN!

LIVE PERFORMANCES
ART MARKET
TASTY TREATS
BEER, WINE, & SOFT DRINKS

ARTS CENTER OF COASTAL CAROLINA
14 SHELTER COVE LN • ARTSHHI.COM • 843 842 ARTS(2787)

Charity & Community



Town's Official Holiday Kick-Off Festival

When: 12-3 p.m., Nov. 15 **Where:** Arts Center of Coastal Carolina
Details: Santa's sleigh lands early this year. Join the island's official start to the holiday season, complete with carols, crafts, cookies and community cheer. It's a feel-good afternoon that sets the tone for a season of giving and family fun. ***artshhi.com***

Hilton Head Oyster Festival



When: 5-8 p.m. Nov. 7; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 8
Where: Shelter Cove Community Park (Nov. 7), Lowcountry Celebration Park (Nov. 8)
Details: Shuck, sip and sway to live music at this beloved Island Rec event. Local clusters, shrimp and barbecue keep plates full, while bands keep toes tapping. Come hungry and ready to celebrate the best of the Lowcountry. ***hiltonheadoysterfestival.com***



Hilton Head Humane's Four-Legged Frolic

When: 5:30-9:30 p.m., Nov. 9 **Where:** The Westin Hilton Head
Details: It's the party your pets would plan if they could. Enjoy cocktails, dinner, live entertainment and heartwarming rescue stories at this joyful fundraiser for the Hilton Head Humane Association. Every ticket helps wag a tail. ***hhhumane.org***

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS
Mutts & Margs: *4 p.m., Nov. 13, Village at Wexford*
Paws-itively Thankful Adoption Event: *3 p.m., Nov. 28, Captain Woody's*
Wine Down Wednesday: *5 p.m., Dec. 3, Village at Wexford*



Festival of the Trees

When: Nov. 21-Dec. 6
Where: Hilton Beachfront Resort & Spa
Details: Step into a forest of imagination as Hilton Head Prep transforms the Hilton's lobby into a sparkling wonderland of decorated trees. Vote for your favorite, sip something festive, and enjoy the spirit of the season while supporting local education. ***hhprep.org***

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

ROLLERS
WINE & SPIRITS

Join Us for Our Weekly Wine Tastings!

Tasty Tuesday & Thirsty Thursday

Taste fantastic palate expanding lineups each week from our team of sommeliers with live music from 5-7pm!

**Located at Rollers 9 Palmetto Bay Road, Call 843-842-1200 for reservations and more information*







Mix, Mingle, & Jingle!

with Santa

December 18th 5 - 8pm

Dress in your best sparkly attire to come mix, mingle, and jingle with us this holiday season! Nothing says cozy like great wine, great company, and great live music. You can also grab yourself a custom engraved bottle of Woodford Reserve as a wonderful gift for your loved one to say thanks. Stay tuned for more details. Cheers!

Gifts made with love for family and holidays!







Call (843)-842-1200 to pre-order your charcuterie board today and share a beautiful spread, handcrafted from our kitchen to your table.

VILLAGE at WEXFORD
Proudly Presents
WINE DOWN WEDNESDAY
FOR A CAUSE
SAVE THE DATE!
Dec. 3rd • 5-7pm



HILTON HEAD HUMANE
Proceeds to benefit Hilton Head Humane

Improving the lives of homeless dogs and cats while also working to substantially lower the numbers of animals reproduced or relinquished.

Enjoy wine tastings at participating merchants

Special Promotions

Tickets available online at villageatwexford.com

$15 per person
Limited tickets available day of event

SCAN FOR TICKETS



Charity & Community



Hilton Head Island Lantern Parade

When: 5:30-8 p.m., Nov. 22
Where: Coligny Beach & Lowcountry Celebration Park
Details: Watch the shoreline glow as hundreds of handmade lanterns parade along the sand, celebrating community and creativity. Whether you march or marvel from the sidelines, this is Hilton Head's most enchanting night of the year. ***culturehhi.org***



Harmonious 2025

When: Nov. 19
Where: The Sea Pines Resort Champions Ballroom
Details: Raise a glass for a good cause at this elegant evening benefitting Mirasol Health. Enjoy a gourmet dinner, craft cocktails and a soulful performance by Stee, proving that doing good can also feel downright glamorous. ***mirasolhealth.org***





Bluffton Buzzard Ball

When: 6-9 p.m., Nov. 15 **Where:** The Heyward House
Details: Bluffton knows how to throw a party, even one named for a buzzard. Dress to the nines (with feathers) for a stylish night of food, music and dancing with longtime locals. Proceeds will benefit a local Class of 2026 high school graduate pursuing their creative passions. Tickets are $65. ***blufftonbuzzard.com***



Magical Night on the May

When: 6-9 p.m., Nov. 13 **Where:** Oyster Factory Park
Details: Bluffton's most scenic soirée unfolds under the stars on the May River. Expect fine food, music and spirited bidding, all in support of Hilton Head Christian Academy's Annual Fund. ***hhca.org***



Holiday happenings at Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina

When: Nov. 24-Dec. 31
Where: Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina
Details: The harbor becomes a twinkling coastal Christmas village all season long. Catch Santa & Shopping Day on Nov. 28, stroll through the nightly lights display, and toast the season by the water. ***sheltercovehiltonhead.com***

SCAD PRESENTS

Holiday SPECTACULAR

FEATURING

Broadway stars and the SCAD Bee Sharps



DECEMBER 5–6

Lucas Theatre for the Arts

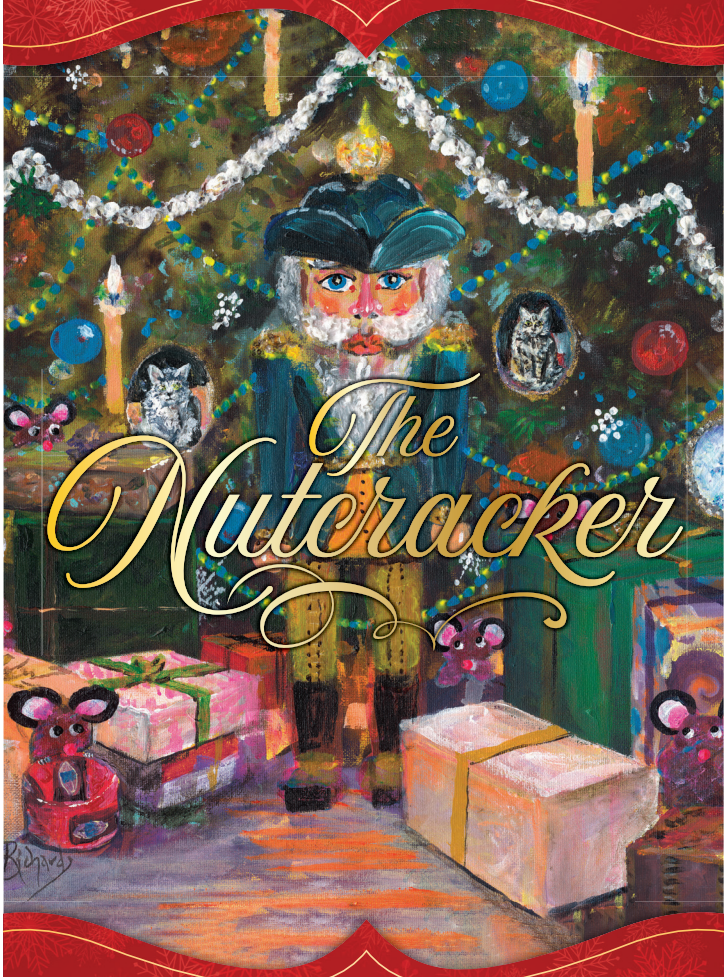
SCAD

The University for Creative Careers

Join us in celebrating
40 years of holiday magic!

HILTON HEAD DANCE THEATRE 40 Years

presents



SEAHAWK CULTURAL CENTER
NOVEMBER 14, 15, 21 & 22 @ 7:30
NOVEMBER 16 & 23 @ 2:30
HiltonHeadDance.com
hhdancetheatre hiltonheaddance
Crescendo

Charity & Community



Circle of Caring Gala

When: 6-11 p.m., Nov. 22
Where: The Westin Hilton Head
Details: Dress to impress for Volunteers in Medicine's signature fundraising gala. Enjoy a cocktail reception, elegant dinner and live music while supporting free healthcare for those who need it most. ***vimclinic.org***

Cocktails on the Coast

When: 4 p.m., Nov. 15
Where: Poseidon
Details: Mix good times with good deeds at this benefit for SOAR Special Recreation. Sip signature drinks, mingle with friends, and raise funds for programs that empower individuals with disabilities. ***soarspecialrecreation.org***



Crescendo

When: Through Nov. 23 **Where:** Various locations
Details: The island's month-long celebration of art, culture and history crescendos with live performances, exhibits and community events. Support the local arts scene while soaking in the creativity that makes Hilton Head shine. ***culturehhi.org***



Beaufort Veterans Day Parade

When: 10 a.m., Nov. 11
Where: Downtown Beaufort
Details: Line the streets to salute those who've served. Marching bands, military units and community groups come together in this moving celebration of service and sacrifice. ***beaufortcountysc.gov***

Beaufort Homes for the Holidays

When: Nov. 21-23 **Where:** St. Peter's Catholic Church
Details: Get inspired on this walking tour of seven beautifully designed homes in Celadon on Lady's Island. Each stop offers a peek at creative holiday décor and Lowcountry charm in full seasonal bloom. ***beauforthomesfortheholidays.com***

2025 Veterans Day Ceremony

When: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Nov. 11
Where: Shelter Cove Veterans Memorial Park
Details: Honor those who served, with a heartfelt community tribute featuring speakers, music and a wreath ceremony. Bring your family and your gratitude. ***hiltonheadisland.org***



Enjoy the Holidays

OLD TOWN BLUFFTON

ShopOldTownBluffton.com

HOLIDAY ART WALK

November 14th 3 - 7 pm

Its the perfect time to start your holiday gift shopping!

MALL-TERNATIVE PARTY

November 28th All Day

Find the best LOCAL deals for all your gift giving the holiday season!
Follow Shop Old Town Bluffton on Facebook & Instagram for more info!

3rd ANNUAL JINGLE STROLL

December 4th 3 - 7 pm

Find treats for every age and a few just for yourself!
Be on the lookout for Santa!

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

December 5th 5:30-8:30 pm

Tree Lighting at Martin Family Park, then Santa's Workshop and a Movie

CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 6th 10 am - 12 noon

54th annual parade through Historic Old Town Bluffton

The Old Town Merchants will be collecting donations for Blessing Box Project throughout November

Bluffton Arts District

Old Town Bluffton Merchants Society — A State of Mind

bluffton — heART of the Lowcountry







Marsh on the May

Celebrate 4 years of
Marsh on the May
Friday, November 14th
&
Saturday, November 15th

ENJOY SIPS AND BITES
&
15% OFF PURCHASES
*EXCLUDING ART & COMMISSIONED WORKS

A Thoughtful Collection of Goods for the Well-Appointed Home

Vibrant Accessories • Colorful Ceramics
Local Art & Artisans
Luxurious Bedding • Beautiful Lighting
Interior Design Services

MARSH ON THE MAY

STYLISH HOME DÉCOR & DESIGN

43 Boundary Street, Bluffton, SC 29910

marshonthemay.com

ON-SITE PARKING AVAILABLE

Food & Drink

Thanksgiving at Alexander's Restaurant

When: Nov. 27 **Where:** Palmetto Dunes
Details: Skip the dishes and treat yourself to a three-course Thanksgiving meal at Alexander's Restaurant & Wine Bar. Expect warm hospitality, coastal flavors and desserts worth a second helping. ***alexandersrestaurant.com/thanksgiving***





Discover Piedmont Wine Dinner

When: 6 p.m., Nov. 20
Where: Charlie's L'etoile Verte
Details: Travel to Italy without leaving the island. Expert Cameron Abbott will guide guests through the vineyards of Piedmont, pairing regional wines with exquisite French-inspired cuisine. ***charliesgreenstar.com***

Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

When: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Nov. 27 **Where:** Hudson's Seafood on the Docks
Details: Few things capture the spirit of Hilton Head like sharing a meal at Hudson's on Thanksgiving Day. Volunteers serve a feast fit for family while raising funds for The Deep Well Project, Bluffton Self Help and Second Helpings. Go for the food, stay for the gratitude. ***communitythanksgiving.com***

Charlie's Classics: Ready for the Holidays

When: 11 a.m., Nov. 8
Where: Charlie's L'etoile Verte
Details: Learn to cook like the pros at this hands-on class hosted by Charlie's chefs. Watch them prepare festive favorites, enjoy a leisurely lunch, and sip thoughtfully paired wines. ***charliesgreenstar.com***





Lowcountry Boil Dinner Cruise

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays
Where: Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina
Details: Watch the sunset while enjoying a chef-prepared Lowcountry boil and coastal desserts aboard a comfortable catamaran. There's no better way to end a day on the water. ***outsidehiltonhead.com***



Happenings at Okàn

Where: Calhoun Street, Bluffton
Details: Take your taste buds on a journey from West Africa to the Carolina coast at one of Okàn's culinary events. Thursdays feature live jazz on the patio, and Saturdays bring 100 Okàn, a late-night dining experience that blends culture, cuisine and rhythm. ***okanbluffton.com***

Oyster Roast at Nala's

When: 3 p.m., Nov. 22
Where: Nala's Beach Bar & Grill
Details: Kick back with cold drinks, hot oysters and live music by White Liquor. The pup-friendly vibes make this one of the island's newest treasures. ***nalasbeach.com***



Zenato Wine Dinner with Bonnie Callahan

When: 6 p.m., Nov. 19 **Where:** Nunzio Restaurant + Bar
Details: Savor five Italian courses, paired with wines from Zenato's celebrated vineyards around Lake Garda and Valpolicella. Chef Nunzio Patruno's regional dishes make it a night to remember. ***nunziohhi.com***





Culinary events at The Sea Pines Resort

From bourbon dinners to oyster roasts, The Sea Pines Resort has something delicious planned all month long. Enjoy top-shelf tastings, coastal bites and scenic views. ***seapines.com/events***

UPCOMING EVENTS

***Horse Soldier Bourbon Dinner**, Nov. 11, Sea Pines Beach Club*
***Orin Swift Cellars Wine Dinner**, Nov. 14, Harbour Town Clubhouse*
***Tap Takeover**, Nov. 18, Fraser's Tavern*
***Thanksgiving Buffet**, Nov. 27, Harbour Town Clubhouse*
***Caramel Apple Festival**, Nov. 29, Heritage Farm*

Robert Sinskey Vineyards Wine Dinner

When: 6-9 p.m., Nov. 19
Where: Alexander's Restaurant & Wine Bar
Details: Winemaker Robert Sinskey joins guests for an evening of thoughtful food, exceptional wine and lively conversation. A perfect pairing of flavor and story. ***alexandersrestaurant.com***

Mastering the Five Mother Sauces

When: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov. 7
Where: Culinary Institute of the South
Details: Join Chef Damon Dickerson for a culinary deep dive into the five classic sauces that form the foundation of great cooking. You'll leave inspired and ready to elevate every meal. ***tcl.edu***

Winter Jewel!

Join the owners of **Wild Birds Unlimited Hilton Head** for every aspect of backyard birding. From equipment and outings, to solutions and resources.

Purple Finches are seed specialists with a strong preference for black oil sunflower seeds – their #1 favorite and the easiest way to attract them. Also, sunflower hearts or chips are very attractive, especially in winter.

They naturally love evergreens (spruce, pine) that offer both food and cover.

Purple Finch

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44 YEARS
OF SAVING SONGBIRDS

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THANKSGIVING DINNERS TO GO

FIT FOR A KING
6 to 8 PEOPLE • $360
Whole Roasted Turkey

FEAST FOR A FEW
2 to 4 PEOPLE • $180
Roasted Turkey Breast

BOTH DINNERS FEATURE:
Mashed Potatoes • Sprout Mamma's Stuffing
Glazed Greens Beans & Carrots
Gravy & Cranberry Sauce
Dinner Rolls • Pumpkin Pie

SIDES
Mashed Potatoes $24
Mac 'n' Cheese $24
Stuffing $24
Gravy $18
Carrots & Green Beans $24
Cranberry Sauce $18

BAKED GOODS
Pecan Pie $37
Pumpkin Pie $37
Apple Pie $37
Pumpkin Bread. $24
Dinner Rolls $24
Cheesecake. $75
Plain or Pumpkin

Christmas is right around the corner!
Book us for your next party.

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2008
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Hilton Head Island • SC

93 Arrow Road, Hilton Head Island, SC
Monday thru Friday 8am-6pm
Saturday 8am-2pm
843.715.2649
sproutmomma.com

Food & Drink



Hibachi Dinner Cruise

When: 6-8 p.m., Fridays
Where: Outside Palmetto Bluff
Details: Cruise the May River while chefs fire up hibachi grills right on deck. Watch the sunset, enjoy a full dinner, and take in some of the best views in the Lowcountry. ***outsidehiltonhead.com***





Wine Time Bluffton events

Where: Wine Time, Bluffton
Details: From pasta nights to wine flights, this neighborhood favorite pairs great food with relaxed charm. Try something new, or revisit an old favorite with the team at Wine Time. ***winetimebluffton.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Battles & Bread: *11 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesdays*
Pasta Night: *5-9 p.m., Wednesdays*
Featured Wine Tasting: *3-5 p.m., Thursdays*



Salad Dressing Classes

Where: Hilton Head Olive Oils & Balsamics
Details: Learn how to create the perfect vinaigrette, and explore the health benefits of the Mediterranean diet in these fun, flavorful classes. ***hiltonheadoils.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Olive Oil & The Mediterranean Diet*, Nov. 12*
Salad Dressing 101*, Nov. 20*



Reverie Wine Dinner

When: 6 p.m., Nov. 18
Where: Sprout Momma
Details: Napa Valley's Reverie Wines take center stage at this intimate dinner. Expect creative pairings, seasonal ingredients and a cozy setting that feels like dining among friends. ***sproutmomma.com***

Rollers events

Where: Rollers Wine & Spirits, Hilton Head
Details: Sip, learn, and shop at weekly tastings featuring exciting new wines. The friendly atmosphere makes it easy to expand your palate. ***rollerswineandspirits.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Rollers Grapevine Academy: *5:30-7 p.m., Nov. 5*
Tasty Tuesday Wine Tasting: *5-7 p.m., Tuesdays*
Thirsty Thursday Wine Tasting: *5-7 p.m., Thursdays*





Cassandra's Kitchen Store demos

Where: Hilton Head & Bluffton
Details: Watch chefs and artisans in action as they showcase cooking techniques and specialty products. From knife sharpening to olive oil tastings, every event is equal parts education and indulgence. ***cassandraskitchen.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS
November 7: *Simon Pearce Pop Up at Billy Wood Appliance in Bluffton*
November 7 & 10: *Knife Sharpening at Cassandra's Kitchen*
November 10: *Simon Pearce Pop Up at Billy Wood Appliance in Hilton Head*
December 2: *An Evening with Le Clarisse EVOO & Chef Antonio Albano*

The Kiwanis Club of Hilton Head Island
Congratulates the Winners of the

40TH ANNUAL

CHILI COOK OFF

Congratulations to the 2025 Chili Cook Off winners. Well done everyone!

Thank you to all of the cooks, sponsors, judges, volunteers, Jeep Island, RetroRoxx, Island Recreation Center and everyone who came out to enjoy the beautiful afternoon!



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HILTON HEAD ISLAND KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

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FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT
The Better Way to a Better Window®

Jeep Island

1ST PLACE
Judge's Professional Division
Lincoln & South Brewing Company
2nd: One Hot Mamma's
3rd: Sonesta Resort HHI

1ST PLACE
Judge's Amateur Division
Hilton Head Firefighters' Association
2nd: Kountry Boi HotPot
3rd: Morgan & Stanley (Red Hot Chili Peppers)

1ST PLACE
Popular Vote Professional
British Open Pub of Hilton Head
2nd: Sonesta Resort HHI
3rd: Lincoln & South Brewing Company

1ST PLACE
Popular Vote Amateur
Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head Island
2nd: Hilton Head Firefighters' Association
3rd: Outpatient Surgery Center

SHOWMANSHIP
Morgan & Stanley (Red Hot Chili Peppers)

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Life in Perfect Balance On Hilton Head Island



Now Leasing Studio, One, Two, and Three Bedroom Residences

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55 Gardner Drive
Hilton Head Island • SC 29926
@aquaterahhi
AquateraHHI.com

Food & Drink



Bourbon & Steak Sling

When: 6 p.m., Nov. 11
Where: Lulu Kitchen
Details: Pair fine bourbons with expertly grilled steaks at this flavorful dinner hosted by Jimmy Schmid of Rollers. A night of smoky spirits and good company awaits. ***lulu-kitchenhhi.com***

Dine Out for the Cub Scouts

When: Nov. 20 **Where:** The Sandbar Beach Eats
Details: Grab a bite at The Sandbar for lunch, dinner or take-out, and support he local Cub Scouts troop. ***sandbarhhi.com***

UPCOMING EVENT
Dine Out for Christ Lutheran Preschool: *Dec. 4*



Hilton Head Distillery Cocktail Classes

Where: Hilton Head Distillery
Details: Take a deep dive into mixology at these hands-on classes. Whether you prefer bourbon-forward sips or tropical tiki creations, you'll leave ready to impress. ***hiltonheaddistillery.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Bourbon & Beyond: Stir, Shake and Sip: *Nov. 6*
The Art of Tiki Cocktails: *Nov. 20*

Tuesday Wine Tasting

When: 4-6 p.m., Tuesdays
Where: Blacksheep X Sabbatical
Details: Sample four handpicked wines for only $20 in a relaxed, social setting. The perfect midweek break for anyone who believes wine tastes better with good company. ***blacksheeponboundary.com***





2025 Beachside Thanksgiving Event

When: Nov. 27 **Where:** The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa
Details: Take your Thanksgiving to the beach. Enjoy carving stations, seafood spreads and holiday favorites while taking in panoramic ocean views. ***sipandsavorseaside.com***



Please welcome Renee Ricci, DO, MPH.

Obstetrics and gynecology

Bringing remarkable care for women to the Lowcountry

Renee Ricci, DO, MPH, joins Novant Health as we continue to expand comprehensive women's health services. Dr. Ricci brings compassionate, patient-centered care to support women through every stage of life. Her expertise and dedication will strengthen our commitment to providing high-quality care across the Lowcountry.

AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Preventive care and wellness
- Reproductive health
- Prenatal, pregnancy and postpartum care
- Menstrual and hormonal health
- Gynecological care

To schedule an appointment, call **843-540-5857**.

Novant Health Riverside Women's Care
75 Baylor Drive, Suite 200, Bluffton, SC 29910
843-540-5857 | Fax: 843-524-5655

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Operation Patriots FOB is changing that story.

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– STAN SMITH, Former World #1 Tennis Player, 2x Grand Slam Champion, Proud US Army Veteran

Become part of the team that helps save lives.
Serve with purpose.
Stand with our Veterans & First Responders.

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SAVE 22 CLUB

Join the Save 22 Club today!

Lectures & Classes





Art League Hilton Head classes

Where: Art League Academy, Cordillo Parkway
Details: Whether you're a total beginner or a lifelong artist, these workshops offer a creative escape. Sip wine, experiment with color, and see where inspiration takes you. ***artleaguehhi.org***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Wine Down Wednesday: Neurographic Creations, *Nov. 12*
The Elements of a Dynamic Composition, *Nov. 17-19*
Holiday Mosaics: Trees, Ornaments & More, *Nov. 24*



Restorative Medicine Seminar

When: Noon-1 p.m., Tuesdays **Where:** Fraum Center for Restorative Health
Details: Lunch and learning make a perfect pair. Enjoy a complimentary meal while discovering the latest in non-invasive pain relief and regenerative health. It's an easy, informative way to invest in feeling your best. ***fraum.com***



Under the Ancient Oaks: An Immersive Historical Experience

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 8
Where: Historic Bluffton Foundation
Details: History comes alive beneath Bluffton's centuries-old oaks. Step back into the antebellum South through costumed interpreters, storytelling and hands-on demonstrations. It's part education, part time travel and completely fascinating. ***historicblufftonsc.com***





SOBA art classes

Where: SOBA Gallery, Bluffton
Details: Find your muse at these friendly, small-group art sessions. With expert instructors and plenty of encouragement, you'll leave with new skills and maybe even a masterpiece. ***sobagallery.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Abstract Painting Your Way*, Nov. 1, 8 & 29*
Weekend Painting Workshop in Acrylics*, Nov. 15-16*



Coastal Discovery Museum events

Details: Get up close with the creatures and critters that make the Lowcountry unique. From blue crabs to reptiles, each session offers hands-on learning in a relaxed, family-friendly setting. ***coastaldiscovery.org***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Creature Feature*, Mondays*
Lowcountry Reptiles*, Wednesdays*
Blue Crab Discovery*, Thursdays*

Tuesday Talks

When: Nov. 4 & 18
Where: Port Royal Sound Foundation
Details: These lively lectures dive deep into the wonders of our coastal ecosystem. Learn about marine research, barrier island preservation and the wildlife that calls the Lowcountry home. ***portroyalsoundfoundation.org***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Courtney Kimmel & Chris Kehrer – Sound Science*, 9:30-10 a.m., Nov. 4*
John Alexander – St. Phillips Island*,3-4:30 p.m., Nov. 18*
Ryan Hanscom – Biologging in the Lowcountry*, 5;30-7 p.m., Dec. 2*



Legends & Luminaries Speaker Series

When: 5 p.m., Nov. 6, 20, and Dec. 4
Where: Coastal Discovery Museum
Details: Celebrate the museum's 40th anniversary with inspiring talks from local leaders who helped shape Hilton Head's story. From artists to conservationists, each session offers a rare inside look at the island's evolution. ***coastaldiscovery.org***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Margaret Golson Pearman: *5 p.m., Nov. 6*
Wyman Fraser Davis: *5 p.m., Nov. 20*
Louanne LaRoche: 5 p.m., Dec. 4

CONNECTING GENEROSITY WITH COMMUNITY

At Community Foundation of the Lowcountry (CFL), our knowledgeable team connects giving people with the causes and organizations that matter most to them.

With over 550 charitable funds administered, including 15 residential community funds, CFL is proud to help individuals, families, and neighborhoods strengthen the place we all call home.

As year-end giving season approaches, now is the perfect time to begin your philanthropic journey by establishing a charitable fund at CFL.





To take the first step, contact CFL at 843-681-9100, visit cf-lowcountry.org, or scan the QR code.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

4 Northridge Drive , Hilton Head Island, SC
843-681-9100 | cf-lowcountry.org



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Markets & Shopping





FARMERS AND ART MARKETS

Shop local produce, seafood and crafts at weekly markets across the Lowcountry.

Bluffton Farmers Market: *12-4 p.m., Thursdays, 68 Boundary St.*
Hilton Head Island Farmers Market: *9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, Coastal Discovery Museum*
Port Royal Farmers Market: *9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Naval Heritage Park*
Forsythe Farmers Market: *9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Savannah*
Beaufort First Friday: *5-8 p.m., first Friday of each month, Downtown Beaufort*
Hilton Head Community Market: *9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturdays, Shelter Cove Community Park*
Habersham Farmers Market: *4-7 p.m., Fridays, Habersham Marketplace in Beaufort*
Farmers & Makers Market: *10 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesdays, The Shops at Sea Pines Center*
First Thursday Artisan Alley: *4 p.m., first Thursday of each month, The Shops at Sea Pines Center*
Farmers & Fishermen Sunset Market at Savannah Harbour: *4:30-8:30 p.m., 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays, Hutchinson Island*
Side Hustle Brewing Co. Farmers Market: *1-5 p.m., third Sunday of each month, Side Hustle Brewing Co.*
Second Saturday Shop & Stroll: *10 a.m.-2 p.m., second Saturday of each month, The Shops of Paris Avenue*
Palmetto Bluff Farmers Market: *9 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 5 & 19, Palmetto Bluff Farm*



Marco Bicego Trunk Show

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 21
Where: Forsythe Jewelers
Details: Treat yourself to a little sparkle. This exclusive trunk show showcases the newest pieces from Italian designer Marco Bicego. Think sculpted gold, hand-engraved details and timeless design. Enjoy one-on-one styling tips from the Forsythe team and a Marco Bicego representative while sipping something bubbly. ***forsythejewelers.biz***

Marsh on the May Anniversary Celebration

When: Nov. 14-15
Where: Marsh on the May
Details: Raise a glass to four stylish years of Marsh on the May. Enjoy sips, small bites and special anniversary discounts on curated Lowcountry finds. Come for the party, stay for the design inspiration. ***marshonthemay.com***





Holiday Craft Fair

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 21 & 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 22
Where: Hilton Head Island Beach & Tennis
Details: Find one-of-a-kind treasures made by local artisans, from hand-knit scarves to sea-inspired ornaments, and baked holiday treats. It's a cheerful way to check off your gift list while supporting local makers. ***hhibeachandtennis.com***

J. Banks Holiday Open House

When: 4-7 p.m., Nov. 13 **Where:** J. Banks Retail Store
Details: Shop the latest interior designs at this annual holiday open house.
jbanksdesign.com



Museum Store Holiday Sale

When: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 25 **Where:** Coastal Discovery Museum
Details: Skip the crowds and shop with purpose. Stock up on locally crafted gifts, books and nature-inspired treasures, while supporting the museum's mission of education and preservation. ***coastaldiscovery.org***





Old Town Bluffton holiday events

Where: Old Town Bluffton
Details: Bluffton shines brightest during the holidays. Wander through art galleries, sip cocoa at the Mall-ternative Party, and stroll under the lights during the festive Jingle Stroll. Proceeds support the Blessing Project, helping local families in need. ***shopoldtownbluffton.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Holiday Art Walk, Nov. 14
Mall-ternative Party, Nov. 28
3rd Annual Jingle Stroll, Dec. 4

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HELP SUPPORT HILTON HEAD HUMANE:

PAWS-ITIVELY THANKFUL ADOPTION EVENT



Captain Woody's
HILTON HEAD

FRIDAY, NOV 28TH
HAPPY HOUR 3PM TO 5PM

Share your holiday leftovers with a new family member.
Make this holiday season unforgettable with a new best friend.

MORE EVENTS TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT:

MUTTS AND MARGS
Thursday, November 13th
4PM to 6PM
The Village at Wexford, HHI

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, December 3rd
5PM to 7PM
The Village at Wexford, HHI

HILTON HEAD HUMANE

843.681.8686 hhhumane.org

Music & Entertainment





Town of Bluffton Concert Series

When: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Nov. 14 **Where:** Buckwalter Place Amphitheater
Details: Grab your lawn chair, call a few friends, and get ready for a night of music under the stars. Southern Heat brings their signature Lowcountry sound to Bluffton for this free outdoor concert, complete with great tunes, good vibes and that unbeatable small-town charm. ***blufftonsc.com***



Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra

When: Nov. 9-30
Details: From Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue to the sparkle of Holiday Pops, November's lineup from the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra is pure ear candy for music lovers. Expect world-class musicians, soaring arrangements and a festive spirit that sets the tone for the season. ***hhso.org***

UPCOMING EVENTS
Marcus Roberts Plays Rhapsody in Blue *– Nov. 9 & 10, First Presbyterian Church*
Holiday Pops Bluffton *– Nov. 29, St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church*
Holiday Pops Hilton Head *– Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, First Presbyterian Church*



Jubu Smith in Concert

When: 8 p.m., Nov. 21-22
Where: Ruby Lee's
Details: R&B fans, this one's for you. Guitar virtuoso Jubu Smith, known for his soulful work with Frankie Beverly & Maze, hits the stage with Rod Foster & Co. and saxophonist David Glymph. Expect smooth grooves, serious talent and an electric atmosphere at one of Hilton Head's most beloved live-music spots. ***rubyleeshhi.com***



Regular live music venues

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



DAILY SHOWS

Brother Shucker's
Coast, Oceanfront Dining
Coligny Center Stage
Dive Bar & Grille
Fishcamp on Broad Creek
FISH Casual Coastal Seafood
Frosty Frog
Harbourside
Kind of Blue
Lincoln & South Brewing Company
Luther's Rare & Well Done
Quarterdeck
Ruby Lee's
San Miguel's
Scott's Fish Market
Skull Creek Boathouse
The Boardroom
The Crazy Crab Jarvis Creek
The Jazz Corner
The Salty Dog Cafe
The Sandbar Beach Eats
The Studio
Tiki Hut





MORE GREAT SPOTS (SELECT NIGHTS)

A Lowcountry Backyard Restaurant (Mondays-Fridays)
Agave (Thursdays-Saturdays)
Big Bamboo Cafe (Mondays-Saturdays)
Black Marlin Bayside Grill & Hurricane Bar (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
Bluffton Oyster Co. Family Seafood House (Fridays & Saturdays)
Burnt Church Distillery (Thursdays-Saturdays)
Captain Woody's Bluffton (Tuesdays)
Celeste (Fridays & Saturdays)
Cheap Seats Tavern 2 (Fridays)
Chophouse 119 (Fridays)
Hilton Head Brewing Co. (Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays)
Hop Dog (Fridays)
Island Winery (Saturdays)
Lot 9 Brewing Company (Saturdays)
Melrose Oyster House & Beach Club (Thursdays-Sundays)
Nectar Farm Kitchen in Old Town Bluffton (Fridays-Sundays)
Okàn (Thursdays and Saturdays)
Pomodori Too! (Thursdays-Saturdays)
Red Fish (Tuesdays-Saturdays)
Reilley's Grill & Bar (Wednesdays-Fridays & Sundays)
Rollers Wine & Spirits (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
Santa Fe Cafe (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
Shellring Ale Works (Fridays-Sundays)
Sprout Momma (Wednesdays)
The Clubhouse at Okatie Creek (Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays)
The Dunes House (Mondays-Fridays)
The Rooftop Bar at Poseidon (Wednesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays)
Tio's Latin American Kitchen Bluffton (Fridays)
Zunzibar (Mondays-Thursdays)

Tuesday TRADITIONS

FARMERS MARKET
Every Tuesday
9 am–1 pm
November 25
Holiday Market

MUSEUM STORE HOLIDAY SALE
November 25
9 am–1 pm

COASTAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Coastal Discovery Museum
70 Honey Horn Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC
843-689-6767
coastaldiscovery.org

UNITE FOR GOOD

YEP.
We're the Bell Ringers.



At the Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island, local neighbors and friends come together to create lasting change right here and around the world.



Oyster Shell Bagging





Cleaning up Volunteers in Medicine and local signs along the roadways.

The cutout Bernie pictured with our volunteers is showing that we are promoting polio awareness. Even though we're out in the community helping our local community, we are still fighting globally to eradicate polio.



Rotary
Hilton Head Island

UNITE FOR GOOD

Check Us Out | Get Involved | Come to a Meeting | Participate

Meetings are held on Thursday at 12:30 pm.
Palmera Inn & Suites on 12 Park Lane, Hilton Head Island.

843.686.4100 HILTONHEADROTARY.ORG

Music & Entertainment



Gregg Russell Thanksgiving Concert

When: 7:30-9 p.m., Nov. 28 **Where:** Harbour Town
Details: It's not the holidays on Hilton Head without Gregg Russell singing under the Liberty Oak. Bring the family for an evening of feel-good music, twinkling lights and the official Harbour Town Christmas tree lighting. Santa's rumored to make an appearance, too. ***seapines.com***

USCB Chamber Music Concert

When: 5 p.m., Nov. 9
Where: USCB Center for the Arts
Details: Let the artistry of violinist Kevin Zhu and pianist Andrew Armstrong sweep you away in a program blending technical brilliance with heartfelt emotion. It's an elegant evening for classical enthusiasts and curious newcomers alike.
uscbchambermusic.com





Fripp Island Friends of Music

When: 5 p.m., Nov. 16 **Where:** Fripp Island Community Center
Details: Pianist Brian Woods brings his award-winning talent to Fripp Island for an intimate concert that promises to move and inspire. Stay afterward for a champagne reception and the chance to mingle with fellow music lovers; a perfect Sunday escape by the sea. ***frippfriendsofmusic.***com



Please welcome Norman Bettle, MD.

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and in clinical neurophysiology

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Board-certified in neurology and in clinical neurophysiology, Norman Bettle, MD, joins Novant Health ready to serve the Lowcountry with trusted neurological care. Through his extensive expertise in diagnosing and managing a wide range of neurological conditions, Dr. Bettle will be a valuable resource for patients across the Lowcountry. His addition enhances access to high-quality, specialized care close to home — ensuring our community receives the neurological support it needs.

To schedule an appointment, call **843-836-3667**.

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- Migraines and other headache disorders
- Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
- Neuropathy and other neuromuscular disorders
- Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders
- Stroke and other cerebrovascular disorders
- Epilepsy and other seizure disorders
- Multiple sclerosis and other autoimmune disorders
- Traumatic brain, spinal cord and nerve injuries

Novant Health Neurology

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75 Baylor Drive, Suite 155, Bluffton, SC 29910
11-D Robert Smalls Parkway, Beaufort, SC 29906

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Sports & Outdoors



NOVEMBER RACES

Shake off the chill, and lace up for a good cause. From turkey trots to fun runs, these Lowcountry races are the perfect mix of fitness, fresh air and community spirit. Whether you're chasing a new personal best or just chasing the smell of pumpkin pie, there's a start line waiting for you.

UPCOMING RACES

NAMI Walks Lowcountry: *9 a.m., Nov. 8, Shelter Cove Community Park*
Tunnel to Towers 5K Run and Walk: *8:30 a.m., Nov. 9, Rose Hill Plantation*
Sea Pines Dolphin Dash 5K: *9 a.m., Nov. 26, The Sea Pines Resort*
Habitat for Humanity of the Lowcountry's Turkey Trot 5K: *8 a.m., Nov. 27, Best Western Sea Island Inn*
Historic Bluffton 5K Turkey Chase: *8 a.m., Nov. 27, Bluffton Oyster Park*
Palmetto Bluff Turkey Trot 5K: *9 a.m., Nov. 27, Wilson Village Green*
Palmetto Dunes Thanksgiving Turtle Trot 5K: *9 a.m., Nov. 27, Dunes House*
Hilton Head Turkey Trot: *8 a.m., Nov. 27, Skull Creek Boathouse*
Spring Island Early Bird Chase 5K: 10 a.m., Nov. 28, Spring Island Club



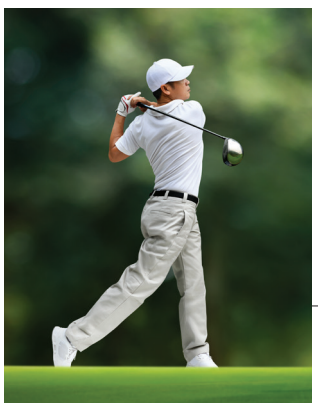


Sea Pines adventures

Details: Sea Pines turns outdoor fun into an art form. From bonfires under the stars to fishing tournaments, tennis with Stan Smith, and the beloved Harbour Town Lights, there's something for every age and energy level. ***seapines.com***

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bonfire: *4:30-7:30 p.m., Nov. 14, Sea Pines Forest Preserve*
Thanksgiving with Stan Smith: *9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 27-29, Sea Pines Racquet Club*
22nd Annual Fishing Tournament: *10-11:30 a.m., Nov. 28, Fish Island*
Harbour Town Lights: *Daily, Nov. 28-Jan. 1, Harbour Town*
Stan Smith Thanksgiving Exhibition: *2:30-4:30 p.m., Nov. 28, Sea Pines Racquet Club*
Caramel Apple Festival: *1-3 p.m., Nov. 29, Heritage Farm*



Swing Fore the Symphony

When: Nov. 13
Where: Moss Creek Golf Club
Details: Tee it high and let it fly for a good cause. This charity golf tournament benefits the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra and promises a day of friendly competition, great company and the sweet sound of supporting the arts. ***swingforethesymphony.org***

Crescendo



OCT. 14 – NOV. 23

Celebrate National Arts & Humanities Month with over 100 arts and culture events happening across Hilton Head Island.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CRESCENDO CONTINUES

Oct. 14 from 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Shelter Cove Community Park - 39 Shelter Cove Lane
The Crescendo Celebration continues this month.

THE COMPLETE CALENDAR CAN BE ACCESSED VIA THE QR CODE ABOVE.

Studio Tour - Nov. 8 - Presented by the Art League of Hilton Head

"It's Thursday: Artists of the Round Table" - Begins Nov. 12; Opening Reception Nov. 13 - Coastal Discovery Museum

The Nutcracker - Nov. 14 - 16 & Nov. 21 - 23 - Seahawk Cultural Center

HILTON HEAD ISLAND LANTERN PARADE

Nov. 22 - 5:30 p.m.
Find out more about upcoming workshops, where to park, how to participate, and more.

AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF ARTS & CULTURE
Check the event calendar at culturehhi.org

Office of Cultural Affairs
Hilton Head Island



Give like a Local.

Give the gift of Local Life with this collection of fun merchandise. From cookbooks and mugs to greeting cards and tote bags, there is something for everyone.



Check out all of our offerings online at LocalLifeSC.com under our Local Life store tab.

DON'T FORGET TO SHOP LIKE A LOCAL

Sports & Outdoors





Palmetto Bluff Conservancy events

Details: Explore the wild side of the Lowcountry with guided hikes, research excursions and pop-up experiences led by the Palmetto Bluff Conservancy team. Learn about local wildlife, conservation efforts and the beauty of protecting what makes this region special. ***palmettobluff.com/conservation***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Research Excursion: Cavity Nest Box Survey: *9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 18*
Brown Bag Lunch: Conservancy Safari with Homann's Africa: *12-1 p.m., Nov. 19*
Conservancy Pop-Up Shop: *9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Nov. 21 & 24*

Celebrating Carolina Dreamers Car Show

When: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 8 **Where:** Mike Reichenbach Chevrolet
Details: Chrome, classics and community collide at this gathering of classics. Admire vintage rides, listen to live music, grab a bite, and support local causes while talking shop with fellow car enthusiasts. ***carolinadreamers.info***





Palm Trees & Pistons

When: 9-11 a.m., Nov. 8 **Where:** Nala's Beach Bar & Grill
Details: Start your morning with horsepower and ocean views. This free monthly show gathers classic, exotic and custom cars in a laid-back beach setting. Grab a coffee, stroll the lineup, and soak up the automotive eye candy. ***nalasbeach.com***



Cornhole for the Lowcountry

When: 1 p.m., Nov. 15
Where: Burnt Church Distillery
Details: Gather your best toss partner, and join this fun, family-friendly cornhole tournament supporting the Lowcountry Legacy Fund. Expect great competition, local spirits and plenty of bragging rights. ***burntchurchdistillery.com***



Give the gift of the Lowcountry this holiday season.

Treat yourself (or someone special) to the intriguing people and places, food and fashion, culture and creativity of LOCAL Life Magazine.

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We get on the ladders, so you don't have to. We will install and maintain the lights.

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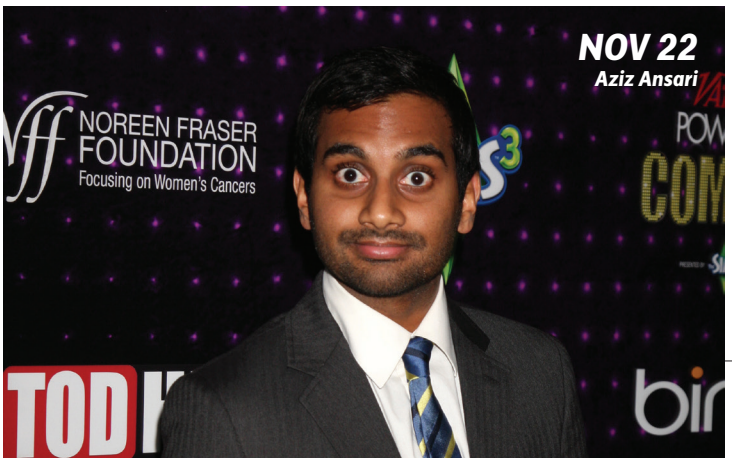
SAVANNAH EVENTS

November 7-8: *Hostess City Food and Wine Fest at The Park at Eastern Wharf*
November 8: *Fall Festival at the Davenport House Museum*
November 8: *Savannah Porchfest 2025 at Baldwin Park Savannah*
November 9: *The Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival at Monterey Square*
November 11: *Hadestown at Johnny Mercer Theatre*
November 12: *The Rock Orchestra by Candelight at Johnny Mercer Theatre*
November 13: *Gabriel Iglesias at Enmarket Arena*
November 13: *Needtobreathe at Johnny Mercer Theatre*
November 14: *Arts, Oysters & Jazz at The Beach Institute African-American Cultural Center*
November 14: ***Dwight Yoakam*** *at Enmarket Arena*
November 15: *Food Truck Festival at Eastern Wharf*
November 15-16: *Savannah Philharmonic's Mozart Requiem at The Lucas Theatre for the Arts*
November 20-Dec. 31: *Savannah Christmas Market at Plant Riverside District*
November 21-23: *Christmas Made in the South at the Savannah Convention Center*
November 22: ***Aziz Ansari*** *at Johnny Mercer Theatre*
November 23: *Barks & Bourbon for the Humane Society at The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa*
November 23: *Mannheim Steamroller Christmas at Johnny Mercer Theatre*
November 29: *Holiday Kickoff at Eastern Wharf at The Park at Eastern Wharf*
November 29: *Savannah Lighted Boat Parade at the Savannah River*
November 29: *South Carolina Ballet's Nutcracker at Johnny Mercer Theatre*





SCADAY

SCAD EVENTS

Check out one of these artistic events this month at the Savannah College of Art and Design, The University of Creative Careers. ***scad.edu***

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCAD Day Savannah: *9 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov. 8, SCAD Museum of Art*
Holiday Spectacular: *Dec. 5-6, Lucas Theatre for the Arts*

SAVE THE DATE

December 2: *Joe Bonamassa at Johnny Mercer Theatre*
December 3: *Wine Down Wednesday for a Cause at Village at Wexford*
December 3: *Mixology Class at Burnt Church Distillery*
December 3: *Artist in Residence Pam White at FLOW Gallery + Workshop*
December 4: *Palmetto Dunes Charity Golf Tournament*
December 4: *3rd Annual Jingle Stroll in Old Town Bluffton*
December 4: *HH Audubon Christmas Bird Pre-Count Meeting at First Presbyterian*
December 4: *A Conversation with Artist and Former Owner of The Red Piano Gallery at the Coastal Discovery Museum*
December 4: *Salad Dressing 101 at Hilton Head Olive Oils & Balsamics*
December 4: *Making Spirits Bright Cocktail Class at Hilton Head Distillery*
December 4: *Opening night of The Christmas Belles at Coligny Theatre*
December 4-5: *Christmas Wish...Freedom at USCB Center for the Arts*
December 5: *Bluffton's 54th Annual Tree Lighting at Martin Family Park*
December 5: *Santa's Workshop & Christmas Movie at Martin Family Park*
December 5: *WhistlePig Whiskey Dinner at Sea Pines Beach Club*
December 5: *Hilton Head Choral Society's Celebrate the Holidays Concert at First Presbyterian*

TO SHOWCASE AN EVENT

You may be able to post your event for free in our Happenings section. Head to ***locallifesc.com****, click "Contact Us," and include a title, date, time, location, description, a link to the webpage and photos if possible.*

Santa Claus

is comin' to:

Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28





12:00 NOON - 2:30 P.M. Santa arrives at noon aboard a fire truck. Take photos at Neptune's statue until 2:30 p.m.

11:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. Holiday music, bounce house & train rides around the marina! *(additional cost)*

ALL DAY. Holiday sales & dining specials at participating merchants. Stroll around the marina & enjoy the Holiday lights & decorations!

SHOP LOCAL SHOP SMALL



FIRST 300 KIDS GET A GINGERBREAD COOKIE KIT TO TAKE HOME!
(Cookies provided by Hilton Head Social Bakery)

Special appearance by Buddy the Elf & his toy makers



FREE EVENT!
Bring a new unwrapped toy or canned items for the Deep Well Project

DEEP WELL PROJECT

SCAN QR CODE TO CHECK FOR EVENT UPDATES

Located Hwy 278, mile marker 8, across from the Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort entrance *ShelterCoveHiltonHead.com/santa*
When using a GPS, please use 13 Harbourside Ln

A Night Heron's Night Watch



Vining Way, Savannah

Photographer Jamie Anderson created this hauntingly beautiful image by blending two of his passions: wildlife and the night sky. A yellow-crowned night heron perches in silhouette against a rising full moon. The photo was originally crafted for a "Dark and Dreary" art contest back in 2014, using a Canon 40D and a Sigma 150-500mm lens, equipment Jamie now calls old by today's standards. After learning Photoshop, he combined his shot of the heron with one of the moon, and, voilà, a work of art was born. Some may see something eerie in its stark contrasts. Others, like Jamie, simply see the natural world keeping watch over the night.

HIT US WITH YOUR BEST SHOT **Have you taken a great local photo?**
Send your high-res image to info@wearelocallife.com or upload it at locallifesc.com/partingshot.


WELCOME
HOME
Gratitude Lives Here
At Colleton River Club, every passion finds its rightful place. Whether you are on the golf course, the courts, or in the fitness studio, our Members contribute more than just their skills; they foster camaraderie and a genuine sense of belonging. This season, we express our gratitude for a community where every Member has a seat at the table.
Colleton River Club®
The Most Beautiful Place in the Lowcountry
ColletonRiverClub.com | 843.836.4466 | info@ColletonRiverClub.com



Please join us for our
Marco Bicego Trunk Show
Friday & Saturday, November 21 & 22
10 AM - 5 PM
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