"Serving the People of Seabrook Island, South Carolina"

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VOL 26 • ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2023

Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy at 23

This December marks the end of the Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy's 23rd year and it has been a great year! We have:

- Transferred four new lots to SIPOA for conservation
- Conducted a successful on-line fundraising campaign to purchase Lot 6, Old Oak Walk
- Collaborated with the Kiawah Conservancy on Native Plant initiatives, including a native plant sale at Freshfields Village with planting templates
- Welcomed three new members to the Board
- Installed conservation lot markers
 Hosted the first Oyster Roast Fundraiser
 Sponsored a presentation on the
- Angel Oak Preserve Newly Conserved Lots

A key property at the corner of Cap'n Sam's Road and Royal Pine Drive was donated by Glen Cox and Karin King in early October for conservation. It is adjacent to the Horse Trail and close to other SIPOA green space lots. Karin and Glen have been coming to Seabrook Island since 1996 and moved here from northern Virginia in 2012 after looking all over coastal South Carolina. Even though they lived in the Virginia countryside, they have found more wildlife and birds here on Seabrook Island.

Glen is a nature photographer, frequently on the beach in the early hours, and Karin is a potter. They have been thinking about donating

a lot for conservation for years. As Karin said, "It seems like the Island is disappearing and we felt we had to do something." When Karin and Glen looked for a significant property to donate, they worked with Carl Voelker, SIGSC's Acquisitions Chair, who pointed them to the .47 acre lot at 2856 Cap'n Sam's Road. Karin exclaimed that the "acquisition process was seamless. SIGSC did all the work!"

In the same neighborhood as the Cap'n Sam's lot, Hank and Laurel Greer made it possible to add 2 lots totaling .58 acre on Royal Pine Drive. As long-time Seabrook Island residents, the Greers were concerned about the dwindling supply of wildlife habitat and decided to seek out these particularly strategic lots near the horse trail and a corridor of conserved SIPOA-owned land.

In late August, SIGSC started an ambitious fund-raising campaign to purchase Lot 6 at 2723 Old Oak Walk. Thanks to the generosity of more than 75 Seabrookers who contributed more than \$90,000, SIGSC was able to purchase the lot in October. This lot is part of a cluster of 8 conservation lots in the neighborhood and, like the others, is being transferred to the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association with a permanent conservation easement.

As 2023 comes to an end, the board of the Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy is profoundly grateful for the generosity and support provided by the community as we continue the important work of conserving environmental gems and wildlife habitats on beautiful Seabrook Island. We will continue to work hard to help preserve all that people love about the Island.

If you want to support conservation on the Island, please consider making a tax-deductible donation at www. sigsc.net or send a check to:

Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy 130 Gardeners Circle, PM 521 Johns Island, SC 29455 Susan Leggett for the Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy

Conserved Green Space

New SIGSC sign posted on conservation lots



Fawns and pileated woodpecker are representative of the wildlife to be found on conserved lots PHOTOS BY GLEN COX

2023 Veteran's Day Charitable Golf Outing

POLINIOF C P.O. Box 30427 Charleston, SC 29417



www.townofseabrookisland.org

Country golfers teed up in the 12th Annual Seabrook Island Veteran's Day Charitable Golf Tournament to recognize veterans and raise money to support the Charleston Fisher House and the Ralph Johnson Veterans Hospital in Charleston. The event is sponsored by the Seabrook Island Club and the Kiawah-Seabrook Exchange Club.

During the opening ceremonies, the flag was presented by the St. Johns High School Jr. ROTC Color Guard and WWII veteran Ed Gillen was recognized for his service. The Seabrook Island Club hosted 200 golfers including 20 Wounded Warriors who wanted to show their support for veterans of all eras. The event raised \$42,000 for the Fisher House and Ralph Johnson Charleston Veterans Hospital.

The Ocean Winds Flight winning team was composed of Art Rooney, Phil Richardson, David Seignious, and Bray Blanto. The Crooked Oaks flight winners were Charlie Templeton, Carl Lunquist, Stephen Duca, and Wounded Warrior Stanley Charamut. The event in 2024 will be on Monday, November 11. ▲ Alan Armstrong

Date November 6, 2023 ISLAND SEABROOK ay to the VR Hospital / Fisher House Churleston Pay to the 1 %00 Dollars For Scabrook Island Veteran's Day Tournament Seabrook Island Club

Presentation of check; (L-R) Alan Armstrong (Kiawah-Seabrook Exchange Club, Dwight Kress (VA Hospital), Dr. Blase Carabello (Fisher House), Brian Thelan (SI Club) FOR MORE PHOTOS SEE PAGES 3 & 5



Sea turtle season marked by high nest numbers but also high tides, predation

By CDD Staff/ Courtesy of SCDNR

The Lowcountry's sea turtle nesting season officially concluded No vember 10 with a total of 6,628 nests for the state — a higher-than-average year that was tempered by losses from tropical storm Idalia, high tides

Two loggerhead sea turtle nests kicked off the season on May 2, 2023, and nesting peaked in the first full week of July. Loggerheads lay the vast majority of nests in South Carolina, but 2023 also saw 19 green and two Kemp's ridley sea turtle nests. In late August, Idalia moved into

South Carolina as a tropical storm and grazed the Southern coastline. "Idalia was a trifecta of water issues," said South Carolina Depart-

ment of Natural Resources (SCDNR) biologist Michelle Pate, who oversees the agency's nest protection program. "We had a supermoon, king tide and tropical storm all at once."

The tide, rain and storm surge flooded many coastal beaches, washing away sea turtle nests and habitat in the process. The storm took a particularly heavy toll on Edisto Island and the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, where significant nest losses occurred. All told, SCDNR biologists estimate 600 nests drowned or washed away due to Idalia.

Idalia and king tides (unusually high tides that occur around new and full moons) accounted for two-thirds of 2023's nest losses, with coyotes, raccoons and armadillos responsible for much of the remainder. Sea turtles have evolved to take some losses in stride; loggerheads nest along a vast stretch of coastline over a long season, limiting the impact of individual storms and predators. But combined with continually eroding beach habitat, these individual threats can

become a "real issue," Pate said. "The increased number of false crawls showed that nesting mothers had to make multiple attempts to find a good spot on the beach," Pate said. "Then, water issues and increased coyote and armadillo depredation



As usual, two islands in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge — Cape and Lighthouse Islands — saw the highest nest density, comprising nearly half (43 percent) of the state's total nests. This undeveloped, dark part of the coastline typically sees the greatest nesting activity and is monitored by a small and dedicated team of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff and volunteers.

Teams of SCDNR-permitted and trained volunteers surveyed the rest of South Carolina's populated coast, daily monitoring nests, collecting important data and serving as educational ambassadors to curious beachgoers. This volunteer force of 1,300 South Carolinians has been at work for more than 40 years and plays an invaluable role in sea turtle conservation

Sea turtle nest numbers have been trending upward not just in South Carolina but across the southeastern coast in the past decade. The 2019 season marked an all-time high for our state with 8,792 nests, followed by 5,562 (2020), 5,638 (2021) and 7,968 (2022) nests. High nest numbers are

good news, but they're only part of the equation — the federally threatened loggerhead still has significant milestones to meet before federal officials consider them 'recovered.'

THE Seabrooker

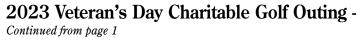
"If we can't get hatchlings to emerge and make it to the ocean. then an increase in nest number doesn't help," Pate said.

A tentative estimate of 387.608 hatchlings made it to the ocean from South Carolina beaches in 2023. Only a fraction of sea turtle hatchlings sur vive to adulthood, but every survivor makes a difference in this protected population.

How to Help Sea Turtles in the Off-Season

Sea turtles don't disappear from our coast after nesting season some use South Carolina's coastal waters year-round. Here's how you can help in the off-season:

- Boat carefully! Keep an eye out for wildlife while boating, particularly in small tidal creeks where young sea turtles like to feed.
- Report any stranded or dead sea turtles to our 24-hour hotline 1-800-922-5431.







Carl Lundquist, Stephen Duca, and Wo d Warrior Stanley Charam



The winning team for the Ocean Winds Flight (Not in order) Art ous, and Bray Blanto



Golfers at Opening Ceremonies: L-R Jock Vincentsen, Bonnie E Sally Burke, Barbara Vincentsen, and Collen Thornburgh

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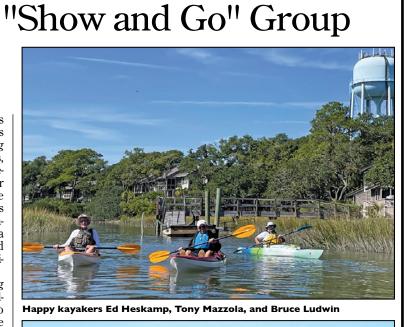




Many of us spent most of our lives before Seabrook on important things - jobs, raising kids, and participating in our communities in various ways, now at Seabrook (assuming you are retired, or at least have more control over your schedule) we have lots more time for unimportant things - this article is part of an occasional series on the unimportant thing that I most enjoy - Sea Kayaking around Seabrook Island and the Lowcountry. In this month's article, I will discuss the weather again.

It has gotten colder. The first thing I do when kayaking after it gets colder is put aside my hippie Teva Velcro sandals and switch to my neoprene booties, you might call it my annual Fall bootie call. Neoprene booties are shoes that are constructed of wetsuit material, with a hard but flexible sole, they generally go about a third of the way up our calf, and I like a zippered variety. I find that when my feet are warm, it really helps the rest of me keep warm.

We have had more offshore winds lately, and that can mean more waves and more risk of flipping your kayak. I try to avoid that myself, by choosing where and when to kayak, and what specific route I might take. A friend recently walked one morning from boardwalk 1 to the inlet and near the high tide mark she found an iPhone partially submerged in the sand but still with power, and then she found a camera, and then before long some fellow beach walkers caught up to her and one confessed that he had flipped his kayak the day before, losing the 2 items found plus another camera. Curious, I went kayaking the next af-ternoon around high tide to see the conditions. The water was as high as a king tide, with Captain Sams Creek breeching the marsh just past the rip rap and connecting to a creek that runs behind Ocean Forest Drive to the "harbor" behind the beach off the inlet. I crossed the breech and was able to kayak up the creek almost to the start of Ocean Forest, a highlight was when I rounded a corner and right as my paddle was entering the water a cormorant rose from a fishing expedition and exited the water right next to my paddle blade - my heart jumped until I realized what it was. Turning back and





Doug and Lauara Goepfert, Ed Heskamp floating at the inle

paddling through the harbor, I came to the mouth of Captain Sams Inlet, where 3 foot waves were crashing into the Seabrook beach and over the sand bar at the mouth of the harbor. There was not a great exit to the inlet to continue the loop back to Captain Sams Creek, so I took the easy way - retracing my voyage through the harbor, small creek, and back through the breech which was still open. 50 minutes on the water, many great blue herons, and no lost phones or cameras – a success! So. be careful out there, know when to turn around

Here are proposed December Show and Go trips, all trips will leave from the Crab Dock, default routing will be to go to the Inlet, then decide by consensus where to go from there, on occasion we may decide to go upstream. Due to prevailing winds, we are usually fight- | day/time. Happy Kayaking!▲

| ing the winds on the way back in. All trips assume 60-120 minutes. Wednesday December 6 at 1:00 PM Wednesday December 13 at 1:00 PM Wednesday December 20 at 1:00 PM • Wednesday December 27 at 1:00 PM A Show and Go sea kayak group i what it sounds like, a friendly informal

meet up to go kayaking. All trips are subject to change or cancellation based on conditions - weather, tide, water temperature, etc. If you would like to join any of the above

Show and Go trips, please find my phone number in the Exchange Club directory, and contact me (text, or call) the week before the trip. The day be fore I will send a group text confirming details and participants. Feel free to call me with ideas or ques-

tions or to propose a trip on another



What a special afternoon it was for a nice sized gathering of Seabrook Island Garden Club members! On Friday, November 17th, at the Oyster Catcher Community Center, a Fall and Holiday wreath workshop was facilitated by Lucie Kulze of Lucies Very Own.

Born and raised in Charleston, Lucie quickly discovered as a child that her true home was in the untamed lands of the Lowcountry. Out of awe and gratitude for our Earth, she began crafting wreaths in 2013 and officially estab lished 'Lucie's' in 2022. She primarily creates using native and naturalized plants foraged from the forests and fields around her home in the ACE Basin of South Carolina. At this workshop she provided a wonderful plethora of local clippings including Groundsel bush (a dried white flower), panicgrass, chestnut oak acorns, bushy bluestem grass, yaupon holly, magnolia, and dried Solidago (goldenrod).

You'll sometimes find her adding splashes of color from flowers grown in her garden or in her neighbor's garden. In everything she makes, she aims to showcase the beauty of where she came from, and hopes that her work inspires a



sense of wonder, respect, and reverence for our planet. She deeply enjoys sharing her passion for nature with others, and this is obvious when she leads a workshop. Her wreaths are an expression of what she sees and feels in her bones when she's in her element, immersed in nature....inspired, intrigued, and in love. You can sign up for classes or shop wreaths via her website www.lucies veryown.com. For inquiries email lucies

veryown@gmail.com.





Invite the Outdoors In. Decorating, Kiawah River Style.



Season's Greetings from Kiawah River! Make things merrier and brighter here in the Lowcountry with a few holiday tips and tricks to make your seasonal décor even jollier.

1. Get creative with your garland

Try some different kinds of greenery for your garland. Gather magnolia leaves to make the perfect Christmas palette, as their fresh copper and bright green hues add a classic touch upon your front porch or mantel. Another popular use of magnolia is to layer branches inside an unused fireplace.

2. Bring in the fruit

Winter is one of the tastiest seasons of the year for some fruits. Oranges, pomegranates, and pears are at their ripest stages during this time of year,



and better yet, they can make great additions to your centerpieces.

3. Prep your holiday meal

For many Southerners, you can skip the frozen turkey and try a fresh approach. Some of our favorite substitutes for turkey are quail or duck with cranberry sauce, sweet potato casserole, cornbread dressing and a bourbon pecan pie.

4. Make your own wreaths

Christmas wreaths are a timeless and simple way to take your outdoor décor to the next level. From fresh yaupon holly, to magnolias, to palmetto fronds, many seasonal plants may be incorporated into your wreath. Including Lowcountry flora makes it feel like home.





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2023 Veteran's Day Charitable Golf Outing - Continued from page 1







Emery Macpherson emery@akersellis.com 843.408.3143



Nick Macpherson nick@akersellis.com 954.591.5741



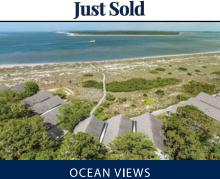


3079 Baywood Drive Seabrook Island 4 BR · 4.5 BA · 3,925 SF \$2,399,000

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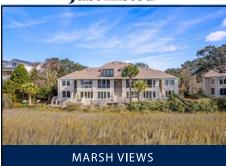


3086 Baywood Drive Seabrook Island 0.39 Acre Homesite \$460,000



1355/1356 Pelican Watch Villas Seabrook Island 3 BR · 4 BA · 1,812 SF \$1,537,500

Just Listed



1810 Longbend Drive Seabrook Island 1 BR · 1 BA · 837 SF \$399,000



PAGE 5

MARSH VIEWS

1003 Embassy Row Way Seabrook Island 3 BR · 3 BA · 2,001 SF \$779,000

Just Sold



153 High Hammock Villa Seabrook Island 1 BR · 2 BA · 1,000 SF \$265,000

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DECEMBER 2023

healthy

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Steve Penkhus, MD What Is Up With Our National Life Expectancy Going Down?



You may have read that life expectancy in the United States has recently dropped erasing all the gains that we have seen since 1996. It fell by a total of 2.7 years from 78.8 years in 2019 to 76.1 years in 2021. Some of this is related to COVID-19. However, there appears to be other causes, including drug overdoses, homicide, suicide, motor vehicle accidents, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, liver disease, obesity and other chronic illnesses. Many of these deaths unfortunately could've been prevented, including deaths related to Covid, since there is a very high association between obesity and Covid deaths. Obesity in ages 35 to 64 doubled from 1979 to 2000 and doubled again 2000 to 2020 and now 42% of adults in the US are obese. US life expectancy was lagging behind the majority of industrialized countries before Covid, and the decreasing life expectancy since Covid has caused us to drop even further behind countries as Japan, the UK and France. Life insurance companies are reporting stunning, unexplained and unexpected higher death claims unrelated to COVID. This should be alarming since US spends more on healthcare than any other nation in the world.

We seem to be good at medical treatment but very poor at growing a healthy population or as Harvard's Dr. Britten states "we have a wonderful sick care system but a very inadequate health care system". Most us know that we personally sometimes make less than perfect lifestyle choices but we seem to have an arrogance and complacency as a country about making improvements or even looking at what other countries are doing better. University of Southern California Gerontologist Eileen Crimmins suggests we look at five areas of other countries' public health practices to see what we could learn: overall medical care, individual responsibility and behavior, social factors as poverty and inequity, physical environment, and public policies. Economic disparity is becoming an alarming issue. Economic disparity in 1980s accounted for a 9% increase annual death rate in the poor population and in 2020 it increased to 61%. Minorities have significantly lower life expectancies than whites. Our advanced technology in the US has been overwhelmed by poverty, racism, breakdown in social structure, unhealthy diets, stress, poor sleep habits, drugs, alcohol, suicide, and guns. These overall are a much bigger issue than Covid but can't seem to attract the attention they deserve.

This is a huge embarrassing and complicated issue with no easy fixes. It deserves much more of our resources and attention. We need to support efforts at the local level, state level and national level to legislate and promote healthy life styles and more preventative efforts. We need to learn how to grow healthy people from conception to end of life. Of course we need to set an example and take personal responsibility for our own healthy lifestyle choices: diet, healthy weight, exercise, stress reduction, no smoking, moderation with alcohol, safe driving habits, recommended preventative care and positive social interaction. We as Seabrookers are blessed with the resources to live a healthy lifestyle and we have many volunteer opportunities to help others to do so. 🔺



Deer season is here and while that may be of particular interest to deer hunters, it should also be of interest to anvone who drives a car.

THE Seabrooker

According to a Highway Loss Data nstitute, the number of animal strike-reated insurance claims in November is more than twice the yearly average. This peak coincides with mating season when deer are the most active.

According to the HLDI, the severity of claims, measured in dollars insurers pay to cover losses, also climbs during the peak month. The average cost of November animal strike claims from 2013 to 2022 was \$4,600, compared with \$3,522 for February, the month with the least severe crashes.

While the data does not include information about the type of animal involved in these crashes, both the timing of the spike and the greater damage suggest that most of these collisions involve deer, rather than smaller animals. So, what should you do if you hit a deer with your car? And what can you

do to avoid hitting them? Here are some How to avoid hitting a deer

with your car

According to AAA, the best way to avoid hitting a deer is to remain diligent. Spotting a deer before it's too late is the best way to avoid a collision. Additionally, drivers should:

Scan the road: Look ahead while driving. his may seem like an obvious one, but too often, we get caught up in our driving distractions. If you can spot a deer, or any other animal, ahead of time, it will give you time to react appropriately.

- Use high-beam headlights: This will aid in spotting a deer ahead of time. High beams help spot animals' reflective eyes and increase your overall field of vision.
- Be cautious at dawn and dusk: These are peak times for deer-related car accidents.
- Always wear your seat belt: According to the Insurance Information Institute, the chances of getting injured when hitting an animal are much higher if you don't have your seat belt on.

What to do if you can't avoid hitting a deer

Unfortunately, there are some instances in which you might not be able to avoid hitting the deer.

According to AAA, when a collision s imminent, here is the proper way to hit a deer to keep yourself safe:

• Don't swerve: Swerving is one of the biggest mistakes you can make before you hit a deer. Swerving can seem correct at the moment, but this can cause you to hit another vehicle or someone's property

Don't speed up: Contrary to popular belief, speeding up before hitting a deer will not do you any favors. It

can cause more damage to you and vour vehicle.

Apply the brakes: Hold onto vour steering wheel, apply the brakes and try your best to come to a complete stop as soon as you can. Braking is the

safest way to hit a deer and will cause significantly less damage than the alternative What to do if you hit a deer

with your car

Here's what AAA suggests doing immediately after hitting a deer with your

• Move off the road: Moving off the road keeps other drivers and you safe Turn your hazard lights on and move out of traffic. If your vehicle is inoperable, try your best to get it in a safe

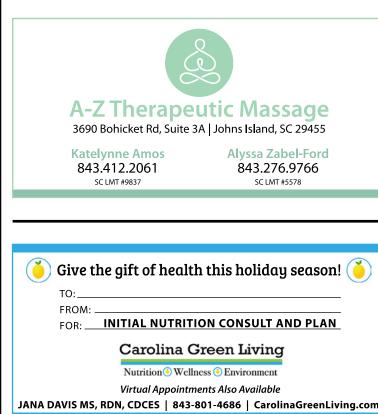
Report if the deer is on the road: Reporting the accident can help on many fronts, but especially if the injured deer is still in the roadway.

Assess damage to your vehicle: If you're going to make a claim, you may want to snap a few pictures of the vehicle damage. It will help you and your insurance provider when processing the claim.

Don't automatically assume your car is OK to drive: Once you've taken all the necessary steps after hitting a deer, you'll want to move on with your life. But don't assume your car is ready to drive off. Thoroughly assess your car and any damages before driving off. 🔺







USA TODAY

What to do if you hit a deer: It may be unavoidable

this time of year. Here's what to know.





HEALTHY AGING Jerry Reves, MD

A Healthy Holiday Plan

One biggie down and a bunch more | thing healthy at home before going to to go. Congratulations on passing the event. The holidays are like the Spring,

Summer, and Fall and come once a year. It is a time to see people, be with people, and enjoy it all. Manage the time by remembering your health.

A strategy to get through the parties is to eat something healthy at home before going to the event. Appetite will be reduced and all the unhealthy food less tempting. (The strategy backfires of course if you eat at home and at the party.) Stay away from the sweets and high-cholesterol offerings. At a seated dinner eat in moderation no matter how good it all is: Take small or moderate helpings and do not go for the "seconds" no matter who offers them. Hosting

This is the season for visitors to the home. Whether friends or family, it is inevitable during the holidays that guests will be in the home. This disturbs the routine, can cause anxiety, and generally ratchet up stress, but there are ways to mitigate this

A party - It is sometimes traditional r incidental but hosting a party during the season is an occasion for fun and oy. Keep it that way by planning ahead. Write down what is planned, and be sure everything needed is procured well in advance. Make any food that can be prepared in advance ahead of time and refrigerate or freeze. Avoid the frenzy of doing everything in a disorganized, last-minute fashion. Remember it is OK f everything is not perfect whether it is the house, table, food, etc. The focus should be on social interactions and not a perfectly produced party. People will enjoy being with a relaxed host far more than an uptight one.

Having house guests is the same as hosting a party but just far more challenging since it is for a greater length of time. The same strategy applies for house guests as hosting a party. Plan, prepare ahead, and allow guests (family or friends) to dictate what they want to do – not you. Be flexible in expectations and able to forego a trip somewhere or doing whatever you think important get through the parties is to eat some- but maybe not what the guests wish to

do. If the agenda involves eating out, be sure that reservations are made well in advance. If eating in, allow guests to help and be sure to do shopping prior to their arrival. The goal is to enjoy the company even if it means quiet time in separate living quarters.

Physical Health

Regular readers of this column know that exercise is one of the few things we totally control that contributes to healthy aging. It is just as important if not more important to maintain a regular exercise routine in this most abnormal time of year. Schedule the exercise in advance and stick to it. If caloric intake is higher than usual and weight is a concern, then exercise must be increased. Even if hosting guests, do not forego planned exercise - invite them to join you or just excuse yourself. It is important for physical health as well as mental to keep exercising during this season. The other thing is to be sure to stick to medications as prescribed and try to get your normal amount of sleep and rest. Mental Health

It is generally appreciated that the holiday season is stressful. All the items below can be described as stress control. However, there is often the emotional recognition that the time of good cheer and joy to the world is actually depressing to many. Part of this is the season with the shortest day of the year comes right in the thick of the holidays. Seasonal affective disorder is real and the lack of sunshine can contribute to it.

Additionally, it is inevitably a time of remembrance of previous holidays and people who are no longer with us to enjoy the time. The sense of loss can be profound

No matter how close the family and friendships, the bonds can be tested for a great variety of reasons, but mainly the unusually close and long association that may occur during this season.

And, of course, there are the relation ships that are strained all the time, but holidays force interactions that frankly one would rather not have. All this combines for potentially turning the holidays into an unhappy time.

Talking about feelings to a trusted person can be helpful. Rely on things that work during the rest of year to avoid or alter depressive thoughts. Remember a new year is just ahead and the holidays will become another memory until next year.

The Bottom Line

The holidays are like the Spring Summer, and Fall and come once a year. It is a time to see people, be with people, and enjoy it all. Manage the time by remembering that your health can and should be part of the celebration. Final ly, do not put unreasonable expectations on this festive time, enjoy it, and look forward to a healthy new year..▲

Wishing You and Yours a Happy and Healthy Holiday!



Joy Millar 843.425.2816



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Thanksgiving, the preamble to the big

series of holiday events. Tis the sea-

son for a seemingly endless season of

parties and special-days occasions like

It takes some strategic thinking about how to enjoy the holidays and remain

Obstacles to a Happy Holliday

al gauntlet that we have coming? First

and foremost there is the break from

our routine. For most of the year things are normal and we all have our regular

schedule. Not so at holiday time. The

change means irregular sleep, meals,

exercise, travel, and hosting or being

hosted. All of these changes present

challenges and require some strategy to

Eating and Drinking

lenge. Libations are plentiful and part

of the celebrations. However, alcohol in

excess leads to accidents both physical

and emotional. The rule about alcohol

consumption is still in effect. Two drinks

for men and one for women, and if over

65, it is one for each gender. That's a

tough rule to observe when at every

turn someone is offering another glass

of wine or drink. At prolonged family

or guest meals it is almost impossible

to limit the intake. However, if alcohol

is consumed it can lead to automobile

or other accidents. Alcohol can also re-

move normal inhibitions that can lead

to socially unacceptable actions and/or

conversations that later are regretted. It

might be best for you and your spouse

or a friend to agree to monitor and ad-

vise each other on a pre-agreed limit to

ingestion. Everyone will be healthier

Eating is another unhealthy tempta-

tion. Caloric-intake limits and judicious

eating are well known factors that im-

pact healthy aging. It is, of course, per-

missible to have the occasional great

meal, but one must be mindful the day

before or after so as not to exceed good

dietary recommendations. A strategy to

and happier if this can be done.

Let's begin with the first big chal-

What are the hazards for this annu-

Christmas, Hanukkah, and News Year.

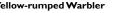


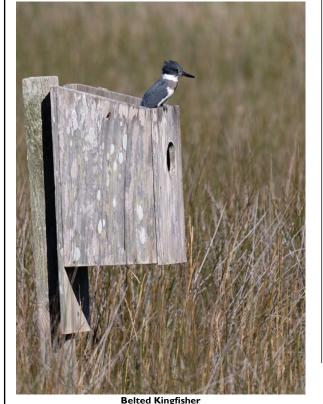


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Article and Photos by Gina Sanders

I'm pretty sure I suffer from "but first" disease. You know the one, I need to clean the house but first I'm going to check my email. Or, I need to do laundry but first I'm going to turn on the TV and check the score.

Here we are in the middle of the holiday season with a longer than normal to-do list, so it would really help to stay focused and on point. Instead, I find myself getting distracted. We recently relocated to a different side of Seabrook Island, exchanging our backyard view of ocean and sunsets for one of marshes, the golf course, and sunrises. With all the diverse habitats on Seabrook, that means we have a different group of backyard birds now as well.

As anyone who has ever relocated knows, there's a thousand things to do to set up a new house, especially when you move in right before the holidays. But instead of unpacking and sorting out where everything will go, I find myself looking out the window. The back of our new home is all windows, with captivating views across the pond and marsh, over to Ocean Winds Golf Course.

The first thing we brought to the new house was bird feeders. We discovered very quickly that we have a variety of songbirds and woodpeckers in the trees surrounding our two back decks. And since we're up pretty high we're practically eye level with the tops of the palmetto trees, where Northern Cardinals, Tufted Titmice, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-throated Sparrows and Carolina Chickadees hang out on a regular basis. They zip back and forth, darting from one feeder to another, completely oblivious to us or our dogs sitting out on the deck. In fact, I'm convinced the chickadees are chattering directly at us as they sit on the feeder, less than six feet away! As I stand in the kitchen, I'm supposed to be unpacking dishes, but first I need to grab my binoculars and look over at the golf course because I'm pretty sure that's a Belted Kingfisher I heard, and something just flew up into the trees!

It turns out we have a group of regulars that hunt for food in the marsh behind us. The kingfisher flies back and forth over the pond on a regular basis, his distinctive rattling call catching our attention every time. He hovers in the air, dives for a fish, then takes his catch over to a nest box in the pond to eat. Then there's a Great Egret and Great Blue Heron that we see daily as well. They're such familiar sights that my husband has named them Eddie and Harold, respectively. Eddie the Egret likes to catch shrimp at the edge of the grass, and Harold the Heron stalks the edge of the bank. They, too, enjoy chilling on top of the nest box.

Northern Flickers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Downy Woodpeckers forage in the trees around us. Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, and the occasional Bald Eagle, pass over the pond behind us. American Crows and Red-winged Blackbirds are frequent visitors as well.

Another distraction is the daily flyover of Ospreys, a bird we usually hear before we see. They circle over the pond and plunge feet-first into the water to catch a fish, then off they go to a nearby tree to enjoy their meal.

So far we've seen 18 species of birds in our immediate area but I can't help but wonder what it will be like during spring migration. Will I finally get to see the warblers passing through? Like all areas of Seabrook Island, beauty is everywhere you look. Nature is front and center and we share our yard with deer, opossum, and raccoons including an albino or leucistic white raccoon. Seabrook Island is our home away from home, our getaway from the daily stress of work life and routine. The ability to simply sit, listen and watch the wildlife brings a relaxing peace and calm that is much enjoyed.

Yet chores still need to be done, gifts are waiting to be wrapped, and articles still need to be written. But first, I really want to get a good look at the Northern Flicker I just heard.▲

Save the Date

Seabrook Island Birders Program and Lecture Series Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 7:00 PM

Live Oak Hall Seabrook Island Lake House









Osprey

DECEMBER 2023

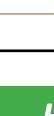




consider participating.

did during their service.











Questions, Email us at seabrookislandbirders@gmail.com



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THE Seabrooker

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VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT



Nine Seabrook Island veterans were recently interviewed at the Lake House for the Veterans' History **Project**, which is sponsored by the Library of Congress. Many thanks to these vets for their service to their country and for sharing their military experiences: Rob Bavier, Jeff Homeier, Andy Grimalda, Gordon Weis, Olly Edwards, Scott Humphries, George Conbeer, Larry Mayland, and Doug Carlson. We hope more veterans will

The purpose of the Veterans' History **Project** is to collect, preserve and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. military veterans. Why? So future generations can hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, felt, and

All of these thousands of interviews weave a tapestry of insight and experience. They are stored at the Library of Congress and available for viewing via their website. Imagine



your great-great grandchildren being able to "meet" you and learn about your life and experiences.... or young people considering service learning from you.... or researchers better understanding their topic based on your observations.

The process is simple. We will set a date and time to film a series of interviews, each typically lasting 30-45 minutes. Veterans interested in being interviewed should contact Tina Mayland at tinamavland@mindspring. <u>com</u> or by phone at 843-822-3646. All veterans are encouraged to participate, whether you were in combat or

Also, we are looking for volunteers who are interested in being trained to interview veterans. If you are willing to dedicate a day or two a month to the Veterans History Project, please contact Tina Mayland at tinamayland@mindspring.com or by phone at 843-822-3646.▲

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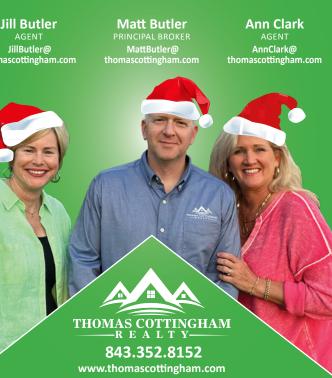
Irene Quincy • 843.270.7001 IreneQuincy@gmail.com

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST



Happy Holidays

From our home to yours...we wish you a joyous holiday season and a healthy and happy new year.





The year is 1974. Nixon was President of the United States, Leonid Brezhnev was President of the USSR, and I was a new graduate of the University of Cincinnati - ready to step into the real world. Equipped with a hefty backpack, a SLR camera, and sturdy hiking boots, I set out to trek through western Russia and Finland in the spring and summer of 1974.

It is now 2023. A few images from that experience are on display in December. Seen together, they illustrate the contrast of Czarist Russia and Bolshevik Russia as well as previously occupied Finland and Czechoslovakia. Included are classic churches and cathedrals, propaganda posters anchored to architectural monuments, as well as a view of daily life in Russia. 1974.

Thanks to today's technology, these film images were revived from their film status to December's exhibit...to live again.

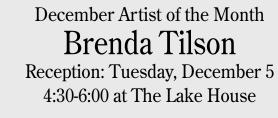
Background: • Fairmont State College BA Art Education University of Cincinnati, College of Design Architecture, Art, BS Science

Juried Member Pastel Society of America

Brenda's 40-year design career was spent collaborating with architects and clients on interior spaces and planning.



To learn more about the Seabrook Island Art Guild go to www.seabrookislandartistguild.com



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School students who receive free tennis les-

Third Serve Foundation - Introducing tennis to children in the Charleston area while fostering an environment that facilitates growth on and off the court.

Third Serve Foundation is a 501(c)(3)nonprofit organization providing no-cost tennis instruction to underserved youth in the Charleston Area. Third Serve was co-founded in 2021 by Jonathan Barth, Director of Tennis on Kiawah and Bruce Hawtin, director of the Barth-Hawtin Tennis Academy. Collaborating with Kiawah Island and E.L Frierson Elementary, Third Serve provides transportation for the students to the Roy Barth Tennis Center twice weekly for practice. Thanks to Seabrook resident, Rich Goheen, Seabrook Island now partners with this program.

Starting in mid-September and running through the end of November, 10-12 students



The Fed, CPI and GDP Remain **The Key Market Drivers**

Federal Reserve actions, inflation trends and Recession probabilities were the key factors for investors to consider in 2022 and 2023.

Entering 2023, the consensus belief was that a Recession was quite likely which would cause inflation to fall rapidly. That was expected to allow the Fed to pause increasing rates and then pivot to rate cuts by midvear. While there was no Recession (in fact, GDP surged to +4.9% in Q3), the Fed did pause its rate hike policy in July. Since then, they have continued to talk tough about possible future hikes, but have given no indication they are "thinking about thinking about" a pivot to rate cuts.

I think the Fed is totally focused on nflation at this point. They are rightfully blamed for keeping their foot on the monetary gas pedal for way too long post-pandemic when they insisted surging inflation was "transitory". For now, the inflation trend is favorable with headline CPI down to +3.2% and core CPI +4.0% for the 12 months ended in October. Clearly, inflation remains well above the Fed's ong-stated target of 2%.

The Fed's current uncompromising stance seems to indicate they are fully aware that the battle to contain inflation has not been won. J Powell understands inflation expectations could quickly get out of hand if CPI numbers start to rise once again - and J Powell does not want to be remembered as the most recent Fed Chair who allowed inflation to run amok.

cuts. That would be great news for the US Treasury bond market, but not so good for corporate bonds or stock market investors. The bond market would be happy to see a Recession because it would likely result in CPI numbers that drop to (or below) the Fed target rate. If the Fed slashes short term rates, the longer end of the yield curve would almost certainly follow. And remember, falling yields mean rising bond prices so the now-three-year-old bond Bear market would be interrupted.

That scenario might not be so good for stocks. GDP recessions are always accompanied by EPS (earnings) recessions. Profit margins remain close to their highs as businesses have been able to offset higher input costs by increasing selling prices. That would be very difficult to do during a recession. An added issue is that stocks are not cheap - if the S&P 500 price/earnings ratio is in the upper teens as EPS begin to decline, a cyclical Bear Market could

Many economists who were certain there would be a Recession in 2023 are now calling for a slowdown, maybe even the fabled "soft landing". In a soft landing, the economy slows (but still grows) and inflation slows. In such a situation, EPS estimates might remain positive, which would obviously be a plus for the stock market. A soft landing would likely keep the Fed sidelined. If this spurs opti-

The economy would have to be | mism that their next move is indeed very weak for the Fed to pivot to rate | a "pivot" to an easier stance, bond yields might decline somewhat. As we have seen in recent years, lower long term bond yields can boost equity valuations. In a nutshell, this scenario explains the November rallies in the bond and stock markets.

Unfortunately, it is difficult for me to see how a soft landing could persist for long in the current environment of low confidence/optimism for both consumers and small businesses. The elephant in the room would be price levels, rather than inflation rates. Even if inflation slows, the fact that everything costs a lot more than it did just 3 years ago will eventually weigh heavily on consumer and business spending. That would circle us back to worrying about a Recession. The other potential follow-up to a soft landing would be a reacceleration in the economy, and an improving employment situation. But wouldn't faster GDP and wages growth reignite inflation? And wouldn't higher inflation push the Fed to resume tightening? That would also circle us back to worrying about a Recession.

Speaking of circling back, I will return to the first paragraph of this column and note that the Fed actions (or inactions), inflation trends (and levels) and recession worries (or hopes) will likely be the key factors in determining how the financial markets perform in 2024.▲

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES INIT ORTAGE INSCREDUCTIONS The opinions voiced in this commentary on current eco-nomics and markets are my own and not the opinions or positions of any entities or organizations with which I may be affiliated or associated. This column is for general enjoyment and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual or institution. not be taken literally.

DECEMBER 2023

credibility to the story. herds



Seabrook volunteers embrace the "tennis is more than a game" philosophy. He continues: play at any age while modeling the concepts of practice for continuous improvement, teamwork, sportsmanship, perseverance, and fun!"

positive energy and confidence that our Third Serve coaches and volunteers leave our youth with is inspiring and our ability to do so is all in thanks to our donors."

exciting new opportunity for Seabrook! ▲



Third Serve Rallies and Scores on Seabrook Island!

from Haut Gap Middle School are transported to Seabrook Island courts for tennis lessons by our partners at luxury transportation service, FootPrint Transit. A group of dedicated and passionate Seabrook volunteers provide on-court instruction for this 8-week program. Fall practices are Wednesdays and Thursdays/Fridays from 3PM-4:30PM, with an anticipated spring session planned for early 2024! The Seabrook core team includes Jackie Cocchiola, Penny Lee, Ken Steen and Lucy Walton. Your support is requested! In an effort to accommodate a larger number of students this spring,



olunteers for Third Serve Foundati





funding is needed to cover the growing costs of transportation, equipment, educational materials and more. If you are interested in making a donation, wish to volunteer, or would like to learn more, please visit our website at https://www.thirdservefounda_tion.com/ get-involved/donate.

Rich Goheen is delighted that all the We love teaching students a sport they can

As Co-Founder Bruce Hawtin states, "The

Thank you for considering a donation to this vonderful organization while supporting this

-seabrooker



Often stories told in celebration of holidays contain undocumented facts. Does Santa really climb down chimneys? Does the Easter Bunny really bring dyed eggs? Come on, we know better. We believe these tales because they are harmless and add to the excitement of the holiday season. They are valuable as presented and need

Jesus of Nazareth's nativity is such a tale. Even though it is marked with errors, the story of the Nativity, without question, affirmed Jesus as the Son of God. The coming of a divine leader was even predicted in the Old Testament, more than two hundred years before he was born. The Nativity made the prediction a fact.

Immediately prior to his birth, angels appeared in the fields to the shepherds. They had come to announce Jesus' arrival as an event directly initiated by God. It is interesting to note that despite the angelic notifications, Mary and Joseph didn't realize that their son was the Son of God. I mean, if a bunch of shepherds came out of the fields and told me that angels appeared before them and were asked to tell me that my son was the son of God would I believe them? No, I would need credible verification.

There are players in the Nativity who don't fit the mold of messengers of God but are still part of the story, most notable are three wise men. A closer look at what part they played will reveal how their presence added All we really know of these camel

riding kings is their names: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar. Their story does not require, nor does it contain, accurate facts ---- it's just part of a story to reinforce the idea of the divine origin of Jesus's birth. When three kings, supposedly wise men, state they are traveling to Bethlehem to find a newborn king who is the Son of God, it gives the story gravitas beyond the testimony of lowly shep-

Portrayals of the three men vary widely as to what they looked like. It seems the Three Kings had different appearances depending upon the artist and the age when they painted



The Nativity and Three Kings

by Paul Tillman

them. Common portrayals depict them to be three men, though historians say when, they began their trek to Bethlehem, there may have been as many as twelve. Present day historians say the three kings came from Mesopotamia or Persia. All were depicted wearing crowns and dressed in regal gowns like kings and all traveled by camel. They had expensive gifts for Him: gold, a precious gift from king to king, frankincense an herb used as a perfume, and myrrh, an embalming spice used in mummification of the high born.

History has it that three wise men found the Holy Family by following a star to the place where Jesus lay. It took them two years to get there, and they eventually ended up in Jerusalem not Bethlehem. They asked King Herod where Jesus was. Herod told them he heard lesus was in Bethlehem five miles down the road. Herod did not like the fact that another king was in his kingdom. He asked the three kings to verify Jesus was in Bethlehem. If so, he wanted to send his men to kill him. The Bible does not mention the entourage of camels, camel drivers and servants that would have accompanied the Kings.

Also, the Three Kings may not have been as wise as we were lead to believe. There is no record of them doing or saying anything particularly wise. Their claim to wisdom is based on them following a star on the hunch that it led to the newborn king. The question has been raised as to why

they would have been interested in a Jewish king at all. They were gentiles from a country not threatened by Jews. Also, they had little knowledge of Jewish people and little concern for their activities.

Historians have dug into the story of the wise men and think they may not have been real kings at all but members of a Persian king's court who sent them to run down a rumor of a new king. Also, the wise men did not arrive when Jesus was a newborn but they arrived months, maybe a year, later, to a house, not a manger, into which the holy family had moved.

The Star of Bethlehem is another interesting aspect of the Nativity. Modern astronomers have found no evidence of a guiding star or an exploding nova or a cluster of stars in the records of the ancient astronomers to verify there actually was a star of Bethlehem. Also, if they really did follow a star, they would have traveled in a circle because stars aren't fixed in the heavens. Stars rise and set with the rotation of the earth and appear and disappear in the heavens as the earth travels around the sun.

All that said, the birth of Jesus and the Nativity are instrumental to the faith of 2.38 billion Christians. No amount of scientific discoveries can, or should be used, to diminish its value. The tale is old, but still fresh and vibrant: We are blessed by God and instructed to follow the example of his Son to love one another and strive to live in peace. \blacktriangle

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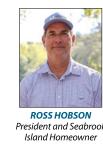


BUILDERS

Hobson Builders wishes you a beautiful Holiday Season and a heatthy & happy New Year!

Charlotte NC based General Contractor, Hobson Builders, is opening a satellite office on Johns Island, SC and is actively looking for it's first projects to kick off this new venture. Our focus will be Seabrook Island, Kiawah Island and individual projects scattered around Johns Island that demand the quality project management and craftmanship that Hobson Builders delivers.

Like our Charlotte operation, our core business will be new home construction, tear downs, and major renovations and additions. Hobson's team includes trained estimators, accountants, project managers, construction managers and superintendents. If building a new home or fixing up the one you own is on your horizon, please call Ross and he will be happy to schedule a face to face meeting.







Johns Island Market Director

DECEMBER 2023



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Bella Gray McCurry -An Extraordinary Teenager

Written by Sue Dostal

We hear a lot of stories these days about teenagers and their problems, but today I want to introduce you to a teenager who doesn't fit that mold. She not your typical teen, but where she's different, it's in the best ways possible Bella Gray, a 14 year old, is currently a student at Charleston Collegiate and iving with her parents on Seabrook Island. She looks like a typical teenager: wavy long brown hair, wears sweats to lounge in, loves competitive junior tennis, and doesn't like to be told what to do. But inside, she's driven - a teen with a purpose and a dream.

Over the last several years, she has combined her artistic talents with her love of the creatures living in our coastal waters, dolphins in particular. Why dolphins, you ask? She remembers fondly a time when her grandfather took her to swim with dolphins when she was young. It was then that she fell in love with these playful, smart, adorable creatures. But coupled with this, she learned early about the dangers to these creatures from continued pollution of our oceans from abandoned plastics (think disposable straws, flyaway balloons and discarded water bottles abandoned on our beaches).so Bela Gray decided to take action. In her first business, started when she was in fourth grade, she sold reusable metal straws under the catchy business name "Straws for a Cause". And she didn't stop there. Beginning in 2018, when she realized the pictures of marine mammals, turtles and coastal birds she loved to draw could be printed on napkins. cards, shells - and sold for a profit - she saved the money she earned - and decided to use those profits to make an impact.



At the age of 10, her first contribution of \$1,000 was to Bald Head Island Conservancy for their work with turtle protection and ecosystem preservation. Bald Eagle is based in North Carolina where Bella Gray spent summers with her family. In total, she has contributed over \$10,000 to non-profit marine ecosystem preservation groups. Her most recent, and largest contribution to date, was to our own local Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network, the non-profit organization dedicated to protecting marine mammals through quality science research, outreach and conservation. They also run dolphin education programs on both Seabrook and Kiawah Islands. LMMN received \$6.200 from Bella Gray . LMMN plans to use this money to help purchase a seaworthy boat for use with a number of research and data collection projects focused on mammal preservation and protection.

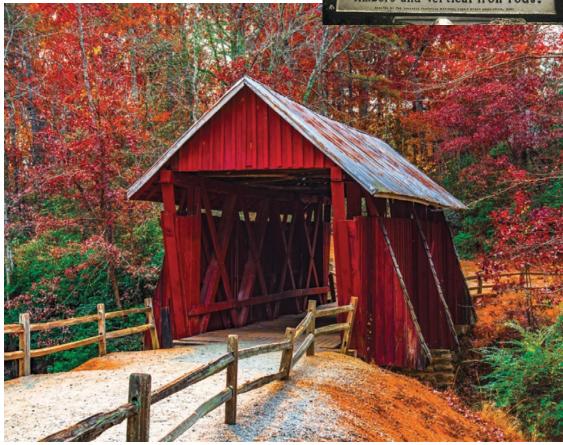
And this is just the beginning for Bela Gray, as she wants to use her time. talents and resources where it makes the greatest difference. Her interest in art will continue (primarily on the weekends after homework), as will her contributions to organizations whose missions are aligned with her goals. Her dream is to become a marine biologist where she hopes to focus more on ocean conservation and dolphin behaviors. Longer term, she hopes to run her own laboratory dedicated to research that improves the health and habitats of her beloved dolphins. \blacktriangle



171 Campbells Covered Bridge Rd, Landrum, SC 29356

Constructed between 1909 and 1911 Campbell's Covered Bridge is the only remaining covered bridge in the State of South Carolina, a state that once had 20 covered bridges. The 38 foot long, 12 foot wide pine structure that spans Beaverdam Creek was built by Charles Irwin Willis. The bridge is named for Alexander Lafayette Campbell who operated the grist mill just downstream of the bridge. Today the bridge and the surrounding 18.65 acre park is a serene location in northern Greenville County where visitors can picnic, explore the foundations of the old grist mill and home site, wet their feet on a hot summer day in Beaverdam Creek, hike the short 8/10th mile nature trail, and learn about the area through interpretive signage.

23 25 CAMPBELL'S COVERED BRIDGE CAMPBELL'S COVERED BRIDGE Instextant covered bridge in S.C. Built by Charles Irwin Willis (1878-1966), it was named for Alexander afayette Campbell (1836-1920), who wned and operated a grist mill here many years. Measuring 35 feet long and 12 feet wide, it is an xcellent example of a four-span Howe truss. featuring diagonal timbers and vertical iron rods.



jaunt to two games.

THESEAbrooker



Of all the things that might plausi-bly have been stolen from the hospital in which my dad was having his hip replaced, the last thing I'd have anticipated was that. His wallet, I could have comprehended. His phone would have fetched a pretty penny if sold for parts on the underground market. Even his car keys might have proved tempting to a particularly ambitious thief. But a Jacksonville Jaguars baseball hat? In London, England? I was floored.

I was even more floored by his re action to the theft. I had assumed, in all honesty, that he would shrug it off and move on. I had bought him the hat the previous Christmas, as part of what has become an annual tradition of Americana-themed gifts. I had obtained Gators gear for my nieces and nephews; a bag of Dunkin' Donuts ground coffee for my brother-in-law (an inside joke, of sorts); a Montreal Expos T-shirt for my uncle (long story); and, for my dad, I'd bought a Jaguars hat. At a recent family reunion, he'd seen me wearing mine and mentioned that he liked the design, so we'd bought him one on a lark. But here he was, somewhere between hips, genuinely mourning its loss. "It wouldn't be too much trouble," he asked after he had related the story, "for you to buy a

new one and FedEx it over?" And so, duly touched, we had. Which, in turn, brought him closer to the team, and, by extension, to me. Not long after the arrival of the replacement hat, I began to get text messages asking if the Jags had won — and against whom — and by how many points - and so on. If I traveled

to an away game, he asked for photos from the trip. When play-off season rolled around, he wanted to know if the team might conceivably make the Super Bowl. It was all rather pleasing. And yet, in another sense, it was wholly unsatisfying. He'd request the score, but possess no real grasp of what it meant. He'd ask which team they were playing against, but have no context within which to process the answer. He'd be happy they were in the playoffs, but remain unsure as to what that actually meant. Irked by this unusual breakdown in communication, I resolved to fix it as best I could. Which is why, on a warm day in October, the two of us walked into the Tottenham Hotspurs' remarkable new stadium in London, armed with two tickets to see the Jaguars play the Buffalo Bills. It is, I suppose, one of the great coincidences of my life that the NFL team that I happened to pick up when I moved to the United States was the one that plays at least one game each year in the country I left behind. Now, it perhaps seems unremarkable that the NFL is spreading its wings to other nations. But, back in 2013, when the Jaguars first began playing games abroad, the idea was nothing short of revolutionary. With good reason, many thought that the experiment failure. Surely -- surelv - there could not be enough NFL fans in England to fill a stadium, let alone to fill Wembley Stadium, which holds 90,000 people? But, as it turned out, there were. And, better still, it turned out that those people liked it so much that the Jaguars could make the journey an annual tradition. This year, for the first time, they expanded the

By the time I arrived in England. the first of those games had been

played (in that contest, the Jaguars beat the Falcons by 16 points, just as the Founding Fathers intended), but the second game - against the Buffalo Bills - still remained. And what better introduction to football could there be than a good ol' AFC brawl featuring Trevor Lawrence and Josh Allen, two of the most exciting quar terbacks in the league? In my heart of hearts, I did not expect the Jaguars would win it. But I did expect a spectacle, and, just as important perhaps, I expected some answers to a bunch of the questions that had been nibbling at me for a while: What was an NFL game in London like? Could the Brits really host — or enjoy — an event as unashamedly theatrical as this? Was my dad's embryonic interest in football simply displaced attachment to his

Within a mile of the stadium, it became readily apparent that I was not in Jacksonville anymore. At NFL games in the United States, you may see one or two conspicuously out-ofplace shirts; in London, they were ubiquitous. Technically, this was a Bills "home" game, and it showed: For every piece of teal on display, I must have seen 50 or 60 shocks of blue. But interspersed with those were the colors and logos of every other team that plays football in these United States. In the seats around mine. I saw fans of the Patriots, the Packers, the Chargers, the 49ers, the Chiefs, the Titans (and there I was thinking that the English had good taste!), the Giants, the Vikings, and more — each proudly displaying the marks of their tribe.

Some of these fans were expat Americans desperate to see a gam - any game. Others were eccentric Englishmen who had decided to adopt American football as a hobby in defi ance of the overwhelming disdain in which it is still held in British culture. For both, the game represented homecoming. Imperial Britain exported its games around the world, which is why one can watch cricket in India, rugby in New Zealand, and soccer in South Africa. Exceptional America kept its games for itself, which is why, with a handful of quirky exceptions football and baseball have remained synonymous with the Stars and Stripes. When those games venture abroad, people are ready.

I had wondered if the foreign setting and the presence of so many neutrals would alter the feeling of the event and turn it into a bloodless exhibition match. As one would struggle to generate excitement at a political convention that was stocked with assiduously disinterested independents, to inspire joy at a wedding that was attended by guests who knew neither the bride nor the groom, so I feared that an NFL stadium filled with dispassionate onlookers might represent a carnival more than a competition. But I was wrong. Certainly, there was a gap between those of us wearing the colors of the two teams on the field and those who were in search of a nice day out and "a good game." And yet, whatever effect the neutrals might have had was more than offset by the increased fervor of the partisans - people who, by definition, had either traveled a long way to get there, or who had been long starved of live football games in which they were closely invested. There are fans, and then there are the fans who care enough to attend a game staged | friends, I still tend to preface any ob- | wonderful sport football is.



in England — and it showed.

After the final whistle had been blown, Jaguars running back Travis Etienne commented immediately on the noise. "It was so loud in here — the intensity, the crowd — everyone was going crazy," Etienne said. "I was leaning into the huddle and I couldn't hear what Trevor [Lawrence] was saying. That's the first time that's happened to me in my NFL career." My dad, who is no stranger to live sports, agreed with this. "That," he said afterwards, "was the loudest crowd I've ever heard." (The volume in the stadium was undoubtedly helped along by the fact that, as an exception to the usual rule, spectators were permitted to bring their beers to their seats, a practice that is typically forbidden to English fans, and which explains why, for all its remarkable technological innovations. Tottenham's stadium completely lacks cupholders.)

Before kickoff, I had wondered to myself what my dad was likely to think of it all. He had never watched an NFL game in his life, let alone in person, and the sport that he does watch religiously - soccer - is different in a number of pretty important ways. For a start, soccer doesn't stop. In that game, there are two halves of 45 minutes each, and, absent an injury or some other unforeseen event, the game continues unabated until the referee blows the whistle. There are no commercial breaks, no time-outs, no play clocks, no two-minute warnings. itutions are permanent, the players do not line up in set formations, and the offense and defense consist of the same people. Football, by contrast, starts and stops like a late-1990s Backstreet Boys song. It is halted briefly after each play, and for even longer after touchdowns, field goals, punts, turnovers, and reviews. Foot-ball is unimaginably explosive, and then it is completely quiet. When the advertisements are playing on TV, evervone on the field just stands around And then there's the clock, which inspires rules and conventions that are downright alien to the uninitiated. It is possible for a stranger to watch a soccer match and grasp its outline within minutes, but of football this is untrue. As a matter of fact, many of the rules of football are inscrutable to an outsider. What constitutes pass interference, who is eligible to catch the ball, when a throw represents intentional grounding, which formations are illegal. what counts as offside, when a punt is a touchback, why some behavior is holding and some is not — it's confusing as hell.

When talking to my American

servations I may have about football with a pro forma "Of course, as a novice, I don't understand the game like you do." But, standing with my dad, a true novice, I realized just how much I have learned over the last five years. In much the same way as, when learning a language, there comes a point at which you suddenly realize that you can speak it without thinking about it at all, so, with sports, does there come a point at which newcomers grasp that they are fluent. On the train or the way down, I had sketched out the basics for him on a small piece of paper, and I supplemented this lesson as the game progressed, filling in this or that detail, suggesting what he should watch for, and explaining why I was nervous about this or that development. To my delight, he seemed to get it quite quickly, and, better still, he seemed to enjoy it, even going so far as to offer some solid observations about the game, such as that the Jaguars quarterback seemed to be hurried by the lack of protection and that the Bills offense was being thwarted by the coverage of the Jaguars' cornerbacks. Perhaps most gratifyingly of all, he echoed back to me a characterization that I have often made at football games: "This," he said, "is the successor to the Colosseum.'

And would you believe it, the Jaguars won. In the grand scheme of things, it wouldn't have mattered too much if they had lost; the purpose of the day was to see what the NFL was like in London and to introduce my dad to the game I love, as he had introduced me to soccer when I was a little boy. But goodness me did the victory put the icing on the cake! At the time, it felt enormously stressful but in hindsight I got the best of both worlds: The Jaguars won, and in a close, high-scoring game that featured one of the best performances of Trevor Lawrence's career and boasted one of the most riveting fourth quarters that I can remember. Drama is an invaluable teaching aid, and boy did we get that in spades. Within the course of a few minutes, I went from thinking that the Jaguars were going to blow it to thinking that they were going to win to thinking once again that they were going to blow it. We saw turnovers and touchdowns and a failed two-point conversion. We saw a running back burst through the line to presumably put the Jaguars beyond reach, only for the Bills to march down the field in just over a minute and respond with seven points of their own. The neutrals were entertained, the die-hards lost vears off their lives, and my dad, the newcomer, was overwhelmed. What a

And then it was over, and we started the long trek from America back to England. Not far from our oasis at Tottenham's temporarily converted stadium, Arsenal F.C. had been playing a game of the other sort of football - the one that actually involves feet - and, as we walked the two miles or so back to the train station, a legion of their fans came pouring out of a nearby arena and joined us in our approach. For a moment, two worlds collided, with the NFL fans talking about their game and the soccer fans talking about theirs never the twain to meet.

"What is all this?" I heard an Englishman in a red Arsenal jersey ask his identically attired friend.

"Must have been some kind of American football game," came the reply, in a tone that would have thrilled Iane Goodal

Then, an American accent returned the favor. "I guess they were at the soccer game?" it said, to a woman wearing a Raiders hat.

"Sure looks that way."

On these conversations went, in parallel. For me, a Brit-turned-Ameri-

can, it was all rather disorienting. "That was the worst 'roughing the passer' call I've ever seen," said someone to my right.

"You think that was a bookin? Are you 'aving a larf, mate?" said someone behind me

From the left: "Josh Allen threw for more than 300 yards, and we still lost.' From somewhere else: "One nil one nil, one nil!"

"The problem was on third down," said a guy in a Bills sweater. "Anything more than seven yards, and we couldn't get it done."

He was interrupted by another Arsenal fan, who jostled past me, gesturing to his friend. "Haaland didn't get into the game at all. We kept him out for 90 minutes.'

As our train wound its way out of London and back into the countryside, the football fans dwindled in number until the only passenger who was left wearing an NFL jersey was me. Looking out of the window, I saw the empty fields and towering church spires and Stuart-era homes that had been the mainstave of my childhood, and the day's extravaganza suddenly felt a million miles away. Aware of the sudden incongruity of my appearance, I commented on the change to my dad.

"I guess there's only one American football fan on the train now!" I said. "No, Charlie," he replied. "There's

> Charles C.W. Cooke NR PLUS MAGAZINE

HUM O

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat, it was obvious that she thought her cat understood her... I came to my house, I told my dog... we laughed a lot.

I need to get in shape. If I were murdered right now, my chalk outline would be a circle.

I STOOD WAVING TO MY **NEIGHBOR FOR 10 MINUTES THIS MORNING BEFORE REALIZING SHE** WAS CLEANING HER WINDOWS

two. 🔺



The Seabrook Island Garden Club is happy to sponsor the 2023

Home for the Holidays Contest

Decorate your mailbox, doorway or entire yard this holiday season! Seabrook is very special. Let's show our community spirit by lighting up our homes. This family fun activity is open to ALL Seabrook Island Residents.

TO ENTER: Send your address and email to seabrookislandgardenclub@gmail.com. 1st place: \$50 gift card! DEADLINE TO ENTER: Tues. 12/19 JUDGING TAKES PLACE: Wed. 12/20 WINNERS ANNOUNCED: Thurs. 12/21

Contest is limited to first 25 entrants. Map of participants provided by request.



Join us in spreading cheer this holiday season!

Salvation Army Angel Tree Seabrook Island Real Estate is proud to be a part : Seabrook Island Real Estate is pleased to announce its hours of Seabrook Island Real Estate are Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM, and Saturday, 10 ness and support this holiday season!

Seabrook Island Real Estate - Holiday Giving Opportunities : One Warm Coat Drive

of the Salvation Army Angel Tree program for yet • participation in the One Warm Coat clothing drive as we another year. We are grateful to the Seabrook Is- i enter the holiday season. This national nonprofit organiland community for their generous donations to : zation aims to provide free coats to children and adults this cause, and we invite you to join us again in in need while promoting volunteerism and environmen-spreading holiday joy to local children in need. To tal sustainability. Since its inception in 1992, One Warm participate, kindly visit our sales office and choose . Coat has facilitated coat drives nationwide, collecting 8 an angel tag, each representing a child of varying • million coats distributed through more than 1,500 nonages with a wish list of toys and clothing needs. : profit partners. The organization believes in each per-We request you bring all gifts and your angel tag to \cdot son's right to shelter from the elements and is commitour office by Wednesday, December 6. The office • ted to sharing warmth without discrimination, one coat at a time. If you would like to contribute, you can donate your gently used coats until November 17. Please drop AM to 4 PM. We sincerely appreciate your kind them off at the Seabrook Island Real Estate sales office or the Island House clubhouse. \blacktriangle



Step back in time with us to the roaring twenties

As we embellish the Magnolia House in the jewel tones of the 1920s for the holiday season. Our Magnolia House tour will spend time highlighting Norwood and Sara Hastie, who entertained lavishly during their 30 year ownership – including visits from presidents, first ladies, innovators and A-list celebrities of the time.

Join us November 24, 2023-January 6, 2024 for Home for the Holidays at Magnolia and enjoy festive decor, winter treats at the Peacock Cafe, and the beauty of the wildlife and gardens. House tour tickets and garden admission available on-site and online at

magnoliaplantation.com

World Affairs Council of Charleston **EVENING SPEAKER SERIES**



Michael Miklaucic Nontraditional Threats to National Security

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 5:15 PM Reception | 6:00 PM Speaker Alumni Center at The Citadel 69 Hagood Ave., Charleston, SC 29401

face unprecedented challenges in an increasing volatile global environment. We are presently engaged in a struggle against relentless and powerful adversaries. At the same time we must address nontraditional challenges such as climate change. What then will be the rules for international behavior in the 21st Century?

We must mobilize the diverse elements of national and allied power not only to counter the threat from authoritarian states, but to meet the daunting challenges of climate change; pandemic outbreaks; and

emerging, disruptive technologies. Michael Miklaucic is a senior fellow of the Institute for National Strategic Studies at National Defense University, and the editor-in-chief of PRISM, NDU's flagship journal of national and international security. He previously served at the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of State, including as USAID representative on the Civilian Response Corps Inter-Agency Task Force, as the senior program officer event. ▲

The United States and its allies | in the USAID Office of Democracy and Governance, and rule of law specialist in the Center for Democracy and Governance.

> As the Department of State's deputy for War Crimes Issues in 2002-2003, Miklaucic was responsible for U.S. relations with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), war crimes issues and negotiations in East Timor and Cambodia, and the early implementation of the Sudan Peace Act.

> Miklaucic attended the University of California, the London School of Economics, and the School for Advanced International Studies. He is a visiting lecturer at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and sits on several academic and professional advisory boards.

> Please join us for an expert's analysis and free food and libations! • The event is free for students and WACC members

> Nonmembers welcome on one-time basis for a \$30 fee, payable at the



It's that time of year again!. The merriest time of the year. The opportunity is coming to donate on December 21,2023 from 10:30 to 3:30pm at the Lake House and the need is critical.

Contact RedCrossBlood.org Donor APP: code Seabrook to schedule your appointment. Not sure of your schedule, walk-ins are warmly welcomed. You can also cut down on your interview time by using RedCrossBlood.org/Rapid Pass the day of your donation.

If you have any questions, Contact Kathy Rigtrup at 973-715-3005 or ktrup2@aol.com *Let's make this a Holiday to remember*















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As an all-volunteer organization, the board thanks these individuals for their commitment to advancing health and wellness in our community and invites others to participate in all our activities.





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Seabrook Island Club membership is required for ownership. Club amenity use is for Members and guests. Lake House use is for Members, property owners, and their guests.

