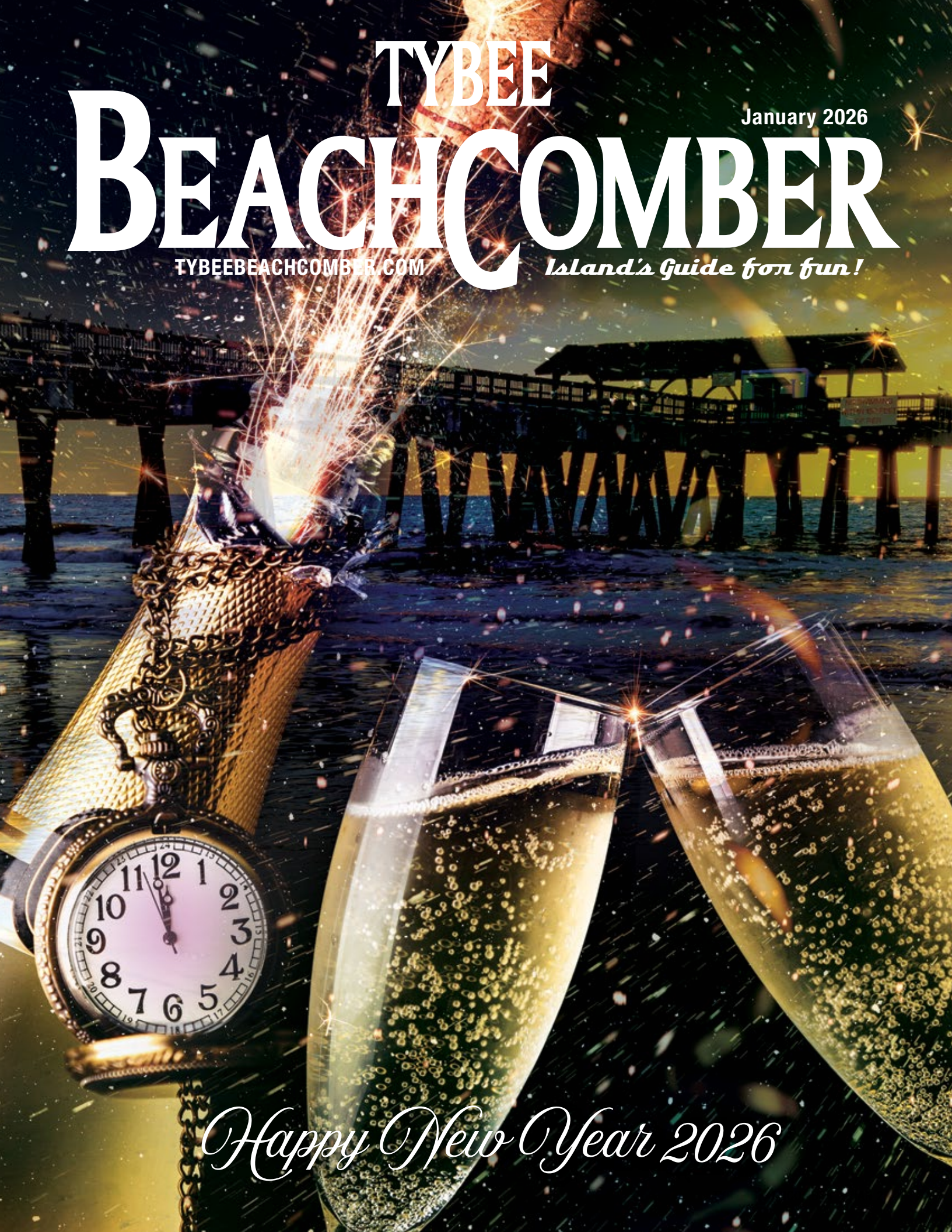


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THIS IS MY HAPPY PLACE

Tybee Island Map

TYBEE BEACHCOMBER

Island's guide for fun!

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From MS...ALAIN...EOUS

I write this slumped over my laptop and praying for someone to deliver me some hair of the dog and a hashbrown potato cake from McDonald's. It is 8 a.m. on a Lionel Richie Sunday and the Beachcomber Christmas Party last night was technicolor epic. I think. All I really recall is having an absolute blast and cruising down 17th Street screaming Rick's name because he was left unattended and wandered off. Last conversation we had he was somewhere between here and there. Super unhelpful and I told him so. It all ended with Pearl (my pervy pet) looking seriously pissed off at 3 a.m. Ha.

Moving right along to 2026 and New Year's Resolutions. I'm never drinking again springs to mind, but we all know I am a pathological liar, so let's do something more reality based. Goals are important and my goal for 2026 is to not meet my insurance deductible. IYKYK, as the kids say.

So, Tybee, here we are: 2026. Let's get it on. After a nap.

It is Traveling BC time!! Yippee!! My favorite part! Our January winners are **Jack and DeeDee Long**, who took us to **Belfast, Ireland!** Swoon. Love that country! Thank you, Long Family, for taking us with you on your adventures! See you soon!!

Now, make me some grease and turn the page ...

P.S. The crossword/word search may be in this edition. Let's see if Alaina found Rick on 17th.



TYBEE
BEACHCOMBER

Island's Guide for fun!

Georgia, Savannah

January 2026 Tide Chart

N 32° 02.0' / W 80° 54.1'

Date		High				Low				☀		☾
		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
1	Thu	6:30	9.0	7:00	7.4	12:06	-0.9	12:58	-0.4	7:25	5:30	☾
2	Fri	7:29	9.3	7:58	7.6	1:05	-1.2	1:54	-0.7	7:25	5:31	☾
3	Sat	8:25	9.4	8:53	7.8	2:01	-1.5	2:47	-0.9	7:25	5:32	☾
4	Sun	9:17	9.3	9:45	7.9	2:55	-1.6	3:37	-1.0	7:25	5:33	☾
5	Mon	10:08	9.1	10:37	7.8	3:46	-1.5	4:24	-0.9	7:25	5:34	☾
6	Tue	10:56	8.7	11:29	7.6	4:36	-1.2	5:09	-0.7	7:25	5:34	☾
7	Wed	11:45	8.2			5:24	-0.7	5:53	-0.4	7:25	5:35	☾
8	Thu	12:21	7.5	12:33	7.7	6:13	-0.2	6:37	0.0	7:25	5:36	☾
9	Fri	1:12	7.3	1:21	7.2	7:05	0.4	7:22	0.3	7:25	5:37	☾
10	Sat	2:02	7.2	2:09	6.8	8:00	0.8	8:10	0.6	7:25	5:38	☾
11	Sun	2:50	7.1	2:58	6.5	8:58	1.1	9:01	0.7	7:25	5:39	☾
12	Mon	3:40	7.1	3:48	6.3	9:57	1.2	9:53	0.8	7:25	5:39	☾
13	Tue	4:32	7.1	4:42	6.2	10:53	1.1	10:46	0.7	7:25	5:40	☾
14	Wed	5:26	7.2	5:36	6.3	11:44	0.9	11:36	0.5	7:25	5:41	☾
15	Thu	6:17	7.4	6:27	6.4			12:31	0.7	7:25	5:42	☾
16	Fri	7:04	7.6	7:13	6.6	12:24	0.3	1:15	0.4	7:24	5:43	☾
17	Sat	7:47	7.8	7:55	6.8	1:09	0.0	1:57	0.2	7:24	5:44	☾
18	Sun	8:26	8.0	8:34	6.9	1:53	-0.2	2:37	0.0	7:24	5:45	☾
19	Mon	9:02	8.0	9:10	7.1	2:35	-0.4	3:16	-0.2	7:24	5:46	☾
20	Tue	9:36	8.0	9:47	7.2	3:17	-0.5	3:53	-0.4	7:23	5:47	☾
21	Wed	10:11	7.9	10:25	7.3	3:57	-0.5	4:31	-0.5	7:23	5:47	☾
22	Thu	10:49	7.8	11:08	7.5	4:39	-0.4	5:10	-0.5	7:23	5:48	☾
23	Fri	11:32	7.5	11:57	7.6	5:23	-0.3	5:52	-0.5	7:22	5:49	☾
24	Sat			12:22	7.2	6:13	0.0	6:39	-0.4	7:22	5:50	☾
25	Sun	12:52	7.6	1:19	6.9	7:10	0.3	7:33	-0.3	7:21	5:51	☾
26	Mon	1:52	7.7	2:20	6.7	8:16	0.6	8:35	-0.2	7:21	5:52	☾
27	Tue	2:56	7.8	3:26	6.5	9:28	0.6	9:42	-0.3	7:20	5:53	☾
28	Wed	4:03	7.9	4:37	6.5	10:40	0.4	10:50	-0.5	7:20	5:54	☾
29	Thu	5:14	8.1	5:48	6.8	11:46	0.1	11:54	-0.8	7:19	5:55	☾
30	Fri	6:21	8.4	6:52	7.1			12:45	-0.4	7:18	5:56	☾
31	Sat	7:20	8.7	7:48	7.5	12:53	-1.2	1:39	-0.7	7:18	5:57	☾



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TOP 10 JAN SONG LIST

By D.J. AMP

Happy New Year! I can't believe it is 2026 already! One of my favorite New Year's was spent jamming with David Allen Coe in Macon, Ga in the late 70's. I was bartending at Whiskey River in Macon, and he was performing that night. He invited me back to the Holiday Inn when we closed, to jam. We wrote a song together on the back of a paper bag, but I have no idea if he used it or not. I found out years later that the other guitar player with us was Warren Haynes, who later formed Gov't Mule. How cool is that?!! Wishing you all a great New Year! Here are some of my favorite New Year's songs. *As always, turn it up!*

1 - Shout - **The Isley Brothers**

2- New Years' Day - **U2**

3- A New Years' Resolution - **Otis Redding**

4- Happy New Year - **Abba**

5- Raise Your Glass - **Pink**

6- This Will Be Our Year - **The Zombies**

7 - Better Days - **Goo Goo Dolls**

8- Funky New Year - **The Eagles**

9- Can't Get Enough - **Barry White**

10- After Midnight - **Eric Clapton**

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BOOK REVIEW

By Nell Klein

THE WASP TRAP

By Mark Edwards

Many years ago, I ran across a book called “Here to Stay,” by Mark Edwards. It was one of the most suspenseful books I have ever read, and I have read everything that Mark Edwards has written since. I was excited to find out that he had written a new book and couldn’t wait to get my hands on it! The Wasp Trap is probably my favorite book by Mark Edwards so far, and I am here to tell you all about it.

In 1999, Professor Sebastian Marlowe brought together six young people to help build a dating website based on psychological testing (later called The Wasp Trap). Will, Sophie, Lily, Rohan, Georgiana and Theo, all specialists in their own field, were secluded in a large, rambling farmhouse for three months, until tragedy struck, and all were sent home before the website could be launched.

Fast forward to 2024, and learning that the professor has died, Georgiana and Theo (who are married with two girls) decide to have a large dinner party in their huge home and invite everyone from 1999 who worked on the project to come together and celebrate the professor’s life. Will narrates the story and everyone else comes together to (hopefully) enjoy a great meal and a rekindling of 25-year-old friendships. Also at the party is Finn, the professor’s assistant, Callem, the chef, and his helper, Amber. But of course, nothing is as it seems, and everyone has a hidden agenda. When Georgiana announces that their oldest daughter, Olivia, has been missing for quite some time, things really start to change within the group.

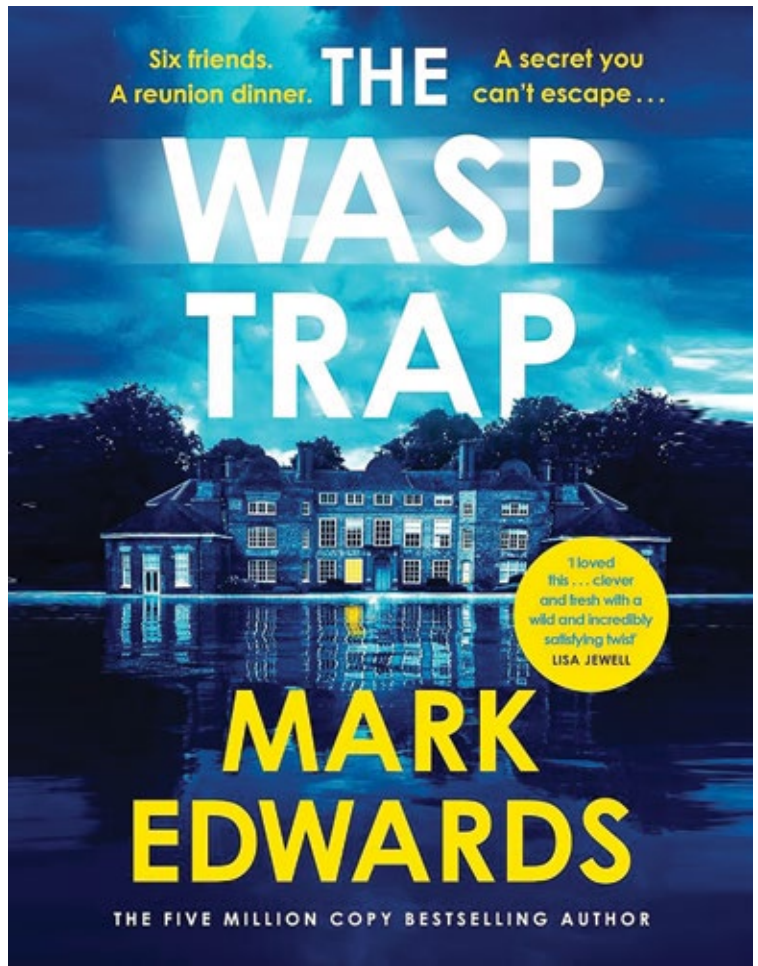
The book alternates between 1999 and 2024 and we learn that not everything from 1999 was forgotten. Why did the professor suddenly shut the project down and send everyone home? That’s the big question and eventually it will be answered.

Back to 1999, Lily, who is a genius, is coming up with a test, The Wasp Trap, that will tell if someone is a psychopath or not. She’s doing it to impress the professor, and she believes that it will make their new dating app much more reliable. When she decides to run the test on Will, Rohan, Theo, Sophie, Georgiana and herself, and also Dominic, the professor’s nephew, things really go haywire. So, what happens in current day?

This book is full of twists and turns and you won’t be able to put it down. I haven’t read a 5 rose book in a while, but this one certainly qualifies. I loved every minute of it!

Welcome to 2026 and I hope and pray that it’s the best year that you’ve ever had! I know I don’t want a repeat of 2025! Here’s to a great year for one and all!

In the meantime, read a book. If it’s a good read, pass it on!



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Submitted by Joanne Kooden



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Tybee Recycles: A Fresh Look at Recycling Opportunities on the Island

Article & Photos Courtesy of Brent Levy

Recycling on Tybee Island has its own journey! Over the years, our community has seen cardboard dilemmas, glass hiatuses, and plenty of adjustments to how we manage the materials that keep our island clean and sustainable. But through it all, one thing has remained steady: Tybee's dedication to environmental stewardship and protecting the beautiful natural spaces we all love. And today, that commitment is paying off with a more dependable, accessible, and expanding set of recycling options for residents.

Glass, once representing one of the harder materials to recycle here on the island, is officially back in the rotation thanks to the tireless efforts of the City's **Department of Public Works (DPW)**. Their team has stepped up to make glass recycling viable once again, providing a stable drop-off option for residents. For now, all clean glass can be dropped off exclusively at the DPW facility at 76 Polk Street. The city may add other locations in the future, but for the time being, DPW is the island's one-stop shop for jars, bottles, and those oddly heavy pickle containers that always seem to accumulate in the pantry.

Beyond glass, Tybee continues to offer several convenient drop-off spots for everyday recyclables. Residents can make use of the Fire Department's recycling containers, the Polk Street location, or DPW, all of which are easily accessible for quick drop-offs. For those hard to recycle items, like batteries, ink cartridges, and other specialty items, the **YMCA** serves as a hub for those goods. Shout out to **Fight Dirty Tybee!**

Another exciting development is the return of a valuable sustainability practice residents have been hoping for: curbside recycling. **Atlantic Waste** is currently gauging interest in offering a bi-weekly curbside recycling program beginning as early as January 2026. Atlantic Waste needs 150 Tybee households to commit before the service can officially launch. Hitting that number means residents can retire from the weekly juggling act of loading recyclables into the car, remembering to actually take them when leaving the house, and then hoping they do not roll around the trunk. Instead, recyclables would be neatly collected right from the curb, making participation easier and more consistent. Remember, *glass can only be recycled by using the drop-off location at 76 Polk Street.*

If the participation threshold is met, Atlantic Waste will provide recycling carts and begin offering the service every other week, helping reduce waste, cut down on landfill contributions, and make recycling more accessible across the island. Costs are anticipated to be \$15 a month, paid quarterly.

Early in 2025, the city commenced a **Commercial Curbside Aluminum Recycling Program** for businesses on Tybee Island. The success of the city-run pilot program has turned this program into a city run year-round program. The free, commercial, curbside aluminum recycling program aims to reduce waste, conserve resources, and positively impact Tybee Island's sustainability efforts. The program, which is being offered to restaurants, bars, hotels, and shops, provides weekly (Monday) pickups of only aluminum for recycling.

In the end, keeping Tybee clean and environmentally resilient is truly a team effort. Whether you are dropping off glass at DPW, recycling hard-to-handle materials at the YMCA, or signing up to help launch curbside pickup, every action contributes to protecting the island we all cherish. With continued community support, Tybee's recycling story is headed toward its most successful chapter yet.



Smarter Than Your Average Toaster

By Michael Bodine

When I was a kid, I used to love to call and listen to the “Time Lady”. You know, “At the tone, the time will be 8, 20, and 20 seconds. >BEEP!< A bit later, in my teen years, the University of Michigan Computer Science Department set up a Voice Response Unit that you could call and key in letters to spell out words for it to say using your phone pad. You needed to have a push button phone, and not a rotary dial to get it to work. Not too many years later, the ELIZA program was added, that tried to simulate a therapist’s Rogerian, reflective responses to keyboard input. (“How do you feel about that?”) In the last couple of decades, computers have tried to figure out how to tell the difference between a cat, a car, and a human while also asking us to identify all the squares with bicycles, then all those with buses or traffic signals. We’ve all gotten pretty good at those things!

But when it comes to artificial intelligence, we are just not in Kansas anymore, Toto! You can sit down with Meta, CoPilot, Gemini, ChatGPT, Claude – there are dozens of AI companies now. Their Large Language Model training methods have taught them all how to converse and sound natural; answer complex questions; write books; create photographs and pictures; write computer programs and talk with you about how to most efficiently plan and save for your vacation next year. They will also consult with you on your business plans and your relationships. It’s astonishing how good they are at a wide variety of tasks.

That includes, dear reader, lying, cheating, stealing, and an even wider range of nefarious activities. The “lying” is mostly what the technical folks call “hallucination.” When the AI just can’t come up with a good answer, it will make something up. Much of the time, that ends up being easily discernible. For now. But they are going to get better and more subtle at it. When an AI is presented with no reference to the outside world and then asked to do things that are not straightforward, they have presented ideas and plans that have included a variety of less than legal actions if that appears to be the only way to accomplish the goal they have been asked to reach.

Normally, they have access, more or less, to the real world, and they won’t get that far out there, but the mere fact that they can, whatever the circumstance, means they must be treated with a cynical eye. What they say must be measured against at least a simple sanity check, or better, against other sources. Someone posted on Facebook today that Bob Dylan and Joan Baez were just married. It was tongue-in-cheek, right? Jack? But not everyone in today’s world applies much critical thinking when they see it on the internet. The pictures looked pretty real, but they had that “uncanny valley” look, too.

Most of the AI available right now can be tried for free. You’ll be amazed if you go try it out. But, back to my usual warnings, guess who else can use AI for free! Scammers! That bill from the Geek Squad for your \$600 annual MacAfee Security is going to look more and more real. Today’s obvious tells are going to get more difficult to spot. Never call a number you are told you have to call RIGHT NOW, for whatever reason. Never give anyone remote access to your computer unless you know that person! If a bill comes that you don’t think is right, look up the company phone number before you call the one on the invoice! Do not reshare stories on Facebook because you *think* they might be right or simply because you agree with what the story says. It’s more important than ever that you do some thoughtful checking before you act on anything you see on the internet.

Be very careful when the computer says, “DO. YOU. WANT. TO. PLAY. A. GAME?”

- Michael Bodine, Computer Beach, computerbeachtybee@gmail.com or 912.509.0960



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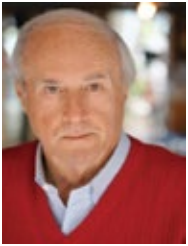
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Life on the Bike Path

By John O'Neill

Well, first of all, Happy New Year everyone! My apologies for being noticeably absent last month, but stuff happens, and to those of you who have e-mailed me expressing concern that my column has been canceled, fear not – my editor will kill me first, and y'all know the Princess and I take a late fall holiday each year. Of course, we take a spring trip as well. What? Yep. We normally drive somewhere within seven hours or so, but this time we decided to fly. Biloxi, Mississippi, was the target.

We made reservations at The Golden Nugget, booked the flight, and we were all set. I wasn't concerned about a negative experience with TSA in the least. After all, SAV is reputed to be one of the top airports in the country, right? Of course. Never have I had a bad time. However, this time, the agents seemed a bit testy. It didn't take long for me to figure out that these folks have worked without a paycheck for six weeks. They all get a pass.

The Princess and I had a grand time in Mississippi at the casinos and restaurants, but it's good to be back home.

Now, we've got a lot of stuff goin on here. We have the DOT plan to paralyze traffic on Tybee, Orange Crush, and the alien apocalypse, which by the way didn't happen. (I just knew they were coming this time.)

In the meantime, I hope you are working on your wish list for 2026. I know I am! And first on my list: All Woo Girls are exempt from golf cart regulations. Anything goes. Second, I'd like to see Golf Carts and Dogs, except those little ankle biters, allowed on the beach. And rounding out my list: Let's stop branding certain guys as, "Chubby Chasers." Can we do that?

Til next month, stay warm!

P.S. Notice I didn't mention the tacky decorations across the main drag. Kinda proud of myself for that.



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MOVIE REVIEW

By Alaina Loughridge

MATCH & CAUGHT STEALING

This month was really hard to find something even remotely decent. I suffered through countless trailers for my constituency looking for anything I could even review that didn't just involve the words, "Do not watch this crap." I mean, if I'm going to tell you about it, I want something worth our time. So, I did the rabbit hole and dug deep, and this is what you get:

Match

This totally disturbing, low budget situation popped up on Tubi, looked crazy, and I locked in immediately.

Paola is looking for love in all the wrong places. After meeting a seriously perfect man, Henry, on some random dating app, she shows up at his place for her hot date. His mother meets her at the front door. It all goes seriously south after mumsie drugs Paola. Paola hits the floor and wakes up to Henry. Henry is not seriously perfect. Henry is The Hills Have Eyes and mumsie is holding the leash.

First of all, this is not a rom com, family night movie with kicks and grins. It is a dire warning for all females to bring a damn bodyguard when you go out on a date with an unknown entity. There are several disturbing scenes, two of which will haunt you forever, so do not bring the kiddos to this fiesta.

As far as a "More You Know" situation, it is spot on, and I give it 3 bottles of Grey Goose interspersed with multiple shots of Fireball. The two scenes I referred to earlier were just not right at all, and when you see them, you will know what I know. Ewww. So, to that mutual "Ewww," I'm going to finish this off with 2 bottles of potato water because I am still having involuntary body spasms at the memory and not in a good way.

Caught Stealing

The Netflix movie promo showed me a hot guy and I clicked in because why not? Austin Butler (swoon worthy) is an idiot bartender who makes the mistake of pet sitting his mohawk bedecked neighbor's cat. I was sold on the hot guy and the cat, and not in that order.

The plot is squishy and Austin acts like he's just in it to hook up with his leading lady (Zoe Kravitz). It's alright. I mean as long as you've got a side gig going on while you're watching it: like cooking dinner or doing your nails. Throw in a crooked detective and a lot of stupidity and here you go. It's not awful, but it's not Oscar worthy either.

I give this movie 1 bottle of Maker's because Austin is delightful to look at, and 4 bottles of Old Crow because honestly, I could do more with that kid than Netflix did.



FRIDAY IS THE TASTE
SATURDAY IS THE TEST



Photo Credit: Malcolm Tully
for Savannah Magazine

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American Legion Post 154

By Jerris Bryant, Commander & Alaina Loughridge

The **American Legion** has four pillars: *Veterans Affairs, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth*. Post 154 on Tybee Island integrates these pillars with our members and citizens of Tybee Island. The Legion is a 501(c)(19) non-profit veterans' organization. There are three groups: The **Legion** (must have served in the military), **Auxiliary** (parent, spouse, son, or daughter of a veteran), and **Sons of the Legion** (male descendent of a veteran). Approximately two-thirds of our membership reside on Tybee or other parts of Chatham County with the other third of our members residing in 32 other states.

Post 154 was chartered July 19, 1941, with 30 members. The Auxiliary was chartered in February, 1941. At that time, meetings and events were held at a house on Tybee that burned down several years later. In 1946, the Auxiliary went to the City Mayor and Council and asked if they had any buildings that could be used for Post events and meetings. The City of Tybee deeded the Legion building and lot to the Post in 1946. We have been there for 79 years. In the years since, the Sons of the American Legion were formed in 1998, and we have groups working in unison to help veterans and others.

In the 84 continuous years of being a Post, members have dedicated themselves to not only helping veterans, veteran's families and residents of Tybee, but reaching out to other areas as well. We are blessed with having a large hall, and at no charge, we have Celebrations of Life, a variety of fundraisers for Tybee events and residents, provide seniors an opportunity to have balance and strength training twice a week, as well as offering nightly events that include Tuesday night Tybee music jam, a group recently started having their Mahjong events, line dancing twice a week and we cannot forget our Friday night Bingo nights!!

Along with assisting veterans, all three groups support Rising Tyde Food Pantry, TIMA, Honor Flights for senior veterans, the local nursing home, St. Jude's Hospital, Tybee Youth Council, JROTC, Fresh Air Home, Sea Cadets and that is just a few of several organizations. The Legion gives away three \$1,000 scholarships every year and participates annually in Boys/Girls State.

In 2024, the Legion groups and city employees, including the police, fire, public works, and other departments raised \$12,000 for Hurricane Helene victims. We served 250 fried chicken dinners, had numerous raffles, and bake sales over a three-week period. It was awesome!

In years past, the Legion purchased milk for Tybee school students, made layouts for expecting mothers whose husbands were deployed during the war, volunteered at the Marine Hospital in Savannah during WWII, and in 1943, the Auxiliary raised enough funds to purchase an iron lung.

American Legion Post 154 is a family where everyone pulls together to do what we can, for who we can, with what we have. We have been here for our members and community and now, we need some help ourselves and are reaching out.

Our building is not getting any younger. The HVAC system is 23 years old and constantly in need of repair. The lumber in our ADA ramp is rotting, and we

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Community Fundraiser - Goal \$100,000



OUR HOME BASE

A Home Base for Generations

Fundraiser Saturday, February 21st • 2pm

Funds needed to: Replace the HVAC in the Main Hall • Upgrade Kitchen Equipment
Rebuild the Handicap Ramp • Even Out Floors in Hall & Canteen • Improve the Front Deck Area

Silent Auctions • Live Auctions • Raffles • T-Shirts • Food • Donations
Basket of Cheer Raffle • Bake Sale



American Legion Post 154
10 Veterans Drive
Tybee Island, GA
tybeelilandamericanlegion.org

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have other items that need to be repaired or replaced. We need your help. The HVAC unit itself is \$60,000. The goal is \$100,000 to cover other essentials.

A number of our locals have gathered together to have a fundraiser for the Legion to be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026. This will be the Granddaddy of all fundraisers! There will be both silent and live auctions, raffles, a bake sale, dinner plates provided by the Marine Rescue Squadron, t-shirts for sale as well as bricks for our walkway that will have your name of choice on them forever embedded to show your support for our Legion, veterans and countrymen.

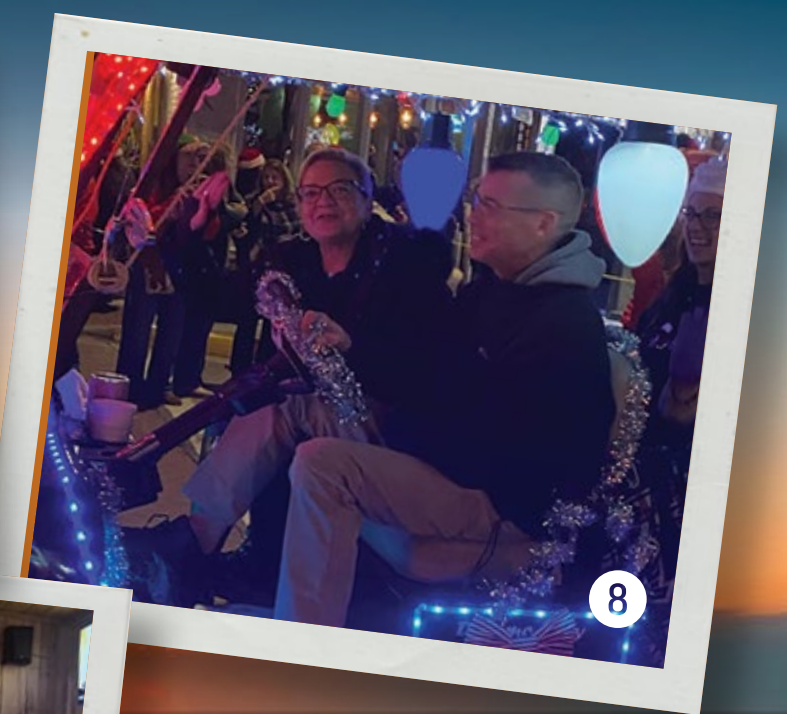
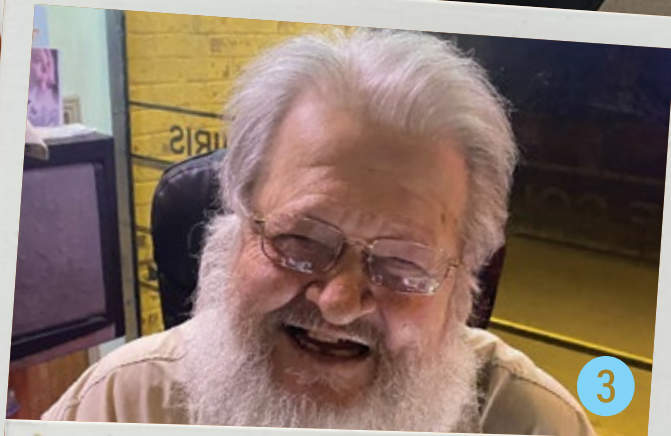
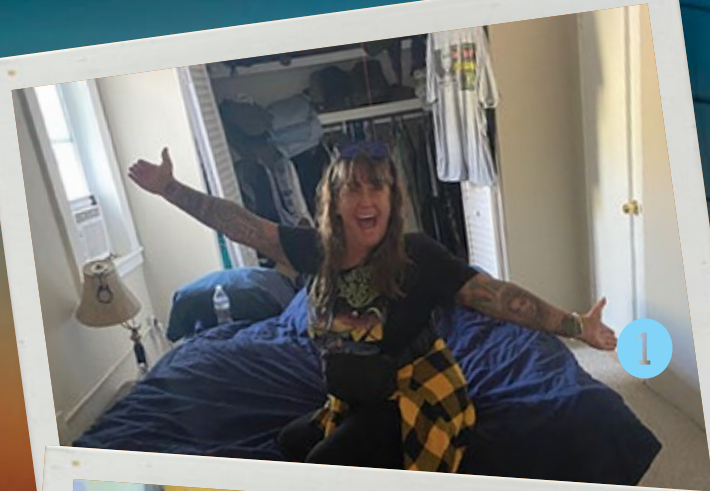
Games will be involved for both children and adults! The Bottle Pull for sure, and at the last meeting, we discussed auctioning Rudy Rudon again (unbeknownst to him at this moment) or perhaps another eligible male or female would be interested in putting themselves out there? And lots of other fun times. Now is a tough time for folks, so even if you cannot donate or sponsor, we need volunteers to help with the games, raffles, t-shirt sales, and more. If all else fails, the bar is there, and the bartenders can get you selling an igloo to a polar bear.

It is going to be hopping for a good cause! The American Legion Post 154 is here to stay, but it takes a village all around. This is our homebase now, and a homebase for generations yet to come.

For God. For Country. For Community.

THE LEFTOVERS

By Blair, Alaina and Betsey



1 I found **Kasey** at **Rudy's** and there is no reason to question this.

2 **Pervy Pet Pearl** was checking out this random stranger on my couch. **Beachcomber Christmas Party** never fails to entertain.

3 **Best D.J.** in the land at Tybee Time!!

4 Cheers to our after Christmas party at the **Rose** with our favorite people! Ignore the finger.

5 I have no idea who these guys are, but they are gorgeous and it really doesn't matter what their names are now does it?

6 Words escape. Fill in your own thoughts and don't tell anyone.

7 I have no idea what **Dillon and Akash** are looking at but I want to get involved!

8 Two of my favorite people!! **Erika and Patrick** showing us how to drive a float proper in the Christmas parade!

9 **Nickie's** is always a good time. Although I don't know about that side eye look in Emily's eyes...

10 Our very own Sports Teaser writer, George Hassell, clearly having a ball at the Christmas parade!

11 I don't know how the rest of the world works, but be a good neighbor and leave a bucket of mimosa! Cheers to Dean and Sara Cromer for saving me from the worst hangover in recorded history! Even the Blue Guy looks happy!



PERVY PET OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Lorin Marco

Boujee

Boujee is a lifelong Tybee resident and Extra Pervy. She enjoys swimming, looking for critters, visiting sandbars, and barking at cats.

Boujee also loves boats and has hundreds of nautical miles under her collar.

Beach Walks with Dr. Joe

By Dr. Joe Richardson

SEA PORK

Happy New Year everyone! And with that said, I'm now ready for summer and warm water. But while the water is cold and us beachcombers are keeping our feet dry, this month's subject is dealing with an animal that we frequently find washed up on the beach during our beach walks.

During winter and windy days that stir up the offshore waters, we can often find animals washed up that have gotten torn off the bottom from offshore reefs and hard bottoms. This includes large sponges and soft corals that grew attached to hard bottoms in deep water miles offshore.

One of the stranger examples of these offshore animals is Sea Pork. Each specimen has a different shape, size, and color. But regardless of its size or color, almost always, everyone describes a chunk of Sea Pork's appearance as gross!

Each Sea Pork chunk looks different because it is actually a colony of many small individual animals living together. In the case of Sea Pork, the individual animals are tiny Sea Squirts or Tunicates. As a single, small Tunicate grows, it will pinch off a piece of itself, and that small piece will grow into another individual. This process of non-sexual reproduction, called budding, will continue over and over, producing a larger and growing clump composed of many small individuals. Sea Pork is a good example of a colony-forming animal which is a growth strategy used by many otherwise small animals to produce a large individual.

There are a few different species of colonial Tunicates that grow into Sea Pork chunks. As a result, you might find clumps of different colors. I've seen Sea Pork clumps that are blue, green, purple, pink, orange, red, and most commonly beige. No matter what color, shape, or size, every clump will be different. The name "Sea Pork" comes from its tough, rubbery-like texture and



feel. Supposedly someone thought that it felt like salt pork or fatback, and gave it the name Sea Pork. It's not slimy or slippery but rather just feels like wet plastic.

Although Sea Pork is interesting as a colonial animal, it's probably not the most exciting offshore animals we find washed up. What can be a bit more exciting are the variety of small animals that may be hiding and living within the folds and crevices of a clump. When we find a nice chunk during a beach ecology trip, we put it in our beach touch tank to see what might come crawling out of it in a few minutes. It's not unusual to see small brittle stars, crabs, and shrimp-like animals that live in deeper offshore waters that we don't usually see along the beach.

So, the next time you see one of those gross-looking chunks of Sea Pork washed up, take a minute to look at it closely. You can probably see the tiny compartments that are the individual Tunicates (it looks kind of like bubble wrap). If it has some deep folds or depressions, check down inside them to see if there might be some small, more interesting animals hiding in there where they make that chunk of Sea Pork their protective home.

Dr. Joe Richardson is a retired marine science professor with 45+ years of research and teaching experience along GA and the southeastern coast and Bahamas. Besides research, he conducts Tybee Beach Ecology Trips (www.TybeeBeachEcology.com) and frequently posts pictures of what they are finding on his Tybee Beach Ecology Trips Facebook page.









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Explore, create, unwind...





Main Street Matters

Maggie Wright | Main Street / DDA Coordinator

A brand-new year has arrived on Tybee Island, and Main Street could not be more excited about everything ahead. After a wonderful holiday season filled with community joy and island magic, we are stepping into 2026 with gratitude, energy, and big plans for the months to come.

The holiday festivities wrapped up beautifully in December, thanks to the incredible support from our community, volunteers, partners, and visitors. From the Tree Lighting Ceremony to the Christmas Parade of Lights, to our largest Holiday Market yet, each celebration was filled with laughter, togetherness, and the true spirit of Tybee. Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make the season so special.

New Year’s celebrations kept the excitement going as Tybee welcomed 2026 with its spectacular New Year’s Eve Fireworks over the Atlantic Ocean. The show lit up the night sky and drew crowds from near and far, creating a magical moment to close out a fantastic year.

The celebration continued the next morning with the 26th Annual Tybee Island Polar Plunge. The Gang of Goofs Costume Contest and Parade brought creativity and color to the pier before thousands of brave plungers took a chilly leap into the Atlantic at noon. It was the perfect way to kick off the new year and a tradition that never fails to bring smiles to the island.

With the holiday season behind us, Tybee Island Main Street is looking forward to a fresh year filled with improvement projects, creative initiatives, and new opportunities to support our businesses and community. From beautification efforts to marketing programs to expanded volunteer and outreach opportunities, Main Street is excited to continue building on the momentum from 2025 and make 2026 even better.

As always, thank you to our residents, business owners, volunteers, and city partners for your continued support. Tybee Island shines because of you.

For event updates, local highlights, and weekend events, follow Tybee Island Main Street on Facebook. You can also check the City of Tybee calendar for meeting dates or reach out directly at maggie.wright@cityoftybee.gov or 912-760-4374.



SPORTS TEASER

By George Hassell

Happy New Year’s Sports Teaser fans. I hope you all had a wonderful Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. It’s certainly been a busy time with family, friends, presents, and lots of food and drink. And a little bit of a headache from a wee bit too much to drink! Regardless, take a few Advil (or your favorite hair of the dog libation) and let’s get to some sports talk.

As the calendar turns to January, we still have quite a bit of football left to talk about. Let’s start with the college gridiron and playoff talk. (Oh, did Notre Dame get left out?). As of this writing, the Georgia Bulldogs will have just played their first game versus either Ole Miss or Tulane in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. Here’s hoping that they advance on to the semifinals and, of course, the National Championship game to win it all. If for some reason they don’t, the season has been an enormous success.

Despite losing to Alabama 24-21 back in September, the Bulldogs really started to gel late in the season. And the defense that was young but expected to be good, lived up to that hype and did not disappoint, only giving up 10 points to Texas, 9 to Georgia Tech, and 7 to Alabama! Georgia is now 3-0 versus Texas since they joined the SEC, have won 8 in a row versus the in-state rival Georgia Tech, and finally got the monkey off their back in disposing of Alabama 28-7 in a game that really wasn’t as close as the score indicated. I believe they will never look at Alabama in the same way that they did when losing to them eight out of nine times in the last decade. Now that they know that they have beaten them, they can beat them and now will just add them to the list of regular SEC formidable opponents. Nothing special, nothing to see here; they, have exorcised the demon that is the Crimson Tide!

I do predict that Georgia will beat Indiana for the championship. Georgia’s defense will stop Indiana just like Ohio State did, and the offense will do enough to win by at least a touchdown. We shall see! Regardless of what happens in the playoffs this year, these are the glory days of Georgia football. The early 1980s were wonderful, but Kirby Smart is 74-6 in his last 80 games. They have two national championships, three SEC championships - back-to-back! Enjoy this folks!

In the NFL, our local teams have gone in opposite directions this season. The Falcons have floundered and lost a lot of close games this season and were eliminated from the playoffs in early December. Many are calling for the head coach, Raheem Morris, to be fired and some for Arthur Blank to sell the team and start over. They have barely had a winning season since the debacle in the Super Bowl against New England almost 10 years ago.

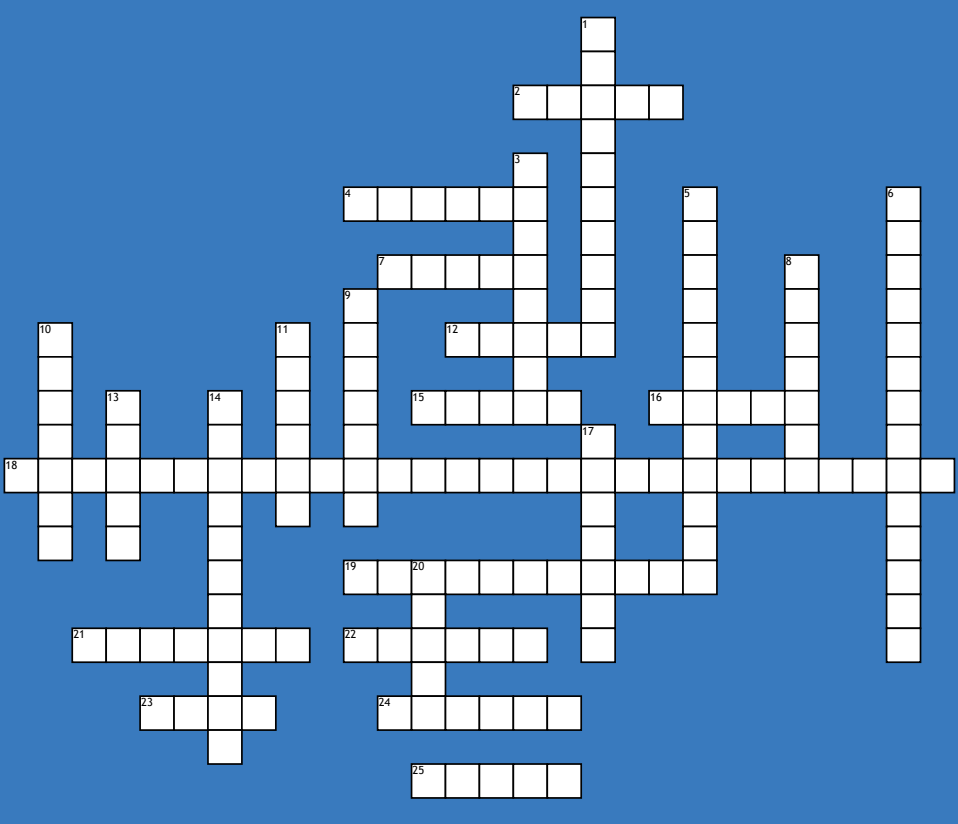
On the other hand, the Jaguars have been surprising and, as of this writing, lead their division and look to be playoff bound. Trevor Lawrence has finally started to play better in his fifth year, and the defense that leads the league against rushing is leading the way. In a season where things are upside down with the usual suspects not playing well or missing the playoffs entirely and unfamiliar teams leading the playoff chase, I believe anything can happen. As of right now, I would put money on the Rams or the Seahawks to win the Super Bowl. In the AFC, I just don’t believe in New England or Denver coming through, so it’s pretty much wide open. More on that next month, along with a review of the college National Championship game.

Happy New Year, stay warm and we’ll see you in February.

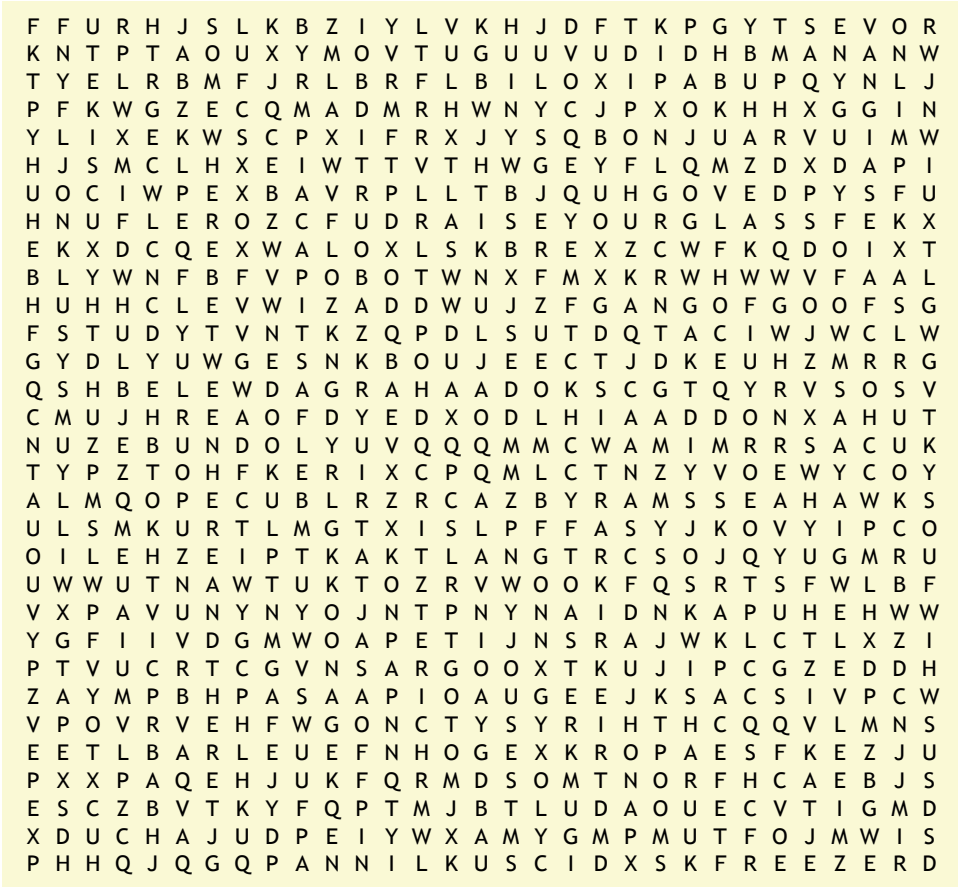
Crossword

- Across
- 2. Tybee is now recycling what items?
 - 4. Where did O'Neill and the Princess go for his birthday vacation?
 - 7. George also says, "Take a few ____."
 - 12. On January 13th, the library has an ____ book club meeting.
 - 15. Sundae Cafe is "Southern with a ____?"
 - 16. Who is looking for love in all the wrong places?
 - 18. Where was Rick?
 - 19. Costume Contest at the Polar Bear Plunge is called?
 - 21. Smarter than your Average ____?
 - 22. Austin who?
 - 23. The American Legion is need of a new what?
 - 24. Who is our Pervy Pet?
 - 25. ____ Tybee Run Fest

- Down
- 1. DeSoto is Tybee's Only ____ Hotel.
 - 3. Egg muffins ____ Style.
 - 5. George is putting money on what two teams for the Super Bowl?
 - 6. What is D.J. Amp's #5?
 - 8. Where did the Long's take us?
 - 9. Bubba Gumbo's says "Who Gets Burnt by a ____?"
 - 10. Dr. Joe's Creature of the Month?
 - 11. Photo of the Month is by?
 - 13. Joe Shields is Tybee's Own Special ____?
 - 14. Book Review book?
 - 17. Papa's serves up BBQ and ____?
 - 20. Tybean Coffee Bar offers ____ Brew.



Word Search



- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Critz | WillYums |
| Seafood | Adult |
| Beachfront | Paola |
| Advil | Gang of Goofs |
| Rams Seahawks | Sea Pork |
| Butler | Kooden |
| Somewhere between here and there | Biloxi |
| Belfast | Raise Your Glass |
| Twist | Toaster |
| Agent | The Wasp Trap |
| Freezer | HVAC |
| Nitro | Boujee |
| | Glass |

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TYBEE ART GALLERY

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KELLY & COMPANY

Kelly & Company is a shop full of Tybee treasures, with a nice selection of handcrafted aromatherapy products, all things Tybee Happy—shirts, bags, mugs & more—and a wide variety of delightful goods.

SEASIDE SISTERS

Seaside Sisters is Tybee's shore thing when it comes to beach inspired home décor, eye-catching jewelry, comfy & casual clothes and shoes, plus fun Tybee take-home treasures.



GALLERY 80 ON TYBEE

Gallery 80 offers an eclectic mix of art including original watercolor, acrylic, and batik paintings, wood artistry, gourd art, pottery, jewelry, and more! Oh, and don't forget—John does custom framing in the backroom!

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