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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov

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Subject: Spotlighting: Greenville, SC., Outer Banks, Charleston, Brunswick Islands, Columbia

November 8, 2016

Below: Wildly wonderful; Beauty from above; Sing, bird, sing; Grab some wheels and go; Fly like a bird; One potato, two potato; Give thanks.

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**Carolina Adventure
Riverbanks Zoo & Garden | Columbia, SC**

You're Gonna Love Annette

You don't need children to enjoy Riverbanks – but if there are little ones in your midst, they'll adore this adventure. Now that the \$40-million, park-wide expansion and development project is complete, there are more new reasons than ever to plan an outing. One of them is named Annette.

She's a female California sea lion who's been stranded, rehabilitated, and released four times. When it happened again, the conclusion was clear – find Annette a forever home. Today, she lives with her new family – four male sea lions and a male harbor seal. They play together, enjoy mealtime and provide antics that make every visitor smile.

You can watch these pinnipeds through a 35-foot long panoramic window, from amphitheatre seating, or from above the 250,000-

gallon saltwater habitat – what a view!

Having the sea lions back is just one reason to plan your adventure here. Otter Run and Grizzly Ridge offer spectacular views of bears and otters. Zoo members love the penguin presentation, held at 11:30am each day. Watching the gorillas dine is another fav. And for years, it's been hard to beat the elephants at Ndoki Forest. (We once had to gently pry a youngster's hands from the railing as the giant beasts wandered around. He was mesmerized.)

Little ones love getting up close to feed some of the animals. Would Mr. Giraffe like a lettuce leaf? But of course. Lorikeet want a treat?

Why yes, please. One little fellow absolutely adored feeding an alpaca and a goat. Another preferred a pony ride. We watched a family mingle with some kangaroos.

Make sure to visit the Botanical Garden, a short walk or tram ride across the Saluda River. You may catch a glimpse of the zipline in action, as adventurers Zip the Zoo and ZOOM the River. The garden is beautiful year-round, and you'll walk away with ideas and a resolve to return when they sell some of their most popular plants.

With little ones, don't miss the new Waterfall Junction, where it's perfectly ok to splash about and cool down.

WOW Factor: 30 million folks have visited this Zoo, the largest in the Southeastern U.S. People travel from everywhere to enjoy the sights, and there's something wonderful year-round. (The holiday lights are enchanting.) There's no reason to go hungry, with concessions everywhere.

Hint: Study the website before you go. What you do not want is to arrive five minutes after the sea lions have been fed. Plan to load a Zoo Cash Card to feed the animals. If the weather is warm, take water clothes for the children at Waterfall Junction. And take your camera or iPhone for pictures. You'll want to capture these precious moments forever.

Learn more: Riverbanks.org | [More Adventures](#)

Carolina Famous Faces

Maya Angelou

April 4, 1928 -
May 28, 2014

Sing, Bird, Sing.

Maya Angelou, born Marguerite Annie Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri, was raised in St. Louis and in Stamps, Arkansas. Hers was a difficult life and she became a single

mother at an early age.

And then, through perseverance, force of will and immeasurable talent, she won a scholarship to study in San Francisco, toured Europe in a production of *Porgy and Bess*, studied dance with Martha Graham, danced with Alvin Ailey, and moved to New York, then Egypt, and later, Ghana.

She was a prolific writer of poetry; her volume *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diie* (1971) was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

How can the Carolinas claim her as one of our own? In 1991, she became the Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest

University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and lived happily in this appealing Southern town.

She was chosen by President Bill Clinton to recite her poem, "On the Pulse of Morning," during his inauguration in 1993. You can listen and watch on YouTube, and be as enthralled now as so many years ago.

President Barack Obama presented her with the 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom. Oprah Winfrey speaks passionately about her genius, and young people are now being introduced to her written words.

She was called a global renaissance woman, and with good reason. Read more about Dr. Angelou and enjoy videos spanning her career at MayaAngelou.com. *Maya Angelou and Still I Rise*, is the first feature length documentary about this remarkable poet, writer, actress and activist and was released in October 2016.

"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song." Maya Angelou

Carolina Creative

Colorful Carolinas

Hello Tony,

As superlative colors fade in the highlands, the Carolina foothills are alive with fall's rainbow.

For most, it's still shorts weather here, even though our thoughts have turned to the Currier and Ives postcard image of snowy holidays (best viewed from afar).

As many Northern climes are already digging out from winter snowstorms, we enjoy the hint of crisp air. This, my friends, is perfect weather for golf, tennis, hiking and biking. It's also a great time of year to visit our 500-mile coastline, all the way down to Savannah, South Carolina's kissin' cousin.

Plan your getaway, soon, and if the thought of putting down roots has crossed your mind, do a bit of research on the fabulous new CarolinaLiving.com website before you finalize travel plans. Home construction is everywhere and we've got great new tips to aid you in your quest for friendly faces and beautiful surroundings. Check out our [updated Entrepreneur article](#) in the new guide and online, plus great new adventures and insider advice before putting

David Soliday

down roots. As always, email us with adventures you've found memorable. We'll share.

All the best for a bountiful Thanksgiving in Columbia!

Leyla & Patrick Mason

Co-Founders

Center For Carolina

Living *Showcasing Carolina Life & Adventures*

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For Our Heroes

Sanderling Resort, the idyllic coastal Carolina retreat set on the shores of the Outer Banks, is offering premier treatment for deserving service men and women. The AAA Four-Diamond resort's annual "Heroes Welcome" program will offer discounted rates to military, fire and rescue, law enforcement and medical personnel. Additionally, the resort will offer 20% off all food, spa and retail.

Sanderling Resort is also extending a "Heroes Supporter Rate", which invites all guests to donate \$5 to benefit the Outer Banks Public Safety Auxiliary. Contributors will receive 20% off their nightly room rates.

Sanderling Resort offers Southern charm with a modern sensibility for the quintessential Outer Banks getaway and an ideal all-American vacation. The resort now offers a host of new experiences, from wild horse tours in Corolla to an exclusive partnership with Kitty Hawk Kites for endless water adventures.

The "Heroes Welcome" rate is limited to American service men and women

David Soliday grew up in the Berkshire foothills where, at a very early age, he recognized his heart was meant to tell stories with imagery and words. A two-year employment as an expedition mechanic took him to far reaches of the world; the experience led him to a degree from Amherst College in Cultural Anthropology— a discipline pertinent to his current project – celebrating the cultural legacy of the largely overshadowed agricultural empire of Carolina Gold Rice (1670 – circa 1880) and the enslaved Africans, the Gullah, whose African-based technology made the enterprise so successful.

Soliday moved to the Carolina Lowcountry in 1978 soon after college. The Lowcountry "fit" well and quite quickly he was photographing and writing about birds for the likes of *National Wildlife*, *GEO*, and *National Geographic*. His living was supplemented by taking his nature and landscape "eye" to the advertising world – mostly resort-development projects and producing signature "golf landscapes."

His interest in the Lowcountry's Gullah Culture was immediate – his feeling that rice's regionally celebrated "history" was based primarily on planters' biased accounts. New evidence of a far greater African contribution was seeping from academia – important information for the nation to know.

The "looking glass" he uses to tell this story is compelling imagery taken from above – the only perspective that reveals the immensity of the earth's surface being removed and re-sculpted to grow rice – by shovel alone. One hundred fifty six thousand acres of restructured earth dominates every coastal river system from Northern Florida into North Carolina. The construction statistics of these fields compare to "Wonders of the World" – typically, The Pyramids.

The project documents the perishing vestiges of rice dikes, canals, and ditches – once so formidable and so deeply carved into the earth by enslaved Africans. This landscape is monumental –symbolic and testimonial to Human capabilities, to an era of U.S. history - and to a people whose contributions are not fully recognized.

Soliday's photographic documentation will become increasingly valuable as the story of rice unfolds. The wealth and stimulus that the world-renowned "Gold Rice" created is responsible for many foundations of our nation. So much of mainstream American culture and lifestyle including food, music, and dance are influenced by the Gullah culture. "Rice" is also a new story of African Contribution. Soliday's case that the South should not be known as "The Land of Cotton" has merit. "Rice" is a valuable story to be recognized in these times.

His major exhibition, "Remnants of The Rice Culture" – Agricultural History as Art, premiered during the summer of 2015 in Charleston, and has since been in Myrtle Beach and Pawley's Island. A showing through March, 2017, has just opened in Beaufort at the historic Beaufort Foundation.

The most exciting event & tribute is that The Smithsonian honors Soliday's work by its inclusion as permanent installation at its new Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D. C. Educational programs and books are to follow.

who show valid identification upon arrival. Deluxe Guest Rooms start at \$119 per night, with an additional 20% discount offered towards all food, retail and treatments at Spa at Sanderling. For “Heroes Welcome” reservations, visit www.sanderling-resort.com or call 1.877.650.4812. Note: This booking link will not be active until Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2016.

Carolina Cuisine

Savor these Sweets

‘Tis the season when our thoughts turn to ... sweet potatoes. What a wonderful fall vegetable! Versatile (sweet or savory), great in salads, casseroles, desserts, cookies, smoothies, and so on. Lucky for us, the NC Sweet Potato Commission has a website filled with great recipes that fit all those categories. (No wonder.

NC is the largest sweet potato producer in the U.S.) We were tempted by the [Maple Roasted Sweet Potato Vegetable Medley](#) as a refreshing and colorful side dish to the Thanksgiving bird.

When you see a roadside market advertising fresh sweet potatoes, stop and buy a few. They’ll probably be covered in dirt from the field, but a quick wash will fix that, and you’ll be left with a fresh potato which puts the grocery store variety to shame!

Got your veggies covered? Then visit their website and consider the sweet potato crème brulee. Tasty-licious!

[The Guide is here!](#)

David Soliday’s most recent exhibition was dedicated to his son, David Shriver Soliday IV, who took his own life in 2014, at age 17, after sustaining his third severe concussion. The photographer hopes that sharing the family’s personal tragedy will help others understand the effects of concussions.

His magical photographs can be enjoyed at his website, DavidSoliday.com. His work is available for purchase on the site.

Top photo by David Soliday: The Harriet Tubman Bridge, Combahee River, SC

Get Your Wheels and Go!

In North Carolina’s Brunswick Islands, cyclists enjoy pedaling along the charming seaside streets, on the beach at low tide or through the moss-draped live oaks on the mainland.

Visitors can bring their own bikes or [rent](#) them from a number of different companies. Guided bike tours in and around Southport teach guests about the town’s historical blockade runners, river pilots and pirates, as well as show them the beauty of the live oaks and historical waterfront property.

Visitors can also take bikes out on the 45 miles of wide, pristine beaches, along the roads near the Intracoastal Waterway, or in scenic area parks. North Carolina’s Brunswick Islands has many roads that follow the curve of the coast: Beach Drive and Ocean Drive on Oak Island, Caswell Beach Road on Caswell Beach, Ocean Boulevard on Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Boulevard and First Street on Ocean Isle Beach and Main Street on Sunset Beach. Holden Beach alone has three different routes totaling 20 miles. The Brunswick Nature Park also offers bike trails through a scenic 900-acre wooded park near Leland.

For a unique excursion, bike one mile down [Sunset Beach](#) from the southernmost public beach access and discover Bird Island Reserve, home to the Kindred Spirit Mailbox.

Soar like an Eagle

Filled with great new adventures and the most compelling reasons we've seen for considering a college town for your new home perch.

[Click here.](#)

Heading your way

- **Let's Take a Road Trip!**
- **Carolina Famous Faces**
- **Insider Attractions**
- **Adventures**

Among the Best

Stratos Aviation, in Greenville, SC is one of only nine flight schools in U.S. to be recognized by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) as Outstanding Flight Schools. It is the only such school in SC to receive that honor. Stratos' Founder and Owner, Dimitri Partafyllas was also listed, with just one other South Carolinian, on the AOPA Flight Instructor Honor Roll which consisted of just fifty recipients. The other South Carolina instructor to win was John Selby based out of the Mt. Pleasant Regional-Faison Field Airport.

Winners were chosen based on a poll that gave aviators the opportunity to provide feedback about their recent flight training experience. There were 789 flight schools and 1,515 flight instructors receiving votes.

Flying Enthusiasts Take Note:

The Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU) is the busiest general aviation airport in South Carolina and is a self-sufficient entity with financial strength that doesn't rely on local taxpayers for funding. GMU is home to Greenville Jet Center, the largest Fixed Base Operation (FBO) in S.C., as well as more than 25 other aviation-related businesses creating 453 jobs that annually contribute more than \$35.2 million to the Upstate economy. For more information about GMU please visit www.greenvilledowntownairport.com.

More about [Greenville](#).

Facebook

Thanksgiving is coming. The ultimate family holiday is almost upon us, and for many, preparations have begun. We learned long ago that holiday treats vary from region to region, and lots of folks from other areas have never tasted Southern-style cornbread dressing among other found-in-the-south treats. What are your favorite once-a-year recipes that make you thankful? For me, it's homemade pickled peaches from my grandmother's recipe files. For perfect texture, make before July 1 in the Carolinas.

Please share with us on [Facebook](#), and if you're missing a recipe, or looking for a long-ago favorite, let us know. We'll do our best to track it down in time for the holidays.

Downtown Daniel Island

A new center for upscale urban living, shopping and dining is emerging on Island Park Drive. Soon, new residents will enjoy the benefits of living in the upscale apartments in Central Island Square, and island residents and visitors will have access to new shopping, dining and entertainment options in the heart of their island town.

There's also a senior living community under construction, and an innovative new world headquarters for Blackbaud, the world's leading cloud software company for non-profit and social good organizations.

Learn more at DaniellIsland.com

Save 15% if ordered before December 15 **Champions of Civil and Human Rights in South Carolina**

Volume 1: Dawn of the Movement Era, 1955-1967

Edited by Marvin Ira Lare

This five-volume anthology spans the decades from 1930 to 1980 with oral history interviews of key activists and leaders of the civil rights movement in South Carolina. Editor Marvin Ira Lare introduces more than one hundred civil rights leaders from South Carolina who tell their own stories in their own words to reveal and chronicle a massive revolution in American society in a deeply personal and gripping way. Forthcoming in December, 464 pages, 59 b&w illus.

[Learn more.](#)

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