Lowcountry Life



Fatboys Resort, built over deep water to accommodate boats and to protect coral near the shore, encourages guests to relax, or if absolutely necessary, sample the scuba, snorkeling, fishing and village walks. On Mbambanga Island, in Ferguson Passage near Gizo airport, Western Province, Solomon Islands.

Uncovering the secrets of the Solomon Islands

HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

If it weren't for the potholes, If it weren't for the potholes, cavernous pits slowing us down on the road to Honiara, in the Solomon Islands, I might have missed the sign on the tree, "Dolphin View Cottage." But Andrew, our guide, knew the road by heart.
"That's Guyas Tohabellana," he said wenting at a stocky.

dark-skinned man in rumpled shorts, a faded T-shirt and flip flops. "He works here in Gua-dalcanal. C'mon, let's say hel-lo."

Beyond the bungalow, Guyas' two teenagers lounged on a price table, playing with their pet cockatoo. Behind them the beach sloped down to Iron Bottom Sound, the World War II graveyard where 50 -odd American and Japanese ships lie at rest. Across the water, Savo Island shimmered on the horizon.

zon.

For a couple of minutes, the two men chatted, speaking Pijin so quietly I couldn't make out the words. Then Guyas turned to me and we shook hands.

"You're from America!" he said, switching to English and lighting up. "Do you like it here? Have you been to Gizo and seen the beautiful coral reefs? Yes,

Have you been to Gizo and seen the beautiful coral reefs? Yes, my grandfather was a coast watcher during World War II, a spy you'd say, reporting Japanese movements to the Americans. He watched the battle of Savo Island from right here. "A name and a handshake are de rigueur in the Solomomo, and the same and the sam

landers, mostly Melanesian, are scattered over 347 of the coun-try's 922 islands, speaking both Pijin and one of the country's 75 different languages. Some are farmers; some work for the government. Some wear grass skirts and use shell money for



Market day at Gizo, capital of the Western Province, and a ferry stop, is a major event, attended by sellers, buyers and tourists, all arriving by water. On Ghizo Island in the Western Province.

barter; others are proud to count headhunters among their ancestors. A few own speed boats; most paddle to market in a "mol, "a homemade dugout cance. We took the overnight Fiji Ariways flight from Ios Angede to Fiji: Nadi airport, changed derson International Airport, in Honiara, the capital city. I'd brought my phone so I took advantage of the airport's "tour cars are lapanese and brought my phone so I took advantage of the airport's "tour cars are lapanese are brought my phone so I took advantage of the airport's "tour cars are lapanese are building an overpass and paving the street and it's taking for

ever," he added as we inched along past grimy storefronts and vegetable stands overflowing with greens, tomatoes and squash.

with greens, tomatoes and squash.
"That one, where everybody shops, is owned by a Chinese company," he said, nodding at a big-box department store, the kind we've seen in other thirdworld countries, there to pave the way to building and mining contracts.

contracts.

I looked for something I could brag on - an American-built hospital or a college - but we'd a cheady turned away, heading to the Memorial Garden cemetery, the American War Memorial and Bonegi Beach, famous for wreck dives. "That's Bloody Ridge," Andrew said, parking the car on a grassy hump of

land.
Standing there, imagining the chaos of battle, it felt unreal to

Standing there, imagining the chaos of battle, if left unreal to be gazing out over sleepy fields while at my feet, still visible, where the foxholes where 40 U.S. More the foxholes where the words to affields at Gizo, on Ghizo Island, and Muda, on New Georgia, both in the Western Province, the gateway to equatorial rain forests, volcanic mountains, blue lagoons and sandy beaches. Met by a skiff and driver, we mering blue lagoon, to Fat Boys. Resort, an all-inclusive, palm-thatched lodge built over deep water, with five bamboo-walled guest bungalows perched on the shore. Our base camp for the

SEE SOLOMON, 6B

As Hilton Head Island's election season heats up, we should ask ourselves: 'What is true?'



In the political season, telling the truth and lying are always battling for supremacy over the minds and hearts of the electo-rate.

That's what's playing out in

nee Brett Kavanaugh. The scheduled Senate Judiciary scheduled Senate Judiciary
Committee hearing this week
offers us a different kind of
challenge regarding the integrity
of the judiciary and elected
officials. How does one determine who is telling the truth and
who is lying?
The Torah is explicit about
the serioureness of binn Mark

The Torah is explicit about the seriousness of lying, Mark Twain wrote, "There are 869 forms of lying but only one of them has been squarely forbid-den; thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." One of the Ten Commandments says exactly that.
In ancient times, according to Deuteronomy, witnesses were

LYING UNDERMINES THE FAMILY UNIT, INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE.

asked to stand before God by appearing before the priests and judges who adjudicated dis-putes. The Torah goes on to say that those judges were required to conduct the process of dis-covery in order to determine which individual might be lying. The consequences of lying

were serious: "So shall you put evil away from among you." That admonition was also intended to communicate a stern message to the public that they, os, shall learn and fear the control of law. "And your eye shall not pity, but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."

Today, basic values which come from the Bible are supposed to be part of the bedrock of America's ethos of integrity. Ironically, liars running for elected office like to hide behind the shield of freedom of speech to justify their words, no matter how hurtful, hateful or

untrue. "I have the right of free-dom of speech" becomes their rallying cry and deflects our attention from the primary is-sue: is what they're saying true or a lie. On Hilton Head we have a mayoral candidate who uses the camouflage of our Con-stitution's First Amendment to advance his ideas of hate by

stitution's First Amendment to advance his ideas of hate by questioning the Holocaust. The Bible and later religious traditions from Judaism and Christianity understood that lying was a serious crime be-cause liars not only diminish themselves, If not held account

themselves, If not held accountable, they undermine the social fabric of society.

Lying undermines the family unit, interpersonal relationships and public discourse. The problem is that when someone, especially a candidate for elected office, tells a lie over and over again, there is a tendency

SEE FAITH. 6B

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FROM PAGE 5R

SOLOMON

mext few days, the lodge was a short boat ride to Kennedy Island, where we went ashore to see where Lt. John Kemnedy and his Land and the seed of the land the seed of the land the lan

changed hands, sellers hailed their friends and old ladies filled their shop-ping bags. Everyone smiled, asking where we were from and posing for photos. Ngali nuts - the holy

photos. Ngali nuts – the holy grail of snacks here in the

islands - were in season, so I stocked up with a half-dozen folded-leaf packages. Green taro leaves competed with slippery spinach (Malabar spinach), purple bananas, carrots and betel nuts, commonly chewed here

carrots and betel nuts, commonly chewed here, an affordable substitute for coffee or eigarettes. "What do they taste like?" I asked an older man with red-rimmed eyes (the clue), who off-ered me a seat in the shade. "Do they make you feel relaxed?" I ventured to ask.

shade. "Do they make you feel relaxed?" I ventured to ask.
"Oh, no, they give you energy!" he said, smiling, showing me how he folded the nut and leaf togethlime (ash from burned clam shells). "One or two of these and I want to get up and work all day."
Flying on to Munda, on our next leg, we checked into the Agnes Gateway Hotel, on the waterfront, a spartan set of rooms and cottages advertised in scuba magazines. Signing up for a tour to Skull Island, we met boat captain Billy Kere, 30-ish and



STEVE HAGGERTY Colorworld Views of hills and green pastures seen from Bloody Ridge, on Guadalcanal, stand in stark contrast to the half-sunken foxholes where 40 Marines died on September 12-13, 1942.

friendly, and a "descend-ant of the Roviana head-the Roviana head-such a state of the Roviana head-such a state of the Roviana head-pounding over incoming waves, we finally docked at tiny Skull Island, just big enough to hold piles of rocks and rows of ancient skulls, victims of long ago battles.

Goil, whe I'll have the row of the where Kennedy and his crew were stationed dur-ing the war, we went ash-ore to visit the barracks and look at the mont-

ore to visit the barracks and look at the monu-ment. Ata, the keeper, produced a carved wood bust of the youthful Ken-nedy, which he hides at night. "It's been stolen and recovered twice," he said, leading me to a

group of rusty cannons.
The real surprise was the modern bathroom.
Two days later, as our adduture wound activative wound stater, as our adduture wound stater, as our adduture wound stater, as our activative wound would be supported by the surprise of the surprise would be supported by the surprise would be surprised by the surpr

FROM PAGE 5R

FAITH

to believe the falsehood. We have seen how susceptible the public is to the charisma and persistence of a candidate who repeats a lie.

a lie.

The constant repetition of lying rhetoric saturates our mindest and we then sometimes take it for granted that it must be true.

Twain warned us that religion and politics required us to be discerning about what we hear and believe. In 1908, he worte:

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at secvictions are in almost every case gotten at second-hand, and without examination, from authorities who have not themselves examined the questions at issue but have taken them at second-hand from other non-examiners, whose opinions about them were not worth a brass farthing." His advice on both subjects is valid. Have all of us not violated the commandment

lated the commandment "thou shall not bear false witness" sometime in our lives?

Despite the human inclination to lie, should we not question for ourselves and learn the truth not only about our religious teachings but also about those seeking our vote in the political arena? Aren't we responsible to ferret out the truth as we prepare to cast our ballot? In that way, religion and politics converge, it is our

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duty to question the accuracy if there is doubt about what clergy preach or what candidates exhort in their speeches. Judaism has an ancient proverb which says, "Cod created everything except the art of lying,"

If God sees into the hearts of human beings, is it not incumbent upon us to use our best judgment to discern whether someone, whether he or she is running for elected office or preaching from Holy Scriptures, is telling us the truth?

Is this not faith in action, too?



Places of Worship

in the Lowcountry







Friday, October 5, 7:30 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 6, 10:00 as Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Service

Holy Family Catholic Church

24 Pope Avenue - Hilton Head bland, SC 24928
Phone (R4) 785-2895
Rev. Ronals J. Farrell, Pastor
Control or the roads and of Hilton Head bland)

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Weckehr Masse: £50am - Honday faru Salarday
Spanish Weckelry Mass: 7.05pm - Weckesday
Sarady Forming (Jah Mass: 50apm - Weckesday)
Masse: £10am 1.5ta a la paigain flass
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Masse Dipsom best torke, 1.55pm (Minister Frispness 222)
Resisions: After £50am 18ss Hon-Sala & Salarday 4.445pm
marrick Advardasion: £11 midsighet + Honday in Thursday
Sam - 5pm - Frisday

Till Till Minister Sounday

Till Till Minister Sounday

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Wednesday Morning Healing Service at 10:00 nue • Hilton Head • 843.785.4099 • www.Stl.ukesHHl.org

ANGLICAN Church of the Redeemer "Catch the Spirit, Feel the Spirit, Share the Spirit*
Sunday - 10:00 AM - HOLY COMMUNION



SEA ISLAND

City Road and Mathews Drive at Phone: 843-815-5820



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JOIN US AS WE CONTINUE OUR FALL SERMON SERIES! "Top 10 Reasons for being a Christian"

Sunday, September 30 on: "#8 - It Means We are Not Alone Scripture: Romans 8: 26-39

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.: Traditional worship 9:45 a.m.: CrossRoads Contemporary worship

9:45 & 11:00 a.m.: Sunday school for all ages & Children's church Nursery available all morning

"Laugh Your Way to Grace"

Friday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. FPC welcomes Susan Sparks, comedian and reacher for a night of laughter and fellowship

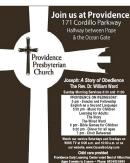
Individual tickets are \$25/person Group (8 or more) ticket rate is \$20/person Buy online at WWW.FPCHHI.ORG

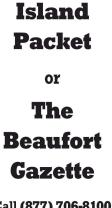
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Indigo Pines Retirement Center Chapel Worship: 9:15AM

Sea Island Chapel: Fellowship - 10:00am Morning Worship - 10:30am

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