

# The Skinnie

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UP front

*"This is all about our country right now. I love the USA. I love my teammates. The USA hockey brotherhood is so strong...I'm SO proud to be American today...So proud..."*

"We're so proud to be Americans... We're so proud to win for our country," Jack Hughes said in a live NBC interview moments after scoring the sudden death overtime goal to secure the Olympic men's hockey gold medal for the United States. By the time the 97-second exchange with reporter Kathryn Tappen ended, Hughes had clearly revealed his heart to the world.

He emphatically used the word "proud," over and over again, to explain how being American makes him feel. He unambiguously declared his love for his country before he said anything else. He twice declared that his team delivered for "all of the country." He spoke his words through the space in his mouth where his front teeth had once been, gums colored with his own blood. Several times, he ran his hand through his sweaty hair, as though pushing the tears beginning to well in his eyes back into his head.

When Jack Hughes blasted the puck between the Canadian goaltender's splayed legs and into the back of the net in northern Italy, and in the unscripted minutes that followed, he established himself as an American hero for the ages. I cried as I watched, and Jenna did, too.

Later, I began to see an emerging trend that shocked me. People criticized Hughes and his teammates for fielding a post-game phone call from the President and accepting invitations to the antiquatedly-inconsequential ritual that has been rendered quaintly irrelevant by continuous media feeds: "The State of the Union" address. Apparently, USA hockey is "too MAGA" for some.

If you didn't feel a degree of pride and joy when Hughes and his brothers (including his teammate and actual brother Quinn) frantically rushed the ice to celebrate, you have stripped yourself of something basic and precious, and the void that remains is a you-problem and nothing more. You have chosen to frame every thought and emotion that you have through a lens of political preference. You have robbed yourself of important components of the human experience. You probably ought to lighten up. You can't fix all the world's problems with your melancholy, and your stridently monolithic world view runs counter to your self-claimed empathy.

But let's get back to Jack Hughes. You think he fits

into some predictable box? Like a knuckle-dragging unsympathetic country boy? He was born in the hockey hotbed of...Orlando, Florida...a long way from Winnipeg or Northern Michigan. He grew up in Toronto, the biggest city in Canada, the home country of the team he and his mates beat. He went to Catholic high school, though he celebrated his bar mitzvah as a Jew. It's a close call between him and his brother as to which man is the smallest member of Team USA 2026. He's a voracious reader and an active advocate for youth literacy, evidenced by his Hughes Brothers Pucks-and-Pages program. He has openly supported NHL Pride Nights, saying of his New Jersey Devils organization, "We are a really welcoming organization...with how we grew up, my family really supports that too."

As much as we want to distill every person, every action into a piece of indisputable evidence supporting our confirmation biases, doing so misses much. People, systems, nations, are complex, dynamic, evolving things, imbued with flaws and imperfections inherited from Adam and Eve.

Jack Hughes is a man, a young one, of 24. No doubt, he has made mistakes in his life and he will make more. And he is a hero and a patriot, and I will never forget what he did and then said on the morning of February 22, 2026. Because all the truths in this paragraph can coexist.

Rooting for your country isn't a sign of jingoistic impulses. It's not sinisterly nationalistic. Rather, it's natural and it's fun. Why did I cry when the USA beat the Soviet Union in Lake Placid in 1980 and again when we topped Canada a week ago? Because, as Jack Hughes said, "I love my country." It's as simple as that. Perhaps my soul could have been sent elsewhere on Earth, but somehow it landed here, and I am thankful every day for that random reality. I do what I can to make my little piece of my town, my country, my planet better for my efforts. And I will always unabashedly cheer for the Red, White, and Blue.

*Scott A Laurer*



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**on the cover:**

Frequent contributor Jorge Gojman snapped this hummingbird in motion. No easy feat given the speed of a hummingbird's wings

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Pete Kastner snapped this picture of the Milky Way from the south end of Skidaway Island, Terrapin Point hole #10.

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# STARSTRUCK

## Savannah Resident Named to NASA's Astronaut Class

By Philip Schweier



**G**rowing up in Southern California, Katherine Spies attended plenty of air shows and witnessed shuttle landings in the high desert. Such experiences sparked an interest in aviation and space. Last September, that spark fully ignited when Spies was chosen from 8,000 applicants for NASA's 2025 Astronaut Candidate Class.

A former AH-1 attack helicopter and Marine Corps test pilot, Spies was working as the director of flight test engineering at Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation when her career trajectory took a sudden vertical turn. Well, perhaps not so sudden; she had applied to be an astronaut twice before.

"I was working on the G700, and hyper-focused on that work, and it was a super-busy month," Spies recalls, referencing the time she was considering submitting her application materials for the third time. Study-weary from work and a little gun shy from her previous application experiences, she submitted herself for consideration at the last minute, then turned her attention back to her job. The application process played out over the next year and half.

NASA entertains astronaut applicants roughly every four years, often recruiting from the military, though the program is open to qualified scientists, engineers, and pilots. "NASA looks at everything," Spies explains. "The physical, the psychological, the technical, the emotional, and your ability to work with others."

Spies' credentials positioned her well for the fierce competition for an astronaut slot. She earned her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Southern California in 2004. While in college and considering her next step, she understood the tether between the military and the astronaut corps. "The military had been on my radar," she says, "and if I wanted to be an astronaut one day, that was a path to get there. But I wanted to make the best choice for that moment in time as well."

Spies followed her father, a career Marine Corps colonel, into the service, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2004. Two years later, she earned her naval aviator wings. After completing overseas deployments with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Spies was selected for the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in 2012. She has logged more than 2,000 flight hours, including

more than 300 in combat.

After her military service, Spies earned a master's degree in design engineering from Harvard University in 2019. In 2021, she relocated to Savannah for her job at Gulfstream, while continuing to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Spies' third application to NASA proved to be the proverbial charm when she was selected for the 24th astronaut class since the original Mercury Seven in 1959. In September of 2025, NASA introduced the 10 candidates at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The six women and four men immediately began their two-year training program.

Their curriculum includes instruction and skill development for complex operations aboard the International Space Station, Artemis missions to the Moon, and beyond. The training emphasizes robotics, land and water survival, geology, foreign language, space medicine and physiology, and more, while also including simulated spacewalks and high-performance jet flight. After completing their training, the 2025 class will join NASA's active astronaut corps, conducting research aboard the International Space Station and the upcoming Artemis missions. "I will be eligible for both of those mission sets," Spies says proudly, "and would be incredibly honored to be chosen for either one of them."

Spies is inspired by the intersection of science, research, and engineering. "I always loved being a test pilot because it was a combination of similar skills," she says. "There's an operational component, but there's also mathematics, physics, and engineering components. When



NASA introduced its 2025 Astronaut Candidate Class in September 2025 at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Pictured are U.S. Army CW3 Ben Bailey, U.S. Air Force Maj. Cameron Jones, Katherine Spies, Anna Menon, U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Erin Overcash, U.S. Air Force Maj. Adam Fuhrmann, Dr. Lauren Edgar, Yuri Kubo, Rebecca Lawler, and Dr. Imelda Muller.

you put those two circles together, where the overlap happens, I've always been drawn to that."

Spies recognizes a cultural overlap between the Marine Corps and NASA. "Coming from the Marine Corps, there is a real focus on expeditionary activities," she explains. "It's similar at NASA, with a lot

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of expeditionary activities where it really matters how you work in small groups, live in small groups, working together to accomplish a mission.”

But there’s unfamiliar territory in her new work, too. “There is a lot to learn about things I know nothing about,” she says humbly. “I try to approach all my classes with curiosity and enthusiasm, and I’m learning a lot about rocks and different robotic systems. It’s incredibly rewarding.”

Spies looks forward to discovering what it takes to go deep into space. “As part of the Artemis generation of astronauts, exploration to the Moon and to Mars is part of the focus,” she notes. “Both of those mission sets are what we



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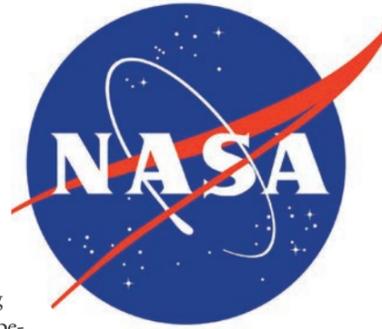
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train for.”

With a few months of training behind her, Spies appreciates NASA’s support in helping each candidate become the best possible astronaut. “It’s something I often think about, putting all my energy and effort into growing and bettering myself, and really being the best teammate here at Johnson Space Center,” she says.

Spies has plenty of support from home, too. “I am so lucky to have the support of the most incredible friends and family, and specifically my Savannah family,” she says. “I hear from everyone so often, and it means so much to me. I certainly miss seeing everybody at Sixby Bakery on Saturday mornings, but having the support of the people I care about the most enables me to show up for work every day to be my best.”

Though committed to NASA for the foreseeable future, Spies says Savannah holds a special place in her heart. “I will always be coming back to Savannah,” she says. “It’s just one of the most beautiful cities, and such a strong and rich community of people. I will definitely return to Savannah after I go to space. I think it’s a great place to celebrate.”



# The Landings Real Estate Company

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**65 DAME KATHRYN DRIVE**  
Lagoon views set the tone in this 3BR, 3.5BA town-home offering easy island living. Enjoy a granite and stainless kitchen, generous den, updated primary suite, and ensuite guest rooms. Two private patios, recent HVACs, and low-maintenance living make this a smart, comfortable retreat. \$474,900.  
Ginna Carroll, Jill Brooks



**244 WILEY BOTTOM ROAD**  
Charming, move-in ready one-level home on a private, nearly one-acre lot with fenced yard. Bright open layout with vaulted living room, beautiful floors, sunny kitchen, and screened porch overlooking the spacious backyard. Newer roof, HVAC, and water heater offer peace of mind and room to grow. \$615,000.  
Jill Brooks, Ginna Carroll



**15 RIDING LANE**  
Beautifully updated 3BR, 2.5BA home near Franklin Creek and The Deck. Light-filled living and dining spaces, a heated and cooled sunroom, and a bonus room with bath offer flexibility for everyday living and entertaining. With major systems updated, it's easy to move in and enjoy. \$725,000.  
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Jorgenson, Moran - Home Team



**5 TANGLETREE LANE**  
Enjoy expansive views of Terrapin Point's #5 fairway from this 5BR, 4.5BA home designed for easy living and entertaining. Three bedrooms on the main level, two upstairs with a large bonus room, and a spacious screened porch create flexible living. Delegal Marina is nearby for sunset strolls and water views. \$799,900.  
Linda Novack



**216 YAM GANDY ROAD**  
Classic, single-level home with sweeping golf and lagoon views overlooking #17 Terrapin Point. Well-maintained, boasting 3BR, 2.5BA, formal living and dining rooms, and a family room with a wall of windows. Deck, walk-up bonus space, generous storage, and thoughtful upgrades throughout. \$829,000.  
Jill Brooks, Ginna Carroll



**402 WILLEFORD DRIVE**  
Beautifully updated patio home with serene lagoon views, offering 3BR, 2.5BA on the main level plus a spacious bonus room with full bath over the garage. Heart pine floors, a stylish kitchen, split floor plan, and a renovated primary bath make this move-in-ready home both comfortable and timeless. \$865,000.  
Jill Brooks, Ginna Carroll



**5 WINDLASS COURT**  
Ideally located near Landings Harbor Marina, this 4BR, 3.5BA home offers lagoon and river views, light-filled living spaces, and a gracious main-level primary suite. Well-designed, move-in ready, and perfectly suited for relaxed Lowcountry living. \$975,000.  
Eileen Galves, Susan Connelly



**5 MIDDLE MARSH RETREAT**  
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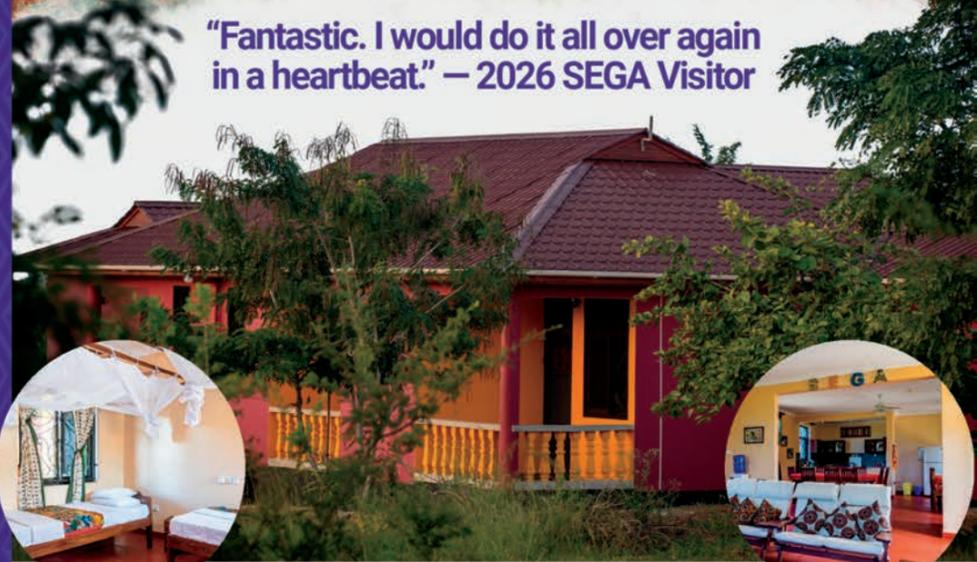
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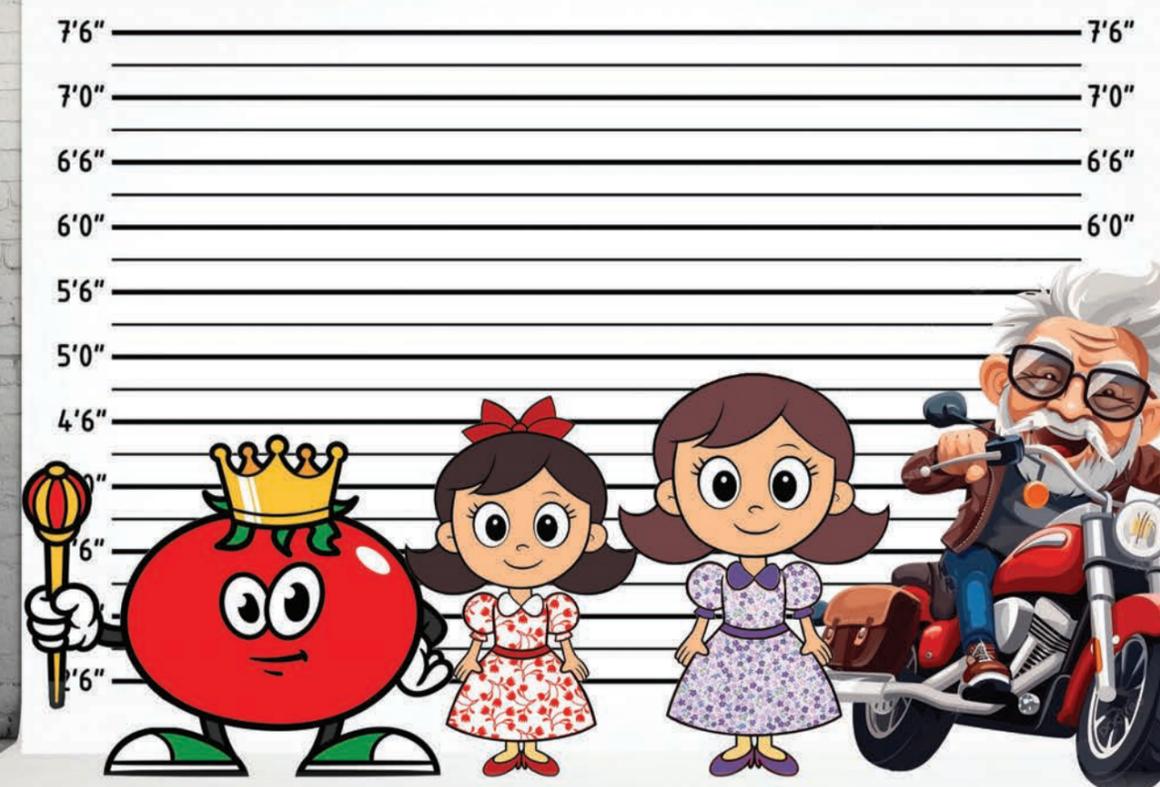


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## What's in a (Nick)Name?

A piece I wrote for *The Skinnie* featured a couple of protagonists referenced only by their nicknames. When I read it in print, it made me wonder why I have assigned aliases to the people I have known. I credit it to growing up in a small blue-collar town that was heavily populated by first and second-generation Italian-Americans, many of whom were known by colorful monikers.

My next-door neighbors were Chick and J. The pizza parlor was managed by V-8. Three Finger Eddie sold fireworks. Curly ran an eponymous pool hall. On most weekends, a rough looking World War II vet stopped and leaned on his well-decorated Harley in the exact center of the bridge that connected Rhode Island and Connecticut, slowing crossing traffic to a crawl. He was only known to us as "Big Ray," and speaking to him was verboten. Muzzy sold appliances; Sal fixed wrecks at his auto body shop; Bruno sold meats at his butchery; and we're not exactly sure what Fast Eddy did.

On Friday nights a one-room building with no sign to identify its use welcomed guests for exactly four hours. This was Angelo's. Furnished with mismatched tables and chairs, and influenced by Catholic

fasting tradition, Angelo's had only one menu option, fish and chips. Bowls of salad were set out family-style for each table. More Italian was spoken than English. The maitre d' might have been Angelo himself—I remain unsure—but we knew him only by "Tomato King." He didn't function as a typical maitre d', rather he sat in a fixed spot at the tiny bar and rang up patrons while keeping watch over the women who fried the fish and served it to the packed house. Want a drink? Water, or homemade wine. The Tomato King would leave his barstool and pour the latter from his pitcher into the waiting glasses of the men in the room. The food was inexpensive. The wine was free, its vintage distinguished by recent weeks rather than harvest years.

Why was he called the Tomato King? He had a small garden in his back yard where he grew the tomatoes he proudly used in the shared salad. He was the most ambitious gardener in Little Italy, where Angelo's stood.

This practice of handing out nicknames continued into my generation. Chick and J had four children who were known as the Flower Girls. Why? Because their last name was Fiori, which is Italian for

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flowers. Logical. Other nicknames were earned by action or mien, like Ricky McCool or Wild Man Steele. Some required an introductory “The,” such as The Hook or The Neck.

I remember The Fry Boys. There were three – small, medium, and large. If their cousin, Big D, was with them, he became a fourth Fry Boy, though use of the name wasn’t modified by his size, like a McDonald’s order.

Our places had nicknames, too. Like the Recruiting Station, a café that was a veritable stop on the way to the Army. Local “ne’er-dowells” hung out on the sidewalk in front, as if daring anyone to walk on that side of the street. In the days of the Vietnam-era draft lottery, it seemed like a disproportionate number of the guys who populated that sidewalk had their names drawn when Uncle Sam needed a new batch of recruits.

I guess our town wasn’t that much different from the world beyond it. American culture features encyclopedic volumes of nicknames. The Rock was the highest paid actor for five of the last 20 years. Many infamous characters who are known by their nicknames. Al Capone was the original Scarface and Orenthal James, or OJ, aka The Juice, eventually ran out of same, dying as a pariah to many. And “The Unabomber” is much more dramatic than simply calling the guy Ted.

Did I ever have a nickname? You’d have to ask the Turk, a main character in a 10-part series of tales I wrote during the pandemic.



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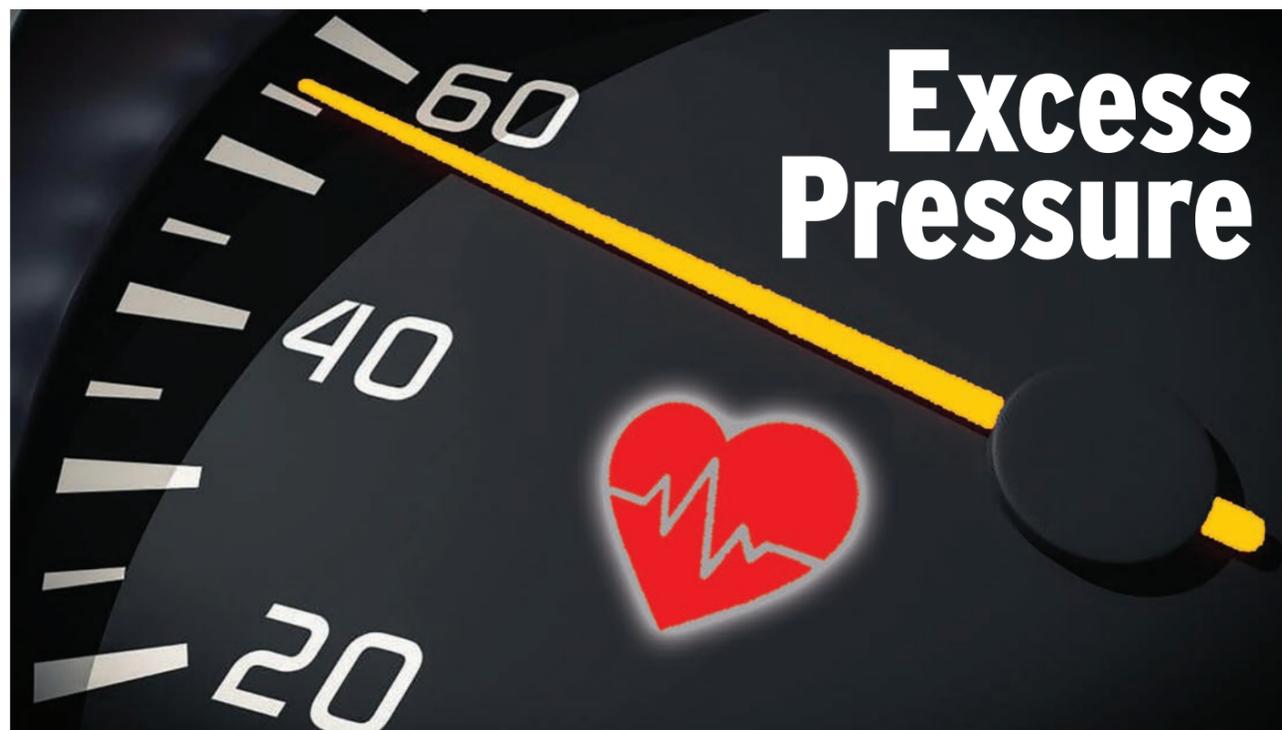
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## Managing the Risks of Hypertension

If your car is running smoothly, do you still make sure to periodically change the oil? Or do you wait until there's a knocking sound under the hood and the check engine light comes on?

Most car owners know that a well-running vehicle should have its oil changed *before* there are signs that it needs one. And that's how primary care physician Andrew Mrugala, MD, wants his patients to think about managing blood pressure: Take care now to avoid problems down the road. "Keeping one's

blood pressure at a controlled level can limit the development of heart disease," he says. "Yet sometimes elevated blood pressure, or hypertension, can be largely without symptoms."

Mrugala likens blood pressure to a backpack that your heart wears. An increase in blood pressure adds additional weight to the backpack your heart carries every day. Like a person who is burdened with a heavy load, your



Andrew Mrugala, MD

heart muscle gets stronger and thicker.

"Initially, a more muscular heart may not sound like a bad thing," Mrugala explains. "However, over time, this increased muscle mass makes the heart lose some of the flexibility it needs to efficiently fill and empty, and its function deteriorates as a result. More muscle mass means the need for more oxygen and energy, which are supplied by the heart's arteries. A point can be reached where the arteries can't accommodate the amount of blood needed, especially during times of physical exertion, so the heart tissue becomes at risk for running out of oxygen and getting injured, which is what can happen when we say someone has a 'heart attack.'"

Severe hypertension requires a visit to a

DASH – A specific eating plan for managing blood pressure: Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension. Developed by researchers at the National Institute of Health and has been touted by the American Heart Association, DASH, doesn't require you to eliminate foods, but you have fewer meals that you know will raise the risk of hypertension. The plan emphasizes vegetables, whole grains, fish and poultry, while limiting sodium/salt, red

meat, and added sugars.

DASH can lead to significant improvements in patients who have hypertension. It can be nearly as effective as blood pressure medicine. Your doctor can give you additional information about DASH, and there are online resources like the American Heart Association website.



Some of the BEST. Eat daily or often.

- Fruits and veggies: Low in calories, high in vitamins and minerals
- Whole-grains: Fiber helps regulate blood pressure
- Poultry and fish: Skinless and grilled (not fried) lean meats have low harmful fat
- Nuts and legumes: Low-sodium versions provide protein and lower cholesterol



Some of the WORST. Indulge rarely.

- Fast food burgers: Saturated fat combined with carbs
- Processed/cured meats: Even low-fat options have a lot of salt
- Deep-fried foods: typically contain trans fats, which raise the bad type of cholesterol
- Candy, soft drinks, and fruit juices: They have added sugar
- Frozen pizza: The sodium content starts high and goes up as you add meat or extra cheese

cardiologist. It may present with symptoms such as:

- Dull headaches
- Blurry vision
- Chest tightness
- Shortness of breath
- New or worsening leg swelling

For some patients, the condition is asymptomatic and often discovered through regular primary care visits.

"In my experience, hypertension is usually diagnosed incidentally at a visit for an unrelated reason, and patients will often admit that they have noticed at previous occasions – drug stores, employee health screenings, previous specialist appointments – that their blood pressure was noted to be elevated," Mrugala says. "I think this highlights the importance of checking in with your primary

care physician routinely – at least once a year – to make sure that we are checking up on asymptomatic conditions, otherwise the heart can go years carrying the extra burden."

Time can be our friend if we can stick with positive lifestyle modifications over the long term. "Controlling blood pressure over time helps to prevent a gradual decline in function and can make sure our hearts keep up with us for as long as we need them," Mrugala says.

Managing blood pressure not only helps the heart but also helps protect other organs that are supplied by small or fragile blood vessels.

"Chronic elevated blood pressure has been shown to play a role in the development of kidney disease, visual impairment, strokes, and even contributes to the development of

certain forms of dementia," Mrugala notes. "Recent studies suggest that rates of these complications begin to increase as average blood pressure increases above 135/85."

If a person currently has no symptoms, preventative methods such as lifelong prescription medications may seem like an unnecessary demand. "Patients are often hesitant to start new medications and understandably so; it is a change to routine that we seldom planned for and sometimes medications can have side effects or require the monitoring of lab work," Mrugala says. "However, despite these inconveniences, it is important to remember that just like changing the oil in a well-maintained car, taking medications as prescribed helps control asymptomatic wear-and-tear and keep the various parts of our bodies working well."

# Heart Health Is Ear-risistible



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**People with heart failure are 11% more likely to have hearing loss.<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Sterling, M. R. et al. (2018). Hearing loss among older adults with heart failure in the United States: Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5854543/>



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# Smells Like Sunday

## SEAFOOD SALAD

It's Lent. So, in the Catholic world, it's fish on Friday. But who needs a Vatican guideline to encourage healthy eating? Light, fresh, and full of flavor: That describes this simple Southern Italian dish. You can make it more complicated than I do, but the returns are diminishing...this construction is great without much fuss. If you have a pasta pot with a steaming basket, use it, rather than boiling or poaching the seafood directly in water (which you can do if you must). Steaming keeps the bite toothsome, rather than gummy and overcooked. Don't let the seafood steam for longer than necessary. And when it's just done, run it under cold water to stop the cooking process. You can use any

seafood you like. For me, the perfect trio includes shrimp, scallops, and squid.

- 1 lb large shrimp
- ½ lb squid, cut into tubes
- ½ lb bay scallops
- 2 bay leaves
- 3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 ½ c celery, cut into small thin slices
- Juice of two lemons
- 1/3 c extra virgin olive oil
- Handful of chopped Italian parsley
- Sea salt
- Generous pinch red pepper flakes

one bay leaf (broken into a few pieces), celery, garlic, red pepper, salt, and olive oil, and mix well. Pat the seafood dry with paper towels and season with salt. Steam, one type at a time, over boiling water (add one bay leaf to the water for flavor, if you like). Remove from steamer and flash cool under cold water to stop cooking. Add to bowl and stir thoroughly to coat the seafood with the dressing. Toss parsley into the salad and add finishing (coarse sea) salt, if desired. Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to 2 hours. Feeds 4 to 8 as a first or main course, depending on appetites.

In a large bowl, combine lemon juice,

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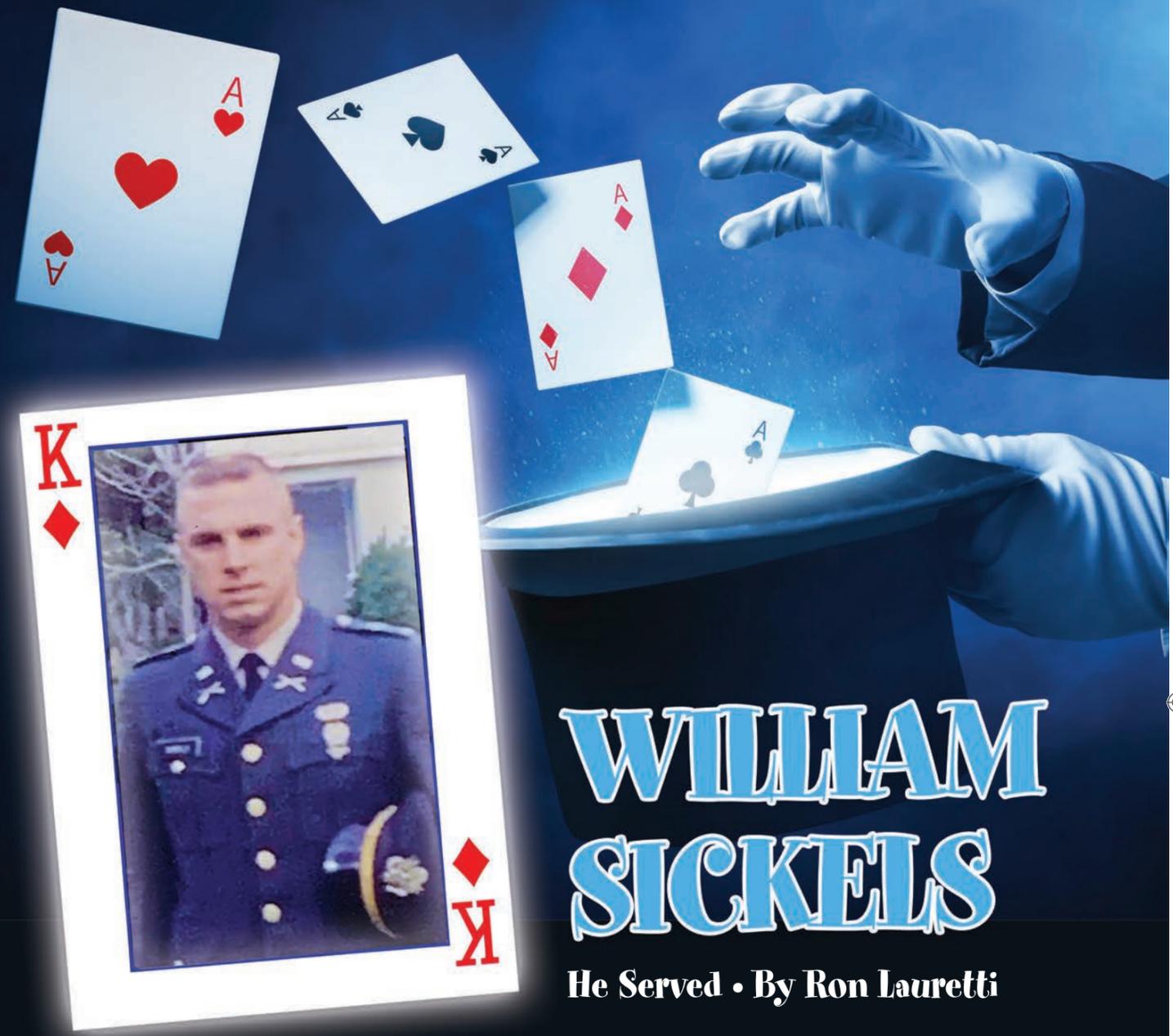
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# WILLIAM SICKELS

**He Served • By Ron Laretti**

Friday is Bill Sickels' favorite day of the week. He spends it in the hospital. Not as a patient, though. He makes children in the pediatric unit at Memorial Health University Medical Center smile as he amazes them with magic tricks.

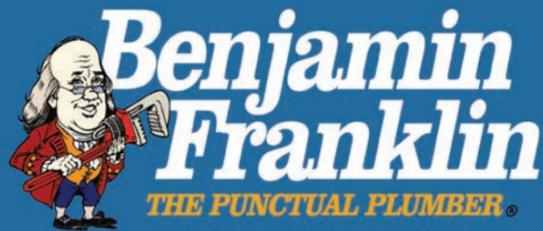
For 10 years, Sickels and fellow amateur magicians have been making weekly hospital visits to entertain young patients, bringing them much needed joy. "They're some of the happiest times of my life," Sickels says of his magical Fridays.

Before he began making his weekly visit to young patients, Sickels achieved much. Among his roles – Army officer, serving his country and training athletes in the process. Originally from Pennsylvania, Sickels was the captain of his high school track and cross-country teams, and he started a magic club, so his penchant for prestidigitation

goes back nearly seven decades. Sickels came south to The Citadel in 1959, where he captained the track and cross-country teams there, too, during his cadet years.

At The Citadel, Sickels was a member of the regimental staff and joined the elite Junior Sword Drill Team. He appreciated the discipline and camaraderie of military academy life, but upon graduation in 1963, he deferred active duty for a year in the management training program of Proctor and Gamble.

In June 1964, the new lieutenant reported to Ft. Benning for Officer Training and Jump/Paratrooper Schools. At Ft. Polk, Louisiana, he commanded a company in advanced infantry training, which included the operation of machine guns, 104-mm anti-tank guns, hand-to-hand combat, and daily conditioning runs and calisthenics. His



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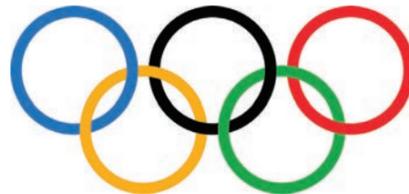
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sergeants were Korean War vets to whom he listened closely to learn from their experience.

Due to the ongoing conflict in Vietnam, the Army was in constant need of well-trained soldiers. Sickels remained a training company commander at Ft. Polk for almost two years. He started a track team there and recruited some elite athletes who had attended major colleges. Sickels took his team to Ft. Sill in Oklahoma for the 4th Army Championships, where he won the 880-yard run, was second in the 440, third in the broad jump, and a member of the winning mile relay team. The next day, he competed in an open 200-yard swim but lost to a swimmer who went on to compete in the 1968 Olympics.

A week after the championships, Sickels returned to Ft. Polk, and the athletic versatility he had demonstrated at Ft. Sill led to an offer to train for the pentathlon in the coming Olympics. The five-event sport was inspired by a messenger in Napoleon's army who, caught behind enemy lines, had to make use of his talents as a marksman, fencer, rider, swimmer, and runner to extricate himself from a tight spot. Sickels and a partner trained in Philadelphia for the games in Mexico City, but when his partner could not qualify, the opportunity was discontinued.



Sickels returned to regular service as a captain. His wife was ex-

pecting and his military obligation was up in 1967, so he reluctantly left the Army. He launched a successful career at Pittsburg Plate and Glass (PP&G), remaining with the company for 14 years. He navigated the corporate world, eventually landing in Annapolis, Maryland, where he began competing in triathlons and dabbling again in the mysterious world of magic. He won the Senior Bud Light Triathlon in Baltimore in 1988, qualifying for the Nationals in Hawaii, but a busy work schedule prevented him from attending. In 1990, he became president of Sampson and Company in Richmond, Virginia, where he continued competing in triathlons.

Sickels retired in 2015 and moved to Skidaway Island, where he met and married Chris Aiken. Recognizing Sickels' athletic prowess, his wife encouraged him to take up golf, and he now can shoot his age. He has a hole-in-one to his credit, too. His brother-in-law has introduced him to clay shooting, and he very much enjoys that pursuit.

Sickels is very active in the Skidaway Community Church on Diamond Causeway, where he sings in the choir. He has two daughters, four grandsons, and two great-grandchildren.

On Skidaway, Sickels discovered the Landings Magic Society, which he joined enthusiastically. Performing his magic for audiences of all ages, from the children's ward at Memorial to The Marshes, has become his most rewarding activity. He insists on extending credit to Jim Ruhl, who founded this bunch of local magicians. If you share an interest in magic, call Bill Sickels – he's listed in the phone book – and he'd be happy to show you a few tricks.

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# island hopping

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Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.

## HEAR GREAT SPEAKERS

**WHAT:** Kiwanis Club of Skidaway  
**WHEN:** Thursday mornings at 8 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Club  
**HOW MUCH:** Free to attend, including any refreshments, which includes coffee/tea (compliments of Morgan Stanley) and occasional pastries from Auspicious Bakery.  
**CONTACT:** Michael Klavon, 912.306.0474 for gate pass  
**WHAT ELSE:** Membership is open to Savannah/Chatham area residents. Visit [www.kiwanisofskidaway.com](http://www.kiwanisofskidaway.com) for more information.

## WHO NEW?

**WHAT:** New Neighbors  
**WHEN:** Visit [www.landingsnewneighbors.com](http://www.landingsnewneighbors.com) to see our calendar  
**CONTACT:** Visit our website or contact Jody at [nnnewmember@gmail.com](mailto:nnnewmember@gmail.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** The club offers more than 250 different activities from biking, golf, pickleball, walking groups or fishing to Mahjong, Bridge, needle-arts and Canasta. We have exciting military tours and special events for you to enjoy right here on Skidaway Island.

## THE ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

**WHAT:** Coastal Conservation Association Skidaway's Kid Fishing Tournament  
**WHEN:** March 1 - 28  
**WHERE:** Landings Lagoons  
**HOW MUCH:** Free  
**CONTACT:** [ccaskidaway@gmail.com](mailto:ccaskidaway@gmail.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Catch a largemouth bass, bluegill, pinfish, or redfish (red drum) in any of our lagoons, snap a photo showing the length of the fish (remember to carry a measuring device), and take another photo proudly holding your catch. Photos should be submitted to [sifishingcontest@gmail.com](mailto:sifishingcontest@gmail.com) and include name, age, and phone number. At the end of March, we'll tally up the entries and award prizes for the longest fish. Winners will be announced first week of April.

## POWER PLANTS

**WHAT:** Plant Sale to Benefit Two Charities  
**WHEN:** Order now through March 4, with a March 19 pick-up from 12-2 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** [themarketat3westridge.com](http://themarketat3westridge.com) for flyer and ordering  
**WHAT ELSE:** Order geraniums, perennials, and

hanging baskets. You can order from the website above using a credit card. All proceeds benefit Loop It Up Savannah and Magdalene House.

## LONE STAR LONGINGS

**WHAT:** Texas Club Chili Cookoff  
**WHEN:** Friday, March 6, 5:30 p.m.  
**CONTACT:** [texasclub100@gmail.com](mailto:texasclub100@gmail.com) or Darie Donovan, 917.583.6543, or Sue Souls, 713.502.6094  
**WHAT ELSE:** You must be a current member of the Texas Club to attend. Chili, chips, salsa, cornbread, and beer will be provided. If you prefer to provide chili in lieu of the party fee, please let us know. Make checks for your 2026 membership fee (\$5 per person) and party fee (\$10 per person) payable to: Darie Donovan-Texas Club and mail/tube to 8 Hardwicke Lane, Savannah, GA 31411.

## BETWEEN THE LINES

**WHAT:** Author Conversation Series  
**WHEN:** Monday, March 7, 5 - 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** The Village Library  
**HOW MUCH:** Free to all Skidaway residents  
**CONTACT:** Please contact the library at 912.598.1183  
**WHAT ELSE:** A wine-and-cheese reception hosting authors Fran Thomas and Maureen Smith featuring their novel *Full of Grace and Mischief*. The event includes a presentation by the authors, Q&A, and book signing.

## RIGHT ON

**WHAT:** Ladies on the Right Speakers and Luncheon  
**WHEN:** Thursday, March 12 (note change of date), 12 noon - 2 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Club at the Landings  
**CONTACT:** Please visit [LadiesontheRight.org](http://LadiesontheRight.org) for more details  
**WHAT ELSE:** Candidate Day for US House of Representatives primary - featuring Kandiss Taylor, Brian Montgomery, and Patrick Farrell.

## PICKUP ARTISTS

**WHAT:** Landlovers Flea Market intake  
**WHEN:** March 12 - 13, 8 a.m. - 4 pm  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** Want to be part of the behind-the-scenes preparation for the sale? Contact Maura McGarry at [LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com)  
**HOW MUCH:** Donations of gently used items are what makes Landlovers biggest fundraiser so successful. Proceeds benefit the

## ONE FISH, TWO FISH...

**WHAT:** Kids' Fishing Camp  
**WHEN:** May 26-29, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Registration opens March 1 at [ccaskidaway.org](http://ccaskidaway.org)  
**WHERE:** CCA Skidaway's Education Center at the Kids Fishing Lagoon  
**HOW MUCH:** \$300/child  
**CONTACT:** Bruce White, 504.669.3490  
**WHAT ELSE:** Camp is open to kids 8-14 years of age; maximum 16 campers. Campers will learn essential fishing skills.

## REEF RESTORATION

**WHAT:** Georgia DNR's Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Unit Speaker  
**WHEN:** Monday, March 9, at 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free and open to the public  
**CONTACT:** For more details, email [ccaskidaway@gmail.com](mailto:ccaskidaway@gmail.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Learn about inshore and off-shore plans for the restoration of oyster and artificial reefs through advanced technology.

## COASTAL CUISINE

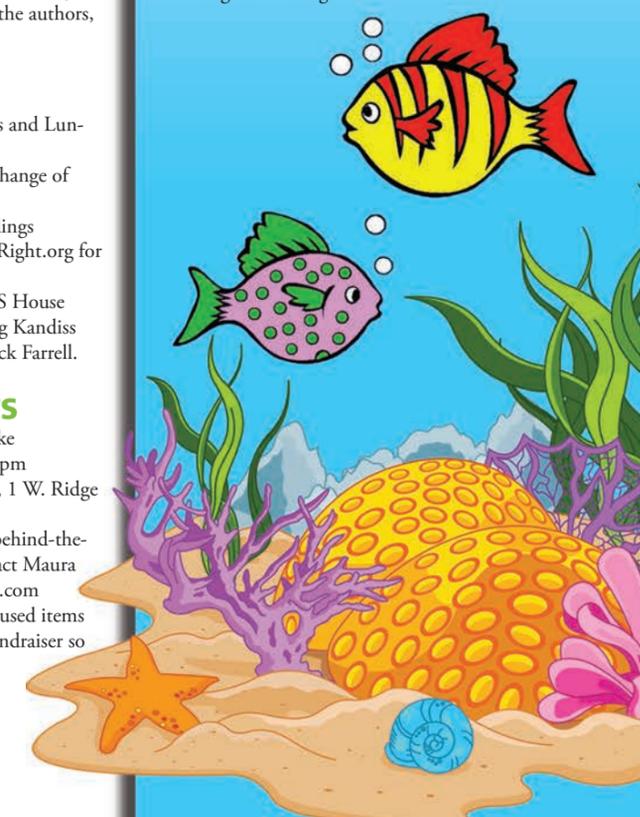
**WHAT:** Coastal Conservation Association Skidaway's Lowcountry Boil  
**WHEN:** Friday, March 20, 6:30-9 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Delegal Marina's Sunset Room  
**HOW MUCH:** \$35/person  
**CONTACT:** [ccaskidaway.org](http://ccaskidaway.org)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Come hungry and get ready to enjoy a delicious meal featuring a Lowcountry Boil prepared by Joe Tyson and Robert Hale. Cost includes beer and wine, as well as a delightful surprise dessert. CCA Volunteer of the Year will be announced during the evening.

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### FLEAMARKET FESTIVITIES

**WHAT:** Landlovers Annual Flea Market and Auctionmania  
**WHEN/WHERE:** Fleamarket - Saturday, March 14 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.; Auctionmania - Thursday, March 19, at the Palmetto ballroom  
**CONTACT:** Flea Market: Janie Florenz at [janie1040@gmail.com](mailto:janie1040@gmail.com); Auctionmania: Judi Threlfall at [judi.threlfall@gmail.com](mailto:judi.threlfall@gmail.com) or Christin Street at [Jcsstreet@comcast.net](mailto:Jcsstreet@comcast.net); To volunteer, contact Maura McGarry at [LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com)  
**HOW MUCH:** Everyone is invited to drop saleable items off at Messiah Lutheran on Thursday and Friday, March 12 and 13, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### GATHERING GROCERIES

**WHAT:** Drive-by food collection to benefit All Angels food pantry for local families and the homeless who are food insecure  
**WHEN:** Sunday, March 15, 3 - 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 2 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** Regina Poulos, 305.323.5353  
**WHAT ELSE:** Requested food items include canned chicken, tuna, spam, beef stew, chili, corned beef, canned fruit, individual snacks, granola bars, crackers, canned vegetables, boxed potato dishes, small bags of nuts or dried fruit, packaged boxes of individual snack cakes, and boxed cereal (not sweet).

### AWESOME OSSABAW

**WHAT:** Friends of Skidaway Audubon Speaker Series  
**WHEN:** Thursday, March 19, 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free for FOSA members, \$5 for guests, payable online or at the door  
**CONTACT:** [fosa@skidawayaudubon.org](mailto:fosa@skidawayaudubon.org)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Ossabaw Island Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth DuBose shares a fascinating overview on the history of Ossabaw Island and the renovation of its famous estate, the Torrey West mansion. Attendees are asked to park in the rear lot. All are welcome. Please pre-register

online at [SkidawayAudubon.org](http://SkidawayAudubon.org).

### SAINTLY SUPPORT

**WHAT:** Martin de Porres Society of Savannah Fundraising Gala  
**WHEN:** Saturday, March 21, 5 - 10 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Ballroom at the Landings  
**HOW MUCH:** \$150/person includes appetizers, dinner, and dancing to the tunes of the Fabulous Equinox Orchestra  
**CONTACT:** [dorward.tina@gmail.com](mailto:dorward.tina@gmail.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Martin de Porres Society raises funds to help underserved children of Savannah. Evening will also include a live auction of three fabulous trips and other items. Visit [martindeporressociety.org](http://martindeporressociety.org) to register before March 15.

### NATURAL FORCES

**WHAT:** The Landings Garden Club Meeting and Program  
**WHEN:** Monday, March 23; 9:15 a.m. social, 10 a.m. meeting, 10:45 program  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** Joni, 925.787.9800 or [joni-bro2022@outlook.com](mailto:joni-bro2022@outlook.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Greg Freeman, natural resources manager at The Landings Association, shares wildlife challenges he has faced at the Landings as well as other communities in the Southeastern Coastal Plain.

### MILES OF SMILES

**WHAT:** Mile Marker Party on Moon River  
**WHEN:** Thursday, March 26, 6 - 9 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Bethesda Pavilion, 9520 Ferguson Ave.  
**HOW MUCH:** Tickets are \$100  
**CONTACT:** Virginia Zart, [virginia@onehundredmiles.org](mailto:virginia@onehundredmiles.org)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Celebrate the beauty of Georgia's 100-mile coast at our signature coastal auction. Savor local cuisine and drinks, experience Southern music, and connect with others passionate about protecting our special coast, while supporting the vital work of One Hundred Miles. Tickets at [onehundredmiles.org/milemarkerparty](http://onehundredmiles.org/milemarkerparty).

### HERE COMES THE SON

**WHAT:** Skidaway Community Church's Easter Sunrise Service  
**WHEN:** Sunday, April 5, 6:45 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Priest Landings Marina  
**CONTACT:** Please visit [skidcc.org](http://skidcc.org) for more information.  
**WHAT ELSE:** Led by Rev. Dr. Jon Hauerwas and

director of music Nick Klemetson, this annual sunrise service celebrates the beauty of Skidaway Island and the gift of our Risen Lord. All are invited to bring folding chairs and gather at daybreak in the Marina Park. Coffee will be provided by OVERFLOW. In the event of inclement weather, the service will relocate to 50 Diamond Causeway. An announcement will be posted on [skidcc.org](http://skidcc.org) on Saturday, April 4.

### FORE EYES

**WHAT:** 11th Annual JIT "FORE Vision" Charity Golf Tournament  
**WHEN:** Monday, April 13  
**WHERE:** Landings Golf Club Community  
**HOW MUCH:** \$600 registration fee includes 18 holes of play for a four-person team, cart, lunch and drinks along the course  
**CONTACT:** Leslie at 931-205-3725 or [leatherly@savannahcblv.org](mailto:leatherly@savannahcblv.org)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Join us for a fun-filled day with great people, special on-course activities, delicious food, awards, and plenty of excitement, all for a great cause. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To register your team, please complete the attached form and mail it with your registration fee.

### WHERE ART THOU?

**WHAT:** Landings Art Association Spring Art Show and Silent Auction  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 14, 5 - 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Ballroom  
**HOW MUCH:** Tickets are \$5 cash at the door  
**CONTACT:** Molly Garone, [sbc81@aol.com](mailto:sbc81@aol.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** This annual one-day event brings together dozens of local artists competing for prizes in more than seven categories. Member and cash bar, door prize, plus a silent auction to benefit the LAA's "Arts in Education" programs. Golf carts encouraged; parking will be limited.

### POSTAL PEOPLE

**WHAT:** Landings Stamp Club  
**WHEN:** Friday, April 17, 10 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church conference room  
**HOW MUCH:** Free  
**CONTACT:** Carl Luecke, [cluecke@comcast.net](mailto:cluecke@comcast.net) or 631.766.5002 for meeting details.  
**WHAT ELSE:** Beginner, advanced, or anyone in between is welcome to join our monthly meeting. Learn about buying, selling, or preserving your collections, and discover different types of stamps from all over the world.

### HELLO, SAILOR

**WHAT:** Basic Sailing Class, sponsored by the Landings Sailing Club  
**WHEN:** Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. plus four hours on the water  
**WHERE:** TLA Meeting Room, 600 Landings Way South  
**HOW MUCH:** \$100, of which \$25 will be refunded if you join TLSC within 30 days.  
**CONTACT:** Angela Margolit, [amargolit@hotmail.com](mailto:amargolit@hotmail.com) or 973.296.8011  
**WHAT ELSE:** Open to all Landings residents 21 or older who are either new to sailing or want a refresher course.

### WORDS AND PICTURES

**WHAT:** Spring Book and Art Sale  
**WHEN:** Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**WHERE:** The Village Library, 1 Skidaway Square  
**CONTACT:** Questions? Contact the library at 912.598.1183  
**WHAT ELSE:** Don't miss this opportunity to discover hundreds of books from various genres at bargain prices for readers of all ages. The event includes exhibits by members of the Landings Art Association, local authors available to meet and greet, and kids' activities.

### THE COAST WITH THE MOST

**WHAT:** Coastal Conservation Association Skidaway's 26th Annual Banquet and Auction  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 21, from 6 to 9:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Ballroom  
**HOW MUCH:** \$270 per couple or \$145 for single  
**WHAT ELSE:** An evening filled with camaraderie, delicious food, and lively auctions.

### TEAR IT UP

**WHAT:** Shredding to benefit Safe Shelter  
**WHEN:** Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. - 12 noon  
**WHERE:** Skidaway Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway  
**HOW MUCH:** Your freewill donation provides support for victims of domestic violence and abuse  
**CONTACT:** Please visit [skidcc.org](http://skidcc.org) for more details.  
**WHAT ELSE:** This annual spring event is an opportunity for Skidaway neighbors, friends, and visitors to dispose of paper documents in a safe, confidential, and convenient manner. Shredding stations provided by Seacoast Security Shredding of Bluffton, S.C. Staples and paper clips are accepted but no 3-ring binders.

### HABITAT HELPERS

**WHAT:** Habitat for Humanity volunteers wanted

**WHEN:** 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays, possibly Thursdays  
**WHERE:** locations vary  
**CONTACT:** Beth Heddleson, 912.353.8122, ext. 109  
**WHAT ELSE:** Prior experience is not necessary. Many volunteers learn on the job and only do whatever they feel comfortable with. Tools are provided.

### TAXATION REPRESENTATION

**WHAT:** Opportunities for volunteer income tax assistance with Neighborhood Improvement Association  
**WHEN:** starting in January, flexible hours from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Several sites in Savannah, Pembroke, Rincon, Richmond Hill and Hinesville  
**CONTACT:** Tiffany Carter, [tcarter@niadc.org](mailto:tcarter@niadc.org) or 912.447.5577  
**WHAT ELSE:** This program helps underserved communities by offering free tax preparation. No experience necessary. Volunteers include greeters/screeners and tax preparers.

### FINANCIAL AID

**WHAT:** AARP Tax-Aide Program needs volunteers  
**WHEN:** Training in Dec. and Jan.; Tax preparation starts Feb. 2 for 10 weeks; hours and days are flexible  
**WHERE:** Chatham SW and Bull Street Libraries  
**CONTACT:** Volunteer coordinator John Gerardi, 912.661.8705 or [johngerardi@hotmail.com](mailto:johngerardi@hotmail.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** This program provides free tax preparation for low- to moderate-income families, as well as the elderly and people with disabilities. AARP Tax-Aide saves underserved individuals/families millions in preparation fees and helps taxpayers claim millions in refunds, which can be used to reduce poverty. Tax preparers will be trained to become IRS-certified. Volunteers are also needed to help with intake/front desk.

### BRICK BY BRICK

**WHAT:** Membership Gift Card at The Village Library  
**WHEN:** Available year round  
**WHERE:** The Village Library  
**CONTACT:** 912.598.1183 or come by Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**WHAT ELSE:** The Village Library Legacy Brick Program is designed to recognize donors, commemorate special events, honor friends and family, or memorialize the passing of a loved one. Brick donations are \$250 each.

### SHOP TALK

**WHAT:** Green-Meldrim House Gift Shop - Volunteers needed  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**WHERE:** Green-Meldrim House, 14 W. Macon St. - Madison Square  
**HOW MUCH:** Training provided  
**CONTACT:** Jamie Credle, [jcredle@green-meldrimhouse.org](mailto:jcredle@green-meldrimhouse.org) or 912.233.3845  
**WHAT ELSE:** Request for two shifts per month. Please visit [GreenMeldrimHouse.org](http://GreenMeldrimHouse.org) for more information.

### HORSE SENSE

**WHAT:** Pegasus Riding Academy volunteers needed  
**WHERE:** Old Roberds Dairy, 2500 Tennessee Ave., Savannah  
**CONTACT:** For information and directions, visit [www.prasav.org](http://www.prasav.org) or call 912.547.6482  
**WHAT ELSE:** Pegasus Riding Academy is a therapeutic riding program providing safe, professional and ethical equine-assisted activities for individuals with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. Volunteers are needed to assist these special children. Horse experience not necessary.

### OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

**WHAT:** Boy Scout Troop 57, for boys 10-18  
**WHEN:** Weekly meeting Tuesday 7-8:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Skidaway Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway  
**CONTACT:** BSA office, 912.927.7272  
**WHAT ELSE:** Chartered in 1989, the troop has sponsored 80 Eagle Scouts to date. Weekly meetings, monthly outings (canoeing, hiking, kayaking, rafting, backpacking), yearly summer camp and high adventure trips. New Scouts and transfers are welcome.

### LUNCH BUNCH

**WHAT:** Landlovers Men's Lunch Group  
**WHEN:** 2nd Tuesday of each month  
**WHERE:** Various restaurants around Savannah  
**HOW MUCH:** Based on restaurant  
**CONTACT:** [llmenslunchgroup@gmail.com](mailto:llmenslunchgroup@gmail.com)

### CHILD FRIENDLY

**WHAT:** Join the One Hundred Children's Foundation  
**WHERE:** [www.theonehundredchildrensfoundation.org](http://www.theonehundredchildrensfoundation.org)  
**HOW MUCH:** \$100 annually  
**CONTACT:** Sue Souls and Carol Stiles at [theohcfmembership@gmail.com](mailto:theohcfmembership@gmail.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Join an organization that promotes the health, education, and well-being of children in coastal Georgia and South Carolina.

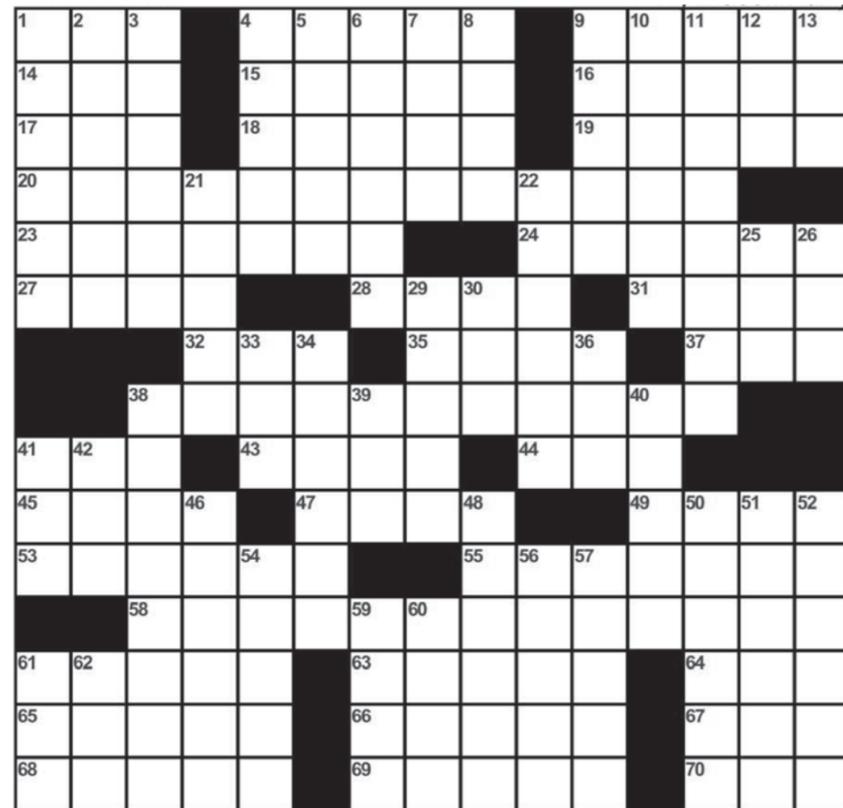
Complete Island Hopping listings are online at [www.TheSkinsie.com](http://www.TheSkinsie.com)

ACROSS

- 1. Penlight battery size
- 4. Tales of heroism
- 9. Neat and tidy in appearance
- 14. Some state roads (abbr.)
- 15. In need of a clothes brush
- 16. What Spanish athletes go for at the Olympics
- 17. Pained cries
- 18. Words following a Freudian slip
- 19. Bud, in time
- 20. Rockies, for example
- 23. Slaps the cuffs on
- 24. Shakespeare's king of the fairies
- 27. \_\_\_\_-Ball (arcade game)
- 28. Salacious material
- 31. Posh Manhattan neighborhood
- 32. "How \_\_\_\_ Live" (Leann Rimes song)
- 35. "Yes, it's clear now"
- 37. Holstein or Jersey
- 38. Elusive evolutionary connection
- 41. Gibbon, for instance
- 43. Mentally together
- 44. Word with "Cone" or "Cat"
- 45. Camera attachment
- 47. Luke's mentor
- 49. "Did you see\_?"
- 53. Fusilli and ziti
- 55. They incite responses
- 58. Couldn't make up one's mind
- 61. They're not just idea people
- 63. Rice-\_\_\_\_ ("The San Francisco Treat")
- 64. Craggy height
- 65. Maternal relation
- 66. Removed the peel from
- 67. Bette Davis film *All About* \_\_\_\_
- 68. Ranked at the bottom
- 69. Tum a blind \_\_\_\_ (ignore)
- 70. Skelton or Buttons

DOWN

- 1. Scents
- 2. On the job
- 3. Give confidence to



- 4. Narrow incisions
- 5. Target
- 6. Banded metamorphic rock
- 7. Words before "angle"
- 8. Follower of "lip"
- 9. Skewered entree
- 10. "Dallas" matriarch and namesakes
- 11. NASA collectible
- 12. \_\_\_\_ forma
- 13. Hanks or Holland
- 21. " \_\_\_\_ say more?"
- 22. They have reservations
- 25. "I know what you're up to!"
- 26. "Don't dawdle!"
- 29. Extracted ore
- 30. Monogram for the 18th U.S. president
- 33. Agency that led to the CIA
- 34. "Because \_\_\_\_!" (parental rationalization)
- 36. German article
- 38. Brooks Brothers specialty
- 39. Diminutive Italian suffix
- 40. "You've got the wrong person"
- 41. Swiss high-rise?
- 42. It may be split for soup
- 46. Gets under way
- 48. No longer aboard ship
- 50. Person who might take a bow
- 51. Library nook
- 52. Like parking garages and stadia
- 54. Coveted quality
- 56. Believe it coming or going
- 57. "Don't mind \_\_\_\_!"
- 59. It can get hot under the collar
- 60. Breakfast-in-bed need
- 61. Dawn dampness
- 62. Inspiration for Lennon's "Woman"

Puzzle answers, page 33

\$30 each, with a maximum of 50 words • \$5 for each additional 10 words  
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Roger Lundin took this photo was taken in his back yard on Log Landing Road. "The raccoon finished eating seeds in our bird feeder, climbed the tree, and spread out on the limb," he says.

*"Wild Things" is a regular feature in The Skinnie, featuring your photographs of our beloved island. Email your high-resolution photos to [production@theskinnie.com](mailto:production@theskinnie.com). Please include your name and a little info about where the photo was taken.*

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