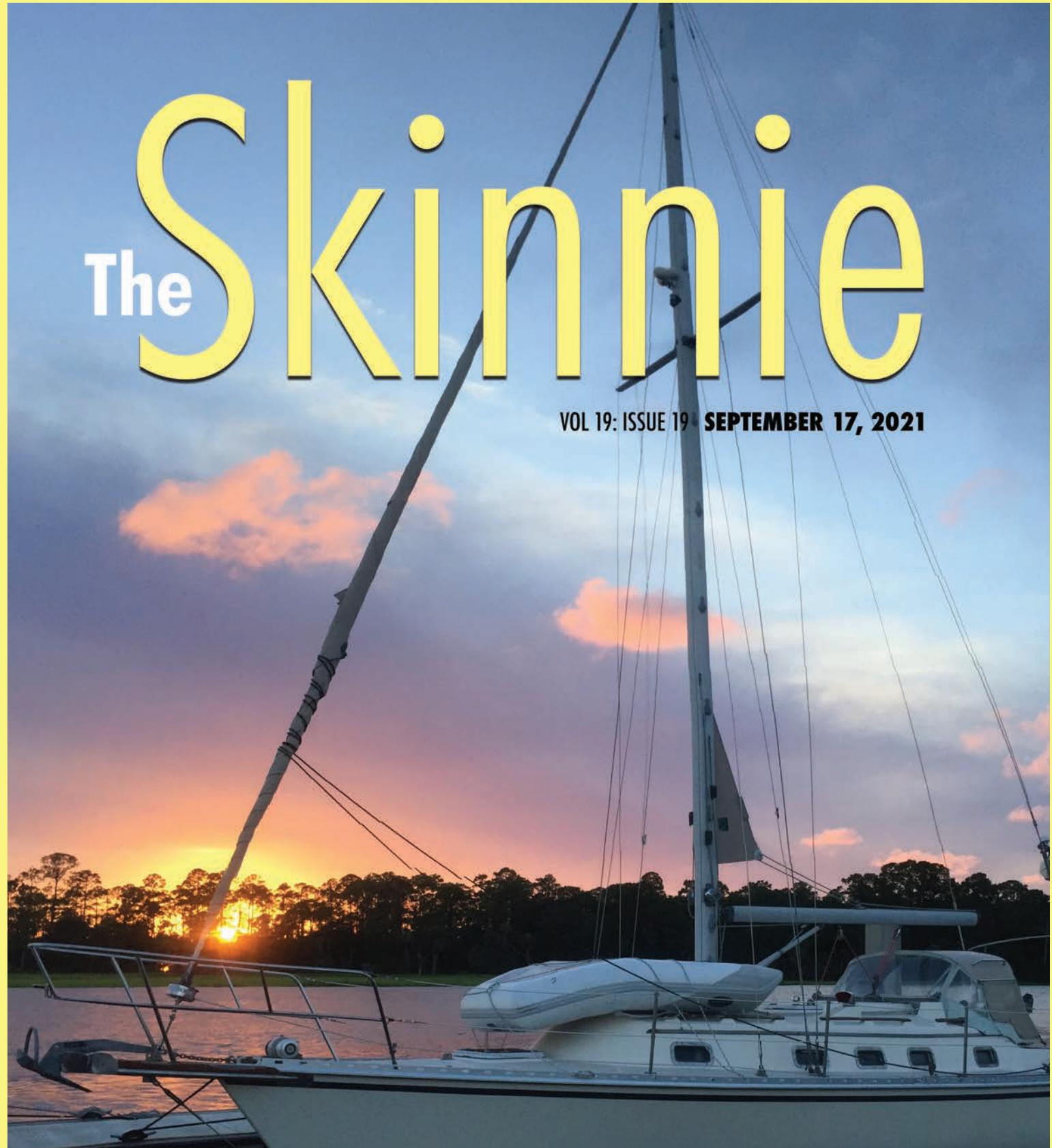




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VOL 19: ISSUE 19 SEPTEMBER 17, 2021



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TheSkinnie VOL. 19 ISSUE 19 – 3



UP front

You're invited.

Mark your calendar – Thursday, October 21. The Savannah Philharmonic kicks off its '21-'22 season on Skidaway Island, with two performances at the Palmetto Club, at 3 and 7:30 p.m. The program, a collaboration with the Savannah Music Festival, is "Concerto for Strings," and it features the Escher String Quartet, conducted by Keitaro Harada, SavPhil's music director.

The show features world-renowned musicians, including violist Philip Dukes and the Escher ensemble, together onstage. From the passionate "Introduction and Allegro" by Edward Elgar, a name many associate with "Pomp and Circumstance," to "Delights and Dances" by Oscar-winning composer Michael Abels, this concert is a sure audience-pleaser. Afterwards, the audience will mingle with the musicians and enjoy complimentary light appetizers and a cash bar.

The Skidaway concerts are consistent with SavPhil's mission: To entertain, inspire and build community... to bring music that people want to them where they live.

The organization continues to lead peers around the region and across the country, by delivering innovative and impactful community enrichment experiences. Phil the Park, the annual outdoor, grand-scale concert and celebration historically held in Forsyth Park, has relocated to Morris Park, adjacent to the Keyhoe Iron Works in the Trustees Garden area downtown. Soon after the concert was announced, all 2,000 tickets for the November 14 event were claimed by patrons.



But music lovers needn't despair, the Phil is staging two rousing, brass-forward shows on Saturday, November 13. The first, free and outdoors, is set for Chippewa Square at 3 p.m., where musicians will play from the Parker's Companies headquarters balcony as visitors

and locals, alike, stroll nearby Bull Street. Later that evening, the Phil's brass quintet will dazzle the audience at the historic Tybee Post Theatre on Tybee Island. Both of these performances demonstrate the Phil's commitment to deliver music to the community throughout the area.

Information and tickets for all the Phil's concerts are available at savannahphilharmonic.org.

I am personally proud of and thankful for the exceptional professional staff, musicians, and volunteer leaders who continue to steadily steer the Phil through challenges that have overwhelmed many other entities. Because of the Phil's mission-driven ethos – to listen to its neighbors and develop programming that appeals and is accessible to as many people as possible – the organization has never stood stronger or on more solid footing than it does today. We are fortunate to have this cultural beacon in our hometown.

I hope to see you at a performance – somewhere in the region, if not on Skidaway on October 21 – very soon.

Scott A. Lanzetti

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Eco-Volunteers

Make Positive Impact

By Amy Collings

Skidaway Island is an oasis of environmental treasures, with eagles, owls, live oaks, manatees, monarchs – and the scores of volunteers working hard to maintain its special abundance.

Caryl Warner is one of the many Skidaway Audubon volunteers who are employing literal “boots on the ground” for the benefit of the local community. For 15 years, Warner has headed the “Bottle Brigade,” organizing litter patrols to reduce roadside trash that washes into waterways and threatens aquatic life.

The Bottle Brigade was formed in 1988 by the late Herb Brown. Caryl and Carol Warner joined the group in 2004. Two years later, Caryl became chairman. He retired as chair in January, but continues to patrol his route, which includes portions of Landings Way

North and Tidewater Way.

Each member of the Bottle Brigade has an assigned route to patrol - at least weekly - by golf cart, on foot, or bicycle. Volunteers recycle as much of the collected detritus as possible, through the Chatham County recycling facility on Eisenhower Drive. Observant residents may notice a recent decrease in visible litter.

In the second half of 2020, the Bottle Brigade increased its membership from 45 to 60. One of the group's newer members, Marshall Case, has helped to recruit newer

residents, and other caring neighbors have joined the effort. For the first time in several years, the Bottle Brigade is able to cover all of the Landings' primary and secondary roads and cart paths on a regular schedule. The group also monitors select areas outside the gates where TVs, furniture, tires, and other trash are often deposited.

“As members clean their areas, ‘thank yous’ are often heard from passing cars and golf carts,” Caryl Warner says. “These go a long way to keeping volunteers going, especially on hot or uncomfortable days, and are greatly appreciated.”

Warner says much of the litter comes from contractor trucks, residents' golf carts, partying teenagers, dog walkers, and circulars from mailboxes and tubes. He estimates 97 percent of residents and contractors do not litter, but it is the other three percent that causes the problem.

The Bottle Brigade always welcomes new members. Several volunteers have recently relocated, requiring route adjustments. If you're interested, please contact chairman Lew Perdue at lewper@hotmai.com.

Brenda Ecken and Sarah Lucas oversee the Dave Scott Bluebird Trail, a network of 206 birdhouses located along the Landings' six golf courses. Started in the '90s to provide a much-needed boost to the bluebird population, it is now the largest monitored trail in the Southeast. During nesting season, more than a dozen volunteers monitor



L-R: Missy Goulard, Barb Belluc, Nancy McGirr, Meg Kettlitz, Lisa Carroll, Carolyn McInerney, Grant Hagen, Liz Hagen and Terri Ramsden. Affectionately nicknamed “The Garden Gnomes,” these dedicated volunteers worked diligently to create the Monarch Butterfly Trail Gardens.



Skidaway Audubon volunteers (L to R) Dawn Cordo, Jean Deitch, Patty Field, Susan Heath and Carolyn McInerney pose with a great horned owl and his handler from Georgia Southern University's Center for Wildlife Education. As part of its education and outreach activities, Skidaway Audubon sponsored the center's raptor presentation here in 2020, and thanks to fundraising activities and donations, the center returns this fall with its reptile show. Residents will see a variety of snakes, lizards, alligators and turtles, and will hear stories about their remarkable adaptations.

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nest boxes, compile data, and ready the houses for the next season. To see first-hand the progression of life from egg to hatchling to fledgling is one of the greatest rewards for the volunteers involved with this project.

Ecken and Lucas have developed ways to share their knowledge. They initiated the "Adopt a Nest Box" program to enable others to learn about bluebirds and enjoy the experience of raising a bird family. They especially enjoy reaching out to young students, and have provided educational materials to classrooms in Savannah and other cities, too.

Another long-time Landings resident with a commitment to environmental stewardship is Carolyn McInerney, founder of Skidaway Audubon's Diamondback Turtle Rescue Project. For seven years, McInerney single-handedly rescued turtle eggs from golf course sand traps, hatching them in flowerpots on her porch. In 2010, when Audubon adopted the program, volunteers joined the cause and built hatchery boxes. To date, more than 15,000 baby turtles have been successfully released into the marshes.

After four years as Skidaway Audubon president, McInerney stepped down this year, handing the reins over to Dawn Cordo. McInerney will continue to work with turtles and will co-chair a new Audubon project, Nature Notices. This initiative focuses on increasing habitat for butterflies and other pollinators by encouraging native plant groupings in residential areas.

Funding is critical to Audubon's objectives, and four residents – Bonnie Kelly, Larry Batanian, and Eddie and Caroline Ambrose – co-chaired Skidaway Audubon's golf tournament in May. The annual tournament, which was cancelled last year due to COVID, is Audubon's primary funding source.

On September 25, Audubon volunteers will enjoy an appreciation event at The Barn at Marshwood in appreciation for their hard work this year. "We're very thankful for our long-time volunteers and our newcomers, and we especially appreciate our supporters who come out to our tournaments to support our work," said Cordo. "Together, we can all make a difference."

For information regarding Skidaway Audubon, email friendsofskidawayaudubon@gmail.com.



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Remembering UNION STATION

By Roger Smith

Savannah – known for its preservation ethic – is equally self-conscious about its architectural losses. The 1954 destruction of the old City Market made way for what iconoclastic preservationist Lee Adler called “the ugliest damn parking garage in America,” which stood for 50 years in Ellis Square. Less-publicized failures include the 1918 demolition of a (then) 100-year-old residential marvel, the Archibald Bulloch House. Acquired by the city expressly to be torn down, the property provided space for a civic auditorium fronting Orleans Square. That auditorium, in its turn, was demolished for the 1974 Savannah Civic Center – a structure that faces its own uncertain future.

Savannah marks losses alongside wins. Director of the City of Savannah’s Municipal Archives, Luciana Spracher, calls the 1962 demolition of Union Station “our worst loss.” The evidence supports the superlative.

The premier turn-of-the-century building, built in 1902, was designed by Columbia, South Carolina, architect Frank Pierce Milburn. In an era of architectural monuments like Savannah’s City Hall (1906), Milburn vied for grandeur by combining Spanish Renaissance and Elizabethan styles.

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Savannah's Union Station, built at the dawn of the automobile age, occupied the 400 block of West Broad Street, now known as Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

He used pressed brick with granite and terra cotta trim to fashion a confection that presided over the city's western edge – but for only 60 years. The stately structure stretched a city block, forming its solid stance with two square turrets bookending the building proper (a porte-cochère extended beyond the north tower). Squared-off onion domes topped the towers, decorated at their cornices with flamboyant, upward-reaching flourishes. These ornaments were mimicked in lintels atop seven mammoth second-story windows marching across the façade. Additional matching windows punctuated the sides of the towers. These details gave visual lift to the otherwise anchored nature of the structure itself.

The interior, an equally impressive octagonal rotunda, measured 80 feet in diameter. It served as a gallery for waiting passengers. The station tacitly placed Savannah in league with other major American cities whose names were carved proudly above a circle of archways: New York, Chicago, Baltimore.

Miriam Center recalls that her father, a clothing merchant on West Broughton Street, would travel to New York from Union Station. Other destinations, also engraved in stone, telegraphed to travelers that they were in the South: Charleston, Jacksonville, Raleigh, Tampa, Richmond, Louisville, and – of course – Atlanta. Another reminder that Savannah was a Southern city: The august waiting room served white passengers only, while the building housed a separate “colored” waiting room.

Solomon Myers III, was 11 years old when Union Station came down, yet he recalls the building’s elegance. “It was a miniature Grand Central Station,” he recalls. “Not as big, of course, but just as grand.”

He lacks a precise memory of Union Station’s “separate-but-equal” facilities, but affirms, “That’s just how things were. If restrooms were lined up in a row, there would be one for white women, another for white men, and a third unisex facility for African-Americans. Sometimes whites-only and colored-only water fountains were mounted between the restroom doorways. But no matter what, the white women’s room was as far as possible from the ‘colored’ restroom – if they were



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Union Station's octagonal rotunda featured the destinations of America's network of rail travel.

all lined up together."

Regarding the Civil Rights Movement, Myers says, "Savannah was fairly even-tempered, but it was still in the Deep South."

Backward? An interesting, if not frustrating, feature of Union Station was that trains were forced to back up to their respective platforms. The late Emma Adler – Savannah native and wife to Lee Adler – traveled often from Union Station, especially from 1948 through '52, when she attended Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. "I was one of only two women in my class from the South," she once said, "so I was already viewed as an absolute alien. When I would invite someone to visit me in Savannah and that train would turn completely around and then move backward into the station—well, I'm sure you can imagine the jokes."

Union Station anchored one of Savannah's earliest and most important commercial corridors. In a 2020 television interview, Luciana Spracher likened West Broad to Broughton Street - both bustling, prosperous commercial corridors. West Broad became the mecca of Savannah's African-American culture and commerce. "Broughton Street was for white people, and West Broad was for Black people," Miriam Center lamented.

Union Station's destruction exemplified the 1960s concept of "urban renewal," which was intended to improve blighted areas typically populated by African-Americans. The results were often more harm than good. Far from rehabilitating West Broad, Union Station's disappearance made room for a traffic "fly-over," an exit ramp linking Interstate 16 to Savannah's Historic District. The fly-over bisects the formerly active Black business and entertainment strip, leading to further deterioration of the iconic neighborhood.

The visual barrier of the fly-over created a pedestrian barrier, which in turn tore asunder street-level human experience. African-American pride-of-ownership, hum of business, and cultivation of community on West Broad careened to disaster, helped along by Savannah's wholesale destruction of blighted buildings.

"Urban renewal simply clear-cut entire blocks" in Savannah's most

important Black district, observes Luciana Spracher. Neither the 1991 renaming of West Broad as Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, nor the city's designation of MLK as an "Enterprise Zone" have spurred a rebound.

The Daughters of the American Revolution openly protested Union Station's impending demolition. January 1962 issues of the Savannah Morning News recount a showdown between Savannah's city administration and DAR historian Adrienne Roberts. Roberts urged the city to hold off on the wrecking ball until her correspondence with the state highway commission could secure a route change for the interstate. Mayor Malcolm Maclean – widely considered the arbiter of true racial integration that kept Savannah from becoming another Birmingham – was unsolicitous toward the DAR's requests. Even the sanctity of the Revolutionary War battlefield to the west of Union Station didn't stop Mayor Maclean from vowing to block any proposal that would delay the construction of the I-16 off-ramp. "New roads are the thing this city needs the most," he declared. He went on to declare that "roads are one item everyone here is solidly behind."

Automobiles won the mid-century battle with mass transit, and train stations disappeared from city centers. New stations were relegated, like distant or not well-liked relatives, to the periphery. Passengers – few as they were – alighted from trains at remote stations and required transport – ironically – by car. Perhaps, the biggest irony of all: The structure now standing nearest to the site of Union Station is a filling station.

Miriam Center remembers Union Station in its heyday. "I was a high school student during the second world war and served as a Red Cross volunteer at the station. I worked at a table where we handed out Spam sandwiches to the GIs. I witnessed dramatic partings of young men – kissing their sweethearts and hugging their families. There were happy homecomings, too."

Center says that she always wanted to live in New York, but settled instead on simply honeymooning there. She and her husband traveled to the honeymoon, of course, from Union Station.

Roger Smith, formerly the director of education at the Georgia Historical Society, is the founding director of The Learning Center of Senior Citizens, Inc., Savannah, coastal Georgia's premier lifelong learning program for people ages 55 and over. For more information, contact rsmith@seniorcitizens-inc.org.



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 WHEN: Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022; Expo at 10 a.m.; Lunch and program at 12 noon
 WHERE: Savannah Convention Center
 WHAT ELSE: For information on SmartWomen sponsorship opportunities or ways to support the Mammography Fund, please call St. Joseph's/Candler Foundations at 912.819.8683 or email sjcsmartwomen@sjchs.org.



Annual SmartWomen Fundraiser Moves to January

smart women

The 19th annual SmartWomen Luncheon and Expo will return to its traditional in-person format - in January of 2022. Due to a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases, the fundraiser originally scheduled for October of 2021 has been pushed back to the winter. The annual celebration in support of the Telfair Mammography Fund is set for Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at the Savannah Convention Center. The expo opens at 10 a.m., followed by the lunch and program at 12 noon. Emmy Award winner and Golden Globe nominee, Vicki Lawrence, best known for her role as Mama on *The Carol Burnett Show* and *Mama's Family*, will headline the day.

The SmartWomen Luncheon and Expo is an annual fundraiser for St. Joseph's/Candler's Mary Telfair Women's Hospital, which includes the Mammography Fund at Telfair Pavilion. The goal of the Mary Telfair Women's Hospital and the Mammography Fund is to ensure that all women have access to mammography, even if they have no insurance and cannot afford the procedure. SmartWomen has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Telfair Mammography Fund.

Like many events in 2020, SmartWomen took a virtual approach to fundraising. Defying the pandemic, the modified format raised more than \$137,000, helping women who lost jobs and insurance, as well as other uninsured and underinsured women. Funds enable potentially life-saving mammograms.

THIS YEAR'S SPEAKER

Vicki Lawrence is known for the many characters she originated on *The Carol Burnett Show*. One character, Thelma "Mama" Harper, was the central character in the television series, *Mama's Family*, and the stage production, *Vicki Lawrence and Mama: A*

Two Woman Show. Lawrence hosted the game show, *Win, Lose or Draw*; her own daytime talk show, *Vicki!*; and has appeared on numerous television shows. On stage, she has been featured in productions including *Carousel*; *Send Me No Flowers*; *No, No, Nanette*; *Chapter Two*; *Hello, Dolly! I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the Road*; *Annie Get Your Gun*; and *Live from the Grand Ole Opry*. Lawrence reached Number One on the U.S. and Canadian music charts for the hit song "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia."

Lawrence is involved with many causes, including the D.A.R.E program, Humane Society, American Heart Association, and WALK FOR THE CURE. She has teamed with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America and has become the spokesperson for the campaign, "CIU and You," after being diagnosed with chronic idiopathic urticaria (CIU) in 2011.

Lawrence enjoys speaking to women's organizations and groups, as she shares her life story of fame, activism, and continuing success. She approaches everything with her characteristic sense of humor, reminding us all that "Life is much too serious to be taken seriously!"

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GOING THE DISTANCE

*Watch your back
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Is a road trip in your near future? Perhaps you're looking for a weekend getaway to cheer on your favorite football team. Many people are anxious about crowds and the hassles of flying, so they're choosing automobile travel. But a long drive can lead to a long night of pain if you don't consider your body's needs. Your spine is especially vulnerable. Angela Thomas, physical therapist and executive director of rehabilitation services at St. Joseph's/Candler, has some advice to keep you headed in the right direction.

HEALTH TIPS FOR ROAD TRIPS

- **Sit properly.** Empty your back pockets before you sit down. Small discomforts can grow into sharper pain later. Remember to sit up straight with knees slightly higher than your hips as you drive.
- **Not too close, not too far.** Reaching too far for the wheel places stress on your spine and shoulders, neck and wrists. But standard airbags have also made sitting too close to the wheel potentially dangerous as well. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration advises sitting with your breastbone at least 10 inches from the steering wheel, with your hands at the 9 and 3 o'clock positions.
- **Stop and stretch.** There's no way to avoid stiff muscles when driving a long distance. This can lead to spasms or aches. If possible, take a 15-minute break for every two hours of driving. Take breaks



ring is a 1.13 carats total weight diamond and sapphire cocktail ring in 14 karat white gold. The value of the ring is \$6,800. A limited number of Diamond Dig tickets are still available. Purchase your raffle ticket while supplies last. The drawing will take place the day of the luncheon. You do not have to be present to win. Purchase your tickets online at sjchs.org.

EXPO BOOTHS, SPONSORSHIPS

Space is going fast, but a limited number of Expo booths and sponsorships opportunities remain available. Call the St. Joseph's/Candler Foundations at 912.819.8683 or email sjcsmartwomen@sjchs.org.



even more frequently if you have had back problems before. Since sitting is a bent-forward position, gently bending backwards during stretching breaks is particularly helpful. A repetition of 10 non-painful backbends is recommended, if you are able.

• **Plant your feet.** Whether you're a driver or cruise control or a passenger, having your feet placed on a firm surface at the proper height helps keep the stress off of your lower back. Ideally, your seat position should allow you to keep your knees at a right angle. Occasional ankle circles can help prevent calf swelling and tightness. (This works on plane trips, too.)

• **Stay aligned.** Some drivers benefit from a small pillow or a rolled-up blanket or scarf between the lower back and seat. This helps support the contour of the lower back and keep you aligned with the back of your seat.

• **Passenger diversions.** Having unhappy passengers is a different kind of pain in the neck, so make sure you have snacks, games and other diversions before setting out.

Sponsorships, donations and other financial support to the St. Joseph's/Candler Foundations ensures that the community has access to the very best healthcare services, technology and programs available. Please send any written communications or designated contributions to:

St. Joseph's/Candler Foundations
Heart and Lung Building
5356 Reynolds Street, Suite 400
Savannah, GA 31405

We're Giving It Away! Football Pick 'Em Pool

NCAA

Wake Forest at Virginia
Liberty at Syracuse
UNLV at Fresno St.
Clemson at NC St.
Texas A&M vs Arkansas at Dallas
Tennessee at Florida
UCLA at Stanford
Iowa St. at Baylor
Colorado at Arizona St.
North Carolina at Georgia Tech
South Florida at BYU
LSU at Mississippi St.
Missouri at Boston College
Kentucky at South Carolina
SMU at TCU
Louisville at Florida St.
Notre Dame vs Wisconsin at Chicago
California at Washington
Boise St. at Utah St.
Louisiana at Georgia Southern

NFL

Carolina at Houston
LA Chargers at Kansas City
New Orleans at New England
Chicago at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at LA Rams

As a tiebreaker this week,
pick the total points in the
Notre Dame vs Wisconsin game.

Football is back and you all know what that means – The Skinnie Football Pick 'Em Pool is back, too! We know you're just as excited as we are. Actually, we got so excited that our first slate of games did not reconcile smoothly with our publishing deadlines, so we have TWO prizes to give away this time!

For round one, we had 16 competitors who sent us their entries. This pool was an assortment of 25 college games for your picking pleasure. And, in fitting fashion, Grand Champion Tom "Arch" Bishop pulled off his umpteenth win with 20 of 25 great guesses. If we were giving out trophies, Tom would have to have a spare room to house all the hardware he's won over the years. Great job, Tom. Congratulations!

Round two was our typical arrangement of 20 NCAA and 5 NFL matchups. Past champ "Slammin" Steve Shirah and Newcomer Mike "Lightning" Mulqueen each predicted 17 out of 25 winners to end up tied. So, it came down to the tiebreaker. Unfortunately, for Lightning Mulqueen, he didn't submit a score. Slammin' Steve proffered 65 (while the actual total was 60, 33-27 in favor of Las Vegas), a very good guess, which makes Lightning's oversight a little for palatable, we're sure. Congrats to Slammin' Steve Shirah.

Everyone is welcome to play. Please join the action. There's incentive. If you win, you get a prize. It's as simple as that. And playing makes watching Saturday scoreboard shows extra interesting.

The rules are simple. Predict the winning team for each game. And get more winners right than the rest of your friends. Twenty college games and five NFL matchups. This slate will be played between Thursday, September 23, and Sunday, September 26. Entries are due by 5 p.m., Friday, September 10. Email your picks to chendrix@theskinnie.com, or send your entry the old-fashioned way to:

The Skinnie
15 Lake Street, Suite 280
Savannah, GA 31411

Alternatively, just drop it by our offices in the Lake Side Center across from Publix.

Please, limit one entry per contestant. Good luck and enjoy the games!



CHRIS PROBER

Chris Prober is a decorated military veteran. His service began as an enlisted Navy recruit, and ended as an Army chief warrant officer 4. Much of his time has been spent falling from the heavens. A veteran jumpmaster and master parachute rigger, he has 14 jump wings proudly displayed in a shadow box hanging in his trophy room. His 300 jumps – static and free-fall – range from 800 to 17,500 feet, dropping in on targets as far-ranging as Afghanistan and a variety of African countries.

Prober was born and raised in the small town of Wolcott, New York. He joined the Navy in 1984, serving as a radio communication specialist on Pacific Fleet warships for most of his four-year enlistment. During his Navy years, he volunteered for another lifetime "enlistment," marrying Teresa Boston, also a Navy sailor. The two met at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and have been married for 33 years.

In 1984, Prober was honorably discharged from the Navy with the rank of E4, petty officer 3rd class. Three years later, he joined the Army during Operation Desert Storm.

Prober's test scores during basic training qualified him for the specialized parachute-rigging assignment. An intensive parachute course

at Fort Lee, Virginia, lasted 13 weeks. In this line of work, there is no margin for error, as paratroopers' lives and the safe delivery of equipment depend on proper rigging. In addition to packing parachutes, riggers must prepare wooden platforms to deliver equipment from the rear of military cargo planes. Everyone and everything that the military drops from the sky relies on riggers.

Parachute training complete, Prober followed up with basic paratrooper jump school, becoming a combination parachute rigger and paratroop jumper at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Home of the XVIII ABN Corps, Fort Bragg was Prober's first duty assignment and would become his on-again/off-again home base for the next 15 years.

Prober's first overseas deployment took him to the austere environments of two African nations, Zimbabwe and Swaziland. American Airborne units were stationed there to help subdue enemy insurgents, who were using guerilla tactics to overthrow the countries' established governments. "We jumped with the local airborne units," Prober recalls. "Much of it was in jungle territory and it was good training for us, the 3rd Special Forces unit. I remember seeing lions in the bush as we flew over (our target sites)."

HE SERVED • BY RON LAURETTI

www.theskinnie.com

TheSkinnie VOL. 19 ISSUE 19 – 21



When he returned to Fort Bragg in 1996, Prober trained to become a jumpmaster, an extremely important responsibility. Jumpmasters are expert paratroopers responsible for training soldiers and managing jump operations in airborne units across the branches of the armed forces. Among the military jump techniques they teach are static in-line – when a soldier's parachute deployment bag is tethered to the plane as he jumps – and free-fall jumping. During this time, Prober himself graduated from free-fall school, which he regards as his most-satisfying career highlight. He also considers it to be the most dangerous, filled with high-altitude/low-opening (HALO) jumps.

Prober did many of his HALO jumps in the Yuma, Arizona area, completing a minimum of three jumps each day during training, until 30 jumps were in the books. A typical HALO jump is made from 17,500 feet, opening the parachute at 5,000 feet above the landing zone. In addition to a 75-pound parachute, soldiers carry 55 pounds of personal gear in an attached ruck sack, plus a weapon, ammunition, oxygen mask and oxygen bottle. Weaklings need not apply.

To prepare for jumping, trainees take to a wind tunnel that suspends them horizontally

in the air above the floor. "It keeps you flat, dumb and happy," Prober says of the week-long training. A sore back and headaches were among the consequences of the constant, strong, manufactured wind force.

Prober was promoted to warrant officer 1 and jumped at various times with elite commandos – Army Rangers, Green Berets, Delta Force soldiers, Navy SEALs, and the Air Force Para Rescue Combat Team.

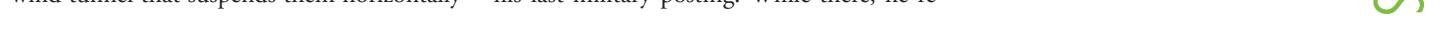
Prober deployed to Afghanistan in back-to-back combat assignments during 2003 and 2004. During these deployments, he served with the 82nd Airborne and the 10th Mountain Divisions. He was promoted to chief warrant officer 2, serving mainly as a systems technician, providing aerial delivery of essential supplies to ground units. This involved rigging equipment on pallets then "kicking" them off the rear of cargo planes to waiting troops below. Accurate and delicate landings were key objectives. While in Afghanistan, Prober was based inside the security zone of Kandahar, a city constantly under attack from the Taliban.

Returning home, Prober joined the 101st Airborne, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, his last military posting. While there, he re-

viewed and improved the air-drop system for the base. He retired from the Army in 2010 after 20 years of military service. "My body told me it was time to go – multiple parachute jumps, especially free-fall, take their toll," he says.

Not one to remain idle, Prober, sore bones and all, jumped into another challenging profession: law enforcement. At age 55, he graduated with honors from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy, a demanding 12-week course. He joined the Nashville Airport Police Department, reasonably close to Teresa's hometown in Kentucky. He trained as a civilian airport firefighter and an emergency medical responder. "I did the airport police work and the on-call firefighting job and training for the better part of one year; but, frankly, all the long hours and all the gear you had to wear and tote around began to wear and tear on me, so I finally retired for good," Prober explains.

"Then we moved to the Landings, primarily because I have close relatives here," he says. Chris and Teresa have two adult children and one young grandchild and are currently enjoying retirement on Skidaway Island.



WE WANT YOU To Share Your Story!

There's a lot of military service among our readers, active and retired, from all branches of the Armed Forces, as well as police, fire and other first responders. Help us recognize their service by nominating them to be featured in an upcoming **He Served**.

Send your nominee's name and contact info to ronl35@comcast.net

island hopping

Please email content to mail@theskinnie.com.
Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.

WHO NEW?

WHAT: New Neighbors
WHEN: Visit www.landingsnewneighbors.com to see our calendar

CONTACT: Visit our website or contact Jody at 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.

GOTTA LOVE IT

WHAT: Landlovers membership, open to all Skidaway Island residents

HOW MUCH: Each \$30 membership fee covers one household of one or two adults

CONTACT: Vicki Knapp, Landlovers Membership Director, at landloversmembership@gmail.com, or visit www.landlovers.com for more information.

WHAT ELSE: The membership year runs from September 1 through August 31. Landlovers is a philanthropic and social organization dedicated to enriching the Landings community and Skidaway Island at large. Landlovers sponsors numerous social activities and fundraising events to support multiple non-profit service organizations.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

WHAT: "Sunshine and Shadows," exhibit of John Alexander photography

WHEN: Sep. 1 – 30

WHERE: JEA Art Gallery, 5111 Abercorn St.

HOW MUCH: Free

CONTACT: Vicky Lunick, 912.355.8111

WHAT ELSE: An established photographer specializing in portraiture, special events, commercial, nature and fine art photography, John Alexander has published work locally, nationally and online. His scenic and fine art photography can be found on display throughout Savannah and the Lowcountry. His images find fantasy in reality and inspire the viewer to take a deeper look.

POWER PLANTS

WHAT: PEO Chapter BB's Annual Plant Sale

WHEN: Orders placed from Sep. 2 to Oct. 7

CONTACT: Christine Lind at saffron214@hotmail.com for plant selections, prices, and pre-order forms

WHAT ELSE: Pick up your pre-ordered and prepaid plants on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at St. Peter's

A FISH TALE

WHAT: Virtual Evening @ Skidaway program

WHEN: Tuesday, Sep. 14, 7 p.m.

WHERE: UGA Skidaway Institute YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/Skidaway> (case sensitive).

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: Michael Sullivan, 912.598.2325 or Mike.sullivan@skio.uga.edu

WHAT ELSE: UGA Skidaway Institute of Oceanography researcher, Marc Frischer, explores the causes and consequences of black gill in a virtual program, "Climate Change and Shrimp Black Gill – Is There A Connection?"

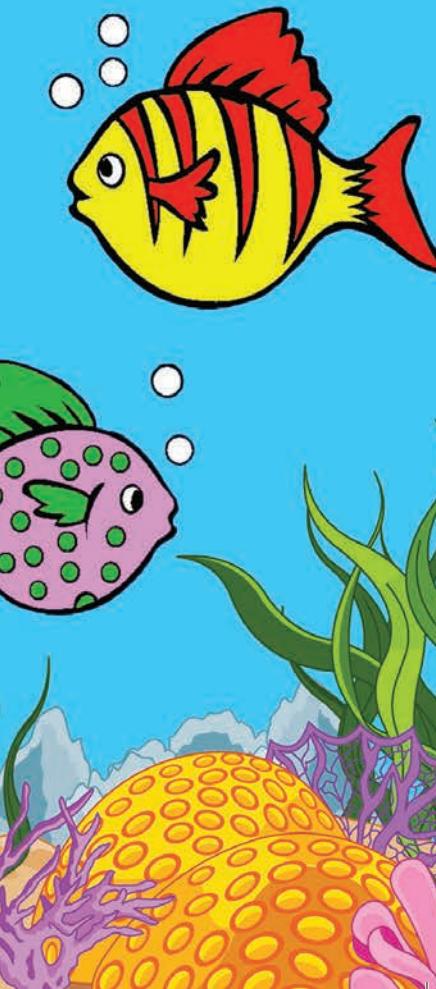
THE COAST WITH THE MOST

WHAT: Coastal Conservation Association of Skidaway September Meeting – "Gray's Reef Marks 40 Years as National Marine Sanctuary"

WHEN: Monday, Sep. 20, 7 p.m.

WHERE: St. Peter's Church
CONTACT: Paulette Hamilton, 610.509.0279

WHAT ELSE: Jody Patterson, recently appointed chapter director for the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, will speak. September's raffle prize is a mid-weight spinning rod-and-reel combination suitable for inshore fishing or the Landings' lagoons. Raffle tickets can be purchased on the night of the event.



SHELL GAME

WHAT: Annual release of turtle hatchlings

WHEN: 4 to 5 p.m., Sep. 23

WHERE: Sunset Park, 707 Landings Way South

HOW MUCH: free

CONTACT: friendsofskidawayaudubon@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: Learn how volunteers rescue diamondback terrapin eggs from sand traps and how turtles are incubated; then, help release them into the marsh. Please pre-register online at skidawayaudubon.org. Limit of 50 attendees; must be five years of age or older. Parking is limited. Masks are encouraged for unvaccinated attendees.

SNAKES ALIVE!

WHAT: "Oh for Goodness Snakes" informative talk

WHEN: Thursday, Sep. 30, 4 p.m.

WHERE: Skidaway United Methodist Church, Bailey Hall

HOW MUCH: Free for FOSA members, \$5 for non-members

CONTACT: friendsofskidawayaudubon@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: Friends of Skidaway Audubon (FOSA) welcomes guest speaker Mary Lynn Seremet, a local herpetologist. She will discuss snakes native to this region, their habits and role in our ecosystem, and what to do if you or your pet encounters a snake.

GOOD TASTE

WHAT: A Taste of Day on the Island
WHEN: Friday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Pre-order sales Aug. 22–Sep. 17

CONTACT: Please visit the church website

WHAT ELSE: The Isle of Hope United Methodist Women are excited to announce a modified version of the bi-annual day on the Island Home Tour and Luncheon. To plan for a safe, viable event, we are excited to bring our community together in a new way to help raise money for local, regional, and international missions. The day will feature food, shopping, and an online auction. A limited run of the A Day on the Island Cookbook – first published in 1975 – will be available for pre-order beginning Aug. 22. Take-away containers of food can be ordered ahead of time and picked-up during A Taste of Day on the Island. Shopping local and regional vendors on the Cornus Cottage lawn is the perfect way to get a jump start on your Christmas shopping.

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WELCOMING RECEPTION

WHAT: Landings Landlovers Opening Reception
WHEN: Tuesday, Sep. 28, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Ballroom

HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: Milli Sample or Judy Waller, landloversocials@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: The reception is open to all Skidaway Island residents, both members and non-members of Landlovers. Discover new activities and social events, and volunteer for philanthropic projects for the coming year. There will be complimentary appetizers and a member/cash bar.

THE SHADOW KNOWS

WHAT: Telfair Academy Guild (TAG)

WHEN: Monday, Oct. 11; Coffee reception - 10 a.m., Presentation - 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Jepson Center, Neises Auditorium
HOW MUCH: TAG members and their guests are welcome to attend

CONTACT: Non-members wishing to attend, please contact Viki Annand, vikiannd850@gmail.com or 912.330.7352

WHAT ELSE: Anne-Solene Bayan, assistant curator of Telfair Museums, will present “In the Shadows: Exploring the Art of the Silhouette through Works in the Telfair Museums.” Silhouettes, originally produced as profiles cut from black cloth or paper, were popular in Europe and the U.S. in the 19th century, as a means of rapidly capturing a likeness. Although photography has replaced the shadow profile for this purpose, artists have frequently turned to using the silhouette in new ways.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

WHAT: The Landings Garden Club Heritage Luncheon
WHEN: Monday, Oct. 11
WHERE: Palmetto Ballroom
HOW MUCH: \$38 per person
CONTACT: Visit thelandingsgardenclub.com to sign up

WHAT ELSE: Author and blogger, Laura C. Martin, will speak about her latest book, *A Naturalist Book of Wildflowers*, featuring plants from across North America. She provides information on growing plants, instruction for plant crafts, conservation tips, and ideas for activities for children.

CAPTAIN’S ORDERS

WHAT: CCA of Skidaway October Meeting
WHERE: St. Peter’s Church
WHEN: Monday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.
CONTACT: Paulette Hamilton, 610.509.0279
WHAT ELSE: Inshore fishing tips and techniques during fall and winter will be the topic of the CCA of Skidaway’s October meeting. The speaker is Capt. Garrett Ross, owner-operator of Flex Appeal Charters and fishing boat captain with Miss Judy Charters, who will talk about angling around Skidaway Island and the Savannah inshore waterways and sounds. The CCA’s October raffle prize is an inshore fishing charter outing with Capt. Ross, a \$400 value. Tickets can be purchased at the seminar the night of the event.

PHIL THE PARK

WHAT: Savannah Philharmonic outdoor concert
WHEN: Sunday, Nov. 14
WHERE: Morris Park, 660 E. Broughton Street
HOW MUCH: Free tickets (required) available at savannahphilharmonic.org
WHAT ELSE: The Savannah Philharmonic will perform classical favorites, pops, movie

soundtrack selections, and beloved patriotic pieces. Grounds open at 2 p.m.; live music starts at 3 p.m. Patrons can set up lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets. Grab a bite from a variety of local food trucks that will be on hand to join the festive celebration of community and the arts.

PI SERVING

WHAT: Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club of Savannah
WHEN: October through April
WHERE: Skidaway Island and beyond
CONTACT: Beth Holmquist at bholmquist@comcast.net for membership information
WHAT ELSE: This active group of Pi Phi alums enjoys four to five gatherings a year. Plans are underway for a tour of Benedetto Guitars on Oct. 15; a holiday cocktail party on Dec. 3; a Panhellenic Cocktail Party on Feb. 2; and a Founders Day luncheon at Vic’s on the River on Apr. 30, featuring popular local speaker, Roger Smith.

WORLD TRAVELERS

WHAT: Landlovers Marco Polo
WHEN: Third Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Members’ homes
HOW MUCH: An appetizer
CONTACT: Please email Deb Wilson and Sue Souls at llmarcopolo100@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: If you were born in or have lived for at least one year (including an academic year) outside the U.S., you are eligible to join. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer to share as well as their own beverages. Open to all Landlovers members.

SOUL SISTERS

WHAT: JWOL Membership
HOW MUCH: Annual membership is \$20
CONTACT: Sherri Brecker
WHAT ELSE: Mail or tube check to Sherri at 18 Cricket Court. Membership entitles each member to share in the many wonderful programs and social events JWOL offers.

GARDEN STATE GANG

WHAT: Landings Garden Staters cocktails and dinner
WHEN: Sunday, Oct. 10, 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Club Azalea Room
HOW MUCH: Buffet dinner is \$51.36 per person charged to your club account. Bar charges additional
CONTACT: Send/tube dues to Beth Silady, 7 Rookery Road
WHAT ELSE: Please email your RSVP for the dinner to landingsgardenstaters@gmail.com and include name, phone number, Landings Club member number, and the number attending. If you haven’t already joined Garden Staters, 2021 dues are \$10 per person. Checks are made payable to NJ Garden Staters and tubed to Beth Silady, 7 Rookery Road in Palmetto.

ANIMAL ATTRACTION

WHAT: Call for volunteers
WHEN: Flexible hours to meet your needs and schedule, various tasks
WHERE: The Humane Society Thrift Shop, 7215 Sallie Mood Dr.
CONTACT: Volunteer coordinator, Yvonne Hemphill, 603.502.6906
WHAT ELSE: No experience necessary. All proceeds from the thrift shop go to supporting the care of the shelter’s animals.

CAN YOU CANASTA?

WHAT: Landlovers Canasta
WHEN: Every Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Club’s Main Dining Room
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: landloverscanasta@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Maximum 24 players. Must have basic knowledge of the game. Because we play in the Palmetto Clubhouse, you must be a member of the Landings Club and Landlovers.

ALL ABOARD!

WHAT: Mexican Train Dominoes
WHEN: Tuesdays 3:30–5:30 p.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Clubhouse’s Byrd Room
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: Laurie Milano at 914.474.4943 or lamilano@aol.com
WHAT ELSE: Landlovers and Landings Club memberships required. Please bring a set of dominoes, if you have one.

FRIENDS OF FRIENDS OF BILL W.

WHAT: Al-Anon
WHEN: Mondays, 4 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island United Methodist Church
WHAT ELSE: A recovery program for families and friends of people who are struggling with addiction.

FERAL FRIENDSHIP

WHAT: Skidaway Cat Alliance Team
WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: Skidaway Island and surrounding
CONTACT: skidawaycats@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/skidawaycatallianceteam
WHAT ELSE: The Skidaway Cat Alliance Team is a group of dedicated animal lovers who provide food, population control (spay/neuter), medical care, and shelter for free-roaming cats in the Skidaway area. We have cats and kittens currently being fostered that are available to new, loving

homes.

PET PROJECT

WHAT: Linen drive for the Humane Society of Greater Savannah
WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: Humane Society Adoption Center, 7215 Sallie Mood Dr.
CONTACT: Call Rosemary Longueira at 598.2875 or drop donations at 22 Long Island Road, Oakridge
WHAT ELSE: Donate old towels, washcloths, pillowcases, sheets, dish towels, pet beds, and chair cushions. Please bring them to the front of the Adoption Center, not the Thrift Shop donation area.

STITCH AND BEAD

WHAT: Landlovers Needlecrafters
WHEN: Tuesday afternoons
WHERE: Member homes
HOW MUCH: No cost
CONTACT: Leslie Matthews – 616.550.7057 or lmathews50@gmail.com for more information and to be added to the list
WHAT ELSE: Bring projects and BYOB. Landlovers membership required.

THE COAST WITH THE MOST

WHAT: Coastal Georgia Living
WHEN: First Wednesday of the month, October through May, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church
COST: Annual club dues are \$25 for an individual, \$30 for a family; Landlovers membership is required; Guests are welcome for a \$5 fee
CONTACT: Donna Bunn, donnabunn@gmail.com, or Deb Werner, debk.werner@yahoo.com
WHAT ELSE: Formerly known as Green Thumb Club, Coastal Georgia Living focuses on gardening, wildlife, and the coastal Georgia lifestyle. Monthly meetings begin with coffee and socializing, followed by a featured speaker, with occasional field trips to local sites of interest.

a love of history to serve as guides and educators to represent our museum.

LOSS MITIGATION

WHAT: Pandemic support group
WHEN: Meeting Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
WHERE: St. Peter’s Episcopal Church Library
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: Suzanne at St. Peter’s, 598.7242
WHAT ELSE: Many of us have lost friends or family, and pandemic isolation has made dealing with these losses difficult. Dr. Stevens Peirsol will guide the group, offering those who would like to share and find help in processing loss.

CORVETTE SUMMER

WHAT: Skidaway Island Corvette Club
WHEN: Third Thursday of each month, between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.
WHERE: Skidaway United Methodist Church parking lot
HOW MUCH: No dues at this time, however an \$8 name tag fee may be forthcoming
CONTACT: Clayton Scott, 912.658.3116.
WHAT ELSE: Skidaway Island’s club for Corvette owners is 35 members strong. Its goals are camaraderie and to share the enthusiasm for this classic American auto.

HORSE SENSE

WHAT: Pegasus Riding Academy volunteers needed
WHERE: Old Robards Dairy, 2500 Tennessee Ave., Savannah
CONTACT: For information and directions, visit 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.

BODY AND SOUL

WHAT: Skidaway Island United Methodist Church (SIUMC) Exercise Classes
WHEN: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, times are below
CONTACT: For more information or to register for January session, visit siumc.org/exercise or call 912.598.8460
WHAT ELSE: Mat Pilates from 9:15–10:15 a.m.; and Sit-Fit from 10:15–11:15 a.m. Classes are led by Elena Bennett, an ACSM-certified exercise instructor. SIUMC has added Friday classes to its offerings for church- and non-church members alike.

Complete Island Hopping listings are now online! Just visit www.theskinnie.com and click “Read.”

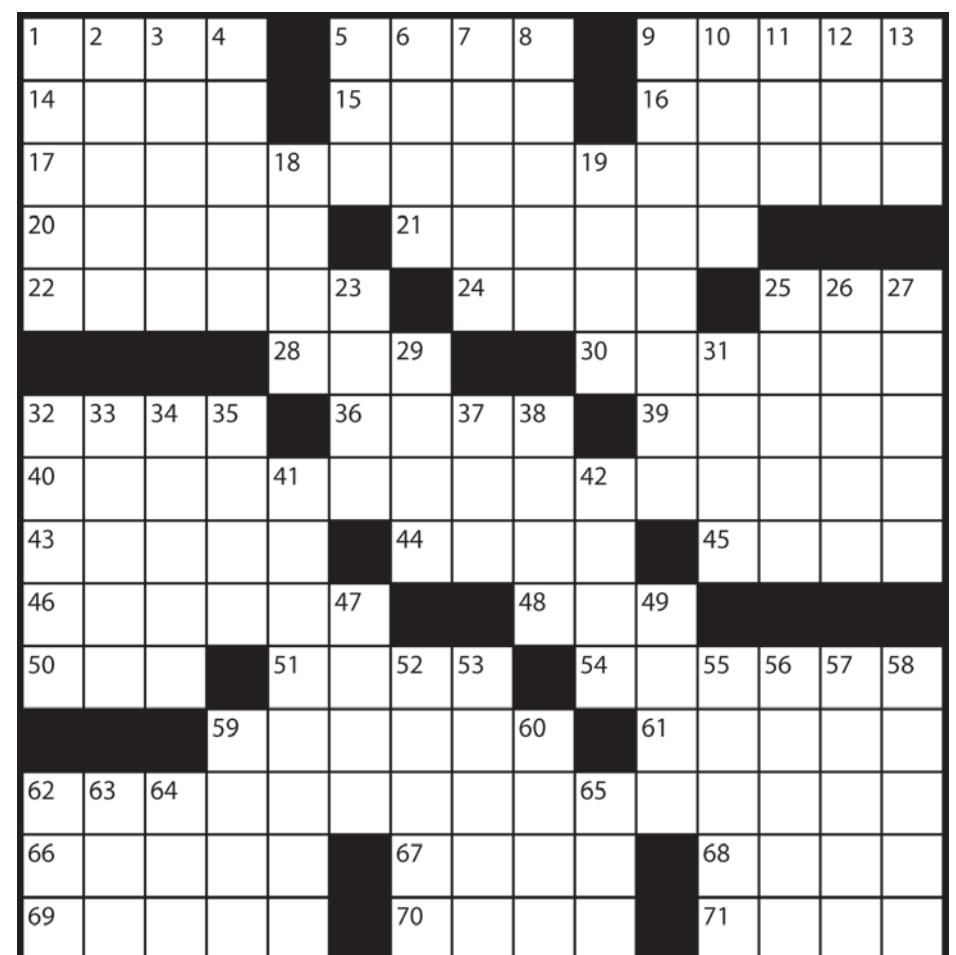
CHALLENGER CLUES*

ACROSS

- Ruthenian
- Zaragoza's river
- Vocation
- Lush
- Guffaw
- Hulking Governor of Minnesota?
- 17. 1985 Best Visual Effects Oscar winner (with 62-Across)**
- Decorticates
- Country full of loonies?
- Sham
- Crosby's costar in the "Road" movies
- FIFA tiebreakers
- Neatsfoot is one
- Hostile toward
- Huge U.K. supermarket co.
- "One of ___" (Willa Cather)
- Webster's Unabridged says it means "a series of woes, trials, etc."
- 40. Director of 17-Across, whose films have won 32 Oscars!**
- Dark brown
- Female deer
- Otherwise
- Largest arboreous animals
- Prattle
- Archeological dig
- Kind of frog
- Legendary Venetian glassware
- Add a pinch of salt
- Scornful term for liberal-leaning Republicans
- 62. See 17-Across**
- Large collection
- Big name in bookshelves
- Maid Braithwaite on "Downton Abbey"
- Creator of Grey Flannel men's fragrance
- Lug
- Understood

DOWN

- Cop
- Bushing
- America's best-selling after-dinner mint
- "Ta-da!"
- Sea eagle
- First airline to use a jet commercially

Hollywood's most celebrated director

- Pet tiger in Disney's "Aladdin"
- Maine city of crossword fame
- Character with a red cape
- Parks on a bus?
- Common hair loss, to a dermatologist
- "The Da Vinci Code" author Brown
- Intention
- In re
- Lush valley?
- National Park in Utah
- Oxford University's oldest college
- Long Russian line
- Flock of herons
- Wino
- Bohemian flower?
- Day cravat, to a Brit
- Put away
- Window sticker, often
- Leading publisher of romance fiction
- Oldest technical college in the U.S.
- Spill the beans
- Extreme nitpicker's attribute
- Dutch treat
- Baseballs have one
- Combers
- Molded food
- Frankie Yankovic's genre
- Jeers
- Part of a car battery
- Lead singer of Herman's Hermits
- Ottoman Dynasty founder
- Comic book magnate Lee
- Opposite of 'eterne'
- Keyboard key next to 'Q'
- Big initials in custom auto wheels
- Poetic contraction
- Low-protein type of milk

Puzzle answers, page 29

\$20 each, with a maximum of 50 words • \$5 for each additional 10 words • Contact Teri Grayson at 598.9715 or email classifieds@theskinnie.com

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*For each puzzle a relatively difficult set of clues (Challenger) will accompany the first printing. In the subsequent issue, the same puzzle will appear with an easier set of clues (Standard) Email questions/comments to puzzler@theskinnie.com

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The Skidaway Cat Alliance Team has cats and kittens currently being fostered that are available to new, loving homes. If interested in adopting, fostering, or volunteering, please contact skidawaycats@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/skidawaycatalliance team

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TUTORING

Tutoring • I am a former New Canaan, Connecticut English and Latin teacher who has just moved to The

Landings. I am available to prepare students for the SAT and ACT, help plan and edit college essays, and provide ongoing support for classroom assignments. References from Landings residents whose children I tutored in Connecticut are available. Please contact me at 203.644.8041 or annawarm@aol.com.

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CRAZY LIKE A...

Foxes are among the more common forms of wildlife that inhabit Skidaway Island. It's not uncommon to see them prowling the golf courses or curled up on someone's lawn furniture. One might almost believe them to be docile and approachable, but it's important to remember it called "wild life" for a reason.

Right: John Vaught met this curious fox, at Palmetto.

Below: Photo by Mary Rowland Lewis



*"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.*

Please include your name and a little info about where the photo was taken.



Becky Carter found this fox family on hole number 9, Palmetto.



Jacob Lane met a family of foxes here on Skidaway. They seemed more interested in maybe playing.





ADVANCED VASCULAR SURGERY. ADVANTAGE YOU.



Sharon Currie - Savannah, GA



Sharon is an active woman who enjoys baking cookies for her grandkids. But one morning she awoke to severe pain and numbness in her legs and lower abdomen. She was rushed to St. Joseph's/Candler and cared for by Dr. Kristy Conlon and the vascular team.



"She had a life threatening blockage in her aorta that lead to ischemia of her legs. We performed a 2.5 hour surgery in a highly sophisticated hybrid operating room that allowed us to take X-rays in real-time to identify the blockage location." A smooth operation and regimented recovery has led Sharon to have no more pain or numbness. Now, she's happy to be back baking goodies for her grandkids.

THAT'S WHY I CHOOSE ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER
Kristy Conlon, D.O. - Vascular Surgeon

