



The Skinny

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Upfront

Long ago, I learned it's not worth the hard feelings to do restaurant reviews. This is not one. Rather, it's a salute to a good friend who, through consistent, hard work; unrestrained optimism; reliable instincts; and wide-eyed curiosity has built a local mini-empire. An immigrant success story. A testimony to entrepreneurial spirit – a spirit that is uniquely embraced and rewarded by the best of the American ethos.

Anthony and Rebecca (Bec) Debrecey are Aussie transplants. Before his current life as a restaurateur, Anthony worked in freight and shipping. He had no experience as a chef, server, or in the food and beverage business of any kind. He did a stretch as an ex-pat in Japan. Eventually, the couple made their way to Savannah. I didn't interview either Anthony or Bec for this feature. They don't know I'm writing it. So, the story is assembled from my mostly reliable memories of conversations we've had over the years.

I first noticed Anthony as the knee-length-shorts-wearing guy stalking a construction site near my home. Something was happening to transform the ground-level space on the northwest corner of Bull and Oglethorpe, but nobody seemed to know what it was. Whatever, it felt like it was taking a long time. The building is owned by a lovely neighbor down my street, but I didn't dare ask her for details. Instead, I passed by the ongoing project often, regularly spying Anthony, although I had no idea of his name. His distinctive accent had not yet caught my ear.

Eventually, somebody said something about a Thai restaurant. Which would make sense in retrospect, given Anthony's exposure to Asian cultures. But a funny thing happened on the way to Bangkok: Eventually, the light-filled space with the preserved exposed brick, hardwood floors, an urban-chic vibe, and the Ferrari of espresso machines started serving breakfast and its colorful leather seats began to fill. This strategic pivot (if there was one) makes sense. Evidently, Australia boasts a vibrant coffee culture, famous for its high standards, community connection, and iconic "flat white." Perhaps, Anthony missed tastes of home, so he set out to bring elements of

an Aussie morning to his adopted hometown. It worked. Collins Quarter was a local hit, a go-to spot for elevated breakfast and coffee with a killer burger for lunch. After a while, the Internet caught on, and a nationwide competition for weekend brunch tables grew fierce.

Anthony and Bec are not the type of people to sit contentedly and tally the receipts of their success. They are creators, restless to do the next thing that feels worth doing. Consequently, Southern Cross Hospitality operates Collins Quarter on Bull Street (the OG); Collins Quarter at Forsyth, in a previously underutilized building that nobody seemed to be able to figure out what to do with; The Fitzroy, a decked-out gastropub; The Deck Beach Bar and Kitchen, an endeavor on Tybee that changed the scale of Anthony's daily odometer accruals; Ukiyo Izakawa and Ramen Bar, a place for excellent and authentic Japanese dishes; Fishbar, a live-fire rustic-hip seafood-focused eatery; Doki-doki, the most compelling and ambitious and yummy gelato and ice cream you'll find anywhere; and – now – La Vetta, a place that is hard to describe in a few-worded phrase.

Aside from my affection for and gratitude to the Debreceys, it's because of La Vetta that I'm writing this column. I want you to try it. And I want to you to know what to expect when you do.

La Vetta is Italian at its core. Executive chef Michele Minichillo is a native of Italy. He and his wife, Sara, moved to Savannah to join this project with Anthony and Bec. Michele is enormously talented. Fiery and passionate about his work, he is doing things that few other kitchens in the area have attempted. His plates are works of art. His pre-service prep is meticulous and demanding. His back-of-the-house team is studying with a master, in real-time. His pace seems exhausting to the interested observer...and the interested observer has a direct window into a Michelin-level world, as the immaculate kitchen – the one on the main floor, not its twin below deck – is wide open to the dining public.

One might be tempted to say La Vetta is a special-occasion place, because of the complementary amuse bouche; the nightly shaken starter cocktails that arrive at your table unprompted; the tightly wound, warm, wet, herb-scented hand towel that I humiliatingly stuck in my mouth before I realized it wasn't edible; and the beautifully dressed, aspirational, mannered service team who make you

want to root for them with your whole heart. But, despite Southern Cross's popularity among visitors to our city, it's a local company with a familiar friend's soul. So, each of my visits will be special, but they won't be limited to infrequent celebrations. A place like La Vetta isn't cheap to operate, and it took four years to complete from the early demolition days.

La Vetta is on Broughton Street, which can be a tricky place for fine dining. Il Pasticcio, an upscale Italian where Levy's Jewelers is today, had a nice run, until it ended. They tried a high-end steakhouse upstairs – I can't remember the name...a late, great friend of mine with New York (and global) steakhouse success was involved and it failed anyway; Gottlieb's turned out fancy Southern-influenced food but fell on financial hard times and unceremoniously closed its corner doors; Dottie's never figured out what it wanted to be and its operating team sheepishly skipped town after serving Kamala some cake for the press pool cameras while hoping the photos didn't capture the mountain of red ink. But past doesn't have to be prologue, and 45 Bistro's long-term success proves it's possible to compete on the street.

This is Anthony...

Me (and Jenna): We're thinking about having a small wedding reception (in a few weeks). Do you do that kind of thing at Collins in the Park?

Him: Sure, mate. Don't worry about it. We'll figure it out. What day do you want?

I have witnessed Anthony offering his place as refuge for mourners in times of their most profound grief. No charge. The D's have hosted countless fundraisers and contributed generously themselves to causes spanning education, community improvement, and the arts. These are good people. He is fundamentally shy and averse to publicity. I write this without his consent but in hope that he understands it's the best way I have to express my thanks and admiration.

Like I said: Try La Vetta. And when the incredibly beautiful lounge below it – V – opens, try it, too. Witness what Michele is up to at the stove. It's special. The Debreceys have earned our support.

Scott A. Lawrence

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VERTICAL INTEGRATION

I read with interest your recent piece about our Marsh Tower, only to discover that it is in fact not “ours,” but an asset of International Paper (IP). The article colored this as a bad thing that the (Landings Association) board was trying to resolve by transferring ownership to the Association. I personally found the revelation of ownership to be a potential positive, and the attempt to transfer ownership as wrong-headed.

If, as the article suggests, the tower needs expensive repair, is in a tidal zone which would likely preclude it being rebuilt, and is probably on the way to becoming an attractive nuisance, that would spell unwelcome news for whomever owns it. Currently, that onus seems to belong to IP.

That begs the question of why the Association, meaning we the residents, would want to transfer that problem – and expense – from IP to us?

Might we consider a different tack? Such as putting IP on notice that its aging structure is becoming a neighborhood hazard and we expect a review of any safety issues it might present and repair or remove it before someone befalls personal harm by using it. My guess



is that a series of letters pointing out these dangers to their corporate legal department might get a timelier response than inquiries about transferring the property to us – which, I must again point out, I think is a terrible idea.

Many might think this is the wrong tactic, and I value their opinion as much as I hope they can value mine. With thousands of residents, we will always have differing thoughts on what makes sense for the good of the community. I just wanted to share mine.

Ed Tapley

WASTE NOT

Every week at our local grocery store, shoppers leave with armfuls of plastic bags that may be used for only a few minutes but can remain in the environment for decades. Too many eventually find their way into our marshes, waterways, and the ocean, where they threaten the wildlife that makes our barrier island so special.

The good news is that each of us can make a difference with one simple habit: Bring reusable shopping bags when we visit the grocery store. Reusable bags are sturdy, convenient, and can eliminate hundreds of disposable plastic bags every year.

We chose to live in this extraordinary place, and with that privilege comes a responsibility to protect it. If more of us carried our own bags, the reduction in plastic waste would be significant. Small actions, repeated by many people, can have a meaningful impact on the environment we love.

Monica Hughes

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on the cover

America Today Deep South (1931) by Thomas Hart Benton, currently on exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, depicts the hardworking people who built America.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Scott Lauretti
slauretti@theskinny.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Philip Schweier
pschweier@theskinny.com

ADVERTISING | CONTENT

Jenna Treat Lauretti
jtreat@theskinny.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Ron Lauretti, Roger Smith,
Jim Toedtman

STAY IN TOUCH

Skinny Media, LLC
15 Lake Street, Suite 280
Savannah, GA 31411
912-598-9715

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@theskinny.com

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Market Forces

The Evolution of Ellis Square

James Oglethorpe laid out Ellis Square in 1733, which makes the historic space as old as Savannah itself. It's among Oglethorpe's four original squares, plainly identifiable in Peter Gordon's 1734 drawing of the well-planned nascent city. The drawing shows only 15 houses in Decker Ward (named for Sir Matthew Decker, then-director of the British East India Company), in which the square lies. Consequently, the square was known either as Decker Square or, more commonly, as Market Square. Historical records are ambiguous as to when the square was re-named in honor of Henry Ellis, who served from 1757 through 1760 as the second of Georgia's three Royal governors.

Four successive market buildings occupied the square beginning in the 1750s. Fires destroyed the first two, first

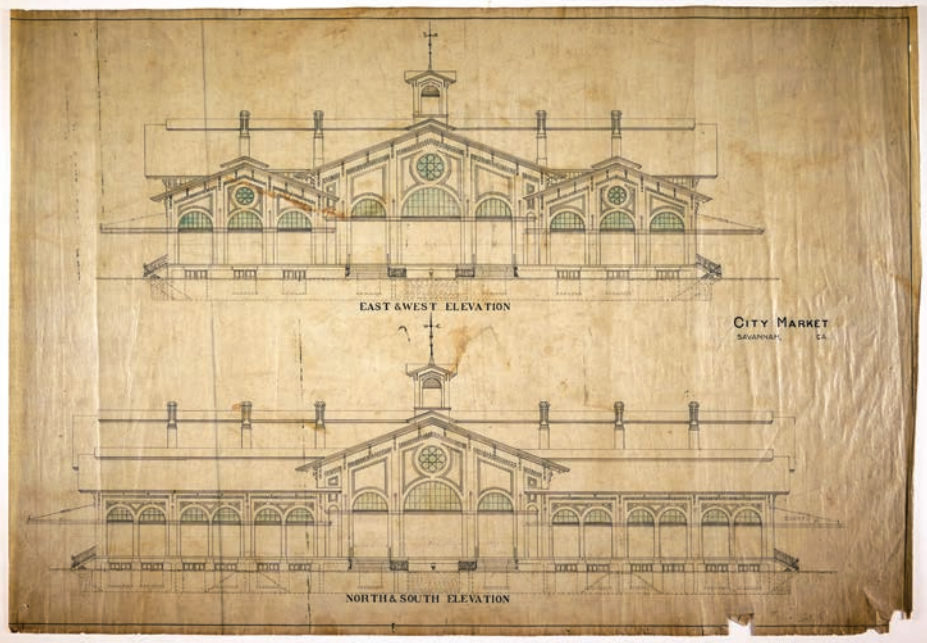
in 1788 and again in 1820. The third building, an enormous rectangular structure open to the sky in the center, stood in the square from the 1820s through the end of the Civil War. By this time, the city marketplace was thoroughly associated with the sale of fruits and vegetables, meat and livestock – and human beings. Ellis Square was home to the slave-trading firm of John Montmollin and Alexander Bryan.

When the Rev. James Lynch, a Black missionary, arrived in 1865 to establish the Savannah Educational Association to school the newly freed, he made note of the sign on the Barnard Street building that fronted Ellis Square: "A. Bryan's Slave Mart." The ironic redemption is recounted in the Savannah Daily Herald of March 20, 1865: "This large and commodious building, corner of St. Julian

and Barnard Streets [is now] used as a school-house for the colored citizens of Savannah. [It was] built about by John Montmillon, a trader in slaves." As if to wipe the slate clean, the 1821 city market was torn down in 1865.

The next city market is the one most firmly rooted in the memories or imaginations of Savannahians. Elegantly constructed of red brick in a Romanesque revival style by German immigrants Augustus Schwaab and Martin Philip Muller, the 1872 building boasted 33,000 square feet of covered space that Mayor John Screven described as "roomy, with ample ventilation." Its exterior featured multiple gables on each façade, several punctuated by beautiful round windows with intricately designed panes and mullions. One of these salvaged windows remains on display in the preservation exhibition at the Massie Heritage Center on Taylor Square.

For more than seven decades, City Market teemed with activity. Farmers and grocers staked their booths and hawked their produce. Butchers hung fresh carcasses from ceiling hooks while African Americans rode streetcars or walked from Thunderbolt carrying baskets of fresh oysters, often balanced



ABOVE: Elevations of the original City Market that once stood on the site of Ellis Square (Courtesy of the City of Savannah, Office of Municipal Archives and History)

OPPOSITE PAGE: A statue of Savannah songwriter Johnny Mercer sits at the west edge of the renovated square

on their heads. Others wove such baskets on site, while already-completed baskets held peas and beans, shelled or unshelled, ready for purchase by customers putting food on their



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tables. Streetcars followed tracks directly through the building, and vendors vied for attention from the crowds.

Savannah's Archives and History Officer Luciana Spracher described City Market as "active and stinky and smelly and wonderful." Despite contemporary demographic divisions assigned to race, class, or religion, people of all types nevertheless came together at City Market. In the greatest measure possible considering societal constraints, City Market had a temporarily equalizing effect.

By 1954, Savannah's Historic District was in trouble, and with it the old City Market. The automobile dealt downtown the double blow of choice for Savannah's shoppers and the oft-asked question of the 20th (and 21st) century: "Where do I park?" Old shopping areas seemed unable to offer answers. New suburban shopping centers and supermarkets, on the other hand, vied with City Market while offering plentiful free parking.

As fewer vendors appeared at City Market and storefronts shuttered their windows and doors along Broughton Street, stanching the hemorrhage seemed to lie in parking. The City of Savannah issued



Despite providing much needed parking, the Park & Shop clashed with downtown Savannah's aesthetics. (Courtesy of the City of Savannah, Office of Municipal Archives and History)

a 50-year lease of Ellis Square to the Savannah Merchants Co-operative Parking Association, allowing the demolition of the venerable old City Market and ushering in the creation of the "Park and Shop," a boxy concrete structure that preservationist Lee Adler called, "the ugliest damn parking garage in the United States."

Before it came down, there was time for the "Market Ball," a festive farewell to the old marketplace attended by Savannah's elite in the echo-y shell of City Market. It was a costumed affair. Guests dressed in homage to the market, showing up as bags of feed, cuts of ham, and oyster shuckers. The winners were Robert and Cornelia Grove, who appeared as a "Country Couple," guiding a horse-drawn wagon filled in the back with three additional couples – friends of theirs – into the market building.

Perhaps starting on that very evening, Savannahians realized the mistake of losing City Market. Less than a year later, a group of seven vigilant and concerned women saved the Isaiah Davenport House on Columbia Square from an identical fate - demolition in deference to parking. Thus, Savannah's flagship preservation institution, Historic Savannah Foundation, was born.

Savannah still lives with what it allowed to happen to City Market in 1954, as real estate interests and gentrification prompt the demolition of historically sensitive places. In his book, *Savannah in the New South*, Walter Fraser says, "City Market provided one of the few means of survival" for "non-white residents" whose "economic opportunities were severely restricted" in a segregated city.

In 2004, the 50-year lease that had led to the parking garage was set to expire. Reinterpretation of Ellis Square sparked a public conversation about what might be next. No one doubted that the "City Market Parking Garage" would be torn down, and no one lamented its loss (except for the deficit of 400 parking spaces in one of the busiest sections of the Historic District). Opinions abounded: Re-create a market structure like the one lost in 1954 and put a farmers' market there; replace the parking garage with another, more sensitively designed parking structure; "reclaim" the square as pedestrian space and relocate parking (very expensively) underground. The latter concept won out.

With the parking garage gone, Savannahians had a view of Ellis Square not seen since the 1750s when the first market structure was



Ellis Square today, looking north toward Bay Street

built. The plan, once achieved, proved popular, with its tables and chairs, a fountain splash pad, and public restrooms. But considering the market buildings that have occupied Ellis Square for such long stretches of its history, the opening of the square seems a-historical.

Today's City Market district is not limited to Ellis Square. Indeed, it merely starts at Ellis Square, then stretches west along a barricaded St. Julian Street to Franklin Square. Restaurants, art galleries, candy stores, and

escape rooms fill this stretch of erstwhile street, requiring visitors to use memory or imagination to recall the historic fabric and activity of Savannah's old City Market.

Roger Smith is a Savannah native who enjoys researching the history of his hometown. He is the director of The Learning Center of Senior Citizens, Inc., the premier lifelong learning program for older adults in Savannah and coastal Georgia. For more information, visit www.senior-citizensinc.org/tlc or call 912.236.0363.

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LABOR DAY QUIZ

Besides marking the unofficial end of summer, Labor Day is a time to honor work and workers. Take some time to test your knowledge of America's laborers and the holiday that celebrates them.

- 1 In 1794, The Federal Society of Journeyman Cordwainers was the first Union formed in the U.S. What was their trade?

a) blacksmith c) shoemakers
b) teachers d) bakers
- 2 In the 1950s one-third of all workers were union members. In 1983, it was 20 percent. What is the percentage today?

a) 10% b) 16 % c) 21% d) 26%
- 3 Women constituted 34 percent of the U.S. workforce in 1950. That rose to 60 percent in 2000. According to the latest employment report, that percentage today is:

a) 48% b) 58% c) 68% d) 73%
- 4 Women's pay was 43% less than men's in 1973. What is the differential today?

a) 12% b) 19% c) 22% d) 28%
- 5 Gulfstream is Savannah's largest employer. How many of its 18,000 jobs are in Savannah?

a) 6,000 b) 7,500 c) 10,000 d) 15,000
- 6 The world's largest employer has 2.99 million workers. Who is it?

a) The Chinese Liberation Army
b) The U.S. Department of Defense
c) Walmart
d) India's ministry of defense
- 7 In 1980, the top women's jobs, in order, were secretaries, teachers, bookkeeping clerks, and nurses. The most popular job for women in 2024 was

a) teacher c) home health worker
b) retail sales d) nurse
- 8 In 2000, 13 percent of the U.S. workforce was 55 or older. Today, that percentage is

a) 8% b) 11% c) 15% d) 18%
- 9 The nation's largest union in 1979 was the United Auto Workers (UAW) with 1.5 million members. How many members does the



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UAW have today?
a) 291,000 b) 391,000 c) 491,000 d) 591,000

10 The nation's largest union today has 2.9 million members. It is
a) the Teamsters
b) Service Employees International Union
c) the American Federation of Teachers
d) the National Education Association

11 Federal employment laws set a \$7.25 minimum wage for the nation's workforce. Georgia is an exception, specifically pertaining to workers working for companies with fewer than four employees or less than \$40,000 revenue. For them, what is Georgia's minimum wage?
a) \$3.15 b) \$4.15 c) \$5.15 d) \$6.15

12 The United Auto Workers launched what became the nation's longest labor strike against the Kohler Company in 1954. How long did it last?
a) 1 year b) 6 years c) 11 years d) 16 years

13 Labor Day was established as a national holiday in 1894, following a state holiday that dates to 1887. What was the first state to set a holiday honoring workers?
a) New York b) Oregon c) Michigan d) Georgia

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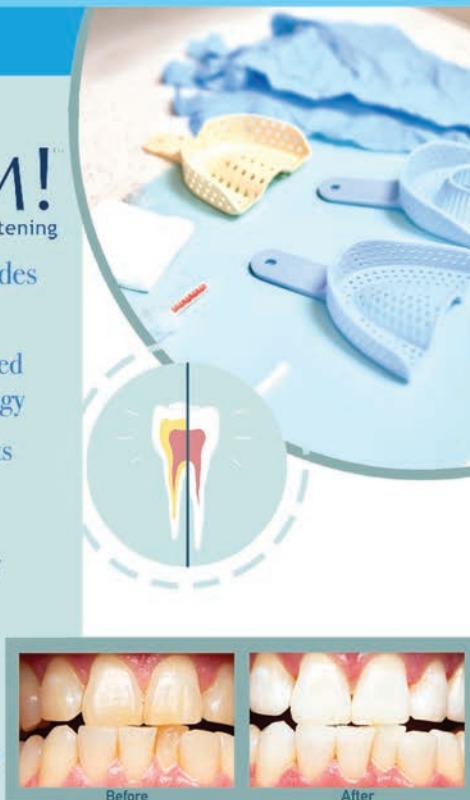
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- Gary and Karen Anklowitz

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Rachel Goldsmith, Au.D., CCC-A, is a senior audiologist at Georgia Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists

Understanding Hearing Loss

As we age, it's natural that our bodies change. Our bones lose strength, wrinkles appear around our eyes, and our hearts get slower. It's no surprise that our hearing degrades, too.

"Over time, the cells that make up our hearing system deteriorate or get damaged due to environmental factors or genetics, and that can cause hearing loss as we age," says Rachel Goldsmith, Au.D., CCC-A, senior audiologist at Georgia Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists. "Not everyone, but a lot of individuals will get presbycusis, which is that natural aging of the ear, which can cause hearing loss."

Hearing loss is common in the U.S., with

more than 200,000 cases reported yearly. Adults can experience hearing loss at any age. According to the National Institutes of Health, approximately 15 percent of American adults over 18 report some trouble hearing. Roughly two percent of adults in the 45-55 age range have disabling hearing loss, increasing to more than eight percent by ages 55-64, 25 percent from ages 65-75, and 50 percent of those who are 75 and older.

Besides aging, exposure to high levels of noise – heavy machinery, loud music, or military bombing – can affect hearing. Family history can also play a role. If you have a parent or grandparent who suffered hearing loss, you are more likely to experience the same issues. Certain medications, particular-

ly chemotherapy medications, can also cause hearing loss.

Signs and symptoms of hearing loss may include:

- Difficulty understanding words in background noise, such as at a restaurant
- Difficulty understanding TV or radio broadcasts at normal volume
- Perception that others are mumbling
- Frequently asking people to repeat themselves
- Avoiding social situations
- Tinnitus, or ringing in the ear

If you experience symptoms of hearing loss, you should see a specialist, such as your primary care physician, an ear/nose/throat

A Ministry of Compassionate Care

Pastoral care in a hospital or hospice setting helps provide emotional and spiritual support to patients, families, caregivers, and staff, by offering a compassionate, listening presence to those navigating severe illness or crisis. It is a vital part of care offered at St. Joseph's/Candler. The health system is privileged to partner with the Diocese of Savannah and Hospice Savannah to provide seminarians – men studying and training to become Catholic priests – an opportunity to learn about this special kind of ministry.

During the summer, future priests Benjamin Aler, Matthew Nyikwagh, and Samuel Terkura interned with various organizations to learn how to practice ministry in real-world situations. The training was part of a newly developed program within the health system called Summer Pastoral Experience.

"The program introduced seminarians to our local healthcare ministries, and it helped them feel welcome, confident, and prepared to make their own pastoral visits in the future," explains Brendan Moss, St. Joseph's/Candler vice president of mission services. "The seminarians served two days a week at either St. Joseph's or Candler Hospital and two days a week with Hospice Savannah and the Steward Center for Palliative Care. They also attended lectures from professionals in the field, with topics such as active listening and end-of-life questions."

Seminarian Benjamin Aler says, "Much of our ministry is going to be visiting with the dying or being with those in crisis. We've had a chance to learn from Father Matthew and Sister Maureen how they go about it and what works best for them. I noticed that dealing with illness can often draw up other worries, such as family tensions or financial issues. So even though it can be a heavy task, being here for a



L-R: Benjamin Aler, Matthew Nyikwagh, and Samuel Terkura.

person and talking them through that has been a privilege."

Seminarian Matthew Nyikwagh appreciates the opportunity to observe and put what he has learned into practice. "There are some things that we cannot learn from books," he notes. "Sometimes the best way to learn is by doing. This summer, I have been able to put myself in the shoes of others, and I've come to understand how important it is to be able to just be there with them."

Seminarian Samuel Terkura has felt the same way working at Candler Hospital with Rev. Columbus Burns and Sr. Veronica Kovach. "Compassionate presence is the most important thing," he says. "This is a wonderful place to learn that, because St. Joseph's/Candler has been so hospitable. This is a wonderful community."

Aler agrees that the sense of community has had a significant impact on his experiences and those of his fellow seminarians. "We've seen that pastoral care isn't just for patients," Aler says. "We can extend a listening ear to families, doctors, nurses, and staff. Pastoral care is here for everybody."

(ENT) doctor, or an audiologist, as soon as possible, especially if you have a sudden loss of hearing or loss of hearing in just one ear. You should see a doctor if you have hearing loss after taking medicine, or after having cold or flu symptoms.

"There are studies that have looked at long-term effects of untreated hearing loss, and it's been associated with decreased mem-

ory, higher incidences of depression and anxiety, especially with social withdrawal that can come with hearing loss, and a higher risk of falls," Goldsmith says.

Recognizing these quality-of-life risks associated with untreated hearing loss has shifted how some people view auditory care, with the benefits of treatment outweighing the loss of pride that can sometimes come with hear-

ing impairment. This shift in perspective has helped many people take charge of their cognitive and physical well-being earlier.

"There's been a reduction in the stigma of hearing loss and people are more proactive about their health," Goldsmith observes. "Patients are less resistant to treating their hearing loss, knowing the risks associated with untreated hearing loss."



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WORK IN PROGRESS

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Officially, Labor Day in the U.S. is the first Monday in September. Unofficially, it's thought of as the last weekend of summer, though the season extends through September 21. Labor Day has evolved beyond its original intent, into a three-day weekend celebrated with parades, parties, cookouts, and political speeches.

During our nation's first century, workers were not organized. The workforce was largely comprised of independent tradespeople relying on and offering specific skills. Carpenters, blacksmiths, farmers – they often operated as sole, contract providers. The relatively small nation was growing. If you were a capable laborer, your services were needed. There was much available work.

The Industrial Revolution of the late 19th

Century lured many immigrants from overseas to the "land of opportunity." Many new citizens had little money or formal education. Few had developed marketable skills, and they desperately sought any kind of employment. Consequently, many employers paid low wages while demanding long hours under miserable working conditions in unhealthy factories.

Eventually workers began banding together. The Central Labor Union Club in partnership with the Knights of Labor finally gathered enough members – approximately 10,000 people – to stage a parade and picnic in New York City on Tuesday (not a Monday), September 5, 1882. That gathering and march through Manhattan grew each year, as determined organizers encouraged workers to unite to demand improved employment con-

ditions and more equitable pay.

On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law establishing the first Monday of September as an annual federal holiday.

There are noted champions of the early labor movement. Peter J. McGuire (July 6, 1852 – February 18, 1906) was a 19th Century labor leader. He co-founded the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America in 1881 and became one of the leading figures in the first three decades of the American Federation of Labor (AFL). He is credited with first proposing the idea of a national holiday to honor the American worker. But his claim is not undisputed...

Another similarly surnamed man, Mat-



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threw Maguire (April 5, 1842 – January 9, 1915), a New Jersey machinist, is thought by many to be the first prominent organizer to propose a labor-focused holiday. This Maguire was the vice-presidential nominee of the Socialist Labor Party of America in 1896, running on the ticket alongside Charles H. Matchett. Despite his success as a promoter of early labor actions (strikes), his socialist affiliation made McGuire more palatable to mainstream Americans and political figures.



Peter J. McGuire (top) and Matthew Maguire (above)

People committed to improving worker benefits needed to be personally courageous. Their primary opponents were wealthy and powerful industrial tycoons who seldom showed mercy or consideration for those fighting for better working conditions. Tempers often flared and harsh efforts were made to silence the McGuires and Maguires of the day.

With a story like many early laborers, my father, Pacientino (Pat) Lauretti, emigrated from his native Italy when he was just 14 years old with only \$20 dollars in his pocket. He assimilated quickly, and his ambition, reliability, and early management skills enabled him to progress rapidly upward, first in the tin can industry and then in shoe manufacturing. By the age of 30, he owned a children's shoe company with a weekly output of 5,000 pairs.

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LABOR DAY BY THE NUMBERS

1,790 AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED PER PERSON PER YEAR IN THE U.S.

0 NUMBER OF LAWS REQUIRING U.S. EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE PAID VACATIONS TO EMPLOYEES. (THE U.S. IS THE ONLY ADVANCED ECONOMY IN THE WORLD THAT DOES NOT DO SO.)

11 PERCENTAGE OF U.S. EMPLOYEES WHO WORK MORE THAN 50 HOURS PER WEEK.

23 PERCENTAGE OF AMERICAN WORKERS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE PAID VACATION OR HOLIDAYS.

1/5 to 1/10 PORTION OF THEIR TIME AMERICANS SPEND ON UNPAID WORK (SUCH AS COOKING, CLEANING OR CARING).

\$46,440 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN THE U.S. (\$22.33 PER HOUR FOR FULL-TIME WORKERS).

161 MINUTES MEN SPEND EACH DAY DOING UNPAID DOMESTIC WORK ON AVERAGE IN THE U.S.

\$235,070 HIGHEST MEAN SALARY IN THE U.S.—EARNED BY ANESTHESIOLOGISTS (\$113.01 PER HOUR).

248 MINUTES WOMEN SPEND ON THE SAME WORK.

\$9.07 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FAST FOOD COOKS AND THE LOWEST MEAN SALARY IN THE U.S. (\$18,870 PER YEAR FOR FULL-TIME WORKERS).

25.4 AVERAGE NUMBER OF MINUTES IT TAKES U.S. WORKERS TO GET TO THEIR JOBS.

4.4 PERCENTAGE OF COMMUTERS WHO LEAVE FOR WORK BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 4:59 A.M.

\$53,000 ANNUAL AFTER-TAX EARNINGS A WASHINGTON D.C. RESIDENT NEEDS TO ACHIEVE AN EQUAL STANDARD OF LIVING TO A KENTUCKY RESIDENT WITH AFTER-TAX EARNINGS OF \$40,000 (DUE TO TAX AND COST OF GOODS VARIATIONS).

19 PERCENTAGE OF THEIR DISPOSABLE INCOME AMERICANS SPEND, ON AVERAGE, TO KEEP A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS.

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9/5/1882 DATE OF THE FIRST LABOR DAY HOLIDAY, HELD IN NEW YORK CITY BY THE CENTRAL LABOR UNION TO EXHIBIT "THE STRENGTH AND ESPRIT DE CORPS" OF TRADE AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.

\$115.74 VALUE OF GOODS THAT SAME \$100 WILL BUY YOU IN MISSISSIPPI.

1894 THE YEAR PRESIDENT GROVER CLEVELAND SIGNED LEGISLATION MAKING LABOR DAY A NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

SOURCES: ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD), BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH, THE TAX FOUNDATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

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Post-War manufacturing processes in the textile industries were slow and labor-intensive. Uniformity and quality could be difficult to optimize. The heel section of a shoe did not have much shape before it was attached to the rest of the shoe upper. My father, always seeking better ways to make a product, enlisted the help of a machine shop draftsman to design a rotating machine with six workstations. A heel section of a shoe upper would be formed on each workstation and ready for the next stage of production. It proved fast and easy for the worker to operate and greatly enhanced the quality of the final product. The Lauretti back-part molding machine was introduced to the industry and adopted in almost a hundred factories, until roughly 10 years later when competitors figured out a means to bypass the patent.

By then, my father had become well known for creating machines to improve production, for which he was recognized at the annual Southcentral Pennsylvania Shoe and Leather Association picnic in Hanover, Pennsylvania. When asked to address his peers and colleagues, he was lost for words (almost). Had they been there, I'm sure that many production workers would have thanked him for making production work easier, as he viewed technologic advancement as an engine to improve work rather than replace workers.

This is the delicate balance of modern progress. The American work ethic – a relentless drive to achieve and improve – has built an amazing nation. Our collective competitive spirit spurs us to create things that require workers to adapt to new systems and situations. But the human spirit is indomitable and will always influence our evolution as we work together to build a better tomorrow.



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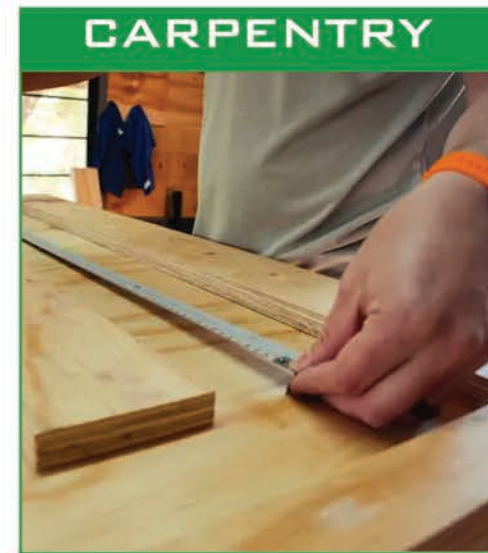
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WEATHER OR NOT

WHAT: Modern weather forecasting seminar, sponsored by the Power and Sail Squadron of Savannah

WHEN: Tuesday, Sep. 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: White Bluff Presbyterian Church, 10710 White Bluff Rd.

HOW MUCH: \$20 for Power Squadron members, \$35 for non-members

CONTACT: Contact Angela Margolit, amargolit@hotmail.com or 973.296.8011

WHAT ELSE: This seminar is intended to promote weather awareness on the water, but anyone interested in understanding why weather forecasting is such a challenge is welcome.

SEA FOR YOURSELF

WHAT: Skidaway Marine Science Day

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WHERE: UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium

HOW MUCH: Free

CONTACT: gacoast.uga.edu/events/ or Shannon Matzke at shannon.matzke@uga.edu or 912.598.2446

WHAT ELSE: A campus-wide open house with free entry to the UGA Aquarium and special access to areas usually not available with regular admission.

HELLO, SAILOR

WHAT: Basic Sailing Class, sponsored by the Landings Sailing Club

WHEN: Sunday, Oct. 18. - 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 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.

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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 for more information.

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: New Neighbors is one of the best ways to meet your neighbors, make new friends, and become part of our community. From biking, golf, pickleball, walking groups, and fishing to Mahjong, Bridge, needle arts, and Canasta, there's something for everyone. You'll also enjoy exciting tours, special events, and countless opportunities to connect with others on Skidaway Island.

TERRAPIN TIME

WHAT: Release of terrapin hatchlings

WHEN: Thursdays, Sep. 3 and 17, at 5 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 4 at 3 p.m.

WHERE: Sunset Park, Landings Way South

HOW MUCH: Free, donations appreciated

CONTACT: friendsofskidawayaudubon@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: Learn how Diamondback terrapin eggs are rescued and incubated, then help release the adorable hatchlings into the marsh. Online registration is required and opens July 19 at SkidawayAudubon.org. The events are open to all Landings residents; however, children must be age 6 or older to participate. Due to the event's popularity, please limit registrations to one release date per family. Parking is limited; golf carts are recommended. Dogs prohibited.

CHURCH CHAT

WHAT: Multiple Meanings: Gothic Church Interiors in Britain and the US in the 19th and 20th Centuries

WHEN: Thursday, Sep. 10, 6 p.m. Reception with the speaker to follow

WHERE: Green-Meldrim House, 327 Bull St., on Madison Square

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public, though seating reservations are required
CONTACT: 912.233.3845 or email info@green-meldrimhouse.org

WHAT ELSE: Unlock the symbolism of historic church interiors with Prof. Carol Herringer, PhD., of Georgia Southern University. Learn how new features, from raised altars to rood screens, were driven by changes in Eucharistic doctrine. The presentation will also feature local insights into the interior of St. John's Church.

POWER PLANTS

WHAT: P.E.O. Chapter BB Plant Sale

WHEN: Accepting orders now through Oct 1. Pick-up - Monday, Oct. 19 by last name: A-L - 11-11:45 a.m.; M-Z - 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.

HOW MUCH: Pricing varies on order form

CONTACT: Jane Holst at janeholst1399@comcast.net, 404.775.1442 or Jacqy Soderberg at jacqys@aol.com, 912.598.0342

WHAT ELSE: P.E.O. Is a philanthropic education organization that raises funds for scholarships and loans for women in higher education.

THE RIGHT STUFF

WHAT: Ladies on the Right September luncheon and meeting

WHEN: Thursday, Sep. 17, 12 noon - 2 p.m.

WHERE: Palmetto Ballroom at the Landings

HOW MUCH: \$37.50 for LOTR members and \$45 for non-members

CONTACT: Please visit www.ladiesontheright.org

WHAT ELSE: For reservations, please visit LadiesontheRight.org. Speaker will be Prof. Khalil Habib from Hillsdale College, speaking on "The Declaration and the Progressive Turn: How Progressives Undermine the Teaching of the Declaration of Independence on Natural Rights."

FOR THE BIRDS

WHAT: Osprey Update

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 17, 4 p.m.

WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.

HOW MUCH: Free for Friends of Skidaway Audubon members, \$5 for guests, cash only

CONTACT: skidawayaudubon.org

WHAT ELSE: Wildlife rehabilitator Barbara Slatcher, who runs the international site Osprey-Watch.org, will kick off Skidaway Audubon's 2026-27 speaker series. All are welcome to attend. Please pre-register online at SkidawayAudubon.org. Attendees are asked to park in the rear lot.

POSTAL PEOPLE

WHAT: Landings Stamp Club

WHEN: Friday, Sep. 18, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church conference room

HOW MUCH: Free

CONTACT: Carl Luecke, 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.

FUN AND GAMES

WHAT: Mahjong for Missions Fundraiser

WHEN: Saturday, Sep. 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church, 520 Washington Ave.

HOW MUCH: \$81.88

CONTACT: Emily Salzer, 615.579.0967, or Jillian Durant, 912.354.7615, or email communications@savannahfpc.org

WHAT ELSE: Please reserve your spot via Eventbrite. The in-person event combines competitive and casual tabletop gaming with community fundraising. Guests will enjoy Mahjong games on elegantly decorated tablescapes using classic tiles, accompanied by a catered lunch, bake sale, and prize opportunities throughout the morning.

I'M LOVIN' IT

WHAT: Landlovers kickoff reception

WHEN: Sep. 22

WHERE: Palmetto Ballroom

HOW MUCH: Your \$30 household membership covers a primary and secondary member for one year.

CONTACT: Learn more at www.landingslandlovers.com

WHAT ELSE: Come learn what's ahead, meet fellow supporters, and discover new ways to get involved with Landlovers this year.

GOOD GRIEF

WHAT: Understanding Your Grief support group

WHEN: Fridays, Sep. 25 - Dec. 4, 3:30-5 p.m.

WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.

CONTACT: For more information and registration, please contact MessiahSK@gmail.com or 912.598.1188, or Dr. Karen Scheib, kscheib@emory.edu or 404.401.0219

WHAT ELSE: Please register by Sep. 18. This 10-week support group will keep the same members throughout. Registration closes after the first session, and additional members will not join

along the way.

MUSICAL MARRIAGE

WHAT: Dr. Jeremy Samolesky, piano, and Dr. Alina Windell, flute, in concert

WHEN: Friday, Sep. 25, at 7 p.m.

WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.

HOW MUCH: Free; Donations appreciated

CONTACT: Visit STPSAV.org/music or call Lyndall Stanley, 912.596.3480

WHAT ELSE: This husband-and-wife duo has performed across the U.S. and festival stages in Italy. Dr. Samolesky is a Steinway Artist and head of keyboard studies at Auburn University. Dr. Windell holds degrees from Indiana University, Stony Brook University, and the University of Colorado.

MAKE A BED

WHAT: Building Beds for Kids to benefit Sleep in Heavenly Peace

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 3, 8 a.m. to 12 noon

WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.

CONTACT: Lisa Oswald, laoswald@icloud.com

WHAT ELSE: Help us end child bedlessness in Savannah. No special experience required, just a willing hand to help provide a child with a safe, comfortable place to sleep. Breakfast, snacks, and water included.

STEPPING OUT

WHAT: Walk to End Alzheimer's - Coastal Georgia

WHEN: Saturday, Oct 3, at 9 a.m. - registration; Walk at 10:30

WHERE: Forsyth Park, downtown Savannah

CONTACT: Kate Ash, 912.920.3018 orkmash@alz.org

WHAT ELSE: All funds raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's further the care, support, and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. All donations are tax-deductible. Walk either 1 or 3 miles.

NOURISHING NOTES

WHAT: Free concert with Savannah-based band The Bourbon Boys

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 9, 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Landings Marina picnic grounds

HOW MUCH: Free

CONTACT: Mimi Krupp, mimikrupp7@gmail.com or 912.401.7775

WHAT ELSE: A benefit for Second Harvest (Feeding America), Kids Café. Donations will be gratefully accepted to help alleviate hunger for the children of Georgia.

ISLAND
HOPPING

BETWEEN THE LINES

WHAT: Author Conversation Series

WHEN: Monday, Oct. 12, 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 Savannah author Barbara Lohr and her wide array of novels. The event includes a presentation by the author, Q&A, and book signing.

MERCY MEALS

WHAT: Drive-by food collection to benefit All Angels food pantry for food-insecure local families and the homeless

WHEN: Sunday, Nov. 8, 3-4:30 p.m.

WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 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, gravy mix, stovetop stuffing, boxed potato and rice options, corn muffin mix, cranberry sauce, mac and cheese, small bags of nuts or dried fruit, cake, and cookie or brownie mixes.

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: Mark Piven, 912.224.5869. Please leave a message or text

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@niacdc.org or 912.447.5577

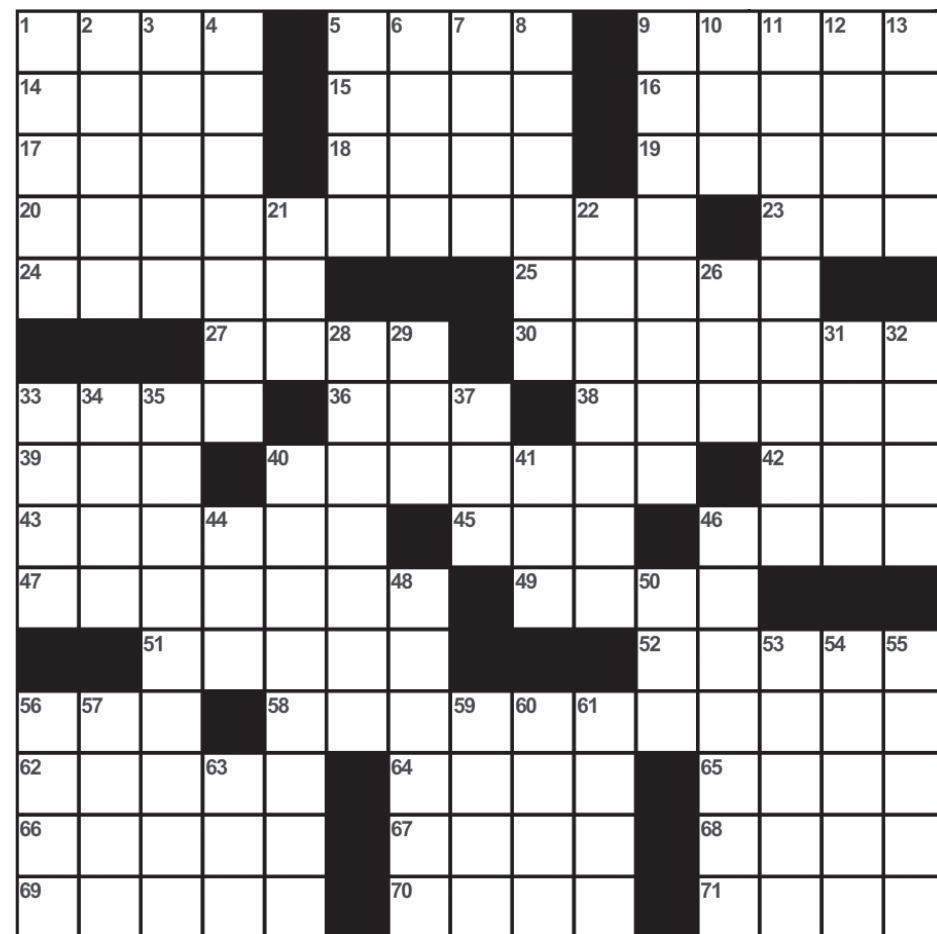
WHAT ELSE: This program helps underserved communities by offering free tax preparation. No experience necessary. Volunteers include greeters/screeners and tax preparers.

ACROSS

1. Float, as an aroma
5. Healthful seaweed
9. Title of respect in colonial India
14. Out of work
15. Melange
16. Treasure cache
17. 1200 hours
18. Coal quantity
19. Brilliant achievement
20. Fortuneteller's prop
23. A cannon has three
24. Provide funding for
25. Archeological find
27. It wasn't built in a day
30. Like a pageant winner, e.g.
33. Wrestling pads
36. Indy's quest
38. Dangerous fast
39. Just survive (with "out")
40. Gunshot evidence
42. "Coming out" miss, briefly
43. The girls from uncle?
45. Smoker's residue
46. It comes between money and everything
47. Beats, as an incumbent
49. Like the sea
51. Resilient many-headed monster
52. Odd-numbered page
56. Mystifying Mr. Geller
58. "Yeah, us too!"
62. Concealed
64. In ____ of (supplanting)
65. Top rating
66. Shakespeare's "____ Andronicus"
67. Get the crowd warmed up
68. Some recyclables
69. Beginning
70. Sounded, as a doorbell
71. Inner Hebrides island

DOWN

1. Pain result
2. Decorate



3. "Pretty Boy" of crime
4. Stretching muscles
5. Coke nut
6. Ab follower on the Hebrew calendar
7. Arm or leg
8. Andy Warhol genre
9. Arranged like rays or radii
10. Curved path formation
11. Assets hidden until needed
12. Infamous czar
13. Puts money on the roulette table
21. Enough to tango
22. Suit of the '70s
26. Retirement-fund letters
28. Eminent conductor
29. Pauses in speech
31. Splittable by two
32. Plastic user's concern
33. It lists courses

34. Like family
35. Common souvenirs
37. Baby fox
40. Make more tweaks to
41. Junior's senior
44. Ron who hit 316 home runs
46. Medicinal syrups
48. Popeye or Sinbad, e.g.
50. It may come before long?
53. Dagger partner
54. Bluefin, for one
55. At the high end of the scale?
56. "What've you been ____?"
57. Bridle feature
59. Thatching palm
60. Acne sufferer
61. Deadlocked, as a jury
63. Word on an invoice

Puzzle answers, page 33

\$30 each, with a maximum of 50 words • \$5 for each additional 10 words
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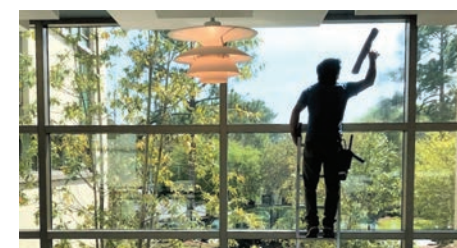
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SMU at Florida St.

TIEBREAKER

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

Email picks to mail@theskinny.com.
Or send your entry the old-fashioned way
to: **The Skinny, 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!*

We're Giving It Away!

The Skinny Football Pick 'Em Pool

It's an annual tradition and it's back. You're invited to join the fun. Enter this contest and win bragging rights and prizes. Everyone is welcome. It's easy. Predict the winning team for each game. Guess more winners correctly than the other prognosticators. For the tiebreaker game, forecast the total points that the two teams will score (combined).

The first installment of our pool is all college games. Twenty of them, to be played between Friday, September 4, and Monday, September 7. **Entries are due by 5 p.m., Friday, September 4.**



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WILDTHINGS

GRAB YOUR CAMERA!

You live in a photographer's paradise. Keep those local nature snapshots coming our way. The bigger the photo, the better, so we can really show you off.



Debbi Gaston snapped these photos of a mink she found exploring Skidaway Island.
"He was so cute," she says, as her photos will attest.

"Wild Things" is a regular feature in The Skinny, featuring your photographs of our beloved island. Email your high-resolution photos to production@theskinny.com. Please include your name and a little info about where the photo was taken.



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As an avid workout enthusiast and competitive bodybuilder, Kenneth was taken by surprise when he suddenly began feeling intensely ill. Luckily, he was just a short walk from the Candler Hospital Emergency Room – where he suffered a massive heart attack during his examination.

Literally bringing him back from death after 30 minutes of CPR, the Candler team put him on a ventilator and called Dr. William Crosland. Kenneth was transported to The Heart Hospital at St. Joseph's Hospital, where Dr. Crosland inserted an Impella and followed it up with a coronary stent. After 30 days in a coma and 2 months in the hospital, Kenneth has made a full recovery. He's back to working out and still in awe of the lifesaving care he received from Dr. Crosland and the entire St. Joseph's/Candler team.

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