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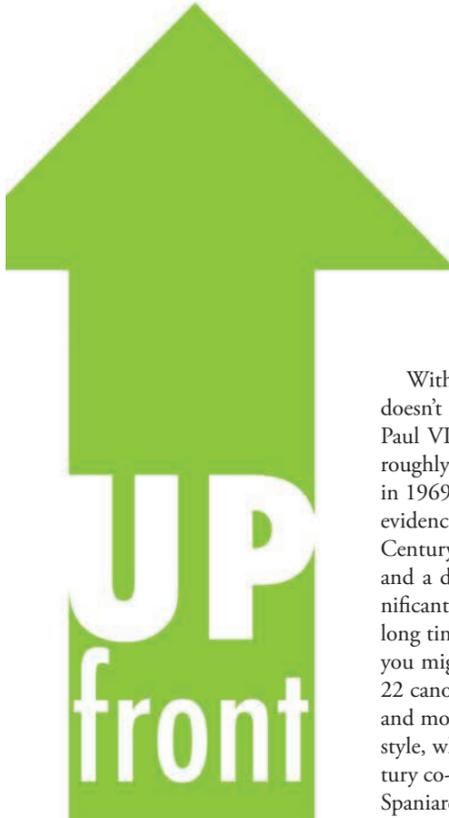
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*"He's no saint."*

*We use this idiom to remind ourselves that, despite our best intentions, we are flawed.*

With respect to Valentine, the man, the statement doesn't apply, because he IS a saint, even though Pope Paul VI and the Catholic Church removed him (and roughly 200 others) from the General Roman Calendar in 1969. The pope's decision cited a lack of verifiable evidence about Valentine's deeds (he died in the 3rd Century, so the information gaps are understandable) and a desire to make room for more "universally significant" saints. To further complicate matters, for a long time, Valentine was a more common handle than you might think. Ecclesiastical teachings acknowledge 22 canonized saints with the name. Nine were bishops and most were priests of some level, 12 died in martyr style, while one was an officer in the army of 3rd Century co-Emperor Maximian. There are Italians, French, Spaniards, Germans, and Belgians among the lot.

What do we believe we know about the OV (Original Valentine)? He was a priest. Or, perhaps, two priests with the same name who improbably died on the same day, purported to be February 14. Valentine – or the two Valentines (not to be confused with the oft-and-particularly-by-children-misspoken "Valentines" in reference to the lovers' holiday) – was/were beheaded by orders of Emperor Claudius Gothicus (not the I Claudius guy) as punishment for his/their Christian beliefs. Given the low statistical likelihood of two same-named martyrs facing execution on the same day, I'll risk the modern-day offense of mis-pronouncing the saint(s); rather than "they/them," I'll go with "he/him" for the rest of this story.

From where does Valentine's link to love derive? There seem to be three main branches to this tree. First, some historians suggest that Valentine secretly officiated at wedding ceremonies for Roman soldiers who were forbidden to marry. He was the go-to clandestine cleric for amorous warriors and their wives-in-waiting. Additionally, there's a tale concerning Valentine's pre-beheading imprisonment...antiquarian death-row scuttlebutt. Valentine's jailer had a daughter, and she was blind. The prisoner wrote the girl letters, prayed for her, and her sight was restored. The girl was suddenly able to read Valentine's letters, which were filled with messages of

encouragement and Christian love. He signed the final letter, written on the day of his death, "From Your Valentine." In a 17-centuries-long game of telephone, this act morphed into kindergartners bringing boxes full of folded heart-cards to school and men rushing last minute to jewelry stores. Lastly, some religious scholars suggest that Valentine's tragic fate – murder as punishment for his Christian beliefs – is a metaphor for the ultimate undying love – the love of and for God.

Hokey as it might be, it's never a bad idea to reflect on the love we have for those who are dearest to us. This kind of love, because of its enduring nature, is especially comfortable and familiar, which are feelings that can claim close cousinship to complacency. In ironic cruelty, complacency can become the archenemy of long-term love. So, resist the temptation to rue the commercial evolution of the martyred-priest's formerly-papal-official feast day and spring for the chocolates and flowers and, if you're having a good year, caviar (I got some for 20 percent off).

I'm old-fashioned, in some ways, so I'll focused on the ladies whom I love in ways that will forever differentiate them to me. My wife: She's steadfast and adorable and idiosyncratic and clever and wonderful and uniquely suited to magnify the joy in my life. My daughters: They will not understand the all-consuming, unrelenting, impossible-to-properly-convey and infinitely rewarding and sometimes painful nature of my love for them until they have children of their own. My mom: Without her, I am, literally, nothing. My children's mother: She gave the world the great gift of our girls and the legacy of a life lived with purpose and courage until the end. As the girl in the jail received the gift of vision from Valentine, I SEE YOU, each one of you, today and every day, even when I'm foolishly hesitant to say it out loud.

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Wishing all our readers a joyful Valentine's Day.

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# GRAVE CIRCUMSTANCES

## Laurel Grove South Cemetery

By Roger Smith

In the 1850s, the City of Savannah acquired former plantation land and dedicated a new municipal cemetery known as Laurel Grove to the west of Savannah. Soon after, the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (of New York's Central Park fame) visited the South and hiked into the new burying ground. His trek included the meager few acres at the south end of the tract – the place for “Negro” interments.

Olmsted wrote: “I walked in and found much, in the monuments, to interest me. Some of these were billets of wood, others were of brick and marble, and some were pieces of plank, cut into the ordinary form of tombstones. I spent some time examining the inscriptions, the greater number of which were evidently painted by self-taught Negroes.”

Indeed, the portion of the cemetery set aside for people of color – later called Laurel Grove South – would feature far more “pieces of plank” than “brick and marble.” It would occupy fewer acres, and those acres would be in the lowest-lying (read: swampiest) areas. Laurel Grove South would enjoy virtually no landscaping attention, becoming the austere sister to what City of Savannah Municipal Archives director Luciana Spracher calls the “riot” of Victorian sculpture populating the parts of Laurel Grove for white Christians and Jews.

Laurel Grove (North and South) is Victorian in its construct – parklike and inviting rather than urban and bleak. The rural cemetery movement that migrated from England to America, including to Savannah, in the mid-1800s, made cemeteries into bucolic destinations, places for carriage rides and sites for family gatherings. Thus, Laurel Grove North boasted serpentine pathways and august statuary, even as

Laurel Grove South gave more the feel of an open pasture with rows of graves in unimaginative lanes.

By the 1850s, Savannah's in-town cemeteries were a mess. Woefully overcrowded, the urban cemetery known as Colonial Park groaned with nearly 10,000 burials, despite identifiable markers for only some 600. A little farther south, midcentury maps tell us, were smaller burying grounds marked for “Negroes” and “Strangers.” These tracts were in the path of 1850s expansion and development that would include Whitefield and Calhoun Squares, respectively.

When Laurel Grove opened, the City of Savannah offered white families the opportunity to remove their dear departed from Colonial Park and reinter them at Laurel Grove free of charge, both as a way to alleviate the overcrowding at the old cemetery and give the new cemetery a boost; priming the pump, as it were, for receiving future burials.

What of Laurel Grove South? An 1855 news article reports the city allocated \$722 for burial removals from the Negro and strangers burying grounds to Laurel Grove. It is unclear that all were moved, but what is clear is that the relocated burials were placed in mass graves in the southern (segregated) section of the new cemetery.

There were exceptions. Giants of 1700s and 1800s Black history were treated with a degree of respect. The Reverend Andrew Bryan and his brother Deacon Sampson Bryan, both founding leaders of the historic First African Baptist Church, along with the Reverend Henry Cunningham, first pastor of Second African Baptist Church, were removed from their intown resting places to dignified graves in Laurel Grove.



The remains of brothers Andrew and Sampson Bryan, founding leaders of the historic First African Baptist Church, were moved from their original graves to Laurel Grove South.

As both enslaved and free people of color died in the latter half of the 19th Century, their families often buried them in Laurel Grove South. Slave burials were marked with wooden headstones, susceptible to deterioration. Nevertheless, there still exists an identifiable and marked area for slave burials. One of them is the grave of “Old Tom” (1808-1904), slave to Capt. John Wheaton, a planter and veteran of the Confederate Army. In addition to the remarkably advanced age of this lifelong servant, Tom has another, more dubious distinction.

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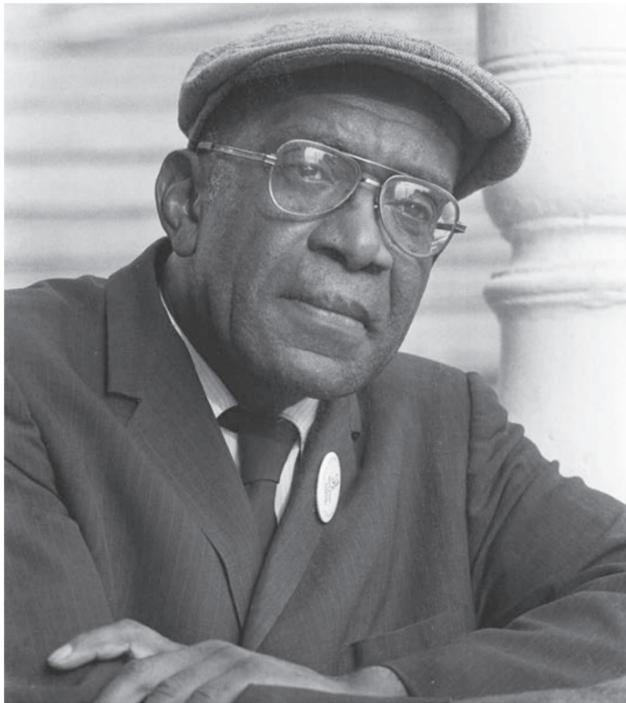
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Civil rights activist W.W. Law led the preservation of Laurel Grove South, as well as other historical sites in Savannah's African American community.

His grave is one of only two marked with the Southern Cross of the Confederacy, an honor to (usually a white person's) service to the Rebellion.

This surprising fact is just one of many revealed in a 1998 publication entitled *An Historical Guide to Laurel Grove Cemetery South*. Savannah historian Dr. Charles Elmore presents a pantheon of Black history in his small book, cataloging and chronicling scores of notable burials, along with facts-are-stranger-than-fiction details of the lives represented by the graves. Elmore reveals that the Bryans and Cummingham are not the only giants interred at Laurel Grove.

James M. Simms (1823-1912) enjoyed as fortunate a childhood as a person born into slavery might wish. His indulgent master, who was likely also his father, included Simms in the instruction offered his own legitimate children by a French tutor. Thus, James Simms learned to read and write not only English but also French. After purchasing his own freedom in 1857, he set about teaching other enslaved people to read and write. His crime was discovered in 1864, as the Civil War raged on. For the infraction, Simms was both fined and publicly whipped (whites convicted of teaching Blacks were only fined). During Reconstruction, he was one of the few Black Georgians to serve in the state legislature during the brief period before whites reasserted their supremacy in the South. He also sat on the bench of a senatorial court and remained a leader in church governance in Savannah.

Jane DeVeaux (1811-1885) was another teacher of Black children during slave times. Unlike Simms, she was born a "free person of

color," following the condition of her free-born mother, with whom she taught children illegally for 30 years. A seamstress by trade, she camouflaged her illicit school by sewing uniforms for Confederate soldiers and encouraging her young students to bring books to her home hidden in pails and baskets, pretending that they too were learning her trade. She was never caught or punished.

The 20th Century "giant" buried at Laurel Grove was a diminutive postman named Westley Wallace Law (1923-2002). Not only was W.W. Law buried at Laurel Grove South, he's nearly-single-handedly responsible for the preservation of the historic cemetery. For years, he cleaned gravesites, captured fading inscriptions, toured interested visitors, and lobbied for appropriate recognition of the historic grounds. Outside the cemetery, Law was an early civil rights activist with Savannah's nascent NAACP. He is also largely responsible for preserving the Beach Institute and King-Tisdell Cottage sites and for creating the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum. Visiting his grave at Laurel Grove means paying respect to the father of the cemetery's preservation and the dean of civil rights in Savannah.

Indeed, visiting Laurel Grove South is a duty for Savannahians. It's fine and good to stand in awe of the monuments in Laurel Grove North and Bonaventure, to marvel at the accomplishments of the white men and women whose legacy is the city of Savannah itself. But to walk the lanes of Laurel Grove South is to pay respect to those who achieved great things despite overwhelming obstacles, making their accomplishments particularly praiseworthy.

*Roger Smith is the director of The Learning Center at Senior Citizens Inc., Savannah's lifelong learning program with lectures, courses, and educational programs in the humanities. A native of Savannah, he is former director of education at the Georgia Historical Society. Find more information about The Learning Center at [www.seniorcitizens-inc.org/the-learning-center](http://www.seniorcitizens-inc.org/the-learning-center).*



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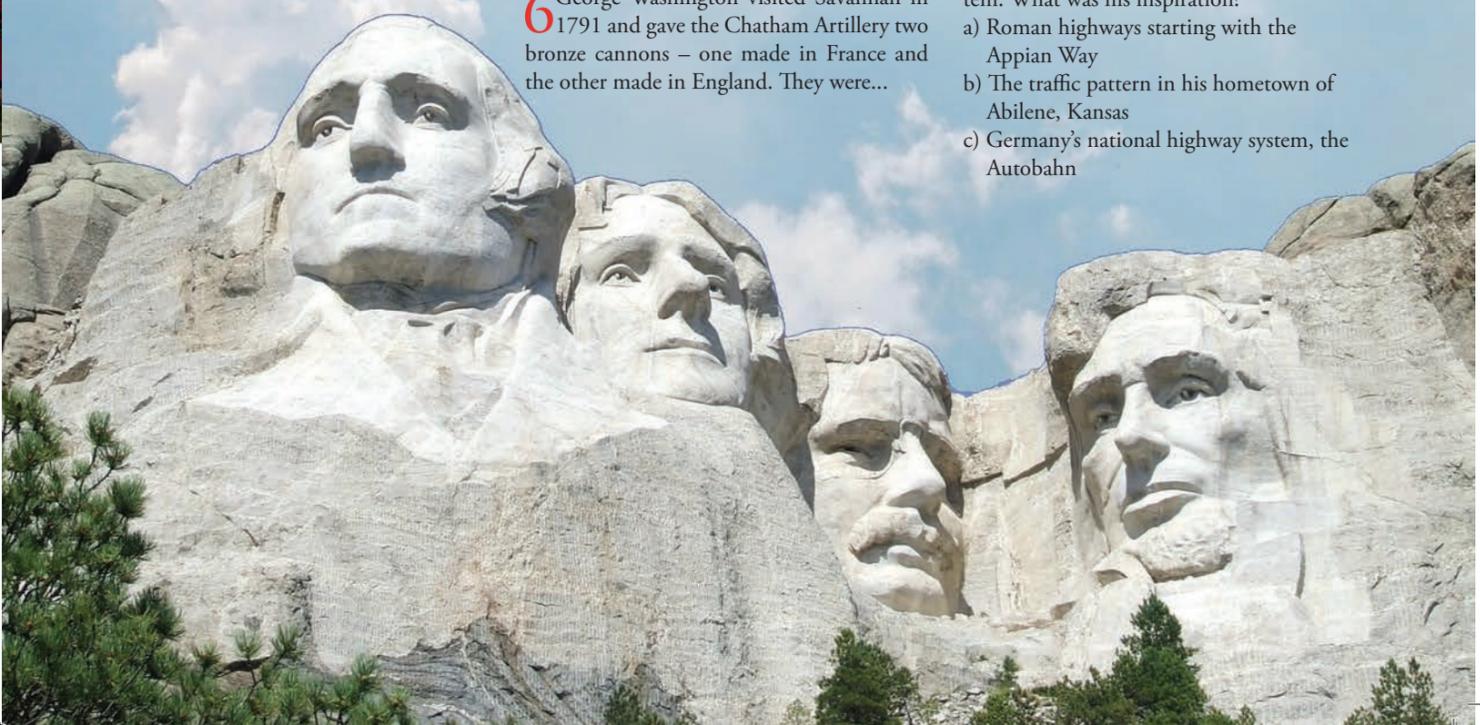
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# HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

A Presidents Day Quiz by Jim Toedtman

On February 16, we celebrate Presidents Day, honoring the nation's 46 heads of state. Test your knowledge of our Commanders in Chief and the office they've held.

- 1 Congress decided in 1789 to address the new chief executive as "President of the United States." Congress had weighed several options. Which of the following was not one of those options?
  - a) His Excellency
  - b) His Mightiness
  - c) His Reverence
  - d) His Elective Majesty
- 2 The average salary for the University of Georgia's 10 assistant football coaches is \$923,000. The salary for a U.S. President is...
  - a) \$800,000
  - b) \$600,000
  - c) \$500,000
  - d) \$400,000
- 3 Walmart, the world's largest private employer, has 2.1 million employees. How many people, not including the military, work at the president's direction in the executive branch of the U.S. government?
  - a) 900,000
  - b) 1.2 million
  - c) 2.3 million
  - d) 3.2 million
- 4 In 250 years, no president has ever been convicted after being impeached. Which of the following was NOT impeached?
  - a) Richard Nixon
  - b) Donald Trump
  - c) Andrew Johnson
  - d) Bill Clinton
- 5 George Washington's executive branch consisted of three cabinet-level departments – State, War, and the Treasury. Four more were added by 1860 – Navy, Interior, the Attorney General, and the Postal Service. How many cabinet level departments are there today?
  - a) 5
  - b) 10
  - c) 15
  - d) 20
- 6 George Washington visited Savannah in 1791 and gave the Chatham Artillery two bronze cannons – one made in France and the other made in England. They were...
  - a) gifts from his friend, Marquis de LaFayette
  - b) captured at the Battle of Yorktown
  - c) once used in the defense of New York City
  - d) transferred from the U.S.S. Constitution, "Old Ironsides"
- 7 George Washington named his pet dogs Drunkard, Madame Moose, and Sweet Lips. But he never lived in the White House. Which of the following presidents brought their family pets into the White House?
  - a) John Adams' dog, Satan
  - b) Benjamin Harrison's opossums, Mr. Reciprocity and Mr. Protection
  - c) Rutherford Hayes' cats, Miss Pussy and Piccolomini
  - d) Theodore Roosevelt's guinea pigs, Admiral Dewey and Fighting Bob Evans
  - e) all the above
- 8 President Dwight Eisenhower gets credit for launching the Interstate Highway System. What was his inspiration?
  - a) Roman highways starting with the Appian Way
  - b) The traffic pattern in his hometown of Abilene, Kansas
  - c) Germany's national highway system, the Autobahn



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d) the 16,000-mile Pan American Highway from Alaska to Argentina

**9** The congressional and judicial checks on presidential power imposed by the Constitution bridled presidents until the 20th Century. Presidents expanded their power because they could appeal for public support directly to mass audiences. Herbert Hoover was the first to use radio and Harry S. Truman was the first to use television. The first President to hold a live, televised press conference was...

- a) Lyndon Johnson                      c) Dwight Eisenhower  
b) Harry Truman                        d) John F. Kennedy

**10** Georgia had a critical role in the so-called "Stolen Election" of 1876. That's when Rutherford B. Hayes overcame a 250,000-vote deficit by convincing three Southern states to switch their electoral votes to him with the promise that he would end forced reconstruction and remove Northern troops and carpetbaggers from the South. Georgia finally refused to abandon the voters' choice, Samuel J. Tilden, but three states did switch, giving the presidency to Hayes. Which were they?

- a) Texas                                      c) South Carolina                      e) Louisiana  
b) Florida                                    d) Mississippi                            f) Alabama

**11** In 1910, this president threw the ceremonial opening day pitch at a Washington Senators-Philadelphia Athletics baseball game. Actually, the president tossed it from his seat to Washington pitcher Walter Johnson. Who was president?

- a) Theodore Roosevelt                      c) William Howard Taft  
b) William McKinley                        d) Woodrow Wilson

**12** Match the presidents with the slogans that helped make them famous:

- |                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) Theodore Roosevelt | 1. 54 40 or fight                     |
| b) Donald Trump       | 2. I'll never tell a lie              |
| c) James Polk         | 3. Speak softly and carry a big stick |
| d) Jimmy Carter       | 4. Make America great again           |

**13** When Lyndon Johnson signed the bill creating Medicare in 1965, he honored this president for his support for federally sponsored health care for the elderly and made him the first recipient of a Medicare card.

- a) Grover Cleveland                        c) John F. Kennedy  
b) Harry Truman                            d) Franklin D. Roosevelt

**14** When he retired as president in 1796, George Washington delivered a farewell address warning American citizens to protect the young nation and avoid what he considered critical future threats. What problems did he foresee?

- a) U.S. intervention in domestic affairs of other nations  
b) a lack of civic education  
c) hyper-political partisanship  
d) fiscal irresponsibility  
e) all the above

ANSWERS ON PAGE 28



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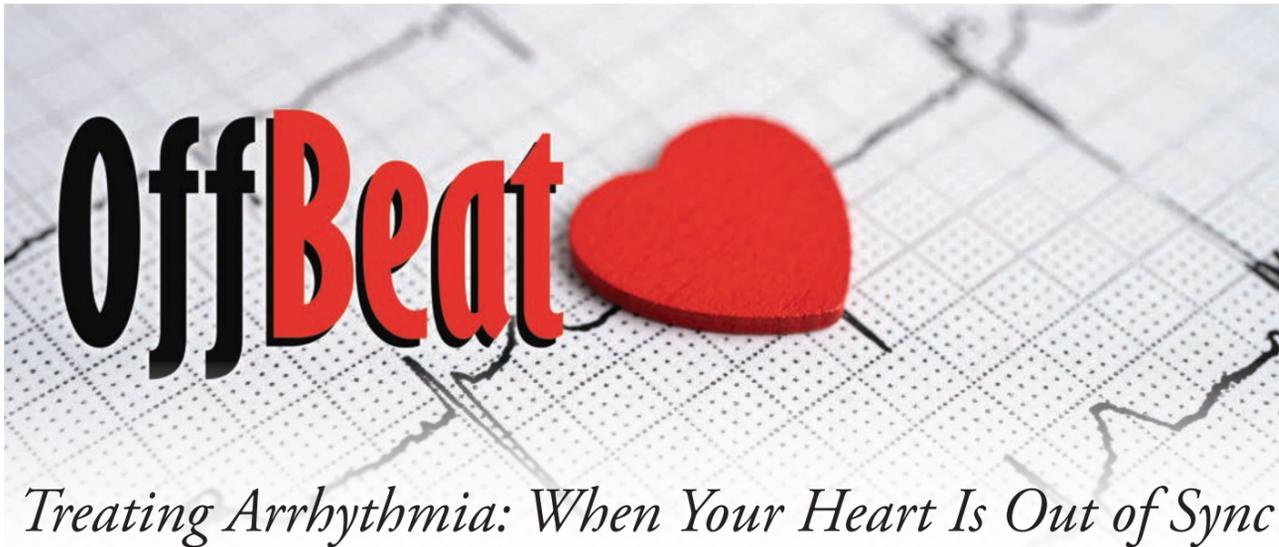
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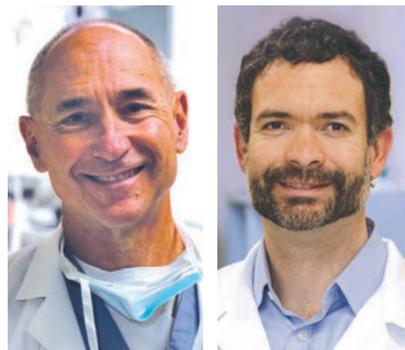
# OffBeat

## Treating Arrhythmia: When Your Heart Is Out of Sync

If you're watching a live band and the drummer is not in time with the rest of the players, you know it. You don't have to be a musician to hear the problem. Something is just...off. Your heart is your body's drummer. If it doesn't keep the beat properly, it can't pump blood the way it should. If blood doesn't get properly pumped to the brain, lungs, and other organs, these organs can suffer.

"It starts with an electrical signal to direct the timing of the heart muscle's contraction," explains cardiologist Michael B. Chisner, MD, of Cardiology Associates of Savannah. Chisner is an electrophysiologist, a physician expert in diagnosing and treating problems with the heart's electrical system.

If the electrical signal causes the heart to beat too quickly, too slowly, or erratically, the resulting condition is known as an arrhythmia. "Disorganized, multiple impulses can cause the heartbeat to be erratic and less effective," elaborates cardiologist and electrophysiologist Daniel Cobb, MD, who also practices at Cardiology Associates of Savannah.



Michael B. Chisner, MD and Daniel Cobb, MD, of Cardiology Associates of Savannah

Depending on its severity, arrhythmia might require medication and possibly a procedure called radiofrequency ablation.

When a heart stops beating, the condition is cardiac arrest, which can be fatal in minutes. Then it stands to reason that if the heart has a beat, it's healthy, right? Not quite. The heart has four chambers that must beat in rhythm for the blood to pump effectively.

While some arrhythmias are brief and make little difference, longer lasting arrhythmias could put your health at risk.

Common types include:

- **Tachycardia** – A racing heartbeat: In adults, a heart rate of more than 100 beats per minute. The heart's chambers don't fill completely between contractions, affecting blood flow to other organs.
- **Bradycardia** – In adults, a heart rate of fewer than 60 beats per minute (exceptions include deep sleep or physically-active/fit adults at rest). The slow rate causes insufficient blood flow.
- **Atrial fibrillation (AFib)** – An irregular heartbeat. Without a steady, regular beat, blood that is not pumped through the heart system can pool and become clotted. Blood clots can block the blood supply to the brain, causing a stroke.

"AFib is one of the most common arrhythmias we see," Dr. Cobb says.

## SEEING RED

St. Joseph's/Candler co-workers got decked out in red for Wear Red Day on February 6. This special day was created by the American Heart Association to kick off American Heart Month. The idea is to support heart patients and raise awareness of heart health.

Did you know that cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death globally?



Even so, there is good news: Simple lifestyle changes like following a healthy diet, quitting smoking, and staying active can lower a person's heart disease risk by nearly 50 percent. That's worth celebrating!



People with AFib may experience palpitations, which is the fluttering or pounding of the heartbeat that can be felt, often combined with symptoms of dizziness, fatigue, and shortness of breath. Some people, however, experience no symptoms. "The difference can be quite striking, as some folks are asymptomatic while others are incredibly symptomatic and know every minute of the day that they are in AFib," Cobb says.

Both types of AFib patients could have increased risk for stroke. Blood that remains unpumped in the heart can form a clot. If the clot is later pumped out to an artery leading to the brain, it could end up blocking that artery and cause a stroke.

If you feel a flutter in your chest, are dizzy or lightheaded, or if your heartbeat feels too fast or slow when you're not exerting yourself, talk with your doctor. "It may not be a medically significant problem," Dr. Chisner explains. "But you won't know unless you get

it checked out."

Dr. Cobb agrees and urges people to get a workup rather than put it off. "When you have a patient who has consistently had AFib for many years versus a patient who is early in their diagnosis, the conversation about success rates changes," he says. "That doesn't mean it's an emergency and I must treat you the next day. But early referral and evaluation for people who have symptoms has shown to lead to better outcomes."

If your arrhythmia does require treatment, there are medications that work in tandem to inhibit or correct abnormal electrical signals. Patients might also take anticoagulants (sometimes known as blood thinners) to reduce the risk of blood clots. Medication therapy for arrhythmia is typically long-term, perhaps even for the rest of your life. If medication doesn't work, or the side effects are too severe, some patients are candidates for a radiofrequency ablation. This procedure uses

radiofrequency energy to target and destroy the heart cells creating the abnormal signal.

For the ablation procedure, the doctor guides a catheter through a blood vessel to your heart using live X-ray imaging. Once there, the physician sends electric impulses to the heart, which activates the abnormal cells and reveals their location. Radiofrequency energy is then transmitted through the catheter to the problem area. The energy ablates, or destroys, the cells causing the arrhythmia, while the rest of the heart remains undamaged. Patients can often go home the same day, and most can return to their normal activities within a few days.

You may experience irregular heartbeats occasionally after the procedure as the tissue heals. "It might be gradual, but it will correct the problem," Chisner says. "Your heart will beat in the rhythm that is right for you."

# Heart Health Is Ear-risistible



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Dr. Casey Allen Boalen, CCC-A, Dr. Sieon Kim, CCC-A,  
Dr. Katy Laws, CCC-A, Dr. Sara King Rossiter, CCC-A

**Did you know that** your ears and heart share a special connection? Healthy blood flow to the ears from a properly functioning heart supports hearing, while poor circulation due to heart disease may reduce that blood flow, contributing to hearing loss.

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

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



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# DELTA FORCE



**They Serve by Ron Lauretti**

The word “easy” is seldom associated with the work of Delta Force, but the phrase “mission accomplished” is. The U.S Army’s Delta Force operates with the motto, “Sine Pari,” Latin for “without equal.”

On the shoulder of their dress uniform, Delta Force soldiers proudly wear a distinct

patch depicting a Fairborn-Sykes fighting knife inside a red arrowhead. The host unit is officially known as the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment (1st SFOD), widely considered the Army’s most elite fighting force. Delta fighters specialize in the most complex, covert, and dangerous missions – counterterrorism, hostage rescue, and direct actions against high-value targets. Operating in small, elite teams, there is no margin for error in anything it does, executing missions with surgical precision.

Most Delta Force operators and combat support members are chosen from the Army Special Operations Command’s 75th Ranger Regiment and Special Forces. However, selection

is open to other special operations and conventional units throughout the armed forces.

The roots of Delta Force date back to the early 1970s, when Col. Charles Beckwith, a Green Beret and Vietnam War veteran, served as an exchange officer with a British



**Col. Charles Beckwith**

Special Air Service regiment. On his return, Beckwith submitted a detailed report advocating the Army establish a comparable unit. He envisioned highly adaptable and completely autonomous small teams with a broad range of special skills for direct action and counter-terrorism missions.

After several well-publicized terrorist incidents, the Pentagon appointed Beckwith to form a full-time counter-terrorism unit in 1977. He estimated that it would take 24 months to get his new unit mission ready. Initial applicants were screened from volunteers and put through a rigorous selection process to test each candidate’s endurance, stamina, and mental resolve. The first training course lasted from April to September of 1978. In fall 1979, Delta Force was certified as fully mission capable.

Training to become a Delta Force member is extremely challenging, both physically and mentally.



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In 1991, Delta Force bodyguards, sometimes in civilian clothing, provided personal security for Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf during the Gulf War. (Image courtesy of Wikipedia)

The selection process is very competitive, with only seven percent of candidates successfully qualifying. According to the 2002 book, *Inside Delta Force*, by Eric Haney, selection begins at Camp Dawson, West Virginia. For four weeks, applicants endure standard physical fitness tests, as well as a series of field exercises. A board of instructors, unit psychologists, and the Delta commander interview each candidate, asking a barrage of questions and then dissecting each response and mannerism to mentally exhaust the candidate. Those who pass the screening process undergo an intense six-month Operator Training Course (OTC) to learn counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence techniques. Participants are allowed very little contact with friends and family for the duration. While the course is constantly changing, it typically includes hand-to-hand combat, advanced marksmanship, breaching, demolition, surveillance, and hostage rescue drills.

Within the Special Operations community, an operator is a trained specialist who has completed the OTC. Each operator belongs to a team, but is also capable of surviving independently, if necessary. Delta Force often trains with special ops units of other countries to share tactics and boost international relationships.

Headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, specific details of Delta Force operations are classified. In *Not a Good Day to Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda*, Army Times staff writer Sean Naylor in 2001 described Delta as having nearly 1,000 soldiers. It is believed that number is now double, with 300 to 400 trained for direct action and hostage rescue operations. They comprise seven squadrons including assault, aviation, clandestine, and combat support. The latter is divided into three troops – two direct action operator troops, and a third reconnaissance and sniper troop.

Recently, Delta Force has been in the news, associated with the high-profile extraction of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in a complex night raid named Operation Absolute Resolve, which included combined air, land, and cyber forces, with Delta Force leading the capture in Caracas before moving Maduro to the *USS Iwo Jima*. Delta Force units from West Asia and North Africa reportedly monitored and seized Maduro in stealth fashion. The operation was described as a culmination of months of planning and involved an estimated 150 aircraft. No Delta Force soldiers were killed in the daring operation, a testament to the unit's capabilities and the skills of its warriors.



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# island hopping

## TAP YOUR TOES

**WHAT:** Lowcountry Bluegrass Concert  
**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** First Presbyterian Church, 520 Washington Ave.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free and open to all  
**CONTACT:** savannahfpc.org; 912.354.7615  
**WHAT ELSE:** Charleston's "New Ghost Town" brings their authentic, refreshingly modern bluegrass to town. Donations benefit Hope Arbor's joyful respite care for seniors. Free street parking.



## IN THE AIR TONIGHT

**WHAT:** Savannah Wind Symphony, "Courtly Airs on the Horizon"  
**WHEN:** Sunday, March 1, 3 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GSU Armstrong Campus Fine Arts Auditorium  
**HOW MUCH:** General admission tickets - \$20; discounts for military and children under 18  
**CONTACT:** SavannahWindSymphony.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** This concert includes music of the Renaissance, to Richard Wagner's opera *Lohengrin*, to new American composers like Steven Bryant, Andrew David Perkins, and Katahj Copley. Local musicians Tim Kintzinger (trumpet) and Mark Spradley (trombone) are featured soloists.

## MCKEE'S KEYS

**WHAT:** Spencer McKee Piano Concert  
**WHEN:** Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free; Donations appreciated  
**CONTACT:** Visit saintpeterssav.org or call Lyndall Stanley, 912.596.3480  
**WHAT ELSE:** Former Skidaway resident Spencer McKee returns for an inspiring piano concert. He is the son of two former Skidaway Island directors of music, Tim and Mary McKee.

Please email content to [mail@theskinnie.com](mailto:mail@theskinnie.com).  
 Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.

## HEAR GREAT SPEAKERS

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

## WHO NEW?

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

## POWER PLANTS

**WHAT:** Plant Sale to Benefit Two Charities  
**WHEN:** Order now through March 4, with a March 19 pick-up from 12-2 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** [themarketat3westridge.com](http://themarketat3westridge.com) for flyer and ordering  
**WHAT ELSE:** Order geraniums, perennials, and hanging baskets. You can order from the website above using a credit card. All proceeds benefit Loop It Up Savannah and Magdalene House.

## MARSH MADNESS

**WHAT:** Evening at Skidaway: "The Past, Present and Future of Coastal Georgia Marshes"  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, Feb. 17 - reception 6:30 p.m.; talk 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Skidaway Institute of Oceanography Library Auditorium, 10 Ocean Science Circle  
**HOW MUCH:** Free  
**CONTACT:** Jackson Schroeder, 912.598.2325 or [Jackson.Schroeder@uga.edu](mailto:Jackson.Schroeder@uga.edu)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Join a live Q&A with Dr. Clark Alexander, director of the UGA Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, to learn why our marshes are so important, which are most vulnerable, their possible futures, and what is being done to protect these critical ecosystems.

## JUST REWARDS

**WHAT:** Landlovers Merit Awards for high school juniors and seniors  
**WHEN:** Deadline to apply is Feb. 17  
**CONTACT:** For more information and to fill out an application, please visit [landingslandlovers.com/awards/](http://landingslandlovers.com/awards/) and click on the 2026 Merit Awards Application link at the bottom of the page  
**WHAT ELSE:** Landlovers Merit Awards are given out each year to Landings students who are juniors or seniors in high school or age equivalent home-schooled students. The Merit Awards recognize students who go above and beyond in giving time and talent through community service.

## AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

**WHAT:** Savannah Council on World Affairs  
**WHEN:** Feb. 18, 7 to 9 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Coastal Georgia Center, 305 Fahm St.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free for SCWA members; \$20 - general public; Full-time students, faculty and active military - free  
**CONTACT:** [www.savannahcwa.org](http://www.savannahcwa.org) for more details  
**WHAT ELSE:** Former intelligence officer Jonathan Panikoff will discuss "When Great Powers Collide: How the Middle East Will Continue to Shape Global Affairs."

## GREAT SONG RIDE-ALONG

**WHAT:** American Traditions Vocal Competition Semifinals  
**WHEN:** Meet at Methodist Church Feb. 19, at 2 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Victory North  
**HOW MUCH:** \$85 per person; Tickets are only available to Landlovers members, and are available at [landingslandlovers.com](http://landingslandlovers.com).  
**WHAT ELSE:** Your ticket includes round-trip trolley transportation from Skidaway to Victory North, a cocktail to enjoy on the way, two sessions of amazing vocal competition in the semifinals, a private meet-and-greet with the contestants, and the return trolley. You will have time between sessions for your own dinner arrangements. Make your dinner reservation at the Vault and receive 10 percent off your check. \$5 of your ticket price is a tax-deductible donation to Landlovers.

## FEATHERS AND FINS

**WHAT:** "Birds and Fish - Friends or Foes?"  
**WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 19, 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Rd.  
**HOW MUCH:** free for FOSA members, \$5 for

guests, payable online or at the door  
**CONTACT:** [fosa@skidawayaudubon.org](mailto:fosa@skidawayaudubon.org)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Dave Devore, former CCA chapter president, and Garret Jones, former executive director of Wilderness Southeast, will present a look at the relationship of birds and fish and what it takes to sustain their special ecosystem. Attendees are asked to park in the rear lot. Please pre-register online at [SkidawayAudubon.org](http://SkidawayAudubon.org).

## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

**WHAT:** The Landings Garden Club meeting and program  
**WHEN:** Monday, Feb. 23; 9:15 a.m. social, 10 a.m. meeting, 10:45 program  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** Joni, 925.787.9800 or [joni-bro2022@outlook.com](mailto:joni-bro2022@outlook.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Melaney Cress, founder of the organic, all-natural, plant-based skin care company @sageadj.wise, will showcase products from her garden that she created after her 5-year-old daughter had a life-threatening allergic reaction to gluten. This is an interactive presentation, and herbal tea from Melaney's garden will be offered.

## LONE STAR LONGINGS

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

## BETWEEN THE LINES

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

## RIGHT ON

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

## PICKUP ARTISTS

**WHAT:** Landlovers Flea Market intake  
**WHEN:** March 12 - 13, 8 a.m. - 4 pm  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** Want to be part of the behind-the-scenes preparation for the sale? Contact Maura McGarry at [LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com)  
**HOW MUCH:** Donations of gently used items are what makes Landlovers biggest fundraiser so successful. Proceeds benefit the Landlovers Foundation, which provides grants, scholarships, and merit awards within our community. For a list of acceptable/unacceptable items, visit [landingslandlovers.com](http://landingslandlovers.com). For large items like furniture, email [fleamarketintake@gmail.com](mailto:fleamarketintake@gmail.com) to arrange a pick-up.

## FLEAMARKET FESTIVITIES

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

## SAINTLY SUPPORT

**WHAT:** Martin de Porres Society of Savannah Fundraising Gala  
**WHEN:** Saturday, March 21, 5 - 10 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Palmetto Ballroom at the Landings  
**HOW MUCH:** \$150/person includes appetizers, dinner, and dancing to the tunes of the Fabulous Equinox Orchestra

**CONTACT:** [dorward.tina@gmail.com](mailto:dorward.tina@gmail.com)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Martin de Porres Society raises funds to help underserved children of Savannah. Evening will also include a live auction of three fabulous trips and other items. Visit [martindeporressociety.org](http://martindeporressociety.org) to register before March 15.

## MILES OF SMILES

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

## FORE EYES

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

## HELLO, SAILOR

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

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

ACROSS

- 1. Distance across
- 5. Extremely awkward person, in slang
- 9. Fleet of foot
- 14. Fine-tune muscles
- 15. Solo delivered at the Met
- 16. Patty Hearst's SLA alias
- 17. Certain singing voice
- 18. Judge's seat in court
- 19. AARP and NAACP
- 20. Adhering to the rules
- 23. "Illmatic" rapper
- 24. Dietary fiber source
- 25. Volkswagen model
- 29. Trapped like \_\_\_\_
- 30. NFL tiebreaker periods
- 33. Thespian
- 34. \_\_\_\_ nine, out by five
- 35. \_\_\_\_ the crack of dawn
- 36. Hemming and hawing, e.g.
- 39. Highland hats
- 40. Menu maker
- 41. *The \_\_\_\_ Sanctum*
- 42. Cleopatra's doom
- 43. Cast a creepy glance
- 44. Bad looks
- 45. Prefix meaning "bull"
- 46. Calendar mo.
- 47. Concluding times
- 54. Fixes argyles
- 55. Something to weave or spin
- 56. Do business
- 57. Silly as a goose
- 58. 49-day liturgical season
- 59. World's fair
- 60. Le Pew and Le Prawn
- 61. Moistens flax
- 62. Act the worrywart

DOWN

- 1. Alone at the prom
- 2. Game of chukkers
- 3. Opposition member
- 4. Advertising sign
- 5. Midnight assembly of witches

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| 60 |    |    |    |  |    |   |   | 61 |    |    |    | 62 |    |    |

- 6. Emulates a mantis
- 7. "If it \_\_\_\_ broke, don't fix it!"
- 8. *Scrubs* star
- 9. Take a \_\_\_\_ it (try)
- 10. Aired
- 11. "\_\_\_\_ many words"
- 12. Stool pigeon
- 13. Prof's aides, briefly
- 21. Twist into a knot
- 22. Clio and Urania's sister
- 25. Naples staple
- 26. Serve in place of
- 27. It's often stuck in the corner
- 28. Fifth notes on a music scale
- 29. Subject of a management class
- 30. Make one's views known
- 31. Circus employee
- 32. "Gang" or "mob" attachment
- 34. Person of will
- 35. "\_\_\_\_ Reader" (alternative digest)
- 37. Get frosted, as glass
- 38. Beatles drummer
- 43. Minor memory failures
- 44. Apartment building employees
- 45. 1,000 kilograms
- 46. Shoelace tip
- 47. "Compos mentis"
- 48. *The Parent \_\_\_\_* (1961 film)
- 49. You can make one for yourself
- 50. Bad time for Caesar
- 51. Customer service call
- 52. To seal or record
- 53. Behind, as a watch
- 54. Ballroom dance maneuver

Puzzle answers, page 35

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**SAVANNAH COMPUTER SERVICES, INC.** • Professionally serving coastal areas of Georgia and South Carolina for over 30 years. Specializing in both business and home PCs, Macs, and most IT equipment. We offer a full spectrum of services including but not limited to installation, networking, cabling, diagnostic and repair, upgrades, data recovery, virus removal and prevention, moving/relocation, and consulting. Business offerings include VOIP phones, high speed internet circuits with failover, remote monitoring & management with enhanced security and endpoint backup services. Enjoy fast and convenient on-site service, FREE pickup and delivery, or remote service by appointment. Quotes are always free and no travel charge within our local area of coverage. Call Mike and Cyndy Tabakian, 912.756.7860 or visit our web site at [savannahcomputer.com](http://savannahcomputer.com).

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**SKIDAWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH** seeks a Lead Vocalist to join our growing music ministry. The ideal candidate is a confident sight reader with a love for both traditional hymns and modern worship music. Learn more at [skidcc.org/jobs](http://skidcc.org/jobs).

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**GRASSMASTER LAWN CARE** • We offer complete landscape management with year-round service. Our services also include fertilization, insect, weed, and fungus control, along with lawn and shrub programs. We are your total lawn care service. We also offer landscaping, i.e. lawn renovation and sodding. Licensed and Insured. Free estimates. Please call Mike Schuman at 912.354.8856.



**NEW LEAF LANDSCAPE** • Military Veteran and locally owned, you can trust New Leaf Landscape Management with all your property maintenance needs. Our experience extends well over a decade, and we offer a variety of services from routine lawn maintenance to stump grinding, to irrigation repair. Call us for a free estimate today! \*\*912.465.5440\*\*

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- 1 - c;
- 2 - d;
- 3 - c;
- 4 - a;
- 5 - c;
- 6 - b;
- 7 - e;
- 8 - c;
- 9 - d;
- 10 - b, c and e;
- 11 - c;
- 12 - a-3, b-4, c-1, d-2;
- 13 - b;
- 14 - e

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**SKIDAWAY CAT ALLIANCE TEAM** provides for the humane treatment, health, welfare and population control (spay/neuter) of free-roaming cats on and around Skidaway Island. If you are interested in learning more or need help with a feral cat, please contact us at [skidawaycats@gmail.com](mailto:skidawaycats@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/skidawaycatallianceteam>

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**SKIDAWAY ISLAND PRO WASH** • Owned by Landings residents and members, we offer the most premium roof and house soft washing, concrete pressure washing and window washing available. We use only the highest quality cleaning processes and commercial equipment available, running the highest quality service available in our industry. Free estimates. Google and Facebook 5-star rated. 100% satisfaction guaranteed. Call or text Matt Shannon 912.600.7377; email [matt@siprowash.com](mailto:matt@siprowash.com); [www.siprowash.com](http://www.siprowash.com).



**SUPER CLEAN POWER WASH** • Doing high quality work for more than 20 years here on Skidaway Island. The most trusted name in house washing. No pressure roof cleaning. Soft wash house washing. Decks, patios, driveways, and outdoor furniture too. Super Clean Power Wash, Jon Kotowski, 912.631.3121

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**THE 2026 MARKET AT 3 WEST RIDGE**, a shopping boutique and spring plant sale benefiting Loop It Up Savannah and Union Mission's Magdalene House, is an outreach of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Your \$5 ticket, available at the door, allows you to shop Tuesday, Feb. 3, 4:30-7 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Thursday, Feb. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For information contact Lynn Wolfe 912-660-4252.

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**TREEMASTER INC.** We offer these services for all your tree needs: trimming, pruning, and removal. We also offer stump grinding. We're bonded and insured. 24-hour emergency service. We accept all major credit cards except Discover. We are the sister company of Grassmasters, owned by Landings residents, Mike and Diane Schuman. Call us, 912.598.0140.



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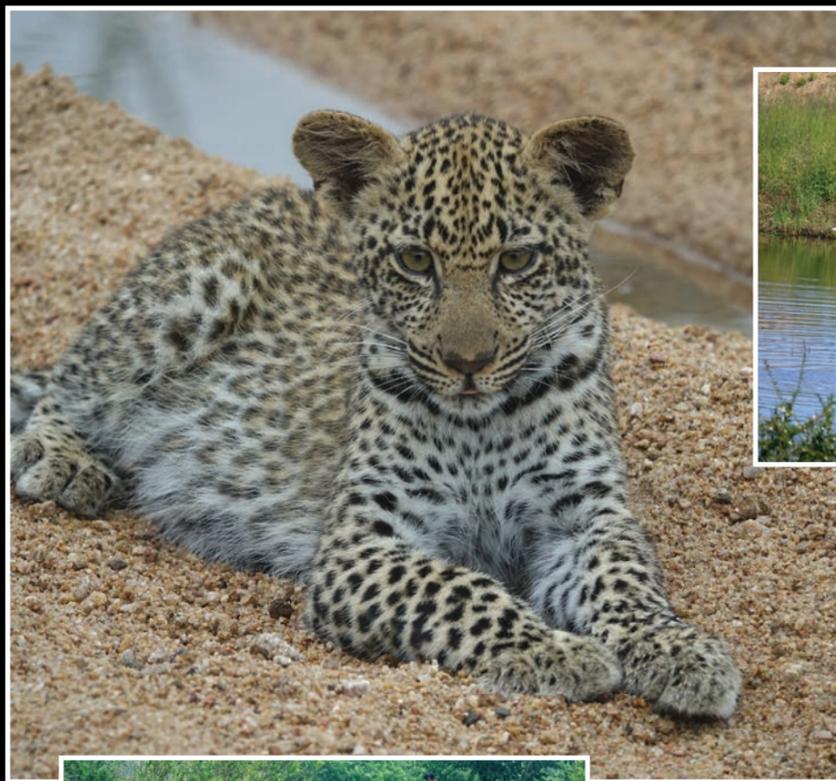


# WILD THINGS

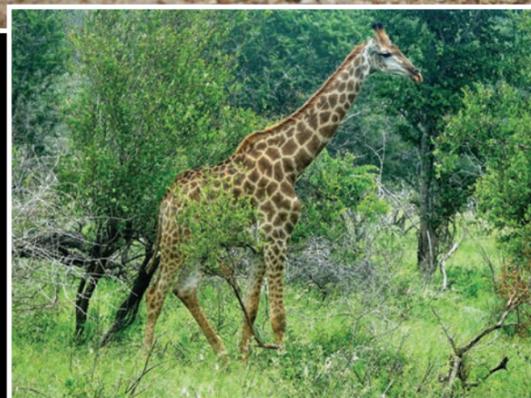
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You live in a photographer's paradise. Keep those local nature snapshots coming our way.

Email your high resolution photos to [production@theskinnie.com](mailto:production@theskinnie.com). Include your name and a little info about where the photo was taken. The bigger the photo the better, that way we can really show you off.



Bill and Phyllis Tildes shared these photos during a trip to South Africa sponsored by the Landings Club in January.



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

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Dr. William Crosland, Interventional Cardiologist

## KENNETH TURNER - SAVANNAH, GA

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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