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**Tales From the
CRYPTS!**

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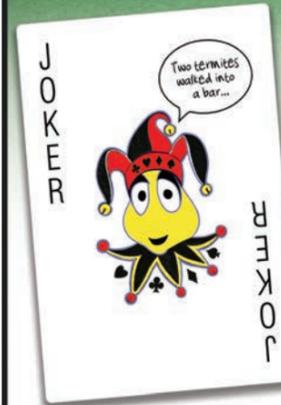
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There's a lot of bad, scary stuff going on around the world now. Not only now, but most, if not all, the time. As an essayist, as a human being, how do you find the balance between paying attention to it and getting on with your "regular" life?

If I think, then write, about Israel, for example, from the comfortable confines of a targeted-distribution magazine that has no geopolitical focus, do I seem unqualified at best and, worse – presumptuous and inappropriate? But, at a time of significant global suffering (which is – actually – always, somewhere), if I turn my energy and my pen on the (new) guy down the street (even though he isn't down the street at all – he's on Tybee – as he has converted his recently acquired "residence" into an office building with lighted window signs and sidewalk sandwich boards) who has obliterated a historic residential garden adjacent to the city's signature square to construct an unsightly swimming pool to serve guests from hundreds of vacation rentals, do I seem petty, NIMBY-bound, and oblivious of more significant societal strife? Probably, but that's life.

Action is a constructive solution. In a democratic society, what power do we have to impact conditions locally and globally? We have our votes, and our communications with and influence on our elected officials. Based on the bevy of yard signs in and around the periphery of this city, I surmise there's an election coming soon. Investigation confirms it. A "general" election on November 7, with early voting already underway. A paper precinct card arrived in the old-fashioned mail last week, affirming my registration and – in naggingly small print – telling me that, if I show up where I always vote, I'll be in the wrong place.

But, okay, I'll try to find my new polling location, and I'll arrive prepared. So I Google: Savannah Elections November 2023. Then, I Google: Chatham County Elections November 2023. And I Google: A whole bunch of variations on this theme. You can try it yourself. Click the links that Google returns to you. Work your way to the "display sample ballot" tabs. Email me if you do better than "not available." You will have outdone me.

"Death of Democracy" is an ominous catchphrase designed, in part, to discount half the country's philosophical preferences. Death of competent, functioning democracy at the grassroots level is a sadly real thing. I've been asked to financially support local candidates

in many races over the years. If one impresses me, I will. Generally, though, I don't make political contributions. I have limited financial resources, and I believe my charitable giving can be better used other ways to positively effect social change. A friend said to me (paraphrasing) 'I just think you're cheap,' after I declined to buy a ticket to a local candidate fundraiser and explained why. When I pushed back, he countered with what I hear often from many people, whether it's an election for city council or President of the United States (paraphrasing again): 'He might not be great, but the other guy would be a disaster.' What if we chose our spouses using this metric? Or our friends? Or our hobbies? "She's a solid C-minus, but I guess it beats an F" is not the pathway to long-term bliss.

I'm not sure how this would work, but it intrigues me: Extending the spousal-choice metaphor...what's the alternative for miserably condemning yourself to eternity with the C-minus? Single life. In other words, sometimes no-choice-at-all is the best choice. Could we apply this tactic to the democratic process? If we refused support (financially, electorally...ignored them altogether), en masse, for a systemically sub-standard political class, would the "free market" produce better options? Maybe. But it won't happen because we all fear that our temporary withdrawal irrevocably cedes monolithic power to the dreaded other side. This is the fundamental flaw with two-party democracy: It perpetuates its binary mediocrity through fear of the The Other. Give me the wilted, browning lettuce, at least it's better than a diet of dirt and ants.

I'm past deadline. I'll stop now. And go to early-vote. When I get in front of the machine, I'll learn for whom and what I'm voting. And I'll do my best to select the least-bad option. If and when he or she takes office, I'll make sure to email him/her about the guy down the street with the clandestine commercial pool.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CRITICAL CARE

I would like to follow up on my comments supporting an on-Skidaway Island ALS ambulance. I am a retired emergency physician, founder and past president of Georgia Emergency Associates, the group of physicians staffing the emergency rooms at the St. Joseph's/Candler Health System. As I have written previously, there are medical emergencies when time to treatment is essential in preserving the health of a loved one. We have many senior Landings residents who suffer with cardio-pulmonary diseases. Unfortunately, they are susceptible to sudden decompensation of their disease and, if treatment is not provided in a very timely fashion, their recovery may be doubtful.



My wife and I have been residents of Savannah since 1993 and Landings residents since 2019. We have a wonderful, well-managed community with so many volunteer organizations that it makes my head spin. I feel confident that the \$76 per year per family to bring an on-island ALS ambulance is worth every penny.

Special thanks to *The Skinnie's* commitment to bringing in-depth information about the 24/7 dedicated on-island ALS ambulance proposal to all Skidaway Island readers. It is an important issue, deserving thoughtful consideration. Your article in the October 6 issue will undoubtedly inform productive community-wide discussions.

**Brian Kornblatt
M.D., FACEP**

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Habitat for Humanity is looking for men and women who enjoy working with their hands and the rewards of giving back to those



in need.

Currently, the construction of houses is being done on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with the hopes of adding a Thursday build day. Prior experience is not necessary. Many volunteers learn on the job and only do whatever they feel comfortable with. All tools are provided, and some bring their own that they would rather use. Safety is always paramount. Workdays begin at 8:30 a.m. and wrap up by 3 p.m., with a half-hour break for lunch.

If you need something to do and are interested in joining us or need more information, feel free to call Mark Piven at 912.598.0323. Please leave a message and a return call will follow. Thanks for your interest and consideration; we are eager to hear from you.

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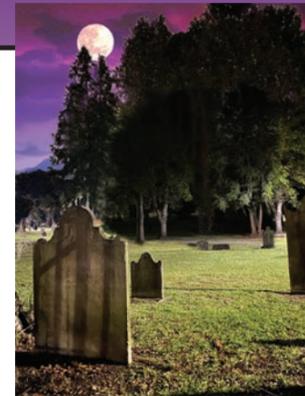


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on the cover:
Explore Savannah's oldest and
most historic cemetery.
page 10.

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TALES FROM THE CRYPTS

By Roger Smith

Put a shovel in the ground anywhere in the nearly six acres of Savannah's Colonial Park Cemetery (This is illegal, by the way) and you're bound to hit a grave. Though historians have counted some 600 burials in Colonial Cemetery, which received bodies from 1750 to 1853, forensic researchers in the late 1990s identified more than 9,000 graves, 15 times the number of marked burials. But then, much of historic Savannah is arguably a graveyard. Tomochichi moved his people to Yamacraw Bluff to be near the tombs of his ancestors, flagging the area as a cemetery before the English arrived.

In founding Georgia, Gen. James Oglethorpe harbored egalitarian aspirations, and he sadly encountered the greatest leveler of all – death among his settlers – within months of his arrival. He needed a cemetery. His stringent urban design disallowed the church-adjacent graveyards of rural England and America. In Savannah, the largest lot a church could acquire was a Trust lot (Christ Church and other houses of worship occupy Trust lots), affording no space for burials. Yet the master planner himself sacrificed a whole tithing of Percival Ward – 10 lots intended for settlers' homes – as Savannah's first resting place for deceased Europeans, responding to alarming mortality rates in the first half of 1733. Near the Percival Ward cemetery, Oglethorpe granted Jewish settlers space for their dead, just outside the town south of Percival Ward. A low, coffin-like monument stands in the median of Oglethorpe Avenue (formerly South Broad Street), marking the Jewish burials.

But burials within Oglethorpe's city? Not ideal. So, the Town Common – that expanse of undeveloped land beyond Savannah's southern fortification at South Broad Street (now Oglethorpe Avenue), became the site of not just one cemetery but several. "The largest of these was designated as a burying ground in 1750," explains Luciana Spracher, director of the City of Savannah Municipal Archives. Of course, no one called it Colonial Cemetery. "Instead, it was known as South Broad Street Cemetery, the Old Brick Graveyard, or the Christ Church Burial Ground."

Christ Church, the Mother Church of Georgia, dominated the nascent colony because of its status as Georgia's arm of the Church of England; Georgia was an English colony, after all. Yet ecumenism,

the signature of Colonial Georgia, meant that Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Jews lived together – and were buried together. The "Christ Church Burial Ground" received virtually any body that was Protestant, Christian – and white.

Christ Church "Parish" was just as much a political designation, like a county, as it was a religious one. The Anglicans acted as the de facto custodians of Colonial Cemetery. In 1758, the City of Savannah made a formal agreement with Christ Church, ushering in a near century when the Anglican (after the Revolution – Episcopal) Church administered the cemetery. But confusion about which entity truly controlled the space led to a lawsuit in 1895 (more than four decades after the crowded cemetery was closed to burials). The court ordered Christ Church to sell Colonial to the city for \$6,500 and designated the land as a graveyard in perpetuity, preempting later attempts to run roads and railroads through the cemetery.

Even before American independence, Colonial Cemetery was resting place to native-born Savannahians and aspiring newcomers, to the rich and the struggling, and – as the Revolution came and went – to patriots and loyalists. In 1789, Colonial Cemetery reached its current area of nearly six acres, extending from South Broad Street at its north to Liberty Lane at its south, and from west to east from Abercorn Street to the eventual Savannah Police Barracks at Habersham Street. A brick wall was constructed the following year.

Meanwhile, a city ordinance forbade "Negro" burials in the cemetery, designating a smaller sector farther south for Africans, both free and enslaved. By the 1850s, when Calhoun and Wesley Wards were

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Headstones damaged by weather and vandalism, their original locations indeterminate, are mounted to the eastern wall of the cemetery.

laid out, a city effort to relocate African burials to Laurel Grove resulted in some removals, but it is impossible to know just how many bodies remained. The recent campaign to rename Calhoun Square – the southernmost square of Abercorn Street – to Susie King Taylor Square inaccurately named Calhoun Ward as the site of the now-unmarked Negro burying ground. It is to the east, closer to Whitefield Square.

As the 18th Century gave way to the 19th, Colonial Cemetery received the victims of diseases and accidents, of fires and plague. “Brain fever” and “consumption” made frequent appearances on the gravestones; so did tragic mishaps. “People at this time generally did not know how to swim,” says Elizabeth

Piechocinski, author of *The Old Burying Ground: Colonial Park Cemetery*, her 1999 history that offered the first documentation of Colonial in almost 100 years. “They were forever falling in the Savannah River and drowning.”

Savannah had two major fires, one in 1796 and the other in 1820, each with its share of fatalities. But these were overshadowed by the specter of yellow fever, a threat to populations north and south every summer. Savannah’s deadliest years for the mosquito-borne illness were 1820, 1854, and 1876. A historical marker in Colonial Cemetery commemorates more than 700 yellow fever deaths in 1820. Ironically, Savannahians of the 1800s associated the old burying ground with yellow

fever – fearing the cemetery for the miasmas or “bad air” they believed arose from moldering graves – rather than the flooded rice fields (prime territory for mosquito breeding) that bordered the hot, humid city.

The old burial ground’s perceived insalubrious effects, a burgeoning rural cemetery movement, and simple overcrowding by 1844 led to neglect and vandalism. In the 1850s, Savannahians were invited to move their loved ones from the urban cemetery to free burial plots in Laurel Grove Cemetery on the city’s west side and Bonaventure on the east. Some 600 bodies made the move.

Gen. William T. Sherman’s arrival in 1864 set thousands of bored U.S. soldiers loose in

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Colonial Cemetery, where they made prankish carvings on unguarded tombstones and broke others with their roughhousing. Some of the soldiers, freezing in winter cold, broke into family vaults – small brick tombs extending several feet underground, the tops of arched doors visible above the grassy grade. These unique crypts often housed multiple burials in either shrouds or coffins, placed on shelves inside, and remain among Colonial's most unusual graves.

In the 20th Century, Colonial Cemetery finally came into its own as Savannahians began to appreciate its beauty and history. A 1906 city map shows Savannah's public parks and includes Colonial Cemetery, marking the first official use of the name Colonial Park Cemetery. Beautification projects introduced thousands of plants and shrubs, along with pathways for strolling (cemeteries became bucolic destinations in the mid-1800s). Yet early restoration saw vandalism of another sort: Removal of gravestones that hindered landscaping. Many of these stones joined others on the eastern wall.

In 1913, the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a granite archway at the

Abercorn and Oglethorpe Streets entrance to honor Revolutionary figures buried in the cemetery. This landmark has sometimes led to misidentification of Colonial Park as the "DAR Cemetery." Today, Colonial Park Cemetery rests in the capable hands of the City of Savannah's Cemeteries Division, a robust program of a city office known as "Park and Tree." It's a unique governance structure among cities of Savannah's size.

Inside Colonial Park, the spirit of revolution is alive, along with the ambience of Colonial Savannah and funerary architecture and prose of more than a century. Savannahians should claim their city's oldest extant cemetery. A walk there combines respite from the hustle of city streets, ample readings on historical markers and grave inscriptions, and communion with the distant, ghostly past.

Roger Smith is a native of Savannah and the former director of education at the Georgia Historical Society. Today, he directs The Learning Center, a lifelong learning program for older adults at Senior Citizens, Inc. For more information on TLC and its Savannah history programs, visit seniorcitizensinc.org/the-learning-center or call 912.236.0363.

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PASSING THE BATON

Savannah Wind Symphony Launches 2023-2024 Season

By Philip Schweier

The Savannah Wind Symphony (SWS) will launch its 2023-2024 season on Sunday, November 5 at the Fine Arts Auditorium on the Armstrong Campus of Georgia Southern University.

The Savannah Wind Symphony is a non-profit community wind band serving the Savannah area. Comprised of volunteer musicians, its mission is to enhance the cultural climate and appreciation of music by performing concerts at a high artistic level, and to provide concert experiences that are meaningful, creative, moving, and enjoyable for everyone.

According to Bob Slagel, SWS trombonist, this promises to be a very interesting and challenging season. Last season, after the tragic passing of long-time director Maestro Mark Johnson, conductor duties were shared by two experienced members. The ensemble is in the process of selecting its new permanent director of music and principal conductor. Three candidates have been identified and each will be responsible for one of the upcoming concerts, selecting their own music to share with the audience.

CONDUCTOR CANDIDATES

John Madden will be the conductor for the fall concert on November 5. He is a retired teacher

and band director of more than 30 years, spending the last 28 years as associate director of bands at Michigan State University. Before moving to Savannah, he served for three years as the conductor of the Meridian Community Band in Okemos, Michigan. He has extensive experience as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, composer, and arranger. He holds a bachelor of music education degree from Michigan State University, and a master of music education degree from Wichita State University.



John Madden

Madden is a member of the trumpet section of the Savannah Wind Symphony. He has selected an eclectic program which includes Festival Overture by Dmitri Shostakovich, On the Mall March by Edwin Goldman, Elegy For A Young American by Ronald Lo Presti, Hymn to the Fallen by John Williams, and Swing Low, Sweet Chariot by Steve Rouse.



David Carbone

David Carbone will conduct the spring concert on March 5, 2024, is a "retired" veteran music educator of 30 years, including a 25-year career as a band director at the high school and collegiate levels in



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WHAT: Savannah Wind Symphony Fall Concert
WHEN: Nov. 5 at 3 p.m.
WHERE: Fine Arts Auditorium, Georgia Southern University—Armstrong Campus
HOW MUCH: General admission – \$20; \$15 for military; \$10 for children (18-under). Concert tickets may be purchased in advance at www.savannahwindsymphony.com or at the door.
CONTACT: savwinds@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Featuring conductor John Madden.

Florida, Ohio, Texas, and South Carolina. He is currently artistic director and conductor of the Lowcountry Community Concert Band, part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of South Carolina Beaufort Bluffton campus.

In addition, he has his own business as a composer, arranger, clinician, and consultant. Carbone holds a B.A. in music education from the University of Miami and a M.A. in music/conducting from the University of South Florida. He performs in the Savannah Wind Symphony in the percussion section.

David Elliott will be the featured conductor for the pops concert on May 28. He has been a music educator for 41 years, the last 23 of which he has served as the director of jazz bands and manager of the performing arts center at Savannah Country Day School. During his time in Savannah, he has performed with numerous musical groups, including the Savannah Music Festival, Savannah Jazz Orchestra, Celebration Brass, and various shows in the Savannah/Hilton Head Island area.



David Elliott

He has wide experience in writing and arranging music. Elliott has a bachelor's degree in music education from Northwestern University and a masters degree in music education from Eastern Kentucky University. He is the leader of the trombone section in the Savannah Wind Symphony and served as one of the two interim conductors during the last season.

The Savannah Wind Symphony concert season will conclude with the always-popular patriotic concert on June 30.

The SWS had historically been sponsored entirely by Armstrong State University, then Georgia Southern University after the merger of the two institutions. However, that is no longer the case.

While Georgia Southern generously provides the practice and performance venues at a greatly reduced rate, and free access to the current music library and some instruments, the symphony is now responsible for most other expenses including insurance, new music, salary of the music director and principal conductor, concert programs, advertising and other promotional activities. Ticket sales cover only a portion of these expenses. Contributions are critical for long term survival. The SWS depends on its listening audience and friends for that support, and has reorganized as an independent, charitable 501 (c) (3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.



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Judy Boykin Earns 2023 Lientz Award



St. Joseph's/Candler President and CEO Paul P. Hinchey presents the Lientz Award to Judy Boykin.

She's been called many things by her co-workers: Leader, pacesetter, team player, and a can-do person. Now she will also be called the 2023 Lientz Award winner. St. Joseph's/Candler presented its prestigious James R. Lientz Award to long-time health system co-worker, Judy Boykin, in a special ceremony recently held at Candler Hospital.

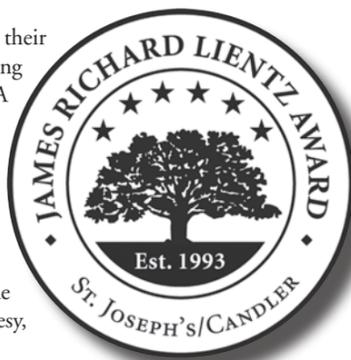
Each year, the health system recognizes one co-worker with the award that reflects the humanitarian works of the late James Richard Lientz, a noted humanitarian, community activist, and a former Candler board chairman. Boykin is the 31st person to have received this honor, the result of her consistent demonstration of the mission and values of St. Joseph's/Candler.

"The Lientz Award is one of the highest honors that any St. Joseph's/Candler co-worker can attain," says Paul P. Hinchey, president and CEO of St. Joseph's/Candler.

Co-workers are nominated by their peers. Boykin was chosen from among 93 nominees for this year's award. A health system committee selects the recipient based on the candidate's consistent display of the health system's mission and values. The mission is "Rooted in God's love, we treat illness and promote wellness for all people." The values include compassion, quality, integrity, courtesy, accountability, and teamwork.

Boykin is clinical nurse risk manager, and she has been a part of the St. Joseph's/Candler family for 49 years. For most of her career, she held the position of nurse manager on Candler Hospital's sixth floor. She has also served as a nurse educator. Boykin's reputation as a compassionate nurse with a generous spirit and tireless work ethic has built upon itself throughout the years.

One of the written nominations for Boykin summarize her value to her patients and colleagues: "She is a priceless resource for nursing and is available at all hours for clinical personnel to ask questions, get advice, and guidance. All-in-all, Judy fully represents the values and



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- **Special events** – Popular social events such as the Bingo Bash and end-of-year Holiday Party are offered annually to SmartSenior members.

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areas.

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- **Merchant discount program** – Members receive exclusive discounts at retail and restaurant establishments throughout the area, such as discounts at the St. Joseph's or Candler Hospital cafeterias, and half off car washes at Auto Shine on Wednesdays.

For further information on gifting memberships, please call 912.352.4405 or drop by the SmartSenior office located at 8 Medical Arts Center.

ethics of Mr. Lientz and is most deserving of this honor."

As the 2023 recipient, Boykin will receive a \$3,000 honorarium, a one-year parking pass in the location of her choice, a one-month cafeteria meal pass, a St. Joseph's/Candler watch, and the Lientz plaque and pin.

The prestigious award was first presented in 1993 in honor of Lientz, who began his service to the hospital as a trustee in 1959. He was the chairman of the hospital board of trustees from 1970 to 1991 and the chairman of the Candler Health System board of trustees from 1985 until 1992. He has been recognized on local, state, and

national levels for his work in health and human services. He was instrumental in Candler's acquisition of two long-established hospitals, Mary Telfair Women's Hospital and the Central of Georgia Railway Hospital. Lientz was very involved in the expansion of many hospital services, the consolidation of Candler Hospital facilities in the late 1970s, and the eventual construction of the institution's present mid-town location. Lientz is well remembered for the leadership role he took in many Savannah organizations including – to name a few – the Georgia Infirmary, Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire, United Way, and the Coastal Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He passed away in September of 2000 at the age 87.

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Smells Like Sunday



With supermarket produce, global commerce makes everything available all the time. But seasonality is a real thing, especially if you're a gardener. When you think of autumn and winter, pumpkins, butternut and acorn squashes come to mind. Root vegetables. Apples and pears. But don't overlook leeks, the subtler kin to an assertive onion.

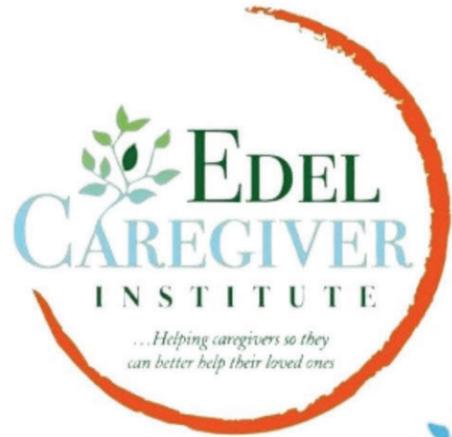
When I consider what I'm going to cook, I start with the main dish – the star of the show. The primary side adds nutritional value to balance the rest of the meal's decadence, but it's an afterthought. What green thing on the grocery shelves looks like it has been sitting there for the least long time? Often, I end up with a container of arugula in my basket. Safe and quick, no cutting or heating required.

Last Sunday, I made seafood stock, then transformed it into a zuppa di pesce featuring local shrimp and spottail bass. Rather than settling on arugula (which I love, actually), the top-shelf cluster of leeks caught my eye. I'm glad it did. Braising softens and sweetens leeks, and a tomato vinaigrette adds a perfect pop.

From the Kitchen of Scott Lauretti



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MONTE CASSINO

They Served by Ron Lauretti

In July of 1943, Allied forces invaded Sicily. By early August, German troops had been driven to mainland southern Italy, where they prepared for the defense of the fascist-controlled nation.

Meanwhile, on July 25, Italy's King Victor Emmanuel III removed Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini from power, appointing Marshal Pietro Badoglio in his place. Badoglio agreed to an armistice on September 3, even as Allied forces began landing on the shores near Salerno, approximately 200 miles south of Rome.

When the armistice with the Allies was publicly announced five days later, Italy erupted into chaos. With the Italian government in disarray, the Third Reich was able to seize control. As German troops approached Rome, Badoglio and the king fled with their main collaborators southeast to Puglia, seeking protection from the Allies but leaving the Italian military divided. Some soldiers were loyal to their country, others to the Axis.

Approaching Rome, Gen. George S. Patton and his army entered the province of Frosinone, where the Germans had established the Gustav Line, stretching across the "boot" of Italy from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Adriatic coast. Overlooking the main road about 80 miles southeast of Rome and blocking the Allies advance stood the rocky hill of



Monte Cassino.

The monastery atop the hill was founded in AD 529 by a Benedictine monk named Nursia. Only 40 years later, invading Lombards sacked the monastery, and it was abandoned. A second monastery was established around 718; but it, too, was sacked by Arabic Saracens and abandoned. It was rebuilt again in 949 and finally in the 11th and 12th Centuries, the abbey enjoyed a golden age, cultivating good relations with the East-



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Our veterans deserve our thanks every day for being willing to fight for our freedoms. Especially on this Veterans' Day, when so much of the world is in chaos, we can show our appreciation to Veterans. One way to do that is to join the Kiwanis Flag Program.

For \$50, Kiwanians will place 2 flags in an attractive base in your yard or hallway 4 times per year: Veterans' Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

All proceeds benefit at-risk children in our area.



Sign up at KiwanisofSkidaway.com or contact Dennis Heath at 912-388-6070 or kiwanisflags31411@gmail.com

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We hope you have a safe, enjoyable holiday season with those who matter most in your life. With that in mind, remember it's essential to stay proactive with your hearing health. Don't let hearing loss keep you from being a part of the holiday joy!

Before the holiday season starts, you might want to consider the following:

- Schedule a hearing test to learn whether you have new or progressing hearing loss
- Ask your audiologist which hearing aids offer the best experience based on your needs
- Keep up with regular check-ins so your audiologist can address any potential questions or concerns

When it comes to enjoying quality time with your friends, family and loved ones, please remember that AHAS will be here to help you hear for the holidays!

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and the Academy of Audiology (AAA).

SAVANNAH SKIDAWAY ISLAND POOLER

ern Church, and receiving patronage from Byzantine emperors. By employing Byzantine and Islamic artisans, it encouraged fine art and craftsmanship. Many monks rose to become bishops and cardinals, and three popes were drawn from the abbey from 1057 to 1119.

However, for the next several centuries, the monastery's fortunes declined due to conflict, an earthquake, and the never-ending cost of upkeep. In 1799, French troops sacked the place during their revolutionary wars. The Italian government dissolved the abbey in 1866, and the remains of the monastery became a national monument, with the monks as custodians of its treasures.

During World War II, German troops took its rugged hilltop. The German commander, Gen. Albert Kesselring, advocated the preservation of antiquity and did not want to include the abbey in the conflict. With the support of the German high command, no troops were positioned directly inside the monastery. Instead, German soldiers dug into the slopes surrounding the abbey, providing a strategic defense over advancing Allied troops literally crawling up the rugged mountainside.

Unfortunately, the supreme Allied commanders in charge of the Italian campaign did not share Kesselring's preservation instincts. Because of its location and elevation — 1,700 feet — they considered the monastery a strategic observation point for the Germans. From January 17 until May 18, 1944, the battle of Monte Cassino was a long and costly struggle. The first assault was conducted by French and U.S. troops, during which the 34th division of the U.S. II Corps lost 2,200 men. The second attack was led by New Zealand and Indian divisions.

As Allied units pushed forward, they halted, turned back, or were cut off by enemy defenses. German artillery fire in the area was remarkably accurate, convincing some Allied officers that it was being directed from the abbey. An observation officer flying recon mistakenly corroborated this assertion, leading British commanders to demand the monastery be destroyed.

On February 15, 1944, 142 Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bombers, 47 North American B-25 Mitchell bombers, and 40 Martin B-26 Marauder medium bombers dropped more than 1,100 tons of explosives on the abbey, reducing it to rubble. In the mountain village of Vallecorsa (my father's original home), my paternal grandparents heard a massive explosion, followed by a smoky cloud of ash in the sky above the Monte Cassino 35 miles away.



Ash from the destruction of Monte Cassino generated a smoky cloud that could be seen for miles.

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The only people in the monastery at the time of the bombing were 230 monks and Italian citizens seeking refuge. Later, as bombers continued to devastate German fortifications to clear a path for Allied convoys to Rome, Vallecorsa would be misidentified as a target, although it housed no German soldiers. A monument to the villagers killed in the subsequent bombing raid sits in the center of the medieval town today.

Though the Vatican was outraged at the loss of innocent lives, not all was lost on that tragic day. Two German officers had recognized the cultural value of the abbey's collection of precious artifacts and rare manuscripts and had seen to their removal. It took three weeks and more than 100 truckloads but, working with the Vatican in Rome, all the treasures were moved out of harm's way and into the Vatican.

To break through, the Allies hammered the Germans again and again with an increasing number of assault troops, while sustaining many casualties. The third engagement was also an Allied failure. The fourth engagement, spearheaded by the Polish Corps, finally took the hill, but when the lead troops

reached the summit on May 18, they found it unoccupied. The Germans had already withdrawn to a new defensive line farther north.

The greatest benefit of the Monte Cassino victory was the collapse of the Gustav Line, leading to the liberation of Rome. Allied casualties for Monte Cassino and Rome combined was more than 100,000 men. The overall victory in Italy cost more than 330,000 lives. By the end of the Italian campaign, the Germans lost almost 250,000 troops killed, missing, or captured.

After the war, the abbey was rebuilt. Pope Paul VI consecrated the rebuilt basilica on October 24, 1964. The Territorial Abbot of Monte Cassino was Pietro Vittorelli, who presided until his resignation in June of 2013. In 2014, the Vatican announced that with the appointment of Vittorelli's successor, the territory immediately outside the monastery grounds was transferred to the Diocese of Sora-Aquino-Pontecorvo, now renamed Diocese of Sora-Cassino-Aquino-Pontecorvo. Its enduring and understated grandeur make it one of Italy's best off-the-beaten path destinations.

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The Savannah Community is truly at the heart of all we do at the Savannah Philharmonic

Our deep commitment to providing free education programs and community concerts not only supports our mission, but also inspires the vision of our organization, as we believe the SavPhil belongs to everyone in the region – whether listening to our musicians in the Lucas Theatre for the Arts, or sitting on a lawn chair during our Phil the Neighborhoods series, or a young child experiencing a concert hall for the first time, or choosing to playing an instrument.

Some may wonder why this matters to us so much at the SavPhil, and the reason is that we all reside in the same community, often seeing each other around town at various events, sports games, or the grocery market. We all live a daily life with our own routines and responsibilities, but we all share the desire to see our community thrive. What we know to be true is that music uplifts and connects us, and that especially in Savannah it is much more than a form of entertainment, as it is part of our cultural identity and collective spirit.

Music helps to see us through the good times and challenging ones, and while we revel in celebrating with thousands of folks on the lawn of Forsyth for Phil the Park, we also embrace the opportunity to work with our community partners to tackle some of the tough issues, such as literacy rates among our youth. We know music plays a major role in cognitive development, and

that playing an instrument or participating in music activities enhances fine motor skills, boosts self-confidence, and encourages self-expression. We feel fortunate to be a part of a community that truly cares about our young people and honored to be able to contribute by providing free access to music education throughout the region. If our programs enhance one child's literacy tools and helps to build a brighter future for them, then we know we are successful.

While many of us have diverse backgrounds and come from different places, it is paramount that we find our common ground and work together as a community to lift each other up – and for us at the SavPhil, the communal experience of music is the perfect platform. We hope you'll join us in celebrating all that makes Savannah so special, one beautiful note at a time!



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Wyoming at Boise St.
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West Virginia at UCF
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Oklahoma at Kansas
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Washington St. at Arizona St.
Iowa St. at Baylor

NFL

Tampa Bay at Buffalo
LA Rams at Dallas
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh
NY Jets at NY Giants
Cincinnati at San Francisco

As a tiebreaker this week,
pick the total points in the
Colorado at UCLA game.

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

The Skinny Football Pick 'Em Pool

It's beginning to feel a lot like football! Fall is in the air, along with cool weather. But the action on the field and in our Skinny Pick 'Em Pool is red hot.

Speaking of red hot, David "Hard-Knocks" Denhard turned in a top-notch performance this time out, logging a very respectable 20 out of 25 correct picks. Congrats, David, on a resounding victory over some stiff competition.

As always, thank you to all the faithful football fans who participate in our pool each issue. We greatly appreciate it and hope you enjoy the camaraderie and competition this time of year brings. A rooting interest makes football weekends fun.

Keep on pickin'!

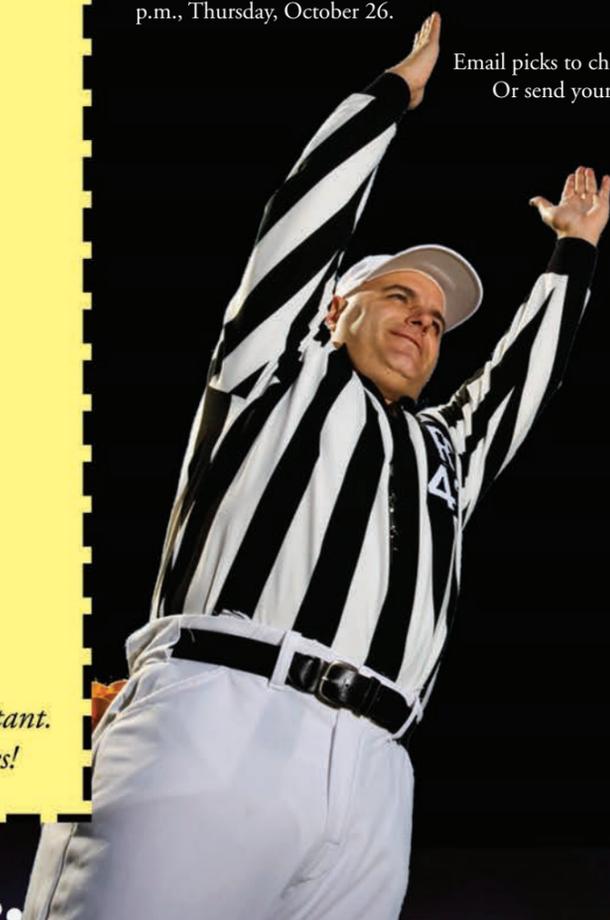
If you haven't participated in our contest yet, now is the time. Everyone is welcome. It's easy. Predict the winning team for each game. And get more winners right than the rest of your friends. For the tiebreaker game, predict the total points that the two teams will score (combined). The winner gets a real prize.

Twenty college games and five from the NFL. Games will be played between Thursday, October 26, and Sunday, October 29. Entries are due by 5 p.m., Thursday, October 26.

Email picks to chendrix@theskinny.com.
Or send your entry the old-fashioned way to:

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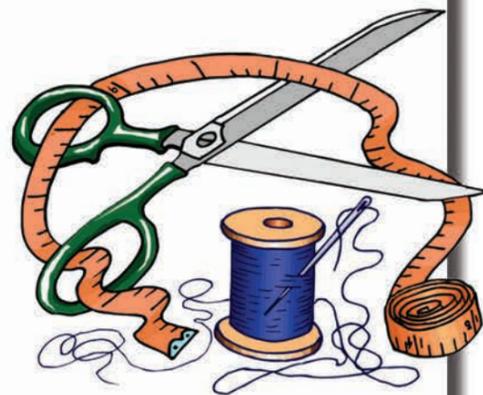
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HEAR GREAT SPEAKERS

WHAT: Kiwanis Club of Skidaway
WHEN: Thursday mornings at 7:45 a.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Club
HOW MUCH: Free to attend, including refreshments for guests and first time attendees. Slight fee for members having coffee/tea. Occasional pastries are complimentary.
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: The club offers more than 250 different activities from biking, golf, pickleball, walking groups or fishing to Mahjong, Bridge, Needle-arts and Canasta. We have exciting military tours and special events for you to enjoy right here on Skidaway Island.

GOTTA LOVE IT

WHAT: Landlovers membership / open to all Skidaway Islanders
HOW MUCH: Each \$30 membership fee covers one household of one or two adults.
CONTACT: Vicki Knapp at landloversmembership@gmail.com or visit www.landingslandlovers.com for more information.
WHAT ELSE: The membership year runs from September 1 through August 31. Landlovers is a philanthropic and social organization dedicated to enriching the Landings community and Skidaway Island at large. Landlovers sponsors year-round social activities and fundraising events to support student scholarships and multiple non-profit service organizations.

SHUTTER BUG

WHAT: The photography of Bailey Davidson
WHEN: Now through Oct. 31.
WHERE: JEA Art Gallery, 5111 Abercorn St.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: Vicky Lunick, 912.355.8111
WHAT ELSE: Davidson graduated from SCAD in 2001 with a master of fine arts degree. Since then, he has maintained a freelance photography business specializing in commercial and editorial work while continuously creating art. Davidson has chosen the plastic Holga pinhole camera and

its unique characteristics as the consistent theme for this body of work. With the camera and lens being rudimentary, the results are often unpredictable, imperfect, and distorted.

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

WHAT: The Learning Center Lecture: "The Presidency of His Accident, John Tyler"
WHEN: Monday, Oct. 23, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Wine-and-cheese reception at 5 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: Members - \$15; Non-members - \$20
CONTACT: www.seniorcitizensinc.org/the-learning-center to register or contact dhornsby@seniorcitizens-inc.org
WHAT ELSE: "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" offered up John Tyler as the "bonus" to President William Henry Harrison. Little did they know, Tyler would become president upon Harrison's death. Join historian Chris Hendricks as he brings this eventful presidency to life.

DINNER AND A SHOW

WHAT: Trolley to Savannah Live!
WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 5:30 p.m. departure, 8 p.m. show
WHERE: Board the trolley at Skidaway Island Methodist Church
HOW MUCH: \$60 per person (includes show ticket, trolley ride, and all fees)
CONTACT: Jane Golz at 704.641.4467 or golzjane@gmail.com; Marilee Dalbey at 334.797.9952 or marileedalbey@gmail.com; or visit Landlovers.com for more information.
WHAT ELSE: Participants will be driven downtown to enjoy "Savannah Live," a music and dance review. Time for dinner on your own in the Historic District prior to the show at the Historic Savannah Theatre. Must be a Landlovers member to attend. Tickets available online. Limit 2 tickets per person; space is limited to 37.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

WHAT: "Trunk or Treat" community event
WHEN: Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 4 to 6 p.m.
WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 West Ridge Rd.
CONTACT: Susanne O'Day, children's minister, 912.598.7242 or soday@saintpeterssav.org
WHAT ELSE: Costume contest, bounce house, food, cake walk, 24 Children's Choir performances, Tharros's Place table.

CHIPPING FOR CHILDREN

www.theskinnie.com

WHAT: L9GA Kids Café charity golf scramble "Together for the Kids"
WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 26
WHERE: The Landings Golf and Athletic Club
HOW MUCH: \$50 per player plus \$35 per person for lunch, the chance auction, and the live auction
CONTACT: Laurie Redmond, laurie_redmond@yahoo.com

DEATH AND TAXES

WHAT: Legacy estate planning seminar
WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 26, at 4 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHAT ELSE: Kevin M. Crouch, J.D., Trusts and Estates partner, Meyer & Sayers, will guide attendees through the intricate world of estate planning, including financial and legal strategies aimed at transferring wealth to heirs or charitable organizations while ensuring your assets are managed efficiently and your wishes are fulfilled. For planning purposes, register at skidcc.org or call 912.598.0151.

HEY, SAILOR

WHAT: Basic sailing class, sponsored by the Landings Sailing Club
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., plus four hours on the water
WHERE: TLA Meeting Room, 600 Landings Way South
HOW MUCH: \$100, of which \$25 of which will be refunded if you join TLSC within 30 days
CONTACT: Angela Margolit, amargolit@hotmail.com, 973.296.8011
WHAT ELSE: Open to all Landings residents 21 or older who are either new to sailing or want a refresher course.

WORDS AND PICTURES

WHAT: The Village Library and Landings Art Association fall book and art sale
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: 1 Skidaway Village Walk
CONTACT: Becky Dominguez, beckydom61@aol.com
WHAT ELSE: Books and art for sale, and author signings.

GREEN LIGHT

WHAT: Plant-based picnic
WHEN: Oct. 28, 12 noon
WHERE: Skidaway Farms
HOW MUCH: Bring a dish to share or contributions of place settings, paper plates, eating utensils, napkins, paper towels, trash bag
CONTACT: Simone Heyman, simoneheyman-fpb@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Share a meal and learn about the health benefits of plant-based food. Open to all Skidaway residents, but must be a member of Landlovers.

www.theskinnie.com

WINGS 'N THINGS

WHAT: Raptors and Reptiles LIVE!
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 28, 1 p.m.
WHERE: The Landings Athletic Field, 600 Landings Way
HOW MUCH: free
CONTACT: friendsofskidawayaudubon@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: Get up-close looks at hawks; owls; and the Georgia Southern University mascot, Freedom the bald eagle; as GSU's Wildlife Education Center brings its fun and educational wildlife programs to Skidaway Island. This family-friendly event is presented by Skidaway Audubon. Cameras are permitted, but pets and food are prohibited.

BOW REGARDS

WHAT: Landings Garden Club Holiday Bow Sales
WHEN: every Monday and Saturday through early December, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
WHERE: in front of the Village Pharmacy Fountain
HOW MUCH: Prices start at \$15 each
CONTACT: Joni Brownstein, jonibro2022@outlook.com or 925.787.9800
WHAT ELSE: The Garden Club's annual fundraiser to fund Skidaway Island beautification and conservation. Shop early for best selection among the nine designs to choose from.

GETTING SMARTER?

WHAT: The Learning Center Lecture: "Artificial Intelligence and Higher Education"
WHEN: Monday, Oct. 30, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Wine-and-cheese reception at 5 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: Members - \$15; Non-members - \$20
CONTACT: www.seniorcitizensinc.org/the-learning-center to register or contact dhornsby@seniorcitizens-inc.org
WHAT ELSE: Beth Howell, Georgia Southern University English department chair, explores the implications of artificial intelligence for higher education and the potential impact to critical thinking and the value of the humanities.

GATHERING GROCERIES

WHAT: Packing groceries for Second Harvest
WHEN: 9 - 11 a.m., Nov. 3, Feb. 2, April 5, June 7
WHERE: Second Harvest, 2501 E President St.
CONTACT: Terry Lewis, terrylewis324@gmail.com

BREAKING THE MOLD

WHAT: The clay sculpture of Justine Ferreri
WHEN: Now through Nov. 30; Artist's reception, Nov. 5, 2 to 4 p.m.
WHERE: JEA Art Gallery, 5111 Abercorn St.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: Vicky Lunick, 912.355.8111

WHAT ELSE: Justine Ferreri is a self-taught clay sculptress working in stoneware clay. She recently moved to Savannah and opened a studio in the City Market Art Center. Her works have evolved from being very tight to a more fluid and expressive form.

FALL, IN LOVE

WHAT: The Learning Center Lecture: "Let's Fall in Love"
WHEN: Nov. 6, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wine and cheese reception at 5 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: Members, \$20; Non-members, \$25
CONTACT: www.seniorcitizensinc.org/the-learning-center to register or contact dhornsby@seniorcitizens-inc.org

WHAT ELSE: A musical event. Come celebrate autumn with fabulous songs such as "I Can't Help Falling in Love," "If I Fall," and more, with the remarkable musical talents of Jan Ogle, John Tisbert, and Jared Hall. It will be an evening to "fall" in love.

FOR THE CHILDREN

WHAT: The One Hundred Children's Foundation grants presentation and cocktail reception
WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 8, 5 - 7 p.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Ballroom, The Landings
HOW MUCH: \$65 per person including elegant hors d'oeuvres
WHAT ELSE: Join us as we celebrate the organizations that have been awarded grants from the One Hundred Children's Foundation. This fun evening includes a silent auction. A member and credit card bar will be available. Tickets are available at theonehundredchildrensfoundation.org.

SCREEN GEMS

WHAT: Mountainfilm on Tour Savannah honor veterans
WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 9 - Social hour at 6 p.m., films at 7
WHERE: Service Brewing Co., 574 Indian St.
HOW MUCH: Free admission for veterans
CONTACT: To learn more about this event and the 15th annual festival in January, please visit mountainfilmsav.org.

SEMPER FI

WHAT: U.S. Marine Corps 248th Anniversary Ball
WHEN: Friday, Nov. 10, 6 - 11 p.m.
WHERE: The Landings Palmetto Club Ballroom
HOW MUCH: \$95 per person (includes two bottles of wine per table for toasting)
CONTACT: Reservations, checks, and table groupings must be delivered by October 31 to Hal Evans, 686 Landings Way South
WHAT ELSE: Black tie, evening dress uniform, or business suit. Table grouping - 8 to 10 per table. Reservations and checks must be by October 31; no refunds after that date.

THE SKINNIE VOL. 21 ISSUE 20 - 33

ACROSS

- 1. Diner dish
- 5. Altar area
- 9. Nevada's Great _____ National Park
- 14. Enough, for some
- 15. Soft French cheese
- 16. Dwelling place
- 17. Storybook monster
- 18. Captain, e.g.
- 19. Layered rock
- 20. Wrestling hold
- 22. Preserved, in a way
- 23. Austrian peak
- 24. Horse's tidbit
- 25. Letter opener
- 26. Send the wrong way
- 29. Fourposter, e.g.
- 32. Glasses, briefly
- 34. Classic Atari game of the 1980s
- 36. Graph or mobile starter
- 37. Give it _____
- 38. Marine growth
- 39. Four-run homer
- 42. Drunk as a skunk
- 43. Moray, e.g.
- 44. Without reluctance
- 46. Minuscule
- 47. Score of zero
- 48. Apply gently
- 51. Packing a punch 54. Tear
- 56. Pitcher's place
- 57. Cast a ballot
- 58. "Nay" sayer
- 59. Cantilevered window
- 60. Revered one
- 61. Heroin, slangily
- 62. Netflix category
- 63. Eagle's roost (var.)
- 64. Roll-call response

DOWN

- 1. Bit of an uproar
- 2. California slugger
- 3. Recycling material
- 4. Pay attention to
- 5. Overseas
- 6. Almost
- 7. Make, as a putt
- 8. Cartoonish squeal
- 9. Fragrant rice
- 10. Find despicable
- 11. Linger in the tub
- 12. Doing nothing
- 13. Call for
- 21. Red ink amount
- 22. Religious offshoot
- 25. Part of LCD, in math
- 27. Computer symbol
- 28. Buick model
- 29. Greek restaurant performance
- 30. Drop-off point
- 31. Out of juice

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- 5. Overseas
- 6. Almost
- 7. Make, as a putt
- 8. Cartoonish squeal
- 9. Fragrant rice
- 10. Find despicable
- 11. Linger in the tub
- 12. Doing nothing
- 13. Call for
- 21. Red ink amount
- 22. Religious offshoot
- 25. Part of LCD, in math
- 27. Computer symbol
- 28. Buick model
- 29. Greek restaurant performance
- 30. Drop-off point
- 31. Out of juice

- 32. Herb in stuffing
- 33. Squeaky clean
- 35. Sandbox toy
- 40. Taper off
- 41. Croon a tune
- 42. Look up and down
- 45. "____ done!"
- 46. Printer need
- 49. Perfume base
- 50. Carpet color
- 51. E.P.A. concern
- 52. Hightailed it
- 53. Make a mess of
- 54. Prospector's find
- 55. Poison ivy woe
- 57. By way of

Puzzle answers, page 37

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

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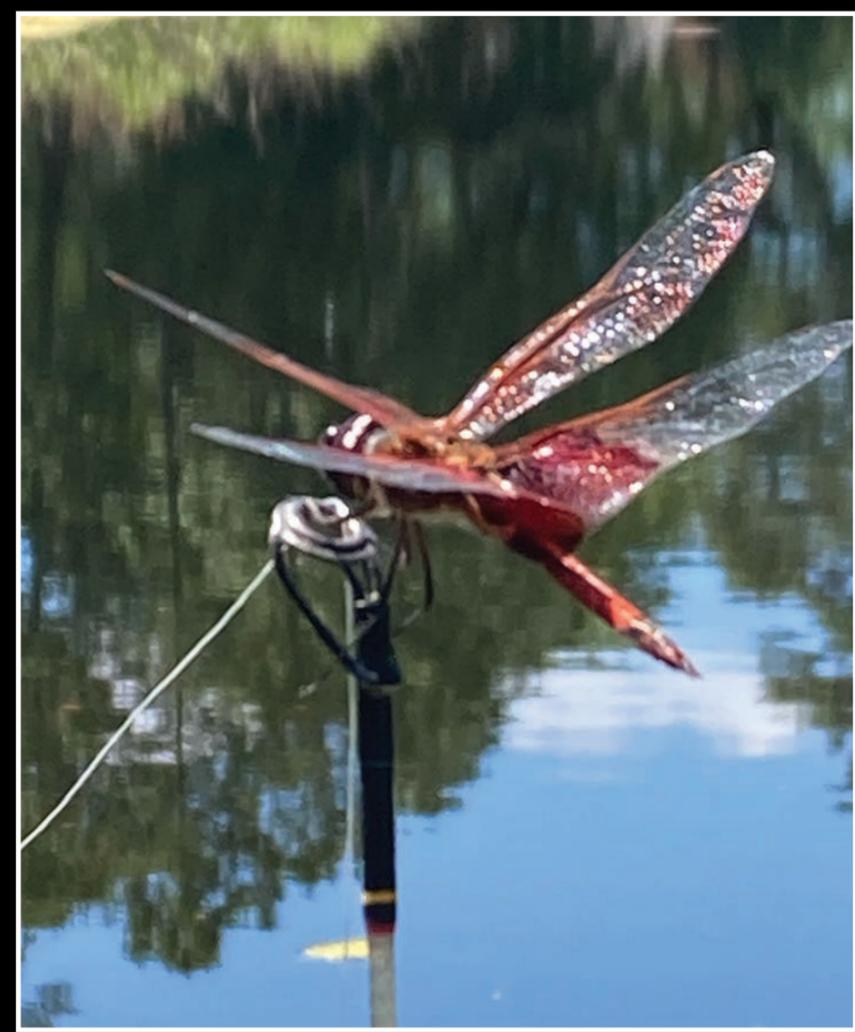
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59	O	R	I	E	L	60	I	D	O	L	61	S	C	A	G
62	G	E	N	R	E	63	A	E	R	Y	64	H	E	R	E



WILD THINGS

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.



This dragonfly came along to help Dan Grenn fish one of the ponds last spring.

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~
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Rene Hernandez - Pearson, GA

As a professional drywaller, wearing a heavy toolbelt is a necessity for Rene. But after developing a large lump on his hip, the pain prohibited him from wearing it. So he made the 3-hour drive from his home in Pearson, GA to the Lewis Cancer & Research Pavillion at St. Joseph's/Candler, where his eggplant-sized tumor was diagnosed as a rare and deadly cancerous myxoid liposarcoma.



KICKING CANCER TAKES THE RIGHT TEAM.

Dr. Leonard Henry, LCRP Medical Director and surgical oncologist, quickly consulted with a multi-disciplinary team to determine the best course of action. Together they concluded that radiation therapy followed by surgical excision was required. Dr. Henry removed the tumor, and now Rene is cancer-free and grateful to return to his normal work and family life.

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