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Writing in this space about current events is generally unwise. Because of the lag between typing and the moment you read the magazine, "current" is no longer an accurate modifier.

Also, there are 8 billion people in the world, give or take, many equipped with immediate and seamless technological links to everyone else with a digital connection, so it's statistically very likely that someone will say what I'm thinking before I have a chance to share it with you. Plus, news-focused essays aggravate those who disagree with (or believe they are predisposed to) the writer's point-of-view. To ensure the success of this enterprise, I need all the happy readers I can get, so alienating some to express my opinions is, as I said in my opening sentence, unwise.

Yet there's a phrase that I have heard often in the last 24 hours, and it annoys me. So much so that I can't flush it from my consciousness. So much so that I'm parsing it now. Paraphrasing: 'appropriately, at a time of our choosing.' Perhaps you've heard it, too...it's being said a lot.

I had a strange feeling when I began to hear bits about three American servicepeople killed in Jordan. Like this distant tragedy wasn't as distant as such things often seem. Soon, I learned all three were Georgians. Then, I heard one of the soldiers was from Carrollton, where I recently owned a business. Then Waycross. Finally, "...graduate of Windsor Forest High School in Savannah... Breonna Moffett...age 23." A neighbor. A woman a few years younger than my daughters, who went to school every day for years a few blocks from them.

According to Reuters, "U.S. troops have been attacked over 160 times in Iraq, Syria and Jordan since October 7, and warships have been attacked in the Red Sea." A hundred and sixty is a big number...forestalling tragedy was a losing bet.

Speaking about the three dead soldiers including Breonna, National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communication John Kirby said (strategically?), "We do not seek to escalate...but will respond appropriately."

Within hours, Pentagon Deputy Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said, "We don't seek a war but we will take action and respond." Action she went on to describe repeatedly as "appropriate," and to occur "at a time of our choosing."

A written statement attributed to President Biden said, "We will hold all those responsible to account at a time and in a manner of our choosing."

Subsequently and repeatedly, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre echoed: "We will respond," "appropriately," "at a time of our choosing."

So, what's bugging me? The notion of "appropriate." What's an "appropriate" response that would relieve a parent's profound grief? What's "appropriate" in the context of a future erased? What's "appropriate" to ensure that more young Americans don't die in a faraway barracks trying to sleep? And the bit about "a time of our choosing." If I were choosing, I'd choose never. Never would we have to be compelled to respond. In fact, we have very little to do with choosing the time, if we're being honest. The timeline was set in motion by people who want to kill American human beings because they are American by birth and/or choice. The clock started ticking when a drone reached firing distance of Tower 22. We didn't wind the clock; all we are doing is hitting the snooze button to mute its alarm until we decide we are ready to wake up.

"Appropriate and at a time of our choosing." We have evolved, I suppose. We are masters of nuance, or we try to be. We don't want to offend anybody, but even the most empathetic among us would be hesitant to forfeit the standard of living our ancestors have built. Which results in much internal hand-wringing and unresolvable debate.

Less than one full generation ago, George Patton said, "The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his." It's hard to imagine Patton getting anywhere near a microphone today.

Scott A. Lauretti

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Our Valentines cover was shared by frequent collaborator Brian Griffin.

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Background image by Becky Carter

A Quarter Century and Counting

St. Peter's Episcopal Raises \$1.3 Million To Benefit Savannah Youth

By Lynn Wolfe and Martha Hough
(with appreciation to many contributors)

When the doors to the Market at 3 West Ridge open on Tuesday, February 6, St. Peter's Episcopal Church will celebrate 25 years of giving in support of Savannah's most vulnerable children and their families. The journey began in 1996 when Randy Hollerith, St. Peter's first rector (now dean of the National Cathedral in Washington) challenged St. Peter's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) "to serve the wider community beyond our doors and build fellowship with the congregation."

ECW created four criteria to guide their fundraising efforts:

- Funds would only be used to support nonprofits working with at-risk children in the wider community of Savannah.
- Fundraising events would be time limited.
- Events would engage and involve St. Peter's parishioners.
- Fundraising activities would bring others to experience St. Peter's in a positive way.

ECW members with experience in large fundraising events helped with research and strategy. A decision was made. From 1999 to 2011, the ECW hosted the Skidaway Island Antiques Show and Sale (SIASS), a three-day event that brought antique dealers from across the country to sell their wares in a beautifully curated show featuring period furniture, artwork, and collectibles. An elegant black-tie preview party, a plant sale, and scrumptious lunches prepared by a talented ECW culinary team added to the ambiance



Randy Hollerith, c. 1996

and the revenue. During its 13 years, the antiques show generated \$701,500 on behalf of local programs working to enhance the wellbeing of at-risk children and youth in the greater Savannah community.

Volunteers are essential to fundraising, and 150 parishioners and friends worked to produce SIASS each year.

In 2011, ECW decided the Antiques Show and Sale had run its course. But the women of St. Peter's, wanting to continue supporting at-risk children's charities, immediately began searching for a fresh idea to inspire donors and volunteers alike. In 2012, the Market at 3 West Ridge made its debut. This unique trunk show brought national vendors to St. Peter's with their offerings of boutique clothes and accessories, fine linens, and decorative items for the home and garden. The Market replaced the antiques show as St. Peter's major fundraiser for Savannah's vulnerable children and their families. Church members and friends provide gracious hospitality to the vendors who are also donors, contributing 15 percent of their sales to the Market's charities. Over the past 12 years, the Market has grown in popularity, locally and nationally. More than 900 people attended and shopped the Market at 3 West Ridge in 2023.

Meanwhile, a dedicated group of volunteers coordinated "St. Peter's Kilometers" a race for children and adults that netted \$58,650 between 2013 and 2017. Again, all proceeds were donated to nonprofits serving at-risk children. The sense of community and friendships developed through participation in these events cannot be overstated.

A spin-off from the SIASS was the production of the popular cookbook, *Manna from Savannah*. The idea grew from casual conversations among the small culinary team working food events for the antiques show. For two years, this labor of love involved 192 volunteers who tested, tasted, and refined recipes, and helped proofread and sell cookbooks. Nationally known artist and parishioner, Marilyn Foley, created artwork that assured the book was a feast for the eyes as well as the palate. With publication costs underwritten by local sponsors and donors, cookbook sales generated \$70,000 for local charities serving at-risk kids.

Each year the Market at 3 West Ridge is supported by more than 120 volunteers who carefully curate the event, provide housing and hospitality for vendors, stuff thousands

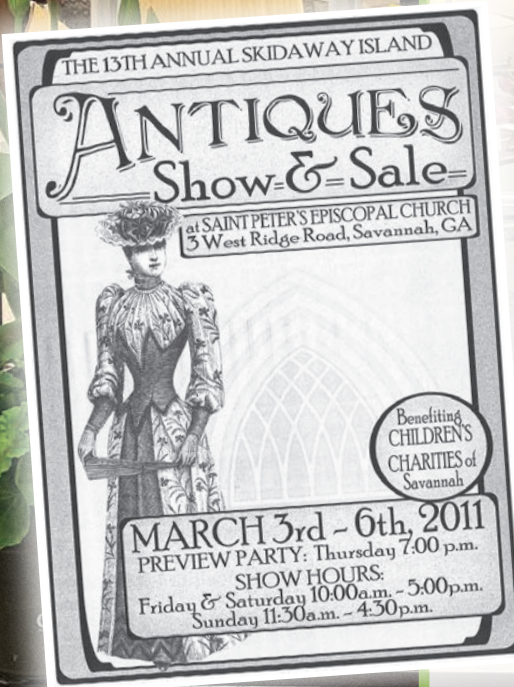


The Market at 3 West Ridge is made possible by dedicated volunteers, such as (L-R) Sharon Grozine, Susan Roberts, Susan Otter, Beth Holmquist, and Kathy Heck.

of tubes, prepare box lunches, put up and take down signs, sell tickets, set up and take down booths, secure and sell plants – and the list goes on. Because of their generosity and that of the event's sponsors, donors, vendors,

and shoppers, the Market has been able to donate \$547,000 to at-risk children's charities in Savannah since 2012.

Both the Antiques Show and the Market



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Julie White and Patty Frothingham were key culinary team members behind the Manna from Savannah cookbook.

IF YOU GO:

WHAT: The Market at 3 West Ridge
WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 6, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 7, 10 - 5 p.m.; Thursday Feb. 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 West Ridge Rd.
HOW MUCH: \$5 admission, good for all three days; \$15 box lunches including entrée, dessert, and beverage will be available
CONTACT: Visit www.saintpeterssav.org for more information
WHAT ELSE: Tuesday : A wine and light hors d'oeuvre reception to complement your shopping experience. This year's charities are BRIGHTSIDE Child and Family Advocacy and Coastal Children's Advocacy Center. Both organizations work to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

have featured potted plants and hanging baskets, all in peak bloom. A favorite purchase, plants will be available at this year's Market and can be pre-ordered anytime between now and February 19 for curbside delivery to St. Peter's circular drive on March 5. A full-color catalogue and order forms are available at www.saintpeterssav.org/outreach; scroll down under the Outreach tab.

Combined revenue from the Antiques Show, the Market, the cookbook, and five road races totals \$1,377,150 – all of which has been donated to worthy organizations who work tirelessly to improve the lives and futures of youth in greater Savannah. Thank you to the thousands of Skinnie readers who have supported us on this journey.



Shoppers at the Market at 3 West Ridge can find all manner of unique items at great prices.

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- BRIGHTSIDE Child and Family Advocacy (formerly CASA)
- Coastal Children's Advocacy Center (CCAC)
- Episcopal Youth and Children's Services
- Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club
- Greenbrier Children's Center
- Hope House-Peller Home
- Horizons Savannah
- Heads Up Guidance Services (HUGS)
- Interfaith Hospitality Network of Georgia (nee Family Promise)
- Kid's Café
- Live Oak Public Libraries
- Open Arms Home
- People of Action Caring for Kids (PACK)
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FRENEMIES IN FRANCE

The Savannah Book Festival Welcomes Theodore Wheeler

By PHILIP SCHWEIER



Author Theodore Wheeler (photo by Anne Gustafson)

In addition to established bestselling authors, Savannah Book Festival has cultivated a history of attracting newer writers. Among the presenters at this year's festival is Nebraska novelist Theodore Wheeler, whose fourth novel, *The War Begins in Paris*, hit bookshelves in November.

From his earliest memories, Wheeler has always "felt like" a writer. "My mom tells me that reading and writing came very intuitively to me," he explains. "Supposedly, I was writing my first stories on my own by age five. For most of my childhood, I dreamed of writing comic books or being a sportswriter."

A high school English teacher introduced Wheeler to several American classics and the romance of writing novels took over and never let go. Wheeler spent 14 years in journalism, covering civil law and politics (including the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections) for a national news service. He is now an English professor at Creighton University in Omaha.

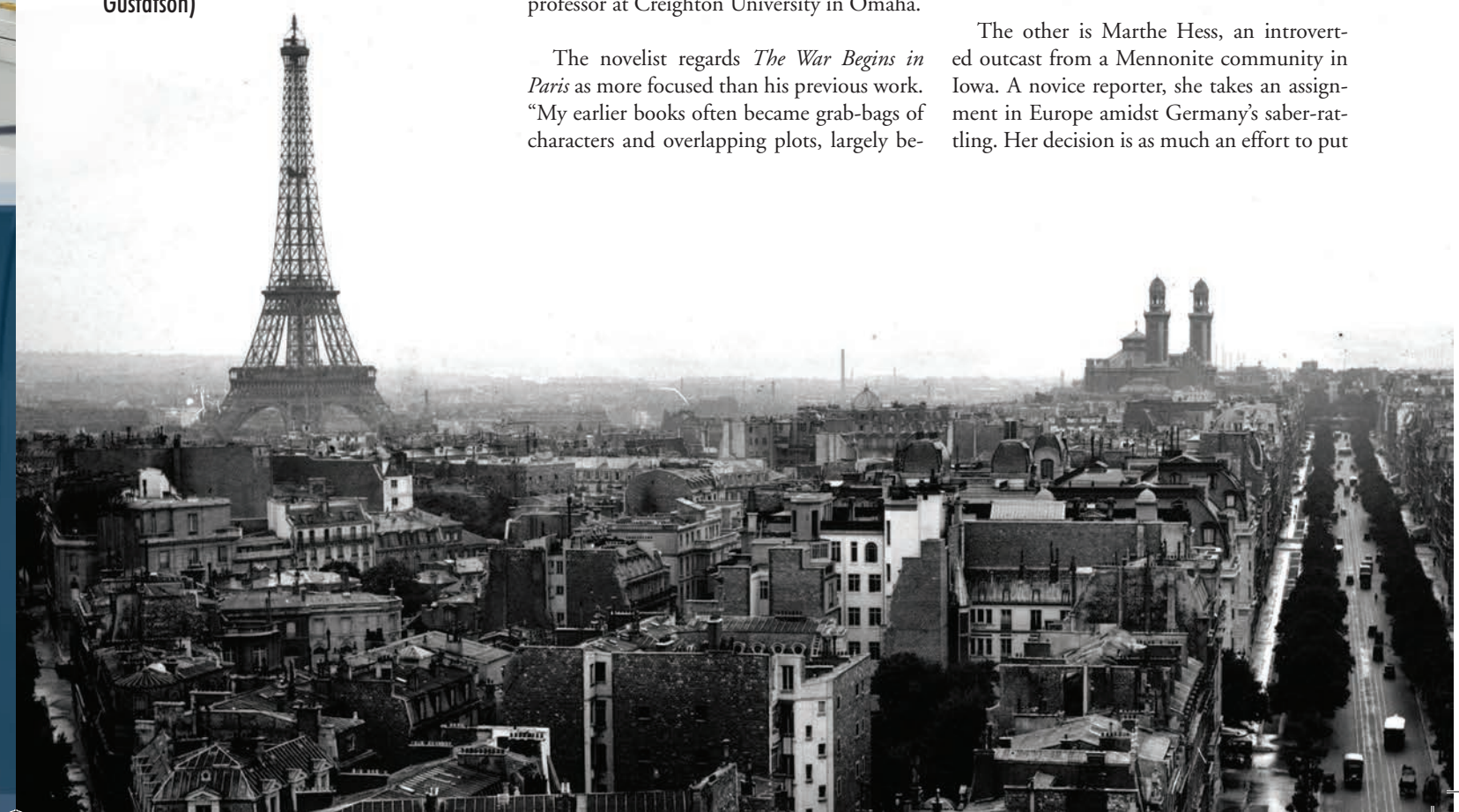
The novelist regards *The War Begins in Paris* as more focused than his previous work. "My earlier books often became grab-bags of characters and overlapping plots, largely be-

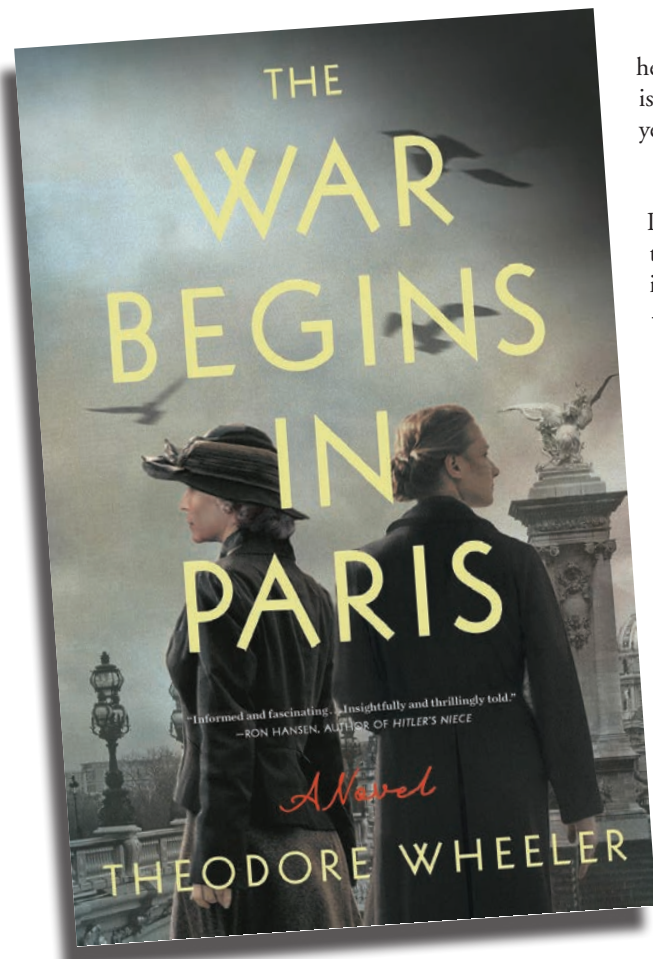
cause it took me longer to write them," he explains.

Wheeler says his goal was to stick to one storyline as much as possible without getting sidetracked. "There are fascinating characters and stories all over the place in this setting (Europe on the eve of war), but there shouldn't be any doubt over to whom this story belongs," he says. "As the opening chapter states, this is a story of two women."

One of the women is Jane Anderson, a veteran of the trenches of journalism, having covered European politics since the Versailles Treaty. Well preserved, she would have others believe she is in her 30s, though she is significantly older. Ever the opportunist, she marries an impoverished Spanish aristocrat with delusions of relevance. Her marital connections put her on the fascist side of the Spanish Civil War, and her political leanings continue with the advent of the Third Reich.

The other is Marthe Hess, an introverted outcast from a Mennonite community in Iowa. A novice reporter, she takes an assignment in Europe amidst Germany's saber-rattling. Her decision is as much an effort to put





her Mennonite roots behind her as it is a career move during the waning years of the Great Depression.

Jane and Marthe cross paths in Paris, absorbed into the community of American and British journalists reporting on events in Europe – not just the annexation of the Sudetenland and Chamberlain's meetings with Hitler, but also stories of the French citizenry anxious over the increasing clouds of war. Jane comes to regard Marthe – nicknamed Mielle – as her protégé, hoping to mold the naive young reporter into a younger version of herself. However, Marthe soon recognizes that her would-be mentor has become prone to propaganda rather than legitimate news reporting.

Sympathetic to fascist causes, Jane invites Marthe to Germany. A fellow correspondent of questionable reputation recognizes an opportunity to silence a valuable Nazi mouthpiece

and encourages Marthe to seek an opening to poison Jane.

Jane Anderson was a real person from a prominent Georgia family who rose to fame in her 20s while reporting on the first World War. However, she isn't known as a pioneering female journalist because she ended up doing propaganda work for the Nazis under the moniker "the Georgia Peach." Wheeler came across Anderson's story a decade ago and was fascinated by the debutante turned fascist. "I didn't want to write a whole novel from her perspective, so I just held on to the story for a few years while I worked on my other novels," Wheeler says.

Reporting on recent presidential elections contributed to Wheeler's curiosity about the toxicity of politics. He decided to craft a story that focused on humanistic journalists who fought against Anderson's message of hate. "That's how the character of Marthe Hess came into being, as a counterweight to confront Jane," Wheeler explains. "Where Jane was famous, loud, provocative, and a warmonger, Marthe would be young, unknown, meek, and radically pacifist. Having these two women become close friends within the

context of the early days of World War II felt like a story I couldn't help but write."

He began writing the book in earnest in 2020. "With this novel, I didn't let myself start writing until I had a better idea of what the story would be and had a clear stretch of time ahead to write. Covid sure helped to clear my schedule."

On his website, Wheeler writes, "Every day when I got to work on these pages I tried to keep my audience in mind, treating the writing as a sort of performance and an invitation to engage."

Wheeler was nervous about writing a story substantially set in Paris. "I'd been to Paris, but was far from an insider, so having a main character who was a total misfit in that setting was my point of entry. Even if I was awkward, uncultured, and clumsy in my understanding of some things, Marthe would be so even more. My feelings of being a fraud or outsider were something I could overlay onto her character."

Getting into Marthe's character required a lot of work and imagination. "I had to learn

about the history of Mennonites and why many of them ended up in Iowa," Wheeler says. "I went to the Iowa Mennonite Museum and Archives in Kalona to see a bit of what life would have been like in a Mennonite assembly during that period. As with most of my characters, I tried to start with an area of commonality and build from there."

Marthe is largely a composite of characteristics Wheeler observed in the journalists who covered the war. "When I started writing her character it seemed unlikely that a young woman could move so quickly from a farm in Iowa to working as a journalist in Paris," he says. "But, as I learned, it happened fairly frequently. Being a journalist didn't pay well; the hours were horrible; you were often exposed to abusive bosses. But it was a way someone could rise quickly in the world and get a bit of notoriety."

When writing about real events and people, Wheeler tries to stick to the historical record as much as possible. "For example, characters based on famous journalists like Dorothy Thompson, William Shirer, and Edward Murrow make cameos in the book," he explains. "Even though they only appear on

SAVANNAH BOOK FESTIVAL

IF YOU GO:
WHAT: Theodore Wheeler at the Savannah Book Festival
WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m.
WHERE: First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 223 Bull St.
CONTACT: Visit savannahbookfestival.org for a full schedule of SBF events
WHAT ELSE: Author Theodore Wheeler will discuss his latest novel, *The War Begins in Paris*.

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a few pages each, I spent significant time researching their lives and personalities to make sure I didn't misrepresent them."

It was a bit easier with someone like Jane Anderson. "A lot of how she moves on the page is invention, based on what I could research about her character, and there were gaps in her story after she was removed from the air in March of 1942," Wheeler explains. "I filled in those gaps in the novel."

Wheeler reflects on how much some people are drawn to Jane Anderson. "She was an unabashed fascist and supported some of history's biggest monsters," he notes. "But she was a fun personality with a fair bit of glamor to her, with a fascinating backstory. I think the book resonates because of this friendship between people with opposite politics that are in conflict."

Wheeler is pleased with the fruit of his labor. "The result is, I believe, my best work yet – an imaginative war novel that will challenge, delight, and resonate with many of the scores of readers I have met over the last six years, and hopefully many more," he concludes.

Wheeler is currently researching and developing characters for two future projects. One is another war novel, set in Switzerland in the 1940s, that focuses on the experience of displaced refugees. The other is set in Omaha and follows the orphaned niece of Father Flanagan, founder of Boys Town. "I'd like to write both of these novels someday," he says. "I'm not sure which one will be next, though the Switzerland novel feels like it's pulling on me the most at the moment."

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A Path to **Brain Health**

New technology at St. Joseph's/Candler allows deep access to the brain without disrupting healthy tissue.

The devastating effect of unmanaged high blood pressure is often clearest when someone has suffered from a stroke. High blood pressure damages arteries to the point that they can be narrowed or blocked by a clot, which causes an ischemic stroke; or burst and bleed into the brain, which is known as a hemorrhagic stroke. In the past, if a stroke occurred deep within the brain there was nothing a neurosurgeon could do to intervene. The damage risk to dense and delicate brain tissue was too great.

"These patients would linger in the intensive care unit for weeks, and rehabilitation would take months," explains board certified neurosurgeon Jay U. Howington, MD, of Neurosurgical and Spine Institute.

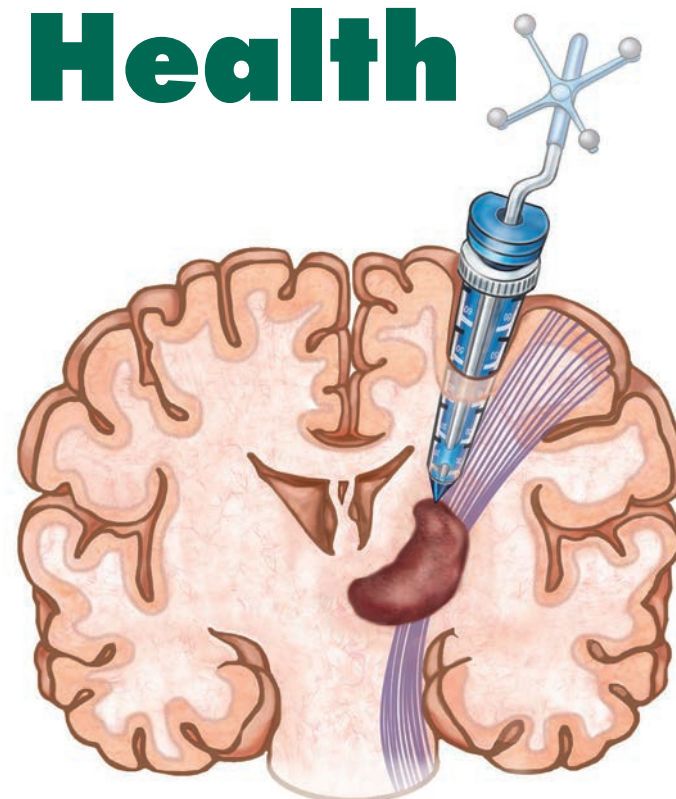
A new technology allows neurosurgeons to reach deep levels of the brain without damaging tissue, so they can remove deep-seated brain tumors and evacuate blood clots caused by stroke. Developed by NICO Corporation, it is known as the BrainPath system.

"If you do a scan of a patient's brain the day after the procedure, you can't even see the path that the instrument took to get there," Howington says. "But the clot or the tumor will be gone."

When Howington learned about the capabilities of the BrainPath system, he knew it was a game-changer in neurosurgery. St. Joseph's/Candler procured the technology to bring previously inoperable brain tumors and intracerebral hemorrhages within reach.

"To treat certain areas, you need to be able to advance through the brain without violating its tracts, or neural pathways," Howington explains. "Advanced imaging shows us the different paths of the tracts in each patient, and I use BrainPath instruments to go around those tracts on my way to the clot or tumor."

The BrainPath's cone-shaped introducer allows for a non-traumatic



entry into the sulci – the lower grooves on the surface of the brain – by gently dispersing brain fiber tracts rather than pushing or cutting through them. Howington uses 3D-imaging technology to locate the clot or tumor and guide the instrument through the optimal route. After removing the introducer, a sheath remains in the corridor, allowing him to insert another tool, the NICO Myriad, which safely accesses the targeted tissue. If it's a clot, it will be suctioned and chewed up. If it's a tumor, it will be captured intact and biologically preserved using NICO's automated preservation system, which keeps the tissue fresh by mimicking the brain's microenvironment.

"With this tool, I can collect a pristine tumor specimen that can be sent to pathology," Howington says.

A stroke can't be undone, but Howington says that being able to reach previously inaccessible clots can make the road to recovery much smoother for patients in the neuro-intensive care unit at St. Joseph's Hospital.

"We have taken the burden out of the brain," he explains. "So patients are getting out of intensive care faster; they are getting to rehab faster; and their outcomes are better."

The way the BrainPath achieves this without causing a deficit to the brain is nothing short of elegant, from Howington's perspective.

"It's very gratifying to look at a CT-scan post-op and think, 'Wow, was there even a hemorrhage and was I even there?!'" he exclaims.

While Howington appreciates the BrainPath technology, he says simply, "I hope we never have to use it on you."

Though you can't prevent a brain tumor through lifestyle changes, you do control over your risk for stroke and intracerebral hemorrhages.

"Many of the patients I treat have suffered a stroke due to uncontrolled, untreated high blood pressure," Howington says. "There are some very simple things you can do to get your blood pressure and other risk factors under control."

Modifiable risk factors for stroke include:

- **A healthy diet** – This includes lean proteins, lots of fruits and vegetables, and healthy fats. It also means avoiding or at least limiting foods high in saturated fat, salt, and sugar.

- **Exercise** – The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes of physical activity a week. Move more and sit less. Physical inactivity can lead to high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and other chronic health issues.

- **Weight management** – Adults with a body mass index (BMI) greater than 30 have been shown to be at higher risk of suffering a stroke. Not surprisingly, the two factors above – a healthy diet and exercise – can help you lower your BMI to a healthy range.

- **Take your medications and see your doctor** – Always take your medication as prescribed, especially if you are on blood pressure or cholesterol medication. See your doctor annually. Routine visits with your doctor will help monitor potential risk factors including blood pressure, cholesterol, and weight.



"It's very gratifying to look at a CT-scan post-op and think, 'Wow, was there even a hemorrhage and was I even there?!'"

- Jay Howington, MD -

"You can't control things like age, race, or family history," Howington notes. "But many of these other risk factors are within your control. If you take care of yourself, the less risk you have. If you live smart, the chance that you'll have to come see me is low."



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Tales From the Deep Rough by Peter Sizer

Golf: It's Not (Quite) Life or Death

Now that the statute of limitations has expired, let me tell you about the time that I nearly killed my brother. For my 13th birthday, I received a couple of golf clubs; but, as winter held New England in icy thrall, I couldn't take them outside to swing. So, I toted the 3-iron into the large family room with its high ceiling. I was alone and focused. Mid-swing, my little brother came running around a corner and bounded into the room. My follow-through caught him in his forehead and spun him around. He ran screaming into the living room, oozing blood that traced his path across the carpet.

My mother, not knowing what happened, quickly grabbed my brother and rushed him to the hospital. His injuries consisted of a slight fracture, a concussion, and a gash that required a few stitches. He still bears a scar, but no overt ill will. By sheer luck, I caught him with a glancing blow, rather than flush in the face. Nevertheless, I didn't know the extent of the harm I had caused and feared that it was...grievous. Would I never be forgiven by my family, or by myself.

I never touched that club again. Not a great loss, because who can hit a 3-iron with any consistency, anyway?

Golf is a dangerous game, given the hardness of the ball and the

velocity with which it travels. In their heedless proximity to golfers attempting difficult shots from the rough or among trees, spectators at professional tournaments seem to defy or deny the potential peril just to stand close to the likes of Dustin Johnson. A couple of years after my brother's reckless entrance into our family room (revisionist history), I nearly took out a playing partner who was standing about 50 yards ahead and off to the left. I hit a vicious snap hook with a 4-wood that never got higher than five feet off the ground. I yelled, he turned, then froze in his tracks as the ball came at him so directly and quickly that he didn't know what to do. As luck would have it, this ballistic golf ball hit the head of one of the clubs in his bag and bounded back into the fairway. No harm, no foul, let's move on. But another tale had been added to the legend of the Feral Golfer.

If age 72 is par for life, then I am no longer breaking par. It becomes inevitable that we look back since the allotted time ahead is rapidly expiring, and forward-thinking leads to one inescapable and disturbing conclusion. Reviewing one's past is often unsettling as we gather our regrets and ponder what might have been had we made different choices. The John Lennon song "In My Life" captures this state of mind, which is remarkable since he was a young man of 25 when he wrote it. Sadly, he makes no mention of golf and its curious allure. Willie Nelson may golf, but Lennon, never! So, what does the Feral Golfer have to show for six decades of chasing a golf ball across the greenery?

He didn't own a decent set of golf clubs until he was 23, despite being a starter on his high school team in his senior year. He never had a lesson. He played on scruffy public courses until he was 60, in a part of the country with a peak golf season of six months duration at best. In the 15 years prior to retirement, he played a dozen rounds per year at most. In the 15 succeeding years, he has used the best equipment and plays at a private club with unlimited access to practice facilities. He doesn't compete in club tournaments because if he can't beat the club champion straight up, what's the point? All that said, what exactly is the point?

Those blessed with a modicum of athleticism are naturally desirous of expressing it through sport. Golf can be played throughout one's lifetime without having to rely on others to be able to do so, as with tennis or team sports. Yes, one can bowl alone, but that's done in what might as well be an underground bunker, and one will be underground soon enough. To be able to play the games of our youth in our old age is a comfort of sorts, as aging often means giving things up. As I play golf today, in my mind's eye I'm still teeing it up at my disheveled muni in Fairfield, Connecticut, 60 years ago, full of hope and enthusiasm for the odyssey ahead. And that is enough for me.



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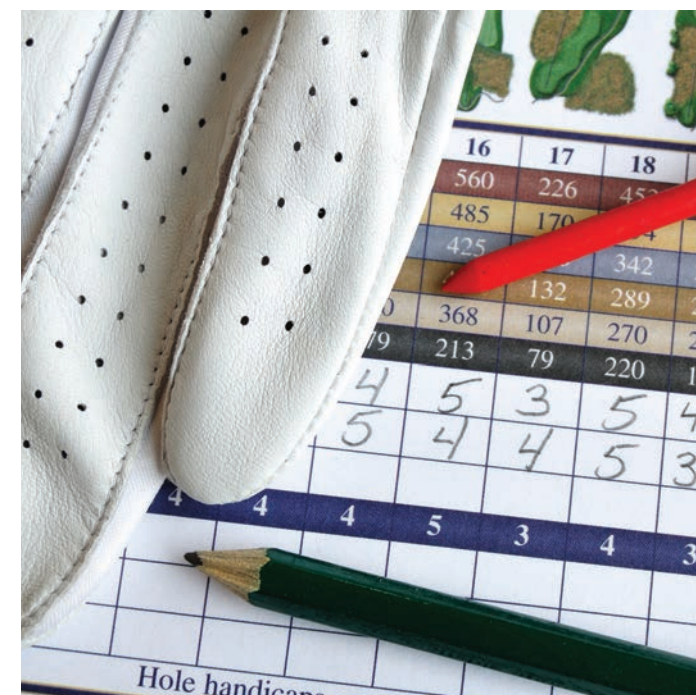
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I have no real accomplishments in golf, except attaining a few personal goals. Three holes-in-one were simply dumb luck, but breaking par for 18 holes was a real joy twice achieved. I manage to shoot my age or better on a fairly regular basis, and I'm playing the best golf of my life, albeit from a shorter set of tees than in my younger days. All



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this at a point when skills are eroding as the body does likewise. But what if I had, by accident of birth, been born into a wealthy country club family, with access to all that that provides for an enthusiastic beginning golfer? Could I have become a scratch golfer in my teens? These are the unsettling thoughts that arise from looking back. They must be banished because, despite Dylan Thomas' admonition, I do want to go gentle into that good night. Still, I'd pay a large chunk of my 401k to be able to feel what it's like to play golf in a young body with today's equipment.

Never let it be said that the Feral Golfer failed in his responsibility to take on the big issues of the day in this space so generously provided. Although, it may be whispered that after almost 40 articles he is so bereft of ideas that he has resorted to bathroom humor. When golfers enter the male side of the on-course rest facilities at my club, they do so with some trepidation because the floor in the area of the urinals is always wet, and not because the janitorial staff has just finished moping. I suggest that management place a sign with bold block letters over each fixture, offering one of golf instructor Harvey Penick's most famous aphorisms: "TAKE DEAD AIM!" Come on, guys, get a grip.




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island hopping

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Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.

HEAR GREAT SPEAKERS

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

WHERE ART THOU?

WHAT: Closing reception for Lee Ann Morse and Jane Rosenblum
WHEN: Tuesday, Jan. 30, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
WHERE: Montag Gallery at the JEA 5111 Abercorn St.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: Katie Griffith, Arts and Ideas Coordinator, 912.355.8111
WHAT ELSE: The Montag Gallery is a white box space for talented local artists of all genres to showcase their work. All are welcome to visit and shop for special pieces.

www.theskinnie.com

FORE LADIES ONLY

WHAT: Landlovers Ladies 9-Hole golf group (LLL9)
WHEN: Tuesdays
WHAT ELSE: Sign up for February: "There's Snow Place Like LLL9" tinyurl.com/February-2024-LLL9-Sign-Up.

VITAL ORGAN

WHAT: Organ recital, featuring Eric Plutz
WHEN: Friday, Feb. 2, at 6:30 p.m.; wine-and-cheese reception at 5:45
WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 West Ridge Rd.
HOW MUCH: Donations greatly appreciated
CONTACT: kturner@saintpeterssav.org or 912.598.7242
WHAT ELSE: Originally from Rock Island, Illinois, Eric Plutz is University Organist at Princeton University. He earned his bachelor of music degree from Westminster Choir College and his Masters from the Eastman School of Music.

AUTHOR, AUTHOR

WHAT: Skidaway author book signing
WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 3, 2 to 3 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island State Park Interpretive Center
HOW MUCH: Free
WHAT ELSE: Award-winning children's book author and illustrator and Skidaway resident, Phyllis Limbacher Tildes, will present an interactive program for young and old, reading her popular nature books and showing original illustrations. Her 25th book, a board book version of Eye Guess, was released by Charlesbridge Publishing in January. It features many of the animals found on Skidaway Island.

MARKET FORCES

WHAT: The Market at 3 West Ridge, a shopping boutique and spring plant sale
WHEN: Feb. 6, 4:30-7:30 p.m. with complimentary wine and light hors d'oeuvres; Feb. 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Feb. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with café lunch available.
WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 West Ridge Rd., across from Publix
HOW MUCH: \$5 covers admission for all three days
CONTACT: Kathryn McLearn, 912.598.4520
WHAT ELSE: Join us as we celebrate our

BUILDING BRIDGES

WHAT: Social bridge game
WHEN: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
WHERE: the Savannah Bridge Club
HOW MUCH: \$6 for members, \$7 for non-members
CONTACT: Veronica, 912.598.7217 or Savannah Bridge Club, 912.228.4838
WHAT ELSE: All skill levels welcome. Come alone or with a partner or bridge group.

DOUBLE YOUR FUN

WHAT: Duplicate Bridge
WHEN: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Oakridge Dining Room
HOW MUCH: \$4 entry fee paid out to top pairs
CONTACT: Steve Fitzgerald, stefitz@bell-south.net or 912.856.4172
WHAT ELSE: All are welcome. Please sign up weekly by Monday so partnerships (made randomly) can be made in advance of game day.

BRIDGING THE GAP

WHAT: Co-ed Bridge Group
WHEN: every Wednesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
WHERE: Marshwood club/Landings Room
HOW MUCH: \$1/person
CONTACT: David Marbry, marbryd@outlook.com

CAN YOU CANASTA?

WHAT: Max of 24 players. Players must have a basic knowledge of the game.
WHEN: Every Wednesday, 2-5 p.m.
WHERE: Marshwood Clubhouse, Skidaway Room
CONTACT: Diane and Paul Bloom, landloverscanasta@gmail.com.



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CONSERVATIVELY SPEAKING

WHAT: Skidaway Island Republican Club Lincoln Day Dinner
WHEN: Feb. 8, 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Club Ballroom
HOW MUCH: \$200 per person
WHAT ELSE: The keynote speaker is Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch. Register online at skidawayislandrepublicanclub.wildapricot.org.

DEAR ABBIES

WHAT: Skidaway Abigails January trolley tour of Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. (CHSA)
WHEN: Monday, Feb. 12, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
WHERE: Meet at Skidaway Methodist church at 10 a.m. and carpool downtown to 20 Interchange Drive
HOW MUCH: The cost of the trolley, box lunch from Panera Bread, and tip is \$20 per person. You may tip more if you wish.
CONTACT: To learn more about the Skidaway Abigails, visit skidawayabigails.org.
WHAT ELSE: The tour will be hosted by CHSA Executive Director Anita Smith-Dixon, who will introduce us to different residential areas from older apartment complexes to the newest and largest planned housing community. A box lunch is included, but you may bring a snack. There will be water on the trolley. Space is limited to the first 30 Abigails who sign up.

SHALL WE DANCE?

WHAT: Ballroom dance instruction
WHEN: Feb. 12, 7-8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway United Methodist Church
HOW MUCH: \$15 per person for each session. Please sign up and pay through the Landlovers website by February 5.
CONTACT: Marilee Dalbey, 334.797.9952 or marileedalbey@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Just in time for Valentine's Day! Put on your dancing shoes and learn to waltz. A professional ballroom instructor from Savannah Ballroom will teach the basic steps and turns and can help with more advanced moves as well. Instruction is from 7-8 p.m., with free dance and line dancing following. Please wear comfortable clothing and hard-sole shoes. You must be a member of Landlovers to attend.

RIGHT ON

WHAT: Luncheon meeting of Ladies On The Right (LOTR).

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 15 (social 12-1 p.m.; lunch/program 1-2:30)
WHERE: Landings Palmetto Club ballroom
HOW MUCH: LOTR members - \$35; Non-members - \$40
CONTACT: To register (Feb. 13 deadline) or to join LOTR, visit www.ladiesontheright.org
WHAT ELSE: Former Chatham County Assistant District Attorney Anthony Burton will give an overview of our county's judicial system, the May election for its open offices, and what's at stake. Several candidates will be introduced and participate in a Q&A session. LOTR is a greater-Savannah Conservative leadership organization whose mission is to inform, educate and inspire members to take action roles on issues that impact our country, community and lives. LOTR hosts luncheon meetings on the third Thursday of each month.

BLUE BLAZERS

WHAT: "Bethesda, Then and Now"
WHEN: 4 p.m., Feb. 15
WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 West Ridge Rd.
HOW MUCH: Free for FOSA members; \$5 for guests payable online or at the door
CONTACT: friendsofskidawayaudubon@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Bethesda Academy's Institutional Advancement Director John Reddan presents, "How Bethesda Saved Oglethorpe's Savannah and Who We Are Today." Pre-register online at SkidawayAudubon.org.

POSTAL PEOPLE

WHAT: Landings Stamp Club
WHEN: Friday, Friday Feb. 16, 10 a.m.
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church conference room
COST: Free
CONTACT: Carl Luecke, cluecke@comcast.net or 912.349.0340 for meeting details.
WHAT ELSE: Beginner, advanced, or anyone in between is welcome to join our monthly meeting. Learn about buying, selling, or preserving your collections, and discover different types of stamps from all over the world.

JERSEY BOYS (AND GIRLS)

WHAT: Landing's Garden Staters Club - Leap Year karaoke night
WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 29, 6 to 9 p.m.
WHERE: Delegal Pavilion
HOW MUCH: If you haven't joined or paid for 2024, dues are \$12 per person payable to NJ Garden Staters and tubed to Jill Rubin at 17 Sweetgum Crossing or VENMO to @Barbara-Rubin-31
CONTACT: RSVP to landingsgardenstaters@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Please bring an appetizer to share

and your own libations. Soft drinks and water will be provided. For questions, please contact us at landingsgardenstaters@gmail.com or call Jill Rubin at 215.850.3894 or Eileen Yost at 973.255.0580.

WIND CHIMES

WHAT: The Savannah Wind Symphony Spring Concert
WHEN: Tuesday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Fine Arts Auditorium, Georgia Southern University - Armstrong Campus
HOW MUCH: General admission - \$20; \$15 for military; \$10 for children (18-under). Tickets are available at eventbrite.com or at savannah-windsymphony.com.
CONTACT: savwinds@gmail.com
CONTACT: Please visit savannahwindsymphony.com for details, or email savwinds@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Guest conductor David Carbone

GET PACKING

WHAT: Landlovers Annual Flea Market
WHEN: Saturday, March 9
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: Janie Florenz at janie1040@gmail.com; To volunteer, contact Michele Simari at LLFMVolunteers@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: We are gearing up for Landlovers' biggest fundraiser. We are currently collecting packing paper and moving boxes, especially medium, large, dish barrel, and wardrobe sizes. To schedule a pick-up, email Walter Brownell at wallywood3@gmail.com. Intake for all other donations will be March 2 - 4.

AUCTION ACTION

WHAT: Landlovers Auctionmania
WHEN: Tuesday, March 13, 5 - 7 p.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Club Ballroom
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: Eileen Yost at eileenyrm@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Join us at Auctionmania where hundreds of unique and high-value items will be sold at Landlovers' silent auction. All proceeds benefit Landlovers Foundation and is open to all Landings residents. If you have unique, valuable items that you'd like to donate, you can bring them to the flea market intake, scheduled for March 2 - 4. If you have things you'd like to donate before March, please contact Tom Stephens at tom.stephens@comcast.net.

FOR THE CHILDREN

WHAT: The One Hundred Children's Foundation Golf Ball Drop
WHEN: March 25, 6 p.m.
WHERE: Marshwood Club
HOW MUCH: Event dinner ticket - \$125; Golf ball raffle ticket - \$100
CONTACT: www.theonehundredchildrensfoundation.org

WHAT ELSE: Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and live music under the stars, with dinner carving stations and dessert. Only 300 golf balls will be sold. You do not need to be present to win. Three golf ball raffle prizes - Closest to the hole, \$2,500; 2nd, \$1,500; 3rd, \$1,000. For event and raffle tickets: theonehundredchildrensfoundation.org.

GATHERING GROCERIES

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

HELLO, SAILOR

WHAT: Basic sailing class, sponsored by The Landings Sailing Club
WHEN: Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., plus 4 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.

DINNER IS SERVED

WHAT: Private chef dinner party raffle
WHEN: Ongoing; Drawing - May 4
WHERE: Winner enjoys prepared dinner at your own residence
HOW MUCH: \$20 per ticket
CONTACT: Julie Storm - jstormdallas@gmail.com 214.789.7918
WHAT ELSE: A chance to win a three-course meal for 8 people served in your home by a private chef who provides the meal and cleans up the kitchen. The winner will select the chef from Fire, Food and Knives, the cuisine, and the date. To purchase tickets, visit www.landingslandlovers.com, under Happenings/Fund Raisers.

FINANCIAL AID

WHAT: AARP Tax-Aide Program saves volunteers
WHEN: Training in Dec. and Jan.; Tax preparation starts Feb. 1 for 10 weeks; hours and days are flexible
WHERE: Chatham SW and Bull Street Libraries
CONTACT: Volunteer coordinator John Gerardi, 912.661.8705 or johngerardi@hotmail.com
WHAT ELSE: This program provides free tax preparation for low- to moderate-income families, as well as the elderly and people with disabilities.

AARP Tax-Aide saves underserved individuals/families millions in preparation fees and helps taxpayers claim millions in refunds, which can be used to reduce poverty. Tax preparers will be trained to become IRS-certified. Volunteers are also needed to help with intake/front desk.

TAXATION REPRESENTATION

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

HELP AROUND THE HOUSE

WHAT: Habitat for Humanity volunteers wanted
WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays, possibly Thursdays
WHERE: locations vary
CONTACT: Mark Piven, 912.598.0323
WHAT ELSE: Prior experience is not necessary. Many volunteers learn on the job and only do whatever they feel comfortable with. Tools are provided.

FOOD FOR FELINES

WHAT: Kitten food drive for the Humane Society of Greater Savannah
WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: Humane Society Adoption Center, 7215 Sallie Mood Dr.
CONTACT: Call Rosemary Longueira at 598.2875 or drop donations at 22 Long Island Road, Oakridge
WHAT ELSE: With so many kittens in foster care, the Humane Society is in need of Fancy Feast canned kitten food, Purina dry kitten chow, and kitten replacement milk (such as KMR) for the neonatal bottle fed kittens. Soft fuzzy blankets would also be appreciated. Donations can be dropped off during normal business hours (Tuesday-Saturday, 1:00-6:00 p.m.) or off-hours in the donation bins outside the Adoption Center on Sallie Mood Drive.

ANIMAL HOUSE

WHAT: Call for volunteers
WHEN: Flexible hours to meet your needs and schedule, various tasks

WHERE: The Humane Society Thrift Shop, 7215 Sallie Mood Dr.
CONTACT: Volunteer coordinator, Yvonne Hemphill, 603.502.6906
WHAT ELSE: No experience necessary. All proceeds from the thrift shop go to supporting the care of the shelter's animals.

HORSE SENSE

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

CAUSEWAY CLEAN-UP

WHAT: Diamond Causeway litter pickup
WHEN: 10 a.m., 3rd Saturday of each month, starting Oct. 21
WHERE: Meet at Butterbean Landing parking lot
CONTACT: Courtney Fowler at 912.891.0850 or causewaycleanup@gmail.com, or Susan Ragland, sragland@fourseasonstvrl.com
WHAT ELSE: Please contact Courtney in the event of inclement weather. Bring work gloves, safety vest if you have one, or wear bright clothing, trash picker, water. Trash bags will be provided. Water is recommended to avoid dehydration.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

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

CARING WITH CASSEROLES

WHAT: Casseroles for Safe Shelter
WHEN: Every 3rd Tuesday
WHERE: Dropoff at 2 Moonrise Circle; Other locations TBD
CONTACT: Sue Souls, LLcommservice@gmail.com or smsouls@gmail.com

Complete Island Hopping listings are available at www.theskinnie.com

ACROSS

- 1. Smelting waste
- 5. Got a perfect score
- 9. Intense enthusiasm
- 14. Kind of salad
- 15. Wash
- 16. Shove off
- 17. Major work
- 18. Unknown author, briefly
- 19. Keebler's crew
- 20. Kind of ad
- 22. Familiarize
- 23. Killed, as a dragon
- 24. Gracefully trim
- 26. Make believe
- 28. Hibiscus holder
- 32. Research facility
- 35. SALT signer
- 36. Kind of penguin
- 38. Make a collar
- 40. Giving a hand to
- 41. Freeway mishap
- 43. Blender setting
- 44. Long, long ____
- 45. Bring into harmony
- 46. Pinball palaces
- 49. Overseas, perhaps
- 51. Drink like a dog
- 55. Truce talk
- 58. Form incorrectly
- 60. Kind of symmetry
- 61. Large butte
- 62. Many moons
- 63. Spotted horse
- 64. Pirate's drink
- 65. Colonel or captain
- 66. Off
- 67. Locks in a barn?
- 68. Griffith or Garcia

DOWN

- 1. Brings to a halt
- 2. Jacket part
- 3. Honda's luxury line
- 4. Grapevine talk
- 5. Astronaut Shepard

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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63						64				65				
66						67				68				

- 6. Rummy relative
- 7. Change with the times
- 8. Easy chair site
- 9. On one's toes
- 10. Freed from anxiety
- 11. Matthews or Chappelle
- 12. Dutch ____
- 13. Take a breather
- 21. Sudden influx
- 22. Card game for kids
- 25. Memphis-to-Nashville dir.
- 27. Where tide meets river
- 29. Diva's rendition
- 30. Record number?
- 31. Therefore
- 32. Laddie's love
- 33. Fighting force
- 34. Fiber source
- 37. Computer screen dots
- 39. Step up, as a conflict
- 42. MLB player, eg.
- 43. President after Jefferson
- 47. Pentax product
- 48. "The English Patient" setting
- 50. Not on deck
- 52. Like Druids and Wiccans
- 53. Knock over
- 54. Annoying
- 55. Perry Como's "___ Loves Mambo"
- 56. X or Y, in geometry
- 57. Skating surface
- 59. Fragrant herb
- 61. "Grand" hotel in Vegas

Puzzle answers, page 33

\$30 each, with a maximum of 50 words • \$5 for each additional 10 words • Contact Teri Grayson at 912.598.9715 or email classifieds@theskinnie.com

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COOLSCULPTING SPECIAL • Mention the Skinnie for 25% off one CoolSculpting treatment with Dr. Martin Everhard, MD, Ph.D., FACS. To learn more about the FDA-cleared non-inva-

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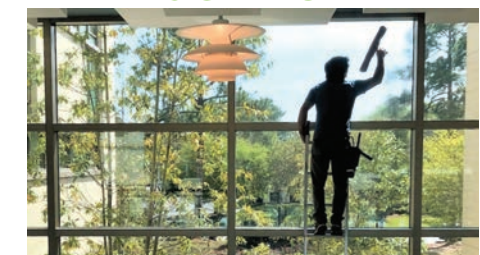
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S	L	A	G	A	C	E	D	A	R	D	O	R	
T	A	C	O	L	A	V	E	L	E	A	V	E	
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P	I	N	T	O	G	R	O	G	R	A	N	K	
A	S	K	E	W	M	A	N	E	A	N	D	Y	

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.

Mike Welsh shared these photos of hummingbirds visiting his yard at the Landings.



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

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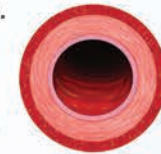


Minnie Wingster - Savannah, GA

One morning Minnie woke up with a pain in her chest. Not only was she having an active heart attack, an electrocardiogram (EKG) found severe blockages in multiple vessels. She was in a state of advanced heart failure and cardiogenic shock, causing organ failure.

Dr. Abisogun, a cardiologist practicing at The Heart Hospital at St. Joseph's Hospital, used the minimally-invasive Impella CP® to artificially pump her blood while he inserted stents and performed multiple artery-clearing procedures. Thanks to the availability of lifesaving technology and the expertise of Dr. Abisogun and the entire Heart Hospital team, Minnie is now back to planting flowers and enjoying life.

"I knew I would receive the absolute best care from the St. Joseph's/Candler heart team. I'm grateful to be here for my children, my grandchildren and myself." – Minnie Wingster



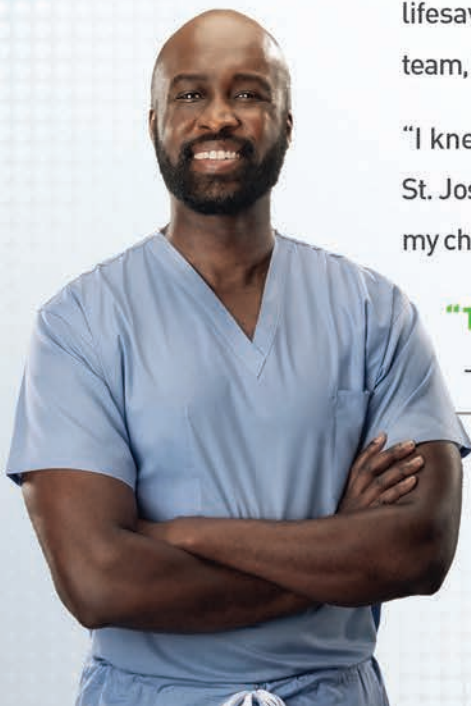
healthy artery



clogged artery

"THAT'S WHY I CHOOSE ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER"

– Akinniran Abisogun, M.D. – Cardiologist



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