



The Skinnie

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As last week ended, so did my six-week summer assignment as a middle school English/Language Arts teacher for Horizons Savannah (email me for information about the program, if you're curious). The final day is – every year for me – both welcome and sad.

It's difficult to get up early, day after day, and propel yourself towards the classroom with the energy and enthusiasm that doing the job well requires. It's nearly impossible to maintain a constant level of diligence that leads to thorough and proper preparation – there are days when a teacher feels like phoning it in. It's contrary to my nature to adhere to a schedule that is crafted by someone other than me. And it's demoralizing when the kids in your class ignore you, disrespect you, remind you that they are only there because somebody compelled them to be, and they would rather be anywhere else but with you.

Superficially, I stand out among the staff and student community, and not in a comfortable way. I am the oldest person on campus, one of a conspicuously few men, and often the only white person in the room. From some students' perspectives, especially the ones who are meeting me for the first time, I might as well be from Mars.

Kids can be brutally honest: "Do we have your class this morning?" When I answer in the affirmative, the reaction is deflating: An exaggerated frown and audible groan. There's a dance that happens the first week: They push me to define my limits and measure the range of my countermoves. Whatever I ask them to do, only the extreme outliers warm to. "May I use the bathroom?" is the singular reason a hand is lifted into the air.

I'm generalizing – sorry for that – but in my experience, middle school boys are easier to deal with than girls. Each boy in a group has his "place" based on his attributes, but no single member exerts authoritarian influence over the rest of his mates. Give them a few balls and some open space at regular intervals, don't expect them to push themselves as hard mentally as they do physically, tell them to be quiet when they are acting foolish, and you're fine. At first, they approach you with benign indifference. Eventually, they warm to you – but only so much – like a dish you try that surprises you when you don't immediately spit it out.

Girls...it's more complicated. Invariably, there's a queen bee. A ringleader. The problem: She's almost always the hardest case. It's her job to dislike you, and her responsibility to make sure the other girls do, too. And how does an almost-60-year-old man confront a petulant 12-year-old girl with sufficient force to earn her respect?

This year's queen bee revealed herself immediately, as they do. Like a sorceress, she transformed her mild-man-

nered she-peers into vicious objectors to anything me with the flash of a single sneer. Until one day when I found her during inter-class break tossing a wiffle ball into the air with one hand, holding a bat in her other, swinging to join the two with moderate success. I said nothing as I interrupted and picked the ball from the ground. I walked with it about 10 steps from her, began a cartoonishly exaggerated windup, and delivered a perfect strike in the middle of the imaginary plate where she stood. She swung with maximum vigor. She connected with the ball; it whizzed to her left and my right on a laser-straight line. I ran to get it where it dropped to rest in the grass. I returned to the imaginary pitcher's mound. I wound up again – this time with a motion that suggested I had enjoyed a bunch of good and successful years of baseball a long time ago –and threw the ball towards the queen bee. She swung and missed, then grabbed the ball and tossed it back to me. She didn't speak, nor did I. I threw another pitch, a curve ball to raise the stakes. She hit it close enough to me that I fielded it while it was rolling. I threw another pitch. She took another swing. And so we continued, for no more than 10 minutes, perhaps the most important 10 minutes of the year for me.

The next day, she volunteered to read aloud in class. When she stumbled on a word she didn't know, she looked at me plaintively, without fear or resentment. I didn't give her the answer, but together we sounded it out. She sat with me at breakfast later that week, so the rest of her crew did, too. They gave me a nickname...not a mean one, but one that makes me smile every time I say it to myself imagining one of their distinctive voices inside my head. She never raised her hand to ask to leave for the bathroom during class again.

I'm not a teacher. People ask me what I do, and I don't identify that way. I couldn't persist day-in, day-out, 180 days a year. It's really, really hard. It's sometimes tempting to do less than your absolute best, because you're tired often, and the days seem to last forever, and who will ever really know? You will – the person who the kids think they'd rather be with anybody else. I'm not a teacher...or a pitcher; but, as with much of life, 90 percent of success is just showing up.

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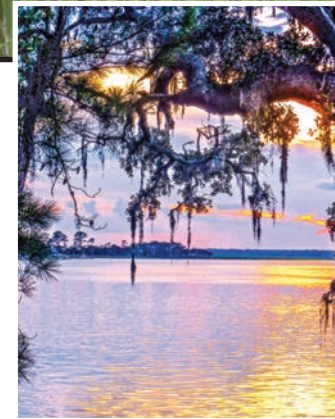
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on the cover:
John Taylor sent in this photo of
the famous Moon River, evoking
lazy summer days on the water.

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photo by George Schmink

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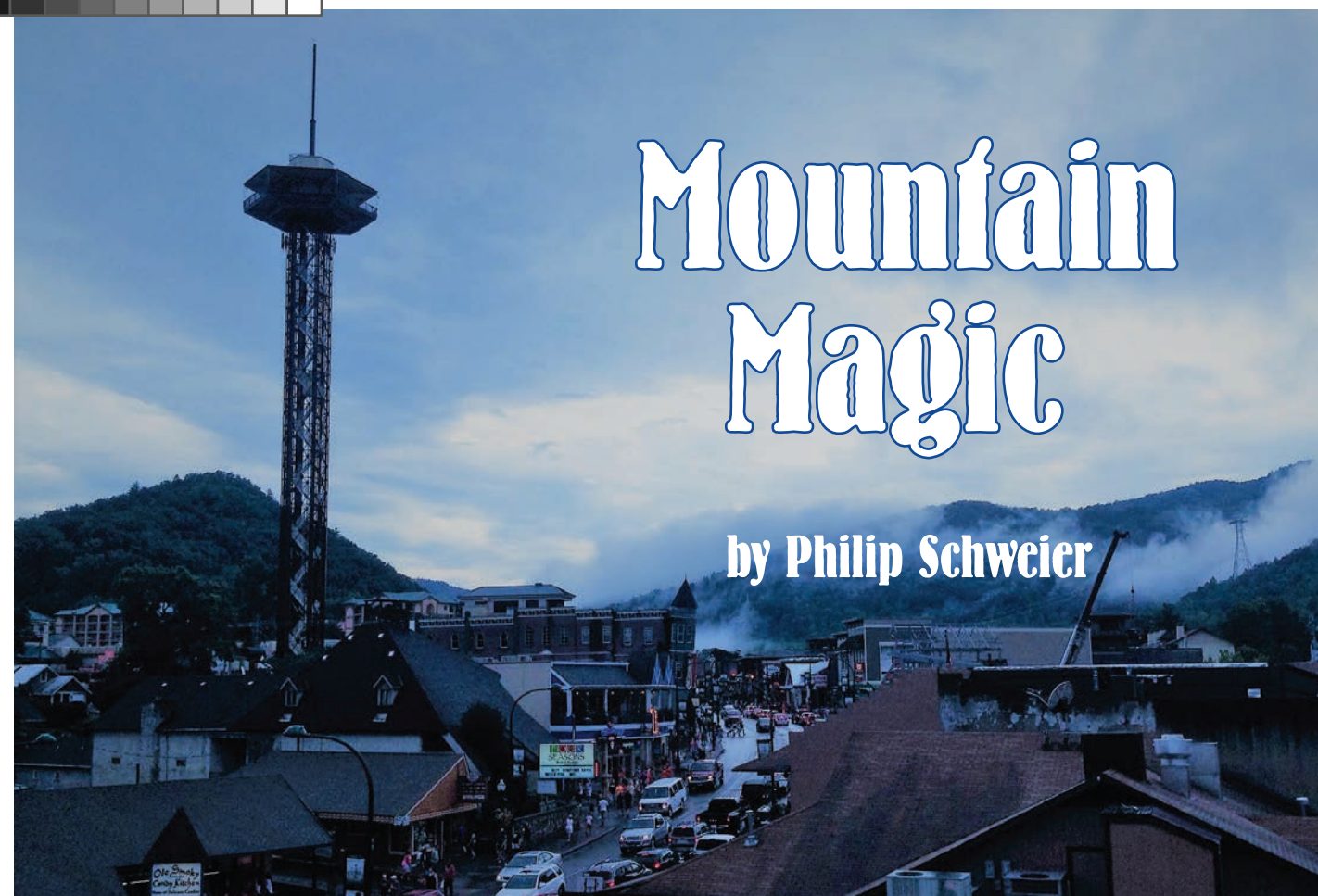
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Mountain Magic

by Philip Schweier



The historic Gatlinburg Space Needle, a 407-foot observation tower providing a stunning 360-degree view of the misty mountains.

The Smokies of Tennessee

Gatlinburg, Tennessee – the Gateway to the Smokies – is an ideal destination for families, seniors, outdoor enthusiasts, and honeymooners. Surrounded by mountains on three sides, Mother Nature’s gifts are everywhere you look.

In addition to its mountain-country feel, downtown Gatlinburg is filled with more than 450 fun attractions, local restaurants, charming gift shops, and unique art galleries. The eclectic array of businesses ensures that every visitor discovers a piece of the Smokies to take home. Each storefront offers its own brand of mountain hospitality, with themed boutiques offering Appalachian crafts, homemade fudge, or a taste of locally-brewed moonshine.

The historic Gatlinburg Space Needle, a 407-foot observation tower provides a stunning 360-degree view of the misty mountains. A glass elevator transports visitors to the observation deck, where nature-lovers and sightseers enjoy complimentary viewfinders that enhance the breathtaking scenery.

Another spectacular view is the Gatlinburg SkyBridge, located at the top of the SkyLift. Its 680-foot span makes it the longest pedestrian cable bridge in North America, with a height of 140 feet at its midpoint and 30 feet of glass-floor panels in the middle of the span. You can refuel in the SkyCenter or relax on the SkyDeck while taking in the highest peaks in the Smokies.

OBER MOUNTAIN

Departing regularly from downtown Gatlinburg, an aerial tramway transports visitors more than two miles up to the Ober Mountain Adventure Park and Ski Area. Since 1973, two 120-passenger counter-balanced cars have provided an amazing 1,472-foot rise in elevation, starting at 1,341 feet and reaching a high point of 2,813 feet above sea level. The highest point above the ground is approximately 300 feet.

Disembarking the tram, guests can visit the Ober Mountain Wildlife Habitat, a privately funded, municipally sponsored zoo that provides an up-close view of native wildlife in a safe environment. The animals include a trio of black bears – the ambassadors of the Smoky Mountains – as well as playful river otters, beautiful bobcats, foxes, and birds of prey in an enclosed aviary. The Nocturnal House includes indigenous creatures like raccoons, skunks, flying squirrels, turtles, and snakes.

Ober Mountain’s enclosed mall features a variety of shops and eateries, but its main attraction is the indoor ice arena. Open year-round, it’s a great way to cool off on a summer day or put you in the holiday spirit. Great for beginner and experienced skaters alike, the rink features a handrail around the perimeter to help novices maintain balance. The arena has hosted Ice Skating Institute (ISI) competitions, spectacular Christmas on Ice performances, and is the annual host

for the Tennessee Special Olympics ice-skating competition. If skating isn’t your cup of hot chocolate, you can zoom around the ice in one of the ice bumper cars.

Other fun activities include the Tennessee Flyer Mountain Coaster, an exhilarating experience. Riders can choose to leisurely cruise the 2,750 feet of coaster track or reach speeds up to 25 miles per hour while hugging turns, zigzags, corkscrews, and dips down the mountain. For something more peaceful, the scenic chairlift offers the best view in the Smokies without hiking. On a clear day, you can see as far as Douglas Lake, and the flawless view of Mount LeConte is breathtaking. The chairlift’s towers were originally built for the 1956 Winter Olympic Games in Italy but were never used. The Gatlinburg Ski Corporation bought them in 1962. Made of pure steel, these towers can last indefinitely with proper care. In 2014, they were upgraded, including a new drive system and chairs. The smooth ride takes you to the peak of Mount Harrison at 3,455 feet above sea level – more than 1,650 feet higher than any other chairlift in the state of Tennessee. Open year-round (weather permitting), the lift provides an impressive 779-foot rise in elevation above the mountaintop park. You can disembark the chairlift at the midway point, if you choose, and ride the alpine slide down one of the 1,800-foot parallel tracks.

In winter, Ober Mountain offers many snow-centric activities. The opportunity to ski, snowboard, snow tube, ice skate, or enjoy the Family Snow Zone is a winter tradition for many. Typically, Ober Mountain’s ski and snowboard season runs from early-to-mid-December through mid-March. Opening and closing dates for the slopes are at the mercy of Mother Nature, so precise opening and closing dates

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Towering 200-feet tall, the Great Smoky Mountain Wheel at The Island in Pigeon Forge is one of the tallest attractions in the Southeast.

are unpredictable. However, snow tubing is open from the Saturday before Thanksgiving through March.

PIGEON FORGE

Approximately seven miles north of Gatlinburg is Pigeon Forge. Once a small farming community, the lure of the Smoky Mountains brought more and more visitors to the area, and tourism flourished. Today, it is one of the premier tourist destinations in the U.S. Dollywood is the centerpiece of the town's booming tourism, but there is so much more, appealing to young and old alike. More than a dozen additional venues offer shows presenting country music, comedy, modern rock, circus acts, and magic. Show fountains are programmed to perform to light and music year-round.

Among the town's many family attractions is The Island, 23-acres of shopping and amusement offering affordable fun night and day, with free parking and free admission 365 days a year. More than 80 shops, restaurants, and attractions offer a diverse selection of activities. For more than a decade, the Great Smoky Mountain Wheel – The Island's centerpiece – has provided riders a panoramic view of the Smokies in comfortable, all-glass gondolas seating up to eight guests.

Pigeon Forge is home to a number of unique museums, such as Alcatraz East Crime Museum. It presents interactive exhibits of crime and punishment in America, from notorious highwaymen, to the Gangster Era, to modern criminal investigations.

Prepare to meet the stars at the iconic Hollywood Wax Museum. With detailed and lifelike wax lookalikes, you can immerse yourself in



Boomers who enjoyed the Dukes of Hazard TV series will appreciate the opportunity to visit Cooter's Place in Pigeon Forge, a museum and gift shop dedicated to the classic show. Operated by Ben Jones, who co-starred as Cooter the mechanic and is also a former Georgia congressman, the store showcases props and memorabilia from the series. Two of the iconic General Lee vehicles featured on the show are on display, as well as Daisy's Jeep.

the lives of these stars through exhibits that reveal fascinating insights into the careers and legacies of these showbiz legends. Dolly Parton, who grew up in Sevier County, is especially favored.

The Titanic Museum offers more than 400 authentic Titanic artifacts on permanent display. Guests step back in time to 1912 as they

explore more than 22,000 square feet of educational history in 20 dramatically lit galleries. Cast members honor the 2,208 passengers and crew by sharing their stories. The Grand Staircase, built from the ship's blueprints, was replicated accurately and full-scale in the museum, and is the perfect blend of art, form, and function. Woodworkers and ironworkers recreated with accurate detail the exquisite oak wood

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WELCOME TO FLAVOR COUNTRY

It's impossible to visit Tennessee without a taste of its world-famous barbecue. In the Smokies, it bridges the gap between vinegar-based Carolina sauce and tomato-based Memphis style. Meat options are usually ribs or succulent smoked pork, pulled or chopped from the shoulder of the hog. The meat is served with a vinegar-based sauce in a variety of flavors, from sweet to savory to spicy.

And what goes better with barbecue than baked beans? Just off Interstate 40 on the way to Pigeon Forge is the A.J. Bush Company, home of Bush's Baked Beans® since 1897. At the Bush Family Café, guests can sample a slice of pinto bean pecan pie, or take home a cookbook from the visitor's center, and discover how baked beans truly are magical fruit.



Tennessee boasts some of the best barbecue in the country.

Beyond barbecue, there's no shortage of restaurants to choose from in the area. From fine dining to family fare, visitors have a wide variety from which to choose. However, Seasons 101 in nearby Sevierville was our best experience. Adjacent to Pigeon Forge, the town has a less touristy atmosphere, and its eateries offer an experience above other restaurants

where quality sometimes falters as volume increases.

For young or old, whether you're looking for adventure and entertainment or just want to relax among some of Mother Nature's offerings, Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge have a lot to offer.



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A Quarter for Your Thoughts? Not Anymore

By Edward L. Tapley

In July of 2009, an article was published in *Scouting New York* about the last four phone booths in the Big Apple. Full-fledged booths, with four glass walls and folding doors that closed. They sheltered their users from street noise and offered privacy to callers. The writer noted that there were – at the time – still other payphones in use in New York, but the four phone booths were the last of their kind. Walk the streets of New York, or any city, now a -

days, and you'll be lucky to find a single public phone of any kind.

Back in 2009 when I read the article, I began to reminisce about my youth when phone booths were everywhere. I always kept a dime in my pocket in case I needed to make a call. If I wanted to call my girlfriend, I would do it from a public phone booth, so my parents or siblings couldn't hear what I was saying. These tiny boxes of refuge from a nosy world were oases of solitude and calm.

When payphones disappeared, one's opportunity to speak privately outside the confines of the home did not disappear with them. Quite the contrary. Technologists solved the quandary by developing the mo-

bile phone. As the iPhone has become ubiquitous, it seems like an additional appendage to most modern humans' arms. Friends and lovers may come and go, but that little baby is not going to be separated from its best friend. At least not until a new version is launched.

Are things better or worse because of the cellphone? It's a complicated question to ponder. When landlines and phone booths roamed the earth, people seemed to us connectivity devices more sparingly. They would be more selective about whom they called. They would carefully check the time of day (or night) to avoid calling at an inconvenient time (for the person on the other end of the line). Days would go by without grabbing a handset. You often kept information to yourself so that the next time you saw a person in real life, you'd have



something interesting to say.

Change is often good. Cellphones are useful in emergencies, even lifesaving in ways a phone booth could never be. However, ease-of-use seems comes with negatives, too. While a cellphone is useful and everyone has one, it's not essential to human life. It has dulled the desire to have some space you can call you own, a spot awarding you quiet time to reflect on where you are headed in life. It prevents its users from enjoying the beauty of nature, quiet introspection, direct human contact, and the need to pay attention to one's surroundings.

When I drive my car, I observe other drivers talking on their phones (hands-free if they are obeying the law, but certainly distracted). Outdoor time walking, biking, or simply sitting on a bench is no longer dedicated to contemplating nature and the magic and mysteries of the universe. Sadly, it is often a time to find a way to utilize the device that's tethered to your hand. When I visit the gym, there are often people waiting for a weight machine while someone sits, checking email or texts between sets. At least they could stand and let others work in while they recover and address their earth-shaking issues that require their immediate response. People on treadmills are yakking away out loud through their earbuds such that we can all "enjoy" their conversations. These are probably the same people that worry about hackers reading their emails. They probably fret about someone breaking into their texts. Why bother? They just revealed some of the most intimate details of their life while you simply stood within earshot.

The original premise of this article was the death of the public



phone. As this piece came together it occurred to me that they are in fact alive and well, courtesy of the cell phone, which are now more public than ever. In one form or the other, I get to experience their impact every day. Whether I want to or not.



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Dr. Matt Grill with an impression of his grill.



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35 ROMERLY ROAD

One-level living on a full-sized, wooded lot. This 3BR, 2.5BA home is filled with natural light, and boasts spacious rooms, tons of storage, & fantastic yard filled with gorgeous oaks. Near main gate and just a stroll from Marshwood. New Price. \$595,000.
Katie Hart, Ashley Gold



1 PENSYRE RETREAT

Updated, ranch-style home on corner lot near Marshwood. Lovely 3BR, 2BA home w/vaulted ceilings in LR & MBR. Newly renovated BAs, upgraded KIT, lovely HDWDs & screened porch too. New front & back doors, newer AC (*21), & recessed LED lighting (*24). \$659,000.
George Jorgenson - Home Team



12 BECK'S RETREAT

Lovely, 4BR, 3BA patio home in Palmetto. Good floor plan, separate LR, DR, and family rm. MBR on main w/second bedroom or office down, 2BRs up w/BA. Great location near Palmetto clubhouse and great views across #10 hole. \$795,000.
William Boyd, Gary Boyd



28 SPARNEL ROAD

Nestled on a private wooded lot, boasting a gated courtyard entrance, with curb appeal to spare! Soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, and an open floor plan, featuring 3BRs, 3BAs, and Bonus rm. Plenty of space for family and friends. A Charmer. \$795,000.
Randy Parsons



3 WARD LANE

Fully renovated, move-in ready, 3BR, 2.5BA lagoon view home. One-level floor plan features granite countertops, stainless appliances, Viking cooktop, engineered oak floors, spacious bonus room, and screened porch. Just a golf cart ride to Marshwood Club & Landings Harbor. Don't miss this opportunity!. \$950,000.
Skyler Frazier



7 MARSH ELDER LANE

Low Country charm abounds in this spacious 4BR, 2.5BA home! Enjoy rocking chair porch, heart pine floors, eat-in kitchen w/stainless appliances, & primary suite with sitting room. 3BRs up & huge walk-in attic. Screened porch, new deck, & private backyard. Must be seen. \$975,000.
Ashley Gold, Katie Hart



14 GRAY HERON RETREAT

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Savannah interventional gastroenterologist Dr. Isaac Perry.

Interventional Gastroenterology and Advanced Endoscopic Procedures

The development of advanced endoscopic procedures, such as endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) are welcome healthcare enhancements for patients in Savannah and the Lowcountry. These procedures help interventional endoscopists diagnose and treat a wide range of gastrointestinal (GI) diseases. The need for this kind of care is growing in the region.

“These procedures give us a very good understanding of what is occurring in both the lumen of the GI tract, or oftentimes, outside of it,” explains Isaac E. Perry, D.O., an interventional gastroenterologist at Gastroenterology Consultants of Savannah, P.C. “I receive many referrals for pancreatic cysts and masses

and, using a scope, I am able to better clarify what is occurring and, if indicated, obtain a biopsy, all from within the GI tract.”

From a patient’s perspective, the experience is like a routine outpatient endoscopy. That’s when a gastroenterologist inserts a small, flexible tube that contains a tiny video camera into a patient’s mouth or rectum. It’s a minimally invasive procedure, without incisions, that allows physicians to visualize the digestive system and adjacent structures.

Advanced endoscopists like Perry can do even more. Large pseudocysts (fluid collections from pancreatitis), abscesses, and the gallbladder/bile duct can be drained by creating a connection between the GI tract and

the target structure. Stents can be placed inside the GI tract due to a narrowing, whether that is from benign disease or cancer. In the event of a perforation or fistula where a hole is formed in the GI tract, Perry can endoscopically suture to seal off leaks, thus sparing patients an operation.

Bile is a fluid made by your liver to help your body digest food. The network of organs and ducts that create, store, and release bile is known as the biliary system. Bile delivered through the biliary tract breaks down and absorbs nutrients from your food and carries waste products to be disposed of through the intestines. Problems arise when bile becomes obstructed. Unexpected weight loss, upper abdominal pain, or jaundice (the yellowing

of the skin and eyes) can indicate a problem such as a stone in the bile ducts, blockages or strictures of the ducts, or even a tumor. Some patients may notice a change in their urine and stool color. If these symptoms are present, Perry recommends talking with your primary care physician as soon as possible because an advanced procedure may be necessary.

If there is an issue inside the bile ducts, patients will typically have some type of imaging, such as a CT scan or MRI. Often this leads to a referral for an EUS or ERCP to evaluate the pancreaticobiliary structures. Perry utilizes instruments placed through the scope to address issues. This could include breaking up and removing bile duct stones, addressing bile leaks, dilating strictures, retrieving a tissue sample for a biopsy, and placing a biliary stent. Perry also performs cholangioscopy, which is a scope within a scope. This procedure provides excellent visualization of the bile duct.

“The options we can offer patients all within the caliber of an endoscope is remarkable,” Perry says.

Dr. Perry is an interventional gastroenterologist, a subspecialist within gastroenterology that requires an advanced fellowship. This year-long fellowship is in addition to three years of internal medicine residency and three years of gastroenterology and hepatology fellowship. This extensive training enables Perry to perform novel procedures like the endoscopic ultrasound-directed transgastric ERCP, or the EDGE procedure.

“The EDGE is one of my favorite procedures,” Perry says. “It’s needed when patients have altered anatomy that makes it impossible to do a traditional EUS or ERCP. This is the case for patients who have undergone gastric bypass surgery.”

For the EDGE, Perry employs a technique using an endoscopic ultrasound to create new access between the patient’s old and new

stomachs, temporarily undoing their bypass in a way that can be restored later.

“This technique allows me to create a fistula using a stent, which, depending on the urgency, can be sutured in place,” Perry explains. “Through this new fistula I can accomplish an EUS/ERCP in the traditional sense.”

Procedures such as the EDGE can help patients who are not appropriate candidates for surgery, or for those who do not desire another surgery or percutaneous approach. Perry collaborates with other specialists to make sure patients are receiving the most appropriate intervention for their conditions.

“I work closely with many different surgical subspecialists as well as interventional radiology and oncology,” Perry says. “We work as a team for challenging cases. It’s a great partnership.”

Perry is excited that these advanced procedures are available to patients in this region. It’s convenient for the patient and comforting to know they are in highly trained and compassionate hands.

“We have the skill set and technology right here in Savannah,” he says. “You don’t have to stress about traveling for hours to get this kind of care.”

Offering new treatment options is rewarding for Perry, as well is patients.

“I truly love coming to work,” he says. “It is gratifying to help patients along their healthcare journey, and I want to help them quickly and safely. I am highly motivated to help get patients in for advanced procedures, usually within a few days to a week. That’s what I would want for myself and my family members. Most of the time, patients improve rather quickly following an advanced procedure and it is fulfilling to witness their success.”



Brilliant Opportunity

A crowd-pleasing feature of St. Joseph’s/Candler’s annual SmartWomen® Luncheon and Expo is the Dazzling Diamond Dig, which gives a lucky winner a shot at a stunning piece of jewelry courtesy of Harlroad Diamonds and Fine Jewelry. For \$25, you can purchase a ticket for your chance at a beautiful cushion cut London blue topaz surrounded by .32 carats of natural diamonds in a rich, 14-karat gold pendant. This gem is held on a 14-karat gold paperclip chain and comes with a matching London-blue-topaz-and-diamond ring set in 14-karat gold. The total value is more than \$10,500.

Visit sjcsmartwomen.org to purchase your tickets today before they are gone. The drawing is the day of the luncheon, October 9, and entrants do not have to be present to win.

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Smells Like Sunday

Toscani with Backyard Pesto

You've had pesto. Basil, garlic, pine nuts, cheese. These are the non-negotiable ingredients of pesto Genovese, the signature dish from the northern Italian port city of Christopher Columbus's birth. But there are versions of regional pestos from every corner of Italy. No area of the country boasts more pesto varieties than the island of Sicily. Most Sicilian pestos feature tomatoes, either fresh or dried, that have been kissed by the bright seaside sun. Like Genovese, several of the Sicilian pestos contain nuts, often almonds, which are plentiful on the island's mountain slopes. Trapani is a coastal hub on Sicily's west coast. Its namesake pesto – Trapanese – blends tomatoes, basil, almonds, cheese, garlic, and olive oil. This simple sauce is a celebration of summer.

I love nuts, yet I'm not a complete authoritarian. Jenna isn't fond of the texture of ground pignoli (pine nuts), so recently I've been omitting one of the four cornerstones of classic Genovese, and it's still really good.

From the Kitchen of Scott Lauretti

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Tomatoes and basil flourish in backyards when the days are hot and long. At their peaks, they beg to be blended into a cool, uncooked sauce and tossed with pasta. In a nod to Jenna's no-nuts preference and inspired by a pot of basil exploding with bright green leaves made full from recent daily rains, I quickly crafted a rustic backyard pesto that proved to be one of the best things we've tasted in a long time.

It's summer. The cooking should be uncomplicated. My photo of the finished product is appropriately un-fancy, which conveys the easy elegance of this perfect dish, made more by nature than man.

- 1 pint of sweet, ripe grape or cherry tomatoes
- 1 cup, packed, fresh basil
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- ¼ lb grated Reggiano parmigiano
- ½ c extra virgin olive oil
- Salt
- 1 lb dried pasta

In a food processor, combine all the above ingredients. Blend on low speed until well combined. Stop and scrape down processor sides with a spatula and blend some more. Do not overdo; stop short of creating a consistent puree.

Toss with just-cooked pasta, preferably a shape like Toscani or farfalle. Serve with additional grated cheese, if desired. Feeds four.



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Friday, August 9, 2024 • 7:00 pm

A bold and exploratory young ensemble, Trio Ondata is dedicated to presenting music of the highest calibre from all eras, whether obscure Haydn trios performed with Baroque bows, or contemporary music by historically marginalized artists, or underperformed works from composers who loom large in the canon. Members of the trio are violinist Michael Ferri, cellist Miriam Liske-Doorandish, and pianist Anthony Ratinov. Formed in 2021 at the Yale School of Music, Trio Ondata has swiftly drawn attention on the national stage, winning Silver Medal as well as the inaugural Horszowski Trio Prize at the esteemed 2022 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. They were winners of the Yale School of Music Chamber Music Competition the same year, and in the spring of 2023 received both the Gold Medal and Audience Choice Award at the Yellow Springs Chamber Music Competition for Emerging Ensembles. Their exciting program will feature works of Reena Esmail Saans, Johannes Brahms, and Arno Babadjanian.

This concert is made possible by the generous tax-deductible contributions of a community of supporters and freewill contributions at the concert. No reservations are required.

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CHARLES W SMITH

During the 26 years that Charles W. Smith served in the Air Force, he kept the planes under his watch in top shape, ready for launch and whatever they were called upon to do. Smith's service was often recognized and rewarded with accolades for performance and leadership.

Smith was born in Richmond, Virginia, on February 13, 1951, but spent most of his teenage years in the Savannah area because his father, a career airman, was stationed at Hunter Army Airfield. He attended Benedictine Military Academy, graduating in 1969. The U.S. was heavily involved in Vietnam at the time, and Smith had a low draft number, suggesting he would soon be called to duty. Rather than conscription in an infantry role, Smith enlisted in the Air Force.

Basic training at Laughlin Air Force Base in San Antonio was made easier by his experience as a cadet at Benedictine. Smith scored well on his basic qualification exam, so the Air Force sent him to Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois, where he studied to become an aircraft instrument control technician, a challenging job with no margin for error. He then rushed to Taiwan where he spent 15 months maintaining instruments on various aircraft that were flying daily combat missions to Vietnam.

During the Taiwan deployment, Smith went on temporary duty to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines to assist with a flood disaster there and spent an additional four months in Thailand. Temporary duty stops would be common occurrences for Smith during his Air Force career.

Smith's next stop was Tan Son Knut Air Base, which served as a staging area for tactical reconnaissance and special operations. There, he got a taste of the dangers and misery of warfare. Although he was quartered

in a relatively secure building, rockets and mortars from the Viet Cong were relentless. The enemy was hidden in the rugged terrain outside the base's security wire. To help locate the enemy, a defoliation chemical was dropped by air, which often landed on Smith and his fellow servicemen. Smith attributes his raspy voice to Agent Orange exposure, and he receives VA benefits as a result.

After 90 days at Tan Son Knut, Smith (promoted to sergeant) was transiting through Da Nang on another short temporary duty. The enemy broke through the perimeter wire surrounding his base, and "all hands on deck" were required to repel the attack. After that close call, Smith was grateful to board a transport plane

headed for the relative peace and quiet of his home base in Taiwan – but not for long.

He soon transferred to Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana – home of some of the U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) fleet, stored in underground silos and capable of long-range nuclear strikes.



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Smith adapted quickly to his assignment, managing diesel fuel supplies to provide heat and electricity in the event of a nuclear missile launch.

Smith eventually returned to Thailand, where he lived out of his packed-and-ready-to-go sea bag for a variety of temporary assignments. He refueled B52 bombers at Castle Air Force Base in California, maintaining a constant in-the-air Cold War offensive threat. He kept "tank killer" aircraft, C130 transport planes, and H53 helicopters fueled and ready to go at Royal Airforce Base in Woodbridge, England.

Then it was Italy and Germany, where he was promoted to first sergeant (E-8). He commanded the enlisted personnel servicing F-16 fighter planes stationed at Misawa Air Force Base, Japan. For the final three and a half years of his enlistment, he supervised the enlisted personnel of the 35th Security Forces Squadron at Misawa.

Smith was honorably discharged from the Air Force on March 1, 1995, completing 26 years of active duty.

For the next 22 years, served as an educator in the "troops to teachers" program, instructing teenagers in Montana and Georgia. He earned a Ph.D. in education at Georgia Southern University in 2011, where he established solid relationships with many of his students.

Smith now lives in Hinesville with his wife, Keiko, enjoying the lifestyle a military town offers service retirees.




WE WANT YOU To Share Your Story!

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

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BEE THERE

WHAT: "All about Bees"
WHEN: Saturday, July 20, 9 a.m., weather permitting
WHERE: Sparrow Field, Bartram Rd. and Pettigrew Dr. North
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: friendsofskidawayaudubon@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: John and Elena Boshier invite fellow residents to learn about the importance of bees, beekeeping, and the honeybee hives at Sparrow Field. No registration required. Parking is limited.

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. bottle.

CULTIVATING INTEREST

WHAT: Children's vegetable growing class
WHEN: Saturday mornings, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m., beginning in early October thru mid-February
WHERE: Skidaway Farms on McWhorter Dr.
HOW MUCH: \$40 per child, per season (Oct - Feb)
CONTACT: Jane Kollmann at gardenher52@aol.com
WHAT ELSE: Children ages 5 to 13 learn how to grow organic vegetables at Skidaway Farms during our weekly hands-on class experience. Registration is open until Oct. 1.

island hopping

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

HEAR GREAT SPEAKERS

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

SWEET VISIONS

WHAT: Joanna Silver's solo exhibition, "Candy Coated Memories"
WHEN: Now through July 31, opening reception July 11, 5 - 7 p.m.
WHERE: Jewish Educational Alliance, 5111 Abercorn St.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: Katie Griffith, JEA Arts and Ideas Coordinator, 912.355.8111
WHAT ELSE: The show includes more than 14 prints and paintings Silver has worked on during the past two years as a painting MFA candidate at SCAD.

THE COOL KIND

WHAT: Keep Kindness Kool!
WHEN: July 2024
WHERE: The Landings
HOW MUCH: No charge, just a bit of courtesy
CONTACT: webmaster@landings.com
WHAT ELSE: Madge Giorgio, a young Landings resident recalls: "I always loved biking in the early morning, saying hello to all the people that were out and about. It always made me so happy to see their smiling faces. I hope we as a community can get back to that kindness I remember as a child and welcome all the new residents and

remind the old ones of what it used to be." Learn more about the Courtesy Campaign, residents' responses, and Skidaway waves at www.landings.org/courtesy.

SUNDAY SUNSET

WHAT: Skidaway Community Church's Annual Sunset Service
WHEN: Sunday, July 21, 7:45 p.m.
WHERE: Delegal Marina
CONTACT: Nichole Parfitt, SCC Program Director, nichole@skidcc.org or 912.598.0151, ext. 1104, or visit skidcc.org
WHAT ELSE: Pastor Jon Hauerwas will lead the service. Bring your family and friends; all are welcome.

POSTAL PEOPLE

WHAT: Landings Stamp Club
WHEN: Friday, July 26, 10 a.m.
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church conference room
COST: Free
CONTACT: Carl Luecke, cluecke@comcast.net or 631.766.5002 for meeting details.
WHAT ELSE: Beginner, advanced, or anyone in between is welcome to join our monthly meeting. Learn about buying, selling, or preserving your collections, and discover different types of stamps from all over the world.

THE RIGHT STUFF

WHAT: Luncheon meetings - Ladies on the Right (LOTR)
WHEN: No meeting in July and August, next meeting September 2024
WHERE: Landings Palmetto Club ballroom
HOW MUCH: LOTR members and military, \$35; nonmembers, \$40
CONTACT: To register or to join LOTR: www.ladiesontheright.org
WHAT ELSE: 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. Members may bring a paying guest and be entered into a raffle.

CATCH THE WAVE

WHAT: Introducing the "SkidaWave"
WHEN: August 2024
WHERE: The Landings
HOW MUCH: No charge, just a bit of courtesy

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CONTACT: webmaster@landings.com
WHAT ELSE: The Landings really is "Our Home, Our Family!" And we've discovered once again that courtesy is contagious as we bring back the Skidaway Wave, saying "May I, Please?" and "Keeping Kindness Kool." Send your experience and SkidaWave photo or video to webmaster@landings.org to show how you appreciate our community.

MUSIC AT MESSIAH

WHAT: The Arts at Messiah with Trio Ondata
WHEN: Friday, Aug. 9, at 7 p.m.
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 West Ridge Rd.
HOW MUCH: No admission charge, but donations are welcomed
CONTACT: MLC at 912.598.1188, Monday-Friday mornings
WHAT ELSE: A bold and exploratory young ensemble, the award-winning Trio Ondata consists of violinist Michael Ferri, cellist Miriam Liske-Doorandish, and pianist Anthony Ratinov. Formed in 2021 at the Yale School of Music, the award-winning chamber music ensemble will perform works of Reena Esmail Saans, Johannes Brahms, and Arno Babadjanian.

HELLO, SAILOR

WHAT: Basic sailing class, sponsored by The Landings Sailing Club
WHEN: Saturday, Aug. 24, 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.

VISIONARIES

WHAT: Vison Quest luncheon, hosted by the Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision
WHEN: Friday, Aug. 23, 12 - 1 p.m.
WHERE: St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Hellenic Center, 14 W. Anderson St.
HOW MUCH: Lunch is free; the information is priceless
CONTACT: RSVP to Leslie at leatherly@savannahcblv.org or Kaleena at kcoyle@savannahcblv.org
WHAT ELSE: This year's guest speakers are Rabbi Haas of Congregation Mickve Israel and

SCBLV student Omari Blake.

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.

FINANCIAL AID

WHAT: AARP Tax-Aide Program needs 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@niadc.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

WELCOME MAT

WHAT: Learn to create sleeping mats for the homeless from discarded plastic bags
WHEN: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-12 noon
CONTACT: For project information, DIY videos or to schedule group workshops call Carol

Greenberg at 912.355.1238 or MStarArts@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: These mat and pillow sets help divert plastic bags from landfills and waterways while providing comfort to the homeless. All ages can learn to cut the bags into ribbons, tie these together to make plastic yarn. No tools are needed for braiding, crochet hooks cost less than \$5 and looms about \$10 to make.

MARCO POLO GROUP

WHAT: Landlovers International Group
WHEN: 6:30 p.m., third Monday of the month, October through May,
WHERE: Member homes
CONTACT: Denise Larson, lasondenise8@gmail.com; Elizabeth Cowell, elizcove@gmail.com; Sue Souls, smsouls@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: The Marco Polo group is for our international friends. If you were born in or have lived at least one year (including an academic year) outside the U.S., you are eligible to join. Attendees are asked to bring an international appetizer to share as well as their own beverage and glass. Must be a Landlovers member. Membership is open to all residents of Skidaway Island.

WALK AND TALK

WHAT: Landlovers walking group
WHEN: Wednesdays and Saturdays
WHERE: Starting places changes monthly; info is on website "Calendar"
CONTACT: Email Bev Dalrymple at bevda100@gmail.com to sign up
WHAT ELSE: Looking for walking buddies? Join our morning walking group. Walking pace is brisk but "talkable." This is a great way to get some exercise, see the island and chat with friends. You must be a Landlovers member to participate.

BATH AND BODY WORKS

WHAT: Landlovers community service toiletry collection
WHEN: ongoing
WHERE: Drop-off at 7 Heartwood Court
CONTACT: Linda Brownlee, 912.963.7229
WHAT ELSE: Are you traveling and staying at a hotel? If you have any unused hotel soaps, shampoos, or lotions, please bring them back to Savannah. Share your vacation with Social Apostolate, which works with poor, homeless and disabled people in different ways including providing showers for those in need. No mouthwash or larger sized toiletries, please.

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

www.theskinnie.com

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ACROSS

- 1. "No ____ luck!"
- 5. Concoct, as a plan
- 10. Scoundrels
- 14. The Bee Gees, e.g.
- 15. Lincoln Center offering
- 16. Kind of thermometer
- 17. RSS reader, for one
- 19. Low card in pinochle
- 20. Long (for)
- 21. Enchant
- 23. Way past ripe
- 25. Bowling lane button
- 26. After-dinner wine
- 28. Brownish hue
- 31. 1973 film, "Live and ____ Die"
- 32. Pencil part
- 34. Pretzel topping
- 38. Quaker product
- 40. Hanging-basket flower
- 42. "Not guilty," e.g.
- 43. Bees collect it
- 45. Mischief maker
- 46. China cabinet
- 48. Hitchcock made many
- 50. Contrail's makeup
- 53. Refuse receptacle
- 55. Service station job
- 58. Make into law
- 61. Bread for gyros
- 62. Easy to reach
- 64. Computer screen symbol
- 65. Foot the bill
- 66. Mathematician Turing
- 67. Contradict
- 68. Sled dog, often
- 69. Word on a penny

DOWN

- 1. Command to Rover
- 2. Goad
- 3. Camel, e.g.
- 4. Stephen King's forte

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
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- 5. Harley-Davidson, slangily
- 6. Quickly
- 7. Rusty nail danger
- 8. Corn or wheat, eg.
- 9. "B.C." creator Johnny ____
- 10. Shoe company acquired by Nike in 2003
- 11. Met highlights
- 12. *Divine Comedy* author
- 13. Winter weather
- 18. Menu selection
- 22. Intense anger
- 24. Ruthless ruler
- 26. Hog food
- 27. Be on the mend
- 29. Cheesy sandwich
- 30. Bring up, as a subject
- 33. Oscar winner ____ Guinness
- 35. Able to be transferred

- 36. Car with a bar
- 37. Memorial Day solo
- 39. Furniture wood
- 41. Orthodontist's offering
- 44. 1957 Mathis hit, " ____ Are"
- 47. Coffee holder
- 49. *Flashdance* hit
- 50. Lacking zest
- 51. Linda Lavin role
- 52. Mountain climbing spike
- 54. Porterhouse, e.g.
- 56. S.A.T. section
- 57. Light beige
- 59. Tartan sporters
- 60. Circus structure
- 63. Pig's digs

Puzzle answers, page 33

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Rene Hernandez - Pearson, GA

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