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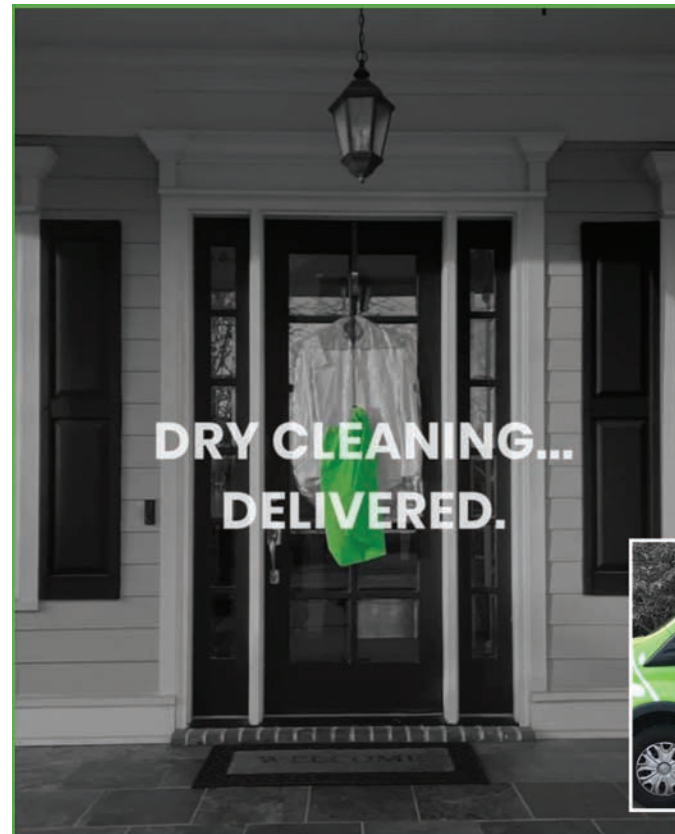
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THE SKINIE VOL. 22 ISSUE 19-3

Upfront

As I write this on the morning of October 1, Georgia Power's outage map reports that 2,891 Skidaway Island customers remain without power. I presume that this includes a mix of households, businesses, and other buildings. But, if 2,500 "customers" are households and we assume approximately two people per household, about 5,000 of you remain in the dark. Our office hasn't come back online. If the estimates provided on the outage map are accurate, 1,090 customers' service will be restored sometime today or this evening, and the remainder by late tomorrow night. Internet access remains a problem in the area, as my coffee shop in Sandfly is still offline (but open for business, thankfully).

You might not remember this since the storm has taken the front space in our minds; but, on September 23, we suffered extensive cell and internet service disruption in the region. A Verizon spokesperson explained at the time: "A third party vendor has experienced two fiber cuts, which has (sic) caused a disruption in service for some customers in the Savannah area. Our engineers are engaged and working with our vendor to quickly restore service."

Area communications channels went dark the day before Donald Trump visited Savannah. Bad timing.

There is ongoing and extensive public discourse about American "infrastructure" improvement needs. It's a very complex challenge to our shared prospects. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), infrastructure (admittedly, a broad categorization) spending as a component of annual federal outlays peaked just below 6 percent near the end of the 1960s and has declined steadily to roughly 2.5 percent today. The Biden administration extols the impact of the "bipartisan" Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) (HR 3684) that was enacted with a stroke of the presidential pen in November of 2021. "New" infrastructure federal funding included in the legislation totaled (at the time) around \$520 billion. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 added another \$150 billion for "infrastructure," with most of it targeted towards transportation and clean energy initiatives designed to mitigate carbon emissions.

Lest you think there is some partisan slant to my writing, I am using hard data from the CBO, the Congressional Record, and the White House archives. This analysis is purely mathematical. The IIJA broke its infrastructure allocations into 11 buckets. Roads and bridges received \$110 billion of the total earmarks, or 21 percent. The "power grid" got \$65 billion and "broadband internet" got \$65 billion. Together, these two buckets are the only among the 11 that deal with current energy and communications capacity. Given the absolute essentialism of energy and communication (and water) as elements of a functioning society, I worry about our collective investment strategy.

There is imbedded incentive misalignment in federal investment. Congressmen have an easier time shining the spotlight on their own largesse when they appropriate a bridge or a building and put a bunch of people in orange shirts along a roadway to watch cars pass through traffic-cone diversion lanes than they do by keeping the lights on, which is the unsexy, unseen, and taken-for-granted "normal" state of being. Special interest groups have far-reaching influence on how we spend our collective money, and their incentives are often no better aligned with public benefit than those of the legislature. Moreover, the structure of America's utilities industry is an anomaly not easily explained. For example, I own a little Southern Company stock. Southern is the parent of Georgia Power. This is a shareholder-owned (public) company, but it is subject to strict regulation by a public utilities commission. Basically, a utility as it exists in the U.S. today is in the business of sourcing and selling power, while innovation is...well...limited, by limited profit incentives (because of public oversight). Other power providers are publicly owned (government-run). Such enterprises also lack the innovation engine provided by profit incentive and their resources are limited by public budgetary constraints. The third category of power providers – cooperative ownership structures, or customer-owned companies – are typically too small to make significant investments. In short, we aren't set up to improve at the pace of other industries.

When power goes out and/or we lose internet connectivity, we are significantly inconvenienced, quickly frustrated, and mutually unproductive. There are many, many people impacted by Helene who are considerably worse off than we because of the storm. Such is the case with most bad things: One often takes solace (?) in the notion that his fate is less dire than that of others. It's a combination of compassion, empathy, and self-interest that leads us to such conciliatory conclusions. I don't want my essay to imply that I am unsympathetic to those who have lost loved ones and property and hope. It's a horrible thing.

But we have a serious problem that extends beyond the carnage. We spend a tremendous amount on big weaponry, manpower, and technological resources to enable our warriors to directly (or stealthily) confront enemies who would do us harm. But two snips to fiber cables renders a region suddenly out of touch with the rest of the world? How about the astonishing disconnect between the evolution of machines so that they can "think" for themselves and move about in ways that are more agile than humans, but we continue to carry the lifeblood that brings these machines "to life" (energy) on relatively fragile wires strung between upright, unsteady sticks? Our enemies need not be particularly well-resourced to throw society into chaos. A few shovels, some ladders, and wire cutters are a lot cheaper and easier to come by than a nuclear weapons program.

I don't have the answers to this calculus at my immediate disposal. But I'd feel a little safer and steadier if I believed that someone in a position of public power had the wherewithal, integrity, and tenacity to begin to comprehend and remediate our most intractable challenges. Unfortunately, like Quixote with his windmills (old-school clean energy), I'm not sure we completely understand what we are up against.

Scott A. Laurer

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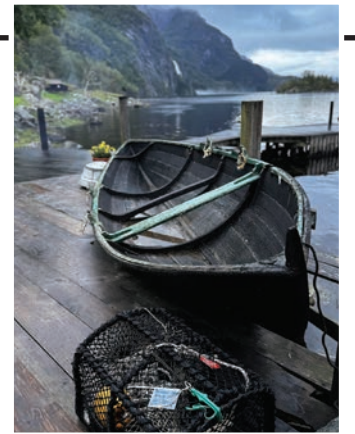
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on the cover:

Catch of the Day, in the village of Helmedal in Sunnfjord, Norway. Back in the States, our hearts go out to Asheville (pictured below) and others affected by Hurricane Helene.

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Byrd's

FAMOUS COOKIES

Baking People Happy for 100 Years

by Roger Smith



Certain cultural quirks are baked into the Savannah narrative. The service streets at the backdoors of downtown homes and businesses are called *lanes*, rather than *alleys*. Downtown is not the same as Midtown, and Midtown means different things depending on the age of the Savannahian. Habersham is not pronounced “Haber-SHAM,” Whitefield is not “WHITE-field,” and Houston is not “HEW-ston.” “Bless your heart” is typically not a blessing. Speaking of “baked in” . . . it’s a good way to describe the nearly sacred place Savannahians reserve in their hearts for Byrd’s Famous Cookies – especially the original Scotch oatmeal variety.

On the topic of the hundred-year-old cookie classic, a recent online post lamented, “They’re kind of small, and they’re kind of hard.” Perhaps, but so are communion wafers, and nobody complains about those. Bless the heart of this uninitiated complainer, because people who grew up here share a long-lived reverence for these yummy treats, fresh from their fold-down paper bags, chewy in just the right way, softening deliciously when dunked in milk . . . and melt-in-your-mouth good.

Inside Byrd’s meticulous store on Waters Avenue, the company proudly displays its generations-long family ownership with historic photos, framed and hung on a wall papered in Scotch-plaid. One image is of



LEFT: Benjamin Tillman Byrd, Sr., founder of Byrd’s Famous Cookies
 ABOVE: Benjamin “Cookie” Byrd, Jr. enjoys – what else? – a cookie, just like Dad used to make.

Benjamin Tillman Byrd, Sr. (“Pop”), who began producing his Scotch oatmeal cookies in 1924 in a small bakery near City Market. It’s easy to imagine Pop bouncing around the old city in his Model T, peddling his goodies from a glass jar, “Two for a penny.” In 1929, he moved his operation closer to his home in Sandfly, converting a barn to a bakery and including the word famous in the company’s name for the first time.

A quarter-century later, Benjamin, Jr. – who had fully tied his own identity to the family trade by nicknaming himself “Cookie” – separated bakery from retail space for the first time, opening the Cookie Shanty. Geoff Repella, a Savannah native himself and for 24 years the president of Byrd’s Famous Cookies, mentions that many locals remember Cookie Byrd and wrongly assume that he founded the company because of his brand-centric moniker.

Byrd’s substantive website credits Cookie Byrd with introducing another iconic product to complement the Scotch oatmeal cookie: the Benne Wafer. It’s a thin, crisp cookie made with toasted sesame seeds, harkening back to African and Lowcountry slave traditions that pre-date the company. An acquired taste for some, the benne wafer represents another “baked-in” Savannah tradition. (To be fair, they eat benne wafers in Charleston, too.)

Cookie embraced another important innovation during his turn at the helm – the sturdy cookie tin. Whether he realized it or not, the tin ushered in the cookies-as-gifts phenomenon, a huge step forward in sales savvy from the two-for-a-penny single-serving strategy of his father. Not only were the tins attractive, they were perfect for cookie-safe shipping. Cookie’s daughter, Kay Curl, accelerated the shipping capabilities of her father’s tenure, hastening the transformation of the cookie trade into the gift-giving industry.

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Fourth-generation owner Stephanie Curl Lindley has continued expanding the business founded by her great-grandfather 100 years ago.

Kay, in her turn, added a new cookie to the growing repertoire: the Key Lime Cooler. The original key lime cooler was a birthday gift from Kay to her husband, Benny. The sugar-coated confection reached far beyond Benny's birthday celebration when the National Food Association's Fancy Food Show named it "Dessert of the Year." It was the first time that a "mere" cookie earned the distinction.

In Savannah, hosts and hostesses breathed easily knowing that they could serve key lime coolers for a dessert, even at their most formal events. One catch: They must have lots of them, because most people found them deliciously addictive.

If Pop was the founder of the company, Cookie the innovator, and Kay the prize-winner, then Kay's daughter and fourth-generation owner Stephanie Curl Lindley is the businessperson. Upon her ascent to the CEO's office in 2011, she invested millions of dollars in bakery upgrades and retail expansions, bringing acumen and strategy to the company which, under her leadership, has expanded its presence to 19 stores, four bakeries, and two sophisticated e-commerce sites.

"Nervous energy" is how Geoff Repella describes it. Energy for spreading the good news – and the baked goods – of Byrd's Famous Cookies. He explains that Byrd's made the decision to exclude franchises from its expansion plan. Instead, direct company ownership won the day. "The finest cookies, made with the finest ingredients," he explains, underscoring the care and quality with which the institution guards its reputation.

"But," Repella adds, "our secret sauce is really our people – every single one of them." From bakers to salespeople, from packagers to the drivers who haul cookies over the road assisted in the cockpit by a Cookie Monster... "Each and every person is a brand ambassador."

This attention to quality has earned Byrd's Famous Cookies several luxury brand associations: L.L. Bean, Delta and United Airlines, Bergdorf Goodman and Neiman Marcus department stores, and Ritz-Carlton hotels, to name a few. A close affiliation with a major American force in the world of amusement parks has Byrd's Cookie treats for sale at every company property, making Byrd's Famous Cookies one of the largest providers of baked goods to the "happiest places on Earth."

On the topic of happiness: Is Stephanie Lindley, now a grandmother, still happy with her deep involvement in the company? Repella bursts into a laugh. "Yes!" he declares without hesitation. "Stephanie breathes, eats, and sleeps cookies" as the head of her family's company. Stephanie's son, Jamie, serves as vice president of operations, overseeing all four of the company's bakeries. Lest anyone wonder whether Stephanie Lindley's new grandmother-hood distracts her even slightly from her family's now century-old mission, her grandchild will not know her as "Grandma," "Nana," or "Mimi." Stephanie wants the little one to call her "Cookie."

Roger Smith is a native of Savannah and the director of The Learning Center, coastal Georgia's premier lifelong education resource and a program of Senior Citizens, Inc. SCI has been helping people age successfully for 65 years. The Learning Center has been serving older adults with high quality educational programs since 2007. For more information, visit www.senior-citizensinc.org/the-learning-center or call 912.236.0363.



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Ireland's Favorite Tenor Returns to Skidaway Island

An Afternoon With Anthony Kearns

By Ann Higbee

Savannah fans of Irish music are invited to celebrate the spirit of St. Patrick in early November, when Anthony Kearns, "Ireland's Favorite/Foremost/Finest Tenor," returns to Skidaway Island for a special performance. Kearns and David George, his Irish-born accompanist, will appear together in a free concert Friday, November 1, at 4 p.m., at the Skidaway Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway. The pair will join guests at a wine-and-cheese reception immediately following the program.

Known globally for more than 25 years of extraordinary collaborative work with the PBS super-group, the Irish Tenors, and his thriving

solo concert career, Kearns performs on international opera stages and in concert halls with the world's best orchestras. His repertoire spans from Ireland to Broadway, from well-loved melodies to popular classics, and from light-hearted comedy to the greatest tenor arias ever written.

Born into a musical family of six children in Kiltaley, County Wexford, Ireland, Kearns began singing traditional Irish melodies at an early age. While competing and winning vocal competitions in his youth, he developed proficiency with the button (double-row black dot) accordion and other instruments common in traditional Irish music.



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Kearns initially pursued a career in hospitality, focusing on catering and hotel management. In 1993, he entered "Ireland's Search for a Tenor," a national radio competition. Performing "The Impossible Dream" and "Danny Boy" on a Dublin street, he won, and subsequently began training with the renowned Irish opera singer and vocal coach, Veronica Dunne. Committing to music full-time, he spent three years at the Leinster School of Music with Dunne and studied at the College of Music in Cardiff, Wales.

Kearns' international appeal has earned invitations to perform for dignitaries, world leaders, and national tributes. In the U.S., he has sung at Congressional Medal of Honor presentations, presidential inaugural events, galas at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, celebrations at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library honoring the former president's Irish roots, 9/11 tributes, Memorial Day commemorations, and the 2018 Friends of Ireland luncheon at the U.S. Capitol. He performed for the historic first visit of Pope Francis to the U.S. in 2015 at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, and at a national tree lighting in Washington, D.C.

During his career, Kearns has devoted his time and talents to hundreds of important

WHAT: An Afternoon of Music and Song with Anthony Kearns, Ireland's Finest Tenor

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 1, 4 p.m.; Doors open at 3:30

WHERE: Skidaway Community Church

HOW MUCH: Free

CONTACT: skidcc.org or call 912.598.0151

WHAT ELSE: Acclaimed globally as "Ireland's Foremost/Favored/Finest Tenor," Anthony Kearns returns to Skidaway Island to honor his long-standing support from the greater Savannah community and Skidaway Island patrons and friends. Wine-and-cheese reception following concert. Ample and accessible parking is available on SCC's campus.

causes. In 2014, he became an international ambassador for Wells of Life, a charity providing Ugandan communities with access to clean and safe drinking water. The Anthony Kearns Memorial Well honors those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Other causes he supports include autism awareness; U.S. military troops, veterans and families; Irish-Ameri-

can collaborations; and music education.

A sports fan, Kearns is a popular choice to open sporting events across the U.S. His appearances include Major League Baseball games, the Breeder's Cup, NFL matchups, a military tribute at the Preakness Stakes, and a benefit hosted by the Orlando Magic's Tobias Harris in memory of 9/11 victims and American military forces defending liberty around the world.

Locally, Kearns has appeared in concert with the Savannah Philharmonic and in solo programs at Skidaway Community Church benefitting Safe Shelter, Savannah's center for services for abused women and children. His most recent Savannah appearance was in March of 2020.

Kearns says Savannah holds a warm spot in his heart. "I have only fond memories for each and every time I've sung in Savannah," he says. "I'm looking forward to renewing special acquaintances and making new friends with music and song on November 1. I'm especially pleased to have this opportunity to honor and thank Savannah patrons for their many years of generous support."



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Barbara Walker Wins 2024 James R. Lientz Humanitarian Award

Working in safety and security for 25 years, Barbara Walker has seen her share of tough days and difficult encounters. Through it all, her co-workers see only grace, poise, and quiet courage. These qualities – along with her commitment to the betterment of her community – have earned Walker the 2024 James R. Lientz Humanitarian Award, presented by St. Joseph's/Candler.

St. Joseph's/Candler president and CEO, Paul P. Hinchey, presented the award to Walker during a special ceremony in Candler Hospital's Marsh Auditorium. The James R. Lientz Humanitarian Award is given annually to a St. Joseph's/Candler co-worker who exemplifies the health system's mission: "Rooted in God's love, we treat illness and promote wellness for all people." The awardee also embodies St. Joseph's/Candler's values of compassion, quality, integrity, courtesy, accountability, and teamwork.

"She sees the good, the bad, and the ugly," according to one of the nominations for Walker. "She works long hours, but never complains. Her smile lights up a room and tends to make others feel everything is going to be okay. I have seen her calm a combative patient using a soft voice and willingness to listen. She embodies what it means to be a humanitarian."

Walker is the manager of safety and security at St. Joseph's/Candler. She and her team handle a variety of challenges and work proactively to prevent theft, conflicts, or other disturbances. They respond swiftly to emergency requests and use their knowledge



President and CEO Paul P. Hinchey congratulates 2024 Lientz Award Winner Barbara Walker.

of hospital policy, surveillance, and de-escalation to keep co-workers, patients, and visitors safe.

Outside of work, Walker is an advocate for the homeless and those struggling with mental illness. She uses her years of security experience to support her community, and she helps monitor her neighborhood during natural disasters. She has opened her home to strangers who have been displaced by tornadoes.

Walker was chosen from among 120 nominees from 59 departments. Co-workers are nominated by their peers for the example they set through their work and their humanitarian efforts that reflect the life of former

Candler board chairman James R. Lientz. Lientz served as a trustee of Candler Hospital beginning in 1959, as chairman of the board of trustees from 1970 to 1991, and as chairman of Candler Health System Board of Trustees from 1985 to 1992. Along with his service to St. Joseph's/Candler, Lientz took a leadership role in many Savannah organizations including the Georgia Infirmary, the Health Planning Council of Savannah, and United Way of the Coastal Empire.

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

www.theskinnie.com

It's Time to PAINT THE TOWN PINK

Join St. Joseph's/Candler and the Savannah Morning News this October to **Paint the Town Pink** for breast cancer awareness and raise funds for the Telfair Mammography Fund. This fund provides no-cost breast health services to uninsured and underinsured individuals in our community.

Since its inception 17 years ago, the **Paint the Town Pink** campaign has spread the word about breast cancer, stressed the importance of early detection through mammography, and provided financial support to those in our community who cannot afford this life-saving screening. Many local schools, businesses, and civic organizations are hosting special promotions and events throughout the month in support of St. Joseph's/Candler's Telfair Mammography Fund. Events include:

From September 29 through October 31, *Savannah Morning News* readers will find inspiring local stories on breast cancer prevention, treatment, survivorship, courage, and hope. Readers can win weekly prizes.

All month, Wet Willie's will donate a percentage of sales for all pink daiquiri flavors (Pink Ribbon items) on its menu. On Saturday, October 19, from 7 p.m. until close, a percentage of all sales will benefit breast cancer awareness non-profits, including the Telfair Mammography Fund.

On October 1, the Habersham School's annual Pink Night will feature volleyball action with Habersham, South Effingham High School, and Savannah Arts Academy. Matches are scheduled for 5, 6, and 7 p.m., at the Patriot Athletic Center, 4700 Skidaway Road. All gate and concessions proceeds will be donated to the Telfair Mammography Fund.

On October 9, St. Vincent's Academy's will hold its annual Pink Night, as the St. Vincent's Saints challenge the Cadets of Benedic-

tine Military School to a volleyball match. The event features special T-shirt sales, a 50/50 raffle, prizes, and surprises. All funds from the event including ticket sales, concessions, team fundraising efforts, and other donations benefit the Telfair Mammography Fund. Fun begins at 5 p.m. at St. Vincent's Academy Gym, on the corner of Harris and Lincoln Streets.

On October 26, join WSAV News anchor Tina Tyus-Shaw for the Healing Heroes fashion show, a celebration and tribute to breast cancer survivors. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion. Tickets are \$20 and benefit the Telfair Mammography Fund. Purchase tickets online at sjchs.org/healing-heroes.

St. Joseph's/Candler and the Savannah Morning News are encouraging women of the Coastal Empire and Lowcountry to have a screening mammogram during the month of October. Several locations throughout the area will be available on Monday, October 28. Locations include St. Joseph's Hospital; Telfair Pavilion at Candler Hospital; Telfair Breast Imaging Center - Eisenhower Drive; St. Joseph's/Candler Imaging Center - Bluffton campus; St. Joseph's/Candler Imaging Center - Pooler campus; and the St. Joseph's/Candler Mobile Mammography Unit at the Savannah Civic Center. Registration is required. Call 912.819.7465 (912.819.PINK) to register.

Other participating businesses and organizations include JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside and Two Brothers Roofing. Look for specific details on these and other upcoming special promotions by local business and organizations at SJCHS.ORG/pink.

If you or your business would like to be involved in this year's **Paint the Town Pink** campaign, contact the St. Joseph's/Candler Foundations at 912.819.8683.



Limited Diamond Dig Tickets Available

St. Joseph's/Candler annual Smart-Women® Luncheon and Expo's Dazzling Diamond Dig is a chance for some lucky winner to own a stunning piece of jewelry courtesy of Harkleroad Diamonds and Fine Jewelry. For just \$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. Proceeds benefit the Telfair Mammography Fund.

Use the adjacent QR code or visit sjcsmartwomen.org to purchase your tickets today before they are all gone. The drawing will take place the day of the luncheon on October 9, and entrants do not have to be present to win.



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THE SKINNIE VOL. 22 ISSUE 19 - 17

IT'S *Audiology Awareness* MONTH!



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He Served (His Nascent Nation) by Ron Lauretti

Ben Franklin

The Skinnie has profiled heroes of the American Revolution, including George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Nathanael Greene. Benjamin Franklin is another key member of the Founding Fathers. He was born in Boston on January 17, 1706. Despite only two years of formal education, he learned to read at an early age and taught himself to write effectively, a rare asset in those days. At age 12, he became an apprentice to his brother, James, who later launched the New England Courant, the third newspaper founded in Boston. By 17, Ben Franklin had proudly mastered the printer's trade.

Moving to Quaker-centric Philadelphia, Franklin worked in several printing shops there. He began courting Deborah Read while a board-

er in the Read home. However, Deborah's mother was skeptical of permitting her young daughter to marry Franklin because of his financial instability, and she declined Franklin's request for her daughter's hand.

Dissatisfied by his immediate prospects, Franklin agreed to go to London at the behest of Pennsylvania governor Sir William Keith, ostensibly to acquire the necessary equipment to establish another newspaper in Philadelphia. Learning that Keith's promise to support a newspaper was empty, Franklin worked in a printer's shop in London. He failed to communicate as expected with Deborah and her family, who interpreted his long silence as a breaking of his promises. Eventually, he grew weary of London and longed to return to America.

In 1726, Thomas Denham offered Franklin a clerkship in his store in Philadelphia with a prospect of fat commissions. However, Denham died just a few months after Franklin returned to the Colonies. The young printer, now 20 years old, returned to his familiar trade, and within two years had earned enough money to purchase the Denham store.

Franklin returned to courting Deborah Read. During his extended stay in England, she had married a potter named John Rogers, but he soon fled to Barbados with her dowry in order to escape prosecution for debts. Rogers' eventual fate was never known, and bigamy laws prevented Deborah from remarrying. In 1730, Franklin and Read established a common-law marriage and took in Franklin's "illegitimate" son, William, who never got along with his stepmother. Ben and Deborah had two of their own children together; a son who died of smallpox at the age of three, and a daughter.



Deborah Read Franklin

Franklin expanded his business by securing the printing commission for Pennsylvania's paper currency, then expanding into New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. He prospered further with the publication of the Pennsylvania Gazette and Poor Richard's Almanac, cultivating printing partnerships in the Carolinas, New York, and the British West Indies. He earned enough cash to become a money lender and invest in real estate. By the late-1740s, he was one of the wealthiest people in the Colonies.

As his fortunes grew, Franklin became in-



Young Benjamin Franklin is depicted at work on a printing press in this 1914 painting by Charles Mills. (courtesy of Wikipedia)

involved in civic activities, such as the Library Company of Philadelphia, a city police force, a volunteer fire company, and the Academy of Philadelphia, from which the University of Pennsylvania was founded. He enthusiastically joined the Freemasons, promoting their “enlightened” causes. He began picking up political offices, such as clerk of the Pennsylvania legislature and postmaster of Philadelphia. His most important service was organizing a militia for the defense of the colony against potential invasion by the French and the Spanish, whose privateers operated in the Delaware River.

By 1748, the 42-year-old Franklin was wealthy enough to retire from the business world, which made him an officially recognized gentleman. However, the shrewd Franklin had it both ways for the next 18 years by becoming a silent partner in a successful printing firm that netted him an average income of more than \$20,000 annually.

Franklin soon became interested in the new phenomenon of electricity. He demonstrated that electricity was a single “fluid” with plus and minus charges and invented a battery for storing electrical charges. He created the distinction between insulators and conductors, coining new words for the science of electricity – conductor, charge, discharge, condense, and others. In 1751, after the publication of a successful book of his electrical experiments featured a drawing of him flying a kite in a thunderstorm to attract lightning to an attached metal key, his fame grew rapidly.

Franklin was a prolific inventor. Among his many creations were the lightning rod, the Franklin stove, bifocal glasses, and the flexible urinary catheter. He never patented any of his creations, believing mankind, with no expense or red tape, should benefit from their use.

Franklin continued leaning toward public service, and soon became involved in high-level public offices, like Philadelphia city councilman, justice of the peace, city alderman, member of the Pennsylvania

Assembly, and deputy postmaster general of all the northern colonies.

Because of his admiration for British governmental procedures, he returned to England in 1757 as the agent of the Pennsylvania Assembly to persuade the British government to oust the Penn family as proprietors of Pennsylvania and make the colony a royal province. Franklin fell in love with the sophistication of England and, by contrast, disparaged the provinciality and vulgarity of the American colonies and became a loyalist. His extended visit to England brought an end to Poor Richard’s Almanac.

The University of St. Andrews in Scotland bestowed an honorary degree, leading him to be called “Dr. Franklin,” much to his liking. The University of Oxford also honored him with a degree. In 1762, his British connections paved the way for his son, William, then 31, to be appointed the royal governor of New Jersey.

Reluctantly, Franklin returned to Pennsylvania in 1762 to resume his postal responsibilities, including problems arising from the Stamp Act of 1765. Its forceful mandates led to doubts and resentment of the British government. Accepting the inevitable passage of the Stamp Act, Franklin tried to remain neutral, but his inaction almost cost him his popularity in the Colonies. Only his four-hour testimony denouncing the act saved his reputation.

During the next five years Franklin tried to mend fences between England and the Americas by explaining each side to the other, but to no avail. He believed Americans thought him to be “too English,” and the English considered him “too American.” Caught in the middle, Franklin began writing his autobiography to bridge the gap but his American roots were clear. He asserted in the text that he did not have to kowtow to a patronizing, privileged monarch.

To be continued...



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Northern Illinois at Bowling Green
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Washington St. at Fresno St.
Toledo at Buffalo
Old Dominion at Georgia St.
Southern Miss at Louisiana-Monroe

NFL

Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Washington at Baltimore
Detroit at Dallas
Cleveland at Philadelphia
Jacksonville at Chicago

As a tiebreaker this week,
pick the total points in the
Ohio St./Oregon game.

Email picks to editor@theskinnie.com (please note the new email address). Or send your entry the old-fashioned way to: **The Skinnie, 15 Lake Street, Suite 280, Savannah, GA 31411**. Alternatively, just drop it by our offices in the Lake Side Center across from Publix.

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

We're
GIVING IT AWAY!

**The Skinnie Football
Pick 'Em Pool**

As squeaker. By the thinnest of margins, John "Savant" DuRant prevailed, winning by tiebreaker over Christin "One-Way" Street and Pat "Dutch" Holland. Each of the three missed on 6 of 25 picks in a particularly difficult week, with double-digit missteps the norm. Their tie-breaker point total predictions (for the Georgia/Alabama game) were eerily clustered (49, 48.5, and 48, respectively), if woefully low (as the actual total was 75). In The-Price-Is-Right style, Savant secured the victory by topping One-Way by half a point to box her out of the winner's circle.

There's plenty of room in the (football) pool for more players. Some of our perennial regulars have yet to submit entries. Let's go.

Get involved. It's easy. Predict the winning team for each game. And choose more winners correctly than the other prognosticators. For the tie-breaker game, guess the total points that the two teams will score (combined).

Twenty college games and five NFL tilts. This slate includes games to be played between Friday, October 11, and Sunday, October 13. Don't wait to play! You never know when you might lose power or internet service. (Too soon?). **Entries are due by 5 p.m., Friday, October 11.**



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island hopping

Please email content to mail@theskinnie.com. Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.
Complete Island Hopping listings are available at www.TheSkinnie.com

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.

MIND YOUR MANNERS

WHAT: Courtesy – A Smile and a SkidaWave
WHEN: October 2024
WHERE: The Landings
HOW MUCH: No charge, just a bit of courtesy
CONTACT: webmaster@landings.com
WHAT ELSE: Courtesy: the showing of politeness in attitude and behavior toward others, good manners, civility, respect, chivalry, graciousness, kindness, consideration, thoughtfulness, or diplomacy. The best way is to show it is to treat others the way you want to be treated. Be kind and considerate, be a listener, and be polite and respectful. During the month of October, an anticipated highly charged political season, let's be especially courteous. Remember – a smile can go a long way.

HOME THEATRE

WHAT: "1876: The Best of Times, The Worst of Times" theatrical production
WHEN: Thursdays and Saturdays (except Saturday, Oct. 19) in October, 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Green-Meldrim House, 14 W. Macon St., on Madison Square
HOW MUCH: \$20 per person. Tickets are available through www.GreenMeldrimHouse.org.
CONTACT: Jamie Credle, 912.233.3845; jcredle@GreenMeldrimHouse.org

www.theskinnie.com

WHAT ELSE: The Gothic Revival house will serve as the backdrop for skilled interpreters to dramatize the events of the American Centennial Year from the perspective of two cities – Philadelphia, which hosted the International Exhibition, and Savannah, which experienced its most deadly yellow fever epidemic, killing 6 percent of the city's population. The one-hour program will encompass music, travel, invention, and politics. The performance requires guests be able to walk up and down stairs and maneuver in low light. Limited attendance.

SPREADING THE WORD

WHAT: 6th Annual Palmer Group Cares' Peanut Butter Drive
WHEN: Now through Nov. 18
WHERE: KDS, 7360 Skidaway Rd, Ste A-2, Savannah
HOW MUCH: Donation
CONTACT: Julie Palmer, julie@tpgsavannah.com
WHAT ELSE: We're incredibly thankful for donations of unopened 16 oz. peanut butter jars that will feed local school children in need through the Backpacks of Love. Our mission is to ensure that school-age children have access to nutritious food over the weekends, supporting their health and well-being.

GARDEN VARIETY

WHAT: Fall plant sale
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: Savannah Botanical Gardens, 1388 Eisenhower Dr.
HOW MUCH: Free admission and parking
CONTACT: 912.355.3883 or sacgc1388@botanical.comcastbiz.net
WHAT ELSE: The Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs and the Savannah Botanical Gardens host this fundraiser to benefit the Savannah Botanical Gardens. There will be gardening equipment and many lovely plants and flowers for sale. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and share advice.

BE A DECENT DOCENT

WHAT: Tour Guide Training – volunteer docents/greeters needed
WHEN: Beginning Oct. 7
WHERE: Green-Meldrim House, 14 W. Macon St., Madison Square
HOW MUCH: Free of charge
CONTACT: Jamie Credle – 912.233.3845; jcredle@greenmeldrimhouse.org
WHAT ELSE: The class of trainees will meet on four Mondays for a two-and-a-half-hour session

TEACHING MOMENTS

WHAT: The Learning Center lecture series
WHEN: Monday, Oct. 7 – Nov. 11; 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (reception begins at 5 p.m.)
WHERE: Skidaway Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: \$15 – members, \$20 – visitors, per lecture
CONTACT: For a full schedule – seniorcitizensinc.org/the-learning-center, or contact dhornsby@seniorcitizens-inc.org
WHAT ELSE: Join us every Monday at 5:30 for fascinating presentations on Gullah culture, AI, American history, defiance in the face of the Holocaust, and modern Savannah monuments. Each lecture will be presented by an expert on the evening's subject. Please register via the Senior Citizens, Inc. website.

STARTING WITH SARAH

WHAT: Jewish Women of the Landings (JWOL)
WHEN: Various social and educational events throughout the year
CONTACT: For more information regarding JWOL, contact Carla at 845.216.1543 or crsblumenthal@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: JWOL is open to Jewish women as well as those connected to someone Jewish through marriage or kinship. We provide opportunities for members to develop new friendships, enjoy a wide range of social activities, educational engagements, and connect with women who share similar interests.

MAGPIE LADIES

WHAT: Landlovers Ladies Discussion Group
WHEN: First Thursday every month, year round, 1-3 p.m.
WHERE: Members homes
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: Bernadette Maffei, bmaffei@comcast.net
WHAT ELSE: New members are always welcome, but participants must be members of Landlovers.



each week. Docents lead tours and assist with programs for people from around the world who visit the Green-Meldrim House, a National Historic Landmark. Once trained volunteer docents are asked to give at least six hours (two shifts) to the museum each month.

REVOLUTIONARY THINKING

WHAT: The Learning Center lecture series: "Revolutionary Years"
WHEN: Mondays, Oct. 7 – Nov. 11; 1 – 2 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: \$10 – member, \$15 – visitor, per lecture; \$50 – member, \$90 – visitor, for the series
CONTACT: To register – www.seniorcitizensinc.org/the-learning-center or email dhornsby@seniorcitizens-inc.org
WHAT ELSE: From the revolutions across Europe to the Russian and American Revolutions, this six-part lecture series explores the major political upheavals that unfolded throughout history.

GOTHIC REVIVAL

WHAT: The Learning Center lecture series: "American Gothic: A Discovery in Short Fiction"
WHEN: Mondays, Oct. 7 – Nov. 11; 2:15 – 3:25 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: \$10 – member, \$15 – visitor, per lecture; \$50 – member, \$90 – visitor, for the series
CONTACT: To register – seniorcitizensinc.org/the-learning-center or email dhornsby@seniorcitizens-inc.org
WHAT ELSE: This six-part lecture series explores the short works from important American figures including Washington Irving, Edith Wharton, William Faulkner, Anne Rice, Stephen King, and many more.

PRAISE HYMN

WHAT: Sounds of the Spirit: Music in Worship Through the Ages
WHEN: Wednesdays in October, 6:45 – 8 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Community Church, Liston Hall
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: Learn more and register at skidcc.org/fallseries2024
WHAT ELSE: Immerse yourself in musical traditions that have shaped Christian worship. Oct. 9 – "Spirituals and Gospel in the Black Church," Oct. 18 – "Southern Gospel," Oct. 23 – "Contemporary Christian Music." Enjoy com-

plementary gelato from Overflow Coffee at 6:45 p.m., followed by a deep dive into how songs of worship have evolved, connecting each generation to God through music.

PAINTING THE TOWN

WHAT: The Learning Center lecture series: "Capturing Savannah – The City in Art"
WHEN: Mondays, Oct. 7 – Nov. 11; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: \$10 – member, \$15 – visitor, per lecture; \$50 – member, \$90 – visitor, for the series
CONTACT: To register – seniorcitizensinc.org/the-learning-center or email dhornsby@seniorcitizens-inc.org
WHAT ELSE: Explore the rich history and artistic portrayal of our beautiful city. Each week delves into different themes, from the Civil War and historic streetscapes to City Market, and artists such as Augusta Oelschig, Myrtle Jones, and Christopher Murphy.

DEAR ABBIES

WHAT: Skidaway Abigails October Meeting
WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 10, 3:15 p.m. check-in
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 W. Ridge Rd.
CONTACT: To learn more about the Skidaway Abigails, visit skidawayabigails.org.
WHAT ELSE: Mary Landers, environmental reporter for the Current in Coastal Georgia will discuss Savannah's water resources and their evolving demands, including projected water usage from rapid industry growth. Join us as we take steps to preserve our environment. Please bring your personal water bottle to Abigails events. Plastic bottles will no longer be available.

KIDS' MEALS

WHAT: Volunteer for Second Harvest and Kids Café
WHEN: Oct. 11 and Nov. 5
WHERE: Second Harvest Volunteer Center, 1380 Chatham Parkway
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: Terry Lewis, terrylewis324@gmail.com or 717.269.2130
WHAT ELSE: Established in 1981, America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia works diligently to distribute nutritious food to non-profit agencies and partners that feed tens of thousands of children, senior citizens, low-income families, and people with disabilities. Landlovers assists Second Harvest in packing, unpacking, stocking, and helping the volunteer coordinator with the

needs of the day. New to the schedule this year is the Kid's Café volunteer opportunities, based on the needs of the chef.

THE RIGHT STUFF

WHAT: Ladies on the Right (LOTR) luncheon meeting
WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 17, 12 – 2 p.m.; (social, 12 – 12:30; lunch/program, 12:30 – 2 p.m.)
WHERE: Landing Palmetto Club Ballroom
HOW MUCH: LOTR members - \$35, non-members - \$40
CONTACT: To register or join LOTR, visit www.ladiesontheright.org
WHAT ELSE: The speaker is Mallory Staples, director of Georgia State Freedom Caucus, on "Holding Our State Legislators Accountable." LOTR is a greater-Savannah Conservative leadership organization whose mission is to inform, educate, and inspire members to take roles on issues that impact our country, community, and lives. LOTR hosts luncheon meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Please register by Oct. 14.

FOR THE BIRDS

WHAT: Bird Trail highlights
WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 17, 4 p.m.
WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church
HOW MUCH: Free for members of Friends of Skidaway Audubon (FOSA) and \$5 for guests, payable online or at the door
CONTACT: fosa@skidawayaudubon.org
WHAT ELSE: Skidaway Audubon's Brenda Ecken highlights the successes of the Dave Scott Bird Trail and introduces a new book, Songbird Village, written by Ecken and her trail project co-chair, Sarah Lucas. All are welcome to attend this engaging presentation about Skidaway's bluebirds and other songbirds. Please pre-register online at SkidawayAudubon.org.

ALL GREEK TO ME

WHAT: "Wine, Women, and Wisdom"
WHEN: Oct. 22, at 6 p.m.
WHERE: Private residence in the Landings
HOW MUCH: \$30
CONTACT: panhellenicsavannah@gmail.com for information and a registration form
WHAT ELSE: Please join Panhellenic Sororities of Savannah for a fun evening of wine tasting, education, and appetizers. This event is open to all Savannah area sorority women. Please RSVP by Oct. 15.

MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR

WHAT: Tour of Georgia Historical Society Re-

search Library, followed by a walk in Forsyth Park and lunch at a nearby restaurant
WHEN: Wednesday, Oct. 23, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
WHERE: Meet at the Methodist Church at 9 a.m. and then on to GHS, 501 Whitaker St.
HOW MUCH: \$15 at the door, no cost at registration, lunch not included
Contact: Donna Bunn, 513.317.3976
WHAT ELSE: Dr. W. Todd Groce, president and CEO of Georgia Historical Society, shares the society's mission: "Public knowledge of our past is fundamental to our future." The research center includes 5 million manuscripts, photographs, drawings, books, maps, and artifacts. Please register at LandingsLandlovers.com. Open to Landlovers members only. Limited to 20 attendees.

WHO'D 'A TRUNK IT?

WHAT: Trunk or Treat
WHEN: Wednesday, Oct. 23, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3 W. Ridge Road
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: frontdesk@saintpeterssav.org or 912.598.7242
WHAT ELSE: Trunk or treat, games, food, activities, and music! Costumes encouraged!

FOR THE CHILDREN

WHAT: L9GA Kids Café charity golf scramble
WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 24; Sign up begins Sep. 1
WHERE: The Landings Golf and Athletic Club
HOW MUCH: \$100 per player (\$65 goes to Kids Café and \$35 goes for the cost of lunch)
CONTACT: Ellen Briggs, ellenbriggsaz@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Limited to club members only.

GAME DAY

WHAT: Mahjongg play along, casual play and tournament
WHEN: Oct. 25, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Ballroom
CONTACT: For registration, contact mahjongg-yall@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Mahjongg is taking off! We have 800 people on the island playing. Let's bring this community together! Visit the Facebook page Mahjongg Y'all.

WORDS AND PICTURES

WHAT: Village Library and Landings Art Association book and art sale
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Rain date – Saturday, Nov. 2
WHERE: Village Library, 1 Skidaway Square

HOW MUCH: Cash or check to buy bargain books; Art by LAA artists and new books by local authors
CONTACT: Brenda Day, 912.441.7102
WHAT ELSE: Audubon Turtle children's program K-3 at 11 a.m., followed by a magic show at noon by the Magic Club.

A LITTLE R&R

WHAT: "Raptors and Reptiles LIVE!"
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 26, 1 p.m.
WHERE: The Landings Athletic Field, 600 Landings Way
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: friendsfiskidawayaudubon@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Get up-close looks at hawks, owls, and the Georgia Southern University mascot, Freedom, the bald eagle, as Georgia Southern's Wildlife Education Center brings its fun and educational program to Skidaway Island. This family-friendly event is presented by Skidaway Audubon. Cameras are permitted, but pets and food are prohibited.

RIDE SHARE

WHAT: Trolley to the Isle of Hope Arts and Music Festival
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 26
WHERE: Isle of Hope
HOW MUCH: \$25/person includes trolley to and from
CONTACT: Jane Golz, 704.641.4467
WHAT ELSE: Avoid the hassle of parking and ride to the fabulous Isle of Hope Art and Music Festival. Stroll through the beautiful village on the waterfront and enjoy live bands, food trucks, and artist vendors. Tickets at landingslandlovers.com, on a first-come, first-served basis.

BALLS OF FUN

WHAT: Landings Garden Staters Halloween Bocce Bash
WHEN: Sunday, Oct. 27, at 3 p.m.; Please RSVP by Oct. 14
WHERE: Franklin Creek Bocce Courts
HOW MUCH: \$20 per person
CONTACT: landingsgardenstater@gmail.com to sign up or for questions
WHAT ELSE: Friendly bocce competition followed by pizza and hoagies at the tennis pavilion. Members can purchase drinks at The Deck or bring your own. If you're not a member or have not renewed your membership, dues are \$12 per person payable to Landings Garden Staters and mailed or tubed to Jill Rubin, 17 Sweetgum Crossing, or Venmo to @a Barbara-Rubin-31 (3894).

POSTAL PEOPLE

WHAT: Landings Stamp Club
WHEN: Friday, Nov. 1, 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.

IN A PICKLE

WHAT: 8th annual Special Pops charity pickleball tournament
WHEN: Friday, Nov. 1 – Sunday, Nov. 3
WHERE: Franklin Creek Sports Complex
HOW MUCH: \$75 registration
CONTACT: Elison McAllister, 912.704.3897
WHAT ELSE: The schedule of play for amateur events is Friday, women's doubles – Friday, men's doubles – Saturday, mixed doubles – Sunday. This year will showcase two Pro Open Challenge events: Friday at 4 p.m. – a mixed doubles challenge; Saturday at 2 p.m. – men's doubles challenge.

A MIGHTY WIND

WHAT: Masterworks for Band concert, presented by the Savannah Wind Symphony
WHEN: Sunday, Nov. 3, 3 p.m.
WHERE: GSU Armstrong Campus Fine Arts Auditorium, 11935 Abercorn St, Savannah
HOW MUCH: General admission, \$20; Military, \$15; Students under 18, \$10. Tickets available at www.savannahwindsymphony.com
CONTACT: Visit www.savannahwindsymphony.com for more information

SUCH A DIVA

WHAT: Divas Through the Decades
WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 7
WHERE: Savannah Theater
HOW MUCH: \$60/person includes trolley and admission to theater
CONTACT: Jane Golz, 704.641.4467
WHAT ELSE: Join friends on a fun trolley ride to enjoy the musical review, "Divas Through the Decades." Trolley departs from Skidaway Island Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m. You'll have time to have dinner on your own downtown. Tickets are available on Landlovers website, first come, first served.

ACROSS

- 1. Excitement
- 5. Vehicles for hire
- 9. Country singer _____ Black
- 14. Glazier's item
- 15. Cream additive
- 16. Rodeo contestant
- 17. Line on a graph
- 18. Farm equipment
- 19. Past plump
- 20. Ab exercises
- 22. Split up
- 24. Give an example
- 26. Burger flipper
- 28. Glinda, e.g.
- 31. Manx, for one
- 32. Sprouting
- 36. Kind of rock
- 38. Pin-up's leg
- 39. Dog in *Beetle Bailey*
- 40. Resound
- 45. Gun, as an engine
- 46. Gross out
- 47. Healthy snack
- 49. Legal hunting period
- 52. Certify, as a college
- 55. Taxonomic categories
- 58. Sales rep's goal
- 59. Turn over
- 61. Plane wing part
- 62. Surprise win
- 63. Nail part
- 64. "Slam" anagram
- 65. Contents of some urns
- 66. Nelson of early film musicals
- 67. Cash register supply

DOWN

- 1. Health retreats
- 2. Curbside call
- 3. First step
- 4. Spring (from)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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- 5. Tablet alternative
- 6. _____ *Dogs Go to Heaven*
- 7. Shoplift, slangily
- 8. Waste conduit
- 9. Neighbor of Slovenia
- 10. Opera text
- 11. Brainchild
- 12. Raven's haven
- 13. Sloth's home
- 21. Something to pull
- 23. Chess piece
- 25. Barracks boss
- 26. Melee memento
- 27. Race's rate-setter
- 29. Insect-repelling oil
- 30. Vacationer's quarters
- 33. Spring mo.
- 34. Corporate concern
- 35. Exploding star
- 37. One expelled from a country
- 41. Says again and again
- 42. Ran, as colors
- 43. Shakespearean genre
- 44. Ill at _____
- 48. Milk option
- 50. Market segment
- 51. Trusty mount
- 52. Blue hue
- 53. Coffee holders
- 54. Bludgeon, in Britain
- 56. Alternative to steps
- 57. Church area
- 60. June honoree

Puzzle answers, page 31

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