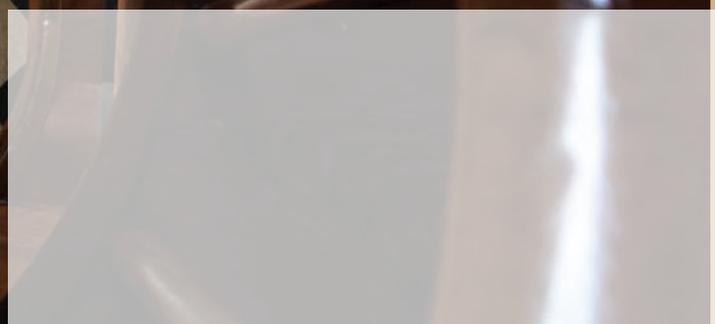




The Skinnie

VOL 18: ISSUE 11 MAY 29, 2020

200 Years of the Davenport House





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upfront

Thank you.

In the previous installment of this column, I asked for your help as Horizons Savannah funds its first-ever “Horizons at Home” version of its summer programs for economically-challenged young people in the region. While we have determined that our “normal,” full-day, in-person operational model is logistically infeasible this year, we remain committed to providing platforms from which our kids can leap (metaphorically...don't worry) to their highest heights. Doing so requires collaboration – our professional educators, partner organizations, volunteers, student families, vendors and service providers, and you... all working together to deliver transformative educational and developmental experiences. When we succeed, when our students access their potential and navigate towards their best lives, our entire community benefits. The work matters.

Our delivery systems are different from our traditional template this year; we are compelled to innovate in response to THE virus. Rather than our kids coming to us at our host school sites, we are taking our programming to them, by sending (physically and digitally) curriculum kits and books and activity bundles and laptops and internet connectivity and nutritious meals and live tutoring and video-produced, anytime-access lessons and social-and-emotional support. So, in the last issue of *The Skinnie*, I solicited you to fund Horizons-at-Home kits (\$125 each) or Google ChromeBook laptop computers (\$250 each), or whatever you could comfortably contribute towards our efforts. And you had only a narrow time window during which to act: The magazine arrived at your home May 16, Horizons Giving Day was May 20, and the online portal for the Horizons Giving Day campaign is digitally available through month-end. While it's impossible to precisely attribute a gift to its prompting, the data is pretty convincing: Readers of this magazine have – as of writing (May 26) – generously contributed approximately \$13,000 in response to my plea. Consider the import of this amazing result: We are able to secure 100 Horizons-at-Home summer experience kits and get them in our kids hands. Or, doing the math another way, more than 50 young people who would be lost to us for the summer because they lack technology to participate will be with us, virtually, every day, thanks to the laptops and connectivity your gifts have financed.

So, thank you, sincerely. Out of respect for each of you, I will not name you here without your consent. But you are champions in a valiant fight, by my scorecard. These quiet acts of kindness have the power to positively alter the trajectories of many lives.

As for the aforementioned virus – what a weekend this one (Memorial Day) was?! Firsthand, I can report, from the beach to the bars downtown (I don't drink, so mine is the view from the outside-in), if you landed here from another planet, you might not realize there had

ever been talk of a pandemic, at all. Unmasked masses congregating everywhere, not enough distance between group members for slivers of light to shine through. On the road to Tybee (I drove out and back for observational purposes, but didn't leave my car) – license plates from states and commonwealths representing every region of the U.S., and lines at ice cream shops and frozen drink kiosks – more conga than socially-distanced. Whatever we were doing since March, there's the real possibility we are undoing it in less than a week in May. Don't mistake my concern for a political point-of-view. Philosophically, I am – simplifying things – “pro-freedom,” but I am well-trained in sciences and math, and I have made a life by acting upon reasoned risk-assessments. It might be that, in this crisis, there is no thread-able needle, which suggests we could be double-losers, in a way.

Most humans are both empathetic and self-interested. Sometimes, these disparate instincts can combine and amplify each other for “good.” Philanthropy, kind of, works that way. Other times, though, these impulses work at cross-purposes...and a global pandemic could be one such time. Consider the binary choices: 1) Do nothing-ish: Let the virus advance as it “wishes,” while harnessing market forces to stimulate development of treatments and prophylactic measures (there is considerable profit incentive for firms to work this problem and capital to flow in support of the work) or 2) Do anything and everything to prevent as many deaths as you can, regardless of ancillary impacts on any other societal objectives. If you think about it, we have kind done a lot of number 2, followed by a sudden shift to heavy-number 1 (with some feel-good-but-probably-futile-in-the-face-of-entropy (if not absurd) remnants from number 2. Or, we tried hard, and then we didn't. Most of us have attempted to construct some suitable hybrid – a little from column A and little from column B; but, the efficacy of each option depends on its universal application, so our approach is probably doomed.

The language in the sentence above (use of the verb “to try”) is at the root of our collective problem. We equate trying with active intervention; but “trying,” or effort, might just as well be making the conscious choice to do nothing at all. It comes down to honestly assessing the likely outcomes from each intervention, including complete inaction, and choosing the course that leads to the best collective result. And, that's the rub...it's the old prisoner's dilemma (in somewhat complicated social psychology terms): A group whose members pursue rational self-interest may all end up worse off than a group whose members act contrary to their own selfish goals. Of, if payoffs are not assumed to represent self-interest, a group whose members rationally pursue any goals may all meet less success than if they had not rationally pursued their goals individually. Trying (desperately) to distill the academics: It is difficult to get rational, selfish agents to cooperate for their common good.

In other words, people aren't wired to deal with pandemics – we want to fix things, and we want things to be fixed, and, sometimes, there's no easy (or hard) way out of an insidious fix, at least not along a path we can control.



To contact *The Skinnie* with your ideas, responses, letters and more, email us at mail@theskinnie.com

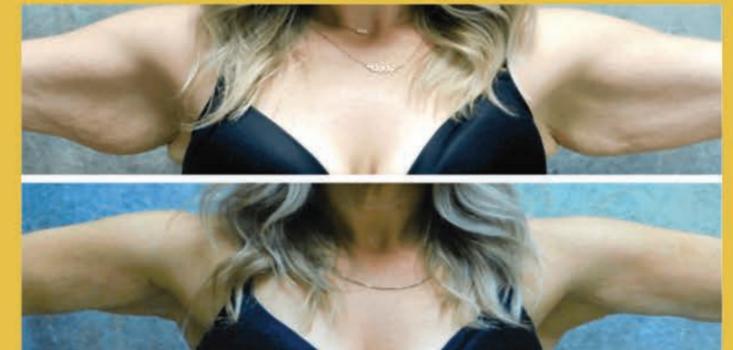
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

READYING FOR READING

As a part of ongoing plans to reopen the library, we are asking all members who still have books and library materials checked out to return them to the library as soon as possible. They may be dropped off anytime using the book return drop box. The library will not be open, but volunteers will be checking the books in as they are returned. We are still in the "grace" period, so no fines.

We now know that the COVID-19 virus will not survive on paper or plastic longer than seven days, and by having the books back in the library well before we reopen they will be safe to check out to our members.

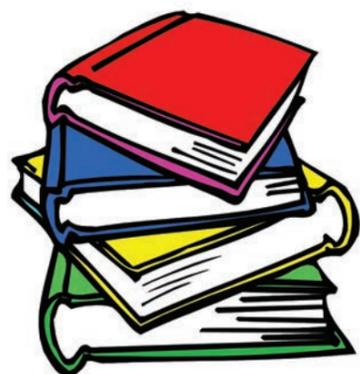
Also, we have heard from a number of mem-

bers that they are sorting through their personal books and planning to donate to the library. Please do not bring books by to donate. Keep them at home. We are in the process of cleaning the library from top to bottom and will not have any place to store donations nor will we have our volunteers to sort them. Any materials donated during this period will be disposed of and will not be considered for adding to the collection or book sales.

We don't yet have a specific date when the library will reopen, but we are getting it ready to go!

We are developing a new Facebook page as a way to keep in touch more frequently. Please visit us at "Skidaway Island Village Library."

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EDITOR + PUBLISHER
Scott Lauretti
slauretti@theskinnie.com

GENERAL MANAGER
Charles Hendrix
chendrix@theskinnie.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Jim Toole
jtoole@theskinnie.com

ART DIRECTOR
Philip Schweier
pschweier@theskinnie.com

OFFICE MANAGER
Teri Grayson
tgrayson@theskinnie.com

GENERAL INQUIRIES
mail@theskinnie.com

ART/CONTENT SUBMISSION
production@theskinnie.com

DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADS
sales@theskinnie.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
editor@theskinnie.com
We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and content. We do not print unsigned letters.

SKINNIE MEDIA LLC
15 Lake Street, Suite 280
Savannah, GA 31411
912.598.9715

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on the cover:
The historic home that launched the preservation movement in Savannah celebrates its 200th birthday this year. See the full story on page 8

X (or a monument or plaque or something) MARKS THE SPOT

House Proud 200 Years of the DAVENPORT HOUSE

Savannah's Davenport House Museum could be considered yesterday's news, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. For starters, the house is 200 years old this year. Americans have particular affinities for milestones like bicentennials. That's especially true in Savannah, where residents are infatuated with their past.

In some historic preservation quarters, however, house museums represent an out-

dated preservation priority. Our own city's preservation agency, Historic Savannah Foundation (simultaneously the offspring and owner of the Davenport House), has saved entire blocks of at-risk neighborhoods, defended city ordinances governing new construction, and fended off the cruise industry – initiatives squarely distinct from the care and interpretation of a single, notable 1820 structure in a booming tourist district.

Rescued from a wrecking ball in 1955, the Isaiah Davenport House was not most people's idea of a structure worth saving. Depressed by decades of tenement habitation and located in a not-so-desirable neighborhood, the house required imagination to appreciate its Federal symmetry and its value

as a relic of the early republic. Today's visitors may shake their heads in disbelief when they learn that the house was purchased for \$22,500. However, those old enough to have been homeowners in 1955 might recall just what a price tag that was. The Davenport House was not a bargain, especially considering it would take many times that sum to restore the building to its 1820s self.

Jamie Credle, director of the Davenport House Museum since 2002 and a self-proclaimed "history nerd," dismisses the idea of the house museum's decline: "Coronavirus is a bigger threat than visitation trends." Some preservation organizations de-emphasized historic houses, and in the process rebranded themselves out of enthusiastic audiences.

The perception may be that historic houses serve an older, staid group. "That's not true here," she says. "We see visitors young and old from around the world. I guess the same mis-assessment could be made of things like preservation tax credits. But isn't everyone interested in livability and sustainability? Those are matters for more than just the elite."

The Davenports themselves were not elite. Isaiah Davenport was an ambitious New En-

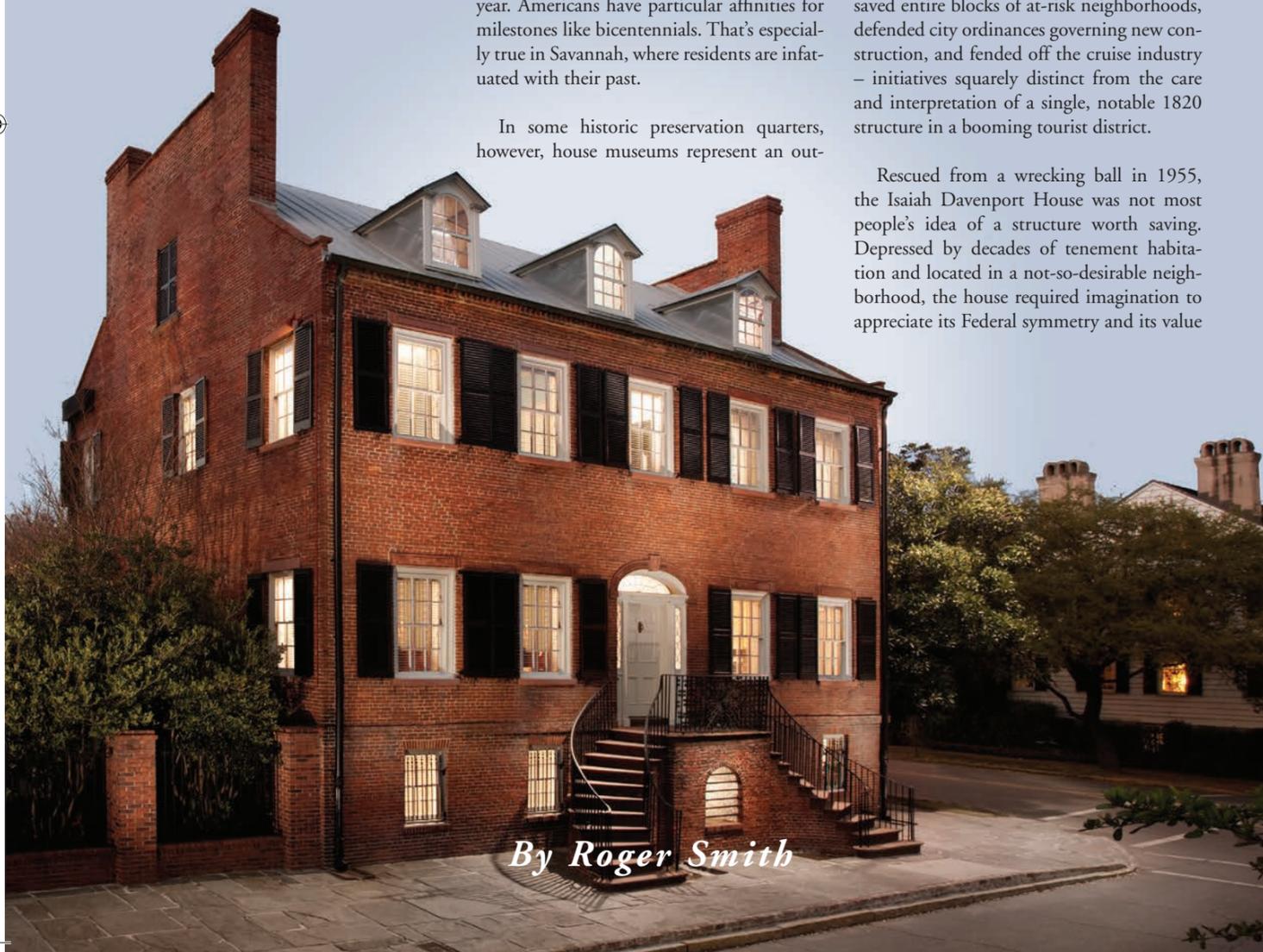
glander (from Rhode Island), a builder of fine houses (perhaps one "Davenport house" on each of Savannah's dozen squares), a repairer of broken steps and shutters (no snobbery there), and an owner of enslaved people. During Credle's tenure at the museum, meticulous research has revealed the names and life stories of the enslaved, nine of which appear generically with a composite value of \$2,100 on an 1828 Davenport property inventory.

People of color are increasingly the subject of interpretation at historic sites, and their experiences are woven into docent narratives at the Davenport House. Credle concedes that the historic Southern homes are subject to shifting opinions. Once, white-columned, moonlight-and-magnolia Southern plantations were dream destinations for weddings, but dissenting voices now regard them as places of horror, the crime scenes of slavery. At the Davenport House, Credle says, "We celebrate all the hands that brought this fine house into being."

And what a house it is. It's a builder's house comprising the best practices one would expect in a structure designed as both domicile and sales tool. In the house's public spaces – the front of the main floor – the owner trans-

acted business in his home office. Tasteful Greek-key plaster cornices and his profligate marble chimneypiece are the not-so-subtle set pieces. Across the central hallway, the drawing room boasts a fanciful, over-the-top confection of acanthus leaves in plaster moldings arching down to utterly nonstructural wooden columns topped by Ionic capitals. At the back, the dining room is a comparatively simple space where a simple table laid with realistic artificial food evocative of meal customs of the 1820s. There's the "morning room," with a table for children's lessons and a desk and sewing cabinet illustrating the roles of Sarah Davenport, Isaiah's literate wife and mother to their prolific family. Bedrooms upstairs offer the chance to imagine parents and children, sleeping and playing, birthing and dying.

Says Credle, when asked of her favorite place to enjoy a quiet moment alone in the house. "I like the attic." The unrestored fourth floor is closed to tourists. It retains evidence of the house's early 20th century tenement days when too many individuals and families lived in tight quarters. "I like those rooms because they're unrestored. I can feel the layers of time there. The interpreted rooms are lovely, of course, but they're a lot of



By Roger Smith

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The foyer of the Isaiah Davenport House.

work. People never stop touching our historic surfaces.”

Sue Adler is the new CEO and president of Historic Savannah Foundation, named to the permanent position on March 3 following nine months in an acting capacity. “And the Davenport House closed on March 16,” she laments, referring to the coronavirus closure and its proximity to the start of her new job. “HSF and the Davenport House enjoy a wonderful symbiotic relationship, both in terms of our founding stories and our ongoing success. Seven ladies rescued the Davenport House, an act that seeded Historic Savannah Foundation. No Davenport House, no Historic Savannah Foundation. And no Historic Savannah Foundation, no Davenport House.”

When asked how the house museum fits into today’s Historic Savannah Foundation, Adler responds, “All of Savannah’s house museums are imperative to our city because they tell stories – the stories of places and of people. In our case, the Davenport House tells about a Savannah family.”

Indeed, nothing is static at the Davenport House. Adler praises Credle’s creativity and work ethic. “People in the 1820s and 1830s appreciated tea and Madeira. Jamie and her team tell those stories through living history programs, which serve big audiences and raise revenue.”

People in the 1800s died of yellow fever. One casualty in 1827 was Isaiah Davenport, his death propelling his young family into a desperate period. Credle and her husband, Raleigh Marcell (also a staff member), have transformed the yellow fever story into award-winning

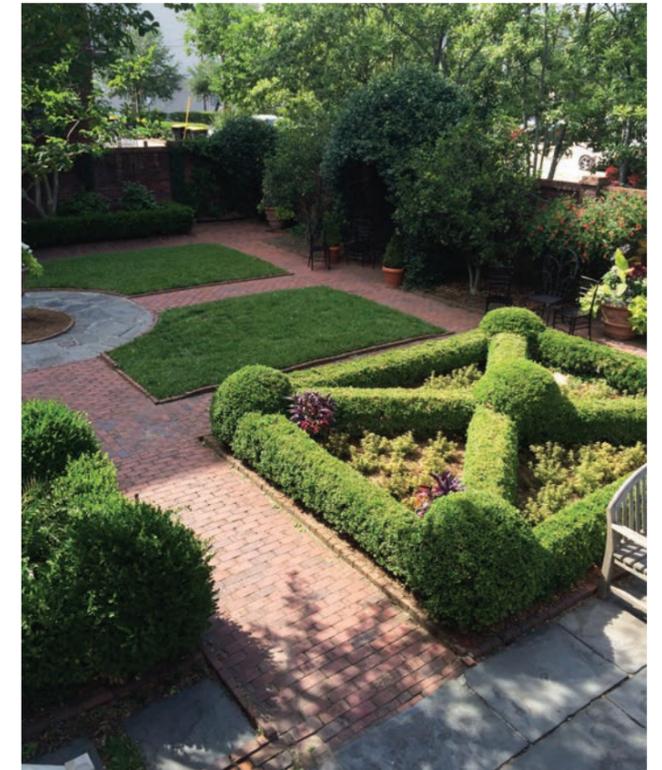
living history each October. In nighttime visits, visitors witness a staged, annual epidemic.

Credle is not snobbish about raising money. A vintage clothing show through Gypsy World Savannah, a Topsy Tea Party (which Credle calls a “roaring success”), and ghost tour company programs, cushion the bottom line. “My job is to say, ‘yes,’” Credle says. Hers is not your grandmother’s house museum.

Credle speaks frankly about the house and its people. “This house is simply the home of a really good carpenter from Rhode Island named Isaiah Davenport. He knew how to make beautiful and sturdy houses. He moved south and married a Southern woman. He acquired land and enslaved workers. He built things. Our house is not rarified. We have to maneuver the fact that we’re not superlative.”

By year’s end, the museum shop and offices will be relocated to the Kennedy Pharmacy, an 1890s structure directly behind the Davenport House. The property was donated by an anonymous individual whom Credle calls the museum’s “fairy godmother.” The pharmacy will house a museum shop, orientation space, and offices, leaving the all-important ground-level basement of the house to be properly interpreted through the lens of enslaved workers, a further reminder that hands of many colors and differing conditions of servitude created this fine house which has lasted 200 years.

Roger Smith, a Savannah native, formerly served as the director of education at the Georgia Historical Society. He currently directs The Learning Center of Senior Citizens, Inc.



A view of the Davenport House garden, from the rear of the home.

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The Feral Golfer

NOTES

From the Deep Rough

By Peter Searle



The earth has circled the sun once again and, as the Feral Golfer contemplates another birthday, certain inevitable thoughts come to mind.

Old golfers never die, they just:
swing away
miss their tee time
putter about
develop worse handicaps
get the shaft
get the hook
stay trapped forever
lose their grip
putt out

Older golfers rarely step onto the first tee feeling robust. They are waiting for the Ibuprofen to kick in, hoping that the knee brace holds and the artificial hip stays put. Gone are the days of leaping out of bed, ready and eager to take on the challenges of the day. Were I to jump out of bed now, I might spend the morning on the floor.

This is not to say that good golf is not possible in the Golden Years. The Feral Golfer had his career round at age 73 and manages to shoot or break his age when all the planets align just so. Many, many others do the same. But we are the fortunate ones. I see so many of my fellow golfers struggling to overcome infirmities, but their love of the game keeps them soldiering on. A tip of the golf cap to them.

When I went to enter my career low of 69, the GHIN computer flashed a warning that the

score I was attempting to post was well out of my normal range. Truth be told, my previous posted score was 93. Apparently, the GHIN algorithms do not make allowances for playing golf with a cranky, aging body and winds of 40 miles per hour. Are you calling me a liar, machine?

Incidentally, it is far more likely that the planets align since 2006, when Pluto was demoted as just another puny denizen of the overcrowded Kuiper Belt. I suppose that I have the International Astronomical Union to thank for my occasional good play. The American Federation of Astrologers has been no help whatsoever.

*When the moon is in the Seventh House,
And Jupiter aligns with Mars,
Then luck will guide the golf ball,
And rarely lead to pars.*

The best victories are those in which your opponent starts out feeling invincible and finishes without the will to live. The golf gods thrive on whimpering - and outright sobbing - if they can get it. They feasted on Mark Calcavecchia after the "War on the Shore." The only known methods of negating their influence are Zen Buddhism and illicit substances, but each has a downside. With Zen, you may be able to shoot 72, but you won't care. Stoned, you will probably shoot 112, but again, you won't care, and may actually enjoy it more.

The happiest golfers (admittedly an oxymoron) are masochists - those who know they are

going to experience pain and willingly seek it out. "Here I am, golf gods, bring on the red-hot poker with the barbed tip." I can only hope that enduring endless humiliation is paving the way for a future lifetime in which I will be reincarnated as a South Korean girl of unmatched talent.

The gods have continued to mess with us for at least 600 years because golfers are fertile fodder for their shadenfruede. Whenever they sense a decline in a player's will to golf, they will throw a bone, such as a D-Flight club championship. Wise golfers will put their trophies in a place of prominence and retire from the game. Should they choose to continue, the gods will conclude that they are irredeemable idiots, deserving of every degradation they may conjure and mete out in the future. The Feral Golfer is not a wise man, and the gods continue their program of death by a thousand putts.

After a great front nine, how many times have you stood on the 10th tee thinking that your good play will continue and you will do something wonderful? That is a huge mistake. Your silent and private flight-of-fancy will be intercepted by the ever-vigilant and psychic golf gods. Then, they will do to you what the evil cult leader in *Gunga Din* did to the arrogant captive British soldier played by Cary Grant.

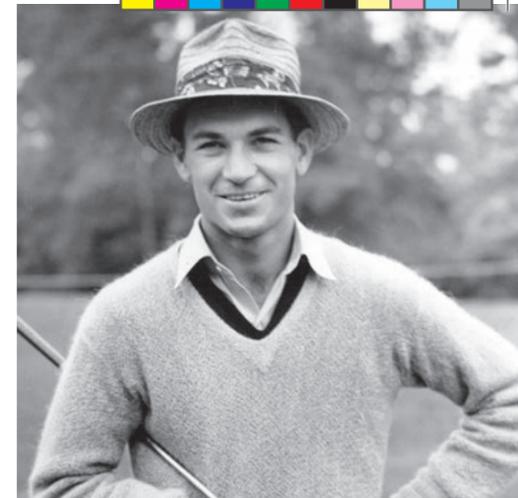
He instructed his minions to "Take him out and teach him the error of false pride."

Great front nines are usually followed by agonizing disappointment. An apt metaphor for life.

The most discouraging comment about golf was made by Ben Hogan who said that if he didn't practice every day, his game would suffer. He estimated that a three-day layoff would set his skill level back a month. Hogan may have been exaggerating for effect, but let's go with that. His calculation means that the game of every recreational golfer is a lost cause unless he quits his job, leaves his wife and family, and develops calluses not only on his hands, but on his soul.

Books on the psychological aspects of athletic performance may only avail a very, very few. From a casual perusal of the range of swings on a driving range, it's obvious that the phalanx of flailers don't have mental demons, they have physical and technical problems. Until those problems are addressed, getting their minds right is akin to giving a home fire extinguisher to a smoke jumper in the blazing forests of California.

One of my regular companions does lot of



Ben Hogan

shuffling his feet as he addresses the ball, but he stops just before he swings. I see this as his way of getting himself loose and balanced, as a shortstop might before a pitch. Recently, on the range, I saw a man who danced around during his swing, both feet moving all over the place. That he actually made contact was a miracle, but results were spotty.

There is a scene in the Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers movie *Carefree* (1938), in which Fred tries to impress Ginger by hitting golf balls. He tees up 20 balls, and, as he dances, he hits shot after shot. Every once in a while, someone

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The driving range scene in "Carefree" was later appropriated for the Spencer Tracy/Katherine Hepburn movie "Pat and Mike" (1952). Hepburn's character stifles an old windbag who has been giving her unsolicited advice throughout their round, by pounding out drive after drive without pause as she moves down the line.

comes along with a revolutionary idea, such as the Fosbury Flop in the high jump. Despite Astaire's unmatched agility, I'm fairly certain that Fred's shuffle is not going to catch on among instructors.

When submitting scores for calculating handicaps, the USGA uses Equitable Stroke Control, (ESC), or a maximum allowable score based on a player's handicap.

Me: Ken, what did you have on that hole?
Ken: I had my ESC. That sounds so much better than 9.
Me: Yes, ESC is preferable to DOA.

Encouraging your playing partners by uttering cliches such as, "That'll work," "Short grass," "You're dancing," etc. This is the oil that keeps things going in a game rife with failure. Seldom is heard a discouraging word, not only on the range, but on the course. There are those that will instantaneously praise any shot that sounds vaguely well-struck and gets airborne, even though it's been shown time and time again in my circle that any ball that starts out down the middle has less than a 50 percent chance of landing there. These overeager commentators are known as "premature exclaimators."

Horace Hutchinson, winner of the British Amateur in 1886 and '87, and prolific author, observed, "If profanity had an influence on the flight of the ball, the game would be played far better than it is." Golf balls suffer considerable abuse, both physical and verbal. They could sue for divorce and take everything. "This deep cut, your honor, was inflicted by a recklessly bladed 7-iron, and this abrasion was suffered when I struck a concrete cart path. Then my golfer had the audacity to call me a #@\$!%. I gave him all my dimples, and then I caught him playing a round with another brand."



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BREATHE EASY

New Valve Procedure Helps Emphysema Patients

There's good news for people who suffer from severe emphysema. A recent FDA-approved treatment option is now available at St. Joseph's/Candler. It can have you breathing better in weeks – and it doesn't require surgery.

Emphysema is a subtype of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In severe emphysema, the air sacs (alveoli) of the lungs may be collapsed, destroyed, narrowed, overinflated or stretched. Damage to the air sacs causes a decrease in respiratory function and breathlessness. Emphysema is one of the most common forms of COPD. Millions of Americans are affected by COPD, and it's estimated 3 million suffer from emphysema.

"COPD is so common. It's the third most common cause of death in Georgia after heart disease and cancer," says Dr. Obaid Rehman, a pulmonologist with Southeast Lung Associates.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for emphysema, but the right treatment can help you breathe better, be more active and improve your quality of life.

Treatment options include

- Stopping smoking/tobacco cessation
- Medications
- Pulmonary rehab
- Minimally-invasive valve treatment
- Lung volume reduction surgery
- Lung transplant

MINIMALLY-INVASIVE ENDOBRONCHIAL VALVE PLACEMENT

Rehman is the only doctor in the region performing minimally-invasive endobronchial valve placement. He will work with your medical provider to determine if you are a good can-



Obaid Rehman, MD.

Nitinol, nickel, titanium or silicone.

- You have stopped smoking.

Inserting the device, known as the Zephyr valve, doesn't require any surgery or incisions, and most patients have just a three-day hospital stay for observation.

"With emphysema, the lung is extremely inflated," Rehman explains. "When you have too much air in your car tire, you have to let some of the air out for the car to drive in a balanced way. That's what this valve does."

Anesthesia is required for endobronchial valve treatment. Once you are asleep, Rehman and the team at St. Joseph's Hospital insert a bronchoscope (a small tube with a camera) into your lungs through your nose or mouth. Using a wire and the camera, the valve – which is smaller than the size of a penny – is placed into your airways and opens like an umbrella. This allows the healthier parts of your lungs to expand, taking pressure off the diaphragm and helping you breathe easier. The procedure can take 30 to 60 minutes and up to five valves can

didate for the procedure, but some of the requirements are:

- You have been diagnosed with severe, late-stage emphysema.
- You have difficulty breathing in because of your emphysema.
- You must be healthy enough to undergo a bronchoscopic procedure.
- Have no active lung infections.
- Have no allergies to Nitinol, nickel, titanium or silicone.



photo courtesy of Pulmonx

be placed in one lobe at a time. If another lobe needs to be treated, that can be performed six weeks later.

You will stay in the hospital for at least three nights for observation. As with any medical procedure, endobronchial valve treatment doesn't come without risk. There's a 33 percent chance of lung puncture. The risk is highest in the first three days following the valve placement, Rehman says.

BENEFITS

While this is a fairly new procedure, valve placement to treat severe emphysema has shown many benefits to the patient including:

- Improving your endurance capacity
- Reducing episodes of shortness of breath
- Better lung capacity

"It's such a relief to be able to breathe better," Rehman says. "That constant feeling like you're running all the time...that feeling gets better."

Most patients should expect to see improvements in four to six weeks.

"This is not a cure, but it's definitely a good option for people who have late-stage emphysema," Rehman concludes.

If you have severe emphysema, talk to your primary care physician or pulmonologist about a referral, and determine if you are a good candidate for endobronchial valve placement. The procedure can put you on the road to a better quality of life.

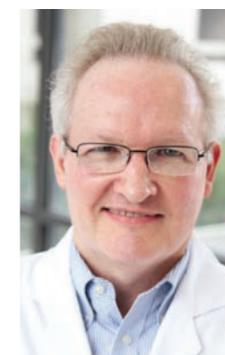
For more information, call Dr. Rehman's Southeast Lung Associates office at 912.927.6270.

www.theskinnie.com

Don't Forget To Ask

Optimize Your Appointment By Preparing Questions

When you visit with relatives or friends, it probably feels like the time passes quickly. You also may realize after they've left or hung up that you forgot to ask something, maybe even the very question that made you call in the first place. The same thing can happen with a doctor's visit. Having essential questions ready for your physician can help optimize your appointment.



Michael McNeely, MD, FACP

"I want to make my time with both new and established patients as productive as possible," says Michael McNeely, MD, FACP, of St. Joseph's/Candler Primary Care on the Islands. "While I can learn the information I need to know with my own series of questions, I have found that having prepared patients helps us make the most of the time we have together."

McNeely suggests that patients write their concerns or questions down and bring that list with them to the appointment. This can help patients who may have a tendency to talk around a problem or who may not be comfortable initiating a discussion.

"I invite my patients to participate in the process," McNeely says. "This helps me to know quickly what their most important concerns are."

Though every patient is different, it usually takes about three questions to help direct the discussion. Patients should volunteer any helpful information about symptoms, as well. Patients may feel that some questions are too small – or, in their opinions, dumb – to ask without somehow bothering their doctor. But participation is what helps a physician know what to look for and where to focus. On the other hand, patients won't benefit from bringing a "laundry list" of general questions that take time away from their biggest concerns.

"Physicians can clear up many of the misconceptions about healthcare that have unfortunately been augmented by social media," McNeely says. "But it is best for us to use that time to address your needs."

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PREP FOR YOUR DOCTOR VISIT

Along with having a few written questions, there are other things you can do to make sure your medical appointment is as productive as possible, especially if you are a new patient.

- **Complete paperwork prior to your appointment.** This will enable the physician's office to request medical records. It will also give your doctor an opportunity to review your medical history and healthcare needs.

- **Arrive on time.** In fact, arrive 30 minutes early in order to complete the check-in process. Think of your appointment as the time you should be in a room ready to be seen.

- **Bring a list of your current medications.** Your doctor needs to know what you are taking. Even for established patients, a primary care doctor may not know if another doctor has prescribed a new medication. If a list with names and doses is too much homework, simply put all of your medication bottles into a plastic bag and bring them with you to the appointment.

- **Use a patient portal if your doctor's office offers one.** Online patient portals allow patients access to their medical information, but they can help in more ways than that. Patients can request prescription refills, update insurance information, check lab results, or ask follow-up questions about their care. It is a great tool for an improved physician-patient relationship.

Patients should not equate writing down questions with being forgetful, but rather with being prepared. Seeing multiple patients each day, McNeely recognizes the effect that those little reminder notes can have.

"Having prepared patients makes the day more productive," he says, "for everybody."

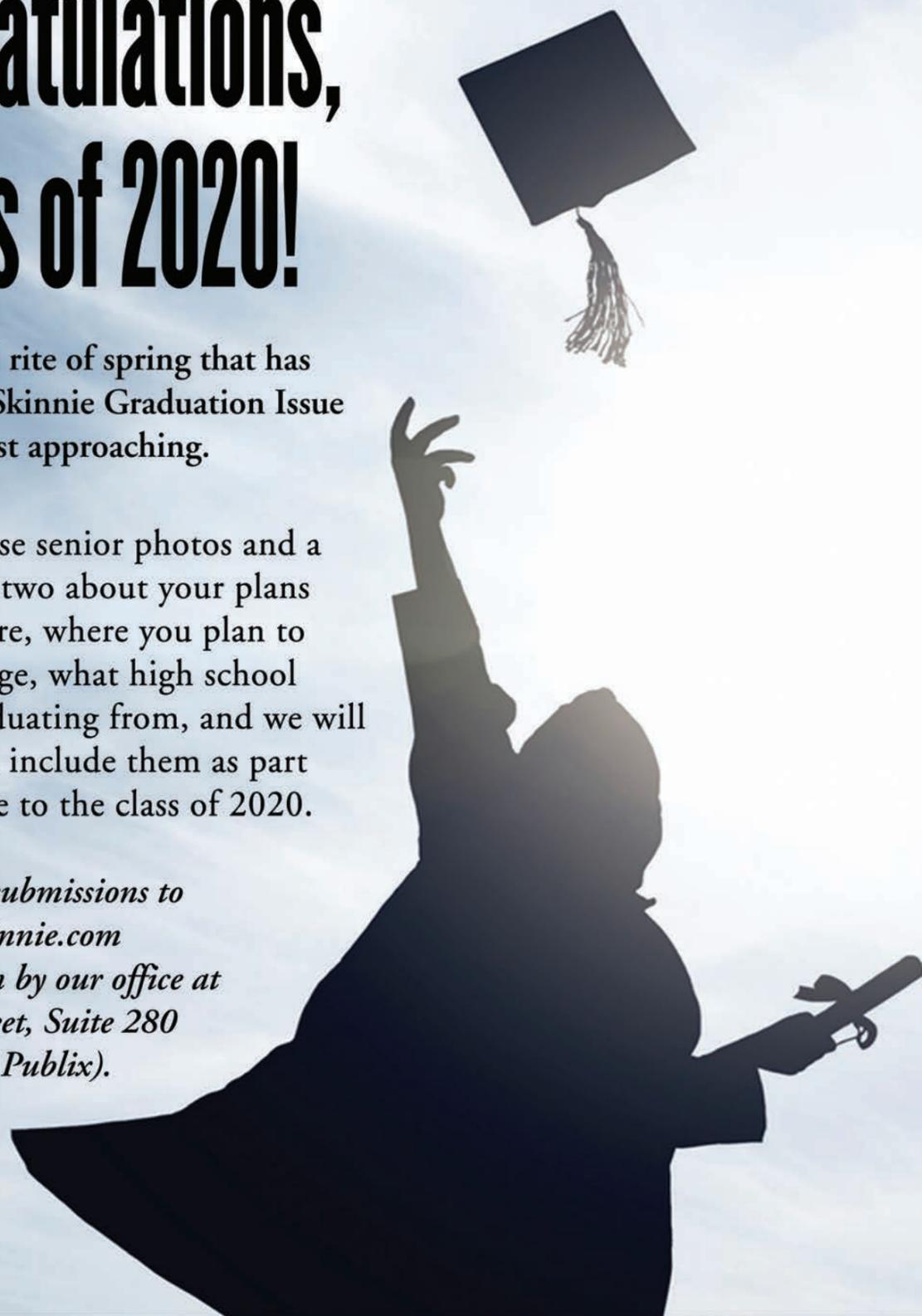
For more information regarding St. Joseph's/Candler Primary Care physicians and their locations, please visit sjchs.org.

Congratulations, Class of 2020!

The annual rite of spring that has become The Skinny Graduation Issue is fast approaching.

Send us those senior photos and a sentence or two about your plans for the future, where you plan to attend college, what high school you are graduating from, and we will be happy to include them as part of our salute to the class of 2020.

Email your submissions to mail@theskinnie.com or drop them by our office at 15 Lake Street, Suite 280 (across from Publix).



Charlie Monroe's medals, left to right: Korean War Service medal; United Nations Service medal; Korea Service medal; the Navy Cross; the Purple Heart; and National Defense Service medal

Corp. Charles H. Monroe

He Served by Ron Lauretti

Due to current safety precautions, it's not feasible to obtain face-to-face interviews for this column. Therefore, we revisit a previous profile from October of 2010.

Corp. Charles H. Monroe, a highly decorated veteran, provided a lifetime of leadership and inspiration.

The Savannah native valiantly distinguished himself in battle against overwhelming forces on a freezing North Korean mountainside in November of 1950. The previous summer, the North Korean Army, supported by Communist China and the Soviet Union, crossed the 38th parallel, invading democratic South Korea. The surprise attack pushed the remnants of the South Korean Army to the southern tip of the Korean peninsula. To cut off the enemy from behind, Gen. Douglas MacArthur planned an amphibious landing at Inchon on the western shore of North Korea just above the 38th parallel. The plan's success required bringing the 1st Marine Division up to full strength – more than 20,000 men.

Monroe was barely out of high school when Dog Company – a Marine Reserve Infantry unit based in Savannah – was activated to full duty. On August 28, the 18-year-old was among 182 Marine Reservists bound by train for Camp Pendleton, California, the home of the 1st Marine Division. From his

frequent ventures into the woods of neighboring Effingham County, Monroe was already a skilled marksman and an able outdoorsman.

On October 15, 1950, Monroe and his fellow Marines from the second replacement draft set sail for Korea. Most of the men on board knew little of the distant nation. Two weeks later, the ship docked in Japan, where, after a brief stay, the 2nd Replacement Marines made the short passage to the port of Wonsan on Korea's eastern coast. The new arrivals were integrated into the depleted 1st Marine Division, which had lost about 1,000 men since the Inchon Landing. Monroe was assigned to How Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

Not satisfied with the objective of liberating South Korea, MacArthur had an ambitious goal of freeing North Korea from communist control, and pushed his forces northward. Chinese Foreign Minister Chou En-Lai warned that if U.N. forces crossed the 38th parallel into North Korea, China would enter the conflict. Despite the warning, the 1st Marine Regiment proceeded north toward the Manchurian border, where a much larger and more aggressive communist fight-



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HURRY! DEADLINE IS JUNE 16!



Celia Monroe proudly pins the Navy Cross on her husband.

ing force was assembling.

Winter was approaching, and the Marines had been issued standard seasonal clothing, which soon proved to be less-than adequate. Heavy snowfall and bitter cold winds swirling in from the barren plains of Manchuria brought temperatures down to well below zero. On the bitterly cold night of November 28, 1950, the 3rd Battalion was near the small village of Hagaru-ri, near the southern tip of the

frozen Chosin Reservoir in northeast Korea. The Chinese border lay about 75 miles to the north. Everyone was on full alert; because, the night before, the 1st Marine Division had been hit hard by waves of Chinese troops.

Monroe shared a shallow foxhole with his squad leader. Though trained as a mortar man, Monroe carried a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR). The two men had approximately 300 rounds of ammunition and a few hand grenades. Just after dark, as the first probing attack occurred, a closing enemy soldier tossed a grenade into the foxhole, taking squad leader's life. Monroe was hit hard in both legs, his back and head. Tiny particles partially blinded him. Undaunted, he emptied his BAR into the charging Chinese as they closed to within just a few yards of his position. In spite of limited vision and painful wounds, the Marine continued firing and reloading, until he passed out from shock and loss of blood. His position was overrun by hordes of Chinese continuing past the outer perimeter of How Company, heading for the company command post.

When Monroe regained consciousness, he could hear enemy soldiers all around him, speaking Chinese as they carelessly looted. He wisely played dead, as an enemy soldier reached down and took the BAR. Unfamiliar with its operation, the foe threw the BAR away in disgust. After what seemed like an eternity to Monroe – but was probably not more than a few minutes – counterattacking Marines killed the enemy soldiers. As soon as he heard English being spoken, the badly wounded Monroe shouted for help.

Monroe was transported to a nearby field hospital for urgent triage.

He was then rushed to a small plane, which flew him to a waiting dockside hospital ship at Wonsan. Though heavily sedated, Monroe was vaguely aware of another close call when one of the straps holding him to his stretcher came loose and he almost slipped into the narrow channel of water between the dock and the ship.

The next morning, back at Hagaru-ri, the dead and wounded Chinese were dragged away from Monroe's foxhole, verifying the serious damage he inflicted on charging enemy soldiers. The official after-action report noted that Monroe's relentless action at the beginning of the attack inspired other Marines to fight harder as they regrouped and claimed their blood-soaked victory.

At a hospital in Japan, doctors were unable to save Monroe's vision. He also suffered hearing loss in his left ear. From there, it was on to a series of operations and rehabilitations at military hospitals from Hawaii to California to Maryland. While at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, he was promoted to corporal, and multiple honors – including the meritorious Navy Cross – were bestowed.

After his discharge, Monroe returned home to the Savannah area, where his loss of vision would not prevent him from leading a productive life of service to his fellow veterans.

On July 4, 1953, Monroe met Celia Neidlinger at a holiday fireworks display. Though the sound of skyrockets resurrected vivid memories of enemy artillery from a few years prior, Monroe let the excitement of their meeting override his trauma. The couple married in 1955.

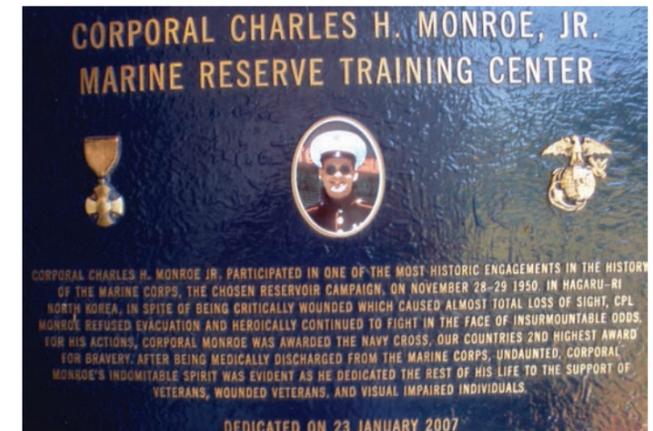
Some clergymen that the pair had met with had warned Celia that she would be tested often as she cared for a blind husband. "Those ministers could not have been more wrong," she said, often. "Charlie is the one who has always taken care of me!"

Celia became the family driver. The Monroes settled into a historic house on a large tract of forested land near Guyton, where they raised their daughter. Monroe more than doubled the size of the family homestead over the years - one of his many achievements. He worked as a carpenter, a small appliance repairman, and an upholsterer. He hardly ever used a cane and never had a seeing-eye dog. He served as a Boy Scout leader and became a certified Red Cross in-water lifesaving instructor.

Celia became a clinical psychologist with a master's degree from the University of Georgia and a doctorate from George Washington University. "I had to try to keep up with Charlie," she joked in 2010.

Monroe earned three degrees – two from Armstrong and a master's from the University of Georgia. But of all his achievements, the one that meant the most to him was a long and distinguished commitment to help others overcome their visual impairment. He served as a rehabilitation consultant with the Veterans Administration, then as the national field service director for the Blind Veterans Association. He was especially proud to be one of the first proponents of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Monroe has been memorialized by the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame (GMVHF). He was inducted on November 2, 2019,



The Marine Corps Reserve Training Center at Hunter Army Airfield is named in honor of Charlei Monroe.

just six days before his death at age 87. The standard for admission into the GMVHF is high. A candidate must be honorably discharged from active or reserve duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or National Guard. He or she must be of good character and must be either Georgia-born, initiated into service in Georgia, or a Georgia resident for at least 10 years. The inductee must have been cited for valor or achievement, while demonstrating exceptional service to the community. Monroe's courageous actions in Korea and a lifetime of outstanding service to his fellow veterans, together with his commitment to family and community, solidified his spot in the GMVHF.

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Audubon IN ACTION

By Amy Collings

Skidaway Island is rolling out the welcome mat for some very special visitors – migrating monarchs. Skidaway Audubon has joined a nationwide initiative to bring the orange and black butterflies back from the brink of extinction.

In the last 20 years, nearly 90 percent of the world's monarchs have disappeared, mainly due to loss of habitat. Fortunately, Georgia is perfectly poised to help reverse that downward trend. The butterfly's migratory path crosses directly over the state. As they fly north from Mexico, monarchs lay their eggs nearly exclusively on milkweed.

Working in partnership with the Landings Club, Skidaway Audubon has begun planting milkweed and other plants that attract pollinators in out-of-play areas along the Palmetto golf course. Skidaway Audubon Monarch Butterfly Trail coordinator, Betsey Andersen, and Palmetto superintendent, Philip Soukoup, initiated the first part of the trail, planting milkweed, salvia and lantana along three areas of the course.

Through a partnership with the Landings Association, butterfly-friendly plants also will be installed in common areas of The Landings. Skidaway Audubon also plans to partner with the National Wildlife Federation and the Garden Club of Georgia to encourage residents to plant milkweed and increase pollinator habitat within their gardens to help restore pollinator populations that are essential to food production and the environment.

While some Landings residents have seen a bit more traffic on cart paths these days, observant residents will notice many of the carts sporting blue-and-white Audubon volunteer flags. They indicate Skidaway Audubon conservationists at work. Spring is Skidaway Audubon's busiest time of year, and volunteers are out in force, implementing a variety of conservation programs. There are more than 40 residents with volunteer flags out and about these days, performing a variety of tasks. The cart flags are light blue with the Skidaway Audubon logo and "VOLUNTEER" in bold navy blue letters. If you see one, a friendly wave is always appreciated, as the volunteers devote hours of time to protect, conserve and enhance the community.

Two ospreys, nesting in a tall pine tree on the Palmetto golf course, have become international celebrities. The birds have more than 8,000 followers, including residents of Oregon, North Dakota, Virginia,

www.theskinnee.com



If you see a blue and white Audubon Volunteer flag, a friendly "Landings wave" is always appreciated by the volunteers who devote hours of time to protect, conserve and enhance our community.

New York and Pennsylvania, and as far away as Greece and Malta. Skidaway Audubon's bird cam – a cooperative effort with the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology and the support of many sponsors – provides a steady stream of environmental education to viewers, educators and researchers. The avian couple is presently raising two chicks in their comfy nest, providing food to their young while maintaining watchful eyes and protective cover for them. The two babies are growing steadily and are expected to remain in view of the cameras for a few more weeks.

The ospreys recently received a bit of fan mail from England:

"Just wanted to say how much I have enjoyed looking at the Savannah Osprey's (sic) during lockdown from here in the UK. I have especially enjoyed seeing the sunrise scenes when the camera pans away from the nest in the distance at sunrise."

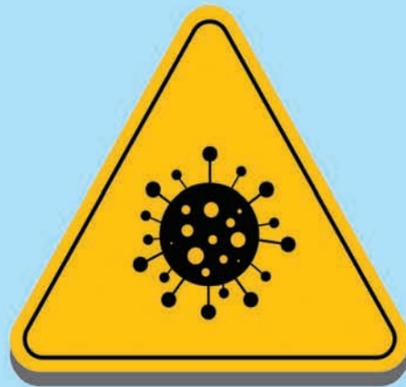
The birds may be encouraging tourism. One online follower writes:

"It has been relaxing to look and listen to the sounds. I have visited Savannah twice, and will hopefully come at some point again in the future. Thank you for the live cams and nests for the Ospreys."

To enjoy the osprey family, visit landingsbirdcam.com. For information about Skidaway Audubon projects, or to provide support by becoming a Friends of Skidaway Audubon member, visit skidawayaudubon.org.



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We encourage our readers to take precautions when out in public. Please follow established guidelines for social distancing, and wear protective masks and gloves when you feel it to be necessary.

To those of you who submitted Island Hopping entries, we look forward to helping you promote your rescheduled events.

To all of our readers, advertisers, families and friends, we wish you safety and health, and a speedy return to normalcy.

island hopping

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

WHO NEW?

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

GOTTA LOVE IT

WHAT: Landlovers membership now open to all island residents
HOW MUCH: Each \$30 membership fee covers one household of one or two adults
CONTACT: Cec Calcaterra, Landloversmembership@gmail.com or 803.309.5883
WHAT ELSE: Landings Landlovers is a philanthropic and social organization now open to all island residents. More information and details can be found at www.landingslandlover.com. Our membership year runs from Sep. 1, 2019 through Aug. 31, 2020.

KEEP 'EM FLYING

WHAT: The National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force
WHEN: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m.
CONTACT: For more information call 912.748.8888 or visit www.mightyeighth.org
WHAT ELSE: New guidelines are in place to protect staff and visitors. Visitors are strongly recommended to wear facemasks. Hand-sanitizing stations have been established throughout the museum. Some areas will be capacity-controlled.

BRUSH WITH GREATNESS

WHAT: The Artwork of Dell Belew
WHEN: June 1 through June 30
WHERE: JEA Art Gallery, 5111 Abercorn St. Savannah
CONTACT: 912.355.8111, or visit www.dell-belew.com
WHAT ELSE: A retired English professor, Belew has been painting since 1975. Her body of work consists of oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastels and photography. Her most recent genre is mixed media abstracts, although whatever inspires her at the moment is what gets her attention.

HOCUS POCUS!

WHAT: Landings Magic Society
WHEN: 7 p.m., second Thursday of the month, Oct. through May
WHERE: Plantation Club card room
CONTACT: Jim Ruhl, 912.856.3948, jsruhl@gmail.com or Bill Sickels, 912.598.9123 or whsickels@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Anyone with an interest in magic is welcome. Every meeting is instructional, entertaining and enlightening.

BREAKFAST CLUB

WHAT: Kiwanis Club of Skidaway
WHEN: Thursday mornings at 7:45 a.m.
WHERE: Plantation Club
HOW MUCH: Free to attend; Breakfast - \$13, Coffee only - \$2.50
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.

BODY AND SOUL

WHAT: Skidaway Island United Methodist Church (SIUMC) Exercise Classes
WHEN: Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, times are below
CONTACT: For more information or to register for January session, visit siumc.org/exercise or call 912.598.8460
WHAT ELSE: Mat Pilates from 9:15-10:15 a.m.; and Sit-Fit from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Classes are led by Elena Bennett, an ACSM-certified exercise instructor. SIUMC has added Friday classes to its offerings for church- and non-church members alike.

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.

MEETING OF THE MINDS

WHAT: Stroke Survivors
WHEN: Third Thursday of every month, 4 to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 West Ridge Rd.
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: Shirley Nack, 598.7047
WHAT ELSE: Share your experiences with stroke survivors. At our meetings we listen and learn what other survivors have accomplished in order to return to an active lifestyle.

CERVUS WITH A PURPOSE

WHAT: Bingo at the Elks Lodge
WHEN: Sundays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: 183 Wilshire Blvd
WHAT ELSE: \$1,500 in prizes. All proceeds benefit Elks charities.

SAFE AND SOUND

WHAT: Women's support group for people going through or having experienced domestic or family violence
WHEN: Third Wednesday of every month, 12 noon - 1 p.m.
WHERE: SAFE Shelter Center for Domestic Violence Services Outreach, 7373 Hodgson Memorial Dr.
CONTACT: Outreach office, 912.651.0004
WHAT ELSE: SAFE Shelter's mission is to

prevent domestic violence, protect victims and promote change in lives, families and our community. This is an opportunity to meet with women experiencing similar challenges. Light refreshments will be served.

CAUSEWAY CLEAN-UP

WHAT: "Shine Bright like a Diamond (Causeway)," litter pickup along Diamond Causeway
WHEN: 1 or 2 times per month, as trash amount deems necessary
WHERE: Meet in the parking lot of Butterbean Beach
CONTACT: Courtney Fowler, causewaycleanup@gmail.com or 912.313.6040
WHAT ELSE: Please bring work gloves and a safety vest if you have one; a trash-picker works wonders as well. We will provide trash bags. Water is recommended to avoid dehydration.

WELCOME MAT

WHAT: Learn to create sleeping mats for the homeless from discarded plastic bags
WHEN: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon at Oakridge Club; Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon at JEA
CONTACT: Please RSVP to Carol Greenberg at 912.355.1238 or MStarArts@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Help divert plastic bags from landfills and waterways while providing comfort to the homeless. Completed mats will be on display the first week in February at the JEA Art Gallery.

STUCK IN BETWEEN

WHAT: Middle Aged Tweens of Skidaway (MATS).
WHERE: Usually in private homes.
CONTACT: matskidaway@gmail.com or call Ann Nash at 203.856.8927, or visit www.matskidaway.com
WHAT ELSE: MATS was formed to create social activities for people in their 'tween years. There are monthly socials, book club groups, business group, Ladies Night Out, Men's Poker Night and more! Many of us are empty nesters or semi-empty nesters. We may find ourselves in the later stages of our careers, working part-time or navigating issues of early retirement. Some of us are still responsible for raising children.

IT'S AN HONOR

WHAT: Honor Flight Savannah seeks war veterans and volunteers
CONTACT: honorflightsavannah.org or 912.367.9020
WHAT ELSE: Honor Flight Savannah is offering WW II, Korea and Vietnam War era veterans living in southeast Georgia and southeastern South Carolina an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to visit their war memorials. Funding for trips is dependent on contributions from community citizens and businesses.



**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 military, 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**.

Send your nominee's name and contact info to ron135@comcast.net

CHALLENGER CLUES*

ACROSS

- 1. Type of fly
- 4. Vendee
- 9. Grampuses
- 14. Europe's 3rd largest island
- 15. Sister of Sherlock Holmes
- 16. ___-Canada (nationalized gas co.)
- 17. 1st hot line response..... "Try hitting the ___."
- 19. Memorable SNL role for Tina Fey
- 20. Certain salientian
- 21. Place for a goose
- 22. "Sorry, but it's much too expensive."
- 23. Woman in Poe's last poem
- 25. Clorox competitor
- 26. Rev
- 27. Bonded
- 30. The Ancient Romans called it 'Lutetia'
- 33. Dweebs
- 34. XXIV squared, plus XXV
- 35. Hydrox derivative
- 36. Blackbeard's last name
- 37. Brine-soaked cheese
- 38. Island where Hippocrates was born
- 39. Hawaiian word for mountain
- 40. Light red Crayola color
- 41. Mesmerize
- 43. Hindu holy one
- 44. Chain of American Eagle all-girl stores
- 45. Type of cottage
- 49. "Merchant of Venice" heroine
- 51. Nigerian honorific
- 52. Divan
- 53. John who was Gomez Addams
- 54. Fourth and final hot line response..... "Oh, just ___!"
- 56. Excel
- 57. Sticker
- 58. Battle of Britain heroes
- 59. Native of Kazan
- 60. Place for a horse
- 61. Arch

DOWN

- 1. Only work ever signed by Michelangelo
- 2. Welles who was Hearst
- 3. State tree of Texas
- 4. U.S. Gov't agency that prints paper currency

Sound familiar?

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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49	50						51				52			
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56						57						58		
59						60							61	

- 5. Odd
- 6. Li'l Abner, famously
- 7. "Waitin' for the Robert ___"
- 8. Devil fish, e.g.
- 9. Counters
- 10. Dialectics
- 11. 2nd hot line response... "Press these three keys together ___."
- 12. A litchi nut is one
- 13. 40 decibels
- 18. 60-66 bpm, musically
- 22. Thetis, e.g.
- 24. Essential computer part
- 25. Expensive camera
- 27. Author of "The Red Badge of Courage"
- 28. Opposite of 'endo'
- 29. Noted primatologist Fossey
- 30. Place for a pig
- 31. "East of Eden" twin

- 32. 3rd hot line response..... "We'll have to ___."
- 33. Table for two
- 36. Patty Hearst's adopted alias
- 37. Least
- 39. First spacecraft to orbit Mars
- 40. Tousled hair
- 42. Brand of tretinoin
- 43. Not spiritual
- 45. Word used in carbon dating
- 46. Operator of the world's largest single brewery
- 47. Variety meats, to many
- 48. Crackers
- 49. Quondam
- 50. Safety acronym
- 51. Tallow source
- 54. QB stat
- 55. The Prairie St.

Puzzle answers, page 29

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*For each puzzle a relatively difficult set of clues (Challenger) will accompany the first printing. In the subsequent issue, the same puzzle will appear with an easier set of clues (Standard) Email questions/comments to puzzler@theskinnie.com

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A BUG'S LIFE

Frequent contributor Jorge Gojman often shares images of some of nature's smallest creatures. Though often overlooked, they play a pivotal role in the ecosystem of Skidaway Island.



Above: A Margined Calligrapher fly
Right: A Velvet ant, which Gojman says is actually quite big for an ant, at about an inch long.



"This Cuckoo Wasp (below) looks so unusual to me, almost like jewelry," says Gojman.



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

When Elizabeth found out she was pregnant with twins she was ecstatic x2. But she was worried about the increased birth risks. She was referred to Dr. Carmela Pettigrew and the dedicated team at the Mary Telfair Women's Hospital.



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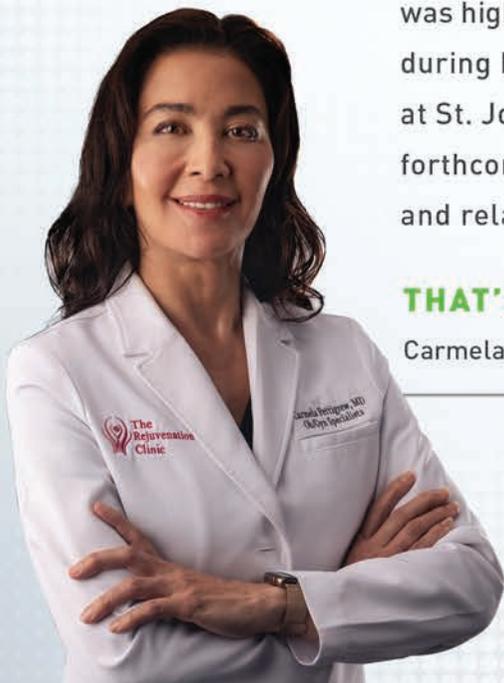


The OR team at the Telfair BirthPlace knew Elizabeth

was high risk, so their attentive nature was comforting to Elizabeth during her delivery. "The staff at Mary Telfair Women's Hospital at St. Joseph's/Candler were very welcoming, professional and forthcoming, which I very much appreciated. They kept me calm and relaxed when the twins came four weeks early!"

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