



CAROLINE BRUKER | PAGE 17

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AUGUSTA & THE CSRA

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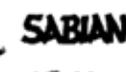


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vergepolicies the boring part

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→ SMATTERINGS

HE WHO HAS EARS, LET HIM HEAR

September is Arts in the Heart, the beginning of Westobou, football, the ESI IronMan 70.3, the Augusta Fire Department's 125th Anniversary, Aiken's Labor Day sidewalk sale, Moonlight Cruises on the Augusta Canal, the Uncommon Jazz Festival, Saturday Market on the River. You might find yourself laughing with Schrodinger's Cat or checking out Lunar Octopus. Check out The Ebony Legacy or attend a drama club meeting. Try your hand at guitar with guitar lesson for beginners. You can help with the community sculpture ARTie - The Garden City's Green Dragon. You can see Reinventing Radio with Ira Glass or Roseanne Cash with Blue Rodeo. You can Transfigure Time or experience Momix: Botanica.

What a month for engaging in community! These events are a small sampling of what is listed on the online Daily Planner event calendar at VERGELIVE.COM. There are hundreds of events for you to check out, participate in, volunteer at or experience. Plus, while you are online, you can sync events to your own calendar electronically, send the information to family or friends and set up reminders via text message or email. You can post events straight from the calendar to Facebook or as a Twitter feed. *Verge* is pioneering how to engage with your community — this is why we say that *verge* is the NEW generation of print media. We connect you and your friends to events in the community. That's really cool!

This is the month that it really starts picking back up, where more festivals, events and weekend activities become commonplace. Even more important, the weather is finally becoming bearable out of doors here in the South. It is also the month where we begin to have greater opportunity to have deeper engagement with our community. As I read and see all of the events on the horizon, it reminds me of the Fall seasons of my youth in Massachusetts. I would look forward to weekend football games, marching band and those marching competitions across state, jazz band, pep band and rallies to attend. Basketball and soccer season were in the air and we ran more road miles than we thought we could handle in preparation for the upcoming fall track season. Splitting time between riding my dirt bike through the woods (much to my mother's chagrin) and a ton of sailing (Fall always seemed to bring the best winds from the northeast). There was hay to bale, apples and pumpkins to harvests and bonfires to share with family and friends. Fall festivals abounded: I think the funniest one I ever attended was a Zucchini Festival.

As I look back on it, autumn really is a very special time. It is a time to engage with our community through events and activities. It is a time to get reconnected with our community, our neighbors, the organizations we belong to and passions we have for the future.

To say that there is a lot going on in our community this month is an understatement. Pace yourself! As you are out and about enjoying yourself, visit the advertisers in *verge*. They are in part responsible for providing you with all of the wonderful things in *verge* and your connection to what is going on in our community. By supporting them, you support our community.

Verge: Providing you and the CSRA with responsible journalism about community that is not politically charged and presented in a family-friendly environment with a forward thinking community message. *Verge* is a breath of fresh air, like the fall season.

He who has ears, let him hear. He, who has eyes, let him see. Community.

Can't wait for kickoff time!

— Matt

ON THE COVER

HANDS-ON POTTERY by REDWOLF INC.

Children of all ages look forward to throwing pots with Juliet King, aka the Grunge Goddess, at Arts in the Heart of Augusta. King will return to this year's festival. Read more about Arts in the Heart on page 26.

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

RedWolf is an award-winning marketing and design agency: The website created for Arts in the Heart won the Bronze Kaleidoscope Award for best website from Southeast Festivals and Events. Owner Rhian Swain-Giboney, is known in Augusta for her community dedication (and her flaming red hair).

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"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

— ALBERT EINSTEIN

"Books! Books contain the throb of human life; the magic entrances, fascinates, sets alight imagination, opens doors of interest and curiosity, informs and triggers questioning."

— SUSAN MACAULEY



PETE HUGHES LEADS AN AUGUSTA CANAL DISCOVERY WALK

[new tour cruises the canal]

The Augusta Canal is saying "Happy Birthday" to the Civil War.

The four-year conflict, sometimes referred to as the War of Northern Aggression, began in 1861, 150 years ago this year. To celebrate, the canal will be offering "Food, Fabric and Firepower: Augusta, the Canal and the Civil War" Petersburg boat tours beginning in September.

"Although Augusta was never a battlefield, we provided a lot of things for soldiers on the battlefield," said tourguide John Roth. "The British formula of gunpowder produced at the Augusta Powderworks was of a very high quality and, in 1861, we started manufacturing in an assembly line form with the help of a wooden railroad that ran along the mill."

"By the time of the American Civil War, Augusta had become one of the South's few manufacturing centers" said Rebecca Rogers, the canal's marketing director. "The power and transportation afforded by the canal led to Augusta's selection as the location for the Confederate States Powder Works. Soon other war industries established themselves on or near the canal, making Augusta a critical supplier of ammunition and war materiel."

The new tour kicks off with the presentation of the Georgia Historical Society commemorative marker "Explosions and Strike at the Confederate Powderworks" on Aug. 27 at 10 a.m.

"Smoking was strictly forbidden near the plant but, in August of 1864, some workers decided to ignore the rule while their supervisor wasn't looking," said Roth. "This was before there were any OSHA standards for safe workplaces, and *The Augusta Chronicle* reported on the explosion and the parts of workers found in trees near the powder works."

Throughout September and October, the Civil War tour will be offered Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Sundays at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. for \$12.50 per seat. This is in addition to the Heritage Boat Tour, which runs Monday through Saturday at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The Augusta Canal also offers Friday evening moonlight music cruises, which feature live music. These require reservations and tickets are \$25 per seat.

No matter what tour you choose, there are always surprises along the canal.

"We've seen a red tailed fox, boar, deer, and some other wildlife you wouldn't expect to find around here," said Roth. "What's unique is that every tour is different based on what people ask for, and how they relate it to their previous experiences."

For more information or to make reservations, contact the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area at 706.823.0440.

[a coloring book for artists]

Grab your crayons and pick up a copy of the *Artist's Coloring Book Vol. 1* and discover your inner artist. Augusta artists Jason Craig, Jay Jacobs, Rich Menger, Chris Murray, Staci Swider and Leonard Zimmerman collaborated to produce a 24-page coloring book that appeals to children and adults alike. Each artist submitted four pages around themes such as "things that float" and "a bad idea." The books were also printed locally by Phoenix Printing. Books cost \$15 each and are available at Gaartdenisty, 1155 Broad St., or online at STACISWIDER.COM.

Around Town is written by **CHRISTOPHER SELMEK**



[celebrate 125 of firefighting service on sept. 11]

Firefighters of Augusta will celebrate their 125th anniversary on Sept. 10 with a parade down Broad Street and celebration at the Augusta Common that will feature information about the history of the fire department and live entertainment.

The parade also falls on the day before the 10th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks, during which 343 New York firefighters and paramedics were killed and 300 more went on leave for respiratory problems over the next three-and-a-half months.

"We tried to plan our parade around the anniversary of the attacks, and when we just happened to find the Common available on that day, it was a kind of happy coincidence," said Fire Lt. Brice Reynolds. "Augusta officially began their paid fire department in December of 1886, but December is too cold and it would be too difficult to plan around the holidays, so we moved it to what we hope will be a pleasant fall day."

The parade will begin at the James Brown Arena at 10 a.m. and march along Broad Street to 13th Street. The celebration at the Common will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and feature local musicians Deb Hemingway, The Mason Jars, Brandon McGuinness and Funk You.

An authentic 1924 fire truck will be set up on the Common, along with booths for several firehouses, including West Richmond County, East Augusta and the suburban departments.

"Before 1886, there was an all-volunteer fire department, so we have a long history of the fire service in Augusta," said Reynolds. "At that time, the city had a rule that every able-bodied man must be ready to go into a fire, and people kept a bucket of water on their doorstep every night just in case it was needed."

Other important dates in the fire service history of Augusta include the Great Fire of 1916, which destroyed large parts of Broad and Reynolds streets, the consolidation of rural areas into the Richmond County Fire Department in the late 1970s, and the consolidation of Augusta and Richmond County government resources in 1996. More information about each of these and more will be available in a 90-page souvenir book of pictures, maps and resources the fire department will be selling for \$5.

"It will give people a chance to see what it takes to make a fire department like we have now and how far we have come in the last 125 years," said Reynolds, who also encourages visitors to check out the giant timeline which will be on display at the celebration.

Augusta firefighters will hold a private ball at the Marriott on Friday night, while one of three shifts stays awake all night inside the fire-department. Downtown firefighters spend 24 hours on the job and then have 48 hours to recover, and it is only through their vigilance that public events such as the Firemen's Parade are possible. | AUGUSTAFIREDEPARTMENT.ORG

[dance + musical theatre]

Footnotes Dance Academy and Performing Arts Center has combined its operations with Musical Theatre Workshops at 3833 Martinez Blvd.

"We are building one big performance arts center where a child can come in and learn how to dance, sing, act, take dramatic classes and music lessons all under one roof," said Paige Gavalas, the owner of Footnotes.

The facility, which already possessed three ballrooms, is working on clearing out a 3,000-square-foot storage space so that there will be four separate dance spaces to teach classes. In addition, the voice and music rooms are being soundproofed.

Musical Theatre Workshops also offers a variety of classes for children of any age, including Theatre Fun, Musical Theatre I, II and III, Advanced Musical Theatre, Contemporary Dance, Musical Theatre Dance and Adult/Teen Tap. Children may begin dance or voice classes at age 4, though some 3-year-olds are permitted in the pre-tot beginning ballet class.



"We don't want to be known as just another Tip, Toes and Tap competition team," said Mickey Lubec, the director of Musical Theatre Workshops. "We want to be known as a school that will teach children the correct way to do everything, so that after a few years of our classes they can talk, dance, act and chew gum all at the same time."

The center is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit ONWITHTHESHOW.BIZ.

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[low speed vehicles: the transportation of the future]

Bob Munger has a vision for Augusta, but it has the potential to change the world.

“Augusta is the low-speed vehicle production leader of the globe and we should be spearheading the movement to bring these vehicles downtown,” he said. “I think the industry is poised to explode, but LSV’s have only been street legal in the United States for about 10 or 11 years, and for less than six months in Georgia. It takes time for an idea like that to catch on.”

Munger’s big idea involves LSVs – electric-powered vehicles with a maximum speed around 25 mph – which he says are ideal for traversing short distances, such as around a downtown area.

“They are electric, so they produce no carbon emissions at all except for the recharging that relies on an external power source,” he said. “If we instead connected them to the hydroelectric power source of the canal, or to a solar battery, we would have zero emissions as well as reduce our dependence on foreign oil.”

But to reach this goal requires the collaboration of the whole community, and so Munger is in the process of forming the Augusta Greenway Alliance, a nonprofit organization for supporters of the LSV movement. He presented his concept to both Augusta’s Mayor Deke Copenhaver and the Downtown Augusta Alliance in August and is headed to September’s Sustainable Cities Summit in Atlanta to rally support.

“It makes sense that we could get behind this, with Club Car and E-Z-Go being here,” said David Hutchison, the president of DAA. “If LSVs become popular, we should definitely be investing in what they are working on.”

Augusta’s Greenway Alliance is the first step to encourage discussion on the subject, and build interactions between the downtown and medical communities that Munger believes are essential to getting the process started.

“One of our big target markets is Georgia Health Sciences University employees, nurses and students,” he said. “If someone lives and works close to downtown, they don’t necessarily even need a car. Right now, there are people who are not working simply because they don’t have a means to get to work, but LSVs could change that.”

According to Munger, LSVs cost only one-third as much as a car and about one-third as much to operate. The economic advantage for American families, who spend between 30 and 40 percent of their income on transportation, would be substantial, but Munger understands that positive change takes time.

“I think there may be some opposition to what I am proposing, but I think it will be difficult for them to be vocal about it because there is going to be so much support,” he said. “If I lived downtown or had an office downtown, I would definitely consider getting an LSV for myself.”

Munger said another reason to support the introduction of LSVs include a 25 percent increase in downtown parking, since five LSVs can fit into the same amount of space typically reserved



for four cars. The vehicles do require recharging every 40 miles, which is why Munger has been speaking with city leaders who might make public charging stations a reality within the year. In the meantime, Munger is just waiting for the public to get on board.

“There is no reason we could not start seeing LSVs on the street next week if someone goes out and buys one; they are totally street legal in Augusta,” he said. “Enterprise Mill has an excess of hydro-electric power; I believe Martin Melaver who owns the property is probably entertaining the idea of building recharging stations. Ten years from now, downtown Augusta is going to be completely transformed and, in the vibrant downtown of our future, I hope to see a lot more people driving LSVs.”

[historic augusta completes survey of historic harrisburg]

Historic Augusta Inc. recently completed a historical resources survey, which will make public much information regarding the character of some of Augusta’s oldest neighborhoods.

The third and final phase of the research, centered on the Harrisburg neighborhood, brings the total of Augusta’s historic resources to nearly 1,500. The properties are available to browse through online through Georgia’s Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS website: www.gnahrgis.org.

“Harrisburg has been a pretty big chunk,” said Robyn Anderson, the preservation services director of Historic Augusta. “When you are trying to document something for years to come, it takes a lot of work, and there really are that many resources but most people don’t drive along the back roads to see what they are.”

The information will also be maintained at the Historic Augusta offices where it can be accessed for public workshops or by real estate agents, architects, contractors or anyone with an interest.

“The archive is open to the public and there is a plethora of information that is always growing,” said Anderson. “It is also a good tool for someone who is interested in purchasing a house if they are savvy enough to look at that file online and see the date of construction. It is also good if someone is generally interested in what survives and the condition of the neighborhood.”

Anderson presented her findings to the city’s Historic Preservation Commission on July 28, following months of documentation that began the first week of January. She said the most time-consuming part of the process was filling out the forms to make the report, which included the current owner, address and description of architectural resources including roofing and window styles.

“I was surprised what good condition many of the buildings were in,” she said. “The survey is positive thing because it is taking advantage of what is good about the city’s history, and we encourage people to get interested in revitalization and reinvestment in their communities.”

The Historic Augusta project has been so successful that it is inspiring other Georgia cities such as Albany, Waynesboro,



A HOME IN HISTORIC HARRISBURG

Douglas and Social Circle, which hope to increase interest in their own historic assets using Augusta as a case study.

“Augusta is lucky to have a nonprofit organization like Historic Augusta,” Anderson said. “The advantage is expertise, and it is an added bonus to have a group dedicated to just preservation.”

Anderson’s next project will be preparing for the Perfectly Aged: Antiques and Wine auction, Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Saint Paul’s River Room, to benefit Historic Augusta.

Also in September, Historic Augusta will begin selling tickets for Walk with the Spirits. The annual ghost tour is on Oct. 8 and 9 at the historic Summerville Cemetery. Anderson said the tour will be “costumed, but not scary.”

For more information about events or Augusta’s historic resources, contact Historic Augusta at 706.724.0436 or visit HISTORICAUGUSTA.ORG.



[the inkling: call for entries]

In celebration of the written word, *verge* is accepting entries for the annual edition of *The Inkling*, a literary journal discovering the best in local prose, poetry and art. Named in honor of the informal Oxford literary club of the 30s and 40s, which included famed authors J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, *The Inkling* mirrors the desire to encourage pursuit of the written word, while providing mind-stimulating stories, essays and poems for consumption. In the 2010 edition, over 225 submissions were received and the final edition featured twenty one writers and artists. The submission guidelines are:

- Prefer works that are previously unpublished unless the author has retained the rights to submit a previously published piece to other publications.
- Stories or personal essays: up to 3,000 words; Poems: up to 1,000 words
- Original art may also be submitted for consideration.
- Limit of five submissions per author / artist.
- Include short biography and contact information.
- Entries must be received by midnight on Nov. 15, 2011.
- Send submissions to: editor@vergelive.com or verge, P.O. Box 38, Augusta, GA 30903. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Around Town is written by **CHRISTOPHER SELMEK**

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HEALTH CLUB COMPETITION GETS A LITTLE SWEATIER

Quantum Fitness is now open in the former Omni location on Evans to Locks Road and the owners have already begun making major changes.

“Quantum Fitness will provide a more robust approach to helping area families become and stay fit,” said Greg Kirby, a partner in the company. “One of our programs is to link fitness to academic achievement for teenagers.”

Chip Pelasky, the managing partner with more than 25 years of international health club management and ownership experience will oversee the 3.O Club. Students ages 12 to 15 will receive a free membership to Quantum as long as they maintain a B average. Quantum’s staff nutritionist will work with the students in an effort to stem childhood obesity in our area.



Quantum will host more than 350 group fitness and aerobics classes per month, including spinning, Fight Club, boot camp and Zumba.

In August, Gold’s Gym took over the other Omni Gym on Walton Way Extension, near the Augusta Exchange. The gym is still offering memberships for as little as \$10 per month and continues to fan the flames on the competition between the new owners of each of the old Omni clubs. Any member of Quantum (old Evans Omni) can bring in their membership card and workout for free until their expiration date – at the existing Gold’s Gym on Bobby Jones Expressway or the new one (old West Augusta Omni).

Is this what is called “healthy competition”?

Sometime in September, Ivan Trinidad of the Fitness Gallery is expected to move his spinning bikes and workout equipment into the former “If It’s Paper” location on Washington Road in Martinez. He will have significantly more parking in the free-standing location.

NEW STRIP CENTER ON WASHINGTON ROAD Augusta Communications, an authorized Motorola dealer of radios, wireless broadband and data is moving across the street on Washington Road. The company will help anchor the new strip center under construction behind Longhorn’s and California Dreamin’ restaurants.

CUDOS EXPANDS Kudos to Cudos, the new Fat-Man’s-and-more store on Augusta West Parkway. The retail and wholesale gift company is adding store No. 2 in Columbia County, replacing the closed Gift Loft on North Belair Road. Cudos will also offer Pandora jewelry at the new store.



WHEN SWEET GOES SOUR Simply Sweet simply couldn’t make it in the expensive Liberty Square Shopping Center on Washington Road in Evans. They closed in late July and are now baking cakes and cupcakes from the home. They survived the retail world for two years — more than many these days. SIMPLYSWEETEVA.COM

HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE YOUR BOSS? MAU Workforce Solutions came up with a contest to highlight the men and women we tend to either love or hate – our bosses!



If you go to MAU’s Facebook page, you can enter to win a \$250 gift card for you and your boss to Target. The contest ends Sept. 30 and, yes, there is an essay involved. In 500 words or less, answer the following questions:

How did your boss positively influence your life and career? What qualities does he/she possess? How above and beyond does he/she go beyond furthering his/her own career? What can other bosses learn from them?

Note: Steve Carell of *The Office* does not qualify for the Best Boss contest!



Neil Gordon owns Buzz on Biz LLC, a company dedicated to highlighting business growth through newspaper, television, radio, and Web content. Story idea? Email neil.gordon@buzzon.biz

Easy composting methods lower waste production and make good soil

According to the U.S. Environmental Agency, Americans throw away roughly 4.5 pounds of garbage per person per day. That is 250 million tons of garbage each year! About 45 percent of the stuff we throw away is either recycled or burned to produce energy. The rest (about 135 million tons) ends up in landfills, where it can generate greenhouse gases and contaminate water.

Most of the garbage that goes to our landfills consists of organic materials, 26 percent of all landfill waste is composed of yard trimmings and food scraps and 31 percent is paper products. That is a lot of waste to send to landfills when it could be used to create environmentally beneficial compost instead.



COMPOST BEFORE

Composting is a recycling method that reduces the amount of organic waste that needs to be disposed of by converting it into a nutrient-rich soil-like product that is useful for gardening, landscaping or house plants. Using compost in your garden reduces the need for water and fertilizers, helping eliminate the need for pesticides. In addition, composting organic materials that have been diverted from landfills ultimately avoids the creation of greenhouse gases and contaminated water in the landfills.



COMPOST AFTER

Composting at home is simple. Instead of tossing your food and yard scraps into the trash can, you throw them in a pile or bin with some other materials where they decompose. For the process to happen, you need to mix dry high carbon “brown” materials such as leaves, shredded newspaper or pine needles with moist, high-nitrogen fruit and vegetable based “green” materials such as kitchen scraps, cow manure or lawn clippings. The ideal “brown” to “green” ratio for compost is 20 to 30 parts of “brown” material to 1 part of “green” material. When choosing materials for composting, avoid using meat, bones, dairy products, fats, grease and oils. These products create odor problems and attract pests. Pet wastes should also be avoided because they may contain parasites, bacteria or viruses that are harmful to humans. You can find more information on composting materials online at WWW.GROW-IT-ORGANICALLY.COM/COMPOST-INGREDIENTS.HTML.

You can speed up the decomposition process by alternating “brown” materials with “green” materials when adding to your pile or bin, and mixing the compost every week or two, especially during warm weather or if you notice that the pile is hot. Using smaller pieces of organic material and keeping your compost moist (like a damp sponge) will also speed up the process. If you use these techniques, you could have usable compost in 2 to 3 months; otherwise, your material might require as much as a year or two to completely decompose.

Your finished compost will accumulate at the bottom of your bin or pile. It is ready for use when it is dark brown and crumbly, with an earthy aroma. When the compost is finished, you can use it on your garden and potted plants to help them grow.

If you live in an apartment without a balcony or yard, you can still compost kitchen scraps indoors, using a technique called vermiculture, which is composting with earthworms. Washington State University has a website where you can learn about vermiculture and how to make a worm bin. The website address is WHATCOM.WSU.EDU/AG/COMPOST/EASYWORMBIN.HTM.



Anne Lovell is an environmental consultant who lives in Aiken with her husband and three dogs. Her column, Living Green, focuses on practical ways to be more environmentally conscious.

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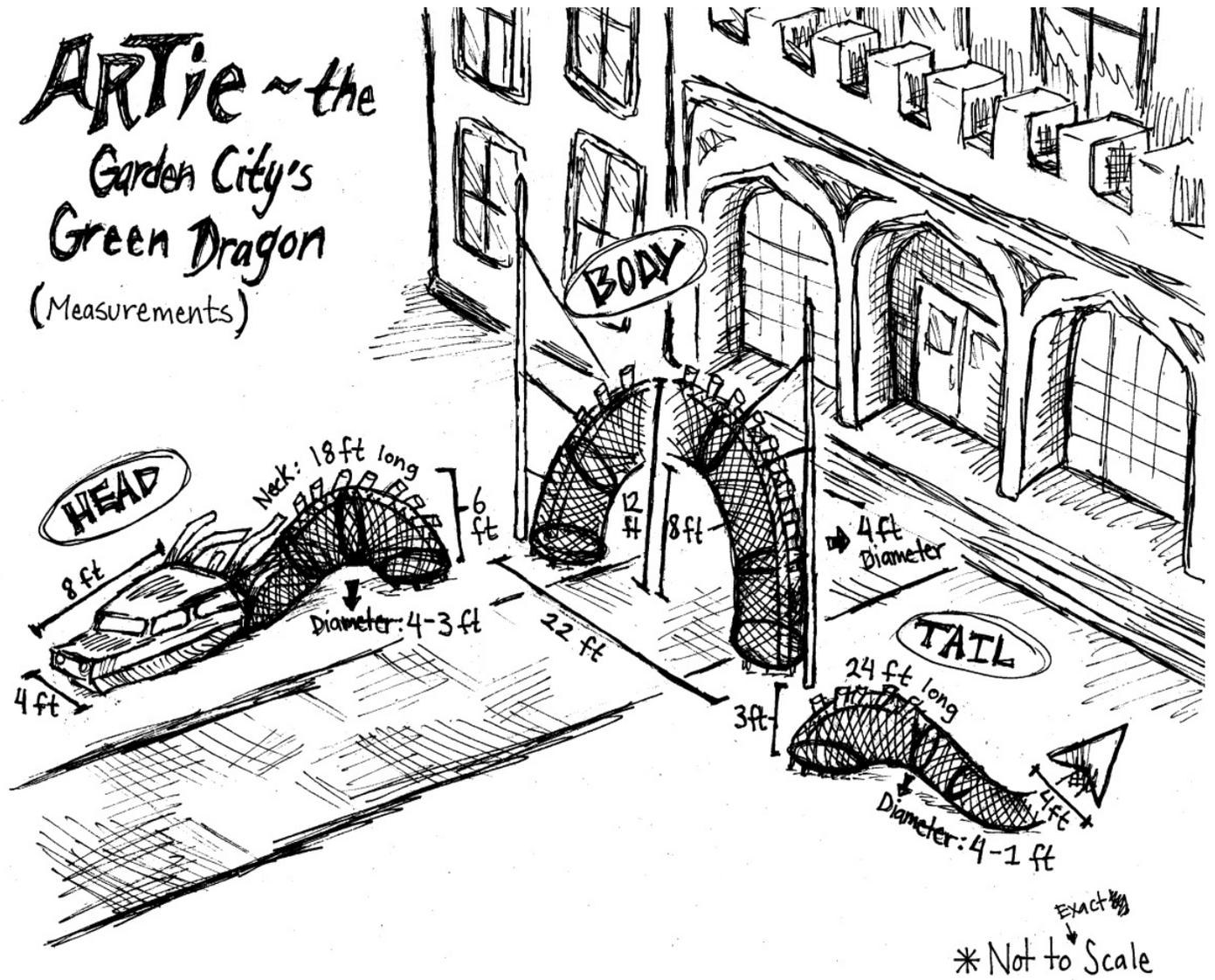
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a new look and project for augusta's **artists row**

A DRAGON-SIZED COMMUNITY ART PROJECT IS TESTAMENT TO THE INCREASING OUTREACH OF THIS ARTS COALITION

ARTie ~ the Garden City's Green Dragon (Measurements)



Lisa Marks, the volunteer chairman of Artists Row, does not own a gallery. As such, she does not have a financial stake in the organization she heads. Her personal mission is much broader.

"I believe one responsibility we have as citizens is to do what we can to make our communities a better place for us to live, work and raise families," she said. "We all have time and various talents and treasures that we can offer to help make improvements."

Since moving to Augusta from Grand Rapids, Mich., two years ago, Marks has made it her personal mission to help build a more vibrant arts scene downtown and to encourage others to become more involved in the area's revitalization.

"Across the country, people are beginning to realize that the heart of their communities is in downtown. Artists have always been great at bringing a neighborhood back to life," she said. "Art was one of the vital components in the revival of Grand Rapids 20 years ago, so I strongly believe it can have the same effect here, as it has in communities all over the country who have revitalized their downtowns."

To that end, Marks has taken charge of Artists Row's rebranding effort, which includes a new website, logo and the public art experience planned for this year's Westobou Festival, ARTie - The Garden City's Green Dragon.

"Artists Row has had a particular kind of image since its inception in 1994, but as the organization has progressed, now providing so many more community outreach programs that expose a broad community to art and we've become more sophisticated in our ability to showcase a greater variety of art, I felt we needed a new look that represented that," she said. "The new website is much more functional and visually pleasing; it allows us to share images of artwork from the various galleries and at a moment's notice I can display news, events and or promote the efforts of our community partners."

The website, www.ArtistsRowAugusta.com, also contains an interactive map where visitors can get directions to a dozen downtown art galleries, any one of which features the newly redesigned logo in their window.

"I already had ideas in mind for the new logo and website, but Kelly Moore Designs was very helpful, using technology to bring my ideas to life," said Marks. "Our goal is to help everyone in this community fall in love with art and ultimately attract more visitors to downtown, get them into the galleries, shops, and eateries and in the long-term to stimulate the local economy."

The biggest upcoming project with which Marks hopes to stimulate interest in downtown is ARTie - The Garden City's Green Dragon, a 72-foot-long, 12-foot-high outdoor art project that will be constructed by community volunteers in front of the Old Richmond Academy on Telfair Street between Sept. 29 and Oct. 5.

"Across the country, people are beginning to realize that *the heart of their communities is in downtown*. Artists have always been great at bringing a neighborhood *back to life*."

— LISA MARKS, PRESIDENT OF ARTISTS ROW



ARTie, to be unveiled at the Oct. 6 Westobou ARTie cocktail party, will be constructed of recycled items, including junk car parts for a head. Donations of plastic grocery sacks and various sizes of plastic soda bottles are needed from the community and can be dropped off at any downtown gallery. Volunteers who want to help build ARTie can sign up to work one of three daily shifts, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 5 p.m., or 6 to 9 p.m. during any day of the construction by calling 706.826.8991.

"Plastic bags are being woven through chicken wire to create skin, and plastic soda bottles will create the fin across his back," said Marks. "We want people to understand that this project is for the community and we want people to drop off the requested recycled materials at any downtown gallery. We will also auction off an inspired garden version of ARTie created by a local artist. The proceeds from the auction will support Artists Row's annual art scholarship. In this way the project comes full circle."

Sara Mays, the winner of this year's art scholarship and project designer, is still coming to terms with her newfound celebrity.

"I am still sort of surprised that people are making such a big deal about me," said Mays. "I want to knock myself in the head. I mean, I knew I was talented, but not enough to win two separate art scholarships."

"Sara is not only an incredible artist, but her submission detailed material usage and explained how the sculpture could be constructed," said Marks. "It was obvious she thought it through and had a realistic grasp of the project. Plus, her portfolio and recommendations were excellent."

ARTie is only the most recent public art experience Artists Row has sponsored for Westobou.

"Every year during Westobou, Artists Row provides a creative opportunity for downtown Augusta," said Marks. "Last year we brought in several well-known artists from across the country so people could watch them at work, ask questions and learn from their techniques."

She hopes that the community will choose to donate their time and recycled items to the ARTie project, which will encourage more people to get involved in their downtown art scene.

"If I were shopping for a gift, I could go out to the mall and buy something from a big box shop, or I could think 'what would stimulate our local economy and what beautiful, useful items are available right downtown,'" said Marks. "Art is everywhere, it's all around us and it is something we can all get involved in. I am excited about it."

by CHRISTOPHER SELMEK sketch SARAH MAYS

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A limited amount of numbered prints of "Duo" will be sold. Prints may be purchased at Art on Broad Gallery for \$25. All proceeds benefit the Jessye Norman School of the Arts. New Orleans Jazz Artist Ann deLorge, will be available during September to sign prints at:

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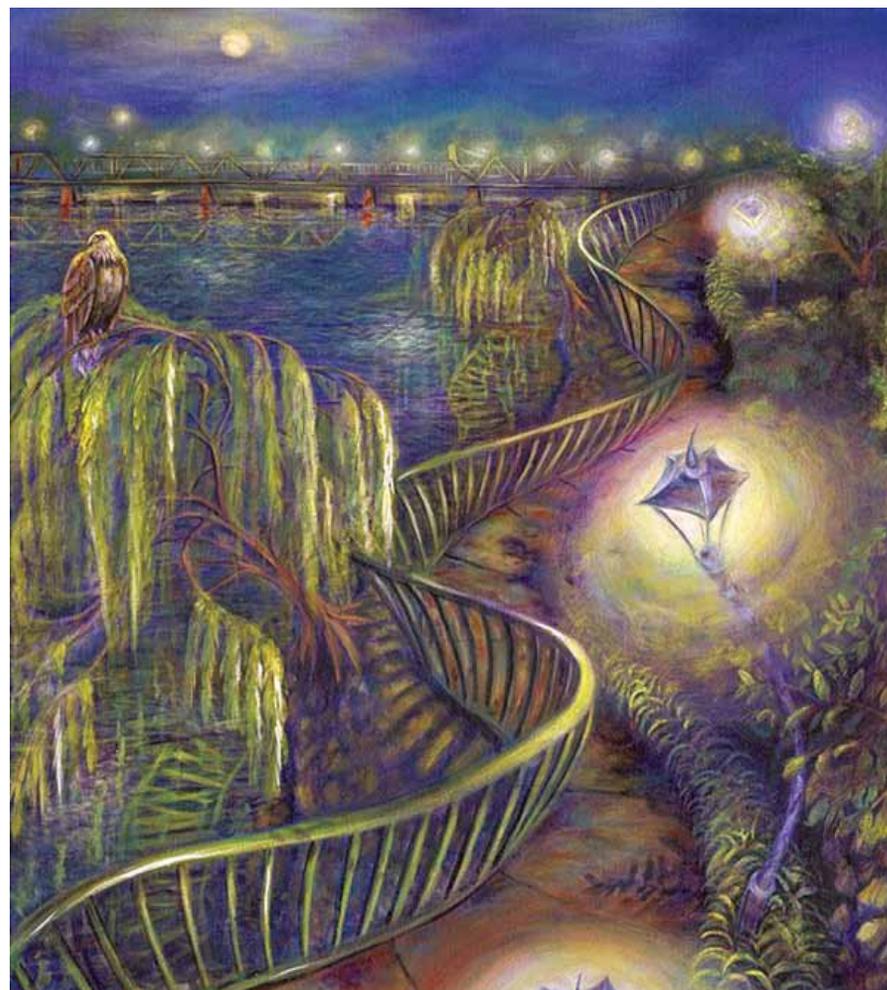
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her sense of place is **whimsy**

MARGARET ANN SMITH SELECTED FOR ANNUAL ART COMPETITION

A piece of art presents the artist's unique vision, her particular perception of life and the world around her. This is why artists often develop signature styles: In using their skills to reach within themselves and grasp their unique vision of the world, they in turn convey that vision. This is certainly the case with Augusta's own Margaret Ann Smith.



Smith's painting *Riverwalk After Dark* is one of the paintings selected for the upcoming Sense of Place juried art competition at the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art. Smith is known for her whimsical, phantasmagoric interpretations of local scenery and the selected painting is no exception. She prefers primarily architectural subjects and settings for her paintings.

"I see a place and have an image of my head of how I would like to see it, and usually what I imagine in my head is a lot more fun, colorful and exciting than what it truly is," says Smith.

Shifting perspectives and the sizes of objects, altering textures and brightening colors and remaking the world she sees into a twisted (in a good – indeed, a delightfully engaging – way) and surreal permutation of the real world and, not so coincidentally, our area of that real world.

"I was born and raised here in Augusta and I love Augusta," Smith says. "As you can see, I paint mostly Augusta landmarks."

Smith's style and peculiar local subject seems commensurate with her outlook on, and joy in, making art: "To me [good] is whatever intrigues you. Anything can be art: just look at the world around you and see the beauty in it ... It is more fun to see a place and instead of painting it just as it is, put my own creative twist on it, make it more exciting, more colorful and more fun than it probably really is."

"I had this image in my mind for a very long time of painting Augusta's Riverwalk," says Smith. "So when my Gallery on the Row partners and I decided to come up with a Scenes of the River theme for the gallery's windows for last year's Westobou Festival, that is what finally enticed me to put the idea in my head on canvas, I exaggerated the winding turns of the Riverwalk path, creating dark, mysterious shadows along the way. The colors are unnaturally vivid, and the guardrail slightly defies gravity (in other words...I wouldn't lean on it!). The light poles along the path are twisting and blindingly bright. I placed an eagle in the foreground perched on a weeping willow. This is unusual, for my eagle is normally in the distant background. He shows up in most of my paintings. I am astounded by the beauty of the creature and what he represents: my freedom as an artist, and the freedom for everyone to follow whatever path in life they choose."

A Sense of Place opens Sept. 16 and runs through Oct. 14.

by SKYLER ANDREWS

VIEW THE ART

WHAT A Sense of Place 2011: Opening Reception

WHERE Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, 506 Telfair St.

WHEN Friday, Sept. 16, 6 to 8 p.m. | Free

WHY A showcase of 39 selected works, representing 21 states, by contemporary American artists

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the diversity and accessibility of **chamber music**

HARRY JACOBS CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY CONTINUES VISION TO CONNECT AUDIENCES WITH CLASSICAL MUSIC

Since the early 1990s, the Harry Jacobs Chamber Music Society has presented internationally renowned chamber music groups from around the world. Quentin Kuyper, the artistic director, explains the history of the society and takes a look at the upcoming season.

VERGE: How did the HJCMS come into being?

KUYPER After Harry Jacobs retired as conductor of the Augusta Symphony (in the early 1990s), he and several of his friends founded the organization that carried his name. Its purpose was to promote chamber music, by presenting concerts of world-class artists and providing opportunities for local musicians – especially the younger generation – to perform for local audiences.

VERGE: How did Jacobs – then his wife, Vola – shape the Society?

KUYPER: Because of his career as a professional musician, as both orchestral performer and conductor, Harry had many contacts within the world of chamber music. He was able to find and hire many world-class ensembles, especially after the lowering of the Iron Curtain (and its physical representation of the Berlin Wall) which made it possible for many Eastern European ensembles to travel to the West. With his knowledge of the broad spectrum of chamber music, Harry was able to establish a pattern of inclusiveness that still governs the program.

Vola Jacobs was a classical pianist and frequent concerto soloist in the Southeast. She was always available to make recommendations for the Society both before and after Harry's death in 2001. That same year, Dr. Alan Drake became the artistic director of the Society and was able to continue the pattern of excellence and variety established in the preceding decade. (*Note: Vola Jacobs passed away in 2010.*)

VERGE: You seem to concentrate on diversity within the chamber music genre. Why is that?

KUYPER: There is such a wide variety of chamber music available today that variety and diversity come naturally. Because the idea of chamber music includes almost any grouping of a small number of performers, because there is such an explosion of great musical ideas that need to be expressed and because there is such a huge repertory of great historical standards, it seems natural to try to include some of this great variety in every season. This year, in addition to the quintessential chamber music form of the string quartet, we also feature a woodwind quintet, a trio comprised of oboe, bassoon and piano, a pianist who is a Van Cliburn finalist and a quartet made up of two guitars, flute and percussion. Because of this diversity, the series should have great appeal to both the novice and seasoned concert attendee, to those who love the classical sound and those who want to hear something more contemporary.

Chamber music seems to be the best place for composers to really come to grips with their gifts and strut their compositional stuff. It seems sometimes to be written for musicians and others who can really appreciate the purest music. But, what is its appeal to a wider audience?

Comprised as it is, of comparatively smaller forces, chamber music unquestionably provides composers with the opportunity to try new things, but also to present well-developed examples of their mature style. Just as with any other genre (e.g., symphony orchestra, choral ensembles) some of the repertory is challenging, but most of it has an appeal for everyone who listens with an open mind.

VERGE: Tell us a little bit about each of the upcoming concerts.

KUYPER: The **ST. PETERSBURG QUARTET** is truly Russian, with each member being a graduate of the St. Petersburg Conservatory. They will perform a modern piece by a young Russian composer and a string quartet by Tchaikovsky, one of the true masters of Russian music.

QUARTETO VIVACE BRASIL seamlessly bridges the divide between popular and classical music. Their concert will include music examples from the Brazilian cultural experience and transcriptions of American jazz and European fine art music.

The concert by **ROBERTO PLANO**, a finalist in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, will be the first in the Vola Jacobs Memorial Concert Series. We expect to have one such concert each season.

Although similar to a more standard piano trio, but with oboe and bassoon substituting for violin and cello, the **POULENC TRIO** has their own repertory, some of which was written especially for them. In addition to music composed by the trio's namesake, Francois Poulenc, the great early 20th Century French composer, the trio will perform music from the African, Pan-American and Jewish repertoires that represent its own ethnic variety.

Perhaps the most traditional group on this year's series, the **FINE ARTS QUARTET**, will present a concert with the greatest breadth, ranging from the 18th Century master Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to Edvard Grieg of the 19th Century to the contemporary composer Philip Glass.

THE ARABESQUE WINDS, a woodwind quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and French horn) often performs a significant part of its concert entirely from memory. This will be a concert unlike any other on the series.

The first concert of the Harry Jacobs Chamber Music Society series will be the St. Petersburg String Quartet on Sept. 16. Individual tickets are available for each concert. Season subscriptions are available by becoming a member of the HJCMS, which includes one ticket for each of the six main performances, the opportunity to meet the musicians and invitations to other HJCMS activities.

by **JOSEF PATCHEN**



THE ARABESQUE WINDS



THE POULENC TRIO



ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET

GO TO THE CONCERT

WHAT Harry Jacobs Chamber Music Society: St. Petersburg String Quartet

WHERE Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre | 2500 Walton Way

WHEN Friday, Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

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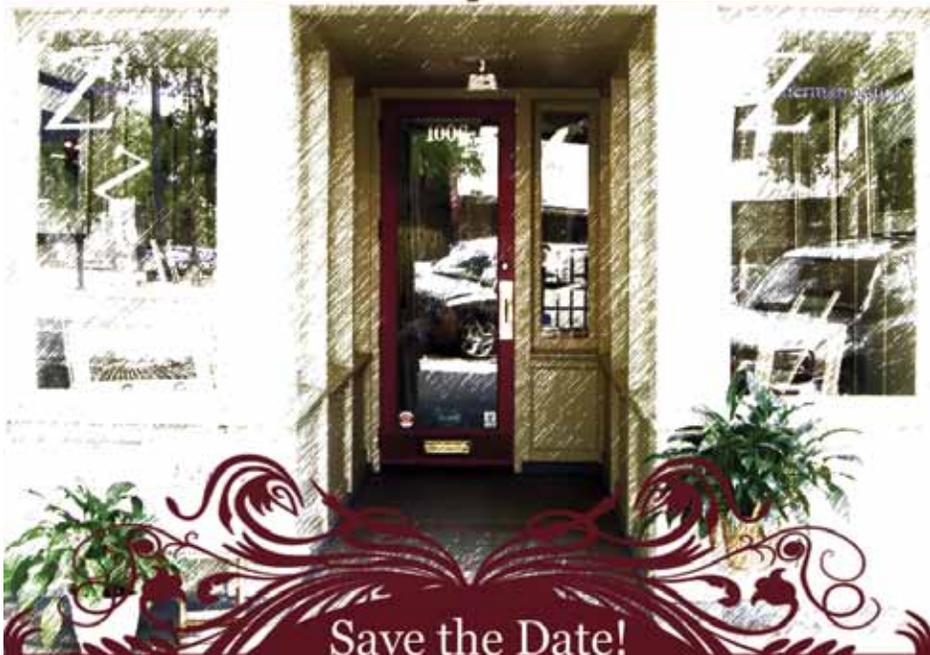
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INTERNATIONAL SOPRANO CAROLINE BRUKER COMES HOME FOR BENEFIT CONCERT



CAROLINE BRUKER

Augusta native Caroline Bruker treats audiences at Le Chat Noir to a special one-night-only concert First Friday, Sept. 2.

Bruker, a graduate of John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, Furman College and the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, is taking a break from rehearsing in Frankfurt, Germany, to perform the benefit classical voice concert.

No tickets to the show are being sold. Rather, audience members are asked to donate to the Alison Bruker Scholarship Fund. Alison, Bruker's older sister who also was a student at Davidson, died in 2001 just eight days after being diagnosed with Wilson's disease, a genetic condition where the liver does not process copper.

The first of the \$1,000 memorial scholarships was awarded in 2001 to Shannon Jones, and one has been given each year since to a Davidson senior selected by a panel of teachers at the school.

"Ali's scholarship is very important to my family and me," Bruker says. "We give a scholarship to a member of the senior class at Davidson that exemplifies Ali's characteristics - smart, talented, kind, and funny. Since Ali died before she was able to go to college, we hope to help someone that does have the chance."

The scholarship is funded for the next 20-plus years, and Bruker said that her family hopes to continue awarding it in perpetuity.

Bruker will be accompanied by David Greco, a baritone from Sydney and one of her best friends. Bruker says that she and Greco have been "inseparable" since their first meeting three years ago at an audition for the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival.

Bruker credits her success to her time at Davidson. She says that when she auditioned at the school, she was recommended for Treble Choir but was more interested in gymnastics.

"Dr. Dunaway, the choir director during my time at (Davidson), was the reason why I stayed in chorus," Bruker says. "He showed me how much fun singing could be. He had faith in me and continued to push my limits as a singer."

"I fell in love with opera after we sang Puccini's *Mass*. Not a typical piece sung in a school choir, but Davidson's Chorale was not a typical high school choir. I am so lucky to have been a part of

that group. We sang difficult music, but we sang it beautifully. Dr. Dunaway's passion for music spread to all of us in the choir. ... I must say, I only auditioned because my older sister went to school there."

Since leaving Davidson, Bruker has seen the world.

"While I was at Furman I did a study abroad course in Arezzo, Italy. One of my voice teachers there, Jill Feldmen, suggested I audition for the (Royal Conservatory) in The Hague, where she also teaches," Bruker says. "I flew over a month later to have a lesson with a teacher there and then sent in my application."

Bruker graduated from the Conservatory in May 2010 and has been performing worldwide ever since. The concert at Le Chat comes during what she describes as a "typical week," in which she is rehearsing for Handel's *Messiah* in Frankfurt, then flying to Santander, Spain, for another performance before going to the Netherlands for a show in The Hague.

She returns to the Netherlands on Sept. 8 and then flies to Frankfurt for more rehearsals before going to Japan, where she is participating in a performance in which a Japanese narrator explains Handel's choirs and arias to the audience as the chorale performs.

"It's a different type of classical concert, but very informative (at least for the Japanese speakers)," Bruker says. "It's important for the audience to understand the history behind the pieces."

She will fly to Taiwan to sing Beethoven's *Fidelio* in October. Augusta listeners can hear Bruker anytime online at WIX.COM/CBRUKER/HOME and can send donations for the Alison Bruker Scholarship Fund to P.O. Box 1302, Augusta, GA, 30903.

by ANDREA BENNETT

GO TO THE CONCERT

WHAT Caroline Bruker + David Greco WHERE Le Chat Noir, 304 Eighth St.
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gary dennis just wants to **make 'em laugh**

THE CREATOR OF SCHRODINGER'S CAT WANTS TO BRING MORE HUMOR TO THE GARDEN CITY

At the edge of comedic entertainment, things get risky – sometimes risqué – and, at best, are held by sheer talent on the tight rim of a catastrophe-curve that skates madly around the audience and the performance itself. This is where improvisational comedians and few others dare to go. This is one place Gary Dennis feels at home and he says it is a feeling like no other.

“If you are practiced and you have been working at it, you feel fantastic, relaxed and ready for anything. If not, it can be scary ... I prefer practiced,” said Dennis.

By day, Dennis owns a business consulting firm and said he infuses comedy into his presentations. He also teaches drama at the Jessye Norman School of the Arts and is active in the Augusta art community. Dennis juggles the roles of actor, director, writer, set designer, builder and producer for organizations such as Le Chat Noir, Augusta State University, the Augusta Players, Richmond County Board of Education, the Greater Augusta Arts Council and the Georgia Assembly of Community Arts Agencies.

By night, Dennis is the creator and executive director of the improvisational comedy troupe, Schrodinger's Cat.

Born and raised in Erie, Pa., Gary's first contact with theatre was through his aunt, an actress with Erie Playhouse. He said that seeing her work led to his persistent interest in things staged.

“I had an aunt who was a fixture in the local theater company in my hometown. We used to visit her house when I was little and I was always amazed by all of the sculptures, paintings, instruments and books. It was my first exposure to art and culture. I wanted to see more and theater seemed like a doorway to those things,” he said.

Gary's interest in the comedic arts was developed, as was his comedic writing, throughout his school and work experiences. He started his first comedy troupe in Ketchikan, Alaska, while serving with the Coast Guard, where he was a C-130 Navigator. His second troupe was called Zero Gravity. The third iteration of his talent is Schrodinger's Cat.

“Schrodinger's Cat is an improvisational theater company based on a core ensemble of talent and training in traditional short- and long-form improv,” he said. “My role has changed a bit since we began, but I am a partner in the formal company, executive director and I do most of the training. Krya Bailey is my partner, and Doug Holley is the Artistic Director. Devon Yeager is our Tech Director. We are the resident improv company at Le Chat Noir.”

Dennis said one of his early influences was the book *Improvisation for the Theater* by Viola Spolin. The author had influenced the first generation of improv actors in Chicago and her son, Paul Silis, founded the Compass Players, which led to the formation of the famous Second City troupe. Another influence was Keith Johnstone, who created Theatresports, a staple of modern improvisational comedy, which eventually gave rise to the popular TV show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*

Johnstone chose to reverse all the direction his teachers at the Royal Court Theatre in London had taught him, and instructed his students to make faces at each other and be playfully nasty each other. He would tell his students: “Don't concentrate,” “Don't think,” “Be obvious,” and “Don't be clever!”

Dennis also cites Charna Halpern, Del Close, the Chicago Improv Olympics, Dad's Garage and the philosophy of *Truth in Comedy* as having significant influence on his comedic style.

Schrodinger's Cat began during the production of *Mr. Marmalade* about two years ago. Bailey, the impresario of Le Chat Noir, began hosting a Friday night Theatre Artistique, where the most experienced performance staff, at that time a group of approximately 15, began to workshop their comedic talents.

The group was successful enough to take on a life of its own and became, in time, Schrodinger's Cat. The name came from the 1930s thought experiment of physicist Erwin Schrödinger and paid homage to the troupe's home – Le Chat Noir, translated “the black cat.” The theoretical experiment involved placing a living cat into a steel chamber with a tiny vial of deadly radioactive substance. If an atom (or more) of the substance decayed during the test period, a relay mechanism would trip a hammer, which, in turn, would break the vial and kill the cat. The observer cannot know whether the mechanism has been tripped thus, according to quantum law, the cat is both dead and alive, in what is called a superposition of states. The outcome is, of course, indeterminate – is the cat alive or



GARY DENNIS AS ARIEL IN THE LE CHAT NOIR 2008 PRODUCTION OF *THE PILLOWMAN*

dead – and appropriate as a name for an impromptu and unforeseeable outcome.

Schrodinger's Cat currently performs monthly eXtreme Theatre Games and the ongoing serial Chicken Wire Comedy, a racy episodic farce in black-nailed but mock-heroic cloak-and-dagger style. Their latest venture was the Sofa King Funny Fest on Aug. 24, which took its name from an early *Saturday Night Live* skit. This year's Funny Fest is a trial run for what Dennis hopes to develop – attracting regional and national comedy acts to Augusta.

“I think of what Sofa King will become in five years and the professional development of our actors and the comedy community in Augusta,” he said, “and it will be interesting to see how well we actually play with others.”

Dennis is keen to emphasize that all this comedic work is not for the money – his troupe loves what they do and what they give to the city.

“None of this would exist without Le Chat Noir and Krya Bailey,” he said.

Looking to the future, Dennis said, “I would like to see Schrodinger's Cat produce enough successful comedy shows that we can afford to provide very high caliber training to our members. Good things for Augusta, for our audiences, for Le Chat Noir and for our company will flow from that.”

by JOSEF PATCHEN



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NADINE AND JOE DIDIA RELAX BY THEIR NEW POOL WITH RON MONAHAN.

TOSSING OUT THE OLD MODEL

Amid all the doom and gloom in the housing industry, there is a bright spot in Aiken real estate at The Ridge at Chukker Creek where new construction houses have been selling at rate of two per week since late March.

Developer Ron Monahan says two years of flat sales, virtually no sales, turned around when he threw away his business plan in the face of the new construction housing crash that happened two years ago.

“We faced the fact that we are in a new economy and we have adapted to the market,” explains Monahan. “Initially we were appealing mainly to a high-end market by offering the very top of the line energy saving construction. Taken to the limit, one of those homes could actually make you money by selling excess energy back to the power company that the homes would have produced using a combination of solar panels and a hydrogen fuel cell. They would sell for about \$450,000. Only, none of them sold in the real estate collapse.”

Monahan says he will still build a zero energy home if someone asks for one: “But now we also offer less expensive, yet still efficient, homes. These homes have many green-build elements but at a much lower price that appeal to a greater share of the market.”

When little was selling, Monahan put in a costly extension of The Ridge’s infrastructure to allow the expansion of a new neighborhood.

“Everybody wants to know, ‘How can you sell these fine houses at these low prices?’ To do it we needed the volume. We needed to build a lot of houses,” he says. “Faced with a new economy we had the choice: stand back and wait for the economy to recover or offer similar homes at an unbeatable price. High volume building of more than a dozen floor plan options keeps costs down and we pass these savings on to the clients.”

“You have to see the quality in these homes,” says broker Patricia Baxley “It is done with efficiency and volume. Our builder builds about a dozen at a time so his subcontractors just stay on site and move to the next house. Buying the materials in bulk and having all of it shipped to the site at one time saves money – a lot of money. We have a very efficient process that builds beautiful houses at affordable prices.”

“Word has gotten out somehow because interested people are driving up all the time and we’re barely marketing,” says Monahan. “It is not just the price. At this price point you don’t expect this quality, these amenities and this beautiful land.”

“When things weren’t working we didn’t quit, we adapted to what people want.”

— RON MONAHAN

Another advantage of the volume system is that it takes only 90 days from signing to moving in.

Joe and Nadine Didia moved into their 3,700-square-foot house in mid-April.

“We absolutely did the right deal,” says Didia, who is an exutive with Aiken Owens Corning. “We took a house hunting trip down here in November and looked everywhere. We went to Georgia. We looked in Woodside, Cedar Creek and all around town. I needed rooms for my pool table and my workshop. These homes are really large and the rooms are really large.”

“We paid less for this house than the two bedroom condo we were living in in Ohio. You couldn’t buy this house for this price anywhere else. With this quality, size and where it is, it would have to be over \$300,000. We paid about \$80 a square foot, and almost everything else we looked at was \$120 to \$140 per square foot, and it’s beautiful. The insurance company said we had to insure it for a \$480,000 replacement value,” he says.

“It’s just amazing to me to see this working so well,” says Monahan. “In March this was scrub oak and wire grass and now it’s a neighborhood with kids playing and dads mowing the lawn. When things weren’t working we didn’t quit, we adapted to what people want. I hope people will come out and see the energy and see how happy the new homeowners are.”

The Ridge at Chukker Creek can be reached by calling Patricia Baxley at 803.502.1030 or THERIDGEAIKEN.COM.

article and photos by **STEPHEN DELANEY HALE**

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...suddenly everyone seems to crave the handmade.
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BRINGING BACK THE OLD DAYS

Kate Mayes, M.D., practices primary-care medicine in her one-woman shop on the eastern end of Park Avenue in Aiken, where she has come up with a new twist on how to handle the uncertainty of health insurance – skip it.

Mayes, who grew up in Augusta and Beech Island, opened her medical office in Aiken two years ago and has set it up on a “pay per service” system.



Patients get at least 20 minutes of her attention and pay \$150 for the first visit and \$100 for subsequent visits. Then, there is a small fee per service, for things such as shots, Botox treatments or PAP smears. It is that simple and straight-forward.

“Medicine is the only business where you don’t get paid for your services at the time they are rendered and many people don’t think they should have to pay anything if their insurance does not cover it,” Mayes says.

She compares it with taking your car to a tire store.

“If the tire industry functioned like America’s health care system, you would get four tires and not pay when you get them. You would pay the tire insurance company a monthly fee for when you need tires. You would not get to choose which brand of tire you wanted, and the tire insurance company would tell you that the hole in your rear tire is nothing to worry about,” she says.

“Insurance companies make things complicated, but it doesn’t have to be,” Mayes continues. “I make it simple: 20 minutes equals \$100 and you will get a minimum of 20 minutes. I am the first direct-pay doctor’s office in the CSRA. But in metropolitan areas, any solo doctor who wants to reinvent the old-fashioned doctor’s office has gone to this type of system.

The office staff has all of the different insurance company forms, and if you have insurance, they will help you fill them out and file it yourself. Then the insurance check goes to the patient. Mayes does accept Medicare and will file those claims for the patient but she adds that it is just a matter of time until patients begin to see large cuts in benefits and reimbursement for physicians.

“With an alarming shortage of primary care physicians and millions of Baby Boomers turning 65 and enrolling in Medicare, there is going to be an even greater strain on an already broken system,” says Mayes

“This is a good time for this system,” she says. “The public is worried that they aren’t going to get quality care at an affordable price. They are confused about what the heck the government system has in store for them and what the future of Medicare will look like. I want to play a role in educating them about their options, and let them know that there is a well-trained internist in Aiken offering a reasonably-priced healthcare solution to the uninsured and the insured with high deductibles.”

For more information, call 803.641.1270.

article and photos by **STEPHEN DELANEY HALE**

“When you are used to getting a steady paycheck and suddenly there isn’t one, but you still have bills to pay that all fall on your wife – that was a very dark time in my life.”

– KEVIN ELLIS

FOLLOWING A DREAM

Dream Guitar Works, a new company affiliated with Rock Bottom Music and performing most of the store’s guitar and stringed instrument repair, is in many ways a dream come true.

For owner Kevin Ellis, it represents a new direction. He was laid off in the winter of 2008 after working in the automotive industry for 20 years. His Christmas bonus was a termination of employment notice and whatever he could get from the Labor Department. At the age of 48, Ellis found himself without a job for the first time in his life.

“We have both worked since we were 15, and Kevin had never been more than a week without a job,” said his wife, Kathy, who worked a full-time job and several part-time jobs but struggled to pay the bills on her own. “I think with the economy being so bad, every place he looked to for work was laying people off instead of hiring them, and there was simply nowhere else to turn.”

“I had to stand in the unemployment line and go through that whole degrading, humiliating process,” Ellis said. “When you are used to getting a steady paycheck and suddenly there isn’t one, but you still have bills to pay that all fall on your wife – that was a very dark time in my life.”

That was when Ellis began to consider lutherie, the art of crafting stringed instruments. Ellis had long enjoyed playing the guitar, particularly hits by Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd, but it was his wife who first signed him up for the course without his even knowing.

“When I was out of work and at my most depressed, she got me a custom-made ring with an emblem on it that became the start of my logo,” Ellis said of the small drawing which contained the word “dream” set into the neck of a guitar. “She believed in me and wanted me to go for my dream, and because of her I was able to believe in myself.”

In the summer of 2009, Ellis entered the Atlanta Guitar Works School of Building and Repair, a hands-on, intensive six-week program which had him working seven days a week and staying up until 3 a.m. each night. Ellis says it was some of the most intense work he had ever been presented with, but he stuck with it, and in July graduated with official certification that he was a luthier.

“It’s a lot like a secret society, in a way, because there’s a lot of trade skills and things you need to know which have been passed down since the Middle Ages,” he said. “My teachers were really forthcoming and I learned a lot from being there.”

In the following months, Ellis was forced to sell his prized 1970 SS Chevelle, a car he had restored with his own hands. The money from that sale went towards the many tools and equipment he would need to start his business, but the journey did not end there.

Ellis used the contacts he had to line up a few jobs and build his reputation in town. Lutherie, he said, is very much a word-of-mouth based business, which required him to prove



himself to the tight-knit local music community.

“I used to hang around Rock Bottom Music a lot even when I was working for the body shop, if I was waiting for a part to come in or had any downtime,” he said. “Most everyone there is a local musician who played and needed their parts fixed, and when I showed them the work I had produced in the school, they played on it and said they loved it.”

“The first time I met Kevin, I had to talk him out of selling a Fender Wolfgang, which is one of the greatest guitars on Earth,” said Brian Thrift, a Rock Bottom Music salesman. “I talked to him all the while he was becoming a luthier and he told me what he was learning, and when he came back the first guitar he made was a copy of a Fender Wolfgang he called ‘Tone God.’ I played it and it was great, and now I send everyone to him.”

In early 2010, Ellis approached Rock Bottom owner Jonathan Karow about helping him advertise his business. Instead, Karow did him one better: He invited Ellis to become part of the team.

“Jonathan has been super generous and really cool,” said Ellis. “He’s really well connected, and that way I don’t have to do any advertising on my own and can take whatever jobs he gives me. I wanted to be more independent in this job, and he has allowed me to do that.”

Ellis and his wife both feel this new career is the ideal step forward, recognizing Ellis’s growing dissatisfaction with the automobile industry even when he still worked for them.

“It used to be that he had the freedom to repair cars the way he wanted,” said Kathy, “but it’s changed now to the point that the insurance companies control exactly what happened. I remember the day he called me to tell me he lost his job but we had already been talking about getting out of the business for years.”

“When you’re working and making money, you don’t try to change the rut you’re in,” said Ellis. “I’ve played all my life, so painting and restoration work was a natural transition for me. It was always in the back of my mind, but I needed my wife to give me the kick in the behind I needed.”

For more information about Dream Guitar Works, or for service, call 706.294.8816 or visit dreamguitarworks.com.

article and photo by **CHRISTOPHER SELMEK**

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together again, it's a **snapdragon reunion**

TARA SCHEYER'S ALT-90'S BAND HITS THE ARTS IN THE HEART STAGE

Tara Scheyer is known locally for her work with the Mud Puppy Band and her recordings of children's songs. She performs for all-age audiences around Augusta as a solo artist and with her band, teaches music at Trinity on the Hill preschool and Immaculate Conception Catholic School and gives private piano lessons.

In the 1990s, however, Scheyer was a hit on the national alternative scene as founder and vocalist for Snapdragon, with whom she recorded an album, *Drinking Watermelon Sugar*, and several EPs. Snapdragon dissolved after Scheyer relocated to Nashville to become a staff writer for Reba McEntire's Starstruck Publishing. Snapdragon reunites this month to perform at Arts in the Heart. Tara Scheyer spoke to *verge* about the band's history and her present.



THE SNAPDRAGON 2011 REUNION FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ERIN JACOBS, TRAVIS PETREA, RONNIE HILL, KEVIN AND TARA SCHEYER

VERGE: How did this reunion come about?

SCHEYER: We got a version of the band together to play a benefit last year and it was a lot of fun, so we thought it would be fun to do this. All I do these days is play kids' music and teach music classes, so it's an escape from what I normally do to go back to what I used to do all the time, and have a late-night show as opposed to a daytime show. I have played with different configurations of this band, because people move here and leave here and I moved and came back. I called a few guys and found some people to commit and we all got real excited about it. This group is me singing and playing guitar, Erin Jacobs singing, my husband, Kevin, playing drums, Ronnie Hill on guitar and Travis Petrea on bass. I play with Erin all the time. We have played and sung together since I moved here and we still do a lot of things together. We play for the Augusta Canal Cruise and we do acoustic stuff. I play guitar, we both sing and she plays flute.

VERGE: Snapdragon was quite successful. What happened?

SCHEYER: I moved here in 1994 and that is when Snapdragon was born. I stayed here until around 1998-1999, so five or six years of Snapdragon, but it was intensive. I moved here with a record deal, put a band together, had a van, lived in the van with the band for the first four solid years just touring all the time. We sometimes played 20 shows a month. We went as far as New York. I went to California for a couple of solo things and the band played the Southeast, Louisiana to Tennessee. We played some clubs every other month.

It was during the days of college radio, that ancient anomaly, and you toured and did grassroots promotion. We played everywhere and we were on the radio a good bit. We had national distribution, so the CD was all over the U.S. and Canada. We did college radio interviews everywhere we went. We did all of our marketing and publicity. If YouTube and iTunes had been around, it would have been a whole different story. Back then, you could only reach who you could touch, so we went everywhere.

The industry has changed amazingly, but I am really happy with the way things turned out. I am proud of the work ethic that I built and learned to live my life by because of how much hard work went into it and how hard it was to get a song out there. We had one song, "Farrah Faucett," on KROQ in L.A. It was the biggest place to hear indie music at that time and

"Back then, you could only reach who you could touch, so we went everywhere."

— TARA SCHEYER ON THE EARLY DAYS OF SNAPDRAGON

we made a Top 10 list of that station's favorite songs, above famous artists. Today, it takes nothing to send a song to anybody to hear anywhere, but back then it was a big deal to me. Snapdragon did one full-length CD, a couple of five-song EPs and singles, one full-length video and a CD-ROM video. The full-length video was played on MTV and was bought by J.C. Penney and played on the loop in the youth department for about a year. Snapdragon opened a lot of doors.

I moved to Nashville because I got a job as a songwriter, and I did that for a couple of years. Most of the publishing companies at that time had 200 writers and this one had 18, so to be a part of that was amazing — the setting I found myself in every day, the places I got to go and record, and the people I got to record with. All that came because of how hard we worked and how much I wrote.

VERGE: Why did you come back to Augusta?

SCHEYER: My husband is from here and he moved to Nashville with me. We were both working incredible jobs, pretty much the top of our career ladders. He was a director at the second largest YMCA in the country doing youth programs. We were very, very happy with our work, but we honestly never saw each other. We had been married for about five years and it was, "Should we start a family? Should we buy a house?" It came down to if we're going to succeed at this marriage, which was most important to us, we had to let go some of the other stuff. I am from a really small town in Mississippi and I was not interested in going back there. We both had a lot of friends in Augusta, and his parents are here, so we moved back. We quit everything and restarted here on our own terms.

VERGE: Did you ever regret dissolving Snapdragon?

SCHEYER: I did not regret it. The band was always me, it was my project, and whoever I played with was the band. It had been a big revolving door. It wasn't, "We broke up." It was, "Here's another configuration." When I moved away it wasn't possible to practice and play as often, so slowly, naturally, we

quit playing and at one point we said, "I guess Snapdragon broke up." I'm friends with all the people I played with and it's easy to call them and see who wants to play for fun. I've always had different projects going under different names with different people playing.

VERGE: Will there be more dates for Snapdragon?

SCHEYER: There's always a chance. I love playing and I'm open to it, but I have two young kids [Felix, 7, and Nopa, 2] and my schedule has changed. I play libraries and schools during the day. It's a whole different life for me now, so if we can work in some nighttime shows, it's always fun. When I had kids, I realized that all we listened to in the car was kids' music. There were some good things and a lot of bad things and a light bulb went off to do this and do it better. I say "kid music," but it's kid appropriate and hopefully also music that anyone can listen to. I call it "kid music that parents can stand," because some of my son's favorite music I just can't stand. So that was the point of the Mud Puppy Band: Let's make something that kids like and parents can deal with. It's family music — old covers, traditional kid-type songs that we rock up and make more interesting, and stuff I like. A lot of parents tell me that they really like it. The biggest compliment is when parents tell me, "I realize I'm listening to your CD and the kids aren't even in the car."

by ALISON RICHTER

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exactly what is **augusta's master plan?**

IT HAS BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE AUGUSTA ADOPTED A NEW MASTER PLAN: A LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS

"All across the country, there has been a migration back to the city," said Yahya Henry, a real estate development consultant with the Aribra Group LLC. "Echo-boomers overwhelmingly want to live in urban centers close to night life and with safe, walkable streets, and research has shown that in order to have a viable region you have to have a viable downtown. We feel Augusta has reached the point where it is ready to begin concentrating on the pedestrian oriented environments that will attract young professionals."

Henry's comments followed a presentation to the Augusta Commission during which he and Jay Weigle, of Weigle Insurance Group, broke down Augusta's demographics. According to their findings, 42 percent of Augusta's population is under 44, with indications this number could grow with the right stimuli. This generation, which Henry calls "echo-boomers," are currently the most sought after generation when discussing downtown development, and their needs might differ some from past needs.

"I am looking to build a city for your generation," said Augusta Mayor Deke Copenhaver. "In order to create a cool city, we need you guys' input."

It is for this reason Henry is proposing a \$4.2 million Lofts at Marbury Village project, featuring 42 studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments with parking accommodations. This fits in with one of Augusta Tomorrow's many market creation projects, and suggest what shape the Augusta of 25 years from now might take.

"Marbury Village is an important opportunity for downtown Augusta," reads the project description on Augusta Tomorrow's website. "This project will redefine the three block portion of Broad Street between 10th Street and 13th Street into a pedestrian-oriented public open space with restaurants, cafés, shops and activities developed within a new center median linking the two sides of the street."

"Ten years from now, downtown is going to be much more vibrant with thousands more people living there," said Lofts architect Bob Munger. "The boarded-up storefronts will be gone and the city will be completely transformed, and downtown will be the destination where people go to spend their weekends."

While it is visionary, Marbury Village is certainly not the most ambitious project attempted by the organization responsible for some of Augusta's most attention-grabbing developments during the past 30 years, including the River Walk, the Augusta Common and the Riverfront Center.

"Market creation projects, like Marbury Village, are a group of projects that work together to have a tremendous impact on the region," said Camille Price, the executive director of Augusta Tomorrow. "It has a wow factor, spurs economic development in the community and really brings that area up to the vision we set forth in the Master Plan."

The first Master Plan, the city's guide for the future, was funded by Augusta Tomorrow and the city of Augusta in 1982 in response to the opening of the Augusta and Regency Malls within one week of each other in the fall of 1978. Nearly two million square-feet of retail space moved from the downtown area into the malls, which were seen as newer and more exciting.

The immediate effects on downtown Augusta were devastating. Boarded-up storefronts and vacant buildings soon dominated what had been a bustling regional downtown shopping area, and the entire city suffered. Numerous consultants referred to by the city all gave the same answer, that without a strong city center, no region can thrive economically.

"Mayor Ed McIntyre, a very forward thinking individual who had a great impact on the city, ran on a platform of downtown economic development, and he partnered with the city of Augusta and the loose group that would become Augusta



A RENDERING OF THE PROPOSED MARBURY VILLAGE ON BROAD STREET

"The city will be completely transformed, and downtown will be the destination where people go to spend their weekends."

— BOB MUNGER

Tomorrow to come up with the first 20-25 year plan," said Price. "A plan is not set in stone, but just about every component of the original plan ended up happening, even if not exactly in the same place we had imagined it."

For example, Augusta Tomorrow's original vision of the Marbury Village project is to recreate a vibrant upper Broad Street. The Aribra Group, which has been involved for about six months, since just before the Augusta Sustainable Development Agenda became public, is currently seeking financing to begin their apartment project on Ellis Street.

"Marbury Village and the Lofts at Marbury Village, when both are completed, will amplify each other and really showcase the downtown. The vision is a community with many working parts, with lively restaurants and shops on the street level and people living upstairs," said Henry.

The 1982 plan was so successful it led to a 1995 and then a 2000 Master Plan update that included projects such as the recently completed St. Sebastian Way and Judicial Center.

"By 2007 we realized that 97 percent of the 1982 plan had been completed," said Price. "Everybody agreed that it was time for a new plan."

After talks with the city leaders of Augusta and North Augusta, Augusta Tomorrow sent out a Request for Proposal and received 28 applications from planning firms across the country. The group unanimously hired an international firm from Boston, Icon Architecture, in January 2008.

"It was a true public-private partnership, with the public sector putting in half the money and the private sector putting in the other half to fund the Master Plan" said Price. "Because we were working with two different states and two different governments, it was really important we reach out and engage the community. The planners literally talked to hundreds of people to find out what the people of Augusta and North Augusta wanted to see happen to their urban core."

Icon put together a list of 68 projects in seven districts, with

details on the funding that would be needed for many of the projects. The Augusta Commission authorized the final plan in March 2009, one day after North Augusta did the same.

The next steps – finding entities to implement the projects – are already under way.

"A lot of the projects are very long term and there are many components that need to be finished before a shovel can be put in the ground," said Price. "The Augusta Tomorrow board helps assure the right people get together to implement a project in keeping with the vision of the Master Plan. We are facilitators."

The board continues to meet monthly to discuss current and ongoing projects, such as the Walton Communities mixed-income apartment complex on the site of the demolished Underwood Homes, the Wheeler Road gateway and home rehabilitation in the Harrisburg area.

"There is a lot of activity right now in the Laney Walker and Bethlehem area that was in the Master Plan, and the city of Augusta is spearheading that part," said Price. "We're delighted when another group takes interest in a part of the plan and takes ownership of it."

Price still believes that even bigger projects are on the way: "Marbury Village is a vision set forth in the Master Plan. We don't directly have a role in the project but we are looking to be a part of the implementation strategy. We have presented to the board of directors and they are aware of what we want to do. We are trying to go off what they already have planned."

The Marbury Village project is still in the planning and design phase while the developers establish a community consensus.

"We're getting very close," said Henry. "Clearly there are some challenges out there, but we have a project the city needs, and will change the perception of the city and how it is looked at by other regions."

article and photo by **CHRISTOPHER SELMEK**

Over the next several months, we will travel through the master plan taking a look at each component and its progress.



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augusta's favorite fest shakes things up with

No one is 100 percent sure what effect moving the Arts in the Heart of Augusta Festival to Broad Street will have on downtown business owners, but that is not stopping anybody.

"We won't know for sure until after this festival," said Brenda Durant, the executive director of the Greater Augusta Arts Council. "When we used to put the fine arts and crafts fair on Ninth Street, one shopkeeper came up to me and told me that it was like Christmas downtown all weekend. Our hope is that the shops will match whatever their busiest season typically is, whether that is Christmas or Halloween or some other holiday, because we're bringing in a lot of new customers who are going to be very excited to find out what's going on downtown."

What is going on downtown is that the four stages making up the weekend-long arts festival, Sept. 16 through 18, will this year close a portion of Broad Street to automobile traffic, though hopefully not to hundreds of visitors.

Over the course of the weekend, Arts in the Heart will feature more than 85 performers conducting more than 700 performances for and by members of the downtown community.

"Before I joined the Arts Council, I had never seen the parade of nations, which is a very dramatic and touching opening ceremony," said Durant. "Eleven years ago we added a unity dance in which two people from each culture group are selected to learn a native dance of the featured culture, and that also is a beautiful and moving ceremony."

Fifteen international food vendors, representatives of local cultural organizations, will set up on the Augusta Common, where the Global Stage will feature a variety of performers with an international theme.

"We set the rules and approve all the menus because we want to make sure each booth serves authentic food that is made by the group that owns the booth, not just restaurant food," said Gary Tom, the Global Village coordinator. "Most of the groups that are out there have been doing this a long time, and we all want to make sure the presentation is attractive to all of our guests."

"Thailand has joined us this year," he continued. "We've never had a Thai booth before, even though we've seen them participating in the parade of nations and performing, so that's going to be great."

According to Tom, the array of dining establishments is one of the most attractive parts of the festival, in addition to the community dining tent and Global Stage located on the Common.

"The most popular item out there are the shish-kebabs from the Philippine tent," he said. "During the weekend I sample almost everything, and that's my favorite thing about Arts in the Heart is the many different tastes that make up the festival."

This year's featured country, Greece, will host the Atlanta-based traditional Greek band Alpha and Omega at the opening ceremonies on Friday, and throughout the weekend on the Global Stage. Along with gyros, souvlaki and feta fries that have been hits at their tent in the past, this year they have added lamb sandwiches and an appetizer plate.

"It's been over 20 years since the last time Greece hosted the festival, and this year it coincides with the 100th anniversary of our parish, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church," said Penelope Ballas-Stewart, the Greek booth organizer. "My family lives close to downtown and we love it anytime a big festival like this draws a lot of people to the area; it's going to be a lot of fun this year."

Though every culture will have their part in calling for world unity, it is Augusta unity that matters most to festival organizers.

"To us it's a community celebration," said Durant. "Over 90 percent of what goes on at the stages is local to the CSRA, so it's a celebration of the talent and the schools we have here and it's a celebration of us."

This year, the Global Stage will host the Global Stage Contest, which *The Augusta Chronicle* and *The Daily Herald* have narrowed from 40 to six competitors.

"I don't even know who the winner will be," said organizer Steven Uhles. "It's the chance to discuss who should go through the process and get to feel like I'm helping to put on a great community."

The six finalists will be formally announced at the Arts in the Heart, though Uhles suggests that the winners will find out right after the winners are announced and then compete for prizes of \$400 each, as reported by *The Chronicle*.

Arts in the Heart is "an interesting celebration to be part of that has a celebratory impulse, has a social and eat me up and I love a..."

"It's just a thing the newspaper will do as part of Arts in the Heart, but the festival gives musicians a platform to get their music heard. "Because it's at Arts in the Heart, when people hear their music, people always a pretty good crowd."

Though there are many forms of music on the Global Stage, it is only one of four stages.

"The Family and Global Stages are the most important stages, because they're the ones that provide enough structural support for the artists," said Durant. "The Troubadour Stage in the Whites Building near the clock tower features word artists and track singers. The Community Stage features a lot of local acts like the Sisters or Eskimojitos, because we have a lot of talent here."

The Troubadour Stage will host the Augusta Chapter Open Mic and the Cultural Microphone, on Sept. 17. The country represented at the festival will be song, or other talent that is specific to the region.

"This provides the audience with a taste of home with down home flavor," said LaDonna, organizer of the Quality Poets Series.

One of the most amazing aspects of the festival will be the 91 artist booths set up on Broad Street, 60 of which come from Georgia.

Arts in the Heart move to broad street



also host the Singer-Songwriter
critics and website visitors
contestants.

winners are yet," said contest
the hardest part to decide and
It's also my favorite because I
out good music out there for the

announced the week before Arts
suggested the community tends to
themselves. Those finalists will
\$200 and \$100, all sponsored

Arts in the Heart is
great opportunity to
the community,
celebrate the creative
hear some music
eat on a stick
all those things."

— STEPHEN UHLES

wanted to do and it wasn't always
the idea was always to give local
their music out there," said Uhles.
t, it's hard to say just how many
are in and out a lot, but there's

of entertainment at the Global
visitors will not want to miss.

are what we call the danceable
ly ones big enough and with
to accommodate big dance
Cubadour Stage, across from the
s, concentrates more on spoken
that don't need a lot of setup. The
of local bands, like the Pinckney
we don't put dancers there."

ost the Quality Poets Society-
ariety Show, titled The Multi-
17 from noon to 2 p.m. Each
al will be invited to share a story,
ific to their culture.

h a melting pot of talent mixed
dyVee DaPoet, the founder and
ociety.

s of the festival outside the stages
along both sides of Broad Street,
a and South Carolina, including

26 from the CSRA. Each artist will participate in the Juried Arts
Show for prizes of \$500, \$400, \$300 and \$100, and will display,
and in some cases offer demonstrations of, their artwork.

"I'm into a very visual festival," said Durant. "When I go through
a town and see tents, I always want to know what's going on.
What people are going to see this year is a straight shot down
Broad Street of row after row of hundreds of tents, so no one is
going to miss the fact that there is a festival in town."

Returning for this competition are last year's first and second
place winners, Lisa Davin and Linda Tong, makers of jewelry
and lacquer-ware. The art show will be judged Friday by Cindy
Epps, the president of the Artists Guild of Columbia County, and
another judge, to be determined. Winners will be announced
Saturday at 4:30 on the Global Stage.

"Augusta is a great town; we enjoy the festival and we always
do well there," said Paul Bergstrom, a maker of marimba-like
thumb pianos, described at mtmelodies.com, who is revisiting
Arts in the Heart for the third time. "The accommodations are
good and the promoters are great, and we are definitely looking
forward to the change in location this year."

"I think the move to Broad Street is going to make the festival
tremendously more appealing for the people of Augusta to come
out and see," said Tom. "Broad Street is more shaded, it's laid out
better and you don't have any issues with the terrain the way we
did when trying to set up in parking lots. I think it will be very
enjoyable."

The number of artists coming into town is itself a driving force
behind the local economy, filling up two hotels and creating a
market for Augusta tourism. In previous years, some out-of-
town businesses have scheduled conventions to coincide with
the festival.

Whether guests live in Augusta or are driving from far away,
organizers hope everyone will enjoy this year's layout and the
entertainments it provides.

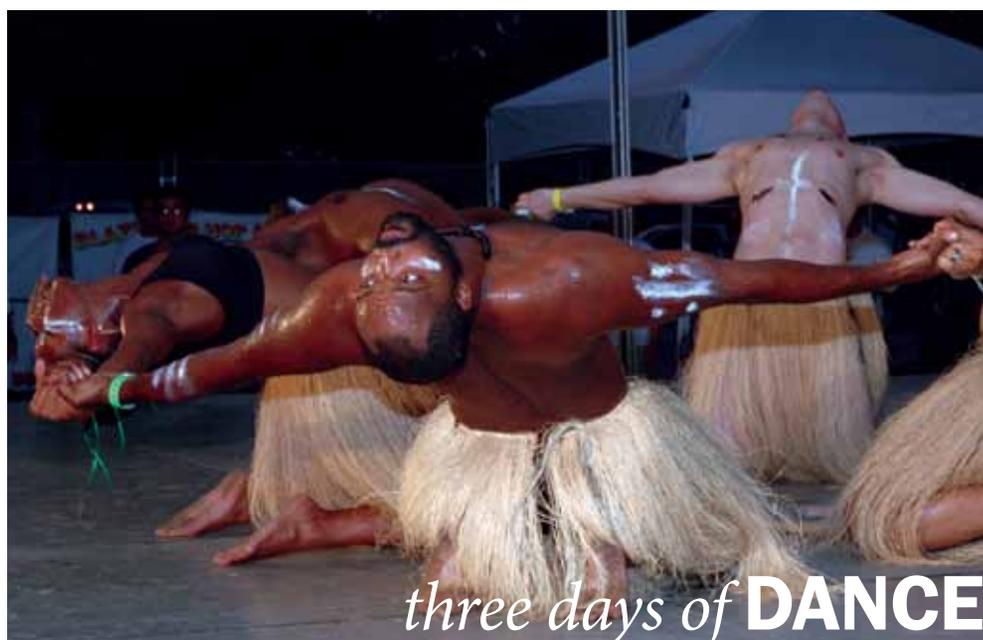
"It's great that we can have the festival all connected this year,"
said Durant. "From Broad Street to the Common, you're not
crossing any streets, it's all handicap accessible, and it's easy to
get to what you're looking for. The Downtown Development
Authority is working on a parking plan for us and will produce a
map of the parking areas, and the CADI officers will be trained
to assist people."

"I would hope at this point Augusta doesn't need any more
encouragement to come out," said Uhles. "This is one of the few
events that the entire city has come to embrace. It's an interesting
opportunity to be part of the community, celebrate the creative
impulse, hear some music and eat meat on a stick, and I love all
those things."

The Arts in the Heart of Augusta Festival will focus on the
Augusta Common from 5 to 9 p.m. Sept. 16, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sept. 17, and noon to 7 p.m. Sept. 18. Weekend badges are
already on sale for \$5 and will cost \$7 at the gate. Children 10
and under are free, no pets or coolers allowed, but camp chairs
are welcome.

by **CHRISTOPHER SELMEK**

photos of the 2010 Arts in the Heart **REDWOLF INC.**



three days of **DANCE**



three days of **CULTURE**



three days of **COMMUNITY**

WHAT The 31st Annual Arts in the Heart of Augusta Festival

WHERE Downtown Augusta at the Augusta Common and along Broad Street from
Seventh to Tenth streets **STREET CLOSINGS** Broad Street from Seventh to 10th streets,
Ninth Street from Broad to Jones streets, Eighth Street from Broad to Ellis streets and
Macartan Street to Jones Street.

WHEN Friday, Sept. 16; 5 to 9 p.m. | Saturday, Sept. 17; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 18; noon to 7 p.m.

THE SCHEDULE A full schedule of Arts in the Hearts programs and
events will be listed in the Sept. 14 issue of *verge*

COST An Arts in the Heart badge is good for all three days:
\$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Children under 10 are free.

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New Moon's featured homegrown specials made with in season, local ingredients

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Eggplants sourced from East Georgia Produce.

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Goat cheese is a naturally healthy food. It has 20% fewer calories and 30% less fat than cows' cream cheese. Goat cheese is also low in cholesterol.

watermelon salad w/ feta and balsamic

We combined sweet crisp farmers market watermelon with feta crumbles, snipped fresh basil from our herb garden, and topped with a balsamic glaze. This is an absolutely delicious fresh side or get it by the pound for your weekend picnic!



Our Watermelons are chosen at the Aiken farmer's market and are from Leighton Gunnells Farm Barnwell, SC.

Watermelon is a good source of vitamin C, vitamin A, vitamin B6, potassium and magnesium. A one cup serving of this fruit is less than 50 calories.

peach muffins



Baked at sunrise every day, our favorite muffins this time of year are full of local freestone peaches and topped with turbinado sugar.

Freestone peaches from DABB Farms, Dan, Bud and Tim Bledsoe, Johnson, SC.

Composed of 80 percent water, peaches are packed with fiber, vitamins, minerals, and carotenoids.

jalapeño chocolate-chip cookie

A spicy-sweet delight! We go overboard with the chocolate & add bits of locally-grown jalapenos for a perfect cookie that's totally unexpected!



Jalapenos provided by Natural Vegetable Farms.

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beers locals like

A (VERY SHORT) VIRTUAL CRAFT BEER WORLD TOUR

Doesn't it seem as though school starts earlier and earlier each year? Some schools have been in session since the second Monday in August! I swear, I remember starting later than that and my wife tells me that her New Jersey schools actually start after Labor Day. Maybe they must start earlier to compensate for all those snow (furlough) days. My children are not yet in school, so I cannot say any of this really affects my family directly. However, I hope that all those families with school-aged children went ahead and got their summer trips out of the way before school started (in mid-summer!) or else they will just have to take the virtual craft beer world tour that ensues below. That's right, I am taking you to three different continents this month, each with a unique twist on beer. So, get your passport, fanny pack and Dramamine, because we are taking off now!



BEERLAO | Do you – all of a sudden – have a strange feeling that you are sandwiched between China, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar? You should, because our first stop is the nation of Laos in southeast Asia. I suppose it is hot here right now, so let's go for their national thirst quencher: Beerlao. It pours a clear, light golden color and smells of sweet and subtle malts. This sweetness translates nicely

and unassumingly onto the tongue, never overwhelming but never really wowing either. Long story short: This lager is decent for its region of origin, will not offend, will quench your thirst when served cold and will definitely wash down that kaipen (a mixture of fresh water green algae and sesame seeds) we bought from a cart on the street corner.



COOPERS SPARKLING ALE

Well, mates, we've somehow made it to Australia and what better time than this to talk about Fosters Lager – joking! We are having English-style pale ale from one of the great breweries of this continent-country: Coopers Brewery Limited. They have done a fine job with this bottle-conditioned ale that pours an amber gold color with a slight settling of yeast at the bottom. As with Beerlao, the nose is sweet

yet subtle from the malts. The taste, however, does hint at a hoppy undertone. The malts win out in the end, but they are pleasantly offset by an almost brut-like carbonation that contributes to a nice dry finish. A unique beer that steps out of line and bends the rules a bit – I give it a B+. Well done, Coopers.



OLD SPECKLED HEN | Time for one last stop, so we might as well make it England, home to more brews than either of the first two destinations combined. We'll go for a popular, but hardly garden-variety brew on this last leg of our "vacay," and settle down with an Old Speckled Hen. Truly a beer for all seasons, the Hen pours a clean amber with a modest head. The nose points to sweet malts and hints of toast. The taste focuses primarily on a

crisp malty tone (if there is such thing). The hops are modest at best and there is a pinch of toffee on the tongue. This will not quench your thirst as Beerlao does, but it will serve to complement your fish and chips or anything with goat cheese (trust me on that one).

These and more can be found at Aficionados on Eighth Street.



by **BEN CASELLA**
Ben Casella has recently renewed his passport and would be an excellent aid to you and your family on any trip overseas (especially Spain, Scotland or Italy) as a Beer Expert. He simply requests room, board and a travel stipend. If interested, please inquire with verge.

from the fork of **augusta eats**

A GENUINE FOODIE TAKES ON AUGUSTA'S FARE ONE BITE AT A TIME



MELLOW MUSHROOM Downtown Augusta, I love it – the old churches, the fountains, the antique shops and the food. There truly is something for everyone downtown – great food around every corner and down every block, each with its own taste and feel. Every city has a downtown and we marvel in the history of ours and partake of every morsel it has to offer. But, being the foodie that I am, I also marvel at every restaurant, every menu and every smell.

That takes me to my next "eat": Mellow Mushroom on Broad Street. The outside of the restaurant sports this cartoonish little car parked on the top of a pole. Very retro! Walking in, the sights and smells delight. The decor is colorful, as is the staff. These people look as though they are from all walks of life, something you do not get from cookie-cutter restaurants. The atmosphere is very casual. I mean, you could come here after church, after work or after cutting the lawn (although, let's all shower first). The staff was very polite and attended to my every need.

The menu consists of pizza, sandwiches and salad. My family ordered two Buffalo Chicken pizzas. The wait was approximately 20 minutes (it seemed longer, because the smells coming from the kitchen were intoxicating). I was thinking that this pizza best be worth the \$26 I was shelling out. The pizza arrived, very hot and the ingredients looked very fresh. We "dug in," paying no attention to the steaming hot temperature. Foodies are always risking life and limb just for our first bite and sometimes, depending on the quality, our last.

During mid-bite, my daughter and I had a moment – you know the moment, when you have tasted something so good there are no words and all you can get out is "mmm" – this was one of those moments. We locked eyes. If the eyes are the window to the soul, my teenage daughter was experiencing pizza bliss. Mellow Mushroom knows how to make a pizza.

The crust was wonderfully crackly, the sauce a bold blue-cheese with a bit of heat, and the toppings were fresh and plentiful and they are NOT shy with the cheese. I must advise anyone with bad cholesterol to take the safe route and get a sandwich instead or maybe double up on your meds before eating this cheesy goodness. The atmosphere is fun; you can even purchase the paintings by local artist Billy S. displayed on the wall. It is a great place to take the kids or your best gal and, once again, the food is delish. Mellow Mushroom's culinary team really knows and enjoys what they are doing (plus, they have an open kitchen, so you can see everything).

After we wolf eddown all we can possibly ingest, we still had some to take home and fight over (we do fight, I usually don't win). The folks at Mellow Mushroom give you plenty of good eats for your money and I will be returning again and again. Great job Mellow Mushroom; you are what our downtown is all about – tasty culture!



5 MELLOW MUSHROOM DISHES VERGE STAFFERS ALSO RECOMMEND

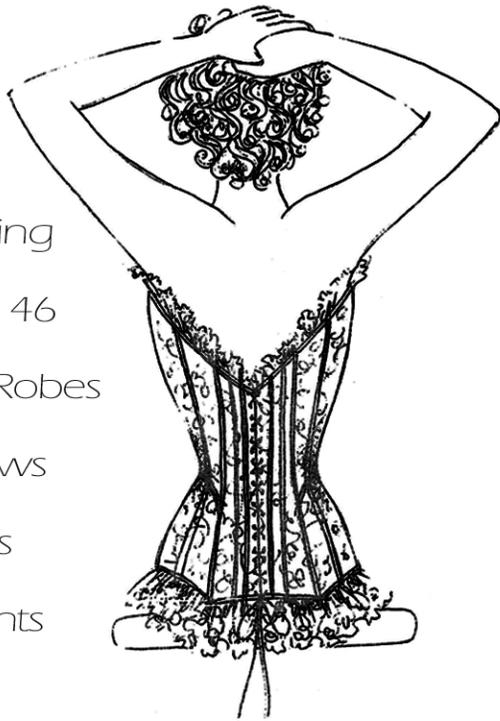
HUMMUS comes out quick and goes down smooth | **THE KOSMIC KARMA** sundried tomatoes + feta + pesto = yum
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by **AUGUSTA EATS**
Augusta Eats is literally eating Augusta, from restaurant to roadside gourmet. Considered by some to be the original Augusta foodie, Augusta Eats has more than 25 culinary years under his (or her?) apron strings and has a deep-seeded love for all things tasty. Follow Augusta Eats on Facebook or visit AUGUSTAEATS.NET

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rock with the dirty **guv'nahs** PURE ROCK "N" ROLL RUNS IN THEIR VEINS



Two years ago, the Dirty Guv'nahs — James Trimble, vocals, guitar; Justin Hoskins, bass, guitar; Aaron Hoskins, drums, guitar; Michael Jenkins, guitar, piano; Chris Doody, piano, Hammond, guitar, vocals; and Cozmo Holloway, guitar, vocals — were grad students finishing their degrees and working day jobs. All of that changed when the Knoxville, Tenn., band took a chance on hosting their own CD release party in a rented theater, where a near sell-out put them on industry radar. From clubs to Bonnaroo to recording their most recent album, *Youth Is In Our Blood*, with producer Justin Guip at Levon Helm's studio, life is moving at a steady clip for the group, as vocalist James Trimble explains.

VERGE: Your sound has been described as “a passionate, jubilant slice of rock-meets-Americana.” What does that mean?

TRIMBLE: That means we love the Rolling Stones and the Black Crowes and we love upbeat rock music. We're just trying to create music that's fun and that inspires folks.

VERGE: Is it difficult to carve your own space when you're compared to other bands?

TRIMBLE: Sometimes, but if people actually sit down and listen to more than 10 seconds of a song ... I think sometimes they like to throw their opinion out there before they even listen to more than one song. Everybody has influences, but if you see us live, you see that we have a different thing going on from the people we're compared to. It's a different kind of show.

VERGE: How so?

TRIMBLE: We're not trying to create a place where people come to watch the performers. We're trying to create an amazing give-and-take where people feel like they're participating in something ... an experience that people enter into and it's a big celebration together.

VERGE: This is year five. What do you see when you look at the timeline?

TRIMBLE: The first three years, we were doing it for fun in college. We played 10 or 20 shows a year just having fun when we could. It came to a point where we said, “We've got to record a real CD just in case this is it, so that we have something to remember.” We decided to have the CD release concert at the Bijou Theater here in Knoxville, and they wouldn't let us play because they didn't believe that 500 or 600 people were coming to the bars to see us every

time. So we said, “We'll rent it out. We'll take the risk.” We came within 40 tickets of selling out this 750-seat theater.

VERGE: Was that the turning point?

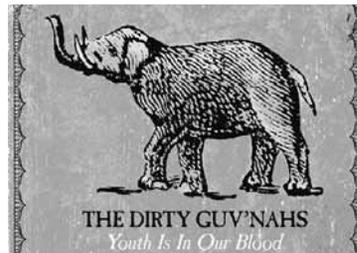
TRIMBLE: It was. We sold 200 tickets in advance and we thought: “There's 450 seats on the floor, so if 300 or 400 people show up, this won't be embarrassing. It will be great.” The night of the show, I remember looking out, seeing 700 people and ... I remember thinking: “What just happened?” The people at AC Entertainment that help manage Bonnaroo had some folks at that show. They invited us to play at Bonnaroo and we thought: “There's still a long, long road, but this could be a profession; things are clicking.” At Bonnaroo we met some folks who were connected to Levon Helm's studio, and we got the opportunity to record in Woodstock. It was just unbelievable.

VERGE: How have your goals changed?

TRIMBLE: When we made the record at Levon Helm's, we were still learning about the song craft and each other's roles within the band — who had strengths in what. It was such a whirlwind. We booked the studio time in September for December and we hadn't written any songs. We were all in school or working full-time and I don't think anybody really slept during those two or three months because we had to write and not look like idiots when we showed up. Now, we're a lot more mature. We're becoming tighter as a band because we've had a lot of struggles and a lot of successes.

Our goal is a new record in July 2012. We're looking to grow and inspire people as much as we can. We're a loud rock band and we like entertaining as many folks as possible.

by ALISON RICHTER



SEE THE SHOW

WHO The Dirty Guv'nahs + Ponderosa

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WHEN Saturday, Sept. 10 at 10 p.m. | \$5

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corey smith gives back

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH MUSIC



Corey Smith is something of a household name amongst local music fans. Originally from – and still based in – Jefferson, Ga., he performs regularly in Augusta and is involved in the local nonprofit 12 Bands 12 Kids program. Last year, he signed his first record deal with Average Joe's Entertainment. He released a new album, *The Broken Record*, three months ago and is back on the road, which includes several tour dates with country artist Jason Aldean.

Smith spoke to *verge* about the decision to sign with a label, sharing the stage with country artists and his philanthropic work.

VERGE: 12 Bands is not your only charity. You also support Be The Change and Seva Foundation.

SMITH: There are easy ways to help smaller and more localized charities — a signed guitar or CD for auction or a shout out about an event can make a tremendous difference. Be The Change and Seva are global. Seva provides eye care to developing nations who can't afford it. They can do cataract surgery for \$50 and here it costs thousands. They set up camps and people who come blind leave able to see.

VERGE: After much independent success — selling more than 900,000 digital singles and 200,000 records — you opted to sign a deal.

SMITH: Average Joe's is an indie label with common values, so I wasn't signing over my creative freedom. It's truly a partnership.

VERGE: What has changed as a result of the signing?

SMITH: The main thing is that more people are involved. The first five years, there were fewer than 10 of us working on it. Now it has tripled or quadrupled, and more people are working to get music to the people. It comes with challenges, but at the end of the day it's very exciting.

VERGE: Was the decision to release new material and a compilation on one album part of that signing?

SMITH: The record was essentially done four or five months before I started talking to Average Joe's seriously. It was a creative decision to move on beyond older material

and say, "Here is where I am and where I am going." The older material made Average Joe's more excited about it and maybe affected their decision to sign me. They helped me get it in the right people's hands early on so it would spread faster. I never had a promotional budget before. Promotion was going on the road.

VERGE: What keeps you in Jefferson?

SMITH: It's where I am most content, and it's such a part of my creative process that I would be afraid to leave. For example, I wasn't writing music the last six months since the record was done. I wasn't compelled or home long enough. I had a few ideas, and I went home for a week and wrote a song. I wrote four songs in the last two days. It is a product of being home and comfortable and with the people I love.

VERGE: That said, Nashville has become a part of your life and so has country music.

SMITH: I will always be an awkward fit in mainstream country, but ultimately it's where I belong. I am from a rural Southern town and that's what I write about, the country experience, so I am happy to have avenues to more people, but I am not changing my approach. I cannot be anybody else.

VERGE: What led you to philanthropy?

SMITH: I was a high school teacher because I wanted to make a difference and help people. I wanted to go into music for the same reason: to make a difference and have a positive impact. You're helping people you may never meet, but it is karma, and what goes around comes around.

by ALISON RICHTER



SEE THE SHOW

WHO Corey Smith + Rachel Farley

WHERE Jessye Norman Amphitheater | 15 Eighth St.

WHEN Thursday, Sept. 1 | 6:30 p.m.

TICKETS \$22.40 advance, \$27.50 day of show

BUY [800.594.TIXX](tel:800.594.TIXX) or COREYSMITH.COM

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a duo of hard rock

ADELITA'S WAY AND EMPHATIC RETURN TO AUGUSTA FOR SKY CITY SHOW



Presently on the Carnival of Madness tour with Theory of a Deadman and Alter Bridge, Adelitas Way and Emphatic return to Augusta on Sept. 12 for a show at Sky City.

Adelitas Way — vocalist Rick DeJesus, guitarist Keith Wallen, bassist Derek Johnston, drummer Trevor Stafford and guitarist Robert Zakaryan — are touring their new album, *Home School Valedictorian*, which launched via the No. 1 active rock single "Sick."

With a hit record out of the box, DeJesus is rightfully confident that the band is ready to break through.

"It's time for us to come into our own," he says. "It's time for us to be thrown out in front to play with the big boys. There are bands I look up to and love and that I've learned from, like Shinedown, Breaking Benjamin and Three Days Grace, and I want to be up there with those guys. We've toured the country going on our fourth year, in the van, we've worked really hard, our label's done a great job, and I feel this is going to be our year to break out."

DeJesus also hopes that Adelitas Way and their peers can shift the focus back to rock music.

"There's so much garbage out there," he says. "We've got to take a stand. Rock has to come back. Somewhere along the way, we got moved to the back of the classroom. There are too many great rock bands for us to be put in the back. In the '80s and '90s, rock was number one. I will not lie down and let rock be run over. We're trying to step up our live show, we're trying to step our records up, we wanted to make an album that people can listen to all the way through. We're trying to make a statement and tell people, 'Come back to our world. We'll give you something different.'"

Emphatic — lead guitarist/songwriter Justin McCain, vocalist Patrick Wilson, guitarist Lance Dowdle, bassist Alan Larson, keyboardist Jeff Fenn and drummer Dylan Wood — released their new album, *Damage*, on July 12 and debuted at No. 9 on the Billboard Heatseekers album chart. Their single, "Bounce," was Top 5 on the Mediabase active rock chart.

The group worked diligently to rise from the club scene in Omaha, Neb., to a record deal and national tours.

"The past seven years were so hard, trying to get to this point," says McCain. "I took it upon myself to kick in every door and develop contacts at radio. Once we got to the point of a deal and management, there was a learning curve for me to get used to other people working the project from day to day. I still want to work. I don't want handouts. We want to earn it and be viewed as a band that deserves what we earn. We have the privilege of doing what we love because of our fans, and we don't take that for granted. We all have a strong work ethic and we'll always do as much as we can to earn their support. This is definitely a team effort and we're doing everything we can to take it to the next level and recruit new fans in every city. Emphatic is my baby. It's 24/7 for me. It's not, 'I'm going fishing today and I'll work on band stuff tomorrow.' It's band stuff every second of my day."

by ALISON RICHTER



SEE THE SHOW

WHO Adelita's Way + Emphatic + Eye Empire

WHERE Sky City | 1057 Broad St.

WHEN Monday, Sept. 10 | 8 p.m.

TICKETS \$9.51 advance to \$12 day of show

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stoney's **sound bites**

THE GUY WHO PUT THE "K" IN LOKAL GETS VOCAL ABOUT AUGUSTA'S MUSIC SCENE



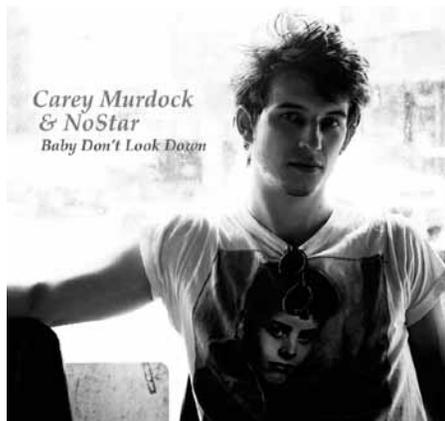
NICK CAVE SAYS LONG LIVE ROCK 'N' ROLL

It has been said that there are few things in life that you can count on: death, taxes and of course, me to show up and talk about Augusta music. You might not be able to find 95 Rock at its old radio spot anymore, but you can be pretty sure that if you pick up *verge* you will find me going on and on about rock 'n' roll, Augusta style. If I was a betting man, I would place those odds higher than a new episode of my online talk show CONFederation of LOUDness appearing every week or the guys in Hundred Year Sun getting together for a reunion show. But, heck, the Eagles did it, so you never know.

Speaking of **95 ROCK** – or 93 Rock – I am not even sure what to call 'em anymore! By now everyone has heard of the shakeup over at Beasley Broadcasting. WGAC talk radio has taken over the 95.1 signal and 95 moved to 93.1. Modern rock fans are up in arms about barely being able to hear to 95, in their car (93.1, licensed to Warrenton, rimshots the Augusta market from about 30 miles to the west) and everyone is wondering why the station's biggest loudmouth **JORDAN ZEH** is no longer with the station. I will admit, I am not a Zeh fan, but the guy talked that station up more than anyone else. Maybe his way of doing it sometimes was a little abrasive but let's all remember – IT'S ROCK 'N' ROLL, FOLKS! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ABRASIVE. Well, it just takes one look online to see that people are up in arms and want their modern rock back. Will the masses make a difference? More importantly, will the masses do more than just yell about it? For a clear 95 Rock listen, fans can always stream online at 95ROCK.COM. Stay tuned.

Liz Bramlett and Steven Bryant of Augusta pop-punksters **PANIC MANOR** are smack in the middle of their East Coast acoustic tour. After bouncing around the Carolinas, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and spots in between, the band is planning on marking their return to the CSRA with a gig on Sept. 10. Find out the location (yet to be announced), check out Panic Manor music, show dates, video and more at REVERBNATION.COM/PANICMANOR.

As Augusta bands, such as Panic Manor, Veara and more, venture out on jaunts across the U.S., Augusta continues to be a launching pad for other bands to outright relocate to other parts of the country. With the success of Lady Antebellum and Josh Kelley, it seems the new hot spot to move to is Nashville and the latest area artist to take off for the music city is **CAREY MURDOCK OF NOSTAR**. With dates already racking up in Tennessee, it appears that Murdock is geared and primed to make a pretty big mark up in Volunteer country. But Augusta fans need not cry – Murdock is a rabid tour dog and is sure to make Augusta a regular stop. As a matter of fact, Carey has already got an Oct. 16 show at the Morris Museum of Art auditorium booked and it's a free one! To keep up with Murdock and his mission to take over Nashville, go to NOSTARBAND.COM.



This Christmas will mark five years since The Godfather of Soul **JAMES BROWN** passed away and the battle that has ensued over his estate since his passing (including a lack of a decision on a permanent burial place) has gotten so heated that it is reported to be the subject of a PBS TV special geared towards teaching people what NOT to do to protect their estates. Word on

the street now is that a supposed resolution on the matter will be announced in the fall and will include where Brown's body (which currently resides in a temporary crypt in Beech Island) will be permanently put to rest. Fans just want this music pioneer and legend to get his final requests and be allowed to finally rest in peace ... PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!

This year's **ARTS IN THE HEART FESTIVAL** is right around the corner and looks to be full of awesome music, as always. The Arts in the Heart weekend never disappoints and this year will be no different with a handful of stages featuring a multitude of acts, including musical groups from just about every genre, style and culture. Attendees will get to enjoy a mix of great local and regional artists performing gospel, country, hip hop, jazz, rock and more. The line-up includes popular club/bar bands such as **ESKIMOJITOS** and **BILLY S**, not to mention this year's *The Augusta Chronicle* Singer-Songwriter Contest finals and a reunion set by Snapdragon. All of this happens Sept. 16, 17 and 18. For more info, read the article on page 24 and visit ARTSINTHEHEART.COM. (Note: A full schedule of Arts in the Hearts performances will be in the next issue of *verge*, hitting the stands on Sept. 14.)

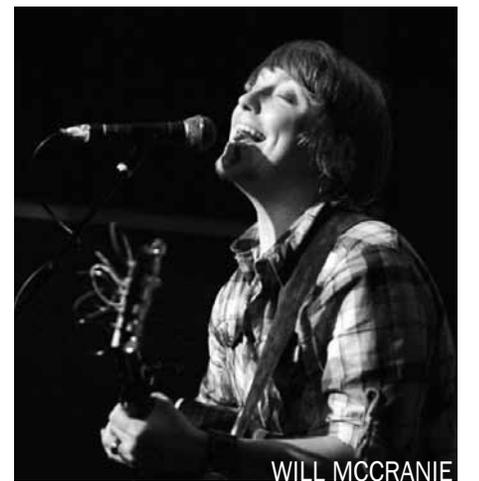


JAMES BROWN



THE ESKIMOJITOS

I would like to give a big virtual hug to everyone who joined in the fun at this year's **LEXIE'S LEGACY MEMORIAL CONCERT** last month at Sky City. The night was loaded with great up-and-coming acts Pros & Cons, She N She, Panic Manor, Radar Cinema and this band I kind of dig – G-City Rockers. Everyone who came out got a CD chock full of great tunes by most of the bands that performed, plus tunes by Sibling String, Stillview, Granny's Gin, Jim Perkins, Allison Foster, Will McCranie, Artemia, Mike Frost Jazz and more. Anyone who couldn't make it out can still take part by picking up the 15-song CD for \$5 from yours truly.



WILL MCCRANIE

Well, I gotta go and see what the masses have planned for the resurrection of 95 Rock. Until next time, make sure you check out the Daily Planner in print and online at VERGELIVE.COM for great live shows. To get an earful of what is happening in Augusta music, listen CONFederation of LOUDness, which can be found, ironically enough, at CONFEDERATIONOFLLOUDNESS.COM and, of course, as always ... Make it LOKAL, Keep it Loud.



John "Stoney" Cannon is considered the guru of "lokal" music. Check out his long-running Augusta music website: LOKALLOUDNESS.COM. Send any music news to lokalloudness@yahoo.com.

The Loft

SEPTEMBER 9TH
DIRTY
BLUE
DRESS

The "Come Back" Show

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 15TH

**The Bastard
Suns**
www.thebastardsuns.com

WITH 57 FLIP

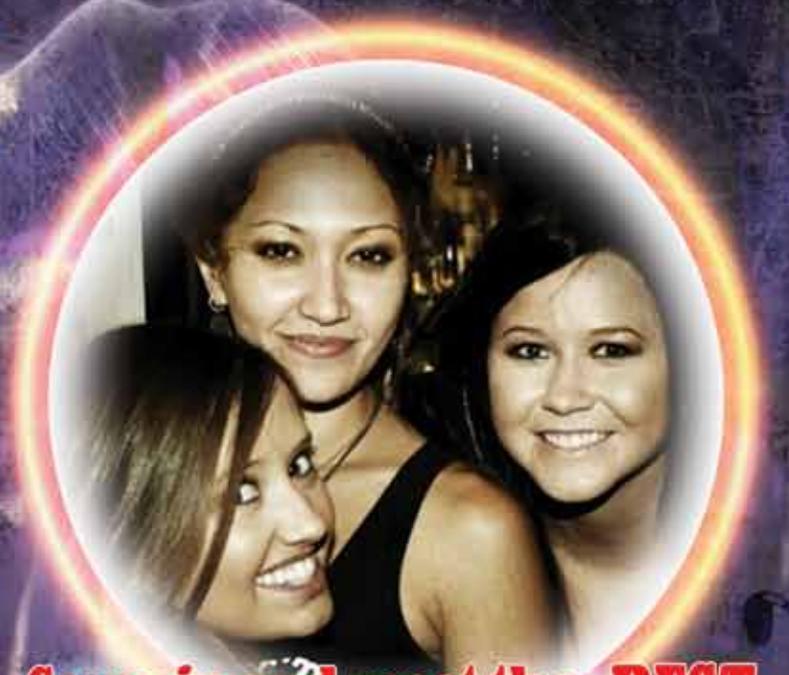
SEPTEMBER 16TH

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monday - friday: 6pm - close saturday: 8pm to close



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[**LITTLE BITES OF ART**]

Cupcakes seem to be the new thing – an urban-chic trend that has caught the imagination of bakeries across the country, the flavors and designs stopping only at the creativity of their maker.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, Molly Meek of Neapolitan Cupcake and Gift Shoppe will demonstrate how to turn this birthday party staple into an edible work of art at Gallery on the Row. The following Saturday, Sept. 17, aspiring bakers are invited to bring their own creations (limited to cupcakes, of course) to the gallery by 1 p.m. The entries will be judged by Meek at 2 p.m. and the winning cupcake will receive a dozen cupcakes from Neapolitan.

WHAT The Art of Cupcakes Demo and Contest
WHERE Gallery on the Row | 1016 Broad St.
WHEN DEMO Saturday, Sept. 10 | 2 p.m., free
CONTEST Saturday, Sept. 17 | 2 p.m., free
MORE 706.724.4989 | GALLERYONTEROW.COM



The Daily Planner is our selective guide to what is going on in the city during the next two weeks. **IF YOU WANT TO BE LISTED:** Submit information by email (events@vergelive.com) or by mail (verge, P.O. Box 38, Augusta, GA 30903). Details of the event - date, time, venue address, telephone number and admission price - should be included. Listings included are accurate at press time, check with specific venues for further details.

WEDNESDAY

8.31

ART JANE POPIEL Last day to view exhibit. Sacred Heart Cultural Center; free; 1301 Greene St.; 706.826.4700



ART WANTA DAVENPORT COLLOQUIUM: Painting a Seascape. Demonstration of procedures and skills used to create a seascape. Artistic Perceptions; 10 a.m.; \$20; 551 Broad St.; 706.724.8739
ART551.COM

BUSINESS GOD @ WORK

Group meets for lunch and to hear speaker talk on God in the workplace. Golden Corral; noon; free; 227 Bobby Jones Expressway

CHURCH YOUTH REVIVAL

Featuring the Revs. Elliott Bing, Martise Mims and Chavous Boyd. Franklin Covenant Baptist Church; 7 p.m.; free; 4800 Franklin Covenant Road, Hephzibah; 706.592.2952

THURSDAY

9.1

FESTIVAL LABOR DAY SIDEWALK SALE

Participating merchants will offer bargains either on sidewalk tables or just inside their business doors. Downtown Aiken; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; free; Downtown Aiken; 803.649.2221
DOWNTOWNAIKEN.COM

EDUCATION CROCHET CLASS

Learn to crochet. Limited seating, registration required. Harlem Branch Library; 1 p.m.; free; 375 North Louisville St., Harlem; 706.556.9795

THEATRE AUDITION Show your skills for a chance to dance with Cutno Dance Center & Magnolia Dance Theatre. Paine College, Gilbert-Lamuth Chapel; 3 p.m. for ages 7 to 11 and 4 p.m. ages 12 to adult; free; 1235 15th St.; 706.294.5007



FESTIVAL FIRST THURSDAY ON KINGS WAY

Enjoy an evening out in Summerville as stores stay open, refreshments are served and friendships are made. September's sponsor is Augusta OB/GYN group and Summerville restaurants will feature local artists. Kings Way in Summerville; 5 to 8 p.m.; free; Kings Way; 706.755.2665

CONCERT COREY SMITH

See article on page 33. Jessye Norman Amphitheater; 6:30 p.m.; 15 presale, \$22.50 advance, \$27.50 day of; Riverwalk and Ninth Street; 706.495.6885
COREYSMITH.COM

CHURCH YOUTH REVIVAL

See listing on Aug. 31. Franklin Covenant Baptist Church; 7 p.m.

SPORTS GARDEN CITY CLASSIC

Hank Daggett Foundation and T.W. Josey High School pay tribute to the school's first football coach and athletic director with a banquet and roast. Thankful Baptist Church; 7 p.m.; \$25; 302 Walker St.; 706.664.5143

CONCERT FACULTY ARTISTS RECITAL

Featuring Lauren Meccia on saxophone and Mike Frist on bass. USC Aiken Etherredge Center; 7 p.m.; free; 471 University Parkway, Aiken; 803.641.3305
USCA.EDU

FRIDAY

9.2

FESTIVAL LABOR DAY SIDEWALK SALE See listing on Sept. 1. Downtown Aiken; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



OPEN HOUSE BIG DAY CAKES

Bakery celebrates grand opening and has a free treat for all its Facebook fans. Big Day Cakes; 10 a.m. to close.; free; 120 Ninth St.; 706.255.7316
BIGDAYCAKESBAKERY.COM

FESTIVAL FIRST FRIDAY Downtown Augusta; 5 p.m.; free; Broad Street; 706.826.4702
AUGUSTAARTS.COM

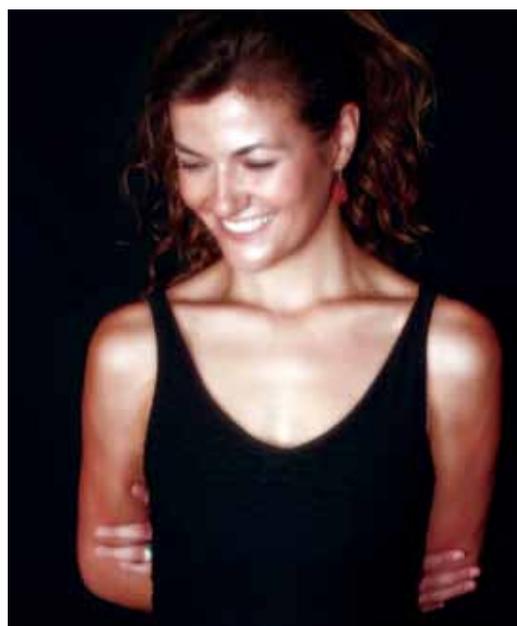
[**KATE MORRISSEY**]

Singer-songwriter Kate Morrissey hails from a family of pianists and has an impressive mastery over the ivories. But, Morrissey is best known for the range and control of her dark, velvety voice and the quirky humor which infuses her songwriting.

Morrissey once described her music as “urban fairy tales and fables. There are definitely elements of folk, but’ it’s something new and tells the stories in a different way.”

She recently branched out of her solo career and brought on Atlanta musicians John Norris (drums and acoustic guitar) and Charles Harvey (bass and cello) to enrich and enliven her folksy sound – which has been compared to Regina Spektor and Joni Mitchell. She heads to Augusta on Sept. 17 at 2 p.m. for an intimate afternoon of song.

WHERE Casa Blanca Café | 936 Broad St.
WHEN Saturday, Sept. 17 | 2 p.m. (seating for diners only)
MORE CASABLANCATIME.COM | KATEMORRISSEY.COM



AUGUSTA MARKET Every Saturday 8am to 2pm
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Fresh Produce - Live Entertainment - Local Artisans & much more!
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2011



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\$3.25 22oz Mugs

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(Starts Sunday, Sept. 11th)



2 Fer Tuesday

8.30 Dave & Michael • 9.6 Patterson & Nate

Taco & Rita Wed

8.31 Lo Fidelity • 9.7 Tiki Barflys

Thursday

9.1 Jones White Buffalo • 9.8 Sibling String

Friday Night Rocks

9.2 Thomas Tillman • 9.9 Toyzz

Saturday Night

9.3 Tony Williams Band • 9.10 Almost Famous

Sunday Funday 9.4 Matt Acosta • 9.11 Cody Webb

Washington Road just past I-20 • 706-364-WILD (9453) • www.wildwingcafe.com

9.2

GOOD CAUSE CAROLINE BRUKER See the article on page 17. *Le Chat Noir*; 6 p.m.; free, donations accepted and will go toward scholarship; 304 Eighth St.; 706.722.3322 LCNAUGUSTA.COM

CONCERT MOONLIGHT MUSIC CRUISE: IMPULSE RIDE Acoustic pop/rock duo entertain aboard the Augusta Canal's Petersburg Boat. Bring aboard snacks and beverages and enjoy live music on a 1.5 hour tour of the canal. Reservations required. Read more about Impulse Ride on page 47. *Augusta Canal*; 6:30 p.m.; \$25; 1450 Greene St.; 706.823.0440 AUGUSTACANAL.COM

CONCERT MUSIC IN BOECKH PARK Henry Wynn sings bluegrass music. *Hammonds Ferry*; 7 p.m.; free; 506 Front St., North Augusta

SPORTS AUGUSTA GREENJACKETS vs. Rome Braves. *Lake Olmstead Stadium*; 7:05 p.m.; \$7 to \$11; 78 Milledge Road; 706.736.7889 GREENJACKETS.NET



CONCERT SMOOTH MUSIC FESTIVAL Boney James, considered one of the most influential jazz artists of his generation, headlines the fourth-annual event with special guest Rachele Ferrell. *Bell Auditorium*; 7:30 p.m.; \$40, \$50, \$60; 712 Telfair St.; 706.724.2400 GEORGIALINATIX.COM

COMEDY SCHRODINGER'S CAT plays eXtreme Theatre Games. Sure to delight any mature audience member. *Le Chat Noir*; 8 p.m.; \$8 advance, \$10 door; 304 Eighth St.; 706.722.3322 SCHRODINGERSCATOUG.COM

SATURDAY

9.3

OUTDOORS COASTAL PLAIN MEANDER RIVER TRIP Two-day, one-night boat trip. Participants will arrive in Savannah, Ga., on Sept. 4. Cost includes meals, ground transportation and camping or cabin accommodations. Space is limited. *Savannah River*; 7:30 a.m.; \$500 to \$625; *Savannah River*; 706.826.8991

FESTIVAL LABOR DAY SIDEWALK SALE See listing on Sept. 1. *Downtown Aiken*; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OUTDOORS SWAMP SATURDAY Trained volunteers lead 2.5 mile, 1.5 hour hikes through the Nature Park, through wetlands and over picturesque trails. *Phinizy Swamp*; 9:30 a.m.; free; 1858 Lock & Dam Road; 706.828.2109

OUTDOORS ATTACK OF THE ALIEN PLANTS Learn about plants that are invaders and those that are native to the area. For ages 5 and up, children must be accompanied by an adult. *Reed Creek Nature Park*; 10 a.m.; members free, \$2 nonmembers; 3820 Park Lane, Martinez; 706.210.4027 REEDCREEKPARK.COM

FILM MARS NEEDS MOMS *Headquarters Library*; 2 p.m.; free; 823 Telfair St.; 706.721.2600

CONCERT UNCOMMON JAZZ FESTIVAL Garden City Jazz presents its annual celebration of classic jazz music and art inspired by it. *Augusta Common*; 3 p.m.; \$10, free children 13 and under; *Broad Street*; 706.495.6238

SPORTS AUGUSTA GREENJACKETS vs. Rome Braves. *Lake Olmstead Stadium*; 7:05 p.m.; \$7 to \$11; 78 Milledge Road; 706.736.7889 GREENJACKETS.NET

SUNDAY

9.4

SPORTS AUGUSTA GREENJACKETS vs. Rome Braves. *Lake Olmstead Stadium*; 5:35 p.m.; \$7 to \$11; 78 Milledge Road; 706.736.7889

MONDAY

9.5

FOR KIDS THE LITTLE RED HEN Read and learn how bread gets to the table. Registration required. *Headquarters Library*; 10 a.m.; free; 823 Telfair St.; 706.721.2600 ECGRL.ORG



FESTIVAL LABOR DAY BARBECUE COOK-OFF Fourth annual event held by the City of Aiken to benefit the United Way of Aiken. *Downtown Aiken*; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; \$8 adults, \$4 children ages 6 to 13, free children 5 and younger; *Richland and Park avenues, Aiken*; 803.642.7654

TUESDAY

9.6

ART TUESDAY PAINTERS Watch painters and participate. Art supplies covered in cost. *Art and Heritage Center of North Augusta*; 11 a.m.; \$3 adults, \$1 students, free children 5 and younger; 100 Georgia Ave., North Augusta; 803.441.4380

OUTDOORS YOUNG NATURALIST CLUB Children ages 6 and older can explore the natural world in a nature club. Preregistration is required. *Reed Creek Nature Park*; 4:30 to 6 p.m.; \$40; 3820 Park Lane, Martinez; 706.210.4027 REEDCREEKPARK.COM



FILM JANE EYRE Rated PG13. *Headquarters Library*; 6:30 p.m.; free; 823 Telfair St.; 706.721.2600 ECGRL.ORG

WEDNESDAY

9.7

FOR KIDS BEE A READER In celebration of national honey month, enjoy a honey treat and discuss books being read. Ages 6 to 11, registration required. *Columbia County Library*; 1 p.m.; free; 7022 Evans Towne Center Blvd., Evans; 706.863.1946

HISTORY BROWN BAG HISTORY SERIES: Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings. Clay Boardman, the CEO of Flywheel LLC, discusses the economic benefits of adaptive reuse versus demolition of historic buildings. *Augusta Museum of History*; 12:30 p.m.; free members, \$3 nonmembers; 560 Reynolds St.; 706.722.8454 AUGUSTAMUSEUM.ORG

FILM WYNTON MARSALIS + ERIC CLAPTON Play the Blues. One-night in-theater concert at Lincoln Center's Rose Theater in New York broadcast to nearly 550 movie theaters nationwide. *Regal Augusta Exchange 20*; 7:30 p.m.; \$12.50; 1144 Agerton Lane; 706.667.9713 FATHOMEVENTS.COM

THURSDAY

9.8



FOR KIDS CLARKS HILL BEEKEEPERS Learn about beekeeping. Ages 6 to 11. *Columbia County Library*; 4 p.m.; free; 7022 Evans Towne Center Blvd., Evans; 706.863.1946

OUTDOORS YOUNG NATURALIST CLUB See listing on Sept. 6. *Reed Creek Nature Park*; 4:30 to 6 p.m.

EDUCATION SELF DEFENSE CLASS Learn basics of self defense. Registration required. *Harlem Branch Library*; 5 p.m.; free; 375 North Louisville St., Harlem; 706.556.9795 ECGRL.ORG

ART OPENING RECEPTION JUDY GILLESPIE AND GINNY GRIFFIN. Exhibit runs through October 28. *Sacred Heart Cultural Center*; 5 p.m.; free; 1301 Greene St.; 706.826.4700

LITERARY VIP BOOK SIGNING PARTY Victoria Miguel-Joseph (aka Vicky Bennett Burns) celebrates six months since the release of her debut novel, *When Never Comes Again*. *Blue Horse Bistro and Jazz Club*; 7 to 11 p.m.; free; 302 Sixth St.; 706.955.9875



[CRIME, RESTORATION AND HEALING]

The South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers returns to The Morris Museum of Art with a six-pack of indie documentaries and dramas. Launching the season is *Concrete, Steel, and Paint*, a film centered on a Pennsylvania state prison and the healing power of the arts.

Under the Pennsylvania MuralArts Program, a group of men in a state prison join with victims of crime to create a mural about healing. Initially, their views on punishment, remorse and forgiveness collide. Finding consensus is not easy, but as the participants move through the creative process, mistrust gives way to surprising moments of human contact and common purpose. The film eloquently illustrates how art – and the active participation in creation – can facilitate dialogue about difficult issues.

Producer/Directors Cindy Burstein and Tony Heriza will hold a discussion about *Concrete, Steel, and Paint* and their work as filmmakers following the screening.

WHERE The Morris Museum of Art | 1 10th St.

WHEN Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. **TICKETS** Free for members, \$3 for nonmembers

MORE 706.724.7501 | THEMORRIS.ORG



[FRIEND DAY]

Oasis Church in downtown Augusta is celebrating friendship and God's love with a celebration of the imaginative and creative spirit. Open to the public, the fellowship's first Friend Day Celebration is centered on the theme Masquerade. The organizers say "we are preparing an incredible experience of imagination and creativity, so come as you are and experience the amazing presence of God."

Oasis Church is an interdenominational church with people from all different types of backgrounds with no specific affiliation.

WHERE Oasis Church | 716 Broad St.

WHEN Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. | Sept. 11 at 11 a.m. | Free

MORE info@myoasis.tv | MYOASIS.TV

GARLIC CLOVE

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Come see why **LOVE** is the BEST part of our name!



VOTED BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

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Sunday Buffet 11-2 only \$9.95

2010

4461 Washington Road Evans, GA (next to Super Wal-Mart)

For your catering needs, call Chef Jeff 706-364-7377

Wow! School is back in and summer vacation is already a memory. As I was able to spend time with family and friends over the summer, I realized that some of our fondest memories revolved around food or a certain meal. It was during that time of reminiscing that I become even more grateful for the career that I've enjoyed over the last 33 years. I realized that while others will do the same over their lives, I hope and pray that some of their fondest memories will have included times together sharing a meal that I have prepared for them. I want to simply remind you that the Garlic Clove is the perfect place to get around the table with the family and share some great time together along with a fantastic meal. We take pride in providing you and your family and friends the best experience and food available. Heck, we even have folks coming in just for some of our amazing homemade desserts and coffee or a cappuccino. Even though they didn't come in for the whole meal, it really excites me to see our guests get that excited and passionate about our desserts as well as our pizza and other menu items. I look forward to serving you throughout the coming year. Remember while the Holiday will fast approach, that I would love to fill all of your catering needs! Help us spread the word that a Chef owned and family run restaurant will always be the BEST CHOICE!

Thanks,
Chef Jeff Freehof
The Garlic Clove Italian Eatery



First Round Bar

in downtown Augusta

Nightly Drink Specials

PBR - \$1.50, Well - \$4.00

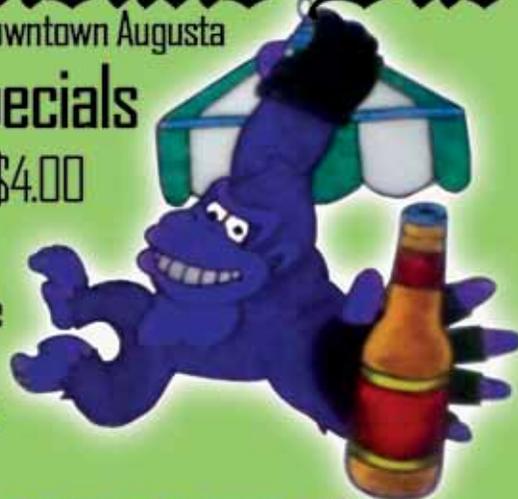
\$2 SHOTS

Washington Apple

Lemon Drop

Red Headed Slut

Kamikaze



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Sat 9/10

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Thur 9/15: CHRIS NDETTI

Fri 9/16: SIBLING STRING

Sat 9/17: BLUNT HEAD TRAUMA
(jazz trio)

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THURSDAY

9.8

FESTIVAL AIKEN'S MAKIN
Downtown Aiken holds annual arts and crafts show. *Downtown Aiken*; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; free; Park Avenue, Aiken; 803.649.1200 x224 AIKENCHAMBER.NET



FESTIVAL BORDER BASH
2011 Featuring Sister Hazel, Joe Stevenson Band, Georgia and Carolina cheerleaders and Cocky and Hairy. *Downtown Augusta*; 4 to 11:30 p.m.; \$10 to \$15; *Downtown Augusta* BORDERBASH.NET

GOOD CAUSE HUISMAN SICKLE CELL FOUNDATION
Benefit Banquet and Ball. Semiformal event to raise money to fight sickle cell anemia. *Gordon Club North Ballroom*; 6 p.m.; \$30; Building 18402, 19th St., Fort Gordon; 706.925.1352

CONCERT MOONLIGHT MUSIC CRUISE: Wayne Capps
Musician plays guitar and mandolin and sings old favorite and originals as he entertains aboard the Augusta Canal's Petersburg Boat. Bring aboard snacks and beverages. Reservations required. *Augusta Canal*; 6:30 p.m.; \$25; 1450 Greene St.; 706.823.0440 AUGUSTACANAL.COM



THEATRE THE 39 STEPS
A small-cast, high-energy, tongue-in-cheek adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's classic spy thriller *The 39 Steps*. A four-person ensemble plays 140 characters to tell the tale of Richard Hannay, who encounters murderers, secret agents and beautiful women. *Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre*; 7 p.m.; \$25 to \$40; 32100 Third Ave., Fort Gordon; 706.793.8552 FORTGORDON.COM

THEATRE CHICAGO Winner of six Tony Awards and an Academy Award. In Roaring '20s Chicago, Roxie Hart murders a lover and convinces her husband to take the rap, until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. *Aiken Community Playhouse*; 8 p.m.; \$12; 126 Newberry St. SW, Aiken; 803.648.1438 ACP1011.COM

SATURDAY

9.10

GOOD CAUSE RUMMAGE SALE *Our Redeemer Lutheran Church*; 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; free; 402 Aumond Road; 706.733.6067

FESTIVAL AIKEN'S MAKIN
See listing on Sept. 9. *Downtown Aiken*; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FESTIVAL FIRE DEPT. ANNIVERSARY The Augusta Fire Department celebrates 125 years with a parade, followed by the Evolution of the Fire Service: 1886-2011 in the Augusta Common. Read the article on page 5. *Downtown Augusta*; 10 a.m.; free; Broad Street

OUTDOORS INSECT INVESTIGATIONS Learn about our six-legged friends by catching and releasing insects in different areas of the park. Ages 5 and up, children must be accompanied by an adult. *Reed Creek Nature Park*; 10 a.m.; members free, \$2 nonmembers; 3820 Park Lane, Martinez; 706.210.4027 REEDCREEKPARK.COM



EDUCATION CANAL DISCOVERY WALK: FLY AWAY HOME Learn about fall bird watching with Lois Stacy. *Savannah Rapids Pavilion*; 10 a.m.; \$1 to \$2; 3300 Evans to Locks Road, Martinez; 706.823.0440

COMPETITION AUGUSTA'S YOUTH GOT TALENT Open to ages 5 to 18 with talent. Parent or guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18. Twenty contestants will be selected for finals Oct. 8. *Virginia College*; 10 a.m.; free; 2807 Wylde Road; 706.721.1869

THEATRE DRAMA WORKSHOP Middle and high school students interested in drama can attend a workshop every second Saturday. Topics range from improv to voice projection to stage movement. *Aiken Community Playhouse*; 1 p.m.; free; 126 Newberry St., Aiken; 803.648.1438

DEMO THE ART OF THE CUPCAKE See article on page 37. *Gallery on the Row*; 2 p.m.; free; 1016 Broad St.; 706.724.4989

FOR KIDS GRANDPARENTS DAY Celebrate stories about grandparents and make a craft. *Headquarters Library*; 2:30 p.m.; free; 823 Telfair St.; 706.721.2600

FESTIVAL FALL PSYCHIC FAIR All donations tax deductible, proceeds to benefit Augusta Pagan Pride. *Brigani's Land of Enchantment and Pops*; 3 p.m.; \$5 donation includes 5 minute reading, \$15 donation includes 15 minute reading. 912 Broad St.; 706.828.4999

CHURCH OASIS FRIEND DAY with a Masquerade theme. Read the article on page 39. *Oasis Church*; 6 p.m.; free; 716 Broad St.; info@myoasis.tv MYOASIS.TV

CONCERT SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT: The Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. *Columbia County Amphitheater*; 7 p.m.; free; 7022 Evans Towne Center Blvd., Evans; 706.312.7192 COLUMBIACOUNTYGA.GOV

THEATRE THE 39 STEPS
See listing on Sept. 9. *Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre*; 7 p.m.

CONCERT APPLING OPRY
Second Saturday Concert Series. Music of The Crossroads Bluegrass Band. Jam session after show. *Old J.D. Howell General Store*; 7 p.m.; free; 5701 Whiteoak Road, Appling

CONCERT SONGWRITERS COME HOME USC Aiken *Etherredge Center*; 7:30 p.m.; \$40; 471 University Parkway, Aiken; 803.641.3305 USCA.EDU

THEATRE CHICAGO See listing on Sept. 9. *Aiken Community Playhouse*; 8 p.m.

CONCERT SECOND SATURDAY BEAT BATTLE Bring beats on CDs, all ages welcome. Winner receives four hours of studio time. *Zoom Studio*; 9 p.m.; free; 216 Eighth St.

SUNDAY

9.11

CONCERT SUNDAY BRUNCH Featuring live jazz and artist Ann Delorge. *Casa Blanca Cafe*; 10 a.m.; free; 936 Broad St.; 706.504.3431 CASABLANCATIME.COM

CHURCH OASIS FRIEND DAY See listing on Sept. 10. *Oasis Church*; 11 a.m.

FAMILY GRANDPARENTS DAY The Big Kids Accordion Band will perform the baseball poem Casey At Bat, and serenade grandparents with other tunes. Gene McGinty, an accordionist of note, also performs Casey Jones for his grandfather, Charlie McGinty, the last engineer of train 302. *Augusta Museum of History*; 2 p.m.; \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 children 6 to 18, free children 5 and younger; 560 Reynolds St.; 706.722.8454 AUGUSTAMUSEUM.ORG

EDUCATION CANAL DISCOVERY WALKS: FLY AWAY HOME See listing on Sept. 10. *Savannah Rapids Pavilion*; 3 p.m.

MONDAY

9.13



FOR KIDS HAVE FUN WITH CURIOUS GEORGE Celebrate the birthday of H.A. Rey, the author of the Curious George books and make a craft. *Headquarters Library*; 10 a.m.; free; 823 Telfair St.; 706.721.2600

EDUCATION GENEALOGY CLASS Genealogy for absolute beginners. Registration required. *Headquarters Library*; 2 p.m.; free; 823 Telfair St.; 706.721.2600

BUSINESS YPA Meeting Young Professionals of Augusta monthly meeting. *Paine College*; 5:30 p.m.; 1235 15th St. YPAUGUSTA.COM

FILM WIN WIN Rated R. *Headquarters Library*; 6:30 p.m.; free; 823 Telfair St.; 706.721.2600 ECGRL.ORG

the daily planner



[AFTER THE FACT: A REVIEW OF RUTHLESS]

If you are a fan of high camp, are a real insider with the world of musicals and the nature of their production or even if you simply desire an evening of having your ribs tickled in an expert manner AND you went to see Le Chat Noir's recent production of *Ruthless*, you discovered a howler of a spoof musical that had you, and many of the cast members, in stitches. The writing was more broad humor than it was sniping wit but, in a show like this, it worked.

If you did not catch the musical, do not delay in procuring tickets to the remainder of Le Chat's 2011-2012 season.

Deftly directed by Roy J. Lewis, with a fluent grasp of high-style and a real feeling for the nature of the theater, *Ruthless* flowed smoothly with nary a hitch. There was, amazingly, almost no time needed for scene changes and certainly never a dull moment in the full-throttle charge of this production. Stage manager Cory Paul Jarrell did a superb job of keeping the show on the road (and an obstacle-strewn road it was) and making the sets work to best advantage.

I sincerely regret that real pianos could not have been used. Rather two electronic instruments were played by Phillip Rogers Streetman, the musical director, and Dr. Wayne Lord. Electronic pianos are typically fine for ensemble work and, in accompaniment, these instruments showed their best side. But in terms of sustain, dynamics, tone and just plain soul, a real piano beats the electronic one by a mile. I hope that the next time a pianistic accompaniment is essayed, real instruments can be used. However, the score was ably handled by the two, with only a few problems because of the placement of the pianos: one across the stage from the other. Typically duo pianists work better with line-of-sight, but the stage layout in this production really needed the pianos as they were.

Judy Denmark (aka. Ginger Del Marco) was interpreted perfectly by Pam McCorkle. The lead role, Tina Denmark, was played to bratty perfection by Andrea Collins. Both women excelled in their acting and their pitch-perfect, well-projected delivery of musical material.

Though the show was conceived for an all-female cast, the role of Sylvia St. Croix has traditionally been taken by a man since Joel Vig gave the best audition for the original production. Staying true to form, Lewis cast an exuberant and skilled Jeff Pulliam, whose performance was perfect and convincing – one tended to forget there was a man onstage.

Christine Donovan's loutish depiction Louise Lerman, the first Pippi, was a screamer. Andrea Lum Freeman as grandmother and drama critic Lita Encore was superbly acerbic and dead-on in her role. Mary Beth Westbrook and Laurie Easterlin both added to the high standards of this performance, and Easterlin's handling of a bullhorn was supremely comic. Nicole Swanson played Eve to perfection.

The plot's twists-and-turns put the mind through a four-dimensional corkscrew and the "fourth wall" wound up covered with some pretty nasty graffiti. This was a production that held a mirror up to show business and the inside jokes were just as funny as to us hoi-polloi, not as well-versed in the culture of musical theater.

As I said, if you did not see this marvelous show for yourself, be *ruthless* in acquiring tickets to the next. For more information, call 706.722.3322 or LCAUGUSTA.COM | by JOSEF PATCHEN

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WEDNESDAY

9.14

FOR ADULTS SENIOR

LUNCHEON Reserve seat by Sept. 10. *Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History*; noon; \$10; 1116 Phillips St.; 706.724.3576

FILM SOUTHERN CIRCUIT: CONCRETE STEEL & PAINT

Program brings independent films and their makers to communities throughout the South. Read the article on page 39. *Morris Museum of Art*; 6 p.m.; free members, \$3 nonmembers; 1 10th St.; 706.828.3815 THEMORRIS.ORG

THURSDAY

9.15

LITERARY BROWN BAG

BOOK CLUB Discussion of *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin. *Columbia County Library*; 11:30 a.m.; free; 7022 Evans Towne Center Blvd., Evans; 706.863.1946

FILM STOP-MOTION ANIMATION WORKSHOP

Session teaches youth age 12 to 18 the basics of making a stop-motion video. Bring video camera and flash drive, if available, but no materials required to attend. *Columbia County Library*; 4 p.m.; free; 7022 Evans Towne Center Blvd., Evans; 706.447.7674 ECGRL.ORG

BUSINESS 2011

BUSINESS EXPO Annual event is a member trade show followed by Business After Hours and the announcement of the Small Business Person of the Year. *North Augusta Community Center*; 4 to 7 p.m.; free; 495 Brookside Ave., North Augusta; 803.279.2323

FRIDAY

9.16

FESTIVAL ARTS IN THE HEART

Read the article on page 26. *Augusta Common*; 5 to 9 p.m.; Weekend badges are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the gate. Children 10 and under are free; 800 block of Broad Street; 706.826.4702 ARTSINTHEHEART.COM

CONCERT MOONLIGHT MUSIC CRUISE: PAUL ROBERTS FRESH MUSIC ALL STARS

Group performs Broadway show tunes and standards from the American songbook aboard the Petersburg Boat. Bring aboard snacks and beverages and enjoy live music on a 1.5 hour tour of the canal. Reservations required. *Augusta Canal*; 6:30 p.m.; \$25; 1450 Greene St.; 706.823.0440 AUGUSTACANAL.COM

THEATRE THE 39 STEPS

See listing on Sept. 9. *Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre*; 7 p.m.

CLASSICAL

ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET

Read the article on page 15. *Grover C. Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre*; 7:30 p.m.; \$7 to \$25; 2500 Walton Way; 706.790.9274 HJCMS.ORG



CONCERT MARTY STUART AND HIS FABULOUS SUPERLATIVES

Part of the Southern Soul and Song Series presented by the Morris Museum of Art. *Imperial Theatre*; 7:30 p.m.; Series tickets (6 concerts) \$65 to \$185, individual tickets \$13 to \$37; 745 Broad St. IMPERIALTHEATRE.COM

THEATRE CHICAGO

See listing on Sept. 9. *Aiken Community Playhouse*; 8 p.m.

ONGOING

WEEK

WEDNESDAYS STORY

TIME FOR KIDS *Headquarters Library*; 10 a.m.; free; 823 Telfair St.; 706.721.2600 | *Appleby Branch Library*; 10:05 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; free; 2260 Walton Way; 706.736.6244 | *Columbia County Library*; 4 p.m.; free; 7022 Evans Towne Center Blvd., Evans; 706.863.1946 ECGRL.COM

THURSDAYS DRAMA CLUB

Fun skits and improv for ages 12 to 18. Join at any time. *Columbia County Library*; 4 p.m.; free; 7022 Evans Towne Center Blvd., Evans; 706.863.1946

THURSDAYS TANGO

LESSONS Learn to tango. *Casa Blanca Café*; 6 to 9 p.m.; free; 936 Broad St.; 706.504.3431 CASABLANCATIME.COM

THURSDAYS BACHATA

LESSONS Bachata is a genre of music that originated in the rural neighborhoods of the Dominican Republic. *A&E Dance Studio*; 7 p.m.; \$5; 1253 Broad St.; 706.828.8500

FRIDAYS SALSA LESSONS

A&E Dance Studio; 9 p.m.; free; 1253 Broad St.; 706.828.8500

SATURDAYS AUGUSTA MARKET AT THE RIVER

Augusta's outdoor market with fresh locally grown produce, bread, food and other products. *Eighth Street Bulkhead*; 8 a.m.; to 2 p.m.; free; 2 Eighth St.; 706.627.0128 THEAUGUSTAMARKET.COM

SATURDAYS HISTORIC TROLLEY TOUR

Includes a tour through the Augusta Museum of History and a driving tour through historic downtown Augusta. Reservations required at least 24 hours in advance. *Augusta Visitor Center*; 1 p.m.; \$12; 560 Reynolds St.; 706.724.4067

SATURDAYS FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD

Learn how slaves used astronomy and song to escape. *DuPont Planetarium, Ruth Patrick Science Education Center*; 8 p.m.; \$1 to \$4.50; 471 University Parkway, Aiken USCA.EDU

SATURDAYS DIGISTAR

LASER FANTASY Enjoy the soothing music and parade of shapes. *DuPont Planetarium*; 9 p.m.; \$1 to \$4.50; 471 University Parkway, Aiken; 803.641.3769

SUNDAYS SUNDAY

SKETCH Sketch in the galleries, with materials supplied by the museum. *The Morris Museum of Art*; 2 p.m.; free; 1 10th St.; 706.724.7501 THEMORRIS.ORG

ONGOING

ART



CIVIL WAR REDUX: PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIE ANNE WRIGHT

An extraordinary exhibition of sepia-toned gelatin silver print photographs, all shot with a pinhole (lensless) camera. Ends Sept. 4. *The Morris Museum of Art*; 1 10th St.; 706.724.7501

THE ART OF MILLINERY

Ends Oct. 29. *Arts and Heritage Center of North Augusta*; 100 Georgia Ave., North Augusta; 803.441.4380

THE ART OF JUDY GILLESPIE AND GINNY GRIFFIN

Ends Oct. 28. *Sacred Heart Cultural Center*; 1301 Greene St.; 706.826.4700



SARAH HOBBS Hobb's carefully staged photographs explore phobias and obsessive compulsive behaviors. Her Westobou Festival contributions will include photography exhibitions, lectures and the construction of an installation. Ends Oct. 8. *Mary S. Byrd Gallery of Art*; free; 2500 Walton Way WESTOBOUFESTIVAL.COM

EDWARD RICE

Exhibit features work of celebrated South Carolina artist best known for combining sense of family with the otherworldly. Ends Nov. 20. *Morris Museum of Art*; 1 10th St.; 706.724.7501

CAROLINA'S GOT ART Ends Oct. 29. *Arts & Heritage Center of North Augusta*; 100 Georgia Ave., North Augusta; 803.441.4380

CLAY ARTISTS OF THE SOUTHEAST Exhibit runs through Oct. 29. *Arts and Heritage Center of North Augusta*; 100 Georgia Ave., North Augusta; 803.441.4380

ART ROSENBAUM

Rosenbaum's distinctive style combines elements of classical figurative drawing, Expressionism and fold art. Opens Sept. 16 and ends Nov. 7. *Morris Museum of Art*; 1 10th St.; 706.724.7501

THE EBONY LEGACY

Highlights the contributions and achievements of African-Americans who have lived and worked diligently to help make Augusta what it is today. Ends Oct. 31. *Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History*; 1116 Phillips St.; 706.724.3576

the daily planner



[COMING SOON: FLESH AND THE DEVIL]

On Friday, Sept. 23, Augustans will be granted another opportunity for this experience from the Sacred Heart Cultural Center, with their presentation of the silent classic *Flesh and the Devil*.

The title of the film seems to match and the subject matter complements those elements of silent film that might seem to today's audiences somewhat noir-esque but nonetheless add degrees of "color" in their own sense. *Flesh and the Devil*, originally released in 1926, is a tragic romance that stars early-film beauty Greta Garbo as Felicitas von Rhaden, a femme-fatale who comes between childhood friends Count Leo von Harden (silent-era heartthrob John Gilbert) and Ulrich von Etz (Lars Hanson). As the *Book of Common Prayer*-inspired namesake might suggest, the film tells what is powerful in its silent incarnation: a story of betrayal, lust, redemption and love (though not necessarily in that order).

A hovering, almost eerie and smothering blackness with vague and soft edges surrounds all sides of the screen; but that blackness haunts everything onscreen, and everything onscreen is mostly dimly lit to begin with.

Today, the actors might look like elegant vampires – they are mostly pale, but with darkened lips and bright, expressive, lined eyes. They live and move about in a fantastical world of gray and sable, sometimes bright, sometimes overcast. They seem to move sharply and quickly, like a jolted yet smooth, choreographed stiltedness: a swift angular dance.

The film is old, and the tiniest marks of wear and maybe of age (though those marks are probably part of the film, seen by its first audiences more than 90 years ago, before the era of THX) dance about the screen at the speed of light and sound, but this only adds texture. No voices are heard. Save for big, black, abrupt dialogue cards that somehow gracefully intrude on occasion, all communication between the characters must be deciphered by way of context, body language, and eyes – so many expressive eyes. This was real acting, one wants to say. The only audio is from within the theater, an organ accompanies silent screen and a strange ambience is created, almost as intimate as a play: There is no internal soundtrack to help the audience know when to laugh or to cry, to gasp or to cheer, or to hold on to their seats. The only music to follow the movie is the mighty, bold resounding of the organ in the room. The untrained eye and ear might make the mistake that this overwhelming darkness reflects the film's tone – or would it be a mistake?

There is something haunting about silent films, probably because they cut off one of the senses and so everything else must be evocative – such as the set design, body and facial language, lighting, editing and, of course, a really good story – and, in some sense, must be magnified in a way that one could not see even in theater. This makes for a profound filmgoing experience.

The soundtrack for the evening will be provided by organist Ron Carter and the film will follow a lecture by Jan Wahl. Opt for the La-Z-Boy seating; relaxing and getting "too" comfortable will no doubt intensify the "hauntedness" of the silent movie experience.

WHAT Silent Movie Night featuring *Flesh and the Devil*

WHERE Sacred Heart Cultural Arts Center | 1301 Greene St.

WHEN Friday, Sept. 23 | Lecture and Reception: 6 p.m. | Film: 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS \$15 general admission or \$45 La-Z-Boy seating

MORE 706.826.4700 or SACREDHEARTAUGUSTA.ORG

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HELEN MIRREN IN THE DEBT

Labor Day's box office features a Helen Mirren fronted espionage thriller that has been awaiting distribution since late 2009. **THE DEBT** is based on an Israeli film (*Ha-Hov*) about a 1966 mission in which three young Mossad agents captured a sadistic surgeon accused of Nazi war crimes. The surgeon, it turned out, was a master of manipulation and his antics took a toll on the agents who were also dealing with their own turbulent love triangle. The film fast forwards 30 years to show the agents – all of whom are considered heroes, but are hiding painful secrets about their mission – struggling with old wounds. Sam Worthington (*Avatar*) and Tom Wilkinson also star in this offering from John Madden, who previously directed *Shakespeare in Love*. For those experiencing déjà vu, Oscar winner Mirren (*The Queen*) also played an aging agent in last year's *Red*.

The Weinstein Company is trying to trick viewers into thinking the content in their sci-fi thriller **APOLLO 18** is actually found footage from a NASA 1973 moon mission that was kept secret from the public. The astronauts (unknown actors) grapple with odd life-threatening phenomena while on the moon. Sadly, some moviegoers will inevitably believe this to be a legitimate conspiracy. Spanish director Gonzalo Lopez-Gallego's first American film attempts to recreate successes of other first-person perspective/found footage horror successes like *The Blair Witch Project* and *Paranormal Activity*.

Last year, unsuspecting attractive young people ventured into the water for summer fun only to fall victim to flesh-eating sea creatures in *Piranha 3D*. A similar premise aims to vilify sharks where *Jaws* left off in **SHARK NIGHT 3D**. This horror film comes from David Ellis, the director of *Snakes on a Plane* and *The Final Destination*. Sara Paxton and Katharine McPhee star.



SHARK NIGHT 3D

Sept. 9 openers include an ensemble thriller from Steven Soderbergh (*Ocean's Eleven*, *Erin Brockovich*) about a mysterious pandemic spreading quickly across the globe. A lethal virus spreads through a single touch or brief contact in **CONTAGION**, causing it to rack up victims and fuel paranoia while the Center for Disease Control tries to find the source and the cure. The impressive cast includes Kate Winslet, Matt Damon, Marion Cotillard, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law and Laurence Fishburne.



CONTAGION

Contact sports and rivalry among brothers made for great entertainment with last year's Oscar nominee for Best Picture, *The Fighter*. Hollywood is taking another jab at brotherly competition, this time in the world of Mixed Martial Arts, with **WARRIOR**. Tom Hardy (*Inception*) plays Tommy, a decorated war hero who winds up in a championship battle with his estranged brother, a teacher struggling to support his family (Joel Edgerton). Nick Nolte co-stars as their ex-fighter father, a man whose long gone glory days come in handy while training Tommy in this testosterone-driven drama from writer-director Gavin O'Connor.

Perhaps Adam Sandler has outgrown the man-child roles that made him a star, but his Happy Madison Productions is still fond of the comic sub-genre. In **BUCKY LARSON: BORN TO BE A STAR**, Nick Swardson (*Reno 911!*) plays the title character, an awkward loser who ventures to Hollywood to join the adult film industry after discovering his parents were porn stars. Sandler and Swardson co-wrote the script along with Allen Covert, who also appears in this and many other Sandler flicks. Christina Ricci, Don Johnson and Stephen Dorff co-star as director Tom Brady (*The Hot Chick*) takes the reins for his third low-concept comedy.

by **MARIAH GARDNER, MOVIE GURU**



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WEDNESDAY, AUG. 31

WARREN ELAM @ Manuel's Bread Café | 8 p.m.

COMEDY ZONE: Shawn Jones + Jamie Morgan @ Somewhere in Augusta | 8 p.m.; \$8



JIM PERKINS @ Carolina Ale House | 9 p.m.

LO FIDELITY @ Wild Wing Café | 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 1

COREY SMITH + RACHEL FARLEY @ Riverwalk Amphitheatre | 6:30 p.m. \$22.50 to \$27.50

DJ SPINDRUM + DJ RUSTY BONHAM @ 1102 Bar & Grill | 8 p.m.

FRONTIER RUCKUS @ Sky City | 10:30 p.m.; \$5

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2

FIRST FRIDAY '80s NIGHT with new art by Billy S @ Sky City | 8 p.m.; free until 10 p.m., \$5 after

THE KMACKS @ 1102 Bar & Grill | 9 p.m.

PRETTY PETTY Tom Petty tribute @ Coyote's | 9 p.m.

MIKE GARRET'S BDAY BASH @ The Playground Bar | 9 p.m.

UNCROWNED + FALSE FLAG Celebrate Rockshow Mike's Birthday @ The Playground Bar | 9 p.m.

DANCE MUSIC FOR OLD PEOPLE @ Metro Pub & Coffeehouse | 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3

BOB MARLEY TRIBUTE featuring Ever-G + Crucial Fiya + Lady D @ Sky City | 8 p.m.; \$10 advance, \$15 day of show

VIFOLLY + HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS @ Sector 7G | 8 p.m.



DROWNING POOL WITH SPECIAL GUESTS BURN HALO + ECHOES THE FALL @ Coyote's | 8 p.m.; \$15 to \$18

DJ SPINDRUM @ 1102 Bar & Grill | 9 p.m.

FRESH SOUNDS Dance Party @ The Playground Bar | 9 p.m.

JAR @ Metro Pub & Coffeehouse | 10 p.m.

CHICKASAW MUDD PUPPIES @ Still Water Taproom | 10 p.m.; \$5

MONDAY, SEPT. 5

THE DEAD PEOPLE + KOKO BEWARE @ Soul Bar | 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7

COMEDY ZONE: Mo Alexander + Justin McClure @ Somewhere in Augusta | 8 p.m.; \$8

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8

KARAOKE @ Coyote's | 8 p.m. free before 9 p.m., \$5 after

JOHN KOLBECK @ Metro Pub & Coffeehouse | 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9

THE MAGISTRATE + DAYS OF THE NEW @ Sector 7G | 8 p.m.

BASS ALL-STARS featuring 12 Gauge + 69 Boyz + Splack Pack + LA Sno + DJ Kiki @ Sky City | 8 p.m.; \$15 to \$20

DJ TRIZ @ 1102 Bar & Grill | 9 p.m.

PRETTY PETTY Tom Petty tribute @ The Playground Bar | 9 p.m.

THE SOUTHERN MELTDOWN BAND @ Shannon's Food & Spirits | 9 p.m.



THE UNMENTIONABLES @ Somewhere in Augusta | 10 p.m.

BORDER BASH EXTRAVAGANZA @ Metro Pub & Coffeehouse | 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

REFUGE @ Cotton Patch | 7 p.m.

CAROLINA BOYS + OUTSHYNE + DOUG McCORMICK @ Coyote's | 8 p.m.; \$7

LARRY FRICK @ The Country Club | 8 p.m.

THE HYPYSYS @ 1102 Bar & Grill | 9 p.m.

ALMOST FAMOUS @ Wild Wing Café | 9 p.m.

FRESH SOUNDS Dirty Girl Dance Party @ The Playground Bar | 9 p.m.

LOYO OPEN MIC FINALS SHOWCASE @ Metro Pub & Coffeehouse | 9 p.m.

STEREO REFORM @ Surrey Tavern | 10 p.m.

THE DIRTY GUV'NAHS + PONDEROSA @ Sky City | 10 p.m.; \$5



MONDAY, SEPT. 12



ADELITAS WAY + EMPHATIC + EYE EMPIRE @ Sky City | 10 p.m.; \$9.51 to \$12

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14

COMEDY ZONE: Tim Statum + Big B @ Somewhere in Augusta | 8 p.m.; \$8

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15

OPEN MIC NIGHT + P.E.A.C.E. ART SHOW hosted by Matthew Acosta @ Sky City | 8 p.m., free



JASON STURGEON @ Coyote's | 9 p.m.

THE BASTARD SUNS @ The Loft | 9 p.m.

CHRIS NDETI @ Metro Pub & Coffeehouse | 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16

THE ATOM BLONDE @ The Playground Bar | 9 p.m.

DADDY GRACE @ Somewhere in Augusta | 9:30 p.m.



WHISKEY GENTRY @ Still Water Taproom | 10 p.m.; \$5

GROOVESTAIN @ The Loft | 10 p.m.

FRESH SOUNDS featuring various DJs @ Sky City | 10 p.m.

SIBLING STRING @ Metro Pub & Coffeehouse | 10 p.m.

WEEKLY

TUESDAYS TRIVIA WITH CHARLES @ Somewhere in Augusta | 8 p.m.

TWISTED TRIVIA @ The Playground Bar | 8 p.m.

TRIVIA @ Soirre | 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS KRAZY KARAOKE @ The Playground Bar | 8 p.m.

LOYO OPEN MIC @ Metro Pub & Coffeehouse | 9 p.m.

THURSDAYS OPEN MIC @ The Playground Bar | 8 p.m.

FRIDAYS 3 SIDES OF JAZZ @ Doubletree Hotel | 6 p.m.



→ THE PROFILER: IMPULSE RIDE

MEMBERS Ruskin Yeargain, vocals and bass; Bill Irwin, guitar

GENRE Alternative Rock/Acoustic Rock

RECORDINGS *Corn Dog Money* (1998) and *Residue* (2001)

HISTORY When it comes to musicians that have emerged from the Augusta area, a few names pop up right off the bat. One of those is Impulse Ride, formed by Ruskin Yeargain, Bill Irwin and then-drummer Russell Jarrett in 1988, just before the emergence of alternative and grunge on mainstream radio. By the early 1990s, Augusta's Channel Z helped launch alternative music on the local scene, including Impulse Ride who had bumper stickers on what seemed like every car in the city. The band has endured through two decades.

Last year marked the first time Yeargain and Irwin played the Moonlight Cruise on the Augusta Canal as an acoustic duo, which has "a cool vibe" as Yeargain puts it.

QUIRKS Yeargain plays a few solo shows each month around town. He is also in the '80s-style band Jar and plays bass for Tara Scheyer and the Mud Puppy Band. Yeargain has also worked on the 12 Bands of Christmas since 2003, often helping bands produce music.

HORIZON Impulse Ride is in the process of recording a third album since Yeargain does not want the band to go more than a decade without a new one in hand: "We have about twelve songs; we just have to get the time to finish it."

Yeargain and John Kolbeck recently wrote a song in memory of Troy Hodges, the bartender at Joe's Underground who passed away on June 3. The song will soon be available on the Joe's jukebox.

"This was the first time I was moved to write a song like this," Yeargain said. "I nailed who Troy was in the song."

HEAR THE BAND Impulse Ride plays the first fall concert on the Augusta Canal's Moonlight Music Cruise on Sept. 2 at 6:30 pm. Jar performs Sept. 3 at Metro Pub & Coffeehouse and on Sept. 23 at Somewhere in Augusta.

D.I.Y. Look for Ruskin Yeargain and Impulse Ride on Facebook.

the profiler is **DINO LULL**

WEEKLY

1102 DOWNTOWN BAR @ 1102 Broad St.; 706.364.4075

CAROLINA ALE HOUSE @ 203 Robert C. Daniel Jr. Parkway; 762.333.0019

THE COUNTRY CLUB @ 2834 Washington Road; 706.364.1862

COYOTE'S @ 2512 Peach Orchard Road; 706.560.9245

DOUBLETREE HOTEL @ 2651 Perimeter Parkway; 706.855.8100

THE LOFT @ 917 Broad St.; 706.955.7954

MANUELS BREAD CAFE @ 505 Railroad Ave., North Augusta; 803.380.1323

METRO PUB & COFFEEHOUSE @ 1054 Broad St.; 706.722.6468

THE PLAYGROUND BAR @ 978 Broad St.; 706.724.2232

SECTOR 7G @ 631 Ellis St.; 706.496.5900

SHANNON'S FOOD & SPIRITS @ 1157 Broad St.; 706.945.1270

SKY CITY @ 1157 Broad St.; 706.945.1270

SOIRÉE @ 231 The Alley, Aiken; 803.226.0097

SOUL BAR @ 984 Broad St.; 706.724.8880

SOMEWHERE IN AUGUSTA @ 2820 Washington Road; 706.739.0002

STILLWATER TAP ROOM @ 974 Broad St.; 706.826.9857

SURREY TAVERN @ 471 Highland Ave.; 706.736.1221

WILD WING CAFE @ 3035 Washington Road; 706.364.9453

Submit event listings to events@vergelive.com for inclusion in Nighlife.



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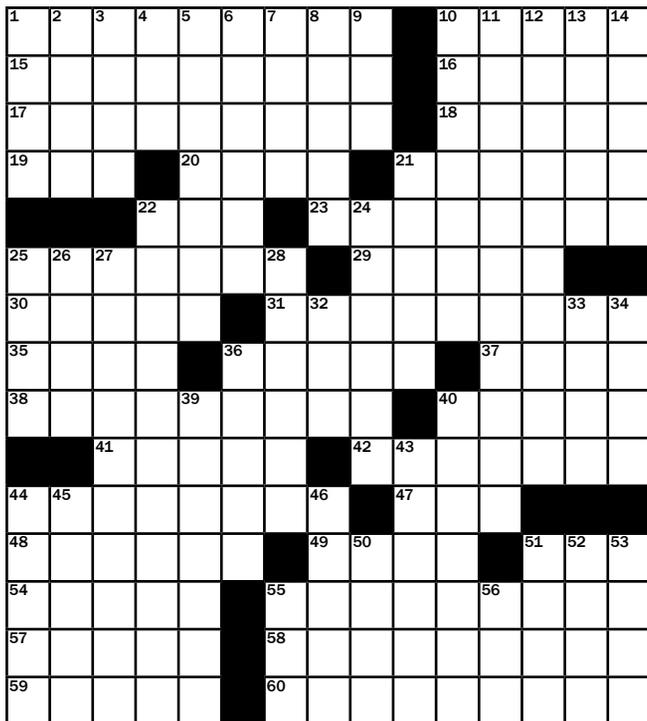
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Edited by Will Shortz | by Tom Heilman | No. 0723

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ACROSS | 41 Composition of many sports courts | 13 Native of the central Caucasus |
| 1 It's a blast for some balloonists | 42 "A dish best served cold" | 14 What thoughts may become |
| 10 "This is a disaster!" | 44 A dish best served cold | 21 Ruin ... or great success |
| 15 Asian symbols of wisdom | 47 Waterloo marshal | 22 Plagued |
| 16 Like longship sailors | 48 N.H.L. team and former N.F.L. team | 24 Pig, at times |
| 17 A dodger might cook one | 49 Casino action | 25 Previously archaic? |
| 18 Begin some revising | 51 Pec pic, perhaps | 26 She resigned after the Yom Kippur War |
| 19 Maker of life-and-death decisions, briefly | 54 Courier alternative | 27 Much too bright |
| 20 Provider of a hot spot at a coffee shop? | 55 Bit of décor at Trader Vic's | 28 Giving a hoot? |
| 21 Responded to wisely | 57 Change around the Thames | 32 Biblical mount where Aaron died |
| 22 Alexander's need | 58 What a ham may use | 33 PC image acronym |
| 23 They may be shared during a show | 59 Double-___ | 34 Beau's buy |
| 25 Prohibition | 60 Hypnotized | 36 Design info |
| 29 Offices may require them | DOWN | 39 Like many a fishing line |
| 30 Town council president, in Canada | 1 "Grand" or "petit" dance move | 40 Relatively sylphlike |
| 31 Big mystery during the summer of 1980 | 2 Ancient rival of Assyria | 43 Get on base? |
| 35 Dish component | 3 Cell composition | 44 Come unglued |
| 36 Bent to do nothing | 4 Silver ___, Md. (Wash. suburb) | 45 Hit the waves? |
| 37 String shortener | 5 It was Obama's self-professed favorite TV series | 46 Giant in astronomy |
| 38 Become known | 6 Place on a scale | 50 Soup thickener |
| 40 "Friendly" things, in old ads | 7 Sufficient, informally | 51 1982 high-tech film |
| | 8 Two of hearts? | 52 Plug possibilities |
| | 9 ___ Explorer (Web browser) | 53 What you used to be? |
| | 10 Here | 55 "That's more than I wanted to know," in brief |
| | 11 Baloney | 56 Andean vegetable |
| | 12 Yard stick? | |

Find the solution to this puzzle at VERGELIVE.BLOGSPOT.COM

Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Share tips: NYTIMES.COM/WORDPLAY.

THE VOICE COMES SOUTH

On a hot Friday in August, a handful of people left the city of Augusta to drive two-and-a-half hours away for that once-in-a-lifetime chance at being famous. Not just "big fish in a small pond" famous, but nationally famous – we are talking about getting on television.

Pop singer Christina Aguilera, R&B Doo Wop singer Cee-Lo Green, Maroon 5 lead singer Adam Levine and country superstar Blake Shelton are the celebrity judges on the newest singing show sensation, NBC's *The Voice*. The show came through Atlanta on Aug. 5 to audition singers for the show.

The premise of *The Voice* is that the celebrity judges have their backs to the would-be singers and judge them primarily on the prowess of their vocal chords. This manner of judging is a revolutionary concept designed to erase the image problems facing other contestant-based shows such as *American Idol*, *America's Got Talent* and *Star Search*.

People from all walks of life migrated to the audition. Young, old, male, female – singers were lined up around the block, nervously twisting their audition passes, muttering prayers that they would be accepted and running through the songs they hoped would wow the judges.

However, the judges of this particular talent search were not Cee-Lo, Christina, Adam or Blake, and nor was the judging blind. The panel was composed of various Atlanta music scene-sters, weeding through the riff-raff, culling out the best and brightest from the hundreds of people who desire fame.

The line finally began to inch forward and singers filed in, about 10 at a time. Gathered together, the singers had a chance to meet one another and swap stories.

"One woman was casting spells," said deep-voiced Chris Jackson, the winner of a recent karaoke contest at The Loft.

Others from that same karaoke contest also showed up, at least one of them garnering a "yes" from the judges in Atlanta for *The Voice*. She will move on to the next round of auditions, each one whittling away more and more people from every city across the country until the last remaining 20 or so singers wind up on the show.



A middle-aged woman who sang "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay," which she said was anathema to the judges, claimed that a streak of pink in her hair would have given her the image the judges wanted to see.

Jackson said another contestant, who tried out for *American Idol* a few years ago, claimed that *Idol* was a sham.

"I was beat out by Winnie the Pooh," the woman said.

But what about *The Voice*? Is it rigged? According to some who tried out, it seemed that the judges picked based on how frumpy the contestant looked. Why? So when Adam, Cee-Lo, Christina or Blake turn around, they find the killer voice coming out of the most unlikely of bodies. Sounds like another sham.

Some found they had nothing the judges wanted. About one in 100 were asked to sing a few more songs to show that they had the right stuff. The rest, if they were lucky, received a "we'll call you before 8 p.m. if we need you."

Watching the dejected faces of failed contestants, one thing rang true: Everyone there had talent and was a star in their own right, but only a select few truly possessed that something the network was looking for. Was it skill or was it image? That might depend on whether you went to the next level or went home with your tail tucked between your legs in the hopes of making it next year.

by DINO LULL



a parting shot

THE AUGUSTA BALLET PRESENTS MOMIX: BOTANICA AS PART OF WESTOBOU

We are getting ready for Westobou. Check out our next issue, Sept. 14, for a deeper look into the variety of arts events that comprise this year's 10-day-long festival. In the meantime, grab your tickets to Momix: Botanica. This breathtaking adventure into the fantastical promises to be a highlight of our month. | photo DON PERDUE



The next issue of VERGE hits the newsstands on

SEPT. 14

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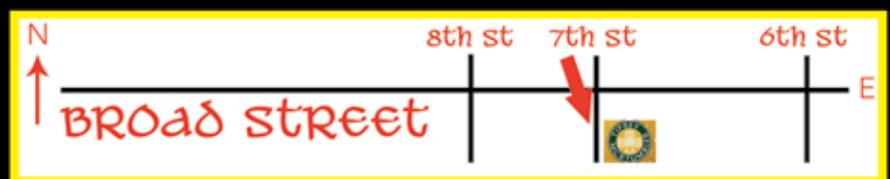
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