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New Year, Old Favorites at the Averitt

“Gimme Three Steps,” “What’s Your Name,” “Saturday Night Special,” “Sweet Home Alabama,” “Freebird,” and, of course, “Statesboro Blues.”

The New Year begins with some old-school rock as **Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute band Skynfolks** will help you stroll down memory lane in the Emma Kelly Theater on January 8.

If you missed this bunch of talented musicians when they first appeared on the Jan Brown Anderson stage in late 2019, you definitely don’t want to miss them now because they have only gotten better.

“Authentic”...when it comes to the Tribute Band world, that word seems to be used a bit more than it should be but with Skynfolks, it’s richly deserved.

This Atlanta-based band was formed as a result of some very devoted musicians who wanted to bring a little more to the game than what they’d seen of Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute bands. They also knew how discriminating and tough real Skynyrd fans can be, so they set their performance bar high...really high.

Brought together by luck, fate, devotion and drive, the members of Skynfolks pledged to create a band that would exactly reproduce the music of Lynyrd Skynyrd. No improvisation allowed -- every part had to be played exactly like the original recordings. Constant practice honed the music like a razor. What emerged when they finished has never been done since the days of the original Skynyrd lineup. The performance will feature totally authentic, accurate renditions of the music from the first five Lynyrd Skynyrd albums.

Skynfolks is exclusively sponsored by **Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon, LLP**.

The art of **Tameka Phillips** will be on display and on sale in the Averitt Main Gallery beginning with a 5:30 p.m. artist’s reception on the 13th.

A majestic mountain scene is the subject of this month’s **Paint-n-Party**, sponsored by borotakeout.com, which will be on 14th from 6-8 p.m. at the Roxie Remley Center for Fine Arts on East Vine Street. No experience is necessary! Just come and have fun with friends and your favorite drink! (21+ to drink). The price includes a 16 x 20 canvas and art supplies that you will use to create your very own masterpiece. Our instructor will guide you through the steps to paint your version of this neat scene.

On January 21, the annual **Behold Here Cometh The Dreamer** event will feature an evening of African-American poetry, music and spoken word performances in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Held this year in the Emma Kelly Theater, **Behold** features guest speaker, Dr. Stacy Smallwood, an Associate Professor of Community Health in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and an affiliate faculty in the women’s Gender and Sexuality studies program at Georgia Southern University. **Behold** promises to be a stirring tribute to the late civil rights leader.

Organizer Mical Whitaker has structured the event to give young writers/rappers a chance to perform their works. Behold is exclusively sponsored by **Attorney Francys Johnson, Davis Bozeman Johnson Law**.

The following night (Jan. 22) will be the comedy of **Zoltan Kaszas**.

Kaszas is best known for his Dry Bar Comedy Special "Cat Jokes" a clip of which has over 60 million views on Facebook. Zoltan has three full specials up on YouTube "Cat Jokes," "Modern Male," and "Dancin' With Drunks." All three have combined total of over six million views on YouTube. He is also heard regularly

on SiriusXM, has performed at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival and is the winner of The Seattle International Comedy Competition.

This will be Zoltan's second visit to Statesboro. He headlined Barefoot Comedy on the same date exactly three years ago. Collin Moulin of Barefoot Comedy will be the opening act for **The Comedy of Zoltan Kaszas**, which is sponsored by **Queensborough National Bank and Trust**.

Local entrepreneur and rocker **Greg Kearney** brings his **Parts & Labor** band to the Emma Kelly Stage on January 29.

Based out of the musical hotbed of Macon, GA, Parts & Labor have been offering up its blend of rock n' roll, soul, and blues since the spring of 2019. Heavily influenced by bands such as the Allman Brothers, The Band, the Grateful Dead, and plenty of funk, blues, and jazz along the way, Parts & Labor have been creating quite a buzz in Macon and beyond.

The rockin' good time is sponsored by **Matthew Tyson-State Farm, Broucek and Colson Attorneys at Law, Southern Exchange, A Smokin' Place, Bites Casual Dining & Synovus**.

The Averitt Center offers a wide range of classes for children, teenagers and adults in dance, theater, visual arts and music. The third session of the Visual Art and Theater courses begins January 11 while there are new and existing youth and adult classes in Dance.

All meet in the late afternoon or early evening (homeschool classes meeting in the late mornings or early afternoons) at one of the three Averitt campuses and meet once or more per week. Classes are grouped by age and ability level. Class tuition varies and members do receive discounts.

To purchase tickets and enroll in classes or workshops, simply visit the Box Office at the Averitt Center Main Gallery (open 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday through Friday), call 912-212-2787 or go online at www.averittcenterforthearts.org for more information.