

TRI-COUNTY CONNECTOR



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Treutlen County Board of Assessors adjust property values to comply with Georgia Department of Revenue standards

By **LOGAN REYNOLDS**
Staff Reporter

The Treutlen County Board of Assessors announced on June 18 the adjustment of property values in the county for the 2026 tax year in order to comply with the standards of the Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR).

"The Board of Assessors has a legal responsibility to ensure that all property is assessed fairly and uniformly," said the board in a statement. "While we understand that valuation increases may be concerning to property owners, these adjustments are necessary to maintain compliance with Georgia law, ensure fairness among taxpayers and protect funding for our schools and local services."

Whether a county is properly assessing local property values is determined by the annual sales ratio study, which compares assessed values to actual property sales. According to the Treutlen County Board of Assessors, "recent studies indicated that Treutlen County's sales ratio had dropped below 36 percent, demonstrating that property assessments were not keeping pace with current market values."

To correct the sales ratio, the board reviewed property values across Treutlen County and implemented adjustments to bring values in line with state requirements, fair market values and the

changes in the local real estate market. However, increases to property values do not necessarily mean an increase in property taxes. Tax bills are calculated using a number of factors, including assessed values, applicable exemptions and millage rates set by county authorities, school boards and other taxing authorities.

If necessary, these taxing authorities may adjust their respective millage rates, lowering the amount of property taxes levied towards residents while still collecting enough revenue to fund their budgets. Alternatively, they can implement property tax ex-

emptions or other revenue methods, such as sales taxes, to ease the financial burden on residents.

Residents will receive assessment notices in the mail in accordance with Georgia law. If any residents believe the assessment does not accurately reflect their property's value as of January 1, 2026, they may file an appeal during the time period listed on the notice.

"The Treutlen County Board of Assessors remains committed to maintaining a fair, equitable and accurate tax digest for all property owners," said the board.



SNAPSHOTS: PUPPET SHOW FUN

The Wheeler County Public Library hosted puppeteer and ventriloquist Marc Griffiths on June 24 as part of the library's Summer Reading Program event lineup /LOGAN REYNOLDS

SNAPSHOTS: MAGIC IN THE AIR

The Montgomery County Public Library hosted a performance from magician Bill Packard on June 24 as part of the library's Summer Reading Program event lineup. Packard performed several magic tricks before being joined by library manager Kelly Stephens in a dinosaur costume /LOGAN REYNOLDS



Periodical — Mail Label

Local insurance agencies merge for Treutlen County service

By **LOGAN REYNOLDS**
Staff Reporter

Two local insurance agencies have partnered to create a merged insurance agency based in Treutlen County.

"The Mount Vernon Insurance Agency and the Premier Insurance Group have joined forces to provide auto, business and homeowner insurance for Treutlen County residents," wrote Mount Vernon Insurance Agency owner Marlen Ethredge in a statement.

This merged insurance agency, operated by Premier, will provide residents with multiple options for insurance providers, including Auto Owner, Progressive, Allstate and Traveler, among others.

"Their main purpose is to provide expert insurance coverage with downhome service," wrote

Ethredge.

According to Premier's owner, Cole Strickland, the collaboration stemmed from his desire to expand his insurance offerings. Previously, Premier only offered life and health insurance, and many of Strickland's conversations with customers involved discussions about home and auto insurance.

Strickland would recommend his customers to other insurance agencies for those services, but after Hurricane Helene, he began searching for an agency to collaborate with to offer those services directly. This search led him to Ethredge and the Mount Vernon agency, which "seemed like a good fit" as Ethredge's agency specialized in home and auto insurance.

"They've been nothing but good help so far," said Strickland.

Both Mount Vernon Insurance Agency and Premier Insurance Group's owners have years of experience operating their respective businesses and servicing the surrounding communities. Ethredge has 33 years of experience owning and operating the Mount Vernon agency, while Strickland has eight years of experience in insurance.

The new business will set up shop at 793 Second Street in Soperton, directly across the street from Dennard's Drugs and Hardware Store, which Strickland said served as inspiration for the new office as a "one stop shop."

With the aim of giving customers "one centralized location," the new office will be composed of two halves: the right side will comprise Premier's specialty of life and health insurance, while the left will

offer home and auto insurance.

According to Ethredge, the new office is currently salted to operate under the Premier Insurance Agency name as to avoid any rivalry between Soperton and Mount Vernon, although another name may be chosen.

A grand opening for the new establishment will be held in July, although no specific date has been set. Door prizes and free lunch will be available to attendees.

"We're excited to get going in Soperton," said Strickland.

CORRECTION

In last week's edition, the incorrect zip code was displayed in the Mount Vernon Insurance Agency ad. The correct zip code is 30457.



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OBITUARIES



Columbus C. Pullen Jr.

Mr. Columbus C. Pullen Jr., 85, beloved husband of Ann Foskey Pullen, of East Dublin, passed away peacefully on Thursday morning, June 18, 2026 at their home.

A native and lifelong resident of Laurens County, he was the youngest of two children and only son born to the late Columbus C. "Bay" Pullen Sr. and Louise Johnson Pullen. After graduating from East Laurens High School he began a long career working in the construction industry as an electrician and heating and air conditioning mechanic. He worked with several companies before joining the Veteran's Administration. In 1959 he married his childhood sweetheart, Thelma Ann Foskey and they began a journey together that lasted 67 years. Upon joining the V.A. he worked in the maintenance department for thirty three years, until retiring in 2006. While working his regular daily job, he continued farming; which was his true love and passion. Even after working all day and farming into the night, he oftentimes would leave his house and go to help someone needing heat or air conditioning for their family; many times providing needed parts and his labor at no cost.

Affectionately referred to by his grandkids as "PePa", "Grandpa" and "Paw Paw"; they will each remember the life lessons and values that he instilled in each of them by the life he lived and examples that he set. Miss Ann recalls restaurant visits that after looking over the menu he would simply say; "I'll Have What She's Having." He was always thankful. Even through his illness, he always thanked God, in prayer, for what he was doing and what he was going to do.

He enjoyed hunting, watching the wild birds in their yard and keeping their feeders full of seed, trips to the Smoky Mountains, train rides and visiting Dollywood in Pigeon Forge.

Mr. and Mrs. Pullen have been longtime members of Pleasant Springs Baptist Church in East Dublin where he taught Sunday School for over 50 years.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two grandchildren, Jed and Gracie Pullen.

Mr. Pullen leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Ann Foskey Pullen; their children, Janet Beacham (Kevin), Jeffery Pullen, Marsha Warnock (Ricky) and Chris Pullen (Mandy), all of East Dublin; his sister, Betty Carter, also of East Dub-

lin; sister in law, Faye Ricks, Soperton, Ga.; five grandchildren: Casey Green (Timothy), Amy Kinchen (Chad), Josh Warnock (Ashley), Jacob Warnock and Gage Pullen; five great-grandchildren; Colby Kinchen, Holton Kinchen, Dylan Green, Hannah Green and Cullen Warnock; cousins, Jeanette Ban, McRae, Eudell Sanders, Dublin, Ruby Nell Black, Dublin, Elsie Black of Dublin; his constant pet companions and countless close friends and those that he has helped throughout his lifetime.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 22, at the Pleasant Springs Baptist Church in East Dublin with Pastor Timothy (Cricket) Green and Pastor Al Soles officiating.

Mr. Pullen was laid to rest in the Pleasant Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

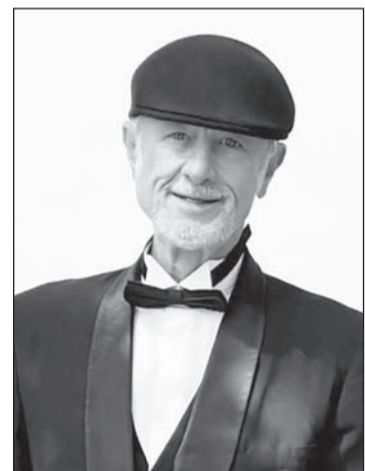
Serving as pallbearers were: Dale Fulghum, Clint Thigpen, Gage Pullen, Colby Kinchen, Josh Warnock, Jacob Warnock, Dylan Green and Anthony Carter.

His family received friends on Sunday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Sammons Funeral Home in Soperton.

The family wishes to extend a special thank you to the staff of Georgia Hospice of Dublin that provided compassion and care to Mr. Pullen during his illness.

Please share a memory, leave a condolence message and sign the online guest register at www.sammonsfuneralhome.com

Sammons Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated Since 1917. Call (912) 529-4411 or (478) 455-0671.



Kenneth Laverne "Kenny" Phillips

Mr. Kenneth Laverne "Kenny" Phillips, 71, beloved husband of the late Cathy Anita Baggett Phillips of Statesboro, Georgia passed away on Tuesday evening, June 23, 2026 in Dublin, Georgia.

Born in Soperton, he was the third of five children born to the late Laverne Lonzo Phillips and Mary Ida Carpenter Phillips. He grew up in Treutlen County where he attended Treutlen County High School before attending Brewton Parker College.

He later attended the University of Georgia where he graduated with his Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Economics. After graduating he remained in Athens where he worked with the United States Department of Agriculture as a Farm Loan Officer. In 1983 he married, Laurens County native, Cathy Anita Baggett. They remained in Clarke County until he accepted a position in Statesboro, Georgia in 2000. He continued work-

ing with the USDA and serving the farmers of Bulloch County until retiring in 2010. His wife passed away in January of 2019.

He was an avid outdoorsman. He loved farm work, picking up pecans, boiling peanuts, collecting stuff, following the Georgia Bulldogs and spoiling his grandson; who affectionately referred to him as "The Dollar Man". Unbeknownst to many, he possessed a special ability for composing poetry.

He and his family have been longtime members of the Soperton United Methodist Church.

Kenny is preceded in death by his parents and wife of 35 five years.

He leaves behind, their daughter, Kendra Phillips Smith (Jonathan), Savannah, Ga., siblings, Karen Martin, Soperton, Ga., Connie Waller (David), Cathy Massey (C.W.) and Kirk Phillips (Devra), all of Covington, Georgia; his beloved and only grandchild, Jay; a special friend, Laura Davis and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at a later date as Kenny is laid to rest beside his wife in the Westview Cemetery.

Please share a memory, leave a condolence message and sign the online guest register at www.sammonsfuneralhome.com.

Sammons Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated Since 1917. Call (912) 529-4411 or (478) 455-0671.



June M. Bromley

Mrs. June M. Bromley, 95, beloved wife of the late Edwin Lewis Bromley, formerly of Hephzibah, Georgia passed away on Sunday morning, June 28, 2026 at the Treutlen County Health and Rehabilitation Center in Soperton, Georgia.

Born in Augusta, she is the last living of four children, born to the late Garnett and Martha Baldowski Kirkland. She was a gradu-

ate of Tubman High School in Augusta. She married Edwin Lewis Bromley and they had lived their dream on their farm in Hephzibah for many years until his passing. Mrs. Bromley remained on the homeplace that she and her husband called home until moving to Soperton in 2024.

She had been a lifetime member of Cokesbury United Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by a daughter, Dawn Bromley Evans, and her siblings, Gladys Kirkland Helmley, Herbert Kirkland and Martha Ann Kirkland Anderson.

Mrs. Bromley leaves behind, a daughter, Diane Cavallo (Frank), Little River, S.C.; a son, Ed Bromley (Darlene), Laurel, Md.; grandchildren: Jason Evans, Grovetown, Ga., Barbara Evans, Aiken, S.C., Michelle Robert (Michael), Tucson, Ariz., Joshua Evans, Augusta, Ga., Christine Black (Joe), Conway, S.C., Brandon Cavallo (Caitlynn), Savannah, Ga.; great-grandchildren: Haden Evans, Elijah Evans, both of Grovetown, Ga., Brooklyn Cavallo, Savannah, Ga., Aspen Cavallo, Savannah, Ga., Tatum Cavallo, Savannah, Ga., Edwin Bromley, Laurel, Md. and many nieces and nephews to include a special niece and caregiver, Lynn Byrd of Soperton, Ga.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, in the chapel of Chance and Hydrick Funeral Directors in Augusta with Pastor Rick Narvard officiating.

Mrs. Bromley was laid to rest beside her husband in Hillcrest Memorial Park.

Serving as pallbearers will be: Jason Evans, Haiden Evans, Brandon Cavallo, Burney Doyle, Aaron Phillips and Joe Black.

Her family received friends on Tuesday, at Chance and Hydrick Funeral Directors from 1 p.m. until the hour of service.

Please share a memory, leave a condolence message and sign the online guest register at www.sammonsfuneralhome.com

Sammons Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated Since 1917. Call (912) 529-4411 or (478) 455-0671.

Conveniently religious

By ALBERT WHITE

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

— Matthew 9:11

I am going to start by saying that everyone has some sort of religious activity. We like to look at people who like customs, culture and pointing out their religious practices, but we don't like to recognize our own. Even doing things a new way repeatedly becomes religion. We start thinking that our way is the right way and that people should start doing it our way. Our new thing becomes the old thing repackaged.

The Pharisees did not like that the disciples of Jesus sat with publicans and sinners. It was against their custom. Jesus broke down that system of bigotry by saying that the whole people didn't need a doctor, only the sick. Of course referring to sin as the sickness and not a literal one. He broke religion. Some people got upset about that fact. We are never going to end all religious activity within the church, and don't know that we even need to. I believe that everything has to have some level of order to it. Even when we do away with our so said programs, somebody has a program else you do have a mess.

I don't advocate for closed minded processes but I do advocate for inclusion among the age groups. We have to be tolerant of one another's ideas and preferences. I will include this though in all of the changing and modifying of the modern worship experience, the message can not change. The message must continue to be Jesus and the power of salvation, I think we all agree upon that understanding for the most part anyway. There may be some so radical that they want to change the Bible text. It's the old saying, don't throw the baby out with the bath water. We just have to be careful when we change things to be mindful that not everyone shares your opinion on change. Forsake not the counsel of the elders, they have our dreams. Elders do not disregard our youth, they have our vision. At the end of the day, we need each other.

That's my thought for the day, be blessed.

Albert White is the pastor of Blocker's Chapel Church on Thompson Pond Rd. in Vidalia, Ga.

PASTOR'S VIEWPOINT

By CHARLES "BUDDY" WHATLEY

John 3:22-24 says, "After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. This was before John was put in prison."

It's a short passage with only three verses, but like every other passage, it was put here for a reason. There are three lessons in these three short, seemingly insignificant verses. It begins when Jesus walks away from the hustle and bustle of the city and into the quiet countryside. Sometimes you simply need to "get away from it all."

John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing not far from where Jesus and his disciples were standing. We've just talked about "the grace of the Master, Jesus Christ" and this is the reality of what we've been talking about. John Wesley called it the "way of salvation" and I'm writing a paper on it due in September. Prevenient grace awakens us, justifying grace forgives us, and sanctifying grace transforms us as we become more and more aware of "the extravagant love of God the Father."

The first lesson is that Jesus spends time with his friends!

Verse 22 says that Jesus "spent some time" with His disciples and that is a beautiful phrase. Jesus was not only interested in preaching to the crowds. He also walked with his disciples in the countryside, listening to them, talking to them, teaching them, shaping them, simply being with them, spending time with them... liking them!

We Methodists have always believed that our Christian faith is not only a Sunday morning experience. It is a Monday through Saturday day-to-day walk with Jesus. We grow in our faith as we read the Bible, spend time in prayer, attend worship, share in the Lord's Supper, and enjoy Christian fellowship around the table. Wesley called them the "means of grace," the things that draw us closer to God, and the things that transform and shape our faith and our lives.

We think spiritual growth happened in big moments, in Sunday school, in worship, and in revivals. But most spiritual growth happens in those day-to-day walks with Jesus.

Charles "Buddy" Whatley is a retired Methodist pastor serving the Dawson Street Methodist in Thomasville, Ga.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARINGS AND BUDGET ADOPTION

The Montgomery County Board of Education announces that it will conduct two public hearings to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget and provide citizens with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed budget.

The public hearings will be held on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Both hearings will be held at: Montgomery County Board of Education Office, 703 Dobbins Street, Mount Vernon, Georgia 30445

Following the second public hearing, the Montgomery County Board of Education will consider adopting the proposed FY27 Budget on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and provide comments regarding the proposed budget.

Fireworks season is here: A public service announcement

During last year's Fourth of July celebrations more than 13,000 Americans reported to emergency rooms across the country due to fireworks-related injuries. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, that number was down from over 14,700 in 2024.

How many people lost fingers, or worse, in backyard explosions is unknown. I don't think there is a commission that keeps up with that. At least not publicly. You can assume around 1,700, if my math is correct.

With the United States' 250th birthday approaching, it's a safe bet that more people will be enjoying amateur pyrotechnics this year than in a long time. And why not? Few things celebrate freedom quite like turning your backyard into southern Lebanon with colorful blasts of gunpowder.

That's a topical geopolitical joke. Try to keep up.

I can remember when fireworks were illegal in Georgia. To

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By **KYLE DOMINY**

get your hands on a Roman candle or a string of firecrackers you had to sneak them back from a family vacation or have a shady uncle who frequently visited the state line and came back with what were essentially little sticks of dy-

namite.

Now you can get them anywhere. I was buying a gallon of milk the other day and right next to the checkout line, adjacent to the candy, chewing gum and other impulse buys, was a display case

full of colorfully packaged explosives.

We can thank the ancient Chinese for the invention of fireworks. Dating back to the Song Dynasty, firework technicians would pack gunpowder into bamboo tubes. It was not long before they discovered that adding powdered chemicals would produce colorful blasts of light.

These pyrotechnicians of old were highly revered members of society. Their wares were sought-after commodities used in festivals and religious ceremonies. Now we've got Geech and Skeeter, not a full hand of digits or complete set of teeth between 'em, all rockets red glare at all hours of the night for any ol' excuse.

Don't get me wrong, I love fireworks and I think our Founding Fathers would want us to have access to them. Besides, fireworks were a part of the very first Independence Day celebration in 1777, one year after the first public reading of the Declaration of In-

dependence. But like many things, excess has taken the magic out of fireworks.

Few large tourist attractions do not include a nightly fireworks display; most major sporting events have celebratory explosions. They are a common sighting from small towns to mega metropolitan areas. Fireworks displays are much like parades, if you have seen one, you've seen them all.

We don't shoot off many fireworks in my family these days. We have too many dogs, and most dogs come pre-installed with PTSD. Loud noises make them cower or act rashly, like they are having flashbacks from Nam.

If you're going to celebrate this Fourth of July with a personal fireworks extravaganza, please do so safely. Secure your pets, stop at a reasonable hour and keep some ice handy.

You know, for when you blow your finger off.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Was the lead role in a popular 1960s sitcom originally held by someone else?

By **JACK BAGLEY**
Georgia Trust For Local News

This Saturday is the Fourth of July, which in itself is a wonderful day. But this year, it's extra-special. You see, this year's Independence Day is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the symbolic thumbing of the nose to King George III of Great Britain by the American colonists. A pretty nasty war followed that, but once the war was over, these 13 formerly British colonies became a new nation, the one in which you and I live. (Unless you live somewhere else.) So Happy 250th birthday, America, and let's get on with the trivia!

Did you know...

... about 0.5% of the entire world's male population is believed to be descended from a single man? The man was Genghis Khan (1162-1227), who is believed to have fathered between 1,000 and 3,000 children during his time leading conquests for the Mongol Empire. Those children's male descendants make up the single largest group whose lineage could be traced to one person in the world today. (Talk about someone who got around! I'll bet the child support payments were astronomical.)

... an airline lost one of its jets for 13 years, only to find it was under their nose all the time? In 2012, an Air India Boeing 737 jet was decommissioned and removed from the airline's records. The plane itself, however, was left in a parking area at Kolkata airport, and airport officials dutifully sent the airline bills for parking fees. The airline disputed the bills, saying they didn't have a plane there – until 2025, when an official of the airline arrived at the airport to discuss the situation and a worker pointed to the jet, effectively saying, "There it

is." The airline sheepishly admitted it was indeed their jet, arranged for its removal, and most importantly paid the thirteen years of back parking fees. (No wonder it costs so much to fly.)

... armadillos are practically bullet-proof? (If you choose to test that, remember, I have nothing to do with it.)

... ancient Olympic athletes competed naked? It was believed that being nude while performing athletic events brought the athlete closer to the gods. (Can you imagine the ratings if the modern Olympics were conducted that way?)

... the iconic star of a 1960s sitcom was not the first person in the role? From 1967 to 1970, Sally Field (born 1946) starred in *The Flying Nun*, a situation comedy on ABC. Field had initially been offered the role after the cancellation of her earlier series *Gidget*, but she thought the premise of the show – a novice nun who could fly due to high winds and a starched cornet – was silly.

She passed on the role, and the producers began filming the pilot with their second choice, actress Ronne Troup (born 1945). But after Field had a rather serious conversation with her stepfather Jock Mahoney (1919-1989), she changed her mind, putting Troup out of a job and causing all of the scenes she had filmed to be re-shot. Additional trivia note: Field reportedly hated the role and the concept of the series, and following its cancellation she was concerned about being typecast. Fortunately, she was able to work in several serious movies in the years following *The Flying Nun*, and her career did not suffer for her having played the role. (I guess wanting to eat and live indoors causes a lot of actors to take roles they don't really want to play.)

... a popular brand of tortilla chips has a different name in Sweden? Doritos ranch flavor chips are called "American flavor" in that Scandinavian country, because Swedish people are totally unfamiliar with

ranch flavor. (So, ranch flavor is what America tastes like?)

... a president's wife is believed (in some circles) to have killed him? When President Warren G. Harding (1865-1923) died in San Francisco, rumors circulated that he had been poisoned by his wife, Florence (1860-1924), as retaliation for his numerous extra-marital affairs. The fact that Mrs. Harding refused to allow an autopsy to be performed fed those rumors. Historians, however, believe Harding died of a heart attack, and Florence was not involved in his death. (Sure.)

... you can see stars up to 4,000 light-years away with the naked eye? With one colossal exception – the Andromeda galaxy is visible to the naked eye, and it's 2.5 million light-years away

from Earth. (Andromeda ... now that's a heavenly body.)

... identical twins are not totally identical? While they may look alike, sound alike, and even have the same basic DNA, there is one major difference – they have unique fingerprints. (If you want to get technical about it.)

... the Earth's rotation is slowing down? Don't worry, you don't notice it. But due to tidal and gravitational forces from the Sun and the Moon, Earth's rotation is slowing by about 1.8 seconds per century. In fact, about 600 million years ago, one day on Earth only lasted 21 hours.

... mirrors facing each other actually do not produce infinite reflections? As the reflections get smaller, they get darker, and eventually fade into invisibility. (But the effect is staggering

for as long as it lasts.)

... you may know an ultracrepidarian? You may, in fact, actually be one. An ultracrepidarian is someone who gives opinions about something, when in fact they know absolutely nothing about it. (I have a line here, but it would close the show.)

... a taste test went very wrong for French wines? In 1976, a wine tasting in Paris was held in which various California and French wines were compared in a blind taste test. When the results were compiled, California wines won. The single reporter who covered the event was then blacklisted for reporting it. (No good deed goes unpunished.)

Now... you know!

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF AILEY PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Ailey will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 6, 2026 at 5:45 p.m. at Ailey City Hall, located at 100 South Railroad Street Ailey, Georgia.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on a proposed amendment to the City of Ailey Zoning Ordinance relating to the Central Business District. A copy of the proposed amendment is available for public inspection at Ailey City Hall during regular business hours.

All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard.

This 6th day of July, 2026.

CITY OF AILEY, GEORGIA

Treutlen County Property Values Adjusted to Address Assessment Levels Below State Standards

The Treutlen County Board of Assessors announces that property values for the 2026 tax year have been adjusted after the county's sales ratio fell below 36%, which is below the standards established by the Georgia Department of Revenue.

Georgia law requires property to be assessed at 40% of fair market value. The annual sales ratio study compares assessed values to actual property sales and is used to determine whether counties are maintaining assessment levels within acceptable ranges. Recent studies indicated that Treutlen County's sales ratio had dropped below 36%, demonstrating that property assessments were not keeping pace with current market values.

A sales ratio below state standards can have significant financial consequences for the county. Low assessment levels can negatively affect funding calculations used by the State of Georgia, potentially resulting in reduced revenue for the Treutlen County School System and other public services that rely on accurate property valuations. Maintaining assessment levels that reflect current market conditions helps ensure equitable taxation and protects important funding sources for the community.

In response, the Board of Assessors conducted a countywide review of property values and implemented adjustments to bring assessments closer to fair market value and improve compliance with state requirements. These changes reflect the substantial increases in the local real estate market that have occurred in recent years.

"The Board of Assessors has a legal responsibility to ensure that all property is assessed fairly and uniformly," said the Board. "While we understand that valuation increases may be concerning to property owners, these adjustments are necessary to maintain compliance with Georgia law, ensure fairness among taxpayers, and protect funding for our schools and local services."

Property owners should understand that an increase in assessed value does not necessarily result in a proportional increase in property taxes. Actual tax bills are determined by a combination of assessed values, exemptions, and millage rates established by the county, school board, and other taxing authorities.

Assessment notices will be mailed in accordance with Georgia law. Property owners are encouraged to review their notice carefully. Anyone who believes their assessment does not reflect the fair market value of their property as of January 1, 2026, has the right to file an appeal during the appeal period listed on the notice.

The Treutlen County Board of Assessors remains committed to maintaining a fair, equitable, and accurate tax digest for all property owners.

For additional information, please contact:

Treutlen County Board of Assessors
650 Second Street, Suite 104
Soperton, GA 30457
Phone: (912) 529-4343

TREUTLEN COUNTY TIRE AMNESTY DAYS July 14, 2026 - July 18, 2026 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

The Treutlen County Recycling Center will be accepting old tires during our Tire Amnesty Days. The public will need to follow certain rules when dropping off scrap tires at the Recycling Center. PLEASE READ THE GUIDELINES PRIOR TO VISITING OUR CENTER:

- Accepting car, sport utility, and pick-up truck tires only – tires with rims and large truck, tractor, or heavy equipment tires will not be accepted.
- NO COMMERCIAL DEALERS.
- This FREE service is for Treutlen County Residents Only – this event is only for the public, not for commercial businesses. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or current utility bill, will be required to dispose of tires for free during the amnesty event.
- No tires over 20" will be accepted.

For further information, call: 912-529-3664.

The Expat

The Five Points neighborhood in Athens has an allure that makes it extraordinarily special and becoming. There is an intoxicating buzz year-round in this traditional section of Athenstown, where old homes blend with latent upscale construction, which is taking place everywhere you look.

Five Points is a neat neighborhood. It has the feel of a laidback village in Europe. "That," says Rick Johnson who has spent multiple summers in Cortona, Italy, with the UGA Art Department, "is because there is such a great blend of town and gown. I love the restaurants and places like the bakery where you see a bevy of students and faculty, and a lawyer in coat and tie."

Five Points is where you can choose a classic bottle of wine, ride your bike, and buy the best burger at the best pub in town. There's

healthy grocery shopping at Earth Fare, you can enjoy great pizza options, and there's plentiful seafood, as tasty as you would find if a shrimp boat found its way up the Oconee River and docked behind Sanford Stadium.

For many of us, the signature address is The Expat, located at a former home that dates back to World War II—when Frank Sinkwich and Charley Trippi were the talk of the town.

Located at 1680 South Lumpkin, it fits into the neighborhood like it did a half century ago—except that the chef then was the madam of the house who cooked for her family.

Now Jerry Slater and his staff can accommodate 75 or more. For those who have a bent for al fresco dining, the porch at the Expat is as charming as they come.

You seldom see The Expat empty, even in summer when many of the UGA student body and faculty have sojourned elsewhere. The "regular" clientele keeps things a humming along

with visitors who show up for various reasons.

The ambient atmosphere complements the core values of the establishment—the menu which specializes in Italian and seafood cuisine, and experienced chefs with the right stuff.

Inside everything is relaxed and cozy. But I can't stop there. It's equally a vibrant, lively, and magnetic place. Neighborly and encompassing.

Diners from Atlanta make the trip over to enjoy an evening at The Expat, and if you want a reservation on a football weekend in the fall, you may be too late.

The owners are a husband-wife team; Jerry and Krista Slater are spirits columnists for the Atlanta Journal and Constitution. Jerry is widely recognized for his hospitality and spirits expertise with stops at Charlie Trotter's in Chicago, The Oak Room at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Ky., and Atlanta's One Flew South, named for one of the world's best airport



LORAN SMITH

restaurants.

Krista is a visual artist turned certified sommelier who likes ice-cold martinis and intentional spaces. She has worked for nearly 20 years in the world of wine retail, bars, and fine dining. The Slaters own, in addition to The Expat, The Lark wine bar and shop, The Night-hawks Lounge, and the recently opened Dovetail Market, with partner Fritz Gibson.

Many students come to work for them as freshmen and continue through UGA graduation. An incentive to

work with the Slaters is that employees are entitled to health insurance.

Until recently I often took respite at the bar for a glass of pinot noir and my favorite Expat pasta plate, tagliatelle. I enjoyed conversation with Trent Parker, the General Manager, and Romie Ingram, the sprightly and charming bartender who is as efficient as you can find. Unfortunately for Expat regulars, which include Kirby and Mary Beth Smart, they both have moved on, owing to opportunity. They both were upbeat (opportunity) and downcast (leaving The Expat clientele.)

Included in the lore of The Expat's history is that its most devoted supporter, John Parker, showed up in his golf cart on the day they opened, wearing his trademark shorts and flipflops. He yelled, "When does this place open?" Jerry yelled back, "Five minutes ago." Parker became the first customer, and when he is town, you usually find him there.

Another "regular" couple is Joe and Anne Frierson who were dining at Slater's one night; one of Anne's favorite side dishes is lemon garlic artichoke. It was not on Slater's menu. A call went out to Trent at The Expat and he answered Anne's request, hoofing less than a hundred yards away post haste. That was an extraordinarily special delivery, but something you expect from the proprietors and staff.

Add to all that this frequent scene: Mark and Mindy Horne, who live on Milledge Circle, would call Trent for another special delivery request. Mindy would meet Trent with a big dish and her credit card, handing all over the fence between the restaurant and the Hornes' backyard. When the tiramisu is baked, the over-the-fence exchange takes place again.

That would never happen in a metropolitan city. It only happens in the Classic City when restaurateurs like the Slaters hang out one of their many shingles.

The United States of America, it's still beautiful after all these years

Like many of you, I've spent the last few weeks enjoying the impressions of visitors from all over the world, converging on America for a soccer tournament. It's been a great reminder for many of us of how much we take from granted.

They've demonstrated their love for Waffle House, Buc ee's, SUV's, and even air conditioning. They've also reminded us that despite what we read online and see in our news every day, America – on the verge of turning 250 – is an awesome place to live.

Rather than write a piece recounting their trips, however, I'm going to take the rest of this week off and recycle some of my observations, from a column I wrote when I returned from a coast to coast all-American road trip in the late spring of 2019.

That trip helped me fall in love with America again. I hope you're able to celebrate freedom and indepen-

dence this week, and if necessary, reconsider what this union of states means to us, and to the rest of the world.

I spent the last few weeks checking off a bucket list item. There's just too much of this country I had not yet seen, and by playing aggressive defense on my calendar I was able to piece together the time for an extended road trip. 22 states and 8,027 rental car miles later, I'm back at the home office in Georgia.

The goal was to see the northwest quadrant of the country. I've also wanted to drive up the Pacific Coast Highway since I first saw a small stretch of it almost thirty years ago. To get there involved a route through Nashville and up to St. Louis, west over to Monterrey, north up the coast to Seattle, and returning east back to Wisconsin to make the southern turn home.

For those who haven't yet experienced it, this is a beautiful country. The cliffs



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

and beaches of central California do look a bit different than those in Oregon, but both are breathtakingly stunning. There's still snow on Pike's Peak in Colorado despite unseasonably warm temperatures throughout the western U.S.

The "big sky" in Montana meets beautiful rivers at the base of rolling hills and mountains. Lake Tahoe juxtaposes alpine views with summer shore-

lines. The great Salt Lake is a well-known, but the sandy swamp along the freeway leading west to the Bonneville Salt Flats in Western Utah is a natural wonder unto itself.

Madison Wisconsin combines the college-town charm of Athens with the architectural beauty of Washington, D.C. The weather in Silicon Valley helps me understand why people pay what it costs to live there. Even though the tourist experiences of St Louis' Gateway Arch and Seattle's Space Needle may be a bit hokey (and pricey), both provide views that frame their parts of the country magnificently.

As I was originally told as a young man and have relearned the hard way many times as I have aged, beauty is only skin deep. The beauty of America has never really been about our amber waves of grain or our fruited plains. It's in our people. Luckily, I was able to spend

enough time outside of the rental car to experience that, too.

There was beauty in the synchronized service of the five waitresses at the breakfast diner in Council Bluffs Iowa, who managed to attend to the "usuals" in a room full of well-known patrons while making an obvious tourist feel welcome (and full) simultaneously. There was equal beauty in the night manager of a Cheyenne Wyoming hotel who wanted each of her guests, even for just one night, to feel "at home" and a part of her community.

There is beauty in the optimism of a fellow restaurateur in Rapid City South Dakota who had just changed career fields for a better opportunity. There was more from the mother in Omaha Nebraska that was proud of the scholarship offers for her graduating son, but who was equally concerned as to how much advice she should be

giving him as he prepares to chart his own future.

There is beauty in the quiet dignity of 95-year-old Tuskegee Airman Franklin Macon, who as part of the Greatest Generation has yet to fully retire as an aviation mechanic. Even more beautiful is that he spends most of his current time and energy trying to teach the youngest generation life lessons in getting over obstacles life will put in their way.

Helping me to see this beauty was a complete avoidance of social media and the flat refusal to discuss politics with those along the way. It's easier to see what unites us when side stepping things that divide us.

America is truly a beautiful country, and you too should make a point to see it. In red states, blue states, and in our purple mountain majesties, the beauty goes well beyond our vistas. It is, and remains, in our people.

Dick Yarbrough: Remembering a big brother and his big influence

This is going to be a bit up-close-and personal. For the first time in my life, I am without my big brother. Robert Earl Yarbrough, Jr. passed away and it feels surreal. He has always been there. Had he not, I probably wouldn't be here today. He was not my big brother by size. He was big by his influence in my life. He was like an extra parent.



DICK YARBROUGH

Bob was a generation older, which tells you my arrival was likely not a planned event. When I started grammar school, he was finishing high school. When I graduated high school, he had already graduated college, was married and had a child. What could we possibly have in common other than the same last name? The answer is complicated. He was a role model that I spent years trying to emulate. It wasn't always easy and I didn't do it well at times.

There was no question in anyone's mind that Bob was going to be successful. He was buttoned down from the start. Quiet. Disciplined. I was the bratty little brother who once hid in the backseat when he took his squeeze to the drive-in. He wasn't happy. He was even less happy when I pulled the same stunt as he headed off to Florida with his buddies.

However, he was forgiving enough that when I got

written reprimands from teachers that my parents were supposed to see and sign, I could talk him into signing because his handwriting was identical to our mother's. It required a lecture that I not do it again. We both knew that wasn't going to happen. Just sign the note, please.

It was a bit of a surprise when Bob announced he going to college. Our parents, growing up in the rural South never got beyond the 7th grade. Our cousins on both sides of the family, with one exception, did not go to college. Some never even finished high school.

graduated from there himself. Had he chosen to become a mechanic, I would have been changing points and plugs in Ford Fairlanes as soon as I was out of high school.

Bob joined the magazine publishing business in the mailroom while in high school and –no surprise – worked his way up to executive vice president of the company. In the meantime, I spent a few years in broadcasting before joining Southern Bell, determined to work my own way up the corporate ladder. It became a competition, at least on my part, and brought with it some tension.

As spokesman for the company, my name and face were in the media frequently. That was not always a good thing. Sometimes, I was trying to explain a corporate gaffe. But, nonethe-

less, his little brother was high profile, and I think he got tired of hearing about it.

Bob moved to Chicago and became president of a trade magazine company there. I went off to Washington as a public affairs director for AT&T and later became an officer of Bell-South.

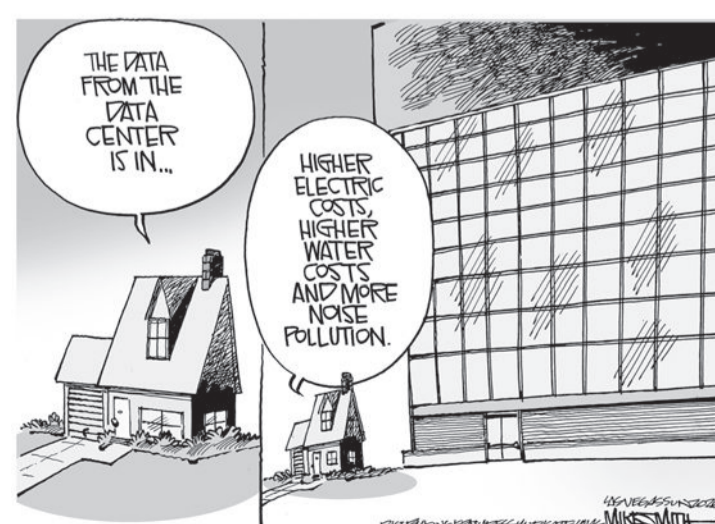
He retired and moved to Gainesville to be close to his two daughters and their families. He became a hospital chaplain and was involved in a ministry that taught financial principles. I moved on to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and then to churning out these opinions weekly. We stayed in touch nominally, but each in his own orbit.

And then things changed. After Bob lost his soulmate of 69 years, Bebe, and I lost The Beloved Woman Who

Shared My Name, we began an occasional phone call to check on each other. That soon turned into a regular Sunday night at 6 PM ritual. We called it the No News call because all we talked about were our aches and pains, our families and how much we hated technology. We dropped all the barriers we had built up over the

years. The competition was gone, replaced by brotherly love and mutual respect. A memory I will treasure.

I will miss Bob, but I am glad I got to tell him what an enormous influence he had on my life. I am here because he was there. Thank you, big brother. Rest in peace.



Tri-County Connector

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Legals

Treutlen Co. Legals

S26-034
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by MARY JEANETTE W. PETERSON ESTATE TO METTER BANK, A DIVISION OF DURDEN BANKING COMPANY, INC., P.O. Box 1160, Metter, Georgia, 30439, dated December 29, 2022, and recorded in Deed Book 171, pages 299-302, Treutlen County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Court-house door of Treutlen County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 2026, to wit: July 7, 2026, the following described property:

TRACT ONE: All that certain tract or parcel of land, lying, and being in the 1386th G.M. District of Treutlen County, Georgia, containing 243.30 acres, more or less, as shown as Parcel 111-A, on that certain plat of survey prepared by Marvin D. Clements, Registered Surveyor, from survey dated June 23, 1987, and recorded in Plat Book 3, page 209, in the Office of Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia, which plat and the record thereof are incorporated by reference and made a part of this description. Said tract is bounded, now or formerly, as follows: Northeast by lands of Mrs. Lougenia G. Gabard; Southeast by lands of Mary Jeanette W. Peterson; South by lands of Felton T. Beasley, by land of Valma Ann Beasley, and by land of New Forestry, LLC; and Northwest by land of Soperton Naval Stores.

TRACT TWO: All that certain tract or parcel of land lying, and being in the 1386th G.M. District, Treutlen County, Georgia, containing 138 acres, more or less, as shown on that certain plat of survey prepared by M.C. Carter, Registered Surveyor, from survey dated January 30, 1945 and recorded in Deed Book 21, page 108, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia, which plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description. Said tract is bounded, now or formerly, as follows: North by land of Loreeder Beasley, by land of Mable and Otha Lee Beasley; Northeast by land of Mrs. Lougenia G. Gabard; Southeast by land of Paul and Barbara Mulling; South by right of way of County Road No. 45; and West by land of New Forestry, LLC and by land of Felton Beasley.

LESS AND EXCEPT FROM TRACT TWO:

All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 1386th G.M. District of Treutlen County, Georgia containing 21.161 acres, more or less, and being more particularly shown as Parcel 1 on a certain plat of survey prepared by R. Kim Dolan, Registered Surveyor, dated August 25, 2009 and recorded in Plat Book 10, page 220, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia, which plat and the record thereof is incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description. Said tract is bounded, now or formerly, as follows: North and East by Parcel 2, as shown on the above-described plat of survey; South by the right of way of County Road No. 45, and West by the right of way of County Road No. 46 a/k/a Beasley Hill Place Road.

All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying, and being in the 1386th G.M. District of Treutlen County, Georgia, containing 36.748 acres, more or less, and being more particularly shown as Parcel 2, on a certain plat of survey prepared by R. Kim Dolan, Registered Surveyor, dated August 25, 2009, and recorded in Plat Book 10, page 220, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia, which plat and the record thereof is incorporated here in by reference and made apart of this description. Said tract is bounded, now or formerly, as follows: Northeast by lands of Johnny & Patricia Lanford and by land of Eugene Beasley; Southeast by land of Mary Jeanette Willcox Peterson, as Trustee; South by the Right of Way of County Road No. 45; Southwest by Parcel 1, as shown on the above described plat of survey; and the Northwest by the right of way of County Road No. 46 a/k/a Beasley Hill Place Road.

All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying, and being in the 1386th G.M. District of Treutlen County, Georgia, containing 11.47 acres, more or less, and being more particularly shown on a certain plat of survey prepared by Kirk A. Freeman, Registered Surveyor, dated July 22, 2011, and recorded in Plat Book 8, page 167, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia, which plat and the record thereof is incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description. Said tract is bounded, now or formerly, as follows: Northeast by land of the Mary Jeanette Willcox Peterson Revocable Trust and by land of Paul A. Mulling and Barbara S. Mulling; Southeast by land of Paul A. Mulling and Barbara S. Mulling; Southwest by the right-of-way of County Road No. 47, a/k/a Beaver Run Road; and Northwest by land of Mary Jeanette Willcox Peterson Revocable Trust, by quit-claim deed, recorded on December 18, 2008, in Deed Book 124, pages 757-759, Treutlen County Deed Records.

All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 1386th G.M. District of Treutlen County, Georgia, containing 22.98 acres, more or less, and being more particularly shown on a certain plat of survey prepared by Kirk A. Freeman, Registered Surveyor, dated August 31, 2011, and recorded in Plat Book 8, page 183, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia, which plat and the record thereof is incorporated hereby by reference and made a part of this description.

All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 1386th G.M. District of Treutlen County, Georgia, containing 16.16 acres, more or less, and being more particularly shown on a certain plat of survey prepared by Kirk A. Freeman, Registered Surveyor, dated September 22, 2011, and recorded in Plat Book 8, page 184, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia, which plat and the record thereof is incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description.

TRACT NUMBER THREE: All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 1386th G.M. District of Treutlen County, Georgia, containing 113.40 acres, more or less, as shown on a certain plat of survey prepared by Marvin D. Clements, Registered Surveyor, dated September 22, 1986, and recorded in Plat Book 6, page 153, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia, which plat and the record thereof is incorporated

herein by reference and made a part of this description. Said tract is bounded, now or formerly, as follows: North by the right-of-way of Lake Helen Loop a/k/a County Road No. 109; East by land of Robert and Betty Ruth Palmer, and by land of Richard Neil Raiford, et al; South by land of Richard Neil Raiford, et al, and by land of Wylene F. Hester as successor Trustee of the Sara Fowler Trust; and West by land of Eddie Williams Estate, by land of Gynell Toler Williams, and by the right-of-way of John Deere Lane, a/k/a County Road No. 129.

Said Deed to Secure Debt was executed to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$101,982.38, with interest at the rate specified therein together with all other indebtedness of the borrower to the lender then due or that might thereafter become due, or thereafter become contracted, which was or would be evidenced by a note or notes.

The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Deed to Secure Debt. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees. Notice of intent to collect attorney's fees has been given, as provided by law.

Said property is commonly known as three tracts of land located in the 1386th GMD, Treutlen County, Georgia, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the subject property is: MARY JEANETTE W. PETERSON ESTATE, or tenant or tenants.

Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, and covenants, etc.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; (2) O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1; and (3) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: H. WADE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT, DURDEN BANKING COMPANY, INC., P.O. BOX 160, TWIN CITY, GA 30471, 478-763-2121.

The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Deed to Secure Debt described herein.

This sale is conducted on behalf of the secured creditor under the power of sale granted in the aforementioned security instrument, specifically by DURDEN BANKING COMPANY, INC., as Attorney in Fact for MARY JEANETTE W. PETERSON ESTATE, P.O. BOX 160, TWIN CITY, GA 30471.

Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.
Attorney
P.O. Box 68
Swainsboro, GA 30401

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

S26-035
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
TREUTLEN COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

BRANDY NICOLE REECE, Plaintiff,
V.
GREGG ALLAN REECE, Defendant
Civil Action File No. 26-C1-0035

NOTICE OF SUMMONS-SERVICE BY
PUBLICATION

TO: GREGG ALLAN REECE, Defendant
Named Above:

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking DIVORCE was filed against you in said court on June 1, 2026, and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on June 1, 2026 you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon BRANDY REECE, plaintiff, whose address is 106 KNOX MILL RD, SOPERTON, GA 30457 an answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Witness the Honorable WILLIAM D. TAYLOR, III, Judge of said Court.
This the 1st day of June, 2026.

Molly Cauley, CDeputy
Clerk of Superior Court
TREUTLEN County
June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

S26-036
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
TREUTLEN COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF Corinthians Tywon Green, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-P-19
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: whom it may concern:
Mary Magelene McLendon has petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of Corinthians Tywon Green deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before ore July 8, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Tiffany W. McLendon
Judge of the Probate Court
650 Second Street, Suite 101
Soperton, GA 30457
912-526-4320

June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

Treutlen County Library concludes 2026 Summer Reading Program

2026 SUMMER READING PARTICIPANTS

3RD-8TH GRADE

Madison Acosta
Rebekah Atkinson
Zachary Burleson
Zechariah Carter
Mason Dykes
Weston Poole
Gunner Powell
Jaylen Thepoe
Delaney Thrasher
TOP READER:
Ava Sanders

PRE-K and YOUNGER

Abigail Atkinson
Addiesun Carter
Weston Carter
Ava Grace Lockley
TOP READER:
Abigail Dykes

K-2ND GRADE

John Carter
Charlie Kate Cutler
Madielyn Dykes
Maddie Rae Edge
Cooper Kirkland
Bryan Lewis
Naveah Marshall
TOP READER:
Brie Clubb

2026
SUPER READER
BRIE CLUBB
206 BOOKS



By JEANNIE ROGERS Treutlen County Library

With the 2026 Summer Reading Program coming to an end, the Treutlen County Library is pleased to announce that there were 23 children who received certificates, awards, and prizes at the conclusion of our final program. All children who submitted their reading logs

‘Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.’
—Maya Angelou, author

received prizes, and the top readers in each age category received additional prizes. Our “Super Reader” for the summer is the child who read the most books and has at least completed Pre-K. This year our Super Reader read a total of 206 books during the month of June. The library is pleased to congratulate Brie Clubb on this huge accomplishment!

Thanks to all the kids and parents who took part in our 2026 Summer Reading Program, “Unearth a Story,” and we hope that you enjoyed the activities that our staff and directors’ board provided. This summer, our children were entertained by three in-person performers, La Candela

Flamenco, Dino Discovery and Barry Mann, and they were also given two hands-on activities in which to participate.

The petting zoo was a big hit for children and adults alike, and they had the opportunity to meet some critters that they may not have seen before. The last hands-on event was our story walk which was enjoyed by children, adults, and business owners throughout the community.

Now that school has started back, we hope that parents will continue to bring their children to the library so that they can have access to the many books on our shelves. So be sure and stop by and visit us!

HERE'S A TIP!

By JOANN DERSON King Features

* Use a carabiner clip to hold the handles of grocery bags together. They will roll about less in the trunk and are easier to carry into the house when you get home.

* Many people keep some pet food outdoors. If you have problems with ants in your pet's food if feeding outside, you will like this trick: Place the bowl of food into a larger pan filled with water. The ants can't cross it, and it has the added bonus of being another source of water for the animals. Be sure to change it frequently, and put out plenty of fresh water sources for outdoor pets.

* We unexpectedly had our friends visit with their granddaughter. Since it was unplanned, and we aren't used to little kids, we were unprepared. My quick-thinking husband split open a garbage bag to use as a protective liner on the bed in case of an accident.

* Witch hazel is an old remedy for bruises and bumps. You can find it in the first aid aisle by the peroxide and rubbing alcohol. Simply moisten a folded paper towel, and park it right on the bump (never near the eyes or mouth). It prevents bruising and can lessen swelling in some cases.

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STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 6/28/26

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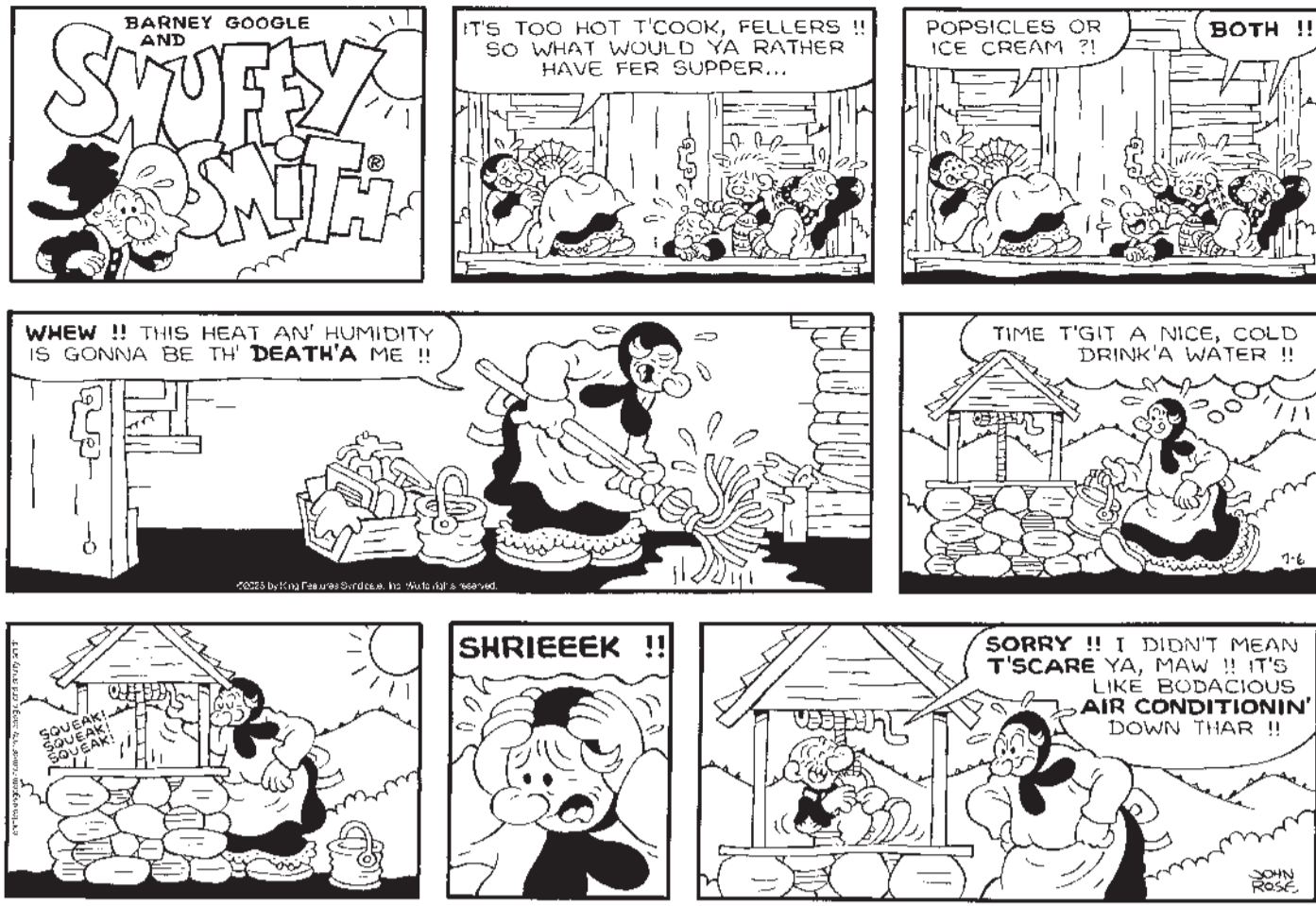
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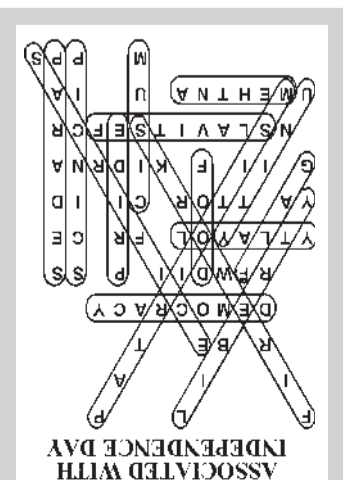
The Spats



Out on a Limb



Answers
— King Crossword —
CROSSWORD ANSWERS



MAGIC MAZE ANSWERS

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
		18						19		
20	21				22	23				
24				25				26	27	28
29			30					31		
32			33					34		
		35						36		
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43				44	45
46				47				48		
49				50				51		

ACROSS

- 1 "Chocolat" actor
- 5 Audio giant
- 9 Prune
- 12 Antioxidant berry
- 13 Egg
- 14 — budget
- 15 Plumbing problem
- 16 Firsties
- 17 TiVo precursor
- 18 Foolproof
- 19 Sch. URL ender
- 20 Borscht base
- 21 Sailing hazard
- 23 — Victor
- 25 Daughter of Muhammad
- 28 Lynx
- 32 "West Side Story" role
- 33 Prefix meaning "water"
- 34 Ocean bottoms
- 36 Grapevine talk
- 37 Chow down
- 38 "— was saying ..."
- 39 Scoff
- 42 Half of bi-
- 44 Sod
- 48 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
- 49 Mideast gulf
- 50 Verifiable
- 51 Brit. record label
- 52 Get up
- 53 Perimeter
- 54 Lobbyists' org.
- 55 Pitch
- 56 Reddish brown
- 7 Outlying area
- 8 Ambulance letters
- 9 Zero, in tennis
- 10 Formerly
- 11 Section
- 20 Date night hire
- 22 D-Day beach
- 24 Some Pacific salmon
- 25 Passing craze
- 26 Chemical suffix
- 27 Gratuity
- 29 LP successors
- 30 NPR's Shapiro
- 31 Pinnacle
- 35 Recording site
- 36 Olympic swimmer
- Rowdy
- 39 "M*A*S*H" vehicle
- 40 Tennis star
- Raducanu
- 41 Grand tale
- 43 Legendary loch
- 45 Language of Pakistan
- 46 Carpets
- 47 Shoe fillers
- 49 Illustrations

DOWN

- 1 June honorees
- 2 Beige
- 3 Two of a kind
- 4 Specialist in the heating/cooling industry
- 5 Grocery store
- 6 Roman poet

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'Hot Diggity Doug!'

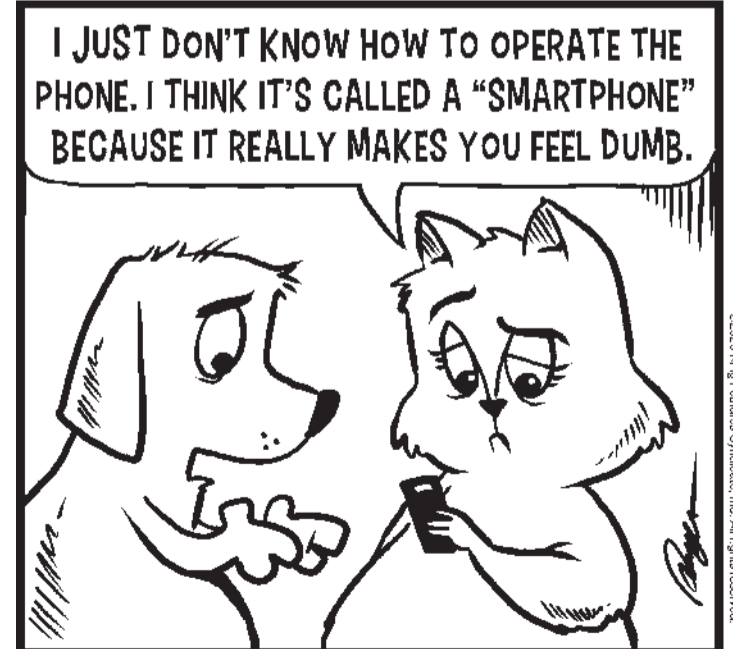


By JEANNIE ROGERS
Treutlen County Library

Children and adults enjoyed a delightful Summer Reading Program at the Treutlen County Library on Wednesday, June 18, when Barry Stewart Mann presented his program titled "Hot Diggity Doug!" Barry is a professional Atlanta-based storyteller who has been delighting audiences and inspiring children for decades. He entertained our children with poems, songs and stories with interactive retelling of familiar children's books. The program was fast-paced with lots of opportunities for the kids to join in the fun! The most popular part of the program involved our children using puppets as part of the segment.

The Treutlen County Library's staff and directors' board are grateful for the support we received this summer during our programs. The Summer Reading Program allows children to see old friends as well as make new ones. The library is open Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and we look forward to seeing you!

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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