

# Alamo City Council makes changes to sludge contract

**By LOGAN REYNOLDS**  
Staff Reporter

The Alamo City Council reviewed proposed changes to a contract pertaining to the city’s “sludge” during their regular monthly meeting on Aug. 17 in the Alamo City Hall.

The council reviewed its contract with Republic Services, a waste treatment and disposal company, pertaining to the transport

of “sludge,” a material produced in the city’s waste water treatment plants. According to City Manager Jeffery Floyd, the material resembles store-bought peat moss used for growing plants.

The original contract stipulated three locations Alamo could transport its sludge, which include Toombs County, Telfair County and Republic Services’ own site. However, Toombs County will no longer accept the material from

Alamo, and Republic Services reduced the transportation price from \$750 per haul and \$70 per ton to \$600 per haul and \$60 per ton.

“What we’re asking for tonight is to approve the contract as long as the attorney’s good with it,” said Floyd.

The contract comes with two sides: one related to the business aspect of the deal, and the other pertaining to abnormal materials

in the sludge, which would be the responsibility of the city.

“If the material’s not right, we would be responsible,” said Floyd.

Council Member Patricia Woodard offered a motion to extend the contract changes though to the end of the contract, which passed unanimously. The contract will end in February.

Floyd suggested the council officially set a date in September to host a public meeting pertaining

to the city’s 2027 budget. The proposed budget will be made “available to anyone who wants to look at it” prior to the meeting.

One notable budget change Floyd noted was the budget for the Alamo City Police Department, with changes to salary and equipment. When Council Member Woodard asked if the change

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Sarah Jenkins prepares food on Aug. 17 for customers of the Bulldog Grill in Alamo/LOGAN REYNOLDS

# Soperton City Council greenlights purchase of two police vehicles

**By LOGAN REYNOLDS**  
Staff Reporter

The Soperton City Council approved the purchase of two new vehicles for the Soperton Police Department during the council’s monthly meeting on Aug. 17.

According to Soperton Police Chief Brian Scott, the department had received bids from six different dealers for the purchase of two new vehicles for the department. Scott said his intention was to acquire vehicles “less than five years old” to replace vehicles which had developed a number of maintenance issues.

One of the vehicles the department is looking to replace is a Ford F-150, which has required maintenance three times in the 2026 calendar year. According to Scott, the truck is prone to malfunction because it was not designed as a police vehicle, leaving it ill-suited to the constant wear and tear required from a service vehicle.

“It’s not a police vehicle,” said Scott. “It’s just, well, a regular vehicle that we’re using. It was not designed to be run for 12 hours a day.”

The other vehicle is a 2018 Dodge Charger, which has been in the Soperton Police Department’s fleet for

**POLICE VEHICLES**  
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# How Alamo restaurant operator found calling and community

**By LOGAN REYNOLDS**  
Staff Reporter

For the operator of Alamo’s Bulldog Grill, running restaurants seems to run in the family.

Toria Coleman’s parents did not begin in the restaurant business either, as her father was an accountant and her mother was a homemaker. However, her father was dissatisfied with his work, so he opened a restaurant called Carter’s Fried Chicken in 1976, then a small franchise.

Coleman’s father would later strike out on his own and open The Depot out of an old train depot in McRae.

Originally, The Depot began as an all-takeout business, but later expanded to include a “nearly world famous” noon buffet. He would operate the restaurant until his death in 1997, after which Coleman’s mother took over until the building later burned.

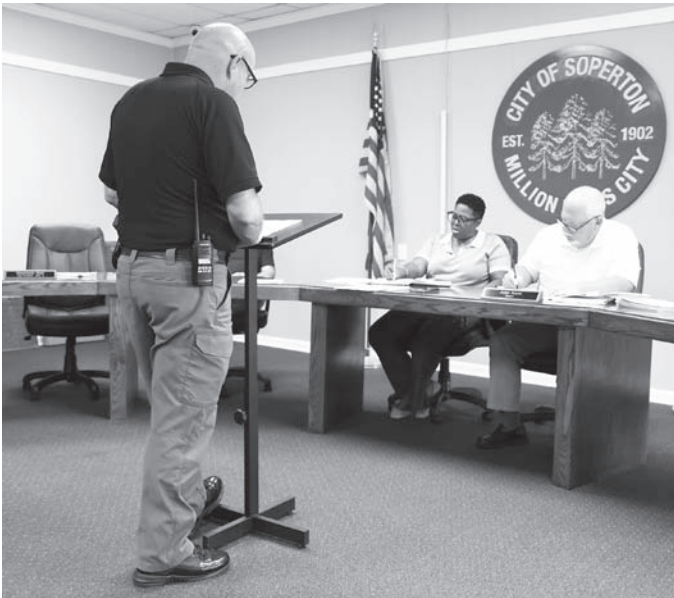
Having been effectively raised in the restaurant business, Coleman decided at a young age she would pursue a different career.

“Growing up, it was absolutely, 100 percent something I did not want to do,” said Coleman. “I wanted to go to ‘work’ work, come home and not worry about work.”

So, she took up a profession as a school teacher, which she held for 12 years before she decided “that wasn’t it.” She likened her pivot to the restaurant industry to how she also took after her mother’s love for antiques.

“I guess it’s kind of in your blood,” said Coleman. “It’s kind of the same thing with antiques. My mama had antiques; she had a little antique business. I wanted everything I had in my house to be brand new and all the drawers to work... Now, that’s all I want to do, is go antiquing. So, I think

**BULLDOG GRILL**  
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Soperton Police Chief Brian Scott speaks to the city council on Aug. 17 regarding the potential purchase of two new vehicles for the department to replace two aging and malfunctioning vehicles in the department’s fleet/LOGAN REYNOLDS

Periodical — Mail Label



Paislee Smith and Ariana Parker /SPECIAL PHOTO

## SNAPSHOTS: OCTOPUS FUN WITH THE LETTER 'O'!

Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Pope’s kindergarteners have been having fun learning all about the letter ‘O’ this week! They got creative with an adorable octopus craft while strengthening their fine motor skills through fun, hands-on activities focused on the letter O.

Right photo: Beau Melton, Grant Gillis, Knoxx Griffin, Hudson Woods and Brinleigh Glisson /SPECIAL PHOTO



Top Dewayne Wilson, Daniel Mendoza, Ellie Wooten, Kay’Loni Dotson, and Kambry Garner/SPECIAL PHOTO



Above: Aaliyah Smith, Jonah Bell, Amelia Hancock, Kaylah Smith, Sawyer Williamson/SPECIAL PHOTOS



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OBITUARIES



Sandra "Sandy" Sweat

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Sandra “Sandy” Sweat, who departed this life peacefully at her home in Baxley, Georgia, surrounded by her beloved family, on Tuesday morning, Aug. 18, 2026.

Born on Oct. 19, 1956, Sandy was a cherished daughter of the late Walter and Lou Ella Carter. Her early years in Baxley were marked by love, laughter and a deep-rooted sense of community.

Sandy is survived by her husband Lee J. Sweat Jr., daughter Jackie Smiley, son-in-law Matt Brauning and grandson Brayden Brauning; siblings Wayne and Jonnilee Carter, Steve and Debbie Carter, Spencer and Gayle Carter, Shirley (Larry) Medders and Nick and Cindy Buonamia. She also leaves behind 15 nieces and nephews, along with two more generations of great-nieces and nephews and her beloved canine companion, Bella.

Sandy dedicated over three decades of her life as a diligent and respected legal secretary. Her career later led her to the Appling County Sheriff’s Office where she joined the clerical staff, bringing her meticulous attention to detail and unwavering commitment to excellence.

As a faithful member of the Spring Branch Baptist Church, Sandy’s life was a testament to her devotion not only to her faith but also to her community. Her love for music, children and family was the cornerstone of her life, and she was known for her infectious smile that could light up the darkest room. Her ability to embrace everyone with an open heart and her readiness to lend a helping hand were qualities that endeared her to all who knew her. Sandy was fiercely loyal to those she loved, and her laughter was a melody that resonated with all who had the privilege of knowing her. She was a woman of remarkable kindness, and her presence brought joy and comfort to countless lives.

Sandy’s departure leaves a void that will never be filled, yet her spirit will forever dwell in the hearts of those who were fortunate to know her. She leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unwavering faith that will continue to inspire all who were touched by her presence.

“Ain’t no grave gonna hold my body down.”

Funeral services were conducted on Friday, Aug. 21, at 11 a.m. from the graveside in Carter Cemetery in Baxley, Georgia with Pastor Rick Brown officiating. Family, friends and all who shared in her wonderful

journey are invited to continue honoring her memory. Serving as pallbearers were: Matt Brauning, Wayne Carter, Steve Carter, Spencer Carter, Nick Buonamia, Jackson Buonamia and Bruce Medders. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in her memory to the H.E.A.R.T OF APPLING, INC., c/o Karen Bowen, 2304 Buck Head Rd., Baxley, GA 31513, HEART of Appling - Facebook or heartofappling@outlook.com; to continue her legacy of love and support for the community she held dear. Please share a memory, leave a condolence message and sign the online guest register at www.sammons-funeralhome.com **Sammons Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated Since 1917. Call (912) 529-4411 or (478) 455-0671.**

PASTOR'S VIEWPOINT

By CHARLES "BUDDY" WHATLEY

Capernaum is an unlikely headquarters for Jesus’ ministry. He might have chosen the culture of Rome, the intellectual atmosphere of Athens, or the religious centers in Jerusalem. But instead, he overlooked Rome and Athens and left the religious fortresses in Jerusalem, to spent time in the quiet, isolated, cul-de-sacs of Cana (where he healed the official’s son) and Nazareth (where he offered a big God to little people who only wanted a small tribal god). So, Jesus walked away from his hometown!

Then he settled in Capernaum, a busy fishing center where trade routes crossed the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. To understand why he chose Capernaum, we need a bit of background in geography. Matthew 4.16 tells us that Jesus made this move to fulfill a prophecy from Isaiah 9.2, “...the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

Capernaum was an international trading center on the northern edge of the Sea of Galilee. Built on the Via Maris (meaning the "Way of the Sea"), Capernaum was the major trade route linking Egypt, Syria and Mesopotamia. Therefore, Capernaum was filled with Roman soldiers, Greek merchants, Jewish fishermen and Gentile travelers who were constantly crossing paths with the caravans passing through on their way to the ends of the earth.

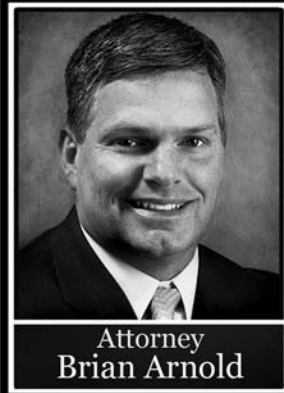
Staying in Nazareth was like opening a boutique in Ochlocknee. Moving to Capernaum was like moving your boutique to Hartsfield International Airport. In Nazareth, Jesus’ message would have created a small, local religious cult. In Capernaum, every Roman soldier, Greek merchant, Jewish fishermen, and Gentile traveler who heard his message would carry his words back home with them along the trade routes. God used Jesus’ rejection in Nazareth to push his message out to a place where his message would reach the whole world.

The Promise Keepers’ message was, “Iron sharpens iron!” Our faith grows, matures and spreads when it’s challenged and tested. We’re not meant to live out our faith in the religious fortresses of Jerusalem nor in the quiet cul-de-sacs of Nazareth, but in the chaos of Capernaum... where people are “living in the land of the shadow of death.”

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

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**SLUDGE**  
Continued from page 1  
es were due to the department’s implementation of Flock Safety cameras, Interim Police Chief Roy Adams took the opportunity to defend the use of the cameras. “The public don’t understand that they are being tracked every day as long as they’ve got a cell phone,” said Adams. “That camera does the same thing a cellphone does, it

**POLICE VEHICLES**  
Continued from page 1  
eight years.

In the event of a purchase, the old vehicles could be transferred to another department or listed on the government surplus auction website Govdeals.

Council Member Andrew Simons offered a motion to “approve the purchase of two new vehicles as well as beginning the excessing process,” along with the installing of necessary aftermarket upgrades, which passed unanimously.

In other action items, the council considered pursuing a grant proposed by Bill Torrence. The grant, worth \$150,000 with a 10 percent match, would be used to allow civil engineering company Turnipseed Engineers to locate and determine problems in local infrastructure, providing evidence to strengthen future grant applications.

“It’s just the planning,” said Torrence. “It’s to identify and to test the areas to determine where our problems are.”

**BULLDOG GRILL**  
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things are just in your makeup.”

Coleman took over the Bulldog Grill in 2019, although the restaurant has operated in Alamo for over 20 years. Many of the restaurant’s patrons have been coming to the restaurant for a long time, so Coleman is careful when making alterations to the menu.

“They like something different every now and then, but they still like normal too,” said Coleman. “I can’t go too far out of the box.”

The new operation’s offerings do have some differences to what came before, such as blue plate orders and more variety in dinner plates.

just does it by a tag number instead of a phone number.” The Alamo Police Department currently uses three Flock Safety cameras, and Adams hopes to receive a grant to implement several more and replace other equipment for his officers, such as a broken radio. The city is also considering replacing a dump truck with a Ford F-250 with a dump trailer, which will factor into the city’s

According to Torrence, the grant application process will be handled through Turnipseed, and the city will only take on expenses if the grant is received. “We won’t have any expenses, unless we get the grant,” said Torrence.

The council agreed to move forward with the grant application in a unanimous vote. Council Member Misty Brantley offered a motion to approve the alcohol and business licenses for a new restaurant and gas station, which passed unanimously. While discussing the new business, Council Member Xandra Brown gave the owner, Bhavin Patel, a word of advice.

“I wish you love and success, but I know that you’re going to have to come up with some other ways of keeping it open, because of the – I’m just being honest – because of the competition you have just across the street..., so, just have some type of stand out,” said Brown.

During the lockdowns caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, Coleman began offering a variety of take-and-bake casseroles, which would then be delivered without contact to the customer’s home. Because of this strategy, the Bulldog Grill avoided shutting down during the lockdown period.

“That was a huge deal,” said Coleman. “I never had to shut down for COVID.”

According to Coleman, operating a restaurant is “the hardest work I’ve ever done,” being incredibly tiring despite her love for the work.

“It’s nonstop,” said Coleman. “When I go home, I’m still working. I’m still answering the phone.”

So, Coleman does not cook much throughout the weekdays anymore. She

SPLOST budget. Council Member Don-drea Geter offered a motion to schedule a public hearing on the budget prior to the council’s next regular meeting on September 21, which passed unanimously. In the next meeting, Floyd aims to make amendments to the city’s ordinances pertaining to stray dogs in regards to its animal shelter and local rental properties.

Brantley also offered motions to accept a new organizational chart proposed by Bill Torrence and to adopt amendments to the city’s new cemetery ordinance. Both motions passed unanimously.

Council Member Andrew Simons also asked the council to consider returning to the previous schedule of two meetings per month, rather than scheduling the council’s work session and regular meeting consecutively on the same day.

“I want us to reconsider going back to two meetings a month,” said Simons. “I love my first Monday, but I think we could possibly head off some issues... if we go back to two.”

However, Mayor Koon asked Simons to hold onto his suggestion, as while he was “not opposed” to returning to the old schedule, he expressed an interest in making the new schedule work. For a potential solution, he said he would send each council member reports early in the month to “keep you guys in the loop.”

does cook on the weekends for the Bulldog Grill’s catering, which began two years ago and Coleman described as “booming.”

The hard work has paid off in a sense of normalcy and a connection to the local community. Many of Coleman’s customers are regulars with whom she has formed connections.

“They sit in the same spots,” said Coleman. “They know me, I know them.”

Coleman does not live in Alamo but instead 10 minutes away in Mcrae, her home of 50 years. However, she has formed a great deal of affection for the Alamo community in her time working in the Bulldog Grill.

“I love Alamo,” said Coleman. “I love the people. They have a great sense of community.”

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DID YOU KNOW...?

Did the first mission to land on the moon carry a piece of aviation history?

By JACK BAGLEY  
Georgia Trust For Local News

Here we are again, enjoying the “dog days” of summer. I know I’ve mentioned this many times, but for those who came in late: We call this time the “dog days” because Sirius, the brightest star in the sky beside the sun, is visible in the Northern Hemisphere. “So what?” you may be asking. Well, ancient people believed that in addition to light from Sirius, we also received heat, and that added to the sweltering temperatures August normally contains. We don’t, of course; it’s too far away. It’s “dog days” because Sirius is the main star in the constellation Canis Majoris, or the Big Dog. Sirius is also called the “dog star.” Yes, I’m Sirius about that. Just as I am about trivia... so let’s enjoy some, right now!

*Did you know...*  
... dreams are very important? Research into sleep has shown that when people are deprived of dreams, they experience marked changes in their personalities. Some of the changes include becoming irritable and disoriented, experiencing hallucinations, and even showing signs of psychosis. Also, the first chance they get to actually dream, they do so excessively. This is called the “REM Rebound” for the rapid eye movement which denotes when a person is dreaming. (Life is, indeed, but a dream.)  
... you may know someone with hyperthymesia? If you do, the two words you’ll never hear them say are, “I forgot.” A person with hyperthymesia, or Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory, can remember every detail about every day of their lives. Perhaps the best-known person with this condition is actress Marilu Henner (born 1952), one of the stars of the 1980s series Taxi. Henner remembers everything about every day of her life, including things she’d probably prefer to forget such as embarrassments, conflicts, and losses. (With what I would have to remember it would be something of a curse.)

... the first mission to land on the Moon carried a piece of aviation history? Apollo 11, launched on July 16, 1969, carried three astronauts – Neil Armstrong (1930-2012), Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin (born 1930), and Michael Collins (1930-2021) – and also had with it small bits of the wood and fabric that made up the Wright Flyer, the first heavier-than-air powered aircraft. Those small bits went down to the surface of the Moon with Armstrong and Aldrin, then were brought back to Earth. The Wright Flyer was first flown at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 14, 1903, by Orville (1871-1948) and Wilbur Wright (1867-1912). Additional trivia note: Small pieces of the Wright Flyer were also aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger when it was destroyed in a 1986 explosion; the pieces were recovered from the wreckage. Another small piece of Wright Flyer fabric is on Mars, attached to the unmanned helicopter Ingenuity. (That old plane sure gets around!)

... no one knew what the far side of the moon looked like until 1959? Due to the fact that the moon is tidally locked in its orbit around the Earth, it always presents the same side to us. Because of a “wobble” in its rotation, we actually see about 59% of the moon’s surface, depending on the time of month we look at it. But the far side was hidden from our view until 1959, when the Soviet space probe Lunik 3 took a photograph of it and sent it back to Earth. Additional trivia note: You will sometimes hear the far side called the “dark side” of the moon, but this is a misnomer. The far side gets as much sunlight as the near side gets, just two weeks later than the near side.

... corn is produced on every continent but one? The only place on Earth where corn is not grown is, not surprisingly, Antarctica. Additional trivia note: some corny numbers for you – one ear of corn averages 16 rows with 800 kernels. One pound of dried corn has about 1,300 kernels. And 100 bushels of corn? That’s about 7,280,000 kernels. (With that many kernels, there’s a whole lot of saluting.)

... bone china really does involve bones? Some china is called bone china because powdered animal bone is mixed with the clay used in firing the pieces. The bone gives the china more strength, whiteness and translucency. (That ought to keep you up at night.)

... the siege of Leningrad by the Nazis during World War II was very costly to the Russians? Lasting from September 8, 1941 to January 27, 1944 – 872 days – more Russians (civilian and military) were killed than the combined numbers of British and American soldiers during the entire war. A total of 1,565,415 Russians died during the siege alone. The combined total of British and American military deaths during the entire war was 791,000.

... one of the hardest products to find in a store in Korea is deodorant? That’s because the Korean people lack a particular gene, the ABCC11 gene, which is the natural cause of armpit odor. Only about 0.006% of the Korean population has the gene, and nobody is sure of why.

... tablecloths were originally supposed to used as towels? The original intent of a cloth covering for a table was for the diners to wipe their hands and mouths after eating. Napkins, which now serve that purpose, were developed later, and the tablecloth became something to protect the surface of the table rather than clean the diners. (Oh, to have had the laundry concession back then!)

*Now... you know!*

Unplugged: An old-fashioned solution for a modern problem

Mornings are hectic once again in my home.

I am a morning person. I love to ease into my day in the quiet darkness of the pre-dawn hours, with a cup of coffee and some light reading. People who sleep to the last possible moment before they have to jump out of bed to the noise of a blaring alarm clock and rush off to work are, quite frankly, insane.

The summertime months provide the best opportunity for such beginnings. With only my own schedule to account for, I am master of my time and my daily commute.

With the start of school, those days are over for now. I, along with countless other parents, am at mercy of carpool lines and dismissal bells once again, cramming my own responsibilities to fit the desires of the schoolhouse.

But alas, such is life, and I know I’d better enjoy these fleeting years while I can. But I’m still going to complain a little bit.

As precious as every passing minute is, especially under a tight schedule, there are many distractions that seek our attention. None are as difficult to avoid like the allure of a smartphone.

Like the song of siren calling out to the Greek sailors of old (I haven’t seen the newest blockbuster rendition of “The Odyssey,” but I know how the story goes), a smartphone draws in the strongest of warriors and robs them of their most valuable asset.

Perhaps that is a touch too dra-



THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD

By KYLE DOMINY

matic, but the best complainers have to have a flair for exaggeration.

On a recent moment when it was time to be heading out of the door, I went searching for my children. Lo and behold what do I find? My one-and-only precious girl child glued to a screen.

Now, most of you reading this are doing so in a newspaper and that I greatly appreciate. Technology should have stopped with the Gutenberg press, maybe Linotype.

“It’s time to go,” I bellowed, that’s what fathers do when they’re aggravated with their offspring, at her.

“I still have to brush my teeth,” she answered, frantically shoving the phone into her pocket as if I didn’t have eyes and could see her.

“You are addicted to that phone,” I said.

“I am not,” was her retort. Just what a screen junkie would say.

I’ve heard of a new trend of people “going analog,” not just stepping away from things like social media, but disconnecting from the internet as much as possible. There have been spikes in the sale of books, magazines and even newspapers (I may make a decent living out of this yet). MP3 players that have to be loaded with a curated list of songs are popular again.

And it’s not people my age and older doing this, people who remember when devices did not hog our attention, but young people tasting digital-less freedom for the first time.

There’ll be some mandatory analog time in my house for a few days.

COUCH THEATER



Aiysha Hart, left, and Anthony Mackie star in "Desert Warrior"/Photo courtesy of MovieStillsDB

By DEMI TAVERAS  
King Features

The Whisper Man (R)

Based on the novel by Alex North, this crime thriller film, premiering Aug. 28, was produced by the Russo Brothers ("Avengers: Endgame") and stars Robert De Niro ("The Alto Knights"), Michelle Monaghan ("The White Lotus"), and Adam Scott ("Severance"). Although it's deemed a crime thriller, it's got the tone of a full-on horror flick, and with the dark subject matter at hand, it's sure to keep the hairs on your arms standing. Scott portrays Tom, a widowed father to an 8-year-old son, who decides to move his family to a quiet town named Featherbank to start anew. Featherbank, however, used to be tormented by a serial killer named the Whisper Man, and somehow, the killer has escaped. Tom's son is subsequently taken, leaving him with no choice but to reach out to his estranged father, a detective named Pete (De Niro), to help find the missing boy. (Netflix)

The Last Sunrise (R)

Maia Reficco from the rebooted "Pretty Little Liars" series leads this steamy romantic drama premiering Aug. 26! Based on the 2025 novel of the same name, "The Last Sunrise" follows Ry, a young American woman who accompanies her mother, Isolde (Eva Longoria), on a business trip to Majorca, Spain. With health issues weighing her down mentally, Ry isn't expecting much out of this trip ... until she meets a local boy named Julian (Fernando Lindez). A passionate affair between the two is inevitable, but their romance gets threatened when Isolde reveals to Ry that she needs to buy out Julian's family's docks to bring her business deal to fruition. (Amazon Prime Video)

Girls Like Girls (R)

Actress and singer Hayley Kiyoko got her start in the 2011 film "Lemonade Mouth," a Disney Channel original film. Since then, she's had a steady career in music, film and TV. In 2015, she released the song "Girls Like Girls" with a music video that's somewhat of a sneak peek of the new "Girls Like Girls" film, which just released on Peacock. This coming-of-age drama film is directed by Kiyoko and stars Maya da Costa ("Descendants: Wicked Wonderland") and Myra Molloy ("He's All That"). Da Costa plays 17-year-old Coley, who begins a new chapter of her life in rural Oregon with her estranged father, Curtis (Zach Braff). Soon after she moves, Coley meets another girl named Sonya (Molloy), and they form a deep emotional connection that's bound to leave one girl heartbroken. (Peacock)

Desert Warrior (R)

AGC Studios made an interesting choice in producing a \$150-million historical-action film led by Anthony Mackie ("Captain America: Brave New World"). While Mackie is incredibly talented, his latest "Captain America" installment didn't fill theater seats like Chris Evans' previous three films, and "Desert Warrior" didn't even make \$1 million at the box office. Still, this film could be a great choice for those who enjoy period-piece action films. Mackie takes on the role of Hanzala, a legendary bandit in 7th-century Asia who agrees to assist an exiled princess in her revolution against a tyrannical empire. Not only must he unite tribes against Emperor Kisra (Ben Kingsley), but he must also face the emperor's ruthless soldier Jalabzeen (Sharlto Copley) in direct combat. Premieres Aug. 28. (Hulu)

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Labor Day goings on

For the first two weeks of September in Athens, Georgia, we can expect a transition to early fall weather, with an average daytime high of 84 degrees and nighttime lows dropping to a comfortable 60 to 65 degrees—all of which will be accompanied by sunshine, high humidity, and a chance of passing afternoon thunderstorms.

Athens is a place many Georgians will be on Labor Day—that pre-fall holiday that will be the focal point for tens of thousands (if not hundreds of thousands) of fans watching on television when Georgia hosts Tennessee State in its opening game. And, of course, a sold-out Sanford Stadium of 93,033.

I grew up in the dreadful heat of summer without a ceiling fan. I have never liked hot weather. I have driven a tractor all day long during summer's peak heat, wearing nothing but a pair of shorts. I practiced and played football in stifling heat, but I could do without September games. So, I never took the position that growing up in the South that I got "used to the heat."

Georgia's victory over Yale on Oct. 12, 1929, the dedication of Sanford Stadium, was a hot and humid day, which heavily favored the Southern Bulldogs as they upset the Bulldogs of New Haven, Connecticut.

Yale unwittingly enhanced the UGA cause when the team dressed out in its



LORAN SMITH

traditional blue stockings that reached their knees. The team looked terrific in warmups, but when those heavy woolen stockings became sodden with perspiration, that heightened Georgia's advantage.

It can be hot during early October, but better weather—cooler temperatures—is what we all look forward to. In addition to football, there

is the magnificent change of the leaves, fall fly fishing, and the harvest scenes.

On occasion in falls past, owing to football travel, there have been opportunities to visit other states in the Southeast and the Midwest. Across America, there are harvest scenes like what we experience in our own backyard.

Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado, Illinois, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas are among the states that underscore the harvest scenes as we do. It is the same with New England. Agriculture and related industries contribute significantly to the U. S. gross domestic product, right at \$1.5 trillion dollars. I will always hold a soft spot in my life for farmers and agriculture.

A few facts about September:

The hottest recorded temperature on earth for our ninth month was 127 degrees Fahrenheit on Sept. 1, 2022, set at Furnace Creek in Death Valley National Park, California.

The summer is a great time to enjoy a hot dog. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Americans usually eat roughly 7 billion hotdogs, which would stretch from New York to London and back 25 times. If you haven't had a hot dog lately, there is time to help keep that statistic intact.

The first Labor Day parade took place in New York City on September 5, 1882, when 10,000 workers marched for better hours.

Most of us down South probably don't know about the "No White Rule." There once was a rule against wearing white after Labor Day for the wealthy elite to signal they were back in town from summer resorts

and a renewal of city life.

This day became a national law when President Grover Cleveland's stroke of the pen made it a federal law in 1894 following a major railway strike in Chicago.

For October for fly fishing advocates, it is a welcome month, as the trout return to the Chattahoochee. Standing in Georgia's most romantic river and seeing a three-pound trout take in a tiny fly, dart away with fluid alacrity, and leap out of the water, intent on making a fool out of you, and eventually succumbing to a dipnet is one of the richest experiences there is.

The good news is that there are many Georgians who can enjoy that opportunity with just a little effort. And not only is that a cool experience, but you are also cool and comfortable as you do it.

Beware of politicians bearing economic statistics

I try not to think about the fact that college was almost four decades ago. Like many, so much of what I learned in Athens occurred outside the classroom yet occasional lessons from coursework appear as flashbacks in reaction to the modern world's events all these years later.

My degrees, a B.B.A. from UGA and later a Master's from Georgia State are in Economics. There's currently an online debate about who gets to call themselves (and demand others refer to them as) an Economist.

I don't, and I never have. I've been a banker, a builder, held a finance role for a large auto dealership group, helped manage a phone system for the U.S. Army Reserve, sold a similar system/program to NASA, and more recently have been a consultant, writer, publisher, and lobbyist.

For a brief while in all those years I was also an adjunct professor of Economics and Small Business. It

was one of the endeavors I probably enjoyed the most. As someone trained in economics, I also understood the concept of opportunity cost.

Life decisions aren't all about what makes you the happiest, unfortunately. Fulfillment and enjoyment are certainly important.

Money isn't everything, either. I've turned down job opportunities and clients that would have paid very well. Each of those had high costs on my time, personal life, and/or morals and ethics.

Big life decisions have major opportunity costs. It's somewhat similar to the 1970's game show "Let's Make A Deal". When you pick one door, you give up what is behind others. This is opportunity cost.

The problem with economics is few wish to study it or make an effort to understand it. The reaction to the subject, to quote one of my sisters, is "Ewwwww".

Yet many still wish to use the economic signals we get

every day not just for their own choices, but for others. Many a political argument ends after making an often errant point with "it's just Econ 101".

The problem with this line of reasoning is that foundational classes in Economics are meat to teach the most basic of concepts. There are many assumptions one must make to have the elemental "Marshallian Cross" lines of supply and demand actually work that some can miss why signals sometimes fail in the real world.

It's hard to blame the general public for this when they have so much help in misunderstanding the complexities of economic action and reaction. Few journalists have even a foundational course in Econ. Many of their stories begin with good intentions to inform, but their own industry's failures to understand markets and market reaction lead to poor reporting and thus greater public misunderstanding.

No better example of this is the coverage of the Federal Reserve setting a benchmark for short term interest rates. The Fed controls short term rates by buying and selling bonds to achieve a relatively stable price and thus interest rate on these instruments.

Too often the reporting of these decisions goes something like "The Fed raised interest rates today, so expect the cost of your mortgage to go up." The problem is, mortgage rates are long term rates, which the market sets generally based on long term inflation fears. Most of the time, a fed decision to raise or lower rates is to fight inflation, and thus the reaction between long and short term rates is like a see-saw.

Because raising short term rates shows the Fed is fighting inflation, mortgage rates will often actually come down when "interest rates are raised". Yet it's often reported as the opposite cause and effect.



CHARLIE HARPER  
GEORGIA POLITICS

Then there are politicians and their consultants. They want you to believe the slogans they put on bumper stickers which come from partisan dogma are long standing economic treatises.

Too many conservatives believe every time you cut taxes you get an increase in revenue. If this were true, we would have infinite revenues just by eliminating taxes. That's what happens if you just keep cutting according to this bumper sticker theory.

Too many progressives believe the government can

spend its way into prosperity, even if it means confiscating the wealth of the prosperous. The people who want to take profits out of our system don't seem to understand that our entire tax system is based on taking a percentage of profits – while leaving an incentive for private citizens to take risks and make profits so that they can keep at least some of it.

Each side comes loaded with their own out of context economic headlines to "prove their points", not unlike an atheist quoting out of context scripture to assert moral high ground. We are at this point of the campaign cycle and on the precipice of a Presidential race where these examples abound.

They have me harkening back not to one of my Economics courses, but to my intro to Statistics taught by Dr. Whitten at UGA in the 1980's. Beware, she cautioned at the beginning of the course, of what you're about to learn. In this world, there are lies, damned lies, and then there are statistics.

I am happy to be living in such a happy state of mind

*Editor's Note: This column was originally published in the Sept. 18, 2024 edition of the Tri-County Connector.*

Are you happy? If so, I am happy. But you and I might be exceptions. I just read a report by WalletHub, a personal finance company, that ranks the 50 states on a number of metrics to determine which states are the happiest. Georgia is listed as the 20th happy state.

The criteria for determining how happy we are include things like our emotional wellbeing, how much sleep we get, how many hours we work, whether or not we're depressed, how safe are we, rate of suicides, whether or not we volunteer, engage in sporting activities and number of divorces.

As usual, we beat Mississippi (42nd), Alabama (44th), West Virginia (48th), Arkansas (49th) and poor old Louisiana (50th out of 50) in being happy like we beat them in everything else. That makes me happy. Bless their hearts.

A number of the states in the Northeast were deemed happier than Georgia. WalletHub doesn't say why, but I think it is because many of their citizens got tired of living in a place where it snows ten months a year and all the buildings are rusted and decided to move South, which made those who stayed behind happy because they got tired of all the whining. It may also explain why we dropped to 20th because they settled here and we have to listen to them make fun of how we

talk.

Before you ask, Hawaii rates No. 1 on the happiness scale. WalletHub says it is because Hawaiians enjoy great physical health, low unemployment, the longest life expectancy in the U.S. and the second-highest share of households with an annual income above \$75,000. That, in spite of the fact that U.S. Geological Survey says Hawaii experiences thousands of earthquakes every year. It was interesting to note also that Hawaiians ranked dead last in getting an adequate night's sleep. I guess worrying about thousands of earthquakes annually can do that to a person.

Maryland was the second happiest state. WalletHub says one big reason is Marylanders like what they do. A bunch of them are federal bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., which means they have lifetime employment. Federal bureaucrats never get fired. What's not to like

about that?

I must also note that New Jersey was rated the third happiest. The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name was born in New Jersey, even though she moved to Georgia when she was 4 years old and developed a classic Southern accent. When asked where she was born, she would say "Noowuk," roughly approximating "Newark."

According to WalletHub's analysis, New Jersey natives have "supportive relationships and love in their lives" and "happiness in their marriages." I can personally vouch for that, even those who moved from Noowuk when they were 4 years old.

The bigger question is why does the Great State of Georgia, home to the oldest-state chartered university in the nation and the possessor of the greatest state song in the history of the world, "Georgia on my Mind" as sung by Ray

Charles Robinson, of Albany, Georgia, rate only 20th in happiness?

I may be a part of the reason if my mail is any indication. I have opined on several occasions about the desire of an Alabama-based company, Twin Pines Minerals, to mine titanium dioxide in our Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge so the world will never run short of toothpaste whiteners. No one seems to have mentioned that there is titanium dioxide available to be mined in – are you ready? – Alabama.

Knowing this has made a lot of you very unhappy. Having chemical giant Chemours rumored to be buying out Twin Pines seems to have made you even angrier, particularly when the company said in 2022 that it had no intention to buy the project from Twin Pines Minerals.

Proponents of drag mining Trail Ridge aren't happy with me, either. Gum-



DICK YARBROUGH

my-Moving Ox (I can't make this stuff up) wrote and said he hopes my teeth rot out.

A local timber baron is not real pleased with me, I understand, but not because of my dental hygiene.

I suspect Gov. Kemp, State Senate Majority Leader Steve Gooch and Rep. Lynn Smith aren't real happy with all the controversy but no one knows because they aren't talking.

But let us end on a happy note. At least we don't have thousands of earthquakes a year to keep us awake at night and there is a good chance we will never run out of toothpaste whiteners. I don't know about you, but I am happier already.



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# Montgomery County FFA officers elected to area office

SPECIAL TO THE TRI-COUNTY CONNECTOR

FORT VALLEY – Montgomery County High FFA member and chapter President, Hartley Williamson, was elected to serve as the Central Region Area Four FFA Secretary at our Area Four Awards Banquet this past May and Montgomery County Middle FFA member and chapter President, Gracie Sikes, was elected to serve as a Junior Representative. To qualify, they each had to complete a written application, take a test over FFA knowledge, give a speech to voting delegate FFA members and be elected by them to their respective offices. On July 24-25, Williamson and Sikes traveled to Camp John Hope in Fort Valley, Ga., to complete their officer training.

The Georgia State FFA Area Officer Training program brings together 48 student leaders from across the state who have been selected to serve in their respective areas as an Area Officer. This training is led by our Program Leadership Specialist, Ms. Kylie Sahagun, and also facilitating our National FFA Officer Candidate, Mr. Mason Sorrow.

Here, they learned about leadership and service. When asked about this experience Williamson said, “The information I gained from attending the training really helped me to know what this year will hold and how I should present myself in this role. I gained great leadership skills and I really had the chance to bond with not only my team members, but Area Officers from across the state. It also helped me realize that there are other teens out there who care about agriculture, and the future of it. The things I learned will help me in my year of service by always knowing why I am doing this and showing me that being a leader isn’t about yourself, it is about others and wanting to do the best for them.”

Sikes said, “I gained a lot of leadership skills like communication and learning to listen to others and giving my own opinions when they really mattered. I also learned how to get out of my comfort zone. Everybody on my team, not including Hartley, was new to me, but as time went by we all became close. Most importantly I gained friendships I thought I would never have had the opportunity to make. The most important thing was to enjoy every second of every moment with those people and plan a great year for members, and they made it very easy to do so.”



Montgomery County FFA officers were recently elected into the area office. The National FFA Organization is comprised of 1,053,847 student FFA members from across the country with the Georgia State FFA Association making up the third largest state association with more than 80,000 members/SPECIAL PHOTO

# LOCC discuss challenges, opportunities in rural communities

SPECIAL TO THE TRI-COUNTY CONNECTOR

The Loving Our Community Coalition (LOCC) Treutlen, Telfair, Wheeler & Montgomery County Collaborative recently brought community partners together for an important conversation about the challenges facing our rural communities—and the opportunities we have to address them together.

Our speakers helped put a very real face on the issues we continue to hear about across rural Georgia:

Cassie Kates with MEANT2BE Community Support shared her powerful personal testimony, including the mental health challenges she experienced as a result of limited resources and support in rural Georgia. Her story was an important reminder of why access, awareness, and strong community connections matter.

Telfair County District 1 Commissioner Carla Sirmans & Telfair Vice Chair of Commissions Michael Cravey discussed several challenges currently affecting Telfair County, including limited transportation, access to mental health resources, and broadband limitations that make telehealth services difficult or unavailable for some residents. These barriers highlight why rural communities require solutions designed around their unique needs.

Ashley Black with RISE UP shared exciting updates regarding the expansion of peer recovery support, including the Mt. Vernon and Eastman RISE UP satellite locations. The Mt. Vernon expansion is part of continued efforts to make recovery services more accessible to individuals and families throughout the region.

The heart of LOCC is simple: bringing people to the same table, identifying the gaps in our communities, and working together toward solutions. Our collaborative continues to focus on community resources, behavioral health education, homelessness, faith-based partnerships, and suicide prevention education.

Upcoming Community Events

**Sept. 8 | Suicide Prevention Awareness Day**  
Memorial walk, resources, vendor opportunities and continuing education; additional details to come

**Sept. 10 | All Recovery Meeting**  
From 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 2 Mt. Zion St., Milan, with special guest speaker Callie Lee

**Sept. 10 | 10th Annual Be the Light Night**  
Downtown Moultrie on the Square; resource fair begins at 6 p.m. followed by speakers, stories of hope and a candle-light vigil at 7 p.m.

**Sept. 12 | FTR Recovery Field Day**  
RISE UP will provide transportation for those who need it, with departure from RISE UP at 8:30 a.m.

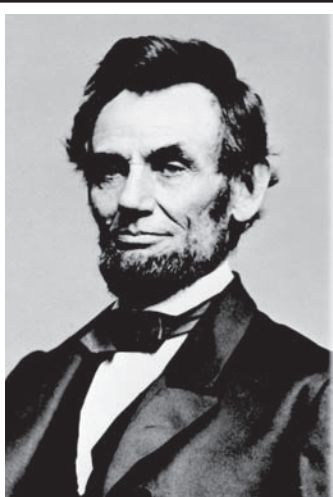
**Sept. 18 | RISE UP's Annual Rock Out 4 Recovery**  
From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Market on Madison, 314 W. Madison St., Dublin; free food, music and games for the whole family

**Oct. 10 | Breaking Bread with Heroes**  
At 9 a.m. at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville; free breakfast honoring active-duty service members, veterans, first responders and their families

**Oct. 10 | Operation Honor Rural Salute**  
From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville; a free community event featuring veteran resources, vendors, children's activities, food trucks, speakers and music

**Jan. 27, 2027 | Addiction Recovery Awareness Day**  
Atlanta, Georgia, including a recovery rally, press conference and an opportunity to meet with legislators

Our next Treutlen/Telfair/Wheeler/Montgomery LOCC Collaborative is scheduled for Nov. 16 at 10 a.m.



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**STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 8/23/26**

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**Legals**

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**S26-040**  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF TREUTLEN  
RE: Estate of Billy Jack Morgan  
All debtors or creditors of the Estate of Billy Jack Morgan, deceased, late of Treutlen County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are to be required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 30th day of July, 2026.  
Sherry Morgan Ricks, Executor 61 6150 GA Hwy 199  
Soperton, GA 30457  
August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026

**S26-042**  
**ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE:**  
You are hereby, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (A) 2, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Treutlen County to foreclose liens for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The vehicle is currently located at: 2B's Towing, LLC Yard located at 5420 GA HWY 29 Soperton, GA. (478) 455-0293 Anyone with an ownership interest in this vehicle should contact the business above.

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Year: 2012  
Make: CHEVROLET  
Model: CRUZE

VIN: 1G6DP567X50127413  
Year: 2005  
Make: CADILLAC  
Model: CTS

VIN: 1FTYR44U82PA22366  
Year: 2002  
Make: FORD  
Model: RANGER

VIN: 5NMS64AJ7MH365173  
Year: 2021  
Make: HYUNDAI  
Model: SANTA FE

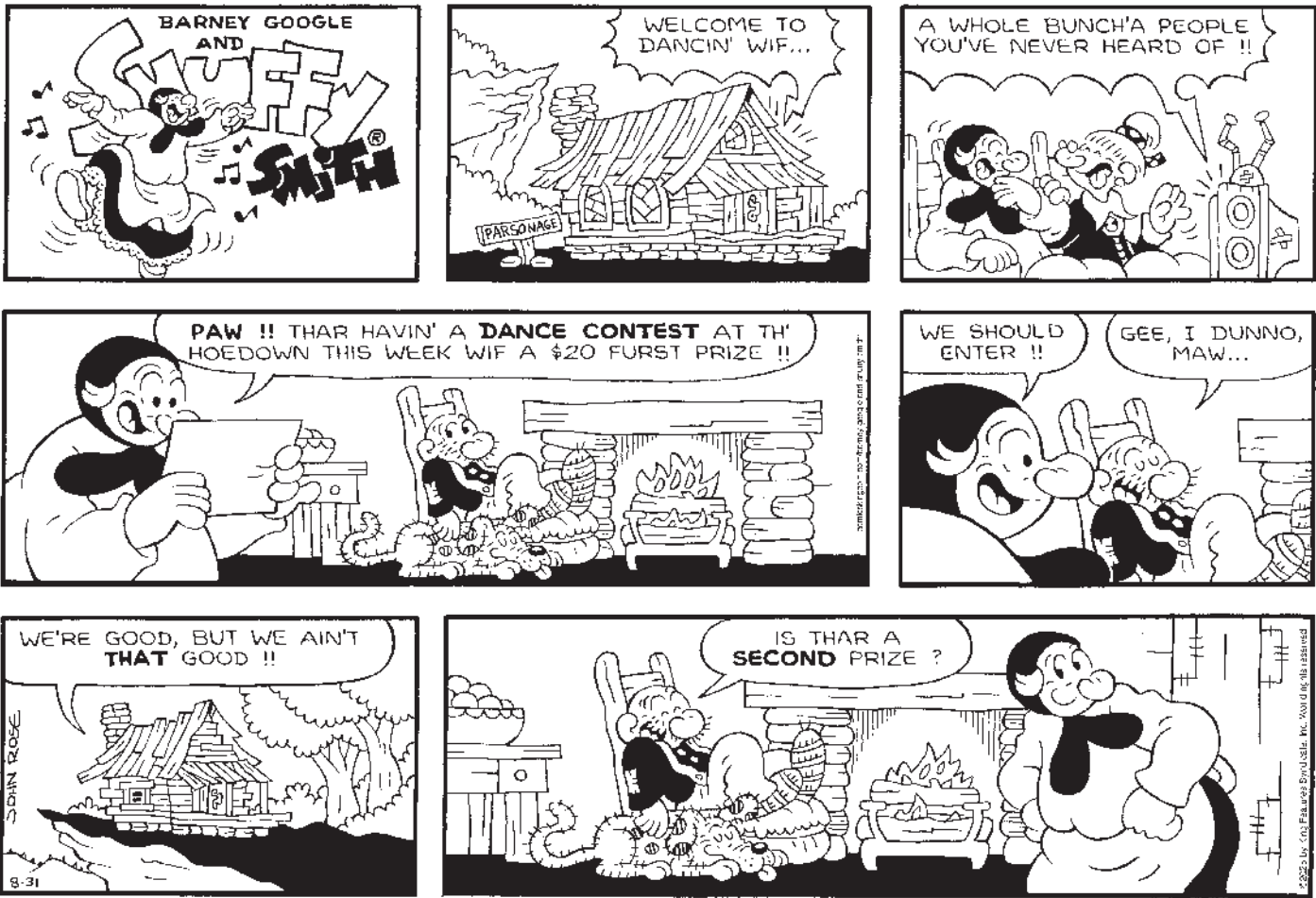
VIN: 4T1BF1BK4DU258831  
Year: 2013  
Make: TOYOTA  
Model: CAMRY

August 20, 27, 2026

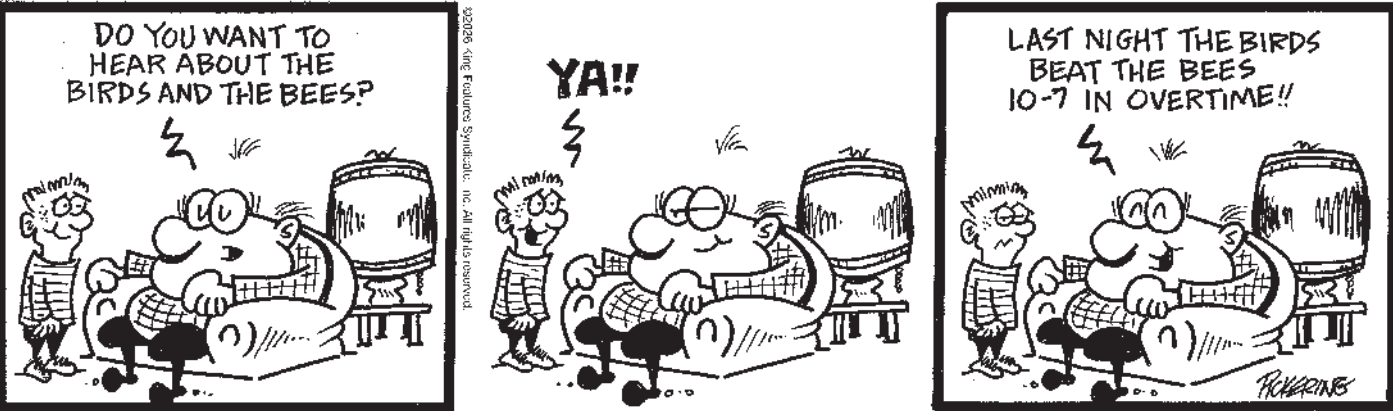
**S26-041**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TREUTLEN COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
ERIC T. DAVIS, Plaintiff,  
v.  
BRANDON SMITH, Defendant.  
C.A. NO. 26-CI-0036  
**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**  
To: Brandon Smith  
By order of the Court for Service of Publication dated July 1, 2026, you are hereby notified that on June 1, 2026, Plaintiff, Eric T. Davis filed suit against you with a Complaint for Custody and/or Visitation. You are required to file with the Clerk of Superior Court and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, Courtney Joiner Anderson, C. Joiner Anderson Law, P.C., P.O. Box 1488, Lyons, GA 30436, an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of August 15, 2026.  
Witness the Honorable William, D. Taylor, III, Judge of the Superior Court of Treutlen County.  
This 11th day of August, 2026.  
Courtney Joiner Anderson  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Signed as Officer of the Court  
August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026

**S26-039**  
Notice to Debtors and Creditors  
All creditors of the estate of Corinthians Tywon Green late of Treutlen County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 24th day of July, 2026  
Name: Mary Mageline McIendon  
Title: Administrator  
Address: 113 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Soperton GA 30457  
August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

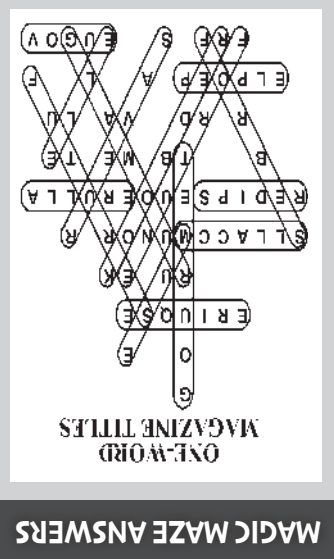
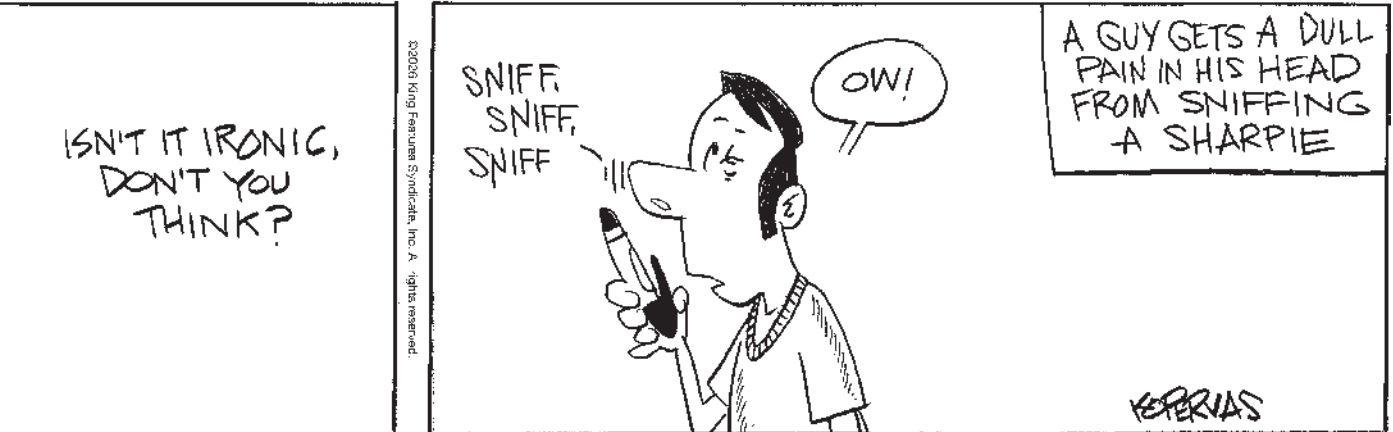
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**ACROSS**

1 Doves' home

5 Coach Parseghian

8 Beach crawler

12 Pizza cooker

13 Greyhound vehicle

14 — Martin (cognac)

15 Bread sellers

17 Sheltered

18 Hogwash

19 Thespians

21 Sheriff's star

24 Hold sway

25 Jealousy

26 Stalks for soups

30 Finale

31 Give it a go

32 Man-mouse link

33 Sets of prayer beads

35 Big gulp

36 Eyeglass frames

37 Lake flock

38 Hoi —

41 Enjoy Aspen

42 Mayberry young 'un

43 Officials with seals

48 Ivy in Philly

49 Literary collection

50 Corporate symbol

**DOWN**

1 Corn core

2 Eggs

3 Shatner's " — War"

4 Vigor

5 Slightly

6 Regret

7 Military attacks

8 Moon cavity

9 Move, in Realtor lingo

10 Pt. of U.S.A.

11 Tournament passes

16 Caviar base

20 "Pinocchio" fish

21 "Cheers" order

22 Part of A.D.

23 Film formats

24 Point — Peninsula

26 Record holder?

27 "The Music Man" setting

28 Ireland

29 Droops

31 Small combo

34 Dahl of films

35 Marble cake patterns

37 Reggae relative

38 Vatican leader

39 Pundit's piece

40 TV journalist Lisa

41 Remain

44 Lennon's partner

45 Charged bit

46 Conceit

47 Plant seeds

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### MAGIC MAZE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: News Magazine with Four Letters

Allure  
Elle  
Esquire  
Forbes

Fortune  
Futures  
Glamour  
Gourmet

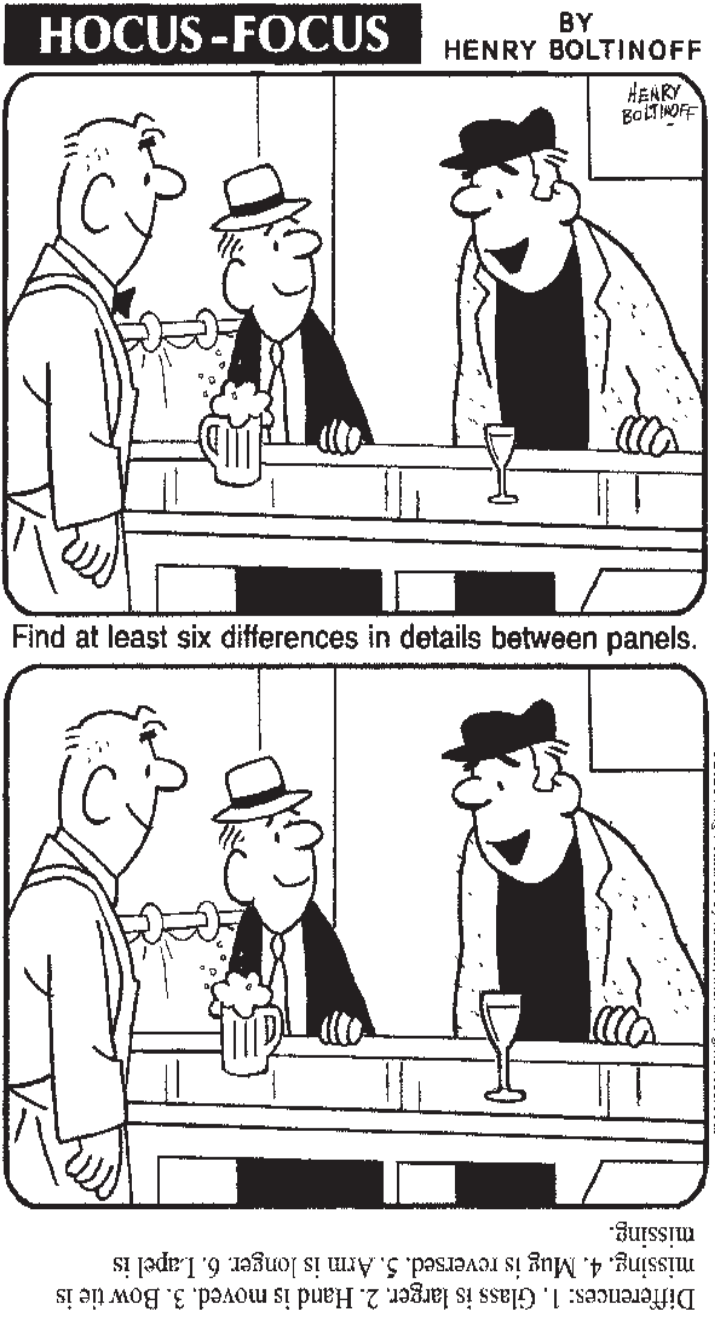
McCall's  
Muse  
People  
Redbook

Saveur  
Spider  
Vogue

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### ONE-WORD MAGAZINE TITLES

Y T Q N J G C Z W T Q N J G D  
A X U R O L G J G D A X V S P  
N K I F C A O X V E S Q O L J  
H E C E R I U Q S E A X V T R  
P N L J H F R U D E K B Y X V  
S L L A C C M U N O R T R R P  
R E D I P S E U O E R U L L A  
O M B K I G T B E M E D T E B  
Z X W R U R D T R V A I L U Q  
O E L P O E P N A L M L J I F  
G F D F R F C S A E E U G O V





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