

La Cabana: A decade after the fire



Mount Vernon’s La Cabana Mexican Restaurant suffered a severe fire in 2015, yet it reopened in 2016 and has remained in operation ever since/LOGAN REYNOLDS

By LOGAN REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

For Mount Vernon’s La Cabaña Mexican Restaurant, 2026 marks a decade after the business recovered and reopened from a devastating fire. Jesse Diaz, La Cabaña’s current general manager, has lived in Georgia for 31 years, with much of that time spent working in the restaurant industry. She got her start in 1995 cleaning tables and dealing with a language barrier, as English is not her first language.

“When I came here in 1995, I started to work here with not much English, and I used to have to clean tables,” said Diaz. “That was my job: clean tables.”

Diaz began learning English,

not through academic study but by ear, and began working her way up through the restaurant industry in Augusta. Eventually, in 2013, she came to Mount Vernon to open a new location for La Cabaña Mexican Restaurant, a Georgia chain of Mexico-inspired dine-in restaurants.

Diaz serves as the restaurant’s general manager, meaning she is responsible for all of the day-to-day operations of the business. This means she may serve as a cook, a waiter or any other role the restaurant needs at a given time.

“My job is to make sure everything is good..., you know, dining room, the kitchen and everything,” said Diaz.

However, on April 1, 2015 – on Diaz’s birthday – a storm caused faulty

lining to catch fire, destroying the restaurant’s kitchen. Issues with the insurance company left the restaurant closed for 16 months and Diaz, single mother of four children, without a job.

“I’m a single mom of four kids, and when that happened, my twins were two years old, and I [didn’t] have a job and I have four kids,” said Diaz. “So, for that 16 months, [it] was kind of a nightmare for me, you know, because I was surviving.”

When La Cabaña reopened in 2016, Diaz felt she and the business were coming back stronger. Not much had changed since the fire, but

LA CABANA
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SNAPSHOTS: ALAMO CELEBRATES THE CITY'S 177TH BIRTHDAY

Alamo City Manager Jeffery Floyd and Mayor Pamela Lee stand in the Alamo City Hall on Aug. 28 in celebration of the city’s 177th anniversary. City employees gave visitors food and drinks, and the city distributed \$200 in giveaways from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m./LOGAN REYNOLDS



SNAPSHOTS: EAGLES DEFEAT BULLDOGS

The Montgomery County Eagles and the Wheeler County Bulldogs in action on Aug. 28 at Brogdon Field in Mount Vernon. The Eagles won 15-14 /LOGAN REYNOLDS



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OBITUARIES



Patricia Winburn Dobbins

Mrs. Patricia Winburn Dobbins, 92, beloved wife of William Mayes Dobbins, passed away at her Dobbins Street home on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026. Patricia was a native of Eastman, Dodge County, Georgia. "Trish", as she was affectionately known, was a 1950 graduate of Eastman High School and a graduate of Middle Georgia College in Cochran, Georgia where she was named Miss Middle Georgia College during her time there. Trish was a true southern belle! Patricia met the love of her life, Mayes Dobbins, in Dodge County. Upon their marriage in 1953, they made their home in Mt. Vernon, Georgia where they reared their family. Trish was fiercely proud of her family. They enjoyed a life of dedication to education and building a sports dynasty recognized throughout the state of Georgia. The Dobbins were dedicated to Montgomery County in so many facets. Mrs. Dobbins operated a private kindergarten prior to being employed by Montgomery County Board of Education. She served the Montgomery County Board of Education as a primary school librarian, secretary, "surrogate" mom to all her students and as a paraprofessional. She was employed with the board of education for 46 years. To say "The Dobbins Family" has always been friends of Montgomery County is an understatement. In 2024, Trish was honored by the city of Mt. Vernon when she was presented with a "Key to the City" on her 90th birthday. She was then honored in 2025 when Montgomery County Schools named the school auditorium in the 1929 building the "Mrs. Patricia Dobbins Auditorium". She was a former member of Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church and a current member of Calvary's Grace Baptist Church. She was also a member of the Daughters of Confederacy, Daughters of American Revolution (Eastman chapter) and Georgia Retired Educators Association. Mrs. Dobbins had several happy venues – her everyday life in Montgomery County, shopping, getting her hair and nails done, eating out, watching sports of any kind and at any time, and enjoying the shores of Saint Simons Island, Georgia.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Mayes Dobbins; son, Dobby Dobbins; grandson, Turner Brice; son-in-law, Mitchell Brice; parents, William McLendon "Mac" Winburn and Mary Elizabeth "Mary Lizzie" Mullis Winburn; brothers, Charles Winburn, Gene Mac Winburn and Lewis Winburn.

Her family includes her two daughters, Debra Dobbins Gay and husband Carl of Ailey and Donna Brice Sharpton and husband Jimmy of Mt. Vernon; daughter-in-law, Susan Martocchia Milne of Hull; five grandchildren, Tamra Rodgers and husband Reid of Ailey, Dominique Munday and husband Andy of Commerce, Gabe Gay and wife Amanda of Dublin, Tanner Brice of Manchester, Tennessee, and Carmen Suttles and husband Tim of Hawkinsville; and nine great-grandchildren, Cayden Rodgers, Calli Rodgers, Carter Rodgers, Grady Gay, Grace Marie Gay, Cannon Suttles, Avery Suttles, Monroe Munday and Mable Munday.

The funeral service was held at Calvary's Grace Baptist Church in Ailey on Saturday morning, August 8th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. with Pastor Brian Patrick and Reverend David Blalock officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Vernon Memorial Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Phillip Overstreet, Virgil McRae, Glen Posey, Carl Lowe, Jared Phillips, Garrett McDonald, Dr. Joe Brogden and Al Conner.

Honorary Pallbearers were all retired and current employees of Montgomery County Schools and men of Calvary's Grace Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to SOAPS, Sweet Onion Animal Protection Society, PO Box 210, Vidalia, GA 30475, the Turner Dobbins Brice Scholarship Fund, PO Box 401, Mt. Vernon, GA 30445 or Calvary's Grace Baptist Church, 777 U.S. Hwy 280, Ailey, GA 30410.

Ronald V. Hall Funeral Home of Vidalia was in charge of arrangements.



Michael Billy Spivey

Funeral services for Mr. Michael Billy Spivey were held Monday, Aug. 31, 2026 at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Higgs Funeral Home in Soperton. Burial was in the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery in Laurens County. Reverend Henry Lamb officiated. Mr. Spivey died Friday, Aug. 28, 2026.

Mr. Spivey, 57, was the

son of the late Charles Billy Spivey and Eunice Lee McCoy Spivey. He was born in Dublin, Ga. on Aug. 26, 1969, was a recent resident of Santa Claus, Ga. but had lived most of his life in East Dublin. He was a graduate of Brewton Christian Academy and was a retired truck driver of 36 years. He loved the Georgia Bulldogs, NASCAR, the Huddle House but most of all "he loved his family". He always said, "If he called you his friend, you were his family."

He is survived by his wife, Laura Mitchell Spivey of Lyons; two sons, Charles Michael (Lydia) Spivey of McRae and Cameron Matthew Spivey of Lyons; three brothers, Randy "Spook" Spivey of Dexter, Andrew (Jade) McCoy of Wrightsville and Jesus Gynjuama of Dublin and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Pallbearers were Matthew Mallory, Matthew Lamb, Tom Benton, Jordan Kelley, Jarad Kelley and Camrin Benton.

Mr. Henry Green was an Honorary Pallbearer.

Higgs Funeral Home (higgsfuneralhomeandflorist.com and facebook) of Soperton had charge of arrangements.



Charlene Marie Foskey

Charlene Marie Foskey, age 86, beloved wife of the late Thomas Franklin Foskey of the Rosemont Community of Soperton passed away, at her home on Tuesday evening, August 25, 2026, surrounded by her family.

Born in Clay Center, Kansas, she was the eldest of three children born to the late James Robert Hatfield

and Edna Marie Copeland Hatfield. She and her siblings grew up in Kansas. She married her husband, Frank, in 1957 and they later moved to the Soperton area in 1967.

Mrs. Foskey worked with Roydonwear until it's closing in the 1980s and then worked with Soperton Manufacturing, Woolrich and the Soperton Shirt Factory, from where she retired.

Her husband passed away in 2001.

Mrs. Foskey was fond of attending gospel sings, crocheting, sewing and working in her yard.

She had been a longtime member of Rosemont Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by her only brother, Kenneth "Kenny" Hatfield.

She leaves behind, her children: Linda Maddox (Alvin), Michael "Mike" Foskey (Tina), Pam Richardson (Lamar), and Jimmy Dean Foskey (Karen), all of Soperton; her only surviving sibling, Rita Kelly of Columbus, GA; grandchildren, Monica, Brian, Alan, Jamie, Edward, Jeana, Ashton, Rebekah, Rena, Scott, Bridgett and Dusty; numerous great and great great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 o'clock in the morning on Friday, August 28, 2026 in the Billy Williams Chapel of Sammons Funeral Home with Pastor Dwayne Clements officiating.

Mrs. Foskey was laid to rest beside her husband in the Rosemont Baptist Church Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers were: Brian Foskey, Dusty Foskey, Edward Bridges, Jamie Bridges, Alan Bridges and Scott Richardson.

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

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Heaven and a penny

By ALBERT WHITE

And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into the vineyard.
Matthew 20:2

I have heard this story talked about over and over throughout my life. I have heard some say it at funerals and in church services too. The strange thing to me is the difference in the narrative. Different people see it differently. Some rejoice at the message of the 11th hour and another squint at it and question the validity of the thought that a person can be saved at the end of their life after being in rebellion to Jesus throughout their living years.

At risk of sounding redundant in these articles I must add, either you believe it or you don't.

I personally do believe it just as it is written. That would be my opinion about everything written in the Bible. I believe it all. It is the infallible Word of God for me. That is not to say that my ideology of perception doesn't get challenged. Over and over throughout my studies, I come across things in the Bible that cause me to say, wow. The one thing that I have to say is, well the Bible is correct. So, I simply have to change my way of perception to that of the Bible. This topic for a lot of people is just that way. Some struggle with the last event. Everyone got the same payment, even the 11th hour people. That to me is including the deathbed. I realize that is the part of the controversial processing of the text. There has been a few different people who had found themselves on their death bed and lost. The reality is that the appearance of a person dying causes a very real urgency to cry out to the Lord. I have witnessed those who cried out with a very real heart of repentance and I have to say I believe that grace works for them as much as it does for those of us who have been in the vineyard for a long time.

Thank God is all I know to say, Thank God for the precious blood of Jesus that takes away the sin of sinful man. I once knew a man who was a drunk and an abusive spouse. He was saved late in life. Around his mid 70s, I think. His wife had passed away and his kids all grown and moved away before he found his way to the Lord. He would testify of his conversion and his regret for not doing so earlier while his wife was living and his kids were young. Though he had a level of regret for his past, he knew he was saved, and yes he had a change in his person and actions. He wasn't an eleventh hour salvation story but he was not the first hour story either. So, if you are struggling with time, I want you to realize that since you are living, there is still time to repent and be saved. Today is your day. Confess Jesus as your Lord, and believe the gospel and you will be saved. It is almost so easy that it is hard to perceive that Jesus would let me have the gift that easily.

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

PASTOR'S VIEWPOINT

By CHARLES "BUDDY" WHATLEY

Imagine buying a brand-new, top-of-the-line smartphone. It has incredible processing power, a high-resolution camera, and endless potential. But there's a catch: You don't have a charging cable. No matter how advanced or expensive the phone is, without power, it's just an expensive paperweight. Something like that happens quite often in the Bible; for example, in John chapter 5 with a man who was lame.

In John 5:1-15, we'll meet the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda who lived like that cell phone paperweight for 38 years. He was surrounded in Jerusalem by religious services, daily prayers, a temple, Jewish laws and rules and the expectations of priests, Pharisees, and Sadducees. But amid all that religious power, he'd laid by the pool of Bethesda for 38 years without a charging cable and no way to access that power.

Then Jesus walks into the scene to both change his physical condition, but also to change his spiritual situation... to save him, to heal him, and to make him whole again. The Biblical word for save is "soterios" meaning both a physical and a spiritual healing. Dr. Frank Stanger, president of Asbury Theological Seminary while I was there, says we should, rather than ask for physical healing, ask for wholeness!

The Pool of Bethesda was surrounded by a crowd of sick, blind, and paralyzed people. According to local tradition, an angel would periodically stir the waters, and all those broken people would race to the pool. The first one to reach the water was healed... according to the legend. When Jesus asks the man if he wants to get well, he replies, "Sir, ...I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." (John 5:7)

In physics, when electrical energy flows through a wire it creates resistance. Some of the electrical energy is lost as heat when the electrons in the copper vibrate and collide. But if you cool certain materials to ultra-low temperatures, they become super-conductors and the resistance drops to near-zero.

Something like that happens when we try to forgive our own sins or solve our own problems. It's like a lame man in a race to the pool. We get frustrated. We lose energy. We burn out. But Jesus offers to be our super-conductor with a zero-resistant wire to the power of God. With a word, he healed the royal official's son in Cana and now heals the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda! And now, "Do you want to get well? (John 5.6)

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



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DID YOU KNOW...?

Was a well-known American general nominated three times for the Medal of Honor?

By JACK BAGLEY
Georgia Trust For Local News

Good grief, where is the time going so quickly? I mean, here it is September already!

You know what that means, right? (Well, you do if you're a regular reader of this silly stuff.). It means that later on, just three more weeks or so, I have another one of those silly events called "birthdays."

This month, I'll turn 68 years old. While I ruminate on what all that could possibly mean, I'll turn over the trivia column and let you enjoy some things that don't cause me to feel older.

Did you know...
... two separate attacks on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii took place during World War II? We are all familiar with the "day of infamy" attack which happened on December 7, 1941, and which brought the United States into the war. A second attack, on March 4, 1942, is lesser known. Dubbed "Operation K," this involved two Japanese flying boats attacking Oahu Island once again, specifically targeting a dock. Bad weather and even worse navigation caused the bombers to miss the dock, dropping their ordinance harmlessly near a high school. (Thanks to Terry for the tip!)

... an astronomer once designed a super-telescope? Adrien Auzout (1622-1691) drew up a design for a 1,000-foot-long refracting telescope. He thought that the telescope would have a magnification so great that he would be able to see animals on the Moon. The telescope would not be contained in a tube, but instead would have been an "aerial" telescope which uses lenses mounted high in a tree or on a pedestal, and the observer holding the eyepiece lens. (Now that would be a heavenly view.)

... a man can make a sound humans can't hear, but elephants can? Tim Storms (born 1972), a singer said to have the "world's deepest voice," holds the world record for the lowest note produced by a human. The note is eight octaves below the lowest G on a piano, and cannot be heard by the human ear – but elephants can hear it, scientists say. Storms himself cannot hear the note, but he says he can "feel" it in his head. His vocal abilities arise from the fact that his vocal cords are twice as long as most peoples'. (What the elephants think of Mr. Storms' ability has not been recorded for posterity.)

... a famous American general was nominated three times for the Medal of Honor? Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964), one of the most well-known and controversial Army officers in American history, was nominated for the Medal of Honor on three separate occasions. The first was in 1914, when then-Captain MacArthur conducted long-range reconnaissance behind enemy lines in Mexico as part of the Veracruz expedition. The award was submitted by General Leonard Wood (1860-1927), but was rejected by a board convened to review the award, which said awarding the Medal of Honor might encourage staff officers to ignore their commanders and go off on their own missions. The second recommendation came during World War I, when then-Brigadier General MacArthur led another reconnaissance patrol, this one into a gap in German barbed wire fencing and was wounded, ending up the sole survivor of the patrol. This award was submitted by General Charles Summerall (1867-1955), but was downgraded to a Distinguished Service Cross. MacArthur did receive the Medal of Honor in 1942, during World War II, but not for any specific moment of gallantry. Rather, MacArthur was awarded the Medal to offset Japanese propaganda about him supposedly "deserting" his command in the Philippines after he was ordered to leave for Australia. (Thanks to Dave for the tip!)

... filming of one movie caused another movie to shut down for a day? When the 2007 movie No Country for Old Men was being filmed in Marfa, Texas, a cloud of smoke from the set of another movie being filmed there, There Will Be Blood, caused the production to shut down for a day. What makes this a very interesting coincidence is the fact that There Will Be Blood filmed in Marfa for months, but No Country for Old Men only worked in the town for two weeks. (I guess nobody ever heard of coordinating schedules.)

... two rival Mexican religious groups are based on soft drinks? In the town of Chamula, located in the southern state of Chiapas, Mexico, shamans in a religious group began using Coca-Cola™ in their rituals to heal worshipers. When word of this got back to rival Pepsi-Cola™, that company began giving commissions to shamans to get them to recommend Pepsi instead. Coke did the same thing, and now in Chamula there's the Coca-Cola group and the Pepsi group. The "Coca-Cola Church" is actually a tourist attraction. (I got nothing here, folks.)

... engagement rings are expensive because of a marketing ploy? The "standard" value of an engagement ring is said to be two months' salary for the prospective groom. This arbitrary standard was created by the DeBeers Diamond Company's advertising agency. Additional trivia note: Diamonds are only valuable, some sources say, because of DeBeers. The company keeps millions of dollars worth of diamonds hidden in order to drive up the price of those on the market, or so it is alleged.

Now... you know!

Too many flavors of toothpaste

While doing a little light housework the other day, I discovered a glob of fluorescent blue gel at the bottom of the sink.

My daughter, like most little girls, is enamored with all things squishy or made of clay and slime, and she, like seemingly everyone in her circle of influence, loves to play mad scientist with these gooey toys, creating their own out of plastic wrap and balloons or dissecting the ones I spent my hard-earned money on. I have spent too much of my life unclogging drains congested with the leftovers of her experiments At first I believed my afternoon was going to be booked up taking apart another obstructed P-trap.

I tried to wipe away the substance with the rag clutched in my fist and the azure sludge only smeared across the white ceramic surface. My initial fear was assuaged; it wasn't slime, it was toothpaste.

I had two thoughts as I continued to scrub away at the ever-spreading smudge: Why does something meant to clean your teeth make such a mess everywhere else and how well are the members of my household, particularly the youngest ones, brushing their teeth when most of the toothpaste ends up at the bottom of the sink?

There are two kinds of people in this world - those who are shrewd practitioners of oral hygiene and those who take a lackadaisical approach to brushing and flossing. I've been on both ends of this spectrum and both sides keep the dentist office busy.

I'm always surprised at the variety of flavors toothpaste comes in



THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD

By KYLE DOMINY

these days. For decades of my life I believed there was mint and cinnamon, the latter being only for old people. At every visit for a cleaning the list grows longer and longer. It takes the poor hygienist more time to rattle off the options than it does to actually brush my teeth. Among the popular offerings, I'm told, is birthday cake.

It seems counterintuitive, yes, but maybe the good people at Colgate are getting desperate.

The Egyptians were the first people to develop an oral hygiene routine. Some 5,000 years ago, the first tooth cleaner was concocted out of the ashes of burnt ox hooves, pumice and egg shells. The Greeks and Romans improved on the recipe, if you can call it that, by adding crushed bones and oyster shells. Apparently garbage is good for the teeth.

Ironically, the toothbrush didn't come along until more than 3,000

years later. A clever soul living in China during the Tang Dynasty, attached hog hair bristles to a piece of bamboo. Rumor has it that the inventor was known for his less-than-stellar good looks and was trying to find a way to impress the ladies.

Fluoride wasn't clinically proven to benefit teeth until the 1950s, though the chemical was added to the drinking water supply of Flint, Michigan in 1945. An attendant was stationed at all municipal water fountains to ask thirsty partakers if they wanted mint or cinnamon. The latter being only for the elderly, of course.

Back in the confines of my own home, with a freshly cleaned sink, at least until the next tooth brushing session, I'm just thankful that toothpaste evolved from animal parts and bone meal.

The next time I'm at the dentist, I think I'll give birthday cake a try.

COUCH THEATER



Gal Gadot stars in "The Runner"/Photo courtesy of MovieStillsDB

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu (PG-13)
Sometimes a film can have a notable director such as Jon Favreau ("The Lion King"), popular lead stars like Pedro Pascal ("Fantastic 4: The First Steps") and Jeremy Allen White ("The Bear"), and even a score composed by an Oscar winner like Ludwig Goransson ("The Odyssey") -- and still not meet box-office expectations! It certainly didn't meet Disney's, as it was the lowest-grossing live-action "Star Wars" film of all time. This sci-fi film is a continuation of the three-season series "The Mandalorian" (2019-2023), which follows bounty hunter Din Djarin (Pascal) and his foundling, Grogu. Instead of a fourth season, its creators decided to move toward a feature film about the duo, who get recruited by the New Republic to rescue Rotta the Hutt (White). Stream it on Sept. 2! (Disney+)

Mayday (PG-13)
Ryan Reynolds is back on our screens after the successful third installment of his "Deadpool" franchise! Trading in his skintight red suit for a United States Air Force uniform, Reynolds plays pilot Troy "Assassin" Kelly in this action-comedy film out on Sept. 4. After ejecting himself from his plane to survive a head-on collision, Troy lands in the Russian wilderness and quickly encounters ex-KGB carpenter Nikolai Ustinov (Kenneth Branagh). Nikolai, who greatly admires the American government and culture, agrees to help Troy get outside of enemy lines. Of course, even with their combat skills and the power of their two heads combined, it won't be an easy feat. (Apple TV)

The Runner (PG-13)
Having gone under the radar for a bit after the catastrophe that was "Snow White" (2025), Gal Gadot has found herself in a new lead role for an action thriller that's way more up her alley. Gadot portrays Maia, an attorney, mother and running enthusiast. In the middle of her normal run after dropping her son, Noah, off to school, she receives what she assumes is an ordinary call from him, until she hears a man on the other end of the line. Startled, Maia listens intently as the caller tells her that he has abducted Noah, and only if she follows each of the caller's rules will Noah get to live. Damian Lewis ("Pressure") and Alfred Enoch ("The Critic") co-star. Premieres Sept. 2. (Amazon Prime Video)

The Man Will Burn (TV-MA)
This four-part documentary series that's out now on streaming takes on the radical weeklong desert festival known as Burning Man. Originating in 1986 on Baker Beach in San Francisco, Burning Man has since evolved into a large-scale event consisting of more than 70,000 participants. Now held at its iconic venue of Black Rock City, Nevada, the festival brings together people from around the world with a foundation of 10 main principles: radical inclusion, gifting, decommodification, radical self-reliance, radical self-expression, communal effort, civic responsibility, leaving no trace, participation, and immediacy. The series explores its history, the nonprofit that organizes the festival, and how celebrity culture has infiltrated Black Rock City. (HBO Max)
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Friends of Georgia radio

SANDY SPRINGS – The friends of Georgia Radio Hall of Fame gathered here for its annual awards banquet last weekend. The event drew old friends and honorees, new faces, and a litany of supporters who appreciate local radio.

The “friends” also inducted five radio personalities into its Hall of Fame, including Dallas McCade, the robust personality of Kicks 101.5; Greg Street, Vio3 (VEE); Marcy Williams, a trailblazing female anchor at WSB’s 95.5 FM; and Joel Williams, perhaps Northeast Georgia’s best-known radio morning host on WCON’s My Country 99.3 in Cornelia.

Dallas McCade is not only known for her love of country music, she, if she could afford it, would take in every stray animal in the

state. Greg Street, a fishing buddy of Georgia’s Jonas Jennings, still working with the Dawgs, has been a mainstay on WVEE since the 90s, an afternoon anchor with his 6:00 p.m. theme: “It’s 6:00 o’clock, it’s 6:00 o’clock. It’s time for Greg Street to Rock.” He has entertained Atlanta audiences for years and has never met a charity he didn’t like.

Marcy Williams, a graduate of Princeton, is the only Ivy Leaguer in the group. She is an iconoclast who has gone where women have never gone before. She had gigs in Los Angeles and San Francisco before settling in with WSB’s 95.5 FM in 1993.

Joel Williams has reached “beloved” status with his morning show, which he co-hosts with Rebecca Biddy at My Country,



LORAN SMITH

99.3 WCON, Cornelia.

I know Joel best among the inductees, and beyond our on-air conversations each week in the fall, I enjoy the occasional interludes with his family, including his charming wife, B.J., who also has a long on-air relationship with WDUN in Gainesville.

When you preview the resumes of these local stars,

you find them all keen on community support and making people feel good when they might be having a bad day.

They initiate and throw their support for the communities they serve. They never take their status for granted, and they are all about reaching out to others, underscoring charity and having fun.

When on air, they are proponents of goodwill, and if they could they would build a campfire and invite the whole world to embrace and sing kumbaya.

One of the things I have always enjoyed about local radio stars is that, in addition to entertaining the constituency, are keen on extending a helping hand. I was taken by the selflessness these local stars have in their communities and the goodwill that comes from what they do in their respective neighborhoods.

With this group, you

have a rap star, country music stars, and the consummate storyteller who has been a breaker of icons for women in radio, whose theme is to put the listener first.

Neil Williamson, longtime sports executive at WSB and who has for decades been the host of the UGA Tailgate Show, was the emcee. He brought levity and insightful remarks relating to the inductees, which made it a lively evening.

When these exceptional radio personalities have a guest on the air with them, you feel you are sitting in on a fireside chat. I remember growing up when country singer Eddy Arnold did those Purina commercials, I felt that he was talking to me personally. I certainly wanted to buy Purina Dog Chow for the family hound dog.

The Friends of Georgia Radio, led by Dr. Dale Van

Cantfort, are enterprising in one very special way. They raise money and donate scholarships to aspiring college undergraduates who are interested in pursuing a radio career.

Those honored many very well become a star of tomorrow trying to make the day of their peers and generation as the aforementioned Hall of Famers have done in their time.

To make everybody’s day, how about these Internet radio quips?

What do you call the average radio? Stereo-typical.

How do radios say goodbye? They wave.

Why was the radio tired after work? It had too many watt hours.

It was a good evening, and reminded all in attendance that local radio

Is not just entertainment, it is the home of goodwill with an accent on giving back to their communities. How nice!

Dolly Parton was as good as it gets

Dolly Parton left us last week. She entered America’s hearts as a country music performer. She leaves us as one of our most iconic and beloved figures. Tributes to her indicate our hearts are broken yet full.

She earned everything required to be called a celebrity. She leveraged that title to be so much more. At every step of the way she gave back.

She was born into a dirt poor family in Appalachia, at least by monetary standards. As she made clear over the years in statement and song, it wasn’t money that mattered. Her song “Coat of Many Colors” summed it up with the lyrics “And oh, I couldn’t understand it for I felt I was rich and I told ‘em of the love my mamma sewed in every stitch...But they didn’t understand it and I tried to make them see that one is only poor only if they choose to be.”

Many didn’t understand it, or a less charitable interpretation, is that she was still openly looked down upon for not giving up her

rural ways. A famous interview with Barbara Walters demonstrated grace and class while being called a hillbilly to her face.

She understood her roots, and refused to let how others viewed her shake her. When asked if it bothered her to be considered a dumb blonde, she said of course it didn’t because she knew she wasn’t dumb, and she knew she wasn’t blonde.

While many were content with underestimating her, she was making the most her many talents that seemed to outnumber the many colors in coat made from her mother’s love. Singer. Actress. Businesswoman. Philanthropist. Literacy Advocate. Evangelist. Those are just the broad professional titles for her many successful ventures. She had the full set of personal talents which included strength, resolve, perseverance, empathy, vision... and so many more.

She took care of her people. Dollywood was often described as a way to help get her family jobs. That enterprise alone now em-

ploys about 23,000 of her Tennessee family members, and provides an almost \$2 billion annual economic impact to a region that is now demonstrably richer for her contributions.

She didn’t like that her people were considered dumb by the elites she worked with in New York and L.A. so she started sending kids books. She’s now donated over 300 million children’s books to promote literacy. I have to think she smiled at all the recent studies showing Mississippi now has the highest literacy rates in the country for elementary school students...while still seeing that we still have so much work to do here.

She made direct contributions and efforts to fix graduation rates, support disaster victims, and medical research. Each has real, tangible results. It wasn’t about putting her name on buildings, it was about making positive changes in lives and lifting up entire communities.

She was an open advocate for her faith in word,



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

deed, and song. If you’re building a playlist of her songs this week, make sure you include “He’s Alive”.

She even sang in my little home church’s choir – sort of. About 15 years ago she starred alongside Queen Latifah in a movie about a small church choir. The move production company used Bethany Methodist Church in North Fayette County as the principal set for the film. They even used members of our church as a lot of the extras.

It’s quite surreal to sit in a theater and watch the great Mrs. Parton sing behind the pulpit where you learned your most import-

ant life lessons and was the gathering place for those in life you’ve loved the most. Even more so when the shot pans to the pews and many of those faces are captured if but for a fleeting moment. For that I needed to add a personal thank you.

It was in that church I learned the parable of the talents from the 25th book of Matthew. I’ve confided to a few that this is the one passage that I find the most daunting at this stage of my life.

This is the story of a rich man leaving “talents” – pieces of his wealth – among three servants based on their abilities. The two with the greatest abilities, given 5 and 3 talents each, doubled theirs and presented the profits to him upon return. But the other hid the one talent and only gave it back upon the master’s return. It served no use while on loan, and returned no yield to anyone except what was given. It was a wasted opportunity.

Dolly was given so many talents – yet none of the obvious paths to unlock them and almost every barrier that prevents most of us from even trying. There is

no doubt when she returned her talents last week she was told “well done my good and faithful servant.”

With all the well-deserved complements flowing her way last week a scene from As Good As It Gets seemed to frame most of the responses. During an argument in a restaurant, Helen Hunt’s character demands Jack Nickelson’s character pay her a complement. He pauses before blurting out “you make me want to be a better person.”

Many reflections on her life indicated Dolly made us want to be better people. That’s a nice feeling, yet also an empty platitude.

Her formula was to act with purpose and have tangible and attainable goals in mind. Random acts of kindness make us feel good, but they don’t employ 23,000 people, teach a generation how to read, or lift graduation rates.

If you want to live like Dolly, inventory your talents. Dig them up if you need. Put them to work, with purpose. That’s how we become better people – by helping others become their best. I’m pretty sure that’s as good as it gets.

Son-in-law not helpful in Mike Collins senate campaign

I have warned my two kids that if they ever contemplated divorcing their spouse, I was keeping the one they brought. My son-in-law is a retired public schoolteacher with a PhD, a coach and was named Georgia’s Teacher of the Year. He can build anything, including the house they have occupied for the past 35 years. He is kind and thoughtful and smart as a whip.

My daughter-in-law is a nurse who spent most of her career in hospital nursing and retired as a hospice care nurse, one of the toughest jobs I can imagine. As I have stated on previous occasions, she is credited with having saved my life (that, according to the doctors) when she saw how pale I looked one evening and got me to an emergency clinic and then into the hospital. It was sepsis. She remains my go-to regarding matters of my health.

It’s a shame I’m not running for the U.S. Senate in Georgia. I could talk about the real issues facing our nation and not have to worry about dealing with the next harangue coming from an in-law. I’m afraid that is not the case for Republican candidate, Cong. Mike Collins. His race-ranting, antisemitic, misogynistic son-in-law doesn’t seem to have an off-switch or much interest in helping his father-in-law focus on the issues instead of having to talk about him.

David Alan Scheer II is identified as a social media influencer which is said to be “someone who uses their trust and credibility online to shape attitudes, behaviors and decisions.”

According to various sources, Scheer has some 1.5 million followers on TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Telegram and other channels. His misbegotten efforts to shape attitudes, behaviors and decisions are only serving to make his father-in-law’s campaign a lot more difficult than it already is where polls show him running behind incumbent Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff.

On his Telegram channel, Scheer wrote, “We’re going to retake America for Christian White men!” I have a feeling God is going to zap whatever brains this guy may have (which can’t be a lot) when the time comes and will hopefully give the privilege of pulling the switch to Ray Charles Robinson, of Albany, Georgia, and Moses. In the meantime, I would suggest Scheer spend more time reading the Sermon on the Mount and less time on Telegram. He might learn what Christianity is really all about.

Scheer has called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a “Satanic war-mongering, Zionist piece of garbage” and in 2025 displayed a German Nazi Par-

ty propaganda poster from the 1930s with the text “I want to make babies, Not die for Israel.” Ask the Nazis how that turned out for them. He has also asserted that Jews have “captured American politics,” and that “Gen-Z doesn’t hate Hitler.” (Gen-Zer’s are defined as 14 to 29 years of age. What do they know about Hitler? Ask them instead about Taylor Swift or love bombing.)

As for women, Scheer has stated, “(R)epeal the 19th amendment and a lot of issues will resolve themselves.” The 19th Amendment guarantees women the right to vote. I’m going to assume the women in the Collins household have no problem with being thought of as unworthy to vote. The women in the Yarbrough household would punch his sexist lights out. That would

resolve a lot of issues, too.

I don’t know Mike Collins. I did know his daddy, the late Cong. Mack Collins, quite well. He was very helpful to us in the runup to the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. And a good guy. His son may be a good guy, too, but if he can’t manage his family how can he manage the affairs of state?

Mike Collins either can’t or won’t get Scheer to shut his trap. How all of this can be a positive in his campaign is a mystery to me. He had to abort a press conference in Monroe County recently because reporters kept asking him to address the claims of his son-in-law’s ties to antisemitism and white nationalism, instead of letting him discuss his health care initiatives, which was the purpose of the press conference. You can bet it won’t be the last



DICK YARBROUGH

time this happens.

Watching this guy spew his verbal garbage on the Internet reminds me to say thank you to Ted and to Jackie. You two may not be social influencers but you are great in-laws who have never embarrassed me or the family. Maybe I should have run for the Senate.

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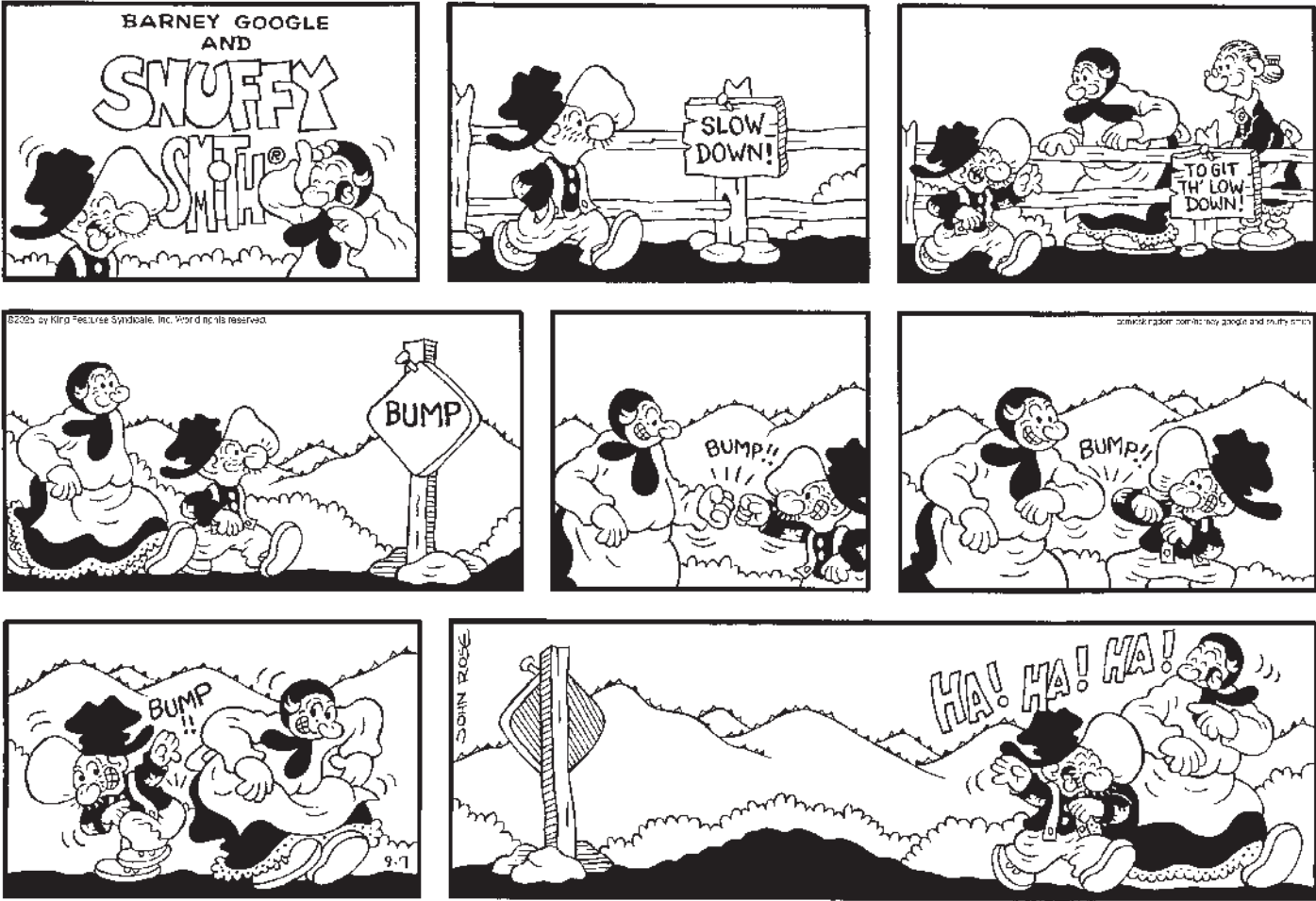
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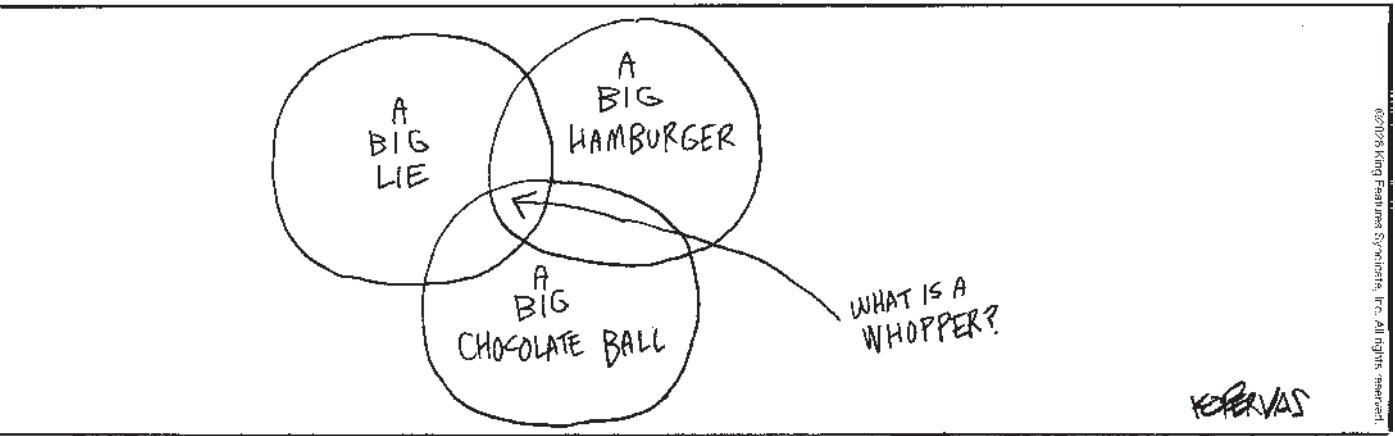




The Spats



Out on a Limb



King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

MAGIC MAZE ANSWERS

6 FEET TALL

PRESIDENTS OVER 6 FEET TALL

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: TALLEST PRESIDENT

Arthur	Harding	Kennedy	Trump
Clinton	Jackson	Obama	Tyler
Ford	Jefferson	Reagan	Washington
Garfield	Johnson	Roosevelt	

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

YEAH RIGHT, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SLEEPING. OTHERWISE THE WINDOWS WOULD BE RATTLING.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Hammer is longer. 3. Box is moved. 4. Cap is lifted back. 5. Lightbulb is smaller. 6. Stripe on sleeve is smaller.

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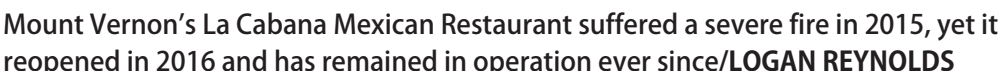
Treutlen Co. Legals

August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026

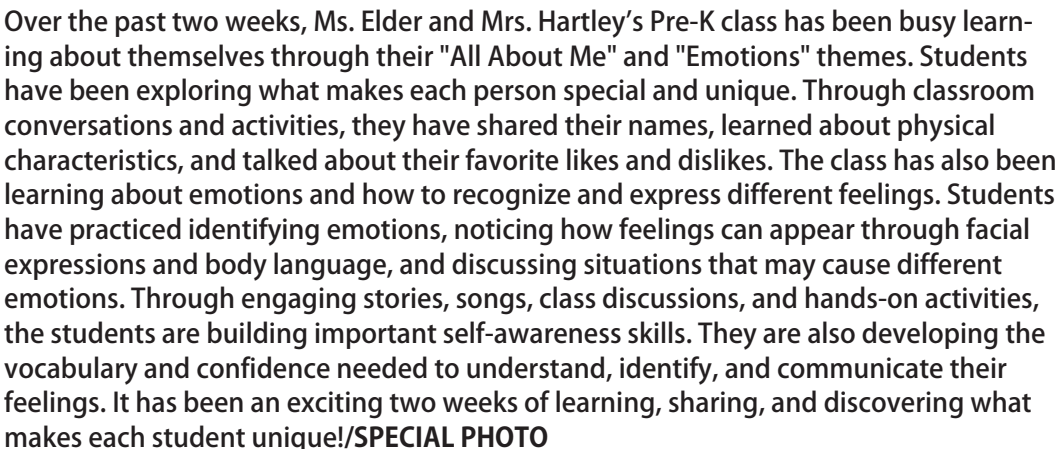
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September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026



The Treutlen County Library is appreciative of these new additions to our children's section made on behalf of the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture, and we are sure that children will enjoy reading them. We are thankful to have Treutlen Farm Bureau as one of our valuable community partners.



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