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Treutlen Co. Sheriff's Office receives in-car, body camera funds

By **LOGAN REYNOLDS**
Staff Reporter

The Treutlen County Sheriff's Office has received \$249,000 for the purchase of 25 in-car and body cameras, as well as the construction of a new interrogation room. The funds were delivered by U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff to the department as part of the senator's fiscal year 2026 congressionally directed spending requests. Senator Ossoff collaborated with Republican and Democrat lawmakers to create "bipartisan government funding legislation" which passed into law on January 23.

"Body cameras provide the transparency and accountability we require from our public safety officials in Georgia," Ossoff said in a press release. "That's why I brought Republicans and Democrats together to strengthen law enforcement transparency in Treutlen County."

According to Treutlen County Sheriff Thomas Corbin, the funds will primarily be used to purchase 25 new in-car cameras: 19 for the sheriff's office and six for the Soperton Police Department, which both work together closely.

The in-car cameras will each come with an accompanying body

camera, and both cameras will be synced to a sheriff or police car's blue warning lights. When the lights are activated, the cameras will both automatically begin recording.

Two cameras active will allow officers to better review incidents, with the multiple angles offering better coverage and more information on how an incident transpired.

"Just with the body camera, we were losing some of the angles and stuff, because it would only point in the direction the deputy was facing," said Corbin. "So now, with the in-car cameras, we can

pick up the whole thing."

The Treutlen County Sheriff's Office already utilizes body cameras. Sheriff Corbin maintains a strict policy requiring deputies to properly activate their cameras while on-duty.

"I actually have a policy," said Corbin. "You will turn your body camera on."

According to Corbin, while there have been situations in which an officer momentarily forgot to activate a body camera, the department has not seen issues with officers deliberately turning off body cameras.

The office also had in-car cam-

eras in place in the past, but rising costs prevented them from reintegrating the technology into their vehicles.

"At one time, we had in-car cameras in all the vehicles, and used to, they were affordable," said Corbin. "Small little cameras, but the cost of things has gotten so high, and thanks to Senator Ossoff, we can get [in-car] cameras back in the cars."

The funds will also pay for the construction of a new interrogation room within the Treutlen

TCSO
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SNAPSHOTS: UVALDA CELEBRATES EASTER

Uvalda First Baptist Church hosted the city's Easter Egg Hunt event on April 4 at the Uvalda City Walking Track. Guests were also given food, a bounce house, raffle prizes and children were given a brief sermon on the biblical story of the death and rebirth of Jesus Christ
/LOGAN REYNOLDS

Treutlen BOC considers bids for trash pick-up



Treutlen Co. BOC Chairman Phil Jennings opens boxes containing bids from Ryland Environmental for curbside trash pick-up/LOGAN REYNOLDS

By **LOGAN REYNOLDS**
Staff Reporter

The Treutlen County Board of Commissioners considered two bids for curbside trash pick-up services during their monthly meeting on April 6 and a work session on April 8.

The board received two bids for the contract: one from Ryland Environmental, which currently serves Treutlen County, and another from Amwaste. The proposals were both delivered in large boxes containing binders for the board to review, which Board Chairman Phil Jennings opened during the April 6 meeting.

Based on a 95 gallon cart, Ryland Environmental would charge \$27 per can per month with an extra \$13 per can for additional cans if billing were paid directly to Ryland. If billing were paid through Treutlen County, the company would charge \$24 per can with an extra \$13 per can for additional cans.

For rolloff prices per haul and per ton, Ryland would charge \$175 per haul and \$35 per ton. The company would also charge \$5 per cubic yard for commercial dumpsters.

According to Amwaste's proposal, the company would charge \$16.25 per can per month with an extra \$8 per can for additional cans. These prices are based on billing through Treutlen County, as the bid advertisement did not specify a request for direct billing.

Amwaste's rolloff service would charge \$375 per haul and \$35 per ton. Amwaste would also not impose an extra fuel surcharge, as opposed to Ryland's 4% fuel surcharge.

TRASH BIDS
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Periodical — Mail Label

Autism Awareness Spirit Week Wheeler County School System celebrates students with autism

By **LOGAN REYNOLDS**
Staff Reporter

The Wheeler County School System held its Autism Awareness Spirit Week from April 6 to April 10 to celebrate and encourage its growing number of neurodivergent students.

"What's different is awesome, and we're proud of our students for embracing the event and their fellow students," said Wheeler County Superintendent Dr. C. Alex Alvarez.

The spirit week encouraged students to attend school wearing specific clothing. Themes included Monday's "Bulldog Blue," "Tie Day Tuesday," "Wonderful Mind Wednesday," Thursday's "Team

Up" and Friday's "Different is Awesome."

Each day in the spirit week represented various aspects of how neurodivergent students fit into the Wheeler County School System, with Wednesday representing how students' minds may work differently from one another, while Tuesday and Thursday represent the unification of the student body.

"I think this can be transferred not just to autism, but to any differences in people and embracing them," said Wheeler County's Special Education Director Sandy Adams.

Adams was inspired to begin an autism awareness event in 2025,

spurred on by a growing number of children in the school's pre-K program being diagnosed with autism. She also felt the event would be an opportunity to educate older students who may be unaware of their own autism, as well as non-neurodivergent students.

"Even a lot of students who have autism don't know it and don't understand what it is," said Adams. "So, it increases their understanding, and it increases the understanding of others."

The original 2025 event was only slated to last one week, with neurodivergent students giving morning announcements over the school intercom system. However, as more

students, including neurotypical students, wanted to participate, the event grew into a month-long affair.

"I was proud of our students for the way they came together and participated," said Adams.

For 2026, the school's autism awareness saw much more adult participation, with Wheeler County High School teachers Amber Melton and Ty Vann developing the concepts for the spirit week days. Melton also developed graphics for the event, as Adams described her as a "Canva guru."

The schools' success with the autism awareness event has also led

AUTISM AWARENESS
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OBITUARIES



John A. Bennett

John A. Bennett passed away at his home in Treutlen County on April 5, 2026. He was born in Savannah, Ga. on Sept. 2, 1953 to the late Margie and Paul Mincey. He was adopted as a child by the late James and Johnny Bennett of Twin City, Ga. He graduated from Emanuel County Institute after which he was drafted into the United States Army. After his military service, he settled down in Twin City and had a career as a millwright for Carpenter and Millwright Local 283 of Augusta. He retired after 27 years of service. He was preceded in death by his two brothers, Alford Mincey and Bobby Bradham.

He is survived by his long-time partner Kathy Ussery of Soperton and also by his former wife and friend, Sylvia Sconyers. He is also survived by his two children, Matthew (Angelia) Bennett and Michelle (Justin) Edenfield, all of Twin City; three grandchildren, William Bennett, Margie Bennett and Seth Edenfield; brother, Larry Bowling of Arizona; three sisters, Letha (James) Hall of Canoochee, Ga., Cynthia (Skip) Hayes of Atlanta, Ga. and Diane (Bob) Tanner of Virginia and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for close friends and family was held Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Higgs Funeral Home in Soperton.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rev Up to Read at Wheeler County Library

Ocmulgee Regional Library System is proud to offer the Rev Up To Read Program at Wheeler County Library. This program encourages children to develop strong reading habits while earning a fun reward.

Children ages 2 to 12 can earn a free Monster Jam ticket by reading five books, with the purchase of a full priced adult ticket. Participation is limited to children ages 2 to 12. A parent or legal guardian must supervise and redeem the ticket.

Completed reading vouchers may be exchanged in person at the Macon Coliseum Box Office for one reserved seat kids ticket when purchasing one full priced adult ticket. The event will take place May 1 and May 2. Families are encouraged to exchange vouchers early for the best seating.

Visit Wheeler County Library to pick up your child's reading card and begin the program.



Treutlen Co. Board of Commissioners review bids submitted by Ryland Environmental and Amwaste on April 8 during a work session in Soperton. The decision had been delayed from the prior meeting so the board members could properly review the bids/LOGAN REYNOLDS

TRASH BIDS

Continued from page 1

However, the board elected not to make a decision during the regular meeting, instead opting to take time to review the proposals in detail to make a more informed decision.

"I think [it] would be wise to our constituents to do that," said Jennings.

The board also elected to set up a work session on April 8 to further discuss the proposals. Representatives from Ryland Environmental and Amwaste attended both meetings.

As the county already works with Ryland Environmental, most of the board's questions were directed towards the Amwaste representatives to better understand their operations.

County Manager Joseph Glenn's biggest concern and inquiry for the Amwaste representatives was their level of communication should residents or the county run into any issues with Amwaste's service.

"That's my biggest concern, really, is making sure if we bring you guys on, you're going to answer the phone," said Glenn.

According to the Amwaste representatives, Treutlen County would have a dedicated operations manager to maintain communication and address any concerns which may arise.

The representatives also said certain options not present in their proposal, such as direct billing and commercial dumpsters, could be made available should the county officials desire them.

The board did not make an official decision on the issue during the work session. Instead, the board agreed to either set up a called meeting to vote on the bids or to wait until their next regular meeting on May 4, after the bids had been reviewed by the county's auditors.

The board also considered a quote for tracking devices meant for county vehicles and property. The devices were originally proposed by Board Member Rodney Meeks during the board's March 2 regular meeting.

The tracking devices would allow county officials to track down stolen or mislaid property, as well as encouraging responsibility and accountability among county employees regarding vehicles, he said.

He also cited several calls he had received regarding "wives in cars" as a reason for the increased accountability, which Jennings also described as a "fun saga."

"I think if you had the ability to pull it up, see where it was live on a map, you would potentially catch some things that we hear about, or dispel rumors when we hear about things like that, too," said Jennings during the March 2 meeting.

County Manager Glenn presented the board with a quote from FirstNet for \$719.60 for 40 tracking devices with no extra fees, which Glenn described as "very reasonable."

Glenn also clarified the 40 trackers were an example number given to FirstNet to gauge the company's pricing, rather than a specific number the county needed. FirstNet also provides the Treutlen County government's telephone services.

Treutlen County does not currently keep mileage logs for county vehicles. According to Jennings, the county spends approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000 on fuel annually, and so he considered the devices a potential cost saver.

Jennings also suggested the county could phase the trackers in by testing them on administrative vehicles prior to a full rollout.

"We could phase it in through a couple of departments, kind of make sure we understand how it works, or even just put it on the administrative vehicles," said Jennings. "Just our vehicles to start out with, and then we can kind of understand the program, see how it works, and then if we want to expand it across, we can do that too."

Board Member Meeks offered a motion to approve the purchase of up to 40 trackers to be implemented under Jennings' proposed method, which passed unanimously.

On the topic of dash cams, Jennings clarified they had considered them, but would not implement them alongside the trackers. Instead, the trackers could be considered a "phase one" while the dash cams could be considered a "phase two."

Meeks also offered a motion to approve two business licenses, which passed unanimously.

TCSO

Continued from page 1

County Sheriff's Office. According to Corbin, the room will feature new recording technologies which can be activated with one button press.

"All you have to do is, when you go in, is push the button, and it records the interview," said Corbin. "You read your Miranda, whatever the guy said, and we got all that."

The interrogation room will also be made available to the Soperton Police Department for use.

AUTISM AWARENESS

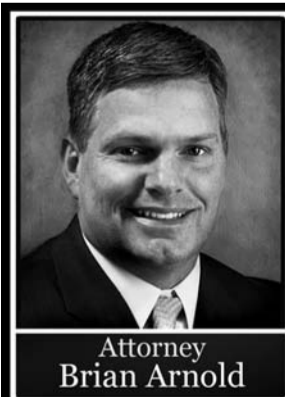
Continued from page 1

them to plan for May to serve as a mental health awareness month across the district. According to Adams, this observance will help form a system of support for Wheeler County students.

"It's about taking care of the whole child, and mental health is part of the whole child," said Adams.

Other teachers and staff at Wheeler County have also developed a greater interest in highlighting and celebrating neurodivergence, such as one teacher who suggested observing a week dedicated to dyslexia awareness.

"I think the more those teachers, or adults or paraprofessionals want to get involved, the bigger we can make these different events," said Adams.



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By ALBERT WHITE

Then the same day at evening, Being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the mist, and said unto them, Peace be unto you.

— John 20:19

Thinking about that day, I can imagine the fear the disciples must have felt. Circumstances were changing, questions and no answers for some events. I'm sure they had several questions themselves. Resurrection was one event where rationality was a reach. Think about it. They didn't have the Bible to read about it or the testimony of witnesses like we do. They were living in the moment. They assembled in a room to get their defenses aligned so they could give some sort of account of the day. Jesus appeared into the room and cleared the air. He provided an end to every fear and question they had been pondering.

They didn't see the angel Mary and Joana saw. They heard the message from them. Running to the tomb themselves, they found the account to be true. He wasn't there. Even for Peter and John there was a different reaction when they looked into the tomb. Now all those questions are answered by the presence of Jesus. What a relief it had to be for them to speak and hear the voice of Jesus. Jesus then showed them the scares and breathed on them, giving them Holy Ghost.

There were 10 of them, one was not elected yet and Thomas didn't go. Thomas still had fears and questions because he didn't go to church that day. Jesus sent word to the disciples by Mary Magdalene to wait for him at Galilee, and Thomas did not go. Of course he had questions and needed proof. I love that Jesus took the time to prove his resurrection to Thomas again. Our Jesus is not unkind or impatient when we doubt. He proves to us. I will mention that Jesus didn't go to Thomas's house to prove him; Thomas came to Jesus. He went to the gathering — let's call it church. If you want your fears and questions answered about Jesus, go to the place where the encounter happens. Go to the local church and make yourself available for encounter. I would encourage you to not be embarrassed that you have questions. It's normal to question things like spiritual encounters; I would think it more strange if you didn't. I know through many experiences, when he shows up your questions will be swallowed up in his glory.

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 a road sign; it never draws attention to itself, choosing rather to point us in the right direction. John the Baptist was a road sign pointing us to Jesus. Imagine you are at a wedding. The best man has an important job — he keeps the rings, he gives a speech, and he makes sure things run smoothly. But if the best man tried to stand at the altar and marry the bride, it would be a disaster. His whole job is to support the groom. John understood he was the "best man," and he was perfectly happy with that.

Now, who is John the Baptist? We're not told who he is; we're told who he is not in John 1:20, "And he confessed and did not deny; and this is what he confessed: 'I am not the Christ.'" John the Baptist is not the John the Messiah. The Jewish authorities had sent a group of priests and Levites into the wilderness to ask John the Baptist who he was. Then they asked if he was Elijah, and he said, "I am not Elijah." Finally, they asked if he was the prophet and he answered, "I am not the prophet."

If you are driving along and you find a road sign, you don't stop and worship the road sign. You don't hug the post and pray to it or stay with it. You look at where the sign is pointing and you drive in that direction. John the Baptist was the ultimate road sign. His life, his words and his fame all pointed in one direction: toward Jesus.

Finally, they had to have some sort of answer for the Pharisees who were waiting back in Jerusalem. So, they asked one more time, and John said, "I am a road sign." John knew two things; he knew who he was and he knew who he was not. Sometimes we baptizers and pastors are confused and come to believe that we're the center of attention because we're up front. We're not! We, like John the Baptist, are road signs.

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Jesus is not a road sign; he's at the end of the road. We have a problem, sin. And we look for road signs to send us to a place where we can find the answer to our problem. Jesus is the answer to our problem with sin; he came, not to lighten our load but to remove it. Jesus is the Messiah!

Think of a spotlight on a stage. John steps out of the light so Jesus can be seen clearly. Corrie Ten Boom tells the story of the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem and asks, "Do think that donkey ever once thought all the palm branches and shouts of 'hosanna' were for him? You and I are called, like John the Baptist and John the Apostle who wrote this story, to be road signs pointing the way to Jesus!

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

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Treutlen County Announcement
May 19, 2026 General Primary
Early Voting will take place at the Annex
April 27 – May 15
(Saturdays: May 2 & 9)
from
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sample ballots can be found at www.mvp.sos.ga.gov or by calling/visiting the Elections Office at 912-529-3098.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Was one of Hitler's top advisors half American?

By JACK BAGLEY
Georgia Trust For Local News

April moves along at its usual pace, and we are getting deeper into spring. Ah, isn't it wonderful? Yes, actually, it is. I hope your April is going as well as it can possibly go, and that the rest of the year is even better for you!

How about some trivia? Got some fresh stuff right here!

Did you know ...

... it's not hazardous to live near a nuclear power plant? Scientists estimate that you get five times as much radiation from sitting in front of your television that you would get if you lived next door to a nuclear power station. (Sitting in front of the power station would provide better entertainment than television.)

... almost 88% of the world's population lives in the Northern Hemisphere? (Which makes me wonder if the other 12% know something we don't.)

... a feat exists which has never been accomplished by a Major League Baseball player? I refer to the home run cycle. You may be familiar with a player hitting for the cycle – a single, double, triple and home run in one game. It's been done 350 times in MLB history. A natural cycle, hitting those four in order, is much rarer, having only taken place 14 times. But the one that's never been done is the home run cycle – a solo homer, a two-run shot, a three-run shot, and a grand slam, all in the same game. In fact, it's only happened twice in professional baseball, both in the minor leagues. (Batter up!)

... the first commercial product manufactured in North America was exported in 1608? It was a glass bottle blown in the Jamestown settlement. (Did it come with a deposit?)

... ice applied to the back of the neck may stop a nosebleed? If you find yourself with a nosebleed, and it goes on for more than 15 minutes, try applying an ice pack to the back of your neck. The cold constricts the blood vessels which lead into the head and may reduce or even stop the bleeding from your nose. (Worth a try, anyway.)

... one of Hitler's top advisors was part American? Baldur von Schirach (1907-1974) served the Third Reich as leader of the Hitler Youth and later as Gauleiter (party leader) of Vienna. Von Schirach's background was very strange for a German leader – his father was a dual German-American citizen and his mother was fully American. In fact, von Schirach was a descendant on his mother's side of Arthur Middleton (1742-1787), a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Born in Berlin, von Schirach did not learn German until he was five years old, English being his first language. He first fell into the orbit of Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) in the mid-1920s. Hitler made him Reichsjugendführer (Reich Youth Leader) in 1931, placing him at the head of the Hitler Youth organization. After he was drafted into the Wehrmacht in 1939, he served as an officer for two years, winning the Iron Cross 2nd Class. Following service, von Schirach was named Gauleiter of Vienna and oversaw the deportation of Jews from the city for the remainder of the war. Tried at Nuremberg on charges of crimes against humanity following the conflict, he was sentenced to 20 years in Spandau prison, and served every day of his sentence.

... jurors have unrealistic expectations of modern forensic science? That's because of television programs like CSI and NCIS. The shows, which are built around forensic science, often use convoluted explanations and somewhat dodgy technology not currently available to wrap up the cases in an hour ... which does not happen in the real world. (Duh.)

... Russia has its own version of an American situation comedy? A spinoff of It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia, the show is set in a Moscow bar named Philadelphia, and it's called "В Москве всегда солнечно" (It's Always Sunny in Moscow). (Well, maybe it is, I don't know.)

... the inventor of the motion picture camera is implicated in the disappearance of another inventor? Some of the earliest-ever motion picture scenes were filmed by Louis LePrince (1841-1890), a French artist who created and built his own movie camera. But LePrince mysteriously vanished in 1890, and credit for inventing the movie camera was claimed by Thomas Edison (1847-1931). Two years after LePrince's son Adolphe (1872-1901) appeared in a court case challenging Edison's claim, the younger LePrince was found dead. Modern historians give LePrince credit for taking the world's first motion picture footage. (Film at 11.)

... the longest average lifespan in the world can be found in a small European country? In the nation of Andorra, a tiny enclave between Spain and France, the average lifespan of the people is 83.5 years. (Ah, those lucky Andorrans!)

Now... you know!

More about getting older and living in a science fiction world

Nothing has saved people more time than computers. Whether performing tasks at work or doing some cursory research at home, it's hard to discredit the benefit that technology has had on human civilization. In that same vein though, nothing has wasted more time than computers, whether whiling away the hours with computer solitaire or doom scrolling at work.

Not that wasting a little time at the office is a bad thing. I'm just old enough to have experienced water cooler conversations and sidewalk smoke breaks. Smoking is a terrible habit, but cigarettes don't get enough credit for preventing people from acting irrationally. There's a comedian with a great bit about smoking. You can see it on TikTok; just don't watch it on the clock.

Technology just may well be more addictive than nicotine. A smartphone will tell you exactly how much time you have spent on it, then suggested ways to squander more of your precious minutes. Advancements in computers have long been connected with the lofty ambition of immortality, but what's the point if the future is just looking at terrible AI-generated images on social media?

Living forever sounds very lonely and downright terrible. The Bible says "for dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return." If it's good enough for everyone who has ever lived so far, it's good enough for me.

About three decades ago Austrian computer scientist Hans Mora-

vec predicted computers would surpass human brain function in processing speed and calculating ability. He has lived long enough to see that he was kind of right.

Moravec also predicted that a biological consciousness will one day be able to be uploaded to a computer. This digital existence could be backed up, stored indefinitely and downloaded as many times as needed, therefore achieving that immortality people have sought after for time immemorial. Digital longevity makes more sense than cryogenics. What if you die a long way from the freezer?

The fountain of youth won't come in a spring of water deep in the brush, but a blank robot stored in a closet like those floppy disks some of you are still holding on to.

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

My organizational skills when it comes to computer files leaves a lot to be desired. I can barely find my kids' baby pictures. I would hate to know I was in charge of storing someone's very life. I can barely get the internet reliable enough to stream the latest episode of "Rooster" on HBO. How am I supposed to backup my brain on the cloud? Just my luck there would be an outage, and I would lose half my memories. Now there's an idea for a science fiction novel.

Getting older does not bother me. The thought of one day dying doesn't scare me. But the thought of wasting time that could have been spent with the people I love does. And there's no computer or robot that can replace that.

COUCH THEATER



Keanu Reeves stars in "Outcome"/Photo courtesy of Apple TV+

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

Euphoria: Season Three (TV-MA)

After a four-year wait between seasons and a few dramatic shifts in the cast, the smash-hit series "Euphoria" is finally back on our screens with its third season. Premiering April 12, season three kicks off with a five-year time jump from when we last left off with Rue (Zendaya) and her high school classmates, who are now young adults taking their first steps in the "real world." Oscar nominee Jacob Elordi ("Frankenstein") is back as Nate Jacobs, who is now married to Sydney Sweeney's ("The Housemaid") Cassie. In addition, Hunter Schafer and Alexa Demie reprise their roles of Jules and Maddy, respectively. The late Eric Dane ("Grey's Anatomy") is also featured, in what was one of the 53-year-old actor's last roles before passing away from ALS. (HBO Max)

Beef: Season Two (TV-MA)

This anthology series that premiered in 2023 went on to win eight Emmys for its first season, including acting wins for Steve Yeun ("Mickey 17") and Ali Wong ("Monsters at Work"). Its second season is now releasing on April 16 with a brand-new cast of characters who have beef - lots of it, served raw. This time around, we have two incredible dramatic actors, Oscar Isaac ("Frankenstein") and Carey Mulligan ("Maestro"), playing a married couple named Josh and Lindsay. When Josh's subordinate at work catches the couple in an intense fight, Josh and Lindsay get sucked into an odd dynamic full of blackmail and coercion. Cailee Spaeny ("Wake Up Dead Man") and Charles Melton ("May December") co-star. (Netflix)

Five Nights at Freddy's 2 (PG-13)

The sequel to the 2023 film adaptation of the video game "Five Nights at Freddy's" is out now to stream, and it couldn't have come to streaming at a better time. We've been lacking a bit of horror! The second film picks up a year and a half after the events of the first film, where Mike (Josh Hutcherson) and Vanessa (Elizabeth Lail) had to fend off deadly Chuck-E-Cheese-type animatronics to save Mike's little sister, Abby (Piper Rubio). Abby, who had a much different relationship to the animatronics than her brother, misses the comfort of the Freddy Fazbear restaurant and decides to travel back to its original location. In the process, Abby reopens a dark, hidden chapter of Freddy's history by letting out an animatronic that is possessed by the spirit of a murdered child. (Peacock)

Outcome (R)

Jonah Hill ("You People") directs this black comedy, which he also wrote and stars in (although he's almost unrecognizable). However, Keanu Reeves ("Good Fortune") plays the lead role of Reef Hawk, an actor who suddenly finds himself in a crisis after living a clean, sober lifestyle for five years. Someone whom Reef wronged in the past holds a video over his head that could cause his 15 minutes of fame to dry up rather quickly. So, he decides to go on an apology tour to make amends to as many people as he can - and to also figure out who the blackmailer is. The tone of the movie is breezy and light, with colorful cinematography and lighting that make the hard parts of Reef's life easy to swallow. Look out for appearances from Cameron Diaz ("Back in Action"), director Martin Scorsese ("Killers of the Flower Moon"), and Drew Barrymore ("Smile 2"). Out now! (Apple TV+)

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Cotton

Having grown up on a farm where our principal cash crop was cotton, I am always interested in what is going on in our state regarding the agriculture sector.

Agriculture is still Georgia's leading industry, but there are always challenges in crop production—most often brought about by the fickleness of the weather.

Not only do farmers pray for abundant rain, but they also need a consistency of showers throughout the growing season. In my time, I remember one year when heavy flooding took place, and we had to replant all the crops. Too much rain was unusual, but it was a good reminder that a farmer always must worry about the unexpected.

My father had an old radio that he listened to in early morning trying to get the weather report out of Memphis, Tennessee. He would smile broadly when he could decipher that the weather forecast was favorable.

We always worried about a hurricane coming up from Florida



LORAN SMITH

and raining on our cotton. We couldn't fathom the overt destruction that our state suffered in recent years with Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Helene.

Too much rain, which hurricanes brought about in its outer reaches, could damage and ruin a cotton crop before the harvest was complete. That was always a worry, but there was not any threat that trees would be uprooted and roofs blown off houses.

When you ride down Highway 15 toward the Georgia coast, you still see piles of debris here and

there with storm-ravaged tree stumps piled up in several places.

Often, what worries cotton farmers the most is drought conditions. Throughout the summer when long dry spells exist, all rural church services will contain prayers for rain.

With all the challenges, Georgia remains the second-largest cotton producer of cotton in the U.S. Texas is ranked number one. (Georgia has a land mass of 59,420 square miles while Texas has 268,596 square miles, making the Longhorn state about four and a half times larger.)

With far less acreage devoted to cotton, Georgia nonetheless has always been ranked among the top cotton producers in the country. The economic value of cotton production in our state is more than \$1.3 billion.

Internet research confirms that Georgia was the first colony to produce cotton commercially, which was in the Savannah area in 1734. With slave labor, cotton made many men rich.

While Georgia was not a slave state originally, the invention of the cotton gin, a godsend for plantation proprietors, fostered and

expanded slavery in the state.

Even with cotton's immense value for plantation owners, there was the arrival of the boll weevil around 1915. This dastardly insect ruined fortunes and brought about financial ruin and bankruptcies across the landscape.

My father had to drop out of school in the seventh grade to work full time on his father's farm to help him stave off foreclosure. Everybody suffered in one way or another.

I can remember that we heard Tex Ritter singing the boll weevil song on the radio about the blasted pest looking for a home. It graphically confirmed that this spiteful pest wreaked havoc in so many people's lives.

"The boll weevil got half the cotton,

"The merchant got the rest,

"Didn't leave the farmer's wife,

"But one old cotton dress,

"And it full o' holes,

"It a full o' holes."

The song resonated with the farmers who realized that no matter what they did, there was no stopping this pest. However, there was something worse coming—The Great Depression.

Farmers had some success with insecticides, but that brought about other issues, leaving many desperate. Farmers could grow enough fruit and vegetables to feed their families, but there was not any money. Most everybody I knew drove used cars.

If you had anything that was store bought, then you were a fortunate person. Most mothers became seamstresses out of necessity, making children's clothes out of flour and guano sacks.

Fast forward from those debilitating times and technology has gotten the boll weevil underfoot. The greatest of agricultural menaces is now eradicated. How great it is to put that reference into past tense.

You ride through the fields of south Georgia and you see cotton flourishing but no laborers with long sacks in the fields. Cotton harvesting is done by machines now.

If you had told me when I graduated from high school in the mid-fifties that in my lifetime, we would see the eradication of the boll weevil and that cotton would not be picked by hand, I would not have believed you.

Georgians to decide court's tone and temperament next month

Any Georgian with a television, mailbox, telephone, or social media account is aware we have partisan primaries coming up. The ads for candidates who want to be the next Governor alone are inescapable.

We also have to select candidates for U.S. Senate, all Georgia's seats in the U.S. House, Lieutenant Governor, Quite a few statewide offices, every seat in the Georgia legislature, and even more offices in counties across the state. We've got a lot going on in here.

Almost lost in the campaign drum beats are the races for positions within Georgia's judiciary. These contests are non-partisan. There are no primaries. We vote on who will preside over Georgia's courts on the same ballots when we vote for our parties' nominees. Those who wish to remain truly "independent" can even request a non-partisan ballot to only select from the Justices and Judges up for election this year.

These aren't nominees to appear on our November ballots. The May race for

these positions is final.

Most Georgians are likely unaware these contests are even happening. There's little incentive to donate to campaigns, as the Judges and Justices aren't allowed to make many promises, and certainly can't promise to decide in favor of potential large donors. Their code of ethics, whether an incumbent or challenger, mostly limits them to saying they'll be fair and impartial, uphold the Constitution, and telling you about their resume and background.

They don't attack each other. There are few soundbites for media to cover. The few dedicated political reporters left in the state are getting a steady supply of red meat zingers from the partisan contests. There's little reward for them to invest the time detailing the curriculum vitae of candidates that few Georgians have ever heard of, in election contests that won't generate clicks or ratings.

So what are Georgians supposed to do when faced with these names in races they haven't researched and



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

know almost nothing of the candidates? Unlike the default position for most voters in partisan contests, if in doubt vote for the incumbent.

For decades, Georgia has used a system that takes most of the partisan politics out of the selection of our Judges and Justices. When one resigns or retires—usually done mid-term to preserve this process—a Judicial Nominating Commission reviews qualifications of applicants and delivers a short list of candi-

dates to the Governor, who chooses one and appoints them to fill the vacancy.

Our "election" of Judges and Justices is more of a ratification of this process rather than a selection. This is a system that has been in place in Georgia for decades, long before parties switched power in the Governor's mansion a quarter century ago.

The concept worth protecting here is that there is a time and place for partisanship, and the voters get their say on that in November, when nominees from each party are decided by voters. Those elected then serve to write our laws with a partisan tilt in the legislature, and the executive branch administers the state's operations similarly.

Our courts, however, have to interpret the laws according to the constitutions of both the state and the country. For them to be fair and impartial, they almost must be non-partisan. It's the only way they can be a proper check and balance within a state that has been governed by one majority

party controlling the other two branches at the same time for most of the state's existence.

There have been partisan attempts to change the courts a few times. Most notably, Republicans tried to unseat a few Justices as the party was taking statewide elective offices from the Democrats around the turn of the millennium.

Most if not all failed, and usually by a large margin. Despite the lack of general public awareness from traditional campaign channels, the legal community seems to have a way of policing these elections to motivate voters to preserve the system and keep partisanship out of these elections.

This year there are three challenges to those serving in our top courts. Two Justices on Georgia's Supreme Court and one for Georgia's Court of Appeals. At least one of the challengers has run state wide for a partisan office.

The best sign that partisanship isn't at play with the incumbents is the steering committee of Justice

Charlie Bethel. Among the high profile and politically diverse names supporting his re-election are the Governor who appointed him, Nathan Deal, and Deal's 2014 Democratic challenger, former State Senator Jason Carter.

As a disclosure, Justice Bethel and I have a friendship that pre-dates his time on our highest court, and I've made a small donation to his campaign. I use him as an example of the three incumbents standing for re-election statewide—including fellow Supreme Court Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren and Appeals Court Judge Elizabeth Gobeil—as his committee embodies the entire point here.

There's a time and place for partisanship, and many of the names on his team are highly partisan. When it comes time to stand before a judge, however, justice must be colorblind. Those colors must include red and blue.

Here comes some sweet news: Vidalia onions are coming to town

This is a high and holy time. As you read these words, Vidalia onions are being shipped across the nation from sea to shining sea. If you aren't from around these parts, let me tell you what we natives already know. There is nothing like a Vidalia onion. They are sweet enough that you can eat them like an apple and in this whole wide world, they are grown in just 20 counties in South Georgia, including Toombs County whose largest city is, of course, Vidalia.

Folks over in Glennville in Tattnall County will remind you that about half the annual crop comes from there and that at one time it was referred to the Glennville sweet onion, but everybody got together and agreed to call it the Vidalia onion. That's the way we do things in this great state. We may be divided on our politics, but not our onions.

Where does the Vidalia get its sweetness? It is because the soil in these particular counties is sandy and low in sulfur. That contributes to their sweetness. Onions grown in soil high in sulfur compounds tend to have a hot, bitter flavor from the sulfur. That is why people cry when they slice into an ordinary onion. With the sweet Vidalia, you weep with joy.

During the Depression, a farmer named Mose Coleman discovered that the on-



DICK YARBROUGH

ions he had planted were not hot, as onions are supposed to be. They were sweet. It took a while to catch on, but Mose was soon selling his onions like, well, hotcakes. Only better.

Other farmers, who had suffered through the Depression years, followed suit and started producing their own sweet, mild onions. Today, Vidalia sales total around \$90 million and some 5-million 40 lb. boxes are shipped out each season to 49 states and Canada. That's sweet.

By the way, you cannot call an onion a "Vidalia" unless it was grown in the above-mentioned areas of Georgia. Don't even think about it. If you try to foist off a substitute on unsuspecting consumers, you will get a visit from the Georgia Department of Agriculture wherever you are. Federal Marketing Order No. 955 was established in 1989 to

help reinforce Georgia state laws and in 1992, the Vidalia onion was trademarked by the state. We don't mess around when it comes to our onions.

If you are in the area, you might want to check out the Vidalia Onion Festival, April 23-26. There's all kind of stuff going on, including concerts, a rodeo and Mimosas and Onions Art where you can "create a one-of-a-kind piece of onion art to take home while sipping on mimosas." Give me enough mimosas and I will create onion art that would make Rembrandt suck wind. The weekend will be capped off by a performance of the Blue Angels. I get goosebumps writing about them, let alone seeing them in person.

Not to be outdone, Glennville has its own festival planned—the 50th annu-

al Glennville Sweet Onion Festival on Saturday, May 9. I note they don't refer to it as the Glennville-Vidalia Sweet Onion Festival, even though Glennville agreed to call it the Vidalia onion back years ago. I am sure there is a reason but I'm staying out of this one. Suffice it to say, I feel strongly both ways.

Glennville won't have the Blue Angels at their festival, but they will have some neat stuff of their own—a Sweet Onion Run, a Sweet Onion Parade, a Sweet Onion Street Dance and a Turtle Race. The Chamber of Commerce says some 6,000 folks will attend. Not bad for a town of 3,800.

Don't you find it interesting that in the 3.8 million square miles that make up these, the United States of America—including Alaska and Hawaii and the District of Columbia—God saw

fit to carve out just 6,000 square miles of sandy and low sulfur soil in 13 counties in Georgia and parts of seven others so we could grow sweet Vidalia onions?

There is no question God loves us. We have the greatest state song in the history of the world, Georgia on My Mind, sung by Ray Charles Robinson, of Albany, Geor-

gia. We have the oldest state-chartered university in the land with four national football championships and 27 Rhodes Scholars. We have the Masters golf tournament. We have the Blue Ridge Mountains and the silver sands of the Georgia coast. And the sweet Vidalia onion. Can I get an amen?



Tri-County Connector

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Annual BPCU Southern Classic raises \$45,000



Brewton-Parker Christian University raised \$45,000 at the 9th Annual Southern Classic event/SPECIAL PHOTO

SPECIAL TO TRI-COUNTY CONNECTOR

MOUNT VERNON — On Friday, March 27, Brewton-Parker Christian University (BPCU) hosted its 9th Annual Southern Classic Golf Tournament, presented by Metter Ford, at Willow Lake Golf Club in Metter, Georgia. With 100 players in attendance and the generous backing of local businesses, the event raised \$45,000 in support of BPCU students and the college's mission of academic and spiritual transformation.

The Southern Classic has become a cornerstone fundraiser for BPCU, drawing support from more than 50 community businesses through various sponsorship levels. At the close of this year's tournament, Monroe Goss' team claimed first place, followed by Georgia Power's team in second and Handy Andy's team in third.

BPCU extends its sincere gratitude to all sponsors who made the

event possible: Presenting Sponsor — Metter Ford; Advocate Sponsors — Chick-fil-A of Vidalia and CleanSpark; Partner Sponsors — Altamaha Bank & Trust, Altamaha EMC/Fiber, City of Mount Vernon, DOT Foods, Farmers Home Furniture, Friendly Gus, Georgia Power, Handy Andy Home Warehouse, and Turnipseed Engineers; Friend Sponsors — Big Dog Lending, Burlap & Lace, Central Fence Co., Cherokee Block & Brick, Jet Food Stores, Lark Builders, Morris Bank, Mount Vernon Bank, Oconee River Properties, Pat Mitchell, and Spivey Orthopedic Clinic; and all the individual Hole Sponsors.

BPCU's Vice President of Advancement, Brandon Braddy, commented, "The Brewton-Parker Southern Classic was a meaningful day for Brewton-Parker Christian University. We were incredibly grateful to our sponsors, participants, and partners for making the event such

a success. Because of their investment, the tournament went beyond the game of golf. It directly supported our mission to provide a biblically centered education and to equip our students for lives of purpose, service, and leadership."

Brewton-Parker Christian University is the only accredited four-year Christian university south of Macon and north of Jacksonville, FL. As a comprehensive Georgia Baptist institution, Brewton-Parker Christian University offers liberal arts and professional programs in a learning community grounded in shared Christian values. Through the application of biblical truth in scholarship and a co-curricular focus on character, servant leadership, and cultural engagement, the university strives to provide a transformational experience that equips the whole student for lifelong learning and service in Christ.

Farm Bureau art contest winners announced



Left, Treutlen County Farm Bureau Office Manager Rena Carter congratulates Aliyah Richards for winning the Treutlen County Farm Bureau High School Art Contest. Right, Treutlen County Farm Bureau Board Member Kim Thompson congratulates Kylie Carroll for winning the Treutlen County Farm Bureau Middle School Bookmark Contest /SPECIAL PHOTOS, Treutlen County Farm Bureau

SPECIAL TO THE TRI-COUNTY CONNECTOR

SOPERTON — Treutlen County student Kylie Carroll and Aliyah Richards are the winners of the Treutlen County Farm Bureau Middle School Bookmark and High School Art Contests, respectively.

Carroll, a 7th grade student at Treutlen Middle School, won \$60 for winning the TCFB Bookmark Contest, which was open to sixth-eighth grade students. Bookmark contest participants were provided a blank bookmark and asked to draw a picture that depicts some aspect of Georgia agriculture. Students were allowed to use crayons, markers or colored pencils to create their bookmark. As the county winner, Carroll's bookmark advanced to the Georgia Farm Bureau District 6 Bookmark Contest.

Aliyah Richards, a 10th-grade student at Treutlen High School, won \$60 for winning the TCFB High School Art Contest, which was open to ninth through twelfth-grade students. Art contest participants were asked to draw a picture that depicts some aspect of Georgia agriculture. Students were allowed to use a variety of media to create their artwork including graphite, charcoal, pastel, chalk, colored pencil, pen-and-ink, ballpoint pen or mixed media appropriate for printing to create their artwork. As the county winner, Richard's winning artwork advanced to the Georgia Farm Bureau District 6 High School Art Contest.

"On behalf Treutlen County Farm Bureau, I would like to thank each student and teacher who participated in our contests," said Treutlen County Farm Bureau President Andy Thompson.

Legals

Treutlen Co. Legals

S26-027
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TREUTLEN COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARTHA JEAN KERSEY, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-P-18
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: Whom It May Concern:
Jeremy Shane White has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of Martha Jean Kersey, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in OCGA 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before May 13, 2026. BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be (held on) to be determined, 20____ (scheduled at a later date). If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Tiffany W. McLendon
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Clerk of Probate Court
650 Second St
Soperton, Ga. 30457
Address
912-529-4320
Telephone Number
April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

S26-023
TREUTLEN COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
TO: Heirs Known & Unknown, of KELLIE PHILLIPS, Jr., Deceased, and anyone claiming an Interest in the property described below.

Take Notice That:
The right to redeem the following property to wit:
All that certain lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 1763rd G.M. District of Treutlen County, Georgia and bounded as follows: North by lands of Delphine Bostic and lands of Kellie Phillips; East by the run of a branch; South by lands of Kellie Phillips, Sr.; and West by lands of Kellie Phillips, Sr. This parcel of land is more fully shown by a plat of the same prepared by Marvin D. Clements, Surveyor, dated March 24, 1994, and recorded in Plat Book 7, Page 63, Treutlen County Records. Which plat is incorporated herein by reference for a more complete description of the property herein conveyed.

As described in Deed Book 75, Page 308. Further described as Map & Parcel 041 019E, will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 17th day of November 2025. The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 5th day of October 2021 and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia, in Deed Book 168, Pages 719-720.
The property may be redeemed at any time before the 30th day of April 2026, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: P.O. Box 557, Soperton, Georgia 30457.
Paul W. Calhoun, III
Paul W. Calhoun, III, LLC
P.O. Box 557
Soperton, Georgia 30457
(912) 529-3131
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

S26-026
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CDBG 24p-x-140-2-6385 FOR THE CITY OF SOPERTON, GEORGIA

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Soperton, Georgia at Soperton City Hall, 1973 Martin Luther King Junior Drive, Soperton, Georgia 30457 until 10 a.m., local time, Thursday, May 14, 2026 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. No submitted bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for a period of sixty (60) days. All Bidders must have a State of Georgia Utility Contractor License and must employ a state "Utility Manager" certificate holder who will have oversight of all the work. The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment and labor for the construction of:

Sewerage system rehabilitation including 238 L.F. of 8-inch dig and replace existing sewer line, rehabilitation of and 1,153 L.F. of 8-inch and 4,411 L.F. of 10-inch sanitary sewer sanitary sewer using trenchless pipe replacement, including cleaning, pre and post video, rehabilitating 22 existing manholes, 47 L.F. replace concrete sidewalk, 54 S.Y. asphalt replacement, 10 L.F. remove and replace existing curb and gutter, bypass pumping, and appurtenances. Time allotted for construction is 180 consecutive calendar days for final completion. Proposals for the complete work in one general contract shall be made on the proposal form provided and shall contain prices in words and figures for the work bid on. This project is funded by a Community Development Block Grant. This is a Section 3 Covered Project under the HUD Act of 1968 and Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns are encouraged to apply. The City of Soperton is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education, and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. This agreement is for services related to a project that is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA"), Pub. L. 117-58. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in this project must be produced in the United States, as further outlined by the Office of Management and Budget's Memorandum M-22-11, Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure, April 18, 2022. All proposals shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond drawn in favor of the CITY OF SOPERTON, GEORGIA, in the amount of at least 5% of the lump sum bid for the complete work; such Bid Bond representing that the Bidder, if awarded the contract, will promptly enter into a contract and furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond as provided by law and approved by the Attorney for the CITY OF SOPERTON, GEORGIA. Each bond shall be equal to 100% of the contract

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GBT/DOC MCS 02/24 AB-1 ADVERTISE-
MENT FOR BIDS Soperton/242722.002
amount. The Bid Bond shall be forfeited
to the CITY OF SOPERTON, GEORGIA
as liquidated damages if the Bidder fails
to execute the contract and provide Per-
formance and Payment Bonds within 10
days after being notified that he has been
awarded the contract.

Drawings and Specifications are open to
public inspection at the office of the CITY
OF SOPERTON, GEORGIA and at the
offices of Turnipseed Engineers in Atlanta
and Augusta, Georgia.

Plans and specifications must be obtained
at https://turnipseed.com/current-projects/
out-for-bid/. One (1) digital copy of the
plans and specifications and one (1) printed
copy of the specifications (bid book) will be
provided upon receipt of \$150.00. Upon
request, one (1) printed full or reduced size
set of drawings is available at no additional
charge.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any
or all bids and to waive informalities. CITY
OF SOPERTON, GEORGIA

By:
John Koon, Mayor
April 16, 30, 2026

S26-025
IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF TREUTLEN COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

In the Interest of:
S.A.G. and L.A.G.,
Minor Children.
CASE NOS. 140-26J-004;003
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR
PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP OF
MINOR CHILDREN

TO: The Unknown Biological Father(s) of
S.A.G. and L.A.G., and to all interested
persons.

You are hereby notified that Ruby Ann Mc-
Connell has filed a Petition in the Treutlen
County Juvenile Court concerning S.A.G.
and L.A.G., minor children born to Misty
Larriann Gillis in 2017 and 2021.

The Petition alleges that the biological fa-
ther(s) of the minor children are unknown,
and that their whereabouts are unknown.
Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §29-2-18, and the
rules of the Juvenile Court of Georgia,
service is being perfected by publication.

A hearing on the Petition will be held before
the Juvenile Court, Treutlen County, Geor-
gia, located at 639 Second Street South,
Soperton, Georgia on the 18th day of June,
2026, at 9:00 a.m. At that time, the Court
will consider whether the relief requested in
the Petition should be granted.

Any putative father or interested party is
required to appear and show cause, if
any exists, why the Petition should not be
granted. Failure to appear and respond
may result in the loss of parental rights or
the establishment of guardianship without
further notice.

This 6th day of April 2026.
/s/ Penny Manning Snipes
Honorable Penny Manning Snipes, Judge
Dublin Judicial Circuit
Treutlen County Juvenile Court

Prepared by:
Tina E. Maddox, Esq. Attorney for Petitioner
LAW OFFICE OF TINA E. MADDOX, LLC
Vidalia, GA 30475
(912) 537-3025
(912) 537-0264
lawoffice@tinamaddoxlaw.com
April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

S26-020
STATE OF GEORGIA,
COUNTY OF TREUTLEN
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDI-
TORS**

IN RE: The Estate of Wesley Wadley,
deceased.

All debtors or creditors of the Estate of
Wesley Wadley, deceased, late of Treutlen
County, are hereby notified to render their
demands to the undersigned according to
law, and all persons indebted to said estate
are to make immediate payment to me.

This 19th day of March 2026.
Paul W. Calhoun, III
Attorney for Administrator, Krisopher
Wadley
Calhoun Law Firm
P. O. Box 557
Soperton, GA 30457
March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026

S26-024
Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of Linda J. Beard
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 18th day of March, 2026
Name: Laura Ivy Lico
Title: Administrator
Address: c/o Meyerson Law Firm 120 Vil-
lage Circle, Senoia GA. 30276
April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

S26-021
STATE OF GEORGIA,
COUNTY OF TREUTLEN
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDI-
TORS**

IN RE: The Estate of Paula Jean Brinson,
deceased.

All debtors or creditors of the Estate of Paula
Jean Brinson, deceased, late of Treutlen
County, are hereby notified to render their
demands to the undersigned according to
law, and all persons indebted to said estate
are to make immediate payment to me.

This 19th day of March 2026.
Paul W. Calhoun, III
Attorney for Executrix, Janis Cone
Calhoun Law Firm
P. O. Box 557
Soperton, GA 30457
March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026

S26-022
STATE BOARD MEMBER TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING
April 20, 2026

Mayor Matt Donaldson to Host State Board of Education Twelfth District Public Hearing

The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing for citizens in the Twelfth Congressional District on Monday, April 20, 2026. The meeting will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Warren County Schools, Career Academy, 115 Gibson Hwy., Warrenton, GA 30828.

The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments from interested citizens and educators within the congressional district regarding the performance and problems of public education. People wishing to speak should sign in upon arrival.

The Georgia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. Individuals who need assistance or auxiliary aids for participation in this public forum are invited to make their needs known to Geraldine Price at gprice@doe.k12.ga.us no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

April 9, 16, 2026

Georgia

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LOCAL MATTERS

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 4/12/26

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0231 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

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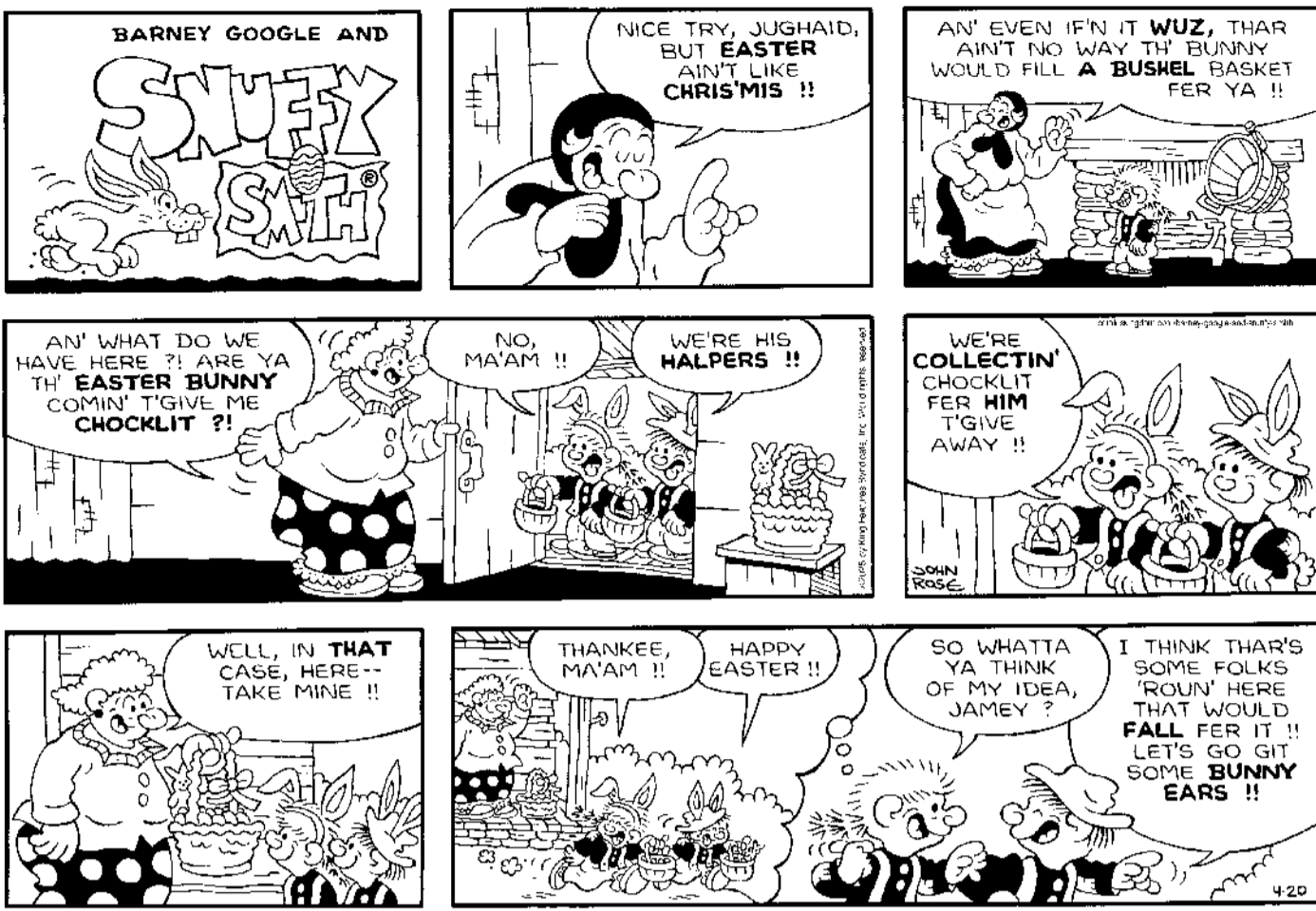
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WANTED

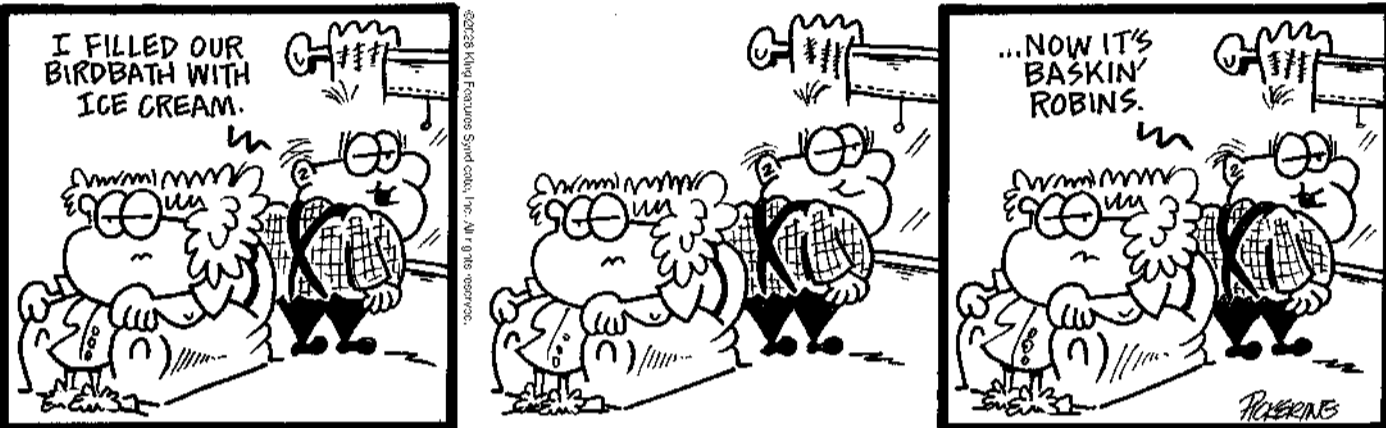
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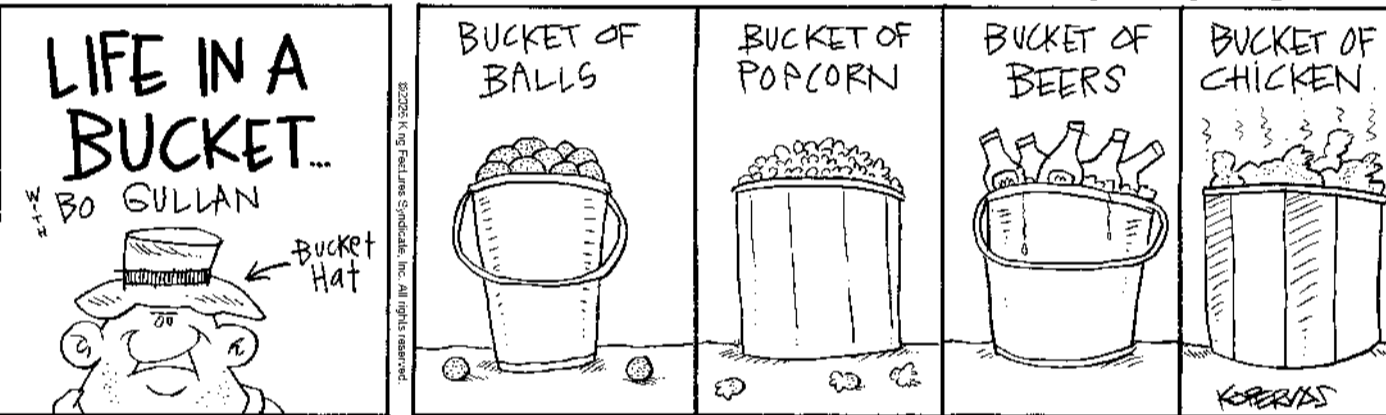
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

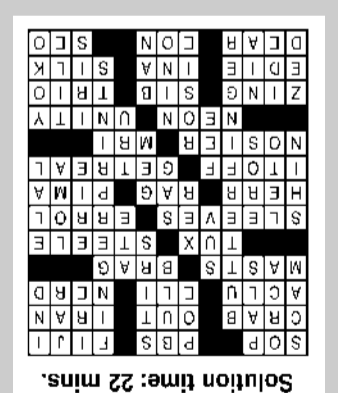


Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

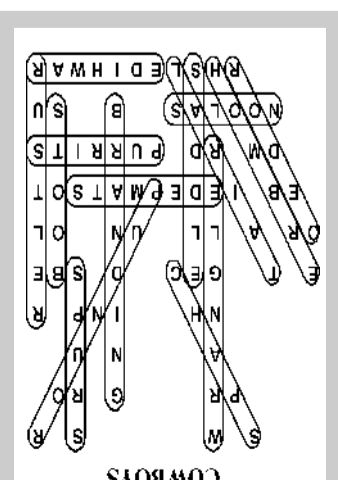


GRIN THE BEARD



Solution time: 22 mins.
Answers
King Crossword

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



MAGIC MAZE ANSWERS

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11		12		13			14		
15				16			17		
18			19	20	21				
		22	23	24			25	26	27
28	29	30		31	32				
33			34	35		36			
37			38	39	40				
41				42	43				
		44		45	46		47	48	49
50	51	52		53	54		55		
56				57			58		
59				60				61	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Soak (up)
 - 4 "Nova" channel
 - 7 South Pacific nation
 - 11 Grouch
 - 13 Ump's call
 - 14 Tehran's country
 - 15 Rights org.
 - 16 Peyton's brother
 - 17 Dweeb
 - 18 Spars
 - 20 Boast
 - 22 Prom outfit
 - 24 TV detective Remington
 - 28 Shirt parts
 - 32 Flynn of film
 - 33 Frankfurt fellow
 - 34 Cleaning cloth
 - 36 Fine cotton
 - 37 "Shake —" (Taylor Swift hit)
 - 39 "Be serious!"
 - 41 More of a snoop
 - 43 Hosp. scan
 - 44 Inert gas
 - 46 Accord
 - 50 Pizzazz
 - 53 Bro, maybe
 - 55 Half a sextet
 - 56 Actress Falco
 - 57 — tizzy (worked up)
- DOWN**
- 1 Con job
 - 2 Killer whale
 - 3 Buddies
 - 4 "The Raven" writer
 - 5 Future tulip
 - 6 Mixes up
 - 7 Crime-solving aids
 - 8 Rage
 - 9 Pickle holder
 - 10 Hoosier st.
 - 12 Crunchy candy bar
 - 19 Minivan alternative
 - 21 Consumed
 - 23 Gen- — (baby boomer's kid)
 - 25 One of HOMES
 - 26 — Linda, Calif.
 - 27 Mideast airline
 - 28 Tibia's place
 - 29 Jared of "Panic Room"
 - 30 Cupid's alias
 - 31 Droop
 - 35 Tiara jewel
 - 38 Service charge
 - 40 Capote nickname
 - 42 Wartime riveter
 - 45 Boy, in Barcelona
 - 47 Showy flower
 - 48 Scrabble piece
 - 49 Singer Ono
 - 50 Last letter in London
 - 51 Chemical suffix
 - 52 Actress Long
 - 54 Prohibit

MAGIC MAZE • COWBOYS



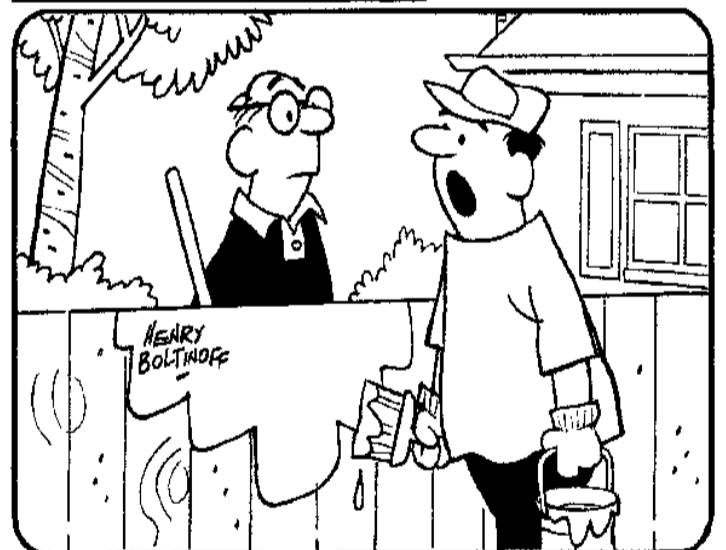
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: WORN AROUND THE NECK

- Boots
- Branding
- Chaps
- Hombre
- Lariat
- Rawhide
- Rodeo
- Roundup
- Rustler
- Saddle
- Saloon
- Spurs
- Stampede
- Stirrup
- Wrangler

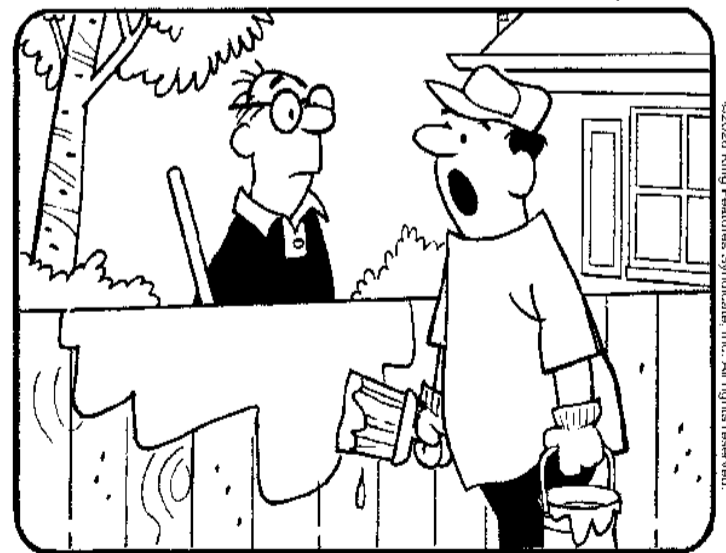
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Brush is larger. 2. Painted area on fence is larger. 3. Shirt is longer. 4. Man has more hair. 5. Window is larger. 6. Ear is smaller.

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