

EGXA Issues List 2Q2017

CRIME

- **April 19 – Accused Telfair County Craigslist murderer pleads not guilty:** TELFAIR COUNTY, Ga. ([WGXA](#)) - A man accused of killing an elderly Georgia couple looking to buy a classic car through Craigslist in January 2015 pleaded not guilty on Wednesday. Ronnie Adrian Towns is accused of murdering Elrey and June Runion. The couple drove from Marietta to McRae seeking to purchase a 1966 Ford Mustang that they found on Craigslist. They were not heard from again. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/accused-telfair-county-craigslist-murderer-pleads-not-guilty>
- **May 24 – Friend of slain Milledgeville grandmother remembers her as friendly neighbor:** MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. -- A neighbor of a Milledgeville woman who was shot to death Tuesday afternoon in front of her grandchildren said she is devastated that her friend was gunned down. Betty Todd, who has lived across the street from Rita Henon for 30 years, described Henon as a "good old country girl." <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/friend-of-slain-milledgeville-grandmother-remembers-her-as-friendly-neighbor>
- **June 14 – Calmer sentenced to life without parole for Monroe deputy murder:** MONROE COUNTY, Ga. -- Christopher Calmer was sentenced to life without parole for the murder of Monroe County Deputy Michael Norris on Wednesday. He was found guilty of all nine counts against him on Tuesday. Calmer was convicted of opening fire on Dep. Michael Norris and Dep. Jeff Wilson when they responded to his home for a suicide call in 2014. Wilson was severely injured. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/calmer-sentenced-to>

EDUCATION

- **April 28 – Westside High School celebrates college decision day:** MACON, Ga- On Friday students at Westside High School Celebrated College Decision Day. The event offers students attending classes and universities the opportunity to experience the same fanfare and recognition given to scholarship athletes. Principal Dr. Julia Daniely said it's important to recognize student academic achievement well beyond the playing fields. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/westside-high-school-celebrates-college-decision-day>
- **May 22 – Baldwin Co. parents unhappy with senior prank punishment:** BALDWIN COUNTY, Ga. -- Parents are disappointed in the Baldwin High School principal's decision not to allow dozens of students to walk at graduation following a senior prank. On Thursday, seniors paraded in their vehicles to the school's parking lot wearing all black, wielding water guns and water balloons. Some even had on masks. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/baldwin-co-parents-unhappy-with-senior-prank-punishment>
- **June 7 – School bus drivers show off skills at annual rodeo:** WARNER ROBINS, Ga. -- Georgia school bus drivers arrived in Houston County to show off their driving skills on Wednesday. Drivers from across the state competed in the annual competition rodeo at McConnell-Talbert Stadium. Organizers said the competition is to enhance driving skills and promote the safest transportation for students. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/school-bus-drivers-show-off-skills-at-annual-rodeo>

HOUSING

- **May 12 – Local women help create affordable housing during National Women Build Week:** MACON, Ga -- As part of National Women Build Week, Lowe's employees put their skills to use on two new houses in the Lynmore Estates community. The group installed siding, painted trim and cleared the yards alongside the soon-to-be homeowners. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/local-women-help-create-affordable-housing-during-national-women-build-week>
- **June 9 – Downtown Macon loft living is booming, contributing to local economy:** MACON, Ga. -- Over the past several years, downtown Macon has been seeing an uptick in the amount of loft apartments available for rent. Though the sheer number of units available may seem like overkill, Josh Rogers with Newtown Macon said that the demand is absolutely there. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/downtown-macon-loft-living-is-booming-contributing-to-local-economy>
- **June 28 – Trump budget cuts could kill two thirds of Rebuilding Macon's projects:** MACON, Ga. -- Twenty-five football players from First Presbyterian Day School in Macon took time out of their Wednesday to give a local home a fresh coat of paint and a screened in patio. With [Rebuilding Macon's](#)

instruction and guidance, the young men were able to give the homeowner a special gift.
<http://wgxa.tv/news/local/trump-budget-cuts-could-kill-two-thirds-of-rebuilding-macon-projects>

MINORITY

- **April 20 – Traffic concerns hot topic at District 3 town hall meeting:** MACON, Ga. -- Bibb County District 3 commissioner Elaine Lucas hosted a town hall meeting on Thursday night. She wants people to get involved with county officials and law enforcement and also asked what changes her constituents want. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/traffic-concerns-hot-topic-at-district-3-town-hall-meeting>
- **May 31 – Economy vs. Ethics: Public debates alcohol in Rosa Parks Square:** MACON, Ga. -- Macon-Bibb commissioners hosted a forum to gauge the public's opinion on drinking alcohol at Rosa Parks Square on Wednesday night. Commissioner Elaine Lucas sponsored an ordinance, which was tabled for the public hearing, to make the consumption or sale of alcohol illegal to maintain the area as "a park of respect and a place to be used for reflection." <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/economy-vs-ethics-public-debates-alcohol-in-rosa-parks-square>
- **June 1 – Rep. Sanford Bishop talks immigration, health care, Russia at CGTC:** MACON, Ga. -- Middle Georgians had the opportunity to express their concerns about issues impacting them to U.S. Congressman Sanford Bishop on Thursday evening at Central Georgia Technical College. Some of the major topics discussed were the Affordable Care Act (ACA), student loan forgiveness and investigations surrounding Russia. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/rep-sanford-bishop-talks-immigration-health-care-russia-at-cgtc>

PARENTING

- **May 23 – Bibb commissioners approve paid leave for new parents:** The Macon-Bibb Commission approved a maternity and paternity leave policy for employees. The policy was sponsored by Commissioner Virgil Watkins. It provides four weeks of leave for new mothers and one week leave for fathers. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/bibb-commissioners-approve-paid-leave-for-new-parents>
- **June 6 – Houston Co. Commission discusses possible changes to parental leave plan:** As the Macon-Bibb County Commission is preparing to vote on [enacting a paid parental leave plan](#) for its employees, the Houston County Commission is weighing their options as well. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/houston-co-commission-discusses-possible-changes-to-parental-leave-plan>

SENIOR

- **June 28 – Seniors pleased with senior center progress, say it's 'a long time coming':** Macon-Bibb County senior citizens are pleased with plans for the new senior center in Central City Park. Seniors have asked for the center for years, and now it's going to become a reality. Last Tuesday, the county commission approved \$2.3 million in SPLOST funds to build the center. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/seniors-pleased-with-senior-center-progress-say-its-a-long-time-coming>

POLITICAL

- **April 8 – Milledgeville Council To Consider State's Ethics Proposal:** Milledgeville's interim mayor says city council will consider the state attorney general's memorandum of understanding to settle ethics concerns. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/milledgeville-council-to-consider-states-ethics-proposal>
- **May 1 – Warner Robins council, residents discuss potential of city administrators position:** At a city council meeting on Monday city leaders discussed the possibility of adding a city administrator. David Cooke, a Warner Robins resident, said he sees the city's potential but doesn't think the government is being as effective as it could. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/warner-robins-council-residents-discuss-potential-of-new-city-administrator>
- **June 13 – Bibb commissioners reject mayor's compromise on Rosa Parks Square alcohol debate:** Macon Mayor Robert Reichert proposed a compromise on the issue of alcohol in Rosa Parks Square on Tuesday, but commissioners denied it. He suggested the creation of Poplar Square Commons, a green space

on Poplar Street between First and Second streets. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/bibb-commissioners-reject-mayors-compromise-on-rosa-parks-square-alcohol-debate>

HEALTHCARE

- **April 28 – Taking precautions is key when avoiding skin cancer:** As summer is approaching, many people are eager to get outside. But experts say there are several precautions that you should take to make sure you are protected from skin cancer. <http://wgxa.tv/life/healthy-living/taking-precautions-is-key-when-avoiding-skin-cancer>
- **May 15 – ‘Bro-Tox’: The growing trend in male cosmetics: A PSA to ladies:** Hide your face cream and favorite beauty products before your husband or boyfriend wipes out your arsenal. Men have now jumped on the bandwagon in the quest to look younger. <http://wgxa.tv/life/healthy-living/bro-tox-the-growing-trend-in-male-cosmetics>
- **June 27 – Public, officials voice concerns about Lake Sinclair ash pond ‘de-watering’:** The Environmental Protection Division held a hearing on Tuesday night in Putnam County for residents to give their opinions on ash pond closings. Georgia Power looks to close 29 ash ponds across Georgia. Five of those are at Plant Branch at Lake Sinclair, which closed in 2015. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/public-officials-voice-concerns-on-lake-sinclair-ash-pond-de-watering>

TERRORISM

- **April 20 – Home Grown Terrorism – ABC Morning:** ACCORDING TO HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY JOHN KELLY ...WE ARE SEEING AN UNPRECEDENTED SPIKE IN HOMEGROWN TERRORISM. SO WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING ABOUT IT AND WHERE DO THEY FACE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES?
- **May 22 – Manchester Attack – Breaking in our 11pm:** RIGHT NOW MANCHESTER POLICE CONFIRM 19 DEAD AND MORE THAN 50 INJURED IN THIS EXPLOSION AFTER AN ARIANA GRANDE SHOW. LISTEN TO THIS DASHCAM VIDEO FROM JOE GREGORY ON TWITTER SHOWING THE EXPLOSION OUTSIDE MANCHESTER ARENA. MANCHESTER POLICE SAYING THEY'RE TREATING THIS AS A TERRORIST ATTACK UNTIL THEY KNOW OTHERWISE. HERE'S THE SCENE INSIDE THE ARENA RIGHT AFTER THIS HAPPENED AT 10:35 P.M. LOCAL TIME IN MANCHESTER. PEOPLE AT THE CONCERT REPORT HEARING A LOUD BANG AND RUSHING FOR THE EXIT
- **June 19 – Vehicle Driven into Pedestrians – 6pm:** THE ATTACK ON MUSLIMS OUTSIDE A MOSQUE IN LONDON EARLY THIS MORNING IS NOW BEING INVESTIGATED AS AN ACT OF TERROR AND A POSSIBLE HATE CRIME. AUTHORITIES IN LONDON SAY EIGHT PEOPLE ARE IN THE HOSPITAL... AFTER A MAN PLOWED HIS VEHICLE INTO PEDESTRIANS OUTSIDE A LONDON MOSQUE.