

Georgia Bill would allow in-person visits by family members during emergencies

By BEAU EVANS
Capital Beat News Service

Hospitals and nursing homes would have to allow in-person family visits during public-health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic under a bill filed in the General Assembly.

The bill, sponsored by state Rep. Ed Setzler, R-Acworth, would prohibit Georgia hospitals and nursing homes from limiting patients' ability to visit with family members in the event treatment or hospitalization lasts more than 24 hours — including during any "declared public health emergency." Family members approved by the facilities would be permitted to visit with ailing loved ones in-person for at least two hours daily, according to the bill.

Setzler said his legislation aims to relieve the despair families have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, when dying loved ones often were reduced to spending their final moments with family via an electronic touchscreen.

"Watching your mother die in a four-inch screen on an iPhone is simply unacceptable," Setzler said. "Every corner of this state has been devastated by the reality of not being able to visit sick or dying family members in times of great need."

Hospital and assisted-living advocates say they're reviewing Setzler's bill, noting the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted tragedy for family members unable to see their dying loved ones but that federal rules on visitation have handcuffed them.

"I don't think there's anybody who's more sympathetic and would like to be able to reunite families than our centers," said Tony Marshall, president and CEO of the Georgia Health Care Association. "We just want to be sure that any efforts to allow visitation are certainly done in the best interests of the safety and protection of the residents."

Currently, Georgia allows visitation at nursing homes and long-term care facilities based on levels of COVID-19 positivity rates in a given community, under federal guidelines.

State Rep. John LaHood, R-Valdosta, who owns a local assisted-living facility, said he is still reviewing the bill but does see "some potential

conflicts" with federal regulations — though he also stresses families have been devastated by the inability to see loved ones stricken with COVID-19 and should have an avenue to seek better comfort.

"The whole situation is just gut-wrenching to watch and be a part of," LaHood said. "It feels like a no-win situation."

Setzler pointed out his bill would allow hospitals and nursing homes to impose "reasonable safety requirements" for visitation, though specific rules are not outlined in the bill. He said the bill aims to "give the provider control" over setting safety measures for how and where loved ones could be visited.

The bill also includes liability protections aimed at shielding Georgia hospitals and nursing homes from legal consequences for allowing visitors during public-health emergencies, mirroring legal guardrails businesses gained last August amid the pandemic, which House Republicans have proposed extending until June 14, 2022.

Setzler said he expects debate over his bill to center on what level of negligence hospitals and nursing homes would need to show for those liability protections to be waived in court. Lawmakers battled last year over whether to set the bar at "gross negligence" for bringing coronavi-

rus-related suits against businesses and hospitals — a high legal hurdle but not impossible to meet, experts said.

COVID-19 measures in the 2021 legislation session now underway come as more than a million Georgians have received at least their first dose of COVID-19 vaccines, an amount constrained by the short supply of vaccines currently being sent out by the federal government.

More than 763,000 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Georgia as of last Thursday afternoon, with nearly 165,000 more reported positive antigen tests indicating likely positive results. The virus has killed 13,048 Georgians.

Artisan event cancelled

All Lincoln Artisans January events have been cancelled. The next board meeting will be held Wed., March 3, 6 p.m., in the Development Authority Board Room.

Festival entries wanted

The American Legion Post 194 and Classic South Quilt Guild is looking for entries for their upcoming quilt, craft and sewing festival scheduled for June 12-13. If you have quilts, sewing crafts, or toys, novelty items, ceramics, paintings, jewelry, etc., please contact Linda Buesching at 706-359-1572 or Al Ewing at 661-666-3749 for more information on entering your items.

Sit, Sew classes

The American Legion is hosting additional classes: "Sit & Sew" classes, meet monthly on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday morning, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"Quilting Classes" are monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7-9:30 p.m. Call Linda Buesching/Instructor at (706) 359-1572.

Sewing and quilting stations are appropriated spaced and masks are required.

All levels of quilting welcome. The cost is a "donation" to the American Legion.

Divorce care group

Are you divorced or separated? Need Godly guidance with others who are struggling also? Faith Community Church is starting a Divorce-Care group starting on Sept. 2 that will meet for 13 weeks. It will be on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. Childcare is available. Please email Lee.haskins7@gmail.com for more information or see church's website.

Ellis fund set up

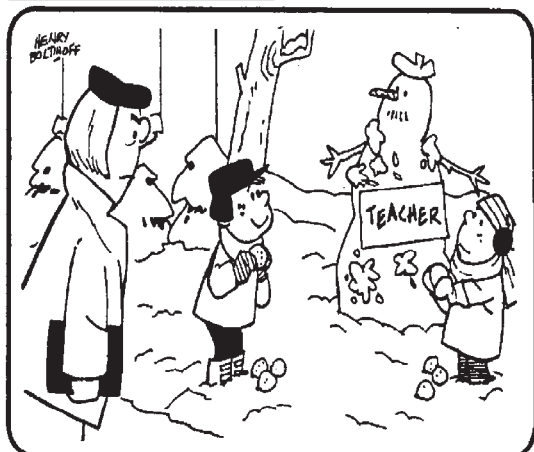
The Coach Ellis Dedication Fund has been set up at Farmers State Bank for those wishing to make a contribution to help with funding the sign and plaque recently approved for the track and field at Lincoln County High School and to initiate a scholarship fund in his honor. Those wishing to contribute can drop a check off at FSB or mail to P.O. Box 99, Lincolnton, GA 30817. Make the check payable to the Coach Ellis Dedication Fund.

Planning, zoning meetings

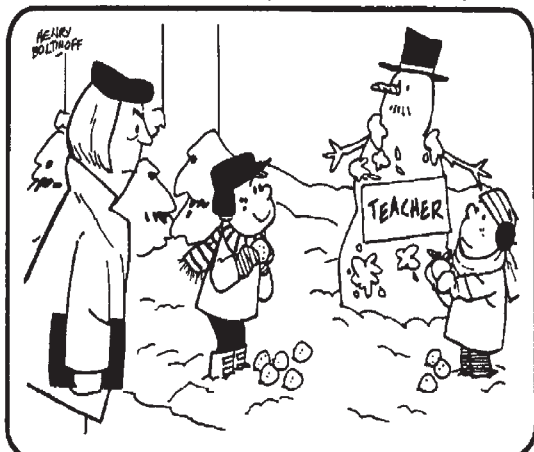
The City of Lincolnton Planning & Zoning Board meetings for 2021 are scheduled as follows: Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 28. These meetings will be held in City Hall at 5:30 p.m. each month if there is an agenda.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Snowman's hat is different. 2. Boy has a scarf. 3. Snowball has been added. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Teacher's nose is different. 6. Boy is holding an apple.

MAGIC MAZE • COMFORT FOODS

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

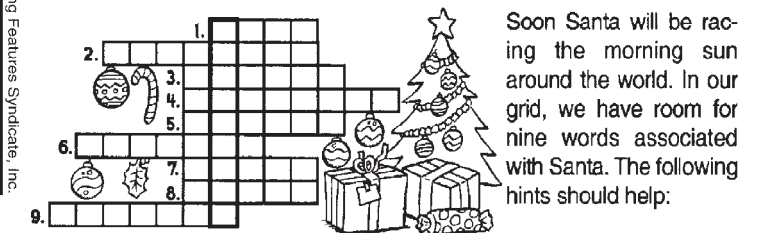
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: BISCUITS AND —

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Apple pie | Chocolate | Hamburgers | Pizza |
| Baked beans | Cornbread | Ice cream | Pot roast |
| Casseroles | Custard | Meatloaf | Roast beef |
| Chili | Dumplings | Pasta | |

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

THE BIG DAY IS ALMOST HERE!

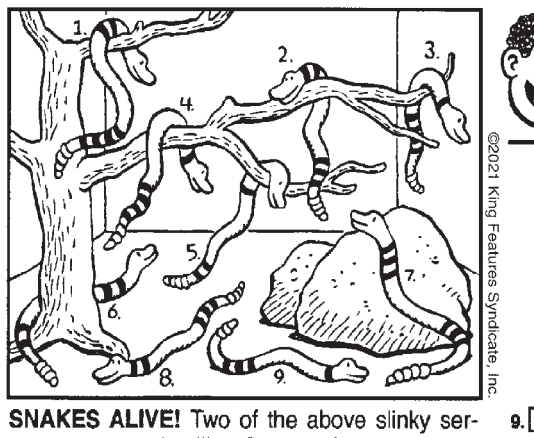


Soon Santa will be racing the morning sun around the world. In our grid, we have room for nine words associated with Santa. The following hints should help:

- Santa goes up the chimney when he lays his finger next to his ...?
- Santa's other name.
- Santa would never go to his house.
- Santa's presents end up here.
- Santa's physical description.
- Santa's most important helper.
- Santa's disposition.
- Santa's associates.
- Santa's other last name.

There is a dark frame around one of the columns in our grid. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will spell out Santa's last stop on Christmas Day.

Answers: 1. Nose; 2. Nicholas; 3. Girth; 4. Sticking; 5. Chubby; 6. Rudolph; 7. Jolly; 8. Elves; 9. Kringling. The dark-framed column spells "North Pole."



SNAKES ALIVE! Two of the above slinky serpents are exactly alike. Can you find them in 30 seconds?

Answer: Snakes 2 and 8.

SEE IF YOU CAN make this math expression correct by rearranging the nine digits to the left of the equal sign. The two new numbers can include fractions.

1 2 3 4 + 5 6 7 8 9 = 100

Our answer is: $47 \frac{3}{6} + 52 \frac{9}{18} = (47 \frac{1}{2} + 52 \frac{1}{2} = 100)$

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: top to bottom, left to right: ldy, rld, flrs, lms, lona, tons, loms, lows.

Super Crossword

AM TOO!

Answers on page 5

ACROSS

1 Kuwaiti rulers	45 Volt-per-ampere unit	85 Actor Ralph having reached a saloon's counter?	128 SEALS' mil. branch	38 Nev. neighbor	82 Rice — (cereal)
6 Pin to hang a chapeau on	46 Stephen of film	89 "—hawl"	129 Renowned	39 Yoga pad	83 Assist
12 Clothes	49 Temporarily smiling broadly?	90 Suffix with brilliant	DOWN	40 Corn bases	86 Archer's skill
16 "This is so frustrating!"	56 With	91 Rod go-with	1 Pkiesh one	41 Cronus' wife	87 Pt. of NATO
19 Maui porch	34-Across, "Green Eggs and Ham" character	92 Memo starter	2 Damage a bit	42 Singer	88 Ball balancer
20 Single-celled creature	59 Sweetheart	96 Group	3 — funk (sad)	Sumac	92 In a single try
21 Old term for margarine	60 Oklahoma city	97 Journey that has made everyone really hungry?	4 Ninth Muslim month	47 Audience extras	93 Wicked act
22 Sooner than, in sonnets	61 Shoe retailer	104 Memo starter	5 Gangster	48 Really suffer	94 Wingtip
23 Incriminated dancer	62 Former flying	106 British rocker	Bugsy	49 Licked parts of envelopes	95 Walk — (small roles)
Ginger with false evidence?	63 Gas suffix	Brian	6 Singer	50 Actress	97 Santa — (hot winds)
25 Possible cause of sneezing	64 Tuscan city	107 Cold carnival treats	Emmylou	Chaplin	98 Entraps
27 Petri dish gel	66 Negative particle	108 Group of truck drivers who were once in the same college fraternity?	51 KOA patron	51 KOA patron	99 Walk — (no-appointment customers)
28 A handsome Greek god put half-and-half in his coffee?	67 Iowa's tree	115 "After that ..."	52 Newsy bits	52 Newsy bits	100 "I meant someone else"
30 Scholars' milieu	68 Tony-winning musical performed in France's capital?	116 Belgium's capital	53 Tax-free bond, in brief	53 Tax-free bond, in brief	101 Real thing e.g.
34 See	74 Nabisco treats	117 Doubled radius of a toy on a string?	54 Israeli airline	54 Israeli airline	102 Qatari port
56-Across	76 Valleys	122 Go astray	55 Adult males	55 Adult males	103 "The — Cometh"
35 Mini-plateau	77 Wish to undo	123 Intro studio course	56 Supported	56 Supported	104 Monks' home
36 Cornhusk-wrapped treats found in an underground vault?	79 6/6/44	124 By wagering	57 Oscar winner	57 Oscar winner	105 — Haute, Indiana
43 Pizzazz	84 Spokane-to-Boise dir.	125 Plant used to make tequila	58 Not go right or straight while driving	58 Not go right or straight while driving	106 Paper unit
44 Psychic glow		126 Hankering	64 Paper unit	64 Paper unit	65 Actor Ziering
		127 Pony pattern	66 Lend — (listen)	66 Lend — (listen)	109 Despot of old
			69 Inuit-language word for "house"	69 Inuit-language word for "house"	110 Architect Saarinen
			70 Small error	70 Small error	111 Utah ski site
			71 Chi-Town daily paper	71 Chi-Town daily paper	112 Ages on end
			72 Let — sigh	72 Let — sigh	113 Meg of film
			75 Popeye's gal	75 Popeye's gal	114 Japanese noodle
			80 Old Dodge	80 Old Dodge	118 Actor Patel
			81 Corrosive cleansers	81 Corrosive cleansers	119 Tit for —
					120 Night before
					121 Ruby, e.g.

Bible Trivia

- Is the book of Song of Solomon in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- From Revelation 21, what perfectly square city is described as having walls made of jasper? New Damascus, Jericho, New Jerusalem, Philadelphia
- In Matthew 5, to what two things did Jesus compare Christians, salt and ...? Water, Bread, Light, Mountains
- Saint Luke said Jesus was about how old when he began to teach? 18, 22, 30, 45
- Who became leader of the children of Israel after Moses' death? Isaac, Joshua, Aaron, Abraham
- What was the trade of Paul? Shepherd, Carpenter, Tentmaker, Tax collector

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) New Jerusalem; 3) Light; 4) 30; 5) Joshua; 6) Tentmaker

Top Ten Movies

- The Little Things (R) Denzel Washington, Rami Malek
- The Croods: A New Age (PG) animated
- Wonder Woman 1984 (PG-13) Gal Gadot, Chris Pine
- The Marksman (PG-13) Kathryn Winnick, Liam Neeson
- Monster Hunter (PG-13) Milla Jovovich, Tony Jaa
- News of the World (PG-13) Tom Hanks, Steve Boyle
- Promising Young Woman (R) Carey Mulligan, Bo Burnham
- Fatale (R) Hilary Swank, Michael Ealy
- Our Friend (R) Jason Segel, Isabella Kai
- The War with Grandpa (PG) Robert De Niro, Uma Thurman

Thomson Twin Cinema

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