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Woman recalls her 'vibrant' sister after tragic death

BY JESSE FRAGA
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Teasha Ariele Colbert was the first call her younger sister would make anytime she needed to get dolled up.

The 42-year-old woman, who was found dead near her east Macon home Thursday, was the go-to for a laugh, party and

makeover, according to her younger sister Sandy Colbert, 41.

"She was the oldest, but she had the spirit of the youngest," Sandy Colbert said, with a smile, hours after Teasha Colbert was pronounced dead. "She knew about makeup, lashes and nails, and she was into all the beauty trends."

Teasha Colbert was allegedly

killed and found dead in a trash can Thursday morning at a home in Sanford Arms Apartments, a small neighborhood behind CVS on Gray Highway and Shurling Drive, according to the Bibb County sheriff's and coroner's offices. She lived just houses away from the home where her body was found.

The sheriff's office confirmed it's investigating her death as a



KATIE TUCKER/THE TELEGRAPH

Sandy Colbert holds a childhood picture with her mother Cynthia Colbert (middle) and sisters Teasha Ariele Colbert (right) and Erin Penamon (bottom right) in her home on Sept. 11 in Macon.

homicide.

"I just hate that my sister was found in a trash can because I don't want nobody to remember her as trash," Sandy Colbert

said. "Like, my sister wasn't trash."

Teasha Colbert's friends

SEE SISTER, 4A



KATIE TUCKER/THE TELEGRAPH

Macon Bibb NAACP president Gwenette Westbrooks (far left) speaks to town hall speakers State Senator David Lucas (left), Major Brad Wolfe of the Bibb County Sheriff's Office (right) and Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney Anita Howard during an NAACP Town Hall Sept. 11 at Union Baptist Church in Macon.

Macon jail makes progress on vexing issues

BY JESSE FRAGA
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The Bibb County Jail has made progress on several issues in recent weeks, including overpopulation, clogged toilets and

a lice outbreak, local law enforcement and the NAACP Macon chapter announced Thursday.

But some incarcerated people at the facility recently had to wash their jumpsuits in toilet water, pay for body soap, and

live among feces-covered walls and trash cans, according to Gwenette Westbrooks, president of the local NAACP chapter who tours the jail and inspects each cell monthly.

Westbrooks and Maj. Brad Wolfe, who manages the jail,

said that detainees' living conditions won't improve without expanding the detention center, which Bibb County Sheriff David Davis and Mayor Lester Miller have also agreed on. Jail staff and Macon-Bibb County commissioners were in the process of reviewing architectural proposals for an upgrade to the current facility.

Wolfe and Westbrooks, along with local and state legislators, provided updates on the jail at a town hall meeting Thursday

SEE JAIL, 4A

Macon murder suspect says speedy trial rights violated

BY ALBA ROSA
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A Macon murder suspect wants his charges dismissed, arguing he was not given a

speedy trial despite asking for one, court records from Thursday show.

Katherine Dodd — attorney for Jasirian Thomas, who faces murder charges in connection with the shooting death of Le-

darius Tremaine Clark in the Unionville neighborhood in 2021 — said in court documents Thursday that Thomas' right to a speedy trial had been violated. Dodd asked for the case to be dismissed in court re-

cords.

She had asked for Thomas' case to move in a timely manner in court documents in November 2023, but the request was denied when prosecutors with the Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office said they needed further investigation to prosecute the case.

His case had been stalled until Sept. 2, when a judge brought it up for a status up-

SEE SUSPECT, 2A

Israel launches ground offensive in Gaza City

BY LARA JAKES, GABBY SOBELMAN, ISABEL KERSHNER AND NATAN ODENHEIMER
NYT News Service

The Israeli military said Tuesday that it had launched a ground incursion into Gaza City overnight, embarking on a risky operation to take control of a key urban area even as hundreds of thousands of Palestinian residents remain there.

The ground operation and intensifying Israeli bombardment risks deepening the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, in a nearly two-year-long war that has already killed tens of thousands of people. Windows were felt shaking in buildings as far as 25 miles away in Israel.

"We are all terrified," said Montaser Bahja, a former schoolteacher sheltering in an apartment in western Gaza City near the coast. "Death would be more merciful than what we're living through."

The operation has been building for weeks, with Israel saying that a takeover of the city was necessary to prevent Hamas from regrouping and planning future attacks. The plans for the ground assault drew fierce international criticism and dimmed hopes for a ceasefire agreement with Hamas that many foreign officials and Israelis had pushed.

After intensifying airstrikes in recent days, on Tuesday morning the Israeli military said that three divisions of active duty and reserve troops had begun "expanded ground operations in Gaza City" over the past day to target Hamas.

More than 20 dead and dozens more wounded people have been brought to Shifa Hospital, a major medical center in Gaza City, since the offensive intensified overnight, according to Mohammad Abu Salmiya, the facility's director. Zaher al-Waheidi, a Gaza Health Ministry official, confirmed that the hospital had reported receiving more than 20 bodies since mid-

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