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JASON VORHEES jvorhees@macon.com

Bibb County Deputy Samantha Morera walks back to her car after a service call along Jackson Street West last month.



LIVING

MORE WOMEN GOING SOLO

Today, about half of women ages 25 to 34 have never been married, a far cry from prior decades. 1D



NATION & WORLD

HATE CRIME REPORTING SPOTTY

Law enforcement agencies are supposed to report all hate crimes to the FBI, but many don't. 2A



LOCAL

YOUNG AT HEART

Macon's Rosa Shaheen, 90, still does almost everything at full speed — and even visits nursing homes to cheer up the "old folks." 1C

Female deputies rare in midstate

1 in 10 Bibb patrol deputies are female

"Being out in the community you're able to help more people"

Women a minority in midstate law enforcement

BY LAURA CORLEY
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The small crowd disperses when the women pull up.

The women, two of them, park next to each other. They watch as a dozen or so people hanging out at the MM Food Mart scam.

It is late on an April night and

the convenience store, across Montpelier Avenue from the old Colonial bakery in the heart of Macon's Unionville neighborhood, is a popular loitering spot.

The two women know it well. They are Bibb County sheriff's deputies.

"Everybody scatters," Deputy Samantha Morera says. "A lot of drug activity. Prostitution. A

lot of hanging out. ... Once we pull up, they usually walk off."

She and Deputy Sahkera Wooten, guns strapped in holsters on their hips, keep watching.

They stand by their patrol cars outside the green-and-blue store, which has for ages been a gathering place that sells snacks and beer and lottery tickets in an impoverished, crime-stricken pocket of the city.

The deputies talk about work and what it's like to patrol Macon's west side.

Their beat is District 4. "The mall district," they call it.

It includes Lizella and Bloomfield, and it stretches south

SEE DEPUTIES, 4A

Macon residents remember Ali's greatness inside, outside ring

Muhammad Ali had ability to "inspire others with his spirit"

Macon boxing club officials speak on his influence

Ali passed away Friday at age of 74

BY STANLEY DUNLAP
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As an eight-year-old, Earnest Butts Jr., was nervous about boxing in a tournament in the hometown of Muhammad Ali.

Butts, however, became calm when he was able to meet the boxing great prior to Butts' first fight in Louisville, Kentucky.

Butts, now the head trainer of the Macon Bibb United Boxing Club, is among the scores of people fondly remembering Ali following his death on Friday night.

Ali transcended boxing, and became a controversial figure for his stances on issues and later one of the most beloved figures in the world. The 74-year-old, who suffered from

VIDEO

Macon residents reminisce about Muhammad Ali at macon.com

MORE INSIDE

More coverage on Ali, including some of his most famous quotes, starting on 1B

Parkinson's disease, passed away Friday at an Arizona hospital.

"It actually took the fear away going into the Louisville fight," said Butts, 52. "I was so

SEE ALI, 6A

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