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The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

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Board of Education Congratulates Peach Robotics on Victory



By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. - The Peach County Board of Education recognized the Peach County High School and Byron Middle School Robot Drone League (RDL) during the January board meeting last Tuesday, Jan. 7.

Students from Peach County High School and Byron Middle School teamed up to form the Peach Robotics team. Peach

County High School hosted the first Robot Drone League (RDL) competition, which was organized by Streamworks. Peach Robotics received multiple awards including the Rookie Award, the Top Score Award, and the Champions Award.

In addition to this achievement, Peach Robotics has qualified to attend the National Competition, which will take place at East Tennessee State University at the end of January.

The students and teachers that were recognized during the meeting include Archie Diamond, Domink Osterbuhr, Ben Sharpe, Jacob Smith and teacher Julie Folse from PCHS and Nadurah Carbon, Kenyea Hill and teacher Samuel Smith from BMS.

Dr. Keysha King, Principal of Hunt Elementary School, recognized two students for their academic achievements, Amor Brown and Everett Griffin.

Both excelled in their star assessments, with both being Star Readers. Griffin also excelled in Star Math.

Following that, the board discussed multiple action items. The first was for approval of a Wide Area Network Contract with Micro Technology Consultants, with the contract being between July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The board approved the contract. Second, the board approved the 2025-2026

Peach County Schools calendar options and the FY26 Peach County board meeting schedule. Third, the board approved the allocation of \$100,000 from the general fund and authorized the Board of Education Chair and the Superintendent to sign a resolution to authorize the appropriate person affiliated with each organization to receive and manage such funds.

Photos Contributed

Fort Valley DDA Looking to Promote Community Engagement



Photo Contributed

Troutman House.

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. - The Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority is looking to get input from the community regarding Fort Valley's downtown area. During their January board meeting, they announced their upcoming community engagement event.

From Friday, Jan. 17 through Sunday, Jan. 19, the Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority will be working with a team of students from the University of Georgia to promote community engagement. This project is part of the grant program, known as the Archway Program, that the Fort Valley Downtown Development Au-

thority won in 2024.

Following that announcement, the board discussed their concerns over the 2008 SPLOST in which \$75,000 was allocated by the City of Fort Valley and Peach County to go to the Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority. However, they have not received those funds. After an executive session with their attorney, the board voted to send a formal letter to the city regarding the SPLOST.

In addition, the board voted to send a proposal to the city regarding lease agreements with the Police Department and the Troutman House - both of which are owned by the Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority.

Planning to Improve North and South Peach Parks



By Peach County Government

We're thrilled to announce that we held the kickoff meeting for the administration of several key grants aimed at enhancing North and South Peach Parks and our community!

Key players were able to dive into the details of the American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA) Improving Neighborhood Outcomes for Disproportionally Impacted Communities grant, which will help fund important improvements to the North and

South Peach Park trails.

Additionally, discussion was held regarding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for both North and South Peach Parks, as well as the T-Mobile grant application to bring even more resources to South Peach Park.

This is an incredible opportunity to improve our parks, promote healthier lifestyles, and provide our community with the spaces we deserve. More details to come!

Photographed:

- Bruce Mackey, Parks & Recreation Director
- Janet Smith, Procurement Manager
- April H. Hodges, County Administrator
- Commissioner Roy Lewis
- Sedrick Swan, Human Resources Director
- Kent McCormick, Principal Engineer, Triple Point Engineering
- Matt Ingram, Community Development Specialist, Middle Georgia Regional Commission

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Peach County Looking Forward To A New Year

Selina Hall of the Byron Welcome Center

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

What were you & the Welcome Center most proud of for 2024?

We had a great 150th Anniversary year for the City of Byron. We successfully pulled off an entire year of events including several first time events. We had a great time with Food Truck Fridays, Market Days, our 2nd Annual Byron BBQ Fest, and a FANTASTIC 150th Anniversary Celebration!!

What are some of your and the Center's goals for this upcoming year?

Our goal for 2025 is to increase

visitors to Byron. We are hard at work coming up with plans for events, as well as a few other things in the works.

Are there any events that you are particularly excited about?

We will be hosting our 1st Peach Blossom Festival on March 8th & 9th. This will include vendors, food trucks, activities (still in the planning phase), and live music. In June, we will host a Summer Solstice Festival (also a first time event). September 19th & 20th will be our 3rd Annual Byron BBQ Fest. We are still ironing out the details, but hoping for some exciting additions this year. We

are looking forward to 2025 and hope we continue to grow these activities for Byron & Peach County residents, as well as attract more visitors to our lovely city!

Is there anything that you would like to say to the citizens of Byron?

Thank you to the citizens of Byron for your continued support! We hope you are enjoying the things we do in the Community. Please invite all of your friends & family to join you at one of this year's events! Looking forward to an amazing 2025!

Tisa Horton of the Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

What were you & the FVDDA most proud of for 2024?

We are incredibly proud of our partnership with the University of Georgia's Archway program through their Connected Resilient Communities initiative. This collaboration aims to revitalize downtown Fort Valley by addressing local challenges and promoting urban and economic development. It's a fantastic opportunity to bring fresh perspectives and resources to our community, and we're excited to see the positive impact it will have.

What are some of your and the FVDDA's goals for this upcoming year?

Our primary goals for 2025 include continuing the revitalization efforts in downtown Fort Valley, focusing on activities for youth and adults, and enhancing the beautification and retail options in the area. We also aim to engage more community members in our projects and encourage them to participate in city and county meetings, volunteer opportunities, and surveys.

Are there any events that you are particularly excited about?

Yes, we're very excited about

all the upcoming events! One event particularly is the Christmas Lighting Ceremony and the Lighted Christmas Parade. We're looking forward to making them even bigger and better this year.

Is there anything that you would like to add or emphasize?

We want to emphasize the importance of community involvement. We encourage everyone to get involved, voice their opinions, and help us move Fort Valley in a positive direction. Together, we can bloom where we are planted and make a real difference.

Jill Bowen of the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

What were you & the Chamber of Commerce most proud of for 2024?

Our Chamber joined the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (GACCE)! AND almost our ENTIRE Board attended the GACCE Board Development Conference in Macon back in November. We were a united front learning all sorts of new and exciting things to bring back and implement into our programming for 2025 and beyond.

All of our NEW members! We continue to grow... it's so encouraging and exciting to witness how our community supports and welcomes new businesses.

Expanded Tourism Committee. The team has grown a lot and we've added new volunteers from different sectors, with new

ideas, perspectives, etc.

Business of Year: Atrium Health Navicent Peach Medical Center (announced at the Celebration of Community Banquet). They are incredible partners and so deserving of the award. Looking forward to seeing who will win for 2025.

Blue Bird's Presenting Sponsorship for our 10th Annual Celebration of Community Banquet. It was a HUGE help and we were honored that they invested in us and our community the way they did.

Our Chamber continues to support the CTAE programs at PCHS and PC Schools. We're sponsoring the CTAE Teacher Externship Day 2025 and are helping to coordinate the industry site visits. This is the second year we've been involved. It's a fantastic way for the teachers to connect with and learn from existing industries here in Peach County. They learn best-prac-

tices, newest technologies, etc., that they can (and hopefully, will) incorporate into their curriculum. The other bonus is it's a connection to the WBL opportunities both for the HS and the businesses.

New partnerships with Unified Defense, Southern Perfection Fabrication, Pure Flavor, Advance Home Specialties, Blue Bird, Super Lawn Trucks ... the list goes on. We're really fortunate to have businesses willing to open their doors to our teachers and students for things like WBL and teacher externship days!

The formation of The Peach Blossoms group! I started this in Feb. of 2024 with six women in the banking field and the group has grown to 50+. We're a diverse and fabulous mix of women who either live or work in Peach County. I'm really proud of this accomplishment since my hope and prayer is that the group will live on long after I've

retired.

The zSpace computers we purchased with the T-Mobile Hometown Grant funds that our Chamber applied for in Dec. of 2023 have been moved to the Byron Middle School so those kids can have experience using them. It's my understanding that the computers will be on some sort of rotation so all kids get access. It's great that more and more will have the opportunity to use them and enjoy the inclusive learning method.

Increasing the number of awards and values of the same for the CTAE Awards Night and additional cash support from others like the City of Fort Valley, Blue Bird, and two anonymous donations. The goal was to get the awards up to big scholarship amounts to encourage Pathway completers and better-prepared workers.

What are some of your and the Chamber's goals for this

upcoming year?

Repeat all of the things under the first question that can be repeated.

Increase tourism traffic to Peach County. The Tourism Committee meets regularly and stays on top of ways to promote events to draw in more visitors.

Continue growing and supporting our new and existing businesses with things our team has learned/will learn by way of our membership and involvement with GACCE.

Apply for and be awarded additional grants for workforce development and infrastructure opportunities.

Receive the EDP designation from the GA Dept. of Education. This is a collaborative effort with

PC Schools but our team, and many of our Leadership Peach graduates, have been involved from day one when we started

the process and first application back when James Lassetter was still the Director of the CTAE program.

Partner with PCS Robotics Club and find ways to fund bigger, nerdier projects and make it to the National Competition once again... year after year! The kiddos are going up to TN later this month to compete and we've been responsible for all of the sponsorship funding received to date.

Are there any events that you are particularly excited about?

I'm excited about every event that brings joy to people and I'm particularly excited about the FALL Celebration of Community Banquet which will have an awesome theme to dazzle and challenge our guests. It will be at Southern Bridle Farms once again and is sure to be another crowd-pleaser - especially with the cooler weather.

You're invited to a
Peach County Republican Party Meeting
Guest Speaker
Charles Orr
Tactical Civics

Date/Time
Tuesday, January 21, 2025
6 pm - 8 pm

Harmony Community Church
3085 Housers Mill Rd
Byron, GA

T-shirt Design Winners

By PCSS

Mrs. Davis and CCAA would like to announce the winners of the T-shirt design contest!

The four finalists are:
2nd grade- Harper Alderman
3rd grade- Mattie White
4th grade- Xavier Stewart
5th grade- Anna Grace Tucker

And, drum roll please... the final design winner is Anna Grace in Mr. Peavy's 5th grade! Her design will be printed on t-shirts to be sold by CCAA to raise money to support their dog rescue.

Congratulations, everyone! Your designs were all fantastic!



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Police Beat

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

The information below is provided by local law enforcement agencies, who are solely responsible for the accuracy of the information. These reports are published for information purposes only. Publication of an arrest or citation report is not evidence of a crime. All persons named in the reports are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Some minor violations that do not threaten public safety are not included.

Byron Arrests/Citations

Byrd, Coleo, 38, Columbus, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Johnson, Charles Thomas, 36, Byron, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Scot, Marcus Sherrell, 39, Byron, GA: Driving While License Suspended, Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Tail Lights / Tag Lights Lenses Required, Receipt, Possession Or Transfer Of Firearm By Convicted Felon Or Felony First Offender, Possession Of Sawed-Off Shotgun, Sawed-Off Rifle, Machine Gun, Dangerous Weapon, Or Silencer

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Arzuaga, Jose Ramon, 43, Montezuma, GA: Disorderly Conduct, Public Drunkenness, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers, Terroristic Threats And Acts

Barron, Richard Leonard, 56, Fort Valley, GA: Battery - Family Violence (1st Offense) Misd

Cox, Ryan Marcquez, 42, Fort Valley, GA: Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers, Criminal Damage To Property - 2nd Degree

White, Keyoynte Rashun, 29, Fort Valley, GA: Simple Battery - Family Violence, Cruelty To Children In The 3rd Degree 3rd Or Subsequent Offense

Woods, Shakira Monet, 43, Oglethorpe, GA: Theft By Taking - Misdemeanor

Peach County Sheriff's Office

Arrests/Citations

Bryant, Leshae Mishantae, 39, Fort Valley, GA: Possession Of A Schedule IV Controlled Substance

Clark, Wayne Jerome, 58, Fort Valley, GA: Possession Of A Schedule IV Controlled Substance

Morgan, Travis Torrance, 48, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Porter, Christopher Bryan, 55, Fort Valley, GA: Obstructing Or Hindering Firefighters, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Rogers, Jessica Anne, 37, Warner Robins, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Possession Of Marijuana, Obscured Or Missing License Plate

Small, Courtney, 27, Fort Valley, GA: Simple Battery - Family Violence, Criminal Trespass

GA State Patrol Perry Arrests

Aguilar-Domingo, Benigno, 33, Macon, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol

Coronado, Ever Osbeli, 24, Tucker, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Expired Or No Drivers License

Howard, Desmond, 51, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Exercise Due Care, Failure To Yield Right Of Way, Turning, Driving While License Suspended, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Knowingly Driving Motor Vehicle On Suspended, Canceled, Or Revoked Registration

Parrish, Charles Jefferson, 53, Lloyd, FL: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Possession Of Open Alcohol Container

GA Dept Of Public Safety

Braswell, Deonshae Quinterrius, 30, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

State prisons chief seeking \$372M for safety upgrades

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Gov. Brian Kemp and the Georgia Department of Corrections asked state lawmakers Tuesday for \$372 million to improve a prison system the Justice Department criticized last fall in a scathing report.

Most of the additional investments would go toward hiring more correctional officers and pay raises aimed at gaining parity with neighboring states.

In a 94-page report following a multi-year investigation, the Justice Department accused the state prison system of violating inmates' constitutional rights by failing to protect them from widespread violence.

"We want to make sure our prisons are safe for our employees, safe for our inmates, and safe for the public," Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, said Tuesday during a joint meeting of House and Senate subcommittees formed last summer to explore funding levels needed to improve safety inside the state prisons.

Many of the spending recommendations Georgia Commissioner of Corrections Tyrone Oliver outlined Tuesday came from Chicago-based Guidehouse Inc., a consultant the state hired last June after an inmate at Smith State Prison in Glennville shot and killed a food-service worker before turning the gun on himself.

"Public safety is the No.-1 priority of state government, and that is why we have taken a comprehensive and deliberate approach to strengthening law enforcement and improving our corrections system," Kemp said Tuesday.

"I want to thank the teams at Guidehouse for their diligent and detailed work over the past several months, as well as the Department of Corrections personnel who have been helpful at every step of this process and who face incredible challenges each day to keep violent criminals behind bars."

The spending recommendations include providing 4% pay raises for correctional officers as well as education, chaplain, food service and maintenance personnel. Behavioral health coun-

selors would receive 8% salary increases.

The corrections agency also wants to hire 330 additional correctional officers to improve staff-to-inmate ratios.

The spending plan also calls for \$40 million to plan and design a new prison and \$93 million in additional funds for sitework and construction associated with four 126-bed modular correctional units.

Another \$2.8 million would go to develop a statewide marketing initiative to recruit new correctional officers and \$900,000 to update the officer training curriculum.

Tuesday's presentation was highly unusual in that Georgia governors historically don't present budget recommendations to the General Assembly until the first week of the annual legislative session. Lawmakers won't convene the 2025 session under the Gold Dome until next week.

"It shows the emphasis (Kemp) and us are putting on this issue," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Matt Hatchett, R-Dublin. "This has been studied and studied. It's time to get something done."

Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



CALLED MEETING
PEACH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 17, 2025 AT 10:30 AM

CITY OF FORT VALLEY MEETING SCHEDULE JANUARY 2025

City of Fort Valley Mayor and Council, City Hall, 204 West Church St, Fort Valley, Ga
Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2025 @ 9:00 am
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 846 5901 7859
Passcode: 213097

Work Session Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 @ 6:00 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 891 1774 0216
Passcode: 376818

Regular City Council Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2025 @ 6:30 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 839 1872 5493
Passcode: 988394

TROJAN NATION TD CLUB

The time is drawing near when the 2024 football season starts. The Trojan Nation Touchdown Club is selling reserved parking for the upcoming season at a cost of \$125.00. This includes the four regular season home games plus any playoff game that we host. This offer is good as long as spaces are available. You can contact Nate Danielly at 478-957-1141 for more information.

ATTENTION: VETERANS

Veterans who would like to get together for brotherhood, please meet for dinner at Mi Ranchito at 311-A Vineville St, Fort Valley, GA on 12 August 2023 at 6:30 p.m./1830. Please RSVP to Ernest Cooling by emailing ecooling79@gmail.com. If further information is needed, please call me at (478) 955-8850.

FORT VALLEY DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - BOARD MEETING

The Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority meets 1st Tuesday every month at 6pm, located at Troutman House Conference Room, 201 Oakland Heights Parkway, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Visit our website for more information: <http://fortvalleymainstreet.org>

FORT VALLEY HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board meeting is held on the second Mondays of the month at 6pm, located at the Troutman House 201 Oakland Heights Pkwy, Fort Valley, Ga 31030.

PEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSIONS

The Peach County Board of Commissioners holds Work Sessions* on the first Tuesday of each month at 5pm in Commission Chambers located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley.

Regular Meetings* are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm in Commission Chambers located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley.

The Board also conducts Public Hearings to consider zoning requests at 6:30pm during regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

*Scheduling may differ due to holidays and unforeseen circumstances. Prior notice will be given. Visit our website for more information: <https://www.peachcounty.net/board-of-commissioners.cfm>

FT. VALLEY UTILITY COMMISSION
500 Anthoine St, Fort Valley.

The Commission doors are open to customers from 8:00am - 5:00pm.

Public Work Session Meeting first Monday of every month at 4 p.m.

Regular Meeting every second Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

KIWANIS CLUB OF FORT VALLEY

The Kiwanis Club of Fort Valley meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays every month, noon at Kay Center in Fort Valley. Kiwanis is a civic group focused on helping children, and community service. Each week, members and guests enjoy lunch and a guest speaker who addresses a topic of local, state and sometimes even global interest. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and join one of America's oldest service organizations. See the Kiwanis Club of Fort Valley Facebook page for more information. (TFNS)

MEETING PEACH PUBLIC LIBRARIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THOMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY, FORT VALLEY, GA

REGULAR MEETING PEACH PUBLIC LIBRARIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024 AT 5:15PM

THOMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY, FORT VALLEY, GA

Peach Public Libraries Board of Trustees meets the second Thursday of February, April, June, August, October, and December at 5:15pm in the Meeting Room at Thomas Public Library, Fort Valley, unless otherwise specified.

MIDDLE GEORGIA ART ASSOCIATION

Call for Artists "Abstract" Exhibit Jan 17 - Feb 15

Deadline to enter, Tuesday, Jan 14, 5pm

Prospectus and entry forms are available on our website: www.middlegeorgiaart.org

MGAA Gallery, 2330 Ingleside Ave., in Ingleside Village. Gallery Hrs: Tues-Fri 12-5pm. Sat 12-3pm. 478-744-9557 Email: middlegeorgiaart@bellsouth.net **Free and open to the public!** (TFNS)

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER APPLICATION

The Child Development Center is accepting waitlist applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Parents with children 6 weeks to 4 years old can apply. To request an application email childdevelopmentcenter@fvsu.edu, or pick up an application at the Child Development Center located at 1101 Carver Dr, Fort Valley, GA, Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm.

This is a developmentally appropriate program. The Center is open to FVSU students, faculty, staff and the community. For more information call 478-825-6236 or 478-825-6234.

PEACH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Meets 4th Tuesday each month at 6:00pm. If anyone has school annuals of the past the Historical Society would like to have them. Donations welcome. Contact: Lrgiles77@gmail.com (TFNS)

THE PEACH COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

The Peach County Retired Educators Association will meet on the first Monday of each month at 2pm. The meeting will be held at Trinity Baptist Church 507 State University Drive. For further info, please contact Dr. Quintin Green (478)951-1911. (TFNS)

FIRST STEP LEARNING CENTER EARLY HEAD START

Now Enrolling Infants 6 Weeks Old to Under 36 Months. Call Now to Set up an Appointment. Enrollment Based on Eligibility. Call (478)825-0509, 406 Carver Dr.,

Valley. First Step Learning Center Early Head Start in Partnership With Fort Valley State University. (TFNS)

ADDICTION COUNSELING

Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. 800-431-1754 (TFNS)

BYRON AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP

Byron Al-Anon meets on Monday mornings at 11 a.m. in the Old Byron School, next to the Byron Municipal Complex. Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Debbie Harrelson 478-714-9393 (TFNS)

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS MIDDLE GEORGIA CHAPTER

We are a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping bereaved parents by providing highly personal comfort, hope and support to every family experiencing the death of a child, a brother, sister or a grandchild and helping others to better assist the grieving family. We need not walk alone.

Byron meeting: 4th Thursday of every month. 7-9pm. Byron Baptist Church 100 W White Rd, Byron, Ga 21008.

NEW Macon meeting location for TCF: Rock Springs Church, 6601 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA.

Please contact Chapter Leaders for more information: Karla Chidester - 478-954-4592, or Teresa Tompkins - 478-319-3526, or visit www.compassionatefriends.org. (TFNS)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Narconon reminds families that abuse of addictive pharmaceutical drugs is on the rise. Learn to recognize the signs of drug abuse and get your loved ones help if they are at risk. Call Narconon for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all types of drugs. Narconon also offers free screenings and referrals. 800-431-1754 or Prescription-abuse.org (TFNS)

BYRON LIONS CLUB

The club meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month, the first Thursday of the month at Uncorked Event Center (behind Georgia Bobs) at 6:00PM, and the third Thursday of the month at 9:00 AM at Denny's. Anyone interested in participating is heartily invited to join us. For more information, please contact Lion Marlene Humphry at 478-918-3666, email at mhumphry@cox.net (TFNS)

BYRON ROTARY CLUB

Meets every Wednesday at 8:00am at Denny's. (TFNS)

BYRON MAIN STREET DDA/CVB

Byron Main Street/ DDA/CVB meetings are the 1st Mondays of each month at 5:00 p.m., at Denny's. The CVB meetings are usually held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Byron Welcome Center at 5:00p.m. (TFNS)

BYRON TAX OFFICE

Opened Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm. Closed 12-1:00pm at the Byron Municipal Complex. All official regular meetings are in the Council Chamber at the Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Byron, Georgia. (TFNS)

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Community Notice: We Can't Go Past Deadline



ZOE HAMMOND

News Editor

This week's column will be a short one, but I figured it might be a good time for an update and reminder of the paper's deadlines.

If you need to get something into the paper, please keep in mind that the deadline is the preceding Friday by 5 p.m. For example, if you wanted to get something in for the Jan. 29 Issue, we would need it by Jan. 24.

I know that is a three-business-day window, but please keep in mind we have to do the layout of the paper and then send it out to be printed at one of the Georgia Trust for Local News' press rooms – we don't print in-house. That is why sometimes, for those who have stopped in, we say that the papers haven't arrived yet.

We use one of our sister locations for printing our paper and since the Trust has multiple newspapers, sometimes things get delayed. It doesn't happen often, but it can happen and we ask that our readers be patient with us when it does.

Back to the deadlines bit, if you have an event or notice and submit it during the week-

end, we make an effort to get it in but at that point, most others have already submitted content for the paper and there might not be room.

Laying out a paper is like a jigsaw puzzle, but with almost no edge pieces and the pieces can often change shape and size. There are also rules of what gets placed where and while we can occasionally stretch these rules, the majority of the time we do have to adhere to them.

So, if you reach out on Monday with news, it will most likely have to go in next week's edition due to time and space constraints. By Monday, our paper has been sent to the press room and most likely has been printed already or is slated for the first thing Tuesday morning.

Our press room does its best to meet our deadlines and work with us, so it isn't fair to them to have to say "Stop the Presses" to add one or two items in at the last minute.

The process of making a paper is lengthy and a delay in one causes even more delays in the rest of the process. With our press room printing multiple papers, that can cause delays for other papers in addition to The Leader Tribune. So, please keep in mind our deadlines.

Also, in case some haven't received our notice, all emails at The Leader Tribune now use the extension ".com" instead of ".net". So, my email is now editor@theleadertribune.com instead of editor@theleadertribune.net. Please be aware of this if you plan to email us anything!

The Bad Health Effect of Extended Sitting



WADE YODER
LT COLUMNIST

There's a one-liner that has been circulating for some time in health and fitness media and I would recommend everyone research and study it in depth. It is simply a reference to the damaging effects of a sedentary lifestyle and says, "Sitting is the new smoking."

The leading health vandals and killers in this country are heart disease, cancer, and type 2 Diabetes. Researchers have found and are continuing to find evidence that prolonged sitting increases a person's risk of developing these. We also know the 3rd leading cause of death is medical mistakes, (Ref. HospitalSafetyScore.org) so if we can avoid some of the main reasons for having to seek

medical intervention (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc.) maybe we can also lower our risk to this as well.

Dr. James Levin, director of the Mayo Clinic-Arizona State University Obesity Solutions Initiative has been studying the adverse effects of our increasingly sedentary lifestyle for years and has summed up his findings in two sentences. "Sitting is more dangerous than smoking, kills more people than HIV, and is more treacherous than parachuting. We are sitting ourselves to death." ~ From Huffington Post and Los Angeles Times Dr. James Levine interview.

Knowing that prolonged sitting adds to our bottom line, and waistline, decreases our capability of burning off excess sugars from our diet and decreases lung and heart (pulmonary), vitality, and strength, should give us plenty of reasons to get moving more! Decreased physical activity can cause constipation since exercise helps decrease the time that waste is spent in the colon. When you increase breathing and heart rate (from physical activity) for an extended period it helps stimulate the natural contraction of intestinal muscles, which translates to

stimulating bowel movements. This is our body's trashcan and when it's not dumped regularly it can cause toxic waste to leach back into our system.

The American Journal of Preventive Medicine reported a study based on 92,234 women aged 50-79 that studied (sedentary vs. active lifestyles) and found a direct link to increased early death rates from all causes including heart disease and cancer. Something that may be causing this is how technologies have decreased the need for physical activity and if we don't figure out a way to offset that, we very well could become a part of the above statistics.

This is a concern to me personally since I spend a lot of time behind the desk, so I found a simple way to break things up since part of this time is spent on the phone. I simply have my time on the phone as a designated time to push away from the desk and walk around. I also break things up by standing, and if it's prolonged sessions at the desk I try to break things up by doing bodyweight squats and pushups or doing something that actually requires physical work.

Tips: if you cannot leave the desk and walk around while

on the phone, mark your restroom breaks as a time to do a few quick sets of pushups and squats. If you have physical difficulty with either you can lean against a wall for the pushups and hold onto a stable surface or other object to steady yourself as you do a set of squats.

Squat tip: squats are one of the best things you can do in a confined space, you can simply stand up, move over or back from your chair, and do 1 or 2 sets (try to do 15-20 repetitions or until muscle fatigue). If you need something to steady yourself, you can use a chair or desk. If someone has difficulty doing a squat, I like to get them to steady themselves by holding onto something and then pretending they're sitting in a chair (except the chair isn't there) and then coming back up. Repeat this movement for 5-10 repetitions or until your muscles start fatiguing. If you have hip or knee problems you can still do this exercise, -don't go down as deep into your squat.

Remember, you do not have to have exercise equipment to do something about your current health and fitness situation!

The Search



DANIEL GATLYN
MINISTER/COLUMNIST

An ingenious terrorist has imposed horrendous damage on the celebrations of New Orleans and an entire world launches a search for answers that are as apparent as the mental frame of Mayberry, RFD! It does not take a PHD to ascertain "from which direction the arrows came?" Not all solutions ema-

nate from within the lab! Quite often, the answers lie around an open gate! In the most obvious instance, the driver of a runaway truck simply sought an avenue of least resistance—an unobstructed sidewalk. End of story!

A million-dollar investigation will not alter this vital truth, one that is an "open book"! We have digressed to a state of methodology that begs for a "down to earth" approach, one that will bring practicality to the equation. A visit by renowned leaders to the scene of a crime will not ever alter the "flow and know"! We cannot sensationalize a scene, and bring back lives that have been lost. Flashing lights and worldwide press do not produce answers!

A hundred sophisticated and computerized minds can often be replaced with just one practical individual!

The startling fact is, that our modern pathway now assumes that revelations will arrive through a darkened image of DNA, of expensive imaginations that dollars can buy just anything, of a supposedly priceless blueprint that has been formulated by the academy. All of the above offer a supporting role, but contain a limited shelf life.

An extended truth lies in considerations for a compounded array of values such as valid evidence, an open grid of background and proof, a view of radicalized paths, and observations of potential time factors

and partners in crime. All are important, and build an incremental tier of steps to solutions. All team members are a vital part; with no place for a "lone Ranger"! All have a voice, but not necessarily a solution.

A conclusive by-line might well be that we are confronted with a different world from yesterday, one that demands a "zero tolerance" in preventive measures and one with plans that are not readily transparent. It is counter-productive, but little is now "secret or sacred"! The world eagerly awaits a new mode and process! Take it to the bank!

Note from Production Dept.: We do our best to get all the local community information & notices in that we can. We would love to have your contributions, it is best to submit the week before, or just know it might come out the following week. Email: news@theleadertribune.com

Georgia General Assembly Begins Work For 2025 Session

Charlie Harper
Columnist

With the New Year festivities out of the way, it's time for us to settle down and get back to business. For those in the political realm, that means it's time for governing. Much of the political press will be transfixed on the change of partisan power in the White House next week, but here at home, we have a new session of the Georgia General Assembly beginning.

All members of the Georgia House and Senate began their two year terms on Monday, January 13th. They'll meet for forty business days of their choosing as is allowed under the Georgia Constitution.

For those who want to get into the weeds of their schedule, check the General Assembly's website for what is known as an "adjournment resolution". This is what the schedule the House and Senate agree upon for which days they'll count towards their forty. Sometimes they do this scheduling a week or so at a time.

Last year they were able to agree on the path towards forty days pretty quickly. For those of us that like some predictability of schedule for things like April vacation planning, let's hope

they'll be able to do so again.

When in doubt, look at the date of April 7th. That's the date for the first practice rounds at Augusta National for The Masters. The General Assembly likes to have business finished before this event begins.

It's easy to chide politicians for appearing to have misplaced priorities for this, but the reason is deeper than wanting to watch the best golf in the world. This is one of the biggest economic development events that is hosted in Georgia. A lot of people with titles need their attention to be on future business, and not the myriad of bills that pile up for passage or failure the last couple of days of session.

The Masters is a valid deadline. But let's hope for the end of March as a bogey.

The agenda is laid out during this first week. On Tuesday, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Eggs & Issues breakfast. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House all get a speaking role, and typically use it to lay out their legislative priorities.

We already know that Governor Kemp is interested in two major pieces of legislation. At last year's Eggs & Issues breakfast, the Governor indicated a

major piece of tort reform legislation wasn't quite ready for the heavy lift required for passage, but he wanted it done in the 2025 session. And here we are.

He also recently outlined an overhaul of Georgia's prison system. Hundreds of millions of dollars are needed for pay raises to increase employee retention, new facilities, and repair and reconfiguration of existing prisons.

House Speaker Jon Burns has indicated that another bite at the apple of K-12 scholarships – commonly called vouchers – may be needed, as there has been confusion between agencies as to which underperforming school districts have met the threshold of eligibility. There is also discussion from both the Speaker and Lieutenant Governor about passing protections for In Vitro Fertilization procedures as a clarifying measure.

After Eggs & Issues, the Governor will get even more specific with his agenda at the State of the State address on Thursday, January 16th. Shortly thereafter, he'll release his budget proposal for the next fiscal year. That's when the rubber meets the road, and the real work of the legislature begins.

Next week the General As-

sembly meets for budget hearings. House Appropriations Chairman Matt Hatchett of Dublin and Senate Appropriations Chairman Blake Tillery of Vidalia host a joint committee to hear from Commissioners and agency heads regarding budget proposals.

Passing a balanced budget is the sole constitutional requirement of the legislature each session. While the budget hearings don't usually count toward the 40 official working days, they are among the most significant. It's when and where the Governor's budget proposal meets the priorities of the House and Senate.

Much of the remaining 40 days involves a high level negotiation between both Chambers and with the Governor's office to get to the final passage of the next budget. There is also the matter of amending the current budget with supplemental spending and/or cuts as revenues and priorities dictate.

And with that, we're off for another year under the Gold Dome. I'll do my best to update from time to time on specific issues as they develop and become relevant to those not able to watch the progress at the Capitol in real time.

The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

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Jeff Cook	Wade Yoder

OUR GOALS

The Leader Tribune is published proudly for the citizens of Fort Valley, Byron & the surrounding area and its goal is to produce quality, profitable, community oriented newspapers that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty, and a strong dedication toward printing the truth.

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words and must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. All letters printed in The Leader Tribune will appear with the writer's name and hometown – we do not publish anonymous letters. The newspaper reserves the right to edit or reject letters for reasons of grammar, punctuation, taste and brevity. Letter writers are asked to submit no more than two letters per person per month. We cannot guarantee that a letter will be printed on a specific date. The Leader Tribune prefers that letters be typed. Letters to the editor are published in the order they are received as space permits. There are three ways to submit a letter to the editor

E-mail it to news@theleadertribune.net, mail it to The Leader Tribune at 109 Anderson Ave, Fort Valley, GA 31030, or drop it off at 109 Anderson Ave in Fort Valley – Monday through Friday.

OUR POLICIES

Signed letters to the editor welcomed. Please include address and phone number. Liability for an error will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error. We cannot be responsible for return of pictures or material unless stamped, return addressed envelope is included.

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What Came First: Chicken or Egg?



BILLY POWELL
Parables to Ponder
COLUMNIST

Since the beginning of time, men have grappled with the question, "Does God Exist?" St. Thomas Aquinas, a 13th century philosopher and theologian, advanced five proofs for the existence of God in his book, "Summa Theologica." An explanation follows:

(1) First Mover: It is impossible for an object to move itself. Whatever we find in motion was at rest until something moved it. A rock falling from a cliff had to be moved by an external force. The stars moving in outer space had to be placed into motion. If there were an infinite series of movers, all waiting to be moved, yet without a First Mover, then actual motion could never take place. So there must be a First Mover, which is itself unmoved. That First Mover, we call God.

(2) First Cause: Anything

that produces an effect or result is a cause. A baseball sails over the outfield fence because a homerun slugger hit the pitched ball with a bat. A line of dominoes fall one-by-one after the first domino is pushed over. Nothing can cause or create itself. Those who believe in the Big Bang Theory must accept that a First Cause set the trigger that caused the universe to explode into existence. Those who subscribe to Darwinism must concede that a First Cause set Evolution into motion. The First Cause was not itself made. It existed before all things. The First Cause was God.

(3) Necessary Being: There was a time when all inanimate objects such as rocks and trees along with animate objects like humans and animals did not exist; there will also be a time when they cease to exist. So, there was a time, long ago, when nothing existed. Based on the truism that nothing produces nothing, there would be nothing now. However, since there is something now--the world and everything in it-- there must be at least one Necessary Being whom we call God that created all things. So what came first, the chicken or the egg? The chicken, for God, the First Being, made the chicken first from nothing, and the first chicken

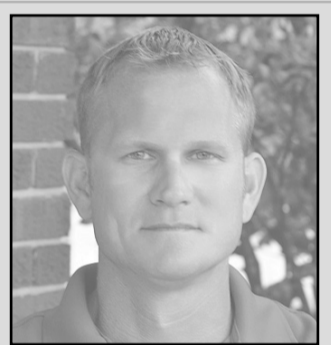
laid the first egg.

(4) Greatest Being: We all evaluate things and people in terms of their being more or less perfectly true, perfectly good, perfectly noble, and so on. We have certain standards of how things and people should be. For example, we consider Gandhi and Mother Teresa as good and Hitler and Judas Iscariot as bad.. We would have no such standards unless there were some being that is perfect in every way, something that represents the truest, the noblest, and the best. That Most Perfect Being is God.

(5) Intelligent Design: By observing the world around us, we see ample evidence of superior design--the bird's wing designed for flight, the human ear designed for hearing, earth's natural environment designed to support life, etc. With telescopes, we have explored the far reaches of a precision universe, we have delved into the microcosmic world of the atom, and we have plumbed the depths of the human genome. In so doing, we see the fingerprints of a Master Designer, and that Designer is God.

The Bible is absolutely correct when it declares: "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

Winter Annual Weed Control



JEFF COOK
EXTENSION AGENT

As winter settles in, many homeowners might think their lawn care duties are complete. However, this is the perfect time to prevent those pesky yellow and purple flowers that often carpet lawns in early spring. We always end up receiving calls from frustrated homeowners about this issue, we want to address this common concern before the calls start flooding in.

We are already starting to notice winter annual weeds emerging. These are not just any weeds -- they are the same ones that will create those carpets of purple henbit and yellow dandelions that prompt so many calls to our office come springtime. Timing is everything; once winter annuals begin flowering,

they become significantly harder to control.

The key to successful weed control is acting before those unwanted plants reach maturity. Being in the beginning of the year, these winter annuals are already germinating in your lawn. However, fall and early winter treatment can significantly reduce spring weed problems.

Let us be realistic -- between fall activities and holiday commitments, weed control might slip your mind. If you find yourself in January with emerging weeds, do not panic, you still have options. For those of you with either bermudagrass or zoysia you have some options as well. All products advertised for crabgrass control can be used to control several winter annuals. Products with active ingredients such as pendimethalin, oryzalin, and benefin are good products that will control annual bluegrass, chickweed, and henbit. Dithiopyr, which is in Turf & Ornamental Weed & Grass Stopper, controls a few more weed species, but might be harder to find. For longer control a 2nd application may be necessary.

If you have Centipede or St. Augustine, you could apply At-

razine to control most annual broadleaf weeds, some perennial weeds, and annual bluegrass. This is an effective treatment that provides both pre- and post-emergence control. This means that it will kill a lot of what has emerged and keep a lot of other weeds from ever emerging. With Atrazine care must be taken to not over apply because it can damage desired grass species. It also should not be used in the root zone of trees and shrubs because it can cause damage through root uptake. Now that Bermuda is dormant it is also safe to use Atrazine on it.

All of these are pre-emergence herbicides except Atrazine, a post-emergence herbicide. The most common post-emergence lawn herbicides are 2- and 3-way mixtures of broadleaf weed killers. These do particularly good against most species of broadleaf weeds especially if the weeds are small. The only drawback is that they have no residual activity, and once more weeds emerge you will need to retreat. If you have any questions, you can contact our office (478)- 862-5496 or (478)-825-6466.

Harley Fulghum
Email: Hfulghum@stallions.abac.edu

Five presidents say goodbye to Jimmy Carter

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Former President Jimmy Carter was remembered Thursday as a man ahead of his time who leaves his country and the world better off for his service.

Georgia's only president thus far, who died Dec. 29 at the age of 100, was eulogized at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., at a service attended by President Joe Biden and all four living ex-presidents.

"Today, many people think he was from a bygone era," said Biden, whom Carter had asked to give his eulogy. "In reality, he saw the future, a white Southern Baptist who led on human rights, a decorated veteran who brokered peace ... a hardworking farmer who championed conservation, a clean-energy president who redefined the relationship for the vice president."

Thursday's service culminated three days of commemorations in the nation's capital in

honor of Carter, who lay in state inside the U.S. Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday and Wednesday. Before that, Carter's casket lay in repose at the Carter Center in Atlanta for several days.

The national funeral service began with a scripture reading by Andrew Young, a Georgian appointed by Carter as the first African American to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Steve Ford, the son of former President Gerald Ford, who lost to Carter in 1976 but later developed a strong friendship with him, and Ted Mondale, the son of Carter Vice President Walter Mondale, delivered eulogies their late fathers wrote for Carter.

Stuart Eizenstat, who served as a domestic advisor inside the Carter White House, described Carter as a Renaissance Man with an array of skills who brought a sense of honesty and decency to the presidency after the Watergate years.

"He was the first president to make honesty a priority for U.S. foreign policy," Eizenstat said. "He uniquely combined the soft

power of human rights with the hard power of rebuilding America's military. ... He may not be a candidate for Mount Rushmore, but he belongs in the foothills of making the U.S. stronger and the world safer."

Grandson Jason Carter talked about Carter's four-decade post-presidency as the founder of the Carter Center and its mission promoting human rights and the eradication of diseases across the globe. He mentioned Guinea worm disease as an example of his grandfather's far-reaching contributions.

"That disease existed from the dawn of humanity until Jimmy Carter," he said.

After the service, Carter's remains were flown back to Georgia for a private funeral service at Maranatha Baptist Church in his hometown of Plains. He was to be buried beside Rosalynn Carter, his wife of 77 years who died in November 2023 at the age of 96.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

BAHA'I COMMUNITY OF PEACH COUNTY

The Baha'i Community of Peach County warmly invites you to participate in an interfaith devotional and discussion (via Zoom) on the second Wednesday of each month, 8:00 - 9:00pm, in order to build stronger bonds of friendship among the diverse citizens of our county. There are no rituals at the gathering, no one individual has any special role, and contributions are not solicited or accepted. If interested, please email us at peachcobahais@gmail.com, and we'll send you an invitation. (TFN)

COME PRAISE THE LORD OVER ZOOM

Sundays 10am - 12noon.
Wednesday nights 7pm-8:30pm.
Meeting# 2059432744
Code 7Sb6h8
Host James Manning (Elder)

CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

"Connecting People to Christ"
Rev. Bobby J. Roberson, Pastor
478-822-9897. 1735 Hwy 341 North, Fort Valley, GA 31030

FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

301 W. Church Street
(478)825-2762
Join us each Sunday at 10:55AM for Christian fellowship and a spirit-lead service with our pastor, Rev. Herb Flanders. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:45AM. Nursery is available for infants and younger children.

FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)

Come & worship in a casual atmosphere at 5:00pm each Sunday. Our weekly pastor will be the Rev. Dr. Bryan Whitfield, a Presbyterian minister who also teaches at Mercer University. For any interested, we will have weekly Sunday School Bible Study starting at 4:00pm in the room off the sanctuary. Come and join us for an exciting summer. Brenda Rackley 478-283-1356.

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.
MISSION PROGRAM
October 13 at 10am. Chairman: Sis. Debra Hill
CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
October 17 at 10am. Bro. James Crocker & Bro. Wayne Crocker.

BIBLE STUDY
Please dial in for Bible Study each Tuesday at 6:30pm. Number 646-876-9923, your meeting ID is 783-154-6108#.

Carter eulogized inside U.S. Capitol Rotunda

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - The celebration of the life of former President Jimmy Carter moved from Atlanta to the nation's capitol Tuesday, with a day full of pageantry capped by a memorial service inside the Capitol Rotunda.

The nation's top political leaders praised the many accomplishments of Georgia's only president thus far not only during his four years in the White House in the late 1970s but during more than four decades after leaving office when he founded the Carter Center and built houses for the poor as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

"Jimmy Carter established a new model for what it means to be a former president," Vice President Kamala Harris said late Tuesday afternoon during the service inside the Rotunda. "(He) leaves an extraordinary post-presidential legacy."

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said he was just 4 years old when Carter was sworn in as president in 1977 and was the first president he remembers.

your participant ID is #. You are in the meeting. Dial in 3 to 4 minutes before 6:30pm.

GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY FOODBANK

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays. 9:00am - 12:00pm. Located behind Fort Valley Court House, 203 Central Ave., Fort Valley. Phone: 478-825-2562 (TFN)

GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES

1000 Tulip Drive, Fort Valley. Sunday School at 8:30am
Morning Worship at 10:00am
Wednesday: Free Fellowship Meal at 6pm
60 Minutes Bible Study from 7:00pm - 8:00pm Come and fellowship with us!

HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS' CLASS

Led by Father Matt Harlow
Learn the basics of the Christian Faith while enjoying a meal and fellowship.

We will cover theology, history, liturgy, and more! To register contact Fr Matt at harlowmatt@gmail.com
<https://www.middlegaanglican.org>

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

Looking for a church? Pastor Tony Wood invites you to come visit us. Bring the kids for Children's Church!
Sunday School at 9:30. Sunday Worship at 10:30.

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH located at 309 Central Avenue, Fort Valley, GA 31030. The Rev. Harriette Simmons Ballard. Services every Sunday at 9:00am with Coffee Hour following in Robinson Hall.

ST. JULIANA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

804 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Phone:(478) 825-7127
Sat., 7:00pm Spanish Mass
Sun., 9:00am English Mass; 11:00 am Spanish Mass
Weekday Mass: Tues., - Thurs. 6:30pm
Confessions: Thurs., 6:00pm; Sat. 6:30pm; Sun. 10:30am
Adoration: Thurs., 7:00pm; Sat. 8-9am; Sun. 6:00pm

LENTEN SCHEDULE - ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 State University Drive across from the first entrance to FVSU.

We hold morning prayer services, at 10:15am Sundays. Eucharist (Communion) is on second Sundays at 11am.

BAHA'I FAITH

"Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship"

Baha'u'llah

For more information
peachcobahais@gmail.com
www.bahai.us

Please donate to our Little Free Pantry on Charlesvoix St. behind the church (or take food if you are in need). For more info, go to our Facebook page or contact Anna Holloway 478-397-4678 and leave a text message.

SAINT PETER AME CHURCH 502 State University Drive, Fort Valley GA 31030

Join us for a rewarding Worship Experience at "The Rock" each Sunday at 10:00AM. Our pastor is Rev. Anthony Dixon. You may also join us via YouTube and Facebook. Weekly Bible Study every Wednesday at 7:00p.m.
Bianca Ballard (478)825-8452.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

Please join us as we continue to seek to save them that are lost! Our weekly schedule is:

Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship at 11:15 A.M.
Bible Study at 7:00 P.M. - Tuesdays

To contact us, please leave a message at (478) 825-7581 or send email to secretary@shilohbaptistfortvalley.org or write us at the above post office box.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

505 State University Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

Trinity Baptist Church welcomes you to join us in holy worship service each Sunday morning at 11:00 am. Sunday School is scheduled at 9:30 am. and Bible Study at 7:00 pm. on Wednesday, currently on Zoom. (Contact us at the above number for Zoom access information.)

Also, we invite the participation of children in our Godly Girls and Champs Ministries. Godly Girls, ages 8-15, meets Wednesday at 5 pm; Champs on Thursday at 6 pm. in Church Annex. Transportation is available. We look forward to having you join us soon! For additional information, call 478-825-7349.

USHERS TEMPLE CME CHURCH

411 Railroad Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030. 478-825-5106.

Join us each Sunday morning with Rev. Tawanna B. Harris at 9:30am for Sunday School followed at 11:00am with holy worship service. You may also join us remotely via Facebook Live. Bible Study held each Tuesday at 6:00pm.

to the crowd of admirers.

During the ceremony, Harris recited a long list of accomplishments by Carter during his White House years, including a series of environmental protection bills, more than doubling the size of the nation's national parks system, and appointing an unprecedented number of Blacks and women to federal judgeships.

But Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said Carter's work after leaving the White House was just as impressive.

"Jimmy Carter knew that his status as a former president could bring attention to good causes," Thune said. "But simply lending his name or maybe attending a gala or two wasn't Jimmy Carter's style. ... Well into his nineties, he could be found with his hard hat and and tools on construction sites doing the practical work required to get families into homes."

Carter will lie in state inside the Capitol Rotunda until Thursday morning, when a national funeral service will take place at the National Cathedral. President Joe Biden, who was away from Washington traveling on Tuesday, will deliver a eulogy.

PCREA Began Year On A High Note



By Hope Giles, PCREA

The Peach County Retired Educators Association began the year on a high note.

The monthly meeting was held on January 6th at Trinity Baptist Church. Under President Alfred Ellis's leadership, the meeting was called to order.

The meeting's emphasis was on health and wellness. Karen Self Ford of Tim's Total Fitness in Byron conducted a thirty-minute chair aerobics session for the group.



Photo Contributed
President Elect Dr. Quintin Green, Karen Self Ford and President Alfred Ellis

U.S. House Passes Laken Riley Act

By Dave Williams

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - The U.S. House of Representatives has passed Republican-backed legislation named in honor of Georgia murder victim Laken Riley as the first act of the new Congress.

The Laken Riley Act requires detention of illegal immigrants charged with nonviolent crimes including theft and burglary. It cleared the House 264-159 on Tuesday, with 48 Democrats - including U.S. Rep. Lucy McBath of Marietta - joining ma-

jority Republicans in voting for the bill.

Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student, was murdered last February while jogging on the campus of the University of Georgia. An illegal immigrant from Venezuela was convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole. Jose Ibarra had previously been detained on shoplifting charges but was released from custody.

The Riley case became fodder for last year's presidential campaign, with Republican former President Donald Trump raising her murder in his call for a crackdown on illegal immi-

gration on his way to winning a second term in the White House. Trump will take the oath of office Jan. 20.

The four Democrats in Georgia's House delegation other than McBath voted against the bill, while all nine Republicans voted in favor of it.

The House passed the legislation last year, but it failed to get through a then-Democratic controlled U.S. Senate. While the Senate is now in Republican hands, some Democrats still would have to support the bill to gain the 60-vote threshold needed to pass legislation in the 100-member Senate.

President Biden Signs Law To Designate U.S. Post Office In Plains The "Jimmy And Rosalynn Carter Post Office"

Contributed by Office of U.S. Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

WASHINGTON - On Saturday, January 4, President Joe Biden signed into law, H.R. 9600, a bipartisan bill led by Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02) and supported by the Georgia Congressional Delegation, that designates the United States Postal Service facility located at 119 Main Street in Plains, Georgia, as the "Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office." A companion bill in the U.S. Senate was introduced and led by U.S. Senators Jon Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock.

Both bills were introduced in the Fall of 2024. H.R. 9600 was approved with overwhelmingly bipartisan support in the U.S. House on December 5, and then by the U.S. Senate on December 19. It was presented to President Biden on December 27 and signed into law on January 4, just several days following the passing of former President Carter.

"President Jimmy Carter and the late First Lady Rosalynn Carter dedicated their lives in service to their community, their country, and the world. From the Plains peanut fields to the Governor's Mansion, to the White House - and to communities around the globe - they remained grounded and humble, and Plains always remained home in their hearts," said Congressman Bishop. "Designating the Plains postal facility as the 'Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office' would be a small, but meaningful gesture to honor and thank two dedicated servant leaders who spent their lives working to improve the lives of others."

"Renaming the post office in Plains, Georgia, in honor of President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter is a tribute to their lifelong service," Sen. Ossoff said. "The Carters have left an indelible mark on our nation and the world. A Post Office named in their honor of Plains is a small but fitting

tribute to their legacy."

"Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter led exemplary lives while serving Georgians and our nation and were fiercely committed to uplifting the lives of all Americans," said Sen. Reverend Warnock. "Renaming the Plains post office after both of these Georgia icons is a small nod to their triumphant legacy in the Peach State."

"Plains holds a special place in the heart of President Carter as the place he and First Lady Rosalynn Carter called home for most of their lives, so it is especially fitting to name the Post Office in their honor," said Paige Alexander, CEO of The Carter Center, the nonprofit organization that carries on their global work to wage peace, fight disease, and build hope. "We appreciate the Senators and House members from Georgia who introduced this legislation as a tribute to the Carters' legacy in their hometown."

The Leader Tribune logo with social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) and buttons for 'Subscribe' and 'Login'.

News People Digital Editions Newsletter About Us

The Leader Tribune Peach County's Newspaper

e-Edition

IS NOW ONLINE!

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Legals

Legal Advertisements

E-Mail: legals@theleadertribune.com

E-Mail Attachments: Word Text Format

Legal Fax: 478-825-4130

AD DEADLINES: Friday's at 12:00 Noon

Information concerning legals call: 478-825-2432

Legal Advertising Information

Legal advertisements are published each Wednesday in The Leader Tribune newspaper, the designated legal organ of Peach County and the City of Fort Valley, City of Byron.

For information concerning billing, please contact The Leader Tribune at (478)-825-2432. Notices cancelled after 12:00 Noon on Friday will be billed for insertion in that edition.

Legal ads may be sent via Federal Express for Saturday delivery. Legal ads may be sent via email to legals@theleadertribune.net, please use word document or typed text. Many legal notices are billed at the rate of \$15.00 per 100 words or a portion thereof for each insertion for the first four insertions. Some specific types of ads, such as divorce, articles of incorporation, articles of merger, petition to adopt, name changes and DUI notices have fees set based on the number

of times the notice is inserted. All rates are set by the Georgia General Assembly.

For billing purposes, every word shall be counted as one word including words such as; the, of, a, etc. Grouped numbers shall be counted as one word.

The deadline for foreclosure notices and tax sales for disposal is Thursday the week before the first publication.

Incorporation Notice - These are notices concerning a business which is to be incorporated with the office located in Peach County. Related incorporation notices can include an intent to dissolve a corporation, a name change of the corporation and mergers of a corporation. These notices typically run two weeks at a cost of \$40.00.

Driving Under the Influence - State law requires publication of a picture and a brief notice of anyone convicted in Peach County of a third Driving Under the Influence charge. The fines and related matters of settlement are included. The fee for these

ads is \$25 each. These ads run one time and typically come from the Peach County State Court or the Municipal Court of incorporated cities.

Juvenile Matters - This broad category can include notices such as adoption, custody, juvenile court actions and contemporary custody. These matters frequently run from two to four times, depending on the order. Some of these issues come from the Peach County Juvenile Court, others from the Peach County Probate Court.

Domestic Matters - These include notices for change of name and for divorce. When one of the parties cannot be located locally. Both of these items run four times.

Notice of Sale or Foreclosure Notice - These notices typically run the four Wednesdays prior to the first Tuesday of the month when the sales are held at the Peach County Courthouse in Fort Valley. The fee for these notices is \$15 per 100 words per insertion.

Publisher's Affidavit fee is \$10.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA
Civil Action No. 24-V-0215
SARAH ELIZABETH HINSON,
Plaintiff,

v.
KENNETH CLAYTON HINSON,
Defendant.

In Re: Natalie Susan Hinson, YOB: 2012

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
To: Kenneth Clayton Hinson, Legal Father of Natalie Susan Hinson
1010 Beverly Road, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
9407111206206865537249

By Order of the Court for service by publication dated December 20, 2024, you are hereby notified that on June 12, 2024, Plaintiff, Sarah Elizabeth Hinson, filed suit against you for Complaint for Divorce and Petition to Terminate Parental Rights of Defendant. You are required to file with the clerk of the Superior Court, and to serve upon Plaintiff's Attorney, Jocelyn P. Daniell, an answer in writing within 60 days of December 20, 2024.

You are further notified that as the Legal Father of the Natalie Susan Hinson born to Sarah Elizabeth Hinson in 2012, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-1 (b)(8), you are hereby notified that the above action was filed in Peach County Superior Court Clerk's Office, Georgia, on June 12, 2024 seeking the termination of your parental rights. A hearing in this case is scheduled to be heard on February 21, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. before the Honorable Ken Smith in the Peach County Courthouse. You shall have the right to appear and show cause why your rights to the child who is the subject of the proceeding should not be terminated. A copy of the petition, motion, and/or notice may be obtained, if permitted by law, from the Clerk's Office of the Peach County Superior Court.

Said Petition seeks to terminate your rights and obligations with respect to the above-listed minor child, and of the child arising from the potential parental relationship, including the right to inheritance. You are hereby notified that you will lose all rights to the child and will neither receive notice, nor be entitled to object to the adoption of the child, unless you appear in the divorce hearing and show cause why your rights should not be terminated. Be Governed Accordingly.

Witness, the Honorable Ken Smith, judge of Superior Court of Peach County.

This December 20, 2024.
/s/Jocelyn P. Daniell
Jocelyn P. Daniell
Attorney for Plaintiff
524 South Houston Lake Road
Suite C100
Warner Robins, GA 31088
(478)953-6103
12/25/2024, 1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 2024
3254

CITATION TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AND: RLI INSURANCE COMPANY.

The conservator(s) of the above estate, has/have applied for Discharge from said trust. This is to notify the above interested party(ies) to show cause, if any they can, why said conservator(s) should not be discharged from office and liability. All objections must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and filed with the above Probate Court, 205 W. Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030 on or before February 5, 2025, said date being more than 30 days from the date of publication, or if personally served, then 10 days from the date of such service. All pleadings must be signed before a notary public or probate court clerk, and fees must be tendered with your pleadings, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the below address/ telephone number for the required amount of filing fees.

If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled for a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Kim Wilson, Probate Judge
By: K. Corbin, Probate Clerk/Deputy clerk
205 W. Church Street
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
478-825-2313
12/25/2024 & 1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 2025
3250 (Estate of Jaqueline Hernandez, Citation)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA
THE PEACH COUNTY COMMISSION,
Plaintiff-Comdemnor

VS.
750 square feet of permanent easement rights; Lisa Renee Shelley, individually, Peach County Tax Commissioner, all persons, firms, corporations claiming any right, title or interest in and to the lands herein involved,

Respondents-Condemnees
SUMMONS

TO: Lisa Renee Shelley
Respondent/Condemnee:

You are hereby notified that the above-styled condemnation action was filed in said Court on the 8th day of October, 2024, and that by reason of an Order for service of summons by publication entered by the Court on the 19th day of December, 2024, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon James Banter, Petitioner/Condemnor's attorney, whose address is James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP, 231 Riverside Drive, PO Box 4283, Macon, Georgia 31208-4283, an answer to the petition/complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication.

The permanent easement is described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 40 of the 9th Land District in Peach County, Georgia, and consisting of 0.017 acres, more or less, or 750 square feet, of permanent easement rights as identified as Parcel ID: 039 105 as shown on the plat prepared by Surveying and Mapping, LLC, Spencer H. Johnson, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor # 3171 and having the boundaries as set forth on the plat attached to the condemnation petition and incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description. Witness the Honorable Ken Smith, Judge of said court.

This 7 day of January, 2025.
Clerk of Superior Court, Peach County, Georgia
1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2025
3272 (54167.0019)

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of NELLIE P. SINGLETON having been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to ELIZABETH SINGLETON BROWN AND NANCY REE SINGLETON, this is to cite all creditors of said estate to make their demands known to us and all debtors of said estate to make immediate payment to us.

This 23RD day of DECEMBER, 2024.
ELIZABETH SINGLETON BROWN,
NANCY REE SINGLETON, Executrices
C/O Robert J. Aromatorio
Collins & Aromatorio, P.C.
GA Bar No.023708
P.O.Box 250
Byron, Georgia 31008
478-956-3071
1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 2025
3261

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

All that tract of land situate, lying and being in Peach County, Georgia. In the Fifth Land District, and in Land Lot 78 thereof, and being known as Parcel HA" containing 0.182 acres, more or less, and Parcel " B# containing 0.52J acres, more or less, as shown on a plat survey prepared by Terry M. Scarborough on March 4, 2009, of record in Map Book 26, Page 201 < Clerk's Office, Peach County, GA. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are made a part hereof by reference thereto for all purposes. The Order of Year's Support recorded in Book 4 J 3, Page 160, on the 15th day of October, 2008, was, entered prior to a survey of the property and was in error. This Order is entered to correct the legal description awarded to Elaine Tanner in the prior order and to release the property described in the document from the original deed awarded Elaine Tanner the property owned by B. Glenn Tanner and said deed was in error. Sold together with a 1 972 J 2x60 Fleetwood Serial # DK5TS5515 Mobile Home. As described in Deed Book 437, Page 629. Further described as **Map & Parcel 065D031.**

1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2025
3268

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PEACH

All creditors of the estate of GUDRUN W. PELLETIER, deceased, late of Peach County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Robert M. Pelletier, Executor
6446 N. 105 Street,
Omaha, Nebraska 68134
712-309-1164
Jordan L. Reab
WALKER, HULBERT, GRAY & MOORE, LLP
PO Box 1770
Perry, GA 31069
478-987-1415
12/25/2024 & 1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 2025
3248

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PEACH

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARK RUS-

SELL KEADLE, SR.
All creditors of the Estate of Mark Russell Keadle, Sr., deceased, late of Peach County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

Jenna R. Hagin is the Administrator of the Estate of Mark Russell Keadle, Sr. D. Lee Peacock, Attorney at Law, 1719 Russell Pkwy., Bldg. 200, Warner Robins, GA 31088, (478)922-3010.
1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2025
3275

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PEACH

All creditors of the estate of JAMES RONALD NELMS, deceased, late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 23RD day of December, 2024.
Phyllis Jacks, Administrator
Collins & Aromatorio, P.C.
Robert J. Aromatorio
GA Bar No.023708
P.O.Box 250
Byron, Georgia 31008
478-956-3071
1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 2025
3258

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

CIVIL ACTION CASE NUMBER

24-V-0476

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF JOHN SANDIFORD, PETITIONER.
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

John Sandiford filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on December 30, 2024, to change the name from: John Sandiford to John Kendall Edwards. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.
1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2025
3270

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain security deed from Daisy M Oates to United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture and recorded in Deed Book 300, Page 71, Peach County, Georgia records given to secure a note in the original amount of \$87,463.00 with interest on the unpaid balance until paid, the following described property will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door of PEACH COUNTY, Georgia, or such other location within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in February, 2025, to wit: February 04, 2025, the following described property: TRACT ONE: All that certain tract, lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 214 of the 9th Land District of Peach County, Georgia, and in the City of Fort Valley therein, being more particularly described as follows: To obtain the point or place of beginning, start at the intersection of the center line of South Macon Street formerly known as State College Drive and now known as State University Drive and the center line of Solomon's Gin Road, and run thence in a North-easterly direction 205 feet along the center line of State University Drive to a point; thence run perpendicular to the center line of State University Drive in a Northwesterly direction a distance of 45 feet TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING on the Northwest right of way line of State University Drive; and from said point or place of beginning; thence North 60°00' West a distance of 77.30 feet to a point; thence North 30°00' East a distance of 44.00 feet to a point; thence South 60°00' East a distance of 77.30 feet to a point on the Northwest right of way line of State University Drive; thence run South 30°00' West a distance of 44.00 feet to the point or place of beginning; all as is more fully shown and described on that certain plat of survey for Mrs. W. L. Windham prepared by H. C. Kendrick, Jr., GRLS No. 1592, dated December 22, 1973, and recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 202, Clerk's Office, Peach County Superior Court; reference to said plat and the record thereof is incorporated herein and made a part of this description. TRACT TWO: All that certain tract, lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the State of Georgia, County of Peach and in the City of Fort Valley therein, fronting East 32 feet, more or less, on State University Drive and running back with uniform width a distance of 100 feet, more or less. Said tract is bounded on the North and South by lands formerly owned by Henry Toomer; on the East by State University Drive and on the West by lands formerly owned by Annette and C.L. Shepard, Jr.

Said property is the same that described in deed dated April 1, 1944

from Henry Toomer to Alfred Ellis, Jr. and Martha J. Ellis, recorded in Deed Book T, Page 89, Peach County Records. Being real property commonly known as **614 State University Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030.**

The debt secured by the above-referenced security deed has been declared due because of the default in the payment of said debt per the terms of the note and other possible defaults by the borrower or the successor thereto. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Dawsons Management c/o USDA 3775 Venture Drive Duluth, GA 30096 770-962-4981 The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein. United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture as Attorney in Fact for Daisy M Oates Attorney Contact: Miller, George and Suggs, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peachtree Corners, GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax: 404-738-1558 24GA414-0222 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM ADEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. A-4830876 01/08/2025, 01/15/2025, 01/22/2025, 01/29/2025 3262 (ASAP# 4830876)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF EDDIE J. JONES, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7021

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, and to whom it may concern:

JOAN MARIE JONES has petitioned for JOAN MARIE JONES to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of EDDIE J. JONES, deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statement, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-261.) All interested parties 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 FEBRUARY 05, 2025.

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 scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Kim Wilson, Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin, Chief Clerk of the Probate Court
205 Church Street,
Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313
1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2025
3274

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of RONALD BERNARD CANNON having been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to FAYE SENKBEIL this is to cite all creditors of said estate to make their demands known to us and all debtors of said estate to make

immediate payment to us.
This 23RD day of DECEMBER, 2024.

FAYE SENKBEIL, Executrix
C/O Robert J. Aromatorio
Collins & Aromatorio, P.C.
GA Bar No.023708
P.O.Box 250
Byron, Georgia 31008
478-956-3071
1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 2025
3259

Notice of Dissolution of The Beginning Learning Center Inc.

Notice is hereby given that The Beginning Learning Center Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Georgia, is in the process of being dissolved effective 12/30/24. The principal office of the corporation is located at 406 Carver Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

Any claims against the corporation should be made in writing to The Beginning Learning Center, Inc 406 Carver Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030 within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice.

This notice is published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 14-2-1410.
1/8, 1/15, 2025
3267

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 19th day of December, 2024, KIMBERLY AYER HATTAWAY filed a Petition in the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, seeking a name change from KIMBERLY AYER HATTAWAY to KIMBERLY NICOLE AYER. Any interested or affected party has the right to appear and file objections. At the expiration of thirty (30) days from the filing of the Petition, upon proof of publication, and if no objection is filed, the Court shall proceed to hear and determine all matters raised by said Petition.

Edwin S. Varner, Jr.
Attorney at Law
State Bar No. 725500
1719 Russell Pkwy., Bldg. 200
Warner Robins, GA 31088
(478)922-3010
12/25/2024 & 1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 2025
3251

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

Civil Action No.: 23-V-0504

ALVIN SMITH, Petitioner,

vs.

A TRACT OF LAND KNOWN AS 1011 PINE STREET, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA TPID: F04A 125; THE CITY OF FORT VALLEY, Respondents.

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO RESPONDENTS: Mary T. Willis, Robert Gadson, Darlene Hammons, Reatha White, Daniel Gadson, any administrator, executor, heir, assignee or beneficiary of the Estate of Dorothy Kidd, Barbara Stephens and any administrator, executor, heir, assignee or beneficiary of the Estate of Ellen G. Bryant whose addresses are unknown and may reside outside of this state and are entitled to notice of the above cause and any unknown or known parties claiming any interest in the land known as 1011 Pine Street, Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia; TPID F04A 125.

By Order for Service of Publication dated January 3, 2025, you are hereby notified that the above referenced Petition to Quiet Title Against All the World and any known or unknown parties claiming any interest in the Land known as 1011 Pine Street, Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia; TPID F04A 125, was filed on December 22, 2023, in Peach County Superior Court.

Any party claiming an interest in the below described property shall appear at the Peach County Superior Court within sixty (60) days from the date of the order for service by publication.

All persons owning or claiming any right, title, interest claim or demand in and to the above-described parcel of land should appear before the Special Master appointed by Judge Kenneth R. Smith, Peach County Superior Court, 205 West Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 to make known their rights, title, claim and any other matters material to their respective rights.
Order Signed By: Kenneth R. Smith
Peach County Superior Court
Attorney for Petitioner: Robert R. Lawson
Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle & Jerles, LLP
912 Main St., Perry, Georgia 31069
(478)987-2622
1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2025
3273

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF BOBBY SOLOMON, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-70333

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Any administrator, executor, heir, assignee or beneficiary of the Estate of Annie Laney, and any administrator, executor, heir, assignee or beneficiary of the Estate of Bobbie Laney, whose addresses are unknown and may reside outside of this state and are entitled to notice of the above cause and any unknown or known parties claiming any interest in the land known as 807 Carver Drive, Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia; TPID F04B 127, was filed on December 21, 2023, in Peach County Superior Court.

Any party claiming an interest in the below described property shall appear at the Peach County Superior Court within sixty (60) days from the date of the order for service by publication.

Any party claiming an interest in the below described property shall appear at the Peach County Superior Court within sixty (60) days from the date of the order for service by publication.

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Any party claiming an interest in the below described property shall appear at the Peach County Superior Court within sixty (60) days from the date of the order for service by publication.

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, and to whom it may concern:

EARL SOLOMON has petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of BOBBY SOLOMON, deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statement, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-261.) All interested parties 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 January 22, 2025.

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 scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Kim Wilson, Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin, Chief Clerk of the Probate Court
205 Church Street,
Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313
12/25/202

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 7A

before the Court.

All persons owning or claiming any right, title, interest claim or demand in and to the above-described parcel of land should appear before the Special Master appointed by Judge Kenneth R. Smith, Peach County Superior Court, 205 West Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 to make known their rights, title, claim and any other matters material to their respective rights.

Order Signed By: Kenneth R. Smith Peach County Superior Court Attorney for Petitioner: William R. Jerles, Jr. Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle & Jerles, LLP 912 Main St., Perry, Georgia 31069 (478)987-2622 1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 2025 3263

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of **DAVID JACKSON SHERRILLS** having been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to **DEBORAH L. MOONEYHAM** this is to cite all creditors of said estate to make their demands known to us and all debtors of said estate to make immediate payment to us.

This 23RD day of DECEMBER, 2024.

DEBORAH L. MOONEYHAM, Executor C/O Robert J. Aromatorio Collins & Aromatorio, P.C. GA Bar No.023708 P.O.Box 250 Byron, Georgia 31008 478-956-3071 1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 2025 3260

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA DWIGHT AND JANICE CORNELIUS, Petitioners,

vs. Civil Action No.: 23-V-502

A TRACT OF LAND KNOWN AS 807 CARVER DRIVE, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA TPID: F04C 072;

and ANGELA JOHNSON, Respondents.

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO RESPONDENTS: Joseph A. McKenzie, Tavonya B. McKenzie, Monte J. McKenzie, Anthony Clark, Meisha L. Blocker, Sonia Alvarez and Clarence McKenzie whose addresses are unknown and may reside outside of this state and are entitled to notice of the above cause and any unknown or known parties claiming any interest in the land known as **807 Carver Drive, Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia; TPID F04C072.**

By Order for Service of Publication dated December 19, 2024, you are hereby notified that the above referenced Petition to Quiet Title Against All the World and any known or unknown parties claiming any interest in the Land known as 807 Carver Drive, Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia; TPID F04C072. was filed on

December 21, 2023, in Peach County Superior Court.

Any party claiming an interest in the below described property shall appear at the Peach County Superior Court within sixty (60) days from the date of the order for service by publication.

Any adverse party shall be entitled to have at least thirty (30) days after completion of service to file any pleadings he desires in the matter before the Court.

All persons owning or claiming any right, title, interest claim or demand in and to the above-described parcel of land should appear before the Special Master appointed by Judge Kenneth R. Smith, Peach County Superior Court, 205 West Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 to make known their rights, title, claim and any other matters material to their respective rights.

Order Signed By: Kenneth R. Smith Peach County Superior Court Attorney for Petitioner: William R. Jerles, Jr. Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle & Jerles, LLP 912 Main St., Perry, Georgia 31069 (478)987-2622 1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 2025 3264

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Anthony J Henry** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, its successors and assigns. dated August 5, 2014, recorded in Deed Book 516, Page 414, Peach County, Georgia Records, and as modified by that certain Loan Modification Agreement recorded in Deed Book 678, Page 475, Peach County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 608, Page 260, Peach County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$151,938.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Peach County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in February, 2025, the following described property:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-11 having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but

not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned.

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: M&T Bank, One Fountain Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14203, 800-724-1633. Note, however, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Anthony J Henry or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **302 Amber Drive, Byron, GA 31008**. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Anthony J Henry McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC 1544 Old Alabama Rd Roswell, GA 30076 www.foreclosurehotline.net 5783019 EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 60 of the Fifth Land District of Peach County, Georgia, known and designated as Lot 72, Block "A," Phase 4, Section 2, of a Subdivision known as THE PRESTON, according to a plat of survey of said Subdivision prepared by Collins & Company, certified by Jesse Collins, Jr., Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2085, dated January 30, 2013, a copy of which is of record in Plat Book 27, Page 127, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by reference thereto for all purposes. The above-described property is conveyed subject to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions as contained in instrument of record in Deed Book 317, Pages 236-252; amended by instruments of record in Deed Book 345, Pages 558-559, Deed Book 418, Pages 479-480, Deed Book 486, Pages 534-535 and Deed Book 492, Pages 181-182, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court; also, subject to easements and rights-of-way for public roads and utilities as they now exist, and building lines and other matters shown on the aforesaid recorded plat of survey.

MR / February 4, 2025 Our file no. 5783019-FT5 01/08/2025, 01/15/2025, 01/22/2025, 01/29/2025 3265

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained within that certain Security Deed dated March 18, 1994, from Jan A. Grinnell to The United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, recorded on March 18, 1994, in Deed Book 147 at Page 524, Peach County, Georgia records, with said Security Deed being assumed by Sarah F. Seman, by agreement; and

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained within that certain Security Deed dated October 3, 1997, from Sarah F. Seman to The United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, recorded on November 3, 1997, in Deed Book 181 at Page 256, Peach County, Georgia records, and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated October 3, 1997, in the amount of \$51,999.42, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Peach County, Georgia, on February 4, 2025 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):

ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT, LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 208 OF THE NINTH LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 2, CONTAINING 0.632 ACRE, OF A RESUBDIVISION OF LOT 11 OF OLD BASSETT ESTATES ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY DATED NOVEMBER 10, 1993, PREPARED BY ROBERT L. STORY, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1853, AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 18, PAGE 220, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT, GEORGIA; REFERENCE TO SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

The debt secured by the Security Deed(s) and evidenced by the Note and has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purposes of paying the Security Deed(s), accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property is/are The Estate of Sarah F. Seman.

The property, being commonly known as **1402 Woolfolk Rd, Fort Valley, GA 31030 in Peach County**, will be sold as the property of The Estate of Sarah F. Seman, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed(s).

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above-described Security Deed(s) is as follows: Dawson's Realty & Mortgages, Inc., 1293 Whisperwood Lane, Lawrenceville GA 30043, 678-558-7822. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed(s).

Albertelli Law Attorney for Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development as Attorney in Fact for Sarah F. Seman 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1000 Atlanta, GA 30339 Phone: (770) 373-4242 THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. - 24-036313 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2025 3266 (24-036313)

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OR REAPPOINTMENT OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES

Please take notice pursuant to **OCGA 15-11-50** that the **Superior Court of the Macon Judicial Circuit will appoint or reappoint Judges of the Juvenile Court, for a term beginning February 1, 2025. Anyone desiring to apply for these positions must submit an application to the Chief Judge of Superior Court, 601 Mulberry Street, Suite 310, Macon, Georgia 31201 on or before January 31, 2025.** (November 27, December 18, 2024 and January 15, 2025) 3227

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF the power of sale contained in that certain Deed to Secure Debt, Assignment and Security Agreement dated October 22, 2021, executed and delivered by **Briggs Brothers Enterprises Corporation** to The Development Authority of Peach County and recorded on November 1, 2021 in Deed Book 662, Page 255, Peach County Deed Records ("Security Deed"); conveying the after-described property (through the open end provisions therein) to secure that certain promissory note (as it may have been amended, modified, extended, and/or renewed, the "Note") executed and delivered by **Briggs Brothers Enterprises Corporation** (the "Borrower") dated October 22, 2021 in the original principal amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and 00/100s (\$200,000.00) with interest thereon as set forth therein. The Development Authority of Peach County being the current owner and holder of the Note, there will be a sale at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Peach County, Georgia during the legal hours of

sale on the first Tuesday of February, 2025, of the following described property (the "Property"):

All that tract of parcel of land lying and being in Land Lots 169 and 184, 9th Land District, Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia, being shown and designated as Tract A, containing 18.81 acres, according to that certain Subdivision Plat for Peach County Development Authority, prepared by Wellston Associates Land Surveyors, LLC, certified by Carl B. Levi, G. R. L. S. No. 2744, dated May 21, 2018, and recorded in Plat Book 28, Page 216, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said Tract A having such size, shape and dimensions as shown on said plat, which by reference thereto is made a part hereof.

The indebtedness secured by the Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable by reason of default for, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and the Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying said debt and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including but not limited to attorneys' fees (the statutory notice of intent to collect attorneys' fees having been served). The Property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes that are a lien, but not yet due and payable); any matters that might be disclosed by an accurate survey and/or inspection of the Property; any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, and covenants; and matters of record superior to the Security Deed. Additionally, this sale will be conducted subject to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and subject to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loans with the holder of the Security Deed.

Notice to the debtor as required by O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 has been given. Please note that The Development Authority of Peach County, located at the business address of 425 James E. Khoury Drive - Unit B, Fort Valley, Georgia, 31030, is the entity that has the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan documents. The Development Authority of Peach County can be contacted through the following representative: Hays B. McQueen, James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP, 231 Riverside Drive Macon, Georgia, 31201, Tel: (478) 749-9915.

The Development Authority of Peach County, as Attorney-in-Fact for **Briggs Brothers Enterprises Corporation**. Hays B. McQueen, Esq. James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP 231 Riverside Drive Macon, Georgia, 31201 (478)749-9915 1/1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2025 3269

Sen. Ossoff's Bipartisan Bill to Crack Down on Fentanyl Trafficking at Southern Border Signed into Law

By Office of Jon Ossoff, U.S. Senator for Ga

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff's bipartisan bill to crack down on fentanyl trafficking across the Southern Border has been signed into law.

Sen. Ossoff's bipartisan law will strengthen the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s capacity to detect fentanyl and xylazine at ports of entry and better prevent it from crossing the border.

Sen. Ossoff introduced the bill in June alongside Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), James Lankford (R-OK), and Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ) to require the DHS Science and Technology Directorate to research and develop technol-

ogies that better detect drug trafficking across the southern border.

The bipartisan bill was signed into law yesterday by the President.

"Illegal fentanyl trafficking is devastating Georgia families and putting our kids at risk," said Sen. Ossoff. "I brought Republicans and Democrats together to pass my bill into law that will strengthen detection and prevention of fentanyl trafficking."

"Fentanyl is a silent killer that lurks in the shadows of our communities, and we must assist law enforcement in rooting it out to stop the loss of more innocent lives," said Sen. Cornyn. "This law will ensure our brave men and women in uniform have every available tool to safely identify these deadly drugs and

help put a stop to this devastating epidemic."

Between FY 2020 and FY 2023, the amount of fentanyl seized at the southern border increased by 480%. In 2023, CBP seized 400,000 pounds of non-marijuana drugs, including 1,142,859 doses of fentanyl that were seized by the Atlanta Field Office alone.

Sen. Ossoff continues working to secure the Southern Border and protect Georgia families from drug trafficking.

Last month, Sens. Ossoff and Blackburn (R-TN) introduced the bipartisan Border Smuggling Crackdown Act to strengthen Federal prosecution of human smugglers and protect innocent victims.

In May, Sen. Ossoff inspected the Paso del Norte port of entry, the area of operations for Border Patrol's El Paso station, and detention facilities in Texas and New Mexico. He also met with U.S. law enforcement and national security officials and Mexican law enforcement officials in Juarez, Mexico, and warned of the threat of terrorism at the southern border.

In April, Sen. Ossoff helped pass the bipartisan Border Enforcement, Security, and Trade (BEST) Facilitation Act through the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to strengthen border security by providing additional CBP officers to scan cargo for illegal drugs and guns or human smuggling.

In March, the Sen. Ossoff-backed bipartisan Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence (FEND) Off Fentanyl Act became law, which will sanction drug cartels and combat money laundering by the criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking.

Earlier this year, Sen. Ossoff introduced the Deploy Fentanyl Scanners Act of 2024 to help deploy scanners at ports of entry to better identify contraband, including fentanyl, being smuggled across the border through personal vehicles.

In 2022, Sen. Ossoff's bipartisan Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act was signed into law to help rural communities experiencing high rates of opioid overdoses respond to the crisis.

Ossoff Seeking Probe Of Mail Delays To Veterans

By Dave Williams Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., is taking his efforts to improve mail delivery in Georgia to the state's veterans.

"In addition to issues with receiving prescription medications over the mail, I have heard from constituents that notices for Veterans Affairs claim exams are not being delivered in a timely manner," Ossoff wrote in a letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy dated Wednesday. "These notices with time-sensitive information, such as appointment information, must be delivered on time.

"Access to medical information in a timely manner is vital for

the wellbeing and health of all veterans who have served our nation. "I urge you to investigate these issues specific to veterans' health care."

Ossoff has been pressuring DeJoy for nearly a year to resolve delays in mail delivery Georgia families and businesses have been facing.

Delays first surfaced last winter after the postal service opened a new regional mail distribution center in Palmetto. In April, Ossoff reported that only 36% of inbound mail handled by the center was being delivered on time.

DeJoy attributed the delays to problems launching a postal service restructuring plan aimed at making the agency financially self-sufficient. He put

the plan on hold while the postal service works to resolve the issues encountered in Georgia.

While DeJoy said last May the problem would be fixed within 60 days, Ossoff said during a Senate committee hearing last month that he is still getting complaints of delays in delivering important mail.

Ossoff introduced legislation last September that would make the position of postmaster general subject to a presidential appointment with confirmation required by the Senate, similar to other administration positions.

President-elect Donald Trump has talked about privatizing the postal service.

North GA snowstorm lesson in early preparation

By Dave Williams Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Georgia emergency management officials and motorists appear to be heeding the example of "Snowmageddon" - the snowstorm that paralyzed the state in 2014 with hours-long traffic jams and multiple collisions.

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) started treating roads and highways with brine on Wednesday, two days before snow began to blanket the northern half of Georgia with accumulations up to several inches in some areas. Traffic was light, with schools and government offices closed.

"We have learned a lot of lessons," Chris Stallings, director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), told reporters Friday morning during a briefing at the State Operations Center in southeast

Atlanta. "We stayed in front of it."

Georgia Commissioner of Transportation Russell McMurry said DOT crews have treated more than 20,000 miles of roadways with more than 770 tons of salt. Interstates are getting top priority, followed by highway ramps and state routes, he said.

The goal is to clear two lanes of highway, enough so motorists can get through, McMurry said. "We can't clear the roads immediately, (but) we're going to make them passable," he said.

Will Lanxton, a meteorologist with GEMA, said the snow that was falling on Friday morning was expected to turn into freezing rain later in the day before tapering off by midnight.

"This rain on top of snow is going to freeze and make driving worse," Gov. Brian Kemp cautioned.

Kemp said Georgia's power companies have prepositioned resources in case winds forecast

to reach speeds of up to 20 miles an hour Friday and Saturday topple trees and cause power outages.

Kemp thanked Georgians for heeding the warnings of emergency management officials and for the most part staying off the roads, resulting in light traffic.

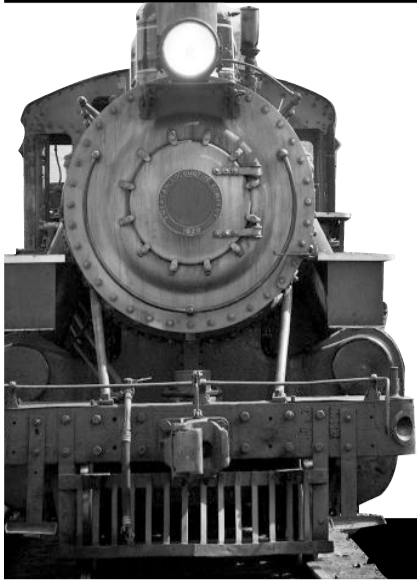
Stallings urged motorists to stay home for the rest of Friday into the weekend, so DOT crews can treat the roads.

"Let us clear the roads," he urged. "It's much easier without broken-down, disabled vehicles."

Lanxton said road conditions could remain hazardous into Sunday morning if temperatures stay low enough to freeze the highways, forcing DOT crews to go back and re-treat.

"We're going to do our part to stay ahead of it," McMurry said.

"We are 24-7 until this event subsides and everyone is safe."



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Peach County Basketball: Peach County vs. Bainbridge



Photo by Tourris Leary/Sports Photographer
Walter Johnson (#12) is playing incredible defense against his opponent.



Photo by Tourris Leary/Sports Photographer
Coach Hudson speaks with his team during a timeout.

Peach County High School 11th grade EMPOWER Leadership Group

By PCSS

The Peach County High School 11th grade EMPOWER Leadership Group, sponsored by Flint Energies, selected the project "Warm Reading" as their December service project. Students in three classes at Hunt Elementary School (Ms. Lowder-Haynes, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Patterson) received a book, a pair of gloves or socks, and a hat.



Photo by Tourris Leary/Sports Photographer
Peach County Varsity Cheerleaders. Coaches: Sekemia Caldwell-Johnson, Shaniqua Caldwell and Stephanie Freeman.

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sales@theleadertribune.com

Middle Georgia's Southern Bride 2025

Attention, newlyweds!
Submissions are open for our 2025 Southern Bride magazine cover contest!

The winner will be on the 2025 Southern Bride magazine's cover and be featured inside. The runner-up will also be featured.

Any bride who got married in 2024 and is a resident of the Middle Georgia area is eligible to enter.

Submit a high-quality wedding photo, along with you and your partner's full names, address, wedding date, wedding location and venue, photographer's name, jeweler's name and contact information (phone number & email) to brianna@hhjonline.com.

Voting will start January 22nd on hhjonline.com and end January 30th. The winner will be announced January 31st.

Winners must be available for a phone interview between January 31st and February 5th.

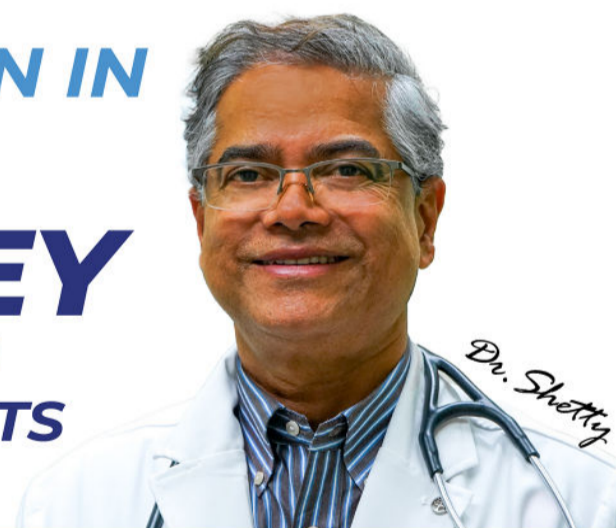


Submission deadline: January 19th



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