



SNOW DAYS

Historic snow fall in Peach Count last week



The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

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Peach County Welcomes New Sheriff, Buck Shannon



By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

Photo Zoe Hammond
Sheriff Robert 'Buck' Shannon.

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. – There's a new sheriff in town! Robert 'Buck' Shannon is now the Peach County sheriff, succeeding former sheriff Terry Deese, who had served as sheriff since 2005.

While still learning the ins and outs of being a sheriff, Shannon feels that his first month is going well. He has been learning about the hiring process as well as balancing the budget of the department.

"It is going good! There's a lot to be learned, but it is going good. Better than I thought it would," Shannon said. "We're gonna

**NEW SHERIFF
CONTINUED PG 8A**

Snowman Contest Winner



Special to
The Leader Tribune

Congratulations Cathy Berta of Peach County on being the winner of The Leader Tribune's 2025 Snowman contest. Snow came down in Peach County in

record numbers. As the glistening snow graced the county with its beauty, photos traveled all over facebook with many Peach County families all snuggled up with hats and gloves in tow as the snow was enjoyed.

Winter Wonderland in Peach County

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. – Snow fell late Tuesday afternoon into the evening, dumping anywhere from 1 inch to 9 inches of snow in different parts of Middle Georgia. According to the National Weather Service, Peach County saw between 2.5 to 4 inches of snow!

Throughout the week, Georgians experienced what some are calling a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. While most North Georgians are used to occasional snow, Middle Georgia rarely sees snowfall, let alone snow that stays for multiple days. Many in Peach County spent time outside enjoying the snow and ice by making snowmen or snow angels.

Major roadways were shut down with some being stranded on the side of the road for hours due to the poor driving conditions. Many locations were closed due to the weather and local authorities were cautioning people to stay home to avoid unnecessary risks.



Photo by Debbie Coulter



Photo by Grady ShireyFB

MORE PHOTOS ON BACK PAGE!



Photo by City of Byron/FB

NEW The Leader  Tribune **Has NEW EMAIL Addresses!**

Our email names are the same, EXCEPT for the ".net" is NOW ".com"

News Submissions: news@theleadertribune.com Legal Notice Submissions: legals@theleadertribune.com Editor: editor@theleadertribune.com
 Advertisements: sales@theleadertribune.com Billing/Books: books@theleadertribune.com Publisher: judy@theleadertribune.com



Improving Cardiac Arrest Outcomes



By Peach County EMS

Last year, we met with stakeholders from around the county to determine how to improve cardiac arrest outcomes in Peach County. One of the areas we identified was the addition

of AEDs to all Peach County Police vehicles. With the help of Peach County Emergency Management Agency who assisted us in applying for a grant, we were able to obtain the first 6 AEDs which have been added

to frontline Sheriff's Office vehicles as of yesterday morning.

The deputies and Sheriff's Office leadership underwent training this week and are prepared to act if a cardiac arrest happens in their vicinity.

Thank you to the Peach County Sheriff's Office for your willingness and dedication to go above and beyond for the citizens of Peach County. We look forward to many positive outcomes as a result of your efforts!



Peach County Students At Janfest

By PCSS

Eleven members of the PCHS Band traveled to Athens last weekend to participate in the University of Georgia's Janfest. While there, they got to perform with students from high schools all over Georgia, sit in bands under the direction of college band directors from across the United States, and experience the wonderful city of Athens. Way to go PCHS Band!



Peach County District 11 Honor Choir




By PCSS

We are thrilled to share that seven PCHS choir students were selected to sing in the Georgia Music Educators Association District 11 Honor Choir! These

talented individuals dedicated themselves to learning challenging repertoire in just one day, culminating in a phenomenal concert under the direction of the renowned Dr. Stanley Roberts from Mercer University.

Their hard work, passion, and dedication paid off as they delivered an outstanding performance of intricate and inspiring music. We are so proud of their achievement and can't wait to see what they accomplish next!



Fort Valley
USA

The City of Fort Valley is accepting applications to fill one (1) vacancy on the Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board. The appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission Board shall be one (1) member for the remaining two (2) years of the appointment. Interested individuals should fill out an application and present a brief biography/resume.

The purpose of the Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board is to provide for the protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of areas having special historical, cultural, or aesthetic interest or value and which contribute to a sense of place and historical purpose to the citizens. The preservation of this heritage is of basic and vital importance for the development and maintenance of the community's history, culture, vacation-travel industry, historical and architectural tourism and for the protection of property values because of their association with history.

Board Members must meet the following two requirements:

1. Own property in the City of Fort Valley
2. Have been residents of the City of Fort Valley for a minimum of ten years (10) at the time of their appointment

Interested individuals must demonstrate:

- Special Interest
- Special Training
- Knowledge in real estate, law, history, or architecture.

Applications may be obtained at Fort Valley City Hall or by contacting Diane Brown, City Clerk in the Mayor's Office via email at dbrown@fortvalleyga.org.

All applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, February 5, 2025, by 5 p.m. to:

Fort Valley City Hall
204 W. Church Street
Fort Valley, Ga. 31030

For any questions or more details contact Gary Lee, City Administrator via email at glee@fortvalleyga.org or by telephone at (478)825-8261.

**City of Fort Valley
Planning & Zoning Board
PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Ronald Pride, 609 Camellia Blvd., Parcel F05E-099, 1.85 acres a petition for zoning action to request zoning change from industrial to R2 Multi-Family.
2. Santeria Collier, 801 Chamlee Drive, Parcel F06C-151, 10.68 acres a petition for zoning action to request zoning changes from R1 to R2 Multi-Family.

**DATE: January, 29 2025, 10:00am City Hall
February 18, 2025, 6:00pm City Hall**

How to Avoid Scams in 2025

**By Zoe Hammond
News Editor**

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. – It's a new year, and with it comes a slew of new scams. In 2024, Peach County saw a host of scams including people impersonating an officer from the Peach County Sheriff's Office with an outstanding warrant to people impersonating the Byron

Welcome Center trying to make citizens pay for free events.

In this day and age, it's important to be wary when on the phone or online. Here are some tips to protect your credit, wallet, and any other sensitive information.

To protect your credit, check your credit score often. Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion all provide a free credit report each week. Check often to see if there's any activity that you're unfamiliar with such as an additional account or credit inquiry. Report any identity theft or fraudulent activity to the Federal Trade Commission at [identitytheft.gov](https://www.ftc.gov).

Check your bank accounts often. Make sure to be on the lookout for any suspicious activity such as additional charges or missing money.

Be wary of phone numbers you do not know. Avoid answering calls from unknown numbers, especially those with area codes from different states. Many phones will now alert whether or not the call may be potential spam. If it is urgent or someone legitimately looking to speak with you they will either leave a voicemail or call again.

When receiving texts from

unknown numbers or private messages online from someone unknown, do not click on any links. A common scam is someone pretending to be from the United States Postal Service, UPS, FedEx, or Amazon saying your package is delayed and you need to reschedule the delivery. All of these mail services will not text you unless you have specifically signed up to do so.

When shopping online, research the retailer before you make a purchase. Most likely others have asked whether the site is a legitimate retailer or if it's a scam. If you are not sure, it is best to not purchase from that website.

Be wary when using public wifi networks such as those at hotels or coffee shops. Public networks are often insecure and vulnerable to hackers. It is best to avoid accessing any sensitive information such as your banking information if you are using public Wi-Fi.

The Better Business Bureau has tips on how to avoid scams as well as how to strengthen passwords available on their website

FESTIVAL OF CAMELLIAS

80 Years of the American Camellia Society

February 1 - 28, 2025

MASSEE LANE GARDENS

Open 7 Days a Week

- Children's Nature Scavenger Hunts with Prizes
- Ikebana Exhibit
- Professionally guided tours and boxed lunches for groups of 10 or more
- Botanical Art Display & Presentation
- Camellia Waxing Workshop
- Little Buds Kids Day with art projects, inflatable slide
- Museum of Arts & Sciences Wildlife Program
- Jewelry Class
- Middle Georgia Camellia Society and Flint Energies Camellia Flower Show
- Food Trucks

Plants for Sale!!!

Free Admission on Saturday

February 1, 2025

Plant Presentation, Camellia Waxing Workshop, Scavenger Hunt for kids

Massee Lane Gardens

100 Massee Lane Rd.

Fort Valley, GA

Open 7 Days with Weekly Activities

Call (478)967-2358

PRESS RELEASE: INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The Peach County Board of Education intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the Peach County School District.

Georgia on February 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at the Peach County Board of Education Office located at 900 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia on February 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. and February 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

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.

Byron Arrests/Citations

Curry, Jada Dena, 24, Macon, GA: Probation Violation

Howell, Joshua Lee, 44, Byron, GA: Court Order

Davis, Michael Austin, 42, Saltillo, MS: Driving With Suspended License, Taillights / Taillight Lenses Required

Huestis, Dakota M, 29, Huntsville, AL: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol

Orlando, Vega Castillo, 36, Jonesboro, GA: DUI / Alcohol / 0.08 Grams Or More 21 YOA Or Over, Open Container, Driving On Wrong Side Of Road

Morris, Carol, 58, Fort Valley, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Seat Belt Violation, Tail Lights / Tag Lights Lenses Required, Expired Tag

Owens, Dekavian Tramon, 25, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation

Morris, Marquel Freeman, 17, Fort Valley, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance With Intent

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Booker, Cheronne J, 70, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Perkins, Makhil, 24, Fort Valley, GA: Theft By Receiving Stolen Property- Felony

Hillsman, Jakail, 18, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Reaves, Akima, 23, Macon, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Lee, Matthew Frederick, 27, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Reese, Damion Dajour, 32, Macon, GA: Window Tint Violation, Driving W/O Valid License

Mclemore, Eric Dewayne, 49, Fort Valley, GA: Theft By Shoplifting

Reid, Elizabeth Kate, 46, Fort Valley, GA: Driving While License Suspended, Possession Of Marijuana Less Than Oz, Tail Lights / Tag Lights Lenses Required, Possession Of A Schedule I Or II Controlled Substance With Intent To Distribute

Pickett, Joseph Dean, 59, Fort Valley, GA: False Statements Or Writings; Conceal Facts Or Fraudulent Documents In Matters

Rowe, Jason Edward, 40, Warner Robins, GA: Contempt Of Superior Court

Of Government

Richardson, Jessicka Lewis Monecke, 29, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Salazar, Deven June, 21, McRae-Helena, GA: Driving Under The Influence - Alcohol, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits)

Saffold, Sharon Evon, 57, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Smith, Lucius, 42, Macon, GA: Expired Tag, Driving W/O Valid License, Failure To Maintain Insurance

Styles, Carlos Casanto, 35, Fort Valley, GA: Criminal Trespass, Simple Assault, Aggravated Stalking

Stern, Robert Lee, 62, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Tallent, Jonah Evan, 19, Perry, GA: Possession Of A Schedule II Controlled Substance, Possession And Use Of Drug Related Objects

Williams, Coren Reed, 20, Montezuma, GA: Possession Of A Schedule Iii Controlled Substance

Peach County Sheriff's Office

Arrests/Citations

Bishop, Heather Renee, 37, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Bibb County Sheriff's Office

Arrests

Clyde, Sabrina, 40, Macon, GA: Hold For Bibb

GA State Patrol Perry Arrests

Wall, Shamonica Shonta, 33, Albany, GA: Simple Battery

Cummings, Christopher Duwan, 35, Orlando, FL: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Peach County Community CALENDAR



email: news@theleadertribune.com

RIBBON CUTTING JAN 31

You are invited to the ribbon cutting at RAE OF HOPE BOUTIQUE, Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Located at 212 Hwy 49 N. Ste. 1600, Byron, GA 31008.

TROJAN NATION TD CLUB

The time is drawing near when the 2024 football season starts. The Trojan Nationa Touchdown Club is selling reserved parking for the upcoming season at a cost of \$125.00.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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., Fort 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.

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.

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)

Advertisement for Wade Yoder.com featuring images of storage buildings, garages, and trailers. Text includes 'Call or Text 478-955-1999', 'FREE DELIVERY AND SETUP', and '110 Commercial Heights, Fort Valley, GA'.

Official notice from the City of Warner Robins, Georgia regarding qualifying fees for the 2025 meeting. Table lists fees for Mayor (\$3,000.00), Council Post 1 (\$402.00), Council Post 3 (\$402.00), and Council Post 5 (\$402.00). Meeting dates are from August 18th to November 4th, 2025.

Snowy Days



ZOE HAMMOND

News Editor

Well, that was an unexpected week. When I heard that there was a chance for snow, I immediately dismissed it. I thought back to whenever I was a kid and heard that there 'might' be a chance of a snow day. Anytime I got my hopes up for snow, we either didn't get any or only got a light dusting that was gone by the evening. So, to look outside on Tuesday afternoon and see flurry and flurry build up in my yard was interesting, to say the least – especially as it continued to snow through the evening well into the night. I enjoyed curling up with a book next to the window and getting to see the snow, which is not something I ever expected to get to experience while living in Middle Georgia. When I woke up Wednesday morning, I could see bright white light being reflected through my curtains. Looking outside and seeing a field of snow, which was roughly 3 inches thick was exciting!

Since we were told to work from home and not go out on the roads, I made sure to spend some time outside enjoying the snow. I thought that it would be gone by tomorrow morning so I might as well enjoy it while I can. I spent time just taking some photos of different plants covered in snow. I got to look at different tracks in the snow – it would seem some deer enjoyed the snow day as well. I brought some snow in to show my cat, she was very uninterested until she realized she could roll the ball of snow around. It was a fun and relaxing day.

I was not expecting my yard to still be partially covered on Thursday or to see spots of Peach County with snow on Friday morning when I was on my way to work. While I greatly enjoyed the "once-in-a-lifetime" experience, I hope that it will not become a recurring event. I will say, it was nice getting to see the varying pictures online of people out and about in Peach County enjoying the snow. Many of the local agencies and shops that have Facebook pages posted photos online or shared some photos taken by local Peach Countians – if you get a chance go look. There are some great photos!

I hope everyone got to enjoy the surprise snow days and did what they could to stay safe and warm.

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I hope everyone got to enjoy the surprise snow days and did what they could to stay safe and warm.



Aging = Oxidation & Oxidation = Aging



WADE YODER
LT COLUMNIST

If you can figure out how to slow down the oxidation process in your body, you can slow down the aging process as well as decreasing chronic disease formation. If your car gets scratched and loses the protection in this area, the resulting oxidation from the elements is what causes rusting. We need antioxidants in our diets to help protect our body, its parts and systems from oxidation.

We need food to sustain life, but metabolism of these calories into energy, and the extraction of nutrients, (as well as our exposure to other things in life such as food and environmental toxins), creates oxidation. This is a byproduct of all the processes that are happening in our body and its systems. Our body works like a factory and if we don't help it to release the toxic byproducts, these toxins will build up and cause us problems, (imagine closing the smokestack on a factory). Water, sweat, antioxidants, muscular movement and our

waste elimination system are like a drainage system that helps us cleanse out and get rid of these toxins that cause aging and disease. If we don't get these toxins out of us, an oxidative process will begin, causing constant inflammatory conditions that can lead to premature aging and disease!

Example: if our car gets a deep scratch, it will eventually begin to oxidize (if not taken care of) and will manifest itself as rust. In our body however this rusting can be translated to chronic inflammation, which is the source that almost all chronic diseases get their energy from. This inflammation is sort of like a clump of rust that continues to draw energy to itself and if the root cause of the rust is not stopped, the affected area will continue to deteriorate until it is ruined. In much the same way, if whatever is causing inflammation is not stopped and this oxidation continues, a medical specialist will eventually be able to diagnose and give a name for whatever it has prevailed itself to be, whether it's a diseased body part, or a systemic disease affecting other parts of the body.

Free radicals: when we allow toxins to build up or continue to enter our body, free radicals are formed that cause oxidative damage to our eyes, skin, muscle, fat, vital organs, bones, ligaments, tendons etc. And though these body parts may still work, they hurt more and operate in a less efficient and aged manner.

Free radicals need electrons, so they steal electrons away from healthy surrounding cells, turning them into free radicals as well. This is how oxidation and disease grows in the body and whether systemic or in clusters, this can be the beginning of a chronic condition and if not neutralized can eventually turn into a chronic disease.

Immune system, free radicals, and oxidation: our immune system sometimes uses the oxidative process to kill viruses and bad bacteria, (this is a good thing), but if we continue to be exposed to the things that are triggering this reaction, we get what we know as chronic inflammation. This oxidative and inflammatory process leads to disease and premature aging in the areas it is happening at!

Example: we oft times worry about our skin aging as well as the smoothness and firmness of our fatty areas. The aging process of either is quite simple, oxidative stress causes the collagen in our skin to lose its elasticity, which in turn creates wrinkles. Oxidation also creates aged pitted looking fat we call cellulite (cellulite is to fat like a wrinkle is to the skin).

What we can do: since oxidation is a byproduct of free radicals, and antioxidants neutralize them, doesn't it make sense to increase (antioxidant rich) fruits and vegetables in our diet? If you raise your own fruits and vegetables, (even though it may not have an attractive nutritional label or come in a pretty con-

tainer) you have the best source at your fingertips for increasing your antioxidant levels!

If your only access is fruits and vegetables passed through modern logistic systems, I highly recommend fruit and vegetable extract powders to supplement your diet. However, research the company, and the science behind the product.

In a nutshell: drinking adequate water every day along with a good diet that includes a variety of fruits and vegetables (they are the best source for antioxidants), along with sweat and proper waste elimination, will help you fight the oxidation process in the body.

Try this natural cleanse: Eat only fruits, vegetables, nuts, and beans for 5-7 days along with 1/2 your bodyweight in oz. of water. Fruits need to be eaten the early part of the day to assist with the body's natural detox time period, which is for about 6 hours after waking. I highly recommend drinking unsweetened lemon water from fresh squeezed lemons during this time period as well.

Also use healthy oils, (like olive oil on salads, or supplement with fish oil caps), this will assist in waste removal and will help keep energy levels steady as well.

Premature aging and disease are an accumulation of oxidation that simply builds up enough to become a diagnosable problem. Let's live an Anti-Oxidation lifestyle!

I WAS THERE!



DANIEL GATLYN
MINISTER/COLUMNIST

I was there in 1964-65 when open conflict reached the boiling point in Vietnam! I was there in 1975, as the headcount of more than 58,000 (men and women) paid with their lives and whose names would one day be inscribed on a wall, mounted as a memorial for the world to consider and care for.

I was there, as a Clergyman (after retirement) to conduct a military funeral for one of the fallen! I have been there (year in and year out) to count the course and cost of the war in Vietnam, a battleground that remains a highly controversial involvement. We will not forget the immeasurable conduct and sacrifice of the thousands who became casualties in Vietnam as wounded, as MIAs, prisoners of war, and in death. Sixty-nine percent of those who died were younger than twenty-three!!! One hundred-fifty-three Medal of honor recipients, of the war, are on the wall!

I was also there a few hours ago, on Vietnam Parkway in Warner Robins, Georgia as

plans were being made to erect a meaningful memorial to those who are not with us anymore. Properties have been donated and properly deeded for the Georgia Vietnam Veterans Memorial. On January 18, some 150 Veterans, active duty members, and impressive representatives of city, county, and area-wide localities, were on hand for the momentous occasion of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Land Tribute.

Present to lend remarks and welcome to attendees were Master of Ceremonies and Warner Robins Mayor LaRhonda W. Patrick and VVA Board Member Bill Carey. An Invocation was given by Captain Kelly Canlas, USAF, followed by a

Posting of Colors by the WRFD and WRPD Honor Guard. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by WRPD Chief Wayne Fisher, followed by Congressman Sanford Sanford Bishop. To round off the remarks of the delegation was USAF Colonel Keith Quick and Peach County Chairman Martin Moseley. State Representative Shaw Blackman presented Resolution 17, in recognition of long-term Agent Orange (and purple) issues. Mayor Patrick gave closing remarks; amid pertinent photos by Macon Television Channels and individuals. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fixtures and details are yet to be considered.

The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

DuBose Porter
Executive Director
Pam Burney
General Manager

Caleb Slinkard
Executive Editor

Judy Robinson
General Manager/ Publisher
Judy@theleadertribune.com
Marketing Executive
sales@theleadertribune.com
Zoe Hammond News Editor
editor@theleadertribune.com
news@theleadertribune.com

Scott Giles Business Manager
books@theleadertribune.com
Andrea Banker Design Manager
graphics@theleadertribune.com
Legals Department
legals@theleadertribune.com

Columnists

Billy Powell Dan Gatlyn
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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Snow Melts. Anger Subsides. Priorities Linger.

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

So it did snow, after all.

The forecast was a bit off, quite reminiscent of the projection and actual path of Hurricane Helene. Northwest Georgia got frigid cold temperatures, but the snow was mostly reserved for South and East Georgia.

I was in Savannah for the week, as the legislature had been scheduled to be at ease for budget hearings. Snow is rare down here, so I'm told, even in Georgia snowfall terms. I was here for the start of the blizzard of '93, but that's another story for another day.

The local reactions were similar, if a bit exaggerated to what I've experienced with an Atlanta area snowfall. It began as a bit of wonderment and surprise at both the event itself and the volume of accumulation. Savannah is a beautiful city in its own right. A layer of snow added a level of majesty to its scenery.

What is even more rare, whether here or in North Georgia, is to have a snow event followed by days of sub-freezing temperatures. Our tree canopies provided sufficient shade to keep a 3-4" snowfall on the ground and roads for several days. We were still experiencing road closures due to ice on Friday after a Tuesday evening snowfall.

By the weekend, cabin fever was setting in for many. The happy comments on social media were turning to a bit of



scorn. As is usually the case, many were wondering why we don't have the equipment to fully treat and/or clear the streets for these events.

There were hypothetical calculations of the lost business and future tourist revenues because we can't handle a few inches of snow. We see this a lot in Atlanta.

There's two evergreen lessons in politics here that are generated during and after almost every white out. I've been preaching them for over a decade now.

My first television appearance as a political "expert" was during

the extended ice event in Atlanta in 2011. The metro area and much of the northern half of the state was iced over for a week or so, if my memory serves.

One of the local TV stations had run out of things to say, and the news folks were running on fumes and stale pizza. They decided to invite a couple of bloggers in to move our debate from the internet to live TV. That turned into a six year run for me as their political analyst.

My sparring partner wanted snow plows everywhere. No one would ever come to Atlanta again if this was our reputation.

Our convention business was as good as dead. We were a national embarrassment according to her, and "someone must do something" was her mantra of the day.

I noted my two basic premises. Snow Melts. Anger Subsides.

Everyone wanted someone to do something because for a week, it's what we all were ob- sassing over. Most of us couldn't leave our homes, do our jobs, or conduct normal everyday things because there was ice everywhere. We all saw the problem,

HARPER
CONTINUED PG 5A

Three Jewish Temples



BILLY POWELL
Parables to Ponder
COLUMNIST

King David wanted to build a temple to replace the Tabernacle of Moses. He drew up extensive plans, gathered materials, and arranged for the conduct of temple services, but the Lord refused to let David build it because he had "too much blood on his hands." After David's death, the task of building the temple was assumed by King Solomon, David's fourth son by Bathsheba, who was the eighth wife of King David.

For the temple's interior, Solomon purchased beautiful cedar and cypress trees from King Harem of Tyre, in Lebanon. Their logs were tied to rafts and floated down the seacoast to a port city in Israel. From there the logs were dragged overland to Jerusalem. The cedars were cut into attractive wooden wall panels and the cypress

used for the temple's floor. The outer structure of the temple was made of stone acquired from large quarries north of Jerusalem. Stonemasons and stonemasons toiled for years, cutting and shaping the white stones for the temple. Skilled craftsmen squared the stones so perfectly that mortar was seldom used. Construction of the temple required 7 years and was completed in 957 B.C. The temple measured 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet high. At its rear temple stood the Holy of Holies room, 15 feet by 15 feet, where the arch of covenant resided and God's presence dwelt.

The first temple was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar and his invading Babylonian armies in 587 B.C. The Jewish people were taken away into Babylonian captivity. The Book of Ezra describes the rebuilding of the temple which was authorized by Cyprus the Great of Persia, who conquered the Babylonian Empire and released the Hebrews from captivity so they could return to Israel to worship their God. Work began on the temple in 537 B.C., and after a hiatus, resumed in 520 B.C. It was completed in 516 B.C. Five centuries later, circa 20 B.C., Herod the Great renovated the temple. It was destroyed by General Titus and his Roman army in

70 A.D. Jesus had predicted its destruction 40 years earlier (ref Luke 21: 5-6). The temple was leveled to the ground; the western wall surrounding it being the only structure left standing. Today the wall serves as a holy place where Jews assemble to pray.

In A.D. 691, the Muslims built a mosque called the "Dome of the Rock" over the remains of the former Jewish temple. From this sacred rock, Islam's prophet, Mohammed, reputedly ascended into heaven. Jewish tradition has it that Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac from this same rock. And on this same location, Solomon built his temple.

Orthodox Jews believe a third temple will be built on the site now occupied by the Dome of the Rock to prepare the way for the Jewish Messiah, who was yet to come. Ezekiel 40:1-48:35 contains detailed specifications for rebuilding the third temple. Zealous Jewish factions want to remove the Dome of the Rock and relocate it to Mecca. Muslims throughout the world would fight to their deaths to prevent this from happening; Consequently, any attempt to rebuild the temple might precipitate the Battle of Armageddon and presage the second coming of Christ.

Purchasing Vegetable Seed



JEFF COOK
EXTENSION AGENT

This is what winter is supposed to feel like, maybe not in Georgia though. Over the last 31 days temperatures have only risen above 60°F 6 times. This week is unusually cold and hopefully you are reading this after coming in from sledding. Either way these cold temperatures are good for many different reasons. First freezing and thawing of the soil can actually help reduce compaction. As moisture in the soil freezes and expands it opens pockets in the soil when it thaws. Secondly, it should kill some insects, but don't expect a mosquito free 2025. Finally, we don't need it to be this col, but chill hours are important not only for our beloved peaches but many other fruiting trees and shrubs.

However, this is Georgia and I know that not many of our res-

idents really enjoy the cold. I really didn't write this article to try and convince you that cold weather was good. I am writing it as a reminder of what you could be doing to get ready for the vegetable gardening season. I like to grow my own tomato and pepper transplants. It is hard to find seed locally so I purchase from one of several mail order seed companies.

Purchasing seed like this can be good for several reasons. You get a much larger selection of varieties. You can also choose varieties that resistance to the diseases that we battle in the south. You can also experiment with new varieties to see what works best for you and your management style. For example, through trial and error, I have learned that I don't do well at growing large slicking tomatoes or heirloom tomatoes. If I rely on local stores for my tomato transplants that is pretty much what I am stuck with.

With the tomato varieties you can purchase from suppliers like Bonnie, you can find disease resistant plants. Peppers are much easier to grow and you don't have to worry too much. When we start looking for cucurbits we need to try and find varieties with resistance to powdery mildew. If you are relying on local sales you probably won't know what variety you

are getting and I have not seen labels with disease resistance on crops like cucumber, squash, zucchini, melons and pumpkin.

Finally, I like to purchase my own seed because many of the crops grown in a garden do better when grown directly from seed, and not transplanted. The cucurbits are probably the worst as far as transplanting. I actually saw sweet corn transplants, which I thought was humorous. Six corn plants for \$5 equals about \$0.85 per ear. If you order or purchase your own seed you get seed from \$0.02 to \$0.05 depending on if you get a conventional or a herbicide tolerant variety.

There are a lot of benefits to purchasing seed from different sources, but I am not saying stop buying from local sources. I still get much of my seed from local sources, like green beans, okra, and greens, which I would call low maintenance veggies. I would not wait much longer to purchase seed if you are getting them from another source. If you are going to grow your own transplants you need about 6 weeks, and seed supplies will be low as we get closer to planting season. If you have questions or comments as always you can reach me at 478-825-6466, 478-862-5496 or mackiv@uga.edu.

HARPER

CONTINUED FROM 4A

so we all were demanding someone fix this unpleasantness we were collectively experiencing.

Snow plows cost money. The numbers needed to cover even half the roads in this state would be staggering, much less having the people trained to run them.

We also at the time were furloughing teachers and had cut the state's budget to the bone. I noted that the final budget negotiations were going to occur in late March or early April, most likely on an early spring day when the temps were in the 70's and this particular problem already a distant memory.

I asked her how many teachers need to be laid off this year so that we can have some plows available in three or five years when they'll likely be needed? No one likes these kinds of questions when they're mad about what's bothering them right now, but it is how any expenditure should work.

Scarcity is real. Priorities need to be funded first.

We don't have the same priorities as Chicago, which must prioritize snow removal lest the city be buried in many feet of snow for months. Chicago doesn't have to prepare for the occasional hurricane. We have

different needs, and our budgets reflect that.

We've had a couple of days in the 50's and one in the 60's since the snow. Some is still here, still melting.

Our roads are again open and safe. The anxiety from a lingering weather event has subsided.

People will move on to other problems they demand to be solved "right now". Politicians have the burden of deciding how many of these demands are just vocalized angst, and how many need real attention. They then have to sharpen their budget pencils, and prioritize according to their decisions.



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#, 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. 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

BAHA'I FAITH

"The world of humanity has two wings - one is woman and the other is man. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly."

Baha'u'llah

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

and leave a text message.

SAINT PETER AIME 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.

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Utility Commission Positions Announcement

Fast Paced and Progressive Public Power Utility
Providing services in the areas of Electric, Water, Wastewater, Telecom, and Gas
Seeks an Experienced, Highly Motivated, and Creative Team Members

Meter Reader

Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Possess demonstrable skills, be self-motivated and a team player. Possess good reading, verbal, and written communication skills. Ability to read, record and accurately enter numbers (meter readings). Possess two (2) years or customer service experience, or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience.

Knowledge of the utility industry is preferred. A valid Georgia driver's license.

Duties and Responsibilities

Reads and records consumption of residential and commercial electric, gas and water meters with handheld reading devices and manual readings; verifies that readings are within parameters and troubleshoots problems related to meters and reading equipment. Installs, repairs and inspects electric and water meters and meter reading equipment, valves pressure regulators and flow testing meters. Responds to customer service requests, not limited to connections, disconnects, re-reading meters, checking for leaks, etc. and may be required to respond to emergency callouts or assist the operations with system repairs. Post notices at physical locations regarding billing, customer information, and perform work required to keep meter pits accessible. Represents the Commission with dignity, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation in all relationships with staff and the public.

Send resume to:

Utility Commission, 500 Anthoine Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
fax: (478) 825-7704 or email: hrmanager@fvutil.com
Deadline: January 28, 2025

EOE/Drug Free/Smoke Free Environment

Georgia Voting-Rights Advocates Take Redistricting Case To Federal Appellate Court

By Dave Williams

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - A lawyer for the state of Georgia Thursday defended congressional and legislative maps the Republican-controlled General Assembly drew in 2023 in a lawsuit charging the new districts violate the Voting Rights Act.

Georgians have elected Republican majorities in the state legislature and Georgia's congressional delegation based on party affiliation rather than race, Georgia Solicitor General Stephen Petranj argued before the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. GOP candidates have been winning their elections whether they are Black or white, Petranj said.

"That's just partisan politics," he said. "(The plaintiffs) have to show the majority is voting differently somehow connected

to race."

Five Georgia voters are appealing a ruling by U.S. District Judge Steve Jones in December 2023 that upheld new legislative and congressional maps Georgia lawmakers had drawn during a special session a few weeks earlier.

The special session was called following a decision Jones handed down in October 2023 ordering the General Assembly in October 2023 to redraw congressional and legislative district lines after voting rights and civil rights groups filed lawsuits claiming the maps violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

While the maps created a new Black-majority district in western portions of metro Atlanta and some new Black-majority districts in the Georgia House and Senate, lawyers for the plaintiffs argued Thursday that the maps didn't go far enough.

"Racial polarization is lead-

ing to dilution of minority voting strength," said Sophia Lin Lakin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project. "There is less opportunity for minority voters."

Petranj pointed to the two election victories by U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., in 2021 and 2022 as evidence that Black candidates can win statewide in Georgia.

But Abha Khanna, another lawyer for the plaintiffs, said Warnock's statewide victories were an anomaly and that few Blacks have won statewide elections in Georgia. She noted that of the five Black members of the state's congressional delegation, four represent Black-majority districts.

"Secretary (of State Brad Raffensperger) says Black voters have done enough winning in Georgia," she said. "That's wrong."

First Case Of Chronic- Wasting Disease In Deer Confirmed In Georgia

By Dave Williams

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - A deer shot by a hunter in South Georgia has tested positive for Chronic-Wasting Disease (CWD), the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported Thursday.

The two-and-a-half-year-old male white-tailed deer, shot on private property in Lanier County, is the first case of CWD detected in Georgia.

Chronic-Wasting Disease is a fatal neurological disease that occurs in deer, elk, and moose caused by infectious proteins called prions. While there are

no current treatments or preventative vaccines, there has been no known transmission of the disease to humans.

"I want to assure our hunters that deer hunting will continue to thrive in Georgia, despite this current discovery," DNR Commissioner Walter Rabon said Thursday. "Working together with our hunters and all Georgians, we will manage CWD and maintain healthy deer herds."

The DNR has put a response plan into effect establishing a CWD Management Area, which includes Lanier County as well as Berrien County, which is within a 5-mile radius of where the diseased deer was

found.

The agency also is working to determine how far the disease has spread and what percentage of deer in the area have CWD. That is being accomplished by working with landowners through "cluster sampling" in the immediate area.

While CWD doesn't appear to be a threat to humans, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that hunters harvesting a deer, elk, or moose from an area where the disease is known to be present have their animal tested for CWD before consuming the meat.

Georgia Launches U.S. Sesquicentennial Commission

By Dave Williams

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Gov. Brian Kemp has established a state commission to promote the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence next year.

Congress established the U.S.

Sesquicentennial Commission in 2016 and encouraged the creation of similar commissions in each state.

"As the 13th colony, Georgia was represented by three courageous signers of the Declaration of Independence who pledged their very lives to support it," Kemp said Friday. "We look forward to empowering

our communities in celebrating Georgia's unique role in our country's founding as we honor and commemorate this historic observance with partners across the state."

The Georgia US250 Commission will be chaired by Cameron Bean, chairman of the Georgia Humanities Council's Board of Directors, with Georgia Historical Society President and CEO Todd Groce serving as vice chair.

The commission also will include Pat Wilson, commissioner of the state Department of Economic Development; and Mark Jaronski, the agency's chief marketing officer. Georgia Humanities Council President Mary McCartin Wearn will serve as the commission's administrator.

The new commission is calling on local and county groups in both the public and private sectors to develop a calendar of events to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary. Organizers will receive access to the state's Georgia US250 marketing toolkit, including the official logo and a template press release.

"The American Revolution and our experiment in self-government is an ongoing process," Groce said. "The commission asks Georgia organizations and communities to plan and share information on their plans for civic activities that will inspire Georgia and renew their commitment to the lofty and timeless ideals embodied in the Declaration of Independence."

Section 00020

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Peach County Board of Commissioners will be accepting Sealed Bids for the South Peach Park Trail Expansion in Peach County, GA.

Closing date for Sealed Bids responding to Request for Bid (RFB) No. 25-002 shall be February 20, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Bids will be opened in public without discussion on February 20, 2025 at 3:15 p.m. at the Peach County Board of Commissioner's Office, 213 Persons Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Bid amounts will not be released until the Board of Commissioners has awarded the project to the winning contractor.

The work for this project includes the construction of \pm 4000 L.F. of concrete trail. This includes the import, placement, and compaction of \pm 500 C.Y. structural fill for the trail expansion. Additionally, drainage improvements, erosion / sediment control, landscaping, outdoor workout equipment installation, and final stabilization are a part of the work for this project.

A Pre-bid meeting will be held February 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at South Peach Park. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is required.

The complete RFB package will be available by contacting Morgan Hoffmann at (478) 476-0700, morgan@tpointeng.com

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Base Bid. Performance Bond and Payment Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, will be required of the successful bidder. Bond must be written by an acceptable Surety Company licensed to do business in the State of Georgia and listed with the Department of the Treasury.

See Instructions to Bidders for additional bidding requirements.

Peach County reserves the right to reject all bids, to waive informalities, to re-advertise and/or to award any bid that is in the best interest of Peach County.

Mail or deliver Sealed Bids to:
April Hodges, Administrator
Peach County Board of Commissioners
ATTN: RFB # 25-002
213 Persons Street
Fort Valley, GA 31030

**Subscribe Today by calling our
office at 478-825-2432**

INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The Peach County Board of Education intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the Peach County School District. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at the Peach County Board of Education Office located at 900 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia on February 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at the Peach County Board of Education Office located at 900 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia on February 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. and February 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

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.

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 00/100ths (\$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 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 1/18, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2025 3269

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA THE PEACH COUNTY COMMISSION, IN REM CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-V-0376 PETITIONER-CONDEMNOR

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 IN RE: Estate of Barry R. Lung, Deceased

All creditors of the Estate Barry R. Lung, deceased, late of Peach County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the Executor named below according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to said Executor. Demands and payments may be sent to counsel for the Executor, Michael L. Chidester, Attorney, P.O. Box 1704, Byron, Georgia 31008

This 7th day of January, 2025.
Sarah W. Lung
Executor
1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2025
3271

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH IN RE: ESTATE OF MARK RUSSELL 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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF TED H. PERNELL

ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7034
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:

ERIC E. PERNELL has petitioned for ERIC E. PERNELL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of TED H. PERNELL deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. Section 53-12-261.) All interested persons 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 19, 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, Clerk of the Probate Court.
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313
1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2025
3279

FORECLOSURE NOTICE STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

By virtue of Power of Sale contained in a deed to secure debt from **John lee, to Gail Rogers** dated September 30, 2023 recorded October 23, 2023 in Deed Book 710 Pages 619-623 Peach County Records said deed to

secure debt being given to secure a note executed on September 30, 2023, in the original principal amount of Fifteen Thousand and 00/100---- (\$15,000.00), as stated therein, there will be sold to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door at Peach County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2025 the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the State of Georgia, County of Peach and in the City of Fort Valley, therein, being more particularly described as follows: BEGIN at iron stob on the southeasterly margin of Murray Road (formerly Cemetery Road) which iron stob marks the common corner between the property hereby conveyed and the property of the Housing Authority of Fort Valley which adjoins the property hereby conveyed on the southwest; run these south 23° east 191.5 feet to an iron stob; thence north 71° 30'- east 182.5 feet to an iron stob; run thence north 1° east 31 feet to an iron stob; thence north 86° west 132 feet to an iron stob; run thence north 3° east 135 feet to an iron stob on southwesterly margin of Murray Road; run thence south 68° west 133 feet along southeasterly margin of Murray Road to an iron stob which is the point or place of beginning. All courses an distances according of said land made T. F. Flourney recorded in Map Box 2 Page40, in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Peach County Georgia. Also conveyed is all land lying between lying between the northeasterly lineof the property above described and the present right-of-way of Murray Road.

This is the same property conveyed by warranty deed from Carl Collier to Dennis Peterson dated July 30, 1952 and being recorded in Deed Book B-1 Page 125, Clerk's Office Peach Superior, Georgia which the recorded deed is hereby referred to for a more complete description for other purposes.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Nikitis Zoumberis, Warner Robins, GA 31093, 478-328-1387.

The debt secured by said deed to secure debt has and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees. The address of this property is 711 Murray Road Fort Valley Georgia. The best of the undersigned's knowledge, information and belief, the property is in the possession of John Lee.
Nikitis Zoumberis
as Attorney in Fact for Gail Rogers
1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2025
3276

ZONING LEGAL NOTICE

A public hearing, with public comment heard, will be held by the Peach County Planning Commission on a zoning map amendment request for +/- 5.69 acres known as **tax parcel number 015 027 located at 1875 Woolfolk Road Fort Valley, GA.** The request is to rezone the parcel from R-AG (Agricultural residential district) to R-1 (Low density residential district).

The hearing will be in the Public Meeting Room of the Board of Commissioner's Office located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley on **February 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** Recommendation from the Planning Commission will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on **March 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm** during the regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

The re-zoning application for this parcel is on file and available for review. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.
1/29, 2/5, 2025
3283

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of **Robert Wesley Green, Sr.** late of Peach County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 16th day of January, 2025
Name: Raphael G. Green
Title: Administrator
Address: 120 Village Circle, Senoia, GA 30276
1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2025
3282 (94144)

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.

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.

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

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA CIVIL ACTION CASE NUMBER 24-V-0477

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: MADISON ELIZABETH HENRY, PETITIONER.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Madison Elizabeth Henry filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on December 30, 2024, to change the name from: Madison Elizabeth Henry to Madison Elizabeth Hayden. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the petition was filed.
This December 30, 2024.
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2025
3285

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

Rebecca J. Hamilton and James O. Hamilton, Jr., Petitioners
Civil Action No. 24-V-0356

VS.
The estate and all known and unknown heirs of Brenda Durden Barrett, a/k/a Brenda E. Barrett, the estate and all known and unknown heirs of Todd Brian Barrett, Mark Shane Barrett, as an heir of Brenda Durden Barrett, a/k/a Brenda E. Barrett, And all persons unknown who claim or might claim an interest to Petitioner's title in Lot 35 of Block B of Phase 6 of Sherwood Forest Subd., 594 Michelle Dr., Byron, Peach County, Georgia, Respondents

SUMMONS
TO: Innocence Freeman, Abigail Barrett, as an heir of Todd Brian Barrett, the Estate and all known and unknown heirs of Brenda Durden Barrett, a/k/a Brenda E. Barrett, the Estate and all known and unknown heirs of Todd Brian Barrett and any and all unknown parties who claim or might claim an interest in Lot 35 of Block B of Phase 6 of Sherwood Forest Subdivision, 594 Michelle Dr., Byron, Peach County, Georgia

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking to establish title to the above-described property against all the world was filed by Rebecca J. Hamilton and James O. Hamilton on the 25th day of September, 2024, in the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, and by reason of Order for Service by Publication entered by said Court on the 8th day of January, 2025, you are hereby commanded to be and appear at said Court within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order for Service by Publication to answer said Petition and file pleadings before this Court.

The real property which is the subject of this civil action is more particularly described as follows:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 75 of the Fifth Land District of Peach County, Georgia, known and designated as Lot 35 of Block B of Phase 6 of Sherwood Forest Subdivision, according to plat of survey dated 6-13-1979 made by Thomas W. Futral, III GRLS No. 1202, a copy of said plat having been recorded in Plat Book 11, Page 227, Clerk's Office Superior Court of Peach County, reference hereby made to the recorded copy of said plat for description and all other purposes.

As described in Deed Book 183, Page 407. Further described as Map & Parcel 064G062.

This is the same property described in that certain Tax Sale Deed from W. L. Brown, Commissioner and Ex Officio Sheriff of Peach County, Georgia, to Rebecca J. Hamilton and James O. Hamilton, Jr. dated May 1, 2018, and recorded in Deed Book 583, Page 541.

Witness, the Honorable Judge of said Court, this 14 day of January, 2025.
Clerk, Superior Court of Peach
1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2025
3280 (No. 54376.0026)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE:ESTATE OF TREVONIO RAHEEM COLEMAN DECEASED
ESTATE NO:2019-ADM-6173

NOTICE
The petition of personal representative for leave to sell property in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,

TO: ANTONIO COLEMAN

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before FEBRUARY 19 2025

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections must be worn 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 fee. 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
Judge of the Probate Court Kim Wilson
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
478-825-2313
01/22/2025, 01/29/2025, 02/05/2025, 02/12/2025
3281 (93970)

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 Kendell 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 PUBLIC SALE

FreeUp Storage Fort Valley located at 1091 Peach Pkwy, Fort Valley, GA, 31030 will hold an online public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Georgia Self Storage Facility Act, Georgia Code 10-4-210 to 10-4-215. The auction will be held online at **www.storage treasures.com** and will end on Wednesday February 19, 2025 at 12:00 pm. Unless stated otherwise, the personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household items, furniture, boxes, clothes, appliances, garage essentials and vehicles. Registered or motor vehicles are sold "As Is/Parts Only", no titles or registration. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

101J - Dana Sellers
367D - Sophronia Williams
431E - Jemika Copeland
706 - Natasha Tookes
722 - Vernesia George
735 - Chantia King
759 - Sophronia Williams
1/29, 2/05, 2025
6271

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 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 conveyed to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for Freddie Mac SLST 2024-1 Participation Interest Trust, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$102,000.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, March 4, 2025, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 7 of the Fifth (5th) Land District of Peach County, Georgia, being known and designated as Tract #41 containing 0.57 acre, more or less and Tract #42 containing 0.51 acre, more or less, according to a plat of survey being of record in Plat Book 19, Page 177, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Also conveyed is an easement for ingress and egress from Oak Ridge Drive to the above property over and across that certain sixty foot easement as shown on a plat of survey recorded in Plat Book 19, Page 177, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court.

This conveyance and the warranties hereinafter contained are made subject to any and all restrictions, easements, covenants and rights-of-way affecting said described property.

Said property is known as **202 Oak Ridge Drive, 204 Oak Ridge Drive, Byron, GA 31008**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey 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)

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Because of a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by Peggy Jean Smither to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for USAA Federal Savings Bank dated April 28, 2015, and recorded in Deed Book 527, Page 488, Peach County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for Freddie Mac SLST 2024-1 Participation Interest Trust, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$102,000.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, March 4, 2025, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 7 of the Fifth (5th) Land District of Peach County, Georgia, being known and designated as Tract #41 containing 0.57 acre, more or less and Tract #42 containing 0.51 acre, more or less, according to a plat of survey being of record in Plat Book 19, Page 177, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Also conveyed is an easement for ingress and egress from Oak Ridge Drive to the above property over and across that certain sixty foot easement as shown on a plat of survey recorded in Plat Book 19, Page 177, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court.

This conveyance and the warranties hereinafter contained are made subject to any and all restrictions, easements, covenants and rights-of-way affecting said described property.

Said property is known as **202 Oak Ridge Drive, 204 Oak Ridge Drive, Byron, GA 31008**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey description.

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 7A

and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.

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 secured creditor.

The property is or may be in the possession of Peggy Jean Smither, successor in interest or tenant(s).

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for Freddie Mac SLST 2024-1 Participation Interest Trust as Attorney-in-Fact for Peggy Jean Smither

File no. 24-082036
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP*
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
211 Perimeter Center Parkway, N.E., Suite 130
Atlanta, GA 30346
(770)220-2535
<https://www.logs.com/>

*THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

01/22/2025, 01/29/2025, 02/05/2025, 02/12/2025, 02/19/2025, 02/26/2025
3277 (BCNS 245013)

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice **Byron Self Storage 107 W White Rd/107 W.E. Green Jr Pkwy/500 GA-49 Byron GA 31008** intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The public sale to the highest bidder will occur at an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 2/18/2025 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials.

Latashia Zanders unit #084; William Edwards unit #126; Kiara Turner unit #180.

All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.
1/29, 2/5, 2025
3284

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

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.
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: 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

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 A DEBT 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)

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 Rayerm 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

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF PEACH
IN RE: ESTATE OF EMMA LEE

AIKEN

All creditors of the estate of Emma Lee Aiken, late of Peach County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This 24 day of January, 2025.

Geraldine Adams
Administrator/Executor of
Emma Lee Aiken, deceased
304 Hiley Street
Fort Valley, GA 31030
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2025
3286

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-V-0325
Khim Thi Tran, Petitioner v.

Paul Easley, Jr., by and through Pauline Easley as Executor of the Estate of Paul Easley, Jr.; Pauline Easley, Individually; Jennifer Lynn Simms; Linda M. Easley; and all persons known or unknown who might claim adversely to Petitioner's title to Land Lot 75, Parcel A-1, Peach County, Georgia. Respondents.

All Persons unknown who claim or might claim to have an interest in this cause. SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY; Civil Action No. 24-V-0325; Khim Thi Tran, Petitioner v. Paul Easley, Jr., by and through Pauline Easley as Executor of the Estate of Paul Easley, Jr.; Pauline Easley, Individually; Jennifer Lynn Simms; Linda M. Easley; and all persons known or unknown who might claim adversely to Petitioner's title to Land Lot 75, Parcel A-1, Peach County, Georgia. Respondents.

You are hereby notified that the above-referenced action seeking to establish title to the below-described property against the world was filed on the 29th day of August, 2024 in the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, the Macon Judicial Circuit, you are hereby commanded to be and appear at said Court within thirty days of the date of the Order for Service by Publication to answer said Petition and file pleadings before the Court. The real property which is the subject of the civil action is more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 75 of the Fifth (5th) Land District of Peach County, Georgia, containing 1.570 acres, more or less, and being known and designated as Parcel A-1, according to a plat of survey being of record in Plat Book 21, Page 284, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Subject to drainage and utility easements and building setback lines shown on said plat.

The property herein conveyed is the same as that conveyed from George R. Spooner to James W. Winko and Sandra E. Winko on October 22, 1999 by deed of record in Deed Book 208, Page 166, said Clerk's Office.

Sandra E. Winko died a resident of Peach County, Georgia on September 29, 2011, and her will was probated in solemn form on September 16, 2016. Grantor herein, James W. Winko, Sr. is the sole legatee and devisee under the will.

As described in Deed Book 554, Page 409. Further described as **Map & Parcel 064F022.**

1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2025
3278

NEW SHERIFF

CONTINUED FROM 1A

work on getting us back up to staff and once we get back up to staff, we're gonna look on adding more staff."

Shannon, Byron born and raised, will have worked with the Peach County Sheriff's Office for 28 years as of Feb. 27, 2025. He started his law enforcement career as a jailer and worked his way up the ranks, joining the patrol in 2000. In 2002, he was promoted to the shift supervisor and was promoted to Sergeant on patrol in 2005. He later went into investigation in the early 2010s and then went back to patrol supervisor when covid hit in 2020, due to staffing issues.

At one point in his career, Shannon was a school resource officer at Fort Valley Middle School. He also took part in the Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety (C.H.A.M.P.S.) program for multiple years at Fort Valley Middle School as well.

Shannon has wanted to be an officer since he was young, having admired the way that officers carried themselves. Shannon has always enjoyed helping others which further pointed him in the direction of law enforcement.

As Shannon worked his way up in law enforcement, people said he'd make a good sheriff and as the years progressed, he thought about looking into

the position. The opportunity arose when Deese announced his retirement and wholeheartedly endorsed Shannon to run for Sheriff.

When he was young, his father would take Shannon with him to work, which is how Shannon met Deese. Both families worked in the housing construction industry, with Deese's family working on the exterior and Shannon's family working on the interior. Seeing Deese work his way up in the PCSO was another reason Shannon decided to go into law enforcement.

Shannon is the first African American Sheriff in Peach County and is proud to represent Peach County.

"Peach County turned 100 years old in 2024 and it just amazed me that with the hundred year anniversary of Peach County, it comes with the first African American Sheriff. I'm proud of that!" he said.

Shannon wanted to thank those who supported and encouraged him during the election. He plans to work hard to meet the expectations set upon him.

"I would like to thank everyone that supported me or voted for me!" Shannon said. "I'm really looking forward to doing them a great job, doing the job they voted me in for."

Shannon has multiple initiatives for his department he is looking to incorporate, which include strengthening community engagement, raising mental health awareness and

providing mental health training for his officers, supporting Peach County youths, and ending gang violence.

Shannon wants to further improve the Peach County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) relationship with the community. He wants to look into creating a citizens academy, where the public can learn about police training, as well as look into organizing neighborhood watches to help make Peach County safer.

Shannon is looking into fostering mental health training initiatives for his officers, so that they are equipped to handle situations that involve individuals experiencing mental health crises. He hopes this will create a more compassionate and effective approach to policing.

Having worked with Peach County youths for a number of years, Shannon knows how important it is to provide supportive environments for young people to thrive. He hopes to create and encourage mentorship programs that promote positive learning environments.

With the recent uptick in gang violence in Peach County, Shannon is looking for ways to combat gang violence effectively. He is planning to work with community organizations and schools to help at-risk youth and support them. He is looking to implement targeted strategies that focus on prevention, intervention, and enforcement to reduce gang violence in Peach County.

Healthy surplus, long list of needs driving state budget

By Dave Williams

Bureau Chief

Capital Beat News Service

ATLANTA - With tax relief, disaster assistance, infrastructure investments and prison upgrades on his agenda, Gov. Brian Kemp Thursday proposed major budget increases, particularly in the spending plan covering the rest of this fiscal year.

Kemp's \$40.5 billion fiscal 2025 mid-year budget, \$4.4 billion above the spending plan the General Assembly adopted last spring, dips into the state's healthy surplus to bankroll a \$1 billion one-time tax rebate, \$615 million storm recovery package for victims of Hurricane Helene, and \$1.7 billion for transportation and water projects.

A \$603 million allocation for improvements to Georgia's prison system is spread out over both the mid-year budget and the governor's more modest \$37.7 billion fiscal 2026 spending plan. The 2026 budget, which takes effect July 1, also includes most of the funding for a \$1 billion rollback of the state's income tax rate from 5.39% to 5.19%.

"At the end of the day, that's your money - not the government's," Kemp said Thursday during his annual State of the State address to a joint session of the Georgia House and Senate. "We believe you should keep more of it."

Kemp first responded to Hurricane Helene by repurposing \$100 million to the Georgia Development Authority last November to provide direct financial support

for farmers and timber producers who suffered losses from the massive storm.

The \$615 million relief package the governor requested Thursday includes \$200 million to cover cleanup costs already incurred by the Georgia Department of Transportation, \$150 million to help both the state and local governments match federal disaster assistance, \$100 million to the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission to offset the agency's disaster relief costs, \$50 million to the state Department of Administrative Services to cover storm-related damage to state properties, and \$15.7 million for the Georgia Forestry Commission.

The \$1.7 billion infrastructure package includes \$530 million for the DOT for highway projects critical to statewide economic development and \$250 million in grants to local governments for road projects.

Another \$502 million would be used to build surface water-supply projects in Coastal Georgia as an alternative to dipping into environmentally fragile groundwater to supply the huge Hyundai electric-vehicle manufacturing plant now under construction west of Savannah. A new water intake on the Savannah River is expected to deliver 20 million gallons a day by 2030.

Another \$250 million would go to support water and sewer projects across the state through low-interest loans to local communities.

The prison package follows re-

lease of a Justice Department audit last fall that accused the Georgia prison system of violating inmates' constitutional rights by failing to protect them from widespread violence. It includes 4% pay raises for correctional officers, 8% increases for mental health professionals working in state prisons, and funds to hire an additional 330 guards.

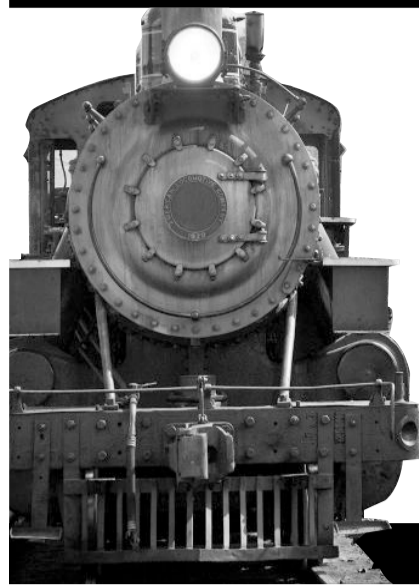
Another \$371.7 million in the mid-year budget and \$68.2 million in the fiscal 2026 spending plan would go toward infrastructure upgrades, while \$97 million would be used to improve inmate health care.

The two budgets also fully fund Georgia's Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula for students in grades K-12, something the state has only been able to do in recent years after building up a \$16 billion surplus.

The new private-school vouchers program will be funded in fiscal 2026 for the first time at \$141 million, equivalent to 1% of the QBE, a limit set by legislation the Republican-controlled General Assembly passed last year establishing the program.

For the second year in a row, the state can afford to fund building projects with cash rather than borrowing. The \$1.5 billion capital projects budget would be split between this year and next.

The House and Senate Appropriations committees will conduct three days of joint hearings on the spending proposals next week.



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2025 SNOW AROUND PEACH COUNTY

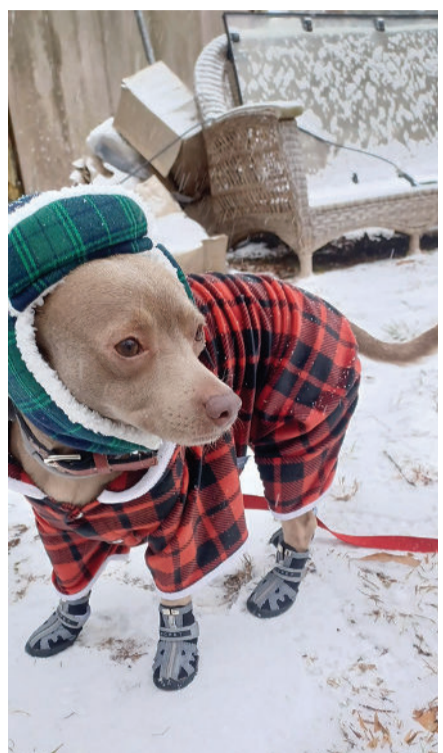


Photo by Debra Pourchot/Peach Talk of the Town FB

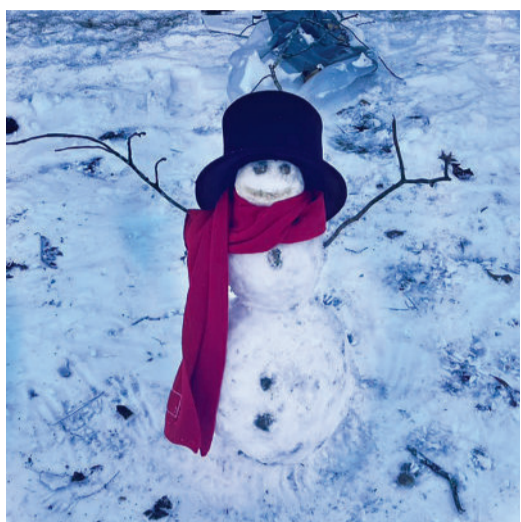


Photo by Maria Christine Grant/Peach Talk of the Town FB



Photo by Belinda Harbuck Joyner /FB
Snow Street, Fort Valley, GA.



Peach Orchard in snow.

Photo by Randy Wise /FB



Photo PCSS/FB

Why did the chicken cross the road?
To get to the warmer side.



Photo by Ida McGhee Peach
Talk of the Town/
FB
Snow Angel
in Peach
County.



Park in Byron covered in fluffy white snow.

Photo by City of Byron /FB



Photos by City of Byron /FB

(above) Train Depot., Byron, GA. (below) Flags at Byron City Hall during snow fall Tuesday (Jan 21, 2025) evening.



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