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# The Leader Tribune

**Peach County's Newspaper**

Vol. 137, Issue No. 08 • 2 Section • 14 Pages

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

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## Four Teenagers Arrested for Murder of 24-Year-Old Man

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – Fort Valley Chief of Police DJ Flores stated four teenagers have been arrested for the shooting of 24-year-old Kerry Ross Jr. during a press release on Saturday, Feb. 15.

Ross was shot and killed on Jan. 13, one day after his 24th birthday, at the 600 block of Miller Street and Walden Street. Ross' family constructed a memorial for him where he died, with teddy bears, balloons, and pictures. During the press conference, the Fort Valley Police along with Ross' family discussed the arrests of 18-year-olds Jakail Hillsman, Damontae Lockhart, Alex Holden and an unnamed 15-year-old.

Hillsman, Lockhart and Holden have been charged with malice murder, felony murder, two counts of aggravated assault, aggravated battery, and possession

of a firearm during the commission of a crime. At this time, it is unclear if the 15-year-old has received similar charges, or if they will be charged as a minor or an adult.

Flores stated that the police believe this incident was not a random shooting, but was planned based on the actions of the four individuals. Flores stated that the group planned to confront and cause harm to Ross.

This investigation was a joint effort of multiple agencies including the Fort Valley Police Department, the Peach County Sheriff's Office, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office.

At this time, the FVPD is still investigating if anyone else was involved in the shooting. If you have any information, the FVPD urges you to call them at (478) 825-3383.



Mugshots provided by the Fort Valley Police Department  
Alex Holden, Damontae Lockhart and Jakail Hillsman.

## Peach Commissioners Deny Rezoning On Housers Mill Road

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – The Peach County Board of Commissioners has denied the rezoning request of Graham Engineering Services for a property located on Housers Mill Road after a public hearing in their February monthly meeting. Multiple concerns have been raised by those who live on the road.

The property, 10.32 acres, is currently RR-1, Residential District, with the applicant looking to change the zoning to R-2, Medium Density Residential District. The rezoning request was denied 3-2 with Chairman Martin Moseley and Commissioner Roy Lewis opposing.

In addition to the first public hearing, there was also a public hearing regarding the Animal Control Ordinance. The ordinance was approved as amended by the commissioners.

Concerning old business, Area Manager Susan Arnette

presented the 2025 financial year contract of the Peach County 5307 Transit System between the Board of Commissioners and Resource Management Systems Inc. The contract was approved pending the County Attorney's review.

Regarding new business, Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Mackey discussed two grants, the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant and the Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionately Impacted Communities Grant. He discussed that Triple Point Engineering is overseeing the South Peach Park Trail Expansion with the use of the Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionately Impacted Communities Grant. Mackey asked that the commissioners consider Triple Point Engineering to help with the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant for North Peach Park as well, which the commission-

ers approved. Next, County Administrator/County Clerk April H. Hodges requested a budget amendment for employee appreciation, which was approved.

Chief County Marshal Todd Shepherd had a new business license application for ACP Concrete Pumping, which the commissioners approved.

Commissioner Lewis had two items, the first was discussing the Local Road Assistance (LRA) Grant. Lewis continued asking that the commissioner consider fixing Hayes Road and Hayes Court, which the commissioners approved. Next, Lewis discussed the need for a change order with Felton Woods Road Paving with the price being \$134,820, which the commissioners approved.

Commissioner Yoder asked the Peach County Board of Commissioners to consider hosting a Business After Hours in collaboration with

**HOUSERS MILL RD  
CONTINUED PG 5A**



## Enacts Moratorium on Gas Stations, Hotels

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

BYRON, Ga. – The Byron Mayor and City Council have approved a resolution to put a moratorium on hotels and to extend the current moratorium on gas stations, travel centers, and convenience stores in the City of Byron. The moratorium on gas stations will be until June 30, 2025, and the moratorium on hotels will be until July 31, 2025.

Next, the council held a public hearing to consider making amendments to Appendix A - Land Development, Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Regulations of the Municipal Code of the City of Byron. No one spoke in favor or against the amendments.

The council approved an application to annex part of Camp Benjamin Hawkins, per the request of Land Holding LLC, located at 2251 Boy Scout Road. There was then a public hearing to consider a rezoning request for said property to be switched from County R-AG to City I-1. No one spoke in favor or against the rezoning, and the council passed the request unanimously.

Following that, the council authorized the Mayor to sign an audit engagement letter with Mauldin & Jenkins, Certified Public Accountants, to perform the 2024 Audit for the City of

Byron. The council also approved the creation of two new bank accounts, one regarding system development charges and the other regarding fire fees.

Next, the council passed a resolution to enact an emergency action plan for City Hall. Following that, the council approved the pursuit of two safety grants with the US Department of Transportation which could lead to the installation of sidewalks along GA State Route 49. Starting at Main Street, one option would have a sidewalk going to Freshway and the other would go over the interstate to the Peach Shops.

There were multiple first readings for the 2025 Ordinances. Ordinance (2025-1) is meant to amend Appendix A - Land Development, Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Regulations of the Municipal Code of the City of Byron. Ordinance (2025-2) will limit the number of gas stations, travel centers, and convenience stores allowed in the City of Byron. Ordinance (2025-3) regards the annexation of a property located on Hwy 247. Ordinance (2025-4) regards the annexation of a part of Camp Benjamin Hawkins.

During the citizen's time to address the council, Avlynn Marie Flye of Troop 919 passed out invitations to her Eagle Court of Honor to each council member.

## Fort Valley Lions Club Shares Valentine's Day Love with Health and Rehab Residents



Contributed

Fort Valley, GA – The Fort Valley Lions Club recently visited the residents of Fort Valley Health and Rehab Center

to spread joy and warmth for Valentine's Day. Club members delivered special "Share the Love" boxes filled with

**VALENTINES  
CONTINUED PG 6A**



# Arbor Day in Peach County



**Contributed**

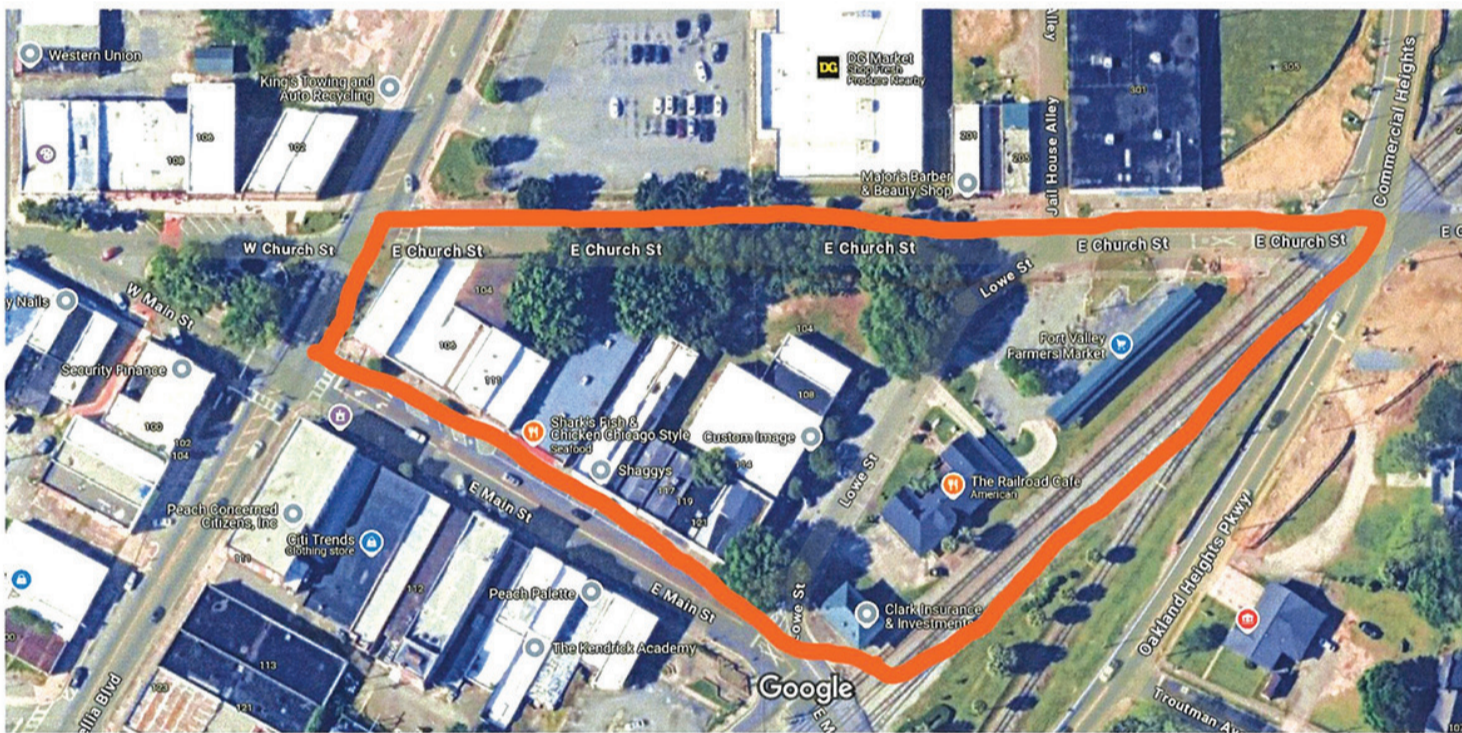
Arbor Day is a day set aside for schools, civic clubs, and other organizations, as well as individuals, to reflect on the importance of trees in our state and across our nation. The holiday was initiated by Julius Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872. Morton was a pioneer who traveled from Detroit to Nebraska in 1854. There were no trees in sight, so Morton set out to plant millions of trees. These served as windbreaks, prevented soil erosion and provided habitat, shade and fuel, among many other things. Mr. Morton convinced many groups to join in. Today Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states. The most common date for the state observance is the last Friday in April — National Arbor Day — but a number of state Arbor Days are at other times to

coincide with the best tree planting weather, from January and February in the south to May in the far north. Brian Kemp, Governor of Georgia proclaimed Friday, February 21, 2025 as Arbor Day in Georgia 2025. Because of Georgia's warmer climate, the perfect time to plant trees is the last part of February and the first part of March. Arbor Day in Georgia has been designated as the third Friday in February. On Wednesday, February 12, 2025 the Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley teamed with FFA students at Peach County High School to bag over 300 pine trees to gift to each fourth grader in Peach County in celebration of Arbor Day. The Loblolly pine trees were purchased by the Magnolia Garden Club from the Georgia Forestry located in Byromville, Georgia. On

Friday, February 14, 2025 garden club members Delise Knight and Sandra Haga visited each of the elementary schools in Peach County and after a brief discussion of why trees are important, presented each student with a pine tree for them to take home and plant. We encourage everyone to celebrate Arbor Day in Georgia by planting a tree of their choice. Now is the perfect time to plant. An Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony will be hosted by the Magnolia Garden Club and held in Fort Valley on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 1:00 PM in South Peach Park. Trees will be planted in memory of former Peach County Tax Commissioner, W. L. Brown, and former Magnolia Garden Club members Billy Patterson and Laura Webb Byrd. All are invited to attend.



## Planned Electrical Outage



By FVUC

UPDATED NOTICE: Planned Electrical Outage - Sunday, February 23, 2025. Please be advised that power will be shut off in downtown that will affect the properties located within the area designated in the attached map. The outage will begin at 8am and will last approximately 7 hours. Thank you in advance for your patience and we apologize for any inconvenience.



**NOTICE**

The City of Fort Valley is accepting applications to appoint a board member to the Fort Valley Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to fill the vacant position of an unexpired term. The appointment to this position will expire on April 21, 2026.

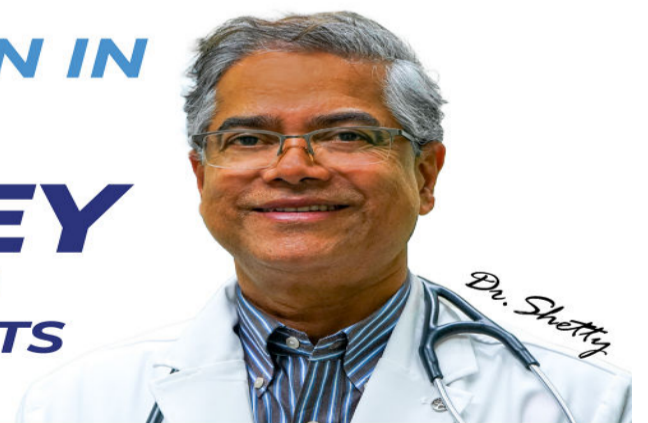
To apply submit résumé or letter of interest to the Fort Valley City Hall, 204 West Church Street, Fort Valley, Ga. 31030, Monday-Friday from 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

The deadline for applying is March 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Diane Brown | City Clerk  
City of Fort Valley  
204 West Church St.  
Fort Valley, Ga. 31030  
Office | 478-825-8261  
Email: [dbrown@fortvalleyga.org](mailto:dbrown@fortvalleyga.org)



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# Byron Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

Contributed by Byron Lions Club

One of the biggest events of the year in Byron is the very popular Byron Lions Club Annual Jethro Johnson Pancake Breakfast coming up on March 16 at the Mickey Fuller Masonic Lodge #720 at 106 Gralan Drive (behind Rooks Funeral Home). For only \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids (ages 3-12) you will get a full pancake breakfast accompanied by scrambled eggs and sausage, with coffee, orange

juice, and milk for the kids. Plus, you'll be supporting your community, as all proceeds help the Lions help others.

The breakfast is held each year on a Sunday in early spring in honor of Jethro Johnson, who was a long-serving member of the Byron Lions Club, and a community leader. Breakfast will be hot and ready to eat before church, starting at 7:30 AM, or come hungry up until 1pm. Tickets are available from any Lions Club member or at

the door. 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

# Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



# Uncle Sam Wants You And So Do We!

Contributed by the Byron Area Historical Society

It is hard to believe that it has been almost five years since the COVID-19 outbreak! Where has the time gone? Unfortunately, the Byron Area Historical Society, like many other groups and organizations, was basically shut down and

have been inactive since then. BUT... we are back and want you to join with us in learning and sharing the history of the Byron area. We have five years to catch up on, and a lot of history to discuss.

We have scheduled a reorganizational meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Byron Depot. We will dis-

cuss our plans for the future and refreshments will be served. The history of our town is too important to be lost or forgotten. Join us as we take the first steps to making new history in Byron. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peggy Rigby at 478 956-3957 Or 478 542-3335.

# Spring Is Just Around The Corner!

Contributed by Byron Lions Club

It won't be long till the peach blossoms, cherry blossoms and Bradford pears are in bloom. In fact, some of them already are blooming! It is a beautiful time of year. The Byron Lions Club has a way to make your home/porch/deck even more beautiful.

We are again selling absolutely gorgeous hanging baskets—both flowering and foliage. There are seven varieties

of 10 inch foliage baskets available for \$15.00 each—Spider Plants, Purple Wandering Jews, Variegated Swedish Ivy, White Wandering Jews, Bridal Veils, Bolivian Jews, and Green Swedish Ivy. There are seven varieties of blooming 10 inch baskets available—Petunia, Geranium, Fuchsia, New Guinea, Verbena, Scaveola, and Lantana. They are very hardy as well as beautiful. They are \$20.00 each. You can also order a 14 inch wire Cocoa basket filled with a variety of flowers for \$40.00.

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS MARCH 14.

We won't know for sure when delivery will be until we place the orders. Baskets will be delivered to you as soon as possible after we receive them. To order call either Frany Washko at (478) 396-0131 or Marlene Humphry at (478) 918-3666, or see any Byron Lions Club member. Don't miss this opportunity to help the Byron Lions provide needed services in the community and add natural beauty to your home at the same time.

# Election Board Meeting

February 20th, 2025,

at 205 W. Church Street,

Fort Valley, GA 31030 at

Fort Valley Courthouse At 4 P.M.

We Are discussing combining Precincts Byron 1 and Byron 2.

# CITY OF FORT VALLEY MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY-2025

Location: City Hall, 204 West Church Street, Fort Valley Ga. 31030. Office: 478-825-8261

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING Thursday, February 20, 2025 Time: 6:30 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 868 3026 8428 Passcode: 236306

# TROJAN NATION TD CLUB

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

# AMERICAN LEGION MEETINGS

Veterans, consider joining the American Legion Frederick Withoff Post 76 in Peach County, GA. We are an organization of Veterans supporting Veterans and the local community.

Regular Post Meetings are held on the Third Thursday of Every Month, Social Hour with American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Guests at 1700 (5:00pm) followed by the Meeting Start at 1800 (6:00pm) at 1212 Peach Parkway, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

We can be reached at our Facebook Page (American Legion Post 76 - Peach County GA) or via e-mail (legionpost76pcga@gmail.com).

All Veterans and Spouses are encouraged to participate.

# ATTENTION: VETERANS

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

# FORT VALLEY DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - BOARD MEETING

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

# PEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSIONS

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

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

The Board also conducts Public Hearings to consider

zoning requests at 6:30pm during regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

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

# FT. VALLEY UTILITY COMMISSION

500 Anthoine St, Fort Valley. The Commission doors are open to customers from 8:00am - 5:00pm.

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

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

# KIWANIS CLUB OF FORT VALLEY

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

# PEACH PUBLIC LIBRARIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES THOMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY, FORT VALLEY, GA

REGULAR MEETING WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025 AT 5:15PM at the THOMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY, FORT VALLEY, GA

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

# MIDDLE GEORGIA ART ASSOCIATION

"Abstract" Exhibit Jan 17 - Feb 15

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

# 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](mailto:Lrgiles77@gmail.com)

# 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 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.

# Currently Accepting Applications for 2025-2026 Year! 2025-2026 FORT VALLEY HEAD START

700 Spruce St, Ft. Valley, GA 31030. (478)825-8584.

Ages 3 -5. Required Documentation: Proof of birth, Social Security Card, Immunization 3231, Medicaid/Insurance card, Proof of income/SNAP, SSI, TANF, Well child check, Dental exam, Ga public health 3300, Verification of income & housing. [www.mgcaa.org](http://www.mgcaa.org)

# 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.

# BYRON AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP

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

# 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.

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

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

# ADDITIONAL COUNSELING

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

# 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

# BYRON ROTARY CLUB

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

# 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 5:00pm.

# 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, GA.

# Police Beat

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

# Byron Arrests/Citations

Bean, Jonathan David, 37, Byron, GA: Failure To Appear

Billings, Artez Tramaine, 36, Byron, GA: Driving With Suspended License

Jackson, Madison Nichole, 20, Atlanta, GA: Probation Violation

Yopez, Rogelio Pancho, 47, Byron, GA: Driving W/O Valid License, Failure To Maintain Insurance, Knowingly Driving Motor Vehicle On Suspended, Canceled, Or Revoked Registration, Possession And Use Of Drug Related Objects, Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance

# Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Blalock, Crystal, 24, Fort Valley, GA: Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers - Misdemeanor

Driving While License Suspended, 28, Fort Valley, GA: Criminal Trespass, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers, Aggravated Stalking, Disorderly Conduct, Simple Battery, Affray (Fighting), Criminal Trespass, Criminal Trespass

Nalls, Rodney Keith, 41, Fort Valley, GA: Simple Battery - Family Violence, Aggravated Battery

Roberts, Alexis Lamont, 40, Perry, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Rumph, Destiny M, 24, Fort Valley, GA: Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Rumph, Tenetra Vershae, 40, Fort Valley, GA: Fraud In Obtaining Public Assistance, Food Stamps, Or Medicaid

# Peach County Sheriff's Office

# Arrests/Citations

Adams, Alaysheia Uvada Semora, 31, Warner Robins, Ga: Failure To Dim Lights, Driving W/O Valid License

Bivins, Jason M, 38, Bonaire, GA: Hands Free, DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Failure To Maintain Lane, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container

Ferrell, Joshua Scott, 40, Warner Robins, GA:

Herrera, Misael, 34, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Hill, Debrosha Carlese, 24, Fort Valley, GA: Driving While License Suspended

James, Percell Rashad, 38, Fort Valley, GA: Window Tint Violation, Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers - Misdemeanor, Expired Tag, Stalking

Kinsey, Christopher, 49, Byron, GA: Theft By Conversion - Misdemeanor

Lucas, Henry, 43, Fort Valley, GA: Driving While License Suspended

Nalls, Christopher Charles, 49, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Oneal, Grady Alexander, 21, Warner Robins, GA: Hit And Run; Duty Of Driver To Stop At Or Return To Scene Of Accident

Travis, Daijah Janae, 25, Decatur, GA: Knowingly Driving Motor Vehicle On Suspended, Canceled, Or Revoked Registration, Failure To Maintain Insurance, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits)

# GA State Patrol Perry Arrests

Nelson, Johnny Lee, 34, Midfield, AL: Expired Tag, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies, Driving While License Suspended, Seat Belt Violation, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Possession Of A Schedule I Controlled Substance

Warren, James Clarene, 67, Fort Valley, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Improper/Erratic Lane Change, Failure To Obey Stop Sign, Failure To Exercise Due Care

# Bibb Dept. of Community Supervision Arrests

Asbell, James Franklin, 54, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Call or Text 478-955-1999



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## Critical Temperatures



**JEFF COOK**  
EXTENSION AGENT

With yet another arctic blast coming our way I thought it might be good to talk about critical temperatures for fruit buds and flowers. Coming off of several warm days this could be very important to this year's fruit crop.

Most of our fruiting plants and trees require a certain amount of cold temperatures to produce good quality fruit. Once that requirement is met it takes a certain amount of heat units to initiate flowering. With temperatures well above average through the first of February trees and buds have definitely begun accumulating heat units. If you have looked at any of our fruit trees you are sure to notice that the flower buds are beginning to swell.

So, what do low 20's, predicted for Thursday and Friday, mean for these developing flowers? Different plants have different tolerances to cold, and different stages of growth are better at handling cold as well. So what are the critical temperatures for fruit crops that we like to grow?

For peaches a dormant bud can handle extremely cold temperatures. The swollen buds that we are seeing in most of our area can handle 18-21 degrees before buds are killed. As we begin to see a little pink the flower is more sensitive and can only handle 25 degrees. At full bloom and post bloom that critical temperature is

28 degrees. Those are the temperatures that we can expect to see 10% bud kill. The temperatures that would cause 90% bud kill are a bit lower, and the duration of the cold event also plays an important role in bud mortality. These same numbers can be used for plums.

For Strawberries the numbers are similar. Buds that have not yet emerged are hardy down into the low teens. As buds emerge they become more sensitive. Emerged buds can handle around 25 degrees and open flowers can handle 28 if the air is dry.

Blueberries can handle low 20's as flowers begin to swell, and 26 degrees as the flowers are about to open. After flowers are open temperatures below 28 degrees, even for a few minutes can cause damage.

Pears have also begun to swell, but if the weather forecast is correct they should be ok. Dormant buds can handle 15 degrees. 20 degrees can injure buds as they begin to swell. And once you start seeing white flower parts 26 degrees can cause at least 10% mortality.

The stage of growth that most of our fruiting crops are at should help protect them from this latest cold weather, but we may see some injury in low chill crops and strawberries that have been pushed to be early. General Beauregard Lee predicted that we would have at least 6 more weeks of winter. I just wish we could do something about the trend of warm weather in February. This has become the norm and is one of the biggest factors reducing fruit production in Georgia over the last several seasons.

Contact our office if you have any questions or comments. 478-825-6466, 478-862-5496 or mackiv@uga.edu.

## Heart Disease, Leading Cause of Death



**WADE YODER**  
LT COLUMNIST

Most of us have probably already lost multiple people in our life from this disease, and it has caused many of the younger generation to live much shorter lives than that of their parents.

We must look at what we are doing different, and the largest changes seem to be, stress, physical activity, and diet. We have also been advised to eat low fat foods, which is a farce. The problem with fat happens when we get a spike in sugar levels when consuming a high fat meal. They are finding now that the real culprit to our cardiopulmonary system is sugar.

Culprits of Heart Disease: Hypertension- too high LDL Cholesterol- Obesity- Diabetes- Stress- side effects of Cigarettes. The first 5 are oft times preventable and treatable through diet, exercise, weight reduction and staying at a good weight, we all know how to lower the effects of cigarettes...STOP.

### Tips:

If you feel your blood pressure rising: take a slow walk, or some slow continuous state exercise or activity. This will start warming your blood and works as a vasodilation (relaxation) of your blood vessels allowing for better blood flow thus lowering blood pressure.

If you have high cholesterol: Eat foods high in Omega 3 and heart healthy fats such as flaxseeds, soybeans, pumpkin seeds, pecans, walnuts, tuna, salmon, mackerel and herring. Also start eating foods high in soluble fiber, such as legumes, seeds, beans, vegetables and fruits, eat these especially with high fat meals. Soluble fiber helps lower cholesterol by carrying out bile through our stool.

Note: your body produces bile to digest fats, and the soluble fiber keeps it from absorbing back into your system so that you pass it out through your waste. This forces your body to make more bile, and your liver makes new bile salts with guess what.... "Cholesterol!"

Important: keep in mind that you are made up of cells and every cell in your body needs cholesterol for proper function, keeping cells from crystalizing, bile production for digestion, hormone production, helps nerves communicate with each other, combination of UV light from the sun and cholesterol in the skin helps make vitamin D. This list could continue, but I'm

sure you get the point.

Obesity: Exercise and stay active. Stay away from sugary foods and drink, also stay away from high calorie intake prior to periods of inactivity- as your body stores energy it doesn't need in your fat cells.

Diabetes: Most of the diabetes we hear about is Type 2 and most times is brought on by a sugary, starchy, high carb diet and lack of physical activity. Insulin spikes resulting from sugar spikes cause lesions and plaque in the arteries, this is responsible for hardening of the arteries and for cholesterol sticking to the arteries.

Stress: Try to stay stress free. Stress puts a load on the systems of our body that we're not meant to continue to carry and makes it so they cannot work properly, "whether mental or physical." If you're going through stressful times or situations, "it's crucial that you find your de-stressing niche! Meditation techniques are helpful and btw whether a believer or not prayer has been proven to help. When you're stressed and worried, prayer combined with faith simply feels good when you can hand it over to Someone that you know can and wants to handle it. What works for someone else may not work for you, so find out what it is that can totally engage mind and body. Oft times when you come back to the situation, it will not have control over you, but -you over it!

Cigarettes: If you smoke cigarettes, quit! If you buy cigarettes to smoke, you are paying and taking the time to hurt yourself by inhaling toxic chemicals that hurt the lining of your arteries. It also makes your lungs look like the inside of a smokestack and are putting in jeopardy the most important thing for life support, (your capability for oxygen intake and uptake).

Medicine can be a very important part of intervening between us and chronic disease but keeping medicine ahead of lifestyle changes for any chronic disease is like staying tethered to a tow truck after you're out of the ditch and the longer you stay tied to it the more counterproductive the tow truck becomes; it simply doesn't work and this backwards way of doing things will eventually cause other problems. When you take medicine, your body must recover or deal with two things, and the longer you stay on the medicine, the more likely you will suffer from the potential side effects on the warning label.

Our heart pumps around 20 quarts of blood per minute (at rest) and will pump a total of around 1.5 million gallons of blood (into a network of approximately 50,000 miles of blood vessels) every year for us! When it stops, we stop, so let's take care of this life-giving pump inside our chest!

## Georgia's Diversified Economy Is A New Strength

**Charlie Harper**  
Guest Columnist

Longtime readers of this column know that I put a heavy emphasis on Georgia's economic development efforts. These tell us a lot about who we are as a state, and more importantly, who we're going to be.

A half century ago Georgia was the banking center of the South. Atlanta was expanding at a rate that growth was an industry unto itself. Airline consolidation and the emergence of Hartsfield Jackson airport as the world's largest and busiest air hub gave us an edge in the transportation and logistics industry.

Almost two decades ago much of that changed, quickly. The housing crisis stopped residential construction cold. One quarter of Georgia's banks failed in the aftermath, while many of the former larger banks had already seen their headquarters move to other states during the 1990's industry consolidation. Delta airlines had a round trip through bankruptcy.

Prior to these events, it was widely accepted as fact that Georgia was well insulated from recessions. We weren't a manufacturing center, and thus the ebbs and flows of the business cycle were not as prominent when factories went through periodic layoffs. When the employment centers of the rust belt caught the flu, we merely had a cold.

The era of the housing and banking crisis changed the script. Our recession was deeper and longer than most in the

country experienced. Governor Nathan Deal set to change that, and to rebuild Georgia's economy by incentivizing growing industries around Georgia's natural assets.

Governor Kemp expanded on this platform by shifting the focus toward rural Georgia. Many of the success stories are manufacturers, the largest being new automotive assembly plants. Hyundai is now fully operational in Bryan County outside of Savannah. East of Atlanta, Rivian is again putting together its construction schedule for a delayed but still in progress factory near Social Circle Georgia.

The importance of landing these plants has been telegraphed to all who would listen. Pat Wilson, the state's Commissioner of Economic Development, is on record of stating this isn't just about the jobs of tomorrow's automotive industry, but about keeping the tens of thousands of Georgians who currently work in the auto supply chain employed.

Partially because of federal incentives and changes to the regulatory structure that put a heavy hand on the scales to strongly encourage - some would say force - consumers to purchase EV's, the entire industry is now viewed by many in partisan terms. It is entirely possible to support the emerging technology for those who decide an EV is right for them while rejecting the notion that taxpayers should subsidize upper income consumers who buy luxury cars or EPA emission tar-

gets that are virtually impossible for internal combustion powered cars to meet.

Too many are cheering for these projects to fail. Some of them will. And a lot of it has more to do with basic capitalism than shifting political winds.

Take the case of FREYR battery. The Norwegian company had planned a \$2.6 billion battery plant to be built southwest of Atlanta in Coweta County. Last month they notified the county and state they no longer wish to move forward with their plans. The site will now go back into inventory for a future employer.

They made it clear all levels of government "provided extraordinary assistance and support" but the economic climate no longer justifies the investment and its associated risk. So what happened here.

Economists speak in terms of economic profits. Unlike when accountants speak of profits, which are clearly measured revenues in excess of specific costs, economic profits are returns to capital and/or labor that are in excess of expected returns for similar investments.

New and high growth industries often provide economic profits...for a while. These profits tend to attract surplus capital, with new firms seeking to get these same positive returns for their owners. The new entrants then compete against each other, driving down prices until profits return to normal. If profits keep going down, firms will leave the space entirely and

re-allocate their capital until things are somewhat normal, or what economists call "equilibrium".

When Tesla became the world's most valuable car company while only producing a fraction of what the larger companies produce, investors took notice. Capital flowed freely into the industry for would be competitors and their suppliers. Georgia captured many of them and their capital expenditure dollars.

Not all of them will make it. This is a necessary part of capitalism. Some firms will thrive while others fail. We need to accept that this means the market is healthy, not that someone somewhere made a bad decision.

We're also going to have to accept that the future will always be different than the present. We've successfully diversified our employment base beyond banking, real estate, and logistics.

A decade of being the number one state to do business has paid dividends with entirely new industries. Each of these new industries comes with their own boom and bust cycles, each having their own ebbs and flows.

We'll need to understand we'll hurt when each one has the low point of their natural business cycles. We need to pray that each doesn't have the low point at the same time so that the strong can carry the struggling in order to keep Georgia working.

## Georgia school districts prepare to block property tax relief while holding billions in reserves

**By Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation, Guest Columnist**

Across Georgia, public school districts are refusing to go along with a reduction in property taxes - all while raking in taxpayer dollars like never before.

As an example, consider these eye-popping facts about the Burke County School District, which serves about 3,700 students just south of Augusta:

- Between 2019 and 2024, Burke's per-pupil funding soared by 84% to almost \$31,800 - the highest figure in the state, and more than double the state average.
- During the same timeframe,

the district's reserve fund balance ballooned by \$160 million to a total of \$216 million - almost \$60,000 per pupil.

- In 2024, the district took in \$42 million more than it spent. The surplus was so great that the district could forgo local tax revenues this year and still have more money in the bank (per pupil) than every other district in the state.

It seems Burke has more money than it knows how to spend. And yet, like far too many of its peers around the state, the district wants to reject Georgia's new floating home-stead exemption.

This exemption would protect residents from huge future

tax hikes by limiting increases in the assessed value of a home to the rate of inflation. The measure passed the General Assembly with overwhelming bipartisan majorities, and Georgia voters approved it last fall by a 63% to 37% margin.

Burke is the most extreme case, but similar scenes are playing out elsewhere. School districts (along with counties and any cities that levy property taxes) have until March 1 to opt out of the exemption if they so desire.

As school boards in particular rush to dodge the new exemption, they're demonstrating just how out of touch they have become. That's because Geor-

gia's school districts are more flush with cash than ever before.

Again, Burke County is at one end of the spectrum. But let's look at the median school district in terms of reserves per pupil. That would be Toombs County, where world-famous Vidalia onions are grown. That district has piled up more than \$4,000 per pupil in the bank, a figure that has nearly quadrupled in just five years. Meanwhile, Toombs' per-pupil revenues have leaped by 46%; taxpayers are sending the district almost \$5,000 more per student than in 2019.

**PROPERTY TAX  
CONTINUED PG 5A**

## The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

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### 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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# When Heaven's Door Slams Shut



**BILLY POWELL**  
Parables to Ponder  
COLUMNIST

The scripture states that once a man accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior, that he becomes a new creature in Christ, one who repents of his past sins and vows to turn his life around. Should this man fall prey again to the corruptible temptations of the flesh that previously drug him down and refuses to take steps to overcome his addictions, he thereby commits spiritual death and is in danger of hell's fire.

Dr. J. Harold Smith in his famous sermon, "God's Three Deadlines," states that such a person is guilty of "sinning away his day of grace" and is beyond forgiveness. "When the individual continues in griev-

ous sin, the day will come when God will knock for the last time. He will make His last plea," cautioned Dr. Smith. "Then He will take flight and leave that person desolate, doomed, and damned forever." When God withdraws His grace, according to Dr. Smith, the individual will be "turned over to the devil for destruction of the flesh."

Hebrews 6: 4-6 issues a parallel warning: "For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who were once enlightened, those who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of God's word and the powers of the age to come. If they abandon their faith, they are crucifying the Son of God again and exposing Him to public shame." This passage is saying that the man who has experienced the immeasurable relief of receiving the free gift of God's forgiveness is without excuse if he returns to the truly vile sins that once characterized his life. "If we sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins," asserts Hebrews 10: 26.

It is bad enough when a church member falls into egregious sin and brings shame to himself and discredit on his church, but it is worse when he crucifies Christ afresh by refusing the atoning power of the Savior's blood shed for him. According to Hebrew 6: 7-8, the fate of unrepentant sinners is the same as unproductive crops that produce thorns and thistles: "God blesses the land which has drunk the rain that falls upon it and brings forth vegetation to those who cultivate it; but if it produces thorns and thistles, it is in imminent danger of God's curse and will be destroyed by fire."

There is another belief that "once saved, always saved," meaning that one who has accepted Christ cannot lose his salvation. This belief had its origin in 16th century Calvinism. Contrarily, the Catholic Catechism 161-162 declares that the precious gift of salvation can be lost. Christians who have returned to "walking with the devil" should take heed before Heaven's Door Slams Shut.



# 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

## LENTE 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

"Verily I say, this is the Day in which mankind can behold the Face, and hear the Voice, of the Promised One."

Baha'u'llah

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

and leave a text message.

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

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

Bianca Ballard (478)825-8452.

## SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

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

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

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

## TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

505 State University Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

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

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

For additional information, call 478-825-7349.

## USHERS TEMPLE CME CHURCH

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

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

# Scholarships Offered to Teachers for 7-Day, 82-Mile, 3-State Canoe & Kayak Trip in Tennessee River Basin

Environmental Education Program Offered By Georgia Rivers

Contributed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 14, 2025 The Athens-based river advocacy organization Georgia Rivers is putting a new twist on the time-honored back-to-school "what I did on my summer vacation" essay tradition.

Georgia Rivers is giving educators in Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama the chance to write their own summer vacation story by participating in Paddle Georgia 2025, a 7-day, 82-mile journey through the Tennessee River basin via the Paddle Georgia Educator's Scholarship program. Along the way these educators will receive training in environmental education curriculum and Georgia Adopt-A-Stream water monitoring.

"The goal is to give teachers a hands-on wilderness journey and environmental education experiences that they can share with their students when they return to the classroom later in the year," said Paddle Georgia Coordinator, Joe Cook. "Past participants have incorporated what they've learned into lesson plans and even established Adopt-A-Stream programs at local schools."

GRN is providing up to eight scholarships valued at \$460 for Georgia educators to participate in what is considered the country's largest week-long canoe/kayak camping adventure.

The journey begins June 16 on South Chickamauga Creek

in Ringgold, Georgia, courses through Chattanooga on the Tennessee River and concludes along the big river in Stevenson, Alabama June 22.

Interested educators can view information about the trip at www.garivers.org/paddle-georgia/ and apply for a scholarship online at: https://georgiarivernetwork.regfox.com/paddle-georgia-2025-educators-scholarship-program All scholarship applications must be received by March 30. Winners of the scholarships will be announced in early April.

In addition to paddling each day and camping each night, educators participating in the event will receive environmental education curriculum material and training in how to put it to use. They will have the opportunity to learn chemical water monitoring and become certified as Georgia Adopt-A-Stream citizen water monitors. Additionally, teachers will have the opportunity to participate in multiple environmental education programs available to all participants throughout the week-long trip.

Paddle Georgia is an annual week-long, canoe and kayak journey that takes place on a different Georgia river each year. This year's journey on the Tennessee marks its 20th anniversary. In the event's first 19 years, Georgia Rivers has engaged more than 7,000 people and generated more than \$900,000 for river protection

through the events. More than 80 Georgia educators have participated in the scholarship program.

Founded in 1998, Georgia Rivers is a non-profit 501c3 organization with the mission to protect and connect people with Georgia's rivers.

Sponsors of the event include: Georgia Power Company, Hennessy Land Rover, Colonial Pipeline, Butler-Prather Trail Lawyers, Isdell Family Foundation, Southern Company Gas, Troncalli Subaru, Mill Creek Environmental, Spears Family Foundation, Baxter and Harbin CPAs, Purina, Terry Pate CPA, RES, Fruit of the Loom/ Jerzees, REL, Westbrook Supply Company, Wildwater, Georgia Mining Association, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Stream Techs, The Canoe House, Patagonia, Adventure Keen, Royal Restrooms, Southeast Adventure Outfitters, Festive Water, Oconee Outfitters, The Hike Inn, Learn to Kayak, Café Campesino, Crescent Kayaks, Appalachian Outfitters, Murph's Surf, Rock City, Tennessee River Place, Georgia Kayak Fishing and Public Lands. Partners include Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Georgia Canoeing Association, Tennessee RiverLine and Georgia Adopt-A-Stream.

For more information, contact Joe Cook at 706-409-0128 or joe@garivers.org

# PROPERTY TAX

CONTINUED FROM 4A

Cumulatively, Georgia's 180 city and county school districts have more than doubled their reserves to a staggering \$6.5 billion. (That figure does not include state charter schools, which I excluded because the number of state charters varies significantly from year to year. If included, their reserves would add about \$300 million more to this total.)

These cumulative reserves amount to more than \$3,800 per student. Like the total, that figure has more than doubled in five short years.

Incredibly, \$6.5 billion is about a billion dollars more than the

state of Georgia has in its official "rainy day" fund. The state does have more money in the bank when counting all types of reserve funds, but it also has to serve 11 million residents. Per capita, the state's reserves don't come close to the combined piggy banks of its 180 school districts.

Then there are the revenues. Ignore all the pleas for more school funding that you can read on everything from bumper stickers to social media. In reality, Georgia's schools have seen their funding soar. Per-pupil revenue statewide has grown by 45% in five years.

Put more plainly, Georgia's school districts had almost \$8 billion more funding in 2024 than in 2019, despite serving 20,000 fewer students - and despite student achievement falling since then by almost every measure.

I'll let that sink in for a moment.

It should gail every Georgia property owner to see their school board blithely voting to reject tax relief. If school board members didn't listen to the voters last fall, the voters should send them a different message when they're up for reelection.

# HOUSERS MILL RD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

the Peach County Chamber of Commerce; the board approved the request. Lastly, Triple Point Engineering provided a task order to outline the scope of services and probable costs associated with on-call services related to assisting Peach County with their Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4 for Stormwater), which the commissioners approved pending attorney review.

As for announcements, the commissioners had a proclamation announcing Feb. 10 through Feb. 14 as Future Farmers of Amer-

ica (FFA) Week in Peach County. Next, the commissioner welcomed Kalyn Collins, Peach County's new Parks & Recreation Program Director.

Concerning appearances, David Roberts was in attendance with a citizen concern regarding the Junk Car Ordinance.

Following their executive session, the commissioner approved the reappointment of Talisha Moody to the Middle Georgia Regional Development Authority.



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# PCREA Horned Faculty Members With Perfect Attendance

By Hope Giles, PCREA

The Peach County Retired Educators Association presented gifts to faculty members who had perfect attendance during the first half of the school year. The faculty members were

Cathy Schofield- Byron Middle School, Kara English- Byron Elementary School, Coach Marquis Westbrook- Peach County High School, Kristen Patterson-Hunt Elementary School, Josey Allen and Leslie Rogers- Kay Road Elementary.



Photo Contributed  
Kara English – Byron Elementary and PCREA President Elect Quintin Green.



Photo Contributed  
Josey Allen and Leslie Rogers – Kay Road Elementary.



Photo Contributed  
Cathy Schofield – Byron Middle School and PCREA President Elect Quintin Green.



Photo Contributed  
Kristen Patterson - Hunt Elementary and PCREA President – Elect Quintin Green.



Photo Contributed  
Josey Allen and Leslie Rogers – Kay Road Elementary.

## Public Meeting

Fort Valley Utility Commission hereby gives notices that a public meeting will be held to discuss the Peach County Regional Water and Sewer Improvements Project funded by Georgia's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Program on **Monday, March 24, 2025, at 10:00 AM** in the Meeting Room at **500 Anthoine Street, Fort Valley, Georgia, 31030**. The project will replace infrastructure that is reaching the end of its useful life and allow water and wastewater services to safely accommodate economic growth anticipated in Peach County.

The proposed water improvements will relocate water treatment and storage facilities from the existing McLean Water Treatment Plant. Construction activities include construction of two water treatment plants, one elevated water storage tank, two public-supply groundwater wells, and approximately 2,000 LF of raw water main. The proposed sewer improvements will provide the system with expanded capacity. Construction activities include construction of one water reclamation facility.

The purposes of the meeting are to:

- 1) Inform the public of the need for improvements to the Commission's water and sewer systems.
- 2) Comply with the requirements of Georgia's rules for Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water and with the public participation requirements of Georgia's Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Environmental Review Process.
- 3) Encourage public involvement in the development of a plan to improve the water and sewer system.

During the public meeting, Fort Valley Utility Commission will attempt to identify public preferences for alternative methods of improving the Commission's water and sewer facilities. These alternatives will be evaluated and included in the Commission's Environmental Review and Planning Document and Environmental Information Document, the major planning documents covering the water and sewer systems. These documents are available for public inspection through the date of the public meeting at 500 Anthoine Street in Fort Valley during normal business hours.

Your participation is encouraged and considered essential to the selection and development of the final plan to be adopted prior to its approval by the State of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources.

For additional information, please contact Clay Walker at 478-825-7701 extension 228.

## Peach County Schools Recognized by GAEL



By PCSS

Peach County Schools has been named a 2024-2025 Vision Award Winner by GAEL - Georgia Association of Educational Leaders! This award recognizes school systems that prioritize professional learning and invest in the growth of teachers,

principals, and district leaders.

Ben Wiggins, Executive Director of GAEL, provided a legislative update with our district leadership team. We are proud of this accomplishment and will continue to invest in our district teachers and leaders!

## VALENTINES

CONTINUED FROM 1A

personal care items and heartfelt Valentine's Day cards.

"It was wonderful to see the smiles on the residents' faces," said Minnie Booker, Vice President of the club. "Our goal was to remind them that they are cherished and remembered, especially during this season of love."

The Fort Valley Lions Club was reestablished in 2019 and currently has 22 members dedicated to serving the local community. In addition to this recent

Valentine's Day outreach, the club has been actively involved in several community initiatives, including:

- Assisting the Fort Valley Youth Center of Excellence with building improvements
- Participating in neighborhood clean-up events
- Collecting used eyeglasses to support vision care efforts
- Volunteering at a Juvenile Diabetes Camp

The Lions Club is also conducting an ongoing fundraiser to

purchase a vision screener. This device will be used to provide free vision screenings in Peach County schools and at various community events, helping to detect vision problems early in children and community members.

The Fort Valley Lions Club welcomes new members who are passionate about serving their community. For more information about joining, email [fortvalleylionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:fortvalleylionsclub@gmail.com) or call 478-957-5673.

## PUBLIC NOTICE THE CITY OF FORT VALLEY WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS OF HOUSE BILL 581: HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

THE CITY OF FORT VALLEY INTENDS TO OPT OUT OF THE STATEWIDE ADJUSTED BASE YEAR AD VALOREM HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR THE CITY OF FORT VALLEY.

ALL CONCERNED CITIZENS ARE INVITED TO THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THIS MATTER TO BE HELD AT THE FORT VALLEY CITY HALL IN THE COURT ROOM AT 204 WEST CHURCH STREET, FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA ON **FEBRUARY 17, 2025 @ 1:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 18, 2025 @ 1:00 P.M. AND FEBRUARY 19, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.**

# Legals

## 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.

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF BOBBY L. BOWEN, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7049**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:**

BOBBI KIM MCHALE, has petitioned for BOBBIE KIM MCHALE to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of BOBBY L. BOWEN, 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 MARCH 12, 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: Chief Clerk of the Probate Court  
205 Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030  
478-825-2313  
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2025  
3304

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION**  
**Take notice that:**  
**THE RIGHT TO REDEEM THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:**

All that only that tract of land designated as **Tax Parcel FO5A 243**, lying and being in the city of Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia being a portion of the property described in Deed Book 416, page 748, deed book 416, page 743 and deed book 482, page 455, the description contained therein being incorporated herein by this reference, known as **518 Vineville Street** and more particularly described as:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the city of Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia, bounded now or formerly on the east by lands of Doles Bros Land & Property, LLC, on the west by the estate of Millard Peterman, on the north by lands of Ellen R. Williams and Cheryl Johnson, and fronting south 60 feet on Vineville Street and running back with even width. This is the same property as Tract 14 in deed to Bennett Family Partnership recorded in deed book 210, page 384, Clerk's office, Peach Superior Court, and is commonly known as **518 Vineville Street**.

WILL EXPIRE AND BE FOREVER FORECLOSED AND BARRED ON AND AFTER THE 24th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the October 6, 2015, and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, in Deed Book 538, Pages 673, and correct

The property may be redeemed at any time before the 24th day of March, 2025, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: ed in Deed Book 734, Pages 627-28.  
466 S. Houston Lake Rd.  
Warner Robins, Georgia 31088  
Please be governed accordingly.  
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2025  
3306

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF TINA MICHELLE SKINNER, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7050**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED**

**PARTIES and to whom it may concern:**

KALEY BROOKE INFINGER, has petitioned for KALEY BROOKE INFINGER to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of TINA MICHELLE SKINNER, 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 MARCH 12, 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: Chief Clerk of the Probate Court  
205 Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030  
478-825-2313  
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 2025  
3308

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF AMOS E. LAWRENCE, JR., DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 2024-TADM-6952**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, and to whom it may concern:**

AMOS EARL LAWRENCE, SR., has petitioned for AMOS EARL LAWRENCE, SR., to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of AMOS E. LAWRENCE, JR., 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 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, Chief Clerk of the Probate Court  
205 Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030  
478-825-2313  
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 2025  
3293

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**ESTATE NO. 2025-MGDN-7052**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF KYRON MICHAEL FRANCISCO, JR., MINOR**  
**NOTICE**

**TO: AMY KATHERINE LYNN**  
**You are hereby notified that**  
**ETHEL H. JOHNSON** has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed temporary guardian(s) of the above-named Minor. All objections to the Petition to the appointment of a temporary guardian or the appointment of the petitioner(s) as temporary guardian(s), must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than

fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication for this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia 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.

NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition, a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date. If no objection is 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, Georgia 31030  
478-825-2313  
2/12, 2/19, 2025  
3307

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF PEACH**

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

**RICHARD A. DENNIS, JR.,**  
**Executor**  
**225 Sapphire Point**  
**Anderson, South Carolina**  
**29626**  
Sara C. Diamond Wechsler  
WALKER, HULBERT, GRAY & MOORE, LLP  
PO Box 1770  
Perry, GA 31069  
478-987-1415  
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 2025  
3290

**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 Court-house 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,

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

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 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 SALE UNDER POWER**  
**GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY**

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from **H. W. HEAD AKA HARMON W. HEAD** to METLIFE HOME LOANS, A DIVISION OF METLIFE BANK, N.A., dated October 21, 2010, recorded October 28, 2010, in Deed Book 448, Page 357, Peach County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of One Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$189,000.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to GITSIT Solutions, LLC, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GITSIT Mortgage Loan Trust BBPLC1, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Peach County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2025, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

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, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: TO OBTAIN THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING START AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF NORTH AVENUE AND THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF HARDEMAN AVENUE AND RUN THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 07' 51" EAST ALONG THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF HARDEMAN AVENUE A DISTANCE OF 434.374 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING; AND FROM SAID POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING, RUN THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 08' 43" WEST A DISTANCE OF 201.33 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 17' 05" EAST A DISTANCE OF 180.07 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH

89 DEGREES 38' 27" EAST A DISTANCE OF 200.77 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF HARDEMAN AVENUE; THENCE NORTH 02 DEGREES 07' 51" WEST ALONG THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF HARDEMAN AVENUE A DISTANCE OF 178.30 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING; ALL AS IS MORE FULLY SHOWN AND DESCRIBED ON THE CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY THOMAS W. FUTRAL, III, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1202, DATED NOVEMBER 14, 1995, AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGE 297, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT; REFERENCE TO SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION. LOCATED ON SAID PROPERTY IS AN EXISTING SWELLING. PARCEL # F02B-006

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as **409 HARDEMAN AVE, FORT VALLEY, GA 31030**.

The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: 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; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is **H. W. HEAD AKA HARMON W. HEAD, ESTATE AND/OR HEIRS-AT-LAW OF H. W. HEAD, or tenants(s)**.

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.

The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: GITSIT Solutions, LLC f/k/a Kondaur Capital, LLC, Loss Mitigation Dept., 333 South Anita Drive Suite 400, Orange, CA 92868, Telephone Number: 888-566-3287. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require a secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

GITSIT SOLUTIONS, LLC, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS SEPARATE TRUSTEE OF GITSIT MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST BBPLC1 as Attorney in Fact for **H. W. HEAD AKA HARMON W. HEAD**

THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
Attorney Contact: Ruben Lublin, LLC  
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100, Peachtree Corners, GA 30071  
Telephone Number: (877)813-0992  
Case No. KCP-24-05582-1  
[rslaw.com/property-listing](https://rslaw.com/property-listing)  
02/05/2025, 02/12/2025,  
02/19/2025, 02/26/2025  
6270 (BCNS 244869)

**TRADE NAME**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT**  
**PEACH COUNTY**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF PEACH**

The undersigned does hereby certify that **L & L SNEAD ENTERPRISE, LLC**, conducting a business as **COMMUNITY FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES** in the City of Fort Valley, County of Peach, in the State of Georgia, under the name of **COMMUNITY FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES** and that the nature of the business is Mortuary Services and that the names and addresses of the persons, firms or partnership owning and caring on said trade or business are **Larry Snead Sr., owner, 409 Preston Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.**

This 6th day of December 2024.  
2/12, 2/19, 2024  
3301

**DIVORCE**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-V-0118**

**Ana Luisa Corado Gonzalez, Plaintiff,**  
**v.**  
**Caleb Jacobi Watson, Defendant.**

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**  
**TO: Caleb Jacobi Watson. Last known address: 303 Crestwood Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030.**

By order of the court for service by publication dated July 12, 2024, you are hereby notified that on April 2, 2024, Plaintiff Ana Luisa Corado Gonzalez filed suit against you for divorce. You are required to file with the clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, and to serve upon Plaintiff, Ana Luisa Corado Gonzalez, 1478 Williamson Road, Macon, GA 31206, an answer in writing within 60 days of the date of the Court's Order for Service by Publication.

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

This 7th day of February, 2025.  
W. Newison, Deputy Clerk Peach County Superior Court  
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2025  
3305

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF BERNICE WILLIAMS, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7058**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, and to whom it may concern:**

MICHAEL WILLIAMS, has petitioned for MICHAEL WILLIAMS, to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of BERNICE WILLIAMS 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 MARCH 12, 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  
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2025  
3300

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER,**  
**PEACH COUNTY**

Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed

## LEGALS

### CONTINUED FROM 7A

given by Melinda Goodwin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for PHH Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns dated 6/19/2009 and recorded in Deed Book 426 Page 330 Peach County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$65,786.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Peach County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 4, 2025 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 28, OF THE 10TH LAND DISTRICT, OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A COUNTY ROAD KNOWN AS THE HOUSER MILL TO BYRON ROAD WITH THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF GEORGIA HIGHWAY NO. 96 AND FROM SAID POINT OF INTERSECTION EXTEND IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID COUNTY ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF 1093.7 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE TRACT OR PARCEL HEREIN CONVEYED; AND FROM SAID BEGINNING POINT EXTEND NORTH 0 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 217.8 FEET TO A POINT AND CORNER; THENCE EXTEND NORTH 89 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 1 SECOND EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET TO A POINT AND CORNER; THENCE EXTEND SOUTH 0 DEGREE 18 MINUTES 59 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 217.8 FEET TO A POINT AND CORNER; THENCE EXTEND SOUTH 89 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 1 SECOND WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET TO A POINT AND CORNER, SAME BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING FOR THE TRACT OR PARCEL HEREIN CONVEYED. DEED REFERENCE: DEED BOOK 349, PAGE 40, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT.

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 of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property is commonly known as **248 Housers Mill Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Melinda Goodwin or tenant or tenants.

LoanCare, LLC is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

LoanCare, LLC Attention: Loss Mitigation Department 3637 Sentara Way Virginia Beach, VA 23452 800-909-9525

Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions,

covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC as agent and Attorney in Fact for Melinda Goodwin Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400. 1154-3014A

THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1154-3014A 02/05/2025, 02/12/2025, 02/19/2025, 02/26/2025 6272 (94246)

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: FILE #7322-J**

**A. B., SEX F, AGE 12, DOB 01/2023, CASE #111-2024J-103 CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, TERRANCE HOUSTON AND ANY OTHER PARTY CLAIMING TO HAVE A PARENTAL INTEREST IN SAID MINOR CHILD BORN TO ALAETRICE BENNETT.**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that the above styled action seeking the termination of the parental rights of the parents of the named child was filed against you in said Court on 2/4/25, by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on 1/31/25;

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED AND REQUIRED to appear before the Juvenile Court of Peach County, Georgia, in Fort Valley, Georgia, on the 20th day of February, 2025 at 10:30 o'clock a.m. for a status hearing (attorney appointment only) and on the 8th day of April, 2025 at 9:30 o'clock a.m. The second hearing is for the purpose of determining whether your parental rights should be terminated. The effect of an order terminating parental rights under O.C.G.A. Section 15-11-284 is without limit as to duration and terminates all the parent's rights and obligations with respect to the child and all rights and obligations of the child to the parent arising from the parental relationship, including rights of inheritance. The parent whose rights are terminated is not thereafter entitled to notice of proceedings for the adoption of the child by another, nor has the parent any right to object to the adoption or otherwise to participate in the proceedings.

A copy of the petition may be obtained by the parents from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court at Peach County Courthouse, Fort Valley, Georgia, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 o'clock am until 5:00 o'clock p.m. exclusive of holidays. A free copy shall be available to the parent. Upon request, the copy will be mailed to the requester - parents or alleged parents only. The child is in the present physical custody of the Petitioner, the Peach County Department of Family and Children Services.

The general nature of the allegations is termination of the parental rights.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that while responsive pleadings are not mandatory, they are permissible and you are encouraged to file with the Clerk of this Court and serve upon Petitioner's attorney, James E. Patterson, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029-1006 an answer or other responsive pleading within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE Judge of said Juvenile Court. This 4th day of February, 2025. Whitney Nelson, (Deputy) CLERK, JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2025 3298

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA JULIETTE MEEKS V.**

**RAYMOND ANTHONY MEEKS Civil Action Number: 24-V-0407 NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO: RAYMOND ANTHONY MEEKS**

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking a divorce, was filed against you in said court on the 31st day of October, 2024, and that by reason of an Order for Service by Summons by Publication entered by the Court on the 28th day of January, 2025, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon Eva K. Hutcherson, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 487 Cherry Street, Suite 250, Macon, Georgia 31201, an Answer to the Complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Service by Publication. 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 2025 3289

**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**

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION Take notice that: THE RIGHT TO REDEEM THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:**

All that only that tract of land designated as **Tax Parcel F05A 244**, lying and being in the City of Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia, being a portion of the property described in Deed Book 482, Page 455, the description incorporated herein being incorporated herein by this reference, known as **520 Vineville Street** and more particularly described as:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being the City of Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia, fronting south 50 feet 011 Vineville Street and running back with even width a distance of 150 feet, bounded East by Tract 11 below and West by lands of Sarah Harris. This is the same property as Tract 10 in a deed to Bennett Family Partnership recorded in Deed Book 210, page 384, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court, and is commonly known as **510 Vineville Street**.

WILL EXPIRE AND BE FOREVER FORECLOSED AND BARRED ON AND AFTER THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the October 6, 2015, and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, in Deed Book 538, Pages 672, and corrected in Deed Book 734. Pages 629-30.

The property may be redeemed at any time before the 24th day of March, 2025, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:

466 S. Houston Lake Rd. Warner Robins. Georgia 31088 Please be governed accordingly. 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2025 3302

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF TERRY LITTLE RAINES, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7035 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, and to whom it may concern:**

FRANK MILTON LITTLE, JR., has petitioned for FRANK MILTON LITTLE JR., to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of TERRY LITTLE RAINES 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

MARCH 12, 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 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2025 3299

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF PEACH**

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Shenika L Smith to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for LoanDepot.com, LLC, dated September 19, 2019 and recorded on September 26, 2019 in Deed Book 607, Page 634, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of Fifty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Three and 00/100 dollars (\$56,363.00) with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to loanDepot.com, LLC, recorded in Deed Book 700, Page 679, aforesaid records, 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 has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2025, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 213 of the Ninth Land District, Peach County, Georgia, being known and designated as Lot 5 of a re-survey of Lots 4-7, Block "8", Sunset Park Subdivision, according to a plat of survey or record in Plat Book 16, Page 258, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are incorporated by reference for all purposes.

Subject to all easements, ordinances, covenants, conditions, restrictions and rights-of-way of record, it any.

Address under current system of numbering: 607 Courtland Avenue, Fort Valley, Georgia. Deed Reference: Deed Book 370, Page 752, said Clerk's Office.

**Said property may more commonly be known as 607 Courtland Avenue, Fort Valley, GA 31030.**

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is loanDepot.com, LLC, 5465 Legacy Drive, S-200, Plano, TX 75024, 866-970-7105. Notwithstanding the prior sentence, the Creditor is not required to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the Security Deed.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: a) zoning ordinances; b) matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; c) any outstanding ad valorem taxes, including taxes, which constitute liens upon said property whether or not now due and payable; d) special assessments; e) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; f) all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the own-

ers and party in possession of the property are Shenika L Smith and or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to 1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy code and 2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. loanDepot.com, LLC as Attorney-in-Fact for Shenika L Smith Contact: Padgett Law Group: 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312; (850)422-2520 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 2025 3288 (23-005423 2334)

**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 PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF HOSEY JAMES WHITE, SR., DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7059 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: SANDRA FLUELLEN AND ARTHUR MCKENZIE, JR., and to whom it may concern:**

SANDRA FLUELLEN AND ARTHUR MCKENZIE, JR., has petitioned for HOSEY WHITE, JR., to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of HOSEY JAMES WHITE, SR., 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 MARCH 12, 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: Chief Clerk of the Probate Court 205 Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030 478-825-2313 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2025 3303

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY**

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain security deed from **Hannah Lowe and Jimmie Stembidge** to United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture and recorded in Deed Book 406, Page 890, Peach County, Georgia records given to secure a note in the original amount of \$74,265.00 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 March, 2025, to wit: March 04, 2025, the following described property:

All that certain tract, lot of parcel of land situate, lying and being in the State of Georgia, County of Peach, and in the City of Fort Valley therein, and being more particularly described as follows: To obtain the point or place of beginning, start at the intersection of the centerline of North Avenue with East right of way of Hardeman Avenue and run thence

South 01 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East a distance of 236.52 feet TO POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING; and from said point or place of beginning, run thence South 00 degrees 55 minutes 30 seconds East along the East right of way of Hardeman Avenue a distance of 125.00 feet to a point; thence South 89 degrees 29 minutes 31 seconds East a distance of 164.53 feet to a point; thence North 00 degrees 16 minutes 50 seconds East a distance of 119.52 feet to a point; thence North 86 degrees 37 minutes 34 seconds West a distance of 167.27 feet to the point or place of beginning on the East right of way line of Hardeman Avenue; all as is more fully shown and described on that certain plat of survey prepared by Thomas W. Futral, III, GRLS No. 1202 dated January 14, 1986, and recorded in Plat Book 14, Page 41, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court; reference to said plat and the record thereof is incorporated herein and made a part of this description. Subject to any and all easements, rights of way, building line restrictions and covenants of record. Property now known as **410 Hardeman Avenue** according to the present system for numbering improvements.

Being real property commonly known as **410 Hardeman Ave, 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.

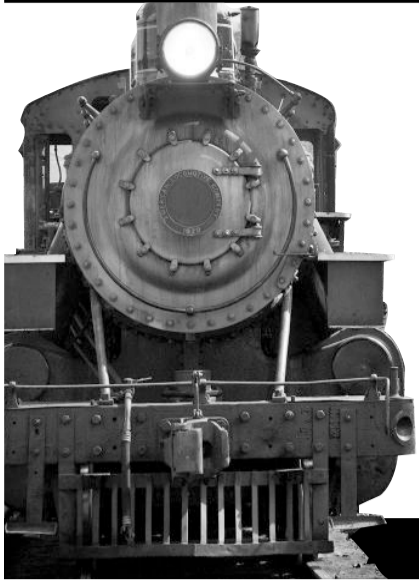
To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Dawsons Management c/o USDA3775 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 The United States of America, acting through the Secretary of Agriculture to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein.

The United States of America, acting through the Secretary of Agriculture as Attorney in Fact for Hannah Lowe and Jimmie Stembidge Attorney Contact :Miller, George and Suggs, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peachtree Corners, GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax: 404-738-1558 24GA414-0201

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. A-4833148 02/05/2025, 02/12/2025, 02/19/2025, 02/26/2025 3285 (ASAP# 4833148)

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION**

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2025 regular session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to provide a homestead exemption from Peach County ad valorem taxes for county purposes; and for other purposes. 2/19/2025 3309



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**AMBLER, JAMES, b/m, age 37, 5'10 @ 235 lbs.**  
Wanted by the Houston County Sheriff's Office for V.G.C.S.A. - Poss. of Methamphetamine, Giving False Information to L.E., Tampering w/Evidence, Driving W/Lic. Suspended or Revoked, and 2 cts. of Theft by Taking.

**BROOKS, ANDREW C., age 37, w/m, 6'1 @ 183 lbs.**  
Wanted by the Peach County Sheriff's Office for Sup. Ct. VOP o/c being Poss. of Methamphetamine. Also wanted by the Houston Co. S.O. for Battery F/V, and Poss. of a F/A by a convicted felon.

**DUGGER, JALEESA B., age 27, b/f, 5'3 @ 175 lbs.**  
Wanted by the U.S. Marshal's Task Force Office for Aggravated Assault, Poss of Firearm-Offender Probationer, Poss. of F/A during the Comm. of Crime.

**FULLER, BRANDON N., w/m, age 31, 6'0 @ 145 lbs.**  
Wanted by the Peach County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Report as a Sex Offender. This fugitive is also wanted by the Warner Robins Police for St. Ct. VOP. o/c being Traffic Offenses.

**BANKS, KYMRICK, b/m, age 36, 6'1 @ 160 lbs.**  
Wanted by the U.S. Marshal's Task Force Office for 2 cts. of Aggravated Assault F/V, and Terroristic Threats and Acts.

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# Peach County High School Basketball All-Region 1-AAA Honorees



**By Chris McKenzie, Sports Reporter**  
Congratulations are in order for several of the boys' and girls' basketball players at PCHS. Cam Cherry (Jr.) lead the efforts this season for the boys as he scored his 1000th career point. His performance earned him the Region 1-AAA Offensive Player of the Year and First Team All-Region 1-AAA honors.

Rowan Woodrich (So.) was named to the boys First Team All-Region 1-AAA team. Ronnie Covington (Jr.) and Ke'Van Gray (Sr.) were named to the boys Second Team All-Region 1-AAA team. Uzzhia Rumph (Sr.) was named to the girls First Team All-Region 1-AAA team. Ari Respress (Jr.) was named an Honorable Mention for girls All-Region 1-AAA team.



## Hot Start For Trojans Baseball

**By Chris McKenzie, Sports Reporter**  
The Trojans (4-0) are off to undefeated start on the diamond after an unblemished weekend for the Georgia Dug-out Club Tournament at Lakepoint. On Friday, the Trojans defeated Lanier High School with a score of 6-1. In game 1 on Saturday, the Trojans squashed Campbell High School with a score of 13-2. In game 2 on Saturday, the Trojans huge third inning with 9 runs contributed to the win. The game ended with a score of 13-8.



## 2025 Jag Cup Invitational Soccer Champions



**By Chris McKenzie, Sports Reporter**  
Congratulations to the Peach County Girls Soccer team. The annual JAG CUP at Spalding High School in Griffin, GA, is a premier preseason soccer tournament designed to help teams prepare for the upcoming season.

## The Rolling Trojans Remain Undefeated!



**By PCSS**  
Thank you, Christy Jones, for sharing this update!  
"The Rolling Trojans crossed the interstate Saturday for a rematch of the 2024 state basketball championship. The Trojans didn't flinch when facing the Houston Co. Sharks, the defending state champions. Caleb Watters (BMS) led the Trojans offense with 14 points. Sannitra Colbert (PCHS) and Jeremiah Rhodes (PCHS) each contributed 2 points. Jace Tolliver (BES), Kaleb Taylor (BMS) and Nick Long (PCHS) worked hard on defense to hold the Sharks to 8 points.  
During their morning game the Trojans defense was tenacious, shutting down an experienced Muscogee Lions team. Jeremiah Rhodes (PCHS), the Trojans newest player, stepped up offensively pouring in 16 points. Caleb Watters (BMS) directed the offense and contributed 6 points. Sannitra Colbert pulled down several rebounds. Kaleb Taylor led the team in assists with 8. Jace Tolliver and Nick Long led the defensive attack to stymie the Lions offense."  
Rolling Trojans - 22  
Muscogee Lions - 4  
Rolling Trojans - 18  
Houston Co Sharks - 8  
The Rolling Trojans will be on the road again February 22nd against the Muscogee Lions.

## PC Recreation Dept. Basketball Tournament

**By Peach County Recreation Department**  
Our regular season is ending this Sunday, February 16. Tournament games begin on Monday, February 17. The Basketball Championship games will be played Saturday, February 22 at the Peach County High School. Admission is free.

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# 15 African-American Inventors to Learn About This Black History Month

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. – While you shouldn't wait for a commemorative month to learn about the many innovations and creations of African Americans, this Black History Month is an opportunity to learn about the many contributions of African Americans!

Most people have heard about the famous inventions including the light bulb, the cotton gin, and the iPhone. However, numerous other inventions created by African Americans are often overlooked, even though these inventions make our daily lives easier.

**George Crum** (July 15, 1824 – July 22, 1914) was a chef and restaurateur credited with unintentionally creating the potato chip during the summer of 1853. Crum's chips were created in response to a customer who sent back their order of fried potatoes after complaining they were too thick. The chips were an instant hit and are still a popular snack today.

**Alexander Miles** (May 18, 1838 – May 7, 1918) is known for his elevator design which allowed the doors to open automatically, which he patented in 1887. Before his creation, elevators were operated manually meaning that people had to physically open and close the elevator and the shaft doors every time. Forgetting to close both doors led to multiple accidents as people fell down elevator

shafts. This was a constant hazard that Miles became aware of when he rode on an elevator with the shaft door open with his daughter and she almost fatally fell down the shaft. Miles was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2007.

**Granville T. Woods** (April 23, 1856 – January 30, 1910) created numerous inventions that helped improve the functioning of railroads. His most notable invention was the induction telegraph system, which allowed traveling trains to communicate with one another.

**George Washington Carver** (1864 – January 5, 1943) is most commonly known for his creation of peanut butter; however, he had far more creations than that. Carver was an agricultural chemist who worked to increase the profitability of sweet potatoes and peanuts. He began experimenting in the 1890s and created 518 new products from the crops which ranged from inks, dyes, soaps, cosmetics, flour, vinegar, and synthetic rubber. Carver revealed his experiments to the public in 1914.

**Madam C.J. Walker** (December 23, 1867 – May 25, 1919) was the first African American woman to become a self-made millionaire after she created a line of hair products specifically geared toward Black hair in 1905, known as Madam Walker's Wonderful Hair Grower.

**Garrett Morgan** (March 4, 1877 – July 27, 1963) has one of the most well-known inventions – the traffic signal. In 1922, he patented his traffic signal, which included a third caution or yield signal, which is now known as the yellow light. In 1912, Morgan also created a patent for his breathing device, which was one of the earliest versions of the gas mask.

**Frederick McKinley Jones** (May 17, 1893 – February 21, 1961) was the developer of refrigeration equipment. In the 1930s, Jones began creating automatic refrigerated air-cooling units for trucks, trains, ships, and planes, which helped with the preservation of food. His work was also able to help with the preservation of blood and medicine – which became lifesaving during WWII. Jones became the first African American to receive the National Medal of Technology in 1991.

**Percy Lavon Julian** (April 11, 1899 – April 19, 1975) was an American chemist who is credited with making numerous contributions to modern medicine. He is responsible for the synthesis of physostigmine, a drug that is used to treat glaucoma. Julian also discovered how to mass-produce cortisone and the steroid progesterone.

**Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner** (May 17, 1912 – January 13, 2006) was responsible for the creation of the sanitary belt in 1957, which was adjustable and had a moisture-proof napkin pocket to help with women's menstrual cycles. She had other creations including a toilet tissue holder and back washer that could be mounted on the wall of a shower.

**Marie Van Brittan Brown** (October 30, 1922 – February 2, 1999) filed a patent for the first-ever home security system. Her creation was a result of wanting to increase her home security while living in her Queens, New York, neighborhood while her husband was away. Her design included a camera, a two-way microphone, peepholes, and monitors which are all an integral part of the modern home security systems used today.


**Dr. Patricia E. Bath** (November 4, 1942 – May 30, 2019) was an ophthalmologist and humanitarian. She is known for her significant contributions to the medical field and is the founder of the non-profit American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness in Washington, D.C. Bath was the first female member of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, the first woman to lead a post-graduate training program in ophthalmology, and the first woman elected to the honorary staff of the UCLA Medical Center.

**Shirley Jackson** (born August 5, 1946) is the first African American woman to earn a doctorate at MIT and is responsible for monumental telecommunications research. Her research led to the creation of products such as the touch-tone phone, portable fax, fiber optic cables, and caller ID. She was named as the co-chair of the President's Intelligence Advisory by President Barack Obama in 2014.

**Lonnie Johnson** (born October 6, 1949) is the engineer who developed the mega water gun during his free time while working at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. This water gun, which is now known as the Super Soaker, became available in 1990, and it became an instant hit. Forbes has listed the Super Soaker as having earned over \$1 billion in retail sales.


**Mark Dean** (born March 2, 1957) is a computer engineer who earned his Doctorate at Stanford University and his Master's at Florida Atlantic University. He is the co-inventor of IBM's original personal computer and the color PC monitor. He is also responsible for creating the ISA bus that allows additional components to be connected to a computer such as keyboards and printers. In 1999, Dean and his team developed the gigahertz microchip.

**Lisa Gelobter** (born 1971) is a computer scientist and technologist, who previously served as the Chief Digital Service Officer for the United States Department of Education. In 1995, she was involved with the creation of Shockwave, which is the technology that was used to develop web animation. In 2016, Gelobter founded tEquitable, a start-up that provides an independent and confidential platform to address issues of bias, harassment, and discrimination in the workplace.



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-Cornel West

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# Celebrating African American History Month with Images from the Past Relating to Peach County

Photos contributed by James Khoury



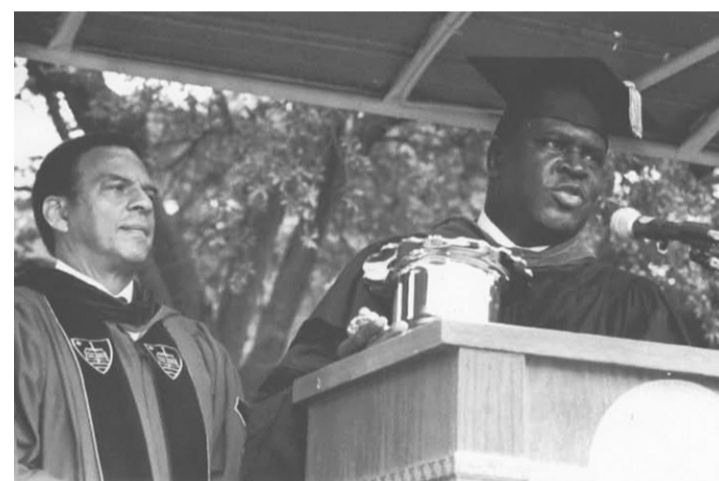
Probably the most famous visitor was Dr. Martin Luther King who was the Keynote Speaker for this FVSC Graduation Ceremony. Shown with Dr. King is FVSC President C.V. Troup. (1966).



FVSC President Luther Burse with Julian Bond during a FVSC Commencement. Julian Bond was a member of the Georgia Legislature for 20 years, founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and served as President of the NAACP.



Perhaps the most easily recognizable athletic personality in America was Mohammed Ali. Mohammed Ali was the Parade Marshall for this FVSU Homecoming Parade. (1989).



Former Atlanta Mayor and former United States Ambassador to the United Nations - Andrew Jackson Young receiving the Horace Bond Award from acting FVSC President Melvin Walker during Commencement exercises.

## The Famous Ham and Egg Show



Otis O'Neal founded the Ham and Egg Show in 1916. It continues today as the Ham and Egg Breakfast.



Food for Victory. Hundreds of Hams and Shoulders on Display at Founders Hall.



Major Amica with War Display. "Display shows amount of farm products needed to feed one soldier during one month. Major Amica adds a side of bacon."

March 23, 1944 edition of Life Magazine featuring article on Fort Valley State's Ham and Egg Show. It was the only article not focusing on the most important event of the time... World War II.

# Fort Valley State University Names Building in Honor of Distinguished Alumnus Calvin Smyre

By FVSU

Fort Valley State University is pleased to announce that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has approved the naming of the building known as the Kell Building, located on South Camellia Boulevard in downtown Fort Valley, as the "Calvin Smyre Building." This decision honors the outstanding service and philanthropy of the Honorable Calvin Smyre, a Class of 1970 distinguished alumnus and longtime supporter of our institution.

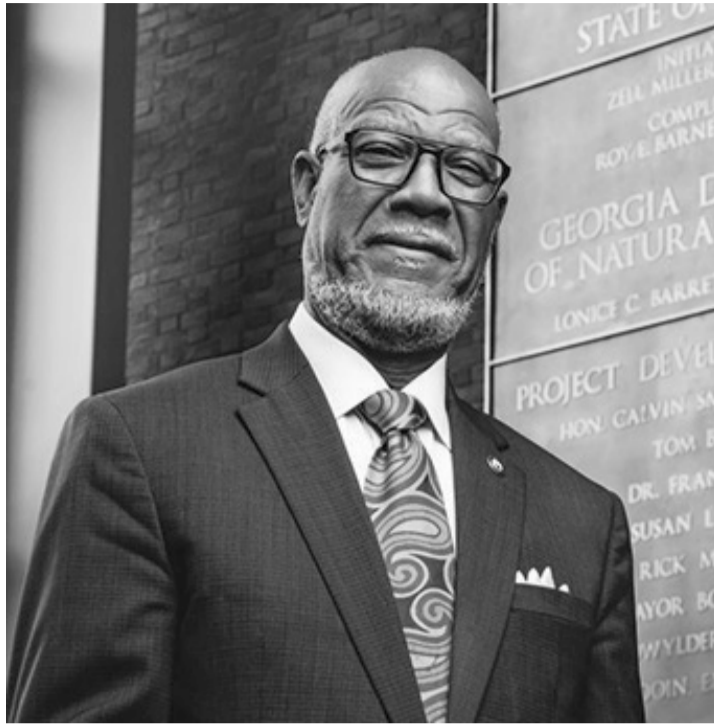
The Calvin Smyre Building will house the Center for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a groundbreaking initiative that will serve as a small business incubator to promote agribusiness and entrepreneurship in Middle Georgia. This center will play a crucial role in supporting the commercialization and marketing of agricultural products, providing vital resources for successful business development in our region.

Key features of the Center for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship include:

- Fostering industry collaborations and manufacturing partnerships to bring agricultural innovations to market
- Offering opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to develop entrepreneurial skills
- Supporting enhanced farming methods and product development

While we are excited about this new development, we are still in the planning stages. The Center, which is a USDA funded project, and the renovation of the building, have experienced some project delays. Due to price escalation and other variables, the University is seeking funding to complete the project. The timeline for completion is still being determined as we finalize our plans and resources, and a future date for the naming will be announced.

About the Honorable Calvin Smyre



Calvin Smyre

Photo by FVSU

The naming of this building is a fitting tribute to Calvin Smyre's remarkable legacy:

- Served as a member of the Georgia General Assembly for nearly 48 years, becoming its longest-serving member
- Authored legislation to establish Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a state holiday

- Nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas
- Appointed as a Representative of the United States to the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- Served as Chairman of the Fort Valley State Foundation for more than 30 years
- Established the Fountain City Classic, which has raised more than \$1,400,000 for FVSU athletics
- Joined Synovus in 1976 as a management trainee and retired in 2014 as executive vice president of corporate affairs. Synovus created a scholarship in honor of Smyre that is given annually to a student enrolled at FVSU.

In December 2024, the intersection at Macon Road and Interstate 185 in Columbus, GA was officially renamed the Calvin Smyre Interchange. This location holds special significance, as it was the left turn Smyre took year after year during his 100-mile journey to Atlanta and the state capitol. The interchange, not far from his home, serves as a symbolic tribute to his decades of public service and underscores his deep connection to Columbus.

In 2022, the Morehouse School of Medicine held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Calvin Smyre Education Conference Center a \$45 million, 52,300 square foot facility. These recent honors compliment the university's naming of the Calvin Smyre Building, further celebrating his extraordinary contributions to Georgia and our community.

Calvin Smyre's dedication to public service, education and our institution makes him an ideal namesake for this important new center. We look forward to honoring his contributions and continuing his legacy of innovation and community support through the Calvin Smyre Building and the Center for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

## Milestone Moments In Black History

Contributed

Black History Month is celebrated each February in the United States. Each nation's history is filled with notable contributions from Black individuals, many of whom overcame incredible odds to make their countries better places for themselves and their peers to call home. As Americans prepare to celebrate Black History Month, they can consider these milestone moments in Black history.

- Nat Turner leads a slave revolt in 1831. Nat Turner was born into slavery on October 2, 1800, in rural Southampton County, Virginia. Turner's intellect was notable since he was a boy, and that undoubtedly played a role in his ability to orchestrate a slave revolt that began on August 21, 1831. Turner led a group of roughly 75 enslaved people on a four-day rebellion. Though the uprising was quickly suppressed and Turner was ultimately hanged on November 11, 1831, the revolt strengthened

anti-slavery sentiments in the northern United States.

- The NAACP is founded in 1909. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was an interracial effort founded by a collection of individuals, included W.E.B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells, who aspired to advance justice for Black Americans. The NAACP, which History.com notes had expanded to encompass 400 branches within 12 years of its inception, fought against numerous injustices over the years, including anti-lynching efforts in the twentieth century and has also promoted programs and policies designed to place African Americans on equal economic footing with whites.

- Willie O'Ree breaks the color barrier in the National Hockey League in 1958. O'Ree was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on October 15, 1935. O'Ree's grandparents escaped slavery in the United States through the Underground Railroad and eventually settled in

Canada. A winger whose playing career would last until 1979, O'Ree became the first black player to take the ice in an NHL game when he debuted with the Boston Bruins on January 18, 1958. Amazingly, O'Ree reached the pinnacle of professional hockey despite having been blinded in one eye two years prior to his debut with the Bruins, who had no knowledge of O'Ree's diminished vision. Equally notable is that O'Ree had met American baseball player Jackie Robinson when the former was 15-years-old. Robinson had broken the Major League Baseball color barrier on April 15, 1947, an appearance that is considered a watershed moment in Black history.

There are no shortage of milestone moments in Black history in the United States. These moments, and the people involved in them, merit celebration and attention. TF252661



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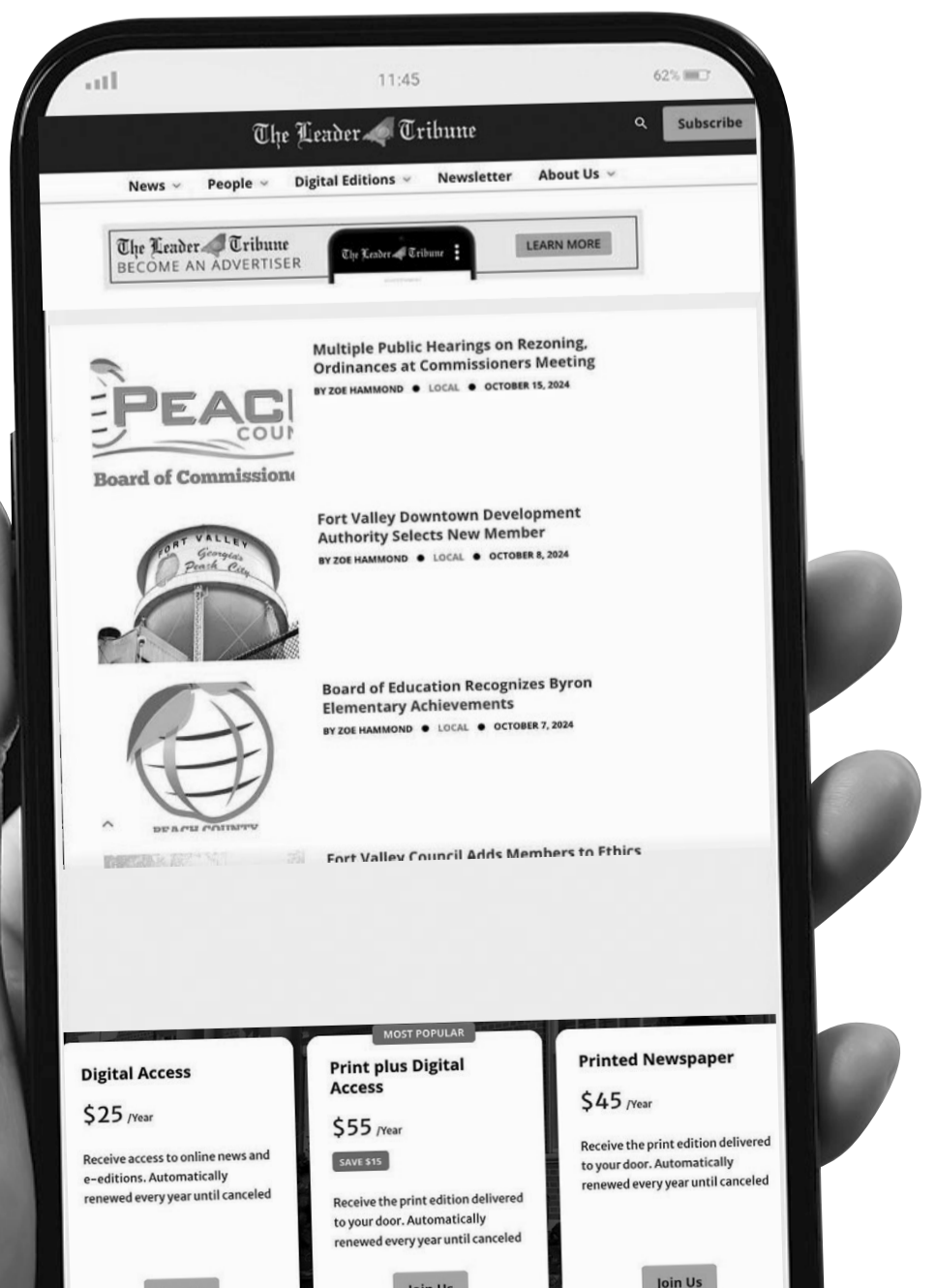
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# Get To Know These Influential Black Americans

Special to the  
News Observer

February packs a lot of notable events into its 28 or 29 days. One of the most noteworthy things about February is that it is Black History Month. Also known as African American History Month, this is a month-long celebration of the achievements of African Americans that recognizes their central role in United States history.

The number of Black Americans who have made

contributions to the country and the world are innumerable. Here is just a brief cross-section of some of the trailblazing individuals worthy of recognition.

**Shirley Chisholm**

Although the United States Congress is now diverse, it wasn't always this way. Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman elected to Congress during the racially contentious era of the late 1960s. She represented New York's twelfth district

from 1969 to 1983 and was the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 1972.

**Richard Allen**

Allen was a minister, educator and writer based in Philadelphia. Allen founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was the first independent Black denomination in the U.S. Allen was born into slavery, but bought his freedom in the 1780s. Because of restrictions dictating where Blacks could sit at church, Allen left to form his own.

**Bayard Rustin**

Although Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is often credited with the 1963 March on Washington, it actually was Rustin who organized and strategized the event. Rustin had controversial ties to Communism and was a gay man, so he wasn't always publicly on the front lines of the Civil Rights movement. Nonetheless, his brilliant mind and innovative ideas helped serve his community.

**Medgar Evers**

Many people tirelessly contributed to the Civil Rights movement, and Evers is one of them. Evers was a World War II veteran and later a civil rights leader in Mississippi. He became the NAACP's first field officer in that state and helped lead protests against segregation at schools, public parks and more.

**Dorothy Height**

Height is known as the "godmother of the women's movement." She used her experience in social work and education to advance women's rights, becoming a strong leader in the Young Women's Christian Association and the president of the National Council of Negro Women.

**Arthur Ashe**


Ashe was the first Black player selected to the United States Davis Cup tennis team and the only Black man ever to win the singles title at Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and the Australian Open. Ashe suffered a heart attack during a tennis clinic, so he became a spokesperson for hereditary heart disease. Later, when he contracted HIV from a blood transfusion used during a heart surgery, he founded the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS. Ashe was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton.

**Mae Jemison**

Jemison holds the honor of being the first Black woman to orbit space. She was on the shuttle Endeavour, and also is a physician and teacher. After leaving NASA, Jemison founded the Jemison Group, which develops technological advancements.

Trailblazing Black Americans have been influencing the country throughout its history.

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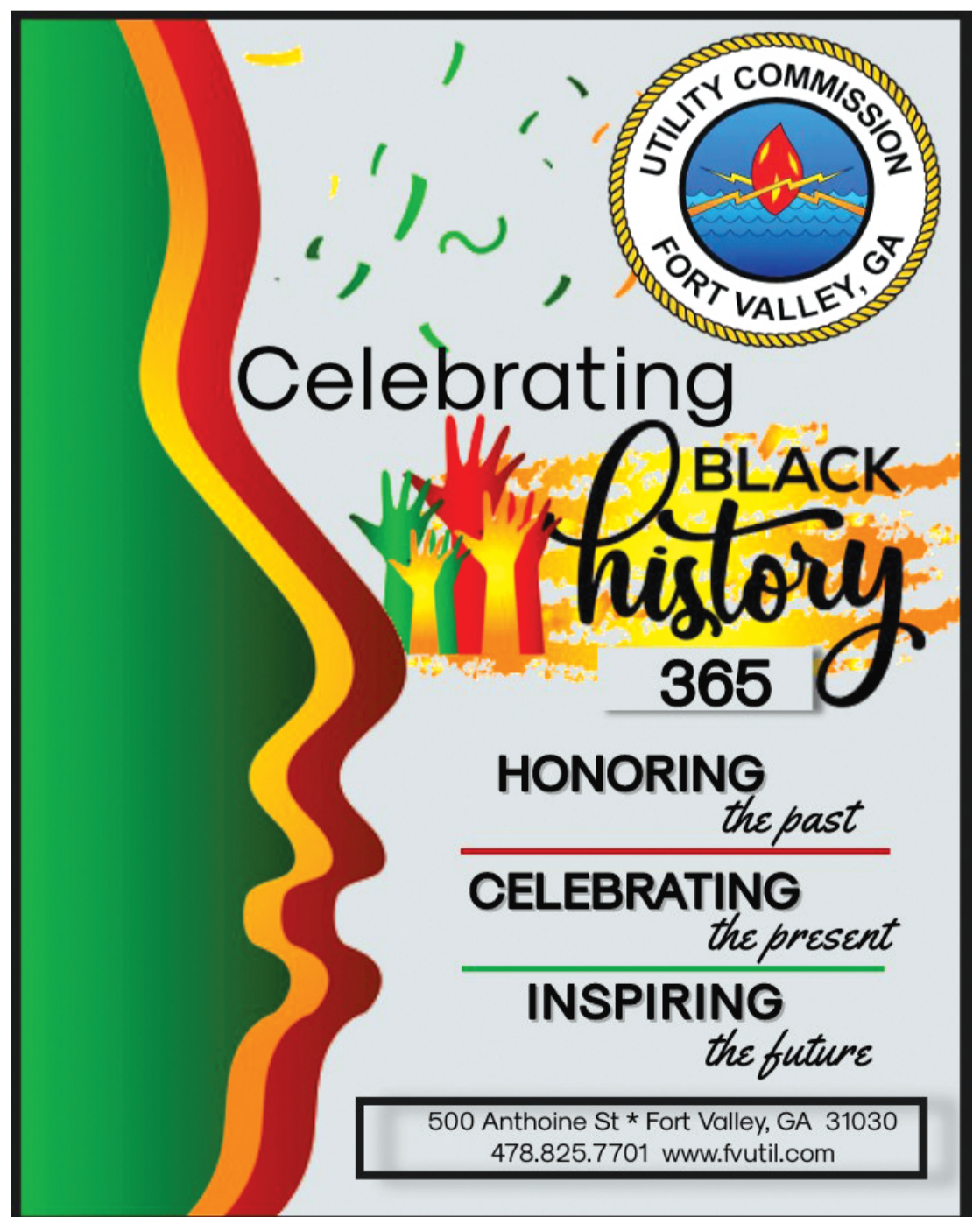
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