

The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

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Fatal Crash Leaves 2 Dead, 1 Injured

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

BYRON, Ga. – Two people were killed and another injured on Saturday, March 15, after a fatal car crash on I-75 South in Peach County, according to Peach County Coroner Kerry Rooks.

Rooks stated that two women – 48-year-old Melissa Darby and 17-year-old Mattie Newsome – were killed when their car slammed into a guard rail near

the 147-mile marker of I-75 south in Byron at roughly 7:45 a.m. Saturday morning. According to the Georgia's Department of Transportation's 511 website, the crash caused the car to overturn. Rooks stated that both women are from Cincinnati, Ohio and their next of kin have been informed.

According to Rooks, one of the victims was pronounced dead on the scene while the other would be pronounced dead at Atrium Health Peach. A third

victim, a male who was also in the vehicle, was taken to the Atrium Health Navicent to receive treatment for his injuries.

Rooks stated that all three individuals were in a single vehicle and from out of state. The coroner's office is still working to notify the next of kin, so the names of the victims can not be released at this time.

This is a developing story. The Leader Tribune will provide more information as it becomes available.

New Proposed Ordinance Could Shift Crash-Costs to At-Fault Drivers

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

BYRON, Ga. – The Mayor and City Council of Byron are considering a new ordinance that would shift the cost of emergency vehicle response for car accidents from taxpayers to insurance companies of at-fault drivers.

Under this proposed ordinance, emergency response services such as the Byron Fire Department could bill insurance companies for the costs of responding to car crashes where the insurance companies' policyholder is found liable. This ordinance, 2025-6 is scheduled for its second reading at the next Byron City Council board meeting on Monday, April 8, at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Chamber of the Municipal Complex.

Following that, the mayor and council continued with multiple other first and second readings of upcoming ordinances for the city of Byron.

First, was the second read-

ing and adoption of Ordinance 2025-1, regarding land development amendments. The changes are replacing design standards. Next, was the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 2025-2, regarding the number of gas stations, travel centers, and convenience stores in the City of Byron. There are currently 13 gasoline stations, travel centers, and other fueling centers in the limits of the City of Byron. This ordinance is planned to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of Byron by limiting the number of gasoline stations, travel centers, and other fueling centers in Byron.

Third, was the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 2025-3, regarding the annexation of a property located on Hwy 247. Next, was the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 2025-4 regarding the annexation of property located at 2251 Boy Scout Road. Both properties have been annexed into the City of Byron.

Following that was the first reading of Ordinance 2025-5 regarding a date change for utility billing. Originally, the code stated that nonpayment by the 10 of the month will be subject to a penalty of ten percent of the delinquent account, and has been changed to the 15 of the month.

During the citizens' time to address the mayor and council, three members of the community came forward to speak. First, Eric Neidlinger addressed the mayor and council stating that he is new to town and how much he loves and appreciates Byron. Next, Mrs. Williams complained about residents on Main Street raking their leaves into the ditch, which washes into her yard. Third, Willie Robinson addressed the Mayor and Council saying that he had moved to Byron three years ago and wants to give appreciation to the people of Byron including the Public Works Department and City Clerk Telina Allred.

Peach County Schools Is Thrilled To Partner With United Way Of Central Georgia



By PCSS

Peach County Schools is thrilled to partner with United Way of Central Georgia to make a meaningful impact in our community. This year, thanks

to your incredible support, we EXCEEDED our campaign goal! A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Debbie Wood for her outstanding leadership and to everyone who contributed to this success. Together, we're making a difference.



Fort Valley Police Department Investigating Possible Shooting Incident

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – On Monday, March 10, at 4:30 p.m., officers from the Fort Valley Police Department's Criminal Investigation Section were dispatched to the 700 block of Courtland Avenue, following reports of a possible shooting.

According to the incident report from the FVPD, officers spoke with the occupants of the residence which included several high-school-aged teenagers. According to the residents' statements, they initially believed

someone had been attempting to kick in their door earlier that day. However, they later discovered that their home had been damaged by what appeared to be gunfire.

The Fort Valley Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division is actively investigating this incident and has identified potential persons of interest. The department encourages anyone with information to call (478) 825-3383.

This is a developing story. The Leader Tribune will provide more information as it becomes available.

Commissioners Plan Proclamation for Passing of Long-Time Community Advocate

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – The Peach County Commissioners will be creating a proclamation in honor of the passing of a long-time Peach County resident who has contributed much to her community.

Commissioner Shanita Howell requested that a proclamation be made for the passing of Evelyn Davis McCray for her contributions to the city of Fort Valley and Peach County. The commissioners unanimously approved the proclamation.

The viewing for McCray will be on Friday, March 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Edwards Small Mortuary LLC. The funeral will be on Saturday, March 22, starting at 2 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church.

Concerning old business, Interim Finance Director Janet Smith presented a bid opening for South Peach Park Trails Expansion. The commissioners approved the bid from Sam Hall & Sons for \$609,940. Next, Human Resources Director Sedrick Swan presented two policy drafts – a Security Privacy Policy Draft and a Good Driver Policy Draft – both of which were approved, with the Security Privacy Policy Draft receiving some amendments. Following that, County Attorney James F. Banter discussed resolutions concerning the tax commissioner and an annexation letter from the City of Byron. Both were approved with amendments.

Regarding new business, Interim Finance Director Smith presented a budget amendment of \$1,292,495 for audits. She also brought an insurance renewal with Trident with the renewal premium increasing from \$21,000 - \$26,000 while

not including exposure changes. Both were approved as presented. Next, Attorney Banter discussed a proposal for a refund to Bluebird regarding their taxes and applied for a freeport exemption which was not properly applied. The commissioners approved the resolution.

During the public hearing portion of the meeting, there was a rezoning request by Martin Alcantar for 5.7 acres at 1875 Woolfolk Rd. The rezoning would be from R-AG, Residential Agricultural District, to R-1, Low-Density Residential District. No one spoke in favor or against the rezoning. The commissioners approved the rezoning as presented.

For announcements and updates, there was the announcement for a fundraiser for Critical Care for Animal Angels which will take place on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the parking lot of the Byron Baptist Church. Following that was an update on Senate Bill 302, from Attorney Banter.

Concerning appearances, Dewey Smith had citizen concerns regarding stormwater issues.

Following an executive session, the commissioners reappointed Ellison Kendrick and Sandee Khoury to the Planning & Zoning Board. They appointed J.R. Pulliam to the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals.



Head Start – A Positive Impact on Children And Families Across Middle Georgia

Contributed

Head Start and Early Head Start currently serve 800,000 young children and their families across all 50 States. Middle Georgia Community Action Agency forms a Head Start area that covers nearly 20 percent of the state. This includes Bleckley, Crawford, Dodge, Houston, Jones, Laurens, Montgomery, Peach, Pike, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Twiggs, Wheeler, Wilcox, and Wilkinson counties. MGCAA is currently funded to serve 697 children and their families each year through 19 Head Start centers.

Wide Reach and Local Impact

Local Head Start programs assess community needs when determining eligibility, ensuring that families who would benefit most from early education and support services have access. In Middle Georgia, a significant number of families face economic challenges, with many classified as low-income. The state's overall poverty rate has consistently exceeded the national average, and several counties in the Middle Georgia region experience even higher levels of economic hardship. Rural counties like Telfair and Wheeler frequently report some of the highest poverty rates in the state, with more than 30% of residents living at or below the

poverty line. This high concentration of low-income households underscores the importance of support programs like Head Start and Early Head Start in our communities.

Collaborative Program Provides a Boost for Under-Served Communities

The importance of early childhood development and education is not a new concept. As early as the 16th century, Martin Luther, a German theologian and religious reformer who was the catalyst of the Protestant Reformation, was writing about the value of educating children early in their young lives. He declared doing so strengthens the person, the family, and the community. It was not until 1965 that the United States took steps to ensure children from disadvantaged backgrounds had the opportunity to benefit from early childhood enrichment programs by creating Head Start.

The Head Start program was established to support children aged three to five, while Early Head Start, introduced in 1994, serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers up to age three, emphasizing the crucial early years of a child's development. Head Start programs provide early learning and development, health and nutrition screenings, and family support services aimed at strengthen-



ing families and fostering better parent-child relationships. The Head Start program exists to "ensure all children have the foundation they need to thrive—both in school and in the wider world." The program is rooted in the unwavering philosophy that where you come from should not stand in the way of where you are going.

The Importance of Early Intervention

Early childhood is a critical period for brain development and learning, as it lays the groundwork for cognitive, social and emotional growth. Research shows children exposed to supportive, stimulating envi-

ronments early in life are more likely to excel in school and beyond. By providing a structured learning environment enriched with educational activities, Head Start programs help ensure children from low-income families are prepared for school. The programs emphasize early literacy, math, social skills, and emotional resilience, leveling the playing field as children prepare for kindergarten.

Head Start and Early Head Start also address the broader well-being of children, recognizing nutrition, health, and mental health are fundamental to academic readiness. Participants receive meals and snacks

that meet federal nutritional guidelines, health screenings, and referrals to healthcare professionals if needed. Additionally, the programs connect families to available resources related to securing food, housing, and medical needs, contributing to a more stable environment for the child's growth and development.

Collaboration Drives Head Start

This noble mission is only achievable through the collaboration of governmental and service agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. Funding, as well as national standards and guidelines for Head Start, is provided through the Office of the Administration for Children & Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The program relies on the participation and support of state and local agencies, as well.

The Georgia Head Start Association (GHSA) supports the Head Start community throughout the state. Although not a direct state government entity, it plays a crucial role in advocacy, training, and resource sharing. The GHSA collaborates with local grantees and the state to enhance the quality and reach of Head Start services. The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) part-

ners with local Head Start programs to align early childhood education initiatives statewide. DECAL collaborates with Head Start providers on broader early learning efforts including the state-funded Pre-K program ensuring comprehensive services to children.

Local organizations such as community action agencies, non-profit organizations, and school districts, are responsible for directly implementing Head Start programs across the state. As recipients of Head Start grant funding, these entities are responsible for overseeing the delivery program. This includes:

- Hiring and training staff
- Recruiting eligible families
- Meeting federal standards
- Collaborating with state agencies

• Serving participating children and their families

To learn more, visit www.mgcaa.org. For more information about Head Start, visit

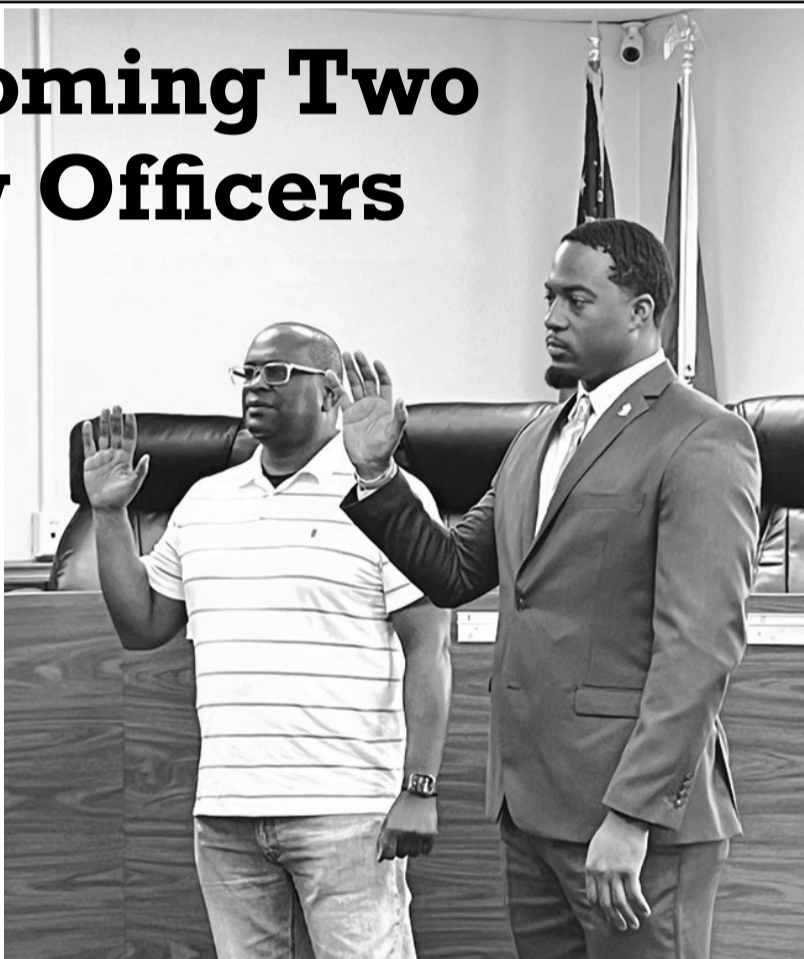
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs>.

Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc. exists to empower low-income individuals and families in Middle Georgia by providing comprehensive services that address immediate needs and promote long-term self-sufficiency, in collaboration with community partners. To learn more, visit www.mgcaa.org.

Welcoming Two New Officers

By City of Fort Valley/FB

The City of Fort Valley and the Fort Valley Police Department would like to welcome Officers Derrick Smith and Davaughan Smith to the great City of Fort Valley. Today, March 13, 2025 they were sworn in by Mayor Jeffery Lundy.



Growing Frustration With Smartphones Could Lead To Statewide Ban In Georgia Schools

By Ty Tagami Staff Writer

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – A societal backlash against the dizzying distraction of smartphones has gained momentum in the General Assembly, where legislation to ban the devices in schools remains in play after last week's deadline to move bills between chambers.

House Bill 340, which passed the state House of Representatives with broad bipartisan support, would prohibit student use of personal electronic devices from the first ring of the school bell in the morning to the last ring in the afternoon.

The "Distraction-Free Education Act" would only apply to elementary and middle schools, for now. Teenagers are so connected to their devices that lawmakers fear pushback from families if they try to include high schools.

That could change in the future if the legislation becomes law and loosens the grip of the devices on younger kids, said the bill's chief sponsor, Rep. Scott Hilton, R-Peachtree Corners. He predicted that a ban would increase academic performance, reduce bullying and improve student mental health, and he said he thinks people will wonder why cellphones were ever allowed in schools.

"Years from now, we're going to look back and say, 'I can't believe we ever allowed ourselves to do it,'" Hilton said.

The backlash against cellphones in schools has been brewing for years, as public consciousness has grown about the addictive nature of smartphones and the pervasive social media usage they enable.

Documentaries such as "The Social Dilemma" have explored how social media companies target children and their attention. Books such as "Stolen Focus" by British journalist Johann Hari have described the impact of the resulting distraction on their ability to function.

It has been years since the Georgia legislature recognized the risk of smartphone distraction and made it illegal to hold one while driving. Now, experts are finding that the devices affect students by forcing constant

shifts of focus, encouraging misbehavior and undermining socialization.

Common Sense Media, a nonprofit that reviews the age appropriateness of books and technology targeting children, reported last month that 97% of students aged 11-17 who have smartphones use them throughout the school day. In 2023, the organization published a study of smartphone use by kids in that same age group, using data from about 200 students. Half were receiving 237 or more notifications per day.

Adriana Harrington, who used to work for the Tennessee Department of Education and now directs policy for ExcelinEd, a Florida-based education think tank, drove home the impact of such statistics during a presentation for lawmakers in early February.

Hari, the author, spoke at a national summit last fall. He said it takes 23 minutes to regain the same level of focus after tending to a smartphone notification.

"If you do the math, there is no possible way to maintain focus throughout a school day with that much disruption occurring in your pocket," Harrington told the lawmakers.

JAMA Pediatrics, published by the American Medical Association, reported last month that kids aged 13 to 18 spend an average of 8.5 hours a day using screen-based media.

"Smartphone use during school has become a concern, and school-based smartphone bans have been increasingly considered," the report said. "Smartphones may distract from classroom learning and opportunities for real-world interactions."

There will likely be resistance to a ban in Georgia, especially in middle school, where many kids already have a smartphone. Parents have grown accustomed to the technological tether to their children, and the increasing anxiety about school shootings is causing many to clutch tightly to that link.

During the House floor debate on HB 340 last week, Rep. Imani Barnes, D-Tucker, said her son had recently texted her from school during a lockdown.

"It terrified me," she said. "He sent the information firsthand,

quickly, from his phone. I don't want him on his phone while he's in class, but what are your suggestions in those situations?"

Hilton, a father of three, responded that he also worries about the safety of his own kids at school, but he said experts he heard from said cellphones escalate the danger during an emergency.

"All of them agree on one thing," Hilton said. "In the case of an emergency, the last thing we want is a child to have a phone in their hand. They want the undivided attention of that student on the teacher, getting directions as to where to go."

The legislation would require schools to develop policies that allow parents to reach their kids in school, for instance, by calling the principal's office. It also would require exemptions from the ban for students with disabilities or medical conditions that require them to use a device for learning or for health uses, such as checking their glucose level.

Georgia would be following a half dozen states that already ban phones in classrooms. They're reporting fewer disruptions and more interaction among students.

Harrington said teachers in schools that have eradicated phones have noticed a culture shift, with kids playing cards in the lunchroom instead of hunching over a device.

Grant Rivera, superintendent of Marietta City Schools, has seen this increased socialization firsthand. His school board backed a ban on cellphones in middle school that started this school year.

Rivera said at the legislative presentation last month that one in five of his middle school students surveyed said the ban had led to improved learning. Two thirds of teachers surveyed said they felt less stressed about managing their classrooms and about teaching their students due to the policy.

Disciplinary problems are down now that kids can't start and promote fights on social media, Rivera said. And lunchrooms that were quiet are now abuzz with conversation.

SMARTPHONES CONTINUED PG 4A



- Health Screenings
- Free Food
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- Line Dancing
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SMARTPHONES

CONTINUED FROM 2A

“It impacts academics, it impacts their well-being, it impacts their relationships,” Rivera said.

Proponents say high school students experience the downsides of cellphone use, too. But a ban at that level would be trickier. Teens who testified at a House subcommittee hearing in late February said students have jobs and that employers may want to contact them during school hours. And they said students have club meetings to coordinate.

John Zauner, executive director of the Georgia School Superintendents Association, predicted that if HB 340 passes and a ban takes hold in elementary and middle schools, the “culture” around smartphone use will lose its grip as younger kids rise to high school.

The former high school principal told lawmakers that he supported the proposed ban in K-8 schools, “knowing that we can build that culture, actually break that culture, and create a new one at (grades) 9-12 in a pretty short amount of time.”

HB 340 passed a House subcommittee unanimously, before passing the House Education Committee despite a couple of dissenters. It passed the full House 143-29 last week and awaits a hearing by the Senate Children and Families Committee.

If the legislation becomes law, school districts would have until January to write policies and procedures for locking up kids’ phones in elementary and middle schools, and they would have to implement those policies by the summer of 2026.

Submit your Letter To The Editor by emailing news@theleadertribune.com

Posted Message from The City of Fort Valley

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March 12, 2025

To the Citizens of Fort Valley, Georgia

Please be advised the City of Fort Valley Utility credit for Energy Assistance was \$100.00 during the period of October 2024 to December 2024. Fort Valley Utility assisted us with this matter. We greatly apologize for the misinformation the citizens were given pertaining to giving \$200.00 - \$250.00 toward their utility bills.

We are currently gathering the pertinent information of each citizen who did not receive the credit during that time and will consult with Fort Valley Utility to ensure every customer that didn't receive the credit will.

Thank you for your understanding.

v/r

Gary Lee
City of Fort Valley
City Administrator

Obesity...The Common Link to Most Chronic Disease



WADE YODER
LT COLUMNIST

Diet and lack of adequate activity are the two main contributing factors to the obesity epidemic, so if we can start making some very simple lifestyle changes, we not only can change our physical shape, but we can also increase our body's capability to fight illness and disease.

The fight against obesity is one that is particularly interesting to me since it's a business I've been in since 1991 and probably the main reason that most people want to start exercising and dieting. Through these years, many fad diets, pills and dietary shakes, have come and gone, but a commonsense lifestyle approach to weight-loss prevails and comes out on top every time. If we get a good clear image in our mind of the root causes of obesity, (and implement a counter approach) we can get into the shape we

want, without spending our money to lose weight. It's ironic how much money we as Americans spend on consuming more food than we should and are one of the only countries in the world that will turn around and pay (diet pills, shakes etc.) to lose the fat our body stored from the extra food consumed. Marketing tactics often get us to blow money in both directions. The Standard American Diet (S.A.D.) combined with inactivity has served up a combo platter that has bad outcomes.

There are a few things I have categorized below that are prime culprits in causing the obesity epidemic...

First: If we look at what has changed in our diets and lifestyles in general, we can find the reason this is an ongoing battle for us or for the ones around us that we care about.

Example: A boy or girl is very active throughout high school through various activities, sports etc. and is consuming enough calories to sustain this activity and body weight and growth, but then after school when he or she takes an office job and continues to eat about the same amount of food, these extra unburned calories turn to fat. If a person gets inactive and their caloric burn rate is 500 calories less per day then before, this adds up! 500 calories x 30 days = 15,000 calories and there are only 3,500 calories in a

pound of fat, this can really add up in a year's time!

Second: Inactivity causes our muscles to lose their tone and muscles losing their tone is like turning the heat down on a stove- it slows the muscles capability to burn calories! A loss in metabolism has more to do with a loss in muscle tone than it has to do with getting older. Exercise all parts of the body so that both upper and lower body muscles as well as core muscles can do their fair share in boosting your metabolism.

Third: Our diets are so loaded with calorie dense foods that have little or no fiber in them and this makes so that we cannot feel that we overate until it's too late. Small amounts of food that have a lot of calories in only a few bites (aka calorie dense foods) can be great for when we don't have time to eat, but only in small amounts. Deserts and sweet drinks can easily add an extra 300-500 extra calories on top of a meal that was already adequate.

Releasing fat: In order to release stored fat to be used as burnable energy, we need to keep our intake of sugary and starchy foods to a minimum. Sugar has been THE BAD culprit for a lot of the obesity epidemic and if I would have a choice of the two worst words in lending to the problem and making people feel good about eating foods that were not good

for them, it would be the food label “Fat Free.”

Insulin produced as a result of sugar in the blood will lock up the release mechanisms on your fat cells. When lowering your sugar, starches and carbs for one to two days it can be beneficial for weight loss to have a cheat meal -this is for the purpose of refueling your muscle cells. If you don't refuel in time, your body will think it is starving so it breaks down muscle for energy to slow your metabolism down and accommodate the new low-calorie schedule. If you go low on the calorie intake, don't do it for longer than 2 days before you have a cheat day. However, on your cheat day, keep sugary food and drink to a minimum or you'll erase your weight loss efforts.

Take away: You do not have to spend money to lose weight! The best way is to make some simple lifestyle changes, take in fewer calories, burn some extra calories through adding in exercise, drink half your body weight in ounces of water, and every few days (after your low-calorie days) have a good cheat meal to replenish the energy in your muscle cells.

Let's keep our body from totting more weight than it was designed to carry, it will feel better, look better and help us fight chronic diseases!

Democrats Need To Decide What They're Really For

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

I'm going to break several of my own rules this week. I've always treated most rules as suggestions anyway.

Specifically, as someone who learned about and has participated in electoral politics through a Republican lens, I tend to avoid writing about the inner workings of the Democratic Party. The processes about how each party selects and elects candidates look mostly the same but are entirely different.

If you're inside one operation, you really are only guessing what is going on inside the other. Pretending you're an expert on how the other side works isn't an honest approach with your audience. Suggestions on how the other side could improve are often viewed as disingenuous, and for good reason.

And yet, if you believe in competition you understand that having a worthy competitor keeps you sharp. Iron sharpens iron is the best platitude here. When you look at the talking points captivating and representing each party's base, it's difficult to see anything other than dull meeting dull.

My professional life for the last decade has been working on policy. I haven't worked the campaign side of the political industry in five years, and even that was because the client was a close friend.

I long ago realized that cam-

paing and governing are two separate functions which often contradict each other. The more polarizing campaigns become, the harder it is to solve the more difficult problems once elected.

If we really want problems solved by the best ideas, we need each party actively engaged and mobilized with their best ideas. We need to be debating over competing solutions. And, quite frankly, most policy matters of substance that offer long term solutions require bipartisan input.

My left-leaning readers are already doing a solid eye-roll, saying “you can't seriously tell me Republicans are pushing sound policy based solutions.” That's both part of the problem, and today's point.

Today isn't about the Republicans, nor the quality of any policy idea. This is about Democrats not currently fielding a team or, quite frankly, any credible response to what Republicans are currently doing. I'm asking - even pleading - that you hold up a mirror and take a long look at yourselves.

Let's start with how voters currently feel about the Democratic Party. Too many are in denial that the election - the only poll that matters - signified the will of the American people. Yet this weekend we have two polls that show Democrats are currently viewed with disdain by all but the most hyper partisan. Only 29% of Americans view

the Democratic Party favorably according to CNN, which is a record low in their polling. NBC News poll was even lower, at 27%. When just over one in four potential voters views your brand positively, you have a problem when seeking a majority.

Democrats, having lost control of the White and both chambers of commerce, have a structural problem in reversing this. They have no clear leader of the party.

That same CNN poll noted that Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and former VP Kamala Harris were viewed as the leader by 11% and 10% of those polled, respectively. One observer on Twitter noted that back bench Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett and former President Barak Obama are viewed with equal strength - at 4%.

Republicans have lived this problem, and many the Democrats are currently facing. When members of Congress who have never led a committee but lead clicks and engagement from interview soundbites, the party is pulled further and further from the center.

Once out of power, opposition and indignity to who is in power become literal currency. The person who can whip up the loudest and most frequent opposition is often confused with leadership. The money and influence begins to flow not to

wards what the party is for, but to what it is against.

The logical conclusion of this was best described on Fox News last week from an unlikely source. California actress and advocate Justine Bateman have become very vocal about the Democrats failure to govern, with increasing frequency in the wake of the California wildfires. She summed up the situation perfectly:

“You can't just decide you're going to do the opposite, because when one side is doing something reasonable then your opposite is just being insane.”

“Resist” may be a good rallying cry. It may even feel like it is constructive. The polls are trying to tell you it - at least alone as a singular strategy - is not.

Years ago I challenged Republicans repeatedly to be “for” something. Being “against Obamacare” didn't tell voters what they were for. Shutting down the government, again, wasn't a positive act “for” something.

Voters may be uncomfortable with a lot of what Republicans are “for” these days. Change is always uncomfortable. The day Democrats can articulate what they are “for” in a way that resonates with the goals of a majority of voters is the day Democrats will begin to find their way back. Everything else until then is just performance art.

The Home Stretch: The Legislative Session After Crossover Day

J. Thomas Perdue, Policy Analyst, Georgia Public Policy Foundation, Guest Columnist

Crossover Day marked the beginning of the end of this year's legislative session. Beyond being the point when bills must pass out of their respective chambers to remain alive, last Thursday further clarified this legislature's priorities. By the end of last year, one topic emerged as the frontrunner as the session's central issue: tort reform.

Tort Reform

Reforming Georgia's legal landscape is a top priority for Gov. Brian Kemp and many key lawmakers. Over the past few years, Georgia's tort system gained infamy for its numerous high-profile frivolous lawsuits, nuclear verdicts and exploita-

tions of unfair or predatory litigation practices. This is not to mention the economic costs that lawsuit abuse places on Georgians, a phenomenon documented by the Foundation and many others.

The effort to reform Georgia's legal environment led to the passage of two Senate bills that now head to the House. Senate Bill 68 includes a wide range of changes, including limiting premises liability - liability placed on property owners for crimes committed on their property that they had nothing to do with - and eliminating “phantom damages” by requiring a truthful calculation of damages incurred instead of what a patient was billed for medical care. The bill amends procedures with fairer outcomes in mind, such as allow-

ing for trials to be more easily split into stages for the separate determination of liability and damages, and allowing jurors to know whether a plaintiff was wearing his or her seatbelt in an auto accident.

The Senate's other tort bill, Senate Bill 69, passes the Senate unanimously. Senate Bill 69 is more specific in scope as it seeks to limit third-party litigation financing. The Foundation has also covered the various issues brought about by outside funding of tort lawsuits, like a lack of transparency, predatory lending practices and the threat of interference from foreign actors. While Senate Bill 69 was passed unanimously in its original chamber, Senate Bill 69 is likely to face a contentious fight in the House.

The wide scope of this leg-

islative effort indicates a landscape of problems throughout Georgia's tort system, which reform advocates consistently rate among the worst in the country. Beyond sweeping policy proposals, the political aspect of tort reform in this year's session is noteworthy as well. This included the creation of a new Subcommittee of Rules on Lawsuit Reform, to which the two bills were assigned, and has led to days' worth of testimony from advocates on both sides of this issue. Additionally, Gov. Kemp threatened to call a special session if his legislation doesn't pass, and one of his political advisers suggested Kemp may support primary challenges against lawmakers who oppose the bills.

**CROSSOVER DAY
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.

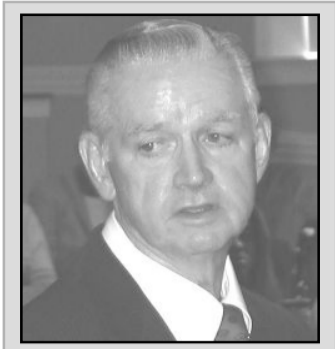
OUR POLICIES

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.

The Leader Tribune, a periodical, postage paid at Fort Valley, USPS (307740) mailed at Fort Valley, GA, is published weekly for \$44.00 per year by A Division of the Georgia Trust for Local News., 109 Anderson Avenue, Fort Valley, GA, Phone (478) 825-2432, Fax (478) 825-4130. It is published proudly for the citizens of Byron, Fort Valley and surrounding areas.

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The Trinity



BILLY POWELL
Parables to Ponder
COLUMNIST

The word Trinity is not in the Bible nor the Bible Concordance. The idea that God is "Three Persons in One" is confusing. God exists as Three Persons, yet he is One being. Each person of the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has a separate identity while yet possessing the full nature of God.

Jesus is the divine Son of God. Jesus was created by God, and He always co-existed with God (see John 1:1-3). While on earth, Jesus himself declared likewise. Colossians 1:15-17 states: "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before God made anything and is supreme over all creation. Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. He existed before everything else began, and He holds all creation together." You

will note that the Nicene Creed, frequently recited in church, uses the Greek term "Homoousias" to affirm that Jesus is of the same 'nature and substance' as God.

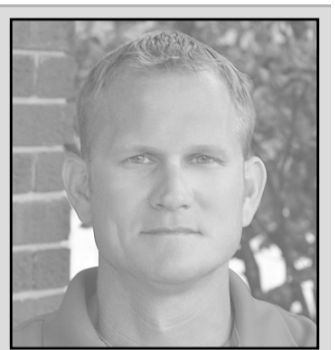
God the Holy Spirit is also deity. The Spirit has eternally co-existed with the Father and the Son. It was present at creation (see Genesis 1:2). Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate...He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. When the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything I have told you" (John 14: 16, 26). Jesus called the co-existing Spirit holy because He is the Spirit of the Holy God, the third person of the triune Godhead. Rest assured that as you seek to know God, that you will feel the presence and promptings of the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 2, about the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to the early church.

The Christian doctrine of the Trinity is the central dogma concerning the nature of God. It defines God as existing in three coequal, coeternal, consubstantial divine persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—three distinct persons sharing the same essence. Each is God, complete

and whole. The Old Testament refers to the Trinity in many places. In Isaiah 9, the Messiah is called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." 'Counselor' is a title for the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). 'Father' is a title for God the Father, and Prince of Peace is a title for Jesus. The New Testament contains Trinitarian formulas, including Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:13, 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, Ephesians 4:4-6, 1 Peter 1:2, and Revelation 1:4-5. The Great Commission states: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The Apostle's blessing affirms: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

I joined the First Baptist Church in Perry on Main Street at the tender age of 11. My mother, Margaret Powell, joined at the same time. We both walked down the aisle at the invitation of "Just as I Am." When mother and I were baptized, and just before submersion into the water, Rev. Ivey, stated, "I Baptist you in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit."

Guide to Proper Pruning



JEFF COOK
EXTENSION AGENT

Almost all trees and shrubs require some pruning from time to time. So, if your landscape includes shrubs or fruit trees, it is important to understand the "whys, whens, and hows" of proper pruning. Neglecting pruning or doing it incorrectly can result in damage or just unsightly plants.

Pruning helps create attractive, well-formed, and compact plants. It stimulates new growth by forcing dormant buds to develop, with most new growth occurring within six inches of the cuts. In some cases, pruning is necessary to shape plants by removing overgrown or misshapen branches, as well as low

limbs that interfere with foot traffic and lawn mowers. Additionally, pruning helps remove diseased or insect-damaged wood, promoting the overall health of the plant.

The best time to prune is any time after dormancy but before buds begin to swell in spring. All evergreen plants and summer-flowering shrubs should be pruned during this period. However, spring-flowering shrubs—such as azaleas, forsythia, flowering quince, and dogwoods—should be pruned after they have finished blooming. Pruning these plants too early, in February or March, would remove their flower buds.

If you have large, overgrown shrubs blocking windows, doorways, or walkways, drastic pruning is the best solution. You can rejuvenate most overgrown shrubs by cutting them back severely, leaving them only a foot or two above ground level. Broadleaf shrubs such as azaleas, Japanese hollies, Chinese hollies, camellias, gardenias, nandinas, abelias, and crape myrtles usually respond well to heavy pruning if they are healthy and well-established. For the best results, prune

these shrubs in late February or March. However, old, weak, or diseased plants may not survive severe pruning and should likely be replaced. Sometimes, you may need to sacrifice flowers to restore the shape and health of a tree or shrub. Ensure that your pruning tools are well-sharpened and that cuts are made almost flush to the larger limb or trunk. To reduce the spread of disease, especially when pruning fruit trees, dip pruning shears in a solution of rubbing alcohol or one part bleach to nine parts water after each cut.

Pruning is an essential annual practice for fruit trees. Proper pruning increases fruit production and quality, while also controlling the size of the tree, and making spraying and harvesting easier. Additionally, pruning allows more light to reach the inner leaves and generally improves the tree's appearance. By following proper pruning techniques, you can maintain healthy, attractive, and productive plants in your landscape. For more information, contact your local extension office. We can be reached at 478-825-6466, 478-862-5496 or mackiv@uga.edu

CROSSOVER DAY

CONTINUED FROM 4A

Regulatory Reform
Another priority issue that ran the pre-Crossover Day gauntlet was regulatory reform: an attempt to reduce unnecessary burdens in Georgia's code and change the way regulations are enacted and maintained moving forward. This manifested in the Red Tape Rollback Act of 2025, or Senate Bill 28.

Regulatory reform was highlighted as a priority by the lieutenant governor's office earlier this year when it was likened to a state-level version of the new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), the federal effort to cut waste headed by Elon Musk. However, the proposals in the General Assembly are not practically similar to DOGE beyond a sentiment for cutting inefficiencies. Similar reforms to Georgia's bill can be found in other states, having been implemented by both executive and legislative actions.

Georgia lawmakers recognized the issue that, despite the legislative branch's duty to pass laws, most of Georgia's regulations come from unelected bureaucrats in agencies that make up the executive branch. Georgia's regulatory code has grown nearly every year since the state began tracking regulations, and many of them are now irrelevant, redundant or overly burdensome.

Senate Bill 28 would require agencies to perform periodic, top-to-bottom reviews in order to eliminate unnecessary rules and provide

an economic impact analysis to the General Assembly if a proposed rule is estimated to cost over \$1 million over five years after implementation. It also seeks to specifically reduce burdens on small businesses, which often face the heaviest burdens and have the most difficulty navigating the regulatory code.

While eliminating redundancies and burdens in the code is important, this bill seeks a more fundamental change. By ensuring that the purposes and necessities of proposed and active regulations are justified before and during their lifetimes, Georgia can curb the inertia typical of the administrative state, which tends to grow over time if unchecked.

Education

The central issue of the 2023-24 session was undoubtedly the fight over expanding K-12 opportunities, specifically with the passage of the Georgia Promise Scholarship Act. Given this, it was unlikely that education would take center stage again. However, there was plenty of work to be done, both in building on last year's successes and in other areas.

As for the Promise Scholarship, the Senate passed legislation that will expand access to children of foster parents (Senate Bill 152) and children of active duty military families (Senate Bill 124). As the Promise Scholarship only recently opened applications, it will be interesting to

see how lawmakers plan to sustain and expand the program. Issues in maintaining it have already sprung up in this session, as the House removed almost \$100 million of its funding. However, Lt. Gov. Burt Jones has since stated that the Senate would restore the funding.

Other areas of education policy that lawmakers have addressed include a requirement that the State Board of Education publish the federal guidance and guidelines it receives (added as an amendment to Senate Bill 124). The House approved an increase in the annual tax credits available for the state's tax credit scholarship program from \$120 million per year to \$140 million, though this increase was amended from a previously proposed \$200 million. The Senate passed the "Local Charter School Authorization and Support Act of 2025," which incentivizes local boards of education to approve new charter schools. This move is timely given Georgia's shortcomings in providing access to charter schools and that only one public charter school has been approved in Georgia over the past five years.

For many of the bills that managed to cross over, the toughest fight lies ahead. Lawmakers and Gov. Kemp have made their top priorities clear, and we're now in the home stretch to see what makes it to the governor's desk before *Sine Die* on April 4.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

LENTEN FISH FRY
CHRIST THE REDEEMER
ANGLICAN CHURCH
Friday, March 21, 2025
Time: 4:30 - 7:00pm
Location: 2815 Hwy 41, Fort Valley, GA
Fried fish, hush puppies, vegetable, Cheese grits, Dessert and drink
Questions call 478.442.1097 or 3585

LENTEN SCHEDULE
ST ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
All are welcome!
6:00pm Thursdays during the Lenten Season
Covered Dish, Presentations, Evening Prayers
First 2 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1000 State University Dr - Fort Valley
Thursday, March 20 - Novelist & Short Story Fiction Writer for Middle School kids and Adults Margaret Rodeheaver
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 309 Central Ave, Fort Valley
Thursday, March 27 - Tommy Alden, One of our own members with a unique surprise presentation
Thursday, April 3 - Jesse Thompson, Camp Vinson Valley Director - Ministry of Byron Heritage Church
Thursday, April 10 - Bett Rayburn, Granddaughter to W.T. Forbes, Founder Athens Y Camp - Stories
Friday Evenings 6:00pm
March 14 - April 14 Stations of the Cross in St. Andrew's Church St. Andrew's & St. Luke's wish you a Holy Lenten Season

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.

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

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.middlelegaanglican.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

BAHA'I FAITH

"Religions are many, but the reality of religion is one. The days are many, but the sun is one... The branches are many, but the tree is one."

Baha'u'llah

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

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 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.

FFA Spring Plant Sale

By PCSS

The Peach County FFA Chapter will be having their annual Spring Plant Sale from March 26-28, 2025. The greenhouse is located at 3665 Peach Parkway in Fort Valley, GA and is best accessible via Moseley Rd. at the back entrance of the school.

The hours of operation are as follows:
March 26- 3:00 - 5:00 (Cash and Card Only)
March 27- 8:00-5:00 (Cash and Card Only)
March 28- 8:00-5:00 (Cash until 3:00 pm, Card only from 3:00-5:00)

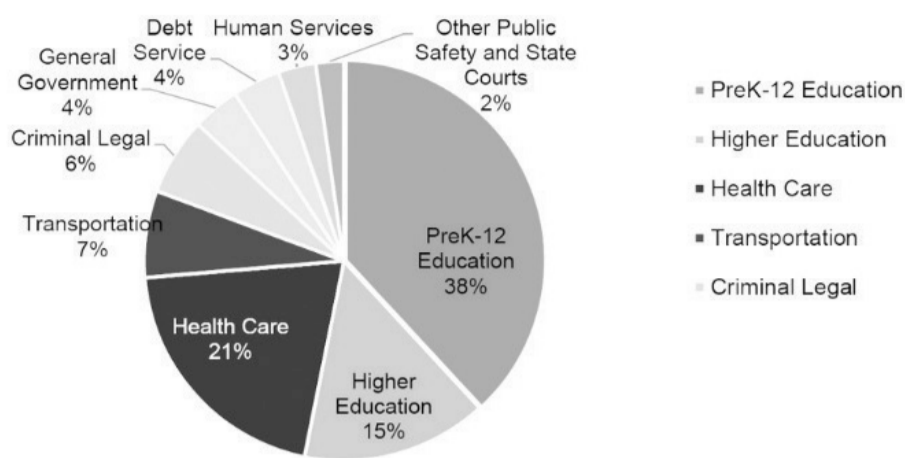
The plants sold were grown and cared for by our agriculture students who are learning plant production, marketing, customer service, and many other real-life skills! Come support our students! Details on inventory and prices will be made available soon on the Peach County FFA Facebook page.

Come prepared, please. We will no longer provide trays to take home. Students will provide assistance to carry items. You may bring your own boxes and trays or return used ones from the last plant sale.

THE EVENT WILL PRESENT AN OVERVIEW OF THE 2025 GEORGIA BUDGET BREAKDOWN, A DEEP DIVE INTO SNAP AND TANF, AND HOW POLICIES AFFECT THE BUDGET BREAKOUT.

GEORGIA BUDGET AND SNAP/TANF EVENT

Education and Health Care Equal 73 Percent of \$36.1 Billion Budget for Fiscal Year 2025



Source: Governor's Budget Report Amended FY 2024 and FY 2025

GEORGIA BUDGET & POLICY INSTITUTE GBPI.org

HOSTED BY

PEACH CONCERNED CITIZENS INC.

Lunch will be provided | Door Prizes | Snacks
Saint Peter AMEC 502 State University Dr,
Fort Valley, GA, 31030

MARCH 24, 2025

MONDAY 10AM - 12:30PM

PRESENTER
GEORGIA BUDGET AND POLICY INSTITUTE

Register: <https://rb.gy/klgt7d>

Contact: 478-827-5110, 478-227-6260,

kendrickk@peachconcernedcitizens.com

<https://www.peachconcernedcitizens.com/contact-us>

Contributed

Peach Concerned Citizens, Inc is hosting a Georgia Budget and SNAP/TANF information sharing event on Monday, March 24, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Saint Peter AMEC Church, 502 State University Dr, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute will make the presentation discussing the 2025 Georgia Budget and a deep dive into the SNAP (food stamps) and TANF (assistance) Programs.

Lunch and door prizes. Call 478-827-5110 for additional information and to register. You can also register at <https://rb.gy/klgt7d>

Ossoff, Warnock oppose Republican-backed spending bill

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Georgia's two Democratic U.S. senators voted Friday against advancing a temporary spending bill to keep the federal government open through September, charging Republicans with ramming through a harmful "continuing resolution" without consulting Democrats.

Sens. Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, however, were on the losing side, as nine Senate Democrats and one independent joined Republicans in a 62-38 vote to move forward with the bill. The measure was expected to gain final passage Friday night.

Warnock said Republicans put Democrats in an impossible position in forcing the Senate to vote on a bill that already had passed the House without a single Democratic vote.

"Instead of working together to actually improve people's lives, craven politicians shut the door on bipartisan conversation and re-emerged with an ultimatum: vote for a partisan government funding package or let the government shut down," Warnock said.

"Make no mistake, this government funding bill is bad policy: it would spike grocery prices, cut investments in education and health care, and defund care for service-members exposed to burn pits."

Ossoff suggested a better alternative for Republicans would have been to negotiate a 30-day stopgap funding bill to avoid a shutdown, giving Congress time to work out a bipartisan budget.

"The House bill ... irresponsibly fails to impose any constraints on the reckless and out-of-control Trump administration," Ossoff said. "The administration is gutting the CDC (the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and the VA (Veterans Administration) while destabilizing the economy. Both parties in Congress must fulfill our constitutional obligation to check the president."

Senate Democrats who voted to advance the bill - spearheaded by Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York - argued that a government shutdown would have played into President Donald Trump's hands by allowing the president and advisor Elon Musk even freer rein to further dismantle federal government agencies and fire thousands of workers.

Georgia Family Targeted in Cemetery Memorialization Scam

By Secretary of State Press Office

Atlanta - Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger is reminding the public to be vigilant in the selection of perpetual care and memorialization services. In January, a Georgia constituent reported a distressing scam to the Secretary of State's office, where the complainant's mother was deceived by an imposter posing as a representative of the Veteran's Affairs cemetery where her late husband was to be buried.

The scam artist contacted the grieving widow, falsely claiming a requirement of purchasing an insurance policy to cover her while the burial took place. When she hesitated, the scammer applied high-pressure sales tactics, insisting that payment was required immediately to avoid rescheduling or canceling the service.

Initially, the mother attempted to send payment via Zelle, but the transaction was flagged and rejected due to fraud detection. The scammer then directed her to send \$1,200 via PayPal, which she unfortunately did.

Upon learning of this fraudulent activity, the complainant contacted the Office of Secretary Raffensperger. An investigation was immediately conducted, and the cemetery and a local funeral home were promptly notified. The funeral home confirmed that such scams are alarmingly common.

This incident occurred before the complainant's father had even been laid to rest, highlighting the vulnerability of grieving families to financial predators. The matter has been escalated to multiple law enforcement authorities for further investigation.

Secretary Raffensperger would like to remind the public of common signs of fraud, including:

1. Bogus fees and upselling of services that should be free, such as burial in a VA national cemetery, which includes a gravesite, perpetual care, a government-provided headstone, and more at no cost to eligible families.

2. Pressure tactics demanding immediate payment for unfamiliar services.

3. False claims of unpaid debts on behalf of the deceased without verifiable proof.

4. Unsolicited offers of help from unverified sources claiming to advocate for your loved one's memorial benefits.

Tips to avoid falling victim to these scams include:

1. Research funeral homes and check for disciplinary actions before committing to services.

2. Engage with funeral home/cemetery representatives directly to confirm plans, benefits and avoid unnecessary charges.

3. Ensure family members are informed of end-of-life decisions and document them properly.

4. Never sign blank documents or agreements without reviewing charges and fees in full.

Fraudulent activity such as this is common. Scam artists do not hesitate to exploit families during their most vulnerable moments. Awareness and vigilance are key to preventing further victimization. If you or someone you know has been targeted by a memorialization scam, report it to the Secretary of State's Cemeteries Division at cemeteries@sos.ga.gov.

Sens. Ossoff, Moody Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Make Homeownership More Affordable for First Responders & Teachers

By the Office of Jon Ossoff, U.S. Senator for Georgia

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff is introducing a bipartisan bill to help Georgia's first responders and teachers buy homes in the communities they serve.

Today, Sens. Ossoff and Ashley Moody (R-FL) introduced the bipartisan Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act of 2025, which would establish a new home loan program under the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) for law enforcement, fire fighters, medical first responders, and teachers.

The HELPER Act would eliminate the upfront home purchase costs and the monthly mortgage insurance premium for those who serve our communities.

Senators Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) co-sponsored the bipartisan bill.

"I'm working across the aisle to support Georgia's teachers, first responders, and law enforcement officers by making homeownership more affordable for public servants who teach our kids and protect our families," said Sen. Ossoff.

The companion bill is being introduced in the House by Reps. John Rutherford (R-FL-05), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12), Andrew Garbarino (R-NY-02), and Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05).

Sen. Ossoff's bipartisan HELPER Act is backed by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), International Association of EMTs and Paramedics (IAEP), and National Education Association (NEA).

"The State Lodge of the Georgia Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), officially supports and endorses the re-introduction of the "Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act." This legislation will aid law enforcement officers who struggle to acquire resources to obtain affordable housing. The cost of housing inhibits law enforcement agencies when recruiting in many areas," said

Michael Callahan, President of the Georgia Fraternal Order of Police. "It has long been the position of the Georgia Fraternal Order of Police that law enforcement officers should be a part of their community, not apart from it. Ensuring first responders can reside in their area of responsibility is the cornerstone of community policing. We applaud our leaders who through bipartisanship can work together to make a difference in the lives of law enforcement officers."

"This is timely and overdue and we commend Senator Ossoff and ask others to join with him in supporting this noble act," said Georgia Federation of Teachers President Verdaillia Turner. "The HELPER Act is a tangible means of taking care of the men and women who take care of America."

Sen. Ossoff's bill is also backed by local leaders across the state.

"We continue to be grateful for Senator Ossoff's support for Columbus. The bipartisan HELPER Act will assist us in addressing the housing crisis that we face in our community," said Columbus Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson III.

"As Chair of Henry County, I am proud to stand in support of Senator Jon Ossoff's bipartisan HELPER Act. This legislation is a testament to the values we hold dear—compassion, community, and empowerment. By providing first responders, educators, and other public servants with the opportunity to achieve homeownership, the HELPER Act not only addresses the housing affordability crisis but also strengthens the very fabric of our communities," said Henry County Chair Carlotta Harrell. "These individuals dedicate their lives to serving and protecting us, and it is our duty to ensure they can live in the neighborhoods they serve. I urge my fellow leaders and citizens to join me in advocating for this critical piece of legislation. Together, we can make the American Dream more accessible for those who dedicate their lives to making our communities safer and stronger."

"Senator Ossoff has been a steadfast advocate for public

safety, consistently championing initiatives that support first responders and strengthen the communities they serve. His commitment to addressing critical challenges—such as the housing affordability crisis—demonstrates his deep understanding of the barriers our firefighters, paramedics, and emergency personnel face daily," said Columbus Fire-EMS Chief Salvatore J. Scarpa. "The HELPER Act is a game-changer for public safety professionals. By eliminating upfront home purchase costs and monthly mortgage insurance premiums, this legislation provides much-needed relief for those who dedicate their lives to protecting others. Owning a home in the communities we serve should not be an unattainable dream but a reality, and this bill makes significant strides toward that goal. I fully support Senator Ossoff's leadership on this issue and his unwavering dedication to ensuring that our nation's first responders, educators, and public servants have the resources they need to thrive. The Columbus Fire & EMS Department stands in strong support of the HELPER Act and looks forward to seeing its positive impact on those who serve."

"The rising cost of housing has made it increasingly difficult for our teachers, first responders, and other public servants to live in the communities they serve. Senator Ossoff's bipartisan HELPER Act is a critical step toward addressing this challenge by making homeownership more accessible and affordable for those who dedicate their lives to protecting, educating, and serving others. Eliminating upfront costs and mortgage insurance premiums will provide much-needed relief and help strengthen our communities. I fully support this effort and applaud Senator Ossoff and Senator Ashley Moody of Florida for their leadership in reintroducing this important legislation," said Columbus District 4 Councilwoman Toyia Tucker.

"Ensuring access to affordable housing remains one of the most pressing priorities for city officials across Georgia's 537 cit-

ies. Our teachers, first responders, and other public servants should be able to live in the communities they serve without the burden of rising housing costs displacing them. The bipartisan HELPER Act provides a practical and much-needed solution to help address this challenge by eliminating barriers to homeownership for these essential workers. The Georgia Municipal Association fully supports this legislation as it strengthens housing accessibility and affordability for those who dedicate their lives to serving our communities," said Larry H. Hanson, CEO and Executive Director of the Georgia Municipal Association.

"The HELPER Act is a crucial step in supporting the brave men and women who serve as police officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and teachers—workers who are struggling to afford their first homes despite their dedication to our communities. This legislation helps make homeownership more accessible for these critical public servants and provides local governments with an important tool to recruit and retain them. I'm grateful for the leadership of U.S. Representatives Rutherford, Watson Coleman, Garbarino, and Gottheimer, and U.S. Senators Moody, Ossoff, Cassidy, and Warnock in advancing this vital legislation," said Samuel P. Royer, President of Salute Home Loans and visionary of the HELPER Act.

Sen. Ossoff continues working to support Georgia's public servants and their families.

Last week, Sen. Ossoff introduced the bipartisan Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act to help first responders who are dealing with long-term mental health effects.

In 2022, Sens. Ossoff and Grassley's bipartisan TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act became law to fund trainings for first responders, crisis intervention teams, mental health courts, and other programs that help law enforcement assist individuals experiencing mental illness.

The Leader Tribune
Peach County's Newspaper

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Legals

Legal Advertisements

E-Mail: legals@theleadertribune.com

E-Mail Attachments: Word Text Format

Legal Fax: 478-825-4130

AD DEADLINES: Friday's at 12:00 Noon

Information concerning legals call: 478-825-2432

Legal Advertising Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Publisher's Affidavit fee is \$10.

Legals-CH

Legals

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN RE: CHARLES O. MANNING.

All creditors of the estate of CHARLES O. MANNING, 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 25th day of February 2025 to Teresa A. Manning c/o Attorney: Tim J. Thompson, 1900B Northside Crossing, Macon, GA 31210, 478-471-9900.

3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3330

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated February 28, 2024, from Clifton Tucker, III, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, recorded on March 6, 2024 in Deed Book 00718 at Page 0053, Peach County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, by Assignment, and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated February 28, 2024, in the amount of \$232,703.00, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Peach County, Georgia, on April 1, 2025 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 10 OF THE TENTH (10TH) LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 155, PHASE NO. 3 OF A SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS HAWK'S RIDGE, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY, PREPARED BY WELLSTON ASSOCIATES LAND SURVEYORS, LLC, CERTIFIED BY CARL B. LEVI. GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 2744, DATED JULY 26, 2022, A COPY OF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 29, PAGE 253, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE FOR ALL PURPOSES.

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

The property, being commonly known as **166 Red Tail Circle, Byron, GA 31008 in Peach County**, will be sold as the property of Clifton Tucker, III, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd, Coppell, TX 75019, 888-480-2432. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Albertelli Law Attorney for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, as Attorney in Fact for Clifton Tucker, III

100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1000 Atlanta, GA 30339 Phone:(770)373-4242

THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFOR-

MATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3317 (24-040721)

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of BETTY A. EVANS having been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to C. RANDALL EVANS this is to cite all creditors of said estate to make their demands known to us and all debtors of said estate to make immediate payment to us.

This 4TH day of MARCH 2025.

C. RANDALL EVANS, Executor
ROBERT AROMATORIO
Collins & Aromatorio, P.C.
GA Bar No. 023708
P.O. Box 250
Byron, Georgia 31008
478-956-3071
3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 2025
3336

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN RE: Estate of Kaitlyn M. Hermans, Deceased

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

This 24th day of February, 2025.
David Massey
Administrator
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3324

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: The Name Change of Natalie Susan Hinson, Child SARAH ELIZABETH MOORE, Civil Action No. 25-V-0088 SARAH ELIZABETH MOORE, Petitioner.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF MINOR CHILD

Notice is hereby given that Sarah Elizabeth Moore by and through the undersigned, filed her Petition in the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, on or about March 7, 2025, praying for a change in the name of a minor child from Natalie Susan Hinson to Natalie Susan Moore.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of the Petition to Change Name of Minor Child.

This 7th day of March, 2025.

Jocelyn P. Daniell
Attorney for Petitioner
Georgia Bar No. 558790
DANIELL LAW FIRM, LLC
524 South Houston Lake Road Suite C100
Warner Robins, GA 31088
(478)953-6103
3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 2025
3348

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN RE: Estate of Sue L. Allmon, Deceased

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

This 24th day of February, 2025.
Jason E. Allmon
Executor
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3325

TRADE NAME

Application To Register a Business to be Conducted Under Trade Name, Partnership or Others STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The undersigned does hereby certify that **Asphalt FLX FWD Logistics, LLC** conducting a business as **FLX FWD Logistics** in the City of Byron, County of Peach in the State of Georgia, under the name of **FLX FWD Logistics** and that the nature of the business is Specialized Freight Trucking, Local, and that the names and addresses of the persons, firms or partnership owning and carrying on said trade or business are Asphalt FLX FWD Logistics, LLC, 12200 Herbert Wayne Court, Ste. 150,

Huntersville, NC 28078.

This 18th day of February, 2025.
3/12, 3/19, 2025
3339

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF ALICE M. WEST, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7062 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: Shawn Davis, Bryan H. Davis, Sheree P. Davis, Ernest T. Davis, Joshua A. Davis, Krystal K. Davis, Elizabeth Davis and Milton E. Davis, their heirs, Executors, Administrators and Any and all Interested Parties.

Michael L. Chidester has petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of Alice M. West, deceased, of said County. The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond 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 April 2, 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
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3328

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN RE: Estate of James Glenn Hardison, Sr., Deceased

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

This 12th day of March, 2025.

James G. Hardison, Jr.
Administrator
3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 2025
3351

TRADE NAME

Application To Register a Business to be Conducted Under Trade Name, Partnership or Others STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The undersigned does hereby certify that **Asphalt Torqata Data and Analytics, LLC** conducting a business as **Torqata Data and Analytics** in the City of Byron, County of Peach in the State of Georgia, under the name of **Torqata Data and Analytics** and that the nature of the business is Data analysis, related analytics services, and any other lawful act or activity, and that the names and addresses of the persons, firms or partnership owning and carrying on said trade or business are Asphalt Torqata Data and Analytics, LLC, 12200 Herbert Wayne Court, Ste. 150, Huntersville, NC 28078.

This 18th day of February, 2025.

3/12, 3/19, 2025
3340

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to OCGA 40-11-19 the following vehicles have been declared abandoned and will be sold at public sale on **03-28-2025 from 10AM to 2PM at Evans Towing Services 750 Dunbar Rd., Byron GA.**

2010 GMC Acadia
1GKLRMEDOAJ103392

1997 Honda Accord
1HGCD5602VA217204

2008 Toyota Camry
4T1BE46KX8U764464

1989 Nissan D21
1N6HD16S9KC389662

3/12, 3/19, 2025
3337

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of GARY A. COREY, deceased, late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 12th day of March, 2025.

DARRAL L. COREY
ADMINISTRATOR OF GARY A. COREY ESTATE
104 Chisom Trail
Bonaire, Georgia 31005
3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 2025
3350

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF ZACHARY WILLIAM BUEHLER, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7071 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:

STEVEN DOUGLAS BUEHLER has petitioned for STEVEN DOUGLAS BUEHLER to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of ZACHARY WILLIAM BUEHLER, deceased, of said County. The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond 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 April 2, 2025.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Kim Wilson, Judge of the Probate Court

By: Katrina Corbin, Clerk of the Probate Court
205 Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
478-825-2313
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3329

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed Proposals will be received at the Joint Development Authority of Peach County & The City of Warner Robins (the "JDA") offices located at **425 James E. Khoury Dr., Unit B, Ft. Valley, Georgia until 2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, April 17th, 2025 for the following project:** The Pete's Way Road Extension, Project #0322-002, consisting of the new construction for a common development which will include approximately 3,725 L.F. road and ditches, associated storm drainage, sewer and water and striping per the Construction Documents, Supplemental Specifications, and the City of Warner Robins Specifications (Current Edition). Erosion control shall comply with Georgia EPD requirements.

The Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents are available for review at the offices of the JDA during regular business hours, and complete bid documents may be obtained upon deposit of \$100.00 per set, NON-REFUNDABLE. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Thursday March 20th, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the offices of the JDA.

All bidders shall provide a signed E-Verify affidavit with their bids, and shall provide a Bid Bond in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid amount, and the successful bidder shall provide a Performance Bond in the amount of 100% of the Contract Amount, and a Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of the Contract Amount.

All bidders shall hold a current contractor's license issued by the GA State Construction Industry Licensing Board. The JDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any technicalities and informalities and re-advertise, and reserves the right to award the contract in whole or in part. Further information is available at <http://peachcountydevelopment.com/>
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 2025
3315

NOTICE TO FORECLOSE RIGHT TO REDEEM

TO The estate and all known

and unknown heirs of Annie Ruth Banks and the estate and all known and unknown heirs of Armagene Evans and other interested parties TAKE NOTICE THAT:

The right to redeem the following described property, to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the State of Georgia, County of Peach, and in Land Lot 28 of the Eighth Land District therein, containing 1.0 acres, more or less, identified as Lot 5, having such metes and bounds, courses and distances as are shown on a certain plat of Davis Gun Club Road Subdivision, Addition No. 1, by John J. Braxton, Ga. RLS No. 1492 dated October 5, 1972 and recorded in Plat Record 15, Page 4, Clerk's Office, Superior Court, Peach County, Georgia. Reference to said plat and the record thereof is hereby made for a more complete description.

As described in Deed Book 342, Page 74. Further described as Map & Parcel 008D072.

will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 29th day of April, 2025. The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated February 6, 2024 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, in Deed Book 717, Page 833. **The property may be redeemed at any time before the 29th day of April, 2025, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

Kim H. Stroup
James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP
PO Box 4283
Macon GA 31208-4283
(478)749-9929
Please be governed accordingly.
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3332 (File No. 56081.0001)

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF: FILE #7379-J K. J., SEX M, AGE 15, DOB 8/2009, CASE #111-2025J-016 M. T., JR., SEX M, AGE 12, DOB 8/2012, CASE #111-2025J-017 CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, MONTERIO TRIPPLETT, SR. (putative father); ANY UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHERS, AND ANY-ONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILD BORN TO CORNELIA TRIPPLETT You are notified that a Petition for Dependency was filed against you in said court on 2/19/25, an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 2/17/25.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Peach County Juvenile Court, held at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia on 02/20/2025 at 10:30 o'clock a.m. for a hearing, and on 03/20/2025 at 10:30 o'clock a.m., for a dispositional hearing. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James E. Patterson, P. O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029. You may obtain a copy of the petition by contacting Peach County Juvenile Court Clerk.

WITNESS the Honorable Judges of this court, this 19th day of February, 2025.

Kelli Hawkins, CLERK, PEACH COUNTY PEACH COURT
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 2025
3314

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

Civil Action Case Number 25-V-0006

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF AVLYNN MARIE FLYE, PETITIONER.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Avlynn Marie Flye filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on January 06, 2025, to change the name from Avlynn Marie Flye to Avlynn Marie Mercado. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the petition was filed.
3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 2025
3333

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

State of North Carolina County of Transylvania In the District Court In the Matter of Minor boy A.L.B. File#: 23 JA 000063-870 TO: LaBobby Booker, putative father of the minor boy, A.L.B. & Unknown Father, any unknown father of the minor boy, A.L.B.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled juvenile action. The nature of the relief being

sought is the termination of your parental rights in and to Minor Boy A.L.B., born on or about 11 July 2012 in Transylvania County, North Carolina. A court order from the District Court of Transylvania County directing that service of process on the putative father and any unknown father take place by publication was entered against LaBobby Booker, the putative father of the juvenile, and against Unknown Father, any unknown father of the juvenile, as no address or location of any father is known.

You must answer or otherwise respond to the pleading within forty (40) days after the date of first publication of this notice, and your answer or other document must be substantially in the form as set forth in N.C.G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4(j). If you fail to answer or otherwise respond within the time prescribed, your parental rights in and to the juvenile referred to above will be terminated. The court will conduct an adjudication and a dispositional hearing to consider the needs of the juvenile and enter an order designed to meet those needs and the objectives of the State, which, upon proper notice and hearing and a finding based on the criteria set out in G.S. 7B-1111, may include the termination of your parental rights in and to the juvenile.

If you are indigent and are not already represented by appointed counsel, you are entitled to appointed counsel in this matter, and, to that end, provisional counsel has been appointed for you in this matter. Said appointment of provisional counsel shall be reviewed (including the issue of whether to release such provisional counsel if you do not appear) by the court at the first hearing after service of process in this matter.

You are advised to IMMEDIATELY contact the Clerk of Court of Transylvania County, at (828) 885-3100, to obtain further information about this case, including a copy of the pleading filed herein, the name, address, and telephone number of provisional counsel appointed in this matter, and the date(s) and time(s) of scheduled hearings.

This, the 25th day of February, 2025.

James H. Taylor III
Office of the Special Counsel for Transylvania County
Attorney for the Transylvania County Department of Social Services
106 E. Morgan Street, Suite 100
Brevard, NC 28712
(828)884-1644
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 2025
3323

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by ELLEN JOHNSON to UNITED SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS FSB in the original principal amount of \$41,800.00 dated April 16, 1992, and recorded in Deed Book 129, Page 551, Peach County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF CSMC 2021-RPL7 TRUST in Deed Book 665, Page 36, Peach County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on April 01, 2025, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

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, BEING KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS LOT 4, BLOCK J, WEST END ADDITION ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY THOMAS W. FUTRAL, III, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1202 DATED APRIL 7, 1992, AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 17, PAGE 172, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, GEORGIA. REFERENCE TO SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF IS HERE HAD AND MADE FOR ALL PURPOSES.

SAID PROPERTY IS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN AND DESCRIBED BY METES AND COURSES AS FOLLOWS: START AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF MONTROSE STREET AND THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BELLE STREET AND RUN THENCE SOUTH 89° 00' 00" WEST 150.00 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING. FROM SAID POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING, RUN

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 7A

THENCE NORTH 01° 11' 50" WEST 149.96 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 89° 00' 00" WEST 50.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 01° 11' 50" EAST 149.96 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BELLE STREET; THENCE ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BELLE STREET NORTH 89° 00' 00" EAST 50.00 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING.

Said property being known as: 704 BELLE ST, FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are ELLEN JOHNSON or tenant(s).

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as provided for in the Note and said Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (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.

The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:

Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.
3217 S. Decker Lake Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84119
800-635-9698

Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FS, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF CSMC 2021-RPL7 TRUST,

as Attorney-in-Fact for
ELLEN JOHNSON
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
13010 Morris Rd., Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Phone: 470-321-7112
Firm File No. 25-269487-DoP
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/25, 2025
3318 (25-269487)

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS ESTATE OF RONALD KEITH TOLBERT PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA

All creditors of the Estate of Ronald Keith Tolbert are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned in accordance with law, and all persons indebted to the estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 6th day of March, 2025.
By Executor: Jeanette B. Tolbert,
413 Lamplight Drive, Byron, GA 31008
3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 2025
3342

GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the Estate of KATHRYN FRANCES YANCEY, deceased, of Peach County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate required to make immediate payment.

This 24th day of February, 2024.
James Hunt Yancey, Sr., Executor
c/o Rebecca C. Moody, Esq.
MOODY AND ASSOCIATES LAW FIRM, LLC
P.O. Box 422
Perry, GA 31069
478-988-0238
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3322

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY IN RE: CHARLES HERB

All creditors of the estate of Charles Herb, late of PEACH COUNTY, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make

immediate payment.

THIS 10th day of March 2025
Donald C. Herb
Executor for Charles Herb
103 Rambling Creek Cove
Byron, GA 31008
3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 2025
3347

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: JUVENILE FILE #7221-J S. B., SEX F, AGE 4, DOB 02/2020, CASE #111-2025J-013 CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,
MARTEL BUCHANNON, ANY
UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER,
AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING
A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE
ABOVE CHILD BORN TO MARY-
ANN WOODALL**

You are notified that a Petition for Dependency With Guardianship Placed with Maternal Step-Grandparents was filed against you in said court on 2/28/25, an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 2/25/23.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Peach County Juvenile Court, held at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia on March 11, 2025 at 9:30 o'clock a.m. for a hearing, and on May 13, 2025 at 9:30 o'clock a.m., for a hearing following service by publication. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James E. Patterson, P. O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029. You may obtain a copy of the petition by contacting Peach County Juvenile Court Clerk.

WITNESS the Honorable Judges of this court, this 28th day of February, 2025.

Whitney Nelson, CLERK, PEACH COUNTY PEACH COURT
3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 2025
3334

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES. ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

You are hereby notified in accordance with O.C.G.A. 40-11-19. That each of the below-referenced vehicles are subject to a lien and petition may be filed in court for all amounts owed. The vehicles are currently located at **1980 GA HWY 49 NORTH, Byron, GA 31008.** The vehicle subject to liens as stated above are identified as: 2009 GREAT CANE REFFER, 1GRAA06299W702828, NO TAG. 2010 UTILITY REFFER, 1UYVS253XAM928148, NO TAG. 2012 VANGUARD REFFER, 5275R5320DM001276, NO TAG. 2002 FREIGHTLINER CONVENTIONAL, 1FUJAHCG12LH03256, NO TAG.

2007 FREIGHTLINER CST120, 1FUJBBV77PW76976, NO TAG. 2014 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA SERIES, 3AKJGBDV9ESFL5142, NO TAG. 2007 PETERBILT 387 SERIES, 1XP7D49X37D698096, NO TAG. 2007 FREIGHTLINE CENTURY SERIES, 1FUJBCK17LX04152, NO TAG.

Anyone with an ownership interest in any of these vehicles should contact the following business immediately, **RAYLEES TRUCK REPAIR, LLC, 1980 GA HWY 49 N, Byron, GA 31008.** Phone 770-584-4945.
3/12, 3/19, 2025
3343

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

[REF. O.C.G.A., Section 48-4-5 et seq., 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]

**TO:
DELORES C. MATHIS
UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF
CHARLIE LYNN MATHIS JR.
CHRISTOPHER LYNN MATHIS
T'YANCA LYNNETTE MATHIS
UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF
TONDRA LYNN MATHIS
MIRACLE PRECIOUS MATHIS
BRIA D'LYNN MATHIS
BRANDYN KEITH MATHIS
TAIWAN ADRIA GREENE
DEANNA SHALYNNCIA MATHIS
DEANDRE BURLYNN MATHIS
CONSUELA FRANKLIN MATHIS
Occupant of 65 MATHEWS
STREET, Peach County, Georgia.**

RE: FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)

Take notice that:

The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of five o'clock (5 p.m.) on April 28, 2025 or 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AND LYING IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF PEACH, AND IN THE WILLOW LAKE SUBDIVISION, BEING KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS LOT NUMBER 9, BLOCK B, OF WILLOW LAKE SUBDIVISION, AS SHOWN BY A PLAT OF THE SAME RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 134, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT, GEORGIA.

ACCORDING TO SAID PLAT, SAID PROPERTY IS DESCRIBED BY METES AND COURSES AS FOLLOWS: STARTING

AT A POINT LYING ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MATHEWS DRIVE, WHICH POINT IS NORTH 67 DEGREES 13 MINUTES WEST, AS MEASURED ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MATHEWS DRIVE, 307.26 FEET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF THE EXTENDED SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MATHEWS DRIVE AND THE EXTENDED WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF WILLOW LAKE ROAD; THENCE NORTH 67 DEGREES 13 MINUTES WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MATHEWS DRIVE, 96.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 22 DEGREES 27 MINUTES WEST, 170 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 67 DEGREES 13 MINUTES EAST, 96.50 FEET; THENCE NORTH 22 DEGREES 47 MINUTES EAST, 170 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING.

LOCATED ON SAID PROPERTY IS ONE EXISTING DWELLING.

SAID PROPERTY AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ARE MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN AND DESCRIBED IN A PLAT ENTITLED, "PROPERTY OF CHARLIE LYNN MATHIS, LOCATED IN WILLOW LAKE SUBDIVISION, LAND LOT 233, NINTH DISTRICT, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS MADE BY THOMAS W. FUTRAL, III, REGISTERED SURVEYOR NUMBER 1202, ON MAY 19, 1971, WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 44, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT, GEORGIA AND SAID PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE THERETO FOR A MORE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF SAID HEREIN CONVEYED PROPERTY.

SUBJECT TO THE BUILDING LINE RESTRICTIONS SHOWN ON THE ABOVE SUBDIVISION PLAT; SUBJECT TO THE DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENTS SHOWN ON THE ABOVE SUBDIVISION PLAT; SUBJECT TO THE PROTECTIVE COVENANTS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK I-2, PAGES 231-232, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT, GEORGIA; AND SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL EXISTING AND RECORDED EASEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAYS AND PROTECTIVE COVENANTS.

That property known as **65 MATHEWS STREET** according to the present system of numbering homes and having tax parcel identification number **012D095.**

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated February 6, 2024, and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia in Deed Book 717 Page 861.

The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: Verdin Properties, LLC c/o Carolina Dallal Bryant Esq. Ayoub, Mansour & Bryant, LLC 675 Seminole Avenue, Suite 301 Atlanta, Georgia 30307 404.892.2599 Please be governed accordingly.
3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 2025
3349

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED INTENDS TO SELL THE PERSONAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED BELOW TO ENFORCE A LIEN ON SAID PROPERTY PURSUANT TO THE GEORGIA SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, GEORGIA CODE SECTIONS 10-4-210 TO 10-4-215.

THE UNDERSIGNED WILL SELL PROPERTY AT **STORAGEAUCTIONS.COM** BY COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON **MARCH 25, 2025 AT 10:00 AM. BY HOUSTON MINI STORAGE LLC, 2514 GUNN ROAD, BYRON GA 31008 (478)-956-2267, PEACH COUNTY, STATE OF GEORGIA, THE FOLLOWING:**

Renter's Name, Address, Unit #
STEVEN BUTLER
9000 WATSON BLVD
APT 102
BYRON, GA 31008
UNIT # F16
CLOTHES, FURNITURE, DVD'S, COMICS

STEVEN BUTLER
9000 WATSON BLVD
APT 102
BYRON, GA 31008
UNIT # D22
FURNITURE, BOXES, CLOTHES, LINENS
3/12, 3/19, 2025
3335

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
PEACH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7057
IN RE: ESTATE OF STEVEN RAY
BELCHER, DECEASED
NOTICE FOR OBJECTION TO
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF
ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR PURPOSES OF A LAWSUIT
TO: MICHELLE LYNN JENKINS,
881 KEWANEE DRIVE BYRON, GA. 31088
ZACK DOZIER, has petitioned**

for the appointment of the County Administrator to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of **STEVEN RAY BELCHER**, deceased, of Peach County for the sole purpose of making it possible to commence or continue a lawsuit against the estate of said decedent. If the petition is granted, the County Administrator shall be relieved by the Court from all liabilities, duties and obligations otherwise imposed on the administrator of an estate, included but not limited to the marshaling of assets, the publication of notice to creditors, the filing of an inventory, the filing of returns, and the posting of a separate bond, except for these duties and obligations directly related to the acceptance of service of process and qualification as administrator and other duties directly related to the lawsuit. 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 (30 days after first date of publication).

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 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.

This 17th day of February.
Hon. Kim Wilson, JUDGE Probate Court of Peach County
Katrina Corbin, Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 2025
3310

TRADE NAME

Application To Register a Business to be Conducted Under Trade Name, Partnership or Others

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The undersigned does hereby certify that **Asphalt Buyer II, LLC** conducting a business as **American Tire Distributors** in the City of Byron, County of Peach in the State of Georgia, under the name of **American Tire Distributors** and that the nature of the business is Tire and Tube merchant wholesalers; Motor vehicle supplies and new parts merchant wholesalers, and that the names and addresses of the persons, firms or partnership owning and carrying on said trade or business are Asphalt Buyer II, LLC, 12200 Herbert Wayne Court, Ste. 150, Huntersville, NC 28078. This 12th day of February, 2025.
3/12, 3/19, 2025
3338

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY OF STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DOROTHY J. ROBINSON, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7041 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:

WILSON L. ROBINSON, has petitioned for WILSON L. ROBINSON to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of DOROTHY J. ROBINSON, 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 APRIL 02, 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
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3326

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
PEACH COUNTY OF
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF LORIA ANN
DEWBERRY, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7067**

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:

LACOVIA CURTES DEWBERRY, has petitioned for LACOVIA CURTES DEWBERRY to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of LORIA ANN DEWBERRY, 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 APRIL 02, 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
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 2025
3320

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Lucas E Manson** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for IBERIABANK Mortgage Company, its successors and assigns, dated September 5, 2014, recorded in Deed Book 518, Page 436, Peach County, Georgia Records and as modified by that certain Loan Modification Agreement recorded in Deed Book 697, Page 279, Peach County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded in Deed Book 523, Page 3, Peach County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of THIRTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$30,953.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Peach County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in May, 2025, the following described property:

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

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

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

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., PO Box 10335, Des Moines, IA 50306, (800) 416-1472.

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

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Lucas E Manson or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **201 Deloris Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.** Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal

description will control.

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

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
as Attorney in Fact for
Lucas E Manson
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
1544 Old Alabama Road
Roswell, GA 30076
www.foreclosurehotline.net
EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Peach County, Georgia and being shown and designated as Lot 16, Block A, Willow Lake Subdivision, upon plat of record in Plat Book 9, Page 134, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, to which plat reference is made and incorporated herein for a more complete and accurate description.

Subject to all easements, ordinances, covenants, restrictions and rights-of-way of record, if any. Address Under current system of numbering: 201 Delores Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia
Deed Reference: Deed Book 510, Page 391, said Clerk's Office.
MR/ca 5/6/25
Our file no. 23-12697GA - FT5
02/26, 03/05, 03/12, 03/19, 03/26, 04/02, 04/09, 04/16, 04/23, 04/30, 2025
3313 (23-12697ga)

LEGAL NOTICE

The Peach County, Georgia, in accordance with National Flood Insurance Program regulation 65.7(b)(1), hereby gives notice of the Peach County, Georgia's intent to revise the flood hazard information, generally bounded by Watson Blvd to the north, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Pkwy to the west, and Crestview Church Road to the south.

The flood hazard revisions are being proposed as part of Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) Case No. 24-04-6776R for a proposed project along Sandy Run Creek, Sandy Run Creek Tributary 3, and Sandy Run Creek Tributary 5. WCH Homes, LLC is proposing to convert portions of an existing Zone A without base flood elevations to Zone AE with base flood elevations and to re-delineate the existing Zone AE through the project reach as part of a planned commercial development along GA 247 and a planned residential development along Crestview Church Road. Once the project has been completed, a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) request should be submitted that will, in part, revise the following flood hazards along Sandy Run Creek from approximately 4,550 feet downstream of Watson Boulevard to just downstream of Watson Boulevard, Sandy Run Creek Tributary 3, from the confluence with Sandy Run Creek to approximately 4,690 feet upstream of the confluence with Sandy Run Creek, and Sandy Run Creek Tributary 5, from the confluence with Sandy Run Creek to approximately 2,090 feet upstream of the confluence with Sandy Run Creek.

Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) will be established along Sandy Run Creek, Sandy Run Creek Tributary 3, and Sandy Run Creek Tributary 5. Also, BFEs will increase and decrease along Sandy Run Creek and Sandy Run Creek Tributary 3.

The Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) will be established along Sandy Run Creek, Sandy Run Creek Tributary 3, and Sandy Run Creek Tributary 5 (Zone A to Zone AE). Also, Zone AE will increase and decrease along Sandy Run Creek and Sandy Run Creek Tributary 3. Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed at the Warner Robins City Hall at 610B Watson Blvd., Warner Robins, GA 31099. Interested persons may call Victor Savage, Assistant Engineering Director, at (478) 02-5500 for additional information from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.

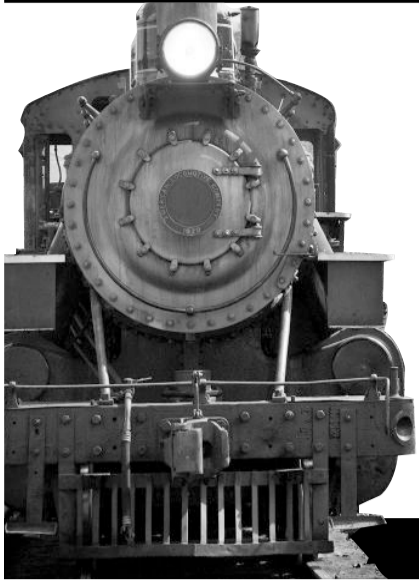
3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 2025
3352

TRADE NAME

Application To Register a Business to be Conducted Under Trade Name, Partnership or Others

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The undersigned does hereby certify that **Asphalt Tirebuyer.com, LLC** conducting a business as **Tirebuyer.com** in the City of Byron, County of Peach in the State of Georgia, under the name of **Tirebuyer.com** and that the nature of the business is Sales and provision of services in the automotive industry and any other lawful act or activity, and that the names and addresses of the persons, firms or partnership owning and carrying on said trade or business are Asphalt Tirebuyer.com, LLC, 12200 Herbert Wayne Court, Ste. 150, Huntersville, NC 28078. This 18th day of February, 2025.
3/12, 3/19, 2025
3341



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Dr. Curt J. Blabaum
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Peach Realty
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Fort Valley, Ga 31030
478-318-4970
Email: alfrediawalker@gmail.com



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LOCAL MATTERS

We don't knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis. Nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bona-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the fair housing act and we do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 3/16/25

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Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-446-1847

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Bennett, Sonny R., w/m, age 36, 5'09 @ 165. lbs.
Wanted by the Houston County Sheriff's Office for Sup. Ct. VOP. o/c being Giving False Information to L.E., and Theft by Taking (M).



Morrison, Rudolph G., age 49, b/m, 5'6 @ 151. lbs.
Wanted by the Peach County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender - of a minor.



Smith, Christopher T., w/m, age 42, 6'0 @ 280. lbs.
Wanted by the Peach County Sheriff's Office for Giving False Information to Law Enforcement and Obstruction of Law Enforcement.



Fuller, Brandon N., age 31, w/m, 6'0 @ 145. lbs.
Wanted by the Peach County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender - Statutory Rape.



Cross, Kenneth M., b/m, age 45, 5'8 @ 150. lbs.
Wanted by the Houston County Sheriff's Office for Battery - F/V, and Criminal Trespass / Damage to Property. Also, this fugitive is wanted by the Albany PD for Theft by Taking - Felony.

“Why We Sing”



By PCSS

On Saturday, March 8th, the Byron Elementary School Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Cera Shell, had the opportunity to record “Why We Sing” with Dr. Brown and The Lotus Band at Capricorn Studios in Macon.



State House committee signs off on sports betting

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Legislation asking Georgia voters whether to legalize online sports betting in Georgia cleared a committee in the state House of Representatives Wednesday.

Because it's a constitutional amendment, House Resolution 450 would require a two-thirds majority to pass the full House if it reaches the floor. The House Higher Education Committee approved the measure Wednesday on a voice vote.

Under the proposed constitutional change, 15% of the first \$150 million in annual proceeds from sports betting would go toward programs and services aimed at preventing Georgians from becoming addicted to betting and treating those who do

fall victim to problem gambling. The rest would be used to administer sports betting and to support Georgia's pre-kindergarten program.

Legalized gambling legislation has been introduced in the General Assembly repeatedly in recent years but failed to win passage. If sports betting makes it through the legislature this year, Georgia voters would decide the question on the November 2026 statewide ballot.

The committee also passed an enabling bill designed to spell out details of how sports betting would be operated in Georgia.

House Bill 686 calls for the Georgia Lottery Corp. to administer sports betting. It would award 16 licenses to applicants interested in operating sportsbooks, including some of the state's professional sports teams that have expressed interest in

obtaining a license.

House Minority Whip Sam Park, D-Lawrenceville, amended the bill Wednesday to increase the tax rate on proceeds from sports betting from 20% to 24%. Doing so would raise an additional \$40 million a year for the pre-kindergarten program, he said.

After the committee passed Park's amendment unanimously, the underlying enabling bill - sponsored by Rep. Marcus Wiedower, R-Watkinsville - was approved on a voice vote.

Both the constitutional amendment and enabling bill move to the House Rules Committee to schedule votes of the full House. The measures will be competing for attention Thursday on a busy Crossover Day, the deadline for bills to pass either the House or Senate to stay alive for the year.

Georgia lawmakers seek more regulation of drones, with national security among their concerns

By Ty Tagami
Staff Writer

Capitol Beat News Service

Drones would be subject to more restrictions under a couple of pieces of legislation that passed the Georgia House of Representatives Friday.

House Bill 58 would prohibit flights over public gatherings. It would require that drones stay at least 400 feet from the airspace of ticketed entertainment events, unless they are being used for an authorized official purpose.

House Bill 205 seeks to address national security by banning official use of certain drones due to concerns about data security. The measure is

aimed at China.

Rep. David Clark, R-Buford, said nine out of 10 drones are manufactured by two companies in that nation and that those companies must share any data they acquire with the Chinese government.

“This legislation does not ban drones outright,” he said. “Instead, it ensures that drones used by our government agencies can be rendered safe from foreign interference. And the key requirement is simple: drones must not be capable of transmitting data to unauthorized parties.”

Fellow lawmakers spoke favorably of the bill. Among their concerns were the risk of using drones to spy on military bases

absent this proposed regulation.

Local and state governments would be encouraged to acquire drones from a list that the state would develop, based on Federal Aviation Administration standards and clearance by the U.S. Department of Defense.

But the compliance would cease to be voluntary in three years, which, Clark said, is the average lifespan of a drone.

Starting Jan. 1, 2028, officials in Georgia would have to acquire drones only on the state's safe list, which would be updated semiannually.

Both bills passed with bipartisan support, with only four votes against HB 58 and one against HB 205. They now head to the state Senate.

Georgia House passes two tax relief measures

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - The Georgia House of Representatives passed two tax relief bills Thursday, one unanimously and another that proved controversial.

House Bill 112, which cleared the chamber 175-0, would provide \$1 billion in one-time income tax rebates to Georgia taxpayers.

Single filers would get a rebate of \$250, while heads of households would receive \$375 and married couples filing jointly would get \$500.

House Bill 111, on the other hand, drew substantial opposition from Democrats before passing 110-60. The legislation

calls for reducing Georgia's income tax rate from 5.39% to 5.19% retroactive to the beginning of the current tax year.

Rep. Saira Draper, D-Atlanta, said she supported a similar tax cut the General Assembly passed last year because it was tied to certain financial benchmarks that would only allow it to take effect if the state's finances were strong.

“I was good with that approach because it was thoughtful and conservative,” she said.

Draper said she opposed HB111 because Gov. Brian Kemp and legislative Republicans are going ahead with additional tax cuts even though the state's revenue estimate for this year is lower than last year.

Other House Democrats

complained the tax cut would benefit primarily the wealthy while the state is failing to adequately essential services including health care and education adequately.

But House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Shaw Blackmon, R-Bonaire, said reducing taxes would help all Georgia taxpayers. Under the bill, a family of four wouldn't pay any taxes on its first \$32,000 of income, he said.

“This measure allows Georgians to keep more of their money - not the government's - and reduces the tax burden for every family that pays taxes,” Blackmon said.

Both bills now head to the state Senate.

PEACH COUNTY

2025



2025 SCHEDULE

	VS WESTSIDE SCRIMMAGE	MAY 16
	VS WARNER ROBINS	AUG 1
	VS NORTHEAST	AUG 15
	VS PERRY	AUG 22
	VS BERKMAR	AUG 29
	VS CRISP CO.	SEP 5
	AT NORTHSIDE	SEP 19
REGION I-AA		
	AT WESTOVER	SEP 26
	VS DOUGHERTY	OCT 3
	VS BAINBRIDGE	OCT 17
	AT CAIRO	OCT 24
	VS MONROE	OCT 31



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We have a big goal this year, and it's going to take the Peach County Community to help us accomplish it. Please consider supporting the Trojan Nation Touchdown Club of Peach for the 2025 Football Season. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of the Trojan Nation! Join the Touchdown Club or reserve your spot today!

Important Information: Touchdown Club will not be handling the Handicap parking spaces this year. They will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis and are excluded from the Premier Parking Passes.

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