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The Leader Tribune

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Man Sentenced To Life for 2022 Murder of 1-Year-Old At Lakeview Apartments

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – A man has been sentenced to life in prison, without parole, for the 2022 shooting that killed a 1-year-old boy at Lakeview Apartments, according to the Macon District Attorney's Office.

The DA's office says on July 20, 2022, Christopher "Porkchop" Miller fired multiple shots at Building D of Lakeview Apartments during a dispute with a resident of the building.

The gunfire entered the bedroom of 23-month-old Marcus Ball Jr, and his 12-month-old sister, Markailey Ball, who were playing at the time of the shoot-



Photo Contributed
Marcus Ball, Jr.

ing. The bullet went through Markailey's arm and fatally

**SENTENCED
CONTINUED PG 2A**

Multiple Shootings At Lakeview Apartment Complex FVPD Arrests Armed Man at Lakeview Apartments

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – A man has been arrested for repeatedly firing a gun in the parking lot of Lakeview Apartments on Monday, April 28, according to a press release from the Fort Valley Police Department.

According to the release, officers responded to the 1100 Block of Edwards Street about gunshots and encountered a man with a long gun. The male



Photo by FVPD
Emmanuel Talton

**ARMED MAN
CONTINUED PG 8A**

17-Year-Old Arrested by FVPD for Possession of Firearm, Drugs

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – A 17-year-old from Macon has been arrested for numerous charges following his arrest on Monday, April 28, at Lakeview Apartments according to a press release from the Fort Valley Po-



Photo Contributed
Anthony Swain

**17 YR OLD ARRESTED
CONTINUED PG 8A**

FVPD Investigating Shooting, Assault at Lakeview Apartments



By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – Three people were injured in a shooting at Lakeview Apartments on Thursday, May 1, according to a press release from the Fort Valley Police Department.

According to the release, officers were in the area when they heard repeated gunshots coming from Lakeview Apartments. Upon arrival, officers discovered

**LAKEVIEW SHOOTING
CONTINUED PG 8A**

Battle of Byron Returns for Third-Year Celebration



A Historic Festival of Challenges

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

BYRON, Ga. – "Let the Battle Begin!" was the phrase of the day last Saturday as the recently resurrected Battle of Byron returned for its third year in Downtown Byron. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., people were able to come and enjoy food, music, games, and more!

Byron's annual festival had a wide array of activities ranging from shopping to games and competitions. People were able to partake in mud volleyball, sack races, egg races, hula hoop contests, bubble-blowing competitions, high-heel races, and much more.

Alongside the many competitions, there were multiple food trucks for people to browse. There were also multiple bands and artists providing live music including Atticus Roness, Zach Butler, The Varden, and more.

The Byron Convention and Visitors Bureau was at the newly renovated Historic Train Depot, providing those visiting free Byron memorabilia and information about the history of Byron.

During the opening ceremony, Battle of Byron Chairman Austin Simar took a moment to thank one of his friends and the current Director of Transportation of the Battle of Byron, Devon Davis. According to Simar, Davis was one of the frontrunners for helping bring the Battle back to Byron and had offered his support in multiple roles through the last 3 years. Simar provided a proclamation to Davis, both as thanks and a farewell gift.



Photo by Zoe Hammond

Byron Troup leading opening ceremonies.



Photo by Zoe Hammond

Annual Auto Show

Simar was very happy with this year's festival, with each year being able to go further than the previous due to the various sponsors that helped make the Battle possible.

"I think the festival turned out really well. We had lots of things going on! We had 100 vendors, 18 food trucks, a car show, live music, and tons of games and challenges for people of every age! Some of the chal-

lenges included adult couples musical chairs, tug of war, mud volleyball, distinguished ladies contest, egg races, hoppity hop races, jump rope contest, men's prettiest legs, trike races and so much more!" Simar said. "I'm very satisfied with how everything turned out."

Simar was overjoyed with the

**B.O.B.
CONTINUED PG 2A**

Peach County Judge Tosses Indictment Against Byron Police Officer

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – A Peach County judge has thrown out an indictment against a Byron Police Officer due to what she has ruled as a mishandling of a grand jury hearing by the Macon District Attorney's Office.

Judge Connie Williford issued the order on Wednesday, April 30, to toss out the indictment against Byron Police Officer James Ryan Carroll, who was indicted by a grand jury with aggravated assault and violation of his oath for an incident that took place in October 2023.

In 2023, Carroll allegedly shot multiple times at a suspect, 37-year-old Kory Karpich of Gainesville, GA, during a police chase in Byron.

However, Williford's 15-page order cites that there were technical and procedural failures during the hearing which led to her decision to toss the case entirely. She wrote that the pros-

ecutor who presented the case failed to properly instruct the jury on the law, which means they did not specifically explain the officer's violation of oath and aggravated assault charges from the start.

The order also stated that the prosecutors failed to explain that an on-duty shooting could be justified if the officer feared for the safety of others, which had been stated in Carroll's testimony. Judge Williford says this was a violation of the officer's constitutional rights and his right to due process.

The District Attorney's office has confirmed that they are planning to re-present the case to another grand jury. They added that the prosecutor who first presented the case is no longer with their office.

Byron Chief of Police Westley Cannon is pleased with the judge's decision to throw out the indictment. While Cannon stated there were things he could not say regarding the case just

yet – as the case is not over – he did want to thank the judge for her decision and the community for their support of the officer.

Cannon stated that he believed that Carroll complied with the law during the incident in Oct. 2023. He stated that Carroll would be returning to work in the weeks following the case as the Georgia Peace Officer Standards & Training Council (POST) reinstated Carroll's certification.

Chief Cannon also acknowledged that the District Attorney's Office will be looking to re-present the case.



National Day of Prayer in Peach County



By Zoe Hammond, News Editor

Peach County celebrated the National Day of Prayer at the Peach County Courthouse on Thursday, May 1, at noon. Multiple pastors were

present to pray for the local government officials and first responders. Peach County High School Junior, Claire Bizzell, sang the National Anthem and "God Bless America".



SENTENCED

CONTINUED FROM 1A



Photo by FVPD
Christopher Miller

struck Marcus in the head, according to the release.

On Thursday, May 1, a Peach County jury found Miller guilty of malice murder, felony murder, two counts of aggravated assault, and two counts of pos-

session of a firearm during the commission of a felony for the shooting death of Marcus Ball Jr. and the shooting injury of his sister, Markailey Ball.

Miller was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, plus an additional 25 years in prison on Friday, May 2.

The DA's office added their investigation being met with numerous obstacles including witnesses who were hesitant to testify and several officers who testified no longer worked at the original investigation agency.

District Attorney Anita Howard stated that her office is proud to bring justice to the victim's family and hopes the verdict sets an example. She released the following statement:

"The reckless disregard for human life demonstrated in

this case will not be tolerated in our communities," said District Attorney Howard. "When innocent children become victims of senseless gun violence, we will not rest until justice is served. Today's conviction demonstrates our unwavering commitment to holding violent offenders accountable. The residents of Fort Valley deserve to live in safety, and we will continue to use every resource at our disposal and under the law to ensure that justice is served. Justice requires I do everything in my power and within the law to bring essential witnesses to court to hold violent offenders accountable, regardless of the obstacles they face such as fear, distance, and uncertainty," said Howard.

B.O.B. CONTINUED FROM 1A



Photo by Zoe Hammond
Devon Davis receiving proclamation from Austin Simar.

overall turnout from the community.

"I think the community really showed up and showed out! Even when it started to drizzle, the people pushed through!" Simar stated. "I was so proud looking out into the crowd and seeing all of those people."

Simar wanted to take a moment to thank everyone involved in helping make the Battle of Byron a success.

"I want to say thank you to all of the vendors, sponsors, elected officials, first responders, staff, and most importantly to the attendees of the festival. I also want to say that this was a team effort and I absolutely couldn't have done any of this without each and every single member of my staff. From the members of the board all the way to the day of volunteers. I

have an amazing staff who is always willing to help and I want them to get as much credit as possible because they are the ones who made it happen!" Simar said.

Simar expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to bring the Battle back to Byron with the help of his staff and the support of the community.

"I want to express how much of an honor it is to be able to serve as chairman of this great event. I am honored to lead such an amazing group of people and I am honored to live in such an amazing community. I do want to give a special shout-out to Byron Heritage Church for providing breakfast for my staff as well as breakfast for the first responders!" Simar stated. "I also want to say how much of an honor and a privilege it



Photo by Zoe Hammond
Devon Davis with Austin Simar.

is to serve as Chairman of this great event for the past 3 years and I look forward to next year's event. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 2, 2026, for another great Battle!"



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PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Byron Invitation for Bid

The City of Byron Georgia invites the submission of sealed bids for:
Georgia Highway 49 at
Cane River Drive Intersection Improvements Project

Bids Due – Wednesday, June 4th at 10:00 A.M. EST at Public Works Department City Hall, 401 Main Street, Byron Georgia 31008

IFB documents may be obtained at the City of Byron's website at www.byronga.com

Plans may be obtained from GWES, LLC by emailing william.jones@gwesllc.com

Further inquiries can be made by visiting the City of Byron Public Works Department at 401 Main Street, Byron Georgia 31008 or by phone at 478-956-3600.

All bids must be plainly marked with the project name on the outside of the envelope and sent attention the City of Byron Public Works Department. The City of Byron reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive technicalities in the bids received.

City of Warner Robins, GA NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW OF PROPOSED FY 2026 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND FY 2026 BUDGET HEARINGS

The City of Warner Robins will make available for public review at the City Clerk's Office, located at City Hall, 700 Watson Blvd., the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 General Fund Budget. This document can be viewed beginning Monday, May 5, 2025 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. The Proposed FY 2026 General Fund Budget can also be viewed on the City's website, which can be found at www.wrga.gov.

Public Hearings on the Proposed FY 2026 General Fund Budget will be held on the following dates and times: **Monday, June 2, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. and Monday, June 9, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.** All hearings will be located in the Council Chambers, City Hall. All citizens wishing to comment on the Proposed FY 2026 General Fund Budget are invited to attend these public hearings.

City Clerk
City of Warner Robins

Police Beat

★★★★★★★★★★★★

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

Byron Arrests/Citations

Corouthers, Jacarius Devandre, 27, Macon, GA: Felony Murder

Fox, Rocky Adam, 45, Troy, MO: Improper Exhaust System, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Reckless Driving, Window Tint Violation

Hamlin, Kerry, 61, Byron, GA: Battery, Obstructing Or Hindering Persons Making Emergency Telephone Call

Mckenzie, Arthur Lee, 51, Bonaire, GA: Probation Violation

Mobley, Xavier Gerred, 29, Sanford, FL: Driving With Suspended License, Reckless Driving, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Marijuana Possession

Walker-Lawson, Takayla Ladawn, 19, Macon, GA: Failure To Appear

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Mendez-Rodriguez, Douglas, 28, Fort Valley, GA: Disorderly Conduct, Simple Assault, Criminal Trespass

Swain, Anthony Jamal, 17, Macon, GA: Possession And Use Of Drug Related Objects, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Possession Of Pistol Or Revolver By Person Under 18 Yoa - 1st Offense, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers, Criminal Use Of An Article With Altered ID Mark (Other Than Motor Vehicle), Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies

Talton, Emmanul Zavion, 19, Fort Valley, GA: Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Assault, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies

Peach County Sheriff's Office

Arrests/Citations

Cannie, Kajala J'miaya, 22, Macon, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Driving While License Suspended Or Revoked (Misdemeanor)

Collins, Terrell James, 29, Hawkinsville, GA: Failure To Maintain Lane

Deeter, Markus Brian, 28, Columbus, GA: Child Or Youth Restraint Not Used Properly, Failure To Maintain Insurance, Driving While License Suspended

Gaddy, Kevis, 27, Brooksville, FL: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Gee, Brandi Spivey, 50, Fort Valley, GA: Driving While License Suspended

Griffis, Randall Jackie, 53, Byron, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Hatch, Tenia Nichelle, 25, Centerville, GA: Driving Under The Influence - Alcohol, Tail Lights / Tag Lights Lenses Required, Driving While License Suspended

Lambert, Dewayne, 38, Ocala, FL: Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Window Tint Violation, Failure To Yield Right Of Way To Emergency Veh

Rostro-Martinez, Gerardo Alfredo, 24, Fort Valley, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Window Tint Violation, Unlawful To Possess, Control, Manuf., Deliver, Distribute, Dispense, Administer, Purchase, Sell, Or Possess W/Intent To Dist. Marijuana, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies

Rueda, Cesar Emiliano, 24, Americus, GA: Driving While License Suspended, Failure To Maintain Insurance, Knowingly Driving Motor Vehicle On Suspended, Canceled, Or Revoked Registration

GA State Patrol Perry Arrests

Mathis, Markevies Marquez, 27, Warner Robins, GA: Unlawful For Any Person To Purchase, Possess, Or Have Under His Control Any Controlled Substance, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits)

Taylor, Tyler Montez, 35, Unadilla, GA: Failure To Maintain Lane, Driving Under The Influence - Alcohol

Warner Robins Police Dept Arrests

Johnson, James, 32, Macon, GA: Battery

Evans, Seth Matthew, 23, Perry, GA: Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers By Use Of Threats Or Violence - Felony

Parole Office Arrests

Conatser, David Martin, 60, Byron, GA: Parole Violation

Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Byron 1 and Byron 2 Precincts will be combining to Byron 1.

The polling place will be Byron Municipal Complex located at 401 Main St., Byron, Ga., 31008.

Also, Logic and Accuracy Testing for Voting equipment and Poll Worker training will be May 10th at 12:00 pm Located at 902 Campus Dr. Fort Valley Ga. 31030, at the Peach County Government Center.

Meeting Notice City of Fort Valley Mayor & Council

COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, May 8, 2025
Time: 9AM
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 858 9131 6063
Passcode: 741253

WORKSESSION MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
Time: 6PM
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 845 2757 0157
Passcode: 730185

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, May 15, 2025
Time: 6:30PM
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 875 7948 4300
Passcode: 502245

City of Fort Valley Memorial Day Ceremony - May 22
Remember and Honor
May 22 at Veterans Park from 10am to 11am. (Marvin Crafter Festival Park, 310 Martin Luther King Dr., Fort Valley, GA 31030. www.fortvalleyga.org

Georgia Peach Festival
Come out the Georgia Peach Festival held JUNE 6-7, 2025 in Fort Valley and JUNE 14, 2025 in Byron.

Trojan Nation TD Club
The Trojan Nation Touchdown Club is selling reserved parking for the upcoming season at a cost of \$75.00. This includes the four regular season home games plus any playoff game that we host. This offer is good as long as spaces are available. You can contact Nate Danielly at 478-957-1141 for more information.

American Legion Meetings

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

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

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

All Veterans and Spouses are encouraged to participate.

ATTENTION: Veterans

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

Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority - Board Meeting

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

Peach County Board of Commissioners Work Sessions

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

Fort Valley. Regular Meetings* are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm in Commission Chambers located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley. The Board also conducts Public Hearings to consider zoning requests at 6:30pm during regularly scheduled monthly meetings. *Scheduling may differ due to holidays and unforeseen circumstances. Prior notice will be given. Visit our website for more information: <https://www.peachcounty.net/board-of-commissioners.cfm>

FT. Valley Utility Commission

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

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

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

Kiwanis Club of Fort Valley

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

Peach Public Libraries Board Of Trustees

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

Middle Georgia Art Association

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

Peach County Historical Society meeting

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

Fort Valley Historic Preservation

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

Peach County Retired Educators Association

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

Currently Accepting Applications for 2025-2026 Year!

2025-2026 FORT VALLEY HEAD START

700 Spruce St, Ft. Valley, GA 31030. (478)825-8584. Ages 3 -5. Required Documentation: Proof of birth, Social Security Card, Immunization 3231, Medicaid/Insurance card, Proof of income/SNAP, SSI, TANF, Well child check, Dental exam, Ga public health 3300, Verification of income & housing. www.mgcaa.org

First Step Learning Center Early Head Start

Now Enrolling Infants 6 Weeks Old to Under 36 Months. Call Now to Set up an Appointment. Enrollment Based on Eligibility. Call (478)825-0509, 406 Carver Dr., Fort Valley. First Step Learning Center Early Head Start in Partnership With Fort Valley State University.

Byron AL-ANON Family Group

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

Compassionate Friends Middle Georgia Chapter

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

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

Macon meeting location for TCF: Rock Springs Church, 6601 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA. Please contact Chapter Leaders for more information: Karla Chidester - 478-954-4592, or Teresa Tompkins - 478-319-3526, or visit www.compassionatefriends.org.

Addiction Counseling

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

Byron Lions Club

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

Byron Rotary Club

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

Byron Main Street DDA/CVB

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

Byron Tax Office

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

AARP Tax-Aide Program at Peach Public Libraries

Contributed by Peach Public Libraries

Volunteers from AARP Tax-Aide Program completed another successful year of free tax return preparation at Peach Public Libraries. This year, volunteers prepared 226 returns. With a national average return preparation fee of \$325; that's a savings of over \$73,000 to the citizens of Peach County and

the surrounding area. Volunteer services resulted in taxpayers receiving refunds totaling over \$122,000 and IRS collection of taxpayers' balance due totaling \$131,000.

AARP Volunteers provide free, individualized tax preparation for low- to moderate-income taxpayers - especially those 50 and older at Thomas Public Library, Fort Valley. Please contact the Library if you

would like to volunteer for next year's tax-aid program.

For more information on materials, programs, and services available at Peach Public Libraries, please contact the library at 315 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, (478) 825-1640, or online at <http://www.peach-publiclibraries.org> and find us on Facebook at facebook.com/PeachPublicLibraries/

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Kemp Signs Bills On Transgender Athletes, School Safety And Other Education Issues

By Ty Tagami
Staff Writer

Capitol Beat News Service
ATLANTA – Transgender students born male can no longer participate on female teams in Georgia's schools and colleges now that Gov. Brian Kemp has signed a ban passed by the General Assembly.

On Monday, Kemp inked his signature on seven bills, including the Riley Gaines Act of 2025. It is named after a Kentucky college swimmer who lost to a transgender competitor at an NCAA competition held at Georgia Tech three years ago.

"This commonsense legislation is about what is fair and safe for our children," Kemp said.

House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, said the issue is not partisan. Rather, he said, "it's about right and wrong."

The House of Representatives backed a similar bill, but Senate Bill 1 emerged as the final version. Burns and the top Republican on the Senate side, Lieutenant Gov. Burt Jones, made it a top priority. Jones, a potential candidate for governor, did not attend the bill signing ceremony, but said in a written statement that Georgia lawmakers had kept a promise to female athletes, "Just like President Trump is delivering on promises made in D.C."

In early February, Trump signed an executive order affecting schools and transgender athletes. His "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports" order withholds federal funding from schools that do not "oppose male competitive participation in women's sports ... as a matter of safety, fairness, dignity, and truth."

Critics contend Georgia's Senate and House measures were overkill, a massive effort against rare instances of transgender participation in sports. But proponents, including Frontline Policy Action, a fundamentalist Christian advocacy group that helped draft them, argued that allowing transgender students born male to compete against females was both unfair and dangerous, given the variance in

physical strength.

Despite hours of testimony, no evidence was presented of instances in Georgia's elementary or high schools where a significant problem was caused by transgender participation. Critics noted that lawmakers named their legislation after a college athlete from another state.

Georgia now joins more than two dozen states with a similar prohibition.

The law applies to any competitions that involve public schools and colleges and includes participating private schools and colleges. It allows the state to financially punish institutions that willfully fail to comply, including withholding direct funding as well as funds for scholarships, loans and grants. It also allows lawsuits and monetary damages against such institutions.

The law also prohibits transgender athletes born female from participating on male teams, though there was no significant testimony about problems caused by their participation in sport.

Kemp also signed House Bill 268, a sweeping school safety measure that requires that routinely updated digital campus maps be shared with first responders, that schools equip staff with mobile panic alerts and that student records be transferred within five business days of a student's change of schools. It would also allow children ages 13-17 accused of committing a terroristic act on campus to be tried as an adult, with potential prison time and convictions that would go on their records for life.

Kemp also signed House Bill 81, to enter an interstate compact on licensing school psychologists; House Bill 235, to give school staff time off to donate organs; House Bill 307, for screeners and support plans for students with dyslexia; Senate Bill 82, to encourage charter districts to authorize charter schools, and Senate Bill 123, to address chronic absenteeism.

Fat Cells...Our Micro Fuel Tanks



WADE YODER
LT COLUMNIST

We have billions of these little fuel cells, and though fat gets a bad rap because most of us would like less of it, it actually serves a very vital energy role in the body. When we lose body fat, we are not referring to the cell but rather the energy matter inside the cell. These cells are like micro balloons that can expand as needed (to accommodate the excess calories we eat) and shrink as we expend the energy. The only way to remove fat cells is surgically, but we can however shrink them if we're trying to lose weight.

We have fat cells all over

our body for the purpose of reserve fuel for when our energy level runs low in our main fuel tank, which is our stomach, intestines, bloodstream and liver. When we constantly keep enough calories in our main fuel tank for our daily activities, we don't store any excess, but we don't burn off any of our stored energy either. When we know that we ate too much, it can be very beneficial to skip the next meal and burn off some of this excess fuel before we eat again!

Example: If I know that I ate too much for dinner, I'll simply skip eating until around 1 pm the next day to burn off those extra calories.

When we take in more fuel than we will burn between the times that we eat, we simply store the extra. If we continue to do this long enough those billions of little fat cells will continue to expand and make us look fat. The exact opposite happens when we regularly use up the energy in our fat cells causing them to shrink. The problem many of us have is getting these fat cells to release their energy.

Here are 2 ways we can open up this reserve energy source-

1. We can: increase our heart rate by about 50-70% (depending on physical condition) for at least a steady 20 minutes or more. This will trigger what most of us know as our 2nd wind, it's actually our body starting to burn body fat. Our body is designed to detect a need for energy, when our heart rate is increased for a sustained period, thus signaling the need for a strong source of energy to sustain the activity. I like to think of it as starting a fire... 1st comes the kindling and when that builds up enough fire and heat, the logs will catch on fire and that's when the real heat and energy starts!

2. We can: drop the amount of calories to a very low level for an extended period, forcing our body to tap into reserve fuel thus dropping the level of energy matter in our fat cells. If we do this for too long however, our body will think its starving and will recognize the need to slow down our metabolism, it will do this by burning muscle

tissue instead of fat because it is the most metabolically active. You can avoid this by not doing more than 2 super low-calorie days in a row, or no more than 18-24 hours complete fast.

Remember: staying low calorie all the time will simply force our body into accommodating this by burning off some muscle, and when this happens our metabolism slows down so that you can survive on this starvation diet.

Our body shifts between energy from sugars, carbs and fats. A sugar load entering, (or constantly supplying) the blood with glucose from sugary or starchy foods, will lock up your fat cells until the insulin level (from the intake of sugars) drops back down.

We have been blessed with a body that can shift all kinds of gears to accommodate our energy needs, and the simple basics of refueling our body, and fuel depletion work today just like it did thousands of years ago!

How Should Graduates Think About Tomorrow's Job Market?

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

It's graduation season. This is our annual time of optimism for the future. We celebrate the accomplishments of those wearing a cap and gown. We talk of unlimited possibilities and decisions about next schools and or professions.

We've been asking these graduates "what do you want to be when you grow up?" for their entire lifetimes. Those graduating college will feel pressed to have a final answer. Those headed to college need at least a vague idea of an answer as they choose a major. Those headed to a trade school or the military will get paid while the others figure it out.

How does a kid these days even decide how to decide? The rules of careers and employment that worked for past generations have been loosening and devolving over time.

Now a lot of employers don't even require in person attendance. A lot of jobs aren't compensated with W-2 income. "Side hustles" are now primary income for a lot of people.

Add to all of this the consternation that industries themselves are changing with technology at an ever increasing pace. We're no longer just talking about robots replacing factory workers.

Artificial intelligence programs are now able to complete thought based tasks of humans. We're making individual workers more productive. The down side is we'll need fewer of them in many industries.

This isn't just a problem for future graduates facing a changing and perhaps shrinking workforce. This flows through to workers of today.

Anxiety about what work will look like and how we'll make our living is increasing. Anyone who has ever been forced to attend a corporate management training workshop has likely done multiple exercises that seem to always want to emphasize the same unsurprising conclusion: People fear change.

Change is what we have. It is a constant. And the pace of change only increases.

So how do we deal with this, as we prepare to send new graduates into this job market? And how do we prepare those still working their way through our educational system to best handle the open ended question of what careers will look like in the years and decades ahead?

This isn't an abstract question. In fact, I was asked this out of the blue while I was eating breakfast last week. My server - a mom preparing to send her two teenage children on to whatever is next - took a slower

moment to ask if she could pick my brain. "How do I get them focused on how to make these decisions?"

Thankfully I had already been served enough coffee to break through my morning fog to try to compose an answer. When in doubt, I start my analysis on questions such as this with my own training in economic philosophy.

I took a moment, and then decided to start as abstract as possible. After all, this wasn't the specific question we're usually asked, and should quit asking. We don't get one answer to what we're going to do when we grow up. Some of us have gray hair and are still figuring it out.

Instead, I suggested that the best way to get started, and the best way to make sure her kids and all others stay employable and upwardly mobile, is to consider their value. More specifically, how will they create value for their future employers.

Too many of us get bogged down in thinking our time is valuable. We quote a lot of pay scales based on time. \$15 per hour. \$1,000 per week. \$50,000 per year. It's easy to confuse this with the fact that our future employer is paying us because they're taking away our time.

We only get paid because someone can make money using the capital they have and

infrastructure they have built, combine that with some form of labor and effort from us, and make more money or produce more for their organization.

It's not about time. It's about increasing value.

An upwardly mobile society has workers at all levels thinking about growing. Personal growth combined with growing an organization means more for everyone involved.

The opposite path is looking at all resources are fixed. This is not a growth mindset. It instead believes that for some to make more, someone else has to have less.

Not only do these societies tend not to grow, but they decay. Those that should be helping grow the pie are too busy trying to take from someone else's plate. Those who already have wealth expend too many resources defending against someone taking it away from them.

The better path, for everyone involved, is to focus on increasing value. A person who can figure out how to add value to any organization or any system will in turn add value to themselves. As long as this question is asked and answered properly, today's graduates will be able to handle tomorrow's changes as they are presented.

Why Georgia is Celebrating Microschool Week

Brett Kittredge, Georgia
Public Policy Foundatio
Guest Columnist

Last week, educational entrepreneurs from around the country attended the 4th Annual National Hybrid Schools Conference hosted by Kennesaw State. Featured topics included everything from different learning models to financial considerations to media and messaging. And this week, we celebrated Microschool Week here in Georgia, and nationwide.

So what is the fuss all about?

Microschools and hybrid homeschools are similar, but not quite the same thing. Often described as "the modern one-room schoolhouse," microschools are small, community-centered learning environments that typically serve fewer than 15 students. They offer flexible, personalized education tailored to the needs, pace and passions of each child. They generally are set up to function like a school, but on a smaller scale.

Hybrid homeschools may appear to be the same, but they serve students who are homes-

chooling. The "hybrid" factor is that they allow homeschoolers from different families to come together for part of their education, but do the rest of it separately. The proportion of together vs. separate may vary from group to group, or even among members of a hybrid school. In many ways, they are similar to the learning pods that became popular during the pandemic, as even students in public and private schools sought out ways to spend time together, or share adult supervision, when forced to learn remotely.

How many children are homeschooling in Georgia?

This question is a little difficult to answer. According to recent U.S. Census data, approximately 6.27% of K-12 students in Georgia were homeschooled during the 2023-2024 academic year. These numbers are among the highest in the nation, but also are in line with the national trends that show a steady growth in homeschooling post-pandemic.

Why are microschools gaining momentum, especially here in Georgia?

1. Personalized Learning

One of the most powerful benefits of microschools is their ability to personalize education. In a traditional classroom with 25 or 30 students, it's difficult for teachers to tailor instruction to each child's needs. For better or worse, traditional schools, whether public or private, are designed to "train the masses." Microschools, by contrast, are built around small group learning, allowing educators to adapt lessons to fit different learning styles, paces and interests. Students who need more time to master a concept can get it, and those ready to move ahead can do so.

2. Stronger Relationships

In microschools, students aren't just a number. With small class sizes, teachers get to know each child deeply - their strengths, struggles and passions. These strong relationships often lead to better academic outcomes and more confident learners. Students feel seen and valued, which can make all the difference in how they view themselves and their potential.

3. A Safe, Supportive Environment

Safety - both physical and

emotional - is a top priority for families today. Microschools often offer a tight-knit, supportive community where outside distractions are less common. Parents and educators can collaborate closely, creating an environment where students feel secure and supported as they grow academically and personally.

4. Innovation and Flexibility
Microschools are free from many of the bureaucratic constraints that burden larger institutions. That flexibility allows them to innovate - whether it's project-based learning, outdoor education, apprenticeships or customized curriculums. If a student excels in a particular subject or shows interest in a new field, microschools can adapt quickly to nurture that passion.

5. Parent Empowerment
In an era marked by escalating tensions at school board meetings - and even a Supreme Court case over what schools are choosing to teach - microschools give families more control over how and what their

MICROSCHOOL WEEK
CONTINUED PG 5A

The Leader Tribune

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OUR GOALS

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

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

OUR POLICIES

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

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What to do About Nuisance Wildlife



JEFF COOK
EXTENSION AGENT

This is something that I get calls about the entire year. I get calls about getting rid of frogs, lizards, snakes, armadillos and much more. Because we live in the south, it is almost impossible or at least way too expensive to completely rid our property of all of these critters. So, what can we do?

Let me start with what we can't do. Most of the time there is not one single thing we can spray or spread that is going to get rid of these animals or others. I hope this is not a shocker

to most but snake away or armadillo scam, don't work. I think the snake away is sulfur, so it smells like rotten eggs. Doesn't keep snakes away, it just keeps you out of the area so you don't see them.

There are some repellents that work for certain animals, however you will need to reapply often so lets look at what else we can do. All animals need three things. Food, water and shelter. Remove one or more of these and you have created a hostile environment.

An example with frogs, especially Jody's favorite, tree frogs. These are mostly insect eaters and really like to hang out around lights at night. If you limit the amount of time your outside lights are on it will decrease the night flying insects and the frogs will search somewhere else.

We talk about snakes at least once a year, but since most eat small animals (rodents, or birds) you need to remove the habitat that supports them. Removing brush piles, cleaning up

around firewood, and keeping lawns mowed can help reduce snakes because it will reduce the amount of food or increase the amount of hunting they have to do.

Now for armadillos there is not much that we can do to change the habitat, but we can reduce their food supply. Controlling soil dwelling insects can help some but there are no products out there to control worms and other soil born critters that armadillos feed on. The only thing that we can do to eliminate armadillos is trap and remove or stay up really late and hunt them.

So, the next time you want to call me, think like the pest you are trying to get rid of. It may just help you figure out a solution on your own. The county quit paying Harley and she left, she did take all my books though! Contact our office if you have questions or comments about nuisance wildlife or anything agriculture related. 478-825-6466, 478-862-5496 or mackiv@uga.edu

MICROSCHOOL WEEK

CONTINUED FROM 4A

children learn, reinforcing parental choice in education.

What has Georgia done to protect homeschoolers and help the movement grow?

In 2021, Georgia became the first state in the nation to protect hybrid homeschoolers from government oversight with the passage of the The Learning Pod Protection Act. This legislation ensures that parents who voluntarily group their children for educational purposes are not subjected to additional state or local regulations. The Act clarifies that learning pods are not considered schools or childcare centers and thus should not be regulated as such. They are exempt from, among other things, staffing ratios and certification

requirements.

It prohibits state and local governments, including school districts, from imposing additional restrictions or regulations on learning pods. And it prevents these entities from requiring learning pods to register or report their existence.

That law helped protect homeschoolers today, but the Georgia Promise Scholarship program will benefit future homeschoolers. The Promise Scholarship, Georgia's first educational savings account program, allows eligible families to receive up to \$6,500 for a variety of educational expenses, including homeschool curriculum, tutoring and support for specialized needs.

The law, however, requires families to have been enrolled in a public school when applying, or to be entering kindergarten, meaning current homeschool students are not eligible.

Many wondered if the surge in homeschooling during the pandemic would be just a passing trend. While the explosive year-over-year growth we saw in the early 2020s has slowed, homeschooling has firmly established itself as a mainstream education option. More families are choosing homeschooling not just out of necessity, but because they see the benefits for their family. Microschools are simply an offshoot of that desire.

New Extension Agents Take Posts In Respective Counties



Photo Contributed

(From left to right) Collie Graddick, Millie Coleman, Terrence Lewis and Wesley Padgett join Fort Valley State University as Extension agents for agriculture and natural resources (ANR).

By FVSU

Fort Valley State University (FVSU), a state and land grant university, provide services to Georgians through its Cooperative Extension Program.

Cooperative Extension is a national network of approximately 35,000 professionals from 112 universities with presence in every county, borough, parish and territory.

Extension aims to empower communities of all types and sizes through educational programs, resources and research-based information to help improve quality of life. Providing a face for these services is the Cooperative Extension county agents and program assistants.

At FVSU, Extension agents are divided into three program areas. These areas include family and consumer sciences (FACS), agriculture and natural resources (ANR) and 4-H and Youth Development.

Extension agents have many roles and responsibilities in their respective counties. Some of these include developing and supervising educational programs focused on agriculture and family living, performing

community outreach, working with researchers to solve problems presented to them by clients and overseeing 4-H and youth development programs.

Recently, FVSU added four new ANR agents now serving several counties. They are Millie Coleman based in Irwin County, Collie Graddick based in Talbot County, Terrence Lewis based in Macon County and Wesley Padgett based in Houston County.

Dr. James Brown, professor and ANR program leader, said these individuals will play a key role in helping farmers, ranchers and landowners become more efficient.

Furthermore, Brown said that for a county agent to be successful, they must stay abreast with the latest technologies and methods used in record keeping as well as crop and livestock production. Agents accomplish this by attending training sessions so they can relay information to the farmer.

Additionally, Brown said the agent must have a passion for what they do and have a strong relationship with the farmer. This makes it easier to relay what is needed to improve agri-

cultural operations.

He added that county agents can be supportive of the farmer by bringing them up to date with respect to growing crops and livestock production.

Millie Coleman, whose office is in Irwin County, said she wanted to become an Extension agent to help farmers and landowners.

"I want to help them by providing educational programs and resources to improve their farm operations and land management," she said.

In Houston County, Extension agent Wesley Padgett said his goal is to uplift, encourage and assist small farmers and landowners.

"Another goal of mine is to develop more interest and care in the field of agriculture, especially among young people. This job encompasses many things, and they are intertwined and vitally important to community, food and livelihood," Padgett said.

For more information about FVSU's ANR program, contact Brown at (478) 825-6296 (brownj01@fvsu.edu).



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

BAHA'I COMMUNITY OF PEACH COUNTY

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

COME PRAISE THE LORD OVER ZOOM

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

CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

301 W. Church Street (478)825-2762

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

FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)

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

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

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 harlowmattthew@gmail.com https://www.middlegaanglican.org

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

Looking for a church? Pastor Tony Wood invites you to come visit us. Bring the kids for Children's Church!

Sunday School at 9:30. Sunday Worship at 10:30.

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. JULIANA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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.

BAHA'I FAITH

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth."

Baha'u'llah

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

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 Wednesday at 6:00pm.

Mrs. Laine Hudson named Director of Students Services for Peach County Schools

By PCSS

Mrs. Laine Hudson is completing her 18th year in education and her 7th year with Peach County Schools. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Special Education from Macon State College, a Master's degree in Mathematics Education from Western Governors University, and a Specialist degree in Leadership from Columbus State University.

Mrs. Hudson began her career in Peach County at Hunt Elementary School as a special education teacher. She later taught both special and general education in Crawford County at the elementary and high school levels. In 2018, she returned to Peach County to serve as Program Specialist for Student Services.

Mrs. Hudson currently resides in Crawford County with her husband, Dan, and their three daughters: Charlotte, Lizzie, and Emma.

Reflecting on her new role, she shares, "I am honored to serve Peach County Schools as the Director of Student Services. I look forward to collaborating with our talented educators, ad-



ministrators, and community partners to ensure that every student receives the support they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally."

Gov. Kemp Signs Bills Strengthening Education and School Safety

By Office of Governor
Brian P. Kemp

ATLANTA - Governor Brian P. Kemp, accompanied by First Lady Marty Kemp, Speaker Jon Burns, members of the General Assembly, educators, and students, signed multiple bills into law today that ensure fairness in school sports, further safeguard students and teachers, and improve the quality of education in Georgia.

"As the parents of three daughters, Marty and I know just how important it is to keep our children safe and to give them the best possible start in life," said Governor Brian Kemp. "That's why I'm proud to sign these bills that will further safeguard our classrooms, both from those with violent intentions and from out-of-touch political agendas. Girls should not have to share a playing field, a restroom, or a locker room with boys and vice versa, and the common-sense legislation I signed today is about what is fair and safe for our children. I want to thank the members of the General Assembly for putting the well-being of our students over politics. Like Marty and me, they want to protect their daughters and sons, they want them to grow up and compete in a fair environment, and they want their children to know that political agendas won't dictate their lives."

"I want to thank Governor Brian Kemp, Speaker Burns, and all of the elected officials who worked tirelessly to ensure that these two priorities received final passage," said Lt. Governor Burt Jones. "As the father of two school-aged children, there is nothing more important than their safety and the protection of their rights. A secure and safe school environment fosters improved student academic performance, along with their overall well-being. Additionally, Senate Bill 1 becoming law ensures the protection of women's sports and I am proud that the Senate led the way for this bill to become law. Today's bill signing ceremony solidifies that in Georgia, we are prioritizing our children, teachers, school

personnel, and the protection of women's sports over politics."

"Today, the General Assembly affirmed our longstanding and ongoing commitment to the safety, success, and well-being of Georgia's children," said Speaker of the House Jon Burns. "Our children are our future, and their future begins in our education system. That's why securing our classrooms, strengthening school safety, and increasing access to mental healthcare for our students was a top priority for the House this session, and that's exactly what HB 268 accomplishes. The House also took a stand to restore common sense and fairness for female athletes by championing the Riley Gaines Act. Thanks to the protections set forth by this legislation, female athletes here in Georgia will never be forced to face a biological male on the court, on the field, or in the locker room."

Governor Kemp signed seven pieces of legislation included below:

SB 1, sponsored by Senator Greg Dolezal and carried in the House by Representative Josh Bonner, was a legislative priority for both Speaker Burns and Lt. Governor Jones. It prohibits both males and females from competing on teams designated for the opposite gender and requires multiple occupancy restrooms, changing areas, and sleeping quarters be designated for use exclusively by one gender.

HB 81, sponsored by Representative Bethany Ballard and carried by Senator Larry Walker in the Senate, establishes an interstate compact for school psychologists, helping ease the burden on these essential employees in our schools.

HB 307, sponsored by Representative Bethany Ballard and carried by Senator Billy Hickman in the Senate, builds on the work of the Georgia Early Literacy Act by consolidating existing statutory requirements on dyslexia screening so that we can reach students earlier and get them the assistance they

need. HB 235, sponsored by Representative Rick Townsend and carried in the Senate by Mike Hodges, entitles public school employees and postsecondary education employees to receive a leave of absence for donation of bone marrow or organs.

SB 82, sponsored by Senator Clint Dixon and carried by Representative Scott Hilton in the House, incentivizes local boards of education to approve charter school petitions while preventing school systems from unfairly attempting to shutter these school options.

SB 123, sponsored by President Pro Tem John Kennedy and carried by Representative Matt Dubnik in the House, requires school systems with chronic absenteeism rates of 10 percent or more to establish an attendance review team to determine the underlying causes of that issue.

HB 268, sponsored by Representative Holt Persinger and carried by Senator Bill Cowser in the Senate, was also a top priority of Lieutenant Governor Jones, Speaker Burns, and many others in the General Assembly as we built on the work we've done in recent years on this issue. This bill requires schools to have up-to-date mapping and mobile panic alert systems, requires student records be transferred within five school business days so potential dangers can be addressed quickly, provides for a Student Advocacy Specialist grant program to reimburse districts for hiring said position, requires local boards to offer an anonymous reporting program, and creates the offenses of "terroristic threat of a school" and "terroristic act upon a school."

These measures are in addition to the multiple rounds of school safety grants provided for in prior years, annualized funding for school safety grants, and legislation requiring schools conduct safety audits.

Governor Kemp extends his appreciation to all of those whose diligent work and efforts led to him being able to sign these bills today.

can request dismissal of a case. But the legislation's most controversial provision put new limits on "premises liability," which governs when plaintiffs can sue business owners after suffering injuries during the commission of a crime by a third party outside the owner's control.

To get enough legislative Republicans on board to pass the bill, the House amended the Senate measure to carve out victims of sex trafficking and their lawyers from the bill.

The Republican-backed Senate Bill 68 cleared both legislative chambers largely along party lines, with Democrats arguing it goes so far in shielding businesses from liability that it effectively will deny victims their day in court.

Kemp pushed back on that argument Monday.

"If you are wronged, you deserve to be made whole and can be," he said. "This legislation protects that very right."

The second tort reform measure, Senate Bill 69, is much more narrowly drawn and enjoyed bipartisan support, at least in the state Senate. It focuses on

a growing number of lawsuits being financed by third parties where financiers who are not a party to a case pay the costs of pursuing litigation in exchange for a portion of any judgement a plaintiff is awarded.

Rather than abolish third-party financing, the bill puts in guardrails to protect plaintiffs entering into such arrangements. It passed the Senate unanimously but drew 42 "no" votes in the 180-member House.

Business groups praised the reform for getting behind tort reform this year, as did the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, a think tank that advocates free-market approaches to public-policy issues.

"These new laws will bring much-needed fairness and transparency to a system that has become costly and unpredictable," said Kyle Wingfield, the nonprofit's president and CEO. "Georgia has long been recognized as the best state in the nation to do business, and these reforms will help ensure it remains that way."

Kemp Inks TORT Reform Bills

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Gov. Brian Kemp signed two tort reform bills Monday that supporters say should reverse a pattern of excessive jury awards they hold responsible for rising liability insurance premiums that are hurting Georgia businesses' bottom lines.

Overhauling the civil litigation process in Georgia was the Republican governor's top priority for the recently concluded 2025 General Assembly session.

"These two bills level the playing field in Georgia's courtrooms and ensure our business environment remains the best in the nation," Kemp said during a signing ceremony at the state Capitol.

Senate Bill 68, which House Speaker Jon Burns called the most comprehensive lawsuit reform in Georgia in nearly two decades, deals with issues involving trial procedure, including when plaintiff lawyers can argue for non-economic damages, when discovery can begin, and when lawyers on either side

are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the compliance period of 9/1/2024 to 9/30/2024, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for Total Coliform and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. *

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do at this time. What is being done?

A deadline for sampling has been established to prevent any missed future samples, even in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as mechanical failures or inclement weather.

For more information, please contact: Jennifer Lumley, Operation Manager for Water/Wastewater 500 Anthonio Street Fort Valley, GA 31030 478-825-7701 x288

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Fort Valley Utility Commission Water System

Our water system violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct these actions.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring



Prepared Date: April 2025
Water System ID#2250001

2024 Annual Water Quality Report

The Fort Valley Utility Commission is committed to providing customers with a safe, healthy, and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. Our water is tested with sophisticated equipment and an advanced procedure multiple times a day. This report details the safety of our water along with the standard parameters. As health scientists learn more about our environment and the effects of substances on human health, new standards will continue to be set for drinking water. The Commission continues to add new technology to meet and exceed new standards. All water sources pass over the surface of the land or through the ground. The water dissolves naturally occurring minerals and materials and can pick up substances relating to the presence of animals, or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water:

- **Biological** – may come from human, agriculture, or wildlife sources.
- **Inorganic** – can be natural, from storm run-off, or from industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** – may come from agriculture, storm run-off or residential use.
- **Organic chemicals** – may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm run-off, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive materials** – can be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activity.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

Where does our water come from?

The Fort Valley Utility Commission gets water from the Tuscaloosa aquifer, which is approximately 500 feet below the surface. This aquifer has, so far, provided the city with a safe and dependable supply of water even in the driest years. For information on the Well-Head Protection Plan, contact the Utility Commission's Water Plant at (478)825-5482 or Clay Walker at (478)825-7701 ext. 228.

Treatment Process:

Utility Commission water is disinfected with chlorine to make it biologically safe. The pH is adjusted by adding lime slurry. Fluoride is added to help protect dental health. Phosphate is added to enhance corrosion control.

What is in our water?

More than 7,500 tests are conducted annually at the Fort Valley Utility Commission's Drinking Water Lab. These tests monitor tap water for micro-organisms, minerals, and organic substances that could cause disease or other adverse health effects. Testing is done for contaminants, including coliform bacteria, metals, nitrates, and pesticides. The water distribution system is tested on a regular basis.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate ways to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

2024 CCR Supplemental Lead and Copper CCR information for GA225001 Fort Valley Water System

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants(both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Fort Valley is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point and time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead material within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standard Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking and cooking. And making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipe for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, please contact the Fort Valley Utility Commission Water Plant at (478) 825-5482.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The Service Line Inventory (SLI) is a requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) to help water systems identify and replace lead service lines. It mandates that all public water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials to assess the presence of lead and protect public health. The inventory will support proactive lead reduction efforts and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements to minimize lead exposure in drinking water. The lead service line inventory can be accessed on the Fort Valley Utility Commission website at <https://www.fvutil.com/news>.

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

- **Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Analyte	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	Range		Units	Violation
				Low	High		
Lead	9/30/2022	0	15	0	24	ppb	No
Copper	9/30/2022	1.3	1.3	0	2.8	ppm	No

To access all individual Lead Tap Sample results for GA225001 Fort Valley visit the Drinking Water Watch website at <https://gadinkingwater.net>. Click on the "Review Consumer Confidence Data" tool.

Water Quality Test Results

- **Definitions:** The following table contains scientific terms and measures, some which may require explanation.
- **AvG:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples
- **Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify why total coliform bacteria have been found in the water system.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **n/a:** not applicable.
- **mrem:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- **ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- **ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- **Treatment Technique or TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely source of contamination
Chlorine	2024	1	1-1	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	2024	1	0-9.6	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
total Trihalomethanes (THM)	2024	3	0-33.6	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
fluoride	2024	0.7	0.7-.07	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
nitrate [measured as nitrogen]	2024	1	0.57-0.88	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2024	1.16	0-1.16	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2024	5.05	3.68-5.05	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Additional Testing and Research

The EPA has required the Utility Commission and hundreds of U.S. water systems to participate in a major testing program called the Information Collection Rule (ICR). The ICR is intended to provide EPA information about the occurrence of chemical by-products used in disinfecting, plus information about disease-causing pathogens (microorganisms). The data on how public water supply systems control the chemical by-products and pathogens will be used to revise drinking water standards.

Additional Information Sources:

Web sites with information about water quality: www.epa.gov/ow www.awwa.org www.gaepd.org www.amwa.net

Please join us in making our decisions.

We encourage and invite public interest and participation in the decision-making that affects drinking water. The Utility Commission holds regularly scheduled meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. The meetings are open to the public and are held at 500 Anthonio St.

The Fort Valley Utility Commission business office is open daily except for weekends and holidays. Lobby hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Customer Service telephone number is (478) 825-7701, option 3.

The Drinking Water Quality Lab, and emergency after hours, telephone number is (478) 825-5482.

Legals

Legal Advertisements
E-Mail: legals@theleadertribune.com
E-Mail Attachments: **Word Text Format**
Legal Fax: 478-825-4130
AD DEADLINES: **Friday's at 12:00 Noon**
Information concerning legals call: 478-825-2432

Legal Advertising Information

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

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

NOTICE TO FORECLOSE RIGHT TO REDEEM TO PEACH COLONY COMPANY, INC AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TAKE NOTICE THAT:

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

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 75, Fifth Land District, of Peach County, Georgia, known and designated as Lot 14, Block F, Phase 7, Sherwood Forrest Subdivision according to a plat of survey dated March 21, 1988, made by Thomas W Futral III, G.R.L.S. No. 1202, a copy of said plat having been recorded in Plat Book 16, Page 24, Clerk's Office of the Superior Court, of Peach County, Georgia. Reference is hereby made to the recorded copy of said plat for descriptive and all other purposes.

Sherwood Forrest Subdivision is a private real estate development and all lots are subject to the easements, zoning regulations and restrictive covenants applying to each section of the subdivision as it is developed.

As described in Deed Book 169, Page 578. Further described as Map & Parcel 064G191.

will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 16th day of June, 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 841.

The property may be redeemed at any time before the 16th day of June, 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.
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 2025
3394 (54376.0034)

LEGAL NOTICE

A public hearing, with public comment heard, will be held by the Peach County Planning Commission on a zoning map amendment request for +/- 3.805 acres known as tax parcel number 064B 009 located at 2415 N Hwy 49 Byron, GA. The request is to rezone the parcel from R-AG (Agricultural residential district) to M-1 (Wholesale and light industrial district).

The hearing will be in the Public Meeting Room of the Board of Commissioner's Office located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley on May 15th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Recommendation from the Planning Commission will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on June 10th, 2025 at 6:30 pm during the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The re-zoning application for this parcel is on file and available for review. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 2025
3386

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF SUSAN LANDRESS, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7083 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: SAVANNAH JANE MCCAY has petitioned for SAVANNAH JANE MCCAY to be appointed administrator of the estate of SUSAN LANDRESS, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. Section 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before May 9, 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 our 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
P.O. BOX 327, Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 2025
3390

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice **Byron Self Storage located at 107 W White Rd/107 W.E. Green Jr Pkwy/500 GA-49, Byron, GA 31008**, intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The public sale to the

highest bidder will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 5/20/25 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials.

Traci Tafel unit #209; Dexter Payne unit #288; Bernard Wallace unit #C425; Ronald Grace unit #E092.

All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.
4/30, 5/7, 2025
3398 (2251)

VEHICLES PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to OCGA 40-11-19 **Evans Towing Services** states that the following vehicles have been declared abandoned and will be sold at public sale on **5-16-2025 from 10AM to 2PM at 750 Dunbar Rd, Byron GA.**

2018 Dodge Grand Caravan
2C4RDGEG7JR345575

2000 Honda Accord
JHMCG5672YC032841

2004 Toyota Camry
4T1BE32KX4U799354

4/30, 5/7, 2025
3397

Notice of Sale Under Power. State of Georgia, County of PEACH.

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by **KELLIE E JONES** to **WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.**, dated 04/15/2016, and Recorded on 04/19/2016 as Book No. 544 and Page No. 258 274, PEACH County, Georgia records, as last assigned to **WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.** (the Secured Creditor), by assignment, conveying the after described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$99,434.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the PEACH County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in June, 2025, the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 5 OF THE FIFTH (5TH) LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 10, BLOCK "B", ALPINE HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, PHASE 1, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 15, PAGE 61, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE THERETO FOR ALL PURPOSES.

SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS, ORDINANCES, COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND RIGHTS OF WAY OF RECORD, IF ANY.

ADDRESS UNDER CURRENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING: 306 HOWARD STREET, BYRON, GEORGIA.

The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt 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 Deed to Secure Debt. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). **WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.** holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. **WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.**, acting on behalf of and, as necessary, in consultation with **WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.** (the current investor on the loan), is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, **WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.** may be contacted at: **WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., 3476 STATEVIEW BLVD., FORT MILL, SC 29715, 800 288 3212.** Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as 306 HOWARD ST, BYRON, GEORGIA 31008 is/are: **KELLIE E JONES** or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S.

Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9 13 172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. **WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.** as Attorney in Fact for **KELLIE E JONES**. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 00000010449585 **BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP** 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001 Telephone: (972) 341 5398.
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 2025
3403 (10449585)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF Tabitha Fields, Petitioner Civil Action Case Number 25-V-0155 NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Tabitha Fields filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on April 16, 2025, to change the name from: **Tabitha Shae Fields** to **Lilith Evangeline Fields**.

Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.

This April 14, 2025.
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 2025
3396

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

Notice is hereby given that **Dodi Michele Bullock** filed a Petition to change her name to **Sawyer Michele Bullock** in the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia on April 11, 2025. 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 within thirty days of the filing of said Petition.
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 2025
3391

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 2025-PRO-7075 IN RE: ESTATE OF ELSA EDWARDS, DECEASED NOTICE

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed. TO: DANIEL WALDHIER AND ALXANDER BRENNER

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before May 23, 2025.

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

Kim Wilson, Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin, Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 2025
3405

NOTICE TO FORECLOSE RIGHT TO REDEEM TO PEACH COLONY COMPANY, INC AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TAKE NOTICE THAT:

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

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 75, Fifth Land District, Peach County, Georgia, known and designated as Lots 1 and 2, Block F, Phase 7, Sherwood Forrest Subdivision according to a plat of survey dated March 21, 1988, made by Thomas W. Futral III, G.R.L.S. No. 1202, a copy of said plat having been recorded in Plat Book 16, Page 24, Clerk's Office of the Superior Court, Peach County, Georgia. Reference is hereby being made to the recorded copy of said plat for descriptive and all other purposes.

Sherwood Forrest Subdivision is a private real estate development and all lots are subject to the easements, zoning regulations and restrictive covenants applying to each section of the subdivision as it is developed.

As described in Deed Book 168, Page 745. Further described as Map & Parcel 064G112. will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 16th day of June, 2025. The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated February

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.

6, 2024 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, in Deed Book 717, Page 843. **The property may be redeemed at any time before the 16th day of June, 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.
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 2025
3395 (54376.0033)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF ADELITA U. MAURICIO, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7091 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: **EVA MARIE VARGAS** has petitioned for **EVA MARIE VARGAS** to be appointed administrator of the estate of **ADELITA U. MAURICIO**, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. Section 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before May 23, 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 our 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
P.O. BOX 327, Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 2025
3400

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT OF REDEMPTION STATE OF GEORGIA/COUNTY OF PEACH

TO: 1) Estate of Ulysses Adam Oates a/k/a Ulysses Adams Oates, deceased, 2) Unknown Heirs and Assigns of Estate of Ulysses Adam Oates a/k/a Ulysses Adams Oates, deceased, 3) Peach County Tax Commissioner, 4) City of Fort Valley, Georgia, 5) all Tenants/Residents/Occupants, 6) All Persons Known or Unknown who may claim an interest in property known as Sunset Circle, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

TAKE NOTICE THAT: The right to redeem Sunset Circle, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 (Tax Parcel 008D 042), as follows, to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying in the State of Georgia, County of Peach, 8th Land District and in Land Lot No. 28 therein being known and identified as Tract No. 4 on a certain plat partially entitled, "Property of V. Talmadge Spillers, " made by Thomas W. Futral, III, Georgia Registered Surveyor, dated June 15, 1971, and recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 60, Clerk's Office Peach Superior Court, Georgia, which plat is incorporated herein and made a part hereof for a more complete and accurate description of said herein described property. According to said plat said Tract No. 4 contains 1.510 acres, more or less.

As described in Deed Book 54, Page 333. Further described as Map & Parcel 008D042.

Will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 13th day of June, 2025, or 30 days from service of notice.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 6th day of February, and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, in Deed Book 717, Page 865.

The property may be redeemed at any time before the 13th day of June, 2025, or 30 days from service of notice, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: **David A. Basil, LLC, 301 Bradley Street, Suite B-7, Carrollton, Georgia, 30117.**

Please be governed accordingly.
04/16/2025, 04/23/2025, 04/30/2025, 05/07/2025
3384 (97185)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF GREGORY

LEON WILLIAMS, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7082 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO: Leroy Williams, Jr. Christopher Lott, James E. Lott, Jr., Latoya Moffett, London Moore, Najah Moore, Cheryl Lewis

Michael L. Chidester has petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of Gregory Leon Williams, 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 May 16, 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
478-825-2213
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 2025
3388

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: JUVENILE FILE #3738-J Y. B., SEX M, AGE 15, DOB 07/2009, CASE #111-2025J-015 CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, CARLOS BENITEZ, SR. (putative father); ANY UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHERS, AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILD BORN TO KASEY WILLIAMS

You are notified that a Petition for Dependency with Custody Placed with Sister was filed against you in said court on 04/09/025, an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 4/8/25.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Peach County Juvenile Court, held at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia on 05/13/25 at 9:30 o'clock a.m. for a hearing, and on 06/10/25 at 9:30 o'clock a.m., for a hearing following 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 9th day of April, 2025. **Whitney Nelson**, CLERK, PEACH COUNTY PEACH COURT
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 2025
3387

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, PEACH COUNTY

Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Shelia J. Wright** to United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture dated 7/21/2008 and recorded in Deed Book 408 Page 584 Peach County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$82,000.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Peach County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on June 3, 2025 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF FORT VALLEY, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FRONTING ON CHURCH STREET AND BEGINNING AT A POINT ON CHURCH STREET 202 FEET EAST OF THE CORNER OF CHURCH STREET AND KNOXVILLE STREET; THENCE ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF CHURCH STREET A DISTANCE OF 90 FEET; THENCE NORTH AT RIGHT ANGLES WEST A DISTANCE OF 229 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES WEST A DISTANCE OF 82 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 19 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES WEST

The debt secured by said Security

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

Said property is commonly known as 408 Spillers Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030 together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): **Shelia J. Wright** or tenant or tenants.

Dawson's Management - USDA is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

Dawson's Management - USDA Dawson's Realty & Mortgages, Inc. 3775 Venture Drive Building K, Suite 200 Duluth, GA 30096 678-558-7822

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

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

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

United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture as agent and Attorney in Fact for **Shelia J. Wright Aldridge Pite, LLP**, 35 Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400.
1000-20614A

THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
1000-20614A.

05/07/2025, 05/14/2025, 05/21/2025, 05/28/2025
3401 (97240 1000-20614A)

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY

WHEREAS, **Jennifer Marie Hermans**, an unmarried woman, as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC, Lender which was dated 1/8/2021, and recorded on 1/20/2021, in Instrument No.: , Deed Book 639, Page 419, securing the payment of a Note in the amount of \$170,848.00 in Peach County, Georgia Register of Deeds. NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 6/3/2025 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash During the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Peach County, Georgia, 205 W. Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 of Peach, the following described property situated in Peach County, Georgia, to wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF FORT VALLEY, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FRONTING ON CHURCH STREET AND BEGINNING AT A POINT ON CHURCH STREET 202 FEET EAST OF THE CORNER OF CHURCH STREET AND KNOXVILLE STREET; THENCE ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF CHURCH STREET A DISTANCE OF 90 FEET; THENCE NORTH AT RIGHT ANGLES WEST A DISTANCE OF 229 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES WEST A DISTANCE OF 82 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 19 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES WEST

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 7A

A DISTANCE OF 8 FEET TO A POINT 202 FEET FROM THE EAST LINE OF KNOXVILLE STREET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 210 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING ON CHURCH STREET.

Tax Parcel ID: F05C-186 Being real property commonly known as 316 W CHURCH ST FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower. Except to the extent that the Holder may bind and obligate Mortgages to warrant title to the Property under the terms of the Security Deed, conveyance of the Property shall be made without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied. All sales are "as is", "where is". The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or Substitute Trustee. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 1600 S. Douglass Road, Suite 200A Anaheim, CA 92806, Telephone No.: 800-561-4567

The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein. Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Jennifer Marie Hermans Attorney Contact: Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peachtree Corners, GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax: 404-738-1558 TS # 25-33349 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. A-4839404 04/09/2025, 04/16/2025, 04/23/2025, 04/30/2025, 05/07/2025, 05/14/2025, 05/21/2025, 05/28/2025 3378 (ASAP# 4839404)

TRADE NAME APPLICATION TO REGISTER A BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER A TRADE NAME

The undersigned hereby certifies that it is conducting a business in the City of Byron, County of Peach, State of Georgia under the name of: **Mango Island Shop** and that the nature of the business is Retail Store: Internet selling (including independent sales on auction site) and that said business is composed of the following Individual: Sheila Becerra, 201 Peach Rd., Byron, Georgia 31008. 5/7, 5/14, 2025 3406 (580084602)

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN RE: WALLACE SMITH.

All creditors of the estate of WALLACE SMITH, 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 30th day of April 2025 to Phyllis Smith c/o Attorney: Tim J. Thompson, 1900B Northside Crossing, Macon, GA 31210, 478-471-9900. 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 2025 3407

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

IN RE: ESTATE OF RUTH G. GILES

All creditors of the estate of Ruth G. Giles, 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 21 day of March, 2025 James Reese Giles, Executor of Ruth G. Giles, deceased 1984 Peach Parkway Fort Valley, GA 31030 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 2025 3368

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY ELLEN SPEER MCNEAL, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7081

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: MITCHELL H. REDD has petitioned for MITCHELL H. REDD to be appointed administrator of the estate of MARY ELLEN SPEER MCNEAL, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. Section 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before May 9, 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 our objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact pro-

bate 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
P.O. BOX 327, Fort Valley, GA 31030 478-825-2313 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 2025 3393

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 25-V-0169

IN RE: DANIELLE SEEGER And DARRIAN JONES, MINOR CHILD(REN)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Danielle Seeger, the undersigned, filed this petition to the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia on the 28th day of April, 2025, praying for a change in the name of minor child(ren) from Darrian Jones to Darrian Seeger.

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 said petition. This 28 day of April, 2025. 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 2025 3404

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of SUSAN MARIE TOWERS having been Probated in Solemn Fonn and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to JEFFERY G. TOWERS and CARISSA E. TOWERS 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 APRIL, 2025. JEFFREY G. TOWERS and CARISSA E. TOWERS, as Co-Executors C/O Robert J. Aromatorio Collins & Aromatorio, P.C. GA Bar No. 023708 P.O. Box 250 Byron, Georgia 31008 478-956-3071 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 2025 3392

TS # 2025-12915-GA

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Georgia, Peach County Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed given by **Michael Shundrea Brooks Married Man** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Grantor, as nominee for NFM, Inc. dba NFM Lending, its successors and assigns, dated 6/16/2022, and recorded on 6/23/2022, in Instrument No.: --, Deed Book 679, Page 606, Peach County, Georgia records, as last assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment recorded on 1/23/2023 in Instrument No.: -- Deed Book 693, Page 369, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$151,515.00, with interest thereon as provided for therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Peach County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on 6/3/2025,

the following described property:

All That Tract Or Parcel Of Land, Situate, Lying And Being In Land Lot 213 Of The Ninth (9th) Land District, Peach County, Georgia, Comprising 2.079 Acres, Sunset Park Subdivision, According To A Plat Of Survey Recorded In Plat Book 16, Page 112, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said Plat And The Recorded Copy Thereof Are Incorporated By Reference For All Purposes. Less And Except: All That Tract Or Parcel Of Land Being 0.406 Acres Lying And Being In The City Of Fort Valley, County Of Peach, State Of Georgia, Being More Particularly Described On A Plat Of Survey Prepared For "Jimmy L. Williams And Barbara B. Williams" By Thomas W. Futral, III, GRLS No. 1202, Dated June 6, 1995, A Copy Of Which Is Recorded In Plat Book 22, Page 95, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said Plat And The Recorded Copy Thereof Are Herby Made A Part Of This Description By Reference Thereto For All Purposes. Subject To All Easements, Ordinances, Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions And Rights-Of-Way Of Record, If Any..

Said property is commonly known as 705 Courtland Avenue Fort Valley, GA 31030.

The indebtedness 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 the sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorneys' fees (notice of intent to collect attorneys' fees having been given). The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Attention: Loss Mitigation Department, 11988 EXIT 5 PKWY BLDG 4 FISHERS IN 46037-7939, Telephone No.: (855) 690-5900. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the security instrument. Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), 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 other matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party(ies) in possession of the property is (are) Michael Shundrea

Brooks Married Man or tenant(s) or other occupants.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. The sale is conducted on behalf of the secured creditor under the power of sale granted in the aforementioned security instrument, specifically being Freedom Mortgage Corporation as Attorney in Fact for Michael Shundrea Brooks Married Man. Nestor Solutions, LLC 214 5th Street, Suite 205, Huntington Beach, California 92648, (888) 403-4115, TS # 2025-12915-GA.

For sale information, visit: <https://www.nestortrustee.com/sales-information.com> or call (888) 902-3989. 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 2025 3402

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF DIANE C. THOMPSON, DECEASED

ESTATE NO: 2025-ADM-7042

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: Amanda Nichole Hicks, Jodi Lynn Hulings, Jessica Hicks, Jarrett Hicks, Jason Hoyt Hicks and to whom it may concern:

JIMMY L. COOK has petitioned for JIMMY L. COOK to be appointed administrator of the estate of DIANE C. THOMPSON, deceased of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MAY 09, 2025.

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

Kim Wilson, Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin, Clerk of the Probate Court

205 West Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030

478-825-2313
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 2025 3383

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA CIVIL ACTION NO 25-V-0099

IN RE: MARIA Z. COOK

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Maria Z. Cook, whose birth given name was Mary Rosado, the undersigned, filed her petition to the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia on the 13th day of March 2025, praying for a change in the name of petition from Mary Rosado to Maria Zoriado Osorio on the petitioner's birth certificate. 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 for the filing of said petition.

This 13th day of March 2025. 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 2025 3399

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

FreeUp Storage Fort Valley

located at 1091 Peach Pkwy, Fort Valley, GA, 31030 will hold an online public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Georgia Self Storage Facility Act, Georgia Code 10-4-210 to 10-4-215. The auction will be held online at www.storage-treasures.com and will end on **Wednesday May 21, 2025 at 12:00 pm.** Unless stated otherwise, the personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household items, furniture, boxes, clothes, appliances, garage essentials and vehicles. Registered or motor vehicles are sold "As Is/Parts Only", no titles or registration. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. 366D - Nia Rogers 436E - Deonta Leary 430E - Jessie Mosley 184B - Carmen Jackson 764 - Sugelis Vallee Publishing dates: April 30, 2025 and May 07, 2025 4/30, 5/7, 2025 3385

4-H'ers "Ignite" In The Nation's Capital



Photo Contributed

(From L-R) James Nelson, Jr., 4-H adult volunteer/4-H mentor/exceptional education teacher, Harlem Jackson, 4-H youth, Carter Weaver, 4-H youth, Estelle Leonard, 4-H youth, Woodie Hughes Jr., (center), assistant Extension administrator 4-H program leader for Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension 4-H Positive Youth Development Program.

Jordan Carter, 4-H youth, Eva Lake, 4-H youth, Ja'Mari Little, 4-H youth and Alexis Borden, 4-H adult volunteer/4-H mentor/coordinator of exceptional education, parent liaison & paraprofessional.

By FVSU

Woodie Hughes Jr., Fort Valley State University (FVSU) assistant Extension administrator 4-H program leader, traveled to Washington D.C. with six 4-Hers and two educators

for the Ignite 4-H Teen Summit in Washington D.C. The 2025 summit drew more than 1,400 youth from across the country.

4-H is the largest youth development organization in the country, reaching 6 million young people annually. It is delivered through Cooperative Extension, a network of more than 100 Land-grant Universities across the nation. FVSU, and 1890 Land-grant University hosts 4-H meetings in multiple counties throughout the state of Georgia.

Hughes said this trip to D.C. was possible through sponsored scholarships.

"We were blessed to secure 4-H scholarship funding for six wonderful 4-Hers and two exceptional educators who serve as 4-H mentors/4-H adult volunteers for the FVSU 4-H Pos-

itive Youth Development Program. I truly thank the CHS Foundation Inc., Bayer, Nationwide Foundation, Charles Schwab Foundation and the National 4-H Council, for making this national 4-H premiere experiential learning Beyond Ready opportunity possible for Chattahoochee Hills FVSU 4-H Charter School 4-H youth delegation to attend," Hughes said.

Jill Bramble, CEO of the National 4-H Council, said the summit met the purpose and goals set forth by the organization.

"I saw bright minds collaborating, creating, and cultivating everything our Beyond Ready Initiative represents," Bramble said. The Beyond Ready Initiative aims to show how positive youth development programs help youth be ready for life after high school.

During the summit, youths were able to create Artificial Intelligence (AI) resumes, explore careers in sports industries, play games, launch drones, learn about aquaculture, agriscience and financial literacy.

In addition, the summit included inspiring panels, respected speakers, engaging workshop sessions, entertainment and tours of the Capital. The summit also provided 4-H experiential learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), agriscience, healthy living, career readiness, and emotional well-being outreach education workshops for all 4-H teen summit participants.

Hughes said he is grateful for the leadership and the continuous support of personnel at Chattahoochee Hills 4-H Charter School. This includes Patrick Muhammad, principal, Alexis Borden, coordinator of exceptional learning, James Nelson, Jr. exceptional education teacher and Chaz Patterson-Ellis, chief financial officer. Hughes was able to work with students at the school through the FVSU 4-H Positive Youth Development Program.

For more information about FVSU's 4-H Program, visit <https://bit.ly/3YJUPiz>

ARMED MAN

CONTINUED FROM 1A

subject pointed the long gun in the direction of the apartment complex parking lot and started firing shots, striking a vehicle passing by which was occupied by a female and male victim.

The shooter, later identified as 20-year-old Emmanuel Talton, was taken into custody by the Fort Valley Police Department on Wednesday, April 30. He has been charged with two counts of aggra-

vated assault and possession of a firearm during certain crimes.

Fort Valley Chief of Police, D.J. Flores wrote that he is proud of the work of the men and women of the Fort Valley Police Department, swift investigation, and apprehension of Talton before additional violence was committed.

17 YR OLD ARRESTED

CONTINUED FROM 1A

lice Department. According to the release, officers were patrolling the area after an incident involving a firearm had occurred earlier in the day. While the officers were in the area, four male subjects were observed with multiple firearms.

Officers attempted to make contact with the male subjects,

which resulted in all four subjects attempting to flee from the area. Officers were able to make contact with one of the male subjects and identified him as 17-year-old, Anthony Swain of Macon, Georgia.

While searching Swain, officers discovered an amount of marijuana and drug-related objects as well as a long gun and a pis-

tol, both of which had an altered serial number. Swain was ultimately charged with possession of a firearm by a person under 18, possession of a firearm with an altered serial number, possession of marijuana, possession of a firearm during certain crimes, possession of drug-related objects, and obstruction of officers.

LAKEVIEW SHOOTING

CONTINUED FROM 1A

a 17-year-old male and a 19-year-old female both of whom were shot in the leg area as well as a 21-year-old female who was grazed by a stray bullet on the arm.

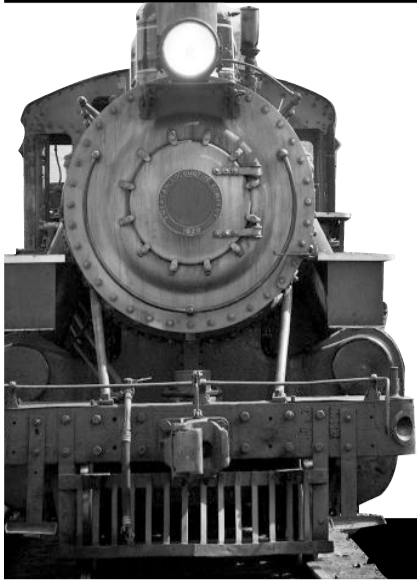
The FVPD Criminal Investigation Section responded to the

scene and immediately started their investigation.

Police are currently investigating the case and have identified a person of interest in the shooting. Details cannot be released currently as the police are still working to gather information.

If you have any information about this case, the Fort Valley Police Department urges you to contact them at (478) 825-3383.

This is an ongoing investigation. The Leader Tribune will update this story as more information becomes available.



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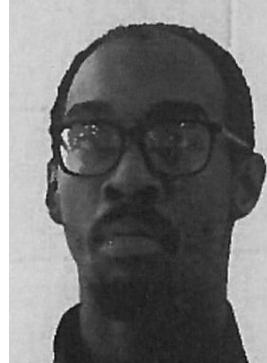
Garrett, Brandon, w/m, age 36, 5'9 @ 155. lbs. Wanted by the Crawford County Sheriff's Office for Theft by Receiving Stolen Property - Felony.



Wilder, Jonathan S., age 29, b/m, 5'11 @ 150. lbs. Wanted by the Houston County Sheriff's Office for Theft by Deception



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



Gordan, Jamal C., age 33, b/m, 6'5 @ 195. lbs. Wanted by the Houston County Sheriff's Office for Battery - Family Violence, Criminal Damage to Property - 2nd Degree, Cruelty to Children - 3rd Degree.



Scott, Markeis S., b/m, age 38, 5'10 @ 140. lbs. Wanted by the Crawford County Sheriff's Office for Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Police Officer - Felony, Reckless Driving, Speeding, and Failure to Dim Lights.

Peach County Trojans Sweep Bainbridge Bearcats in GHSA AAA Playoff Doubleheader

DJ Hudson's Walk-Off Homer Headlines Explosive Day in Fort Valley

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The Peach County High School Trojans baseball team made a thunderous entrance into the GHSA AAA playoffs on Tuesday, sweeping the Bainbridge Bearcats in a doubleheader at the Trojan Athletic Complex in Fort Valley. Backed by a relentless offense and strong pitching, the Trojans took Game 1 with an 11-1 walk-off win in just five innings, then followed up with a 13-2 rout in Game 2.

Game 1: Trojans Set the Tone Early

The bats came alive immediately for Peach County in the bottom of the first inning. Zion Hudson ignited the offense with a single to left field. Once on base, he showed off his speed and instincts, stealing both second and third. That aggressive play opened the door for Rigsby Booth, who launched a deep double to center field to bring Hudson home.

Kade Thompson followed with a rocket to right field for a two-RBI double. Wyatt Blanton joined the slugfest with a double to left field to tack on yet another RBI in a first inning that saw the Trojans pile on the pressure. Trojans built a sizable lead to end the first inning 5-0.

In the second, DJ Hudson laced a sharp liner past the pitcher for a single. Nick Hardee capped off the inning with a timely hit that drove in two more runs, stretching the Trojans' lead even further.

Pitcher Jackson Peavey took the mound in the third and delivered a flawless frame, striking out three consecutive Bearcat batters and keeping the visitors scoreless. The Trojans continued to attack with aggressive base running and consistent contact, maintaining their energy and dominance through the third and fourth innings.

Bainbridge showed a spark in the top of the fifth with their first hit of the game—a drive to left

field that pushed a runner to third—but Peavey responded with poise, shutting the inning down with more strikeouts.

Then came the exclamation point.

In the bottom of the fifth, DJ Hudson stepped to the plate and crushed a towering walk-off home run over the fence. The crowd erupted as his teammates stormed the field, celebrating an 11-1 mercy-rule win to take Game 1.

Game 2: Trojans Complete the Sweep in Style

Game 2 brought more of the same for Peach County, and DJ Hudson was once again in the spotlight. He continued his power surge by hammering another home run into left field, helping the Trojans rack up 13 runs in a commanding victory.

The offensive fireworks didn't slow down. From top to bottom, Peach County's lineup made solid contact, drove in runs, and put pressure on Bain-

bridge with aggressive base running. Meanwhile, the defense remained rock-solid, holding the Bearcats to just two runs and keeping them off balance the entire game.

With the sweep, Peach County advances in the GHSA AAA playoffs and will now turn its attention to a second-round matchup.

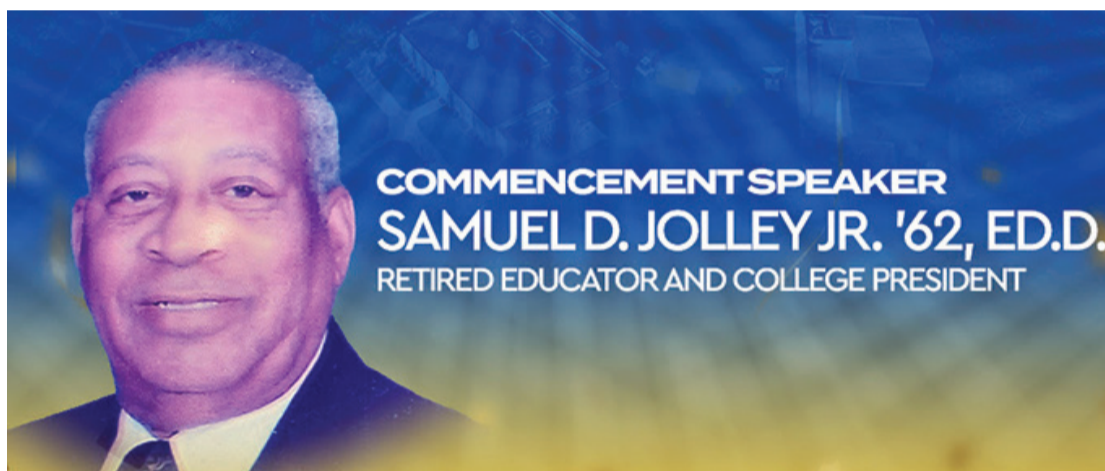
Next Round Details:

- Opponent: Mary Persons High School
- Location: Trojan Athletic Complex, Fort Valley, GA

- Game 1: Wednesday, May 7 at 4 p.m.
- Game 2: To follow immediately after Game 1
- Game 3 (if necessary): Thursday, May 8 at 6 p.m.

With their bats on fire and momentum on their side, the Trojans look poised to make a deep post-season run. Fans can expect more fireworks as Peach County continues its hunt for a state championship.

Fort Valley State University Welcomes Distinguished Alumnus Samuel Delanor Jolley Jr. '62 as Spring 2025 Commencement Speaker



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
SAMUEL D. JOLLEY JR. '62, ED.D.
RETIRED EDUCATOR AND COLLEGE PRESIDENT

By FVSU

FORT VALLEY, GA — Fort Valley State University (FVSU) selects Samuel Delanor Jolley Jr., Ed.D., esteemed educator, accomplished leader and proud Wildcat alumnus, to deliver the keynote address at the Spring 2025 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 10, at 9:30 a.m. in Wildcat Stadium. This special commencement is part of FVSU's yearlong celebration commemorating 130 years of Unapologetic Excellence.

A native of Montezuma, Georgia, Jolley is a 1962 graduate of Fort Valley State College (FVSC), where he earned his degree in Mathematics Education. Over a career spanning more than four decades, he has profoundly impacted higher education as a mathematics professor, college president and pioneering administrator, always guided by his core philosophy: "Excellence in all Endeavors."

"We are honored to welcome Dr. Jolley back to campus as this year's commencement speaker," said President Paul Jones, Ph.D. "His life's work embodies the values we hope to instill in every Wildcat: leadership, resilience and a relentless pursuit of excellence."

Jolley began his career as a high school mathematics teacher before joining the faculty at FVSC, where he served for 26 years in numerous roles, including professor, chair of the Division of Education, and dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. His visionary leadership helped secure a NASA grant to launch the university's Department of Computer Technology and Information Systems.

He later served as the 14th and the 17th president of Morris Brown College, where his strategic leadership turned a multi-million-dollar deficit into a surplus and restored the college's accreditation. His presidency

at Morris Brown and following role as executive director of the Atlanta University Center Consortium left a lasting mark on the HBCU community.

A nationally recognized figure in education, Jolley has received more than 200 awards and honors. He is a member of multiple halls of fame, including FVSU's Alumni Hall of Fame and the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2024, he was inducted into Omega Psi Phi's Georgia State Hall of Fame in recognition of his 65 years of service to the fraternity.

Jolley's speech is expected to inspire the Class of 2025 as they take their next steps beyond Fort Valley State University, carrying the same spirit of excellence that has defined his legacy.

For more information about FVSU's Spring Commencement, visit www.fvsu.edu/commencement.

Fort Valley State University Names Latoya Jones as New Head Women's Basketball Coach

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

FORT VALLEY, GA — Fort Valley State University has announced the hiring of Latoya Jones as the new head coach of its women's basketball program. Jones, a seasoned leader with a wealth of experience at both the NCAA Division I and Division II levels, brings a strong track record of

success and development to the Lady Wildcats.

Jones arrives in Fort Valley after serving as head coach at Allen University, where she helped elevate the program's competitiveness within NCAA Division II. Her coaching career also includes Division I stints at UNC Greensboro as an assistant and Gardner-Webb University, her alma mater, where she earned

recognition for her player development and recruiting prowess.

An introductory press conference will be held at a later date, where Jones will formally be introduced to the Fort Valley community.

Fort Valley State looks to turn a new chapter under Coach Jones' leadership, with hopes of making a strong push in the upcoming SIAC season.

Peach County High School Local School Governance Team Recognition

By PCSS

The Peach County High School Local School Governance Team would like to recognize Steve Smith and his business, Firehouse Custom Fabrication, as Business of the Month. Steve Smith has supported PCHS through the LSGT Memorial Bench project (previously Statue Project). He is currently working making several benches that will be placed on campus including one that will remember Dr. Ken Hartley.

Steve is donating his time and skills to this project. The PCHS LSGT is looking forward to placing the benches in various areas around the school and holding a special ceremony. Pictured are Steve Smith, Firehouse Custom Fabrication and Dr. Angela Hambrick, PCHS Principal. Thank you, Firehouse Custom Fabrication for supporting PCHS!



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Premier Parking Passes are available for \$75, which includes all home games and playoff home games. These passes are also included in our Business/Membership Packages. Please note, once Premier Parking Passes are sold out, they will no longer be available.

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.

For more information or to secure your membership, visit <https://www.trojannationtouchdownclub.org>, or contact us today at peachtrojannation@gmail.com. Go Trojans!