



The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

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Legal Organ for Peach County, City of Fort Valley and City of Byron
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Skeletal Remains Found on I-75 in Peach County

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. – A Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) worker found human skeletal remains while working along I-75 on Tuesday, May 6, according to Peach County Coroner Kerry Rooks.

GDOT workers found the remains in a ditch around 1:50 p.m. near the 150-mile marker and immediately contacted the Peach County Sheriff's Office.

According to Peach County

Sheriff Buck Shannon, the crew was cleaning the gutter when they found the skeleton behind a tree.

At this time, the authorities do not know the identity of the victim.

Authorities say they do not know whether this was a homicide or death from natural causes. It is unclear how long the body had been in the ditch before it was discovered.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) was called in to assist with the death investigation and has taken the body to the



GBI Crime Lab for an autopsy. This is a developing story. The Leader Tribune will update this story as more details become available.

9-Year-Old Girl Dead After Being Hit by Vehicle

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

BYRON, Ga. – A nine-year-old girl has died after she was hit by an SUV while riding her bike on Murdock Lane around 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7, according to a press release from the Byron Police Department.

Peach County Coroner Kerry Rooks says the girl passed away Thursday evening.

According to the release, the SUV was driven by a 44-year-old man from Americus.

The 9-year-old was taken to the Children's Hospital in Macon, where she was listed in critical condition. She died roughly 24 hours later.

This investigation remains ongoing. The Byron Police Department urges anyone with information on the incident to contact the BPD at (478) 956-2880.

Christian hymn Sanctus and the sea shanty Drunken Sailor.

Superintendent Dr. Lionel Brown thanked Flint Energies for their support and donations to Peach County Schools. These donations have been used to further fund school programs and have multiple teacher and staff appreciation events.

The Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley recognized nine students from Fort Valley Middle School who took part in a Youth Poetry Competition by The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Dr. Carmen Horton, Executive

**RECOGNITIONS
CONTINUED PG 2A**

Peach Board of Education Recognizes Athletes from CGTC, FVSU



Photo Contributed
Byron Middle School Chorus.

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – The Peach County Board of Education recognized athletes from Central Georgia Technical College and Fort Valley State University for their support of the Peach County School Special Olympics during their May board meeting.

At the beginning of the board meeting, the Byron Middle School Chorus performed the



Basketball Players

Photo Contributed

BMS Lady Eagles Soccer Team League Champions



Photo Contributed

(May 3, 2025) BYRON, Ga. BMS Lady Eagles Soccer team coming back to Byron today as LEAGUE CHAMPIONS! The girls won against Howard Middle in the championship game. Final score: 1-0.



Flint Energies Foundation grant funds Peach County School programs \$16,000



Photo Flint Energies



Photo Flint Energies

Peach County Technology Student Assoc and Flint Foundation

By Flint Energies

The Flint Energies Foundation granted three Peach County High School programs, Technology Student Association (TSA), Track and Field, and Special Olympics, \$16,000 total in funding to enhance educational, athletic, and community-building experiences for students.

The Peach County Technol-

ogy Student Association (TSA), represented by Julie Folse, has seen significant growth, with 25 students now participating in the program. With a mission to extend classroom learning into job-ready, real-world applications, TSA plays a critical role in student career preparation. The \$5,000 grant will be used to lower participation costs for conferences, uniforms,

and monthly meetings. "Our goal is to expand what we do in the classroom into tangible, career-based skills," said Ms. Folse. "This grant helps us ensure that financial barriers don't prevent students from accessing these incredible opportunities."

The Peach County High School Track and Field team, represented by Coach Rogers Harris, received a \$6,000 grant to modernize its meet operations. The funds will be used to purchase a digital timing system, which will dramatically reduce the duration of track meets and provide athletes with more efficient and professional experiences. "Our team is growing, but we've been held back by outdated timing methods," said Coach Harris. "A digital system will not only enhance the accuracy of our meets

but also give our students more time to rest, study, and be with their families."

The Peach County Schools Special Olympics, represented by Christy Jones and Lainey Hudson, was awarded a \$5,000 grant to further its mission of inclusion and lifelong community connection. The funding will support the team's attendance at state games and help

grow the program, offering more meaningful experiences for both participants and volunteers. "The relationships formed through Special Olympics last a lifetime," said Ms. Jones. "It's about creating a space where everyone belongs and where the value of inclusion is lived every day. This support helps us continue that important work."

Flint Energies Foundation grant funds Atrium Health Navicent Peach Radiology Department \$3,000



Photo Flint Energies

By Flint Energies

The Flint Energies Foundation granted Atrium Health Navicent Peach Radiology Department \$3,000 total in funding to support staff recognition efforts during National Radiologic Technology Week, held annually each November.

Represented by Brittany Arrington and Amy Walton, the department shared its plan to enhance this annual celebration by providing personalized gifts for each of the approximately 33 imaging staff members. The initiative is designed to boost morale and show appreciation for the essential role radiology professionals play in patient care. "X-rays were first discovered in November, and each year we take this opportunity to recognize the skill and dedication of our imaging team," said Ms. Arrington. "This grant allows us to celebrate our staff in a more meaningful way and thank them for the

critical work they do every day." National Radiologic Technology Week commemorates the discovery of the x-ray and honors the vital contributions of medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals across the country.

The Flint Energies Foundation provides grants to local non-profits such as this one using money donated by Flint Energies Consumer-members through Operation Round Up*. The electric cooperative's Members contribute \$175,000 annually to the Flint Energies Foundation, which supports worthy causes in the 17 counties it serves. Operation Round Up is a way for participating Members to support multiple charitable organizations by simply allowing Flint Energies to round up their bills to the nearest dollar. Donations to Operation Round Up, which average only about \$6 per year per member, are tax deductible.

About 40% of Flint's Membership participates in Operation Round Up, but that percentage continues to decline. If you are a Flint Energies Consumer-member and wish to contribute, you can sign up at www.flintenergies.com/ORU or by calling 1.800.342.3616.

The Flint Energies Foundation, a state-chartered, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, disburses all contributions to approved projects; Member contributions are not used for administration costs. Foundation Board members include Chair Joanne Hamlin, Lizella; Vice Chair Eloise Doty, Butler; Secretary Connie McCutchen, Midland; Treasurer John Luppino, Warner Robins; Gina Fink, Fort Valley; Charles Harrison, Grovania; Pat Bartness, Warner Robins; Traci Kemp, Warner Robins; Betty Chase, Oglethorpe; Roger Sinyard, Mauk; and Ian Russell, Fort Valley.

PUBLIC HEARING - ReZoning

The City of Fort Valley has a rezoning request from Ms. Marsha Gosier for **611 South Camellia Blvd., parcel F05E-098 containing 1.29 acres.** The application for rezoning for this property to be rezoned from its current I (Industrial) zoning to R-2 multi-family.

The date of this public hearing will be **May 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall.** The second meeting will be June 17, 2025 for Mayor and Council at 6:00 p.m.

RECOGNITIONS CONTINUED FROM 1A

Director of Teaching & Learning, presented the winners of the Fair Bear & Young Georgia Authors. There were 12 school winners from Peach County. The 2025 theme for Fair Bear Creative Writing Competition is Fair Bear is a First Responder.

Principal Dr. Angela Hambrick of Peach County High School recognized four students. The first two were Jaylen Harford and Angel Rodriguez,



Photo Contributed PCHS Awards.

both students who have excelled academically and socially. Dr. Hambrick also recognized the PCHS 2024-2025 Valedictorian, Destiny Penny, and Salutatorian Michaela McGhee.

Moving on to action items, the board discussed the Modular Classroom Lease for Byron Elementary School and Peach County High School. After much discussion, the board voted to give Superintendent Dr.

Brown approval to move forward with the purchase based on what information was provided later on.

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 Friday, May 16, 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 16, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. and Monday, June 30, 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



FVMS Poetry Contest Winners.

Photo Contributed

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

Barnes, Cheronica Michelle, 44, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation

Forth, Casey Alan, 36, Byron, GA: Battery/Simple Battery - Family Violence, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Hamlin, Kerry, 61, Byron, GA: Battery, Interference With A 911 Call

Mcknight, Shambria, 31, Macon, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Safety Belt Violation For 18 Yoa And Older

Thomas, Chartavion Latroy, 20, Perry, GA: Probation Violation

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Harris, Derek Deion, 33, Fort Valley, GA: Criminal Damage To Property - 2nd Degree

Knolton, Damarion Dashawn, 32, Warner Robins, GA: Receipt, Possession Or Transfer Of Firearm By Convicted Felon Or Felony First Offender, Aggravated Assault

Mccomsey, Jacqueline Ruth, 60, Griffin, GA

Peach County Sheriff's Office

Arrests/Citations

Aused, Clemente, 36, Bridgeport, CT: Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Possession Of A Schedule I Controlled Substance

Bravo-Roblero, Pedro Eliceo, 25, Warner Robins, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Following Too Closely, Failure To Maintain Lane

Davis, China Camile, 37, Fort Valley, GA: Hold For Other County

Durham, Durrane Maquiv, 26, Warner Robins, GA: Hold For Other Agency

Griffiths, Lui-Vitorn, 20, Lakeworth, FL: Manufacture/Deliver/Distribute/Administer/Sell/Possess W/Intent To Distribute Controlled Substance

Handfield, Hilliyah Davina, 21, Orlando, FL: Manufacture/Deliver/Distribute/Administer/Sell/Possess W/Intent To Distribute Controlled Substance, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Obscured Or Missing License Plate

Harris, Darrell, 54, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Hohnwald, Keagan Ivan, 24, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Jean Bapstiste, Jovnel Vincent, 24, Orlando, FL: Manufacture/Deliver/Distribute/Administer/Sell/Possess W/Intent To

Distribute Controlled Substance

Joseph, Barry Ishmel, 21, Symrna, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Levassuer, Jeffrey, 38, Seminole, FL: Disorderly Conduct

Lowe, Paden Tyree, 31, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Appear - Felony

Mcduffie, Cody Byron, 30, Byron, GA: Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol

Nalls, Christopher Charles, 49, Macon, GA: Simple Assault

Pickens, Jallal, 53, Fort Valley, GA: Battery, Criminal Trespass

Pierce, Michael Allen, 50, Macon, GA: Theft By Shoplifting

President, Trinity Marie, 24, Warner Robins, GA: Failure To Appear - Felony

Rivera, Edwin Villanueva, 29, Saint Cloud, FL: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Failure To Obey Stop Sign, Expired Or No Drivers License, Reckless Driving, Failure To Maintain Lane

Rojas, Juan Carlos, 35, Bridgeport, CT: Window, Windshield, Or Wiper Violation, Window, Windshield, Or Wiper Violation, Possession Of A Schedule I Controlled Substance

Santos, Roberto Antonio, 44, Fort Valley, GA: Expired Or No Drivers License, Brake Light/Turn Signal Violation

Skaramuca, Maria, 29, Orlando, FL: Possess W/Intent To Or Sell/Deliver/Distribute/Display, Or Provide A Minor Any Drug Related Object

Stevens, Ben, 43, Cambridge: Criminal Trespass

GA State Patrol Perry Arrests

Harden, Ahmad Sherrod, 22, Lithonia, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Failure To Maintain Lane

Mcghee, Asia Aubrey, 27, Byron, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Child Or Youth Restraint Not Used Properly, Failure To Exercise Due Care, Failure To Signal Lane Change Or Turn, Endangering A Child By Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Or Drugs

Crawford County Sheriff's Office

Arrests

Bilow, Jonathan Wesley, 24, Roberta, GA: Here For Court

Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



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 Nationa 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 Withoft 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. (rfs)

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.

Advertising should be a Marathon, NOT a Sprint.
If you wait until you "need" it, it may be too late. Like many things, the best results come from long term commitment.

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2025 Mental Health Awareness Month



ZOE HAMMOND

News Editor

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! It's an annual observance founded by Mental Health America in 1949 to highlight the importance of mental wellbeing, educate the public, reduce stigma, and promote support for those affected by mental health conditions.

Every year, individuals and organizations work to raise awareness and advocate for better mental health care and resources. Each year, multiple organizations will set a theme, based on whether they are local, statewide, national, or international.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has listed its theme for 2025 as "In Every Story, There's Strength". NAMI states that all mental health journeys are unique, but the strength found within them is universal. This year's theme is meant to highlight the resilience and diverse experiences that shape mental health journeys within our communities.

NAMI's campaign celebrates the power of storytelling to fuel connection, understanding, and hope for those navigating their own mental health path. NAMI hopes that each story shared will show as a testament to the possibility of recovery and the strength that lies within all of us.

Mental Health America's theme is "Turn Awareness into Action." Mental Health America is challenging people to rally their friends and family to help raise vital funds for Mental Health America as well as raise mental health awareness by wearing green. Green is the international symbol for mental health awareness and represents fresh starts, optimism, and positive energy.

The Substance Abuse and

Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) discusses how mental health is essential for overall well-being at every stage of life in their toolkit. They explain that prioritizing mental health, regardless of one's age, background, or experience, is vital in strengthening individuals, families, and communities.

SAMHSA plans to have a specific theme for each week of May.

May 1 through 3 was "Supporting Older Adults' Mental Health." The theme is meant to highlight the fact that as we get older, it can impact our mental health. Mental health conditions in older adults present differently, such as changes in interests or energy levels. It's important to have open conversations about mental health and to encourage older adults to seek support.

May 4 through 10 is "Building Strong Foundations for Children's Mental Health," which highlights the importance of early mental health support, resilience, and self-care for children and teens. SAMHSA points out that studies show that supportive families, communities, and resources help children lay the groundwork for lifelong well-being. It's important that children are taught coping skills early so that young people can learn how to manage emotions and challenges in healthy ways.

May 11 through 17 will be "Hope and Support for Serious Mental Illness and Serious Emotional Disturbance." That week will focus on raising awareness, reducing stigma, and promoting recovery for people living with serious mental illness (SMI) or serious emotional disturbance (SED) and their families. SAMHSA states that millions of people live with SMI or SED, but treatment and support can help them thrive. It's vital that we support, understand, and have access to care to help people with SMI or SED – and their families – so that they can pursue recovery and live meaningful lives.

May 18 through 24 will be "The Connection Between Mental and Physical Health"

**MENTAL HEALTH
CONTINUED PG 6A**

Why Does Our Metabolism Slow Down?



WADE YODER
LT COLUMNIST

The slowing of our metabolism is not tied with aging nearly so much as it is with a gradual loss of muscle and muscle tone as we get older. Even if we keep our weight the same, as we become less active our muscles lose their tone and more of our weight is coming from a gradual gain of fat. When our muscles lose their strength, density and tone it's like turning our burners on low heat, our body simply does not burn calories like it used to.

Most of us (after the age of 35) lose enough muscle every year to burn 4 pounds of fat! This means that we're not only losing the only thing on our body that creates strength, tone and good shape, we also are losing the very thing that helps us keep our metabolism up. So just like the simplicity of turning up the burners on our stove to generate more heat, we can also turn up our capability of burning fat and calories by toning and building muscle.

Toned muscle weighs more than untoned muscle, so it's very easy for an average height person to gain 8-12 pounds of weight in the muscle sector, (when starting a fitness routine). This is why; the weight doesn't drop nearly as rapidly on the scale the first few months.

Example: if we gain 10 lb. of muscle and lose 10 lb. of fat, the scale weight hasn't changed, but our shape sure has! Since this new muscle adds to the thermogenic heat in your body your

metabolism is changing as well. The same principle applies, that we should drop body weight if we get inactive to compensate for weight loss from muscle tone. If we continue to weigh the same, we can count on it that we gained body fat, (this is why our shape looks so different, even though our weight stays the same on the scale).

To help insure that we're properly turning on our thermogenic heat to its full potential, we need to exercise the muscles all over our body. We can do this by making sure that our exercise routine includes, pulling, pushing and pressing, (these each get different muscle groups).

Example: Rowing gets the back and biceps, Pushups get our triceps and chest, leg press, squats (with weights) or body weight squats get most of the large muscle groups of the legs. Keep a basic routine but try to add some different angles to your pulling, pushing and

pressing movements to give the muscle groups better development.

Example home routine: After walking or some other form of warm-up, lay on the floor and do pushups until tiring, then get up and pick up a weighted object off the floor and straighten to standing position, repeat this action until tiring and then do some squats with arms extended out in front of you, raising your arms toward ceiling as you come to a standing position. Repeat this circuit about 3 times and then finish routine by getting on the floor and doing some crunches for stomach.

Remember: if toning muscle turns up our metabolism, shouldn't we tone muscle all over our body?

Take away: Turning up our own metabolism by toning our muscles is the cheapest form of a weight loss program and it is also THE healthiest way!

Governor Kemp's Senate Race Decision Among Most Consequential

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

Last week, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp made his decision not to seek a seat in the U.S. Senate public. It's a decision that by most accounts had been made long before, yet many here at home and in Washington D.C. continued to ask – even beg – the man with bipartisan favorable ratings to help reclaim the seat for Republicans.

The Governor listened. He seems to have reconsidered. And yet, his style and brand has been of someone who is decisive. A legislative career in Washington has never been his goal. Finalizing and making public the decision is one of the most consequential Georgia politics has seen in decades.

It was already clear that the office Governor Kemp will be vacating in nineteen months would necessitate an open primary. Two statewide office holders have lined up thus far, with Attorney General Chris Carr officially running and Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones expected to officially launch his campaign soon. This, of course, creates open races for each of these offices.

The U.S. Senate race had largely been frozen prior to Governor Kemp's decision. The nomination was his if he wanted it. The race against incumbent Senator Jon Ossoff was immediately competitive if not overtly favoring Kemp. Ossoff's national fundraising ability would

have been neutralized by Governor Kemp's state and national fundraising footprint, combined with Kemp's high approval and favorability ratings which hold across independent voters and even among Democrats.

It was with that in mind that almost every Republican with a stake in the outcome of this election, from local grassroots all the way to Senate leadership and the White House, were asking, pleading, even begging for Governor Kemp to take one for the team and work to represent Georgia in Washington.

All of those folks had reasons for begging. Senate races are expensive, especially in large swing states. Avoiding an expensive primary when the general election will likely require raising \$100 million meant preserving capital while galvanizing early the fractured coalitions that compose the modern GOP.

Instead, we now have other office holders vacating prized positions to run for U.S. Senate. The race promises to be hotly contested within the Republican primary, with Congressman Buddy Carter and Insurance Commissioner John King having announced their candidacies so far. Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene has ruled out a run for Senate, but remains coy, as to whether she will run for re-election or possibly enter the Governor's race.

Every one of these races represents office holders at lower levels looking to fill the seats

being vacated. That means more primaries, more fundraising, and more entropy within the party as well as state and local governments.

No matter who wins, the leadership map of 2027 Georgia will look very different than 2025 Georgia. The campaigns for these competitive seats will affect many of the decisions made at many levels of government in the interim.

So why wouldn't Governor Kemp accept the flattery he was being offered for an almost straight path to a coveted membership in one of the world's most exclusive clubs? And why wouldn't he take one for the team and save the Georgia GOP...from itself, given how messy open primaries often are these days?

Take him at his word. He doesn't want it, and he doesn't need it.

Most of the folks insisting the Governor take the road to D.C. had a direct self-interest in that decision. "Think of the party, think of the state" is an appeal to virtue that in many cases really means "think of me".

There is no interest in politics above self-interest. To too many, Brian Kemp is a vehicle and an organization. To the potential candidate, he's a husband, father, and a man who has proven his actions make him a person of consequence.

Committing to a career in the U.S. Senate isn't a short term proposition. The institution is

designed so that real influence of members often doesn't begin until mid-way through a second term. Real power often starts in a third term. That's a decade and a half or more from now.

And what is that power? Congress continues to do less and less. Congress has become a place that prioritizes sound bites over sound policy. It's a role that frustrates if not outright depresses those used to making decisions that have immediate consequences.

So, this decision has been made. I have no doubt the Governor and his family are at peace with it. Georgia Republicans should be too. In fact, they should appreciate how rare and novel this decision is.

Too many enter elective office only looking to move up. Any movement upward is good, so long as bigger titles and more or longer power is involved.

Too few are comfortable enough in their own skin to say "no" when given the opportunity to extend their careers, to gain higher and more exclusive titles. We've got one of those in our Governor, and we can appreciate his temperament over state decisions and focus on our issues for a little while longer.

Then, on his own timeframe and with his own matrix, he can decide what is next for his next chapter. He's earned the right make his own decisions.

Why are so many data centers popping up in Georgia?

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

Some of the most significant innovations in technology have become common to the point of monotony in only a few decades. It's easy to take daily actions like texting, streaming movies and shows and using apps on our smartphones for granted, but almost all online activity taps into a vast infrastructure of data in order to operate the way consumers have come to expect.

While this infrastructure is invisible, it does have a physical home. Data centers are facilities filled with thousands of computers that work constantly to store and process information. They are also rapidly becoming an immediate and critical question of public policy. As data usage increases – and as new technologies require more data to operate – demand for the construction and maintenance of data centers is on the rise.

As many have noticed, Georgia is a hub for data centers, which are essential to the expanding infrastructure of technology. However, data centers

require no small amount of space and natural resources to operate. This often leads to difficult trade-offs between competing interests.

Mid-size data centers can range from 20,000 to 100,000 square feet, but larger hyperscale centers, such as Google's in Douglas County, can take up over a million square feet. Their servers require electricity and cooling to operate, just like a personal computer but on a much larger scale. This means massive air conditioning, ventilation and liquid cooling systems to prevent overheating. They also require a power structure that can deliver uninterrupted electricity.

These hefty land, water and power requirements lead to important policy questions and trade-offs for Georgians as data centers grow as an industry in the state. There are over 50 major data centers in Georgia operated by leading global companies and dozens more smaller facilities. The state has seen rapid growth in recent years, but this is relatively less infrastructure than, for example, California and Texas, which host over

three times the number of centers as Georgia. Georgia is also behind states like Virginia in capacity in terms of scale and power usage.

Georgia is one of many states that have utilized incentives like tax breaks and the easing of regulatory burdens to attract data centers in recent years. They require large capital investments to construct, including the purchasing of necessary land, construction contracts, power infrastructure and maintenance. Meta, for example, invested over \$1 billion into its data center campus in Newton County, much of which went to construction jobs and other infrastructure upgrades that involved local contracts and suppliers.

Data centers also lay a foundation to attract tech companies to operate in a region. Georgia's expanding network of data infrastructure has helped to facilitate the state's emergence as a tech hub. With companies like Google and Meta laying down infrastructure, Georgia has become an attractive destination to startups and established tech companies alike.

The potential for large scale investment, recurring infrastructure improvements and the facilitation of a broader tech ecosystem in turn cause regions to compete for data centers – and this is not to mention the necessity for new centers. If data centers stopped growing while our digital demand kept accelerating, the internet would become slower, less safe and reliable and more expensive.

These problems would be compounded by the rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence. We now see more data centers specifically designed to support AI. Training and running AI models takes a considerable amount of power and computing resources, and AI data centers are designed to handle those levels of computation with specialized hardware and advanced cooling systems.

Georgia now finds itself at a public policy crossroads in deciding how to deal with data centers. Lawmakers and stakeholders are balancing economic growth and tech stability with

**DATA CENTERS
CONTINUED PG 5A**

The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

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OUR GOALS

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

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

OUR POLICIES

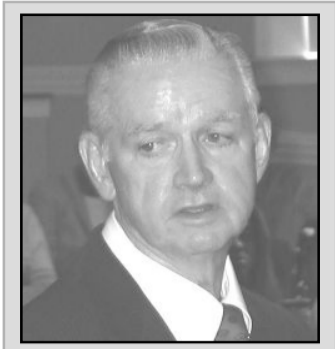
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The National Newspaper Association

History Of the Bible



BILLY POWELL
Parables to Ponder
COLUMNIST

The history of the Bible starts with a phenomenal account of history! It's not one book like I always thought -- It's an ancient collection of writings, comprised of 66 separate books, written over approximately 1,600 years, by at least 40 distinct authors. The Old Testament contains 39 books written from approximately 1500 to 400 BC, and the New Testament contains 27 books written from approximately 40 to 90 AD. The original Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic, while the original New Testament was written in common Greek. The history of the "Bible" begins with the Jewish Scriptures. The historical record of the Jews was written down on leather scrolls and tablets over centuries, and the authors included kings, shepherds, prophets and other leaders. The first five books are called the Law, which were written and/or edited primarily by Moses in the early 1400's BC.

Thereafter, other scriptural texts were written and collected by the Jewish people during the next 1,000 years. About 450 BC, the Law and the other Jewish Scriptures were arranged by councils of rabbis (Jewish teachers), who then recognized the complete set as the inspired and sacred authority of God (Elohim). At some time during this period, the books of the Hebrew Bible were arranged by topic, including The Law (Torah), the Prophets (Nebim), and the Writings (Ketubim). The first letters of these Hebrew words - T, N and K -- form the name of the Hebrew Bible - the Tanakh. 1

Beginning as early as 250 BC, the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek by Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt. This translation became known as the "Septuagint", meaning 70, and referring to the tradition that 70 (probably 72) men comprised the translation team. It was during this process that the order of the books was changed to the order we have in today's Bible: Historical (Genesis - Esther), poetic (Job - Song of Songs), and prophetic (Isaiah - Malachi). 2 Although the Jewish Scriptures were copied by hand, they were extremely accurate copy to copy. The Jews had a phenomenal system of scribes, who developed intricate and ritualistic methods for counting letters, words and paragraphs to insure that

no copying errors were made. These scribes dedicated their entire lives to preserving the accuracy of the holy books. A single copy error would require the immediate destruction of the entire scroll. In fact, Jewish scribal tradition was maintained until the invention of the printing press in the mid-1400's AD. As far as manuscript accuracy, the recent discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has confirmed the remarkable reliability of this scribal system over thousands of years 3 (I'll get back to the Dead Sea Scrolls later).

After 400 years of scriptural silence, Jesus arrived in 4 BC. Throughout his teaching, Jesus often quotes the Old Testament, declaring that he did not come to destroy the Jewish Scriptures, but to fulfill them. In the Book of Luke, Jesus proclaims to his disciples, "all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." From 40 to 90 A.D, the eye-witnesses to the life of Jesus, including Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter and Jude, wrote the Gospels, letters and books that became the Bible's New Testament. 2 Timothy 3: 16-states: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

DATA CENTERS

CONTINUED FROM 4A

trade-offs like environmental sustainability and how (and whether) to incentivize construction. Many communities across Georgia have also witnessed contentious rezoning debates over land development framed as an either/or: new housing or a new data center.

As more data centers are constructed across the state, Georgians will have a heightened awareness of the decisions on the table. For example, while data centers bring investment and signal tech sector growth, questions have been raised

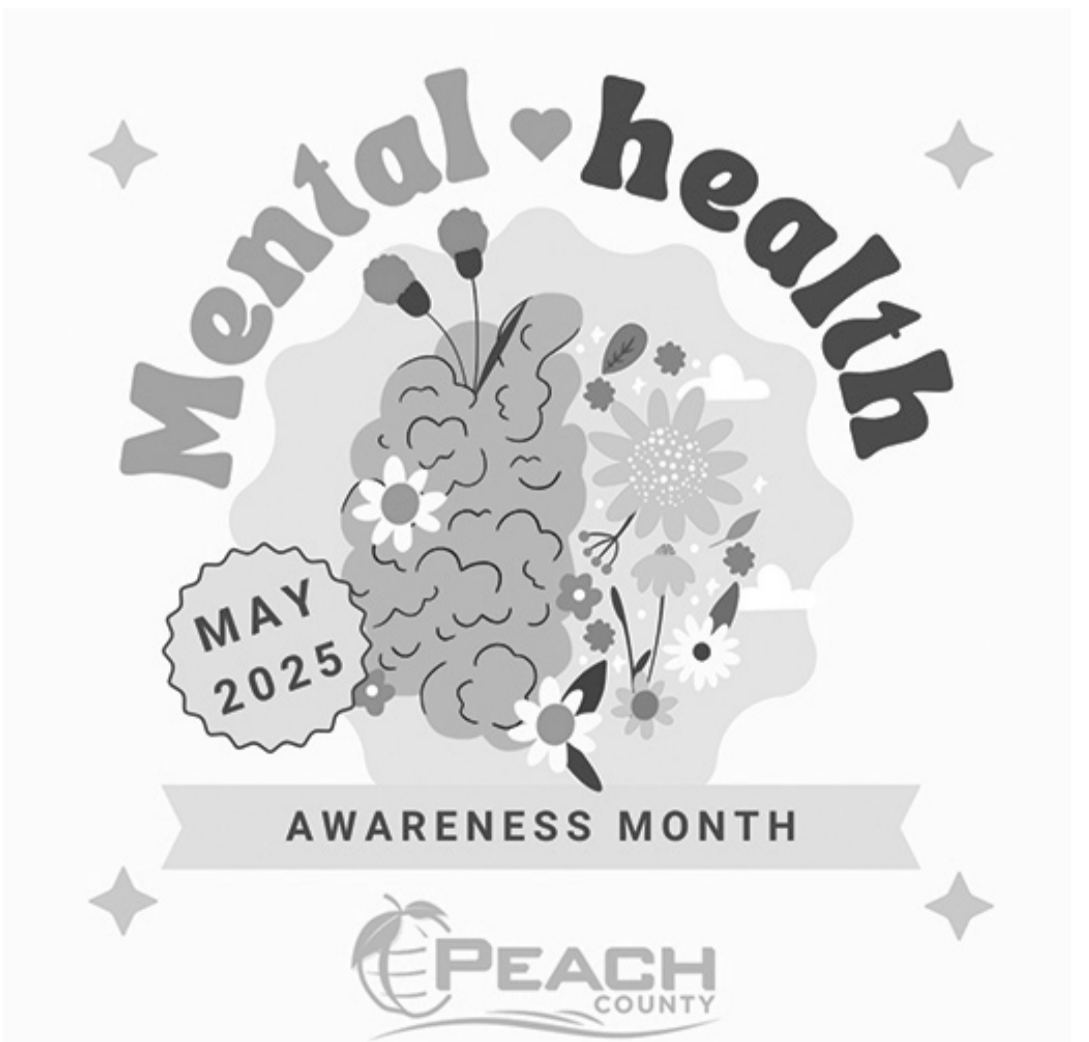
about how much direct, long-term employment they actually provide. Considering questions like this in light of the tax incentives used to attract them has already led some lawmakers to assert that Georgians are not getting a fair return.

Regulators and lawmakers have also addressed concerns about cost allocation. Earlier in 2025, the Georgia Public Service Commission approved changes to Georgia Power's rules and contract provisions in an effort to ensure data centers pay for their share of energy

use, and that costs will not be passed down to other consumers. A Senate bill was introduced in this year's session with a similar goal.

The progression of how Georgia approaches energy policy with the continuing growth of the data center industry will be closely scrutinized. We can hope that the needs of all Georgians will be accounted for as decision makers endeavor to deliberately manage long-term impact and sustainability.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!



Contributed - Peach County Government

Peach County recognizes the importance of mental health and the vital role it plays in the well-being of our community. This month, we stand in support of those facing mental health challenges and encourage open conversations, compassion, and understanding.

You are not alone. Whether you're seeking support for yourself or a loved one, help is available—and hope is real.

Let's break the stigma and build a healthier, more supportive Peach County together.



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

BAHA'I FAITH

"The gift of God to this enlightened age is the knowledge of the oneness of mankind and of the fundamental oneness of religion"

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

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 harlowmatthew@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.

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.

UGA Research Farm Breaks Ground In Perry

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - University of Georgia officials broke ground Friday on a research farm next to the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry.

The 250-acre Grand Farm will serve as a hub for research, education, and sustainable farming practices. Innovative technology including precision agriculture, robotics and data analysis will be used to increase productivity while conserving resources.

Grand Farm will partner with UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences on the project.

"This collaboration represents the perfect marriage of tradition and innovation," said Nick T. Place, the college's dean and director. "By bringing together the college's world-class researchers and the UGA Institute for Integrative Precision Agriculture with Grand Farms' cutting-edge technologies, we will revolutionize the way we feed and clothe the world's population."

The roots of the partnership go back five years, when University System of Georgia Chancellor Sonny Perdue helped launch a Grand Farm project in North Dakota while serving as U.S. secretary of agriculture.

"This partnership is a great

example of how Grand Farm works to advance agriculture technology and solve grower pain points across varied geographies," Grand Farm Executive Director William Aderholt said.

"Collaborating with the University of Georgia allows us to leverage their extensive research capabilities and expertise in agricultural sciences, enhancing our ability to innovate and implement solutions that are tailored to diverse agricultural environments."

The farm's first field projects are expected to roll out this year.

FORT VALLEY CITY-WIDE cleanup week

20 MAY, 2025
CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP, ADOPT A STREET
WEEK-LONG CITY OF FORT VALLEY

PUBLIC WORKS WEEK
3RD WEEK MAY
2025

ADOPT A STREET PROGRAM

- Participants sign up to adopt a street through the public works department.
- Each group is responsible for regular cleanups and small beautification projects.
- Street sign with your group name will be placed on your adopted street/neighborhood.

Dumpster located at Festival Park and Family Dollar parking lot no tires or construction debris at this locations please.

Tire recycling and bulk dumping at public works 612 s Camelia Blvd. Fort Valley,

Free t-shirts for the first 50 volunteers that adopt a street/neighborhood



City of Fort Valley
Public Works Dept.

Touch-a-Truck Day

City Of Fort Valley Public Works Week 2025

May, 22 / 10am
Thomas Public Library

Bring the kids for an exciting hands-on experience with Public Works vehicles! Explore garbage trucks, tractors, and backhoes
Sit in the driver's seat & take photos
Learn how our fleet keeps Fort Valley running smoothly!

Questions call 478-825-2615

City of Fort Valley
Public Works Dept.

Sen. Ossoff Launches Investigation into Large, Out-of-State Companies Driving Up Home Prices in Georgia

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

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff is investigating large, out-of-state companies buying up Georgia homes and driving up home prices.

Today, Sen. Ossoff launched inquiries with several of the top companies nationwide that are purchasing single-family homes across the State of Georgia, raising prices for families and reducing the supply of family homes available for purchase.

In 2023, an investigation by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, "American Dream for Rent," detailed how out-of-state companies are buying up family homes and turning them into rental properties, driving up home prices and making it more difficult for families to purchase homes themselves.

According to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report last year, large companies now own 1 of every 4 single-family rental homes in metro Atlanta, the most impacted region in the country.

Now, Sen. Ossoff is launching an investigation and requesting more information from 4

major companies including about their home purchases in Georgia, how many single-family homes they own, fees being charged to renters, and more.

"Large out-of-state companies are buying up homes and pushing Georgia homebuyers out of the market," Sen. Ossoff said. "I'm launching this investigation to get answers for Georgia families who are struggling to afford rent and homeownership."

Sen. Ossoff continues working to increase the supply of affordable housing and protect Georgia renters.

Last spring, Sen. Ossoff convened a hearing of the Senate Human Rights Subcommittee where tenants testified about the mistreatment of tenants by landlords in Georgia and nationwide and threats to the safety of children in dangerous living conditions.

Earlier this year, Sens. Ossoff and Ashley Moody (R-FL) introduced the bipartisan HELPER Act of 2025, which would establish a new home loan program under the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to help law enforcement, fire fighters, medical first responders,

and teachers purchase homes in the communities they serve.

Last year, Sens. Ossoff and Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced the bipartisan Veterans Home Loan Fairness Act to help veterans and their families qualify for home loans through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Last year, Sen. Ossoff also introduced the Access to Homeownership Act to require landlords that receive financing through the Federal government, including through Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, for multifamily properties like apartment buildings to offer tenants the ability to have their on-time rental payments reported to credit bureaus.

Sen. Ossoff has also delivered Federal resources to Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, supporting its ongoing work in the Browns Mill Village Development, a mixed-income community of owner-occupied homes in Atlanta and has delivered Federal resources to Southern Crescent Habitat for Humanity supporting its work in the Lovejoy neighborhood.

Kemp Signs \$37.7 Billion State Budget

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Gov. Brian Kemp signed a \$37.7 billion fiscal 2026 state budget Friday, a spending plan that prioritizes education and prisons.

"(This) budget makes important investments to meet the needs of our growing state without growing government or adding to our long-term liabilities," Kemp said during a signing ceremony at the Georgia Capitol.

The budget, which the General Assembly passed overwhelmingly last month, includes \$300 million to fully fund the state's Quality Basic Education K-12 student funding formula. Another \$108.9 million in state grants will help local school systems pay for safety improvements on their campuses - providing each school with \$47,124 - while \$47.9 million is earmarked for student mental health programs.

The school safety and mental health money come in the wake of the school shooting at Apalachee High School in Barrow County last September that

killed two students and two teachers.

The budget also includes more than \$141 million to launch the state's new private-school vouchers program, which will kick off in time for the coming school year.

Kemp and the legislature responded to a federal audit criticizing the state prison system for failing to protect inmates from violence by putting up \$200 million to hire more correctional officers and raise the salaries of the current workforce.

More than \$1.7 million will be used for additional positions and technology at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, more than \$1 million will go toward two crime scene technical leaders and three digital forensic investigators. Another \$1 million will pay for a new gang case management system and gang enforcement efforts statewide.

For the second year in a row, the state will fund building projects with cash instead of borrowing the money. The capital projects package includes \$290 million for transportation improvements and \$715 million for a host of building proj-

ects with an emphasis on K-12 school systems, universities, and technical colleges.

Kemp said the pay-as-you-go approach on capital projects will save Georgia taxpayers \$150 million a year on debt service costs for the next 20 years.

In a separate letter to Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and Georgia House Speaker Jon Burns, Kemp identified nine spending items in the budget as "non-binding" and instructed lawmakers to disregard them.

The largest of those line items would have provided just more than \$600,000 to the secretary of state's office to cover additional operating expenses incurred by the State Election Board. Kemp ordered the agency not to spend any money on new positions for the board.

"Additional personnel should not be hired by the board until the impact of the positions added in the fiscal 2025 budget has been assessed and new funds have been appropriated specifically for such purpose," the governor wrote.

The fiscal 2026 budget will take effect July 1.

MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUED FROM 4A

and will explore how deeply connected mental and physical health are. Mental and physical health are equally important, and taking care of one supports the other. Regular activity, good nutrition, and quality sleep support both mental and physical well-being.

May 25 through 31 will be "The Power of Community and Connection in Mental Health," which will focus on the role of community, support networks, and recovery in promoting well-being. SAMHSA states that supportive relationships and connected communities foster a sense of belonging

and promote overall mental well-being for all. Studies show that healthy social connections and community support play a vital role in mental health journeys and recovery.

Open conversations about mental health help break stigma and encourage people to seek support.

There are numerous support systems, both online and offline. Please remember, you are not alone, and there are people who want to help you.

Here is a list of crisis hotlines and resources. Please don't hesitate to call if you need help.

- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
- National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Text or Call 988
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: Call (800) 656-4673
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: Call (800) 799-7233
- Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: Call (800) 422-4453
- Veterans Crisis Line: Call 988, then press 1, or text 838255 to 988

New Report Finds Huge Increase In Cybercrime

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Cybercrime is on the rise in Georgia and around the country.

Georgia ranked 11th in internet-related complaints last year, up from 13th in 2023, according to the FBI's newly released Internet Crime Report 2024. The potential losses of \$420 million represented a 40% increase between 2023 and last year.

Nationally, internet crime complaints rose to 859,532 in 2024, with related losses topping \$16.6 billion up by 33% over the previous year.

The top three cybercrimes nationwide measured by the number of complaints reported, were phishing/spoofing, extortion, and personal data breaches. However, losses related to

cryptocurrency far exceeded any other category.

"While the top threats facing Georgia and the nation from cyber criminals and fraudsters continue to evolve, their main goal remains stealing your hard-earned money," said Paul Brown, special agent in charge at the Atlanta FBI office. "The cornerstone of the FBI's mission remains to protect American citizens."

Elderly Georgians are particularly vulnerable to cybercrime. Internet crime complaints lodged by adults ages 60 and older soared by 71% last year, while reported losses increased by 89%.

Reports of cryptocurrency-related crimes in Georgia jumped even more in 2024 - by 122% - while estimated losses were up by 66% from 2023.

The Leader  Tribune
Peach County's Newspaper

Has NEW EMAIL Addresses!

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

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

NEW

Legals

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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.

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 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 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

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 ALEXANDER 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

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 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, KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS

LOT NO. 17, BLOCK "A", OF THE EASTSIDE SUBDIVISION THEREIN, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS ON A PLAT OF SURVEY OF SAID SUBDIVISION PREPARED BY THOMAS W. FUTRAL, III, SURVEYOR, DATED JULY 1965, A COPY OF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 180, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION BY REFERENCE THERETO.

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, Six 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)

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

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.

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
3393

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 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 OF HEARING TO: TYRUS ROBINSON ANY UNKNOWN BIRTHFATHER

You have been identified as the biological father of Baby Girl English born to Denautica English on January 13, 2025, in Houston County, Georgia. The natural and legal mother of the child has surrendered her parental rights and custody to the child to Covenant Care Services, Inc. for adoption. If you have any interest in the child, please contact Covenant Care Services, Inc., 3950 Ridge Avenue, Macon, Georgia 31210, (478) 475-4990 or toll free 1-800-226-5683. If you do not file a response to this Petition with the Court **within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this notice and provide a copy to me as attorney for Covenant Care Services, Inc.**, you will lose all rights you may have in and to the child and you will neither receive notice nor be entitled to object to the adoption of the child, pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

NOTICE OF HEARING

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that counsel of record for Covenant Care Services, Inc., will bring its Petition to Terminate on for hearing before the Superior Court of Bibb County, Bibb County Courthouse, 601 Mulberry Street, Macon, Georgia, at **12:00 NOON ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025. THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE YOU WILL RECEIVE OF SAID HEARING.**
H.J. STRICKLAND, JR., Georgia Bar No. 004450
Attorney for Covenant Care Services, Inc.
435 Second Street, P.O. Box 6437
Macon, Georgia 31208-6437
(478)745-2821
5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 2025
3413

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF NANCY LEE VINES, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7063 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: MITCHELL HALL JOHNSON has petitioned for MITCHELL HALL JOHNSON to be appointed administrator of the estate of NANCY LEE VINES, 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
5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 2025
3409

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Georgia Forestry Commission will be accepting bids on **Thursday, May 29, 2025, for a timber sale located on Fort Valley State University's property located in Peach County. Bids will be accepted until 11:00 am.** Timber being sold is located on 126.5 acres with approximately 4,691 tons of pine and 1,838 tons of hardwood. Contract length to harvest and remove the timber is twelve (12) months. For more information on the timber to be sold, the sale areas or the bid process or to receive a bid packet, contact Ben Hammond, Georgia Forestry Commission, at 706-612-3729.

5/14, 5/21, 2025
3412 (FVSU FY25 11458)

PUBLIC NOTICE – AUCTION ABANDONED VEHICLES

Underwood's Towing, Inc will sell the following vehicles at **public auction** pursuant to Georgia Statute 40-1-9 through 40-11-1 at **9:30 A.M. June 9, 2025 at the office of Insurance Auto Auctions, 2200 Trade Drive, Macon, GA 31217.** Some of the vehicle(s) are damaged and not in operable condition.

2008 MISTSUBISHI LANCER, JA3AU26U68U042478
2002 CHEVROLET SILVERADO, 1GCHC24U52E239309
2006 PONTIAC G-6, 1G2ZG558X64154283
2010 NISSAN ALTIMA, 1N4AL2A-P2AN53591
2009 HYUNDAI SONATA, 5NPET46C39H566577
LINCOLN TOWN CAR, 1LNHM-83W84Y664457
2012 HYUNDAI SONATA, 5NPE-C4AB1CH353570
2011 HONDA ACCORD, 1HGCS2B-80BA001833
1998 CHEVROLET S-10, 1GCCS1946WK132194
2012 FORD FOCUS, 1FAHP3H-24CL317651
1995 HONDA ACCORD, 1HGCD-5656SA135886
2007 HONDA ACCORD, 1HGC-M5633A043219
1988 CARGO TRAILER, 7FYBE-1218JD006780
2004 TOYOTA SOLARA, 4TI-CA38P34U022548
2006 FREIGHTLINER, 1FU-JA6CV76LV77605
5/14, 5/21, 2025
3411

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

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS ST ATE 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 JEFFREY 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

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 fo the filing of said petition.

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

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 7A

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 PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 2025-MGDN-7085 IN RE: ESTATE OF IVY ROSE CAMERON, MINOR NOTICE TO: DALTON BLACKMON AND ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

You are hereby notified that **KATHY J. BERRYHILL** has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed temporary guardian(s) of the above-named Minor. All objections to the Petition to the appointment of a temporary guardian or the appointment of the petitioner(s) as temporary guardian(s), must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication for this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia probate court clerk and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees.

NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition, a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date. If no objection is filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

Kim Wilson, Judge of the Probate Court
By Katrina Corbin, Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
478-825-2313
5/14, 5/21, 2025
3408

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)

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 SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 19 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES WEST 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 Mortgagees 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)

GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

This 6th day of May, 2025.
Elena Resendiz, Administrator
c/o Rebecca C. Moody, Esq.
MOODY AND ASSOCIATES LAW FIRM, LLC
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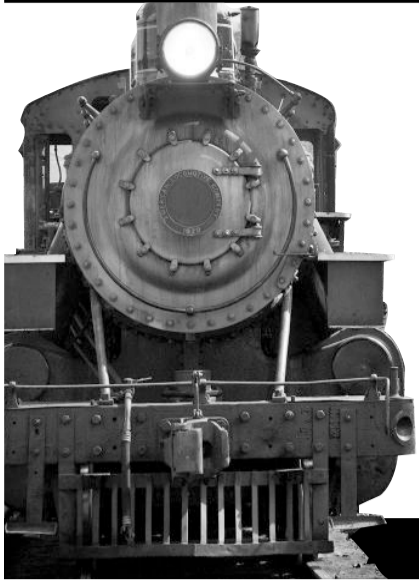
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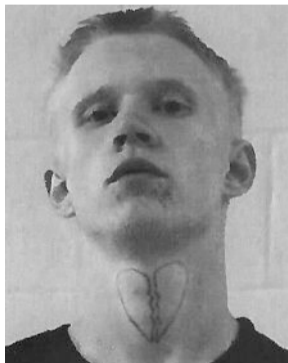
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Bryd, Jordan K., age 21, w/m, 5'8 @ 135. lbs.
Wanted by the Houston County Sheriff's Office for Sup. Ct. VOP. - Possession Hydrocodone, Simple Battery.



Hart, Antonio F., age 50, b/m, 5'9 @ 150. lbs.
Wanted by the Crawford County Sheriff's Office for Theft by Taking - Felony.



Jackson, Marlowe J., b/m, age 50, 5'10 @ 170. lbs.
Wanted by the U.S. Marshal's Office for Sup. Ct. Bench Warrant, Burglary - 2nd Degree, Criminal Attempt to Commit a Felony.



Simmons, Jr. Robert L., b/m, age 50, 5'9 @ 175. lbs.
Wanted by the Houston County Sheriff's Office for Financial Identity Fraud - Felony. Simmons is also wanted by the Bibb County Sheriff's Office for Sup. Ct. VOP. o/c Aggravated Assault.



Damore, Christopher D., age 40, w/m, 6'2 @ 220. lbs.
Wanted by the Houston County Sheriff's Office for 3x Burglary W/ Intent to Commit a Theft, Criminal Trespass, Entering Auto with Intent to Commit a Felony, Wearing Mask or Hood Concealing Identity.

Peach County Advances To Final Four After Doubleheader Sweep Over Mary Persons

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

Fort Valley, GA — The Peach County Trojans are Final Four bound after sweeping the Mary Persons Bulldogs in a thrilling Elite 8 doubleheader in the GHSA AAA Baseball Playoffs. Behind dominant pitching, late-game heroics, and an electric home crowd, the Trojans secured back-to-back victories, winning Game 1 in walk-off fashion, 3-2, and shutting out the Bulldogs 3-0 in Game 2.

Game 1: Peavy's Milestone and a Walk-Off Finish

Game 1 was a slow burn, with both teams locked in a scoreless battle through the first two

innings. Trojans ace Jackson Peavy was lights out on the mound, notching 14 strikeouts and hitting a career milestone with his 400th career strikeout in the second inning.

Mary Persons broke the stalemate with a run off a wild pitch and added another in the fifth to take a 2-0 lead. But momentum began shifting in the bottom of the fifth when Wyatt Blanton ignited the home crowd with a triple to right field, later scoring on a wild pitch. Fans roared, chanting, "FIRED UP, PC, FIRED UP!" as the energy surged through the Trojans' dugout.

Still trailing 2-1 entering the bottom of the seventh, Peavy set the tone by striking out the side in the top half of the inning. Then came the fireworks.

Blanton was hit by a pitch to start the rally. After advancing to second on a sacrifice bunt from Xavion Childs, Zion Hudson delivered a clutch single to drive in Blanton and tie the game. The crowd erupted again—and moments later, Riggsby Booth stepped up and laced a walk-off hit to clinch the win for Peach County.

Game 2: Hudson's Command and Hardee's Heroics

Game 2 mirrored the slow start of its predecessor, with both teams scoreless through three innings. But in the fourth, the Trojans struck.

Nick Hardee came through with a two-RBI single, capping a decisive inning for Peach County. DJ Hudson took over on the mound and delivered

a shutout performance, backed by airtight defense and unwavering focus. The Bulldogs couldn't find an answer as the Trojans maintained their edge the rest of the way, securing the sweep with a 3-0 victory.

With the Elite 8 behind them, the Trojans now turn their focus to the GHSA AAA Semifinals, where they will face Cherokee Bluff on Tuesday, May 13th at 4 p.m. at the Trojans Athletic Complex in Fort Valley. A third and deciding game, if necessary, will be played on Wednesday, May 14th at 1 p.m.

The Trojans' combination of dominant pitching, timely hitting, and passionate fan support has them poised to make a run at the state title.

The Rolling Trojans Finish as State Runner-Up in Wheelchair Football

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

Fort Valley, GA — The Peach County community is beaming with pride as The Rolling Trojans wrapped up an extraordinary season, finishing as the State Runner-Up in Wheelchair Football. The team, composed of determined athletes and guided by passionate coaches, showcased remarkable heart, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the season.

After months of hard work, dedication, and teamwork, The Rolling Trojans earned their place among Georgia's elite JV wheelchair football teams. Their second-place finish is more than a trophy—it's a testament to their courage and commitment on and off the court.

In a season filled with thrilling victories and fierce competition, the team's unity and perseverance stood out. Whether making key plays, supporting each other on the bench, or pushing through tough matchups, these young athletes in-



spired everyone who watched them play.

The Rolling Trojans have not only made a name for themselves in the state but also brought the Peach County com-

munity together in celebration. Their achievement is a reminder that with hard work and support, anything is possible.

Georgia Pre-K Program Takes Steps To Improve After Slip In National Rankings

By Ty Tagami
Staff Writer

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Georgia's lottery-funded pre-kindergarten program used to be the envy of the nation, offering high-quality schooling for free.

But the program peaked in 2019 as enrollment started to fall, a trend that accelerated during the pandemic.

"Ominously, some states that have been leaders in universal preschool continued a long-term decline in enrollment, including Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin," the National Institute for Early Education Research said in a press release this week that sums up its latest annual report.

The quality of Georgia's program, long a source of pride for state leaders, ranked below other states during the last school year, according to the institute's just-released study, "The State of Preschool in 2024."

The institution, based at Rutgers University, gave Georgia a score of eight out of 10 on its benchmarks for quality, dinging the state for relatively large class sizes.

The organization notes that its report doesn't cover the current school year, when \$97 million in new state funding took effect. That money is meant to boost

pre-k teacher pay and reduce class sizes and student-teacher ratios. This presumably will result in a perfect score on the institute's next report, said W. Steven Barnett, founder and senior director at the institute.

He suspects this year will mark a turning point for Georgia, with a return to national leadership in preschool excellence.

But enrollment will remain a challenge. Some states have maintained high enrollment rates, with four out of five eligible children attending public preschool, Barnett said. Georgia used to have over 60% enrollment, but that is down to 55%, according to the institute's new report.

"Georgia is on its way back up, putting quality first, putting more money into the program," he said. "But you're still at 55% enrollment, and when you have states up over 80%, then that's not a leading position."

A host of studies have clarified the value of preschool, with children who attended quality pre-k programs finding an easier path to success in elementary school and after. Barnett said long-term studies have found the experience increases the odds of attending and graduating from college, tends to boost income and even correlates with better health and longevity.

Quality is key, and Barnett credited Georgia for its focus on that. The state has hit his institution's eight benchmarks for good curriculum, teacher preparation, health screenings and use of data for program improvement. He noted a fundamental conundrum on the two benchmarks Georgia didn't meet: by decreasing the number of students in each classroom to reduce class sizes and student-teacher ratios, the state will reduce capacity at each facility, which won't help enrollment rates.

Amy Jacobs, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, acknowledged the shortage of seats but said the state is working on it. Lawmakers updated the state's education funding formula to let schools count 4-year-olds in their enrollment numbers. Enrollment dictates how much money each school district gets, so that change will lead to capital funding to build more pre-k capacity in coming years, she said.

Jacobs said there remains a perplexing mismatch of supply and demand around the state, with some parents unable to find an open pre-k classroom for their child while seats in other areas go empty.

Enrollment used to hover around 80,000 but it's dropped to around 70,000, she said, and it's unclear why.

"We know the birth rate is down. It continues to be down in Georgia. I think that's part of it," Jacobs said. She added that the remote work and hybrid schedules that are a legacy of the pandemic have probably changed how parents approach child care and preschool.

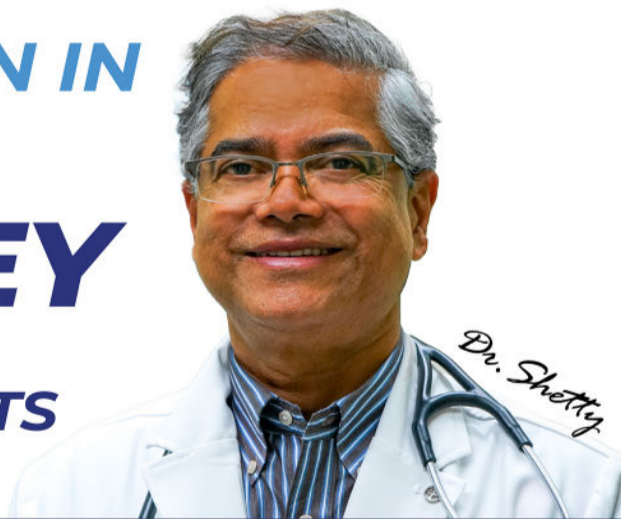
Georgia is not alone on this. Although some states such as Iowa and West Virginia have maintained high enrollment rates, others have seen their numbers drop, Barnett said, especially in low-income neighborhoods. He thinks the de-emphasis on in-person attendance during the pandemic may have led some parents to devalue schooling in general. Maybe they're dropping their kids off at the neighbor's house where they'll watch TV all day, he said, rather than driving their kids to pre-k.



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

