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The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

Vol. 137, Issue No. 27 • 1 Section • 10 Pages

WEDNESDAY, JULY 02, 2025

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Legal Organ for Peach County, City of Fort Valley and City of Byron

Serving Peach County For Over 100 Years



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Repeated Rainfall Causes Train Derailment in Peach County

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

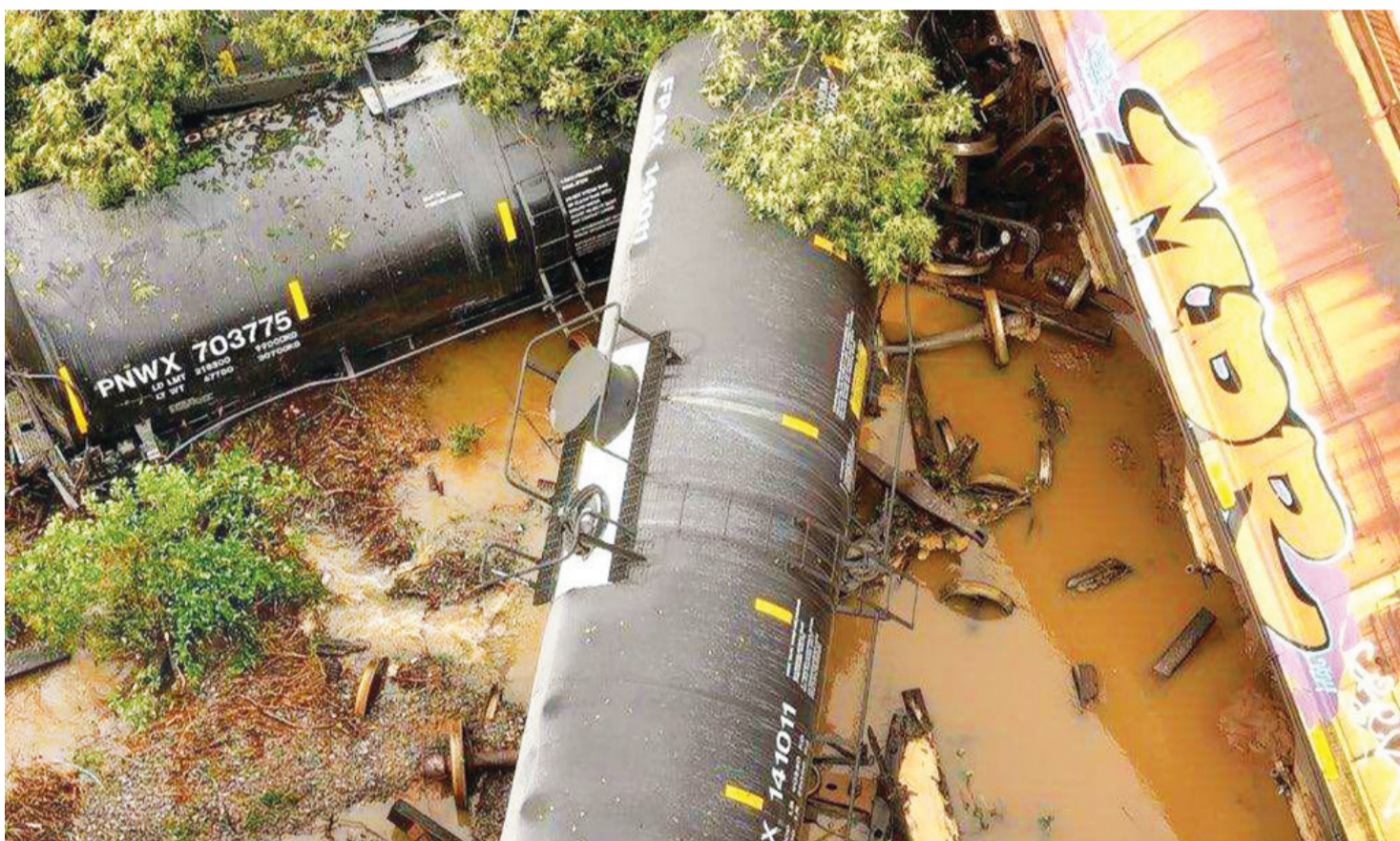
PEACH COUNTY, Ga. — A train derailed early Saturday morning between Byron and Powersville, according to Norfolk Southern Railway.

The company said that one of their trains traveling through Peach County derailed around 3 a.m. on Saturday. The report states that there were no injuries from the accident.

The release said that 22 train cars were derailed, however none of the cars contained any hazardous materials. Authorities say the flash flooding and frequent rainfall caused the tracks to become unstable.

According to a Facebook post from the Peach County Sheriff's Office, first responders arrived on the scene around 7 a.m. after the Peach County E911 Center received a call from Norfolk Southern Railway in reference to the train derailment.

Sheriff Robert 'Buck' Shannon stated that the primary location



of the derailment – Powersville Road, from Connector 247 to Highway 49 – will be open to local traffic only and will remain so until the wreckage has been fully cleared. He said this

TRAIN DERAILMENT CONTINUED PG 2A

Photo Contributed
Drone image of the top view of some of the train tanker cars derailed in a lake of mud from heavy rains.

Stolen Firearm Linked to Fort Valley Shooting Recovered in DCS-Led Operation in Peach County



By DCS of Georgia

Photos Contributed

Fort Valley, GA — In response to a recent uptick in violent and criminal activity, the Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS), in partnership with the Peach County Sheriff's Office, Fort Valley Police Department, Byron Police Department, and the Department of Juvenile Justice, conducted Operation Lockdown on Tuesday, June 24, 2025.

This multi-agency effort targeted individuals engaged in ongoing criminal activity, with a focus on those with active warrants and serious supervision violations. As part of the operation, officers served warrants, conducted searches, and interviewed supervisees and known associates.

A key outcome was the arrest of a suspect found in possession of a stolen firearm linked to a May 2025 shooting in Fort Valley. The individual now faces multiple felony charges, including drug and firearm offenses and a probation violation.

"This was more than just a compliance operation—it was a disruption in the cycle of violence affecting our community," said James Bergman, Director of Special Operations for DCS. "Recovering a weapon tied to a local shooting demonstrates the value of intelligence-led enforcement. Strategic efforts like this are essential to public safety, and we're proud to stand with our partners in that mission."

The intelligence-driven operation resulted in multiple arrests, the recovery of additional illegal firearms, and significant drug seizures, contributing to a safer community.

"The partnership we have with DCS is critical to the safety of the community as a whole," said Lieutenant Joe Gunn of the Peach County Sheriff's Office.

Through collaboration and shared commitment, DCS and its law enforcement partners continue to protect Georgia's communities and build public



trust. Our work is grounded in accountability, partnership, and a relentless dedication to public safety.

About The Georgia Department of Community Supervision:

As an integral part of the criminal justice system, DCS protects

and serves the state of Georgia through effective and efficient community supervision while providing opportunities for successful outcomes.

For more information, visit dcs.georgia.gov.



TRAIN DERAILMENT

CONTINUED FROM 1A

process could take a few days and is asking for drivers to use an alternative route. This is a developing story. The Leader Tribune

will continue to update this story as new information becomes available.



Photos Contributed

Images of train cars piled and crushed together due to the train derailling.

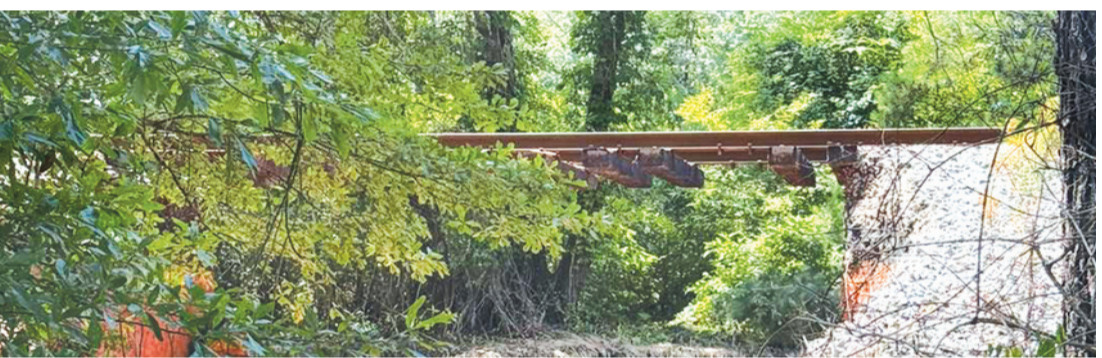


Photo Contributed

Damaged train bridge, beams were washed out from underneath

We're officially an Organization of Civility!



By FVDDA

We are honored to share that the Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority (FVDDA) has been formally recognized as an "Organization of Civility" by the Georgia Municipal Association!

This designation highlights

our ongoing commitment to fostering respect, engagement, and constructive dialogue in all we do. Civility is at the heart of building a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving community—and we're proud to be leading with purpose.

Thank you to Freddie D.

Broome, Director of Community and Workplace Culture, and the GMA team for this meaningful honor.

Let's continue leading with kindness and working together to shape a better Fort Valley.

Let's Celebrate Leadership That Makes A Difference

By FVDDA

Congratulations to Councilwoman Juanita Bryant, Mayor Michael Chidester, and all Certificate of Dedication recipients!

We are proud to recognize Fort Valley City Councilwoman Juanita Bryant and City of Byron Mayor Michael Chidester for receiving the Certificate of Dedication from the Georgia Municipal Association and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at UGA!

This honor celebrates their unwavering commitment to public service, professional development, and the power of positive leadership and continued training is a testament to their dedication to our communities.

Thank you all for your dedication to strengthening communities across Georgia!

CONGRATULATIONS CERTIFICATE OF DEDICATION RECIPIENTS

 Keith Boone City of Locust Grove	 Juanita Bryant City of Fort Valley
 Michael Chidester City of Byron	 Stephe Koontz City of Doraville



City of Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board Member Vacancy Notice

The City of Fort Valley is accepting applications to fill one (1) vacancy on the Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board. The appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission Board shall be one (1) member for a three (3) year term. Interested individuals should fill out an application and present a brief biography/resume.

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

Board Members must meet the following two requirements:

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

Interested individuals must demonstrate:

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

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

All applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, July 9, 2025, by 5 p.m.

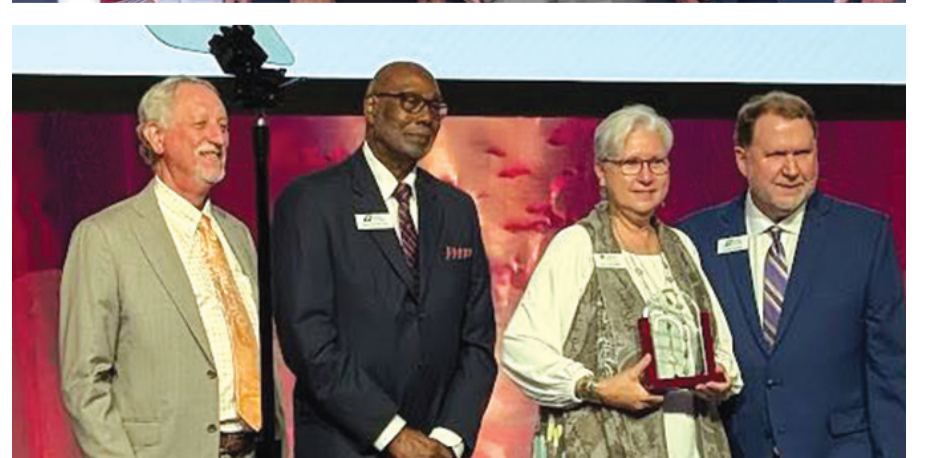
To: Fort Valley City Hall
204 W. Church Street
Fort Valley, Ga. 31030

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

Byron Mayor Attended GMA

By City of Byron, GA

The City of Byron Mayor Michael Chidester and staff attended the Georgia Municipal Association convention recently. Mayor Chidester took a municipal law class, attended a number of informative presentations, received an award for 278 training hours, presented the Municipal Government Hall of Fame Awards, and hung out with the new GMA President!



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

Barlow, Brannon Ray, 49, Chester, GA: Loitering Or Prowling, Disorderly Conduct (High), Open Container

Barlow, Olivia Vanessa, 50, Chester, GA: Failure To Maintain A Single Lane, Open Container, Driving With Suspended License, Violation Of A Limited Permit, DUI / Alcohol / 0.08 Grams Or More 21 Yoa Or Over

Benge, Jason, 35, Macon, GA: No Tag, Disorderly Conduct

Crawford, Christian Besille, 36, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation

Forth, Casey Alan, 45, Byron, GA: Failure To Appear

Knowlton, Keysha Necole, 53, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation

Miller, Jenna Leannie, 20, Hamilton, GA: Failure To Appear

Molton, Robert Douglas, 42, Perry, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Rhodes, Rickey Charles, 21, Macon, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Smith, Decari Isaiah, 20, Kathleen, GA: No Tag, Driving With Suspended License

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Lopez, Daniel Ramos, 28, Fort Valley, GA: Battery - Family Violence (1st Offense) Misd

Peach County Sheriff's Office Arrests/Citations

Duhe, Mariana Renia, 51, Lagrange, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Bliss, Tyler Hunter, 30, Gray, GA: Failure To Appear - Felony, Failure To Appear - Felony

Harden, Montanez, 20, McDonough, GA: Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude A Police Officer For A Felony Offense, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies, Driving Within A Gore Or Median, Reckless Driving, Failure To Signal Lane Change Or Turn, Failure To Signal Lane Change Or Turn, Failure To Signal Lane Change Or Turn, Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Failure To Maintain Lane, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Hands Free, Seat Belt Violation, Failure To Obey Signs Or Control Devices, Improper Tag Display, Removing Or Affixing License Plate With Intent To Conceal Or Misrepresent, Improper Starting, Knowingly Driving Motor Vehicle On Suspended, Canceled, Or Revoked Registration, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits)

Hillmon, Quantavious Deandre, 28, Ashburn, GA: False Imprisonment, Purchase, Possession, Manufacture, Distribution, Or Sale Of Marijuana

Hodges, Jaylia Abigail, 21, Byron, GA: Expired Tag, Driving While License Suspended

Holden, Hal, 59, Fort Valley, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Reckless Driving, Improper Passing In No Passing Zone

Kelley, Deion Travis, 35, Stone Mountain, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance

Kelley, Hunter Christian, 22, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony, Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Love, Henry Lanier, 51, Warner Robins, GA: Driving While License Suspended, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container

Mccooy, Tommy Maurice, 36, Fort Valley, GA: Criminal Trespass

Nelson, Knolyg Napoleon, 18, Fort Valley, GA: Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers - Misdemeanor, Criminal Trespass, Entering Automobile Or Other Motor Vehicle With Intent To Commit Theft Or Felony

Nelson, Ricky Demond, 37, Ashburn, GA: Giving False Name, Address, Or Birthdate To Law Enforcement Officer

Robinson, John Henry, 64, Warner Robins, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Failure To Signal Lane Change Or Turn

Sanders, Jadarius Marquis, 28, Fort Valley, GA:

Solomon, Aaron, 70, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Tate, Landon Andrew, 21, Carrollton, GA: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Tail Lights / Tag Lights Lenses Required

Taylor, Regina Terrilyn, 40, Macon, Ga: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Driving While License Suspended, Failure To Dim Lights

Thompson, Devritt, 53, Jacksonville, FL: Speed Less Than Minimum, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Possession Of Marijuana, Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Trafficking In Cocaine, Illegal Drugs, Marijuana, Or Methamphetamine, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies

Thompson, Otis Maurice, 69, Eustis, FL: Trafficking In Cocaine, Illegal Drugs, Marijuana, Or Methamphetamine, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Possession Of Open Alcohol Container

GA State Patrol Perry Arrests

Rigby, Dillon Wayne, 32, Kathleen, GA: Failure To Appear - Felony

Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority Called Board Meeting at 5:30pm Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Troutman House
201 Oakland Heights Parkway
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

City of Fort Valley Meetin Notice Mayor and Council Public Meetings

Location: City Hall, 204 W. Church St, Fort Valley, Ga 31030

COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, July 10, 2025
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 857 1210 0700
Passcode: 847755

WORK SESSION MEETING
Tuesday, July 15, 2025
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 813 9087 1400
Passcode: 422721

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, July 17, 2025
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 845 0447 2059
Passcode: 885411

Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board Meeting at 6pm Monday, July 14, 2025

Troutman House
201 Oakland Heights Parkway
Fort Valley, Geo

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 Thirrd 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 NO BOARD MEETING JUNE 2, 2025 & JULY 1, 2025

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. (TNS)

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.

Call or Text 478-955-1999



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110 Commercial Heights, Fort Valley, GA

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over



ZOE HAMMOND

News Editor

Don't Drink and Drive! One would think that would not be a controversial statement, but apparently it is. At least if the numerous people getting arrested for DUIs is anything to go by.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) "One person is killed, on average, about every 39 minutes in a drunk-driving crash, totaling more than 13,000 lives lost each year."

When someone gets drunk, or high, and goes out driving they are a risk not only to themselves but the others around them too. They risk their fellow drivers, passengers, and pedestrians. Distracted driving can easily lead to accidents, so what happens when someone is impaired? When drunk, your reaction time and ability to concentrate greatly decrease and hand-to-eye coordination is heavily impaired. That's a disaster waiting to happen.

NHTSA provides the predictable effects on driving based on the blood alcohol concentration. At .02 there is a decline in visual functions as well as a decline in ability to perform

two tasks at the same time. At .05 there is reduced coordination, the reduced ability to track moving objects, difficulty steering, and a reduced response to emergency driving situations. At .08 there is reduced concentration, short-term memory loss, lack of speed control, reduced information processing capability, and impaired perception. At .10 there is a reduced ability to maintain lane position and brake appropriately. At .15 there is substantial impairment in vehicle control, attention to driving task, and in necessary visual and auditory information processing

Drunk driving can have life changing repercussions. If the fact that you could potentially kill someone isn't enough to deter you, keep in mind driving while under the influence is a crime and you could face multiple fines or even jail time depending on the severity of the situation.

There are multiple ways to prevent drunk driving such as having a designated driver, calling for a ride, and knowing your limits. If you see someone you know planning to drive drunk, stop them. You could be saving one, or multiple, lives.

If you or a loved one are suffering from alcoholism, it's time to seek professional help. Alcoholism is a chronic brain disease characterized by uncontrollable drinking and depressive thoughts. It can lead to poor judgment and dangerous behavior. There are several programs available to help those struggling with alcoholism.

High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT)



WADE YODER
LT COLUMNIST

HIIT is simply a way each of us can push ourselves a little harder to build an equal amount of physical strength and cardio conditioning combined with the fat burning effect most of us are after. Most trainers and athletes would look at this as applicable to walking or jogging mixed with intense bouts or sprints that last about 20 seconds. I like to simply apply this as a method of anything you do that is somewhat physical whether work related

activity or low intensity exercise combined with anything done at maximum output that revs up your heart rate such as jumping jacks, sprinting, as well as movements such as pushups and squats that get a lot of muscles working and in turn gets your lungs working harder to supply oxygen and nutrients to these working muscles.

This does more than build cardio strength, muscle and endurance, it also excites the system that releases stored energy from inside our fat cells and when we feel this energy hit our system, (we get what many of us know as our 2nd wind) and it does feel good! This usually happens after we have our heart rate revved up for about 20 min and your body recognizes the need for a strong source of energy.

What qualifies as intense movement for one person may not be for another, so you want to go with an amount that is right for you, and this is some-

thing you want to gradually build up to.

This can even be done with walking. Try this: after walking for about 3 minutes at a regular pace to warm up, walk really fast for about 1 minute and then slow down for about 30 seconds, then walk really fast for 45 seconds, then 30 seconds slow pace, keep doing drop sets until you get down to a 15 second fast pace for a total of 4 sets. Eventually you will get to where you can do 4 sets of a minute each of fast pace walking. Exercising in this manner has been shown over time to line up proteins in muscle that help deliver fat more efficiently for the mitochondria (energy factory) of our cells to burn as energy.

Whether you choose pushups, jumping jacks or simply grab the side of your desk and do a set of squats, we have many little opportunities to mix in intervals of intense exercise even if it only lasts 30 seconds. This can help us boost our metab-

olism and give us an edge on meeting our fitness goals!

Even if you're stuck at a desk, you can use these same intense exercises to counter the sedentary job, simply by pulling back and doing a full body movement rapidly for a minute. This also pumps more oxygen into your blood helping you to stay alert and energetic instead of sleepy and tired.

Try this: next time you're stuck at your desk, stand up and lean into your desk doing a pushup movement and do this rapidly (for 1 minute), then immediately step back and do some rapid squats (for 1 minute).

We have little snippets of time and opportunities all around us for squeezing in exercise, through our activities of daily living, (ADLs) we just need to do them faster and with greater intensity!

America Begins A March To 250

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

We will be celebrating our country's 249th birthday this week. Cue all the jokes about us not looking a day over 230.

Fifty years ago, this week began a year of celebration leading to our country's bicentennial. It was a very patriotic time in our country, at least as I remember it as a first grader. It seemed every product had a special edition in red, white, and blue. I recall my big present that Christmas being a "Spirit of '76" H.O. gage Tyco train set. We, as a country, were really into it.

That's not to say we were a nation without problems, foreign and domestic. Our President had just resigned the previous year.

We had just officially ended the Vietnam War. This was both a blow to our national psyche and represented a true and tragic loss of 58,220 American soldiers - with many more wounded and a generation openly questioning the motives of their government.

We were dealing with an economic transition that was seeing our manufacturing jobs go to Japan, and too many of our energy dollars go to a new group called OPEC. We had mostly failed to "Whip Inflation Now". We were sliding into malaise.

And yet, we celebrated. For the year leading up to and the year of our bicentennial, we openly and proudly continued a birthday party for a country that was not without fault, but remained the world's beacon. Despite our recent and past issues, we remained steadfast in the belief that America was a shining city on a hill.

As we hit the 249th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress, we begin the countdown to our Semiquincentennial. A decade ago Congress passed an act which directs the minting of coins and issuance of postage stamps to commemorate the event. Of course, the usage of coins and postage stamps isn't what it was a decade ago, much less 250 years ago.

One could credibly argue our patriotism isn't either. We have a member of Congress - herself an immigrant - who wrote that we were "one of the worst countries" last week. Of course, those who already didn't like her were properly offended by the ridiculousness of her statement. We are, unfortunately, divided such into teams that upsetting the "right" people is rewarded, regardless which side of the political chasm one resides.

On the opposite side, we have

a segment who believes "America First" means "America Alone". They somehow believe America can remain great if we only concern ourselves with what occurs within our own borders. Everything else can be someone else's problems.

Those who had this belief in prior generations successfully kept us out of World War 2...long enough to let the Axis powers take territory from and weaken our allies until we were struck on our own shores. By that time, the enemies who came to us were much stronger, and those we fought alongside were much weaker.

These voices were pretty loud last week, saying any U.S. assistance in eliminating Iran's nuclear program would draw us into something between "endless wars" and "World War 3". Instead, at least thus far, we have a singular successful bombing run that has thwarted Iran's sprint to finish a nuclear weapon, and set back their program at least months, and more than likely years.

We're also working on America's leadership role as one who insists others share our values along with our burdens. NATO has been forced into realizing they cannot look at the U.S. as the financing arm of the military alliance. Almost all mem-

bers have now agreed that they must work to increase their defense spending to as much as 5% of their GDP. Peace through strength is back on the table, with more of our allies on board.

We're also demonstrating that trade is a two way street. Europe and Canada have decided that America's dominant tech industries are yet another way to exploit our success to support their bloated bureaucracy based economies. Canada decided that it was not only going to tax some of our most successful businesses, but to do it retroactively. It took one weekend of us withdrawing from trade talks for them to decide that was a bad idea.

America is again being respected on the world stage. Not in the way some prefer - by us being a doormat and an ATM, but in projecting real strength and demonstrating that it is beneficial to be our partner while quite detrimental to be our enemy.

The world understands our greatness. Some admire it, while others again are fearing it.

That is something to celebrate. We'll now need to work on our domestic understanding and appreciation of patriotism as we work toward our 250th.

Navigating Growth
Discovering Peach County's Economic Pulse
Community Initiatives
peachchamber.com

The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

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OUR GOALS

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

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

OUR POLICIES

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

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Discovering Peach County's Economic Pulse: The Chamber's Heartbeat in the Community

Contributed

Welcome back to "Discovering Peach County's Economic Pulse"! In our previous articles, we've explored navigating business resources, and we've started to decode economic development, with the hope of highlighting our robust business landscape and the innovative spirit that drives our local economy. This week, we shift our focus to the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce's commitment to the very fabric of Peach County - our community, its people and some of the ways we engage.

The Chamber is far more than just a business-centric organization; we are deeply invested in the holistic well-being and vibrant future of Peach County. Our initiatives extend beyond boardrooms and balance sheets, reaching into the heart of community events, forging vital educational partnerships, and spearheading initiatives designed to enhance the quality of life for every resident. Here are just a few ...

Nurturing Our Future: Peach Blossoms and Peach BUDS

At the core of our community commitment are programs dedicated to cultivating the next generation of leaders and entre-

preneurs. Our Peach Blossoms program is a shining example, empowering women in our community with mentorship, leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of civic engagement. Through community service projects, and interactions with established professionals, the Peach Blossoms are developing into a confident group of women ready to contribute meaningfully to our county. Equally vital is our Peach BUDS (Brothers Uniting, Developing, and Supporting) program. This initiative connects men with other men in the community, offering invaluable mentorship and fellowship. The Peach BUDS group is designed to build professional networks and in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Building Bridges: The Hispanic Connection

Recognizing the rich diversity that strengthens our community, the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to champion the Hispanic Connection. This initiative aims to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for our Hispanic business owners and residents. Through targeted outreach, culturally relevant resources, and networking opportunities, the Hispanic Connection helps

bridge gaps, promote economic integration, and celebrate the vibrant contributions of our Hispanic community to Peach County's cultural and economic tapestry. We believe that by empowering all segments of our population, we build a stronger, more resilient community for everyone. We are proud members of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, too!

Connecting and Celebrating: Our Exciting Business After Hours Events

While our community initiatives highlight our commitment to social well-being, we also understand the importance of fostering strong business relationships in a relaxed and engaging setting. Our Business After Hours events have become a cornerstone of our networking calendar, offering unparalleled opportunities for local professionals to connect, collaborate, and celebrate. These lively gatherings, hosted at various local businesses, provide a casual atmosphere for members to exchange ideas, forge new partnerships, and strengthen existing relationships. From delicious local catering to engaging conversation, each Business After Hours event is a testament to the vibrant and supportive business community we culti-

vate in Peach County. Keep an eye on our calendar - you won't want to miss the next opportunity to network, unwind, and discover the hidden gems of our local business scene! Visit www.peachchamber.com for more information.

Beyond Business: A Commitment to Community Well-being

The Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce's dedication to Peach County extends far beyond these flagship programs. We actively participate in and support numerous community events, from local festivals and charity drives to educational outreach programs. We believe that a thriving economy is inextricably linked to a thriving community, and we are committed to investing in both.

As we continue to "Discover Peach County's Economic Pulse," we invite you to join us in these vital initiatives. Whether through volunteering, participating in our programs, or simply attending our events, your engagement helps us build a stronger, more vibrant, and more prosperous Peach County for all. Stay tuned for our next article, where we'll delve into even more exciting aspects of our dynamic economic landscape!

The Great 'I AM'



BILLY POWELL
Parables to Ponder
COLUMNIST

The story begins when Jacob's family of 70 people is forced to leave Canaan due to famine in the land. They traveled to Egypt where Jacob's son, Joseph was second-in-command only to Pharaoh. The people of Jacob are treated kindly at first, but after 430 years, the Hebrews have grown to over a million people, who were treated rather harshly by later Pharaohs. The later Pharaohs doubled their workloads and had required them to work on building projects with no pity on difficulty of taskings and deadlines.

You probably studied in Sunday School about Moses being born at a time when the Pharaoh had decreed that all Hebrew male children be killed. You know the rest of the story: Moses was placed by his mother in a water-proof basket near the banks of the Nile River. Soon thereafter, Pharaoh's daughter found and adopted Moses. After

growing up and being educated in Pharaoh's palace, Moses became incensed when he saw an Egyptian severely mistreating a Hebrew slave. In retaliation, Moses killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

To escape punishment, Moses traveled to the land of Median located in Northwestern Arabia. There he married Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro, the priest of Median. While watching Jethro's sheep near Mount Sinai, Moses noticed a bush in the distance that was burning without being consumed. So, Moses went to check out the phenomenon.

As Moses approached the bush, God spoke: "Do not come any closer." Then God said, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." God added, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Then, the Lord continued, "I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt and want you to lead them out." In response, Moses asked, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God assured Moses, "I will be with you." Moses then asked, "They will ask me, what is his name?" God responded, "Tell them I am has sent me to you." After the 10 plagues, Moses led the Hebrews from Egyptian captivity. It was called the Exodus. You can read this in chapters 1-15 of Exodus.

In the book of John, Jesus referred to Himself as the 'Great I AM' a total of seven times. He said: "I AM the Bread of Life" (John 6: 35), "I AM the Light of the World" (John 8:12), "I AM the Door" (John 10:9), "I AM the Good Shepherd" (John 10: 11-14), "I AM the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11: 25), "I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No man goes to the Father except by Me" (John 14:6), and "I AM the Vine" (John 15: 1-5). In John 8: 24, Jesus declared, "For unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins," and later the crowd attempted to stone Jesus. In John 8: 38, Jesus uttered these impressive words, "Before Abraham was born, I AM."

The prologue of John's gospel says something similar about the identity of Jesus. The first verse in John, chapter 1 reads: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Then in verse 14, John states "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Word is the English translation of the Greek word "Logos." It means the manifestation of the mind and will of God. The 'Logos' or 'Word' spoke the universe into existence and controls the precise movement of plants, suns, stars, and galaxies.

"The Character of the Country is on the Line" Warnock Calls for GOP to Protect 16 Million Americans Who Risk Losing Health Care

By the Office of Reverend Raphael Warnock U.S. Senator for Georgia

Senator Reverend Warnock: "Your health care is about to go up. Your hospital might close because they're cutting these clean energy tax cuts, your utility bills are about to go up. And so I have a question tonight, who voted for that?"

Washington, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA) went to the floor of the United States Senate to call on his GOP colleagues to reject the GOP tax bill that will kick over 16 million Americans off their health care.

"And in some ways, this is the same bill eight years later, just worse," said Senator Reverend Warnock, comparing this legislation to the 2017 tax bill. "Like most horror movies, the sequel tends to be worse. We were here eight years ago. Washington politicians were trying their best to gut the Affordable Care Act. Remember that? They were trying to gut Obamacare out of political motives. Millions of Americans were spared. But tonight is the sequel to that horror movie. They are back to their own political tricks, trying to dismantle the ACA again, with this legislation. It's the same fight, just worse this time."

"If they enact these deep cuts to Medicaid, as they are positioned not to extend these

tax credits, they are raising the cost of health care for all of us," continued Senator Reverend Warnock. "Even if you are on private insurance, you are not safe. Your health care is about to go up. Your hospital might close because they're cutting these clean energy tax cuts, your utility bills are about to go up. And so I have a question tonight, who voted for that?...Who voted for everybody's health care premiums to go up and their hospitals to be closed? Here's what I know. Folks back in Georgia didn't vote for that. They voted for me, and they voted for Donald Trump, but they didn't vote for that."

"This is symptomatic of the ways in which the people's voices have been squeezed out of their democracy," continued Senator Reverend Warnock. "This is not just a health care fight, it is that. It is not just a fight for food security, for SNAP, it is that. But in a real sense, it is a fight for our democracy. Whose voice gets to be heard in this chamber? That's what this is about—the character of the country."

"Now, let me be clear, I'm all for tax cuts. I believe working families deserve a tax cut, and I certainly don't want to see them face a tax hike this year," continued Senator Reverend Warnock. "That's why I want to nearly double the child tax credit. I believe in tax cuts for hard-working families, for

middle-class people, for working-class families. But instead of doing that, instead of helping working-class families who are struggling now against a 10% tax on everything, rising costs, we're now burdening our children by adding \$3 trillion to the debt. We're taking away health care from kids and then burdening them with the debt."

"When the people hear about what's in this Big Ugly Bill, they don't like it..." said Senator Reverend Warnock. "The American people do not want to rob our children of food and health care, and then burden them with trillions in debt to give billionaires and wealthy corporations another tax cut....And so if the people do not want this bill, if they are trying to pass it. Here's the question you got to ask yourselves at home...who are they working for? Who are they fighting for? Who do they think matters? Do you think they are working for you?"

The Senator's speech comes a day after he held a vigil with a multi-faith coalition of clergy to pray that GOP lawmakers have the courage to stand up for their constituents and vote against the GOP tax bill. The Senator was arrested in 2017, before he was elected to the Senate, along with a coalition of multi-faith leaders, while protesting the GOP tax bill during the first Trump Administration.

Donating to my TFP account is one of the many ways you can help me undertake this lifesaving journey.

To contribute to my campaign, please click the "Donate" button or mail a check/money order with my name in the memo line (Brandi Sapp) to: Georgia Transplant Foundation, Attn: TFP Department, 2201 Macy DR, Roswell, Georgia 30076. You can also donate on my Georgia transplant foundation website page by using this link (<https://client.gatransplant.org/fundraiser/5165673>)

Thank you for all of your help.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

JUNE 29

70TH ANNUAL MENS DAY

The Usher's Temple CME Church will celebrate our 70th Annual Men's Day Program on Sunday, June 29th at 3:00pm. The Reverend Lorenzo Harris of The Trinity CME Church in Macon, GA, is the guest speaker. Our theme this year is "Men Standing Strong in Faith". Out guest musicians will be The Gospel Kings.

JUNE 14 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE, CHURCH SCHOOL CONVENTION & VOTER'S REGISTRATION DRIVE

The Fort Valley-Savannah District of The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will host a District Conference, Church School Convention & Voter's Registration Drive on **Saturday June 14, 2025, from 10am - 3pm at The Marvin Crafter Park, 310 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Fort Valley, GA.**

A day of community outreach & service, worship, fellowship, music, food, games & recreational activities. All are welcome. For more info call Fredrena Brown 478-951-3495.

BAHA'I COMMUNITY OF PEACH COUNTY

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

COME PRAISE THE LORD OVER ZOOM

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

CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

301 W. Church Street (478)825-2762 Join us each Sunday at 10:55AM for Christian fellowship and a spirit-lead service with our pastor, Rev. Herb Flanders. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:45AM. Nursery is available for infants and younger children.

FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)

Come & worship in a casual atmosphere at 5:00pm each Sunday. Our weekly pastor will be the Rev. Dr. Bryan Whitfield, a Presbyterian minister who also

teaches at Mercer University. For any interested, we will have weekly **Sunday School Bible Study starting at 4:00pm** in the room off the sanctuary. Come and join us for an exciting summer. Brenda Rackley 478-283-1356.

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

BIBLE STUDY

Please dial in for Bible Study each Tuesday at 6:30pm. Number 646-876-9923, your meeting ID is 783-154-6108#, your participant ID is #. You are in the meeting. Dial in 3 to 4 minutes before 6:30pm.

GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY FOODBANK

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays. 9:00am - 12:00pm. Located behind Fort Valley Court House, 203 Central Ave., Fort Valley. Phone: 478-825-2562 (TFN)

GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES

1000 Tulip Drive, Fort Valley. Sunday School at 8:30am Morning Worship at 10:00am Wednesday: Free Fellowship Meal at 6pm

60 Minutes Bible Study from 7:00pm -8:00pm Come and fellowship with us!

HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS' CLASS

Led by Father Matt Harlow Learn the basics of the Christian Faith while enjoying a meal and fellowship.

We will cover theology, history, liturgy, and more! To register contact Fr Matt at 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

BAHA'I FAITH

"Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship"

Baha'u'llah

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

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.

Brandi Sapp's fundraising page for Georgia Transplant Foundation

Contributed

Thank you for supporting my transplant journey!

I am a client of Georgia Transplant Foundation's (GTF) Transplant Fundraising Program (TFP) and I am working with them to raise funds for my post-transplant needs. There are many costs related to solid organ transplant that are not covered by even the best insurance plans.

Translation can be an overwhelming situation and patients are encouraged to plan ahead for some of the uncovered and unforeseeable costs. GTF thank

you for your support of my endeavor to manage the cost of my medical needs through fundraising. GTF will match up to \$10,000 of what I raise. I am enrolled in a TFP matched account. All funds I raise will be utilized for my post transplant medical needs.

Fact: The cost of immunosuppressive medications typically range from \$20,600 to \$32,900 per year and even with insurance, medicine co-pays can be unaffordable. Fundraising is a matter of life and death for some transplant candidates, and a matter of quality of life for others.

Obituary

Zachary Shumate

Mr. Zachary Shumate age 23 of Fort Valley Ga, died Thursday May 29, 2025, at Peach Medical Center.

Zachary was born on August 7, 2001, in Athens, Georgia to Gary Dewayne Shumate, and Casey Taylor Shumate. He was a graduate of Peach County High School who loved to dress up with fedoras, flat caps and bowties. He loved the outdoors, competitive shotgun shooting, judo taekwondo, video games, classic cars and Asian culture. He is preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Vikki Taylor, and paternal grandfather, Gary Shumate.

Survivors include his parents, Dewayne and Casey Shumate of Fort Valley, his loyal service dog, Alva, maternal grandparents, John and Cheri Taylor of Marianna, Florida, paternal grandmother, Cynthia Shumate of Thomaston, aunts and uncles, Courtney (Amos) Moore of Jackson, Chad (Angie) Shumate of Pooler, Mike (Michelle) Daniel of Thomaston, cousins, Dustin Kirby, Chloe Moore, Kate Moore, Jade Shumate, Leah Shumate, Nick Goodman, Josh Goodman, Brian Massey, Jennifer Massey, Taylor Martens, Hanna Massey, Jordan Massey, Nicholas Goodman, Adalynn Goodman, Autry Goodman, God given grandparents, Gary and Debra Howington of Thomaston, God given Aunt, Celeste (Kyle) Kessler of Thomaston, and God given sisters, Macie Winkles, and Sayla Kessler.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. from the Chapel of Coggins Funeral Home. The family will receive friends on Sunday, June 1, 2025, from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at Coggins Funeral Home.

The Dangers of Leaving Children, Pets In Cars

Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. – As temperatures continue to rise throughout the South, a common piece of advice that's often repeated every year. Don't leave a child or pet in the car.

While most would consider this common sense, unfortunately, reports of children and pets being locked in cars happen all too often.

Temperatures rise rapidly in vehicles and can lead to disastrous results. With the heat index meeting the triple digits, the risk of illness and death is much higher. Keep in mind that a vehicle's temperature can be over 10 to 20 degrees hotter

than the outside temperature.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the number of children dying from heatstroke in cars has increased in recent years.

Kids and Car Safety, found at kidsandcars.org, states that the majority of hot-car deaths occur because someone forgot they had a child in the car. The average number of U.S. child hot car deaths is 38 per year, which is roughly one every 9 days.

The NHTSA advises that if you spot a child in a car alone, ensure the child is alright and responsive. It's advised to alert the police in these situations, even if the child is responsive.

Two Arrest Made



Photo Contributed

JOHNSON GREGORY BERNARD

By Peach County Sheriff's Office

On May 29, 2025, the Peach County Sheriff's Office S.I.U. along with the Peach County Sheriff's, S.W.A.T., Houston County Sheriff's Office, and



Photo Contributed

SHELLEY DESERAY ALEXIS

Byron Police Department served a search warrant for 401 Carver Drive Fort Valley GA. During the search there were drugs, and guns found. Two arrested were made.

AAA Warns Homeowners of Common July 4th Holiday Hazards

Fireworks and grilling are among the most common risks

By AAA

ATLANTA (June 26, 2025) – As Americans prepare to celebrate Independence Day with backyard barbecues, fireworks displays, and poolside gatherings, AAA reminds homeowners to be mindful of potential risks that could lead to property damage or injury.

"While this holiday is a time for joy and celebration, it also sees an increase in home insurance claims due to fires, water-related incidents, and other risks," said Montrae Waiters, spokeswoman for AAA – The Auto Club Group. "With so many activities happening at home, it's crucial for individuals to take preventive measures to safeguard their property and loved ones."

Grilling Safety: Keep the Flames on the Food

Nothing says Independence Day like a backyard barbecue, unless your grill burns more than the burgers. July is the peak month for grill-related fires, and AAA urges homeowners to follow these fire-free grilling tips:

- Supervise your grill at all times – never leave it unattended.
- Keep children and pets at a safe distance to prevent accidents.
- Place the grill at least 10 feet away from homes, decks, and trees to avoid fire hazards.
- Never grill indoors or in enclosed spaces.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and water source handy for emergencies.
- Use long-handled tools to prevent burns and flare-ups.

Fireworks Safety: Leave it to the Pros

Fireworks are the grand finale of July 4th celebrations, yet they're responsible for thousands of fires each year. In 2022 alone, fireworks ignited 31,302 fires, including 3,504 structure fires and nearly \$109 million in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

AAA Firework Safety Tips

- Keep a safe distance – fireworks should stay far away from homes, vehicles, and trees.

- Choose public fireworks displays for a safer professional experience.
- Never allow children to handle fireworks; sparklers burn hotter than blowtorches.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby for quick fire suppression.
- Wear eye protection when lighting fireworks.
- Skip alcohol and impairing substances while handling fireworks.

"Fireworks are a beautiful part of the holiday, but safety should always come first," said Waiters. "A few precautions can keep the night dazzling without unwanted explosions."

Other Safety Tips:

- **Pool Safety:** Adult supervision, safety barriers, and flotation devices can prevent accidents.
- **Food Safety:** Cook food thoroughly, cover it adequately, and store leftovers safely.
- **Pet safety:** Fireworks can stress pets. Keep them indoors and secure during celebrations.

DOT's HERO Program To Resume Full Service

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - The Georgia Department of Transportation's Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) program will resume patrolling interstate highways across metro Atlanta during the overnight hours seven days a week effective July 1, the state agency announced Thursday.

HERO vehicles also will resume full coverage of the region's nearly 400 miles of interstates.

The program cut back on its operating hours in 2023 due to a staffing shortage, patrolling only between 5 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. each day to ensure adequate coverage during peak traffic.

"HEROs are our first and best resource to keep traffic moving

safely and efficiently in metro Atlanta," Georgia Commissioner of Transportation Russell McMurtry said. "The reinstatement of full service of HERO's coverage area with 24/7 patrols is reflective of the department's commitment to providing consistent and immediate assistance to everyone who uses our roadways."

"Traffic incidents do not operate on a schedule," added Tyrone McCord III, the DOT's HERO unit manager. "Now that we are back to a full staff, thanks to effective recruitment strategies and intensive training, we are committed to patrolling the nearly 400 miles of metro Atlanta roads at all hours to improve public safety, reduce traffic delays, and be better prepared for emergencies."

While HERO units are primarily responsible for roadway

clearance after traffic incidents, the program also offers free roadside assistance, helping stranded motorists with flat tires or dead batteries, and providing fuel and coolant.

The HERO program was launched back in 1994. The DOT followed up in 2017 by creating the Coordinated Highway Assistance & Maintenance Program (CHAMP) to patrol Georgia's interstate highways outside of metro Atlanta, except for interstates 59 and 24 in the northwestern corner of the state.

To request assistance from HERO or CHAMP, contact 511GA by dialing 511 hands-free on your mobile phone, downloading the 511GA app to your Apple or Google mobile device, or by visiting 511GA.org.

Four More AED's Added To Peach County's Safety



By Peach County EMS

We added another 4 AED's to Peach County Sheriff's Office vehicles bringing that total to 10 this year. These AEDs were funded through the ACCG Safety Grant.

Special thanks to Peach County Emergency Manage-

ment Agency for their continued support in staying on top of these grants as we continue our initiative to expand public access AEDs and rapid AED deployment to the scene of cardiac arrests.

These life saving devices, when deployed rapidly, increase the odds of cardiac arrest sur-

vival immensely. When a shock is delivered within 1 minute of arrest, the odds of survival are ~90% and decrease by 5-10% every minute after that. That is why it is so vital to get them into the hands of responders who are constantly roaming the community and are most likely to arrive on scene first.

Meth trafficker with ties to Mexico could get life in prison after guilty plea

By Ty Tagami
Staff Writer

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The head of a multi-million-dollar drug trafficking and money laundering ring faces at least a decade in prison after pleading guilty to federal charges involving methamphetamine "conversion" laboratories.

Monica Dominguez Torres, 36, of Mexico, pleaded guilty Friday to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and conspiracy to commit money laundering, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia announced Monday.

The agency said her organization operated labs that converted liquid methamphetamine from Mexico into hundreds of kilograms of crystal meth, some of it destined for sale in the Atlanta area.

"Dominguez's elaborate criminal operation has been dismantled, and more than \$3.5 million of illicit drug proceeds

have been seized as a result of our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners' diligent work," U.S. Attorney Theodore S. Hertzberg said.

When agents arrested Dominguez at her home in Conyers in February of last year, they found and seized more than \$1.7 million in cash, five firearms and three vehicles, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Dominguez, who is scheduled for sentencing Sept. 15, led a criminal organization that laundered drug proceeds and sent the money to Mexico, the government said. Their methods included buying five residences, among them a seven-bedroom waterfront home in Jonesboro, most of them with cash. They also bought nine luxury vehicles worth about \$780,000.

Dominguez also spent nearly \$400,000 at Louis Vuitton and more than \$425,000 at Burberry, over about four and a half years, the government said.

The investigation was conducted by numerous federal and state agencies plus the sheriff's

offices in Cobb and Paulding counties. It was part of a nationwide initiative targeting cartels and transnational criminal organizations.

In April, federal agencies in Atlanta announced 22 arrests involving two Mexican drug cartels and the seizure of more than 100 pounds of fentanyl. That was enough to kill every Georgian twice, Jae W. Chung, acting special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Atlanta division, said at the time.

Chung said after Dominguez's guilty plea that she and her organization had been "removed from our streets," adding, "this criminal organization had no regard for the destructive impact on our communities."

The announcement included no information about Dominguez's conspirators but said she faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years to life in prison for her trafficking conviction. The money laundering conviction carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

INVITATION TO BID

The Peach County Commissioners Office will be accepting Sealed Bids for the next two (2) weeks pertaining to the following: **Grass cutting for North and South Peach Parks.**

Location of Parks:

North Peach Park (NPP) located on 461 West White Road in Byron, GA 31088 which contains approximately 58 acres +/-.

South Peach Park (SPP) located on 200 Murray Road Extension, Fort Valley, GA 31030 which contains approximately 48 acres

The Parks include nine baseball fields, two soccer fields, and two youth football fields, as well as surrounding park areas. The bid will be for the next two fiscal years 10/01/2025 through 09/30/2027. The parks will be cut on a weekly schedule.

Bidders are encouraged to visit the sites prior to submitting their bid to fully acquaint themselves with the conditions relative to the performance of the contract.

Bid Specification Packages are available on the Peach County Website or by emailing Garland Hampton, Purchasing Manager, garland-hampton@peachcounty.gov.

Closing date for Sealed Bid #RFB-004, shall be Wednesday, July 10th, 2025 @ 2:00 P.M.

The Bid Opening shall be Wednesday, July 10th, 2025 @ 2:15 P.M., in the Peach County Board of Commissioners Office Meeting Room.

Any question concerning the above mowing contract please contact Bruce Mackey, Director of Recreation and Parks at (478)825-3334, to make an appointment.

Peach County reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, to readvertise and/or to award the contract in the best interest of the County, and to retain any and all Bids for a period of thirty (30) days after the bid opening.

Bids should be mailed to:

Peach County Commissioners Office
Attn: Sealed Bid #RFB-004
213 Persons Street
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

Legals

Legal Advertisements

E-Mail: legals@theleadertribune.com

E-Mail Attachments: Word Text Format

Legal Fax: 478-825-4130

AD DEADLINES: Friday's at 12:00 Noon

Information concerning legals call: 478-825-2432

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

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

Legal ads may be sent via Federal Express for Saturday delivery. Legal ads may be sent via email to legals@theleadertribune.net, please use word document or typed text. Many legal notices are billed at the rate

of \$15.00 per 100 words or a portion thereof for each insertion for the first four insertions. Some specific types of ads, such as divorce, articles of incorporation, articles of merger, petition to adopt, name changes and DUI notices have fees set based on the number of times the notice is inserted. All rates are set by the Georgia General Assembly.

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

The deadline for foreclosure notices and tax sales for disposal is Thursday the week before the first publication. Publisher's Affidavit fee is \$10.

Legal Advertising Information

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice Byron Self Storage located at 107 W White Rd/107 W.E. Green Jr Pkwy/500 GA-49 Byron GA 31008 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The public sale to the highest bidder will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 7/15/2025 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials.

Virginia Kitchens unit #138; Corey Barnes unit #222; Alonza Sirmans unit #254; Pamela Marshall unit #259; Brianna Griffin unit #C212; Keshawn Brown unit #E038; Cheryl Wilson unit #E202; Cheryl Wilson unit #E203.

All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details. 6/25, 7/2, 2025 3450

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN RE: Estate of Betty Jean Lee, Deceased

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

This 26th day of June, 2025.

Brian McLarty
Executor
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 2025
3466

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY

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

This 17th day of June, 2025.

CLIFFORD LEE HUDSON
464 Tanglewood Road
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
CYNTHIA MICHELLE BASSETT
4012 Buckeye Road
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
CO-EXECUTORS OF BONNIE FAYE HOLMES ESTATE
6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 2025
3452

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF ESTELLA ELAINE GREEN, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7101

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ROBERT GREEN JR. AND ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

and to whom it may concern: RAPHAEL GEBERIT GREEN

has petitioned for RAPHAEL GEBERIT GREEN to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of ESTELLA ELAINE GREEN deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before JULY 17, 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 ST., FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

478-825-2313

07/02/2025, 07/09/2025, 07/16/2025, 07/23/2025

3457 (112194)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

STATE OF GEORGIA, Plaintiff,

vs.

SIXTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$60,231) IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY, Defendant Property in Rem, and

RIGABERTO PACHECO, Purported Owners/Interest Holders.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 5750-M VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE

COMES NOW the State of Georgia, by and through Anita Howard, the

District Attorney of the Bibb Judicial Circuit, or a duly appointed assistant, and files this Verified Complaint for Forfeiture pursuant to the O.C.G.A. § 9-16-1 et seq., and in particular, O.C.G.A. § 9-16-12, respectfully showing the Court the following:

1. Defendant Property in Rem sought to be forfeited is SIXTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$60,231) IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY.

2. Defendant Property in Rem was seized in Peach County, Georgia, and is presently located in said county and is therefore subject to the jurisdiction and venue of this Court.

3. The Peach County Sheriff's Office has custody of Defendant Property in Rem, which was seized pursuant to lawful authority.

4. The names and addresses of all known possible owners and/or interest holders of Defendant Property in Rem or any portion thereof sought to be forfeited are:

Rigoberto Pacheco
7992 NW 14th Street
Ocala, FL 34482
7/2, 7/9, 2025
3465

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY M. GAINOUS, DECEASED

ESTATE NO: 2024-PRO-6921

NOTICE FOR DISCHARGE FROM OFFICE AND ALL LIABILITY

IN RE: PETITION FOR DISCHARGE OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

TO: whom it may concern:

This is to notify you to file an objection if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before JULY 17, 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 W. Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

478-825-2313

7/2/2025

3458

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF JANE HAYS SEGARS, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7098

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: LARRY SEGARS and to whom it may concern:

ZACHERY ROBERT ANDERSON has petitioned for ZACHERY ROBERT ANDERSON to be appointed administrator of the estate of JANE HAYS SEGARS, 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 JUNE 6, 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

P.O. BOX 327, Fort Valley, GA 31030

478-825-2313

6/11, 6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 2025

344

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER CONTAINED IN SECURITY DEED

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PEACH

Pursuant to a power of sale contained in a certain security deed executed by Michael H. Jones, hereinafter referred to as Grantor, to Academy Mortgage Corporation recorded in Deed Book 507, beginning at page 625, of the deed records of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the aforesaid state and county, and by virtue of a default under the terms of said security deed, and the related note, the undersigned attorney-in-fact for the aforesaid Grantor (which attorney-in-fact is the present holder of said security deed and note secured thereby) will sell at the usual place of conducting Sheriff's sales in said county within the legal hours of sale, to the highest bidder on the first Tuesday in August 2025, all property described in said security deed including but not limited to the following

described property:

All that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in Land Lot 23 of the Fifth (5th) Land District, Peach County, Georgia, being known and designated as Lot 6, Section 3, Peavy Subdivision, according to a plat of survey recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 108, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are incorporated by reference for all purposes.

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

Address under current system of numbering: 111 Collins Street, Byron, Georgia 31008

Deed Reference: Deed Book 505, Page 227, said Clerk's Office.

Said legal description being controlling, however, the Property is more commonly known as: 111 Collins St., Byron, GA 31008

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien but not yet due and payable); any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, and all other matters of record superior to the said Security Deed. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. State Home Mortgage, as loan servicer is the entity with full authority to negotiate, amend and modify the terms of the Note and Security Deed. State Home Mortgage's address is 60 Executive Park South, N. E., Atlanta, GA 30329. State Home Mortgage may be contacted by telephone at 404-679-0574. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, the party in possession of the property is believed to be Michael H. Jones, or tenant(s).

Georgia Housing and Finance Authority,

as Transferee, Assignee, and Secured Creditor

As attorney-in-fact for the aforesaid Grantor

CB Legal, LLC
Attorneys at Law
Three Northwinds Center
2500 Northwinds Parkway, Suite 160
Alpharetta, GA 30009
(770)392-0041
25-7756

THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 2025
3449 (25-7756)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF DIANA MARY KELSAY, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7116

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: Any and all interested parties and to whom it may concern:

ANGELA C. EARLS has petitioned for ANGELA C. EARLS to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of DIANA MARY KELSAY, deceased, of said County. The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-261. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before JULY 17, 2025.

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

Kim Wilson, Judge of the Probate Court

By: Katrina Corbin, Chief Clerk of the Probate Court

P.O. Box 327
Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2213
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 2025
3463

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION

Take notice that:

THE RIGHT TO REDEEM THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:

All that tract or parcel of land situate and lying in the State of Georgia, County of Peach and in N.B. Miller Subdivision therein, being known and described as Lot 16, Block "B", of said N.B. Miller Subdivision, as shown on a plat of the same recorded in Plat Book No. 2, Page 237, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court, Georgia, which plat is incorporated herein and made a part hereof for a more complete and accurate description of said

herein described property. Said lot fronts an Easterly direction 60 feet on a public street and extends back, with an even width for a distance of 100 feet. Said lot is bounded on the North by Lot No. 15, Block "B", of said subdivision, on the West by Lot No. 3, Block "B", of said subdivision, on the South by Lot No. 17, Block "B", of said subdivision, and on the East by a 30 foot public street.

Subject to existing and recorded easements, rights-of-ways and protective covenants.

As described in Deed Book 115, Page 40. Further described as Map & Parcel F01D037.

WILL EXPIRE AND BE FOREVER FORECLOSED AND BARRED ON AND AFTER THE 17th DAY OF JULY, 2025.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated April 4, 2024, and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, in Deed Book 701, Page 568.

The property may be redeemed at any time before the 17th day of July, 2025, by payment of the redemption price via legal tender as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:

466 S. Houston Lake Rd.
Warner Robins, Georgia 31088

Please be governed accordingly.

Anna Usry Person
Attorney for Gerardo Rodriguez, Jr. and Gerardo Rodriguez

466 S Houston Lake Rd.
Warner Robins, Georgia 31088
(478)333-6502
6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 2025
3447

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

Civil Action Case Number 25-V-0211

In Re the Name Change of: Christopher J. Godfrey, Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Christopher J. Godfrey filed a petition i the Peach County Superior Court on May 30th, 2025, to change the name from: Christopher James Godfrey to Christopher James Lanahan.

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

6/11, 6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 2025
3443

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN RE: ESTATE OF AMOS E. LAWRENCE, JR.

ESTATE NO. 2024-TADM-6952

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

This 10th day of June 2025.

NAME: Amos Earl Lawrence, Sr., Administrator

ADDRESS: 640 Pebble Road, Reynolds, GA 31076

6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 2025
3446

NOTICE OF SALE

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

THE UNDERSIGNED WILL SELL PROPERTY AT STORAGEAUCTIONS.COM BY COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON JULY 8, 2025 AT 10:00 AM. BY HOUSTON MINI STORAGE LLC, 2514 GUNN ROAD, BYRON GA 31008 (478)-956-2267, PEACH COUNTY, STATE OF GEORGIA, THE FOLLOWING:

Renter's Name, Address, Unit #
Cory Nestor
617 Collins Ave
Centerville, GA 31028
Unit # C27
Furniture, fishing poles, miscellaneous items
6/25, 7/2, 2025
3448

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:

FILE #7406-J

N. H., SEX M, AGE 16, DOB 02/2009, CASE #111-2025J-044

P. H., SEX M, AGE 15, DOB 03/2010, CASE #111-2025J-045

CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, KAROLINE CHEEK (mother); AARON HODGE (father); ANY UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER(S), AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILDREN

You are notified that a Petition for Guardianship to Maternal Aunt and Uncle was filed against you in said court on 6/3/25, an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 5/28/25.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Peach County Juvenile Court, held at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia on 06/10/25 and 7/2/25 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. for a hearing following service by publication. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James E. Patterson, P. O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029.

You may obtain a copy of the petition by contacting Peach County Juvenile Court Clerk.

WITNESS the Honorable Judges of this court, this 3rd day of June, 2025.

Phillis Ballew, Deputy CLERK, PEACH COUNTY PEACH COURT

6/11, 6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 2025
3445

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

CIVIL ACTION CASE NUMBER 25-V-0245

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF GABRIELLE DARLINGTON, PETITIONER.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Gabrielle Abigale Darlington filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on June 18, 2025, to change the name from: Gabrielle Abigale Darlington to Craine Justice Darlington. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.

6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 2025
3456

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PEACH

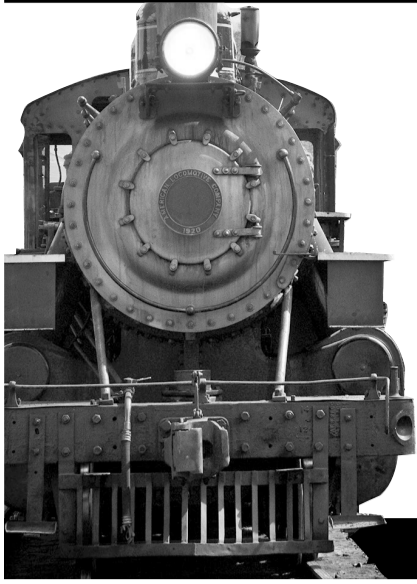
IN RE: ESTATE OF JOE TILDON RICKETSON

All creditors of the estate of JOE TILDON RICKETSON

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 18th day of June, 2025

NAME: JOSEPH TYLER RICKETSON
ADMINISTRATOR / EXECUTOR
JO



Hometown CLASSIFIEDS

Place Your Classified Ad By
Calling Us At 478-825-2432
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The Citizen Georgian
- Friday by 5pm
The Vienna News Observer
- Friday by 5pm

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Lets Read More Books! Little Free Library at BES



Contributed

Byron Elementary School now has a Little Free Library. Bring your kids by the school and grab a book or 2 from our Lorax Book Vending Machine. Books range from Kindergarten to 5th grade reading levels and will be restocked on a weekly basis.

How does this work? Take a book or two or three. After you have read the book, give it to a friend or return it to the Free Little Library for someone else to enjoy.

Did you know?

Special to
The Leader Tribune

July 4, 1776, is an important date in American history that is widely considered the birthday of the United States of America. But some people argue that August 2 should actually be America's birthday, since that was when the Declaration of Independence was signed. The National Archives says that the Second Continental Congress adopted the United States Declaration of independence on July 4, 1776, formally severing ties with Britain. The approved Declaration was printed on July 5. On July 19, Congress ordered that the document be engrossed on parchment, which is a process of copying an official document in large hand. It is surmised that the engrosser was Timothy Matlock, an assistant to Charles Thomson, secretary

to the Congress. It was nearly a month after the Declaration was adopted before the document began to be signed by delegates. The signing of the Declaration of Independence occurred primarily on August 2, 1776, at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, a building later renamed Independence Hall. John Hancock, who was the President of the Congress, was the first to sign the engrossed copy. Signatures were arranged by states from northernmost to southernmost. Fifty-six delegates eventually signed the document, although not all were present to sign on August 2. Some delegates never managed to sign the Declaration, including Robert R. Livingston of New York, who was a member of the Declaration's drafting committee.

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Publish your classified ad in more than 60 Georgia newspapers for only \$350.

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GNS
AFFILIATE OF THE GEORGIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

LOCAL MATTERS

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

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 6/29/25

CELLULAR

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

HEALTH CARE

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-871-3210

HEARING AIDS!! High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and NEARLY INVISIBLE! 45-day money back guarantee! 866-797-5642

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-9339

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-391-2065

HOME IMPROVEMENT

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-833-871-2090. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

ELECTRICAL SERVICES: Reliable & experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-833-399-6566

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6602

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-939-2151

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely

and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-833-406-0231 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

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Wesley Financial Group LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 866-411-5215

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work?

Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 877-627-2704

Moving Out of State? Licensed and insured, full-service nationwide movers. Call now to get a free, instant price quote on your next move. 1-866-590-6443

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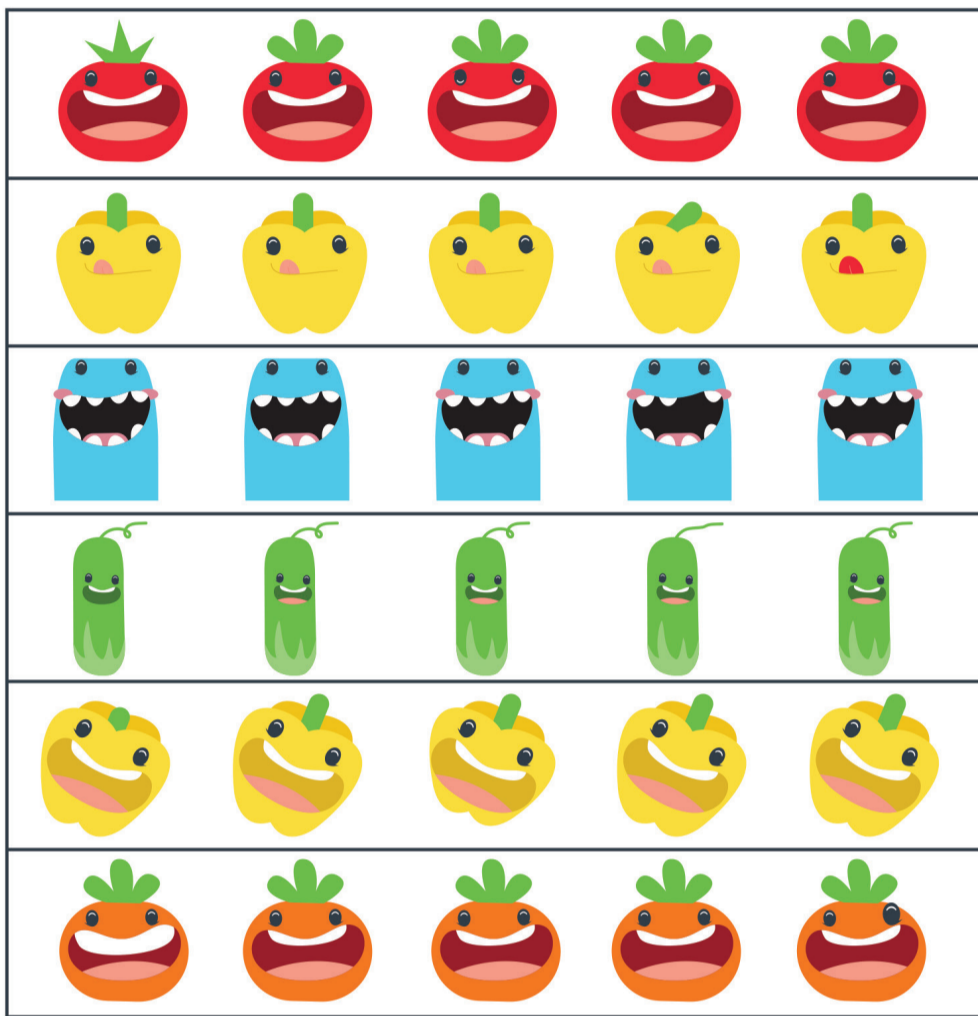
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Make veggies a cool, colorful part of your summer celebration.



MUNCHIES MIX-UP!

Look closely at all the Mini Munchies characters. Two of them aren't quite the same as the others.



FUN FACTS ABOUT GREENHOUSES

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GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in New York on July 2, 1986. I began my professional career as a Ford model at the age of 3. I rose to fame in a remake of a movie about twins separated shortly after birth, and later starred in a movie about unfriendly girls at school.

Answer: Lindsay Lohan

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to swimming.

SICKK

Answer: Kicks

How they say that in...

English: Parade
Spanish: Desfile
Italian: Corteo
German: Parade

Did You Know?

Fireworks are mainly made of black powder and metal salts that create different colors when burned. Flash powder also is used to give bright flashes and loud booms.

Get the Picture?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Barbecue skewers

SWIM TEAM WORD SEARCH

E B M O B T W D N L O V B P I M K R N I
 N E U I Y L F R E T T U B A Y S M S K O
 G C D B A C K S T R O K E M K W G D A N
 P N P E I O P E C A P K K D O I Y T Y S
 U A I A C F A L G T A V D M O M L M N F
 F T L I Y K C L P O O L D R V M D E S B
 V S F R U I F I W E S R U O C I U D D L
 A I N T M K G B V A S T T R C N U Y V D
 A D I F D R I L L R D U S R U G L D A F
 K W N F R B N M K I C E A L A P L W L G
 F C M Y W E R T F V E P T E F P C D T W
 M F I Y N T E K O R T S T S A E R B E L
 W U P K S T G S W B W F K T S N G F A D
 S T K U Y E W V T K E E G C S E A D M E
 U K W W C E L W R Y T N W N G U E N L E
 O R A B A F A G K C L M A F I M S D D U
 Y N I S P E W V G P F E T L I V D N N V
 I T A O L F S I F O F C E T S A I R U G
 B M F V P L Y W S U G U I F P Y U D O D
 Y D F P Y S M M M S B C U S G T Y A F T

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BACKSTROKE
- BREASTSTROKE
- BUTTERFLY
- CAP
- COURSE
- DECK
- DISTANCE
- DIVING
- DRILL
- FLIP
- FLOAT
- FREESTYLE
- GOGGLES
- KICK
- LANE
- LAP
- PACE
- PADDLE
- POOL
- SWIMMING
- TEAM
- TIMED
- TURN
- WADE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1608: Quebec City is founded by Samuel de Champlain.

1819: The first savings bank in the United States opens. It is the Bank for Savings in the City of New-York.

1973: David Bowie retires his stage persona "Ziggy Stardust."

NEW WORD

CITIZEN

a legally recognized subject of a state or commonwealth



By PCSS

Our Rolling Trojans are attending the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP) wheelchair basketball camp! Go Trojans!

Summer League Has Begun

Contributed

Bouncing balls, squeaking sneakers and cheering fans are in full effect at the annual H. E. Bryant Summer Basketball League (SL). It all started with scrimmages last week. This allowed additional teams to register and others to warm up for the weeks of games to come. From now through the end of July, every regular season game, wins and losses, count towards the playoff rankings for the multi-day single elimination tournament, like the NCAA® March Madness®, where teams in the different age divisions will battle for the crown of '2025 Summer League Champions'. If last week's scrimmages are any indication of what's to come, there'll be some highly entertaining hooping going

on.

This SL season has already proven to be monumental. For the first time in the 20+ SL seasons, there are more girls' teams registered and playing than boys teams. Eight of the fifteen teams are girls, in the fourteen and under (14U) age division. The boys are divided into two divisions, 12U and 14U.

With this type of fusion, you would be remiss if you, your family and friends didn't arrange an outing to the Spruce Street gymnasium on Tuesday and Thursday nights, starting at 6:30 pm, to support the young promising hoop-stars of tomorrow. Look forward to meeting you there!

A Day at the Park!

Contributed

Join us on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at North Peach Park for a fun and family-friendly community event. This exciting day will feature bouncy houses, snow cones, sports games, music, food, face painting, a book bag giveaway, a community baby shower, and a mobile health clinic.

Bring the whole family and enjoy an afternoon filled with activities, resources, and community connection.

Location: North Peach Park, 461 W White Rd, Byron, GA 31008

Hosted by It Takes a Village, SheMite Sports Center, Women of Honor, and Plan A Free Mobile Health Clinic. We hope to see you there!



Contributed

Hunt Elementary School was honored with a banner recognition at the Georgia Department of Education Federal Programs Conference for successfully meeting their progress goals.

This achievement highlights the school's exceptional progress and reflects the district's strong commitment to student success, continuous improvement, and dedicated service to the community and is a testament of the collaborative efforts of the teachers and staff to ensure they continue to work together to raise the bar! Congratulations to Dr. King and the Hunt Elementary School



Georgia Guardsman Honored to Represent State at D-Day Anniversary in Normandy

By 2-121 Infantry Battalion, 48th IBCT

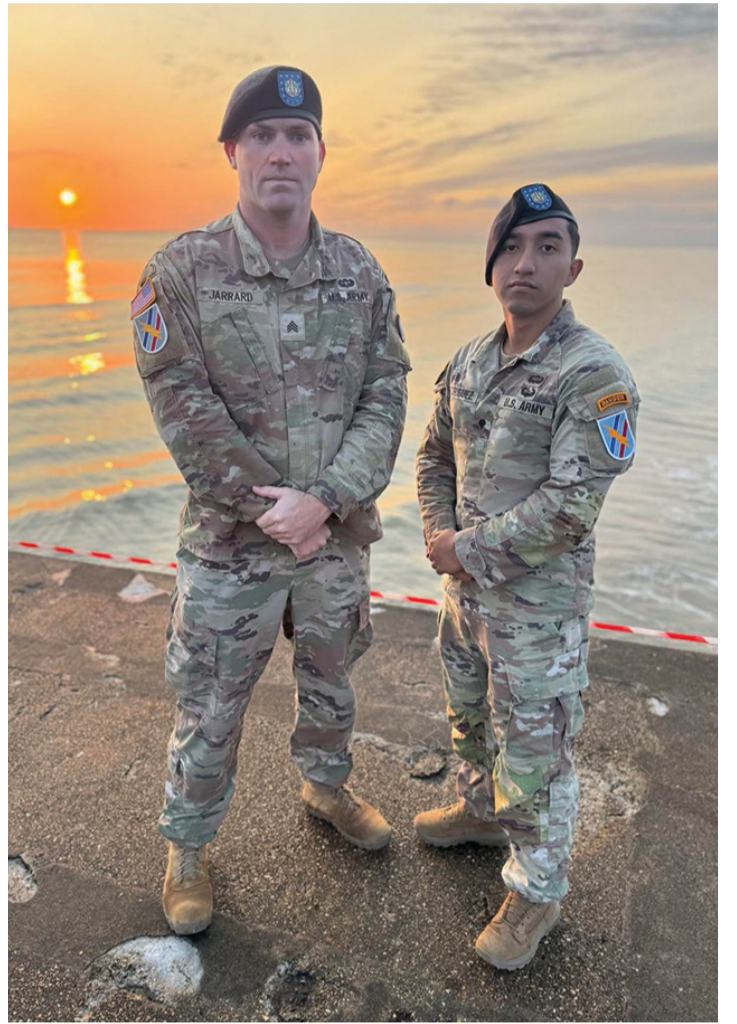
NORMANDY, FRANCE – Specialist Rodriguez, an infantryman assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment (Warrior Battalion), proudly represented Georgia at the 81st anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France. His selection followed a standout performance in the Georgia Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition, where he earned top honors and went on to represent the state at the Regional Best Warrior Competition.

His accomplishments reflect the highest standards of the Georgia Army National Guard and continue the proud tradition of the 121st Infantry Regiment — a unit whose legacy stretches back over a century and includes deep ties to the 8th Infantry Division, one of the spearhead units of the Allied invasion of Europe during World War II.

Soldiers of the 121st Infantry Regiment, served under the 8th Infantry Division. Today it sees under the storied 29th Infantry Division, who stormed Omaha Beach in Normandy in one of the most pivotal moments of the war. Despite devastating enemy fire, these citizen-soldiers from across the American South pushed forward, breaking through Hitler's Atlantic Wall and opening the path for the liberation of Europe.

Today, the 121st Infantry Regiment still carries that legacy forward. The men and women of the Warrior Battalion wear the unit's history not just on their shoulders — but in their actions.

The motto of 2nd Battalion, "It Shall Be Done," continues to define its character. That same determination, courage, and commitment that carried the 121st through the hedgerows of Normandy



still drives its soldiers today. SPC Rodriguez is a shining example of that enduring spirit — leading from the front, honoring the past, and inspiring the future.

As he walks the sacred ground where the 29th Division fought and bled, SPC Rodriguez represents not just his unit and his state, but the legacy of every Warrior who came before him.

Commented by Peach County Schools "Congratulations to Peach County High School Alumnus, Specialist Adrian Rodriguez! He recently represented Georgia at the 81st Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France!"

Collecting Supplies for Stuff the Bus



STUFF the BUS

<p>Donation Drop-off July 7 - 11 9 am - 3 pm</p> <p>Donation drop-off and event location: Peach County Health Department 503 Bluebird Blvd Fort Valley, GA 31030</p>	<p>School Supply Giveaway Friday, July 11 3 pm - 6 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunizations • Free haircuts • Free 3231 forms • Free food • 200 backpacks with supplies
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Join the Trojan Nation Touchdown Club Today!

We are excited to announce that Business, Membership Sponsorship, and Premier Parking Passes for the Trojan Nation Touchdown Club are now available for purchasing!

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

We have a big goal this year, and it's going to take the Peach County Community to help us accomplish it. Please consider supporting the Trojan Nation Touchdown Club of Peach for the 2025 Football Season. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of the Trojan Nation! Join the Touchdown Club or reserve your spot today! *Important Information: Touchdown Club will not be handling the Handicap parking spaces this year. They will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis and are excluded from the Premier Parking Passes.*

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



By Peach County Government

Join us in helping Peach County students start the school year off right! We're collecting school supply donations and giving back to the community with a special giveaway event. Location for all activities: Peach County Health Depart-

ment
503 Bluebird Blvd
Fort Valley, GA 31030
Donation Drop-off will take place July 7-11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The School Supply Giveaway will be held Friday, July 11 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Services and giveaways will include im-

munizations, free haircuts, free 3231 forms, free food, and 200 backpacks filled with school supplies.

Let's come together to stuff the bus and support our local families. Thank you to all of our amazing community partners for making this event possible.