



**Christmas Market
at the Farm**
December 6th
from 11:00-4:00

While you're here,
you can check a
few names off your
Christmas list!



3 Miles East of Fort Valley • www.lanesouthernorchards.com • 1-800-277-3224

The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

Vol. 137, Issue No. 49 • 1 Section • 10 Pages

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2025

Price \$1.00
tax included

Legal Organ for Peach County, City of Fort Valley and City of Byron
Serving Peach County For Over 100 Years



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

The Tour Byron Express at the Museum of Aviation2

Fort Valley State University Announces Fall 2025 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient6

Trojans Roll Through Weekend With Back-to-Back Wins 10

Wildcats Fall Short in High-Scoring Battle Against Kentucky State, 10

COMMUNITY
Community Calendar3
Church News.....5
Legals7
Classifieds9



Christmas Celebrations in Peach County

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. – Christmastime has returned to Peach County, and both the cities of Byron and Fort Valley are gearing up to celebrate the holidays with their citizens. Both cities have upcoming Christmas parades, and the City of Fort Valley has a lighting ceremony planned.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, at 1 p.m., the City of Byron and Byron Welcome Center will be celebrating the Byron Annual Christmas Parade. This year's theme is Christmas Spectacular.

Last year's theme for the parade was 'A Fairytale Christmas,' which featured numerous groups ranging from the Byron and Peach County government agencies, emergency services, local businesses, churches, and schools.

The parade route will follow its usual route, starting on Linda Drive, with the procession then

taking a right on White Road, a left on Highway 49, a right on Highway 42, a right on Moseley Road, a right on Main Street, across Highway 49, and finally proceeding back to Linda Drive.

Officials encourage those wanting to watch the parade to get out early to secure a spot. Anyone with questions can contact the Welcome Center at (478) 956-2409.

Later that same day, the City of Fort Valley and Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority will be celebrating their Christmas in the Valley Lighting Ceremony at 5:30 p.m. at the downtown Gazebo.

In previous years, Christmas in the Valley has had the oldest native of Fort Valley – born in Fort Valley and currently residing in Fort Valley – turn on the Christmas lights at the gazebo during the ceremony. However, nothing has been announced as of yet for this year's person of honor.

Christmas in the Valley has been a collaborative communi-



Photo by Zoe Hammond

Santa has arrived! Photo from Byron's Christmas Parade in 2024.

ty-wide project, created back in 2023, between the City of Fort Valley, the Fort Valley Downtown Development, the Fort Valley Public Works Department, the Fort Valley Police Department, the Fort Valley Fire Department, the Magnolia Garden Club, and more.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, at 5:30 p.m., the City of Fort Valley and Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority will be celebrating their Lighted Christmas

Parade. In previous years, the parade route started at Bluebird and made its way down North Camelia Blvd past the downtown area.

Fort Valley's parade will also feature groups including the Fort Valley government agencies, emergency services, local businesses, churches, and schools. Anyone with questions can contact the Fort Valley DDA at (478)825-5986.

City of Fort Valley Announces Launch of Municipal Complex Construction Process



By The City of
Fort Valley

Fort Valley, GA - Mayor Jeffery Lundy proudly announces that the City of Fort Valley has officially begun the process toward constructing the new Municipal Complex-an important step in strengthening the City's infrastructure, enhancing public services, and supporting long-term community growth.

The Municipal Complex will serve as a centralized hub for key City operations, streamline government services, and provide a modern facility designed to meet the evolving needs of Fort Valley residents. This project reflects the City's strong commitment to operational efficiency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

At this stage, the City has started developing the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Architectural and Engineering (A&E) Services, which will be used to secure qualified firms to design the Municipal Complex. The RFP process ensures transparency, competitive pricing, and the selection of experienced professionals who will deliver high-quality planning and design work.

"We are excited to take this significant first step toward building a state-of-the-art Municipal Complex for the citizens of Fort Valley," said Mayor Jeffrey Lundy. "This project represents progress, accountability, and our continued investment in the future of our community."

The City will release additional updates as the RFP process moves forward, including timelines, opportunities for public input, and future milestones in the construction and development phases.

FVSU Inducts Nearly 50 Future Teachers

College of Education and Professional Studies Hosts 20th Annual Teacher Education Induction Ceremony



Photo By FVSU

By FVSU

(Fort Valley, GA) – The College of Education and Professional Studies at Fort Valley State University (FVSU) proudly celebrated its twentieth annual Teacher Education Induction Ceremony on Thursday, November 20, 2025. This year's theme, "Teacher Candidates as Torchbearers: Igniting Change through Empathy and Service," highlighted the transformative role educators play in shaping communities and inspiring future generations.

The ceremony honored teacher candidates who have demonstrated academic excellence, professional commitment, and a passion for service. These inductees are poised to enter classrooms as advocates for equity and champions for student success.

The event featured an inspiring keynote address by Noris Price, Ed.D., superintendent in resi-

dence for the Georgia School Superintendent's Association. Price encouraged inductees to embrace their calling with dedication and compassion, emphasizing the importance of building strong relationships with students. "Teaching is more than a profession—it's a mission," said Price. "If you work hard, have passion, and keep that fire in your belly, you have jobs in Baldwin County (Georgia) upon graduation. You will make a difference in the lives of countless students."

Derrick Scott, Ph.D., provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, congratulated the inductees and underscored the university's commitment to preparing educators who lead with integrity and innovation. "Our teacher candidates represent the very best of FVSU," said Scott. "They are torchbearers who will ignite change while serving as A.L.L.I.E.S. through empathy

and service, shaping the future of education for generations to come."

The 2025 Teacher Education Inductees are: Jaden Anderson, Gniyah Baker, Kyla Bass, Alissa Bell, Ke'niyah Burley, Shawn Bolden, Isaiah Carter, Ty'zaira Ceaser, Camille Downer, Triniti Ellerson, Kaleb Hall, Kennedy Hall, Laphavian Hamilton, Makayla Jackson, Sydney Jackson, Omarion Laroach, Ariana Lester, Carmen Lynch, Yasmin Lucas, Kris-Ann Mcleod, Andrea Mills, Ashanti Mitchell, Jermaya Moore, Laila Odum, Amantavious Ogletree, Kacy Pace, Najayla Parker, Renia Paschal, Duane Patrick, N'cairah Petersen Maduro, Kiyah Potts, Jennifer Ramirez, Shaniya Render, Diamond Richardson, Akirya Robinson, Ka'meisha Robinson, Mckensie Saunders, Daven Sears, Ramello Sherman, Amaya Short, Zari Simmons, Jelisa Stewart, Tieryni Thomas,

Sierra Travick, Je-niah Wakefield, Regina Walker, Renaya Watts, Lakirra Weems, Fredericia White, and Rylie Youngblood.

Beth Day-Hairston, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, shared a powerful message about the significance of the milestone:

"Today, as we celebrate the induction of fifty remarkable individuals into the teaching profession. It symbolizes their commitment to learning, growth, and the pursuit of knowledge. It is the right of passage into the Education Profession. I can't think of a more noble profession. At Fort Valley State University, we are proud to nurture educators who will be advocates and champions for every student. Our future is brighter because of their courage, compassion, and dedication."



Authorities Urge Residents to Practice Fire Safety this Winter

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, GA – The winter months have started, and Peach County is already feeling the brunt of colder weather. Georgia may not be as prone to cold weather, but plenty of people travel during the winter months, and knowing how to deal with the cold is important.

The fire departments of Peach County, Byron, and Fort Valley have been sharing safety tips to keep warm and safe during these colder days. There are numerous ways to keep warm in winter, ranging from fireplaces to space heaters, and more.

While not every home has one, many people have access to fire-

places. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, between 2017 and 2019, there were an estimated 34,200 heating fires in residential buildings, with confined fires, specifically fires confined to chimneys or fuel burners, accounting for 77% of these residential building heating fires.

The U.S. Fire Administration has some safety tips when it comes to chimneys. Before using your chimney, have it inspected and cleaned each year by a professional. When using the fireplace, keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, and keep anything that can burn at least 3 ft. from the fireplace. Do



not burn paper in your fireplace, and make sure to put the fire out completely before going to sleep or leaving your home.

For those without fireplaces, space heaters are a good alter-

native for keeping warm. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, space heaters are responsible for 32% of home heating fires, with most of these fires occurring in winter. When using a space heater, make sure the heater is on a flat, level surface and away from foot traffic. Plug space heaters directly into an out-

let and avoid using extension cords. Don't use space heaters if the cord is frayed or damaged. Never leave space heaters unattended.

The American Red Cross has seven ways to prepare your family for a home fire.

- First, install the right number of smoke alarms for your home and make sure to test them at least once a month. Remember to replace the batteries at least once a year.

- Second, take the time to teach children what a smoke

alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear one.

- Third, ensure that all household members know at least two ways to escape from every room of your home and know the family meeting spot outside of your home.

- Fourth, establish a family emergency communications plan and ensure that all household members know who to contact if they cannot find one another.

- Fifth, practice escaping from your home at least twice a year. Press the smoke alarm test button or yell "Fire" to alert everyone that they must get out.

- Sixth, make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1.

- Seventh, teach household members to STOP, DROP, and ROLL if their clothes catch on fire.

The Tour Byron Express at the Museum of Aviation



By Tour Byron

The Tour Byron Express made a stop at the Museum of Aviation for this holiday season! We are proud to present our tree "Not Just a Flag Stop" which showcases Byron businesses that make staying in Byron a great time. Our city started as a mere flag stop on the railroad, but we have grown to be so much more.

Make sure to visit our tree in person on the 2nd floor until December 28th and share a picture with #notjustaflagstop to be shared on our page.

Voting for your favorite lasts until December 11th and each vote is a donation towards the museum to keep history "chugging along".

<https://givebutter.com/2025-festival-of-trees/tour-byron>

Lawmakers consider paring tax credits and exemptions to offset income tax cuts

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A state legislative committee is eyeing cutbacks in \$30 billion worth of tax credits and tax exemptions to offset the potential elimination of an income tax that generates \$16 billion for state government.

"It is not a question of if we go to zero, it's when and how we take our income tax to zero," said Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, leader of the Special Committee on Eliminating Georgia's Income Tax. "It's an issue of competitiveness."

Senators heard Monday from three invited speakers who advocated for eliminating the 5.19% income tax.

Patrice Onwuka, director of the Independent Women's Center for Economic Opportunity, said half of the state's residents live paycheck to paycheck and could use a tax break.

Arthur Laffer described con-

sequences for population, productivity and tax revenue in states that adopted an income tax, and he pointed to gains in states that eliminated their income tax, including his home state of Tennessee.

He said it's "really cool" not having to file an income tax return and that it is a form of taxation that undermines economies.

"The income tax is the single biggest major tax killer of growth," said Laffer, a retired professor who advised President Ronald Reagan on economic policy and is associated with "supply-side" economics theory.

Sen. Nan Orrock, D-Atlanta, noted that Georgia already has a thriving economy and that many of the states that eliminated their income tax subsequently raised their sales tax rate.

Economists have long held that a sales tax is more painful for low-income people than an income tax, and Orrock said retirees would be among those

disproportionately affected.

But Tillery, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee and is running for lieutenant governor, had delivered to the other senators more than 200 pages of documents detailing \$30 billion in tax credits and tax exemptions in Georgia law. He said those could be eliminated to make up revenue lost by eliminating the income tax, instead of raising the sales tax rate.

The final speaker, Kyle Wingfield, president and CEO of the fiscally conservative Georgia Public Policy Foundation, offered two policy approaches to accompany income tax cuts.

First, Georgia could place some of its billions in reserves into an emergency fund to hedge against unexpected budget shortfalls. Second, lawmakers could set "revenue triggers" that would only allow income tax cuts if overall tax revenue grew.

Christmas Parade

Byron Christmas Parade this Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM. Starting on Starting on Linda Drive.

It's time to light up downtown Fort Valley! The City of Fort Valley Lighted Christmas Parade is set for Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF FORT VALLEY, GA

The City of Fort Valley will be accepting Sealed Bids for SURPLUS PROPERTIES; the properties are vacant lots and are listed below. The listing of the properties will also be posted in the Fort Valley City Hall at 204 W. Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030. The tax parcel numbers and addresses for bids are:

F04A 091 118 Spalding Street

F06F 018 503 Anderson Avenue

F08C 206 108 Hampton Street

F08C 222 113 Hampton Street

F04B 126 Davidson Drive

F04A 206 Kathleen Street

F05A 037 Belle Street

F08A 068 304 Vienna Street

F08A 045 405 Vienna Street

The closing date for Sealed Bids for the properties listed above is December 12, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Bids received after this time will not be considered. Bid amounts will not be released until the Mayor and Council have awarded the property to the winning bidder during the Fort Valley City Council Meeting on December 18, 2025 @ 6:30 pm. or rejected any bids. Please submit sealed bids by December 12, 2025, at the Fort Valley City Hall, 204 W. Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

The property/properties will be sold with the principle of "caveat emptor" in effect, meaning the buyer is responsible for all and any unpaid taxes, liens, etc. and will be conveyed by quit claim deed by the city.

The burden will be on the buyer to perform their due diligence of the property before the sale; the City of Fort Valley will not refund any monies on property sold.

Please be advised Mayor and Council have a right to reject any or all bids.

Peach County Request for Qualifications (RFQ) For Architectural Services

Peach County is requesting statements of qualifications from architectural firms interested in assisting the county in its effort to undertake design and construction management of repurposing the old Peach County auditorium for use as a youth recreation center to be funded through federal, state, and local funds including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Interested parties are invited to secure an RFQ package from Brandon Fambro II, Middle Georgia Regional Commission, 3661 Eisenhower Parkway, Suite MB102, Macon, Georgia 31206 by calling (478) 751-6160 or emailing bfambro@mg-rc.org.

To be considered, all interested parties must submit their response to Brandon Fambro II at the address listed above, no later than 4:00 pm, January 5, 2026. Proposals received after this date and time or at any other location will not be considered.

Section 3

This is a Section 3 contract opportunity. This project is covered under the requirements of Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns are encouraged to apply. This project must ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by CDBG funds shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with federal, state and local laws and regulations, be directed toward low and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government funding for housing, and to business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low and very low-income persons in coordination with the Section 3 provisions of the Housing and Urban Redevelopment Act of 1968 – 24 CFR Part 135.

Fair Housing

This project must affirmatively further fair housing and steps must be taken to analyze impediments to fair housing choice in Peach County and take steps to overcome any identified impediments in efforts to promote fair housing for county residents.

Section 504

This project must ensure that no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from the participation in or be denied the benefits of services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination of any such entity as prescribed by law in the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, as amended.

Peach County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. Peach County is an equal opportunity employer.

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

Estrada, Jose Raul, 18, Byron, GA: Disorderly Conduct (High)

Estrada, Juan Rodrigo, 20, Byron, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Headlights On 1/2 Hour After Sunset To 1/2 Hour Before Sunrise, Possession Of Sawed-Off Shotgun Or Rifle, Machine, Gun, Silencer, Or Dangerous Weapon

Foster, Christopher Neil, 42, Blakey, GA: Failure To Appear - Felony

Hinds, Tyler Cade, 20, Bonaire, GA: Unlawful To Possess, Control, Manuf., Deliver, Distribute, Dispense, Administer, Purchase, Sell, Or Possess W/Intent To Dist. Marijuana, Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Possession And Use Of Drug Related Objects, Window Tint Violation

Johnson, Bernard James, 33, Macon, GA: Theft By Receiving Stolen Property

Marshall, Jamie Montrevius, 30, Byron, GA: Failure To Appear

Quinones Rivera, Norman Joel, 39, Byron, GA: No Tag Or Expired Registration, No Insurance, Driving With Suspended License, Headlights On 1/2 Hour After Sunset To 1/2 Hour Before Sunrise

Shipman, Seth Derek, 20, Bonaire, GA: Following Too Closely, Driving With Suspended License

Vazquez, Rhonda Yeatts, 55, Byron, GA: Probation Violation

Westbrooks, Richard Brian, 48, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Appear

Williams, Darrand Larmonz, 47, Byron, GA: Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude, Disorderly Conduct (High), Stop Sign: Failure To Stop Or Yield Right Of Way At Stop Sign, Headlights On 1/2 Hour After Sunset To 1/2 Hour Before Sunrise, Reckless Driving, Failure To Maintain A Single Lane, Driving On Wrong Side Of Road

Williams, Kavarious Latrell, 25, Albany, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Allen, Latoya Denise, 40, Fort Valley, GA: Criminal Trespass

Mcmichael, Wayne, 63, Fort Valley, GA: Home Invasion

Peach County Sheriff's Office Arrests/Citations

Billings, Travis Montreal, 42, East Point, GA: Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude Police Officer, Abandonment Of Certain Dangerous Drugs, Poisons, Or Controlled Substances, Trafficking In Cocaine, Illegal Drugs, Marijuana, Or Methamphetamine, Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement

Officers, Giving False Name, Address, Or Birthdate To Law Enforcement Officer, Driving While License Suspended, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Reckless Driving, Window Tint Violation

Bryant, Reginald D, 31, Fort Valley, GA: Hit And Run; Duty Of Driver To Stop At Or Return To Scene Of Accident

Chapman, Sophie Annette, 39, Byron, GA: Criminal Trespass

Flowers, Jeffery Clyde, 46, Fort Valley, GA: Aggravated Assault

Gooden, Andrielle Saleha, 27, Fort Valley, GA: Theft By Taking - Felony

Green, William Walter, 50, Pompano Beach, FL: Driving Under The Influence/Alcohol, Unsafe Vehicle Or Equipment, Failure To Signal Lane Change Or Turn

Mcghee, Anthony Deshaun, 36, Lithonia, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony, Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Mills, Brandon Jerrell, 34, Macon, GA: Possession Of A Weapon

Moore, Damiah Ka'mayry, 17, Warner Robins, GA: Theft By Receiving Stolen Property- Felony, Underage Possession Of Alcohol, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container

Sandoval Miranda, Enrique, 38, Warner Robins, GA: Expired Or No Drivers License, Driving Under The Influence/Alcohol

Stokeling, Jerell Renard, 19, Warner Robins, GA: Theft By Receiving Stolen Property- Felony, Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers By Use Of Threats Or Violence - Felony, Criminal Damage To Property - 2nd Degree, Driving W/O Valid License, Removing Or Affixing License Plate With Intent To Conceal Or Misrepresent, DUI / Alcohol / Under 21 Yoa / 0.02 Grams Or More, Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude A Police Officer, Failure To Maintain Lane, Underage Possession Of Alcohol, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Tail Lights / Tag Lights Lenses Required

Whibbey, Shayela Sherquirs, 34, Byron, GA: Battery

Warner Robins Police Department Arrests

Mathis, Abigail Brienne, 25, Poulan, GA: Theft By Shoplifting

GA Dept. of Public Safety Arrests

Castro Sanchez, Robert Javier, 38, Bradenton, FL: Driving While License Suspended

offered to purchase and plant a new tree in Jailhouse Park in memory of Buddy and Sue Kirkland. Please join us, both by attending the event, and supporting the fund-raising effort. For \$5.00 per name, you can honor someone or memorialize someone who has passed on. All proceeds go to the camp. We will start and end with prayer, have musical entertainment, read the names of those honored and memorialized, and turn on the lights, which will remain on for the month of December. Afterward, we will have hot chocolate, hot apple cider and snacks in the old jail.

If you would like to help, please use the form in The Leader-Tribune or send a list of names, with your check for \$5.00 per name to the Byron Lions Club, Po Box 9549, Warner Robins Ga 31095. Please submit names no later than November 26.

If you have any questions, please contact Lion Marlene at 478 918-3666. Thank you for your support, and helping us to carry out our motto— we serve.

Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



The Battle of Byron Festival Board of Directors Meeting

The Battle of Byron Festival Board of Directors meet every Third Thursday of the Month at the Old Byron Train Depot at 6:30 P.M.

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 Danielli at 478-957-1141 for more information.

American Legion Meetings

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

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

We can be reached at our Facebook Page (American Legion Post 76 - Peach County GA) or via e-mail (legionpost76pcga@gmail.com). All Veterans and Spouses are encouraged to participate.

ATTENTION: Veterans

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

Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority - Board Meeting

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

Peach County Board of Commissioners Work Sessions

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

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

The Board also conducts Public Hearings to consider zoning requests at 6:30pm during regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

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

Fort 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. (FHS)

Peach Public Libraries Board Of Trustees REGULAR MEETING 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.

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.

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

25-26 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 GA 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.

WE ACCEPT TIPS!

(478) 825-2432
FAX (478) 825-4130

Email:

news@theleadertribune.com

You're Invited to a Very Special Event

Contributed by The Byron Lions Club

The Byron Lions Club presents its annual Love-light Tree Ceremony this year on Thursday, December 4, at 6:00 pm at Jailhouse Alley Park. You won't want to miss it. Here is the story:

Over 40 years ago the Byron Lioness Club (no longer active) started a fundraiser for the Georgia Lions Camp In Waycross Georgia. A tree was planted in front of the public safety building (fire station) on Highway 49 in memory of the husband of one of the lioness club members.

Over the years the Lioness Club continued selling lights on the tree in honor of and in memory of the loved ones of Byronites and others. When the lioness club decided to disband several years ago, the Byron Lions Club continued the project. Over the years, thanks to the kindness and generosity of many people, we have donated several thousand dollars to the camp. A few years ago, Sue Kirkland, the lioness whose husband was honored by that first tree, passed away.

Two years ago, the Kirkland family generously

Call or Text 478-955-1999



Storage
Cabins
Carports
Gazebos
Playhouses
Greenhouses
Metal Buildings
Rent-to-Own

WadeYoder.com

110 Commercial Heights, Fort Valley, GA

Celebrating the Holiday Traditions



By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

Happy December! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and got to spend time with their loved ones. Now that it's time to start getting ready for the Christmas holidays. One thing I love about this time of year is hearing about the different traditions people have for celebrating the various end-of-the-year holidays.

I think it's interesting to see the different spins on classic holiday traditions. I also enjoy getting the opportunity to learn about other holidays that I am not familiar with such as Sinterklaas (Dec. 5 in the Netherlands and Belgium), Thorlaksmeasa (Dec. 23 in Iceland), and Hanukkah, which is celebrated over eight days in December.

One holiday that my mother and I have taken part in is St Lucia Day on December 13, which is primarily celebrated by the Scandinavian countries, mainly Sweden. My mother's best friend from childhood, Jenny, is half-Swedish, so this was something my mom occasionally got to take part in with her when they were younger. While we don't follow the holiday to a tee, we do take the time to make the s-shaped saffron buns almost every year.

One of my family traditions is that our Christmas tree goes up the day after Thanksgiving and stays until late January, after my mother's birthday. She loves decorating the tree and prides herself in her holiday cheer, so it became a tradition when she was young that the tree would stay up until her

birthday.

This was a tradition I grew up with and still practice, though now I keep it up until Feb. 2 to recognize my late great-grandmother's birthday. It helps me feel a little closer to her and the tree gives a cheerful and festive mood. I know some people keep their tree up for a bit, but usually, by mid-January most decide it's time to put the Christmas tree away.

One of the odder traditions I had when I was younger was when we left cookies for Santa, we would also leave boiled peanuts as well. My parents used to assure me that Santa loved stopping by for some peanuts, even though I was convinced that wasn't true as none of the movies with Santa ever featured boiled peanuts. Now, I know that it's because my mom and stepdad like boiled peanuts. But, it was a fun and silly tradition.

On my dad's side of the family, one of the traditions I have is finding a special ornament or Christmas decoration for my grandmother. She loves Christmas but isn't able to decorate as much as she used to. So, I find something for her that fits into her interests and won't be a hassle to set up.

A tradition that my husband and I partake in is his family's Christmas breakfast. In addition to the typical Christmas lunch or dinner, his family has a special breakfast that he enjoys making. It consists of sausage patties, fresh cinnamon apples, and a gingerbread cake. The cake is a family recipe that's absolutely delicious. It's something his grandmother started and he wants to continue.

Celebrating the holidays has always been something I enjoy and I hope to continue my family's traditions while starting to incorporate my own ideas in the upcoming years. Maybe I'll find something that I enjoy that I had never thought of before.

Our Holiday Season Calorie Furnace



By Wade Yoder
LT Columnist

Most of us probably store more calories (in the form of fat) than we would like to over the holidays, but then most of us probably didn't intend to under eat at the events scattered throughout this festive time of year!

There are two things that usually seem to happen during the holidays:

1. An increase of calorie intake.
2. A decrease in intense physical activity.

When we have a decrease

in physical activity but an increase in caloric intake over an extended time period, it simply tells our body to store this energy until later in our fat cells and fatty deposit areas.

Muscle is our body's fat burning furnace: the more you have of it and the more toned and conditioned it is, the hotter your thermogenic (fat burning) fire will be! We too often relate a decrease in metabolism to aging, but it's not nearly so much the aging factor as it is a decrease in quality muscle mass. And the two primary causes of this is our decrease in physical activity and our diet! These two factors coincidentally are the two main contributing factors in the aging process as well.

Boosting metabolism and slowing the aging process are some really good reasons to add extra muscle and strength to your life, especially when combined with better joint health, mobility, and a better-looking shape!

When we build muscle there are three stages that increase the pace that our body burns calories:

1. During exercise (working muscles need fuel)
2. Recovery (our body has to move nutrients to broken down areas for the recovery process and in building stronger muscle)
3. The added muscle burns extra calories at the pace of about 13-16 calories a day per pound.

Keep in mind that the first two months of a good exercise program and diet increases a lot of muscle weight, while decreasing the fat weight "so oft times we do not see a lot of scale change until after the 2nd month. It's usually by the 2nd month, muscle we already have, has toned up, so it's not unusual for a person to gain 8-12 pounds of muscle while losing 12-15 pounds of fat in the first two months. This means that some will only see a 3-pound

decrease on the scale for all this effort. The reward is in the increased muscle strength, increased metabolism, and a better shape!

Building muscle while losing fat, keeps us from having the shrunken balloon syndrome and appearance. When we let some air out of a balloon, with nothing to replace it, the balloon gets a saggy and older looking appearance. This is also why a person may look better and healthier at a larger size.

If you want to increase your body's natural capability to burn off fat and extra calories, the answer is in toning and building muscle and not in expensive fat burners that boost a fake metabolism. Age is not an excuse either; you can tone and build muscle at any age!

Your body is designed to be a survival machine with an Internal Doctor that works 24-7-365 so whatever our starting point is, let's give it the tools it needs to do its job!

The First Step Toward Autocracy Is Already Here



FINE PRINT
STACEY ABRAMS

Here in Georgia, we have had a front-row seat to the erosion of democracy.

But it doesn't look like the movies or come with a cinematic moment of revelation. Instead, we are watching it unfold day by day in small non-events and headlines that fail to capture our attention for more than a few hours. Over time, we get so used to the chaos, the disruption and the brokenness that we adapt — like a distant alarm that becomes part of the background noise or that rut on the road that has never been fixed, so we learn to drive over it.

We know something is wrong; we know there's an issue that is causing harm — but we learn to accept it because that's just the way it is.

But it shouldn't be.

In recent months, I've been talking a lot about the "10 Steps to Autocracy and Authoritarianism." This framework serves as a translator. The regime that's attacking our way of life wants us to feel overwhelmed by what's happening around us and to us. But the 10 Steps show how all of the pieces fit together. Over the next few weeks, I intend to use "Fine Print" to help us see how what's happening around us is actually happening to us.

The bottom line is that authoritarians follow a playbook. By naming their steps, we expose their strategy. And by exposing their strategy, we empower ourselves to see their intentions — and defeat them. The "10 Steps to Autocracy and Authoritarianism" give us the intellectual scaffolding to recognize the danger signals, to see how each action by those in power fits into a broader design, and ultimately to arm ourselves with the information and tools we need to re-

claim democracy for the people.

Today we're talking about Step 1 — winning (usually the last) free and fair election. As always, I'd like to thank Kim Lane Scheppele, who researched this framework and allowed me to slightly editorialize it.

Across recent history and the world, most of the politicians who eventually dismantled democracy were at first chosen in free and fair elections. Citizens cast their ballots believing they were participating in the normal democratic process, and election monitors certified those contests as legitimate. But in many of these cases, the warning signs were visible long before Election Day. Aspirational autocrats often make it clear — through word or action — that they are not fully committed to democratic values and ideals and that the institutions by which people exercise their rights should be destroyed.

In Turkey, Erdogan won power in 2003 even after his party was banned and he was jailed for stoking religious hatred. In Venezuela, Chavez was elected in 1999 after trying to overthrow the elected government. In Hungary, Orban spent years attacking the legitimacy of elections, he lost — and then rewrote the rules once he got back in power in 2010. And in Brazil, Bolsonaro openly praised Brazil's 20th-century military coup and dictatorship long before his 2018 win — and has now been convicted and sentenced to 27 years in prison for plotting and participating in his own coup plot.

Of course, not every freely elected leader becomes an autocrat and not all authoritarians advertise their intentions in advance. But would-be strongmen often send unmistakable signals before winning the election that ultimately allows them to move against democratic institutions.

While Donald Trump's election in 2016 may not have conformed to the classic trajectory

of an autocrat, his behavior over the following years did. He refused to concede the 2020 election, incited supporters who violently attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and was ultimately indicted in both state and federal courts for plotting to overturn the election result. He tried to undermine the legitimacy of the judicial process by calling it a "witch hunt."

Now, within the first months of the second Trump administration, the pattern seen in places like Turkey, Venezuela, Hungary and Brazil has fully revealed itself in the United States.

So, you might be asking: what do we need to know?

Step 1 on the road to autocracy is that the erosion of democracy often begins with a legitimate election — even when warning signs are already flashing — which means we cannot wait until democratic systems are formally dismantled to push back. We must recognize these signals early, call them out clearly and organize before the next election. Failure to do so makes resistance exponentially harder.

We can't assume that because the election was legitimate, the resulting administration will be. As we've watched since January, an election cannot be used to justify the wanton cruelty and corruption that has marked every single day of this regime — like gutting health care or firing thousands of hardworking civil servants or the U.S. Coast Guard announcing that swastikas and nooses are no longer hateful, shameful symbols.

We also have to stop accepting that bad politicians do bad things because "they won fair and square." A free and fair election is not a hall pass to tyranny. As long as we cling to treating this new American order as something we simply need to survive, we are missing the point.

Yes, Republicans won the election — and they brought with

them Christian nationalists, tech bros who have your private data, masked secret police, and the military occupation of cities like Memphis and Portland. This isn't normal, so assuming the next election will fix it simply won't do. I'm not calling for panic — but we must pay attention right now.

Authoritarianism isn't coming to America. It's here. Our job is to accept where we are and to plot our way forward — starting today.

While some of us may understand the threats we face, the reality hasn't quite broken through for a lot of Georgians. That's by design. When everything feels out of whack, nothing feels completely wrong.

A few months ago, I spent time with a naturalized citizen here in Georgia who had escaped a South American dictatorship decades before. We'd worked together many times, so I knew a bit of her story. When I asked about how she felt given what was happening in America, she shrugged.

"I don't watch the news; it's too depressing," she said. "What's going on?"

I spent the next few minutes updating her on the immigration ruling that authorizes racial profiling and the pending cuts to the Affordable Care Act. She is an independent contractor who gets her health care on the marketplace, and she has two children who could be targeted by ICE despite their citizenship.

She had no idea — but she wanted to know more.

You can be part of how we build the resistance. Join us at 10stepscampaign.org. We've got work to do.

Stacey Abrams is a bestselling author, entrepreneur and host of the podcast "Assembly Required." She previously served as minority leader in the Georgia House of Representatives. This column was originally published in her "Assembly Notes" Substack newsletter.

The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

DuBose Porter
Executive Director

Pam Burney
General Manager

Judy Robinson
General Manager/ Publisher
Judy@theleadertribune.com
Marketing Executive
sales@theleadertribune.com
Zoe Hammond News Editor
editor@theleadertribune.com
news@theleadertribune.com

Scott Giles Business Manager
books@theleadertribune.com
Andrea Banker Design Manager
graphics@theleadertribune.com

Legals Department
legals@theleadertribune.com

Columnists

Billy Powell Dan Gatlyn Wayne Lenderman
Jeff Cook Wade Yoder

OUR GOALS

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

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

OUR POLICIES

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

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

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to
109 Anderson Avenue, Fort Valley, GA 31030
Member of The Georgia Press Association
The National Newspaper Association

Abrupt Team Changes Are A Great Chance To Learn

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

College is where you go to learn a lot of things, and sometimes while there you also go to class. It's the life lessons that tend to stick with you most.

With that in mind, we're going to turn to the "sport" of college football as a backdrop for yet another illustration of how the world actually works. Coach Lane Kiffin has once again transitioned between programs in the most Kiffin way possible, quitting Ole Miss on the cusp of a serious playoff run and joining perhaps their most hated rival.

While officially that is their in-state rival in Starkville, it is LSU that keeps tweaking Ole Miss's basket of insecurities. Now they've stolen the "hot" head coach, branded Oxford a place you go as a stepping stone,

and made the Ole Miss faithful question if they're really going to be able to maintain their program in an arms race that seems clear to elevate a select few to an uber-elite tier.

Here we have a clash between those who view college football based on nostalgia, tradition, part of an educational experience, funded by donations and those who continue to demonstrate that college football is a multi-billion dollar business. Those on the side of big business are running up the score like they were John Heisman coaching against Cumberland.

Protecting the façade of amateur athletics, however, is part of the business model. Thus, those taking the bag and running still have to pretend that tradition, loyalty, and commitment are important. This demonstration

is often served as a heavy handed dose of false piety.

Note Kiffin's comments shortly after winning the Egg Bowl last Friday. Despite the decision not only to leave having already been made — something that is now clear given that he had already lined up most of his coaching staff to abruptly leave with him — he noted that he was going to have to pray about it, as well as talk to two coaching legends, invoking Pete Carroll's relationship with his dad.

Heartwarming. For about 36 hours.

Kiffin's exit laid bare the realities of the new business model. There was a bit of a standoff as he seemed to expect if not demand that he be allowed to continue to coach his current team while beginning recruiting efforts for his new team. Many of

those recruits are likely currently wearing Ole Miss uniforms or have stated their intention to be in Oxford next fall.

In hindsight, hiring Kiffin was a roll of the dice. He had a defined history of abrupt and aggravating exits. His dithering a few years ago on staying with Ole Miss — then getting a much bigger contract to stay — is seen as a distraction for another good year that came apart at the end. One could say they knew what they were getting into when he was chosen to be the one to elevate the program. A business decision, if you will.

The fake piety doesn't land just on the head of the coaches and schools who hire them. Sports journalists too are drag-

Mystifying Character in Old Testament



By Billy Powell
Parables to Ponder
LT Columnist

Without a scriptural hint that a mysterious personage was about to make an appearance in scripture, he suddenly appeared in Genesis 14. Abraham had just returned from a hard fought, but victorious battle against four Canaanite kings who plundered the land and captured Abraham's nephew, Lot. In retaliation, Abraham and his fighting men overwhelmed the enemy kings and rescued Lot.

Following the battle, the King of Sodom went out to greet the triumphant Abraham. At that moment, a mystifying figure appeared. He was identified as the 'King of Salem' (pre-Israel-

ite Jerusalem) and the 'Priest of the Most High God.' This impressive priest-king presented bread and wine to Abraham and his weary warriors. Then, he bestowed a blessing on Abraham in the name of the Most High God and praised God for giving Abraham a victory in battle. To return the gesture, Abraham presented the priest-king with a tithe of his possessions. Abraham then returned all the confiscated food supplies and captives to the kings.

This priest-king who blessed Abraham later returned to scripture when an unknown author brought him back into focus in the Book of Hebrews. The Hebrews author refers to him as the 'King of Righteousness' and wrote that he had no father or mother, no birth, no death, and no genealogy. He was likened to the 'Son of God.' The king-priest was greater than Abraham because the scripture declares that "the one who blessed another is greater than the one who is blessed."

Not only was the priest-king greater than Abraham, he was greater than Levi, the leader of tribe of Israel chosen to lead the

Levites in the priesthood. The tithe that Abraham presented to the priest-king was a precursor to the tithe that was later instituted by the Law of Moses, which required the Levitical priests (descendants of Levi) to collect from the Israelites a tithe amounting to 10 percent of their crops and animals. This tithe was used to support the Temple and the tribe of Levites, who inherited no arable land in God's division of Canaan.

The mystery character who blessed Abraham was named Melchizedek, who was the prototype of the High Priest who was to come, namely Jesus Christ. No earthly priest can "remain a priest forever," and no mere human is "without father or mother." If Genesis 14 described a theophany—and some scholars believe it does—then the pre-incarnate Christ came in the person of Melchizedek to bless Abraham. Centuries later, this same Jesus shed His sinless blood at Calvary to reconcile sinners back to God so that we might have an eternal home with Him—a place where there will be no sorrow, crying, pain, or death.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
Christ the Redeemer
Anglican Church
Lessons and Carols
Dec 17th, 7PM

Midnight Mass
Dec 24th, 11PM

Christmas Morning Mass
Dec 25th, 11AM

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
AT ST. PETER A.M.E. CHURCH ANNEX

Food Pantry Distribution at St. Peter A.M.E. Church Annex, 502 State University Drive, Fort Valley, GA.

Fourth Thursday of each month (January-October) and Third Thursday of November and December. Call (478) 825-8452 for details.

BAHA'I COMMUNITY OF PEACH COUNTY

The Baha'i Community of Peach County warmly invites you to an interfaith devotional and discussion via Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 - 8:00pm. The purpose of the gathering is to build friendship and unity. No contributions are solicited or accepted. If you're interested, email us at peachcobahais@gmail.com, and we'll send you an invitation!

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.

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.middlelegaanglican.org

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

Looking for a church? Pastor Tony Wood invites you to come visit us. Bring the kids for Children's Church! Sunday School at 9:30. Sunday Worship at 10:30.

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. JULIANA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 State University Drive across from the first entrance to FVSU. We hold morning prayer services, at 10:15am Sundays. Eucharist (Communion) is on second Sundays at 11am. Please donate to our Little Free Pantry on Charlesvoix St. behind the church (or take food if you are in need). For more info, go

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

to our Facebook page or contact Anna Holloway 478-397-4678 and leave a text message.

SAINT PETER A.M.E. 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.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

LOCAL NEWS DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOU

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

1 Year Print Subscription \$45

1 Year Print Senior (60+) Rate \$40.50

Online subscription go to <https://theleadertribune.com>

1 Year Digital ONLY \$25. 1 Year Digital + Print \$55

(Above Prices Includes Tax)

Credit: (please check one) Master Card VISA Discover American Express

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name as appears on Card _____

109 Anderson Ave., Fort Valley, GA 31030

CALL TODAY!

478-825-2432

Sen. Ossoff Statement on Passing of Bishop Reginald T. Jackson

By the Office of Jon Ossoff, U.S. Senator for Georgia
Atlanta, Ga. — U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff released the following statement on the passing of Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, who was elected as the 132nd Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME)

and served as Bishop of the Sixth Episcopal District from 2016-2024, encompassing more than 500 churches in the State of Georgia.

"I was saddened this morning to learn of Bishop Jackson's passing. Alisha and I grieve his departure, celebrate his life, and extend our heartfelt condolenc-

es to the entire Jackson family. "I am deeply grateful for the Bishop's decades of committed service to faith, community, and human rights. It was an honor to work alongside Bishop Jackson for many years and to know him as a friend."

Electric car drivers to get more charging stations in Georgia

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service
ATLANTA — Electric vehicle owners will eventually have another 26 places to recharge when motoring through Georgia after the state awarded \$24.4 million in federal funding to build chargers along highways and interstates. "This investment will help further secure our status as a national leader in innovation and infrastructure for years to come," Gov. Brian Kemp said

of the money from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Act, which took effect in 2021 during the administration of President Joe Biden, allocated \$5 billion nationwide over five years to foster a network of electric vehicle charging stations. Georgia's share was \$135 million. The money is awarded in public-private partnerships and covers up to 80% of project costs. Six winning bidders were an-

nounced last week by the Georgia Department of Transportation. This was the second round of contracts, with the first issued last year. The chargers — four at each site — must be installed and maintained for around the clock operation for at least five years. They must be equipped with Direct Current Fast Charging ports, which can fully recharge a vehicle battery in as few as 20 minutes. See a map with locations at <https://arcg.is/zCy9>

HARPER

CONTINUED FROM 4A

ging out their fainting couches and doing their best pearl clutches. The very networks who have pumped billions into this "amateur" sport are doing their best to be shocked, SHOCKED!, that a brazen money grab for scarce elite coaching talent could take place. If you look at the above scenarios, you can extrapolate these hard earned life lessons from college into daily adult life. The parallels to politics are clear. We have our teams. There's a lot of nostalgia involved. We tell ourselves our team is the good guys; those hated rivals are backwards idiots who don't know how the world

works and should apologize for even existing. Just seeing their jerseys makes us mad. Yet deep down we know most of it is just business. The more we dig in to our side, the bigger the business grows. And of course, we have media and influencers doing their best to make sure we stay "engaged" — which means angry. The major players make sure to play along with fake piety, too, so that we can continue to pretend. So many contemplations begin with "after much consideration and prayer" right before we are told that God wants the politicians to do what elevates them the highest and quickest. But then, sometimes our

coaches change teams, abruptly. Whether they do a 180 on an issue (see Ukraine and Israel) turn on the leader of their own party (see Green, Marjorie Taylor) or change parties altogether (see Duncan, Geoff), the fans too have to decide if they stay or if they go. The hard lessons are the ones that stick with you. Sometimes they make you look inward, and make sure you're supporting the right team, for the right reasons. Other times they make you realize you got caught up in the desire to win, but lost what you were fighting for along the way.

Fort Valley State University Announces Fall 2025 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient

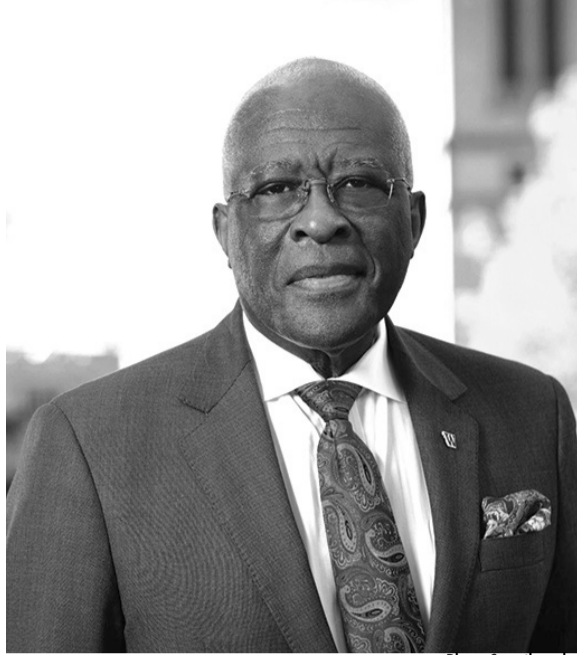


Photo Contributed
Robert J. Jones, Ph.D., President, University of Washington

By FVSU
(Fort Valley, GA) – Robert J. Jones, Ph.D., a distinguished higher education leader and esteemed alumnus, will receive an honorary doctorate degree and serve as the commencement speaker for the Fall 2025 ceremony.

Jones, a native of Georgia and a proud first-generation college graduate, began his academic journey at Fort Valley State College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy (1973). He continued his graduate studies at the University of Georgia and the University of Missouri, launching a career that now spans more

than 40 years of leadership, scholarship and innovation across several of the nation's top public research institutions.

"As FVSU celebrates 130 years of unapologetic excellence, we are especially honored to welcome Dr. Jones back to his alma mater for this milestone commencement ceremony," said FVSU President Paul Jones, Ph.D. "His remarkable journey from a first-generation student at Fort Valley State, to one of the nation's most respected leaders in public higher education exemplifies the excellence, resilience and purpose that define our institution. We are proud to award him an honorary

doctorate and know that his words will inspire our graduating class as they embark on their next chapter."

In 2025, Jones became the 34th president of the University of Washington after nine successful years as chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. There, he led a historic \$2.7 billion fundraising campaign, guided the creation of the world's first engineering-based medical school and supported major enrollment growth and research advancement in fields such as precision fermentation, bioprocessing and quantum computing. Prior to that, he served for more than 30 years in lead-

ership and academic roles at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and later as president of the University of Albany.

"I am honored to return to Fort Valley State University, and to celebrate its 130-year tradition of preparing leaders, scholars, and change-makers," said Robert Jones, Ph.D. "FVSU was vital to the foundation of my career and calling as a scientist and educator. It opened doors of opportunity for me, and I am proud to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2025 and the extraordinary impact they will make in the world."

Jones has also held major national leadership posi-

tions, including chair of the Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors, the Association of American Universities (AAU), and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). His dedication to collaboration, innovation and student success has influenced the direction of higher education across the country.

The 2025 Fall Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 6, at 9:30 am in the Health and Physical Education (HPE) Complex. Guests are asked to be seated by 9 am. The university's clear bag policy will be enforced.

For more information, visit FVSU.edu/Commencement. The ceremony will be streamed live on the FVSU YouTube channel (@FortValleyState1895).

NOTICE

The City of Warner Robins City Council does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the City Hall Chambers on December 15, 2025 at 4:30pm and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2025 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

HOUSTON COUNTY	VALUATION	HOUSTON	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		Real & Personal	1,953,918,351	2,241,838,118	2,510,001,921	2,888,520,362	3,367,443,852
	Motor Vehicles	20,258,660	18,082,300	17,774,780	16,254,760	14,183,190	
	Mobile Homes	2,469,086	2,553,172	2,743,060	3,070,802	3,796,077	
	Timber - 100%		13,850	24,057	32,792	0	
	Heavy Duty Equipment	4,550	31,470	30,627	24,870	6,152	
	Gross Digest	1,976,650,647	2,262,518,910	2,530,574,445	2,907,903,586	3,385,429,271	
	Less Exemptions	110,538,817	129,987,066	154,482,521	187,622,150	231,019,166	
	NET DIGEST VALUE	1,866,111,830	2,132,531,844	2,376,091,924	2,720,281,436	3,154,410,105	
RATE	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	9.9800	9.9800	9.9800	8.9530	8.9530	
	Less Rollbacks (Local Option Sales Tax & Insurance Premium)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
	NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	9.9800	9.9800	9.9800	8.9530	8.9530	
TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$18,623,796	\$21,282,668	\$23,713,397	\$24,354,680	\$28,241,434	
PEACH COUNTY	VALUATION	PEACH	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		Real & Personal	46,555,591	59,433,245	71,480,811	94,130,047	165,160,261
	Motor Vehicles	150,990	124,600	96,250	0	70,930	
	Mobile Homes					0	
	Timber - 100%					0	
	Heavy Duty Equipment					4,843	
	Gross Digest	46,706,581	59,557,845	71,577,061	94,130,047	165,236,034	
	Less Exemptions	1,181,321	1,392,073	1,498,182	1,726,393	4,095,993	
	NET DIGEST VALUE	45,525,260	58,165,772	70,078,879	92,403,654	161,140,041	
RATE	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	9.9800	9.9800	9.9800	8.9530	8.9530	
	Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	1.0540	1.0900	1.1060	1.2840	0.7773	
	NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	8.9260	8.8900	8.8740	7.6690	8.1757	
TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$406,358	\$517,094	\$621,880	\$708,644	\$1,317,426	
TOTAL COUNTY	TOTAL COUNTY		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	TOTAL DIGEST VALUE		1,911,637,090	2,190,697,616	2,446,170,803	2,812,685,090	3,315,550,146
	TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED		\$19,030,155	\$21,799,762	\$24,335,277	\$25,063,323	\$29,558,860
	Net Tax \$ Increase			\$2,769,607	\$2,535,516	\$728,046	\$4,495,537
	Net Tax % Increase			14.55%	11.63%	2.99%	17.94%

Metro Atlanta transit payment system refresh coming soon

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — People who take a train from the suburbs to downtown Atlanta for a ball game or a concert will soon encounter new fare gates updated for the smartphone era.

MARTA announced Monday that it is installing new contactless fare equipment. New MARTA cards will also be tappable, and the target will be clearer than with the old gates, the agency said. Also coming, a new smartphone app for payment, which should make it easier for occasional riders to use a mobile wallet.

Regional partners, including CobbLinc and Ride Gwinnett, will also be adopting the "Better Breeze" fare collection system in coming months.

New equipment is already being installed, but MARTA said it will not be ready to transition customers from the current 19-year-old Breeze system until spring.

The refresh is part of the transit system's plans to accommodate soccer fans during next year's World Cup matches in Atlanta.

Fare prices will remain unchanged, at \$2.50 per ride.

"It's great to keep fares unchanged for years, but not an entire fare collection system," said MARTA Interim General Manager and CEO Jonathan Hunt.

In coming years, travelers should also be able to drive to MARTA — and anywhere else in Georgia — without a traditional wallet or purse. State lawmakers passed House Bill 296 last winter. It will allow drivers to present a digital license when stopped by police.

The law, which took effect in July, gives police until July 2027 to acquire the necessary equipment (basically, a government-authorized smartphone) to scan a digital license on a phone.

Subscribe Today!
478-825-2432

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Warner Robins has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 15.20% in Houston County and 13.31% in Peach County.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at City of Warner Robins, City Hall Council Chambers on Monday, December 1st, 2025 at 3:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at City of Warner Robins, City Hall Council Chambers on Monday December 1st, 2025 immediately following the conclusion of the Council Meeting but not before 6:00 PM and Monday, December 15 th, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 8.953 mills, an increase of 1.181 mills for City of Warner Robins properties within Houston County. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.772 mills for City of Warner Robins properties within Houston County.

This proposed tax increase for a home in Houston County with a fair market value of \$220,000 is approximately \$75.58 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$225,000 is \$106.29.

The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 8.175 mills, an increase of 0.960 mills for City of Warner Robins properties within Peach County. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.215 mills for City of Warner Robins properties within Peach County.

This proposed tax increase for a home in Peach County with a fair market value of \$200,000 is approximately \$53.76 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$200,000 is \$76.80.

Legals

Legal Advertising Information

GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

This 20th day of November 2025. Randy Greg Taggart, Executor c/o Rebecca C. Moody, Esq. MOODY AND ASSOCIATES LAW FIRM, LLC P.O. Box 422 Perry, GA 31069 478-988-0238 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 2/17, 2025 3610

ZONING LEGAL NOTICE

A public hearing, with public comment heard, will be held by the Peach County Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals on a Variance request for tax parcel number 011D 023 located at 1635 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA. The request is for a manufactured home within 500 feet of R-1 property.

A public hearing, with public comment heard, will be held by the Peach County Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals on a Variance request for tax parcel number 059D 039 located at 14001 Highway 96, Fort Valley, GA. The request is for an increase in the size and height of proposed signs for a Racetrac Gas Station and Convenience Store.

The hearing will be in the Public Meeting Room of the Board of Commissioner's Office located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley on December 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The applications for these parcels are on file and available for review. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. 11/26, 12/3, 2025 3612

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: FILE NO 7451-J

A.H., SEX: F, DOB: 10/24/2025, CASE #111-2025J-098 Child(ren) Under the Age of 18 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, ASHLEE HADDEE; ANY UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER(S), AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILD.

You are notified that a Dependency Petition was filed against you in said court on 11/7/25, an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 11/6/25.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Peach County Juvenile Court, held at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia on 11/11/25 at 9:00 o'clock a.m., and on 12/9/25 for a case plan and disposition hearing. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James E. Patterson, P. O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029. You may obtain a copy of the petition by contacting Peach County Juvenile Court Clerk.

WITNESS the Honorable Judges of this court, this 7th day of November, 2025.

Whitney Nelson, CLERK, PEACH COUNTY PEACH COURT 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 2025 3598

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Because of a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by Peggy Jean Smither to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for USAA Federal Savings Bank dated April 28, 2015, and recorded in Deed Book 527, Page 488, Peach County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for Freddie Mac SLST 2024-1 Participation Interest Trust, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$102,000.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, January 6, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 7 of the Fifth (5th) Land District of Peach County, Georgia, being known and designated as Tract #41 containing 0.57 acre, more or less and Tract #42 containing 0.51 acre, more or less, according to a plat of survey being of record in Plat Book 19, Page 177, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Also conveyed is an easement for ingress and egress from Oak Ridge Drive to the above property over and across that certain sixty foot easement as shown on a plat of survey recorded in Plat Book 19, Page 177, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. This conveyance and the warrant-

ties hereinafter contained are made subject to any and all restrictions, easements, covenants and rights-of-way affecting said described property.

Said property is known as 202 Oak Ridge Drive, 204 Oak Ridge Drive, Byron, GA 31008, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.

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

The proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.

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

The property is or may be in the possession of Peggy Jean Smither, successor in interest or tenant(s), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for Freddie Mac SLST 2024-1 Participation Interest Trust as Attorney-in-Fact for Peggy Jean Smither File no. 24-082036 LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP* Attorneys and Counselors at Law 211 Perimeter Center Parkway, N.E., Suite 130 Atlanta, GA 30346 (770)220-2535 https://www.logs.com/ *THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

11/26/2025, 12/03/2025, 12/10/2025, 12/17/2025, 12/24/2025, 12/31/2025 3606 (BCNS 265736)

ZONING LEGAL NOTICE

A public hearing, with public comment heard, will be held by the Peach County Planning Commission on a zoning map amendment request for +/- 5.00 acres known as a portion of tax parcel number F07F 002 located at 1531 Evans Road, Fort Valley, GA. The request is to rezone a portion of the parcel from M-1 (Wholesale and Light Industrial district) to R-AG (Agricultural residential district).

The hearing will be in the Public Meeting Room of the Board of Commissioner's Office located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley on December 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Recommendation from the Planning Commission will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on January 13, 2026 at 6:30 pm during the regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

The re-zoning application for this parcel is on file and available for review. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. 11/26, 12/3, 2025 3613

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 2025-P-7078

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOSEPH A. MANSFIELD, DECEASED AMENDED NOTICE IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate TO:

This is to notify you who are required to be served personally, to file objection. If there is any, to the Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form, in this Court on or before the tenth (10th) day after the date you are personally served or sign the return receipt. TO:

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form, in this Court on or before the thirtieth (30th) day after __, 2025 (the date of the mailing of this Notice to you by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested); provided, however, that if a return receipt for such Notice is actually received by the Court within such thirty (30) days, the deadline for the filing of any objection shall be ten (10) days from the date of receipt shown on such return receipt

TO: Evie Pettigrew, Beverly Jo Peeples, Bonnie M. Eubanks-Everton, Barbara Hocking, Brian Keith delos Santos, Tammy Runyon, Bruce Mansfield, Jr., Crystal Lynn Mccranie, Tiffany Komorowski, Beth Benf amln, Jeffrey Marsh, Michael Marsh, Julia Marsh, Alex Manh.

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form, in this Court on or before the thirtieth (30th) day after NOVEMBER 19, 2025 (the date of the mailing of this Notice to you by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested); provided, however, that if a return receipt for such Notice is actually received by the Court within such thirteen (13) days, the deadline for the filing of any objections shall be ten (10) days from the date of receipt

shown on such return receipt.

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 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 2025 3616

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES OATES, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7200

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

BELINDA L. TALTON has petitioned for BELINDA L. TALTON to be appointed administrator of the estate of JAMES OATES, 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 DECEMBER 19, 2025.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with our objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. KIM WILSON, Judge of the Probate Court BY: KATRINA CORBIN, Clerk of the Probate Court P.O. BOX 327, Fort Valley, GA 31030 478-825-2313 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 2025 3609

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM FEDRICK KELSAY, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7190

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 of the estate of WILLIAM FEDRICK KELSAY, 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 DECEMBER 3, 2025.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with our objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. KIM WILSON, Judge of the Probate Court BY: KATRINA CORBIN, Clerk of the Probate Court P.O. BOX 327, Fort Valley, GA 31030 478-825-2313 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 2025 3594

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY

WHEREAS, Catherine Mariah Johnson, an Unmarried woman, as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, Lender which was dated 6/26/2024, and recorded on 6/28/2024, in Instrument No.: Deed Book 00725, Page 0221, securing the payment of a Note in the amount of \$145,604.00 in Peach County, Georgia Register of Deeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable

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.

as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 1/6/2026 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash During the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Peach County, Georgia of Peach, the following described property situated in Peach County, Georgia, to wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 214 OF THE NINTH (9TH) LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "PROPERTY OF CORENE R. STANLEY & ANDREW STANLEY", DATED JANUARY 25, 1972, PREPARED BY MILTON V. BECKHAM, G.R.L.S. NO. 1031, A COPY OF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 82, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE FOR ALL PURPOSES.

THIS CONVEYANCE AND THE WARRANTIES HEREINAFTER CONTAINED ARE MADE SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL RESTRICTIONS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY AFFECTING SAID DESCRIBED PROPERTY IN ADDITION TO RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS CONTAINED IN INSTRUMENT OF RECORD IN DEED BOOK 11, PAGES 427-431, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. Tax Parcel ID: F04A-007

Being real property commonly known as 121 HARTLEY STREET, FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower.

Except to the extent that the Holder may bind and obligate Mortgagees to warrant title to the Property under the terms of the Security Deed, conveyance of the Property shall be made without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied. All sales are "as is", "where is".

The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or substitute Trustee.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows:

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 1600 South Douglass Road, Suite 200-A Anaeheim, CA 92806, Telephone No.: 800-561-4567

The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein. Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Catherine Mariah Johnson Attorney Contact: Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peachtree Corners, GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax: 404-738-1558 TS # 25-36086

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

11/05, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/03, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31, 2025 3591 (25-36086)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF EMILY CLAIRE HOUSER-DODD, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7181

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

EMILY CLAIRE GRIFFIN has petitioned for EMILY CLAIRE GRIFFIN to be appointed administrator of the estate of EMILY CLAIRE HOUS-

ER-DODD, 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 DECEMBER 19, 2025.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with our objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. KIM WILSON, Judge of the Probate Court BY: KATRINA CORBIN, Clerk of the Probate Court P.O. BOX 327, Fort Valley, GA 31030 478-825-2313 11/26, 12/4, 12/10, 12/17, 2025 3607

Notice of Foreclosure STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH NOTICE OF FORCLOSURE OF THE RIGHT TO REDEEM JAMES DEAN OGLESBY & ROYE DEAN OGLESBY This is notice to: JAMES DEAN OGLESBY & ROYE DEAN OGLESBY, and/or Occupant, All The World and anyone holding any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the below listed property: 526 Edgewater Drive; Parcel # 033 099

To Whom It May Concern: This is Notice that Jose Francisco Munguia of Peach County, tax sale deed holder, hereby gives Notice that he intends to forever foreclose the right to redeem the following described property to wit:

Legal Description: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 182 of the 6th Land District of Peach County, Georgia, being shown and designated as Lot 2111, Section 2, Phase 2, of Edgewater Estates Subdivision, according to a plat of record in Plat Book 19, Page 287, Peach County Records. Said Lot has such location, size, shape, metes, bounds and dimensions as shown on said plat which by reference thereto is made a part hereof in aid of a more complete and accurate description. Deed Reference: Deed Book 25, Page 151, Peach County Records. Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record. As described in Deed Book 525 Page 622. Further described as Map Parcel 033 099.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the July 2, 2024 and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of PEACH County, Georgia, in Deed Book 728 Page 160. The tax deed may be redeemed to the following address anytime before the statutory redemption period expires at the end of this notice, or December 26, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. whichever is sooner.

Jose Francisco Munguia c/o Michelle Smith Attorney at Law P.O. Box 8633 Warner Robins, GA 31095, (478)953-3661. OCGA §§ 48-4-40 to 48-4-48 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 2025 3617

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF MAHIN POURYAGHMA, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-PRO-7198

NOTICE IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above referenced estate having been duly filed.

TO: ANY UNKNOWN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before DECEMBER 19, 2025.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number 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 Katrina Corbin, Chief Clerk of the Probate Court 205 West Church Street Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 478-825-2313 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 2025 3608

STATE OF GEORGIA CITY OF FORT VALLEY TO: WILLIE C. TAYLOR AND HEIRS OF WILLIE C. TAYLOR

The City of Fort Valley has filed nuisance abatement complaint against you for the repair or removal of the structure located at 723 Pine Street, Fort Valley, Georgia. A hearing on the matter will be held in the Municipal Court for the City of Fort Valley on December 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 204 West Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia.

James E. Elliott, Jr Attorney for City of Fort Valley Butler Snow LLP 577 Mulberry Street, Suite 1225 Macon, Georgia 31201 Telephone: (478) 238-1353 Facsimile: (478)238-1351 Email: jim.elliott@butlersnow.com 11/26, 12/3, 2025 3611 (061834.248325)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 25-V-0228

LYNDSY WHITE, PLAINTIFF, V. JUSTIN WHITE, DEFENDANT NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

By Order of Service of Publication dated 7th day of November, 2025, you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of June, 2025, the above named Plaintiff filed suit against the Petition for Divorce.

You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, and to serve upon the Plaintiff, Lyndsey White at this address an Answer to the complaint in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Publication. Witness, the Honorable Ken Smith, Judge of this Court. This 7th day of November, 2025. Whitney Nelson, Clerk, Superior Court of Peach County Deputy 11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 2025 3602

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS All creditors of the estate of Jerry Clayton Bryan, late of Peach County, Georgia, 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 31st day of October, 2025. Jeffery Todd Bryan 510 Valley View Dr. Fort Valley, GA 31030 Thomas M. Green Spivey Pope Green LLC P.O. Box 899 Macon, GA 31202-0899 (53379.001) 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 2025 3595

VEHICLES – NOTICE OF SALE Underwood's Towing, Inc will sell the following court ordered vehicles to the highest bidder on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM at the office of Underwood's Towing, Inc, 210 New Dunbar Road, Byron, GA 31008.

There is a \$25.00 paperwork fee for each vehicle sold. 2010 CHRYSLER 300, 2C3CA4C-D0AH208932 2002 TOYOTA TUNDRA, 5TBR-N34122S66108 2015 CHRYSLER 200, 1C3CCCCB-7FN576090 2013 FORD FOCUS, 1FADP3F-22DL31950 2008 JEEP CHEROKEE, 1J8G-S48K88C235335 2016 CHEVROLET TRAX, 3GNC-JLSB6L260286 2015 FORD EXPEDITION, 1FM-JU1H7TF26873 2002 GMC YUKON, 1GKEC-13Z82R190145 2004 CHEVROLET IMPALA, 2G11W-F52E149332412 1996 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS, 2MELM7569T600768 1995 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, 1J4FX58S9SC741655 2012 CHEVROLET MALIBU, 1G1Z-D5EU7CF370246 2019 NISSAN MAXIMA, 1N4AA6AV8KC381781 2012 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE, 1GNKVGED6CJ11630 1999 FORD MOTORHOME CHASSIS, 3FCNF53S3XJ17687 2019 FORD TAURUS, 1FAHP-2F86K6101308 2012 FORD FUSION, 3FAHP0H-AOCR158103 1997 CHEROLET DAMON DAY-BREAK, 1GBJP37N5V3312439 11/26, 12/3, 2025 3605

VEHICLES – NOTICE OF SALE Underwood's Towing, Inc will sell the following court ordered vehicles to the highest bidder on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM at the office of Underwood's Towing, Inc, 210 New Dunbar Road, Byron, GA 31008.

There is a \$25.00 paperwork fee for each vehicle sold. 2010 CHRYSLER 300, 2C3CA4C-D0AH208932 2002 TOYOTA TUNDRA, 5TBR-N34122S66108 2015 CHRYSLER 200, 1C3CCCCB-7FN576090 2013 FORD FOCUS, 1FADP3F-22DL31950 2008 JEEP CHEROKEE, 1J8G-S48K88C235335 2016 CHEVROLET TRAX, 3GNC-JLSB6L260286 2015 FORD EXPEDITION, 1FM-JU1H7TF26873 2002 GMC YUKON, 1GKEC-13Z82R190145 2004 CHEVROLET IMPALA, 2G11W-F52E149332412 1996 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS, 2MELM7569T600768 1995 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, 1J4FX58S9SC741655 2012 CHEVROLET MALIBU, 1G1Z-D5EU7CF370246 2019 NISSAN MAXIMA, 1N4AA6AV8KC381781 2012 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE, 1GNKVGED6CJ11630 1999 FORD MOTORHOME CHASSIS, 3FCNF53S3XJ17687 2019 FORD TAURUS, 1FAHP-2F86K6101308 2012 FORD FUSION, 3FAHP0H-AOCR158103 1997 CHEROLET DAMON DAY-BREAK, 1GBJP37N5V3312439 11/26, 12/3, 2025 3605

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DEMOND LAMONT LAURIE, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7187

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

YASMIN ASHANI ELLEN LAURIE AND SHARDAE LAJESSICA-CHERISE LAURIE has petitioned for YASMIN ASHANI ELLEN LAURIE AND SHARDAE LAJESSICA-CHERISE LAURIE to be appointed admin-

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DEMOND LAMONT LAURIE, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7187

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

YASMIN ASHANI ELLEN LAURIE AND SHARDAE LAJESSICA-CHERISE LAURIE has petitioned for YASMIN ASHANI ELLEN LAURIE AND SHARDAE LAJESSICA-CHERISE LAURIE to be appointed admin-

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 7A

istrator of the estate of DEMOND LAMONT LAURIE, 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 DECEMBER 3, 2025.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk,

and filing fees must be tendered with our objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

KIM WILSON, Judge of the Probate Court
BY: KATRINA CORBIN, Clerk of the Probate Court
P.O. BOX 327, Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313
11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 2025
3600

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 5th day of December, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the Peach County Courthouse, 205 West Church Street, Ft. Valley, Georgia 31030, a presiding Judge of the Superior Court

of Peach County will hear the case of State of Georgia vs. The Development Authority of Peach County and Southern Flavor Real Estate, LP, in the Superior Court of Peach County, the same being a proceeding to confirm and validate The Development Authority of Peach County Taxable Revenue Bond (Southern Flavor Real Estate Project), Series 2025, in the maximum principal amount of \$115,000,000 (the "Bond"), which is to be issued by the Development Authority of Peach County (the "Issuer") pursuant to the terms of a resolution adopted by the Issuer (the "Bond Resolution"), for the purpose of acquiring and leasing the below described Project and thereby furthering the public purposes of the Act, which are to develop and promote trade, commerce, industry, and employment opportunities for the public good and the general welfare within the territorial area of the Issuer and

to promote the general welfare of the State of Georgia. The Bond shall be issued for the purposes of financing or refinancing the cost of acquiring and constructing certain agricultural greenhouse facilities (the "Project"), and paying the costs of issuing the Bond. The Project will be leased by the Issuer to Southern Flavor Real Estate, LP (the "Company"), a Georgia limited partnership, pursuant to a Lease Agreement (the "Lease"), all in accordance with the Bond Resolution. The Company operates an existing agricultural greenhouse facility, located in the County (the "Facility"). The Company is undertaking an expansion of the Facility, which is to be used by the Company in its production of agricultural products. Such expansion is part of the Project. The Project shall consist of (i) a portion of the land owned by the Company underlying the Facility (the "Leased Land"), (ii)(a) the building(s)

and any structured owned by the Company that were constructed on the Leased Land prior to 2025, and (b) building fixtures and building equipment that were installed in such building(s) and structures prior to 2025 (the "Existing Improvements"), (iii)(a) additions to and the expansion of the Existing Improvements that was or will be constructed or installed on the Leased Land during or after 2025, and (b) building fixtures and building equipment that was or will be installed in such building(s) and structures during or after 2025 (the "Expansion Improvements"), together with the Existing Improvements, the "Leased Improvements"). The Expansion Improvements will be constructed and installed in phases, as more fully described in the Bond Resolution and in the Lease. In such proceeding, the Court will also (a) hear and determine the validity of instruments relating to and providing

security for the Bond, and (b) hear and determine such other questions of law and fact pertaining to the right of the Issuer to issue the Bond and to provide the security therefor. The Bond shall be a special and limited obligation of the Issuer, payable from funds provided by the Company or its successors and assigns, shall not be payable from taxes or other public funds, and NO PERFORMANCE AUDIT OR PERFORMANCE REVIEW SHALL BE CONDUCTED WITH RESPECT TO SUCH BOND ISSUE. Any citizen of the State of Georgia residing in the County, or any other person wherever residing who has a right to object, may intervene and become a party to these proceedings.

This 18th day of November, 2025,
/s/ SHERRY GONZALEZ, Clerk, Superior Court, Peach County, Georgia
11/19, 11/26, 2025
3604

Intoxicating THC from hemp to be banned in a year, with implications for business and consumers

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A year from now, people in the hemp industry expect booming growth in a black market for marijuana and illicit hemp consumables.

That is when beverages, gummies and other products made with THC from the hemp plant will become illegal.

Furloughed government workers will soon get their jobs back and low-income households will get food stamps, but the government shutdown that ended Wednesday with President Donald Trump's signature on a funding bill places a time bomb under the hemp industry.

The new law will ban over 95% of hemp extract products, including most non-intoxicating products made with cannabidiol, or CBD, according to the U.S. Hemp Roundtable, an industry group.

It will have far-reaching effects on hemp businesses and their consumers.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. slipped language into the legislation to restrict hemp products to 0.4 milligrams of THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, the

intoxicating, psychoactive compound found in hemp and in much greater concentrations in marijuana.

The law's passage effectively closed an opening by Congress in 2018 that allowed a flourishing market for intoxicating products.

A year from now, hemp products will only be allowed to contain 0.4 milligrams of THC per container. In Georgia, state regulations enacted after the 2018 federal law allowed 10 milligrams per 12 ounce beverage. Each gummy could also contain 10 milligrams, with a maximum of 300 milligrams per package.

"Our industry just got wiped out," said Joe Salome, owner of The Georgia Hemp Company. "Anything hemp derived that has THC is no bueno anymore," he said.

Salome said the impetus for the pending ban was growing concern about the proliferation of synthetic cannabinoid consumables, including poorly labeled products from China, made with potentially unsafe processes and grown from crops that might not follow U.S. pesticide standards. Children were getting their hands on them.

Salome and other mainstream operators shared those concerns, but he regrets that businesses like his are getting lumped with the bad actors.

"My dad always said, 'You are who you hang out with,'" he said. "There are good actors and there are bad actors, but there are a lot more bad actors that brought this down."

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, commonly known as the farm bill, made it legal to sell products containing 0.3% Delta-9 THC by "dry weight." Georgia's rules also speak to that compound.

That is the loophole that allowed synthetic, highly-intoxicating products to flood the market.

"The problem is that the hemp plant contains so much CBD," said Gregg Raduka, a founding member of Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy. "Because the chemical composition of CBD is so close to THC, it doesn't take all that much chemical engineering to change the CBD into THC, but you can still call it hemp-derived THC. And therefore because it's not Delta-9, it's legal."

People in the hemp industry draw

parallels between the coming crackdown and what happened when the country banned alcohol, leading to a boom in organized crime.

"This is a prohibition bill. This is trying to send it all into the underground and it's going to be around no matter what," said Chris Karazin, founder and chief executive of Carolindica, a company in Raleigh, N.C. that manufactures and sells hemp consumables.

"It's not like people aren't still going to go looking for this product. You just now force it to the black market," said Karazin, who makes products for other companies and for sale at his own stores and online, with nearly a fifth of those sales in Georgia.

Raduka recognized an irony in banning hemp consumables.

"I'm guessing here that the marijuana industry is not interested in all the competition it's been receiving from the very high THC hemp products," said Raduka, who retired from a career in substance abuse prevention and treatment and has been testifying at the Georgia Capitol about risks of consuming hemp and marijuana.

The U.S. Hemp Roundtable says the

ban threatens a \$28.4 billion industry, jeopardizing more than 300,000 jobs.

"People are going to lose their jobs. People are going to lose their houses," said Christopher Lackner, president of the Hemp Beverage Alliance. "I know several people have second mortgages on their house because they were following the rules of the 2018 farm bill and creating this category and working with states to create regulatory frameworks."

Karazin said his business supports a network of suppliers, from makers of syrups, packaging and marketing materials, to landlords. Bottle shops and restaurants will lose revenue on sales of hemp products, he added.

But the industry has a year to work with Congress, and Lackner and other advocates are optimistic that they can find a way to allow the market to continue while eliminating unethical actors.

Salome was trying to be optimistic about that but worried about the future. He said he had at least 50 employees to pay and five retail leases to cover.

"We owe the bank a bunch," he said. "I hope I can keep my house."

Georgia economy suffers from lack of financial aid for low-income students, advocates argue

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Nearly every state in the country gives college students financial aid based on financial need.

Georgia is among the two that do not.

Advocates who want to see that changed contend the pol-

icy is harming the economy by reducing the number of college students who earn a degree after suffering academic setbacks, and by driving high school graduates to attend college in other states, forever forsaking Georgia.

Georgia has a lottery-funded scholarship, but HOPE is distributed based on academ-

ic performance in high school rather than financial need, and students lose the scholarship if their college grade point average drops too far.

That is what happened to Jordan Winfrey, a Kennesaw State University student who testified at a legislative hearing Thursday about the affordability of higher education.

Winfrey wants to be a nurse, in a state that needs more of them, but she struggled with chemistry. Her grade point average fell, she lost HOPE and now, a junior, she works 30 hours a week to cover the loss.

She has been trying to improve her grades and recover HOPE but has found that difficult while holding a job.

"If I were able to work fewer hours, I'd be able to focus more on my classes and see my grades

improve," said Winfrey, a native Georgian and the first in her family to attend college.

She said all her friends are struggling too, with some dropping out to work.

Taylor Ramsey, executive director of One Goal, which helps students like Winfrey, said fewer than half of high school students qualify for HOPE, and more than 40% who do wind up losing it in college, falling into a downward spiral like Winfrey, "when we pull the rug from under them and take away that financial aid."

It affects everyone, said Ray Li, a lawyer with Legal Defense Fund, a racial justice group. It drives up student debt, creating a drag on the economy when graduates must pay back loans instead of, say, buying a house. Georgia has one of the highest

average college loan debt rates in the country, he said.

And the lack of financial aid for low-income families is driving a "brain drain," he said, as talented students choose college in other states that will give them "needs-based" financial aid "because it is cheaper to go somewhere else and they're never returning to the Georgia economy."

Li said Georgia has the lowest percentage of high school graduates who stay in state for college in this region of the country. He recommended joining the 48 states that offer needs-based aid, by funding it with \$126 million in reserves held by the Georgia Lottery. He argued that Georgia would recoup the cost many times over in income taxes paid by graduates.

It is unclear how convincing

his recommendation will be for the Georgia General Assembly. Sen. Max Burns, R-Sylvania, attended Thursday's hearing as a member of the committee studying college affordability. He suggested another course: consider making it easier for students to recover HOPE after their grades drop too far.

"Good students have challenges especially in that first year or that second year," said Burns, chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee and a former President of Gordon State College in Barnesville.

Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, a Republican running for governor, authorized the study committee. Sen. Nan Orrock, D-Atlanta, who leads it, said her panel will write formal recommendations after its next and final hearing Dec. 2.

Lawmakers consider ways to reduce chronic absenteeism

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia students who miss too much school could wind up losing their rights to drive or to play sports.

Those were among the recommendations of a legislative study committee that completed its work Thursday.

A growing number of students are missing a tenth or more of each school year, a problem exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

If left unchecked, it will become a major problem for the state, said Sen. John F. Kennedy, R-Macon, who led the committee.

"It's all about the kids, but it's also an economic issue for the state of Georgia. It is a workforce issue for the state of Georgia," said Kennedy, who stepped down this summer as the Senate president pro tem to run for lieutenant governor.

The bipartisan committee voted unanimously on a host of recommendations that could turn into legislation.

Among the proposals were punitive approaches, including temporary suspension of licenses and of participation in team sports for chronically absent students. There were also recommendations that require more support for families, mandating that schools intervene thoroughly before referring students to juvenile court.

The lawmakers also talked of banning cellphones in high schools.

Sen. Shawn Still, R-Johns Creek, the majority caucus chair of the Senate, said chronic absenteeism will join literacy and social media as the top three educational concerns next year.

Another Senate study committee recently concluded its research into the impact of social media and smartphones on Georgia children.

That committee was convened after tech companies sued to

block a new state law that sought to limit their access to children.

That committee has yet to issue recommendations, but co-chair Sen. Sally Harrell, D-Atlanta, talked of targeting social media algorithms and of including high schools in the state's ban on cellphones in elementary and middle schools, which takes effect next fall.

The members of the absenteeism study committee heard from national, regional and state experts about the manifold causes of absenteeism. Poverty and the fear of bullying were top reasons.

On Thursday, Carol Lewis, the president and CEO of Communities in Schools of Georgia, described fundamental unmet needs.

Providing feminine hygiene products had improved attendance, she said, adding that a lack of clothing and washing machines were another obstacle.

Lewis, whose nonprofit supports students at risk of dropping out in a quarter of Georgia's school districts, described one

student who collected rainwater to wash his clothes.

She asked the senators to imagine a child who had to sleep in school clothes with a bed-wetting little brother.

"You know what you smell like, and you're having to sit in class all day," Lewis said. "They're going to try to find a way not to be there. And that happens regularly."

Another nonprofit that offers mental health services in a handful of Georgia middle and high schools said anxiety was a common unaddressed problem. Dr. Juliana Chen, the chief medical officer for Cartwheel Care, asked lawmakers to increase funding to cover services in elementary schools, as well.

When Still calculated that the additional cost of \$20,000 for each of Georgia's more than 1,800 elementary schools would pencil out to \$34 million for the state budget, Democrat RaShaun Kemp of Atlanta was stunned.

"That is a large amount," the senator said.

Georgia's Capitol Beat NewsMatch matching donation program has started!

Georgia needs Capitol Beat. Capitol Beat needs you.

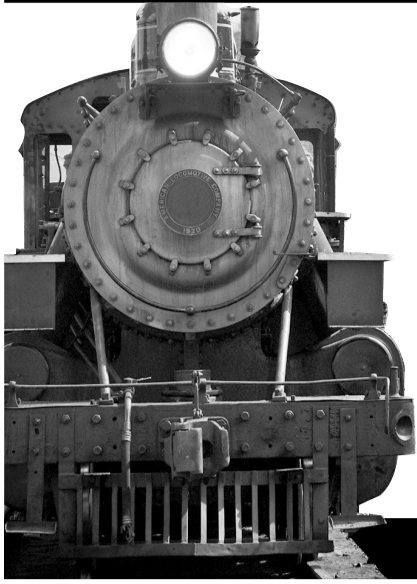
Capitol Beat can't exist without reader support. Donate today to see your donation doubled!



News Match

- Donations made between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 by individuals will be matched dollar for dollar by NewsMatch.
- Checks dated between the campaign dates can be made to Georgia Press Educational Foundation with "Capitol Beat" in the subject line and mailed to Georgia Press Association, P.O. Box 4003, Marietta, Ga. 30061
- Donations can be made via a cell phone with the QR code seen above or online

As a nonprofit news organization operated by Georgia Press Educational Foundation, Capitol Beat exists solely through the financial backing of individuals and organizations who support its mission to provide thorough, unbiased coverage of state government that news consumers can trust. Capitol Beat provides gavel-to-gavel coverage of Georgia General Assembly sessions and year-round coverage of the governor's office, statewide elected officials, legislative committee hearings, state agencies and the Georgia Supreme Court.



Hometown CLASSIFIEDS

Reaching Over 36,000 Readers in Peach, Macon and Dooly Counties

Place Your Classified Ad By
Calling Us At 478-825-2432
Or Fax: 478-825-4130

Deadline For Classifieds:
The Leader Tribune
- Friday by 5pm
The Citizen Georgian
- Friday by 5pm
The Vienna News Observer
- Friday by 5pm

CALL-A-PRO Businesses SERVICE GUIDE - Find Business/Service You Need

FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER
Carrier
Turn to the experts
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION • REPAIR
WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS!
WE FINANCE!
CUMMINGS HEATING & AIR
WWW.CUMMINGSHHEATINGAIR.COM | 478-825-0505

Office (478) 654-6500 Fax (478) 654-6605
Email bm141@libnat.com
Cancer can cost alot.
Our cancer policy doesn't.
<http://libertynational-knowles.com/>
Liberty National
Life Insurance Company
Since 1900
212 GA HWY 49N #1900 • BYRON, GA 31008

FOR RENT **FOR RENT**
St. Andrew's Court
6050 Watson Blvd, Byron, GA
1- and 2-bedroom apartments
For ages 55 & Over
Accepting application for the waitlist for Affordable Units Only.
Income restrictions apply.
As of 6/7/22, the market waitlist has been closed due to excessive wait times. St. Andrew's will advertise when the market waitlist re-opens.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

BUILDING FOR SALE - \$65K
104 Anderson Ave
Fort Valley, GA 31030
Alfredia J. Walker, Agent
Peach Realty
112 Commercial Hgts, Fort Valley, Ga 31030
478-318-4970
Email: alfrediawalker@gmail.com
Servicing Middle Georgia For 30 Years
The Agent You Can Depend On!

RUUD Bradshaw's Heating & Air
WE'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR 30 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG. Jonathan Quick
Office (478)825-0068 Cell (478)951-4763
401 Green Street Fort Valley, GA

Hale Groves
CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
SAVE OVER 52%
REG. \$49.99 NOW \$34.99 +\$7.99 shipping
#483X | HALE SELECT DELUXE GIFT BOX
888-740-9507
HaleGroves.com/H6YG54
Use Code H6YG54

Physical Medicine & Injury Center
Dr. Curt J. Blabaum
Se Habla Espanol
Chiropractic & Massage
Accident & Injury Center
478-956-2388
218 Ga Hwy 49 N Byron, GA
fax 478-956-2389

This Space is Reserved for YOU....
Call today to place your business in the Call-A-Pro Directory...
Make your ad dollars count.
(478) 825-2432

Butcher's Deluxe Package 61% OFF
4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
4 Air-Chilled Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
8 FREE Omaha Steaks Smash Burgers (3.2 oz.)
79797ZED separately \$227.04
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$89.99
Go to OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe2795
1.866.411.5403 Ask for Offer 79797ZED

Georgia STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
Publish your classified ad in more than 60 Georgia newspapers for only \$350.
Call Georgia Newspaper Service: 770-454-6776
GNS
AFFILIATE OF THE GEORGIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

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 11/30/25

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

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
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

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-781-0206

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

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!

HOME BREAK-INS take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-833-890-1269

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-877-740-0337

MISCELLANEOUS
When you want the best, you want Omaha Steaks! 100% guaranteed and delivered to your door! Our Butcher's Deluxe Package comes with 8 FREE Omaha Steaks. Smash Burgers ONLY \$89.99. Call 1-866-411-5403 and mention code 79797ZED or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe2795

BANKRUPTCY RELIEF! Help stop Creditor Harassment, Collection Calls, Repossession and Legal Actions! Speak to a Professional Attorney and Get the Help You NEED! Call NOW 855-968-5222

BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist. 844-797-7162

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

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children and preventing abduction. Accepting Cars, Trucks and Vans. Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not Maximum Tax Donation - Call (888) 515-3813

TV/INTERNET
Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-369-1468

COMPUTER ISSUES? FREE DIAGNOSIS BY GEEKS ON SITE! Virus Removal, Data Recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY \$20 OFF ANY SERVICE with coupon 42522! Restrictions apply. 844-739-4842

WANTED
We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-399-2113

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-833-641-6792

Help Wanted? Place your ad in The Leader Tribune Classified section. 478-825-2432

GOT ITEMS? Place your ad in The Leader Tribune 478-825-2432

GEORGIA PUBLIC NOTICE.COM
IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW.
All of Georgia's Legal Notices on ONE Website
400,000
Legal notices a year
One-stop site to search
Public Hearings • Foreclosures • Election Notices
Construction Bids • And more right at your fingertips
Public Notice is for you - when you need to know.
PROVIDED BY:
GEORGIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

Trojans Roll Through Weekend With Back-to-Back Wins, Improve to 3-1

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The Peach County Trojans boys' basketball team delivered a statement last week, securing two convincing victories and building momentum heading into a busy three-game stretch at home. With strong defensive efforts, balanced contributions, and timely scoring, the Trojans now sit at 3-1 on the young season.

Trojans Handle Taylor County, 67-50

On Friday, November 28, Peach County hosted Taylor County and controlled the game from start to finish, earning a 67-50 win in front of an energized home crowd.

The Trojans attacked the glass relentlessly, finishing with 34 total rebounds, including 10 offensive boards, which helped fuel second-chance

scoring opportunities. Peach County also showcased its defensive toughness, recording 7 steals and 9 blocks as a team.

Several players made key contributions:

- Jamar Johnson (So.) provided steady effort with 3 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals, impacting the game on both ends.
- Javon Mike (So.) added 3 rebounds, 7 assists, and 3 blocks, serving as an important playmaker and rim protector.
- Christian Askew (So.) chipped in 4 rebounds and a steal off the bench.
- Jackson Warlick (Jr.) grabbed 4 rebounds and tallied 4 steals, energizing the defense.
- Rowan Woodrich (Jr.) was one of the night's biggest difference-makers, posting 5 points, 12 rebounds, and 7 steals, dominating the interior and defensive lanes.
- Cole Kannady (Jr.) added 4 boards, 2 assists,

and a steal to round out the team's balanced performance.

The Trojans' hustle and depth ultimately overwhelmed Taylor County, securing their second win of the season.

Peach County Takes Down Johnson (Savannah) in HypeSouth Showcase

Returning to action on Saturday, November 29, Peach County stepped onto a regional stage in the HypeSouth Showcase, facing Johnson High School out of Savannah. The Trojans rose to the challenge, grinding out a 58-49 victory.

Despite the quick turnaround from Friday night, Peach County's defensive intensity again proved to be the deciding factor. Key stops late in the game allowed the Trojans to maintain control as they closed out the weekend sweep.

The win marked Peach County's third straight

victory, improving them to 3-1 overall.

Busy Week Ahead in Fort Valley

The Trojans won't have much time to rest as they prepare for a full week of basketball—all three games at home inside the friendly confines of Peach County High School:

- Tuesday, December 2: vs. Northside
- Friday, December 5: vs. Houston County
- Saturday, December 6: vs. Perry

With momentum on their side and a supportive home crowd behind them, the Trojans look to continue their winning ways and solidify themselves as one of the region's toughest teams.

Peach County basketball is heating up—and Fort Valley is the place to be this week.

Wildcats Fall Short in High-Scoring Battle Against Kentucky State, 97-86

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

Fort Valley State University's men's basketball team put up one of its strongest offensive performances of the young season, but a dominant second half by Kentucky State proved too much to overcome as the Wildcats fell 97-86 in SIAC play on Saturday.

FVSU burst out of the gates with an explosive 51-point first half, taking a 13-point lead into the locker room. But the second half told a very different

story. Kentucky State responded with a scorching 59-point surge, overtaking the Wildcats and securing the conference victory.

The loss drops Fort Valley State to 1-4 overall and 0-4 in the SIAC, while Kentucky State improves to 2-3 overall and 2-1 in league play.

Guard Aidan Lambert delivered a spectacular individual outing, keeping the Wildcats competitive from start to finish. Lambert poured in 29 points on 14-of-22 shooting, attacking the paint

relentlessly and playing all 40 minutes. His production, however, wasn't enough to slow the Thorobreds' second-half rally.

Danny Delgado III provided additional firepower, contributing 14 points, including three makes from beyond the arc, while also grabbing 9 rebounds. Derek Delgado Jr. added 6 points, going a perfect 6-for-6 from the free-throw line.

Despite building early momentum, Fort Valley State struggled with turn-

overs (18) and cold perimeter shooting (6-of-27 from three). Kentucky State capitalized, pushing the pace and attacking the gaps in transition.

Jaylen Jackson and Meka Nnaji added 6 and 4 points, respectively, while the bench provided a solid boost. Tyler Pendergrass knocked down two timely three-pointers off the bench for 8 points, and Josiah Lawson added 7 points and 5 assists, helping keep the Wildcats within striking distance.

In total, FVSU finished with 37 re-

bounds, including 15 on the offensive end, but could not match the Thorobreds' late-game efficiency.

Despite the loss, the Wildcats showed offensive promise, scoring a season-high 86 points. As SIAC play continues, tightening defensive consistency and limiting turnovers will be key areas of focus.

Fort Valley State returns to action next week as they continue their search for the first conference win of the season.

Lady Wildcats Battle But Fall Short To Savannah State, 72-66

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

Fort Valley, Ga. — The Fort Valley State University women's basketball team put up a determined fight on Saturday, but a strong fourth-quarter surge by Savannah State proved to be the difference as the Lady Wildcats fell 72-66 in SIAC action. The loss drops FVSU to 0-5 overall and 0-4 in conference play, while Savannah State improves to 3-1 (2-1 SIAC).

Fort Valley State struggled to find early rhythm, trailing 14-9 after the

first quarter. But the second period sparked new life. The Lady Wildcats caught fire offensively, outscoring Savannah State 26-16 behind improved ball movement, timely shooting, and a renewed defensive effort. FVSU carried a 35-30 halftime lead, showing their strongest stretch of basketball this season.

The momentum evened out in the third, where Savannah State edged the Lady Wildcats 20-16 to close the gap. Entering the fourth with only a one-point advantage, FVSU found itself needing one more closing push. In-

stead, Savannah State delivered the decisive run—outscoring the Lady Wildcats 22-15 in the final frame. Missed opportunities and costly turnovers plagued Fort Valley State late, allowing the Tigers to seal the comeback victory.

Aaniyah Allen led the way for Fort Valley State with an all-around performance, scoring 14 points while grabbing 8 rebounds and dishing out 5 assists. Despite her contributions, the Lady Wildcats' 28 turnovers loomed large, giving Savannah State too many extra possessions.

Madisyn Ogburn added 9 points,

knocking down a perfect 3-for-3 from beyond the arc. India McIntosh matched her intensity inside, finishing with 8 points and 8 rebounds. Freshman guard Reya Johnson provided valuable minutes off the bench, scoring 9 points and adding 3 assists. Arieonna Booker sparked the lineup with 8 points and two three-pointers in just 14 minutes of play.

Fort Valley State dominated the glass with a 44-38 rebounding advantage, including 18 offensive boards. But shooting struggles (23-of-70 from the field) and Savannah State's late-game

execution ultimately swung the contest.

Despite the loss, the Lady Wildcats continue to show flashes of growth and competitiveness. With improved fourth-quarter execution and ball security, Fort Valley State appears close to turning the corner. They'll look to secure their first win as conference play continues next week.

The Lady Wildcats return to the court determined to regroup, refocus, and fight for that breakthrough victory.

Georgia election conspiracy case against Trump and indicted allies dismissed

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Nearly half a decade after it started, the election fraud case against Donald Trump and his fellow indicted allies has ended, with a Fulton County judge on Wednesday granting a special prosecutor's request for dismissal of the conspiracy case against the president and his 14 remaining co-defendants.

Peter Skandalakis, executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, wound up in charge of the case after the Georgia courts removed Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis over ethical concerns.

Skandalakis, who formally took over as the prosecutor less than two weeks ago, concluded that many of the charges would not stand up under free speech grounds. But he also offered pragmatic reasons, such as the fact that Trump would not be exposed to criminal prosecution again until after leaving office in 2029.

Realistically speaking, a trial could not begin for a decade until after the 2021 events that led to the indictments against Trump and 18 alleged co-conspirators, and it would likely take many years to conduct, Skandalakis observed.

"Continuing this litigation under these circumstances would neither serve the citizens of Georgia nor fulfill our statutory obligations," Skandalakis wrote in his motion to dismiss the case Wednesday morning. "Our agency is simply not equipped to carry out this case while meeting the essential duties required under the current budget—or under any realistically conceivable budget the State could provide."

He added that he did not think Georgia citizens would be

served by pursuing the prosecution for another five to 10 years.

Fulton County superior Court Judge Scott McAfee immediately issued an order granting the motion to dismiss, ending a case that started in February 2021 when Willis announced her investigation.

Her case was grounded in two main events: Trump's phone call to Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger asking him to be declared the winner in Georgia, and the convening of Trump allies who positioned themselves as alternative electors to those who cast their votes for Joe Biden.

Skandalakis detailed his reasoning in each of the charges. In some cases, free speech was a core issue. For instance, he wrote that Rudy Giuliani had told lawmakers "wrong and baseless" things about the election during unsworn testimony, but he did not think the circumstances merited prosecution.

"Criminalizing such unsworn testimony would have a chilling effect on witnesses appearing before the Legislature on important issues," Skandalakis reasoned.

In the case of David Shafer, accused of false statements to a prosecutor working for Willis, Skandalakis determined that Shafer had not said anything false or misleading.

In the events surrounding the breach of election equipment in Coffee County, Skandalakis noted that two participants had already pleaded guilty to misdemeanor counts. One of them, Sidney Powell, an attorney, had advised others under indictment that it was legal to access the election machines to gather evidence for a lawsuit. Another who pleaded guilty, Scott Hall, had arrived by chartered plan to supervise the work, conveying "the appearance of acting under the color of law," Skandalakis

wrote.

He decided it would be an "inefficient" use of state resources to prosecute the others after those two had already resolved their cases "favorably" through negotiations with Willis.

Then, there was incident at the center of everything that unfolded in Georgia: Trump's call to Raffensperger.

Mark Meadows, Trump's chief of staff at the end of his first term, was also among those charged due to his involvement in arranging that call and in observing election verification processes.

"The White House Chief of Staff's job duties are varied and fluid. We could have a debate if arranging phone calls, observing the signature-verification audit, or messaging an investigator to expedite the vote audit process falls within Mark Meadows's duties," Skandalakis wrote.

"While the call is concerning, reasonable minds could differ as to how to interpret the call," he concluded. Trump could have been trying to get Raffensperger to commit fraud or he could have believed he was a victim and was just asking Raffensperger to investigate.

"When multiple interpretations are equally plausible, the accused is entitled to the benefit of the doubt and should not be presumed to have acted criminally," Skandalakis wrote.

He wrote that he was persuaded by events outside Georgia, writing that the alleged criminal conduct in Georgia "was conceived in Washington, D.C." and that Special Counsel Jack Smith had been in the best position to prosecute Trump.

Smith, a federal prosecutor, had pursued criminal charges against Trump related to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on presidential immunity led Smith to move for dismissal.

If Smith, with all the resour-

ces of the federal government behind him, "concluded that prosecution would be fruitless, then I too find that, despite

the available evidence, pursuing the prosecution of all those involved in State of Georgia v. Donald Trump, et al. on essen-

tially federal grounds would be equally unproductive," Skandalakis concluded.



**NOW OPEN IN
FORT
VALLEY**
701 Bluebird Blvd
**NEW PATIENTS
WELCOME!**



**In-House Labs • Ultrasounds
EKGs • Women's Health**

ENJOY Telehealth
Online Doctor's Visits
MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED!

See us for:
**Sick Visits • Chronic Disease Management
Annual Checkups • Medicare Wellness Visits
And More!**

**Walk in anytime
or book an appointment!**

CALL 478-328-7674

CALL TO BOOK TODAY!