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# The Leader Tribune

## Peach County's Newspaper

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 07, 2026

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# City of Fort Valley Welcomes Newly Sworn-in Mayor, Council Members

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – The City of Fort Valley welcomed its newly elected and re-elected Mayor and city council members during their swearing-in ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Peach County Courthouse.

Newly elected Mayor Shakena Reeves was sworn in by Judge Willie Lockette of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, which received a standing ovation from the community.

Lockette thanked Reeves for asking him to preside over her swearing-in ceremony. He stated that being a civil servant can be a difficult endeavor, but he believes Reeves is well-suited for the task. Lockette then recited an old Irish proverb.

“May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warmly on your face. May the rains fall softly on your fields,” Lockette said. “In all the things that you do, may God bless you and hold you in the palm of his hand.”

Reeves then took to the podium to thank her community members and those who supported and believed in her. She named several individuals who have encouraged her to improve and learn, as well as to serve her community.

“This moment just shows the unity that’s in this community – no matter where you from, where you live, where you work – if you have a heart to stand up and serve your people, this community has shown that they will back you and I thank you,” Reeves said. “I ask you to please keep me in your prayers. I ask you to collaborate with me so we can move our city forward. This moment represents love, unity, and a purpose. Tis the season to move our city forward. God bless the city of Fort Valley!”

Reeves previously beat Incumbent Mayor Lundy by receiving 60% of the vote in the December Mayoral Runoff. Reeves, a Fort Valley State alumnus, has worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and been a



Photo by Zoe Hammond

Fort Valley's New Mayor and City Council sworn in January 3, 2026.

member of the Fort Valley Planning and Zoning Board.

Reeves was floored by the number of people who showed up in support of the swearing-in ceremony.

“I’m absolutely just in love. I feel like I’m in a dream,” Reeves said. “It was so beautiful to see my community members all in one place and to be alongside my council members all focusing on unity, love, and prosperity for this community. So, I’m very excited.”

Reeves stated that her first short-term goal, as soon as she walks into the office on Monday, is to start working on the city’s finances – namely, getting the audits up-to-date and passing a balanced budget for the city. She stated that until the audits are completed, the city is in a bind addressing the current financial issues, such as the IRS debt.

As for a long-term goal, Reeves wants to focus on the development of a youth center to help

support the community’s children. She stated that while there are some locations available, many are simply out of most families’ budgets. Reeves wants a place that will encourage and challenge children academically and provide resources to families to provide support for said children.

“Thank you so very much for trusting me with your vote. I’m going to continue to work hard to support this community,” Reeves said, when asked what she wished to say to the citizens of Fort Valley.

Donald Williams stepped forward with his family to be sworn in by a previous student, United States Magistrate Judge Alfreda Sheppard of the Middle District of Georgia, Albany Division. Williams was a substitute teacher during Sheppard’s childhood.

After signing the documents,

**SWORN-IN  
CONTINUED PG 2A**



Photo by Zoe Hammond

Judge Willie Lockette and Fort Valley Mayor Shakena Reeves signing in her new mayoral status.



Photo by Zoe Hammond

Judge Willie Lockette and Fort Valley Council Woman Juanita Bryant signing.

# Four Puppies Dead, Woman Injured In Peach County House Fire

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

BYRON, Ga. – Four puppies are dead, and a woman was injured after a Christmas Day house fire in Peach County, according to the Peach County Fire Department.

The Peach County Fire Department received a call around 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25, regarding a house fire. Once the

department arrived on scene, they learned the house, located on Beaver Drive, had heavy flames at the front of the building.

It took the firefighters around 25 minutes to get the fire under control and nearly two hours to fully put out the fire.

According to the Fire Department, everyone was able to make it out of the building;

however, a woman, who wasn’t in the house when the fire started, was brought to the hospital for smoke inhalation. She is expected to make a full recovery.

While no one suffered any serious injuries, there were multiple animals in the home, with four puppies perishing in the fire.

The cause of the fire is currently unknown and is under investigation.

# Unidentified Driver Plows Through Yard, Destroying 3 Fences

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

BYRON, Ga. – A driver smashed through two yards and destroyed three fences in a Byron neighborhood early in the morning on Friday, Jan. 2. After causing the damage, the unidentified driver fled the scene, leaving the residents to clean up the scattered debris.

The driver allegedly entered the neighborhood around 2:00 a.m. from Gunn Road, crashed through the first fence, continued through the resident’s backyard fence, and destroyed another fence, their neighbor’s, before leaving the scene.

The residents scanned a code on one of the left behind car parts and determined it matched a Toyota Corolla, most likely being a model year between 2019 and 2023.

The Peach County Sheriff’s Department and Warner Robins Police Department are actively investigating this incident. Both departments encourage anyone with information to call either office at (478) 825-3435 or (478) 302-5378.

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

## Hunger Week of Service

Contributed

The Byron Lions Club are doing their “Hunger Week of Service” food drive January 3rd-11th and have collection spots for non-perishable food items at:

- Byron Welcome Center
  - Food box set up at Byron City Hall
  - Georgia Bob’s locations
  - Dixie Magnolia Boutique
  - Real Estate South
- You can also contact Lions

Club, president, Jennifer Cox, 478-737-4426 and Marlene Humphry 478-918-3666 and they can arrange food pick-up.



## Peach County Retired Educators Association December Meeting

## Juvenile Court Luncheon Held With Local Law Enforcement

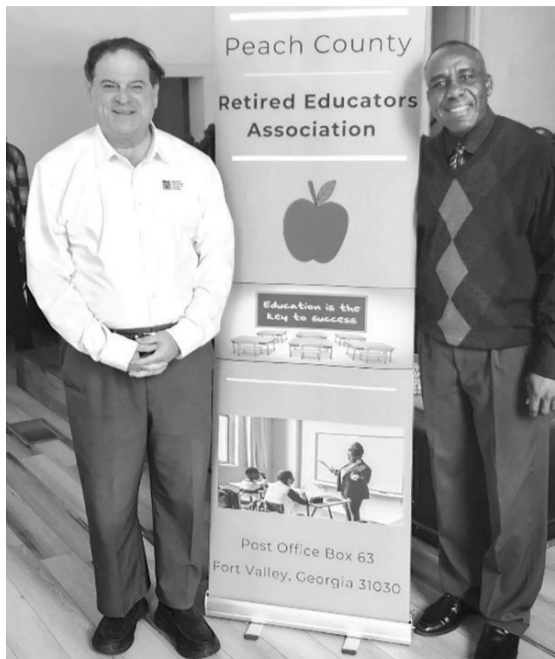


Photo Contributed

TRS Representative Mike Zarem and President Dr. Quintin Green



Photo Contributed

Investigator Lyndon Prater and President Quintin Green

### Hope Giles PCREA

On Monday, December 1st, the Peach County Retired Educators Association held its monthly meeting at Trinity Baptist Church. The meeting was called

to order by President Dr. Quintin Green, who led the singing of PCREA's theme song "When We All Work Together." The featured speakers were Investigator Lyndon Prater and TRS representative Mike Zarem. Investigator Prater shared safety tips

for the holiday season, while Mike Zarem shared data information and upcoming legislative information. The meeting concluded with a gift exchange activity, good food, and good fellowship.

### By Peach County Government

We are excited to share a few photos from the recent Juvenile Court luncheon, held in collaboration with law enforcement agencies across our Circuit. This gathering highlighted our shared commitment to working together to address matters involving juveniles in our community.

During the luncheon, Deputy Chief ADA Alveta Watkins led an informative discussion with officers from the Peach County Sheriff's Department, Crawford County Sheriff's Department, and Fort Valley State University. The conversation offered valuable insight into Juvenile Court processes and strengthened inter-agency communication and partnerships.

We are proud of the collaborative efforts of our local agencies in supporting youth and fostering positive community outcomes.

*Pictured (left to right): Carter Watts, Regional Case Expeditor,*



Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice; Sheriff Lewis Walker, Crawford County Sheriff's Department; Alveta Watkins, Deputy Chief ADA, Macon Judicial Circuit; Kawain Reese, Peach/

Crawford Juvenile Court Administrator; and Sheriff Robert "Buck" Shannon, Peach County Sheriff's Department.

## SWORN-IN

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Sheppard turned to the audience and reminisced about her memories of Williams as a substitute teacher for her class, and Williams' stern but encouraging nature.

Williams thanked his family, those in the community who supported him, and praised God for this opportunity to better serve his community.

Judge Lockette returned to the podium to swear in councilwoman Juanita Bryant, who took a moment to thank those who re-elected her and supported her.

Alton Howard stepped forward and called Fort Valley City Attorney Jim Elliott up to preside over his swearing in. Howard turned to the audience and thanked the many people, both his family and community, for their continued support in running for the city council seat.



Photo by Zoe Hammond

Judge Alfreda Sheppard and Fort Valley Council Member Donald Williams.



Photo by Zoe Hammond

Fort Valley Council Member Alton Howard.

*In an emergency, you don't call the lawyers. As a trained paramedic and local businessman for over 25 years, I know how to keep cool under pressure and deliver results. I'm asking for your vote on January 20th so that I can save us from the cost of living crisis brought on by career politicians and greedy special interest groups. I hope I can count on your support.*

*- Eric Wilson  
Conservative Republican*

*P.S. Call me anytime on my cell with any questions at 478-461-0889.*



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### ERIC'S EMERGENCY FINANCIAL RELIEF PLAN

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- Ⓞ Quit Talking and Fight to Lower Costs
- Ⓞ End Lawsuit Abuse that Drives Up Insurance Costs
- Ⓞ Stop the Politicians from Inflationary Government Spending

**EARLY VOTE UNTIL JAN. 16<sup>TH</sup> • ELECTION DAY JAN. 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**PEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**6:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026**

The Peach County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Peach County Board of Commissioners Office, located at 213 Persons Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.

The purpose of the hearing is to notify the public and receive comments regarding an application for a liquor license submitted by Anaya Anvi, LLC. The business is proposed to be located at 205 South Camellia Boulevard, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.

*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**

Amerson, Daniel Lee, 41, Fort Valley, GA: DUI - Drugs Less Safe, Failure To Maintain Lane, Seat Belt Violation For 18 YO And Older, Possession And Use Of Drug Related Objects, Driving Wrong Side Of Undivided Street

Bellamy, Michael Kevin, 51, Beuna Vista, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Seat Belt Violation

Collins, James Lee, 58, Fort Valley, GA: Theft By Deception - Misdemeanor

Corley, Sandy Deann, 44, Warner Robins, GA: No Insurance, Knowingly Driving With Suspended/ Canceled Registration, Driving With Suspended License, Loitering Or Prowling

Creech, Victoria Nicole, 44, Macon, GA: Giving False Name, Address, Or Birthdate To Law Enforcement Officer, Theft By Taking - Misdemeanor, Theft By Taking - Misdemeanor, Fail To Rpt Striking Fixed Object

Foxworth, Senesta Rice, 53, Macon, GA: Window Tint Violation, Driving With Suspended License

Garcia, Alfredo, 28, Warner Robins, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits

Guzman-Perez, Eleazar Dario, 26, Haines City, FL: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits, Driving Without A License (Never Licensed)

Hernandez, Lucas Sanchez, 39, Byron, GA: Battery, Obstructing Or Hindering Persons Making Emergency Telephone Call, False Imprisonment

Hidalgo, Miguel Alejandro, 34, Byron, GA: Driving With Suspended License, No Tag Or Expired Registration

Isidro, Raymundo Aguilera, 46, Atlanta, GA: Driving Without A License (Never Licensed)

Louis, Ludz Whitnie, 29, Grand Rapids, MI: Driving With Suspended License, Unlawful Use Of Wireless Device

Martin, Jaylen L, 23, Atlanta, GA: Forgery - 1st Degree

Matlock, Shane, 44, Byron, GA: Defective Headlights, Obscured Or Missing License Plates, Possession Of Marijuana, Less Than 1 Oz, Possession Of Drug Related Object, Driving Without A License (Never Licensed)

Mcelroy, Amarion Emonte, 19, Macon, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits, Tag Light Required

Nguyen, Brandon Son Van, 40, Warner Robins, GA: Failure To Appear

Williamson, Curtis Lavern, 65, Byron, GA: Probation Violation

**Fort Valley Arrests/Citations**

Harris, Steve, 56, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor, Failure To Appear - Felony, Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Sturn, Quadry Dennis, 25, Naples, FL: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

West, Franekia Dashon, 26, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

**Peach County Sheriff's Office**

**Arrests/Citations**

Battle, Jarhett Derrell, 36, Macon, GA: Simple Battery

Creech, Victoria Nicole, 33, Gray, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Crowley, Mason Garrett, 18, Lizella, GA: Driving While License Suspended

Deed, Iquan Lashun, 34, Montezuma, GA: Theft By Receiving Stolen Property- Felony

Fackler, Michael Wayne, 60, Nashville, GA: Possession Of A Schedule II Controlled Substance

Gibson, Toni Erica, 44, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Herron, Tamara Diane, 56, Byron, GA: Burglary

Jackson, Calvin Thomas, 21, Fort Valley, GA: Parole Violation

Johns, Clinton Dennis, 50, Byron, GA: Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers, Noise Ordinance, Disorderly Conduct

Johnson, Marcus Duvall, 42, Fort Valley, GA: Theft By Taking, Simple Battery - Family Violence

Kirkland, Lynk Bryar, 54, Thomasville, GA: Possession Of A Schedule II Controlled Substance, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz.

Kolmetz, Jeffrey Lee, 45, Warner Robins, GA: Driving Under The Influence - Alcohol

Langston, Bruce Edward, 60, Byron, GA: Burglary

Lee, Tommy James, 45, Conyers, GA: Driving While License Suspended

Little, Demarcus Devantae, 28, Fort Valley, GA: Here For Court

Mangham, Alex Marqueze, 44, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Mccrory, Chandler Freeman, 39, Social Circle, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Mcghee, Kennedi Milan, 23, Fort Valley, GA: Criminal Trespass

Mcwilliams, Nathaniel, 24, Byronville, GA: Financial Transaction Card Fraud, Financial Transaction Card Fraud

Pace, Norman Dean, 70, Fort Valley, GA: Terroristic Threats And Acts

Pagan, Eduardo Junior, 27, Perry, GA: Simple Battery, Simple Assault Fv, Cruelty To Children In The 3rd Degree 3rd Or Subsequent Offense, Failure To Maintain Insurance, Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Simple Battery

Richardson, Darrell Jerome, 37, Byron, GA: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Multiple Substances, DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Multiple Substances, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Failure To Have License On Person

Robinson, Timothy Ray, 51, Lizella, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance

Ross, Michael Donovan, 38, Fort Valley, GA: Driving While License Suspended

Rumph, Wallace Dale, 59, Griffin, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Slaton Jr, Michael Sanford, 51, Byron, GA: Battery - Family Violence (1st Offense) Misd, Simple Assault - Family Violence

Thompson, Carrie Dawn, 41, Fort Valley, GA: Theft By Taking - Misdemeanor, Crossing State/ County Guard Lines With Weapons, Intoxicants, Drugs Without Consent

**GA State Patrol Perry Arrests**

Cervantes, Louis, 48, Fort Valley, GA: Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol - Concentration Is 0.08g Or More Within 3 Hrs Or More, Seat Belt Violation

Peach County  
**Community**  
**CALENDAR**

email: news@theleadertribune.com



**NOTICE**  
**PUBLIC MEETINGS**  
**City of Fort Valley**  
**Mayor & Council**  
**Meetings**

Location: City Hall 204 W. Church St., Ft. Valley, GA 31030  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Thursday, Jan 8, 2026  
Time: 09:00 A.M.  
Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 892 6132 8241  
Passcode: 267013

**WORK SESSION MEETING**  
Tuesday, Jan 13, 2026  
Time: 06:00 P.M.  
Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 889 0956 9802  
Passcode: 922212

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
Thursday, Jan 15, 2026  
Time: 06:30 P.M.  
Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 818 9152 5027  
Passcode: 648645

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

**American Legion**  
**Meetings**

Veterans, consider joining the American Legion Frederick 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. (TFN)

**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, SSL, TANF, Well child check, Dental exam, Ga public health 3300, Verification of income & housing. [www.mgcaa.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:mhumphry@cox.net)

**Byron Rotary Club**

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

**Byron Main Street**  
**DDA/CVB**

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

**Byron Tax Office**

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

**Call or Text 478-955-1999**



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## Tis' the Season to Avoid Getting Sick



By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

Well, it's wintertime. Which means it's also the time of respiratory virus season. As of the start of 2026, the U.S. has seen a mass influx of Influenza (flu) and COVID cases, with this season being the most severe since 2018.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flu cases are continuing to rise across the country. The CDC's FluView Map shows that Georgia – along with most of the South – is one of the states with the highest number of doctor's visits for respiratory illnesses that include fever plus a cough or sore throat. While the CDC states that these measurements, referred to as ILI, are not laboratory-confirmed influenza and capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms, the point stands that this flu season is shaping up to be a bad one.

The CDC's FluView system monitors doctors' visits for respiratory illness that includes fever plus a cough or sore throat, also referred to as ILI, not laboratory-confirmed influenza, and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.

According to an article published on December 30, 2025, by NPR, the National Public Radio, more than 9,000 patients with influenza were admitted to hospitals, up about 10,000 from the previous week, according to data from the CDC. To date, the CDC estimates that at least 7.5 million people have been sickened, and over 3,100 people have died from the flu.

I have yet to meet anyone who enjoys being sick, and it seems like this year's flu and covid

season is hitting people particularly hard. My husband caught it, and it stayed with him for roughly a week and a half. By the time his fever was gone and he could return to work, he was still exhausted and had a terrible cough. Trust me, you do not want to risk catching it.

With the cold weather comes a more vulnerable immune system, which means it's time to take some precautions. One of the best preventative measures is to go ahead and get your flu vaccine and get up-to-date on the COVID-19 vaccine. The Peach County Health Department provides these vaccinations at little to no cost.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting a yearly flu vaccine as one of the best preventative measures you can take to reduce your risk of flu and its potentially serious outcomes.

Now, a common complaint I hear is that someone got the flu vaccine and then got the flu anyway. However, it's important to keep in mind that there is a chance they were exposed to the virus before getting vaccinated or came in contact with it during the period that it takes for the body to gain protection from the vaccine, which can usually take up to two weeks to take effect.

It's also important to keep in mind that there isn't one single strain of the flu and that the virus is capable of evolving. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the flu changes yearly and as such "the vaccine is updated every year to protect against new flu virus strains that are expected to circulate and cause illness in the U.S."

An annual shot is the best way to protect oneself against the flu and COVID-19. However, there are additional ways to minimize your chances of getting sick, namely washing your hands often, avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, and practicing healthy habits, such as getting plenty of sleep, exercise, water, and nutrients.

Another precaution, and one that is somewhat divisive, is wearing a facemask to reduce the risk of spreading germs. It

**HAMMOND  
CONTINUED PG 5A**

## The Importance of Fiber



By Wade Yoder  
LT Columnist

Fiber can be one of your best friends when it comes to weight loss and slenderizing the mid-section, but there is a lot more that can be appreciated about fiber beyond its cosmetic effects, such as a cancer reduction risk and many more benefits. The National Cancer Institute found a 22% reduction in cancer if men consumed 30 grams per day and women 25 grams per day.

I like to think of fiber content as a good judge of a food's character; if the content is too low, (less than 5 grams per serving) the consumer should be aware of potential side effects! This is primarily for the carbohydrate group of foods and not so much for the protein and fat groups.

However even with the protein and fat groups, we should be sure to include plenty of fiber for the purpose of helping move this otherwise waxy glob through our digestive track and to help control our cholesterol. Carbs without fiber is almost like consuming pure sugar and this helps cause diabetes and rapid weight gain.

There are a few important things to understand about fiber and how the two types work that will help us become better judges of our foods. It helped me understand better how the two worked when I knew a primary difference between the two, soluble fiber will dissolve in water and insoluble fiber will not.

The soluble fiber turns into a sort of gel substance and puts a slight film through our digestive track which slows the absorption of nutrients down, which in turn keeps the flow of nutrients steadier when entering the bloodstream and avoids those spikes and crashes. Soluble fiber is the reason we can eat most fruits without worrying about a sugar spike like we do when we eat or drink processed sweets such as, sodas, fruit drinks,

sweet tea, candies and deserts, this is also the reason foods rich in soluble fiber are so important to diabetics and ones wanting to avoid diabetes.

Soluble fiber also has a cholesterol lowering effect!

The process: we excrete bile from our gall bladder when we eat foods containing fat and this bile helps our digestive track break down these fats. Normally this bile gets reabsorbed and used again, but if we can keep the bile from reabsorbing, it causes the liver to have to make new bile salts, and our liver makes this bile from cholesterol. So eating foods that have a high content of soluble fiber can be your natural cholesterol lowering statin.

The insoluble fiber adds bulk to our foods which helps us realize that we have eaten enough, which in turn avoids that realization about 20 minutes after consumption that we have eaten and drank about 500 calories too many. It also helps break up otherwise big globules of food that can slide into and stick in crevices of our digestive track. This insoluble fiber helps massage this old and new food up out of these curves and crevices,

helping provide us with a clean digestive track. When our body is absorbing nutrients from our digestive track instead of toxins (from years of built-up residue leaching back into our system) we will see energy levels improve and our defense against chronic disease!

Note: if you eat prior to a period of inactivity, this is an especially important time to only eat foods that have plenty of fiber. Liquid sugar drinks (including fruit juices, sports drinks) are a disaster to attempt at weight loss and are extremely bad for sugar spikes and crashes. Try to have 5 grams of fiber per serving.

Information exercise: do an internet search by entering Foods rich in soluble fiber and Foods rich in insoluble fiber, copy down these foods on separate lists, then surround yourself with the ones you like on these individual lists and you will be surprised how easy it is to get your daily fiber needs.

Soluble fiber helps us control sugar spikes and cholesterol, insoluble fiber is our food mover and the cleaner of our digestive track!

## How Can We Cap Property Taxes in Georgia?

By Chris Denson, GA Public Policy Foundation

Rising property taxes in Georgia continue to dominate kitchen table conversations around the state. As such, expect proposals to rein in property taxes to be at the forefront of the 2026 legislative session.

Home values, which have continued to rise in the wake of the pandemic housing boom, are now being layered with increased millage rates as local expenditures continue to grow. This is chalked up generally to "inflation" and includes not only city and county governments, but local school systems.

Hearing this explanation typically causes voters to observe they have had to "tighten their belt" in recent years for their household budgets, and question why their county or school can't do the same.

It's fair to conclude that for years a general political calculus at least kept the millage rates in check: While local elected officials determined the millage rates, the unelected boards of assessors were in charge of the assessed value. Essentially, rising assessments could do the "dirty work" of generating higher revenues.

Thus, as personal and commercial values continued to rise, local taxation debates would inevitably shift to whether the rollback rate – the lower millage rate that would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as the previous year – should be enacted.

In Georgia, local governments are required to provide notice if they intend to adopt even the same millage rate if it would generate more revenue than the previous year. Such an increase is typically due to rising value assessments.

At least in theory, rising millage rates can be rectified at the ballot box. But unfairly high property values force homeowners and business owners to go through a time-consuming appeals process.

In 2024, amid rapidly increasing home values, the Georgia Senate passed a bill that would have limited annual increases in home valuations for property taxes to no more than 3% per year.

Momentum for this proposal ultimately stalled and the legislature instead shifted to passing legislation which allows local governments to receive up to a penny sales tax in exchange for

a floating homestead exemption tied to inflation. Adoption of this measure by school systems and local governments has remained low – despite 63% of Georgians across the state voting in favor of it.

According to the Tax Foundation, as of April 2025, "about two-thirds of counties (64.8%), representing nearly 83% of Georgia's population, saw their school system, general government or both opt out. These counties tend to be larger and more economically significant to the state."

Notably, of the 316 local government entities that opted out before April 2025, the largest share were school systems. Of Georgia's 180 school districts, 123 (68%) chose to opt out of the property tax relief system.

Critics of the 3% annual cap on home assessments contended that it was unfair because it would disproportionately shift the cost burden for funding local governments and schools to new homeowners.

One alternative proposal using a similar approach is to place an overall cap on the property taxes that can be assessed in the form of a levy limit. Rather than focusing solely on limiting

the annual increase in home assessments (or millage rates), this would take both into account.

For example, instead of capping home values at no more than a 3% annual increase, this would mean that local government revenues could rise no more than 3% on an annual basis. If any resulting rise in values accounted for more than a 3% annual increase, the millage rates would have to be rolled back to bring the revenue increase under the levy limit.

In another scenario, if revenues from property values rose 2%, then millage rates could increase by up to 1%. Essentially any total up to 3% would be allowed.

The revenue limit doesn't necessarily have to be 3%; it could be a similar number or even tied to the cost of inflation.

In case additional revenues are needed beyond the annual cap, a local referendum can always be put to the voters to override the annual limit in time of economic need.

But as many homeowners continue to feel the squeeze on both sides of the property tax equation, perhaps the time has come to consider how to limit the overall burden.

## Yes, We Need More Auditors

Charlie Harper  
Guest Columnist

Career day in elementary school was a bit awkward. I was accustomed to blank stares from folks, kids and adults alike, when I responded to what my father did for a living. I could recite that he was "the Assistant Regional Audit Director for Health and Human Services". For much of my childhood I had no idea what that title meant either.

I can recall my Dad trying to explain it to my sixth grade class. "I'm an auditor". More blank stares.

Other parents had more relatable jobs. We of course, living in Fayette County, had a Delta pilot. I'm pretty sure we had a fireman. My Mom was a nurse. Dad did his best to explain his role.

Adults always had an easier time mis-understanding what Dad did. "An auditor? With the Federal Government? I always file my taxes on time!"

No, he wasn't "that" kind of auditor. He focused on government agencies, internally, for 22 years.

Dad switched his major to accounting when an injury cut his football career short. He went to work for the U.S. Government right out of college.

In those days, those younger and single got sent on longer

travel assignments. Dad got to spend about 6 months each in Alaska, then Hawaii, then Puerto Rico, with a significant amount of time traveling within the Pacific Northwest, auditing local Authorities receiving money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Alaska was his favorite.

By the time I came along, he was doing much shorter trips and only when necessary. I can recall him spending quite a bit of time going back and forth to Columbia South Carolina. He was the Government's expert witness in a prosecution of someone who had been misappropriating funds.

In later years, I recall a few stories about that trial and a couple of others. He was fully familiar with the role of someone who had to bring the receipts, literally, to show malfeasance.

He was also well versed in the arts of defense attorneys who would try to obfuscate the issue and/or throw him off his game. He looked at that as a challenge just as much as he did when he had suited up to football. He understood the importance of game day.

Those he worked with were a close knit group. My middle name is from his boss who had become a father figure after his

own dad had died. One of them was an "uncle". I am honored to have known quite a few of them.

I miss being taken to dinners when they got together to reminisce and tell old war stories. To a person, they were honorable. They defended the government's money as if it were their own, because it was. They understood that stealing from the government was stealing from taxpayers - Stealing from us.

Dad loved his job until he didn't. The last few years were challenging.

Expectations and workloads increased. The tools to do the job became more scarce. Competence in those newly hired was lacking, but those folks got promoted just the same. All those factors and more increased stress levels.

One of those in Dad's inner circle had a breakdown. Others had severe medical issues. Dad ultimately decided instead of trying to hang in eight more years to reach retirement that life was too short. He spent the next decade owning a hardware store.

When Dad left the government's employment in the early 1980's, the public was still capable of being outraged over spending scandals. Those my age or older can remember news

stories about \$600 hammers and \$7,000 coffee pots. The backlash was real, even if the cost accounting was just sloppy.

By the time I did a stint in a government contracting role about two decades ago, a procurement scandal involving tens of millions in documented fraud, waste, and abuse could barely get anyone's attention. I know this, because I spent almost two years trying to escalate the problem within proper channels. It was viewed as just the cost of doing business.

A couple of budget cycles ago, one of the priorities was to give the IRS enough additional funds equivalent to the cost of hiring 87,000 additional auditors. The stated goal was to make sure the right amount of money was being taken from us to give to the government.

The American people are now coming to the realization that systematic fraud has been occurring throughout the federal government. Those who have spent careers believing the "Defense Industrial Complex" is the only place money can go to be misdirected into private profits are enduring a huge wakeup call as to the size and scope of where our tax money is actually spent.

**HARPER  
CONTINUED PG 5A**

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A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

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### OUR GOALS

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

### HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### OUR POLICIES

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

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## Linchpin of Salvation



By Billy Powell  
Parables to Ponder  
LT Columnist

If Jesus had not been born to a virgin, He could not have atoned for our sins. The angel Michael said to Mary: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Upon hearing this, Mary asked, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" At that time, Mary and Joseph had not engaged in a conjugal relationship. The virgin birth of Jesus made possible the uniting of 'full deity' and 'full humanity' in one Person.

All descendants of Adam are guilty of possessing a sinful nature. Since Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, His virgin birth temporarily broke the unending chain of 'original sin' that has passed to all men. The Savior "was tempted as we are, yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus never succumbed to the wiles of the devil during His 40-days in the desert. At Jesus' trial, Pontius Pilate said, "I find no fault in this Man."

No human being can pay the penalty for another's sins. Let's say a convicted murderer is scheduled for execution. If another man volunteered to die in his place, it is conceivable that the volunteer could die for the murderer. Even so, this volunteer could not die for the collective sins of mankind—which encompasses individuals previously deceased, those currently living, and those yet to be born. In one fell swoop, Jesus died for all humanity. One drop of His divine blood was sufficient to pay the penalty for all sin.

Jesus was fully human. His hometown people recognized

Him as an ordinary man. They called Him the carpenter's son. Jesus had a human body: He "weariest" at the well in Samaria, He "thirsted" on the cross, and He was so "weakened" after the Roman beatings that Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry His cross. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared in a human body. The disciples touched His hands and feet; He even ate broiled fish with them. Jesus possessed a transcendent resurrection body and could suddenly appear and disappear.

Summary: Jesus did not have a human father, but was conceived in the womb of Mary, a virgin. She became pregnant through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was engaged to Mary, but had no sexual relations with her. The virgin birth made possible the uniting of full deity and full humanity in the Savior. Jesus is fully capable of assuming your sins and giving you a new relationship with God. He offers this invitation: "Behold I stand at the door (of your heart) and knock!"

\*\*\*Opinions expressed by writers on this page are their own and not necessarily those of The Leader-Tribune or its affiliates.\*\*\*

## Senate Minority Leader Speaks on Recent Capture of Nicolas Maduro

By GA Senate Dems  
info@gasenate Dems.  
com

Atlanta, Ga. — Senate Minority Leader Harold V. Jones II (D-Augusta) said the following regarding the recent capture of Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro:

"I strongly condemn Donald

Trump's reckless and illegal capture of a head of state in Venezuela, setting the stage for another endless war of regime change. An extended and unnecessary Venezuelan conflict will kill untold numbers of people, just like previous decades-long boondoggles in Afghanistan and Iraq. "Americans — Democrats,

Republicans, and Trump's own MAGA base — have repeatedly voted against these wars for the last 20 years.

"Georgia Republicans must immediately condemn this unconstitutional and dangerous action."

## Atlanta Set ion 8 adminis rator ad e d of fraud

By Ty Tagami  
Bureau Chief

### Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — An Atlanta Housing Authority administrator who oversaw a subsidy program for low-income renters, known as Section 8, has been charged with fraudulently obtaining some of that money for herself while also securing thousands of dollars in federal emergency and disaster loans for a business she owned.

Tracy Denise Jones, 61, of Atlanta, pleaded not guilty to three federal charges alleging she defrauded the government in connection with the Section 8 and COVID-19 relief programs.

Jones' lawyer could not be reached for comment. She was senior vice president of her agency's Housing Choice Voucher Program, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The U.S. Attorney's office for the Northern District of Georgia charged Jones on Dec. 19 in an alleged conspiracy that involved the mother of her two grandchildren.

The mother, identified by the initials M.D., lived in Jones' Fayetteville property, her rent subsidized by Section 8, according to a criminal information filing by prosecutors in U.S. District Court.

As a Fayetteville resident, M.D. did not qualify for a subsidy from the agency, which calls itself Atlanta Housing, the filing said. But, it said, Jones and M.D. submitted documents claiming M.D. was an Atlantan relocating to Fayetteville for her safety as a victim of domestic violence.

The criminal charges said Jones collected more than \$36,000 in Section 8 funding for the property over more than three years.

The Department of Justice said Atlanta Housing staff are "generally" prohibited from receiving Section 8 payments for their properties and that Section 8 landlords are "typically" prohibited from leasing to family.

The criminal information filing said Jones submitted affidavits to an Atlanta Housing internal investigation saying she had deeded the property to a business owned by someone else, but the charging documents said that person was "fake."

The court filing also said Jones

applied for and received about \$27,000 in disaster relief and COVID-19 loans for that same business.

Despite her assertions in some documents that she did not own the Fayetteville property, Jones claimed it as hers when she applied for a new mortgage, the court document said.

Atlanta Housing is among the largest such agencies in the country, serving 43,000 people in 27,000 low-income households, according to the court filing.

As a Section 8 supervisor, Jones was entrusted with "vast sums" of money for Atlanta's neediest residents, Theodore S. Hertzberg, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, said in a statement.

"But Jones allegedly exploited a variety of assistance programs and chose to line her own pockets using an alternate identity, multiple business entities, a false affidavit, and a cadre of associates willing to lie on her behalf," he said.

After her plea of not guilty, a federal magistrate judge released Jones on an unsecured \$10,000 bond.



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

### 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 harlowmatt@gmail.com https://www.middlegaanglican.org

### THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

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

### SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

### ST. JULIANA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 State University Drive across from the first entrance to FVSU. We hold morning prayer services, at 10:15am Sundays. Eucharist (Communion) is on second Sundays at 11am. Please donate to our Little Free Pantry on Charlesvoix St. behind the church (or take food if you are in need). For more info, go to our Facebook page or contact Anna Holloway 478-397-4678 and leave a text message.

## BAHA'I FAITH

"The well-being of mankind its peace and security are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established."

Baha'u'llah

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

### SAINT PETER AME CHURCH 502 State University Drive, Fort Valley GA 31030

Join us for a rewarding Worship Experience at "The Rock" each Sunday at 10:00AM. Our pastor is Rev. Anthony Dixon. You may also join us via YouTube and Facebook. Weekly Bible Study every Wednesday at 7:00p.m. Bianca Ballard (478)825-8452.

### SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030 Please join us as we continue to seek to save them that are lost! Our weekly schedule is: Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. Sunday Worship at 11:15 A.M. Bible Study at 7:00 P.M. - Tuesdays To contact us, please leave a message at (478) 825-7581 or send email to secretary@shilohbaptistfortvalley.org or write us at the above post office box.

### TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

505 State University Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 Trinity Baptist Church welcomes you to join us in holy worship service each Sunday morning at 11:00 am. Sunday School is scheduled at 9:30 am. and Bible Study at 7:00 pm. on Wednesday, currently on Zoom. (Contact us at the above number for Zoom access information.)

Also, we invite the participation of children in our Godly Girls and Champs Ministries. Godly Girls, ages 8-15, meets Wednesday at 5 pm; Champs on Thursday at 6 pm. in Church Annex. Transportation is available. We look forward to having you join us soon!

For additional information, call 478-825-7349.

### USHERS TEMPLE CME CHURCH

411 Railroad Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030. 478-825-5106. Join us each Sunday morning with Rev. Tawanna B. Harris at 9:30am for Sunday School followed at 11:00am with holy worship service. You may also join us remotely via Facebook Live. Bible Study held each Wednesday at 6:00pm.

## HARPER CONTINUED FROM 1A

It appears states are not just complicit, but actively engaged in expanding the theft. If we were to actually add 87,000 federal employees anywhere, I would agree that they should be auditors — just not those on the side of collecting the funds. The American people need

to have assurance that when their hard earned tax dollars are paid, they go to where they were intended- and achieve promised results. We need more competent and honorable people on the inside, doing that job again.

## All Public Schools To Have Naloxone By Spring

By Ty Tagami  
Bureau Chief

### Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — In a nod to the spread of opioids, Georgia is installing overdose reversal kits at all 2,300 public schools in the state using money from a legal settlement with the pharmaceutical industry.

Distribution began this fall in parts of metro Atlanta and in southwest and central Georgia. The initiative is expected to be completed statewide by spring.

"The opioid settlement funds give us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to turn tragedy

into prevention," Kevin Tanner, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, said in a statement announcing the distribution Friday. "Putting overdose reversal kits in every Georgia school is a practical, compassionate use of those dollars. It means we are giving our educators and communities a fighting chance to stop a preventable death."

The Georgia Department of Education is partnering with Tanner's agency to distribute training resources to school staff. State School Superinten-

dent Richard Woods said the partnership will ensure every school is ready for an emergency.

The initiative comes after Senate Bill 395 became law last year. Sen. Clint Dixon, R-Buford, co-sponsored "Wesley's Law" in memory of a family member who died of a fentanyl overdose. The law requires schools to stock naloxone — a product branded as Narcan or Evzio — and allows teachers and other school staff to carry and administer the medication on school property.

## HAMMOND

CONTINUED FROM 4A

seems like this piece of advice is considered controversial, even though it shouldn't be. Face masks are a great way to stop the spread of germs from one another, especially if you are or have been sick recently.

Wearing a mask can help lower the risk of respiratory virus transmission. When worn by a person with an infection, masks reduce the spread of the virus to others. Masks can also protect wearers from breathing in infectious particles from the people around them.

Many other countries use

facemasks regularly during the colder months to avoid getting sick or spreading illnesses to one another. Doctors and nurses use facemasks regularly to keep a sterile environment for their patients.

In some cases, this preventative measure can help save lives, especially for those who might be immunocompromised, such as people with chronic illnesses, children, and the elderly. You don't need to be high-risk to care about preventing infections. Even if you don't get severely ill, you can still pass the virus

to someone who could. Being sick can also carry emotional and financial burdens — lost workdays, doctor's visits, and disruptions to daily routines. A mask is a tool to prevent sickness — it's no different than wearing a helmet when riding a bike or putting on a seatbelt while driving. It's a sensible precaution that lets people go about their day with peace of mind.

Please take the necessary precautions and stay safe out there. No one enjoys being sick, and it seems this year's illnesses are definitely packing a punch.

## CMS Awards \$218.8 Million for First Year of GREAT Health Initiative

### The GREAT Health Initiative is Georgia's Rural Health Transformation Program

By the office of Governor  
Brian P. Kemp

ATLANTA – Governor Brian P. Kemp, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), announced today that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has awarded the State of Georgia \$218.8 million for the first of five years of the Georgia Rural Enhancement and Transformation of Health (GREAT Health) Program. This comprehensive effort will strengthen rural healthcare systems and improve outcomes statewide while introducing innovation and greater flexibility into the health system. Part of the federal government's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), the GREAT Health initiative was made possible following the passage of the H.R. 1 budget legislation earlier this year. Georgia's initial RHTP allotment is one of the largest to

be awarded among the 50 states. In the coming weeks, the state will share additional information regarding implementation timelines and next steps for the GREAT Health initiative.

"I'm thankful for the Trump administration's dedication to improving healthcare in America and for this substantial investment in Georgia through the Rural Health Transformation Program," said Governor Brian Kemp. "This funding will help move us forward in strengthening our rural providers while bringing cost-saving innovations to the state's health system. I also want to thank the hardworking team at the Department of Community Health that put together such a strong proposal, resulting in one of the largest allotments in this first year of the program."

The Rural Health Transformation Program allowed states to apply for funding to advance innovative, value-based health-

care models tailored to rural communities. Georgia's successful application positions the state to make historic investments in rural health infrastructure, workforce, and care delivery.

"Through the GREAT Health program, we remain committed to driving true transformation of healthcare in rural Georgia," said Dr. Dean Burke, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health. "When Georgia was presented with this funding opportunity, we sought public input to shape the grant process – because different rural communities have different needs. Also, this was the state of Georgia's application, so we wanted to ensure we had Georgia's input. This funding will allow us to advance transformation by supporting rural residents to live longer, healthier lives with access to more effective and higher-quality health care."

## Computer Fundamentals Training For Older Adults

By Fort Valley State  
University College of  
Agriculture

Fort Valley State University partnered with the Ocmulgee Regional Library System to offer computer fundamentals training for older adults. The program includes four 2-hour sessions designed to help participants build essential computer skills. The first cohort was held in Eastman, Georgia. The next cohort will take place in Hawkinsville in mid-January. Visit the Hawkinsville library to sign up for this four-day training.



## Sen. Ossoff, Colleagues Demand Answers on PFAS Clean-Up Delays Near Defense Bases

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

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff is demanding answers after the Trump Administration delayed PFAS clean-up plans around Georgia military bases.

Sen. Ossoff joined a group of Senators pushing back on the Department of Defense (DoD)'s decision to delay the clean-up of PFAS contamination that is impacting military bases in Georgia and across the nation.

According to the DoD data, PFAS clean-up plans will be delayed at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Moody Air Force Base, Robins Air Force Base, and Savannah International Airport, which hosts the Georgia Air National Guard.

Exposure to PFAS chemicals, found in consumer products and commercial applications, has been linked to cancer, thyroid disease, weakened childhood immunity, and many other health problems, and contamination is common on and

near many U.S. military bases.

"For years, communities contaminated by PFAS from nearby DoD installations in our states have waited for the DoD to take action," Sen. Ossoff and the group wrote. "We request that the Department reverse its decision, return to the previous timetable released in December 2024, and accelerate efforts to remediate confirmed PFAS contamination."

A list of the military installations in Georgia that are affected by the Trump Administration delays can be found below:

Installation Name. Estimated Clean-Up Date (as of December 2024). New Estimated Clean-Up Date (as of March 31, 2025).  
- Air Force Plant 6 at Dobbins Air Reserve Base - July 2028 - June 2032  
- Dobbins Air Reserve Base - September 2026 - June 2032  
- Moody Air Force Base - September 2026 - June 2032  
- Robins Air Force Base - August 2028 - June 2032  
- Savannah International Airport - September 2027 - June

2032

Sen. Ossoff continues working to protect Georgians from harmful chemicals.

Last year, Sens. Ossoff and Rev. Warnock delivered \$2.5 million through the bipartisan infrastructure law to help expedite the cleanup of hazardous materials in Macon, Milledgeville, and Warner Robins.

In 2022, during a U.S. Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing, Sen. Ossoff secured a commitment from Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to work with him to determine if PFAS contamination is affecting Georgians living in the vicinity of Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta.

In 2021, Sen. Ossoff demanded action from the Department of Defense to clean up PFAS contamination threatening the health of Georgia military families at Robins Air Force Base, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Moody Air Force Base and Savannah Air National Guard Base.

## AAA: Four Resolutions to Save Lives in the New Year

### Leading causes of fatal crashes are all preventable

By AAA

ATLANTA (December 29, 2025) – Every day, preventable motor vehicle crashes claim lives and devastate families. These tragedies are not accidents; they are the result of choices made behind the wheel. That's why AAA urges drivers to make safety their top priority in 2026.

In 2024, more than 39,000 people were killed in U.S. traffic crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. This sobering statistic is a clear reminder of the risks we face on our roads and the urgent need for safer driving habits.

"Safe driving saves lives, and this year, we're calling on every Georgian to make safety a non-negotiable every time they get behind the wheel," said Montrae Waiters, spokeswoman for AAA – The Auto Club Group. "Let's make 2026 the year we turn good intentions into life-saving habits. When we slow down, stay alert, drive sober, and buckle up, we're not only protecting ourselves, we're building safer roads for everyone."

On average, someone is killed in a car crash every 12 minutes on our nation's roads, primarily due to four factors: speeding, distractions, impaired driving, and not buckling up. AAA's "Crashes Hit Different When They Happen to You" campaign reminds us that all four of these factors are preventable.

2026 Driving Resolutions for

Georgians

#### 1. Slow Down

Speeding not only decreases reaction time but dramatically increases the severity of crashes. In 2023, speeding contributed to more than 11,000 crash fatalities, or 29% of all roadway fatalities.

- Why it matters: Sticking to the speed limit gives you crucial seconds to brake or swerve if needed. It also reduces wear and tear on your vehicle and can even improve your fuel economy.

- Your resolution: Make a conscious effort to obey posted speed limits. Plan your trips to allow for extra time, so you don't feel the need to rush. Arriving a few minutes late is always better than not arriving at all.

#### 2. Fully Focus on Driving

Taking your eyes off the road, even for a few seconds to text or adjust music, can lead to disaster. Texting while driving increases the risk of a crash by 23 times.

- Why it matters: When you are fully attentive, you can better anticipate the actions of other motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. You'll notice changing traffic patterns and potential dangers before they become emergencies.

- Your resolution: Before you start the car, put your phone on silent and place it out of reach, like in the glove compartment or your bag. If you need to use your phone for navigation, set the destination before you be-

gin driving and use a hands-free mount.

#### 3. Always Drive Sober

Driving impaired, by alcohol, drugs, or certain medications, seriously limits your ability to drive safely and puts everyone at risk.

- Why it matters: Impaired driving turns a vehicle into a weapon. The consequences are devastating and ripple through families and communities for years.

- Your resolution: If you plan on drinking, plan for a safe ride home. Designate a sober driver, use a rideshare service, or call a friend or family member. There is never an excuse to get behind the wheel while impaired.

#### 4. Buckle Up

Wearing your seatbelt is the easiest and most effective way to protect yourself from serious injury or death in a crash. This simple step takes seconds and saves lives.

- Why it matters: Seatbelts are designed to keep you secure in your seat during a sudden stop or impact, preventing you from being thrown against the dashboard, through the windshield, or out of the vehicle. This applies to everyone, no matter where they are sitting.

- Your resolution: Make buckling up an automatic habit for yourself and a firm rule for anyone who rides with you. Ensure that every passenger, in both the front and back seats, is properly buckled before you start moving.

## Lawmakers seek Lottery money for need-based college scholarships

By Ty Tagami

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A record number enrolled in Georgia's public colleges and universities this fall as the state's lottery continued to produce a windfall for academic scholarships, but a bipartisan legislative committee thinks too many students are still being left behind.

More than 2 million have received a HOPE Scholarship since the public lottery that funds them was established three decades ago.

To qualify, they had to graduate high school with at least a 3.0 grade point average. They also had to maintain their GPA in college to keep the money.

Many have slipped below that line, especially students from lower-income families. They must work while they take classes, leaving less time for studies. When they lose HOPE, they fall further behind, often failing to improve

their grades enough to recover the scholarship. Many then drop out.

So, a state Senate committee adopted bipartisan recommendations this week calling for Georgia to provide financial aid based on need and not just merit, like 48 other states.

"This is about affordability and about opening doors," said Sen. Nan Orrock, D-Atlanta, who led the study committee that concluded its work Tuesday.

Republicans joined Democrats to unanimously approve the final recommendations. Their report, released Wednesday, said Georgia should adopt a \$126 million need-based financial aid program that could be funded from \$1.7 billion in Georgia Lottery Corporation reserves.

Converting the recommendations into law could be a tough sell though.

Some are dubious about need-based financial aid, dimming prospects for such a measure in a General Assembly

dominated by conservatives.

For instance, the Selig Center for Economic Growth, a business think tank at the University of Georgia, wrote in a 2019 report that need-based financial aid "sometimes has been cast negatively as a social welfare program."

It said the state could face a shortage of skilled labor if nothing changes. A growing pool of highly skilled workers attracts employers that offer more skilled jobs, in a "virtuous cycle" of growth that the state should promote by spending more on financial aid, said the Selig Center report, which was co-authored by former UGA president Charles B. Knapp.

"Whatever views are held on this matter, the reality is that without a need-based financial aid program, Georgia is leaving potential economic growth on the table and shortchanging its citizens," said the report, which was cited by Orrock's committee.

But the HOPE Scholarship has produced a treasured legacy, and many lawmakers could be wary of drawing from its foundation in lottery funding.

On Monday, the day before Orrock's committee approved its recommendations, Gov. Brian Kemp lauded HOPE, noting that more than 2.25 million students had received one of the scholarships in the past three decades. The announcement came as the Lottery Corp. surpassed \$30 billion raised since its start, a portion of the proceeds paying for both pre-kindergarten and college.

"Since 1993, Georgia students from Pre-K to college have been set up for success through the programs funded by the lottery, expanding access to high-quality education in our state," Kemp said in a statement. "We look forward to seeing that legacy of impact continue for years to come."

On Wednesday, Gretchen Corbin, president and CEO of the Lottery

Corp., said at a legislative hearing that the lottery returned \$1.47 billion — a quarter of all proceeds — to education for the fiscal year that ended in July.

The money paid for HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships and also subsidized pre-kindergarten attendance, helping to drive enrollment in both.

Sonny Perdue, a former Republican Georgia governor and now the chancellor of the state university system, told lawmakers at a hearing last month that a record-breaking 382,000 enrolled this fall, surpassing projections of 379,500 by 2029.

"So, we are really beating the numbers," Perdue said.

But the premise of Orrock's committee is that Georgia could be enrolling even more students if they could afford college. Four-year college recipients of the Pell grant, a federal subsidy for

LOTTERY MONEY  
CONTINUED PG 10A

# Legals

## Legal Advertising Information

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

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

### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

#### GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY

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

This 22nd day of December, 2025.  
DERIC AMANDO WOODARD  
P. O. BOX 833  
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030  
ADMINISTRATOR OF ANTONIO MAURICE WOODARD ESTATE  
12/31/2025, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 2026  
3639

### IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

#### STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7207 IN RE: ESTATE OF

#### ARLIS TURNER, DECEASED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

#### TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

#### and to whom it may concern:

ALLISON R. HEARD has petitioned for ALLISON R. HEARD to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of ARLIS TURNER, deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before JANUARY 23, 2026.

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

KIM WILSON, Judge of the Probate Court  
By Katrina Corbin, Clerk of the Probate Court  
205 West Church Street  
Fort Valley, GA 31030  
478-825-2313  
1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 2/28, 2026  
3646

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

#### STATE OF GEORGIA CIVIL ACTION CASE NUMBER 25-V-0492

#### IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF JEREMY FORTE ROBINSON, PETITIONER.

#### NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Jeremy Forte Robinson filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on December 22, 2025 to change the name from Jeremy Forte Robinson or Jeremy Robinson Forte. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the petition was filed.

December 22, 2025  
1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2026  
3647

### NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY

WHEREAS, Augustus Gilmore, IV, as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED TO Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as Nominee for Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc., Lender which was dated 3/25/2010, and recorded on 4/8/2010, in Instrument No.: Deed Book 439, Page 160, securing the payment of a Note in the amount of \$177,959.00 in Peach County, Georgia Register of Deeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 3/3/2026 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 TYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 45 OF THE 5TH DISTRICT, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 67 OF CUMBERLAND SHORES SUBDIVISION, SECTION NO. 3, PHASE NO. 1, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 26, PAGE 150, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS,

WHICH RECORDED PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

**Tax Parcel ID: 053B181**  
**Being real property commonly known as 222 CUMBERLAND DRIVE, BYRON, GA 31008**

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

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

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

The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or Substitute Trustee. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 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, 500 N. State College Blvd., Suites 1300 Orange, CA 92868, 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 Augustus Gilmore, IV

Attorney Contact:  
Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC  
3000 Langford Road, Building 100  
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071  
Phone: 404-793-1447  
Fax 404-738-1558  
TS # 25-34106

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

1/07/2026, 1/14/2026, 1/21/2026, 1/28/2026, 2/04/2026, 2/11/2026, 2/18/2026, 2/25/2026  
3649 (25-34106)

### IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA

#### IN THE MATTER OF: File No: 7450-J

#### BABY BOY KITCHENS, SEX M, AGE <1, DOB 03/06/2025, CASE #111-2025J-101

#### CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE NOTICE OF SUMMONS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, **AMANDA DRAKE; WILLIAM KITCHENS; AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING TO HAVE A PARENTAL INTEREST IN SAID MINOR CHILD** YOU ARE NOTIFIED that the above styled action seeking the termination of the parental rights of the parents of the named children was filed against you in said Court on the 12/12/25, by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on the 12/4/25;

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED AND REQUIRED to appear before the Juvenile Court of Peach County, Georgia, at the Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia, on the 13th day of January, 2026 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. for a status hearing (attorney appointment only) and on the 24th day of March, 2026 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. The second hearing is for the purpose of determining whether your parental rights should be terminated. The effect of an order terminating parental rights under O.C.G.A. Section 15-11-284 is without limit as to duration and terminates all the parent's rights and obligations with

### Legal Advertisements

E-Mail: [legals@theleadertribune.com](mailto:legals@theleadertribune.com)

E-Mail Attachments: **Word Text Format**

Legal Fax: 478-825-4130

**AD DEADLINES: Friday's at 12:00 Noon**

Information concerning legals call: 478-825-2432

Legal ads may be sent via Federal Express for Saturday delivery. Legal ads may be sent via email to [legals@theleadertribune.net](mailto: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

respect to the child and all rights and obligations of the child to the parent arising from the parental relationship, including rights of inheritance. The parent whose rights are terminated is not thereafter entitled to notice of proceedings for the adoption of the child by another, nor has the parent any right to object to the adoption or otherwise to participate in the proceedings.

A copy of the petition may be obtained by the parents from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 o'clock am until 5:00 o'clock p.m. exclusive of holidays. A free copy shall be available to the parent. Upon request, the copy will be mailed to the requester - parents or alleged parents only. The child is in the present physical custody of the Petitioner, the Peach County Department of Family and Children Services.

The general nature of the allegations are termination of the parental rights.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that while responsive pleadings are not mandatory, they are permissible and you are encouraged to file with the Clerk of this Court and serve upon Petitioner's attorney, James E. Patterson, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029-1006 an answer or other responsive pleading within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE Judge of said Juvenile Court.

This 12th day of December, 2025.

Whitney Nelson (Deputy) CLERK, JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA  
12/24, 12/31, 2025 & 1/7, 1/14, 2026  
3634

### NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from LAKENDRICK BRYANT to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC. AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR MORTGAGE RESEARCH CENTER, LLC DBA VETERANS UNITED HOME LOANS, dated September 16, 2024, recorded September 17, 2024, in Deed Book 00730, Page 0046-0062, Peach County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$350,000.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to Planet Home Lending, LLC, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Peach County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in February, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 24 OF THE 5TH LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, IN THE CITY OF BYRON, BEING KNOWN AND DISTINGUISHED AS LOT NO. 16 OF PHASE III OF STATION SQUARE AT TIMBER RIDGE PRESERVE SUBDIVISION, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ACCORDING TO PLAT OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 29, PAGE 169, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT, WHICH SAID PLAT IS BY THIS REFERENCE THERETO INCORPORATED HEREIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF A MORE PARTICULAR AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF SAID LOT NO. 16 HEREBY CONVEYED. THERE ARE IMPROVEMENTS TAXED THEREON KNOWN UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING AS 135 TIMBER RIDGE BLVD, BYRON, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as 135 TIMBER RIDGE BLVD, BYRON, GA 31008.

The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: 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; matters which would be

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

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

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

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

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

disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of record superior to the Security Deed.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is LAKENDRICK BRYANT, or tenants(s).

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

The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Planet Home Lending, LLC, Loss Mitigation Dept., 321 Research Parkway Suite 303, Meriden, CT 06450, Telephone Number: 855-884-2250. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require a secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC

as Attorney in Fact for LAKENDRICK BRYANT

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

Attorney Contact: Ruben Lublin, LLC  
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100,  
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071  
Telephone Number: (877)813-0992  
Case No. PHL-25-05223-1  
[rslaw.com/property-listing](http://rslaw.com/property-listing)  
01/07/2026, 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026,  
01/28/2026  
3645 (BCNS 268307)

### IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

#### STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7220 IN RE: ESTATE OF

#### FRANK LEROY TRACY, DECEASED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

#### TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

#### and to whom it may concern:

MICHAEL LEROY TRACY has petitioned for Michael Leroy Tracy to be appointed Administrator of the estate of FRANK LEROY TRACY deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before January 16, 2026.

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  
PROBATE JUDGE  
By: Katrina Corbin  
PROBATE CLERK  
Probate Court of Peach County  
205 West Church Street  
Fort Valley, GA 31030  
(478)825-2313  
12/24, 12/31, 2025 & 1/7, 1/14, 2026  
3636

### IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA

#### IN THE MATTER OF: JUVENILE FILE #7455-J

#### G.D., SEX M, AGE 2, DOB 08/23/2023, CASE #111-2025J-102 CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE NOTICE OF SUMMONS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, **ALLISON RAINE BARKLEY-DUNCAN; JASON LANE DICKSON, JR., AND ANY OTHER PARTY CLAIMING TO HAVE A PARENTAL INTEREST IN SAID MINOR CHILD.**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that the above styled action seeking the termination of the parental rights of the parents of the named child was filed against you in said Court on 12/15/25, by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on 12/4/25;

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED AND REQUIRED to appear before the Juvenile Court of Peach County, Georgia, in Fort Valley, Georgia, on the 13th day of January, 2026 at

9:00 o'clock a.m. for a status hearing (attorney appointment only) and on the 10th day of March, 2026 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. The second hearing is for the purpose of determining whether your parental rights should be terminated. The effect of an order terminating parental rights under O.C.G.A. Section 15-11-284 is without limit as to duration and terminates all the parent's rights and obligations with respect to the child and all rights and obligations of the child to the parent arising from the parental relationship, including rights of inheritance. The parent whose rights are terminated is not thereafter entitled to notice of proceedings for the adoption of the child by another, nor has the parent any right to object to the adoption or otherwise to participate in the proceedings.

A copy of the petition may be obtained by the parents from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court at Peach County Courthouse, Fort Valley, Georgia, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 o'clock am until 5:00 o'clock p.m. exclusive of holidays. A free copy shall be available to the parent. Upon request, the copy will be mailed to the requester - parents or alleged parents only. The child is in the present physical custody of the Petitioner, the Peach County Department of Family and Children Services.

The general nature of the allegations is termination of the parental rights.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that while responsive pleadings are not mandatory, they are permissible and you are encouraged to file with the Clerk of this Court and serve upon Petitioner's attorney, James E. Patterson, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029-1006 an answer or other responsive pleading within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE Judge of said Juvenile Court.

This 15th day of December, 2025.

Whitney Nelson (Deputy) CLERK, JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA  
12/24, 12/31, 2025 & 1/7, 1/14, 2026  
3633

### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

#### STATE OF GEORGIA

#### PEACH COUNTY

#### IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBERT H. ALMON

#### ESTATE NO. 2025-PRO-7203

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons having demands against Robert H. Almon, late of said County, Deceased, to present them to me, properly made out within the time prescribed by law, so as to show their character and amount; and all persons indebted to said deceased are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 19th day of December, 2025.

Evelyn Almon, Executor,  
211 Morning Glory Trail,  
Perry, GA 31069,  
(478)305-3164  
12/24, 12/31, 2025 & 1/7, 1/14, 2026  
3637

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

#### STATE OF GEORGIA CIVIL ACTION CASE NUMBER 26-V-0002

#### IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF CHETKIA TIRISSA HARE, PETITIONER

#### NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Chetkia Tirissa Hare filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on January 2, 2026, to change the name from Chetkia Tirissa Hare to Chetkia Tirissa Hare.

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

This January 2, 2026.  
1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2026  
3651

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

#### STATE OF GEORGIA CIVIL ACTION CASE NUMBER 26-V-0002

#### IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF CHETKIA TIRISSA HARE, PETITIONER

#### NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Chetkia Tirissa Hare filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on January 2, 2026, to change the name from Chetkia Tirissa Hare to Chetkia Tirissa Hare.

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

This January 2, 2026.  
1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2026  
3651

### IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA

#### IN THE MATTER OF: File No: 7450-J

#### BABY GIRL PERNELL, SEX F, AGE <1, DOB 4/09/2025, CASE #111-2025J-097

#### CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE NOTICE OF SUMMONS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, **ERIN PERNELL, UNKNOWN FATHER, AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING TO HAVE A PARENTAL INTEREST IN SAID MINOR CHILD**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that the above styled action seeking the termination of the parental rights of the parents of the named children was filed against you in said Court on 12/12/25, by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on the 12/4/25;

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED AND REQUIRED to appear before

the Juvenile Court of Peach County, Georgia, at the Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia, on 1/13/26 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. for a status hearing (attorney appointment only) and on 3/24/26 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. The second hearing is for the purpose of determining whether your parental rights should be terminated. The effect of an order terminating parental rights under O.C.G.A. Section 15-11-284 is without limit as to duration and terminates all the parent's rights and obligations with respect to the children and all rights and obligations of the children to the parent arising from the parental relationship, including rights of inheritance. The parent whose rights are terminated is not thereafter entitled to notice of proceedings for the adoption of the children by another, nor has the parent any right to object to the adoption or otherwise to participate in the proceedings.

A copy of the petition may be obtained by the parents from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 o'clock am until 5:00 o'clock p.m. exclusive of holidays. A free copy shall be available to the parent. Upon request, the copy will be mailed to the requester - parents or alleged parents only. The children are in the present physical custody of the Petitioner, the Peach County Department of Family and Children Services.

The general nature of the allegations are termination of the parental rights.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that while responsive pleadings are not mandatory, they are permissible and you are encouraged to file with the Clerk of this Court and serve upon Petitioner's attorney, James E. Patterson, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029-1006 an answer or other responsive pleading within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE Judge of said Juvenile Court.

This 12TH day of December, 2025.

Whitney Nelson (Deputy) CLERK, JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA  
12/24, 12/31, 2025 & 1/7, 1/14, 2026  
3635

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

#### STATE OF GEORGIA Civil Action No.: 23-V-0501

#### DWIGHT AND JANICE CORNELI-OWS, Petitioners, vs.

#### A TRACT OF LAND KNOWN AS 222 DAVIDSON DRIVE, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA TPID: F04B 128 AND ANNIE LANEY, Respondents.

#### NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO RESPONDENTS: Any administrator, executor, heir, assignee or beneficiary of the Estate of Annie Laney, and any administrator, executor, heir, assignee or beneficiary of the Estate of Dorothy Lannie (Laney), whose addresses are unknown and may reside outside of this state and are entitled to notice of the above cause and any unknown or known parties claiming any interest in the land known as 222 Davidson Drive, Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia; TPID F04B 128.

By Order for Service of Publication dated December 15, 2025, you are hereby notified that the above referenced Petition to Quiet Title Against All the World and any known or unknown parties claiming any interest in the Land known as 222 Davidson Drive, Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia; TPID F04B 128, was filed on December 21, 2023, in Peach County Superior Court.

Any party claiming an interest in the below described property shall appear at the Peach County Superior Court within sixty (60) days from the date of the order for service by publication.

Any adverse party shall be entitled to have at least thirty (30) days after completion of service to file any pleadings

**LEGALS**

**CONTINUED FROM 7A**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-V-0146 EVERETT'S ESTATES AND REALTY, LLC PETITIONER, VS.**

**A TRACT OF LAND KNOWN AS 117 HARTLEY STREET, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA AND AS THE RESPECTIVE INTERESTS MAY APPEAR, TENANT OR OCCUPANT OF PROPERTY AND HERMAN HOLLOWAY, RUDOLPH HOLLOWAY, JR., AND ANY OTHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MATTY P. HOLLOWAY (DECEASED) RESPONDENT'S**

**NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION OF AMENDED ACTION TO QUIET TITLE PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A §9-11-4(f) (1)(B)**

TO: ALL OTHER PERSONS WHOM IT MAY CONCERN BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS ALL PERSONS KNOWN OR UNKNOWN WHO MIGHT CLAIM ADVERSITY TO PETITIONER'S TITLE IN AND TO A TRACT OF LAND KNOWN AS 117 HARTLEY STREET, FORT VALLEY, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA. MAP AND PARCEL NO. F04A005.

By Order of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia for service by publication dated the 20th of November, 2025 you are hereby notified that on September 9th, 2025 Petitioner, Everett's Estates and Realty, LLC filed an amended petition seeking to quiet title in its favor to the real property and improvements located at 117 Hartley Street, Fort Valley, Georgia, 31030 also known as Tax Map and Parcel F04A005 according to the records of Peach County Tax Assessor. The legal description of said land is as follows: All that tract or parcel of land situate and lying in the State of Georgia, County of Peach, City of Fort Valley therein, being described by metes and courses as follows: STARTING at a point lying on the Northeast right-of-way line of Hartley Street, which point of Southeast, as measured along the Northeast right-of-way line of Hartley Street, 730.4 feet from the center line of State Route No. 49; thence North 15 degrees 30 minutes East, 125 feet; thence South 63 degrees 13 minutes East 76.5 feet; thence South 15 degrees 30 minutes West, 125 feet to a point lying on the Northeast right-of-way line of Hartley Street; thence North 63 degrees 13 minutes West, along the Northeast right-of-way line of Hartley Street 76.5 feet to the point or place of beginning. Located on said property is one residential house. Said property and the improvements thereon are more particularly shown and described in a plat entitled, "Property of Bura James Marshall and Jean S. Marshall, Land Lot 214, Ninth District, Peach County, Fort Valley, Georgia", as made by Milton Beckham Company on August 28, 1972, being certified by Milton V. Beckham, Registered Surveyor NO. 1031, on said date; a copy of said plat is recorded in Plat Book No. 9, Page 101, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court, Georgia, which plat is incorporated herein and made a part hereof

by reference thereto. As described in Deed Book 29, Page 317. Further described as Map & Parcel F04A00. Said petition also names as Respondents: as their respective interests may appear, tenants or occupants of the property, Herman Holloway, Rudolph Holloway, Jr., and any other known or unknown heirs of Matty P. Holloway., Darrall J. Sparks, George Hamilton, Hallmark Terrace, LLC and All The World.

If you believe that you have a claim adverse to the Petitioner's Quiet Title Action Against All the World, you are hereby required to file with Clerk of Peach County Superior Court, and to serve upon petitioner's attorney, Charles E. Jones, 102 Peachtree Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030, an answer in writing within (60) days of the date of the order of November 20, 2025. Be further advised that you will lose all right, interests, and claims which you should or could be entitled to make or assert within this action to the subject property, as a matter of law, and you will receive no further notice nor be entitled to such notice. Witness the Honorable Ken Smith, Peach County Superior Court This 10th day of December, 2025 12/24, 12/31, 2025 & 1/7, 1/14, 2026 3632

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7174 IN RE: ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE ROWLAND LAND, DECEASED NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**Re: Estate of Charlotte Rowland Land**

All creditors of the Estate of Charlotte Rowland Land, deceased, late 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 are required to make immediate payment to me. This 23rd day of December, 2025. Tara Tourville, Esq. Attorney for Estate of Charlotte Rowland Land 446 S. Houston Lake Road Warner Robins, GA 31088 (478)333-6502 12/31/2025, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 2026 3643

**STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**

Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by DALROY RUPPERT to ARGENT MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC in the original principal amount of \$90,142.00 dated April 16, 2004, and recorded in Deed Book 300, Page 823, Peach County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE, FOR PARK PLACE SECURITIES, INC. ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-WCW1 in Deed Book 756, Page 297, Peach County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on 2/3/2026, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOTS 141 AND 116, 9TH LAND DISTRICT, PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOTS 29 AND 32, GREEN VALLEY ESTATES SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY THOMAS W. FUTRAL, III, DATED MARCH 9, 1999, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 21, PAGE 247-249, CLERK'S OFFICE PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE FOR ALL PURPOSES. TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 2003, SOUTHERN, MANUFACTURING HOUSING UNIT WITH SERIAL NUMBER OF DSDAL38435A AND DSDAL38435B, WHICH WAS FORMERLY PERSONALTY BUT IS NOW PERMANENTLY ANNEXED AND AFFIXED TO THE ABOVE DESCRIBED LAND AS A PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT.

**Said property being known as: 7980 HWY 96, FORT VALLEY, GA 31030**

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

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

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

Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows: Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. 3217 S. Decker Lake Drive Salt Lake City, UT 84119 800-635-9698

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

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

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE, FOR PARK PLACE SECURITIES, INC. ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-WCW1, as Attorney-in-Fact for

DALROY RUPPERT Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 13010 Morris Rd., Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Phone: 470-321-7112 Firm File No. 25-334631 – LIG 01/07/2026, 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026 3644 (25-334631)

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

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

This 15th day of December, 2025 Name: Oronda Smith Title: Attorney for Estate Address: 1115 Mt. Zion Rd., Suite 23, Morrow, GA 30260 12/24, 12/31, 2025 & 1/7, 1/14, 2026 3630 (PO# 118881)

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF RICHARD WALL WHITTINGTON, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-PRO-7009**

**NOTICE FOR DISCHARGE FROM OFFICE AND ALL LIABILITY IN RE: PETITION FOR DISCHARGE OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:** This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before January 16, 2026. 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 12/31/2025, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 2026 3640

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, CRAWFORD COUNTY AND PEACH COUNTY**

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Jason Moyer to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. dated July 31, 2017, recorded in Deed Book 362, Page 257, Crawford County, Georgia Records, and as modified by that certain Loan Modification Agreement recorded in Deed Book 374, Page 572, Crawford County, Georgia Records, Peach County, Georgia Records, and as modified by that certain Loan Modification Agreement recorded in Deed Book 374, Page 572, Crawford County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to US Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as owner trustee for GS MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES TRUST 2024-RPL3 by assignment recorded in Deed Book 757, Page 511, Crawford County, Georgia Records, and recorded in Deed Book 757, Page 577, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$57,000.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Crawford County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in February, 2026, the following described property: SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

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

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

US Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as owner trustee for GS MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES TRUST 2024-RPL3 is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, 75 Beattie Place, Suite 300, Greenville, SC 29601, (800) 365-7107.

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

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Jason Moyer or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **176 Tanglewood Rd, Fort Valley, GA 31030**. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

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

US Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as owner trustee for GS MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES TRUST 2024-RPL3 as Attorney in Fact for

Jason Moyer McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP 1544 Old Alabama Rd Roswell, GA 30076 www.foreclosurehotline.net EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 226 of the 6th Land District of Peach and Crawford Counties, Georgia, and being more particularly described as Tract 7, containing 4.26 acres, on that certain plat made for Peach Valley Plantation by Brent Cunningham & Company, Inc., G.R.L.S No. 2097, which plat is recorded in Plat Book 21, Page 154, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court, and Plat Book 13, Page 281, Clerk's Office, Crawford Superior Court. Located on said Lot is a 1998 Horton Manufactured Home as shown in Certificate of Permanent Location recorded in Deed Book 308, Page 716, Clerk's Office, Crawford Superior Court.

The above described property is known as 176 Tanglewood Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030. MR / CA February 3, 2026 Our file no. 22-06486GA-FT18 22-06486GA 01/07/2026, 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026 3641

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH**

All creditors of the estate of **NANCY CAROLYN MILAM**, deceased, late of Peach County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Felicia Milam, Executor of the Estate of NANCY CAROLINE MILAM 56 Waterfront Drive Fort Valley, GA 31030 Jordan Reab WALKER, HULBERT, GRAY & MOORE, LLP PO Box 1770 Perry, GA 31069 478-987-1415 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2026 3650

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY**

**IN RE: WILLIAM FREDRICK KELSAY**

All creditors of the estate of **William Fredrick Kelsay**, late of PEACH COUNTY, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

THIS 31st day of December 2025 Angela C. Earls Administrator for William Fredrick Kelsay 242 Eli Way Drive Byron, GA 31008 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2026 3648



# 2026-2027 School Calendar

July '26	August '26	September '26	October '26
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
November '26	December '26	January '27	February '27
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
March '27	April '27	May '27	June '27
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

July 28 - Aug 3	Pre Planning
August 4	First Day of School
September 7	Labor Day Holiday
October 12 - 16	Fall Break
October 19	In Service/Student Holiday
November 11	Veterans Day
November 23 - 27	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 21 - January 4	Christmas and New Years Holiday
January 4	In Service/Student Holiday
January 5	First Day Second Semester
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 15	President's Day Holiday
February 16	In Service/Student Holiday
March 29 - April 2	Spring Break
May 26	Last Day for Students
May 27 - 28	Post Planning
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday
Holidays/District Closed	
Pre/Post-Planning	
First and Last Days of Semester	



## Trojans Even the Score with Gritty Win Over Warner Robins

By Chris McKenzie  
Sports Reporter

The Peach County Trojans boys basketball team showed resilience and determination as they earned a hard-fought 61-57 victory over the Warner Robins Demons, evening the season series and improving their overall record to 6-9.

The win carried extra significance for the Trojans, who were looking to avenge an earlier loss to Warner Robins. In the first meeting between the two teams this season, the Demons controlled the pace and handed Peach County a 54-42

defeat. This time around, the Trojans flipped the script with improved execution on both ends of the floor.

Peach County came out with energy and focus, matching Warner Robins shot for shot throughout a tightly contested game. The Trojans' defensive intensity limited second-chance opportunities and forced key turnovers, while timely scoring down the stretch helped seal the victory. Unlike the earlier matchup, Peach County capitalized on scoring chances and showed poise in critical moments.

The four-point win showcased the Trojans' growth as the season progresses, highlighting their ability to learn from past performances and respond with confidence. With the victory, Peach County not only avenged an earlier loss but also gained momentum heading into the next stretch of the season.

As the Trojans continue to battle through their schedule, performances like this one serve as a reminder of their potential and determination to compete each night.

## Allen University Overpowers FVSU Women, 89-39

By Chris McKenzie  
Sports Reporter

FORT VALLEY — The Fort Valley State University women's basketball team endured a difficult night as the Wildcats fell to Allen University, 89-39, in SIAC action. The loss drops Fort Valley State to 1-10 overall and 1-8 in conference play.

From the opening tip, Allen controlled the tempo, using defensive pressure and efficient scoring to build an early advantage. Fort Valley State struggled to find a rhythm offensively, finishing the game shooting just 17 percent from the field (9-of-

53) and 10 percent from three-point range (2-of-20).

Despite the lopsided score, Aaniyah Allen provided a bright spot for the Wildcats. The senior guard led all Fort Valley State scorers with 17 points, knocking down 8-of-9 free throws while playing 35 minutes. Kimora Wade added five points and a team-high seven rebounds, while Madisyn Ogburn and Reya Johnson each chipped in five points off the scoreboard.

The Wildcats battled on the glass, pulling down 42 rebounds, but turnovers and cold shooting proved costly. Fort

Valley State committed 32 turnovers, which Allen converted into 12 points, while the Wildcats managed just 10 points in the paint and were held scoreless on fast-break opportunities.

Fort Valley State showed some improvement coming out of halftime, shooting 33 percent from the floor in the third quarter, but could not sustain the momentum as Allen pulled away in the final period.

The Wildcats will look to regroup and refocus as they continue SIAC play, aiming to build on effort and fundamentals as the season progresses.

## KRES Student Council Leads Successful Holiday Food Drive



Photo Contributed

Some of the KRES Student Council Members assisting Pastor Flanders with loading boxes to be taken away from Kay Road Elementary School.

Contributed

The spirit of giving was on full display at Kay Road Elementary School in Byron, GA, this holiday season as the KRES Student Council led a school-wide food drive that collected approximately 1,400 food items to help families in need.

Thanks to the generosity of students, families, and staff, the donated items were delivered to Fort Valley United Methodist Church, where they will directly support the Grace House

food pantry. These contributions will help ensure that community members have access to meals during the holidays, a time when support is especially meaningful.

School leaders praised the Student Council for taking initiative and organizing the drive, as well as the entire student body for their enthusiastic participation. The effort showcased teamwork, compassion, and leadership—values that the school proudly instills in its stu-

dents.

"Our HAWKS truly soared," one staff member shared. "This food drive is a powerful example of how students can make a real difference when they work together for a good cause."

The school extends a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who donated and supported the drive. With the leadership of the Student Council and the dedication of its hardworking HAWKS, the school continues to be a positive force in the community.

## Wildcats Stay Perfect at Home, Top Allen 80-73

By Chris McKenzie  
Sports Reporter

FORT VALLEY — The Fort Valley State University men's basketball team continued its strong play inside the Health and Physical Education Complex on Saturday night, defeating Allen University 80-73 to extend its winning streak to four games.

With the victory, the Wildcats improved to 5-4 overall and 4-4 in SIAC play, while maintaining an unblemished record at home this season — a feat that has quickly made Fort Valley one of the tougher venues in the conference.

Fort Valley State leaned on a balanced offensive attack and a dominant presence on the glass

to secure the win. C.J. Williams led all scorers with a game-high 24 points, knocking down five three-pointers and adding 10 rebounds for a double-double performance. His shooting and leadership helped spark a second-half surge that proved to be the difference.

Danny Delgado III chipped in 15 points, while Aidan Lambert added 11 points and nine rebounds. Sincere Whitehead was a force inside, pulling down 17 rebounds to go along with nine points, helping the Wildcats control second-chance opportunities. Fort Valley State finished with 26 second-chance points, a key statistic in the tightly contested matchup.

After a slow first half offensively, the Wildcats caught fire

after the break, shooting over 40 percent from the field and 41 percent from three-point range in the second half. Fort Valley State also capitalized at the free-throw line late, hitting 14 of 17 attempts in the final period to keep Allen at bay.

The game featured five ties and eight lead changes, but timely defense and efficient scoring allowed the Wildcats to pull away down the stretch. Fort Valley State also scored 25 points off turnovers and 17 fast-break points, showcasing its ability to turn defense into offense.

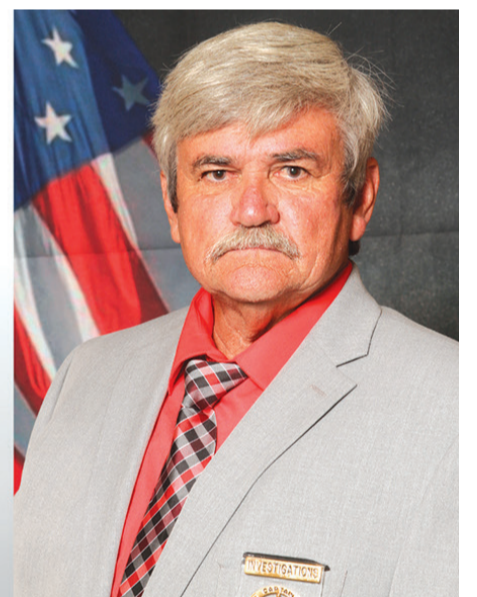
With momentum building and home-court dominance intact, the Wildcats will look to keep their winning streak alive as SIAC play continues.

## Captain John Edwards Retires



Honoring Captain John Edwards for 44 years of dedicated service. Your wisdom and commitment to justice, as well as the citizens of Peach County, are deeply appreciated. May your retirement be as rewarding as your career.  
Happy Retirement!

-Sheriff Robert "Buck" Shannon



## LOTTERY MONEY

CONTINUED FROM 6A

students from low-income households, had an average \$11,883 in unmet need in 2020, Orrock's committee report said. That was a few thousand dollars more than the funding gap for all four-year students.

Kamore Campbell, who was a high school salutatorian, told the committee that he had received Pell and Zell funding, yet he still left the state for college.

"There were no public four-year schools that offered me enough aid to make staying in state affordable," Campbell said. He had wanted to attend Georgia Southern University but had a \$10,000 gap. "I enrolled at American University

and left Georgia," he said.

Ray Li, a lawyer with the Legal Defense Fund, a racial justice group, told the committee that Georgia is suffering a "brain drain" as talented students find better deals in other states and never return to contribute to Georgia's economy.

Georgia has the lowest home state college attendance in the region, he said, with 78% of high school graduates staying here.

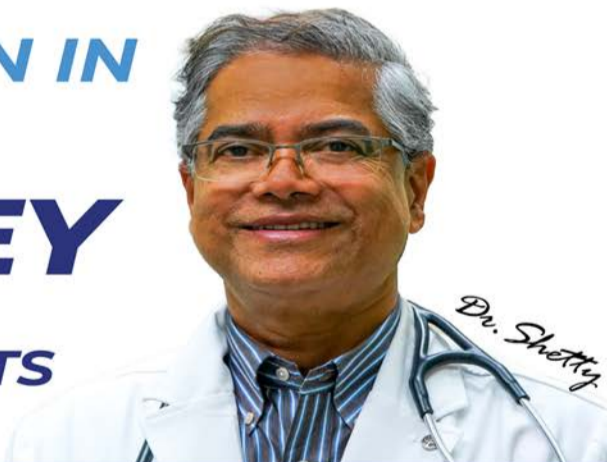
Compare that to 91% in Mississippi, 86% in Florida and 85% in South Carolina, he said. "We are losing a ton of students simply because they cannot afford to go to college here."



HOUSTON  
PRIMARY CARE  
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