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The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

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Fort Valley Mayor Names Mayor Pro-Tem, Committee Chairpersons



The City Council of Fort Valley and members of the Fort Valley Chapter of the Links, Inc. with two proclamations, recognizing Human Trafficking Awareness Month and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month.

Photo by Zoe Hammond

By Zoe Hammond
 News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – Newly sworn-in Mayor Shakenna Reeves has made her pick for Fort Valley's Mayor Pro-Tem as well as which council members will sit as the head of which committee during the city's regular board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 15.

Mayor Reeves has appointed council member Dr. Donald Williams to be Fort Valley's Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Reeves then read her picks for the committee chairperson(s): councilwoman Juanita Bryant to the Fort Valley Fire Department, councilman Henry Howard to the Personnel Department, councilman Alton Howard to the Police Department, and Williams to the Finance Department.

During the meeting, no appointment was mentioned for the Public Works Department.

Following that, the council approved a 90-day extension to a moratorium on new development of multi-family housing. The 90-day moratorium was originally enacted back on Oct. 16, 2025. The council approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Reeves to sign documents.

The Mayor and Council presented two proclamations to the Fort Valley Chapter of the Links, Inc. The proclamations, one for Human Trafficking Awareness Month and the other for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month, stated that both of these months are being recognized by the Fort Valley City Council for the month of January.

Three City Council Members Sworn-In After No Opposition During Elections Season



Photos by Zoe Hammond

(photos left to right) Council members Michael Chumbley, Chris Hodges, and Alan Dorsey being sworn in by Judge Laurens Lee of Peach County's Magistrate Court.

By Zoe Hammond, News Editor

FBYRON, Ga. – Three council members were sworn in to the Byron City Council during the January monthly board meeting. Council members Michael Chumbley,

Chris Hodges, and Alan Dorsey were sworn in by Judge Laurens Lee of Peach County's Magistrate Court.

Following that, the Mayor and Council approved Ordinance No. 2025-16, an annexation request for a property located at 307 Chapman Road. Next, the council approved the rezoning request of said property from County C-3 Commercial to City C-1 Commercial.

The council approved a resolution to accept Bill Green Drive as a public road that is within the corporate limits of the City of Byron, as part of the Municipal Street System. The council approved a resolution regarding the annual agreement with the Convention & Visitors

SWORN-IN CONTINUED PG 2A

Peach County Board of Education Recognizes 2025/2026 District Art Calendar



Photo Contributed

Hunt Elementary School 2025-26 Teacher of the Year Melonie Osborne-Mann (middle) with Hunt Elementary Assistant Principal of Discipline LaNessia Miller (left) and Peach County Superintendent Dr. Jesse Davis (right).

By Zoe Hammond
 News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – The Peach County Board of Education recognized eleven students who contributed artworks to the 2025/2026 District Art Calendar in their January board meeting.

Cathy Heller, Coordinator of Fine Arts, took to the podium to recognize the many students

who participated in the calendar. According to Heller, this is the third year that the Peach County Schools have made the calendar, and the second year that featured art from all of the Peach County schools.

The students who participated in this year's calendar are: KJ Jordan, Harleigh Miller, and Tylan Harris from Byron Elementary School; Payten McLeod from Kay Road Elementary School;



Photo Contributed

The students who have artworks featured in the January - June 2026 portion of the District Art Calendar along with Peach County Coordinator of Fine Arts Cathy Heller and Peach County Superintendent Dr. Jesse Davis.

Alaycia Bryant, Alyssa Smith, and Jamari Johnson from Hunt Elementary School; Jaqueline Alcantar, Haley Reis, Kaylee Tubbs, and Corbin Allison from Fort Valley Middle School; Madison Martin and William Tarver from Byron Middle School; and Noah Griggs, Celeste Vasquez, Nataly Vasquez, Nasean Brown,

and Briana Fiallos Zelaya from Peach County High School. Next, Assistant Principal of Discipline LaNessia Miller of Hunt Elementary School stepped forward to recognize two Hunt Elementary students, Averie Crafter and De'khari Curry, who did well in the Hunt Elementary Spelling Bee. Crafter

is the HES spelling bee winner, and Curry is the 1st runner-up. Miller then recognized Melonie Osborne-Mann as the Hunt Elementary School 2025-26 Teacher of the Year. Miller spoke highly of Osborne-Mann's commitment to her students and passion for teaching.



Porter Transitioning Into Emeritus Role

National Search Underway For New GTLN Executive Director

By GTLN

Dublin, Ga. – The Georgia Trust for Local News was created to prevent news deserts and stimulate creative solutions to build sustainable journalism in Middle Georgia. Those aims have been met, with the Georgia Trust now boasting a portfolio of 20 community titles, ranging from some of the state's oldest newspapers to the startup The Macon Melody.

The National Trust for Local News's successful launch of the Georgia Trust wouldn't have been possible without DuBose Porter, a 40-year veteran of newspaper publishing who has served as executive director since the National Trust for Local News established the state subsidiary in 2024. Having set the Georgia Trust on a path for enduring success, Porter will retire as executive director on Feb. 2 and take on a pub-

lisher emeritus role focused on fundraising, partnerships and acquisitions.

With Porter's transition, the National Trust for Local News has launched a nationwide search for his successor. This new executive director will be charged with leading and advancing the Georgia Trust's general operations and business partnerships, while driving editorial, audience and advertising strategy; product innovation; and revenue growth. Danyale Starley, currently serving as controller for the Georgia Trust, will step into the role of interim executive director beginning Feb. 2 and until a new leader is selected.

"This transition reflects the widening scope of both our statewide mission and our ambitions for transformational reach," said Tom Wiley, CEO of the National Trust for Local News. "Our next stage of growth at the Georgia Trust requires an energized operational leader



DuBose Porter

paired with a dedicated statewide ambassador who can deepen philanthropic investment and cultivate new market opportunities. We're pleased DuBose Porter, a longtime leading force in the community, will remain with us as we transition the Georgia Trust to its new phase of development and innovation."

A longtime news publisher and public servant, Porter serves on the board of directors for the Georgia Press Association, of which he's past president, and the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. He brought his deep knowledge of the strengths and challenges facing rural newspapers to his work with the Georgia Trust as he led the organization through its founding years.

Porter's history in community newspapers runs deep. He and Griffin Lovett first purchased The Courier Herald in his native Dublin in 1987.

Between 1998 and 2004, Porter and Lovett purchased several neighboring weeklies, making The Courier Herald the flagship of their publishing company. Following another expansion between 2021 and 2023, the company grew to own 18 newspapers prior to its acquisition by the Georgia Trust in 2024.

Under Porter's tenure, the Georgia Trust for Local News publications earned 17 awards from the Georgia Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest, including the Newspaper of Excellence Award for The Courier Herald and The Albany Herald.

"We have a strong history of impactful, quality journalism here in the heart of Georgia," said Porter. "Expanding the essential work of these newspapers strengthens communities and fosters local engagement. I believe strongly in the power of independent, community news and I'm looking forward to continuing to build investment and support for the vibrancy of our publications in Georgia's rural communities."

Interested candidates for the executive director position can learn more and apply at <https://www.nationaltrustfor-localnews.org/careers>.

We Are Sad To Announce the Recent Passing Fort Valley Councilwoman Carla Gowen

FORT VALLEY – Carla Beatrice Shy Gowen passed away on January 11, 2026, after an extended illness, at the age of 75. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, January 16, 2026, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Perry. Visitation will be held from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m., and the funeral will begin at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Wesley Evans officiating. Interment will be in Oak Lawn Cemetery in Fort Valley.



Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and finally Fort Lee, Virginia. During those years, Carla continued her education at Saint Leo University, Florida Keys Community College, the University of Hawaii, and several other places. In 1987, the family returned to Fort Valley, where she spent the remainder of her life.

Carla was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving in many callings in the Relief Society and Primary organizations. She loved participating in community theater and enjoyed crocheting, sewing, and putting together puzzles. She worked as a detective with the Fort Valley Police Department for 10 years and later served two terms as a

City Councilwoman for the City of Fort Valley. She was passionate about genealogy, and she and her husband took classes through BYU-Idaho to further their family history work. Carla was active in Kiwanis, serving two terms as President of the Fort Valley Kiwanis. She was intensely patriotic and loved any décor that reflected her love of country.

Carla was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, Patricia Bartlett and Betsy Ann Shy; and her brothers, James Carlton Shy II and James Mallard Shy.

She leaves behind her loving and devoted husband of 57 years, Edward J. Gowen Jr.; her son, Edward Z. "Zac" Gowen (Katrina); and her four grandchildren, Emily Gowen, Erin Gowen Smith (Brandon), Jillan Gowen, and Jakob Gowen.

Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at www.watsonhunt.com. Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Peach County Government and Peach County EMS Announce the passing of Retired Peach County EMS Rescue Chief Michael A. Giles

By Peach County Government is with Peach County EMS

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of retired EMS team member Michael A. Giles.

Michael dedicated more than 40 years of service to this community, serving with distinction as a clinician, Rescue Chief, and Fleet Maintenance Coordinator for Peach County EMS. His commitment to public safety, leadership, and dedication to the citizens of Peach



County left a lasting impact on our organization and on those who had the privilege of working alongside him.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. We also ask the community to keep his wife, Dr. Cynthia L. Giles, our County Medical Director, in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Michael's legacy of service and commitment will always be remembered.

Peach County Commissioners Appoint County Clerk

By Zoe Hammond News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – The Peach County Board of Commissioners has appointed Audrey Jernigan as the County Clerk of Peach County during their January monthly board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

There was a public hearing regarding a rezoning request by Kathryn Willis to change the property located at 1531 Evans Road from M-1, Wholesale and Light Industrial, to R-AG, Agriculture Residential District. The board of commissioners approved the rezoning.

A representative from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) requested that the commissioners approve the recommendation and selection of McCall Architecture. McCall Architecture was given an overall rating of 87/100 for excellent service by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

The MGRC had been asked to assist with a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for Peach County. The county prepared a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architectural services to support this grant application. The

commissioner approved the MGRC's recommendation of McCall Architecture.

Concerning old business, Peach/Taylor County Cooperative Extension Agent Jeff Cook presented an updated Memorandum of Understanding with UGA Cooperative Extension, which focused on technological and similar IT updates, which was approved by the commissioners.

County Attorney James F. Banter presented a grace period letter to the Fort Valley Utility Commission, regarding an alleged lack of a formal grace period for a non-payment of a power bill prior to the disconnection of services. The letter was denied 3-2, as the FVUC stated that they do have a grace period, but FVUC calls it something else.

Chairman Roy Lewis brought forth a citizen request to pay for a short access road off of Highway 41. The commissioners decided that paving the collar of the road would help alleviate damage to the citizens' property. Public works has already been approved to do the paving.

Regarding new business, Banter stepped back to the podium

with qualifying fees of \$270 for commissioners and \$180 for members of the board of education. Next, Banter provided Personnel Policy Updates and official salaries for 2026 for Superior Court Judges.

Commissioner Yoder spoke of Data Center Concerns, which led to a 30-day moratorium on any proposed data centers as the commissioners want to ensure Peach County is prepared, informed, and legally sound, to avoid reactive decision-making, reduce litigation risk, protect residents and infrastructure, and encourage modern, responsible facility designs that address community concerns.

Chief County Marshal Todd Shepherd presented a business license from Byron Belles Boutique at 602 Walker Road, as an online service, which the commissioners approved. Assistant Fire Chief/EMA Director Ryan Roberts presented the Georgia Trauma Commission Grant, which is an equipment grant that provided 50 "Stop the Bleed" kits to go in county vehicles - the commissioners approved the grant.

Chairman Lewis discussed railroad damage from the train derailment last year, due to heavy participation. The train derailment damaged multiple points of Powersville Road, which will cost \$95,000 to fully repair. The commissioners approved a change order from Reeves Construction from the SPLOST, and then plan to seek reimbursement from the railroad company.

Finance Director Janet Smith requested a budget amendment of \$55,858 for vacation payout, with the money being moved from contingency to contingency - vacation payout, which the commissioners approved.

SWORN-IN

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Bureau to lease the Depot and Old Jail.

Following that, the council approved the opening of an interest-bearing checking account for FLOST. Next, the council approved the Mayor to sign the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant Memorandum of Understanding.

The council approved a resolution authorizing the Mayor

to execute any documents for the 2026 CJCC Local First Responders Microgrant Program. Next, the council authorized the Mayor to execute documents with Georgia Water Environmental Services (GWES) regarding the Hwy 247 Lift Station Upgrade, as was approved in November 2025.

Following that, the council approved a resolution authorizing

the cooperative purchase through the Sourcewell platform for the construction of a new skatepark. Next, they approved the expenditures for repairs to the City of Byron Library roof. The council approved the surplus of a flatbed trailer requested by the Byron Fire Department.

There will be an Elections Board Meeting on January 22nd, 2026, at

The Peach County Courthouse 205 W Church St., Fort Valley Ga., 31030 at 4:00 PM.

Certification of January 20th, 2026, Senate District 18 Election.

Discussion Will include precincts closures of Powersville 6711 Peach Pkwy., Byron, Ga 31008 and Claude 10660 Miami Valley Rd., Fort Valley, Ga 31030.

The citizens of Peach County are welcomed to voice input on the closures.

Peach County Advanced and Absentee Voting January 20th, 2026 Senate District 18										
	Fort Valley	Byron	Mail in Applications Received	Mail in Applications Processed	Mail in Applications Rejected	Ballots Received	Provisionals	Ballots Issued	Provisional Ballots Received	Provisional Ballots Rejected
12/29/25	81	28	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
12/30/25	68	39	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
12/31/25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1/1/26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1/2/26	54	29	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/3/26	11	11	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/5/26	41	28	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/6/26	55	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/7/26	28	31	4	4	0	2	0	0	0	0
1/8/26	27	35	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/9/26	32	40	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/10/26	28	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/12/26	16	25	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
1/13/26	22	46	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
1/14/26	26	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/15/26	53	72	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
1/16/26										
Absentee by Mail Processed Prior to Advanced Voting			37	37	0	18	0	0	0	0
Total Main in Absentee			542	510						

Police Beat

★★★★★★★★★★★★

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

Byron Arrests/Citations

Barlow, Brannon Ray, 50, Chester, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Fincher, Dennis Glenn, 29, Macon, GA: Failure To Appear - Felony

Hugley, Jamarcus Damontae, 27, Macon, GA: Possession With Intent To, Distribute A Controlled Substance, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Certain Crimes, Criminal Use Of An Article With An Altered Identification Mark, Driving Without A Valid License, No Insurance, Window Tint Violation

Mann, Daron Lacure, 35,, Warner Robins, GA: Possession Of Marijuana With Intent To Distribute, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Certain Crimes, Window Tint Violation, Driving With Suspended License

Ouzts, Tyrone, 30, Greer, SC: Following Too Closely, Reckless Driving, Driving While License Suspended, Move Over Law, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz.

Wilson, Brian Paris, 49, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Ashley, Brian Wilson Alexander, 29, Fort Valley, GA: Manufacture/Deliver/Distribute/Administer/Sell/Possess W/Intent To Distribute Controlled Substance

Little, Delma Marie, 42, Warner Robins, GA: Theft By Taking - Misdemeanor, Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Mathis, Redgiatta Patrice, 40, Marshallville, GA: Possession Of Drug Related Objects, Theft By Shoplifting

Mckinney, Joseph Matthew, 55, Byron, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Richard, Terrance Jamaal, 21, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Tarrant, James Everette, 36, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Peach County Sheriff's Office

Arrests/Citations

Armstrong, Raymond Oscar, 54, Fayetteville, GA:

Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Combs, Dale Allen, 40, Byron, GA: Sexual Offender - Fail To Register/Provide False Information

Grace, Kendrick Rashad, 37, Byron, GA: Battery Family Violence, Cruelty To Children In The 3rd Degree 3rd Or Subsequent Offense, Cruelty To Children In The 3rd Degree 3rd Or Subsequent Offense

Jackson, Jadin Jahiem, 17, Byron, GA: Criminal Trespass Fv

Jones, Marc Anthony, 46, Macon, GA: Driving While License Suspended

Kemp, Ayende Khalide, 45, East Point, GA: Battery, Criminal Attempt To Commit A Misdemeanor

Morrison, Kiwan Fuquan, 30, Decatur, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude A Police Officer For A Felony Offense, Reckless Driving, Possession Of Marijuana

Prude, Claude Bernard, 34, Reynolds, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Roeder, Bruce Wayne, 37, Macon, GA: Possession Of Marijuana, Failure To Maintain Lane, Tail Lights / Tag Lights Lenses Required

Spencer, Jeffery B, 36, Macon, GA: Driving While License Suspended

Stinson, William, 55, Knoxville, GA: Here For Court

Washington, Demarco Jermaine, 48, Stonecrest, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

GA State Patrol Perry Arrests

Kilpatrick, John, 49: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Driving While License Suspended

Crawford County Sheriff's Office Arrests

Pernell, Erin Lynn, 30, Byron, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance

Ga Dept. Pub. Safety Arrests

Rivera Sosa, Joel, 34, Altamonte Springs, FL: Driving In Left Lane Of 3+ Lanes

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 Mayor and Council Chambers (Courtroom).

• **MAYOR'S BRIEFING - Every Monday at 11:00AM** Open meeting is for staff and is available to the public.
• **WORK SESSION MEETING - Every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM.** A Public Comment Section will be added to the agenda each month to allow for public comment and concerns at the meeting.
• **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING - Every 3rd Thursday each month at 6:30PM.**

*The Mayor and Council invite all to attend meetings in-person, via zoom meetings or Facebook Live.

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>

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.

Byron AL-ANON Family Group

Byron Al-Anon meets on

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

Compassionate Friends Middle GA Chapter

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

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

Macon meeting location for TCF: Rock Springs Church, 6601 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA.

Please contact Chapter Leaders for more information: Karla Chidester - 478-954-4592, or Teresa Tompkins - 478-319-3526, or visit www.compassionatefriends.org.

Addiction Counseling

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

Byron Lions Club

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

Byron Rotary Club

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

Byron DDA/CVB

Our next meeting is at the Train Depot on Tuesday, Feb 17th at 4:00.

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

Byron Tax Office

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

WE ACCEPT TIPS!

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

Email:

news@theleadertribune.com

Community Prayer Walk January 31st

By Peach County Sheriff's Office

(FORT VALLEY) Let's help spread the Word and come out and let's Walk and Pray with a Purpose! In case of extremely cold temperatures on this day, everyone will simply meet at the Gazebo (Downtown Fort Valley) at 9:30 a.m. Regular start time is at 9:00 a.m. for both lo-

cations.

Starting location points: Central Union Baptist Church parking lot and the Valley Fresh Parking lot.

"If My people, who are called by My name..." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Community Prayer Walk - Bring comfortable shoes & faith. All are welcome!

Join as we pray for peace,

safety, unity and healing in our community. Praying for our city/community leaders, schools and FVSU, businesses, residents, churches and those visiting or passing through our city.

Let's walk, Let's pray. Let's believe God for change.

For more information call 478-335-2100

"If My people, who are called by My name..."
2 Chronicles 7:14

COMMUNITY Prayer WALK

Join us as we pray for peace, safety, unity, and healing in our community. Praying for our city/community leaders, schools and FVSU, businesses, residents, churches, and those visiting or passing through the city.

Bring: Comfortable shoes & faith  All are welcome!

Saturday, January 31, 2026 @ 9:30AM

Starting location points:
Central Union Baptist Church parking lot
Valley Fresh Parking Lot

Meet Up:
Gazebo,
Downtown Fort Valley

Let's walk. Let's pray. Let's believe God for change.

Info: 478-335-2100

Peach County Board of Commissioners

Call or Text 478-955-1999



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Carports
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Playhouses
Greenhouses
Metal Buildings
Rent-to-Own

How to Avoid Scams in 2026



By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

It's a new year, and with it comes a slew of new scams. In 2025, Peach County saw a host of scams including people impersonating an officer from the Peach County Sheriff's Office with an outstanding warrant to people impersonating the Byron Welcome Center trying to make citizens pay for free events.

In this day and age, it's important to be wary when on the phone or online. Here are some tips to protect your credit, wallet, and any other sensitive information.

To protect your credit, check your credit score often. Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion all provide a free credit report each week. Check often to see if there's any activity that you're unfamiliar with such as an additional account or credit inquiry. Report any identity theft or fraudulent activity to the Federal Trade Commission at identitytheft.gov.

Check your bank accounts often. Make sure to be on the lookout for any suspicious activity such as additional charges or missing money.

Be wary of phone numbers

you do not know. Avoid answering calls from unknown numbers, especially those with area codes from different states. Many phones will now alert whether or not the call may be potential spam. If it is urgent or someone legitimately looking to speak with you they will either leave a voicemail or call again.

When receiving texts from unknown numbers or private messages online from someone unknown, do not click on any links. A common scam is someone pretending to be from the United States Postal Service, UPS, FedEx, or Amazon saying your package is delayed and you need to reschedule the delivery. All of these mail services will not text you unless you have specifically signed up to do so.

When shopping online, research the retailer before you make a purchase. Most likely others have asked whether the site is a legitimate retailer or if it's a scam. If you are not sure, it is best to not purchase from that website.

Be wary when using public WiFi networks such as those at hotels or coffee shops. Public networks are often insecure and vulnerable to hackers. It is best to avoid accessing any sensitive information such as your banking information if you are using public Wi-Fi.

The Better Business Bureau has tips on how to avoid scams as well as how to strengthen passwords available on their website.

Your Fat Burning Environment



By Wade Yoder
LT Columnist

Our Calorie sources, activities, and environment that we keep ourselves surrounded with will not only shape us mentally and physically but will also shape our health and next generation of body cells as well.

These 3 are separated below, so that you can pinpoint weak spots that may be causing sticking points in your weight loss goals, (however, when these three are combined, you have a fat burning tool chest!)

1. Our Calorie Sources: the choices we make for our calories dictates to the body our intention for our energy needs. This is why, when we eat or

drink something that absorbs rapidly, it puts a lot of glucose/sugar in our blood for energy. If this energy is not needed due to inactivity, our body will store this extra energy in our fat cells causing them to get bigger. And since our body burns off sugars first, it will not release stored fat into our blood to burn until our sugar is low enough to switch energy sources.

When we eat excess calories, especially the fast-absorbing ones and we don't burn this extra off through exercise or activity, our insulin if working properly will remove it from our blood to keep from a sticky mess happening in our blood supply and our body parts!

The neat thing about our body is that it knows how to release an energy snack into our system when we need it badly enough and it does this by releasing the calories we have stored in our fat cells, body fat is simply stored energy.

Remember when eating lean or very low calorie for several days you should have a cheat meal, (where you eat and drink

pretty much anything you want). This cheat meal simply helps reset your metabolism at a higher level.

2. Activities & Exercise: this is important since activities and exercise not only burn calories while being active but also help you continue to burn calories through the toned muscles these activities and exercises help create. The more toned muscle you have the higher your metabolism will be. One pound of muscle will burn approximately 13-17 calories a day. Activating these muscles will change it to a higher calorie burn rate, sort of like a car that burns fuel if left idling but will burn even more when revved up or in motion.

Simply put, activity and exercise help clear the system of excess energy so insulin will not have to tote it off to store in our fat cells for later.

3. Our Environment: getting family, friends, and co-workers to support our fitness lifestyle can be of big benefit not only to us, but it can have a ripple effect on the ones around us! We gradually become like our

environment, so it's very important to keep things and people around that have a positive impact and not a negative one on our fitness goals!

Surrounding ourselves with foods such as fish, chicken breasts, turkey, (occasional good quality red meats), eggs, beans, dark colored vegetables, sweet potato, quinoa, brown rice, whole grain pasta, fermented vegetables and snacks such as apples, nuts, peanut butter (without the bread), and water as primary hydration source, simply crowds out a lot of other things that are not conducive to building health or physique!

Water note: Drink enough water that urine is pale in color. Cold water helps your body burn more calories.

When you combine a cleaned-up fitness environment, active lifestyle, and good dietary choices with water as a fluid of choice you have a fat burning tool chest that helps turn that stored energy (body fat) into a burnable fuel!

More Trains Means More Trucks On Georgia's Roads

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

Georgia needs to have a long and detailed conversation about trucks. Instead, we're at least briefly distracted by trains.

There have been quite a few news stories in circulating in the last few weeks about Georgia "getting serious" about passenger rail. "They're" talking about this in Chattanooga, Birmingham, Charlotte, and Savannah. "They" are looking at making Atlanta's role as a rail hub great again.

Who are "they"?

They are the consultants and transportation entities that received funding to study "high speed" rail corridors for passenger rail throughout the country from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. \$8 million was appropriated from the federal government to study routes in Georgia with Atlanta as a hub city. Their reports are coming in, and not surprisingly they all give a full and unconditional green light to...another round of studies.

If you haven't figured out where this track is headed, consider the weather. We didn't need a round of weekend snow flurries mixed with rain to throw cold water on this story that has been recycled more times than Chattanooga river water flowing south out of Atlanta.

We've seen these studies be-

fore. They're almost always initiated with federal funding. They always suggest more studies. But the crucial element is that they're always tied to funding for propping up existing rail service or funding bigger boondoggles elsewhere.

The same act that Georgia's Senators brag about securing \$8 million for us gave California another \$3.1 Billion for their attempt at high speed rail construction. If California getting almost 400 times more money than Georgia seems unfair, consider that there is equality in the outcome. Both states will have zero new miles of track in operation because of these expenditures.

Speed is an issue here, both for the trains and for the process in which the federal government "helps" move a project along by mandating endless studies that make actual construction impossible. Note that a law to facilitate this was passed five years ago. We're just now seeing the first set of studies of many that would be required if the will and funding to build these rail lines actually existed.

Environmental reviews alone, under federal requirements known as NEPA, can take a decade or longer. Construction of major infrastructure can somehow take even longer still. Note that the rebuild of the I-75/I-16

interchange in Macon has had its tenth birthday, and will likely be old enough for a driver's license by the time it is completed.

Then there's the speed of the trains themselves. Advocates point to Europe and Japan as the model, with their Eurostars and bullet trains that can hit speeds of 200 miles per hour. While Amtrak's DC to New York Acela train is now capable of reaching 160 mph, most of the track it operates on limits speeds between 105 and 110. This is despite spending \$2.5 billion over the past decade to upgrade the train which somehow now operates slower than the older model.

The track problems are even more of an issue in Georgia. In many of our urban areas the existing track has to contend with sharp curves that severely limit speeds. Fixing those would be expensive and messy.

Eminent domain would have to be used extensively. In addition to taking land to straighten out curves, almost every existing corridor would have to be widened. Most of Georgia's railroads are "single tracked", with freight trains running one direction for a while, then pulling to a siding to wait while trains going the opposite direction get their turn. It's a well-choreographed ballet that keeps freight moving with planning and patience.

The result of this design is that a "high speed" freight train moves from Savannah to Atlanta in about 12 hours. A drive along I-16 and I-75 starts at about 3.5 hours, plus whatever time the drivers in Henry County decide to add for congestion.

The expectation of passenger rail would be to make this trip faster, not slower. To accommodate this, new tracks would have to be added parallel to existing tracks, and trains would have to be able to bypass existing junctions and switchyards.

All freight traffic would have to become a secondary priority to passenger trains. By definition, this would then make the movement of freight by train even slower. More logistics companies who need their goods to move to or from Georgia's ports would then decide trucks are a better option than freight rail.

We started by saying we need to talk about trucks. Most of us like the idea of trains. They get a bit more questionable when we start to see the real costs vs the real benefits. But they become a real problem when we realize that for every car they take off our freeway, they're likely to add several tractor trailers to our interstates. That seems to be lost in all of these self-perpetuating studies of trains that will likely never happen.

How States Are Reining in Costly Regulations

By J. Thomas Perdue, GA
Public Policy Foundation

Georgia continues to grapple with a complex, outdated and steadily expanding regulatory environment. Debates over the state's regulatory burden, including proposals such as the "Red Tape Rollback Act" introduced last year, are not occurring in isolation. They reflect a broader national movement in which states are reassessing long-standing regulatory structures that constrain economic growth and stifle innovation.

Since the publication of our initial 2025 overview of regulatory reform efforts, legislatures and governors across the country have advanced new reforms aimed at trimming individual rules and rebalancing power between unelected bureaucratic agencies and legislatures. The details vary by state, but common goals include greater legislative oversight for approval of high-cost regulations, clearer economic accountability and an unwinding of regulations that have accumulated over the years.

One major trend has been the imposition of systematic reviews of existing regulations. Alaska offers one of the most ambitious examples. Through a

pair of executive orders issued in 2025, the state launched a comprehensive government efficiency and regulatory reform initiative. Agencies are now required to inventory and streamline their regulations, guidance documents and incorporated materials, with targets of reducing regulatory requirements by 15% by the end of 2026 and 25% by the end of 2027. The reforms also emphasize transparency and predictability, including mandatory posting of guidance documents, standardized permitting timelines and automatic approval when agencies miss statutory deadlines.

Indiana followed a similar path, directing agencies to cut regulatory requirements by 25% by 2029 and to justify the continuation of rules that have gone untouched for eight years or more. Both states sought to institutionalize continuous review instead of one-time deregulation.

At the state legislative level, REINS-style frameworks (named after the proposed federal legislation, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act) have become the dominant vehicle for reform. These laws require legislative approval of regulations with

significant economic impacts before they can take effect, restoring a measure of democratic accountability to the rulemaking process.

Kentucky enacted such a framework in 2025 over a gubernatorial veto, requiring lawmakers to approve regulations projected to cost \$500,000 or more over two years. Louisiana enacted a bipartisan overhaul of its Administrative Procedure Act, creating fiscal thresholds that trigger legislative oversight while allowing the governor to approve if committees do not review a rule within 30 days.

North Carolina's reforms expanded the state's definition of "substantial economic impact" and imposed supermajority voting requirements on costly rules unless they are federally mandated. Similarly, Utah's approach ties statutory authorization directly to implementation and compliance costs of \$2 million over a five-year period. Even states where REINS proposals were modified from their original intent during the legislative process, such as Wyoming, moved toward greater legislative control by authorizing lawmakers to block or suspend major rules after adoption. Virginia's experience offers

perhaps the clearest evidence of what this style of reform can achieve. Under the Office of Regulatory Management, created by executive order in 2022, the state reports a reduction of nearly 27% in regulatory requirements, saving Virginia citizens an estimated \$1.2 billion a year. Concrete outcomes, such as tens of thousands of dollars shaved off the cost of building a new home, have helped translate abstract regulatory debates into tangible benefits for families.

Several states paired legislative oversight with enhanced economic analysis. In addition to requiring legislative approval of major rules, Oklahoma's REINS Act of 2025 also created an independent Legislative Economic Analysis Unit to evaluate agency cost estimates. The state simultaneously eliminated Chevron-style judicial deference to executive agencies' interpretations of statutes by state courts and strengthened executive oversight of rulemaking.

Pennsylvania lawmakers pursued a complementary strategy, advancing legislation that combines REINS-style approval for

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The Leader Tribune

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DuBose Porter
Executive Director

Pam Burney
General Manager

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

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

Columnists

Billy Powell Dan Gatlyn Wayne Lenderman
Jeff Cook Wade Yoder

OUR GOALS

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

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

OUR POLICIES

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

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Encounter with a Guardian Angel



By Billy Powell
Parables to Ponder
LT Columnist

A relative of mine told me of an encounter he had with an angel. He was at sea sailing from the Bahamas to Florida. This passage from his letter sets the stage for the surprise encounter: "The lights of Freeport had long disappeared. It was a gorgeous night as the sailboat was responding to the balmy southeast breeze, moving smoothly and quietly through the water. Down below in the cabin, all the guests were sleeping soundly. As the autopilot handled the boat, I fought off fatigue by searching the horizon for signs of human kind. Occasionally a wave splashed over the bow and the water, full of phosphorus, glowing in an eerie way as it made its way down the boat and dripped back into the ocean. I was comfortable, lying partially down in the cockpit with my head propped on a pillow and positioned

with a clear view of the water ahead as well as the boat's instruments. The Dramamine taken hours earlier added to my comfort but had not caused any drowsiness. A check of the instruments reflected we were about 50-nautical miles northeast of Miami and moving at a speed of 5-knots. The time was 3 AM in the morning."

Then he penned this incredible narration of what happened next: "I turned to one side and there stood Henry Braswell, your uncle, who had been dead for over 20-years. He was dressed in dark pants and white shirt. He revealed he was my guardian angel and related that he had been with me at the bar back in Freeport where a huge Bahamian had violently attacked a friend of mine. I had interceded to keep the Bahamian from doing bodily harm to my friend. When the large man came toward me in great anger, he suddenly stopped in his tracks. At the time I didn't know why. But, now I knew. Henry Braswell was standing behind me. And believe me no one would want to contend with Henry Braswell in a bar room as a real man or an angel."

My relative then recounted this conversation with my Uncle Henry: "He told me that your mother and daddy were very happy with their assignments in heaven. Henry stated that your

mother was in charge of welcoming women to heaven who earlier had lost their husbands and had encountered the same problems and illnesses that she had on earth. He continued that your father, who had mechanical knowledge and was fascinated with scientific advancements, was working with computers in heaven. As Henry was speaking of the beauty of heaven, I heard a loud splash that startled me. I shrieked, 'Henry, that was a big fish!' But suddenly I was alone. Henry Braswell was gone. The ship's clock now read 4:02 A.M. Was I dreaming? I honestly don't know, but this was one of the most memorable experiences of my life."

The Bible speaks of different categories of angels: seraphim that attend the throne of God, cherubim who guard the entrance to the tree of life, archangels like Michael, messengers of God such as Gabriel who proclaimed Jesus' birth and guardian angels who assist, protect and deliver God's people. I have felt the presence of angels when I watched my grandmother Powell breathe her last, when my mother slipped into eternity, and when heaven's chariots came for my beloved wife Beverly. Jesus said that resurrected believers will "become as the angels of God in heaven." (Matt 22: 30)

Ask the Pastor'

Understanding the Trinity: One God in Three Persons



By Wayne Lenderman
Lead Pastor of Church in the Orchard
LT Columnist

One of the most distinctive and beautiful teachings of the Christian faith is the doctrine of the Trinity. While the word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, the truth it describes is woven throughout Scripture. The Trinity means that there is one God who eternally exists in three distinct Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

This doctrine does not claim there are three gods. Rather, Christianity teaches one God in three Persons—co-equal, co-eternal, and perfectly united in essence, will, and purpose. The Bible is unmistakably

clear that there is only one God. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." (Deuteronomy 6:4) "I am the Lord, and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:5) Christian belief in the Trinity does not contradict monotheism. It deepens our understanding of who the one true God is. Scripture reveals that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each fully God, yet distinct from one another. Jesus prayed to the Father, obeyed the Father, and spoke of the Father as God (Matthew 6:9; John 17:1-5).

Jesus is clearly identified as divine. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28) Jesus forgave sins, accepted worship, and possessed authority that belongs only to God. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force but a divine Person. Jesus Himself speaks of the "Helper," "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."

John 16:7 This passage is speaking of Holy Spirit. "The Lord is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:17) The Spirit teaches, guides, convicts, comforts, and empowers—works of God Himself. At Jesus' baptism, all three Persons of the Trinity are present; The Son is baptized, The Spirit descends like a dove, The Father's voice speaks from heaven. "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17) Jesus later commands His followers to baptize: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) Notice "name" is singular—one God—yet three Persons.

The Trinity is not three gods, one Person playing three roles; God divided into parts. The Trinity is One divine Being, three eternal Persons, perfect unity with real distinction. The Trinity is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be worshipped. And it reminds us that the God we serve is not distant, He is the God who loves us, saves us, and walks with us every day.

that effort to ensure that they can afford to live in safe communities with clean water," said Congressman Bishop. "The funding that I secured supports our counties, towns, schools, and community organizations. It improves the quality of life for families throughout Georgia's Second Congressional District, whether they live in urban or rural areas."

The nine projects in Georgia's Second Congressional District for which Congressman Bishop secured funding include:

- \$9,747,000 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage invasive aquatic vegetation, restore access on Lake Seminole, and restore the local ecosystem;
- \$1,092,000 to the Lee County Board of Commissioners for a 1.0 million gallon per day well and treatment facility to provide safe, reliable, and potable drinking water to their residents;
- \$960,000 to the City of Blakely for a major water transmission line that would improve service to areas of the city that have very poor water pressure, including the Early County School System;
- \$739,000 to the Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance,

Inc., to expand prevention programs, informed care practices, and justice system response to child abuse and domestic violence across 17 counties in Georgia's Second Congressional District;

- \$629,000 to the Early County Board of Commissioners to upgrade its regional 911 emergency services equipment;
 - \$478,420 to the City of Atapulgus for the first phase of a multi-phase plan to replace existing asbestos cement water mains within its drinking water distribution system;
 - \$313,000 to Columbus State University for its campus police force purchase two new police cruisers, mobile data terminals, and security cameras to help its efficiency and operational capabilities as well as improve campus safety;
 - \$306,000 to the City of Buena Vista's Police Department to replace old patrol vehicles and other obsolete equipment so that it will improve patrol effectiveness as well as officer and community safety; and
 - \$120,000 to the City of Newton to upgrade its existing emergency services vehicles.
- H.R. 6938 is the product of



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 75b6h8 Host James Manning (Elder)

CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

301 W. Church Street (478)825-2762

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

FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)

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

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY FOODBANK

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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

GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES

1000 Tulip Drive, Fort Valley.

Sunday School at 8:30am Morning Worship at 10:00am

Wednesday: Free Fellowship Meal at 6pm

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

HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS' CLASS

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

We will cover theology, history, liturgy, and more! To register contact Fr Matt at harlowmatthew@gmail.com https://www.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

BAHA'I FAITH

"Religions are many, but the reality of religion is one. The days are many, but the sun is one... The branches are many, but the tree is one."

Baha'u'llah

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

and leave a text message.

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

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

Bianca Ballard (478)825-8452.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

Please join us as we continue to seek to save them that are lost! Our weekly schedule is:

Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. Sunday Worship at 11:15 A.M. Bible Study at 7:00 P.M. - Tuesdays

To contact us, please leave a message at (478) 825-7581 or send email to secretary@shilohbaptistfortvalley.org or write us at the above post office box.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

505 State University Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

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

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

For additional information, call 478-825-7349.

USHERS TEMPLE CME CHURCH

411 Railroad Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030. 478-825-5106.

Join us each Sunday morning with Rev. Tawanna B. Harris at 9:30am for Sunday School followed at 11:00am with holy worship service. You may also join us remotely via Facebook Live. Bible Study held each Wednesday at 6:00pm.

REGULATIONS

CONTINUED FROM 4A

economically significant regulations with automatic periodic review, ensuring that costly rules do not persist indefinitely without reevaluation.

Texas charted a slightly different course by establishing a permanent Regulatory Efficiency Office, modeled explicitly on the federal Department of Government Efficiency concept. Rather than focusing solely on approval thresholds, Texas tasked the new office with identifying duplicative and obsolete rules, improving economic analysis

and providing agencies with plain-language tools to reduce regulatory burdens. Importantly, the law also curtails judicial deference to agency interpretations, reinforcing the judiciary's independent role in regulatory disputes.

Taken together, these developments illustrate a national shift away from passive acceptance of regulatory growth and toward active reduction of the administrative state. No longer content to focus on individual rules at the margins, states are

redesigning the processes that produce regulation in the first place.

For Georgia, the lesson is not that any single model must be copied wholesale, but that meaningful reform requires sustained oversight and a willingness to revisit long-standing assumptions about how regulation should function. As lawmakers consider the state's next steps, they do so within a national context that increasingly favors accountability, transparency and restraint.

Bipartisan Funding Bill Will Keep the Federal Government Open & Working for the People

By the office of U.S. Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

WASHINGTON - Today, Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02) a senior member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, secured over \$14 million in funding for nine crucial projects in Middle and Southwest Georgia that help hardworking families have access to affordable, clean water. These projects also help communities update equipment for local law enforcement, fight child abuse as well as domestic violence, and continue improvements to Lake Seminole. The funds were included as part of a bipartisan appropriations bill, H.R. 6938, for Fiscal Year 2026 which funded the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of Energy as well as related federal science, energy, and environmental programs.

The bill passed the U.S. House by a vote of 397-28 and now proceeds to the U.S. Senate for approval before being signed into law by the president.

"Georgians work hard and Congress should be matching

ongoing negotiations between Democratic and Republican Appropriators in the U.S. House and Senate as well as Congressional leaders in both chambers.

Notably, the overall bill prevented more than \$163 billion in Trump Administration cuts that would have gutted public services, law enforcement, and

other crucial infrastructure programs. The bill was also stripped of partisan "poison pill" amendments.

Today, Congressman Bishop also voted on separate bipartisan legislation to restore the Affordable Care Act enhanced tax credits which expired at the beginning of January. The tax

credits were eliminated as part of H.R. 1 in July of 2025 as part of the "big, ugly bill" to help pay for tax breaks that predominantly benefited billionaires. With the loss of the ACA enhanced tax credits, thousands of Middle and Southwest Georgians have seen their healthcare premium costs skyrocket.

The Peach County Schools' District Spelling Bee Awards

By PCSS

A special congratulations to Spelling Bee Champion, Averie Crafter from Hunt Elementary School! We also congratulate our Runner-Up, Tylan Williams from Fort Valley Middle School! Outstanding work by all of these students from each school: Byron Elementary School Robert McCabe- Winner Olivia Lynn- Runner up

Byron Middle School
Chance Scott- Winner
Zoe' Alexander- Runner up

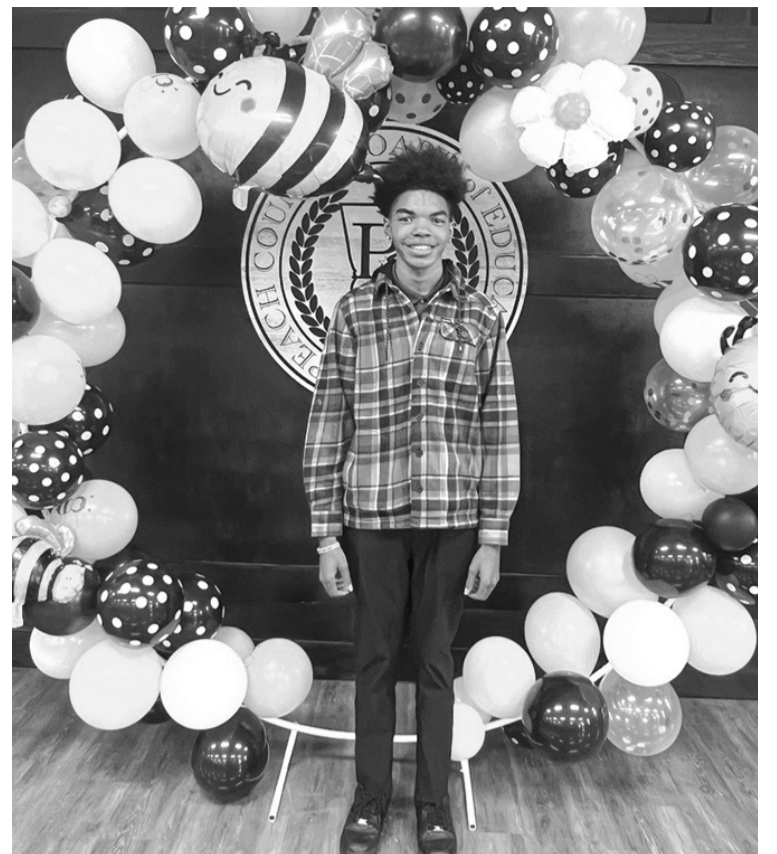
Fort Valley Middle School
Kasstin Ezell- Winner
Tylan Williams- Runner up

Hunt Elementary School
Averie Crafter- Winner
De'Khari Curry- Runner up

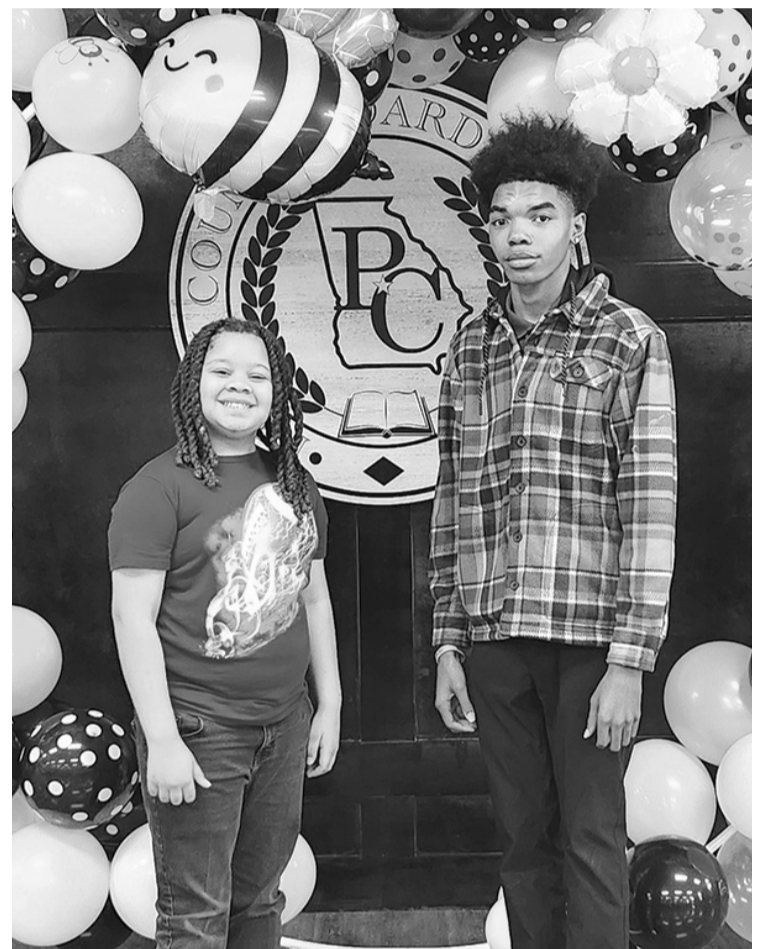
Kay Road Elementary School
Londyn Eason- Winner
Mason Wozniak- Runner up



Hunt Elementary School Spelling Bee Winner, Averie Crafter, and first runner-up De'Khari Curry with Hunt Elementary Assistant Principal of Discipline LaNessia Miller (left) and Peach County Superintendent Dr. Jesse Davis (right).



Tylan Williams District Spelling Bee Runner-Up



At the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Eggs



By the office of
Rep. Robert Dickey

On Monday, January 12th, the 2026 session began. The session lasts for 40 legislative days, which are days when the House and Senate officially convene. Some days are dedicated to committee meetings. For instance, this week will mainly feature committee meetings focused on the state budget. Other dates to be aware of include Crossover Day on March 6th. This is the last day a bill must pass its respective chamber and "crossover" to the other if it is to have a chance at becoming law. The last date is April 2nd, which is Sine Die, the last day of the legislative session. I have posted the legislative calendar on my Facebook page for you to use that as a helpful guide when choosing the perfect time to visit the Capitol.

At the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues breakfast at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Speaker Jon Burns announced that the House is laser-focused on keeping Georgia the best place in the nation to live, work, raise a family, and do business for generations to come. To accomplish this, the House will work on initiatives to make living in Georgia more affordable for every family and business in our state.

The House will focus on:

- Addressing the cost and accessibility of insurance.
- Deliver on tax relief-put forward legislation enabling the elimination of the homestead property tax statewide.
- Cut regulations that contribute to the rising costs of building a new home.
- Address healthcare access and affordability.
- Champion literacy efforts to strengthen curriculum, increase accessibility to screenings for learning challenges, and fund literacy coaches.

On Thursday, January 15th, Governor Kemp delivered his final State of the State Address to a joint session of the General Assembly. It was a bittersweet moment. Over the past seven years, Governor Kemp has steered our state through many challenges, including COVID lockdowns and Hurricanes Michael and Helene. Through it all, our state is safer and more prosperous than it was in 2019, prior to Governor Kemp's term. <https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2026-01-15/governor-kemps-2026-state-state-address>

Where we stand today:

- Through a balanced budget process, our state reserves are at a record high. 4.1 billion dollars of capital projects have been funded with cash rather than

debt.

- Cash funding of capital projects has allowed us to reduce our debt by 20 percent over 3 years. The lowest since the state began issuing debt bonds in the 1970s.
- Historic tax cuts were implemented, returning billions to taxpayers.
- Invested 6 billion in water, sewer, and transportation projects across the state.
- Workforce Development- we have reduced the state employee turnover rate by 25 percent, saving taxpayers in training new employees.
- Prioritized economic development, over the last 7 years, Georgia has seen over 219,700 new jobs.
- Since 2019, we have welcomed 3 of the largest economic projects in the state's history.
- Continued Georgia's streak of 12 years for the best place to do business.
- Fully funded the Quality Basic Education fund 7 times while also adding an additional 184.5 million dollars to programs that prepare workers for jobs.
- School safety; added an additional 184.5 million in school security grants. Raised teacher pay by \$9,500!
- Kept the cost of post-secondary school in check by putting an additional 2 billion towards higher education.
- Launched the GRACE commission to combat human trafficking. Since its launch, there have been 70 convictions and 200 children saved.
- Established the Anti-Gang Taskforce and the Gang Prosecution Unit. Since then, GBI has arrested 2,500 offenders with gang affiliation.

My office at the Capitol is 228 and my administrative assistant is Kimberly Romaine. As we move forward with the

LSGT Business of the Month On The Mark



By PCHS

The Peach County High School Local School Governance Team presented On the Mark, in Byron, with Business of the Month for December. On the Mark has supported PCHS for many years. They continue to support many sports teams,

they make staff shirts, banners for sports teams, items that are sold in the Trojan Trading Post, team fan gear, the PCHS Coaches clothing, PCHS Club shirts, and so much more! They make so many different items in-house, items like lawn signs, vinyl car wraps, magnets, koozies

and they do embroidery. Matt and his staff can help you with all kinds of advertising items. Pictured are Dustin Chancellor, LSGT Chairman and Matt Edwards, owner of On the Mark. Thank you, On the Mark, for your many years of support for PCHS!

office phone number is 404-656-5099 and my email address is robert.dickey@house.ga.gov. Please reach out to me any time. As always, thank for you for

continuing to allow me to serve as your representative. It is an honor and privilege I do not take lightly.
Robert Dickey

Legals

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

Legal Advertising Information

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

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

Legal ads may be sent via a Federal Express for Saturday delivery. Legal ads may be sent via email to legals@theleadertribune.net, please use word document or typed text. Many legal notices are billed at the rate of \$15.00 per 100 words or a portion thereof for each insertion for the first four insertions. Some specific types of ads, such as divorce, articles of incorporation, articles of merger, petition to adopt, name changes and DUI notices have fees set based on the number

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

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

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

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

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

ads is \$25 each. These ads run one time and typically come from the Peach County State Court or the Municipal Court of incorporated cities.

Judicial Matters - This broad category can include notices such as adoption, custody, juvenile court actions and contemporary custody. These matters frequently run from two to four times, depending on the order. Some of these issues come from the Peach County Judicial Matters Court, others from the Peach County Probate Court.

Domestic Matters - These include notices for change of name and for divorce. When one of the parties cannot be located locally. Both of these items run four times.

Notice of Sale or Foreclosure Notice - These notices typically run the four Wednesdays prior to the first Tuesday of the month when the sales are held at the Peach County Courthouse in Fort Valley. The fee for these notices is \$15 per 100 words per insertion.

Publisher's Affidavit fee is \$10.

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 CAROLYN 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 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 Mortgagors 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.

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 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

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

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. Decatur 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 - LG
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 **Estella Elaine Green** 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 8th day of January, 2026
Name: Raphael Geberit Green

Title: Administrator
Address: Meyerson Law Firm, 120 Village Circle, Senoia, GA 30276
01/21/2026, 01/28/2026, 02/04/2026, 02/11/2026
3652 (119615)

GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

This 14th day of January, 2026
John Walter Strickland, Executor
c/o Rebecca C. Moody, Esq.
MOODY AND ASSOCIATES LAW FIRM, LLC
P.O. Box 422
Perry, GA 31069
478-988-0238
1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2026
3653

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 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

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 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

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 recorded in Deed Book 569, Page 166, Peach 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, Peach 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 757, 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

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 to Jeremy 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 TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

IN RE: ESTATE OF MALCOLM H. CONNOR JR.

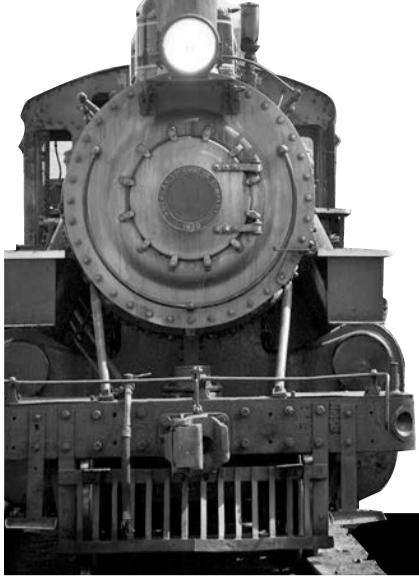
All creditors of the Estate of Malcolm H. Connor, Jr., late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 16th day of January 2026
Peggy Marie Connor, Executor of the Will of Malcolm H. Connor, Jr.
1431 Clopine Lake Road
Fort Valley, GA 31030
Robert T. Tuggle, III
Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle & Daniel, LLP
Post Office Box 89
Perry, Georgia 31069
1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2026
3655

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of **BESSIE CHRISTINE SANDERS NEWMAN** having been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to **SHIRLEY STONE** this is to cite all creditors of said estate to make their demands known to us and all debtors of said estate to make immediate payment to us.

This 5TH day of JANUARY, 2026.
SHIRLEY STONE, as Executor
C/O Robert J. Aromatorio
Collins & Aromatorio, P.C.
GA Bar No. 023708
P.O. Box 250
Byron, Georgia 31008
478-956-3071
1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2026
3654



Hometown CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

**Utility Commission
Positions Announcement**

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Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

7 lesser-known facts about Martin Luther King, Jr.



Special to
The Leader Tribune

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a pivotal figure in the history of the United States. Much is known about his life and influence, but there's always an opportunity to learn more, especially some lesser-known facts regarding Dr. King's life. The following are some interesting tidbits about MLK, Jr.

1. King's original name was Michael King, Jr. and not Martin. After King's father was inspired by the German Protestant Martin Luther, he changed both his own name and his son's name to Martin.

2. King entered college at age 15. While most incoming college students are 18 or older, King skipped both the ninth and twelfth grades and entered

Morehouse College through an early admission program. He eventually graduated with a degree in sociology.

3. King's assassination did not mark the first attempt on his life. In 1958, while signing copies of his book *Stride Toward Freedom*, King was stabbed in the chest by Izola Ware Curry. The doctors later said that if he had sneezed right after the stabbing, he wouldn't have survived the attack.

4. King inspired actress Nichelle Nichols to stay on the "Star Trek" television series. King was a big fan of "Star Trek" when Nichols, who played Uhura, was considering leaving the show. King advised Nichols to stay since she was one of the first representations of African Americans on television in a non-stereotyped role.

5. King is actually a Grammy Award winner among his many accomplishments and awards. He posthumously received the 1967 Grammy for Best Spoken Word Recording for his "Why I Oppose the War in Vietnam" speech.

6. King accumulated quite an extensive arrest record. Although he is known for being jailed in Birmingham, he was arrested more than 25 times, largely for minor reasons — failure to obtain a parade permit being one of them.

7. Some say that King was a pool shark. As a student at Crozer Theological Seminary, he became skilled at billiards and would hustle classmates for fun.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was known for his many accomplishments and it can be interesting to learn more about his storied life.

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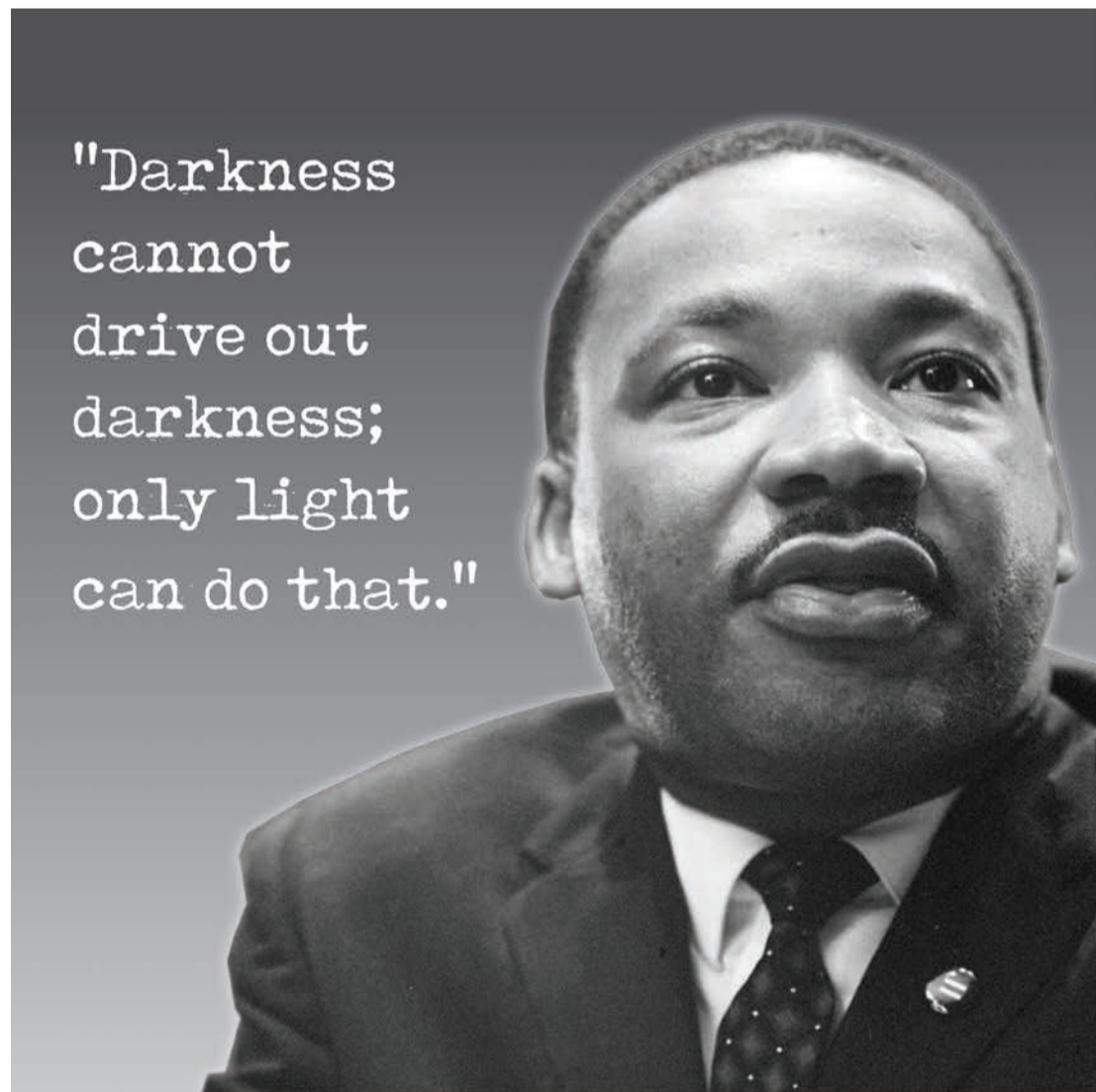

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Trojans Show Fight in Region Loss to Monroe

By: Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

FORT VALLEY — The Peach County High School boys basketball team turned in a gritty and determined performance Tuesday night but came up short in a Region contest, falling 57-46 to the Monroe Golden Tornadoes on their home floor.

Despite the loss, the Trojans continued to show growth and resilience, battling throughout the four quarters against one of the region's tougher opponents. Peach County kept the game within reach for much of the

night, using strong defensive pressure and disciplined half-court offense to challenge Monroe.

Monroe was able to create separation late with timely baskets and steady free-throw shooting, but the Trojans never backed down. Peach County matched the Golden Tornadoes' physicality and effort, repeatedly answering runs and forcing Monroe to earn every possession.

The Trojans' defense remained a bright spot, limiting transition opportunities and contesting shots inside. Offensively, Peach

County found success attacking the basket and moving the ball, generating quality looks even as Monroe's defense tightened in the closing minutes.

With the loss, Peach County moves to 8-11 overall and 1-3 in Region play. While the record may not reflect it, the Trojans' effort and competitiveness continue to trend in the right direction as the season progresses.

Peach County will look to build on the positives from this performance as region play continues, aiming to turn hard-fought efforts into wins down the stretch.

Peach County Rec Opens Baseball, Softball Registration for 2026 Season

By: Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The Peach County Recreation Department has officially opened registration for its 2026 youth baseball and softball season, giving families across the county the chance to get young athletes signed up for another exciting year on the diamond.

Registration runs from January 14 through February 8, and is open to boys and girls ages 3-17, with an age control date of June 30, 2026. The department continues to offer a wide range of programs designed to

introduce beginners to the game while also providing competitive opportunities for more experienced players.

For baseball, Peach County Rec will offer T-Ball (Minor and Major divisions), Coach Pitch, 10U Baseball, and 12U Baseball. Softball players will have opportunities to compete in 10U, 13U, and 17U Softball divisions.

Registration fees are set at \$40 for children ages 6 and under and \$70 for ages 7 and older. Officials note that payment is required at the time of registration to secure a roster spot.

Parents and guardians can

complete the registration process online by visiting peachcounty.gov. The Peach County Recreation Department encourages families not to wait until the last minute, as spots in several divisions traditionally fill quickly.

With another season of fundamentals, teamwork, and community pride on the horizon, Peach County Rec officials are looking forward to welcoming players back to the fields for a fun and competitive 2026 baseball and softball season.

Lady Wildcats Fall to Edward Waters, 72-34

By: Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

A difficult night on the road continued a challenging stretch for the Fort Valley State University women's basketball team, as the Lady Wildcats fell to Edward Waters University, 72-34, in SIAC action.

Fort Valley State struggled to find an offensive rhythm from the opening tip, going scoreless from the field in the first quarter and trailing early as Edward Waters built a commanding lead. The Lady Wildcats shot 24.1 percent from the floor for

the game and were limited to just one three-pointer on 14 attempts.

Despite the setback, several Wildcats turned in steady individual efforts. India McIntosh led Fort Valley State with nine points and seven rebounds, battling inside to provide second-chance opportunities. Aaniyah Allen added eight points, four rebounds, and four assists while logging 37 minutes, and Reya Johnson contributed five points and a team-high nine rebounds.

Off the bench, Julia Baker provided a spark with six points

on 3-of-7 shooting, while the Wildcats also received contributions from Marley Bell and Makayla Arnold. Fort Valley State finished with 34 rebounds and 26 points in the paint but was hampered by 22 turnovers that Edward Waters converted into points.

The loss drops the Lady Wildcats to 2-12 overall on the season and 2-10 in SIAC play. As conference play continues, Fort Valley State will look to regroup, clean up turnovers, and build consistency on both ends of the floor as the season progresses.

Wildcats Fall at Morehouse, Slip to .500 in SIAC Play

By: Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The Fort Valley State University men's basketball team saw its momentum slowed Wednesday night, January 14, 2026, as the Wildcats dropped a 68-58 decision to Morehouse College in SIAC action.

Fort Valley State (7-6 overall, 6-6 SIAC) struggled to find a consistent offensive rhythm, particularly in the opening half, and was unable to overcome an early deficit against the Maroon Tigers. The Wildcats shot just 37.7 percent from the field for the game and went 12-of-22 from the free-throw line.

Morehouse took advantage of Fort Valley State's cold shooting early, holding the Wildcats

to 11-of-26 shooting in the first half, including just 1-of-11 from beyond the arc. Despite improved perimeter shooting after halftime, FVSU could not close the gap.

Danny Delgado III and C.J. Williams led the Wildcats with 14 points apiece. Delgado III logged all 40 minutes, knocking down four field goals and adding five rebounds. Williams was efficient from the line, going a perfect 4-for-4, while also pulling down a team-high eight rebounds.

Derek Delgado Jr. added 11 points, eight rebounds, and four assists, providing a strong all-around performance in the loss. Off the bench, Demetrius Paul Jr. gave Fort Valley State a spark,

scoring seven points on a perfect 3-of-3 shooting and grabbing nine rebounds in 18 minutes of action.

The Wildcats held a slight edge on the boards with 42 rebounds and scored 22 points in the paint, but turnovers (20) and missed opportunities at the free-throw line proved costly. Fort Valley State also managed just six three-pointers on 22 attempts.

Fort Valley State will look to regroup quickly as SIAC play continues, with the Wildcats aiming to get back above .500 in conference action and build momentum heading into the second half of the season.

The Global Impact of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Special to
The Leader Tribune

Americans pay homage to Martin Luther King, Jr. every January. While King was a renowned leader for his role in the American civil rights movement, his legacy extends beyond American borders. King began to speak about global issues after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, visiting countries in west Africa and toured South America.

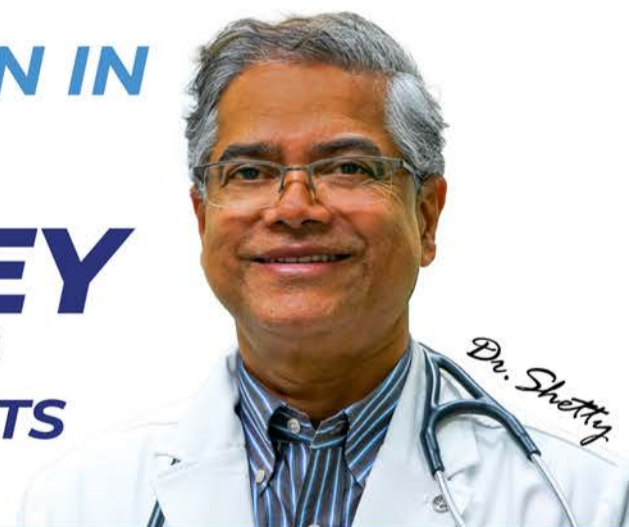
King also spent a month in India, where he was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's use of nonviolence when protesting British rule. King spoke out against apartheid in South Africa and condemned the use of nuclear weapons against Japan during World War II. He also was a critic of the Vietnam War.

As a Christian minister, King's first priority was to promote the teachings of Jesus Christ, and King felt an obligation to do God's work around the world.



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