

**Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 9-10am**



Join us for a fun-filled morning at the Peachtree Café! Start the day with a delicious breakfast of warm sausage biscuits and sweet, fresh donuts, then spend some time visiting with the Easter Bunny. Parents, don't forget your cameras!  
 We're also spreading a little extra joy this Easter. Please bring a new children's book to help St. Andrews Episcopal Church fill their seven Little Free Libraries here in Fort Valley.  
 3 Miles East of Fort Valley www.lanesouthernorchards.com 1-800-277-3224



# The Leader Tribune

**Peach County's Newspaper**

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

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tax included

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## Peach County Hires New County Administrator



Photo by Zoe Hammond  
 From Left to Right: Commissioner Martin Moseley, Commissioner Chair Roy Lewis, County Administrator Jill Bowen, Commissioner Wade Yoder, Commissioner Vice-Chair Betty Hill.

By Zoe Hammond  
 News Editor  
 FORT VALLEY, Ga. - The Peach County Board of Commissioners has selected a new

county administrator during their March board meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Jillian Bowen has been selected to be the new County Adminis-

trator. She brings nearly 20 years of experience serving the Peach County community through her

**NEW ADMIN.  
 CONTINUED PG 6A**

## City of Byron Extends Moratorium on Land Development

By Zoe Hammond  
 News Editor

BYRON, Ga. - The Mayor and City Council of Byron have agreed to extend a temporary moratorium on land development until July 14, 2026, during their March board meeting on March 9.

This moratorium covers the acceptance and/or approval of applications for zoning, rezoning, development, redevelopment, permitting, land uses, land disturbances, and related matters in all land parcels zoned as A-1 agricultural, R-1 low density residential, R-2 medium density residential, and R-3 high density residential, within the city limits of Byron.

Next, the council unanimously approved authorizing Mayor Michael Chidester to approve the Convention and Visitors Bureau's submission of a Train Watching Platform and Doggie Depot Dog Park at the Jailhouse Alley Park; with the grant submission deadline being March 31, 2026.

The Mayor and council approved a quote of \$26,000 from

Thorn Construction, LLC's for a smooth roof coating for the Byron Fire Department. They approved a resolution concerning an update to Personnel Policy 5.1, work schedules.

Next, the council authorized the Mayor to approve an Inspection and Maintenance Agreement with Unified Defense regarding property located at Tax Map B02A 057, B02A 056, and B02A 055.

The Mayor and council approved a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Legal Services Agreement with Stag Liuzza, LLC and Carothers & Mitchell, LLC regarding civil action and/or claims pertaining to AFFP PFAS Litigation.

Next, the council approved a Resolution regarding a GEFA Second Modification to Loan CW2021030 and all other necessary documents. They authorized the Mayor to execute a Brindlee Mountain Listing & Marketing Commission Agreement to broker a 2002 Pierce Saber Pumper on the city's behalf subject to it being sold to another government agency.

## Fort Valley Convicted, Sentenced to 25 Years for Child Molestation

By Zoe Hammond  
 News Editor  
 FORT VALLEY, Ga. - A Fort Valley man was convicted of child molestation by a Houston County jury on Wednesday, March 11, according to a media release from the Houston County District Attorney's Office.

According to the release, the Houston County District Attorney's Office stated that Corey Alan Lusk, 34-years-old, had sexually abused a child over a two-year span. They said that the abuse started when the child was 9-years-old.

"When a child has been subjected to abuse, our responsibility is to stand beside them and make sure their voice is heard," District Attorney Eric Edwards said in the release. "In this case, the jury heard this child's voice loud and clear, and justice was

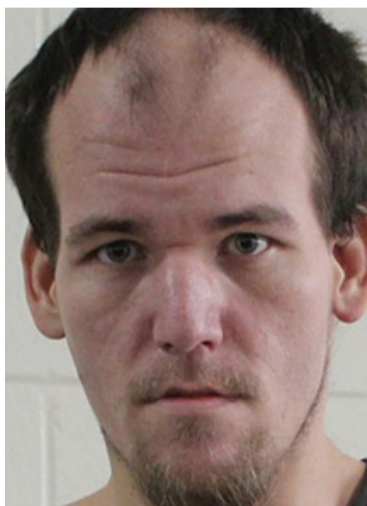


Photo Contributed  
 Corey Alan Lusk, 34-years-old

served." The Houston County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Investigations Division looked into the case, after the child told a family friend about it, according to the re-

lease. Lusk was convicted of five counts of child molestation after a three-day trial and was sentenced to 60 years with the first 25 years to be served in prison. Lusk will have to register as a sex offender for life after the 25 years in prison.

"A child's safety is our top priority. With this conviction, that safety is restored for this victim, and the defendant will be unable to prey upon any other children in this community," said Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth McDaniel. "I would like to thank Special Agent Adrian Moss and the Crescent House Child Advocacy Center for their work on this case. Our job is not possible without the dedicated work of the law enforcement agencies and child advocacy centers in Houston County."

## FVPD Investigating Juvenile Shot near Tabor Circle

By Zoe Hammond  
 News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. - A juvenile was injured in a shooting Friday, March 6, in Fort Valley, according to the Fort Valley Police Department.

According to FVPD Interim Chief David Wilson, the shooting happened around 9 p.m. in the area of Tabor Circle.

The FVPD Criminal Investi-

gations Division is investigating the incident. Police said investigators are working tips and leads as they attempt to identify and locate the suspect or suspects involved. Wilson said it's unclear whether the incident is gang-related, and the shooting is still under investigation.

The Fort Valley Police Department is asking anyone with information regarding the incident to contact the department



at (478) 825-3383.

## Peach County Schools Compiles Bullying Prevention Resources onto Newly Launched Web Page

By Zoe Hammond  
 News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. - The Peach County School System has launched a new web page, Bullying Prevention & Student Support, on its website. This new page compiles all of the resources on bullying prevention and safe school advocacy found throughout the Peach County school's website and Student handbook into one convenient location for students and parents.

The Bullying Prevention & Student Support webpage can be reached by going to the Peach County School's website - www.peachschools.org - and hovering over the parent tab. The webpage should be the second option in the column on the left.

The Bullying Prevention & Student Support page states Peach County Schools will not tolerate bullying, harassment, intimidation, or cyber-bullying and is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and respectful environment for all students.

"Our priority is ensuring that every student feels valued, respected, and safe at school and

during school-related activities. We strive to cultivate a learning environment where every student can focus, learn, and thrive without distraction," Peach County Schools states.

Teachers, coaches, and staff are working to prevent bullying by promoting positive character, responsible digital behavior, and clear reporting procedures.

To combat bullying, the district uses monitoring software on school-owned equipment, restricts access to inappropriate material and social media on networks/devices, and prohibits cell phone use during the school day to prevent unsupervised interactions.

Students, parents, and staff are encouraged to report bullying immediately; reports can be made by speaking with a teacher, counselor, administrator, or school staff member or by contacting school administration directly. After a report is made, the school administration will investigate the incident(s) and notify the parents of the alleged bully and the targeted student.

**BULLYING PREVENTION  
 CONTINUED PG 2A**



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# Big changes coming to Georgia General Assembly in 2026 elections as lawmakers leave office

By Mark Niesse  
Staff Writer

## Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — With legislators running for higher office, long-time lawmakers retiring, and many challenges to incumbents, the Georgia General Assembly is set for high turnover after this year's elections.

Control of the state House and Senate is at stake as Republicans are defending the majorities they've held in both chambers for over 20 years.

Eighteen senators and representatives signed up to run for higher offices before candidate qualifying ended last week, leaving behind districts where they would have been incumbents seeking reelection. In the contest for lieutenant governor alone, five senators are competing against each other.

And many new challengers entered the fray. A total of 537 candidates are running for 236 seats in the General Assembly.

To take control of the House, Democrats need to flip 10 seats. Republicans currently hold

a 99-77 advantage, with four Democratic-leaning seats vacant. Democrats have already secured two of those seats because no Republicans are running.

"The wave is building, and Georgia can feel it," said House Minority Leader Carolyn Hugley, D-Columbus. "We are within striking distance of the majority, and this qualifying period has made one thing absolutely clear: House Democrats are not just competing — we are coming to win."

Republicans hold firmer control of the Senate, where they have a 32-23 advantage, with one GOP-leaning seat vacant.

Republican Party Chair Josh McKoon said Georgia remains a center-right state, but no election can be taken for granted.

"Republicans have been great stewards of the public trust. When you look at the Republican record, it's really striking how they've made Georgia such an engine of economic growth," McKoon said. "Voters will continue to reward Republicans for that record."

Despite the flood of candidates, some incumbents lack any challengers, especially in deeply conservative or liberal districts.

There are 54 seats where only one candidate filed to run for election, effectively winning their races before a vote is cast.

Besides candidates running for higher office, retirements and resignations also created openings.

The nine retiring legislators include House Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones, R-Milton; House Natural Resources Chair Lynn Smith, R-Newnan; Sen. Ed Harbison, D-Columbus; and Sen. Elena Parent, D-Decatur.

Three Democrats left the House after facing federal charges for COVID-19 unemployment fraud. Reps. Karen Bennett, D-Stone Mountain, and Dexter Sharper, D-Valdosta, resigned from office. Rep. Sharon Henderson, D-Covington, was suspended from the House by Gov. Brian Kemp, and she's running for state Senate.

# Could gold be used as currency in Georgia? A gold bill passed the state Senate

By Mark Niesse  
Staff Writer

## Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Forget paper money. Georgia senators want to legalize using gold and silver for everyday purchases.

The Senate passed a bill last week that would set up a system for Georgians to buy gold, store it in a depository, and use a debit card to spend it on items such as fast food or milkshakes.

Senators are selling gold as a hedge against inflation of the U.S. dollar, but skeptics say gold doesn't necessarily protect hard-earned cash from rising prices.

Sen. Marty Harbin, R-Tyrone, the sponsor of Senate Bill 424, said making gold legal tender will bring "financial freedom" to Georgians.

"It's really true money, because paper money is currency that we have the faith of the government in it," Harbin said. "This is hard currency that we can own."

The bill passed on a bipartisan

29-21 vote Friday and now advances to the House.

Under the legislation, a politically appointed "Bullion Depository Commission" would contract with a private company, such as Brinks, to provide vault and electronic payment systems for gold and silver.

Critics say the idea doesn't make financial sense.

For Georgians are trying to avoid inflation, investing in gold also comes with risks, said Campbell Harvey, a finance professor at Duke University with expertise in decentralized finance and investment management.

"Gold is as volatile as the stock market. There is no guarantee that it will provide a hedge for inflation in the short term," Harvey said. "What if inflation surges and the price of gold goes down? This is not, in my opinion, the business that a state should engage in."

Instead of buying gold directly, Georgians could instead

purchase it through an exchange-traded fund, which has lower costs and security issues, Harvey said. Gold is near record-high values today, but he said buying at a high point is often an investing mistake.

The bill calls for the costs of gold storage to be paid in the form of storage fees charged to Georgia residents who choose to use it. Harbin said public money wouldn't be used to run the depository.

Several other states recognize gold as legal tender, including Arkansas, Florida, Missouri, Texas, and Utah.

Legislators also moved forward with another bill that would change transactions.

The price of products sold in-person in Georgia would be rounded down to the nearest five cents, according to House Bill 1112, which passed the House on Friday. The bill is a response to the Trump administration's decision to stop making pennies.

# Last Weeks Storm Left Damage At Ponderosa RV Park In Peach County



Photos by Nomad RV Repair/Facebook  
Ponderosa RV park



## BULLYING PREVENTION

CONTINUED FROM 1A



### Parents

Arrival and Dismissal School Times Here Comes the Bust Volunteer  
Bullying Prevention & Student Support Lunch Menu  
Calendars Parents Right to Know

Photo Contributed  
www.peachschools.org

If the interaction has been determined to be bullying, appropriate consequences will be applied based on the offense.

Peach County Schools has a system in place to determine whether negative interactions between students are conflict or bullying. Normal peer conflict may include disagreements, arguments, or isolated incidents where both students have equal power; every school has methods to approach and resolve these conflicts through discussion, mediation, or guidance from school staff.

Bullying involves intentional harm, intimidation, or a power imbalance between students that is severe, persistent, or pervasive.

In the case of bullying, the schools have and will dispense disciplinary consequences — in accordance with the district's

code of conduct — which includes counseling or behavioral intervention, restorative practices, detention or suspension, or assignment to an alternative education program when required by law. Georgia law requires that students in grades 6 through 12 who commit bullying for the third time in a school year be assigned to an alternative school.

The Bullying Prevention & Student Support webpage provides a list of resources ranging from mobile, online, and district. The district resources include Peach County Parent ProTech and Peach 360. Peach 360 encourages students to demonstrate respect, responsibility, kindness, and leadership in their daily interactions.

Online resources include links to StopBullying.gov, Common Sense Media, and PACER's National Bullying Prevention Cen-

ter.

Mobile resources include the Georgia School Safety Hotline at 1-877-SAY-STOP (1-877-729-7867); the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, call or text 988; the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) at 1-800-715-4225, and the Crisis Text Line, text HOME to 741741.

Peach County Schools has also provided a guide on cyber-bullying awareness; the warning signs can include sudden distress after using technology, avoiding friends or school, secretive behavior online, and withdrawal from devices or social interaction. Parents are encouraged to talk regularly with their children about responsible online behavior.



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### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

#### Fort Valley Utility Commission

#### Crestwood Drive Gas Main & Service Replacement Project

Sealed bids will be received by the Fort Valley Utility Commission Administration Office, 500 Antoine St., Fort Vally, GA 31030 until: **Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10:00 am** for the furnishing of labor, tools, skill, equipment and incidentals for the construction and installation of:

**Replacing approximately 1,700 ft of 2" Steel with 2" PE gas main and 12 residential gas services on Crestwood Dr. in Fort Valley, GA.**

Bids received after the designated time will not be considered.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the above address for the Fort Valley Utility Commission. To be considered, the bid shall include a copy of the Utility Contractors License, appropriate insurance certificate and a summary list of contractor employees showing tasks and expiration dates for Operator Qualification under the current GMA OQ Plan.

Electronic versions of the bid documents and construction specifications are available by contacting Jason Baker at [jbaker@sappengineering.com](mailto:jbaker@sappengineering.com). A mandatory prebid meeting will be held at the above address on **Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 10:00 am** to answer questions and review the details of the project.

All bid forms must be accompanied by a Bid Bond in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount bid. The successful bidder, if awarded the Contract, will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract amount.

The Fort Valley Utility Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive formalities and re-advertise.

All questions should be directed to  
Jason Baker  
Sapp Engineering & Services  
[jbaker@sappengineering.com](mailto:jbaker@sappengineering.com)  
229-563-6635

AFB-1

# 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

Bates, Matthew Paul, 37, Covington, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Possession Of Drug Related Object, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Bibbs, Kenya Breanna, 35, Macon, GA: Conspiracy To Commit Prison Drop W/ Unmanned Aircraft

Carthen, Myron Edward, 23, Warner Robins, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Improper Handicap Parking

Clowers, Vashaan Marquis, 29, Macon, GA: Driving With Suspended License

Cotton, Pam Janella, 46, Lizella, GA: DUI - Alcohol Less Safe

Delafe, Raul, 72, Juliette, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance

Demarco, Joseph Vernon, 51, Silver Springs, FL: DUI - Drugs Less Safe, Failure To Maintain A Single Lane, Possession Of Drug Related Object, Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance

Gonzales, Jose Alfredo, 46, Warner Robins, GA: No Tag Or Expired Registration, Driving Without A Valid License

Howard, Kristina Kennedy, 18, Lizella, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Failure To Signal Lane Change Or Turn

Jones, Teagan Michelle, 33, Macon, GA: Probation Violation

Mcdonald, Brenton Lewis, 39, Montezuma, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Certain Crimes

Patterson, Shania D, 24, Macon, GA: Conspiracy To Commit Prison Drop W/ Unmanned Aircraft, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz.

Salter, Joseph Richard, 41, Warner Robins, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance

Singleton, Anthony Marquis, 35, Haddock, GA: Conspiracy To Commit Prison Drop W/ Unmanned Aircraft

White, Destin Remon, 21, Macon, GA: Defective Or Missing Mirrors, DUI - Alcohol 0.08 Grams Or More 21 YOA Or Over

Williams, Courtney Danielle, 36, Lizella, GA: Failure To Appear

## Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Parling, Lemuel Keane, 19, Fort Valley, GA: Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit

Certain Felonies, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Failure To Have License On Person, Theft By Receiving Property Stolen In Another State - Felony, Possession And Use Of Drug Related Objects

## Peach County Sheriff's Office

### Arrests/Citations

Blackmon, Kasey Deshawn, 46, Barnsville, GA: Possession Of A Schedule I Or II Controlled Substance With Intent To Distribute, Possession Of A Schedule III Controlled Substance

Cephus, Freddreka Michelle Shanta, 25, Warner Robins, GA: Driving While License Suspended

Correa, Gustavo, 31, Macon, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Dessaint, Edgard, 51, Locust Grove, GA: Homicide By Vehicle In 1st Degree - Felony

Haslem, Omar, 31, Tennille, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Harris, Nekia Shunae, 41, East Point, GA: Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Possession With Intent

Jackson, Delvin Marquis, 25, Fort Valley, GA: Reckless Driving, Improper Passing In No Passing Zone

Jones, Colton Bradley, 20, Cataula, GA: Terroristic Threats And Acts, Harassing Phone Calls

Lightner, Christopher Tavaris, 39, Clearwater, FL: Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Trespass

Mcpherson, Jennifer Renea, 45, Byron, GA: Financial Transaction Card Fraud

Poole, David Robert, 43, Centerville, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Possession Of Drug Related Objects

Riggins, Dorell Michael, 40, Winter Haven, FL: Possession Of A Schedule I Or II Controlled Substance With Intent To Distribute, Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits)

Singletary, Richard Frank, 33, Perry, GA: Driving While License Suspended, Giving False Name, Address, Or Birthdate To Law Enforcement Officer

Taylor, Joshua Adam, 51, Cordele, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Whitfield, Tocarro Tremayne, 44, Perry, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

# Alabama and Georgia end decades-long legal conflict

By Ty Tagami  
Bureau Chief

## Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — No blood was shed, but it will go down as one of the longer conflicts in memory.

Last week, Alabama finally raised a white flag after nearly four decades of legal battles with Georgia in one front of what came to be known as the "Tri-State Water Wars," which included Florida.

The Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta granted Alabama's request to dismiss its appeal that challenged water use in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint

River Basin.

"For the first time since 1989, there is no litigation between the states in this basin," said Anna Roach, the executive director and CEO of the Atlanta Regional Commission, a party in the case.

"This agreement heralds a new era of cooperation that will benefit both states and all stakeholders," Roach said in her statement after the Feb. 19 court order by a three-judge panel.

The cessation of legal hostilities between the two states, the commission, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other parties resolves the decades-long dispute over the Corps' management of the ba-

sin's water.

The compromise will maintain metro Atlanta's supply from Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River while giving Alabama what it sought, the commission said.

Although the war with Alabama is over, some skirmishes continue.

Florida environmentalists appealed a 2021 federal court ruling affirming the Corps' 2017 management plan for water from the lake and the Chattahoochee River below the Buford Dam.

And Alabama still has a pending federal court challenge in Washington, D.C. against a 2021 Corps water plan.

# 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  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING Thursday, March 19, 2026 Time 06:30 P.M.**  
Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 832 3457 1063 Passcode: 262368

**City of Fort Valley PUBLIC NOTICE Effective Immediately.** The Mayor's Monday Briefings have been cancelled until further notice. Thank you for your understanding.  
Madam Mayor  
Shakeena B. Reeves

## Peach County Schools Pre-K Registration 2026-2027

Pre-K Registration will be Open, Monday, February 9, 2026 to Friday, March 27, 2026.

## Peach County Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Fort Valley, GA - Peach County Schools  
The March Board Study Session and Regular Board Meeting will be held as scheduled on March 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. and March 3, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Peach County Board of Education.

## 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.

## 2026-2027 FORT VALLEY HEAD START RECRUITMENT

700 Spruce St, Ft. Valley, GA 31030. (478)825-8584.  
Ages 3 -5. Required Documentation: Proof of birth, Social Security Card, Immunization 3231, Medicaid/Insurance card, Proof of income, Well child check, Dental exam, GA public health 3300 (if applicable), www.mgcaa.org

## American Legion Meetings

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

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

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

## ATTENTION: Veterans

Veterans who would like to get together for brotherhood, please meet for dinner at Mi Ranchito at 311-A Vineville St, Fort Valley, GA on 12 August

2023 at 6:30 p.m./1830. Please RSVP to Ernest Cooling by emailing ecooling79@gmail.com. If further information is needed, please call me at (478) 955-8850.

## Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority - Board Meeting

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

## Peach County Board of Commissioners Work Sessions

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

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

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

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

## Fort Valley Utility Commission

500 Anthoine St, Fort Valley. The Commission doors are open to customers from 8:00am - 5:00pm.

Public Work Session Meeting first Monday of every month at 4 p.m.

Regular Meeting every second Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

## Kiwanis Club of Fort Valley

The Kiwanis Club of Fort Valley meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays every month, noon at Kay Center in Fort Valley. Kiwanis is a civic group focused on helping children, and community service. Each week, members and guests enjoy lunch and a guest speaker who addresses a topic of local, state and sometimes even global interest. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and join one of America's oldest service organizations. See the Kiwanis Club of Fort Valley Facebook page for more information. (TFN)

## Peach Public Libraries Board of Trustees REGULAR MEETING THOMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY, FORT VALLEY, GA

Peach Public Libraries Board of Trustees meets the second Thursday of February, April, June, August, October, and December at 5:15pm in the Meeting Room at Thomas Public Library, Fort Valley, unless otherwise specified.

## Peach County Historical Society Meeting

Meets 4th Tuesday each month at 6:00pm. If anyone has school annuals of the past the Historical Society would like to have them. Donations welcome.

Contact: Lrgiles77@gmail.com

## Fort Valley Historic Preservation

The Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board meeting is held on the second Mondays of the month at 6pm, located at the Troutman House 201 Oakland Heights Pkwy, Fort Valley, Ga 31030.

## Peach County Retired Educators Association

The Peach County Retired Educators Association will meet on the first Monday of each month at 2pm. The meeting will be held at Trinity Baptist Church 507 State University Drive. For further info. please contact Dr. Quintin Green (478)951-1911.

## Byron AL-ANON Family Group

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

## Compassionate Friends Middle GA Chapter

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

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

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

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

## Byron Lions Club

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

## Byron Rotary Club

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

## Byron DDA/CVB

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

## Byron Tax Office

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



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

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## There's a Difference Between Discipline and Abuse



By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

Hi my fellow Peach County! There's a difference between discipline and abuse and it seems like many parents cannot tell what that difference is. At least, if the frequent arrests for family violence and cruelty to children charges in the weekly arrest reports are anything to go by. Abuse is not only physical, it can be mental, emotional, sexual, and so on.

The Centers for Disease Control defines child maltreatment as any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. There are different kinds of child abuse: physical, sexual, or emotional. Neglect, which can be benign or deliberate, is also child abuse.

What brought on this topic is what happened to me the other day at the doctor's office. My husband and I were sitting and waiting for my appointment. There was only one other group of people in the waiting room – a grandmother and her two grandchildren. The eldest was probably 7 or 8 and the youngest had to be younger than 5.

The grandmother was consistently on her phone ignoring the two and had brought nothing to keep them occupied. So, they were reading the magazines and playing with one another – at some points, they would get a little loud for being inside and the grandmother would snap at them and then go back to being on her phone.

At one point she got annoyed with them and took them both into the small bathroom in the

office. We thought it was maybe to talk to them privately about their behavior. The first time we heard a loud squeal but couldn't tell if it was the youngest playing or not. The second time, the grandmother dragged the youngest by his arm and took him into the bathroom – this time we could hear her hitting and yelling at him and him crying. He came out clutching his left eye and crying.

I reported her to the office and they acted as if this was a common occurrence. She beat this child because he was rambunctious and instead of addressing it correctly, like a parent or grandparent should, went to one of

If you are taking a young child somewhere, more often than not, you should bring things they need such as a book, toy, or food. Or, if they have energy or need attention, you find a way to help them express that energy in a positive way. We were in the large medical facility tied with Houston Healthcare – where numerous people come to exercise in an air-conditioned building. How hard would it have been to allow them to run around and get some of that pent-up energy out?

There is a stark difference between discipline and abuse. Discipline is to teach a child right from wrong. There are far more constructive ways to teach children right from wrong without defaulting to harming the child.

It has long been discussed that physical punishment can work momentarily to stop problematic behavior because children are afraid of being hit, but it doesn't work in the long term and can make children more aggressive according to Sandra Graham-Bermann, PhD, a psychology professor and principal investigator for the Child Violence and Trauma Laboratory at the University of Michigan. She details this in her work on the American Psychology Foundation.

Additionally, if your goal

**HAMMOND  
CONTINUED PG 5A**

## Burning Fat Snacks From Our Fatty Deposits



By Wade Yoder  
IT Columnist

We have an internal survival system, much like we prepare externally for a time of famine or drought, and when something happens that scares our insides such as staying hungry for too long or dehydration, it will prepare itself to protect the body against future stress of this kind.

Example: when we fear a coming shortage of food, we may start simply buying a few extra cans of food over the amount we normally need before our next grocery trip. These will simply go into our storage closet or pantry and will be stored there until we have a famine. However, if we keep adding to this storage for too long and

we never have a food shortage or famine to use up what we're storing, our amount of stored food can get out of hand.

When our storage area gets filled up, we have to start looking for new places to store the new food coming in, it's at this point that we start to realize that all this extra food is making our house less functional then it used to be, such as being harder to move around, and when the food that has been stored too long begins to spoil and age it will create a really bad environment inside our home.

Our body's reserve energy storage system works in much the same way in that, it will store the extra food we eat over the amount needed in our fat cells for our use in case we cannot eat. One pound of fat is approximately 3,500 calories and our body goes to this storage area and extracts needed calories when we skip a meal or two.

Fat is often looked at as something we don't like, but it's our body's calorie pantry that our Creator designed to sustain us with through lean times when we need extra calories and cannot access food. This extra fat

we have has been a prior investment in excess food intake that we don't necessarily have to go and pay for a bottle of fat burners to be able to burn off.

We can look at the cost of a meal and the amount of calories that it provides,

-divide and multiply that by the amount of fat we need to lose to measure the amount of investment we have in stored food on our body.

Example: if we normally eat a meal that provides 700 calories at a cost of \$6.00, (there are approximately 3,500 calories per pound of fat) so it would mean that each pound of fat we have extra on our body should be worth \$30 in the 5 meals it could provide.

Each of us has a certain amount of calories that we need on average per day based on what is going on inside us with digestion, body temperature control, vital organs, skeletal muscle, along with our increase or decrease in activities every day. (Our body simply looks for fuel to supply these needs), so if we suddenly drop our calorie intake very low one or two days or skip one or two meals, it forc-

es the body to go to its storage pantry and extract calories.

Example: if your daily need is 2,000 calories and you take in only 1000 calories your body will try to make up this 1000 calorie deficit from your stored energy system.

You do not want to do calorie restriction like this for too long, or the body will think this is the amount of food it has to get used to everyday and will simply start burning some muscle to lower its metabolism to become more efficient and not burn calories so fast. Usually if someone skips eating for only 18-24 hours or goes low calorie for 2-3 days and then gets calorie intake back up to regular level, there should be no muscle loss, and will result in only in burning fat for energy!

Note: getting blood sugar levels low is the key to unlocking stored body fat and your body's capability to convert it into usable energy, anytime we get a sharp spike in blood sugar, the energy coming from fat storage gets turned off, thus turning off the fat burning process.

## Here's Where Key Georgia Bills Stand After Crossover Day

By J. Thomas Perdue, GA  
Public Policy Foundation

Last Friday marked Crossover Day in the Georgia legislative session, the point by which bills must clear their chamber of origin to remain viable. While legislation is never entirely "dead" and can still resurface as an amendment to another bill, it's a good time to take inventory of where things stand under the Gold Dome with less than three weeks left in the session.

Tax policy has drawn plenty of attention this year, particularly a few proposals to cut or revise Georgia's income and property taxes.

Heated debate over property taxes is nothing new in Georgia, and the House's effort on that front did not make it through Crossover Day totally unscathed. Its original proposal to phase out property taxes on owner-occupied homes by 2032 required a constitutional amendment, a high bar that includes a two-thirds vote by lawmakers and ratification by Georgia voters.

After failing to muster two-thirds support for that ambitious proposal, the House instead passed a substitute version on Crossover Day that would limit growth in property tax revenue to the greater of 3% or the rate of inflation. The revised version of the bill also added a "Truth in Taxation" provision, which requires notification for all property owners when rev-

enues will exceed the roll-back rate.

Income-tax reform efforts saw a wide range of bills and some notable passages. Senate Bills 476 and 477, both introduced by Sen. Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia), cleared the Senate last month. SB 476 would deduct \$50,000 from single filers' taxable income and \$100,000 from joint filers' taxable income, while repealing or sunseting various tax credits to help pay for those cuts. Alternatively, SB 477 would lower the income tax rate to 4.99% for tax year 2026, and then to 4.49% in 2027 and 3.99% in 2028 if revenue conditions are met. The bills were introduced as separate options for reform.

The House also advanced a few income tax reforms of its own including House Bills 1000 and 1001 introduced by Rep. Matthew Gambill (R-Cartersville) and Rep. Will Wade (R-Dawsonville), respectively. HB 1000 would provide a one-time income tax rebate of \$250 for single filers, \$375 for heads of household and \$500 for joint filers who filed returns for both 2024 and 2025. HB 1001 would lower the flat income tax rate from 5.19% to 4.99% retroactive to the start of 2026.

The House also passed House Bill 880, sponsored by Rep. Shaw Blackmon, which would reduce the state income tax by one-tenth of a percentage point each year until it reaches 3.99%.

It accomplishes this by setting aside surplus state revenues for future tax relief.

Taxes aren't the only way lawmakers tried to address the politically pertinent question of affordability. Each chamber saw efforts to address permitting delays, which have added to the cost of housing in Georgia. Senate Bill 447, sponsored by Sen. Clint Dixon (R-Gwinnett), would revise the review process for permits tied to site preparation for new housing by requiring clearer reasons for denials, imposing a 14-day turnaround for resubmissions and approving permits if local governments miss deadlines. While this bill passed its chamber, a similar bill in the House, House Bill 812, introduced by Rep. Mike Cheokas (R-American), did not.

In education, the Senate advanced a bill to create a Georgia Charter Schools Authority, which would function as a state-backed lender for charter school facilities projects since they often lack other access to public funding. Senate Bill 498, sponsored by Sen. Clint Dixon, is designed to expand access to low-interest revolving loans and other public financing tools for construction, renovation and rehabilitation.

The Senate advanced a follow-up to the Georgia Promise Scholarship law with the passage of Senate Bill 445, sponsored by Sen. Greg Dolezal

(R-Cumming). Under current law, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement produces a list of public schools that rank in the bottom 25% statewide; students zoned to attend these schools are eligible for the Promise Scholarship. This update specifies that the list should not include public schools with a statewide attendance zone or certain charter schools.

Finally, here are a few notable healthcare items. The Senate passed legislation that would establish a pathway for limited provisional licenses and eventual full licensure for certain internationally trained physicians, with hopes of addressing the state's physician workforce shortage. This is Senate Bill 427, sponsored by Sen. Ben Watson (R-Savannah).

Senate Bill 367, sponsored by Sen. Bill Cowsert (R-Athens), also crossed over. This bill would create a new certificate of need exemption for facilities, services and equipment dedicated exclusively to cancer treatment. House Bill 1292, sponsored by Rep. Spencer Frye (D-Athens), proposed a CON exemption for nursing homes for war veterans, but it did not clear the House by Crossover Day.

Crossover Day narrows the field, and while this list of updates is not exhaustive, the next few weeks will determine which of these proposals ultimately make it to the governor's desk.

## Democrats' Senate Filibuster Risks Domestic Disaster

Charlie Harper  
Guest Columnist

I tend to begin my mornings with a game of Wordle. A quick word game is a decent way to get the mind working and hopefully exercise and extend cognitive abilities. There are no stakes involved other than a few minutes of my time and perhaps a few minutes of self-loathing when I fail to guess the right answer.

Other word games have much higher stakes. We're a nation clearly at war. Congress hasn't officially declared a war since WWII, but we've had quite a few peacekeeping missions and police actions since then. The graves of our soldiers from the conflicts of the past 80 years look remarkably the same as to those who died in our declared wars.

We're now even playing word games over the name of the entity that manages and funds our armed forces. What was once the Department of War was changed by Congress to the kinder, gentler name of the Department of Defense. Presi-

dent Trump has reverted back to calling it the Department of War. Congress, as they so often do, has made some speeches and sent out some press releases, but has officially shrugged at the change.

Over this time our language for public discourse has devolved in parallel with Congress' sense of urgency. We've moved from "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" to "(Expletive) ICE?"

The latter is supposed to be cool and relatable to the young kids. We know this because it's almost exclusively used by baby boomers, including those who have been in Congress since we were mopping up from the Vietnam...police action.

Congress appropriated billions in multi-year funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and it's cousin agency Customs and Border Patrol in the One Big Beautiful Bill. The rest of the Department of Homeland Security has gone without funding after the agen-

cy was stripped from the last set of this year's appropriations bills passed and signed in mid-February.

The stated goal in this word game is to gain concessions on procedures used by ICE to detain and deport people who are in this country illegally. The TL;DR version is to (Expletive ICE).

But ICE is already fully funded, and the Democrats who refuse to vote for the bill didn't want to shut down the entire federal government. They are now just using the non-ICE/CBP federal employees as "leverage". Senator Sheldon Whitehouse is fond of that word, noting that a shutdown is "the only lever (Democrats) have".

Students of physics know that a lever works when a fixed rod is placed against a fixed pivot point, or fulcrum, to move the object of choice. It's the fulcrum that was otherwise minding its own business that must absorb all the pressure and force for the lever to work.

The pressure points in this

government shutdown are the employees of the TSA, the Coast Guard, FEMA, Secret Service, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. About 90% of the employees in these agencies are considered "essential", and thus are still expected to work to retain their positions. They missed their first full paychecks last week.

These aren't desk jockey paper pushers. And as a reminder, word games or not, we are at war. The country we're at war with is the world's largest sponsor of terror groups. They are known to incubate and activate sleeper cells around the globe. And we're not paying the folks that screen our airports, coasts, or work against cyber threats.

The last administration let 20 million undocumented people enter our country without any sense of vetting. This was done while the Biden Administration pretended Congress needed to act to stop it.

**HARPER  
CONTINUED PG 5A**

## The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

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### OUR GOALS

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

### HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

E-mail it to news@theleadertribune.com, 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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# Let Go of The Controls



**By Billy Powell**  
**LT Columnist**

A young female pilot was making a training flight. Since she always seemed to panic during engine stalls, her instructor asked her to attempt another stall recovery. Determined to get it right this time, she cut the engines. The next thing she knew her Cessna 150 was hurtling toward earth in a twisting, wing-over-wing spin. As she wrestled with the controls, she remembered her instructor's words, "If you ever get into a spin in a Cessna 150, just let go of the controls. It's built to pull out of a spin on its own." Yet she was still fighting the controls with all her strength and wouldn't release her hands. In desperation, she shouted to herself, "let go!" but her hands

still clutched the controls. Calling on God and using every ounce of will power, she finally threw her hands up in the air and held them there. After some wild yawing and pitching, the aircraft straightened out and returned to level flight. She had fallen nearly half a mile, but she was safe--because she had let go.

Just as the pilot recovered from the tailspin, God is always in control even when things seem to be spinning out of control. The trials and tribulations of life are many. People universally face disappointment, rejection, sorrow, grief, and frustration. A young man I knew received the dreaded pink slip. His company was downsizing and he got caught in a reduction in force. He was crushed, despondent, and didn't know which way to turn. I advised him to aggressively seek reemployment with other companies with all the resources he could muster. I also cautioned him that he would surely hit brick walls along the way, but when that happened to turn every thing over to God for only He could move brick walls. I further stressed that he seek God's will for God had a good

and perfect plan for his life.

When we go through difficult times in our lives, we, too, need to let go of the controls. As the old saying goes, we need to "let go and let God." That's exactly what God said through the Psalmist in verse 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God." In this passage, God is urging us to cease striving on our own, to trust Him in difficult situations, to let go, and to let Him handle things. We can do that with assurance because Psalm 46:1 declares: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble."

Jesus knew that John would face martyrdom and need a special grace when it occurred. The Master told John, "Truly, truly, I say to you when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go." Jesus then said to John, "Follow me." There will be times in life when we must travel a path that we prefer not to take. It is then that we must turn to Jesus and follow him.

## HARPER

CONTINUED FROM 4A

Now the second Trump Administration has virtually halted illegal entries into the country, but the minority party in Congress is using its only levers to stop not just ICE practices and policies, but is refusing to cede to the validity of any deportation order issued anywhere.

Think that's an extreme or overreaching statement? Senator Chris Van Hollen flew to El Salvador to meet with a "Maryland man" who has had a long-standing deportation order, and is an MS-13 gang member and

known human trafficker.

Who are the folks bearing the cost of this shutdown? A TSA agent in Atlanta has a starting salary of about \$38,000, or about \$18 an hour plus benefits. An agent with 3 to 5 years of experience makes about \$50,000.

These are salaries that are usually associated with people living paycheck to paycheck. And now the Democrats in Congress believe withholding their paychecks is the best way for them to change the administration's deportation arc.

We can see the results in airport security lines. We can't see as closely what is happening in the minds of other officials dedicated to securing our country at a time of war who are trying to figure out how to pay mortgages, car payments, or even buy groceries.

Those blocking a final Senate vote to fund agencies designed to protecting Americans at home are enjoying their word games. They run the risk of raising the stakes to the point of a domestic disaster.

## HAMMOND

CONTINUED FROM 4A

when punishing your child is to instill fear rather than to educate them, that's not discipline, it's abuse.

Justice for Children states: "Discipline is administered by a parent in order to teach a child right from wrong, or to prevent the child from injuring himself. It is consistent and not carried out to satisfy the parent's anger. Abuse, on the other hand, is unpredictable and stems from the parent's own need to lash out in anger or frustration."

Discipline does not require the use of any implement, such as a belt or stick, and should not leave bruises or draw blood.

For those who work often with children, most know the signs, but Justice for Children provides a list of potential signs of abuse. They include:

Unexplained bruises or welts especially on the face, lips, back, buttocks, and thighs

Bruises in various stages of healing.

Unexplained burns: cigar, cigarette burns (especially on

soles of feet, palms, back, or buttocks).

Immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like burns on buttocks or genitalia).

Pattern burns (shaped like an iron, electrical stove burner, curling wand, etc.)

Internal injuries

Unexplained fractures/dislocations

Unexplained lacerations or abrasions

Head injuries

Unexplained bald patches

Obvious attempts to hide bruises or injuries

Inappropriate clothing for the weather

Excessive school absenteeism

Fear of parents or adults

Running away

Arriving to school early/leaving late

Behavioral extremes: extremely aggressive, oppositional, demanding

Behavioral extremes: overly compliant, passive, withdrawn

Academic/behavioral prob-

lems at school

Cognitive impairment

Deficits in speech and language

Lack of basic trust in others

Depression, low self-esteem

Destructive behavior

Suicidal tendencies

Fatigue

Hypervigilance

If you notice these signs when interacting with children, pay attention to how the parents and grandparents act.

If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) encourages you to make a report to the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS).

In order to make a report to DFCS, you can call Centralized Intake at 1-855-422-4453, where a report can be made 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. However, if a child is in immediate danger, please contact 911 or local law enforcement first, then contact DFCS.

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serve in the House also backed the measure.

Rep. Michelle Au, D-Johns Creek, an anesthesiologist who said she has administered Ketamine, said the legislation was needed to increase safety.

So did Rep. Mark Newton, R-Augusta, an emergency physician.

"If your hip's out of joint, if your child has a bad facial laceration, this is a great medicine," he said, adding that he and Au were probably the only two representatives in the House "who've seen people stop

# State House declines proposal for regulating psychedelic therapy clinics

**By Ty Tagami**  
**Bureau Chief**

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers declined to tighten regulations for clinics that administer Ketamine and other drugs used for psychedelic therapy, but the debate is not over yet.

The 73-88 vote against House Bill 717 on the House floor Tuesday was a rejection of a request by the Georgia Composite Medical Board to require that only specially trained physicians be allowed to have ma-

majority ownership of such clinics.

"Ketamine is a very, very dangerous drug. It is FDA-approved only to use as an anesthetic," said Rep. Sharon Cooper, R-Marietta, who introduced the bill.

In addition to ensuring safe use of Ketamine, said Cooper, a licensed nurse, her bill would prepare Georgia for the future, "because there are more psychedelic drugs coming that are under study now that are even more dangerous. How about Ecstasy? Or magic mushrooms?" Two medical doctors who

serve in the House also backed the measure.

Rep. Michelle Au, D-Johns Creek, an anesthesiologist who said she has administered Ketamine, said the legislation was needed to increase safety.

So did Rep. Mark Newton, R-Augusta, an emergency physician.

"If your hip's out of joint, if your child has a bad facial laceration, this is a great medicine," he said, adding that he and Au were probably the only two representatives in the House "who've seen people stop



# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

## MARCH 21 EASTER FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

The Lighthouse Church of Fort Valley, Hwy 49S, 1556 Peach Parkway, next to Georgia Pecan in Fort Valley, would like to invite you to an Easter family and friends day on Saturday, March 21 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Please join us for a time of fellowship, good food and an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. All are welcome!

## MARCH 23 ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR TACTICAL CIVICS CHAPTER

To Learn How "We The People" can Execute our God given American duties.

NOW WHEN WE RISE VIDEO SERIES

TOPIC: (X)ecution and Perseverance

Monday, March 23, 2026, 6:15 pm-7:30 pm at the Perry Public Library, Meeting Room, 1201 Washington Ave, Perry, GA. 31069

## YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

At 309 Central Avenue, Fort Valley, Georgia.

Sunday, March 29 at 9:00 am Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3 at 6:00 pm Good Friday

Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 am EASTER DAY

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## LENTEN SCHEDULE ST. ANDREW'S & ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

Please join us -

Then at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1000 State University Drive, Fort Valley

Thursday, March 19 - Anna Holloway, Author of "Be Sure to Wave," Her Latest Book

Thursday, March 26 - Julie Groce, Canon for Special Projects

Friday 6:00pm February 27-March 27 Stations of the Cross in St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's & St. Luke's wish you a Holy Lenten Season

## USHER'S TEMPLE CME CHURCH

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

Join us each Sunday morning with Pastor Tawanna B. Harris and members at 9:30am for Sunday School followed at 11:00am with holy worship service. You may join us virtually via Facebook Live and Youtube.

Bible study is each Wednesday in person at 12:00 and virtually at 7:00pm via Zoom.

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

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

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

## BAHA'I COMMUNITY OF PEACH COUNTY

The Baha'i Community of Peach County warmly invites you to an interfaith devotional and discussion via Zoom on the second Wednesday of each

month, 7:00 - 8:00pm. The purpose of the gathering is to build friendship and unity. No contributions are solicited or accepted. If you're interested, email us at peachcobahais@gmail.com, and we'll send you an invitation!

## COME PRAISE THE LORD OVER ZOOM

Sundays 10am - 12noon. Wednesday nights 7pm-8:30pm. Meeting# 2059432744 Code 7Sb6h8

Host James Manning (Elder)

## CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

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

## FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

301 W. Church Street (478)825-2762

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

## FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)

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

## FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

## GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY FOODBANK

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

## GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES

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

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

## HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS' CLASS

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

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

## THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

Looking for a church? Pastor Tony Wood invites you to come visit us. Bring the kids for Children's Church!

Sunday School at 9:30. Sunday Worship at 10:30.

## SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH located

## BAHA'I FAITH

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

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

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 FVSVU.

We hold morning prayer services, at 10:15am Sundays. Eucharist (Communion) is on second Sundays at 11am.

Please donate to our Little Free Pantry on Charlesvoix St. behind the church (or take food if you are in need). For more info, go to our Facebook page or contact Anna Holloway 478-397-4678 and leave a text message.

## SAINT PETER A.M.E. CHURCH

502 State University Drive, Fort Valley GA 31030

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

Bianca Ballard (478)825-8452.

## SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

Please join us as we continue to seek to save them that are lost! Our weekly schedule is: Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. Sunday Worship at 11:15 A.M. Bible Study at 7:00 P.M. - Tuesdays

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

## TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

505 State University Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

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

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

For additional information, call 478-825-7349.

breathing because of this medicine ... and know how serious a drug this is."

Critics saw HB 717 as an attempt by doctors to corner the market.

Rep. Lauren McDonald III, R-Cumming, said he supports regulating these clinics. "But House Bill 717 simply does not regulate clinics. It restructures ownership and clinical authori-

ty in a way that prioritizes title over training and control over competency," he said, adding that the legislation would reduce growth in the sector and public access to such clinics.

Cooper could offer nothing when another lawmaker asked if she had data showing majority physician ownership was safer.

After the measure failed, a lawmaker motioned to recon-

sider, and Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, announced another vote on HB 717 would occur when the House meets again Wednesday.

In addition to the physician ownership mandate, the measure would require the Georgia Composite Medical Board to establish rules and regulations for safe clinic operations.

## Obituaries

## Charles Roy Adams, Jr.

Contributed

CHARLES ROY ADAMS, JR. (Aug. 16, 1932-Feb. 23, 2026). Charles Roy ("Mr. Charlie") Adams, Jr. passed away at the age of 93 on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026. A graveside service was held at 1:00 p.m. at Oakview Cemetery in Camilla, Georgia on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, with Rev. Dennis Stalvey officiating. Parker-Bramlett Funeral Home in Camilla was in charge of arrangements. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at the Fort Valley Methodist Church, 301 West Church Street in Fort Valley, with visitation beginning at 10:00 AM followed by a memorial service at 11:00 AM. Rooks Funeral Home is in charge of memorial arrangements.

Mr. Charlie was the only child of C. Roy Adams of Fitzgerald and Mary Wilson Adams of Leslie, Georgia. On his father's side, Mr. Charlie was related to Rev. Billy Graham and to Capt. Hugh McCall, the author of Georgia's first history. His mother was the granddaughter of Sen. William Adams Wilson, one of the founders of the Georgia Institute of Technology (ironically, as we shall see). He was born two months premature, which resulted in him being blind in one eye and therefore unable to play sports as he would have otherwise loved to do. He liked to say that he weighed four pounds at birth, and subsequently gained another 180 pounds.

He attended Fitzgerald High School, where he was the Valedictorian of the Class of 1949, as well as the Manager of the Purple Hurricane football team that won the State Championship in fall, 1948. He memorialized that championship season in his 1996 book, Purple and Gold Boys. He was also an Eagle Scout (Order of the Arrow), and had a lifelong love of scouting, which extended to his founding of Fort Valley Cub Scout Pack 59 in 1966, with himself as the first Scoutmaster.

He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1955, having been admitted to practice law in Georgia in October 1954, as was allowed at the time. He was a member of the UGA Gridiron Secret Society, the Sphinx Club, and the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, and was President of the UGA Interfraternity Council in 1952-53.

While studying at Georgia,



Mr. Charlie met and on Dec. 30, 1954, married the love of his life, the late Margaret Leah Twitty of Camilla (1932-1983). He was commissioned as a First Lieutenant into the Judge Advocate General Corps of the United States Army in 1956; served a term of active duty at the Pentagon during 1956-1958, and thereafter in the Reserves for several years, attaining the reserve rank of Major.

Upon leaving the Army, he was Law Clerk to Georgia Court of Appeals Chief Judge Jule Wimberley Felton from 1958-1959, after which he joined the Atlanta firm of Hansell, Post, Brandon & Dorsey (now Jones Day) as a litigator.

Feeling the call to return to his small town roots, Mr. Charlie in 1962 re-located his family to Fort Valley, where he then practiced law for the next 51 years, 30 of which were in partnership with his son, Charles III. During that time, they served as attorneys for Peach County, the Peach County Board of Education, the City of Fort Valley, and the Fort Valley Utility Commission, among many other local government entities. Blue Bird Body Co., Southern Orchards, Inc., and all of the local banks were also among their many regular clients. Mr. Charlie was known as the pre-eminent property lawyer in Peach and surrounding counties, and his intelligence and hard work straightened out many a thorny chain of title in the middle Georgia area.

Charlie and Leah were close personal friends with Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, and the two couples visited in each others' homes, including the White House. Mr. Charlie said that one of the highlights of his life was being invited to the White House Ball on Inauguration Day, 1977, and they were also subsequently invited as guests to the Carter White House. Asked the difference between being a guest at the White House as opposed to a tourist, Mr. Charlie said, "well, for one thing, they

let you sit on the furniture."

In addition to his law practice, Mr. Charlie found time for a host of extracurricular pursuits. An ardent Civil War scholar, he wrote and published in 1989 the book A Post of Honor, which was listed in Civil War Times as one of the "Best 100 Books about the Civil War." This book is about the correspondence and military exploits of his great-grandfather, Capt. Shepherd Greene Pryor of Sumter County, Georgia, as a member of the Twelfth Georgia Regiment under Gen. Robert E. Lee in the Army of Northern Virginia.

He was a born actor, notably (for a gentile) playing the role of The Rabbi in Macon Little Theatre's 1973 production of Fiddler on the Roof. He was also an avid, perhaps even rabid, Georgia Bulldogs fan, and for that reason always played down his family ties to Georgia Tech.

Most importantly, Mr. Charlie loved the Lord Jesus Christ, and was His follower from the time he accepted Him as Savior at age 8 in 1940. He was active in his local church in every community he belonged to (including he and Leah being charter members of St. James Methodist Church in Atlanta), and he taught Sunday School and sang in the Chancel Choir at Fort Valley Methodist Church for more than fifty years.

Following the untimely death of his beloved Leah in 1983 from cancer, Mr. Charlie in 1984 married Judy Maddox McMullan (1943-2020) of Fort Valley, with whom he shared a long and happy relationship. He is survived by his children, Charles R. Adams III and Mary Elisabeth Adams (Dr. Howard) Johnson; stepchildren, Meri Hart Khoury (& partner, Mohamed El-sawah) and Amy (Shawn) Buttigieg; and grandchildren and step-grandchildren William Joseph (Autumn) Adams, Alexandra Johnson (Nicholas) Kissel, Kate Johnson, Julia and Alex Khoury, and Kaity, Michael, and Willow Buttigieg, as well as countless beloved kinfolk of the Wilson-Pryor clan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Organ Fund of the Fort Valley Methodist Church, 301 West Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

## Georgia House and Senate Republicans on parallel course to reduce state income tax rate



Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, speaking about the state budget on the Senate Floor at the Georgia Capitol on Friday, Feb. 20.

By Ty Tagami  
Bureau Chief

## Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — One thing that Georgia's House and Senate can agree on after finishing the first round of this year's legislative session is that the state income tax rate should continue falling.

Friday was the deadline for lawmakers to vote out the bills they were most serious about, moving them from the House to the Senate and vice versa.

The Senate had already sent legislation to the House last month that would cut the income tax rate to 3.99%.

On Friday, the House kicked a bill to the Senate with the same tax rate reduction and with an increase to the standard deduction that was similar to what was in the Senate bill.

Rep. Shaw Blackmon, R-Bonaire, the architect of the House measure, said it would cost the state \$600 million in the first full year of implementation.

Democrats ridiculed the Republican plan, asserting that two-thirds of the tax cut would go to the wealthiest fifth of the population while leaving less money for services, such as education. Most Georgians might see a few hundred dollars while the rich would get thousands, said Rep. Sam Park, D-Lawrenceville, the House minority whip.

"We must stop these tax cuts for the rich if we want to lift all Georgians up."

Republicans flipped the logic. Rep. Chuck Martin, R-Alpharetta, said that if the top

20% would get two-thirds of the benefit, then they are paying that same proportion of the income tax now.

"The math goes both ways," he said.

House Bill 880 then passed 102-69.

It would reduce the income tax rate a tenth of a percentage point per year, conditioned upon continued growth in state revenue, until the rate reached 3.99%.

The current income tax rate is 5.19%. But, last month, state representatives passed House Bill 1001, which would drop it to 4.99% retroactive to the start of this year. If the Senate embraces both, then it would take a decade to reach 3.99%.

HB 880 would simultaneously increase the standard deduction. It is \$12,000 for a single filer now and would increase \$600 a year until reaching \$18,000 in a decade. These numbers would double for married couples filing jointly.

This approach differs only by degrees from Senate Bill 477 passed by senators early last month. Their approach would reduce the rate to 3.99% much sooner, by 2028. It would raise the standard deduction a little less, to \$16,000 for individuals and \$32,000 for married couples.

That 3.99% rate was the Senate's second priority, the first being Senate Bill 476 to increase the standard deduction to \$50,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for couples.

To make both options palatable, the Senate handed the

House what Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, the designer of the two Senate bills, described as an "olive branch."

He scooped out the contents of two unrelated measures the House had sent the Senate last year and, like a baker filling a donut with custard, squeezed in the language from the two Senate bills. House Bill 463 mirrors SB 477, and House Bill 134 copies SB 476.

So, now the House has two bills that would reduce the income tax rate to 3.99% — one that just reached the Senate and another that just got lobbed back from there.

Either by chance or design (probably the latter), HB 463 — the bill the Senate gutted before tossing it back to the House filled with a 3.99% income tax rate — was originally authored by Blackmon. He is the same state representative who rallied House Republicans to send HB 880, for a 3.99% tax rate, to the Senate on Friday.

There are bragging rights on the campaign trail for getting bills passed, and all seats are up for election this year.

Tillery, when he was asked about HB 880 versus HB 463 outside the Capitol Monday, echoed a line that is often attributed to Harry S. Truman.

"There's no limit on what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit," said Tillery, who is running for lieutenant governor and has spoken quite a bit about the Senate Republicans' tax cutting agenda. "I don't care who gets the credit."

## NEW ADMIN. CONTINUED FROM 1A



Peach County Parks and Recreation Department's 14U Boys Basketball State Champions

work in economic development and business leadership. Bowen has worked for the Development Authority of Peach County as well as served as President and CEO of the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Following that, the commissioners recognized the Peach County Parks and Recreation Department's 14U Boys Basketball State Champions.

At 6:30 p.m. sharp, the commissioners went into a public hearing for the Joint Comprehensive Plan Process by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC). The Joint Comprehensive Plan process will involve gathering data from the citizens of Peach County and implementing changes to bene-

fit the community.

Concerning old business, Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) Director of Planning & Public Administration Greg Boike spoke on the Peach County Service Delivery Strategy, which includes Peach County as well as the cities of Byron, Fort Valley, and Warner Robins.

Regarding new business, Chief County Marshal Todd Shepherd brought forth three business license presentations to the commissioners — Roof Roof Roofing, LLC., Seven Sisters Handcrafted Goods, LLC., and Valley Storage Parking — all of which were approved.

Vice-Chairwoman Hill discussed the road conditions of Ira

Hicks Boulevard, recounting her encounter with one of the various potholes on the road. The commissioners spoke with Bobby Cowart, the Peach County's Public Works Director, about working with the City of Fort Valley to patch parts of the road for now.

There was a Tax Levy Resolution from the Peach County Board of Education as well as an Annexation Request from the City of Byron, which were both approved by the commissioners.

Concerned citizen Beverly Delton spoke with the commissioners about issues of speeding and loud noises from vehicles on State University Drive.

## PEACH COUNTY PARKS &amp; REC

## Springfest

NORTH PEACH PARK IN BYRON, GA

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026  
10 AM TILL 2 PM

Photos with the Easter Bunny: 10:30a-1:00p

Easter Egg Hunt: 11:00a-12:30p

(Toddler-5<sup>th</sup> grade with an area for children with support needs)

3 &amp; Under: 11:00 am ; 4-7 yrs: 11:30 am ; 8-11 yrs: 12:00 pm

Children with support needs (up to age 17): 12:30 pm

Kids Arts & Crafts Area (Sponsored by Sparklight)  
with a chance to WIN a Nintendo Switch

Free Event!

ALSO:

Inflatables, Sidewalk Chalk Art, Food Trucks  
Youth Vendor Market & Local Children's Authors

10,000 Eggs

For vendor registration &  
more details visit  
Rec.Peachcounty.gov  
or call 478.825.3334Sparklight  
Always working for you.

Legals

Legal Advertisements E-Mail: legals@gtn.org 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 By on.

For information on printing billing, please contact The Leader Tribune at (478)-825-2432. Notice is needed after

12:00 Noon on Friday will be billed for insertion in that edition. Legal ads may be sent via Federal Express for Saturday delivery. Legal ads may be sent via email to legals@gtn.org, please use word document or pdf extension. 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 fees of ads, such as divorce, articles of incorporation, articles of merger, petition to adopt, name changes and DUI notice shall fees etc

LT26-017 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DIANE E. COLES, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7027 NOTICE

The petition of personal representative for leave to sell property in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,

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 APRIL 8 2026

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections must be in writing 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.

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH ST FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313

Marb 18, 25, April 1, 8, 2026

LT26-019 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIE J. COLBERT JR., DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7248 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JACQUELINE COLBERT has petitioned for JACQUELINE COLBERT to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of WILLIE J. COLBERT JR. deceased, of said county.

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JACQUELINE COLBERT has petitioned for JACQUELINE COLBERT to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of WILLIE J. COLBERT JR. deceased, of said county.

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JACQUELINE COLBERT has petitioned for JACQUELINE COLBERT to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of WILLIE J. COLBERT JR. deceased, of said county.

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JACQUELINE COLBERT has petitioned for JACQUELINE COLBERT to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of WILLIE J. COLBERT JR. deceased, of said county.

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JACQUELINE COLBERT has petitioned for JACQUELINE COLBERT to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of WILLIE J. COLBERT JR. deceased, of said county.

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JACQUELINE COLBERT has petitioned for JACQUELINE COLBERT to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of WILLIE J. COLBERT JR. deceased, of said county.

LT26-014 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313

Marb 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF ARTHUR FELCH WILLIAMS JR., DECEASED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: SHANNON DANIELLE WILLIAMS has petitioned for SHANNON DANIELLE WILLIAMS to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of ARTHUR FELCH WILLIAMS JR., deceased, of a Peach County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers o retained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.)

All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted.

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH ST FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313

Marb 18, 25, April 1, 8, 2026

LT26-009 IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF HOUSTON COUNTY IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: C. M., SEX M, AGE 17, DOB 10/11/2008, CASE #2501714 CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, SHAMIKA MONLYN (mother); CHRISTOPHER CORBIN (father); ANY UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER, AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILD

You are notified that a Petition for a Finding of Dependency with Temporary Custody Placed with the Paternal Aunt was filed against you in said court on 12/11/25, an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 12/15/25

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Houston County Juvenile Court, held at Houston County Juvenile Court, Warner Robins, Georgia on 05/13/26 at 8:30 o'clock a.m., for a hearing following review by publication. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, a mes E. Patterson, P. O. Box 1006, Fort Valley, Georgia 31029.

WITNESS the Honorable Judges of this court, this 4th day of Marb, 2026. CHRISTINA HARPER, DEPUTY CLERK HOUSTON CO. VENILE COURT

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-008 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY All creditors of the estate of MESS EDWARD MONROE, SR., 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.

LAURENS C. LEE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD MONROE, SR. P. O. BOX 1553 Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-001 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF JUDITH LOIS HOLLY, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7238 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JEFFREY SCOTT HOLLY has petitioned for JEFFREY SCOTT HOLLY to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of JUDITH LOIS HOLLY, deceased, of said county.

All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET

Marb 18, 25, 2026

LT26-006 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Caitlin Coleman, d/rge A Martinez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC, its successors, and assigns dated June 9, 2023, recorded in Deed Book 702, Page 304, Peach County, Georgia Records as last transferred to MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC D/B/A MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS FINANCIAL by assignment recorded in Deed Book 761, Page 254, Peach County, Georgia Records on the day of the after-described property to be a Note in the original principal amount of THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$325,900.00), 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 Peach County, Georgia, or at a place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in April, 2026, the following described property

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET

Marb 18, 25, 2026

LT26-006 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Caitlin Coleman, d/rge A Martinez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC, its successors, and assigns dated June 9, 2023, recorded in Deed Book 702, Page 304, Peach County, Georgia Records as last transferred to MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC D/B/A MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS FINANCIAL by assignment recorded in Deed Book 761, Page 254, Peach County, Georgia Records on the day of the after-described property to be a Note in the original principal amount of THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$325,900.00), 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 Peach County, Georgia, or at a place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in April, 2026, the following described property

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET

Marb 18, 25, 2026

FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313

Marb 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF ARTHUR FELCH WILLIAMS JR., DECEASED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: SHANNON DANIELLE WILLIAMS has petitioned for SHANNON DANIELLE WILLIAMS to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of ARTHUR FELCH WILLIAMS JR., deceased, of a Peach County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers o retained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.)

All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted.

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH ST FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-020 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS All creditors of the Estate of Mary Lee Meadows 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.

Danny Dav D Meadows Executor of the Estate of Mary Lee Meadows At Law P.O. Box 303 By on, GA 31008

Marb 18, 25, April 1, 8, 2026

LT26-021 NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT the Judge of the Superior Court of Peach County, Macon Judicial Circuit, Georgia presiding on the 1st day of April 2026 at 9:30 a.m., at the Peach County Courthouse in Fort Valley, Georgia, will hear the case of State of Georgia v. Fort Valley Utility Commission, Civil Action File No. 26-V-0117 in Peach County Superior, the same being a proceeding to confirm and liquidate the Fort Valley Utility Commission Combined Utility Revenue Bond (Bagley Expans on Project), Series 2026 (the "Series 2026 Bond"), in the principal amount of up to \$7,051,067.35, for the purpose of financing or refinancing the costs of acquiring, constructing, equipping and installing certain additions, extensions and improvements to the Commission's natural gas system known as the "Bagley Expans on Project" and paying the costs of financing the Series 2026 Bond, and any person who is a creditor of the Commission has a right to object, may intervene and become a party to this proceeding.

NO PERFORMANCE AUDIT OR PERFORMANCE REVIEW (AS SUCH TERMS ARE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 36-82-100 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED) WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH RESPECT TO THE SERIES 2026 BOND. This 13th day of Marb, 2026. Sherry Gonzalez Clerk Superior Court Peach County, Georgia

Marb 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-006 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Caitlin Coleman, d/rge A Martinez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC, its successors, and assigns dated June 9, 2023, recorded in Deed Book 702, Page 304, Peach County, Georgia Records as last transferred to MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC D/B/A MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS FINANCIAL by assignment recorded in Deed Book 761, Page 254, Peach County, Georgia Records on the day of the after-described property to be a Note in the original principal amount of THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$325,900.00), 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 Peach County, Georgia, or at a place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in April, 2026, the following described property

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET

Marb 18, 25, 2026

LT26-010 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF KEVIN DEVAZIO WILSON DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7242 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: KATINA SHERRI TUCKER has petitioned for KATINA SHERRI TUCKER to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of KEVIN DEVAZIO WILSON, deceased, of said county.

All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-018 LEGAL NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Byron, Georgia, will hold a public hearing on April 7, 2026, at 5 P.M. in the Office of the Mayor 2nd Floor, of the Byron Municipal Complex Byron, Georgia to hear objections, if any, to approving a request for rezoning the following parcel, identified on the Peach County Tax Map as 044B 020A LL/LD 175/6, and recorded in the Deed Book 722, Page 119, Clerk's Office, Peach County Superior Court. The total acreage to be rezoned for this parcel is (1.38) acres from County RR-1 to City C3-PUD District: General Commercial. City of Byron Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing in Council Chambers, on the 2nd Floor of the Byron Municipal Complex, and will consider the proposal and the accompanying recommendations, including annexation, at their May 11, 2026, meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-017 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DIANE E. COLES, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7027 NOTICE

The petition of personal representative for leave to sell property in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,

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 APRIL 8 2026

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH ST FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313

Marb 18, 25, April 1, 8, 2026

based on the number of times the notice is inserted. All rates are set by the Georgia General Assembly. For billing purposes, the word "all" be omitted as one word including words such as the, of, a, etc. Grouped numbers shall be omitted as one word. The deadline for foreclosure notice is and tax sales for disposal is Thursday the week before the first publication. Incorporation Notice - These are notices so concerning a business which is to be incorporated with the office located in Peach County. Related incorporation notices are intended to disclose the incorporation, a name change of the incorporation and mergers of a corporation. These notices shall be filed two weeks at a cost of \$40.00. Driving Under the Influence - State law requires publication of a petition and a brief notice of any new or revised in Peach County of a third Driving Under the Influence charge. The fines and related matters of a settlement are included. The fee for these

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby debared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said property 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 encumbrance or zoning ordinance 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. Prospective bidders must perform their own due diligence.

MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC D/B/A MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS FINANCIAL 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 Mortgage Solutions Financial Servicing, a division of Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC, 7450 Campus Dr. Suite 200, Colorado Springs CO 80920, 1-866-552-6118.

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

Upon information and belief, said property is more commonly known as 114 Caleb Way, Byron, GA 31008. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description shall control.

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, will go into effect.

The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosure where the transferee is a legal entity or trust, and which includes purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Supervisory Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction.

The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258.

MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC D/B/A MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS FINANCIAL as Attorney in Fact for Caitlin Coleman, d/rge A Martinez MC alla Ramer Leibert Piere, 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 60 of the 5th Land District, Peach County, Georgia, being known and designated as Lot 7, Block "G", Phase I, Carrington Estates Subdivision, according to a plat of the same recorded in Plat Book 24, Page 79, Clerk's Office, Peach County Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are incorporated herein for all purposes.

Subject to all easements, ordinances, covenants, conditions, restrictions and rights of way of record, if any. Address under current term of numbering: 114 Caleb Way, Byron, Georgia. MR / D April 7, 2026 Our file no. 26-21304GA-FT17 26-21304GA

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-005 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from JEANETTE K HUFF to METLIFE HOME LOANS, A DIVISION OF METLIFE BANK, N.A., dated August 26, 2009, recorded September 1, 2009, in Deed Book 429, Page 618-629, Peach County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of Two Hundred Ten Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$210,000.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to Mortgage Asset Management, LLC, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of the Peach County Courthouse, 205 W. Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 of Peach, the following described property situated in Peach County, Georgia, to wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 216, 9TH LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 8, BLOCK A, FLEETWOOD ESTATES SUBDIVISION SECTION 2, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY THOMAS W. FUTRAL III, GEORGIA REG. SURVEYOR, DATED AUGUST 10, 1976 AND RECORDED IN MAP BOOK 10, PAGES 156, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. THE SAID PLAT AND RECORD THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE FOR ALL PURPOSES. THIS CONVEYANCE IS SUBJECT TO A 10 FOOT DRAINAGE AND OR UTILITY EASEMENT ALONG REAR OF SAID LOT, ACCORDING TO AFORESAID PLAT. SAID PROPERTY IS IDENTIFIED AS 233 FLEETWOOD DR. FORT VALLEY, ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING. PARCEL # 012D-120. BEING THE SAME PREMISES GRANTED AND CONVEYED TO JEANETTE K. HUFF, BY DEED FROM JEANETTE K. HUFF AS EXECUTRIX UNDER THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MCDONALD HUFF, DECEASED, DATED 09/01/2006 AND RECORDED 09/01/2006 IN THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE IN AN FOR PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA IN DEED BOOK VOLUME AND PAGES 362 PAGE 478.

Said legal description being controlling, however, the property is more commonly known as 233 FLEETWOOD DRIVE, FORT VALLEY, GA 31030.

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

Said property will be sold on an "as is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable); any matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of record superior to a Security Deed.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is JEANETTE K HUFF, or tenants.

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

The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: PHH Mortgage Corporation, Loss Mitigation Dept., 1661 Worthington Road, Ste 100, West Palm Beach, FL 33409, Telephone Number: 866-503-5559. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require a recorded editor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC as Attorney in Fact for JEANETTE K HUFF THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Attorney Contact: Ruben Lublin, LLC 3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100, Peach Tree Corners GA 30071 Telephone Number: (877) 813-0992 Case No. RMU-24-03269-2 r/law.com/property/lis.htm

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-018 LEGAL NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Byron, Georgia, will hold a public hearing on April 7, 2026, at 5 P.M. in the Office of the Mayor 2nd Floor, of the Byron Municipal Complex Byron, Georgia to hear objections, if any, to approving a request for rezoning the following parcel, identified on the Peach County Tax Map as 044B 020A LL/LD 175/6, and recorded in the Deed Book 722, Page 119, Clerk's Office, Peach County Superior Court. The total acreage to be rezoned for this parcel is (1.38) acres from County RR-1 to City C3-PUD District: General Commercial. City of Byron Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing in Council Chambers, on the 2nd Floor of the Byron Municipal Complex, and will consider the proposal and the accompanying recommendations, including annexation, at their May 11, 2026, meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-017 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DIANE E. COLES, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7027 NOTICE

The petition of personal representative for leave to sell property in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,

ads is \$25 each. These ads run one time and to be fully of me from the Peach County State Court or the Municipal Court of incorporated cities. Unfiled Matters - This broad category can include notice such as adoption, custody, juvenile court actions and other temporary orders. These matters frequently run from two to four times depending on the order. Some of these issues come from the Peach County Unfiled 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 shall be filed two weeks at a cost of \$40.00. Driving Under the Influence - State law requires publication of a petition and a brief notice of any new or revised in Peach County of a third Driving Under the Influence charge. The fines and related matters of a settlement are included. The fee for these

Kim Wilton Judge of the Probate Court By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313

Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

LT26-007 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY WHEREAS, Demon L. Laurie, as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED TO Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, Lender which was dated 10/24/2020, and recorded on 1/19/2021, in Book 639, Page 310, regarding the payment of a Note in the amount of \$148,000.00 in Peach County, Georgia Register of Deeds

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been debared due and payable as provided in a Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 5/5/2026 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of the Peach County Courthouse, 205 W. Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 of Peach, the following described property situated in Peach County, Georgia, to wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 45 OF THE 5TH LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 30, SECTION NO. 2, PHASE NO. 2, CUMBERLAND SHORES SUBDIVISION AND HAVING SUCH SHAPES, METES, BOUNDS, COURSES AND DISTANCES AS ARE SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY TERRY M. SCARBOROUGH, DATED W/ NE 8, 2006 AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 25, PAGES 162-163 AND PLAT BOOK 25, PAGE 189, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT OF SURVEY AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION BY REFERENCE THERETO FOR ALL PURPOSES. AS FURTHER IDENTIFIED BY THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED DEMON L. LAURIE AND FELICIA M. CLARK-REID BY DON W. STANZILIS, JR., SURVEYOR, AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCED HEREIN.

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MCDONALD HUFF, DECEASED, DATED 09/01/2006 AND RECORDED 09/01/2006 IN THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE IN AN FOR PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA IN DEED BOOK VOLUME AND PAGES 362 PAGE 478.

Said legal description being controlling, however, the property is more commonly known as 233 FLEET

## LEGALS

### CONTINUED FROM 7A

be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any objections and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. 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, Georgia 31030  
478-825-2313  
2/25, 3/04, 3/11, 3/18, 2026  
3691

**LT26-004**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: JOHN WILLIAM FLOWERS, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 2026-YS-7235**  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT**

The petition of TRACY J. FLOWERS for a year's support from the estate of JOHN WILLIAM FLOWERS, deceased, for decedent's (surviving spouse) and (minor child(ren)), having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before MARCH 25 2026 why a bid 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 on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. 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  
Marb 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**ESTATE NO. 2019-ADM-6173**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF TERVONIO RAHEEM COLEMAN, DECEASED**  
**NOTICE**

**IN RE: Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative**

TO: ANTONIO COLEMAN and (all and singular the heirs of said decedent.) (the beneficiaries under the will,) and to whom it may concern: This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before March 11, 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  
2/25, 3/04, 3/11, 3/18, 2026  
3690

**LT26-012**  
**AUCTION**  
**PUBLIC SALE**  
**NOTICE OF SALE. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED INTENDS TO SELL THE PERSONAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED BELOW TO ENFORCE AN LIEN ON SAID PROPERTY PURSUANT TO THE GEORGIA CODE SECTIONS 10-4-210 TO 10-4-215. The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. online at www. Peachtreasures.com, property found in the following units:**

Unit A11 Veulah Jones  
Household Items

Unit E14 Mija L. Felton  
Household Items

Unit C21 Rickey Lockett  
Household Items

Unit D19 Gwendolyn D. Walden  
Household Items

Unit G11 Ulysses Oates, Jr.  
Household Items

Tenants have the right to redeem prior to sale.  
**PEACH MINI STORAGE**  
**PUBLIC SALE - AUCTION- PEACH MINI STORAGE**  
Marb 11, 18, 2026  
**LT26-013**

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER CONTAINED IN SECURITY DEED STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF PEACH Pursuant to a power of sale contained in a certain security deed executed by LEE C ARMSTRONG and DEBBIE A CLARK, hereinafter referred to as Grantor, to The United States of America Acting through the Rural Housing Service or Successor Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, dated November 8, 1994, and recorded on November 8, 1994 in Deed Book 0153, beginning at page 782, of the deed records of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, and by virtue of a default under the terms of said security deed, and the related note, the undersigned attorney-in-fact for the aforesaid Grantor (which attorney-in-fact is the present holder of a deed and note recorded thereby) will sell at public outcry before the door of the courthouse in Peach County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale, for cash, to the highest bidder on the first Tuesday in April, 2026, all property described in said security deed including but not limited to the following described property: All that tract or parcel of land situate and lying in the State of Georgia, County of Peach, City of Fort Valley and in Beria Steppes Subdivision therein, being known and described as Lot Number 3 of said Beria Steppes Subdivision, as shown by a plat of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 19, page 80, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court, Georgia, which plat is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference thereto for a more complete and accurate description of said Lot Number 3. According to said plat, said property is described by metes and courses as follows: From the intersection of the east right-of-way line of Morris Street and the south right-of-way line of Spruce Street, thence North 87 degrees 58 minutes 55 seconds East, 1451.98 feet; thence South 19 degrees 2 minutes 13 seconds East, 127.89 feet; thence South 19 degrees 2 minutes 13 seconds East, 75 feet to the point or place of beginning. Starting at the before located point or place of beginning, thence North**

70 degrees 57 minutes 47 seconds East, 130 feet to a point lying on the westerly right-of-way line of Leventi Drive; thence South 19 degrees 2 minutes 13 seconds East, along the westerly right-of-way line of Leventi Drive, 75 feet; thence South 70 degrees 57 minutes 47 seconds West, 130 feet; thence North 19 degrees 2 minutes 13 seconds West, 75 feet to the point or place of beginning. The above described property and the improvements thereon are more particularly shown and described on a plat entitled, "Survey for Lee C. Armstrong and Debbie E. Clark, Lot 3, Beria Steppes, Land Lot 182, 9th District, Peach County, Fort Valley, Georgia, as made by Story and Company, Inc., on October 31, 1994, being certified by Robert L. Story, Registered Surveyor No. 1853, on said October 31, 1994, which plat is recorded in Plat Book No. 19, page 143, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court, Georgia, and said plat is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference thereto for a more complete and accurate description of a id herein described property. Subject to a drainage and utility easement 10 feet in width along the northwest property line of the subject property; subject to a 30 foot building line restriction from Leventi Drive; and subject to existing and recorded easements, rights-of-ways, building line restrictions and protective covenants Said property may more commonly be known as **104 LEVRENTI DR, FORT VALLEY, GA 31030** Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien but not yet due and payable); any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; any assessments, liens, encumbrances or other matters of record superior to the said Security Deed. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Dawson Management is the entity with full

authority to negotiate, amend and modify the terms of the Note and Security Deed, and it may be contacted at: Address: 3775 Venture Drive, Duluth, GA 30096 Phone: 770-962-4981 To the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, the party in possession of the property is believed to be LEE C ARMSTRONG and DEBBIE A CLARK, or tenant(s). United States of America, acting through the Rural Housing Service, its successors and assigns, United States Department of Agriculture, as Transferee, Assignee, and Secured Creditor As attorney-in-fact for the aforesaid Grantor Please note that if any borrower or obligor has received a discharge in a bankruptcy case filed under Title 11 of the United States Code, no personal liability will arise from this foreclosure action against that individual. This foreclosure action is being pursued solely against the real property to enforce the lien created by the Security Instrument. Respectfully, Marinosci Law Group, P.C. 16415 Addie n Road, Suite 725 Addie n, TX 75001 (401) 234-9200 (401) 398-2594 THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE A-4867205  
March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

END LEGALS

**Talk About LOCAL!**  
Have News to share?  
upcoming events,  
public announcements,  
get it in the In & Out section  
(about 50 word count)  
news@theleadertribune.com

## Georgia lawmakers cross the aisle to help children see and read

By Ty Tagami  
Bureau Chief

### Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Bryce Berry could not understand why his student was misbehaving.

The youth excelled on his assignments, but he disrupted the classroom. Eventually, the student explained that he could not see the board. Thus enlightened, Berry arranged an eye exam and a free pair of glasses.

Problem solved. A life changed. "I think about how many other students across Georgia are being mislabeled or mis-disciplined or left behind simply because no one caught something as basic as vision or a hearing issue," said Berry, a middle school math teacher who joined the Georgia House of Representatives last year.

Rep. Berry, D-Atlanta, told that story during a floor debate in the Georgia House of Representatives on Wednesday.

It was a rare moment of bipartisan solidarity, a meeting of the minds on a root cause of academic under-achievement.

Rep. Leesa Hagan, R-Lyons, had brought a bill to the House that would require annual vi-

sion and hearing screenings at school, from pre-kindergarten through third grade.

Currently, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) requires parents to submit a form when their child enters school for the first time, confirming that all the necessary screenings, including for eyes and ears, have occurred.

House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, said there may not be universal compliance.

"I think part of the problem is, in some areas of our state, they may have a form, they may not have a form," he said, "but children are not being screened."

And eyes change over time, so children, especially little ones, may have worsening vision that goes unnoticed in the years after they enter a school.

Rep. Angie O'Steen, R-Ambrose, shared a story about her own daughter.

"Her vision problem didn't show up until second grade," the former school nurse said. "She could not see. She could not read. So thankfully, this bill will address that."

House Bill 1402, which passed 172-1 on Wednesday, would both mandate the screenings

and grant each school system \$15,000 to acquire the necessary equipment.

"What we understand from DPH and from some of the schools that we've talked to is there's a need to do it at the school to make sure every student is screened," Hagan said. "It doesn't take a lot of time, but it's worth it if to identify any issues that are hindering their learning."

The legislation would require that parents be informed ahead of the screenings, so they have an opportunity to opt out.

The measure also would require school systems to notify parents if their child is not reading on grade level by the end of third grade. In that way, it dovetails with a priority in the House and Senate to improve literacy rates.

Last month, the House passed House Bill 1193, sending it to the Senate. The vote was 170-2 — another display of bipartisan-ship. That legislation would give school districts the funding to hire about 1,300 literacy coaches, with the intent of sending each of them into schools with K-3 classrooms.

## State House sends \$38.5 billion 2027 budget to Senate

By Ty Tagami  
Bureau Chief

### Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Georgia House completed its work on the budget that will control state spending for the fiscal year starting in July, sending a \$38.5 billion spending plan to the Senate Tuesday.

House Bill 974 proposes a 2% increase over the current budget approved this time last year, although lawmakers increased the remaining portion of this year's spending significantly — to \$43.7 billion — in the amended current-year budget that Gov. Brian Kemp signed in early March.

Similar changes are probably in store for the new proposal this time next year. Until then, priorities include funding for education, health care, prisons and poverty, with a nod to problems caused by feral hogs.

Public schools are again consuming more than a third of the budget. The \$14.9 billion allocated to elementary, middle and high schools was driven up \$14.5 million by the state education funding formula, which considers enrollment and teacher pay grades based on qualifications and experience.

Add in billions for colleges,

universities and technical schools, and education takes close to half the state budget. The University System of Georgia, for instance, got a \$218 million increase in formula-driven state funding due to nearly 5% enrollment growth.

One of the House's biggest priorities this year is literacy in the early grades, with \$60 million added to the budget for reading interventions through third grade.

There is money for teacher training and for eye and hearing exams on school campuses. There is money for curricula and testing.

The biggest cost is for more than 1,300 classroom literacy coaches.

The House budgeted \$31.2 million, which works out to about \$24,000 per coach. The experienced educators required for the role earn at least two to three times that amount, and lawmakers know it. But it is difficult to estimate in advance how many will get hired over the next year, and at what pay grade. So House leaders said they expect to add money in the next amended budget a year from now.

"This is a massive downpayment on a historic investment," said Rep. Matt Hatchett, R-Dub-

lin, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The on ramp to literacy begins before kindergarten, so the House added \$10 million for after school care for pre-kindergarten students, and \$700,000 for another 25 pre-kindergarten classrooms. The House also moved money around in a way that "frees up" another \$10 million in federal funds to add 1,288 students to the pre-k financial assistance program.

The budget "represents the House's dedication to championing Georgia's students, children, families and communities in every corner of our great state," Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, said in a statement after the House sent the budget to the Senate by a 159-4 vote.

Among the items he highlighted, besides literacy and pre-k, was \$5 million to expand student mental health services and \$10 million more toward rural airport aid.

Hatchett said one of his favorite line items was an additional \$11.8 million for the Medicaid dental program to raise reimbursement rates and encourage more dentists to serve recipients.

Providing medical care is a challenge, particularly in rural

## Lady Trojans Remain Perfect, Improve to 11-0 with Dominant Wins

By: Chris McKenzie,  
Sports Reporter

The Peach County High School Lady Trojans soccer team continues to roll through the 2026 season in impressive fashion, remaining undefeated with an 11-0 record after two dominant victories this past week.

Peach County showcased its offensive firepower and defensive strength with back-to-back shutouts, defeating both Dougherty High School and Monroe High School by identical 10-0 scores.

In both matches, the Lady Trojans controlled the tempo from the opening whistle. Their aggressive attack kept constant pressure on the opposing defenses, leading to a barrage of

goals while the defense and goalkeeper unit held firm to secure the shutouts.

Against Dougherty, Peach County quickly established momentum, moving the ball efficiently through the midfield and capitalizing on scoring opportunities to build an early lead. The Lady Trojans continued to push forward throughout the match, finishing with a commanding 10-0 victory.

The story was much the same in their matchup with Monroe. Peach County once again dominated possession, executing crisp passes and coordinated offensive runs that resulted in another ten-goal performance. The defense remained equally strong, preventing Monroe from generating any serious

scoring threats.

Through eleven games, the Lady Trojans have proven to be one of the most formidable teams in the area. Their balanced play on both sides of the ball has allowed them to overwhelm opponents while maintaining strong defensive discipline.

With region play underway, Peach County will look to maintain its momentum and continue its dominant run through the schedule. If the Lady Trojans keep performing at this level, they could position themselves as a serious contender as the season progresses.

For now, the Lady Trojans remain perfect—and they show no signs of slowing down.

## Wildcats Sweep Benedict in Dominant Straight-Set Victory

By: Chris McKenzie,  
Sports Reporter

The Fort Valley State University Men's Volleyball team delivered an impressive performance on the court, sweeping Benedict College in straight sets to secure a convincing win. The Wildcats controlled the match from start to finish, defeating Benedict 25-17, 25-15, 25-22.

Fort Valley State set the tone early, displaying efficient offense and disciplined defense throughout the contest. The Wildcats finished the match with 41 kills and a .355 hitting percentage, significantly outpacing Benedict's 22 kills and .096 hitting percentage.

Offensively, the Wildcats were led by Isaiah Fedd and Jamari Griffin, who each re-

corded 9 kills. Keaton Long also made a strong impact with 7 kills, helping the Wildcats maintain consistent pressure on the Benedict defense.

From the service line, Fort Valley State created additional momentum. Long and Griffin each delivered three service aces, while Fedd added two, keeping Benedict out of rhythm and forcing difficult returns.

The Wildcats' attack was orchestrated by Logan Rogers, who finished with 30 assists and also contributed defensively with six digs. Rogers consistently set up his hitters for success, allowing Fort Valley State to maintain an efficient and balanced offensive approach.

Defensively, Constantine Ononye led the back line with

eight digs, while Long added three digs. At the net, Fedd and Muhammad Mbaye anchored the defense with two blocks each, limiting Benedict's scoring opportunities.

Fort Valley State showed steady improvement as the match progressed. The Wildcats posted 11 kills in each of the first two sets before erupting for 19 kills in the third set to close out the match and secure the sweep.

With strong performances across the lineup and efficient team play, the Wildcats demonstrated their ability to control both sides of the ball. The victory adds another solid performance to the season as Fort Valley State continues building momentum on the court.

stamp enrollees are eligible. Georgia has one of the highest "error" rates in the country. That can mean loss of federal funding, so lawmakers hope to get it down.

There is also another \$2 million to draw federal matching funds for a new summer food program for kids in poverty called SUN Bucks.

Feral hogs will not like this budget.

It contains \$500,000 for a De-

partment of Natural Resources hog management pilot program and another \$400,000 for a hog eradication incentive program.

Hatchett explained that line item on the House floor Tuesday. "Feral hogs are wreaking havoc statewide," he said, "causing millions of dollars of damage to crops and farms each year."

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**CRYPTO FUN**

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Solve the code to discover words related to spring cleaning.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 11 = E)

**A. 22 23 15 21 11 25**

*Clue: Storage area*

**B. 15 6 7 20 9 2 16 11**

*Clue: Make orderly*

**C. 17 19 21 25 2 9 7**

*Clue: Clearing fine particles*

**D. 22 23 11 20 9 21 11**

*Clue: Make thoroughly clean*

Answers: A. closet B. organize C. dusting D. cleanse

# WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cleaning.

**E A W R T**

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Water

# GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in England on March 18, 1989. I began acting at age two on a BBC television show. I gained success in America for various roles on TV and in movies. My most recent role involves a fish-out-of-water scenario set in Paris. My dad is a famous musician.

Answer: Lily Collins

## SPRING CLEANING

# WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- AIRING
- DECLUTTER
- DEEP-CLEAN
- DETOXIFY
- DISINFECT
- DONATIONS
- DUSTING
- FRESH
- HOME
- LABELING
- LAUNDRY
- MAINTENANCE
- MINIMALISM
- MOPPING
- ORGANIZE
- POLISH
- PURGE
- RECYCLING
- RENEWAL
- SANITIZE
- SCRUBBING
- SORTING
- STORAGE
- VACUUM

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



### Crossword Puzzle

1			2		3		4
	■	■		■		■	
	■	■	5				
6				■			
	■	■					
7				■	8		
■	■					■	
9							■

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1861:** The Kingdom of Italy is proclaimed.

**1958:** The United States launches the first solar-powered satellite.

**1966:** Off the coast of Spain in the Mediterranean, a submarine finds a missing American hydrogen bomb.

### People FACT:



The collapsible version of this device was made popular by Parisian merchant Jean Marius in the early 18th century.

Answer: Umbrella

#### ACROSS

- 1. Rainy day tool
- 5. Incorporated
- 6. Widely admired
- 7. A sea eagle
- 8. Opposite of stand
- 9. State of atmosphere

#### DOWN

- 1. Positive notion
- 2. Most rain
- 3. Sport with netted stick
- 4. Means or skill

Down  
1. Upside 2. Rainiest 3. Lacrosse 4. Ability

Across  
1. Umbrella 5. Inc. 6. Icon 7. Erne 8. Sit 9. Weather

### NEW WORD

#### RUNNER

part of an umbrella that slides up and down

### “How they say that in...”

- English:** Rain
- Spanish:** Lluvia
- Italian:** Pioggia
- French:** Pluie
- German:** Regen

### Did You Know?

A vented canopy on an umbrella is an extra layer that allows air to pass through. This helps to prevent the wind from carrying larger umbrellas away.



### Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Umbrella



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# Trojans with Dominant Wins Over Swainsboro and Monroe

By: Chris McKenzie,  
Sports Reporter

The Peach County Trojans baseball team continues to show why they are one of the hottest teams on the diamond, delivering two dominant performances this past week with a 12-2 win over Swainsboro followed by a commanding 17-0 victory against Monroe.

Peach County's offense was firing on all cylinders in both games, while the pitching staff kept opposing hitters off balance and limited scoring opportunities.

Against Swainsboro, the Trojans jumped out early and never looked back, finishing with 12 runs on 10 hits while posting a strong .385 team batting average. Several players contributed key hits in the victory.

Junior Owen Meredith led the offensive charge, going 2-for-3 with three RBIs. Junior Zach Veillon also had a strong outing at the plate, finishing 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a double. Junior Miller Greene added two hits, scored twice, and drove in a run, while junior Wyatt Blanton contributed a hit and an RBI.

Rigsby Booth provided a big swing with a home run, finishing with two runs scored and an RBI. Avery Horne added a hit and crossed the plate twice, while Ben Wilford chipped in



with a hit and an RBI.

The Trojans were aggressive on the basepaths, swiping seven bases during the contest. Blanton led the way with two stolen bases, while Meredith, Greene, Matthew Cannon, Horne, and Booth each added one.

On the mound, junior Evan Rush set the tone with three strong innings, allowing just one hit while striking out two to earn the win. Miller Greene followed in relief, pitching two innings with two strikeouts to close out the victory.

Peach County kept the momentum rolling in their next game, overwhelming Monroe in a 17-0 rout. The Trojans were nearly unstoppable offensively, batting an impressive .611 as a team and scoring 17 runs on 11 hits.

Wyatt Blanton turned in a perfect performance at the plate, going 2-for-2 with three runs scored and three RBIs. Miller Greene also had a huge game, finishing 2-for-2 with

three runs scored, four RBIs, and a triple. Ben Wilford added a perfect 2-for-2 day with two RBIs.

Avery Horne contributed a hit, two runs scored, and two RBIs, while Matthew Cannon scored three times and drove in a run. Rigsby Booth added a double and a hit, and Owen Meredith chipped in with a hit and an RBI.

The Trojans once again showcased their speed, stealing 11 bases in the game. Blanton, Wilford, and Cannon each had two stolen bases, highlighting Peach County's aggressive baserunning approach.

Peach County's pitching was equally dominant. Sophomore Dawson Whaley delivered an excellent start, pitching 2.1 innings while allowing just one hit and striking out four. Junior Ben Wilford finished the game on the mound, striking out two batters in two-thirds of an inning to preserve the shutout.

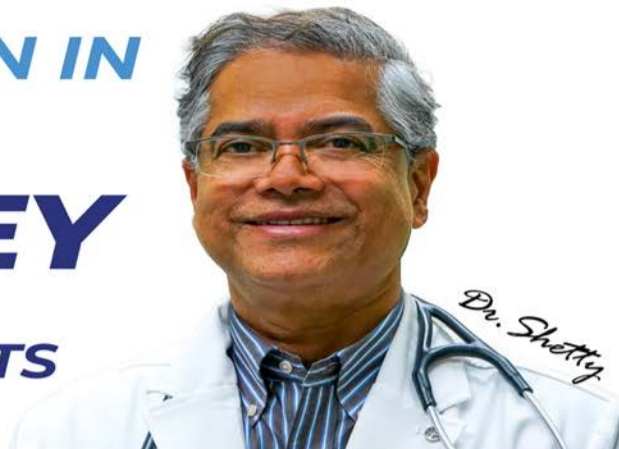
With explosive offense, aggressive baserunning, and steady pitching, the Trojans continue to play high-level baseball as the season progresses. If Peach County maintains this level of execution on both sides of the ball, they will remain a difficult matchup for any opponent moving forward.



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