

# EASTER ORCHARD FEAST - Let us handle the cookin!



Place your order now thru April 1, 2026

Meals include Sliced Turkey or Ham, Cranberry Sauce, 4 sides, 1 dessert and dinner rolls.  
 Feed 10 - \$168.00 (Whole pan), Feed 6 - \$129.00 (Half Pan) Additional Pans: Whole - \$30, Half-\$20  
 Choose from our delicious Sides and Desserts. Additional dessert items available.  
 Beverages: \$5.99/GALLON Call or go online for more details and a full listing of sides & desserts.  
 3 Miles East of Fort Valley www.lanesouthernorchards.com 1-800-277-3224



# The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

Vol. 138, Issue No. 12 • 1 Section • 12 Pages

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

Price \$1.00  
tax included

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

Price \$1.00  
tax included

## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

The Peach County Board of Commissioners Is Updating Its Comprehensive Plan to Guide Community Growth ..... 2

City of Fort Valley sent aid to Marshallville after storms ... 2

Georgia suspends gasoline tax amid price surges during conflict with Iran ..... 6

Sports ..... 11-12

**COMMUNITY**  
Community Calendar ..... 3  
Church News.. 5  
Obituaries ..... 5  
Legals ..... 7-8  
Classifieds ... 10

## Severe Storms Outbreak Hits Peach County



Photo Contributed by Nomad RV Repair  
Some of the damages reported at Ponderosa RV Park in Peach County.

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. — The National Weather Service (NWS) has been surveying the storm damage from the severe storm outbreaks on Thursday, March 12, and Monday, March 16. NWS confirmed multiple tornadoes touched down in Central Georgia as a line of storms moved east through the state.

During the severe storms on March 12, an EF-1 tornado, with wind speeds up to 100 miles per hour, touched down on the Peach/Houston County line on the west side of Interstate 75 near Housers Mill Rd and Lakeview Drive. The tornado continued its path into Houston County.

During the tornado's trek through the county, it caused severe damage to those at Ponderosa RV Park, with numerous limbs being knocked from the

trees and landing on the campers.

In addition to the EF1 that hit Peach and Houston County, there were other tornadoes of varying severity that hit Middle Georgia. Macon was also hit by an EF1 as well as an EF2, which was reported to be the worst of the tornadoes that hit Central Georgia that Thursday.

NWS confirmed on Wednesday, March 18, that an EF1 tornado touched down in Forsyth and Laurens County, and that EF0 tornadoes touched down in Dooly County, Milledgeville, and in Laurens County.

According to a report by NWS, the damaging wind gusts during the storm reached upward of 70 mph and were considered a significant threat to spring crops and vegetation.

No fatalities were reported in any of the storms.

## Council recognizes International Women's Month, voices opposition to House Bill 1555



Photo by Owen Jones/HHJ  
Fort Valley City Council issues a proclamation for the recognition of International Women's Month in Thursday's meeting.

By Owen Jones/  
For the Leader Tribune

FORT VALLEY — The City of Fort Valley recognized the month of March as International Women's Month and issued a proclamation to Lt. Tabershia Green of the Fort Valley Police Department.

Mayor Shakenna Reeves read the proclamation, stating its origins date back to the early 20th century.

"It is a time to celebrate the strength, sacrifice and immeasurable contribution of women

whose quiet courage and daily perseverance shapes the very foundations of our community," she said. "It is both fitting and deeply meaningful to honor Lt. Green, a woman whose life reflects not only sacrifice but service, not only strength but love."

Green had since resigned from her position; however, the council still wanted to honor her for more than 10 years of service to the City of Fort Valley.

"Lt. Green stood on the frontlines for the City of Fort Valley, patrolling our streets, answering

calls in moments of fear and uncertainty and placing the safety of others above her own day after day," she said. "Beyond the uniform, [Green] carried out the roles of mother, wife, daughter and friend pouring into her children, standing beside her husband, supporting her family and serving within our schools, embodying the true definition of a woman who does it all even when no one is watching."

**FORT VALLEY**  
CONTINUED PG 6A

## City of Byron Looks to Annex Part of Houser's Mill Road per "The Peace at Powersville"

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

BYRON, Ga. — The mayor and city council of Byron have approved a resolution requesting the de-annexation of Houser's Mill Road from the City of Fort Valley and the annexation into the City of Byron during a special session on Monday, March 16.

The approved resolution will make a request of the Peach County delegation to the 2026 Georgia General Assembly to introduce legislation to amend the charters of the city of Byron and the city of Fort Valley, so that the portion of Houser's

Mill Road currently in the city of Fort Valley be de-annexed, and the same be annexed into the city of Byron. This resolution was approved with a unanimous vote from the city council.

According to documents provided for the city, the resolution discusses an agreement known locally as "The Peace at Powersville" between the City of Byron and the City of Fort Valley. The annexation line was established as a result of the agreement. The document further reads that the agreement required Fort Valley to de-annex its portion of Houser's Mill Road located in Byron's Annexation Area. The parties agreed jointly to request

the Peach County Legislative Delegation to support the annexation.

"The City of Byron, by its Mayor and City Council, does hereby request the Peach County Legislative Delegation to amend the City Charters of Byron and Fort Valley so that that portion of Houser's Mill Road currently in the City of Fort Valley be de-annexed and that the same be annexed into the City of Byron," the document states.

In addition to the approved resolution, the mayor and council approved the 2026 Community Development Block Grant

**HOUSER'S MILL RD**  
CONTINUED PG 6A

FREE ADMISSION!

# SOUTHERN GEORGIA HOME SHOW

MAR 27-29

GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIRGROUNDS & AGRICENTER  
401 Golden Isles Pkwy, Perry, GA 31069  
FRI: 12PM-6PM | SAT: 10AM-5PM | SUN: 11AM-4PM

WHAT YOU'LL FIND HERE:

- SAVE BIG ON YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS!
- MEET WITH LOCAL & NATIONAL VENDORS!
- EXPLORE WHAT'S NEW IN HOME, CRAFT & DESIGN!
- RECEIVE DIRECT QUOTES FROM LOCAL EXPERTS!

SCAN ME!



SouthernGeorgiaHomeShow.com



8 08805 93482 3

# The Peach County Board of Commissioners Is Updating Its Comprehensive Plan to Guide Community Growth

By Zoe Hammond  
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — The Peach County Board of Commissioners is working in partnership with the City of Fort Valley, the City of Byron, and the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) to update its Comprehensive Plan, which will help guide the Peach County community's growth and ensure smart, responsible developments in the county.

A Comprehensive Plan is a long-term policy document that guides growth, development, and investment, ensuring that any growth in the county is intentional and not accidental.

Georgia law requires local governments to update this document every five years. The current version of the Joint Comprehensive Plan was adopted in February 2022.

The process for the updated plan, which would take effect in 2027, began at the Peach County Board of Commissioners' March 2026 board meeting, where members of the MGRC presented the updated Joint



Comprehensive Plan Process.

The overall goal of the Comprehensive Plan is to serve as a useful tool to promote and maintain future growth and to improve the quality of life for all residents of Peach County. The plan will reflect community input from the citizens of Peach County. The public will be able to contribute to the planning process later in the year through town halls, community events, online surveys, and stakeholder meetings.

The plan will cover topics that include economic development, workforce and education, housing, natural and cultural resources, public facilities and utilities, public safety and health, transportation, broadband, and land use.

A Comprehensive Plan allows local governments to be considered Qualified Local Governments, which will provide opportunities for various grant opportunities and incentive programs. State-level funding decisions are being made in accordance with planning documents.

According to documents provided online in accordance with the Board of Commissioners meeting, Peach County is planning to take a fresh look at many of its ordinances and policies related to planning and zoning.

The Peach County Board of Commissioners will provide updates when it is time for community input on how best to develop Peach County, which is slated to take place later in the year.

# City of Fort Valley sent aid to Marshallville after storms



Photo Contributed

The City of Fort Valley is coming together to help support the community in Marshallville who were greatly affected by severe weather. The City of Fort Valley is encouraging citizens to donate non-perishable items to help assist with the recovery effort.

**Logics and Accuracy Testing for May 19th General Primary/Nonpartisan election will be held on March 28th, 2026,**  
at The Peach County Government Center located at 902 Campus Dr., Fort Valley Ga., 31030. Logics and Accuracy will start at 10:00 am until.

**Early voting** will be held at the Peach County Government Center located at 902 Campus Dr. Fort Valley Ga., 31030 and also the Byron Municipal Complex located at 401 main st. Byron, Ga., 31008. Early Voting starts April 27th, 2026, until May 15th, 2026.

Anthony Sallette - Peach County Elections Supervisor  
Region 6 Facilitator

## RETIRED?

GET A DISCOUNT ON AUTO &/OR HOME INSURANCE JUST FOR BEING YOU

Insure your Auto or Home through AAA and save on your premiums just for being a retiree who is at least 55 years old .



Contact me for a quote or details about our **RETIRED DISCOUNT**



**AAA Georgia - Berkner Insurance Agency**  
hdberkner1@acg.aaa.com  
478-216-5454

Discounts and savings opportunities are subject to eligibility requirements, terms and conditions. Insurance underwritten by one of the following companies: Auto Club Insurance Association, MemberSelect Insurance Company, Auto Club Group Insurance Company, Auto Club Property-Casualty Insurance Company, Auto Club South Insurance Company, Auto Club Insurance Company of Florida or non-affiliated insurance companies. ©2018 The Auto Club Group. All rights reserved. 18-IA-2202D GA/TN LC 9/18

# HOMETOWN HEROES: CELEBRATING MILITARY KIDS

## FOOD TRUCK ROUNDUP




**APRIL 16, 2026**  
**6:00 – 9:00PM**




**PERKINS FIELD**  
**105 MULBERRY ST.**

# 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

Barker, Derick Devananta, 32, Reynolds, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Safety Belt Violation For 18 YOA And Older, Loitering Or Prowling

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

Garcia, Santos, 27, Byron, GA: Window Tint Violation, Driving Without A Valid License

King, Janice Michelle, 43, Knoxville, GA: Probation Violation

Mercado, Damian Miguel, 32, Byron, GA: Possession Of Marijuana With Intent To Distribute, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Certain Crimes, Possession Of Drug Related Object, Failure To Yield Right Of Way, Turning

Patterson, Shania D, 24, Macon, GA: Conspiracy To Commit Prison Drop W/ Unmanned Aircraft, Possession Of Marijuana - Less Than One Ounce

Price, Jennifer Dawn, 49, Byron, GA: Driving With Suspended License

Reese, Elliot Johnathan, 59, Syracuse, NY: Driving With Suspended License

Rivas Martinez, Jeremias, 35, Warner Robins, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Open Container In Motor Vehicle (Misd), Knowingly Driving With Suspended/ Canceled Registration

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

Spears, Shaniyah Keora, 23, Byron, GA: Open Container In Motor Vehicle (Misd), Possession Of Marijuana, Less Than 1 Oz, DUI - Alcohol 0.08 Grams Or More 21 YOA Or Over

Vivian, Savannah Jade, 22, Warner Robins, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

## Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Barnes, Rodney, 35, Byron, GA: Simple Battery - Family Violence, Theft By Taking - Misdemeanor

Roberts, Alexis Lamont, 41, Perry, GA: Public Drunkenness

## Peach County Sheriff's Office

### Arrests/Citations

Cannon, Deborah Talitha, 24, Warner Robins, GA: Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers - Misdemeanor, DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Drugs, Interference With Government Property - Felony

Colbert, Pamela Denise, 49, Roberta, GA: Too Fast For Conditions/Prima Facie Speed, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Failure To Have License On Person, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Dodson, Keyon Terrell, 40, Macon, GA: Possession Of Methamphetamine, Possession Of Methamphetamine With Intent To Distribute, Knowingly Driving Motor Vehicle On Suspended, Canceled, Or Revoked Registration, Removing Or Affixing License Plate With Intent To Conceal Or

Misrepresent

Fincher, Rachel Michelle, 32, Lizella, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Haugabook, Jlyn Jimeel, 22, Warner Robins, GA: Failure To Obey Stop Sign, Failure To Obey Stop Sign, Missing/Defaced/Obscured License Plate, Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude A Police Officer, Operation Of Unregistered Vehicle Or Vehicle Without Current License Plate, Revalidation Decal, Or County Decal, Motorcycle Equipment Not Used Properly

Hunnicutt, Brianna Marie, 27, Byron, GA: Reckless Conduct, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Jaske, Bryson Lee, 21, Roseville, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Johnson, Hunter Luke, 23, Macon, GA: Defective Or No Headlights

Martinez Acevedo, Marco Antonio, 31, Deerfield Beach, FL: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Driving W/O Valid License, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container

Payne, Dexter Jerron, 37, Macon, GA: Possession Of Methamphetamine, Possession Of Methamphetamine With Intent To Distribute

Perez, Christopher, 18, Macon, GA: Expired Or No Drivers License, Failure To Obey Signs Or Control Devices

Reynolds, Traci Ann, 40, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Riley, Niyah La Nae, 25, Fort Valley, GA: Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude Police Officer, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Reckless Driving, Hands Free, Failure To Yield Right Of Way To Emergency VEH

Risk, Amanda Levi, 39, Byron, GA: Failure To Appear - Felony

Rodriguez-Delgado, Hugo C, 35, Fort Valley, GA: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Failure To Yield Right Of Way To Vehicle

Stahl, Madison Elaine, 24, Macon, GA: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol - Concentration Is 0.08g Or More Within 3 HRS Or More, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Failure To Maintain Lane, Improper Right Turn

Street, Gregory Bernard, 51, Byron, GA: Expired Tag, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Tail Lights / Tag Lights Lenses Required

## GSP Perry Patrol Arrests

Cadow, Joseph Brannen, 28, Perry, GA: Driving Under The Influence/Alcohol, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits)

Mannion, Tadhg Francis, 19, Bedford, NY: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Reckless Driving

# 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  
**WORK SESSION MEETING Tuesday, March 10, 2026 Time 06:00 P.M.**  
Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 848 3046 0283  
Passcode: 396617

**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. (FFS)

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

## Byron Rotary Club

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

## Byron 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.

Call or Text 478-955-1999



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

WadeYoder.com

110 Commercial Heights, Fort Valley, GA

# Spring Break

Peach County Schools will be closed  
March 30<sup>th</sup> - April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 for Spring Break.

Students will return to school Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.



# McNeel: Week Ten Under the Gold Dom

By: Sen. Steven McNeel  
(R-Macon)

With just days remaining in the 2026 Legislative Session before Sine Die on April 2, Republicans under the Gold Dome are in a full sprint to deliver on the promises we made to you. Every vote, every bill and every late night is focused on defending your hard-earned money and preserving the conservative values that make Georgia the best place to live, work and raise a family.

While others talk, Senate Republicans are delivering.

We believe that Georgia's economic success should reach every community, not just a select few. That's why we passed House Bill 376 to expand tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic properties, with a strong focus on rural counties often left behind. This measure will help to revitalize our main streets, support small businesses, create jobs, and make sure that no part of Georgia is overlooked in our state's growth.

Through diligent financial stewardship of your tax dollars, we are able to return money to you and your family. The Senate passed House Bill 1000, paving the way for a fourth round of income tax rebates. That means up to \$250 for individuals, \$375 for heads of household and \$500 for married couples filing jointly. Republicans in Georgia are proving that conservative leadership means putting money back in your pocket when you need it most.

We are also taking decisive action to protect our classrooms from foreign influence. House Bill 1379 ensures transparency by requiring schools and universities to disclose

funding from hostile foreign nations like China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. Republicans are standing firm to ensure our education system reflects our values, not those of our nation's enemies.

When it comes to public safety, we're sending a clear message to criminals: if you bring deadly drugs into our communities, there will be heightened consequences. With the passage of House Bill 535, we are cracking down on fentanyl traffickers by imposing tough, mandatory penalties on those who poison our streets. This measure is a step in the right direction in the fight to stop a crisis that has devastated too many lives across our state and nation.

I am also carrying House Bill 1181, which will simplify the motor vehicle titling process for inherited vehicles previously registered out of state. HB 1181 will remove the unnecessary intermediate steps, which is especially crucial for our military families who frequently move between states. This is another example of our commitment to cutting red tape, to make Georgians' lives easier and less costly.

The final days of session are the most critical, and Republicans are not letting up. We will continue fighting to lower costs and defend the principles that have kept Georgia strong.

As always, it is an honor to serve you. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, I encourage you to reach out. Your voice drives the work we do every day under the Gold Dome.



By Wade Yoder  
LT Columnist

No it's not actually a wrinkle, it's that cellulite we so aggravatingly detect, as we

grow older. Cellulite is to fat, as a wrinkle is to skin, it's simply that one is aged

skin and the other is aged fat. Though we cannot prevent getting older, there is oft times things we can do to slow down the effects of aging, especially premature aging.

Our skin: when our skin loses elasticity, wrinkles begin to form along with an overall appearance of sagging skin. This can be caused in large part by pollutants our body has to deal with whether in environmental

surroundings we are subjected to, or through our food and drink choices.

Our Fat: we have fat cells all over our body; these are backup energy cells to protect us when we cannot eat adequate calories to cover our daily needs. When the caloric intake is not enough to cover our daily need, our body will tap into this supply.

Aging fat: when fat cells are young, the over lying texture is usually supple and smooth, but as we get older we may start seeing some lumpiness aka cellulite. These are unhealthy or aged energy cells (fat cells) that are similar to an aged fuel tank that has signs of rusting and pitting. In the example of car it could come from external road conditions or from external conditions such as bad fuel. This is pretty much the same for our body when toxins are allowed to build up inside causing the cells in our skin, fat and vital organs to age prematurely. Our body is a lot like a factory in that it has toxic matter that needs to be gotten rid of and if we don't get these eliminated

properly, they will build up in us and will age the areas it collects in. Not getting rid of these toxins is like putting a lid over a factory's smokestack, trapping the toxic smoke inside, causing rapid aging to the inside of the factory.

Our body naturally protects us from toxins by either wrapping the toxins in mucous or fat and if these are allowed to build up, "we will eventually feel the toxic effects as well as see it in the health of our fat and our skin tone.

What we can do:

1. Increase the antioxidants (fruits and vegetables) in our diet, this gives us much-needed nutrients that help neutralize these toxins that cause oxidative damage to our fat cells.

2. We need exercise to increase circulation and blood flow into these areas to circulate these toxins out of our fat cells.

3. Stimulate circulation with something like a brush that has the little plastic beads at the end and work the area in a circular motion.

4. Sweating helps push these

toxins out of our body.

5. Increase fiber intake to pull toxins out of our digestive track.

6. Increase water intake to help flush these toxins out through waste elimination and sweating.

Note: whenever you are trying to get rid of fat, or rejuvenate fat for a firmer tone, remember fat cells often accumulate toxins that when released cause oxidation (aging and disease) to other parts of the body they encounter, so increasing water intake along with an antioxidant rich diet of fruits and vegetables is important to avoid aging our vital organs, fat cells, and skin!

Doing the above list 1-6 helps us when losing weight to not only look younger as we lose weight but will also help our fat cells to become much healthier energy cells!

Fat is not something we should always think of in terms of how we can get rid of it, but what we can to get our fat cells healthy. Healthy fat under our skin helps us to look younger and healthier as well!

## The Fight Against Red Tape Continues in Georgia

By J. Thomas Perdue, Ga  
Public Policy Foundation

Georgia is one of many states that has recently begun to look critically at its growing regulatory code.

Lawmakers, business leaders and policy advocates have pointed out how regulations enacted by unelected bureaucrats in the executive branch have placed an unnecessary burden on the state's workers and industries. The lack of legislative oversight in what functions as de facto lawmaking (this is especially true at the federal level) is another concern. This problem is compounded by the fact that Georgia's code has grown unchecked for decades, resulting in a lack of transparency as well as redundant, outdated and even contradictory rules.

But as the state's code grows, so too does the list of other states that have taken steps to reduce their own. Those efforts demonstrate a widespread shift away from passive acceptance of regulatory growth. Despite lawmakers' desire to maintain Georgia's status as "the best state for business," the push for meaningful regulatory reform has not been free of obstacles.

At the beginning of 2025, the first year of Georgia's current two-year legislative session, the lieutenant governor's office sent a clear signal that the state was getting serious about regulatory reform with the announcement of the Red Tape Rollback

Act. This resulted in Senate Bill 28, introduced by Sen. Greg Dolezal. It was an omnibus package that bundled together several ideas seen in other states that have proved more effective and enduring.

It would have required small-business impact analyses for bills, added stronger economic impact analysis requirements for agency rules, expanded the General Assembly's ability to object to or override proposed rules and required periodic review and sunset of administrative rules so agencies would have to justify keeping them on the books. Despite passing the Senate last year, SB 28 was not brought up for a vote in the House and has not advanced this year.

Despite this, regulatory reform is still very much alive at the Capitol. Instead of one sweeping package, lawmakers have moved a series of smaller, targeted fixes.

One of these is House Bill 903, which was introduced by Rep. Alan Powell (R-Hartwell) and passed the House in February. This bill would apply the state's Administrative Procedures Act (APA) to all agencies across the executive branch. This means that more state agencies would have to work through a legislative framework of notice, review and possible override by following the APA's requirements before adopting rules or deciding contested cases.

For rulemaking, Georgia's APA generally requires agencies to give at least 30 days' notice of a proposed rule, publish the proposed text and synopsis and provide a chance for public participation before adoption. The APA also governs contested cases and judicial review, including notice and hearing requirements in agency adjudications.

This idea is one of several regulatory reform efforts that simply returns powers and responsibilities to their intended branches of government. Rep. Powell pointed this out in his floor speech, saying that, "for too long, this House has been derelict in its duties due to the bureaucracy of the state that passes rules and regulations that we don't have oversight to."

Rep. Powell noted that his own constituents had asked him many times over his long tenure in the House about a given law, only to find that "law" was a regulation put forth by the bureaucracy that had the effect of law.

House Bill 1178 also strengthens legislative oversight by giving the House Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee the authority to review budget matters, require reporting and provide for audits of state spending and performance. Its sponsor is Rep. Mitchell Horner (R-Ringgold).

To complete the trifecta, lawmakers have also sought curbing administrative overreach by reforming how the judiciary

handles the regulatory process through House Bill 1247, sponsored by Rep. Matt Reeves (R-Duluth). This bill creates the "Georgia Bureaucratic Deference Act."

Currently, when an agency and a regulated party disagree over what a law requires, courts primarily give benefit of the doubt to the agency's interpretation. This process is commonly referred to as "judicial deference." It can function as a shortcut through our system of separated powers because it involves the executive branch performing duties meant for other branches. HB 1247 would require Georgia courts to decide questions of law without defaulting to an agency's preferred interpretation.

Other proposals reflected the same broader skepticism of unchecked administrative policymaking, but didn't make it through Crossover Day. House Bill 1078, for example, would have required agencies to periodically review and sunset existing rules, one of the more common regulatory reform tools found in other states.

While this session has not seen the sweeping overhaul of the administrative state that many advocates might have wanted, there's still a chance to make progress on regulatory reform, as consequential proposals are still alive.

## Our Calendar: Holy Week Mixed With Politics

Charlie Harper  
Guest Columnist

Next week many of us will be observing Holy Week. With Palm Sunday on March 29th, Passover beginning April 1st, and Easter Sunday on April 5th there will be a heightened focus on religious observances in our days ahead. (I'll note for my Greek Orthodox and other Eastern Orthodox friends, they have an extra week to observe Lent before their Easter Sunday celebrations.)

This time of year has an interesting overlap for those of us who work in and around state politics. The calendars usually align with the last week of the Georgia General Assembly. This year the calendar was arranged so that April 1st will be a work day for committees to conflict as little as possible with Passover observances. The last day of session will be Thursday April 1st, with the state's legislative business wrapping up in the wee hours of Good Friday.

The juxtaposition of the high-

est of holy days with the peak frenzy of state politics often has me questioning both at the same time. I'll add my usual disclaimer here for when I delve into writing about religion. My perspective is that of a Christian. I write knowing I am a sinner and fellow traveler, not a saint.

The extent to which we mix our religion with our politics has been a question since we were a loose collection of colonies. How we mix or separate the two has long been a moving target.

We have some who believe the answer is absolute. There is a group that believes freedom of religion is freedom from religion. There are others who will state quite confidently that "America is a Christian nation" and that the founding fathers, writing constitutional protections for citizens who had just fled an oppressive church-nation state, somehow just forgot to state this.

If pressed, many of these well-intentioned but misguided

folks will open things up to say we're a "Judeo-Christian nation" before returning to their biblical basis for the Constitution. They will then in separate conversation wonder why their candidates are not getting the Jewish vote, without any self-awareness that their entire thesis pushes them and their religion out of the founding documents.

After decades of the religious right trying to monopolize Christian voters, it both somewhat amusing and equally sad to see the rise of the religious left. Some of this is now institutionalized, with many large denominations now demanding the government use its power and largess to do the charitable work churches are called to do.

It should be noted that many of these same denominations get hundreds of millions of dollars from the government to do this work. It's helpful to remember that it was during holy week that Jesus turned the money changers tables over at the Temple.

I've been somewhat intrigued

by the ongoing "No Kings" protests, held not just here at home but in nations across the world. I'm sure King Charles got a kick out of the one in London.

When Jesus road into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, the crowds greeted him as their new king. Jesus rejected an earthly kingdom in favor of a crown of thorns. The week between Palm Sunday and Easter wasn't about building a government. It was about something much bigger.

It is extremely important to note the culpability and fallibility of man in this story. Those cheering for a new king sentenced him to death just days later as part of a frenzied, fickle mob. The only time Jesus ever appeared on a ballot, Barabbas won the election.

Collectively, we're no smarter now. We have entire industries dedicated to moving popular opinion. Some sell us products and services. Some create awareness. And some seek to

HARPER  
CONTINUED PG 5A

### The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

DuBose Porter  
Publisher Emeritus

Pam Burney  
General Manager

Danyale Starley  
Interim Executive Director

sales@theleadertribune.com

Scott Giles Business Manager  
books@theleadertribune.com

Andrea Banker Design Manager  
graphics@theleadertribune.com

Zoe Hammond News Editor  
editor@theleadertribune.com  
news@theleadertribune.com

Legals Department  
legals@gtn.org

#### Columnists

Billy Powell Dan Gatlyn  
Jeff Cook Wade Yoder

#### OUR GOALS

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

#### HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

E-mail it to news@theleadertribune.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.

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

#### POSTMASTER

Send address changes to  
109 Anderson Avenue, Fort Valley, GA 31030

Member of The Georgia Press Association  
The National Newspaper Association

## Did Anybody Get That?



By Billy Powell  
Parables to Ponder  
LT Columnist

The Methodist pastor, Rev. Dennis Stalvey, prior to his regular Sunday morning message, usually conducts a children's sermon. Seeing the little ones parade down the aisles to take their places on the front row is an uplifting sight. This particular Sunday, the pastor's sermon was about the church. He told his young and attentive audience that many people think that the church is a building. "Yes," he asserted, "we do call this building a church, but the real church comprises the fellowship of believers like you and me who come here to worship." To prove his point, he referenced Jesus' declaration that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there shall I be also."

"Therefore" he concluded, "

when you are at school, in the community, or wherever you go, you comprise the true church. So remember that each of you is a vital part of the body of Christ, which is the real church." The pastor dismissed the group with a prayer and released them to children's church. As one very bright young man walked away, he turned to the congregation and asked, "Did anybody get that?" His pastor, quite amused, remarked, "That young man may one day become a minister."

Since the pastor's message concerned the composition of the church, let's further this theme with an inquiry on why we even have a church, i.e., why do we, as Christians, assemble on Sunday's and whom do we worship? We do so because something supernatural occurred on a Sunday morning some 2000-years ago. A man who had been crucified arose from the dead. The report spread quickly throughout the land and is still spreading. Who was this man? His name was Jesus? Can the dead arise? A man named Paul, who once persecuted Jesus' followers, testified that it occurred. In the Bible, he wrote this about Jesus' resurrection: "He was dead and buried and raised 3-days

later. He appeared to Peter and then to all twelve disciples. Then he appeared to more than 500 of his followers.

Afterwards he appeared to James and finally to all the disciples. And last of all he was seen by me." Paul's companion, Luke, testified in the Bible that, after walking the earth for 40-days, Jesus ascended into heaven as his followers looked on in rapt amazement. Well is that enough evidence for us to believe this man arose from the grave? Considering that all 12-disciples suffered martyrdom for professing this belief should be convincing enough. Beyond that, would his disciples put their lives on the line to perpetuate a lie regarding Jesus' resurrection? Well then, if we follow this same Jesus in belief and trust, what does his resurrection mean to us? Jesus answered that question: "Because I live, you shall live also." This means that we will gain a home in eternity with Him." Why do we have to believe in Jesus? Can't we go to heaven by believing in a supreme being, and living a good life? Not according to Jesus. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh to the Father except through me." Did anybody get that?

## HARPER

CONTINUED FROM 4A

divide us from ourselves and our fellow citizens.

My thoughts on religion and politics change over time with the examples of the day, but generally remain fixed on two guardrails to help keep me between the lines.

One: I used to think that those who used religion as a litmus test for partisan purposes cheapened my politics. I now realize that politics too often cheapens my religion.

Two: For those who chose religion to divide and exclude, there is a quote from Abraham Lin-

coln that stands the test of time. "...My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

I do not wish to have my religion guided by the power of the state, nor the whims of the electorate. Nor do I want citizens to practice religion out of any sense of duty to or fear from the state.

God's gifts to us don't require a pass through at any capitol. They can only be fully accepted and appreciated without a government's participation or

coercion.

The hard part for those of us who profess this faith is understanding that free will permits rejection of these beliefs. The hardest part is that if and when we understand that the government won't do our recruitment and compliance for us, then we have to do the work ourselves to market the path to salvation.

That's a tough lesson in reality for Holy Week. I will acknowledge it is one where I fall far too short. It's also why I'm grateful of the gift of Easter, for the sinners and not the saints.

## Lt. Governor Burt Jones Supports Senate Passage of Income Tax Rebates

By the office of the  
Lieutenant Governor

Burt Jones

ATLANTA | Today, Lt. Governor Burt Jones issued a statement in support of the Senate's passage of House Bill 1000. House Bill 1000 is now headed to Governor Brian Kemp for his consideration and signature.

"The Senate's action today directly fulfills my promise to cut income taxes every year I have served as Georgia's Lt. Governor," said Lt. Governor

Burt Jones. "HB 1000 will return over \$1 billion to Georgia's hardworking taxpayers in the coming months. I want to thank Governor Brian Kemp and Speaker Jon Burns for their partnership in cutting taxes and returning billions of dollars to Georgia taxpayers over the past four years. As we reach the final weeks of the legislative session, I look forward to working with the Governor and the Speaker to deliver more tax relief to Georgia families and businesses."

House Bill 1000 provides a one-time income tax rebate for taxpayers who filed timely income tax returns for both 2024 and 2025. HB 1000 provides refunds of \$250 for a single taxpayer or a married taxpayer filing separately, \$375 for a head of household, and \$500 for a married couple filing jointly.

Please follow this link for additional information on House Bill 1000:

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72293>

## Bipartisan Bill Championed by Sen. Ossoff to Strengthen Cancer Screenings for Seniors Becomes Law

By office of U.S. Senator  
for Georgia, Sen. Ossoff

Washington, D.C. — A bipartisan bill backed by U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff to strengthen cancer screenings for Georgia seniors has become law.

Sen. Ossoff worked with Republicans and Democrats to expand access to early-detection cancer screenings for seniors in Georgia. The bipartisan Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act, cosponsored by Sen. Ossoff, was signed into law on February 3 as part of bipartisan government funding legislation.

The new law allows Medicare to cover multi-cancer early detection screening tests once they are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), aiming to help more seniors get

screened early for cancer.

"I'm always fighting for Georgia's seniors and seniors' health, and that's why I cosponsored this bill to have Medicare cover these multicancer screening tests that can check for different kinds of cancer all at once to support early detection," Sen. Ossoff said. "I'm pleased that this bill I cosponsored is now law."

Sen. Ossoff continues working to increase Georgians' access to lifesaving health care.

In February, Sen. Ossoff cosponsored the bipartisan Safe Step Act to help prevent insurance companies from delaying Georgians' access to medical care.

In January, the bipartisan Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act, a bill cosponsored by

Sen. Ossoff, was signed into law as part of the NDAA to expand support for Georgia first responders battling service-related cancers or injuries.

Also in January, Sen. Ossoff cosponsored the bipartisan States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act of 2025 to help reduce Georgia's shortage of health care workers.

In 2025, Sen. Ossoff cosponsored the bipartisan Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act, which would allow recent graduates of medical school to defer their student loan payments without interest while they serve in a medical or dental internship or residency program, aiming to reduce the shortage of medical professionals in Georgia.

## Obituaries

### James E. Teabo

James E. Teabo, of Fort Valley, Georgia, passed away on March 12, 2026, after 25 cherished years of marriage to his beloved wife, Beth Cleveland Teabo.

Jim proudly served his country as a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force and later flew with the Air Commando Albatross for the Maryland Air National Guard, from which he retired after an honorable 22-year career. Alongside his distinguished military service, he also built a successful civilian career

as the Southeast Regional Manager for a pharmaceutical firm.

Jim was a man who loved deeply and was loved in return. More than 20 years ago, he was warmly embraced by the Mexican community of Fort Valley, who affectionately named him their Abuelo — grandfather — a title he carried with great pride and tenderness.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Beth, and her children, Jeff and Jennifer, as well as his three devoted daughters, Shelly Leahy

(Greg), Beth Carter (JC), and Jamie Dodson (Bo), along with their beloved families.

A faithful and active member of St. Juliana's Catholic Church, Jim leaves behind a legacy of service, love, and community. May he rest in eternal peace.

Mass in his honor will be held at 5 pm on Monday, March 30, 2026 at St. Juliana's Catholic Church, 804 Martin Luther King Junior Drive, Fort Valley, GA.



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: [news@theleadertribune.com](mailto:news@theleadertribune.com)

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

Please join us - All are welcome! 6:00pm Thursdays during the Lenten Season. 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

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

309 Central Avenue, Fort Valley. You are invited to Celebrate Holy Week and Easter

**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!

### 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](mailto:peachcobahais@gmail.com), and we'll send you an invitation!

### COME PRAISE THE LORD OVER ZOOM

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

Code 7Sb6h8

Host James Manning (Elder)

### CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

"Connecting People to Christ"  
Rev. Bobby J. Roberson, Pastor

478-822-9897. 1735 Hwy 341 North, Fort Valley, GA 31030

### FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH 301 W. Church Street (478)825-2762

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

### FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)

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

### FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

### GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY FOODBANK

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

### GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES

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

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

### HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS' CLASS

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

We will cover theology, history, liturgy, and more! To register contact Fr Matt at [harlowmatthew@gmail.com](mailto:harlowmatthew@gmail.com) <https://www.middlegaanglican.org>

### THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

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

### SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

### ST. JULIANA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

804 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Phone:(478) 825-7127 Sat., 7:00pm Spanish Mass

### BAHA'I FAITH

"Verily I say, this is the Day in which mankind can behold the Face, and hear the Voice, of the Promised One."

Baha'u'llah

For more information  
[peachcobahais@gmail.com](mailto:peachcobahais@gmail.com)  
[www.bahai.us](http://www.bahai.us)

Sun., 9:00am English Mass; 11:00 am Spanish Mass

Weekday Mass: Tues., - Thurs. 6:30pm

Confessions: Thurs., 6:00pm; Sat. 6:30pm; Sun. 10:30am

Adoration: Thurs., 7:00pm; Sat. 8-9am; Sun. 6:00pm

### ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 State University Drive across from the first entrance to FVSU.

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

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

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

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

Bianca Ballard (478)825-8452.

### SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

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

Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship at 11:15 A.M.

Bible Study at 7:00 P.M. - Tuesdays

To contact us, please leave a message at (478) 825-7581 or send email to [secretary@shilohbaptistfortvalley.org](mailto: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.

# Georgia suspends gasoline tax amid price surges during conflict with Iran

By Ty Tagami  
Bureau Chief

## Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Drivers will soon find gas to be a little cheaper in Georgia after Gov. Brian Kemp signed a law Friday that immediately suspended the state excise tax on motor fuel to address affordability concerns.

"Today is just the latest step we're taking and it's one that will help all Georgians as they work to make ends meet," Kemp said at the Capitol before signing House Bill 1199 into law. The measure passed the House on Wednesday with broad bipartisan support and cleared the Senate unanimously on Thursday.

Kemp also signed House Bill 1000, giving Georgians a one-time rebate on income taxes paid last year or the year before. Individual filers will get \$250 back, heads of household \$375 and married couples filing joint-

ly \$500.

Kemp noted that lawmakers were working to help Georgians deal with affordability well ahead of the elections, when voters are expected to select candidates based on their feelings about the issue.

The fuel tax suspension, the fourth during Kemp's tenure, will cost the state treasury an estimated \$400 million during the 60 days it is in effect. The timing has the suspension in place up to the Georgia primary election on May 19.

Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, who is running for the GOP nomination for governor, applauded the collaboration between the Senate, the House and the governor's office.

"We want to get income tax relief. We want to get property tax relief. So, we're working together on getting this done," Jones said.

Kemp's signature on HB 1199

immediately suspends the state's 33 cent per gallon excise tax on gasoline. It also suspends the 37 cent a gallon tax on diesel fuel, which affects the cost of food and other goods on store shelves.

Gas prices spiked after President Donald Trump ordered air strikes on Iran last month.

"We're all feeling the pain at the pump as instability in the global oil markets causes the cost of fuel to rise across this country," House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington said.

He said Georgia is among the first states to suspend the gas tax to suppress the recent run-up in prices. He said the state House met this week with representatives of the trucking industry, which faces a nearly \$2 per gallon increase in diesel costs.

Burns said he anticipated "a quick and successful end to the conflict overseas that is causing these increases." He also thanked American military



Photo by Ashtin Barker/Capitol Beat  
Gov. Brian Kemp speaks before signing Georgia House Bills 1199 and 1000 into law at the Georgia State Capitol on Friday, March 20, 2026. The laws suspend the state motor fuel tax for 60 days and implement one-time income tax rebates.

members and their families, saying "we should all keep them in our prayers."

Then, Kemp signed the bills that will leave more income tax money in Georgian's pockets

and reduce the cost of travel as families embark on spring break trips.

## Advocate Health to award \$200,000 in scholarships for students pursuing health care and STEM careers

Forty \$5,000 awards available to students in Illinois, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Georgia

### Contributed

CHARLOTTE, N.C., March 16, 2026 — Advocate Health will award \$200,000 in scholarships to students pursuing education in health care and STEM-related fields, supporting the development of a strong and diverse future workforce.

The organization will provide 40 \$5,000 scholarships, including 20 awards available to community members and dependents of teammates and 20 designated for eligible Advocate Health teammates across its service area.

The scholarships support students enrolled in health-related fields, including health care, science, technology, engineering, mathematics,

business, human resources, information technology and finance.

"Investing in education is one of the most meaningful ways we can strengthen the future of health care," said Michelle Smith, vice president of workforce development and career innovation for Advocate Health. "These scholarships help remove financial barriers for students who are passionate about serving their communities and advancing careers in health care and related fields."

"I am passionate about becoming a nurse who makes a difference in patients' lives through compassionate and skilled care," said Hannah Hernandez, a 2025 scholarship recipient and nursing stu-

dent at Edgewood University. "This scholarship has not only given me the opportunity to continue my education but has also motivated me to work even harder to reach my dreams."

Eligible applicants must:

- Be enrolled at least part time in a qualifying health-related field
- Have a minimum cumulative, unweighted GPA of 2.5 for high school students or 2.75 for college students
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Be a resident of Illinois, Wisconsin, North Carolina or Georgia — Advocate Health's service area.

Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate financial need, have participated in Advocate Health workforce development programs, or are Advocate Health teammates, dependents of teammates or community members.

Online applications must be submitted by March 31.

For more information about the Advocate Health Community Scholarship program and eligibility requirements, visit [aah.awardspring.com](http://aah.awardspring.com).

Media Contact  
[Media@AdvocateHealth.org](mailto:Media@AdvocateHealth.org)

Bring the Kids & Enjoy a FREE Fun Day in the Valley!

**Saturday - 28TH MARCH 2026**

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Spponsors**

- FRED DOUGLAS LODGE #143 PH
- Pride of Fort Valley Chapter 480 PH
- The Mukhtar Shrine Club
- Saint Peter A.M.E. Church
- KACEY'S PLACE FOUNDATION
- Urban Jeep Squad

**COLORING ACTIVITIES**

**CANDY EGG HUNT**

**HOT DOGS**

**TRAIN RIDE**

**GAMES AND PRIZES!**

The Easter Bunny Will be there to greet the kids!!!!

MARVIN CRAFTER FESTIVAL PARK  
310 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DR  
FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

### Contributed

Sat., March 28  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
Community Wide Easter Egg Hunt in Fort Valley

Saturday, March 28 from 10am to 3pm at the Marvin Crafter Festival Park, 310 Martin Luther King Jr Drive, Fort Valley. Bring the kids and

enjoy a FREE fun day in the Valley! The Easter Bunny will be there to greet the kids! Coloring activities, candy egg hunt, hot dogs, train ride, games and prizes.

Sponsored by: Fred Douglas Lodge #143 PH, Pride of Fort Valley Chapter 480 PH, The Mukhtar Shrine Club, Saint Peter A.M.E. Church, Kacey's Place Foundation and Urban Jeep Squad.

## FORT VALLEY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Reeves described Green as resilient, dependable and never wavering from her commitment to the city. She said Green had remained a constant during the city's tough times.

Even though Green's time with the City of Fort Valley has ended, Reeves said she will have a lasting impact on the city.

"The impact of her years of dedication would echo in the lives she touched, the commu-

nity she helped protect and the example she set for all who follow," she said. "Thank you for the night, the sacrifices, the strength and love you have given so freely. We honor you and we wish you continued success, peace and fulfillment in the next chapter of your journey, knowing wherever life leads you, your legacy will never be forgotten."

In new business, the council approved to voice their opposi-

tion to House Bill 1555. The bill, introduced this month, would amend the charter of the City of Fort Valley to deannex certain areas within the city limits. These parts include SR 96 and Housers Mill Road.

Council also approved Calvin Jones' recommendation of appointing Stanley Williams to the Fort Valley Housing Authority Board.

## HOUSER'S MILL RD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

for a proposed Senior Center in the Toomerville neighborhood. The resolution also authorizes the Mayor to execute any and all necessary updates to the City of Byron's Community Work Program and the Peach County Service Delivery Strategy to support the City's CDBG application.

During the special session, the final design for Byron's upcoming skate park was approved as well. There were a couple of changes made to the final design, which included needed lighting at the skate park as well

as an on-site camera system for safety, which was suggested by Captain Bryan Hunter from the Byron Police Department.

The mayor and council also discussed the Land Development section of the City of Byron's Code of Ordinances. The changes discussed included that any street-facing garage be recessed at a minimum distance of 20 feet behind the front building facade, as well as that lot sizes shall meet the required size, excluding easements from "lot area" when determining if a property meets minimum size

requirements for building or subdivision.

The council approved the Order, Resolution, and Declaration of Taking to acquire portions of properties for public use to help fix flooding issues in certain subdivisions.

The council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-1, which is regarding the annexation of the property along Boy Scout Road. It will be brought forth for a vote at the next council meeting.

## Sen. Ossoff Helps Pass Bipartisan Bill into Law to Lower Drug Costs for Georgians

By the office of Jon Ossoff  
U.S. Senator for Georgia

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff helped pass a bipartisan bill into law to lower drug costs for Georgians.

Sen. Ossoff worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass the Increasing Transparency in Generic Drug Applications Act to increase transparency in generic drug applications and reduce unnecessary delays so that these low-cost medications are brought to consumers faster.

The bipartisan bill, which

became law on February 3 as part of bipartisan government funding legislation, will streamline the drug review process of generic drug applicants by requiring the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to disclose to generic drug applicants what ingredients causes a drug to be different and the same from brand-name drugs. By doing so, the bill will make generic drugs — which are lower-cost alternatives — more available to those in need.

According to the Association

for Accessible Medicine, the bill's passage would "save the U.S. healthcare system more than \$800 million over 10 years and bring lower-cost medicines to patients sooner."

"Georgians deserve alternatives to expensive name-brand medications. This new law will help hold big pharma accountable and promote stronger competition for more affordable prescription drugs," said Sen.

**LOWER DRUG COST  
CONTINUED PG 8A**



**LEGALS**

**CONTINUED FROM 7A**

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 or ne m: KATINA SHERRI TUCKER has petitioned for KATINA SHERRI TUCKER to be appointed administrator of the estate of KEVIN DEVAZIO WILSON as d. of a id o unty. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of e rtain powers o tained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why a id petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MARCH 18, 2026. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any a b objections. All objections b ould be w orn to before a notary public or before a probate o urt clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with ur objet ions unless u qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate o urt pers nnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be b eduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Kim Wil n u dge 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

**LT26-022**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Notice of the Public Hearing and Request for Public Comment for the State of Georgia's Draft Annual Action Plan FY26**

The State of Georgia, in o mpliane with applicable U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations has prepared a draft e rison of the State's Cons lidated Annual At ion Plan for the Federal Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The State of Georgia will host a public hearing and webinar to pre nt the 2026 Annual Action Plan. This FY26 Annual Action Plan is the fourth year of the five-year 2023-2027 Consolidated Planning period. The Annual Action Plan outlines the activities that will be undertaken in the program year (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027). The s x federally funded HUD programs o e red by the At ion Plan are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Deelopment Blok Grant – Dis er Reo e ry (CDBG-DR), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and the National Housing Tru Fund (NHTF). The State of Georgia eno urages c tie ns public agencie s and other interes ed parties to rev ew the o n-tents of its draft Annual Action Plan and to s mbit their written o mments. A draft of the Annual At ion Plan will be aa ilable for rev ew on April 1, 2026 by 5 PM by visiting our website: <https://dca.georgia.gov/affordable-housing/housing-development/community-initiatives/hud-planning/hud-planningreporting>. The report may ale be obtained upon reque s from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs by emailing HUDPlanning@dca.ga.gov

The public hearing webinar will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 from 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM. To partic pate in the webinar please , please regis er to attend us ng the following link <https://tiny.rlo.m/f/b7eg y>. If u ha e trouble with the link please email HUDPlanning@dca.ga.gov to re e ie the regis ration link. All written comments should be submitted by email or postal mail no later than Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Georgia Department of Community Affairs Hous ng Deelopment Div is on Attn: Homeowner s ip Deelopment and Pree ra tion Div is on 60 Exeotie Park South, NE Atlanta, GA 30329-2231 Marb 25, 2026

**LT26-005**

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**

GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY By v rtue of a Power of Sale o tained 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. Reo rds a id Seo rity Deed hav ng been given to secure a Note of even date in the original princ pal amount of Two Hundred Ten Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$210,000.00), with interest thereon as prov ded for therein, a id Seo rity Deed having been last sold, assigned and transf erred to Mortgage As ts Management, LLC, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Peab County Courthouse , within the legal hours of a le on the first Tuesday in April, 2026, all property des ibed in a id Seo rity Deed int iding but not limited to the following des ibed property

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 SUBE CT 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 BOK VOLUME AND PAGES 362 PAGE 478.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more o mmonly 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 a id Seo rity Deed. The indebtednes remaining in default, this a le will be made for the purpose of pay ng the a me, all expens s of the a le, int iding attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed.

Said property will be e ld on an "as is" basis without any representation, warranty or reo ure agais the aboe -named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (int iding taxes whib are a lien, whether or not now due and pay ble); the right of redemption of any taxing authority; matters whib would be dis o e d by an ao rate a re y or by an ing et ion of the property all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of reo rd a prior to a id Seo rity Deed.

To the bes of the k owledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in poss s on of the property is E ANETTE K HUFF, or tenant s .

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

The entity hav ng full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do e ) is PHH Mortgage Corporation, Los Mitigation Dept., 1661 Worthington Road Ste 100, West Palm Beach, FL 33409, Telephone Number: 866-503-5559. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Set ion 44-14-162.2 b all be o n s rued to require a e d editor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage int rument.

**MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC**

as Attorney in Fat: for E ANETTE 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 Contac : Rubin Lublin, LLC 3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100, Peab tree Corners GA 30071 Telephone Number: (877) 813-0992 Cas No. RMU-24-03269-2 rie law.o m/property lit ing Marb 11, 18, 25, April 1, 2026

**END LEGALS**

# Kim Fuller Announces Retirement as Executive Director of Friends of Jimmy Carter National Historical Park

Contributed

PLAINS, GEORGIA — The Friends of Jimmy Carter National Historical Park has announced the retirement of Executive Director Kim Carter Fuller, effective March 1. Fuller joined the organization in 2012 and has led the nonprofit during a period of continued growth and community engagement. Prior to joining the Friends organization, Fuller had a long and respected career as an educator, bringing her passion for learning, public service, and community involvement to the role.

Fuller is the niece of Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, and the daughter of Billy Carter. Her connection to the Carter family and to the community of Plains, Georgia, brought a unique and personal perspective to her leadership of the organization. The Friends of Jimmy Carter National Historical Park is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the National Park Service in preserving the history and legacy of President Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter. Established in 2012, the organization raises funds for educational programs, enhances visitor experiences, and helps

maintain historic sites throughout the park. Among its key initiatives, the organization supports educational and interpretive programming, collaborates with the National Park Service to preserve historic locations such as the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park — including the Plains High School Museum and the Carter Boyhood Farm — and works to keep the town of Plains vibrant as a center for learning and community engagement. In 2019, the Plains Better Hometown organization merged with the Friends group, bringing with it several import-

ant community assets including The Plains Inn, Buffalo Cafe, the Plains Antique Mall, and the Plains Community Center. Friends Chairman of the Board John Powell praised Fuller's leadership and dedication. "Kim and her many years of experience will be greatly missed," Powell says. "We are grateful for her dedicated service to the Friends organization and to the Plains community. We look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role as Carter Family Legacy Liaison." In that role, Fuller will continue to

support the organization's mission and help strengthen the connection between the Carter family legacy and the work of the Friends group and the National Park Service. The Friends of Jimmy Carter National Historical Park continues its mission of preserving the Carter legacy while promoting Plains as a place where visitors from around the world can learn about the values of public service, humanitarian leadership, and community involvement that define the Carter story.

## LOWER DRUG COST

**CONTINUED FROM 6A**

Ossoff. Sen. Ossoff continues his push to reduce out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for Georgians. In 2023, Sen. Ossoff helped advance a package of bipartisan legislation — bringing together Democrats and Republicans to pass a fleet of bills dedicated to

reducing these burdensome prescription drug costs for Georgians. In 2022, Sen. Ossoff helped pass into law a bill that forced drug companies to negotiate lower prescription drug costs with Medicare, and lower costs for 10 drugs went into effect as of January 1, 2026.

## Georgia lawmakers advance legislation to punish protesters who get in the way

By Ty Tagami  
Bureau Chief  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Protesters became a target of Georgia lawmakers this week as both the state House and Senate passed legislation to enhance punishment against people who get in the way of police or of drivers. "The danger is real," said Rep. Ginny Ehrhart, R-Powder Springs, explaining why she wanted to make it a felony to use a vehicle, whether moving or stationary, in a non-violent effort to block local, state or federal officers. House Bill 1076 would impose a punishment of one to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 for anyone who uses a vehicle and "knowingly obstructs, hinders, blocks, or otherwise interferes" with officers enforcing the law. It passed the House Tuesday night over objections by Democrats, who said the measure would add a redundant law to the books. Police already have a variety of charges they can use against such perpetrators, they said. But they worried that the wording in this new one would give officers broad latitude to charge bystanders, such as a grandmother who couldn't move her car. HB 1076 would require that prosecutors prove intentional obstruction. But the legislation would raise the risk for everyone, one Democrat said, noting a felony "could ruin lives." During a committee hearing last month, Ehrhart cited statistics showing an increase in vehicle-related deaths of law enforcement officers as the reason

for bringing her bill. But after a Democrat quizzed her about her numbers, she acknowledged they reflected all manner of vehicular incidents, including collisions while officers were driving their own vehicles. On the House floor Tuesday, a couple Democrats suggested Ehrhart's motive was a political reaction to the protests surrounding the killing of U.S. citizens in Minneapolis by federal immigration agents. Rep. Sam Park, D-Lawrenceville, asked Ehrhart if her bill was "a political response to an American citizen, René Good, who was shot and murdered by law enforcement." Ehrhart responded that she was addressing a problem that predated Good's death: "a dramatic escalation in motor vehicle-related incidents with police officers since 2020." HB 1076 passed the House 97-64 in a party-line vote. The vote came hours after the Senate approved a measure to increase the fine for protesting in the streets. Senate Bill 443 initially would have allowed felony charges against protesters who block roads, but the author, Sen. Carden Summers, R-Corlele, dialed it back. He reduced the charge to a high and aggravated misdemeanor, which brings up to a year in jail, the same amount of time as the misdemeanor charge in current law. However, Summers' legislation would raise the financial stakes. The maximum fine for a misdemeanor is \$1,000. For a high and aggravated misdemeanor, it is \$5,000.

# Bishop, Lawler, Salazar, & Clarke Introduce Bipartisan Bill To Protect Healthcare Workforce & Maintain Patient Access

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

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02) and Congressman Mike Lawler (NY-17) introduced the H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act, bipartisan legislation along with Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar (FL-27) and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (NY-09). This legislation will exempt physicians and other health care workers from the new \$100,000 fee for H-1B petitions. It also prohibits new H-1B fees from being imposed on health care workers that exceed the existing fees under the U.S. Code. With workforce shortages continuing to strain hospitals and health systems across the country, the lawmakers introduced this legislation to ensure physicians and other medical professionals can continue serving patients in communities that rely on them. "The \$100,000 H-1B filing fee adds insult to injury to hospitals, especially in rural areas," said Congressman Bishop. "The fee will have a detrimental impact on their ability to recruit qualified health care professionals to some of the nation's most underserved areas. The bipartisan legislation we are introducing today, however, will ensure that all physicians and health professionals are exempted from this fee so that they can continue to serve without fear or financial hardship," said Congressman Bishop. "As detailed in President Trump's proclamation putting this fee in place, it is certainly in the national interest to exempt healthcare workers. Hospitals, community health centers, and other critical facilities are facing serious workforce shortages that threaten access to care. And they can't pay a \$100,000 price tag on new immigrant workers. Without the clarification provided in this bill, the physicians and the wider healthcare workforce would effectively be shut out of the H-1B program, furthering workforce shortages and limiting care options. Communities in the Hudson Valley and across the country depend on healthcare workers, and this legislation makes sure they can continue delivering critical care," said Congressman Lawler. "As they are in so many areas across our society and economy, immigrant Americans remain indispensable assets to keeping our hospitals and health systems running steadily, efficiently, and effectively. The bipartisan willingness to ensure migrant health care workers are exempted from the \$100,000 fee for H-1B petitions stands as a testament to

the widely accepted value and necessity of these workers in one of this country's most vital, yet vulnerable sectors. I am proud to co-lead this effort to prevent dangerous workforce shortages from impacting the health and well-being of Americans, as well as to ensure that those who are willing to contribute their expertise and talents to our nation can continue to do so at the times when we most need them," said Congresswoman Clarke. "Healthcare access starts with having enough doctors and medical professionals to serve our communities. As our nation faces a growing physician shortage, we must ensure that steep fees do not stand in the way of hospitals bringing in the medical talent American patients depend on. That's why I'm proud to co-lead the H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act, removing a financial barrier so providers can recruit the physicians they need and ensure families in Florida and across America receive the timely, high-quality healthcare they deserve," said Congresswoman Salazar. The U.S. healthcare industry relies on the H-1B visa program to recruit physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals, particularly in rural and underserved communities facing workforce shortages. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, nearly 87 million Americans live in areas federally designated as lacking enough medical professionals to meet community health care needs. The H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act exempts health care workers, defined under the Affordable Care Act, from the \$100,000 fee required for certain H-1B visa petitions under the September 2025 Presidential Proclamation and prohibits additional fees beyond those already established under existing immigration law for these workers. Endorsing organizations include the American Association of Medical Colleges, American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, Association for Advancing Physician and Provider Recruitment, Greater New York Hospital Association, Healthcare Association of New York State, and Physicians for American Healthcare Access. "Patients across the country are feeling the effects of the growing physician shortage. Medicare patients and people in rural and underserved areas already struggle to get the care they need. In many such communities, international medical graduates play an important role in providing care and en-

suring patients can see a doctor when they need one. The AMA supports this legislation to ensure the new \$100,000 fee does not make it harder to recruit highly skilled physicians. We thank Reps. Lawler (R-NY), Bishop (D-GA), Salazar (R-FL), and Clarke (D-NY), for introducing this bipartisan bill. The AMA urges Congress to act quickly to protect patients' access to care," said Bobby Mukkamala, MD, President, American Medical Association. "International medical graduates are essential to health care delivery in communities that would otherwise struggle to access a doctor. The \$100,000 H-1B fee could undermine the physician pipeline to the places that need it most, including rural communities, underserved areas, and safety-net hospitals. Physicians for American Healthcare Access (PAHA) applauds Reps. Lawler (R-NY), Bishop (D-GA), Salazar (R-FL), and Clarke (D-NY) for this bipartisan legislation, and we urge Congress to pass the H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act to safeguard patients' access to care," said Dr. Ram Alur, President, Physicians for Americans Healthcare Access. "The \$100,000 H-1B filing fee on health care entities poses a serious challenge to provider recruitment at a time when demand for physicians and other health care professionals continues to grow. Hospitals, health systems, and practices across the country rely on international physicians and health care professionals to meet patient needs. This fee could slow recruitment efforts and make it harder for employers to bring on the providers their communities depend on," said Carey Goryl, Chief Executive Officer of the Association for Advancing Physician and Provider Recruitment (AAPPR). AAPPR supports the H-1Bs for Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act and applauds Reps. Lawler (R-NY), Bishop (D-GA), Salazar (R-FL), and Clarke (D-NY) for their bipartisan leadership on this issue," said Carey Goryl, CEO, Association for Advancing Physician and Provider Recruitment. "The AHA commends Representatives Lawler, Bishop, Salazar, and Clarke for introducing bipartisan legislation that would help maintain patient access to care in communities nationwide. Specifically, this important bill will maintain critical staffing for areas of the country where there are well-documented shortages of health care workers," said Stacey Hughes, Executive Vice President of the American Hospital Association.

# kids' corner

## Nature **FACT:**

These areas, which are present in the spring but tend to dry up in summer, are great breeding habitats for amphibians.

Answer: Vernal pools

## How they say that in...

- English:** Bud
- Spanish:** Capullo
- Italian:** Bocciole
- French:** Bourgeon
- German:** Knospe

## What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

**A**



**B**



Answers: 1. Woman's hair is longer. 2. Girl is wearing a hat. 3. Missing flowers in planter box. 4. Boy is in the picture.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1306:** Robert the Bruce becomes King of Scots.

**1655:** Saturn's largest moon, Titan, is discovered by Christiaan Huygens.

**1965:** Martin Luther King, Jr. leads a four-day civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

## NEW WORD

### VERNAL

appropriate to spring

## Did You Know?

Springtime brings color to gardens. Hellebores, crocus, daffodils, tulips, dandelions, violets, lilies, and many flowers start to bloom in spring.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Baby chick

## BRAIN POWER WORD SEARCH

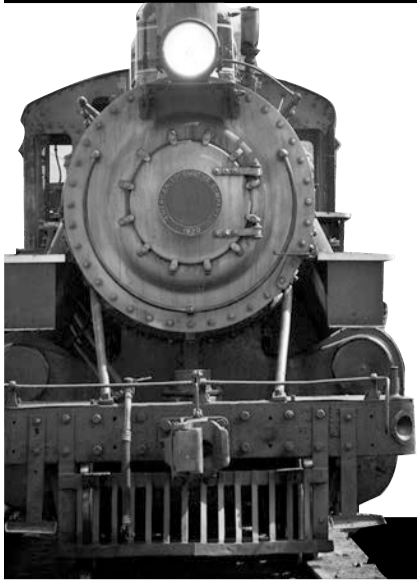


X S Y O F N S S E N L U F D N I M U N F  
 O V R O O E N U B A O E I F N N O O D B  
 Y F C C C U P X G N I S S E C O R P O P  
 V E E L U R S X A V B S D O T Y R B X G  
 G V P P S O C I L Y F U N C T I O N L U  
 X I N P L P B U L A G M F E S B L Y N O  
 S T X N O L A M P C O N O A P N I T O N  
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

## WORDS

- ATTENTION
- BRAIN
- CLARITY
- COGNITION
- EMOTIONS
- EXECUTIVE
- FLEXIBILITY
- FOCUS
- FUNCTION
- INFORMATION
- LEARNING
- MEMORY
- MINDFULNESS
- NEURAL
- NEUROPLASTICITY
- PERCEPTION
- PROBLEM SOLVING
- PROCESSING
- REACTION
- RESERVE
- RESILIENCE
- SLEEP
- STRESS
- SYNAPSES

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



# Hometown CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

**ERIC HOME** Trust the Nation's #1 Roofing Contractor  
Award-Winning Roofing and Customer Service  
Erie Roofing Since 1976

**LIMITED TIME OFFER**  
**50% OFF**  
Installation

**FREE ESTIMATE**  
**SCHEDULE TODAY!**  
Call 1.866.939.2151

**CALL TODAY! 1.866.939.2151**

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on [homeservicescompliance.com](http://homeservicescompliance.com). All rights reserved. License numbers available at [eriehome.com/ericlicenses](http://eriehome.com/ericlicenses).

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

Heating and Air Conditioning Systems  
Ductless Mini-Split Systems  
Products to Improve Indoor Air Quality  
Water Heaters (traditional and tankless)  
Maintenance Agreements  
Duct Cleaning

**CUMMINGS**  
HEATING & AIR, LLC

SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION REPAIR  
WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS!  
478-825-0505  
[WWW.CUMMINGSHEATINGAIR.COM](http://WWW.CUMMINGSHEATINGAIR.COM)

"Free Estimates on New Systems" Second Opinions Matter!!!

**Physical Medicine & Injury Center**  
**Dr. Curt J. Blabaum**  
*Se Habla Espanol*

**Chiropractic & Massage**  
**Accident & Injury Center**

478-956-2388  
218 Ga Hwy 49 N Byron, GA  
fax 478-956-2389

**SOUTHERN DRY**  
WATERPROOFING & FOUNDATION REPAIR SPECIALIST

**Your Trusted Foundation Repair Expert!**

Our Services: Foundation Repair  
Crawl Space Repair • Crawl Space Encapsulation  
Basement Waterproofing • Concrete Lifting

**Schedule Your Free Evaluation!**  
**(844) 530-0217**

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

**RUUD Bradshaw's Heating & Air**

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

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

Georgia needs Capitol Beat. Capitol Beat needs you.

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



**News Match**

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

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

## The Classifieds

Your Local Marketplace for Shopping & Selling



For more information about placing your Classifieds advertising call us at 478-825-2432 • 109 Anderson Ave, Fort Valley, GA 31030

Household Items • Real Estate • Vehicles • and more....

**Georgia STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS**

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

Call Georgia Newspaper Service: 770-454-6776

**LOCAL MATTERS**

**GNS**  
AFFILIATE OF THE GEORGIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p>Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers &amp; 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-939-2151</p> <p><b>BATH &amp; SHOWER UPDATES</b> in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty &amp; professional installs. Senior &amp; Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-781-0206</p> <p><b>WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP:</b> A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-833-871-2090. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!</p> <p><b>ELECTRICAL SERVICES:</b> Reliable &amp; experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-833-399-6566</p> <p><b>NEED NEW FLOORING?</b> Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting &amp; Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6602</p> <p><b>PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME</b> from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-833-406-</p>	<p>0231 Have zip code of property ready when calling!</p> <p><b>HOME BREAK-INS</b> take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-833-890-1269</p> <p><b>SunSetter.</b> America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-877-740-0337</p> <p><b>MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p><b>YMT Vacations.</b> Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-855-548-2623</p> <p><b>BANKRUPTCY RELIEF!</b> Help stop Creditor Harassment, Collection Calls, Repossession and Legal Actions! Speak to a Professional Attorney and Get the Help You NEED! Call NOW 855-968-5222</p> <p><b>BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?</b> Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist. 844-797-7162</p> <p><b>Wesley Financial Group LLC</b> Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 866-411-5215</p>	<p><b>SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS.</b> Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 877-627-2704</p> <p><b>Moving Out of State?</b> Licensed and insured, full-service nationwide movers. Call now to get a free, instant price quote on your next move. 1-866-590-6443</p> <p><b>DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS.</b> Your donation helps fund the search for missing children and preventing abduction. Accepting Cars, Trucks and Vans. Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not May Qualify for Tax Deduction - Call (888) 515-3813.</p> <p><b>TV/INTERNET</b></p> <p>Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-369-1468</p> <p><b>COMPUTER ISSUES? FREE DIAGNOSIS</b> by GEEKS ON SITE! Virus Removal, Data Recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY \$20 OFF ANY SERVICE with coupon 42522! Restrictions apply. 844-739-4842</p> <p><b>WANTED</b></p> <p>We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-399-2113</p> <p><b>TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS!</b> 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-833-641-6792</p>
--	--	---

# Trojans Complete Season Sweep of Bainbridge, Improve to 17-2

By Chris McKenzie,  
Sports Reporter

The Peach County Trojans baseball team continued its dominant 2026 campaign Friday night, traveling to Bainbridge and securing an impressive 8-3 victory over the Bearcats. The win completed a two-game season sweep, as the Trojans had already taken down Bainbridge earlier in the week at home, 10-3.

Peach County wasted no time setting the tone, plating a run in the first inning before adding two more in the

second to jump out to an early 3-0 lead. The Trojans kept steady pressure on the Bearcats' defense, scoring in five of the seven innings and finishing with eight runs on 11 hits.

Leading the offensive charge was junior Owen Meredith, who delivered a standout performance at the plate, going 3-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Wyatt Blanton also had a big night, finishing 2-for-4 with two doubles and two RBIs, helping fuel the Trojans' extra-base attack. Xavion Childs contributed efficiently, going a perfect 2-for-2

with an RBI and scoring a run.

Peach County's aggressive approach on the basepaths proved effective, as the Trojans swiped six bases in the contest. Childs and Matthew Cannon each recorded two stolen bases, while Tanner Edwards and Ben Wilford added one apiece, consistently putting pressure on Bainbridge's defense.

On the mound, Miller Greene earned the win, delivering a strong performance to keep the Bearcats in check. The Trojans' pitching staff limited Bainbridge to just four hits across seven

innings. Dawson Whaley also saw action, helping maintain control as Peach County preserved its lead.

Defensively, the Trojans worked through a few miscues, committing three errors on the night, but made key plays when it mattered most. Rigsby Booth was perfect in the field, recording nine putouts without an error, while Avery Horne added four putouts in a clean defensive showing.

Bainbridge attempted a late push with two runs in the fifth and another in the seventh, but Peach County re-

sponded each time, including a two-run sixth inning that helped put the game out of reach.

With the win, the Trojans improve to an outstanding 17-2 on the season, continuing to establish themselves as one of the top teams in the region. Their balanced attack—combining timely hitting, aggressive baserunning, and solid pitching—has been a key factor in their success.

Peach County will look to carry this momentum forward as region play intensifies in the coming weeks.

## Peach County Track and Field



Photo By Tourris Leary, Sports Photographer  
Jaleah Raines finish strong in the 4x1 relay.



Photo By Tourris Leary, Sports Photographer  
Ryenne Stephens competes in long jump.

## Wildcats Dominate Weekend, Sweep Kentucky State in Straight Sets

By Chris McKenzie,  
Sports Reporter

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — The Fort Valley State University men's volleyball team delivered a commanding performance over the weekend, sweeping Kentucky State University in back-to-back matches at HPE Arena.

The Wildcats showed little resistance from their conference opponent, winning both matches in straight sets and improving to a perfect 4-0 record in Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) play.

Friday's matchup set the tone



for the weekend, as Fort Valley State overwhelmed Kentucky State from the opening serve. The Wildcats cruised to a decisive 3-0 victory with set scores of 25-11, 25-14, and 25-10. Their dominance was evident on

both sides of the net, combining high-strong offensive execution with stifling defense that left Kentucky State struggling to find any rhythm.

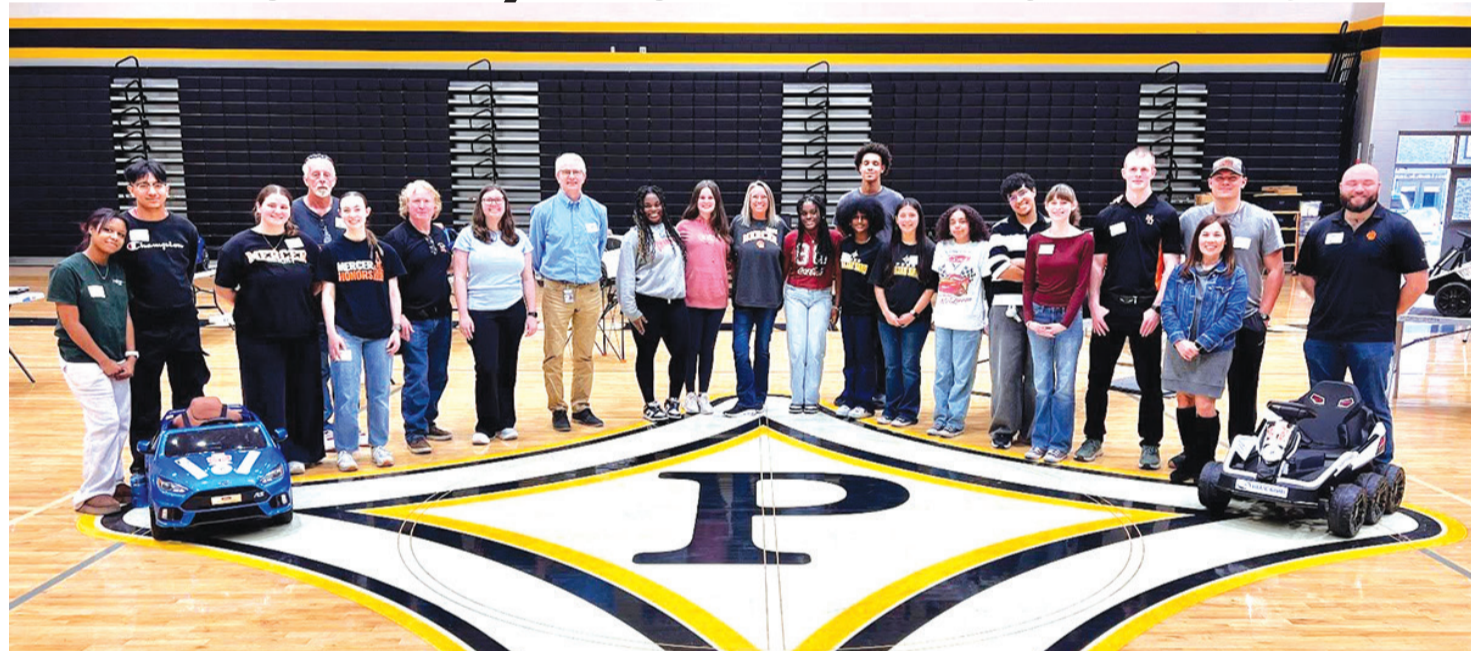
The momentum carried into Saturday's contest, where the Wildcats once again controlled the pace of play. Kentucky State showed slight improvement, but Fort Valley State remained firmly in control, securing another straight-sets win 25-14, 25-16, and 25-17. The Wildcats' consistency and depth proved too much, as they methodically closed out the weekend sweep.

Fort Valley State's balanced at-

tack and disciplined play highlighted a team hitting its stride early in conference action. With efficient serving, crisp ball movement, and a relentless front-row presence, the Wildcats have quickly established themselves as a force within the SIAC.

Now sitting at 4-0 in conference play, the Wildcats will look to build on their early success as they continue their homestand. If this weekend's performance is any indication, Fort Valley State is poised to remain a top contender in the SIAC race.

## Mercer University's Engineering Honors Program and Tift College of Education hosted their latest Go Baby Go build at PCHS



By PCSS

Mercer University's Engineering Honors Program and Tift College of Education hosted their latest Go Baby Go build Saturday, March 14, at Peach County High School to modify battery-powered toy cars for children with limited mobility. The build was funded by the Blue Bird Corporation Bus Foundation.

Go Baby Go is a national, community-based research, design and outreach program that began in 2012 at the University of Delaware, and Mercer began holding events in December of 2016. Integrating assistive technology, families, clinicians and industry partners, the program helps provide children with disabilities opportunities for movement, mobility and socialization.

Mercer's Engineering Honors students built and modified cars to meet the specific needs of approximately six families. They were assisted by volunteers from the Blue Bird Corporation and student-volunteers from Peach County High School.

"We truly appreciate the opportunity to partner with Mercer and Blue Bird to support families in our community and beyond," said Dr. Jesse Davis, superintendent of Peach County Schools. "Partnerships like this help strengthen our efforts and make a meaningful difference for the families we serve."

The event also serves as a hands-on lab for Tift College of Education students who assist with the children and families.

The event is supported by the School of Engineering's Dr. Phil-



## Looking for a Peach County office but not sure where to go?

By Peach County  
Government

The City of Fort Valley has you covered. Below is a guide to our office locations across the county. You'll find information for:

- Departments:
- Board of Commissioners - 213 Persons Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Recreation - 902 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Elections - 902 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Tax Assessors - 902 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Public Works - 902 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Chief Marshal - 902 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Tax Commissioner - 902 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030

- Public Safety:
- Sheriff's Office - 1007 Spruce Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - E911 - 213 Persons Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - EMS - 1770 US Highway 341 N., Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Fire/EMA - 1770 US Highway 341 N., Fort Valley, GA 31030

- Courts:
- Magistrate Court - 700 Spruce Street, Wing A, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Superior Court - 205 W. Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Probate Court - 205 W. Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
  - Juvenile Court - 205 W. Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030

For directions, contact information, and a full list of departments, visit [www.peachcounty.gov](http://www.peachcounty.gov) - your hub for navigating Peach County Government.

Animal Control: 372 Clint Howard Road, Byron, GA 31008

# New Signs with Lions: Peach County Standout Heads to Piedmont



Chris McKenzie,  
Sports Reporter

A proud moment for Peach County athletics unfolded on signing day as hometown swimmer Micah New officially signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Piedmont University.

New, a senior at Peach County High School, has been a key

contributor to the Trojans' swim program, building a reputation as a dedicated and versatile competitor. Competing in events such as the 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke, New's work ethic and steady improvement helped him rise through the ranks during his high school career.

One of his notable achieve-

ments came when he qualified for the GHSA state meet in the 100 breaststroke, showcasing his ability to compete among the state's top swimmers. He also earned the opportunity to swim on one of Georgia's biggest stages at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, further cementing his growth as a high-level competitor.

Beyond the pool, New has demonstrated strong athletic versatility, also contributing as a member of the Trojans' baseball program. His commitment to both sports reflects the discipline and determination that college programs look for in student-athletes.

Now, he takes the next step with Piedmont, where he will join a rising collegiate swim program. The Lions compete at the NCAA Division III level and are members of the Collegiate Conference of the South, providing a competitive environment that emphasizes both athletic and academic success.

Piedmont's swim program has experienced significant recent success, including multiple conference championships and

a growing list of all-conference performers. The program fields both men's and women's teams and continues to build momentum within Division III competition, offering athletes like New the opportunity to develop and compete at a high level.

Founded in 1897, Piedmont University provides a close-knit

academic setting in Demorest, Georgia, where student-athletes balance rigorous coursework with competitive athletics.

For Peach County, New's signing represents more than just an individual accomplishment—it's a reflection of the continued growth of the Trojans' swim program and its abil-

ity to produce collegiate-level talent.

As he prepares to don the green and gold of the Lions, Micah New leaves behind a legacy of hard work, leadership, and pride in Peach County—while taking the next stroke forward in his swimming journey.

# Lady Trojans Stay Perfect with Thrilling Overtime Win

Chris McKenzie,  
Sports Reporter

The Peach County Trojans continued their remarkable season on Friday night, traveling to Cairo High School Syrupmakers and battling their way to a hard-fought 2-1 overtime victory.

In a tightly contested matchup, both teams were locked in a defensive struggle through the first half, heading into the break scoreless at 0-0. Cairo struck first in the second half, putting pressure on the previously unbeaten Trojans. Peach County answered with resilience, finding the equalizer late in regula-

tion to send the game into overtime tied at 1-1.

Neither team could break through in the first overtime period, but the Lady Trojans delivered in the second extra frame. With the game on the line, Peach County netted the decisive goal, sealing a dramatic 2-1 victory on the road.

The win keeps Peach County's perfect season intact, improving their record to an impressive 13-0. Their ability to respond under pressure continues to define this team, as they remain one of the most dominant squads in the region.

With region play heating up, the Lady Trojans show no signs of slowing down. If Friday night's performance is any indication, Peach County has both the talent and determination to keep their unbeaten streak alive deep into the season.



# THE CITY OF WARNER ROBINS egg hunt

HOMETOWN SPRING FLING  
FOOD TRUCK ROUNDUP  
LIVE MUSIC | KIDS ZONE | FOOD TRUCKS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026  
6:00PM – 9:00PM  
PERKINS FIELD,  
105 MULBERRY ST.




EGG HUNT: 7:00PM  
SEVEN AGE-DIVIDED HUNT AREAS  
ALL HUNTS BEGIN SIMULTANEOUSLY




FREE EVENT!





**HOUSTON PRIMARY CARE**  
Affiliated with Southeast Medical Group

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



*Dr. Shetty*

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

**ENJOY Telehealth**  
Online Doctor's Visits  
**MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED!**

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

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

**CALL 478-328-7674**

**CALL TO BOOK TODAY!**